

A HISTORY FRESHER'S SHORTLIST

In the first-year students study one period of British Political History, one period of British Economic and Social History, and one period of European history. It is important for you to put aside some time over the summer months to do some introductory reading. Listed below are some outline books on the subjects and periods encountered in the first and second years. **NB:** it is not expected that you would read any more than a handful of these books, according to your interests, but please be sure to do so.

Thereafter the best preparation for the Cambridge History degree is a wide reading of books which take a slightly less conventional approach to the subject, because you will find your appreciation of the past enhanced by new ways of looking at it. Also listed below are some titles which you should find stimulating, and which should awaken interest in other periods. You might also consider subscribing to the magazines 'History Today' or the 'BBC History Magazine' (the latter gives better coverage of the ancient and medieval periods), both of which convey news of the latest historical research in accessible format.

Travel and museum-visits are two further ways of exploring the past and its fragmentary residue. Those within striking distance of London are strongly advised to visit the Victoria and Albert Museum, as a means of sampling material evidence from a wide range of cultures, within the fabric of an archetypal Victorian public institution.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like further guidance.

INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH HISTORY:

R. Fraser, *A People's History of Britain* (2003) might be an interesting place to start. It aims to cover all 'key events and dates' in digestible format. But it must be read critically, as an unusual modern example of 'Whig' history.

(i) Medieval

- H. Kearney, *The British Isles: a History of Four Nations*, 2nd edn (Cambridge, 1989)
- J. Campbell (ed.), *The Anglo-Saxons* (Penguin, 1982)
- M. Chibnall, *Anglo-Norman England 1066-1166* (Oxford, 1986)
- M. Clanchy, *England and its Rulers, 1066-1272*, 2nd edn (Oxford, 1998)
- M. Keen, *English Society in the Later Middle Ages, 1348-1500* (Penguin, 1990)
- C. Platt, *Medieval England: a Social History and Archaeology from the Conquest to AD 1600* (London, 1978)
- K. B. McFarlane, *England in the Fifteenth Century* (London, 1981)

(ii) Early Modern

- J. Guy, *Tudor England* (Oxford, 1988)
- K. Wrightson, *English Society, 1580-1680* (London, 1982)
- D. Hirst, *England in Conflict, 1603-1658* (London, 1999)

- D. Smith, *A History of England, 1603-1707: the Double Crown* (Oxford, 1998)
 J. Scott, *England Troubles: Seventeenth-Century English Political Instability in European Context* (Cambridge, 2000)
 H. R. Trevor-Roper, *Catholics, Anglicans and Puritans* (London, 1989)
 J. Israel (ed.), *The Anglo-Dutch Moment: Essays on the Glorious Revolution and its World Impact* (Cambridge, 1991)

(iii) Modern

- L. Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation 1707-1837* (Yale and London, 1992)
 P. Langford, *A Polite and Commercial People: England 1728-1783* (Oxford, 1989)
 E. Evans, *The Forging of the Modern State: Early Industrial Britain 1783-1870*, 2nd edn (London, 1996)
 J. Parry, *The Rise and Fall of Liberal Government in Victorian Britain* (London, 1993)
 J. Harris, *Private Lives, Public Spirit: a Social History of Britain, 1870-1914* (Oxford, 1993)
 K. O. Morgan, *The People's Peace: British History since 1945*, new edn (Oxford, 1999)

HISTORICAL METHOD AND PRACTICE:

- M. Bentley, *Modern Historiography: an Introduction* (London, 1999)
 L. Jordanova, *History in Practice*, 2nd edn (Oxford, 2006)
 J. Tosh, *The Pursuit of History*, 5th edn (Harlow, 2009)
 L. Stone, *The Past and the Present Revisited*, new edn (London, 1987)
 R. J. Evans, *In Defence of History* (London, 1997)
 P. Thompson, *The Voice of the Past: Oral History*, 3rd edn (London, 2000)
 J. Gardiner, *What is History Today?* (Basingstoke, 1988)
 P. Munz, *The Shapes of Time: a New Look at the Philosophy of History* (Middletown, CN, 1977)

INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN HISTORY:

- P. Cartledge, *The Greeks: a Portrait of Self and Others* (Oxford, 1983)
 P. Cartledge, *The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization* (BBC, 2001)
 The Joint Association of Classics Teachers, *The World of Athens: an Introduction to Classical Athenian Culture* (Cambridge, 1984)
 P. Jones and K. Sidwell, *The World of Rome: an Introduction to Roman Culture* (Cambridge, 1997)
 P. Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity: from Marcus Aurelius to Muhammed* (London, 1971)
 R. Collins, *Early Medieval Europe, 300-1000*, 2nd edn (Macmillan, 1999)
 C. Wickham, *The Inheritance of Rome: a History of Europe from 400 to 1000* (London, 2009)
 R. Bartlett, *The making of Europe: Conquest, Colonization, and Cultural Change, 950-1350* (Princeton, 1993)
 W. C. Jordan, *Europe in the High Middle Ages* (London, 2003)
 H. G. Koenigsberger, *Early Modern Europe 1500-1789* (Longman, 1987)

- M. E. Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789* (Cambridge, 2006)
 J. Israel, *The Dutch Republic: its Rise, Greatness and Fall 1477-1806* (Oxford, 1995)
 A. Briggs, *Modern Europe 1789-1989* (Longman, 1997)
 E. Hobsbawm, *Age of Extremes: the Short Twentieth Century, 1914-1991* (London, 1994)

POLITICAL HISTORY:

- G. Forrest, *The Emergence of Greek Democracy* (London, 1966)
 R. McKitterick (ed.), *The Early Middle Ages 400-1000* (Oxford, 2001)
 R. Fletcher, *Bloodfeud: Murder and Revenge in Anglo-Saxon England* (Penguin, 2002)
 R. Bartlett and A. Mackay (eds.), *Medieval Frontier Societies* (Oxford, 1989)
 P. Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500-1800* (London, 1988)
 J. H. Elliott, *Richelieu and Olivares* (Cambridge, 1984)
 G. Parker, *The Military Revolution: Military Innovation and the Rise of the West 1500-1800*, 2nd edn (Cambridge, 1996)
 S. Schama, *Citizens: a Chronicle of the French Revolution* (London, 1989)
 M. Teich and R. Porter, *The National Question in Europe in Historical Context* (Cambridge, 1992)

CULTURE, RELIGION AND BELIEF:

- K. Hopkins, *A World Full of Gods: Pagans, Jews and Christians in the Roman Empire* (London, 1999)
 L. Webster and J. Backhouse (eds.), *The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600-900* (British Museum, 1991)
 J. Backhouse, D. H. Turner and L. Webster, *The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art 966-1066* (British Museum, 1984)
 R. McKitterick (ed.), *Carolingian Culture: Emulation and Innovation* (Cambridge, 1994)
 E. Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou* (first published in 1975)
 P. Aries, *The Hour of Our Death* (Penguin, 1983)
 J. Burckhardt, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (first published in 1860)
 N. Z. Davis, *Society and Culture in Early Modern France: Eight Essays* (London, 1975)
 D. MacCulloch, *Reformation: Europe's House Divided 1490-1700* (Penguin, 2004)
 S. Schama, *The Embarrassment of Riches: an Interpretation of Dutch Culture in the Golden Age* (London, 1987)
 K. Thomas, *Religion and the Decline of Magic: Studies in Popular Belief in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century* (Penguin edition, 1978)
 J. Bossy, *Christianity in the West, 1400-1700* (Oxford, 1985)
 P. Collinson, *The Birthpangs of Protestant England: Religious and Cultural Change in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* (Macmillan, 1988)
 J. Summerson, *Georgian London* (Yale edition, 2003)
 T. Zeldin, *France, 1848-1945* (first published in 1973)

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY:

- J. Hatcher and M. Bailey, *Modelling the Middle Ages: Economic Development in Theory and Practice* (Oxford, 2001)
- R. Britnell, *The Commercialisation of English society, 1000-1500*, 2nd edn (Cambridge, 1996)
- F. Braudel, *The Mediterranean in the Age of Philip II*, 2nd rev. edn, 2 vols. (London, 1972-3)
- K. Wrightson, *Earthly Necessities: Economic Lives in Early Modern Britain* (Yale, 2000)
- K. Thomas, *Man and the Natural World: Changing Attitudes in England, 1500-1800* (Penguin, 1984)
- P. Aries, *Centuries of Childhood: a Social History of Family Life* (Penguin, 1973)
- J. Harris, *Private Lives, Public Spirit: a Social History of Britain, 1870-1914* (Oxford, 1983)

POLITICAL THOUGHT:

- J. Morrow, *History of Political Thought: a Thematic Introduction* (Macmillan, 1998)
- B. Redhead (ed.), *Political Thought from Plato to Nato* (London, 1984)
- J. Coleman, *A History of Political Thought: from Ancient Greece to Early Christianity*, and *A History of Political Thought: from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance* (both Blackwell, 2000)
- Q. Skinner, *Liberty before Liberalism* (Cambridge, 1998)
- I. Berlin, *Four Essays on Liberty* (Oxford, 1969)
- S. Moller Okin, *Women in Western Political Thought* (Princeton, 1979)

EXTRA-EUROPEAN HISTORY:

- M. A. Jones, *The Limits of History: American History, 1607-1992*, 2nd edn (Oxford, 1995)
- E. Williamson, *The Penguin History of Latin America* (Penguin, 1992)
- A. Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (Faber, 1991)
- V. G. Kiernan, *European Empires from Conquest to Collapse, 1815-1960* (Leicester, 1982)
- C. A. Bayly, *Imperial Meridian: the British Empire and the World, 1780-1830* (Longman, 1989)
- J. Belich, *Making Peoples: a History of the New Zealanders, from Polynesian settlement to the end of the nineteenth century* (Honolulu, 1996)
- J. Darwin, *After Tamerlane: the Rise and Fall of Global Empires, 1400-2000* (2007)