

History has to be Truthful



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Today is the time of comprehensive, intelligent revision of historical concepts, revaluation of the whole historical era, but it is necessary to remember that this is only admissible when it corresponds to the historical truth. Always it is necessary to be guided by the fact that history can be ennobled only by truth, be blackened only by lies. A properly scientific, objective and dialectic approach to history means also a truthful assessment of the people who have had an impact on a course of events.

Impartial studying of historiographic sources, refusal to believe scheming and tactical stratifications and priority to facts move us towards to reliable reconstructions of the past. Here professional historians shouldn't forget that it is impossible to define a proper course for the future, escaping from the past, up hill and down dale. Therefore destruction of the old isn't always justified.

It is known that intensive and purposeful processing of public creation leads to planting of new stereotypes, emergence of nihilistic relations to the past. On this wave historical science, its representatives who haven't shown sufficient 'activity' in disclosing 'whitewash' stories, automatically turn into a convenient target for general criticism. Therefore today's task for historians is not in instilling love of history, but in disclosure and replenishment by true, faithful knowledge of national history. We have to write in contrast to boring textbooks' approach to historical truth. Therefore neutralising the negative consequences of negative processes would deliver: a love of history, to study and love not just history which represents countries and eras 'in a good light', in twilight of the class analysis, but also history which gives a chance to comprehend communication of changes, the reasons for the events which changed the life of peoples. To achieve this purpose it isn't necessary to present ready conclusions, to squeeze the thought of readers in one direction. It is necessary to teach them to think, to compare, to investigate the facts. Only then we can lead people to critically and analytically perceiving the world. Such a goal can be reached with mutual frankness, mutual respect. The knowledge of true history affords the ability to judge and is measured, without excess emotion, but is uncompromising - about leaders, about their role in society, about revolution, Bolshevism, about historical stages; not to idealise present democracy and ironically treat the phraseology of other figures, etc.

To study history - the profession of historians. It is necessary to be limited to this simple maxim in expectations of times when society, at last, addresses historians for knowledge instead of arguments in political disputes and contentions. From us historians, readers wait not only for new facts, but also new thoughts and ideas, not retelling, and reasoning.