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The study of history is essential to the present for several reasons. The generic and typical response to this would be to say that history repeats itself. However, it is more accurate to say that we study history to either *prevent* or *allow* history to repeat itself; it does not just happen without cause. Society, like the individuals it is comprised of, learns from its mistakes. Sometimes mankind realizes the hard way what results in success and what ultimately fails. The outcome of these trials in the past then affects the present. The correlation between history and the future is just as important as the present. It is true that one cannot know where they are going until they know where they have been. Comprehending the traditions of the past will result in a better understanding of plans for the future.

As civilizations arose throughout the world, they were marked with great variety. These societies continued to evolve, grow, and change as time progressed. The presence of many different ways of life, belief systems, and governments allows us to survey what works and what does not. When a particular system of government results in oppression, economic insecurity, and disorganization, as many have, a lesson is learned. In that case, world leaders would recognize the failure, and prevent history from reoccurring. However, following the American Revolution, the founding fathers of our country studied the democratic practices of Greece and Rome so that they could modify and replicate those results. Society often has a tendency to want to better itself. In order to improve the current shortcomings of a particular facet of society, it makes sense to look into the past to restructure efficiently. Rather than take a wild shot in the dark, shapers of monumental changes have and continue to take history into account. What works should stay, what doesn't should be changed, and what is changed should work. The only prior knowledge one can have regarding the success of a particular aspect of society is from history. If society truly wants to better itself or make a change for a particular reason, history can shed light upon the confusion of what should be done. Tragedies such as the Holocaust during World War II are now a part of history, and thus a lesson for present day leaders. In this case, aspects of

society that led to the Holocaust are failures and will be prevented from happening again. Triumphs like Thomas Jefferson's election in 1800 over the Federalist John Adams in America, which demonstrated the first time in history where a major shift in power occurred due to an election without resulting in bloodshed, are studied and duplicated. Young emerging democratic nations all over the world can now look upon the framers of the U. S. Constitution for inspiration. Their success in the past will create similar achievements today.

History is reliable, steadfast, and unwavering. One can always rely on history because it is impossible to change what has already happened. Facts from history are indisputable and they can continually be applied to the future. Irrefutable evidence that a certain system, may it be government or something else, worked, is concrete. We study history because it is trustworthy. It is logical to place faith in something that history has proven to function properly. Similarly, it does not make sense to do the same for a known failure. Before looking to plans for the future, or thinking about what to expect to the future, look first at what history has shown. The outcomes of something in the past will undoubtedly reflect the results of the same thing in modern times. It is far safer to rely on what history shows than to randomly make changes. History is the world's greatest advisor.

The question of why the study of history is important can be answered in many ways. History is teeming with lessons applicable to the modern day. Mistakes that were made once should never be made again. Success in the past can always be duplicated. These two understandings are the main reason history is vital to our world today. History does not repeat naturally, there is no cycle or pattern that goes around and around. Rather, history is a line of evolution from its beginning point, moving ever onward, diverging in many directions. Some lineages produce societies that meet great fortune, while others become extinct. To be able to look at history is to have the option of knowing ahead of time what will work. This does not go to say that everything has been tried, and with regards to those that try new things...well, they make history.

