

DECONSTRUCTING HISTORIES: MODERNISM & POSTMODERNISM

Dr Julia Lockheart

Level 4 WEEK 2

Task you prepared

RESEARCH A WORD.

Bring in a sentence or two that defines your word

- include a reference
- and images

Search, in the most academic sources you can find, for a sentence to define this word that shocks or surprises you.

Show and tell the task you prepared

Explain your word, definition, comment and show how you have unpicked the definition in a few sentences which show your own understanding and in relation to your own discipline.

Task you prepared

RESEARCH A WORD.

- = Curation
- = Composition
- = Commentary
- = Deconstruct
- = History
- = Positioning
- = Context
- = Space



How does your understanding of the word compare with a **dictionary** definition?

How to develop task

RESEARCH A WORD.

- = Curation
- = Composition
- = Commentary
- = Deconstruct
- = History
- = Positioning
- = Context
- = Space

Check out your word
of one of the other
words in *A Dictionary
of Critical Theory* by
Ian Buchanan

A magnifying glass with a silver-colored metal frame and a black handle. The lens is circular and contains the word "Research" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The magnifying glass is positioned diagonally, with the handle pointing towards the bottom right. The background is a solid, light beige color.

Research



Research is...
seeing, apprehending, making
sense.

Seeing again?

In French:

Re- adds intensity to a word,
chercier translates to **search**

Re/chercier = *To look/intensively*

... and within an academic,
scholarly world research
can help you to find
ethical, practical and
creative ways to live
better.



Noun - Her *research* is interesting

Verb - He *researches* ecological approaches to design

Adjectives - The *research* group worked collaboratively

Participle – What a well *researched* dissertation!

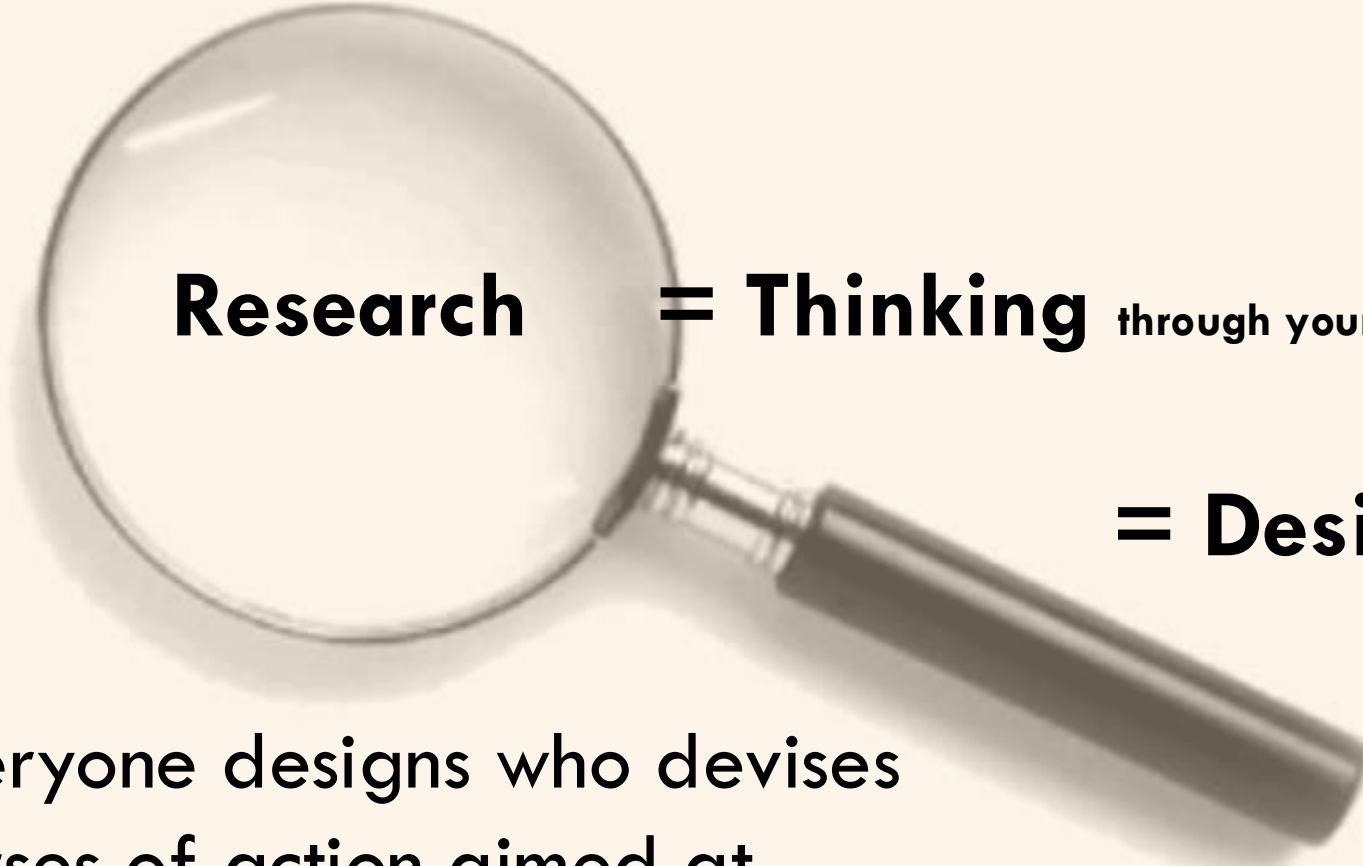
Researching

Looking something up

Gathering what is readily available

Identifying potential clients: 'Market research'

Social surveys or archival investigations: Academic research



Research = Thinking through your ideas
= Design

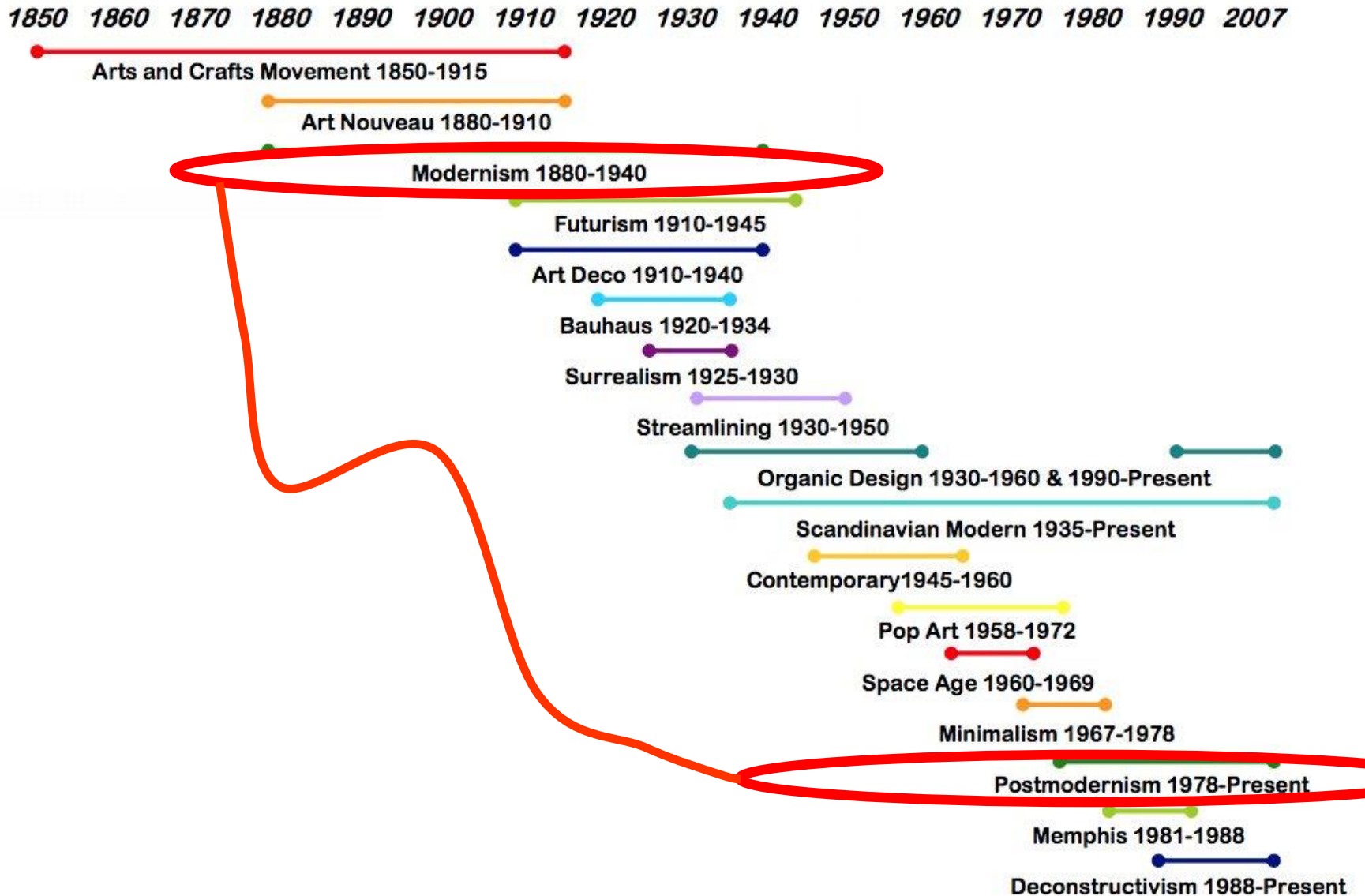
"Everyone designs who devises courses of action aimed at changing existing situations into preferred ones."

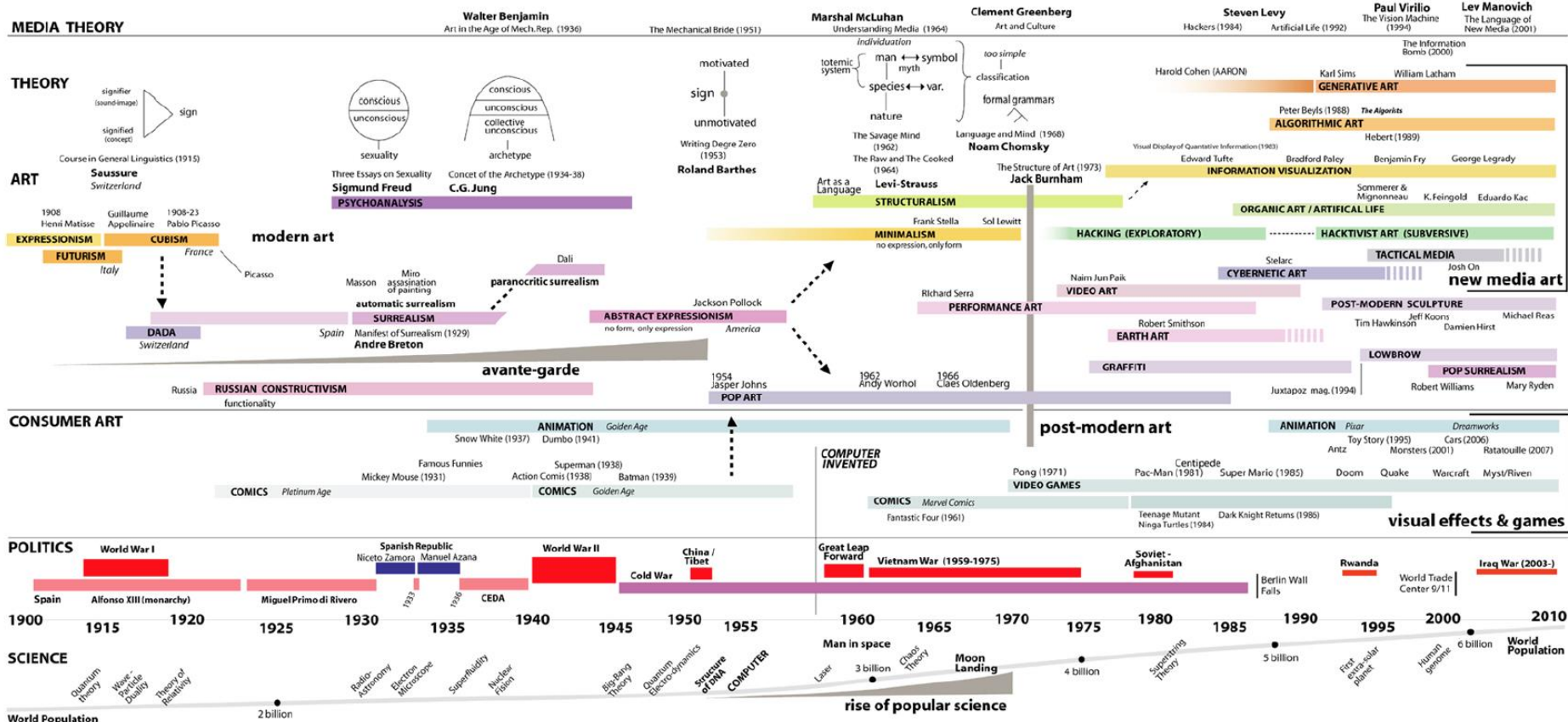
(Simon, 1969)

History

- What is history?
- His Story?
- Her-story?
- The Human-story?
- The story of humans?

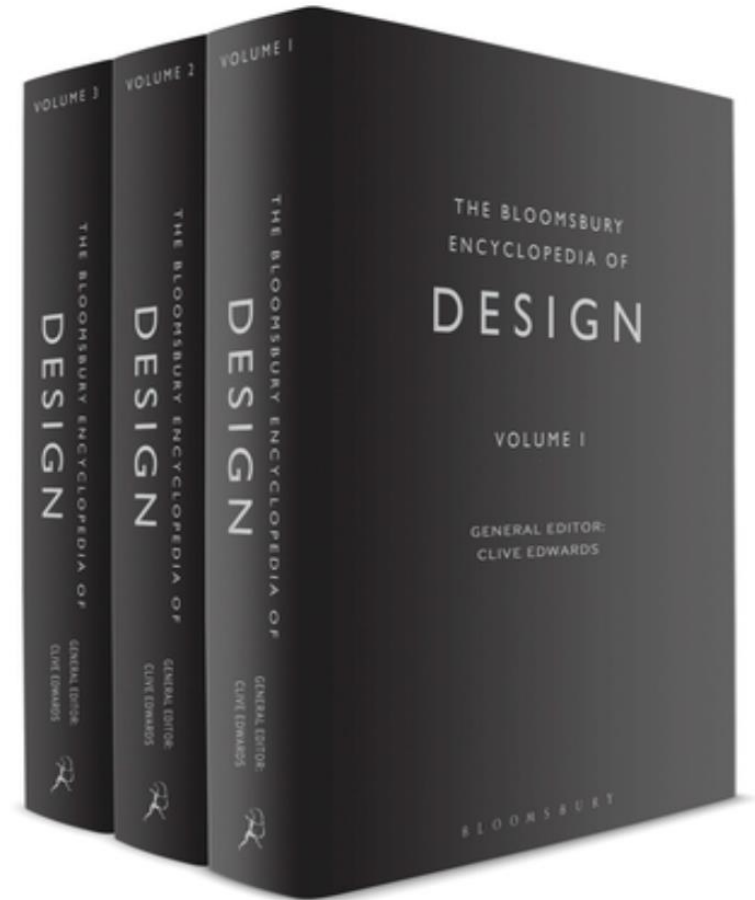
Design Movements Timeline



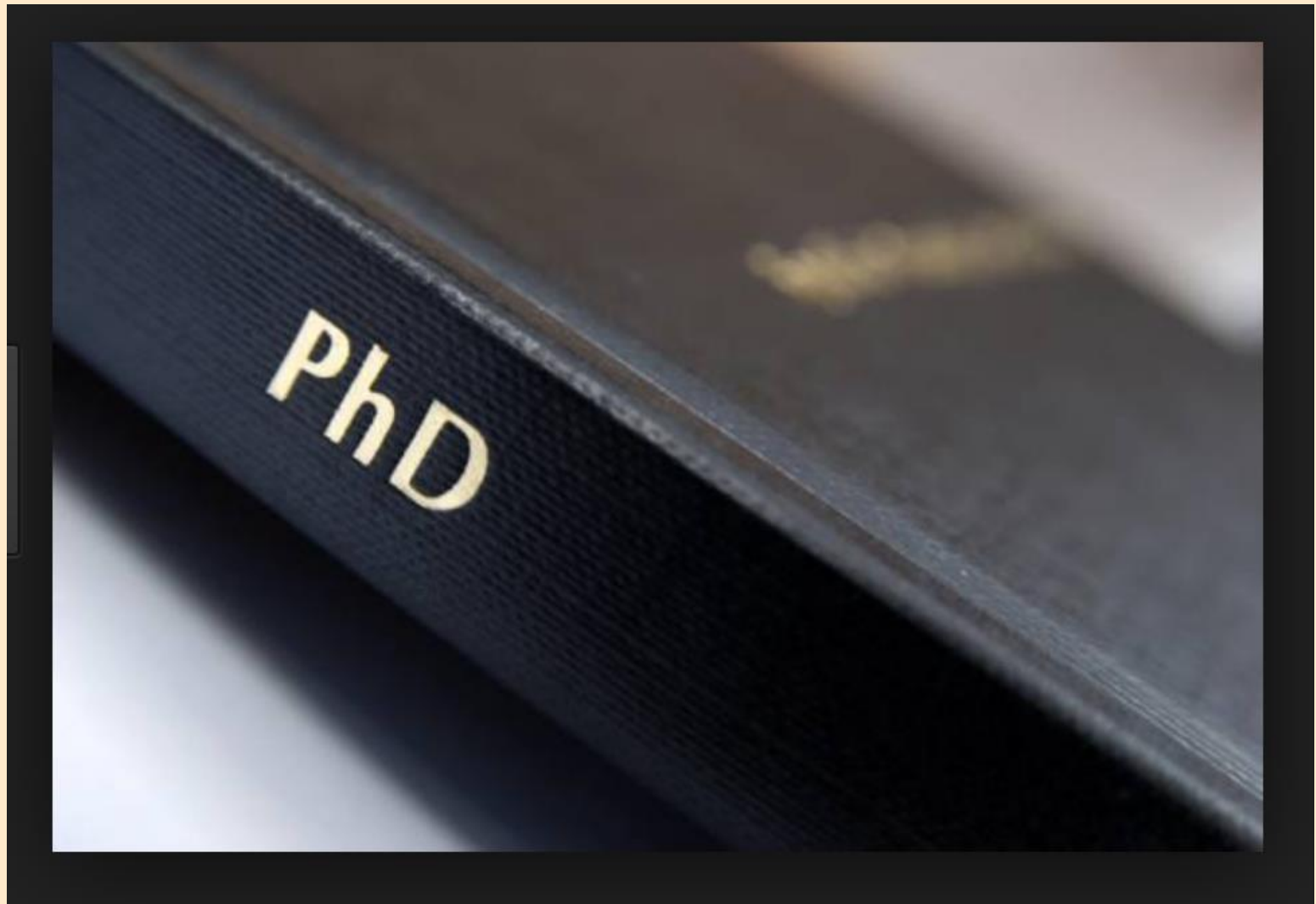


Rama Hoetzlein, *Timeline of Twentieth Century Art and New Media*, 2009-2010

Adam, Ken	Ive, Johnny
Arad, Ron	Jones, John Christopher
Archer, Bruce	Lane, Danny
Baylis, Trevor	Lovegrove, Ross
Carwardine, George	Maclaren, Denham
Chapman, Jonathan	Messel, Oliver
Chermayeff, Serge	Moggridge, Bill
Coates, Nigel	Morrison, Jasper
Coates, Wells	Moulton, Alexander
Conran, Terence	Murdoch, Peter
Dixon, Tom	Peach, Harry
Dubreuil, Andre	Pye, David
Dyson, James	Race, Ernest
Grange, Kenneth	Russell, Sir Sydney Gordon
Hecht, Sam	Seymour Powell,
Hilton, Matthew	Silver, Arthur
Issogonis, Alec	Sinclair, Clive



Edwards, C. (2015) *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Design*. London, Bloomsbury Publishing.



In a PhD you submit New *Knowledge* that makes a contribution to the filed.

Epistemology = (epistêmê = knowledge logos = discourse) = Theory of knowledge

“The past is a foreign country.”

The Go-Between, L. P. Hartley

iPlay

BBC
RADIO 4

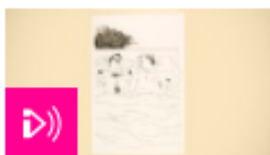
Home

Pod

Director
the object

UPDATED

Episo



Hockney's In the Dull Village

The World of Our Making (1914 - 2010 AD)

TUE 19 OCT 2010

Neil MacGregor considers the state of human rights - with a David Hockney print.

Download



Russian revolutionary plate

The World of Our Making (1914 - 2010 AD)

MON 18 OCT 2010

Neil MacGregor nears the end of his world history - with a Russian revolutionary plate.

Download



Suffragette-defaced penny

Mass Production, Mass Persuasion (1780 - 1914 AD)

FRI 15 OCT 2010

Neil MacGregor with a penny coin defaced by suffragettes with the words "Votes for women".

Download



Sudanese slit drum

Mass Production, Mass Persuasion (1780 - 1914 AD)

THU 14 OCT 2010

Neil MacGregor with a wooden drum from Sudan that Kitchener presented to Queen Victoria.

Download



Hokusai's The Great Wave

Mass Production, Mass Persuasion (1780 - 1914 AD)

WED 13 OCT 2010

Neil MacGregor with a familiar image - Hokusai's The Great Wave.

Download

ules - Podcasts My Radio

om Rags to Riches



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uncovers Shakespeare's
twenty objects.

cast belongs to



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The Practice of History

G.R. Elton



WHAT IS HISTORY?

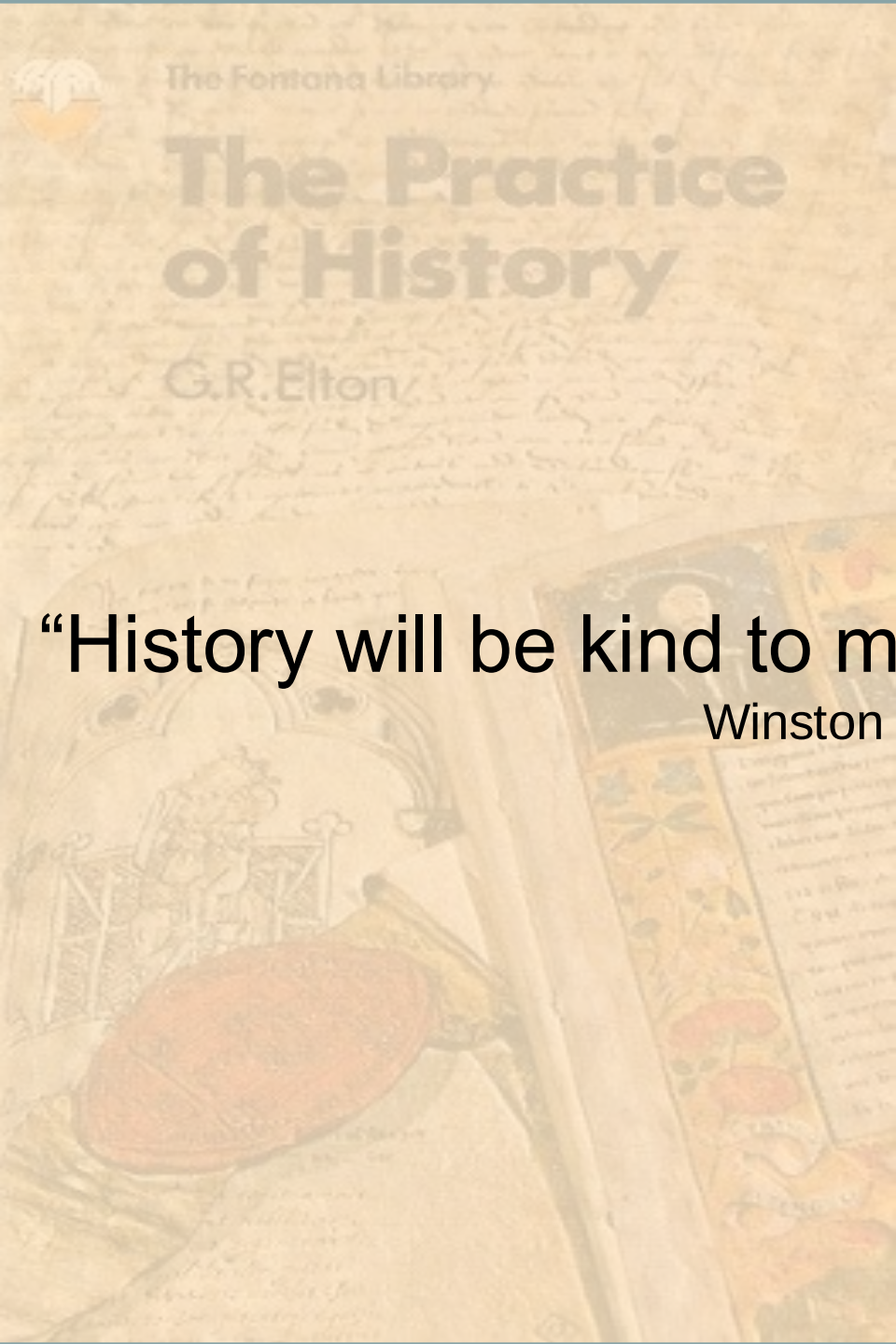
The George Macaulay Trevelyan Lectures
delivered in the University of Cambridge

January–March 1961

by

EDWARD HALLETT CARR

Fellow of Trinity College



The Fontana Library

The Practice of History

G.R. Elton

WHAT IS HISTORY?

“History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.”

Winston Churchill

January–March 1961

by

EDWARD HALLETT CARR

Fellow of Trinity College



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The Practice of History

WHAT IS

HISTORY?

“History is always written by the winners. When two cultures clash, the loser is obliterated, and the winner writes the history books-books which glorify their own cause and disparage the conquered foe. As Napoleon once said, 'What is history, but a fable agreed upon?'”

Dan Brown

The George Macaulay Trevelyan Lectures
delivered in the University of Cambridge

EDWARD HALLETT CARR
Fellow of Trinity College



Some propositions to think about during the semester:

- Every history has a theory.
- Every theory has a history.
- Making your work is a political act.
- Your practice is situated.
- Your practice is embedded into cultural, political, economic and philosophical frameworks.
- You can use history and theory as archives, as tools, and can deploy them as a form of practice.
- History is a practice.



So how should we address history?

Walter Benjamin writes about history as a “text”. It can only be understood retrospectively. This allows that the ‘Historical’ meaning is produced long after the event.

FROM WORK TO TEXT

Roland Barthes and the
Death of the Author
(1968)

The George Macaulay Trevelyan Lectures
delivered in the University of Cambridge
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by
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Fellow of Trinity College

Textile, Texture:

Text as a weave or cloth

From *textus*: texture; *texere*: to compose or weave

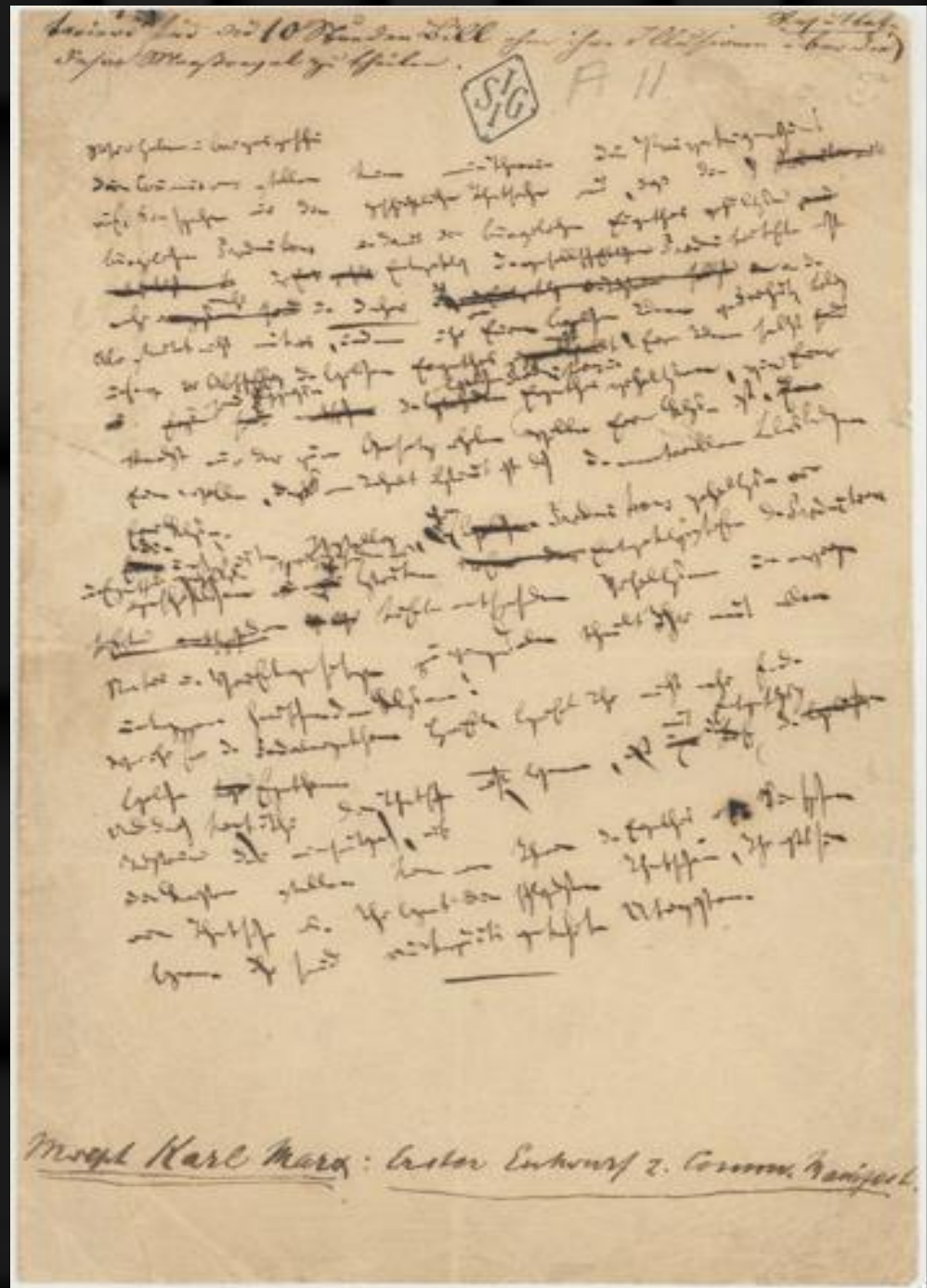
Context

Text in its relation to a particular environment

From *contexere*, *com* + *texere*: to weave together

“The history of
all hitherto
existing
society is the
history of
class
struggles.”

The Communist Manifesto
(1848), by Karl Marx and
Friedrich Engels.



Connections across the Modules

How can we deconstruct history?

Playing with language

PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

POST-

-ITY -ISM

MODERNITY =

Societal and cultural change in
belief structures

Modernity

1.HISTORY

- Early modern period (Renaissance, Scientific Revolutions, Empires)
- The Enlightenment & Political Revolutions (1700-1800)

2.EPISTEMOLOGY

- Descartes (Rationalism)
- Hume (Empiricism)
- Rousseau (Romanticism)



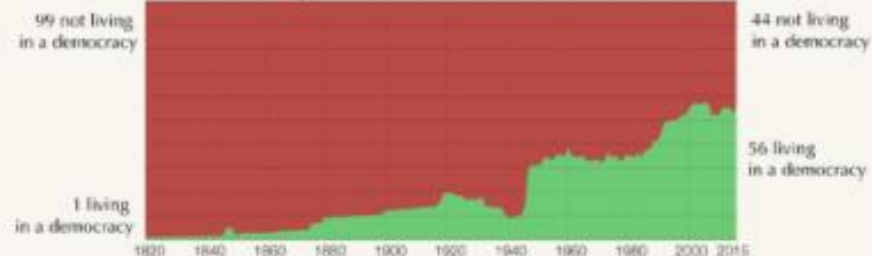
John Gast, *American Progress*, circa 1872

The World as 100 People over the last two centuries

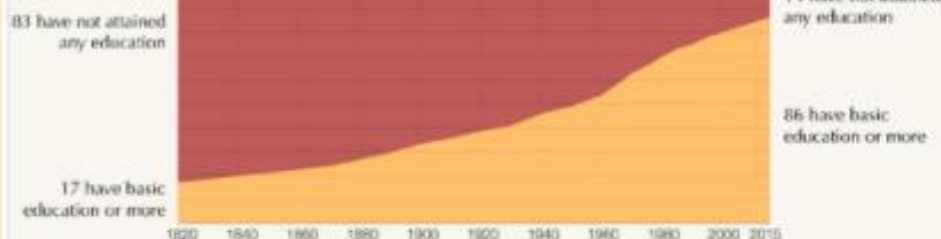
Extreme Poverty



Democracy



Basic Education



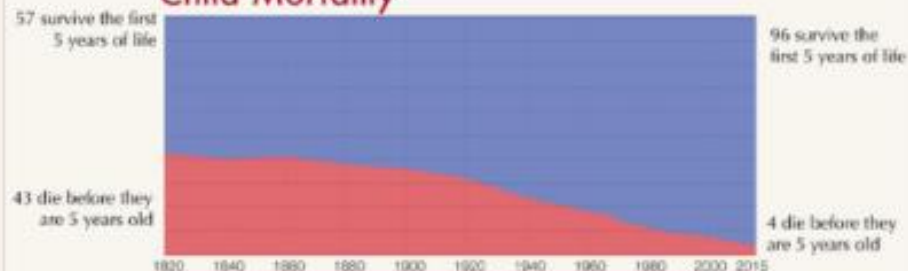
Vaccination against diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus



Literacy



Child Mortality



Data sources:

Extreme Poverty: Bourguignon & Morrison (2002) up to 1979 – World Bank 1990 and later (2015 is a projection).
 Vaccination: WHO (Global data are available for 1980 to 2015 – the DPT3 vaccination was licensed in 1945).
 Education: OECD for the period 1820 to 1990. IEA for the time thereafter.
 Literacy: OECD for the period 1820 to 1990. UNESCO for 2004 and later.

Democracy: Polity IV index (own calculation of global population share).
 Colonialism: Wimmer and Mai (own calculation of global population share).

Continents: HCD database.
 Child mortality: up to 1960 own calculations based on Gapminder, World Bank thereafter.



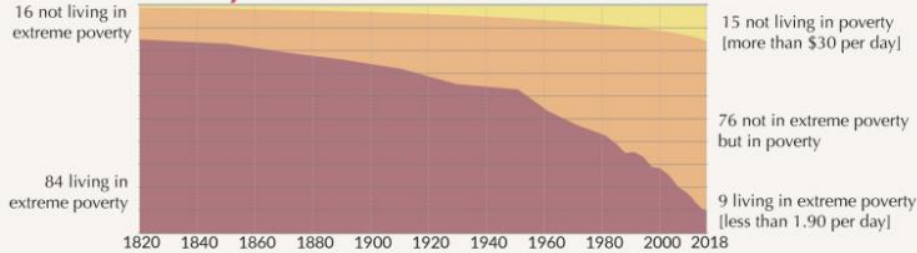
All these visualizations are from [OurWorldInData.org](https://ourworldindata.org) an online publication that presents the empirical evidence on how the world is changing.

Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

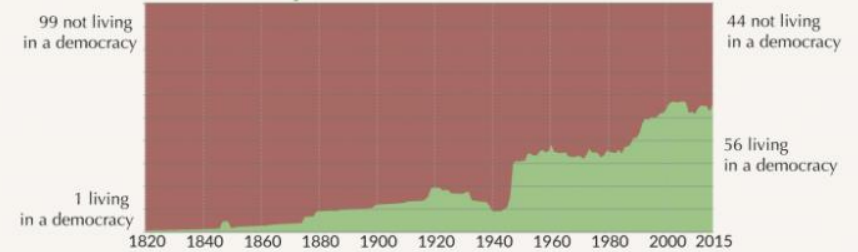
The World as 100 People over the last two centuries

Our World
in Data

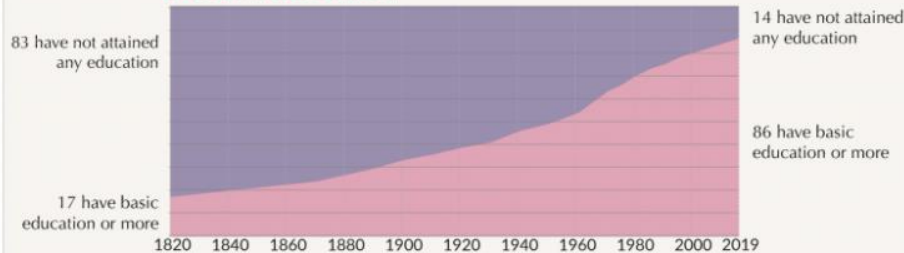
Poverty



Democracy



Basic Education



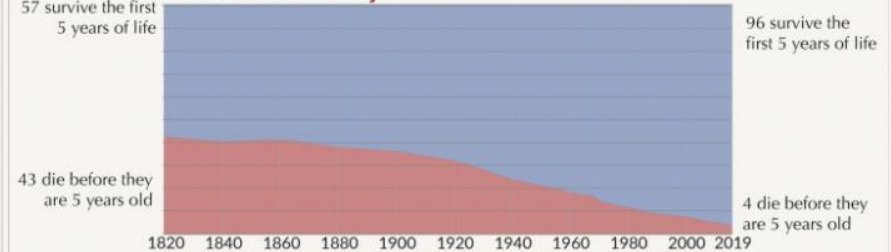
Vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus



Literacy



Child Mortality



Data sources:

Poverty: World Bank from 1981; Bourguignon & Morrison (2002) for extreme poverty up to 1970. [All measured in international-\$ to adjust for inflation and price differences between countries]

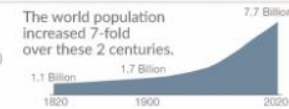
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Democracy: Polity IV index (own calculation of global population share)

Vaccination: WHO (Global data are available for 1980 to 2017 – the DPT3 vaccination was licensed in 1949) [Vaccination refers to children (ages 12-23 months) in each year and not the entire population]

Child mortality: up to 1960 own calculations based on Gapminder; World Bank thereafter



A visualization from OurWorldInData.org – the online publication that presents the research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

Licensed under CC-BY by the author Max Roser.

CHANGES IN THE CONDITIONS OF PRODUCTION

When Marx undertook his critique of the capitalistic mode of production, this mode was in its infancy. Marx directed his efforts in such a way as to give them prognostic value. He went back to the basic conditions underlying capitalistic production and through his presentation showed what could be expected of capitalism in the future. The result was that one could expect it not only to exploit the proletariat with increasing intensity, but ultimately to create conditions which would make it possible to abolish capitalism itself.

Benjamin, W. (1935), The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction, in *Illuminations*, New York: Schocken Books

Modernity

NEW THEORIES OF MODERNITY

Progress

Universal Reason

Equality, Democracy, Freedom Rights

Modern Times (1936)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANXGJe6i3G8>

Key 19th Century Ideas:

- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (1848)

The Communist Manifesto

- Charles Darwin (1872)

The Origin of Species

- Sigmund Freud (1900)

The Interpretation of Dreams

MODERNISM =

Cultural
outputs/objects/products

- ISM =

a form of noun of action (baptism);
a kind of action (heroism); and of actions and
beliefs characteristic of some group (Judaism); or
tendency (Socialism) or school (Platonism).

(Williams, 1976: 173-4)



The International Style

Ludwig Mies van der
Rohe,

Seagram Building
(1958),

New York City.



The day
modern
architecture
died: April
1972

Charles Jencks
*The Language of Post-
Modern Architecture,*
1977

Pruitt-Igoe, St Louis,
Missouri.

Task (10 minutes)

RESEARCH A WORD.

Search:

Modernism

Modernity

(A Modern) Movement

Postmodernism

Postmodernity

Postmodern

[Dictionary of critical theory](#)

<https://moodle.uwtsd.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=2103>

Homework task (30 minutes)

Watch the following short film clips:

- *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth* (2011)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7RwwkNzF68&feature=watch_response
- *Trouble in Utopia* (1981)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd7VOz_Wstg



The Pruitt-Igoe Myth (2011)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7RwwkNzF68&feature=watch_response