



What is Cultural History?

Peter Burke

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This exciting introductory text offers an accessible guide to the past, present and future of cultural history, as it has been practised not only in the English-speaking world but in Continental Europe, Asia, South America and elsewhere.

Burke begins by providing a discussion of the 'classic' phase of cultural history, associated with Jacob Burckhardt and Johan Huizinga, and of the Marxist reaction, from Frederick Antal to Edward Thompson. He then charts the rise of cultural history in more recent times, concentrating on the work of the last generation, often described as the 'New Cultural History'. He places cultural history in its own cultural context, noting links between new approaches to historical thought and writing and the rise of feminism, postcolonial studies and an everyday discourse in which the idea of culture plays an increasingly important part.

What is Cultural History? will be an essential textbook for all students of history as well as those taking courses in cultural, anthropological and literary studies.

What is Cultural History? Details

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From Reader Review What is Cultural History? for online ebook

Celine says

Good textbook on culture history, showing how the discipline has evolved in the last few decades. Has relatively little actual methodology, but it features many key works and thinkers so you can easily learn what to read next.

Peter says

This introduction tries to avoid the pitfalls of a) deterministic social approaches to history and b) empty talking about cultural construction and 'cultural theory'. Although these ambitions are admirable, it results in a somewhat vague account of NCH (New Cultural History). Theorists are reduced to flashy flag posts and buzzwords; the most striking example of this (paraphrasing it slightly for polemical and argumentative purposes): 'archeologists admire Foucault, because he was a archeologist, in some sense, as well'. This study reflects in this way the very same fragmented and incomplete 'postmodern identities' it is trying to undermine. The concrete analyses of the economic underpinnings of society, which make authors like Marx and Bourdieu so inspiring, thorough and rigorous, wither away in the shadow of the extensive usage of 'buzzconcepts' like 'hybridization' and 'the frontier police'. Burkes usage of methapors and rhetorics make this book somewhat intangible, but his clear wit and rich knowledge of the discipline make up for that. He tried to say too much, but the end result isn't disappointing at all, especially for curious and beginning students. Rich in its scope, boring in its intended theoretical contributions to the field.

Yupa says

Non chiarisce cosa sia la storia culturale ma si limita, per centosessanta pagine circa, a fare un lungo elenco riassuntoso e poco ragionato di libri e opere che al genere dovrebbero appartenere. Poco utile.

Mathew Powers says

It's well written and serves as a reference book. It reads like a very long historiography, but very few (if any) arguments are truly presented. If one has a specific purpose in mind regarding cultural history, this is a good reference book for you. Otherwise, don't expect to be glue do this prose -- it's rather dry at times.

Elizabeth Kosmetatou says

Probably the definitive book on Cultural History.

Maarten De Bousser says

Dit boek geeft een beknopt overzicht van de evoluties binnen de cultural history. Van Burckhardt en Huizinga, over Bakhtin, Elias, Foucault en Derrida, tot Hobsbawn en Anderson. Interessante concepten als Thick Description, Habitus en Grotesque Realism worden uit de doeken gedaan.

Ela Propela says

Ovo je prvi "uvod" u kulturalnu povijest koji sam pro?itala i baš mi je fino lego jer su mi sad te neke kulturno-povijesne stvari posložile. Zapravo, možeš pratit razvoj/evoluciju razmišljanja o temi od Burckhardta na ovamo.Žao mi je da nisam naletila na ovu knjigu dok san polagala sociologiju kulture i žao mi je šta nismo imali samostalni kolegij kulturalne povijesti ni na pov. umjetnosti ni na sociologiji.

Radarici says

In my opinion, every professor who taughts Cultural History classes should take in consideration the option of use this book as it main textbook throughout the semester. It is absolutly original. Burke is a hero for a generation of Historians both in Europe and in Brazil - whose ties with this country started when he married one of the most important Brazilian social historians - and whose scholarship and intellectual work will be always appreciated.

Wouter says

This was a good overview of the development of cultural history and I was introduced to a great deal of scholars and texts I hadn't previously heard of. On the other hand, I felt like this book tried to cram as many titles in as possible, which made Burke's elaborations a bit vague and incomplete. I was also disappointed with the absence of concepts like intersectionality and disability studies, but all in all this was a solid read.

Georgina Koutrouditsou says

εξαιρετικ? απ? κ?θε ?ποψη!!

Olethros says

-Sobre una disciplina minoritaria desde lo “aislado” pero que cada vez tiñe más a otras y en varios sentidos.-

Género. Ensayo.

Lo que nos cuenta. El libro ¿Qué es la historia cultural? (publicación original: What is Cultural History?, 2004) es un acercamiento a la Historia Cultural, su concepto e intenciones, sus inicios, las evoluciones que ha sufrido en su corta carrera como corriente propia, sus vertientes más dominantes y las derivas que está tomando entre autores, investigadores y ensayistas.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

<http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/...>

Charlie says

What is Cultural History? is a curt, phenomenological approach to the title question. Burke examines all the work that purports to be cultural history and categorizes it. He also identifies some influences outside the historical discipline. As a guide to placing secondary sources relative to each other, this is good for quick reference. The bibliography and for further reading sections are useful. I picked up some "to-read" books and made some mental connections. Nevertheless, the book is mostly devoid of the kind of insight or meditation that one thinks Burke could offer.

Victoria says

Da una buena introducción a la historia cultural, además fue muy útil para la elección de métodos y enfoques en mi tema de tesis... sin embargo creo que deja de lado y repasa muy a fuerzas la gran importancia de la Tercera Generación de Annales.

Nicole Gaudier says

It was an interesting topic but the book was only ok.

Jens says

I think this book is a great introduction for anyone just interested in history, studying history or writing a paper with a focus on cultural history. Burke traces the origins of the, so it seems/seemed, dominant branch of historical research at the time of the release of this book (even though it is still a major aspect in current academic research, I wouldn't call it dominant anymore), back to it's 'founding fathers'.

Starting with the heroes Burckhardt, Huizinga, Weber and Elias, working through the more anthropological period and ending with the postmodern influences. Burke not only gives a chronological overview, but also lays a finger on the biggest problems which the researchers of cultural history face, and how to possibly overcome them.

Burke ends the book with the possible future of this branch of historical study.

The explanations are clear, the writing is transparent and in my opinion Burke touches on all the important issues within the very wide range of cultural history.
