

# He Who Writes the History Books Wins

WIKICONFERENCE  
NORTH AMERICA



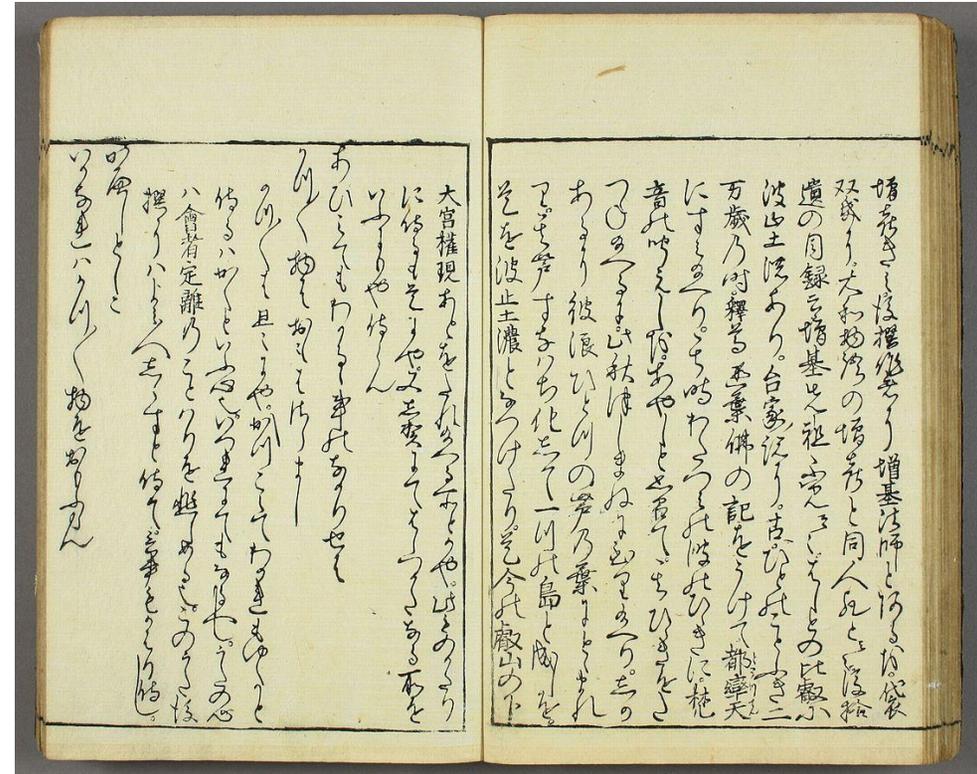
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*amplify | amplifier | amplificar*

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1. Why should Wikimedians care about what got into the history books?
2. Why should they care about what didn't make it into the history books?
3. Which history to tell?

The good historian is like the giant of the fairy tale. He knows that wherever he catches the scent of human flesh, there his quarry lies.



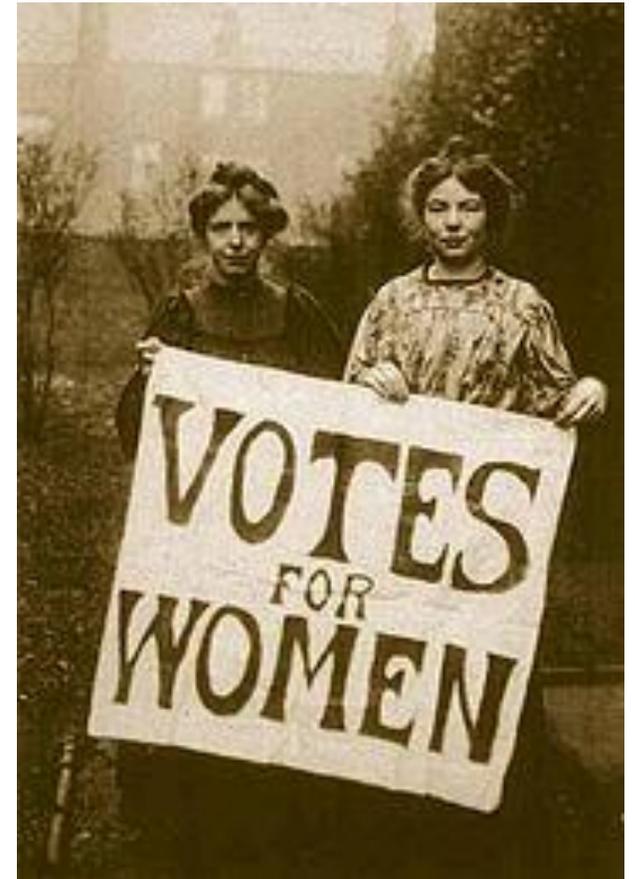
-Marc Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*

“It is not women's inferiority that has determined their historical insignificance: it is their historical insignificance that has doomed them to inferiority.”



(Simone De Beauvoir, 1949, *The Second Sex* [French: *Le Deuxième Sexe*])  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Second\\_Sex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Second_Sex)

- Women were not viewed as an integral part of the historical record.
- The vast majority remained silent and invisible, their history subsumed under general descriptions of men's lives.
- Extraordinary figures like the queens of 16th-c Europe or the 19th-c reformers in the US, active agents in their own right, fared no better.
- Though sometimes praised for having successfully assumed male roles, traditional, patronizing phrases and denigrating stereotypes abstracted and diminished even their exceptional personalities and experiences.



(Judith P. Zinsser)

[http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/professional-development/childlit/books/JOYD\\_ELA.pdf](http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/professional-development/childlit/books/JOYD_ELA.pdf)

- The Inuit inhabit the Arctic region, occupying lands that stretch 12,000 miles from parts of Siberia, along the Alaskan coast, across Canada, and on to Greenland.
- The Inuit are one of the most widely dispersed people in the world, but number only about 60,000 in population.
- For thousands of years the Inuit lived lives unrecorded by history.
- This changed with their first contact with Europeans.
- The Vikings under Eric the Red encountered Inuit in Greenland in 984.



(J. Sydney Jones, *Inuit*) <http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Ha-La/Inuit.html>



- Although much has been written on Greek and Roman slavery in antiquity, the same cannot be said for slave resistance in this period.
- Slave revolts have typically been dismissed as historically insignificant or exceptional events resulting from peculiar historical circumstances.
- ... challenge current thinking by looking beyond the canonical sources to reveal a longer and far more significant history of slave resistance.

(Theresa Urbainczyk, *Slave revolts in antiquity*, Volume 2008, Part 2)

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Slave\\_revolts\\_in\\_antiquity.html?id=f08gAQAAIAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Slave_revolts_in_antiquity.html?id=f08gAQAAIAAJ)

“A Nazi and a non-Nazi version of the present war would have no resemblance to one another, and which of them finally gets into the history books will be decided not by evidential methods but on the battlefield.”



(George Orwell, *Tribune*, 4 February 1944, *History is Written By the is Written By the Winners*)

Merci!

@Rosiestep

