

# The New History

Some time ago I received a long essay from Mr. Xxxxx saying that we should not criticize the Roman Catholic Holy Inquisition, because recent studies have proved that the Inquisition was not oppressive, but was simply the law of the time!

My response to Mr. Xxxxx was a short friendly letter in which I said “I have read through your essay on the Roman Catholic Inquisition in Europe and must admit that I consider it an insult to my historic knowledge. Apparently you have swallowed not only the hook-line-and-sinker of the “New History,” but also the fishing-pole and the Jesuit to boot. I do hope you will turn your attention to the study of real history.” For me that ended the discussion.

Now comes a new “challenge,” Mr. Xxxxx has submitted his essay to a Freethought magazine and insists that I submit a response to be published with his. I do not intend to labor the point, my mind is made up, Christianity burning people at the stake is an evil act whether done today, tomorrow or at any time in the past. What is needful of study is the reason why these settled questions of history are resurrected again and again to waste the time of foolish scholars and fastidious Freethinkers.

Shortly after the turn of the Century there arose a movement known as the “New History.” Over the years this new history has churned away all established facts of history that casts Christianity in a bad light, and replaced them with “modern scholarship” to the contrary. This “New History” is great fodder for Christian schools of religious indoctrination, and also to engages scholars and Freethinkers in endless and useless debates when their time could be better spent.

There is no crime greater than to corrupt and destroy the intellectual accomplishments of the human race. All true scholarship proves that Christianity is not only false in its theological assumptions, but that it has been the essence of murder, wars and destruction in its history. Historic truth is so devastating to Christianity that it became necessary to rewrite history from ‘a Christian point of view.’ Thus the Scholars of Deceit have become the historians of the church, and history is now “writ” the same as theology has always been -- whatever absurdities the traffic will bear.

History is the memory of mankind, its purpose is to keep us from making the same mistakes again and again. But history is at the mercy of those in power, if the Nazis had won WWII, Hitler would be portrayed as the savior of humanity and Nazi atrocities would be hidden and denied. And so it is with all oppressive ideologies, once in power it changes history for its own purposes. Who could believe in Christianity after learning the facts of its long and brutal history? The “New History” denies the truth of Christian atrocities and often claims the good works of others as the work of Christianity.

Over the centuries there has been great and scholarly historians who have exhaustively researched their subjects and presented us with works of unsurpassed accuracy. Without claiming these works are perfect, they certainly present a firm body of scholarly work that cannot be honestly denied. We need to reissue the great works of Gibbon, Leacky, Lea, White, Acton (Catholic), McCabe, Symonds, and many others. The “New History” simply casts aside these great scholars with the assertion that they are outdated and unreliable! But history is not technology -- new is not better. History stems from the past, older works and original sources (many original sources have been lost by wars, etc.) must be the source of all our knowledge of human history. It is by the reinterpretation of old works that the modern historian gives us new histories. Too often these new histories are written to serve an ulterior purpose.

What are some of the claims of the “New History”?

That history is unimportant because it cannot be known for certain, and is merely the opinion of the historian.

That (name of old historian) work is unreliable, outdated and disproved by modern scholarship.

That the Christian Dark Ages were not dark at all but were the essence of scholarship and progress.

That the Crusades were not cruel and unjustified wars of Christian aggression.

That the religious wars were not religious wars at all, but were political and economic struggles.

That the interpolation in Josephus is genuine.

That the Donation of Constantine was not a crude forgery.

That the St. Bartholomew day massacre, Paris, Sunday, August 24, 1572, is a myth.

That the Holy Inquisition was not oppressive, but was simply the law of the time.

That Darwin (or the name of any dead Freethinker) recanted on his death bed.

That there is no conflict between science and the Christian religion.

That the American Founding Fathers were believing Christians.

That scientific Creationism is a science.

That the Holocaust never happened.

The list is endless.

Malicious deception for sectarian purposes is not history, it is fraud. We must not waste time refuting the endless historic fabrications of theology.

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November 8, 1996