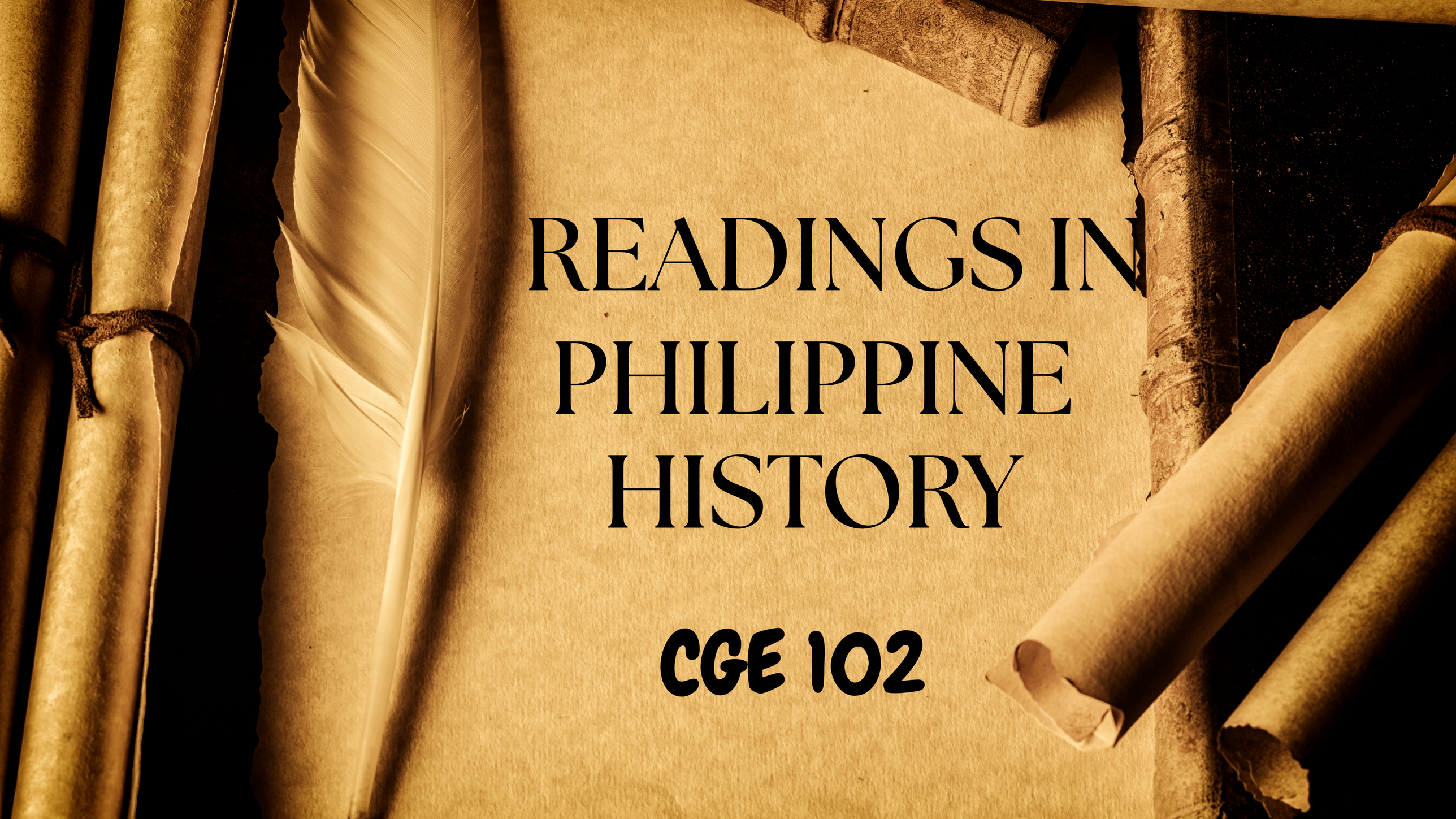
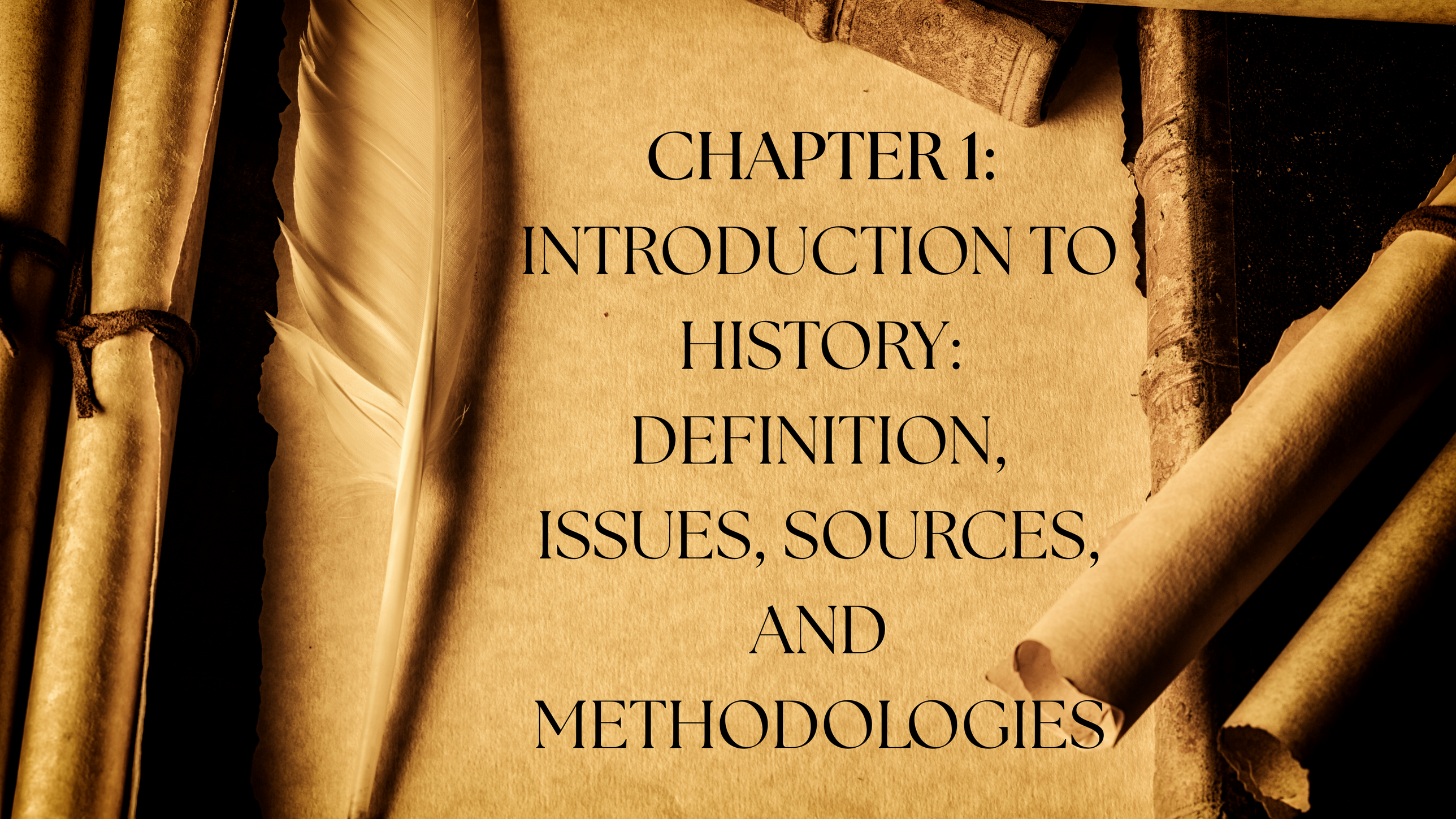

READINGS IN
PHILIPPINE
HISTORY
CGE 102

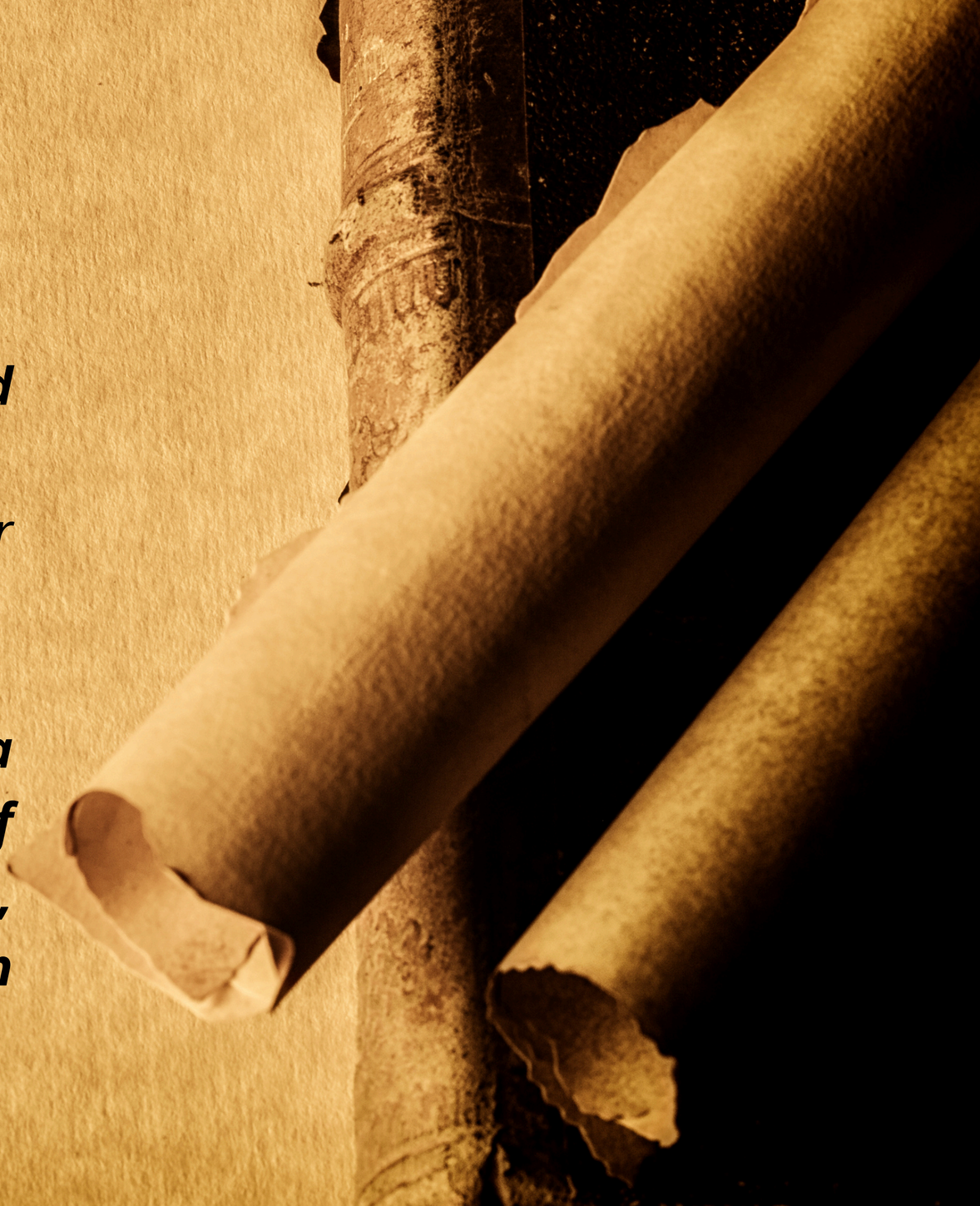


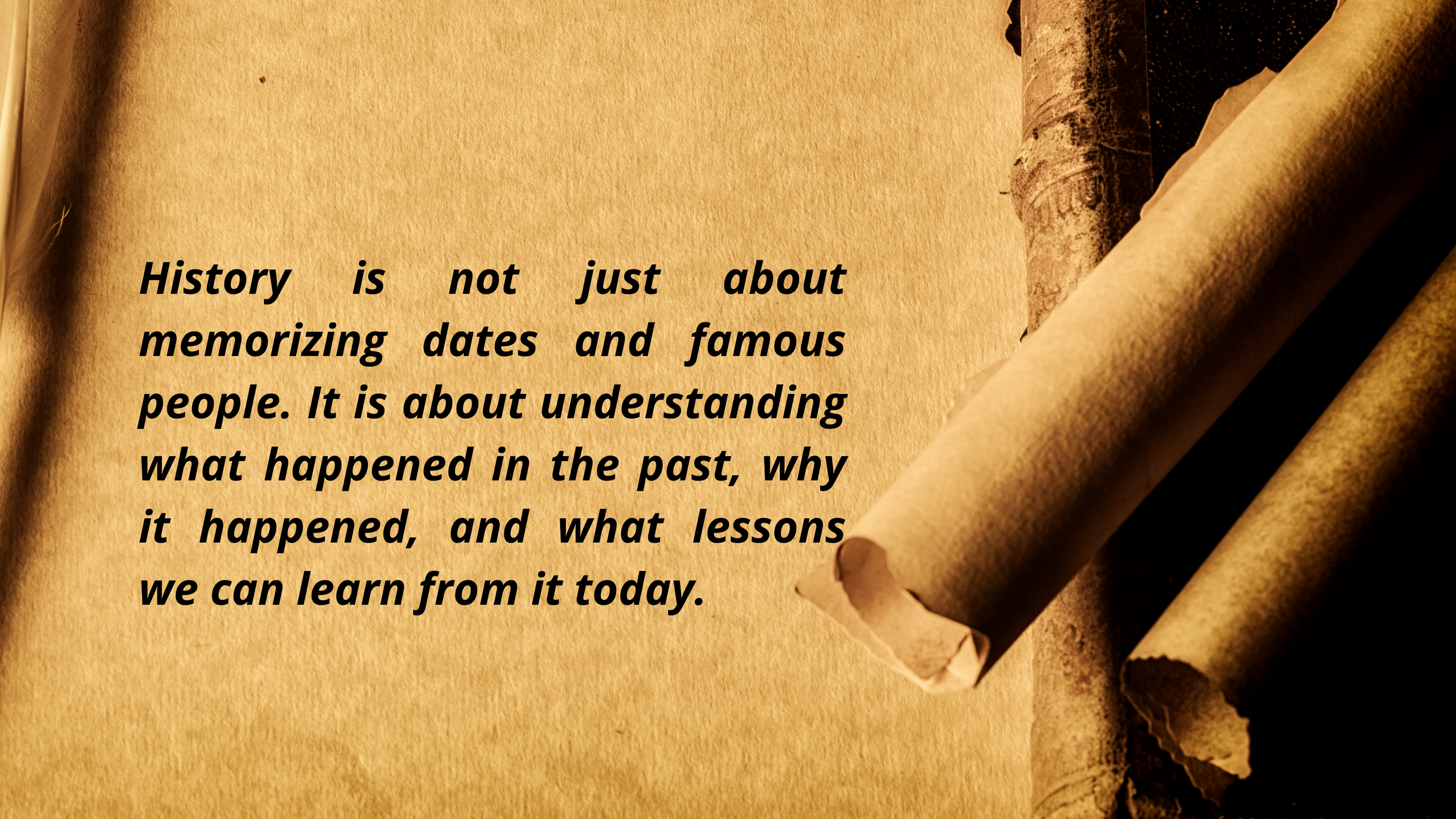
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY: DEFINITION, ISSUES, SOURCES, AND METHODOLOGIES

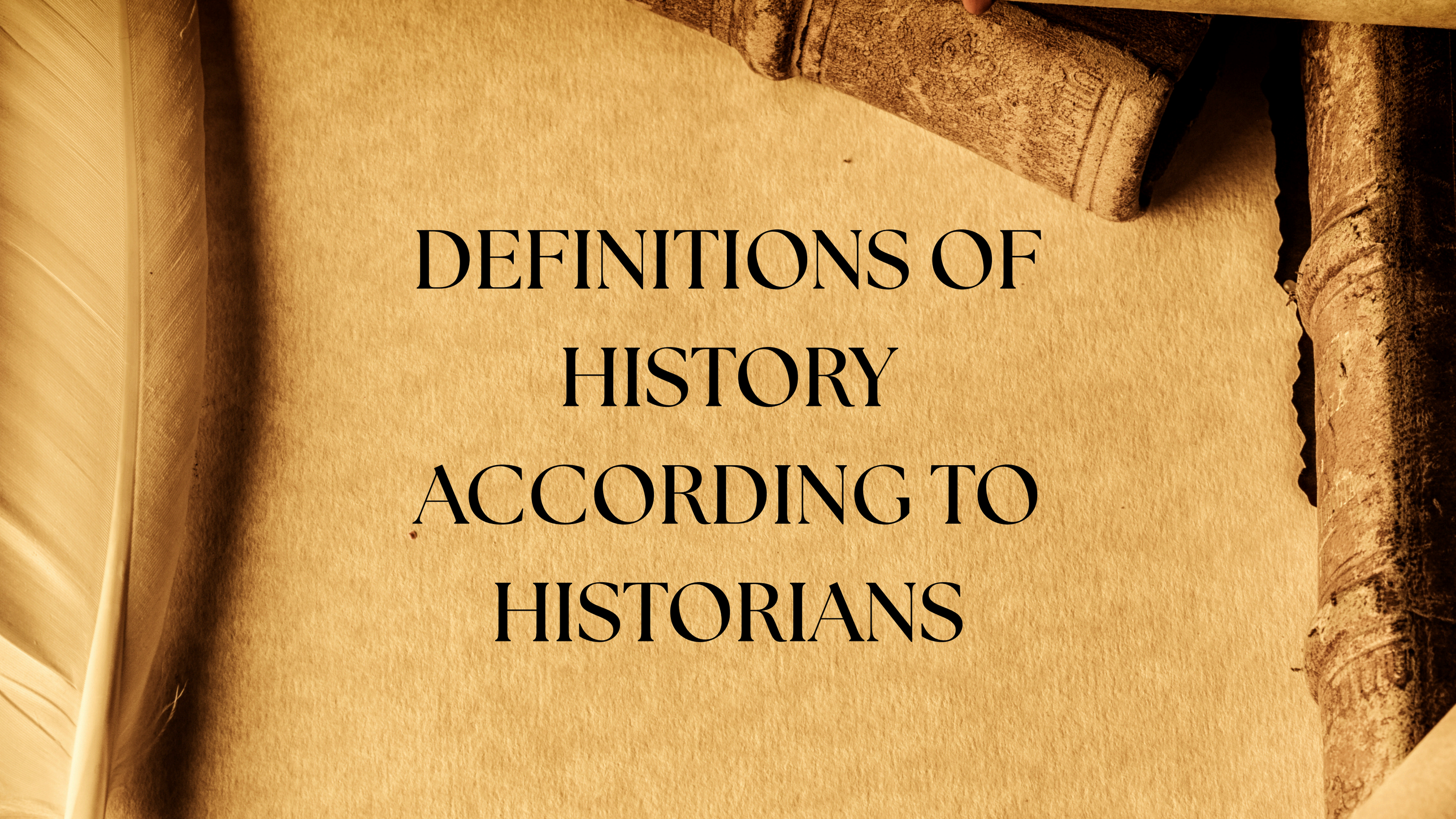
HISTORY

History comes from the Greek word Historia, which means:
"Knowledge acquired through inquiry or investigation."

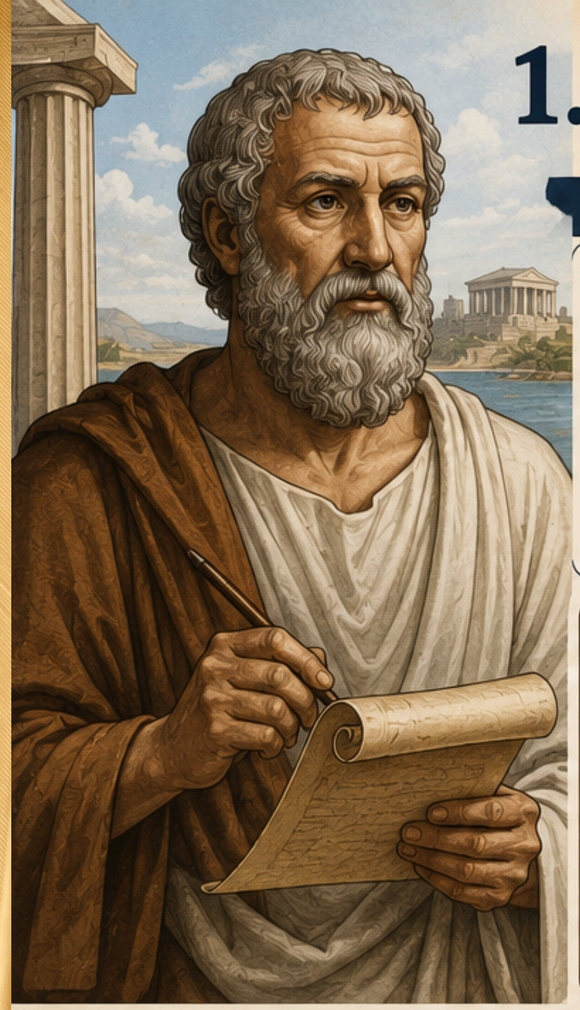
This means that history is not simply a collection of stories. It is the process of asking questions, examining evidence, and discovering what truly happened in the past.




History is not just about memorizing dates and famous people. It is about understanding what happened in the past, why it happened, and what lessons we can learn from it today.



DEFINITIONS OF HISTORY ACCORDING TO HISTORIANS



1. HERODOTUS (c. 484–425 BCE)

FATHER OF HISTORY

Herodotus was the first historian to systematically record historical events. He traveled to different places, interviewed people, and gathered information to explain why events happened.



HIS VIEW OF HISTORY

History is a record of human **actions and achievements that should be preserved** so they will not be forgotten by future generations.



EXPLANATION

Herodotus believed that history should:



Preserve the **memory** of **important events.**

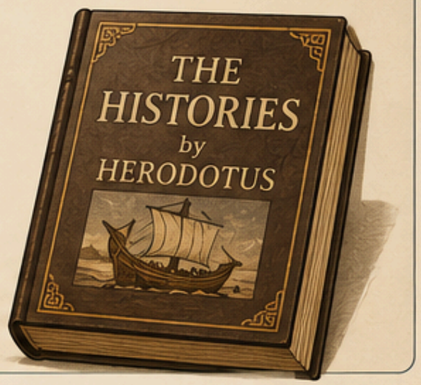


Explain the **causes** of **wars** and **conflicts.**

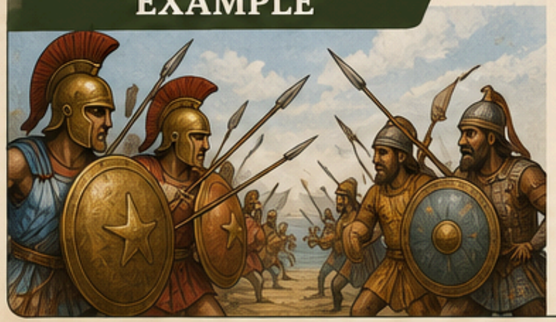


Record the **customs** and **traditions** of different cultures.

His famous work, ***The Histories,*** mainly describes the wars between the Greeks and Persians while also discussing the cultures of various civilizations.



EXAMPLE



Instead of simply saying,

"The Greeks fought the Persians,"

Herodotus asked,



Why did the war happen?



Who participated?

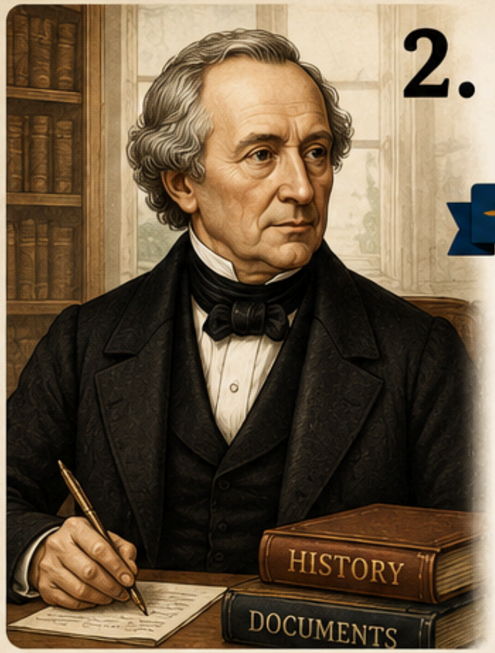


What lessons can people learn from it?

KEY IDEA

History preserves the memory of people and events.





2. LEOPOLD VON RANKE
(1795–1886)

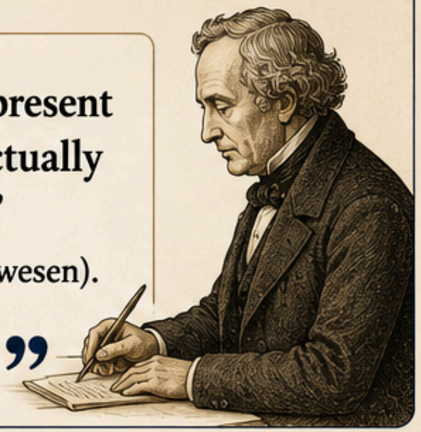
FATHER OF MODERN HISTORICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Leopold von Ranke transformed history into an academic discipline by emphasizing the use of primary sources such as official documents, letters, diaries, and government records.



HIS VIEW OF HISTORY

> "History should present the past "as it actually happened"
> (wie es eigentlich gewesen)."



EXPLANATION

According to Ranke,



Historians must rely on evidence.



Personal opinions should not influence historical writing.



Facts should come from authentic and reliable sources.



EXAMPLE

When studying the Philippine Revolution, historians should examine:



Official documents



Letters of revolutionaries



Government records



Newspapers



Original manuscripts

instead of relying only on stories passed down through generatipts.

KEY IDEA: History should be based on factual evidence.



For Ranke, the historian's task is not to judge the past with modern standards, but to understand it through evidence from its own time.



3. MARC BLOCH (1886–1944)

Founder of the Annales School

Marc Bloch believed that history is not only about kings, presidents, or wars. It is also about the lives of ordinary people.



HIS VIEW OF HISTORY

> "History is the study of human beings through time."



EXPLANATION

Bloch encouraged historians to study:


Farmers


Workers


Families


Communities


Traditions


Economy


Religion


Daily life

He believed that understanding society requires looking beyond political events.

EXAMPLE

Instead of studying only President Manuel L. Quezon, a historian might also examine:





How ordinary Filipinos lived during the Commonwealth period.



Their jobs, education, customs, and everyday experiences.

KEY IDEA

History studies people's lives, not just famous individuals.



"To understand the past, we must understand people—their work, their beliefs, their struggles, and their hopes."

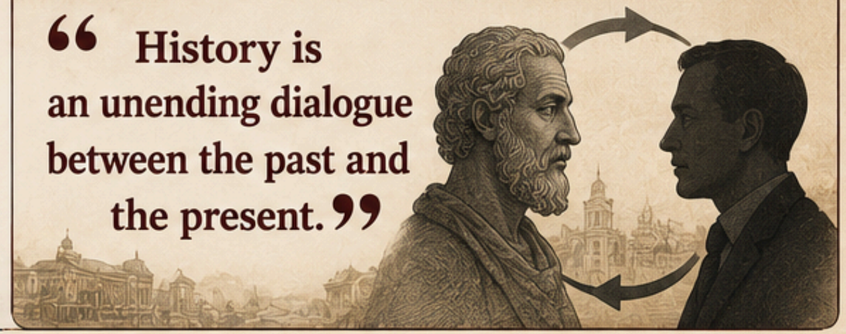


4. EDWARD HALLETT CARR
(1892–1982)

Edward H. Carr emphasized that history is not simply a collection of facts.

HIS VIEW OF HISTORY

> "History is an unending dialogue between the past and the present."



EXPLANATION

Carr argued that:



Facts do not speak for themselves.



Historians choose which facts are important.



Every generation asks new questions about the past.



New evidence may lead to new interpretations.

Because of this, history is constantly being revised and reinterpreted.



EXAMPLE: The Philippine Revolution can be studied from different perspectives

Filipino revolutionaries



They saw it as a struggle for freedom and independence from colonial rule.

Spanish colonizers



They viewed it as a rebellion against a legitimate government that brought civilization.

American observers



They considered it part of the larger context of U.S. interests in the Philippines.

Modern historians



They analyze multiple sources and perspectives to understand its complex meanings.

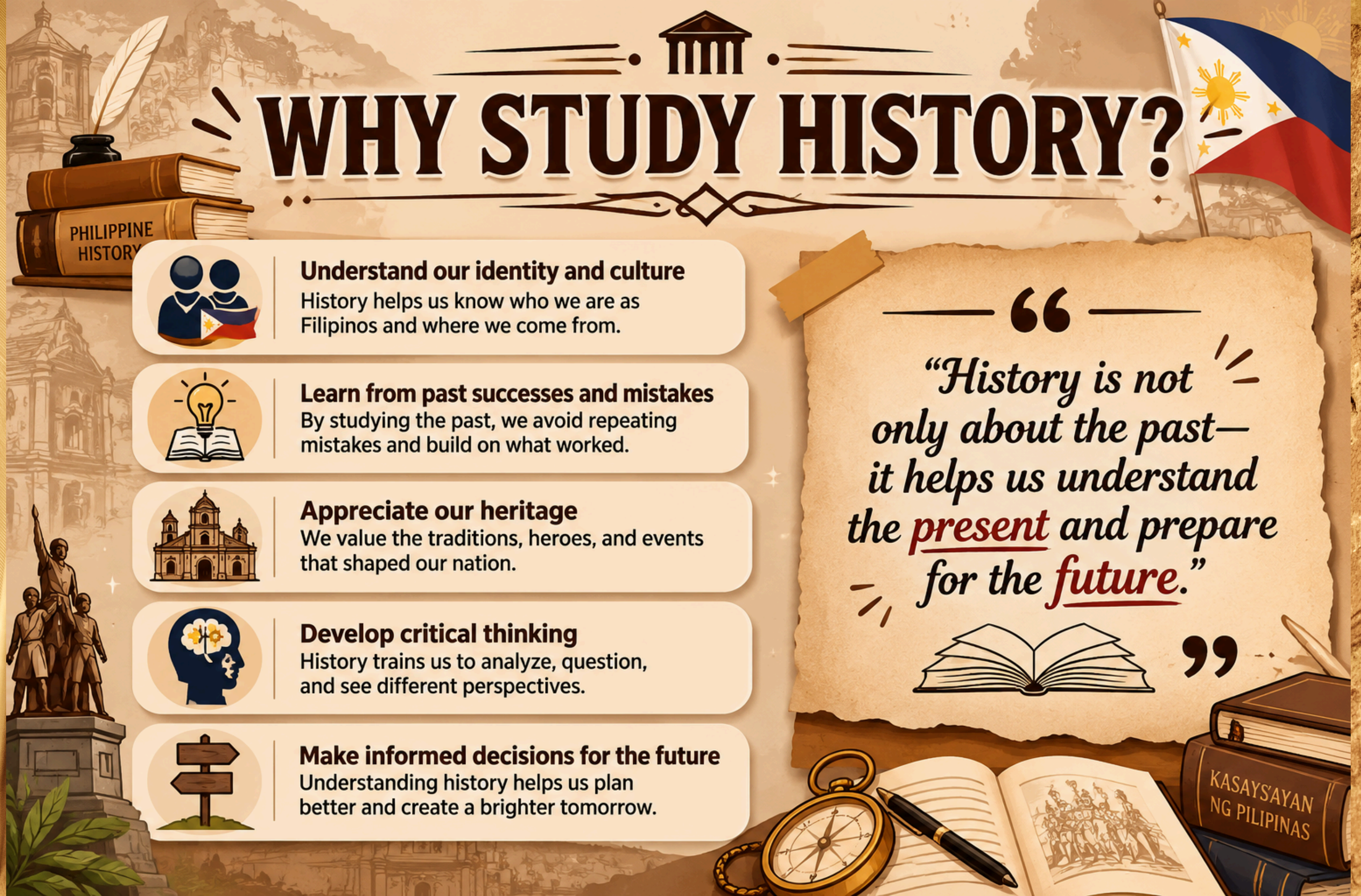
Each perspective provides additional insights into the same historical event.

KEY IDEA

History is continuously interpreted as society changes.



WHY STUDY HISTORY?



Understand our identity and culture
History helps us know who we are as Filipinos and where we come from.

Learn from past successes and mistakes
By studying the past, we avoid repeating mistakes and build on what worked.

Appreciate our heritage
We value the traditions, heroes, and events that shaped our nation.

Develop critical thinking
History trains us to analyze, question, and see different perspectives.

Make informed decisions for the future
Understanding history helps us plan better and create a brighter tomorrow.

> *"History is not only about the past— it helps us understand the present and prepare for the future."*

NATURE OF HISTORY

History has several important characteristics.

1. IT IS EVIDENCE-BASED.

Historical conclusions are supported by documents, artifacts, photographs, letters, and other reliable sources.











2. IT IS INTERPRETATIVE.

Different historians may explain the same event differently depending on the available evidence and their interpretation.

THE SAME EVENT, DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS

Example: The Philippine Revolution (1896)



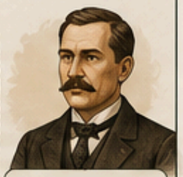
FILIPINO REVOLUTIONARY

A fight for freedom and independence from foreign rule.



SPANISH COLONIZER

A rebellion against legitimate authority that threatened order.



AMERICAN OBSERVER

A struggle that opened the door for the U.S. to influence the Philippines.

Interpretation depends on perspective and context.

3. IT IS DYNAMIC.

History changes as new evidence is discovered.

BEFORE:
What we knew before new evidence



AFTER:
New evidence leads to new understanding



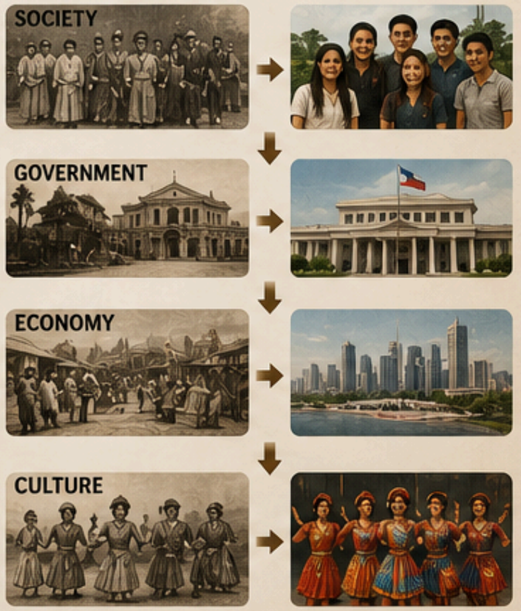
EXAMPLE:

A new archaeological discovery can change what we know about ancient settlements.



4. IT STUDIES CHANGE OVER TIME.

History explains how societies, governments, economies, and cultures develop from one generation to another.



Change is continuous.
The past shapes the present and influences the future.

Studying the nature of history helps us understand how historians work and why their study of the past is always meaningful.

Evolution of the Meaning of HISTORY

01

Greek Era

History began as “historia” in Greek, meaning “knowledge acquired through inquiry or investigation.



02

Knowledge through Inquiry

Early thinkers and historians sought to understand the past by asking questions and gathering information.



03

Written Accounts

History became more organized through written records such as chronicles, documents, letters, and official accounts.



04

Study of Past Events

History developed into a discipline that studies past events, causes, effects, and human experiences.



05

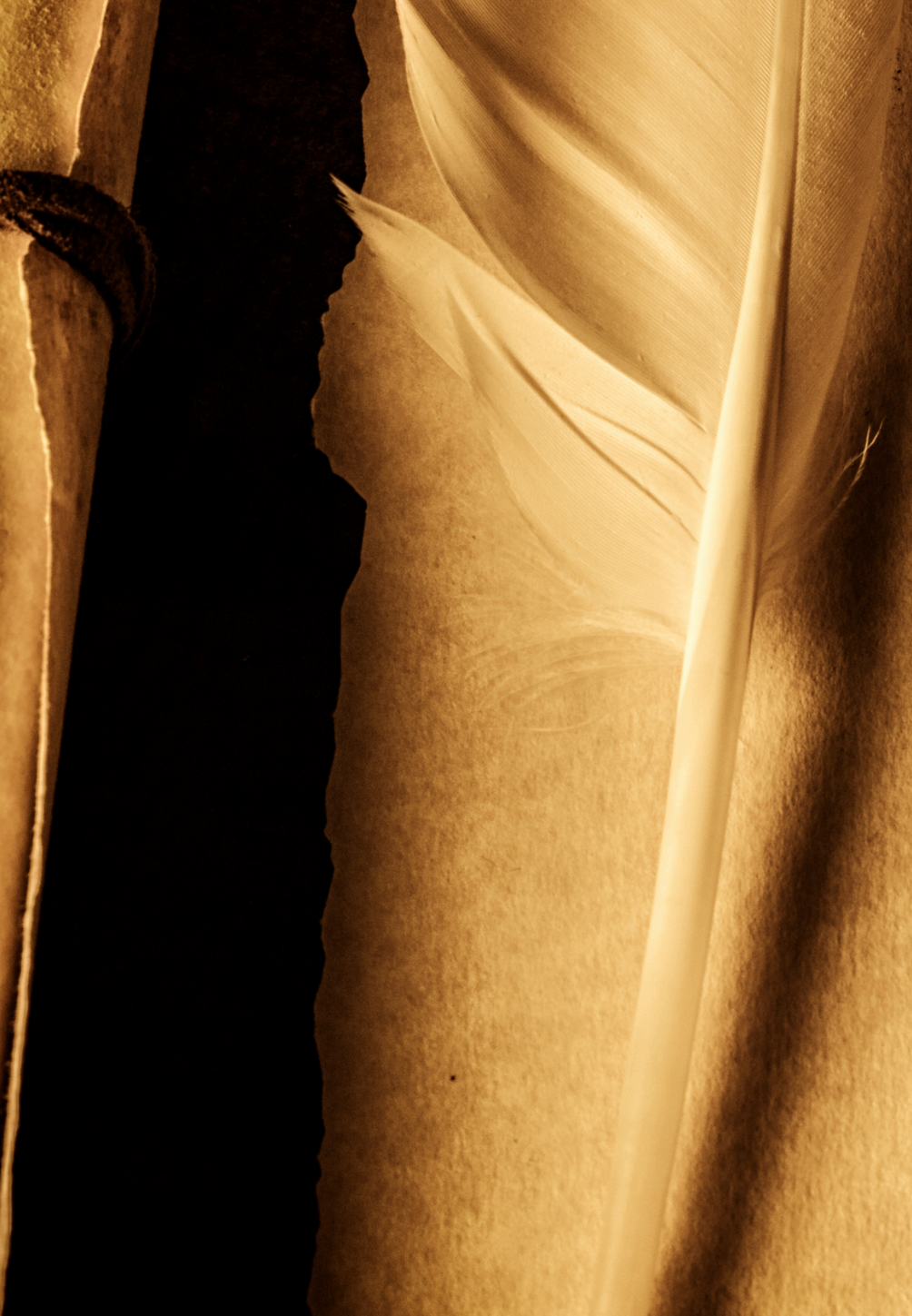
Modern History

Today, history is a dynamic and critical study using various sources, methods, and perspectives to understand the past in a deeper and more inclusive way.









SUBJECT MATTER OF HISTORY

- 👥 **People and their lives**
- 👑 **Leaders and governments**
- ⚔️ **Wars and revolutions**
- 🏛️ **Politics and society**
- 💰 **Economy and trade**
- 🎭 **Culture, beliefs, and traditions**
- 🔬 **Science and technology**
- 🌍 **Important events that shaped nations**

SUBJECT MATTER OF HISTORY

History studies everything that happened in the past through reliable evidence.

1 PEOPLE AND THEIR LIVES



History examines how ordinary people lived, worked, and interacted with one another in different periods.

2 LEADERS AND GOVERNMENTS



It studies rulers, presidents, kings, and governments, including how they made decisions that affected society.

3 WARS AND REVOLUTIONS



History explores conflicts and revolutions, their causes, major events, and their impact on nations and people.

4 POLITICS AND SOCIETY



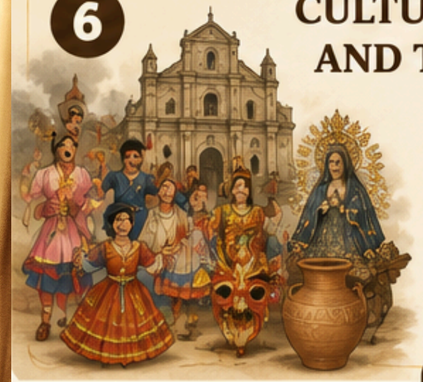
It looks at political systems, laws, social classes, and how communities were organized throughout history.

5 ECONOMY AND TRADE



History explains how people earned a living, exchanged goods, developed businesses, and built economic relationships.

6 CULTURE, BELIEFS, AND TRADITIONS



It studies the customs, religions, languages, arts, and traditions that shaped the identity of different communities.

7 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



History traces important discoveries, inventions, and technological developments that improved human life.

8 IMPORTANT EVENTS THAT SHAPED NATIONS



History examines significant events that changed the course of a country's development, identity, and future.

KEY TAKEAWAY: History is not limited to dates and famous people.
It also explores the lives, culture, economy, politics, and achievements of societies to help us understand the world today.

PEOPLE AND THEIR LIVES

History examines how ordinary people lived, worked, and interacted with one another in different periods.



LEADERS AND GOVERNMENTS

It studies rulers, presidents, kings, and governments, including how they made decisions that affected society.



WARS AND REVOLUTIONS

History explores conflicts and revolutions, their causes, major events, and their impact on nations and people.



KEY AREAS OF HISTORY

POLITICS AND SOCIETY

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History explains how people earned a living, exchanged goods, developed businesses, and built economic relationships.



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It studies the customs, religions, languages, arts, and traditions that shaped the identity of different communities.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

History traces important **discoveries, inventions,** and **technological developments** that improved human life.



IMPORTANT EVENTS THAT SHAPED NATIONS

History examines significant events that **changed the course** of a country's **development, identity, and future.**











These events remind us of our strength, unity, and resilience as a nation.



WHY IS THE SUBJECT MATTER OF HISTORY IMPORTANT?

Studying different aspects of history allows us to understand that history is more than memorizing dates and famous personalities.

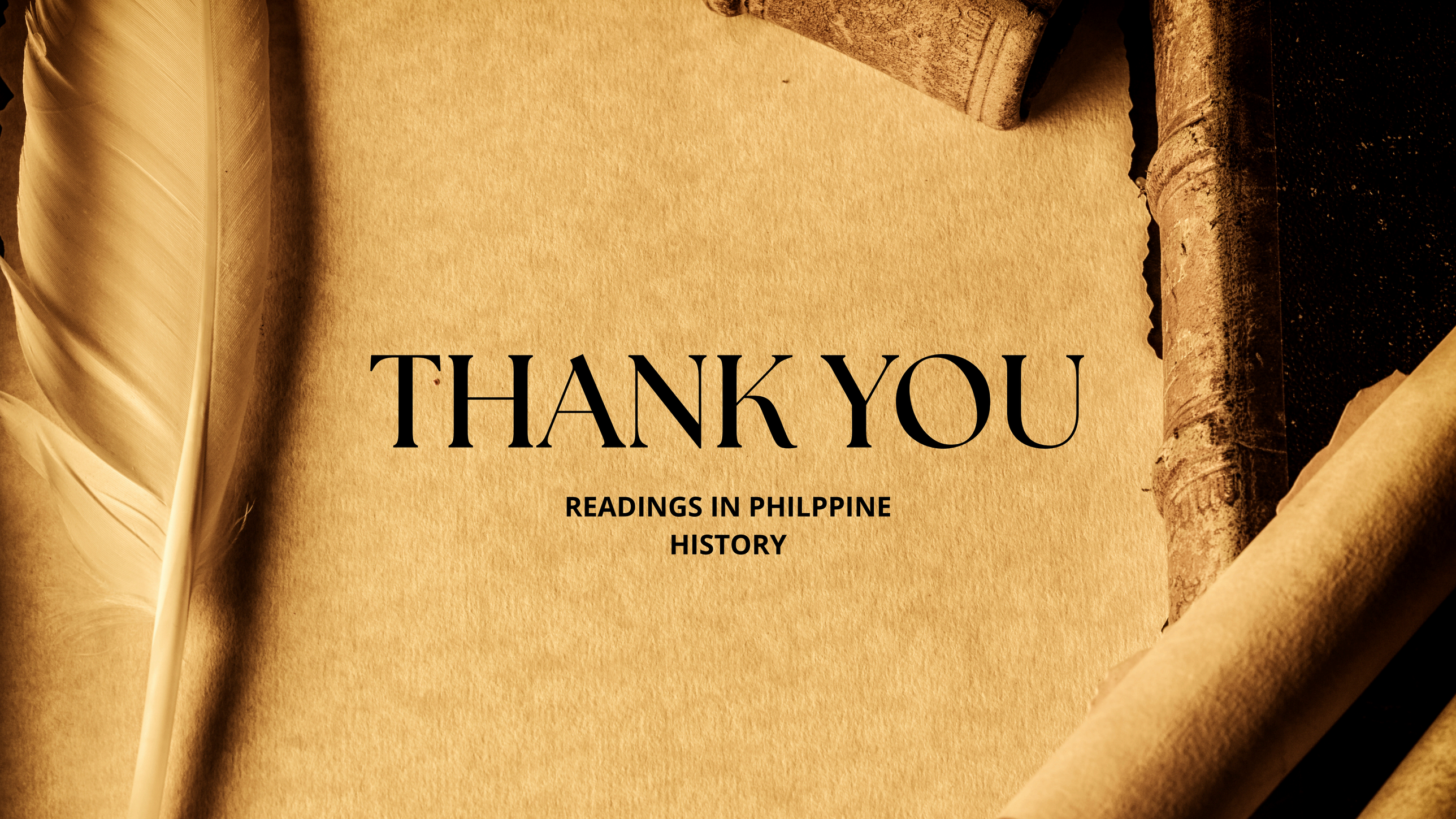
It helps us see how politics, economics, culture, science, technology, and everyday life are connected in shaping human civilization.

CONCLUSION

History is the study of the human past based on evidence.
Its subject matter includes politics, society, economy, culture, government, wars, science, technology, and significant historical events.

By studying history, we better understand the present and become more prepared for the future.




THANK YOU
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