







What Counts as Facts in History?

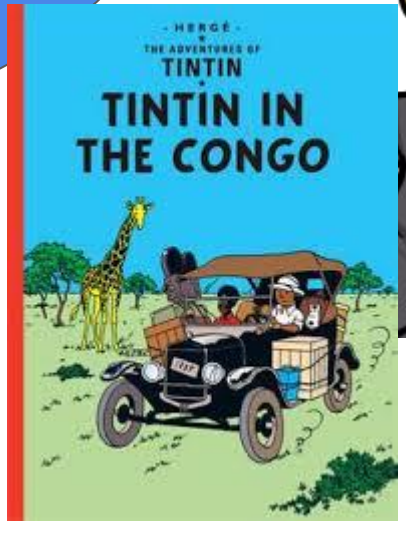




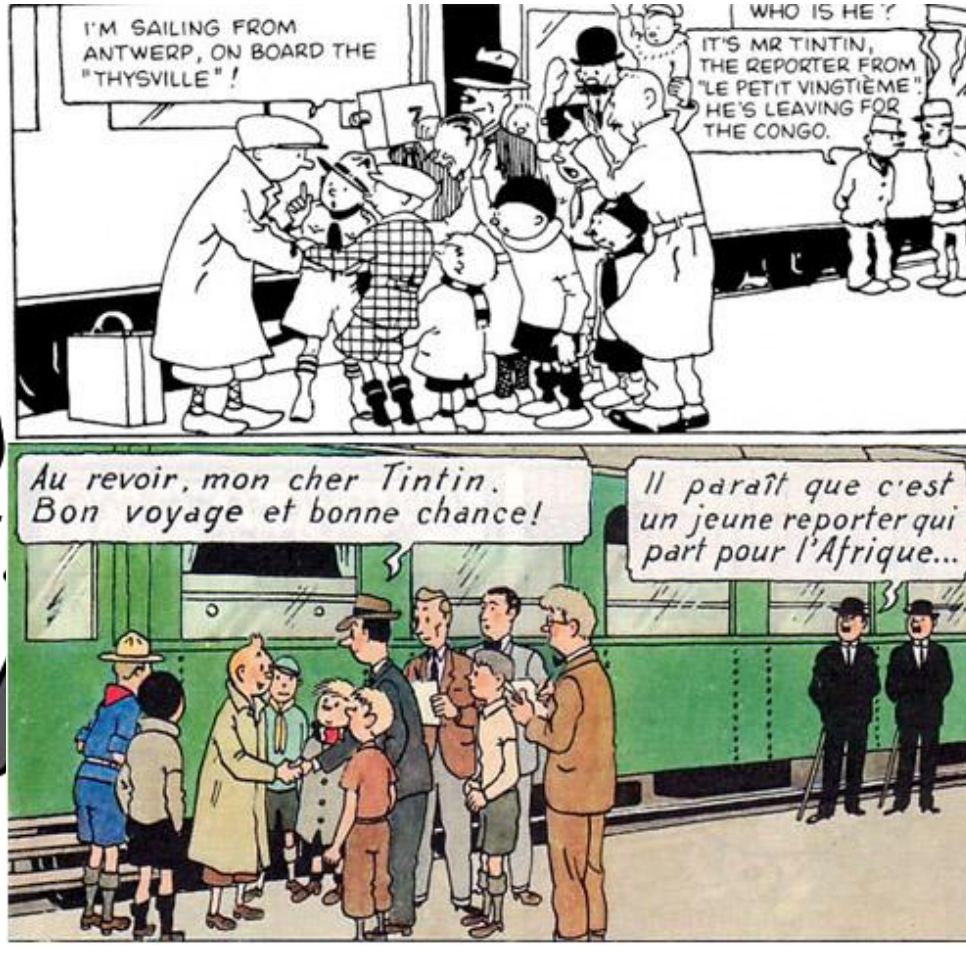
Interpretation of Historical Facts

Each individual knower belong to several communities of knowers, which will in turn influence how he or she sees the world.

How can the study of static past result in dynamic and changing approaches?







Censorship of Images under the Soviet Regime

The way in which our societies are organised is directly related to the interpretations that historians have helped political leaders and communities develop about their social, cultural and historical past.

Furthermore, each member of the society, including yourself, has a different degree of responsibility to discern between fake narratives and objective

Want to know more?

Source

Can you spot the difference?

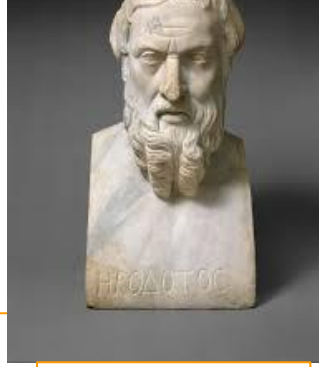


Leon Trotsky
1878-1940



Activity: How was History Born?

Watch this video about Herodotus considered as the father of History



Herodotus
(485-424 BC)

Write down an answer to the following questions in your TOK journal.

To what extent does a cultural context*influence an historian when producing knowledge

Why is it important to record different versions of the same event?

What different types of evidence were collected by Herodotus and how do you think they are important for the production of knowledge in history nowadays?

'History has always suffered from the partiality and mistakes of historians'. What does this imply for our current historical knowledge

Who was Herodotus?

What is the difference between considering history as the recording of all past events or considering it as an interpretative AOK that tries to find causes why events happened?

Key concepts



Cultural Context *The norms of a society and the way in which these impact behaviours and thinking.

Interpretation: This concerns how we understand and evaluate the knowledge claims we deal with. This requires personal skills, and discrepancies may arise when inspecting others' interpretations. One question to reflect on in relation to this concept could be: 'Can the historian be free of bias when interpreting material?'

Objectivity: This implies a neutral approach to the object of study. One question to reflect on in relation to this concept could be: 'Are historians' accounts inevitably subjective or partial?'

Responsibility: This concept concerns being accountable for the consequences of both the pursuit and possession of knowledge. One question to reflect on in relation to this concept could be: 'Do historians have a moral responsibility to try to ensure that the past is not distorted for particular interests?



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Meet Herodotus in the flesh