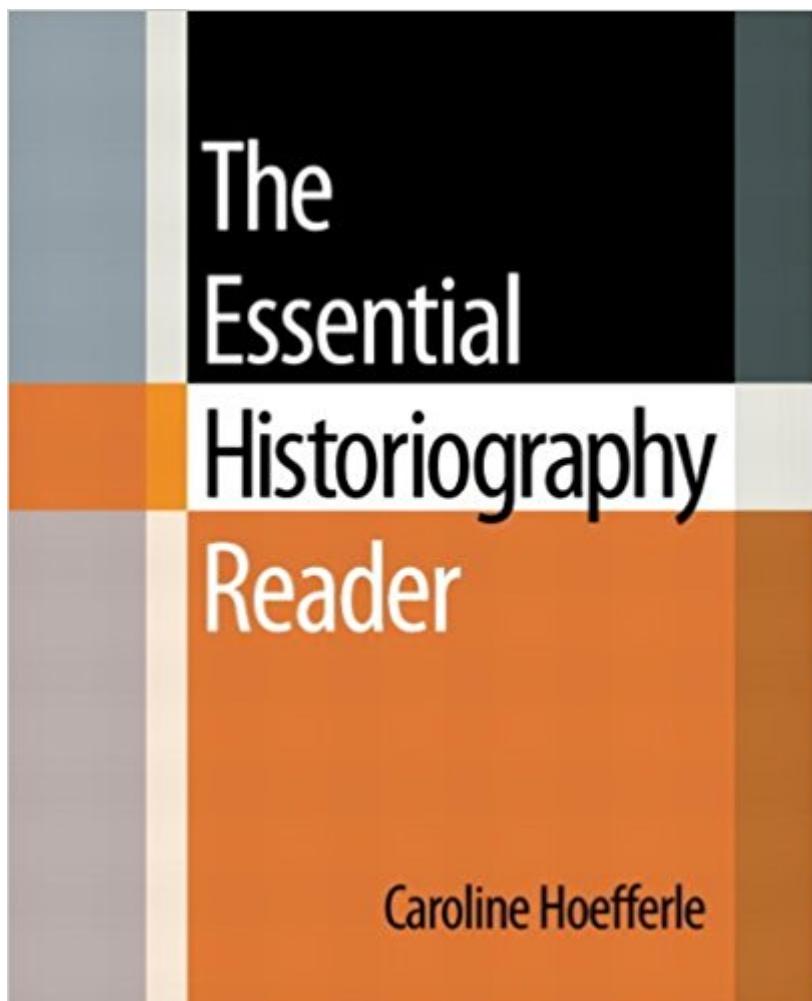


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# The Essential Historiography Reader



## **Synopsis**

The Essential Historiography Reader, not only details the history of historical practice and explains historical theories and philosophies in language that is accessible to college undergraduates, it also provides excerpts to illustrate these historical approaches and help students to identify them in their own writing and in the writings of contemporary historians. The book is organized into two main parts. The first part traces the origins of contemporary American historical traditions to their roots in ancient Greece and explains how the profession of history emerged and developed in Europe and America through the nineteenth century. The second part focuses more specifically on historiographical developments the United States since the nineteenth century.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Caroline Hoefferle is an associate professor of history at Wingate University in North Carolina. She teaches undergraduate courses in historiography, women's history, world history, and United States history. She received her Ph.D. in History jointly from Central Michigan University and the University of Strathclyde, Scotland in 2000. Her dissertation compared the history of student activism in the United States and Britain in the Long Sixties. She has published a number of chapters and articles on this topic and on teaching historiography, and is currently finishing a book on the history of British student activism in the Long Sixties.

C'mon, guys--why only 3 or 4 stars? This is a superbly outlined and written textbook and a great

starting point for a historiography course for U.S. undergraduates. (Yes, it's view and aim is decidedly American.) First comes an introduction to the field of historiography, and then Hoefferle traces historiography from Herodotus to Thomas Bender. She explains the major movements and theories and provides carefully chosen examples of each. The epilogue discusses recent trends and debates and covers two high-profile plagiarism cases (Ambrose and Kearns Goodwin). The Table of Contents is clear and easy to use with meaningful boldings, indentations, and changes in font size. Each chapter has an introduction and appropriate subheadings. Very, very helpful are the topic notes in the margins. Brief "Questions for Consideration" are asked in each chapter between the lesson and the excerpts. Footnotes throughout document and augment the text. My only complaint--and strong enough to almost knock off a star--is that there is no index.

A good grasp of the formation of history throughout history. It made me a better historian.

This book is great for someone who needs a quick look back on a historian or to look and see what was being produced at a point of time in history. Hoefferle has a great understanding of history but with some of the ancient subjects she seems to skip some information of makes it so un-argumentative that she leaves out certain key bits of information. However, for anyone studying history or has a passion for history I recommend it as a starting point, not just because its easy to read but its simple and sweet just not ideal for large sums of information.

suites my needs for my theories class, but the rental came in poor condition. it was all ripped up & falling apart, but i just needed it for a semester. contains good material & good to helping future historians.

This book was required for my historiography and history writing class in college. It was filled with information in short chapter introductions, each chapter containing about 3 articles for historiography evaluation. The introductions to the articles, however, contained so much information in so little length that I oftentimes misunderstood specific writer's historiography. I had to consult my professor for help on several different subjects. And without his explaining the topics in class, this book would have only confused me and forced me to seek outside help.

Most textbooks contain a glossary and an index. This book, while professing to be a textbook, included neither. This is extremely unhelpful for someone taking a class who needs to have

definitions, etc. The index would have been helpful because it would allow a reader to find specific topics more readily. Not only does the book not contain an index or glossary, but the general format of the textbook leaves something to be desired. The italicized "definitions" and "important concepts and people" in the margins "lines up" with the corresponding definition, which is often not stated or so obliquely stated that it makes the meanings transparent and difficult to understand. This is especially true of the introduction, which did little to bolster a "newbie's" interest in the subject matter. The beginning paragraph misleads the reader into believing that the book would tie each and every concept in with their own lives, however, after this, I was sorely disappointed as each subject did not flow particularly well, and it seemed as if the book just wanted to spew incoherent amounts of information and then loosely tie them together. The selections from various authors was helpful as well as the biographies of the different historians, however brief. The concepts in each chapter, however, were not explained in any great detail.

Caroline Hoefferle is a well read scholar and self actualized historiographer who crafts an approachable historiographical narrative that focuses on key intellectuals, mytho-poetics, and historians who have risen through the ranks of both time and scholarly critique. Hoefferle assesses that there is an essential list of all-stars that undergrad history students must have a grasp on before advancing in the field and Hoefferle makes a successful case to the fact that there is no approachable historiographical resource for undergrad students. With this aim and beginning with early Greek historians, delving into Marx, Vico, and far too many other notables to mention for the sake of brevity Hoefferle uses selected primary source material to illuminate the distinguishing historiographical approaches that selected historians utilized and emulated in their respective eras of existence. A tenured professor of upper division history in the world of academia Caroline Hoefferle bombards her readers with an overload of accurate historiographical information but in doing so she is somehow able to craft an exciting narrative upon which she challenges her readership to rise to the task of becoming true historiographers themselves.02/10/10-

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