

Activity 1. Of What Value is History?

Instructions: Some of the world's most renowned thinkers have been skeptical about the value of studying history. According to the French philosopher Voltaire, "The history of the great events of this world are scarcely more than the history of crimes." Lord Acton of Great Britain warned, "History is not a web woven with innocent hands." Otto von Bismarck, chancellor of Prussia, dismissed history as "simply a piece of paper covered with print; the main thing is still to make history, not to write it." Napoleon is rumored to have asked, "What is history but a fable agreed upon?" Do you agree or disagree with history's critics? Explain.