



HOW DOES A HISTORIAN WORK

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HOW DOES A HISTORIAN WORK

- Main Idea (Objective):



- Historians study a variety of sources to learn about the past.

HOW DOES A HISTORIAN WORK

- Lecture Focus (Essential Question):



- Have you ever searched for clues when playing man hunt, hide and seek or a scavenger hunt? Let look at how Historians look for clue to create a record of the past.

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

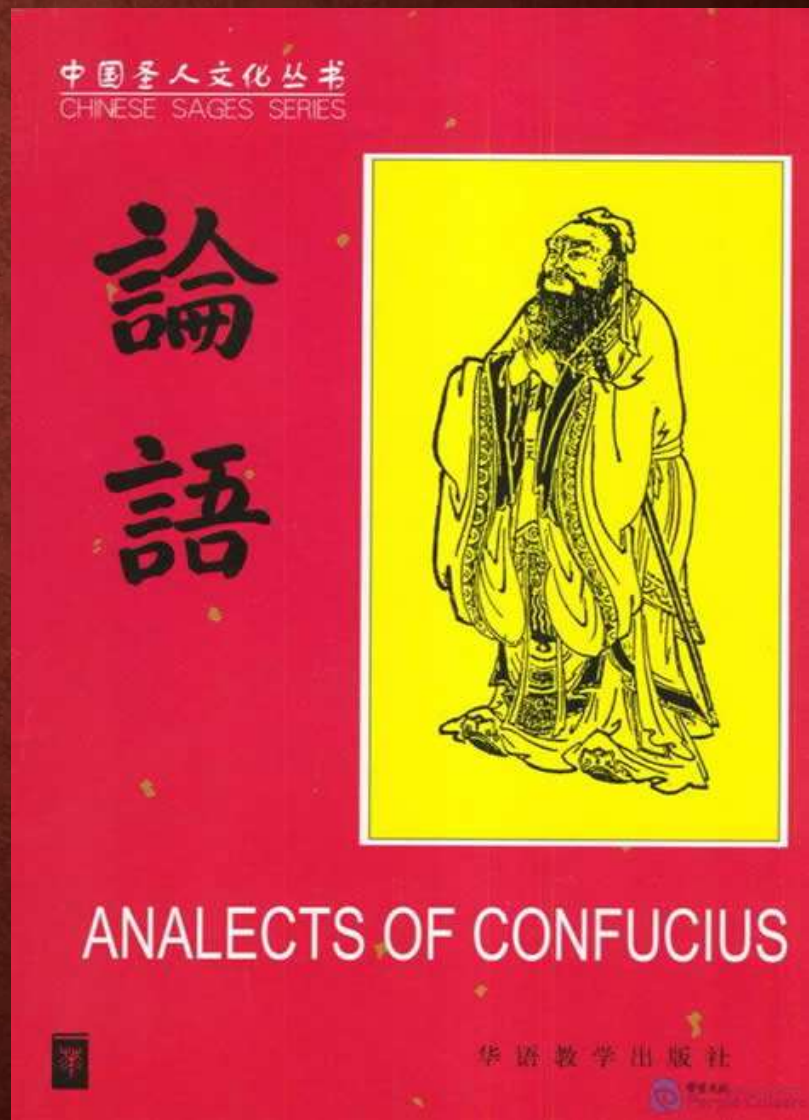
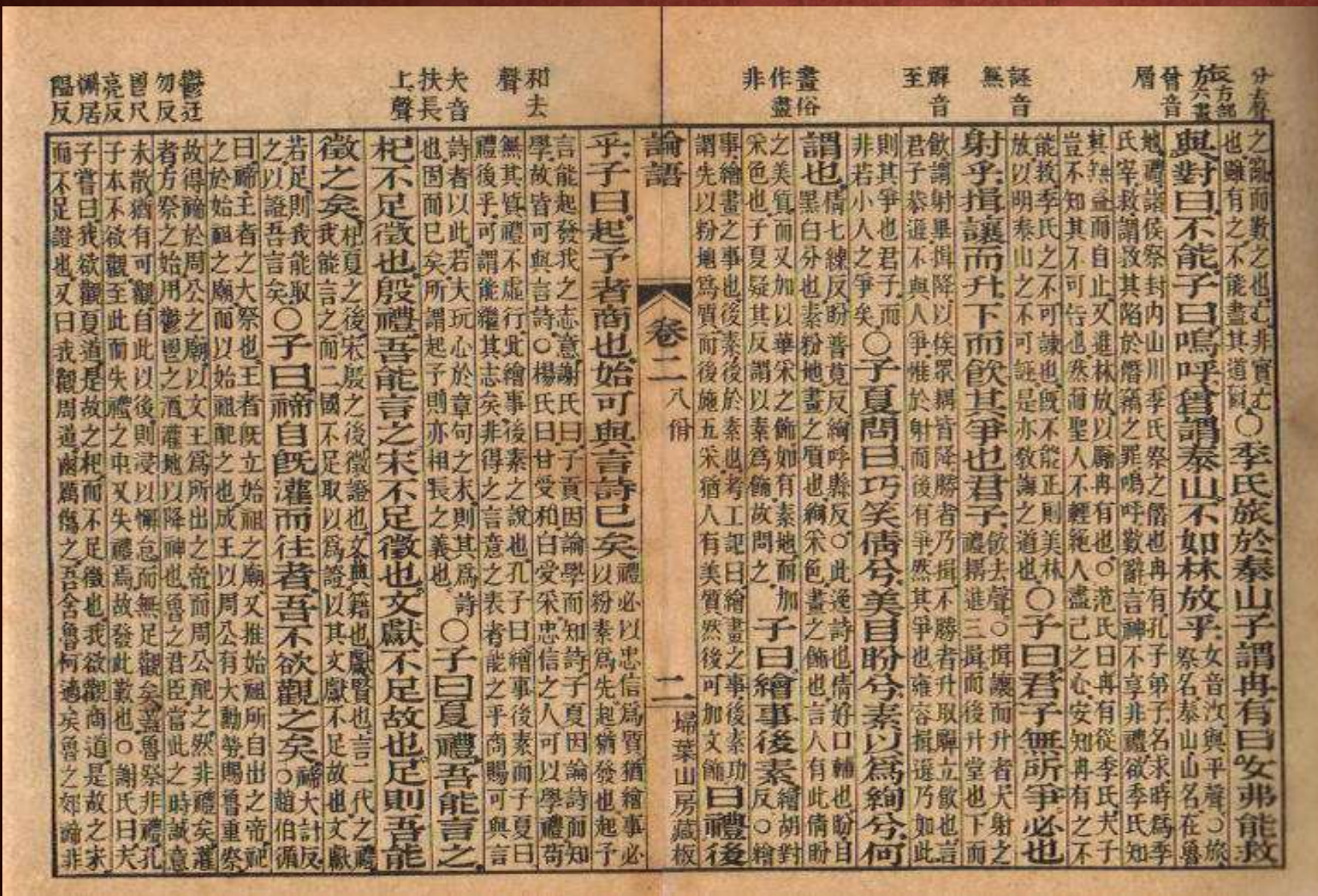
- Historians begin by asking questions such as:
 - **Why do particular countries go to war?**
 - **What effect did their fighting have on the lives of their people?**
 - **How does the conflict influence our world today?**
- Such questions help Historians identify and focus on historical problems.



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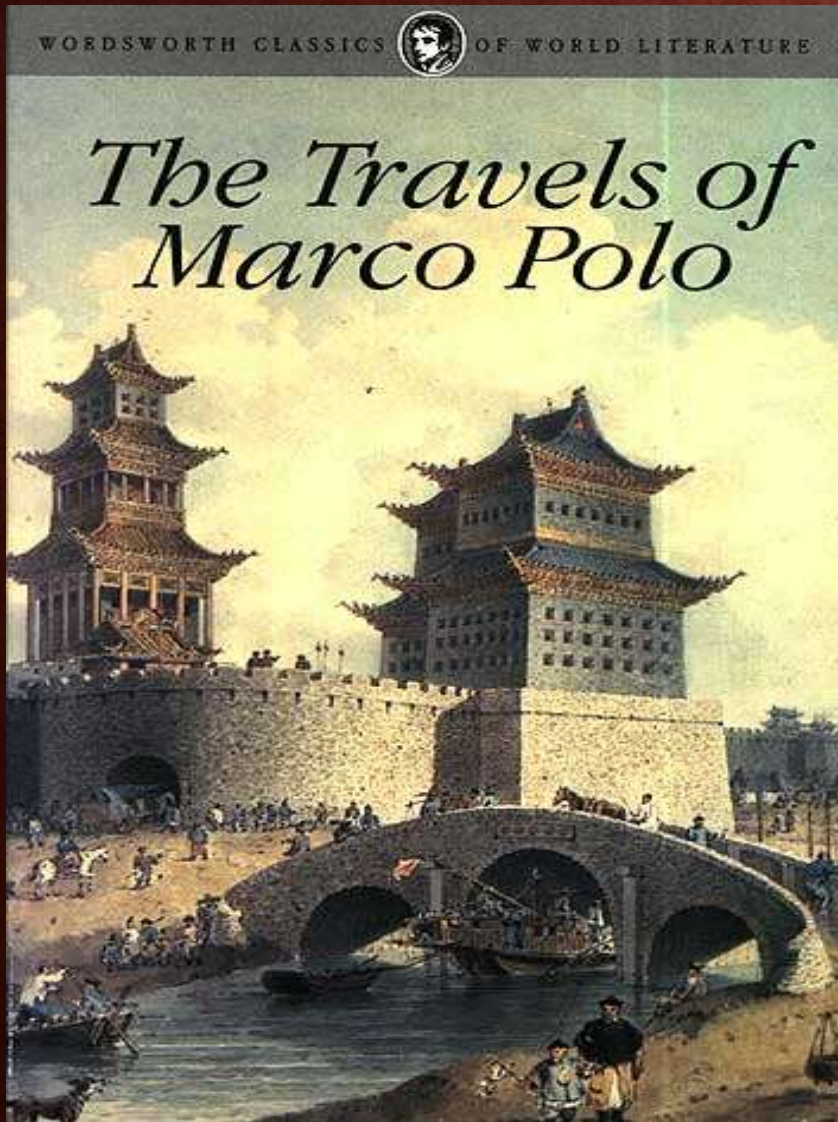
- Historians generally find evidence in **Primary** and **Secondary** sources.



- Primary Sources** – first hand pieces of evidence from people who saw or experienced an event.

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

- Primary Sources include written documents such as letters, diaries, books and official records.



- They also include spoken interviews, as well as objects, such as photos, paintings, clothing and tools.

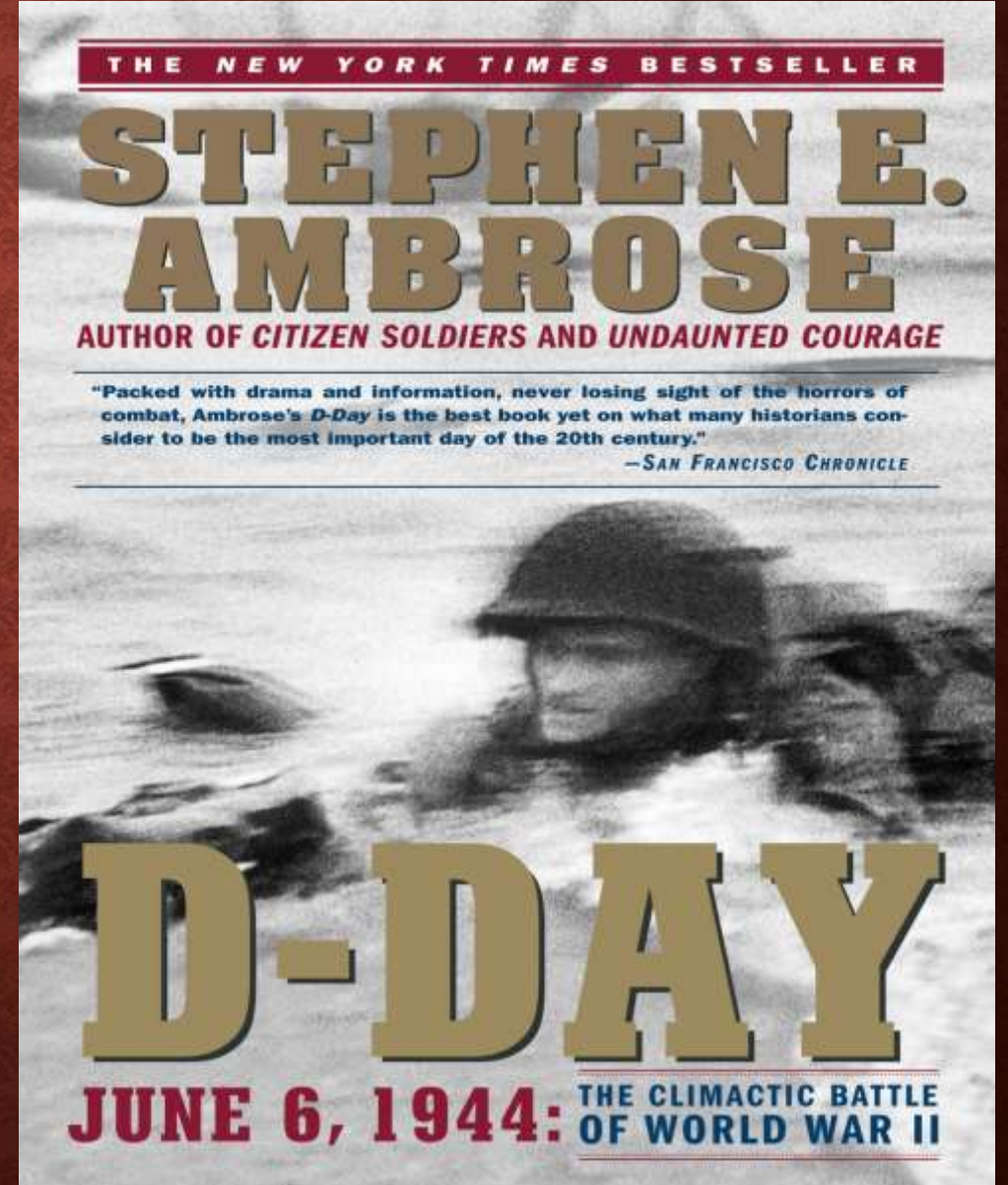
WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?



- The skill of "Analyzing Primary Sources" is a Historians greatest tool in discovering the mysteries of the Ancient World.

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

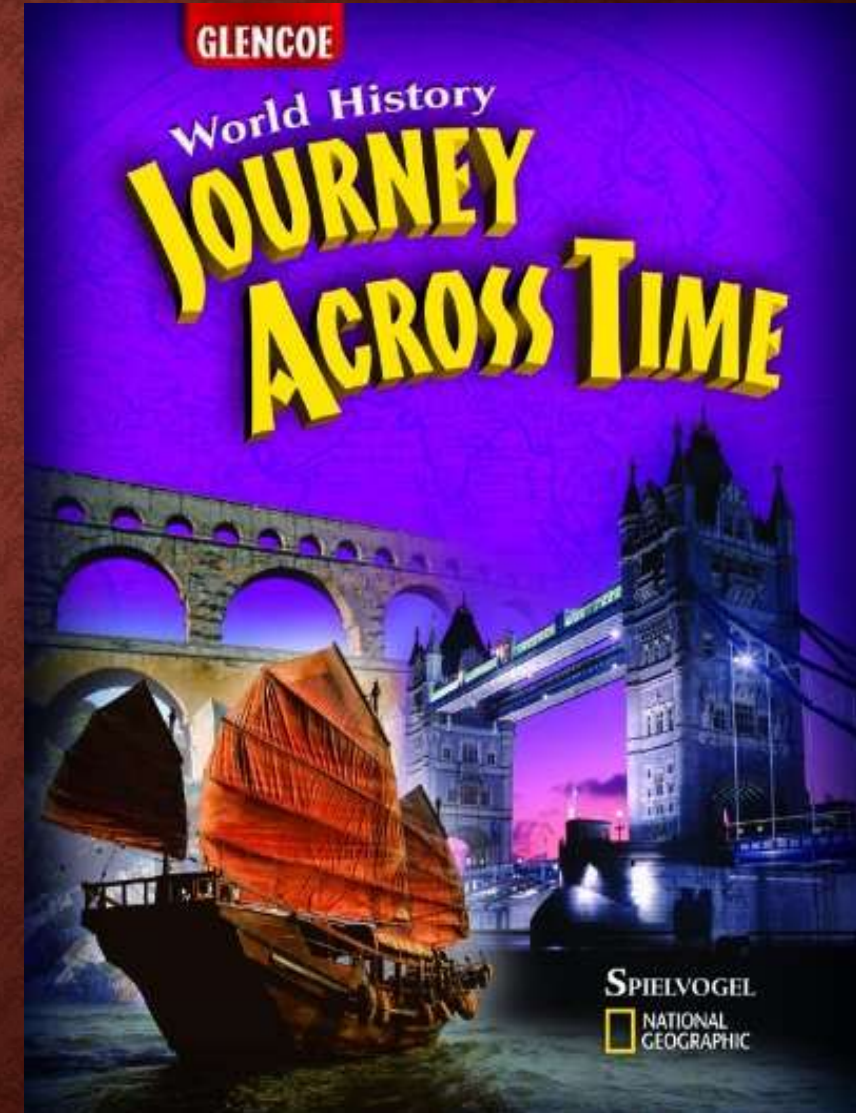
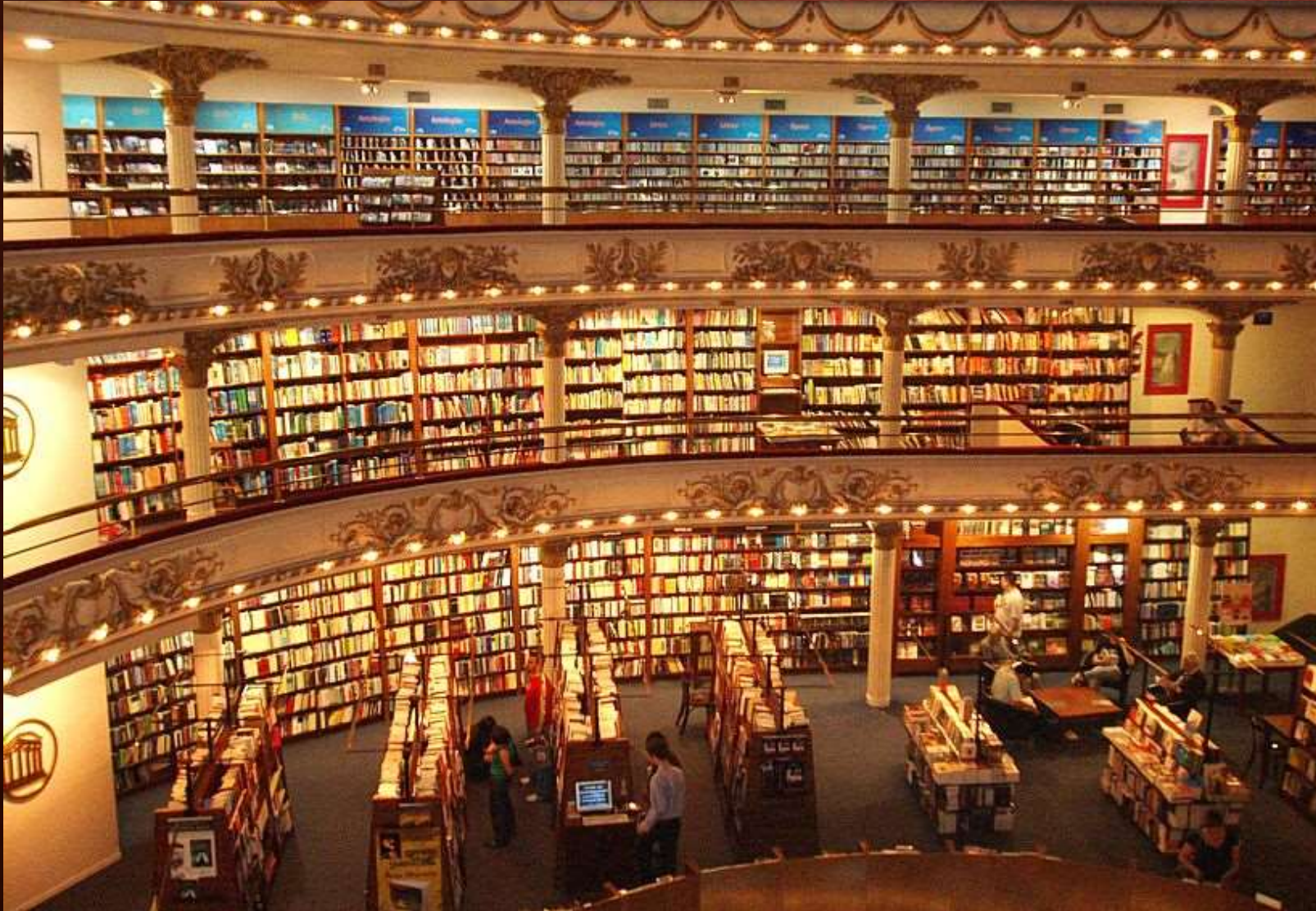
- Secondary Sources are a bit different than Primary Sources.
- **Secondary Sources** - Are accounts of historic events that are created by people who did not directly take part in them.



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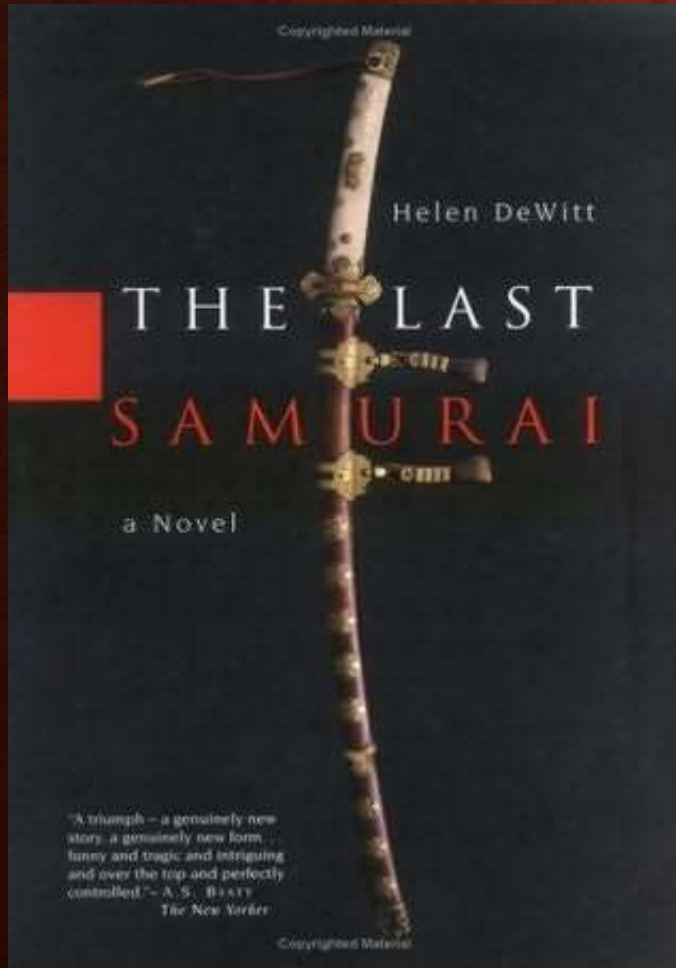
- Secondary Sources can be partially based on Primary Sources.



- Some examples of great secondary sources are encyclopedias, history books, research essays and various websites.

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

- Historians study secondary sources for background information and to really get a larger view of the event in question.



- However, to get new evidence that advances knowledge, historians must turn to the firsthand information found only in primary sources.

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

- **Question:**
- **1) What is the first thing a Historian does when looking at a historical event?**
- **2) What are the key differences between a Primary Source and a Secondary Source?**

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

- **Question:**
- **1) What is the first thing a Historian does when looking at a historical event?**
 - **Ask questions about the topic, basic research.**
- **2) What are the key differences between a Primary Source and a Secondary Source?**
 - **Primary Sources are first hand accounts of historical events and secondary sources are accounts of events written by people who were not there.**

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EXAMINING SOURCES

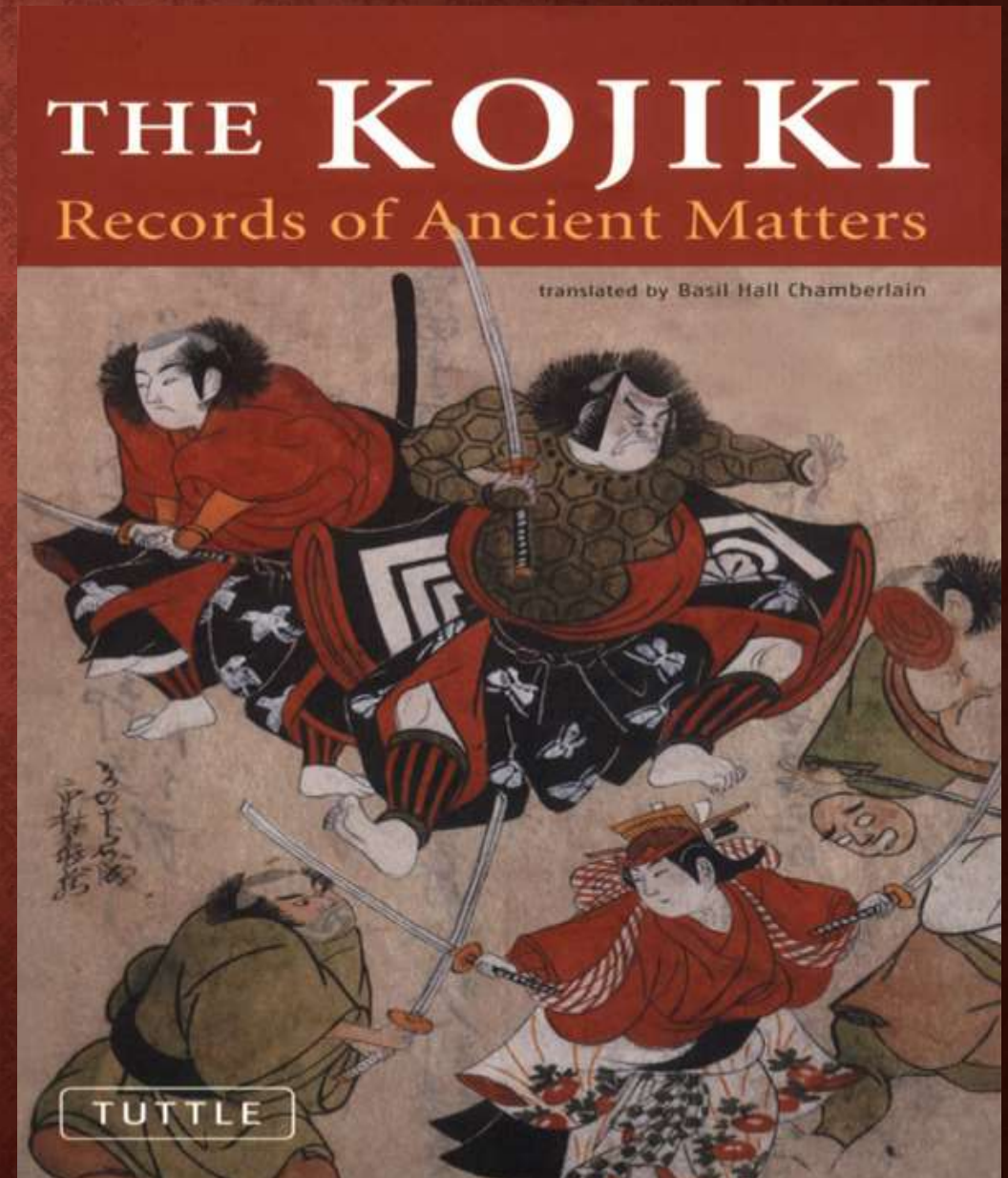
- Historians analyze, or examine, primary and secondary sources constantly.



- First they determine where and when a source was created.

EXAMINING SOURCES

- Another important question Historians consider is **WHY** is a source created.
 - Why was this material important?
 - Was it meant to be kept a secret?
- Was this a government document shared with citizens?
- What is the lasting effects of this event found in the source material?



EXAMINING SOURCES

- Have you ever read something and was just confused as to what it was?
 - Perhaps a novel or comic book that just seems so far fetched.
- Look them up, you will be surprised as to what forms of entertainment are actually based around historical sources.

CAN THE SOURCES BE TRUSTED?

- Historians examine sources for **credibility**.



- **Credibility** – truthfulness

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CAN THE SOURCES BE TRUSTED?

- The reasons Historians, archeologist and anthropologist have to check for credibility is because each source reflects a certain **point of view**.



- **Point of Views** - general attitudes that people have towards cultures, events and really just life in general.

CAN THE SOURCES BE TRUSTED?

- The problems for Historians becomes about the “point of view” of the sources they are studying.



- The creator of the sources uses his or her “point of view” to decided what events are important, how they are portrayed and what details are worth recording.

CAN THE SOURCES BE TRUSTED?

- Sometimes “point of view” is expressed in a **bias**.



- **Bias** – A unreasoned, emotional judgement about people and events.

CAN THE SOURCES BE TRUSTED?

- Historians try to be aware of “points of view” and bias both in the sources that they research and their own personal work.



- Therefore, Historians check new sources and their own ideas against sources known to be trustworthy.

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CAN THE SOURCES BE TRUSTED?

- They also examine many sources that express different points of view about an event.



- In this way Historians try to get a clear, well rounded view of what happened.

CAN THE SOURCES BE TRUSTED?

- Historians piece together the credible evidence and draw **conclusions**.



- In drawing conclusions, they use their own thinking and knowledge of the past to **interpret**, or explain, the meaning of events.

CAN THE SOURCES BE TRUSTED?

- **Lecture Check:**

- Answer the following questions in a well crafted, 2-3 sentences opened ended response.
- In keeping with the theme of “point of view” what is an event that you have participated in that could be viewed in a completely different way from someone that was not directly involved?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

- Historical events are linked by **cause** and **effect**.
- A **cause** is what makes an event happen.
- The event that happens as a result of the cause is known as an **effect**.
- Historians look for cause and effect links to explain why events happen.



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CAUSE AND EFFECT

- Usually, one event is produced by many causes.



- Similarly, one event often produces several different events.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

- These **cause and effect** links form what is called a **cause and effect chain**.



- Since so many historical events are related, cause and effects chains can become very long and can include events that occur over a long periods of time...these can be known as a “**chain of events**”.

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CAUSE AND EFFECT

- **Lecture Check:**

- Answer the following questions in a well crafted, 2-3 sentences opened ended response.
- Think about your life for a second. What is a chain of events that you have been involved in? What was the initial cause of the chain of events?