

**THE NEW HISTORY;
ESSAYS ILLUSTRATING
THE MODERN HISTORICAL
OUTLOOK**

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The new history; essays illustrating the modern historical outlook by James Harvey Robinson

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JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON

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THE NEW HISTORY

ESSAYS ILLUSTRATING THE
MODERN HISTORICAL OUTLOOK

BY

JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON
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New York

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PREFACE

ALL of the essays in this volume, with the exception of the fourth, have been printed before, as addresses or contributions to periodicals. They have, however, not only been carefully revised, but have been adjusted so as to give as much coherence as possible to the collection. They all illustrate, each in its particular way, the conception of "the new history" developed in the first essay.

In No. I, I borrow portions from an article on "Popular Histories and their Defects" which appeared in the now defunct *International Monthly*, July, 1900, but have made a new use of them. The second paper was originally prepared as one in a series of non-technical lectures delivered at Columbia University in 1908 and published by the Columbia University Press. With it has been combined portions from a paper on "The New History" read before the Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, April 22, 1911. No. III was read before the American Historical Association, December, 1910, and printed in the *Journal of Philosophy, Psychology, and Scientific Method*, March 16, 1911, where No. VIII also appeared on May 11 of the same year.

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No. V was read, under the caption "The Significance of History in Industrial Education," before the superintendents of the larger cities at the meeting of the National Educational Association at Indianapolis, March 2, 1910, and was printed in *The Educational Bi-Monthly*, June, 1910. No. VI was read before the New England Teachers Association at Hartford, April 27, 1906. No. VII is a combination of two articles: "The Tennis Court Oath," prepared for the meeting of the American Historical Association in 1894 and published in their proceedings and in the *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. X, No. 3, and "The French Declaration of the Rights of Man," which was printed in the latter journal, Vol. XIV, No. 4; together with borrowings from an article in the *American Historical Review*, April, 1906, on "Some Recent Tendencies in the Study of the French Revolution."

J. H. R.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK,
November, 1911.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE NEW HISTORY	1
II. THE HISTORY OF HISTORY	26
III. THE NEW ALLIES OF HISTORY	70
IV. SOME REFLECTIONS ON INTELLECTUAL HISTORY	101
V. HISTORY FOR THE COMMON MAN	132
VI. "THE FALL OF ROME"	154
VII. "THE PRINCIPLES OF 1789"	195
VIII. THE CONSERVATIVE SPIRIT IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY	236

THE NEW HISTORY

IN its amplest meaning History includes every trace and vestige of everything that man has done or thought since first he appeared on the earth. It may aspire to follow the fate of nations or it may depict the habits and emotions of the most obscure individual. Its sources of information extend from the rude flint hatchets of Chelles to this morning's newspaper. It is the vague and comprehensive science of past human affairs. We are within its bounds whether we decipher a mortgage on an Assyrian tile, estimate the value of the Diamond Necklace, or describe the over-short pastry to which Charles V was addicted to his undoing. The tragic reflections of Eli's daughter-in-law, when she learned of the discomfiture of her people at Ebenezer, are history; so are the provisions of Magna Charta, the origin of the doctrine of transubstantiation, the fall of Santiago, the difference between a black friar and a white friar, and the certified circulation of the *New York World* upon February 1 of the current year. Each fact has its interest and importance; all have been carefully recorded.

Now, when a writer opens and begins to peruse the thick, closely written volume of human experience,