

**WHAT DOES HISTORY  
TEACH?: TWO  
EDINBURGH LECTURES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649732722

What Does History Teach?: Two Edinburgh Lectures by John Stuart Blackie

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*Blackie*

What does History teach?

Two Edinburgh lectures.

By

John Stuart Blackie.

New York  
Harper & Brothers  
1886

Blackie:

What does History teach?

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE following Lectures were prepared for the Philosophical Institution of Edinburgh, and were delivered, with the exception of a few passages, before audiences consisting of Members of that Institution on the evenings of 8th and 11th December in the present year.

EDINBURGH, December, 1885.

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December 17, 1921

1871

**THE STATE.**



1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice to ensure transparency and accountability.

2. The second section outlines the procedures for handling discrepancies between the recorded amounts and the actual cash received. It states that any such variance must be investigated immediately and reported to the appropriate authority.

3. The third part of the document details the requirements for the physical handling of cash. It specifies that all cash must be stored in a secure, fireproof safe and that access to the safe should be restricted to authorized personnel only.

4. The fourth section addresses the issue of cash deposits. It requires that all cash received during the day be deposited into the designated bank account by the end of the business day to minimize the risk of theft or loss.

5. The fifth part of the document discusses the importance of regular audits. It states that the accounts should be reviewed on a monthly basis to identify any potential issues or irregularities.

6. The sixth section outlines the responsibilities of the staff members involved in the cash handling process. It emphasizes that all staff must be trained in the proper procedures and must adhere to the highest standards of integrity and honesty.

7. The seventh part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining a clear and organized system for recording transactions. It suggests using a standardized format for all entries to facilitate the auditing process.

8. The eighth section outlines the consequences of non-compliance with the cash handling procedures. It states that any staff member found to be in violation of these procedures will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

9. The ninth part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining a clear and organized system for recording transactions. It suggests using a standardized format for all entries to facilitate the auditing process.

10. The tenth and final section of the document reiterates the importance of these procedures and encourages all staff members to take full responsibility for their actions and to maintain the highest level of professionalism at all times.

## I

### THE STATE.

*Ὡσπερ τελευθὲν βέλτιστον τῶν ζῶων ἄνθρωπος  
οὕτω καὶ χαρισθὲν νόμου καὶ δίκης χεiriστόν πάντων.*

—ARISTOTLE.

HISTORY, whether founded on reliable record, or on monuments, or on the scientific analysis of the great fossil tradition called language, knows nothing of the earliest beginnings. The seed of human society, like the seed of the vegetable growth, lies underground in darkness, and its earliest processes are invisible to the outward eye. Speculations about the descent of the primeval man from a monkey, of the primeval monkey from an ascidian, and of the primeval ascidian from a protoplasmic bubble, though they may act as a potent stimulus to the biological research of the hour, certainly never can form the starting-point of a profitable philosophy of history.

As revealed in history, man is an animal, not only generically different from, but characteristically antagonistic to the brute. That which makes him a man is precisely that which no brute possesses, or can by any process of training be made to possess. The man can no more be developed out of the brute than the purple heather out of the granite rock which it clothes. The relation of the one to the other is a relation of mere outward attachment or dependency—like the relation which exists between the painter's easel and the picture which is painted on it. The easel is essential to the picture, but it did not make the picture, nor give even the smallest hint toward the making of it. So the monkey, as a basis, may be essential to the man without being in any way participant of the divine indwelling *λόγος* which makes a man a man. The two are related only as all things are related, inasmuch as they are all shot forth from the great fountain-head of all vital forces, whom we justly call God.

The distinctive character of man as revealed in history is threefold. Man is an inventive animal, and he does not invent from a com-