

# Reading beyond the classroom

## History, Years 10 & 11.

BYRCHALL  
HIGH SCHOOL

While in Years 10 and 11 students should try and read a wide variety of books. History develops a phenomenal range of intellectual and organisational skills. In a typical series of history lessons, students will be faced with a problem or enquiry; which they will then plan how to tackle. They will seek out sources of information and make judgements about the reliability and relevance of that information, sifting out the relevant from the irrelevant to reach a judgement. The more students read around the subject, the more they will understand the subject.

You may find the following websites useful in helping to choose suitable reading material for your child:

<http://www.regentsprep.org/>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient>  
<http://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools>  
<https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/>  
<http://www.3dhistory.co.uk/index.php>  
<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/genres/factual/history>  
<http://www.britroyals.com/>  
<https://medievaleurope.mrdonn.org/>  
<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/>  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>  
<http://www.localhistories.org/wigan.html>  
<https://www.casebook.org/>  
<https://www.kidzworld.com/>

These websites will provide you with recommendations from students, parents and critics across the country.

In addition to this, our recommendations follow below. These texts do not form part of our schemes of work so reading them will not spoil students' enjoyment of future lessons. They will most likely complement the work we do.



### Conflict Between East and West, 1945-1972

Eric Hobsbawm

*Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991*

Dividing the century into the Age of Catastrophe, 1914-1950, the Golden Age, 1950-1973, and the Landslide, 1973-1991, Hobsbawm marshals a vast array of data into a volume of unparalleled

inclusiveness, vibrancy, and insight, a work that ranks with his classics *The Age of Empire* and *The Age of Revolution*.

Paul Johnson *Modern Times: The World from the Twenties to the Nineties*  
A momentous project-painstakingly researched and vast in scope with attention to detail this is one of the best one volume books covering the world history of the 20th century.  
A conservative perspective and therefore unlikely to be recommended reading in most university courses, which is all the more reason to read it, because it covers facts and truths that your professors in university never taught you.

Tony Judt *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945*  
This book is a real 'tour de force': incredibly balanced in its width, accurate in its general outlines and details, critical and lucid. Judt brings a reasonably classic political narrative of European history, but adds it with many socio-economic data and elements on mentality. All well supported by statistics, examples and quotations.

Mark Mazower *Dark Continent*  
This book provides an alternative history of the twentieth century, one in which the triumph of democracy was anything but a forgone conclusion and fascism and communism provided rival political solutions that battled and sometimes triumphed in an effort to determine the course the continent would take.

Richard Vinen *A History in Fragments: Europe in the Twentieth Century*  
With the rise of the European superpower-symbolized by the introduction of the euro on January 1, 2002-Europe has gained a new prominence on the world stage. But if you think that, in a changing world order, Europe is one area that we Americans have a grasp of-think again. The great stories of the century-the two world wars, the rise and fall of Nazism and Communism- are self-evident in their importance. But behind the politics and the ideologies lies another history: the history of forces that shaped the lives of individual Europeans...and the lives of men and women around the world.

### **America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality**

Hugh Brogan *The Penguin History of the USA*  
The dominance of America is the chief historical fact of my lifetime, but British students are often poorly served in terms of American history - left to absorb a piecemeal version via a shared language and popular culture. If you want to correct this sorry state of affairs, Hugh Brogan's one volume history is the place to start.

Niall Ferguson *The War of the World: Twentieth Century Conflict and the Descent of the West*  
Astonishing in its scope and erudition, this is the magnum opus that Niall Ferguson's numerous acclaimed works have been leading up to. In it, he grapples with perhaps the most challenging questions of modern history: Why was the twentieth century history's bloodiest by far? Why did unprecedented material progress go hand in hand with total war and genocide? His quest for new answers takes him from the walls of Nanjing to the bloody beaches of Normandy, from the economics of ethnic cleansing to the politics of imperial decline and fall. The result, as brilliantly written as it is vital, is a great historian's masterwork.

### **Britain: Power and the People: c1170 to the Present Day**

S. T. Bindoff *Tudor England*  
Bindoff sets the scene with a picture of the England of the late 15th century and examines the utterly different personalities and achievements of Henry VII and his flamboyant son Henry VIII. Subsequent chapters provide accounts of the great crisis over the succession and papal supremacy, the religious revolution and counter-revolution under Edward VI and Mary and the dawn of Elizabethan England. Although great events like the conflict with Mary Queen of Scots, and the defeat of the Spanish Armada are described in detail, this book never neglects the deeper issues,

indeed, its stress on the underlying social, commercial and institutional developments makes clear just how far the foundations of modern Britain were laid in the 16th century.

J. P. Kenyon

*The Stuarts*

The seventeenth century in England was a period of unprecedented growth and fulfilment; the key century of the modern era. When the century opened, England was a comparatively poor nation on the fringes of Europe. When it closed, she was one of the major powers. Along the way the country had surmounted a civil war and a major rebellion. Yet her institutions and social structure were, if anything, strengthened: in fact, during this century Parliament evolved into something approaching its present form and function, and the great philosophers Hobbes and Locke fashioned new and far-reaching theories of political obligation to accommodate it.

J. H. Plumb

*England in the Eighteenth Century*

This history of England in the 18th century is not a chronological narrative of ministries and wars, but a history of the development of English society; the ministries and wars, of course, have their place, but no greater a place than the economic, cultural, and social history of the time. The book is divided into three parts: the ages of Walpole, of Chatham, and of Pitt.

**Norman England, c1066-c1100**

Malcolm Barber

*The Two Cities, Medieval Europe 1050-1320*

This book covers a colourful period from the schism between the eastern and western churches to the death of Dante. It encompasses key topics such as: The Crusades, Emperors and Popes. Running through it all is the defining characteristic of the high Middle Ages: the delicate relationship between the spiritual and secular worlds.

Richard Huscroft

*Ruling England 1042-1217*

The central theme of the book is the rise and fall of English kingship during this period and at its heart is the central question of how the ruler of the most sophisticated kingdom in 12th century Europe was eventually compelled to submit to the humiliation of Magna Carta at the start of the thirteenth. The book also reaffirms the importance of high politics in English history. No proper understanding of the wider aspects of medieval history (social, economic, cultural) is possible without a firm grounding in political events, and this book covers these themes in depth.

Terry Jones and Alan Ereira

*Medieval Lives*

A great starting point to get into the medieval psyche; was medieval England full of knights on horseback rescuing fainting damsels in distress? Challenges stereotypes and misconceptions of people in the medieval realm, for example, did you know that medieval people did not think that the world was flat, it is a total fabrication by an American journalist in the nineteenth century! A fun book that brings alive a vibrant society teeming with individuality, intrigue and innovation.

Marc Morris

*The Norman Conquest*

The new, widely accepted authoritative voice on the Battle of Hastings and its impact on Anglo-Saxon society. It examines the events that led to the battle, the battle itself and the chaos that came afterwards. It looks in depth at the key players in this crucial period of English history in a powerful drama that brought sweeping change to this island; the introduction of castles, the rebuilding of churches and the total destruction of the English ruling classes.

Toby Purser

*Medieval England 1042-1228*

Medieval England 1042-1228 is the ideal book for students studying the reasons behind the Norman invasion and the rights of claimants to the English Throne. It covers in detail the changes in English society which took place following the Norman Conquest and examines the political, ecclesiastical and administrative structures during this period.

## Other History Books

### **Fictional**

Ken Follett

#### *The Century Trilogy*

This is a set of three fiction books that cover the history of the twentieth century and all of the topics covered in Paper 1. The first novel called 'Fall of Giants' tells of five families and their journeys through World War 1, the Russian Revolution and the struggle for votes for women. We are introduced to 5 families, that show us events from a variety of international and class perspectives. The second novel, *Winter of the World*, takes the same five families through World War 2 and into the heart of American history and the final novel, *Edge of Eternity* sees future generations of the familiar families through race relations of America and the tribulations of the Cold War. A trilogy of epic proportions dealing with world changing events from a human perspective.

### **Fictional**

Rory Clements

#### *The John Shakespeare Series*

John Shakespeare, brother of William, is the star of these mystery books set in Tudor and Elizabethan England. With titles including *Traitor*, *Heretics*, *Revenger* and *Holy Spy*, the world of the intelligence officer for Queen Elizabeth's spymaster, Francis Walsingham begins to be revealed. A brutish and vivid portrayal of Tudor England and the dangers lurking within it.

John Bradley

#### *The Illustrated History of the Third Reich*

From one of the most respected authorities on the subject, here is a definitive history of Hitler's Germany. A classic of both text and photographs, it describes the political events leading up to the Nazi seizure of power in 1933, the creation of Hitler's police state, the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, and Germany's central role in the Holocaust. Includes hundreds of photographs, many in colour, as well as a glossary of German terms, a list of Nazi Party officials, and the full text of the Nuremberg Laws.

Michael Burleigh

#### *The Third Reich: A New History*

Until now there has been no up-to-date, one-volume, international history of Nazi Germany, despite its being among the most studied phenomena of our time. *The Third Reich* restores a broad perspective and intellectual unity to issues that have become academic subspecialties and offers a brilliant new interpretation of Hitler's evil rule.

Ian Kershaw

#### *Hitler*

Kershaw's distilled, one-volume masterpiece that will become the standard work. From Hitler's origins as a failed artist in fin-de-siecle Vienna to the terrifying last days in his Berlin bunker, Kershaw's richly illustrated biography is a mesmerizing portrait of how Hitler attained, exercised, and retained power. Drawing on previously untapped sources, such as Goebbels's diaries, Kershaw addresses crucial questions about the unique nature of Nazi radicalism, about the Holocaust, and about the poisoned European world that allowed Hitler to operate so effectively.

Stephen E Ambrose

#### *Pegasus Bridge*

In the early morning hours of June 6, 1944, a small detachment of British airborne troops stormed the German defence forces and paved the way for the Allied invasion of Europe. Pegasus Bridge was the first engagement of D-Day, the turning point of World War II.

Adrian Gilbert

#### *Illustrated History of World War I*

With over 380 pictures, this book takes an in-depth look at the war to end all wars and combines an authoritative text with a number of special features that look at the horror and humour of the period.

Peter Simkins

#### *The First World War: The War to End all Wars*

Raging for over four years across the tortured landscapes of Europe, Africa and the Middle East, the First World War changed the face of warfare forever. Characterised by slow, costly advances and fierce attrition, the great battles of the Somme, Verdun and Ypres incurred human loss on a scale never previously imagined. This book, with a foreword by Professor Hew Strachan, covers the

fighting on all fronts, from Flanders to Tannenberg and from Italy to Palestine. A series of moving extracts from personal letters, diaries and journals bring to life the experiences of soldiers and civilians caught up in the war.

Terry Burrows

*Visual History of the Twentieth Century*

The Twentieth Century is unique in human history. The Last hundred years have been captured not just in words, as in previous centuries, but also in visual detail with photographs, film, and video. The greatest images of this era are combined here with authoritative text to document our times with immediacy and clarity.

W. G. V. Balchin

*Country Life Book of the Living History of Britain*

A history of Britain from prehistoric times to the present focuses on social, political, cultural, and technological developments.

Adam Hart-Davies

*History: The Definitive Visual Guide*

Homo sapiens have remained the same species, largely unchanged in genetic makeup and anatomy since the Cro-Magnon era. By contrast, the cultural, social, and technological changes since then have been nothing less than extraordinary. Telling our story, from prehistory to the present day, DK's "History" is a thought-provoking journey, revealing the common threads and forces that have shaped human history. Includes: Inventions, discoveries, and ideas that have shaped world history A look at human achievement through artefacts, painting, sculpture, and architecture. An examination of humankind in context as part of the natural world eyewitness accounts and biographies of key figures A comprehensive timeline chronicling the key events of the countries of the world.

Jeremy Black

*World History (Micropedia)*

Covering the most significant moments in the history of the world, from prehistory to the twentieth century, this fascinating reference guide offers a diverse range of information from all regions of the world. From the earliest peoples - through the rise and fall of some of the greatest empires, internal and customs - to the great technological achievements of modern times, World History is the essential guide to all the key events, peoples, and cultures that have helped to shape the world today

Robert S McNamara

*In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam*

McNamara's controversial book tells the inside and personal story of America's descent into Vietnam from a unique point of view, and is one of the most enlightening books about government ever written.

*'A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots'*

**Marcus Garvey (Jamaican Publisher)**