

THESES ON HISTORY

by Marian Kester Coombs

History happens.

History is *what happened* whether we like it or not.

History is “a trained intuitive sense of the way things do *not* happen” (Lewis B. Namier).

History is written by the victors. Later, if there are any left, the vanquished weigh in with their own version of events.

History is biography.

History is topography.

History is neither bunk nor a nightmare from which one must try to awake.

History is a fable agreed upon.

History is the *best story*. You couldn't make this stuff up in a thousand years.

History is made at night -- and the morning after.

The first ones to consult about history are those who were there: We betray the past by not listening to its native peoples.

Journalism is the first draft of history. There is no final copy.

The premier lesson of history is that people do not learn from history.