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# On 'What Is History?': From Carr and Elton to Rorty and White

By Keith Jenkins



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*On 'What is History?'* provides a student introduction to contemporary historiographical debates.

Carr and Elton are still the starting point for the vast majority of introductory courses on the nature of history. Building on his highly successful *Rethinking History*, Keith Jenkins explores in greater detail the influence of these key figures. He argues that historians need to move beyond their 'modernist' thinking and embrace the postmodern-type approaches of thinkers such as Richard Rorty and Hayden White.

Through its radical critique of Carr and Elton and its championing of Rorty and White, *On 'What is History?'* represents a significant development for introductory studies on the nature of history.



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## On 'What Is History?': From Carr and Elton to Rorty and White By Keith Jenkins Bibliography

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..."the best selling introduction to historiography...it still remains nearly forty years later."

- "Canadian Journal of History

"Innovative, challenging . . . and important."

- Richard Brown, editor of "Teaching History

"Jenkins reformulates Carr's famous question 'What is History?' to devastating effect. An essential read."

- Alan White, "University of East London

#### **About the Author**

Keith Jenkins is Senior Lecturer in history at Chichester Institute of Higher Education. He is the author of *Rethinking History* (Routledge 1991).

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