

Historiography is the study of how views of the past have changed over time.

1. Colour-code the table below according to the view of Haig:

1. Positive

2. Negative

3. Mixed

<p><b>Reputations</b></p> <p>Basil Liddell-Hart, Historian and British army officer who served under Haig's command at the Battle of the Somme (1928)</p> <p>'There has hardly been a finer defensive general... Haig will stand out in the Roll of History. More spotless than most of Britain's national heroes.'</p>	<p><b>Douglas Haig: Defeat into Victory</b></p> <p>Gordon Corrigan, modern historian (2016)</p> <p>'In the end, despite the death toll, the Somme did more damage to the Germans than it did to the British.'</p>	<p><b>British Butchers and Bunglers of World War One</b></p> <p>John Laffin, historian whose parents treated the wounded during WW1 (1989)</p> <p>'Haig and other British generals must be indicted ... for wilful blunders and wicked butchery. They knew what they were doing. There can never be forgiveness.'</p>
<p><b>War Memoirs</b></p> <p>David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister 1916-22 (1936)</p> <p>'A second-rate Commander. Intellectually and temperamentally unequal to the task.'</p>	<p><b>Speech to US Congress</b></p> <p>General John Pershing, commander of US forces in WW1 (1918)</p> <p>'He was the man who won the war.'</p>	<p><b>The Chief: Douglas Haig and the British Army</b></p> <p>Gary Sheffield, modern historian (2011)</p> <p>'Could Haig claim any credit? The answer is a qualified 'yes'. Hammering away at the German army on the Somme did not produce a crisis of the magnitude Haig hoped for, but it did nonetheless weaken it.'</p>

2. Plot the six views on a graph to show how views of Haig have changed over time. Label the earliest two interpretations as **'traditionalist'**; the next two as **'revisionist'** and the last two as **'post-revisionist'**.

3. Match the decades in the first column of the table below to the descriptions given in the second. Draw lines to show you answers.

<b>1910s</b>	Early in this decade Britain had fought a short and victorious war against Argentina. In comparison Haig's leadership appeared less effective.
<b>1920s</b>	During this decade it was becoming clear that WW1 had failed in its promise to be 'the war to end all wars' and a new war against Nazism was on the horizon.
<b>1930s</b>	This decade saw the emergence of an anti-establishment attitude in which all forms of power and authority were challenged.
<b>1980s</b>	At the start of this decade Britain withdrew her troops from Iraq. The Iraq War lasted for 12 years and achieved no clear victory.
<b>2010s</b>	At the end of this decade Britain won WW1 with Haig as the leader of her armies.

4. In groups discuss why either Liddell-Hart, Corrigan, Pershing, Laffin, Lloyd-George or Sheffield held their interpretations. Consider both their background (first table) and when they wrote (second table).

5. Which group of interpretations do you agree with: traditionalists (positive), revisionists (negative) or post-revisionists school (mixed)?

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