



The Idea of History

By R. G. Collingwood

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The Idea of History is the best-known work of the great Oxford philosopher, historian, and archaeologist R.G. Collingwood. It was originally published posthumously in 1946, having been mainly reconstructed from Collingwood's manuscripts, many of which are now lost. This important work examines how the idea of history has evolved from the time of Herodotus to the twentieth century, and offers Collingwood's own view of what history is. For this revised edition, Collingwood's most important lectures on the philosophy of history are published here for the first time. These texts have been prepared by Jan van der Dussen from manuscripts that have only recently become available. The lectures contain Collingwood's first comprehensive statement of his philosophy of history; they are therefore essential for a full understanding of his thought, and in particular for a correct interpretation of *The Idea of History* itself. Van der Dussen contributes a substantial introduction in which he explains the background to this new edition and surveys the scholarship of the last fifty years.

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The Idea of History By R. G. Collingwood Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #315580 in Books
- Published on: 1994-09-22
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.06" h x 1.19" w x 7.69" l, 1.34 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 576 pages

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Review

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About the Author

The late **R.G. Collingwood** was Wayflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy at Oxford University. **Jan van der Dussen** is Professor of History and Philosophy at the Open University of the Netherlands.

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