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Herodotus

1111 Words

Imagine the world without history, would this world stay in peace if people do not care about the past. People would not remember about what had happened in the past wars, millions of people died in the world wars for example. Also, at the time that the Chinese Emperor built The Great Wall of China, numerous workers died for building it. Moreover, people would not prevent themselves from disease because we would not care that how awful those illnesses were in the past. Many theories would not be created as sometimes the people who begin the theory died before they have finished and no one would continue to finish those. Many mistakes would occur over and over. It could be a chance that human would extinct if they do not realize the phenomena in the past. Varieties of gadgets and innovations would not exist today. However, humans live with history as they take past events to be the lessons. Humans try to avoid unfortunate situation in the past and use advantages from the past events to create better innovations. Herodotus is the man who all humans should give him an honor. He is the first person who started to record the history of human being. This has a large impact to the world.

Herodotus is one of the most important people in the world as the Father of History¹. He was born in Halicarnassus, Greece.² In his life time, he travelled to

¹ University Press Inc. "Herodotus." *Ancient Greece*. 23 Aug 2012, <<http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/People/Herodotus/>>

² A.R.Burn. *The histories*. 1972. p.21.

many places³ to record events that happened in the past. Those contents he recorded came from what he saw from places, or what he heard from people he met. His famous writing is called “The Histories”⁴, which had been published for celebrating the Greeks’ victory over the Persians. During his time, this was something new because it was not just a plain boring history as what other historians did. The Histories is the book which is used for recording the glory of the past events of how great the people were, how wonderful when people succeed their jobs. Therefore, all important events in the past would not be forgotten. Even though, Herodotus is Greek but he also had interest in history of the Persians. Nevertheless, he wrote the history of the Persians in the view of Greek that they are evil from what they did to Greece. Still, it is useful to study over history of the Persians. After the Persians War, The Histories were published widespread. Once the book was read by young Thucydides⁵ who had been inspired by the words from The Histories, he spent his entire life as historian and recorded a lot of important histories such as the story of Peloponnesian War.

However, Herodotus was also called as the Father of lies⁶. Since history is what use to explain the truth, most historians wrote their work in formal informative style. In contrast, comparing with other historians, Herodotus’ style of writing is fancy. Actually, the purpose of this is to increase the interest from the readers or audiences. Since in his time there do not have many sources of entertainment for people in enjoy in their free time. From his biography, he was the storyteller in Greece during the

³Wikipedia contributors. “Herodotus - As told by other “liars”.” *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. 26 Aug 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodotus#As_told_by_other_22liars.22>

⁴JonaLendering. “Herodotus’ Histories: the 28 logoi.” *Livius Articles on Ancient History*. 25 Aug 2012. <<http://www.livius.org/he-hg/herodotus/logoi.html>>

⁵JonaLendering. “Herodotus’ originally.” *Livius Articles on Ancient History*. 25 Aug 2012. <<http://www.livius.org/he-hg/herodotus/herodotus03.html>>

⁶Strangescience contributors. “Herodotus.” *Strangescience* 23 Aug 2012. <<http://www.strangescience.net/herodotus.htm>>

festivals in return for his payment. Not only for enjoying people around him but his tale also lighted up imaginary of people. Consequently, many people got inspired by him. Nowadays many movies and novels are based on true story. For example, *The Queen*⁷, the movie about what Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth struggles after the death of Princess Diana, or *The King's Speech*, film that based on the King George VI's life. These movies give imagination to people. It is the fact that humans have dreams and fantasy expectations; humans are no robot. They need mental happiness to stay healthy, and make them enjoy their life. Without imaginations, numerous of technologies like cars, airplanes might not be invented. In arts, also, many paintings are inspired by magical myths in histories; for example, a drawing of gods and drawing of the legendary of kings. No new creation would happen in the world without imagination. There would be no development or evolution. Human being would stay in the same point forever. Surely, works of Herodotus and his creativity had created a significant effect to human.

Various things such as scientific theories or space travel innovation cannot be done in one generation of human. Even though, many people are curious about how ancient people could build those enormous buildings such as Pyramid or Stonehenge. Even those people lived in the period without machines or equipment for constructions, they still could create such those amazing constructions. Historians, geologists and engineers still work together to find the answer of those mysteries, hoping that the knowledge they would gain might be able to use for developing human's ability.

⁷ Wikipedia contributors. "List of films based on actual events." *Wikipedia the free encyclopedia*. 30 Aug 2012. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_films_based_on_actual_events >

In the age of Herodotus, going to school is not something common, but The Histories, Herodotus' book, had made people wanted to read more. This could help educating people to be literate. Also, it should make people be able to develop many skills and lead to improve people's knowledge at that time. Since people can read and write, logically they should be able to do mathematics or calculating which would make them be able to construct building, make a city plan and do many things that make them more civilized. In contrast, the city that had no education for the citizens would not be civilized.

To conclude, Herodotus has a significant effect to people in the present. Without him started to record history, people might not be civilized as they are now. Without him humans might have no records of past. People might not know what happened in the war between Greece and Persia⁸. Human being might lose their ways when they found problems. In other word, if a person does not know his or her own past, it is the same that they do not know other people beside themselves. If comparing a parade, knowing history would represent a joyful and cheerful parade. People in this parade would look around see many people and he or she knows all of them. In contrast living without history is similar to walking with a lonely parade as people in this parade do not know anyone surrounding. It is obviously known that history make everyone know better about their paths. What the ancestors did would teach people to know some experiences that might be able to adapt for some situations. To summarized, knowing history has advantages to humans in many aspect of life. Without the beginning of recording history, who would know which shape the world would be?

⁸ Wikipedia contributors. "Greco-Persians War." *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Persian_Wars>