

SOURCE PACKET IX: QUESTIONING PROGRESS

We will use the following source in our lesson on how we might criticize or otherwise interpret teleological approaches to history. As you read the following work, please jot down your impressions—anything you find striking, interesting, confusing, or otherwise worth your attention—in the margins or in a separate notebook.

Source I: The Idea of Progress¹

Please see attached packet.

II. Vocabulary

From Text²

acumen: Keen insight; shrewdness

aesthetic: Of or concerning the appreciation of beauty or good taste

antinomies: Opposition between one law, principle, rule, etc., and another

antithetical: Directly opposed or contrasted; opposite

aspiring: To long, aim, or seek ambitiously; be eagerly desirous, esp. for something great or of high value

buoyant: Capable of keeping a body afloat, as a liquid

caprice: A sudden, unpredictable change, as of one's mind or the weather

countenance: Appearance, esp. the look or expression of the face

credulous: Willing to believe or trust too readily, esp. without proper or adequate evidence; gullible

culminate: To reach the highest point, summit, or highest development

diabolical: Having the qualities of a devil; devilish; fiendish; outrageously wicked

dubious: Doubtful; marked by or occasioning doubt

enmity: A feeling or condition of hostility; hatred; ill will; animosity; antagonism

enthrone: To invest with sovereign or episcopal authority; to exalt

execrable: Utterly detestable; abominable; abhorrent

hardy: Capable of enduring fatigue, hardship, exposure, etc.

hecatomb: A public sacrifice of 100 oxen to the gods; any great slaughter

indolence: Habitual laziness; sloth

infatuation: Foolish or all-absorbing passion or an instance of this

iniquity: Gross injustice or wickedness

leprosy: A chronic, mildly infectious disease

lynch: To put to death, esp. by hanging, by mob action and without legal authority

maelstrom: A large, powerful, or violent whirlpool

metaphysics: The branch of philosophy that examines the nature of reality, including the relationship between mind and matter, substance and attribute, fact and value

nebula: Any celestial object that appears nebulous, hazy, or fuzzy, and extended in a telescope view

nimbus: A shining cloud sometimes surrounding a deity when on earth

obliterate: To remove or destroy all traces of; do away with; destroy completely

¹ George Painter, "The Idea of Progress." *The American Journal of Sociology* 28, no. 3 (1922): 257-282.

² "Dictionary.com," Dictionary.com, LLC, <http://dictionary.reference.com/>.

optimism: A disposition or tendency to look on the more favorable side of events or conditions and to expect the most favorable outcome

perennial: Perpetual; everlasting; continuing; recurrent

pessimism: The tendency to see, anticipate, or emphasize only bad or undesirable outcomes, results, conditions, problems, etc.

posit: To lay down or assume as a fact or principle; postulate

prototype: The original or model on which something is based or formed

quintessence: The pure and concentrated essence of a substance

recrudescence: Breaking out afresh or into renewed activity; revival or reappearance in active existence

regress: To revert to an earlier or less advanced state or form

retard: To make slow; delay the development or progress of

revert: To return to a former habit, practice, belief, condition, etc.

scion: A descendant

sophistry: A subtle, tricky, superficially plausible, but generally fallacious method of reasoning

squalor: The condition of being squalid; filth and misery

talismanic: Anything whose presence exercises a remarkable or powerful influence on human feelings or actions

teleological: The doctrine that phenomena are guided not only by mechanical forces but that they also move toward certain goals of self-realization.

vantage: A position, condition, or place affording some advantage or a commanding view

veriest: Utmost; most complete

viligance: State or quality of being vigilant; watchfulness:

GRE Words³

accidie: Mental or spiritual torpor; sloth

hermeneutics: Interpretation

novum: Implies a new order or paradigm

sidereal: Relating to the stars or constellations

vitiate: Pollute, impair

III. Bibliography⁴

Chapman, Michael. *The Historian's Companion*. Reading, MA: Trebarwyth Press, 2008.

"Dictionary.com." Dictionary.com, LLC. <http://dictionary.reference.com/>. Accessed August 30, 2009.

Painter, George. "The Idea of Progress." *The American Journal of Sociology* 28, no. 3 (1922): 257-282.

³ Michael Chapman, *The Historian's Companion* (Reading, MA: Trebarwyth Press, 2008).

⁴ For the sake of brevity, the sources of sources are not listed in the bibliography.