



Need a book to read? Here are some suggestions...

Fiction to help you understand History (and impress at those uni interviews...)

The books listed below have not been selected for their historical accuracy. Some are more varied in their historical precision than others. However, they have been chosen because they should be interesting to read whilst at the same time being related to specific areas of your History course. They are novels set in a particular time, not detailed text books about a definite period. This is not intended as an exhaustive list but more a suggested menu of starters.

Books are graded by difficulty into grades 1, 2 and 3. Grade 1 is the easiest level, 3 the most difficult.

All are in paperback or readily available in libraries.

Empire

J Conrad	'Heart of Darkness' (Congo)	2
J G Farrell	'Troubles' (Ireland)	2
	'The Siege of Krishnapur' (India)	2

Working Class movements and revolution

	E Zola	'Germinal'	2
		'L'assommoir'	2
Russian Revolution (Post 1917)	B Pasternak	'Dr Shivago'	2
	A Koestler	'Darkness at Noon'	3
	G Orwell	'Animal Farm'	1
More memoir than fiction	J Reed	'10 days which shook the world'	3
	A Solzhenitsyn	'A Day in the life of Ivan Denisovitch'	1

World War I

More memoir than fiction	B Elton	'The First Casualty'	1
	R Graves	'Goodbye to all That'	2
	E Hemingway	'A Farewell to Arms'	1

Between World Wars

Germany	A Andersch	'Flight to Afar'	3
More memoir than fiction	S Haffner	'Defying Hitler'	3
More memoir than fiction	C Isherwood	'Goodbye to Berlin'	3
More memoir than fiction	A Speer	'Inside the Third Reich'	2
Spain	E Hemingway	'For Whom the Bell Tolls'	1
USA	P Scott Fitzgerald	'The Great Gatsby'	1
	J Steinbeck	'The Grapes of Wrath'	1

Cold War

J le Carré	'The Spy who came in from the Cold'	2
G Greene	Our Man in Havana	1
N Shute	'On the Beach'	1
G Orwell	'1984'	2

Womens History

M Atwood	'The Handmaids Tale'	2
D H Lawrence	'Women in Love'	2

Science Fiction/Counterfactual*

I Asimov	'Foundation' Trilogy	1
R Bradbury	'Fahrenheit 541'	3
A C Clarke	'Childhoods End'	2
A Huxley	'Brave New World'	2
F Pohl & C Kornbluth	'The Space Merchants'	2
K Vonnegut	'Slaughterhouse Five'	1
J Wyndham	'The Day of the Triffids'	3
	'The Chrysalids '	
Y Zamyatin	'We'	1
* P Roth	'The Plot Against America'	2

General

A historical travel journey made across Europe

R Wright	' A Short History of Progress'	2
G Mak	'In Europe'	2

Happy Reading!

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