



# On 'What Is History?': From Carr and Elton to Rorty and White

*Keith Jenkins*

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*On 'What is History?'* provides a student introduction to contemporary historiographical debates.

Carr and Elton are still the starting point for the vast majority of introductory courses on the nature of history. Building on his highly successful *Rethinking History*, Keith Jenkins explores in greater detail the influence of these key figures. He argues that historians need to move beyond their 'modernist' thinking and embrace the postmodern-type approaches of thinkers such as Richard Rorty and Hayden White.

Through its radical critique of Carr and Elton and its championing of Rorty and White, *On 'What is History?'* represents a significant development for introductory studies on the nature of history.

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