Historiography: Ancient, Medieval, And Modern, Third Edition
In this pioneering work, Ernst Breisach presents an effective, well-organized, and concise account of the development of historiography in Western culture. Neither a handbook nor an encyclopedia, this up-to-date third edition narrates and interprets the development of historiography from its origins in Greek poetry to the present, with compelling sections on postmodernism, deconstructionism, African-American history, women’s history, microhistory, the Historikerstreit, cultural history, and more. The definitive look at the writing of history by a historian, Historiography provides key insights into some of the most important issues, debates and innovations in modern historiography. Praise for the first edition: “Breisach’s comprehensive coverage of the subject and his clear presentation of the issues and the complexity of an evolving discipline easily make his work the best of its kind.” —Lester D. Stephens, American Historical Review

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Customer Reviews

Students of history will often encounter the concept of historiography in their undergraduate work as the subject has been introduced to that degree level quite a bit since the early 1990s. Graduate students will definitely become acquainted with the subject on an intimate level and this is one of the works used to do so. I first was introduced to this book, but not the subject at American Military University in 2011. This was required reading for the Historiography course there, and to be honest it left most of my classmates struggling to understand the concept. Reading Breisach is not difficult. The book itself is a history on the study of history. That’s a pretty simple concept for a true historian, but oddly enough it is a difficult one for the amateur historian. To put it simply, this subject
and this book separate the two and demonstrate why there is a wide gap between them. I often deal with frustrated students who struggle with the idea of the history of history and tell them that if they cannot grasp what historiography is they need to forget about earning a Ph.D in history. The study of the field of history will be out of their reach at that level if they cannot master the utterly necessary concept of historiography. This book begins with the ancient Greeks and their historical interpretations and ends with a description of new cultural history of the late 20th century. In between those two periods it covers Roman, Christian, Medieval, Renaissance, Romantic, German, British, French, and American historical concepts and movements as Breisach sought to explore how the study of history evolved over time. He also pointed out how the study of history will continue to change in the future in unknown ways because that is the nature of this field.

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