

“History” - a definition

“A chronological record of significant events occurring in the past that affect a nation or institution, often including an explanation of their causes.” Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary

1. “chronological” - the **science** that deals with **measuring** time in **regular divisions** and that assigns to events their **proper date** - presupposes **lineal** time
2. “record” - something that recalls or relates to **past** events - typically presupposes a **written** account of something occurring in the past, something that is literacy-based
3. “event” - something that happened or is anticipated - typically used in the context of a **past**
4. “past” - something that happened in a period **before the present**; presupposes something only remembered or imagined, something **passive**, without animation nor volition, and certainly **no longer present nor accessible**
5. “explanation” - act or process of making understandable and **known** - typically presupposes a particular **theory** (scientifically acceptable set of abstract principles) of epistemology and methodology, i.e., what is knowable and how one come to know it grounded in **empiricism** (capable of being verified or disproved by systematic and scientific observation or experimentation) and **rationalism** (assertion that formalized reason and logic are in themselves a source of knowledge superior to and independent of sense perception), all of which is based in Euro-American world view, i.e, a **Cartesian, objective world view**, and precludes other epistemologies
6. “causes” - something that brings about an effect or a result - typically validates causes **accessible via empirical and rational methodologies**, and precludes other causal conditions

So what is the meaning of Sitting Bull’s (Lakota leader and medicine man) declaration:

“History means disrespect for the ancestors!”