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I don't know what I can say about history because I'm not much in touch with recent developments. I took a major in history. I took a masters degree in history at Occidental College and a masters degree at Princeton University. Then I did a lot of work in ancient history. I have covered a lot of history and have read a lot of books lately but not textbooks. It's my impression that there's a great change in history from what there was when I was a student. Because when I studied it the history books were largely accounts of the doings of leaders. They were the histories of kings and their relations to prime ministers, what they did and their wars and all that.

I know I did react a way against that and they said quite properly that history wasn't an account of what king's did or what wars they fought but how people lived, and how economically and socially conditions developed. Of course that's all true, but much of it has I think been united with-- I don't think they give so many courses in public schools any more on history. I think they call it social studies. In other words they take their philosophy of what they think social conditions ought to be, or what they think economics ought to be and they try to find illustrations for it from history.

Well, you can prove anything when you do that because there is such a tremendous amount of material to draw upon. Then there was a big movement called historicism which was very prominent 15 or 20 years ago. Whether it's still as prominent as it used to be I don't know. That movement was that everything can be traced to historical forces, or history as a cause for everything. Great men are just the result of their time. The general situation of the time is what produces. It's easy to go from one extreme to the other.

When I was a boy I picked up some history books that were from an earlier period. I believe they were Barne's histories. They were filled with anecdotes about people. They would tell about the revolutionary war and they would tell about the great sacrifices the people. Somebody said, How could they tell about that sort of thing? There were so many interesting little things. I have not seen any book since then that has had that, but to my notion the most important thing in history isn't somebody's theory about how things have developed or how they ought to develop, but to know how human life is actually been.

It seems to me that any great figures, not that they are necessarily more important but probably they are of very considerable importance in the effect they have had. In addition to that we know more about them than we do about other people. We can see the different forces in their lives and we can see situations they faced and what decisions they made. From that viewpoint that