

# MODULE I-TRENDS IN HISTORIOGRAPHY



**TOPIC- MEANING OF HISTORIOGRAPHY**  
**REMYA MT**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**I SEMESTER**  
**2020-2021**



- **Historiography** is the history of history
- Questions of historiography include the following:
  - who writes history, with what agenda in mind, and towards what ends?
  - how accurate can a historian ever hope to be, analyzing past events from the vantage point of the historian's present?
  - what about the types of sources, both primary and secondary, an historian chooses to base his or her work upon
- The study of how history was written, by whom, why it was recorded as much
- Historiography as an independent branch of history and as separate discipline emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe
- Many number of works have been produced on historiography all over the world



- The study of how history was written, by whom, why it was recorded as much
- Historiography as an independent branch of history and as separate discipline emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe
- Many number of works have been produced on historiography all over the world
- These works trace the successive stages of development in historical writing from ancient to the modern world
- These include the evolution of ideas of historian, changing techniques in historical writing and transformation in the attitude towards the nature of history itself

# HISTORIOGRAPHY



- Historiography literally means the art of writing history
- It is the history of history, or the history of historical writings
- Historiography tells the story of the successive stages of the evolution or development of historical writings
- The historical writings of the Italian Renaissance, Particularly that of Machiavelli, represented a harsh reaction to religious influence in history writing
- The reaction reached its climax in the historians of the enlightenment-Voltaire, Gibbon, David Hume, and Robertson
- Historiography traces these changes through the centuries
- According to Arthur Marwick 'Historiography is really the history of Historical thought- it is not only the theory or practice of history

# PRE CONDITIONS OF HISTORIOGRAPHY



- 1. Records: The records are of a rich variety- buildings, inscriptions, medals, coins, edicts, chronicles, travelogues, decrees, treaties, private letters and diaries
- 2. Critical Method: The historian should aim at presenting as true a picture of the past as possible
- The technique evolved to arrive at the truth of past events is called historical method
- This method is largely analytical, consisting of external and internal criticism
- External criticism or critical scholarship determines the authorship, the place and the time of a document
- These are crucial in determining the value of a document



- 3. Historical sense: It is the basic concern with change through time that makes it absolutely necessary for the historian to know when exactly the events which he describes took place
- To narrate, analyze and interpret events, he must know the order of their occurrence