



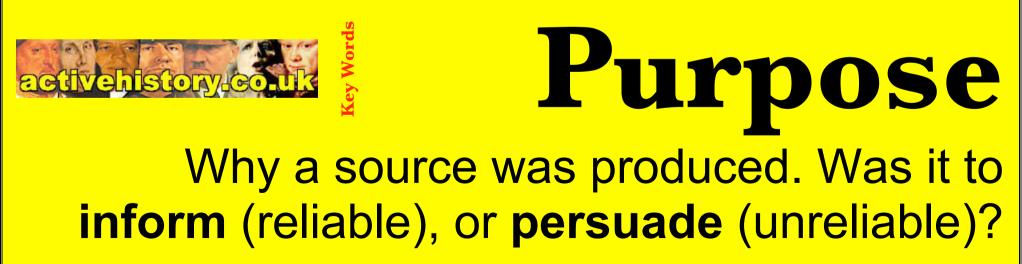
#### **Subjective** A source which persuades: a personal **viewpoint**, maybe biased and opinionated.

A source which informs: it is balanced and factual rather than biased and opinionated.

Example Sentence: "This witness writes in an objective manner, which makes her testimony particularly useful to the historian"



Example Sentence: "Although a reliable witness, his access to information was incomplete"



Example Sentence: "The **purpose** of this witness was to persuade rather than inform; this limits his usefulness to the historian"

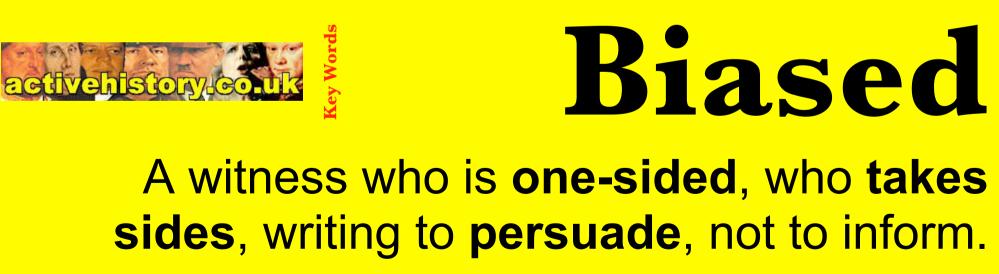
# A source produced at the time and / or by someone who was there. Often subjective.

Example Sentence: "This is primary evidence, although as such it lacks objectivity"



## The situation in which the source was produced. Helps in deciding reliability.

Example Sentence: "Although the author praises Stalin, we must be aware of the threatening context in which it was produced"



Example Sentence: "This witness is very **biased** in favour of Hitler's policies, so we need to treat their testimony with scepticism"

## Orthodox



## The established interpretation of a historical event: e.g. Hitler planned WW2.

Example Sentence: "The orthodox interpretation of World War Two is that Hitler was responsible and planned it from the outset"

### Revisionist



## A fresh (revised) interpretation of a historical event: e.g. Hitler did not plan WW2.

Example Sentence: "The revisionist interpretation of World War Two is that Hitler was not totally responsible and did not plan for it"

## An approach which mistakenly interprets past societies using present-day values.

Example Sentence: "It is anachronistic to condemn the Victorians as being racist when such concepts did not exist at the time"

# **Hindsight Bias**" treats historical events as inevitable; a deterministic approach.

Example Sentence: "With hindsight it is tempting to treat World War One as inevitable, but it was not widely foreseen at the time"





#### A point of view which is held to be **proven** and so above debate or criticism.

Example: "The view that Hitler was responsible for World War Two was sacrosanct until Taylor's Origins of the Second World War"

# **Example Sentence: Interpretation Interpretation**

## An approach stressing that individuals have little influence on the outcome of events.

Example Sentence: "The Annales School have the **deterministic** view that geography, not human agency, shapes the course of history"

# An approach arguing that random events determine history.

Example Sentence: "It is rather **nihilistic** to say that World War One would not have occurred had Princip not shot Archduke Ferdinand"

### Intentionalist



### A **nihilistic** approach; argues that **individuals** determine historical events.

Example: "The intentionalist view is that had Hitler been killed in World War One, World War Two never would have happened"

## A deterministic approach; claims institutional structures determine history.

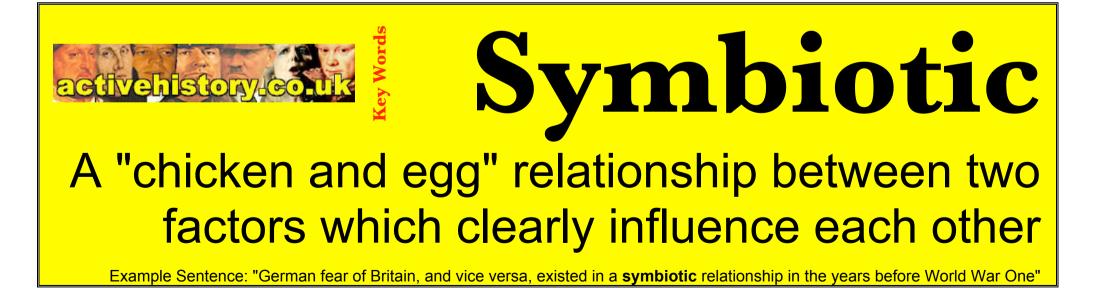
Example Sentence: "According to structuralist historians, Weimar Germany was doomed due to the authoritarian traditions of Germany"





### An approach which tries understands the past on its own terms, not **anachronistically**.

Example Sentence: "To understand Hitler's rise to power, It is important to empathise with Germans who voted for him"



## A simplistic interpretation of history; sees events as moving towards a brighter future.

Example Sentence: "It is rather Whiggish to treat the development of women's rights as a story of steady and inevitable progress"

