

**'The Uses and Abuses of History' by Margret MacMillan**

This book reminds us that history is most useful when treated with care and respect. MacMillan shows how problematic it can be to 'take lessons from the past'. She uses excellent examples which demonstrate that there are enough interpretations to suit every need. The key message is that those who try to shape the future invariably invoke the past. Examples include governments' withdrawal of funding from archaeologists whose discoveries don't support the 'preferred' history; decades long disputes about who has the right to influence museum exhibitions; education departments that offer different histories to pupils, depending on race, and the inevitably disputed histories of ethnic 'purity'

This is a great read, which encourages the reader to ask the right questions.