Examination

Section 1

Date

3/11/11

Number of booklets used for this question: 1/3

Instructions

- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page.
- In the boxes provided write the name and date of this examination, and the number(s) of the question(s) attempted in this booklet.
- If you have not attempted the question, you must still hand in the Writing Booklet, with the words 'NOT ATTEMPTED' written clearly on the front cover.
- Write using black or blue pen. (Black pen is recommended.)
- You may ask for an extra Writing Booklet if you need more space.
- You may NOT take any Writing Booklets, used or unused, from the examination room.
Within Eric Foner's Who Owns History? Re-thinking the Past in a Changing World, Foner displays an entirely post-modernist conception on who owns history. Foner explores the constant, constant search for new perspectives in response to “new quest questions & cultural imperatives” revealing that the work of historiography is constantly changing as a result of new historians within each generation. However, Foner makes the implicit assumption that historical truth does not exist in a “scientific sense”, which it would at odds with the Empiricist view of absolute truth. Moreover, Foner also argues that future historians should engage with the larger “reality” public, revealing that historians had an obligation to contribute to debates in history so as to engage with the public & inform the public. Finally, moreover, Foner concludes that “revolutions that taste it is not only historians who own history, but everyone & no one.”
as Foner highlights the ever-evolving study of the past to a "never-ending journey of discovery." Ultimately, Foner explores the concept of his historian's role in the construction of history, revealing the dictum between that of Post-Melinism and Empiricism as historians attempt to establish truth as they question the historian's role in ownership of history, while exploring the role of engagement.

Foner expresses a significantly post-melinist tone throughout the source, and would be thus largely supported in Foner's assumptions of who owns history by Keith Jenkins and Foucault. Within the source, Foner expresses history to be the "constant search for new perspectives"; this is largely supported within Keith Jenkins Rethinking History (1991), as Jenkins explores history to reveal the impact of context upon historian. This highlights the inherent nature.
of history to be owned by that historian, as he or the historian is affected by his context. Furthermore, Foner in supported in his perspective history being an approximation of the past, as Foucault within Foucault’s Theory of Knowledge. 1969, Foucault highlights that historians do not have direct access to the past and thus impose their own explanation of history upon the reader, illustrating their history to be owned by the historian. Ultimately, Foner is supported in his view of history being our history past materialists who however highlight history to be contradicted by his highlight support the historian’s ownership of history.

However, Foner would be in contradiction of the fundamental Empiricist Leopold Von Ranke’s more ours history. Foner argues that truth in a scientific sense is unattainable, however which 1824, argue.

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in the attainment of absolute scientific Truth. Leopold argues that an historian can achieve objective truth through thorough research allowing truth to emerge from facts and evidence. Leopold argues that one can achieve strict objectivity through strict methodology, analysis of sources, highlighting that the historians do not own history but rather that historians merely account for history as history has ownership of itself. Ultimately, Foner is disputed by Empiricists in this view of history being owned by history, as historians are able to achieve objectivity, thus removing ownership over history.

Nevertheless, Foner is supported by the Critics of Empiricism, particularly that of E. C. Car. Foner argues that history will always be
rewritten, which is largely supported by E.H. Carr in *What is History?*. In 1961, Carr, in which Carr argues that a determinate view of history, states that history is not just the study, that history is entirely relative to the historian, and that as society changes, so will what will be accepted by historians as history within society. Moreover, rather in again support, Carr, as Carr suggests, that history is relative to the historian who writes it as a new political, social, and cultural imperative surface. Ultimately, Foucault's argument belief in history being a result of changing context is supported by Carr, who argues that history is gauged by that of the historian.

Yet, Foucault will be in agreement with Foucault realizes the importance of the debate at our history class.

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Yet Foner will find himself at odds with the defenders of history who argue

Furthermore, Foner is right; reveals history to be owned by that of the public, as well their belief in historians not owning history, but rather the public is largely supported by that of Hayden White in Historiography & Historiography. In this work, White coined the phrase Historiography which means history that is designed to engage with the audience better engagement for the sake of engagement as White believes that if history doesn’t engage the audience then it won’t be read, supporting Foner’s view of history as a public function.

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Moreover, JH Hexter in his *Historic of History* supports Foner further in the belief that history should be engaging. Hexter argues that narratives are the most appropriate way in which historians are able to engage with the audience to answer how and why questions. Occur within history. Hexter further paradoxically suggests that maximum accuracy and correctness is not always essential when telling the reader what happened, supporting Foner. Further, Herodotus in *The Histories*, 5th century BC, El Again supports Foner’s argument of engaging us. Herodotus included myths and legends to “put on record achievements” due to his context of history being recounted orally or orally engendered in public discourse. And ultimately, it can be seen that Foner’s argument of historians history being owned by the public is largely supported throughout history.

Evidently, it is revealed throughout...
history, & foner's source that a dichotomy exist between that of the historians ownership of history. Foner concludes his argument with a question, 'Who owns history', everyone & no one’, revealing the complex nature of history. However, the post of history, with a questioning history as a post-modernist. However, Empiricist argue history that historians are unable to detach themselves from history, revealing history to be governed by itself. Moreover, history is revealed to be governed by the public to as the study of history has a public function. Ultimately, the historian's role within history & its own ownership is revealed to lie between post-modernist, who argue in historian ownership, & empiricist who argue history owns history, as historians attempts to reconcile the pubic's own interest through engagement.