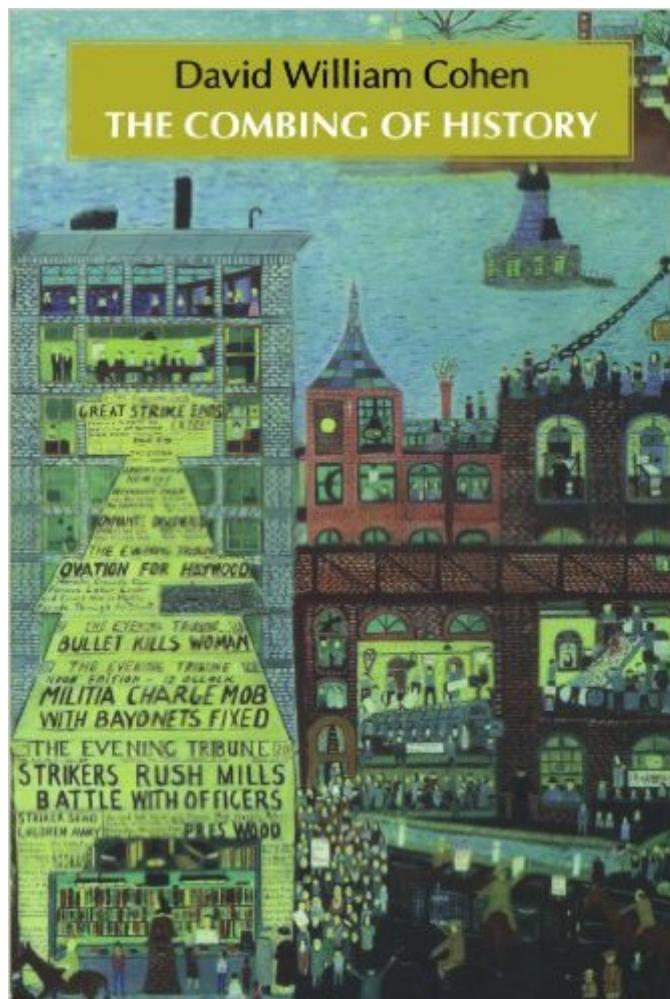


The book was found

The Combing Of History



Synopsis

How is historical knowledge produced? And how do silence and forgetting figure in the knowledge we call history? Taking us through time and across the globe, David William Cohen's exploration of these questions exposes the circumstantial nature of history. His investigation uncovers the conventions and paradigms that govern historical knowledge and historical texts and reveals the economic, social, and political forces at play in the production of history. Drawing from a wide range of examples, including African legal proceedings, German and American museum exhibits, Native American commemorations, public and academic debates, and scholarly research, David William Cohen explores the "walls and passageways" between academic and non-academic productions of history.

Book Information

Paperback: 290 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; 1 edition (June 25, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226112780

ISBN-13: 978-0226112787

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,459,260 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 inÂ Books > History > Africa > Kenya #31349 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History #54763 inÂ Books > History > World

Customer Reviews

With all the things which have happened historically, only a spattering of details ever gets recorded and only a sprinkling of those get remembered. It is in fact the details and what details individuals and groups will remember that is the point behind David William CohenÂ's book. Cohen argues that there is always an important story behind the writing of history; it is in this story that we discover individuals, cultures, families, etc. fighting for a voice in the history that will finally be Â'heard.Â' The production of history involves either Â'nativesÂ' or Â'outsidersÂ' of historical events deciding which details are the most useful and relevant to the present time and the continuation of the memory, this decision is heavily affected by the training and accustoming of the past. After this sifting of facts, the actual writing and performing of history takes place with its own unique relevance from various

points of view. This process is vital. The very metaphor that Cohen bases his book on in the first chapter is all about details as well. Camella Teoli, decided to leave details out of her story to her children. Her daughter who combed her hair everyday didn't know why she had a bald spot; she just knew it was there. Camella deeming her safety and social acceptance more important always left the historical facts of her industrial accident out of reach. However it was eventually through combing back through history that the incident was brought to memory again. In this way she combed over the details and later historians and others combed them back up according to their differing values. Of course Cohen himself cannot escape the selecting, judging and combing over that take place in writing his history.

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