

## SOURCE PACKET VII: NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

We will use the following source in our lesson on how to navigate the complexities introduced into our research by doubts about the extent to which individual actors can shape historical events and trends. As you read the following sources, please jot down your impressions—anything you find striking, interesting, confusing, or otherwise worth your attention—in the margins or in a separate notebook.

### Source I: Historians and Individual Agency<sup>1</sup>

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Please see included packet

### III. Vocabulary

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#### From Text<sup>2</sup>

**salient:** Prominent or conspicuous (e.g., salient traits)

**agency:** The state of being in action or of exerting power; operation

**adduce:** To bring forward in argument or as evidence; cite as pertinent or conclusive (e.g., to adduce reasons in support of a constitutional amendment)

**sublate:** To deny or contradict; negate

**absolute:** Unrestrained or unlimited by a constitution, counterbalancing group, etc., in the exercise of governmental power (e.g., an absolute monarch)

**limiting case:**

**nullify:** To render or declare legally void or inoperative

**ad hoc:** Latin for “for this”; created “as needed,” for a special purpose or end presently under consideration

**aver:** To assert or affirm with confidence; declare in a positive or peremptory manner

**volitional:** Freely chosen by one’s own will

**antipathy:** A natural, basic, or habitual repugnance; aversion

**temperament:** The combination of mental, physical, and emotional traits of a person; natural predisposition

**cataclysm:** Any violent upheaval, esp. one of a social or political nature

**impel:** To drive or urge forward; press on; incite or constrain to action

**delirium:** a state of violent excitement or emotion

**modus operandi:** Latin for “method of operation”; the way someone does something; a characteristic method

**lapidary:** Sharply or finely delineated

**enculturation:** The process whereby individuals learn their group's culture, through experience, observation, and instruction.

**contingency:** A chance, accident, or possibility conditional on something uncertain: He was prepared for every contingency.

**precipitately:** Occurring in an exceedingly sudden or abrupt manner

**heterogeneity:** The quality or state of being composed from dissimilar parts; disparateness

**constituency:** A group of supporters or patrons.

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<sup>1</sup> Philip Pomper, “Historians and Individual Agency,” *History and Theory* (October 1996: 281-308).

<sup>2</sup> “Dictionary.com,” Dictionary.com, LLC, <http://dictionary.reference.com/>.

**catalyzing:** Producing a fundamental change in or transforming a system

**tokenism:** Any legislation, admissions policy, hiring practice, etc., that demonstrates only minimal compliance with rules, laws, or public pressure

**micro:** Extremely small in scope or capability

**macro:** Very large in scale, scope, or capability

**paradigm:** A model; a set of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitutes a way of viewing reality for the community that shares them, especially in an intellectual discipline.

**implicate:** To show to be also involved, usually in an incriminating manner

**denounce:** To condemn or censure openly or publicly

### GRE Words<sup>3</sup>

**refractory:** Stubbornly resisting control/authority

**impecunious:** Having no money; perpetually poor

**apodictic:** Clearly demonstrable

**apposite:** Appropriate

**panegyric:** Formal public eulogy (written or spoken)

### III. Bibliography<sup>4</sup>

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Chapman, Michael. *The Historian's Companion*. Reading, MA: Trebarwyth Press, 2008.

"Dictionary.com." Dictionary.com, LLC. <http://dictionary.reference.com/>. Accessed August 30, 2009.

Pomper, Philip. "Historians and Individual Agency," *History and Theory* (October 1996: 281-308).

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<sup>3</sup> Michael Chapman, *The Historian's Companion* (Reading, MA: Trebarwyth Press, 2008).

<sup>4</sup> For the sake of brevity, the sources of sources are not listed in the bibliography.