

## SOURCE PACKET V: MIGHT MAKES RIGHT

*We will use the following source in our lesson on how historiography is often skewed by the limited perspectives of the educated classes who tend to produce it. 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: Festive Peasants before Bruegel: Three Case Studies and Their Implications**<sup>1</sup>

*Please see attached packet.*

## **II. Vocabulary**

*Review vocabulary from Source Packets I through IV; next week's quiz will be more involved than usual.*

**agronomist:** One who studies the science of farming crops

**alienation:** The state of being withdrawn or isolated from the objective world

**amalgamation:** A consolidation or merger, as of several corporations

**appropriate (verb):** To take and use, especially without permission or right

**ardent:** Passionate, intense

**atomistic:** Consisting of many separate, often disparate elements, as in “an atomistic culture”

**atone:** To make amends or reparation, as for an offense or a crime, or for an offender

**augury:** An omen, token, or indication

**axis:** A central line that bisects a two-dimensional body or figure

**bequeath:** To hand down; pass on

**botanical:** Of, pertaining to, made from, or containing plants

**clique:** A small, exclusive group of people; coterie; set.

**collate:** To gather or arrange in their proper sequence (the pages of a report, the sheets of a book, the pages of several sets of copies, etc.).

**concurrently:** Occurring or existing simultaneously or side by side

**consummation:** An ultimate goal or end; a fulfillment

**contravention:** A violation or opposition

**crack (informal):** Expert, extremely experienced

**credulity:** Willingness to believe or trust too readily, esp. without proper evidence; gullibility

**daisy chain:** A series of interconnected or related things or events

**dappled:** Having spots of a different shade, tone, or color from the background; mottled

**debauchery:** Excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures; intemperance.

**defecates:** To excrete feces

**delict:** A misdemeanor; offense

**denouement:** The outcome or resolution of a doubtful series of occurrences

**desacralization:** To remove the aura of sacredness, holiness, or sanctity from; secularize

**diffuse:** To spread or scatter widely or thinly; disseminate

**discrepancy:** An instance of difference or inconsistency

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<sup>1</sup> Walter S. Gibson, “Festive peasants before Bruegel: Three case studies and their implications,” *Simiolus: Netherlands Quarterly for the History of Art* 31, no. 4 (2004 – 2005).

**disperse:** To spread widely; disseminate

**dowager:** Woman who holds some title or property from her deceased husband, esp. the widow of a king, duke, etc. (often used as an additional title to differentiate her from the wife of the present king, duke, etc.)

**dwell:** To linger over, emphasize, or ponder in thought, speech, or writing

**effete:** Depleted of vitality, force, or effectiveness; exhausted; effeminate or feminine

**elide:** To suppress; omit; ignore; pass over

**enology:** The study of wine and the making of wine

**eunuch:** A castrated man, esp. one formerly employed by rulers as a harem guard or palace official.

**excavate:** To expose or lay bare by or as if by digging; unearth

**fiefdom:** The estate or domain of a feudal lord.

**flax:** A widely cultivated plant, *Linum usitatissimum*, from which a textile fiber is obtained

**flora:** Plants (as distinguished from fauna, or animals)

**forestall:** To prevent, hinder, or thwart by action in advance

**founder (verb):** To become wrecked; fail utterly

**helter-skelter (informal):** In a disordered and haphazard manner

**hitchhike:** To travel by standing on the side of the road and soliciting rides from passing vehicles

**hybridized:** Interbred, combined

**incorrigibility:** Firmly fixed; not easily changed; unable to be corrected

**incredulity:** Inability or unwillingness to believe; doubt; skepticism

**indict:** To charge with an offense or crime; accuse of wrongdoing; castigate; criticize

**innovation:** Introduction of new things or methods

**insidious:** Intended to entrap or beguile; stealthily treacherous or deceitful

**insurgent:** A person who rises in forcible opposition to lawful authority; a rebel

**intercede:** To act or interpose in behalf of someone in difficulty or trouble, as by pleading or petition

**jubilant:** Showing great joy, satisfaction, or triumph; rejoicing; exultant

**latrine:** Toilet (British)

**legacies:** Anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor

**lentil:** A leguminous plant (*Lens culinaris*) native to southwest Asia, having flat pods containing lens-shaped, edible seeds

**mishmash:** A confused mess; hodgepodge; jumble

**monopolize:** To obtain exclusive possession of; to keep entirely to oneself

**morale:** Emotional or mental condition; one's degree of cheerfulness, confidence, and zeal

**mystification:** To perplex (a person) by playing upon the person's credulity; bewilder purposely

**nominally:** Existing in name only; refers to something that is true only in theory but not in practice

**obdurate:** Unmoved by persuasion, pity, or tender feelings; stubborn; unyielding

**of one's own accord:** By one's own choice, without coercion

**paradox:** A seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true: *the paradox that standing is more tiring than walking*

**plenipotentiary:** A person, esp. a diplomatic agent, invested with full power or authority to transact business on behalf of another.

**pomology:** The science that deals with fruits and fruit growing.

**poppy:** A red flower whose seeds are the source of many narcotics, including opium

**precarious:** Exposed to or involving danger; dangerous; perilous; risky; uncertain; unstable; insecure

**predilection:** A tendency to think favorably of something in particular; partiality; preference

**predominantly:** Mostly

**primordial:** Constituting a beginning; giving origin to something derived or developed; original

**progenitor:** A predecessor or precursor  
**progeny:** A descendant or offspring  
**propagate:** To spread, as from person to person; to disseminate  
**proscription:** Outlawry, interdiction, or prohibition  
**protégé:** A person under the patronage or care of someone interested in her career or welfare  
**protocols:** A code of correct conduct; e.g., “safety protocols,” “academic protocol”  
**pulse:** A plant that produces edible seeds, such as peas, beans, or lentils  
**render:** To cause to be or to become; to make  
**scapegoat (noun):** One that is made to bear the blame of others.  
**scapegoat (verb):** To blame someone, as in “to scapegoat a friend for the theft.”  
**sedentary:** Accustomed to sit or rest a great deal or to take little exercise  
**sedge:** A type of rushlike or grasslike plant that grows in wet places  
**spittoon:** A bowl-shaped, usually metal vessel, often with a funnel-shaped cover, into which people spit  
**stagnant:** Not flowing or running, as water, air, etc.; inactive, dull  
**successive:** Following one another in a regular sequence  
**temperate:** Moderate in respect to temperature; not subject to prolonged extremes of hot or cold weather  
**textiles:** Any cloth or goods produced by weaving, knitting, or felting  
**thrush:** A kind of songbird  
**triumvirate:** A government of three officers or magistrates functioning jointly.  
**unwittingly:** Inadvertently; unintentionally; accidentally  
**usurp:** To seize and hold by force or without legal right  
**vicissitudes:** Changes or variations occurring in the course of something, e.g., “the vicissitudes of time”  
**viticulture:** The culture or cultivation of grapevines; grape-growing  
**ware:** Articles of merchandise or manufacture; goods

## GRE Words<sup>2</sup>

**Abstruse:** Hard to understand  
**Anathema:** A ban or curse; something detested  
**Encomium:** Formal expression of praise  
**Exculpate:** To free from blame or guilt  
**Exegesis:** Explanation of a literary work  
**Extirpate:** Root out, destroy  
**Inchoate:** Not fully developed or formulated  
**Insouciance:** Careless unconcern; indifference  
**Lugubrious:** Mournful, exaggeratively sad, doleful  
**Minatory:** Menacing, threatening  
**Picayune:** Worthless, petty, trifling  
**Probity:** Goodness, integrity  
**Protean:** Readily assuming different forms; changing  
**Putative:** Supposed, reported, reputed  
**Veracious:** Truthful, earnest

<sup>2</sup> Michael Chapman, *The Historian's Companion* (Reading, MA: Trebarwyth Press, 2008).

### **III. Bibliography**

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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.

Gibson, Walter S. "Festive peasants before Bruegel: Three case studies and their implications." *Simiolus: Netherlands Quarterly for the History of Art* 31, no. 4 (2004 - 2005): 292-309.