

# SHARED HISTORIES FOR A EUROPE WITHOUT DIVIDING LINES



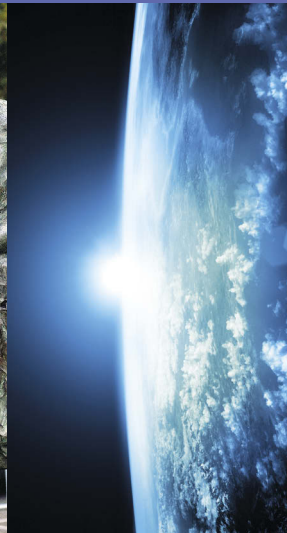
▶ The impact  
of the Industrial  
Revolution



▶ The development  
of education



▶ Human rights  
as reflected  
in the history of art



▶ Europe  
and the  
world



universität  
wien



**Austrian Chairmanship**  
**Council of Europe**  
November 2013 – May 2014  
**Présidence de l'Autriche**  
**Conseil de l'Europe**  
Novembre 2013 – Mai 2014

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



# A NAVIGATOR

---

History teaching is instrumental ...  
it is a decisive factor in reconciliation, recognition, understanding and  
mutual trust between peoples.  
(from White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue  
"Living together as equals in dignity")

## E-PUBLICATION

***Shared histories*** is an interactive e-book with links to external sources. It is a set of exemplar teaching and learning materials, primarily intended for use in teacher training. It is suitable for any mode of teacher training: initial, concurrent, in-service and refresher courses. The content has been specially written so that different parts of the e-book can be used with different age groups of pupils.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROJECT (2010-2014)

*Shared Histories* is the end product of an intergovernmental project which has concerned itself with aspects of European history which have left their imprint on the whole European space – on all signatories to the European Cultural Convention. Europeans have shared:

- ▶ interactions or exchanges which have resulted in mutual influences;
- ▶ convergences or parallel developments with or without systematic contact;



- ▶ tensions and conflicts and their reconciliation processes;
- ▶ developments and transformations common to every region;
- ▶ the recent process of European co-operation and construction, bringing together the great diversity of cultures and identities.

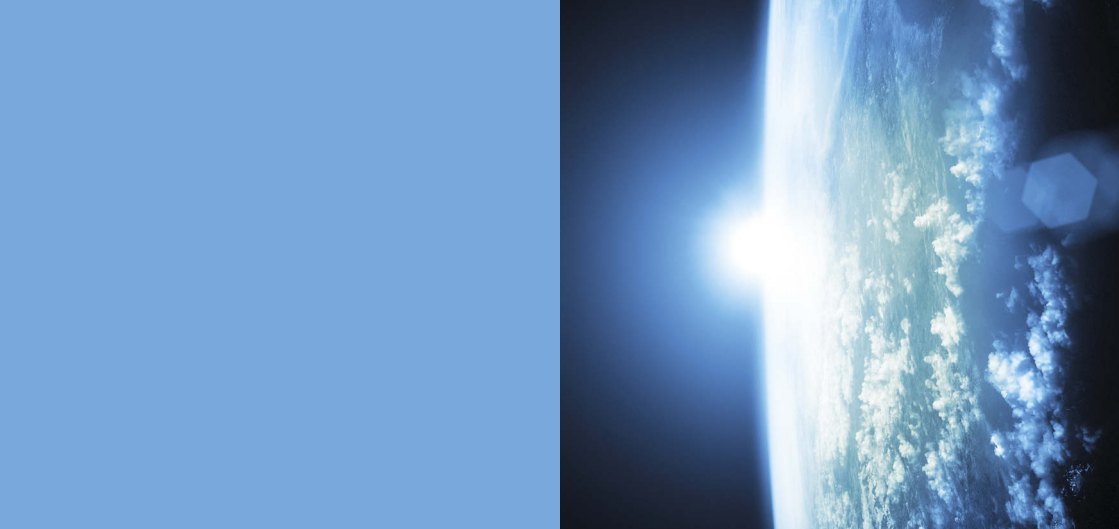
These interactions, convergences, tensions and transformations, which have been neither straightforward nor free from contradictions, have affected a variety of fields – values, art and culture, demography, the economy, science and technology, lifestyles, spatial planning and more.

The e-book, which is the collective work of European history educators, explores ideas related to the concept of shared histories.

## THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN THE FIELD OF HISTORY EDUCATION

One of the areas of the Council of Europe's work since its inception has been history and history teaching. History has been seen as contributing to the education of the citizens of Europe and beyond. As stressed in the European Cultural Convention of 1954, history teaching has a role in bridging differences and bringing people together by establishing mutual understanding and trust between the peoples of Europe.

This publication is expected to make a contribution to the ongoing work of the Council of Europe in the areas of intercultural dialogue and history teaching and learning, building on the following Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly: Intercultural dialogue and the image of the other in history teaching (CM/Rec (2011)6); History teaching in conflict and post conflict areas (Recommendation 1880 (2009)); and History teaching in 21st century Europe (Rec(2001)15).



It extends and develops the concepts and results of previous projects such as:

- ▶ work on multiperspectivity, particularly *Multiperspectivity in history teaching: a guide for teachers*, by Robert Stradling (2003);
- ▶ work on key dates and key events which were significant meeting points in European history and led to the publication *Crossroads of European histories – Multiple outlooks on five key moments in the history of Europe* (2006);
- ▶ work on the image of the other in history teaching, which highlighted the teaching of history of culturally diverse European societies and resulted with the adoption of Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)6.

*Shared histories* is published in 2014, the 60th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention.

## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SHARED HISTORIES?

For a long time the approach to history has been characterised by one-sided interpretations of events, mainly because history – and its teaching – has served, and often still serves, the needs of ethnocentric identities. The core of the concept “shared histories” can be identified in the dialectic interplay of all the subjects involved in an historical event. Thus the approach of “shared history” takes into consideration all the sides of an historical event, all its interactions, convergences and conflicts, and in this sense it is the most complex and productive methodological approach. The approach allows the deconstruction of stereotypes, myths of identity and negative visions of the other, and can thus lead to an intercultural dialogue and to the transformation of conflicts. It demonstrates history in its full complexity.

*Shared histories* lays the emphasis on shared experiences rather than different interpretations of the same event. It explores the idea that your history is also our history and likewise our history is also the history of the other, although this does not mean that it is not multifactorial – “shared” does not mean “the same as”.



This project explores shared ideas within the universe of differences and recognises that all experiences, including conflicts, are shared. It may also be perceived as the marking out of a shared space which has geographical, historical and cultural dimensions. The three main concerns are: raising awareness of the common historical heritage of member states; contributing to conflict prevention and reconciliation processes through better knowledge of historical interactions and convergences; continuing to disseminate the recommendations of the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue "Living together as equals in dignity", adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in 2008.

*Shared histories* puts Council of Europe recommendations on history teaching into action.

## WHAT DOES THE E-BOOK CONTAIN?

Rather than attempt to tackle the subject exhaustively, a number of themes have been chosen. Each theme has the potential to concern a maximum number of member states, is already well documented, and, clearly, presents opportunities for demonstrating interaction, convergences and common transformations – or shared histories.

The chosen themes are:

- ▶ The impact of the Industrial Revolution;
- ▶ The development of education;
- ▶ Human rights as reflected in the history of art;
- ▶ Europe and the world.

For each theme, carefully selected topics provide important and interesting insights and engage the reader with relevant historical enquiries. Each topic contains a set of teaching units aimed at various age groups. These are powerful enough to help teachers generate further units which are apposite to their own situation.

This publication would not have been possible without the generous financial support of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

The interactive e-book is available at the following address:

<http://shared-histories.coe.int>

Photos: Shutterstock, Council of Europe  
Layout: DPPD, March 2014  
Printed at the CE

PREMS\_208413

ENG

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE