

William Jefferson Clinton

August 31, 2005

National History Club  
153 Milk Street, Suite 410  
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to discuss the importance of studying history, and I commend you for your interest in this fascinating and useful subject. Our nation has a unique heritage, and possessing knowledge of America's past helps us comprehend the issues of the present. The same is true for other countries; without an awareness of what these nations have experienced, we cannot appreciate the complexity and beauty of their cultures.

My knowledge of history has always been useful to me, and it was a vital resource during my Presidency. When addressing contemporary problems, we often must interpret the words and intentions of our Founding Fathers. In foreign policy, too, it is essential to recognize that conflicts may have been caused not just by recent events, but also by grievances that are decades or even centuries old. Awareness of history can often foster understanding.

Now more than ever before, we live in a global society. We encounter people from around the world, and they possess many different cultural values and varied backgrounds. If we hope to make meaningful connections, we must demonstrate our respect for their heritage. By studying history now, you prepare for the challenges of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Bill Clinton