

McCLANAHAN
ACADEMY



United States History to 1865

Presentation 1: The Nature and Meaning of History

History and Historians

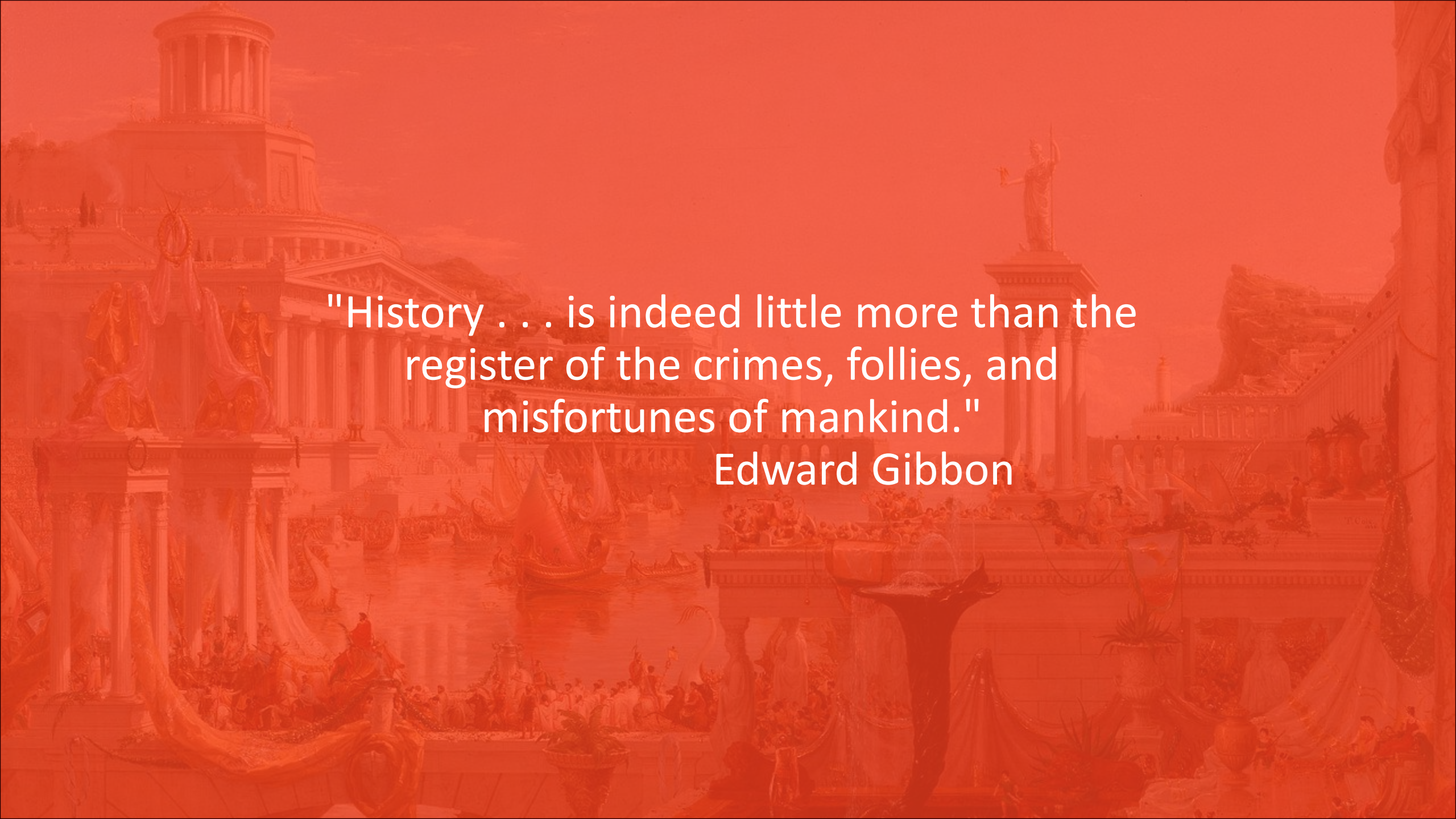
- Is the study of history a “social science?”
 - Art, music, literature, politics, religion, philosophy, war, economics, traditions, law, etc.
- How do historians write history?
 - Imagination, beauty, and detail.
- What are the essential tools for the historian?
 - Primary and secondary materials; artifacts; oral traditions.



What is History?

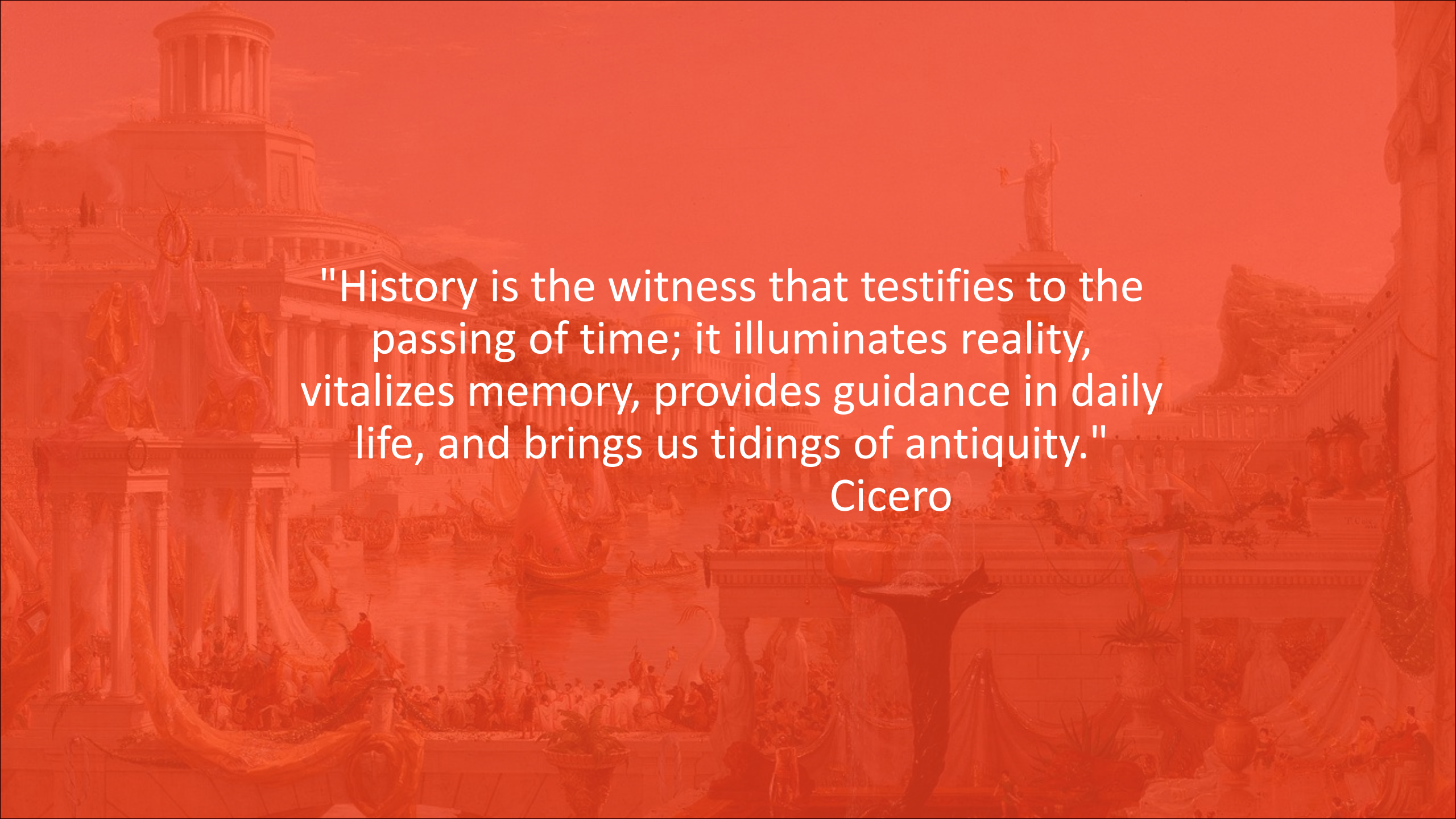


“History is the memory of mankind.”
John Lukacs



"History . . . is indeed little more than the register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind."

Edward Gibbon

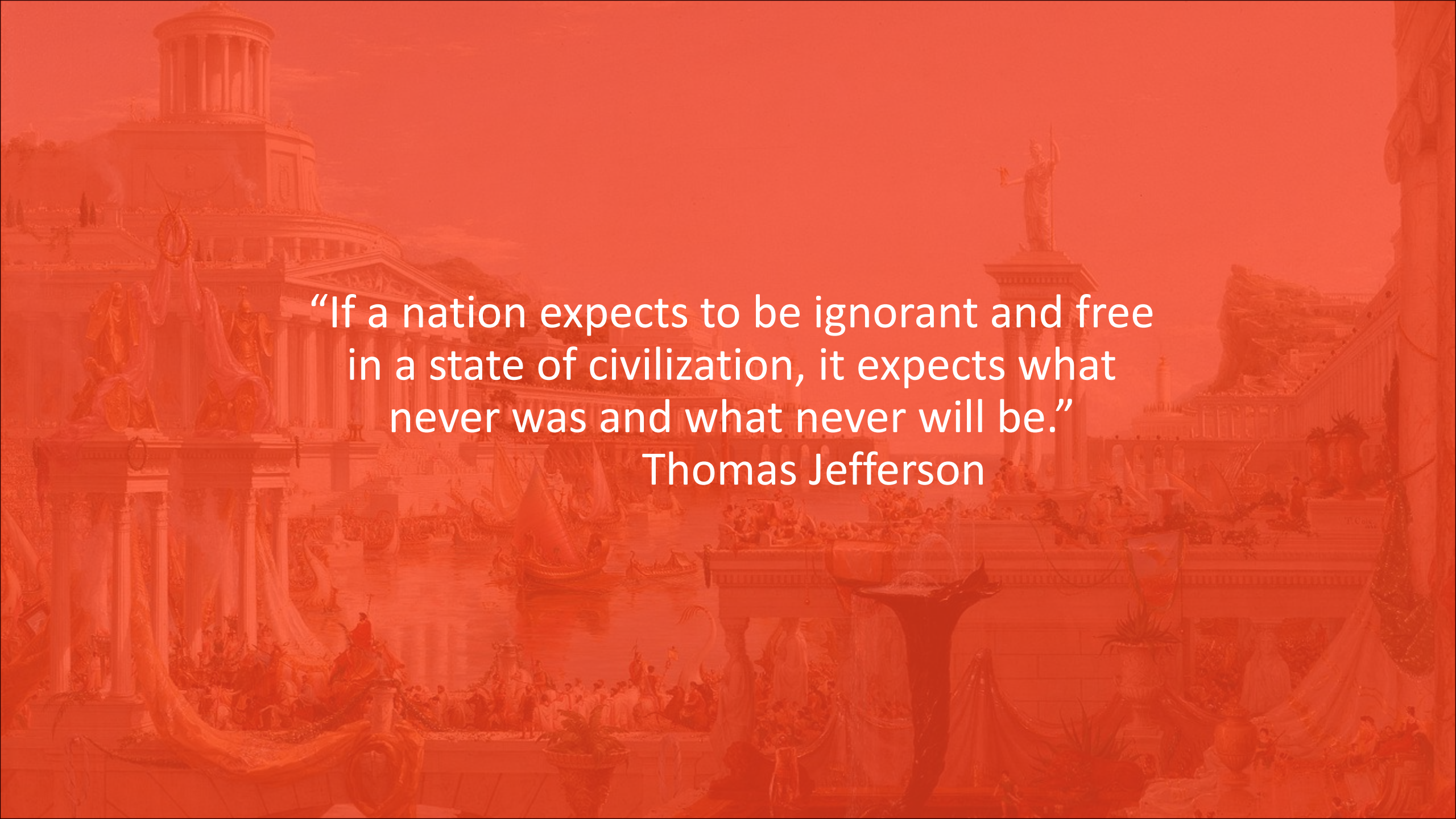


"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity."

Cicero

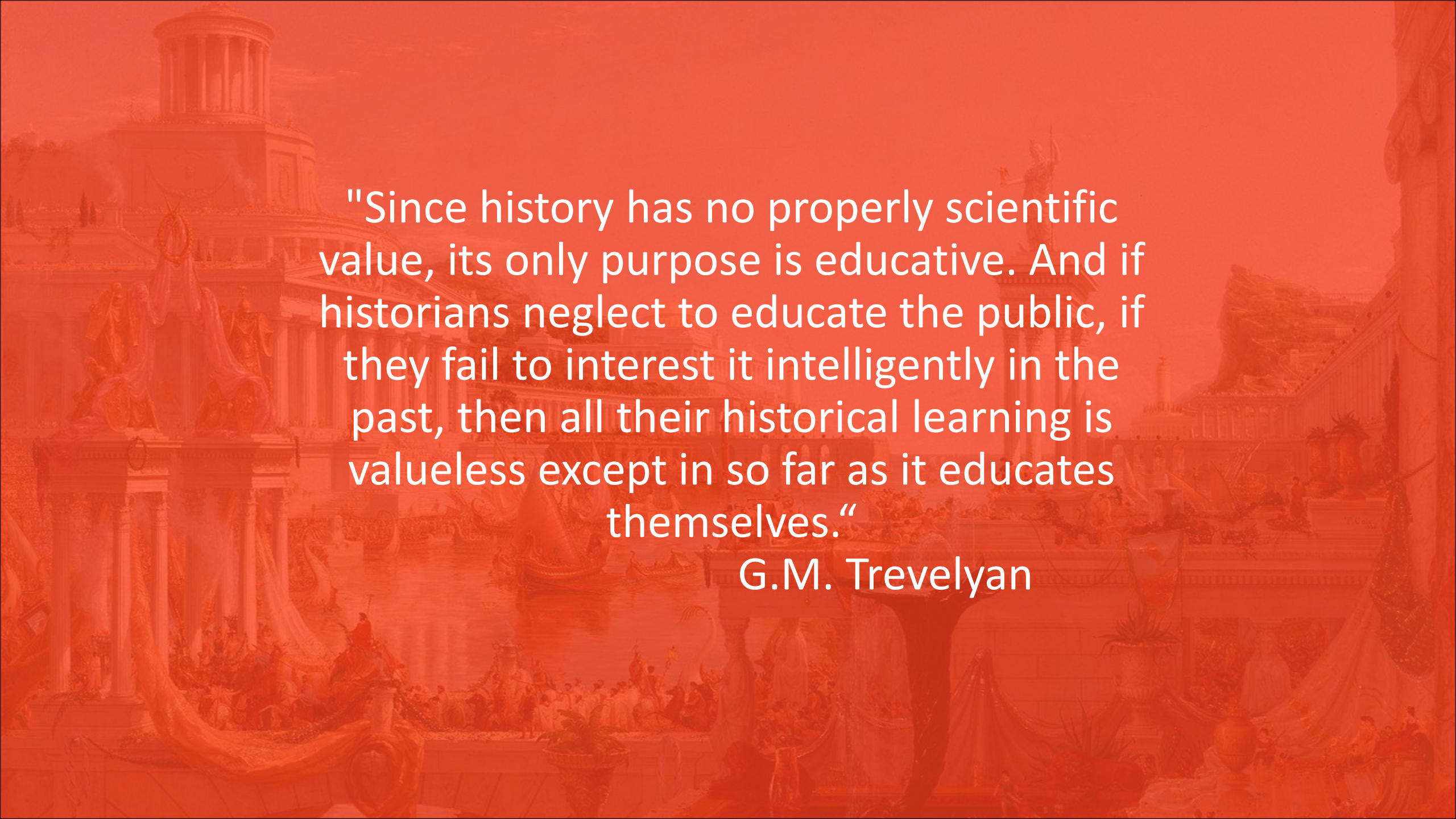


Why Do We Study History?

The background is a classical painting of a grand city, likely Rome, with a harbor. In the foreground, there are several large, ornate structures, possibly altars or monuments, with statues on top. The harbor is filled with various ships, including galleys and smaller boats. In the background, a large domed building, possibly a temple or a government building, is visible. The entire scene is rendered in a warm, reddish-orange color palette.

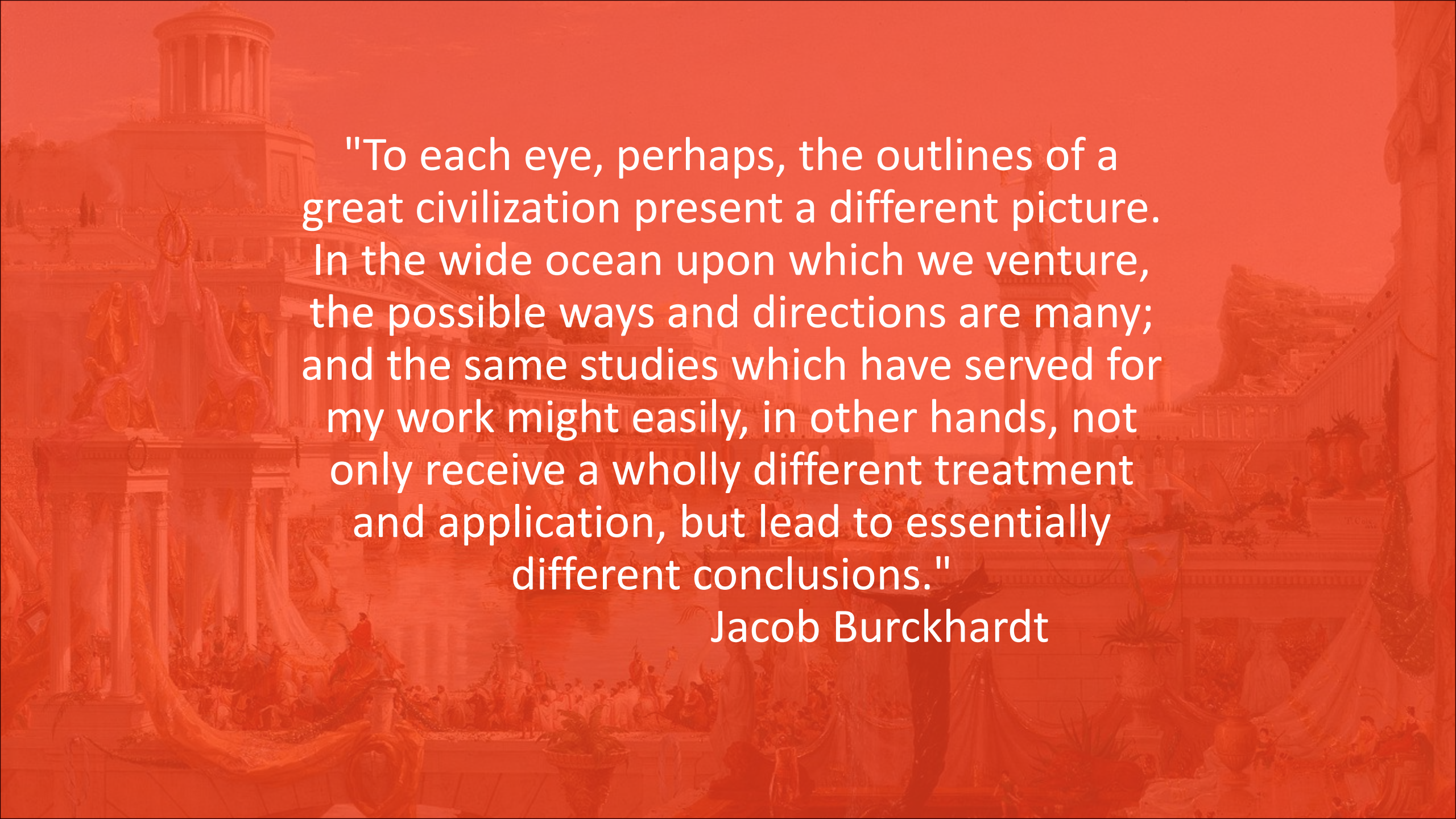
“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free
in a state of civilization, it expects what
never was and what never will be.”

Thomas Jefferson



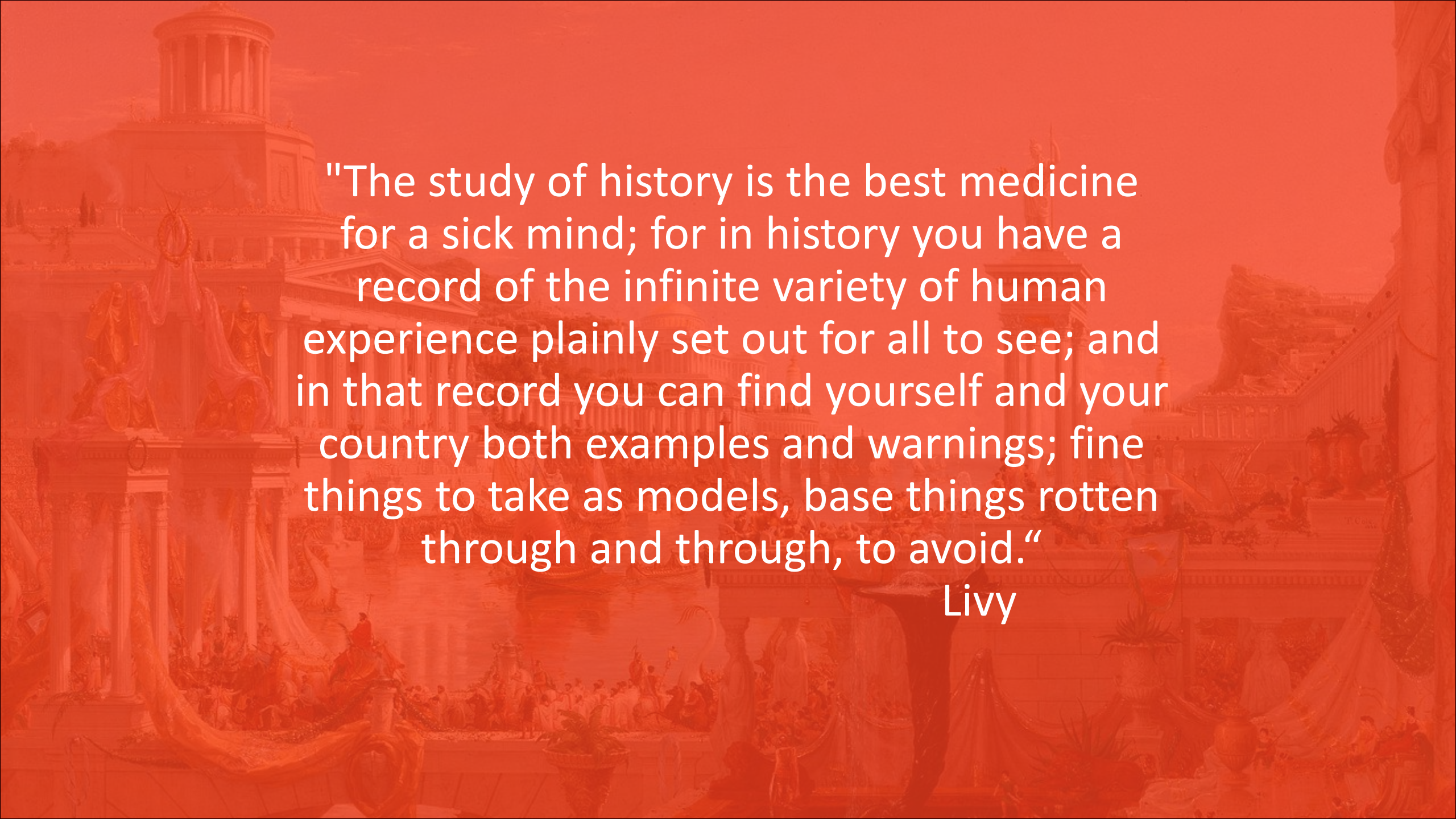
"Since history has no properly scientific value, its only purpose is educative. And if historians neglect to educate the public, if they fail to interest it intelligently in the past, then all their historical learning is valueless except in so far as it educates themselves."

G.M. Trevelyan



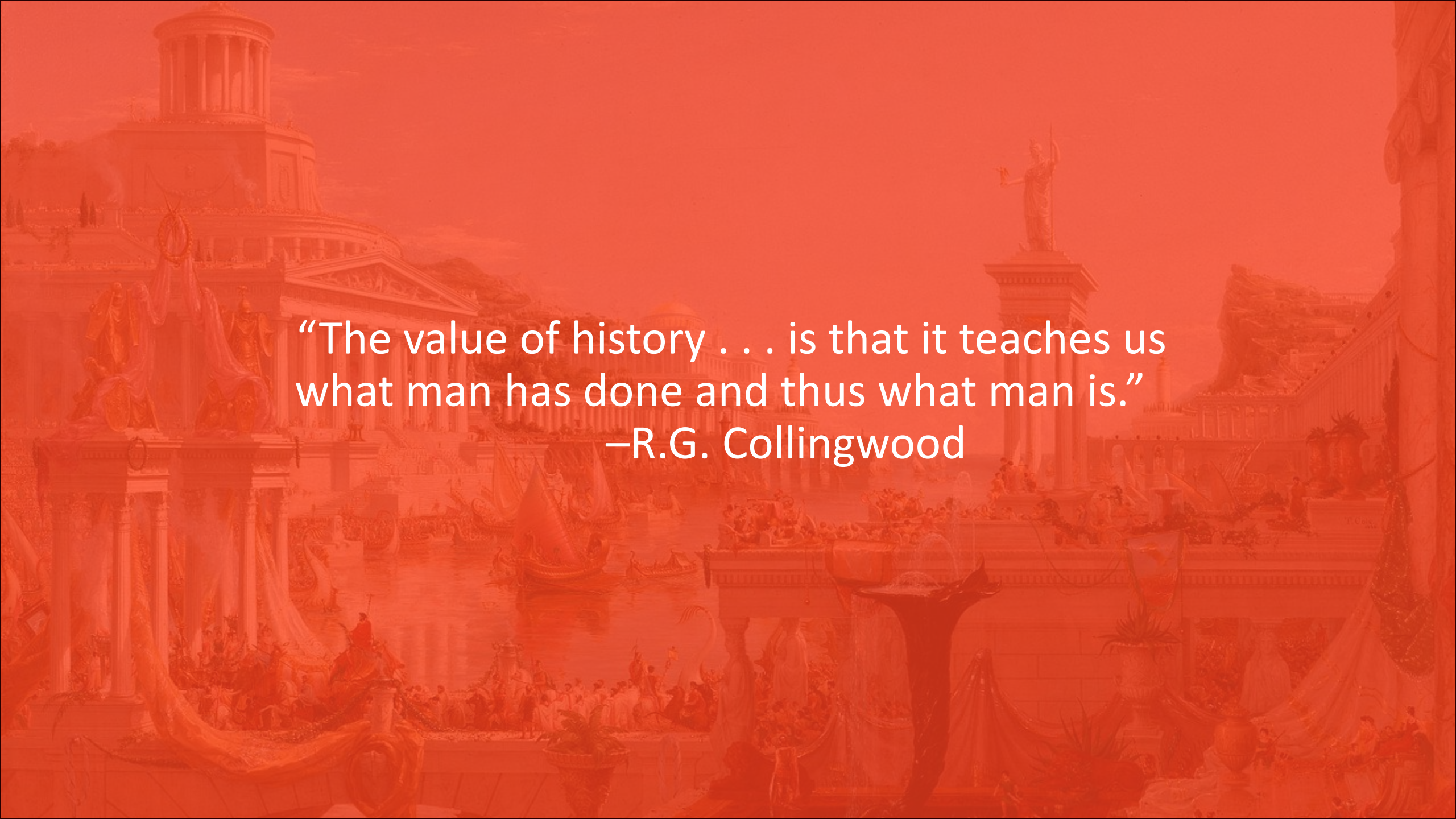
"To each eye, perhaps, the outlines of a great civilization present a different picture. In the wide ocean upon which we venture, the possible ways and directions are many; and the same studies which have served for my work might easily, in other hands, not only receive a wholly different treatment and application, but lead to essentially different conclusions."

Jacob Burckhardt

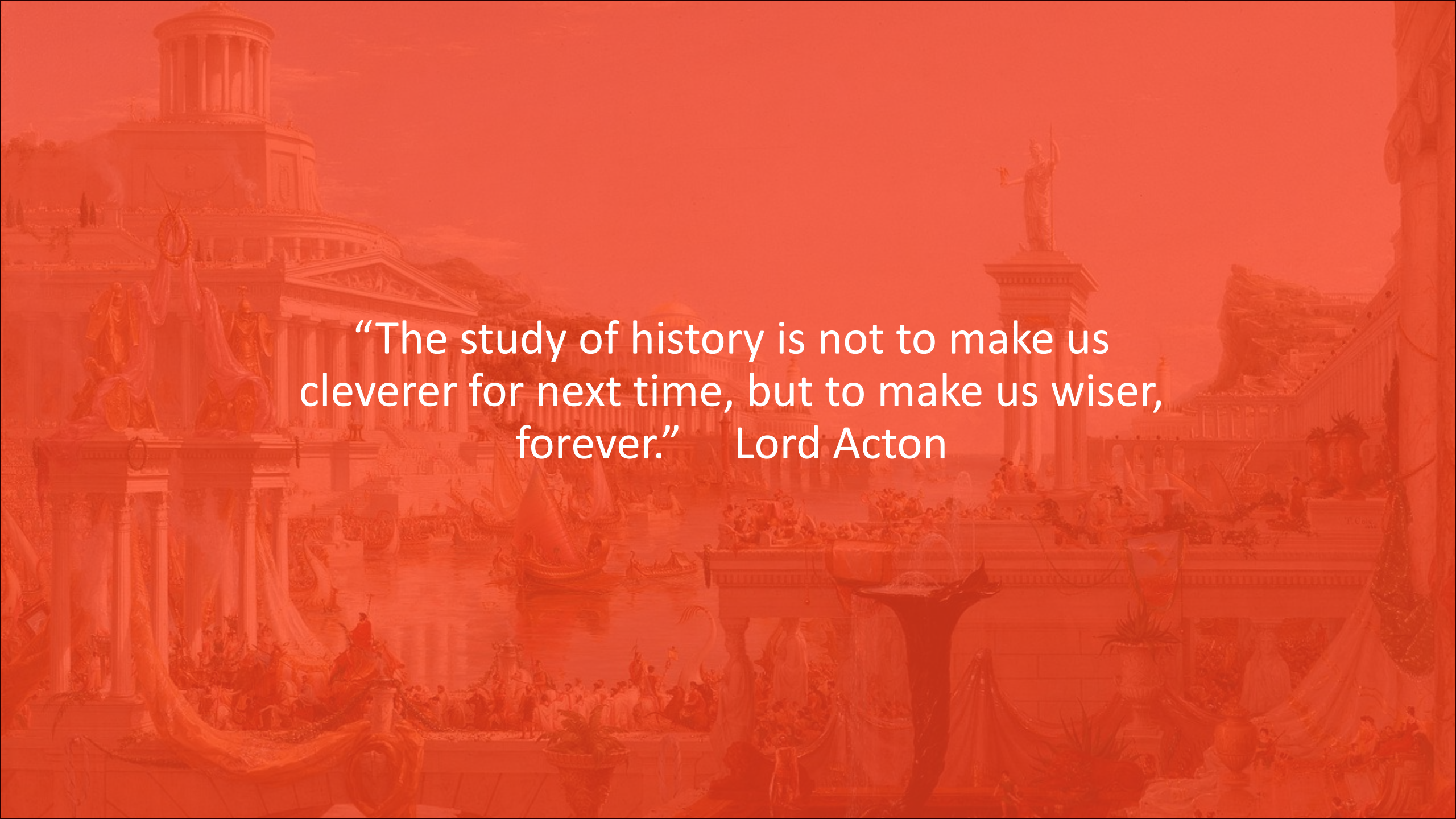


"The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind; for in history you have a record of the infinite variety of human experience plainly set out for all to see; and in that record you can find yourself and your country both examples and warnings; fine things to take as models, base things rotten through and through, to avoid."

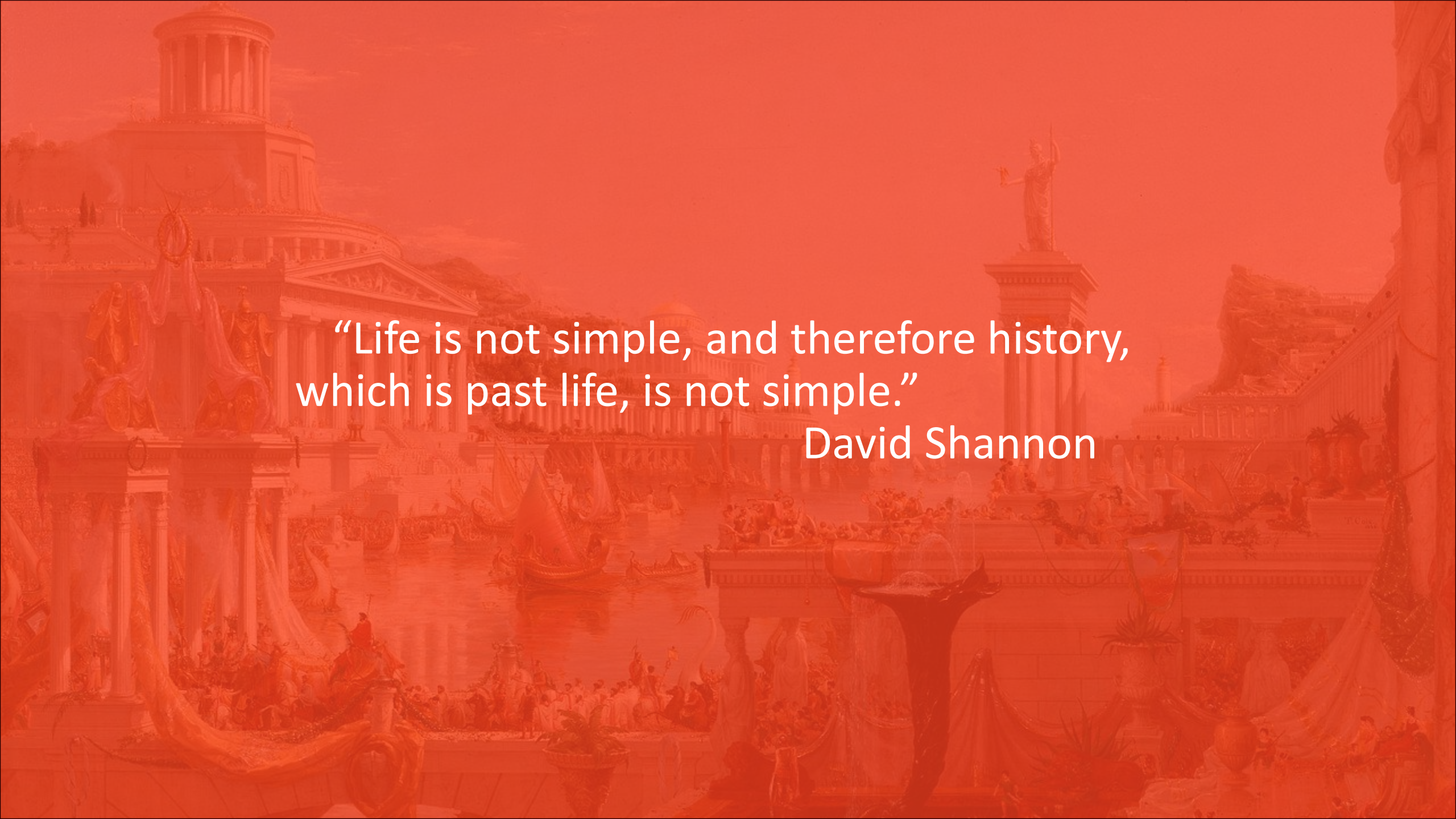
Livy



“The value of history . . . is that it teaches us
what man has done and thus what man is.”
—R.G. Collingwood



“The study of history is not to make us
cleverer for next time, but to make us wiser,
forever.” Lord Acton



“Life is not simple, and therefore history,
which is past life, is not simple.”

David Shannon

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Thank You