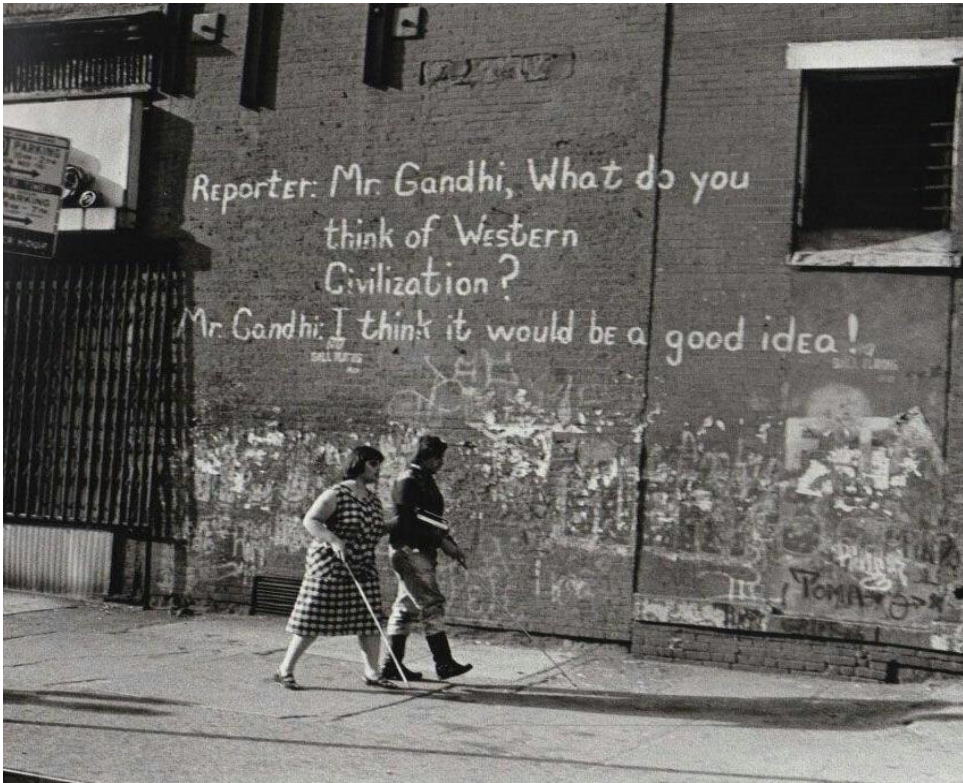


History Matters

Tales and takes over the centuries



EXPLORED, COLONISED, CIVILISED

"Too often the history of Europe is described as a series of interminable wars and quarrels.

"Yet from our perspective today surely what strikes us most is our common experience.

"For instance, the story of how Europeans explored and colonised and – yes, without apology – civilised much of the world is an extraordinary tale of talent, skill and courage."

From a speech by Margaret Thatcher on 20 September 1988 to a meeting of European leaders held in Bruges, Belgium. The full text of the speech can be read at

<https://www.margaretthatcher.org/archive/Bruges>

STRUGGLED, SURVIVED, PROSPERED

“The story of how people from the Caribbean, Africa and South Asia came to Europe in the 1950s and 1960s and how,

“though they met foul words, spit, sticks and stones and sometimes knives on the streets, and

“though they met also genteel, patronising indifference amongst the professional and managerial classes in a wide range of institutions and organisations, and

“though many of the industries and services they came to work in collapsed due to forces of globalisation and neoliberalism, and

“though they had to deal with perennial issues of inter-generational, male-female and intra-religious conflict in circumstances of incredible difficulty,

“they struggled and survived and prospered, and helped to make Europe a better place

“is an extraordinary tale of talent, skill and courage.”

Adapted slightly from a lecture entitled ‘Let Us Begin at the Beginning: some marks to make, some words to tell’, given by Robin Richardson in Bristol on 25 January 2002, and published in *In Praise of Teachers: identity, equality and education*, Trentham Books 2002, pages 67-82.

Also, the original lecture can be read at [Lets Begin at the Beginning](#)

