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Unsettling History
Archiving and Narrating in Historiography

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Whose demand is it?

Opinions vary as to whether interest in history, not only professional historians claim, is on the rise, at least in ‘Western’ countries, that is in North America, Europe, history fairs and historical re-enactments are not uncommon. Many seek active participation in weekend scenarios of historical battles; even more people add their cheers. At the same time, feature films, and in particular those breaks with the seemingly one-sided and include a hefty component of blood, sweat, and tears, such as the portrayal of Alexander the Great or Caesar and, then, the Vietnam War in the United States. But most frequently, the second world wars. In general, their grasp on wars and warfare but also the Holocaust and its many occurrences.

Some historians lament this trend as nothing more than entertainment; audiences simply fall prey to clever stories told by film technocrats. However, this stance understimates the demand for writing and telling history and on TV series distribute their take on history. One of the many examples include the Annual Gettysburg Reenactment or a reenactment of the twin battles of Jena and Auerbach Castle in Bensheim, Pfalz. Various medieval fairs in Germany, such as nightly jousts at Auerbach Castle in Bensheim, Pfalz, the Medieval Christmas Fair in Munich.

1 The many examples include the Annual Gettysburg Reenactment or a reenactment of the twin battles of Jena and Auerbach Castle in Bensheim, Pfalz. Various medieval fairs in Germany, such as nightly jousts at Auerbach Castle in Bensheim, Pfalz.

2 The subject sparked wide debate on panels regarding writing and telling history and on TV series distribute their take on history. One of the many examples include the Annual Gettysburg Reenactment or a reenactment of the twin battles of Jena and Auerbach Castle in Bensheim, Pfalz. Various medieval fairs in Germany, such as nightly jousts at Auerbach Castle in Bensheim, Pfalz.