

Letter from the Editorial Board

We are so excited to be presenting the seventh volume of the *Undergraduate History Journal* at the University of Calgary. The UHJ is a teaching and learning tool that is intended to guide and support our undergraduate students, giving examples of written assignments across the Department of History, which has received a grade of an A or A+. These assignments are not only useful for new students starting their degree right out of high school, but also for individuals re-entering academic life. The UHJ is also a great way to showcase all the amazing work undergraduate students produce every single year and is a celebration of the value of an Arts education in the discipline of History.

We have learned a lot from our first six editions and not only were we able to make some improvements, but we also recognized the importance of having a resource like this made by students, for students. We have continued to receive strong submissions, both in numbers and in quality, and our principal goal remains the same: to highlight and share academic tools and resources within the undergraduate community. With that being said, we are excited to publish the first edition of the UHJ online. Our hope for having the Journal online is to make it more accessible to all students, not just to those studying history, and to showcase the outstanding work of U of C students to a broader audience.

We would like to thank our Faculty Advisor Dr. Glenn Wilkinson for answering our every question, supporting our decision-making, continuing to advocate for the Journal, and giving us advice for next steps to improve the Journal. We would also like to thank all the students who submitted their work to us this year. We know that it is never easy to put your work up for critique, but we appreciate everyone taking the time to dig through their assignments and contributing to something we really care about. These recent years have been hard for everyone, and the continued growth in the quality and quantity of submissions, despite the circumstances, has been exciting to see and highlights the resilience of the University's student body. We always encourage students to submit their work, so if you are interested, look out for our emails for the next edition of the Journal for the 2026-2027 school year.

The pursuit and study of history is a worthwhile endeavour, even if you are not currently pursuing history as a focus, we encourage you to try some courses! The study of history has always been fundamental to the creation of well-rounded educated people and helps to develop a mature mind; it fosters empathy — something we need now more than ever. As this Journal demonstrates skills like critical thinking, writing, communication, and research, are imperative not only as undergraduate students, but as active members within the community.

We hope you enjoy reading the following selection of excellent papers and use this tool to guide you through your academic experiences.