

The classics are that which we look up to, as the great standard which we can hardly reach, but which take as an example. Well, now in that sense, the word classic means, it is not used so much today, but particularly up to 25 years ago, and previous to that for the previous six or seven centuries, it was the central thing in education, to study the classics. To learn the greatest thinking that the world had seen, the thinking of the Greeks and the Romans, to learn of life as it occurred in the classical period. Now the ancient hist. includes the classical period, and ~~also~~ also everything that preceded it. So while there is no classical languages but Greek and Latin, the ancient hist. includes the period before the classical period when their civilizations were the dominant ~~the~~ civilizations in the world.

Now ancient hist. came to an end with the fall of the ~~Roman~~ Roman Empire. And you cannot say exactly when the fall of the Roman Empire occurred, and so you cannot say exactly when ancient history ends. Most historical changes are not a sudden change, but they are more or less gradual with certain sharp events which make people see what is happening. So usually there are several such events, rather than one. It is hard to tell exactly when ancient hist. ends, but there is the pretty general agreement as to what is included in ancient hist. ~~And~~ Ancient hist. is the hist. of the Greco-Romans ~~and~~ ~~what~~ civilization, and what they preceded it. Now the Greco-Roman civilization didn't come to a sudden end, it came to a gradual end with ~~a~~ certain sudden sharp events, and there are people who have studied the downfall of the Roman Empire and tried to explain it as due to various things, some have said that Christianity started the downfall. Others have said the growing luxury ~~and~~ and the decadence of the people ~~and~~ caused it. There are many things which people have said have been the cause and all of them may have played a part, but no one of them, played the major role. The major role in the downfall of the Roman civilization was the incoming of the Germanic tribes. That was the major thing that ~~started~~ started it. It was the coming of the great numbers of people from the north, coming a pressing against the