



# BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI- 620024,  
TAMIL NADU, INDIA

## Programme: M.A. History

**Course Title : Historiography**

**Course Code : CC06**


### Unit-IV


### Marc Bloch


**Dr. Y. Srinivasa Rao**


**Associate Professor**


**Department of History**

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- he belongs to historical family-his father was classical historian taught at Lyon and Paris Universities
  - he was introduced to demography and religious studies
  - His thesis on serfs was published in 1920
  - It dealt with emancipation of serfs- it shows the early formation of bloc with the liberty
  - In the second world war, his views on history are altered

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- As intellectual he was alien in the war where differences were settled through bullets but not through words
  - Peasants, factory workers, pretty bourgeoisie, shopkeepers had no connection with war
  - He wrote *Strange Defeat* which describes his adjustment with life
  - He returned to his bookish world with great respect to ordinary men and disdain to generals, politicians and bureaucrats
  - For next 20 years he focused on the peasants and ignored the individual history

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- Divorcing away from his predecessors, he focussed on agrarian routine, traditions, technological change, field arrangement variations, regional agrarian techniques, production and collective peasant mentalities, meaning of liberty for various social and legal segments of agrarian France
  - To understand his historical methods, methodology and objectives- French Rural Society, Feudal Society are to be read
  - His articles are published in two volumes
  - Strange Defeat, Historians Craft, De guerre kept during the World War I were important works

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- He ignored the histories of aristocratic feudal lords
  - He turned his back on dynastic, military, political biographical histories believing that it only scratched the surface of reality
  - To capture what Febvre called 'total history' he rejected narrow historical methodologies and dustbin
  - suggested borrowing of methodologies from social sciences, linguistics, comparative literature, folklore, geography, agronomy for making both horizontal and vertical comparisons society

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- He also argued that the cleanest and most cogent lesson to be drawn from comparative history, it is time to break outmoded historiographical compartmentalisation
  - Then only social realities could be measured and assessed
  - Researchers should find their own of geographical framework fixed not from outside but from within