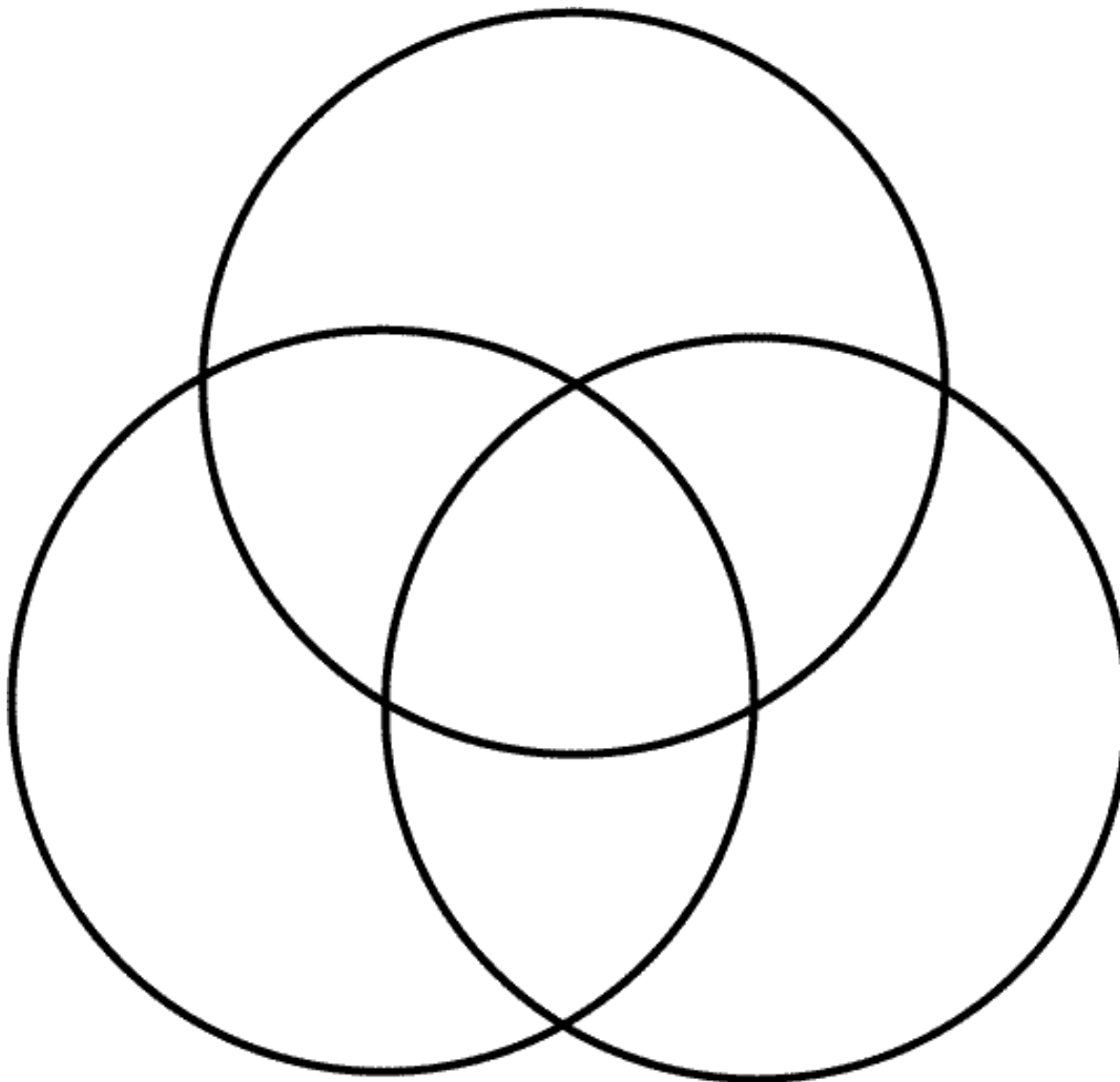


FIRST HISTORIANS VENN DIAGRAM – *Herodotus, Thucydides, and Sima Qian* are all credited as being among the first to seriously attempt to record history. Use this diagram to chart how they were alike, and how they were different.



Herodotus: The “Father” of western history • Greek • Wrote the first history book as we know it today (“The Histories”) • Coined the word “History” (from the Greek word historia, meaning “inquiries”) • Traveled the Near East to ask questions for his book • Wrote about times long past, before he was born • wrote not just about wars, but also social/cultural things too • Drawbacks: wrote about things long past, so no firsthand accounts • tended to embellish • credited much to the gods

Thucydides: First “scientific” historian • wrote about wars he actually served in (was an Athenian general) • wrote “History of the Peloponnesian War” • thorough and objective • more interested in truth than telling a good story • put little emphasis on the gods or entertainment Drawbacks: too much emphasis on politics and war at the expense of culture

Sima Qian: Chinese scribe • wrote “Shiji” (History Record) • Shiji covered more than 2,000 years • first Chinese historian • very easy writing style, full of humor and therefore accessible to a wider audience • because many could read his work, it helped with the democratization of learning in China • emphasized the human element of history, rather than supernatural causes (gods, etc.)