

From: **LORD SUDELEY** FSA

The Teaching of English History

Dear Sir,

Next month Andrew Rosindell MP is to introduce a debate in the House of Commons on the Teaching of History in Schools. At the moment much of such teaching is confined to disconnected projects of one sort or another, e.g. 'Shoes under the Tudors', 'Walking Sticks in the Stuart Period' or whatever, when what is needed is a proper grounding in English Constitutional History, so that people may know what their rights and liberties are and how painfully they were fought for over the centuries. Standard textbooks might be *The Students' Hume* (an abridgement of his *History of England*) and Maitland's *Constitutional History of England*.

Even in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia the teaching of the Constitution has been compulsory in schools and universities. If the same had happened in England, it would have been less easy for the government to vandalize our constitution. In the House of Lords the hereditary peers have been evicted when their presence is justified by the 18th century theory of the Mixed Constitution. And the eviction of the Judges, who should remain in the House of Lords to assist in the drafting of legislation, has been wrongly justified by the 18th century theory of the separation of the powers of the legislature, executive and judicature - which has never fully applied in England. Till recently the Lord Chancellor has always exercised all three powers; and ministers who are the executive have always sat in both chambers of parliament which are the legislature.

Yours sincerely

Lord Sudeley