

History

Nothing is easier than to demonstrate that whatever happened had to happen.

It is also a very satisfying exercise because it seems to confirm that all is always for the best, which cheers the common man and also suits his betters. However, the trouble with the concept of historical inevitability is that it works only retrospectively, i.e., for the writers of history, not for its makers.

**Richard Pipes,
*Russia Under the Old Regime***