



LGBT+ IN HISTORY

June is famously known as Pride Month, and even though much can be said about the different aspects of the community as well as the opinions of today, I decided to take a closer look at what history has to say for itself on this subject.



<https://www.jpost.com/international/white-house-website-adds-gender-neutral-pronouns-as-biden-meets-lgbt-demands-656266>

LGBT+ history isn't focused on much in schools therefore, let us take a look back at our past. Despite what it may seem, LGBT+ culture and the existence of third gender, have been present in almost all cultures around the world in different forms. Here are some examples...

In Africa, around Lesotho, it has been reported that women often engaged in long term relationships. Furthermore, it has been recorded that male Azande warriors, in the northern Congo area, would take on boy-wives, aged between 12 and 20, who would help with housework and chores as well as have intercourse with their older husbands.

In Egypt, multiple surviving ostraca's (pot shells) have been found depicting homosexual sex. It is also believed that Pharaoh Pepi II was gay and that his life served as a basis for the story of *King Neferkare and General Sasenet*, a

story about a king's affair with his general. In the Siwa Oasis, the marriage of a boy was greatly celebrated. In ancient times, unmarried man and boys in that region would work together, away from access to women. The money paid for boys would sometimes be 15 times that of a woman. In the 1940's British novelist Robin Maugham wrote that the Siwan men "will kill each other for boy. Never for a woman".

In pre-colonial North America, many tribes and nations had respected homosexual, bisexual, and gender-nonconforming individuals, some even having special spiritual roles that have been preserved and can be still observed today.

Ancient Assyria has the earliest known law condemning male to male intercourse as the 1075 BC Middle Assyrian Law Codes state "If a man has intercourse with his brother-in-arms, they shall turn him into a eunuch". However, this law was intended for the military, and outside of it, homosexuality could have been practiced freely as long as it was done so between consenting adults.



In Ancient China, it is believed that almost every emperor of the Han Dynasty had one or more male partners. Same sex partners have also been popular during the Song, Ming and Qing dynasties. Homosexuality itself has been present in multiple famous pieces of Chinese Literature.

Some of the best known examples of same sex relationships come from Ancient Greece, where an older man would take on a younger man as lover before or during marriage. These relationships once again would be favored more of those with women. One of the most known relationships is that of Alexander the Great and his general Hephaestion.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_history#/media/File:Kiss_Briseis_Painter_Louvre_G278_full.jpg

In Ancient Israel the Law of Moses in the Torah forbids men from laying with men in Leviticus 18 and later in In Deuteronomy 22:5, cross-dressing is condemned as "abominable".

So what happened? Most of the Ancient World saw nothing wrong with homosexuality. Well, we would have to go back to the Law of Moses. Parts of the Torah, specifically the first five books of Moses are part of the Old Testament. With the spread of Christianity, old customs were changed and stricter laws applied to same sex relationships. Even today, parts of the world which began with the highest tolerance may now punish homosexual acts with a death sentence or imprisonment.

It is important to spread awareness of our history to create a more tolerant and loving world community where no one will have to hide and be afraid to be who they are.