

No, we shouldn't forget the past	Yes, we should forget the past
Memory is a power, an amazing capacity to learn from our mistakes (individually or as a society)	→ There are useless, unimportant events we can forget → it is a limited capacity ↙
True, some events are "forgettable"; that's why we have photos, books.	→ But can you forget whatever you want? Is it a matter of choice? ↙
It's not easy if it has an impact on us or for historical events. But if it is unimportant, it can be forgotten (for example, what you ate last week!)	
	↙ We should forgive, to forget horrible events and live in good conditions. We should live with the memory, but not think of them all the time.
You must remember genocides, for example, so as not to make the same mistakes in the future.	→ But it can be a real burden on our shoulders, and thus we cannot move forward; we are stuck in the past / hunted by the past and by nostalgia.
Our past makes our identity. Our choices make / define the person we are. (Sartre)	→ But if you remember all your choices, you may have regrets. Remorse can poison your identity.
	You can be blasé if you remember all your past. There's happiness in seeing new things, in travelling (no routine).
Culture builds the future.	→ If we write books, they replace our memory. They allow us not to carry the burden. Plus, culture encourages you to live like the others, to emulate, not to invent and create. If you forget, you write a new page. ↙
Books can be burned, knowledge can disappear. Culture is part of us.	→ Culture can be like a prison; you can feel imprisoned / stifled by past culture. ↙
Knowing our culture allows us to criticize it; it encourages critical thinking and thus prevents manipulation.	
	↙ Pascal: distraction is a way to forget our troubles, our human condition, to shut off painful thoughts. Being busy prevents us from thinking about hurtful things.

<p>Pascal: But men are only "dwarves on a giant's shoulder". What we do know is merely the product of countless generations' thoughts, ideas, findings, etc, that we 'inherited' and take advantage of. Humans <u>have</u> to remember to make progress (cf science).</p>	
	<p>↙ Marcus Aurelius: if we live in the present, the past doesn't matter. We must only be aware of the present.</p>
<p>But the past has an impact on the present, plus being aware of it helps you to foresee the future.</p>	<p>→ In the present, you don't think about the past. ↙</p>
<p>In that case, you can't make projects, there is no long-term thinking.</p>	
<p>Memory loss, amnesia is a nightmarish disease.</p>	<p>→ A nightmare, yes; but only if you are aware of it, not if you don't realize your condition. ↙</p>
<p>In that case, you live like an animal, without conscience.</p>	<p>→ Nietzsche: it is a good, happy way of life, simple and careless. ↙</p>
<p>Rousseau: memory can bring happiness too.</p>	<p>↙ Thinking of good memories brings sadness because you can't experience that situation again, and thus can't help regretting when you compare with the present.</p>
<p>It can be an encouragement to try and live it again.</p>	<p>→ Consciously and unconsciously, we try to forget. Suppression: our minds tend to suppress trauma.</p>
	<p>↙ Freud: humans use alcohol and drugs because they <u>need</u> to forget, but it is only short-lived.</p>
<p>Oblivion is bad, it can hurt. It is worse than remembrance. It depends on the ability of each individual to deal with it. Nietzsche: "What doesn't kill us makes us stronger."</p>	