

In 1981, not long before church historian Leonard Arrington's release, Boyd Packer went to BYU and seemed to kick off what would be the church's approach in coming decades. He gave his talk to the BYU faculty and CES teachers entitled "The Mantle is Far Greater Than The Intellect." It spells out pretty explicitly that the expectation is for them to censor and whitewash the history.

Full text here:

<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2055&context=byusq>

Select quotes from Packer's address:

"Some things that are true are not very useful."

"The writer or the teacher who has an exaggerated loyalty to the theory that everything must be told is laying a foundation for his own judgment...."

"Teaching some things that are true, prematurely or at the wrong time, can invite sorrow and heartbreak instead of the joy intended to accompany learning.... "

"In an effort to be objective, impartial, and scholarly, a writer or a teacher may unwittingly be giving equal time to the adversary...."

...We are entrusting you to represent the Lord and the First Presidency to your students, not the views of the detractors of the Church."

"That historian or scholar who delights in pointing out the weaknesses and frailties of present or past leaders destroys faith... will not be among the faithful in the eternities..."

"Church history can be so interesting and so inspiring as to be a very powerful tool indeed for building faith. If not properly written or properly taught, it may be a faith destroyer."

"There is a temptation for the writer or the teacher of Church history to want to tell everything, whether it is worthy or faith promoting or not."