



Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind

By Yuval Noah Harari

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Human history has been shaped by three major revolutions: the Cognitive Revolution (70,000 years ago), the Agricultural Revolution (10,000 years ago), and the Scientific Revolution (500 years ago). These revolutions have empowered humans to do something no other form of life has done, which is to create and connect around ideas that do not physically exist (think religion, capitalism, and politics). These shared “myths” have enabled humans to take over the globe and have put humankind on the verge of overcoming the forces of natural selection.

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Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind By Yuval Noah Harari Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month for February 2015: Yuval Noah Harari has some questions. Among the biggest: *How did Homo sapiens (or Homo sapiens sapiens, if you're feeling especially wise today) evolve from an unexceptional savannah-dwelling primate to become the dominant force on the planet, emerging as the lone survivor out of six distinct, competing hominid species?* He also has some answers, and they're not what you'd expect. Tackling evolutionary concepts from a historian's perspective, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, describes human development through a framework of three not-necessarily-orthodox "Revolutions": the Cognitive, the Agricultural, and the Scientific. His ideas are interesting and often amusing: *Why have humans managed to build astonishingly large populations when other primate groups top out at 150 individuals?* Because our talent for gossip allows us to build networks in societies too large for personal relationships between everyone, and our universally accepted "imagined realities"—such as money, religion, and Limited Liability Corporations—keep us in line. *Who cultivated whom, humans or wheat?* Wheat. Though the concepts are unusual and sometimes heavy (as is the book, literally) Harari's deft prose and wry, subversive humor make quick work of material prone to academic tedium. He's written a book of popular nonfiction (it was a bestseller overseas, no doubt in part because his conclusions draw controversy) landing somewhere in the middle of a Venn diagram of genetics, sociology, and history. Throughout, Harari returns frequently to another question: *Does all this progress make us happier, our lives easier?* The answer might disappoint you. --Jon Foro

Review

"[I]nteresting and provocative...It gives you a sense of perspective on how briefly we've been on this earth, how short things like agriculture and science have been around, and why it makes sense for us to not take them for granted." (**President Barack Obama**)

"I would recommend this book to anyone interested in a fun, engaging look at early human history...you'll have a hard time putting it down." (**Bill Gates**)

"Thank God someone finally wrote [this] exact book." (**Sebastian Junger**)

"*Sapiens* tackles the biggest questions of history and of the modern world, and it is written in unforgettably vivid language." (Jared Diamond, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, *Collapse*, and *The World until Yesterday*)

"*Sapiens* takes readers on a sweeping tour of the history of our species.... Harari's formidable intellect sheds light on the biggest breakthroughs in the human story...important reading for serious-minded, self-reflective sapiens." (*Washington Post*)

"*Sapiens* is learned, thought-provoking and crisply written.... Fascinating." (*Wall Street Journal*)

"In *Sapiens*, Harari delves deep into our history as a species to help us understand who we are and what made us this way. An engrossing read." (Dan Ariely, *New York Times* Bestselling author of *Predictably Irrational*, *The Upside of Irrationality*, and *The Honest Truth About Dishonesty*)

“Yuval Noah Harari’s celebrated *Sapiens* does for human evolution what Stephen Hawking’s *A Brief History of Time* did for physics.... He does a superb job of outlining our slow emergence and eventual domination of the planet.” (*Forbes*)

“It is one of the best accounts by a Homo sapiens of the unlikely story of our violent, accomplished species.... It is one hell of a story. And it has seldom been told better.... Compulsively readable and impossibly learned.” (Michael Gerson, *Washington Post*)

“This was the most surprising and thought-provoking book I read this year.” (Atlantic.com)

“Yuval Noah Harari’s full-throated review of our species may have been blurbed by Jared Diamond, but Harari’s conclusions are at once balder and less tendentious than that of his famous colleague.” (*New York* magazine)

“This title is one of the exceptional works of nonfiction that is both highly intellectual and compulsively readable... a fascinating, hearty read.” (Library Journal (**starred review**))

“An encyclopedic approach from a well-versed scholar who is concise but eloquent, both skeptical and opinionated, and open enough to entertain competing points of view.... The great debates of history aired out with satisfying vigor.” (*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review))

“Writing with wit and verve, Harari... attempts to explain how Homo sapiens came to be the dominant species on Earth as well as the sole representative of the human genus.... Provocative and entertaining.” (*Publishers Weekly*)

“The most idea-packed work of non-fiction I’ve read in years.” (Dick Meyer, www.abccactionnews.com)

“In this sweeping look at the history of humans, Harari offers readers the chance to reconsider, well, everything, from a look at why Homo sapiens endured to a compelling discussion of how society organizes itself through fictions.” (*Booklist* Best Books of the Year)

“It’s not often that a book offers readers the possibility to reconsider, well, everything. But that’s what Harari does in this sweeping look at the history of humans.... Readers of every stripe should put this at the top of their reading lists. Thinking has never been so enjoyable.” (*Booklist* (starred review))

“The sort of book that sweeps the cobwebs out of your brain.... Harari... is an intellectual acrobat whose logical leaps will have you gasping with admiration.” (John Carey, *Sunday Times* (London))

“Harari’s account of how we conquered the Earth astonishes with its scope and imagination.... One of those rare books that lives up to the publisher’s blurb... brilliantly clear, witty and erudite.” (Ben Shepard, the *Observer* (London))

“An absorbing, provocative history of civilization... packed with heretical thinking and surprising facts. This riveting, myth-busting book cannot be summarised... you will simply have to read it.” (John Gray, *Financial Times* (London))

“Full of... high-perspective, shocking and wondrous stories, as well as strange theories and startling insights.” (Bryan Appleyard, *Sunday Times*)

“Not only is Harari eloquent and humane, he is often wonderfully, mordantly funny” (The *Independent* (London))

“Engaging and informative.... Extremely interesting.” (Guardian (London))

“Harari can write...really, really write, with wit, clarity, elegance, and a wonderful eye for metaphor.” (The *Times* (Ireland))

From the Back Cover

One hundred thousand years ago, at least six human species inhabited the earth. Today there is just one. Us. *Homo sapiens*. How did our species succeed in the battle for dominance? Why did our foraging ancestors come together to create cities and kingdoms? How did we come to believe in gods, nations, and human rights; to trust money, books, and laws; and to be enslaved by bureaucracy, timetables, and consumerism? And what will our world be like in the millennia to come?

In *Sapiens*, Professor Yuval Noah Harari spans the whole of human history, from the very first humans to walk the earth to the radical—and sometimes devastating—breakthroughs of the Cognitive, Agricultural, and Scientific Revolutions. Drawing on insights from biology, anthropology, paleontology, and economics, and incorporating full-color illustrations throughout the text, he explores how the currents of history have shaped our human societies, the animals and plants around us, and even our personalities. Have we become happier as history has unfolded? Can we ever free our behavior from the legacy of our ancestors? And what, if anything, can we do to influence the course of the centuries to come?

Bold, wide-ranging, and provocative, *Sapiens* integrates history and science to challenge everything we thought we knew about being human: our thoughts, our actions, our heritage...and our future.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Betty Sanchez:

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to place every word into pleasure arrangement in writing *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into fresh stage of crucial contemplating.

Jeremy Hutchings:

The book untitled *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the woman idea with easy way. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was authored by famous author. The author provides you in the new time of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to

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Robert Araiza:

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Larry Valadez:

Many people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a book. They are directly felt this when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the book Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind to make your personal reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading ability is developing when you just like reading. Try to choose straightforward book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the impression about book and looking at especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to open up a book and learn it. Beside that the reserve Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind can to be your friend when you're really feel alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of this time.

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