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Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind

By Yuval Noah Harari



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Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind By Yuval Noah Harari

New York Times Bestseller

A Summer Reading Pick for President Barack Obama, Bill Gates, and Mark Zuckerberg

From a renowned historian comes a groundbreaking narrative of humanity's creation and evolution—a #1 international bestseller—that explores the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be “human.”

One hundred thousand years ago, at least six different species of humans inhabited Earth. Yet today there is only one—homo sapiens. What happened to the others? And what may happen to us?

Most books about the history of humanity pursue either a historical or a biological approach, but Dr. Yuval Noah Harari breaks the mold with this highly original book that begins about 70,000 years ago with the appearance of modern cognition. From examining the role evolving humans have played in the global ecosystem to charting the rise of empires, *Sapiens* integrates history and science to reconsider accepted narratives, connect past developments with contemporary concerns, and examine specific events within the context of larger ideas.

Dr. Harari also compels us to look ahead, because over the last few decades humans have begun to bend laws of natural selection that have governed life for the past four billion years. We are acquiring the ability to design not only the world around us, but also ourselves. Where is this leading us, and what do we want to become?

Featuring 27 photographs, 6 maps, and 25 illustrations/diagrams, this provocative and insightful work is sure to spark debate and is essential reading for aficionados of Jared Diamond, James Gleick, Matt Ridley, Robert Wright, and Sharon Moalem.



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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:

Earl Goodman:

The book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Why must we leave the best thing like a book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*? Wide variety you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim this book can give many info for us. It is absolutely appropriate. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, it is possible to give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can look the enormous world by start and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

Frank Barcomb:

Do you have something that you prefer such as book? The reserve lovers usually prefer to pick book like comic, quick story and the biggest one is novel. Now, why not hoping *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* that give your pleasure preference will be satisfied by means of reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the way for people to know world better then how they react towards the world. It can't be said constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky person but for all of you who wants

to become success person. So , for all you who want to start looking at as your good habit, you can pick Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind become your starter.

Jose Gould:

The book untitled Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy technique. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read that. The book was compiled by famous author. The author brings you in the new time of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice examine.

Joan Toon:

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