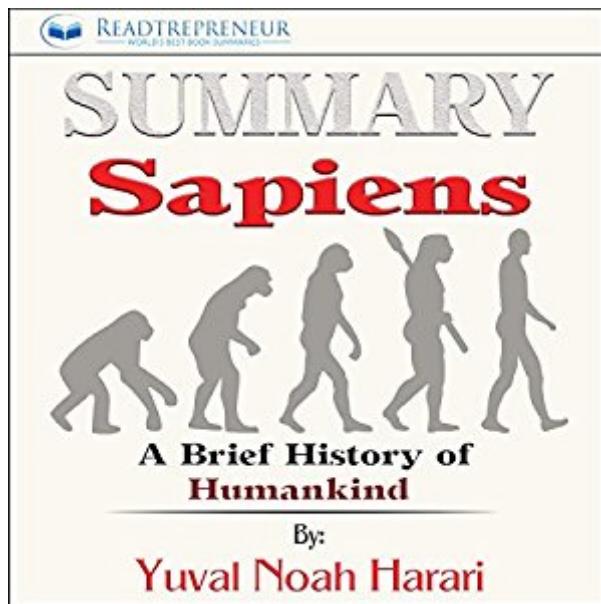


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Summary: Sapiens: A Brief History Of Humankind



Synopsis

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari | Book Summary | Readtrepreneur

Disclaimer: This is NOT the original book. How did we make it this far? We, Homo sapiens rule the world because we are the only animal that believe in the power of imagination. Dr Yuval Noah Harari's book Sapiens is a masterpiece that is truly unique on its own. While other books focus on either the historical or biological part of being human, Sapiens focuses on the three great revolutions of human history: cognitive, agricultural, and scientific. (Note: This summary is wholly written and published by readtrepreneur.com. It is not affiliated with the original author in any way.) "There's no one thing that's true. It's all true" (Yuval Noah Harari) Dr Harari is now advising us to think ahead because things are going to change. Humans have been proven to revolutionize not only our world around us but ourselves, too. We've grown, improved, and transformed. And this transformation will not stop. Where will this take us? Where will we land, and what are we becoming? Enrich your evolutionary brain with this book of wisdom and knowledge. Realize how much more you are than what you currently think of yourself. You'll love this book. You are, after all, a human.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author of this summary obviously either did not understand the text or completely misunderstood it. Take for example this ludicrous statement from the book " Today, there are 7 billion Sapiens all around the planet, while animals do not even come close to this number".(On

page 43). You will be better off if you skip the summary and its numerous inaccurate statements and read the book itself.

I realized after ordering this that it was just a summary. However, besides reading like a Reader's Digest condensed version of the book, it is very poorly written by someone who does not seem to have a good grasp of English language or grammar. Very disappointing.

I felt like I was reading a not very well done high school freshman's term paper....

Didn't mean to order this summary.

Too short for a book. This could have been an article.

Author Harari's book is the macro-history (big, and long-term historical events) of our development from first being 'an animal with no significance' to 'the animal that became a God.' Harari contends our history can generally be grouped into three revolutions - the Cognitive Revolution, the Agricultural Revolution, and the Scientific Revolution. He also imagines history with a different turnout of events. The Cognitive Revolution took place 70,000 years ago when humans gained the ability to speak and create myths, supported by the development of larger-than-normal brains in humans. They communicated to others and collaborated in tasks - surpassing animals and other human species. Earth began about 13.5 billion years ago during the Big Bang. The Agricultural Revolution occurred 10,000 years ago when people learned how to farm lands and domesticate animals. This allowed them to leave their nomadic and hunter-gathering ways in favor of semi-permanent to permanent shelters - eventually growing into cities and towns. Humans first evolved in Africa 2.5 million years ago from the 'Southern Ape.' About 2 million years ago, early humans left Africa and traveled to Europe and Asia. Humans have large brains compared to their body size - using 25% of the body's entire energy supply, vs. apes needing only 8%. Our ability to work/walk upright also worked to our advantage - freeing our hands to eg. signal and produce/use tools. Humans are born helpless - leading to humans becoming social creatures who take care of each other. The domestication of fire (800,000 - 300,000 years ago) and cooking food allowed a smaller intestinal tract (allowing the brain to grow bigger) and eliminating parasites. It is unknown whether homo sapiens bred with Neanderthals or killed them off - possibly both. The Scientific Revolution began 500 years ago and still continues. Capitalism (a product of the agricultural

revolution) developed a relentless pursuit of profit, spurring scientific research that provides profitable applications. The Sumerians invented writing between 3,500 - 3,000 B.C. This changed our thought processes and enabled us to keep records. These first documents detailed things like property ownership, tax payments and debt accumulation. Writing consumed a lot of time and there were only a few who could read. People used to barter good, which presented problems - traders had to constantly adjust exchange rates, items being traded were not always wanted, and many goods were hard to transport. The first kinds of money were cowry shells, barley, and metallic coins. Counterfeiting money resulted in severe punishments. Nowadays, only 10% of money exists in physical form, 90% electronic form.

This book is like discovering, for the first time, that $1 + 1 = 2$. Once you read it you will wonder to yourself, "Why didn't I ever realize this before"? Harari has managed to strip away the veils and reveal what is beneath them. We all know, for example, that \$1 is worth 100 cents. Those who are interested can find out what it is worth -- today -- in Euros or Pounds Sterling. What most of us never consider is why it is worth anything at all. No, it is not because it is backed by gold, silver, or any other precious metal. After all, what makes them worth anything? Harari simply points out that we accept the value of the dollar (or any other currency) for no other reason than other people also accept that value. Once faith in a currency is lost, and your local grocer is not willing to give you a can of beans for even \$1000, then it will have absolutely no value. Yes, this is obvious -- but it took Harari to point it out, just as he revealed many other things in our history which should be just as obvious but are not. Harari is a professor of History at a top university, but don't hold that against him. His writing is as clear, and as interesting, as that of any good fiction, non-fiction, or humor author who has never spent a day in an ivory tower -- and I mean that as a great compliment.

I missed that this was a summary. I didn't want the Cliff Notes, I wanted the book. Should have paid more attention. Now I have to pay again to get the paperback book.

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