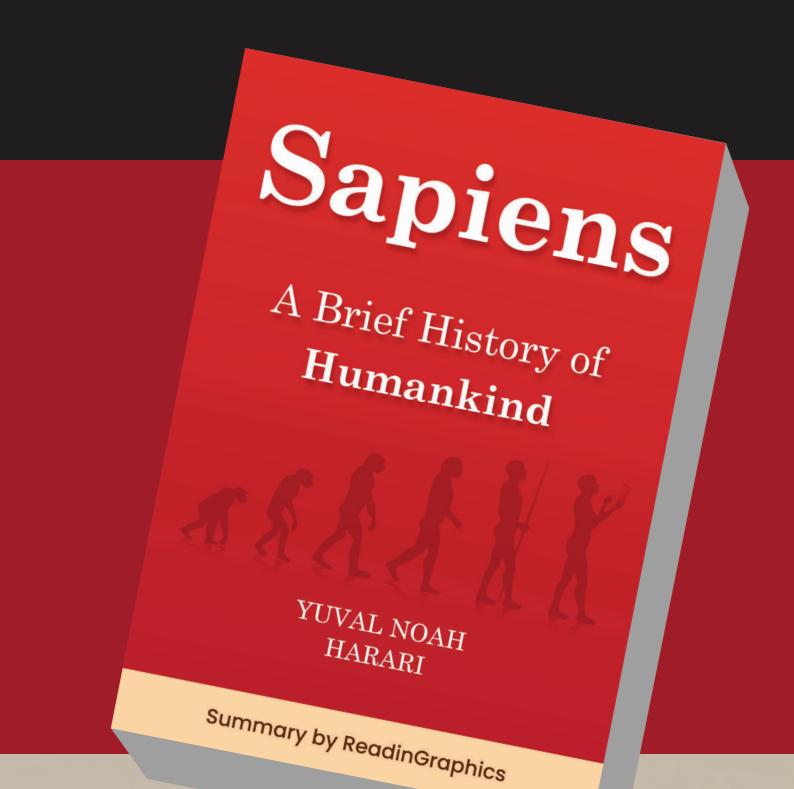
## SAPIENS

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMANKIND

Yuval Noah Harari



#### Billions of years of evolution



2.5 mil

yrs ago

Other species

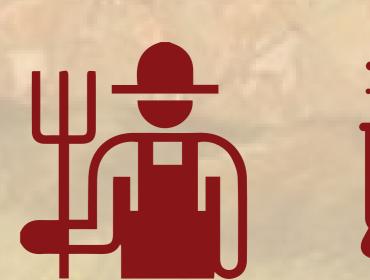


one of the Homo species that used to exist. Our time on

Earth is just a speck on its evolutionary timeline.

First Homo sapiens





**Agricultural** 

Revolution



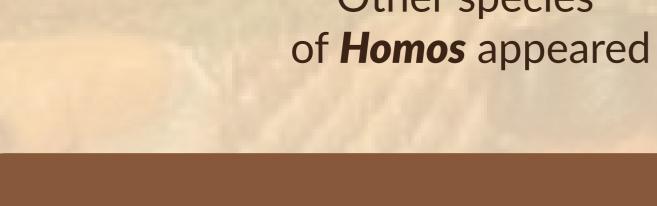
Start of **Scientific** 

Revolution



Revolution





Today, Homo sapiens dominate the planet. Yet, we're only



0.2 mil

yrs ago

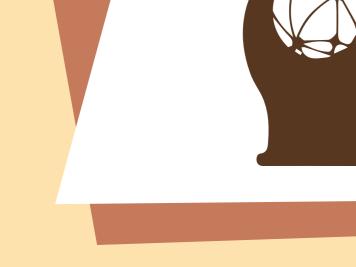
appeared

By understanding our history and how Sapiens became the dominant species, we can broaden our perspectives

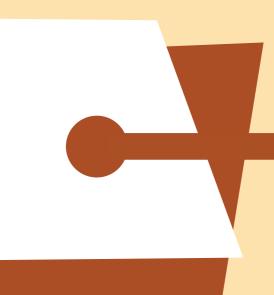
and make more deliberate choices about our future.

## THE 3 KEY HUMAN REVOLUTIONS

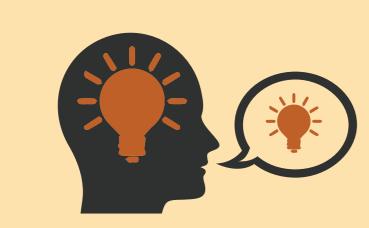
There are 3 key revolutions in human history that shaped our lives and hold implications for our future.



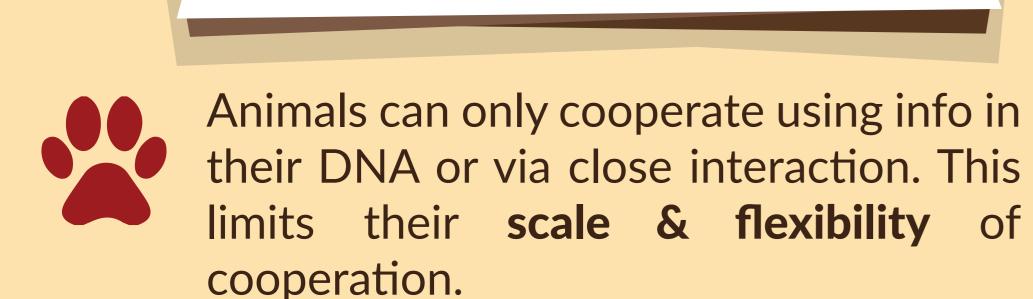
## The Cognitive Revolution

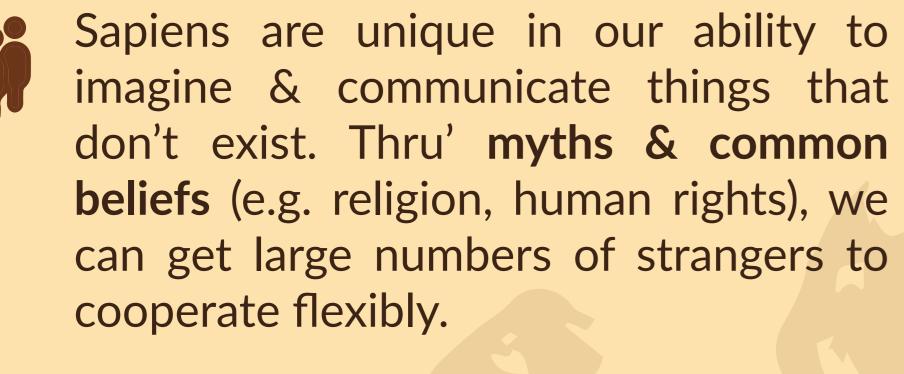


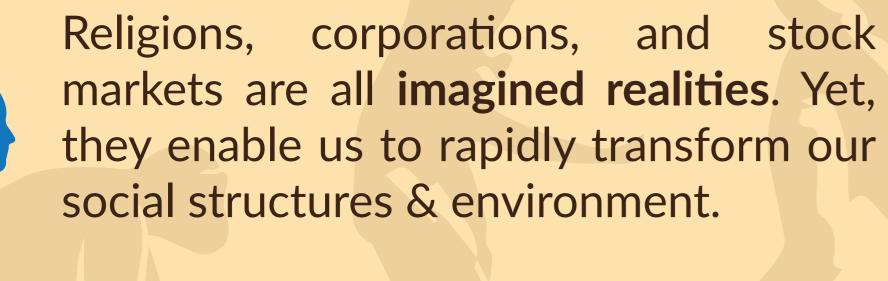
Sapiens existed since 200,000 years ago. However, we only evolved fictive language and left Africa around 70,000 yrs ago. Within another 40,000 yrs, we had caused mass extinction (including that of all other Homo species) in several continents.



#### LANGUAGE & IMAGINATION

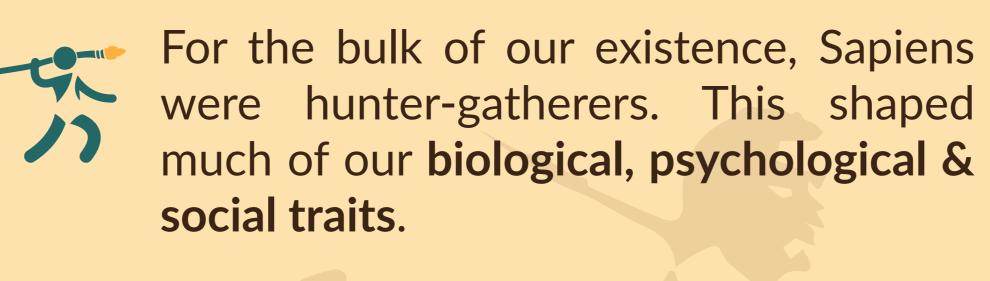


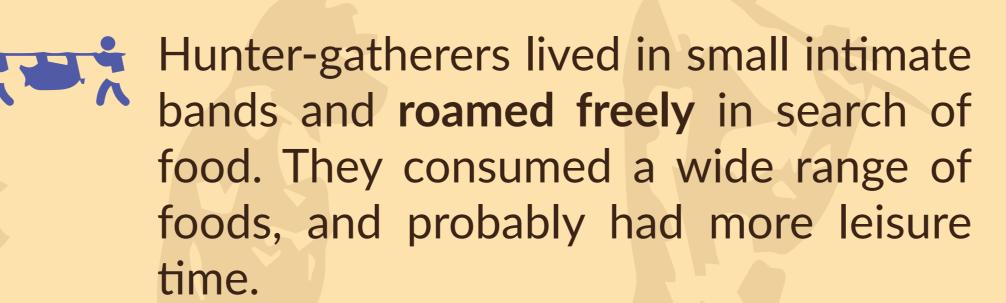


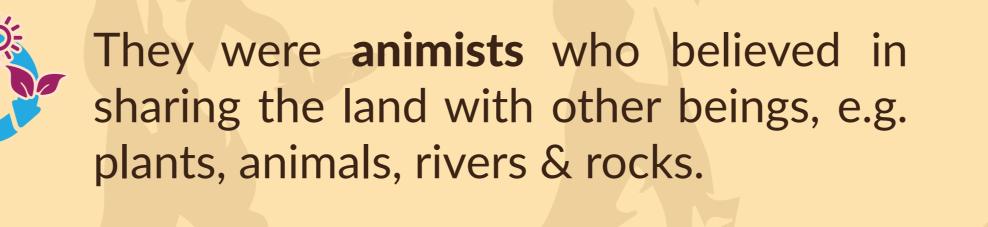




#### **HUNTER-GATHERERS**

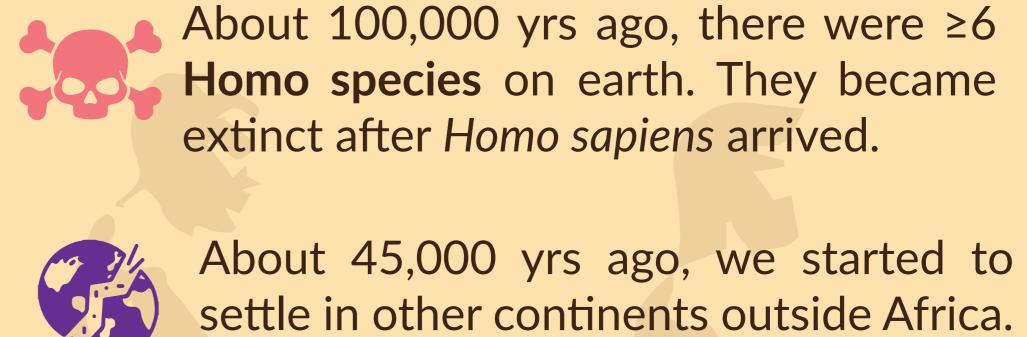


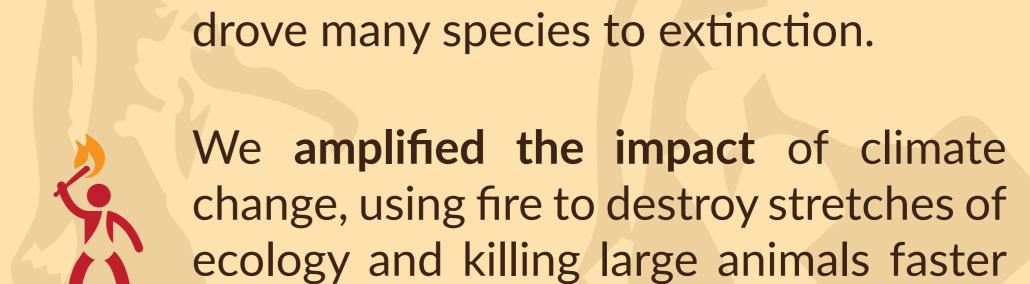






#### **CONQUERING THE PLANET**





than they could breed/evolve.

Each time, we changed the ecosystem &



Sapiens changed the ecosystem so fast that we drove many other species to extinction. We're no doubt the most destructive species on earth.



## The Agricultural Revolution

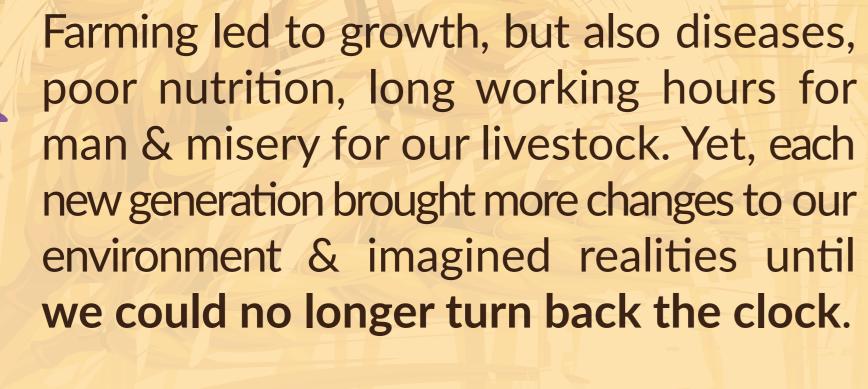


About 10,000 years ago, we finished transiting from foraging to farming. Agriculture supposedly brought a better lifestyle for mankind, but this is questionable in reality.



## THE MYTH OF A BETTER LIFE

Farming increased the food per unit area & humans multiplied quickly. As large villages/cities emerged, farmers became attached to their physical homes, and 90% of the people became peasants slogging for the 10% elites. New myths of gods & empires emerged.





## **STORIES MADE REAL**

While biology brings possibilities, culture brings restrictions. To justify rules & hierarchies, each imagined order creates its own stories/fictions.



To be stable, imagined orders must: • Exist in our material world (e.g. rituals &

symbols); Be linked to our individual desires (e.g.

safety & security); and • Be built on inter-subjective beliefs (i.e. held by masses of people). Such beliefs are usually indoctrinated from childhood.



## **KEEPING RECORDS**

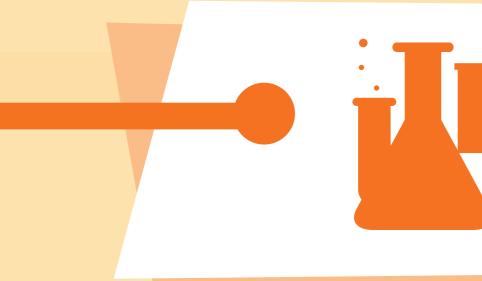
Unlike other animals, our imagined systems (e.g. taxes, ownership, laws) can't be encoded in DNA. Numbers & writing made it possible for us to pass on huge amounts of such data.

As the amount of data increased, we created ways to file & retrieve info, leading to bureaucracy and compartmentalized thinking. Today, we increasingly rely on computers, which can store, process & retrieve data much better than we can.



We created new stories and imagined orders to justify our new realities.

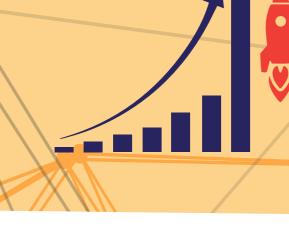
Sapiens' population grew, but so did our workload & pace of life.



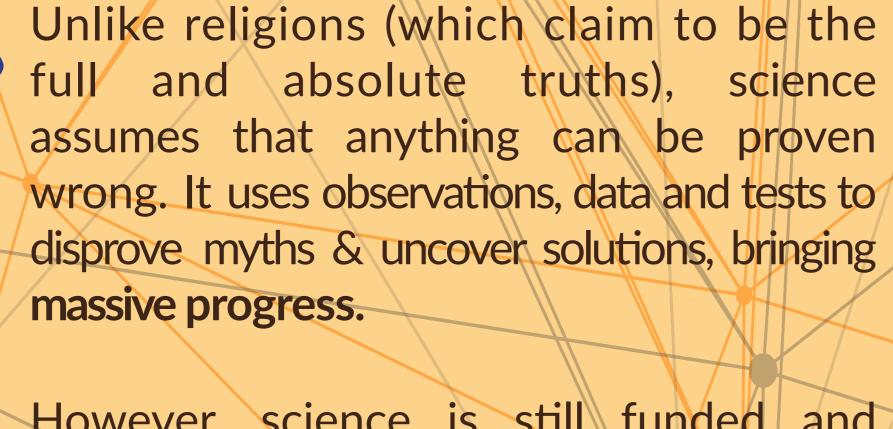
# The Scientific Revolution

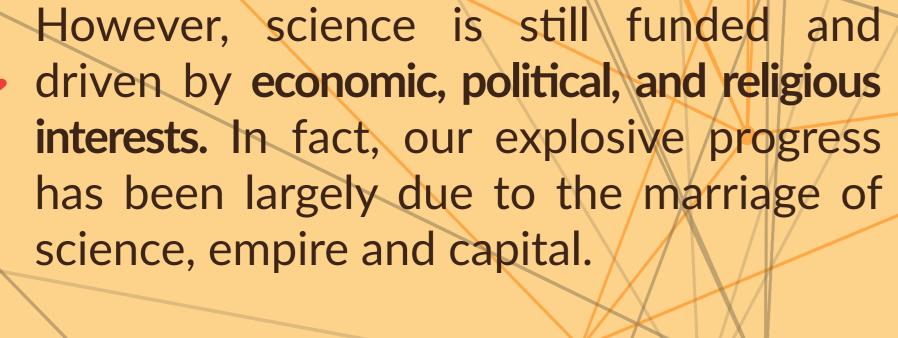


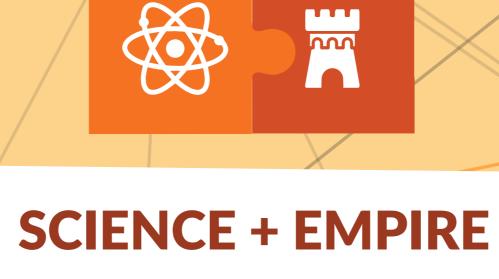
Science (coupled with imperialism and capitalism) has transformed our world in the last few centuries. How we direct our scientific efforts today could very well shape the future of Homo sapiens and other species.



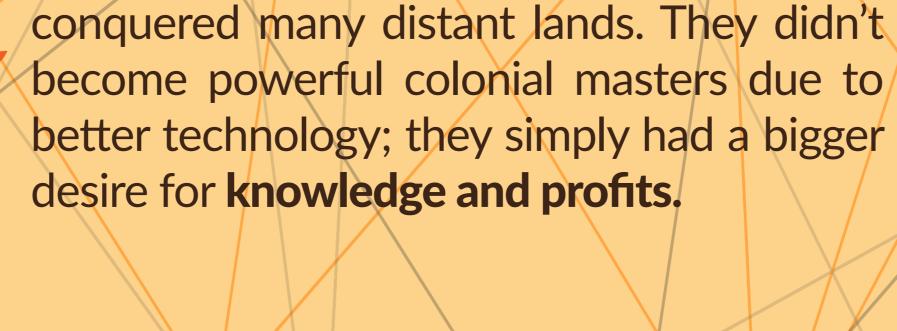
# **A LEAP IN PROGRESS**

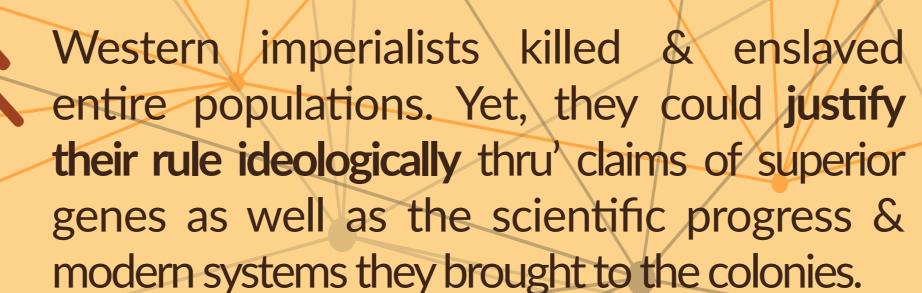


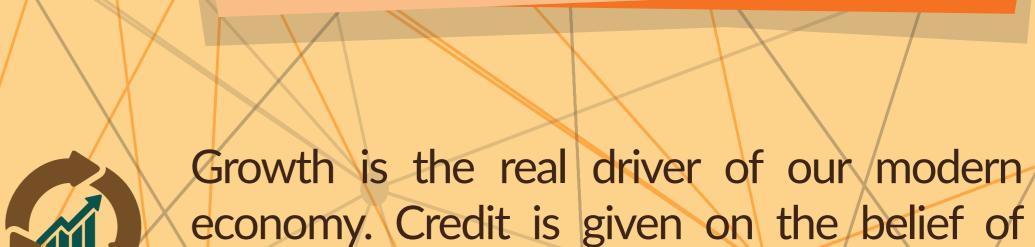


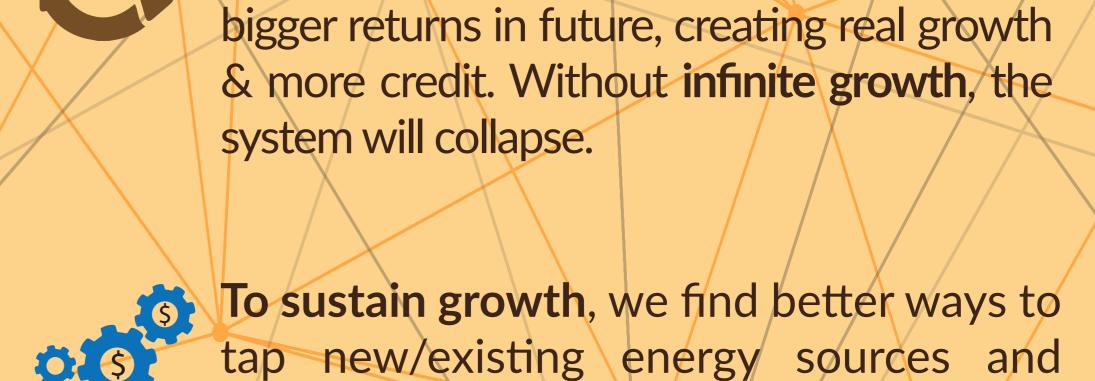


In the 18th century, Western nations









mass-produce animals for food. The rich

must invest more (Capitalism) while the

rest of us must buy more (Consumerism).

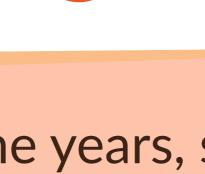
SCIENCE + CAPITALISM



What other irreversible changes will this revolution bring?

Today, we're caught in an endless growth cycle, with an ever-increasing rate of change.

LESSONS FROM HISTORY

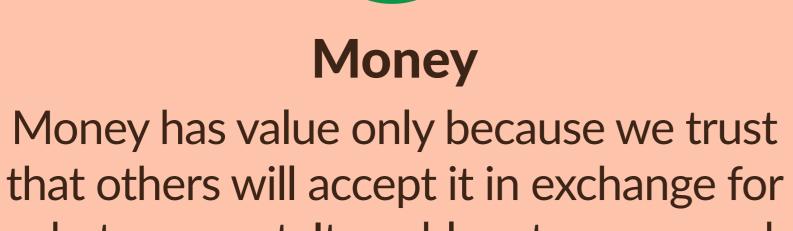


# Over the years, small fragmented cultures have gradually converged into larger,

more complex cultures due to 3 unifying factors.

The 3 Key Unifiers





what we want. It enables strangers and even rivals to cooperate and transact.

Unfortunately, we also tend to lose trust in people if they run out of money.



system in the last 2500 yrs. After each conquest, locals were killed & oppressed. Yet, over time, they forget their origins

and adopt common cultures that're hybrids of their own and the ruling elites'.

Each revolution brought Sapiens more growth and evolutionary success.



of us are Syncretic, adopting a mix of ideas & practices. Humanism (the belief that humans are superior) is the main

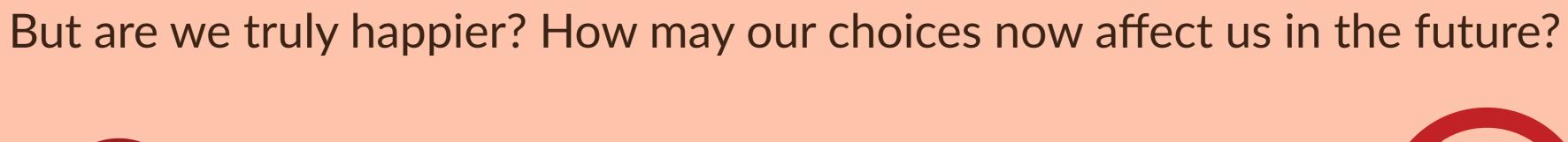
ideology, coexisting with other religions.

Religion

Over time, we've embraced animism,

polytheism & monotheism. Today, most

A Permanent Revolution



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Scientific progress in biological engineering, cyborg engineering and inorganic lifeforms are likely to affect Sapiens' evolution and may even

bring an end to our species.



Many of the changes we're making to our ecosystem, biology and social structures can't be reversed. Our collective choices today will

determine the future of mankind and the planet.



