

This is not the “perfect summary” or anything, as I very likely missed many points; instead, just my thoughts upon reading, as well as many frank paraphrases and direct quotes from the books.

## **Sapiens - Money, Past, and the Evolution**

> “Why are you willing to flip hamburgers, sell health insurance, or babysit three obnoxious brats when all you get for your exertions is a few pieces of colored paper?”

> Laws, money, and nations don’t exist in the natural world, but because humans agree they exist, they are as real as mountains and lakes.

> The concept of money stands due to 2 points:

- Universal Convertability - With money as the alchemist, we can convert any service or good to any other service or good. Money to apples, apples to justice, justice to health...
- Universal Trust - With money as the intermediary, 2 people can collaborate on anything.

The credit system was inevitable and at a larger or smaller scale always existed, since the settlement of the sapiens. Sure it wasn’t Citibank or JPMorgan at first. It was a baker giving bread to the blacksmith in hopes of getting their tools repaired later.

The credit system is founded on the concept of trust — not trust in another person, but trust in the credit system as a whole. Credit is the difference between today’s pie and tomorrow’s pie, and back then people believed the total wealth to be static, a **zero-sum game**.

Rome would prosper, at the expense of Genoa perishing. Therefore, if you thought the global pie would remain the same, granting credits would make little to no sense.

This changed with the scientific revolution. As more and more people started believing in tomorrow: geographic discoveries, scientific findings, and technological tools ultimately would lead to more goods produced and more wealth.

This trust in the future set the foundation for a more standard credit system.

As people began to believe in the potential for endless growth rather than a fixed amount of wealth, new ideas about how economies function started to take shape. This belief in progress and expansion transformed the way individuals, businesses, and governments approached economic activities, laying the foundation for capitalism and more schools of thought like free market.

Development and the propagation of credit systems allowed businesses to access capital (money or assets) without needing to have all the funds upfront. This enabled entrepreneurs to invest in larger projects and scale operations, driving economic growth. As credit became more accessible, capitalism flourished, with more people able to start and grow businesses.

Credit facilitated more transactions and economic activity, increasing competition. With credit, companies could expand their operations, leading to a more dynamic and competitive marketplace. This competition drove efficiency, innovation, and the growth of the free market.

> “But in its extreme form, belief in the free market is as naive as belief in Santa Claus. There simply is no such thing as a market free of all political bias. The most important economic resource is trust in the future, and this resource is constantly threatened by thieves and charlatans. Markets by themselves offer no protection against fraud, theft and violence.”

# Homo Deus - Future, obsolescence of the individualism, and Grounded AI

## The Great Decoupling

> “We are on the brink of a momentous revolution.”

Liberals uphold the free market because they believe every individual is uniquely valuable.

The practical and technological developments might make this obsolete.

- Humans will lose their economic and military usefulness, so the economic and political systems will stop assigning them much value.
- Collectively, humans will still be valuable, but not on the individual level.
- Even though there might be a cluster of ‘valuable’ individuals, this will form a very small percentage of the population, namely the superior people.

As we are potentially approaching the end of biological development, we are now seeking the evolution of inorganic computers. And while for many decades scientists argued that for computers to be more valuable than humans they need to develop consciousness, at least for corporations and armies, this is not the case.

Intelligent computers are more than enough for these industries, as with intelligence can outperform humans in more and more tasks each day.

Since the industrial revolution, we’ve seen people being replaced gradually. Then it was autonomous machines for automated tasks, and now it’s becoming computer court reporters, automated taxi driving algorithms, and AI preceptors.

On a brighter note, we can argue that these replacements give room for new job markets, so it would balance the obsolescence of the previous job market. However, as more time passes, this is also showing that the new openings are failing to compensate for the layoffs.

This development in AI is also impacting more sophisticated fields as well. IBM’s Watson was able to diagnose many illnesses in a much shorter time than any doctor can. It doesn’t stop there either.

A musical composition algorithm was able to compose hundreds of pieces in the style of any classical composer of your choosing.

In an experiment, EMI (developed by David Cope of UC Santa Cruz) composed a classical piece in the style of Bach. Out of the people who were provided with EMI’s work and an actual Bach work, the majority failed to classify correctly.

> “In the heyday of European imperialism, conquistadors and merchants bought entire islands and countries in exchange for colored beads. In the 21st century, our personal data is probably the most valuable resource humans still have to offer, and we are giving it to tech titans in exchange for email services and funny cat videos.”

For a computer to replace humans, it doesn't need to do that task perfectly. It only needs to do it better than humans. As AI becomes more capable, it reduces the economic and military usefulness of most humans. So going back to the initial point — as economic and political systems begin to prioritize AI-driven efficiency over human uniqueness, the concept of individualism slowly fades away in favor of collective or machine-based superiority.

However, one silver lining here is due to privacy regulations, political requirements, and (despite the rising interest) lack of **current** investment in AI development in many other fields, there is some time before AI eradicates many more job markets.

So try to make yourself irreplaceable by then :) Become superhuman...

## Glossaryck



**Capitalism:** An economic system where private individuals or businesses own and control the means of production (like factories, land, and capital) and operate for profit. It emphasizes competition, voluntary exchange, and the accumulation of capital, with limited government intervention in the economy.

**Free Market:** An economic system where prices for goods and services are determined by open competition between privately owned businesses. In a free market, supply and demand dictate production and pricing decisions, with minimal government interference.

**Invisible Hand:** A concept introduced by Adam Smith, describing the unintended social benefits resulting from individual actions. It suggests that when individuals act in their own self-interest, they inadvertently contribute to the overall economic good of society as if guided by an "invisible hand." This ideology supports capitalism as individual business owners hiring more people for instance would lead to more jobs and more people getting a piece of the pie.

## Resources

