

SOC 105

Fourth Graded Essay

Throughout the relatively short evolutionary span of several thousand years, humans have developed complex societies with their own forms of order, worldviews, and cultures. While this has led to the emergence of many beautiful cultures, it has also led to a divide among nations and cultures over global issues. Fligstein and MacAdams explain how these collections of people and cultures were initially created in “Microfoundations”, and Harari goes on to explain the difference between national collective consciousness and the overall global collective consciousness. Harari also discusses the implications of stronger national ties on the cooperative handling of issues that affect all countries.

Fligstein and MacAdams propose that humans have created social groups to cope with crises and solve common problems since the development of abstract thinking around 150,000 years after the emergence of our species. These social groups not only helped humans cope better with their surroundings, but also gave them symbolic meanings that helped them form deeper relationships. As the world became more connected and problems became progressively more challenging, there was an increase shown in the formation of larger groups to face these issues. This has led to the modern development of separate nations all around our globe, united in the common purpose for national well-being and loyalty - otherwise known as modern nationalism. But as national collective consciousnesses become stronger the global collective consciousness becomes weaker, because strong national ties tend to foster distrust and unhealthy competition among other nations. Harari elaborates on this in Chapter 7, and states that the division and mistrust among countries will only worsen current global issues of climate change and ecological

biotechnology. As there is more competition amongst countries to dominate each other in certain areas, tension also begins to rise - leading to countries putting more resources in the development of technology, a reluctance to disarm nuclear weapons, and less focus on creating restrictions that conserve natural resources.

These three issues will predominantly affect the future of countries around the world, and therefore they can not be solved by all nations acting alone. Going forward, there must be an emphasis on global collaboration efforts to address these issues with unity on a larger scale. To better face our future, we must change our global consciousness focus from being centered around division to unity against common enemies that threaten the well-being of humanity.