

SOC 105

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### Harari and Durkheim

From the very beginning, the modern world has been shaped by countless religious behaviors, theories, and predeceasing ideas. It is hard to say exactly what the present truth of a society that has lasted for a long time is, or even the exact history of it. However, there is a term that has originated from Emile Durkheim that can help better analyze the Collective Consciousness. To properly understand how a world today has become so, one must go back to the very beginning and start by learning evolution. Yuval Noah Harari did just this in his book, “21 Lessons for the 21st Century.” Harari looks back at the world before us and uses these concepts found to relate to the modern world, and the upcoming future. In two chapters of his book, he begins to talk about evolution and how our collective consciousness has allowed us to function in ways that could eventually be mocked by robots or other artificial intelligence in the upcoming world.

In sections 2 and 3 of Part I of Harari’s book, liberalism and the ever-changing technological world can be related back to the collective consciousness. Harari starts by explaining how liberals function off of the basis of “free will,” which is what humans use to justify their choices to do what they want. Except, when participating in free will, the idea is not particularly paid attention to. This is where Durkheim’s collective consciousness comes into play. In order to have that free will, or to practice it, biochemical functions, equations, and makeups inside of the body allow for those actions to happen. This is something most people are

people and societies before in the collective consciousness. People are made to believe and think that anything they do is automatically explained by a simple “that’s just how it works,” which although that is true, there are so much more details and specifics involved. But just as it is so easy to regularize free will and bodily functions from the collective consciousness, so is taking those chemical equations and functions and finding out how to mix them with AI’s in order to create human functioning mechanics.

As technology continues to advance, the human mind and body is becoming easier and easier to clone and recreate within AI’s. The way the body functions and religious behaviors that have originated from the collective consciousness such as a liberals free will are all subject for recreation by and for technology. To Harari, this is to enhance work in different fields, which ties into another problem of jobs being stolen by AI’s. Overall, the collective consciousness plays a role in Harari’s thoughts and beliefs on the concept of “free will” originated from the viewpoint of a liberal, and the threat of artificial intelligence created to perfect and mimic human life in the workforce.