

Second Reflection Essay

Throughout Yuval Noah Harari's 21 Lessons for the 21st Century we learn many viewpoints to Harari's take on the Human Race. Harari starts at the beginning of time from hunter gatherers to modern day humans. There are many concepts that Harari writes about that we have learned in class and there are also many concepts that contradict what we have learned in class. In both what we learned and Harari's the main argument is that people progress better in common groups on interest

Harari explains that language and emotions helped the first groups of homo sapiens come together and work together. He explains this is useful because it could help one of two things, one it helps people communicate danger such as a predator or a person of interest. The second being is it helped people express who can be trusted and who cannot be trusted in a group. Harari notes that this helped groups form around common ideas, which also includes believing in common myths. "large numbers of strangers can cooperate successfully by believing in common myths" (Harari). Harari explains how this large scale belief system brings communities together because there is a common aspect to believe in. Cultures and civilizations come together often to expand into larger ones which is how groups work together. Harari also explains what happens when groups have contradictions on emotions and religion. He uses the example of Europeans when they faced tension on christianity and chivalry. Harari stated that conflict between liberty and equality is a main point in modern societies. Harari explains that this started for societies to create imagined hierarchies within a belief system. These hierarchies classify people among many things including religion, race, and gender, he relates the caste system in medieval times and he explains how segregation in the United states related to this theory. These hierarchies

doing this spread their culture and language. This caused the surrounding lands to be forced to destroy their own culture and accept the empire's culture. He explains that to create an empire you have to create dominance within other populations.

In “The Neurology of Religion” by Maryanski and Turner we see their claims on groups and emotions. Maryanski and Turner claim that emotions helped groups to expand connections with others. Humans have to maintain social connections in order to create a sense of utility and community among others. Emotions helped humans create an emotional connection meaning to objects and people rather than just their physical presence. These ideas and beliefs formed over time and began to get passed down which soon made them religious. Emotional depth helped early humans to expand their feelings and interactions among others which created a shared emotional belief.

In Omni and Winant “Racial Formations” we get the explanation on racialization among humans. They claim that racialization is when a political process takes place in defining people based on their skin color and religion. After this process takes formation a superior order of humans is made. This means that people are ranked in order by what category they fall in based on their differences. This leads to people having certain inequalities based on what order they are in. They also explain prejudice and how it works. Prejudice is created when certain groups of people are given stereotypes by others. This then leads them to be associated with everyone in their way of differences and they are treated with biased and or negative behaviors towards them.

Harari has the same viewpoint as Maryanski and Turner when it comes to early Homo species development. They both relate to how shared belief and ideas through emotion and language is the center piece to how communities were formed early on. Both of them both

emotional connections came into the picture. This allowed Homo sapiens to develop new ways of thinking and developing communication on a very different level, not just through the physical part. Harari focused more on language while Maryanski and Turner focused more on the emotional aspect. We also see the connection when they both talk about how these factors led to the development of religion. This religion caused a common belief and ideas among a group which enhanced social connection even more.

While reading Harari we can see a strong correlation between his views and Omni and Winant when it relates to unequal treatment among different classes of people. Omni and Winant focus on modern day racialization, while Harari focuses more on how this hierarchy of humans was made. They both believe in the same structure of hierarchy. A person is first evaluated by their race, class, and or religion, they are then put into a category that is based on a stereotype that people make for that certain social category. Humans are judged off their stereotypes and are grouped together with people of similar stereotypes. Harari uses similar examples as Omni and Winant to describe the hierarchy of humans within a society. In both viewpoints we see a clear correlation to how these inequality systems are embedded into society. When a society adapts this system it gets passed down to the next generation and so on. Both authors imply that it soon becomes a religion and a type of culture that becomes a social norm throughout that community's viewpoints.

When Harari talks about natural selection he believes that it has given humans a type of limitation. Harari believes that although humans sometimes thrive in natural selection it also holds them back when there is competition. Harari states that with natural selection humans have become living in a harder society that can set them back. He believes that natural selection is for

science and other entities. He also states that when it comes to natural selection and competition within a society that people grow farther and farther away from their original self.

In reading “You’re Either In or You’re Out” by Brett G. Stoudt we read about a school named Rockport that teaches about how competition is key. It is an all boys school that prides itself on having a very “masculine environment” and by this environment it creates a ditch of political correctness. This school illustrates a very small portion of natural selection in a way through criticism and competition among students. “David sees the presence of girls outside of school as invaluable for his emotional balance, facilitating the display of his “true self” in the culturally underprivileged private space” (Stoudt 277). In a sense this school is hard on his students through name calling and criticism, but in this specific setting it creates a fierce competition that makes the students thrive for competition in natural selection to who can be the best. “David and Brian reveal how schools can help educate hegemonic masculinity. While many argue that hegemonic masculine values are unbeneficial to most (Connell 1995), they are likely most beneficial to the privileged boys who attend elite schools like Rockport” (Stoudt 278). We see how if done correctly, natural selection makes people want to thrive, but we can also see the cost of this natural selection in real world competition. The boys were deprived of many things and misinformed, but in a sense created a sense of work ethic by creating a misinformed false drawback. The school had misinformed information on women and saw them as a drawback and by doing this the school created a sense of competition within this misinformation. Although this was done in a small environment it can be implied to use many other ways of natural selection. Such as sports teams and the shame you feel when you lose. Although life still goes on as normal after we as a human race still create a sense of competition and false information when it comes

being degraded because you lost and did not succeed in your intended goal. “The values encouraged by the institution or culture, in this case Rockport, come to be individually internalized or performed, socially regulated and self-regulated through various strategies of power such as informal peer disciplining. Emotions such as shame, humiliation, and desire for inclusion are fundamental sites for discipline and control” (Stoudt 278). Natural selection in Stoudts finding showed that who you surround yourself with can have a big impact on what type of drive you have. Stoudt implies when you are surrounded by people who make you feel negative about yourself when you don't engage in competition and wanting to be better than others you will naturally put on a personality to want to thrive compared to others. This peer discipline seen in natural selection creates a persona that if you do not want to naturally compete you will be punished verbally for it.

We can see how Stoudt's observation of natural selection is very contrary to Harari's view on natural selection. Harari focused more on how natural selection was a limitation to human existence. He only revealed at the end of how modern sciences can help this natural selective process. Stoudt contradicts Harari's statement to natural selection limitations and shows the benefits to the competition based theory. Stoudt exposes through his Rockwell observation that in a controlled environment with others having the same competition level it can thrive through certain environments. Stoudt and Harari have two different theories to natural selection and while Harari admits to natural selection working in a way with environments he does not believe natural selection has more upsides rather than the downsides to being changed as a person. Harari states he thinks that you are changed from your original form, but we see how the Rockwell boys were in an environment where their original form was raising them in the

they were supposed to be involved in.