

Fourth Graded Essay

The Humility chapter of *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*, starts with the statement “You are not the centre of the world”. Harari then talks about how most people believe that they are somehow superior over others because of what they have learned about their culture compared to other cultures. These beliefs are all developed by what Durkheim refers to as the “collective consciousness”.

Depending on where a person is from whether it’s America, China, or even Greece, the way that they see themselves and the world will be completely different. Everyone is a small building block of something greater, but the size of this building block can be seen differently and even inflated by the way their beliefs are presented as they are growing up. Harari states that many different ideas and inventions were born in different places. How did “history” really begin? Well, the answer will be different depending on who you ask. If you ask the Greek, they will tell you that it started with Homer, Sophocles and Plato, but if you ask the Chinese, they will tell you that it began with the Yellow Emperor and the Xia and Shang dynasties and that everyone else is just trying to imitate what they did and they will only amount to a pale copy. Everyone seems to be convinced that without them humankind would have lived in “barbarous and immoral ignorance” if it wasn’t for all of the amazing achievements of their nation. Though this is false, like Durkeim states in *The Cultural Logic of Collective Representation*, people will continue to interpret symbols and other stories how their country decides to see it, and this inevitably leads to favoritism of their own country and what they have done to benefit the world over others.

exact same thing that we are doing. This all goes back to Harari's statement, "You are not the centre of the world." It's a simple statement but it could be hard for some people to ever truly grasp.