

## The Arrow of History

Culture - Artificial instincts that enabled millions of strangers to co-operate effectively.

Contradictions in history - Christianity & charity  
today - liberty & equality

Cognitive dissonance?

## The Spy Satellite

Look at the direction of history like looking at the earth from cosmos.  
→ e.g. Tasmania

10,000 years ago + people across different continents didn't even know other continents exist. Today, we live in an extremely connected world.

We live in one global culture today. Humanity has moved into the direction of unity over the years.

Three main reasons -

- ① Merchants - money
- ② conquerors - Imperialism
- ③ Prophets - Religion

## The Scent of Money

Hunter-gatherers and the early humans used the barter system to exchange goods & services. The barter system had many drawbacks.

Hence, money was invented. It can convert, store, transport wealth.

Money is not a material reality - It is a psychological construct.

Trust is the raw material from which all money is printed. It is the most universal and most efficient system of mutual trust ever devised.

Silver shekels, around 250 BC. Had imprint of central authority who guarantees that money is real.

Roman denarius or modern day "dinars" started to be accepted globally -

The forces of supply & demand tend to equalize the prices of goods.

Money doesn't discriminate on the basis of religion, race, gender, race; age.

## Imperial Visions

Empire -

- ① many distinct people, different cultures
- ② flexibility to expand borders.

The first empire was the Akkadian empire 2350 BC.

Sargon the great → Cyrus the great → Alexander the great.

The idea of "we conquer you for your own benefit".

English, cricket, chai, commercial railroad network, tea-farming are all borrowed from British EIC.

Victoria station → CST station

Bombay → Mumbai

All cultures have imperial legacies / cultural inheritance.

Delhi Sultanate?

## The Law of Religion

After money and empires, religion is the third biggest unifier of humankind. All social orders and hierarchies are imagined and religion gives legitimacy to these social structures.

Two distinct criteria -

- ① Religions hold that there is a superhuman order
- ② Religion establishes norms and values "it" considers binding.
- ③ Universal - superhuman order that is true always and everywhere.
- ④ missionary - spread this belief to everyone

Aminism declined with rise of polytheism.

Monotheism v/s polytheism.

↳ killed more people. Christians v/s protestants.

Judaism in israel - local monotheism. → no missionary beliefs.

Christianity - big breakthrough.

↳ Paul of Taurus spread the word. 1<sup>st</sup> century.  
↳ by 5<sup>th</sup> century, entire Roman empire was Christian.

7<sup>th</sup> century → Islam

Monotheist themselves started dividing into polytheist structures. ex:- different saints (st.) in Christians for different things.

These saints were disciples of Jesus. (St. Andrew, St. George).

The Last supper painting ?? Jesus and his twelve disciples.

Dualism → good and evil → Zoroastrianism.

Syncretism might be the only single great world religion.

"wonderful capacity of humans to believe in contradictions."

Religions based on the laws of nature emerged. → central figure is not a god but a human being. Gautam Buddha. → 500 BC.

↳ Everything is in the mind.

Human mind is always craning and dissatisfied.  
A person who does not crave does not suffer.

Monothestic religion → God exists. what does he want from me?  
Buddhism → suffering exists. how do I escape it?

Liberalism, communism, capitalism, nationalism etc. are also modern religions even though people call them "ideologies".

↳ Humanist religions

↳ liberal humanism

↳ Liberalism → "human rights" → individualistic

↳ socialist humanism.

↳ equal rights among humans → society

↳ evolutionary humanism

↳ Hitler. → protect humankind from degenerating into subhumans.

## The Secret of Success

History is not deterministic. We can only say things in hindsight.

History is a chaotic system.



Level - 1

does not react to its predictions

e.g. weather forecast



Level - 2

Reacts to its predictions.

e.g.: markets, politics

Cultures are a kind of mental infection or parasites living inside a human host.

Game theory, postmodernism, memetics? History is not designed to enhance human well-being.

Around AD 1500, history made a choice to go down the path of Scientific Revolution changing the fate of humankind.

Humanist Religions – Religions that Worship Humanity		
Liberal humanism	Socialist humanism	Evolutionary humanism
<i>Homo sapiens</i> has a unique and sacred nature that is fundamentally different from the nature of all other beings and phenomena. The supreme good is the good of humanity.		
'Humanity' is individualistic and resides within each individual <i>Homo sapiens</i> .	'Humanity' is collective and resides within the species <i>Homo sapiens</i> as a whole.	'Humanity' is a mutable species. Humans might degenerate into subhumans or evolve into superhumans.
The supreme commandment is to protect the inner core and freedom of each individual <i>Homo sapiens</i> .	The supreme commandment is to protect equality within the species <i>Homo sapiens</i> .	The supreme commandment is to protect humankind from degenerating into subhumans, and to encourage its evolution into superhumans.