

I History's Biggest Fraud

Homo Sapiens started tinkering with animals and plants.

Agricultural Revolution - 9500 BC to 1 AD

From hunter-gatherers to becoming farmers.

↳ People became less satisfied

↳ population explosion, pampered elites

↳ need to work harder.

wheat, rice and potatoes manipulated Homo Sapiens. In order to cultivate them, nourish and take care of them, human bodies needed to evolve.

We started to settle permanently.

Introduction of human violence and social structures of kingdoms, cities etc.

The conditions worsened but yes, evolution won. Because more and more number of humans were born. Homo Sapiens as a species was multiplying.

why would you on an individual level care about this? Agricultural revolution was a trap.

The Luxury Trap

Jericho in middle East → villages started forming - 8500 BC

Luxuries become necessities and we can't live without it. Advancements in the way of life does not mean a relaxed life.

If it's essentially a luxury trap and we cannot control it.

Divine Intervention

Stonehenge in Britain dates back to 3500 BC but the discoveries of pillars in Göbekli Tepe dated back to 9500 BC. This changed a lot of beliefs. mysterious cultural purpose? Traces of wheat nearby.

Need to feed the workers of construction of this "temple".

Victims of the Revolution

Several examples of how different animals were subjected to human cruelty - sheep, goats, pigs, chickens.

New Guinean tribes cut pig noses so that they don't run away or blind them. Cows produce milk post procreation. calves killed. Nuer tribes in Sudan kill calves and stuff them with mother cow urine for milk production.

Evolutionarily, their species have increased but they live miserable lives.

II Building Pyramids

10,000 BC → 1 AD
58 mill. foragers → 250 mill. farmers

People started to settle down in more and more enclosed land. Attachment to "my house" started to seep in.

Coming of the future

People/farmers started thinking of the future. Need to plan for next year/year after that. Stress crept in.

An Imagined Order

Jericho, first village 8500 BC → a few hundred

Turkey → largest settlement at the time.

By 3100 BC, the entire Nile valley gave birth to the first Egyptian kingdom.

By 2250 BC, Sargon the great created the first empire, the Akkadian.

1500 BC - 500 BC

↳ Assyrian empire, Babylonian empire & Persian Empire.

221 BC - Qin dynasty in China.

Roman empires

The code of Hammurabi → Babylonian prince

↳ similar to the Constitution., a rule book.

Babylon - world's largest city, 1776 BC

3 classes of people, 2 genders.

American declaration of Independence, 1776 AD 4th July.

Created equal? → "Evolved differently"

Endowed by their Creator? → "Born"

Unalienable rights? → "Mutable characteristics"

Remember, there is no objective truth

True Believers

Natural order = Gravity

Imagined order = God, religion etc.

In order to maintain imagined order, someone needs to believe in it.

Piogenes = Greek philosopher known for cynicism.

The Prison Walls

We live in a world governed by imagined order. We don't realise everything is in our imagination because -

a.) The imagined reality is embedded in the material world.

- Modern westerners believe in "individualism". The idea of "me", we are special. Other people don't define us. We have our private rooms.
- Medieval noblemen didn't believe this. Their worth was decided by their place in social hierarchy. Other peoples thoughts mattered.

b.) The imagined order shapes our desires.

Consumerism, capitalism, romanticism. The idea of having as much experience as possible to uncover true human potential. Our desires guide us.

c.) The imagined order is inter-subjective.

- ↳ a subjective phenomenon believed by millions
- law, money, god, nations etc.

In order to change an existing imagined order, we must believe in an alternative imagined order.

III

Memory Overload

The ideas about football are all imaginary, but since we all share them, we can play it.

↳ Limited amount of info to be remembered, hence okay.

But in an imagined social order, the human brain has to remember millions of data points, and it is not very good at it because -

1. Our brain has limited capacity → why are we not like the people 2000 yrs ago?
2. We die and our brains die. Information we pass to subsequent generations tends to get garbled.
3. We only store certain "type" of data.

Signed, Kushim ← first written name recorded

From 3000 BC, ancient "Sumerians" found a way to store data "outside the brain". → It was "writing".

↳ write on clay tablets through signs

full script, partial script-

Quipus ← Tying knots on wool and cotton threads as a language. used to represent earliest mathematical data.

The Wonders of Bureaucracy

By 2500 BC, Sumerian system developed cuneiform.

It's important to have efficient ways of storing, cataloguing and retrieving information.

Around 9 AD, the base 10 number system was invented.

Mathematical script has been extremely important in evolution of

technology.

IV There is No Justice in History

Even though the American Declaration of Independence talked about equality, it created hierarchies and social structures in society. free persons and slaves, white and blacks, rich and poor.

↳ people use pseudoscientific things to justify this - remember, everything is an imagined order!

One Hindu creation myth, life is created from a being "Purusha" (Vishnu)

We have complex social "imagined hierarchies" and discrimination.

↳ Hierarchies are ways that a complete stranger can know another person without wasting time and energy.

Tool of mass-cooperation.

The Vicious Circle

← CASTE

Indo-Aryan invasion of Indian subcontinent 3000 yrs ago, developed caste system which is an inherent part of Hindu social structure today.

The idea of purity and impurity played a role to create social divisions so that ruling people stay in power.

Caste mixing was considered impure. 4 castes → Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras are divided now into 3000+ castes and sub-castes.

Purity in America

← RACE

In 16th to 18th century, the European conquerors of America imported millions of slaves from Africa because -

- It cost closer
- Already had well established slave trade practices
- Africans had acquired partial genetic immunity to malaria & yellow fever.

Long after the conditions that created slavery disappeared, it continued to exert its influence in America.

In 1865, slavery was abolished in America but the stigma (mindset) still continues.

↳ Jim Crow laws in US for segregation. → It became worse

A pure chance historical situation now translated into a rigid social system.

Ku Klux Klan?

He and She ← Gender, present all across

1200 BC Chinese text that says "Not lucky. It was a girl".

Till 2006, there were 53 countries where a husband couldn't be prosecuted for the rape of his wife.

Ancient Athens believed that an individual with a womb was unfit for a lot of professions.

"Biology enables, culture forbids"

The idea of homosexuality as "unnatural". If I run faster than light, that would be unnatural.

All of this comes from Christian theology.
Natural = in accordance with the intentions of God who created nature.

Evolution has no purpose.

Mouth was developed to get nutrients inside the body. But we use it to speak, kiss etc. Is this unnatural?

Sex and Gender

XY - male } biological.
XX - female

"man" and "woman" are cultural annotations.

Kings in Europe used to wear wigs, stockings, high heels and huge sword ← signs of masculinity.

Today, it's different. Barack Obama.

Sex = Biological category → only two
Gender = Cultural category → many

A female = a biological category		A woman = a cultural category	
Ancient Athens	Modern Athens	Ancient Athens	Modern Athens
XX chromosomes	XX chromosomes	Can't vote	Can vote
Womb	Womb	Can't be a judge	Can be a judge
Ovaries	Ovaries	Can't hold government office	Can hold government office
Little testosterone	Little testosterone	Can't decide for herself who to marry	Can decide for herself who to marry
Much oestrogen	Much oestrogen	Typically illiterate	Typically literate
Can produce milk	Can produce milk	Legally owned by father or husband	Legally independent
Exactly the same thing		Very different things	

Across all cultures and regions, patriarchy is common. We have always been a patriarchal society. Many theories, none convincing.

- ① Muscle power - many loopholes.
- ② Aggression - many loopholes.
- ③ Genetics - masculine genes passed on to men and submissive genes to women biologically over many years.

- loopholes. Bonobo species are matriarchial.

We just don't know the reason behind universality and stability of the patriarchal system.