

# Before you read - Humankind, Rutger Bregman

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Good nonfiction books often impact how we look at things. In some cases we might not remember or even believe what we thought or knew before.

Wouldn't it be interesting to be able to capture exactly that *before* you read a certain book? This is the aim of the following questions.

Nobody expects you to know the actual answers. Write what you think is the correct answer, just using your common knowledge or your opinions about things. It is important to answer them all at once before you start the book.

Then, after you finish reading it, come back and have a look at what you thought before. Or you could answer the questions again and compare *before* and *after*. How much has changed?

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(5) 2005, New Orleans, hurricane Katrina - is the majority of how people behave in new situation rather

A) prosocial and orderly (people help others, calmly cooperate etc)

B) selfish and anarchic (chaos, violence, shootings)?

(~12) Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?

(~16) Do you believe that people generally tend to behave like *homo economicus*? That is: selfish, mainly self-interested, opportunistic, exploiting others when they can

(55) In tests on working memory and speed of processing information, who is the best? Chimpanzees, orangutans, or human toddlers?

(56) In research studies, who is better the games that hinge on participants swindling their opponents? Humans or chimpanzees?

(68) In research studies, who has the highest scores in tests of ability to learn from others individuals of its specie? Chimpanzees, orangutans or humans?

(68) When breeding species, if you want to breed an intelligent fox, do you get it faster if you select individuals that are clever, or those that are friendly?

(82) Talking about soldiers/veterans from the Second World War, which claim is true?

A) More than half of soldiers never killed anybody.

B) More than half of soldiers killed at least one or two enemies.

(83) French Army interviews in 1860s - when soldiers are in battle do they

A) avoid shooting at the enemy.

B) they prefer to shoot an enemy as fast as possible.

(109) Speaking of European colonists in new lands and their preference for civilised or free way of life, which claim is true?

A) Colonists fled into the wilderness by hundreds, whereas the reverse rarely happened.

B) Colonists fled into the wilderness by hundreds, but most gladly returned to civilisation after a short period of time.

(96) What did Christopher Columbus write in his logs about natives in the New World: When you ask them for something they have, ...

A) ... they often hesitate to help strangers.

B) ... they never say no.

(~113) Do you think that the main reason why people of Easter Island basically died out was because of the civil war that broke out, in which islanders killed each other and hence reached population that was critically too low to survive further?

A) Rather yes

B) Rather no

(146) 1953, USA, summer camp where two groups of average boys (ca 11 years old) are part in an experiment to see if the two groups would turn against each other and compete/quarrel or rather collaborate and get along well.

What do you think happened - did the groups tend rather to collaborate or rather to quarrel/compete against each other?

(~139) Describe in one or two sentences what does Stanford prison experiment (the one where for several days one group of people act in role of prisoners, another group acts as their prison guards) prove about nature of people.

(190) In 1964, New York Times wrote news about a young woman called Kitty

Genovese that was stabbed several times and died in front of apartment buildings and 37 eyewitnesses watched it all unravel without calling the police or directly helping. Article says that they did not want to get involved. How many people do you think really saw the incident?

- A) less than 3
- B) 3-10
- C) 11-19
- D) 20-36
- E) More than 37

(188) Present day Amsterdam (Netherlands), dataset of over 1000 clips from security cameras captures violent scenes from around the city: brawls, rapes, murder attempts etc.

In how many % of cases where coincidental bystanders happened to be present do they get involved and help the victim?

(209) Islamic State (Syria), why do you think do their ordinary foot soldiers initially join them? (answering with 1-3 sentences is enough)

(230) Out of 48 hunter-gatherer societies, in how many was Machiavellianistic way of leading generally successful? (autocratic, cruel, lying, immoral)

(266) In one survey among law students in USA, how many % of respondents do you think said that they studied law because it was their big dream or because it interested them?

How many % (of all respondents) do you think thought that this is also the main motivation of their classmates?

(270) One British study from 2010s found that 74% of people identify with which of the pairs of values?

A) honesty, helpfulness

B) status, wealth

(276) France, 1980s - company that manufactures car parts decides to use method of self-management of teams instead of usual top-down management.

Select all the outcomes that you think happened:

- Productivity increased.
- Productivity decreased.
- Average production time of key parts was significantly reduced.
- Average production time of key parts has slightly increased.
- Company workforce went from 100 to 70.
- Company workforce stayed roughly the same (100).
- Company workforce went from 100 to 500.

(294) When children attend a very free boarding school where they can decide what they do themselves, and which gives them only a minimal structure, what impact does it have on their adult life?

A) They go on and lead fulfilling lives.

B) They struggle to large extent because they miss what children from ordinary schools had.

C) They very often have serious problems to adapt and lead problematic lives.

(338) When 30 studies look for an evidence that aggressive policing in USA helps to reduce crime, what do they find?

- A) Aggressive policing reduces crime.
- B) Aggressive policing does not do anything to reduce crime.

(343) Aarhus, Denmark - in 2013 police decided to not jail young Muslims who wanted to join forces of Islamic State in Syria but to offer them a cup of tea and mentoring and to mobilise their families and friends to show them that they cared about them. When in 2013 it was 30 youngsters who left to join Islamic State, how many left in next 2 years?

- A) 1 or 2
- B) Around 20
- C) Around 30
- D) More than 30

(359) When political campaigns and revolutions around the world since year 1900 are analysed, what percentage of militant campaigns were successful?

And what percentage of nonviolent campaigns were successful?

(361) Great Britain in 2016, residents from which communities voted for Brexit more often?

- A) From culturally diverse communities, where people had more contact with other cultures.
- B) From culturally not diverse communities, where people had less contact with ones from other cultures.

\* The numbers at the beginning of questions, for example (56), refer to page numbers in the book where results of relevant studies etc. can be found.

If the number is for example (~56), that means that the answer, if there is one, is not located clearly on one page, but spread throughout more pages or even whole chapter.

Page numbers are according to Bloomsbury edition of the book from 2020.