

Religion

- Polytheistic Romans killed fewer Christians than monotheistic Christians killed within each other for a slightly different interpretation of the Bible, Protestants, and Catholics
- **God is One**
- People fell in love with their polytheistic god, that they started believing that he was the only god and also has interests and biases.
- Monotheism was born
- Polytheism was open-minded, no missionary as its base idea was many gods
- **Christianity and Islam**
- An esoteric Jewish sect - Christianity said messiah was Jesus, overthrow Romans
- Islam 7th century like Christianity
- **Why Monotheistic religions are imposing?**
- Polytheistic religions realize there can be another god but monotheistic religions considered that they had one God or truth, so were compelled to discredit other religions
- **Why didn't monotheism work at first?**
- Accessing the supreme power for their mundane needs felt distant
- Expelled polytheistic gods through the front door and accepted them through the side window
- Saints
- St. Brigid of Ireland was Brigid a polytheistic god before baptizing.
- *That's why religions with Saints work better, better to access*
- **Dualism, Why Monos took it?**
- Evil and good are independent
- But monotheistic religions dominated them
- Still, they took Satan which cannot be found in the old testament.
- The existence of an independent devil and an omnipotent god is contradictory yet people believe that
- They took it to explain the evil happening even with a good god
- But dualism would mean there is no common order independent of good and evil
- **Natural Law religions**
- Buddhism - craving leads to suffering - achieve Nirvana, What am I feeling instead of what do I desire.
- But several Buddhists and Bodhisattvas who were capable of attaining Nirvana didn't go for it out of compassion to help others achieve this. But soon they were worshipped for rain, harvest, and all.
- **Secularism in the last 300 years**
- The modern age can be called the time of religions if we call Capitalism, communism Liberalism all as natural law religions
- Religion means - *Belief in a superhuman order and human norms and values based on it*
- Theory of Relativity - Superhuman order, Football - human values and norms, Communism - Superhuman order and human values and norms hence a religion
- Communism - Holy book Das Kapital, prophets - Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Vladimir Lenin, ardent belief to follow the rules and missionary to spread. *Trotskyism*

- **Humanist religions**

- Humans and their values are the core of their belief like god for theist religions
- Liberal humanism - liberty of humans is the top priority
- Even punishments should be human unlike the old murder entertainment
- Monotheistic origin - the free soul
- Socialist humanism - not individuality but humans as a whole
- Equality instead of granting max liberty to individual humans
- Monotheistic origin of all souls are equal before god
- Evolutionary humanism - Nazis
- Aryans will lead to a superhuman race so no mixing, kill others
- No monotheistic origins
- There were laws in Aus until 1960 restricting the immigration of colored people and no voting rights for Aborigines.
- Blacks and colored were like Neanderthals
- Started with some research alleging Aryans supremacy over colored based on orthodox scientific practices
- Nazis don't want humans to degenerate into subhumans through mixing, they wanted themselves to be pure to evolve into superhumans
- Swastika meaning conducive to well-being became a Nazi symbol because Germans were looking for a link to relate themselves to Aryans - the original Indo Europeans. When a business thought that he found Troy and a lot of instances of the swastika, Germans started saying the Greek and the Germans were the descendants of Aryans.

- **The Hindsight Fallacy**

- Would everything happen the way they would if history was to repeat again from 1 AD?
- Historians can find reasons for *How* it happened but not *Why* it happened.
- It might feel like it's easy, looking back to find reasons why it happened. but it's really not.
- What could possibly be the reason, Constantine chose Christianity over any other religion there in AD 306. He didn't want the civil war history again. But why Christianity.
- If it wasn't for him, Christianity would just be an esoteric Jewish sect
- Muslims conquering from Atlantic to Asia.
- Bolsheviks in 1913 conquered the country in 3 years.
- These things during the time sounded as clueless as we would feel if we were asked about our future.

- **History is a level 2 chaotic system**

- Level 1 means predictions don't affect the event - Weather
- Level 2 means predictions affect the event - Markets
- If a prediction of 100\$ for a barrel of oil tomorrow means people would stock up oil and thus the price would increase today itself.
- People want history to be deterministic to be in control, to believe that their beliefs are not just a coincidence, like Constantine's random selection.
- Similarly, Europeans dominating Africans is just a coincidence, it is not a natural outcome

- **Memetics**

- Cultures were considered as genes and were created by chance and follow the survival of the fittest pattern.
- They not necessarily benefited humanity, instead, it benefited itself.
- The arms race is once such meme. India expands its arms means Pakistan will do too and ends up being in a cycle benefiting only the arms race itself, not the two nations.

- **Scientific Revolution**

- 1500
- Before that people never believed that there were many things yet to be discovered. This was their maximum potential and knowledge.
- After 1500 Scientific revolution happened.
- July 16, 1945, First atom bomb testing - New Mexico
- Walking on the moon all were great steps.
- The prosperity of the Scientific revolution came with the feedback loop within the economy, research, and power.
- The economy puts money in research, research brings better discoveries giving power to the economy.
- The properties of modern science
 - Ignoramus or we don't know anything approach
 - Central knowledge reserve and using maths to attain new knowledge
 - Develop new technologies
- Modern science has a culture of assuming all knowledge as tentative and this caused problem
- The tentativeness didn't promise stability for the sociopolitical order.
- Hence two unscientific methods were used
 - Assuming a scientific theory is absolute truth
 - Nazis said Aryan blood was superior and Germans were Aryans.
 - Leave science out of it
 - Liberal humanism
- Difference between religion and Science
- Darwin never claimed that he has found the absolute truth but Muhammad did.
- Religion considered that all of the truth was already discovered and was in the scriptures and all anyone had to do was to ask the priests.
- The science behind a spider weaving a web was not relevant to humans.
- Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica revolutionized science. There was a mathematical back for everything and when there were contradictions, Relativity, and Quantum Mechanics happened.
- For more complex disciplines like politics, biology, etc, Statistics happened.

- The story of *Webster and Wallace* fund for widows or the Scottish wives fund. Two clergymen with the help of a Mathematician made a prediction about the number of deaths to get an idea about the fund to be raised and the prediction was so accurate that the difference was just 1 euro between the actual and theoretical case.
- There was nothing in the holy books to tackle such a situation.
- Disciplines were becoming exact sciences with the help of statistics, even psychology.

- **How science was perceived in different times**

- Germans fought till the last day in hopes of a science miracle that could help them retaliate - *V2 missile*
- Harry S Truman was the president of America when all but Japan refused to give up and was willing to defend their country till death. This would mean wars continuing into 1946 and 2 atom bombs later Japan gave up unconditionally - *The Manhattan Project*
- Before the scientific revolution or at least before the association of Science and technology as one, the winners of wars were the ones who had great discipline and better tactics. It took 600 years for Gunpowder - made by China, to transform into a cannon.
- But now technology determines winners of war.
- We embraced science as a powerful tool that can actually solve our problems instead of futile beliefs.
- Death and afterlife was a major part of religions until the 18th century when emerging ideologies like socialism, liberalism, feminism all stopped caring about after life.
- Death due to starvation has almost disappeared from the face of earth because of science.
- A flesh wound was enough to kill in the early 19th century and required amputation in fear of gangrene.
- Now we consider death, famine and diseases as fruits of our ignorance, that can be cured by acquiring knowledge.
- Death a mere technical failure which can be changed.
- The myth of Gilgamesh of the Sumar or the epic akkadian poem about the most powerful person who used to live going to the underworld to defeat death after watching his friend's body deteriorating.
- Later he embraces death as final to humans.
- Religions all used to accept death as final and their beliefs were accordingly crafted.
- Scientists were able to double the lives of a worm
- One day maybe humans can become a-mortal - *can live indefinitely unless accidental death occurs.*
- **How did Europeans become so powerful?**
- **Sun** was the center of our solar system.
- To measure the distance to the sun, venus passing over the sun were observed from different places so that trigonometry can be used to find the distance.
- James Cook along with his crewmates went to Tahiti to do more accurate measurement.
- **Scurvy** was a serious issue during that time - Vitamin C, death of many.
- James lib found this out and suggested loading lot of fruits and vegetables on the ship

- All crew mates survived.
- Europeans became the king of sea
- There was **other bigger empires** like Islam, Mughal, Ming etc
- But Europeans acknowledged their ignorance
- Instead of imposing their beliefs and acting like they know everything they started **exploring for knowledge and conquering.**
- **Science and capitalism** became the cornerstone of European exploration
- Adding science guys into the crew
- Aborigines of Aus and Maori of New Zealand were all wiped out when they set foot
- Europeans were attracted to the **blanks of the map like magnets to iron**
- The global exploration culture was like nowhere
- Zheng He of China explored but had no support of his empire and was stopped when the ruling family changed.
- It was not the exceptional brains or some genetic things about Europeans, it was their **culture of acknowledging ignorance** and conquering more and the love of knowledge.
- Other big empires were all settled down with other priorities.
- Europeans swamped the other empires soon after starting out as an economic dwarf
- From Spain, expeditions by Columbus landed on Bahama, thought it was Indonesia, but it was America
- It was not Indonesia : said by Italian sailor **Amerigo Vespucci** and America was named.
- Romans and all conquered to defend their kingdom from neighbouring country and slowly crossed the distance while it was direct exploration and attack culture by Europeans
- Everything now has a European influence over it.
- Neil Armstrong - Don't believe a word this people says, they are going to take your land, by the tribals to **moon**
- 1835, Charles Darwin trained to become a pastor and jumped on the ship to Galapagos island and the rest is history. **HMS Beagle.**
- America is not in the Bible.
- **Aliens**
- In Caribbean islands - genocide by the Spaniards
- After killing all the natives under a harsh environment, imported slaves from Africa
- Powerful empire in Mexico the Aztecs
- 1519, **Hernan Cortez** marched there posing as an ambassador from the king of Spain then captured the king and made him do his bidding. Later he studied the city and Spaniards from Cuba and Spain started arriving. They conquered the place.
- Only if **Aztecs** were interested in the neighbouring places and **curious** they could have resisted but like Asian empires, Chinese empires, they were not at all interested and curious like Europeans.
- Spaniards stunk and incense sticks were carried around them, first they thought it was because they were divine.
- The **Inca** in South America was conquered similarly.
- Europeans had tons of experience of conquering under their sleeve and hence nobody stood a chance.

- It was only until 1944, a non European marched to another place to conquer. Japan to the two Alaskan islands.
- Europeans got the edge because nobody enjoyed conquering and exploring like them.
- The **cruciform language** deciphering - Behistun inscription helped them open the door to them the wisdom of the old. Middle East, Iran.
- The Asiatic society helped them understand Indian culture better and understand the **Indo-European family of languages**.
- The science helped them understand the locals better, so just a bunch of British could rule over 300 million Indians.
- The science made them look like progressive.
- Science allowed them to give railway tracks and medicine to the colonies.
- **Linguistic theory marrying evolution - Aryans**
- When William Jones said there was a **master language** from which all Indo-European languages descended many were eager to know who spoke the language.
- Earliest Sanskrit speakers called themselves Arya and Persian language called themselves Aiiira, hence suspected Greek, Latin, Gothic and Celtic also called themselves Arya.
- Married **linguistic theory** with **evolution** and said Aryans were not a linguistic group but a race, a **master race** who emerged from the mists of North and lay the foundations of culture throughout the world.
- The **Aryans** of Persia and India intermixed and are losing in quality while Europeans were pure Aryans and hence they are bright and are conquering the whole world.
- **Racism becomes anathema for scientists and politicians in late 20th cent**
- Racism became **culturism**
- It's in their blood became it's in their culture
- Right wing parties argue that Muslims have hierarchical politics, fanaticism, misogyny, hence should not be mixed with the democratic and liberal values of Europeans and hence stop immigration.
- **Imperialism** gave science the protection and support while **science** gave back justifications, ideologies and gadgets.
- But without **capitalism**, the need to make money for business man, James Cook wouldn't have reached Australia, no moon mission, no Columbus to America.

- **How Credit changed the world**

- Believing in the future money was not in the past because everybody thought that the size of the pie was constant and all they could do was split it.
- Credit was a concept where someone believes in your ability to make a better future
- Europeans did it first and even Columbus was asking funds for exploration and only after some 4 tries the king of Spain agreed
- Spain was dominating at first then Netherlands or the Dutch people became independent from them and they favoured the private interests of people, provided protection of private property and along with the king of Spain's unfair taxes people

started investing in banks of dutch and they grew powerful and in 8 years turned the tables.

- The VOC bank became so powerful that they ruled over Indonesia for 200 years.
- Anybody who reinvests his money to increase production again is a capitalist.
- According to Adam Smith, Capitalism would help in increasing production and everyone will be rich again along with the capitalist.

- **Joint Stock companies and European powers**

- People lost faith in the king of Spain
- Dutch merchants built the dutch empire with joint stocks
- People began investing in it
- **VOC** went to Indonesia to conquer it and ruled for 200 years
- Dutch nation came then
- The power of businesses if left unchecked
- The **Dutch West Indies Company** build New Amsterdam on the mouth of Hudson river
- WIC was repeatedly attacked by Natives and British
- In **1664** British conquered them and renamed New Amsterdam to New York
- The Wall street is paved along the way of the wall build to defend British

- New powers **France** and **Britain**

- France was bigger but the **Mississippi bubble** of 1717 collapsed it.
 - The Mississippi company spread tales about mississippi which it conquered and established New Orleans
 - Stocks went high for the company
 - Paris Stock exchange stocks were selling fast
 - John Law director of the company was close with the King Louis XV
 - Euphoria vanished after few days
 - Prices plummeted down and to keep it stable John Law also the governor of the central bank bought its stocks
 - Printed more money
 - The whole economic system was in a bubble
 - France went into debt
 - Louis XVI became king and more than half the budget was for interest paying
 - In **1789** Estates General the French Parliament body was called and thus began **French Revolution**
 - **1793** Louis XVI was executed
 - Napoleon conquered France in 1799, called Britain as a nation run by shopkeepers
 - British defeated him too
- British was joint stock too
- The British East India company conquered India with mercenaries
- Only until 1858 that it was nationalised
- It had Amsterdam, Paris, London stock bases now and was a trade union superpower

- **How close is politics and capitalism**
- **The great Opium war** between China and Britain from 1840-42
 - Britain exporting Opium to China and they became addicts hence banned in 1830
 - British waged war for "free trade" as many politicians were also investing in these drug cartels
 - Britain won and took Hong Kong and was under their control until 1997
 - 1/10th of Chinese became Opium addicts
- **The Greek - Ottoman(Turk) rebellion bond**
 - Sympathy for Greek and British created a bond
 - Greek was in the verge of loss at last and British helped them with their military
 - Greek got freedom was under large debt and hence controlled by the British
- Investing Overseas and taking control became a trend as they could turn the tables with their militaries
- There is a **Credit rating** every country which is the probability of them paying back their debts and it depends on culture, politics and many
- More than natural resources its the credit rating that is now taken as face value for a countries sustainability
- **Is Free market our saviour?**
- The latest capitalist trend is the call for a free market with **0 government intervention**.
- They say they will generate new jobs rather than government's policy to increase taxes on industrialist and giving money to the unemployed
- The problem is the safe market is always threatened by cheats and charlatans
- It might seem like a bullet proof argument that if a shopkeeper gives overtime then workers can abandon him and work for another competitor
- But what if it was monopoly or the shoe maker union reduces wages together
- The greed undermines the free market
- Like Christianity and Nazism, Capitalism made millions die
- The **slave trade** from Africa to work in the Malaria infested plantations in America to satisfy the sweet tooth of Europeans was a vicious triangle.
- **The humanitarian organisation of Congo** from Belgium - Free State of Congo given to them by British turned into profit and growth driven capitalist power - rubber export
- Like the sham called agricultural revolution, capitalism established its power and people could not live without it
- **Technology changing the world**
- The **steam engine** to draw water out of the mine to extract coal
- Converted into railways, carts and all
- Aluminium was so hard to extract and was costly than gold
- Napoleon used aluminium wares as luxury
- Saltpetre was scarce in Germany during the first world war as they were isolated and the only deposits were in Chile and India. It was necessary for ammunition.
- But a process to **extract ammonia** from thin air was made by Fritz Haber which was a substitute for saltpetre and if it wasn't for that Germany would have surrendered before 1918 and he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry

- It took **600 years for gun powder to become cannons** but only 40 for $E=mc^2$ to become atom bomb
- Industrial agriculture has led to the treatment of **animals as machines**
- They need to be with their mother and play to have a sound psychology but now they are becoming anxious and aggressive due to the situations we put them in
- Monkeys choosing wood mother even though metal mother has milk, they need the warmth
- Objectively the farms are giving them a chance to survive and reproduce but subjectively they are not given what they really need. Their social skills evolved for better survival but without giving them a chance to socialize they are under great mental pressure
- We can only hope that **capitalism might make the world good for us**
- Millions of chicks are thrown away due to abnormality

- **Changes brought by industrialism, Who would consume everything?**
- **Consumerism** - Indulgence is good, Just do it
- Frugality is self oppression
- When you want cereal in the middle of the day we don't need to fight it, instead just buy it and it was so **appealing** as unlike the valor, chivalry of old ideologies the capitalist-consumerist ideology was easy to do. It felt natural
- Aristocrats used to flaunt their riches but now the richest are carefully reinvesting while the poor is trying to copy their lifestyle and going into debt
- Industrial revolution brought in an **industrial time** as in assembly line time was of utmost importance
- Everything around started getting into a timetable
- First commercial train from **LiverPool to Manchester**
- **Nazis understood the climate at London using the ding of Big Ben through BBC**
- The power from **families and communities** shifted to **market and state**
- Everything from taxes, disputes and all were taken care by families
- King offered only protection from outside
- Anyone out of family had no chance of living
- **State** came and provided protection for individuality and people no longer needed families
- But soon alienation happened among people but they started seeking other communities
- Nationalism and parties

- **Our world is certainly more peaceful now**
- No international wars and all
- The way red army under their last leader Antonio Gorbachev retreated peacefully in 1989 even though they had vast resources
- **Wars were prevalent only in states having wealth** that can be looted hence no body attacked California as their wealth was their brains while Iraq had its oil wells
- **Happiness** based on pure pleasure depends on a lot of factors
- We don't have that kind of excitement as we used to have as hunter gatherers

- People become unhappy when there is a debilitating **pain** or when disease is getting severe, constant pain is phased out and we become happy like **normal**
- **Families and communities** were a factor of happiness
- We don't have much of any **toleration** so we feel miserable as we **compare** constantly with the first world countries and celebs in Instagram
- In an isolated island with some 50 people the odds of us being good looking are more, says all about our anxieties because of comparison
- Egyptians overthrew Hosni Mubarak not because of their conditions but because they compared themselves with first world countries
- **Every person has a fixed bandwidth of happiness some 3-7 and some 5-9 with a set balance point, so some feel miserable mostly no matter what and some feel good no matter what. But we can be at our maximum with a good marriage an all but basically everything boils down to biochemical activities**
- Everyone is deluding themselves in search for a meaning
- Parents find it difficult to look after their child but they say it gives them meaning and hence maybe it is not about pleasure but about **meaning**
- **Bhima Koregaon issue**
- **Peace from Buddhism**
- Instead of struggling to keep the waves of happiness or resist the waves of sadness, why don't you lie on the beach and just let it all pass
- **Genetic Engineering**
- Alba the glowing rabbit, the irony that the future will be driven by an intelligent designer the ones monotheists were after
- E coli the bacteria in gut used to produce insulin for low cost diabetes treatment
- Isolation of the monogamous gene of vole
- The Mammoth recreation experiment
- Pigs Omega 6 to Omega 3 fat which is healthy
- **CRISPR - Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats**
 - The defense mechanism in bacteria
 - The attacked virus genome is saved in DNA archives called CRISPR
 - Its copy is made into an RNA
 - The RNA is embedded on CAS9 protein which searches for the match and cuts it or destroys it
 - So in humans to edit a gene create an RNA of that gene and put it on CAS9
 - The cut will be made at the part we want to edit
 - The broken ends of a DNA will be repaired by the body where we can interfere and make our modifications
 - Chemistry 2020 Nobel Prize
- Genetic modifications, Cyborg or Inorganic life forms might emerge
- Some might become a-mortal maybe by 2050

- We might have a common Memory hive and we no longer will be able to relate to the new human perception, I, he, she all will be meaningless
- Maybe new emotions and new desires we cannot relate to
- Sharks have better magnetic field detection capabilities than human made tech
- **The Human brain project** from 2005 funded by European Union for 1 billion Euro might make an artificial brain
- **Scientists have always used extending life and battling diseases or in other words The Gilgamesh Project as excuse for everything and nobody can object**

What do we want or would the question be **What do we want to want?**