

The arrow of history:

During the first half of the twentieth century, scholars thought that culture was something unchangeable; every culture was unique and impossible to change from outside. However, today they concluded that the opposite is true, they are in constant flux. Globalization made this quite obvious.

But why have civilizations changed? Noah Harari wrote, "Every culture always had contradictions; they changed trying to fix them. Such contradictions are an inseparable part of each human culture." He also considers that it's impossible to fix all the conflicts of a civilization because they are always creating new ones. Personally, I'm not sure if I agree with his opinion, but it's interesting to consider it though. Another interesting question is if we have a direction. Noah has an answer for that too. He argues that over millennia simple cultures gradually converted into bigger and more complex civilizations, so the world contains fewer and fewer cultures. He admits, "it is a crude generalization what I said, although it's true in a lot of cases."

Today, almost all humans share plenty of their culture. For example, we all have the same geopolitical system (the entire planet system is divided into countries), the same economist (capitalism), and the same legal system (human-rights and international law). There are some authentic cultures, but there isn't any culture free from external influences and sometimes we don't know about how original something is. For example, it is world known that India has spicy food and they use a lot of chili, but chili is native of Mexico.

Sapiens evolved separating people into two groups: us and them. In fact, no social animal is ever guided by the interest of the entire specie to which it belongs. As an example, a herd of lions don't care about others herds. Hopefully, Sapiens ended up cooperating with strangers. But, how Sapiens broke the structure of us and them? They created potentially universal orders: money, empire, and religion. Further explanations will come in following chapters, so I'll make only a quick acquaint on each. Money doesn't leave anyone behind because everyone is allowed to use it, empires try to unify all cultures and territories into a big one, and religions, in some cases, try to impose a universal truth that is true everywhere.