



Chapter-wise Summary of The Book

**“21 Lessons for The
21 Century” By
Yuval Noah Harari
Summarized Version
by CSPs Research
Team**

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Yuval Noah Harari:

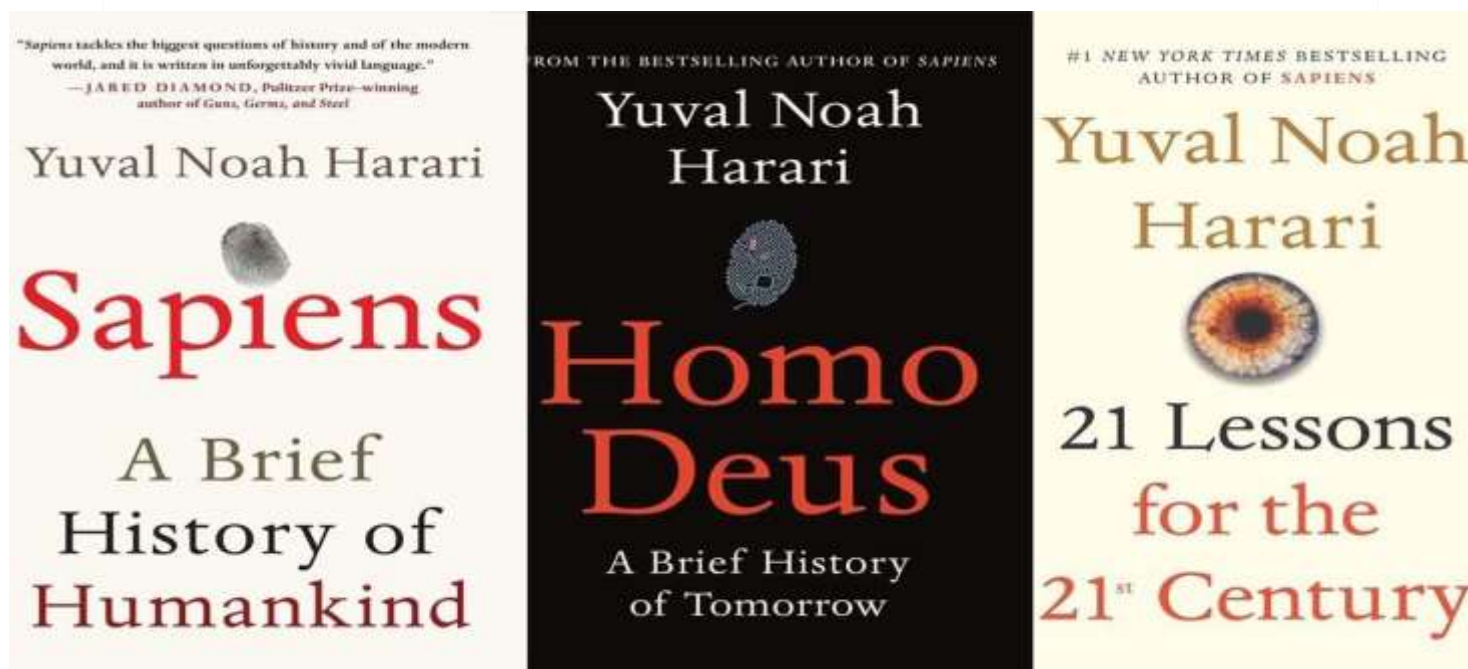
Yuval Noah Harari is a historian, philosopher, and the bestselling author of *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow*, and *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*. Prof. Harari originally specialized in world history, medieval history and military history.

His current research focuses on macro- historical questions such as: What is the relationship between history and biology? What is the essential difference between Homo sapiens and other animals? Is there justice in history? Does history have a direction? Did people become happier as history unfolded?

What ethical questions do science and technology raise in the 21st century.



Chapter-wise Summary of 21 Lesson for the 21st Century developed by CSPs Research Team
BOOKS BY PROF. YUVAL NOAH HARARI:



21 Lessons in One Book.

1. Disillusionment
2. Work.
3. Liberty.
4. Equality.
5. Community.
6. Civilization.
7. Nationalism.
8. Religion.
9. Immigration.
10. Terrorism.
11. War.
12. Humanity.
13. God.
14. Secularism.
15. Ignorance.
16. Justice.
17. Post-Truth.
18. Science Fiction.
19. Education.
20. Meaning.
21. Meditation



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In this chapter, Harari states the need to replace the communist, fascist and liberal stories of the 20th Century with the new ones that of humans, superhumans and artificial intelligence. He is of the view that the twin revolutions infotech and biotech could replace not only economics and societies but also our bodies and mind. According to Elon Musk, humans have already been augmented, there is just a disconnection and the data rate is too slow. Having lost the faith in old stories, the humans of 21st Century are in a state of constant disillusion, not knowing what the future holds. Perhaps the answer lies in discarding old stories and coming up with a new story. One that provides with a new perspective.



Chapter 2: Work

Humankind lack the ability to predict future correctly, but we all agree that machines and robotics will change every line of work in near future. Harari says that the better we understand the biochemical mechanisms, the better computers can get at analyzing human behavior, predicting human decisions and replacing human professions. Artificial

Chapter-wise Summary of 21 Lesson for the 21st Century developed by CSPs Research Team intelligence might create new jobs for humans, but it will demand high level of expertise and will fail to bring an end to unemployment. On that account, the change in authority from humans to algorithms is alarming.



Chapter 3: Liberty

Harari shares the following quote: “You might as well call a nationwide plebiscite to decide whether Einstein got his algebra right.” He goes on to say that referendums and elections are always about human feelings not about human rationality. If democracy



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Chapter-wise Summary of 21 Lesson for the 21st Century developed by CSPs Research Team were a matter of rational decision making, there would be absolutely no reason to give all people equal voting rights.

Authority used to reside within the divine but it shifted to humans and may soon be owned by algorithms. Human would lose trust in humanity in the future when they have to rely on Artificial Intelligence to do everything, make the right decisions, and even know what the truth is. As soon as algorithms take over, humans would no longer be free-thinking, rational, decision-making beings but only be dependent on data processes.

Chapter 4: Equality

There is this hope that someday, everyone would be equal, but thanks to technology and globalization the 21st century might become the most unequal society in history. Throughout history, the elite class has been superior not because of their skills or talents, but because of unjust legal and economic discrimination. Today, half the world's wealth is in the hands of the richest 1%, while the richest 100 people are collectively worth more than the world's poorest 4 billion. This might get worse as the rise of Artificial Intelligence renders the masses irrelevant and at the mercy of the rich. According to Harari, the key to prevent such a scenario is to regulate data ownership and accumulation of human data is more important to tech outfits than money, because as long as they have the data, the money would continuously come in. This race to collect data has already begun, led by data giants such as Google and Facebook.



Chapter 5: Community

Yuval starts this chapter by recalling a time when Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg lamented about the breakdown of human communities, following a political tremor caused by the 2016 US elections and promised to use Facebook as a tool to create more communities for people. Using AI to strengthen our social fabric and bring the world closer is a more ambitious goal than using AI to drive cars or diagnose cancer. However, in order to succeed, Facebook will need to bridge the gap between online and offline lives. People are closer to their phones than they are to the people around them. Let's not be faith-blinded by the hope that Zuckerberg would easily make things better. Only if Facebook tries to see humans in their flesh and blood rather than people glued to screens and giving up data. But when offline and online realities finally merge, AI would end up manipulating us.



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Chapter 6: Civilization

We seem to be different civilizations but the bigger picture shows us that there is only one global civilization. This can be seen in the 200 or so countries that are members of the United Nations and believe in fundamental human rights, good healthcare, and political system. In order to be globally relevant, nations must be a part of the global socio-economic and political system.



Egypt



Aztec/Maya



China



Indus Valley



Mesopotamia



Moche/Inca



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It is important to look at the difference before arriving at agreements, there would be clashes even within civilizations because of differences in beliefs, but the things that made civilization today different from the past is because the world itself worries about the effect of climate change, the rise of AI, and the disposal of plastic.

Chapter 7: Nationalism

The cold war and other inter-nation wars showed people the benefit of having a global community. There is a clamor of global civilization, but the recent political events reveal that some countries still want to maintain their narcissistic and egoistic visions to build themselves from within. It is good to be patriotic and loyal to one's nation but we also need to be aware that there is a common force that binds us together: Our Humanity. The three problems technological disruption, nuclear war and ecological collapse faced by humanity would be better solved if we unite, setting aside our nationalism and beliefs, in an attempt to form a common front.



Chapter 8: Religion

Modern ideologies, national governments and scientific experts have been unable to come up with a viable vision for the future of humanity. Is it possible that religion can provide such a vision? Can it help us solve the problems we face? To answer this, we first need to distinguish between three types of problems: technological, policy and identity problems. Yuval argues that religion is not really relevant to technical and policy problems. However, it is extremely significant to identity problems – not as a potential solution, but as part of the problem. Religion remains powerful because it gives people identities. It distinguishes between ‘us’ and ‘them’ and determines whether we should care about ‘them’ or not. It makes people feel unique through rites, rituals and ceremonies. Even today, many governments rely on religion to forge a unique national identity.



Chapter 9: Immigration

Harari defines immigration as a deal with three basic conditions:

1. The host country allows the immigrants in.
2. In return, the immigrants must embrace at least the norms and values of the host country even if that means giving up some of their traditional norms and values.
3. If they assimilate to a sufficient degree over time, they become equal and full members of the host country.

Immigration allowed people to experience culture shock because they are of different beliefs, religions and ideologies. There isn't really any difference among humans biologically, but there are socio-cultural barriers that divide people. Europe tries to find the middle ground on which they can accommodate immigrants without harming their entire system. If it works, then perhaps there is hope for humanity to focus on the deeper issues faced by the world.



Chapter 10: Terrorism

Terrorist are masters of mind control. They kill very few people but terrify billions to shake huge political structure such as EU and USA after 9/11. This strategy is adopted by weak parties who can't inflict much material damage on their enemies. Terrorism is very unattractive strategy because it leaves all important decisions in the hands of enemy. But if terrorists acquire weapons of mass destruction, the nature of not just terrorism but the state and global politics will change dramatically.



Chapter 11: War

With the current political trends, no wars have been foreboding but people still have this fear that something can cause a global war. It is difficult for major powers to wage successful war. One reason is the change in the nature of economy. Even war remains an unprofitable business in 21st century that would not give us guarantee of peace.



Chapter 12: Humility

Most people tend to believe they are the center of the world and their culture is linchpin of human history. Many Greeks believe that history begin with Homer, Chinese report with the yellow emperor and Indians say that atomic bomb and airplanes were invented at ancient stages by Indians. All these claims are false. They combine a willful ignorance of history with more than a hint of racism. Morality, art spirituality and creativity are universal human abilities embedded on our DNA. Einstein, Galileo and Newton never thought they are inventing and discovering for any specific group. They have worked for science and for the betterment of humanity.



Chapter 13: God

We must believe in God that gave some concrete laws to humans, or else morality will disappear and society will collapse in to primeval chaos.

Chapter 14: Secularism

Secularism is defined as the negation of the religion. It is like a hollow way of life without a direction. Secular people do not believe in any Gods or angles and they cherish freedom.

Chapter 16: Justice

The problem is not one of values. Whether secular or religious, citizens of 21st century have plenty of values. The problem is with implementing these values in a complex global world. Justice demands not just a set of abstract values, but also a concrete cause and effect relation. The system is structured in such a way that those who make no effort to know abstain a blissful ignorance, and those who make an effort to know will find it difficult to discover the truth. Religious and ideological dogmas are still highly attractive in our scientific age precisely because they offer us safe haven for the frustrating complexity.



Chapter 17: The Post-Truth Era

Lies exist all around the world. Putin's attempt to 'reclaim' Ukraine is one example. We are in the post-truth era, but when did we transition from truth to post truth and when was the truth era? History can show us that there never was an era of truth. Too much distortion in reality resulted in weakening people by making them act in unrealistic ways.

Well, if you cannot afford to waste time you will never find the truth.



Chapter 18: Science Fiction

The worst sin of present-day science fiction is that it tends to confuse intelligence with consciousness. The current technological and scientific revolution implies not that authentic individuals and authentic realities can be manipulated by algorithms and TV cameras, but rather that authenticity is a myth. The Brave New World by Huxley talks about how the human mind can be manipulated with AI to make sure there is a global order. Gaining control of the mind requires mastering the self. Therefore, escaping the narrow definition of self might be the necessary survival skill in the 21st century.



Chapter 19: Education

In the 21st century we are flooded by enormous amounts of information, and even the censors don't try to block it. Instead they are busy spreading misinformation or distracting us with irrelevancies. We have now run out of time. The decisions we will take in next few decades will shape the future of life itself, and we can only take these decisions based only on our present worldview. If this generation lacks a comprehensive view of the cosmos, the future life will be decided at random. Technology can help you a lot but if

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technology gains too much power over your life, you might become a hostage to its agenda. The teachers themselves usually lack the mental flexibility that the 21st century demands as they, themselves, are the product of old education.



Chapter 20: Meaning

Life is not a story: To understand the meaning of life means to understand your unique function and to live a good life means to accomplish that function. The theory of life is



never ending epic is extremely attractive and open, but it suffers from two problems first by lengthening our own personal story we don't make it really meaningful, second the paucity of supporting evidence. We find meaning by fitting ourselves in to some readymade story about the universe but the truth is exactly opposite, the universe does not give us meaning in fact we give meaning to universe. If you want to know the truth about the universe, about the meaning of life and about your identity the best place to start is by observing suffering and exploring what it is. The answer is not a story.

Chapter 21: Meditation

Harari echoes what philosophers have been saying for millennia, that the deepest source of suffering is in the patterns of our own minds. It might be worth working just as hard in order to understand our own minds. And we had better understand our mind before the algorithms make our minds up for us.

