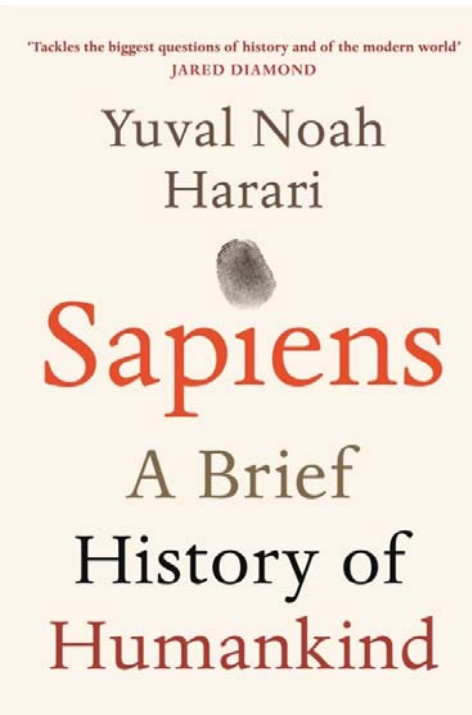


The Literacy Lowdown: Sapiens, chapter 4



A level geography students, remember, you should:

- undertake wider reading
- use factual texts, discursive / creative material

Summary

Part 4 The Scientific Revolution starts with Alamogordo, 16 July 1945, 05:29:53. Eight seconds after the first atomic bomb was detonated. The nuclear physicist Robert Oppenheimer, upon seeing the explosion utters 'now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds'.

To summarise recent history, I prefer the later quote 'any attempt to define the characteristics of modern society is akin to defining the colour of a chameleon. The only characteristic of which we can be certain is the incessant change'.

© Yuval Noah Harari

Specification links

AQA 3.2.1.2 Growth of Global Systems.

Edexcel A Level 3.1 Globalisation is a long-standing process.

OCR 1.b. How food production methods vary from intensive to extensive, subsistence to commercial.

WJEC 2.2.1 Growth of Global Systems.

Key quotes

"The crucial step was our willingness to admit ignorance. Admission of ignorance was married to the idea that scientific discoveries could give us new powers." (p295)

"During the last five centuries, humans increasingly came to believe that they could increase their capabilities by investing in scientific research." (p278)

"Today's wars are scientific productions [and in return] the world's military forces initiate, fund, and steer a large part of humanity's scientific research." (p290)

"Was Cook's ship a scientific expedition protected by a military force or a military expedition with a few scientists?" (p311)

"Romantic literature presents the individual as somebody caught in a struggle against the state and the market. Nothing could be further from the truth [they] are the mother and father of the individual." (p402)