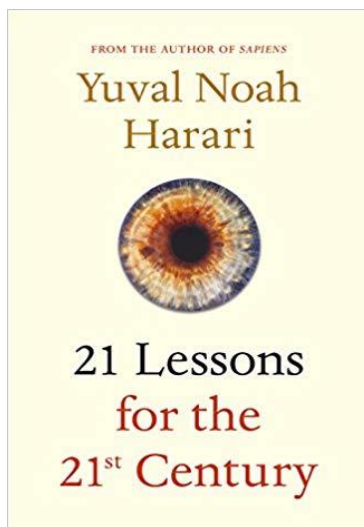


21 LESSONS FOR THE 21TH CENTURY HUMAN SEARCH FOR THE MEANING OF EXISTENCE

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Title : 21 Lessons for the 21st Century
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After *Sapiens A Brief History of humankind* (2011) and *Future Homo Deus of the human race* (2015), Prof. Harari published the third book part of his trilogy, *Lessons for the 21st Century* in 2018.

What's makes interesting about this book, so get such a warm welcome from readers around the world? Naturally, its contents are the initial exposure to critical thinking, and the ability to "open eyes" will be the other side of the development of 21st century modern man.

As the title suggests, Prof. Harari's thoughts unravel critically and densely in 21 sub-theme divided into five chapters. The first section covered the Technological Challenge consisting of 4 sub-chapters, namely disillusionment, Work, Liberty, and Equality. The second part of the Political Challenge consists of 5 sub-chapters, namely Community, civilization, titled, Religion, and Immigration. The third chapter, Despair, and Hope includes five sub-chapters on Terrorism, War, Humility, God, and secularism. The author explained Truth into four sub-theme of Ignorance, Justice, Post-Truth, and Science Fiction. And the fifth chapter on Resilience is divided into sub-chapters Education, Meaning, and Meditation.

In the introduction, Prof. Harari has expressed the purpose of writing in an apparent and exciting way: "... In a world deluged by irrelevant information, clarity is power. In theory, anybody can join the debate about the future of humanity, but it is so hard to maintain a clear vision. A historian, I cannot give people food or clothes – but I can try and offer some clarity, thereby helping to level the global playing field. If This empowers even a fish of additional people to join the debate about the future of our species, I have done my job... " (page IX).

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In this book, Prof. Harari focuses on the problems of the present and the future of human society. What is happening now? What are the biggest challenges, and what choices are available? What should we care about, and what should we teach our children? So if in *Homo Sapiens* and *Homo Deus*, Prof. Harari gives a lot of historical narratives, then in this book is more a selection of various lessons/problems of the 21st Century. More on to stimulate thought deeply and help readers participate in the discussion of the significant issues of the present.

Another mission that Prof. Harari wants to convey is to invite readers to see issues from a global perspective without ignoring the problem at an individual level – because the worldwide world essentially puts pressure on our personal lives. The more dominant the global dimension in our lives means, it is also increasingly essential to dismantle religious, political, racial, gender bias in our institutional network.

The author revealed important issues further. For example, with the end of the ideological rivalry between fascism, communism, and liberalism, which was finally won by liberalism, it turned out that no automated liberalism can survive. The credibility of liberalism faced a devastating challenge with the advent of twin Revolution Information Technology (InfoTech) and Biotechnology (Biotech). The only revolution InfoTech and Biotech will soon throw millions of people out of the job market and undermine or even destroy the freedoms and similarities that have been championed and accomplished. The Big data the algorithm will sooner or later create a digital dictatorship and group of elites will control the full power. At the same time, the majority will suffer not due to work exploitation but to the irrelevance their skills to the condition of the New World of Employment (p. xii). What are the social, economic, and political crises that will happen as a result of the revolution? Is this thought of? Although new technology promises a lot of positive things, but the threat and danger of technology will also have a significant impact. In addition to presenting the challenges that must be faced, Prof. Harari also analyzes potential possibilities that AI (artificial by) can make to create a global community to save the freedom and equality of humankind.

As written on the page about chapters, Despair, and Hope, "... Though the challenges are unprecedented, and though the disagreements are intense, humankind can rise to the occasion if we keep our fears under control and be a bit more humble about our views..." (page 157). While it is in the context of post-truth, the author questioned the extent to which we can understand the various global developments and differentiate between the 'unrighteous' with the 'fairness'?

Some notes can be submitted after reading this book. First, 21 topics in this book are fascinating and relevant for readers who are thinking and looking for clarity of various phenomena and changes in social, economic, and political due to the development of information technology and biotechnology. Each topic can be selected to be read following the interests and interests that are being made by the reader. For example, the post-Truth theme is in our focus, chapter four on Truth will be especially relevant for readers to dive deeper into what is happening. In the Indonesian context – where the political security issue in social media is such a junction; Then, the description of Prof. Harari can show the direction and clarity of how we ought to be tortured.

Secondly, for readers expecting an answer and a straightforward solution about the various themes and problems discussed, it would be a little disappointed. Indeed, this book is not a "smart book" that gives answers to the issues of the impact of technology, terrorism, war, religion, and so on in a riverside-but more to see the unquestionable edges that we have been through and we accept what is (taken for granted). The most obvious

example appears in the description of religion. The relevance of the Bible in guiding the era of AI, engineering of Biotechnology (Bioengineering), global warming, or the cyber War is unquestionable and rational by the author. How are religions like Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism relevant and can help answer the significant problems facing humanity today? The reality and level of today's issues are such a complex, and not all levels of problems can be solved by religion, especially at the technical level and policy, for example (Hal 128). Another example is the author's question about nationalism. Are strong nationalism sentiments now able to answer the three major problems facing humanity globally: nuclear warfare, ecological destruction, and technology disruption?

Thirdly, the keyword or answer to the various problems that have been addressed from a CHAPTER I to CHAPTER IV can be found if we read the descriptions in chapter V in detail and thoughtfully. In the story of education, such as writers expose the differences between state/condition and education practice of the 21st Century and earlier. Past conditions and methods of training are not relevant anymore for the present. The Western Liberal Education Model also experienced the irrelevance and pedagogy experts began suggesting the teaching of 'the Four C, 'which is Critical Thinking, communication, collaboration, and Creativity (p. 262). Can we agree on this principle? At least a 'clarity' clarity has been donated by the author according to the purpose of writing.

Fourth, another exciting thing is that after a global 'journey' of contemplation, the author shares his experience of Meditation – as a human effort to re-see him, recognize his thoughts and feelings. Mind becomes very crucial for the author as he says, "... The mind is a flow of subjective experiences such as pain, pleasure, anger, and love... ". Meditation practice as a means of understanding and observing the human mind will lead to a focused and clear mind, something that is needed before the algorithm takes over the memory for us.

Twenty-one theme chosen by Prof. Harari to understand the development of the 21st Century should we welcome with glee and gratitude because this book is beneficial for us to give clarity and direction – which not all writers can do. This book is a 21st-century compass that hasn't been entirely perfect, but at least a human "consciousness" of its power and for what purpose the "power" will be used will encourage us to fill life responsibly.

Hopefully, we can find the source of answers to the essential question of man as revealed by Prof. Harari: Who are we? What should we do in our lives? What kind of skills do we need? Taking into consideration everything we know and don't know about science, about God, politics, religion – what can we say about the meaning of life today? Happy reading!