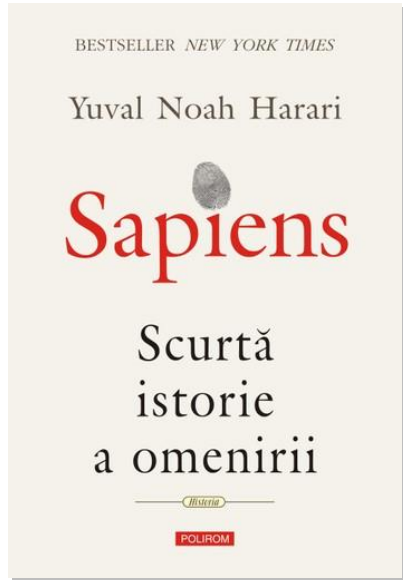


An Oxford Historian About Humanity: Yuval Noah Harari

Paula-Andreea Onofrei

Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens. Scurtă istorie a omenirii / Sapiens. Brief History of Humankind*, Polirom Publishing House, 2017, 383 pages



Having been written by Yuval Noah Harari, a historian who obtained his PhD at Oxford University and is currently a Professor of Universal History of the Hebrew University from Jerusalem, the volume *Sapiens* was firstly published in Israel in 2011 and it became a thunder like bestseller in the entire world, there are now more than forty languages in which it has been translated. The Romanian version has been worked on by Adrian Șerban and this volume was published by Polirom in 2017.

As far as the structure of the book is concerned, it has four parts:

Part 1: The Cognitive Revolution

Part 2: The Agriculture Revolution

Part 3: The Unification of Humanity

Part 4: The Scientific Revolution

Epilogue: The Animal which became a God

As far as I am concerned, I have been intrigued by one of the following fragments written on the end cover page: “Most science-fiction stories describe a world in which sapiens who are identical with us benefit from superior technology. The real potential of future technologies is to change *Homo Sapiens* oneself, including our emotions and our desires, not only our means and weapons. Rarely does science-fiction describe such a future, because a minute description is, by definition, incomprehensible. To direct a movie about the life of a super cyborg is similar to producing *Hamlet* for a Neanderthal public. Even the future masters of this world will probably be more different from us than we are compared to Neanderthal creatures. At

least they are human, just like us, while our inheritants will be god-like. Physicists define the Big-Bang as a singular phenomenon. We might be on the verge of quickly approaching a new singularity, when all the concepts which offer meaning to our world – I, you, men, women, love and hate – will become irrelevant. Anything that happens beyond this point has no meaning for us.”

From our point of view, it is intriguing the fact that this book offers such a gigantic perspective regarding the evolution of humanity and we as readers feel compelled and in the same time charmed to continue reading the book, because its writing style is vivid, full of captivatingly beautiful connections between facts, their long and short-term effects.

In a nutshell, *Sapiens. A Brief History of Humankind* is an intriguingly good book, an exhaustive analysis of our evolution which makes us feel small, at the beginning, given this unpredictable circle and life, afterwards, this volume makes us feel important that we have had and we still have the chance to change something for the better in other people’s lives and last, but not least, it makes us think about our role as human beings, our mission, our deep inner purpose on this Earth. To cut a long story short, a masterpiece.