

- Paradox: We have more information about ourselves, the present and the past than ever, and yet there is a lack of grand narratives to explain human history as a whole. Today's preponderant view: humans make their future in many culturally diverse ways and there is no direction in human history.
- Do essentially the same processes operate in all the periods with just a scale upgrade? | Can this sequence potentially go on forever?
- The main lesson that history teaches is that people rarely learn from history.

I

- 1. Human species expands over the planet (AF \rightarrow AS \rightarrow EU; AS \rightarrow AU; AS \rightarrow AM) | 2. Migration is the driving force for the global conquest of the land
- 3. Creation of the spatial background (precondition) for the unfolding of subsequent globalization processes
- 4. Hunter-gatherer economies (before the onset of agriculture, the subsistence of a typical hunter-gatherer required some 26 square kilometres of land)
- 5. From a global perspective, foragers lived in separate worlds | 6. Agriculture first and industrialization next (19th century) liquidated foraging societies
- 7. Different technology levels creates inequality among societies: do the most powerful societies tend to exploit the weaker ones?
- 8. Exploitation of nature as well. Megafauna extinction: due to overkill? First instance of environmentally unsustainable practices by human societies? (Extinction appears to have coincided with the arrival of humans, at least in North America and Australia)

II

- 1. Agricultural revolution: food-collecting societies become largely food-producing. | 2. Potential for greater inequality within societies (elite vs mass)
- 3. Agriculture did not spread uniformly: potential for greater inequality among societies | 4. Agrarian civilizations: focused on political expansion not economic development.
- 5. Globalization now also in the hands of collective agents (states) | 6. First global trade networks (salt) | 7. Slow technological diffusion
- 9. Main environmental problem: keep the soil high in nutrients

III

- 1. Conquest of the seas: states reconquer the Earth | 2. Food globalization | 3. Intercontinental migration | 4. More global trade networks | 5. Faster technological diffusion
- 6. Origin of modern states: political and commercial expansion (among relatively equals) 7. Scientific revolution (basis for the systematic production of technology)
- 8. Economic and political leadership go together | 9. Emergence of global hegemons | 10. Emergent capitalism | 11. Global economy recurrently shaken by booms and busts
- 12. Accumulation by dispossession? Polarization at the global level?

IV

- 1. Industrialization and industrial expansion | 2. Age of minerals (fossil fuels and mineral resources) | 3. Movement of goods and people increased. | 4. Fast technological innovation
- 5. Anthropocene (humanity has altered the trajectory of the planet: event to be celebrated or lamented/feared? | 6. Democracy starts to spread | 7. Rise of the West / Great Divergence
- 8. Origin of a state-based international political system | 9. Political expansion of the centre against the periphery | 10. Unifying force of science | 11. Development = state project?
- 12. Political globalization concluded: modern states everywhere (the surface of the planet divided among states) | 13. Consumption globalized
- 14. Explosive population growth (richer countries first poorer countries next) 15. Does development now need manufacturing (for its strong link to technological progress)?

V

- 1. Globalization of information: connection revolution (internet, mobile phones) | 2. Origin of a fully globalized economic system (based on multinational firms) | 3. Digital expansion
- 4. Rise of international finance | 5. Production globalized (outsourcing) | 6. Platform companies, platform capitalism | 7. Silent revolution: production at zero marginal cost
- 8. Economic retreat of the state (neoliberalism) 9. Power of software 10. Rise of the Rest? Increased polarization between centre and periphery?
- 11. Monopolies of the centre: technology, finance, resource exploitation, weapons of mass destruction, and media and communication.
- 12. Great acceleration (period after World War II up to the present, transition between phases IV and V): period of human history with the most rapid and pervasive changes (economic growth, resource use, waste generation, disturbance of the Earth System). | 13. New capitalism launch in the 1980s (Samir Amin: generalized-monopoly capitalism)
- 14. Massive redistribution of the Earth System's stock of carbon | Destabilization of ice masses (possibility of ice-free Earth) | Can humans control the planet?
- 15. Labour weakened: is capital crushing labour? | 16. Labour market: the less globally integrated | 17. Importance of property income: is financial capital crushing productive capital?.

VI

- 1. Mechanization and automation: the rise of the robots and the end of work? | 2. Will artificial intelligence be dangerous? | 3. Will humans destabilize the Earth System?
- 4. What of social, religious, linguistic, cultural, ideological globalization? | 5. Global governance or sovereign national states? | 6. Will excessive inequality be tamed?
- 7. Revolt of the elites or global triumph of democracy? 8. The end of war? 9. Will social pacification be reached? Major social conflicts/tensions (or its sources) eradicated?
- 10. How sustainable will global economic growth be? | 11. Has globalization an expiration date? | 12. Population bomb: overpopulation, population collapse, population under control?
- 13. Conquest of space or trapped on Earth? | 14. What is the future of the welfare state? | 15. How will energy shortages be solved?
- 16. Will capitalism survive its sources of instability (finance, resource exhaustion, climate change, pollution, inequalities, depopulation)? Will it reinvent itself?