

A Summary History of Humans in the World

David Rosenboom

This text was written for a video in which a hand is seen writing these lines on parchment paper. The video was created for a live performance accompanied by improvised music.

habits develop in primitive states engendering sustainable forms

— to —>

self emerges through generalizing habits

— to —>

consciousness of self emerges—a feedback/cybernetic loop event

— to —>

habits of forming predictions develop

— to —>

self broadens prediction habits by evolving complexity in systems of
generalization

— to —>

threshold of complexity tolerance is reached, and systems of magic
emerge explaining how perceived differentiation of things leads to
perceived causes and effects

— to —>

the agents of magical power become anthropomorphized

— to —>

systems of “gods” emerge with imagined power to enact causes

— to —>

systems of belief are imposed to control social order and assuage fear

— to —>

belief in proscribed systems of “gods” is mandated for political and economic control

— to —>

deity structures—imagined guarantors of stability—are simplified to empower tribal unity

— to —>

punitive deity structures are imposed to solidify autocratic and monarchical, politico-economic hierarchies

— to —>

belief in proclaimed explanations for phenomena is required to remove doubt in control structures and enable denial of rational observation

— to —>

a disruptive introduction of observation-based tools for making predictions demonstrates potential power to replace belief-based systems

— to —>

periods of cyclical, catastrophic, global conflict ensue, pitting observational and propositional thinking against imposed belief

— to —>

propositions based on observation and employing idealized tools (mathematics) for making predictions demonstrate undeniable effectiveness

— to —>

periods of cyclical, catastrophic, global conflict ensue, pitting
 observational and propositional thinking against imposed belief,

again and again

— to —>

a non-correspondence of idealized tools with the behavior of the
 universe at observable extremes slowly becomes evident

— to —>

illusions of “law” and “precedent”¹—even of “form”—may be at play

here

— to —>

now what do we do?

David Rosenboom
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¹ In the political chaos of 2018, the word “president” was sometimes substituted for the word “precedent”.