

FUTURE Vision

Signals of the Future

WORLD

The famine situation in Gaza is dire and imminent, according to UN officials. Efforts to address this humanitarian catastrophe are crucial. Children in Gaza have already died from malnutrition and dehydration. The crisis has escalated due to the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. A quarter of the territory's population (around 576,000 Gazans) were assessed by the UN to be "one step away" from famine and a painful death.

CLIMATE

As Arctic ice shrinks by 13% a decade, ground-breaking initiatives rebuild polar ice caps.

Real Ice uses a pump to bring seawater from under the ice to the surface where it freezes. Arctic Reflections sprinkles powder to boost ice reflectivity, reflect more sunlight, and slow down melting.



CULTURE

Yellowface by R.F. Kuang, a satire of ethnic diversity in the publishing industry, won the 2023 Amazon "Best Book of the Year" award in the U.K.

The story revolves around a struggling writer, who steals an unpublished manuscript from her late friend, a successful Asian American author. She rewrites the novel to appeal to a white audience while navigating the ethical complexities of cultural appropriation, sensitivity reading, and cancel culture.



"Study the past if you would define the future." - Confucius

Envisioning: Writing our History

Writing is a strong signifier of our humanity and history. Pick a statement, imagine, and provoke a conversation with friends to discuss such future. What consequences would it have? Would you enjoy living in this world? What would you do next?

- **What if** writing became obsolete, and all knowledge were transmitted through images, sounds, and gestures?
- **What if** writing was restricted to a privileged elite, and most people had no access to literacy or education?
- **What if** history was erased every generation, and people had to start from scratch without any collective memory or cultural heritage?
- **What if** history was erased and rewritten by AI, and humans had no control over how the past was interpreted and presented?
- **What if** writing was a crime, and anyone who dared to express their thoughts or opinions in written form faced severe punishment?
- **What if** writing was a virus, and anyone who came into contact with written texts became infected with a contagious disease?
- **What if** history was a lie, and people were fed false information and propaganda by a powerful regime or corporation?
- **What if** writing was a gift, and only a few people had the ability to write, and they were revered as prophets, artists, or leaders?

Wanna share your thoughts with us? Send us an article, fiction, image, video, or artifact!

The Question:

Do futurists need to study history?

For futurists, looking back is a vital component of preparing for looking forward. It is said that to become a good futurist, you first need to be a good historian!

History helps you understand the world, and how society, technology, economy, politics, culture, values, and morals have changed over time and influenced each other.

History helps you build better citizenship, by appreciating the diversity and complexity of human experience, and the role of individual and collective agency in shaping history.

History helps you gain personal growth, by exploring your identity and heritage, and how they relate to the larger context.

History helps to replace the "now" in a past-present-future dynamic, and anticipate possible futures that may emerge from it. It stimulates your imagination and scenario-planning abilities.

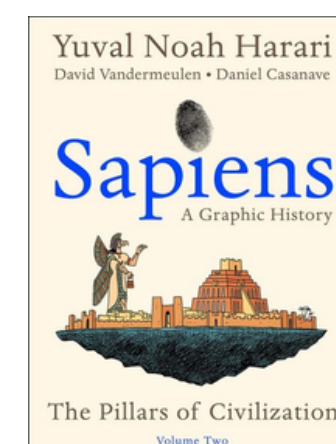
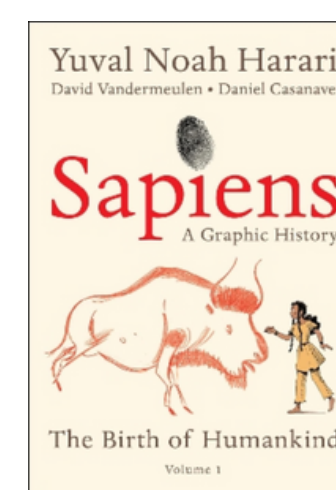
History helps you learn from the past and notice clear warning signs. By identifying trends and cycles that recur throughout history, and by analyzing causes and effects of historical events, you can avoid repeating the mistakes of the past!

Taste of the Future!

In the graphic version of *Sapiens*, a fictional Yuval invites us to take a ride on the wild side of history accompanied by globetrotting characters: his niece Zoe; biologist Prof. Saraswati; the gritty Detective Lopez; and the original superhero, Dr. Fiction.

Together, they cut through the noise, step back, and take a look at the really big picture: **the entire history of the human species!**

How did an insignificant ape become the ruler of the planet, capable of splitting the atom, flying to the Moon, and manipulating the genetic code of life?



Sapiens: A Graphic History
Yuval Noah Harari
David Vandermeulen (co-writer)
Daniel Casanave (illustrator)

<https://www.ynharari.com/book/graphicnovelsapiens/>