Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind

Chapter 13. A History's Biggest Fraud

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FOR 2.5 MILLION YEARS HUMANS FED themselves by gathering plants and hunting animals that lived and breed **ed** on wild plants. Humans gathered the flavorsome plants and got hurtled and chased by wild animals. Then, about 10,000 years ago, some humans in various places in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and the Americas began to cultivate plants and breed animals. Wheat and goats were domesticated by approximately 9000 years and tens and tens of thousands of generations ago in the Middle East, and then spread to Europe, Asia, Africa and America – but everywhere they went. Sapiens lived continued to live by gathering and plants hunting wild animals. Why do people and animals in different parts of the world suddenly begin to do a lot more work for a very uncertain and **political** dramatic?

All this changed about 10,000 years ago, when Sapiens began to devote almost all their time and effort to manipulating the lives of plants and plant species. From sunrise to sunset humans spent sweaty weeks, watered plants, plucked weeds from the ground and tied sheaves to poles. Humans also spent months and years with more fuss, grief and care. It was a revolution in the way humans lived – the Agricultural Revolution.

The transition to agriculture began around 9500–8000 BC in the hill country of south-eastern Turkey, western Iran, and the Levant – a steep and a restricted geographical area. Wheat and goats were domesticated by approximately 9000 years and tens and tens of thousands of years ago in the Middle East, and then spread to Europe, Asia, Africa and America – but everywhere they went. Sapiens lived continued to live by gathering and plants hunting wild animals. Why do people and animals in different parts of the world suddenly begin to do a lot more work for a very uncertain and dramatic? Sickles were invented for harvesting the wild cereals growing in the hill country of south-eastern Turkey, western Iran, and the Levant.