Purpose

Part One: Human longing and the Hebrew Bible

Yuval Noah Harari

Sapiens

A Brief History of Humankind

"As far as we can tell from a purely scientific viewpoint, human life has absolutely no meaning. Humans are the outcome of blind evolutionary processes that operate without goal or purpose. Our actions are not part of some divine cosmic plan, and if planet earth were to blow up tomorrow morning, the universe would probably keep going about its business as usual. As far as we can tell at this point, human subjectivity would not be missed. Hence any meaning that people inscribe to their lives is just a delusion."
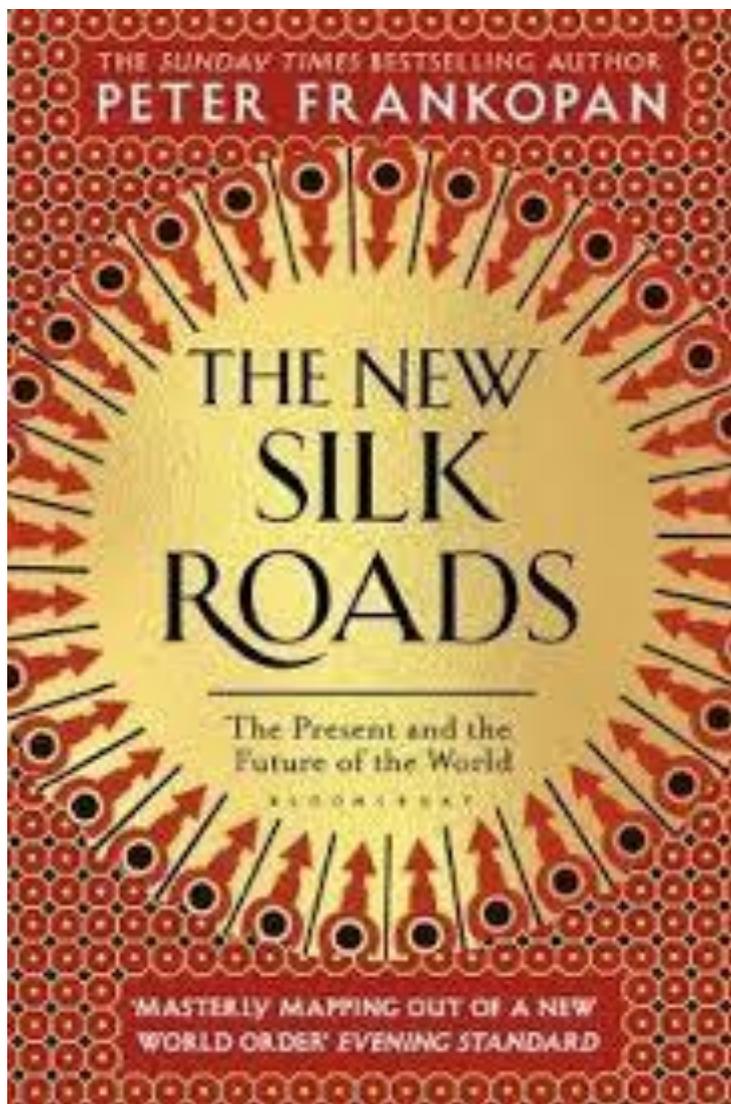
What's wrong with the world?

What can we do?

China has a solution: A community of shared future for mankind'.

Beijing, May 2017

Year	Global population	% in extreme poverty
8000BC	5 million	
1200AD	0.5 billion	
1800AD	1-1.5 billion	85%
1960	3-4 billion	50%
2017	7.6 billion	9%
2040	9 billion	5%
2100	11 billion	

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29.11

Purpose in the Hebrew Bible

Humans are created in the image of God to partner with God in establishing human flourishing on the dry land

PROBLEM
Humans in the Hebrew Bible invariably fail to partner with God: they seek to build new Edens on their own terms, in their own wisdom

PROMISE
An anointed human will come who will partner with God fully and therefore succeed in establishing human flourishing

Connecting with God's purpose

Promise

Prolific Fulfilment

Process

(Painful)

Peace

Powerlessness