

HISTORICAL FACTORS AND PROCESSES WHICH HAVE AFFECTED HUMANKIND AS A WHOLE

The following factors have affected humankind and form our common heritage:

1. Humans are all members of the same species
2. The human species originated in Africa
3. Humans acquired the use of fire from an ancestor, Homo Erectus. Fire was the basis of survival in cold climates and was needed for pottery, metallurgy, and glassmaking.
4. Humans inherited a legacy of sociability and the use of tools and speech from primate ancestors many of which extincted
5. Humans lived as nomadic hunters and gatherers for 99% of human history. During this stage people learned and practiced sharing, cooperation and responsibility to the group. In hunter/gatherer bands humans refined thinking and emotions. If people had not learned to work together and cooperate during this early stage of existence, our species would not have survived.
6. Domestication of plants and animals
7. Myths, stories, and archetypes (Archetypes are typical or model human figures such as the mother figure, the father figure, the warrior, the king, the lover, the rebel.)
8. Civilization

Cities	Monumental architecture
Written Language	Irrigation
Monarchy and kingship	Astronomy
Empire	Art
Warfare (including civil war)	Large scale agriculture
Social Classes	Complex trade
Patriarchy	Slavery
9. Ritual sacrifices of animals and humans to appease gods and honor dead
10. Monogamy, polygamy, concubinage, and prostitution
11. Rise and fall of kingdoms and empires
12. Epidemics and biological exchange of microbes and disease
13. A trend toward ever more extensive and elaborate connections through trade, migration, conquest, and collective learning