

What If Anything Has Changed About Human Nature In the Last 2000 Years?

Post by “BrainToBeing” of January 5, 2024 at 7:43 AM

Don, though I appreciate the insightfulness of your perspective (brain hasn't changed since species began) I hope you are wrong.

Just for perspective, I would point out that the image you have is misleading, as I'm sure your know, since it represents the idea of a great change in volume, which is not correct. And, at least what I read puts our species at about 200,000 years old. Further, as we know, elephant brains are much larger than ours. So, size is only one issue of brain function.

But, the real problem for human brains in this era is intellectual sophistication. In the last approximately 5000 thousand years we have created science. And, science has taken our species far, far beyond personalized beliefs. Yet, there are still large portions of the human population that are quite willing to discount and discredit science when it runs counter to their personal preferences or "hidden" agendas. In the U.S. we have seen this recurrently in the recent era.

So, it is my personal perspective that we are running up against the limits of the human brain. We evolved for a very different life circumstance and we are failing to intellectually keep up with the perspectives applicable to today. Rejection of science, diversion into "alternative facts", and unfounded intellectual belief systems, based on preference rather than any objective data, are getting us into trouble. In this era of planetary perspective we need to be objective, but many reject that simply out of preference.

AI will push the issue. If we allow it to go forward then it will demonstrate what science would advocate. Then humans will either destroy it (go to war with it, which is our penchant), or many humans will be made obsolete by it (creating huge social upheaval).

The only graceful way forward is to hope the human brain will be capable of adapting to now. That, unfortunately, remains a pertinent question.