



In July 1972, I was walking _____ a beach of New Guinea _____ a man called Yali. He asked me, “Why you white men have so much cargo, and we New Guineans have so _____?” New Guineans use the word “cargo” to _____ the _____ goods _____ country by Westerners. His question was simply about the roots of inequality around the world. He _____ know why some countries are _____ than others. The _____ explanations were already clear. Europeans developed guns, _____ and steel _____ the world did. But that doesn’t fully answer his question. The _____ how they developed these _____ first place. Why was it Europe that first _____ to military power, _____ diseases and advanced technologies? I had no idea _____. Since then, I _____ this question for 25 years and now I think I know the answer.

In July 1972, I was walking along a beach of New Guinea with a man called Yali. He asked me, “Why you white men have so much cargo, and we New Guineans have so little?” New Guineans use the word “cargo” to describe the material goods brought to their country by Westerners. His question was simply about the roots of inequality around the world. He wanted to know why some countries are wealthier than others. The immediate explanations were already clear. Europeans developed guns, germs and steel before other parts of the world did. But that doesn’t fully answer his question. The point is how they developed these advantages in the first place. Why was it Europe that first gained access to military power, lethal diseases and advanced technologies? I had no idea what that answer was. Since then, I have worked on this question for 25 years and now I think I know the answer.

describe	描写する、言い表す	germ	細菌、病原菌
inequality	不平等、不均衡	in the first place	そもそも、まず第一に
wealthy	裕福な	lethal	致死的な
immediate	即座の、直接の		

Probably the most _____ explanation is that the _____ is the result of biological differences between _____. Europeans who colonized New Guinea in the 19th century believed that the power and _____ were _____ by race. They thought they were genetically _____ to local New Guineans. To them, it was natural that Europeans were culturally more _____ native population simply because they were more _____. But this answer is not just _____, _____ . There is no firm evidence of genetic differences in _____ ability among peoples of different races or cultures.

If there is no genetic difference _____ ability between races, why did some cultures develop _____? The answer, I believe, is geography. Some parts of the world _____ more _____ environment for _____. Geography determined the _____ human _____. So, if New Guineans had enjoyed the same geographic _____ as Europeans, they _____ the ones to _____ guns, _____ and _____.

Probably the most familiar explanation is that the inequality is the result of biological differences between races. Europeans who colonized New Guinea in the 19th century believed that the power and wealth were determined by race. They thought they were genetically superior to local New Guineans. To them, it was natural that Europeans were culturally more advanced than native population simply because they were more intelligent. But this answer is not just arrogant, but it is also wrong. There is no firm evidence of genetic differences in intellectual ability among peoples of different races or cultures. If there is no genetic difference in our ability between races, why did some cultures develop faster than others? The answer, I believe, is geography. Some parts of the world have had more suitable environment for prosperity. Geography determined the fate of human societies. So, if New Guineans had enjoyed the same geographic advantages as Europeans, they would have been the ones to invent guns, steam engines and the internet.

biological	生物学的な	geography	地理、地理学
colonize	植民地化する	suitable	適した、ふさわしい
superior	より優れた、勝っている	prosperity	繁栄、成功
intelligent	知的な、知能が高い	determine	左右する、決定する
arrogant	傲慢な、横柄な	steam engine	蒸気機関

Human history _____ several millions years, and most of the time our _____ as hunter-gatherers. They made their living by running across _____ to hunt wild animals and walking _____ the woods to gather wild food plants. Around ten thousand years ago, some people began _____ . Agriculture was a very _____ phenomenon. The transition to farming was clearly a decisive _____ human history. There were only a few parts of the _____ world that developed farming _____ , and in most places _____ farming began, a large _____ civilization _____ .

How did agriculture bring civilization? Farming made it _____ to _____ far more people _____ . Therefore human population became larger and _____ . Large and dense population is necessary _____ government, military power, effective network of _____ and the evolution _____ infectious diseases. Farming also _____ extra food _____ , _____ some people don't _____ work for getting food. They can spend their time on specializing advanced technologies like _____ working and manufacturing.

Human history is as long as several millions years, and most of the time our ancestors had lived as hunter-gatherers. They made their living by running across savanna to hunt wild animals and walking through the woods to gather wild food plants. Around ten thousand years ago, some people began domesticating plants and animals. Agriculture was a very recent phenomenon. The transition to farming was clearly a decisive turning point in human history. There were only a few parts of the ancient world that developed farming independently, and in most places where farming began, a large advanced civilization emerged.

How did agriculture bring civilization? Farming made it possible to feed far more people with far less land. Therefore human population became larger and denser. Large and dense population is necessary for centralized government, military power, effective network of cooperation and the evolution of infectious diseases. Farming also produce extra food surplus, with which some people don't have to work for getting food. They can spend their time on specializing advanced technologies like metal working and manufacturing.

hunter-gatherer	狩猟採集民	feed	餌をやる、養う
domesticate	家畜化する、栽培する	therefore	それゆえに、したがって
phenomenon	現象、事象	dense	密集した、密度が高い
transition	推移、移行	surplus	余剰、黒字
emerge	現れる、生じる		

_____ farming is so useful, why did only _____ choose to do it? Well, actually they _____ a choice. For agriculture to be the basis for technological _____, _____ be an _____ way of producing food. And for agriculture to be _____, you need _____ productive plants and animals.

There were only few species of wild plants and animals _____ for domestication, and they were _____ around the world. Rice _____ a southwest part of China. _____ and barley were growing _____ in the _____ Crescent in the _____. The Eurasian Continent were _____ the most productive and nutritious _____ species.

Eurasia also had the best animals for farming. There are nearly 2 million known species of wild animals, but the vast majority have never been _____ because they don't _____ domestication. For example, carnivores such as lions are not suited because you have to grow other animals just to _____ them. They also have to be social animals and _____ humans _____ humans can _____ them. That _____ a _____ of the reason why Africans have _____ farm zebras _____ horses. Throughout history, only 14 _____ species have ever been successfully domesticated. Out of these 14, none was from Australia, North America or _____ - _____ Africa. South America only had llama. The other 13 were all from the Eurasian Continent, including the big 4 _____ animals; cows, pigs, sheep and goat.

My years in New Guinea _____ me that people around the world are _____. _____ you go, you can find people who are smart, intelligent and dynamic. Eurasian _____ faster not because they were more _____ or _____, but simply because they were _____ to have _____ like useful species for domestication.

If farming is so useful, why did only few ancient societies choose to do it? Well, actually they didn't have a choice. For agriculture to be the basis for technological development, it has to be an efficient way of producing food. And for agriculture to be efficient, you need to have productive plants and animals.

There were only few species of wild plants and animals suitable for domestication, and they were distributed unequally around the world. Rice originated from a southwest part of China. Wheat and barley were growing wild in the Fertile Crescent in the Middle East. The Eurasian Continent were blessed with the most productive and nutritious plant species.

Eurasia also had the best animals for farming. There are nearly 2 million known species of wild animals, but the vast majority have never been farmed because they don't meet the requirements for domestication. For example, carnivores such as lions are not suited because you have to grow other animals just to feed them. They also have to be social animals and get along with humans so that humans can easily control them. That gives a part of the reason why Africans have failed to farm zebras though they resemble horses. Throughout history, only 14 mammal species have ever been successfully domesticated. Out of these 14, none was from Australia, North America or sub-Saharan Africa. South America only had llama. The other 13 were all from the Eurasian Continent, including the big 4 livestock animals; cows, pigs, sheep and goat.

My years in New Guinea have convinced me that people around the world are fundamentally similar. Wherever you go, you can find people who are smart, intelligent and dynamic. Eurasian societies advanced faster not because they were more intelligent or diligent, but simply because they were lucky enough to have environmental advantages like useful species for domestication.

Vocabulary List: No. 27~46



The roots of inequality around the _____ come down to geographic _____. People living in the Eurasian Continent were geographically _____ two ways. One is that they _____ to the best crops and animals for domestication, _____ wheat, barley, rice, cows, pigs, sheep and horses. All these species originated _____ Eurasia.

Another luck _____ the shape of the _____. Eurasia is long _____ east to west and _____ north to south, _____ the American Continents and African Continent are long _____ north to south. Therefore, Europe, the Middle East, India and China are _____. Any places that share the same _____ share similar _____ and vegetation. Crops and animals in the Middle East can also _____ in many other _____ of the continent. That is why, for example, wheat spread quickly from the Middle East to Europe, and metal working technology from China to the _____ the continent. _____ other hand, the journey from _____ the America to the other is a journey from north to south, a journey through different climate zones and vegetation. These differences _____ the _____ of crops and animals, _____ people, ideas and technologies.

The next question is why it was Europe and not China or the Middle East. Most of the useful plants and animals came from the Middle East. But because the environment was very _____, they couldn't _____ continuous _____ farming. China was _____ by a single unified _____, _____ Europe have been divided by a lot of states competing to each other. _____ China, European land is _____ by high mountains and _____, making it difficult to be unified. This diversity and _____ are _____ Europe a _____. Geography shapes the course of history. On a broad _____, _____ determines who you are.

The roots of inequality around the globe will eventually come down to geographic luck. People living in the Eurasian Continent were geographically blessed in two ways. One is that they had access to the best crops and animals for domestication, namely wheat, barley, rice, cows, pigs, sheep and horses. All these species originated from Eurasia.

Another luck they had is about the shape of the continent. Eurasia is long from east to west and narrow from north to south, while the American Continents and African Continent are long from north to south. Therefore, Europe, the Middle East, India and China are all at the same line of latitude. Any places that share the same latitude automatically share similar climate and vegetation. Crops and animals in the Middle East can also thrive in many other parts of the continent. That is why, for example, wheat spread quickly from the Fertile Crescent to Europe, and metal working technology from China to the rest of the continent. On the other hand, the journey from one end of the America to the other is a journey from north to south, a journey through different climate zones and vegetation. These differences prevented the spread of crops and animals, as well as people, ideas and technologies.

The next question is why it was Europe and not China or the Middle East. Most of the useful plants and animals came from the Middle East. But because the environment was very fragile, they couldn't sustain continuous intensive farming. China was almost always ruled by a single unified authority, while Europe have been divided by a lot of states competing to each other. Unlike China, European land is separated by high mountains and intricate coastlines, making it difficult to be unified. This diversity and competition are what gave Europe a head start. Geography shapes the course of history. On a broad scale, where you live determines who you are.