Myth Making: Mind Control in a Post Modern World

As you read in *Sapiens*, Harari contends that myths are necessary in order for humans to live in large groups cohesively. He contends that until we had myth making, we remained living in small clans of extended families. So myths certainly serve a purpose, and they certainly can unite and do good; however make no mistakes—they serve the purpose of mind control.

At this point, it’s important to comprehend that “mind control” is not meant to be a pejorative term. Mind control can be used to create a society of caring, loving, intelligent and altruistic humans. However it can also be used for a variety of other purposes.

The point of this activity is for you to become aware of the myths that surround you so that you can **examine** the origins of your beliefs as well as the **knowledge** you consume.

Please answer the questions below:

1. Generate a list of possible “Myths” (maybe 6) that have been taught/preached to you:
2. Now, after each myth, try to identify the **broader** **purpose** that each myth serves. Like this: *“paper money—this serves the purpose of creating an organized system of economics via exchanges of goods and services”*
3. Now, In a different color font, and with a : colon preceding your response, identify the SOURCE of the myth. As well as any institutions that serve to perpetuate the myth.
4. Now, group the myths you identified into either “positive” myths or “negative myths” As in, do you believe that these myths serve to benefit society or hinder societal progress in some way?

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| --- | --- |
| Positive Myths | Negative Myths |
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1. In paragraph form, examine the knowledge created by these myths. What issues or questions (knowledge issues and questions) arise?
2. Lastly, do you think more or less myths exist now than 100 years ago?