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**The Evolution of Man – The History of Hunting**

**By Rebecca Blain**

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Perhaps one of the eldest activities on the face of the planet is hunting. The history of hunting, as a result, is also one of the most diverse. Hunting for food has always been something that human kind has had to do, dating back to the beginning of any civilizations known to man.

As a result of this, there have been thousands of weapons and devices used to hunt. The history of hunting is far more complicated than any other history in the world, as it stretches so far into the past. In order to understand this history, you need to break down and study each era where hunting has been a major part of life. While there are exact time lines of when certain guns or weapons were produced, understanding the importance of hunting should be done on a far broader scale. There is much more to the history of hunting than when the gun was created.

**The First Era, Pre-Civilization**

In this time frame, from before great cities to the first starts of basic civilization, the human race survived on their skills of scavenging and hunting. In cultures similar to those of the first era and pre-civilization, women had the roll of caring for the home and preparing the food brought in by the men. Some portions of modern day Africa have conditions similar to this, where they do not have a great deal of money, and a similar style of hierarchy. The men all learned how to hunt, and they held these hunts daily to feed themselves. Unlike today, all hunting was for survival, and none of it for sport. All of the materials from the killed animals was used, from the bones to the pelt. Hunting was also a method of determining who was the bravest warrior. The bravest would hunt the ferocious creatures that lived nearby their homes. These kills were a vital part of the early hierarchies.

A wide variety of different weapons were used during this era, from slings to spears crafted of wood and stone. For large prey, the hunters would work together in packs, similar to how a wolf hunts to bring down their quarry. The only trophies kept were antlers and teeth. Occasionally the skulls would be kept as decoration or as symbols of the clan or family group. This oldest form of hunting was the

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basis in which the present was formed.

### The Second Era, Growth of Civilization

As people gathered together and civilization really began, the role of men as hunters changed as well. Cities, by their very nature, require a variety of people with a lot of skills. There needed to be craftsmen and weavers, animal handlers and other trades so that everyone could have access to everything they needed. Instead of the split between men and women, hunting became the task of those most suited for hunting. These were usually always men, as it was looked down upon for women to participate in this line of work.

This was also the turning point where hunting becoming a sport. Civilizations, such as the Babylonians, the Egyptians, and the Romans all had their hunters and craftsmen. The Romans, took hunting as a sport to a whole new level, capturing prey alive for sale or gladiatorial competitions. Only certain

individuals were hunters, allowing the select men to feed those in their community.

### The Third Era, The Middle Ages

Perhaps one of the most interesting times in the history of hunting, is the middle ages. This is the period in time where hunting for food was a vital part of life for many, though restricted. Rules on hunting, such as no hunting in the King's Forest, was the first real restrictions on hunting present in the world. Only the rich prospered, and the surf classes hunted whatever they could, when they could for survival. Hunting, from boar to deer to fox hunting, became primary sports for the nobility of the time frame. This started the trend of organized hunts for sport.

Colonists to the New World required as much hunting skills as possible, during this period of time, although they progressed quickly from relying on scavenging and hunting to creating farms and plantations. Popular weapons for use in hunting during this time period was forms of archery, slings and throwing spears. The gun was also used, although it had not quite yet reached full levels of popularity.

### The Forth Era, The Industrial Period

On the heels of the Middle Ages was the Industrial period. This era stretched from beyond the 1700s until just after the start of the 1900s. The evolution of machines brought about great changes in hunting. Large farms became very popular, where livestock was raised instead of the practice of hunting wild animals, downgrading hunting to only become a past time. Guns, ranging from muskets to rifles, were being to be used extensively. Archery was downgraded to sport use only, though it was very popular for tests of skill.

### Present Day

Through these stages of the history of hunting, humans have perfected this activity, with a wide range of weapons. Archers, for example, have many types of bows to choose from. Arrows are just as

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plentiful as bows, from metal to wood, with many different types of tips. Guns have evolved the same way, with many types of bullets and guns for different types of hunting. Special guns and equipment designed for moose hunting, for example, wouldn't be the same as deer hunting supplies.

Competitive hunting, such as fox hunting, is still greatly enjoyed by many people who prefer a little more action to their hunting. In the modern world, safety and skill are the requirements for hunting, and it is open for anyone who is willing to learn proper weapon handling and obtain all of the documents necessary to hunt. Regulations on guns and hunting have been developed to prevent species from going extinct. While hunting is still very popular, the modern day has a lot more restrictions than in any other era in the history of hunting.

Each of these eras of the history of hunting have done a lot for the sport and trade, giving it a rich heritage that shouldn't be forgotten.

Rebecca Blain is a professional and hobbyist writer who enjoys taking care of her Siamese Fighting

Fish and educating people about duck hunting supplies which can be read about here:

### **Virally Imperfect.**

**By Seamus Dolly**

#### **Virally Imperfect. by Seamus Dolly**

A virus is sometimes described as the smallest infectious agent known to man.

A virus is sometimes described as a self-replicating program, known to man and machine

The commonality here, relates to its effect in terms of their transmission properties, nuisance value, and their often-sickening effect.

Its' nature is as it was intended.

This holds true where man and machine are the designated recipients or targets to infiltrate.

Both viruses have evolved to seek-out, infect, and propagate.

We are (as yet), unsure who masterminded the biological version and we know some of the masterminds behind the software version.

Mutation and transmutation of both versions, is the key to their success, and therefore their existence. Had we the foresight to determine such mutations, then, both would be "old hat" and the "fodder of history".

And to have that foresight, we'd have to know in one case, more of our own ability to upset and the "cure" for it.

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The bio-virus, by design or nature (which may or may not be the same thing), needs a host to reproduce.

The cyber-virus, by design and nature needs a host to reproduce.

One is alive and the other is given life.

The code of behaviour is similar and the parallels are perhaps, too many.

Change and challenge. Create and consume.

Both versions being ethically allied, it seems that the weak will perish and the strong might sustain.

The nature of the man designed the nature of the software though, and in terms of time and evolution, it is pre-dated by the bio-virus so the cycle is therefore, old!

So what's new?

Minor actions within that cycle?

The creators (to date) become victims to their respective design and eventually as before, antibiotics and incarceration become the "cure"!

Seamus Dolly is a webmaster and author. His background is in engineering and analogue electronics. His studies include A+, Server+ and iNet+. <http://www.CountControl.com>

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