

The Staircase to Today

A simple map of how we arrived here

We didn't arrive in the modern world overnight.

We climbed here — step by step — through changes in food, technology, work, money, and power.

This page is a map of that journey.

SECTION 2 — The Staircase (the core)

Use exactly the 10 steps from your Staircase page, but slightly tighter.

Example:

1. Survival & cooperation
Food, shelter, safety, early organisation
2. Organisation & control
Cities, laws, taxation, states
3. Empires & extraction
Power, labour, inequality
4. Global trade & colonisation
Wealth flows upward, globally
5. Industrialisation
Machines, productivity, urban life
6. Mass politics & modern states
Rights, education, representation
7. War & economic reset
New power structures, welfare states
8. Globalisation & finance
Precarious work, mobile capital
9. Digital acceleration
Attention, speed, constant change
10. Crisis & strain
Cost of living, burnout, uncertainty

No long explanations.

This is a reference, not a lesson.

SECTION 3 — How to use it (bottom)

You don't need to memorise this.

Return to this map whenever something in the world feels confusing or overwhelming.

Each chapter of How We Got Here explores one step of this staircase in more depth.

Optional closing line (small, gentle):

You're not behind. You're orienting yourself.