



New perspectives: Happiness is not individual

by
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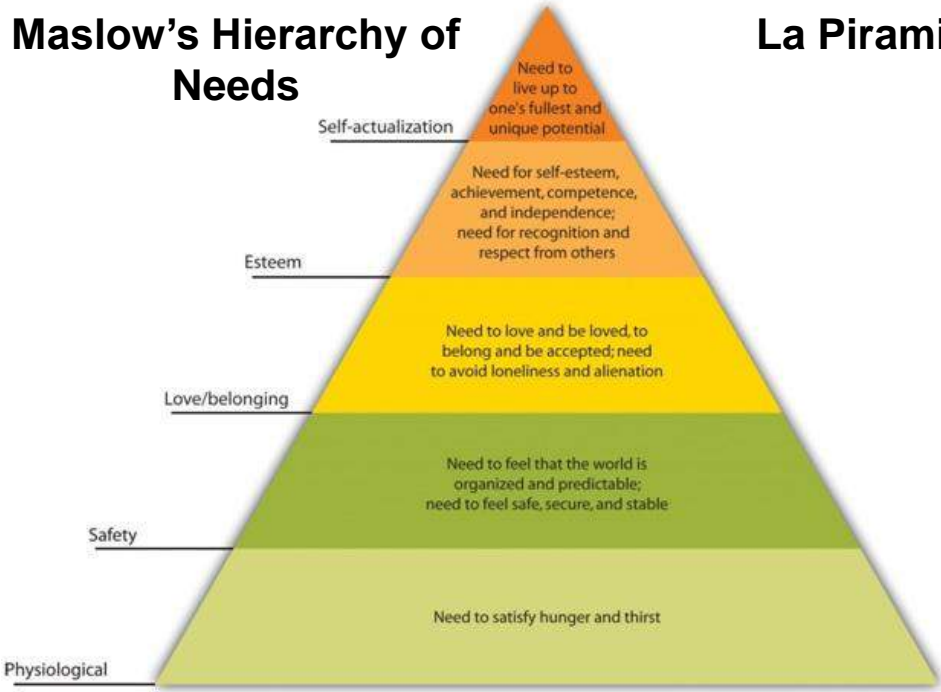




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Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



La Piramide dei bisogni di Maslow





Happiness

(across all income groups) is politically produced through:

The Welfare State (and
the general level of
governmental consumption)

Reduces poverty and
increases living standards,
reduces market insecurities,
reduces social pathologies
associated with poverty,
promotes agency, improves
physical health.

Labor Organization

Provides members greater job
satisfaction and security, gives
workers more power in the
workplace and politics, raises
the wage/benefit floor for most
workers, and provides political
support for the welfare state and
labor market regulations.
educes

***Labor Market
Regulations***

Protects workers by
setting maximum
hours, minimum
earnings, ease/cost
of dismal, worker
safety, paid
vacation/sick/family
leave, etc.



We need only imagine the profound psychological distress that comes from unemployment to understand how emotionally rewarding the finding of a job means to those who need one; we need only imagine the loneliness and isolation that comes from wishing to love and be loved to appreciate how fulfilling the finding of love can be. Now, consider that the effect of moving from the least to the most decommodifying [generous] welfare state would produce three times the improvement in one's quality of life than that achieved by escaping from unemployment. Or consider that this same difference in the welfare state would provide one with twice the increase in life satisfaction that finding a life-partner would. Seen in this light, it seems difficult to overstate the significance of the welfare state as an agent for human happiness.

- Radcliff, *The Political Economy of Human Happiness* (p. 129).



The Great Dictator (1941)

Written and Directed by Charlie Chaplin





Thanks!

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