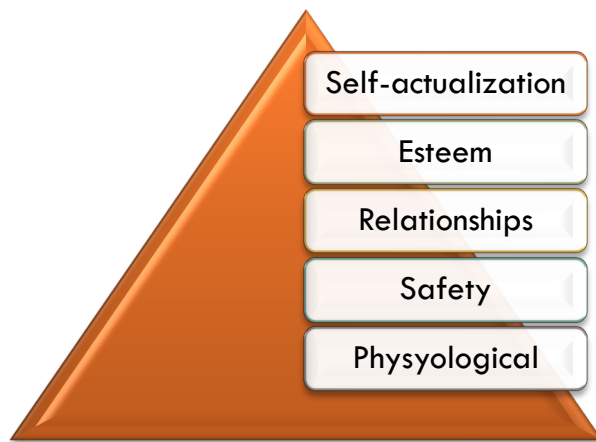


Hierarchy of Cause

Many of us are familiar with Maslow's hierarchy of needs, although sometimes considered inadequate by modern standards, it does translate quite neatly when considering piracy. It is depicted as a pyramid consisting of five levels: the first level being associated with physiological needs, while the middle levels are termed growth needs associated with psychological needs. Deficiency needs must be met first.

Once these deficiency needs are met, seeking to satisfy psychological needs drives personal growth. The higher needs in this hierarchy only come into focus when the lower needs in the pyramid are met.



Once an individual has moved upwards to the next level, the needs in the level below will no longer be prioritized. If a lower set of needs is no longer being met, the individual will temporarily re-prioritize those needs by focusing attention on the unfulfilled needs, but will not permanently regress to the lower level. This may explain to some extent the transient nature of piracy.

Physiological needs

Physiological needs we are fairly obvious, they are the basic requirements for human survival. These requirements with the partial exception of sex, must be met or the human body will not function these are not deficiency needs they are fundamental. However many piracy prone areas are areas where the basic physiological needs are not always met malnutrition from famine or poor harvest and over fishing, lack of clean water and problems of human waste are all too common causes of disease and high infant mortality.

Physiological needs include:

- Breathing
- Water
- Food
- Sleep
- Excretion
- Sex

In the developed world physiological and safety needs are reasonably well met. The obvious exceptions are of course, those people unfortunate to be outside the mainstream: the poor and the disadvantaged.

Deficiency needs

With the exception of the lowest and topmost layers of the pyramid the middle three layers are what Maslow called the D layers or "deficiency needs". If these deficiency needs are not met, the individual gives no indication of it physically, however the individual feels anxious and tense and these feelings can manifest themselves into hate, resentment, jealousy, and violence. These deficit layers are safety, social, and esteem.

Safety needs

With physical needs satisfied, the individual's need for security becomes the dominant driver. These needs have to do with people's desire for the predictable and an orderly world in which injustice is controlled, in other words the regime is what they consider to be fair. Workers have opportunities and families have the benefit of education and care. The impoverished and the disadvantaged on the other hand will struggle to satisfy the basic physiological and safety needs. They are primarily concerned with survival: obtaining adequate food, clothing, shelter. If the region they inhabit is politically unstable or the government does not have the political will or control or in absence of an effective and legitimate police or security system they will seek justice from the dominant societal groups. Hence we see the rise of the warlords in Somalia who are responsible for much of the piracy off the Horn of Africa or organised crime syndicates in the Far East

Social needs

Once physiological and safety needs are fulfilled, the third layer of needs is social. This aspect of Maslow's hierarchy involves emotionally-based relationships. Humans need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance, whether it comes from a large social group, such as a work group, religious groups, sports teams, militia, or pirate gangs or from smaller social connections such as family members, partners, friends or confidants. In the absence of these elements, many people become susceptible to isolation, and social anxiety. This need for belonging can overcome the physiological and security

needs, depending on the strength of the peer pressure.

Esteem

All humans have a need to be respected, to have self-esteem, People need to engage themselves to gain recognition and have an activity or activities that give the person a sense of contribution, to feel accepted and self-valued, be it in a profession in the western world or as a member of a gang or pirate group. For the impoverished and the disadvantaged population esteem is a difficult and rare commodity to obtain. With low self-esteem the need or recognition and respect from others becomes all important. They may seek this respect from the bravado of being part of a pirate gang and existing outside of the law or may just look for respect from their financial gain and the esteem from a family they provide for.

Self –actualisation

The motivation to realize one's own maximum potential and possibilities is considered to be the highest or the only real motive, all other motives being its various forms. In Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the need for self-actualization is the final need that manifests when lower level needs have been satisfied. However this self actualization is subject to other influences such as cultural, conditioning, acceptance, Do pirates achieve self actualisation. Yes probably in a unique way.

The scale of the problem.

First of all let's consider the scale of the problem. Three quarters of the earth is ocean. The Pacific Ocean and her two