

TODAY'S NATIONAL SECURITY - AT THE BOTTOM OR THE TOP OF MASLOW'S PYRAMID OF NEEDS?

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Abstract

Basic human needs ensure our existence. One of these needs is security. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, security is one of the most basic needs, immediately following the physiological needs. A. Maslow saw security as stability, protection, freedom from fear and chaos and order. There is no denying that in today's geopolitical context, security takes on a special role. The question is what about the provision of the need for national security. Are security and national security needs identical? Would the collapsing idea of international peace, based on Maslow's pyramid of needs, still regard national security as a basic need, or as a utopian aspiration at the top of the pyramid?

Purpose – the aim of this paper is to analyse the Maslow's pyramid of needs, not in terms of traditional security (or security in general), but in terms of national security needs.

Design/methodology/approach. In order to achieve the set goal, the systematic analysis of scientific literature was done. It is difficult to find any similar work in the current academic literature. National security is not analysed as a separate type of security, but simply identified with the concept of security (in general) in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Thus, the literature analysis chosen for this study included a separate analysis of Maslow's pyramid of needs, which revealed that this concept analyses security from a subjective perspective. Meanwhile, the second part of the literature analysis included an analysis of the relevance of national security and its examination as objective security. The third part of the study was a synthesis of the first two parts.

Finding. By examining Maslow's hierarchy of needs and taking into account the basic logic of the concept, it is possible to map the correspondence to the needs of society. The paper is based on the idea that societies have an identical hierarchy of needs, and that Maslow's pyramid of needs can therefore be applied at the national level, thus providing insights into the meaning of national security needs. The analysis of the literature revealed that today security at the individual and national level are becoming inseparable. The state cannot focus on how to ensure national security without first ensuring the security of every citizen, i.e. without first ensuring subjective security. Conversely, it becomes impossible to ensure the security of the individual without first ensuring the security of the state against emerging threats.

Research limitations/implications. The article does not analyse the criticism of the chosen concept of the pyramid of needs, i.e. it does not refute any of the statements of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which allows to hierarchise human needs and to transfer them to the societal level. The paper analyses security from a subjective point of view, where the perception of security and the sense of security that this perception gives rise to are fundamental. In other words, a person can feel secure in an objectively insecure situation and insecure in an objectively secure situation.

Practical implications. The use of Maslow's needs pyramid to analyse the need for national security is particularly relevant today. The need for security at the national level appeals to the sovereignty of the state, i.e. the subjective provision of the individual need for security is the direct provision of the need for national security. Today's national security need remains a basic need, i.e. one of the most important needs in the hierarchy of state needs, thus ensuring the idea of sovereignty.

Originality/Value. Bringing Maslow's hierarchy of needs to the societal level can help us understand the importance of the need for national security in today's context. The analysis of the need for national security also makes it possible to distinguish between subjective and objective security concepts. This can contribute to a sense of security in today's complex geopolitical context.

Keywords: security, national security, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, pyramid of needs.

Research type: literature review.

Introduction

Security is a concept that is difficult to describe, identify, and understand (Ozkan and Taşçi, 2023), but in these days interest in security and its analogues personal safety and community safety has grown enormously (Zedner, 2003). The need for security is considered to be one of the most important needs of a person. But in a rapidly changing world, the system of personal needs is also changing. Today the need for security is increasingly seen as almost a top priority, as the provision of security and the realisation of security objectives are increasingly perceived as an essential prerequisite for the modernisation of societies and for the advancement of their socio-economic, political and cultural development, as well as for the advancement of science and technology (Melnikas, 2018).

Basic human needs ensure our existence. One of these needs is security. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, security is one of the most basic needs. A. Maslow saw security as stability, protection, freedom from fear and chaos and order. There is no denying that in today's geopolitical context, security takes on a special role. National security is becoming one of the main challenges facing every country today. It is often a latent constraint that becomes evident during times of energy crises or shortages (Gattie and Hewitt, 2023). Although always faced threats, at this moment world stands at a critical juncture in the history (Coyne and Hall, 2023). V. Putin's strike has profoundly altered Europe's roadmap and perception of security. The war in Ukraine has shown us, the time has come to strengthen the international security system as well (Wittner, 2022). So in crisis situations like today countries are paying increasing attention to both national and international security.

The need for security is one of the most basic needs in Maslow's pyramid of needs, right after physiological needs. Despite the changes in the system of needs, Maslow's pyramid, which allows for a hierarchy of human needs, remains unchallenged. The use of Maslow's needs pyramid to analyse the need for national security is particularly relevant today. Here should be mentioned that security or safety have objective and subjective dimensions (Brauner et al, 2013). The need for security at the national level appeals to the sovereignty of the state, i.e. the subjective provision of the individual need for security is the direct provision of the need for national security. Today's national security need remains a basic need, i.e. one of the most important needs in the hierarchy of state needs, thus ensuring the idea of sovereignty.

There is no denying that in today's geopolitical context, security takes on a special role. The question is what about the provision of the need for national security. Are security and national security needs identical? Would the collapsing idea of international peace, based on Maslow's pyramid of needs, still regard national security as a basic need, or as a utopian aspiration at the top of the pyramid? So the the aim of this paper is to analyse the meaning of the need for national security in terms of Maslow's concept of the hierarchy of needs. In order to achieve the set goal, the systematic analysis of scientific literature was done.

The article does not analyse the criticism of the chosen concept of the pyramid of needs, i.e. it does not refute any of the statements of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which allows to hierarchise human needs and to transfer them to the societal level. The paper analyses security

from a subjective point of view, where the perception of security and the sense of security that this perception gives rise to are fundamental. In other words, a person can feel secure in an objectively insecure situation and insecure in an objectively secure situation.

Bringing Maslow's hierarchy of needs to the societal level can help us understand the importance of the need for national security in today's context. The analysis of the need for national security also makes it possible to distinguish between subjective and objective security concepts. This can contribute to a sense of security in today's complex geopolitical context.

Maslow pyramid still relevant?

Motivational theories are generally divided into need-based approaches, such as Maslow's theory (Tandi, 2024). Maslow's pyramid is considered to be one of the most famous concepts of the hierarchy of needs developed by psychologist and management theorist A. Maslow. Despite gaining little support in empirical studies and being criticized for promoting an elitist, individualistic view of management, Maslow's theory remains popular till nowadays (Bridgman and Ballard, 2018). Maslow's hierarchy can be a helpful way of summarising various needs and useful in conceptualising interventions (Nasha et al, 2021).

Maslow, who studied his patients for many years, identified five levels of personality needs and depicted them in a corresponding figure. It is visualized as a pyramid, with the more indispensable needs at the base and the least essential at the peak (Jain et al, 2022). Maslow presents the concept that fulfilled needs will lead to the emergence of the next need, which becomes dominant after the previous need is satisfied (Tandi, 2024).

The first four needs are the so-called scarcity needs. The more we lack them, the more we want them and think about them. These needs must be met for human beings and come from scarcity. The last one, on the other hand, comes from our desire to grow, to improve, to be the best version of ourselves. It is understood that physiological needs are at the first level, such as needs for air, water, food (Bjelajac and Filipovic, 2020).

While the first of these needs must be met and arises from scarcity, the last arises from the desire to grow and develop. The physiological needs of an organism are basic human needs, and their fulfillment is a basic precondition followed by the needs of a higher order (Bjelajac and Filipovic, 2020). Humanistic Psychologists believe that in every person there is a strong desire to realize his or her full potential, to reach a level of Self-actualization (Pell, 2023). The hierarchy helps to locate emotional and spiritual needs in an accessible way which is much used by different professionals (Nasha et al, 2021).

Physiological needs

At the bottom of Maslow's pyramid are the physiological needs that people seek to satisfy first. It is called "basic needs" of a human being, for example food and water (Pells, 2023). Unless needs such as food, water and air are provided, they take precedence over all other needs. Without basic survival needs, people cannot move on to other higher needs, i.e. they cannot move up the pyramid. Individuals are now driven by more fundamental necessities than they were before, so satisfying basic requirements may now be more of a concern (Jain et al, 2022). Physiological needs are highly individual and subjective, i.e. they vary from person to person. Associate with the literature on the relationship between subjective well-being and food insecurity at the individual level (Kornher and Sakketa, 2021).

Safety needs

At the second level of the pyramid are security needs. The concept of security is related to an emotion and perception of security and stability. Although security is a slippery concept (Zedner, 2003), Maslow described them as the need for security, stability, protection, freedom from fear, freedom from chaos, order, law and stability. Feeling of safety is subjective

perspective of security (Vileikienė and Janušauskienė, 2016). Once the individual has basic nutrition and shelter then they instantly look to accomplish more (Pells, 2023). They reflect the innate human desire for stability. Like physiological needs, the lack of security prevents one from rising further up the pyramid. The needs for security and stability affect a person's values, i.e. people who can eat and breathe tend to orient their lives towards security and stability.

Today people continue to be very concerned about their everyday life security (Lasierra, 2021) so primary objective right now is to keep themselves and their families safe so they will be most likely be doing their best to fulfill this demand for achieving it (Jain et al, 2022).

Social needs

The third level of needs, after physiological and security needs, are belonging needs or love and belonging. This is a psychological need, once the individual has taken care of themselves physically then they are ready to share themselves with others (Pells, 2023). Maslow described it as a desire for relationships, for a place in a family or a presence in a group. However, the relationship in question must be "effective", i.e. the individual in the relationship must not only receive but also give love. If you live with a caring family, your basic human needs will be satisfied. If you don't feel connected to your surroundings, this might be a difficult time for you. Daily family activities are a good way to stay in touch with your loved ones (Jain et al, 2022).

Esteem needs

The fourth level of Maslow's pyramid involves the need for respect, when the person feels comfortable with what they have accomplished. This level is success and status (Pells, 2023). At this level, the needs for achievement, competence, power, independence and freedom are important. The esteem level also includes the desire for reputation and prestige. This is a vital component of professional wellness (Jain et al, 2022). The fulfilment of these needs leads the individual to self-confidence. Failure to fulfil this need can lead to feelings of inferiority and powerlessness.

Self-fulfilment needs

At the top of Maslow's pyramid is self-fulfilment as the ultimate motivation. It is true that the content of this need is rather difficult to define. Self-fulfilment embodies the aspiration that, even when people have achieved all kinds of material, relational and professional success, they should strive for more. It is the realisation of one's full professional potential, whether as a doctor, a researcher, an educator or a manager, which Maslow defined as the realisation of one's full potential in sport, poetry or science (Jain et al, 2022).

Thus, the concept of needs consists of two fundamental principles: human needs are arranged in a hierarchy, and a satisfied need will cease to be the primary motivator of behavior (Tandi, 2024). This pyramid of needs is one of the first and most remembered models of management (Bridgman and Ballard, 2018). Abraham Maslow's theory is one of the best-known and oft-cited theories in the West (Bjelajac and Filipovic, 2020).

As we try to apply this model in today's turbulent geopolitical context, we realise that the need for security is particularly acute. The population relies on political decisions and military action. Successful wars require support from the domestic populace (Coyne and Hall, 2023). These decisions and actions are based on the objective of protecting the state. That is why it is important to understand where these objectives come from.

National security

Security could be categorized into various sub-dimensions, such as national security, international security, and human security, and each dimension would lead to a historical and philosophical discussion (Ozkan and Taşçi, 2023). In discussing societal security, it is worth

defining security first which will culminate in defining national security (Rasetshwane, 2023) which is vital concern today (Gattie and Hewitt, 2023). National security has suddenly become a big-time business and a concern to a number of countries (Malatji, 2023).

Maslow's pyramid of needs is a well-known framework for understanding personal behaviour and social behaviour, because society has a similar hierarchy. From an interventional perspective, Maslow's hierarchical model provides a framework for intervention both from an individual and community perspective (Jain et al, 2022). So applying the hierarchy of needs beyond the individual level is not new. It can be assumed that society also has needs that need to be met.

Table 1 shows Maslow's hierarchy of needs at the individual level as discussed above. It also applies the concept to the societal level, based on recent literature, where it looks not only at individual security but also at national security at the state level, examining each level in detail and providing a rationale for translating individual needs to the societal level.

Table 1. Maslow pyramid of needs in individual and societal levels

Need/level	Individual level	Societal level
Physiological	Food, water, air and so on	Right to live, right of freedom, right of education and so on
Safety	Security and stability	Maintain sovereignty as its primary objective
Social	Love and belonging	Membership of international organisations
Esteem	Status, reputation and prestige	* <i>difficult to transfer to the societal level</i> Might mean belonging only to certain or prestigious organisations
Self-fulfilment	Full professional potential, self-realisation	* <i>difficult to transfer to the societal level</i> Might mean national values and culture

Physiological needs or physical needs of society

The state provides the basic needs of society. Is not only cater for basic necessities, like food, accommodations or other needs, but it is including the right to live, the right of freedom, the right of education, the right of ownership and the right of dignity (Rom et al, 2022). Countries that fail to do so are often considered backward or failed. Often in such countries, societies are divided into certain groups. In strong states, society remains united. This level means the agreeable and togetherness of the members of the society to become brave of short coming or challenges during current and near future (Rom et al, 2022).

Safety needs or sovereignty

This level is particularly easy to identify at the level of the nation or state. People-both individual at home and abroad-must be made safe and kept free (Coy-ne and Hall, 2023). Thus, a nation or state acts to maintain sovereignty as its primary objective. Smaller states join strong states to survive or formal alliances of strong nation states act collectively to preserve the sovereignty of all. This need is the hallmark of most countries, ancient or modern. As far back as the Peloponnesian War, the city-states of ancient Greece organised defensive alliances - the Delian League and the Peloponnesian League - in order to protect their fellow league members. Violations of sovereignty can lead to war, or at least a pretext for war.

National security policy is not a natural given, but carefully designated by politicians and decision-makers (Malatji, 2023). The concept of national security is built on taking precautions for a threat and the perspective of defense (Ozkan and Taşçi, 2023). The demonstration of the need for national security can take various forms, but each focuses on the subject's ability to be autonomous. Often, the need for national security can even override basic physiological needs, for example in wartime. Tragic situation in Ukraine illustrates the necessity for an effective national and international security system (Wittner, 2022). What is more, in a war time not only a mutual social responsibility of all members of society exists, but they have to take care others from their societies by keeping them from malevolent and destruction (Rom et al, 2022).

Social needs or global interaction

Countries that have preserved their sovereignty and taken care of their basic survival needs are beginning to expand their interests. This can be justified by the emergence of international trade, the creation of embassies and membership of various international organisations. Lithuania, which has joined NATO and the EU after breaking free from its dependence on the Russian Empire, is a case in point. This has fulfilled both security and belonging or social needs. For example United Nations, which has chalked up many useful accomplishments in the areas of human health, education, and welfare, among others (Wittner, 2022). While Of course, some societies have a greater need for dependency than others. Moreover, in some societies, individuals consider belonging to their collective group, family, city, region, religion or nation potentially more important than their physiological or security needs. this belief may be true at the individual level, it is not easy to correlate this phenomenon with nations, states or groups.

Esteem needs or prestigious organisations

Esteem needs are difficult to transfer to the societal level. At an individual level, whether at work or in the family, a person wants to be respected. In this context, nations behave similarly. Belonging to relevant organisations or groups shows a country's strength and gives it prestige. Many nations send peacekeepers to certain "hot spots". Such an act can show that the state is a full player in the international system. These needs thus reveal values, which is why states often seek to belong only to prestigious organisations.

Self-fulfilment needs or national values and culture

As well as esteem needs, self-fulfilment needs are quite difficult to transfer to the societal level. In this case, the culture of the state becomes an important aspect, which could be seen as the ultimate need. National values and culture specifically define the state. Maslow's fifth need at the societal level shows the national "character". The state seeks to foster its values and national culture as its main potential.

(National) security in subjective and objective ways

A. Maslow's hierarchy of needs will never lose popularity because of its uniqueness. Although it is often criticised, his identification of five successive levels of needs and his analysis of their interactions is brilliant. Although Maslow first applied this pyramid to individuals, these levels are a good place to start when looking at the needs of society.

When we bring one of Maslow's needs, security, to the level of society, another important idea related to the concept of security emerges. Security can be individual or subjective, i.e. how secure each person feels. When it comes to national security, there is a threat or there is not, i.e. security is analysed from an objective point of view. The definition of two kinds of security: the objective one, empirically demonstrable, truly existing, and the other one, the subjective, volatile und unreal, related to population's security perception (Lasierra, 2021). On the one

hand, security is a state based on feelings and perceptions, on the other hand it is an objective reality.

Security in objective way is the ability to take action against a threat when faced with it (Ozkan and Taşçi, 2023), freedom from threats (Vileikienė and Janušauskienė, 2016) and condition of being without threat: the hypothetical state of absolute security (Zedner, 2003). At this point the trust from the society or subjective security is very important (Coyne and Hall, 2023). While the objective side deals with the existence of concrete threats, subjective security deals with the fear of possible threats (Brauner et al, 2013).

The analysis of the literature revealed that today security at the individual and national level are becoming inseparable. The state cannot focus on how to ensure national security without first ensuring the security of every citizen, i.e. without first ensuring subjective security. Conversely, it becomes impossible to ensure the security of the individual without first ensuring the security of the state against emerging threats.

Table 2 summarises the scientific literature analysed in this article, which suggests that Maslow's pyramid of needs can be analysed at individual and societal levels. At the individual level, security means a sense of security, while at the societal level it is already concretised into national security. National security then becomes sovereignty.

Table 2. Maslow's pyramid of needs in two perspectives

Maslow's pyramid of needs	
Subjective	Objective
Individual security	National security
Sense of security	Sovereignty

The use of Maslow's needs pyramid to analyse the need for national security is particularly relevant today. National security is not identical to the individual security of the members of the society concerned (Isoda, 2017). It will therefore be important to reject the belief that the most important indicator for public managers must be "real" security as opposed to that "unreal", "volatile" and "capricious" security which depends on social and individual factors of the members of our societies (Lasierra, 2021).

The need for security at the national level appeals to the sovereignty of the state, i.e. the subjective provision of the individual need for security is the direct provision of the need for national security. This juxtaposition of objective and subjective security shows that for a society to survive, it must its collective reality, with all its "we", "other", "enemy" and "threat" constructs (Isona, 2017). Today's national security need remains a basic need, i.e. one of the most important needs in the hierarchy of state needs, thus ensuring the idea of sovereignty.

Conclusions

There is no consensus on the concept of security. Each individual and society as a whole has an intuitive sense of what national security is, but it is difficult to define it precisely. When we talk about security, we usually mean the subjective kind. When we analyse the need for national security, we are talking about objective security.

By examining Maslow's hierarchy of needs and taking into account the basic logic of the concept, it is possible to map the correspondence to the needs of society. The paper is based on the idea that societies have an identical hierarchy of needs, and that Maslow's pyramid of needs can therefore be applied at the national level, thus providing insights into the meaning of

national security needs. The analysis of the literature revealed that today security at the individual and national level are becoming inseparable. The state cannot focus on how to ensure national security without first ensuring the security of every citizen, i.e. without first ensuring subjective security. Conversely, it becomes impossible to ensure the security of the individual without first ensuring the security of the state against emerging threats.

Bringing Maslow's hierarchy of needs to the societal level can help us understand the importance of the need for national security in today's context. The analysis of the need for national security also makes it possible to distinguish between subjective and objective security concepts. This can contribute to a sense of security in today's complex geopolitical context.

Recommendations for future research would include a suggestion to conduct a survey of the population on how they subjectively and objectively perceive (national) security. This would not only show the current subjective-objective security relationship, but would also allow national security and defence policy planners to tailor measures to improve not only objective but also subjective security.

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