

Basic Income: What is It Good For?

Bipartisanship and Basic Income

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Basic Income is a notorious bipartisan policy that has been defended by people on different sides of the political spectrum.

Examples: Richard Nixon & Martin Luther King Jr.

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Martin Luther King Jr.

“I am now convinced that the simplest approach will prove to be the most effective – the solution to poverty is to abolish it directly by a now widely discussed measure: the guaranteed income.”

Where do We Go From Here, p. 171

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Richard Nixon

“I propose that the Federal government pay a basic income to those American families who cannot care for themselves in whichever State they live.”

Special Message to the Congress on Reform of the Nation's Welfare System, August 11, 1969

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Mark Zuckerberg thinks universal basic income is a 'bipartisan idea' worth exploring in the US



Alex Heath

Jul. 5, 2017, 10:22 AM 24,147



Mark Zuckerberg has increasingly been a vocal advocate of universal basic income, the economic system in which all people are given a free



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- In this presentation, I try to understand why Basic Income is a Bipartisan idea and why it appeals to both left and right.
- If we can understand it's appeal, maybe we can delineate the shared common ground and use that to stimulate convergence on this and other policies.
- In order to understand Bipartisanship regarding Basic Income, I first look at certain key elements that are often cited and being what a Basic Income policy will help sustain.

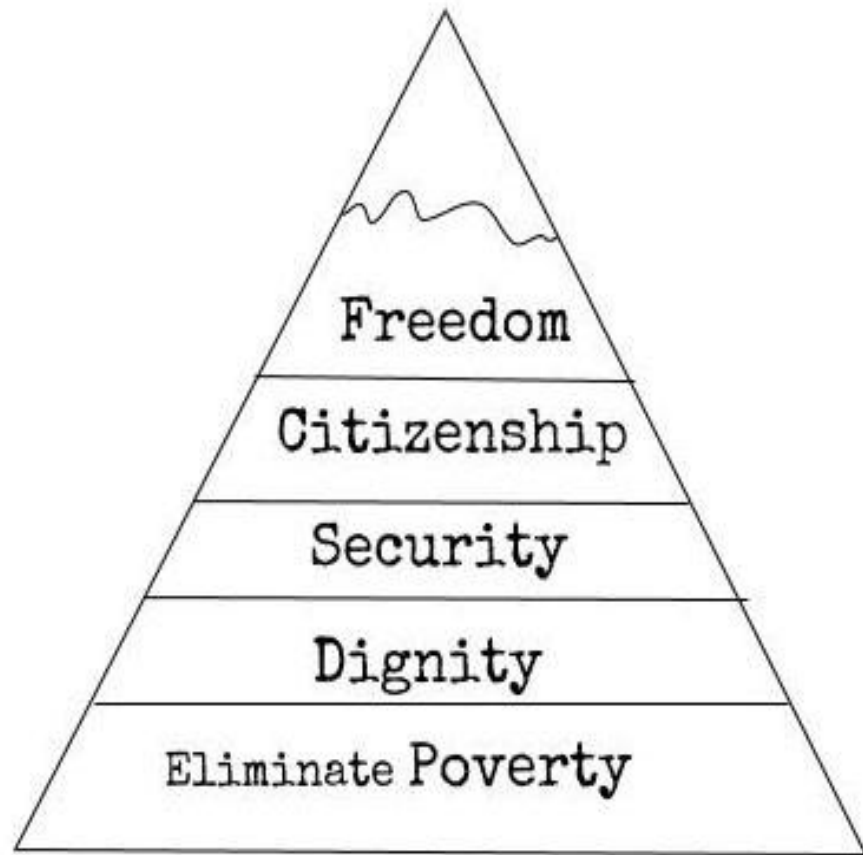
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WHAT IS BASIC INCOME

GOOD FOR THEN?*

*Or what what it has been said to be good for.



Freedom

Citizenship

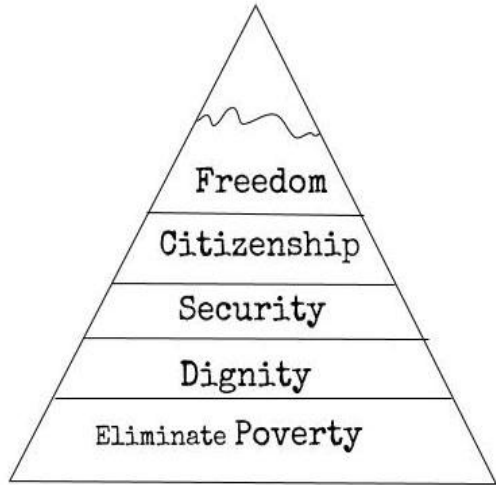
Security

Dignity

Eliminate Poverty

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Poverty: Not a lack of character, a lack of cash.

Dignity: Being above the poverty line does not provide dignity, you need more.

Security: Above dignity is security, knowing that you can deal with an unexpected expense for instance.

Citizenship: In order to be able to participate as a citizen not only do we need dignity and security, but we also need time and availability - the ability to work in a flexible way but being paid properly can help achieve that.

Freedom: In order to achieve freedom Basic Income would have to provide a middle-class payment.

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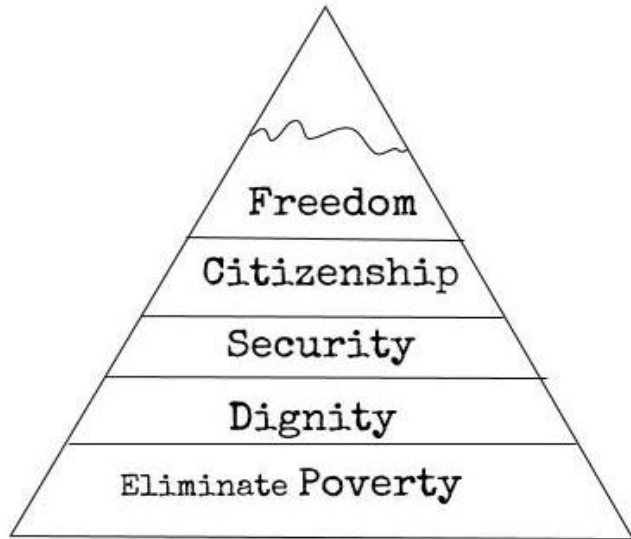
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Basic Income does not need to claim it is able to achieve these ideals alone.

What else can be used to achieve these ideals?

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Jobs * Social Security * Basic Income
Healthcare * Education

Several things can be used to achieve these ideals, and they can be combined in different ways. Things as:

- **Jobs**
- **Social Security**
- **Housing**
- **Basic Income**
- **Healthcare**
- **Education**
- **Stimulating Business**
- **Laws**
- **Etc.**

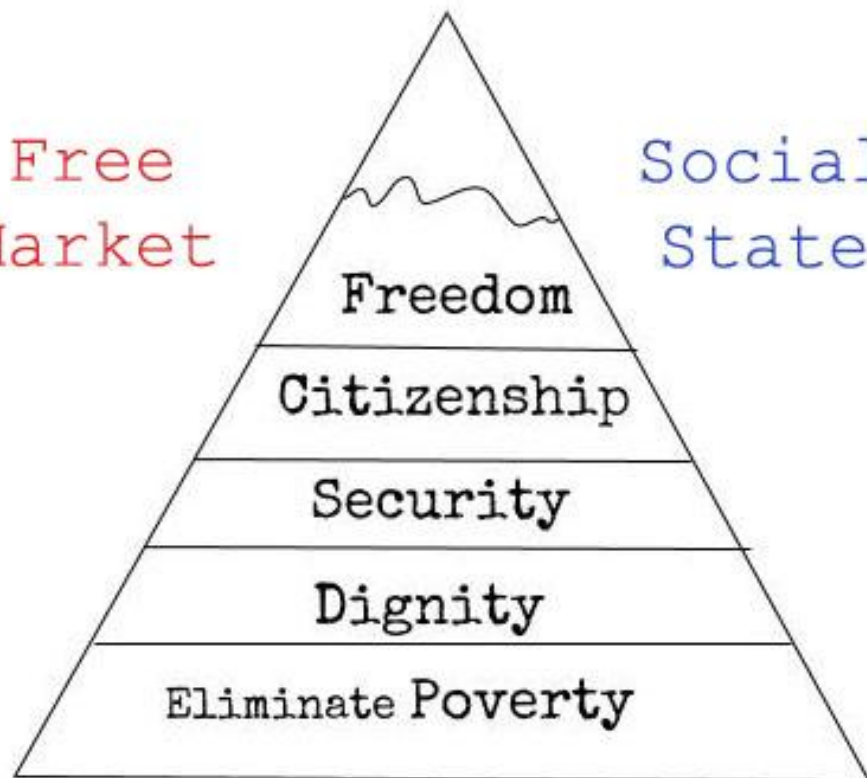
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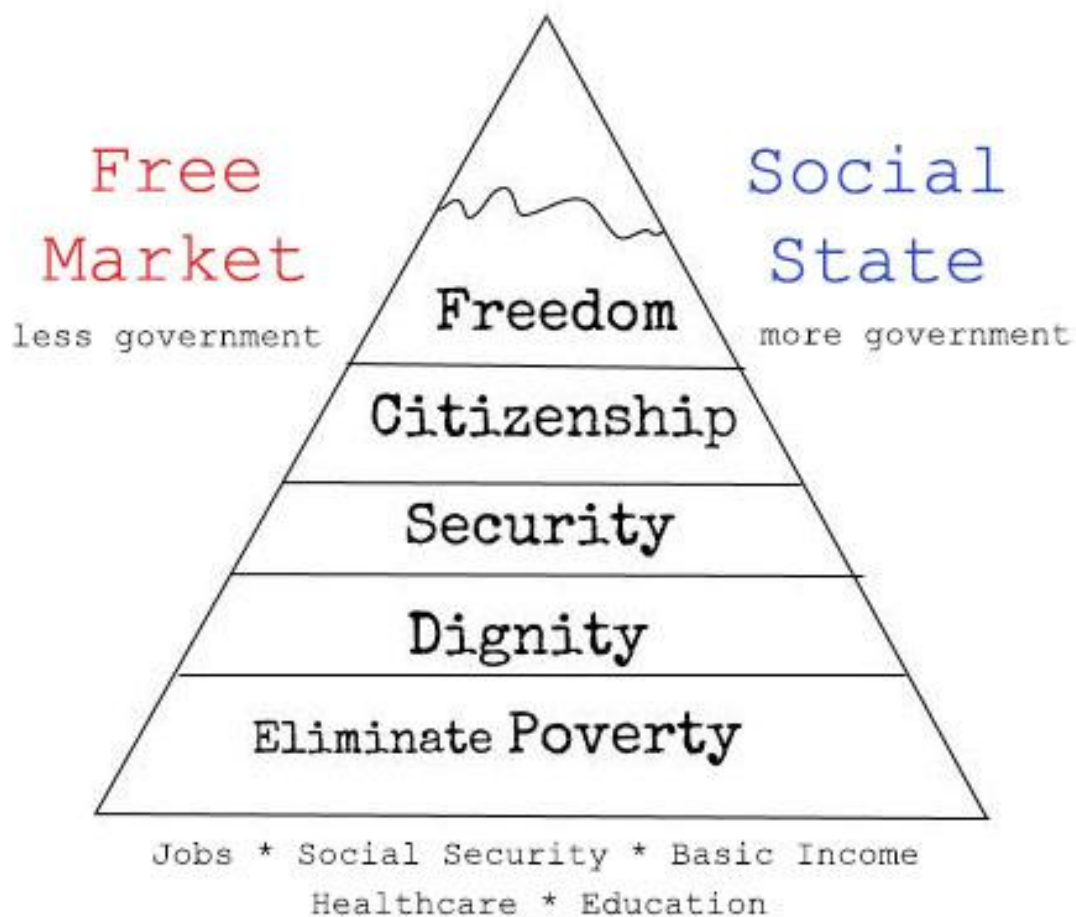
My main idea is that Left and Right do not disagree about the ideals, but on how to achieve them.

Free
Market

Social
State

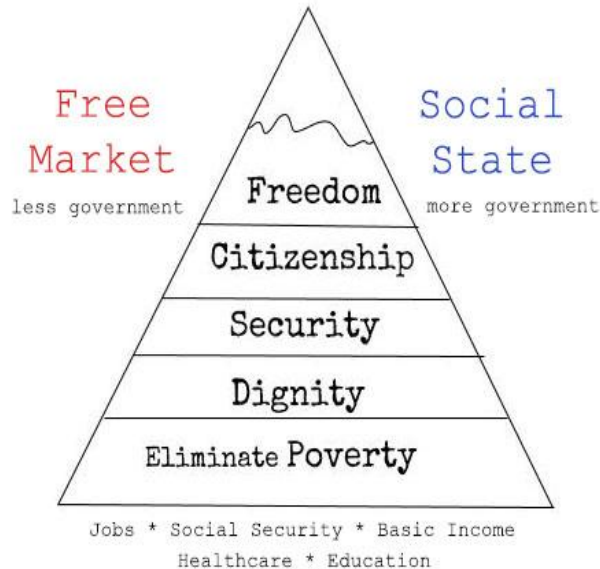


Jobs * Social Security * Basic Income
Healthcare * Education



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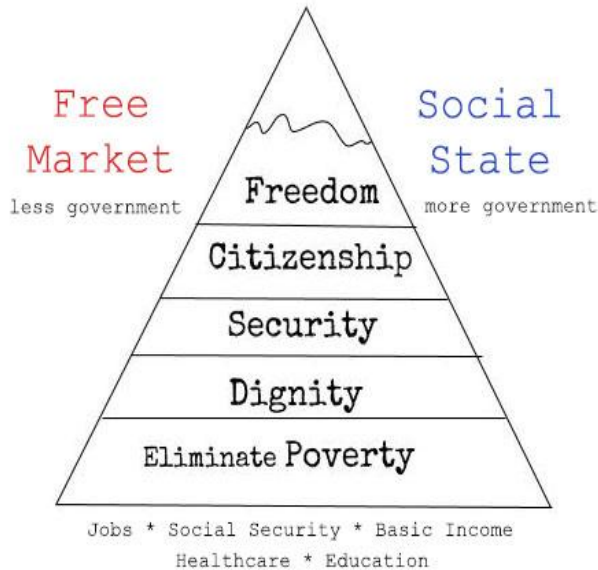
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Basic Income appeals to both sides because it manages to break the divide between **less government** and **more government**. It is more government in the sense that there is a direct action from the government that is helping the citizens, but it is less government in the sense that the action leaves the choice in the hands of the individuals.

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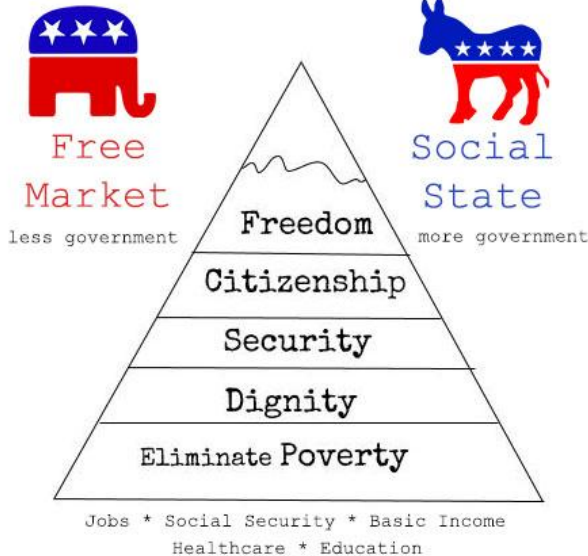
There is also bipartisan criticism of Basic Income. This happens when each side suspects the other side wants to use Basic Income as a way to eliminate some of their other strategies.

Left wing sometimes suspect Basic Income could end other Social Programs and downgrade Labor Laws.

Right wing suspects it is just another way to spend money that may encourage laziness and so on.

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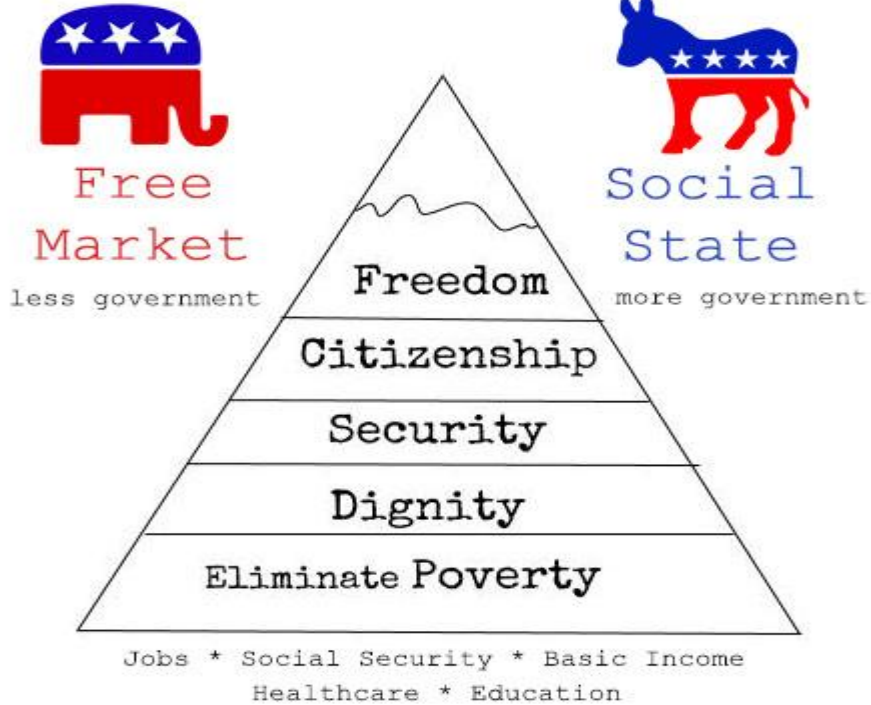
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The most important thing here is that there are shared ideals that are espoused by both sides of the political spectrum.

Basic Income makes this shared ground very clear and can bridge the gap.

If all sides see this, it may be easier to come to political agreement in Policies like Basic Income and others.



THE END

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Please email with any questions

and to quote the work:

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