

# **Liberalismo, bisogni e dipendenza reciproca: la prospettiva di John Rawls**

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## *Liberalism, Needs, and Mutual Dependence: Rawls's Perspective*

*Abstract:* The essay focuses on primary goods, understood by John Rawls as persons' needs as citizens. Among them, the focus is on the social basis of self-respect. The latter cannot disregard the distribution of other primary goods, but requires society to make an additional effort, concerning the need to make available to every citizen realities in which to be accepted, flourish and build relationships of respect, trust and esteem. Standing out here is the *mutual dependence of human beings*, delineated as an essential human need, which links the thought of the mature philosopher to that of the student Rawls. The positive value he places on mutual dependence can provide an *inherently liberal* starting point for critiquing a certain way of understanding social life (typical of liberalism) that makes the illusion of self-sufficiency and autonomy its main boast.

*Keywords:* Needs, Primary goods, Rawls, Self-respect, Mutual dependence.

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