

Decline in intelligence The man is more stupid because he lives long



We are stupid because we live more so progress will damage the intelligence



Stanford University study: the man has reached the peak of his brain evolution over 2000 years ago, then the 'safety net' of society has caused the recession impigrimento and intellect. The experts there, but fortunately the human being has an amazing ability to adapt

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I read it after

U.S. less intelligent than 2000 years ago, the evolution in this case has played against us: our brain, according to Darwin's theories and principles of genetics over the past two millennia evolved hand in hand with our lifestyle, but 'change' has not always been synonymous with improvement. The relationship between technological progress and evolution has neurological fact, according to Gerald Crabtree, a geneticist at the University of Stanford, did get lazy cognitive abilities As life has become more comfortable. In other words, making us more stupid.

The thesis, published in Trends in Genetics, has its roots in the mother of evolutionary theories, that of natural selection, the idea, very simple, that once the human being badly paid, often with their lives, the cost of his own stupidity because enough any error, a trivial distraction, to lose a chance of survival.

Natural selection in favor of those more astute occurred and therefore ruthlessly instant, except in rare strokes of luck. Today, thanks to progress, we all have not one, not two, but infinite possibilities of survival, except in rare bad luck. But what is vital in strictly a benefit, evolutionary level results in a progressive step back, because virtually eliminates any type of natural selection in favor of individuals smarter.

"At one time, if a hunter / gatherer could not solve the problem of how to find food, and died with him all his offspring - Crabtree says - but now a manager of Wall Street who makes a mistake receives a large bonus and becomes a male more attractive. Natural selection is not so extreme. "

The latest studies on the subject, says the geneticist, identified by the two 5000 genes related to intelligence, noting that each generation brings with it two or three mutations. In the absence of selection, the last 3000 years were therefore a period of time sufficient to 'pollute' the human DNA within 120 generations: "In relation to our ancestors of a few thousand years ago, our intelligence is definitely weaker - Crabtree precise - fortunately the company is strong enough to counteract the effect. "

Humanity, according to the report of the geneticist, have therefore already had its moment of glory and, at least from an evolutionary point of view, it would be on Sunset Boulevard. As the Guardian also points out, even before the invention of agriculture and writing, when human beings lived on what he could hunt, who performed a misstep succumbed to the laws of nature, and to go ahead and breed were stronger and smarter.

Then, with the invention of agriculture and the birth of the first settled communities, the intellectual force began to decline gradually. Not surprisingly, explains the scholar, History crowns the period of classical Greece as one of the most intellectually fruitful. "We're kind surprisingly fragile in terms of intellectual - concludes Crabtree - and we probably reached our peak of intelligence between 6000 and 2000 years ago. Simply that natural selection becomes less severe, that now our intellectual property weakens ".

Despite everything, Crabtree ends on a positive note: although our genome seems to become ever more fragile, the company can count on a strong system of transmission of knowledge, otherwise than in the past, is able to spread the culture quickly and capillary.

Psychological evolution and genetic evolution, however, are not the same thing and the human being, the experts stress, is always equipped with a large adaptive capacity. Recent studies on the brain response to stimuli have for example demonstrated that the administration of a drug, the brain responds within 24-48 hours with the production of a new type of recombinant RNA, which allows cells to act on their genes, repairing or transforming them.

"The first effects on mood or behavior - says the psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Adelia Lucattini, president of Sipsies, International Society of Psychiatry and supplementary salutogenesis of Rome - are seen after a few weeks and sometimes a few months, because the brain is a complex organ like structure and the functions they perform. This makes us understand how people have been able to develop a sophisticated adaptive capacity environment like the current one. "

The evolution has allowed and allows, in short, says the psychiatrist, to move in a complex society like ours due to this ability of the mind to change and learn from experience. "The selection - Lucattini precise - it is rather a collateral damage that is suffered when it fails, the social and human solidarity between people and groups they belong to, from the household."

Even Elia Stupka, co-director of the Center for Translational Genomics and Bioinformatics at the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan, is convinced that the adaptability of the human being is stronger weakening caused by modern life. "The proposed theory seems a bit 'too simplifying - he explains - and indeed I think that the increase of genetic variability occurred over the centuries have made our brain more plastic and functional.'s Comfort provided by the progress they have definitely made changes, but it is said to have been negative. Lack of selection has favored this variability and, from my point of view, we have become more complex and complete. When you touch certain subjects is impossible to determine what is good and what is evil, to distinguish black from white. "