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Abstract

Title: *Moral Responsibility for Collective Crime: The Case for Minimum Participatory Actions (MPA)*

This draft prospectus for a doctoral dissertation in normative political theory outlines the theoretical framework, contribution, and methodology of my project, an examination of moral responsibility and collective crime. There are numerous people who performed different kinds of actions during collective crimes. These people can be open to moral responsibility ascriptions depending on the type of action they performed (i.e., whether it produced harmful effects to another group's members), and if they had knowledge of, intention to, or should have taken due care to gain knowledge of the harm that a given action would produce. One way of capturing the preceding is by presenting a continuum of morally relevant actions as expressed through their contribution to a harmful effect: from directly participating to indirectly participating in harm-producing acts. The central question of this project builds on these issues by asking: Who are the appropriate targets of ascriptions of moral responsibility for collective crimes?

The intentions of people in acting during collective crimes are combined with the act itself as a means of determining if a person is morally responsible. For example, if one's intent was destroying a group, or if one supported a group that intended to destroy another group of people, and so on. While these combined elements are sufficient to ascribe moral responsibility, I argue that individual responsibility ascriptions can be refined to include a distinct class of indirect actions, performed during times of collective crime, whose intent component is limited. I call these minimum participatory actions (MPA). Minimum participatory actions, as an explicated feature of the continuum of relevant actions, assist in determinations of moral responsibility. By outlining the theoretical grounds on which my theory rests, as well as those against which it argues, this draft prospectus aims to detail and justify the merit and feasibility of my proposed dissertation.