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COLLECTIVE ORDEAL

Abstract. A more correct concept of "collective ordeal" is proposed instead of the often incorrectly used term "collective responsibility". The definition of collective ordeal is given and examples of situations that may be incorrectly described by the term "collective responsibility" and which are better described by the term "collective ordeal" are shown.

Keywords: *collective responsibility, collective security, collective and personality, human life, individualism, war, man-made disaster, natural disaster*

Disadvantages of the concept of "collective responsibility"

Collective responsibility implies the existence of "guilt", "a judge who evaluates the degree of guilt", "a law, rule or criterion according to which the situation is assessed", "punishing someone who is absolutely innocent, in particular children", and can also be a basis for justifying mass violent actions.

In general, before applying collective responsibility, each member of the collective must explicitly express their consent to such a procedure: this is the custom in all collective games, when one group of players is opposed by another. In many cases, especially when violence is used against a group of people, this does not happen, as a result of which those who disagree with the actions of the group and do not express a clear desire to be responsible for the actions of the entire team suffer.

Definition of the concept

Definition. Collective ordeal is a probabilistic impact on a collective or group of people that threatens their lives, health, and property, and this impact is based on the actions of people, or natural forces, or their joint action.

Key features of the collective test:

1. Probabilistic nature – an individual member of the team or group may or may not be affected.

2. Threat to life, health and property – there is a risk of loss of life, damage to health, and also there is a risk of damage or destruction of property.

3. The impact of the forces of nature can be supplemented (improve or worsen the situation) by the actions of people, and vice versa.

4. There is no concept of the victims' guilt.

Examples of collective tests:

1. Any disaster in which some of the participants survive.

2. Civilians during military operations.

3. Soldiers on the front line.
4. Patients during an epidemic.

Examples where there is no collective test:

1. Any disaster in which there are no survivors.
2. Any other exposures that have no survivors.

Benefits of the concept of "collective ordeal"

The concept of "collective ordeal" allows you to more accurately describe many events that occur in people's lives, avoiding the wrong concept of "collective responsibility".

Example №1. A locality where troops and civilians are located is besieged and shelled by the enemy. The situation of civilians can only be described by the concept of "collective ordeal" – these people are exposed to weapons, and nature can both help and smooth out their effects, and prevent survival; they risk their lives, health and property; they can successfully survive this test and are not to blame for the military operations that their country's troops are waging.

Example №2. The population of the country voted for representatives of this party. This group of leaders pursues policies consistent with their election promises, but these policies spoil the economic climate, causing the country's economy to fall and its population to suffer. Citizens of the country in question blame the ruling party for economic problems: they blame both those who voted for it and those who did not vote for it. This situation is definitely a collective test for the citizens of the country, and in no case is it a kind of "collective responsibility", since there is a threat to people's mental health, there is a threat to people's property, both of these threats are probabilistic in nature, and they are based on people's actions.

Example №3. The country's population voted for representatives of this party, and after the elections, these people began to pursue policies that went against their election promises. This example is similar to example № 2 – citizens of the country are also in the position of collective ordeal.

Example №4. There is a man-made accident or catastrophe that affects a group of people, most of whom end up saving their lives. All victims form a collective that is under the pressure of a collective test: there is a possibility of causing damage to health and property, and the accident is based on natural or (and) human factors.

Conclusions:

1. A more correct concept of "collective ordeal" is proposed instead of the often incorrectly used term "collective responsibility".
2. The concept of "collective ordeal" is defined.
3. Examples are given of situations that may be incorrectly described by the term "collective responsibility" and that are better described by the term "collective challenge".