Manifestation of Group Mentalities. Obedience to an Authority, Deindividuation and Dehumanization, Situational Powers

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Introduction

As being part of the in-group has many evolutionary benefits

- Gives individuals an extended identity with a higher purpose
- Information shared by other are vital as to not repeat their mistakes
- "Outsiders" experience psychological distress and physical pain (same neural pathways)

This literature review explores the different negative manifestations of

- Blind Obedience to an Authority
- Deindividuation + Dehumanization
- Situational Powers

As understanding group dynamics is the first step in comabting their negative effects.

Manifesting Groups

Self-categorization Theory (Turner et al., 1987)

- Perceived Readiness; past experiences + availability of the group categorization
- Comparative Fit; contrasting that behavior with possible groups
- Normative Fit; directly comparing the typical behaviors of a group with that of said individual

Group Identity does not NECESSARILY imply HOSTILITY
being placed in competitive circumstances is the key factor

Allport (1954) & Sherif et al. (1961)



RDNE Stock project

Blind Obedience to an Authority

- Feeling Obliged
- Making the Feel Important (the "chosen ones")
- Emphasize disappointment when not conforming (hurts to be on the out-group)
- Abstract and Vague Rules
- Insist that rules are and should be always followed, even by the authority
- Framing Results in positive light (cleansing Germany, not killing)
- Narrative (logic)and Higher Purpose (emotion)
- Small Demands at First and Gradual Increase(Milgram, 1963)
- Make the Exit Costly

Deindividuation and Dehumanization

- Reducing Accountability Cues (only the present matters
- Leaving One's Identity (war rituals, ceremonies, speeches, masks, uniforms)
- Name-calling Enemies (sub-human and or deserving)
- Conformity Increases in Presence of Others

Situational Powers

- "Bystander Effect"; More People Less likely to Take Action (Danley, 1970)
- People in a Hurry (Batson et al., 1978)
- Context Primes ("On being Sane in Insane Places" Rosenhan, 1973)
- "Looking-glass Self" (Cooley, 1902)
- "Learned Helplessness" (Glucocorticoids, released when yielding to commands of others, Degenerated Hippocampus=Decision-Making (Sapolsky, 2017)



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Conclusion

Many a times in history and every day life one can observe the atrocities committed by the mechanisms of group-identities. It is important although to acknowledge that, initiatives have started to emerge researching, how to reinforce the good in others. Volunteering groups, Community initiatives, Support groups and even Friends are just a few examples of positive group mechanics

Other Relevant Literature

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