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"Knowledge and collective ability"

We frequently ascribe ability to bring about certain outcomes or act in certain ways to collectives of people. For example, we may say that a military unit can carry out a complex mission or that a group of protesters can storm a government building. Such collective ability is essential in particular in discussing whether a given collective can bear moral responsibility or obligations to act in certain ways.

However, philosophical discussion of collective action and collective responsibility, however, [so](#) far ignored the crucial concept of collective ability. In this paper, I aim to fill this gap by providing an account of when a collective is able to enact a complex pattern of individual actions. As I shall argue, shared knowledge of each other's actions and intentions is a crucial ingredient for such collective ability.