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AFTER DURKHEIM: CONCERNING COLLECTIVE BELIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 A puzzle about collective belief

The number of members, the duration, and the particular membership of a social group are clearly important facts about it, but there is nothing obviously problematic or intriguing about these features. Populations which are not social groups, including populations of randomly chosen individuals, also have a particular size and duration, and contain particular individuals as members. Our ascription of such properties to social groups does not in itself suggest that they are particularly impressive or unusual entities. Other ascriptions are more intriguing. In this chapter I focus on our tendency to talk about the beliefs of groups.

The idea that social groups can have beliefs appears to be part of our everyday conceptual scheme, yet at the same time it may appear puzzling or even preposterous. A careful investigation of the idea of a collective or group belief seems called for. In this chapter I develop an account of a group's beliefs. I shall not presuppose at the outset the accuracy of the account of social groups developed in the previous chapter. It turns out, meanwhile, that my arguments here strongly suggest such an account. So they provide a degree of independent support for it.

That our everyday conceptual scheme does contain the idea that groups have beliefs, opinions, and other such properties is evidenced by familiar forms of language. We say things like: 'In the opinion of our board of directors, the adoption of such a policy would be a disaster'; 'Our group thinks that we should not accept the offer'; 'This nation knows that war is never without cost to the victor', and so on. (I shall call these group belief or collective belief statements.) Meanwhile, the idea that a social
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Let us consider possible meanings regarding the meaning and truth.

1. Possibilities of meaning and truth

There are important questions which are not concerned.

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The second issue, which is still mutually-restricted and social, concerns collective integration, which involves considerations of another kind - namely, a collective process that can be either that of a group, or of a collective process. Only a part of a group's integrations, or of a collective process, can be applied to something entire to the extent to which it is, in fact, an attribute to which the group is related. Therefore, we need to distinguish two types of questions concerning our concerns.

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The beliefs of the individual and the beliefs of the group

We do not of course, secret traits of the mental properties and
functions. The point is that the group's beliefs are not identical to the individual's beliefs. The group's beliefs are formed through the interaction of its members, and these interactions are shaped by the group's environment. The group's beliefs are not just a collection of individual beliefs, but a new entity that is formed through the interaction of its members.

An example of this is the belief in the existence of God. Individual beliefs about the existence of God may be influenced by personal experiences, but the group's belief is formed through the interaction of its members. The group's belief is not just a collection of individual beliefs, but a new entity that is formed through the interaction of its members.

This point is important because it shows that the group's beliefs are not just a collection of individual beliefs, but a new entity that is formed through the interaction of its members. The group's beliefs are not just a collection of individual beliefs, but a new entity that is formed through the interaction of its members.

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"TWO VIEWS OF COLLECTIVE BELIEFS: SIMPLIFICATION"

1. The traditional view of collective beliefs is that they are a simple aggregation of individual beliefs. This view is based on the assumption that the group's beliefs are just a collection of individual beliefs. This view is based on the assumption that the group's beliefs are just a collection of individual beliefs.

2. The modern view of collective beliefs is that they are a new entity that is formed through the interaction of its members. This view is based on the assumption that the group's beliefs are not just a collection of individual beliefs, but a new entity that is formed through the interaction of its members. This view is based on the assumption that the group's beliefs are not just a collection of individual beliefs, but a new entity that is formed through the interaction of its members.

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"THE EVIDENCE"

The evidence for the modern view of collective beliefs is based on the fact that the group's beliefs are not just a collection of individual beliefs, but a new entity that is formed through the interaction of its members. This view is based on the assumption that the group's beliefs are not just a collection of individual beliefs, but a new entity that is formed through the interaction of its members.
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A social fact is any way of acting, whether fixed or not, capable of being reproduced under like conditions in different epochs.

We assert that there are two abstract ways of defining the concept of the rule or the rule in context. When a social fact is defined, it is a social fact. A subjective definition is one that is used to construct the ideas of the social fact. This will be useful to start by considering those well-known definitions of the process of sociology by sociologists in general. The main reason, nevertheless, is not to take it as a final definition. In the context, we mean the idea to which we will refer, that is, the society of a social fact in the so-called definition in the rule.

The definitions of a social fact in the so-called definition in the rule, it is common and natural to focus on a concept of the society of a social fact in the so-called definition in the rule.
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2.4 The full equation

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In a passage in the second equation, the expression of production of a social group as a whole, is not equal to the expression of production of its parts. The expression of production of the whole group is the sum of the expressions of production of its parts. However, the expression of production of each part, in turn, is the result of the interaction between the parts and the overall expression of production of the group. This interaction is the result of the internal and external forces acting on the group, including the forces of production within the group itself and the forces of production outside the group. The expression of production of the group is thus a result of the interplay between these different forces.

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2.5 Expression and Inference

A social group is a collective belief system that is shared by its members. The expression of this belief system is the result of the interaction between the individual members of the group and the group itself. The expression of production of a social group is thus the result of the interaction between the individual expressions of production of its members and the group as a whole. The expression of production of the group is thus the sum of the expressions of production of its members, weighted by the degree of integration of each member into the group. The expression of production of the group is thus a reflection of the degree of integration of each member into the group, as well as the degree of integration of the group as a whole into the overall expression of production of society.

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2.6 Diversity in collective beliefs

It is not in social groups, and not in social interaction, that the perceptions of individuals are combined, but in collective beliefs. Social interaction is the process of combination of beliefs, not the beliefs themselves. In social groups, individuals combine their beliefs by interacting with each other, not by combining their beliefs directly. The result is a collective belief, which is a belief held by all members of the group. Collective beliefs are formed through a process of social interaction, in which individuals share and exchange ideas, and in which these ideas are combined to form a single belief.

2.7 Interdependence in collective beliefs

Collective beliefs are not independent of one another, but are interdependent. This interdependence is evident in the way in which collective beliefs are formed and transmitted. Collective beliefs are not formed in isolation, but are formed through social interaction, in which individuals combine their beliefs with those of others. The result is a collective belief, which is a belief held by all members of the group. Collective beliefs are not independent of one another, but are interdependent. This interdependence is evident in the way in which collective beliefs are formed and transmitted. Collective beliefs are not formed in isolation, but are formed through social interaction, in which individuals combine their beliefs with those of others. The result is a collective belief, which is a belief held by all members of the group.
3.2 Criteria of assessment

The criteria of assessment for the label of collective belief are as follows:

1. The collective belief must be based on collective action or behavior. The belief must be widely held by the members of the same group or community.
2. The belief must be supported by evidence or reasons that are widely accepted within the group.
3. The belief must be consistent with the group's norms and values.
4. The belief must be resistant to change, even when contradicted by evidence.

3.3 Assessing accounts of collective beliefs

Collective beliefs are those beliefs held by a group of individuals who share a common context or identity. To assess these beliefs, we need to consider the following factors:

1. The context in which the belief is held. Beliefs are often shaped by the social, cultural, and historical context in which they are formed.
2. The evidence supporting the belief. Beliefs are often based on evidence, whether it be empirical or anecdotal.
3. The durability of the belief. Beliefs that are resistant to change are often more compelling than those that easily shift in response to new evidence.
4. The impact of the belief. The consequences of a belief can be significant, and we should consider whether the belief is likely to have positive or negative effects.

In conclusion, assessing collective beliefs requires a careful examination of the context, evidence, durability, and impact of the belief in question.