

The existence of a morality which refuses to sanction the automatic sacrifice of the one for the good of the many ... secures to each individual a kind of moral space, a space which others are not allowed to invade. Nor is it impossible to see the rationale of the principle that one man should not want evil, serious evil, to come on another, even to spare more people the same loss. It seems to define a kind of solidarity between human beings, as if there is some sense in which no one is to come out against one of his fellow men. In both cases, the good of the rule is a good that comes from having a system. But the justification is not, as with rules that limit the direct pursuit of the general good in utilitarian systems, that those who accept them will be most likely actually to bring about [most welfare]. Philippa Foot

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There is some benevolence, however small, infused into our bosom; some spark of friendship for human kind; some particle of the dove kneaded into our frame, along with the sentiments of the wolf and serpent. Let these generous sentiments be supported ever so weakly; let them be insufficient to move even a hand or finger of our body; they must still direct the determinations of our mind, and where everything else is equal, produce a cool preference of what is useful and serviceable to mankind above what is pernicious and dangerous. A moral distinction, therefore, immediately arises; a general sentiment of approbation; a tendency, however faint to the objects of the one, and a proportionable aversion to those of the other. (Enquiry, IX, 1)

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David Hume, 'Of the Original Contract'

All moral duties may be divided into two kinds. The first are those to which men are impelled by a natural instinct or immediate propensity which operates on them independent of all ideas of obligation and of all views either to public or private utility. Of this nature are love of children, gratitude to benefactors, pity to the unfortunate. When we reflect on the advantage which results to society from such humane instincts, we pay them the just tribute of moral approbation and esteem. But the person actuated by them feels their power and influence antecedent to any such reflection.

The second kind of moral duties are such as are not supported by any original instinct of nature, but are performed entirely from a sense of obligation when we consider the necessities of human society and the impossibility of supporting it if these duties were neglected. It is thus that justice or a regard to the property of others, fidelity or the observance of promises, become obligatory, and acquire an authority over mankind.

N.B. Hume's terminological provisions ('Natural may be opposed either to what is unusual, miraculous or artificial', Enquiry, Appendix III) preserve the option for him to say that it is natural for human beings to engage in that which involves artifice. Hume exercises this option in one of his letters to Hutcheson: 'I have never called justice unnatural but only artificial'. See i.33 in J.Y.T. Greig (ed.), Letters of David Hume, Oxford 1952.

Anybody who is in our vicinity exercises a certain power over us by his very presence, and a power not exercised by him alone, that is the power of halting, repressing, modifying each movement that our body sketches out. If we step aside for a passer-by on the road, it is not the same thing as stepping aside to avoid a bill-board. Alone in our rooms we get up, walk about, sit down again quite differently from the way we do when we have a visitor ... But this indefinable influence that the presence of another human being has on us is not exercised by men [such as one's adversary in warfare] whom a moment of impatience can deprive of life, who can die before even a thought has a chance to pass sentence on them. In their presence people move about as if they were not there. Simone Weil, "The Iliad, or the Poem of Force".<sup>14</sup>

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Hume's own bent, in so far as he faced the sort of questions that are raised by utilitarian philosophy, was to insist, as he does in his account of the artificial virtues, that 'the whole system of just actions, concurred in by the whole society [be] infinitely advantageous to the whole and to every part'. Treatise, III, ii, 2.

Even though many of the older forms of solidarity are melting away, new solidarities are constantly emerging. The thing that is so noteworthy is the ever-widening circle of solidarity through the family, the city, the nation, all the way to humanity itself. From this widening we have a doubly fortunate result: corporate egoism is ennobled by extending itself to the point where it embraces the whole of humanity; and at the same time the clash of conflicting solidarities becomes more and more a thing of the past.

Charles Gide and Charles Rist, *Histoire des doctrines économiques*, Paris 1909.

From an infinite horizon [man] returns to himself, to the smallest egoistic enclosure and there he must grow withered and dry; probably he attains to cleverness, never to wisdom. He 'listens to reason', calculates and accommodates himself to the facts, keeps calm, blinks and knows how to seek his own or his party's advantage in the advantage and disadvantage of others ... Precisely that is the sense of the cynical demand for the 'total surrender of the personality to the world process' ... Nietzsche, *Untimely Meditation II*

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"The party of humankind"  
Hume Enquiry IX, part 1

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solidarity (sɒlɪ'dærɪti). [ad. F. *solidarité*, f. *solidaire* solid: see SOLIDARY a.]

1. a. The fact or quality, on the part of communities, etc., of being perfectly united or at one in some respect, esp. in interests, sympathies, or aspirations; *spec.* with reference to the aspirations or actions of trade-union members. Also *attrib.* and *Comb.*

The French origin of the word is freq. referred to during the period of its introduction into English use. Latterly also the English rendering of Polish *Solidarność*, the name of an independent trade-union movement in Poland, registered in September 1980 and officially banned in October 1982.

1841 H. DOHERTY *False Assoc. & its Remedy* 24 Solidarity, Solidary, Collective responsibility. Collectively responsible. 1848 *People's Press* II. 161/2 Solidarity is a word of French origin, the naturalisation of which, in this country, is desirable. 1848 GALLENGA *Italy* 429 Actuated... by a feeling of national solidarity—to borrow a French word—which induced all of them to run the same risk. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits* v. 103 One secret of their power is their mutual good understanding... They have solidarity, or responsibility, and trust in each other. 1877 BROCKETT *Cross & Crescent* 157 Each is responsible to the Czar, but they have no sort of solidarity. 1885 *To-day* III. 83 [Strike manifesto] But if, on the contrary, you design this strike as a step toward a final and definite solution of the great labour question, if you would make it the means of teaching the worker the absolute necessity of combination and of unity, if having secured the adoption of Solidarity you will build upon this a superstructure of Education, if you will learn why you are poor, [etc.]. 1962 *Listener* 31 May 935/1 These gangs have group-cohesiveness (in our present jargon) or solidarity (in socialist jargon), but they are against society. 1963 *Daily Tel.* 5 Feb. 10/2 Twice as many countries are attending this conference as were at the Afro-Asian States conference in Bandung in 1955; but the great difference is that those now meeting are merely 'solidarity organisations'. 1968 *Listener* 6 June 713/1 Well before the last election, sociologists were telling us that an increasing number of working-class people were beginning to look at politics instrumentally rather than in terms of class solidarity or ideological allegiance. 1969 *Ibid.* 30 Jan. 131/3 Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Committees display predictable signs at air-ports. 1971 I. DEUTSCHER *Maoism in our Time* (1972) v. 109 The perennial conflict between national egoism and international solidarity becomes more and more visible. 1974 *Socialist Worker* 9 Nov. 6/4 The building workers called a solidarity strike. 1977 *Time* 4 July 7/3 In the months since then, Soviet ideologues have opened a campaign to increase 'fidelity to the principles of inter-nationalist solidarity'—party jargon for rallying round Moscow's flag. 1979 *Time* 13 Aug. 12/3 'Solidarity' marchers arrived from Sanandaj, the Kurds' provincial capital. 1980 *Times* 26 Sept. 6/4 The Warsaw daily *Zycie Warszawy* quoted members of the Solidarity free trade union movement as rejecting reforms of the old unions as mere name-changing. 1980 *Economist* 18 Oct. 46/1 Over 20 unions, including Mr Lech Walesa's Gdansk-based Solidarity (an umbrella organisation representing 50 small unions, and claiming a total membership of over 4m), have applied to register with the courts in Warsaw. 1982 *Times* 9 Oct. 1/5 The Polish Parliament... yesterday voted... for a new trade union law that sounds the death knell of Solidarity. *Ibid.*, in broad outline, the bill dissolves all registered trade unions including Solidarity.

*transf.* 1876 FARRAR *Marib. Sermon* xxxii. (1877) 321 Knowing... that there is a solidarity in the virtues as in the vices. 1881 *Nature* No. 617. 397 When we thus effect a re-classification of elementary bodies, the solidarity at once breaks down.

b. Const. of (mankind, a race, etc.).

1852 *Fraser's Mag.* Jan. 28 We have bived up one of his phrases... the 'solidarity of the peoples!' 1853 TRENCH *Less. Prov.* 29 The 'solidarity' (to use a word which it is in vain to strive against) of all the nations of Christendom. 1884 S. E. DAWSON *Handbk. Canada* 107 The grand idea of the solidarity of England and the English race throughout the world.

*transf.* 1867 M. ARNOLD *Celtic Lit.* 68 The solidarity, to use that convenient French word, of Breton and Welsh poetry. 1876 L. STEPHEN *Hist. Eng. Th.* 18th C. I. 220 Disputing the solidarity of all the writers of Targums.

c. Const. between or with (others). Also *transf.*

(a) 1860 MARSH *Lect. Eng. Lang.* 284 The organs of speech act and react upon each other... there is, to use a word, which if not now English soon will be, a certain solidarity between them all. 1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* xvi. II. 310 There was what is called, in modern phrase, solidarity between him and his people. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 67 The solidarity existing between all parts of the lung.

(b) 1862 GRATTAN *Beaten Paths* II. 378 Would he not have found his best policy... [in] an alliance, if not quite a solidarity, with England? 1865 E. LUCAS in Manning *Ess. Relig. & Lit.* 374 To refuse any solidarity whatever with it. 1884 *L'pool Mercury* 18 Feb. 5/2 The member for Woodstock... here repudiates all solidarity with his leaders.

2. Community or perfect coincidence of (or between) interests.

1874 LADY HERBERT tr. *Hübner's Ramble* II. ii. (1878) 318 To establish a solidarity between their commercial interests. 1876 *Contemp. Rev.* June 138 The cry was raised as to the solidarity of the Conservative interests. 1890 *GROSS Gild Merch.* I. 97 A compact body emphatically characterized by fraternal solidarity of interests.

3. Civil Law. A form of obligation involving joint and several responsibilities or rights.

1875 *POSTE Gaius* III. 396 Correality and Solidarity agree in this, that in both of them every creditor is severally entitled to receive the whole object of the active obligation, and every debtor is bound to discharge the whole object of the passive obligation.

SOLIDAIRE [sɔlɪdɛr] adj. — 1462, selon Bloch et Wartburg; repris déb. xviii<sup>e</sup> (1611); du lat. jurid. in *solidum* «pour le tout» d'où «solidairement».

\*1 Dr. Commun à plusieurs personnes, de manière que chacun réponde de tout. *Obligation ou engagement solidaire*, dont chacun des créanciers a le droit de demander le paiement du total de la créance, et «dont les débiteurs sont obligés à une même chose, de manière que chacun puisse être contraint pour la totalité et que le paiement fait par un seul libère les autres envers les créanciers» (Capitant). *Caution, dette solidaire.* — (xviii<sup>e</sup>) Personnes. Lié par un acte solidaire. *Débiteurs solitaires. Créanciers solidaires.*

\*2 (1778). Cour. Se dit de personnes qui répondent en commun l'une pour l'autre d'une même chose (→ Responsable); qui se sentent liées par une responsabilité et des intérêts communs. *Partisans, syndiqués qui sont solidaires.* — (Au sing.) *Être solidaire de, avec qqn* (→ Indulgent, cit. 9); *avec ses collaborateurs* (→ Coopération, cit. 1). (... ces provinces, diverses de climats, de mœurs et de langage, se sont comprises, se sont aimées; toutes se sont senties solidaires. Le Gascon s'est inquiété de la Flandre, le Bourguignon a joué ou souffert de ce qui se faisait aux Pyrénées; le Breton, assis au rivage de l'Océan, a senti les coups qui se donnaient sur le Rhin.

MICHELET, Hist. de France, III.

\*3 (Déb. xix<sup>e</sup>). Se dit de choses qui dépendent l'une de l'autre, vont, fonctionnent ensemble\* dans une action, un processus. → Tenir (se). *Raisonnements, efforts solidaires.* — (Au sing.) *Une concentration intellectuelle solidaire de l'effort* (cit. 6). → aussi Encéphalite, cit.; pictural, cit.

\*4 (1861. Camot). Au sens concret. Mécan. Se dit de pièces, d'organes liés dans un même mouvement par contact direct, par engrenage ou par un intermédiaire (courroie, chaîne...). → *Entraînement, transmission. Deux pignons solidaires. Bielle solidaire d'un vilebrequin.*

SOLIDARITÉ [sɔlɪdarite] n. f. — 1693; de *solidaire*.

\*1 Dr. [a] État des débiteurs, des créanciers solidaires. *Solidarité conventionnelle, stipulée* (→ Indivisibilité, cit. 2), *légale.* — REM. On a dit *solidité*, vx, en ce sens.

[b] (1804. Code civil). Caractère solidaire (1.) d'une obligation. *Solidarité active*, le tout est dû à chacun des créanciers. *Solidarité passive*, le tout est dû par chacun des débiteurs. *Solidarité conventionnelle. La solidarité met obstacle à la division de la créance ou de la dette divisible.*

\*2 (1795). Cour. Le fait d'être solidaire (2.); relation entre personnes ayant conscience d'une communauté d'intérêts, qui entraîne, pour un élément du groupe, l'obligation morale de ne pas desservir les autres et de leur porter assistance. *Solidarité d'une personne et d'une autre, avec une autre; de deux personnes. Solidarité avec quelqu'un. Solidarité de classe, sociale, professionnelle.* → *Esprit* (de corps).

Par *solidarité ministérielle* (cit. 1). *Solidarité noble* (cit. 2). *Solidarité entre gens du milieu, entre des malfaiteurs* (→ la loc. Les loups\* ne se mangent pas entre eux). *Solidarité internationale* (→ Leurre, cit. 6). → *Fraternité. La solidarité dans le droit* (3. Droit, cit. 69) *social. Réaliser par l'union\* et la solidarité une œuvre en commun* (→ Coopératif, cit. 1). *Organisation de solidarité.* → *Association, entraide, mutualité. Liens de solidarité.* → *Camaraderie* (→ Se serrer les coudes\*; coude à coude\*). *Sentiment de solidarité.* On tremble pour Montauban quand on voit la sensibilité terrible qu'une telle chose allait exciter, la solidarité profonde qui, du Nord au Midi, liait dès lors tout le peuple. S'il n'y avait eu personne dans le Midi pour venger une telle chose, tout le Centre, tout le Nord, tout se serait mis en marche. L'outrage était senti au fond des moindres villages.

MICHELET, Hist. de la Révolution franç., III, VIII. Il n'existe pas d'autre voie vers la solidarité humaine que la recherche et le respect de la dignité individuelle.

P. LECOMTE DU NOÛV, l'Homme et sa destinée, III, IX.

*Politique de solidarité. Ministère de la solidarité nationale* (1981). *Impôt de solidarité.* — *Contrat emploi solidarité.* → 2. C. E. S.

Par métonymie. Rare. Ensemble de personnes solidaires. *Une nation* (cit. 1) *est une grande solidarité.*

\*3 (1789). Choses. Le fait d'être solidaire (3.). → *Dépendance. Solidarité de deux phénomènes. Solidarité qui unit l'œuvre d'art aux circonstances* (→ 1. Fruit, cit. 24).

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Hume

There seems a necessity for

... necessity for... misery of others are not spectacles entirely indifferent to us; but that the view of the former [i.e. the spectacle of happiness], whether in its causes or effects, like sunshine or the prospect of well-cultivated plains (to carry our pretensions no higher), communicates a secret joy and satisfaction. (Enquiry, VII.)

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