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# Σ S P R I T D E C O R P S

COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS  
AND THE COMBAT SELF

'Esprit de corps' became in the last three centuries a widespread universal concept. It is used in the following fields: **army, corporations, sport, politics, societies.** It defines a group (body) that is proudly conscious of its supposed difference; its cohesive organisation is a defensive **war machine.**

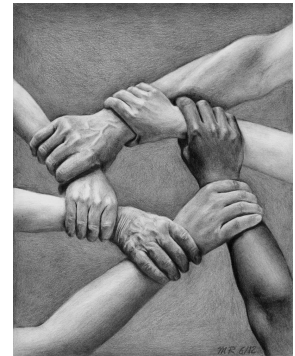
That meta-awareness is both **emotional and cognitive.**

Esprit de corps is an ambivalent ethical notion that can take a positive or a negative value, when opposed to its bordering concepts: **individualism and universalism (absolutism).**

The **conceptual history of 'esprit de corps'** since its birth in the early eighteenth century reveals a constant **combative denotation**, as if groups could only define themselves in **agonistic** terms: against other groups or **against otherness** perceived as a danger.



ALL  
FOR  
ONE  
ONE  
FOR  
ALL?



As the global population grows, will **individualism** vanish in favour of **new collective identities**, with such a strong esprit de corps (body spirit) that they would develop a form of **self**?

Can we conceive of a collective axiomatic identity that would be **inclusive** without being **exclusive**?

Is **agonistic pluralism** the only possible form of progressive politics? Do we need an **absolute**?

Is **combat and competition** our unsurpassable modern **episteme**?