

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP BENEFITS AND BURDENS

Conceivably, individual benefits (b) can come together with either group benefits (B) or group burdens (\bar{B}); likewise, individual burdens (\bar{b}) can be paired off to either group benefits (B) or group burdens (\bar{B}). Most social philosophers, regardless of their political orientation, claim that the group benefits to the extent that the individual does, and conversely: i.e., they favor the pair $\langle b, B \rangle$. On the other hand sociobiologists think that group benefit requires individual sacrifice: i.e., they opt for the $\langle \bar{b}, \bar{B} \rangle$ pair. Nobody seems even to consider the two remaining possibilities, i.e. those on the Eastern column of the trade-off matrix

Trade-off matrix between individual benefits (b) and burdens (\bar{b}), and group benefits (B) and burdens (\bar{B})

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \langle b, B \rangle & \langle b, \bar{B} \rangle \\ \langle \bar{b}, B \rangle & \langle \bar{b}, \bar{B} \rangle \end{vmatrix}$$

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