

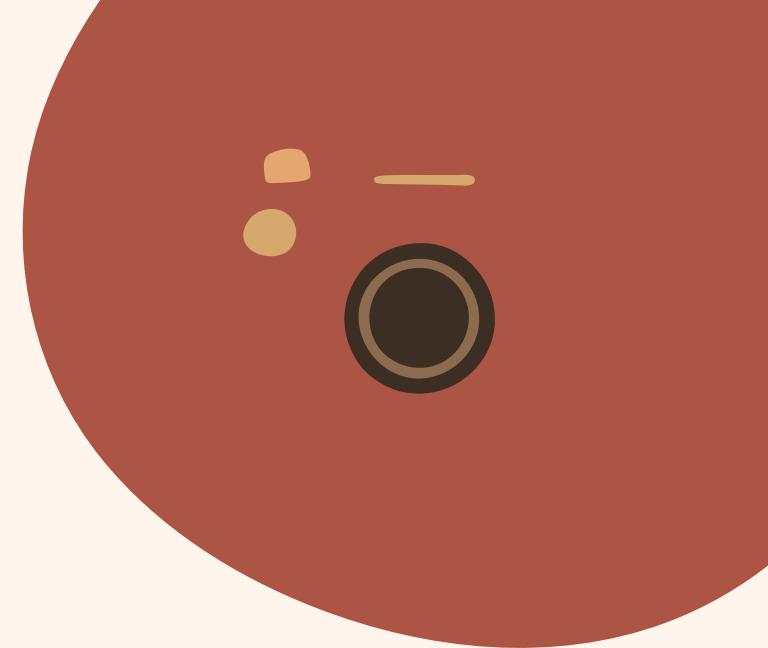
# Chapter 19

Andrew Garber

START

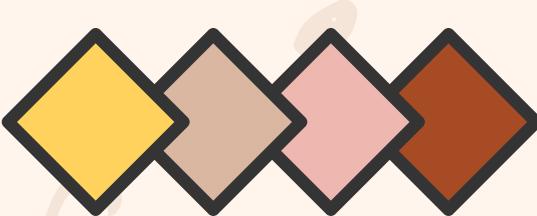


# **What is Chapter 19 About?**



**Chapter 19 is about Group  
Interaction.**





# The Main 3 Parts of the Chapter:

Topic 1: Psychological Groups

Topic 2: Tendencies of Groups

Topic 3: Individuals in Groups

# Psychological Groups

Simply put, a group is a collection of people who interact, share common goals, and influence how each other feel, think, or act. To be truly classified as a group, they must be interdependent.

Shared goals are essential to define the character, social norms, and aims of a group.



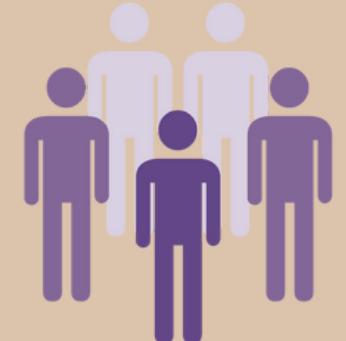
# Psychological Groups

Groups do not stay together on their own though. Multiple factors work to keep them together - namely, norms, ideology, and individual commitment.

The unique norms of a group are an unwritten social code that helps with group cohesion.

Ideology is a firmer point than this, groups generally have a common ideology instrumental to the founding of the group that serves as a north star for their action.

In addition, a sunk-cost kind of commitment helps to keep groups together



# Tendencies of Groups

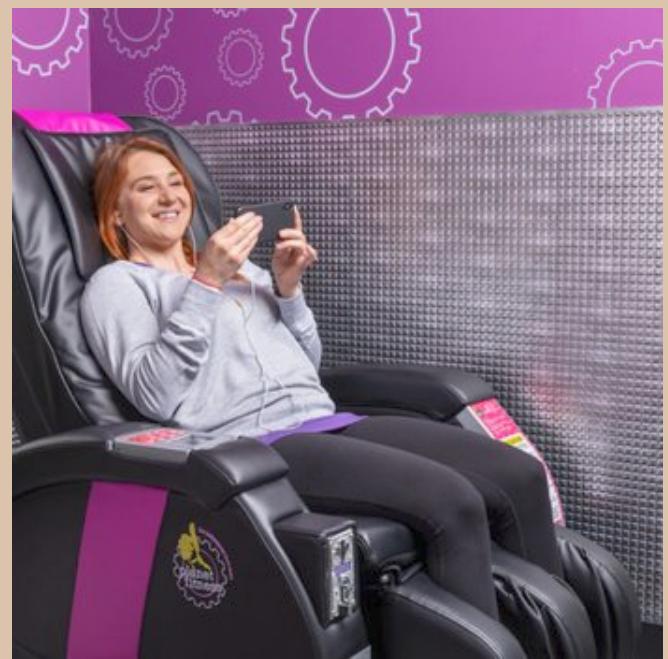
With any collection of people, the combination of complex psychological interactions and environmental factors will lead to certain tendencies: notable among these are social facilitation and inhibition.

Social facilitation means that you step up, and do things you wouldn't normally do( or do things you WOULD do better).

The same is true in reverse though - you might be an outspoken person with strong opinions about things, but in a room full of people similarly outspoken but totally ideologically aligned, you might not speak up.



vs



# Tendencies of Groups

In addition, certain phenomena seem to happen within groups regardless of their stated purpose(to varying degrees).

- Groupthink is when the social cohesion of a group leads to a failure to consider outside options.
- Speaking of decision-making, group polarization is when a discussion of an issue or topic within a group leads to more extreme outcomes when the majority is on one side.
- While this isn't technically a phenomenon, I would be remiss if I didn't mention group leadership. It is \*the\* critical factor in mission success, regardless of the mission.  
People don't follow ideas or mission statements, they follow people.



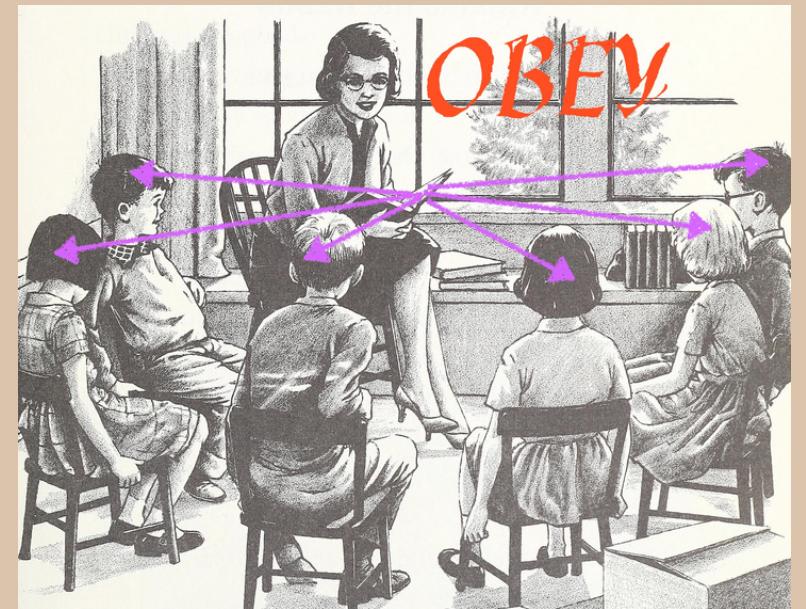
# Individuals in Groups

Two wider societal factors happen in any group: conformity and obedience.

These two are the killers of spirit and striving, but castigating them entirely is not fair: we all conform AND obey to some extent because it is necessary and helpful to groups and society.

Why do individuals conform more generally as part of groups (and society as a whole)? A large part of it is that it is just easier - swimming with the current is comfortable, safe, and easy.

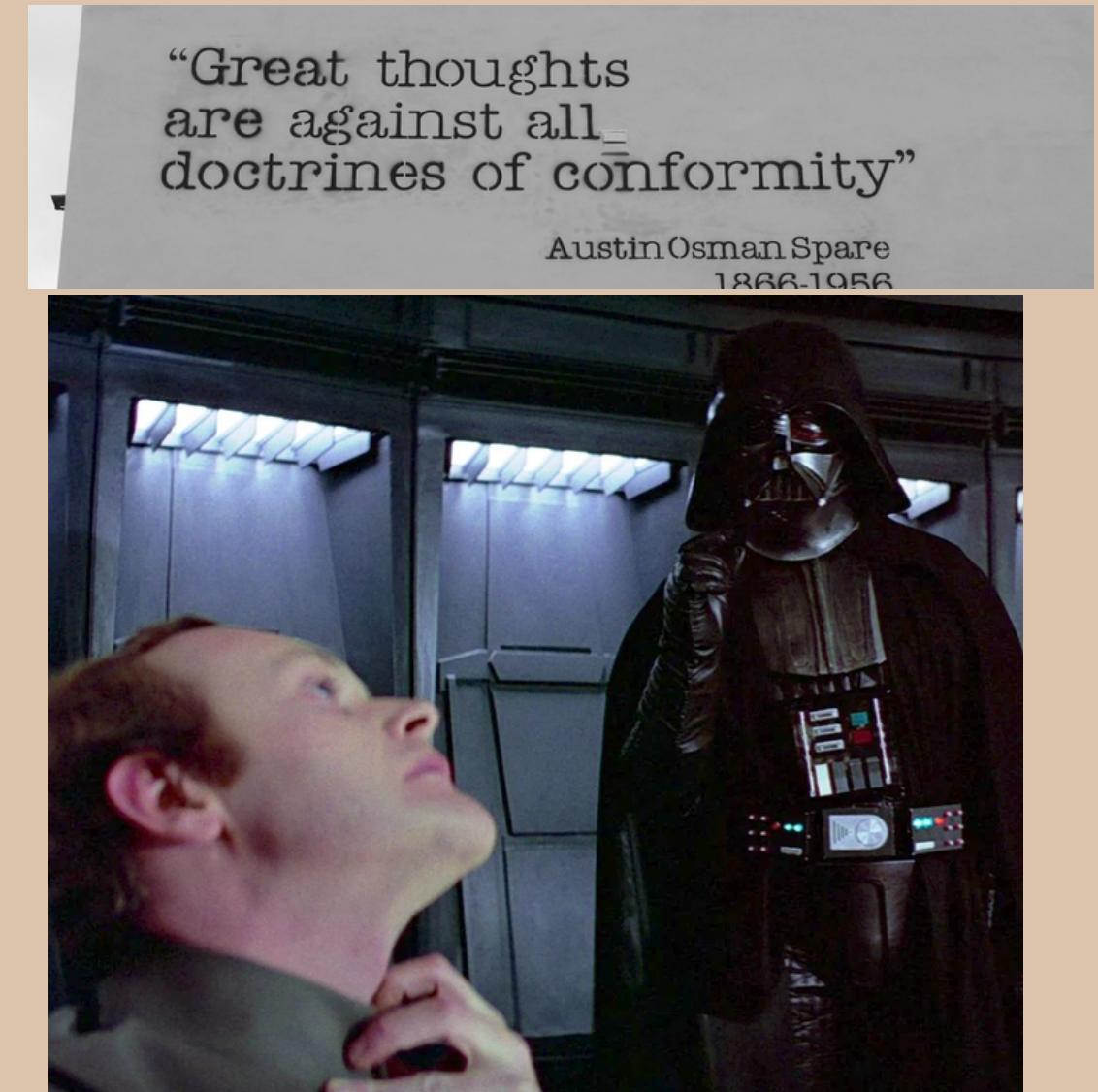
When we don't conform, we are swimming against the current. It's hard, it's uncomfortable, and it's dangerous. But it's also the only way to pursue a path of self-actualization and individuation.



# Individuals in Groups

Obedience can be seen as a form of conformity. We obey rules and authority figures because it can provide structure and safety to ourselves and others. However, these figures can be stifling to the growth of our individuality and the pursuit of our goals.

It is important to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy obedience. Healthy obedience involves following rules and authority figures that align with our values and goals(which sounds a lot like LEADERSHIP), while unhealthy obedience is simply due to the stature or power of the individual demanding our obedience.



This is not leadership.  
Obeying Darth Vader is Unhealthy Obedience

# Additional Sources

Obedience

Conformity

Thus Spoke Zarathustra(Mostly a joke to make myself laugh)