

How Complicit Are We? Blood Oil and Prospective Responsibility

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Abstract: I aim to present what I think is the idea of responsibility underlying Leif Wenar's argument and on what implications this may have for Western importing countries whose conditions of people's sovereignty and popular authorization seem (mostly) satisfied in a way that makes their citizens implicated in the injustice committed by their governments and in principle able to change their national resource policy. I suggest that even though individuals may not be responsible for a certain action (because, for example, they committed it without meeting the necessary minimal conditions of knowledge and voluntariness for the attribution of moral responsibility) they can at the same time be taken to be responsible in a prospective, forward-looking, sense to bring about the needed structural changes for reforming international oil trade.

Keywords: Prospective responsibility, Accountability, Justice, Duty, Activism.

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