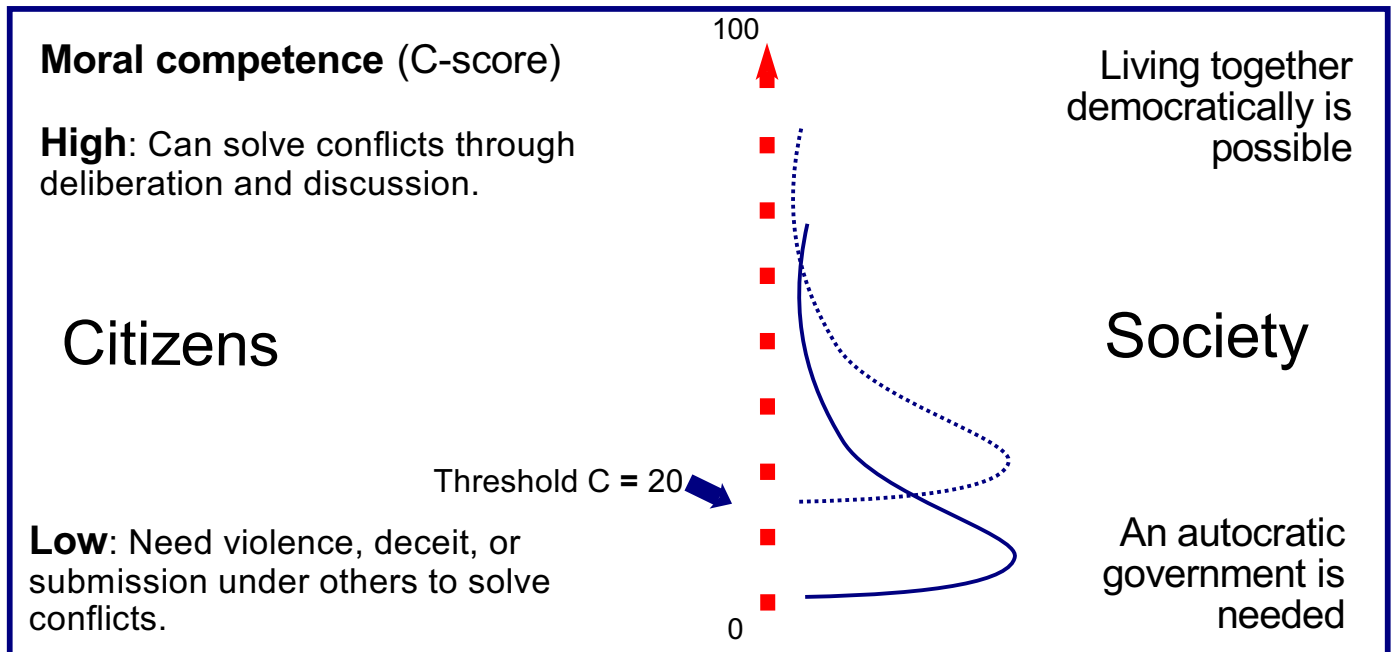


# Democracy As A Form Of Life Requires A Minimum Of Moral Competence



## Support by correlative und *experimental* studies:

### ■ Care

- ▶ *Helping people in distress (MJI)* 17, 11, 22
- ▶ Saving Jews under great own risk (MCT) 4
- ▶ Rating the moral competence of peers well (MCT) 23

### ■ Justice:

- ▶ Keeping laws (MJI, *MCT*) 1, 8, 24
- ▶ *Keeping a contract (MJI, DIT)* 12, 9
- ▶ *Being honest (MJI)* 11, 21
- ▶ Blowing the whistle (MCT, *DIT*) 21, 25

### ■ Freedom:

- ▶ *Refusing to obey immoral orders, Milgram-Exp. (MJI)* 11
- ▶ *Judging autonomously, Ash-Experiment (MCT)* 18
- ▶ Rejecting violence as a means of politics (MCT) 14
- ▶ Engaging for freedom of speech (MCT, MJI) 5, 6

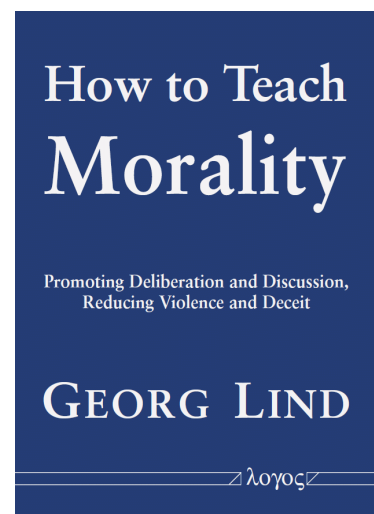
### ■ Health and well-being:

- ▶ *Making decisions swiftly (MCT)* 16, 20
- ▶ "Behaving well" in the classroom (MJI, MCT) 1, 10, 3
- ▶ Learning well and getting "good grades" (MCT) 7, 13, 19
- ▶ Doing open classroom teaching (MCT) 14
- ▶ Avoiding drug consumption (MCT) 13
- ▶ Tolerating ambiguity (MCT) 15
- ▶ Having ego-strength (MCT) 15
- ▶ Deciding oneself about abortion (MCT) 5

Measurement instruments:

**MCT** - Moral Competence-Test  
**MJI** - Moral Judgment Interview  
**DIT** - Defining Issues Test

Sources on hand-out and in:



## Democracy as a Form of Living Requires Moral Competence.

### Findings from Correlation and Experimental Studies

Georg Lind, Konstanz

In this poster I submit the following hypothesis to empirical test: without a certain level of moral competence no peaceful living together in a democracy is possible. Moral competence is defined as the ability to solve problems and conflicts on the basis of one's moral principles through deliberation and discussion, instead of through violence, deceit, or submission to others (Lind 2026). In the *Moral Competence Test* (MKT) this ability is operationalized as the ability to rate arguments for and against a certain dilemma solution in regard to the arguments' moral quality instead of their opinion agreement or other qualities. In Kohlberg's *Moral Judgment Interview* (MJI), this competence is defined as moral judgment competence and assessed as the participants' Stage of reasoning on dilemma cases. In the *Defining Issues Test* (DIT) this competence is indirectly assessed by their preference for principled moral reasoning.

All studies which I could find show consistently that people who do not possess a minimum of moral competence can, when they are confronted with problem and conflicts, solve them only through using violence, deceit, or submission under others. The reported effects are not only statistically significant but are mostly large and practically important. It seems that a C-score of 20 is some kind of threshold, which everyone should reach in order to live peacefully together (Lind 2016).

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- Some articles can be downloaded from here: <http://www.uni-konstanz.de/ag-moral/mut/mjt-references.htm>