

Group-Contextualized Identity Politics and the Trolley Dilemma



Itachi and Shisui



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March 2023

Background

The Hidden Leaf Village (Konohagakure; 木ノ葉隠れの里)

- “Land of Fire”, preindustrial fictional world
- Co-founded by the First Hokage (火影) Hashirama Senju and Madara Uchiha, a rivalry of two greatest ninjas in history.
- The majority of the village is normal ninjas and people, led by the Hokage
- “Uchiha”, as a clan, coexist with others in the village both as an **elite** and **slightly separated** group. Good ninjas generally.
- The Uchiha clan also plays the role of **policing** for the village
- A number of Uchiha’s are “genius ninjas”, such as Shisui Uchiha “the Teleporter” and Itachi Uchiha; a Uchiha’s talent is by and large determined by the overall ninja (jutsu) capabilities but also the usage of dōjutsu (瞳術) using their Sharingan (写輪眼).



World map of Naruto

Group Context of the Uchihis in the Village

Several aspects of the group context of the Uchihis (the clan) living in the Leaf Village:

- “Cultural politics”: Perceived as the “elite clan” in the village, the Uchihis are faced with higher expectations on their performance than other ninjas.
- Regional perspective: The village had ordered the Uchiha clan to live in a designated area in the village, a “special area”, quite separate from the rest of the village. This makes their identity politics more regional and more intense.
- Uchihis also takes charge of the Konoha Military Police Force, as police are being feared at times when they are too strict on policing.



Image credited Narutopedia, Fandom

Kotoamatsukami (別天神) and Stopping the Clan's Coup



Itachi and his little brother Sasuke

“It’s great to be a family. I can’t help but feel that, every time I see those two.

Shisui Uchiha talked to the leaders, and suggested to Lord Third to **use his Sharingan/dōjutsu on the Uchiha clan**, to stop their plan.

“You’ll forever be branded with the sin of using the jutsu against your own clan,” said the Lord Third.



Failure of Kotoamatsukami: Danzo's Interference



Danzo attacking Shisui (image credited Naruto Shippuden E358)

Shisui was about to use his Kotoamatsukami on his clan (to stop the coup), but Danzo came and stole one of his eyes.

After the fight with Danzo, Shisui managed to stay away from pursuers and came to meet Itachi. “It’s too late to stop to coup d’État (rebellion) by the Uchiha. If civil war breaks out at the Leaf Village, other nations are sure to attack, which means a full-scale war.

“I was going to try to stop the rebellion with my Kotoamatsukami, but.. Lord Danzo took my right eye... He doesn’t trust me... I suspect he’ll come after my left eye as well. So I want to give it to you before he has a chance.”

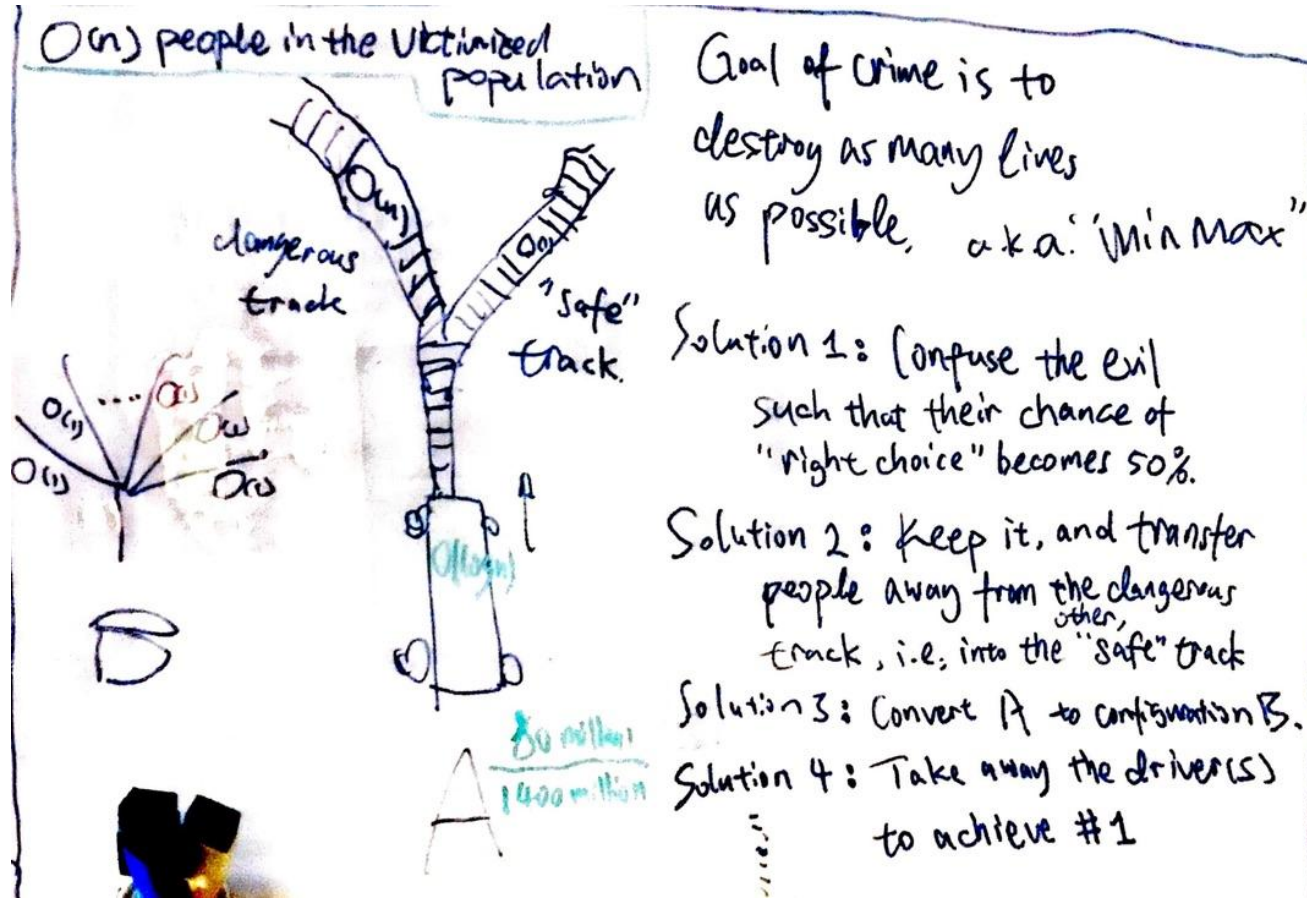
– said Shisui to Itachi

From E358 - Kakashi: Shadow of the ANBU Black Ops
– Coup d’État

Trolley Dilemma: Clan or Village

What is clan? And what is village? Which one(s) do you belong to?

Argue that a population is "victimized" or "under risk" when it is faced with any type of trolley dilemma.



Goal of crime is to destroy as many lives as possible, a.k.a. "Min Max"

Solution 1: Confuse the evil such that their chance of "right choice" becomes 50%.

Solution 2: Keep it, and transfer people away from the dangerous track, i.e., into the "safe" track.

Solution 3: Convert A to configuration B.

Solution 4: Take away the driver(s) to achieve #1