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The Social Structure of the British Intercorporate Network and its  
Consequences for Corporate Political Action

**ABSTRACT:**

Corporate political action in Britain is subject to certain collective action problems. Using the network of interlocking directorates and patterns of political donations by the largest corporations in Britain in 95-96, I examine some of the social structural conditions that support corporate political action. By partitioning social ties in the network of interlocking directorates into different types I show that social structural mechanisms of control and influence appear to be more prominent in mobilising political donations than more diffuse mechanisms. 'Influencer' roles are outlined and they are linked to social identities lying outside the corporate world.