

Between Religion and Politics Roots of Anti-Americanism among Muslims

Kirill Zhirkov

Country-Level Results

- Two forms of anti-Americanism, general and political
- Quadratic relationship between general AA and HDI
- Muslim societies are more anti-American
- AA in Muslim countries cannot be attributed to political regime and/or social conservatism

• In the present study I address this puzzle from the individual perspective using ML design

Data

- Pew Global Attitudes Project 2007
- 45 countries
- Religious predictors
 - Muslim ID, religiosity
- Political predictors
 - Israel/Palestine, Iraq, globalization
- Controls
 - Age, gender, values

Questions / Hypotheses

- Are country-level effects confirmed in a ML design?
- Anti-Americanism in the Muslim world: Is it about being a Muslim or living in a Muslim country?
- Do religious and political factors contribute to higher AA among Muslims?
- Are Muslims more sensitive to certain political factors (e.g., Iraq)?

Predictor	Model 1	Model 2		
Individual Level				
Muslim ID		0.714*		
Gender	-0.041*	-0.034*		
Age	0.048*	0.051*		
Country Level				
HDI-Linear	0.272*	0.262*		
HDI-Quadratic	-0.165*	-0.161*		
Muslim population	0.707*	-0.025		

Conclusion 1: Anti-Americanism is higher among people who identify themselves as Muslims, not residents of Muslim countries

Anti-Americanism and HDI



Human Development Index

Human Development Index

Predictor	Model 2	Model 3
Muslim ID	0.714*	.560*
Religiosity		.024
Palestine		.169*
Iraq		.333*
Globalization		.127*
Inequality		.179*
Traditionalism		.054*
Interest in IR		.060*

Conclusion 2: Direct effect of Muslim ID on AA persists even after adding possible mediating factors to the model, both cultural and political

Predictor	Model 3	Model 4
Muslim ID	.560*	.124*
Religiosity	.024	018
Religiosity Muslim ID		.142*
Palestine	.169*	.129*
Palestine Muslim ID		.112*
Iraq	.333*	.279*
Iraq Muslim ID		.207*
Inequality	.179*	.114*
Inequality Muslim ID		.172*

Conclusion 3: Muslims are indeed more sensitive to certain American policies; however, religious factor also contributes to AA among Muslims

Discussion of Results

- Country-level results confirmed
- Higher AA among Muslims is not an ecological fallacy
- American policies do contribute to AA but do not specifically explain AA among Muslims
- The single most important factor of AA is Iraq
- Muslims are more sensitive to some policies
- Religious Muslims are still more anti-American; this effect was not found for other religions

General Conclusions

- Anti-Americanism for Muslims and non-Muslims is primarily driven by American policies, most importantly by the war in Iraq
- Religious factor also plays a role: Religious Muslims are more anti-American, whereas this is not true for other religions