Anti-Americanism in the Islamic World
Research Abstract

Anti-American behavior was less dominant few decades ago, it increased dramatically in the Islamic countries since Operation Desert Storm in 1990. The world showed extensive sympathy for the United States and American people after the attacks of 9/11, but the Anti-American sentiment intensified around the globe with the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2002. The spread of anti-American sentiment, its causes, and consequence required significant research-based studies, but this topic is rarely addressed by political scientists. Thus, in this research project, we systemically studied the prevalence of the anti-American behavior in the Islamic world. Extensive anti-American hostility among Muslims and the presence of such behavior in some countries with high strategic imperative for the United States explains that political scientists should study this phenomenon. The hypothesis was based on qualitative and quantitative data that I collected throughout our research project. I have studied and analyzed more than fifteen academic articles and books about anti-Americanism. In addition, I used the Lexis Nexus online data base to generate published news about anti-American protests and U.S. flag burning to understand the prevalence of anti-American behavior among Muslims. I coded more than one hundred news articles about anti-American protests and U.S. flag burning in most of the Islamic countries. Then, I coded around hundred cases of anti-American protests and American flag burning in nine Islamic states. The hypothesis I developed after my research is that, with the large military and political presence of the United States in most of the Islamic countries, anti-Americanism is inevitable. It led to dislike of the American society, it constrained America's ability to achieve strategic objectives through diplomacy, and it is tied with long-term consequences for the United States interests in the Islamic world. To sum up, this was an incredible learning experience through which I acquired massive knowledge about the issue of the research and all vitally important skills of academic research. With a deep interest in political research and as a political science student, the successful completion of this project after more than five months of remarkable research is one of the greatest achievement of my college life. Hence, I am extremely grateful and honored to receive the K-state college of arts and sciences undergraduate research award. Lastly, this learning experience further increased my motivation for future research. I have audited several sessions of graduate research methods course to learn about quantitative analysis and a powerful statistical software called STATA. I hope to use these skills and put more efforts in this research, so that I can help my professor to get the chance to present this project in conferences and publish its manuscript in academic journals.

Mentor: Dr. Sabri Ciftci
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
Research Assistant: Jahanzib Masjidi
Sophomore in Political Science &Undergraduate Research Award Recipient Fall 2017