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Why They Hate Us: An Empirical Study of Individuals' Anti-American Attitudes

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Oral Presentation O1.1

**WHY THEY HATE US: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF INDIVIDUALS'
ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDES**

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After September 11, 2001 Americans became keenly aware of a growing trend in anti-Americanism throughout the world. According to the Pew Charitable Trust, favorability rates towards the United States have fallen in 19 of the 27 tracked countries since 2000. These attitudes have attracted the attention of the mass media, but there has been little systematic analysis of this phenomenon. This paper examines global demographic and attitudinal information taken from the Pew Global Attitudes survey, an attempt to access the worldview of over 38,000 individuals in 44 nations. Interestingly, a cross-national comparison of citizen's attitudes and demographics yield weak but statistically significant correlations that indicate the potential causes of anti-American attitudes. While this paper does not definitively answer the question, "why do they hate us," it does provide a window into studying anti-American attitudes from a social science perspective.