



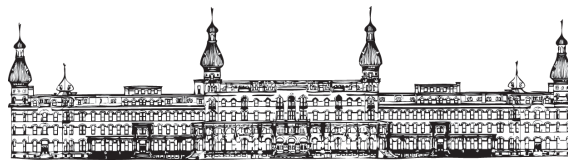
THE UNIVERSITY
OF TAMPA

9th Annual

College of Social Sciences,
Mathematics, & Education

Undergraduate Research Conference

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Plant Hall, Fletcher Lounge



This conference would not be possible without the dedicated mentors and instructors who have assisted the students with their projects. The faculty who have guided students in their projects this year include:

Mary Anderson

Stephen Blessing

Kimberly Cummings

Kevin Fridy

Deletha Hardin

Scott Husband

Patty O'Grady

Scott Paine

Denis Rey

Spencer Segalla

Alisa Smith

Theoni Soublis Smyth

Adrienne Wilson

Norma Winston

Erica Yuen

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1. *Factors Related to Attitudes toward Gun Control*

Marielly Absun, Emily Buti, Alexandria Cannon-Polizzy, Jacqueline French, and Jonathan Wolf (GWA)

There is an extensive public opinion literature exploring the factors that relate to an individual's attitudes toward gun control. While some of the demographic and attitudinal factors that correlate with individuals' opinions concerning gun control have been well-demonstrated, existing literature has provided conflicting results regarding the primary motivation behind support for or opposition to gun control. Our study involves a series of controlled comparisons of different factors, drawn from previous research, that we believe influence public opinion on gun control, including gender, parental status, ideology, gun ownership, and whether a respondent lives in the South. We hope to identify the interactions between these factors as well as the strength of their respective influences on attitudes about gun control. Our data is drawn from the National Election Survey (NES) for 2008.

2. *Differentiated Instruction: Comprehension Strategies for Students with Special Needs*

Anna Alferi and Ardisia Knowles (EDU)

Meeting the cognitive needs of individual learners is an arduous task for all educators, and is inherently paramount to effective instruction and assessment. Moreover, teachers are faced with the challenge of reaching special needs students that are mainstreamed into the average classroom. The key to attaining academic achievement for all learners is through the development of differentiated instructional strategies. Significant learning gains are made when teachers distinguish the learning objectives and outcomes for various types and levels of learners. This research project aims to provide a variety of comprehension strategies for secondary school teachers to utilize and modify when working students with special needs across all subject area disciplines. The special needs groups identified in this research include: autism spectrum disorder, anxiety disorder, giftedness, dyslexia, English as a first language, and speech impediments. Presenters define each special needs area and discuss three comprehension strategies for each category.

3. *What is the Correlation between GDP and Human Rights?*

Mohamed Alkhalidi, Julia Camoratto, Stephanie Gilbert, Samonia McLaurin, and Anne Wood (GWA)

This paper examines the effect of a country's GDP per capita on that country's level of human rights, utilizing the Freedom House rating of the degree of democracy in a country as our dependent variable. We hypothesize that the relationship between the two variables is positive. Analysis conducted on a sample of 177 countries supported this initial hypothesis. We then introduced a number of control variables, including regime type, level of political development, percent of women in the government, and year of independence. Our results yielded strong positive correlations for regime type and level of political development with human rights. However, years of independence had a marginally statistically insignificant relationship with human rights, and the results for the percentage of women in the government showed almost no relationship with the level of human rights in a country.

4. *Effects of Mindfulness on Cognitive Functioning: Memory in College Students*

Sami Alqatari and Karrindy Seepersad (PSY)

In this study, we focused on the effect of Mindful Meditation (MM) and memory retrieval in students of the University of Tampa. A recent study, done at the University of Miami, looked at the progress of students on cognitive tests before and after MM practice for several weeks, which revealed that MM raised scores on given cognitive tests. We hypothesize that participants with MM experience would have increased memory retrieval when compared to those who watched television. We divided participants into different groups: experienced meditation group vs. one time experienced meditation vs. non-meditation group. Participants were asked to complete a memory test of words or images, followed by either a 15 minute meditation or the other activity, watching television. After the 15 minutes, participants would retake another version of the memory test.

5. *The Effect of Raising the National Minimum Wage of the United States*

Kiera Andrews, Dan Dickenson, and Greg Lemrow (GWA)

There is considerable debate about the overall economic impact of an increase in the minimum wage, a debate that has been made more prominent by recent political initiatives in this country. Our research, utilizing comparisons between states in the United States and between countries, explores the relationship between minimum wage rates and several critical economic measures: job opportunities, wage inequality, and the standard of living. We hypothesize that as the minimum wage increases, job opportunities decrease, wage inequality decreases, and the standard of living increases. Our research measured wage inequality by using the common GINI coefficient. Job opportunities are studied using percent change in unemployment rates and the standard of living is gauged through countries' rankings and values on the inequality-adjusted human development index (IHDI). The preliminary findings indicate that higher minimum wage rates do have a positive effect on the standard of living.

6. *Investigation of a Group Videoconferencing Workshop for Public Speaking Anxiety*

Philip Ash, Jordan Watkins, Kristin Zulaica, Erin McNally, and Erica K. Yuen (PSY)

Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD) causes significant distress or impairment during activities such as public speaking. One of the more effective methods of treating public speaking anxiety is through acceptance-based techniques and behavioral practices (England et al., 2012). However, many individuals with public speaking anxiety go untreated for myriad of reasons including geographic location, transportation difficulties and stigmatization concerns. With the aim of tackling these concerns, research has supported that videoconferencing is a viable method for individual intervention (Yuen et al., 2012). However, little research has been conducted to examine group intervention using videoconferencing. Group intervention provides a cost effective solution that offers opportunities for participants to obtain social support and practice behaviors that require multiple individuals. The goal of the current study goal is to examine the feasibility and initial efficacy of an acceptance-based intervention for public speaking anxiety through group videoconferencing. Results and implications will be discussed.

7. *Trust & Agreeability In Ghana*

Allyson Bartolomeo & Taylor Gabel (GWA)

We are examining the relationship between trust and agreeableness in Ghana. What does a person's level of agreeableness say about their likelihood to trust others? We hypothesize that those who are more agreeable are more likely to trust others than those who are less agreeable. We are using data from a survey of 200 people from villages in Ghana (Nangodi, Duusi and Pelungu) in 2012.

8. *Privacy Rights in the Digital Age: An Empirical Approach*

Robert Barton (LJA)

In 1967, the Supreme Court held the Fourth Amendment applied only when individual subjective expectations of privacy are objectively reasonable by societal standards. Using original survey data, we captured and report on average individuals' perceptions of expectations of privacy in advanced and technological-search scenarios.

9. *Immigration Attitudes in the U.S.: How They Are Affected*

Molly Bening, Andrea Papandrew, Linsey Stiglic, and Laura Villalobos (GWA)

Considerable research has been conducted on various factors that contribute to American attitudes toward immigration. One important factor, affecting attitudes about many key topics, such as immigration, is reliance on the media. The media consists of complex organizations that have varying impacts on audiences. One of these impacts is that the media tends to shape people's attitudes, especially the more they trust and rely upon the media. This study examines American attitudes toward illegal immigration in relation to media reliance and in comparison to the likelihood of having direct experience with illegal immigration. We hypothesize that those closest to the Mexican border, and those who have the greatest trust in the media, are more likely to have a negative perception of illegal immigration than others. However, neither hypothesis is supported by our analysis.

10. *Underlying Forces Driving Female Workforce Participation*

Milena Boasherlieva (GWA)

From 1980 to the year 2000, female workforce participation in Latin America has drastically amplified and a variety of theories strive to explain this phenomenon. However, in my research, I examine the female labor force in the years corresponding to the market transition in three countries: Chile, Brazil, and Cuba. I focus on the individual market reform era in each country and subsequent impact on female workforce participation in the informal sector. I employ Hellman's theory of market transition in post-communist nations and apply it to post-Import Substitution Industrialization economies of Latin America, due to the similarities in initial conditions and dismal effects of both inefficient systems. To determine the years of market transition, I look at liberalizing reform implementation and its effect on GDP growth relative to trade openness. According to Hellman, market reforms impose short-term economic costs on vulnerable segments of society, such as the urban poor, social welfare dependents, and lower classes, corresponding to a marked decrease or dip in GDP growth.

11. *Partisanship, Ideology and Public Opinion: The Effects on Support of Gay Rights*

Marcus Brewer, Max-Olivier Bros, Bryan Gleason, Joe Oberto, and Rhea Sequeira (GWA)

The 21st century has seen a notable increase in support for same-sex marriage in the United States. Polls conducted for ABC News/Washington Post have shown that public support for same-sex marriage has increased from 37 percent in 2003 to 58 percent in 2013. Researchers have been striving to identify the forces that are involved in this attitudinal change. Certain demographic traits and certain attitudinal predispositions have been found to play a significant role. The present study focuses on two predispositions: partisanship and political ideology. Using data from the National Election Survey (NES) for 2008, we control for a number of demographic factors to test the persistence of these predispositions as significant influences over an individual's attitudes toward same-sex marriage. We find that, on balance, both ideology and partisanship continue to play significant roles in people's attitudes about same-sex marriage, even when controlling for a number of demographic traits.

12. *The Effect of Brand Names on Product Perception*

Christine Bertinetti, Tyler McIsaac and Ryan Rogers (PSY)

This study examined the influence of brand name on product perceptions. 50 people from the University of Tampa were told they were participating in market research and were given one of two surveys which varied only the fictitious brand name for frozen carrots: "Crisp Ranch" and "Quick n' Easy". Participants were instructed to indicate their perceptions of the product. We predicted that Crisp Ranch would be more likely to be perceived as tasty, healthy, expensive and likely to be bought by a woman, while Quick n' Easy would be more likely to be perceived as quick to cook and likely to be bought by a man. Our results only verified two of these hypotheses. Quick n' Easy was more often perceived as quick to cook and Crisp Ranch was more often perceived as expensive.

13. *Red Versus Black: The effect of color on consumer perception of sporting goods*

Mackenzie Bince, Lauren Kowal, and Jordan Watkins (PSY)

The purpose of this research was to determine whether specific colors influenced perceptions of a sporting goods company as well as purchase intentions. 50 participants were exposed to one of two logos (red vs. black) for a sporting goods company and were asked about their perceptions of the company and their likelihood of purchasing products from the company. It was hypothesized that the company with the black logo would be perceived as more capable of improving athletic performance and producing aggressive athletes than the company with the red logo. It was also expected that participants would find the black logo more attractive than the red logo and would indicate stronger purchase intentions for products from the company with the black logo. Only one hypothesis was supported. Specifically, participants believed the company with the black logo was more likely to produce aggressive athletes than the company with the red logo.

14. *Media Coverage of the Chile 1960, Skopje 1963, and Alaska 1964 Earthquakes*

Sarah Brick (HIS)

Throughout history, disasters, both natural and unnatural, have served as a window to the past and given us a keen insight into the global context of times gone by. During the 1960's, the global mind was focused on the ever-present threat of nuclear war and the disasters that made it into the media in the sixties reflected this mindset. This paper analyzes how different periodicals in the American media portrayed disasters. It also explains how they started and perpetuated "disaster myths" (Tierney 2006) through articles covering the earthquakes in Valdivia, Chile in 1960; Skopje, Yugoslavia in 1963; and Prince William Sound Alaska in 1964. This research reveals that foreign countries hit with earthquakes during the 1960's were covered more in the U.S. if there were Americans present during the disaster. However, a domestic earthquake in Alaska received less national coverage.

15. *European Union: A Political Machine?*

Myall Budden (GWA)

The European Union has continued to baffle critics and experts alike with the complexity of its progressive nature among our ever expanding globally connected world. The fact that such an entity has successfully integrated 28 previously independent states into a functional union is a political marvel in itself. Yet this sort of unprecedented union begs questions about its success. The European Union promises the free trade of people, goods, and ideas, and of course economic the growth of its member states. Are the incentives that the European Union is supposed to provide for its member states being successfully fulfilled? Throughout this paper I will examine the reality of the success of the European Union, with an intense examination of the economic advantages that the European Union supposedly provides. I will also analyze education standards and environmental incentives that the European Union claims to increase after integration.

16. *Smokers? Extraverts or Introverts?*

Paulina Bzdun and Layaal Hage (PSY 200)

The purpose of this study was to see if there is a significant positive correlation between the personality trait of extraversion and the social behaviors that individuals do while smoking. Thirty participants answered a personality and smoking questionnaire, all of whom were over the age of 18, students at the University of Tampa, and found smoking in either the smoking zones of Delo Park or behind the library. The results of the Pearson correlation determined that there is only a marginally significant positive correlation between extraversion and social behaviors while smoking. With further research, including a wider range of participants and improved questionnaires, there may be a significant positive correlation between these two variables. This research can help find the type of people that are likely to smoke and understand why they carry out this behavior.

17. *Agreeableness and Internal Efficacy in Ghana*

Caroline Carr and Corin Chick (GWA)

Internal efficacy is the belief an individual holds that they have influence and can bring about change in their environment. This efficacy is the driving force that leads many people to become politically active in society. This study is designed to compare internal efficacy with the characteristic of agreeableness in order to answer whether or not internal efficacy is influenced by an individual's agreeableness. It is hypothesized that those who are more agreeable are more likely to have a lower degree of internal efficacy than those who are less agreeable. This hypothesis was tested by surveying citizens of Ghana, asking them to rank how influential they feel in their society.

18. *Emotional Stability and Political Participation in Ghana*

Juliana Cavallaro and Myles Wharram (GWA)

At one point or another, all people's actions are affected negatively or positively by their emotions. Contemporary research on human emotions establishes that people's emotional stability can be influenced by nearly anything in life. Concurrent with our interest in a human's emotional stability is the political practices of the citizens of Ghana. Therefore, in this case study we seek to answer the question, "does an individual's emotional stability influence how likely people are to vote in Ghana?" Our team hypothesizes that, "Yes, an individual's emotional stability does in fact influence how likely people are to vote in Ghana."

19. Factors Influencing Attitudes Toward Abortion Restrictions

Gaylen Charles, Marilee Pons-Basulto, Lena Rovellada, and Christina Troupe (GWA)

Abortion regulation continues to be a significant political and social issue, as it has been for many election cycles. Obscured in much of the public debate is a more careful consideration of public sentiment concerning abortion restrictions based on the reasons women seek abortions. Individuals' attitudes toward abortion often vary with the stated reason for the abortion, complicating simple 'pro-choice/pro-life' distinctions popular in the media. We have chosen to focus on attitudes toward abortion restrictions related to a narrow set of conditions, testing common assumptions about differences in attitudes based on differences in demographic traits. We explore the effects of religious participation, race, age, and gender on attitudes toward whether or not abortion should be permitted under specific circumstances. We hope this investigation will help clarify some of the underlying complexities of public opinion about abortion and abortion restrictions.

20. Memory Manipulation: Testing Memory Reliability

Alexa Ciencin and Stevie Ruzich (PSY)

Loftus and Palmer (1974) conducted a memory manipulation study in which participants were shown a video of a car crash and then asked to fill out a brief survey concerning what they saw. Different verbs were used to ask participants how fast the cars were going when the accident occurred. The current study examined whether memory could be manipulated through different language structures and the triggering of subject-specific memories. Participants were shown a video of a car accident, given an initial survey, and then given a follow-up survey one week later. As hypothesized, participants who were given the verb ----smashed rated the speed of the cars higher than those given the verbs bumped and contacted. In addition, those participants who had been involved in a car accident rated the car crash in the video more severe than those participants who had not been in a car accident.

21. Emotional Stability and Political Participation in Ghana

James Clark and Tyler Blackburn (GWA)

While there are many factors that influence political participation, our focus for this project is the correlation between an individual's emotional stability and his or her likeliness to vote in an election. Our hypothesis stated that those who are more emotionally stable are more likely to participate in politics than those who are less emotionally stable.

22. Agreeableness and Personal and Political Trust in Ghana

Anshanique Colebrooke, Tawsha Creason and Connor West (GWA)

Personality plays a major role in the decisions and actions of people every day, and political participation is no exception to this rule. For this study, researchers questioned if personality traits such as agreeableness would have an effect on how much an individual trusts others, especially their government. Researchers hypothesized that individuals with higher agreeableness would be more likely to trust others than those with lower levels of agreeableness. To determine if a relationship existed between these two variables, correlational analysis was done on answers to political questions presented to individuals in three rural villages in the upper East region of Ghana.

23. A Cup of Neuroticism, Please! A Study of Personality and Addiction

Gabriela Conti Stenftenagel (PSY 200)

As college students, we are often caught in addictive behaviors such as drinking coffee, Redbull, and Coke. But, do we drink these to stay awake and cram for exams? Or, might there be an underlying factor behind high caffeine consumption? The purpose of this study is to evaluate whether there is a connection between personality and the tendency to drink more caffeinated beverages. Specifically, this study attempts to match the caffeine intake with the neuroticism personality trait. Furthermore, given that prior discoveries demonstrate the link between coffee drinking and cigarette smoking, the study differentiates on the neuroticism-caffeine correlation for smokers versus non-smokers. A total of 34 UT students completed two questionnaires. A neuroticism score and a caffeine index were analyzed using simple correlations. While the overall sample did not reveal a significant relationship between caffeine and neuroticism, a subset might warrant closer examination.

24. *How Color Affects a Memory Task*

Sophia Daly and Haley Hall (PSY)

We aim to find out if yellow or red paper will have a significant effect on memorization. We gave participants a chart to memorize of 16 simple pictures and then recall the location and labeling of the nouns. Prior research suggests there is an issue known as “The Red Effect,” an idea that red induces anxiety and can subconsciously influence test performance. We also considered context-dependency; the idea that there is an advantage to being tested under the same environmental factors as one learned something in. We have looked at if a person gets a memorization sheet on red then is tested on red, or yellow/yellow they will do better than someone who is tested on a different colored sheet than they learned on.

25. *Evaluating the Kids on the Block Child Abuse Prevention Program*

Shantelle Eddy and Jake Racaniello (SOC)

The purpose of our research was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Kids on the Block Child Abuse Prevention program offered in the Hillsborough County School System from September to December 2013. A 25% random sample was selected from the school that participated in this program. The letters were content analyzed. We coded the letters according to the three categories provided. We hypothesized that 80% of the letters would contain a reference to one of our coding categories. Our final results showed that 78% of the letters contained a reference to one of our coding categories. So our hypothesis was not supported.

26. *The Effect of Front and Back Vowels on Consumer Attitudes and Purchase Intentions Toward Brand Names*
Rebecca Elane, Ashten Fraser, and Yakira Morman (PSY)

The purpose of this study is to examine the effect of front and back vowels on consumer attitudes and purchase intentions toward brand names. We surveyed 59 participants at The University of Tampa. We used a description and sketch of a car to represent the brand names of Preva and Prova, then asked participants to fill out a survey, on a scale of one to six, regarding the attractiveness, comfortableness, maintenance, efficiency, price, and safety of the car. The survey asked some demographic questions about age, gender, and ethnicity. The results did not show any significant differences of opinion between the two car brand names, Preva and Prova. The hypotheses were not supported.

27. *Correlations between Democratic Systems and Corruption*

John W. Eppolito (GWA)

Democracy is a political system that seems to offer the most political and social freedoms to its citizens. Does this mean that democracies see less corruption than other political systems, or possible more? Through my work I have looked at data from Freedom House as well as Transparency International. Comparing these two data it was found that more politically free (democratic) states tend to see less corruption than less politically free states. My research also aims to find out different schools of thought as to the reasoning behind why this seems to be true.

28. *Puerto Rican Politics: How U.S. Policy Affect Puerto Rican Voters*

Laura Esther Miranda-Rivera (GWA)

For over 100 years, the small island of Puerto Rico has been in U.S. possession. Ever since American boots landed on the shores of Guánica, the island has been in a political limbo; neither a state nor independent and very rarely does this issue appear on American news. This paper proposes to examine the relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico and to investigate what causes popular support for the Puerto Rican options of Statehood, Independence, and Commonwealth to change. I argue that the current political status of Puerto Rico is directly affected by U.S. fiscal policies that created an environment of dependence. Through this, Statehood and Commonwealth has risen in popularity while Independence has fallen.

29. *Examining the Relationship Between Spatial Span and Visual Puzzle Solving*

Megan Fauci, Melissa Millan, and Alexis Victor (PSY)

Good spatial skills are important for being able to solve problems in various different fields. The aim of this study was to observe the relationship between spatial span and visual puzzle solving. A convenience sample of 24 participants was used. Each participant was instructed to take a spatial span test, provided by cambridgebrainsciences.com, and their scores were recorded. After completing the spatial span test participants were then instructed to solve a series of visual puzzles using a flash program, in which both the time taken to complete the puzzles and the number of moves needed to complete them were recorded. Both scores were compared using a Chi-squared test.

30. *Cold War Representations of Disaster in The Saturday Evening Post*

Megan Faulconer (HIS)

This project examines journalistic coverage of an earthquake in Bakersfield, California and an earthquake in the Tibetan Mountains during the 1950s. The method is to compare articles from the Saturday Evening Post, using Sheila Hones's theory (2001) that newspaper publications can uncover a shared culture of readers and writers, what their anxieties are, and their underlying problems. Through careful observation I will show that the Tibet earthquake article distanced the reader from the first hand encounters within the article, distancing the reader not only from the earthquake, but from Communism. This presumably served to comfort readers in the United States. In comparison, the reassuring and personable, relatable tone in the article about Bakersfield, California leads one to the conclusion that the article showed that the public could be reassured that The United States knew how to deal with an earthquake, and (implicitly) with Communism. A third article about an earthquake in Peru is used as a "control" for comparison.

31. *An Innovative Approach to School Improvement*

Brooke Gaines and Jaime Carbary (EDU)

School improvement involves a plethora of essential factors. School culture and sufficient resources to accommodate students are two crucial factors that impact school success. Within the learning environment of a Title I elementary school in Tampa, FL, observations revealed an insufficiency in accommodations to meet the needs of diverse learners. This school has scarce resources for English Language Learners (ELL). Observations within this school also revealed an alarming deficiency in school unity. Through an analysis of observations and data collection, two improvement plans were developed and implemented to accommodate the learning needs of students and bridge the gap in school unification. This plan included supplying an ELL resource binder for teachers and the creation of a hands-on project to build a positive sense of community. The hands-on project included an activity to promote the importance of diversity within the learning environment. The effectiveness of these methods is under review.

32. *Cultural Assimilation of Second Generation Hispanic Children in America*

Amanda Garcia (GWA)

This research presentation focuses on the second generation of Hispanic immigrant families living in America. The research done was to see if the economic situation which the second generation was born and raised into caused some of them to embrace their Hispanic heritage more than children who were living in better economic situations. A group of 5th grade children, with different economic backgrounds, who are the second generation in their Hispanic immigrant families, were surveyed to see what their feelings were towards both the Hispanic and American cultures. The children's answers did show that there was a pattern between a child living in a lower economic level and their preference to using the Spanish language.

33. *What We're Missing in Movies: Change Detection and Attention*

Chloe Gerbec (PSY)

An experiment was done to determine if change blindness detection is correlated throughout multiple instances. If a participant does well on one change blindness experiment, will they do as well on another? Change blindness is an everyday occurrence, and has to do with focus and attention in the brain. Learning about change blindness can change the way people watch television or movies, since they know that there are many unnoticed mistakes throughout the videos, which they may now be able to notice because they are aware of this issue. In this experiment, the participants saw a flashing image with a change in it, and then shown a video with multiple changes in it, and results of how many changes they noticed were recorded.

34. *The Influence of Spokesperson Attractiveness of Product Perception and Purchase Intentions*

Geidys Gonzalez, Jenna Schmelzer, and Alexis Victor (PSY)

This study was designed to help us better understand the effect of spokesperson attractiveness on product perception and purchase intentions. The aim of the experiment was to examine how the attractiveness of the spokesperson in an ad affected participants' perception of a product. Specifically, the participants' purchase intentions, perception of plausibility, effectiveness, quality and environmental friendliness were focused on. The experiment utilized self-administered surveys, containing either an attractive or an unattractive spokesperson. The surveys were administered to a convenience sample of 47 young adults who were asked to rate their perception of the advertisement and the product. It was hypothesized that the ad with the more attractive spokesperson would have increased ratings on both product perception and purchase intentions. After computing the data, it was found that purchase intentions, plausibility of the advertisement, and the perceived quality of the product were significantly different among the different spokesperson types.

35. *The Impact of Inequality on Trade Openness: The Case of Latin America*

Jessica Gores (GWA)

This paper examines inequality and trade openness in the region of Latin America between 1990 and 2010. Various factors are considered to play a role including government trade regulation measured by tariffs, government corruption, and the variable of interest inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient. The black market is also a factor that is believed to play a large role in this study. As the region has industrialized agglomeration has occurred and left much of society outside of the official economic market. These individuals then turn to black market activity to support their families. Although it is believed to play a large role, this factor is also difficult to measure and represents one of the shortcomings of the model created. The belief that increased inequality will lead to increased trade openness is tested and validated through this research through econometric analysis.

36. *What are the effects of Trade Liberalization on Political Participation in Latin America?*

Kimberly Gordon (GWA)

Trade liberalization is on the rise in Latin America, but it is unclear to what extent this impacts civic engagement in politics. Trade liberalization refers to the freedom of trade between countries without the hindrance of protective customs tariffs, therefore allowing traders to freely exchange their goods and services. Political participation refers to government representatives and the public support of these official bodies. This research explores why Latin American countries have low political engagement rates, why many groups remain underrepresented in government policies, and which group of people are partaking or controlling these policies. This research examines how trade liberalization has placed power in the hands of local elites who implement policies that benefit their social class. As a result, a majority of Latin Americans do not support their government officials because they do not look out for the interest of the majority of their people, i.e. the working class.

37. *People of the Dust: Representations of Victims of the Dust Bowl*

Natalie Hicks (HIS)

This project examines patterns in media portrayals and popular representations of victims of the 1930 dust storms and droughts in the American Midwest, with a focus on people who lived in the Dust Bowl's most extreme areas. The project examines the portrayal "okies" had in the media locally and nationally, using newspaper clippings as primary sources. Other sources for popular, cultural, and personal representation of this disaster and its victims include the famous *Migrant Mother* by Dorothea Lange, newspaper clippings, Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, quotes from survivors excerpted from film documentaries, and quotes from the author's grandmother.

38. *If You Can Read This, Thank a Teacher!*

Lauren Hoffman, Amy Najarian, and Sydney Hyland (EDU)

Reading is everywhere, but it is nurtured in a classroom! At a local Tampa elementary school, recent standardized testing scores indicated widespread low scores in reading proficiency. Research methods included ongoing observations over the span of three months. Such observations revealed low student motivation in reading and low proficiency in reading. Data collection suggests that little to no reading outside the classroom environment is the leading contributing factor to low motivation and proficiency reading levels. In response to these findings, several interventions were implemented. With an opportunity to work hands on with students at this Tampa elementary school, multiple motivational reading strategies were incorporated into classroom instruction on a bi-weekly basis. A variety of interventions were used in small group settings over the course of two months. The results of these interventions are in the analysis phase of this project, however it is anticipated that the data will show positive results in response to the implemented intervention plan.

39. *Does Unconscious Stimuli Affect People's Problem Solving Ability?*

Alyssa Johnson and Jenna Wilmes (PSY)

We were interested in looking at whether or not a stimulus briefly exposed prior to completing a problem-solving task would have an effect on performance. Thirty participants completed two puzzles. All participants completed the first puzzle. This puzzle was used as a control measure with no stimulus presented. For the second puzzle, half of the participants were briefly exposed to the solution to the puzzle before beginning. The other half of participants were briefly shown a false solution to the puzzle before beginning. Performance was measured by the total amount of time used to complete the puzzle. It was predicted that viewing the true puzzle solution rather than a false solution or no solution would produce greater performance. Additionally, those participants who were shown a false solution would have an overall slower performance than the true solution or no solution conditions.

40. *Extroversion and Political Discussion in Ghana*

Emily Johnson and Amber Ellison (GWA)

This study aims to explore the hypothesis that people who are more extroverted are more likely to discuss politics than those who are less extroverted. In order to test this hypothesis we analyzed one question from a previous study carried out in Ghana regarding political behaviors among citizens. The question we examined was "How often do you discuss issues affecting your district assembly with others?" We analyzed our data using SPSS to calculate frequencies, descriptive statistics, and perform correlational analysis.

41. *Extroversion and Political Efficacy in Ghana*

Katie Johnson and Shaniqua Demmings (GWA)

Analysis of personality traits has been supported to predict the political environment and behavior of particular communities, cities, or nations. In particular, the degree of an individual's extrovertedness can be linked to their role within an area's political environment. It has been determined that largely extroverted personalities have a larger political voice, influence, and attendance record in comparison to individuals who exhibit more introverted personalities. In this study, the idea that citizens are aware of their ability to produce political influence will be tested. It is proposed that those who exhibit extroverted behavior are more likely to believe that they can make a difference within their district more than those who are introverted. Frequencies and descriptive analyses will be performed on data collected from a small village in Ghana and will be discussed.

42. *Personality Type and Ethical Choices*

Chelsey Keenan (GWA)

I am conducting research as a part of my Honors tutorial in my Critical Issues for Public Communication class. As I was listening to the discussion of ethical decision-making models during class, I could not help but think of the similarities that qualities of ethical decision-making styles seem to have with some of the qualities in the personality types in the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator. My research investigates the relationship between one's personality type and the decisions one makes when ethical problems arise. I will be testing this by having students take a modified form of the Myers Briggs Personality Type assessment, followed by a survey with different ethical scenarios. I hypothesize that individuals' personality types will be associated with the choices they make in response to the different ethical scenarios.

43. *The Procrastinating College Student*

Lindsay Kraun and Micaela Tatman (PSY 200; authors shared equally in responsibility)

We are led to believe that college is supposed to be the time of our lives. However, we are supposed to be able to manage and balance social occasions as well as academic studying. Since procrastination is so widespread and rampant in college settings, it stands to reason that those who participate more in social gatherings are more likely to procrastinate on their academic tasks. Thus we hypothesized that more extraverted people are more likely to procrastinate due to the importance of social setting over academic responsibilities; that is, there should be a positive correlation between extraversion and the degree of procrastination. We surveyed 33 college-level participants, 54.5% of which were females and 45.5% were male. Contrary to our hypothesis, extraversion was not significantly positively correlated with procrastination. Therefore we conclude that introverts and extraverts are both participants in procrastination.

44. *Cardiovascular Fitness and Working Memory*

Zoe Levi and Thomas Vacca (PSY)

This study aims at discovering the potential relationship between physical fitness and cognitive fitness. Previous literature has revealed a linear relationships between brain volume and exercise in aging adults (Colcombe, 2006). Also, there is a well-established relationship between physical activity and hippocampal weight (Erickson, 2010). Twenty-three young adults aged 20-24 were randomly assigned to voluntarily complete the experiment. Participants' resting heart rate was recorded, they were selected to either run a quarter mile at 6.5mph first or complete a working memory task (digit span) from the Cambridge brain science website. The working memory task score and the elevated heart rate data will be analyzed using a simple regression. It is hypothesized that there will be a negative correlation between heart rate and test score, suggesting an improvement in cognition with increased cardiovascular fitness.

45. *Causes of Youth Gang Violence in Central America*

Kelly M. Lintner (GWA)

This essay examines the repercussions of gang presence on children in Central American communities. While analyzing this exposition, I explain how gang presence ultimately increases complications with crime, opportunity, and family life for those children. The cases I will study include stats depending on the country and data depending on the gang. I will analyze variables including, regions, gender, age, and background. I will collect data through extensive research including interviews, archives, and published reports. This essay confronts the argument that gang presence has a minor impact on children in Central America. Some argue that much of the blame is associated with ill government or corrupt officials.

46. *Legitimacy and Supreme Court decision-making: J.L. v. Florida and Navarette v. California*

LJAH 411—Law and Social Policy Class (LJA)

The legitimacy of supreme court decisions is crucial because the supreme court cannot enforce its own decisions and must rely on the acceptance of their decisions by society. One controversial area of the law concerns the use of anonymous tips to stop and frisk suspects. This research examines the factors that influence the perceptions of court and police legitimacy and societal agreement or acceptance of anonymous tip cases decided by and yet to be decided by the supreme court.

47. *The Causes of Government Corruption: A Latin American Study*

Michelle Maffucci (GWA)

Corruption - the misuse of public office for personal gain - is known to be prominent in developing countries, but what is it exactly that leads to higher levels of corruption, specifically in Latin America? As this directly involves the world's population through an economic, social, and political sphere, it is imperative to reach its fundamental core by distinguishing the potential causes of corruption. Results have shown that Latin American countries with lower corruption levels tend to have lower levels of poverty, higher literacy rates, and higher education attainment while those with higher corruption levels have lower levels of human development, voice and accountability, control of corruption, judicial independence, rule of law as well as lower levels of global competitiveness. Other socio-economic factors were analyzed in this study; however, findings suggest that these specific variables are not associated with corruption levels in Latin America.

48. *Effects of Various Exercises on Vocal Performance of Music*

Ashley Matthews (GWA)

There is growing interest in the role self-awareness plays in professional performance in a variety of areas. One path to greater self-awareness, meditation, has received some attention in the popular press and has been the subject of a number of studies. This field experiment seeks to explore the effects of meditation on the vocal performance of music. Two small ensembles will be created by precision matching. One small ensemble will perform a piece familiar to them, then rehearse that piece, then perform it again. For the other small ensemble, the rehearsal will be replaced with a period of guided meditation. It is hypothesized that the ensemble that receives guided meditation will show improvement between its before- and after- performances and that this ensemble's after-performance will be superior to the after-performance of the ensemble that rehearsed.

49. *A Study of Extraversion and the Correlation to Socialization at the Gym*

Brianna McKenna and Chelsey Turtle (PSY 200)

This study was conducted with the purpose of testing the correlation between extraversion and using workout facilities as a social environment. A total of 30 surveys were completed by students at the McNiff Fitness Center during morning and night hours. The Big Five extraversion questionnaire was combined with a questionnaire about behavior at the gym. We expected a positive correlation between extraversion and the tendency to use the gym as a social environment. This hypothesis was supported. Furthermore, although not hypothesized, there was a strong positive correlation between extraversion and using the gym as a social environment for women, but not for men.

50. *Evaluating KOTB-Bullies and School Safety Program*

Megan McTaggart and Stephanie Woods (SOC)

The University of Tampa student researchers evaluated the effectiveness of Kids on The Block's Bullies School Safety Program by taking a 25% random sample of the elementary schools in the Tampa, Florida area that participated between September to December 2013. The letters were coded into four separate coding categories according to whether the students had learned specific key ideas from watching the puppet show. The hypothesis was supported with data that showed 80% of the letters coded contained one or more of the four coding categories.

51. *Effects of Optic Flow Information on Spatial Orientation*

Carly Miller (PSY)

The role of optic flow information, specifically gradient flow and focus of expansion, on perceived spatial orientation was examined. Participant's ability to balance and walk a straight line were tested under two conditions, using both eyes to guide them and blindfolded. When participants were in the both eyes condition they made significantly less errors than when they were in the no eyes condition. We predict that the results of the balance test will show a strong correlation with the results of the straight-line test. When participants lack optic flow information, their spatial orientation is skewed.

52. *Tuscarora Nation: Increasing Native American Student Retention*

Kyle Mt. Pleasant (EDU)

High school graduation predicts overall success. The literature confirms that barriers to graduation are especially significant among Native American students. This research project focuses on the retention of Native American students from the Tuscarora Reservation in the Niagara Wheatfield School District in Niagara Falls, New York. The research analyzes and reports the post hoc qualitative and quantitative results of the Poetry and Arts Night project that targets increased affiliation and engagement among Native American students from the Tuscarora Reservation enrolled in 9th through 12th grades in the public schools. Affiliation and engagement are correlated with increased graduation rates among all high school students. The data suggests that this project is a model that can be replicated in other public school districts to decrease attrition (drop out rates) and increase retention (graduate rates) among Native American students.

53. *A Rising Downfall: A Cultural Analysis of the Surging Slums in the Climbing City of Mumbai*

Amber Myer (GWA)

As one of the most populated cities in the world, with a devastatingly high population density, Mumbai is over-run with unofficial housing and squatter settlements. As the economy improves, gentrification occurs, forcing the urban poor out of established residencies and into slums. Many rural Indians are migrating into the city in search of employment, but with minimal labor skills appropriate for a big city, and no financial cushion, many find themselves joining the hundreds of thousands of India's poor in the squatter settlements. In the race to become a futuristic city with a booming economy and exemplary infrastructure, Mumbai's residents are unable to keep up. There is a correlation between the rise in the economy, migration and urbanization with the overall rising population of the Mumbai slums.

54. *Self-Image Differences between Collegiate Men and Women through Mirror Observation*

Megan O'Brien and Bradley DeJulius (PSY 200)

The hypothesis was that females more than men would check their appearance while walking by the mirror in the Plant Hall staircase at the University of Tampa. This hypothesis was based on the research done by Berscheid and Walster (1974), Park and DiRaddo (2009), Connor-Greene, Drewnowski and Yee (1987) and Thompson and Dolce (1989) which described the body image differences between men and women. To observe females and males that walked by the mirror, tape was placed on the stairs. If the person was inside the zone marked with tape and looked at the mirror then they were recorded as checking themselves out in the mirror. If they were outside the zone or not looking in the direction of the mirror then they were marked as not checking themselves out. The results showed that females significantly checked themselves out in the mirror more than males.

55. *Does Involvement in College Reflect Extraversion in One's Personality?*

Katie Pennewill Amanda Franz (PSY 200)

Is there a correlation between students' degree of involvement in college and their level of extraversion? The hypothesis stated that students with a higher level of extroversion would be more involved in college; that is, there would be a positive correlation. A sample of students who attend UT was given a questionnaire to complete. The questionnaire measured the participants' extroversion level and involvement in college. A mean was calculated for each variable. A Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the hypothesis. There was no significant correlation between student involvement and the level of extroversion. Based on these results, it was concluded that our hypothesis was not supported. Further study regarding extroversion and involvement in college must be conducted in order to determine any possible relationships between these variables.

56. *Reproductive Rights and the Impact of Contraceptives on Gender Agency: A Central American Observation*

Samantha Pfaff (GWA)

The intersection of formal and informal institutions has been fundamental in global development; this dynamic is no different within Latin American development. Central American countries have been marked with high fertility rates and low attainment of reproductive rights — indicators that hinder the empowerment and agency of women. Given the many factors that influence development, there is greater need to observe the efficacy of policy making and access of reproductive rights to determine the impacts in enhancing the status of women in the region. Prevalence of modern contraceptives access and use among women in childbearing ages provides insight to the efficacy of institutions in improving reproductive rights. The evident decrease in fertility rates throughout Central America display stark trends in development patterns. What impact does increased prevalence of modern contraceptives have on the dynamics of family and fertility trends among Central America women?

57. *How the Difference in Gender Relates to Behavior on the Roadway*

Christian Pilot (PSY 200)

Do males have an increased tendency to run yellow lights when compared to females? In my study, I observed the behavior of both males and females to understand the number of drivers that notice a changing traffic light and decide to speed through it. The number of males that I observed running the yellow light was higher than what can be expected by random chance. I propose that there is a relationship between the aggressiveness of men and their behavior while driving. My results showed that the number of men that ran a changing traffic light was significantly greater than the number of females that ran a changing traffic light. Overall, this study demonstrated, naturalistically, there is a difference between the behavior of males and females on the road. Using this data, we should recognize that yellow lights and their cautious meaning need to become more integrated.

58. *The Influence of Color on Taste Perception*

Samantha Puricelli, Sophia Daily, and Enrique Hernandez (PSY)

This study examines the effect of color conditioning on taste. Eighty (80) University of Tampa students tried Kiwi Strawberry Propel water dyed either red or yellow and then took a short survey. The color of the drink served as the independent variable and the dependent variables were how sweet, sour, fruity, citrusy, refreshing, and natural tasting the drink was. Six research hypotheses were tested and only one was supported. There was a difference in citrus perception between the red and yellow drink, $t(78) = -2.77$, $p = .007$, $n_2 = .09$. Our results indicate that the color of a drink has some effect on how the taste of the drink is perceived. Food designers should keep this in mind while creating new drinks as well as new foods.

59. *Improving Communication Barriers in the ESOL Community*

Allie Quintyne, Emily Anderson, Kayla Concannon, and Shannon Cronan (EDU)

This project investigated ways to improve the communication barrier between ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) parents in a Title I school in Hillsborough County. Communication is vital in a school environment because parents need to be aware of their child's academic progress. This research project explored methods of communication within the school to evaluate its effectiveness. Several modes of communication were examined such as, the parent engagement plan, webpages, and school newsletter sections on the school's website. Research methods also included interviews with the ESOL Specialist and Webmaster to gain a deeper perspective regarding the school's communication. Data analysis suggested communication barriers in school resources and tools for ESOL parents. As a result, a website improvement plan was created to make a positive change for communication among the school and ESOL community. The project is ongoing and a conclusive analysis of the intervention plan will be explored.

60. *The Development of Echolocation Ability in Sighted People*

Ayushi Rambojun and Morgan Sanchez (PSY)

The purpose of this study was to investigate the development of echolocation ability in sighted individuals. Participants were positioned 12 ft away from a wall and blindfolded. They were instructed to clap while walking towards the wall, and to use the sound cues to detect their distance from the wall. Their objective was to stop when they deemed they were 2ft from the wall. Their distance from the 2ft mark was measured as well as the length of time it took participants to reach their endpoint. It was predicted that with repeated trials, individuals would improve their echolocation ability, quantified by their distance from the goal point with consecutive trials. It was also hypothesized that those who took more time with the experiment would be more accurate. The results supported the speed-accuracy tradeoff. Additionally there were observed differences between male and female participants' performance.

61. *The Effect of Country-of-Origin on the Perceived Quality, Value, Complexity and Purchase Intention of Wine.*

Ayushi Rambojun, Dayna Matouk, and Abby Paterson (PSY)

This study attempts to determine the influence of country of origin stereotypes on consumer behavior. Fifty-four undergraduate students from the University of Tampa were surveyed to judge the complexity, value, quality, price, and purchase intention of wine from the United States or from Italy. It was hypothesized that wine from Italy would be preferred across each dimension. Results indicated no significant findings, disproving all hypotheses. Hence, this research concludes that country of origin is not a determining factor for product purchase. Limitations include a convenience sample with limited information pertaining to wine characteristics, and procedural shortcomings. Future studies can focus on conducting a manipulation check to assess whether participants noticed the independent variable.

62. *Internal Efficacy and Extraversion in Ghana*

Alyssa Rodriguez and Sophie Moskowitz (GWA)

How much of a difference do you believe you can make in your district? Do you believe that you can make a big difference, moderate difference, a small difference, or no difference at all? We hypothesized that those who are extraverted are more likely to believe that they can make a significant difference in their district than those who are introverted.

63. *Media Interests and Its Relationship with Conscientiousness*

Omar Rodriguez and Creed Smith (PSY 200)

The purpose of this investigation was to assess whether there is a correlation between media use and conscientiousness for men and women. We projected that there would be a significant negative correlation for men. For women, we expected a less strong, if not absent correlation. We created a questionnaire assessing students' media habits and used the Big Five conscientious questionnaire. A random pool of college students from the University of Tampa completed both questionnaires. As a result, we found that our original hypothesis was correct with men possessing a significant negative correlation between media use and conscientiousness, while women did not. What these results seem to imply is that women have greater multi-tasking abilities than men.

64. *Sociosexuality as a Predictor for Peer-to-Peer Sexual Harassment in the Academic Environment*

Stevie Ruzich and Scott Husband (PSY)

Most sexual harassment research has focused on the workplace. There is evidence that differences in people's sexual attitudes can be associated with the risk of, and personal feelings about, sexual harassment. The current study sought to determine the association between sexual attitudes/experiences with sexual harassment by peers in a college setting. College students ($n = 70$) participated by taking a demographic questionnaire and two self-report surveys. The first, the SOI-R (Sociosexuality Orientation Inventory), measures a person's assessment of their own sexuality including Behavioral, Attitude, and Desire subscales. The second survey, our revised version of the SEQ (Sexual Experiences Questionnaire), measures sexual harassment experiences (with Gender Harassment and Unwanted Sexual Attention subscales). There were partial confirmations of our hypotheses, with positive correlations between the SEQ's Unwanted Sexual Attention subscale and the SOI-R's Behavior ($r = 0.25$) and Attitude ($r = 0.28$) subscales.

65. *Why Certain Countries Fare Better on International Testing Than Others*

Daniel A. Sobczak (GWA)

The Program for International Student Assessment proctors standardized tests to over sixty countries, focusing on reading, mathematics, and science. Many discrepancies arise in the results of these tests, countries and municipalities vary greatly on their cumulative scores. Such results are attributed to a host of factors, in this paper four factors will be explored to possibly explain these results. The first factor to be tested is if separating children based on intellectual levels makes a difference in their education. Secondly, we will explore if the language the PISA test is written in develops language or cultural nuances that, when translated, make a difference in the students outcomes. Third factor to test if being of immigrant status affects the students ability to do well on the test. Lastly we will see if the familial socioeconomic background has an effect on the student and which factors helps or hinders the student.

66. *Sex Education's Relationship to HIV/AIDS Rates*

Rachael Teague (GWA)

As the world's population goes, so does everyone's chance of coming into contact with someone who has a sexually transmitted disease. HIV/AIDS in particular is a forerunning sexually transmitted disease that is affecting populations everywhere. It was once seen as a somewhat rare disease but is now spreading at alarming rates. There are some practices in place to educate the masses, but this by no means is the stance of every country all over the world. Therefore, I chose to research how sexual education programs or initiatives affect HIV/AIDS in third world countries

67. *Tag it, Read it, Book it!*

Paul Teresi, Stephanie Sasse, and Courtney Lewis (EDU)

This research focuses on a Title 1 elementary school in Hillsborough County. Visitations to the school indicated a noticeable lack of student interest in reading. Data were collected through surveys, observations, and student interviews. Data indicated a lack of interest in independent reading at school and at home. Data in the school improvement plan suggested that low reading morale is a systematic dilemma amongst all grade levels. An intervention plan was established in response to the data analysis. Although there is low student motivation, it is vital to equip teachers and administrators with resources and materials to boost student interest in reading. The intervention plan included the creation of a school-wide reading program to help encourage student interest reading. Teachers and administrators have received the materials for the reading program and are currently becoming familiar with the structure of the program. The plan will be implemented starting Fall 2014.

68. *Olympic Change: The Effect of the Olympics on Social and Political Laws*

Ryan Thompson (GWA)

The Olympics are a global event that attracts the attention and scrutiny of countries around the world onto the host country. Some countries that have hosted the Olympics have seen changes, due in part to the Olympics, in their domestic policies for the betterment of their people and governments. Why is this? Do the Olympics have a direct impact on the changes that are created and if so how responsible are the Olympics for the outcomes? I propose that the amount of global attention and pressure that the Olympics brings down onto the host country allows for a political spotlight and stage for which issues can be brought to light, addressed, and potentially changed for the better.

69. *Affirmative Action in Brazil: An Ineffective Policy in a Racially Perplexed Society*

Chanel Vanzant (GWA)

In 1933, Brazil officially classified their nation as being the first in the Western Hemisphere to completely eradicate the existence of racial discrimination towards its culturally hybrid society of European, indigenous and, African people. This discourse was created as a clandestine way to celebrate Brazil's blended culture as an antidote for the racism that had been occurring since the arrival of African slaves in 1549. Despite the faulty tendencies behind such an idea, this very myth of racial democracy remained relatively unchallenged until the 2001 Durban Conference where Brazil was publicly pressured to recognize their differences in race in order to address the truth behind their nation's racial discrimination through the establishment of affirmative action. Through the testing of varied methods and applicable sources, the presented article analyzes the lack of effect that Brazil's implementation of affirmative action has had on improving their country's self-proclaimed myth of being racially democratic.

70. *Planting Day*

Ruth Vogel, Hannah Phillips, and Yasmine Layegh (EDU)

This project examined a Title 1 elementary public school in Tampa, FL. A school improvement plan was implemented to improve school spirit through student involvement. This particular school was lacking in sufficient landscaping which affected the school's aesthetic appeal. Students assisted in planting flowers in their school courtyard. In doing so, students gained a connection with their school. The purpose of the project was to improve student achievement by empowering students to take ownership of their school environment thus, increasing their school spirit. This project is still ongoing and will take another week to complete.

71. *A Mindset of Missionality to Develop Nations : The Impact of Christian Missionaries on Economic Development in Africa*

Alyssa Warnick (GWA)

This paper explores the correlation between missionary activity and economics on the continent of Africa. Africa has a history and present of strong Christian missionary activity, as well as results of recent economic growth. This research analysis correlates statistical data to test the hypothesis that Christian missionary activity leads to economic productivity and prosperity in developing nations. These are two variables that little research has previously been conducted on, and yet could prove to be a valid argument as to why the economic outlook on Africa is becoming more positive.

72. *US Foreign Policy Under Obama*

Peter W. Young (GWA)

U.S. Under Obama and how it is moving away from foreign policy and how it does not rely that much on NATO and other alliances with the west. We got into the war in Iraq when Bush ignored the traditional approach to work together with our allies, and we pretty much were alone there. Pivoted away from foreign policy for years and years and going back to WWII when we fought with Russians against Hitler.



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