

Is There a “Culture War” in the United States?

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Religious, moral, and political beliefs are deeply ingrained in American culture and the conflicts that occur around these issues are referred to as the "culture war." For instance, gender role, gun policy, gay right, racial discrimination, school prayer, abortion and much more are part of the list of controversies that divide our country. In this paper, we will discuss about racial discrimination, gender role and gun permit using the GSS which collects data about modern American culture in order to track and analyze trends in attitudes, actions, and belief since 1972. This will allow us to see whether we can discover evidence that supports or refutes the notion that American society is in the midst of a cultural war.

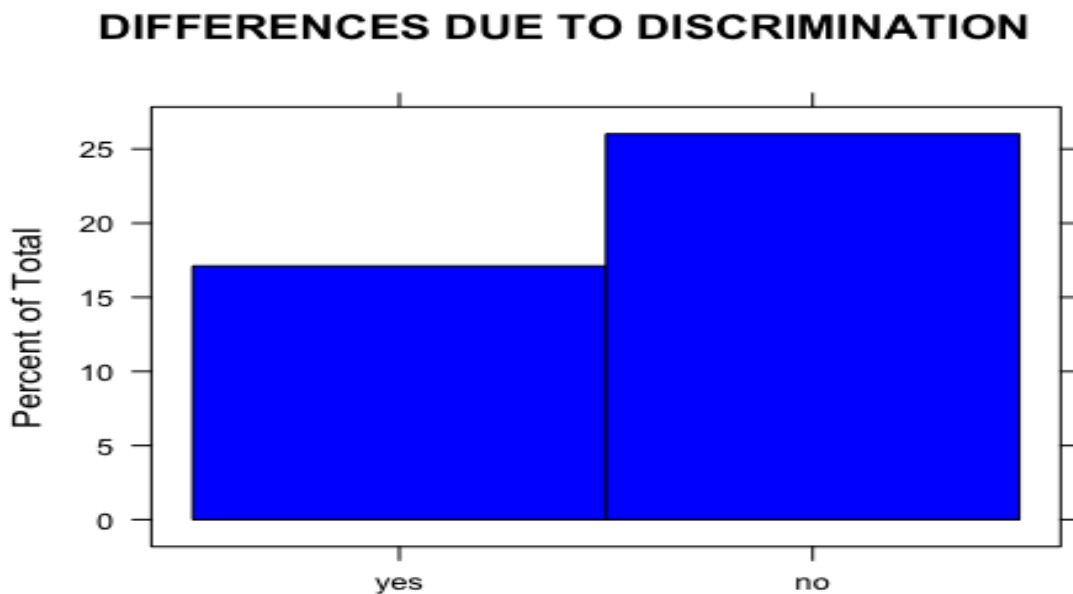
In the United States, segregation between white and black people has always been a contentious issue. Figure1 and table 1.1 answers of question “on avarage, (negroes/blacks/ african-american) have worse job, income and housing than white people due to discrimination?” The outcome indicates whether respondents believe there are differences due to discrimination. According to the respondents, 39.67% agreed that there is a difference because of discrimination and 60.33% of the respondent did not support the fact that there is a difference. It is clear that, Majority of the Respondents think there is no racial discrimination and that segregation doesn't exist.

In today's cultural war, many insoluble conflicts revolve around sex and gender issues. The second variable is about defining gender roles in society and how men and women are portrayed. Figure 2 and table 2.1 illustrate responses to the question: is it much better for everyone involved if the man is achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and family? From table 2.1 and figure 2 , It is clear that not too many respondents strongly agreed with the statement that men should work and women take care of home and family, the percentage was 8.79 and 31.05% respondents only agreed with the fact. On the other hand, 43.12 percent of respondents disagreed, with 17.04 percent strongly disagreeing, that women care for their families while men work outside the home. Overall, 39.84 percent of people agreed with the fact, while 60.16 percent disagreed, demonstrating how people have very different perspectives on this topic, which divides the country.

Finally, the variable examines responses to the question of a gun permit, revealing yet another topic that divides the public. The question was : “Would you favor or oppose a law which would require a person to obtain a police permit before he or she could buy a gun?” . Figure 3 shows that the majority of people are in favor of the gun permit law. Table 3.1 shows that 76.67 percent of respondents support the requirement of a police permit before purchasing a gun, while 23.33 percent oppose the requirement.

Overall, it is clear that different viewpoints exist in each area. Moreover, Some responders support certain issues, while the others oppose them, dividing the country's people. As a result of studying the GSS data, we can conclude that the "Culture War" exists.

Figure 1



| Table 1.1 : Summary of differences due to discrimination | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| Yes | No | Total |
| 10197 | 15505 | 25702 |
| 39.67% | 60.33% | 100% |

Figure 2

BETTER FOR MAN TO WORK, WOMAN TEND HOME

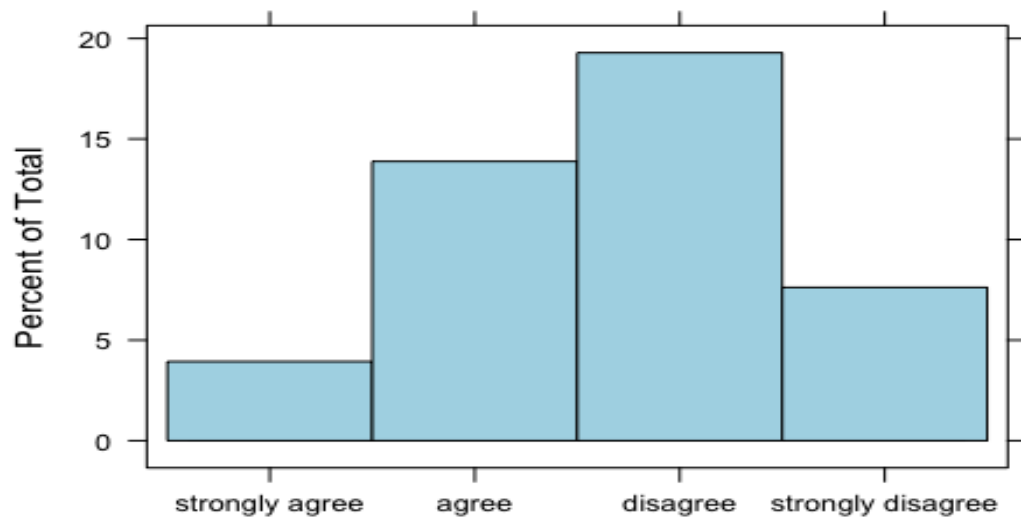
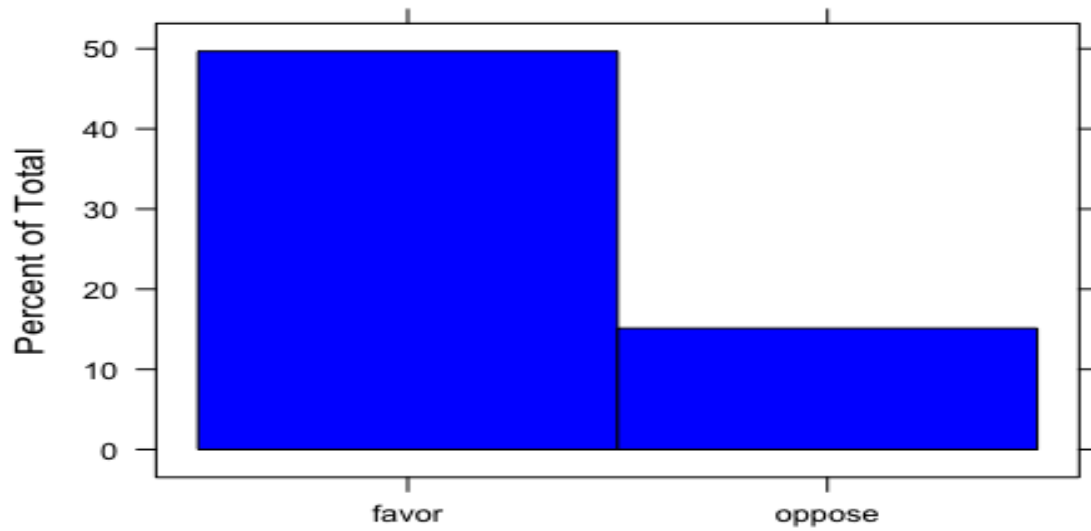


Table 2.1: Summary Gender Role According to society

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------|----------|-------------------|--------|
| 2345 | 8277 | 11494 | 4542 | 26,658 |
| 8.79% | 31.05% | 43.12% | 17.04% | 100% |

Figure 3

FAVOR OR OPPOSE GUN PERMITS



Opinion about Requiring to Obtain a Police Permit before Buying a

Table 3.1 : Summary of Favor or Oppose Gun Permits

| Yes | No | Total |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 29,606 | 9008 | 38,614 |
| 76.67% | 23.33% | 100% |