Syria Project

Start of Block: Default Question Block



Q1 **Consent to Participate in
an Experimental Study**
**Investigator**
Erin Buchanan, Ph.D.  
Department of Psychology  
214D Hill Hall
Missouri State University
417-836-5592
 
**Investigator**
Kayla Jordan
Department of Psychology
Missouri State University
 
**Description:**  
You will be asked to read a news story about armed conflict, and write a
short reaction to it for several minutes. 
You will also be asked to answer a few questions pertaining to moral
judgments and provide basic demographic information, such as age, gender, political orientation, and religious affiliation. The entire experiment will take approximately 30 minutes, and you will receive
one experimental credit for your participation.
**Risks and
Benefits:**  
There are no obvious risks of participating in this
experiment. 
**Confidentiality:**  
We will not put your name on any of your tests.  Only Dr. Buchanan and her assistant
will have access to the data collected for this study.  All data associated with this study will
remain confidential. 
 **Right to Withdraw:**  
You do not have to take part in this study.  If you start the study and decide that you do
not want to finish, all you have to do is to tell Dr. Buchanan in person, by
letter, or by tele­phone at the Department of Psychology, 214D Hill Hall, or
836-5592.  Whether or not you choose to
participate or to withdraw will not affect your standing with the Department of
Psychology, or with the University, and it will not cause you to lose any
benefits to which you are entitled.  
Experimental credit will be prorated based on the amount of time you
spent in the study.
 **IRB Approval:**  
This study has been reviewed by Missouri State University’s Institutional
Review Board (IRB).  The IRB has
determined that this study fulfills the human research subject protections
obligations required by state and federal law and University policies.  If you have any questions, concerns, or
reports regarding your rights as a participant of research, please contact the Office
Research Compliance at 836-4132.
 **Statement of Consent**  
I have read the above information.  I
have been given a copy of this form.  I
have had an opportunity to ask questions, and I have received answers.  I consent to participate in the study.

* Disagree (1)
* Agree (2)

Skip To: End of Survey If Q1 = 1

End of Block: Default Question Block

Start of Block: Block 1



Q3 Please read the following news story carefully. Afterwards you will be asked to provide your thoughts and reactions to the situation regarding Syria.   
  
  
**Fox News** - Disturbing reports and video
out of Syria this past week point
to the fact that the Assad regime has engaged in the largest use of chemical
weapons since Saddam Hussein attacked his people in Iraq 25 years ago. A senior
White House official said there is “no doubt” that Syrian President Bashar
al-Assad used chemical weapons against his own people. The United States has that the use of chemical weapons would be a
"red line" for American intervention in Syria. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) has stated, “We believe President Obama is correct that the Assad regime's use
of chemical weapons requires a military response by the United States and our
friends and allies. However, we cannot in good conscience support isolated
military strikes in Syria that are not part of an overall strategy that can
achieve the President's stated goal of Assad's removal from power, and bring an
end to this conflict, which is a growing threat to our national security
interests. Anything short of this would be an inadequate response to the crimes
against humanity that Assad and his forces are committing.” Former President
George W. Bush (R) said he was "not
a fan" of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad during his eight years in
office, recalling the "mischief" by the Syrian regime during the
U.S.-led war in Iraq. Bush's Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld (R) said, "When you think
about what's really important in that region – it's Iran's nuclear program and
the relationship between Iran and Syria, the Assad regime, with respect to
terrorists that go around killing innocent men, women and children, including
Americans." Religious figures have also weighed in on the developments in
Syria. Pope Francis has said, "With utmost firmness I condemn the
use of chemical weapons,” and that people who use chemical weapons - as the
Syrian government has been accused of doing - will face divine judgment.

End of Block: Block 1

Start of Block: Block 2



Q4 Please read the following news story carefully. Afterwards you will be asked to provide your thoughts and reactions to the situation regarding Syria.   
  
  
**Fox News** - Disturbing reports and video out of Syria this past week point to the fact that
the Assad regime has engaged in the largest use of chemical weapons since
Saddam Hussein attacked his people in Iraq 25 years ago. A senior White House
official said there is “no doubt” that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad used
chemical weapons against his own people. The United States has that the use of chemical weapons would be a
"red line" for American intervention in Syria. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) has stated, “We believe President Obama is correct that the Assad regime's use
of chemical weapons requires a military response by the United States and our
friends and allies. However, we cannot in good conscience support isolated
military strikes in Syria that are not part of an overall strategy that can
achieve the President's stated goal of Assad's removal from power, and bring an
end to this conflict, which is a growing threat to our national security
interests. Anything short of this would be an inadequate response to the crimes
against humanity that Assad and his forces are committing.” Former President George
W. Bush (R) said he was "not a fan" of
Syrian president Bashar al-Assad during his eight years in office, recalling
the "mischief" by the Syrian regime during the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Bush's Defense Secretary Donald
Rumsfeld (R) said, "When you think about what's really important in that
region – it's Iran's nuclear program and the relationship between Iran and
Syria, the Assad regime, with respect to terrorists that go around killing
innocent men, women and children, including Americans."

End of Block: Block 2

Start of Block: Block 3



Q5 Please read the following news story carefully. Afterwards you will be asked to provide your thoughts and reactions to the situation regarding Syria.   
  
  
**CNN** - There was a
major chemical attack in Syria on Aug 21, 2013, and the United States has made
clear that it blames the government of President Bashar al-Assad. For almost
two years, the United States has avoided direct military involvement in Syria's
civil war, only escalating aid to rebel fighters in June after suspected
smaller-scale chemical weapons attacks by Syrian government forces. However,
the attack on a Damascus suburb that reportedly killed and wounded more than
3,000 people obliterated the "red line" set by the US just over a
year ago against the use of Syria's chemical weapons stocks. President Obama (D) has said, “This
kind of attack is a challenge to the world. We cannot accept a world where
women and children and innocent civilians are gassed on a terrible scale. This
kind of attack threatens our national security interests by violating well
established international norms against the use of chemical weapons by further
threatening friends and allies of ours in the region, like Israel and Turkey,
and Jordan and it increases the risk that chemical weapons will be used in the
future and fall into the hands of terrorists who might use them against us.
It's important for us to recognize that when over 1,000 people are killed,
including hundreds of innocent children, through the use of a weapon that 98
percent or 99 percent of humanity says should not be used, even in war, and
there is no action, then we're sending a signal that that international norm
doesn't mean much, and that is a danger to our national security.” Former
President Jimmy Carter (D) has said, “The use of chemical weapons in Syria was
a grave breach of international law but that any U.S. action in the country
should wait for ongoing investigations by United Nations inspectors to
conclude. All should seek to leverage the consensus among the entire
international community, including Russia and Iran, condemning the use of
chemical weapons in Syria and bringing under U.N. oversight the country's
stockpile of such weapons." Religious figures have also weighed in on the
developments in Syria. Pope Francis has said, "With utmost
firmness I condemn the use of chemical weapons,” and that people who use
chemical weapons - as the Syrian government has been accused of doing - will
face divine judgment.

End of Block: Block 3

Start of Block: Block 4



Q6 Please read the following news story carefully. Afterwards you will be asked to provide your thoughts and reactions to the situation regarding Syria.   
  
  
**CNN** - There was a
major chemical attack in Syria on Aug 21, 2013, and the United States has made
clear that it blames the government of President Bashar al-Assad. For almost
two years, the United States has avoided direct military involvement in Syria's
civil war, only escalating aid to rebel fighters in June after suspected
smaller-scale chemical weapons attacks by Syrian government forces. However,
the attack on a Damascus suburb that reportedly killed and wounded more than 3,000
people obliterated the "red line" set by the US just over a year ago
against the use of Syria's chemical weapons stocks. President Obama (D) has said, “This
kind of attack is a challenge to the world. We cannot accept a world where
women and children and innocent civilians are gassed on a terrible scale. This
kind of attack threatens our national security interests by violating well
established international norms against the use of chemical weapons by further
threatening friends and allies of ours in the region, like Israel and Turkey,
and Jordan and it increases the risk that chemical weapons will be used in the
future and fall into the hands of terrorists who might use them against us.
It's important for us to recognize that when over 1,000 people are killed,
including hundreds of innocent children, through the use of a weapon that 98
percent or 99 percent of humanity says should not be used, even in war, and
there is no action, then we're sending a signal that that international norm
doesn't mean much, and that is a danger to our national security.” Former
President Jimmy Carter (D) has said, “The use of chemical weapons in Syria was
a grave breach of international law but that any U.S. action in the country
should wait for ongoing investigations by United Nations inspectors to
conclude. All should seek to leverage the consensus among the entire
international community, including Russia and Iran, condemning the use of
chemical weapons in Syria and bringing under U.N. oversight the country's
stockpile of such weapons."

End of Block: Block 4

Start of Block: Block 5



Q7 Please write for five to ten minutes about your reaction to Syria's use of chemical weapons and United States' reaction.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



Q21 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

End of Block: Block 5

Start of Block: Block 9



Q22 On a scale from 1 to 9, how strongly do you support taking military action against a nation which uses chemical weapons?

* 1-Completely Oppose (1)
* 2 (2)
* 3 (3)
* 4 (4)
* 5-Neither Oppose nor Support (5)
* 6 (6)
* 7 (7)
* 8 (8)
* 9-Completely Support (9)

End of Block: Block 9

Start of Block: Block 6



Q8 When you decide whether something is right or wrong, to what extent are the following considerations relevant to your thinking? Please answer on a scale from

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Not at all Relevant (1) | Not Very Relevant (2) | Slightly Relevant (3) | Somewhat Relevant (4) | Very Relevant (5) | Extremely Relevant (6) |
| Whether or not someone suffered emotionally (1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone cared for someone weak or vulnerable (2) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone was cruel (3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not some people were treated differently from others (4) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone acted unfairly (5) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone was denied his or her rights (6) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone’s action showed love for his or her country (7) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone did something to betray his or her group (8) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone showed a lack of loyalty (9) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone showed a lack of respect for authority (10) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone conformed to the traditions of society (11) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not an action caused chaos or disorder (12) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone violated standards of purity and decency (13) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone did something disgusting (14) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whether or not someone acted in a way that God would approve of (15) |  |  |  |  |  |  |



Q9 Please read the following sentences and indicate your level of agreement or disagreement.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Disagree (1) | Moderately Disagree (2) | Slightly Disagree (3) | Slightly Agree (4) | Moderately Agree (5) | Strongly Agree (6) |
| Compassion for those who are suffering is the most crucial virtue. (1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| One of the worst things a person could do is hurt a defenseless animal. (2) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| It can never be right to kill a human being. (3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| When the government makes laws, the number one principle should be ensuring that everyone is treated fairly. (4) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Justice is the most important requirement for a society. (5) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I think it’s morally wrong that rich children inherit a lot of money while poor children inherit nothing. (6) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I am proud of my country’s history. (7) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| People should be loyal to their family members, even when they have done something wrong. (8) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| It is more important to be a team player than to express oneself. (9) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Respect for authority is something all children need to learn. (10) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Men and women each have different roles to play in society. (11) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| If I were a soldier and disagreed with my commanding officer’s orders, I would obey anyway because that is my duty. (12) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| People should not do things that are disgusting, even if no one is harmed. (13) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I would call some acts wrong on the grounds that they are unnatural. (14) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chastity is an important and valuable virtue. (15) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

End of Block: Block 6

Start of Block: Block 7



Q10 What is your gender?

* Man (1)
* Woman (2)



Q11 What is your age?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



Q12 What ethnicity do you most identify with?

* Caucausian (1)
* African American (2)
* Hispanic American (3)
* Asian American (4)
* Native American (5)
* Mixed (6)
* Other (7)



Q13 What is your academic classification?

* Freshman (1)
* Sophomore (2)
* Junior (3)
* Senior (4)
* Other (5)



Q14 What is your religious orientation?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



Q15 Rate
your political orientation on the following scale:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Conservative (1) | . (2) | . (3) | . (4) | . (5) | . (6) | . (7) | . (8) | . (9) | Liberal (10) |
| . (1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



Q16 What is your academic major?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



Q17 On a scale from 1(not at all involved) to 10
(highly involved), rate your level of political involvement.

* 1 (1)
* 2 (2)
* 3 (3)
* 4 (4)
* 5 (5)
* 6 (6)
* 7 (7)
* 8 (8)
* 9 (9)
* 10 (10)



Q18 On a scale from 1(not at all interested) to 10
(highly interested), rate your level of political interest.

* 1 (1)
* 2 (2)
* 3 (3)
* 4 (4)
* 5 (5)
* 6 (6)
* 7 (7)
* 8 (8)
* 9 (9)
* 10 (10)



Q19 Are you a registered voter?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

End of Block: Block 7

Start of Block: Block 8



Q20 Thank you for your participation. We are interested in how your political orientation affects your writing style.

End of Block: Block 8