

Undergraduate Research Symposium May 18, 2018 Mary Gates Hall

Online Proceedings

POSTER SESSION 2

Commons West, Easel 40

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

**Fighting for Approval: US Foreign Installments'
Contribution to Anti-Americanism**

Douglas Andreas (Andreas) Redd, Sophomore, Pre-Sciences

*Mentor: Emma Rodman, Political Science, Center for
American Politics and Public Policy*

Mentor: John Wilkerson

In 2016, the global median favorability of the United States stood at 64%; in 2017, median favorability dropped to 39%. Causes for anti-American attitudes have been difficult to pinpoint, but research suggests the reach of the United States military—approximately 800 foreign military installments in 70 countries—could have a part in America’s negative image. Past research has considered the impact of military presence on anti-Americanism versus the lack thereof. But, whether a greater military presence (i.e. more troops, funding, and base cost) accounts for higher levels of anti-American attitudes has not been considered. My research studies whether greater levels of military presence, measured by Plant Replacement Value (PRV), acreage, and personnel, contribute to unfavorable attitudes towards the United States. I predict that greater military presence significantly increases anti-Americanism because an overt outside military presence attributes to a perception of the United States as intrusive, politically motivated, and imperialistic. I use attitudinal data from the Pew Global Attitudes Project and data pertaining to military presence from the Department of Defense’s annual Base Structure Report. This relationship, if substantiated, could have important consequences on the future of American trust, power, and foreign policy.