

Portraying Muslims in Terrorist Acts: A comparative Russian-American Study

Individuals learn about other cultures, ethnic groups, and religions through various means including formal schooling, travel, the media, and via other forms of personal experiences.

One of the least studied ways of understanding a religion is through cases of the individuals who are representing particular religion. Thus a person, as a microcosm, appears as a representative of a larger group of people and also reflects on the beliefs and values associated with an entire ethnic group or a religion.

Portraying Muslims in Terrorist Acts: A comparative Russian-American Study

Through our laboratory **Character Assassination and Reputation Management** we focus on multidisciplinary research including:

Public Opinion Studies

Content-Analysis of government documents statement

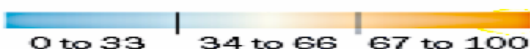
Content-Analysis of the media

U.S. Public Has Warmest Feelings for Jews, Catholics and Evangelicals

Respondents in a Pew Research Center poll were asked:

"We'd like to get your feelings toward a number of groups on a 'feeling thermometer.' A rating of 0 degrees means you feel as cold and negative as possible. A rating of 100 degrees means you feel as warm and positive as possible. You would rate the group at 50 degrees if you don't feel particularly positive or negative toward the group."

Results at right show total mean ratings of each religious group



Source: American Trends Panel (wave 4). Survey conducted May 30-June 30, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



↑
WARMER,
MORE
POSITIVE

- 63 Jews
- 62 Catholics
- 61 Evangelical Christians
- 53 Buddhists
- 50 Hindus
- 48 Mormons
- 41 Atheists
- 40 Muslims

↓
COLDER,
MORE
NEGATIVE

Personal Familiarity With Group Members Linked With More Positive Views

Mean Thermometer Ratings (0=coldest, most negative; 100=warmest, most positive)

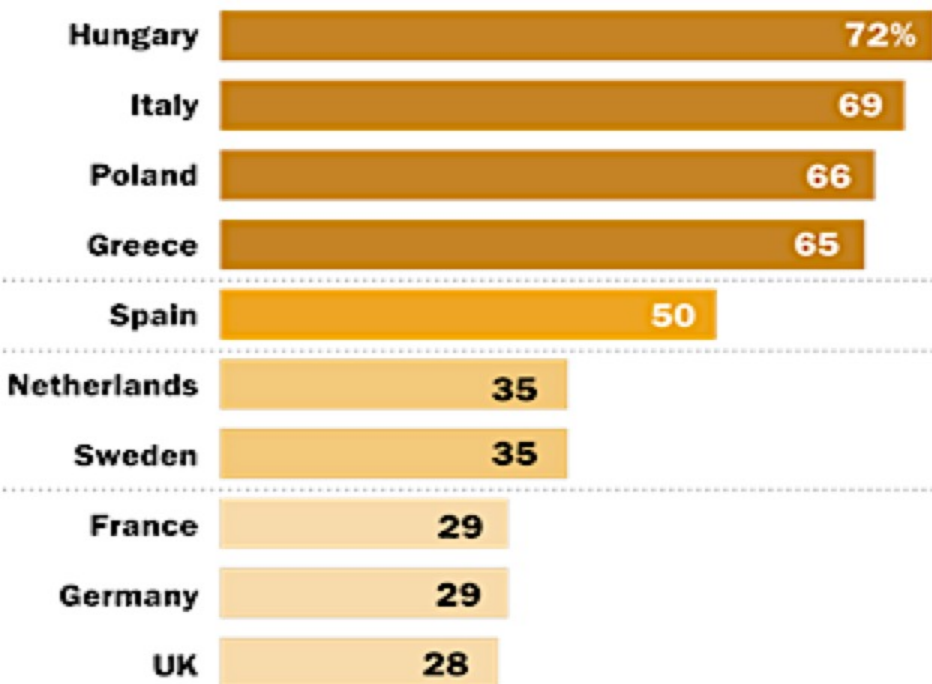
Mean rating given to...	Total	Know Anyone From Group?	
		Yes	No
Jews	63	69	55
Catholics	62	64	47
Evangelicals	61	65	49
Buddhists	53	70	48
Hindus	50	63	47
Mormons	48	53	44
Atheists	41	50	29
Muslims	40	49	35

American Trends Panel (wave 4). Survey conducted May 30-June 30, 2014. REL3a-h. Based on all respondents (including those who belong to the group in question).

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Views of Muslims more negative in eastern and southern Europe

Unfavorable view of Muslims in our country

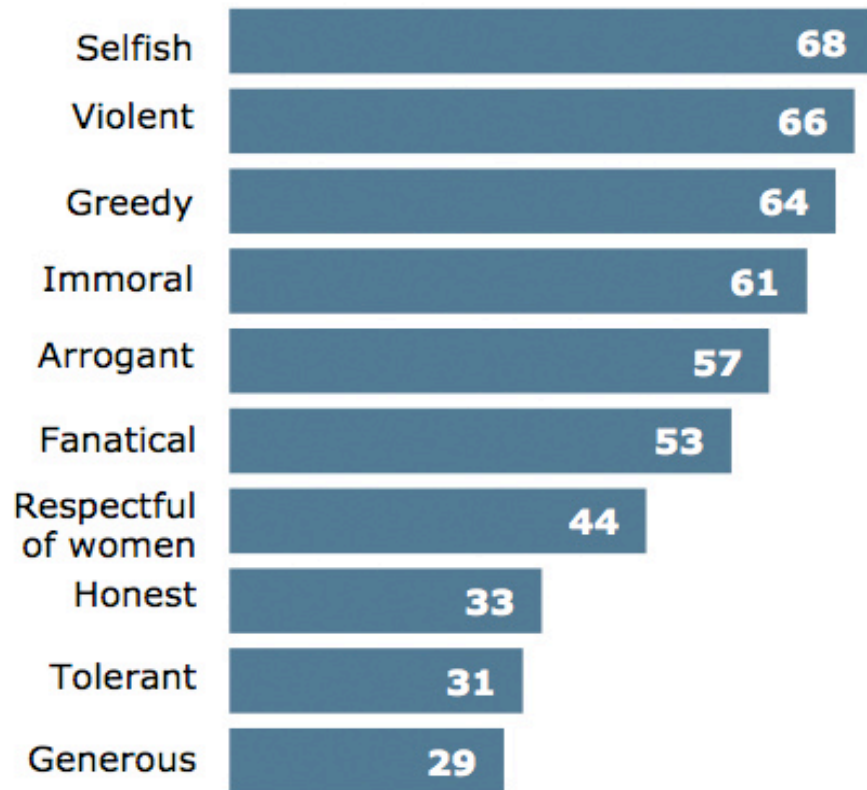


Note: In Poland, question was asked of a subsample of 686 respondents.

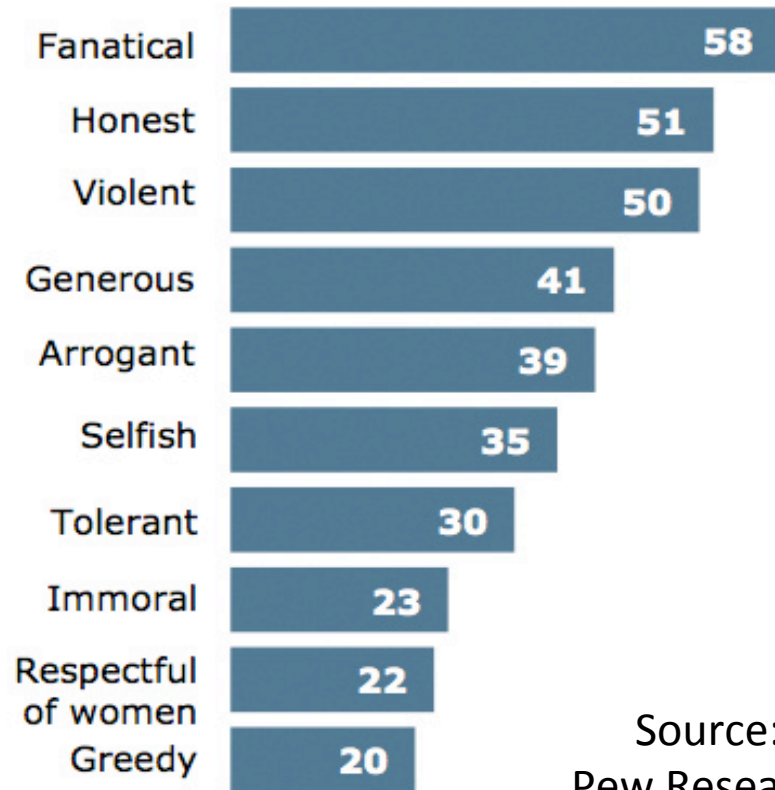
Source: Spring 2016 Global Attitudes Survey. Q36c.

Characteristics Associated With Westerners and Muslims

Traits associated with Westerners among Muslims in predominantly Muslim countries

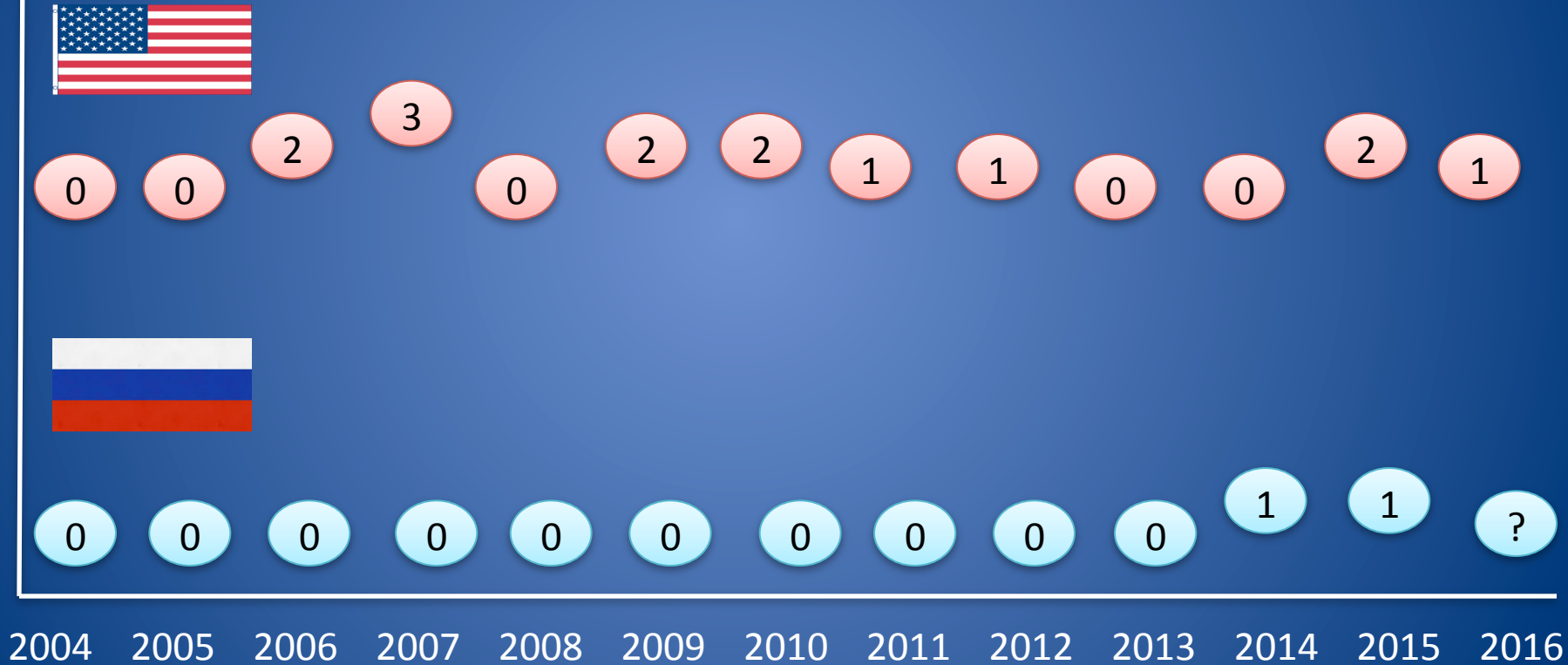


Traits associated with Muslims among non-Muslims in the U.S., Russia and W. Europe



Source:
Pew Research

Number of times to words “Islam” and “Muslim” mentioned in Annual Presidential Addressees in the United State and Russia



	US: State of the Union Addresses		Russia: Annual Addresses to the Federal Assembly	
	Islam, Islamic, Muslims	Key topics	Islam, Islamic, Muslims	Key topics
2004	0		0	
2005	0		0	
2006	2	Radical, violence, death	0	
2007	3	Radicals attacking Muslim houses of prayer and radical Islamic movements and	0	
2008	0		0	
2009	2	Iran Helping Muslim communities	0	
2010	2	Muslim communities Iran	0	
2011	1	Inclusion	0	
2012	1	Inclusion	0	
2013	0		0	
2014	0		1	Using as an analogy
2015	2	Terrorism Negative stereotypes	1	Emphasis on respect to all religions
2016	1	Prejudice against Islam		

**A Comparative Analysis of key words associated with the perpetrators
of the 2013 Boston Bombing based on a 2016 Google search**

Disruptions of the perpetrators of the 2013 Boston bombing	Google “hits” in English containing this word	Disruptions of the perpetrators of the 2013 Boston bombing	Google “hits” in Russian containing this word
Murderer/killer	11%	Убийца	58%
Jihadist	10%	Джихадист	0.3%
Terrorist	23%	Террорист	15%
Radical	16%	Радикал	9%
Islamist	24%	Исламист	5%
Criminal	24%	Преступник	27%
Mentally ill	11%	Психически больной	0.2%
Innocent	15%	Невиновен	1%

Project goals

to see how the media coverage of the terrorists acts used the words *Islam, Islamic, and Muslims* in describing the terrorists, their actions, their motivation, etc.

to compare the US and Russian media in the coverage of these events

Methodology. Content-analyses

2 media systems: Russian and American

The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
The Boston Globe
The Washington Post

Rossiyskaya Gazeta
Kommersant
Novaya Gazeta
Moskovsiy Komsomolets



Methodology

3584 articles about terrorists cases

Search query:

(Boston marathon and attack) or
tsarnaev

Orlando and Pulse

(Paris and terrorist) and (bataclan or
cafe or Stade de France)

Period:

From case to 30.09.2016

Three cases:

- 1.The Boston Marathon bombing
2. The Florida club attack
3. The Paris attack

Sample details

№	Newspaper	Country	Boston marathon	Orlando	Paris
1	The Boston Globe	USA	1141	53	14
2	The New York Times	USA	631	165	171
3	The Washington Post	USA	313	77	46
4	The Wall Street Journal	USA	439	76	64
5	Rossiyskaya Gazeta	Russia	16	7	83
6	Novaya Gazeta	Russia	8	3	52
7	Kommersant	Russia	18	3	63
8	Moskovskiy komsomolets	Russia	47	15	79

Sample of publications

Коммерсантъ

Вторник, 14 июня 2016 № 10378 (5853 с момента возобновления издания) | Коммерсантъ. FM 93,6 | Публикационный индекс 5

Америку расстреляли в упор

Бойня во Флориде может сказаться на исходе борьбы за кресло президента США

Крупнейшей в истории США массовой расстрел граждан, произошедший в гей-клубе города Орlando (штат Флорида), предельно обострил борьбу в преддверии выборов президента США в следующем году. Воротный распуло ближкский кандидат Доналд Трамп потребовал от главы Белого дома Барака Обамы и демократического протидеи Хиллари Клинтон признать бойню в Орlando актом радикального исламизма. В ином случае, по мнению сподвижника Трампа, первый должен будет подать в отставку, а вторая — выйти из предвыборной гонки. Президент Обамма призвала не делать поспешных выводов о возможных связях между радикальным терроризмом и исламизмом. Она заявила, что президент Обама призвала не делать поспешных выводов о возможных связях между радикальным терроризмом и исламизмом. Она заявила, что президент Обама призвала не делать поспешных выводов о возможных связях между радикальным терроризмом и исламизмом.

Исламский террорист или «исламский вождь»

Американский политик следит за развитием ситуации в Орlando, и он считает, что это может повлиять на выборы. Трамп обвинил Обамму в том, что она не сделала достаточно для предотвращения трагедии. Он призвал Обамму сделать больше, чтобы предотвратить подобные трагедии в будущем.

Трижды допрошен и ни разу не арестован

Новые подробности бойни в гей-клубе Florida Pulse, произошедшей в ночь на воскресенье, сообщил журналист Фрэнк Рифкин из Орlando-Лэкс Мага. Как следует из его записки, нападение было совершено незадолго до закрытия клуба, где в это время проходила вечеринка Latino Night. В момент атаки в клубе было более 200 человек.

Нападавший, который оказался 29-летним гражданином США Оскар Маттиа, был вооружен автоматической винтовкой AR-15

Президент США Барак Обама не обвинил радикального исламизма в нападении на гей-клуб в Орlando

Трагедия во Флориде стала самым массовым расстрелом граждан в американской истории. Как сообщил на пресс-конференции

Forty-nine Orlando deaths, 49 acts of kindness



KEITH BEDFORD/GLOBE STAFF

Crowds gathered for a vigil in Boston's City Hall Plaza after the mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

By Cristela Guerra

До сих пор истории убийства

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Orlando

Terrorism, ISIS

“The Muslim men who have carried out violent attacks in the United States since 9/11 have ranged from deeply religious to nominally so, or what Hughes calls “converts to ISIS, not Islam.” The Washington Post, 15.06.2016

“В ФБР также квалифицировали произошедшее как акт терроризма и изучают знакомства 29-летнего Матина на предмет связей с экстремистскими организациями” Rossiyskaya Gazeta, 14.06.2016

The theme of Muslim is one of the instrument for President election campaign

Mr. Trump, who tried to appropriate the moment to advance his argument that national security requires banning Muslims from entering the country and increasing surveillance of those, has never been shy about promoting factional grievance. The New York Times, 15.06.2016

В отличие от Барака Обамы республиканский претендент делает акцент именно на исламском факторе и требует в полной мере осознать проблему, связанную с иммигрантами. Дональд Трамп подверг президента резкой критике за отсутствие в его словах осуждения "радикального ислама". Kommersant , 14.06.2016

Religion aspect

“Muslims around the country have been targeted because of their faith“ The Boston Global 6 15.06.2016

"Omar explained the Muslim religion to me. He didn't go crazy into it. It was just some of the things his culture does, the food they eat. Nothing radical Islam at all." ' The Washington post 14.06.2016

Anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant rhetoric

“Hate crimes against American Muslims were up 78 percent over the course of 2015” The New York Times,

Great amount of research project in public sphere

Of 6,418 hate crime offenses that law enforcement agencies reported to the FBI in 2014, 1,092 were motivated by religious bias. About 58% of religion-bias crimes were anti-Jewish, while 16% were anti-Muslim and 6% were anti-Catholic. Wall Street Journal 20.06.2016

American Muslim community

American Muslim community was complicit in the attack and must have known of it in advance. He also renewed his call to ban all foreign Muslims -- a radical move that wouldn't have stopped the American-born Mateen and would in any case be almost impossible to enforce” The WS Journal, 18.06.2016

Research perspectives

Coding procedure:

- basic parameters of unit (title, reporter, release date, etc.);
- the image of Muslim;
- the image of islam, islamic;
- persons who were mentioned;
- geography of scene, countries and towns that were mentioned;
- symbols;
- the tone of the event;
- visualization;

Thank you for attention

Eric Shiraev
Sergey Samoilenko
Olga Logunova
Sergey Davydov