

Some Preliminary and Partial Findings on American Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans: Evidence from a 2024 US Survey

Mark Tessler, University of Michigan; Amnon Cavari, Reichman University, and Francy Luna Diaz, University of Michigan

Research Brief Published by the University of Michigan Center for Political Studies
October - 2025

Citation: Tessler, Mark, Amnon Cavari, and Francy Luna Diaz. 2025. "Some Findings about the Nature and Distribution of American Stereotypes About Americans: Evidence from a 2024 US Survey." Research Brief. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Center for Political Studies.

Summary

The **Survey on the Nature and Distribution of American Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans**, carried out in 2024, measures the nature, extent and distribution of stereotypes about each of the three groups. The stereotypes on which survey questions are based have been taken from previous studies of antisemitism, Islamophobia and racism.

The broad goals of the survey and analyses of the data are:

- to map the dimensional structure of prevailing stereotypes about each group
- to map the distribution of these stereotypes across important population categories
- to explore the relationships between stereotypes of different religious or ethnic groups,
- to test hypotheses about probable determinants of various stereotypes.

The survey also includes questions about US foreign policy and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These questions will be analyzed in a separate paper, although the present study will give attention to possible relationships between stereotypes and foreign policy attitudes.

This paper considers the two negative stereotypes about each group that the survey examined. The survey also included questions about positive stereotypes and characterizations of each group.

Some Preliminary and Partial Findings on American Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans: Evidence from a 2024 US Survey

The first set of charts presents responses to three sets of questions, each examining two negative stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans, respectively. ***The degree of agreement with these stereotypes is not the same for the three groups.***

The second set of charts compares the responses pertaining to stereotypes among individuals with differing levels of education. ***These charts show that there are notable differences associated with education, with reported higher levels of prejudice among lower education groups.***

Finally, ***when examining the correlation of stereotypes, using one negative stereotype for each group, we find a positive and statistically significant relationship between them: Stronger between racism and the other two groups, antisemitism and Islamophobia, and weaker between the latter two groups.***

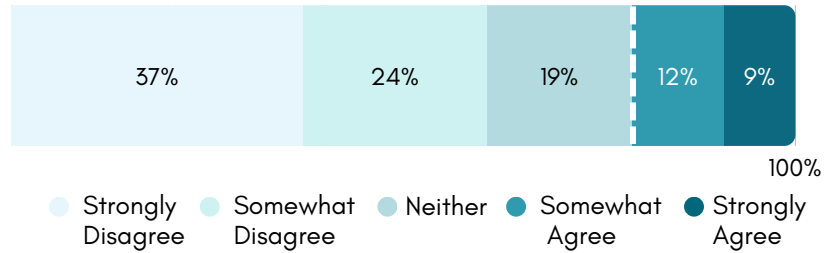
As noted, the survey included additional questions about negative and positive stereotypes. No single question is representative of all of the questions asked about each group. Sampling limitations suggest that univariate distributions cannot be generalized to the US population with full confidence. By contrast, patterns based on variable relationships are likely to possess more external validity.



Americans' Agreement with Negative Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans

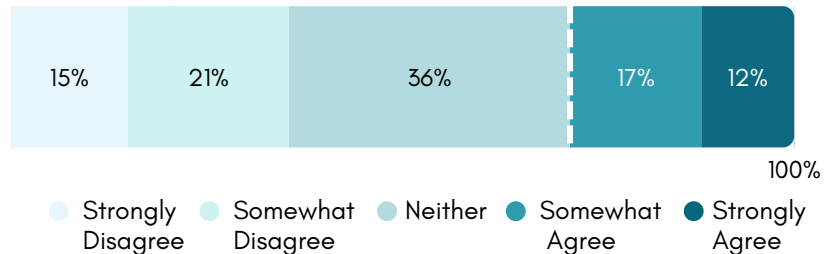
"Jewish People Don't Care about What Happens to Anyone but their Own Kind"

Responses are very significantly skewed toward 'strongly disagree.'



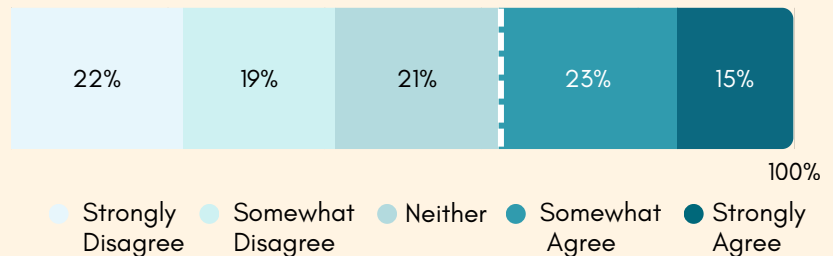
"Jewish People in the U.S. are More Loyal to Israel than to the U.S."

Responses are significantly skewed away from both strong agreement and strong disagreement, with 'neither' being the modal response.



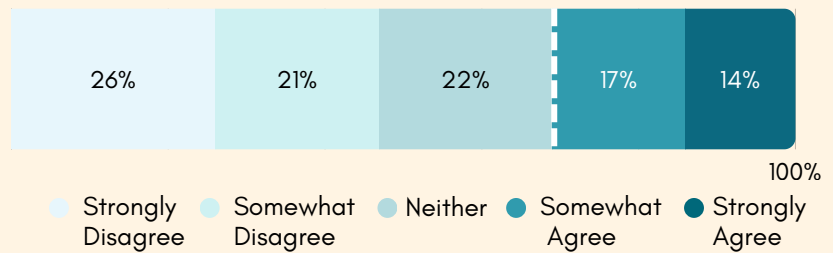
"Many Muslims in the US Want to Impose Muslim Law in the Communities in which they Live"

Responses are distributed relatively evenly, except that fewer strongly agree.



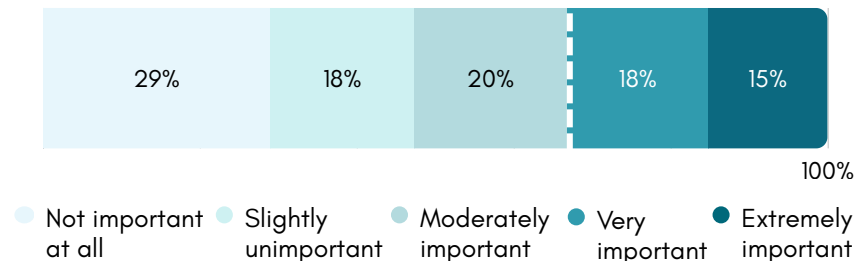
"Islam Teaches Hatred and Violence toward those who are Not Muslim"

Responses are significantly skewed toward 'strongly disagree.'



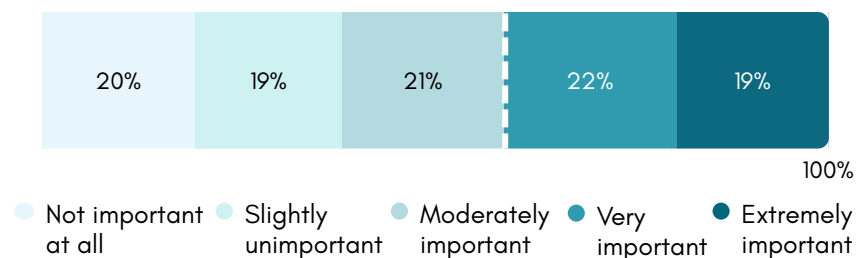
"The Following is an Important Reason that, on Average, Black Americans Have Lower Incomes, Worse Jobs, and Worse Housing than White Americans: Lack of Hard Work"

'Not important at all' is the modal response, and 'extremely important' is the least common response.



"The Following is an Important Reason that, on Average, Black Americans Have Lower Incomes, Worse Jobs, and Worse Housing than White Americans: Poor Spending Habits"

Although 'very important' is the modal response, all response options were selected approximately equally frequently.

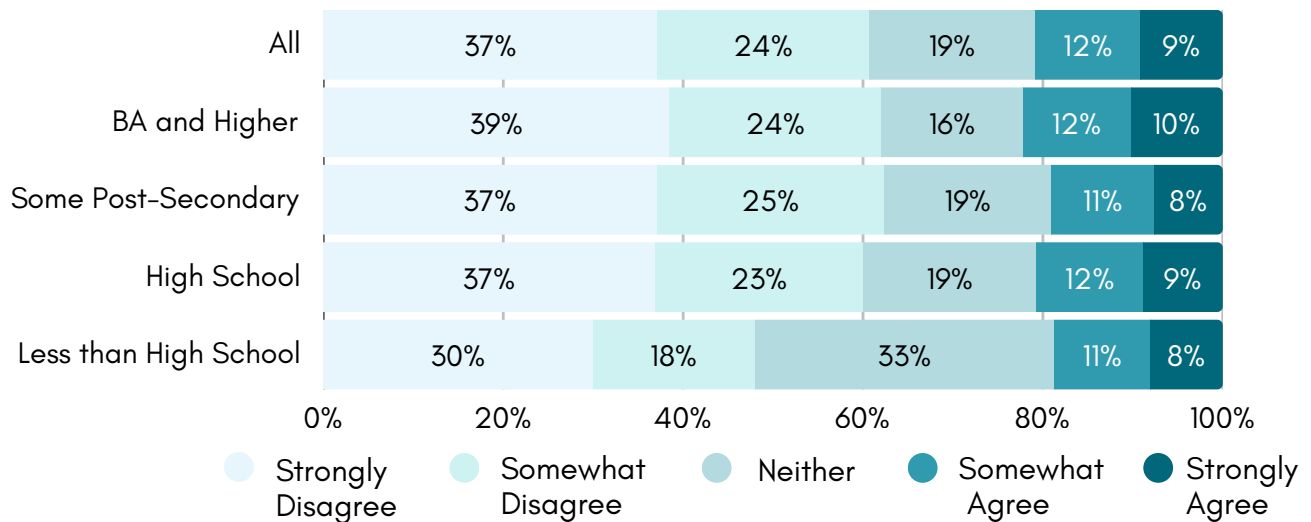


SOURCE: Survey on the Nature and Distribution of American Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans, 2024. N=2,342. Demographic variables and quotas based on the most recent US Census were used to select respondents. The respondents do not constitute a probability-based, fully nationally representative sample, so univariate distributions cannot be generalized to the US population with full confidence.

Americans' Agreement with Negative Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans: By Education

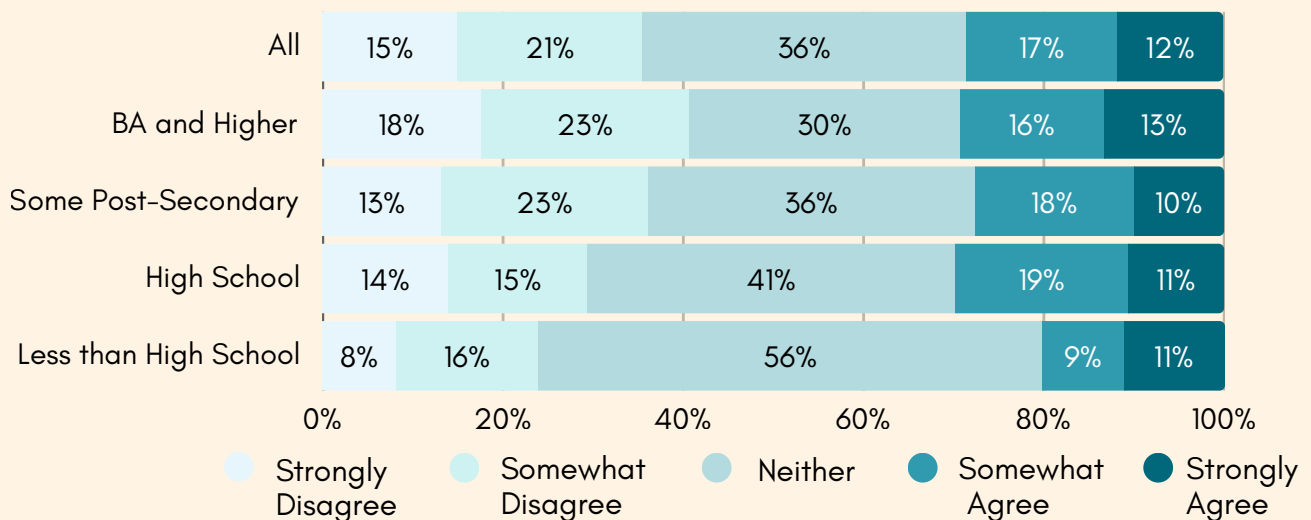
“Jewish People Don’t Care about What Happens to Anyone but their Own Kind”

Responses are evenly distributed across education groups, except that the lowest education group has weakest objection to the stereotype.



“Jewish People in the U.S. are More Loyal to Israel than to the U.S.”

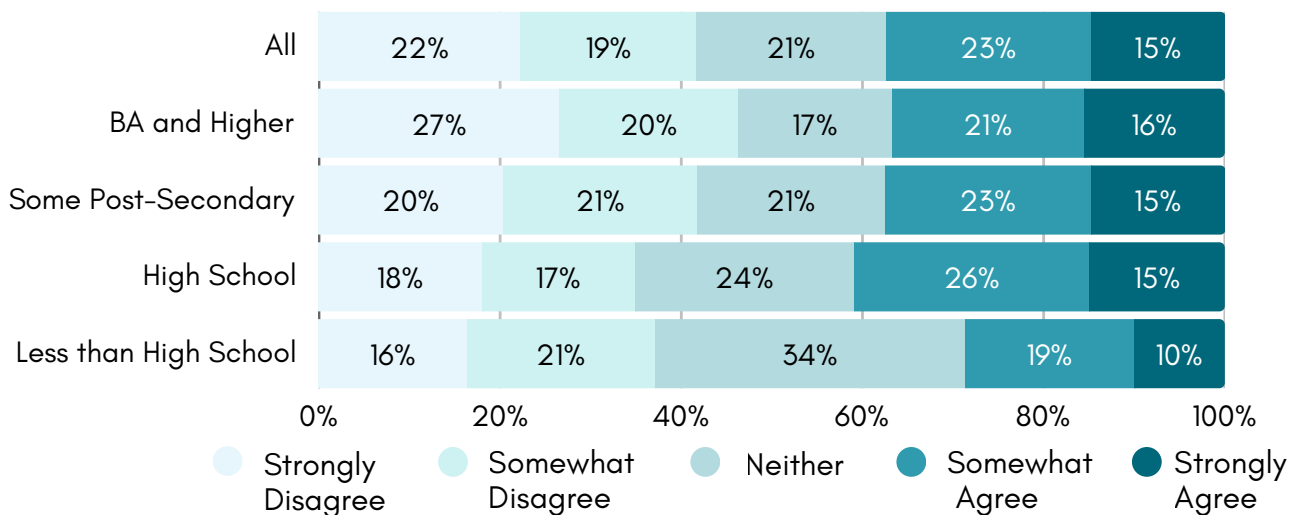
Both the 'strongly disagree' and the 'somewhat disagree' responses increase with education. The 'neither' response decreases with education.



Americans' Agreement with Negative Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans: By Education

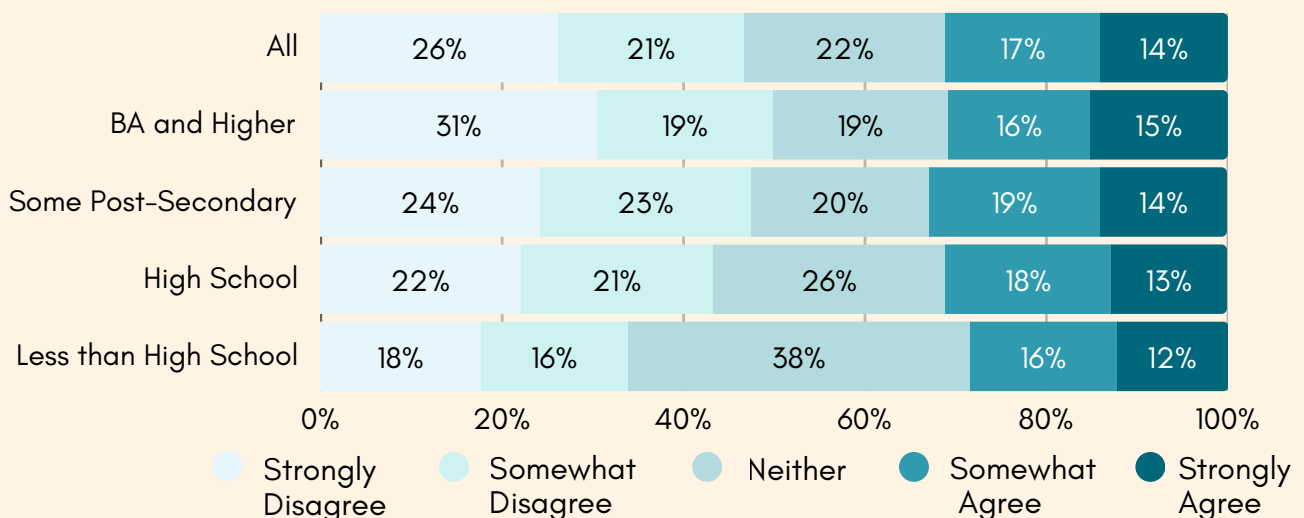
“Many Muslims in the US Want to Impose Muslim Law in the Communities in which they Live”

The frequency of the ‘strongly disagree’ response increases with education. The frequency of the ‘neither’ response decreases with education.



“Islam Teaches Hatred and Violence toward those who are Not Muslim”

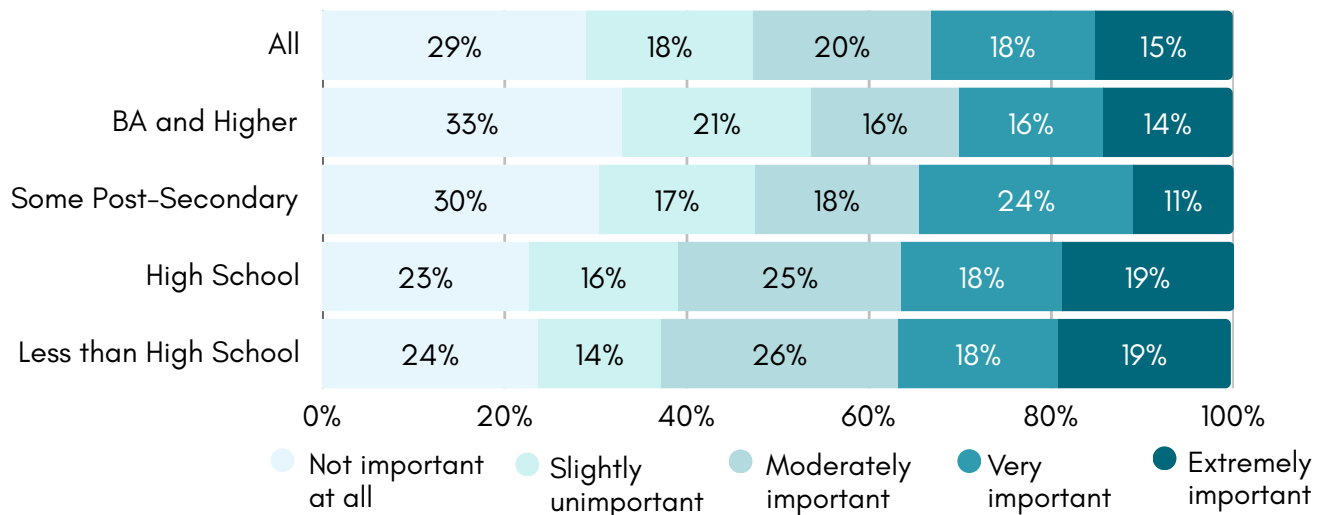
The frequency of the ‘strongly disagree’ responses increases with education and the frequency of the ‘neither’ response decreases with education.



Americans' Agreement with Negative Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans: By Education

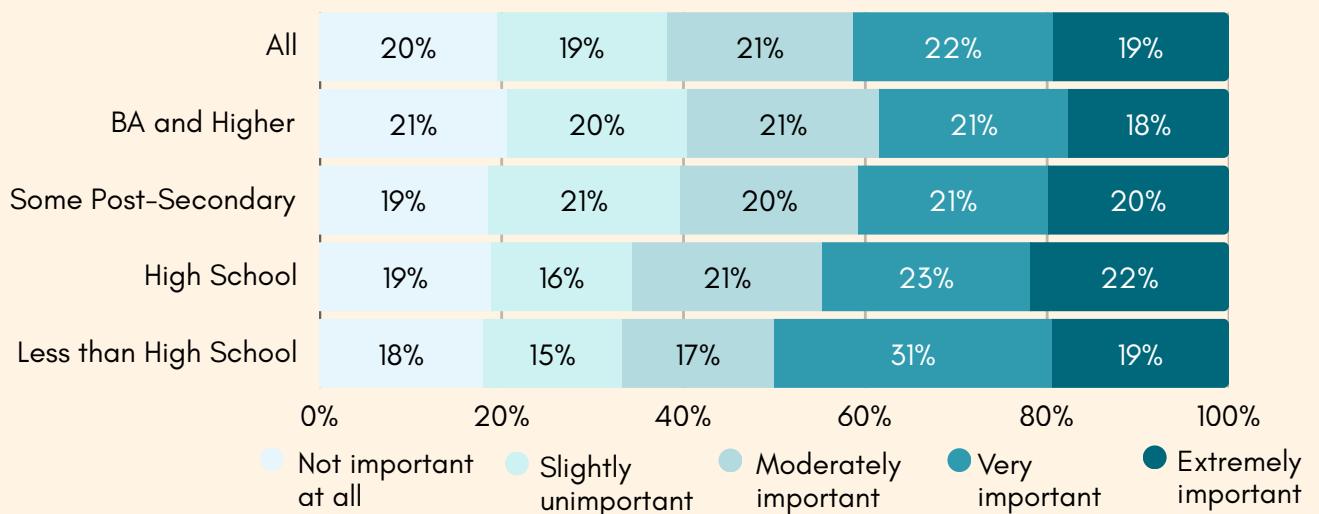
“The Following is an Important Reason that, on Average, Black Americans Have Lower Incomes, Worse Jobs, and Worse Housing than White Americans: Lack of Hard Work”

Responses are overall skewed toward ‘not important at all’ and ‘slightly unimportant,’ both of which increase with education.



“The Following is an Important Reason that, on Average, Black Americans Have Lower Incomes, Worse Jobs, and Worse Housing than White Americans: Poor Spending Habits”

The frequency of ‘very important’ and ‘extremely important’ decreases with higher levels of education.



SOURCE: Survey on the Nature and Distribution of American Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans, 2024. N=2,342. Demographic variables and quotas based on the most recent US Census were used to select respondents. The respondents do not constitute a probability-based, fully nationally representative sample, so univariate distributions cannot be generalized to the US population with full confidence.

Some Preliminary and Partial Findings on American Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans: Evidence from a 2024 US Survey

Correlation of Attitudes Affirming Stereotypes about Jewish, Muslim, and Black Americans

	Antisemitism	Islamophobia	Racism	Measures are based on agreement with the following stereotypes: Antisemitism: Jewish people don't care what happens to anyone but their own kind Islamophobia: Islam teaches hatred and violence toward those who are not Muslim Racism: Lack of hard work is an important reason that, on average, black Americans have lower incomes, worse jobs, and worse housing than white Americans
Antisemitism	1			
Islamophobia	0.15	1		
Racism	0.23	0.25	1	

Is the embrace of stereotypes pertaining to one group a valid predictor of the embrace of stereotypes about other groups? The matrix suggests the answer is yes: There is a statistically significant correlation among any combination of answers affirming the stereotypes described, with less than a 1% chance that these beliefs are unrelated. But while racism is closely correlated with antisemitism and Islamophobia, the latter two are more weakly correlated. (The matrix is based on a standardized measure of the three stereotypes, recalculated to -1 for somewhat/strongly disagree, 0 for neither, and 1 for somewhat/strongly agree).

About the Survey

Mark Tessler, Amnon Cavari, and Francy Luna Diaz designed and carried out this survey of adult Americans in the spring and summer of 2024. Tessler is a professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan; Cavari is associate professor of Political Science at Reichman University in Israel; Luna Diaz is an advanced doctoral student in Political Science at the University of Michigan.

The survey was supported by a small grant from the Institute for Liberty and Responsibility at Reichman University and carried out by Dynata, a market research company specializing in first-party data collection. Dynata implemented the survey between August and September 2024 and delivered a dataset with 2,342 respondents. Demographic variables and quotas based on the most recent US census were used to select respondents. Since the respondents do not constitute a probability-based and nationally representative sample, univariate distributions cannot be generalized to the US population with full confidence.