Anti-Americanism and the Clash of Civilizations

Abstract:
This paper explores the connections between the theme of anti-Americanism and the ‘clash of civilizations’ thesis. In addressing the resurgence of ‘civilization’ talk and ‘civilization consciousness’ in recent years I suggest that it betrays a heightened sense of ‘Americanness’ in the United States. The American claims on behalf of civilization express both a heightened awareness of American nationalism based on ideas of American exceptionalism and an insistence on the universal applicability of those claims. Anti-Americanism is in part a reaction to these claims. The conclusion reached is that Samuel Huntington was correct to see cultural conflict as a prime source of global conflict even if some of the conclusions he drew from his analysis were wrong. The aim of this paper is to rescue a cultural interpretation of global conflict from those who have attacked it and those who have most forcefully advocated it.

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David Ellwood defines anti-Americanism as a cultural and political phenomenon which we can understand only by being familiar with its history, studying the evolution of all forms of antagonism toward the nation, people, civilization and the actions taken by United States of America. Meanwhile, for Fatos Tarifa, anti-Americanism is a negative predisposition, or. First, the actual content of anti-Americanism is basically nonsense. I guarantee you that if anyone capable of reading this blog got to sit down for an hour and chat with Bush, Cheney, or any of their henchmen, they would come away with an impression of an enormously likable, intelligent and utterly sincere individual. Because not even the Soviets could convince their own citizens that Russia was the center of civilization. Not even the dumbest muzhik from Okhotsk would swallow this one. Anti-Americans have no idea that they are in fact serving the needs and wishes of the Blue Empire. But then again, why would they? The Blue Empire’s bitter enemy is the Red Empire, whose headquarters is in Arlington and (for the moment) Pennsylvania Avenue. Anti-Americanism (also called Anti-American sentiment, and Americanophobia)[1] is a sentiment that espouses a dislike of or opposition to the American government or its policies, especially in regards to its foreign policy, or to Americans in general.[2], Political scientist Brendon O’Connor of the United States Studies Centre suggests that “anti-Americanism” cannot be isolated as a consistent phenomenon, since the term originated as a rough composite of stereotypes, prejudices, and criticisms evolving to more politically-based criticism. French scholar Marie-France Toinet says Anti-Americanism was certainly not the primary cause of France’s initial decision to refuse
to give a blank check to U.S. foreign policy in Iraq. Viewing the invasion of Iraq as a major error is not a reection of a prejudicial bias against the United States. In most other European countries public opinion was deeply opposed to the American war in Iraq, and their media was as outraged at the United States as was France’s. Anti-Americanism is in part a reaction to these claims. The conclusion reached is that Samuel Huntington was correct to see cultural conflict as a prime source of global conflict even if some of the conclusions he drew from his analysis were wrong. The aim of this paper is to rescue a cultural interpretation of global conflict from those who have attacked it and those who have most forcefully advocated it. Description: The University Archives has determined that this item is of continuing value to OSU’s history. Contents: web page announcement, flier, working paper, photo.