

Section #5

Emotions

March 2, 2023

Essays

Tips for the next one

- *Sources*: be cautious of tertiary sources, state-owned media, & (sometimes) the top result on Google Scholar
- *Evidence*: ask yourself about alternative interpretations & whether the quote truly relates to your main point
- *Writing*: check for typos, informality, & passive voice



Emotions are *subjective experiences of physiological changes*, whose meanings can be cognitively and socially constructed.

Appraisal tendency framework

A model of emotional structure

- Hypothesis: “emotions predispose individuals to appraise the environment in specific ways toward similar functional ends” (Lerner et al. 2015, 805)

Cognitive appraisal dimensions	Illustrations: negative emotions		Illustrations: positive emotions	
	Anger	Fear	Pride	Surprise
Certainty	High	Low	High	Low
Pleasantness	Low	Low	High	High
Attentional activity	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
Anticipated effort	High	High	Low	Low
Individual control	High	Low	High	Medium
Others' responsibility	High	Medium	Low	High
Appraisal tendency	Perceive negative events as predictable, under human control, and brought about by others	Perceive negative events as unpredictable and under situational control	Perceive positive events as brought about by self	Perceive positive events as unpredictable and brought about by others
Influence on relevant outcome	Influence on risk perception		Influence on attribution	
	Perceive low risk	Perceive high risk	Perceive self as responsible	Perceive others as responsible

Why do emotions “matter” to IR?

- Communicative value in face-to-face diplomacy (Wong 2016)
- Emotionally-imbued choice model (Lerner et al. 2015)



Fear

**“An unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger”
(Merriam-Webster)**

2 dimensions of intergroup relations

		Behavioral	
		Violent	Nonviolent
Attitudinal	Polarized	Civil war	Contentious
	Not polarized	Banditry?	Stable

The Rwandan genocide

Background

- Belgian colonial rule (1922–62) empowered Tutsi minority
- Rwandan independence (1962) led to Hutu majority republic
- Attempts to return by Tutsi in exile
- 1990: Rwandan civil war begins
- 1994: Hutu hardliners come to power after Habyarimana's assassination —> throw out peace deal & initiate genocide
- In 100 days, hundreds of thousands killed —> ended when Tutsi army defeated the Hutu government



Image: world atlas

Why did Rwandan society polarize?

Exploring McDoom's 4 psychosocial mechanisms

1. Boundary activation
 2. Outgroup negativity
 3. Outgroup homogenization
 4. Ingroup cohesion
- Summarize the mechanism & its relationship to fear
 - Then, relate back the results from McDoom's hypothesis testing
 - Assess which pieces of evidence you found most & least convincing