

Personality explanations of intergroup conflict

2 **Authoritarian personality theory (5)**

- Adorno came out a Freudian argument that certain people are prejudiced against all minorities. This is because they have an **authoritarian personality**

Characteristics involved in an authoritarian personality

1. **Respect for and deference to authority**
 2. **Obsession with rank and status**
 3. **Intolerance of ambiguity and uncertainty**
 4. **Problems with achieving intimacy**
 5. **Tendency to displace anger resentment about their own circumstances onto weaker ones**
- Adorno argues that these people have **parents** who use harsh disciplinary practices to secure obedience. The result of this is mixed feelings. People grow up both hating and loving their parents.
 - Because of guilt about the negative feelings and fear of expressing these negative feelings, people don't feel as though they can articulate their hatred toward their parents, and so it is displaced onto weaker others/scapegoats.

Evidence for authoritarian personality explanation of prejudice

2000 Californians filled in an authoritarian personality questionnaire, and some responded to projective tests and were interviewed about their childhood. The authoritarian personality was associated with scores on a range of scales including

1. **Anti-semitism**
2. **Ethnocentrism**
3. **Political and economic conservatism**
4. **Potential for fascism**

3 Three problems with this theory

1. **Data are not entirely reliable**
- The data is not totally objective. Researchers might be motivated to find data that support the theory.

2. **Freudian underpinnings hard to pin down**
3. **Theory doesn't naturally lead to interventions. It is not clear how you can change someone's personality.**

Group-based theories of intergroup conflicts

1. **4Frustration aggression theory (3)**

- Berkowitz argued that aggression, both interpersonal and intergroup, is caused by feelings of **frustration**

Range of events that can cause by frustration

1. **Heat**

Ex: there is pattern that most riots happened in summer

2. **Overcrowding**

Ex: there is a link between prison population and the riots

3. **Economic hardship**

Experiment: Hovland and Sears examined the number of lynchings of Black men in 14 Southern states of US and correlated it with an index of economic prosperity in the South, the price of cotton. Consistent with frustration-aggression principles, they found a strong negative correlation ($r = 0.72$) between the price of cotton and the number of lynchings. As the price of cotton dropped, people felt less prosperous, number of lynchings went up.

2. **5Relative deprivation theory (3)**

- Others argued that maybe frustration is what caused aggression but the primary cause of frustration is not necessarily the actual circumstances of people but the **relative deprivation**.

Two types of relative deprivation

a. **Egoistic relative deprivation**

- Refers to one's sense that **you** have less than you are entitled to relative to your own aspirations or relative to what to other individuals have

b. **Fraternalistic relative deprivation**

- Refers to the sense that **your group** has less than it's entitled to relative to its

aspirations or relative to what other groups have.

The J-curve

- The greatest unrest occurs when there is a **dip in** fortunes after a long period of steady improvement. People's expectations keep on climbing up and feel that they are entitled to a lot and when things start to go backward, people feel frustrated.