

CIVIL UNREST IN FRANCE: LACKING TRUST IN THE SYSTEM?

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In 2005, riots spread throughout urban peripheries of large French cities known as *banlieues*. Once the flames of burning cars and the smoke of teargas dissipated, experts began to question the causes that brought France into a state of emergency. The term *banlieue* describes suburb tower housing post-World War II built around the periphery of French cities. The term has become synonymous with crime, drugs, unemployment, and urban deprivation (Haddad and Balz 2006; Body-Gendrot 2010). The root of problems in the *banlieues* are being predominantly placed on immigrant families who choose not to assimilate into mainstream French 'identity' (Body-Gendrot 2010; Snow et al. 2007). The original question of this research was to discover the causes of civil unrest in the *banlieues* of France. Upon preliminary literature findings, ethnic groups and lack of trust in police, courts, and government has shown to be possible causes of the unrest, but has not been tested. Therefore this project tested two quantitative measurements to determine if there is or is not a significance between trust in police, courts, and government and an individual's ethnicity.

Hypothesis: There is a relationship between an ethnic group and their trust in police, courts, and government, with levels of trust being lower for Arabic and Black ethnic groups.
Null Hypothesis: There is no relationship between an ethnic group and their trust in police, courts, and government.

Data for quantitative testing comes from the 2005 World Values Survey questions V256, V136, V137, and V138 for France.

Results from the cross-tabulation test showed a significance when it came to ethnic groups and trust in police, courts, and government respectfully. However, the difference in means testing resulted in failing to reject the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between certain ethnic groups and their trust in police, courts, and government. Causes for this could be linked to the high number of individuals in the World Values Survey who responded as being White. This could have skewed results that led to different conclusions from literature findings. Equally, the location of individuals was not disclosed, meaning results could be different based on the geographical location of the respondents (i.e. urban vs. rural or inner-city vs. boroughs). With this in mind, future research should be conducted using a data set that takes these matters into consideration. Along with this, an infirming case study could benefit results in conveying information lacking in a quantitative study.

Figure 1. Tabulation of Ethnicity Responses

Ethnic group	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Asian - Central (Arabic)	37	3.71	3.71
Asian - East (Chinese, Japanese)	8	0.80	4.51
Asian - South (Indian, Hindu, Pakistani)	1	0.10	4.61
Black-Other / Black	24	2.40	7.01
White / Caucasian White	927	92.89	99.90
Mixed races	1	0.10	100.00
Total	998	100.00	

Figure 2. Cross Tabulation of Confidence in the Police and Ethnic Group

Confidence: The Police	Ethnic group						Total
	Asian - C	Asian - E	Asian - S	Black-Oth	White / C	Mixed rac	
A great deal	8 21.62	2 25.00	1 100.00	5 21.74	129 13.96	0 0.00	145 14.59
Quite a lot	15 40.54	1 12.50	0 0.00	6 26.09	540 58.44	1 100.00	563 56.64
Not very much	9 24.32	3 37.50	0 0.00	7 30.43	167 18.07	0 0.00	186 18.71
None at all	5 13.51	2 25.00	0 0.00	5 21.74	88 9.52	0 0.00	100 10.06
Total	37 100.00	8 100.00	1 100.00	23 100.00	924 100.00	1 100.00	994 100.00

Pearson chi2(15) = 27.9088 Pr = 0.022

In Figure 2, we can see that the majority of Arab, Black, and White respondents said they had "quite a lot" of trust in the police. This cross tabulation shows a difference in trust in police for Arab and Black individuals compared to White individuals. The chi-squared statistics is greater than a 95% confidence interval of 25 and therefore the null hypothesis of no relationship must be rejected. However, a higher proportion of Arabs and Blacks also had no trust in the police whatsoever.

Figure 3. Cross Tabulation of Confidence in Justice System and Ethnic Group

Confidence: Justice System	Ethnic group						Total
	Asian - C	Asian - E	Asian - S	Black-Oth	White / C	Mixed rac	
A great deal	4 10.81	3 37.50	1 100.00	5 20.83	29 3.15	0 0.00	42 4.23
Quite a lot	13 35.14	3 37.50	0 0.00	2 8.33	338 36.70	1 100.00	357 35.99
Not very much	11 29.73	2 25.00	0 0.00	7 29.17	346 37.57	0 0.00	366 36.90
None at all	9 24.32	0 0.00	0 0.00	10 41.67	208 22.58	0 0.00	227 22.88
Total	37 100.00	8 100.00	1 100.00	24 100.00	921 100.00	1 100.00	992 100.00

Pearson chi2(15) = 79.4349 Pr = 0.000

When it comes to trust in the court system, as seen in Figure 3, 41.67% of Black individuals said they do not trust the courts at all, compared to Arab, of which 24.32% did not trust the court at all, and White of which 22.58% responded to "not at all." When it came to trusting the court system, the response "a great deal" was lower across all ethnic groups (with the exception of South Asian, because there was one respondent in this group). The majority of Blacks trust the court system either "not very much" or "none at all." The chi-squared statistic of 79.4349 is significantly higher than the 95% confidence interval of 25, meaning that the null hypothesis must be rejected. The strong significance could be due in part to the low level of trust (i.e. "not at all") in courts for Blacks when compared to Whites and Arabs.

Figure 4. Cross Tabulations of Confidence in Government and Ethnic Group

Confidence: The Government	Ethnic group						Total
	Asian - C	Asian - E	Asian - S	Black-Oth	White / C	Mixed rac	
A great deal	6 16.22	2 25.00	0 0.00	3 12.50	17 1.85	0 0.00	28 2.83
Quite a lot	10 27.03	3 37.50	0 0.00	5 20.83	241 26.20	0 0.00	259 26.14
Not very much	14 37.84	2 25.00	1 100.00	9 37.50	368 40.00	1 100.00	395 39.86
None at all	7 18.92	1 12.50	0 0.00	7 29.17	294 31.96	0 0.00	309 31.18
Total	37 100.00	8 100.00	1 100.00	24 100.00	920 100.00	1 100.00	991 100.00

Pearson chi2(15) = 55.5577 Pr = 0.000

As seen in Figure 4, responses of trust for the government, Whites were much more likely to distrust the government when compared to other ethnic groups. For all ethnic groups combined, 39.18% of them said "not very much" and 31.18% said "none at all" for trust in government.