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Research Article

Albanian Public Opinion on US Role in the Israel-Gaza Conflict

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Abstract

Against the Israel-Gaza conflict and the United States' involvement, this study explores the complex dynamics of Albanian public opinion regarding these geopolitical events. Through a systematic examination of demographic variables including gender, age, educational attainment, and religious belief, the research aims to elucidate how these variables shape perceptions and attitudes among the Albanian populace. The objectives encompass assessing knowledge levels regarding the US role in the conflict, evaluating public opinion on this role, and examining pro/anti-American sentiments. Hypotheses are formulated to substantiate the influence of demographic factors on these perceptions. Employing structured questionnaires and statistical analysis, data was collected from Albanian citizens, revealing intriguing insights. While age emerges as a significant determinant of understanding and assessment, gender and religious faith notably influence pro/anti-American sentiments. The study underscores the intricate interplay between demographic factors and public perceptions, shedding light on the multifaceted dynamics shaping attitudes toward international affairs and the USA in Albania. These findings hold implications for policy-making, public discourse, and future research on global conflicts and public opinion.

Keywords: United States, Israel-Gaza Conflict, Perceptions, Public Opinion, Demographic Factors

1. Introduction

The Israel-Gaza conflict is a protracted and intricate issue centered on the governance of Gaza, which is presently under the control of Hamas, an Islamist organization. Hamas gained authority subsequent to its electoral triumph in 2006 and the subsequent seizure of control from the Fatah movement in 2007. This transition in power has been a catalyst for recurrent conflicts between Gaza and Israel, partly due to Israel's implementation of a blockade aimed at isolating Hamas and thwarting attacks, notably the launch of rockets into Israeli territory. Palestinians in Gaza argue that Israel's responses, including airstrikes and restrictions, amount to collective punishment.

The recent escalation of tensions unfolded when Hamas launched an attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, sparking concerns across the globe. The U.S. government, up until now, has

consistently upheld its backing for Israel's legitimate need to protect itself, dispatching military equipment, naval vessels and high-ranking officials to the region (Congressional Research Service, 2024), as a manifestation of support and deterrence against the expansion of the conflict beyond Israel and Gaza. In fact, over decades, Israel has consistently ranked as the foremost beneficiary of US foreign aid (Congressional Research Service, 2023).

However, while the United States' longstanding support for Israel remains unchanged, a growing sense of concern is permeating American public opinion, fueled by reports and images depicting the toll of the conflict, including civilian casualties and the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the Gaza Strip. Despite this, experts are skeptical that any shifts in public sentiment within the US toward Israel and the Palestinian territories will significantly alter the ongoing course of the conflict (Telhami, 2023; Council on Foreign Relations, 2023).

Recent polls indicate a notable shift in attitudes, particularly among younger age groups such as 18-24 and 24-35, where unwavering support for Israel has declined (Pew Research Center, 2023; YouGov Poll, 2023; Ipsos, 2023; Haines, 2023; Times of Israel, 2024; Jones, 2024). While bipartisan support for Israel persists, the evolving attitudes of the American public regarding the United States' role in the conflict are sparking new discussions (See: Lange & Spetalnick, 2023).

Indeed, examining the United States' role in the Israel-Gaza conflict is crucial for understanding international dynamics, given the superpower's significant influence on the global stage. Additionally, our decision to investigate Albanians' perceptions of the USA's role in this conflict stems from the robust relationship between Albania and the United States. This relationship is characterized by historical ties, mutual interests, and shared values, highlighting the significance of understanding Albanian attitudes towards international conflicts involving the US. This relationship is characterized by a strategic bilateral partnership across various areas of mutual interest. The United States has consistently backed Albania's advancements in security, democracy, rule of law, and justice reform, as well as its aspirations for European integration. Historically, both nations have cooperated closely on the international stage, particularly through joint commitments within NATO, including contributions to various international missions (Republic of Albania, Ministry of Defence). This partnership holds substantial strategic importance, with the potential to continue shaping regional and global developments for years to come (Mission of the Republic of Albania to the European Union; Shqiptarja.com, 2022; Tirana Diplomat, 2023).

On the other hand, the unwavering pro-American sentiment among Albanians is indisputable (Koha, 2021; Lajme.al., 2022; Gazeta Express, 2024), attributed to factors such as realpolitik, national interests, and historical ties. Regardless of any perceived missteps or challenges faced by the United States, Albanians view supporting America as a national duty. Strong identification with the Western world and a belief in steadfast alliances are central to this attitude, elucidating the Albanian government's clear stance on the Israel-Hamas conflict. Indeed, the Albanian government maintains robust support for Israel's right to self-defense, aligning with international humanitarian law (Office of the Prime Minister, 2023; Rama, 2023; Mehmeti, 2023; Luxner, 2023; Dauti, 2023; Gjinishi, 2023; Ajvazi, 2023). Furthermore, the Albanian government has expressed concern over the destruction and loss of life in Gaza.

However, the interest in this study lies in understanding how Albanian public opinion perceives this role and the extent of their knowledge about it. Building upon these core research inquiries, this study endeavors to explore the demographic factors influencing Albanian public opinion regarding the Israel-Gaza conflict and the stance taken by the United States. By scrutinizing demographic factors including gender, age, education, and religious beliefs, the research aims to uncover detailed insights into how these factors shape perceptions and attitudes among the Albanian populace.

1.1   Objectives and hypotheses

To achieve the above-mentioned aim, this research is guided by the subsequent objectives:
- To assess the knowledge level among Albanian respondents regarding the role of the U.S. in the Israel-Gaza conflict, considering demographic factors including gender, age, education,

and religious belief.
- To evaluate Albanian public opinion on the assessment of the U.S. role in the Israel-Gaza conflict, considering variations across demographic groups.
- To examine the influence of demographic variables (gender, age, education, and religious belief) on pro/anti-American sentiments within the Albanian population, particularly in the context of the Israel-Gaza conflict.
- To identify any significant correlations or relationships between demographic characteristics and perceptions of the U.S. role in the Israel-Gaza conflict among Albanian respondents.
- To provide insights based on the findings to inform policy-making, public discourse, and future research on the topic of international conflicts and public opinion in Albania.

The hypotheses raised and aimed to be substantiated by this study are:

H.1 Gender, age, education, and religious belief, influence the knowledge of the Albanian public regarding the role of the U.S. in the Israel-Gaza conflict.

H.2 Gender, age, education, and religious belief, impact Albanian public opinion on the assessment of the U.S. role in the Israel-Gaza conflict.

H.3 Gender, age, education, and religious belief, influence Albanian public opinion on pro/anti-American sentiments.

1.2 Significance of the study

This study holds significant importance as it endeavors to shed light on the complexities of Albanian public opinion regarding the Israel-Gaza conflict and the role of the United States within this context. By systematically analyzing demographic factors, the research aims to uncover nuanced insights into how these variables influence knowledge, assessments, and sentiments among Albanian individuals. Understanding these dynamics is crucial not only for academia but also for informing policy-making, facilitating informed public discourse, and guiding future research endeavors. Furthermore, through the identification of patterns and variations in public opinion among diverse demographic groups, this study enhances our comprehension of international conflicts and their influence on public sentiment in Albania. Ultimately, the insights derived from this research hold the potential to guide diplomatic initiatives and cultivate a more holistic understanding of global conflicts within the context of Albania.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Understanding Public Opinion and Policy Decisions

The literature highlights the vital need for policymakers to assess and respond to public perception, given its significant impact on governance and diplomatic relations. Walgrave and Soontjens (2023) highlight the significant influence of public opinion on policy decisions, while Walgrave, Soontjens, and Sevenans (2022) elaborate on its pervasive impact on agendas and communication strategies. Davison's contribution to the Encyclopedia Britannica (2024) extends this discussion to emphasize the diplomatic ramifications of a nation's global public opinion standing. Additionally, the examination of public opinion in the American Government, by W. W. Norton & Company (2019) delves into the intricate interplay between public attitudes and policy formulation.

2.2 Global Perceptions of U.S Role in International Affairs

Surveying global perceptions of the United States' role in international affairs provides crucial insights into how the country and its foreign policy are viewed on the world stage. Wike et al. (Pew Research Center, 2023) present survey results indicating a mixed view on whether the U.S. considers

other countries' interests, with skepticism in Europe and split opinions in Japan, Mexico, and the UK. Additionally, the majority of respondents across 23 countries believe the U.S. significantly interferes in other nations' affairs, with particularly high percentages in various countries. Conversely, there is widespread belief in the U.S.' positive influence on global peace and stability, notably in Poland, but skepticism is more prevalent in Europe, particularly in Hungary and Greece. Age differences also exist in perceptions of U.S. contributions to peace.

Meanwhile, Kertzer (2021) discusses the challenges scholars face in studying public opinion on foreign policy, often relying on secondary data sources such as polls from Gallup or Pew. According to Gallup's survey (March 3, 2023), as reported by Jones (2023), reveals a decline in Americans preferring a leading or major U.S. role in global affairs, with partisan differences and divided satisfaction levels with the U.S. position in the world. Meanwhile, Dumani and Tomja (2024) highlight a significant transformation in American public opinion towards global engagement, emphasizing the challenges policymakers encounter in balancing domestic priorities with international involvement. Despite these challenges, the enduring relevance of American global engagement in navigating shifting alliances and global problems remains apparent.

2.3 Public Perceptions of the American position on the Israeli-Palestinian Issue

The American approach to the Israeli-Palestinian issue encompasses conflict management, resolution, and mediation, taking into account strategic interests and the unique bond with Israel. Scholars and experts have explored how public attitudes in the United States are influenced by ongoing events in the Israel-Gaza conflict. Shibley Telhami (2023) raises doubts about whether changes in US public opinion towards Israel and Palestine significantly impact the trajectory of the conflict. Telhami's subsequent work (2024) provides insights from a University of Maryland poll, indicating that perceptions of Israeli actions vary among Americans, with differences notably across political affiliations. For instance, Democrats and independents tend to believe Israel has gone too far in Gaza, while Republicans often view Israel's actions as self-defense.

Gallup's polling data (January 5, 2024) demonstrates partisan divisions in perceptions of US support for Israel and Palestine. Democrats and independents see excessive U.S. support for Israel, while Republicans view support for Palestinians as insufficient. Similarly, Haines (2023) and Marist National Poll (2023) highlight generational and racial divides in US support for Israel during the Israel-Hamas conflict, with younger Americans and certain racial groups expressing less support. Further, Conboye and Smith (2023), discusses shifts in public opinion on the Israel-Hamas conflict across various countries, emphasizing the challenges President Biden faces in managing internal party divisions on Middle East policy. Additionally, Vinall (2023) and Gambino (2023) delve into the generational divide in US attitudes towards the Israel-Palestine conflict, with younger generations often expressing greater sympathy towards Palestinians.

2.4 Albanian Public Sentiment on the Israel-Gaza Conflict and U.S Involvement

The literature on Albanian public sentiment regarding the Israel-Gaza conflict and its connection with the United States provides crucial insights into how historical, religious, and geopolitical factors influence Albanian perceptions of the U.S. role in the conflict, forming the foundation of this study. According to Faton Mehmeti (2023), Albanian citizens exhibit religious support for Palestine, yet maintain a stronger relationship with Israel due to historical ties and US influence. Mehmeti underscores Albania's historical efforts in saving Jews during the Holocaust as a contributing factor to the positive relationship with Israel. However, he also notes Palestine's consistent support for Serbia and its stance on Kosovo, factors that sway Albanian sentiments towards Palestine.

In a similar vein, Daut Dauti's article (2023) highlights the disparity between official governmental support for Israel and the emotional closeness of Albanian and Kosovar society to Palestine. While governments align with Israel for pragmatic reasons and to maintain ties with the

US, societal sentiments lean towards Palestine due to historical sensitivities and religious identification.

Conversely, Larry Luxner's piece (2023) suggests a declining pro-Israel sentiment in Albania following the Gaza war, despite Prime Minister Edi Rama's reaffirmation of support for Israel. Luxner highlights the gathering of Muslims in solidarity with Palestine in Tirana, indicating a shift in public sentiment.

Additionally, government statements, such as those from Prime Minister Edi Rama (Office of the Prime Minister, 2023), underscore Albania's alignment with the US stance in supporting Israel's right to self-defense while expressing concerns for civilian casualties in Gaza. These statements reflect Albania's pro-American position and its commitment to advancing stability within the region.

Furthermore, Mustafa Nano's article (2022) emphasizes the importance of maintaining pro-American sentiments in Albania to uphold national interests and historical ties with the West. Nano argues that despite any shortcomings or criticisms of the US, loyalty to them remains crucial in a world governed by realpolitik.

2.5 Demographic Factors Shaping Public Opinion

A significant aspect of the literature examined for this study focuses on how demographic factors, including gender, age, education, and religious belief, shape public opinion across various domains. Specifically, Muchnick and Kamarck (2023) highlight the impact of age on opinions toward Israel, while Lizotte (2020) explores gender disparities in public opinion. Heimlich's research (2009) investigates the correlation between age and knowledge levels in foreign affairs.

Additionally, Pew Research Center survey (2024) demonstrate that religious affiliation influences attitudes toward US involvement in conflicts such as the Israel-Hamas war. Johnston's study (2006) delves into the influence of gender and religious belief on shaping public sentiments toward the USA. We will further explore the research findings from these sources in the Analysis of Statistical Results section to elucidate their relevance within the context of our study outcomes.

3. Methodology

3.1 Theoretical Framework

To establish a robust methodological framework, both theoretical and practical dimensions of the study's topic were carefully addressed. Theoretical groundwork was established through an extensive examination of scholarly sources, concentrating on how various demographic factors, encompassing gender, age, education, and religious belief, influence public opinion across diverse domains. Additionally, insights from literature discussing the impact of public sentiment on policy decisions were integrated to enhance the theoretical foundation. Complementing the theoretical foundation, a detailed examination of sources exploring global perceptions of the US role in international affairs, the US stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Albanian public sentiment regarding the Israel-Gaza conflict and US involvement was conducted. This comprehensive review aimed to provide a clear understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding the Israel-Gaza conflict and the United States' role therein.

3.2 Data Collection

For the primary data collection of the study, a structured questionnaire served as the principal tool. Employing the online survey method, respondents were able to complete the questionnaire, with their responses aggregated to ensure anonymity. The questionnaire elicited responses from 300 Albanian citizens, utilizing random sampling techniques to avoid focusing on specific demographic groups. This data collection process spanned from November 2023 to January 2024, necessitating nine

calendar weeks. Participants were distributed across Albania to mitigate biases towards specific demographic groups, enabling them to complete the survey at their convenience.

The questionnaire utilized a five-point Likert scale, ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree," to capture respondents' perceptions and attitudes towards the US involvement in the conflict. Additionally, demographic information such as gender, age group, education level, and religious affiliation was collected. Sets of questions aimed at measuring respondents' knowledge of the US role in the Israel-Gaza conflict, their assessment of this role, and its influence on pro/anti-American sentiments among the Albanian public were also included.

Regarding the practical aspect, the first step entailed analyzing the internal consistency of the questionnaire. This initial assessment served as a crucial indicator of data reliability. Subsequently, a descriptive analysis of demographic variables was conducted before proceeding to the statistical analysis of results. This sequential approach ensured the thoroughness and validity of the data collected.

3.3 Data Analysis

The analysis of the collected data involved a thorough examination using statistical tools such as SPSS software and MS Excel. Descriptive statistical analysis was employed to summarize sample characteristics and provide insights into respondents' perceptions. Additionally, multifactorial regression analysis was conducted to test research hypotheses and explore the relationships between variables comprehensively. This methodological approach facilitated a comprehensive investigation into Albanian public attitudes and perceptions regarding the United States' role in the Israel-Gaza conflict. To ensure the reliability of the questionnaire, Cronbach's alpha was calculated. This statistical metric evaluated the internal consistency among the questionnaire items, thereby ensuring the reliability of responses concerning respondents' perceptions and attitudes towards the US involvement in the Israel-Gaza conflict.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Assessment of Questionnaire Reliability

To ensure the validity and objectivity of the questionnaire used in the research, a pilot test was conducted. This test was carried out with 20 participants, and the method chosen for questionnaire completion was self-administration online by the participants themselves.

Cronbach's alpha served as a tool to evaluate the internal consistency or reliability of a set of questions in the questionnaire. This index ranges from 0 to 1, with higher values indicating increased reliability.

Table 1: Cronbach's alpha

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.62	18

Source: Author's elaboration

The Cronbach's alpha in our questionnaire is 0.62, indicating that our data is reliable.

4.2   Profile of Surveyed Sample

As per the demographic data of the sample, out of 300 respondents, 67.3% were male and 32.7% were female.
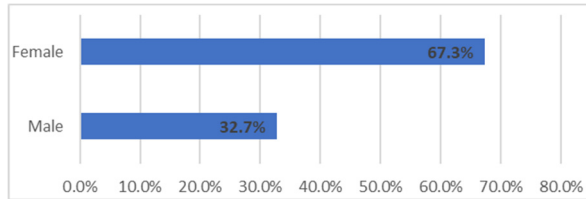

Chart 1. Gender of Respondents
Source: Author's elaboration

Most of the respondents (40.9%) were in the age group of 18-25 years old, showing a concentration of the sample to the age segment. This can be explained by access to the Internet and technology that makes the 19-25 age group the majority of the sample since the data of the questionnaire was collected online. The other age segments were (24.9 %) of those 36-45 years, (18.9%) of those 26-36 years old, (10%) 46-55 years old and (5.3%) over 55 years old.
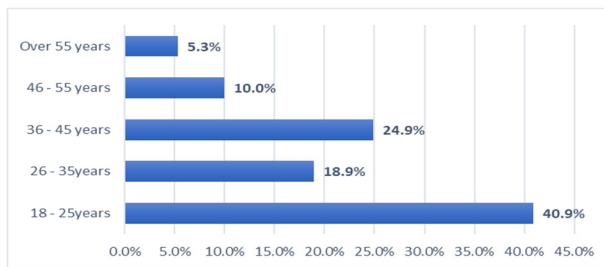

Chart 2. Age of Respondents
Source: Author's elaboration

Regarding the level of education of the respondents, there are these findings: High school (8%), University (27.9%), Master's Degree (51.5%) which are the majority, PhD (8%), and Professor category (4.6%).
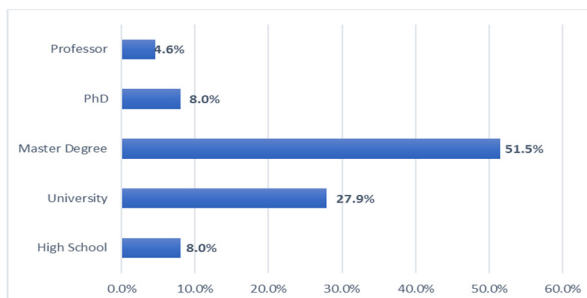

Chart 3. Level of education of Respondents
Source: Author's elaboration

These findings suggest that a substantial portion of respondents likely possess the capability to comprehend and assess the involvement of the United States in the Israel-Gaza conflict, owing to the premise that an educated populace typically demonstrates enhanced awareness and analytical skills, particularly concerning intricate geopolitical matters.

Concerning the religious faith among respondents, a significant proportion (71%) identified as Muslim, while the remaining faith affiliations included Orthodox (9%), Other (6.3%), Bektashi (5.4%), Catholic (5%), and Atheist (3.3%).

Considering that Muslims constitute the majority of Albania's population, estimated at 57% to 59% (U.S. Department of State, 2022), it's reasonable that they make up 71% of the study sample. This proportion reflects the predominant religious identity in the country and ensures that the study captures a representative portion of the population.
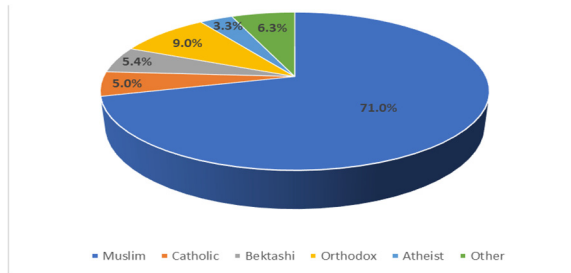

Chart 4. Religious faith of Respondents
Source: Author's elaboration

Additionally, incorporating smaller proportions of other religious groups like Catholics, members of the Albanian Orthodox Church, and the Bektashi Order ensures diversity in perspectives on the role of the United States in the Israel-Gaza conflict.

4.3 Analysis of Statistical Results

Next, the analysis explores how gender, age, education level, and religious faith affect the Albanian public's knowledge of the US role in the Israel-Gaza conflict, their evaluation of this role, and their pro/anti-American sentiments.

The **first hypothesis** aims to prove whether Demographic data, such as gender (x_1), age(x_2), education(x_3) and religious faith (x_4), influence the knowledge of the Albanian public (y) regarding the role of the USA in the Israel-Gaza conflict. Coefficient of determination is 0.08 relatively low, indicating that a small part of the Albanian public's knowledge is explained by demographic factors. However, referring to the p-value = 0.000 of the F-statistic, which is highly significant shows that the model is jointly significant.

Table 2: Results of Regression Analyses

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	2.386	0.19		12.55	0.000
Gender	0.119	0.119	0.06	1	0.318
Age	0.18	0.046	0.236	3.915	0.000
Education Level	0.044	0.03	0.082	1.436	0.152
Religious Faith	-0.002	0.032	-0.004	-0.067	0.947

Source: Survey data, 2023

Table 2 reveals that only age significantly influences the Albanian public's comprehension of the US role in the Israel-Gaza conflict, supporting our research hypothesis with a p-value of 0.000 < 1%. Conversely, gender, education, and religious faith lack statistically significant impacts in this regard.

The regression equation is:

Knowledge(Y)= 2.386 + 0.180Age (1)

From regression equation (1), we can infer that a one-unit increase in age is associated with a 0.180-unit increase in knowledge. This trend can be attributed to the increased understanding observed among older individuals, likely due to their accumulated life experience and deeper historical knowledge. In contrast, factors such as gender, education level, and religious faith do not demonstrate significant impacts within this context. This underscores the importance of age-related factors in shaping public perceptions of complex geopolitical events, highlighting the valuable insights gained from the experiences and perspectives associated with aging.

These findings, which identify age as the sole significant factor in explaining the Albanian public's understanding of the US role in the Israel-Gaza conflict, are further supported by Heimlich's (2009) research on generational disparities in current event awareness. Heimlich's findings reveal that younger individuals typically exhibit lower levels of knowledge about current events, especially in foreign affairs, compared to older age groups. This underscores the significance of age-related factors in shaping public perceptions of complex geopolitical events, as older individuals often possess accumulated life experience and deeper historical knowledge, contributing to their heightened understanding.

The *second hypothesis* aims to prove whether Demographic data, such as gender (x1), age(x2), education(x3) and religious faith (x4), influence the Albanian public's assessment (Y) of the US role in the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Table 3: Results of Regression Analyses

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	2.379	0.148		16.057	0.000
Gender	0.195	0.094	0.124	2.062	0.040
Age	0.089	0.036	0.149	2.449	0.015
Education Level	-0.029	0.024	-0.069	-1.205	0.229
Religious Faith	0.079	0.025	0.182	3.113	0.002

Source: Survey data, 2023

Coefficient of determination is 0.88 indicating that Albanian public's assessment (Y) of the US role in the Israel-Gaza conflict is explained by demographic factors. Fisher's statistics results show that the model is statistically significant with a Fisher's p-value of 0.000, which is less than the statistical significance level of 0.01.

Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that age, gender, and religious faith statistically significantly and positively affects how the Albanian public views the US role in the Israel-Gaza war, while the variable of education level is not statistically significant in this case.

The regression equation is:

Role assessment (Y) = 2.379 + 0.195 (gender) + 0.089 (age) + 0.079 (religious faith) (2)

Regression equation (2) indicates that a one-unit increase in gender, age, or religious faith is associated with respective increases of 0.180, 0.180, and 0.079 units in role assessment, with all other independent variables remaining constant. These results, wherein gender significantly and positively influences the perception of the Albanian public regarding the US role in the Israel-Gaza conflict, can be supported by the findings of Lizotte's (2020) research on gender differences in public opinion. Lizotte suggests that women are more inclined than men to prioritize prosocial values such as

egalitarianism and benevolence. In the context of the Albanian public's assessment of the US role in the Israel-Gaza conflict, this may lead women to have a more critical perspective compared to men.

Furthermore, the statistically significant and positive influence of the age variable on how the Albanian public perceives the US role in the Israel-Gaza conflict aligns with recent polls conducted by reputable organizations such as the Pew Research Center (2023), YouGov (2023), and Ipsos (2023). These polls highlight a generational divide in attitudes towards the conflict and the USA's involvement, consistent with research emphasizing age as a critical factor in shaping perceptions. Moreover, the impact of age may also be attributed to its association with other societal phenomena, such as the rising prevalence of antisemitism among younger demographics (TOI Staff, 2024).

The study's data also demonstrates that the perception of the Albanian public regarding the US role in the Israel-Gaza conflict is significantly influenced by their religious beliefs. This can be attributed to the fact that religion often plays a significant role in shaping attitudes and values. Individuals with stronger religious convictions may interpret the conflict through a lens that aligns with their religious beliefs. This explanation is also supported by the results of the Pew Research Center surveys (2024), where religious affiliation appears to influence attitudes toward US involvement in the Israel-Hamas conflict. Different religious groups express varying levels of support for diplomatic efforts, military aid, and humanitarian assistance.

The addition of education level to the regression equation shows a non-significant coefficient, implying that education does not significantly affect the Albanian public's evaluation of the US role in the conflict. This could be because the conflict's complexity surpasses educational backgrounds or other variables outweigh the impact of education.

The ***third hypothesis*** aims to prove if Demographic data, such as gender (x1), age(x2), education(x3) and religious faith (x4), influence the pro/anti-American sentiments (y) of the Albanian public. The results show that coefficient of determination is 0.39 indicating that 39% of pro/anti American sentiments are explained by the regression equation.

Table 4 : Results of Regression Analyses

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	3.559	0.248		14.343	0.000
Gender	-0.336	0.157	-0.132	-2.139	0.033
Age	0.034	0.06	0.036	0.571	0.568
Education Level	0.022	0.04	0.032	0.548	0.584
Religious Faith	-0.098	0.043	-0.138	-2.304	0.022

Source: Survey data, 2023

The findings demonstrate that gender and religious faith, among other demographic data, have a statistically significant influence on Albanians' pro/anti-American sentiments with a p-value 0.033<0.05 and 0.022<0.05 respectively. Fisher's p-value of 0.024, is less than the statistical significance level of 0.05, indicating that the model is significant.

The regression equation is*:*

Sentiments (Y) = 3.559-0.0336 (gender) – 0.098 (religious faith) (3)

Our hypothesis is proved for gender and religious belief. Regression equation (3) suggests that a one-unit increase in gender is linked to a decrease of 0.00336 units in sentiments, and a one-unit increase in religious faith is associated with a decrease of 0.098 units in sentiments, holding all other independent variables constant.

The findings indicate that both gender and religious belief significantly shape Albanian public sentiments towards the USA. These sentiments may be influenced by perceptions of conflicting values promoted by the United States. Johnston's (2006) research further supports this idea,

suggesting that women, in particular, perceive the USA as less influential globally and oppose strengthening relations with the country more than men, potentially contributing to increased anti-Americanism in Europe.

Additionally, religion likely influences sentiments, with Muslims possibly expressing more anti-Americanism due to perceived US interventions in Muslim regions, while Christians may exhibit less due to shared cultural ties with the West. This aligns with Johnston's findings, highlighting the impact of gender and religious belief on Albanian sentiments toward the USA, offering valuable insights into these dynamics.

5. Conclusion

The analysis of this research highlights the significant impact of demographic factors on the perceptions of the Albanian public regarding the USA's role in the Israel-Gaza conflict. While age emerges as the sole statistically significant factor concerning the Albanian public's understanding of the USA's role in the conflict, other demographic variables such as gender, education level, and religious faith do not significantly impact understanding.

However, in terms of assessing the US role in the conflict, gender, age, and religious faith are identified as significant determinants. Women, older individuals, and those with stronger religious beliefs tend to hold varying perceptions compared to men, younger individuals, and those with weaker religious convictions. Interestingly, education level does not substantially influence these assessments.

Moreover, pro/anti-American sentiments among the Albanian public are notably influenced by gender and religious faith, with women and individuals adhering to certain religious beliefs exhibiting higher levels of anti-Americanism. This observation may be particularly pronounced among Muslims, potentially influenced by perceptions of US oppression in predominantly Muslim regions. Conversely, those identifying as Christian may display lower levels of anti-American sentiments. However, age and education level do not significantly contribute to these sentiments.

These findings underscore the complex interplay between demographic factors and public perceptions, shedding light on the multifaceted dynamics shaping attitudes towards international affairs and the USA in Albania. Future research avenues could explore additional factors such as media exposure and political affiliations to provide a more comprehensive understanding. Additionally, further investigation into the potential policy implications, particularly in the context of fostering informed public discourse and diplomatic relations, would be beneficial. Addressing the limitations identified in the study, such as the focus solely on demographic variables and the reliance on self-reported data, could also guide future research endeavors towards more robust insights.

6. Acknowledgment

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