Appendix I
Collective Memory of America

Instructions

In this survey we are interested in what people think and believe about America and America's past. There are no right or wrong answers. Please answer as honestly as you can. Please do not consult any outside sources (books, the internet, other people, etc.). We are only interested in what you yourself think, believe, and remember about America.

SECTION I: AMERICAN MEMORY

1.) What is the origin of America? Describe in one sentence. [open response]

2.) List the top five most important events that brought about America.

   Event 1:
   Event 2:
   Event 3:
   Event 4:
   Event 5:

3.) Which events should all Americans remember about their history? List the top ten most important events that all Americans should remember. These events may come from any point in America's history, from the origins to the present day.

   Event 1:
   Event 2:
   Event 3:
   Event 4:
   Event 5:
   Event 6:
   Event 7:
   Event 8:
   Event 9:
   Event 10:

4.) When did America begin? [*Enter a year*]

5.) Is the United States exceptional among nations? Y/N
    =>what makes it exceptional/not exceptional? Explain in 2-3 sentences [open response]

6.) List the first five words that come to mind when you hear the word "Patriotism"

   Word 1:
   Word 2:
   Word 3:
   Word 4:
   Word 5:

7.) How important would you say being an American is to your personal identity?
    (a.) Extremely Important
    (b.) Very Important
    (c.) Moderately Important
    (e.) Not very Important
    (f.) Not at all Important

8.) Is America the "City on a Hill," setting an example that other countries should follow?
    Select all that apply:

    America **is** the City on a Hill
    America **was** the City on a Hill
    America **never was** the City on a Hill

9.) *Should* America be the "City on a Hill? Y/N

[*The order of questions 10-13 was randomized for each participant. Participants were given one minute for each of the four questions, after which they were automatically advanced to the next question.*]

10.) What are you worried about for your personal future? Please list the future events in your own personal life that you are worried about.

11.) What are you worried about for your county's collective future? Please list the events in the country's future that you are worried about.

12.) What are you excited about for your personal future? Please list the events in your own personal future that you are excited about.

13.) What are you excited about for your country's future? Please list the events in your country's future that you are excited about.

SECTION II: DEMOGRAPHICS

14.) Which state did you grow up in? [open response]

15.) Before you turned 18, had you lived outside of your home state for more than 4 years? Y/N

16.) Have you lived outside the United States? Y/N
       if Y => Where? [Open response]
           How long?
                    (a.) less than a year
                    (b.) a year
                    (c.) 1 to 4 years
                    (d.) more than 4 years
            How old were you?
               (a.) a child
               (b.) a teenager
               (c.) a young adult

(d.) a mature adult

17.) What is your current age? [open response]

18.) What is your gender? [open response]

19.) What is your race/ethnicity? [open response].

20.) What is your religion?
      (a.) Christian
            -Protestant
            -Evangelical
            -Catholic
            -Orthodox
            -Mormon
            -Other:____
      (b.) Jewish
            -Reform
            -Conservative
            -Orthodox
            -Ultra-Orthodox
            -Other:_____
      (c.) Muslim
            -Sunni
            -Shia
            -Kharijite
            -Other:____
      (d.) Buddhist
      (e.) Hindu
      (f.) Atheist/agnostic
      (g.) No religious identity
      (h.) Other: _____

21.) How frequently did you attend religious services in the past year?
      (a.) More than weekly
      (b.) Weekly
      (c.) Monthly
      (d.) A couple times a year
      (e.) Once per year
      (f.) Never

22.) What is your highest level of education?
      (a.) Less than a high school degree
      (b.) High school degree or equivalent
      (c.) Some college, no degree
      (d.) Associate's degree
      (e.) Bachelor's degree
      (f.) Master's Degree
      (g.) Professional Degree
      (h.) Doctorate

23.) Are you employed?
       (a.) Not employed
       (b.) Self-employed
       (c.) Employed: hourly
       (d.) Employed: salary

24.) What is your occupation? [Open response]

25.) Are you a citizen of the US? Y/N
       If Y => have you always been a citizen of the US? Y/N
              If N => at what age did you become a citizen of the US?

26.) What is your *household* income?
       (a.) Less than $20,000
       (b.) $20,000-$34,999
       (c.) $35,000 to $49,999
       (d.) $50,000 to $74,999
       (e.) $75,000 to $99,999
       (f.) over $100,000

27.) To what socioeconomic class would you say you belong to?
       (a.) Upper
       (b.) Upper Middle
       (c.) Middle
       (d.) Working
       (e.) Lower

28.) Do you own a home?
       Y/N

29.) Do you own a gun?
       Y/N

30.) To what degree do you agree with the statement: "Immigrants are an important part of America."
       (a.) Strongly Agree
       (b.) Somewhat Agree
       (c.) No Opinion
       (d.) Somewhat Disagree
       (e.) Strongly Disagree

31.) What ideology or ideologies would you say you identify with? Select all that apply.
       Liberal
       Conservative
              -Social
              -Fiscal
       Progressive
       Libertarian
       Socialist
       Other:_____

32.) What is your political party identification?
        (a.) Democrat
        (b.) Republican
        (c.) Independent
        (d.) Other:_____
        (e.) No party affiliation

33.) In what kind of area were you primarily raised?
        (a.) Rural
        (b.) Small Town
        (c.) Suburban
        (d.) Urban
        (e.) Other:_____

34.) Who did you vote for in the last presidential election?
        (a.) Donald Trump
        (b.) Hillary Clinton
        (c.) Gary Johnson
        (d.) Jill Stein
        (e.) Evan McMullin
        (f.) Darrell Castle
        (g.) Did not Vote
        (h.) Prefer not to say

35.) During this survey, did you consult any outside sources (other people, the internet, books, etc.)?
        Y/N

Thank you for completing our survey!

Appendix II
Event Category Count
Number of participants from full sample mentioning each event category.

Event	Count
Revolutionary War	1231
Declaration of Independence	712
Christopher Columbus Discovery	679
Civil War	576
British Colonization	427
Constitution	407
Pilgrims	345
Boston Tea Party	327
Slavery	238
WWII	225
Native American Genocide	222
British Taxes	203
Displacement of Native Americans	186
End of Slavery	138
Immigration	132
George Washington	115
Louisiana Purchase	113
Discovery	108
9/11	108
Resentment of British Rule	103
13 Colonies	103
Westward Expansion	101
European Exploration	95
Civil Rights	91
Bill of Rights	88
Industrialization	86
Formation of Government	86
Non	83
Independence	81
Religious Freedom	76
Jamestown	75
Native Americans	75
Boston Massacre	72
Desire for Freedom	72
Religious Persecution	71
Colonization	64
European Colonization	62
Native American Migration	60
War	59
Democracy	54

French and Indian War	54
Indian Wars	50
1st & 2nd Continental Congress	47
Vietnam War	46
JFK Assassination	45
Friendly Relations with Natives	45
Capitalism	44
European Discovery	42
Lincoln Assassination	42
Establishing the States	42
First President	39
Technology	38
Desire for Property/Wealth	38
Oppression in Europe	36
Great Depression	36
Suffrage	36
North American Landmass	32
Stamp Act	32
Barack Obama	31
War of 1812	29
Gold Rush	29
Desire for Better Life	28
Manifest Destiny	26
European Immigration	25
British Empire	25
French Aid in Revolution	25
Space Race	23
Amerigo Vespucci	21
Moon Landing	21
Cold War	21
World Wars	21
Nuclear Weapons	21
Exploration	20
Exploration	20
Trail of Tears	19
Constitution and Bill of Rights	19
Establishing Government	18
European Contact with Native Americans	17
Paul Revere	17
Lewis and Clark	17
Equal Rights	16
European Technology	16
Terrorism	16
Founding Fathers	16
Diversity	16

Appendix III
Additional analyses: Age and Education

One potential confound in this analysis is age. Older adults attend to and remember positive information more readily than younger adults – that is, they often show a positivity bias in cognitive processing (Mather & Carstensen, 2005). Age and Foundations Ratings were indeed statistically, but weakly, positively correlated, $r(1704) = .12$, $p < .001$. However, in our sample political groups did not differ by age, once accounting for religiosity. In a factorial ANOVA on age with political affiliation and religiosity as predictors, only a main effect of religiosity emerged, $F(3,1688) = 5.06$, $p = .002$, $\eta^2_p = .01$. Protestants (M = 37.99 [36.71, 39.26]) were on average older than Atheist/Agnostics (M = 35.17 [33.75, 36.58]), $M_{diff} = 2.82$ [.91, 4.73], $p < .004$, and than those with no religious identity (M = 34.47 [33, 35.94]), $M_{diff} = 3.52$ [1.57, 5.47], $p < .001$. Catholics (M = 36.71 [34.78, 38.63]) were marginally older than those with no religious identity, $M_{diff} = 2.24$ [-.18, 4.66], $p = .07$. Atheist/Agnostics and the religiously unaffiliated did not differ, $p = .5$, nor did Catholics and Protestants, $p = .28$. However, participants of different political affiliations did not differ in age, when accounting for religion, $p = .24$, and there was no interaction, $p = .65$. Republicans' stronger positivity bias in the American origin story thus seems unlikely to reduce merely to age effects.

In order to more rigorously rule out age as a primary driver of the differences in positivity bias between political groups, we compared age-matched sub-samples. Although our Christian and Republican samples had more older and middle aged participants, the bulk of participants in all conditions were in their 20's and 30's; this is typical of MTurk samples (Ross, Zaldivar, Irani, & Tomlinson, 2010). We therefore subsampled participants 40 years old or younger. In this younger group, N = 1201, there were no age differences between different religious or political

groups, all $p > .05$. Repeating the religiosity by political affiliation factorial ANOVA on

Foundations Ratings using only younger participants, we again found only a main effect of

political affiliation, $F(3,1185) = 3.84$, $p = .009$, $\eta^2_p = .01$. Young Republicans (M = .73 [.69,

.77]) produced more positive origin stories than young Democrats (M = .65 [.63, .67]), $M_{diff} = .08$

[.04, .13], $p = .001$, than Independents (M = .66 [.64, .69]), $M_{diff} = .07$ [.01, .12], $p = .01$, and than

the politically unaffiliated (M = .65 [.59, .71]), $M_{diff} = .08$ [.01, .16], $p = .03$. There was no main

effect on Foundations Ratings for religion, $p = .8$, nor an interaction, $p = .89$. The above reported

evidence suggests that our Republican sample did not produce more positive origin stories

simply because they were older.

Education. Given the role of formal education in crafting collective memory, we examined

whether educational attainment interacted with or explained some of the variance. When

comparing participants with less than a bachelor's degree (no high school diploma, high school

diploma, associates), a bachelor's degree or some college, and those with higher degrees

(Masters, PhD, professional degrees, e.g. MD or JD), educational attainment did predict

differences in Foundations ratings, $F(2,1996) = 3.93$, $p = .02$, $\eta^2 = .004$. Participants with

advanced degrees (M = .64 [.61, .67]) were more likely to suggest negative events than were

those with college education only (M = .68 [.67, .69]), $M_{diff} = .04$ [.003, .07], $p = .03$, and than

those with no college education (M = .70 [.68, .72]), $M_{diff} = .06$ [.02, .10], $p = .005$. Those with

college and no college did not differ from one another, $M_{diff} = .02$ [-.01, .05], $p = .19$.

Educational attainment likewise varied by political affiliation, $X^2(6) = 22.42$, $p = .001$. For a

comparison of actual to expected counts, see Table 5. Democrats were overrepresented among

holders of advanced degrees, whereas Republicans and the non-affiliated were overrepresented

among those with no college degree by about the same amount. Recall, however, that despite showing similar levels of educational attainment to Republicans, the non-affiliated showed a pattern of foundations ratings comparable to Democrats and Independents, suggesting that positivity biases in the national origin story were not primarily driven by educational attainment. This proposition was supported by a factorial ANOVA in which educational attainment was entered with political affiliation. There was no main effect of education, $F(2, 1956) = 1.56$, $p = .21$, $\eta^2 = .002$, and no interaction, $F(6,1956) = 0.84$, $p = .54$, $\eta^2 = .003$. Only the above reported main effect of political affiliation retained significance. Again, political affiliation best predicted variance in Foundations Ratings relative to other demographic factors.

Table 5.

Crosstabs for Political Affiliation by Educational Attainment. The numbers in parentheses indicate the count expected if the cells were proportionally representative, and numbers outside parentheses indicate the actual count..*

	Political Affiliation				
Education	Democrat	Republican	Independent	No Affiliation	TOTAL
Less than college	157(192)	119(100)	144(134)	44(38)	464
College	537(521)	258(272)	358(364)	105(102)	1258
Advanced degree	121(102)	48(53)	67(71)	10(20)	246
TOTAL	815	425	569	159	

*$X^2(6) = 22.42$, $p = .001$