America's Wars in Asia and U.S. Public Opinion, 1950–1975

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The Korean and Vietnam Wars characterized the global politics of the 20th century. While both wars were milestones of the Cold War era and hallmarks of US dominance in world politics, they also played a role in the creation of American public opinion towards countries that did not fully embrace the developmentalist path and political model propagated by the US and US-led international organizations. This research aims to analyze changes in US public opinion during these two wars to identify factors that determine how the US public perceives foreign countries, international organizations, and US leadership in global politics. We will use data from contemporary media (1950–1975) and from public polling data collected by the Rand Corporation and the polling company Gallup. The project will analyze the role of race and culture in international conflicts and discuss the extent to which memories of earlier wars inform foreign policy decisions.