

American Opinions

On the Use of Armed Military Drones

What Is A Drone?

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- Until recently drones have been used exclusively as combat surveillance vehicles
- Drones have recently been outfitted with weapons
- Supposedly remove the risk of harm to soldiers
- Highly mobile means of making war

Authorization For The Use Of Military Force (September 12, 2001)

- Gave the president the authority to use military force against all military combatants broadly associated with Al-Qaida.
- Combat not limited by nationality or territory.
- Made drones very useful as a means of making war due to their ability to monitor large areas of land

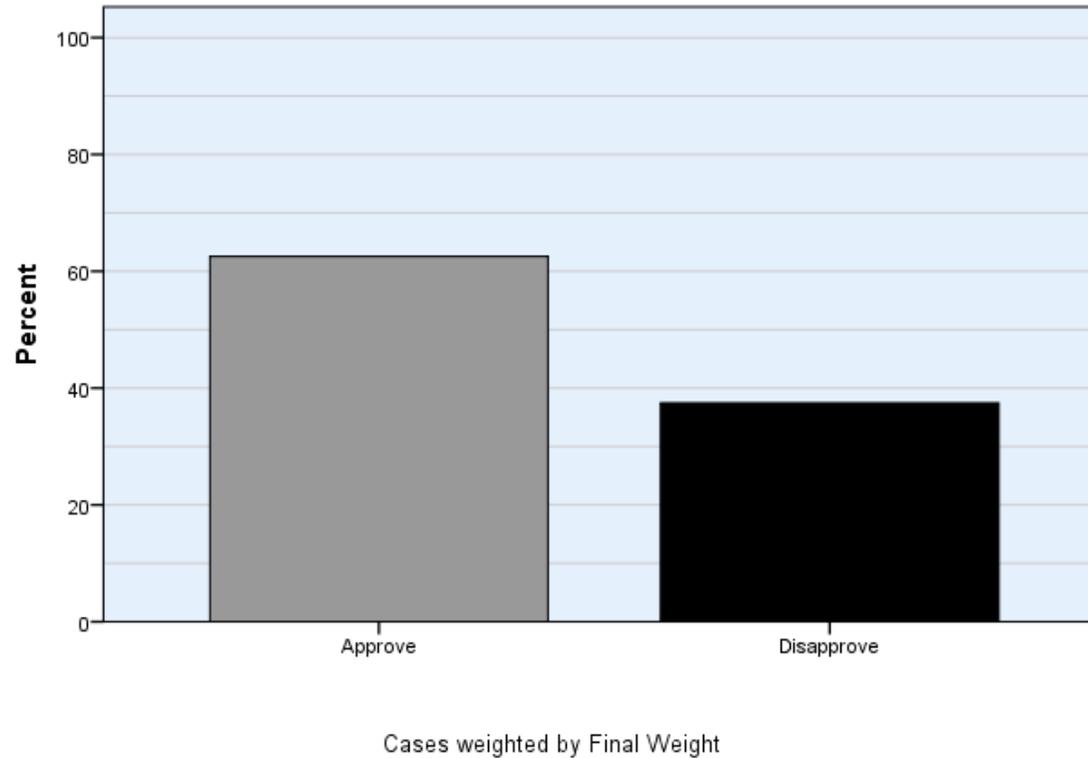
Examining civilian casualties:

- The human rights Institute of Columbia data on 2011 Pakistan drone casualties count
 - 105 militant casualties
 - 56 civilian casualties
 - 115-305 contested status casualties

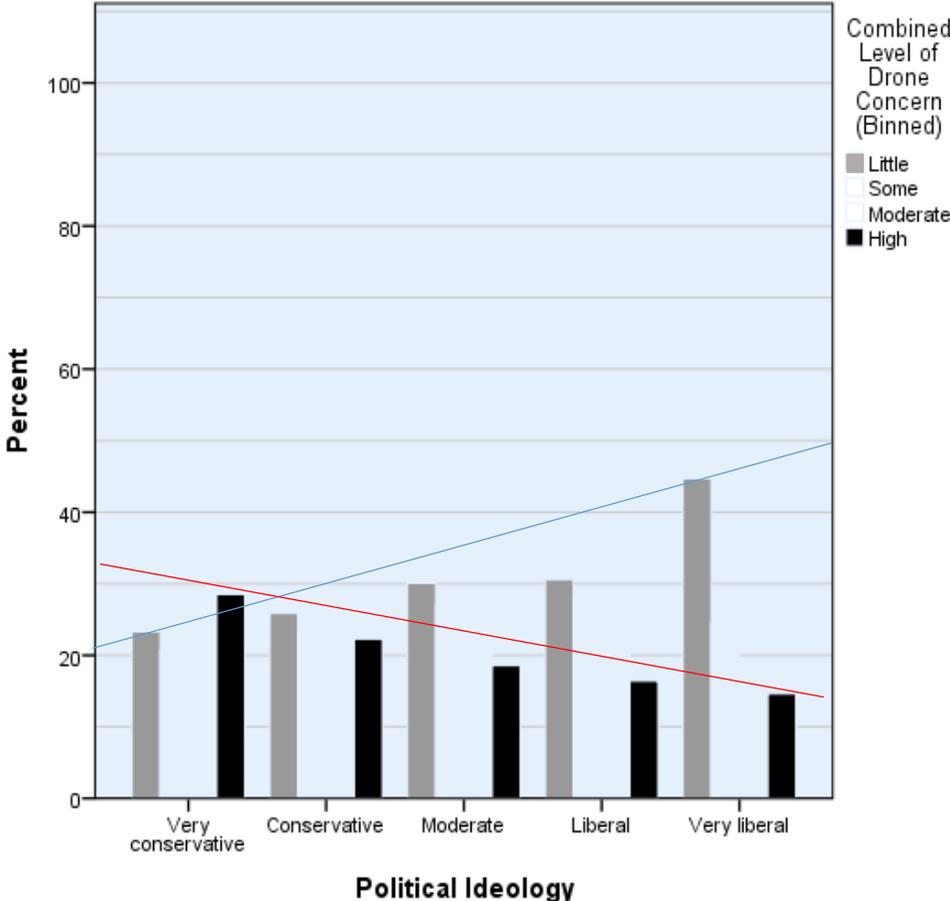
American Approval Rating Of The Use Of Military Drones

Approve: 62.3% approve
Disapprove: 37.5

Do you approve or disapprove of the United States conducting missile strikes from pilotless aircraft called drones to target extremists in countries such as Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia?



Approval by political Ideology



Opinion Based On Political Ideology

			Political Ideology				
			Very conservative	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	Very liberal
Overall level of concern over the use of military drones	Least Concerned	Count	103 _a	430 _a	628 _b	321 _b	222 _c
		Percent	23.3%	25.9%	30.1%	30.5%	44.7%
	Somewhat Concerned	Count	92 _a	384 _a	565 _b	298 _b	122 _{a,b}
		Percent	20.8%	23.1%	27.0%	28.4%	24.5%
	Very Concerned	Count	121 _{a,b}	477 _b	508 _a	260 _a	80 _c
		Percent	27.4%	28.7%	24.3%	24.7%	16.1%
	Most Concerned	Count	126 _a	370 _b	388 _c	172 _{c,d}	73 _d
		Percent	28.5%	22.3%	18.6%	16.4%	14.7%
Total		Count	442	1661	2089	1051	497
		Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymptotic Standardized Error ^a	Approximate T ^b	Approximate Significance
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	-.142	.015	-9.464	.000
N of Valid Cases		5740			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Priming Theory

- Highlighting what aspects people are most concerned about concerning drones
- Large changes in opinion show strong attachment to an issue
- Used to break a question down into individual issues
- Jon Krosnik

Tests

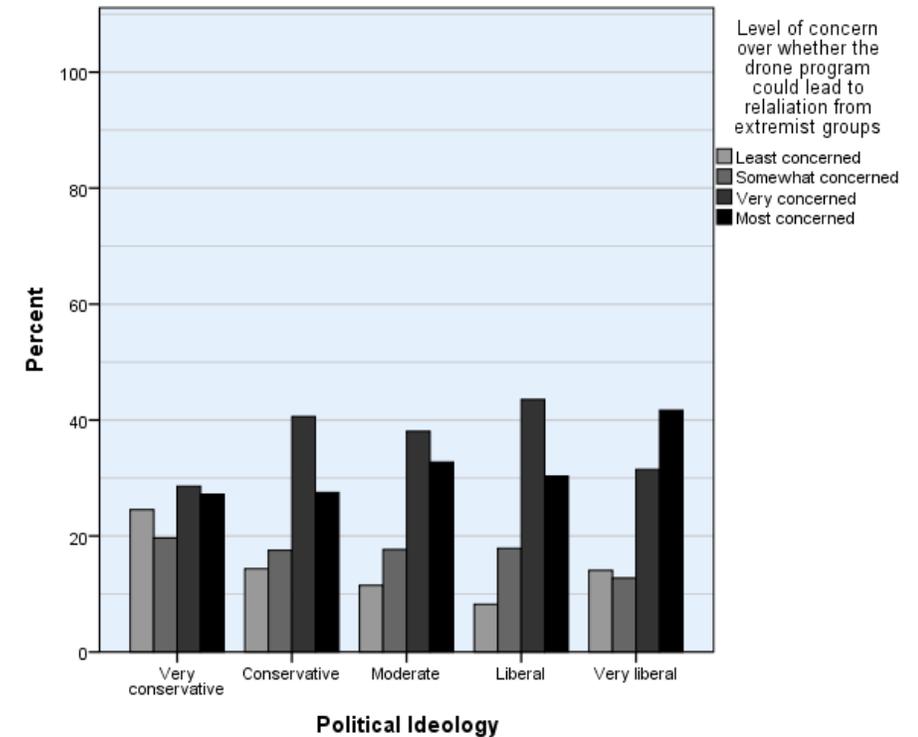
- Level of concern over the legality of the drone program
- Level of concern over the risk posed to innocent civilians caused by the drone program
- Level of concern that the drone program could hurt U.S. Image Abroad
- Level of concern over whether the drone program could lead to retaliation from extremist groups

Hypothesis:

- Liberal opinions will be most heavily swayed when primed to consider the risk of civilian casualties.
- Conservatives will be most heavily swayed when primed to consider the legality of the drone program.

Concern Over Risk Of Terrorist Retaliation:

			Political Ideology				
			Very conservative	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	Very liberal
Level of concern over whether the drone program could lead to retaliation from extremist groups	Least concerned	Count	116	245	246	90	72
		Percent	24.6%	14.3%	11.5%	8.2%	14.1%
	Somewhat concerned	Count	93	299	379	196	65
		Percent	19.7%	17.5%	17.7%	17.9%	12.7%
	Very concerned	Count	135	694	816	477	161
		Percent	28.6%	40.6%	38.1%	43.5%	31.5%
	Most concerned	Count	128	470	702	333	213
		Percent	27.1%	27.5%	32.8%	30.4%	41.7%
Total	Count	472	1708	2143	1096	511	
	Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

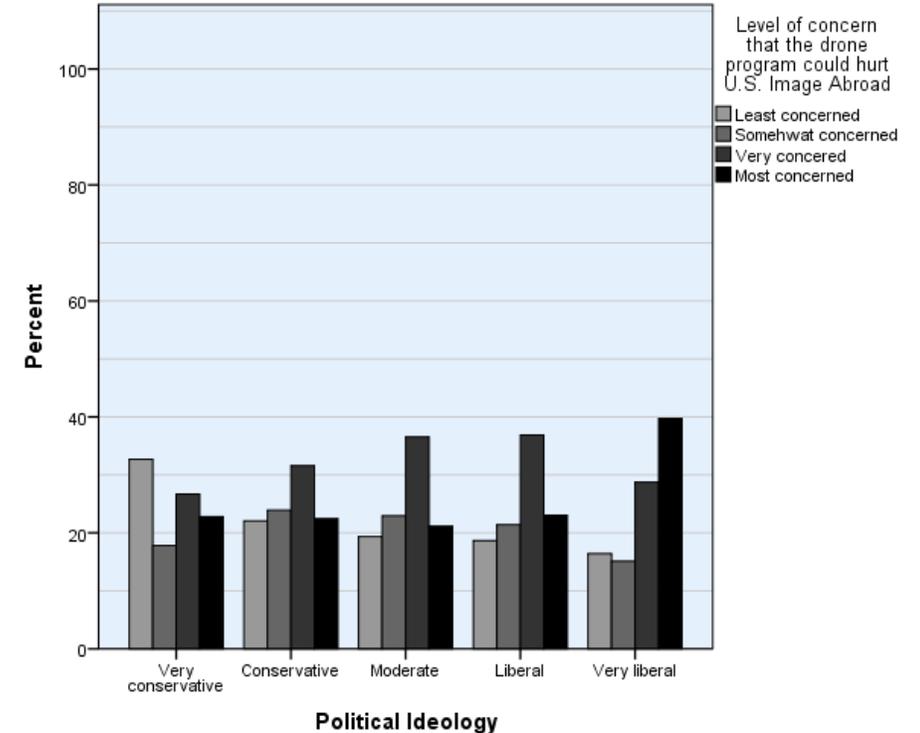


	Original Data	Post Test Data	Difference
Conservative low concern:	23.3%	24.6%	1.3%+
Conservative high concern:	28.5%	27.1%	1.4%-
Liberal low concern:	44.1%	14.1%	30.0%-
Liberal high concern:	14.7%	41.7%	27.0%+

Concern Over Damage To US Image Abroad:

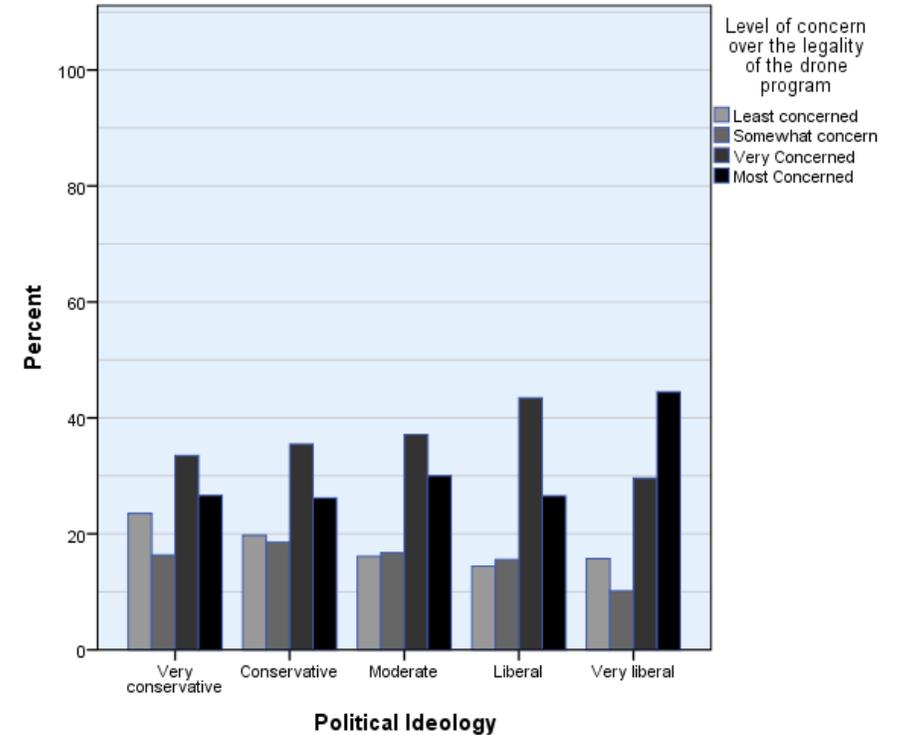
			Political Ideology				
			Very conservative	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	Very liberal
Level of concern that the drone program could hurt U.S. Image Abroad	Least concerned	Count	153	373	421	206	84
		Percent	32.7%	22.0%	19.4%	18.7%	16.5%
	Somewhat concerned	Count	83	405	499	236	77
		Percent	17.7%	23.9%	23.0%	21.4%	15.1%
	Very concerned	Count	125	535	794	406	146
		Percent	26.7%	31.6%	36.5%	36.8%	28.6%
	Most concerned	Count	107	380	460	254	203
		Percent	22.9%	22.4%	21.2%	23.0%	39.8%
Total		Count	468	1693	2174	1102	510
		Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

	Original Data	Post Test Data	Difference
Conservative low concern:	23.3%	32.7%	9.4%+
Conservative high concern:	28.5%	22.9%	5.6%-
Liberal low concern:	44.1%	16.5%	27.6%-
Liberal high concern:	14.7%	39.8%	25.1%+



Concern Over The Legality Of The Program:

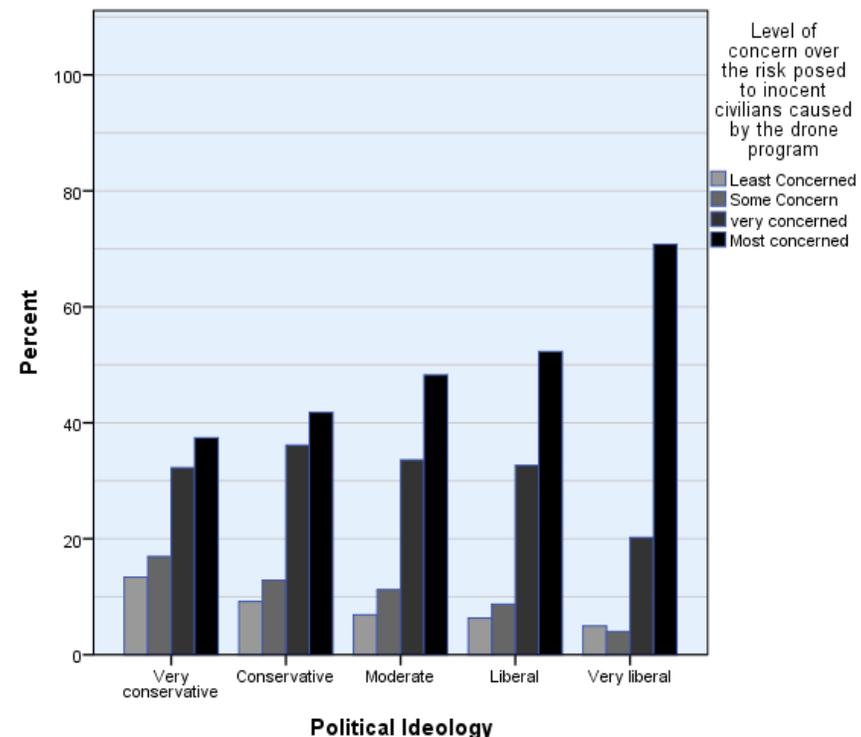
			Political Ideology				
			Very conservative	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	Very liberal
Level of concern over the legality of the drone program	Least concerned	Count	107	333	344	155	79
		Percent	23.6%	19.8%	16.1%	14.4%	15.7%
	Somewhat concern	Count	74	312	357	168	51
		Percent	16.3%	18.5%	16.7%	15.6%	10.2%
	Very Concerned	Count	152	597	792	468	149
		Percent	33.5%	35.5%	37.1%	43.5%	29.7%
	Most Concerned	Count	121	441	640	286	223
		Percent	26.7%	26.2%	30.0%	26.6%	44.4%
Total	Count	454	1683	2133	1077	502	
	Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	



	Original Data	Post Test Data	Difference
Conservative low concern:	23.3%	23.6%	0.3%+
Conservative high concern:	28.5%	26.7%	1.8%-
Liberal low concern:	44.1%	15.7%	28.4%-
Liberal high concern:	14.7%	44.3%	29.6%+

Concern Over Risk To Innocent Civilians:

			Political Ideology				
			Very conservative	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	Very liberal
Level of concern over the risk posed to innocent civilians caused by the drone program	Least Concerned	Count	63	157	150	70	25
		Percent	13.4%	9.2%	6.9%	6.3%	4.9%
	Somewhat Concerned	Count	80	220	244	96	21
		Percent	17.0%	12.9%	11.2%	8.7%	4.1%
	very concerned	Count	152	619	731	362	104
		Percent	32.3%	36.2%	33.6%	32.7%	20.2%
	Most concerned	Count	176	716	1050	580	364
		Percent	37.4%	41.8%	48.3%	52.3%	70.8%
Total		Count	471	1712	2175	1108	514
		Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



	Original Data	Post Test Data	Difference
Conservative low concern:	23.3%	13.4 %	9.9%-
Conservative high concern:	28.5%	37.4%	8.9%+
Liberal low concern:	44.1%	4.9%	39.2%-
Liberal high concern:	14.7%	70.8%	56.1%+

Conclusion

- Liberal opinions on the drone program were most heavily affected by the innocent civilians priming test.
- conservative opinions were not heavily affected by the legality priming test, however there was a slight jump in concern over risk to innocent civilians.
- The over all American opinion of the drone program would likely drop considerably if there were a stronger association between the drone program and the casualties it causes.

- *Krosnick, J.A., & Kinder, D.R. (1990). Altering the foundations of support for the president through priming. American political science review, 84, 497-512*
- *Grunt, C., LM, & Shah, N. (2012, October). Counting Drone Strike Deaths. Retrieved from <http://web.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/human-rights-institute/files/COLUMBIACountingDronesFinal.pdf> Human rights Clinic*
- *Pew Research center. (2015). May 2015 political Survey (version 1) [nonpartisan American think tank]. Washington D.C.*

Thanks!