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978-0-521-86491-6 - Rethinking Anti-Americanism: The History of an Exceptional Concept in
American Foreign Relations
Max Paul Friedman
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Rethinking Anti-Americanism

*The History of an Exceptional Concept in American
Foreign Relations*

“Anti-Americanism” is an unusual expression; although stereotypes and hostility exist toward every nation, we do not hear of “anti-Italianism” or “anti-Brazilianism.” Only Americans have elevated such sentiment to the level of a worldview, an explanatory factor so significant as to merit a name – an “ism” – usually reserved for comprehensive ideological systems or ingrained prejudice. This book challenges the scholarly consensus that blames criticism of the United States on foreigners’ irrational resistance to democracy and modernity. Tracing 200 years of the concept of anti-Americanism, this book argues that it has constricted political discourse about social reform and U.S. foreign policy, from the War of 1812 and the Mexican War to the Cold War, from Guatemala and Vietnam to Iraq. Research in nine countries in five languages, with attention to diplomacy, culture, migration, and the circulation of ideas, shows that the myth of anti-Americanism has often damaged the national interest.

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MAX PAUL FRIEDMAN

American University



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
 Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City
 Cambridge University Press
 32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA
www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521683425

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First published 2012

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Friedman, Max Paul.
 Rethinking anti-Americanism : the history of an exceptional concept in American foreign
 relations / Max Paul Friedman.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 978-0-521-86491-6 (hardback)

1. Anti-Americanism – History. 2. United States – Foreign public opinion. 3. United States –
 Relations. I. Title.

E183.7.F78 2012

327.73–dc23 2012001481

ISBN 978-0-521-86491-6 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-68342-5 Paperback

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Certain truths can reach the ears of Americans only from foreigners or
from experience.

– Alexis de Tocqueville

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The field of U.S. foreign relations history has become a big tent, welcoming scholars who are interested in diplomacy and state power, domestic politics and national ideology, language and culture, sources in Washington and sources from abroad. The subject of this book also seemed to demand multiple lines of inquiry, ranging across military intervention and migration, bureaucratic politics and poetry, street demonstrations and diplomacy. My appreciation goes to all my colleagues in the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations who have pursued a wide range of methodologies in the study of America's complex interactions with the world.

The research undertaken for this book would not have been possible without the generous support of organizations that saw the need for a fresh look at a familiar topic. I thank the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Historical Institute, the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Foundation, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, the Lyndon B. Johnson Library Foundation, American University's College of Arts and Sciences and Department of History, and Florida State University's Committee on Faculty Research Support. I am obliged to the journals that published some of my findings, including topics only summarized in this book: *Atlantic Studies* (on Sartre's transnationalism, in Chapter 3), the *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* (an early précis), *Diplomacy & Statecraft* (for more on the Caracas summit in Chapter 4), *Diplomatic History* (an overview of the foreign policy dilemma), and the *Journal of Social History* (an expanded treatment of the migrant folklore presented in Chapter 1). I thank the Verlag Klaus Wagenbach for permission to translate and reprint the verses from Erich Fried in Chapter 6.

To historians, archivists are the keepers of the keys. I have depended greatly on their knowledge and professionalism, especially when they were willing to let me use uncatalogued collections or facilitated freedom of information requests in the United States and overseas. For their many kindnesses, I thank Michelle DeMartino, Sharon Kelly, and Stephen Plotkin at the John F. Kennedy Library

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in Boston; Regina Greenwell at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin; Valoise Armstrong at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene and Marty McGann at the National Archives in College Park; Marilyn Milliken at the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research in Storrs; Knud Piening at the Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes, Christine Hammann at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, and Siegward Lönnendonker at the Freie-Universität's archive of social movements, all in Berlin; Heidi Dorn at the Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung in Cologne; Stefania Ruggeri at the Archivio Storico Diplomatico of the Ministero degli Affari Esteri in Rome; Dominique Parcollet at the Archives d'Histoire Contemporaine, Françoise Watel and Eric Trouilleux at the Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, and Agnès Callu at the Archives Nationales in Paris; Andrew Murphy and Bill Brooke of the National Archives (United Kingdom) in Kew; Leticia Luna and Jorge Fuentes at the Archivo Histórico Genaro Estrada of the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores in Mexico City; Álvaro Corbacho Casas and Sylvia Belli y Latina at the Archivo Histórico-Diplomático del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores in Montevideo; Ministro Carlos Dellepiane, Javier Lafont, and especially Carmen Rebagliati at the Archivo del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto in Buenos Aires; and Sandra Gutiérrez of the Archivo General Histórico at the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores and Marcela Cavada Ramírez, Director of the Archivo Nacional de la Administración Central del Estado, in Santiago.

Countless colleagues and friends have contributed to this book by sharing their ideas and specialized knowledge. I would like to single out those who took the time to read portions of the manuscript: Michael Brenner, Matt Childs, Mike Creswell, Roger Daniels, David Engerman, the late Jon Gjerde, Jennifer Hosek, Lisa Leff, Richard Lock-Pullan, Eric Lohr, Darrin McMahon, Dirk Moses, Brendon O'Connor, Roger Peace, Tom Schoonover, and Suzanne Sinke. Carolyn Eisenberg heroically read the longest draft and pointed out the path to fewer trees and more forest. For thoughtful conversation, suggestions, and criticisms, I thank Mustafa Aksakal, Patrick Barr-Melej, Bob Beisner, Eva Boesenberg, Richard Breitman, Phil Brenner, Jim Cane-Carrasco, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Frank Costigliola, Belinda Davis, Christiane Eilders, David W. Ellwood, Eileen Findlay, Edith Friedman, Elisabeth Jay Friedman, Roberto García Ferreira, Jessica C. E. Gienow-Hecht, Pierre Guerlain, Jürgen Habermas, Michaela Hampf, Marcel Hawiger, Seymour Hersh, William Hitchcock, Kathryn Jay, Ines and Gerd Kaiser, Alan Kraut, Peter Kuznick, Nelson Lichtenstein, Allan Lichtman, Alan McPherson, Steven Miner, Leandro Morgenfeld, Shoon Murray, Jacques Portes, Stefan Rinke, Philippe Roger, Peter Starr, Ilka-Maria and Klaus Vester, and Heidrun Wimmersberg. I am continually inspired by the enthusiasm of my students at American University.

I have been blessed with department chairs, Tom Zeiler, Neil Jumonville, Pam Nadell, and the late Bob Griffith, who were wonderful community builders. Norbert Finzsch provided incisive critiques, friendship, and a collegial place to work at the Universität zu Köln. For their indispensable research

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assistance I thank Andrew Barron, Aaron Bell, Rod Coeller, Matthew Pembleton, and Jennifer Pratt, and Christopher Griffin, who also expertly prepared the index. Assen Assenov, Director of the Social Science Research Laboratory, cheerfully assisted with the processing of survey data. I thank Elena Servi and Jim Murphy for their help on fine points of language and linguistics. My editor extraordinaire, Lew Bateman, has supported this book at every stage of its development. I appreciate the thoughtfulness with which the anonymous referees selected by Cambridge University Press read the initial proposal and helped to improve the manuscript, especially in making it less damned thick. My deepest gratitude goes to my closest reader, Martin B. Friedman, whose gentle instruction and quiet praise have always been the most prized reward for all my scribbles.

Katharina Vester has put up with this book for almost as long as she has put up with me, and longer than it took us to bridge the Atlantic. Under her influence the book and I are in much better shape. Of what this means to me, you can have only the quietest glimmering.

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Abbreviations

AA	Auswärtiges Amt
AAPD	<i>Akten zur Auswärtigen Politik der Bundesrepublik Deutschland</i>
ACS	Archivio Centrale dello Stato, Rome
AGHMRE	Archivo General Histórico del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Santiago
AGN	Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico City
AHDMRE	Archivo Histórico-Diplomático del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Montevideo
AHGE	Archivo Histórico Genaro Estrada, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, Mexico City
AMREC	Archivo del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, Buenos Aires
AN	Archives Nationales, Paris
APOSB	Archiv der Ausserparlamentarischen Opposition und Sozialen Bewegungen, Berlin
ARNAD	Archivo Nacional de la Administración Central del Estado, Santiago
ASDMAE	Archivio Storico Diplomatico, Ministero degli Affari Esteri, Rome
CF	Country Files
CHEVS	Archives d'Histoire Contemporaine, Centre d'Histoire de Sciences Po, Paris (formerly Centre d'Histoire de l'Europe du Vingtième Siècle)
CIA-FOIA	Central Intelligence Agency Declassified Documents Electronic Reading Room
ConsulMex	Consulate of Mexico
CREST	Central Intelligence Agency Records Search Tool at NARA
DDEL	Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Abilene, Kansas
DDF	<i>Documents Diplomatiques Français</i>

DDRS	Declassified Documents Reference System Database
DELARGENU	Delegation of Argentina to the United Nations
DIVO	Deutsches Institut für Volksumfragen (German Institute for Population Surveys)
DoS	Department of State
FM	Foreign Minister
FO	Foreign Office
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FRUS	<i>Foreign Relations of the United States</i>
HICOG	High Commission for Germany
IFOP	Institut Français d’Opinion Publique
IfZ	Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich
ItAmbPeru	Ambasciata d’Italia a Peru
ItAmbVen	Ambasciata d’Italia a Venezuela, etc.
JFKL	John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, Massachusetts
LAPC	Latin America Policy Committee
LBJL	Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, Texas
LC	Library of Congress, Washington, DC
MAE	Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, Paris
MRE	Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
NA-K	National Archives, Kew, UK (formerly Public Record Office)
NARA	National Archives, College Park, Maryland
NSC	National Security Council
NSF	National Security Files
OCB	Operations Coordinating Board
OMGUS	Office of the Military Government, United States
PAAA	Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes, Berlin
POF	President’s Office Files
PREM	Records of the Prime Minister’s Office
PSB	Psychological Strategy Board
PSF	President’s Subject Files
RC	Roper Center Public Opinion Archives, Storrs, Connecticut
SecState	Secretary of State
SRE	Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores
SWP	Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin
USIA	United States Information Agency
USIS	United States Information Service
ZES	Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung, Cologne