The present study assesses the role religious faith plays in informing the relationship between worship discourse and war attitudes among Americans of diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds. Among Whites, lay involvement in political discourse within houses of worship more strongly informs the oppositional war attitudes of White Mainline Protestants than it does for Evangelical Protestants and Catholics. That is, the more involved White Mainline Protestants are in political discussions within their houses of worship, the more opposed to war they are. The same is not true for White Evangelicals and Catholics. Clergy, however, play a negligible role in informing such war attitudes.

Alternatively, religion is largely unrelated to how racial/ethnic minorities think about war. These findings speak to the importance of social capital among individuals that have regular contact with one another as well as the importance of deliberation among trusted others/friends in informing political attitudes. A liberal theological culture and opportunities for lay leadership may contribute to the heightened impact of laity upon the war attitudes of White Mainline Protestants. However, the lack of saliency of war for racial/ethnic minorities likely contributes to the limited impact of religion on their war attitudes.

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