

STRUCTURE OF ATTITUDES—AN ITALIAN SAMPLE

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Summary.—850 Italian subjects were administered a 48-item questionnaire of social attitudes constructed on the lines of Eysenck's original inventory. Items were intercorrelated and the resulting matrix factor analysed. Two major factors corresponded very closely with the *radicalism* and *toughmindedness* factors found for English, Swedish, German, Japanese and other samples. It is concluded that the structure of attitudes found is similar in all the major industrialized countries.

Attitudes may be viewed in terms of a structured system, hierarchical in nature; at the top of the system there appear to be two orthogonal factors which have been given many different names, but which we shall refer to as R (radicalism-conservatism) and T (toughmindedness-tendermindedness). Since the original publication of the evidence for this suggested system (Eysenck, 1954), much evidence has been adduced to show that replication can be found in different countries and with different types of attitude scales (Wilson, 1973; Rokeach, 1973; Schubert, 1975). Eaves and Eysenck (1974) have shown that both factors have a strong genetic component, with heritabilities around the 60% mark and Hewitt (1974), using their data, showed by factor analysis of the scales involved (which were identical with those originally published in the 1954 book) that after 20 yr. identical factor patterns could be obtained, in spite of the greatly changed political and social scene. There is less evidence on social attitude factor structure in non-English speaking countries, although Eysenck (1953) and Dator (1969) have furnished some replications on German, Swedish, and Japanese samples. The present study attempts to furnish evidence of factor similarity on an Italian sample.

The subjects were 495 students from Northern, central and Southern Italy, 204 middle-class adults, 101 teachers in secondary education and 50 priests, making a total of 850 males and females. Sex distribution was about equal. Mean age of the group was 30 yr. These 850 subjects were administered a 48-item questionnaire, reproduced below in English translation (paraphrased), which in essence explored much the same areas of social attitude as did the original Eysenck inventory but adapted to Italian conditions, e.g., the item about fox-hunting was changed! Five Likert-type responses were provided but collapsed into 3 in order to calculate product-moment correlations between items. Guttman's image-type factor analysis was carried out with R^2 in the leading diagonal. Seven factors were extracted, but inspection of the eigenvalues showed that only two factors exceeded unity. Orthogonal rotation by simple structure

(Varimax) produced a result similar to Eysenck's original solution but capable of improvement. Accordingly, a further 35° counter-clockwise rotation was carried out, following Guilford's (1975) advice that psychological meaningfulness is much more important than somewhat arbitrary criteria of a purely statistical nature, such as simple structure. The factor saturations for radicalism (R) and toughmindedness (T) are given after the inventory items in the table.

Social Attitude Inventory	R:	T:
1. Most obligation towards our family.	-.56	.03
2. War deeply rooted in mankind.	-.37	.30
3. Abolition of private property.	.44	.19
4. Sterilization of genetically vicious.	-.22	.33
5. Give up national sovereignty.	.10	-.08
6. No government interference in trade.	-.25	.12
7. Introduce legalized divorce.	.43	.31
8. Atomic war inevitable.	-.15	.21
9. Nationalization inefficient.	-.36	.10
10. Pre-marital intercourse acceptable.	.39	.35
11. My country, right or wrong.	-.49	.23
12. Honest life possible without religion.	.40	.25
13. Negroes unable to govern themselves.	-.19	.25
14. No survival after death.	.41	.44
15. Jews are stingy.	-.31	.26
16. Euthanasia acceptable.	.23	.40
17. Birth control should remain illegal.	-.38	.00
18. Sunday rest old-fashioned.	.31	.33
19. Capitalism immoral.	.23	.12
20. Suicide permissible.	.28	.33
21. Free love should be encouraged.	.39	.47
22. Military service should be compulsory.	-.54	.18
23. Death penalty barbaric.	.13	-.11
24. Violent crimes to be punished by birching.	-.38	.24
25. Little white lies acceptable.	-.17	.19
26. Idea of God invention of human mind.	.55	.47
27. More sexual freedom to men.	.28	-.05
28. Conscientious objectors are traitors.	-.42	.21
29. Abolish anti-abortion laws.	.25	.44
30. Religious people hypocrites.	.15	.41
31. Extra-marital relations wrong.	-.46	-.21
32. Respect and obedience first duties of youths.	-.52	.41
33. Accept religion.	-.53	-.37
34. Wrong to punish those who prefer another country.	.23	-.01
35. Keep national sovereignty.	-.39	.20
36. Italians more intelligent than other nations.	-.43	.18
37. Compulsory religious education.	-.59	-.12
38. Not wrong to travel without ticket occasionally.	.06	.25
39. Germans by nature a cruel race.	-.27	.29
40. Life short and must be enjoyed.	-.08	.46
41. Domination better than war.	.00	.00
42. Christ was divine.	-.58	-.33
43. Poor are so because they lack intelligence.	-.37	.22
44. Homosexuals must go to prison.	-.51	.15
45. Universe created by God.	-.61	-.42
46. Pigeon-shooting is a cruel sport.	.02	-.02
47. Internal order more important than individual freedom.	-.50	.13
48. Trust in the supernatural.	-.64	-.20

The structure shown in this table is very similar to that found in work carried out in other countries, with a clearly marked radicalism factor and an equally clearly marked toughmindedness factor. The items which have the highest loadings on R deal with obligations to family (—), the abolition of private property, nationalization, patriotism (—), Sunday observance (—), military service (—), sexual freedom, respect and obedience (—), national sovereignty (—), compulsory religious education (—), national superiority (—), law and order (—), and the supernatural (—). The items which have the highest loadings on T deal with war, sterilization, premarital intercourse, racial prejudice, no survival after death, euthanasia, suicide, birching, abortion, anti-religionism, hedonism, and poverty being due to stupidity. All these items and views are found in much the same place in the two-dimensional attitude space in English, German, Swedish, Japanese and other studies and the conclusion seems clear that Italians show a patterning of attitudes very similar to that of other industrialized nations.

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