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## Why We Create Enemies

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# Why We Create Enemies

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Grand Island Senior High School 2021

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## Abstract

Our enemies are not always distinguishable by features such as a black trench coat or twirly mustache. However, humans still attempt to characterize their enemies into a stereotype. This is to create a sense of calm-you know who your enemy is. This research topic explored why society requires a scapegoat to feel better about its own shortcomings. Even if the worst happens, at least we will know who to blame. This has been human nature for thousands of years and will continue to do so.



## Conclusion & Discussion

It can be concluded that people will always find ways to blame a separate being, whether that be a person, group, or nation. Also, humans not only want to be safe from the perpetrator, but they also want to know who, or what, it is. They also allow us to band together for a greater purpose. Instead of looking for a scapegoat, perhaps it would benefit humans to find more reasons to rejoice. Perhaps future research could provide insight on why people become enemies, or the psychological effects enemies have on victims.

## Key Points

- Those who were made to think about dangers were more prone to view those with different political beliefs as enemies
- Evolutionary biology predisposes life to have enemies
- After 9/11, Americans felt a sense of unity and patriotism
- The rapid increase in brain size can potentially be attributed to the satisfaction of identifying enemies of the same species
- Earliest known human-on-human conflict was 10,000 years ago

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