

Authoritarianism F-Scale (1950)

in Adorno (Theodor W.), Frenkel-Brunswick (Else), Levinson (Daniel J.), Sanford (R. Nevitt), *The Authoritarian personality*, New York, Harper & Brothers.

- 1 Obedience and respect for authority are the most important virtues children should learn.
- 2 A person who has bad manners, habits, and breeding can hardly expect to get along with decent people.
- 3 If people would talk less and work more, everybody would be better off.
- 4 The business man and the manufacturer are much more important to society than the artist and the professor.
- 5 Science has its place, but there are many important things that can never be understood by the human mind.
- 6 Every person should have complete faith in some supernatural power whose decisions he obeys without question.
- 7 Young people sometimes get rebellious ideas, but as they grow up they ought to get over them and settle down.
- 8 What this country needs most, more than laws and political programs, is a few courageous, tireless, devoted leaders in whom the people can put their faith.
- 9 No sane, normal, decent person could ever think of hurting a close friend or relative.
- 10 Nobody ever learned anything really important except through suffering.
- 11 What the youth needs most is strict discipline, rugged determination, and the will to work and fight for family and country.
- 12 An insult to our honor should always be punished.
- 13 Sex crimes, such as rape and attacks on children, deserve more than mere imprisonment; such criminals ought to be publicly whipped, or worse.
- 14 There is hardly anything lower than a person who does not feel a great love, gratitude, and respect for his parents.
- 15 Most of our social problems would be solved if we could somehow get rid of the immoral, crooked, and feeble-minded people.
- 16 Homosexuals are hardly better than criminals and ought to be severely punished.
- 17 When a person has a problem or worry, it is best for him not to think about it, but to keep busy with more cheerful things.
- 18 Nowadays more and more people are prying into matters that should remain personal and private.
- 19 Some people are born with an urge to jump from high places.
- 20 People can be divided into two distinct classes: the weak and the strong.
- 21 Some day it will probably be shown that astrology can explain a lot of things.
- 22 Wars and social troubles may someday be ended by an earthquake or flood that will destroy the whole world.
- 23 No weakness or difficulty can hold us back if we have enough will power.
- 24 It is best to use some prewar authorities in Germany to keep order and prevent chaos.
- 25 Most people don't realize how much our lives are controlled by plots hatched in secret places.
- 26 Human nature being what it is, there will always be war and conflict.
- 27 Familiarity breeds contempt.
- 28 Nowadays when so many different kinds of people move around and mix together so much, a person has to protect himself especially carefully against catching an infection or disease from them.
- 29 The wild sex life of the old Greeks and Romans was tame compared to some of the goings-on in this country, even in places where people might least expect it.
- 30 The true American way of life is disappearing so fast that force may be necessary to preserve it.