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Leonidou, LC, Kvasova, O, Christodoulides, P et al. (1 more author) (2019) Personality Traits, Consumer Animosity, and Foreign Product Avoidance: The Moderating Role of Individual Cultural Characteristics. Journal of International Marketing, 27 (2). pp. 76-96. ISSN 1069-031X

https://doi.org/10.1177/1069031X19834936

Personality Traits, Consumer Animosity, and Foreign Product Avoidance: The Moderating Role of Individual Cultural Characteristics

Abstract

Although personality and cultural traits were found to be important predictors or moderators of consumer attitudes and behavior, their relationship to consumer animosity has not yet been studied. This article reports the findings of a study conducted among 606 Ukrainian consumers, aiming to identify personality drivers and behavioral outcomes of consumer animosity, as well as the moderating role of cultural characteristics. Structural equation modeling revealed that extraversion and conscientiousness have a negative effect on consumer animosity, while neuroticism and openness are positively associated with this feeling. However, no significant relationship was observed between animosity and agreeableness. In turn, consumer animosity was found to influence product avoidance, with this association becoming stronger in the case of consumers with higher levels of power distance, uncertainty avoidance, collectivism, and masculinity. The study also showed that male and educated consumers are more likely to harbor animosity toward a hostility-evoking country, while age and income had no control effect on animosity. Several implications for theory and practice are derived from the study findings, and directions for future research are provided.

Keywords: consumer animosity; personality; cultural orientation; product avoidance.

INTRODUCTION

The firm's international business performance can seriously suffer as a consequence of consumer negative sentiments, attributed to past and/or current offensive incidents between the home country and the target country (Maher and Mady 2010). Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998) were the first to relate conflicts between nations to consumers' purchasing behavior, such as boycotts. These scholars introduced the concept of consumer animosity, which they defined as 'remnants of antipathy related to previous or ongoing military, political or economic events' (Klein, Ettenson, and Morris 1998, p. 90). In particular, they showed empirically that the animosity of Chinese consumers toward Japan, caused by the Nanjing massacre in 1937, had a negative effect on their propensity to buy Japanese products. Following Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998) research, many other investigations of consumer animosity have been conducted over the last two decades (Papadopoulos, Banna, and Murphy 2017).

Despite sizeable research on animosity-provoking factors, such as group responsibility (Maher and Mady 2010), perceived personal economic hardship (Huang, Phau, and Lin 2010), and different social attributes (Shoham et al. 2006), the effect of personality on consumer antipathy toward foreign goods has never been tested. Meanwhile, just as previous scholars examined alternative antecedents of consumer animosity, the evolvement of Trait theory revealed that another crucial predictor of human attitudes and behavior is personality (Hirsh and Dolderman 2007). In fact, personality has recently become an important factor in marketing research and is consistently used to explain consumer behavior in various settings (Bosnjak et al. 2007; Westjohn, Singh and Magnusson 2012; Thompson and Prendergast 2015). In a similar vein, although the role of cultural orientations has been largely overlooked by prior animosity studies (with the exception of Han (2017)), culture was found to be an important driver of consumer behavior in

other marketing contexts (Mooij and Hofstede 2011; Gürhan-Canli, Sarial-Abi, and Hayran 2018). For example, Lin and Kalwani (2018) reported that cultural orientations influence electronic word-of-mouth signaling and screening, while Yeniyurt and Townsend (2003) found a strong association between consumer cultural characteristics and new product acceptance.

Although previous research provided hints that personality and culture can shape consumer sentiments, no attempt has so far been made to simultaneously examine the role of these two characteristics of one's identity. This considerably limits our understanding of the consumer animosity phenomenon, since various other social attributes, such as patriotism (Ishii 2009), nationalism (Shoham et al. 2006), and cosmopolitanism (Park and Yoon 2017), that were examined by past studies, exist in parallel to consumer animosity, and therefore cannot be regarded as universal drivers of consumer antipathy (Han 2017). In comparison to such social attributes, personality and culture are more fundamental factors, and their knowledge can help international marketing managers: (a) to acquire a more holistic picture about consumer animosity and make more informed choices about suitable target groups in foreign markets; (b) to devise more focused strategies to counter the negative effects of animosity in certain countries; and (c) to understand in more depth and breadth the various dimensions of consumer animosity and their outcomes in the context of ongoing hostilities between countries (Gineikiene and Diamantopoulos 2017; Shoham 2006).

In light of these gaps, this study aims to identify: (a) the effect of personality traits on consumer animosity, using the well-validated 'Big Five' personality taxonomy (McCrae and Costa 1985); (b) the impact of consumer animosity on foreign product avoidance; and (c) the moderating effect of various cultural orientations on the link between consumer animosity and product avoidance. In particular, we examine consumer animosity within the context of the current hostility of Ukrainian consumers toward Russia. Russia and Ukraine are often referred to as 'Slavic brothers',

mainly because they both belong to the Eastern Slavic ethnic group, share the same Christian Orthodox religion, and their history is strongly interconnected (Jakubanecs, Supphellen, and Thorbjørnsen 2005). However, following the Ukrainian revolution of 2014 (also known as the 'Euromaidan Revolution'), and the subsequent incorporation of the Crimea peninsula into the Russian Federation, these culturally close 'brothers' have been turned into enemies. Although Crimea's incorporation into Russia was admitted to be 'illegal annexation' by the United Nations, the Russian side considered it as a 'restoration of historical justice' (because in 1954, for no apparent reason, Crimea (mainly populated by ethnic Russians) was transferred as a gift to the Ukrainian Republic by the central government of the then Soviet Union). Further to these developments, the Eastern regions of Ukraine (where the majority of the population are pro-Russian) began to demand their independence, and, as a result, a serious armed conflict has erupted, causing many deaths and much destruction.

Our study contributes to the pertinent literature of consumer animosity in three different ways. *First,* we focus on the relationship between the 'Big Five' personality traits (i.e., agreeableness, extraversion, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness) and consumer animosity, thus providing an alternative theoretical explanation of how an individual's psychological factors can shape hostile feelings toward foreign goods. Personality is one of the most fundamental factors affecting one's attitudes and behaviors, which, surprisingly, was largely neglected by extant animosity studies. This has made the existing knowledge on the subject relatively incomplete, and perhaps to some extent misleading. We partially addressed this gap by empirically proving that personality and consumer negative sentiments are closely related.

Second, our study explores the moderating effect of an individual's cultural orientations on the link between consumer animosity and unwillingness to buy products from a hostile country.

This further augments our understanding of the consumer animosity phenomenon based on Hofstede's (2001) dimensions, namely power distance, uncertainty avoidance, individualism, and masculinity. In addition, unlike the majority of previous international marketing studies that viewed the role of cultural differences at the aggregate country level (e. g., Griffith, Yalcinkaya, and Rubera 2014; Pick and Eisend 2016; Tang 2017), we adopt the individual-level approach to culture, since there is strong evidence (e.g., Yoo and Donthu 2005) that consumers within one country are also culturally distinct. This could provide a more precise picture of consumers' sensitivity to confrontation between their home country and a foreign country, which will in turn affect their purchasing behavior.

Third, we take the position that consumer animosity is a complex construct, which comprises multiple dimensions. While many previous studies (e.g., Klein 2002; Ma et al. 2012; Nijssen and Douglas 2004) have used the predetermined two-dimensional domain of animosity, based on military and economic hostility between nations, within the context of our study, we introduce two additional, relatively unexplored dimensions, that is, political and social, which are equally important in order to gain a comprehensive picture of the subject. Also, unlike past research, this study investigates animosity in the context of an ongoing conflict, rather than negative past events. We believe that this provides a deeper insight into the nature of consumer antipathy toward foreign goods, since fresh memories about inter-country conflicts offer a better reflection of consumer negative sentiments and their effect on purchasing behaviors (Gineikiene and Diamantopoulos 2017).

The remainder of this article is organized as follows: the next section provides an overview of the pertinent literature on consumer animosity. This is followed by an explanation of the Social Identity Theory, Realistic Group Conflict Theory, and Self-categorization Theory, which are the

guiding theories of our study. Subsequently, we present the conceptual model and develop the research hypotheses. The research method adopted for the purposes of this study is then explained. The next section analyzes the data collected and tests the research hypotheses. The final sections discuss the research findings and draw conclusions, offer theoretical and managerial implications, and propose avenues for further research.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

The studies of Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998) and Klein and Ettenson (1999) were the first to establish the construct of consumer animosity and distinguish it from the already existing construct of ethnocentrism introduced by Shimp and Sharma (1987). These two seminal studies were followed by dozens of other investigations of consumer animosity that took various directions (see **Appendix I** for a summary of these studies). However, despite the wealth of knowledge provided by extant literature on consumer animosity, it is too diverse, unprogrammatic, and fragmented, sometimes yielding inconsistent results.

Dimensions, types, and scope of consumer animosity

Scholars in the field have identified different dimensions of consumer animosity. The pioneering study of Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998) assumed that consumer animosity is founded on military and economic issues, and many subsequent investigations were built exclusively on these two dimensions (e.g., Ang et al. 2004; Nijssen and Douglas 2004; Shin 2001). However, more recent studies posited that animosity is not only related to economic hardship or war actions, but could also be embedded in matters associated with mentality and religion (Maher and Mady 2010; Riefler and Diamantopoulos 2007) or politics (Funk et al. 2010). Following this line of research, Nes,

Yelker, and Silkoset (2012) suggested that animosity is a four-dimensional construct encompassing war, economic, political, and social components.

There have been several attempts in the past to provide typologies of consumer animosity. For example, Jung et al. (2002) and Ang et al. (2004) distinguish between stable (i.e., accumulated over a relatively long period of time and stemming from past negative events) and situational (i.e., associated with a specific circumstance) animosity, as well as between personal (i.e., arising from personal unpleasant experiences with a country and/or its people) and national (i.e., related to perceived damage that the home country suffered from the foreign country) animosity. Also, Gineikiene and Diamantopoulos (2017) examined consumer animosity in historically connected markets and reported different behavioral responses to negative past events (e.g., nostalgia offsetting the effects of animosity) and current/recent events (e.g., animosity overshadowing nostalgia).

A few studies applied the animosity concept with a different scope. For example, Funk et al. (2010) and Cheah et al. (2016) researched animosity in the context of hybrid products and reported the negative effects of consumer antipathy on willingness to buy such products. Also, Alden et al. (2013) examined animosity at the level of companies/brands, rather than countries, and looked at the association between global company animosity and consumer global brand attitude. Heinberg (2017) widened the scope of animosity from one country to a group of countries and concluded that outbreaks of animosity against the West increase Chinese consumers' willingness to buy local brands.

Causes of and influences on consumer animosity

Several studies examined the factors that precede consumer animosity. For instance, Huang, Phau, and Lin (2010) found that perceived personal economic hardship and the normative influence of

consumers' reference groups positively affect animosity beliefs. The role of susceptibility to normative influence in forming consumer hostility was also confirmed by more recent studies (e.g., Park and Yoon 2017). In addition, Hoffmann, Mai, and Smirnova (2011) tried to develop a universal measurement of consumer animosity and argued that three drivers - threat, antithetical political attitudes, and negative personal experiences - mediate the influence of specific causes on general animosity. Further, Maher and Mady (2010) reported a strong positive effect of group responsibility on animosity beliefs.

A number of scholars investigated the link between animosity and various social attributes, such as patriotism (Ganideh and Eladee 2018; Ishii 2009), exclusionism (Ishii 2009), dogmatism (Shoham et al. 2006), nationalism (Ganideh and Eladee 2018; Shoham et al. 2006), internationalism (Ganideh and Eladee, 2018; Ishii 2009; Shoham et al. 2006), and cosmopolitanism (Park and Yoon 2017). In general, their studies indicated that patriotism, dogmatism, nationalism, and exclusionism enhance consumer animosity, whereas cosmopolitanism and internationalism are negatively associated with antipathy toward foreign countries. In addition, Wang, He, and Li (2013) reported that materialism and sensitivity to social norms can moderate the effect of consumer animosity on willingness to buy foreign products. Han (2017) also found that the cultural orientations of individualism and collectivism can precede consumer animosity and moderate the effects of consumer animosity on purchase intentions.

An examination of the effect of demographic characteristics on consumer animosity yielded mixed findings. As for gender, the majority of the studies (e.g., Fernández-Ferrín et al. 2015; Richardson 2012) reported that men show higher levels of animosity toward a hostile country than do women, while a few other studies (e.g., Bahaee and Pisani 2009) indicated the opposite. With regard to age, younger consumers felt stronger animosity toward the 'enemy nation'

in Iran (Bahaee and Pisani 2009) and Indonesia (Sutikno and Cheng 2011), but the opposite was true in the case of the US (Klein and Ettenson 1999; Richardson 2012). Also, education was found to have either a positive (Ganideh and Elahee 2012; Nakos and Hajidimitriou 2007) or negative (Bahaee and Pisani 2009) association with consumer animosity, while in some studies (e.g., Fernández-Ferrín et al. 2015; Klein and Ettenson 1999) no significant relationship was observed.

Consequences of consumer animosity

Various attitudinal and behavioral consequences of consumer animosity were addressed by the majority of the studies in the field. Following the study of Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998), the earliest stream of research tried to validate the negative impact of consumer animosity on purchasing intentions in different cultural contexts. For instance, Witkowski (2000) studied the hostility of American consumers toward China and found that animosity is negatively associated with their purchasing intentions. This negative association was later confirmed by the studies on Korean consumers' attitudes toward Chinese products (Shin 2001), U.S. consumers' attitudes toward Japanese products (Klein 2002), Croatian consumers' attitudes toward Western products (Kesic, Rajh, and Yzerbyt 2005), and Australian consumers' attitudes toward French products (Ettenson and Klein 2005).

Many recent investigations (e.g., Funk et al., 2010; Ganideh and Elahee 2018; Maher and Mady 2010) similarly found a negative link between consumer animosity and willingness to buy products from the disliked nation, while a few others suggested that consumer antipathy also influences product judgments (Huang, Phau, and Lin 2010; Ishii 2009), preference for domestic products/products from one's in-group (Heinberg 2017; Shimp, Dunn, and Klein 2004), willingness to pay a price premium for products from one's in-group (Shimp, Dunn, and Klein 2004), and

country-of-origin image (Hoffmann, Mai, and Smirnova 2011). Notably, some studies (e.g., Klein, Ettenson, and Morris 1998; Klein 2002; Mostafa 2010) examined the effect of willingness to buy on product ownership and reported their strong association.

UNDERLYING THEORIES

Our study is theoretically anchored on Realistic Group Conflict Theory (RGCT) (Sherif 1966), Social Identity Theory (SIT) (Tajfel and Turner 1986), and Self-Categorization Theory (SCT) (Turner et al. 1987). The RGCT and the SIT theories are useful in illuminating the nature of consumer animosity in general (Huang, Phau, and Lin 2010; Fernández-Ferrín et al. 2015), while the SCT explains why universal factors, such as personality traits and cultural orientations, could be relevant for the formation of one's attitudes and behavior, including consumer antipathy. Unlike theories that use psychological factors to explain conflict, the RGCT focuses on the situational antecedents outside the self. It holds that groups often have conflicting goals and compete for scarce resources, assuming that one group's success threatens other groups (Kervyn, Fiske, and Yzerbyt 2015). This often results in inter-group hostility, which is accompanied by feelings of prejudice and discrimination toward out-groups. These negative sentiments essentially stem from the belief that certain resources of the own group are threatened by other groups (Meuleman, Davidov, and Billiet 2009). Anti-out-group attitudes can thus be regarded as a response to the subjectively perceived threats to the interests of the in-group (Schlueter and Scheepers 2010). Notably, past studies (e.g., Schlueter and Scheepers 2010; Ullrich et al. 2006) have indicated a robust link between perceived group threat and discriminatory attitudes toward the out-group. The level of perceived group threat is largely determined by a context of actual conditions in which a conflict takes place (Meuleman, Davidov, and Billiet 2009). For instance, a more recent intragroup

conflict enhances the feeling of membership and ethnic identification among the in-group's members and therefore increases perceptions of threat (Shoham et al. 2006). The latter leads to higher levels of anti-out-group sentiments, which serve to protect the in-group's interests in a particular conflict.

The insights of the RGCT were elaborated on by the SIT, which could further explain animosity beliefs. While the RGCT implies that conflicting goals are sufficient to cause confrontation between two groups, the SIT suggests that it is just the awareness of belonging to a particular group that creates prejudice against other groups (Tajfel and Turner 2004). According to the SIT, individuals tend to classify themselves and others into 'in-groups' and 'out-groups'. People constantly make comparisons between the in-groups and out-groups in order to achieve and maintain positive distinctiveness. They favor the in-group and discriminate against the out-group, which allows them to boost their self-esteem (Tajfel and Turner 2004). This helps to generate a sense of identity, but also leads to conflicts between the in-group and the out-groups (Fong, Lee, and Du 2014; Shoham and Gavish 2016). In an animosity context, the home country is typically considered the in-group, whereas foreign countries are the out-group. The perceived differences between the in-group and out-groups might influence an individual's beliefs and behaviors in all spheres, including consumption patterns (Duckitt and Parra 2004). In the case of a past or ongoing conflict between countries, nationals of one country may adopt a negative attitude to a hostile country and its products because of heightened consciousness of their distinct identity (Huang, Phau, and Lin et al. 2010). This might result in an unwillingness to buy products from the hostile country.

Further, the combined use of personality traits and cultural orientations to explain consumer animosity can be theoretically justified by the Self-categorization theory (SCT).

According to this theory, there are two aspects of the self: personal identity (the personal/inner self) and social identity (the social/outer self) (Onorato and Turner 2004). While the former refers to 'me' versus 'not me' categorizations and is rooted in the intrapsychic processes of an individual, the latter focuses on the 'us' versus 'them' categorizations and is rooted in sociocultural interactions between people (Rattansi and Phoenix 2005). Based on this theory, in our study we use personality traits as the inner self and cultural orientations as a proxy for the outer self, because they largely reflect an individual's perception of him- or herself within a particular group. Although this theory distinguishes between the personal identity and social identity of an individual, some studies (e.g., Markus and Kitayama 1991; Swann and Bosson 2008) underscore the interdependent nature of intrapsychic and sociocultural processes in the formation of an individual's identity. In fact, Vignoles (2018) argues that a person's identity is a broad and multifaceted concept, and any attempt to consider its levels in isolation may limit our understanding of the self and its effects on emotions, attitudes, and behavior. Hence, both personality traits (i.e., intrapsychic processes) and cultural orientations (i.e., sociocultural processes) determine how individuals interpret the world, and their combined use can provide a more integrative understanding of consumer negative feelings and behavior, as in the case of consumer animosity.

CONCEPTUAL MODEL AND HYPOTHESES

Our conceptual model posits that an individual's personality traits influence consumer animosity, which, in turn, positively affects foreign product avoidance (see **Figure 1**). The link between consumer animosity and foreign product avoidance is also hypothesized to be moderated by the cultural orientations of an individual. Finally, four demographic factors, namely gender, age, income group, and educational level, are used as control variables on consumer animosity.

…Insert Figure 1 about here…

Main Hypothesized Paths

The construct of personality rests on the assumption that individuals possess inherent characteristics which are remarkably stable throughout life (McCrae and Costa 1985). The Five Factor model/ Big Five is the most prominent taxonomy of personality, which categorizes a large number of traits into five dimensions, namely agreeableness, extraversion, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness to experience. The Five Factor Model was developed by exploring correlations among personality trait descriptors and has been consistently used to explain individual differences in a variety of empirical settings (McCrae and Costa 1985).

Agreeableness refers to an individual's level of empathy, warmth, and sympathy toward others (McCrae and John 1992). Agreeable individuals are generally friendly, compassionate, courteous, and soft-hearted (McCrae and Costa 1985). They also have a more optimistic view of human nature and are willing to compromise their interests with those of others (John and Srivastava 1999). In contrast, individuals with a low level of agreeableness tend to be less considerate, cooperative, and accommodating in their interpersonal interactions (Doucet et al. 2015). They also place self-interest above getting along with others and tend to be indifferent toward the welfare of the society. Previous research showed that agreeableness is associated with universalism and benevolence values, which incorporate anti-animosity dimensions, such as peacefulness, friendliness, and forgiveness (Olver and Mooradian 2003; Roccas et al. 2002). Indeed, agreeable people are less prejudiced and discriminatory against out-groups (Pratto et al. 1994) and very seldom respond destructively to different types of conflicts (Martin-Raugh, Kell, and Motowidlo 2016). In other words, individuals scoring high on the trait of agreeableness are likely to demonstrate less

hostility toward the nation with which their home country is in a state of confrontation. Thus, we can posit:

H_1: The higher the level of agreeableness of an individual, the lower his/her level of consumer animosity.

Extraversion refers to the extent to which a person is social, energetic, assertive, and outgoing (McCrae and Costa 1985). Extraverts enjoy participating in activities that involve social gatherings and are generally characterized by optimism, warmth, gregariousness, and excitement-seeking. On the contrary, individuals who are low in extraversion (i.e., introverts) are quiet, reserved, silent, and find social gatherings to be draining (McCrae and John 1992). The behavior of extraverts is largely driven by outer stimuli, while introverts need to escape such stimuli to gain functional equilibrium. Extroversion has also been consistently linked with the tendency to experience positive states (Srivastava, Angelo, and Vallereux 2008). In fact, the correlation between extraversion and positive affect was found so robust that some studies (e.g., Herringer 1999) proposed that positive emotionality is one of the defining features of extraversion, while other studies (e.g., DeNeve and Cooper 1998) pointed out that extraversion and positive affect are based on the same neurological structure. Since extraversion predisposes individuals to positive rather than negative emotionality, in the case of a conflict with another country, extraverts are likely to exhibit less animosity toward the offender. We may, therefore, hypothesize that:

H_2: The higher the level of extraversion of an individual, the lower his/her level of consumer animosity.

Conscientiousness is described as the tendency of an individual to be organized, responsible, and dependable, as well as to show self-discipline, adhere to rules and norms, and take obligations to others seriously (McCrae and Costa 1985). Conscientiousness is associated

with educational accomplishment and determination to achieve high levels of success through purposeful planning (Goldberg 1993). Conscientious individuals are characterized by dutifulness, scrupulousness, and meticulousness, while people who score low on this trait demonstrate unreliability, frivolousness, lack of ambition and motivation, and failure to conform (McCrae and John 1992). Higher levels of conscientiousness have been associated with higher levels of positive affect (Steel, Schmidt, and Shultz 2008), which can be explained by the fact that conscientious people are characterized by effective emotion regulation and greater recovery from negative stimuli (Javaras et al. 2012). Hence, in the context of a confrontation between the home country and the foreign country, individuals scoring high on conscientiousness can activate this self-control mechanism to reduce negative affects arising from the conflicting situation. This is likely to make them less susceptible to feelings of animosity toward the hostility-evoking country, which leads us to the following hypothesis:

H_3: The higher the level of conscientiousness of an individual, the lower his/her level of consumer animosity.

Neuroticism denotes the tendency of an individual to experience negative emotional affects, such as anxiety, annoyance, and irritability (McCrae and Costa 1985). It also refers to an individual's ability to cope with potential stressful situations, as well as with feelings of insecurity, instability, and nervousness (Herold et al. 2002). Neurotic people exhibit negativity that persists for unusually long time periods and are often more worried, depressed, and fearful in their lives (McCrae and John 1992). They are also less likely to be accommodating in personal relations with out-groups and have difficulties in managing stress and reducing anxiety (Caligiuri and Tarique 2012). On the contrary, non-neurotic people are often calm, psychologically stable, and tend to be

free from persistent negative feelings (John and Srivastava 1999). Overall, a high degree of neuroticism is linked to many aversive emotional feelings, with anger, aggression, and revenge being particularly evident (Ode, Robinson, and Witkowski 2008). This could be attributed to the poor emotional control of neurotic individuals, which increases their tendency to be more reactive to negative events, such as conflict between the home country and the foreign country on economic, political, societal, or military grounds (Ode, Robinson, and Witkowski 2008). Based on the above, we can hypothesize that:

H_4: The higher the level of neuroticism of an individual, the higher his/her level of consumer animosity.

Openness describes the breadth, depth, and variability of one's longing for new ideas (John and Srivastava 1999). It refers to the extent to which a person is broad-minded, intelligent, and imaginative (McCrae and Costa 1985). Although generally openness denotes the individual's tendency for cognitive exploration, it has two distinct major components: openness to experience (related to aesthetics and emotions) and intellect (related to intellectual dispositions) (Kaufman et al. 2015). Overall, highly open individuals tend to think and act in nonconforming ways and are characterized by intellectual curiosity, aesthetic appreciation, creativity, and unconventionality. They are also more receptive to new ideas, values, and actions. In contrast, individuals scoring low on openness are more down-to-earth, have a conservative outlook, and prefer the familiar to the novel (Goldberg 1993). Notably, individuals who score high on openness have more empathy for individuals from other cultures, which is likely to reduce their negative feelings toward a foreign country in a conflicting situation (Ganideh and Elahee 2018; Shoham et al. 2006). Based on the above, we can posit that:

H_5: The higher the level of openness of an individual, the lower his/her level of consumer animosity.

Consumer animosity has been well-researched in relation to consumers' purchase behavior. Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998) were the first to report a direct effect of animosity on consumer unwillingness to buy goods from a 'hostile' country, and this has been empirically confirmed in many subsequent studies (e.g., Ettenson and Klein 2005; Funk et al., 2010; Maher and Mady 2010; Mostafa 2010; Shoham et al. 2006). The positive association between consumer animosity and foreign product avoidance can be explained by the principle of cognitive consistency (Festinger 1957), which suggests that individuals have an inner drive to hold all their attitudes and behavior in harmony. When individuals hold two or more contradictory cognitions, they feel a negative affective state - cognitive dissonance. This unpleasant feeling motivates individuals to reduce the magnitude of dissonance by changing any one of the components that are responsible for the discrepancy (Festinger 1957). Thus, consumers with feelings of animosity toward a foreign country usually strive to balance their hostile attitudes with their behavioral responses by avoiding products from the offending country (Shoham et al. 2006). This alignment of attitude with behavior allows consumers to reduce the level of psychological distress and achieve cognitive consistency, that is, harmony among beliefs, attitudes, and actions. Notably, the association between consumer animosity and product avoidance was found to be stronger when the conflict between the home and the source country was more recent (Shoham, Gavish, and Rose 2016). Hence:

H_6: Consumer animosity has a positive effect on foreign product avoidance.

Moderation Hypotheses

Our study applies Hofstede's (1980, 2001) typology of culture, comprising power distance, uncertainty avoidance, individualism, and masculinity, to examine the moderating effect of cultural characteristics on the association between consumer animosity and foreign product avoidance. While these dimensions have been widely employed at the country level, it has been observed that individuals in the same country also differ in their cultural orientations, which is related to their differences in the assimilation of culture of the society to which they belong (Yoo and Donthu 2005). Since the unit of analysis in our study is the individual, we assess culture at the individual rather than the country level, thus more accurately capturing cultural variations among people within the same country. This individual-level approach to culture has been successfully applied in other consumer behavior studies, such as those focusing on environmental issues (Leonidou, Leonidou, and Kvasova 2010), ethnocentrism (Yoo and Donthu 2005), and e-service quality perception (Al-Nasser et al. 2013).

Power distance refers to the extent to which less powerful individuals "expect and accept that power is distributed unequally" (Hofstede 2001, p. 98). Although inequality exists within any culture, people vary in the degree to which they accept that disparity. Individuals characterized by large power distance are more likely to conform to a hierarchy where everyone has a defined place within the social order. They also show greater reliance on the centralized authority and greater tolerance for inequalities in power and wealth (Hofstede 2001). In general, individuals who score highly on this cultural dimension are likely to exhibit stronger fears of disagreeing with their superiors and less questioning of authority (Kim and Zhang 2014). Since individuals of large power distance accept greater gaps in the hierarchy and show more conformity with authority, they are expected to exhibit more loyalty to their nation (Yoo and Donthu 2005). In the context of confrontation with another country, one of the manifestations of such loyalty is demonstration of

disapproval toward the offending nation. Moreover, individuals scoring high on power distance carefully follow social guidelines in their attitudes and actions, and since the public stance on the animosity-evoking nation is often critical, the urge of such individuals 'to do the right thing' is likely to strengthen the association between their hostility toward the offending nation and product avoidance. Thus, we can propose the following hypothesis:

H_7: The positive effect of consumer animosity on foreign product avoidance is stronger in the case of individuals with higher levels of power distance.

Uncertainty avoidance reflects an individual's tolerance for uncertainty and ambiguity (Hofstede 2001). Individuals with high levels of uncertainty avoidance feel uncomfortable in unstructured and unfamiliar situations, have an inner need for predictability and are intolerant of different opinions and behaviors. They feel threatened by the unknown, want to control the environment, and are largely risk-averse (Hofstede 1997). On the contrary, individuals with low levels of uncertainty avoidance are more comfortable with novel and unusual conditions, do not need explicit rules and instructions, show greater tolerance for different views and are willing to accept risk (Hofstede 2001). High uncertainty avoidance is also associated with reliance on formalized policies and procedures, while low uncertainty avoidance is linked to reliance on informal norms. In the context of confrontation between the home country and the foreign country, individuals of high uncertainty avoidance are likely to feel more stress and anxiety, since conflicts (especially those of a military nature) usually pose a threat to their home country and are generally associated with instability and insecurity. This enhanced feeling of nervousness is expected to strengthen the link between their animosity beliefs toward the hostile nation and foreign product avoidance. For this reason, we can posit that:

H_8: The positive effect of consumer animosity on foreign product avoidance is stronger in the case of individuals with higher levels of uncertainty avoidance.

Individualism refers to the extent to which people act as individuals rather than as members of a group (Hofstede 1997). Individualists are independent of their groups, accord priority to their own interests, and consider the achievement of their personal goals of primary importance. On the contrary, collectivists are interdependent within their groups, give priority to the interests of their group, and seek to support the goals of their group, even at the expense of their own needs (Triandis 2001). Also, individualists behave primarily on the basis of their own attitudes, while collectivists tend to comply with the norms of the referent groups (Han 2017). The choices of collectivistic consumers often reflect their loyalty to the home country (their in-group) and disbelief toward foreign countries (the out-groups), while individualistic consumers make choices based on rational judgments rather than group membership (Yoo and Donthu 2005). In the case of an international dispute, the prevailing public opinion about the offender and its products is often negative, and since collectivistic consumers are more susceptible to normative influence, their animosity feelings are likely to have a stronger effect on foreign product avoidance (Han 2017; Park and Yoon 2017). In contrast, individualistic consumers are more autonomous in their purchase decisions. We can therefore hypothesize that:

H_9: The positive effect of consumer animosity on foreign product avoidance is stronger in the case of individuals with lower levels of individualism.

Masculinity refers to the dominant gender role pattern in a society. Specifically, masculinity represents a preference for assertiveness, achievement, and heroism, while femininity stands for cooperation, caring for others, and the quality of life (Hofstede 2001). Individuals characterized by high masculinity tend to be ambitious and competitive, dominate in all settings,

strive for material success, and respect whatever is big, strong, and fast. On the other hand, individuals who score highly on femininity are usually tender, modest, cooperative, and care about interpersonal relations. Moreover, individuals high on masculinity often rely on one-sided arguments and rush to embrace an antagonistic stance, while individuals high on femininity are usually open to two-sided communications and carefully consider different opinions before forming positive or negative attitudes (Yoo and Donthu 2005). In addition, people high on masculinity prefer confrontation as a method of conflict processing, while people high on femininity prefer harmony-enhancing procedures to avoid further conflict escalation (Leung et al. 1990). All the above imply that, in the context of confrontation between two countries, individuals with a high score in masculinity are likely to adopt a more hostile attitude toward an offending nation and show greater avoidance of its products. Hence, we may posit that:

H_{10}: The positive effect of consumer animosity on foreign product avoidance is stronger in the case of individuals with higher levels of masculinity.

RESEARCH METHOD

The study took place in Ukraine, which, as mentioned earlier, provides fertile ground for the study of the consumer animosity phenomenon due to its current hostilities with Russia. However, to identify whether Russia is indeed the country to which Ukrainians feel the greatest animosity, as well as to reveal the specific animosity dimensions with regard to this country, in-depth interviews with 42 randomly selected Ukrainians were conducted by phone (lasting on average ten minutes). Respondents were asked to indicate the least favorable foreign country and explain their choices. The analysis of their responses showed that indeed Russia is the country toward which feelings of animosity are the strongest, having been mentioned 23 times (more than any other country). The

other animosity target countries were: Poland (8 mentions), Germany (4 mentions), the US (4 mentions), Turkey (1 mention), India (1 mention), and Lithuania (1 mention).

Based on respondents' negative comments about Russia, four dimensions of animosity were determined: military (war), economic, political, and social. For instance, within a *war-related* dimension, respondents pointed out the loss of the Crimea peninsula, the role of Russia in the military conflict in the Eastern region of Ukraine, and the threat that Russia poses to Ukrainian national security. *Economic animosity* was founded in the perceived Russian influence over the Ukrainian economy, where Russia-Ukraine gas disputes were believed to play the most important role. The manifestations of *political animosity* included dissatisfaction with Russian foreign policy and its negative consequences for Ukraine, as well as anger with the Russian president and other Russian politicians. Finally, within a *social-related* dimension, respondents referred to the Russian mentality/way of living and the fact that Russia tends to demonstrate its superiority over Ukraine.

With regard to construct measurement (see **Appendix II**), the 'Big Five' personality traits were operationalized using the mini-IPIP, a 20-item short form of the 50-item IPIT—Five-Factor Model, which was developed by Donellan et al. (2006). The scales for each of the four dimensions of consumer animosity contained three items. These were largely taken from the studies of Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998) and Nes, Yelkur, and Silkoset (2012) and augmented with input from our preliminary interviews with Ukrainian consumers. General animosity was operationalized as a second-order construct with four animosity dimensions (i.e., military, economic, political, and social) as first-order constructs. This reflective measurement pattern for animosity was proposed by Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998) and Klein (2002) and applied by Rose, Rose, and Shoham (2009) and Fernández-Ferrín et al. (2015).[1] The 4-item scale for foreign product avoidance was

taken from Grégoire, Tripp, and Legoux (2009) and Harmeling, Magnusson, and Singh (2015). The constructs comprising the four cultural dimensions of an individual were adapted from Hofstede (1980) and each measured on a 4-item scale.

Our questionnaire included questions containing pre-coded items for each of the constructs used in the conceptual model, measured on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5). To reduce the potential for respondent bias, the following actions were taken: (a) some of the items in the scales were reversed; (b) the sequence of the various sections of the questionnaire was rotated; and (c) the respondents were assured that their answers would be strictly anonymous and confidential. The questionnaire was developed in English and translated into Russian and Ukrainian, while a back-translation procedure ensured that there were no linguistic problems. Since the majority of the respondents could speak both Ukrainian and Russian languages, they could choose the language of the questionnaire which was the most convenient for them. The questionnaire was pre-tested with five Ukrainian consumers, and no particular problems were identified with regard to duration, comprehension, and workability.[2]

Data for the full-scale survey were collected during summer 2016, using the mall-intercept method. Respondents were randomly intercepted in large shopping malls located in different parts of Ukraine. These included retail outlets targeting consumers of different genders, age groups, income groups, and education categories, which allowed us to achieve a relatively representative sample of the Ukrainian population aged 18 and above. However, due to the ongoing armed conflict in the Donbass region of Ukraine (which is in the eastern part of the country and borders Russia), access to consumers in this area was limited. All questionnaires were completed on a self-administered basis, while fieldwork supervisors were ready at any time to assist respondents to fill in the questionnaire and provide clarifications.[3]

Altogether, 1,195 visitors were intercepted, of which 484 refused to take part in the study, mainly because of time constraints, reluctance to reveal their attitude toward Russia, and general unwillingness to participate in surveys. Another 76 visitors, although willing to participate in the study, did not fulfil the eligibility criteria required in terms of age, education, or nationality. Of the remainder (i.e., 635 respondents), 29 questionnaires were not fully completed and were discarded from the survey. This indicates an effective response rate of 50.7%, which is acceptable in the case of consumer surveys. To test for nonresponse bias, we have compared and contrasted the demographic characteristics (namely, gender, age, education level, and income group) between respondents and those non-respondents who could provide this information, revealing no statistically significant differences.

The final sample of 606 consumers had the following structure: with regard to location, 27% of the respondents were from Western Ukraine, 40% from Central Ukraine, and 33% from Southern-Eastern Ukraine. In terms of gender, 59% were males and 41% females. Regarding age, 32% were under the age of 35 and 68% aged 35 years and above. Finally, 65% of the respondents held at least an undergraduate university degree, while the remainder (35%) had completed primary or secondary education. The fact that the sample is skewed toward consumers with a university degree reflects the general situation in the country, which is characterized by very high levels of tertiary education (The World Bank 2014).

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The data collected were analyzed using the Structural Equation Modeling based on the EQS program. We divided the analysis into two major parts: measurement model validation and structural model estimation.

Measurement model validation

Table 1 provides the correlation matrix, while **Table 2** presents the results of the measurement model. The convergent validity of the constructs was adequate, since the *t*-value for each measurement item was high and significant, all standard errors of the estimated coefficients were very low, and the average variance extracted for each construct was greater than .50 (Hair et al. 2016). Discriminant validity was also evident, because the confidence interval around the correlation estimate for each pair of constructs never included 1.00 (Anderson and Gerbing 1988), while the squared correlation for each pair of constructs never exceeded their average variance extracted (Fornell and Larcker 1981). Construct reliability was satisfactory, since all constructs had Cronbach's alphas greater than .70. Composite reliability was also adequate, with all coefficients being greater than .60.

…insert Table 1 and Table 2 about here…

To ensure the non-existence of common method bias, we used three different tests. First, we employed the Harman's single-factor test (Podsakoff and Organ 1986), using exploratory factor analysis (EFA), where four factors emerged from the un-rotated solution with eigen values greater than 1.0, accounting for 58% of the total variance. In addition, no general factor was evident, with the first factor accounting for less than 30% of the variance. Second, we applied a CFA approach to the Harman method, which is more sophisticated and rigorous than the EFA test (Podsakoff et al. 2003). Specifically, we estimated a confirmatory factor model, in which we constrained the four factors and 16 construct items used in our measurement model to load on a single factor. The fit statistics of this model indicated a very poor model fit (i.e., $\chi^2_{(104)}= 989.42$, $p < .001$; $\chi^2/df = 9.51$; NFI = .83; NNFI = .82; CFI = .84; GFI = .72, RMSEA = .15). Finally, we used the

partial correlation technique, where 'satisfaction with life' served as a marker variable (i.e., a theoretically unrelated construct), which neither exhibited a significant correlation with any other constructs used in the model, nor changed the significance of the correlation coefficients after implementing the partial correlation adjustments (Lindell and Whitney 2001).

Structural model estimation

The hypothesized links between the constructs were tested by estimating the structural model, which showed a good fit as demonstrated by the ratio of chi-square to the degrees of freedom (χ^2/d.f.= 2.3) and the results of alternative fit indexes (NFI= .94; NNFI= .96; CFI= .97; RMSEA= .05, 90% C.I.= (.04, .05)) (see **Table 3**). With regard to H_1, the association between agreeableness and consumer animosity, although negative, was not statistically significant (β= -.03, *t*= -.53, *p*= .58). Extraversion was inversely and significantly related to consumer animosity, which is consistent with H_2 (β= -.15, *t*=-3.14, *p*= .00). In support of H_3, the effect of conscientiousness on consumer animosity was significant and with the right negative sign (β= -.13, *t*= -2.63, *p*= .01), while neuroticism was positively associated with consumer antipathy (β= .23, *t*= 4.81, *p*= .00), thus confirming H_4. Contrary to our expectations (H_5), openness was positively related to animosity (β = .28, *t*= 5.20, *p*= .00). Finally, in accord with H_6, consumer animosity had a significant positive effect on foreign product avoidance (β= .35, *t*= 8.46, *p*= .00).

…insert Table 3 about here…

The moderation analysis was based on the interaction approach, which examines the effect of the cross-product between each moderating variable and the hypothesized association (Ping 1995). With regard to power distance, we found that it strengthens the positive effect of consumer animosity on foreign product avoidance (β= .12, *t*= 2.78, *p*= .01), thus confirming H_7. Uncertainty

avoidance also had a strong moderating effect on the relationship between consumer animosity and unwillingness to buy foreign products (β= .14, *t*= 3.35, *p*= .00), which is in accord with H_8. Further, in support of H_9, individualism weakened the impact of consumer animosity on foreign product avoidance (β= -.18, *t*= -4.46, *p*= .00), while masculinity strengthened their association (β= 14, *t*= 3.30, *p*= .00), which is in line with H_{10}.

Finally, we have controlled for the effect of several demographic variables on consumer animosity. Our study demonstrated that gender is an important determinant of consumer hostility, with the intensity of animosity being higher in the case of male than female respondents (β= -.40, *t*= -4.45, *p*= .00). Statistically significant results were also observed with regard to the role of education, with more educated individuals showing more negative sentiments to the hostility-evoking nation (β= .16, *t*= 3.95, *p*= .00). Surprisingly, both age (β= .18, *t*= .61, *p*= .54) and income (β= .07, *t*= .42, *p*= .68) had no significant effect on consumer animosity.

DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS

Although previous studies investigated the relationship between consumer animosity and many different factors, the role of personality traits in forming hostility feelings has never been tested. Moreover, while prior research found that the association between consumer animosity and purchase intentions is moderated by individualism/collectivism (Han 2017), the moderating role of other cultural orientations has not been investigated. We have addressed these gaps by examining the direct effect of personality traits on consumer animosity and the moderating effect of the main cultural orientations on the association between negative consumer sentiments toward a foreign country and product avoidance.

Our study has clearly indicated that certain personality traits influence consumer animosity which, in turn, affects product avoidance. In particular, extraversion was negatively related to consumer animosity, which can be explained by the fact that extraverts are characterized by warmth, positivism, and high levels of subjective well-being, which can partially offset their negative feelings toward the offending nation. The association between conscientiousness and consumer animosity was also negative, and one possible reason for this is that effective emotional control of conscientious individuals can reduce their negative affects toward a hostile country. Neuroticism had a significant positive impact on animosity, which can be attributed to the poor emotional control of neurotic people and their overreaction to negative events. Surprisingly, openness was negatively related to consumer animosity which could be ascribed to the fact that openness is linked, *inter alia*, to an individual's intellect, wider interests, and a tendency to experience more intense emotions, which might lead to higher levels of awareness of international conflicts and greater sensitivity to the negative actions of an animosity-provoking country. Finally, the non-significant effect of agreeableness on consumer animosity can be partly attributed to the self-reported measures used in our study, which might have biased the results related to the socially desirable facets of agreeableness.

We also provided evidence that the strength of the association between consumer animosity and product avoidance is influenced by individual cultural orientations. Specifically, this link was stronger among individuals with higher levels of power distance, which could be explained by the fact that they are more loyal to their country and its government and thus more critical and punitive toward hostile actions of the offending nation. Similar results were found in the case of high-uncertainty avoidance individuals, which could be related to higher levels of discomfort, anxiety, and panic that these individuals feel in unexpected and unpleasant situations, such as hostilities

between countries. The relationship between consumer animosity and product avoidance appeared to be weaker among consumers with higher levels of individualism, and one possible explanation for this is that individualistic consumers are autonomous in decision-making and therefore less likely to join their referent groups in displaying negative consumer attitudes and behavior. Finally, the greater impact of consumer animosity on foreign product avoidance, observed in the case of consumers scoring high on masculinity, could be explained by the fact that these individuals are more prone to open confrontation when experiencing negative feelings.

Finally, in line with previous studies (e.g., Fernández-Ferrín et al. 2015; Richardson 2012), our research has demonstrated that male consumers tend to show higher levels of animosity than their female counterparts, probably because during an ongoing conflict men are usually more directly involved in military actions and thus more vulnerable to the consequences of the conflict. Also, in accord with the studies of Ganideh and Elahee (2012) and Nakos and Hajidimitriou (2007), we indicated that educated individuals tend to show more antipathy toward the hostile country. One possible explanation for this is that more educated individuals closely follow political news and could therefore be more critical of the actions of the animosity-provoking nation. Finally, the non-significant findings of our study with regard to the role of age and income contradict those of other scholars (e.g., Bahaee and Pisani 2009; Sutikno and Cheng 2011; Rice and Wongtada 2007) who reported that younger and more affluent consumers are more likely to have a stronger feeling of animosity toward the offender.

Theoretical Implications

The findings of our study offer several theoretical implications. First, we extend previous work on the antecedents of consumer animosity by proving empirically that personality can be a crucial

predictor of consumer cognitions. Our research examines broader, higher-order characteristics and thus moves beyond previously examined factors that often had a cursory role in explaining the consumer animosity phenomenon. Personality traits are deeply rooted in intrapsychic processes of individuals and determine relatively consistent patterns of their emotions, attitudes, and actions. They represent an individual's basic ways of experiencing and acting, and their structure is deemed to be universal across countries (McCrae and Costa 1987). Thus, personality characteristics largely reflect the inner self and allow to draw more reliable generalizations about cognitions of individuals with similar traits, including consumer attitudes and behavior. As such, personality traits are fundamental constructs that synthesize multiple aspects of human nature and can therefore provide a more accurate perspective on consumers' antipathy toward specific countries.

Additionally, although Hofstede's (1980) typology of culture implies that individuals in one country form a uniform cultural group, this research suggests that individual consumers within one country are also culturally distinct, which results in differences in their buying behavior. This is consistent with the earlier conceptualizations of Yoo and Donthu (2005), who emphasized that cultural orientations of individual consumers can provide a more logical base for segmenting foreign markets than culture at the macro-country level. Cultural orientations reflect the outer self and are rooted in the sociocultural processes of individuals, and, together with personal traits, form one's identity (Markus and Kitayama 1998; Vignoles 2018). Indeed, personality cannot be easily separated from the cultural context in which it develops, and thus cultural orientations are also fundamental determinants of an individual's psychological profile. Hence, both personality and culture should be used as predictors and/or moderators in consumer animosity research and other international consumer studies.

Lastly, our research verified that consumer animosity is a complex phenomenon that is context-specific and can include multiple facets. This suggests that it is critical for the animosity scale to be adjusted through exploratory qualitative and/or quantitative research within the context of the specific investigation. This is in line with the earlier observations of Riefler and Diamantopoulos (2007), Nes, Yelkur, and Silkoset (2012), and Perviz et al. (2014), who argued that the usage of predetermined animosity measures limits our understanding of the nature of animosity (as well as its relationships with other constructs). Interestingly, the pioneering study of Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998, p. 92) also stressed this issue by developing "measures of the pan-cultural concept of animosity for specific use in China".

Managerial Implications

From a managerial standpoint, our findings suggest that international companies operating in hostile markets should take foreign consumers' negative sentiments into consideration, since animosity is an important factor determining their buying behavior. If consumers in the target foreign market hold a high level of animosity, firms may want to minimize undesirable effects by taking a number of measures: (a) de-emphasizing the origin of their products, while at the same time stressing those attributes (e.g., distinctive features and functions) which are not related to the hostility-evoking country; (b) considering rebranding or localization of the brand name, as in the case of the Russian telecommunications company MobileTeleSystems (MTS) (the second largest mobile operator in Ukraine), which has been rebranded into 'Vodafone Ukraine'; and (c) masking country-of-origin information by establishing alliances with local companies or relocating to a neutral third country.

Managers should also take into consideration the target audience's personality traits when devising strategies for the foreign markets that harbor animosity toward their country. The results of our study revealed that consumers characterized by high extraversion, high conscientiousness, low neuroticism, and low openness exhibit less animosity toward a hostile country, and should therefore be the primary target groups in these countries. This could be achieved through the design of proper communication strategies in unfriendly markets. For example, with regard to message content, the negative effect of extraversion and conscientiousness on animosity should encourage companies to stress extraversion-related facets (e.g., excitement-seeking) and conscientiousness-related facets (e.g., high achievement). Similarly, the positive effect of neuroticism and openness on animosity calls for emphasizing non-neuroticism facets (e.g., tranquility) and non-openness facets (e.g., tradition). Notably, although large scale quantitative surveys could provide an accurate picture of personality profiles in hostile countries, both traditional (e.g., focus group discussions) and modern (e.g., social media content analysis) qualitative methods could also be helpful in identifying consumers' core personality traits.

Moreover, our results suggest that companies facing animosity in a specific foreign market should take into account the cultural orientations of individual consumers when crafting international marketing strategies. Since animosity feelings of consumers that score high on power distance, uncertainty avoidance, collectivism, and masculinity are more likely to result in foreign product avoidance, firms should primarily target individuals with the opposite cultural orientations. For instance, focus on rationality, equality, and autonomy could be persuasive for individuals with low power distance, while the importance of interpersonal relations, quality of life, and tenderness would appeal to consumers with a high score in femininity. Novelty, risk, and

adventure are also likely to attract consumers with low uncertainty avoidance, while an emphasis on 'I' vs. 'we' would be a credible argument for individualistic consumers.

Finally, managers of international firms should recognize that demographic characteristics might significantly impact consumer animosity and thus could serve as segmentation variables in hostile markets. For example, in the context of our study, the fact that males and more educated Ukrainians were found to show higher levels of animosity toward Russia implies that Russian firms should be wary of targeting these particular segments. However, these firms would have better chances to penetrate the huge and rapidly developing Ukrainian market by focusing mainly on women and less educated consumers. Overall, given the inconsistency of findings across various consumer animosity studies, it seems that the effects of consumer demographics should be seen within the specific national context in which the animosity issue is examined.

FUTURE RESEARCH

Future research could take several directions. *First*, our findings necessitate the replication of this study in other countries so as to verify whether the influence of personality traits and cultural orientations on consumer animosity is consistent across nations. In particular, there is a need to examine the role of these factors in shaping antipathy across countries with different types of animosity (e.g., stable vs. situational), different dimensions of animosity (e.g., war, economic, political, social, religious), and different intensity of animosity (e.g., strong vs. weak). Conducting multi-country studies would yield even more reliable results, which is necessary for extending the generalizability of our findings.

Second, it is important to monitor animosity longitudinally, since its intensity tends to change over time and shows inconsistent trends. For example, Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998)

reported that the animosity of Chinese consumers toward Japan negatively affected their willingness to buy Japanese products 60 years after the Nanjing massacre and other tragic events of the Japan-China War (1937-1945), while Russian consumers have recently been found to be very willing to buy German goods, despite the unprecedented number of deaths suffered by the Soviet Union during the Second World War. The evolvement of animosity is difficult to predict, and thus hostility feelings should be monitored over time.

Third, future research could examine other possible antecedents of consumer animosity, such as ethical ideologies (e.g., idealism vs. relativism), social attributes (e.g., conservatism vs. liberalism), and personal values (e.g., self-direction vs. universalism). New research might also consider the role of geographical, economic, and cultural distance in shaping animosity beliefs and buying behavior. Animosity feelings could be moderated by an individual's political activity, foreign country travel, and multilingualism. Another possible antecedent of consumer negative sentiments is exposure to the mass media, and more importantly, the social media.

Fourth, personality traits are associated with effective (e.g., conscientiousness) or ineffective (e.g., neuroticism) emotion regulation (Javaras et al. 2012; Ode, Robinson, and Witkowski 2008), and it would be interesting to explore this transformation mechanism in relation to animosity in more depth. For example, future research could consider appropriate management strategies for emotion regulation in hostile foreign markets. This might help to activate consumer self-control mechanisms to reduce negative affects arising from confrontation between the home country and the animosity-evoking country.

Fifth, future research could address negative consumer sentiments and behavior among various subgroups within a country (based, for example, on generation, religion, race, etc.). Although some studies (e.g., Hinck 2005; Rose, Rose, and Shoham 2009; Shimp, Dunn, and Klein

2004) have already explored causes and consequences of animosity among subcultures, this stream of research remains scarce and fragmented. Meanwhile, negative consumer attitudes of different types of subgroups could provide a more nuanced understanding of animosity.

Finally, it would be worthwhile to examine whether the effect of consumer animosity on product avoidance varies by product category, such as high-involvement products vs. low-involvement products, highly personal products vs. impersonal products, and conspicuous products vs. inconspicuous products. It is expected that high-involvement, personal, and conspicuous products would be associated with higher levels of consumer animosity and unwillingness to buy. Examining the effects of product category would assist researchers in gaining deeper insights into the consequences of consumer anger.

NOTES

1. We used a reflective measurement pattern aiming to measure all four dimensions of consumer animosity and find an average score for general animosity, rather than explain how each of these dimensions influences general animosity, which, in this case, would be a formative measurement pattern. In studies with a formative measurement pattern, general animosity is usually operationalized as 'I dislike country X' item (as opposed to our study, where general animosity is simply the average score of all dimensions of animosity). Also, the items that we used as observables 'reflect' consumer animosity (e.g., 'I dislike (the fact) that the Crimea peninsula has been illegally absorbed into the Russian Federation' or 'I dislike (the fact) that Russian national policy usually affects Ukraine in a negative way'), rather than 'form' consumer animosity, where the items would have a different formulation (e.g., 'The Crimea peninsula has been illegally absorbed into the Russian Federation' or 'Russian national policy usually affects Ukraine in a negative way').
2. 'Consistency effects' between personality trait measures and animosity measures were avoided because: (a) the way personality and animosity were measured is so different that it does not provide any hints to respondents to give consistent answers to the two constructs; and (b) the various sections in the questionnaire were systematically rotated during the fieldwork process, so that the respondents were not able to understand any associations between the two constructs.
3. To examine whether our results were sensitive to the residential area of consumers, we compared the degree of animosity reported by participants in the survey (those from Western, Central, and Southern-Eastern regions of Ukraine) on each of its four dimensions (i.e., military, economic, political, and social) using ANOVA test. The results revealed that people residing in the Southern-Eastern region had significantly lower levels of animosity compared to their counterparts living in the Western and Central regions, probably due to the closer historical links between this region and Russia.

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APPENDIX I: Summary of Empirical Studies on Consumer Animosity

Study	Objectives	Method	Key findings
Klein, Ettenson, and Morris (1998)	To conduct an initial test of the animosity model of foreign product purchase.	A 'mall intercept' survey among 244 Chinese consumers.	Animosity has significant impact on buying decisions above and beyond the effect of consumer ethnocentrism. Animosity affects negatively the purchase of products independently of judgments of product quality.
Klein and Ettenson (1999)	To determine the unique antecedents of the consumer animosity and consumer ethnocentrism constructs.	Logit regression using the data from the US 1992 National Election Study.	The profile of the ethnocentric consumer is different from the consumer holding animosity towards a specific country.
Shin (2001)	To assess the generalizability of consumer animosity model.	A survey among 228 Korean students.	Animosity is negatively associated with willingness to buy, while country of origin is positively associated with willingness to buy.
Klein (2002)	To identify differences between consumer animosity and consumer ethnocentrism.	A survey among 202 American consumers.	Animosity toward a foreign nation is related to choices between foreign goods, while consumer ethnocentrism is related to choices between domestic and foreign goods.
Jung *et al.* (2002)	To develop and test a typology of animosity.	A survey among 400 Asian consumers from five countries.	Four types of animosity were established: situational vs. stable and personal vs. national.
Ang *et al.* (2004)	To examine consumer animosity, ethnocentrism and attribution towards USA and Japan.	A survey among 2000 consumers from five Asian countries.	Animosity might be situational vs. stable and personal vs. national.
Nissen and Douglas (2004)	To examine the effects of consumer animosity and ethnocentrism in the country with high foreign trade and lack of domestic product alternatives.	A survey among 219 Dutch consumers.	Consumer ethnocentrism and animosity have an impact on the evaluation of foreign products, even when no domestic brands are available.
Shimp, Dunn, and Klein (2004)	To investigate the effects of intra-state (regional) animosity.	A survey among 337 respondents.	Regional animosity influences purchase choice and willingness to pay a price premium for preferred options from one's in-group region.
Shoham, Davidow, Klein, and	To examine antecedents and consequences of animosity.	A survey of 135 Jewish	Dogmatism, nationalism, and internationalism affect animosity, which in turn predicts willingness to buy and actual changes in purchase behavior.

Ruvio (2006)		Israelis' consumers.	
Riefler and Diamantopoulos (2007)	To conduct a review of the consumer animosity research.	A survey among 89 Austrian consumers.	Consumers differ in their animosity targets, and there may be a number of (different) reasons causing animosity such as economic, political, religious or personal.
Bahaee and Pisani (2009)	To test the animosity model in the context of Iran.	A survey among 900 Iranian consumers.	Certain demographic variables are associated with consumer animosity. There is a strong and significant inverse relationship between consumer animosity and intention to buy.
Ishii (2009)	To examine the antecedents of consumer ethnocentrism and test the effects of animosity and consumer ethnocentrism on the purchase of foreign products.	A survey of 600 Chinese consumers.	Both animosity and consumer ethnocentrism negatively affect the willingness to buy foreign (Japanese or U.S.) products. Chinese consumer ethnocentrism is a combination of patriotism and negative internationalism. Patriotism is positively correlated with consumer ethnocentrism but is negatively correlated with animosity.
Rose, Rose, and Shoham (2009)	To examine sub-cultural animosity attitudes of individuals from one nation toward the products of other nations.	A survey among 112 Arab Israeli and 111 Jewish Israeli consumers.	Animosity and consumer ethnocentrism lead to a decreased willingness to buy a foreign nation's products. Different cultural sub-groups feel different levels of animosity to foreign nation's products.
Funk, D. Arthurs, Trevino, and Joireman (2010)	To research consumer animosity concerning the 'hybrid' products.	An online survey of 319 American consumers.	Consumers' willingness to purchase a complex hybrid product is negatively affected by partial production shifts to an animosity-evoking country. Self-reported animosity predicts lower willingness to purchase above and beyond consumer ethnocentrism and perceived product quality.
Huang, Phau, and Lin (2010)	To investigate the effects of consumer animosity in the context of the boycott of Australian consumers against French products in the light of French nuclear tests in Pacific region.	A survey among 456 respondents.	Perceived economic hardship and normative influence of members of a consumers' reference group have a positive impact on consumer animosity, which, in turn, negatively affects willingness to buy.
Maher and Mady (2010)	To examine the roles of anticipated emotions and subjective norms on consumers' purchase intentions in the context of animosity, as well as the influence of group responsibility on animosity.	A survey of 447 undergraduate students using snowball sampling technique.	Subjective norms – as well as the negative emotions expected from buying the product and the positive emotions expected from not buying the product – lead to less willingness to buy foreign products. Social pressure is a more important factor in consumers' willingness to buy compared to anticipated emotions.
Hoffmann, Mai, and	To create a multidimensional and universal scale to measure animosity.	A survey among 211	The consumer animosity multidimensional scale is based on three universal drivers: perceived threat,

Smirnova (2011)		students and alumni.	antithetical political attitudes, and negative personal experiences.
Nes, Yelker, and Silkoset (2012)	To develop the animosity theory in three areas: construct domain, the mediating role of affect and model testing.	A survey among 210 American and 363 Norwegian consumers.	Animosity is a four-dimensional construct, which impacts buying behavior through affect.
Fernández-Ferrín, Bande-Vilela, Klein, and Río-Araújo (2015)	To investigate the antecedents and consequences of animosity and ethnocentrism within a single model	Interviews of 248 consumers	Consumer ethnocentrism and animosity have unique antecedents and consequences
Harmeling, Magnusson, and Singh (2015)	To examine the mediational role of emotions affecting consumer animosity.	A survey of 283 Chinese and 308 American consumers.	Agonistic emotions are related to negative word of mouth and product avoidance, but not product quality judgment. Retreat emotions are related to product avoidance and product quality judgment, but not the negative word of mouth.
Gineikiene and Diamanto-poulos (2017)	To simultaneously consider the negative impact of animosity and the positive impact of nostalgia on product ownership in historically connected markets (HCMs).	A survey of 417 consumers in Lithuania and 414 consumers in Ukraine.	Nostalgia can compensate for the negative effects of animosity on product judgment and product ownership in HCMs with intense negative past events. In contrast, in HCMs experiencing current/ recent negative events animosity is a stronger predictor of product judgment and ownership than nostalgia.
Han (2017)	To investigate the impact of individualism/collectivism on consumer animosity.	A survey among 304 Korean consumers.	Individualism/collectivism can precede consumer animosity and also moderate the effects of con-sumer animosity on purchase intentions.
Heinberg (2017)	To investigate if outbreaks of animosity against the West benefit Chinese brands by raising consumers' willingness to pay and willingness to buy.	A survey among 244 Chinese students and experiment with 676 Chinese students	After an outbreak of animosity, animosity against the West increases Chinese consumers' willingness to buy local products and willingness to pay.
Park and Yoon (2017)	To examine the effect of cosmopol-itanism, consumer ethnocentrism, and susceptibility to normative in-fluence on consumer animosity and the moderating role of product in-volvement on purchase intentions.	A survey among 195 consumers.	Consumer ethnocentrism and susceptibility to normative influence have a positive relationship with animosity, while cosmopolitanism has a negative relationship with animosity. Animosity negatively influences intentions to purchase for high-involvement products, but not for low-involvement products.

APPENDIX II: Constructs, scale items, and sources

Code	Construct, scale items, and source
	"Big Five" Personality traits (Donellan et al. 2006)
	Agreeableness
AGR1	Sympathise with others' feelings
AGR2	Am not interested in other people's problems
AGR3	Feel others' emotions
AGR4	Am not really interested in others
	Extroversion
EXS1	Am the life of the party
EXS2	Don't talk a lot
EXS3	Talk to a lot of different people at parties
EXS4	Keep in the background
	Conscientiousness
CON1	Get chores done right away
CON2	Often forget to put things back in their proper place
CON3	Like order
CON4	Make a mess of things
	Neuroticism
NEU1	Have frequent mood swings
NEU2	Am relaxed most of the time
NEU3	Get upset easily
NEU4	Seldom feel blue
	Openness
OPE1	Have a vivid imagination
OPE2	Am not interested in abstract ideas
OPE3	Have difficulty understanding abstract ideas
OPE4	Do not have a good imagination
	Animosity (exploratory research; Klein, Ettenson, and Morris 1998; Nes, Yelkur, and Silkoset 2012)
	War animosity
WAR1	I dislike that the Crimea peninsula has been illegally absorbed into the Russian Federation
WAR2	I dislike that Russia supports the separatist forces in the Donbass region of Ukraine
WAR3	I dislike that Russia poses a constant threat to Ukrainian national security
	Economic animosity
ECO1	I dislike that Russia has a lot of economic influence on Ukraine
ECO2	I dislike that Russian economic policy caused a drastic downturn in the Ukrainian economy
ECO3	I dislike that Russia charges unjustifiably high prices for the gas it sells to Ukraine
	Political animosity
POL1	I dislike that Russian national policy usually affects Ukraine in a negative way
POL2	I feel angry towards the Russian president
POL3	I dislike that corruption and dishonesties of Russian politicians cause many troubles to Ukraine
	Social animosity
SOC1	I dislike the Russian mentality
SOC2	I dislike the arrogance of Russians toward Ukrainians
SOC3	I dislike the Russian way of living
	Foreign product avoidance (Grégoire, Tripp, and Legoux 2009; Harmeling, Magnusson, and Singh 2015)
AVO1	I keep as much distance as possible between Russian products and me
AVO2	I avoid buying Russian products, whenever it is possible
AVO3	I want nothing to do with Russian products
AVO4	If possible, I would choose another product over a Russian product
	Cultural orientations (Hofstede 1980)
	Power distance
POD1	Inequalities among people are both expected and desired
POD2	Less powerful people should be dependent on the more powerful
POD3	Inequalities among people should be minimized
POD4	There should be, to some extent, interdependencies between less and more powerful people
	Uncertainty avoidance
UNA1	High stress and subjective feeling of anxiety are frequent among people
UNA2	Decisiveness is a necessity characteristic of success
UNA3	Uncertainty is a normal feature of life and each day must be accepted as it comes
UNA4	Fear of ambiguous situations and of unfamiliar risks is normal
	Individualism
IND1	Everyone grows up to look after himself and the immediate family
IND2	People are identified independently of the groups they belong to
IND3	An extended family member should be protected by other members in exchange for loyalty
IND4	People are identified by their position in the social networks to which they belong
	Masculinity
MAS1	Money and material things are important
MAS2	Men are supposed to be assertive, ambitious, and tough
MAS3	Dominant values in society are caring for others and preservation
MAS4	Both men and women are allowed to be tender and concerned with relationships

Figure 1. The Conceptual Model

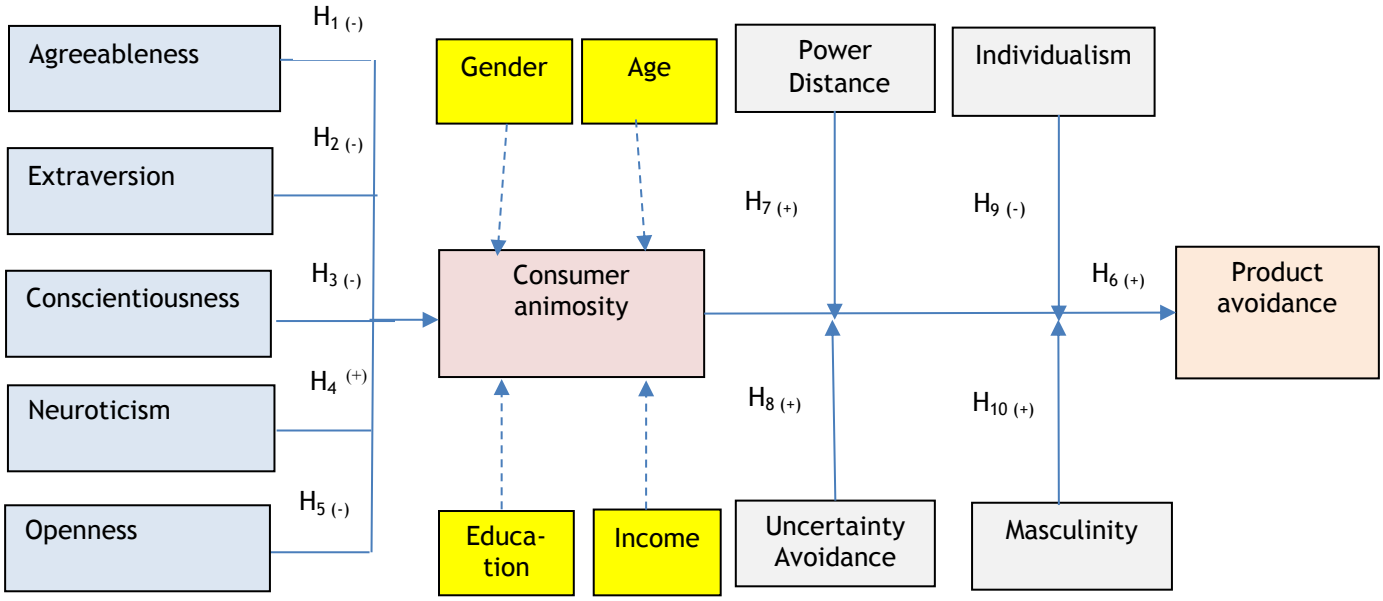

Table 1 Correlation matrix

		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
1.	Agreeableness	1																	
2.	Extraversion	.02	1																
3.	Conscientiousness	.05	.10*	1															
4.	Neuroticism	-.01	-.18*	-.03	1														
5.	Openness	-.09**	.08*[*]	.02	.06	1													
6.	War Animosity	-.06	-.15[*]	-.12[*]	.23[*]	.18*	1.												
7.	Economic Animosity	-.07	-.07	-.12*	.14*	.23*	.48*	1.											
8.	Political Animosity	-.01	-.18*	-.10*	.22*	.20*	.57*	.52*	1.										
9.	Social Animosity	-.03	-.13*	-.08	.22*	.20*	.55*	.45*	.59*	1.									
10.	Product Avoidance	-.01	-.05	-.03	.13*	.04	.32*	.26*	.37*	.36*	1.								
11.	Power Distance	.10*	-.10*	.01	.23*	.32*	.32*	.31*	.36*	.29*	.09**	1							
12.	Uncertainty Avoidance	.11*	-.01	.01	-.01	-.01	-.08**	-.03	-.05	-.03	-.04	-.06	1						
13.	Individualism	.02	.02	-.01	.11*	.01	.05	.03	.04	.06	-.01	.03	-.03	1					
14,	Masculinity	-.12*	.11*	.01	.15*	.06	.28*	.15*	.22*	.22*	.15*	.07	-.08	.06	1				
15.	Gender	.07	.15*	.06	-.22*	.01	-.30*	-.15*	-.28*	-.24*	-.13*	-.13*	.01	-.12*	-.20*	1			
16.	Age	.05	-.02	-.04	-.07	.05	-.01	.04	.02	.03	-.08	-.01	-.01	-.01	-.11*	.08	1		
17.	Education level	-.11*	-.01	.03	.12*	-.07	.21*	.14*	.16*	.15*	.05	-.01	-.08	.01	.17*	-.15*	-.06	1	
18.	Income group	.06	.04	.02	-.11*	.06	-.07	-.05	-.02	-.04	-.10*	.03	.01	-.08	-.08	.18*	.34*	-.15*	1

* $p < .01$; ** $p < .05$.

Table 2: Measurement model - Summary of construct measurement

MODEL A

Constructs	Scale items	Standardised loadings	t-value	α	ρ	AVE	Mean score	Std deviation	Items means	Items St.D.
Agreeableness	AGR1	.83	*	0.88	0.82	0.67	3.59	0.98	3.61	1.18
	AGR2	.66	16.71						3.87	1.02
	AGR3	.90	24.90						3.50	1.21
	AGR4	.86	23.76						3.41	1.21
Extraversion	EXS1	.71	*	0.84	0.74	0.51	3.51	0.83	3.34	0.97
	EXS2	.70	12.64						3.60	1.12
	EXS3	.74	13.04						3.37	1.08
	EXS4	.70	12.64						3.74	1.07
Conscientiousness	CON1	.68	*	0.73	0.71	0.54	3.08	0.88	2.81	1.05
	CON2	.75	8.70						3.20	1.18
	CON4	.77	8.80						3.22	1.15
Neuroticism	NEU1	.70	*	0.79	0.74	0.51	2.65	0.96	2.89	1.23
	NEU2	.64	12.16						2.55	1.24
	NEU3	.84	13.93						2.73	1.30
	NEU4	.64	12.26						2.41	1.15
Openness	OPE1	.73	*	0.76	0.73	0.50	3.36	0.82	3.69	1.02
	OPE2	.69	10.85						3.83	1.08
	OPE3	.68	10.79						2.98	1.17
	OPE4	.71	11.05						2.95	1.29
[a] Consumer Animosity										
War Animosity	WAR1	.88	*	0.93	0.85	0.81	4.04	1.24	4.14	1.34
	WAR2	.88	29.14						4.17	1.23
	WAR3	.94	33.27						3.80	1.40
Economic Animosity	ECO1	.69	*	0.77	0.71	0.55	3.35	0.97	3.42	1.13
	ECO2	.75	11.03						3.13	1.27
	ECO3	.79	11.25						3.51	1.23
Political Animosity	POL1	.88	*	0.88	0.80	0.72	3.51	1.27	3.72	1.34
	POL2	.81	24.76						3.42	1.53
	POL3	.85	27.15						3.39	1.35
Social Animosity	SOC1	.77	*	0.84	0.76	0.64	3.47	1.11	3.15	1.33
	SOC2	.80	19.58						3.50	1.29
	SOC3	.82	20.37						3.77	1.22
Product Avoidance	AVO1	.87	*	0.95	0.89	0.83	2.98	1.68	2.99	1.81
	AVO2	.97	36.61						2.91	1.77
	AVO3	.84	27.10						3.09	1.83
	AVO4	.95	35.48						2.91	1.78

[a] Higher-order factor (Mean = 3.59, StD = 1.03), * Item fixed to set the scale

Fit statistics: $\chi^2 = 1193.75$, p = .000, df = 535; NFI = .95; NNFI = .96; CFI = .97; RMSEA = .048, 90% C.I.= (.045, .052)

MODEL B

Constructs	Scale items	Standardised loadings	t-value	α	P	AVE	Mean score	Std deviation	Items means	Items St.D.
Power Distance	PDI1	.86	*	0.87	0.81	0.64	3.33	1.05	3.45	1.19
	PDI2	.87	23.58						3.20	1.29
	PDI3	.80	21.15						3.37	1.24
	PDI4	.64	15.76						3.29	1.24
Uncertainty Avoidance	UAV1	.64	*	0.79	0.74	0.52	2.37	0.45	2.64	1.10
	UAV2	.68	8.55						2.31	0.96
	UAV3	.76	9.76						2.20	1.00
	UAV4	.77	9.78						2.31	1.04
Individualism	IND1	.67	*	0.77	0.73	0.51	2.74	0.49	2.70	1.10
	IND2	.64	8,17						2.70	1.09
	IND3	.76	9.95						2.67	1.12
	IND4	.72	9.07						2.91	1.16
Masculinity	MAS1	.62	*	0.79	0.76	0.53	3.90	0.75	3.86	0.94
	MAS2	.86	11.19						3.77	0.97
	MAS3	.75	10.93						3.84	1.06
	MAS4	.66	10.22						4.15	0.88

* Item fixed to set the scale

Fit statistics: $\chi^2 = 196.83$, p = .000, df = 98; NFI = .94; NNFI = .95; CFI = .96; RMSEA = .058, 90% C.I.= (.053, .062)

Table 3: Structural Model Results

Hypo-thesis	Hypothesized path	Standardized path coefficients	*t*-value	*p*-value
	Main Effects			
H_1	Agreeableness → Consumer Animosity	-.03	-0.53	.58
H_2	Extraversion → Consumer Animosity	-.15	-3.14	**.00**
H_3	Conscientiousness → Consumer Animosity	-.13	-2.63	**.01**
H_4	Neuroticism → Consumer Animosity	.23	4.81	**.00**
H_5	Openness → Consumer Animosity	.28	5.20	**.00**
H_6	Consumer Animosity → Product Avoidance	.35	8.46	**.00**
	Moderation Effects			
H_7	Power Distance → Product Avoidance	.08	1.86	**.06**
	Consumer Animosity x Power Distance → Product Avoidance	.12	2.78	**.01**
H_8	Uncertainty Avoidance → Product Avoidance	.04	0.85	.40
	Consumer Animosity x Uncertainty Avoidance → Product Avoidance	.14	3.35	**.00**
H_9	Individualism → Product Avoidance	-.09	-1.95	**.05**
	Consumer Animosity x Individualism → Product Avoidance	-.18	-4.46	**.00**
H_{10}	Masculinity → Product Avoidance	.04	0.63	.53
	Consumer Animosity x Masculinity → Product Avoidance	.14	3.30	**.00**
	Control Effects			
	Gender → Consumer Animosity	-.40	-4.45	**.00**
	Age → Consumer Animosity	.18	0.61	.54
	Education level → Consumer Animosity	.16	3.95	**.00**
	Income group → Consumer Animosity	.07	0.42	.68

Fit statistics: $\chi^2 = 1245.38$, p = .000, df = 550; NFI = .94; NNFI = .96; CFI = .97; RMSEA = .049, 90% C.I.= (.046, .052)