During the first half of the century, whites were more likely to blame inequality on biological differences; today they cite cultural explanations. The General Social Survey (GSS) has been asking questions about demographics and social trends, including several questions about race, since it began in 1972. The consistency of the questions over the years means the survey provides a unique look at attitudes about race in the United States, particularly among blacks and whites. Another set of questions on attitudes about housing and neighborhoods illustrates a different tension that arises when racial equality is perceived to come at the expense of personal liberty. Respondents were asked to choose between two options on an imaginary communitywide housing vote. Race: Race, the idea that the human species is divided into distinct groups on the basis of inherited physical and behavioral differences. Genetic studies in the late 20th century refuted the existence of biogenetically distinct races, and scholars now argue that “races” are cultural interventions. They argued that theirs was a society of free men and of democratic institutions and that it was committed to the preservation of human rights, justice, and equality. For several hundred years, trends in English culture had been toward the expansion of human rights and the recognition of individual liberty. More than half the ancestors of late 20th-century American whites immigrated to the United States during the period 1880–1930. Overall, global attitudes toward America are positive. In 28 of 38 nations, half or more of those surveyed express a favorable opinion of the U.S. Europeans generally give the U.S. high ratings, especially in Italy, where 76% now have a positive view of America, up from 74% last year and 53% in 2007. Attitudes toward the American people are highly correlated with overall views of the U.S. In 29 of 38 countries, at least half of those surveyed express a favorable opinion of Americans. Three-in-four or more hold this view in a diverse set of nations: the Philippines, Ghana, South Korea, Israel, Senegal, Kenya and El Salvador. Ratings are lowest among the predominantly Muslim publics of Pakistan, Turkey, the Palestinian territories, Jordan and Egypt.