

Global Conflict and Canadian views of selected nations

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Introduction and Methodology

As global conflicts persist there have been changes in the way in which Canadians and Americans view nations. Age and ideological orientation continue to play a key role in shaping Canadians views in this regard. The May 17-20 Leger survey for the Association for Canadian Studies and the Metropolis Institute reveals that younger Canadians hold positive views of China, Iran and Russia far more than do older ones that value Ukraine and Israel far more than do the younger cohort; Canadians age 18-24 view Israel and Iran equally unfavorably.

Compared with May findings from the Leger US survey, Canadians hold more positive views than Americans of Ukraine and Iran while Americans hold more positive views of Israel and China than do Canadians.

Canadians were also asked whether they believed there was an irreconcilable conflict between Islam and the West. A view held by six in ten Canadians. The view that there is irreconcilable conflict between Western societies and Islam is far more pervasive on the right than the left but the majority identifying with the left of center also believe so. The survey also reveals that positive views of Hamas persist amongst one-quarter of the younger cohorts in Canada and the United States

The surveys were conducted from May 17-20, 2024 with respective samples of 1519 Canadians and from May 24-27, 2024 with 1000 Americans. While a margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1519 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20

Younger Canadians hold positive views of China, Iran and Russia far more than do older ones that tend to value Ukraine and Israel far more than do younger cohort; Canadians age 18-24 hold similar views of Israel and Iran

May 17-20, 2024	Total	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
Ukraine	67%	63%	62%	58%	60%	71%	81%
United States	52%	53%	54%	44%	46%	57%	57%
Israel	38%	31%	37%	26%	40%	41%	47%
China	29%	46%	36%	28%	29%	24%	19%
Iran	18%	31%	26%	16%	21%	14%	10%
Russia	17%	24%	25%	18%	20%	12%	10%

Canadians hold more positive views than Americans of Ukraine and Iran while Americans hold more positive views of Israel and China than do Canadians

Net Positive Opinion of the following	Canada Feb 23-26	Canada May 17-20	United States May 24-27
Ukraine	70%	67%	58%
United States in Canada /Canada in the US	46%	52%	79%
Israel	-	38%	50%
Russia	13%	17%	20%
Iran	-	29%	19%
China	-	18%	25%

There are considerable differences between the left and the right in Canada as to the peoples and nations they view positively and negatively reflecting important divergence in their view of the world. The biggest differences are around their respective views of Palestinians and Israel

Canada Leger for ACS 2024...positive views of....	Left	Left of center	Center	Right of center	Right	Difference from Left to Right
Ukraine	78.2%	82.5%	69.4%	71.3%	52.9%	25.3
Israel	24.6%	39.5%	42.0%	49.0%	54.5%	-29.9
China	24.4%	30.4%	30.4%	25.7%	24.5%	.01
Iran	22.6%	20.3%	18.8%	12.4%	10.8%	10.8
Russia	12.2%	12.5%	18.8%	19.4%	27.5%	-15.3

Canadians situated on the left of the ideological spectrum are more likely to hold positive views of Ukraine than Canadians identifying on the right while the right in Canada views Israel and the US far more favorably than does the left

Canada Leger for ACS 2024...positive views of....	Left	Left of Center	Center	Right of Center	Right	Difference from Left to Right
Ukraine	78.2%	82.5%	69.4%	71.3%	52.9%	25.3
Israel	24.6%	39.5%	42.0%	49.0%	54.5%	-29.9
China	24.4%	30.4%	30.4%	25.7%	24.5%	.01
Iran	22.6%	20.3%	18.8%	12.4%	10.8%	10.8
Russia	12.2%	12.5%	18.8%	19.4%	27.5%	-15.3
United States	32.0%	48.0%	57.7%	62.2%	68.6%	-36.6

Americans are most divided across the ideological spectrum in their views on Israel and to a lesser degree on the Ukraine

United States Leger for ACS 2024...positive views of....	Left	Left of Center	Center	Right of Center	Right	Difference from Left to Right
Ukraine	76.2%	81.6%	59.7%	62.3%	53.8%	-22.4
Israel	34.3%	38.8%	54.8%	64.8%	76.0%	41.7
China	25.0%	31.4%	27.0%	23.8%	19.0%	-6
Iran	26.7%	16.5%	18.1%	19.5%	16.6%	-10.1
Russia	15.2%	15.5%	18.9%	23.8%	26.7%	11.5
Canada	87.6%	90.4%	80.3%	86.8%	77.2%	-10.4

Hamas continues to yield positive views from one in four Canadians under 25 and one four Americans under 40

Total Positive Hamas	Hamas	Total	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
Canada	May 17-20, 2024	12%	24%	16%	9%	13%	9%	7%
	February 23-26	11%	22%	19%	9%	8%	9%	5%
United States		Total	18 and 29	30 and 39	40 and 49	50 and 64	65 +	
	May 17-20, 2024	15%	27%	26%	21%	6%	3%	
	February 23-26	15%	28%	21%	16%	11%	1%	

A majority of Canadians continue to believe that there is irreconcilable conflict between Western societies and Islam in the world. Only Canadians under 25 feel otherwise.

		Between n 18 and 24	Between n 25 and 34	Between n 35 and 44	Between n 45 and 54	Between n 55 and 64	65+
There is an irreconcilable conflict between Western societies and Islam in the world	Total						
Yes		60%	46%	55%	55%	63%	67%
No		40%	54%	45%	45%	37%	33%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The view that there is irreconcilable conflict between Western societies and Islam is far more pervasive on the right than the left but the majority identifying with the left of center believe so

: In thinking about where you would situate yourself on the ideological spectrum would you say that you are...?						
	Total	Left	Left of center	Center	Right of center	Right
There is an irreconcilable conflict between Western societies and Islam in the world - Please respond YES or NO to the following:						
Yes	60.2%	41.5%	53.5%	67.1%	68.3%	77.5%
No	39.8%	58.5%	46.5%	32.9%	31.7%	22.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Some 45% who believe that there is an irreconcilable conflict between Western societies and Islam compared with 26% that don't believe there is an irreconcilable conflict

Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following? Muslims	There is an irreconcilable conflict between Western societies and Islam in the world - Please respond YES or NO to the following:	
	Yes	No
Very positive	7.3%	15.2%
Somewhat positive	32.2%	39.4%
Somewhat negative	28.4%	16.7%
Very negative	16.0%	9.6%
I prefer not to answer	16.1%	19.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Some 45% of Canadians with a very negative view of Israel also hold a negative view of Jews and amongst those with a somewhat negative view of Israel more than one-third hold a negative view of Jews

Jews – Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following?	Israel Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following?			
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Very positive	87.0%	18.9%	10.6%	13.9%
Somewhat positive	9.3%	74.6%	48.5%	30.0%
Somewhat negative	1.2%	3.8%	31.8%	19.3%
Very negative	2.5%	.7%	4.3%	26.0%
I prefer not to answer		1.9%	4.7%	10.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%