

# Some two-thirds of Canadians agree that the Holocaust stands apart from other genocides

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January 28, 2025

- On January 27, 2025 ceremonies will be held in several countries to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The anniversary comes at a time when there are increasing efforts by influencers and thought leaders to dilute and challenge the Jewish dimension of the Holocaust.
- Many academics insist that on a current consensus that sees the Holocaust not as unique amongst other genocides and insist that it is essential to make the link between the Nazi and other genocides, and between mass killings in Europe and on others on 'colonial' frontiers around the globe. But the same scholars acknowledge that their so-called consensus is not widely accepted by the public. On that front at least they're correct as a survey conducted by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that some two-thirds of "Canadians agree that the Holocaust was a genocide in the 20th century that stands apart from all others"
- The survey further reveals that one in three Canadians admit not having a good knowledge about the Holocaust and the figure is higher for persons age 18-24. The study was conducted to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Some 1578 Canadians were surveyed over the period January 17 and 19, 2025. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1578 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.5\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

# Knowledge of the Holocaust



# A majority of Canadians say that they have a good knowledge of the Holocaust

| I have a good knowledge of the Holocaust<br>January 2025 | Total | Between 18 and 24 | Between 25 and 34 | Between 35 and 44 | Between 45 and 54 | Between 55 and 64 | 65 + |
|--|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------|
| Yes  | 57%   | 49%               | 55%               | 58%               | 51%               | 59%               | 62%  |
| No   | 32%   | 41%               | 35%               | 30%               | 32%               | 31%               | 30%  |
| I don't know   | 11%   | 10%               | 10%               | 12%               | 17%               | 10%               | 8%   |

# Some 40% of Quebecers say they do not have good knowledge of the Holocaust

| I have a good knowledge of the Holocaust | British Columbia | Alberta | Prairies | Ontario | Quebec | Maritimes |
|--|------------------|---------|----------|---------|--------|-----------|
| Yes                                      | 58.5%            | 58.3%   | 61.8%    | 59.3%   | 49.3%  | 57.5%     |
| No                                       | 34.6%            | 30.9%   | 22.5%    | 28.1%   | 41.1%  | 33.0%     |
| I don't know                             | 6.9%             | 10.9%   | 15.7%    | 12.6%   | 9.6%   | 9.4%      |
| Total                                    | 100.0%           | 100.0%  | 100.0%   | 100.0%  | 100.0% | 100.0%    |

The Holocaust was a genocide in the  
20th century that stands apart from all  
others



# Some two-thirds of Canadians surveyed think that the Holocaust was a genocide in the twentieth century that stands apart from all others

| The Holocaust was a genocide in the 20th century that stands apart from all others — January 2025 | Total | Between 18 and 24 | Between 25 and 34 | Between 35 and 44 | Between 45 and 54 | Between 55 and 64 | 65+ |
|---|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Yes   | 63%   | 47%               | 53%               | 61%               | 56%               | 73%               | 77% |
| No  | 17%   | 30%               | 26%               | 17%               | 20%               | 12%               | 9%  |
| I don't know  | 19%   | 23%               | 21%               | 22%               | 25%               | 14%               | 14% |

# Students are least likely to think that the Holocaust was a genocide that stands out from all others

| The Holocaust was a genocide in the 20th century that stands apart from all others | Working full time | Working part time | Self-employed / freelance work | Student | Homemaker | Unemployed | Retired |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Yes  | 59.4%             | 56.7%             | 59.8%                          | 49.4%   | 59.7%     | 66.7%      | 74.7%   |
| No   | 19.3%             | 21.6%             | 14.4%                          | 29.9%   | 22.6%     | 21.1%      | 10.0%   |
| I don't know   | 21.3%             | 21.6%             | 25.8%                          | 20.7%   | 17.7%     | 12.2%      | 15.3%   |
|  | 100.0%            | 100.0%            | 100.0%                         | 100.0%  | 100.0%    | 100.0%     | 100.0%  |

# Ethnocultural minorities are most likely to think that the Holocaust does not stand apart

| The Holocaust was a genocide in the 20th century that stands apart from all others –<br>January 2025 | French | English | A language other than French or English |
|--|--------|---------|---|
| Yes  | 60.6%  | 65.2%   | 55.4%                                   |
| No   | 14.1%  | 17.2%   | 25.7%                                   |
| I don't know   | 25.3%  | 17.6%   | 18.9%                                   |

Those reporting a good knowledge of the Holocaust are far more likely to agree that the Holocaust stands apart from other genocides

| The Holocaust was a genocide in the 20th century that stands apart from all others<br>January 2025 | I have a good knowledge of the Holocaust |        |
|--|--|--------|
|  | Yes                                      | No     |
| Yes  | 77.8%                                    | 49.1%  |
| No   | 16.6%                                    | 20.8%  |
| I don't know   | 5.6%                                     | 30.1%  |
| Total  | 100.0%                                   | 100.0% |