

2003 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

November 19, 2003

Hello, I'm calling for Marie of the Consumer Opinion Panel. We're conducting a survey about the recent events in the Middle East involving Israel and other issues. May I please speak to a [male/female] in the household? (DO NOT ACCEPT A SUBSTITUTE RESPONDENT UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST CONTACT ATTEMPT. MAKE SURE THE QUOTA FOR THAT GENDER IS OPEN. IF THE DESIGNATED RESPONDENT IS UNAVAILABLE, TRY TO MAKE A CALL-BACK APPOINTMENT.)

(WHEN DESIGNATED RESPONDENT IS REACHED, REPEAT INTRODUCTION IF NECESSARY, AND PROCEED:) This survey is being sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, an educational organization representing the interests of American Jews. The AJC would like to find out what Jews across the U.S. think about the current situation in the Middle East and other issues.

(ADD, IF NECESSARY:) We are interested in your opinions even if you think you participated in a similar survey in the past.

S1. Are you Jewish?

(NOTE: The respondent doesn't have to be "religious" or "observant" to qualify for the survey -- only that he/she consider himself/herself Jewish in any way.

Yes --> CONTINUE

No --> ASK IF ANY JEWISH ADULT AT THAT ADDRESS. IF "YES," ASK TO SPEAK TO A JEWISH ADULT 18 OR OLDER. RETURN TO INTRODUCTION WHEN NEW RESPONDENT IS REACHED.)

(ADD ONLY IF NECESSARY TO GET COOPERATION: (1) Your opinions will be confidential and released only in the form of statistical summaries; (2) It is not necessary that you have followed the events closely -- we're interested in everyone's opinions; (3) The survey will only take about 20 minutes or less.)

A. WAR ON TERRORISM AND IRAQ

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President George W. Bush is handling the U.S. campaign against terrorism?

- Approve 1
- Disapprove..... 2
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the war with Iraq?

- Approve 1
- Disapprove..... 2
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

3. Do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same as a result of the war with Iraq?

- Increased..... 1
- Decreased 2
- Stayed about the same 3
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

B. ISRAEL

4. How close do you feel to Israel?

- Very close 1
- Fairly close..... 2
- Fairly distant 3
- Very distant..... 4
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew.”

- Agree 1
- Disagree 2
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

5a. (IF “DISAGREE” TO QUESTION 5) Why do you feel this way ? (OPEN-ENDED)
(No Data Available)

1. Looking ahead 3 to 5 years, do you see Jews in Israel and in the United States becoming closer, drifting apart, or neither?

- Becoming closer 1
- Drifting apart 2
- Neither 3
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

2. How would you characterize relations between Israel and the United States today? Are they very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?

- Very positive..... 1
- Somewhat positive2
- Somewhat negative3
- Very negative4
- Not sure.....9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

3. As compared with one year ago, are you now more optimistic about the chance for a lasting peace between Israel and the Arabs, less optimistic, or do you think the chance for a lasting peace is about the same as it was one year ago?

- More optimistic now 1
- Less optimistic now2
- Same as one year ago3
- under 1% Not sure.....9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The goal of the Arabs is not the return of occupied territories but rather the destruction of Israel.”

- Agree 1
- Disagree.....2
- Not sure9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

5. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government’s current handling of relations with the Palestinian Authority?

- Support 1
- Oppose.....2
- Not sure9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

6. In the current situation, do you favor or oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state?

- Favor..... 1
- Oppose.....2
- Not sure9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

7. In the framework of a permanent peace with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to compromise on the status of Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli jurisdiction?

- Yes 1
- No2
- Not sure9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

8. As part of a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to dismantle all, some, or none of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?

- Al 1
- Some 2
- None 3
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Regardless of their individual views on the peace negotiations with the Arabs, American Jews should support the policies of the duly elected government of Israel.”

- Agree 1
- Disagree 2
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

C. WORLD AFFAIRS AND TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

10. How desirable is it that the United States exerts strong leadership in world affairs? Is it very desirable, somewhat desirable, somewhat undesirable, or very undesirable?

- Very desirable 1
- Somewhat desirable 2
- Somewhat undesirable 3
- Very undesirable 4
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “When dealing with common problems, the United States and Europe should be more willing to make decisions jointly, even if this means that the United States, as well as Europe, will sometimes have to go along with a policy that is not its first choice.”

- Agree 1
- Disagree 2
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

12. In general, in responding to international crises, do you think the United States should or should not take action alone, if it does not have the support of its allies?

- Should act alone 1
- Should not act alone 2
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

13. Do you believe that the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon reflect the true teachings of Islam?

- Yes 1
- No 2
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

14. I would like you to rate your feelings toward some countries, institutions and people, with one hundred meaning a very warm, favorable feeling, zero meaning a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred.

How would you rate your feelings toward Iran?

[NOTE: Interviewer can repeat – Remember, one hundred means a very warm, favorable feeling, zero means a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and fifty means not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred. How would you rate your feelings toward {insert name}??]

Rating

- a. Iran
- b. The European Union
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. Germany
- e. Jordan
- f. Egypt
- g. Great Britain
- h. Poland
- i. The Palestinians
- j. France
- k. China
- l. Syria
- m. Turkey
- n. India
- o. The Vatican
- p. Italy
- q. Spain
- r. Russia
- s. South Africa

15. I would like you to rate how various foreign governments feel toward Israel, with one hundred meaning a very warm, favorable feeling, zero meaning a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred.

How would you rate the government of [insert name of first country] in terms of feelings toward Israel?

[NOTE 1: Interviewer can repeat – Remember, one hundred means a very warm, favorable feeling, zero means a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and fifty means not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred.]

[NOTE 2: Interviewer can add -- How would you rate the government of [name of country] in terms of feelings toward Israel?]

Rating

- a. United States
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. Germany
- d. Jordan
- e. Egypt
- f. Great Britain
- g. Poland
- h. Iran
- i. France
- j. Syria
- k. Turkey
- l. India
- m. The Vatican
- n. Italy
- o. Spain
- p. Russia
- q. South Africa
- r. China

D. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS

16. In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

- Republican 1
- Democrat..... 2
- Independent..... 3
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

17. I'm going to read you a list of political views that people might hold. They are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

- Extremely liberal..... 1
- Liberal 2
- Slightly liberal..... 3
- Moderate, middle of the road..... 4
- Slightly conservative..... 5
- Conservative 6
- Extremely conservative..... 7
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

18. In the 2000 presidential election, did you vote for Al Gore, the Democrat, or for George W. Bush, the Republican?

- Al Gore 1
- George W. Bush..... 2
- Other 3 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**
- Did not vote 4 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

19. Suppose the next general election for president were being held today and you had to choose between George W. Bush, the Republican, and Wesley Clark, the Democrat -- for whom would you vote?

- a. George W. Bush..... 1
- Wesley Clark..... 2
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

- b. Between George W. Bush and Howard Dean -- for whom would you vote?
- George W. Bush..... 1
- Howard Dean 2
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

- c. Between George W. Bush and John Kerry -- for whom would you vote?
- George W. Bush..... 1
- John Kerry..... 2
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

- d. Between George W. Bush and Richard Gephardt -- for whom would you vote?
- George W. Bush..... 1
- Richard Gephardt 2
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

- e. Between George W. Bush and Joseph Lieberman -- for whom would you vote?
- George W. Bush..... 1
- Joseph Lieberman 2
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

20. Do you think the number of immigrants from foreign countries who are permitted to come to the United States to live should be increased a lot, increased a little, left the same as it is now, decreased a little, or decreased a lot?

- Increased a lot 1
- Increased a little 2
- Left the same as it is now..... 3
- Decreased a little..... 4
- Decreased a lot..... 5
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

21. Do you think that the government should or should not provide taxpayer funds for social service programs run by religious institutions, such as churches or synagogues?

- Should 1
- Should not 2
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

22. Do you favor or oppose government aid to parochial or other religious schools?

- Favor 1
- Oppose 2
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

23. In your opinion, how important is it that the United States achieve energy independence? Is it very important, somewhat important, or not important at all?

- Very important 1
- Somewhat important 2
- Not important 3
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

24. A federal appeals court has ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional and cannot be recited in schools because the phrase 'under God' violates the separation of church and state. Do you think the phrase 'under God' should or should not be part of the Pledge of Allegiance?

- Should 1
- Should not 2
- Not sure..... 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

E. JEWISH IDENTITY

25. How important would you say being Jewish is in your own life?

- Very important 1
- Fairly important 2
- Not very important 3

26. Which one of the following qualities do you consider most important to your Jewish identity?

- 41% Being part of the Jewish people 1
- 16% Religious observance 2
- 6% Support for Israel 3
- 19% A commitment to social justice 4
- 17% Something else 5
- 2% Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

27. Do you belong to a synagogue or temple?

- Yes 1
- No 2

28. Do you think of yourself as . . .

- Orthodox 1
- Conservative 2
- Reconstructionist 3
- Reform 4
- Just Jewish 5
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

29. In your opinion, which is a greater threat to Jewish life in the United States today--intermarriage or anti-Semitism?

- Intermarriage 1
- Anti-Semitism 2
- Both equally 3 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

F. ANTI-SEMITISM

30. Do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

- Very serious problem 1
- Somewhat of a problem 2
- Not a problem at all 3
- Less than 1% Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

31. Do you think that anti-Semitism on American college campuses is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

- Very serious problem 1
- Somewhat of a problem 2
- Not a problem at all 3
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

32. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

- Increase greatly 1
- Increase somewhat 2
- Remain the same 3
- Decrease somewhat 4
- Decrease greatly 5
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

6. In your opinion, what proportion of each of the following groups in the United States is anti-Semitic—most, many, some, very few, or none?

		(DO NOT READ -- DNR)					
		Most	Many	Some	Very few	None	Not sure
		1	2	3	4	5	9
a.	Asians	1	2	3	4	5	9
b.	Muslims	1	2	3	4	5	9
c.	Hispanics	1	2	3	4	5	9
d.	Blacks	1	2	3	4	5	9
e.	The Religious Right.....	1	2	3	4	5	9
f.	Catholics.....	1	2	3	4	5	9
g.	Mainstream Protestants	1	2	3	4	5	9

34. Do you think that anti-Semitism in Europe is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

- Very serious problem 1
- Somewhat of a problem..... 2
- Not a problem at all 3
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

35. Do you think that anti-Semitism in the Muslim world is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

- Very serious problem 1
- Somewhat of a problem..... 2
- Not a problem at all 3
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

36. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism around the world will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

- Increase greatly..... 1
- Increase somewhat 2
- Remain the same 3
- Decrease somewhat 4
- Decrease greatly 5
- Not sure 9 **(DO NOT READ -- DNR)**

A. PERSONAL DATA

7. Are you currently married?

- Yes 1
- No 2

38. (IF YES IN Q.42, ASK:) Is your spouse Jewish?

- Yes—spouse Jewish..... 1
- No—spouse not Jewish..... 2

39. Do you have any children?

- Yes 1
- No..... 2

45. (IF YES IN Q.44, ASK) Are any of your children married?

- Yes 1
- No..... 2

1. (IF YES IN Q.45, ASK:) Do any of your children have a spouse who is not Jewish?

- Yes 1
- No 2

2. What is your age as of your last birthday?

- Under 30..... 1
- 30-39..... 2
- 40-49..... 3
- 50-59..... 4
- 60-69..... 5
- 70 or over..... 6

Additional Codes

GEOREG	Geographic Region
1	New England
2	Middle Atlantic
3	East North Central
4	West North Central
5	South Atlantic
6	East South Central
7	West South Central
8	Mountain
9	Pacific

STATE	State Code
Value	Label
11	Connecticut
12	Maine
13	Massachusetts
14	New Hampshire
15	Rhode Island
16	Vermont
21	New Jersey
22	New York
23	Pennsylvania
31	Illinois
32	Indiana
33	Michigan
34	Ohio
35	Wisconsin
41	Iowa
42	Kansas
43	Minnesota
44	Missouri
45	Nebraska
46	North Dakota
47	South Dakota
51	Delaware
52	District of Columbia
53	Florida
54	Georgia
55	Maryland
56	North Carolina
57	South Carolina
58	Virginia
59	West Virginia
62	Alabama
63	Kentucky
64	Mississippi
65	Tennessee

71	Arkansas
72	Louisiana
73	Oklahoma
74	Texas
81	Arizona
82	Colorado
83	Idaho
84	Montana
85	Nevada
86	New Mexico
87	Utah
88	Wyoming
91	California
92	Oregon
93	Washington
94	Alaska
95	Hawaii
96	Puerto Rico
97	Virgin Islands