2005 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion

The data reported here are from the 2005 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, detailing the views of American Jews about a broad range of subjects. Among the topics covered in the present survey are the campaign against terrorism and the war in Iraq, the Israel-Arab conflict, the attachment of American Jews to Israel, political and social issues in the United States, Jewish perceptions of anti-Semitism, Jewish opinion about various countries, and Jewish identity concerns. Some of the questions appearing in the survey are new; others are drawn from previous American Jewish Committee surveys, including the Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion carried out in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

The 2005 survey was conducted for the American Jewish Committee by Synovate (formerly Market Facts), a leading survey-research organization. Respondents were interviewed by telephone between November 14 - 27, 2005; no interviewing took place on the Sabbath. The sample consisted of 1,000 self-identifying Jewish respondents selected from the Synovate consumer mail panel. The respondents are demographically representative of the United States adult Jewish population on a variety of measures. The margin of error for the sample as a whole is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

2005 Survey results:

A. War on Terrorism and Iraq
B. Israel
C. World Affairs
D. National Affairs
E. Jewish Identity
F. Anti-Semitism

2005 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - War on Terrorism and Iraq (2/7)

A. WAR ON TERRORISM AND IRAQ

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States government is handling the campaign against terrorism?
   - Approve 36
   - Disapprove 60
   - Not Sure 4

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the war with Iraq?
   - Approve 28
   - Disapprove 70
3. Would you support or oppose the United States taking military action against Iran to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons?
   - Support: 49
   - Oppose: 46
   - Not Sure: 6

B. ISRAEL

4. How close do you feel to Israel?
   - Very close: 36
   - Fairly close: 41
   - Fairly distant: 18
   - Very distant: 5
   - Not sure: 1

5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew."
   - Agree: 79
   - Disagree: 19
   - Not sure: 1

6. Have you ever been to Israel?
   - No: 59
   - Yes-once: 20
   - Yes-more than once: 20

6a. (IF "NO" TO QUESTION 6) Why have you never been to Israel?
   - Personal safety concerns: 20
   - Lack of interest: 18
   - Travel costs: 49
   - Hostility to Israel: 2
7. 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: 21
- Somewhat positive: 65
- Somewhat negative: 12
- Very negative: 1
- Not sure: 1

8. 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: 21
- Less optimistic now: 19
- Same as one year ago: 59
- Not sure: 1

9. 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: 78
- Disagree: 18
- Not sure: 5

10. To what extent do each of the following Arab leaders support or oppose peace with Israel?

a. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

- Strongly Support: 12
- Somewhat Support: 48
- Somewhat Oppose: 19
- Strongly Oppose: 9
- Not Sure: 12

b. President Bashar Assad of Syria

- Strongly Support: 1
- Somewhat Support: 10
- Somewhat Oppose: 22
- Strongly Oppose: 51
- Not Sure: 17

c. King Abdullah of Jordan
Strongly Support 21
Somewhat Support 42
Somewhat Oppose 18
Strongly Oppose 10
Not Sure 11

d. Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas
Strongly Support 5
Somewhat Support 29
Somewhat Oppose 26
Strongly Oppose 28
Not Sure 13

11. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's current handling of relations with the Palestinian Authority?
Support 67
Oppose 26
Not Sure 7

12. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's decision to build the security fence separating Israelis and Palestinians?
Support 73
Oppose 24
Not Sure 3

13. In the current situation, do you favor or oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state?
Favor 56
Oppose 38
Not Sure 6
14. 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: 36
- No: 60
- Not Sure: 5

15. 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?

- All: 15
- Some: 46
- None: 36
- Not Sure: 3

C. World Affairs

16. I would like you to rate your feelings toward some countries, 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 [ ]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Mean Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Germany</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. China</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. South Africa</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. France</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. The Vatican</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Mexico</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Japan</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. United States</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. India</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Turkey</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. 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 [ ] in terms of feelings toward
Israel?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Mean Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vatican</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18. Is your opinion of the United Nations very favorable, somewhat favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?*

- Very favorable: 7
- Somewhat favorable: 32
- Neutral: 21
- Somewhat unfavorable: 23
- Very unfavorable: 18
- Not sure: 1

D. National Affairs

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

- Republican: 16
- Democrat: 54
- Independent: 29
- Not sure: 1

20. 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: 7
- Liberal: 22
- Slightly liberal: 15
- Moderate, middle of the road: 29
- Slightly conservative: 12
- Conservative: 11
- Extremely conservative: 3
- Not sure: 1

21. When the Senate votes on a Supreme court nominee, should it consider only that person's legal qualifications and background, or along with legal background, should the Senate also consider how that nominee might vote on major issues the Supreme Court
22. If a nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court favors overturning the Roe v. Wade decision on abortion, in your view, should that alone disqualify that person from serving on the Supreme Court, or not?
   Should 50
   Should not 49
   Not sure 2

23. 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 32
   Should not 66
   Not sure 3

24. Some people have said that because the people who remained in New Orleans after the hurricane and flooding were mostly African American, help was slow to come, and that if the people who remained left in New Orleans had been mostly white, help would have come faster. Do you think the fact that those who remained in New Orleans were mostly black was a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in the government's response in New Orleans?
   Major factor 25
   Minor factor 26
   Not a factor 47
   Not sure 1

25. 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 77
   Somewhat important 21
   Not important 1
   Not sure 0

26. What is the best way for the United States to handle its energy needs by encouraging greater energy production, by encouraging greater energy conservation, or by developing alternative energy sources?
   Greater energy production 6
   Greater energy conservation 11
   Developing alternative energy sources 72
   All three (vol.) 11
   Not sure 1

E. Jewish Identity

27. How important would you say being Jewish is in your own life?
28. Please rate the importance of each of the following to your Jewish identity, indicating whether it is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important.

a. Participation in synagogue services
   Extremely important 10
   Very important 30
   Somewhat important 34
   Not Important 26

b. Jewish Study
   Extremely important 10
   Very important 32
   Somewhat important 41
   Not Important 17

c. Travel to Israel
   Extremely important 5
   Very important 24
   Somewhat important 38
   Not Important 32

d. Jewish organizational activity
   Extremely important 6
   Very important 28
   Somewhat important 42
   Not Important 24

e. Celebration of Jewish holidays
   Extremely important 21
   Very important 49
   Somewhat important 25
   Not Important 5

f. Remembrance of the Holocaust
   Extremely important 25
   Very important 58
   Somewhat important 15
   Not Important 2

29. Do you belong to a synagogue or temple?
Yes 57
No 43

30. Do you think of yourself as . . .
   Orthodox 10
   Conservative 32
   Reconstructionist 2
   Reform 29
   Just Jewish 26
   Not sure 1

31. In your opinion, which is a greater threat to Jewish life in the United States today--intermarriage or anti-Semitism?
   Intermarriage 33
   Anti-Semitism 62
   Both equally (vol.) 3
   Not sure 2

F. Anti-Semitism

32. 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 27
   Somewhat of a problem 65
   Not a problem at all 8
   Not sure 0

33. 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 25
   Somewhat of a problem 54
   Not a problem at all 13
   Not sure 9

34. 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 7
   Increase somewhat 33
   Remain the same 48
   Decrease somewhat 9
   Decrease greatly 1
   Not sure 2

35. 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?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Most</th>
<th>Many</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Very few</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Asians</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical Protestants</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
36. I am going to name some countries around the world. In each case tell me whether anti-Semitism in the country is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all.

a. Germany
   Very serious problem 24
   Somewhat of a problem 64
   Not a problem at all 8
   Not sure 3

b. Mexico
   Very serious problem 2
   Somewhat of a problem 44
   Not a problem at all 45
   Not sure 10

c. France
   Very serious problem 54
   Somewhat of a problem 38
   Not a problem at all 6
   Not sure 2

d. China
   Very serious problem 5
   Somewhat of a problem 38
   Not a problem at all 46
   Not sure 11

e. Great Britain
   Very serious problem 7
   Somewhat of a problem 57
   Not a problem at all 33
   Not sure 3

f. India
   Very serious problem 4
   Somewhat of a problem 42
   Not a problem at all 43
   Not sure 12

g. Russia
   Very serious problem 29
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a problem at all</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

h. Turkey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious problem</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a problem at all</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

i. Japan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Serious problem</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a problem at all</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

37. 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious problem</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a problem at all</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

38. 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase greatly</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase somewhat</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remain the same</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease somewhat</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease greatly</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>