



2003 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion

Introduction

The data reported here are from the American Jewish Committee's 2003 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion. Among the topics covered are the war against terrorism and Iraq; the Israel-Arab conflict; the attachment of American Jews to Israel; transatlantic relations; political and social issues in the United States; Jewish perceptions of anti-Semitism; and Jewish identity concerns. Some of the questions appearing in the survey are new, others are drawn from previous AJC surveys conducted annually since 1997.

The 2003 survey was conducted for AJC by Market Facts, a leading survey-research organization. Respondents were interviewed by telephone between November 25 and December 11. The sample consisted of 1,000 self-identifying Jewish respondents selected from the Market Facts consumer mail panel. The respondents are demographically representative of the U.S. 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.

2003 Survey results:

Anti-Semitism
 Israel
 Jewish Identity
 Presidential Election and National Affairs
 War on Terrorism and Iraq
 World Affairs and Transatlantic Relations

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 41
 Disapprove 54
 Not sure 5

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

Approve 43
 Disapprove 54
 Not sure 3

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 42

Decreased	9
Stayed about the same	48
Not sure	1

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Israel

4. How close do you feel to Israel?

Very close	31
Fairly close	43
Fairly distant	18
Very distant	8
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	76
Disagree	22
Not sure	2

6. 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	36
Drifting apart	9
Neither	53
Not sure	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	15
Somewhat positive	71
Somewhat negative	13
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	5
Less optimistic now	37
Same as one year ago	58
Not sure	0

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	81
Disagree	16
Not sure	3

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

Support	60
Oppose	32
Not sure	8

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

Favor	54
Oppose	41
Not sure	5

12. 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	42
No	54
Not sure	4

13. 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	12
Some	57
None	29
Not sure	2

14. 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 63
Disagree 34
Not sure 4

World Affairs and Transatlantic Relations

15. 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 43
Somewhat desirable 44
Somewhat undesirable 8
Very undesirable 3
Not sure 1

16. 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 75
Disagree 22
Not sure 3

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

Should act alone 37
Should not act alone 60
Not sure 3

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

Yes 19
No 76
Not sure 5

19. 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 [].

	<u>Mean Score</u>
a. Iran	27
b. The European Union	54
c. Saudi Arabia	29
d. Germany	45
e. Jordan	43
f. Egypt	45
g. Great Britain	77
h. Poland	56
i. The Palestinians	21
j. France	33
k. China	44
l. Syria	24
m. Turkey	52
n. India	55
o. The Vatican	51
p. Italy	62
q. Spain	62
r. Russia	51
s. South Africa	53

20. 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?

	<u>Mean Score</u>
a. United States	76
b. Saudi Arabia	22
c. Germany	41
d. Jordan	33
e. Egypt	35
f. Great Britain	65
g. Poland	49
h. Iran	16
i. France	30
j. Syria	16
k. Turkey	45
l. India	47

m. The Vatican	49
n. Italy	54
o. Spain	53
p. Russia	45
q. South Africa	48
r. China	42

Presidential Election and National Affairs

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

Republican	16
Democrat	51
Independent	31
Not sure	1

22. 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?

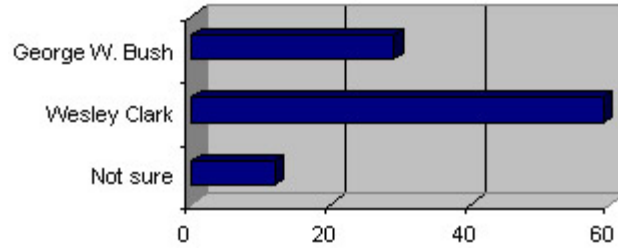
Extremely liberal	4
Liberal	19
Slightly liberal	17
Moderate, middle of the road	33
Slightly conservative	13
Conservative	12
Extremely conservative	2
Not sure	1

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

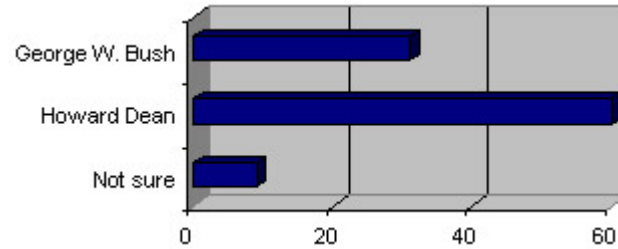
Al Gore	66
George W. Bush	24
Other (vol.)	3
Did not vote (vol.)	3
Not sure	4

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

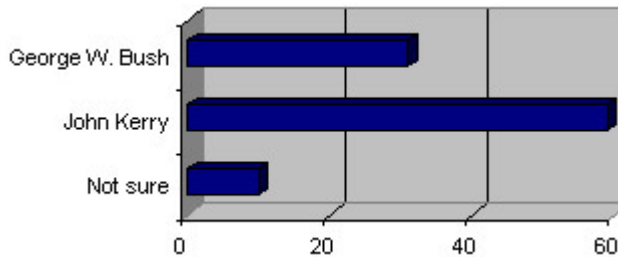
a. George W. Bush 29
 Wesley Clark 59
 Not sure 12



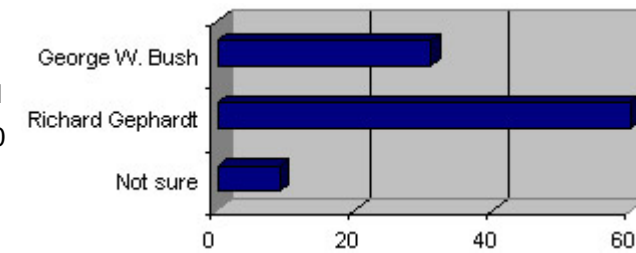
b. George W. Bush 31
 Howard Dean 60
 Not sure 9



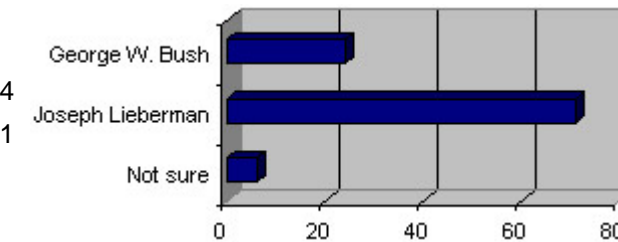
c. George W. Bush 31
 John Kerry 59
 Not sure 10



d. George W. Bush 31
 Richard Gephardt 60
 Not sure 9



e. George W. Bush 24
 Joseph Lieberman 71
 Not sure 6



25. 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	4
Increased a little	11
Left the same as it is now	43
Decreased a little	21
Decreased a lot	20
Not sure	2

26. 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	25
Should not	73
Not sure	2

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

Favor	25
Oppose	73
Not sure	2

28. 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	73
Somewhat important	24
Not important at all	2
Not sure	1

29. 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	66
Should not	31
Not sure	3

Jewish Identity

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

Very important	54
Fairly important	34
Not very important	12

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

Being part of the Jewish people	41
Religious observance	16
Support for Israel	6
A commitment to social justice	19
Something else	17
Not sure	2

32. Do you belong to a synagogue or temple?

Yes	50
No	50

33. Do you think of yourself as ...

Orthodox	8
Conservative	33
Reconstructionist	2
Reform	30
Just Jewish	28
Not sure	1

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

Intermarriage	27
Anti-Semitism	68
Both equally (vol.)	3
Not sure	2

Anti-Semitism

35. 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 37
 Somewhat of a problem 60
 Not a problem at all 3
 Not sure 0

36. 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 28
 Somewhat of a problem 54
 Not a problem at all 11
 Not sure 8

37. 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?

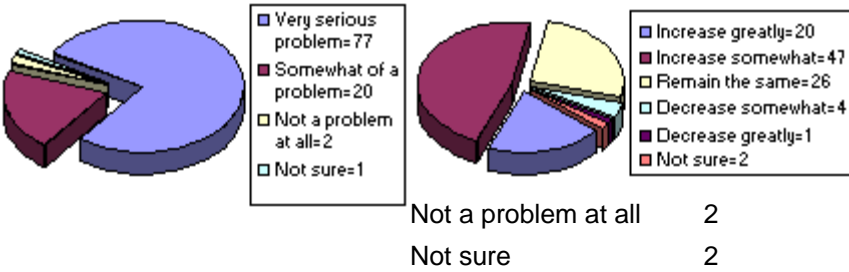
Increase greatly 10
 Increase somewhat 39
 Remain the same 42
 Decrease somewhat 7
 Decrease greatly 1
 Not sure 1

38. 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?

	Most	Many	Some	Very few	None	Not sure
a. Asians	2	3	41	39	9	6
b. Muslims	28	27	33	8	1	3
c. Hispanics	3	6	51	29	6	5
d. Blacks	6	15	55	18	4	3
e. The Religious Right	20	21	37	14	3	6
f. Catholics	5	9	59	21	3	3
g. Mainstream Protestants	4	8	57	24	3	4

39. 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 55
 Somewhat of a problem 41



40. 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 77
 Somewhat of a problem 20
 Not a problem at all 2
 Not sure 1

41. 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 20
 Increase somewhat 47
 Remain the same 26
 Decrease somewhat 4
 Decrease greatly 1
 Not sure 2