

CANADIAN PRESS/ LEGER MARKETING

How Canadians Feel About The Conflict in the Middle East

Report



1.0 Study Highlights

- Americans would not be justified in declaring war on Iraq.

Question : *Do you believe that the United States is still justified in launching a war against Iraq when the Iraqis have come to an agreement with the UN for the return of inspectors?*

n=1509	YES	NO	Don't Know / Refusal
Canada	25%	51%	25%

- Canadians do not want Canada to participate in the war against Iraq.

Question : *If the United States were to launch a war against Iraq, do you agree or disagree with Canada actively participating in the war along with the United States?*

n=1509	YES	NO	Don't know / Refusal
Canada	33%	52%	14%

- Settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is more important than solving the Iraqi problem.

Question : *Do you think that it is more important to solve the Iraqi problem or to settle the conflict between Israel and Palestine?*

n=1509	Solve the Iraqi problem	Settle the conflict between Israel and Palestine	Don't know / Refusal
Canada	25%	44%	31%

- UN resolutions imposed on Iraq should be respected with as much vigour as those imposed on Israel.

Question : *Do you think we should demand that the UN resolutions imposed on Iraq be enforced with as much vigour as those imposed on Israel?*

n=1509	YES	NO	Don't know/ Refusal
Canada	56%	13%	32%

2. Results

2.1 Americans would not be justified in declaring war on Iraq

According to 51% of Canadians, the US would not be justified in declaring war on Iraq as long as the Iraqis have agreed to the return of UN inspectors. However, 25% of Canadians disagree and 25% do not have an opinion.

Quebeckers (63%) are more likely to believe in the uselessness of war against Iraq. The majority of Canadians from other provinces are also against the war, with percentages varying between 44% and 51%. Percentages for those who agree with the war vary between 24% and 28%.

The degree of Canadian opposition to the war varies gradually according the level of education, starting at 39% among those with an elementary school education and rising to 61% for university graduates.

Question : *Do you believe that the United States is still justified in launching a war against Iraq when the Iraqis have come to an agreement with the UN for the return of inspectors?*

n=1509	YES	NO	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	24%	48%	28%
Quebec	19%	63%	19%
Ontario	27%	45%	29%
Prairies	27%	51%	22%
Alberta	28%	44%	27%
British Columbia	26%	50%	23%
Canada	25%	51%	25%

2.2 Canadians do not want Canada to participate in the war against Iraq

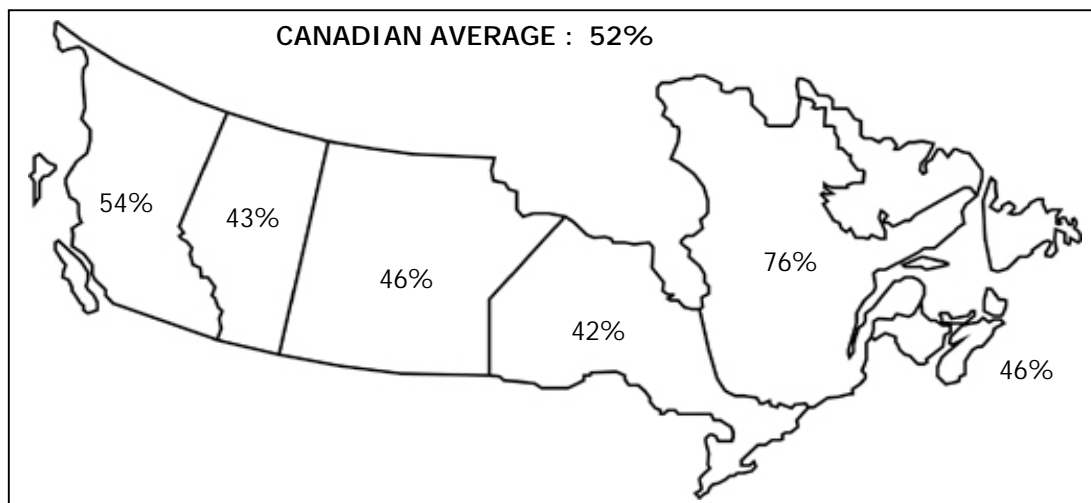
52% of Canadians are against Canada's active participation alongside the US in a war against Iraq, while 33% would be in favour and 14% do not have an opinion.

As was the case in the preceding question, Quebeckers (76%) are the ones most strongly opposed to Canada's participation; only 18% would support the war. Although the majority of Canadians in other provinces are also against Canadian participation, the gap between these and those in favour of the war is much smaller, as can be seen in the table below.

Question : *If the United States were to launch a war against Iraq, do you agree or disagree with Canada actively participating in this war along with the United States?*

n=1509	YES	NO	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	32%	46%	22%
Quebec	18%	76%	6%
Ontario	40%	42%	19%
Prairies	40%	46%	14%
Alberta	40%	43%	17%
British Columbia	33%	54%	13%
Canada	33%	52%	14%

Percentage of Canadians who are opposed to Canada's active participation alongside the US in a war against Iraq



2.3 Settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is more important than solving the Iraqi problem

44% of Canadians believe it is more important to settle the conflict between Israel and Palestine than to solve the Iraqi problem, compared to 25% who think the opposite and 5% who refused to answer.

Men (50%) are more likely than women (38%) to believe that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is more important to solve. However, 37% of women would not venture an opinion, compare to 23% of men.

The gap between those who feel priority should be given to settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and those who placed more importance on the Iraqi problem is still wider in Quebec (56% versus 21%). Although the margin between the two sides was smaller in other provinces, settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was given more importance by all.

Question : *Do you think it is more important to solve the Iraqi problem or to settle the conflict between Israel and Palestine?*

n=1509	Settling the conflict		
	Solve the Iraqi problem	between Israel and Palestine	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	30%	37%	33%
Quebec	21%	56%	23%
Ontario	24%	39%	37%
Prairies	30%	43%	27%
Alberta	33%	34%	32%
British Columbia	26%	45%	29%
Canada	25%	44%	31%

2.4 UN resolutions imposed on Iraq should be respected with as much vigour as those imposed on Israel

56% of Canadians believe that we should demand that UN sanctions towards Iraq be respected with as much vigour as those imposed on Israel. 13% do not share this view, while 27% did not have an opinion and 5% refused to answer.

Once again, Quebecers were more demanding towards Iraq and Israel with 74% feeling that both should be respected equally. As can be seen in the table below, Canadians from all provinces felt that UN resolutions should be respected.

Question : *Do you think we should demand that the UN resolutions imposed on Iraq be enforced with as much vigour as those imposed on Israel?*

n=1509	YES	NO	Don't know/ Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	54%	11%	35%
Quebec	74%	4%	22%
Ontario	48%	17%	35%
Prairies	51%	20%	29%
Alberta	52%	14%	34%
British Columbia	47%	16%	38%
Canada	56%	13%	32%

3.0 Methodology

This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1509 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal and Winnipeg call centres between October 15 and October 20, 2002. Up to ten call-backs were made in the case of non-response.

Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to geographic location, gender and language spoken at home to ensure a sample representative of the entire Canadian adult population. In the end, the maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1509 respondents is of ± 2.5 , 19 times out of 20.