

Thinking about the Holocaust 60 Years Later

A Multinational Public-Opinion Survey

**Conducted for the American Jewish Committee
By TNS Sofres
March- April 2005**



The American Jewish Committee

The Jacob Blaustein Building

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Introduction

The data reported here are from a new American Jewish Committee-sponsored survey dealing with knowledge and remembrance of the Holocaust in seven countries: the United States, Germany, France, Great Britain, Austria, Poland, and Sweden.

The survey was conducted for the American Jewish Committee by TNS Sofres, based in Paris, and its partners elsewhere. The fieldwork was carried out in March – April 2005, employing telephone interviews. The respondents constitute representative national samples of the population in each of the seven countries, 18 years of age and older. The margin of error for the total sample in each country is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

More detailed information on the survey is as follows: United States—the survey was conducted by TNS Intersearch, with 1,005 individuals interviewed; Germany— the survey was conducted by TNS Emnid, with 939 individuals interviewed; France—the survey was conducted by TNS Sofres, with 1,002 individuals interviewed; Great Britain—the survey was conducted by TNS UK, with 978 individuals interviewed; Austria—the survey was conducted by the Gallup Institute of Austria, with 1,000 individuals interviewed; Poland—the survey was conducted by TNS OBOP, with 1,001 individuals interviewed; Sweden—the survey was conducted by TNS Gallup, with 1,023 individuals interviewed.

Question 1**“From what you know or have heard, what were Auschwitz, Dachau, and Treblinka?” (in percents)**

Country	Concentration camps/ death camps/ extermination camps/ camps	Other responses	DK/ NA
United States	44	10	46
Germany	77	11	12
Great Britain	53	21	26
Austria	88	5	7
France	78	13	9
Poland	79	13	8
Sweden	91	4	5

Note: this question was open-ended with codes.

Question 2

“Approximately how many Jews in all of Europe were killed by the Nazis during the Second World War?” (in percents)

Country	25,- 000	100,- 000	1 mil- lion	2 mil- lion	6 mil- lion	20 mil- lion	DK/ NA
United States	4	13	13	6	33	9	22
Germany	2	5	10	13	49	8	13
Great Britain	4	7	13	12	39	8	17
Austria	1	7	15	19	41	5	12
France	2	4	16	13	49	9	7
Poland	3	6	12	12	30	7	30
Sweden	0	2	9	11	55	8	15

Question 3

“In your view, how important is it for all [NAME COUNTRY] to know about and understand the Nazi extermination of the Jews during the Second World War – is it essential, very important, only somewhat important, or not important?” (in percents)

Country	Essential	Very important	Only somewhat important	Not important	DK/NA
United States	33	45	13	4	5
Germany	38	38	17	5	2
Great Britain	34	40	16	8	2
Austria	44	45	8	2	1
France	53	34	11	1	1
Poland	22	48	27	2	1
Sweden	57	29	11	2	1

Question 4

“Some people say that 60 years after the end of the Second World War, it is time to put the memory of the Nazi extermination of the Jews behind us. Others say that we should keep the remembrance of the Nazi extermination of the Jews strong even after the passage of time. Which opinion comes closer to your opinion?” (in percents)

Country	Put memory of extermination of the Jews behind us	Keep remembrance of extermination of the Jews strong	DK/ NA
United States	14	80	6
Germany	23	73	4
Great Britain	16	81	3
Austria	27	70	3
France	17	81	2
Poland	23	74	3
Sweden	6	92	2

Question 5

“Do you think that teaching about the Nazi extermination of the Jews during the Second World War should be required in [NAME COUNTRY] schools?” (in percents)

Country	Yes	No	DK/ NA
United States	80	15	5
Germany	79	20	1
Great Britain	76	22	2
Austria	92	7	1
France	86	13	1
Poland	69	26	5
Sweden	91	7	2

Question 6

“In your view, how likely is it that the Jewish people could be subject to another extermination attempt somewhere in the world in coming years – very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely?” (in percents)

Country	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	DK/NA
United States	13	28	53	6
Germany	7	25	63	5
Great Britain	9	27	60	4
Austria	10	44	40	6
France	3	16	79	2
Poland	6	34	51	9
Sweden	8	32	56	4

Question 7

“Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: ‘The Nazi extermination of the Jews makes clear the need for the State of Israel as a place of refuge for Jews in times of persecution.’” (in percents)

Country	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	DK/NA
United States	24	34	15	9	18
Germany	28	36	17	8	11
Great Britain	21	32	19	15	13
Austria	24	40	22	8	6
France	19	34	21	21	5
Poland	23	47	18	5	7
Sweden	14	52	15	8	11

Question 8

“Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: ‘Jews are exploiting the memory of the Nazi extermination of the Jews for their own purposes.’” (in percents)

Country	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	DK/NA
United States	6	17	22	41	14
Germany	16	26	34	15	9
Great Britain	8	16	30	35	11
Austria	12	30	29	22	7
France	10	22	28	37	3
Poland	14	33	30	13	10
Sweden	4	30	28	30	8

Question 9**“Are your own feelings about Jews very sympathetic, somewhat sympathetic, somewhat unsympathetic, very unsympathetic, or neutral?” (in percents)**

Country	Very sympathetic	Some-what sympathetic	Some-what unsympathetic	Very unsympathetic	Neutral	DK/NA
United States	30	25	3	1	34	7
Germany	9	13	2	1	69	6
Great Britain	22	32	5	1	37	3
Austria	6	12	4	1	75	2
France	13	32	1	0	53	1
Poland	4	29	4	1	59	3
Sweden	21	17	3	1	55	3

Question 10**“Are your own feelings about Israel very sympathetic, somewhat sympathetic, somewhat unsympathetic, very unsympathetic, or neutral?” (in percents)**

Country	Very sympathetic	Some-what sympathetic	Some-what unsympathetic	Very unsympathetic	Neutral	DK/NA
United States	20	30	5	2	35	8
Germany	7	15	15	6	52	5
Great Britain	11	28	8	5	43	5
Austria	4	9	17	3	64	3
France	7	24	10	2	55	2
Poland	3	24	6	1	63	3
Sweden	6	17	22	3	48	4

Question 11

**“Do you think that anti-Semitism in [NAME COUNTRY] is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?”
(in percents)**

Country	Very serious problem	Somewhat of a problem	Not a problem at all	DK/NA
United States	11	56	23	10
Germany	32	53	11	4
Great Britain	9	47	32	12
Austria	8	55	33	4
France	26	63	10	1
Poland	20	53	20	7
Sweden	15	58	18	9

Question 12

“Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: ‘Now, as in the past, Jews exert too much influence on world events.’” (in percents)

Country	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	DK/NA
United States	8	21	30	28	13
Germany	12	24	39	15	10
Great Britain	10	18	36	24	12
Austria	15	30	31	19	5
France	8	23	32	34	3
Poland	22	34	31	7	6
Sweden	3	24	30	32	11
