

**CANADIAN PRESS / LÉGER MARKETING**

**Canadians' Attitude  
toward the Conflict in Iraq**

**Report**

March 2003



## 1.0 Study Highlights

- A mere one third of Canadians think that the war against Iraq is justified.

Question: *Do you think the United States and their allies (Great Britain and Spain) are justified in declaring war against Iraq?*

n=1501	Yes	No	Do not know / Refusal
Canada	33%	48%	19%

- The coalition United States, Great Britain and Spain could threaten the future of the UN.

Question: *In your opinion, which of the two following alliances formed as a result of the Iraqi conflict is most likely to endanger the future of the UN? Is it...?*

n=1501		
... the alliance formed by the United States, Great Britain and Spain		42%
... the block made up of France, Germany, Russia, and China		28%
Do not know / Refusal		30%

- Two Canadians out of five fear terrorist attacks in their country.

Question: *Are you afraid that a US war against Iraq might expose Canada to terrorist attacks?*

n=1501	Yes	No	Do not know / Refusal
Canada	43%	52%	5%

- One Canadian out of five would be disposed to boycott products coming from the United States or their allies as a sign of protest against the intervention in Iraq.

Question: *Should the US, Great Britain and Spain declare war against Iraq without UN approval or should the US already have declared war against Iraq without UN approval, would you be ready, as a sign of protest, to boycott all products from the US or from the three countries involved?*

n=1501	YES, boycott products from the United States	YES, boycott products from the three allied countries	NO, do not boycott	Do not know / Refusal
Canada	9%	12%	67%	11%

21% Yes to boycott

## 2. Results

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### 2.1 A mere one third of Canadians think that the war against Iraq is justified

Almost one Canadian in two (48%) believes that the United States and their allies are not justified in launching a war against Iraq, 33% believe they are justified, and 19% did not respond to the question. Quebecers represent the strongest proportion of Canadians who believe that a war is not justified (72%), compared with 18% who think otherwise.

Nevertheless, opinions differ depending on the region of the country. In fact, the majority of residents in Alberta (47%) align themselves with the United States and their allies. Moreover, the opinion of Ontario citizens is fairly mixed, with 38% affirming that a war is justified and 39% speaking out against it.

Women (53%), persons aged between 18 and 24 years (58%), and Francophones (71%) constitute the largest segments of society to believe that launching a war against Iraq is not justified.

Question: *Do you think the United States and their allies (Great Britain and Spain) are justified in declaring war against Iraq?*

n=1501	Yes	No	Do not know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	37%	46%	17%
Quebec	18%	72%	10%
Ontario	38%	39%	23%
Prairies	40%	43%	17%
Alberta	47%	31%	21%
British Columbia	28%	48%	23%
Canada	33%	48%	19%

## 2.2 The coalition United States, Great Britain and Spain could threaten the future of the UN.

According to 42% of Canadians, the coalition between the United States, Great Britain and Spain could threaten the future of the United Nations through the conflict in Iraq. Moreover, 28% believe that it is rather the bloc comprised of France, Germany, Russia and China, who oppose the war, who are endangering the future of the United Nations. We point out here that almost one third (30%) of Canadians were could not respond to this question.

However, marked differences in opinion can be observed between the different regions of the country. In fact, a strong majority of Quebecers (61%) and 44% of respondents from British Columbia fear the US alliance as posing the greater threat, while residents from the Prairies (39%) and Alberta (42%) are more inclined to think that it is the bloc opposing the war that constitutes a threat to the UN.

The majority of persons aged 18 to 24 (51%) believe that the alliance of the United States brings more harm to the United Nations than the alliance of those opposing the war, compared with 36% of persons aged 65 years or older who share this view.

Question: *In your opinion, which of the two following alliances formed as a result of the Iraqi conflict is most likely to endanger the future of the UN? Is it...?*

n=1501	... the alliance formed by the United States, Great Britain and Spain	...the bloc made up of France, Germany, Russia and China	Do not know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	41%	32%	27%
Quebec	61%	17%	22%
Ontario	36%	31%	34%
Prairies	30%	39%	30%
Alberta	29%	42%	29%
British Columbia	44%	25%	30%
Canada	42%	28%	30%

### 2.3 More than two Canadians out of five fear terrorist attacks on the country

More than two Canadians out of five (43%) fear that the war led by the United States against Iraq exposes Canada to terrorist attacks. On the other hand, more than one half (52%) of Canadians affirm to not have these fears.

Quebecers (49%) and people from the Atlantic Provinces (53%) are most inclined to fear a Canadian exposure to terrorist attacks due to the war against Iraq. Moreover, this tendency is more pronounced with women (52%) than with men (34%).

Question: *Are you afraid that a US war against Iraq might expose Canada to terrorist attacks?*

n=1501	Yes	No	Do not know / Refusal
Men	34%	62%	4%
Women	52%	42%	7%
Atlantic Provinces	53%	41%	6%
Quebec	49%	49%	1%
Ontario	40%	53%	7%
Prairies	49%	46%	5%
Alberta	34%	58%	8%
British Columbia	38%	57%	5%
Canada	43%	52%	5%

## 2.4 Almost two Canadians out of three fear that the war in Iraq would cause an economic slowdown in Canada

The majority of Canadians (65%) fear an economic slowdown in Canada due to the war by the United States against Iraq, compared to 29% who do not have this fear; 6% of those surveyed did not respond to this question.

Canadians who fear that the war in Iraq will slow down economic activity in Canada are in the majority in all Canadian regions, although the proportions vary. As such, in Québec, three quarters of the population (75%) fear an economic slowdown caused by the war in Iraq; in the Atlantic Provinces, 73% of respondents share this fear. By comparison, 59% of Ontarians and 58% of Albertans fear an economic slowdown caused by the war in Iraq.

Question: *Are you afraid that a US war against Irak might slow down Canada's economy?*

n=1501	Yes	No	Do not know / Refusal
Men	59%	37%	5%
Women	70%	21%	8%
Atlantic Provinces	73%	22%	5%
Quebec	75%	21%	4%
Ontario	59%	33%	7%
Prairies	61%	32%	7%
Alberta	58%	31%	11%
British Columbia	65%	31%	5%
Canada	65%	29%	6%

## 2.5 One Canadian out of five would be disposed to boycott American products or products coming from allied countries as a sign of protest against the intervention in Iraq

One fifth (21%) of the Canadian population would be disposed to boycott products coming from the United States (9%) or from the three allied countries (12%) in a war against Iraq. On the other hand, 67% of Canadians would not be disposed to behave as such, while 11% did not express themselves on the matter.

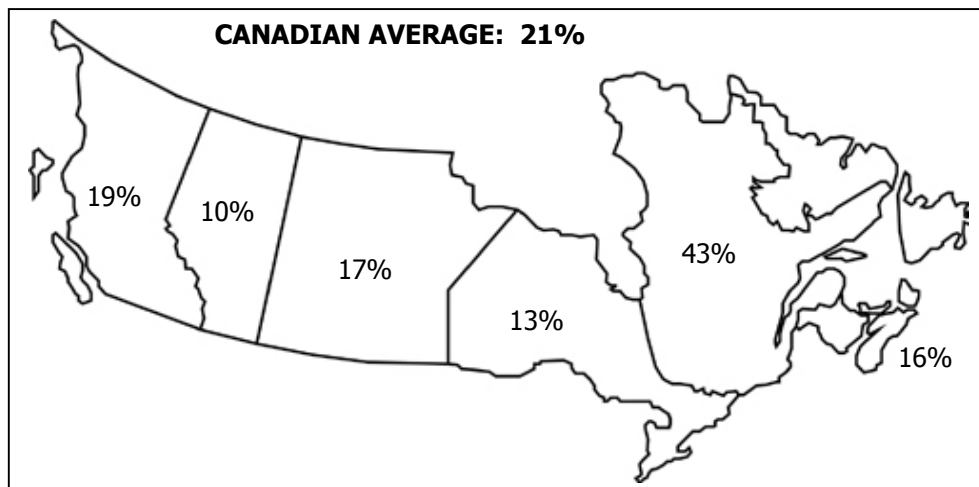
Noteworthy is that Quebecers (43%) have a much greater tendency to be favourable to a boycott of products coming from the United States or from countries allied to the United States in the war against Iraq. Moreover, 36% of Canadians who believe that the war against Iraq is not justified state that they are disposed to boycott products coming from the United States or its allies.

Question: *Should the US, Great Britain and Spain declare war against Iraq without UN approval or should the US already have declared war against Iraq without UN approval, would you be ready, as a sign of protest, to boycott all products from the US or from the three countries involved?*

n=1501	YES, boycott products from the United States	YES, boycott products from the three allied countries	NO, do not boycott	Do not know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	5%	11%	69%	15%
Quebec	18%	24%	51%	7%
Ontario	5%	8%	74%	13%
Prairies	9%	8%	66%	16%
Alberta	4%	6%	76%	15%
British Columbia	9%	10%	71%	10%
Canada	9%	12%	67%	11%

21% Yes  
to a boycott

### Distribution of Canadians disposed to boycott products from the United States, or from the three allied countries in the war against Iraq, as sign of protest



### **3.0 Methodology**

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This present study carried out by Léger Marketing was realized through telephone interviews with a representative sample of 1501 Canadians aged 18 years and older and who could express themselves in French or English.

The interviews were conducted from our call centre in Montreal and Winnipeg between March 19 and 23, 2003. We had the opportunity of making up to 10 calls in the case on non-responses.

Using Statistics Canada data, the results were weighted according to region, gender, and language spoken in the household, to the effect of rendering the sample representative for the entirety of the adult population of Canada. Finally, with the 1501 persons surveyed we obtained a maximal error margin of  $\pm 2,5\%$ , and that 19 times out of 20.