
VIEWS ON NATIONALISM IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES (ACS)

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TYPES OF NATIONALISM

- Since the emergence of the nation-state, nationalism has been the object of considerable debate. Some commentators regard nationalism as a positive force for unifying peoples by strengthening shared attachment to the nation or national entity. In this nationalism is generally equated with patriotism and/or love of country.
- Others however regard nationalism as inevitably polarizing and divisive by creating an us versus them paradigm that will exclude or stigmatize vulnerable segments of the population (i.e. immigrants and/or ethnic minorities).
- Nationalism may express itself as state based or as a non-state movement and has been described as civic, ethnic, cultural, religious and ideological. But such descriptions are not mutually exclusive and several nationalist movements combine them in multiple ways.
- Nationalist movements often compete with others and under such circumstances often describe their “nationalism” as ‘good’ and the ‘other’ as bad.

METHODOLOGY

- The firm Leger Marketing conducted a survey of Canadians for the Association for Canadian Studies that looked into issues of nationalism and identity. Conducted with some 1519 Canadians via web panel during the week of November 12, 2018. The survey reveals that the majority of Canadians have a positive view of nationalism in contrast with the United States where the population is more divided around nationalism. The American sample was collected via web panel by Leger Marketing USA during the week of November 19th, 2018 with some 1000 respondents.

60% OF CANADIANS VERSUS 45% OF AMERICANS HAVE A POSITIVE VIEW OF NATIONALISM; IN BOTH COUNTRIES NEARLY ONE IN SIX DON'T KNOW

Nationalism	United States	Canada
Total positive	44.7%	60%
Very positive	24.0%	21.1%
Somewhat positive	20.7%	38.9%
Somewhat negative	13.3%	14.5%
Very negative	20.3%	6.1%
I don't know	16.1%	16.3%
I prefer not to answer	5.6%	3.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

IS CANADA A “NATIONALIST”? WELL, SIX IN TEN CANADIANS HAVE A POSITIVE VIEW OF NATIONALISM

Nationalism in Canada	What is the language you first learned at home in your childhood and that you still understand?			
	French	English	Other	Total
Total positive	65.5%	58.6%	49.6%	60%
Very positive	16.6%	21.8%	16.3%	21.1%
Somewhat positive	48.9%	36.8%	33.3%	38.9%
Somewhat negative	15.0%	14.3%	16.3%	14.5%
Very negative	4.2%	7.6%	5.9%	6.1%
I don't know	12.5%	16.4%	22.2%	16.3%
I prefer not to answer	2.9%	3.1%	5.9%	3.1%

IN THE US NATIONALISM THE REACTION TO NATIONALISM BREAKS DOWN IN A VERY SIMILAR WAY ACROSS “RACIAL” LINES

Nationalism in the United States	Black or African-American	White or Caucasian	Other	Total
Total positive	43.1%	44.7%	43.5%	44.7%
Very positive	23.1%	23.9%	25.6%	24.0%
Somewhat positive	20.0%	20.8%	17.9%	20.7%
Somewhat negative	12.3%	13.8%	10.3%	13.3%
Very negative	14.6%	21.6%	28.2%	20.3%
I don't know	20.8%	16.0%	12.8%	16.1%
I prefer not to answer	9.2%	4.0%	5.1%	5.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

FRANCOPHONES THAT ARE THE LEAST POSITIVE ABOUT NATIONALISM ARE THE MOST ATTACHED TO CANADA WHILE ANGLOPHONES MOST POSITIVE ABOUT NATIONALISM ARE MOST ATTACHED TO CANADA

		Nationalism			
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
French	Very attached to Canada	34.6%	35.1%	37.0%	53.8%
	Somewhat attached to Canada	30.8%	48.7%	50.0%	23.1%
English	Very attached to Canada	85.1%	62.3%	67.8%	55.6%
	Somewhat attached to Canada	11.6%	30.8%	26.3%	25.4%

MOST POSITIVE ABOUT NATIONALISM EXPRESS THE MOST PRIDE IN THE HISTORY OF CANADA

		Nationalism			
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
I am proud of Canadian history					
French	Strongly agree	35.3%	27.0%	28.3%	30.8%
	Somewhat agree	41.2%	52.0%	41.3%	23.1%
English	Strongly agree	61.9%	35.5%	33.9%	23.8%
	Somewhat agree	30.4%	51.1%	46.6%	42.9%



NATIONALISM, MIGRATION AND DIVERSITY:

THERE IS SOME AMBIGUITY AMONGST THE MOST POSITIVE ABOUT NATIONALISM IN CANADA WHEN IT COMES TO DIVERSITY BUT IN GENERAL CANADIANS POSITIVELY DISPOSED TOWARDS NATIONALISM VALUE DIVERSITY IN CONTRAST TO EUROPEAN EXPRESSIONS OF NATIONALISM.

THOSE WHO VIEW NATIONALISM MORE POSITIVELY IN CANADA ARE SOMEWHAT MORE WORRIED ABOUT IMMIGRANTS THAN THOSE VIEWING IT NEGATIVELY

Worried about... The numbers of immigrants in Canada	Nationalism			
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Total - Worried	40.5%	47.6%	45.5%	27.2%
Very worried	14.0%	14.7%	14.0%	19.6%
Somewhat worried	26.5%	32.9%	31.5%	7.6%
Not very worried	34.3%	35.6%	31.1%	29.3%
Not worried at all	24.9%	15.5%	22.5%	43.5%
I prefer not to answer	.3%	1.2%	.9%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

SOFTER NATIONALISTS (SOMEWHAT POSITIVE AND SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE) ARE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Worried about... The degree of ethnic and religious diversity in your province	Nationalism			
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Total - Worried	27.0%	34.9%	34.5%	27.7%
Very worried	8.8%	8.3%	6.8%	14.9%
Somewhat worried	19.5%	26.6%	27.7%	12.8%
Not very worried	40.9%	42.0%	38.2%	28.7%
Not worried at all	29.2%	22.7%	26.4%	43.6%
I prefer not to answer	1.6%	.5%	.9%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

MOST POSITIVE ABOUT NATIONALISM ARE THE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THREATS AT THE BORDER BETWEEN CANADA AND THE US

Worried about... Security threats at the border(s) between Canada and the United States	Nationalism			
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Total - Worried	62.3%	56.7%	55.5%	48.9%
Very worried	24.6%	17.4%	21.4%	27.2%
Somewhat worried	37.7%	39.3%	34.1%	21.7%
Not very worried	24.9%	33.2%	30.5%	19.6%
Not worried at all	11.8%	9.6%	14.1%	31.5%
I prefer not to answer	.9%	.5%		

MOST POSITIVE AROUND NATIONALISM MOST LIKELY TO VIEW CANADIAN MULTICULTURAL POLICY FAVORABLY

Canadian multicultural policy	Nationalism			
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Total positive	78.9%	75.6%	47%	64.1%
Very Positive	46.9%	16.4%	14.0%	29.3%
Somewhat positive	32.0%	59.2%	33.0%	34.8%
Somewhat negative	8.7%	14.5%	38.0%	9.8%
Very negative	7.5%	4.0%	10.9%	16.3%
I don't know	5.0%	5.1%	4.1%	9.8%
I prefer not to answer		0.8%		
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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Views on Nationalism in Canada and the United States.

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