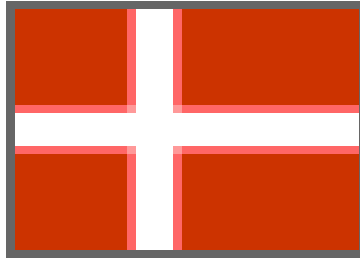
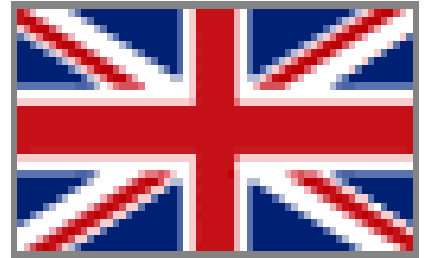


France



Denmark



United Kingdom



**European Attitudes Toward Jews, Israel and
the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict**

June 27, 2002



Germany



Belgium

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Methodology

- **First International Resources was commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League to research attitudes and opinions in five European nations toward Jews, Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the wake of increasing attacks against Jews in Europe.**
- **Our research focused on the prevalent attitudes of the general public in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium, and Denmark.**
- **In addition to the individual country results, we have compiled overall “European” statistics which take into account the findings from the five countries surveyed as a whole.**
- **These “European” figures are combined results from our surveys, with each country’s findings being weighed equally as one-fifth of the whole.**
- **Data results for each individual country were weighted based on age and gender. The completed interview data underwent minor weighting to national population data using official government information on age and gender.**
- **Fieldwork was done by Taylor Nelson Sofres, which conducted a total of 2,500 telephone interviews -- 500 in each of the five countries -- among the general public between May 16-June 4, 2002.**
- **Interviews were conducted in the native language of each of the countries and were completed by TNS’s Research Group at its facilities in the United Kingdom.**
- **The margin of error is +/- 4.4 at 95% level of confidence.**

Anti-Semitism in Europe

- **The data indicates that nearly a third of European respondents, 30 percent, harbor some traditional anti-Jewish views.**
- **As part of the survey, respondents were asked to decide whether or not they felt that certain traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes (the four statements listed on the following page) were “probably true” or “probably false.”**
- **A plurality of Europeans, 45 percent, responded that it is “probably true” to characterize Jews as being more loyal to Israel than to their own country.**
- **30 percent of the respondents believe that Jews have too much power in the business world.**
- **19 percent believe that Jews do not care what happens to anyone but their own kind.**
- **16 percent say that Jews are more willing than others to use shady practices to get what they want.**
- **Among those in the five countries surveyed, Belgian, German, and French respondents are the most likely to hold a prejudiced view of Jews while British and Danish respondents are the least likely.**

Anti-Jewish Stereotypes

“I am now going to read out a series of statements, some of them you will agree with and some of them you will not. Please say which ones you think are probably true and which ones you think are probably false.”

Jews don't care what happens to anyone but their own kind.

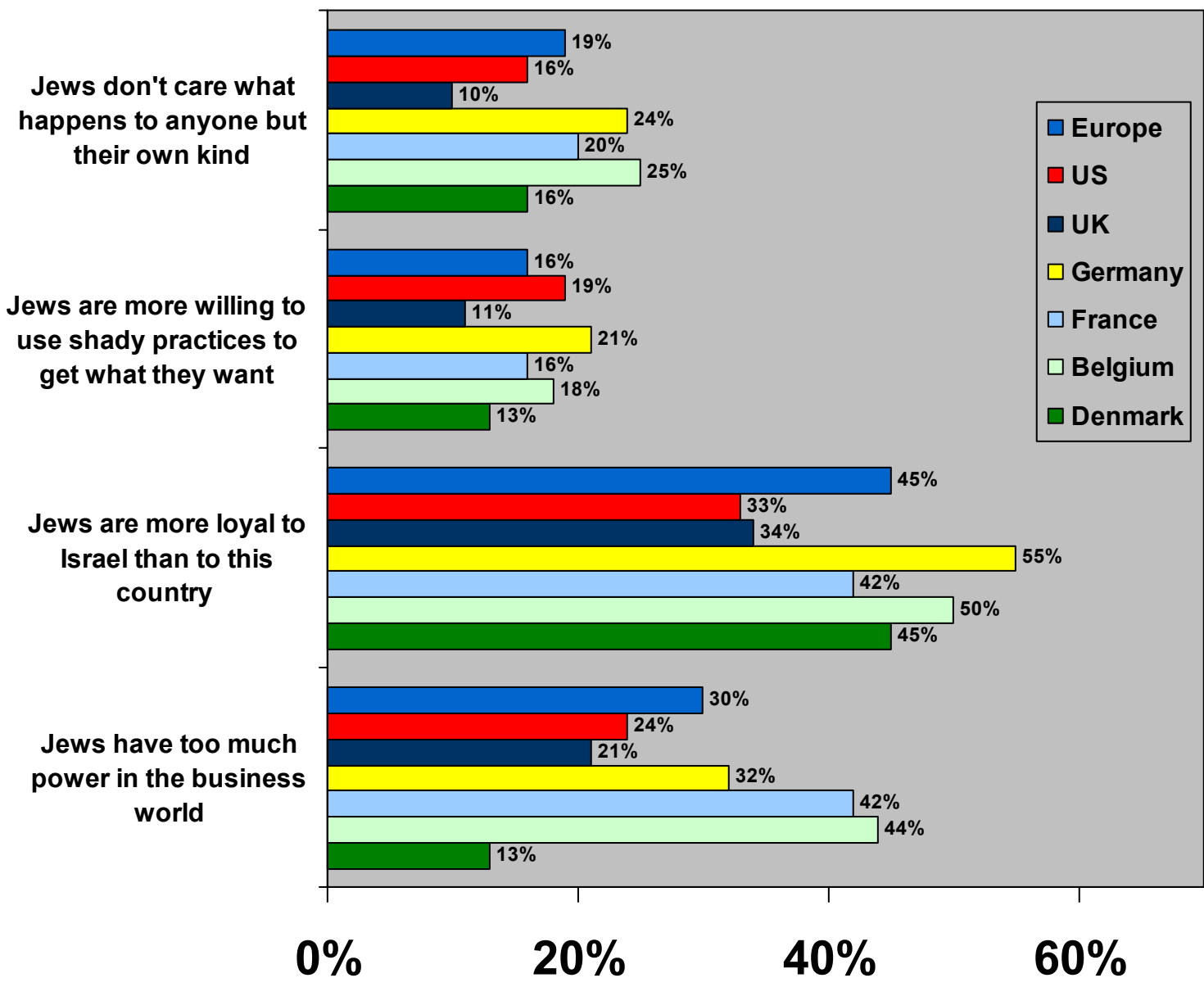
Jews are more willing than others to use shady practices to get what they want.

Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country.

Jews have too much power in the business world.

	Overall Europe	UK	France	Germany	Denmark	Belgium
"Probably true" for at least two	30%	18%	35%	37%	21%	39%
"Probably true" for at least three	15%	9%	17%	19%	8%	21%
"Probably true" for all four	5%	3%	7%	7%	3%	6%
"Probably true" to none of them	39%	54%	39%	30%	45%	29%

Percent responding "probably true" to each statement.



- **A new form of anti-Semitism seems to be taking hold in Europe, one that is fueled by anti-Israel sentiment and questions the loyalty of Jewish citizens.**
- **A plurality of Europeans, 45 percent, believe that Jewish citizens in their respective countries are more loyal to Israel than to the country they live in.**
- **More than a quarter of Europeans, 26 percent, are “fairly unconcerned” or “not concerned at all” about the recent outbreak of violence against Jews.**
- **Europeans are evenly split as to whether or not anti-Jewish feelings have increased over the last five years. 36 percent think they have increased, while 38 percent say that levels of anti-Jewish sentiment are about the same.**
- **However, by a margin of 3:1, Europeans are more likely to say that anti-Jewish feelings have increased as opposed to decreased.**
- **Despite the recent spate of anti-Jewish violence in France, a plurality of French respondents, 44 percent, believe that anti-Jewish feelings are about the same as they were five years ago.**
- **Overall, 42 percent of European respondents believe there is a possibility of an increase in anti-Jewish feelings within their respective countries over the next few years.**
- **German and Belgian respondents (48 percent each) are most likely to believe that anti-Jewish feelings could rise within their borders.**
- **A third of British and French respondents feel that anti-Jewish sentiments will increase in the coming years.**
- **Despite the fact that a plurality of Europeans do not think that anti-Jewish feelings in their own countries will increase in the next few years, a majority, 54 percent, think it is either “very” or “fairly” likely that anti-Jewish feelings around the world will increase.**

- **When asked the same question in the United States, 63 percent of respondents felt it was likely that there could be a serious increase in anti-Jewish feeling around the world in the next few years.**
- **63 percent of Europeans say that most people in their country are prejudiced against other ethnic groups, even if they don't admit to it in public.**

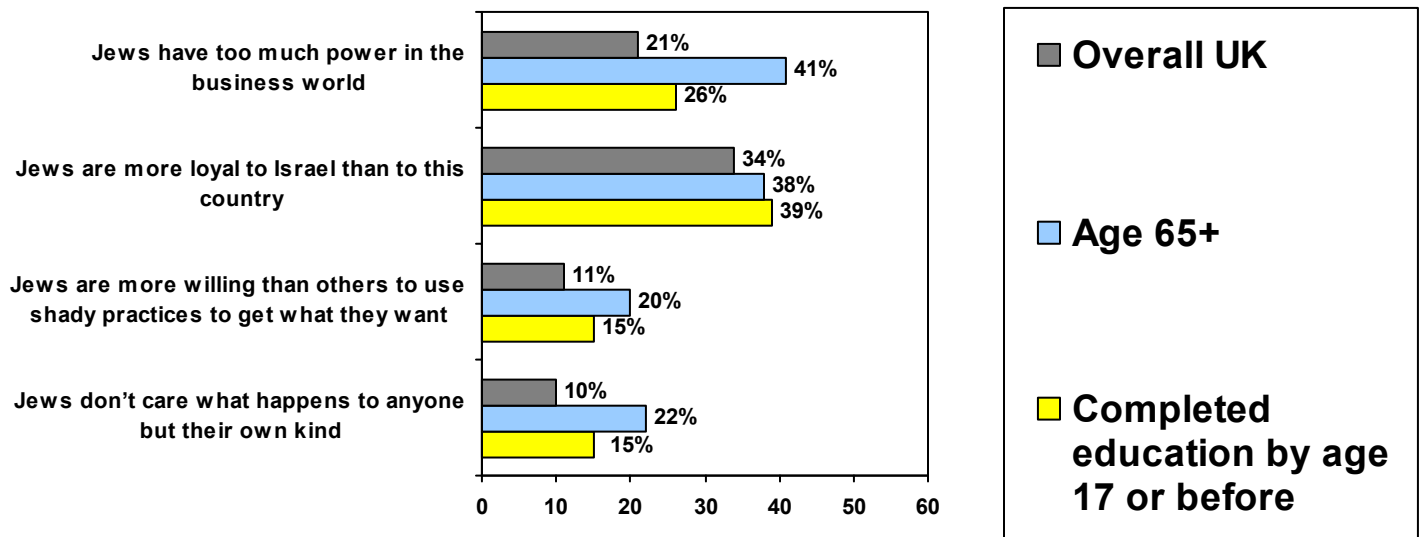
Anti-Jewish Violence

- **Only 21 percent of Europeans say they are “very concerned” about the recent outbreak of violence directed at Jews throughout Europe.**
- **48 percent say that they are “fairly concerned” about this development.**
- **Only 14 percent of French respondents say they are “very concerned” about recent violence against Jews.**
- **Additionally, slightly more than a third of French respondents say they are “fairly unconcerned” or “not at all concerned.”**
- **A majority of Europeans think that their governments are doing enough to ensure the safety and security of Jewish citizens.**
- **A third of French respondents do not think that their government is doing enough to ensure the safety and security of its Jewish citizens – the highest percentage of any of the countries surveyed.**

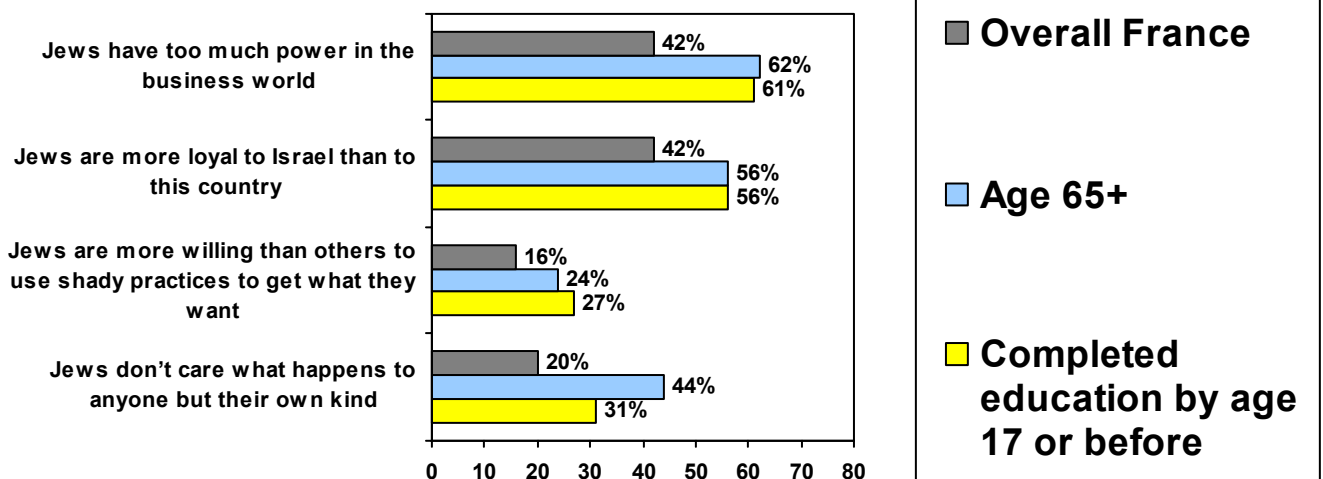
Age and Education

- The data indicates that in all five countries surveyed, age or education are key factors in determining the likelihood of a respondent believing in traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes.
- Those over the age of 65 and those who completed their education by age 17 or before, are more likely than the rest of the population to agree with the anti-Semitic characterizations presented in the survey.

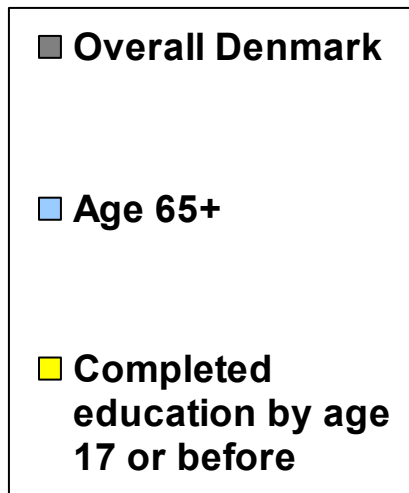
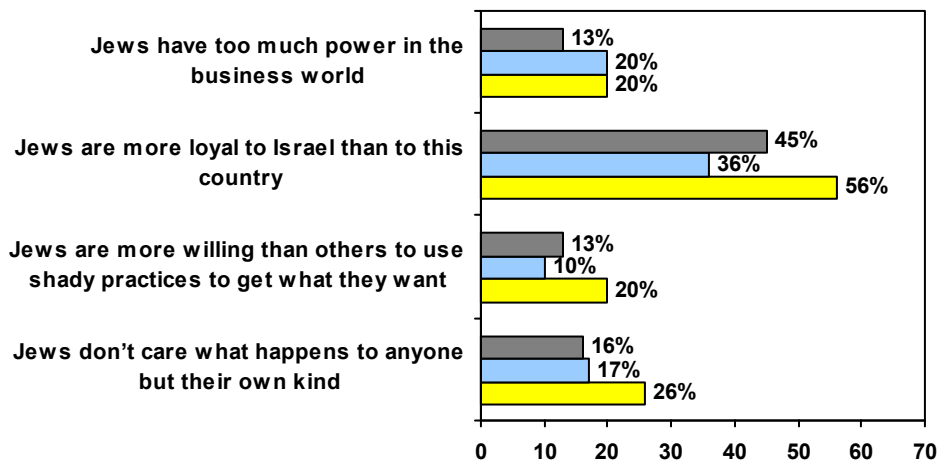
Age and Education -- United Kingdom



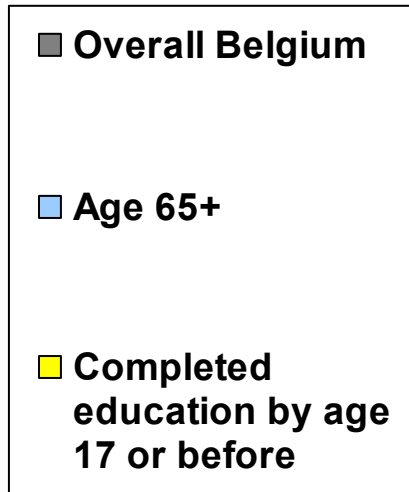
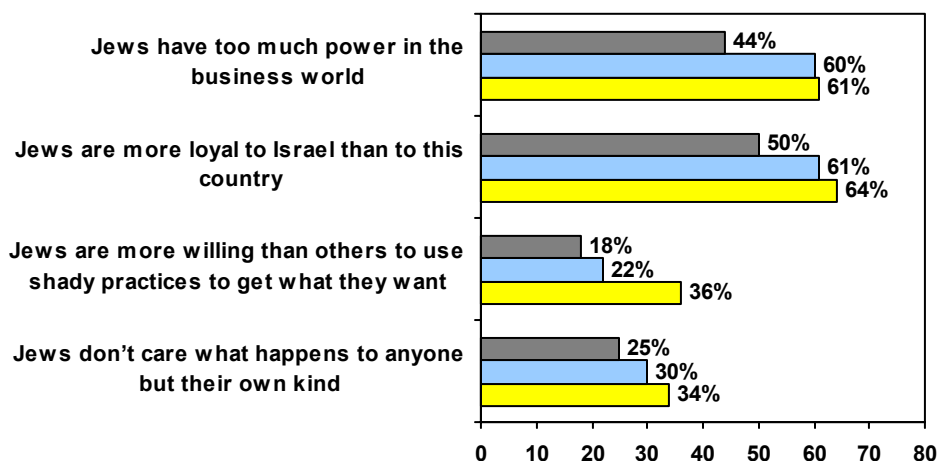
Age and Education – France



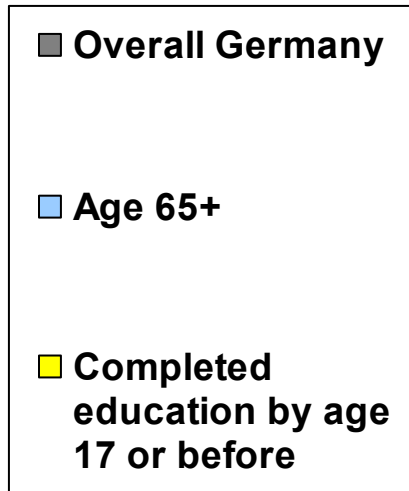
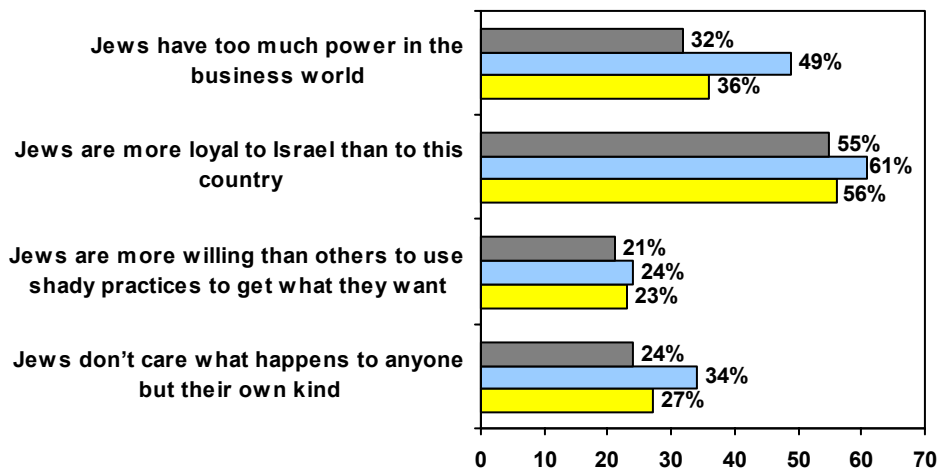
Age and Education -- Denmark



Age and Education -- Belgium



Age and Education -- Germany



Attitudes Toward Israel

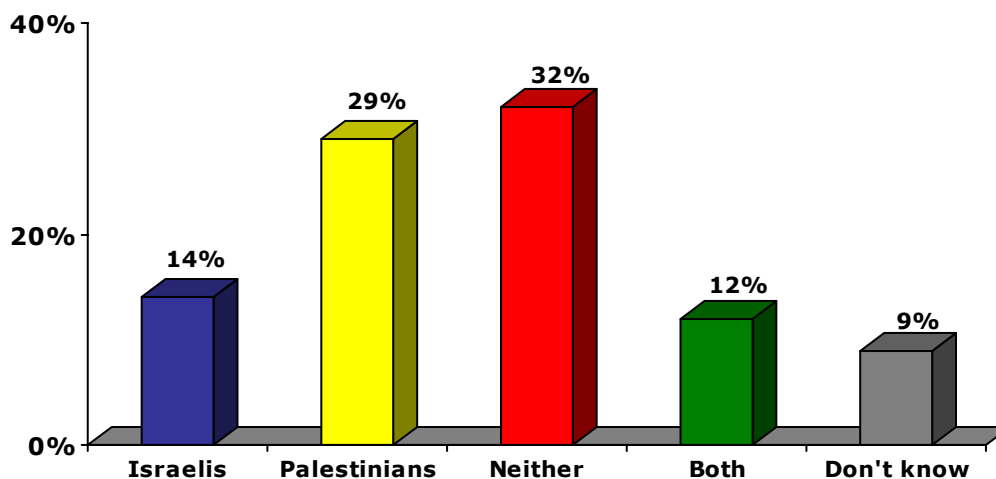
- Overall, the data indicates that Israel has a major perception problem in Europe. Respondents, regardless of gender, age, education, or income level possess extremely negative views about Israel.
 - ❖ Only 28 percent of European respondents view Israel favorably.
 - ❖ 14 percent of Europeans say they sympathize with the Israelis in the current Palestinian Israeli conflict.
 - ❖ 41 percent of Europeans do not think that Israel wants to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians.
 - ❖ 38 percent of European respondents say that Israel's treatment of Palestinians is similar to South Africa's treatment of blacks during apartheid.
 - ❖ 60 percent of the respondents feel that Israel's use of military force against the Palestinians has been excessive.
 - ❖ By a margin of 7 percentage points, 27-20, Europeans think that the Israelis are more at fault for the current violence than the Palestinians. In contrast, respondents in America believe that the Palestinians are more responsible than Israel for the recent escalation in violence by a margin of 42-17.
 - ❖ 42 percent of Europeans do not think that Israel is an open and democratic society.
 - ❖ 62 percent of Europeans believe that the recent outbreak of violence against Jews in Europe is a result of anti-Israel sentiment and not traditional anti-Semitic or anti-Jewish feelings.

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

- A majority of respondents in each country say that they know only “a little” about the history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, while a third say they know a “great deal” or a “good amount” about the history of the conflict.
- European respondents have negative views toward both the Israeli government, headed by Ariel Sharon, and the Palestinian Authority, headed by Yasser Arafat.
- In fact, Ariel Sharon’s government is viewed more unfavorably than is Yasser Arafat or the Palestinian Authority. 56 percent of European respondents view the current Israeli government unfavorably, while 50 percent of respondents view the Palestinian Authority unfavorably.
- By a margin of more than 2-to-1, Europeans sympathize more with the Palestinians than with the Israelis. Almost a third say they sympathize with neither side.

Thinking specifically about the current conflict between Israel and the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip - are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?

Among all Europeans



Thinking specifically about the current conflict between Israel and the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip – are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?

Country by country breakdown

	UK	France	Germany	Denmark	Belgium
Israelis	13%	10%	17%	16%	14%
Palestinians	30%	29%	25%	33%	29%
Neither	27%	37%	36%	24%	36%
Both	17%	11%	8%	15%	9%
Don't know	11%	9%	7%	9%	7%

- A majority of respondents in Europe, 51 percent, believe that the current Palestinian uprising is a spontaneous reaction to Israeli occupation and not a planned uprising by Yasser Arafat to achieve through violence what he failed to achieve at the negotiating table.
- A plurality of European respondents, 44 percent, agree with the statement that “the Palestinian Authority truly wants to reach a peace agreement with Israel.”
- Despite the recent wave of suicide bombings in Israel, Europeans, by a margin of more than 2:1, believe that Israel’s use of military force against the Palestinians was excessive and will not stop future attacks on Israel.
- Europeans are nearly unanimous (86 percent) in their belief that there is no justification for Palestinian suicide bombers that target Israeli citizens.
- Three-quarters of European respondents believe that attacks carried out against Israeli civilians are an illegal form of terrorism.
- However, 15 percent of Belgian respondents say that attacks against Israeli civilians are a legitimate form of struggle.

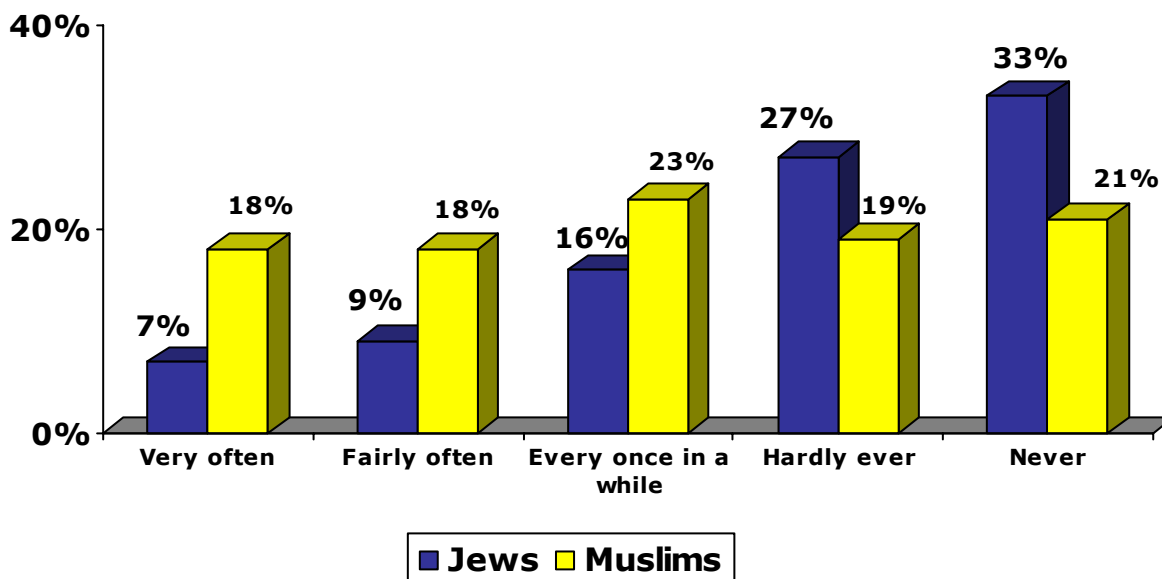
- **When asked if Yasser Arafat really wants to reach a peace agreement with Israel or if his goal is to destroy Israel, 49 percent of European respondents feel that Arafat really wants to reach an agreement with Israel. Less than a third of those surveyed believe that Arafat's real goal is to destroy Israel.**
- **Overall, 17 percent of Europeans believe that American Middle East policies are unbiased toward either the Palestinians or the Israelis. 59 percent say that American Middle East policies are biased in favor of Israel.**
- **At the same time, 44 percent of Europeans believe that their own government's policies toward the Middle East are unbiased.**

Familiarity with Jews and Muslims

- The large Muslim and Arab population in Europe may be a factor in explaining the higher levels of sympathy for the Palestinians among the Europeans surveyed.
- Europeans are much more likely to know or be close to a Muslim or Arab person than they are to a Jewish person.
- In general, Europeans do not come into contact with Jewish people either at work or in social occasions.
- 60 percent of the respondents say that they rarely come into contact with Jews either at work or in social occasions. Nearly a third say they never have any contact with Jews.
- In contrast, Europeans are almost twice as likely to come into contact with Muslims than with Jews.

Approximately how often would you say that you come into contact with Jews/Muslims either at work or in social occasions, would you say that it was...?

Among all Europeans



- The data indicates that the more familiar respondents are with Muslims the more likely they are to be sympathetic to the Palestinians.

	UK	France	Germany	Denmark	Belgium
Overall sympathy for Palestinians	30%	29%	25%	33%	29%
Sympathy among those in contact with Muslims "very often"	32%	35%	34%	34%	32%
Sympathy among those in contact with Muslims "fairly often"	34%	36%	27%	45%	34%

- Additionally, those respondents who say they "never come in contact with Muslims" are more sympathetic to Israelis.

	UK	France	Germany	Denmark	Belgium
Overall sympathy for Israelis	13%	10%	17%	16%	14%
Sympathy for Israelis among those who "never come in contact with Muslims "		15%	20%	24%	15%

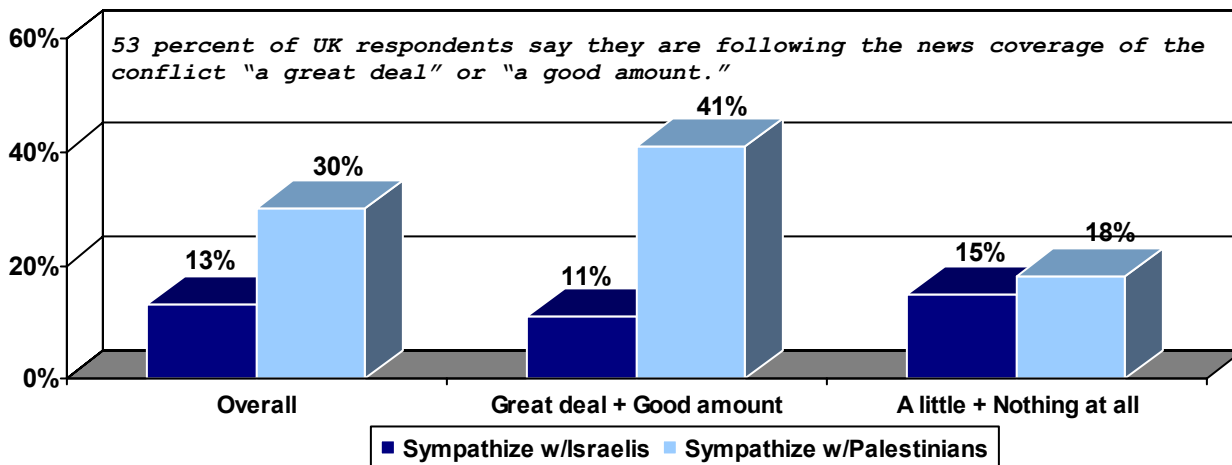
Media Coverage

- **57 percent of Europeans are following the news coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict closely.**
- **Media coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is playing a large role in shaping the European attitudes toward Israel.**
- **The data indicates that those respondents who say they are following media coverage of the events in Israel the closest, are more likely to be sympathetic to the Palestinian cause.**
- **The data indicates that German respondents (63 percent) are paying the most attention to events in the Middle East, while French respondents (49 percent) are paying the least amount of attention.**
- **Fewer than 15 percent of the respondents in each country say that they have not been following the coverage at all.**
- **A majority of those surveyed across Europe, 55 percent, believe that European media coverage of the current violence in the Middle East has been balanced.**
- **Only a third say that the media coverage has been “fairly or very biased.”**
- **Of those respondents in Germany, Britain, France, and Belgium who say that the media coverage has been biased, a plurality believe the coverage has biased in favor of the Israelis.**
- **By a slim margin, Danish respondents say that the media has been biased in favor of the Palestinians.**
- **In all five countries surveyed, the more closely the respondents say they follow the news coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the more likely they are to sympathize with the Palestinians.**

- Those who say they are following the media coverage “a great deal” or “a good amount” are much more likely to sympathize with the Palestinians than those who say they have followed “a little” or “nothing at all.”

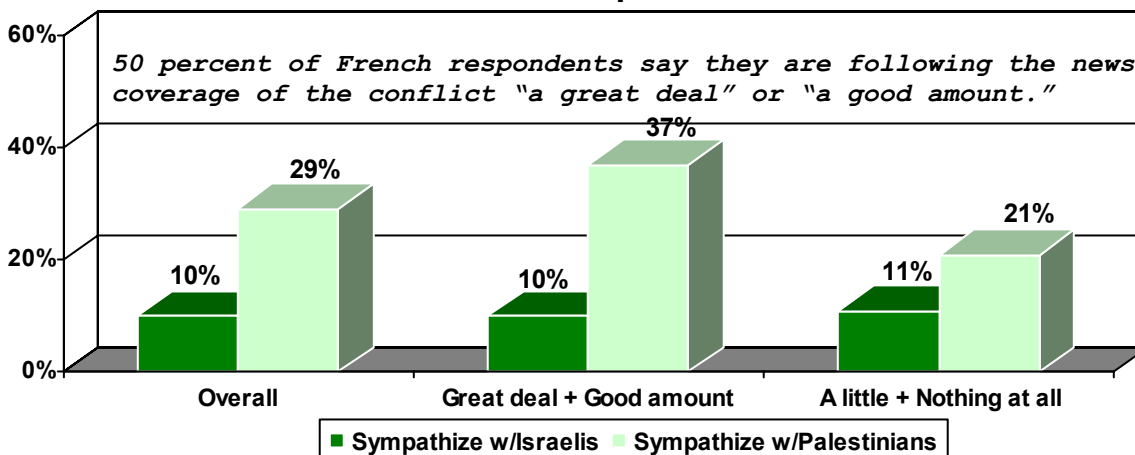
United Kingdom

- Overall, 30 percent of respondents in the UK sympathize with the Palestinians.
- However, among those who say they have been following the news coverage “a great deal” or “a good amount,” sympathy for the Palestinians rises to 41 percent.



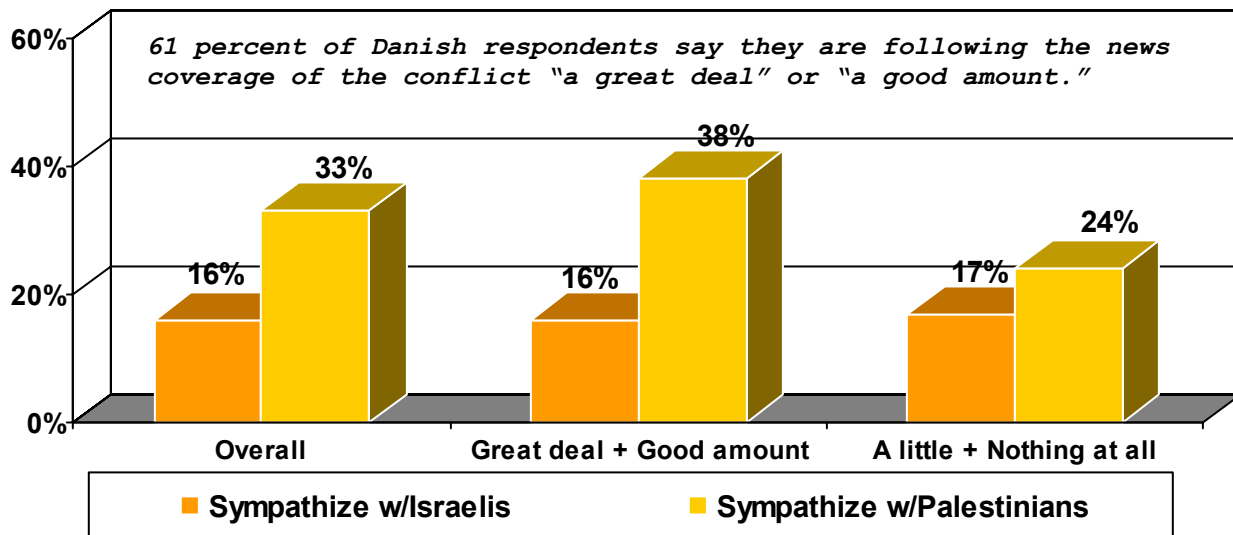
France

- Overall, 29 percent of respondents in France sympathize with the Palestinians.
- However, among those who say they have been following the news coverage “a great deal” or “a good amount,” sympathy for the Palestinians rises to 37 percent.



Denmark

- Overall, 33 percent of respondents in Denmark sympathize with the Palestinians.
- However, among those who say they have been following the news coverage "a great deal" or "a good amount," sympathy for the Palestinians rises to 38 percent.



Belgium

- Overall, 29 percent of respondents in Belgium sympathize with the Palestinians.
- However, among those who say they have been following the news coverage "a great deal" or "a good amount," sympathy for the Palestinians rises to 37 percent.



Germany

- Overall, 25 percent of respondents in Germany sympathize with the Palestinians.
- However, among those who say they have been following the news coverage “a great deal” or “a good amount,” sympathy for the Palestinians rises to 32 percent.

