



Attitudes Toward Jews and the Middle East in Five European Countries

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Methodology

- First International Resources was commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League to research attitudes and opinions toward Jews and the Middle East in five European countries.
- Our research focused on the attitudes of the general public in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Poland.
- 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.
- In addition to the individual country results, we have compiled overall statistics which take into account the findings from the five countries surveyed as a whole. These figures are combined results from our surveys, with each country's findings being weighted equally as one-fifth of the whole.
- Fieldwork was done by Taylor Nelson Sofres, which conducted a total of 2,714 telephone interviews -- slightly more than 500 in each of the five countries -- among the general public between March 21 – April 16, 2007.
- Interviews were conducted in the native language of each of the countries and were completed by TNS.
- The margin of error for each country is +/- 4 at 95% level of confidence.

Anti-Semitism in Europe

As with previous surveys, data from the 2007 European tracking poll indicates that significant percentages of European respondents continue to believe in some of the most pernicious anti-Semitic stereotypes.

Respondents across the continent were asked whether or not they thought the following four statements were “probably true” or “probably false.”

- 1) Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country.
- 2) Jews have too much power in the business world.
- 3) Jews have too much power in international financial markets.
- 4) Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust

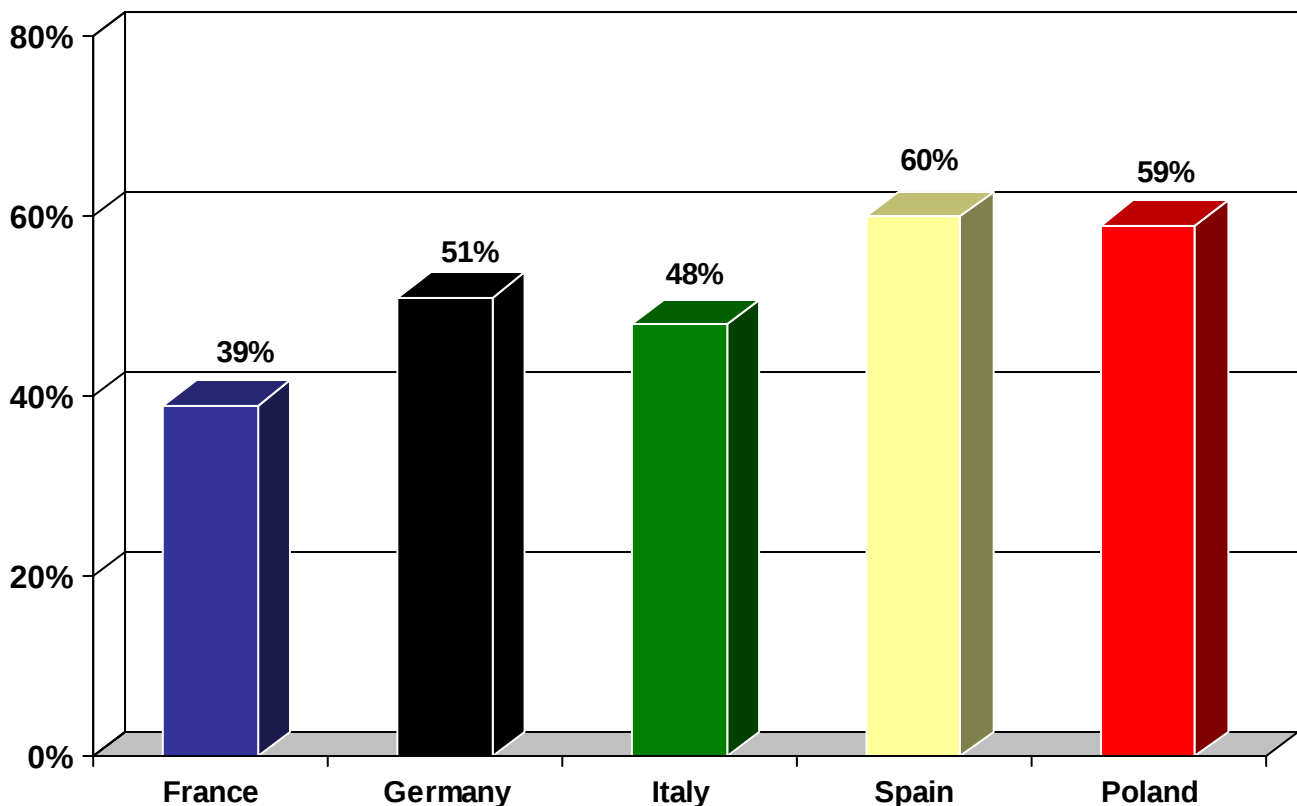
Respondents were also asked:

- ❖ Whether they agree or disagree with the statement that “Jews are responsible for the death of Christ.”

Finally, respondents were asked if their opinion of Jews was influenced by actions taken by the State of Israel and whether they believed the violence directed against European Jews was a result of anti-Jewish feelings or anti-Israel sentiment.

Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country.

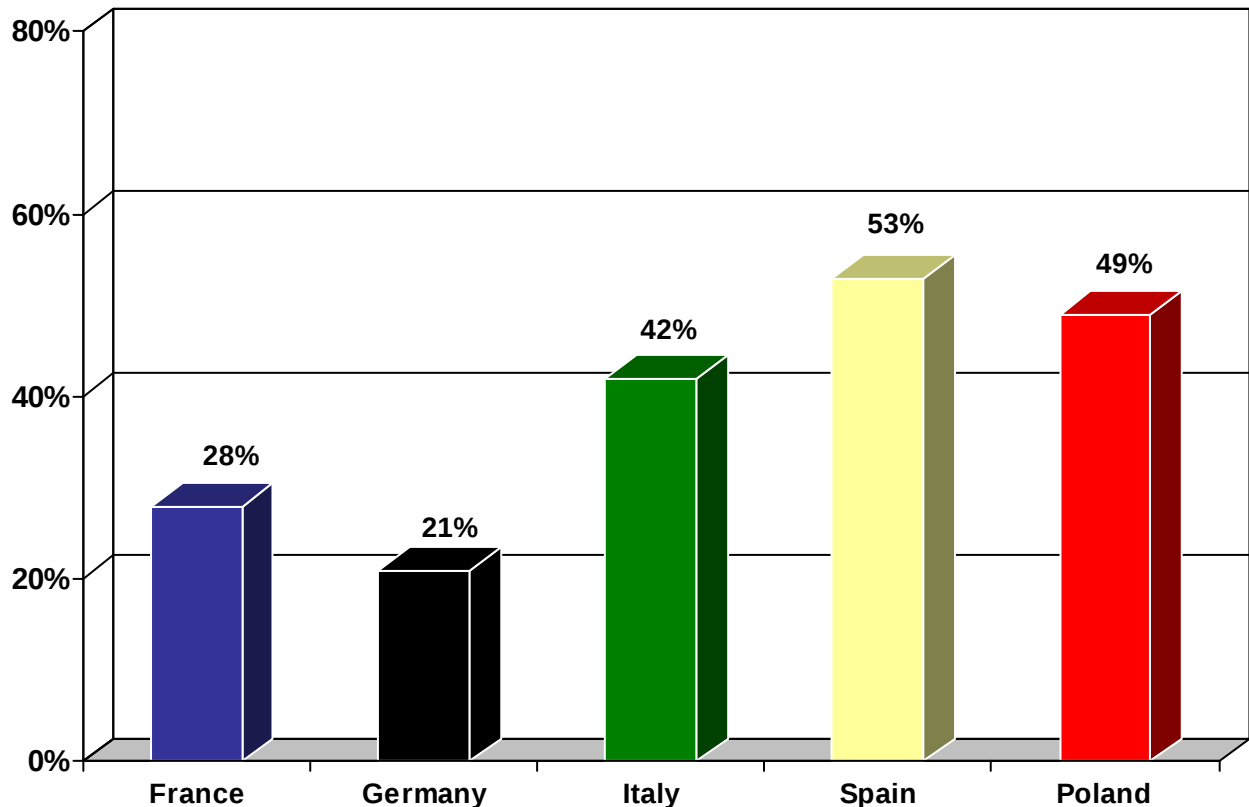
Percent responding “probably true”



- The data indicate that Europeans continue to question the loyalty of their Jewish citizens.
- Overall, a majority of those surveyed in the five countries, 51 percent, believe that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their own country.
- A majority of respondents in Spain, Poland and Germany, believe that this statement is “probably true.”

Jews have too much power in the business world.

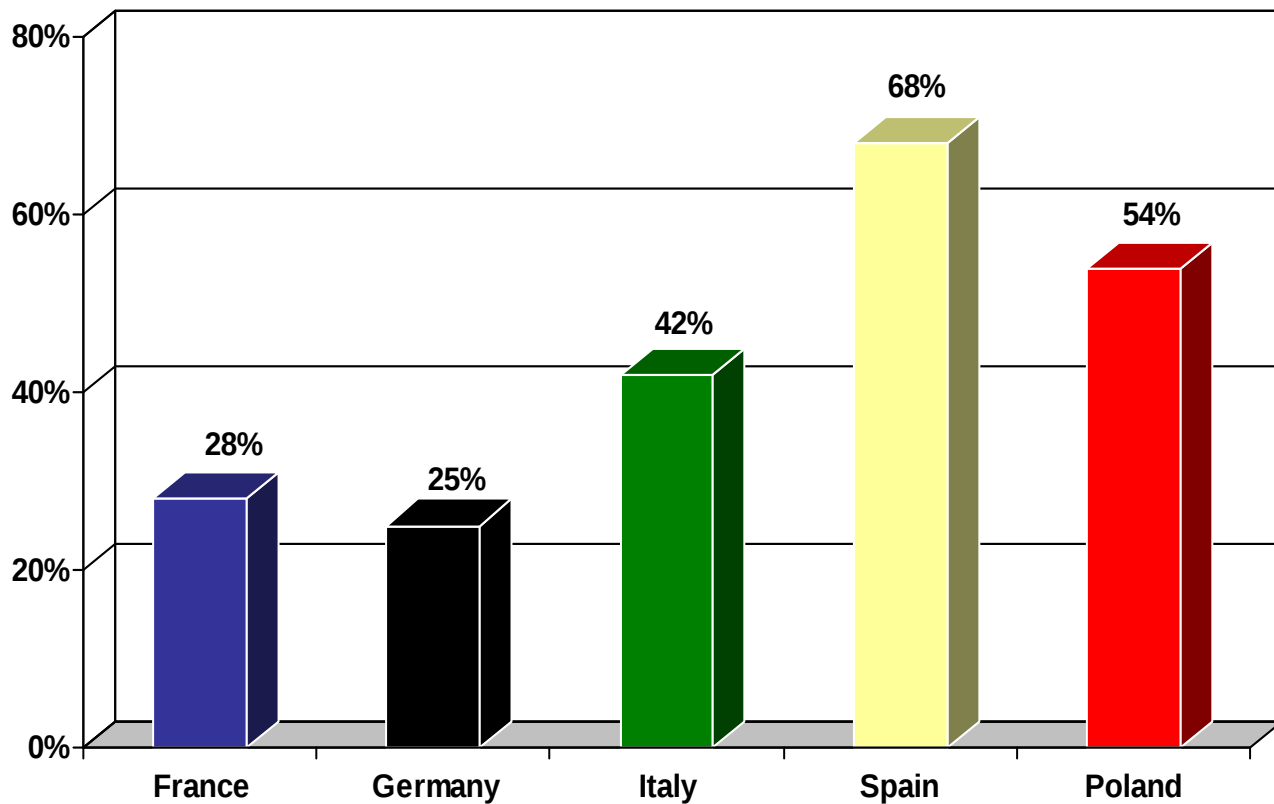
Percent responding “probably true”



- High levels of those surveyed across Europe still believe in the traditional anti-Jewish canard that “Jews have too much power in the business world.”
- Overall, 39 percent of all respondents believe this stereotype to be true.
- More than half of Spanish respondents, 53 percent, believe that “Jews have too much power in the business world.”

Jews have too much power in international financial markets.

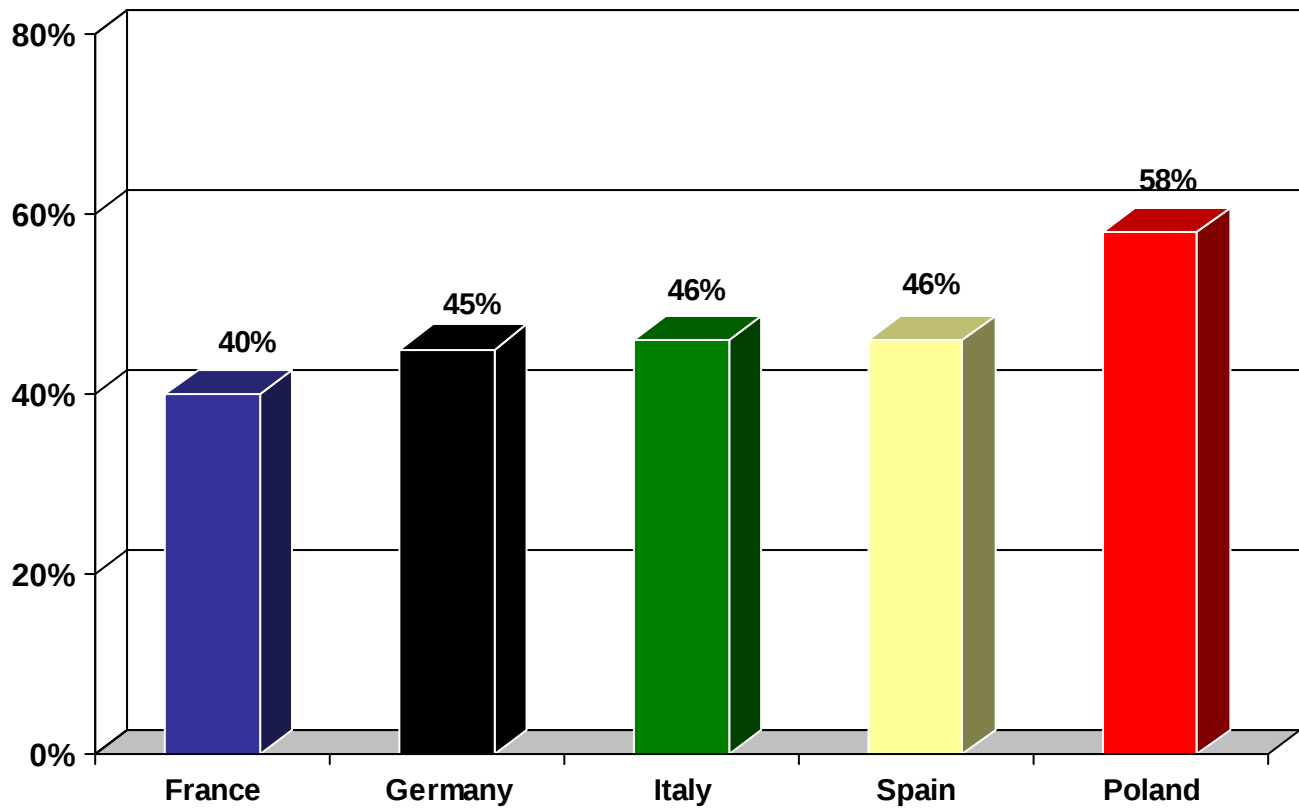
Percent responding "probably true"



- Similarly, respondents in the five countries still adhere to the notion that "Jews have too much power in international financial markets."
- Overall, 44 percent of those surveyed cling to the traditional stereotype that Jews exert too much influence over international financial markets.
- A majority of Spanish and Polish respondents believe the above statement to be "probably true."

Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust.

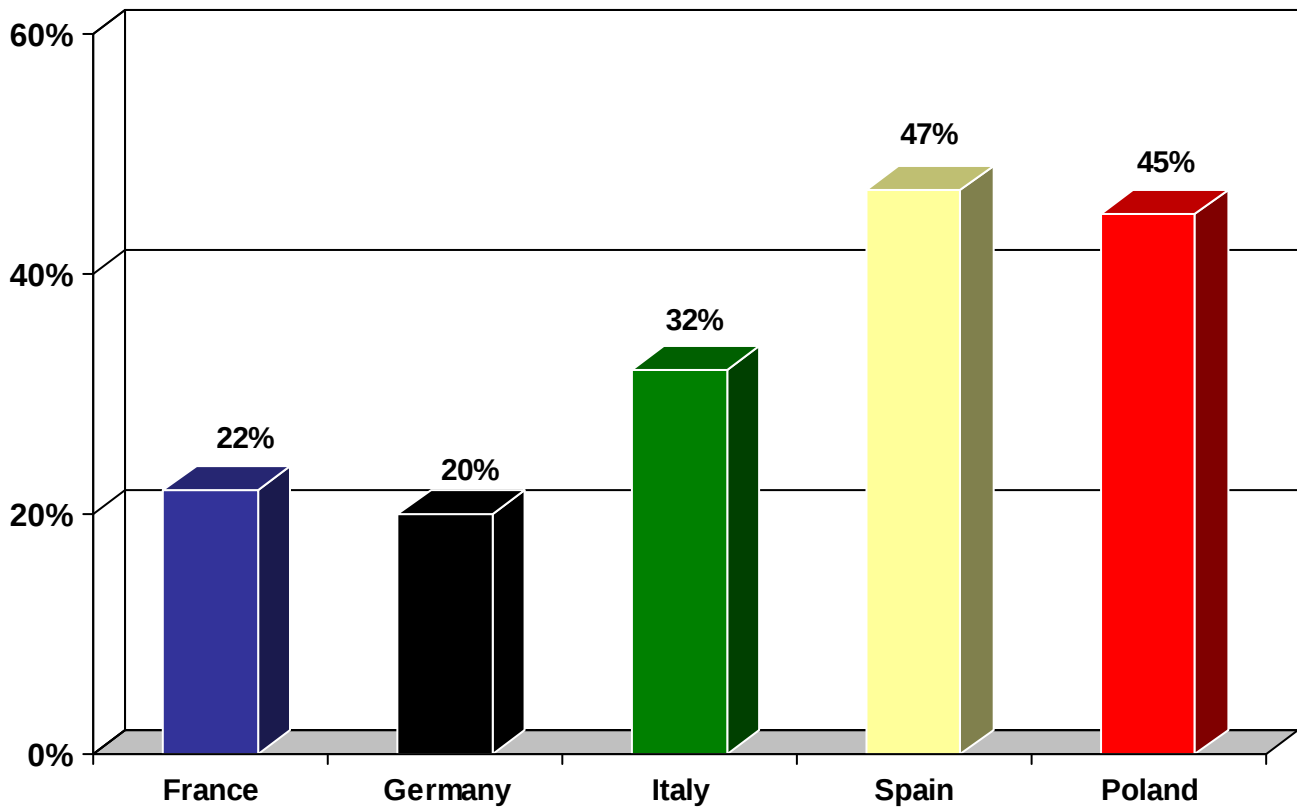
Percent responding "probably true"



- Large portions of respondents believe that Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust.
- Overall, 47 percent of those surveyed believe it is "probably true" that Jews still talk too much about the Holocaust.

The following chart illustrates the percentage of those surveyed in each country who answered “probably true” to at least 3 of the following traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes:

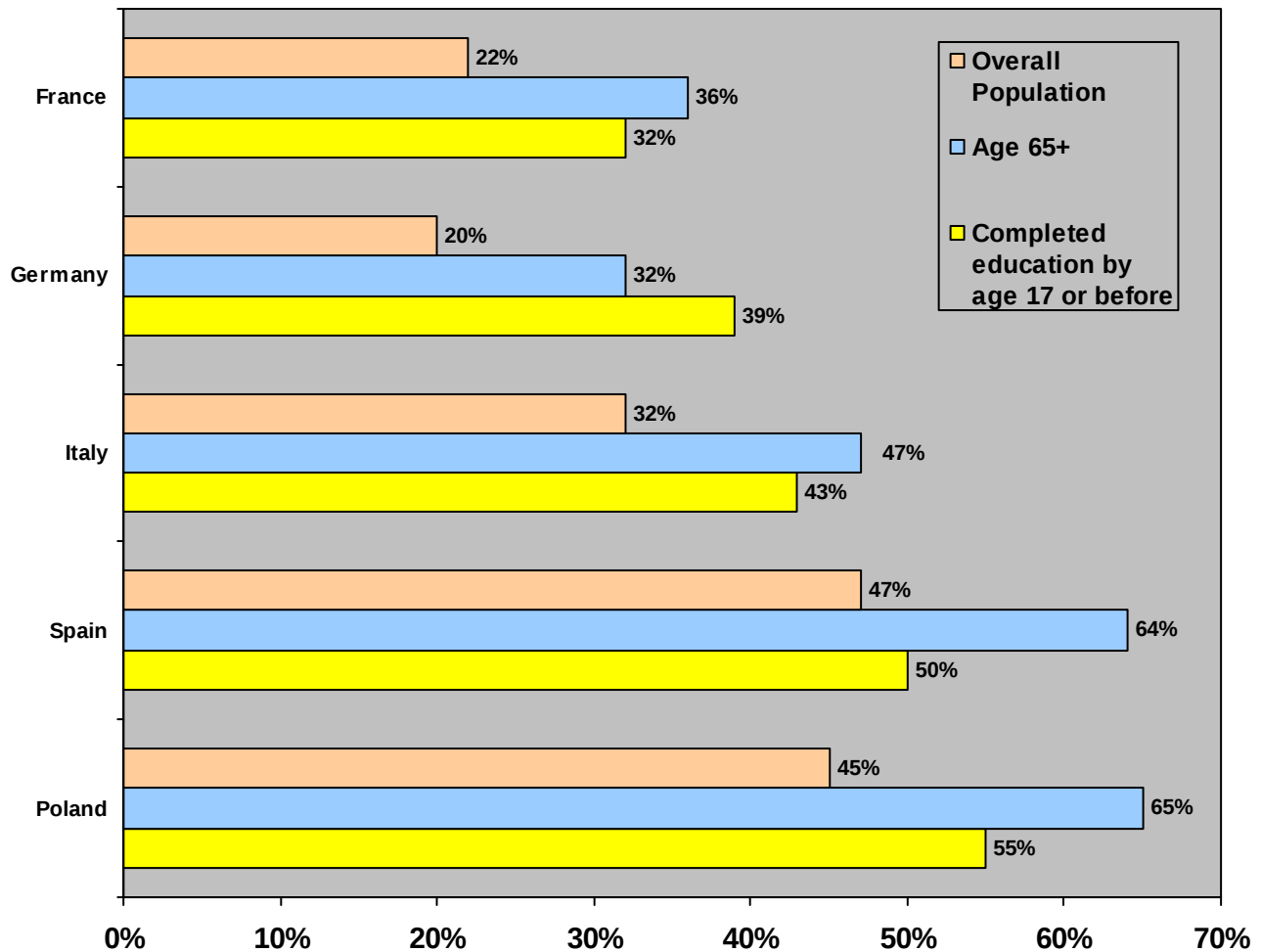
1. Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country.
2. Jews have too much power in the business world.
3. Jews have too much power in international financial markets.
4. Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust



- Overall, a third of those surveyed believe at least three of the above statements are “probably true.”
- In fact, 22 percent of Polish respondents and 20 percent of Spanish respondents believe that all four of the statements are “probably true.”
- Moreover, the data indicate that age and education are key factors in determining the likelihood of a respondent believing in the 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 at least three of the four anti-Semitic characterizations presented in the survey.

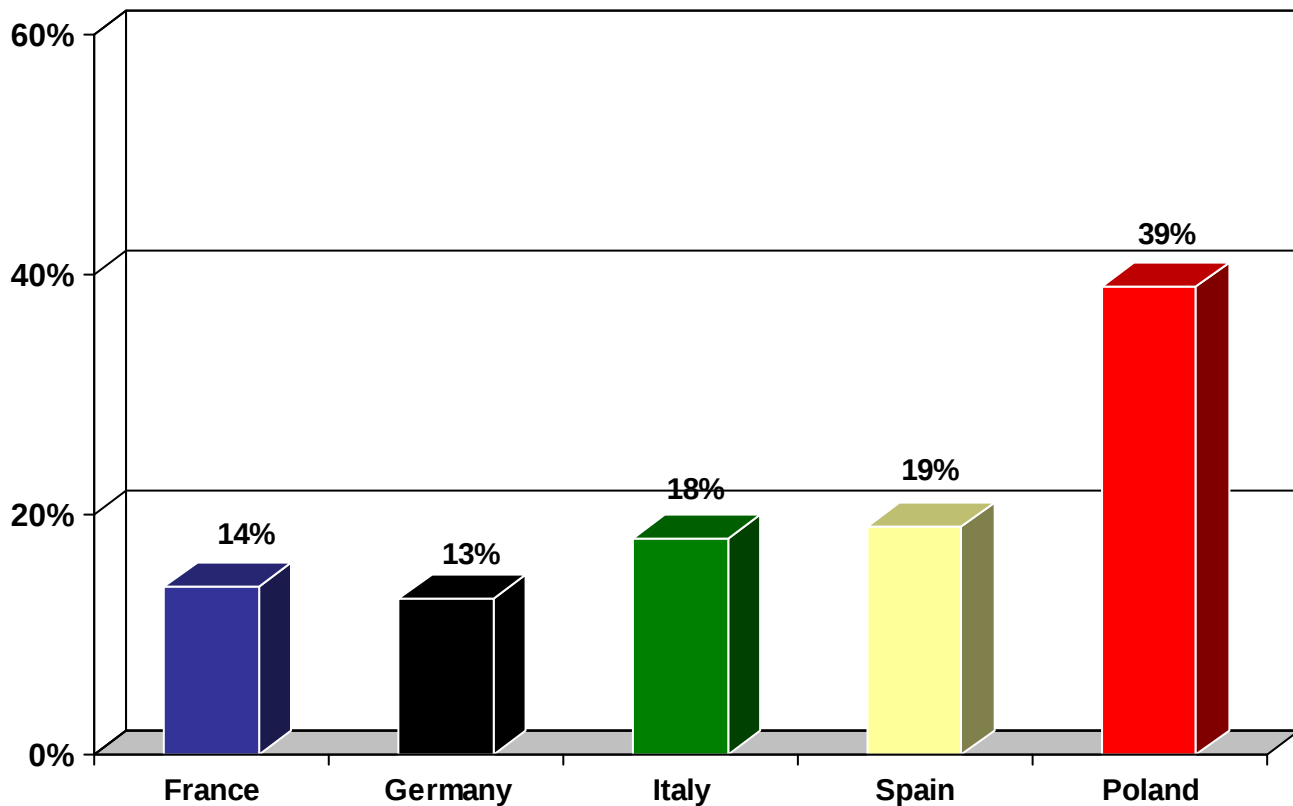
- The following table illustrates this trend in the five countries surveyed.

Percentage responding “probably true” to at least three of the four anti-Semitic



The Jews are responsible for the death of Christ.

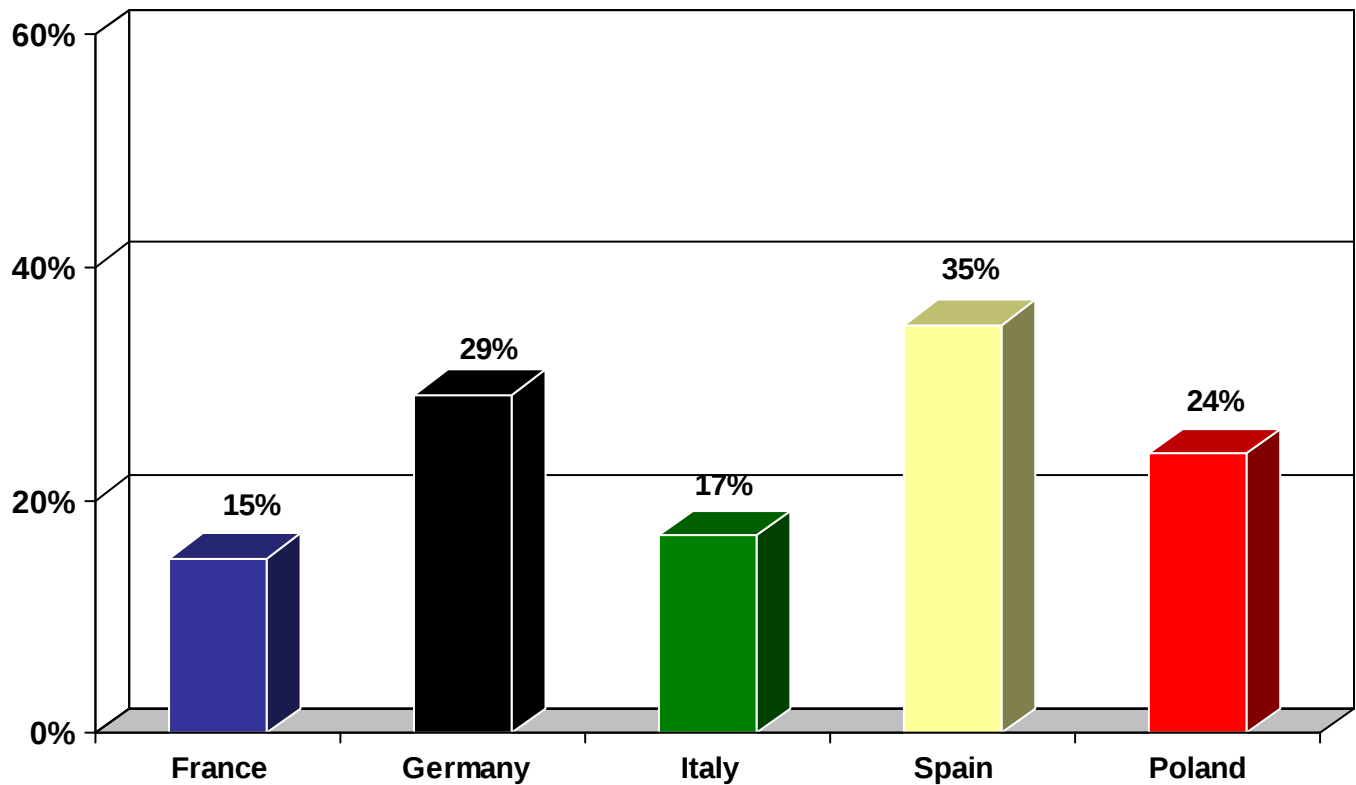
Percent responding "strongly agree" + "somewhat agree"



- A significant percentage of those surveyed continue to blame Jews for the death of Christ.
- Overall, 20 percent agree with the statement that "Jews are responsible for the death of Christ."
- More than a third of Polish respondents, 39 percent, agree with this statement -- the highest percentage of all the countries surveyed.

Is your opinion of Jews influenced by actions taken by the State of Israel?

Percent responding "yes"

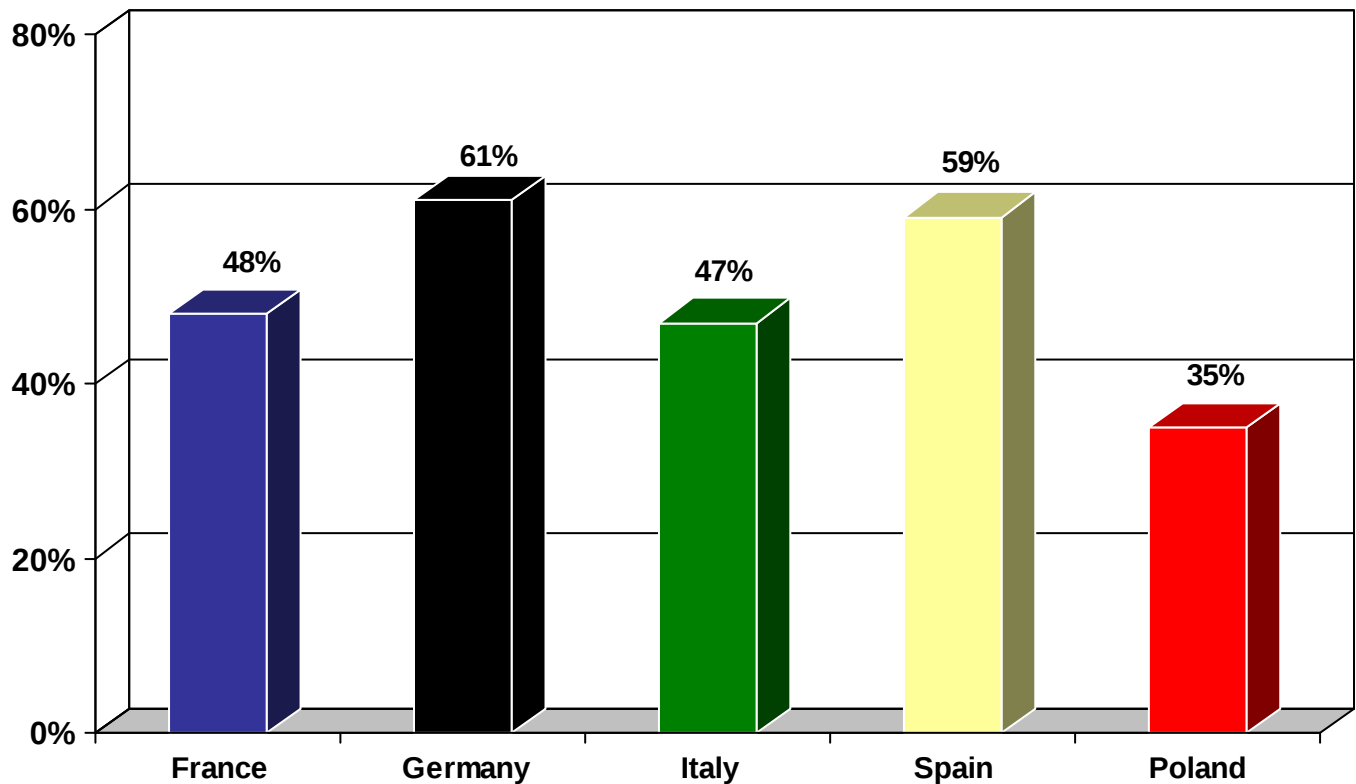


- Overall, a quarter of those surveyed say that their opinion of Jews is influenced by the actions taken by the State of Israel.

Respondents who answered “yes” in question 6a were then asked the following questions:

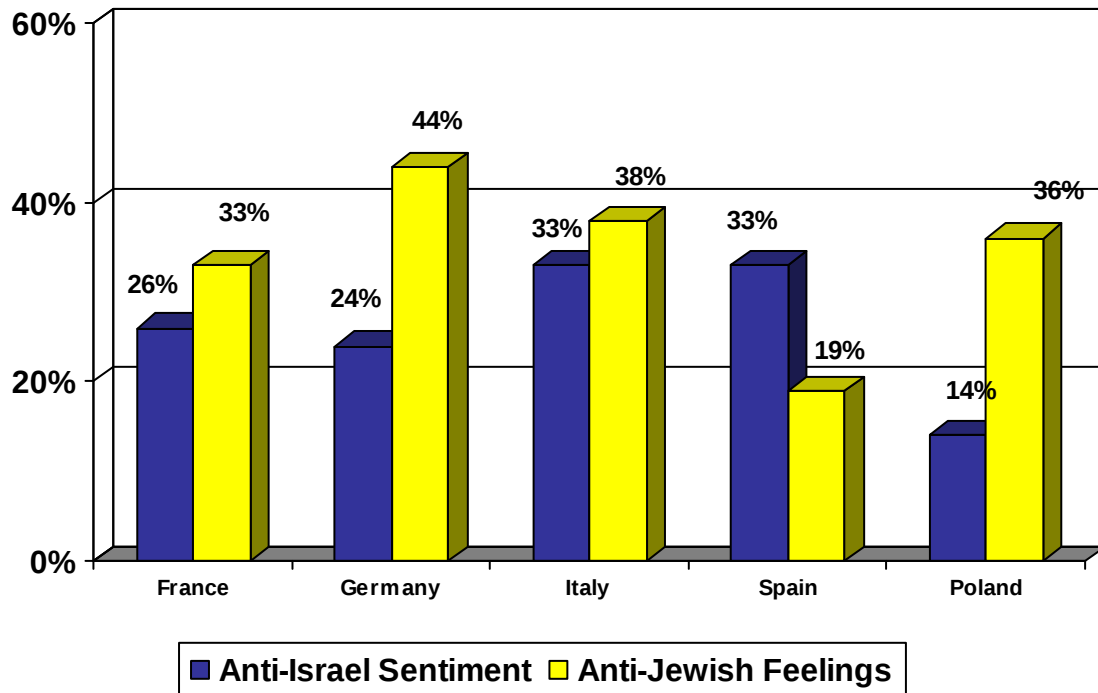
Is your opinion of Jews better or worse?

Percent responding “worse”



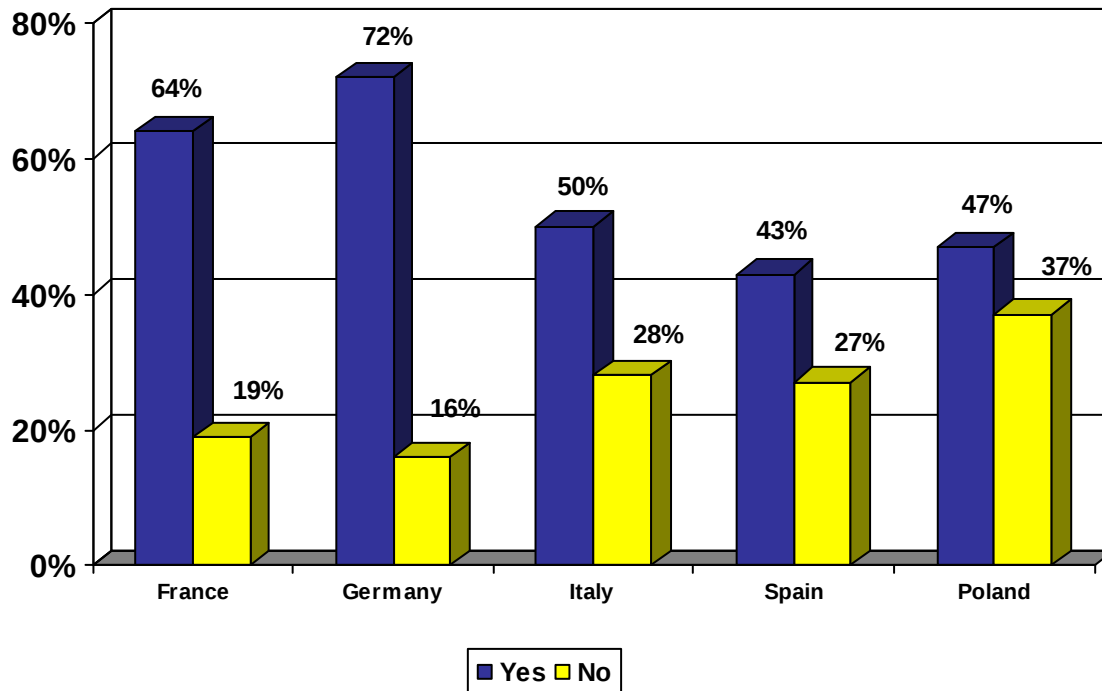
- Overall, of those respondents whose opinions are influenced, a majority, 52 percent, say that their opinion of Jews is worse as a result of the actions taken by Israel.
- Respondents in Germany (61 percent) and Spain (59 percent) are most likely to view Jews more negatively as a result of actions taken by the State of Israel.

In your opinion, is the violence directed against Jews in (insert individual country name) a result of anti-Jewish feelings or a result of anti-Israel sentiment?



- Overall, 34 percent of those surveyed believe that the violence directed against Jews is a result of anti-Jewish feelings, while 26 percent believe it is a result of anti-Israel sentiment.
- German respondents are most likely to believe that anti-Jewish sentiment is the reason behind the violence directed against German Jews.
- Spain was the only country where more respondents cited anti-Israel sentiment as opposed to anti-Jewish feelings as the main cause of the violence directed against its country's Jews.

Do you think your government is doing enough to ensure the safety and security of its Jewish citizens?



- Overall, 55 percent of those surveyed believe that their government is doing enough to ensure the safety and security of its Jewish citizens.
- French and German respondents are most likely to think that their government is providing enough protection for its Jewish citizens.
- More than a third of Polish respondents do not believe that the Polish government is doing enough to ensure the safety of the country's Jews.

Trends in Anti-Semitic Attitudes

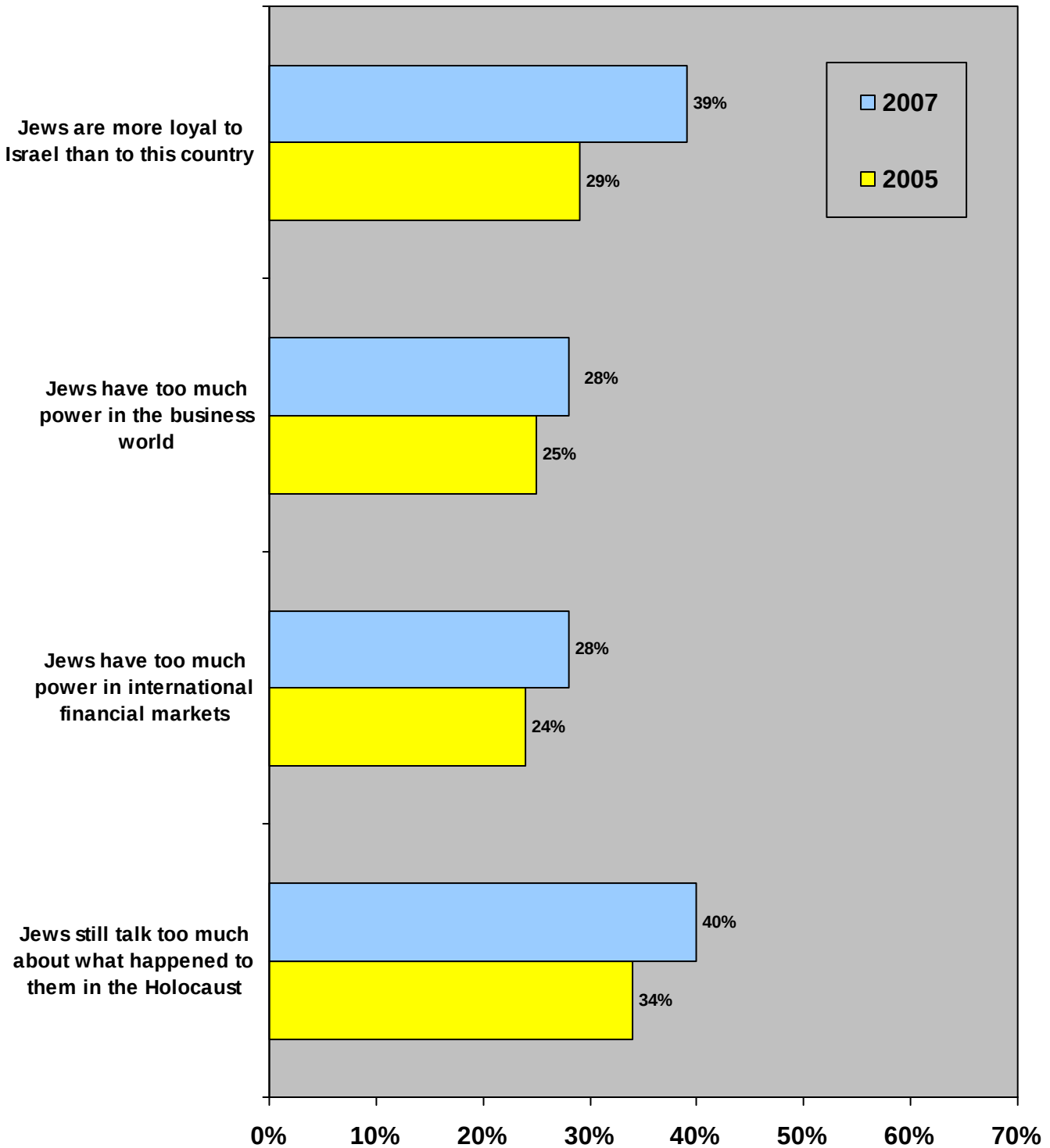
In 2005, the Anti-Defamation League conducted similar surveys of attitudes toward Jews. The following section compares results from the 2005 survey with results from the recently completed 2007 tracking survey.

- A comparison with the 2005 survey indicates that over the past two years there has been an increase in the acceptance of certain traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes in the 5 countries tested.
- French and Polish respondents are more likely to believe each of the four anti-Semitic stereotypes tested than they were two years ago.
- Respondents in France, Spain and Poland are more likely to question the loyalty of their Jewish citizens today than they were in 2005.
- Since 2005, there has been a 9 point increase in the percentage of Italian respondents who believe that Jews have too much power in the business world.
- The 2007 survey showed an increase in the belief that Jews have too much power in international financial markets. In fact, more than two-thirds of Spanish respondents now believe this stereotype to be “probably true.”
- The data indicate that those surveyed in Poland and France are now more likely to think that Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust than they did in 2005.
- Of the five countries tested, only Germany did not exhibit an increased acceptance of the anti-Semitic stereotypes tested. The results in Germany remain virtually unchanged from 2005.

There has been a significant shift in the opinions of respondents regarding the cause of violence directed against European Jews. In all previous surveys, respondents were more likely to say that the violence directed against Jews was a result of anti-Israel sentiment. Today, in four of the five countries surveyed, a plurality of respondents believe that the violence directed against Jews in Europe stems from anti-Jewish feelings instead.

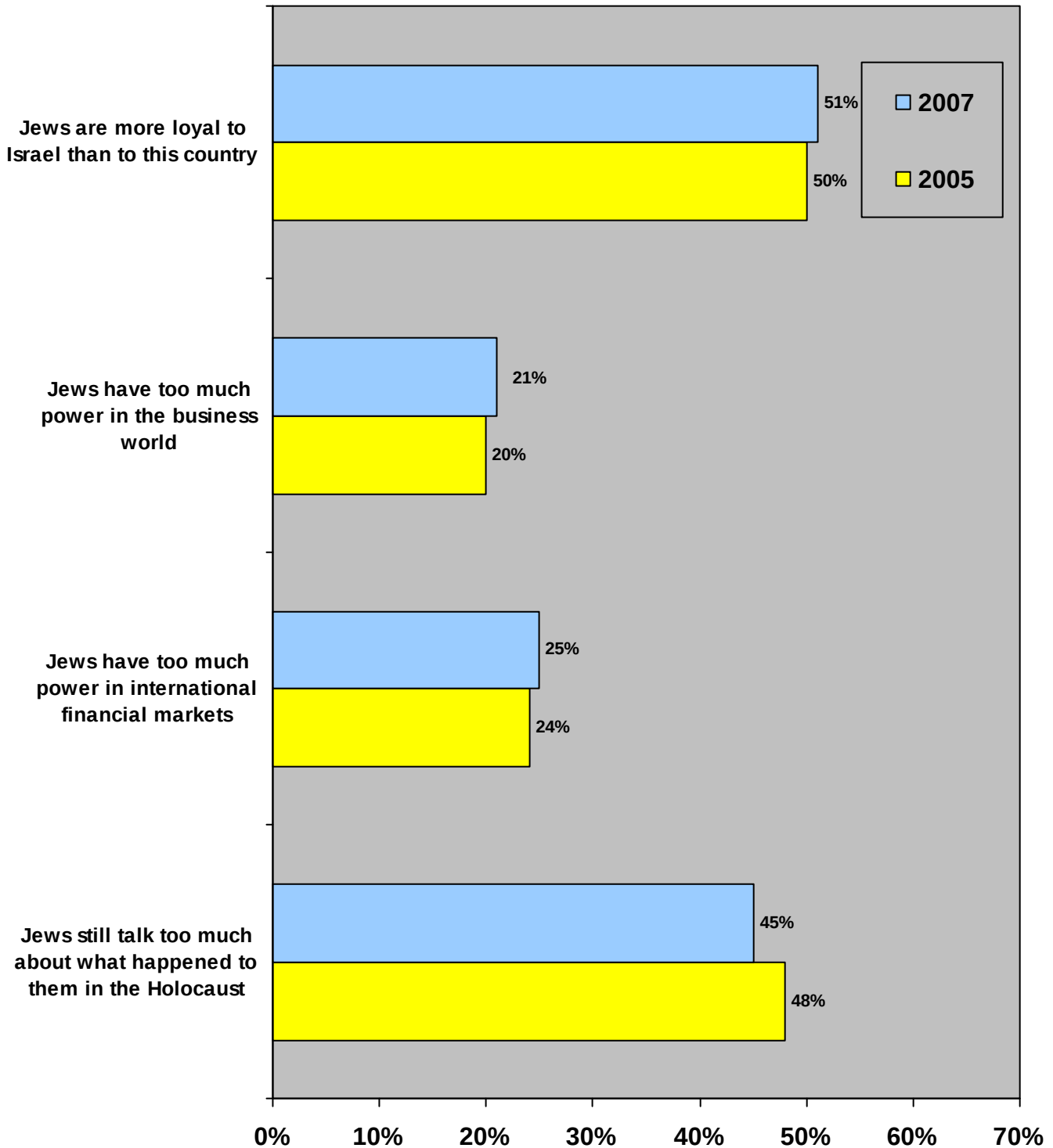
FRANCE

Percent responding "probably true" to each statement



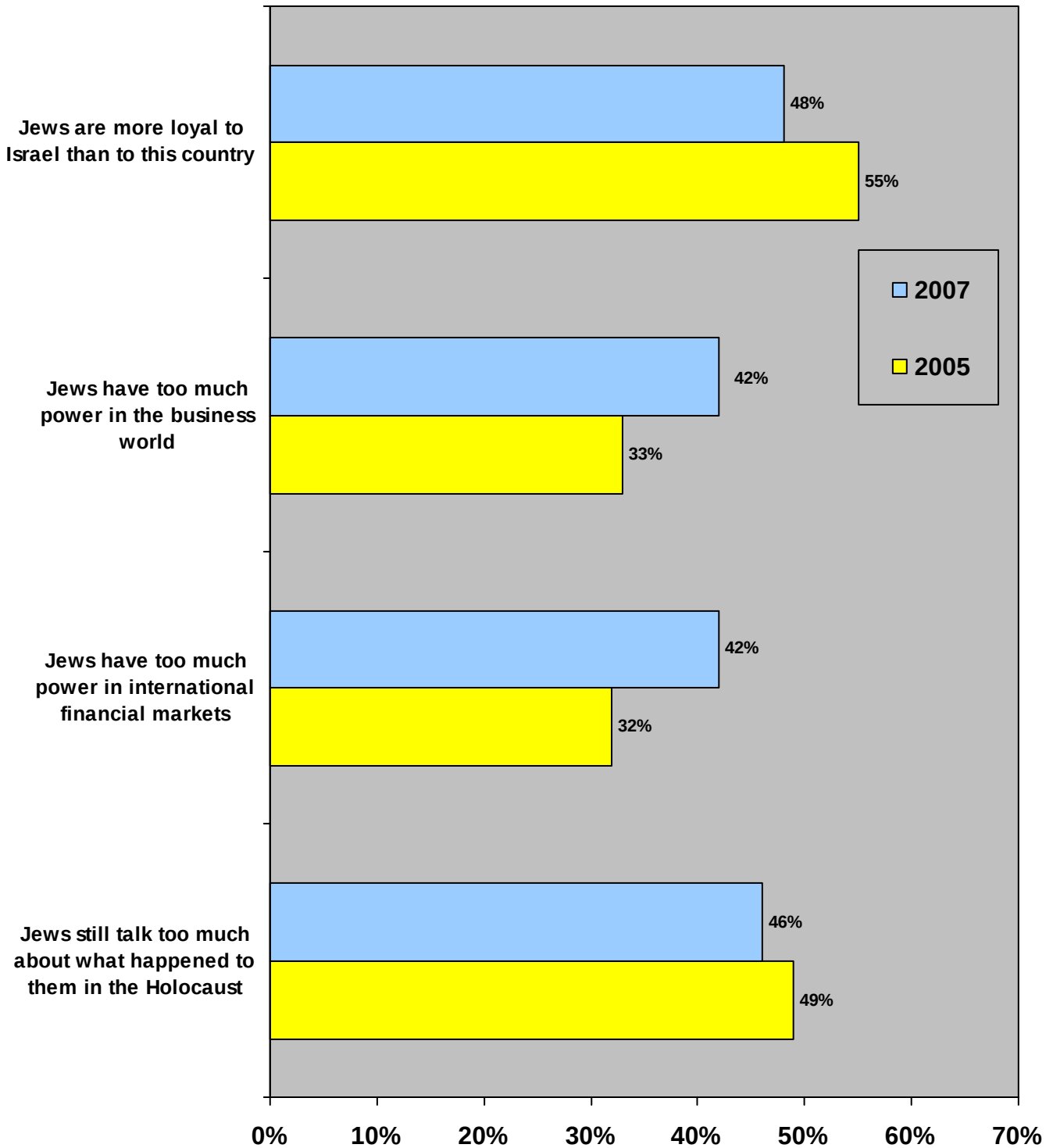
Germany

Percent responding "probably true" to each statement



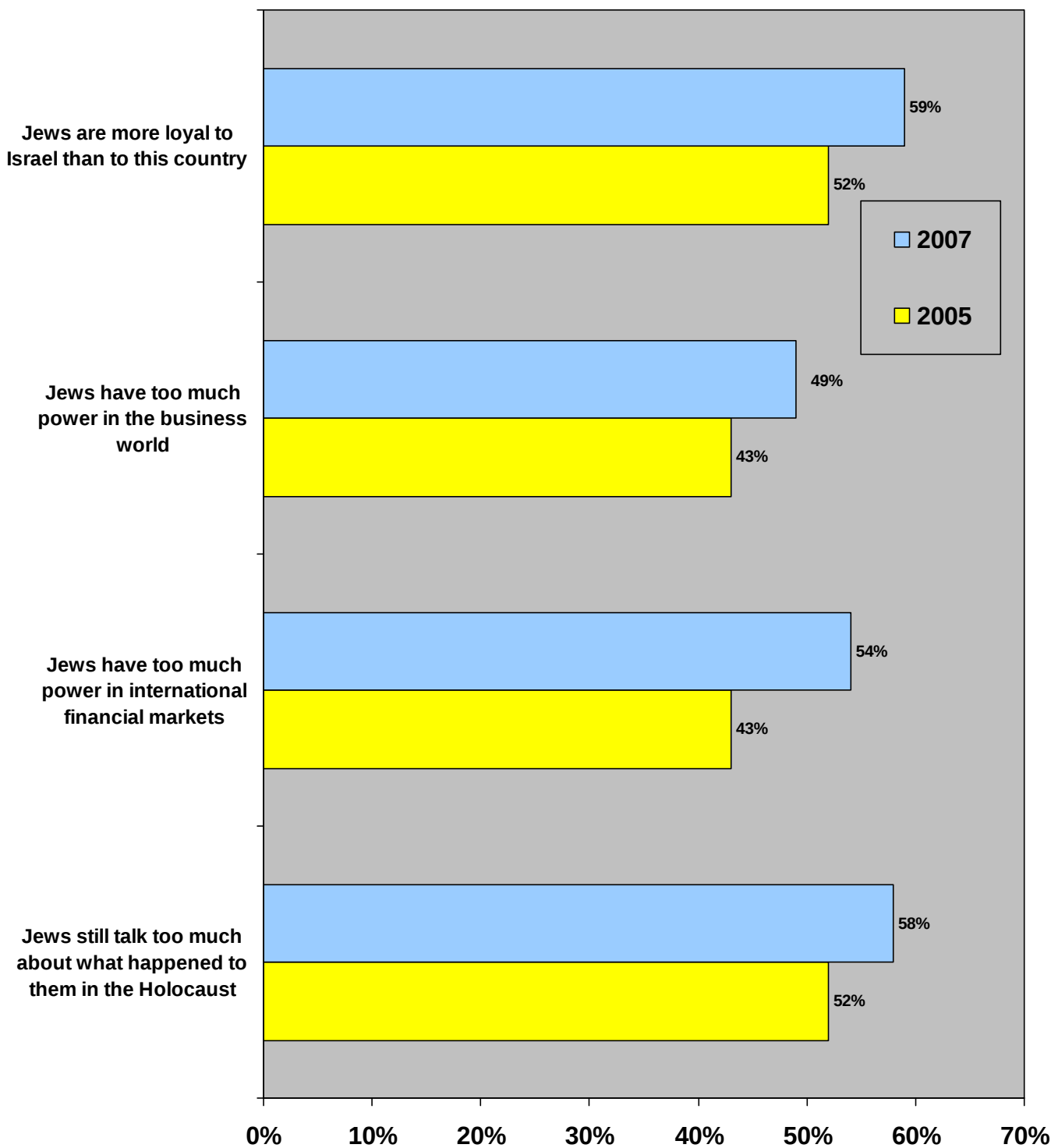
Italy

Percent responding "probably true" to each statement



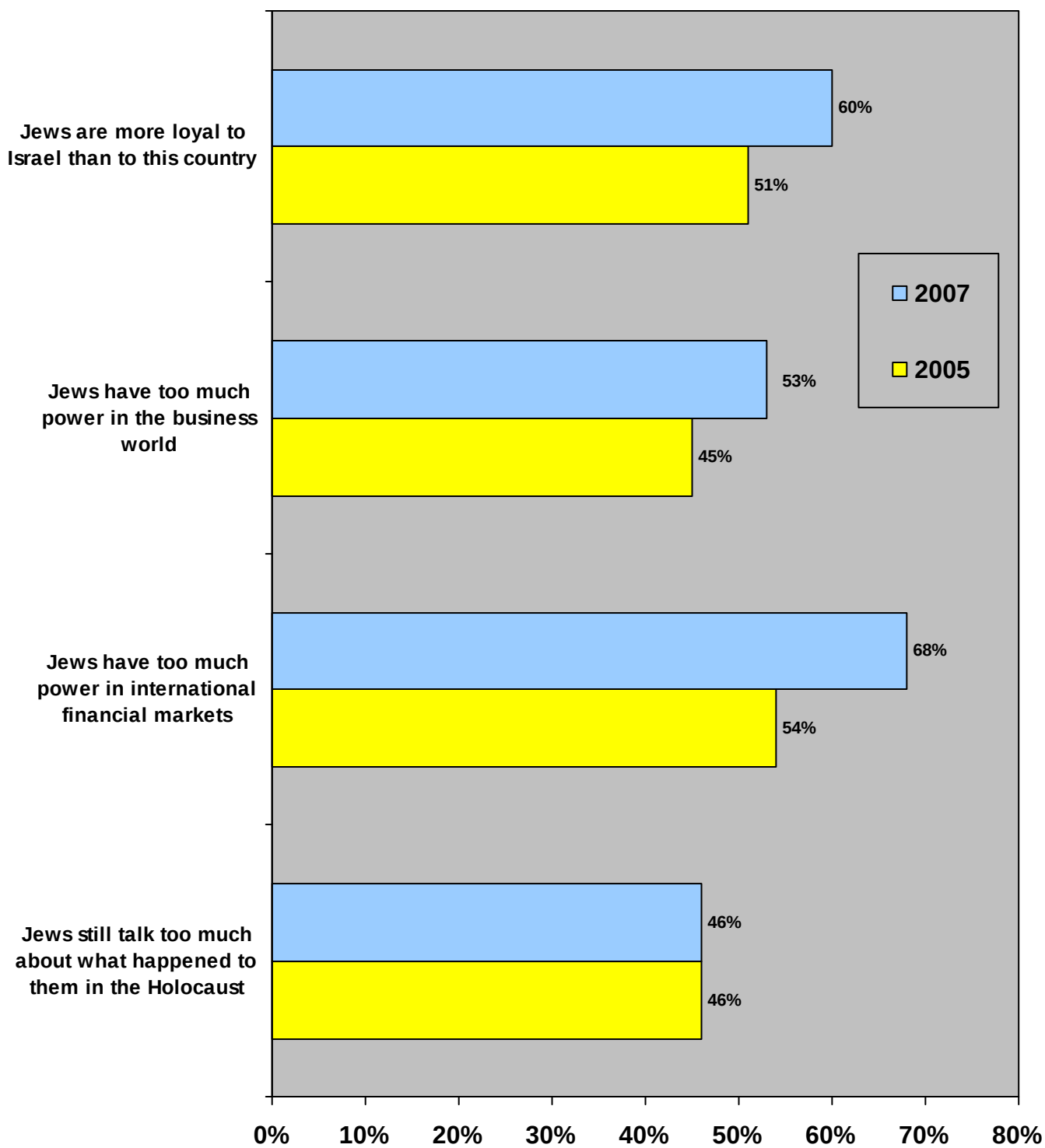
Poland

Percent responding "probably true" to each statement



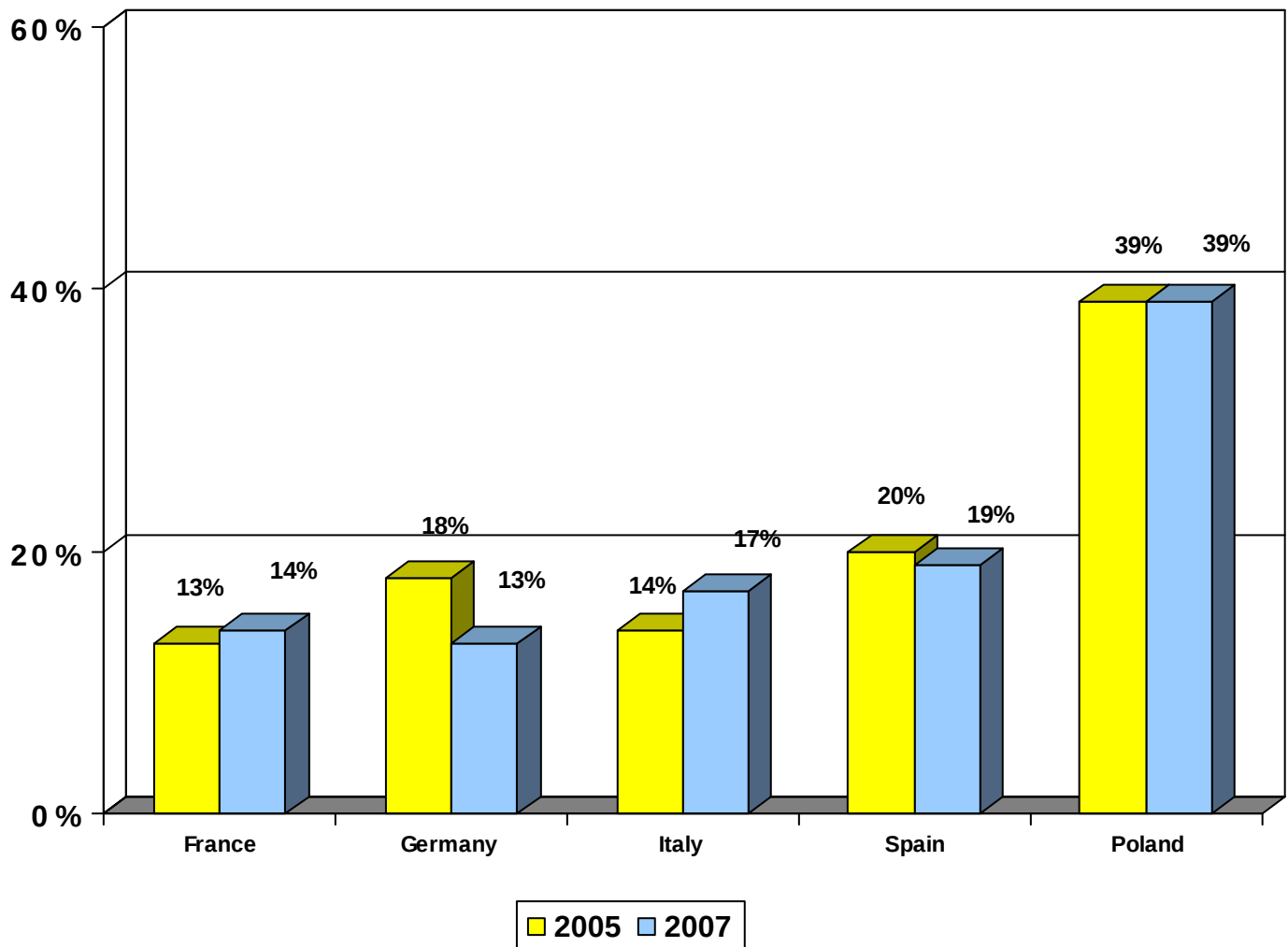
Spain

Percent responding "probably true" to each statement



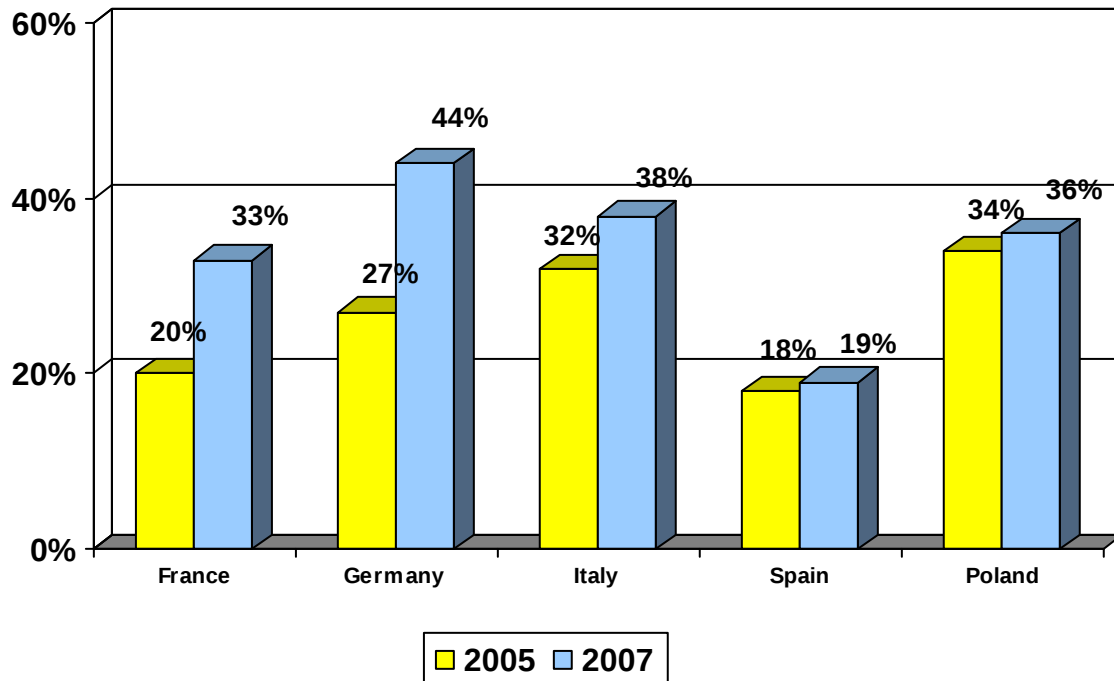
Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement: "The Jews are responsible for the death of Christ."

Percent responding "strongly agree" + "somewhat agree"

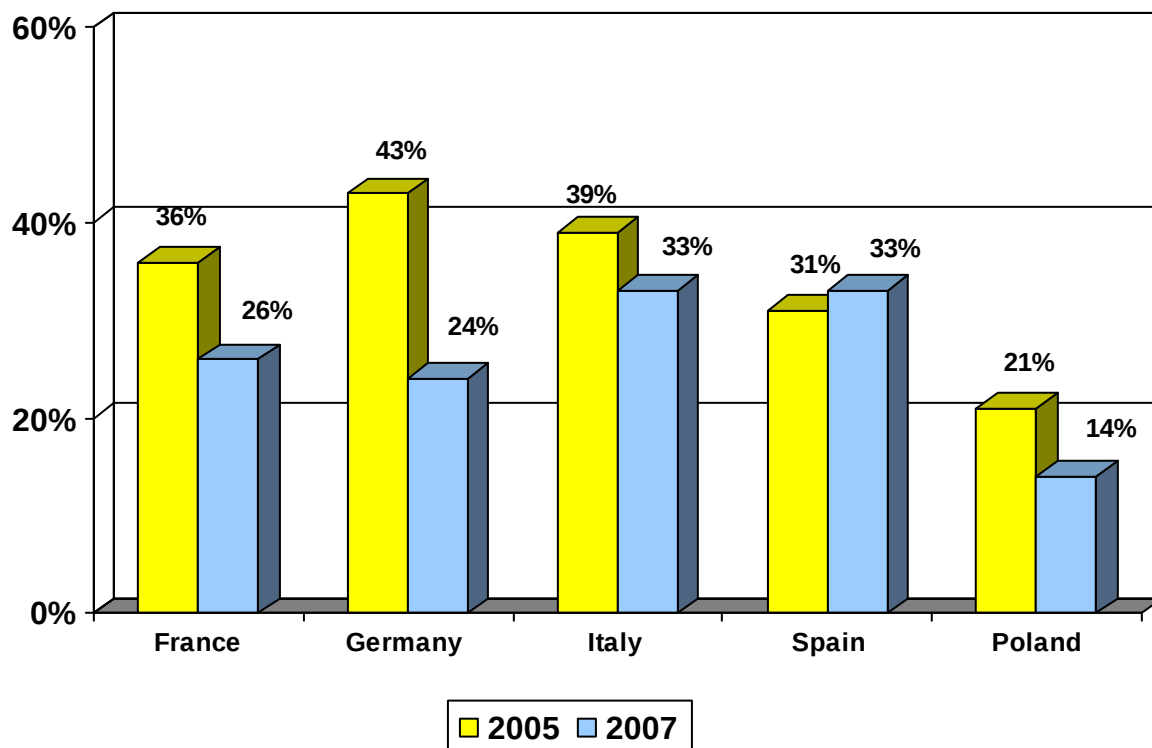


In your opinion, is the violence directed against European Jews a result of anti-Jewish feelings or a result of anti-Israel sentiment?

Percent responding "anti-Jewish feelings"



Percent responding "anti-Jewish sentiment"



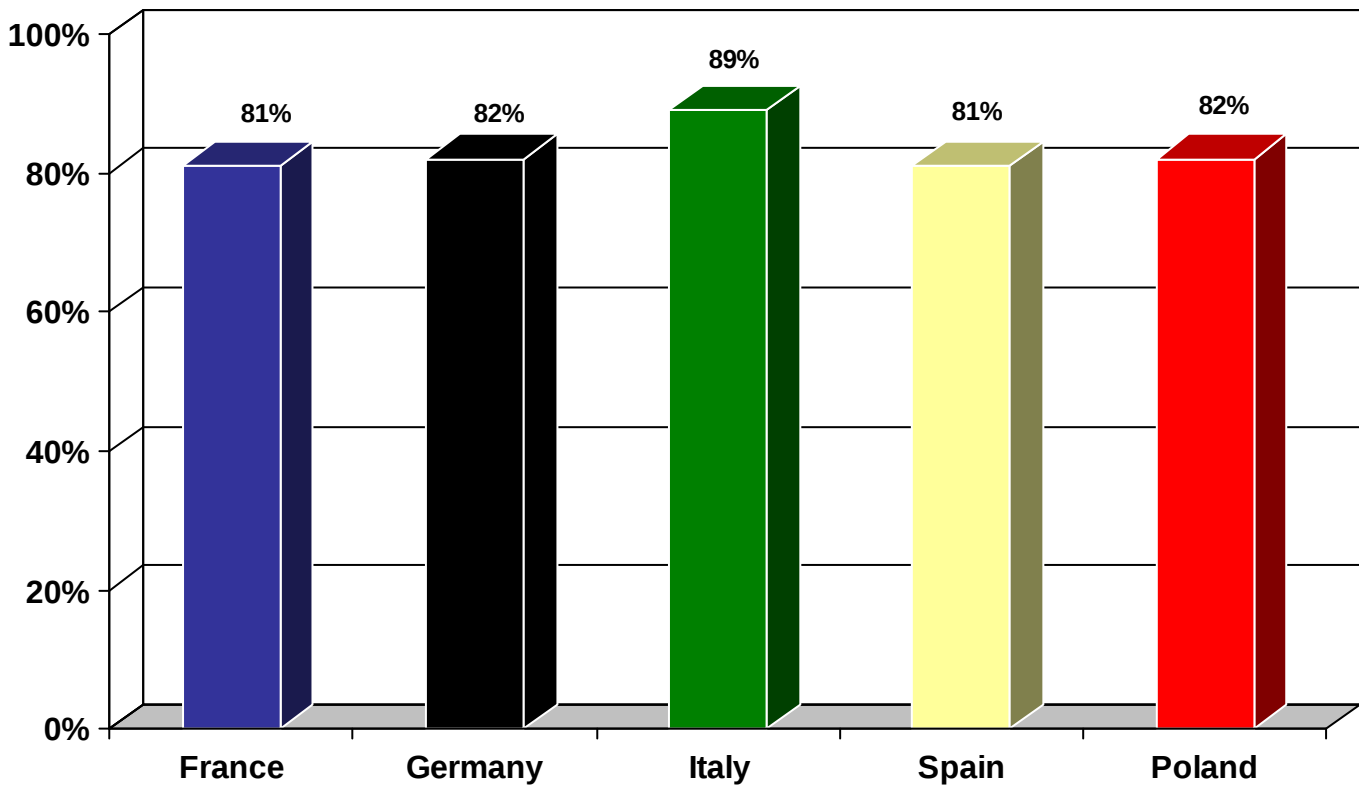
Attitudes toward the Middle East

Opinions Regarding Iran

An overwhelming percentage of respondents in each of the five countries surveyed are concerned about the prospects of Iran developing nuclear weapons.

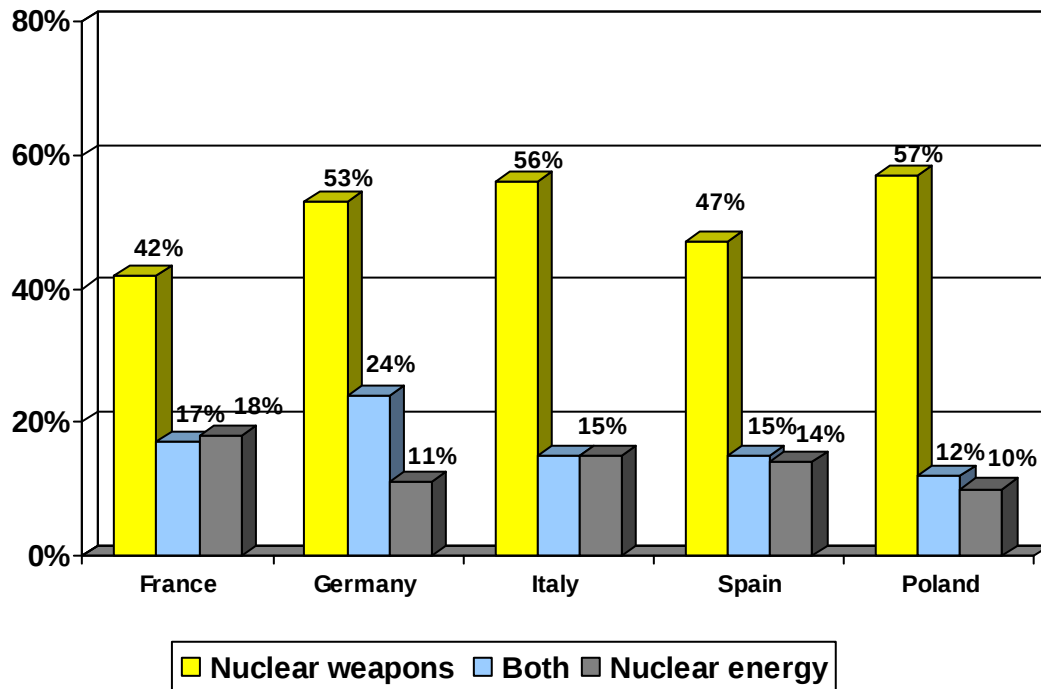
Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, somewhat unconcerned or not all concerned about Iran developing nuclear weapons?

Percent responding “very concerned or somewhat concerned”



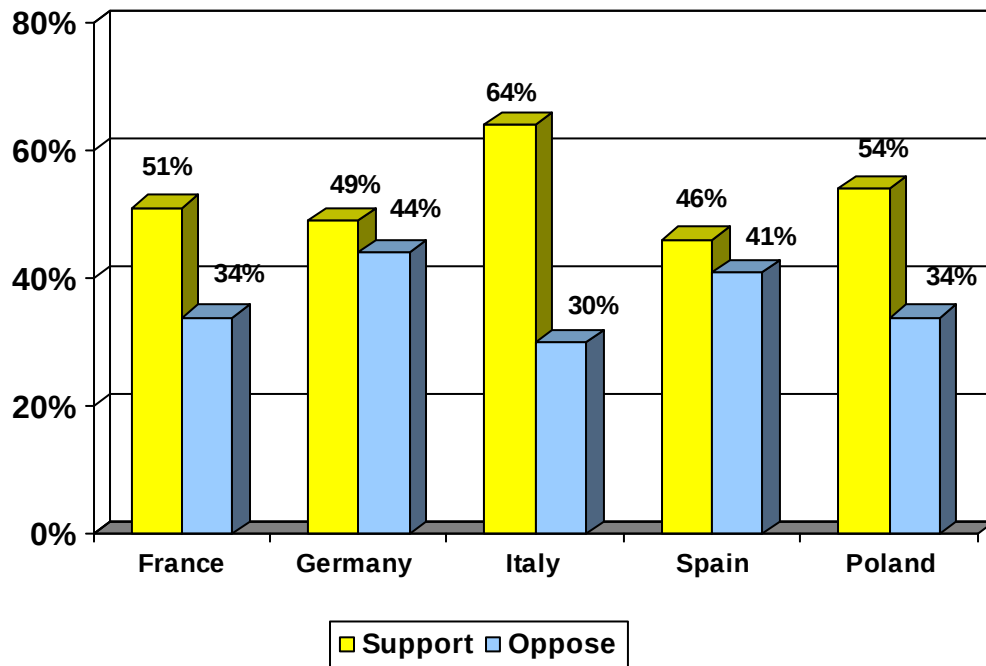
- A majority of respondents in each of the five countries believe that Iran is developing a nuclear weapons program.
- Overall, 51 percent of those surveyed believe that Iran’s nuclear program is being developed for military purposes, with an additional 16 percent believing that Iran’s nuclear program is both a weapons program and a nuclear energy program.
- Only 14 percent of respondents believe that Iran’s nuclear program is meant solely as a nuclear energy program.

Some countries accuse Iran of having a secret nuclear weapons program, but Iran says that it is only developing nuclear energy, not weapons. What do you think -- is Iran's nuclear program being developed for nuclear weapons or nuclear energy?



- A majority of those surveyed, 52 percent, support imposing sanctions against Iran until it agrees to suspend its nuclear program.
- Support for sanctions is strongest in Italy while opposition to sanctions is highest in Germany.

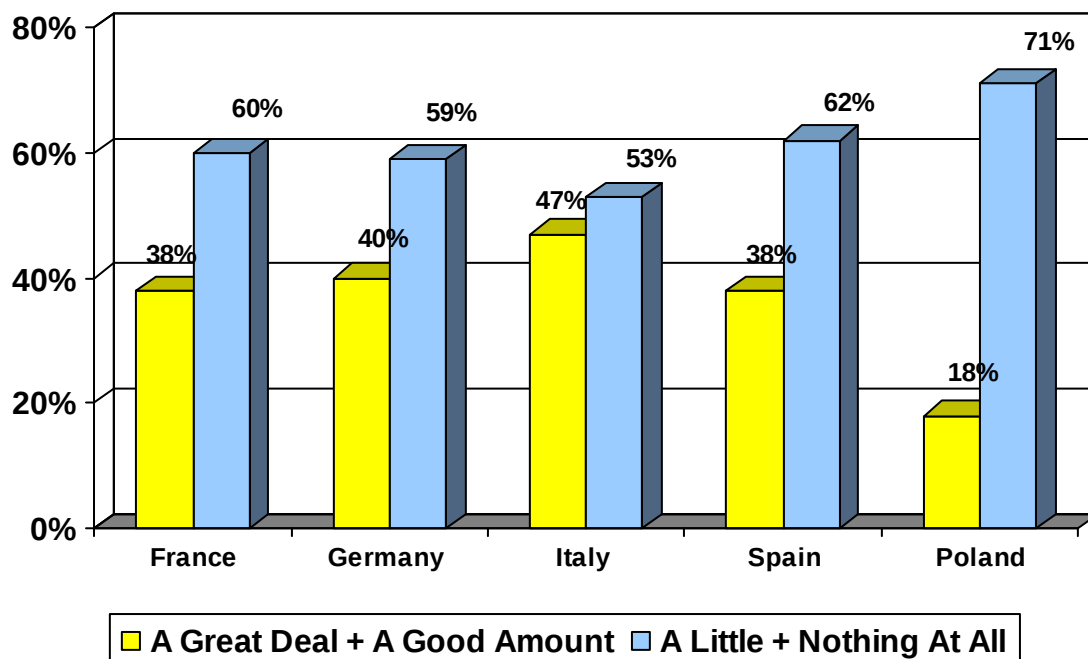
Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose imposing economic sanctions against Iran until it agrees to suspend its nuclear program?



Attitudes toward the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

- Overall, Europeans are paying less attention to the news coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Today, 61 percent of respondents in the five countries tested say that they have been following the coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict a “little” or “not at all.”
- Respondents in Italy, 47 percent, and Germany, 40 percent, are most likely to be following the media coverage “a great deal” or “a good amount.”

There has been a lot of news coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. How closely have you been following this coverage? Has it been...?



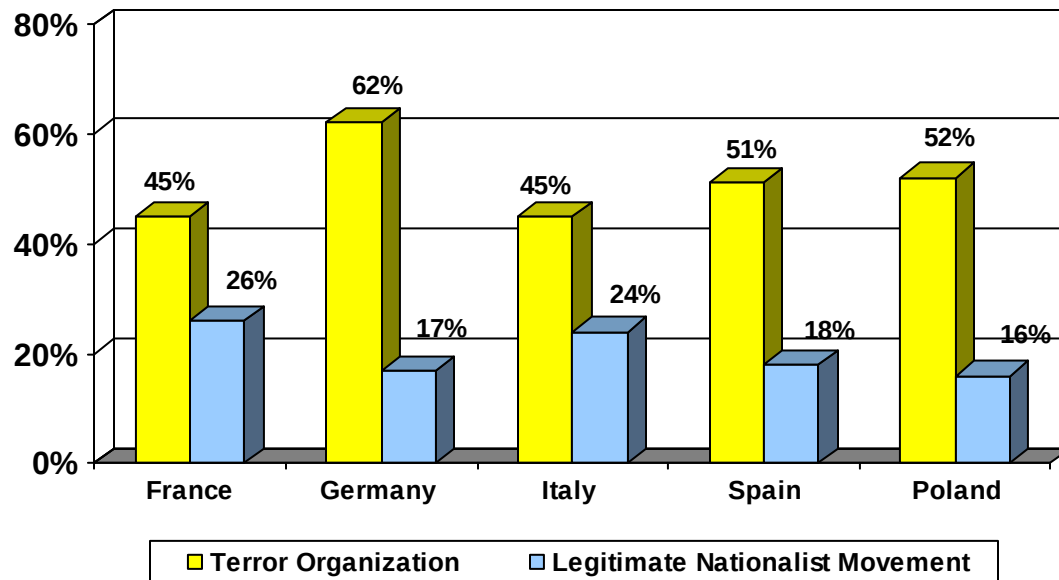
- Overall, respondents are evenly split about the media coverage with 41 percent saying it has been balanced and 42 percent saying it has been biased.
- Of those who believe the media coverage to be biased, 49 percent believe it has been biased in favor of “the Israelis” while 21 percent believe it has been biased in favor of “the Arabs.”
- When asked which side in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict they sympathize with more, a plurality of respondents in the five countries surveyed, 38 percent, answered “neither side.”

- Overall, 15 percent sympathize with Israel and 24 percent sympathize with the Palestinians.
- Italians are most likely to sympathize with Israel while Spanish respondents are most likely to sympathize with the Palestinians.
- The following chart illustrates the country-by-country breakdown of respondent sympathies regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

	France	Germany	Italy	Spain	Poland
Sympathize more with the Palestinians	20%	22%	20%	34%	22%
Sympathize more with the Israelis	9%	20%	22%	13%	13%
Both	11%	12%	24%	14%	10%
Neither	51%	40%	28%	33%	39%

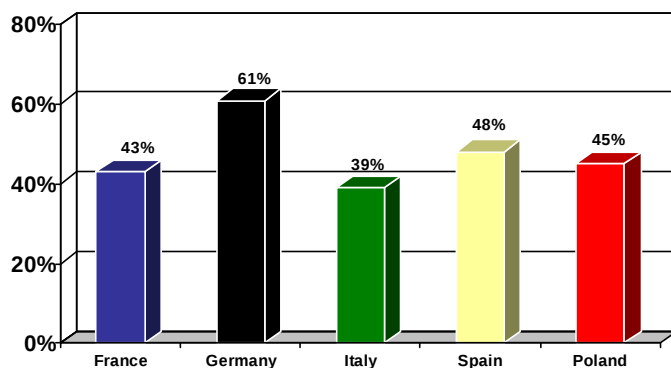
- By a margin of 2:1, respondents say they view the Palestinians more favorably than unfavorably. 35 percent view the Palestinians favorably while 17 percent view them unfavorably. However, a plurality of respondents, 36 percent, say that they are neither favorable nor unfavorable toward the Palestinians.
- Similarly, by a margin of 33 percent to 19 percent, respondents view Israel favorably. A plurality, 37 percent, are neither favorable nor unfavorable toward Israel.
- When asked about Hamas, a majority of respondents, 51 percent, consider it to be a terrorist organization. 20 percent consider Hamas as a legitimate nationalist movement.

Given what you know about the group Hamas, do you consider it to be a terrorist organization or legitimate nationalist movement?

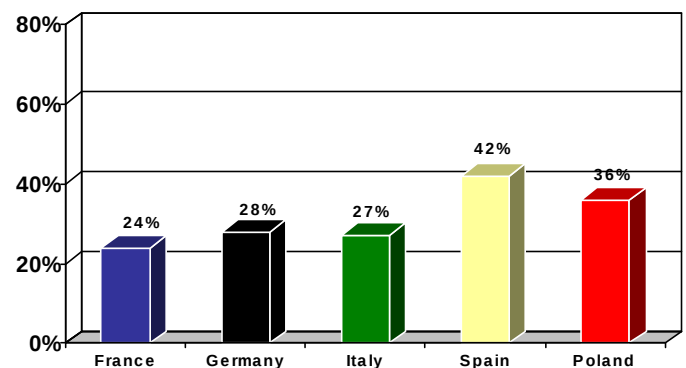


- A plurality of respondents, 47 percent, believe that Hamas wants to destroy Israel. 24 percent do not believe this while 27 percent of respondents said they did not know.
- Overall, 31 percent of those surveyed believe that Israel wants to destroy the Palestinian people, while 48 percent differ with this notion.

In your opinion, does Hamas want to destroy Israel? % responding yes



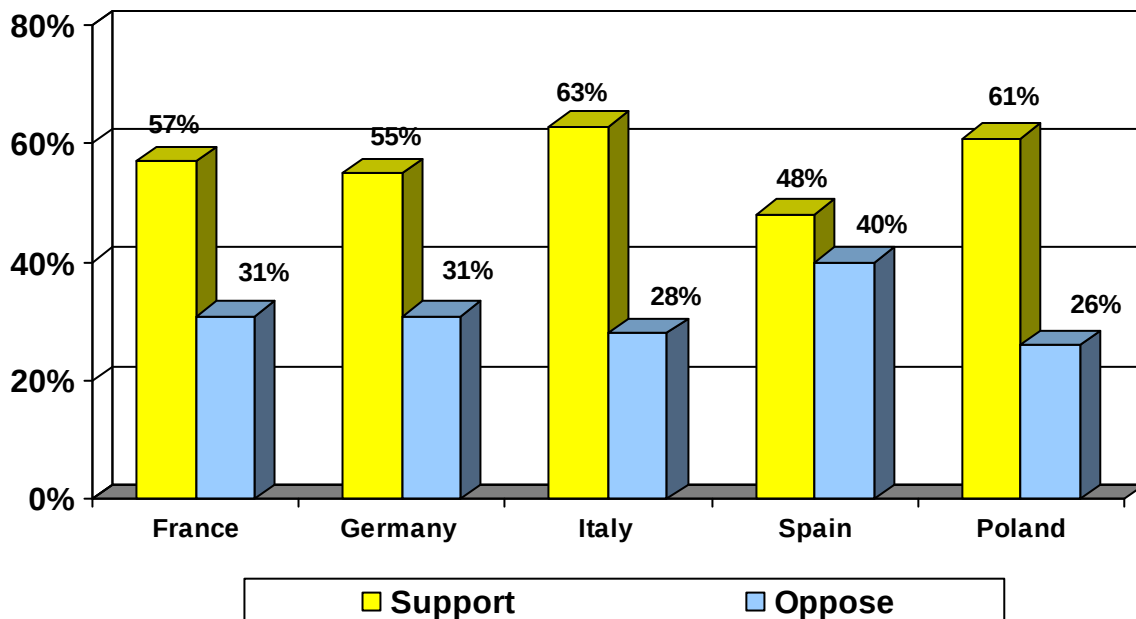
In your opinion, does Israel want to destroy the Palestinian people? % responding yes



- The data indicate that respondents overwhelmingly support the European Union's decision to stop all foreign aid to the Palestinian government until Hamas renounces the use of violence against Israeli civilians, agrees to recognize

Israel's right to exist and accepts all past agreements signed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose European Union's decision to stop all foreign aid to the Palestinian government until Hamas renounces the use of violence against Israeli civilians, agrees to recognize Israel's right to exist and accepts all past agreements signed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority?

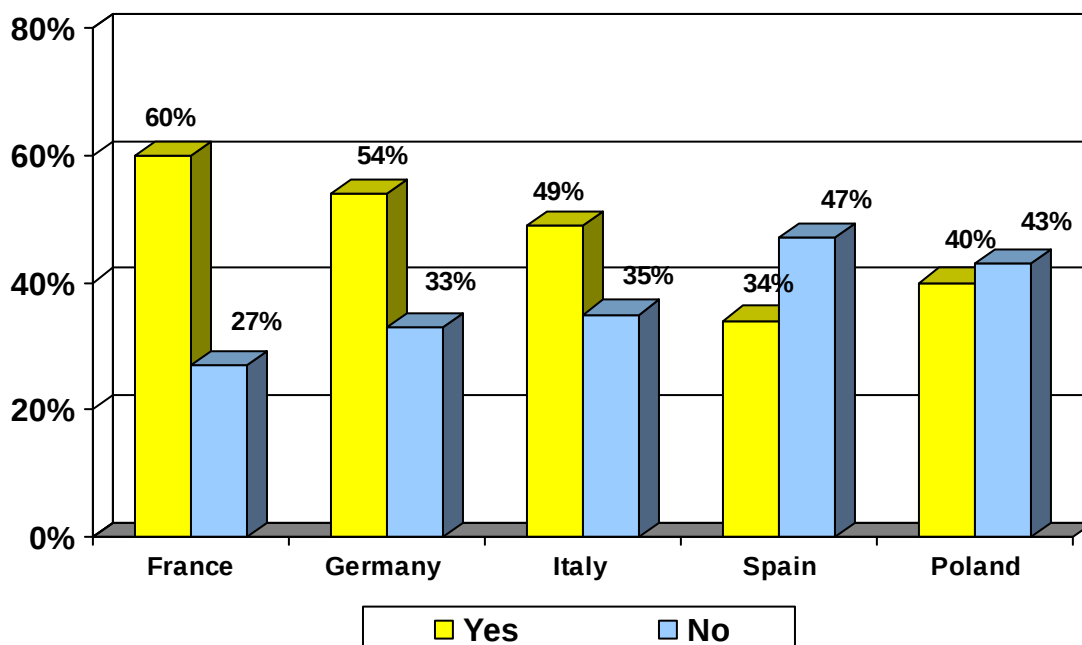


- Respondents in the five countries are split about whether or not to lift the boycott against the Palestinian government now that Hamas has agreed to form a unity government with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.
- French (46 percent) and Spanish (45 percent) respondents are most supportive of lifting the boycott while Polish (50 percent), German (47 percent) and Italian (45 percent) respondents are most supportive of continuing the boycott.
- Despite their views of Hamas, a majority of those surveyed, 51 percent, believe that the "Palestinian Authority truly wants to reach a peace agreement with Israel."
- Similarly, a majority of respondents, 53 percent, agree that "Israel truly wants to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians."
- German respondents are least likely to believe that the Palestinian Authority wants to reach a peace agreement with Israel and Spanish respondents are least

likely to believe in Israel's desire to achieve peace with the Palestinians.

- Overall, 36 percent of those surveyed believe that Israel's treatment of Palestinians is similar to South Africa's treatment of blacks during apartheid.
- Nearly half of those surveyed in Poland, 48 percent, agree that Israel's behavior is similar to South Africa's during apartheid.
- 37 percent of those surveyed do not believe that Israel is an open and democratic society.

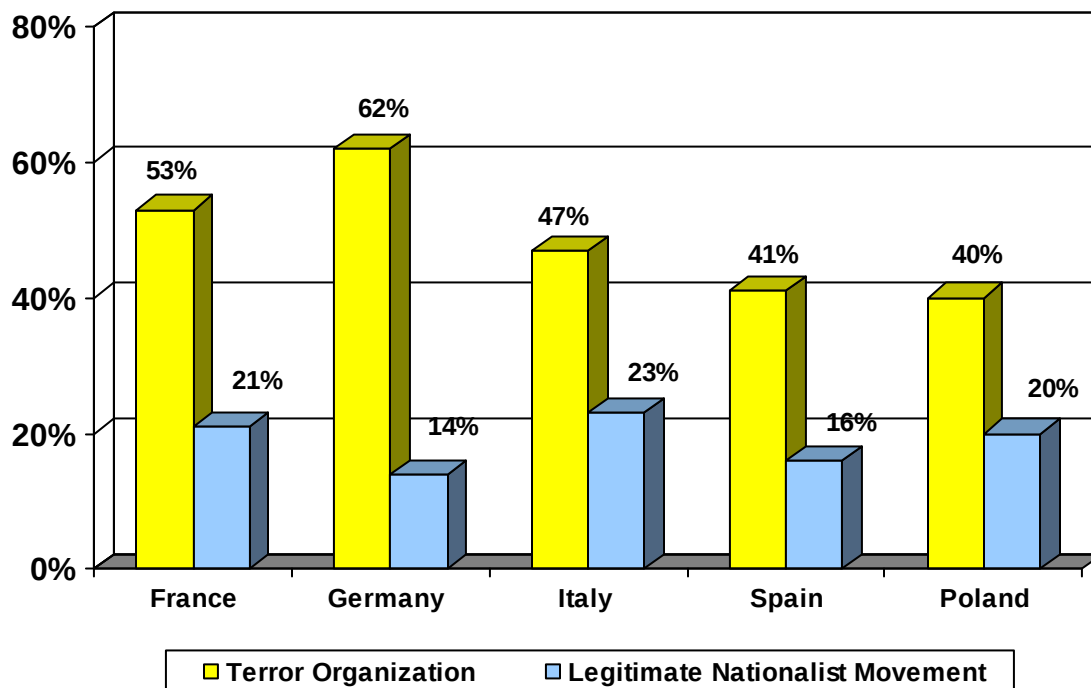
Would you say that Israel is an open and democratic society?



Opinions Regarding Hezbollah and the 2006 War in Lebanon

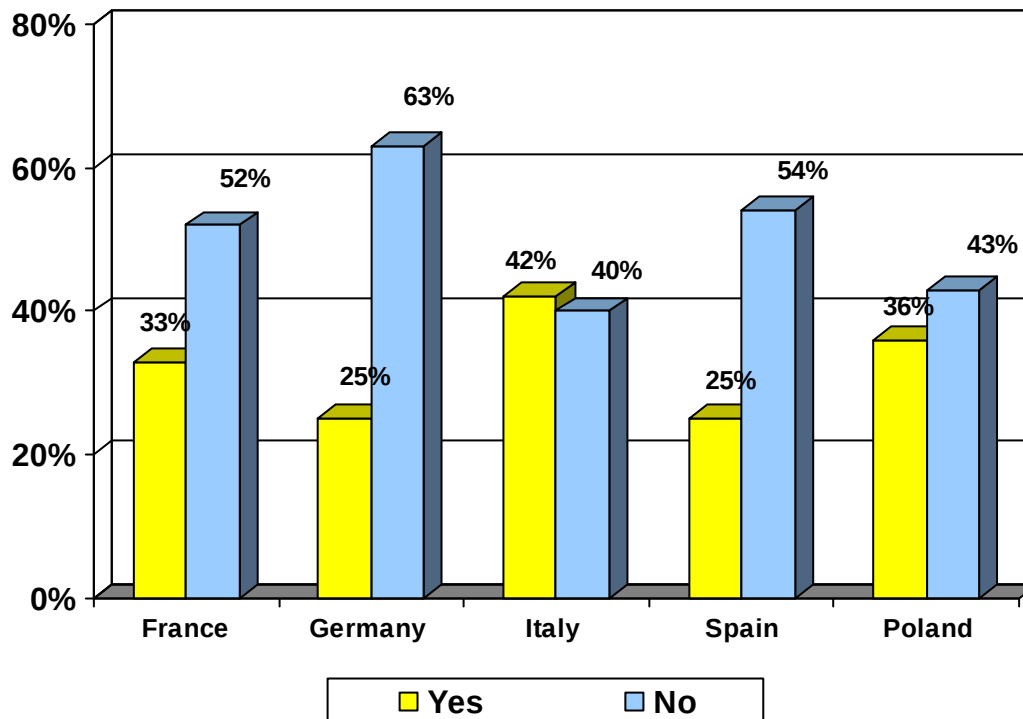
- Nearly half of those surveyed, 48 percent, consider Hezbollah to be a terror organization. Conversely, 19 percent consider Hezbollah a legitimate nationalist movement.
- A majority of respondents in France and Germany consider Hezbollah a terrorist organization.

Given what you know about Hezbollah, do you consider it to be a terrorist organization or legitimate nationalist movement?



- Overall, a majority of those surveyed do not believe that Israel had a right to use military force against Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon in response to attacks against Israeli soldiers.
- Italy is the only country where a plurality of respondents supported Israel's right to use military force against Hezbollah.

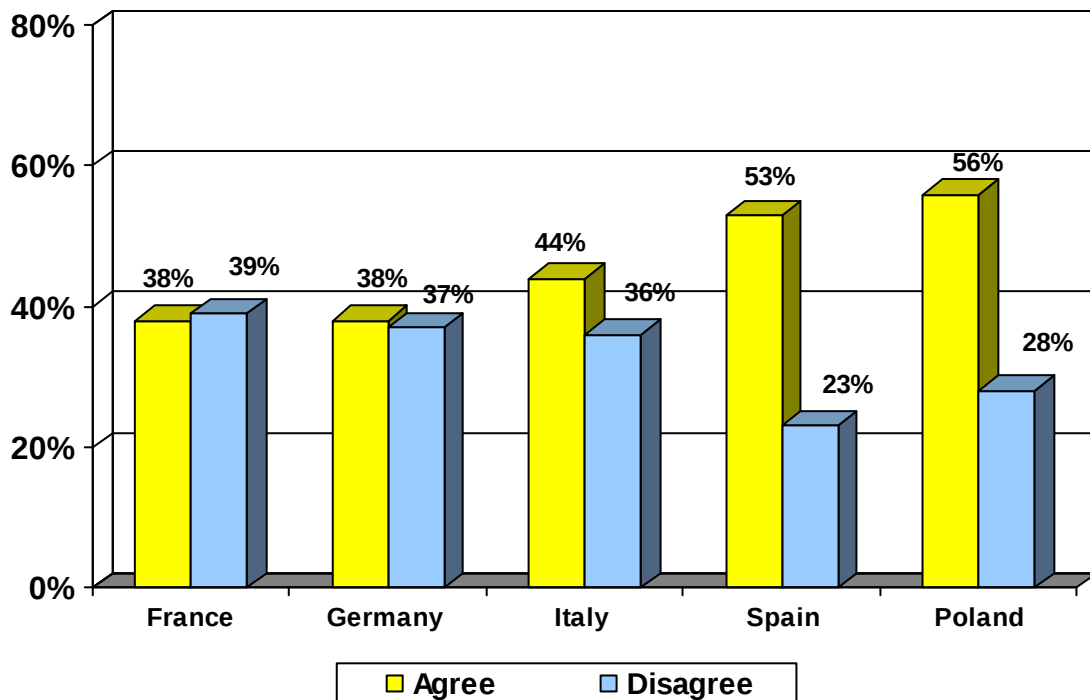
In July 2006, Hezbollah fighters crossed the Lebanese/Israeli border and attacked Israeli soldiers in northern Israel. The operation resulted in the death of eight Israeli soldiers and the capture of two additional Israeli soldiers. Do you think that Israel had a right to use military force against Hezbollah forces in southern Lebanon in response to this attack?



Middle East Policy

- 42 percent of those surveyed in Europe believe that their own government's policies toward the Middle East are even-handed. A quarter say their government's policies have been biased in favor of Israel while 13 percent believe their government's policies have been biased in favor of the Palestinians.
- Half of German respondents believe that their government's Middle East policies favor Israel.
- Overall, nearly half of all respondents agree with the notion that "American Jews control the U.S. Middle Eastern policy."
- 56 percent of those surveyed in Poland believe that American Jews control U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement: "American Jews control U.S. Middle Eastern policy."



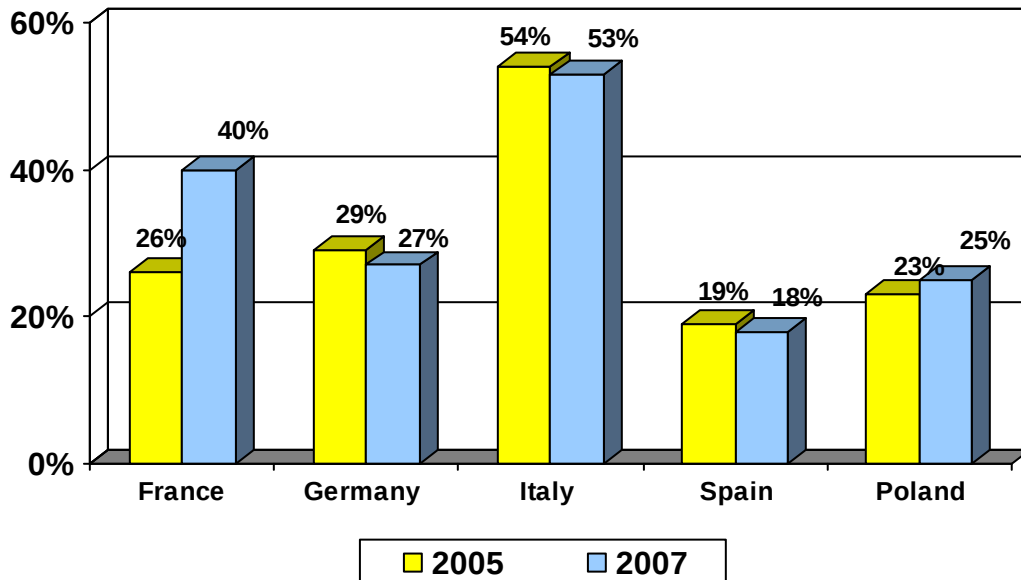
Trends in Attitudes toward Israel

In 2005, the Anti-Defamation League conducted similar surveys of attitudes towards Jews, Israel and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Where applicable, the following section compares results from the 2005 surveys with results from the recently completed 2007 surveys.

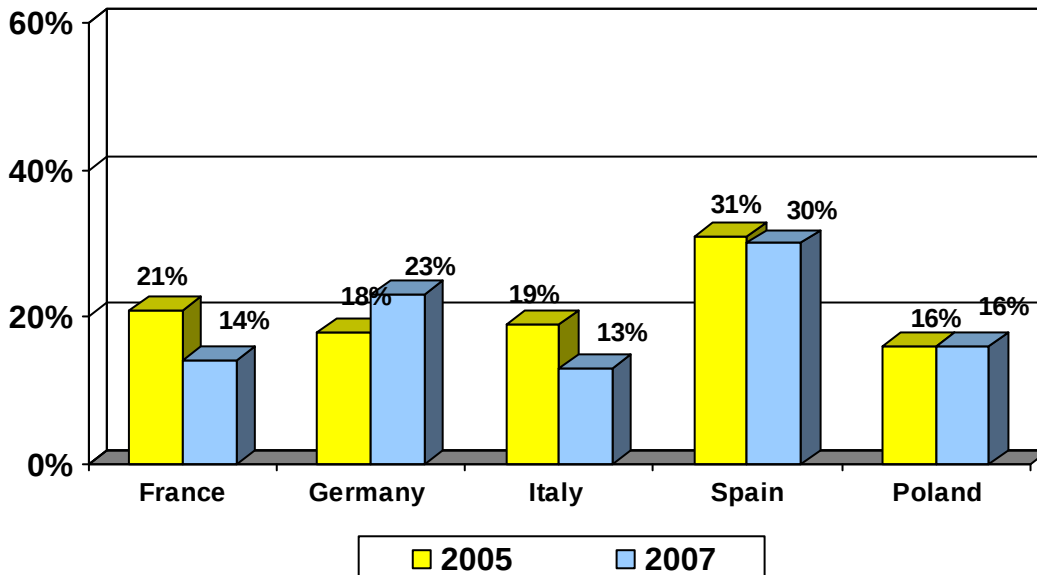
- Overall, attitudes toward Israel have changed little over the past two years.
- However, respondents in France have grown to view Israel more favorably. In 2005, Israel was viewed favorably by 26 percent of those surveyed. Today that number stands at 40 percent.
- When thinking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, levels of sympathy for both sides have risen slightly.
- Sympathy for Israel has increased most in Italy while sympathy for the Palestinians has risen most in Poland.
- Respondents in each of the five countries surveyed are less likely than they were two years ago to believe that the Palestinians or the Israelis truly want to reach a peace agreement.
- Germany has witnessed the most dramatic change. In 2005, 59 percent of Germans agreed with the statement that “Israel truly wants to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians.” Today, that number stands at 42 percent.
- Likewise, in 2005, 60 percent of Germans agreed with the statement that “the Palestinian Authority truly wants to reach a peace agreement with Israel.” Today, that number stands at 34 percent.
- In 2005, more than a quarter of French respondents did not believe that Israel is an open and democratic society. Today that number has decreased to 9 percent.

Thinking generally about Israel, would you say that your views are very favorable, fairly favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, fairly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Percent responding "very" of "fairly" favorable

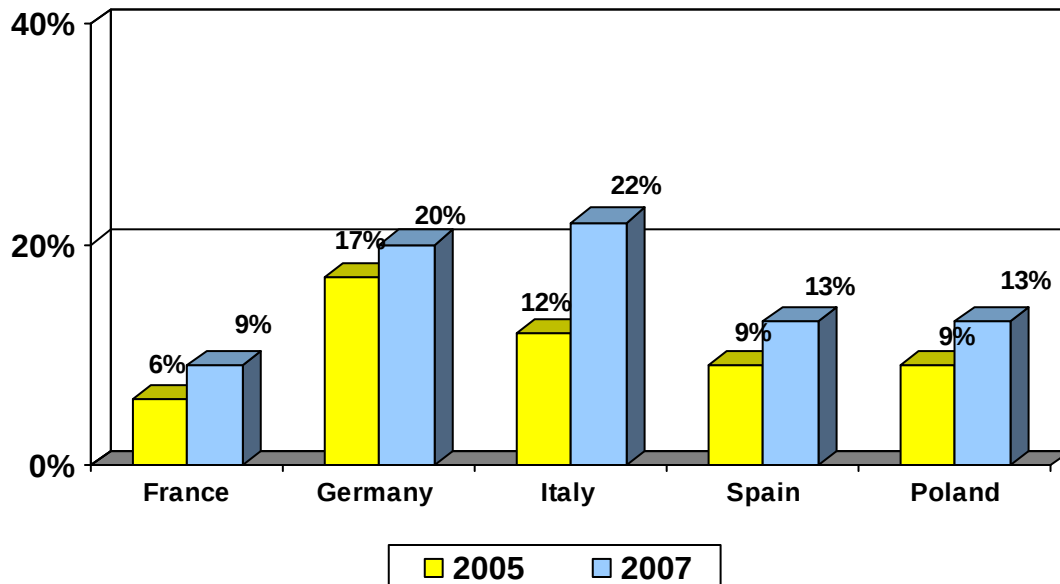


Percent responding "very" of "fairly" unfavorable

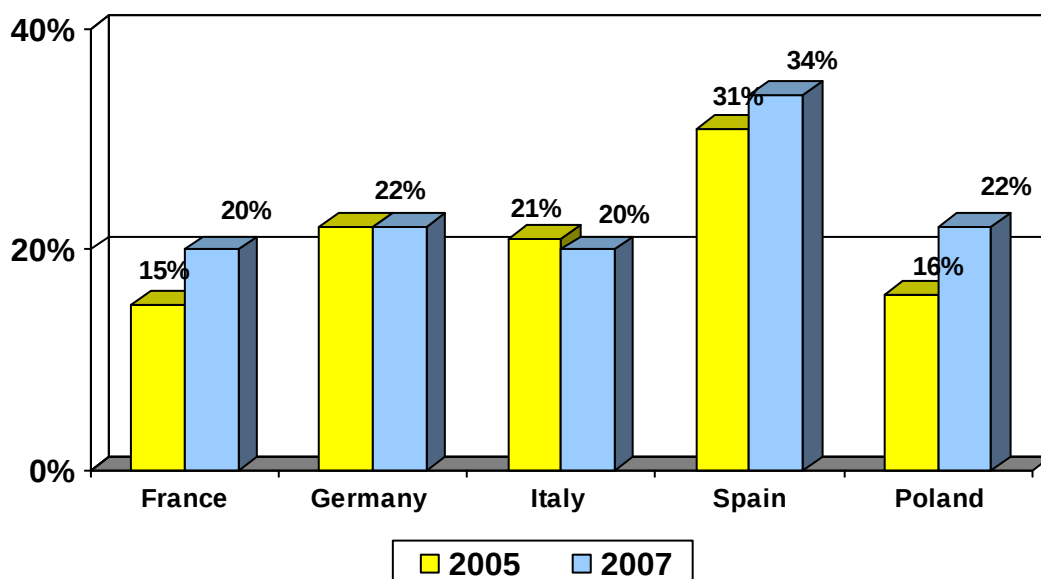


Thinking specifically about the current conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?

Percent responding "more with the Israelis"



Percent responding "more with the Palestinians"



Please tell me whether you agree a lot, agree a little, disagree a little or disagree a lot with the following statement: “Israel truly wants to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians.”

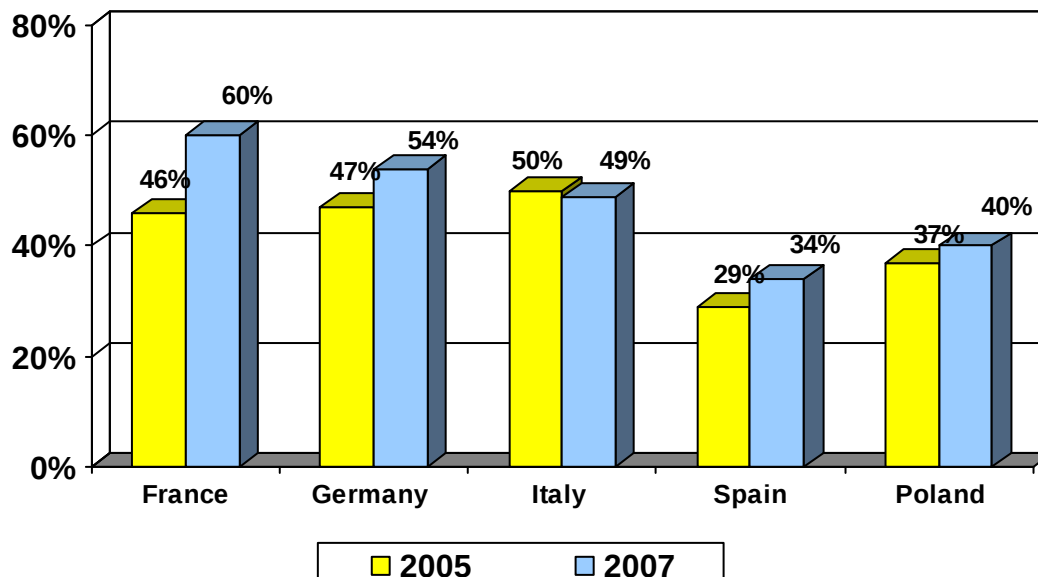
	France		Germany		Italy		Spain		Poland	
	'05	'07	'05	'07	'05	'07	'05	'07	'05	'07
Agree	58	65	59	42	71	71	50	40	48	46
Disagree	18	20	16	28	17	18	23	37	23	28

Please tell me whether you agree a lot, agree a little, disagree a little or disagree a lot with the following statement: “The Palestinian Authority truly wants to reach a peace agreement with Israel.”

	France		Germany		Italy		Spain		Poland	
	'05	'07	'05	'07	'05	'07	'05	'07	'05	'07
Agree	62	63	60	34	72	67	56	49	44	42
Disagree	13	20	16	35	16	20	15	26	25	28

In your opinion is Israel an open and democratic society?

Percent responding “yes”



Percent responding “no”

