
CANADIAN OPINION ON THE CORONAVIRUS – N°26: CANADIAN AND AMERICAN OPINION ON CHINA'S ROLE IN COVID 19

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INTRODUCTION: COVID 19 AND THE EVOLVING WORLD STAGE

- Last week much attention in Canada was directed at the relationship with China as Chinese officials warned Canada to release Huawei executive [Meng Wanzhou](#) to avoid “any continuous harm” to relations between the two countries ” However a BC court ruled in favor of continuing the extradition process. The ruling already has led to warnings about further retaliation from Beijing — especially for detained Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor. All this is occurring against the backdrop of the Covid 19 crisis. Canada now depends on China for much of the personal protective equipment needed by front-line health care workers in the battle to contain COVID-19. Access to that equipment is not guaranteed. At the same time Canadians are very leery about China’s role in the spread of the contagion. And our long standing allies to the South have seen an already high level of distrust sore to unprecedented heights with Canada finding it increasingly difficult to carve out any space at all in the middle of the brewing feud
- In that which follows we look at the extent to which Canadians and Americans respectively assign blame at the government of China for Covid 19 based on an ACS-Leger Marketing survey conducted between May 22 and 24th in partnership with Leger Marketing. The idea that the Chinese government created Covid 19 is rightly regarded as a conspiracy theory and of the many conspiracy theories out there it is amongst the most popular and as such risks having serious ramifications for strained relations between the two countries

SLIGHT MAJORITY OF AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT COVID 19 WAS CREATED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT; ONE IN THREE CANADIANS CONCUR

	COVID-19 was created by the Chinese Government –				
United States	Northeast	Midwest	South	West	Total
Agree	52.3%	50.9	54.8%	43.8%	51%

	COVID-19 was created by the Chinese Government						
Canada	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes	Total
Agree	34.3%	39.1%	29.0%	33.3%	31.4%	38.8%	33.7%

IMMIGRANTS SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY THAT THE CANADIAN BORN TO BELIEVE THAT COVID 19 WAS CREATED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

	COVID-19 was created by the Chinese Government -		
Canada	Born in Canada	Born Outside of Canada	Total
Strongly agree	12.9%	13.2%	13.0%
Somewhat agree	20.4%	22.3%	20.7%
Somewhat disagree	24.3%	33.5%	25.7%
Strongly disagree	42.5%	31.0%	40.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

MOST EDUCATED CANADIANS ARE FAR LESS LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT COVID 19 WAS CREATED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

Canada	COVID-19 was created by the Chinese Government						Total
	High school, general or vocational (8 to 12 years)	College (13-15 years)	University certificates and diplomas	University Bachelor (including classical studies)	University Master's degree	University Doctorate (PhD)	
Strongly agree	16.9%	12.7%	11.9%	9.6%	9.3%	6.7%	12.9%
Somewhat agree	28.1%	18.9%	20.3%	12.6%	16.5%	6.7%	20.8%
Somewhat disagree	21.8%	29.3%	22.0%	25.9%	22.7%	13.3%	25.6%
Strongly disagree	33.2%	39.1%	45.8%	51.9%	51.5%	73.3%	40.7%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

THOSE MOST FEARFUL AND LEAST FEARFUL OF CONTRACTING COVID 19 ARE MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT COVID 19 WAS CREATED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

COVID-19 was created by the Chinese Government - Do you agree or	Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?			
	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
Strongly agree	17.2%	11.1%	9.1%	21.5%
Somewhat agree	25.4%	20.1%	18.1%	22.8%
Somewhat disagree	21.1%	26.2%	28.8%	19.7%
Strongly disagree	36.4%	42.5%	44.0%	36.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

ONLY IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES DOES THE MAJORITY DISAGREE THAT COVID-19 WAS CREATED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

COVID-19 was created by the Chinese Government -	Northeast	Midwest	South	West	Total
Strongly agree	25.6%	25.2%	33.7%	24.5%	28.3%
Somewhat agree	26.7%	25.7%	21.1%	19.3%	22.7%
Somewhat disagree	16.7%	17.0%	17.1%	18.0%	17.2%
Strongly disagree	31.1%	32.1%	28.1%	38.2%	31.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

AMERICANS AGE 30-60 MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT COVID 19 WAS CREATED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

United States	COVID-19 was created by the Chinese Government					Total
	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	>= 65	
Strongly agree	25.3%	39.3%	27.8%	27.0%	23.6%	28.3%
Somewhat agree	24.9%	19.7%	25.7%	24.6%	17.2%	22.7%
Somewhat disagree	21.3%	16.2%	14.4%	13.5%	20.7%	17.1%
Strongly disagree	28.5%	24.9%	32.1%	34.9%	38.5%	31.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION IS A PREDICTOR OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU BELIEVE THE VIRUS WAS CREATED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

United States	COVID-19 was created by the Chinese Government				
	Graduated high school (grade 12)	Technical or trade school	Some college	Graduated college	Post-graduate study or degree
Strongly agree	38.4%	28.6%	22.5%	26.5%	25.6%
Somewhat agree	28.8%	28.6%	27.5%	20.7%	13.1%
Somewhat disagree	12.4%	20.0%	19.3%	18.1%	17.0%
Strongly disagree	20.3%	22.9%	30.7%	34.7%	44.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From May 22th to May 24th , 2020

1510 Canadians and 1,005 Americans, 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 2,009 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20, while a probability sample of 1,012 would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.08\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

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