

Favourability of Nations: U.S. rebounds, India drops double-digits, China remains historically low

Three-quarters of Americans view Canada favourably, just one-half of Canadians say the same of U.S.

June 13, 2024 – There is much to discuss on the agenda as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau joins his international counterparts at the G7 summit in Italy, including wars in Gaza and Ukraine. But the Canadian contingent says it hopes to find time for a multilateral discussion of foreign interference, an issue which has continued to be a source of domestic controversy.

New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds Canadians offering strongly negative assessments of two of the countries accused of meddling in Canadian elections. Four-in-five (79%) Canadians say they have an unfavourable view of China as favourability towards that country remains at a historic nadir.

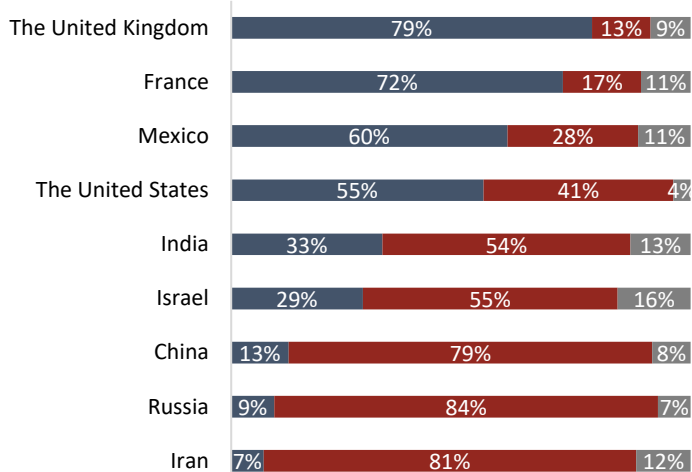
Further, positive appraisal of India has declined by 11-points in Canada since March 2023; a minority of one-third (33%) who say they view the country favourably are outnumbered by the majority (54%) who do not.

A [recent report by the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians \(NSICOP\)](#) has brought renewed attention to foreign election interference in Canada, while pointing fingers at both nations, [China and India](#).

Canadians offer their most positive assessments of two G7 allies – the United Kingdom and France. Both are viewed favourably by at least seven-in-ten Canadians. These are more positive views than Canadians have of their two partners in the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement, the replacement trade agreement for NAFTA. Three-in-five (60%) offer favourable evaluations of Mexico; a majority (55%) of the U.S. The latter represents a rebound in Canadian opinion.

Overall, would you say you have a favourable or unfavourable view of each of the following countries?

(Canadian respondents, n=1,603)



■ Very/ Mostly favourable ■ Very/ Mostly unfavourable
■ Don't know/ Can't say

METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from May 24-28, 2024 among a representative randomized sample of 1,603 Canadian adults who are members of [Angus Reid Forum](#). For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

ARI conducted a second online survey from May 24-28, 2024 among a representative randomized sample of 2,024 American adults who are members of [Angus Reid Forum USA](#). For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Both surveys were self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

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In 2021, two-in-five (41%) Canadians said they viewed the U.S. favourably as the country transitioned from the adversarial administration of Donald Trump to the [more collaborative Joe Biden](#).

More Key Findings:

- Canadians' views diverge most across demographics on Israel and the U.S. In both cases, men older than 54 are the most likely to view each country positively.
- Three-quarters of Americans (77%) say they have a positive view of Canada, compared to the 55 per cent of Canadians who say the same about the U.S.
- American and Canadian views of the countries assessed differ the most on Israel (U.S.: 41% favourable, Canada: 29%), Mexico (U.S.: 49%, Canada: 60%), and India (U.S.: 43%, Canada: 33%).

About ARI

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research foundation established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.*

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Part One: Favourability of nations

U.K., France top list over NAFTA partners

As Prime Minister Justin Trudeau travels to the G7 summit in the [heel of the boot of Italy](#), global conflict in Ukraine and Gaza are expected to occupy much of the attention for the leaders of the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Italy, France, Germany and Japan.

Related:

- [Ukraine Invasion: Canadian attention, and Conservative support, plummets two years into conflict](#)
- [Israel-Gaza Ceasefire: In both Canada and US, majority say hostilities should end immediately](#)

However, Canadian officials say Trudeau will raise the issue of [foreign election interference](#) in the wake of fresh domestic controversy on the issue and with elections scheduled in the U.S., U.K. and elsewhere in the European Union. Trudeau departs for Italy leaving behind a cauldron of foreign election interference controversy bubbling over at home with the allegations from the [recently released report](#) by the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSCIP).

Canadians largely hold China, one of the countries chiefly accused in election meddling, in ill regard. Four-in-five (79%) say they view China unfavourably, vastly outnumbering those who say they have positive views of the country (13%). Canadians' negative view of China is only surpassed by negativity towards Russia (9% favourable) and Iran (7%).

Canadians are more divided over the other major alleged culprit in Canada's foreign election interference controversy, [India](#). The relationship between Canada and India has hit a rough patch in recent months after [Trudeau accused the Indian government of being involved in the killing of a Canadian Sikh activist](#) outside of a Surrey gurdwara. One-third (33%) of Canadians say they have a favourable view of India, while a majority (54%) do not.

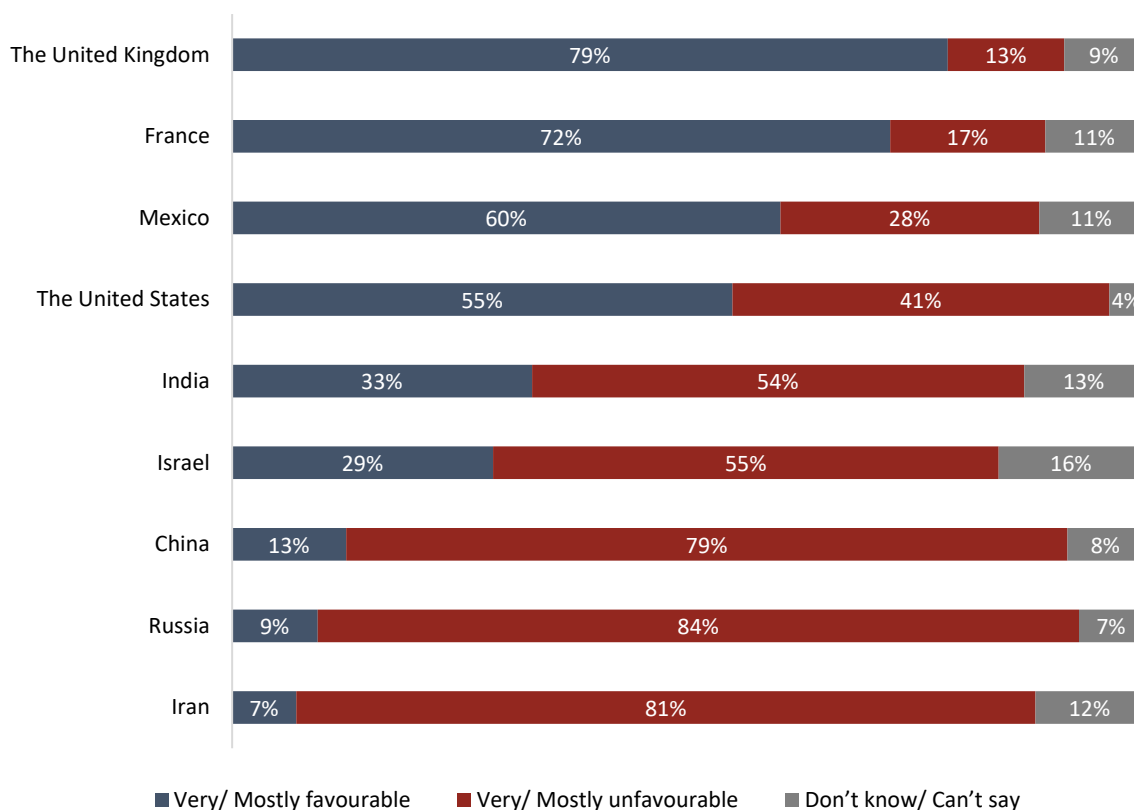
Canadians save their most positive views not for the country's two free trade agreement partners, the U.S. and Mexico, but instead two G7 allies: France and the United Kingdom:

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**Overall, would you say you have a favourable or unfavourable view of each of the following countries?
(Canadian respondents, n=1,603)**



Political divergence

Political views appear to influence appraisals of various countries. Those who say they would vote Conservative if an election were held today are less likely to view France favourably, and more likely to hold the U.S. and Israel in high regard, than other party supporters. In fact, it is those latter two countries where there is the most divergence. Likely NDP voters are the most negative on the U.S., expressing favourable opinions at half the rate of those who would vote Conservative:

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Percentage of Canadians who have a 'very' or 'mostly' favourable view of the following countries					
	Canadian respondents (n=1,603)	Current federal vote intention			
		CPC	Liberal	NDP	BQ
The United Kingdom	79%	80%	89%	76%	82%
France	72%	62%	87%	78%	91%
Mexico	60%	56%	61%	71%	59%
The United States	55%	79%	48%	30%	51%
India	33%	34%	36%	35%	32%
Israel	29%	52%	22%	12%	13%
China	13%	10%	13%	17%	7%
Russia	9%	15%	5%	3%	0%
Iran	7%	4%	4%	10%	4%

Generational views

Views of the U.S. and Israel also diverge by age, with younger Canadians expressing more criticism of both than their older counterparts. That's also true of the United Kingdom – though a majority of all age-gender groups view the home of Canada's monarch positively.

Percentage of Canadians who have a 'very' or 'mostly' favourable view of the following countries							
	Total (n=1,603)	Male			Female		
		18-34 (n=225)	35-54 (n=265)	55+ (n=295)	18-34 (n=219)	35-54 (n=273)	55+ (n=326)
The United Kingdom	79%	72%	80%	89%	65%	76%	85%
France	72%	72%	73%	77%	60%	68%	80%
Mexico	60%	68%	68%	58%	60%	57%	53%
The United States	55%	51%	56%	67%	41%	48%	60%
India	33%	31%	33%	38%	29%	35%	30%
Israel	29%	20%	36%	46%	14%	19%	30%

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China	13%	15%	14%	6%	21%	15%	8%
Russia	9%	10%	15%	4%	10%	12%	7%
Iran	7%	13%	8%	3%	10%	7%	4%

Part Two: Trends over time

U.S. up after Trump-dip

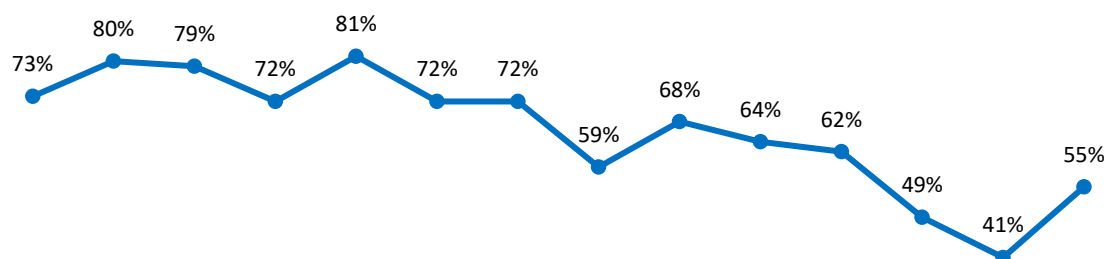
The 2016 election of U.S. President Donald Trump marked the beginning of a tumultuous time in U.S.-Canada relations, which included a [tariff war](#) that finally culminated in [a rocky negotiation](#) to establish the replacement to NAFTA, the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). Trump called Trudeau [“two-faced”](#) after the Canadian prime minister was recorded apparently mocking the U.S. president.

When Trump was elected in 2016, half (52%) of Canadians expected it to have a negative effect on the U.S.-Canada relationship. Four years later, three-in-five (61%) believed the election of current U.S. President Joe Biden would have a positive one.

Related: [Better with Biden? President-elect restores hope among Canadians for an improved relationship with U.S.](#)

Canadians' assessment of the U.S. dropped precipitously in the Trump era. Prior to Trump holding office, 62 per cent of Canadians had a positive view of the U.S. That figure bottomed out at 41 per cent [in October 2021](#), early in Biden's term in office. Assessments have since rebounded, though have not recovered to levels seen in prior decades:

Percentage of Canadians holding a 'favourable' view of the United States



1981	1985	1988	1991	1995	1999	2002	2005	2009	2013	2016	2018	2021	2024
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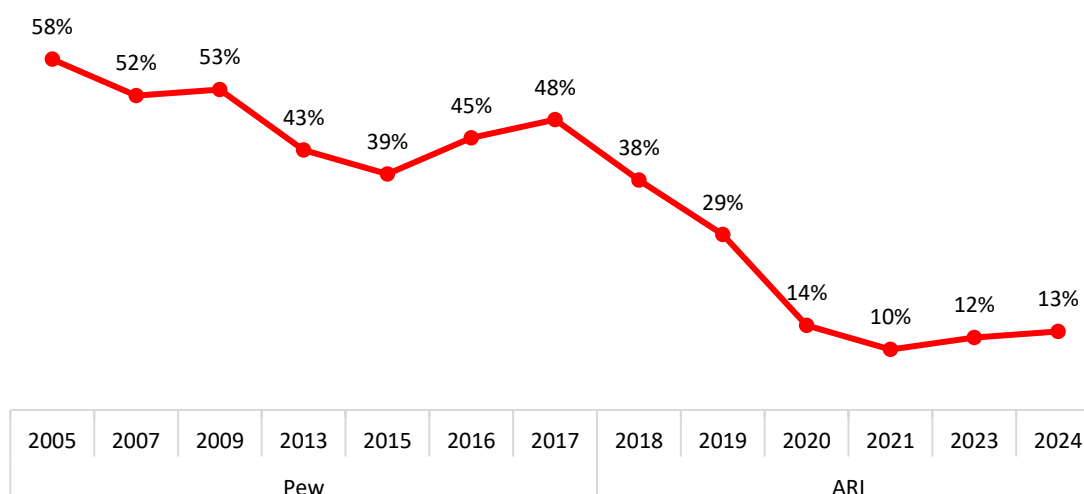
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China remains historically low

The foreign interference commission led by Justice Marie-Josée Hogue continues to investigate allegations of election meddling by foreign powers including the Chinese government in Beijing. Hogue's docket grew [after the House of Commons voted to ask the commission to also look into the fresh allegations](#) brought forward by the NSICOP report.

The swirl of accusations levelled at China has apparently done little to improve Canadian assessments of the country. Since 2020, at most one-in-eight Canadians say they have a favourable view of China:

Percentage of Canadians holding a 'favourable' view of China



India down double-digits

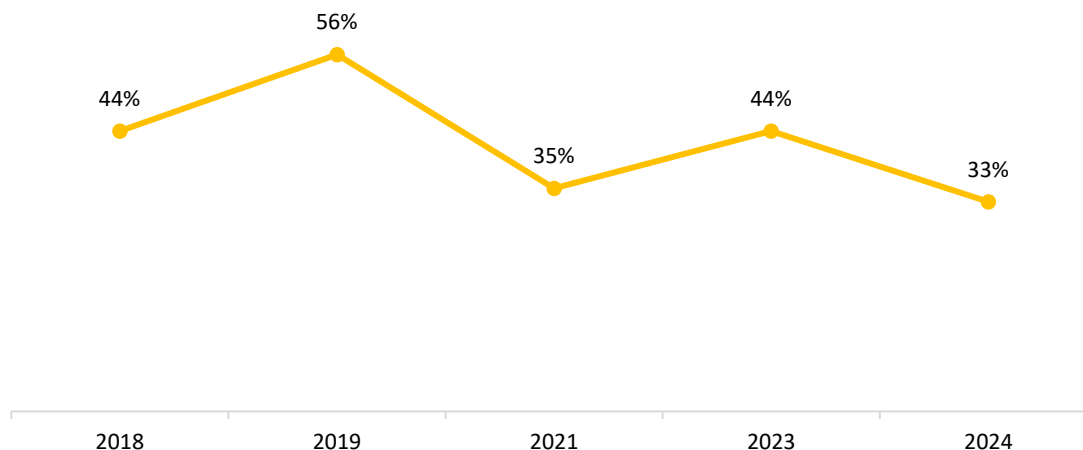
Though Trudeau says Canada supports a “united India”, the presence of Sikh separatists in Canada has been [a source of tension](#) between India and Canada. [Trudeau's accusation](#) that the Indian government was involved in the assassination of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar only exacerbated the strained relationship. Recent rocky relations between Canada and India also appear to be dragging down Canadian assessments of the [world's most populous country](#). Last year in March, more than two-in-five (44%) said they had favourable views of India. Now only one-third say the same:

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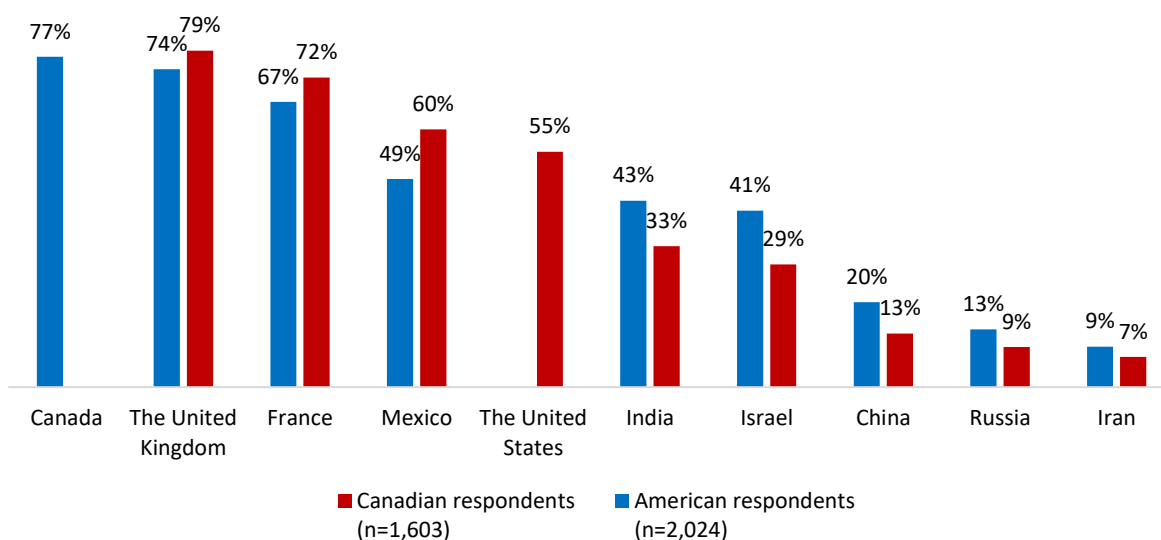
Percentage of Canadians holding a 'favourable' view of India



Part Three: Comparing Canadian and American perspectives

In addition to Canadian responses, Angus Reid Institute also surveyed more than 2,000 Americans, asking for their perspectives on these same countries. First, Canadians are less favourable to the United States (55%) as the inverse (77%). Americans and Canadians are close to equally favourable to the U.K. and France, but Americans are more critical of Mexico, and more favourable to India, Israel, and China. The American-Israeli relationship has been under the microscope in recent weeks, after Biden [called for a ceasefire](#) in the Israel-Gaza conflict:

Percentage who view the following countries 'very' or 'mostly' favourably



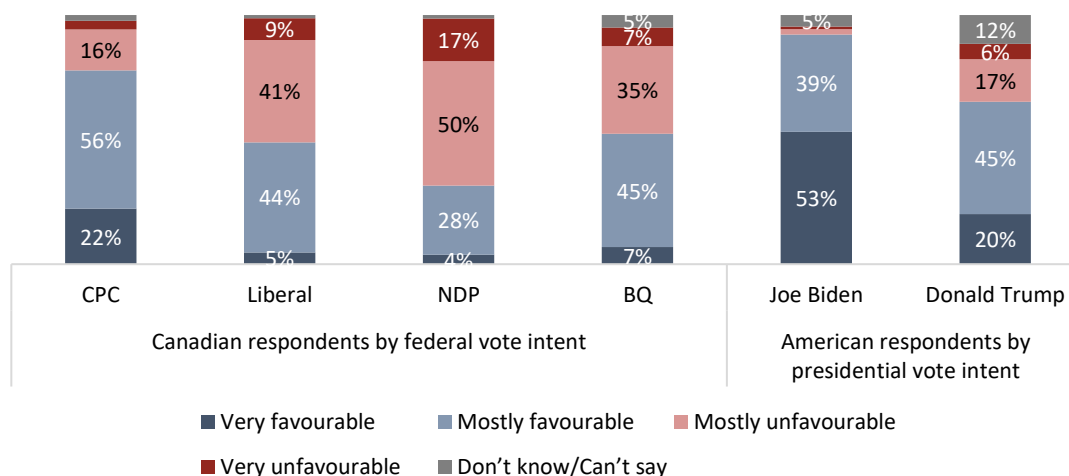
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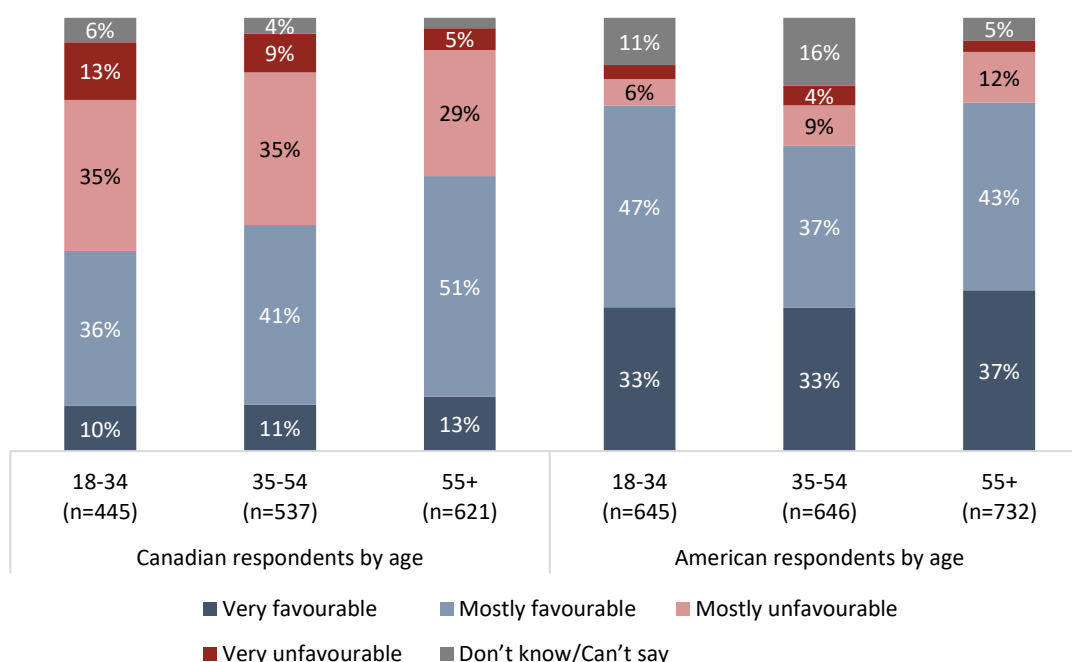
In the United States, Biden voters are overwhelmingly positive in their views of Canada, while one-quarter of Trump voters (23%) take a negative perspective. North of the border, Liberals are divided evenly about their southern allies, while Conservatives are mostly positive and New Democrats mostly negative:

Canadians' view of the United States, Americans' view of Canada



Younger Canadians are particularly critical of the United States, as an equal number say they view the country favourable and unfavourably. In Canada, favourability rises with age, while in the United States, it appears to have little influence, as views of Canada are generally positive:

Canadians' view of the United States, Americans' view of Canada

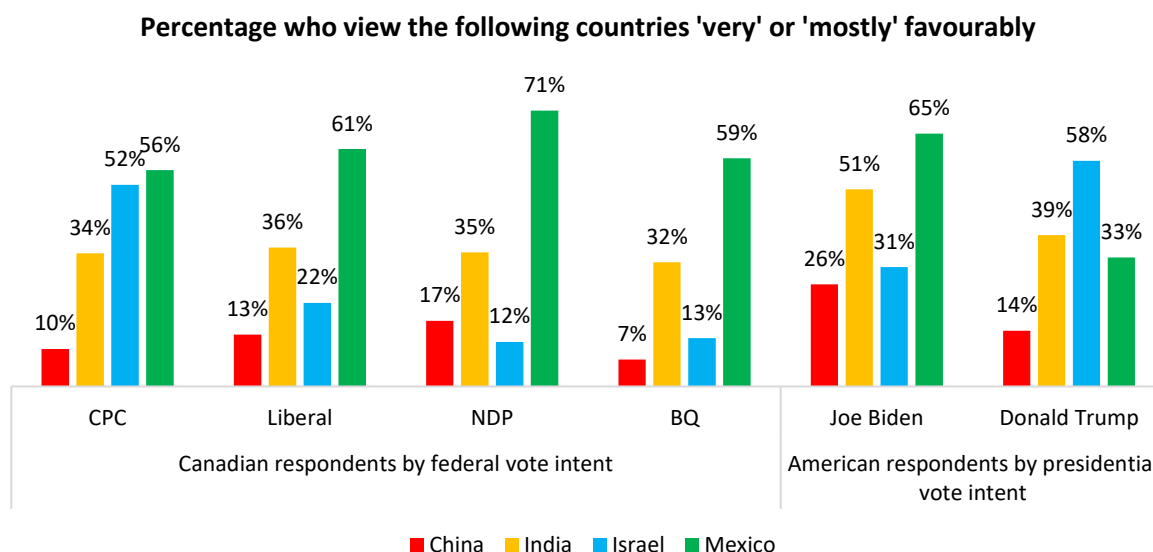


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Political perspectives are significant in both countries when it comes to the international community. Those who say they would support Biden in the next election are most positive in their views toward China, while Trump and Canadian Conservative supporters offer high levels of favour to Israel. Would-be Trump voters are much more critical of Mexico than all others in both countries:



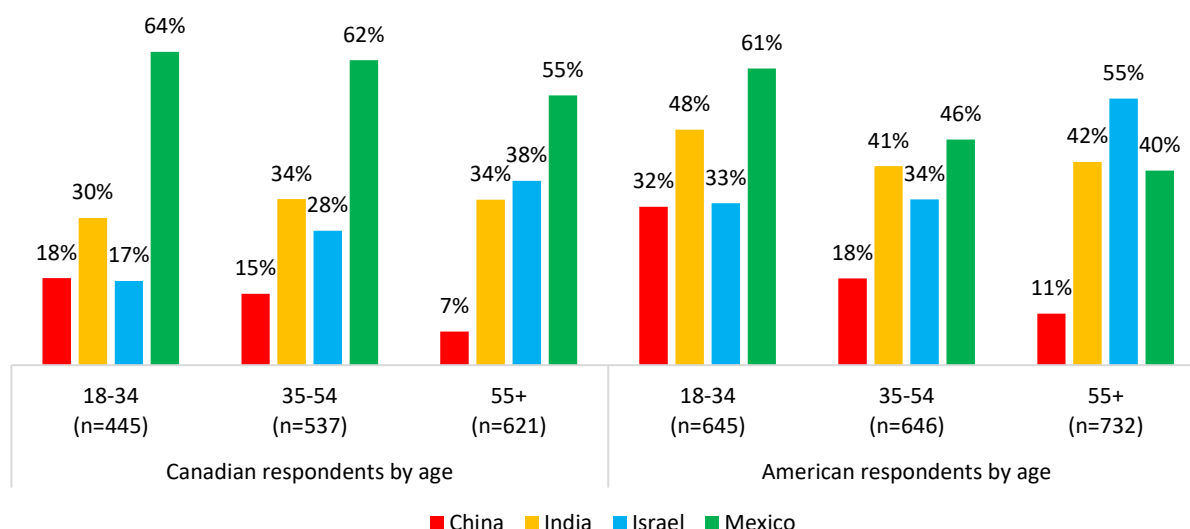
In a notable generational phenomenon, young people in the United States (younger than 35) show much higher levels of favourability toward China than their older peers. Concerns about Chinese propaganda on [TikTok](#) have been reported in recent months, after a Forbes investigation found that this has been taking place, [at least in Europe](#). [Reportedly](#), one-third of Americans under 30 receive their news from TikTok. This spring, the Senate passed legislation that would ban the platform if its parent company, ByteDance, does not sell. Young Americans are also more favourable to Russia and Iran ([see detailed tables](#)) compared to those 35 years of age and older:

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Percentage who view the following countries 'very' or 'mostly' favourably



For detailed results for Canadian respondents by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).

For detailed results for American respondents by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).

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