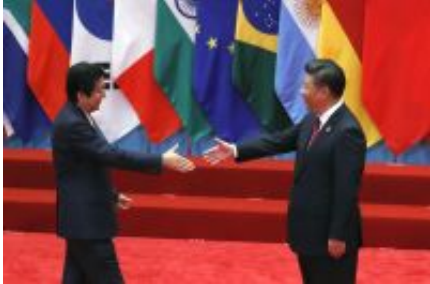




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AP photo

Pew poll: How the Japanese and Chinese see each other

By KEN MORITSUGU

Sep. 14, 2016 - 06:48AM JST

 Recommend 51

TOKYO —

Arrogant, violent and to varying degrees, nationalistic. That's how the Japanese and Chinese publics see each other's country, according to a new poll that reflects the geopolitical tensions between the neighboring East Asia powers.

The annual Pew Research Center survey, released Tuesday in Washington, D.C., found that while views of each other have improved slightly in recent years, they remain overwhelmingly negative and worse than a decade ago. A huge surge in Chinese tourists visiting Japan apparently hasn't changed public opinion much.

Some highlights:

NEGATIVITY

Negative feelings spiked in 2013, after a long-running territorial dispute over some remote, uninhabited islands flared in 2012. They have climbed down since then but remain high.

Japanese with a very unfavorable view of China:

2006: 22 percent

2013: 48 percent

2016: 42 percent

Chinese with a very unfavorable view of Japan:

2006: 29 percent

2013: 74 percent

2016: 53 percent

—

WAR FEARS

Japanese are more worried than Chinese that China's territorial disputes with Japan and other neighboring countries could lead to military conflict. The two nations' coast guard ships regularly assert sovereignty near the Japan-controlled Senkaku islands, which China also claims and calls Diaoyu.

Japanese very concerned about a conflict: 35 percent

Japanese somewhat concerned: 45 percent

Chinese very concerned: 18 percent

Chinese somewhat concerned: 41 percent

—

ARROGANCE

How Japanese see Chinese:

Arrogant: 81 percent

Nationalistic: 76 percent

Violent: 71 percent

How Chinese see Japanese:

Arrogant: 70 percent

Nationalistic: 41 percent

Violent: 74 percent

—

APOLOGIES

Japan has repeatedly expressed remorse for its invasion of China in the 1930s and 1940s, but China has questioned the sincerity of the official statements and accused some in Japan of trying to whitewash history.

Japanese who believe Japan has apologized enough:

2006: 40 percent

2016: 53 percent

Chinese who believe Japan hasn't apologized enough:

2006: 81 percent

2016: 77 percent

—

NEIGHBORS

Favorable view of South Korea:

Japan: 27 percent

China: 55 percent

Favorable view of India:

Japan: 54 percent

China: 26 percent

METHODOLOGY

The survey of 1,000 Japanese was conducted between April 26 and May 29 using landline telephones and cell phones. The Japan results have a margin of error of 4.1 percentage points. The survey in China was conducted face-to-face with 3,154 people between April 6 and May 8. It has a margin of error of 3.7 percentage points.

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33 Comments

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thepersoniamnow at Sep. 14, 2016 - 07:32AM JST

Is it just me or are people here more inclined to genuinely believe NHK, politicians, and other propaganda than in, say, the west? When I first came I thought that seemed to be the case, but I probably didn't have the language skills to know for certain. In any case the government media is 95% guilty and responsible for these statistics. They are stirring the hate pot!



•

Black Sabbath at Sep. 14, 2016 - 07:34AM JST

Predictable. And sad.

"Winter is coming."



•

Yubaru at Sep. 14, 2016 - 07:46AM JST

The survey of 1,000 Japanese was conducted between April 26 and May 29 using landline telephones and cell phones. The Japan results have a margin of error of 4.1 percentage points. The survey in China was conducted face-to-face with 3,154 people between April 6 and May 8. It has a margin of error of 3.7 percentage points.

I know, I know, the statistics can be used to make the argument that this is a valid slice of the population to make the poll results the views of an entire country.

Consider though, China has what, 1.3 BILLION people, with just how many different backgrounds and languages and 3,154 people are a valid sample? Where and who did they talk to? People in Peking? Shanghai? HongKong?

Or how about Japan? 120 MILLION plus and only 1,000? What name list did they use? One's for the Anti-Korean association? People who live around Kasumigaseki? Okinawa?

Data like this can be used to make anything the pollster wants it to be, good, bad or indifferent, and here the polling company is using it's reputation to make the case that THIS data represents both countries, and sadly policies may change or be affected because of it.

I just personally take it with a grain of salt, as I literally see thousands upon thousands of Chinese people every year coming here and spending tons of their hard earned cash on Japanese goods and services and taking loads home too.

Polls don't tell the whole story, or even a small part of it either. Seeing is believing.



Bob Sneider at Sep. 14, 2016 - 08:07AM JST

The aggressor doesnt get to decide if theyve apologized enough. If the victim claims that they have not apologized enough, then you have not apologized enough.



Moonraker at Sep. 14, 2016 - 08:38AM JST

A huge surge in Chinese tourists visiting Japan apparently hasn't changed public opinion much.

Well, that is surprising. Usually a surge in Chinese tourists seems to reduce opinion of them in much of the world.

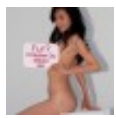


GW at Sep. 14, 2016 - 08:42AM JST

Both China & Japan are CAPTIVE audiences to a large extent so OBVIOUSLY China's govt take advantage of that! And Japan's govt SADLY does the same & the views of things are overly narrow in Japan.

I mean just look at the goofball running NHK now, scary. And abe & his ilk routinely tell the media what & how to report.

And here we are, bottom line we EXPECT this crap from China, Japan should have long ago KNOWN BETTER but continues to take the low roads way too often!



gogogo at Sep. 14, 2016 - 08:55AM JST

More concerned with NK than China, if China and Japan actually worked together they would be the 2nd + 3rd economies combined....



wontond at Sep. 14, 2016 - 09:00AM JST

More concerned with NK than China, if China and Japan actually worked together they would be the 2nd + 3rd economies combined....

Aren't they already the 2nd and 3rd economies?



hachikou at Sep. 14, 2016 - 09:08AM JST

Where is TAIWAN???

I hate to see whenever people talking about NEIGHBORS of Japan in Asia, they treat TAIWAN as if it never existed. If you add the poll of how Taiwanese see Japan, whole thing looks completely different.

Never talk about Japan vs China or Japan vs Korea without Taiwan. Always talk about Japan vs China vs Korea vs Taiwan, as a whole set!



Schopenhauer at Sep. 14, 2016 - 09:13AM JST

China and Korea are rewriting histories to their advantages for one reason they cannot find anything to blame about today's Japan.



CH3CHO at Sep. 14, 2016 - 09:16AM JST

thepersoniamnow SEP. 14, 2016 - 07:32AM JST

Is it just me or are people here more inclined to genuinely believe NHK, politicians, and other propaganda than in, say, the west? When I first came I thought that seemed to be the case, but I probably didn't have the language skills to know for certain. In any case the government media is 95% guilty and responsible for these statistics.

The government media may be "guilty" of the hate in China, but not so in Japan.

The internet media is the hotbed of hate and nationalism in Japan and in China.



Strangerland at Sep. 14, 2016 - 09:17AM JST

Where is TAIWAN???

I hate to see whenever people talking about NEIGHBORS of Japan in Asia, they treat TAIWAN as if it never existed.

It's because Japan and Taiwan generally have pretty good images of each other. Surveys like this are to find out to what degree enmity lies between countries that have conflict with each other.



Nessie at Sep. 14, 2016 - 09:28AM JST

Or how about Japan? 120 MILLION plus and only 1,000?

What sample size would be acceptable? Please show your math.



gogogo at Sep. 14, 2016 - 09:30AM JST

@wontond : you and the other down voted missed the point, if the 2nd and 3rd largest economies worked together they would be very powerful



MsDelicious at Sep. 14, 2016 - 09:39AM JST

The apology game has to stop.



rabblrouzer at Sep. 14, 2016 - 10:14AM JST

Yubaru wrote:

Consider though, China has what, 1.3 BILLION people, with just how many different backgrounds and languages and 3,154 people are a valid sample? Where and who did they talk to? People in Peking? Shanghai? HongKong?

Or how about Japan? 120 MILLION plus and only 1,000? What name list did they use? One's for the Anti-Korean association? People who live around Kasumigaseki? Okinawa?

Very true, but let's give them some slack. Research is always constrained by time and money. 3000 and 1000 respectively are pretty decent sample sizes, especially for a survey that doesn't really lead to much actual science, and at best might inform policy changes or political rhetoric.

It would be nice for some more information about the participants (age, location, and political leaning would probably be pretty informative), but that's more suitable for a research paper and less for journalism. The fact we got a methodology section at all is pretty amazing. Easy fix: provide the link to the research paper.

I'm less worried about the sample size and more about the method of collection. It's only based on phone calls, meaning that only people who actually picked up the phone and stayed on the line to answer questions are represented. How many of us would actually do this? It would've been relatively easy to include an online and/or in person poll to give the data some diversity. But, once again, time and money.

Overall I'd say the methodology is good enough for it's purpose, however. Kudos to the researcher(s) and writer for putting in the work.



•

justbcuzisay at Sep. 14, 2016 - 10:28AM JST

The government media may be "guilty" of the hate in China, but not so in Japan.

Which is the subtle anti-China line that all Japanese repeat and repeat. I am sorry, but (just as in EVERY SINGLE MAJOR COUNTRY, including/especially mine) xenophobic messages, some subtle, some not, are the best way to keep the general public from noticing the corruption in their own government.



•

JefferyDomer at Sep. 14, 2016 - 10:37AM JST

@Nessie

One persons opinion account for 1,200,000 people in Japan. That is what this poll represents. In other words, everyone in Japan thinks exactly the same, the media has the power to control minds on a mass scale, or this information is completely junk.

I personally would go with the media brainwashing.



•

Strangerland at Sep. 14, 2016 - 10:42AM JST

Some people don't seem to realize that this is how all polling is done, which is why they give a margin of error.



•

Disillusioned at Sep. 14, 2016 - 10:56AM JST

Oh good grief! What is this garbage? I thought hate speech was illegal in Japan. This kind of stuff just promotes it. How about we see a similar one between Tokyo and Osaka? At least that would not be considered propaganda. This is utter nonsense!



•

ThePBot at Sep. 14, 2016 - 11:00AM JST

3,154/1,300,000,000 vs 1000/127,000,000.



• *dcog9065* at Sep. 14, 2016 - 11:02AM JST

Until the Commies in China are removed permanently, relations will never really improve and I don't think relations should be good with any Commie dystopia in the first place



• *wontond* at Sep. 14, 2016 - 11:07AM JST

@gogogo I didn't down vote you. I just genuinely didn't get what you were saying.



• *slowguy2* at Sep. 14, 2016 - 11:33AM JST

Schopenhauer : China and Korea are rewriting histories to their advantages

Rather an ironic claim, considering that when it comes to the business of History Beautification in modern Asia, Japan led the way and reset the bar. If you haven't had the good fortune to see that photo of Meiji emperor before and after Beautification, at a time when most Chinese and Koreans had never even heard of touching up photos, I recommend you check it out -- it's enlightening as well as very amusing.



• *JefferyDomer* at Sep. 14, 2016 - 11:33AM JST

@ Strangerland

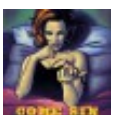
Please explain how 20 people (give or take) per prefecture (minus 30 or so people) represent the entire view of the Japanese people? I don't think you understand how polling works and generally adapt to headline titles instead of critical thinking.



• *Strangerland* at Sep. 14, 2016 - 11:56AM JST

There is polling science, and the study of statistics. I'm not the right person to explain how these things work, as I'm no expert, and I don't think it could be done in a single post either. If you are truly interested, the information is out there to be read. If you're just interested in saying it can't be accurate because you can't understand how it works, well that's your choice.

But the fact is, this is how all polling works. I don't trust polls that don't come with a degree of error, but when a poll has one, then it generally means the pollsters have used proper polling methods.



commanteer at Sep. 14, 2016 - 12:16PM JST

The aggressor doesn't get to decide if they've apologized enough. If the victim claims that they have not apologized enough, then you have not apologized enough.

I find this comment highly offensive. I demand you apologize, and keep apologizing until I am satisfied.



Japan Violet at Sep. 14, 2016 - 12:27PM JST

I believe the poll is correct and can understand why people don't like the Chinese. I would say if you asked people based on gender then Japanese women would get very favorable reviews and Japanese men not so good.



Mr. Noidall at Sep. 14, 2016 - 12:27PM JST

I find the Chinese and Japanese both to be very arrogant, nationalistic, and racist. Just as the Jews and Arabs do, the Chinese and Japanese have more in common with each other than they think.



Spanki at Sep. 14, 2016 - 12:45PM JST

thepersoniamnow

Well enough people bought into the Brexit propaganda in the UK and plenty of Americans are buying into the Trump crap, so I'd say not so different.



sfjp330 at Sep. 14, 2016 - 01:28PM JST

Japanese system has been creating young people who get annoyed by all the complaints China, South Korea and others make about war atrocities because they are not taught what they are complaining about. The J-government deliberately tries not to teach young people the details of Japan's atrocities. If you experience history education in two countries, the way history is taught in Japan has at least one advantage, students come away with a comprehensive understanding of when events happened, in what order. At the age of 14, young Japanese students are clueless of Japan's relations with the outside world. They are taught too late. Young Japanese people often fail to understand why neighboring countries harbor a grudge over events that happened in 1931-45. The reason, in many cases, is that by the time they reach high school, they barely learned any 20th century history. Many young Japanese got a full picture when they left Japan and went to school in foreign countries. It's hardly surprising that some classes, in some schools, never get there, and are told by teachers to finish the book in their spare time.

Many young people in Japan really don't understand the Japan's war history and making the point that many of today's geopolitical tensions stem from what happened then. In Japanese textbook, only a footnote on the Nanjing massacre. Why they couldn't go straight to that period if it was so important, instead of wasting time on the other subject. When students did finally get there, it turned out only few

pages dealt with events between 1931-45. Reading many factual books on the incident at least allowed them to understand why many people in China, South Korea and others still feel bitter about Japan's military past.



CH3CHO at Sep. 14, 2016 - 01:30PM JST

JefferyDomerSEP. 14, 2016 - 11:33AM JST

Please explain how 20 people (give or take) per prefecture (minus 30 or so people) represent the entire view of the Japanese people?

If you learn statistics, you learn standard error and sample size planning.

If the population is large enough, for example 1,300,000,000 or 127,000,000, the population size is irrelevant to statistical standard error, and only the sample size is relevant to it.

$\text{standard error} = 0.5 \cdot (1/\text{sample size})^{0.5}$

A sample size of 3000 or 1000 is large enough, given margin of error, regardless of the total population.



Reckless at Sep. 14, 2016 - 01:34PM JST

the spike in anti-chinese sentiment seems to directly correlate with the rise of the savior Abe. Guess he needs to demonize China to get elected instead of tackling the real issues.

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