

How Canadians View Terrorism and War

Source: Reginald W. Bibby, *The Boomer Factor*, 2006:116-118.

In light of the acceleration of terrorism and general concern about world peace, it is interesting to see that, as of late 2005, less than 3 in 10 Canadians felt **terrorism** represented a “very serious problem” in Canada. Obviously, sentiments are going to change, depending on events in Canada and other parts of the world. For example, a poll conducted the week following the June 2006 arrests of the alleged terrorists in Toronto by Allan Gregg’s Strategic Counsel found that 71% felt it is likely an act of terrorism will take place in Canada within the next few years. Yet, the figure was not dramatically higher than the 62% Gregg had found a year before the Toronto incident. As he put it, “It appears that Canadians have accepted the whole event in stride.”

Apart from their thoughts about terrorism specifically, a strong majority of close to 80% of Canadians express the view that **“the world is not as safe today”** as it was when they were growing up. That high level of consensus is particularly worth noting, in view of the fact people are not talking about now versus only 5 or 10 years ago. The lives of the survey span almost a century. Pre-Boomers and Boomers are more inclined than younger adults under 40 to see the world as a less safe place.

Table 7.7. Some Choice Criteria: 2005

		Baby Boomers	Pre-Boomers	Post-Boomers
The world is not as safe a place today as it was when I was growing up	78%	84	85	66
There will likely be another world war within the next 25 years	48	49	44	49

About 1 in 2 people in all three age cohorts think **another major world war is likely to take place** within the next 25 years.

One thing that is very clear is that a growing number of people have become more open to the necessity of war, dating back to the Gulf War period. While those who feel war is justified still constitute a minority, about 40%, that figure is approximately double the 20% levels of 1975 through 1985.

