

**Section on a specific subject from:**

# **DATABOOK OF HAPPINESS**

A complementary reference work to  
***Conditions of Happiness***

Ruut Veenhoven  
with the assistance of Ton Jonkers  
*Erasmus University Rotterdam*

D.Reidel Publishing Company  
Member of Kluwer Academic Publishers Group  
1984  
Dordrecht/Boston/Lancaster

ISBN 90-277-1793-1

# P 3 POLITICS

P 3.1 Political concern

P 3.2 Attitudes towards political situation . . . . . see also N 1.1, S 1.3

P 3.3 Political preference

## P 3.1 - POLITICAL CONCERN

REPORT OF PERSONAL HOPES CONCERNING POLITICAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on personal wishes and hopes for the future  Responses rated as concerning freedom and other aspirations having to do with the political situation		HAPP 3.1	G'	+.07	Gt'	ns	National adult population of 5 Westernized nations, 3 under-developed giants, 2 countries in the Middle East, 3 Caribbean nations and the Philippines Representative samples N: 18653, date: + 1960	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF PERSONAL FEARS CONCERNING POLITICAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on personal worries and fears for the future  Responses rated as concerning lack of freedom; political instability; no improvement in present government; etc.		HAPP 3.1	G'	+.22	Gt'	01	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF NATIONAL HOPES CONCERNING POLITICAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on wishes and hopes for the future of one's country  Responses rated as concerning honest, efficient, balanced, democratic or representative, socialistic government; freedom; law and order; national unity; political stability, internal peace and order; etc.	U-shaped curve: moderately happy people being least concerned with politics	HAPP 3.1	G'	-.05	Gt'	ns	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF NATIONAL FEARS CONCERNING POLITICAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on fears and worries for the future of one's country  Responses rated as concerning dishonest government; inefficient government; communism; no democracy or representative government; fear country will become socialistic; lack or loss of freedom; lack of law and order; disunity among people of the nation; political instability, chaos, civil war; high or increased taxes; etc.	U-shaped curve: moderately happy people being least concerned with politics	HAPP 3.1	G'	-.04	Gt'	01	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF PERSONAL HOPES CONCERNING SOCIAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on personal wishes and hopes for the future  Responses rated as concerning social justice; future generations; social security; etc.		HAPP 3.1	G'	+.06	Gt'	05	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF PERSONAL FEARS CONCERNING SOCIAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on personal worries and fears for the future  Responses rated as concerning social injustice; future generations; no social security; etc.		HAPP 3.1	G'	+.27	Gt'	01	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263

REPORT OF NATIONAL HOPES CONCERNING SOCIAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on wishes and hopes for the future of one's country  Responses rated as concerning social justice; eliminate discrimination, prejudice or exploitation; education; improved labor conditions; control of labor; social security; housing; agrarian reform; public health; limited population growth; sense of social and political responsibility and awareness; morality, ethical standards, religion; etc.	HAPP 3.1	G'	+ .17	Gt'	01	National adult populations of 14 countries (see last page)	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF NATIONAL FEARS CONCERNING SOCIAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on fears and worries for the future of one's country  Responses rated as concerning social injustice; continued discrimination, prejudice or exploitation; inadequate educational facilities and schooling; poor and unfair working conditions; abuses by labor; unlimited population growth; no sense of social and political responsibility or awareness; lack of morality, ethical standards, religion; too much mechanization and standardization, materialism, conformity; etc.	HAPP 3.1	G'	+ .11	Gt'	01	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF PERSONAL HOPES CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on personal wishes and hopes for the future  Responses rated as concerning peace; a better world; etc.	HAPP 3.1	G'	+ .44	Gt'	05	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF PERSONAL FEARS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on personal worries and fears for the future  Responses rated as concerning war; militarism and armaments; misuse of nuclear energy; threat, aggression, domination by a communist power; etc.	HAPP 3.1	G'	+ .47	Gt'	01	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF NATIONAL HOPES CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on wishes and hopes for the future of one's country  Responses rated as concerning peace; disarmament, limitation of armaments, control or banning of nuclear weapons; lessening of cold war; better relations with communistic bloc; friendly relations with all countries; better world; maintain neutrality; help other nations; increased foreign trade or exports; etc.	HAPP 3.1	G'	+ .47	Gt'	01	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF NATIONAL FEARS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION	Open-ended question on fears and worries for the future of one's country  Responses rated as concerning war; continued armament, no control or banning of nuclear weapons; no lessening of cold war; isolation from other nations; inability to maintain neutrality; etc.	HAPP 3.1	G'	+ .29	Gt'	01	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF NATIONAL HOPES CONCERNING ECONOMIC SITUATION	Open-ended question on wishes and hopes for the future of one's country  Responses rated as concerning improved or decent standard of living; technological advances, greater productivity; economic stability; employment; etc.	HAPP 3.1	G'	- .10	Gt'	05	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263

REPORT OF NATIONAL FEARS CONCERNING ECONOMIC SITUATION	Open-ended question on fears and worries for the future of one's country  Responses rated as concerning no improvement in or inadequate standard of living; no technological advances, economic backwardness, low productivity; failure to preserve present standard of living, economic instability; unemployment; etc.		HAPP 3.1	G'	-.08	Gt'	01	National adult populations of 14 countries (see last page)	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF NATIONAL HOPES CONCERNING INDEPENDENT STATUS	Open-ended question on wishes and hopes for the future of one's country  Responses rated as concerning military strength; maintain or attain the position of a world power; enhancement of status and importance of the nation; exert ideological or moral leadership; national independence; etc.		HAPP 3.1	G'	+.26	Gt'	01	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
REPORT OF NATIONAL FEARS CONCERNING INDEPENDENT STATUS	Open-ended question on fears and worries for the future of one's country  Responses rated as concerning not to maintain or attain the position of a world power; lose or have no status or importance; failure to exert ideological or moral leadership; lack or loss of national independence; threat, aggression, domination by a communistic power of any foreign power, etc.		HAPP 3.1	G'	+.11	Gt'	01	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE	4-item index of open-ended questions on names of politicians		HAPP 6	r <sub>pm</sub>	+.06		ns	Public high school boys, U.S.A. Probability multi-stage sample N: 2213 in 1966, 1886 in 1968 and 1799 in 1969 date: fall, 1966; spring, 1968 and spring, 1969	BACHM 67/70 p. 243
BEING INTERESTED IN CIVIC INTERESTS	Closed question	College students only L-shaped curve: stronger among unhappier students	COMP 4.1		+		s	Students, U.S.A. Non-probability chunk sample N: 1651, date: —	SYMOM 37 p. 292

P 3.2 - ATTITUDES TOWARDS POLITICAL SITUATION

see also 'Attitudes towards Nation' (N1.1), and 'Satisfaction with Nation' (S1.3)

WISH TO PRESERVE NATIONAL STATUS QUO	Open-ended question on wishes and hopes for the future of one's country  Responses indicative of contentment with things as they are		HAPP 3.1	G'	+.75	Gt'	01	National adult populations of 14 countries Representative samples N: 18653, date: ± 1960	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
HAVE NO FEARS FOR THE NATION	Open-ended question on fears and worries for the future of one's country  Responses indicating no fears or worries for the country		HAPP 3.1	G'	-.02	Gt'	ns	See above	CANTR 65/1 p. 263
MOST IMPORTANT WORRY: POLITICS, WORLD AND NATIONAL CONDITIONS	Open-ended question on most important worry other worries vs worry mentioned	Computed for those who have worries only (N = 2040)	HAPP 1.1	G'	+.31	Gt'	01	National adult population, U.S.A. Non-probability quota sample N: 2377, date: February, 1946	WESSM 56 p. 213
HAVING PROBLEMS WITH CIVIC INTERESTS	Closed question	Graduate students only L-shaped curve: significant positive relationship among happier students only	COMP 4.1		+			Students, U.S.A. Non-probability chunk sample N: 1651, date: —	SYMOM 37 p. 292

P 3.3 - POLITICAL PREFERENCE

POLITICAL AFFILIATION	Independent / Democrat / Republican	See remarks in excerpt (Part II) Independent: Mean = 6.43 (6.88) Democrat : Mean = 6.47 (6.67) Republican : Mean = 6.77 (7.20)	HAPP 3.1	DM	+		Non-institutionalized national adult population, U.S.A. Multi-stage probability sample stratified by size of locality N: 1588, date: January, 1971 (+ 1964)	CANTR 71 p. 66
POLITICAL AFFILIATION	Communists / Social-Democratics / Religious centre parties (Catholics and Protestants) / Conservatives	Communists : 13% happy, 52% pretty happy, 22% unhappy Social Democrats: 37% happy, 51% pretty happy, 4% unhappy Catholics : 43% happy, 43% pretty happy, 6% unhappy Protestants : 50% happy, 40% pretty happy, 3% unhappy Conservatives : 52% happy, 41% pretty happy, 5% unhappy	HAPP 1.1	DX	+		National adult population, The Netherlands N: at least 1000, date: 1948	NIPO 49 p. 4