

**Hitler and Jews:
The Opinions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit
Communities on the Statements of Former Assembly
of First Nations Chief David Ahenakew**



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1.0. Overwhelming Rejection of Ahenakew

Aboriginal Canadians thoroughly repudiate both David Ahenakew's behaviour and his perspective on Jews as the cause of the World War II and the Holocaust, according to a recent poll by COMPAS Research conducted for B'nai Brith Canada.

The former Chief of the Assembly of First Nations was convicted of spreading hate in July 2005. He is currently appealing the conviction. The Saskatchewan resident had been reported saying that Jews had provoked World War II and that, were it not for Hitler, they "would have owned the God-damned world." "That's why he fried six million of those guys."

Without quoting word for word Ahenakew's inflammatory comments, a COMPAS survey asked a national, representative sample of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit respondents what they thought of his saying that Hitler was right to murder 6 million Jews. Respondents were also asked to what extent Jews themselves were responsible for their own mistreatment.

By overwhelming margins, respondents said that the former Chief was wrong to say what he said and that Jews were entirely innocent.

2.0. Jews Not At All Responsible for the Holocaust

Table 2 displays the core Holocaust question, one that has been asked of Canadians before, along with the responses of Aboriginal respondents. The overwhelming majority, 79%, reject out of hand any idea that Jews were at all responsible for the Holocaust. This is a higher proportion of people completely repudiating the "revisionist" perspective than in any survey conducted by COMPAS or that COMPAS President Conrad Winn reports having seen.



Table 2: Do you think the treatment of the Jews before and during World War II was...

	%
Mostly the fault of the Jews	1
Partly the fault of the Jews	7
Not at all the fault of the Jews	79
UNPROMPTED Do not know	3
UNPROMPTED Refuse to answer	10

3.0 Ahenakew Very Wrong

As shown in table 3, the overwhelming majority of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit respondents feel that the former Chief was wrong to say what he said—87% vs. 5% saying that he was right.

Table 3: You may remember that former Aboriginal leader David Ahenakew was found guilty by a court for spreading hatred when he told the media that Nazi leader Adolf Hitler was right to murder 6 million Jews. Was Mr. Ahenakew...

	%
Right or	5
Wrong to say what he said	87
UNPROMPTED Do not know	4
UNPROMPTED Refused	5

4.0 Methodological Note

Interviews on a national representative sample of 300 First Nations, Metis, and Inuit respondents were completed in late May, 2006. By convention, the results are deemed accurate to within approximately 5.5 percentage points 19 times out of 20. The principal investigators on this project were Conrad Winn Ph.D. and Tamara Gottlieb.

