

BACKGROUND: The expression **public opinion** refers to the predominant attitude of a community of people on a topic. Public opinion is generally brought out in subject heading practice by assigning a pair of headings to the work being cataloged: the main heading **Public opinion** with local subdivision, and a heading for the topic of the opinion with the subdivision **-Public opinion**. A variant form of the subdivision, **-Foreign public opinion**, is used under certain circumstances described in this instruction sheet. These headings are not used to designate the class of persons or ethnic group holding an opinion, however; the heading [**class of persons or ethnic group**]-**Attitudes** is assigned as an additional heading for this purpose. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for assigning the various headings and subdivisions for public opinion.

1. General rule. Assign to works about public opinion on a topic the following combination of headings:

- (1) [topic]-[place, if appropriate]-Public opinion
- (2) Public opinion-[place]

a. First heading. The topic in the first heading is the topic about which the opinion is held. Most authorized subject or name headings may be assigned for this purpose, with the exception of those noted in sec. 3-4, below. Divide the topic by place to bring out the location of the topic, not the place where the opinion is held. If a heading designating a class of persons or ethnic group is used, the heading refers to the group of people as the topic of the opinion, not to the group of people holding the opinion. For example, the heading **Police-New York (State)-New York-Public opinion** refers to public opinion *about* the police, not to opinions held *by* the police. Until 1972, the subdivision **-Public opinion** was qualified by names of regions or countries, but that practice was discontinued.

b. Second heading. The place in the second heading identifies the location of the people who hold the opinion. If no specific location is identified in the work being cataloged, omit the second heading.

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1. General rule. (Continued)

c. Examples:

Title: Crown and people : the view of the British.

651 #0 \$a Great Britain \$x Kings and rulers \$x Public opinion.

650 #0 \$a Public opinion \$z Great Britain.

Title: Public attitudes in Maryland toward urban expressway construction.

650 #0 \$a Express highways \$x Public opinion.

650 #0 \$a Public opinion \$z Maryland.

Title: Tax revolt : Virginians look at California's property tax initiative.

650 #0 \$a Real property tax \$z California \$x Public opinion.

650 #0 \$a Public opinion \$z Virginia.

Title: Worldwide attitudes toward abortion.

650 #0 \$a Abortion \$x Public opinion.

2. Designating the class of persons or ethnic group. If the work discusses the opinion held by a particular class of persons or ethnic group, assign the heading [*class of persons or ethnic group*]-Attitudes in addition to the pair of headings described above. *Example:*

Title: The views of San Francisco college students on drug addiction.

650 #0 \$a College students \$z California \$z San Francisco \$x Attitudes.

650 #0 \$a Drug abuse \$z United States \$x Public opinion.

650 #0 \$a Public opinion \$z California \$z San Francisco.

3. *Opinion about places.*

a. General. To bring out an opinion about a place, assign headings of the type **[place]-[topic]-Public opinion**, interposing a suitable topical subdivision between the heading for the place and the subdivision **-Public opinion**. Construct headings of this type only when it is not possible to assign a heading of the type **[topic]- [place]-Public opinion**.

Do not use the subdivision **-Public opinion** directly under names of places. If, because of the general nature of the work being cataloged, a very specific topical subdivision is not appropriate, use one of the more general subdivisions, such as **-Civilization**, **-Economic conditions**, **-Politics and government**, or **-Social conditions**.

Examples:

Title: Detroit as its people see it.

651 #0 \$a Detroit (Mich.) \$x Social conditions
\$x Public opinion.
650 #0 \$a Public opinion \$z Michigan \$z Detroit.

Title: The attitude of Americans toward their homeland.

651 #0 \$a United States \$x Civilization \$y 1970-
\$x Public opinion.
650 #0 \$a Public opinion \$z United States.

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3. *Opinion about places.* (Continued)

b. Foreign opinion about a place. Use the subdivision **-Foreign public opinion** directly under names of regions or countries, not under names of smaller entities, to designate foreign opinion about regions or countries. *Example:*

Title: America in the eyes of the world.
651 #0 \$a United States \$x Foreign public opinion.

To designate opinion about a region or country held by the residents of another region or country, qualify the subdivision **-Foreign public opinion** by the adjective designating the region or country where the opinion is held. *Example:*

Title: Japan from the British perspective.
651 #0 \$a Japan \$x Foreign public opinion, British.
650 #0 \$a Public opinion \$z Great Britain.

If the opinion is held on a specific topic, add a heading for the topic. *Example:*

Title: The American perspectives on South Africa.
651 #0 \$a South Africa \$x Politics and government
\$y 1978-1989 \$x Public opinion.
651 #0 \$a South Africa \$x Foreign public opinion,
American.
650 #0 \$a Public opinion \$z United States.

4. Opinion about wars. In general, use the subdivision **-Public opinion** under names of individual wars, treating wars like any other topic. *Example:*

Title: The intellectuals of Europe and World War II.

650 #0 \$a Intellectuals \$z Europe \$x Attitudes.

650 #0 \$a World War, 1939-1945 \$x Public opinion.

650 #0 \$a Public opinion \$z Europe.

Opinion of non-participants. If the opinion held is that of persons in regions or countries not participating in the war, use the subdivision **-Foreign public opinion** instead of **-Public opinion** under the name of the war. If the opinion is limited to a single region or country, add a qualifier to the subdivision to indicate the location of the foreign public opinion. *Examples:*

Title: World reaction to the Grenada invasion.

651 #0 \$a Grenada \$x History \$y American Invasion,
1983 \$x Foreign public opinion.

Title: The American reaction to the Falkland War.

650 #0 \$a Falkland Islands War, 1982 \$x Foreign public
opinion, American.

650 #0 \$a Public opinion \$z United States.

*Note: Use the subdivision **-Public opinion** instead of **-Foreign public opinion** under the headings **World War, 1914-1918** and **World War, 1939-1945**.*