

More on Questionable Use of Public Opinion Polls

In 1991, the federation of Yugoslavia was facing a breakup, as two of its constituent parts, Croatia and Slovenia, were attempting to secede from the federation. At the time, a polling organization asked people in twelve European countries whether they supported Croatia and Slovenia's attempts to secede. They asked respondents to state which of the following two options they favored (they were also allowed to answer "Don't Know"). The two options were:

Option I

Preserve Yugoslavia's
Territorial Integrity

Option II

Respect Democracy
and Self Determination
(Including Possible
Independence for
Slovenia and Croatia)

What is the problem with this poll?