

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

GLOBAL OPINION POLLS REPORT NO. 103

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Prelude

This week report consists of 23 surveys. Two of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 21 are national surveys.

Several of the events and statements of Turkish leadership in year 2009 show that Turkey is trying to take a leadership role in the Muslim world. Withdrawal of PM Erdogan from Davos on Palestine issue, statements over Iran issue, active role in Friends of Pakistan efforts to deal with the Kurd issue, opening of a new era of relations with the Armenia and visits to Muslim countries all point in this direction. Interestingly, Erdogan who has been PM since 2003 is still enjoying support of the majority of the Turkish citizens as shown in the polls. The recent polling in Turkey shows that Turkey is backing their leadership. The last week poll shows that Turks are supportive of PM Erdogan statements about Iran nuclear issue as being for peaceful purposes. This stance is clearly in opposition to west in general and U.S. in particular. Iran nuclear issue on the other hand received criticism not only from the west & U.S. but also from several Arab states. What kind of role one may expect Turkey at this stage? It will have to deal U.S. & the west on one hand and the opposition of the Arab states on the other hand. How likely is it for Turkey to play a role in patching the gulf between Iran & the Arab states? Is there any desire on part of Turkey to play a leading role in the Muslim world?

Healthcare bill remained significant on President Obama agenda in the previous year and he succeeded in getting the bill moved a step ahead to become law though Americans themselves remained divided at best on the issue. But at the start of new year, this bill has lost public support again. Today more than half of Americans are in favour of suspending the work on healthcare bill. Moreover the polls show a sharp divided on this issue between republicans and democrats. Roughly seven in ten Democrats are in favor of going ahead with the bill while nine in ten republicans are in favour of suspending any further work on it. Independents are on the side of Republicans this time. Somehow similar are the approval ratings of President Obama, Democrats very positive while Republicans very negative of his performance. This shows a wide gulf between Democrats & Republicans in U.S. though this is part of democratic culture to have differences and then patch them up through democratic means. But probably this is not good for the running president who has such agendas as part of his whole election campaign. President Obama's ratings already destabilized last year, but will he be able to maintain his around 50 percent psychological mark with this new shift in Americans attitude. These changes in Americans perceptions at the very beginning of the year show that Obama is going to have a tough year ahead?

SUMMARY OF POLLS

SOUTH ASIA

Indians Largely Unaware of Climate Change

Although India has emerged as a key player in global climate negotiations, the average Indian remains unaware of climate change. A Gallup survey conducted shortly before the Copenhagen summit last month shows 32% of Indians say they know at least something about climate change, similar to awareness in previous years.

January 19, 2010

GCC

Saudi Public Backs Iran Sanctions but Split on Military Action

A highly unusual and credible private poll of Saudi citizens taken in late November 2009 by a reputable regional firm shows solid popular support for tough measures against Iran, even though domestic economic issues loom larger in the public's perception.

November 2009

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

Afghans slightly more pessimistic after the presidential elections

The post Karzai election survey of Afghanistan show that Afghans are slightly more pessimistic about the situation in their country. They believe that security & crime along with unemployment are their highest concerns.

January 19, 2010

Half of Turks Would Vote to Join EU

Half of the population of Turkey would support their country's bid to enter the European Union (EU), according to a poll by MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center. 49.7 per cent of respondents would vote "Yes" in a referendum on accession, while 34.9 per cent would vote against it.

January 21, 2010

Turks Assess Erdogan's Stance on Iran

Almost half of people in Turkey agree with the way their prime minister had dealt with Iran, according to a poll by the MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center. 48.4 per cent of respondents agree with Recep Tayyip Erdogan's stance, while 42.6 per cent disagree.

January 18, 2010

JAPAN & KOREA

Trust in Hatoyama Quickly Eroding in Japan

The government led by Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama is rapidly falling out of favour with the public, according to a poll by *Yomiuri*. 45 per cent of respondents approve of the performance of Hatoyama's appointed cabinet, down 14 points since December.

January 23, 2010

NORTHEAST ASIA

Chinese Public Opposes Great Firewall

In the land of over 300 million Internet users, and a firewall that controls access to politically sensitive topics, most of the people feel that their government should not be able to limit what they read online.

January 20, 2010

EAST EUROPE

Czech Governing Party Stumbles Again

The Czech Republic's governing Civic Democratic Party (ODS) appears to have lost a recent spike in popularity, according to a poll by Median. 23.4 per cent of respondents would vote for the ODS in the next legislative election, down 5.2 points since early November.

January 18, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Italians Want Immigrants to Take Values Test

The vast majority of people in Italy would like all immigrants seeking citizenship to take a test of Italian civic values, according to a poll by Arnaldo Ferrari Nasi. 80.2 per cent of respondents share this view.

January 20, 2010

Majority in Britain Opposes Legal Marijuana

Most people in Britain are against the legalization of marijuana, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 58 per cent of respondents reject the notion of legal marijuana, while 35 per cent endorse it.

January 22, 2010

Britons Welcome Deal to Hold Leaders Debates

People in Britain are content with the decision to hold televised debates featuring the leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 75 per cent believe the debates are a positive development.

January 18, 2010

Germans Support Use of Full-Body Scanners

The majority of people in Germany would agree with the use of full-body scanners at airports to examine all passengers, according to a poll by Forsa published in *Stern*. 63 per cent of respondents support relying on the scanners, while 31 per cent are opposed.

January 19, 2010

Majority of French Deny Support to Sarkozy

Most people in France continue to express distrust for Nicolas Sarkozy, according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 52 per cent of respondents say they have no confidence in the president's leadership, down three points since December.

January 19, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Americans Pick Rights Over Trade with China

People in the United States want their government to take human rights and minority rights into account when it deals with China, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 51 per cent of respondents feel this way, while 21 per cent would prefer to focus on the trading relationship.

January 23, 2010

Black People Doing Better Now, Say Americans

Half of adults in the United States believe African Americans are in a better position now than a decade ago, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 52 per cent of respondents think the situation of black people in the country is better now.

January 21, 2010

In U.S., Majority Favors Suspending Work on Healthcare Bill

In the wake of Republican Scott Brown's victory in Tuesday's U.S. Senate election in Massachusetts, the majority of Americans (55%) favor Congress' putting the brakes on its current healthcare reform efforts and considering alternatives that can obtain more Republican support. Four in 10 Americans (39%) would rather have House and Senate Democrats continue to try to pass the bill currently being negotiated in conference committee.

January 22, 2010

New Economics of Marriage: The Rise of Wives

The institution of marriage has undergone significant changes in recent decades as women have outpaced men in education and earnings growth. These unequal gains have been accompanied by gender role reversals in both the spousal characteristics and the economic benefits of marriage.

January 19, 2010

Americans See Economic Recovery a Long Way Off

Americans are thinking in terms of years, not months, when pondering how much longer it will be before the U.S. economy starts to recover. The vast majority (67%) believe it will be at least two years before a recovery starts, and nearly half (46%) think it will be at least three years.

January 20, 2010

In U.S., Religious Prejudice Stronger Against Muslims

More than 4 in 10 Americans (43%) admit to feeling at least "a little" prejudice toward Muslims -- more than twice the number who say the same about Christians (18%), Jews (15%) and Buddhists (14%).

January 21, 2010

"New Normal" Psychology Dominates Consumer Behavior

Consumer psychology continues to feel the aftershocks of the financial crisis, as the "new normal" still dominates self-reported spending behaviors. While it is encouraging that 48% of Americans say they are feeling better about their financial situations and 56% say they are feeling pretty good about the amount of money they have to spend, their behavior seems to reflect something different -- a new normal.

January 21, 2010

Abortion Funding Divides Views in U.S.

Americans are split in their assessment of an amendment to the proposed health care reform bill that would ban abortion coverage in any health insurance plan using federal subsidies, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 44 per cent of respondents agree with the ban, while 42 per cent disagree.

January 17, 2010

Funding for Abortions Splits Views in Canada

Canadians are divided on the role their public-run health care services should play in pregnancy termination, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 43 per cent of respondents believe the system should fund abortions whenever they are requested, while 41 per cent think it should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies.
January 18, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Three Countries OK with Haitian Relief Efforts

People in Canada and the United States appear satisfied with the way their respective governments are dealing with the crisis in Haiti, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 60 per cent of respondents in the U.S.—and 52 per cent in Canada—believe their governments are doing the right amount in order to help the victims of the recent earthquake.

January 19, 2010

The Post-Communist Generation in the Former Eastern Bloc

A Pew Global Attitudes survey conducted in fall 2009 finds that members of the post-communist generation, who are now between the ages of 18 and 39, offer much more positive evaluations of the political and economic changes their countries have undergone over the past two decades than do those who were adults when the Iron Curtain fell.

January 20, 2010

SOUTH ASIA

Indians Largely Unaware of Climate Change

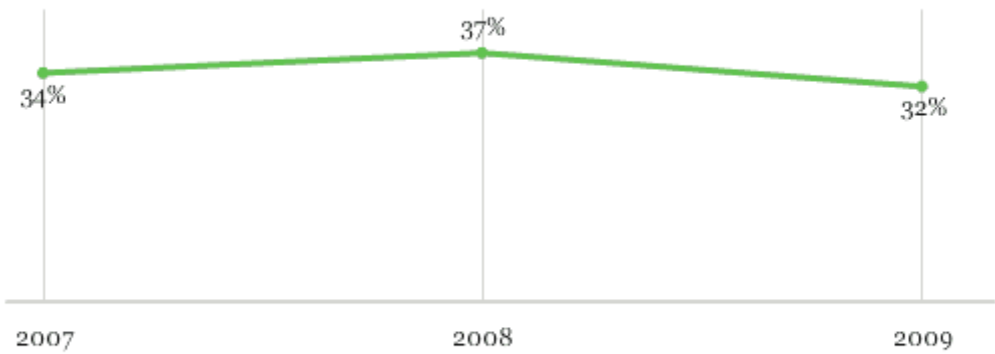
Most likely to say developed and emerging economies should cut emissions

January 19, 2010

Although India has emerged as a key player in global climate negotiations, the average Indian remains unaware of climate change. A Gallup survey conducted shortly before the Copenhagen summit last month shows 32% of Indians say they know at least something about climate change, similar to awareness in previous years.

How much do you know about global warming or climate change?

% Aware (know something about it or know a great deal about it)



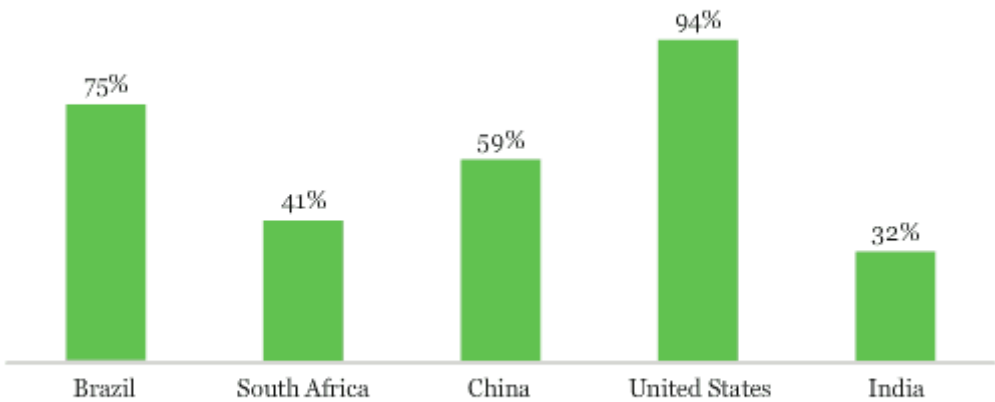
Response options: I have never heard of it, I know something about it, I know a great deal about it, don't know/refused

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In the other countries that helped broker the Copenhagen Accord in December along with India - - Brazil, South Africa, China, and the United States -- awareness of climate change varies but in each case is significantly higher than that in India. After India, South Africans are the least likely to say they know something or a great deal about climate change.

How much do you know about global warming or climate change?

% Aware (know something about it or know a great deal about it)



2009

GALLUP®

While India has one of the fastest expanding economies in the world, citizens' relatively low awareness about climate change reflects the country's still largely agrarian, rural, and poor makeup. Urban Indians, who tend to be better educated, are significantly more likely to report being aware of climate change. Forty-one percent of adults in urban India know at least

something about climate change, compared with 28% in rural India -- where more than two-thirds of the population lives.

Indians Say Developed and Emerging Countries Should Reduce Emissions

India is one of the top greenhouse gas emitters in the world, but it has resisted mandatory emissions caps throughout climate negotiations. The country's leadership maintains that these caps could potentially curb the emerging economy's growth and that developed countries should shoulder the burden.

Overall, Indians' views on who should cut emissions first -- developed countries or fast-growing economies like theirs -- are similar to those of their counterparts in Brazil, China, and the United States (Gallup did not ask the question in South Africa). Indians who are aware of climate change are more likely to say developed economies such as the U.S., Germany, and Japan, and fast-emerging economies such as China, India, and Brazil, should reduce emissions at the same time than say one group should reduce emissions first.

Some people believe that gases from motor vehicles and factories contribute to global warming. Some countries with developed economies like the United States, Germany, and Japan have been emitting these gases for many years; however, emissions are growing quickly in countries with fast-growing economies like China, India, and Brazil. Which group of countries should reduce emissions first?

Asked of those who are aware of climate change

	Brazil	China	India	United States
Countries like the United States, Germany, and Japan	22%	26%	13%	10%
Countries like China, India, and Brazil	7%	13%	14%	13%
Or, both at the same time	55%	44%	44%	75%
None/Don't know/Refused	16%	17%	29%	2%

2009

GALLUP®

Indians, however, are more like Americans than Brazilians or the Chinese in that they are just as likely to say fast-growing economies should act first (14%) as they are to say developed economies should act first (13%)

Indians Divided on Government's Efforts to Reduce Emissions

Gallup data reveal a key difference between Indians and their partners in the BASIC group (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China). While Brazilians, South Africans, and Chinese tend to grade their respective government's efforts to reduce emissions as insufficient, Indians who are aware of climate change are split on whether their government is doing enough (42%) or not (40%).

Do you think the government of your country is doing enough to reduce emissions of gases released by motor vehicles and factories, or not?

Asked of those who are aware of climate change

	Brazil	China	India	South Africa	United States
Yes, doing enough	30%	33%	42%	34%	44%
No, not doing enough	60%	48%	40%	59%	52%
Not applicable (this is not a concern in my country)	2%	0%	1%	4%	1%
Don't know/Refused	9%	18%	17%	3%	3%

2009

GALLUP®

Bottom Line

After meeting with the other three countries in the BASIC group this weekend, India is expected to submit its formal climate change action plan to meet the Jan. 31 Copenhagen Accord deadline. India, along with the other BASIC countries, has emerged as a major player in climate negotiations, but Gallup data indicate that a minority of Indians are aware of climate change. However, the views of Indians who are aware are much like those of their counterparts in these three countries in regard to whether developed countries or emerging countries should act first on emissions. Unlike their counterparts in those countries, Indians are far more divided about whether their government is doing enough to reduce emissions, but a sizable 40% still believe their government is not doing enough.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face and telephone interviews with adults, aged 15 and older, in Brazil, China, India, South Africa, and the United States. The following table shows the margins of error for each total national adult sample; margins of error for subsamples (including those who are aware of climate change) are larger. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL

Saudi Public Backs Iran Sanctions but Split on Military Action

David Pollock

A highly unusual and credible private poll of Saudi citizens taken in late November 2009 by a reputable regional firm shows solid popular support for tough measures against Iran, even though domestic economic issues loom larger in the public's perception. Conducted in partnership with Pechter Middle East Polls, a new, Princeton-based research organization, the survey involved

face-to-face interviews with a representative sample of 1,000 Saudi citizens in the major metropolitan areas of Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam/al-Khobar. A comparable poll was conducted in Egypt during the same period, with a representative national sample of 1,000.

Majority of Saudis Support New Sanctions

A solid majority (57 percent) of urban Saudis approved of "stronger sanctions against Iran" if it "does not accept new limits on its nuclear program," with 22 percent "strongly" in favor (compared to only 11 percent strongly opposed). Moreover, the level of popular support for sanctions was high across all key demographic categories: age, education, social class, gender, and region. For example, Jeddah showed 57 percent approval, Riyadh 59 percent, and Dammam/al-Khobar 54 percent.

One-Third of Saudis Would Support a U.S. Strike

More surprisingly, a third of urban Saudis said that they would approve "an American military strike against the Iranian nuclear facilities" if Tehran refuses to restrict its activities in this field. But a majority disagreed: one-third were "somewhat" opposed to such action, and the remaining third were "strongly" opposed. These responses showed modest variation by demographic categories. In Riyadh, for instance, 38 percent would support a U.S. strike, while in Jeddah, far to the west, the number dropped to 27 percent. Moreover, among Saudis with only an elementary-school education, 37 percent would support a military strike, but among those with a high school diploma or higher, the figure was 30 percent.

Less Support for Israeli Strike

Asked about an Israeli military strike against Iran, one-quarter of urban Saudis said that they would support it at least "to some extent." Interestingly, that figure is three times larger than the number of respondents who said that they would accept Israel "as a Jewish state," even "under the right conditions" -- a mere 9 percent of urban Saudis took that position. But regional differences are relatively significant here: in Jeddah, hypothetical acceptance of a Jewish state was 17 percent, compared to barely 4 percent in Riyadh or Dammam/al-Khobar.

Iran a Lesser Threat than Terrorism or Religious Extremism

In response to an open-ended question about the greatest external threats to their country, many of the Saudis cited issues of terrorism or religious extremism. In fact, these issues led the list by a large margin, with each garnering around 20 percent of total first mentions. Issues related to Iran and Israel lagged far behind, barely registering in double digits even when first and second mentions were combined. On a related question, more than half (54 percent) of urban Saudis said that "religious extremism is a serious problem" in their country, including 28 percent who strongly believe this.

These perceptions should also be placed in the broader perspective of overall popular concerns.

As noted in PolicyWatch #1614, "Polling Saudis and Egyptians: Iran, Jihad, and the Economy," most urban Saudis now see economic rather than security or social issues as their country's top priority. In response to another open-ended question, two-thirds named inflation, unemployment, poverty, or corruption as first-priority issues, while a mere 7 percent cited terrorism. And foreign policy issues on any front -- whether Iran, Israel, or elsewhere -- were not cited at all.

Local Differences

Findings from other questions in the survey support the view that, in some respects, Saudi attitudes tend in an increasingly hardline Islamic direction as one moves eastward, from Jeddah on the Red Sea, to Riyadh in central Nejd, to Dammam/al-Khobar in the Eastern Province. Asked about al-Qaeda, for example, 16 percent of respondents in Jeddah voiced favorable opinions, compared to 21 percent in Riyadh and 31 percent in Dammam/al-Khobar. Similarly, when asked whether "financially supporting armed mujahedin fighting in various places around the world is an Islamic duty," 32 percent in Jeddah said yes, compared to 36 percent in Riyadh and 42 percent in Dammam/al-Khobar.

Comparisons with Egypt

The poll data show that Egyptians are significantly less likely than urban Saudis to favor tough action against Iran. For example, the proportion of Egyptians who support new sanctions barely tops 40 percent and has declined moderately since June 2009, in contrast to the majority support in Saudi Arabia. Similarly, just one-quarter of Egyptians, compared to a third of Saudis, would support U.S. military action, and even fewer would approve an Israeli strike (17 percent).

At the same time, the Egyptian respondents were somewhat more likely to say that they could accept Israel as a Jewish state, although this remained a distinctly minority opinion (26 percent) even after thirty years of formal Egyptian-Israeli peace. As mentioned previously, the Egyptian survey was of a national sample that included both rural and urban respondents, but the differences on this question by type of residence were very small. Moreover, those who would accept Israel as a Jewish state were no more likely than others to approve an Israeli strike against Iran.

Policy Implications

Neither Saudi Arabia nor Egypt is a democracy in which public opinion has a direct impact on foreign policy. Moreover, the Saudi public seems more concerned about terrorism and religious extremism than any direct threat from Iran -- and more concerned still about their own economic situation. Nevertheless, these findings clearly suggest that the United States can point to significant Saudi popular support for stiffer sanctions against Iran, and perhaps even for the threat of military action, albeit to a lesser degree. In addition, Saudi popular sympathy for al-Qaeda is quite low, indicating a largely favorable climate for government counterterrorism efforts aimed at the organization.

On other issues, however, public opinion could pose considerable obstacles to proposed Saudi or

U.S.-backed initiatives. For example, a large minority of urban Saudis -- nearly 40 percent overall -- believe that it is an Islamic duty to aid armed mujahedin around the world. And only a very small minority seem receptive to any proposals for "normalization" with Israel, given the overwhelming majority opposition to accepting the country as a Jewish state under any circumstances.

David Pollock is a senior fellow at The Washington Institute, focusing on the political dynamics of Middle Eastern countries. He is the author of the Institute's 2008 Policy Focus Slippery Polls: Uses and Abuses of Opinion Surveys from Arab States.

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

Afghans slightly more pessimistic after the presidential elections

IRI released the post election Afghanistan survey last week. The significant findings of the survey are given below.

- There has been a slight decline in the Afghans perceptions that the country is on the right direction.
- More have now become pessimist about the economic situation in the country.
- There have also been decline in the high hopes from the future in the post election period.
- Security & economic problems are the Afghans top two concerns.
- Just over half describe the current political situation in the country as peaceful and stable.
- Afghans feel that Iran, Tajikistan and China has the best relations with Afghanistan while Uzbekistan and Pakistan has the worst relations with Afghanistan.
- They are highly favorable of reconciliation with Taliban.

The International Republican Institute (IRI) today released its survey and analysis of Afghanistan public opinion. The poll was conducted November 16-25, 2009. IRI has conducted surveys in Afghanistan since 2003. The goal of the research program is to gauge Afghan public opinion and to use the information in support of Afghanistan's elections process.

The randomly selected sample consists of 2,380 adult men (50 percent) and women (50 percent), yielding an overall margin of error of \pm two percent at the midrange of the 95 percent confidence level. The survey was collected using in-person, face to face interviews by trained professional interviewers. A multistage stratification proportionate to population, with random selection of households and respondents in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan was used.

A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, IRI advances freedom and democracy worldwide by developing political parties, civic institutions, open elections, good governance, and the rule of law.

Half of Turks Would Vote to Join EU

January 21, 2010

Half of the population of Turkey would support their country's bid to enter the European Union (EU), according to a poll by MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center. 49.7 per cent of respondents would vote "Yes" in a referendum on accession, while 34.9 per cent would vote against it.

In October 2005, the EU officially began accession talks with Turkey. The country has been seeking inclusion for more than forty years, and filed a formal application to that effect in 1987. Since then, it has taken steps required only of members—including the establishment of a customs union—but was not accepted as a candidate state until 1999.

In October 2006, EU enlargement commissioner Olli Rehn declared: "Our relationship with this country is schizophrenic. (...) There is in Turkey a feeling of deception, because it is thought that 'Europeans don't want us in the Union'. As for the Union, it is disappointed by the sluggish pace of reforms, which are not sufficiently credible, leading to suspicion in public opinion. It is a real vicious circle that I want to break and this will be difficult to do if accession negotiations are suspended."

One of Turkey's obstacles for joining the EU is the situation of close to 12 million Kurds living in the country, a minority with limited rights. Turkey has waged a 25-year conflict with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is considered a terrorist organization by the EU. Last year, Turkish prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that the government will extend the rights of the Kurdish minority.

Earlier this month, Istanbul launched a series of events celebrating its status as one of the three chosen European Capitals of Culture in 2010, along with Essen in Germany and the Hungarian city of Pécs. Erdogan praised the Turkish city, describing it as "a little of Jerusalem, a little of Paris, of Madrid, Baghdad, Damascus—but most of all Istanbul."

Polling Data

If a referendum on Turkey joining the European Union (EU) took place today, how would you vote?

Yes	49.7%
No	34.9%
Other	15.4%

Source: MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center

Methodology: Interviews with 1,614 Turkish adults, conducted from Jan. 3 to Jan. 8, 2010.

Margin of error is 2.8 per cent.

Turks Assess Erdogan's Stance on Iran

January 18, 2010

Almost half of people in Turkey agree with the way their prime minister had dealt with Iran, according to a poll by the MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center. 48.4 per cent of respondents agree with Recep Tayyip Erdogan's stance, while 42.6 per cent disagree.

Turkish voters renewed the Great National Assembly in July 2007. Final results gave the Justice and Development Party (AKP) 46.6 per cent of the vote and 341 seats in the legislature. Parties require at least 10 per cent of the vote to earn seats under the country's proportional representation system. Erdogan, a member of the AKP, has served as prime minister since March 2003.

After being branded as part of an "axis of evil" by then U.S. president George W. Bush in January 2002, Iran has contended that its nuclear program aims to produce energy, not weapons. In June 2005, former Tehran mayor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won Iran's presidential election in a run-off over Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani with 61.6 per cent of all cast ballots.

A new presidential election took place in June 2009. Official results gave incumbent Ahmadinejad a victory with 62.63 per cent of the vote, followed by reformist candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi with 33.75 per cent. Thousands of Mousavi supporters, wearing green clothes, took to the streets to protest the outcome since the day after the election.

Last year, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) tendered a proposal, which called on the Iranian government to transfer low-enriched uranium abroad for processing to turn it into fuel-making uranium.

In September 2009, Erdogan discussed his views on Iran, declaring, "Statements by Ahmadinejad are not about a nuclear weapon but are about peaceful intended enrichment. He also has statements that he notified the IAEA about this. While all of these facts are obvious, international media are constantly busy with Iran, while there are many other issues that need to be talked about."

In October, Erdogan defended Ahmadinejad's victory in the June election—which had been tarnished by fraud allegations—saying, "Mr. Ahmadinejad was declared to be the winner, not officially, but with a large vote difference, and since he is someone we have met before, we called to congratulate him. Later it was officially declared that he was elected, he got a vote of confidence and we pay special attention to something like this. It is a basic principle of our foreign policy."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Turkish prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's stance on Iran?

Approve	48.8%
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Disapprove	42.6%
Not sure	8.6%

Source: MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center

Methodology: Interviews with 1,614 Turkish adults, conducted from Jan. 3 to Jan. 8, 2010.

Margin of error is 2.8 per cent.

JAPAN & KOREA

Trust in Hatoyama Quickly Eroding in Japan

January 23, 2010

The government led by Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama is rapidly falling out of favour with the public, according to a poll by *Yomiuri*. 45 per cent of respondents approve of the performance of Hatoyama's appointed cabinet, down 14 points since December.

In August 2009, Japanese voters renewed the House of Representatives. Final results gave the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) a victory with 308 of the 480 lower house seats at stake. Hatoyama, the DPJ leader, was sworn in as prime minister in September.

Aside from a brief period in the 1990s, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had administered Japan's government for more than five decades.

In December, Hatoyama was criticized after it was revealed that political donations registered under the names of several individuals actually came from his mother. The Japanese prime minister has acknowledged receiving a monthly contribution of about \$164,000 U.S. from his mother, but vowed to pay back taxes and penalties amounting to about \$6.5 million U.S.

Earlier this month, three current and former aides of Ichiro Ozawa, the DPJ's secretary general, were arrested and charged with falsifying information in party fundraising reports. The three men were identified as Mitsutomo Ikeda, current DPJ lawmaker Tomohiro Ishikawa, and Takanori Okubo.

Ozawa has refused to talk to the authorities about this particular case. Last year, before the legislative election, Ozawa was forced to step down as DPJ leader after Okubo, who was his top aide at the time, was arrested for the first time in connection with illegal donations and accounting irregularities. Okubo is currently on trial for those charges.

On Jan. 20, Hatoyama urged Ozawa to collaborate with his account of the case, saying, "It is desirable for him to have an opportunity to explain his innocence as soon as possible."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of Yukio Hatoyama's cabinet?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Approve	45%	59%	63%
Disapprove	42%	29%	27%

Source: Yomiuri

Methodology: Interviews with 1,146 Japanese adults, conducted on Jan. 16 and Jan. 17, 2010.

No margin of error was provided.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Chinese Public Opposes Great Firewall

In the land of over 300 million Internet users, and a firewall that controls access to politically sensitive topics, most of the people feel that their government should not be able to limit what they read online.

The conflict between Google and the Chinese government over hacking and internet censorship has put these internet censorship issues back in the news. Secretary Clinton is scheduled to make a speech on January 21 calling for online freedom worldwide. The speech is likely to be interpreted in China and elsewhere as critical of Chinese Internet policies.

Two-thirds of the Chinese public (66%) said that they “should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet” when they were asked in January 2008 by WorldPublicOpinion.org. Only 21% said “the government should have the right to prevent people from having access to some things on the Internet.”

In fact, more Chinese favored such Internet rights than did people in many of the 21 countries polled, including citizens of Britain, France, Russia, and India.

While the Chinese public sees their government as quite responsive to the will of the people, they nonetheless appear to have a realistic and critical view of their government’s control of the media. Only 12% of the public say the media in China have a lot of freedom, the second lowest number among the 21 countries polled.

Moreover, they say they want more freedom for their media – 66% say that “in China media should have more freedom” rather than the same amount of freedom or less freedom. This desire for greater media freedom in their country put them above the average of the 21 countries polled in 2008.

The Chinese government has considerable political capital among its people, but seems unduly concerned about media control. Chinese nationalism is strong; there is immense pride in the rise of China economically and politically. Indeed, China’s economic progress is admired around the world. Yet government media control is misaligned. The Chinese themselves give their country low marks on media freedom and world opinion gives China similar poor grades on human rights.

EAST EUROPE

Czech Governing Party Stumbles Again

January 18, 2010

The Czech Republic's governing Civic Democratic Party (ODS) appears to have lost a recent spike in popularity, according to a poll by Median. 23.4 per cent of respondents would vote for the ODS in the next legislative election, down 5.2 points since early November.

The opposition Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) remains in first place with 29.3 per cent. The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) is third with 15.9 per cent, followed by Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09) with 9.9 per cent. Support is lower for the Christian and Democratic Union - Czech People's Party (KDU-CSL), the Green Party (SZ), and Public Affairs (VV).

In June 2006, Czech voters renewed the Chamber of Representatives. Final results gave the ODS 35.58 per cent of all cast ballots, followed by the CSSD with 32.32 per cent. Czech parties require at least five per cent of the vote to earn seats under the country's proportional representation system. The final tallies gave the ODS, the KDU-CSL and the SZ 100 seats in the lower house, with the remaining 100 seats going to the CSSD and the KSCM.

The tie among rival factions led to a long political stalemate. In January 2007, Czech president Vaclav Klaus re-appointed ODS leader Mirek Topolanek as prime minister.

In March 2009, Topolanek's government finally lost one of many non-confidence motions tabled by the opposition since 2007. The last motion was related to alleged wrongdoing by lawmaker Petr Wolf, who left the CSSD and usually supports the government in the Chamber of Representatives, and to opposition to the government's handling of the economy.

In April, the leaders of the ODS, KDU-CSL, SZ and CSSD agreed to form an interim cabinet of non-partisan members. Klaus appointed Jan Fischer—a non-partisan, little known public servant who had been heading the Czech Statistical Office (CSU)—to serve as interim prime minister. Fischer took office in May.

Fischer was supposed to serve only until early October, when a new legislative election was to take place. But in August, independent lawmaker Milos Melcak filed a complaint with the Constitutional Court saying that the early election date would violate his rights because it would cut his term as a legislator short. On Sept. 1, the court said that it would consider Melcak's complaint, saying that the election should be put on hold in the meantime.

In June, former KDU-CSL member Miroslav Kalousek announced the creation of the conservative TOP 09 party. Current senator and former Czech foreign minister Karel Schwarzenberg is the party's leader.

On Jan. 3, Czech prime minister Fischer revealed that the country's budget deficit has swollen to \$10.7 billion U.S., adding, "This is the figure we have as of December 30."

Polling Data

What party list would you vote for in the next parliamentary election?

	Dec. 17	Nov. 1	Oct. 1
Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD)	29.3%	29.6%	27.6%
Civic Democratic Party (ODS)	23.4%	28.6%	30.7%
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM)	15.9%	12.6%	12.5%
Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09)	9.9%	12.2%	13.2%
Christian and Democratic Union - Czech People's Party (KDU-CSL)	6.9%	5.7%	6.8%
Green Party (SZ)	4.0%	2.9%	3.1%
Public Affairs (VV)	2.3%	2.5%	n.a.

Source: Median

Methodology: Interviews with 1,046 Czech adults, conducted from Nov. 26 to Dec. 17, 2009. No margin of error was provided.

WEST EUROPE

Italians Want Immigrants to Take Values Test

January 20, 2010

The vast majority of people in Italy would like all immigrants seeking citizenship to take a test of Italian civic values, according to a poll by Arnaldo Ferrari Nasi. 80.2 per cent of respondents share this view.

Additionally, 76.9 per cent of respondents say immigrants who do not share Italian values or commit crimes should be stripped of their citizenship. On the other hand, 79.2 per cent of respondents want immigrants who contribute to a city's economy to be allowed to vote in municipal elections.

In August 2008, the government of Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi sent 3,000 military troops to patrol city streets across the country as part of a plan to curb crime and illegal immigration. A major outcry followed, with critics accusing Berlusconi of singling out Roma peoples as criminals. Pope Benedict XVI called for Catholics to help others stay away from "racism, intolerance and exclusion."

Earlier this month, two African-born migrants working in a farm in the southern region of Calabria said they were shot with pellet guns in what they say was a racially-motivated attack. The incident quickly evolved into a massive clash between hundreds of African workers, local residents of the town of Rosarno, and police. Hundreds of migrant workers fled the town two days later.

On Jan. 12, United Nations (UN) human rights officials Jorge Bustamante and Githu Muigai released a statement commenting on the Italian incident, calling the violence "extremely

worrying since it reveals serious and deep-rooted problems of racism against these migrant workers."

Polling Data

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
Immigrants who play a role in the economic life of a city, after a number of years, must have the right to vote in municipal elections	79.2%	15.4%	5.4%
All immigrants should take a course in Italian and civic values before being regularized	80.2%	18.5%	1.3%
Italian citizenship should be revoked if an immigrant is found to not share our values or commits crimes	76.9%	17.7%	5.4%

Source: Arnaldo Ferrari Nasi

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 800 Italian adults, conducted on Dec. 9 to Dec. 15, 2009. No margin of error was provided.

Majority in Britain Opposes Legal Marijuana

January 22, 2010

Most people in Britain are against the legalization of marijuana, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 58 per cent of respondents reject the notion of legal marijuana, while 35 per cent endorse it.

In Britain, drugs are placed into alphabetical categories, in accordance with the level of penalties that can be administered for possession and dealing. Heroin, cocaine, ecstasy and magic mushrooms are included in Class A, speed and barbiturates are part of Class B, and marijuana and some tranquilizers are featured in Class C.

In July 2007, British prime minister and Labour party leader Gordon Brown said he was considering a revision on the classification of cannabis as a soft drug. Changing the status of cannabis to a Class B drug would result in increased penalties for possession, supply and use of the drug. Marijuana had been classified as Class C in January 2004 during the government of Tony Blair.

Last October, David Nutt was fired from his post as chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, the British government's agency advising on drug policy. Nutt was asked to leave after suggesting that ecstasy and cannabis are generally less dangerous than alcohol and tobacco. Nutt also opposed Brown's idea to re-classify marijuana as a harder drug.

On Jan. 13, British media reported that Nutt's replacement, former Oxford University professor Les Iverson, said in the past that "Cannabis should be legalised not just decriminalised because it is comparatively less dangerous than legal drugs alcohol and tobacco."

Iverson responded to the reports, saying, "I don't remember saying that, it's certainly not my position now. That was a view I had in 2003 and a great deal has happened since then."

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose the legalisation of each of the following drugs? - Marijuana

Support	35%
Oppose	58%
Not sure	7%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,007 British adults, conducted in Jan. 14 and Jan. 15, 2009. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Britons Welcome Deal to Hold Leaders Debates

January 18, 2010

People in Britain are content with the decision to hold televised debates featuring the leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 75 per cent of believe the debates are a positive development.

In June 2007, Gordon Brown officially became Labour leader and prime minister, replacing Tony Blair. Brown had worked as chancellor of the exchequer. Blair served as Britain's prime minister since May 1997, winning majority mandates in the 1997, 2001 and 2005 elections to the House of Commons.

Since December 2005, David Cameron has been the leader of the Conservative party. In December 2007, current parliamentarian Nick Clegg became the new leader of the Liberal Democrats.

On Dec. 22, three television networks—ITV, Sky and the BBC—announced that the three main party leaders would take part in three 90-minute debates during this year's electoral campaign. A televised leaders debate has never been held during a general election campaign in Britain.

Clegg expressed satisfaction with the decision, saying, "I'm delighted the televised leaders debates will finally go ahead. After a terrible year for politicians because of the expenses scandals, these debates will be an opportunity to start re-engaging people with politics."

The next election to the House of Commons must be held on or before Jun. 3. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion.

Polling Data

ITV, Sky and the BBC have announced that the leaders of Labour, the Conservatives, and the Lib Dem's will take part in a series of three head-to-head 90-minute debates during the General Election campaign. Do you regard this as a positive or negative development?

Very positive / Moderately positive	75%
Moderately negative / Very negative	12%
Not sure	13%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,005 British adults, conducted from Jan. 5 to Jan. 6, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Germans Support Use of Full-Body Scanners

January 19, 2010

The majority of people in Germany would agree with the use of full-body scanners at airports to examine all passengers, according to a poll by Forsa published in *Stern*. 63 per cent of respondents support relying on the scanners, while 31 per cent are opposed.

On Dec. 25, Nigerian national Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab tried to detonate explosives hidden in his underwear during a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. Abdulmutallab has been charged with attempting to blow up an aircraft, placing a destructive device on an aircraft, attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, and attempted murder of 289 people.

The incident has prompted calls for increased security measures in airports across the globe, including the use of full-body scanners that produce a three-dimensional outline of a passenger's body, revealing concealed items. Critics have claimed that this type of device would not have been able to detect the explosives carried by Abdulmutallab, and have also expressed concerns related to privacy rights.

The German government is considering testing the scanners for future use.

On Jan. 10, activists from the pan-European Pirate Party—which advocates for privacy rights in the digital era—stripped down to their underwear at the Berlin-Tegel airport to protest the potential implementation of full-body scanners. The self-described "flesh mob" sang slogans against what they called the "naked scanners."

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose the use of full-body scanners at airports to scan every passenger before all flights?

Support	63%
Oppose	31%
Not sure	6%

Source: Forsa / Stern

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,000 German adults, conducted on Dec. 29, 2009.

Margin of error is 2.5 per cent.

Majority of French Deny Support to Sarkozy

January 19, 2010

Most people in France continue to express distrust for Nicolas Sarkozy, according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 52 per cent of respondents say they have no confidence in the president's leadership, down three points since December.

In May 2007, Sarkozy, candidate for the centre-right Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) and former interior minister, won the presidential run-off with 53.06 per cent of the vote. Sarkozy appointed François Fillon—who had been his adviser and presidential campaign leader—as prime minister. 42 per cent of respondents have confidence in Fillon's leadership, while 50 per cent do not.

Earlier this month, Sarkozy's administration engaged in an argument with the managers of France's *grandes écoles*, a group of colleges that serve as stepping stone for the French elite that ultimately goes to fill high public and private positions. The president asked the schools to open 30 per cent of their admissions to students from low-income backgrounds. The governing body of the colleges—the *Conférence des Grandes Ecoles* (CGE)—rejected the proposal, saying that they wish to preserve a "veritable Republican elite," and adding that low-income students would hurt the institutions' high academic records.

French education minister Luc Chatel expressed outrage at the CGE response, saying, "To suggest that standards would be lowered by admitting students from poorer backgrounds is profoundly shocking."

Polling Data

Do you have confidence in French president Nicolas Sarkozy to face the country's problems?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Confidence	41%	40%	40%
No confidence	52%	55%	55%

Do you have confidence in French prime minister François Fillon to face the country's problems?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Confidence	42%	40%	40%
No confidence	50%	53%	53%

Source: CSA / *Le Parisien*

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,007 French adults, conducted on Jan. 6 and Jan. 7, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

NORTH AMERICA

Americans Pick Rights Over Trade with China

January 23, 2010

People in the United States want their government to take human rights and minority rights into account when it deals with China, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 51 per cent of respondents feel this way, while 21 per cent would prefer to focus on the trading relationship.

In 1949, the People's Republic of China was established as a one-party state. In the 1980s, the ruling Communist Party of China (ZGD) loosened a series of authoritarian restrictions and allowed private enterprise for the first time in decades. The country currently has one of the world's fastest growing economies, becoming a global exporter and a very attractive venue for foreign investors.

In April 2001, a U.S. spy plane collided with a Chinese fighter. The incident led to strained relations between the two countries, which culminated with a vote in the House of Representatives in July 2001. American lawmakers vetoed reimbursing China for the 11 days the plane's crew was detained, and refused to cover the cost of the aircraft's repatriation.

Earlier this month, Google—an American public corporation specializing in Internet search—threatened to withdraw its operations from China after thousands of its email accounts were hacked in that country. The company has suggested that the Chinese government planned the cyber attack in order to retrieve information about human rights activists. On Jan. 21, U.S. state secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton commented on the issue, saying, "We look to Chinese authorities to conduct a thorough review of the cyber intrusions that led Google to make its announcement. We also look for that investigation and its results to be transparent."

Yesterday, the Chinese government issued a communiqué, which read: "The U.S. has criticized China's policies to administer the Internet and insinuated that China restricts Internet freedom. This runs contrary to the facts and is harmful to China-U.S. relations. We urge the United States to respect the facts and cease using so-called Internet freedom to make groundless accusations against China."

Polling Data

Thinking about America's long-term foreign policy towards China, where do you think the U.S. government should place more emphasis?

On human rights and minority rights, regardless of the economic implications	51%
On the trading relationship, regardless of the human rights in China	21%
Not sure	28%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,006 American adults, conducted in Jan. 19 and Jan. 20, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Black People Doing Better Now, Say Americans

January 21, 2010

Half of adults in the United States believe African Americans are in a better position now than a decade ago, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 52 per cent of respondents think the situation of black people in the country is better now.

Martin Luther King—an African American Baptist minister—was an active civil rights leader in the 1950s and 1960s, organizing and leading public protests on desegregation, fair hiring practices and the right to vote. In 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end racial prejudice in the U.S. King followed the practice of non-violent civil disobedience that had been employed by Mahatma Gandhi in India.

In American elections, candidates require 270 votes in the Electoral College to win the White House. In November 2008, Democratic nominee Barack Obama secured a majority of electoral votes, defeating Republican contender John McCain. In January 2009, Obama became the first African American president in U.S. history.

On Jan. 18, Obama discussed King's legacy, declaring, "An important lesson for all of us on this day—are the things that we can try to do that might have seemed impossible but we know are worth doing, and can we apply those principles that we know to be true in our own lives and our society."

Polling Data

All in all, compared with ten years ago, do you think the situation of black people in this country today is...

Better	52%
About the same	32%
Worse	9%
Not sure	7%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,000 American adults, conducted in Jan. 12 and Jan. 13, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

In U.S., Majority Favors Suspending Work on Healthcare Bill

Seven in 10 say Massachusetts election result reflects frustrations shared by Americans

January 22, 2010

In the wake of Republican Scott Brown's victory in Tuesday's U.S. Senate election in Massachusetts, the majority of Americans (55%) favor Congress' putting the brakes on its current healthcare reform efforts and considering alternatives that can obtain more Republican

support. Four in 10 Americans (39%) would rather have House and Senate Democrats continue to try to pass the bill currently being negotiated in conference committee.

Americans' Preference for Next Steps on Healthcare Legislation

What do you think President Obama and the Democrats in Congress should do now concerning a healthcare reform bill -- should they -- [ROTATED: continue to try and pass the healthcare bill now being worked out by Democrats in the House and Senate (or) suspend work on the current healthcare bill the House and Senate are working on and consider alternative bills that can receive more Republican support]?



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 20, 2010

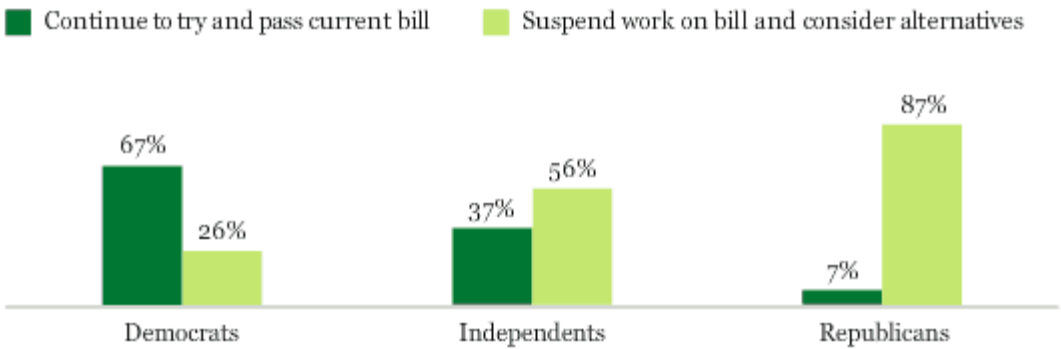
GALLUP

"A minority of 32% of Americans say President Obama and the Democratic leadership in Congress are right to make healthcare reform their top priority at this time."

The *USA Today*/Gallup poll was conducted Jan. 20 to gauge initial reaction from Americans to Brown's victory in the special election to fill the remainder of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy's term. Massachusetts voters elected a Republican to the Senate for the first time since 1972. Americans widely agree that the election result has national political implications -- 72% say it reflects many Americans' frustrations, which the president and members of Congress should pay attention to, while 18% believe it is a reflection of political conditions in Massachusetts.

Brown campaigned against the healthcare reform efforts and promised if elected to be the crucial 41st Senate vote against it, which would allow Republicans to successfully block its passage. According to the poll, most self-identified Democrats (67%) want Congress to continue working toward passage of the bill. However, an even larger majority of Republicans (87%) call for suspension of Congress' current work on the bill. The majority of political independents, whose support has been crucial to recent Republican election victories in Massachusetts, Virginia, and New Jersey, would also prefer to see the reform efforts put on hold rather than moved forward.

Americans' Preference for Next Steps on Healthcare Legislation, by Political Party



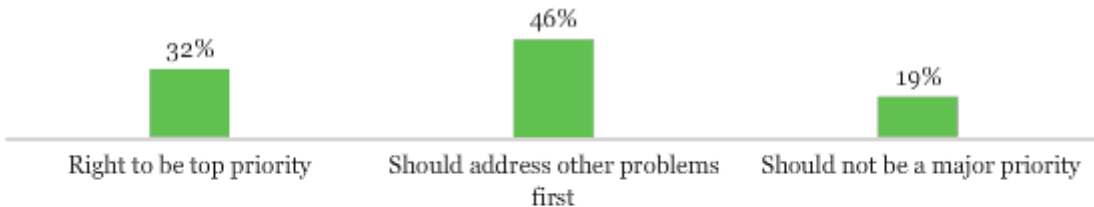
USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 20, 2010

GALLUP®

The public's desire to slow down the Democrats' healthcare reform efforts also appears to reflect doubts about whether the issue deserves the attention political leaders in Washington have given it over the past several months. A minority of 32% of Americans say President Obama and the Democratic leadership in Congress are right to make healthcare reform their top priority at this time. In contrast, 46% acknowledge health reform as an important goal but believe other problems should be addressed first, and an additional 19% reject the idea that healthcare should be a major legislative priority.

Views of Healthcare as the Top Legislative Priority

Which comes closest to your view -- the president and Democratic leaders in Congress are right to make healthcare their top priority at this time, healthcare is important but there are other problems that Congress and the president should address first, or healthcare should not be a major priority for the president and Congress?



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 20, 2010

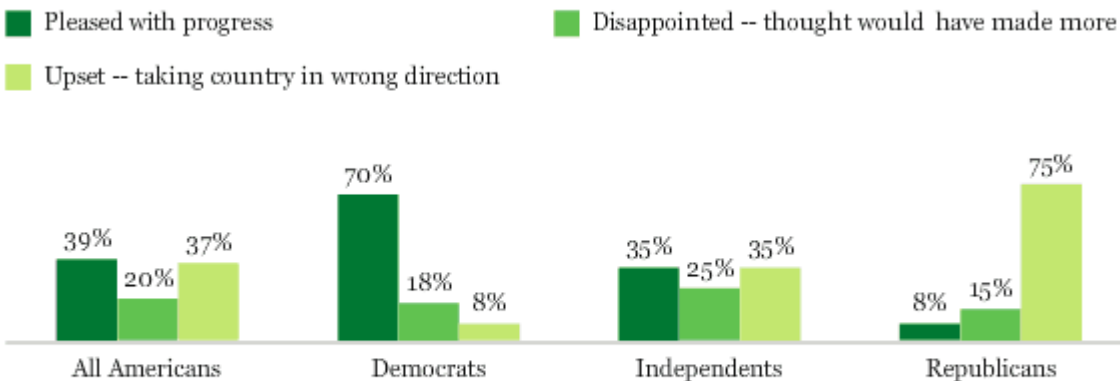
GALLUP®

The poll attempted to gauge Americans' political mood more generally by asking them to describe their feelings about the progress the Obama administration has made in its first year. Thirty-nine percent of Americans say they are pleased with the progress President Obama has made in addressing the problems facing the country, but nearly as many, 37%, say they are upset

because they believe his policies are moving the country in the wrong direction. That leaves a middle group of 20% of Americans who describe themselves as disappointed with Obama's progress because they thought he would have achieved more by now.

Given Obama's job approval rating of roughly 50%, clearly some Americans who express disappointment with the president's lack of progress still generally approve of the job he is doing. For the most part, Democrats are pleased with the progress Obama has made in his first year, but 18% say they are disappointed and 8% believe he is moving the country in the wrong direction. Republicans' views are nearly mirror images of Democrats', with 75% upset with his policies but a relatively small group of 8% pleased with his approach. There are roughly as many independents pleased with Obama's work (35%) as upset with it (35%), while one in four independents say they are disappointed.

Views of Barack Obama's Progress in First Year



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 20, 2010

GALLUP®

Obama and the Democrats are on a bit of a losing streak heading into the midterm election year, having lost recent elections for high office in three states. However, even though these recent elections have gone in the Republicans' favor, it's not entirely clear that Americans are ready for a Republican takeover of Congress. The poll finds 40% of Americans saying the country would be better off if the Democrats controlled Congress, and 36% saying it would be better off if the Republicans controlled it. The remainder have no opinion or volunteer that it doesn't make a difference which party controls Congress.

That result is fairly typical of what Gallup has found historically, with Americans about equally divided as to which party is better to control Congress but showing a slight tilt in favor of the Democrats. However, it is important to note these opinions are based on all Americans, not necessarily those who will vote in November's elections. Turnout in midterm elections typically favors the Republican Party.

Bottom Line

Brown's election shook up the political world in both Massachusetts and Washington. President Obama has indicated he would like Congress to hold off on healthcare reform until Brown is seated, which is consistent with the public's wishes to suspend work on the bill. But the public is also not convinced that healthcare should be the top priority for the government at this time and endorses finding alternatives that can gain Republican support, which the bill under consideration has not received. Americans may therefore prefer a longer pause on the issue -- one that stretches well beyond the time Brown is seated.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,010 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted January 20, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

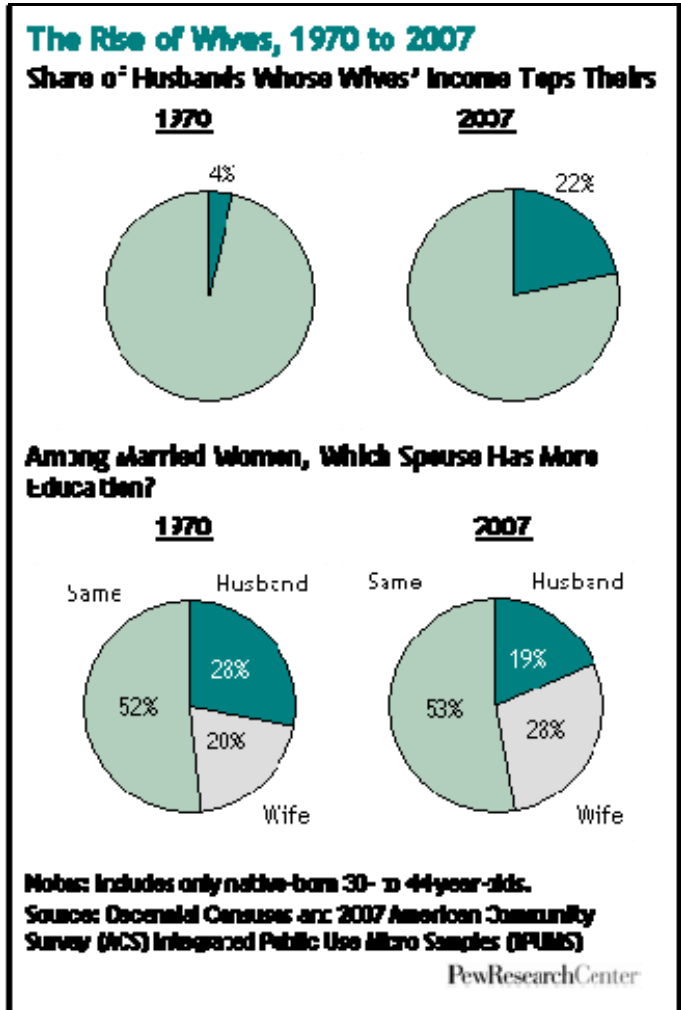
Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones and cellular telephones.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Polls conducted entirely in one day, such as this one, are subject to additional error or bias not found in polls conducted over several days.

New Economics of Marriage: The Rise of Wives

January 19, 2010



The institution of marriage has undergone significant changes in recent decades as women have outpaced men in education and earnings growth. These unequal gains have been accompanied by gender role reversals in both the spousal characteristics and the economic benefits of marriage. A larger share of men in 2007, compared with their 1970 counterparts, are married to women whose education and income exceed their own, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of demographic and economic trend data. A larger share of women are married to men with less education and income.

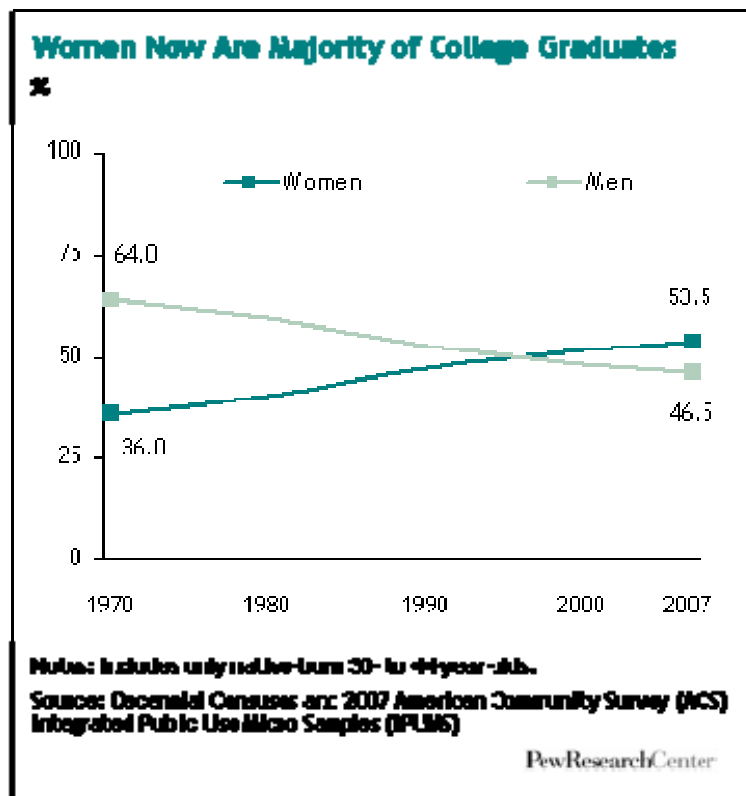
From an economic perspective, these trends have contributed to a gender role reversal in the gains from marriage. In the past, when relatively few wives worked, marriage enhanced the economic status of women more than that of men. In recent decades, however, the economic gains associated with marriage have been greater for men than for women.

In 2007, median household incomes of three groups -- married men, married women and unmarried women -- were about 60% higher than those of their counterparts in 1970. But for a fourth group, unmarried men, the rise in real median household income was smaller -- just 16%.

(These household income figures are adjusted for household size and for inflation. For more details, see the methodology in Appendix B in the full report.)

Part of the reason for the superior gains of married adults is compositional in nature. Marriage rates have declined for all adults since 1970 and gone down most sharply for the least educated men and women. As a result, those with more education are far more likely than those with less education to be married, a gap that has widened since 1970. Because higher education tends to lead to higher earnings, these compositional changes have bolstered the economic gains from being married for both men and women.

There also is an important gender component of these trends. Forty years ago, the typical man did not gain another breadwinner in his household when he married. Today, he does -- giving his household increased earning power that most unmarried men do not enjoy. The superior gains of married men have enabled them to overtake and surpass unmarried men in their median household income.



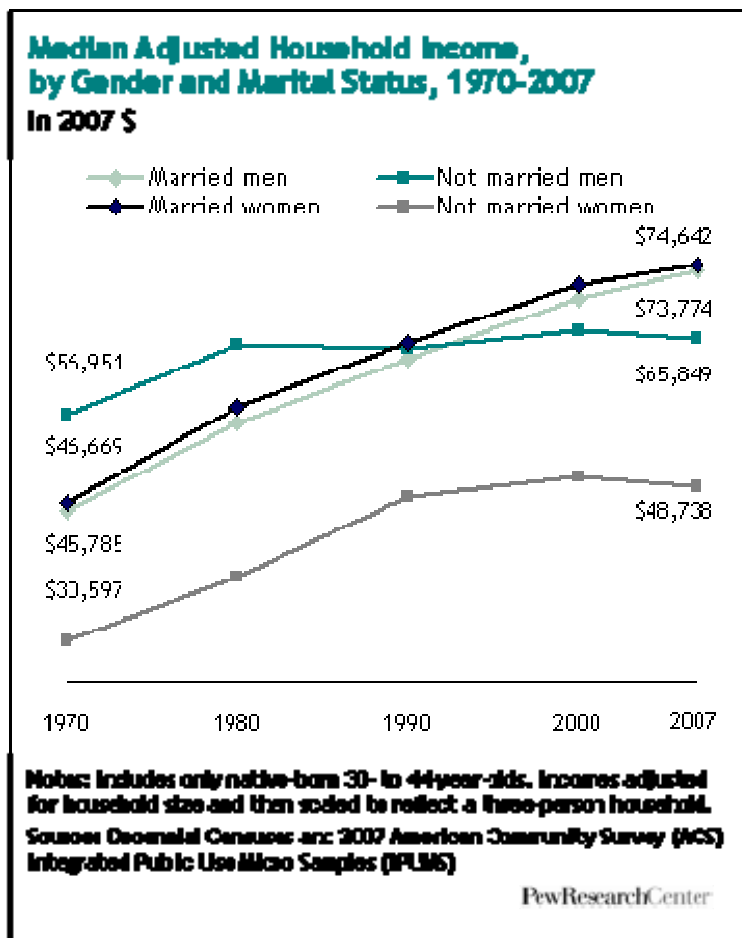
This report examines how changes at the nexus of marriage, income and education have played out among U.S.-born men and women who are ages 30-44 -- a stage of life when typical adults have completed their education, gone to work and gotten married.¹ Americans in this age group are the first such cohort in U.S. history to include more women than men with college degrees.

In 1970, 28% of wives in this age range had husbands who were better educated than they were, outnumbering the 20% whose husbands had less education. By 2007, these patterns had reversed: 19% of wives had husbands with more education, versus 28% whose husbands had less education. In the remaining couples -- about half in 1970 and 2007 -- spouses have similar education levels.

Along the same lines, only 4% of husbands had wives who brought home more income than they did in 1970, a share that rose to 22% in 2007.²

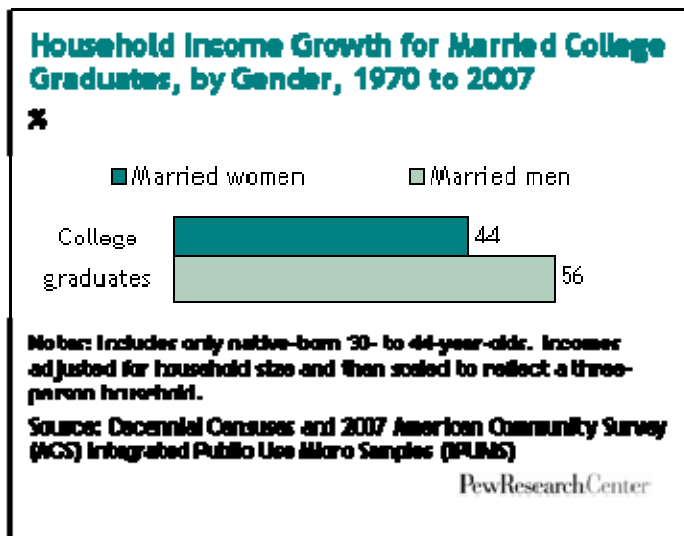
This reshuffling of marriage patterns from 1970 to 2007 has occurred during a period when women's gains relative to men's have altered the demographic characteristics of potential mates. Among U.S.-born 30- to 44-year-olds, women now are the majority both of college graduates and those who have some college education but not a degree. Women's earnings grew 44% from 1970 to 2007, compared with 6% growth for men. That sharper growth has enabled women to narrow, but not close, the earnings gap with men. Median earnings of full-year female workers in 2007 were 71% of earnings of comparable men, compared with 52% in 1970.

The national economic downturn is reinforcing these gender reversal trends, because it has hurt employment of men more than that of women. Males accounted for about 75% of the 2008 decline in employment among prime-working-age individuals (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009). Women are moving toward a new milestone in which they constitute half of all the employed. Their share increased from 46.5% in December 2007 to 47.4% in December 2009.



Overall, married adults have made greater economic gains over the past four decades than unmarried adults. From 1970 to 2007, their median adjusted household incomes, the sum of financial contributions of all members of the household, rose more than those of the unmarried.

Educational attainment plays an important role in income, so a central focus of this report is to analyze economic data by level of schooling. Through this lens, too, married people have outdone the unmarried. The higher their education level, the more that adults' household incomes have risen over the past four decades; within each level, married adults have seen larger gains than unmarried adults. Among married adults at each education level, men had larger household income increases than did women. Those who gained most of all were married male college graduates, whose household incomes rose 56%, compared with 44% for married female college graduates.³



For unmarried adults at each level of education, however, men's household incomes fared worse than those of women. Unmarried women in 2007 had higher household incomes than their 1970 counterparts at each level of education. But unmarried men without any post-secondary education lost ground because their real earnings decreased and they did not have a wife's wages to buffer that decline. Unmarried men who did not complete high school or who had only a high school diploma had lower household incomes in 2007 than their 1970 counterparts did. Unmarried men with some college education had stagnant household incomes.

Unmarried men with college degrees made gains (15%), but the gains were not as great as those for unmarried women with college degrees (28%). In fact, household incomes of unmarried men with college degrees grew at half the rate of household incomes of married men with only a high school diploma -- 33% versus 15%.

There is an important exception to the rule that married adults have fared better than unmarried adults from 1970 to 2007. Married women without a high school diploma did not make the same gains as more educated women: Their household incomes slipped 2% from 1970 to 2007, while those of their unmarried counterparts grew 9%. The stagnant incomes of married women without high school diplomas reflect the poor job prospects of less educated men in their pool of marriage partners. These less educated married women now are far less likely than in the past to have a spouse who works -- 77% did in 2007, compared with 92% in 1970.

Americans See Economic Recovery a Long Way Off

Two-thirds (67%) believe it will be two or more years before recovery starts

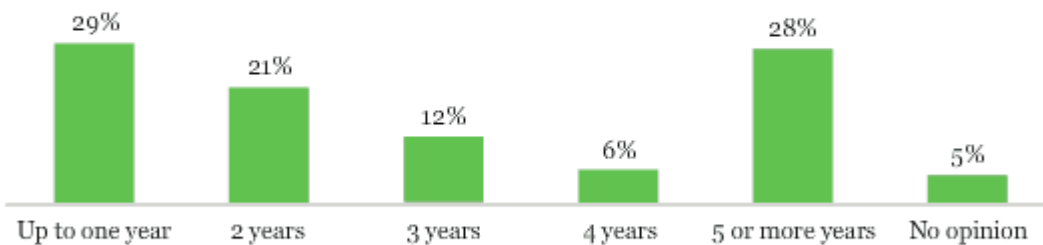
January 20, 2010

Americans are thinking in terms of years, not months, when pondering how much longer it will be before the U.S. economy starts to recover. The vast majority (67%) believe it will be at least two years before a recovery starts, and nearly half (46%) think it will be at least three years.

Americans' Predictions for When Economic Recovery Will Start

Just your best guess, how long do you think it will be before the U.S. economy starts to recover?

(Open-ended)



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-9, 2010

GALLUP*

The findings are from a *USA Today*/Gallup poll conducted Jan. 8-9. With a full third of Americans (34%) saying it will be four or more years before a recovery starts, the mean response is 4 ½ years -- putting the average predicted onset of recovery well into 2014.

"The poll finds about half of Americans -- regardless of party affiliation -- saying a president has "a great deal" of influence over national economic conditions."

Public opinion about the timeline for recovery is seemingly in conflict with recent economic reports suggesting the U.S. economy grew in the second half of 2009, possibly setting the stage for recovery this year. However, much of the current economic analysis is highly cautious, in part tempered by the continuing high rate of unemployment -- thus, perhaps, contributing to Americans' skepticism about a speedy return to business as usual. Americans' outlook for recovery today is similar to what Gallup found in July 2009.

Americans living in households earning \$90,000 or more annually are more optimistic about when recovery will occur than are those in households with lower income levels; still, the majority of all income groups expect to wait at least two years before the economy starts to recover.

Predictions for When Economic Recovery Will Start -- by Household Income

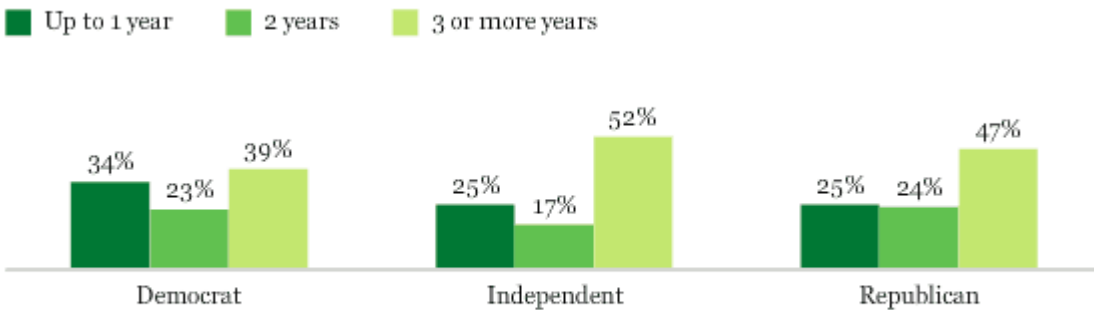


USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-9, 2010

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The extent to which the balance of power in Washington influences Americans' economic optimism is evident in the partisan responses. Democrats -- who generally have more confidence in the leadership of President Obama and the Democrat-controlled Congress -- are much more optimistic about an economic recovery in the near term than are independents or Republicans.

Predictions for When Economic Recovery Will Start -- by Party ID



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-9, 2010

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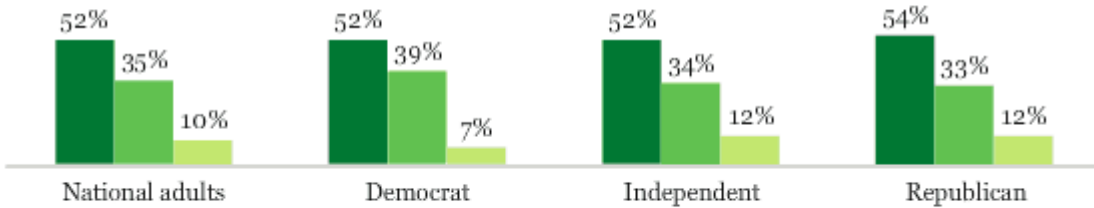
Much of the responsibility for economic recovery will be assigned -- fairly or unfairly -- to President Obama. Indeed, already more Americans disapprove than approve of the job he is doing on the economy.

In general, Americans do believe presidents' policies can influence the direction the economy takes. The poll finds about half of Americans -- regardless of party affiliation -- saying a president has "a great deal" of influence over national economic conditions. Another 35% say a president's policies affect the economy "a moderate amount," while 10% say they have little impact.

Perceived Impact of a President's Policies on the U.S. Economy

How much do you think a president's policies affect national economic conditions -- a great deal, a moderate amount, not much, or not at all?

■ Great deal ■ Moderate amount ■ Not much/Not at all



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-9, 2010

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Bottom Line

The American public seems braced for a long road to economic recovery. Not only do most Americans expect to wait two or more years for a recovery to start, but the majority continue to believe the economy is getting worse. While such pessimistic views could help Obama in terms of keeping the expectations bar low, now that he is entering his second year, Americans are likely to increasingly judge his performance on the economy by his own economic policies.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 2,014 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 8-9, 2010, as part of Gallup Daily tracking. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones and cellular phones.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

4. Just your best guess, how long do you think it will be before the U.S. economy starts to recover?

(Open-ended)

Jan 8-9, 2010	
	%
Less than one year	10
One year	19
Two years	21
Three years	12
Four years	6
Five years	14
More than five years	14
No opinion	5
Mean	4.6 years
Median	2 years

USA Today/Gallup

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In U.S., Religious Prejudice Stronger Against Muslims

43% of Americans admit to feeling some prejudice toward followers of Islam

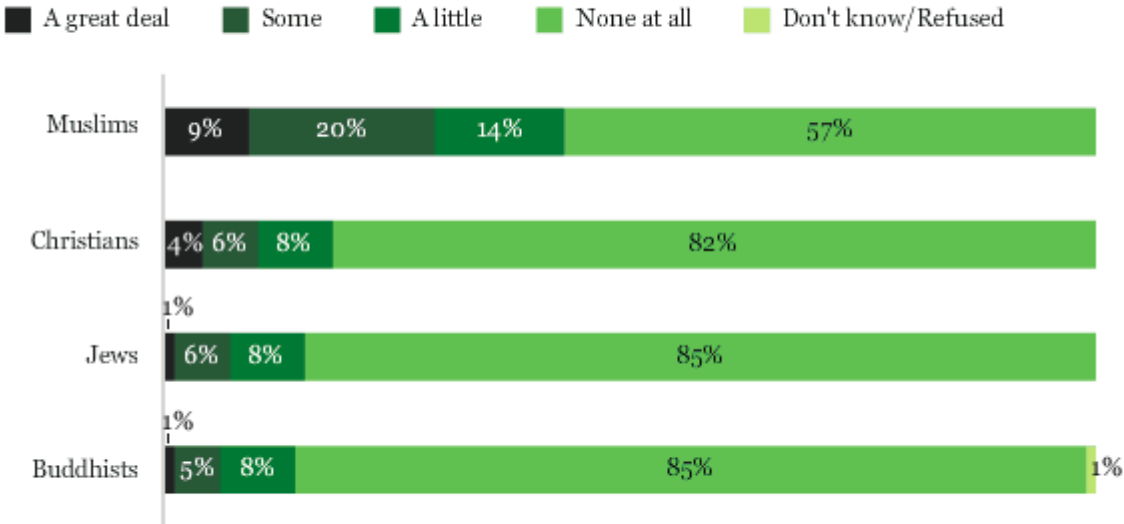
January 21, 2010

Analysis by the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies

More than 4 in 10 Americans (43%) admit to feeling at least "a little" prejudice toward Muslims -- more than twice the number who say the same about Christians (18%), Jews (15%) and Buddhists (14%). The findings are based on a new Gallup Center for Muslim Studies report, "Religious Perceptions in America: With an In-Depth Analysis of U.S. Attitudes Toward Muslims and Islam," released Thursday.

Americans Express the Most Prejudice Toward Muslims

Thinking honestly about your feelings, how much prejudice, if any, do you feel toward each of the following religious groups?



Oct 31-Nov 13, 2009

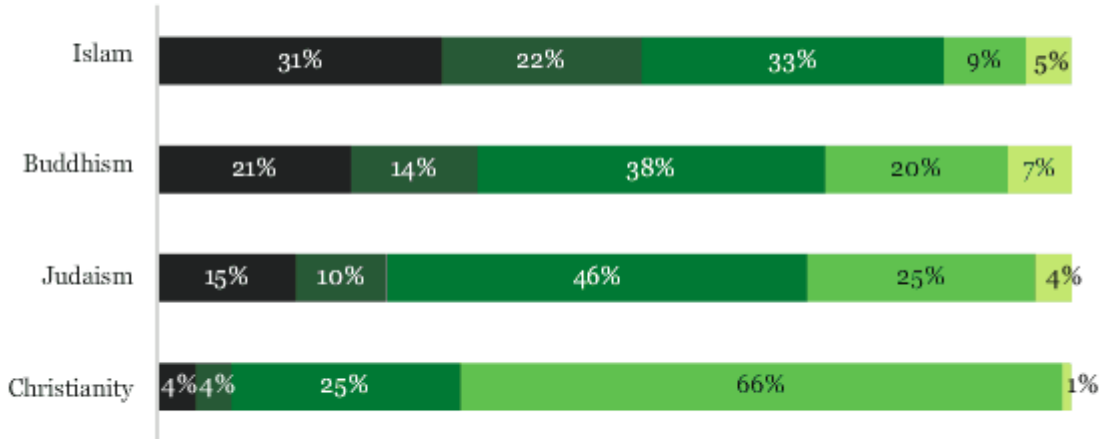
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In a separate question asking Americans to express their overall view about each of the four religions evaluated, Islam is the most negatively viewed. Nearly one-third of Americans (31%) say their opinion of Islam is "not favorable at all" versus 9% who say their opinion is "very favorable." This stands in contrast to Americans' views of Christianity and Judaism, which are far more likely to be "very favorable" than "not favorable at all," while Buddhism draws almost equally positive and negative opinions at the extremes. Gallup conducted the nationwide U.S. survey between Oct. 31 and Nov. 13, 2009, spanning the Fort Hood shooting in which a U.S.-born Muslim military doctor killed 13 people on the Army base on Nov. 5.

Islam Is the Most Negatively Viewed Religion

What is your opinion of each of the following religions? (among American respondents)

Not favorable at all
 Not too favorable
 Somewhat favorable
 Very favorable
 Don't know/Refused



Oct 31-Nov 13, 2009

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The new report further explores variables that are associated with extreme prejudice ("a great deal") toward followers of Islam as well as variables that may be related to lack of prejudice. To download the full report, go to www.muslimwestfacts.com. Key findings from the report will also be released next month in Cairo, Egypt. The Gallup Center for Muslim Studies conducts its Washington, D.C., and Cairo launches with its Muslim West Facts partner, the Coexist Foundation.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup Panel study are based on telephone interviews with 1,002 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Oct.31-Nov.13, 2009. Gallup Panel members are recruited through random selection methods. The panel is weighted so that it is demographically representative of the U.S. adult population. For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.4 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

"New Normal" Psychology Dominates Consumer Behavior

Seven in 10 Americans report cutting back on how much they spend each week

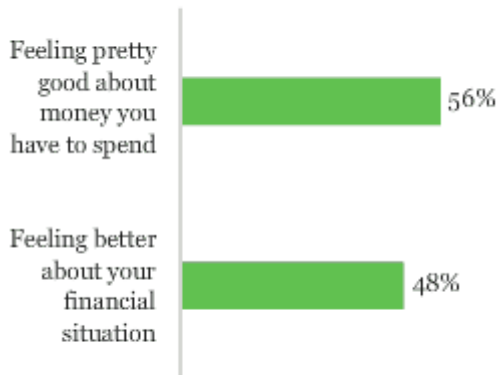
January 21, 2010

Consumer psychology continues to feel the aftershocks of the financial crisis, as the "new normal" still dominates self-reported spending behaviors. While it is encouraging that 48% of

Americans say they are feeling better about their financial situations and 56% say they are feeling pretty good about the amount of money they have to spend, their behavior seems to reflect something different -- a new normal. Seven in 10 consumers (70%) say they are cutting back on how much money they spend each week and 22% say they worried yesterday that they spent too much money.

Consumer Psychology

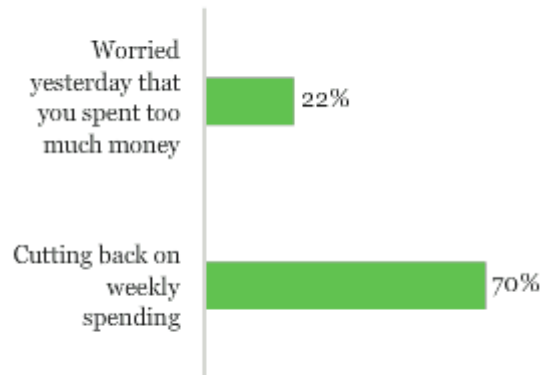
% "Yes"



Gallup Daily tracking, December 2009

New Normal Behaviors

% "Yes"



Gallup Daily tracking, December 2009

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Consumer "new normal" behaviors have remained largely consistent since Gallup began monitoring these consumer spending perceptions and behaviors on a daily basis since June 2009. The December 2009 results reported here essentially reflect the aggregated monthly trends. The degree of consumers' optimism about their personal finances has remained about the same across age and income groups. At the same time, so have consumer "new normal" behaviors.

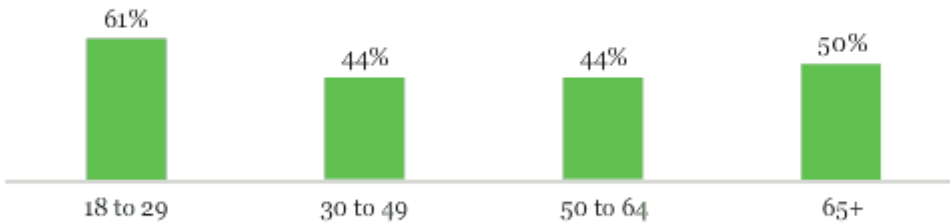
More Younger and Upper-Income Americans Are Feeling Better About Finances

On a positive note for the economy, 6 in 10 younger Americans (aged 18 to 29) say they are feeling better about their financial situations these days. Fifty percent of older Americans (aged 65+) also hold this view, as do 44% of those 30 to 49 and 50 to 64.

Are you feeling better about your financial situation these days, or not?

By age

■ % Yes



Gallup Daily tracking, December 2009

GALLUP®

"What is stunning about these results is the way even older and upper-income Americans continue to report cutting back on their spending and worrying about spending too much."

Not surprisingly given the financial crisis and the sharp recovery on Wall Street last year, upper-income Americans (those making \$90,000 or more a year) are more optimistic than other Americans: 62% are feeling better about their financial situations. In sharp contrast, only 36% of lower-income consumers (those earning less than \$24,000 a year) report feeling better financially in December. About half of middle-income consumers (which includes two groups -- those earning from \$24,000 to less than \$60,000, and those earning from \$60,000 to less than \$90,000) said they were feeling better about their financial situations last month.

Are you feeling better about your financial situation these days, or not?

By annual income

■ % Yes



Gallup Daily tracking, December 2009

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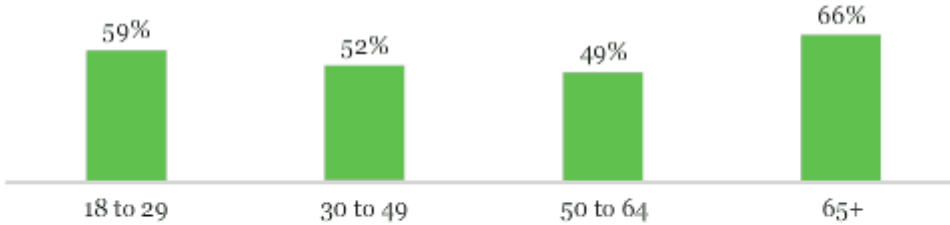
More Older and Upper-Income Americans Feeling Pretty Good About Spending Money

In another good sign for the future economy, 66% of older Americans say they are feeling "pretty good" about the amount of money they have to spend. This compares with 59% of younger Americans, 52% of those 30 to 49, and 49% of those 50 to 64.

Are you feeling pretty good these days about the amount of money you have to spend, or not?

By age

■ % Yes



Gallup Daily tracking, December 2009

GALLUP®

As might be expected, consumers' feelings about their spending money tend to be directly related to income. Upper-income Americans are about twice as likely as lower-income Americans (71% versus 35%) to say they are feeling good about the money they have to spend. Fifty-four percent of those earning \$24,000 to less than \$60,000, and 63% of those making \$60,000 to less than \$90,000, feel the same way.

Are you feeling pretty good these days about the amount of money you have to spend, or not?

By annual income

■ % Yes



Gallup Daily tracking, December 2009

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Fewer Older and Upper-Income Americans Cutting Back on Spending

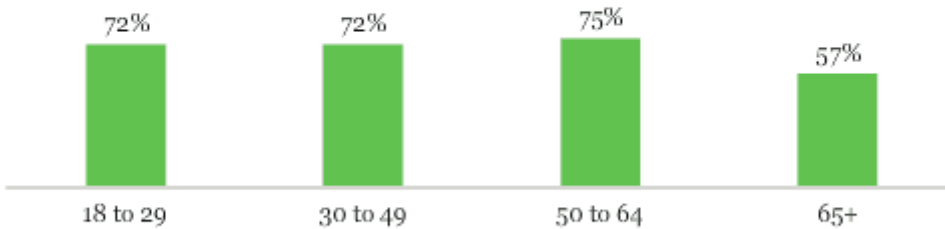
Americans' continuing efforts to cut back on their weekly spending seems to reflect a "new normal" mindset. More than 7 in 10 consumers in the youngest three age groups say they are

cutting back on how much they spend each week. A somewhat smaller 57% of seniors also say they are cutting back.

At this time, are you cutting back on how much money you spend each week, or not?

By age

■ % Yes



Gallup Daily tracking, December 2009

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Upper-income Americans are less likely to say they are cutting back (60%) than are lower-income Americans (78%), as well as those in the \$24,000 to less than \$60,000 (75%) and \$60,000 to less than \$90,000 (65%) groups.

At this time, are you cutting back on how much money you spend each week, or not?

By annual income

■ % Yes



Gallup Daily tracking, December 2009

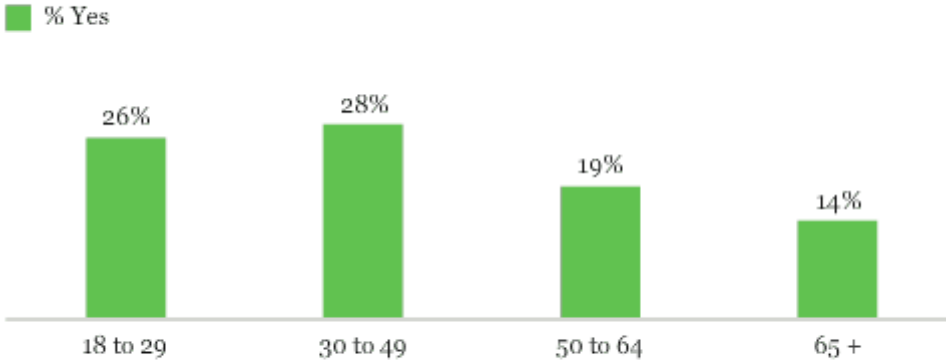
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Spending Worries: Diminished Among Older, Upper-Income Americans

Another potential "new normal" behavior involves Americans' continued worry that they spent too much money "yesterday." More than one in four Americans aged 18 to 29 and 30 to 49 say they worried yesterday about having spent too much money. This percentage declines to 19% among those 50 to 64 and to 14% among older Americans.

Did you worry yesterday that you spent too much money, or not?

By age



Gallup Daily tracking, December 2009

GALLUP

About one in five upper-income Americans worry that they spent too much. This increases to 23% among those making \$60,000 to less than \$90,000, 25% among those earning \$24,000 to less than \$60,000, and 27% among lower-income Americans.

Did you worry yesterday that you spent too much money, or not?

By annual income



Gallup Daily tracking, December 2009

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New Normal Behaviors

The greater optimism among older Americans concerning their personal finances and the money they have to spend makes sense since they are generally not as dependent on the job market as are those in other age groups. Older Americans tend to have fewer financial commitments. They also tend to be more dependent on the performance of their investment portfolios, and these have improved dramatically since the March 2009 lows.

At the other extreme, younger Americans generally tend to be more optimistic across a number of attitudinal measures. Like older Americans, they also tend to be less dependent on the job market -- many of them are students -- and tend to have fewer financial commitments.

Of course, upper-income Americans have reason to be more optimistic as they have benefited from the sharp recovery of their investment portfolios since March 2009. The second half of 2009 was much better for these Americans than the prior year.

It appears that older and younger Americans are more likely than other Americans to feel better about the money they have to spend.

What is stunning about these results is the way even older and upper-income Americans continue to report cutting back on their spending and worrying about spending too much. These groups may be cutting back less, but continue to exhibit what may be thought of as "new normal" behaviors -- spending less than they might have otherwise in the aftermath of the financial crisis. This is consistent with Gallup's finding that consumer spending remained in a fairly tight "new normal" range during most of 2009. The pickup in spending -- particularly among upper-income consumers in December -- provides a hopeful sign that the "new normal" going forward could turn out to be somewhat higher than that experienced during most of last year.

Consumer spending remains a key driver of private-sector economic growth in the U.S. "New normal" spending implies slower economic growth than in the past. It also suggests a continuing contraction in consumer credit, and further consumer and business deleveraging. In turn, this implies additional consolidation in the retail sector, including small businesses.

Over time, consumer and business balance sheets will continue to strengthen, and spending will increase. However, in the short term, the key to increased consumer spending -- especially among younger and middle-aged, and lower- and middle-income Americans -- is an improvement in the jobs situation, particularly, the creation of full-time quality jobs. Gallup's data suggest that little or no improvement has taken place in the job market for many months. When jobs return to Main Street, average Americans will recognize that the recession is over and begin spending as they did before -- not when economists pronounce it so.

Review and export the complete daily trends on these measures: Economic Indexes; Consumer Spending; Economic Outlook; Economic Conditions; Job Market

Survey Methods

For Gallup Daily tracking, Gallup interviews approximately 1,000 national adults, aged 18 and older, each day. The Gallup "new normal" consumer spending question results are based on random samples of approximately 125 national adults, aged 18 and older, each day. Results for December are based on telephone interviews with more than 3,000 adults. For these results, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones and cellular phones.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Abortion Funding Divides Views in U.S.

January 17, 2010

Americans are split in their assessment of an amendment to the proposed health care reform bill that would ban abortion coverage in any health insurance plan using federal subsidies, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 44 per cent of respondents agree with the ban, while 42 per cent disagree.

The 1973 Supreme Court ruling gave American women the right to an abortion in the first trimester of pregnancy, and regulated the procedure during the second trimester "in ways that are reasonably related to maternal health." In the third trimester, a state can choose to proscribe abortion, except when necessary "for the preservation of the life or health of the mother."

In American presidential elections, candidates require 270 votes in the Electoral College to win the White House. In November 2008, Democratic nominee Barack Obama secured a majority of electoral votes, defeating Republican candidate John McCain. Obama became the first African American president in U.S. history when he took over from George W. Bush—who served two four-year terms—in January 2009.

One of Obama's main campaign pledges was to increase access to health care for all Americans. On Nov. 7, lawmakers in the lower house of Congress approved a bill—known as the Affordable Health Care for America Act—in a 220-215 vote. On Dec. 24, the Senate passed its own version of the bill in a 60-39 vote. The differences between the two bills are expected to be reconciled by both houses this year.

On Jan. 14, Democratic Michigan congressman Bart Stupak discussed the scope of the proposed amendment, declaring, "Private plans within the health insurance exchange can offer abortion services and individuals purchasing plans with their own money can choose a plan that covers abortion as long as they are not receiving government subsidies to help pay for the plan. (...) While many accusations have been thrown around in recent months, the intent behind the amendment is simple and clear—to continue current law of no federal funding for abortions."

Polling Data

As you may know, there have been a lot of discussions lately about health care reform in the United States. An amendment to the proposed health care reform bill would ban abortion coverage in any health insurance plan using federal subsidies. Overall, do you agree or disagree with banning abortion coverage in any health insurance plan using federal subsidies?

Agree	44%
Disagree	42%
Not sure	14%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,002 American adults, conducted from Jan. 8 to Jan. 10, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Funding for Abortions Splits Views in Canada

January 18, 2010

Canadians are divided on the role their public-run health care services should play in pregnancy termination, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 43 per cent of respondents believe the system should fund abortions whenever they are requested, while 41 per cent think it should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies.

Seven per cent of respondents believe the health care system should not fund abortions at all. In Canada, the universality criterion establishes that all residents of a province or territory must be entitled to the insured, public-run health services provided by their provincial or territorial health care insurance plan on uniform terms and conditions.

In 1967, Canadian justice minister Pierre Trudeau presented a bill to partially liberalize abortion. On the same bill, Trudeau urged for the legalization of homosexuality and contraception, saying, "The state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation." The bill was signed into law in 1969, when Trudeau was prime minister.

In January 1988, Canada's Supreme Court ruled—on an appeal filed by pro-abortion advocate Henry Morgentaler—that Canada's abortion law was unconstitutional. Abortion is now legal in Canada with no limitation on when to perform it.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court of Canada declined to hear an appeal brought by David Little, who refused to pay taxes on the basis that the money could be used to fund abortion and argued that he was exercising his freedom of "conscience and religion" under the terms of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In August 2009, the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick rejected Little's argument, stating that the "non-payment of taxes does not qualify as a religious practice nor has it become the tenet of any religious faith" and adding, "The refusals may be the product of an informed conscience, but the Charter was not intended to insulate such acts from the rule of law."

Polling Data

In Canada, abortions are provided on request to Canadian citizens and permanent residents, and are funded by the health care system. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Jan. 2009	Jul. 2008
The health care system should fund abortions whenever they are requested	43%	43%
The health care system should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies	41%	44%
The health care system should not fund abortions at all	7%	4%

Not sure	9%	8%
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Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,002 Canadian adults, conducted on Jan. 7 and Jan. 8, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Three Countries OK with Haitian Relief Efforts

January 19, 2010

People in Canada and the United States appear satisfied with the way their respective governments are dealing with the crisis in Haiti, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 60 per cent of respondents in the U.S.—and 52 per cent in Canada—believe their governments are doing the right amount in order to help the victims of the recent earthquake.

In Britain, 46 per cent of respondents think the government has done the right amount, but 29 per cent are undecided.

On Jan. 12, Haiti was hit by a seven-point magnitude earthquake. The death toll has been calculated at over 50,000, while about 3 million people have been left injured or homeless.

Canadian foreign affairs minister Lawrence Cannon has announced the creation of a fund of up to \$100 million U.S.—which includes emergency resources and a system where the federal government matches the donations of individual Canadians—to assist humanitarian efforts. Canada has also deployed its Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), as well as vessels and helicopters to carry supplies to Haiti.

U.S. president Barack Obama has pledged \$100 million U.S. in aid, and enlisted former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush to form a charity organization to aid the victims. Several assets of the U.S. military have been deployed to Haiti to deliver supplies, medical units and special tactics teams.

The United Kingdom has already allocated \$10 million U.S. in aid and pledged a further \$22 million U.S. Volunteers from two Britain-based airlines have provided emergency and medical supplies, and a team of 71 search and rescue officers and two dogs was sent to Haiti on Jan. 13.

On Jan. 17, Haitian prime minister Jean-Max Bellerive discussed the current state of affairs, saying, "Sadly, we have to bring everybody to mass graves because we are racing against a possible epidemic."

Polling Data

Britain - At this point, do you think the UK Government is doing too much, is doing the right amount, or has not done enough in order to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti?

Canada - At this point, do you think the federal government is doing too much, is doing the right amount, or has not done enough in order to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti?

United States - At this point, do you think the federal government is doing too much, is doing the right amount, or has not done enough in order to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti?

	BRI	CAN	USA
Doing too much	12%	7%	13%
Doing the right amount	46%	60%	52%
Has not done enough	13%	16%	13%
Not sure	29%	18%	21%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,020 Canadian adults, 1,008 American adults, and 2,007 British adults, conducted from Jan. 14 to Jan. 17, 2010. Margins of error range from 2.2 per cent to 3.1 per cent.

The Post-Communist Generation in the Former Eastern Bloc

January 20, 2010

A Pew Global Attitudes survey conducted in fall 2009 finds that members of the post-communist generation, who are now between the ages of 18 and 39, offer much more positive evaluations of the political and economic changes their countries have undergone over the past two decades than do those who were adults when the Iron Curtain fell. The younger generation is also more individualistic and more likely to endorse a free market economy than are those who are age 40 or older.

Throughout 2010, the Pew Research Center will release a series of reports that explore the values, attitudes and behavior of America's Millennial Generation, which first came of age around the time of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and played an important role in the election of President Barack Obama. The Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project's contribution to this project focuses on a somewhat different age group: the post-communist generation in the former Eastern bloc. The older members of this generation came of age as their countries began to transition away from communism toward democracy and capitalism, and its youngest members were just being born as communism was collapsing. Their political socialization has taken place under a context that is drastically different from that of their older peers, who came of age under totalitarian regimes. The former Eastern bloc publics were surveyed as part of a Pulse of Europe study that included 13 countries in Eastern and Western Europe as well as the United States.¹

The generation gap on attitudes about democracy and capitalism in Eastern Europe reflects a divide between the past, present and future. Both young and old express concerns about the way things are going in their country, especially with regards to the economic situation. But while the older generation looks back longingly, often saying that people were better off financially under communism, the younger generation expresses more confidence that democracy can solve their countries' problems. This is a hopeful sign for the future, as the post-communist generation becomes the next leaders and decision-makers in Eastern Europe.

Change to Democracy

Generation Gap on Change to Democracy				
% Approve of change to...				Youngest- oldest gap
	Total	18-39	40+	
Multiparty system	%	%	%	
Russia	53	64	45	+19
Poland	70	77	66	+11
Hungary	56	62	51	+11
Ukraine	30	37	26	+11
Slovakia	71	77	68	+9
Czech Rep.	80	84	76	+8
Bulgaria	52	57	50	+7
Lithuania	55	58	52	+6
East Germany	85	87	84	+3

“Starting in late 1989, we changed from a country where there was just one party to a country with a multiparty system. Overall, do you strongly approve, approve, disapprove or strongly disapprove of this change in (survey country)?”

In Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine, the question reads, “After the dissolution of the Soviet Union...”

In East Germany, the question reads, “Starting in late 1989, East Germany moved from having one-party rule to a multiparty system...”

The post-communist generation is generally more supportive than respondents age 40 and older of their countries' move to a multiparty system. This generation gap is especially pronounced in Russia, where overall support for the political changes is lukewarm. More than six-in-ten (64%) Russians younger than age 40 approve of their country's shift to a multiparty system; in contrast, just 45% of older Russians approve of the change to democracy.

A similar pattern is also evident in some countries where support for the change to a multiparty system is widespread. In Poland, where seven-in-ten approve of the change, there is a double-digit generation gap -- 77% of those younger than age 40 support Poland's change to democracy, compared with 66% of those age 40 or older. In the Czech Republic, 84% of those in the younger age group favor their country's switch from a one-party system; 76% of those 40 or older agree. And in Slovakia, about three-quarters (77%) of those younger than age 40 say they approve of their country's change to a multiparty system, while 68% of older respondents share that view. In Ukraine, where opinions about the change to democracy are negative among the young and the old, the post-communist generation expresses less negative views. About a quarter (26%) of Ukrainians who experienced communism as adults say they approve of their country's change to a multiparty system, while a solid majority (64%) disapproves. Views are somewhat more balanced among the younger generation -- 37% approve and 43% disapprove of Ukraine's switch to a multiparty system; 21% do not offer an opinion.

Change to Capitalism

Generation Gap on Change to Capitalism				
% Approve of change to...				Youngest- oldest gap
	Total	18-39	40+	
Market economy	%	%	%	
Russia	50	62	40	+22
Ukraine	36	47	28	+19
Slovakia	66	77	58	+19
Bulgaria	53	63	47	+16
Poland	71	81	66	+15
Czech Rep.	79	86	74	+12
Lithuania	50	54	47	+7
Hungary	46	50	43	+7
East Germany	82	81	82	-1

“Again, thinking back to 1989, do you strongly approve, approve, disapprove or strongly disapprove that our country moved from having a state controlled economy to having a market economy?”

In Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine, the question reads, “Again thinking back to 1991...”

In every Eastern European country surveyed, the post-communist generation is much more supportive of the move away from a state-controlled economy than are those who lived as adults under communism. As is the case with opinions about the change to democracy, the generational divide is greatest in Russia; about six-in-ten (62%) Russians younger than age 40 say they approve of their country's change to capitalism, compared with just 40% of those in the older age group.

A double-digit gap also exists in Ukraine, Slovakia, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Poland, and a smaller gap is evident in Lithuania and Hungary. In Ukraine, where the overall level of support for the change to a market economy is lower than in any other country surveyed (36% approve of the change), nearly half (47%) of those younger than age 40 say they approve of the economic changes their country has undergone; just 28% of those 40 or older share that view.

How Most Have Fared Economically

People Worse Off Economically Than Under Communism?				
	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>DK</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Poland				
18-39	53	25	14	8
40+	42	43	11	4
Czech Rep.				
18-39	54	32	11	4
40+	39	45	13	3
Russia				
18-39	38	35	18	9
40+	29	52	13	6
Slovakia				
18-39	39	38	14	9
40+	21	56	21	2
Lithuania				
18-39	26	36	15	23
40+	20	56	15	8
Bulgaria				
18-39	16	53	18	13
40+	12	66	18	4
Ukraine				
18-39	15	51	15	19
40+	11	71	12	7
Hungary				
18-39	8	63	17	12
40+	7	77	14	1

“Would you say that the economic situation for most (survey country’s people) today is better, worse, or about the same as it was under communism?”

The generational differences on opinions of the changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe over the past two decades are reflected in views of how most people have fared under democracy and capitalism. In Poland, the Czech Republic, Russia and Slovakia, those younger than age 40 are much more likely than the older group to say the economic situation for most people in their country is now better than it was under communism.

In Poland and the Czech Republic, majorities of those younger than age 40 offer a positive assessment of how people in their country have fared economically: 53% and 54%, respectively, say most are now better off. Among those age 40 or older, however, views are more mixed. In Poland, virtually the same number in this age group say most people are better off now (42%) as say most are worse off (43%). In the Czech Republic, slightly more say the economic situation for most people is worse (45%) than say it is better (39%).

In Lithuania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Hungary, the generational gap reflects mostly uncertainty among the younger group. While those who experienced communism as adults are significantly

more likely than the post-communist generation to say that the economic situation for most people is now worse, a large share of those who are younger than 40 do not offer a response.

Have Ordinary People Benefited?

How Much Have Ordinary People Benefited From Changes Since 1989/1991?				
		Youngest-oldest gap		
% Great deal/ Fair amount	Total %	18-39 %	40+ %	gap
Czech Rep	53	64	45	+19
Poland	42	51	35	+16
Slovakia	21	28	14	+14
Bulgaria	11	16	8	+8
Russia	21	26	19	+7
Ukraine	10	14	8	+6
Hungary	17	19	16	+3

“How much have ordinary people benefited from the changes since 1989/1991 - a great deal, a fair amount, not too much, or not at all?”

Due to an administrative error, results for Lithuania are not shown. In Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria, respondents were asked about changes since 1989. In Ukraine and Russia, respondents were asked about changes since 1991.

In six of the seven countries where the question was asked, fewer than half say average citizens have benefited a great deal or a fair amount from the fall of communism. And in five of the seven, this sentiment is shared by fewer than three-in-ten of those younger than 40 and those in the older age group. Yet, the post-communist generation offers somewhat more positive views than do their older peers.

In the Czech Republic, where a slim 53% majority says ordinary people have benefited a great deal or a fair amount, a more robust 64% majority of those younger than 40 say that is the case. In contrast, just 45% of older Czechs say average citizens have benefited from the changes that have taken place since communism collapsed.

Younger Poles are also considerably more likely than Poles who were adults when the Iron Curtain collapsed to say that ordinary people have benefited from the changes. About half (51%) of those younger than 40 say average citizens have benefited a great deal or a fair amount, but just over a third (35%) of those 40 or older agree. And while few Slovaks across age groups believe that ordinary people have benefited from the changes since the end of communism, the post-communist generation is twice as likely as the older generation to have that opinion (28% vs. 14%).

Among younger and older respondents in the seven countries where this question was asked, more say that politicians and business owners have reaped benefits from the changes since the collapse of communism than say the same about ordinary people; solid majorities across age groups say the political and business elites have benefited a great deal or a fair amount.

Satisfaction With the Current State of Democracy

Satisfaction With Democracy				
	Total	18-39	40+	Youngest- oldest gap
% Satisfied	%	%	%	
Czech Rep.	49	60	42	+18
Poland	53	62	47	+15
Lithuania	35	43	29	+14
Russia	32	39	26	+13
Slovakia	50	55	46	+9
Bulgaria	21	27	18	+9
Ukraine	21	24	18	+6
Hungary	21	21	22	-1

“How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in our country - very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied or not at all satisfied?”

When asked to assess the current state of democracy in their countries, the post-communist generation expresses more positive views than does the older generation. That is especially the case in the Czech Republic and Poland, where overall satisfaction with how democracy is working is higher than in most of the eight countries where this question was asked. About six-in-ten Poles (62%) and Czechs (60%) younger than 40 say they are satisfied with the state of democracy in their country. Among those who are 40 or older, just under half in Poland (47%) and even fewer in the Czech Republic (42%) share this view.

Younger respondents in Lithuania and Russia are also more likely than those in the older age group to say they are satisfied with the way democracy is working in their country by double-digit margins. In both countries, however, majorities among the post-communist generation express dissatisfaction. In Lithuania, 43% of respondents who were not adults or were not yet born when communism collapsed are satisfied with the state of democracy and 54% are dissatisfied; among those who were 20 or older when the Iron Curtain came down, just 29% express satisfaction, while nearly two-thirds (64%) offer a negative assessment of democracy in their country. A similar pattern is evident in Russia.

Yet, while the post-communist generation tends to offer more positive evaluations of the state of democracy in their countries, a generational gap is not evident when respondents are presented with a list of six key democratic principles, such as freedom of speech and a fair judiciary, and asked how well each describes their country.

Individualism

Which Is More Important?			
	<u>Nobody in need</u>	<u>Freedom to pursue life's goals</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
East Germany			
18-39	61	35	4
40+	77	19	4
Poland			
18-39	68	29	3
40+	74	19	7
Czech Rep.			
18-39	44	56	0
40+	56	40	4
Slovakia			
18-39	48	46	6
40+	68	27	5
Hungary			
18-39	58	36	5
40+	73	24	4
Bulgaria			
18-39	66	29	5
40+	76	19	5
Lithuania			
18-39	72	24	4
40+	83	12	4
Ukraine			
18-39	46	37	17
40+	58	25	17
Russia			
18-39	50	39	11
40+	58	26	16

“What's more important in (survey country 's) society that everyone be free to pursue their life's goals without interference from the state or that the state play an active role in society so as to guarantee that nobody is in need?”

The post-communist generation also differs from older generations on the issue of an individual's relationship to the state. When asked which is more important, "that everyone be free to pursue their life's goals without interference from the state" or "that the state play an active role in society so as to guarantee that nobody is in need," those younger than 40 in all of the former Eastern bloc countries surveyed are more likely than those 40 or older to consider being free from state interference a higher priority.

In Slovakia, where the public overall is much more likely to prioritize ensuring that no one is in need over individual rights, the post-communist generation is split -- 48% say it is more important for the state to guarantee that nobody is in need and 46% say freedom to pursue one's goals without state interference is a higher priority. Those who are 40 or older are more than

twice as likely to say that the state should provide a social safety net as they are to say that freedom from state interference is more important (68% vs. 27%).

Double-digit generational divides on individualism are also evident in most of the other Eastern European countries surveyed and in the former East Germany. For example, in the Czech Republic, more than half (56%) of those who were younger than 20 or not yet born when communism collapsed say freedom from state interference is more important to them; 44% say guaranteeing no one is in need is a higher priority. Among Czechs who were adults in 1989, however, opinions are reversed -- 56% say it is more important for the state to play an active role in guaranteeing that nobody is in need and 40% prioritize freedom from state interference.

Views of Free Markets

People Are Better Off in Free Markets, Even If Some Are Rich and Some Are Poor				
	Total	18-39	40+	Youngest-oldest gap
% Agree	%	%	%	
Russia	52	62	46	+16
Ukraine	46	54	40	+14
Poland	70	77	65	+12
Czech Rep.	63	68	58	+10
Bulgaria	37	43	33	+10
Slovakia	56	61	52	+9
Hungary	31	35	28	+7
Lithuania	50	53	49	+4
East Germany	59	58	60	2

“Please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree or completely disagree with the statement: Most people are better off in a free market economy, even though some people are rich and some are poor.”

There is also a significant generation gap in nearly every former communist country surveyed when respondents are asked whether they agree or disagree that most people are better off in a free market economy, even though some people may be rich while others are poor. In Russia, a solid majority (62%) of those who are younger than 40 agree that people are better off in a free market economy, while just 35% disagree. Among older Russians, however, 46% favor the free market approach and about the same number (49%) rejects the idea that free markets are better. Even in some countries where both young and old have embraced the free market approach, more in the younger age group agree that people are better off in a free market economy. In the Czech Republic, for example, 68% of those younger than 40 favor the free market model, compared with 58% of those 40 or older. And in Slovakia, where a clear majority (61%) of the post-communist generation expresses support for free markets, a slim majority (52%) of those 40 or older share that view.

Support for Key Democratic Principles

Support for Democratic Principles in Poland

	Total	18-39	40+	Youngest- oldest gap
% Very important	%	%	%	
Freedom of speech	50	56	45	+11
Honest elections	51	56	48	+8
Freedom of the press	52	56	49	+7
Civilian-controlled military	29	33	26	+7
Fair judicial system	64	65	62	+3
Freedom of religion	62	62	63	-1
MEDIAN	52	56	49	+7

“As I read a list of things that you can and cannot do in some countries, please tell me how important each is to you. How important is it to you to live in a country where (insert item)? Is it very important, somewhat important, not too important or not important at all?”

When it comes to supporting democratic institutions and freedoms, however, the post-communist generation and those who are 40 or older tend to offer similar views. Looking across the six democratic values tested -- freedom of speech, honest elections, a fair judiciary, a civilian-controlled military, freedom of the press and religious freedom -- the generation gap in nearly all of the former communist countries polled is small. For example, a median of 54% of Czechs younger than 40 and 52% of those in the older age group rate these features of democracy as very important to them.

Only in Poland is there a significant gap in attitudes toward key democratic principles. A median of 56% of Poles who were younger than 20 or not yet born when communism collapsed consider these democratic values to be very important. By comparison, fewer than half (a median of 49%) among those who were adults when the Berlin Wall came down share that view. About the same median percentage of younger and older Poles agree that these features of democracy are at least somewhat important (93% and 90%, respectively).

Democratic Government vs. Strong Leader			
	Dem govt. %	Strong leader %	DK %
East Germany			
18-39	77	21	2
40+	72	25	3
Poland			
18-39	60	30	7
40+	51	39	10
Czech Rep.			
18-39	84	13	3
40+	79	16	5
Slovakia			
18-39	84	8	8
40+	79	16	5
Hungary			
18-39	44	46	10
40+	41	51	8
Bulgaria			
18-39	31	65	4
40+	23	71	6
Lithuania			
18-39	48	43	9
40+	38	53	9
Ukraine			
18-39	23	64	13
40+	18	73	9
Russia			
18-39	33	55	11
40+	26	63	11

“Some feel that we should rely on a democratic form of government to solve our country's problems. Others feel that we should rely on a leader with a strong hand to solve our country's problems. Which comes closer to your opinion?”

Younger and older Poles are especially divided about the value of freedom of speech. More than half (56%) of Poles younger than 40 say it is very important to them to live in a country where they can openly say what they think and can criticize the government; 45% of those 40 or older agree. Younger Poles are also more like than those in the older age group to give high priority to honest multiparty elections (a gap of 8 percentage points), freedom of the press (7 points) and a civilian-controlled military (7 points).

There is also a generational split in Poland when respondents are asked whether a democratic form of government or a strong leader is better able to solve a country's problems. More than six-in-ten (63%) Poles who were younger than 20 or not yet born when communism collapsed place more confidence in a democratic government, while 30% say a strong leader is better; among

older Poles, a slim 51% majority choose a democratic government over a strong leader (39%). And while more Poles in both age groups would choose a strong economy over a good democracy, younger Poles value a good democracy more than do those who are 40 or older (41% vs. 33%).

The post-communist generation in Lithuania is also much more likely than older generations to say that a democratic government is better able than a strong leader to solve the country's problems. About half (48%) of Lithuanians younger than 40 would choose democracy over a strong leader (43%); among older Lithuanians, 38% prefers a democratic government, while a majority (53%) say a strong leader would be more effective in solving the country's problems. The generational gap is somewhat less pronounced in other countries. For example, younger and older Czechs overwhelmingly prefer a democratic government over a strong leader when it comes to solving the country's problems (84% and 79%, respectively), while strong majorities of Bulgarians younger than 40 (65%) and those 40 or older (71%) would choose a strong leader.
