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M. Zubair

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Prelude

This week report consists of 33 surveys. One of these surveys is multi-country while the rest of are national surveys.

Will Troops Increase in Afghanistan Help U.S. Win War?

With the recently announced increase in US troops in Afghans, will really help U.S. win war in Afghanistan. Afghans perceptions of US leadership and US itself are becoming increasingly negative ever since mid 2009. More than half (52%) of Afghans hold negative views of US according to Gallup survey.¹ Similarly their approval ratings for US leadership have also declined by 6 percentage point during this year. Both of these show that Afghans are losing confidence in US & its role as messiah. So to defeat Talibans/extremists, US will have to firstly win the confidence of the Afghans citizens.

How far is it likely that US will eventually come out of Afghanistan as victorious?
Is it possible to win war without wining the hearts of Afghans?

Did Ahmadijad Really Win The Elections?

Iranian Presidential Elections last year became a flash point in world politics when huge protests were launched by supporters of Mousavi. They alleged Ahmadijad for staging the fraud elections. But the surveys conducted by various organization pre and post the elections show that Ahmadijad really won the elections.² He had the majority support before the elections and same continued or increased (possibly due to fear) after the elections. A two third majority show confidence in President Ahmadijad and believe him to be the truly elected president.

Then why there was so much protest. As alleged by Ahmadijad, were foreign powers really backing the protestors?

¹ <http://www.gallup.com/poll/125537/Afghans-Skeptical-Leadership-Troops-2009.aspx>

²

<http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/bmiddleeastnafrica/652.php?nid=&id=&pnt=652&lb=>

Summary of Polls

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians Want Abbas to Stay in Office

Most people in the West Bank and Gaza want Mahmoud Abbas to retain his post of president of the Palestinian Authority until a new ballot takes place, according to a poll by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion. 57.6 per cent of respondents support this idea, while 28.3 per cent reject it.

February 04, 2010

PM's Wife Plays a Role in Decisions, Say Israelis

Most people in Israel think Sarah Netanyahu, the wife of prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is involved in decisions regarding the appointment of public servants, according to a poll by Maagar Mochot released by Reshet. 56 per cent of respondents believe this allegation is true.

January 31, 2010

WEST ASIA

Little Evidence Iranian Public Sees Government as Illegitimate

Indications of fraud in the June 12 Iranian presidential election, together with large-scale street demonstrations, have led to claims that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad did not actually win the election, but the analysis of polls conducted by three different organizations do not support this assumption.

February 3, 2010

Afghans More Skeptical of U.S. Leadership, Troops in 2009

Afghans' views of U.S. leadership appeared to erode from mid- to late 2009 as the Obama administration weighed its course of action. The 44% of Afghans who said they approved in late September/early October was down slightly from 50% in June.

February 3, 2010

EAST ASIA

Susilo's Appeal Drops Considerably in Indonesia

Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono remains highly popular but has lost a significant amount of public backing, according to a poll by the Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI). 70 per cent of respondents are satisfied with Susilo's performance, down 14 points since September.

February 01, 2010

Filipinos Throw Support Behind Noynoy Aquino

Benigno Aquino III has become the clear frontrunner in the race to become the next president of the Philippines, according to a poll by Social Weather Stations. 47 per cent of respondents would vote for "Noynoy" Aquino of the Liberal Party (PLP) in this year's election.

February 03, 2010

NORTHEAST ASIA

Hatoyama's Cabinet Keeps Dipping in Japan

Public backing for the Japanese government has continued to fall dramatically, according to a poll by Nikkei. 45 per cent of respondents approve of the cabinet led by Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama, down five points since December.

February 03, 2010

South Korea's Lee Sees Sharp Decline

Fewer people in South Korea are expressing support for Lee Myung-bak, according to a poll by Research Plus published in *The Hankyoreh*. 48.9 per cent of respondents say the president has done a good or very good job in general, down 7.8 points since December.

February 02, 2010

Taiwanese Definitely Disgruntled with Ma

Two thirds of people in Taiwan criticize the performance of Ma Ying-jeou, according to a poll by Global Views. 66.3 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with the president's leadership, up 4.1 points since December.

February 02, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Cameron Outranks His Rivals in Britain

Conservative leader David Cameron is the most popular political leader in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 46 per cent of respondents approve of Cameron's performance.

February 01, 2010

Government Right to Refuse Ransom, Say Britons

People in Britain support their government's stance on a recent kidnapping, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 60 per cent of respondents agree with the refusal to negotiate a payment with hostage takers in exchange for the release of Paul and Rachel Chandler.

February 05, 2010

Seven-in-Ten Britons Want Legal Euthanasia

The push to legalize euthanasia is supported by a majority of people in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 71 per cent of respondents generally oppose the practice, while 18 per cent are opposed.

February 03, 2010

Britons Not Impressed with National Economy

People in Britain are not ready to say that their domestic economy is doing well, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 83 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as poor or very poor.

January 31, 2010

More Germans Perceive Improving Economic Conditions

As Germany's leadership continues to debate the best way to stimulate the country's struggling economy, Gallup finds the number of Germans who perceive economic conditions in their country as getting better more than doubled in the late third and early fourth quarters of last year, although a majority still said the economy was getting worse.

February 1, 2010

Germans Consider Ending Afghan Mission Now

A third of people in Germany want their country's troops serving in Afghanistan to be withdrawn immediately, according to a poll by Forsa released by *Stern* and RTL. 32 per cent of respondents share this view.

February 04, 2010

PM Fillon's Popularity Spikes in France

More people in France are now expressing support for François Fillon, according to a poll by LH2. 55 per cent of respondents have a positive opinion of their prime minister's performance, up 10 points since December.

February 05, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Socialism Viewed Positively by 36% of Americans

More than one-third of Americans (36%) have a positive image of "socialism," while 58% have a negative image. Views differ by party and ideology, with a majority of Democrats and liberals saying they have a positive view of socialism, compared to a minority of Republicans and conservatives.

February 4, 2010

In January, Most Job Creation in U.S. South and East

Gallup's Job Creation Index -- based on U.S. employees' self-reports of hiring and firing activity at their workplaces -- shows that perceptions of current job-market conditions nationwide worsened slightly in January compared to December. Job-market conditions are best in the South and the East, improving in the Midwest, but deteriorating in the West.

February 4, 2010

Two in Five Americans Believe Current State of the Union is Poor

As President Obama puts the final touches on his first State of the Union address, he will be speaking to Americans who do not think the current state of the country is doing all that well. More than four in five U.S. adults (84%) give negative ratings to the current state of the union with 40% saying it is poor, the lowest on our scale. Just 16% give the state of the union positive ratings with only 3% saying it is excellent.

Jan 27, 2010

Americans Leery of Too Much Gov't Regulation of Business

At a time of increasing debate over the optimal relationship between government and business in the U.S., new Gallup polling shows that 57% of Americans are worried that there will be too much government regulation of business, while 37% worry that there will not be enough. Half of Americans believe the government should become less involved in regulating and controlling business, with 24% saying the government should become more involved and 23% saying things are about right.

February 2, 2010

Americans Reject Campaign Financing Decision

People in the United States reject a recent Supreme Court decision that allows corporations to spend freely to support candidates in federal elections, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 65 per cent of respondents disagree with the ruling.

February 02, 2010

Asian-Americans Lean Left Politically

Gallup Daily tracking data reveal that Asian-Americans tend to be more Democratic and much less conservative than the general population in their political views.

February 3, 2010

Americans Expect Court to Reject Gay Marriage

Many Americans believe their Supreme Court will ultimately ban same-sex marriage, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 52 per cent of respondents expect a decision that would define marriage federally as between a man and a woman.

January 31, 2010

Omar Khadr Case Still Divides Views in Canada

Canadians remain split on the best course of action in the Omar Khadr case, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 40 per cent of respondents would leave Khadr to face trial by military commission in Guantanamo Bay, while 40 per cent would demand his repatriation to face due process under Canadian law.

February 04, 2010

Canadians Want to Elect Their Senators

People in Canada voice support for changing the way the members of their upper house are chosen, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 67 per cent of respondents support allowing Canadians to directly elect their senators.

February 06, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Quake Sets Back Government Already Weak in Haitians' Eyes

Gallup's December 2008 survey of Haitians indicated they were less likely than neighboring Dominicans and most other Central American populations to express confidence in key institutions.

February 5, 2010

Many Colombians Reject Re-Election Referendum

Almost half of people in Colombia oppose the government calling a referendum on whether the constitution should be modified to allow Álvaro Uribe to run for a third term as president, according to a poll by Datexco published in *El Tiempo*. 47 per cent of respondents oppose the proposed referendum, whereas 41 per cent support it.

February 05, 2010

Brazilians Remain Opposed to Death Penalty

Most people in Brazil are against the death penalty, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 55.2 per cent of respondents share this opinion, practically unchanged since January 2001.

February 05, 2010

Four-in-Five Brazilians Convey Support for Lula

The vast majority of people in Brazil are content with the performance of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 81.7 per cent of respondents approve of the way the president has handled his duties, up 2.8 points since November.

February 03, 2010

Mexicans Reject Re-Election in Lower House

Over three quarters of people in Mexico disagree with allowing members of the Chamber of Deputies to run for re-election, according to a poll by Consulta Mitofsky. 78.3 per cent of respondents share this view.

February 01, 2010

Mexicans Assess Proposed Electoral Reforms

Most people in Mexico say politicians stand to gain from a series of electoral reforms proposed by the government, according to a poll by *Reforma*. 57 per cent of respondents think politicians alone will benefit from the proposed changes, while 34 per cent say citizens will gain with them.

February 06, 2010

AUSTRALASIA

Australians Back Abbott on Proposed Green Jobs

Most people in Australia support a proposal by opposition leader Tony Abbott to employ thousands of people to develop major environmental projects, according to a poll by Essential Research. 59 per cent of respondents back Abbott's idea, while 15 per cent oppose it.

February 01, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Mixed Views of Hamas and Hezbollah in Largely Muslim Nations

Across predominantly Muslim nations, there is little enthusiasm for the extremist Islamic organizations Hamas and Hezbollah, although there are pockets of support for both groups, especially in the Middle East.

February 4, 2010

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians Want Abbas to Stay in Office

February 04, 2010

Most people in the West Bank and Gaza want Mahmoud Abbas to retain his post of president of the Palestinian Authority until a new ballot takes place, according to a poll by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion. 57.6 per cent of respondents support this idea, while 28.3 per cent reject it.

Fatah leader Abbas won the January 2005 presidential ballot in the Palestinian Territories with 62.32 per cent of all cast ballots. In January 2006, Hamas won the Palestinian Legislative Council election, securing 74 of the 112 seats at stake. Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh officially took over as prime minister in March. The Israeli government believes Hamas is directly responsible for the deaths of 377 citizens in a variety of attacks, which include dozens of suicide bombings.

In February 2007, Hamas and Fatah leaders reached an accord which set the guidelines for a power-sharing Palestinian administration, headed by Hamas. In June, amid a wave of violent clashes between Hamas and Fatah factions, Hamas militants seized control of Gaza. Abbas issued a decree to form a 12-member emergency government based in the West Bank and

expelled Hamas from the administration. Fatah member Salam Fayyad was appointed as prime minister by Abbas.

In 2008, Abbas extended his tenure—which was supposed to end in January 2009—until 2010. The extension is part of an Egypt-sponsored plan to foster reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah.

Both factions had agreed to hold joint presidential and parliamentary elections in January 2010, but the actual timing of the new ballot is uncertain. In May 2009, Abbas swore in a new government that does not include members of Hamas. Fayyad remained in his post as prime minister.

On Nov. 12, Palestinian election officials recommended suspending the January 2010 elections for the time being, saying that a ballot would only deepen the divide between Gaza and the West Bank.

On Dec. 16, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)'s Central Council extended Abbas's term in office indefinitely.

Last month, Abbas appointed Leila Ghannam as governor of Ramallah. It is the first time a woman holds a position of Palestinian governor.

On Jan. 31, Ghannam commented on her appointment, saying, "I was appointed to the position because of the president's belief in my abilities, and not because I'm a woman. It is proof that our leader Abu-Mazen [Abbas] does not differentiate between men and women, and he chooses according to skill."

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose the stay of Mr. Mahmoud Abbas in his office as President of the Palestinian Authority up until new presidential elections are held?

Support	57.6%
Oppose	28.3%
Don't know	14.1%

Source: Palestinian Center for Public Opinion

Methodology: Interviews with 1,450 Palestinian adults in the West Bank and Gaza, conducted in January 2010. Margin of error is 2.6 per cent.

PM's Wife Plays a Role in Decisions, Say Israelis

January 31, 2010

Most people in Israel think Sarah Netanyahu, the wife of prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is involved in decisions regarding the appointment of public servants, according to a poll by Maagar Mochot released by Reshet. 56 per cent of respondents believe this allegation is true.

In addition, 37 per cent of respondents believe the prime minister's wife gets involved in state decisions, while 19 per cent disagree.

In February 2009, Israeli voters renewed the Knesset. The Likud party, led by Netanyahu, secured 27 seats in the legislature. The far-right Israel Our Home, the Labour party, the International Organization of Torah-observant Sephardic Jews (Shas), United Torah Judaism, and the Jewish Home joined Likud in a coalition. In March, Netanyahu was sworn in as prime minister.

Netanyahu served as prime minister from June 1996 to July 1999, and resigned from Ariel Sharon's cabinet—where he held the finance portfolio—after opposing the "Disengagement Plan."

The Kadima party secured one more seat than Likud in the election but Tzipi Livni—the party leader—was unable to assemble a coalition with other Israeli political parties.

Earlier this month, Lillian Peretz—a former housekeeper at the Netanyahus' weekend home—filed a lawsuit against Sarah Netanyahu claiming that she mistreated her. Among other things, Peretz claimed that the first lady made her address her as "The Mother of Israel."

Peretz's lawsuit was followed by reports citing anonymous sources who claim that Mrs. Netanyahu should be further scrutinized because she allegedly influences the prime minister's decisions.

On Jan. 21, the prime minister addressed the lawsuit issue and told the media to "concentrate your fire on me, not my family," adding, "My wife does not run the country; the only way in which she tries to influence me is to make me more attentive to people's needs."

Polling Data

Do you think that Sarah Netanyahu gets involved in state decisions Benjamin Netanyahu deals in?

Does	37%
Doesn't	19%
Other replies	44%

Is Sarah Netanyahu involved in the decisions of the prime minister on the appointment of various people to public service?

Involved	56%
Not involved	21%
Other replies	23%

Source: Maagar Mochot / Reshet

Methodology: Interviews with 448 Israeli adults, conducted on Jan. 24, 2010. Margin of error is 4.5 per cent.

WEST ASIA

Little Evidence Iranian Public Sees Government as Illegitimate

Analysis of Multiple Polls Finds

February 3, 2010

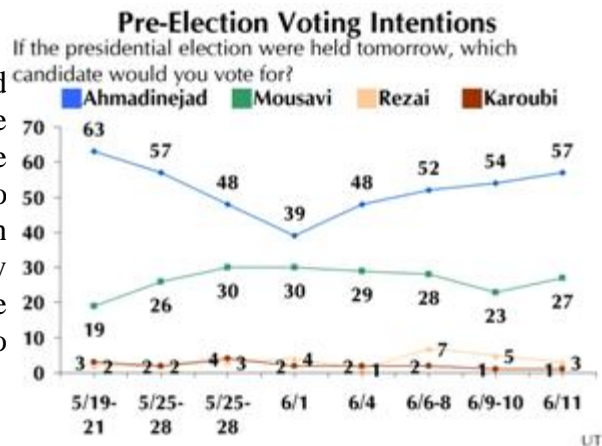
Indications of fraud in the June 12 Iranian presidential election, together with large-scale street demonstrations, have led to claims that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad did not actually win the election, and that the majority of Iranians perceive their government as illegitimate and favor regime change.

An analysis of multiple polls of the Iranian public from three different sources finds little evidence to support such conclusions.

The analysis conducted by the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland (PIPA), was based on:

- a series of 10 recently-released polls conducted by the University of Tehran; eight conducted in the month before the June 12 election and two conducted in the month after the election, based on telephone interviews conducted within Iran
- a poll by GlobeScan conducted shortly after the election, based on telephone interviews conducted within Iran
- a poll by WorldPublicOpinion.org (managed by PIPA) conducted August 27--September 10, based on telephone interviews made by calling into Iran

The study sought to address the widely-discussed hypotheses that Ahmadinejad did not win the June 12 election and that the Iranian people perceive their government as illegitimate. It also sought to explore the assumption that the opposition represents a movement favoring a substantially different posture toward the United States. The analysis of the data found little evidence to support any of these hypotheses.



Steven Kull, director of PIPA, said, "Our analysis suggests that it would not be prudent to base US policy on the assumption that the Iranian public is in a pre-revolutionary state of mind."

On the question of whether Ahmadinejad won the June 12 election, in the week before the election and after the election, in all polls a majority said they planned to or did vote for Ahmadinejad. These numbers ranged from 52 to 57% immediately before the election and 55 to 66% after the election.

Steven Kull comments, "These findings do not prove that there were no irregularities in the election process. But they do not support the belief that a majority rejected Ahmadinejad."

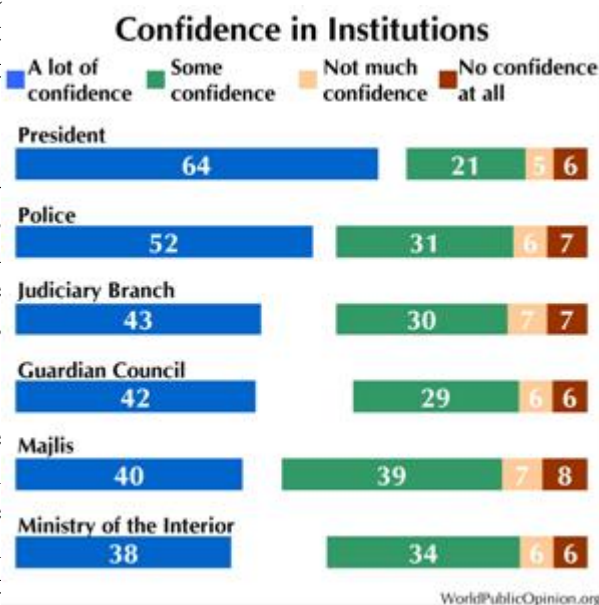
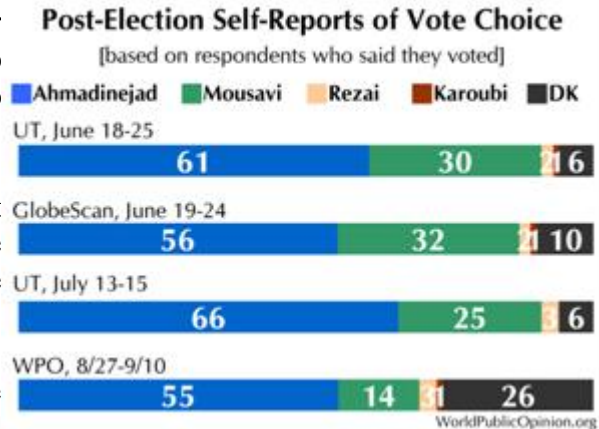
The analysis did reveal factors that could have contributed to the impression that Ahmadinejad did not win. University of Tehran polls show that support dropped precipitously and he did not enjoy majority support in the city of Tehran. But in the week before the election, his support recovered outside the capital.

Going into the election 57% said they expected Ahmadinejad to win. Thus it is not surprising that, in several post-election polls, more than seven in ten said they saw Ahmadinejad as the legitimate president. About eight in ten said the election was free and fair.

The polls did reveal some reservations about the government. Less than a majority expressed full confidence in the Guardian Council (42%) and the Ministry of the Interior (38%). While over eight in ten said they were satisfied with the current system of government, in June less than a majority (49%) said they were very satisfied and this number dropped to 41% in July.

However none of the polls found indications of support for regime change. Large majorities, including majorities of Mousavi supporters, endorse the Islamist character of the regime such as having a body of Islamic scholars with the power to veto laws they see as contrary to sharia.

To address the possibility that the data collected within Iran may have been fabricated, PIPA compared the patterns of responses, including within subgroups, in data collected inside Iran to those collected by calling into Iran from the outside. Steven Kull comments, "The patterns of responses at many levels are so similar, whether the data was collected inside Iran or by calling into Iran, that it is hard to conclude that these data were fabricated."



Another concern is that Iranian respondents were not answering candidly out of fear of some type of reprisal for making statements in support of the opposition or critical of the regime, particularly in the post-election environment. As noted above, on some questions majorities expressed views that were less than fully laudatory of the government.

Still there was the fact that after the election, the numbers expressing support for Mousavi diminished suggests that some self-censoring may have been occurring. Thus PIPA put special emphasis on analyzing the responses of those who felt bold enough to say that they voted for the opposition on the assumption that they would be frank on other issues as well. While Mousavi supporters are less affirmative of the legitimacy of the regime than the public as a whole, still a majority says that they believe that Ahmadinejad is the legitimate president and affirm the Islamist nature of the regime.

Some analysts have suggested that if the opposition were to gain power this would lead to fundamental changes in the Iranian posture toward the US. Focusing on those respondents who said they voted for Mousavi, as an approximation of the opposition, PIPA found that a majority were ready to negotiate with the US on a number of issues, while the Iranian public as a whole was more divided. However, Mousavi supporters, like the general public, were quite negative in their views of the US government and were strongly committed to Iran's nuclear program.

A majority of Mousavi supporters did favor diplomatic relations with the US, and were ready to make a deal whereby Iran would preclude developing nuclear weapons through intrusive international inspections in exchange for the removal of sanctions. However, this was equally true of the majority of all Iranians.

Afghans More Skeptical of U.S. Leadership, Troops in 2009

Image of United States also viewed less favorably

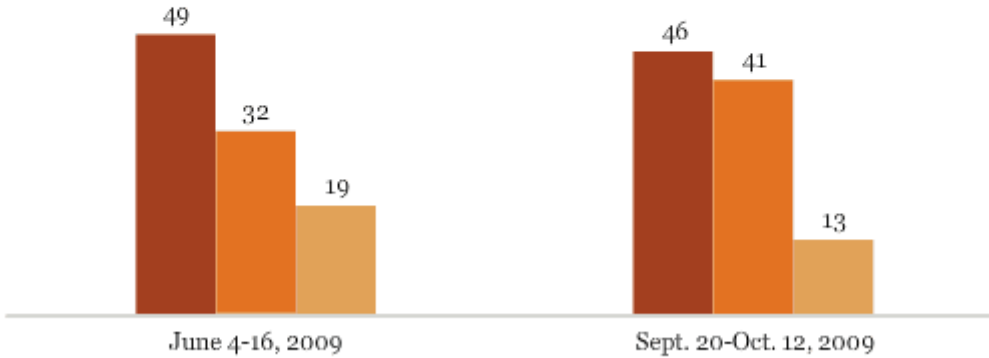
February 3, 2010

President Barack Obama's decision in December to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan came at a time when Afghans appeared increasingly mixed on whether additional troops would help. Afghans surveyed in late September and early October (46%) were as likely as they were in June (49%) to say additional troops would help stabilize the security situation in the southern provinces. However, the number who said more troops would not help increased from 32% to 41% -- possibly reflecting the security problems Afghans experienced despite the increase in troops before the election.

The U.S. president announced an increase in the amount of troops sent to Afghanistan. Do you think additional U.S. troops will help stabilize the security situation in the southern provinces, or not?

Asked of Afghan adults

■ % Yes ■ % No ■ % Don't know/Refused



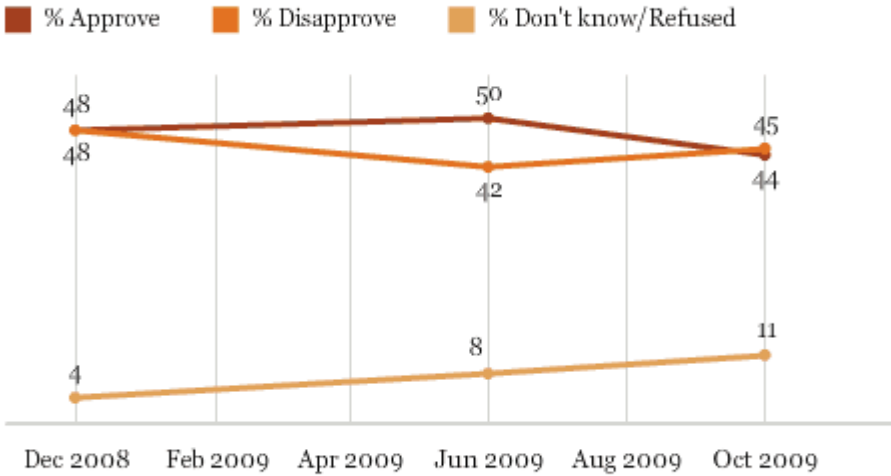
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Talks last week in London laid the groundwork for the U.S. and NATO allies to leave Afghanistan, but before that happens, U.S. and allied troop numbers will surge by more than 30,000 in coming months. Gallup's most recent survey found many Afghans remained receptive to the idea of additional U.S. troops, but that the gap was narrowing.

Afghans' Approval of U.S Leadership Down Slightly

Afghans' views of U.S. leadership also appeared to erode from mid- to late 2009 as the Obama administration weighed its course of action. The 44% of Afghans who said they approved in late September/early October was down slightly from 50% in June. But Afghans' opinions of U.S. leadership overall remained split, as they have been since the end of the Bush administration. And approval ratings still remained higher than those found elsewhere in South Asia.

Approval of U.S. Leadership in Afghanistan



GALLUP®

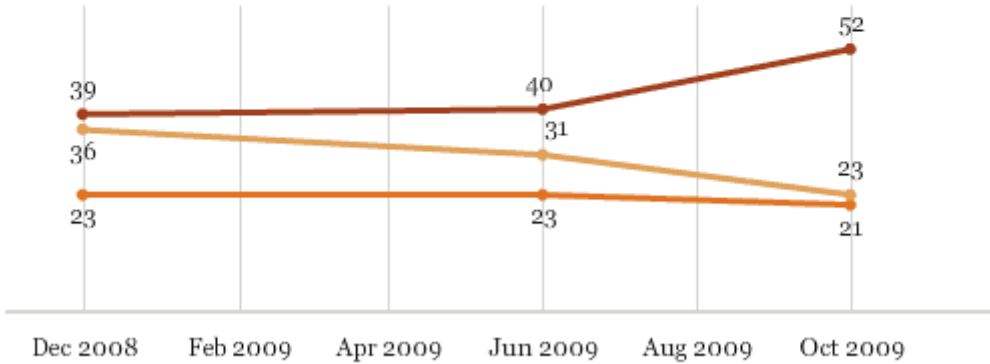
Overall, Afghans who said they approved of U.S. leadership were more likely to say sending additional U.S. troops would help the security situation in the southern provinces (61%) than those who disapproved (33%). This pattern held across several regions in Afghanistan, though approval numbers in several regions, such as the West and South, were too small to report results.

Views of U.S. Increasingly Unfavorable

In the most recent survey, Afghans' opinions of the United States, as a nation, were the lowest Gallup has measured to date. Asked to rate the extent of their favorability on a 5-point scale, where 1 is very unfavorable and 5 is very favorable, a majority of Afghans (52%) rated the United States very (24%) or somewhat unfavorable (28%).

In general, what opinion do you have of the following nations? You can express your extent of your favorability on a 5-point scale, where 1 is very unfavorable and 5 is very favorable.

■ % 1, 2 (Very/Somewhat unfavorable) ■ % 3 (Neither favorable nor unfavorable)
 ■ % 4, 5 (Somewhat/Very favorable)



GALLUP®

Ratings of Iran and China, the two other nations Afghans were asked about, were also the least favorable to date. Far fewer Afghans, however, rated China or Iran as unfavorably as the United States. Thirty-nine percent of Afghans rated China very (17%) or somewhat unfavorably (22%), while 41% rated Iran very (17%) or somewhat unfavorably (24%).

Bottom Line

The military surge in the coming months is only one part of the new proposed strategy for Afghanistan, but Afghans' confidence that it will help bring stability will be vitally important to the U.S. and allies' efforts. Gallup's surveys ahead of the surge suggest Afghans' confidence, as well as their approval of U.S. leadership, were faltering last October. So, not only will U.S. troops be battling insurgents in coming months, they likely will also be combating Afghans' increasing skepticism that they can actually help the situation.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with a nationally representative random sample of 1,000 adults in urban and rural areas, aged 15 and older, conducted in December 2008, June 2009, and September/October 2009 in Afghanistan. For results based on the sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points. 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.

EAST ASIA

Susilo's Appeal Drops Considerably in Indonesia

February 01, 2010

Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono remains highly popular but has lost a significant amount of public backing, according to a poll by the Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI). 70 per cent of respondents are satisfied with Susilo's performance, down 14 points since September.

Susilo—a security minister who ran as the candidate of the Democrat Party (PD)—won the September 2004 presidential election with 60.62 per cent of the vote in a run-off. The vote marked the first time Indonesian voters picked their head of state through the ballot box. In July, Susilo earned a new term in office with 60.8 per cent of the vote in the first round the presidential election.

Earlier this month, Susilo released an album—*Ku Yakin Sampai di Sana* (I Believe I Will Get There)—featuring songs written by him and performed by famous Indonesian artists. The prime minister has released three other albums since 2006.

On Jan. 27, Susilo talked about his career as a musician, saying, "During my childhood in my hometown of Pacitan, I used to play in a band I formed with my friends. Today, in the middle of my struggle to serve my country as a president, sometimes, during my leisure time, I express my feelings in the form of arts."

Polling Data

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the administration headed by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono?

	Jan. 2010	Sept. 2009	Mar. 2009
Satisfied	70%	84%	80%
Dissatisfied	27%	16%	20%

Source: Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI)

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 2,869 Indonesian adults, conducted from Jan. 7 to Jan. 20, 2010. Margin of error is 2 per cent.

Filipinos Throw Support Behind Noynoy Aquino

February 03, 2010

Benigno Aquino III has become the clear frontrunner in the race to become the next president of the Philippines, according to a poll by Social Weather Stations. 47 per cent of respondents would vote for "Noynoy" Aquino of the Liberal Party (PLP) in this year's election.

Senator Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party (PNP) is a distant second with 37 per cent, followed by former president Joseph Estrada of the Force of the Filipino Masses (PMP) with 14 per cent.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took over as president in January 2001, following Estrada's resignation. Arroyo won a six-year term in the June 2004 presidential election, garnering 39.99 per cent of all cast ballots. Noli De Castro—running as Arroyo's running mate, but not as part of a single ticket—received 49.79 per cent of all cast ballots in the vice-presidential election, defeating Loren Legarda.

In May 2007, voters in the Philippines renewed the House of Representatives and one-half of the Senate. Final results gave seven of the 12 upper house seats at stake to Genuine Opposition (GO) candidates, followed by the pro-government Team Unity (TU) with three, and two independents.

In 1986, Corazon Aquino—the widow of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino—took over as president when long-time dictator Ferdinand Marcos was forced to flee to Hawaii. Aquino accused Marcos of stealing a presidential election, and led a series of massive demonstrations that came to be known as "People Power" in order to topple the regime. Aquino ended her presidency on a high note and remained an extremely popular figure in the country, until her death in August 2009.

Aquino's death ignited a sudden interest in her son Noyonoy Aquino becoming a presidential candidate. A grass-roots movement urged Aquino III to run and the senator officially launched his bid in September.

On Jan. 29, Aquino vowed to open an investigation into past allegations of corruption against Arroyo, declaring, "We are lacking in transparency. (...) And there must be certainty of punishment for corrupt officials. If we are not going to pay attention to this, we are continuing an erroneous system."

The presidential election is scheduled for May 10. Arroyo is ineligible for a consecutive term in office.

Polling Data

Among the names found in this list, who will you probably vote for as President of the Philippines, if elections were held today?

Benigno Aquino III	47%
Manuel Villar	37%
Joseph Estrada	14%
Undecided	2%

Source: Social Weather Stations

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 2,100 Filipino adults, conducted on Dec. 27 and Dec. 28, 2009. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Hatoyama's Cabinet Keeps Dipping in Japan

February 03, 2010

Public backing for the Japanese government has continued to fall dramatically, according to a poll by Nikkei. 45 per cent of respondents approve of the cabinet led by Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama, down five points since December.

In August 2009, Japanese voters renewed the House of Representatives. Final results gave the 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.

The former LDP-led government was marred by corruptions scandals. The new government has been the subject of suspicions as well.

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.

In January, 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.

On Jan. 30, Hatoyama vowed to press on with plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020, saying, "This is a chance to create new demand. The government will mobilize its policies for the creation of a low-carbon society."

Polling Data

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

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009
Approve	45%	50%
Disapprove	47%	42%

Source: Nikkei

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,370 Japanese adults, conducted from Jan. 26 and Jan. 27, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

South Korea's Lee Sees Sharp Decline

February 02, 2010

Fewer people in South Korea are expressing support for Lee Myung-bak, according to a poll by Research Plus published in *The Hankyoreh*. 48.9 per cent of respondents say the president has done a good or very good job in general, down 7.8 points since December.

In December 2007, Lee—a member of the Grand National Party (GNP) and a former mayor of Seoul—won the presidential election with 48.7 per cent of the vote. He became South Korea's head of state in February 2008.

Diplomatic relations between the North and South have been strained since the end of the Korean War. A one-mile demilitarized zone has separated the two countries since 1953.

On Jan. 29, Lee said that, despite recent tensions in the north/south border, he is still willing to negotiate with North Korea's dictator, declaring, "I am always ready to meet with Chairman Kim Jong Il."

Polling Data

Has South Korean president Lee Myung-bak done a good job or a bad job in general?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009
Very good job / Good job	48.9%	56.7%
Bad job / Very bad job	51.1%	43.3%

Source: Research Plus / The Hankyoreh

Methodology: Interviews with 700 South Korean adults, conducted on Jan. 26, 2010. Margin of error is 3.7 per cent.

Taiwanese Definitely Disgruntled with Ma

February 02, 2010

Two thirds of people in Taiwan criticize the performance of Ma Ying-jeou, according to a poll by Global Views. 66.3 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with the president's leadership, up 4.1 points since December.

In 1895, following a military defeat, China ceded Taiwan to Japan. At the end of World War II, the island was returned to Chinese control. In 1949, as Mao Zedong's communists were gaining prominence in mainland China, Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek established the Republic of China in Taiwan.

A series of democratic reforms implemented by Taiwanese president Lee Teng-hui in the early 1990s allowed Taiwan's residents to take part in free and fair elections. To this date, the People's Republic of China considers Taiwan a "renegade province" and reserves the right to bring it under control.

In March 2008, Ma won the presidential election with 58.45 per cent of the vote as a candidate for the Kuomintang Party (KMT). Frank Hsieh of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) finished second with 41.55 per cent.

The KMT advocates for maintaining the status quo with the Chinese central government, while the DPP has aggressively pursued independence from Beijing.

On Jan. 27, DPP representatives said in a statement that describing Taiwan as an "area" in the framework of negotiations of a free trade agreement with China amounts to "self castration." The comments were issued one day after delegates from Taiwan and the People's Republic of China met for this first official round of talks towards securing a bi-lateral commercial agreement.

Polling Data

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Ma Ying-jeou's performance as president?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Satisfied	23.2%	23.5%	28.3%
Dissatisfied	66.3%	62.2%	61.0%

Source: Global Views

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,014 Taiwanese adults, conducted from Jan. 12 to Jan. 14, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

WEST EUROPE

Cameron Outranks His Rivals in Britain

February 01, 2010

Conservative leader David Cameron is the most popular political leader in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 46 per cent of respondents approve of Cameron's performance.

The approval rating for Labour leader and British prime minister Gordon Brown stands at 29 per cent, while 39 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the way Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg is handling his duties.

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

On Jan. 26, the Office of National Statistics showed that the UK economy grew by 0.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2009, ending six consecutive quarters of contraction. Cameron discussed his views on the issue, saying, "Coming out of recession does not mean that our debt crisis is over.

Far from it: Labour's debt crisis is now the biggest threat to our recovery, so we will only get this recovery right if we start now on a proper debt reduction plan."

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

Do you approve or disapprove of Gordon Brown's performance as Prime Minister?

	Jan. 2010	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009
Approve	29%	29%	26%
Disapprove	63%	63%	66%
Not sure	8%	8%	8%

Do you approve or disapprove of David Cameron's performance as Leader of the Opposition?

	Jan. 2010	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009
Approve	46%	44%	48%
Disapprove	40%	41%	39%
Not sure	14%	15%	13%

Do you approve or disapprove of Nick Clegg's performance as leader of the Liberal Democrats?

	Jan. 2010	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009
Approve	39%	39%	40%
Disapprove	29%	31%	29%
Not sure	32%	30%	32%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,004 British adults, conducted on Jan. 26 and Jan. 27, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Government Right to Refuse Ransom, Say Britons

February 05, 2010

People in Britain support their government's stance on a recent kidnapping, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 60 per cent of respondents agree with the refusal to negotiate a payment with hostage takers in exchange for the release of Paul and Rachel Chandler.

In October 2009, Paul and Rachel Chandler—two British citizens—were captured by Somali pirates while sailing in their yacht from the Seychelles towards Tanzania. Both have appealed for assistance from their government in interviews with British and European media outlets.

On Jan. 24, British foreign secretary David Miliband discussed the case, saying, "Our position is absolutely clear. The British government never makes substantive concessions to hostage-takers, including in respect of ransom payments, and we always advise people of that. Can we stop private individuals? No, we can't. But we have a very clear policy of our own and the British government is absolutely clear it is not in our interests."

Polling Data

The Government has refused to negotiate a payment with the hostage takers in exchange for the release of Paul and Rachel Chandler. Do you agree or disagree with the stance of the Government on this matter?

Agree	60%
Disagree	27%
Not sure	13%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,010 British adults, conducted on Feb. 2 and Feb. 3, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Seven-in-Ten Britons Want Legal Euthanasia

February 03, 2010

The push to legalize euthanasia is supported by a majority of people in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 71 per cent of respondents generally oppose the practice, while 18 per cent are opposed.

Britain's Suicide Act 1961 states that "a person who aids, abets, counsels or procures the suicide of another" may be liable to imprisonment for up to 14 years, if a prosecution is brought with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

Earlier this month, best-selling British author Terry Pratchett—who suffers from Alzheimer's disease—called for euthanasia to be legalized in the United Kingdom, declaring, "It is one's own life and one shouldn't be forced into going into a care home for example if one would simply prefer to die at the right time. (...) If granny walks up to the tribunal and bangs her walking stick on the table and said 'Look, I've really had enough and I'd like to die thank you very much young man', I don't see why anyone should stand in her way and I don't see why she should not have, if she wishes, medical assistance to die."

The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Albania and Thailand allow for some form of euthanasia, as well as the states of Oregon and Washington in the United States.

Polling Data

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose legalising euthanasia in the UK?

	Jan. 2010	Aug. 2009
Support	71%	75%
Oppose	18%	14%
Not sure	11%	10%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,004 British adults, conducted on Jan. 26 and Jan. 27, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Britons Not Impressed with National Economy

January 31, 2010

People in Britain are not ready to say that their domestic economy is doing well, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 83 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as poor or very poor.

Since 2007, defaults on so-called subprime mortgages—credit given to high-risk borrowers—in the United States caused volatility in domestic and global financial markets and ultimately pushed the U.S. economy into a recession. A recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth. The crisis has affected the global financial and credit systems, and triggered layoffs in companies around the world.

Britain has been hit hard by the global financial crisis. In 2007, the British Northern Rock bank—a prominent mortgage lender—was forced to seek emergency funding from the government. Brown's administration has intervened to save bankrupt banks and boost the economy. In November 2008, Brown introduced a "shock-treatment" stimulus package to jump-start the country's economy through tax cuts, increased government spending and a greater role in government lending. The package was valued at \$31 billion U.S.

On Jan. 26, the Office of National Statistics showed that the UK economy grew by 0.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2009, ending six consecutive quarters of contraction. British chancellor of the exchequer Alistair Darling declared: "There are many bumps along the way, we are not out of the woods yet, so I think my caution is right. (...) You can see there's a lot of uncertainty. Therefore you would expect as we come out of recession things to fluctuate."

Polling Data

How would you rate the economic conditions in the UK today?

	Jan. 2010	Aug. 2009
Very Good / Good	14%	6%
Poor / Very Poor	83%	90%

Not sure

2%

3%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,004 British adults, conducted on Jan. 26 and Jan. 27, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

More Germans Perceive Improving Economic Conditions

Despite gains, a majority still said economy getting worse

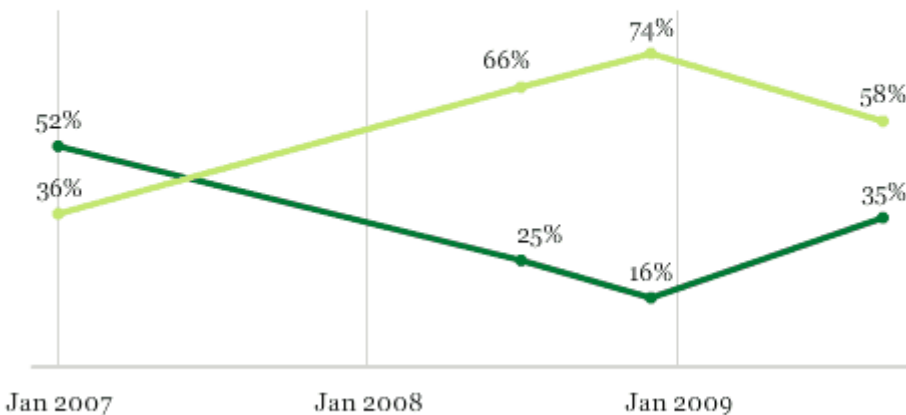
February 1, 2010

As Germany's leadership continues to debate the best way to stimulate the country's struggling economy, Gallup finds the number of Germans who perceive economic conditions in their country as getting better more than doubled in the late third and early fourth quarters of last year, although a majority still said the economy was getting worse.

Right now, do you think the economic conditions in Germany, as a whole, are getting better or getting worse?

Asked of German adults

■ Getting better ■ Getting worse



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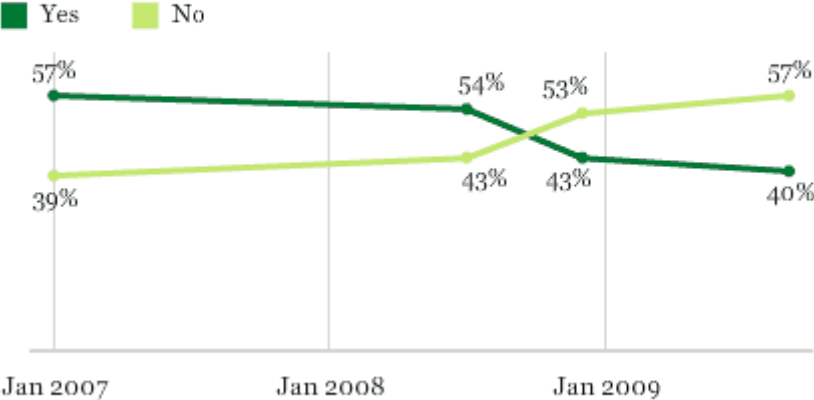
Gallup surveyed in Germany in late September through mid-October 2009 and found 58% of Germans saying that economic conditions were getting worse -- down 16 percentage points from the 74% who said the same about 10 months before. More than one-third (35%) said the economy was getting better -- a difference of 19 points from the previous survey in late 2008/early 2009.

Confidence in Banks Remains Stable Since Crisis

Germans have expressed less confidence in their financial institutions since the global financial crisis, even after the German government approved a rescue package for the country's financial sector in October 2008. In both surveys conducted since the crisis, roughly 4 in 10 Germans expressed confidence in these institutions compared to 54% in July 2008.

In Germany, do you have confidence in the financial institutions or banks?

Asked of German adults

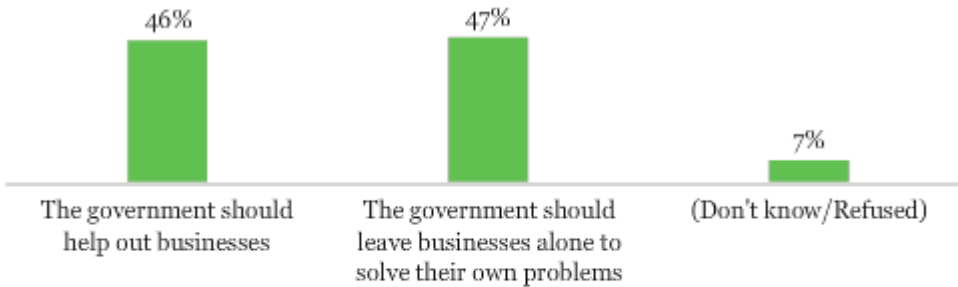


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When Germans were asked in the most recent survey about support for government intervention when businesses and financial institutions have problems, respondents were divided. Forty-six percent of Germans said the government should help businesses and financial institutions in times of financial difficulty, while 47% disagreed.

When a country faces financial difficulties, do you think that the government should help businesses and financial institutions to overcome their problems, or do you think that the government should leave businesses alone to solve their own problems?

Asked of German adults



September-October 2009

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Views of German Leadership

The German government is currently evaluating the best fiscal policies to implement to strengthen the country's economy. Gallup data collected a few months ago indicate that a majority of Germans approved of the job performance of their country's leadership; however, controversy over unpopular tax cuts and recent angst within Germany's coalition government could affect this rating. Chancellor Angela Merkel, who was re-elected to a second four-year-term in September 2009, received the approval of two-thirds of Germans, up eight points from late 2008/early 2009. A majority of Germans (59%) also approved of the job performance of country's leadership in general. Germans who perceive the economy as improving were much more likely to be approving of their country's government. Those who said the economy is getting better were 28 points more likely to say they approved of their country's leadership and to say they approved of Merkel than those who said the economy is getting worse.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of Chancellor Angela Merkel?

Asked of German adults

■ Approve ■ Disapprove



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Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in December 2006-January 2007, December 2008-January 2009, July 2008, and September-October 2009 in Germany. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.1 percentage points in 2007, ± 3.7 - 3.8 percentage points in 2008, and ± 3.5 percentage points in 2009. 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.

Germans Consider Ending Afghan Mission Now

February 04, 2010

A third of people in Germany want their country's troops serving in Afghanistan to be withdrawn immediately, according to a poll by Forsa released by *Stern* and RTL. 32 per cent of respondents share this view.

On the other hand, 24 per cent of respondents want German soldiers in Afghanistan to return by the end of 2011, 14 per cent would leave them stationed there until 2015, and 25 per cent say they should stay as long as it is necessary.

Afghanistan has been the main battleground in the war on terrorism. The conflict began in October 2001, after the Taliban regime refused to hand over Osama bin Laden without evidence of his participation in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. Al-Qaeda operatives hijacked and crashed four airplanes on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people.

At least 1,592 soldiers—including 31 Germans—have died in the conflict, either in support of the United States-led Operation Enduring Freedom or as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

On Nov. 26, Wolfgang Schneiderhan, the German army's chief of staff, tendered his resignation after it became known that more than 30 Afghan civilians died in a botched air strike involving German soldiers. German defence minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg said that Schneiderhan had "released himself from his duties at his own request."

On Dec. 3, German lawmakers approved the extension of the military mission in Afghanistan for one more year.

On Jan. 26, the German government announced it will send an additional 500 troops to Afghanistan and increase its civilian aid as a way to prepare for the eventual withdrawal. German foreign minister Guido Westerwelle declared: "We want to start a gradual handover in the course of this year, and in 2011 we want to start reducing our own contingent. We aim to achieve the handover to Afghan forces in 2014."

Polling Data

When do you think Germany's military deployment in Afghanistan should end?

Immediately	32%
By the end of 2011	24%
In 2015	14%
It should continue as long as necessary	25%

Source: Forsa / Stern / RTL

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,002 German adults, conducted on Jan. 20 and Jan. 21, 2010. Margin of error is 2.5 per cent.

PM Fillon's Popularity Spikes in France

February 05, 2010

More people in France are now expressing support for François Fillon, according to a poll by LH2. 55 per cent of respondents have a positive opinion of their prime minister's performance, up 10 points since December.

The popularity of French president Nicolas Sarkozy has remained stable at 42 per cent.

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 Fillon—who had been his adviser and presidential campaign leader—as prime minister.

On Feb. 3, Fillon said the Sarkozy administration will seek to balance the country's budget by 2020, declaring, "We have set an objective to bring [the deficit] under three per cent in 2013 and to balance our finances in 2020. We are taking a similar approach to Germany."

Polling Data

Do you have a positive or negative opinion of Nicolas Sarkozy's performance as president?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Positive	42%	41%	42%
Negative	55%	56%	54%

Do you have a positive or negative opinion of François Fillon's performance as prime minister?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Positive	55%	45%	44%
Negative	40%	51%	49%

Source: LH2

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,002 French adults, conducted on Jan. 22 and Jan. 23, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

NORTH AMERICA

Socialism Viewed Positively by 36% of Americans

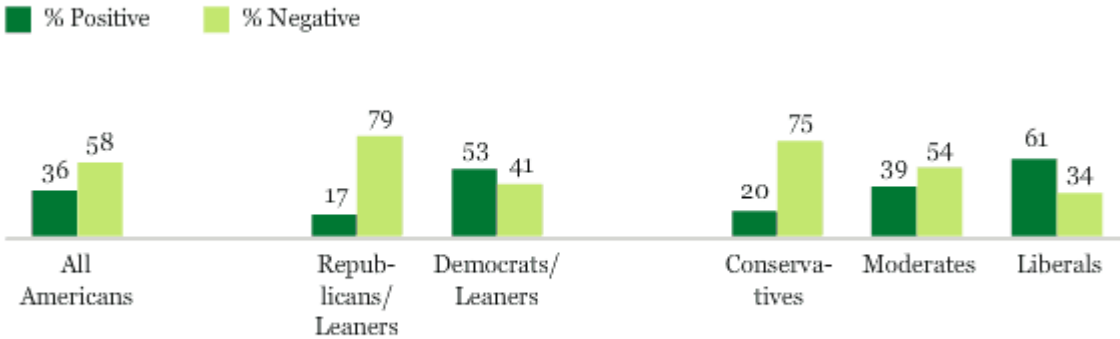
Majority of Americans positive on capitalism, entrepreneurs, free enterprise, and small business

February 4, 2010

More than one-third of Americans (36%) have a positive image of "socialism," while 58% have a negative image. Views differ by party and ideology, with a majority of Democrats and liberals saying they have a positive view of socialism, compared to a minority of Republicans and conservatives.

Americans' Image of Socialism

"Just off the top of your head, would you say you have a positive or negative image of "socialism"?"



Jan. 26-27, 2010

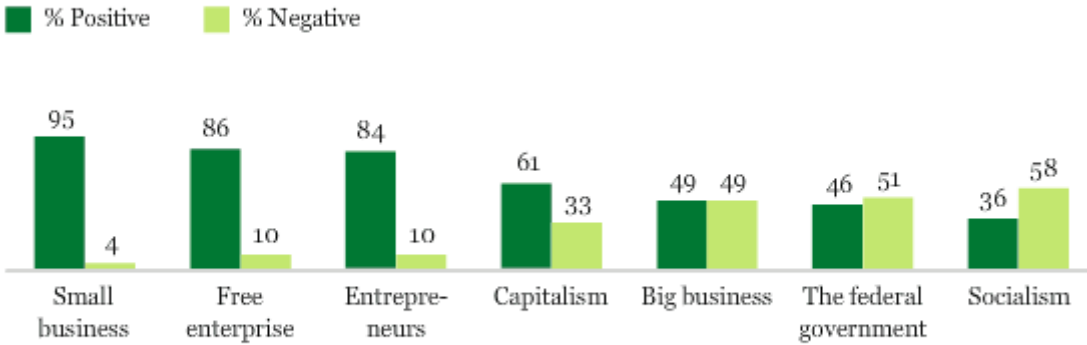
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"Democrats and Republicans agree in their ratings of several of the terms, but differ significantly in their ratings of others -- in particular, capitalism, the federal government, and socialism."

"Socialism" was one of seven terms included in a Jan. 26-27 Gallup poll. Americans were asked to indicate whether their top-of-mind reactions to each were positive or negative. Respondents were not given explanations or descriptions of the terms.

Americans are almost uniformly positive in their reactions to three terms: small business, free enterprise, and entrepreneurs. They are divided on big business and the federal government, with roughly as many Americans saying their view is positive as say it is negative. Americans are more positive than negative on capitalism (61% versus 33%) and more negative than positive on socialism (36% to 58%).

Just off the top of your head, would you say you have a positive or negative image of each of the following?



Jan. 26-27, 2010

GALLUP®

Democrats and Republicans agree in their ratings of several of the terms, but differ significantly in their ratings of others -- in particular, capitalism, the federal government, and socialism.

Just off the top of your head, would you say you have a positive or negative image of each of the following?

% Positive, by party ID (including leaners)

	Republicans/ Republican leaners	Democrats/ Democratic leaners
	%	%
Small business	97	95
Free enterprise	90	85
Entrepreneurs	88	82
Capitalism	72	53
Big business	54	46
The federal government	27	67
Socialism	17	53

Jan. 26-27, 2010

GALLUP®

In similar fashion, there is little distinction across ideological groups -- conservatives, moderates, and liberals -- in the ratings of several of these terms, but more significant differences in response to others, such as big business, the federal government, and socialism.

Just off the top of your head, would you say you have a positive or negative image of each of the following?

% Positive, by ideology

	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
	%	%	%
Small business	96	94	97
Free enterprise	89	82	87
Entrepreneurs	86	83	84
Capitalism	68	52	60
Big business	57	46	38
The federal government	30	52	65
Socialism	20	39	61

Jan. 26-27, 2010

GALLUP®

These differences will be discussed in the sections that follow.

Socialism

Socialism had the lowest percentage positive rating and the highest negative rating of any term tested. Still, more than a third of Americans say they have a positive image of socialism.

Exactly how Americans define "socialism" or what exactly they think of when they hear the word is not known. The research simply measures Americans' reactions when a survey interviewer reads the word to them -- an exercise that helps shed light on connotations associated with this frequently used term.

There are significant differences in reactions to "socialism" across ideological and partisan groups:

- A majority of 53% of Democrats have a positive image of socialism, compared to 17% of Republicans.
- Sixty-one percent of liberals say their image of socialism is positive, compared to 39% of moderates and 20% of conservatives.

Capitalism

"Capitalism," the word typically used to describe the United States' prevailing economic system, generates positive ratings from a majority of Americans, with a third saying their reaction is negative.

As was the case with "socialism," there are differences across population segments.

- Republicans are significantly more positive than Democrats in their reactions to "capitalism," although majorities of both groups have favorable opinions.
- Opinions of the word by ideology are divided in an unusual, though modest, way. Conservatives have the highest positive image, followed by liberals. Moderates have somewhat lower positive ratings than either of these groups.

One might expect those with negative attitudes toward capitalism to be more likely than others to have positive attitudes toward socialism. That is indeed the case, but the difference in positive attitudes toward socialism between those with positive and those with negative attitudes toward capitalism is fairly modest: 33% vs. 43%, respectively.

Free Enterprise

Eighty-six percent of respondents rated the term "free enterprise" positively, giving it substantially more positive ratings than "capitalism." Although in theory these two concepts are not precisely the same, they are in many ways functional equivalents. Yet, underscoring the conventional wisdom that words matter, the public clearly reacts differently to the two terms. Free enterprise as a concept rings more positively to the average American than does the term capitalism.

Strongly positive ratings of free enterprise are generally uniform across both partisan groups, and across the three ideological groups.

Small Business and Big Business

"Small business" is the most positively rated term of the seven included in the list, with a nearly universal positive rating of 95%.

In contrast, Americans were sharply divided when asked to react to the term "big business," with 49% of respondents rating the term positively and 49% negatively.

This contrast in images, based on whether the adjective "small" or "big" is placed in front of "business," confirms a number of previous Gallup findings. Americans have a strong tendency to react positively to "small" and negatively to "big" when it describes business entities.

There is remarkably little difference between Republicans and Democrats in their ratings of the images of small and big business. Both partisan groups are overwhelmingly positive about the former, and roughly half of both partisan groups rate the latter positively. The finding that Democrats and Republicans have roughly equal reactions to big business is significant given the usual assumption that Republicans are more sympathetic to large businesses and corporations than are Democrats. These data do not confirm that hypothesis at the rank-and-file level.

All three ideological groups rate small business very positively.

Big business is rated positively by 57% of conservatives. Less than half of both moderates (46%) and liberals (38%) have positive images of big business.

Entrepreneurs

Because "entrepreneurs" are usually by definition associated with start-ups of small businesses, it is not unexpected to find that the term generates nearly the same level of positive reaction as did the term small business.

And, as was the case for small business, there is little distinction in ratings of entrepreneurs across partisan or ideological groups.

The Federal Government

Americans' reactions to the term "the federal government" are similar to those for "big business," with about half rating the term positively and half negatively. However, while there are only minimal partisan differences in reactions to "big business," there are substantial differences in reactions to the federal government, which may reflect the current partisan control of the White House and Congress.

- Democrats are much more positive about the federal government than are Republicans.
- Liberals are over twice as likely as conservatives to have a positive image of the federal government, with reactions of moderates in between those of these two groups.

Bottom Line

As most politicians and many in business have learned, the choice of words to describe a concept or a policy can often make a substantial difference in the public's reaction. The current research confirms that assumption.

"Socialism" is not a completely negative term in today's America. About a third of Americans respond positively when they hear the term. Some of this reaction may reflect unusual or unclear understandings of what socialism means. Reaction to the term is not random, however, as attested by the finding that positive images are significantly differentiated by politics and ideology.

It is apparent that "free enterprise" evokes more positive responses than "capitalism," despite the apparent similarity between the two terms.

President Barack Obama made frequent positive references to small business in his recent State of the Union address, perhaps aware of the very positive associations Americans have with that term. In particular, this research underscores the fact that Americans' image of business can vary substantially, depending on whether it is described as small or big. Along these same lines, it is perhaps not surprising to find that entrepreneurs are held in high esteem by Americans.

The finding that Americans have mixed reactions to the term "the federal government" is not new. Much previous research has shown that at this point in history, a majority of Americans are not enamored with the federal government, particularly the legislative branch.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 972 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 26-27, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of error is ± 4 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.

In January, Most Job Creation in U.S. South and East

Job-market conditions are improving in the Midwest but deteriorating in the West

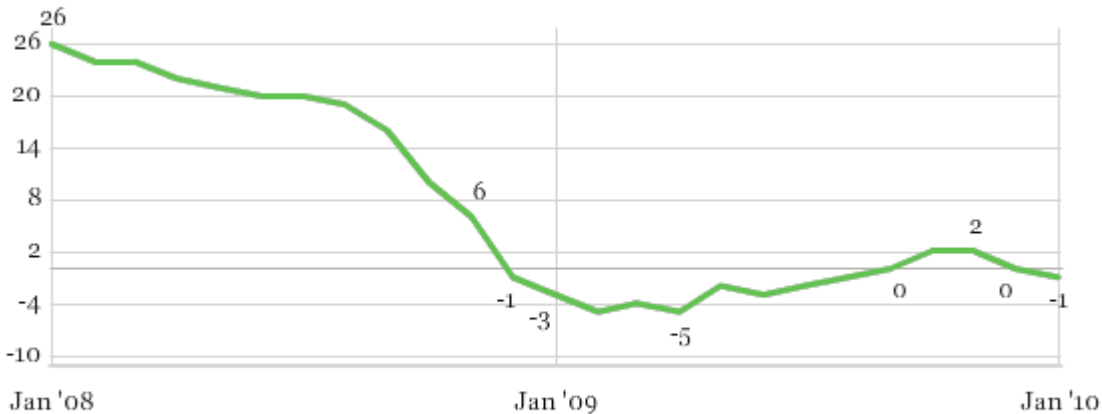
February 4, 2010

Gallup's Job Creation Index -- based on U.S. employees' self-reports of hiring and firing activity at their workplaces -- shows that perceptions of current job-market conditions nationwide worsened slightly in January compared to December. Job-market conditions are best in the South and the East, improving in the Midwest, but deteriorating in the West.

Gallup's Job Creation Index -- based on interviews with 17,145 U.S. workers in January -- dipped to -1 in January after being at 0 or +2 in each of the prior four months. The Index fell slightly in January owing to a decline in the percentage of companies hiring to 23% (from December's 24%), while the percentage letting go remained at 24%. Still, this January's job-market conditions are better than those of a year ago, when the hiring and letting-go numbers were 23% and 26%, respectively. While layoffs have declined from their elevated levels of the first half of 2009, hiring is no better now than it was last January.

Job Creation Index, Nationwide, January 2008-January 2010

% Saying their companies are "hiring" minus % "letting go" (monthly averages)



Gallup Daily tracking

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South: Best and Improving

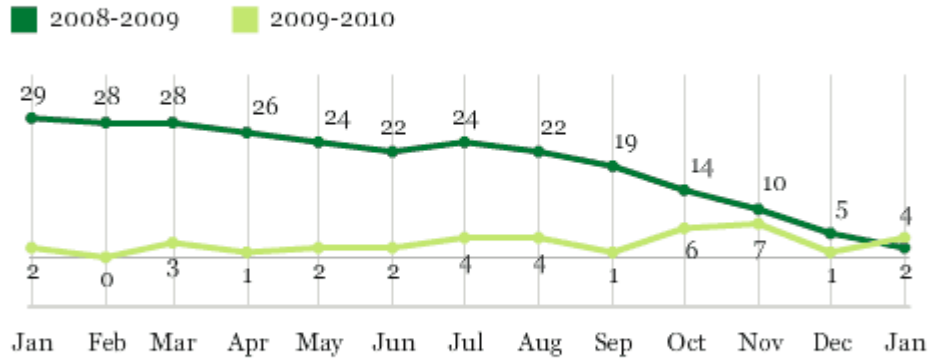
In January, the South returned to its familiar position of having the best jobs picture of any region. Gallup's Job Creation Index in the South improved to +4 in January from +1 in December -- the highest Index score of any region, suggesting the best job-market conditions nationwide. The percentage of workers saying their employers were hiring new employees and expanding their workforces improved to 26% in January from 25% in December, while the percentage saying their employers were letting people go declined to 22% from 24%. As anticipated, January's improvement probably reflects, at least in part, the surge in oil prices late last year --

and their higher level compared to a year ago.

Job Creation Index -- South,

January 2008-January 2009 vs. January 2009-January 2010

% Saying their companies are "hiring" minus % "letting go" (monthly averages)



Gallup Daily tracking

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East: Job Conditions Decline but Remain Above Average

Job-market conditions in the East deteriorated in January to +3 from December's +5. The percentage of employers who are hiring fell slightly to 25%, compared to 26% in December. On the other hand, 22% said their companies are letting people go -- also a slight deterioration from December's 21%. Despite the slight decline in January, Gallup's Job Creation Index shows job conditions in the East second only to those in the South. The sharp gains on Wall Street and improving condition of the nation's largest financial firms seem to have led to a substantially improved job market in this part of the country.

Job Creation Index -- East,

January 2008-January 2009 vs. January 2009-January 2010

% Saying their companies are "hiring" minus % "letting go" (monthly averages)



Gallup Daily tracking

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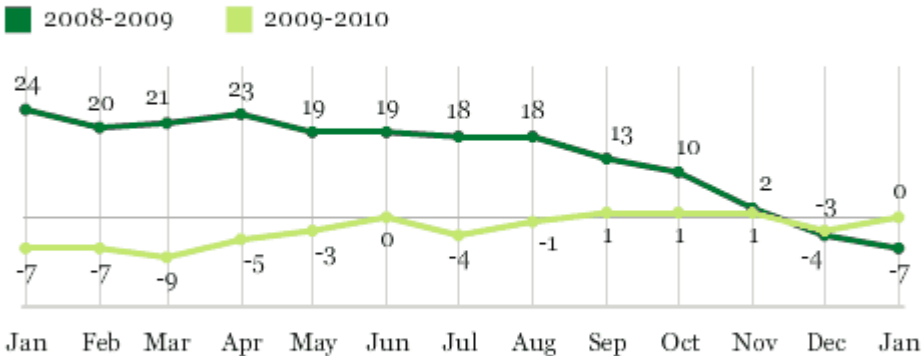
Midwest: Job Loss Improves, Hiring Unchanged

Midwestern job-market conditions improved in January, returning to the trend of the prior three months. Gallup's Job Creation Index improved to 0 from -3 in December -- close to the +1 of September through November. The improvement reflects a decline in the percentage of companies letting people go, from 25% in December to 22% in January, while the percentage hiring remained at 22%. Midwest job-market conditions may reflect the continued improvement in manufacturing, particularly in the auto industry, that has taken place over the past several months.

Job Creation Index -- Midwest,

January 2008-January 2009 vs. January 2009-January 2010

% Saying their companies are "hiring" minus % "letting go" (monthly averages)



Gallup Daily tracking

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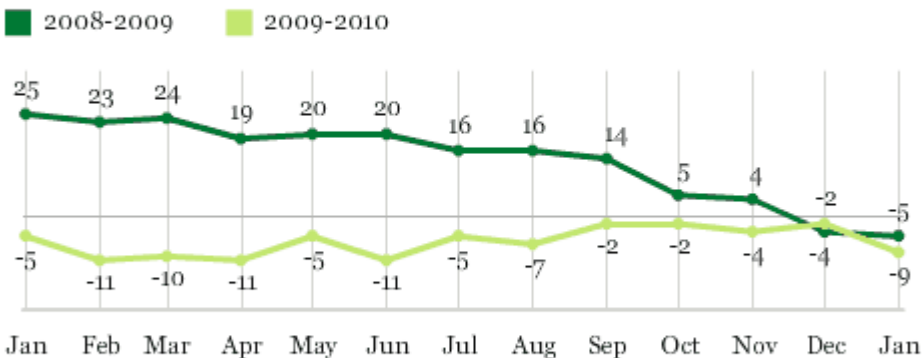
West: Continuing to Deteriorate

Job-market conditions in the West worsened to -9 during January, down considerably from -2 in December. Only 20% of employees say their companies are hiring -- down from 22% the prior month -- while 29% say their companies are letting employees go, a deterioration of five points from 24% in December. Job-market conditions in the West continue to suffer from weak housing markets in many parts of the region.

Job Creation Index -- West,

January 2008-January 2009 vs. January 2009-January 2010

% Saying their companies are "hiring" minus % "letting go" (monthly averages)



Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

Commentary

Right now, the financial and equity markets are focused on Friday's jobs report. Wednesday's ADP report showed private-sector companies letting go of an estimated 22,000 employees -- the smallest decline in two years. On the other hand, the Challenger, Gray, and Christmas report showed planned layoffs increasing to 71,482 in January from December's two-year low of 45,094. Adding to the murky view, the Institute of Supply Management's services index expanded less than expected last month.

Further, seasonal adjustments will influence the government's unemployment rate; those adjustments will in turn be affected by last year's sharp jobs declines and the hiring of three-quarters of a million new census takers.

Gallup's modeling -- based on its Job Creation Index -- suggests the government will report that the unemployment rate increased to 10.1% or more in January.

Regardless of the actual numbers in January's unemployment report, Gallup's continuous monitoring of employees' perceptions of the jobs market suggests that there has been virtually no improvement in job creation during recent months or, for that matter, from a year ago. A reduction in layoffs is a positive for the job market but is far from what is needed to bring the unemployment rate down and to get consumers spending.

On February 10, 2010 at its world headquarters in Washington, D.C., Gallup for the first time will release the findings from its daily U.S. employment tracking, including insights into the U.S. workforce's state of mind. [Learn more ...](#)

Survey Methods

For Gallup Daily tracking, Gallup interviews approximately 1,000 national adults, aged 18 and older, each day. The Gallup consumer spending results are based on random half-samples of approximately 1,000 national adults, aged 18 and older, each day. The Gallup Job Creation Index results are based on a random sample of approximately 500 current full- and part-time employees each day.

Regional results for January are based on Gallup Daily tracking interviews totaling more than 3,000 in each region. For each total regional sample, 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.

Two in Five Americans Believe Current State of the Union is Poor

Half believe President Obama should focus on economy in State of the Union address

Jan 27, 2010

As President Obama puts the final touches on his first State of the Union address, he will be speaking to Americans who do not think the current state of the country is doing all that well. More than four in five U.S. adults (84%) give negative ratings to the current state of the union with 40% saying it is poor, the lowest on our scale. Just 16% give the state of the union positive ratings with only 3% saying it is excellent.

There is a small difference in how adults of different ages see the state of the union. Older Americans are more likely to view the current state of the union in a negative manner – nine in ten of both those aged 45-54 and 55 and older (89% for both) give it negative ratings. Younger adults are a little more positive. One in five of those aged 18-34 (19%) and one-quarter (24%) of those aged 35-44 give the state of the union positive ratings.

These are some of the results of **BBC World News America/Harris Poll** of 2,010 adults surveyed online between January 13 and 15, 2010 by Harris Interactive.

Focus for the State of the Union

While many issues are important, from a list of ten items, two clearly rise to the top when Americans are asked to choose which two President Obama should focus on during the State of the Union address. Half of adults (51%) say the economy should be a focus and two in five (42%) believe he should focus on employment. Three other issues group next for what the president should focus on: homeland security (23%), health care (21%) and the budget deficit (18%). Fewer than one in ten Americans believe the president should focus on the remaining five issues presented: education (7%), Afghanistan (6%), foreign policy (5%), the environment (5%), and Iraq (4%).

Different issues are more important to different age groups. Those 18-34 are more likely to say education should be an issue for the State of the Union (12%) and less likely to say that homeland security (11%) is something the president should focus on in his address. Adults a little older, between 35-44 years old, are more likely to want to hear about health care in the address (25%) and less likely to want to see focus on the budget deficit (12%). Those in the younger part of the baby boomer age range, or between 45 and 54 years old, want to see the focus for the speech be on the economy (58%) while those 55 and older are more likely to want to hear about homeland security (34%) and the budget deficit (25%).

So what?

A State of the Union address is a difficult speech for any president to give as he must confront a nation with competing desires and interests. This is even more difficult when Americans are

unhappy about the direction the country is going in and want change. President Obama will have to walk a delicate balance Wednesday night as he tries to address all these competing interests.

TABLE
THE CURRENT STATE OF THE UNION

1

"Now looking ahead, in the next few weeks, President Obama will be giving his first State of the Union address. How would you rate the current state of the union?"

Base: All Adults

	Total	Age			
		18-34	35-44	45-54	55+
	%	%	%	%	%
POSITIVE (NET)	16	19	24	11	11
Excellent	3	5	6	1	*
Good	13	15	18	11	11
NEGATIVE (NET)	84	81	76	89	89
Fair	44	52	39	44	38
Poor	40	29	37	44	50

Note: Percentages may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding. * indicates less than 0.5%

TABLE 2
FOCUS FOR STATE OF THE UNION

"While all of these are important issues, which two do you think President Obama should focus attention on during the State of the Union?"

Base: All Adults

	Total	Age			
		18-34	35-44	45-54	55+
	%	%	%	%	%

	%	%	%	%	%
The economy	51	48	51	58	50
Employment	42	37	43	44	45
Homeland security	23	11	18	26	34
Health care	21	23	25	21	19
Budget deficit	18	13	12	21	25
Education	7	12	10	5	3
Afghanistan	6	7	7	4	7
Foreign policy	5	6	5	5	3
The environment	5	8	3	3	3
Iraq	4	6	8	2	3
Not at all sure	6	10	6	4	3

Note: Multiple responses accepted

TABLE 3
THE BUDGET DEFICIT

"One are he may focus on is reducing the United States' budget deficit and reducing the country's large debt. How much of a priority should this be for the Obama administration in the next few months?"

Base: All Adults

	Total	Age			
		18-34	35-44	45-54	55+
	%	%	%	%	%
The highest priority	23	16	28	21	28
Very important priority, but not the highest	35	36	31	37	35

An important priority	30	29	31	32	28
Not that important of a priority	7	10	5	6	6
Not an important priority at all	1	1	1	1	1
Not at all sure	4	9	3	3	2

Note: Percentages may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding.

Methodology

This **BBC World News America/Harris Poll** was conducted online within the United States January 13 and 15, 2010 among 2,010 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated

Americans Leery of Too Much Gov't Regulation of Business

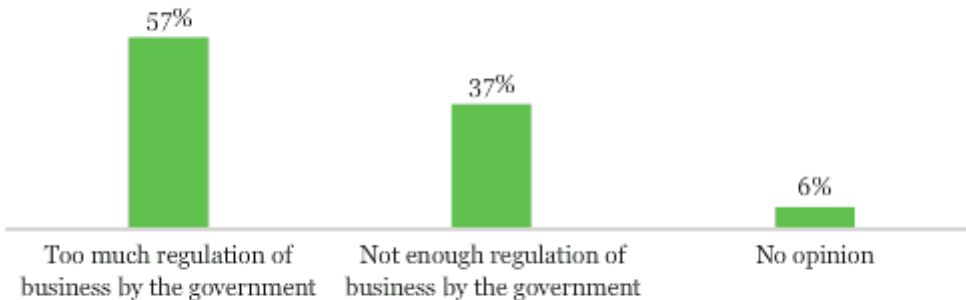
Republicans in particular are worried about too much government regulation

February 2, 2010

At a time of increasing debate over the optimal relationship between government and business in the U.S., new Gallup polling shows that 57% of Americans are worried that there will be too much government regulation of business, while 37% worry that there will not be enough. Half of Americans believe the government should become less involved in regulating and controlling

business, with 24% saying the government should become more involved and 23% saying things are about right.

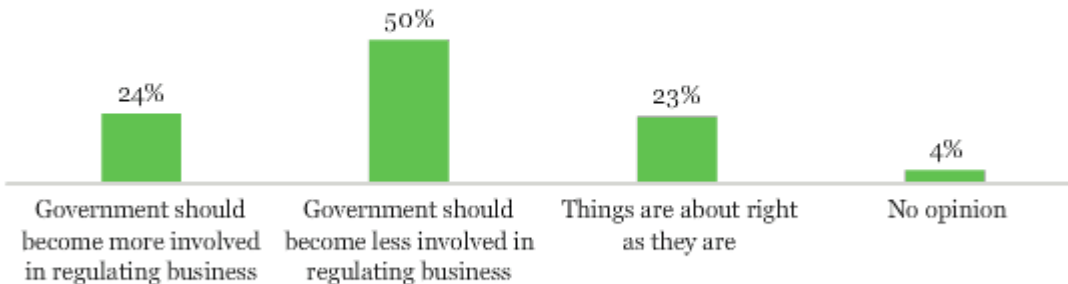
Which worries you more?



Jan. 26-27, 2010

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Which of the following do you most agree with -- the federal government should become more involved in regulating and controlling business, the federal government should become less involved in regulating and controlling business, or things are about right the way they are?



Jan. 26-27, 2010

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Two questions Gallup asked on Jan. 26-27 measured the American public's overall views toward government regulation of business.

The first asked directly about government regulation of business. The second asked Americans if they worried more about the prospect of too much or too little government regulation. Responses to both questions indicate that Americans remain leery of too much government regulation and control over business. This sentiment persists despite a significant loss of the public's confidence in banks and skepticism about the honesty and ethics of bankers over the last two years, and with

increased focus on the negative impact of the actions of some big banks and other businesses on the nation's financial crisis.

These results are generally consistent with a slightly different question that Gallup last updated in late August and early September of last year. Those results showed that about a quarter of Americans felt there was too little government regulation of business and industry. The majority of Americans believed that there was either too much regulation, or about the right amount.

The current "worry" question measures these attitudes in a different way, but shows the same basic pattern of results. Given a choice, a little more than a third of Americans say they worry more about not having enough regulation of business, while 57% say their worry is that there would be too much regulation.

Republicans Very Opposed to Government Regulation

There are, as might be expected, significant partisan differences in response to these questions.

Republicans (including Republican-leaning independents) have very strong opinions on the question of government regulation. Over three-quarters say the federal government should become less involved in regulating and controlling business. Democrats' (including Democratic leaners') opinions are more varied, splitting across the three options roughly equally. A slight plurality (36%) favor government's becoming more involved.

Which of the following do you most agree with -- the federal government should become more involved in regulating and controlling business, the federal government should become less involved in regulating and controlling business, or things are about right the way they are?

	Republicans/ Republican leaners	Democrats/ Democratic leaners
Government should become more involved in regulating business	13%	36%
Government should become less involved in regulating business	76%	27%
Things about right the way they are	11%	33%

Jan. 26-27, 2010

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Republicans are even more unified in their sentiments on the "worry" question, with 83% saying they worry more that there will be too much, rather than too little, government regulation. Democrats have the opposite pattern of responses, and are inclined to see too little regulation as the bigger risk, although not by as great a margin.

Which worries you more?

	Republicans/ Republican leaners	Democrats/ Democratic leaners
Too much government regulation of business	83%	38%
Not enough government regulation of business	12%	57%
No opinion	5%	5%

Jan. 26-27, 2010

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Bottom Line

Arguments over the optimal level of government involvement in the control and regulation of business are long-standing. The issue has become more front and center as the nation's economic crisis has unfolded over the last two years. President Barack Obama in his recent State of the Union speech, for example, mentioned the need to institute a fee on the biggest banks in order to continue to recover money given to banks; a proposal to slash tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas; instituting new regulations for financial institutions in order to provide more information to consumers; financial reforms that would affect lobbyists; and the healthcare reform effort that entails a great deal of government involvement in the nation's healthcare system.

While the American public may favor some of these initiatives on an individual basis, the current results underscore the degree to which the average American in a general sense is concerned about too much government involvement in business.

The issue has strong political overtones. Republicans are quite united in their opinions that the government should become less involved in controlling and regulating business, and also overwhelmingly express worry that the government may regulate too much. Democrats have somewhat more mixed opinions on the issue of government regulation and control of business, but are more concerned about too little government regulation rather than too much.

The questions reviewed here did not specify "big" or "small" business. Gallup research has consistently shown that Americans are much more sympathetic to the latter than to the former. Apparently sensitive to these attitudes, President Obama in his recent State of the Union address included a number of positive references to small businesses and efforts to help small business. At the same time, the address and subsequent budget proposals have included regulatory efforts aimed at big banks and other large businesses. It is possible that Americans -- while broadly disdaining the idea of more regulation in general -- could favor more regulation of specific large businesses, such as banks.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 972 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 26-27, 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 ± 4 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.

Americans Reject Campaign Financing Decision

February 02, 2010

People in the United States reject a recent Supreme Court decision that allows corporations to spend freely to support candidates in federal elections, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 65 per cent of respondents disagree with the ruling.

On Jan. 21, the Supreme Court issued its ruling on the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission case, and voted 5-4 to allow corporations to spend freely to support or oppose candidates in federal elections.

In the majority opinion, Supreme Court justice Anthony Kennedy wrote: "If the First Amendment has any force, it prohibits Congress from fining or jailing citizens, or associations of citizens, for simply engaging in political speech."

On Jan. 27, during his State of the Union address, U.S. president Barack Obama criticized the ruling, saying, "I don't think American elections should be bankrolled by America's most powerful interests, and worse, by foreign entities. They should be decided by the American people, and that's why I'm urging Democrats and Republicans to pass a bill that helps to right this wrong."

Polling Data

From what you have seen, read or heard, do you agree or disagree with the Supreme Court's decision to allow corporations to spend freely to support candidates in federal elections?

Agree	17%
Disagree	65%
Not sure	18%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,003 American adults, conducted on Jan. 27 and Jan. 28, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Asian-Americans Lean Left Politically

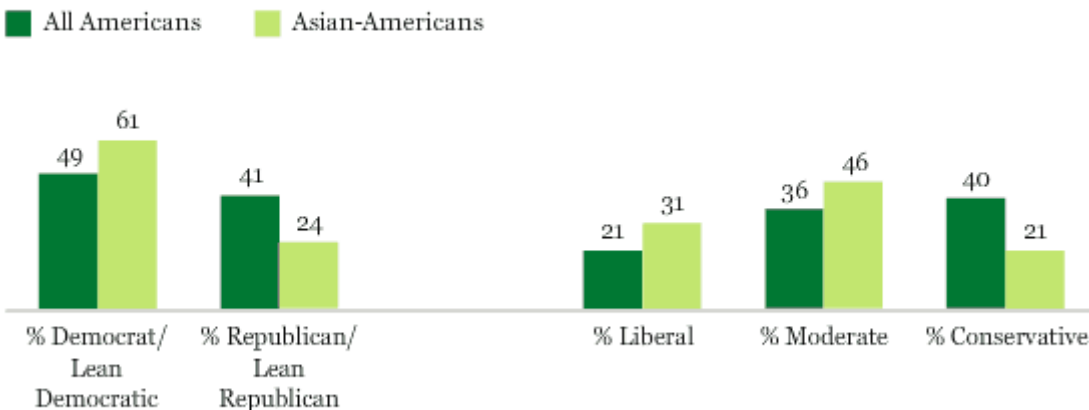
Asian-Americans more liberal than other racial/ethnic groups

February 3, 2010

Gallup Daily tracking data reveal that Asian-Americans tend to be more Democratic and much less conservative than the general population in their political views.

Political Views of Asian-Americans, Compared to the National Average

Based on 2009 Gallup Daily tracking



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These findings are based on aggregated data from Gallup's 2009 Daily tracking survey, including interviews with more than 4,000 Asian-Americans. For the purpose of analysis, respondents are categorized as Asian-Americans if they self-identify their race as Asian.

"Asian-Americans tend to be less religious than those in other racial or ethnic groups."

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Asians made up 4.5% of the U.S. population in 2008, and so, Asians rank as the fourth-largest racial or ethnic group behind whites, Hispanics, and blacks. Still, the number of Asian respondents in a typical public-opinion-poll sample is generally too small for analysis. However, the larger samples from aggregated Gallup Daily tracking provide an opportunity to examine the political dynamics of the Asian-American population.

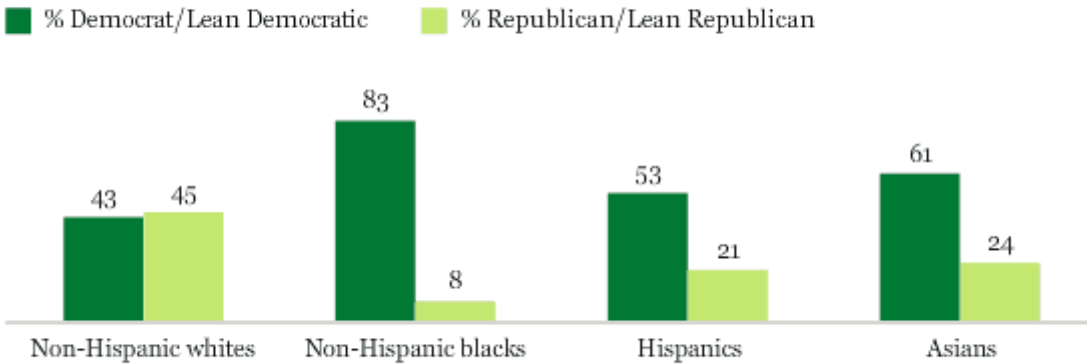
Overall, 41% of Asians identify politically as Democrats, 41% as independents, and 16% as Republicans. As a result, Asians are above the national average in terms of the percentage of political independents (37% nationwide) and Democrats (34%), and below average in terms of the percentage of Republicans (27%).

One can compare the political leanings of Asians with those of the other major racial and ethnic groups by looking at the percentage of each group that identifies as Democrats or leans Democratic (after initially identifying as independents) versus the percentage that identifies or

leans Republican. On this basis, Asians are not as Democratic as blacks, somewhat more Democratic than Hispanics, and much more Democratic than whites.

Party Affiliation of Major U.S. Racial and Ethnic Groups

Based on 2009 Gallup Daily tracking

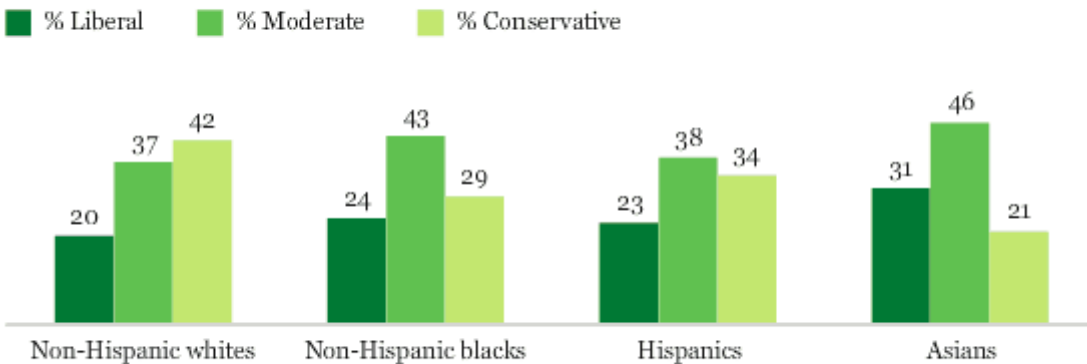


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Asians are distinct from the other racial and ethnic groups in their ideological orientation. Asians are the most likely to identify themselves as politically liberal and, in fact, are the only group that has a higher proportion of liberals than conservatives. Also, Asians are proportionately more likely than the other groups to be moderates.

Ideological Identification of Major U.S. Racial and Ethnic Groups

Based on 2009 Gallup Daily tracking



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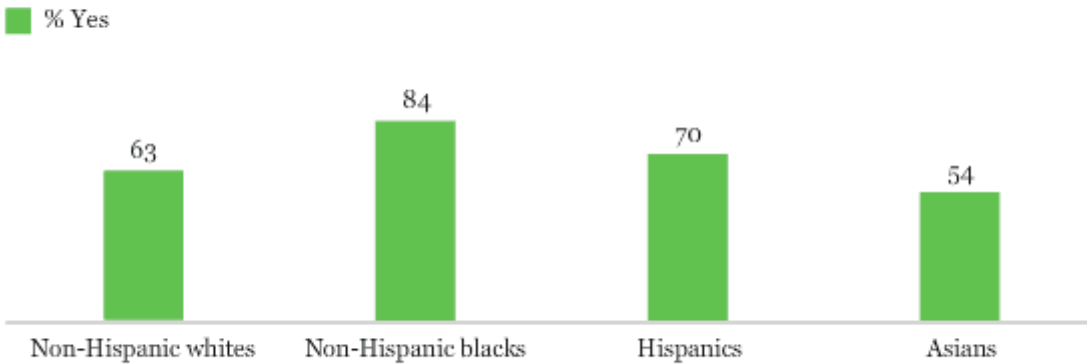
Asians Less Religious Than Other Racial, Ethnic Groups

Generally speaking, Americans who are less religious tend to be more Democratic and more liberal than Americans who are more religious, and Asians seem to follow this pattern. Comparatively, Asian-Americans tend to be less religious than those in other racial or ethnic

groups. For example, just over half of Asians say religion is an important part of their daily lives, significantly lower than the percentage of whites, blacks, or Hispanics who say this.

Religion an Important Part of Your Daily Life, by Racial or Ethnic Group

Based on 2009 Gallup Daily tracking

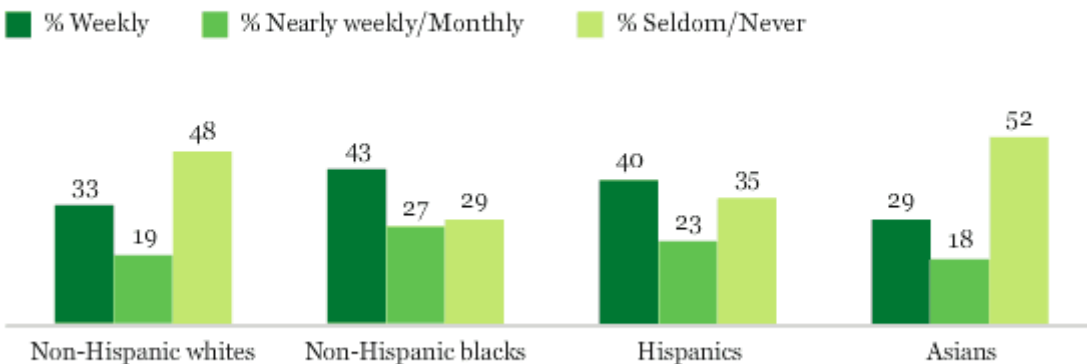


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The percentage of Asians who attend church on a weekly basis also is lower than for other U.S. racial or ethnic groups. A slim majority of Asian-Americans say they seldom or never attend religious services.

Reported Frequency of Church Attendance, by Racial or Ethnic Group

Based on 2009 Gallup Daily tracking



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The religion-politics link is one possible explanation for Asians' more left-leaning political views. Another is the fact that the proportion of Asian-Americans tends to be higher in traditionally Democratic states, such as Hawaii, California, New York, New Jersey, Washington, Massachusetts, and Maryland.

Bottom Line

In general, the larger group of Asian-Americans tend to be more Democratic and more liberal than average Americans. Exit-poll data from the 2008 presidential elections generally confirm this, with Asian-American voters having supported Barack Obama over John McCain by roughly a 2-to-1 margin.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 353,849 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 2-Dec. 30, 2009, 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 error is ± 1 percentage point.

For results based on the sample of 4,625 Asian-Americans, the maximum margin of error is ± 1 percentage point.

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.

Americans Expect Court to Reject Gay Marriage

January 31, 2010

Many Americans believe their Supreme Court will ultimately ban same-sex marriage, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 52 per cent of respondents expect a decision that would define marriage federally as between a man and a woman.

In addition, 58 per cent of respondents say they would prefer a ruling that defines marriage federally as between a man and a woman.

In 2004, marriage certificates were issued to same-sex couples by local governments in the states of California, Oregon, New Mexico and New York. In May 2004, the state of Massachusetts allowed gay and lesbian partners to apply for marriage licenses. Same-sex marriage is also legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Civil union and domestic partnership laws in California, the District of Columbia, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington, grant same-sex couples nearly all state-level rights and obligations of marriage—in areas such as inheritance, income tax, insurance and hospital visitation. Other forms of domestic partnership exist in Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland and Wisconsin. There are more than 1,000 federal-level rights of marriage that cannot be granted by states.

In May 2008, California's Supreme Court overturned a ban on same-sex marriage in a 4-3 decision, effectively allowing full marriage rights to homosexual partners. In November 2008, 52.5 per cent of voters in California endorsed Proposition 8, which seeks to amend the state Constitution to define marriage as only between a man and a woman.

A U.S. District Court is currently reviewing the constitutional validity of California's Proposition 8. The case was filed after Kristin Perry and Sandra Steir were denied a marriage license in the Alameda County in May 2009, because they are both women. It is expected that the case will eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court, which may have to rule about the validity of same-sex marriage at the federal level.

Attorney David Boies—who is representing Perry—expressed confidence in a positive outcome, declaring, "We came in to this trial stating we would prove three things: that marriage is a fundamental right; that denying same-sex marriage hurts gays and lesbians and their children; and that there is no benefit to society in denying gays from marrying."

Same-sex marriage is currently legal in the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Norway and Sweden. At least 20 countries offer some form of legal recognition to same-sex unions.

Polling Data

As you may know, a U.S. District Court is reviewing the constitutional validity of California's Proposition 8, which restored the definition of marriage in California as being between a man and a woman. It is expected that the case will eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court, which may end up ruling about the validity of same-sex marriage at the federal level. If this case reaches the U.S. Supreme Court, what do you expect the outcome to be? If this case reaches the U.S. Supreme Court, what do you expect the outcome to be?

A ruling that defines marriage federally as between a man and a woman	52%
A ruling that defines marriage federally as between two people	28%
Not sure	19%

And, if this case reaches the U.S. Supreme Court, what would you prefer the outcome to be?

A ruling that defines marriage federally as between a man and a woman	58%
A ruling that defines marriage federally as between two people	34%
Not sure	8%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,000 American adults, conducted on Jan. 12 and Jan. 13, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Omar Khadr Case Still Divides Views in Canada

February 04, 2010

Canadians remain split on the best course of action in the Omar Khadr case, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 40 per cent of respondents would leave Khadr to face trial by military commission in Guantanamo Bay, while 40 per cent would demand his repatriation to face due process under Canadian law.

Omar Khadr—a Canadian born in Toronto and the son of al-Qaeda fighter Ahmed Said Khadr—was detained by the United States military in Afghanistan in July 2002, after allegedly throwing a grenade that killed a special forces medic. Omar Khadr was 15 at the time. He was transferred to the Guantanamo Bay detention facility in October 2002.

In June 2007, U.S. military judge Peter Brownback dismissed the charges of murder and terrorism against Omar Khadr, claiming he was authorized to try "unlawful enemy combatants" exclusively. An earlier review had deemed Omar Khadr was an "enemy combatant." However, the case against Omar Khadr was reopened in September 2007, when the new Court of Military Commission Review ruled that Brownback’s decision was in error.

In April 2008, William Kuebler—Khadr’s military lawyer—argued during a pre-trial hearing that the deadly grenade may have been thrown by an American soldier. In July, a report revealed that Canadian officials were aware of the harsh treatment that Khadr was subjected to in Guantanamo. According to the document, the U.S. military "deprived" Khadr of sleep for weeks in order to make him "more amenable and willing to talk."

In 2009, two Canadian courts called for Khadr’s repatriation. The Canadian federal government challenged their decision before the Supreme Court of Canada.

On Jan. 29, the Supreme Court ruled that the federal government cannot be forced to repatriate Khadr, but found that Canada and the U.S. have violated his right to life, liberty and security under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Yesterday, Canadian foreign minister Lawrence Cannon discussed the situation, saying, "We, of course, respect the decision that the Obama administration has taken to close down Guantanamo but at the same time to make sure that those people who are held, and who have charges that are being put forward and they are facing, that indeed the American justice system go forward."

Khadr’s trial is expected to start in July.

Polling Data

As you may know, Canadian citizen Omar Khadr has spent more than seven years in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, charged with throwing a grenade that killed a U.S. soldier in a July 2002 firefight in Afghanistan. Khadr, the son of al-Qaeda fighter Ahmed Said Khadr, was 15 when the alleged incident took place. Which of these policy options would you prefer in this case?

	Feb. 2010	Aug. 2009	Jan. 2009
Leaving Khadr to face trial by military commission in Guantanamo Bay	40%	42%	40%
Demanding Khadr’s repatriation to face due process under Canadian law	40%	40%	38%
Not sure	20%	22%	20%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,001 Canadian adults, conducted on Feb. 1 and Feb. 2, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Canadians Want to Elect Their Senators

February 06, 2010

People in Canada voice support for changing the way the members of their upper house are chosen, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 67 per cent of respondents support allowing Canadians to directly elect their senators.

In addition, 65 per cent of respondents believe senators should be limited to eight-year terms. Support is considerably lower for creating a panel of distinguished Canadians to choose senators, instead of the prime minister, and abolishing the Senate of Canada altogether.

Canadians renewed the House of Commons in October 2008. The Conservative party—led by Stephen Harper—received 37.6 per cent of the vote, and secured 143 seats in the 308-member lower house. Harper assembled a minority administration. The Tories also earned a minority mandate after the 2006 election, ending more than 12 years of government by the Liberal party.

In May 2006, Harper introduced legislation to change the country's electoral system. The bill presented by Harper—which was never ratified—would have affected the Senate of Canada, where members are currently appointed by the prime minister and can serve until they are 75 years old. Harper has promised to "create a process to choose elected senators."

Last month, Harper appointed five more people to the Senate. At this point, the Conservative Party controls 51 of the upper house's 105 seats. The Liberal Party holds 49 seats, while the remaining five are occupied by independents or Progressive Conservatives.

New Democratic Party (NDP) legislator David Christopherson criticized the prime minister, saying, "He's on the verge of a majority in the Senate, no one believes that he'll want to reform or abolish it. It will be the final nail in the coffin of the faux populism that brought Stephen Harper and the Reform Party to Ottawa in the first place."

Polling Data

As you may know, several proposals have been made over the past few years to reform the Senate of Canada. Do you support or oppose each of these ideas? – "Support" listed

	Feb. 2010	Aug. 2009	May 2008
Allowing Canadians to directly elect their senators	67%	68%	60%
Limiting appointed Canadian senators to eight-year terms	65%	66%	64%
Creating a panel of distinguished Canadians to choose senators, instead of the prime minister	34%	36%	32%

Abolishing the Senate of Canada altogether	29%	33%	30%
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Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,001 Canadian adults, conducted on Feb. 1 and Feb. 2, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

Quake Sets Back Government Already Weak in Haitians' Eyes

Confidence in Haiti's public institutions among the region's lowest

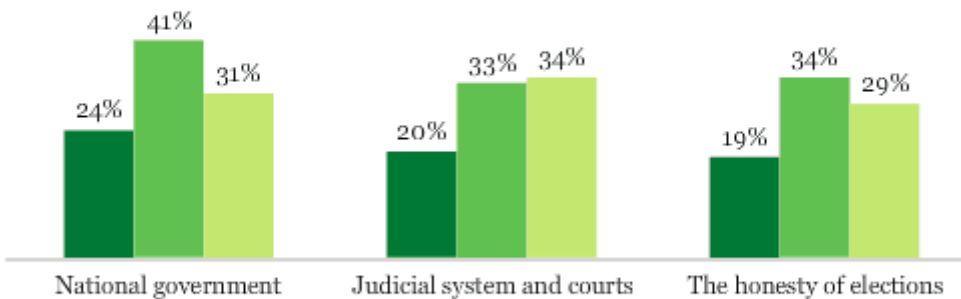
February 5, 2010

Former President Bill Clinton, the United Nations' special envoy to Haiti, described Haiti's catastrophic earthquake as an opportunity to "reimagine the future for the Haitian people." Haiti is commonly regarded not only as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, but also as the least stable in terms of its governing bodies. Gallup's December 2008 survey of Haitians indicated they were less likely than neighboring Dominicans and most other Central American populations to express confidence in key institutions.

In [your country], do you have confidence in each of the following, or not?

Percentage yes, have confidence

■ Haiti ■ Dominican Republic ■ Median, Central America/Caribbean



Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008; in the Dominican Republic July 21-Sept. 2, 2009

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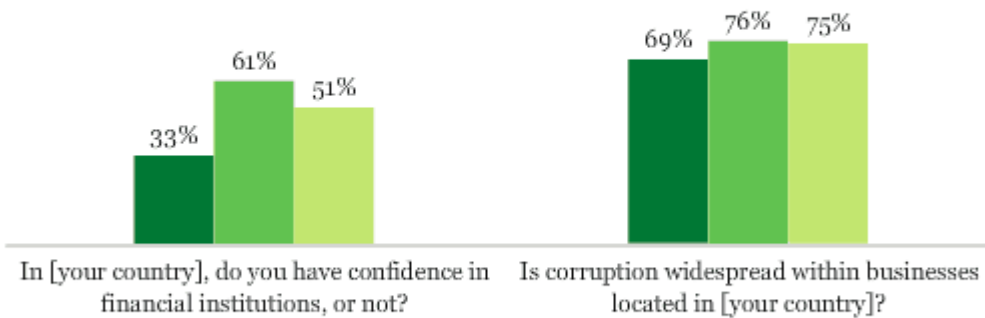
The finding that fewer than one in four Haitians expressed confidence in the country's national government (24%), judiciary (20%), or electoral system (19%) before the earthquake reflects Haiti's consistently poor showing in international governance rankings. In the 2009 Failed States Index, produced by *Foreign Policy* magazine and The Fund for Peace, Haiti was the only Western Hemisphere state described as at "critical" risk of failure. The World Bank's 2008 World Governance Indicators placed Haiti in the bottom 10% of all countries with regard to government effectiveness, rule of law, and control of corruption.

Haiti's weak public institutions and lack of regulation may also have affected residents' perceptions of the private-sector businesses so crucial to job growth. Commercial banks, for example, are less willing to extend loans amid government instability. In the Gallup survey, one-third of Haitians (33%) said they were confident in the country's financial institutions, versus a median of roughly half (51%) among the 12 Central American/Caribbean countries surveyed. In addition, as in all other nations in the region, a majority of Haiti's residents believe corruption is widespread in the country's businesses.

Confidence in Financial Institutions and Perceptions of Corruption in Business

Percentage responding yes

■ Haiti ■ Dominican Republic ■ Median, Central America/Caribbean



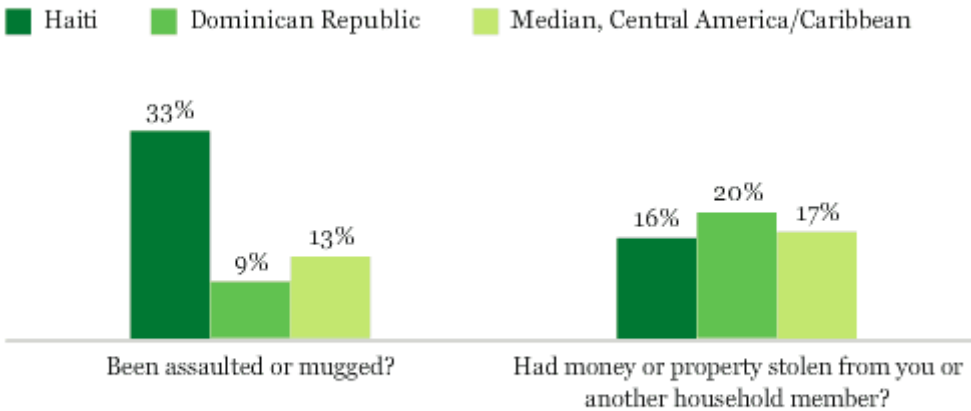
Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008; in the Dominican Republic July 21-Sept. 2, 2009

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The weaknesses that have kept the Haitian government from effectively addressing its constituents' economic hardship have also contributed to social unrest -- as reflected in high rates of violent crime, particularly in Port-au-Prince. One-third of Haitians (33%) reported in 2008 that they had been assaulted in the past year. That figure far outdistances 2009 results from the Dominican Republic (9%), as well as the median figure for 12 countries in Central America and the Caribbean (13%). Though Port-au-Prince saw significant security improvements in 2009, the earthquake has reversed those gains.

Within the past 12 months, have you . . . ?

Percentage responding yes



Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008; in the Dominican Republic July 21-Sept. 2, 2009

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Bottom Line

Gallup's 2008 survey results reflect the notion that, in a region characterized by weak and corrupt institutions, Haiti's have been among the least likely to inspire citizens' confidence. One Haiti expert interviewed by *Time* magazine in January called the earthquake an "apocalyptic blow" to an already "hollow" government. Whether the current crisis represents a fresh start for Haitians or simply a further setback for an already failing society may largely depend on whether the Haitian people, with the support of aid organizations and foreign governments, can use the rebuilding process to lay a stronger institutional foundation for stability and growth.

Survey Methods

Results from Haiti are based on face-to-face interviews with 500 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted Dec. 8-13, 2008. For results based on this total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4.7 percentage points.

Results from the Dominican Republic are based on face-to-face interviews with 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted July 21-Sept. 2, 2009. For results based on this total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.6 percentage points.

Regional medians for countries in Central America and the Caribbean include results from Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad and Tobago. All surveys were conducted between June 2006 and September 2009. For results based on the total samples of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ± 3.3 percentage points in most countries to a high of ± 4.8 percentage points in Trinidad and Tobago.

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.

Many Colombians Reject Re-Election Referendum

February 05, 2010

Almost half of people in Colombia oppose the government calling a referendum on whether the constitution should be modified to allow Álvaro Uribe to run for a third term as president, according to a poll by Datexco published in *El Tiempo*. 47 per cent of respondents oppose the proposed referendum, whereas 41 per cent support it.

Uribe has been Colombia's president since August 2002. In the May 2006 election, he won a new four-year term with 62.2 per cent of all cast ballots. He was able to run again after pro-Uribe lawmakers in the House of Representatives and the Constitutional Court officially sanctioned a plan to allow immediate presidential re-election. After issuing its ruling, the court warned that the clause was not valid for the unlimited re-election of the head of state. Uribe would require a new constitutional amendment to run again.

Uribe has been commended for improving the economy and for his security policies, especially his hard stand against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a radical left-wing armed group. However, his administration is currently under great strain. Seventy-one lawmakers—85 per cent of whom are Uribe supporters—are being investigated for alleged ties with right-wing, illegal paramilitary armies; 31 of them are either detained or already serving time in jail. The accusations range from receiving the backing of war lords for electoral benefits, to directly participating in select killings and massacres for political or economic purposes. Uribe's first cousin and close political ally, Mario Uribe, is one of the lawmakers tied to the scandal.

A group of Uribe supporters has gathered enough signatures to call a nationwide referendum on whether the current president should be allowed to run for re-election again this year. In September 2009, Congress approved the referendum bill in a late-night vote boycotted by members of the opposition. The Constitutional Court is currently studying the validity of the referendum.

The president himself has not clearly stated whether he wants to run for office again, but he actively pushed allied lawmakers and his own cabinet ministers to pass the referendum bill in Congress.

Last month, Jaime Dussan—a member of the opposition Democratic Pole (PD)—called for all parties interested in stopping the president from running again in this year's ballot to sign a joint letter requesting the Constitutional Court to prevent it. Dussan declared: "Let's make a public pronouncement, signing a statement and asking all the political and social chiefs that we send it to the court and we tell the country that we are opposed to that re-election."

Colombia is scheduled to hold a legislative election on Mar. 14, and a presidential election on May 30.

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose holding a referendum to modify the constitution and allow Álvaro Uribe to run for president again?

Support	41%
Oppose	47%
Not sure	12%

Source: Datexco / El Tiempo

Methodology: Interviews with 1,200 Colombian adults in 13 cities, conducted on Jan. 28, 2010.

Margin of error is 3.7 per cent.

Brazilians Remain Opposed to Death Penalty

February 05, 2010

Most people in Brazil are against the death penalty, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 55.2 per cent of respondents share this opinion, practically unchanged since January 2001.

The South American country abolished capital punishment in 1979, with the exception of crimes of treason committed in a time of war. Brazil ratified the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty in August 1996.

On Jan. 17, Marco Archer Cardoso Moreira—a 48-year old Brazilian man who was convicted on drug trafficking charges and sentenced to death in Indonesia—told a Brazilian newspaper that he hopes his country’s government does something to help him. Cardoso Moreira has said he wants to avoid execution and pay a sentence of life in prison or 20 years in prison instead.

In late January, Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva wrote a personal letter to Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhono asking him to spare the Brazilian prisoner’s life, saying, "I wish to address a matter of humanitarian concern. (...) I count on your generosity so that the matter does not create a reaction in the Brazilian public opinion which could possibly have an impact on our relationship. A relationship that both of us wish to strengthen."

Polling Data

People in Brazil hold differing views on some controversial issues. As I go through this list, tell me if you’re in favour or against each one - The Death Penalty

	Jan. 2010	Jan. 2001
In favour	41.2%	39.4%
Against	55.2%	55.6%
Not sure	3.6%	5.1%

Source: Instituto Sensus

Methodology: Interviews with 2,000 Brazilian adults, conducted from Jan. 25 to Jan. 29, 2010.

Margin of error is 3 per cent.

Four-in-Five Brazilians Convey Support for Lula

February 03, 2010

The vast majority of people in Brazil are content with the performance of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 81.7 per cent of respondents approve of the way the president has handled his duties, up 2.8 points since November.

Lula—a member of the Worker’s Party (PT)—won the October 2002 presidential election with 61 per cent of the vote in a run-off against Jose Serra of the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB). In October 2006, he earned a new four-year term, defeating PSDB candidate Geraldo Alckmin with 60.8 per cent of the vote in the second round. Lula is ineligible for a third consecutive term in office.

In 2006, Lula’s party was affected by a series of corruption scandals. The socialist-leaning president—also a former union leader—led a strong economy with conservative fiscal policies during his first mandate, and was praised for his poverty-reduction initiatives.

Last month, Lula said that he would go to the World Economic Forum conference in Davos later in January "with the mission of telling the developed world that if they had taken their own economic advice to heart we wouldn’t have had the crisis." Lula was unable to attend the forum as he suffered an episode of hypertension.

The first round of Brazil’s next presidential election is scheduled for Oct. 3.

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva’s performance as president?

	Jan. 2010	Nov. 2009	Sept. 2009
Approve	81.7%	78.9%	76.8%
Disapprove	13.9%	14.6%	18.7%

Source: Instituto Sensus

Methodology: Interviews with 2,000 Brazilian adults, conducted from Jan. 25 to Jan. 29, 2010.

Margin of error is 3 per cent.

Mexicans Reject Re-Election in Lower House

February 01, 2010

Over three quarters of people in Mexico disagree with allowing members of the Chamber of Deputies to run for re-election, according to a poll by Consulta Mitofsky. 78.3 per cent of respondents share this view.

Mexican voters chose their new president in July 2006. Official results placed Felipe Calderón of the National Action Party (PAN) as the winner with 36.68 per cent of all cast ballots. Calderón—a former energy secretary—took over as Mexico’s head of state in December.

In October 1910, a month before the start of the Mexican Revolution to topple dictator Porfirio Díaz, Francisco Madero wrote the Plan of San Luis, which included the phrase "Effective suffrage. No re-election." The phrase is still included in most official documents issued by Mexican governments. Madero went on to serve as Mexico's president from November 1911 to February 1913, when he was deposed by armed forces commander Victoriano Huerta.

Consecutive re-election—either for the president or federal and state lawmakers—has not been allowed in Mexico since 1917. While presidential re-election remains out of the question, some Mexican politicians have recently called for amendments to allow legislators to serve a consecutive term.

Congress is currently studying a government-backed electoral reform bill that seeks to allow members of the lower house of Congress to seek up to four consecutive, three-year terms in office.

On Jan. 26, Calderón urged lawmakers to support the bill, saying, "This reform favours citizens and their rights."

Polling Data

Some people say that members of the Chamber of Deputies should be allowed to seek re-election to make the most of their experience. Other people disagree, and think this will limit opportunities for new politicians. In your opinion, should members of the Chamber of Deputies be re-elected?

Yes	21.7%
No	78.3%

Source: Consulta Mitofsky

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,000 Mexican adults, conducted from Dec. 4 to Dec. 9, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Mexicans Assess Proposed Electoral Reforms

February 06, 2010

Most people in Mexico say politicians stand to gain from a series of electoral reforms proposed by the government, according to a poll by *Reforma*. 57 per cent of respondents think politicians alone will benefit from the proposed changes, while 34 per cent say citizens will gain with them.

Mexican voters chose their new president in July 2006. Official results placed Felipe Calderón of the National Action Party (PAN) as the winner with 36.68 per cent of all cast ballots. Calderón—a former energy secretary—took over as Mexico's head of state in December.

Congress is currently studying a government-backed electoral reform bill that would allow members of the Chamber of Deputies—the lower house of Congress—to seek up to four consecutive, three-year terms in office. It would also introduce a second round for presidential elections.

In the survey, 37 per cent of respondents think the most important piece of the proposed bill is reducing the number of lawmakers, 12 per cent select increasing the threshold for political

parties to keep their registry, and 11 per cent pick allowing the re-election of lawmakers and mayors.

On Dec. 31, Mexican interior secretary Fernando Gómez Mont urged all lawmakers to support the bill in Congress, saying, "Whoever says that this country does not need reform, well, is not telling the truth."

Polling Data

In your opinion, who would benefit more from the political reform proposed by the president?

Politicians	57%
Citizens	34%
Both equally	5%
Not sure	4%

Which is the most important topic in the political reform proposed by the president?

Reducing the number of lawmakers	37%
Increasing the threshold for political parties to keep their registry	12%
Allowing the re-election of lawmakers and mayors	11%
Allowing citizens to become candidates without the support of a party	10%
Establishing a run-off in the presidential election	7%
Other	4%
Not sure	19%

Source: Reforma

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 800 Mexican adults, conducted on Jan. 29, 2010.

Margin of error is 3.4 per cent.

AUSTRALASIA

Australians Back Abbott on Proposed Green Jobs

February 01, 2010

Most people in Australia support a proposal by opposition leader Tony Abbott to employ thousands of people to develop major environmental projects, according to a poll by Essential Research. 59 per cent of respondents back Abbott's idea, while 15 per cent oppose it.

On the other hand, 30 per cent of respondents side with the government when it says that carbon must be priced for there to be enough incentives to reduce harmful emissions. Conversely, 45 per cent of respondents agree with the opposition's idea that this way of thinking conceals the goal to implement a new tax.

Australia held a federal election in November 2007. Final results gave the Australian Labor Party (ALP) 85 seats in the 150-member House of Representatives. ALP leader Kevin Rudd was officially sworn in as prime minister in December, bringing an end to the 11-year tenure of Liberal leader John Howard as head of Australia's government.

Howard failed to retain his seat in the Bennelong constituency and stepped down as Liberal leader. Since their electoral defeat in 2007, the Liberals have had three different leaders: former defence minister Brendan Nelson, former environment minister Malcolm Turnbull, and former health minister Abbott, who defeated Turnbull in an internal leadership ballot by just one vote in December 2009.

Abbott opposes a government-sponsored plan to create a carbon Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). On Jan. 15, the opposition leader proposed the creation of a 15,000-strong "green army," at a cost of about \$625 million U.S. a year, to work on large environmental projects. Abbott declared: "The political left shouldn't be seen as owning the environment—it is too important for that—and I am determined to challenge any assumption that it does."

Polling Data

The opposition leader Tony Abbott recently announced a plan to employ 15,000 people at an annual cost of up to \$750 million to work on large scale environmental projects. Do you support or oppose this plan?

Support	59%
Oppose	15%
No opinion	26%

The federal government says placing a price on carbon is crucial to addressing climate change as there must be a strong incentive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors to achieve the cuts necessary. The opposition says the Government's plan to include a price on carbon as part of its proposed emissions trading scheme is nothing more than a new tax. Do you agree more with the government or more with the opposition?

Agree more with the government	30%
Agree more with the opposition	45%
Don't know	24%

Source: Essential Research

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,128 Australian adults, conducted from Jan. 18 to Jan. 24, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

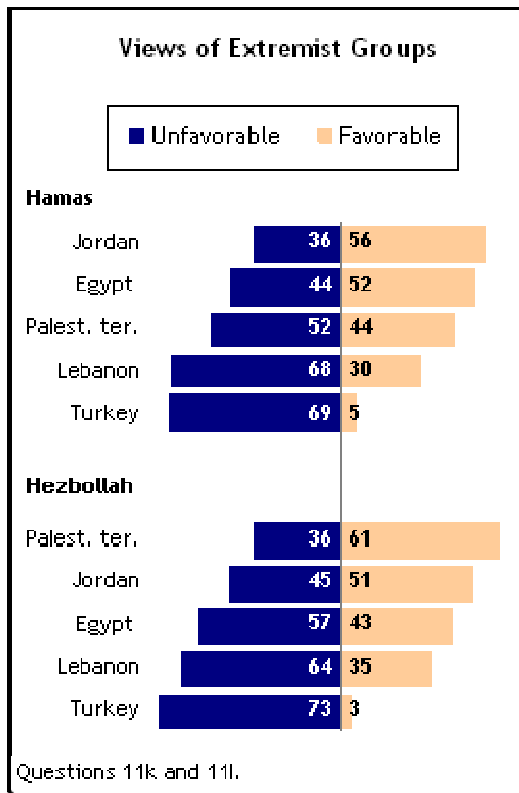
MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Mixed Views of Hamas and Hezbollah in Largely Muslim Nations

Little Enthusiasm for Many Muslim Leaders

February 4, 2010

Across predominantly Muslim nations, there is little enthusiasm for the extremist Islamic organizations Hamas and Hezbollah, although there are pockets of support for both groups, especially in the Middle East.



Four years after its victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections, Hamas receives relatively positive ratings in Jordan (56% favorable) and Egypt (52%). However, Palestinians are more likely to give the group a negative (52%) than a positive (44%) rating. And reservations about Hamas are particularly common in the portion of the Palestinian territories it controls -- just 37% in Gaza express a favorable opinion, compared with 47% in the West Bank.

A survey conducted May 18 to June 16, 2009 by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project also finds limited support for the Lebanese Shia organization Hezbollah.¹ While most Palestinians (61%) and about half of Jordanians (51%) have a favorable view of Hezbollah, elsewhere opinions are less positive, including Egypt (43%) and Lebanon (35%). As with many issues in Lebanon, views of Hezbollah are sharply divided along religious lines: nearly all of the

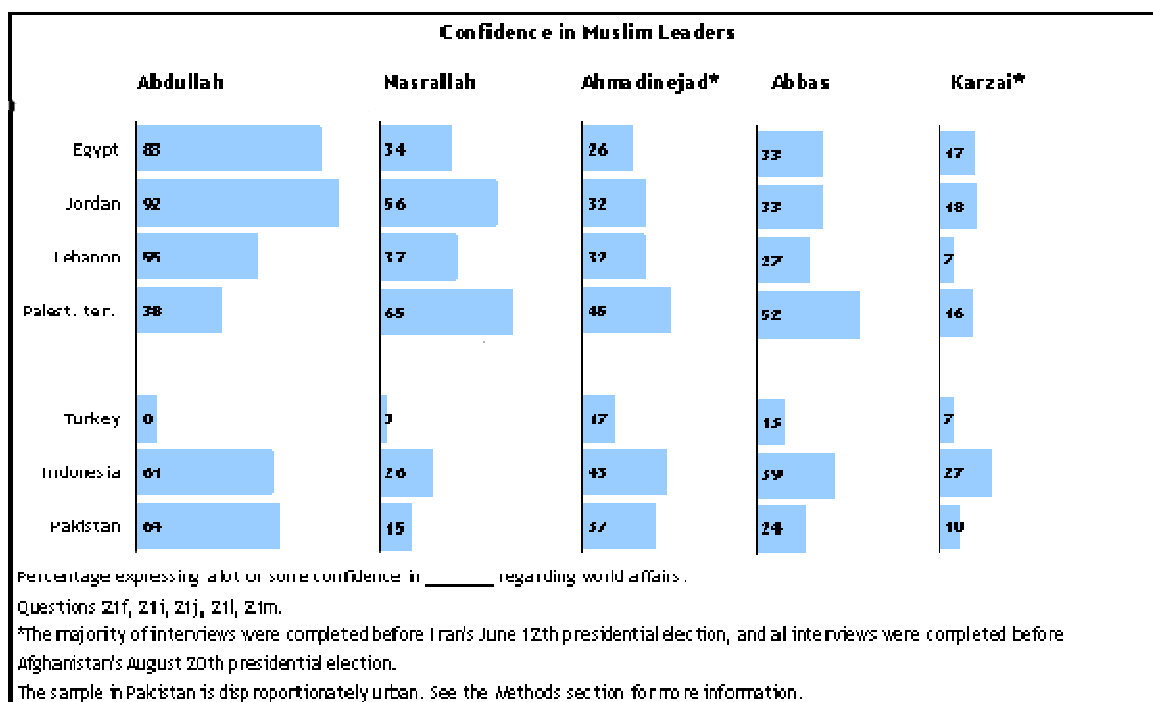
country's Shia Muslims (97%) express a positive opinion of the organization, while only 18% of Christians and 2% of Sunni Muslims feel this way.

Meanwhile, Turks overwhelmingly reject both groups -- just 5% give Hamas a positive rating and only 3% say this about Hezbollah. There is also little support among Israel's Arab population for either Hamas (21% favorable) or Hezbollah (27%). Outside of the Middle East, many in Pakistan, Indonesia and Nigeria are unable to offer an opinion about these groups.

Lukewarm support for extremist groups among Muslim publics is consistent with other Pew Global Attitudes findings in recent years, which have shown declining public support for extremism and suicide bombing among most Muslim populations. The same surveys have also found decreasing confidence in Osama bin Laden. In addition, a 2009 Pew Global Attitudes survey in Pakistan -- a country currently plagued by extremist violence -- found growing opposition to both al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Little Enthusiasm for Most Muslim Leaders

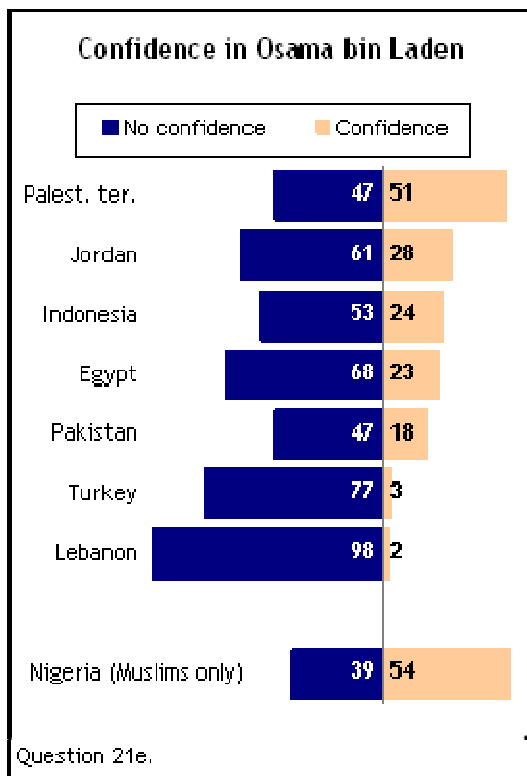
There is limited enthusiasm for most of the Muslim political figures tested on the survey, with the exception of Saudi King Abdullah, who is easily the most popular. In Jordan (92%) and Egypt (83%) for example, large majorities say they have confidence that King Abdullah will do the right thing in world affairs. The king receives quite positive ratings outside the Middle East as well, especially in the largely Muslim Asian nations Pakistan (64%) and Indonesia (61%). However, the Saudi monarch does not receive high marks everywhere -- only 8% of Turks voice confidence in him. And overall his ratings are less positive than they were in 2007.



Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah receives less positive reviews. Only 37% of Lebanese overall express confidence in Nasrallah; however, the country's Shia community shows almost unanimous confidence in him (97%). He also receives relative high marks in the Palestinian territories, and especially in the West Bank, where 71% say they think he will do the right thing in international affairs.

Confidence in Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has declined since 2007, especially in the neighboring countries of Egypt (67% confidence in 2007; 33% in 2009) and Jordan (53% in 2007; 33% in 2009). His ratings have dropped slightly among Palestinians overall (from 56% in 2007 to 52% in 2009); however, they have declined markedly among Gazans, falling from 69% to 51%.

Even before their disputed elections last year, both Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad were generally unpopular among most of the Muslim publics surveyed. Ahmadinejad's highest ratings are in the Palestinian territories (45% confidence) and Indonesia (43%), although even among these publics fewer than half express a positive view of his leadership. There is no country in which even 40% express confidence in Karzai, and in Pakistan (10%), Turkey (7%) and Lebanon (7%) one-in-ten or fewer hold this view.

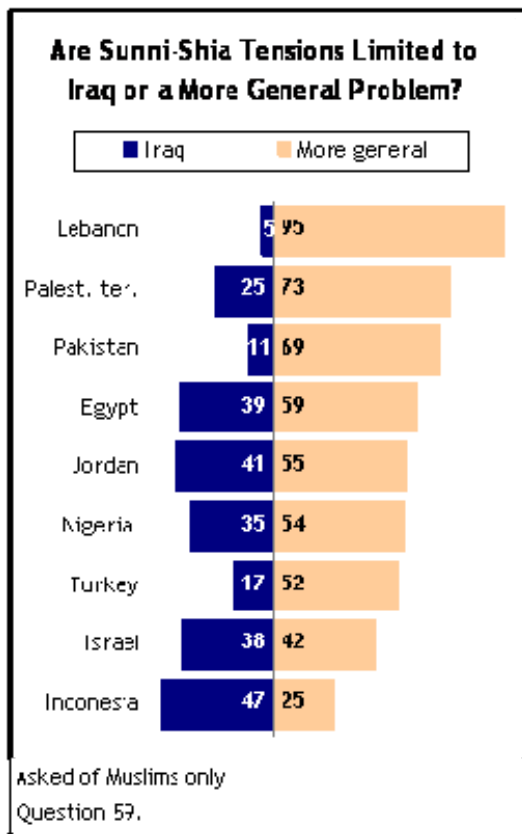


As mentioned previously, ratings for al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden have generally declined in recent years, and he receives little support among most Muslim publics. However, about half (51%) of Palestinians express confidence in him and in Nigeria, a 54%-majority of the country's

Muslim population say they are confident in bin Laden's leadership. In Pakistan, where many believe bin Laden is now hiding, only 18% express confidence in him, although 35% do not offer an opinion. Very few Turks (3%) or Lebanese (2%) express support for the terrorist leader.

Across most of the 25 nations included in the spring 2009 Pew Global Attitudes survey, U.S. President Barack Obama received positive reviews, although this was less true in predominantly Muslim countries. Even so, his ratings were consistently higher than those of his predecessor, George W. Bush, and in some cases higher than for the Muslim leaders included on the survey. For example, only 33% in Turkey have confidence in Obama, but this is still more support than Abbas, Nasrallah, Abdullah, Ahmadinejad or Karzai receive. And the American president is quite popular among some largely Muslim publics, especially in Indonesia, where he spent several years as a child: 71% of Indonesians voice confidence in him. Obama is also popular among Nigerian Muslims (81%), Israeli Arabs (69%), and Lebanese Sunnis (65%).

Sunni-Shia Conflict



There is a widespread perception among Muslims that conflict between Sunnis and Shia is not limited to Iraq's borders. In nine nations, Muslim respondents were asked whether the tensions between Sunnis and Shia are limited to Iraq or are a growing problem in the Muslim world more generally, and in seven of those nations, a majority of Muslims say it is a broader problem.

This is a rare point of agreement among Muslims in Lebanon, a country that has experienced considerable sectarian conflict for decades. Overall, 95% of Lebanese Muslims say Sunni-Shia tensions are a broad problem in the Muslim world, including 99% of Sunnis and 91% of Shia.

Most Pakistani, Egyptian, Jordanian and Nigerian Muslims also see a general problem that is not limited to Iraq. Israel's Muslim minority community is roughly divided on this question -- 42% say it is a more general problem, while 38% feel it is limited to Iraq. Indonesia is the outlier on this question -- 25% of Indonesian Muslims say Sunni-Shia tensions are a general problem, while almost half (47%) think it is essentially a problem for Iraq (28% offer no opinion).

Growing Divide Between Lebanese Sunni and Shia		
Confidence in Nasrallah	<u>2007</u>	<u>2009</u>
	%	%
<i>Shia</i>	32	97
<i>Sunni</i>	9	2
<i>Sunni-Shia Gap</i>	-73	-95
Confidence in Abdullah		
<i>Shia</i>	57	8
<i>Sunni</i>	94	94
<i>Sunni-Shia Gap</i>	+37	+86
Favorable views of Hamas	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
	%	%
<i>Shia</i>	64	91
<i>Sunni</i>	9	1
<i>Sunni-Shia Gap</i>	-55	-90
Favorable views of the U.S.		
<i>Shia</i>	0	2
<i>Sunni</i>	62	90
<i>Sunni-Shia Gap</i>	+62	+88
Questions 11a, 11k, 21j, 21m.		

Lebanon's Growing Divide

On several measures, the already large divides between Sunni and Shia in Lebanon are growing even wider. For instance, in 2007 94% of Sunnis and 57% of Shia expressed confidence in Saudi King Abdullah; in 2009, 94% of Sunnis and only 8% of Shia hold this view.

A similar example is evident in attitudes toward Hamas. Although it is a predominantly Sunni organization, Hamas has grown from generally popular among Lebanese Shia in 2008 (64% favorable) to almost universally popular in 2009 (91%), while Sunni support for the group has gone from low (9%) to almost nonexistent (1%).

Notably, views of the U.S. have grown more polarized, as the result of a shift of opinion among Lebanese Sunni. Positive attitudes among Sunnis have grown from 62% in 2008 to 90% in 2009. However, only 2% of Shia Muslims currently express a positive opinion of the U.S., barely an improvement from last year's 0%.

Also of Note:

- Many Muslims are convinced that there is a struggle in their country between groups who want to modernize the nation and Islamic fundamentalists. More are convinced of the existence of such a struggle in Lebanon (55%), Turkey (54%) and the Palestinian territories (53%) than elsewhere.
 - Muslim publics overwhelmingly support educating girls and boys equally. More than eight-in-ten in Lebanon (96%), Israel (93%), Indonesia (93%), Turkey (89%), Pakistan (87%) and the Palestinian territories (85%) say that it is equally important to educate girls and boys.
 - In Arab nations, attitudes toward Jews remain extremely negative. More than 90% of Egyptians, Jordanians, Lebanese and Palestinians express unfavorable views toward Jews. Only 35% of Israeli Arabs, however, express a negative opinion.
-