

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

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M. Zubair

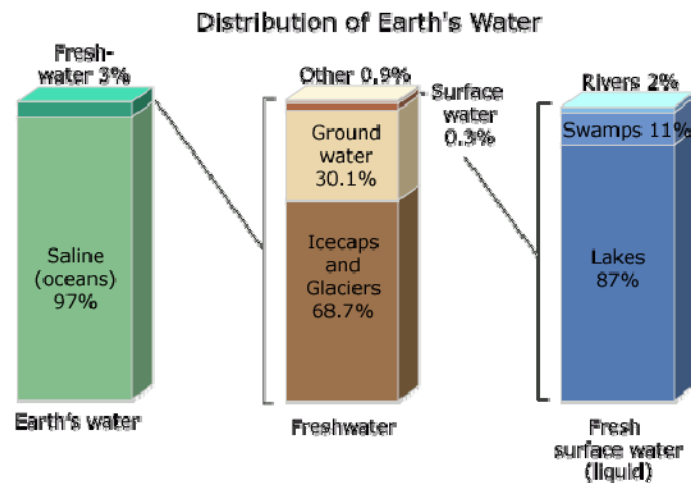
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Prelude

This weekly report consists of 25 surveys. Two of these surveys are multi-country while the rest of 23 are national surveys.

Water Scarcity and Future of The World

Population growth, urban development, farm production, and climate change is increasing competition for fresh water and producing shortages so acute that virtually every industry in the world anticipates sweeping systemic transformation over the next decade in their strategic planning, production practices, and business models. This is the conclusion of a Globescan leaders survey on water scarcity.¹



This suggests that water scarcity will have profound impacts on global businesses. Other than business and economy the water crisis will have significant political and social consequences as well. It can be easily comprehended that increasing gap between fresh water supply and demand will lead to several issues with in nations and conflicts between neighboring nations. These conditions possess potential to bring world wide changes; Industries locations might change towards places where fresh water supply is ensured, hydro power projects might suffer resulting in energy disorders and impacts on economies, farming cycles disorder will lead to famines, social life styles may get hurt along with health hazards if the number of people having access to water declines further instead of increasing. These conditions may pose eventual threat to life at this planet.

These conditions definitely demand more responsible reaction from all institutions involved and citizens themselves. Under such circumstances as a citizen of this planet what role would you expect from states, industrialists, and citizens?

¹ http://www.globescan.com/news_archives/TSS_water/

Summary of Polls

WEST ASIA

Pakistanis, Afghans Unconvinced by Gov't Anti-Terror Efforts

Despite Pakistan's major military offensives against the Taliban last year, Gallup surveys show Pakistanis' evaluations of their government's efforts to fight terrorism didn't improve -- or change much at all -- in 2009. Nearly half (49%) of Pakistanis surveyed in November and December said their government isn't doing enough, similar to the 47% who said so in May and June.

March 17, 2010

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Indonesia's Place Along the Spectrum of Global Religious Restriction

Restrictions on religious practice are far from uncommon in today's world. The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life has found that 64 nations, about one in three among the countries and territories covered by its Global Restrictions on Religion study, have high restrictions on religion either because of government restrictions, social hostilities or both. Indonesia is among the top such countries where such restrictions are very high.

March 18, 2010

Aquino Leads, Estrada Gains in the Philippines

Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III is the most popular presidential contender in the Philippines, according to a poll by Pulse Asia. 36 per cent of respondents would vote for Aquino of the Liberal Party (PLP) in the May ballot, down one point since January.

March 16, 2010

NORTH EAST ASIA

Almost Half of Japanese Disapprove of Cabinet

Japan's cabinet continues to lose public support just six months after taking office, according to a poll by Kyodo News. 49 per cent of respondents disapprove of the government led by Yukio Hatoyama, up 15 points since December.

March 15, 2010

EAST EUROPE

Medvedev, Putin Early Favourites in Russia

Russia's two main political leaders are also the top presidential contenders at this point, according to a poll by Bashkirova & Partners. 34 per cent of respondents would vote for current prime minister Vladimir Putin, while 26 per cent would support incumbent president Dmitry Medvedev.

March 15, 2010

Romanians Pessimistic About Country

A large majority of people in Romania think the country is heading in the wrong direction, according to a poll by CURS. 77 per cent of respondents share this opinion.

March 19, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Britons Doubt Afghanistan Will Be Stable in 2015

Many adults in Britain believe foreign soldiers will still be needed in Afghanistan five years from now, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 58 per cent of respondents think the Government of Afghanistan will not be able to run its affairs without the assistance of international troops.

March 17, 2010

Tories Keep Lead, Lib-Dems Gain in Britain

The opposition Conservative Party maintains a steady level of support in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 39 per cent of respondents would support the Tories in this year's election to the House of Commons.

March 19, 2010

Just Over a Third of French Trust Sarkozy

Fewer adults in France hold a positive opinion of Nicolas Sarkozy, according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 36 per cent of respondents have confidence in their president to face the country's problems, down four points since February.

March 16, 2010

Swedes Want Senior Monarch to Stay Put

Few people in Sweden believe the current monarch should abdicate after he turns 65, according to a poll by Synovate published in *Dagens Nyheter*. 62 per cent of respondents want King Carl XVI Gustaf to stay on.

March 14, 2010

Greek Cypriots Reject Rotating Presidency

Most people in Greek Cyprus oppose the idea of introducing a rotating presidency in the island, according to a poll by Symmetron Market Research published in *Kathimerini*. 59 per cent of respondents share this point of view, while 15 per cent would endorse the proposal.

March 17, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Americans Expect Health Bill to Mainly Help Poor, Uninsured

The majority of Americans believe the healthcare bill Congress is currently considering will benefit those who lack health insurance and lower-income families. Americans tend to see more negative than positive effects on most other groups in society.

March 19, 2010

The Return of the Multi-Generational Family Household

This report documents major changes in family household living arrangements that have unfolded over the past three decades and accelerated during the Great Recession. Its principal focus is on the revival since 1980 of the multi-generational family household.

March 18, 2010

Obama Not Meeting Americans' Lofty Expectations on Issues

Americans' ratings of the job President Barack Obama is doing in three key areas are much less positive than their expectations were for him shortly after he took office. Americans give Obama the best review for protecting the environment and the worst for making America prosperous.

March 17, 2010

Americans Firm in Prioritizing Economy Over Environment

For only the second time in more than two decades and the second straight year, Americans are more likely to say economic growth should take precedence over environmental protection when the two objectives conflict (53%) than to say the reverse (38%).

March 18, 2010

In U.S., Many Environmental Issues at 20-Year-Low Concern

Americans are less worried about each of eight specific environmental problems than they were a year ago, and on all but global warming and maintenance of the nation's fresh water supply, concern is the lowest Gallup has measured. Americans worry most about drinking-water pollution and least about global warming.

March 16, 2010

82% of Public Believe Wall Street Should Be Regulated More Toughly

American attitudes towards Wall Street are ambivalent. Most people believe that Wall Street benefits the country and that what it does is "absolutely essential." However, attitudes towards the people who work on Wall Street are overwhelmingly negative and are far lower than they were before 2008 and the bail-out of large banks and other financial institutions, with little or no improvement over the last year. The net result? Fully 82% of all adults believe that Wall Street should be regulated more toughly.

March 11, 2010

Race for Control of Congress Remains Close

Gallup's weekly read on the race for Congress shows Democrats with a 47% to 44% edge over Republicans among registered voters, unchanged from last week. However, this represents a significantly smaller margin for the Democrats than the final Gallup estimate before the last midterm elections, in 2006.

March 16, 2010

Generational Differences on Abortion Narrow

Gallup analysis of U.S. public opinion trends on abortion shows that generational differences in support for broadly legal abortion have diminished over the past decade. In the mid-1970s, when Gallup started polling on the issue, adults aged 18 to 29 and 30 to 49 were the most supportive of legal abortion under any circumstances, and those 65 and older the least, with 50- to 64-year-olds falling in between. That pattern continued through the late 1990s. Since 2000, however, all age groups with the exception of seniors have shown similar levels of support for broadly legal abortion.

March 12, 2010

Americans' Weekly Spending Hits New High for 2010

With stocks at a new high for the year, pent-up demand from the snowstorms of prior weeks, and perhaps the arrival of some tax refunds, Americans' self-reported spending reached its highest level of the year during the week ending March 14.

March 17, 2010

Americans Split on Placing Reagan on \$50 Bill

A proposal to place Ronald Reagan's likeness on all \$50 bills has divided views in the United States, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 41 per cent of respondents support the idea, while 39 per cent oppose it.

March 14, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Chileans Expect a Good Piñera Government

People in Chile have high expectations for their new government, according to a poll by Adimark Gfk. 59 per cent of respondents expect the country to do well under new president Sebastián Piñera.

March 15, 2010

Chile's Bachelet Leaves with Enviably Rating

A large proportion of adults in Chile are satisfied with the performance of their outgoing president, according to a poll by Adimark Gfk. 84 per cent of respondents approve of Michelle Bachelet's performance.

March 13, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Indonesia: The Obama Effect

When President Barack Obama finally takes his twice-delayed trip to Indonesia, where he lived for several years as a child, he will visit a country where his personal popularity has dramatically transformed America's image. Of course, Indonesia is not alone in this pattern -- Obama's election led to better ratings for the United States in many nations around the globe. However, Indonesia -- the world's largest predominantly Muslim country -- is an outlier in the Muslim world, where opinions of the U.S. remain mostly negative.

March 17, 2010

Coming Era of Water Scarcity Will Prompt Global Industrial Transformation, Experts Poll

Population growth, urban development, farm production, and climate change is increasing competition for fresh water and producing shortages so acute that virtually every industry in the world anticipates sweeping systemic transformation over the next decade in their strategic planning, production practices, and business models, say sustainability experts.

March 16, 2010

WEST ASIA

Pakistanis, Afghans Unconvinced by Gov't Anti-Terror Efforts

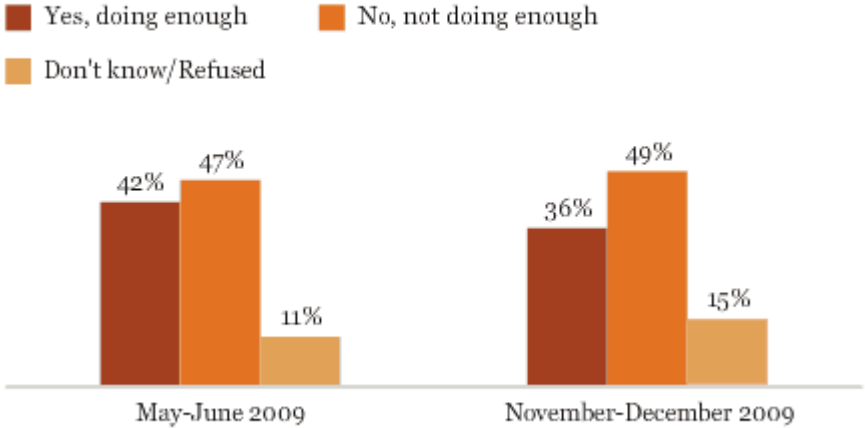
Half say government isn't doing enough

March 17, 2010

Despite Pakistan's major military offensives against the Taliban last year, Gallup surveys show Pakistanis' evaluations of their government's efforts to fight terrorism didn't improve -- or change much at all -- in 2009. Nearly half (49%) of Pakistanis surveyed in November and December said their government isn't doing enough, similar to the 47% who said so in May and June.

Do you think the government is doing enough to fight terrorism?

Asked of Pakistanis



GALLUP®

Pakistanis' views hint at frustration with the lack of meaningful, lasting change after military operations in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) in May and in South Waziristan in October. From Peshawar to Karachi, scores of Pakistani civilians continue to die in militant attacks and suicide bombings, like those last week that claimed nearly 90 lives.

When Pakistanis' opinions did change, they generally drifted in a negative direction or toward uncertainty. During the May offensive, a majority (55%) of those closest to the action in NWFP said the government was doing enough. But after the Pakistani military moved the battle to South Waziristan in October, less than a third (31%) of NWFP residents appraised their government's anti-terrorism efforts this way.

Do you think the government is doing enough to fight terrorism?

Asked of Pakistanis, by province

| | Yes, doing enough June 2009 | Yes, doing enough September-October 2009 | No, not doing enough June 2009 | No, not doing enough September-October 2009 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| North West Frontier Province | 55% | 31% | 39% | 59% |
| Sindh | 37% | 38% | 56% | 39% |
| Punjab | 44% | 38% | 39% | 48% |
| Baluchistan | 25% | 34% | 65% | 57% |

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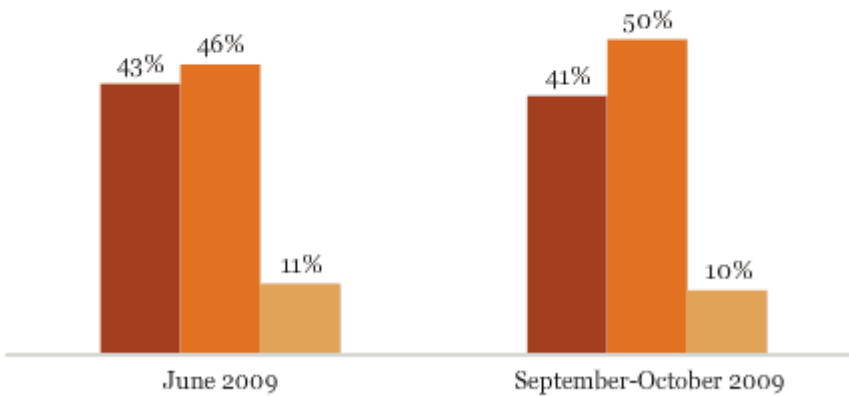
In neighboring Afghanistan, where residents also live under the daily threat of terrorism, the view was much the same. Even with an infusion of troops ahead of the August election, Afghans' grades for their government's efforts to combat terrorism did not change. Half (50%) of Afghans

surveyed in September and October said their government isn't doing enough -- essentially unchanged from the 46% who said this in June. Like Pakistanis, Afghans leaned slightly more toward saying the government is not doing enough.

Do you think the government is doing enough to fight terrorism?

Asked of Afghans

■ Yes, doing enough ■ No, not doing enough
■ Don't know/Refused



GALLUP®

Afghans' evaluations of their government's anti-terrorism efforts varied widely across their country. In the latter half of 2009, Afghans' assessments took a negative turn in the Afghan-Pakistan border regions in the South and East. Afghans' evaluations improved in the Central region, which may reflect the heightened security in the Kabul area ahead of the election and the relatively low risks of violence in other provinces.

Do you think the government is doing enough to fight terrorism?

Asked of Afghans, by region

| | Yes, doing enough June 2009 | Yes, doing enough September-October 2009 | No, not doing enough June 2009 | No, not doing enough September-October 2009 |
|---------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| West | 36% | 40% | 57% | 57% |
| North | 49% | 43% | 44% | 49% |
| Central | 38% | 58% | 54% | 37% |
| South | 39% | 29% | 39% | 50% |
| East | 54% | 32% | 39% | 67% |

GALLUP®

Bottom Line

Gallup's surveys show few Afghans and even fewer Pakistanis view the Taliban's presence as a positive influence. Further, particularly in Pakistan's case, offensives against these unpopular militants have done little to change perceptions of the government's efforts to combat terrorism. These findings reinforce how what happens after the battle is over is almost as important as the battle itself -- which may be the key to creating meaningful change in Pakistan and Afghanistan that allows the governments to focus on other issues important to their people. In future articles, Gallup will analyze what these other potential issues are.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews in Pakistan with 1,147 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in Nov. 14 to Dec. 7, 2009, and 1,133 adults, conducted May 1 to June 30, 2009. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.7 percentage points.

FATA/FANA were excluded. The excluded area represents less than 5% of the population. Please note improved sample coverage and change in data collection agency beginning June 2009 measurement. The survey included Azad Jammu and Kashmir, but sample sizes were too small to report results. Maximum margin of error by region in both survey waves ranged from ± 6 percentage points in Punjab to ± 11 percentage points in Baluchistan.

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted Sept. 20 to Oct. 12, 2009, and 1,000 adults in June 4-16, 2009, in Afghanistan. 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. Seventeen provinces were randomly chosen from 34 provinces and the sample was adjusted to reflect the population in terms of age, gender, and ethnicity, and rural and urban population. Sample sizes and margins of error for each region were the same in both survey administrations.

North Afghanistan: Results based on interviews with 290 adults from the provinces of Balkh, Kunduz, Sar E Pol, Takhar, Badakhshan, and Samangan. The maximum margin of sampling error is ± 7 percentage points.

Central Afghanistan: Results based on interviews with 250 adults from the provinces of Bamiyan, Kabul, Parwan. The maximum margin of sampling error is ± 8 percentage points.

South Afghanistan: Results based on interviews with 230 adults from the provinces of Ghazni, Kandahar, Zabul, and Paktika. The maximum margin of sampling error is ± 8 percentage points.

West Afghanistan: Results based on interviews with 130 adults from the provinces of Badghis and Herat. The maximum margin of sampling error is ± 11 percentage points.

East Afghanistan: Results based on interviews with 100 adults from the provinces of Nurestan and Nangarhar. The maximum margin of sampling error is ± 13 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.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Indonesia's Place Along the Spectrum of Global Religious Restriction

March 18, 2010

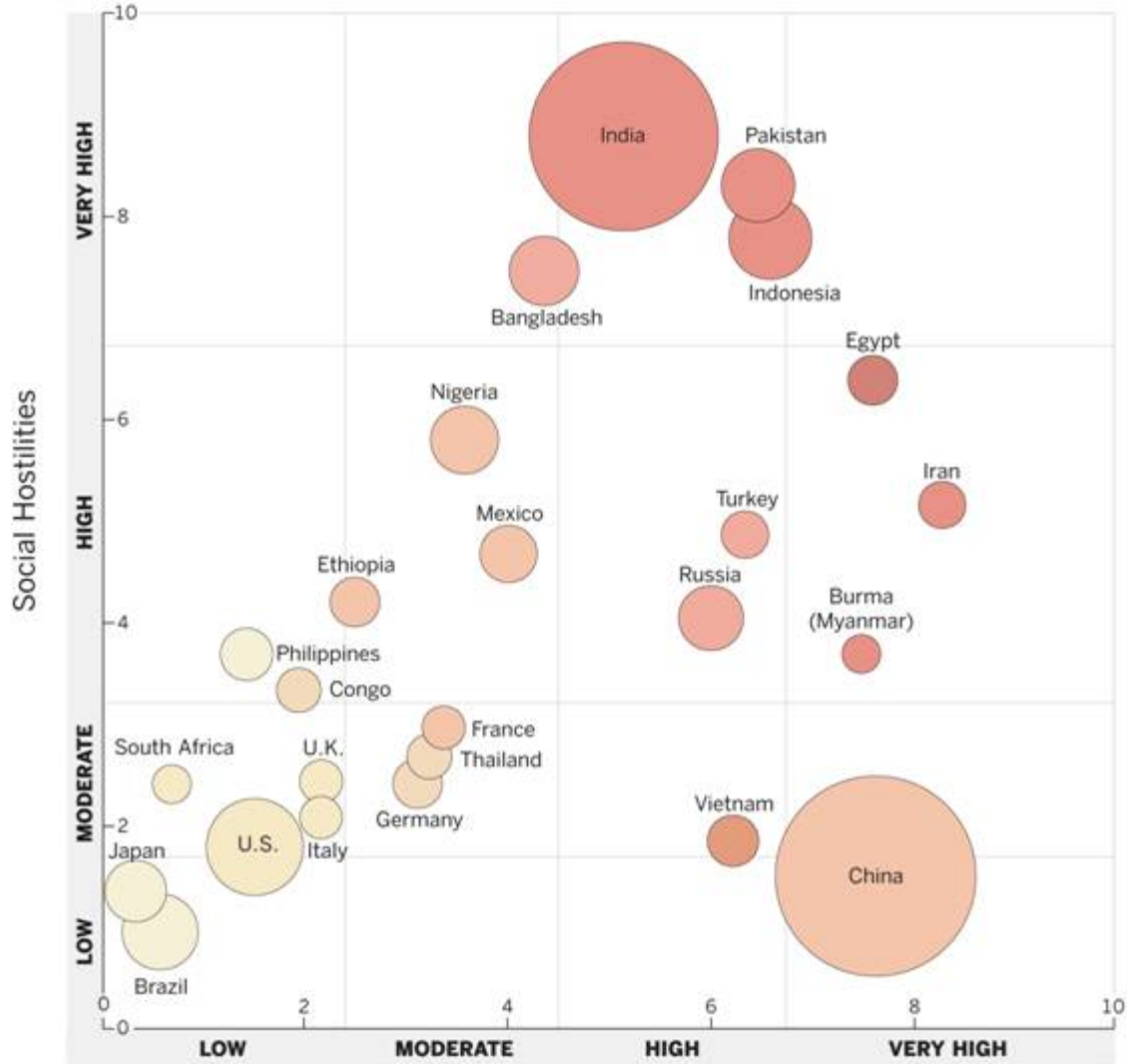
This analysis draws upon testimony on U.S. International Religious Freedom Policy: the Outlook for 2010, before the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight, February 3, 2010. Read the full report including additional global findings and methodology at pewforum.org

Restrictions on religious practice are far from uncommon in today's world. The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life has found that 64 nations, about one in three among the countries and territories covered by its [Global Restrictions on Religion study](#), have high restrictions on religion either because of government restrictions, social hostilities or both. And because some of the most restrictive countries are very populous, that means about 70% of the world's population lives in countries with high or very high restrictions on religion, the brunt of which often falls on religious minorities.

As shown in the chart below, Indonesia, where President Barack Obama now plans to visit in June and where he spent part of his childhood, is among those countries of the globe where such restrictions and hostilities are highest. In the chart we've plotted the [25 most populous countries by their scores on both measures](#), with increases in social hostilities going up the chart and increases in government restrictions going to the right. If a country has both high government restrictions and high social hostilities, it will be located more toward the top right corner of the chart, as is Indonesia along with Pakistan, Indonesia, Egypt and Iran.

Religious Restrictions in the 25 Most Populous Countries

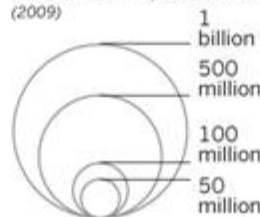
This chart shows how the world's 25 most populous countries score in terms of both government restrictions on religion and social hostilities involving religion. Countries in the upper right have the most restrictions and hostilities. Countries in the lower left have the least.



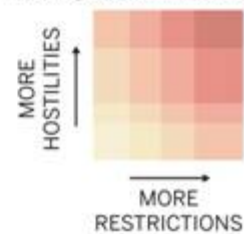
Government Restrictions

Note: The Pew Forum categorized the levels of government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion by percentiles. Countries with scores in the top 5% on each index were categorized as "very high." The next highest 15% of scores were categorized as "high," and the following 20% were categorized as "moderate." The bottom 60% of scores were categorized as "low."

Circles are sized proportionally to each country's population (2009)



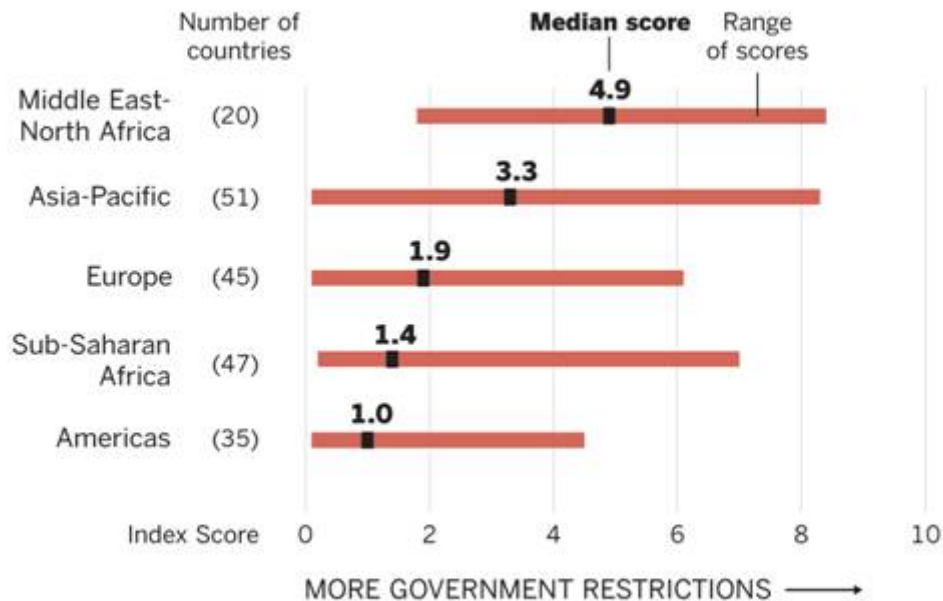
Colors are based on each country's position on the chart.



Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life • Global Restrictions on Religion, December 2009

In this respect, Indonesia is not alone within its neighborhood. While the region of the world with the highest level of restrictions is the Middle East and North Africa, the Asia-Pacific region has the second highest average level of government restrictions, more than three times the average of the Americas, and more than half again as high as Europe's average.

Government Restrictions on Religion by Region



Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life • *Global Restrictions on Religion, December 2009*

Governmental restrictions include not only national laws and policies, but also actions by local governments and officials, which we find account for a sizeable portion of government restrictions worldwide. In this regard, however, the situation in the Asia-Pacific region is mixed because it includes some countries and territories with low governmental restrictions -- such as Japan and Taiwan -- as well as some countries with very high government restrictions, such as China and Burma. Indeed, of the 10 countries with very high government restrictions, only two are in the Middle East and North Africa (Saudi Arabia and Egypt), while seven are in Asia (Iran, Uzbekistan, China, Burma, the Maldives, Malaysia and Brunei). Only one is in Sub-Saharan Africa (Eritrea).

However, our study shows that in some places social hostilities may have an even greater impact than do government actions. Such is the case with Indonesia. While the study did not rank Indonesia among the countries with the most severe government restrictions on religious practice, it ranks among the 11 countries with the highest levels of social hostilities involving religion.

Looking at the 11 countries with very high levels of social hostilities involving religion, six are in Asia-Pacific (India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) while four are in the Middle East and North Africa (Iraq, Israel, Sudan and Saudi Arabia) and one in Sub-Saharan Africa (Somalia).

Government Restrictions

Very High

Top 5% of scores

SCORES FROM 6.7 TO 8.4

Saudi Arabia

Iran

Uzbekistan

China

Egypt

Burma (Myanmar)

Maldives

Eritrea

Malaysia

Brunei

Social Hostilities

Very High

Top 5% of scores

SCORES FROM 6.8 TO 9.4

Iraq

India

Pakistan

Afghanistan

Indonesia

Bangladesh

Somalia

Israel

Sri Lanka

Sudan

Saudi Arabia

These findings are based on a series of more than 30 measures phrased as questions, such as, "Is public preaching limited by any level of government?" And on the social side, "Is there mob violence related to religion?" We answered the questions for each country by combing through two separate years of 16 widely cited and publicly available reports on international religious freedom by the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the United Nations Special Rapporteur, the Council of the European Union, and numerous other reports by other organizations, including Human Rights Watch and the Hudson Institute.¹

While government restrictions and social hostilities tend to move in tandem, there are some notable exceptions. China and Vietnam have extremely high restrictions on religion from the government but relatively fewer restrictions coming from people and groups in society. Although social tensions over religion appear to be on the rise in Chinese society, particularly in the Tibet and Xinjiang Autonomous Regions, China is on the low end of the Social Hostilities Index for

the period covered by this study, which may help explain religious growth and dynamism present in China today.

On the other end of the spectrum, you can see India in the top-center part of the chart, indicating that social hostilities tend to be higher than government restrictions, though both tend to be high. Nigeria is another example of a country where there are higher social hostilities than government restrictions on religion. In the bottom left-hand corner of the chart are a cluster of countries. Only two of the 25 most populous countries are low on both measures -- Japan and Brazil. The U.S. falls into the moderately restrictive category in terms of social hostilities, primarily due to frequent, religiously biased hate crimes. For instance, each year law enforcement officials report about 1,400 religiously biased hate crimes in the United States, covering nearly all 50 states. So, in sum, this scatter plot provides a way to understand the main sources of restrictions on religious groups within a given country.

It is important to remember, though, that our study is just a snapshot of a particular time period, and situations can and do change. For instance, although Malaysia was among the countries with the highest government restrictions, it had low social hostilities involving religion during the time period studied. However, had the recent social violence surrounding the dispute over whether Christians can use the word "Allah" for "God" happened during the study period, Malaysia's social hostility score would have been higher.

This analysis draws upon testimony on U.S. International Religious Freedom Policy: the Outlook for 2010, before the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight, February 3, 2010. Read the full report, including additional global findings at pewforum.org.

Although it is very likely that more restrictions exist than are reported by the 16 primary sources, taken together the sources are sufficiently comprehensive to provide a good estimate of the levels of restrictions in almost all countries. The one major exception is North Korea. The sources clearly indicate that North Korea's government is among the most repressive in the world with respect to religion as well as other civil and political liberties. (The U.S. State Department's 2008 Report on International Religious Freedom, for example, says that "Genuine freedom of religion does not exist" in North Korea.) But because North Korean society is effectively closed to outsiders and independent observers lack regular access to the country, the sources are unable to provide the kind of specific, timely information that the Pew Forum categorized and counted ("coded," in social science parlance) for this quantitative study. Therefore, the report does not include scores for North Korea.

Aquino Leads, Estrada Gains in the Philippines

March 16, 2010

Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III is the most popular presidential contender in the Philippines, according to a poll by Pulse Asia. 36 per cent of respondents would vote for Aquino of the Liberal Party (PLP) in the May ballot, down one point since January.

Senator Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party (PNP) is second with 29 per cent, followed by former president Joseph Estrada with 18 per cent. Support is lower for former secretary of National Defence Gilberto Teodoro, religious and political leader Eddie Villanueva, and senator Richard Gordon.

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 Aquino III becoming a presidential candidate. A grass-roots movement urged him to run and the senator officially launched his bid in September.

Yesterday, Estrada discussed his chances, saying, "I think Number 1 [Aquino] is harder to beat. I want to be Number 1. If he is still Number 1 [by May], he will be the hardest to beat."

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

Polling Data

Of the people in this list, for whom would you vote for as president of the Philippines if the elections of 2010 were held today and they were presidential candidates?

| | Feb. 2010 | Jan. 2010 | Dec. 2009 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Benigno Aquino III | 36% | 37% | 45% |
| Manuel Villar | 29% | 35% | 23% |
| Joseph Estrada | 18% | 12% | 19% |
| Gilberto Teodoro | 7% | 5% | 5% |
| Eddie Villanueva | 2% | 2% | 1% |
| Richard Gordon | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Other / None / Undecided | 7% | 8% | 1% |

Source: Pulse Asia

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,800 Filipino adults, conducted from Feb. 21 to Feb. 25, 2010. Margin of error is 3 per cent.

Almost Half of Japanese Disapprove of Cabinet

March 15, 2010

Japan's cabinet continues to lose public support just six months after taking office, according to a poll by Kyodo News. 49 per cent of respondents disapprove of the government led by Yukio Hatoyama, up 15 points since December.

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

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

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 Mar. 12, Hatoyama said the yen's current high value is sending mixed messages about the state of Japan's finances, saying, "Japan's economy and industries aren't necessarily strong. I think we need to take firm steps against such yen strength."

Polling Data

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

| | Mar. 2010 | Feb. 2010 | Dec. 2009 |
|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Approve | 36% | 37% | 48% |
| Disapprove | 49% | 46% | 34% |

Source: Kyodo News

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,011 Japanese adults, conducted on Mar. 6 and Mar. 7, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

EAST EUROPE

Medvedev, Putin Early Favourites in Russia

March 15, 2010

Russia's two main political leaders are also the top presidential contenders at this point, according to a poll by Bashkirova & Partners. 34 per cent of respondents would vote for current prime minister Vladimir Putin, while 26 per cent would support incumbent president Dmitry Medvedev.

Communist Party (KPRF) leader Gennady Zyuganov is a distant third with six per cent, followed by Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy with three per cent. Support is lower for Russian Federation Council speaker Sergei Mironov and Union of Right Forces (SPS) member Boris Nemtsov.

Russian voters renewed the State Duma in December 2007. United Russia (YR)—whose candidate list was headed by then president Putin—secured 64.1 per cent of the vote and 315 of the legislature's 450 seats. On that same month, Putin endorsed Medvedev as a presidential candidate, and Medvedev said it would be of the "utmost importance" to have Putin as prime minister.

In March 2008, Medvedev easily won Russia's presidential election with 70.28 per cent of the vote. In May, Medvedev was sworn in as president. His nomination of Putin as prime minister was confirmed by the State Duma in a 392-56 vote

The next presidential election is scheduled for March 2012. Both Putin and Medvedev are eligible to run as candidates.

On Mar. 10, United Russia official Andrei Vorobyov said no decision has been made on who would be the party's presidential candidate in 2012, adding, "Putin is our leader, and this fact speaks for itself. As far as his nomination is concerned, this process is always complicated and requires more discussions and preparations."

Polling Data

Who would you vote for if the presidential elections in Russia were to take place next Sunday?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Vladimir Putin | 34% |
| Dmitry Medvedev | 26% |
| Gennady Zyuganov | 6% |
| Vladimir Zhirinovskiy | 3% |
| Sergei Mironov | 1% |
| Boris Nemtsov | 1% |
| Would not vote | 12% |
| Undecided | 16% |

Source: Bashkirova & Partners, Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 2,000 Russian adults, conducted in February 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Romanians Pessimistic About Country

March 19, 2010

A large majority of people in Romania think the country is heading in the wrong direction, according to a poll by CURS. 77 per cent of respondents share this opinion.

Additionally, 64 per cent of Romanians think the current government will not be able to take the country out of an ongoing economic crisis.

Romania held a legislative election in November 2008. Final results gave the coalition of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the Conservative Party (PC) 33.09 per cent of the vote and 114 seats in the lower house, followed by the Democratic Liberal Party (PD-L) with 32.36 per cent and 115 mandates. President Traian Basescu nominated PD-L leader Emil Boc to take over as prime minister from Calin Popescu Tariceanu.

In October 2009, the Romanian government collapsed following a defeat in a confidence vote. Opposition parties rejected Boc's government for proposing pension reforms aimed at securing funding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In November, Basescu earned a new term in office, defeating PSD candidate Mircea Geoana in the second round of the presidential election with 50.33 per cent of all cast ballots.

On Mar. 15, Romanian finance minister Sebastian Vladesku declared: "Romania shows modest signs of recovery but it depends very much on the development at global level."

Polling Data

Do you think things in Romania are going in the right direction, or in the wrong direction?

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Right direction | 18% |
| Wrong direction | 77% |
| Not sure | 5% |

In your opinion, will the current government be able to take the country out of crisis or not?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Yes | 21% |
| No | 64% |
| Not sure | 15% |

Source: CURS

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews to 3,000 Romanian voters, conducted from Feb. 4 to Feb. 14, 2010. Margin of error is 1.8 per cent.

WEST EUROPE

Britons Doubt Afghanistan Will Be Stable in 2015

March 17, 2010

Many adults in Britain believe foreign soldiers will still be needed in Afghanistan five years from now, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 58 per cent of respondents think the Government of Afghanistan will not be able to run its affairs without the assistance of international troops.

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 1,668 soldiers—including 272 Britons—have died in the war on terrorism, either in support of the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom or as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Earlier this month, Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg said Britain's commitment to Afghanistan should come to an end in 2015, adding, "How long do we give before we come to a judgment? I think it's a matter of months, a year or so. Not a matter of weeks, nor a matter of years and years. Not before the general election, but it's a judgment we should come to pretty quickly after the general election."

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

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. It is widely believed that the election will take place on May 6.

Polling Data

Five years from now, do you think the Government of Afghanistan will be able to run its affairs without the assistance of international troops?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Yes | 11% |
| No | 58% |
| Not sure | 31% |

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,003 British adults, conducted on Mar. 9 and Mar. 10, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Tories Keep Lead, Lib-Dems Gain in Britain

March 19, 2010

The opposition Conservative Party maintains a steady level of support in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 39 per cent of respondents would support the Tories in this year's election to the House of Commons.

The governing Labour party is second with 26 per cent, followed by the Liberal Democrats with 21 per cent. 15 per cent of respondents would vote for other parties. Support for the Lib-Dems increased by three points in a week.

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

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

Yesterday, Clegg expressed dismay at the current state of privacy rights in the country, saying, "Labour's flagrant disregard for our privacy flies in the face of hard-won British liberty. It betrays a deep distrust of the British people, as well as an obsession with controlling every aspect of everyday life from Whitehall. (...) Only the Liberal Democrats will bring an end to the endless snooping on innocent people."

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. It is widely believed that the election will take place on May 6.

Polling Data

If a General Election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency? - Decided Voters with Leaners

| | Mar. 16 | Mar. 10 | Feb. 17 | Feb. 10 |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Conservative | 39% | 39% | 40% | 38% |
| Labour | 26% | 26% | 26% | 25% |
| Liberal Democrats | 21% | 18% | 18% | 20% |
| Other | 15% | 17% | 16% | 16% |

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,003 British adults, conducted on Mar. 15 and Mar. 16, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Just Over a Third of French Trust Sarkozy

March 16, 2010

Fewer adults in France hold a positive opinion of Nicolas Sarkozy, according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 36 per cent of respondents have confidence in their president to face the country's problems, down four points since February.

In addition, 42 per cent of respondents have confidence in French prime minister François Fillon, down one point in a month.

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 Mar. 13, Sarkozy expressed disappointment with the decision of Britain's Conservative leader David Cameron to abandon the continental European People's Party (EPP), saying, "I remain convinced that the position of our British friends is bang in the middle of Europe. (...) The EPP is a good thing and I regret him (Cameron) having pulled out."

Polling Data

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

| | Mar. 2010 | Feb. 2010 | Jan. 2010 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Confidence | 36% | 40% | 41% |
| No confidence | 58% | 56% | 52% |

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

| | Mar. 2010 | Feb. 2010 | Jan. 2010 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Confidence | 42% | 43% | 42% |
| No confidence | 51% | 51% | 50% |

Source: CSA / *Le Parisien*

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,006 French adults, conducted on Mar. 2 and Mar. 3, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

Swedes Want Senior Monarch to Stay Put

March 14, 2010

Few people in Sweden believe the current monarch should abdicate after he turns 65, according to a poll by Synovate published in *Dagens Nyheter*. 62 per cent of respondents want King Carl XVI Gustaf to stay on.

Carl XVI Gustaf became King in September 1973, upon the death of his grandfather, King Gustaf VI Adolf.

In 1975, the last vestiges of the monarchy's constitutional powers were transferred to the Swedish government. Still, as in a number of other European countries, the royal family retains its titles and performs ceremonial duties.

In January 1980, a change in Sweden's Act of Succession came into effect and allowed for the eldest child of a monarch to inherit the throne regardless of gender. Crown princess Victoria became heir apparent, instead of her younger brother, Carl Philip.

The 33-year-old Victoria will marry 36-year-old personal trainer and gym owner Daniel Westling in June. Earlier this month, Finance Ministry spokesperson Lena Westlin commented on the mounting cost of the wedding—currently estimated at \$11.4 million U.S.—saying, "You'll need security guards, personnel to manage the grounds, and others to create a functioning household for the Crown Princess and Daniel."

Polling Data

King Carl XVI Gustaf will turn 65 next year. Do you think he should stay on as monarch or abdicate in favour of Princess Victoria?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Stay on as monarch | 62% |
| Abdicate | 17% |
| Not sure | 21% |

Source: Synovate / Dagens Nyheter

Methodology: Interviews with 1,038 Swede voters, conducted from Feb. 22 to Feb. 25, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Greek Cypriots Reject Rotating Presidency

March 17, 2010

Most people in Greek Cyprus oppose the idea of introducing a rotating presidency in the island, according to a poll by Symmetron Market Research published in *Kathimerini*. 59 per cent of respondents share this point of view, while 15 per cent would endorse the proposal.

Relations between the Greek majority and the Turkish minority in Cyprus have been frayed since 1974, when a Greek-sponsored attempt to seize the government was met by military intervention from Turkey. In the skirmish, the Turks gained control of almost two-fifths of the island, which in 1983 declared itself the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The Turkish government has never acknowledged the Greek Cypriot administration. More than 30,000 Turkish soldiers occupy the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Northern Cyprus held a presidential election in April 2005, which resulted in a victory for Republican Turkish Party (CTP) candidate Mehmet Ali Talat. In his acceptance speech, Talat declared: "I want to give my hand to the Greek Cypriot people and the Greek Cypriot leadership for peace, to find a solution to our problem and reunify our island."

The president in Northern Cyprus is regarded as the leader of the Turkish community in the island, and acts as chief negotiator in talks with the United Nations (UN) and other international organizations.

In February 2008, Dimitris Christofias—a member of the Progressive Party of the Working People (AKEL)—won a presidential run-off vote with 53.37 per cent of the vote in Greek Cyprus. One of Christofias' main campaign promises was to resume peace talks with Turkish Cyprus. In March 2008, Christofias and Talat launched official reunification talks, sponsored by the UN.

In September 2009, Christofias proposed the creation of a United Federal State of Cyprus with a rotating presidency shared between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot side. The president and vice-president would be elected by the entire population of the island.

The rotating presidency proposal has received criticism from all sides. In February, Christofias insisted that the peace talks will continue despite differences, saying, "The basic principle is that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed."

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose the idea of a rotating presidency for Cyprus?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Support | 15% |
| Oppose | 59% |
| Depends | 22% |
| Not sure | 4% |

Source: Symmetron Market Research / Kathimerini

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 800 adults in Greek Cyprus, conducted from Feb. 17 to Feb. 24, 2010. Margin of error is 4 per cent.

NORTH AMERICA

Americans Expect Health Bill to Mainly Help Poor, Uninsured

Americans believe most groups will be worse off

March 19, 2010

The majority of Americans believe the healthcare bill Congress is currently considering will benefit those who lack health insurance and lower-income families. Americans tend to see more negative than positive effects on most other groups in society.

Thinking about the healthcare bill currently being considered by Congress, do you think if it is passed into law it will make things better, make no difference, or make things worse for each of the following?

| | % Make things better | % Make no difference | % Make things worse | Net benefit (pct. pts.) |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Americans who do not have health insurance today | 59 | 13 | 22 | +37 |
| Lower-income families | 56 | 11 | 29 | +27 |
| The United States as a whole | 39 | 13 | 44 | -5 |
| Pharmaceutical companies | 34 | 18 | 41 | -7 |
| Middle-income families | 34 | 17 | 44 | -10 |
| Hospitals | 33 | 17 | 42 | -9 |
| Doctors | 29 | 19 | 45 | -16 |
| You and your family | 28 | 29 | 37 | -9 |
| Health insurance companies | 26 | 14 | 51 | -25 |
| Upper-income families | 22 | 39 | 33 | -11 |

March 17, 2010

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The findings that more Americans believe the new legislation will make things worse rather than better for the U.S. as a whole, as well as for them personally, are consistent with previous Gallup polls showing a slight negative tilt when Americans are asked if they support the new plan.

Some experts have argued that the medical establishment will benefit from the new legislation because millions of Americans will suddenly gain health insurance and therefore become healthcare consumers. Americans disagree, perhaps related to President Obama's and congressional Democrats' recent attacks on the insurance industry. By significant margins, Americans perceive that health insurance companies, doctors, and hospitals will be worse off rather than better off if the new bill becomes law.

Gallup has also found that support for a new healthcare bill is highly partisan at the rank-and-file level, with Democrats supporting it and Republicans opposing it. The new data reinforce this partisan division in a slightly different way. Republicans are more negative than Democrats about the future impact of the new legislation on every group tested.

Thinking about the healthcare bill currently being considered by Congress, do you think if it is passed into law it will make things better, make no difference, or make things worse for each of the following?

Net benefit: % "make things better" minus % "make things worse," by party (including leaners)

| | Net benefit perceived by Republicans/ leaners | Net benefit perceived by Democrats/ leaners |
|--|--|--|
| | In pct. pts. | In pct. pts. |
| Americans who do not have health insurance today | 6 | 66 |
| Lower-income families | -4 | 60 |
| The United States as a whole | -65 | 51 |
| Pharmaceutical companies | -30 | 9 |
| Middle-income families | -60 | 37 |
| Hospitals | -52 | 29 |
| Doctors | -62 | 22 |
| You and your family | -56 | 33 |
| Health insurance companies | -45 | -14 |
| Upper-income families | -44 | 11 |

March 17, 2010

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Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,009 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 17, 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.

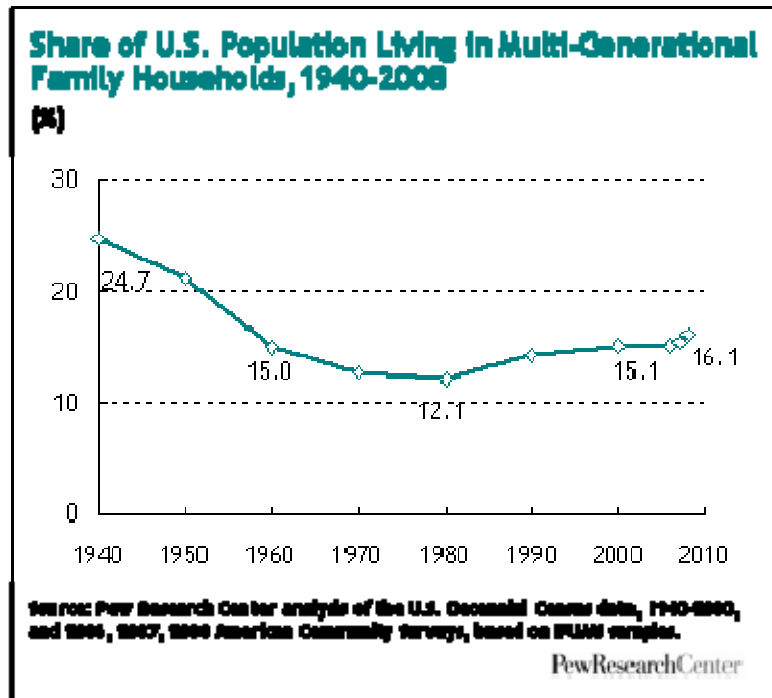
Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones and cellular phones.

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.

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

The Return of the Multi-Generational Family Household

March 18, 2010



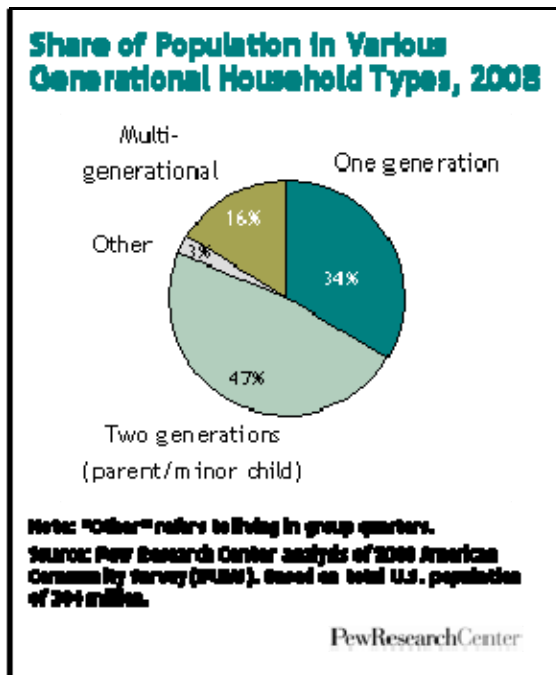
This report documents major changes in family household living arrangements that have unfolded over the past three decades and accelerated during the Great Recession.

Its principal focus is on the revival since 1980 of the multi-generational family household.

It also chronicles a range of recent trends in the living arrangements of older adults, and it explores the correlation between living alone at an older age and various life experiences, including health, happiness and depression.

The report is based on the Pew Research Center's analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data as well as our own public opinion surveys. For details on our methodology, see "[About the Data](#)" in the full report. Key findings:

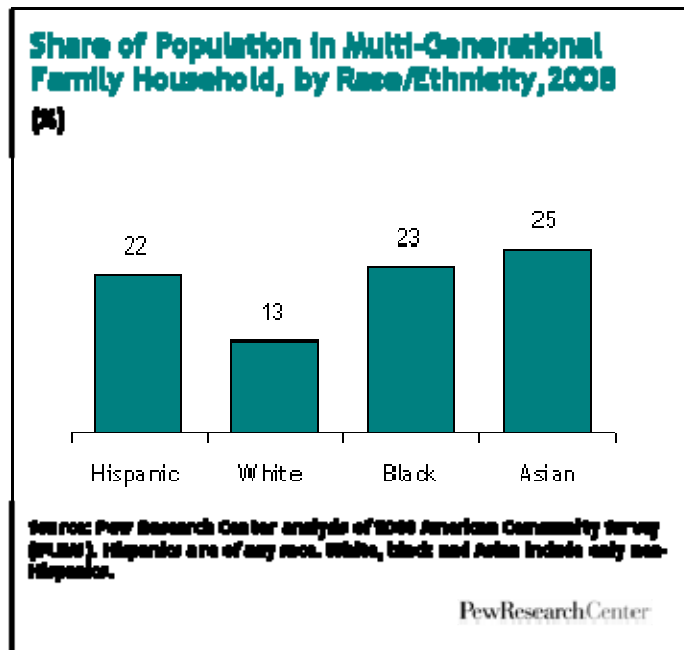
Multi-Generational Family Households



In 2008, an estimated 49 million Americans, or 16% of the total U.S. population, lived in a family household that contained at least two adult generations or a grandparent and at least one other generation. In 1980, this figure was just 28 million, or 12% of the population.

This 33% increase since 1980 in the share of all Americans living in such households represents a sharp trend reversal. From 1940 to 1980, the share of Americans living in such households had declined by more than half (from 25% in 1940 to 12% in 1980).

The growth since 1980 in these multi-generational households is partly the result of demographic and cultural shifts, including the rising share of immigrants in the population and the rising median age of first marriage of all adults.



But at a time of high unemployment and a rising foreclosures, the number of households in which multiple generations of the same family double up under the same roof has spiked significantly. Our report finds that from 2007 to 2008, the number of Americans living in a multi-generational family household grew by 2.6 million.

This trend has affected adults of all ages, especially the elderly and the young. For example, about one in five adults ages 25 to 34 now live in a multi-generational household. So do one-in-five adults ages 65 and older.

Living Arrangements of Older Adults

After rising steeply for nearly a century, the share of adults ages 65 and older who live alone flattened out around 1990 and has since declined a bit. It currently stands at 27% -- up from 6% in 1900.

Older adults who live alone are less healthy and they more often feel sad or depressed than their counterparts who live with a spouse or with others. These correlations stand up even after controlling for demographic factors such as gender, race, age, income and education.

Obama Not Meeting Americans' Lofty Expectations on Issues

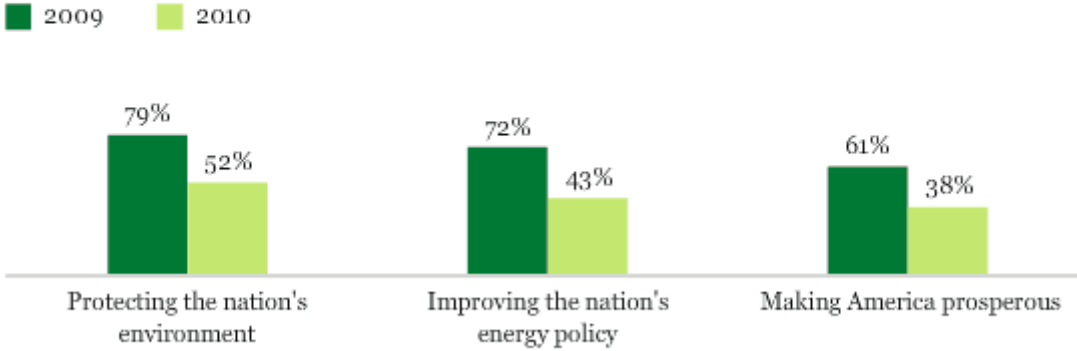
Slight majority still rates him positively for protecting the environment

March 17, 2010

Americans' ratings of the job President Barack Obama is doing in three key areas are much less positive than their expectations were for him shortly after he took office. Americans give Obama the best review for protecting the environment and the worst for making America prosperous.

2009 Expectations vs. 2010 Rating for Doing a "Good Job" of Handling Each Issue -- Barack Obama

Do you think Barack Obama will do/is doing a good job or a poor job in handling each of the following issues as president?



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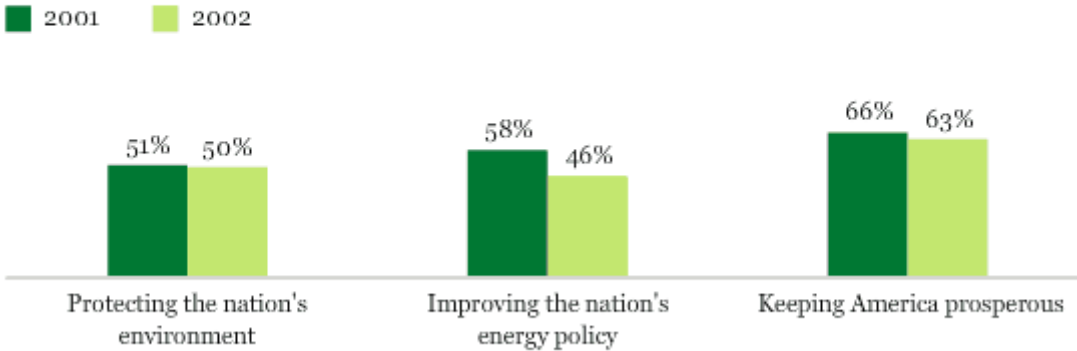
"Even though Americans' ratings for Obama's handling of these issues have dropped sharply over the past year, they are no worse than Bush's ratings toward the end of his term."

The declines are understandable, given the high expectations for Obama when he took office and the erosion in his overall job approval rating over the past year. Last March, he averaged 62% job approval, compared to ratings in the high 40% range today. On a proportional basis, however, the declines in his ratings on the environment, energy, and prosperity eclipse those for his overall approval rating.

Gallup asked the same items about George W. Bush throughout his presidency. A comparison of Bush's year 1 vs. year 2 ratings to Obama's yields two important distinctions for Bush. First, expectations for how Bush would handle these issues were generally not as high at the outset of his presidency as they were for Obama. Second, Bush's ratings did not decline nearly as much in his second year, probably due to the rally in public support Bush enjoyed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Bush's first- and second-year ratings were similar on the environment and the economy, though he did drop significantly on energy.

2001 Expectations vs. 2002 Rating for Doing a "Good Job" of Handling Each Issue -- George W. Bush

Do you think George W. Bush will do/is doing a good job or a poor job in handling each of the following issues as president?



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Even though Americans' ratings for Obama's handling of these issues have dropped sharply over the past year, they are no worse than Bush's ratings toward the end of his term. In his second term in office, from 2005 to 2008, Bush averaged 33% "good job" ratings on the environment, 27% on energy, and 39% on the economy.

Obama's current ratings are predictably much more positive among Democrats than among Republicans, with the largest difference of opinion (60 percentage points) in ratings of the job he is doing on the economy.

Obama Ratings on Issues, by Political Party

% Who say Obama is doing a good job

| | Democrats | Independents | Republicans |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Protecting the nation's environment | 70% | 48% | 37% |
| Improving the nation's energy policy | 67% | 41% | 24% |
| Making America prosperous | 70% | 33% | 10% |

Gallup, March 4-7, 2010

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Bottom Line

After more than a year in office, a slim majority of Americans say President Obama is doing a good job on the environment, and less than half say so about his handling of the economy and energy -- marking declines from the large majorities of Americans who a year ago predicted he would do a good job.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,014 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 4-7, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

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 Firm in Prioritizing Economy Over Environment

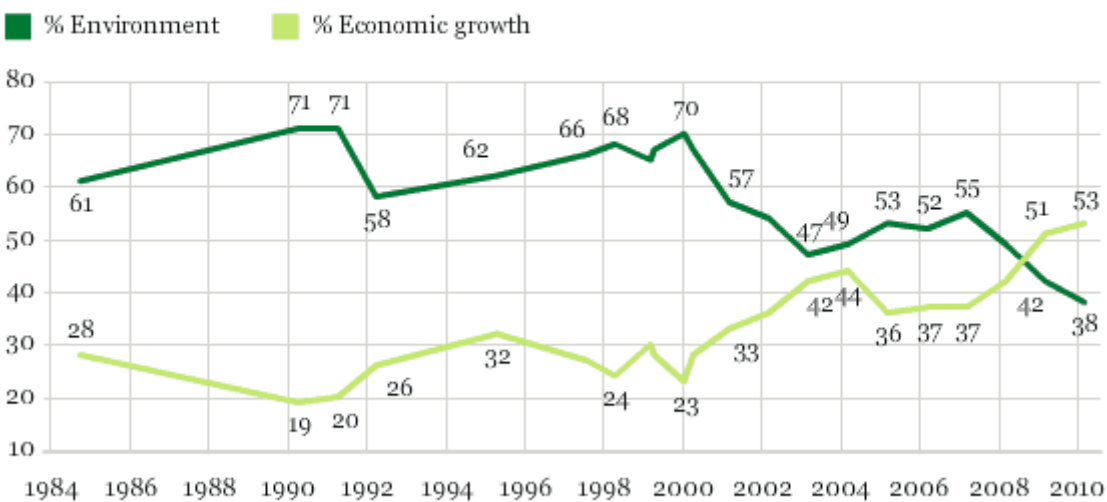
Fewer than half of Democrats now believe environmental protection the more important goal

March 18, 2010

For only the second time in more than two decades and the second straight year, Americans are more likely to say economic growth should take precedence over environmental protection when the two objectives conflict (53%) than to say the reverse (38%).

Environmental Protection vs. Economic Growth

With which one of these statements about the environment and the economy do you most agree -- [protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of curbing economic growth (or) economic growth should be given priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent]?



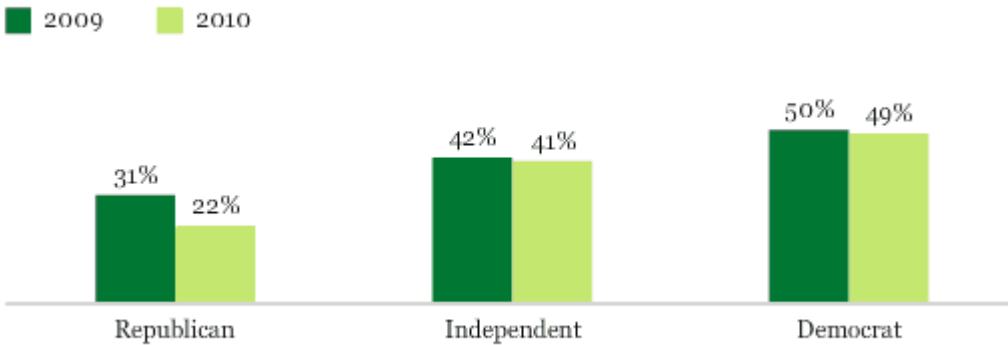
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"Since 2001, shifts in the percentages of Americans favoring the economy over the environment have mostly conformed with the trend in negative public perceptions about the economy."

Just under half of Democrats (49%) now believe "protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of curbing economic growth." This is the lowest percentage of

Democrats on record favoring the environment on this question, although not materially different from the 50% recorded in 2009. At 22%, the percentage of Republicans favoring the environment also marks a new low.

Preference for Environmental Protection Over Economic Growth -- by Party ID



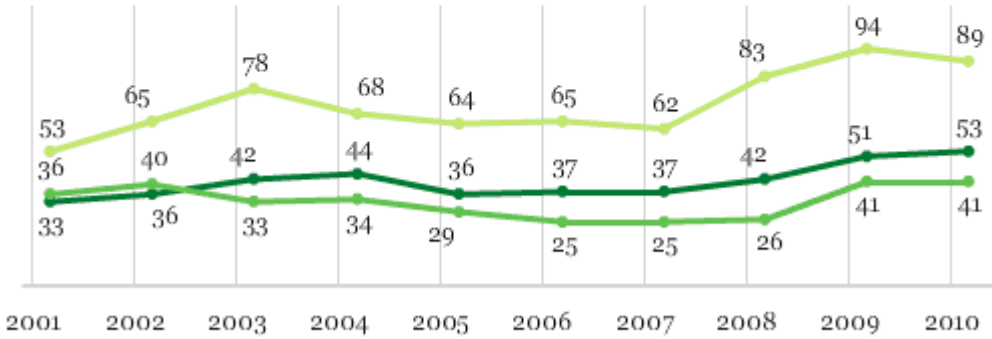
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The negative U.S. economic climate since 2008 is no doubt a significant factor behind Americans' heightened willingness to say environmental concerns should take a back seat to economic growth. Since 2001, shifts in the percentages of Americans favoring the economy over the environment have mostly conformed with the trend in negative public perceptions about the economy ("only fair" or "poor" ratings of current economic conditions).

Another factor could be Americans' increased optimism about the environment. With more Americans believing the environment is improving (now 41%, up from 25% in 2007), perhaps fewer are willing to risk supporting environmental measures that might have a negative economic impact.

Perceptions of Environmental Quality and Current Economy vs. Preference for Economic Growth

- % Economic growth should be prioritized over environment
- % Environmental conditions getting better
- % Economy only fair/poor



GALLUP®

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,014 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 4-7, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

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 U.S., Many Environmental Issues at 20-Year-Low Concern

Worry about all eight measures tested is down from last year

March 16, 2010

Americans are less worried about each of eight specific environmental problems than they were a year ago, and on all but global warming and maintenance of the nation's fresh water supply, concern is the lowest Gallup has measured. Americans worry most about drinking-water pollution and least about global warming.

Worry About Environmental Problems

% Who worry "a great deal"

| | 2009 % | 2010 % | Change (pct. pts.) |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Pollution of drinking water | 59 | 50 | -9 |
| Pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs | 52 | 46 | -6 |
| Maintenance of the nation's supply of fresh water for household needs | 49 | 45 | -4 |
| Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste | 52 | 44 | -8 |
| Air pollution | 45 | 38 | -7 |
| The loss of tropical rain forests | 42 | 33 | -9 |
| Extinction of plant and animal species | 37 | 31 | -6 |
| Global warming | 33 | 28 | -5 |

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Over time, Americans' concerns about environmental problems have generally declined. After this year's drop, for six of the eight items, the percentage who worry "a great deal" is at the lowest point Gallup has measured, which in some cases dates to 1989. The two exceptions are global warming (low point was 24% in 1997) and maintenance of the nation's fresh water supply for household needs (35% in 2001).

One major reason Americans may be less worried about environmental problems is that they perceive environmental conditions in the United States to be improving.

The decline in worry over time has been rather dramatic for some of these threats. For example, in 1989, 72% of Americans said they worried a great deal about pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. Worry about this environmental issue averaged 62% in the 1990s, 54% in the 2000s, and is 46% today.

Worry About Pollution of Rivers, Lakes, and Reservoirs

% Who worry "a great deal"



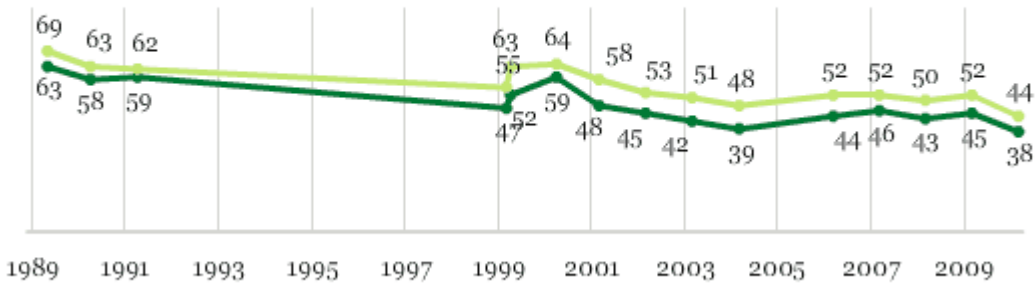
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Similarly, there has been a 25-point drop since 1989 in the percentage worried a great deal about air pollution, and an equal drop in worry about contamination of soil and water by toxic waste.

Worry About Environmental Issues

% Who worry "a great deal"

■ Air pollution ■ Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste



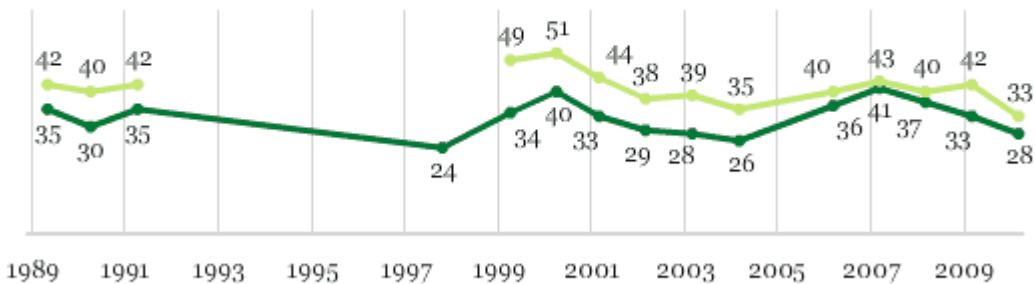
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Not all environmental problems show the same general downward trend over time. For example, concerns about global warming and loss of tropical rain forests were higher in 2000 than they had been prior to that. Concerns about both issues subsequently eased, before rising again until 2007. Now concerns are declining once again, including a sharp nine-point drop this year in concern about rain forests.

Worry About Environmental Issues

% Who worry "a great deal"

■ Global warming ■ Loss of tropical rain forests



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Gallup earlier reported declines in concern about global warming on several of its other long-term-trend questions.

Water Pollution Usually of Greatest Concern

Typically, Americans express greater concern about threats to water safety and quality than about other environmental issues. This year, the top four concerns all deal with water. Pollution

of drinking water again is the top concern, and has been each year it has been included in the list of environmental problems. The year it was not (1989), pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs was the top concern.

Top Environmental Concern, 1989-2010 Gallup Polls

| Year | Top concern | % Who worry "a great deal" |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 2010 | Pollution of drinking water | 50 |
| 2009 | Pollution of drinking water | 59 |
| 2008 | Pollution of drinking water | 53 |
| 2007 | Pollution of drinking water | 58 |
| 2006 | Pollution of drinking water | 54 |
| 2004 | Pollution of drinking water | 53 |
| 2003 | Pollution of drinking water | 54 |
| 2002 | Pollution of drinking water | 57 |
| 2001 | Pollution of drinking water | 64 |
| 2000 | Pollution of drinking water | 72 |
| 1999 | Pollution of drinking water | 68 |
| 1991 | Pollution of drinking water / Pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs | 67 |
| 1990 | Pollution of drinking water | 65 |
| 1989 | Pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs | 72 |

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Bottom Line

Americans are now less worried about a series of environmental problems than at any time in the past 20 years. That could be due in part to Americans' belief that environmental conditions in the U.S. are improving. It also may reflect greater public concern about economic issues, which is usually associated with a drop in environmental concern. And greater action on environmental issues at the federal, state, and local levels may also contribute to a decline in Americans' environmental worry.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,014 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 4-7, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ±4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

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.

82% of Public Believe Wall Street Should Be Regulated More Toughly

Large majority believes Wall Street is essential, but are very critical of the people who work there

Mar 11, 2010

American attitudes towards Wall Street are ambivalent. Most people believe that Wall Street benefits the country and that what it does is "absolutely essential." However, attitudes towards the people who work on Wall Street are overwhelmingly negative and are far lower than they were before 2008 and the bail-out of large banks and other financial institutions, with little or no improvement over the last year. The net result? Fully 82% of all adults believe that Wall Street should be regulated more toughly.

These are the results of a nationwide telephone survey of 1,010 adults surveyed between February 16 and 21, 2010. The survey includes several questions that Harris has asked many times over the last 15 years, so this year's results can be compared with attitudes before Wall Street's crisis in 2008.

The main findings of this Harris Poll include:

- Most people (56%) agree that Wall Street "benefits the country" but most of these people (44%) believe it only does so "somewhat" and only 11% believe it does so "a lot."
- Most people (59%) also agree that "Wall Street is absolutely essential" and only 34% think it is not.

However, these positive attitudes to Wall Street's functions stand in stark contrast to the public's negative attitudes to the people who work on Wall Street:

- A 66% to 29% majority *agrees* that "most people on Wall Street would be willing to break the law if they believed they could make a lot of money and get away with it."
- A 65% to 29% majority *disagrees* that "most successful people on Wall Street deserve to make the kind of money they earn."
- A 64% to 31% majority *disagrees* that "in general, people on Wall Street are as honest and moral as other people."
- A 61% to 33% majority also *disagrees* that "what is good for Wall Street is good for the country."

The result of these hostile feelings about the people who work in Wall Street firms is that a

massive 82% to 14% majority believes that "recent events have shown that Wall Street should be subject to tougher regulation."

Bonuses

One issue that has greatly annoyed many people is the large bonuses paid by Wall Street firms even when they lost hundreds of billions of dollars and needed to be bailed out by the government (i.e., the taxpayers). A large 75% to 21% majority of adults believes that "Wall Street firms should only pay bonuses when they are doing well and making good profits."

Trends

In surveys conducted over the ten years between 1996 and 2006, attitudes to Wall Street were relatively stable. However, hostility to Wall Street, and in particular, to the people who worked for Wall Street firms, increased very sharply after the 2008 crash. These negative feelings have persisted; attitudes to Wall Street have changed very little over the last 12 months.

So what?

Those who manage large banks and other financial institutions can draw some comfort from the majorities who believe that Wall Street is "essential" and "benefits the country," even if these numbers are much worse than they were before the 2008 crash.

On the other hand, there is no evidence that the American people have begun to forgive the people in Wall Street or to forget the huge problems that they caused. More than four out of five adults want them to be regulated more toughly.

TABLE 1
OVERALL IMPACT OF WALL STREET ON THE NATION
TRENDS 1996 TO 2010

"The words "WALL STREET" are often used to describe the nation's largest banks, investment banks, stockbrokers and other financial institutions. Overall, would you say that Wall Street and what it does, benefits the country a lot, benefits it somewhat, harms it somewhat or harms the country a lot?"

Base: All adults

| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2002 | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Benefits (Net) | 70 | 80 | 73 | 72 | 69 | 66 | 68 | 73 | 54 | 56 |
| Benefits country a lot | 19 | 27 | 22 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 17 | 11 |
| Benefits somewhat | 51 | 53 | 51 | 48 | 47 | 43 | 44 | 51 | 37 | 44 |
| Harms (Net) | 22 | 13 | 19 | 15 | 16 | 24 | 16 | 23 | 39 | 38 |
| Harms country somewhat | 16 | 10 | 16 | 11 | 13 | 17 | 11 | 17 | 25 | 24 |
| Harms country a lot | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 14 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|---|----|---|---|---|
| Neither benefits nor harms (vol.) | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Not sure/Refused | 7 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 13 | 7 | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 |

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

TABLE 2
AGREEMENT/DISAGREEMENT WITH SEVEN STATEMENTS ABOUT WALL STREET – TRENDS
 "Please say if you tend to agree or disagree with the following statements about Wall Street."
 Base: All adults

| | | Agree | Disagree | Not Sure/ Refused |
|---|--------|-------|----------|----------------------|
| Recent events have shown that Wall Street should be subject to tougher regulations | 2010 % | 82 | 14 | 4 |
| | 2009 % | 87 | 10 | 3 |
| Wall Street firms should only pay bonuses when they are doing well and making good profits | 2010 % | 75 | 21 | 4 |
| | 2009 % | 78 | 20 | 2 |
| | 2010 % | 66 | 29 | 5 |
| | 2009 % | 71 | 27 | 2 |
| | 2006 % | 63 | 35 | 3 |
| Most people on Wall Street would be willing to break the law if they believed they could make a lot of money and get away with it | 2003 % | 54 | 34 | 11 |
| | 2002 % | 61 | 34 | 5 |
| | 2000 % | 60 | 33 | 6 |
| | 1999 % | 60 | 34 | 7 |
| | 1998 % | 56 | 41 | 2 |
| | 1997 % | 56 | 40 | 4 |
| | 1996 % | 64 | 33 | 3 |
| | 2010 % | 59 | 34 | 7 |
| Wall Street is absolutely essential because it provides the money businesses must have for investments | 2009 % | 62 | 32 | 5 |
| | 2006 % | 71 | 25 | 4 |
| | 2003 % | 62 | 24 | 13 |
| | 2002 % | 66 | 26 | 8 |
| | 2000 % | 72 | 21 | 8 |
| | 1999 % | 69 | 23 | 7 |
| | 1998 % | 73 | 24 | 3 |
| | 1997 % | 69 | 27 | 4 |
| | 1996 % | 69 | 25 | 6 |

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

TABLE 2 (CONT.)

AGREEMENT/DISAGREEMENT WITH SEVEN STATEMENTS ABOUT WALL STREET – TRENDS
 "Please say if you tend to agree or disagree with the following statements about Wall Street."

| Base: All adults | Agree | Disagree | Not Sure/ Refused |
|---|-----------|----------|-------------------------|
| | 2010 % 33 | 61 | 6 |
| | 2009 % 37 | 59 | 3 |
| | 2006 % 37 | 60 | 3 |
| | 2003 % 39 | 47 | 13 |
| In general, what is good for Wall Street is good for the country | 2002 % 40 | 55 | 6 |
| | 2000 % 41 | 52 | 8 |
| | 1999 % 42 | 51 | 6 |
| | 1998 % 43 | 53 | 4 |
| | 1997 % 39 | 57 | 4 |
| | 2010 % 29 | 65 | 5 |
| | 2009 % 30 | 66 | 4 |
| | 2006 % 40 | 56 | 4 |
| | 2003 % 37 | 51 | 12 |
| Most successful people on Wall Street deserve to make the kind of money they earn | 2002 % 36 | 58 | 6 |
| | 2000 % 42 | 50 | 8 |
| | 1999 % 45 | 46 | 9 |
| | 1998 % 48 | 47 | 4 |
| | 1997 % 51 | 44 | 4 |
| | 1996 % 40 | 55 | 5 |
| | 2010 % 31 | 64 | 5 |
| | 2009 % 26 | 70 | 4 |
| | 2006 % 41 | 54 | 4 |
| | 2003 % 35 | 50 | 15 |
| In general, people on Wall Street are as honest and moral as other people | 2002 % 35 | 57 | 8 |
| | 2000 % 35 | 56 | 9 |
| | 1999 % 39 | 51 | 10 |
| | 1998 % 49 | 47 | 5 |
| | 1997 % 51 | 45 | 4 |
| | 1996 % 43 | 52 | 5 |

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

Methodology

This Harris Poll[®] was conducted by telephone within the United States between February 16 and 21, 2010 among 1,010 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region, number of adults in the household, number of phone lines in the household were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population.

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.

Race for Control of Congress Remains Close

Current Democratic lead among registered voters is slimmer than in past elections

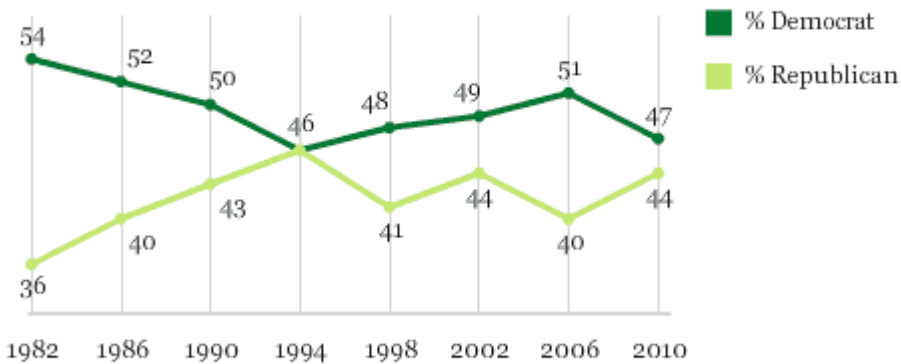
March 16, 2010

Gallup's weekly read on the race for Congress shows Democrats with a 47% to 44% edge over Republicans among registered voters, unchanged from last week. However, this represents a significantly smaller margin for the Democrats than the final Gallup estimate before the last midterm elections, in 2006.

Gallup 2010 Congressional Vote Preference vs. Final Pre-Election

Measure in Previous Years[^]

Based on registered voters



[^] 2010 result from Gallup Daily tracking, March 8-14

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Gallup polls since October 2009 have consistently found the two major parties closely matched in voter preferences for the 2010 midterm congressional elections. This is a significant departure from 2006 -- the year the Democratic Party regained majority control of the U.S. House of Representatives. In the two prior midterm elections (1998 and 2002), while Democrats also held the upper hand among registered voters, they trailed among likely voters -- and ultimately failed to win control of the House.

Essentially, not since 1994 (when Republicans won control of the House for the first time in 40 years) have the two major parties been as competitive in Gallup's final pre-election polling among registered voters as they are in the early 2010 polling.

Historically, Gallup has found Republicans more likely than Democrats to vote in midterm elections, meaning their electoral strength is typically underestimated in survey results based on all registered voters. Gallup will institute its traditional "likely voter" model closer to Election Day (narrowing the sample of voters to the subset deemed most likely to vote). Until then, historical trends would indicate that the Democrats need to hold a better-than four percentage-point advantage among registered voters nationally in order to have a reasonable chance of leading among likely voters and, ultimately, in House seats.

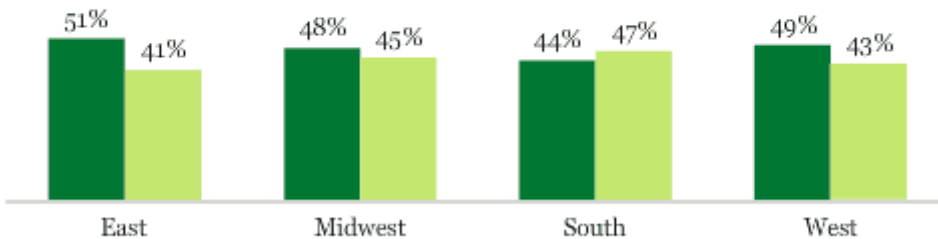
Democratic Support Sagging in the South

The Democratic Party currently leads the Republican Party in voter preferences for Congress only in the East. Elsewhere, the party-preference differences are too small to be significant. (Regional data are based on March 1-14 Gallup Daily tracking, spanning weeks when the overall vote for Congress was identical.)

Voter Preferences for Congress, by Region, March 1-14, 2010

Based on registered voters

■ Democrat ■ Republican

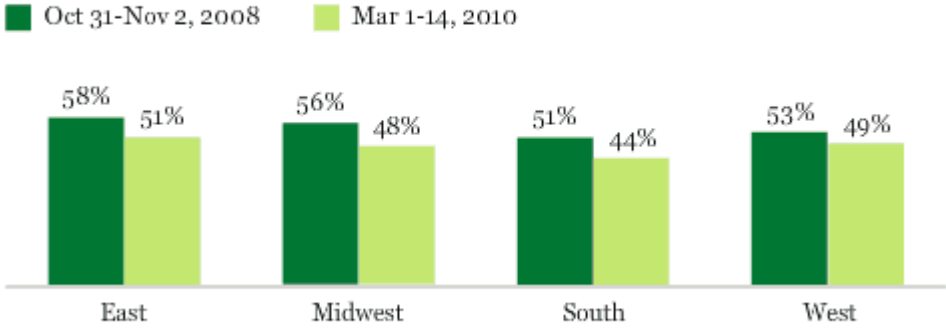


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Across most regions, Democrats are weaker today than they were in the final days of the 2008 elections -- the elections that determined the composition of the current 111th Congress. Only the slight, four percentage-point drop in the West is not significant.

Democratic Preference in Vote for Congress by Region, 2008 vs. Today

Based on registered voters



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Bottom Line

Gallup trends suggest that the Democrats' current three-point advantage among registered voters would probably translate into a Republican lead among likely voters, pointing to a highly competitive election this fall for majority control of Congress. Support for Democratic candidates is down moderately from 2008 in all regions but the West.

Gallup tracks congressional election preferences daily as part of its Gallup Daily tracking, and reports results every Tuesday on its politics page.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,621 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 8-15, 2010, as part of Gallup Daily tracking. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points.

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

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

Generational Differences on Abortion Narrow

Support for making abortion broadly illegal growing fastest among young adults

March 12, 2010

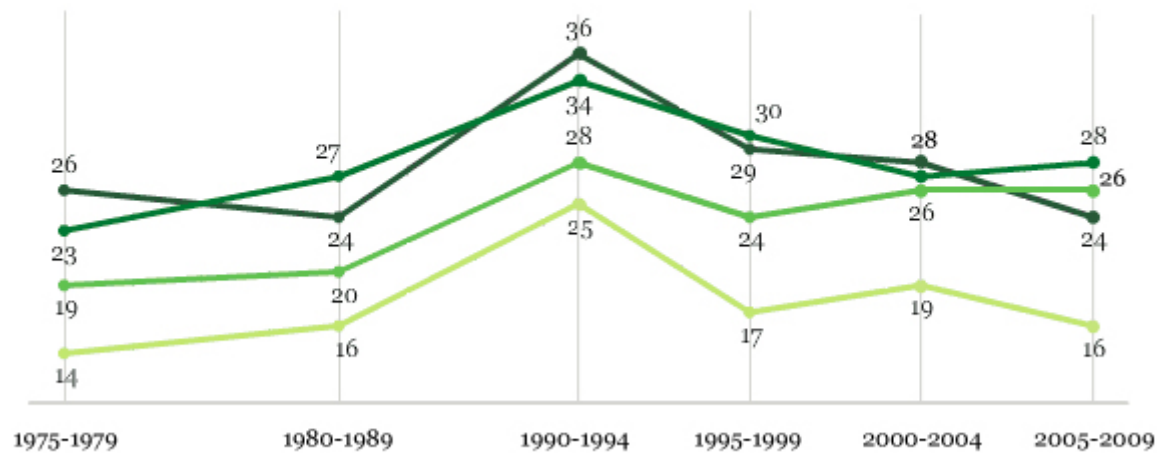
Gallup analysis of U.S. public opinion trends on abortion shows that generational differences in support for broadly legal abortion have diminished over the past decade. In the mid-1970s, when Gallup started polling on the issue, adults aged 18 to 29 and 30 to 49 were the most supportive of legal abortion under any circumstances, and those 65 and older the least, with 50- to 64-year-olds

falling in between. That pattern continued through the late 1990s. Since 2000, however, all age groups with the exception of seniors have shown similar levels of support for broadly legal abortion.

Abortion Views by Age, 1975-2009

% "Legal under any circumstances"

■ 18 to 29 ■ 30 to 49 ■ 50 to 64 ■ 65 and older



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The convergence of younger adults' (aged 18 to 49) and middle-aged adults' (aged 50 to 64) views occurred because support for legal abortion in all situations dipped among the youngest two age categories and increased slightly among middle-aged adults between the late 1990s and the early 2000s.

Gallup's long-term abortion question -- instituted two years after the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling gave sweeping constitutional protection to abortion -- asks Americans to say whether they believe abortion should be "legal under any circumstances," "legal only under certain circumstances," or "illegal in all circumstances." The current analysis looks at the trends on the basis of six segmented time periods between 1975 and 2009, creating expanded sample sizes for stability in subgroup analysis.

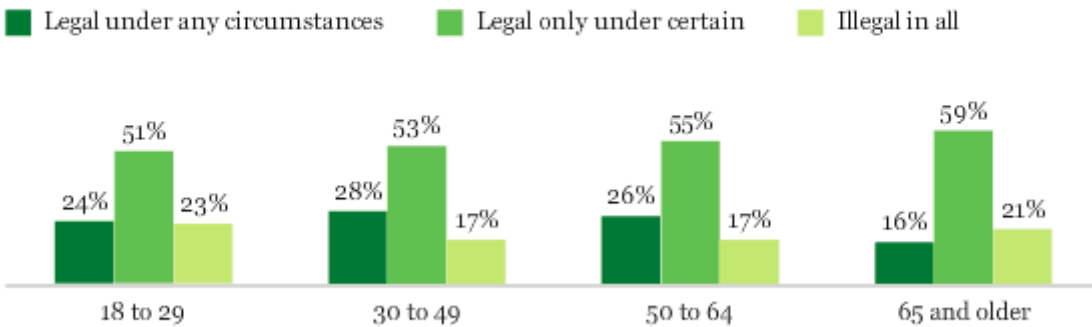
Seniors Remain Least Likely to Favor Legal Abortion

In the most recent period, from 2005 to 2009, the majority of all age groups favored the middle "legal only under certain circumstances" position. However, there was some differentiation in support for the more liberal abortion view, as roughly a quarter of adults aged 18 to 29, 30 to 49, and 50 to 64 -- versus 16% of seniors -- believed abortion should be legal under any circumstances.

At the same time, young adults were slightly more likely than all other age groups, including seniors, to say abortion should be *illegal* in all circumstances.

Abortion Attitudes by Age, 2005-2009

Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?



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Americans Aged 18 to 29 Trending More Anti-Abortion

The analysis above focused on public support for the "legal under any circumstances" option in Gallup's abortion question. There is a somewhat different pattern in the trends by age for those choosing the "illegal in all circumstances" position.

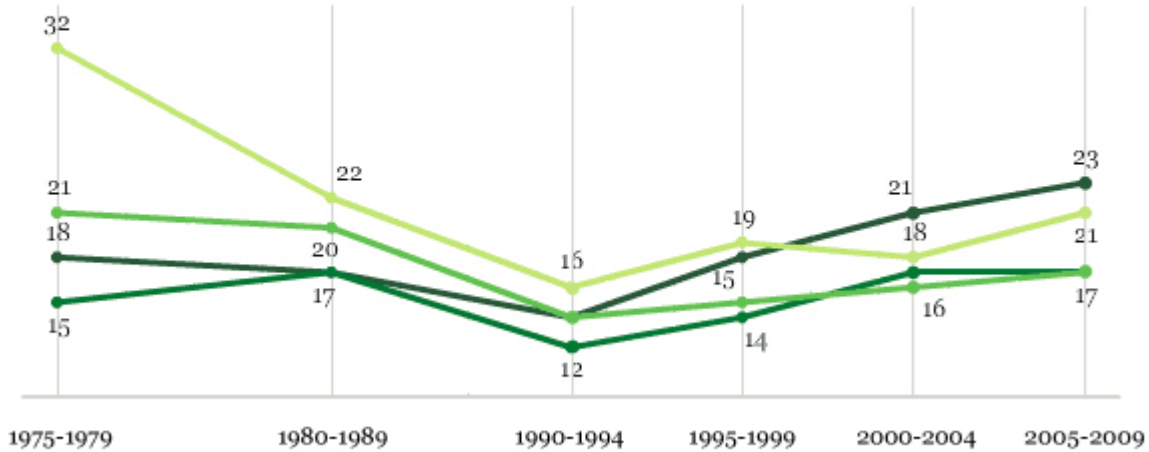
Two important changes are apparent. One is a significant drop in the percentage of seniors saying all abortions should be illegal. This fell from 32% in the earliest years of the trend to 16% in the first half of the 1990s, but has since rebounded somewhat to 21%. This long-term 11-point decline among seniors compares with a 9-point increase -- from 14% to 23% -- in support for the "illegal in all circumstances" position among 18- to 29-year-olds since the early 1990s.

As a result, 18- to 29-year-olds are now roughly tied with seniors as the most likely of all age groups to hold this position on abortion -- although all four groups are fairly close in their views. This is a sharp change from the late 1970s, when seniors were substantially more likely than younger age groups to want abortion to be illegal.

Abortion Views by Age, 1975-2009

% "Illegal in all circumstances"

■ 18 to 29 ■ 30 to 49 ■ 50 to 64 ■ 65 and older



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1975 Age Cohorts

Apart from the trends in how Americans of various age groups have viewed abortion since 1975, a separate question is whether the positions held by members of each age group in 1975 remained steady or changed as they aged. For instance, did people who were 18 to 29 years old in 1975 become more liberal or more conservative on the issue as they reached their 30s, 40s, and 50s? Or more generally, do all age groups go through a predictable transformation in their beliefs about the legality of abortion as they move through various stages of life?

Gallup tracked each age group through 2009 with a "cohort" analysis, using a base year of 1975. The trend lines are shortened for adults in Cohorts 3 and 4 (aged 50 and older in 1975), as their numbers dwindled in Gallup's samples over time.

1975 Age Cohorts

| | Age in 1975 | Age in 1985 | Age in 1995 | Age in 2005 | Age in 2009 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Age Cohort 1 | 18 to 29 | 28 to 39 | 38 to 49 | 48 to 59 | 52 to 63 |
| Age Cohort 2 | 30 to 49 | 40 to 59 | 50 to 69 | 60 to 79 | 64 to 83 |
| Age Cohort 3 | 50 to 64 | 60 to 74 | 70 to 84 | 80 to 94 | 84 to 98 |
| Age Cohort 4 | 65 and older | 75 and older | | | |

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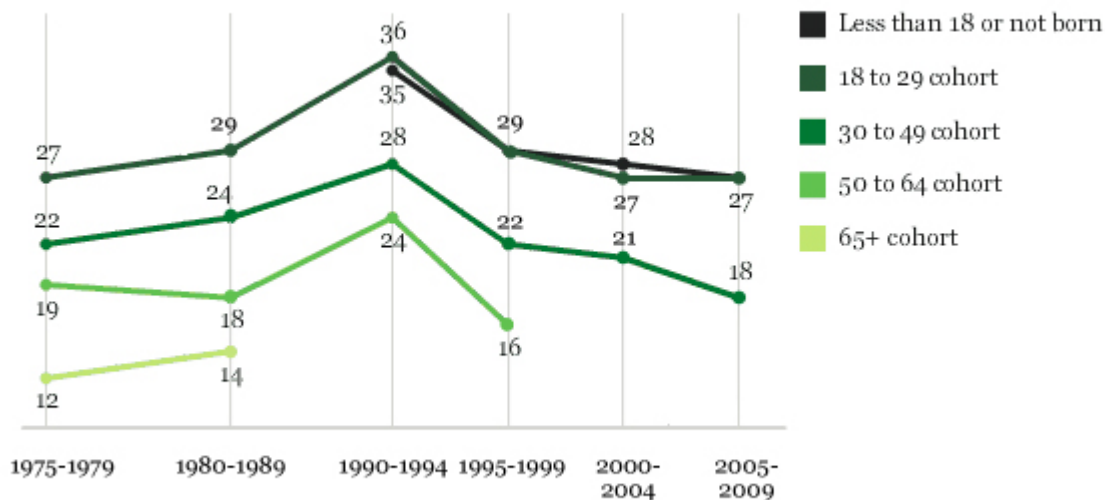
The analysis finds no steady increase or decrease in support for abortion among any of the various age cohorts over the last 35 years. Rather, all age groups became more supportive of

legal abortion under any circumstances in the early 1990s, and all subsequently shed some of that support in the late 1990s, with further decline seen since then. These shifts are consistent with Gallup's trend in overall support for abortion.

American adults who either turned 18 after 1975 or were born after that year now range in age from 18 to 51. Their views since they came of age have tracked very closely with those in the 1975 18 to 29 age cohort (aged 52 to 63 in 2009).

Trends in U.S. Abortion Views by Age Cohort (Age in 1975)

% "Legal under any circumstances"



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Unlike the pattern seen with the basic age trends, support for abortion by age cohort has varied consistently by age over time. The youngest adults in 1975 were then the most supportive of legal abortion under any circumstances and remain the most supportive today (tied with adults who came of age since 1975). Accordingly, middle-aged and older adults in 1975 were incrementally less supportive of abortion at that time, and subsequently maintained those positions.

Bottom Line

Given the abortion issue's status as a contentious social issue, the subject might be expected to spark different reactions from younger versus older Americans the way gay rights certainly does. That was somewhat true in the first few years after the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, when older adults were decidedly more conservative than younger adults in their preferences about legality. However, in recent years, the generational distinctions have blurred. Support for abortion that is "legal under any circumstances" is similar among age groups ranging from 18 to 64; only seniors show significantly less support for this. At the same time, young adults are now roughly tied with seniors as being the most likely age group to favor having abortion "illegal in all circumstances."

Gallup's cohort analysis suggests that attitudes toward abortion grow neither more liberal nor more conservative with age, per se. While the views of each cohort have changed since 1975, those fluctuations in support for legal abortion have been consistent with broader cultural shifts on the issue.

This is the second of a multipart Gallup series reviewing long-term changes in Americans' abortion views. Part 1 focused on trends by Party ID. Subsequent articles will look at patterns by gender, region, education and other population subgroups.

Survey Methods

The trends reported here are based on annual averages of Gallup's abortion surveys, from 1975 through 2009. All individual surveys are based on interviews with a random sample of approximately 1,000 national adults, aged 18 and older. For annual results based on the total sample of national adults one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points. Results based on subgroups can have higher margins of error depending on sample size.

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.

Gallup Abortion Trends -- Sample Sizes for Year-Summary Averages

Age and 1975 age cohorts

| | 1975- 1979 | 1980- 1989 | 1990- 1994 | 1995- 1999 | 2000- 2004 | 2005- 2009 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Age | | | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 1,234 | 976 | 1,336 | 1,133 | 1,954 | 987 |
| 30 to 49 years | 1,501 | 1,524 | 2,715 | 2,521 | 4,958 | 2,865 |
| 50 to 64 years | 990 | 850 | 1,175 | 1,203 | 2,916 | 2,797 |
| 65 years and older | 800 | 710 | 984 | 945 | 2,164 | 2,309 |
| 1975 age cohort | | | | | | |
| Less than 18/Not yet born | | | 2,074 | 2,420 | 5,623 | 3,774 |
| 18 to 29 in 1975 | 1,236 | 1,095 | 1,694 | 1,476 | 2,884 | 2,371 |
| 30 to 49 in 1975 | 1,436 | 1,198 | 1,651 | 1,415 | 2,741 | 2,419 |
| 50 to 64 in 1975 | 1,000 | 829 | 692 | 463 | | |
| 65+ in 1975 | 671 | 290 | | | | |

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Americans' Weekly Spending Hits New High for 2010

Average daily spending of \$72 per day for the week ending March 14 is up 31% from a year ago

March 17, 2010

With stocks at a new high for the year, pent-up demand from the snowstorms of prior weeks, and perhaps the arrival of some tax refunds, Americans' self-reported spending reached its highest level of the year during the week ending March 14.

Prior to last week, 2010 consumer spending was adhering to the relatively conservative "new normal" established in 2009. The question going forward is whether this new spending represents the beginning of a new, higher level of consumer spending -- somewhere between 2008 and 2009 spending levels -- or simply a short-term aberration in the "new normal" trend.

U.S. Consumer Spending, January-March, 2008-2010

Average daily spending by week, in U.S. dollars

■ 2008 ■ 2009 ■ 2010



Gallup Daily tracking

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"Last week's increased spending is particularly encouraging, given that it was not a 'paycheck week.'"

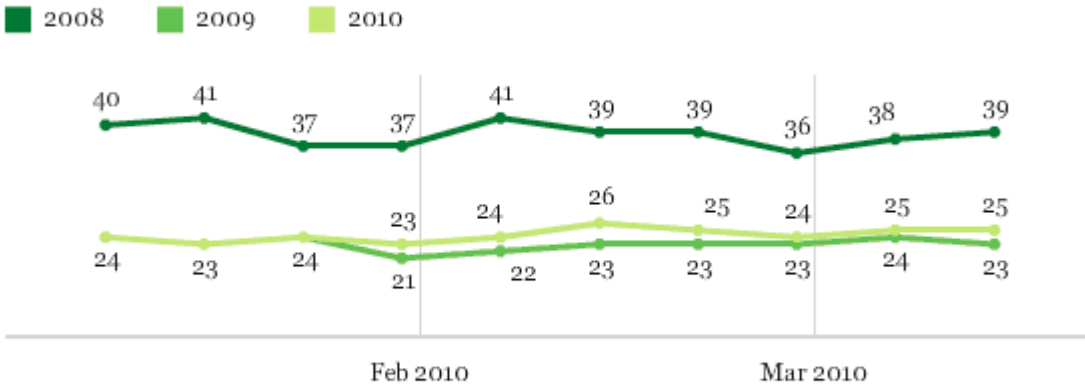
Averaging \$72 per day last week, consumer spending was up 20% from the prior week (\$60) and 31% from the same week a year ago (\$55), and at its highest level since the week ending Dec. 20.

Job Creation Not a Factor

If this is the beginning of a new spending trend, it doesn't appear to have been inspired by job creation. While job market conditions have improved compared to a year ago, most of the change comes from lower percentages of employees reporting that their companies are letting people go; there has been little growth in the percentage saying their companies are hiring.

New Hiring, January-March, 2008-2010

Weekly percentage of employees reporting their companies are hiring



Gallup Daily tracking

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Can Wall Street Drive Improvement on Main Street?

Last week's increased spending is particularly encouraging, given that it was not a "paycheck" week. More broadly, spending for the first 14 days of March averaged \$66 per day -- up from \$62 in January and \$59 in February. If this trend continues, it could lead to a much-improved sales environment for the nation's retailers and small businesses. In turn, increased sales should stimulate new private-sector hiring -- the basis for a real, sustainable economic recovery. A stronger economy could also lead the Fed to consider changing the easy money policy it reconfirmed at Tuesday's Federal Open Market Committee meeting.

Caution is warranted, given the fact that the current uptick in spending is based on only a couple of weeks of data for March and has been accompanied by essentially no improvement in hiring. But it would be good news if the optimism on Wall Street this year finally began to translate into a better economy on Main Street.

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 500 national adults, aged 18 and older, each day. Results for the week of March 8-14, 2010, are based on telephone interviews with more than 3,000 adults. For these results, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points.

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

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

Americans Split on Placing Reagan on \$50 Bill

March 14, 2010

A proposal to place Ronald Reagan's likeness on all \$50 bills has divided views in the United States, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 41 per cent of respondents support the idea, while 39 per cent oppose it.

Reagan—a Republican who governed from 1981 to 1989—had been an actor prior to his victory in the 1966 California gubernatorial election. During his two terms in office, Reagan endeavoured to reduce government spending and to lower taxes during a time of high unemployment and inflation in the U.S. While credited for launching several anti-drug campaigns, the president was also criticized for failing to acknowledge the HIV-AIDS epidemic.

Earlier this month, Republican North Carolina congressman Patrick McHenry called for all \$50 bills printed from the start of 2011 to feature Reagan's likeness, declaring, "Every generation needs its own heroes. One decade into the 21st century, it's time to honor the last great president of the 20th and give President Reagan a place beside Presidents [Franklyn D.] Roosevelt and [John F.] Kennedy."

At this time, the \$50 bill features a portrait of Ulysses S. Grant, who led the Union Army during the American Civil War and served as president from 1869 to 1877.

John Marszalek—executive director and managing editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Association at Mississippi State University—disagreed with McHenry's proposal, saying, "There wouldn't be a United States without Ulysses S. Grant, you could argue, because of the Civil War and the tremendous military leader he was even before he became president. I don't think it's a good idea because U.S. Grant was the president who was in the White House at a time when the currency was under tremendous stress because of the Civil War."

Polling Data

A congressman has introduced the "President Ronald Reagan \$50 Bill Act", which stipulates that that all \$50 bills printed from the start of 2011 "shall bear the likeness of President Ronald Wilson Reagan." Do you support or oppose this bill?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Support | 41% |
| Oppose | 39% |
| Not sure | 20% |

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,017 American adults, conducted on Mar. 9 and Mar. 10, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

Chileans Expect a Good Piñera Government

March 15, 2010

People in Chile have high expectations for their new government, according to a poll by Adimark Gfk. 59 per cent of respondents expect the country to do well under new president Sebastián Piñera.

In January, Chileans voted in the second round of the presidential election. Opposition candidate Piñera of the centre-right Coalition for Change (CC) defeated former president Eduardo Frei of the governing centre-left Agreement of Parties for Democracy (CPD) with 51.61 per cent of the vote.

The CPD had administered the Chilean government since the return of democracy after the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in March 1990. Bachelet was ineligible for a consecutive term in office.

On Feb. 27, Chile was hit by an 8.8 magnitude earthquake. The death toll has been calculated at over 400, while about 900,000 have been left injured or homeless.

On Mar. 11, Piñera was sworn in as president. In his first speech as Chile's head of state, Piñera vowed to focus on reconstruction, adding, "I want to affirm that maintaining public order and providing the essential services that allow people to live a dignified life will be a permanent and absolute priority."

Polling Data

Regardless of how you voted in the presidential election, how do you expect the country to do under Sebastián Piñera?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Well / Very well | 59% |
| Average | 27% |
| Badly / Very badly | 3% |
| Average / Not sure | 11% |

Source: Adimark Gfk

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,129 Chilean adults, conducted from Mar. 3 to Mar. 6, 2010. Margin of error is 3 per cent.

Chile's Bachelet Leaves with Envious Rating

March 13, 2010

A large proportion of adults in Chile are satisfied with the performance of their outgoing president, according to a poll by Adimark Gfk. 84 per cent of respondents approve of Michelle Bachelet's performance.

Bachelet—a former defence minister—was elected in a January 2006 run-off as the candidate for the centre-left Agreement of Parties for Democracy (CPD) with 53.49 per cent of all cast ballots. She officially took over as president in March 2006.

During her term, Bachelet faced massive protests staged by high school students complaining about the poor quality of public education, as well as street demonstrations in Santiago, the capital city, over the botched implementation of a new transportation program called Transantiago

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On Mar. 10, in a farewell address to the country, Bachelet expressed satisfaction with her tenure, declaring, "I am handing over to the new government a country that is politically and socially stable, respected internationally and with authorities who have high credibility."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Michelle Bachelet's performance as president?

| | Mar. 2010 | Feb. 2010 | Jan. 2010 |
|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Approve | 84% | 84% | 83% |
| Disapprove | 10% | 11% | 10% |

Source: Adimark Gfk

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,129 Chilean adults, conducted from Mar. 3 to Mar. 6, 2010. Margin of error is 3 per cent.

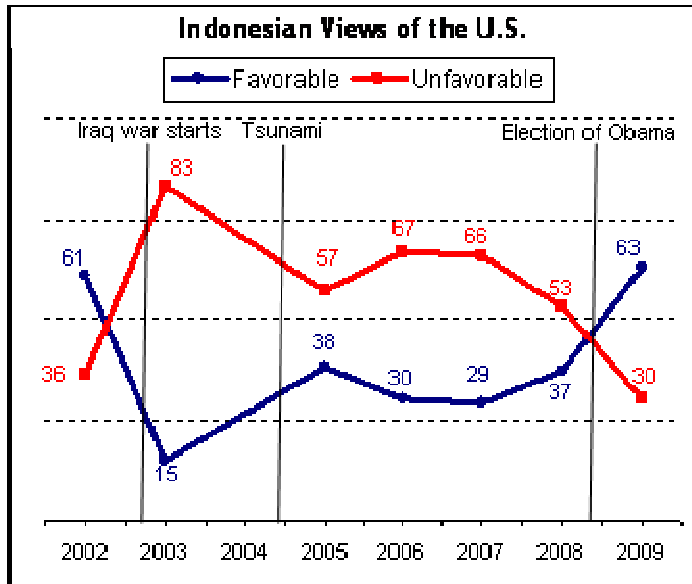
MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Indonesia: The Obama Effect

March 17, 2010

When President Barack Obama finally takes his twice-delayed trip to Indonesia, where he lived for several years as a child, he will visit a country where his personal popularity has dramatically transformed America's image. Of course, Indonesia is not alone in this pattern -- Obama's election led to better ratings for the United States in many nations around the globe. However, Indonesia -- the world's largest predominantly Muslim country -- is an outlier in the Muslim world, where opinions of the U.S. remain mostly negative.

Volatile Ratings for the U.S.

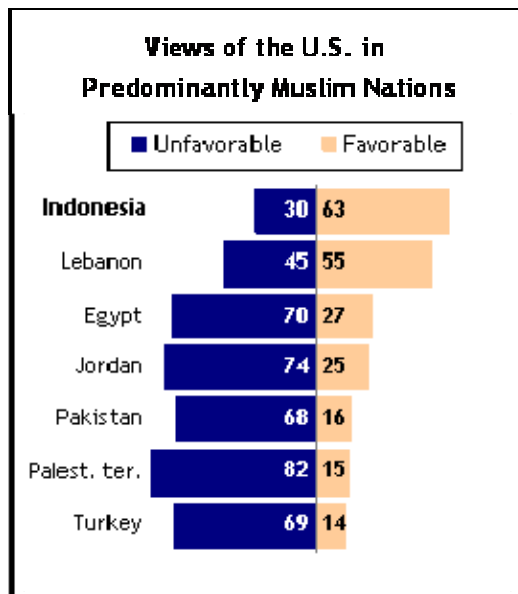


Over the last decade, Indonesian opinions about the U.S. have fluctuated considerably. A 2002 poll by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project found that roughly six-in-ten Indonesians (61%) had a favorable view of the U.S., while only 36% expressed an unfavorable view.

With the onset of the Iraq war, however, ratings for the U.S. turned sharply negative. In a 2003 Pew Global Attitudes survey taken shortly after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, only 15% of Indonesians had a positive view, while 83% voiced a negative opinion. America's image rebounded somewhat in response to U.S. relief efforts following the December 2004 tsunami. A Pew Research survey in April-May 2005 found the percentage of Indonesians with a favorable opinion of the U.S. had risen to 38%.

It was not until the election of Barack Obama, however, that positive ratings for the U.S. returned to their pre-Iraq war level. A Pew Research survey conducted in May-June of 2009 found a dramatic improvement in America's overall image -- the percentage of Indonesians with a favorable opinion jumped from 37% in 2008 to 63% in 2009, while the percentage with an unfavorable view dropped from 53% to 30%.

The U.S. received especially high marks from young Indonesians -- 69% of those ages 18-29 expressed a positive view of the U.S., compared with smaller majorities of those ages 30-49 (60%) and over 50 (57%).



The 2009 poll revealed big improvements in America's image in many other nations as well, especially in Western Europe. Indeed, France and Germany were the only countries where overall ratings for the U.S. improved more than in Indonesia. But -- with the exception of Indonesia -- there was generally much less improvement in the predominantly Muslim nations surveyed.

Positive views of the U.S. became slightly more common in Lebanon, rising from 51% in 2008 to 55% in 2009. However, Lebanese attitudes toward the U.S. remained sharply divided along religious lines -- 90% of the country's Sunni Muslim population, 66% of Christians and just 2% of the Shia community expressed a positive opinion of the U.S.

U.S. favorability also rose in Egypt (from 22% favorable to 27%) and Jordan (from 19% to 25%), although in both countries only about one-in-four respondents offered a positive assessment of the U.S. In Pakistan, the Palestinian territories, and Turkey there was essentially no change, and positive opinions about the U.S. remained rare.

Positive Ratings for Obama ... and High Expectations

| Will Do Right Thing in World Affairs | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|------|
| | Bush 2008 | Obama 2009 | Diff |
| % confident | % | % | |
| Indonesia | 23 | 71 | +48 |
| Egypt | 11 | 42 | +31 |
| Turkey | 2 | 33 | +31 |
| Jordan | 7 | 31 | +24 |
| Palest. ter.* | 8 | 23 | +15 |
| Lebanon | 33 | 46 | +13 |
| Pakistan | 7 | 13 | +6 |

*Bush confidence from 2007.

Obama has a unique relationship with Indonesia, since the future American president lived in its capital city Jakarta from ages six to ten. And overwhelmingly, Indonesians are aware of this special relationship -- 79% said they were aware that he once lived there as a child.

As was the case in nearly all of the 25 countries included in the 2009 Pew Global Attitudes poll, Indonesians gave Obama considerably higher marks than they had given his predecessor, George W. Bush. Roughly seven-in-ten (71%) expressed confidence in Obama to do the right thing in world affairs, while only 23% had felt this way about Bush in 2008.

Among the other predominantly Muslim nations surveyed, there was far less enthusiasm for the new president. For example, just 42% of Egyptians, 33% of Turks and 31% of Jordanians expressed confidence in Obama. However, even in Muslim nations where his ratings tend to be negative, Obama was consistently more popular than Bush.

Indonesians not only expressed general confidence in President Obama; they also had high expectations for how he will approach international policymaking. More than six-in-ten (62%) said that Obama will consider the interests of Indonesia when making foreign policy decisions. Most (54%) also believed he will be fair in dealing with an issue that is a major challenge for America's image among Muslim publics: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

However, confidence in Obama did not translate into support for all of his policies. While most Indonesians approved of his proposals to close the American military prison at Guantanamo Bay (66%) and to withdraw troops from Iraq by 2011 (75%), Obama's Afghanistan policy is generally unpopular. Two-thirds of Indonesians (66%) said the U.S. and NATO should remove their troops from Afghanistan.

Coming Era of Water Scarcity Will Prompt Global Industrial Transformation, According to Survey of International Experts

March 16, 2010

Acute water shortages will change strategy, business operations; depletion of global water resources is more rapid, severe, and complex than anticipated.

Population growth, urban development, farm production, and climate change is increasing competition for fresh water and producing shortages so acute that virtually every industry in the world anticipates sweeping systemic transformation over the next decade in their strategic planning, production practices, and business models.

That is the conclusion of a global opinion poll of more than 1,200 sustainability experts conducted and made public today by GlobeScan, an international public and stakeholder opinion research firm, and SustainAbility, a think tank and business strategy consultancy.

Jeff Erikson, senior vice president at SustainAbility, told Circle of Blue that the decisions executives make to respond to freshwater scarcity will penetrate almost every aspect of their business operations. For instance, executives who consider locating plants in China are likely to more carefully consider the consequences of rapidly melting Himalayan glaciers in the Tibetan Plateau that feed some of China's most important rivers. In the United States, manufacturers may shift new plants from the increasingly dry Southwest back to the water-rich Great Lakes region. "Over the last 20 years water shortage has not been a lens that has been heavily considered in plant siting," said Erikson. "That will change."

Poll Results

The Sustainability Survey Poll on Water was conducted in more than 80 countries. Some 1,200 influential thought leaders from companies, governments, NGOs, and academia said that multi-faceted engagement with water will be required for companies and governments to effectively manage businesses and communities. The new SustainAbility and GlobeScan survey comes six months after a Circle of Blue/GlobeScan survey of 15,000 people in 15 countries found that water scarcity and water pollution are the top environmental concerns in the world. (See [Sustainability Survey Poll on Water Infographics](#) below.)

Along with return on investment, capital requirements, and quarterly returns companies that want to stay in business will need to add expertise to their staffs to manage the new market signals in the era of water scarcity. New business practices will stress water conservation and efficiency, ecosystem protection, public education and engagement. Companies also will need to anticipate market pressure to appropriately price water.

"Our panel of experts has been very good at predicting implications for companies in the sustainability agenda," said Chris Coulter, senior vice president at GlobeScan. "These findings should sound the alarm for companies that haven't yet established robust water strategies. This is about literally retaining license to operate in many parts of the world."

Shortages Produce Systemic Change

The experts who were surveyed said water scarcity will deeply influence virtually every major company that wants to stay in business in the 21st century. Water shortages will shift public perception of the value of water, prompting governments and companies to view clean water not as a commodity to exploit but as a precious resource.

That in turn, for instance, will prompt food companies and farmers — who use 70 percent of the world’s fresh water — to develop much more effective water-conserving irrigation and production practices.

Water scarcity will change products and how they are marketed. For example, household appliance manufacturers are already touting water savings right alongside energy savings in their product advertising. And apparel manufacturers and retailers are exploring how to help consumers reduce water consumption by developing clothing fabrics that require less frequent washing.

Industrial companies, said Erikson, will add a new “layer of consideration” in how they operate to anticipate the consequence of fresh water shortages in their markets. They no longer will have the luxury of producing water-intensive products — cars, steel, chemicals, energy to name a few — in water stressed areas just because labor, land, and electricity costs are low. The availability of water in a water-scarce world will become a much higher priority in business decisions.

Communities that operate sewage treatment plants are likely to pursue partnerships with clean energy producers to fertilize algae and other biofuel crops with wastewater. Such crops also simultaneously soak up nutrients and purify wastewater, significantly reducing sewage pumping and treatment costs.

Reduce Demand, Increase Efficiency, “Footprint”

The experts polled by SustainAbility and GlobeScan strongly favored measures that reduce demand over those that increase supply. And rather than anticipating that new technology will solve the world’s water crisis, experts said that they expected better use of existing technologies coupled with more effective government policies and public education as offering more promise. Experts also cited strong links between water and energy in developing effective public policy.

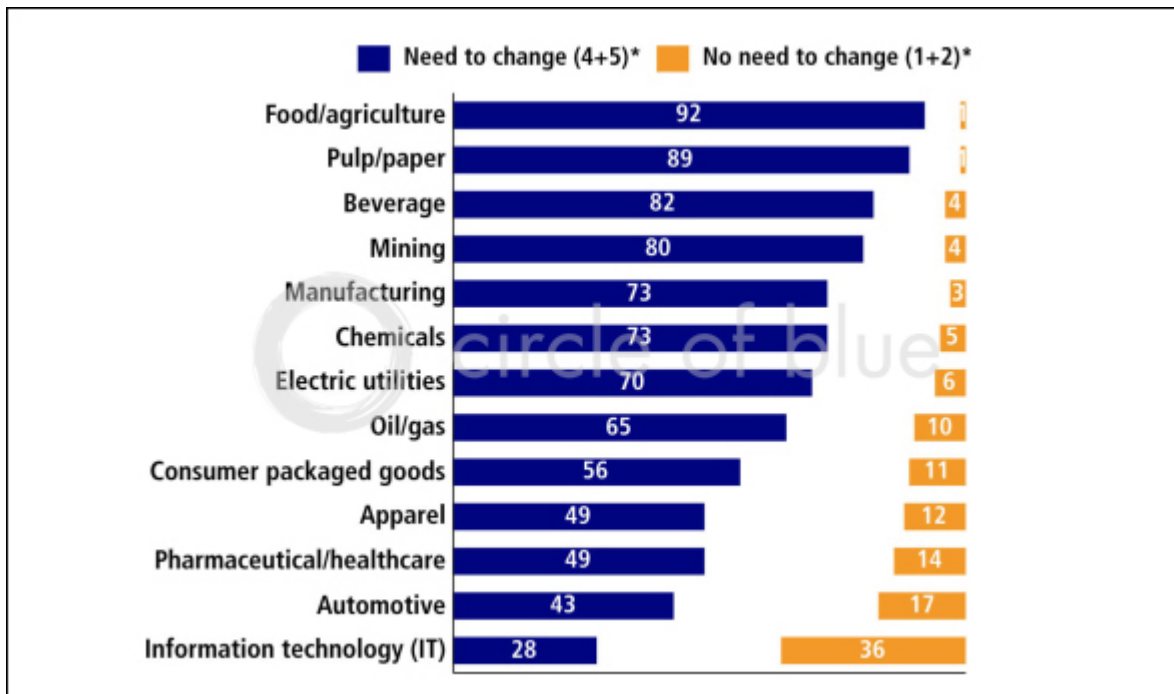
“Private sector actions to reduce water use in supply chains, to cut pollution and to conserve are vital, welcome, and should be talked about,” said Maggie Catley-Carlson, former UN executive and chair of the Global Water Partnership, and a world-renowned expert on fresh water. “Companies should also be prepared to enter the public forum to expand knowledge and awareness – and to make public authorities feel that they will be supported in moving to better water policies. It is more and more evident that there is a growing, intuitive and widespread appreciation of the fact that access to water can no longer be taken for granted and that something must be done. We have to make it the right ‘something’.”

The poll’s experts said that companies will need to develop programs in “water footprinting” — understanding the full life-cycle impacts of a company’s operations and products — which they viewed as being as important or more important than carbon footprinting. In addition, corporations are expected to establish water management goals at the corporate-level as well as for specific facilities. When asked to identify corporate leaders in sustainable water management, Coca-Cola was cited most frequently followed by Nestlé, GE, SAB Miller, Pepsi, and Unilever. “Stresses on water supply will continue to grow over the next couple of decades, causing increasingly difficult challenges for communities, regional and national governments and operating facilities across the corporate value chain,” said Erikson. “Companies that are planning now for the changes in their operations, supply chains and markets due to water shortages — rather than focusing only on reducing their direct water consumption — will be much better positioned to capture opportunities and minimize risks and disruptions.”

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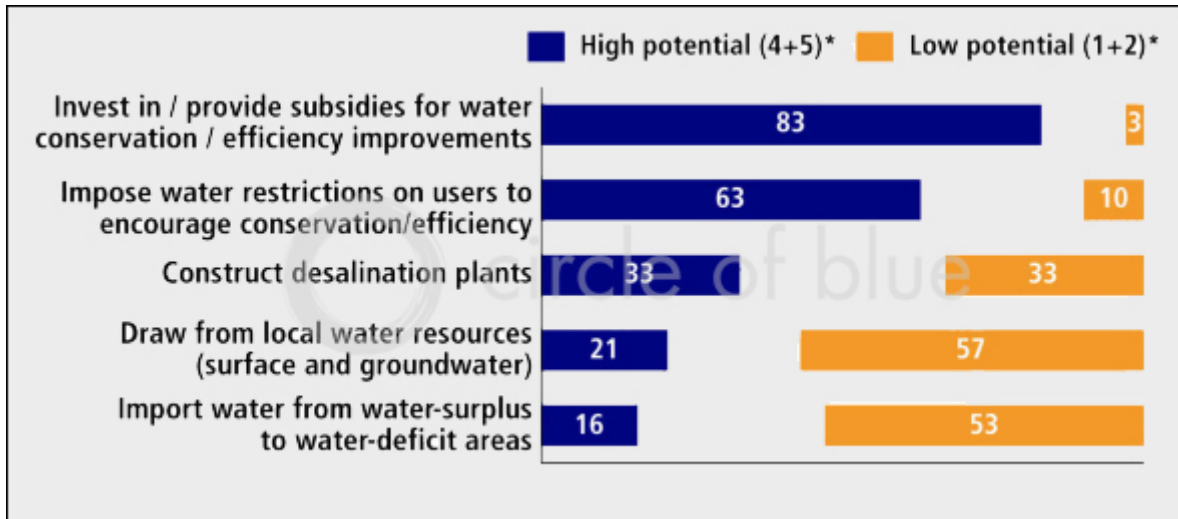
Sustainability Survey Poll on Water

Nearly all sectors of the economy will need to transform over the next decade as a result of water shortages.



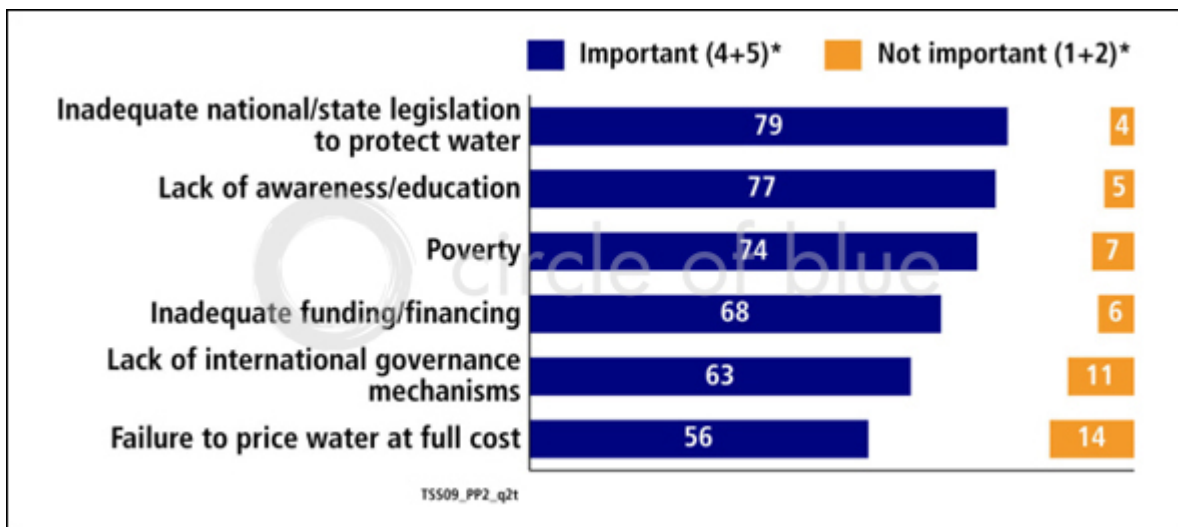
“Please rate the degree to which the following sectors will need to change their operations or business models as a result of water shortages over the next 10 years.”*

Experts have a strong preference for policy measures that reduce water demand over those that increase water supply.



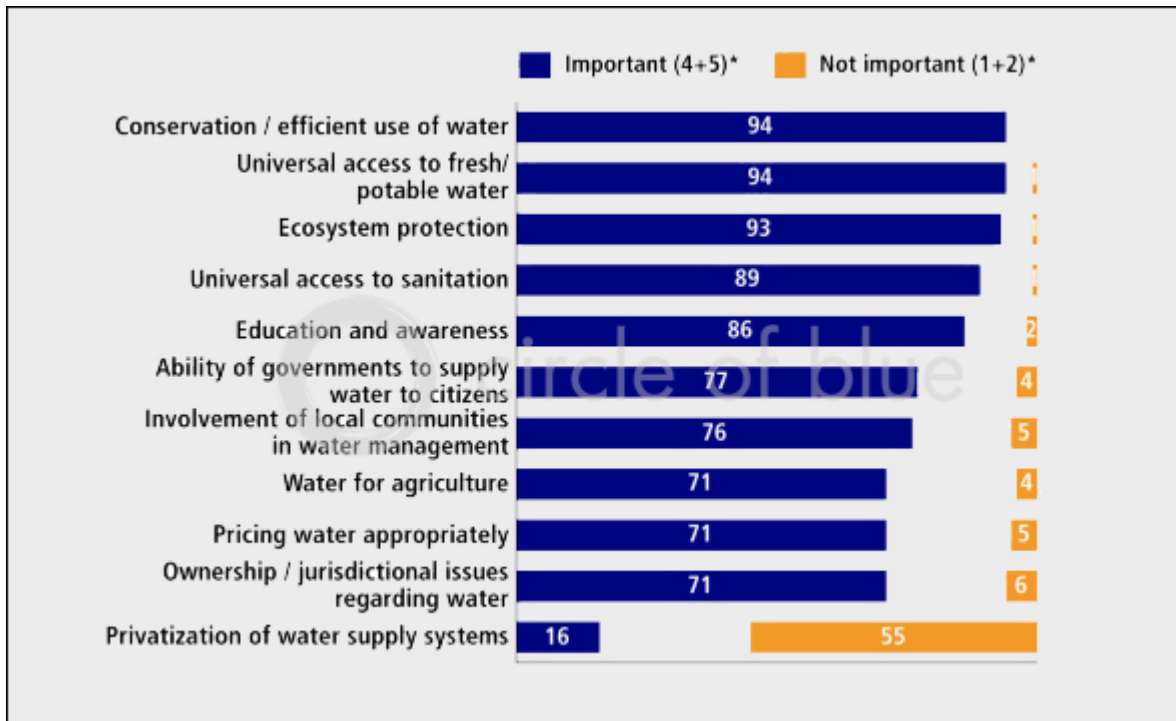
“Please rate the potential of each of the following policy measures to sustainably alleviate water shortages, both in the short- and long-term.”*

The greatest perceived barriers to sustainable water management are government policy and public understanding.



“Please rate the significance of each of the following barriers to the sustainable and equitable management of fresh water globally.”*

Managing fresh water sustainably and equitably requires a multi-faceted approach.



“Please rate the importance of each of the following issues in the transition to the sustainable and equitable management of fresh water globally.”*

*On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 represents “Not need to change at all” and 5 represents “Significant need to change.” The white space in this chart represents neutral ratings (3) and “DK/NA.”