

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Global Opinion Report No. 115

Week: April 11-17, 2010

Presentation: April 21, 2010

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Prelude

This week report consists of 27 surveys. Three of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 24 are national surveys.

Dismantling Settlements Is Creating Polarization in Israel?

Israelis settlements in West Bank have been one of the major hurdles in the resolution of Israeli-Palestinian crisis in accordance with the two state solution. Palestinians views about this issue have been quite clear that they want an end to these settlements that would lead the way for the eventual creation of Palestinian state. But in Israel the public perceptions on this issue have remained quite anti-evacuation.

A recent survey¹ in Israel shows a kind of shift in the general Israeli public attitude towards this issue. Opposition to dismantling these settlements have dropped remarkably and support for this idea has reached as high as 60 percent. This is the highest support for this idea recorded since 2005. Who will get most affected by the idea of dismantling settlements? Of course the settlers, the settler's perceptions on this issue are widely different from the general Israeli public. Almost seven in ten (69%) settlers oppose the idea of dismantling these settlements. This is in sharp contrast to general Israeli public. Mistakenly 57% of the settlers believe that general Israeli public is also opposed to the idea of evacuation, which is totally the reverse of the reality. A large majority of general Israeli public believe that motive for living in settlements should be attached with religious or missionary zeal but the settlers stated that they are more motivated by personal quality of life, housing and community then religious or missionary objectives.

These findings suggest that settlers and general Israeli public have widely different perceptions about dismantling the settlements in Judea and Samaria. Moreover the settlers have misperceptions about the general Israeli views about evacuating West Bank settlements. Does this suggest that general Israeli public and settlers are moving towards two different poles? Settlers would definitely be the most affected group if Israeli government decides to evacuate, so will this decision create internal groups in public and Israeli politics? On the other hand if Israel continue with these settlements will there ever be peace between Palestinians and Israelis?

¹ <http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/brmiddleeastnafricara/659.php?nid=&id=&pnt=659&lb=>

Summary of Polls

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli Public's Support for Dismantling Most Settlements Has Risen to a Five-Year High

A survey of the Israeli general public and Israeli settlers taken in early March shows three-fifths of the Israeli public (60%) support "dismantling most of the settlements in the territories as part of a peace agreement with the Palestinians." This is eleven points higher than the previous reading (49%) taken in December, 2009.

April 15, 2010

Israelis Reject Construction Freeze in Jerusalem

A large proportion of adults in Israel would reject a prospective demand by U.S. president Barack Obama, according to a poll by Maagar Mochot. 70 per cent of respondents think Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should not freeze construction in Jerusalem for an unlimited period of time.

April 17, 2010

SOUT EAST ASIA

Aquino, Roxas Headed for Win in the Philippines

The Liberal Party (PLP) could gain control of the two highest political offices in the Philippines, according to a poll by Pulse Asia. 37 per cent of respondents would vote for PLP presidential nominee Benigno Aquino III in next month's election.

April 16, 2010

NORTHEAST ASIA

Only A Third of Japanese Content with Cabinet

Only a third of people in Japan are satisfied with the performance of the sitting government, according to a poll by Kyodo News. 33 per cent of respondents approve of the cabinet, down three points since March.

April 13, 2010

EAST EUROPE

Many Russians Express Trust for Medvedev

Many people in Russia express confidence in president Dmitry Medvedev, according to a poll by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 40 per cent of respondents say they completely trust him as a person and as a politician.

April 15, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Tories Lead by Ten Points in Britain

The Conservative Party remains ahead of its competitors in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 38 per cent of respondents would support the Tories in next month's election to the House of Commons.

April 14, 2010

Spaniards Reject Government's Abortion Law

People in Spain are not satisfied with their government's new pregnancy termination regulations, according to a poll by NC Report published in *La Razón*. 54.2 per cent of respondents oppose the Abortion Law.

April 18, 2010

Spaniards Throw Support Behind Opposition PP

Spain's Popular Party (PP) is now stronger than the ruling Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), according to a poll by NC Report published in *La Razón*. 43.6 per cent of

respondents would vote for the conservative PP in the next legislative election, while 37.6 per cent would vote for the PSOE.

April 13, 2010

French Socialists Like Strauss-Kahn in 2012

International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn is a popular option to become the presidential candidate of France's Socialist Party (PS), according to a poll by LH2. 37 per cent of respondents say Strauss-Kahn should lead the left into the 2012 election.

April 16, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Voters Currently Divided on Second Obama Term

Registered voters are about evenly divided over whether President Barack Obama is deserving of a second term in office. Currently, 46% say he deserves re-election and 50% say he does not. Predictably, Democrats are one-sided for Obama's re-election and Republicans are one-sided against it, while independents lean against a second Obama term.

April 16, 2010

Making Ends Meet Is a Threshold for Personal Wellbeing

Having enough money to "buy the things you need" is a strong correlate of Americans' broad perception of their own wellbeing. Overall, 60% of Americans who say they have enough money for their needs rate their lives well enough to be considered "thriving." By contrast, 27% of those who can't meet their needs are thriving. This pattern is generally seen at each income level.

April 16, 2010

Americans' Views on Healthcare Law Remain Stable

Americans remain divided on the merits of the new healthcare law, with 45% saying it was a good thing that Congress passed the legislation and 49% saying it was a bad thing. This assessment from an April 8-11 Gallup poll shows little change from two weeks ago.

April 15, 2010

Republicans Lead by 48% to 44% on Congressional Ballot

Gallup Daily tracking for the week ending April 11 puts Republicans slightly ahead of Democrats, 48% to 44%, in the congressional voting preferences of registered voters nationally. This marks the third week since the U.S. House passed healthcare reform on March 21 that the Republicans have tied or led the Democrats.

April 13, 2010

Americans Blame President Bush for the Bad State of The Economy

According to the latest Harris Poll, the Republicans are a long way from convincing the American people that it is time to return the GOP back to power in Washington. The public may have serious doubts and reservations about the Democrats, but the memories of Bush era are still haunting Republicans.

April 07, 2010

Americans Split on Whether Their Income Taxes Are Too High

For the second straight year, slightly less than half of Americans say the amount of federal income tax they have to pay is too high, while almost as many say the amount they pay in taxes is about right.

April 14, 2010

Six in 10 Americans Expect Their Taxes to Increase

Sixty-three percent of Americans believe their taxes will increase in the next 12 months, while 4% expect a change that will reduce their taxes. Majorities of all income groups share this view, though it is more common among Americans in upper-income households.

April 14, 2010

Most Americans See Home Prices Stable or Rising

Lower but stabilizing home prices combined with continued low mortgage interest rates have persuaded 72% of Americans that now is a "good time" to buy a house -- essentially the same percentage as a year ago, but up 19 points from 2008.

April 15, 2010

Tomorrow's News

But the leaders of America's newsrooms are nonetheless worried about the future. Fewer than half of all those surveyed are confident their operations will survive another 10 years -- absent significant new sources of revenue. Nearly a third believe their operations are at risk in just five years or less. And many blame the problems not on the inevitable effect of technology but on their industry's missed opportunities.

April 12, 2010

Americans Dread Foreign and Domestic Terrorism

Many adults in the United States foresee an act of terrorism taking place on U.S. soil in the next year, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 69 per cent of respondents think an attack carried out by foreigners is likely to happen, while 58 per cent feel foresee an act of terrorism carried out by Americans.

April 14, 2010

Americans in Tune with Obama on Nuclear Weapons

Most people in the United States agree with the notion that there should be fewer nuclear weapons in the world, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 36 per cent of respondents think the U.S. government should focus on eliminating weapons worldwide, while 35 per cent think it should try to reduce the number of nuclear arms in the world.

April 13, 2010

Few Canadians Endorse Bigger House of Commons

Few people in Canada support a government proposal to increase the number of seats in the lower house of Parliament from 308 to 338, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 17 per cent of respondents think this would be beneficial for Canada, whereas 31 per cent say it would be detrimental.

April 12, 2010

Canadian Majority Would Legalize Marijuana

Many adults in Canada believe marijuana should be legalized, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents agree with this idea.

April 18, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

NDP Holds Double-Digit Lead in British Columbia

The opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) has extended its advantage in British Columbia, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 47 per cent of respondents would vote for the NDP in the next provincial election, up four points since March.

April 18, 2010

Serra Barely Ahead of Rousseff in Brazil

Brazilians could be facing a tight first round in this year's presidential election, according to a poll by Vox Populi released by Bandeirantes. 34 per cent of respondents would vote for Jose Serra of the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB) in the upcoming ballot.
April 14, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa

As compared with other parts of the world, sub-Saharan Africa is the most religious zone in the world. The vast majority of people in many sub-Saharan African nations are deeply committed to the practices and major tenets of one or the other of the world's two largest religions, Christianity and Islam, though traditional African religious beliefs and practices have not disappeared. Rather, they coexist with Islam and Christianity.
April 15, 2010

Little Hope for Middle East Peace in Three Nations

People in three countries hold little hope in the success of a potential Middle East peace process, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. At least 40 per cent of respondents in Canada, the United States and Britain believe there will never be a solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.
April 16, 2010

Bullying is a Crime for Canadians and Americans

People in two North American countries believe bullying should be considered a crime even if no physical violence is involved, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 62 per cent of respondents in Canada—and 52 per cent in the U.S.—agree with this notion.
April 15, 2010

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli Public's Support for Dismantling Most Settlements Has Risen to a Five-Year High

April 15, 2010

A survey of the Israeli general public and Israeli settlers taken in early March shows three-fifths of the Israeli public (60%) support "dismantling most of the settlements in the territories as part of a peace agreement with the Palestinians." This is eleven points higher than the previous reading (49%) taken in December, 2009, and is the highest level recorded since 2005, during the debate over evacuating the Gaza Strip. Just one-third of the Israeli public (33%) opposes dismantling most settlements, including 13 percent very strongly opposed. This is the lowest level of strong opposition to dismantling settlements recorded by the Truman Institute for the 26 surveys in which this question has been asked since 2001. The survey was conducted by the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

In contrast to the views of the Israeli public, among Israeli settlers a large majority (69%) oppose dismantling most West Bank settlements. Moreover, a majority of settlers believe most of the Israeli general public shares its opposition to dismantling settlements. This is but one of several major misperceptions regarding the settlements issue revealed by the latest Truman Institute survey.

The survey found numerous misperceptions among both the settlers and the general Israeli public. These include considerable underestimations of the Israeli public's predominant support for dismantling most West Bank settlements as part of a peace agreement, and the extent to which settlers' decisions to live in the West Bank are driven by personal quality of life issues, rather than by belief in a national or religious mission. Also, both the Israeli public and the settlers overestimate settlers' willingness to resist "by all means" a comprehensive evacuation of settlements in the West Bank.

These and other findings are examined more fully below.

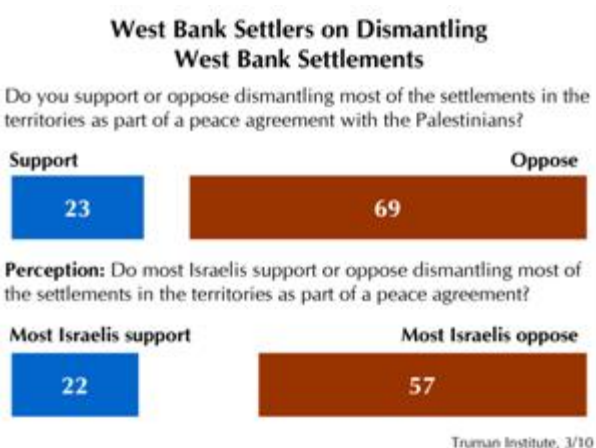
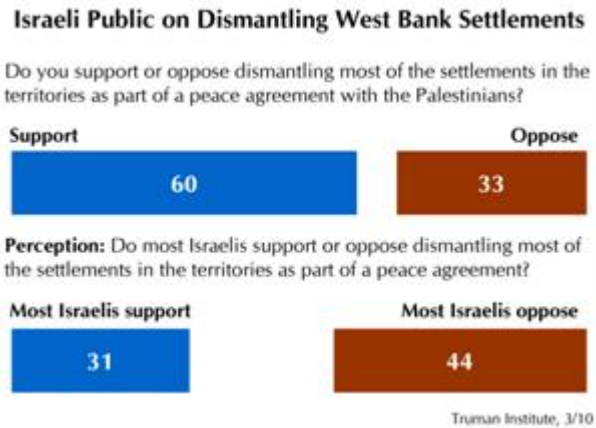
The Truman Research Institute surveys of the Israeli public (sample of 501) and Israeli settlers (sample of 506) were completed by phone interviews between March 1-10 (general public) and March 4-14 (settlers). The margin of error for each sample is +/-4.9 percent. The settlers' survey dates overlap and may have been influenced by Vice President Biden's visit to Israel and his criticism, publicized on March 10, of the Israeli government's announcement of new housing units in East Jerusalem.

Views on Dismantling Most West Bank Settlements

A majority of Israeli settlers reject the idea of dismantling most settlements as part of a peace accord and believe, mistakenly, that most Israelis share their conviction. Israeli settlers and the full Israeli public were first asked about their own preferences about "dismantling most of the settlements in the territories as part of a peace agreement with the Palestinians," and then asked about their *perceptions* of how most Israelis view this issue.

The preferences of settlers and the Israeli public clash sharply: A 69 percent majority of settlers oppose dismantling most settlements as part of a peace agreement (23% in favor), while a 60 percent majority of the Israeli public support doing so, with 33% opposed. This is up sharply from plurality support of 49 to 43 percent last December.

However, the current near two-to-one Israeli public support for dismantling most settlements is misperceived by Israeli settlers, and even by the Israeli public to a lesser extent: Most settlers (57%) believe that a majority of the Israeli public *oppose* dismantling most settlements -- the reverse from what is actually the case. About one-third of the Israeli public (31%) believe a majority of Israelis supports dismantling most settlements,



which is half the number who actually do so (60%).

One effect of the settlers' misperception that the Israeli public shares their view may be their readiness to support a general referendum as the way to legitimize their position on the settlements. Three-fifths of settlers say that the "authority to decide to evacuate or not evacuate settlements in Judea and Samaria" should rest with a referendum (60% compared to 36% who oppose it). No other institution came close to this level of confidence among settlers -- "the government" (43% of settlers favor giving it this authority), "the Knesset" (43%) or a Rabbinical authority (24%). In contrast, most of the Israeli general public prefer that such authority be vested in "the government" (72%) or "the Knesset" (67%), compared to half (51%) who favor a referendum.

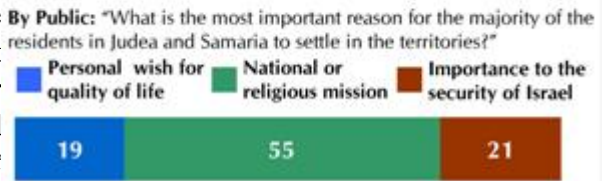
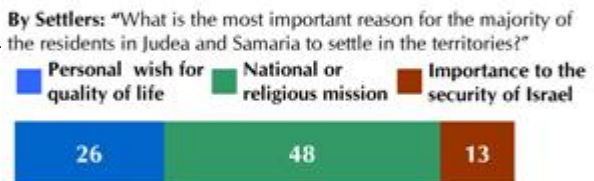
Israeli Settlers' Motives and Values

Israeli settlers and the Israeli public as a whole overestimate the extent to which most settlement activity is driven by settlers' sense of religious or national mission. The settlers were first asked which of three factors was the *most important reason* for their own decision to live in their current settlement. "Personal wish for quality of life, housing and community" (46%) was found to outweigh a sense of "national or religious mission to inhabit the land" (31%), while belief that the territories enhance Israel's security (15%) was rated a distant third.

Settlers' Motives for Living in West Bank Settlements



Perceptions of Settlers' Motives



Truman Institute, 3/10

Israeli settlers and the full Israeli public were then asked which of these three motives they thought was most important for the majority of settlers living in the West Bank. Both Israeli settlers and the full Israeli public mistakenly believe that a sense of national or religious mission far outweigh personal quality of life issues as the primary motive for most Israeli settlers (see graph).

Israeli settlers were also asked their opinion about which of four different values affecting Israel's future development was the most important one. The value of "Israel with a Jewish majority" rates much higher among settlers (49% of settlers rate it as most important) than the value of "greater Israel" (16%), "democracy" (12%), or "peace" (20%). Despite this clear preference for a mainly Jewish state, a majority of settlers on a separate question expressed opposition to the proposed "two-state solution" (53% vs. 39% support) that would ensure a Jewish majority in the state of Israel.

Potential Resistance to Government's Order to Evacuate Settlements

The extent of likely settler resistance to a government decision for a comprehensive evacuation of West Bank settlements is overestimated threefold by the Israeli public -- and to a lesser extent by the settlers themselves. Israeli settlers and the full Israeli public were asked first about their own reaction "if the government decides on a comprehensive evacuation of settlements" in the West Bank, and then about how they thought most settlers in the West Bank would react to such a decision.

Most settlers said they would either obey a government decision for a comprehensive evacuation of settlements (20%) or only resist it by legal means (52%). One fifth of the settlers (21%) said they would "resist it by all means." However, when asked how they expected most settlers to react to such a government order, nearly three-fifths of the Israeli public (57%) -- and two-fifths (40%) of settlers -- believed most settlers would resist the decision by all means (see graphs).

Settlers were asked separately about their personal participation in earlier protests against the freezing or evacuation of settlements. About one-fourth (27%) said they had participated in "demonstrations, marches or assemblies" held in the West Bank; about one-tenth (9%) said they had participated in "active resistance to IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] evacuation of an outpost or settlement."

Conclusion

The Truman Institute's latest survey sheds light on Israeli views regarding West Bank settlements that are grounds for a less pessimistic outlook about Israeli-Palestinian peace prospects. The Israeli public's support for dismantling most settlements as part of a peace agreement has risen considerably in recent months and is at its highest level in five years (60%). Surprisingly, no more than a third of Israel's public and settlers know that the Israeli public mainly supports dismantling most settlements. Moreover, both the Israeli public and the settlers themselves greatly underestimate the extent to which settlers' decisions to live in the West Bank are driven by personal rather than ideological concerns and the extent to which settlers are willing to stay within the law in response to a government-ordered comprehensive settlement evacuation.

Israeli Public's Reaction If Israeli Government Decides to Dismantle Most West Bank Settlements

If the government decides on a comprehensive evacuation of settlements in Judea and Samaria, how should one respond to this decision?



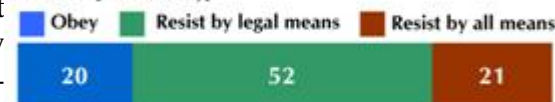
And how, in your opinion, will most settlers in Judea and Samaria respond to such a decision?



Truman Institute, 3/10

Settlers' Reaction If Israeli Government Decides to Dismantle Most West Bank Settlements

If the government decides on a comprehensive evacuation of settlements in Judea and Samaria, how should one respond to this decision? [Settlers only]



And how, in your opinion, will most settlers in Judea and Samaria respond to such a decision? [Settlers only]



Truman Institute, 3/10

Israelis Reject Construction Freeze in Jerusalem

April 17, 2010

A large proportion of adults in Israel would reject a prospective demand by U.S. president Barack Obama, according to a poll by Maagar Mochot. 70 per cent of respondents think Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu should not freeze construction in Jerusalem for an unlimited period of time.

In addition, 83 per cent of respondents reject the imposition of a plan which would divide Jerusalem and leave Israel without control of the Jordan Valley.

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

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

During the six-day war in 1967, Israel gained control of the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. Saudi Arabia has proposed the Arab Peace Initiative (API) to reconcile Israel and the Palestinians. The plan states that Israel will retreat from all territories occupied in 1967, and a Palestinian state would be established.

In March, Israel announced it would build 1,600 homes in the Ramat Shlomo area of eastern Jerusalem. The decision was criticized by U.S. state secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, who declared: "We objected to this announcement because we are committed to Israel and its security, which we believe depends on a comprehensive peace."

On Apr. 15, Rodham Clinton once again criticized Israel, saying, "Prime Minister Netanyahu has embraced the vision of the two-state solution. But easing up on access and movement in the West Bank, in response to credible Palestinian security performance, is not sufficient to prove to the Palestinians that this embrace is sincere. We encourage Israel to continue building momentum toward a comprehensive peace by demonstrating respect for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians, stopping settlement activity and addressing the humanitarian needs in Gaza."

Polling Data

In your opinion, should Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agree to the demand of President Obama, according to which Israel should freeze construction in Jerusalem for an unlimited period of time?

Yes	19%
No	70%
Don't know / Other replies	11%

According to various reports, President Obama will try to impose an arrangement on the sides according to which, among other things, Israel does not control the Jordan Valley and Jerusalem is divided. Do you want President Obama to impose his plan on the parties?

Yes	8%
No	83%
Don't know / Other replies	9%

Source: Maagar Mochot

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 511 Israeli adults, conducted on Apr. 11 and Apr. 12, 2010. Margin of error is 4.5 per cent.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Aquino, Roxas Headed for Win in the Philippines

April 16, 2010

The Liberal Party (PLP) could gain control of the two highest political offices in the Philippines, according to a poll by Pulse Asia. 37 per cent of respondents would vote for PLP presidential nominee Benigno Aquino III in next month's election.

Senator Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party (PNP) is second with 25 per cent, followed by former president Joseph Estrada of the Force of the Filipino Masses (PMP) 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.

Mar Roxas—Aquino's running mate—is the most popular vice-presidential candidate with 43 per cent, followed by senator Loren Legarda with 23 per cent, and Makati city mayor Jejomar Binay with 19 per cent. Support is considerably lower for current secretary of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Bayani Fernando, actor Eduardo Manzano, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Perfecto Yasay, television host Jose Sonza, and anti-abortion activist Dominador Chipeco.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took over as president in January 2001, following Joseph 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 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 as a Liberal Party (PLP) candidate in September.

Earlier this month, Albay governor Joey Salceda—who was considered Arroyo's top economic adviser—abandoned the Lakas Party and shifted his support to Aquino.

On Apr. 14, Villar discussed the situation, saying, "The defection of governor Joey Salceda is like a vindication to us. This is the best and strongest proof that if there should be any suspicion, it [should concern] the relations between President Arroyo and Noynoy Aquino."

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?

	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010
Benigno Aquino III	37%	36%	37%
Manuel Villar	25%	29%	35%
Joseph Estrada	18%	18%	12%
Gilberto Teodoro	7%	7%	5%
Eddie Villanueva	2%	2%	2%
Richard Gordon	2%	1%	1%
Other / None / Undecided	9%	7%	8%

If the coming 2010 elections were held today, whom would you vote for as vice-president?

	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010
Mar Roxas	43%	43%	47%
Loren Legarda	23%	27%	28%
Jejomar Binay	19%	15%	13%
Bayani Fernando	3%	4%	2%
Eduardo Manzano	2%	2%	2%
Perfecto Yasay	1%	1%	1%

Jose Sonza	0.5%	1%	0.2%
Dominador Chipeco	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Undecided / Other	9%	7%	7%

Source: Pulse Asia

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 3,000 Filipino adults, conducted from Mar. 21 to Mar. 28, 2010. Margin of error is 2 per cent.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Only A Third of Japanese Content with Cabinet

April 13, 2010

Only a third of people in Japan are satisfied with the performance of the sitting government, according to a poll by Kyodo News. 33 per cent of respondents approve of the cabinet, down three points since March.

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 Apr. 4, former finance minister and LDP member Kaoru Yosano announced plans to form a new political party along with Takeo Hiranuma—who also served as finance minister—and former LDP secretary-general Hiroyuki Sonoda. The name of the new party is Stand Up Japan.

Yosano said he is tired of seeing the LDP's poor performance in the opposition, declaring, "If things continue as they are, the DPJ will have a majority in both houses of the Diet. Effective criticism in the upper house is vital for Japan's democracy."

Polling Data

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

Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010
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Approve	33%	36%	37%
Disapprove	50%	49%	46%

Source: *Kyodo News*

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,024 Japanese adults, conducted on Apr. 2 and Mar. 3, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

EAST EUROPE

Many Russians Express Trust for Medvedev

April 15, 2010

Many people in Russia express confidence in president Dmitry Medvedev, according to a poll by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 40 per cent of respondents say they completely trust him as a person and as a politician.

On the other hand, 31 per cent of respondents sympathize with Medvedev as a person but doubt his ability to lead the country out of crisis, 10 per cent do not trust him at all, and eight per cent trust him as a leader but have no sympathy for him.

Russian voters renewed the State Duma in December 2007. United Russia (YR)—whose candidate list was headed by then president Vladimir 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.

On Apr. 7, Medvedev called for the European Union (EU) to lift visa requirements for Russians, saying that this would make sense "if we are serious partners," in order to benefit from increased business trading.

Polling Data

How would you characterize your general attitude towards Dmitry Medvedev?

I trust him completely and as a person and as a politician	40%
I sympathize with him as a person, but I doubt his ability to lead the country out of crisis	31%
I do not trust him either as a person or as a politician	10%
I trust him as the leader of the country, but do not sympathize with the man	8%
Difficult to answer	11%

Source: Russian Public Opinion Research Center

Methodology: Interviews with 1,600 Russian adults, conducted on Mar. 20 and Mar. 21, 2010.

Margin of error is 3.4 per cent.

WEST EUROPE

Tories Lead by Ten Points in Britain

April 14, 2010

The Conservative Party remains ahead of its competitors in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 38 per cent of respondents would support the Tories in next month's election to the House of Commons.

The governing Labour Party is second with 28 per cent, followed by the Liberal Democrats with 22 per cent. 13 per cent of respondents would vote for other parties.

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, Brown expressed regret about the lack of banking regulations, saying, "In the 1990s, the banks they all came to us and said, 'Look, we don't want to be regulated, we want to be free of regulation.' (...) And actually the truth is that globally and nationally we should have been regulating them more. So I've learnt from that."

The election to the House of Commons will take place on May 6.

Polling Data

In the General Election that will take place on 6 May, which one of the following parties are you most likely to support in your constituency?

	Apr. 13	Apr. 7	Apr. 1	Mar. 31
Conservative	38%	37%	38%	37%
Labour	28%	26%	27%	28%
Liberal Democrats	22%	22%	20%	22%
Other	13%	15%	15%	13%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,193 British adults, conducted on Apr. 6 and Apr. 7, 2010.

Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Spaniards Reject Government's Abortion Law

April 18, 2010

People in Spain are not satisfied with their government's new pregnancy termination regulations, according to a poll by NC Report published in *La Razón*. 54.2 per cent of respondents oppose the Abortion Law.

Under the previous legislation—introduced in 1985—women in Spain could only terminate a pregnancy in cases of rape, fetal defects, or health risk to the mother.

In September 2009, the Spanish government—headed by José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero of the Socialist Workers Party (PSOE)—proposed amending the law to allow any woman over the age of 16 to have an abortion on demand in the first 14 weeks of gestation, and in the first 22 weeks if the fetus has a serious or incurable disease. The new law—which will come into effect on Jul. 5—would also allow minors to seek an abortion without the authorization of their parents or guardians.

The current Spanish government has been criticized by the opposition conservative Popular Party (PP) for its decision to change the abortion law and legalize same-sex marriage.

Earlier this month, Zapatero defended his policies, saying, "The gay marriage law has actually made me feel extremely proud. I think people see it as something entirely normal in Spain, gay marriages. We were told that we were killing the family in Spain and yet the Spanish family is in rude health, and a lot more people are happy. We've managed to recognize the right of people who have been discriminated against and harassed for many years, because of their sexual orientation and I hope that is an unstoppable trend in advanced societies."

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose the government's Abortion Law?

Support	37.2%
Oppose	54.2%

Source: NC Report / La Razón

Methodology: Interviews with 1,000 Spanish adults, conducted on Mar. 31, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Spaniards Throw Support Behind Opposition PP

April 13, 2010

Spain's Popular Party (PP) is now stronger than the ruling Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), according to a poll by NC Report published in *La Razón*. 43.6 per cent of respondents would vote for the conservative PP in the next legislative election, while 37.6 per cent would vote for the PSOE.

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero was sworn in as president of the government in April 2004, following his party's victory in the legislative ballot. The conservative PP had administered the

government under José María Aznar since 1996. Mariano Rajoy took over as PP leader in August 2003.

In March 2008, Spain held a general election. The PSOE secured a new term in office with 43.36 per cent of the vote and 169 seats in the lower house, followed by the PP with 39.85 per cent and 153 mandates. Zapatero retained his post as head of government.

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

Spain's economy has been severely affected by the global financial downturn, as well as by its own setbacks in the domestic real estate market. The Spanish treasury has said that it could take "until 2011" for the national economy to recover from the crisis. The government has pledged a stimulus package worth close to \$120 billion U.S. to help the slumping manufacturing and service sectors. The unemployment rate rose to 19.3 per cent in the third quarter of 2009.

Each European Union (EU) member state presides over the Council of the EU for a period of six months, in accordance with a pre-established rotation. In January, Spain took over these responsibilities from Sweden.

On Apr. 6, Zapatero pledged almost \$800 million U.S. in subsidies and tax breaks for electric cars. The head of government said this shows his his commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adding, "It is also a symbol of what Spain's industrial policies should focus on from now on: innovation and sustainability."

Polling Data

Which party would you vote for in the next general election?

Popular Party (PP)	43.6%
Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE)	37.6%
Other parties	18.8%

Source: NC Report / La Razón

Methodology: Interviews with 1,000 Spanish adults, conducted on Mar. 31, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

French Socialists Like Strauss-Kahn in 2012

April 16, 2010

International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn is a popular option to become the presidential candidate of France's Socialist Party (PS), according to a poll by LH2. 37 per cent of respondents say Strauss-Kahn should lead the left into the 2012 election.

PS leader Martine Aubry is a distant second with 13 per cent, followed by 2007 PS presidential candidate Ségolène Royal with 12 per cent. Support is much lower for PS member François Hollande, Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoë, co-president of the European Greens Daniel Cohn-

Bendit, former prime minister Laurent Fabius, Évry mayor Manuel Valls, Green Party national secretary Cécile Duflot, French Communist Party (PCF) leader Marie-George Buffet, and Left Party (PG) co-founder Jean-Luc Mélenchon.

Amongst general left supporters and PS supporters, Strauss-Kahn is also widely favoured to represent the PS as presidential candidate in 2012, followed by Aubry and Royal.

In May 2007, Nicolas Sarkozy, candidate for the centre-right Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) and former interior minister, won the presidential run-off with 53.06 per cent of the vote. Sarkozy appointed François Fillon—who had been his adviser and presidential campaign leader—as prime minister.

Last month, Sarkozy's UMP suffered major blows in local elections across France. Aubry commented on the electoral results, saying, "The French people have spoken. They must be heard."

Polling Data

From the following list, who do you think would be the best presidential candidate for the left in the 2012 presidential election?

	All	Left supporters	PS supporters
Dominique Strauss-Kahn	37%	38%	47%
Martine Aubry	13%	18%	22%
Ségolène Royal	12%	14%	17%
François Hollande	5%	7%	11%
Bertrand Delanoë	5%	8%	8%
Daniel Cohn-Bendit	5%	7%	4%
Olivier Besancenot	5%	6%	5%
Laurent Fabius	4%	4%	4%
Manuel Valls	2%	2%	2%
Cécile Duflot	2%	2%	1%
Marie-George Buffet	2%	3%	2%
Jean-Luc Mélenchon	2%	4%	1%
Other	12%	6%	4%
Somebody else	1%	0%	0%
No answer	10%	5%	6%

Source: LH2

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 996 French adults, conducted on Mar. 26 and Mar. 27, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

NORTH AMERICA

Voters Currently Divided on Second Obama Term

Just under half say he deserves re-election

April 16, 2010

Registered voters are about evenly divided over whether President Barack Obama is deserving of a second term in office. Currently, 46% say he deserves re-election and 50% say he does not. Predictably, Democrats are one-sided for Obama's re-election and Republicans are one-sided against it, while independents lean against a second Obama term.

Please tell me whether you think each of the following political officeholders deserves to be re-elected, or not. How about President Obama?

	All registered voters	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Yes, deserves re-election	46%	84%	40%	10%
No, does not	50%	12%	54%	88%

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

GALLUP

The 46% who say Obama deserves re-election is similar to his recent job approval ratings, which have been running just under 50%. The current results also echo what Gallup found recently when it asked voters whether they would be more likely to vote for Obama or the Republican candidate in the 2012 presidential election.

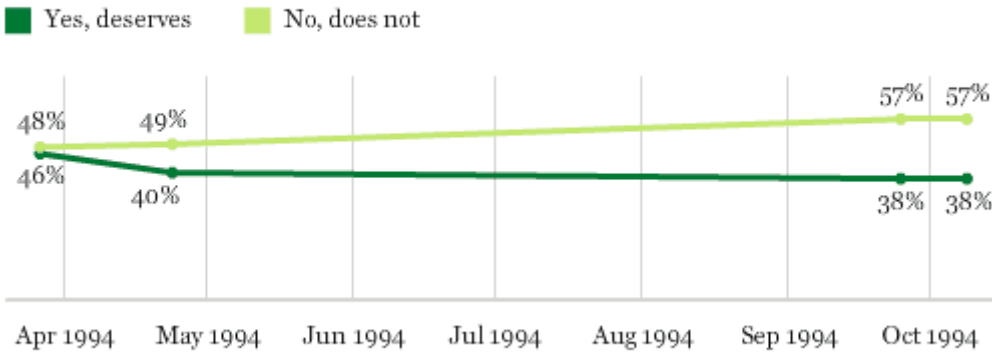
Gallup has asked the public whether other recent presidents deserved re-election, and the results suggest that the question is not highly predictive this far out from a president's re-election bid. For example, in late April/early May 2002, 69% of registered voters said George W. Bush deserved re-election. At that time, Bush's job approval rating was 77% as he was still enjoying the post-9/11 rally. Bush did win re-election in 2004, although in a close contest with John Kerry.

The current numbers for Obama are similar to what Gallup found for Bill Clinton at almost precisely the same point in his presidency, in late March 1994. In that poll, 46% of Americans (the survey did not identify registered voters) said Clinton deserved to be re-elected and 48% said he did not.

Americans became somewhat less likely to say Clinton was deserving of re-election over the course of 1994. Gallup's last measurement before the 1994 midterm elections, in October, showed 38% of Americans (and the same percentage of registered voters) saying Clinton deserved re-election, with the majority of 57% saying he did not. The Democratic Party suffered huge losses in the 1994 midterm elections, but Clinton was elected to a second term two years later by a comfortable margin over Bob Dole.

1994 Gallup Trend on Whether Bill Clinton Deserves Re-Election

Based on national adults

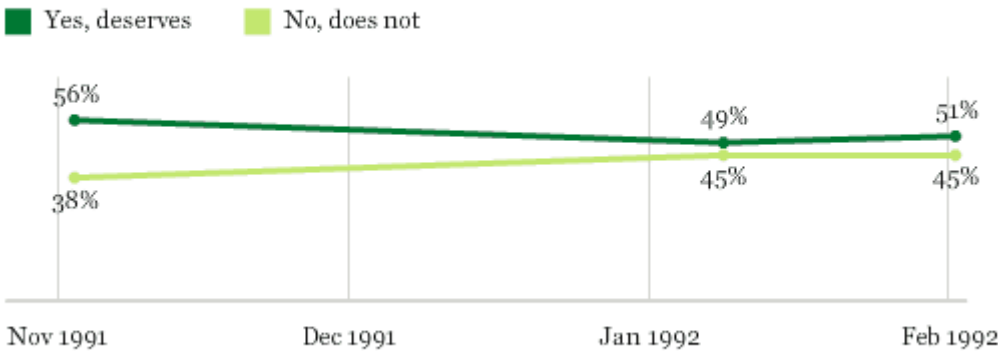


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In late 1991 and early 1992, Americans were more inclined to say the elder George Bush deserved than did not deserve re-election. However, over the course of 1992, his approval rating dropped and voters ended up voting him out of office in favor of Clinton.

1991-1992 Gallup Trend on Whether George H.W. Bush Deserves Re-Election

Based on national adults



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Bottom Line

At this point, Americans are closely divided as to whether Obama should have a second presidential term, and independents -- who were important to Obama's election win in 2008 -- currently say he does not deserve re-election. However, data collected in the first terms of the

prior three presidents suggest those attitudes can change -- even in the same year in which a president is actively campaigning for re-election, as was the case for the elder George Bush.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 968 registered voters, aged 18 and older, conducted March 26-28, 2010. For results based on this sample, 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.

Making Ends Meet Is a Threshold for Personal Wellbeing

Having money for "needs" makes bigger difference than money for "wants"

April 16, 2010

Having enough money to "buy the things you need" is a strong correlate of Americans' broad perception of their own wellbeing. Overall, 60% of Americans who say they have enough money for their needs rate their lives well enough to be considered "thriving." By contrast, 27% of those who can't meet their needs are thriving. This pattern is generally seen at each income level.

Percentage Thriving Based on: Have Enough Money to Buy the Things You Need?

By annual household income

	Have enough money for needs	Don't have enough money for needs	Thriving gap
	% thriving	% thriving	
National adults	60	27	33
Less than \$24,000	48	27	21
\$24,000-\$59,999	56	26	30
\$60,000-\$89,999	65	32	33
\$90,000 or more	71	32	39

Jan. 2 -April 14, 2010

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

GALLUP®

Meeting ones' needs is one thing; satisfying desires is another, and Gallup measures this by asking Americans whether they have "more than enough money to do what you want to do." Although the rate of those who are thriving increases significantly among Americans who say they *can* afford to do what they want, it is also fairly high among those who *cannot*, particularly at upper-income levels.

Percentage Thriving Based on: Have More Than Enough Money to Do What You Want to Do?

By annual household income

	Have enough money for wants	Don't have enough money for wants	Thriving gap
	% thriving	% thriving	
National adults	68	44	24
Less than \$24,000	61	31	30
\$24,000-\$59,999	63	45	18
\$60,000-\$89,999	71	51	20
\$90,000 or more	79	59	20

Jan. 2 -April 14, 2010

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

GALLUP®

Confidence in one's ability to make a major purchase falls between ability to pay for needs and wants in its relationship to thriving. The majority of Americans at every income who say right now they would be able to make a major purchase are personally thriving. However, so are substantial numbers -- as high as 53% among the highest income group -- of those who can't make such a purchase.

Percentage Thriving Based on: Are You Able Right Now to Make a Major Purchase?

By annual household income

	Yes, able to make major purchase	No, not able to make major purchase	Thriving gap
	% thriving	% thriving	
National adults	64	40	24
Less than \$24,000	54	33	21
\$24,000-\$59,999	59	40	19
\$60,000-\$89,999	68	44	24
\$90,000 or more	75	53	22

Jan. 2 -April 14, 2010

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

GALLUP®

These findings are from Gallup tracking thus far in 2010 (from January-April 14). The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index classifies Americans as either "thriving," "struggling," or "suffering," according to how they rate their current and future lives on a 0-to-10 ladder scale based on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale.

While providing for one's basic needs, feeling able to make major purchases, and fulfilling one's desires all relate to positive wellbeing, other dimensions of Americans' financial lives are less connected. For instance, most Americans (89%) say they are watching their spending very closely, but at every income level this bears little relation to the percentage who are thriving. Those who expressly say they are cutting back on their spending -- 72% of Americans right now -- report moderately lower thriving scores than those who are not cutting back.

Bottom Line

Affording the basics in life is not just the starting point of financial success; for many, it's the goal, and a satisfying one to boot. Other factors may be responsible for pushing the thriving percentages much closer to 100% for Americans of different income levels, but the data suggest the contentment that comes from being able to pay one's bills, buy groceries, put gas in the car, and possibly have a few dollars leftover may help make a majority of Americans in households earning more than \$24,000 feel positively about their overall wellbeing.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of more than 12,000 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted between Jan. 2 and April 14, 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 ± 1 percentage points.

The Life Evaluation Index is based on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, which asks people to evaluate their present and future lives on a scale with steps numbered from 0 to 10, where "0" is the worst possible life and "10" is the best possible life. Those who rate today a "7" or higher and the future an "8" or higher are considered to be "thriving." Those who rate today and the future a "4" or lower on the scale are considered to be "suffering." The overall Life Evaluation Index score is calculated as the percentage of thriving Americans minus the percentage of suffering Americans.

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.

Americans' Views on Healthcare Law Remain Stable

Latest poll shows 45% saying passage of law was a good thing, 49% a bad thing

April 15, 2010

Americans remain divided on the merits of the new healthcare law, with 45% saying it was a good thing that Congress passed the legislation and 49% saying it was a bad thing. This assessment from an April 8-11 Gallup poll shows little change from two weeks ago.

As you may know, Congress recently passed legislation that restructures the nation's healthcare system. All in all, do you think it is a good thing or a bad thing that Congress passed this legislation?

	% Good thing	% Bad thing	% No opinion
2010 Apr 8-11	45	49	6
2010 Mar 26-28	47	50	3

GALLUP®

More generally, the current level of support mirrors what Gallup has found in polling conducted for months prior to the bill's passage. Over the past year, Americans have been remarkably stable in their assessments of the bill, with neither supporters nor opponents able to generate sustained majority agreement with their position.

Democrats and Republicans have totally different views of the healthcare law -- as has consistently been the case over the last year. More than 8 out of 10 Democrats in the April poll say passage of the law was a good thing, while a similar percentage of Republicans say its passage was a bad thing. Independents are more negative than positive.

Reaction to Passage of Healthcare Reform Bill, by Party ID

	Good thing	Bad thing	Net "good thing"
	%	%	(pct. pts.)
Democrat	81	16	+65
Independent	41	51	-10
Republican	10	86	-76

Gallup, April 8-11, 2010

GALLUP®

Americans Expect and Welcome Future Changes

A late March *USA Today*/Gallup poll, conducted the week after the bill was passed, found that Americans hardly expect it to be the last word on healthcare legislation. Three-quarters predict that Congress will vote on additional new healthcare legislation within the next five years, and about the same percentage say this would be a good idea.

In the next five years, do you think Congress will or will not vote on additional, major legislation to either expand or cut back on the healthcare legislation passed this week?

	% Yes, will vote on	% No, will not	% No opinion
2010 Mar 26-28	76	18	6

USA Today/Gallup

GALLUP®

And, in the next five years, do you, personally, want Congress to vote on additional major healthcare legislation to either expand or cut back on the healthcare legislation passed this week, or not?

	% Yes, want Congress to vote on	% No, do not want Congress to vote on	% No opinion
2010 Mar 26-28	76	18	6

USA Today/Gallup

GALLUP®

The wording of this particular question specified changes that would either expand or cut back on the legislation. As a result, support for the idea of altering the law ends up being almost identical across partisan groups.

These findings underscore the fact that Democrats, who largely support the recently passed bill, are still not totally satisfied with it, and would welcome further changes to it in the years ahead. The fact that Republicans, who largely oppose the bill, would also welcome changes (most likely repealing it or cutting it back) suggests that the legislative struggle over healthcare reform is not yet over.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,020 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted April 8-11, 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.

Republicans Lead by 48% to 44% on Congressional Ballot

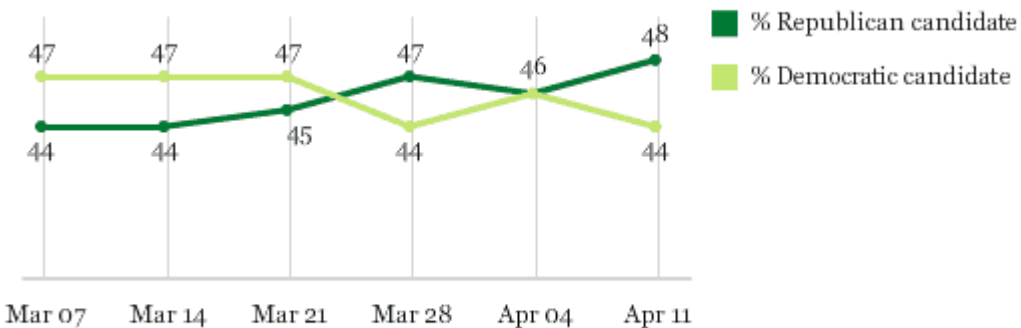
Republican Party maintains an advantage on voter enthusiasm

April 13, 2010

Gallup Daily tracking for the week ending April 11 puts Republicans slightly ahead of Democrats, 48% to 44%, in the congressional voting preferences of registered voters nationally. This marks the third week since the U.S. House passed healthcare reform on March 21 that the Republicans have tied or led the Democrats.

Candidate Preference in 2010 Congressional Elections

Based on registered voters



Results based on weekly averages of Gallup Daily tracking; date indicates last day of interviewing for each week.

GALLUP®

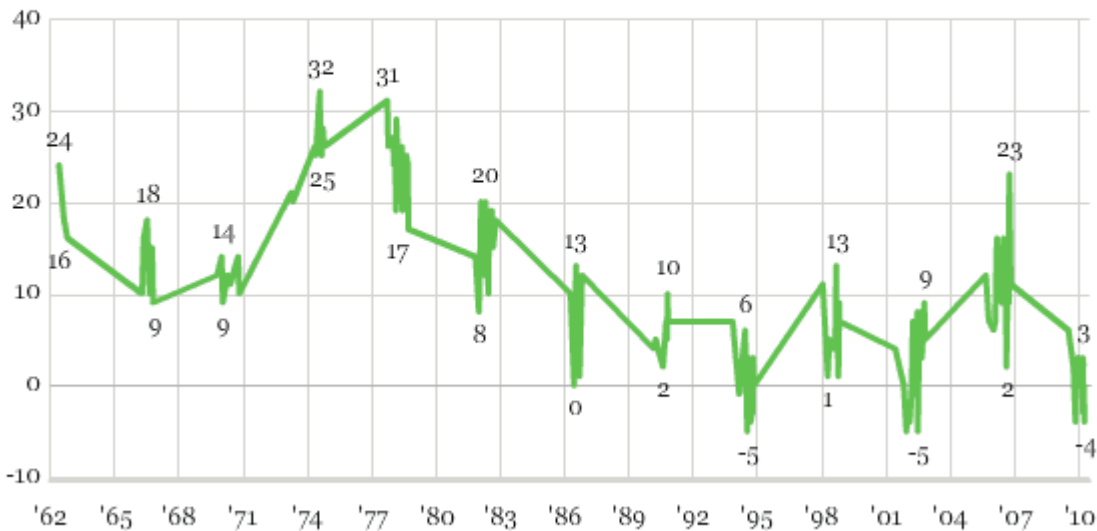
Gallup's measure of voter support for the two parties' congressional candidates asks respondents whether they would back the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate in their own district if the election were held today. The results -- when based on likely voters shortly before Election Day -- have proved, historically, to be a highly accurate predictor of the national two-party vote. This, in turn, bears a close relationship to the post-election party division of House seats.

The trend based on registered voters shows how rare it is for the Republicans to lead on this "generic ballot" measure among all registered voters, as they do today. Other recent exceptions were recorded in 1994 -- when Republicans wrested majority control from the Democrats for the first time in 40 years -- and 2002, when the GOP achieved seat gains, a rarity for the president's party in midterm elections. In midterm years when Democrats prevailed at the polls (such as 2006, 1990, and 1986), their net support among registered voters typically extended into double digits at several points during the year -- something that has yet to happen in 2010.

Registered Voter Preferences in Vote for Congress -- Midterm Elections, 1962-2010

% Favoring Democratic candidate in own district minus % favoring Republican candidate

■ Net Democratic (positive number = Democratic lead; negative number = Republican lead)

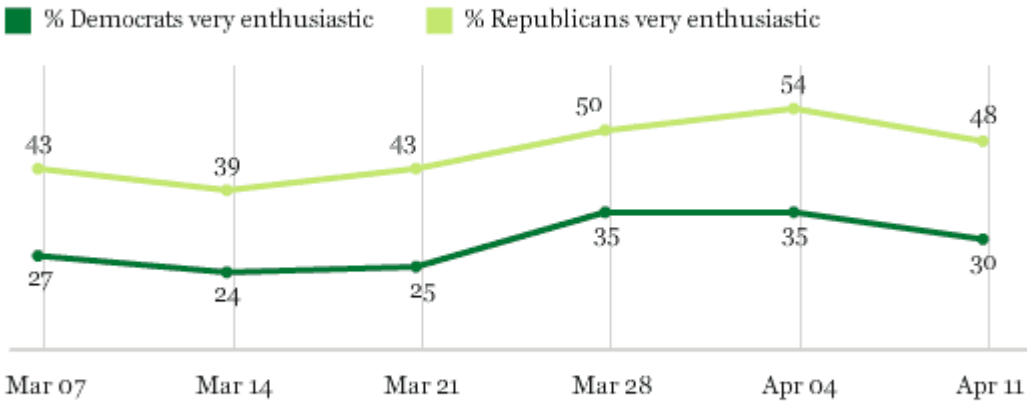


GALLUP®

Gallup will not begin identifying likely voters for the 2010 midterms until later in the year. However, at this early stage, Republicans show much greater enthusiasm than Democrats about voting in the elections. Enthusiasm among members of both parties peaked shortly after passage of the healthcare reform bill on March 21, but has since tapered off slightly.

*"Very Enthusiastic" About Voting in This Year's Congressional Elections;
Registered Voters, by Party Affiliation*

Would you say you are enthusiastic or not enthusiastic about voting in this year's congressional elections? (If enthusiastic): Are you very enthusiastic or somewhat enthusiastic?



Results based on weekly averages of Gallup Daily tracking; date indicates last day of interviewing for each week.

GALLUP®

Gallup tracks congressional voting preferences daily and reports the results on a weekly basis on [the Politics page](#).

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,613 registered voters, aged 18 and older, conducted April 5-11, 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.

Americans Blame President Bush for the Bad State of The Economy

The Pulse of Politics by Louis Harris: The State of the Republican Party
Apr 07, 2010

According to the latest Harris Poll, the Republicans are a long way from convincing the American people that it is time to return the GOP back to power in Washington. The public may have serious doubts and reservations about the Democrats, but the Republicans simply are not seen as the alternative either in terms of the stands the GOP has taken or the leaders who are thought to be dominant in today's national Republican Party.

Adding to the roster of Republican woes is the fact that the memory of President George W. Bush and the state of the economy he left as part of his legacy still sticks in the craw of Americans. When asked whom they most blame for the bad state of the economy, former President Bush tops the list, singled out by 31%. Wall Street, a major contributor of funds to the Republican Party, comes in second as most blamed by 25%. Then, much further down the blame list, are Democrats in Congress (16%) and President Obama (14%). Republicans in Congress finish next at 9%, with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke finishing last at 4%. This result is significant because there is little doubt that whoever is perceived as "owning" the state of the economy is likely to suffer both next November and again in the presidential contest in 2012.

These are some of the results of *The Harris Poll* of 2,344 adults surveyed online between March 10 and 12, 2010 by **Harris Interactive**.

We also asked who, among eight leading GOP figures, could be described as the most powerful person in the Republican Party. Among Republicans, former Governor Mitt Romney heads the list but with a rather paltry 14% who named him. He is followed by the 2008 GOP Vice-Presidential nominee Sarah Palin at 13% and then her running mate, John McCain, at 11%. Former Republican Speaker Newt Gingrich comes next at a 6%. Trailing in the rear are Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell and former Vice President Dick Cheney both at 4%, followed by House Republican leader John Boehner at 3%. The articulate Republican whip of the House, Eric Cantor, amassed a lonely 1% among his fellow Republicans. But 34% of Republicans are not sure who the most powerful person in their party is.

Apart from the overwhelming reality that the Republican Party is a political force in a desperate search for a leader, the most fascinating result centers on the poor showing of Dick Cheney. We asked directly if people would feel more inclined to vote Republican, "if former Vice President Dick Cheney became the most powerful force in the Republican Party." One-quarter (26%) of Republicans said they would be more likely to vote Republican. But a sizable majority said neither more nor less likely to vote Republican (57%), while 17% said less likely to vote for the GOP. Despite the senior status of Cheney among Republicans and the warm reception given him at a recent meeting of conservatives, it is obvious that most Republicans are not waiting with baited breath for a big leadership comeback by the former Vice President.

Put bluntly, the Republican Party is in dire need of another Ronald Reagan, as well as some positive stands on pivotal issues that its rank-and-file might be inspired by. Otherwise, the angry Tea Party movement is likely to coalesce behind Sarah Palin in a third party move that would cost all chances of a GOP comeback. It could also place doubt in the ability of the Republican Party, even in two way races, to gain seats in the House this fall.

**TABLE 1
MOST BLAME**

"If you had to pick one, who would you blame the most for the bad economic times the country is in?"

Base: All U.S. adults

Total	Political Party	Political Philosophy
-------	-----------------	----------------------

		Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Cons.	Mod.	Lib.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Former President George W. Bush	31	7	53	28	15	36	48
Wall Street	25	24	25	28	20	27	28
Democrats in Congress	16	37	3	14	32	11	3
President Barack Obama	14	26	3	15	26	11	5
Republicans in Congress	9	3	14	10	4	10	15
Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke	4	3	3	5	3	5	1

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

TABLE 2
POWERFUL REPUBLICAN

"Who do you think is the most powerful person in the Republican Party right now?"

Base: All U.S. adults

	Total	Political Party			Political Philosophy		
		Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Cons.	Mod.	Lib.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
John McCain	10	11	12	10	9	12	9
Sarah Palin	8	13	7	7	12	7	7
Mitt Romney	8	14	5	7	11	7	5
Dick Cheney	5	4	5	5	2	4	9
Newt Gingrich	4	6	2	4	7	3	1
Mitch McConnell	3	4	4	3	4	3	4
John Boehner	3	3	3	4	4	3	3
Eric Cantor	1	1	1	*	1	*	2
None of these	15	10	16	17	13	15	16
Not Sure	42	34	44	43	36	46	44

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

TABLE 3
DICK CHENEY

"If former Vice President Dick Cheney became the most powerful person in the Republican Party, how would that make you feel?"

Base: All U.S. adults

	TOTAL	Political Party			Political Philosophy		
		Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Con.	Mod.	Lib.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MORE LIKELY (NET)	12	26	3	10	27	6	4
Much more likely to vote Republican	7	16	1	5	17	3	2

Somewhat more likely to vote Republican	5	10	2	4	9	4	2
Neither more nor less likely to vote Republican	41	57	26	39	52	40	28
LESS LIKELY (NET)	47	17	71	52	21	54	69
Somewhat less likely to vote Republican	6	8	5	7	6	7	4
Much less likely to vote republican	40	9	66	45	16	47	64

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

Methodology

This Harris Poll was conducted online within the United States between March 10 and 12, 2010 among 2,344 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

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

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

About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is one of the world's leading custom market research firms, leveraging research, technology, and business acumen to transform relevant insight into actionable foresight. Known widely for the Harris Poll and for pioneering innovative research methodologies, Harris offers expertise in a wide range of industries including healthcare, technology, public affairs, energy, telecommunications, financial services, insurance, media, retail, restaurant, and consumer package goods. Serving clients in over 215 countries and territories through our North American, European, and Asian offices and a network of independent market research firms, Harris specializes in delivering research solutions that help us – and our clients – stay ahead of what's next. For more information, please visit www.harrisinteractive.com.

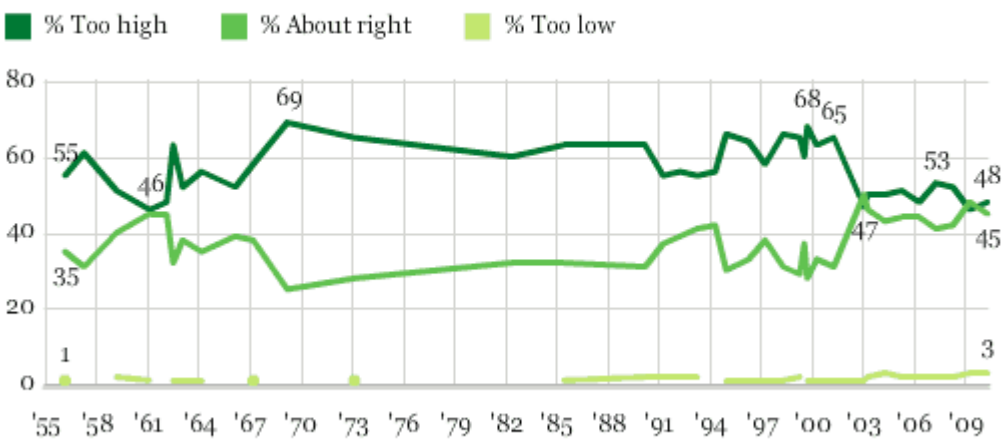
Americans Split on Whether Their Income Taxes Are Too High

Views since Bush tax cuts were implemented continue to be more positive

April 14, 2010

For the second straight year, slightly less than half of Americans say the amount of federal income tax they have to pay is too high, while almost as many say the amount they pay in taxes is about right.

Do you consider the amount of federal income tax you have to pay as too high, about right, or too low?



GALLUP®

Gallup has been asking Americans about taxes in this format since 1956. For most of this time, the majority of Americans have viewed their taxes as too high. This includes the 69% who felt this way in 1969, marking the highest "too high" percentage on record. As recently as 1999, 68% of Americans told Gallup their taxes were too high.

A big shift in these views came about in the last eight years, coincident with the implementation of the George W. Bush administration tax cuts. The "too high" percentage in Gallup's polling fell from 65% in April 2001 to 47% in January 2003 -- after the first Bush tax cuts became law.

Americans' views on taxes have fluctuated modestly since then, rising slightly to 53% "too high" in 2007, before dropping to 46% last year and 48% this year. Last year's percentage tied a reading from 1961 -- shortly after John F. Kennedy had been inaugurated as president -- for the lowest in Gallup history.

Throughout Gallup's history of asking this question, no more than 3% of Americans have ever said they pay "too little" in taxes.

There is not a great deal of differentiation in response to the tax question across major income groups.

Do you consider the amount of federal income tax you have to pay as too high, about right, or too low?

April 8-11, 2010

	% Too high	% About right	% Too low
All Americans	48	45	3
\$75,000+	48	49	3
\$50,000 to \$74,999	51	46	2
\$30,000 to \$49,999	50	46	3
\$20,000 to \$29,999	41	49	3
Less than \$20,000	44	39	5
Republican	54	43	2
Independent	52	41	2
Democrat	36	53	6

GALLUP®

Forty-eight percent of Americans in the \$75,000 and higher income group say their taxes are too high, exactly the same as the overall average. This is only marginally different from those in lower income categories. (Sample-size considerations dictate that the top income group Gallup uses for its basic surveys is \$75,000 and up. It is possible that the small numbers of Americans in higher income groups, in particular those making \$250,000 and up, would be more likely to complain that their taxes are too high.)

Republicans, who have generally been identified as favoring deeper tax cuts, are in fact most likely in the current survey to say their taxes are too high, albeit at a level (54%) that is only marginally above the overall average. Democrats are significantly less likely to say their taxes are too high, although 6% say the amount they pay in taxes is too low.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,020 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted April 8-11, 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.

Six in 10 Americans Expect Their Taxes to Increase

Majority of middle-, lower-income Americans expect a tax hike in next year

April 14, 2010

Sixty-three percent of Americans believe their taxes will increase in the next 12 months, while 4% expect a change that will reduce their taxes. Majorities of all income groups share this view, though it is more common among Americans in upper-income households.

During the next twelve months, do you think the taxes you pay will be changed so that they are higher, or lower, or won't there be any change?

Results overall and by annual household income level

	All Americans	\$75,000+ annual household income	\$30,000 to \$74,999 annual income	Less than \$30,000 annual income
Higher	63%	74%	64%	53%
No change	30%	21%	31%	38%
Lower	4%	4%	4%	5%

Gallup, April 8-11, 2010

GALLUP®

Americans in most demographic groups widely expect their taxes to increase over the next year, but there is pronounced variation among income groups, as noted, and by political party affiliation.

Specifically, 74% of Republicans expect their taxes to go up, as do 64% of independents. A proportionately lower 49% of Democrats share that view, but it is still the most common response within the group. Forty-one percent of Democrats expect their taxes to remain unchanged, and 6% think theirs will go down.

Expectations for Personal Taxes Over Next 12 Months, by Political Party Affiliation

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Higher	49%	64%	74%
No change	41%	30%	20%
Lower	6%	3%	4%

Gallup, April 8-11, 2010

GALLUP®

Expectations for a tax increase among the general U.S. population are much more common now than when Gallup last asked this question, in late 1994 -- after Republicans won control of both houses of Congress in that year's midterm elections. At that time, 35% expected their taxes to go up, 20% expected them to go down, and the plurality of 41% expected no change.

Gallup also asked the question during the Carter presidency, in April 1978 -- a year and three months into the Carter administration, which is the amount of time the Obama administration has been in office to date. At that time, Americans' expectations for their taxes were similar to what Gallup finds today: 60% expected their taxes to go higher, 7% expected them to go lower, and 25% thought they would stay the same.

Bottom Line

President Obama cut federal income taxes for low- and middle-income Americans in the economic stimulus plan, and is looking to extend the Bush-era tax cuts on middle-income families in his 2011 budget; still, a majority of people in low- and middle-income households expect their taxes to be raised over the next 12 months.

Although the question in the current poll does not specifically mention federal income taxes, it was (and has in the past been) asked after a series of questions on income taxes, such as those reported here. Thus, respondents are most likely thinking in terms of changes to their federal income taxes rather than state or local taxes.

Despite the president's tax policies to date and his plans for the future, middle- and lower-income Americans may perceive that the federal government will need to raise taxes to pay for its greater spending and rising deficits since Obama took office, including the recently passed healthcare legislation, with its price tag of just under \$1 trillion.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,020 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Month Day-Day, 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).

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Most Americans See Home Prices Stable or Rising

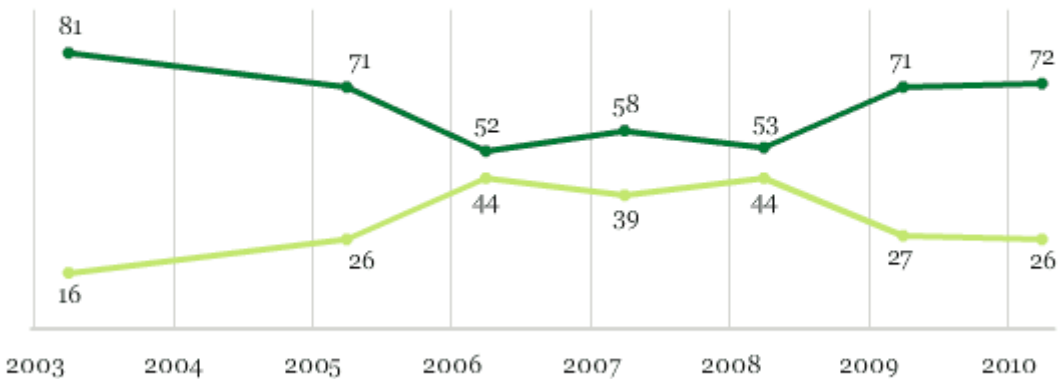
Seventy-two percent think now is a good time to buy a house

April 15, 2010

Lower but stabilizing home prices combined with continued low mortgage interest rates have persuaded 72% of Americans that now is a "good time" to buy a house -- essentially the same percentage as a year ago, but up 19 points from 2008.

For people in general, do you think that now is a GOOD time or a BAD time to buy a house?

■ % Good time ■ % Bad time



GALLUP®

Better Price Expectations

More importantly, Americans' expectations about housing prices have improved markedly from last year -- potentially encouraging prospective buyers to take advantage of the current home-buying opportunity, and thereby making it easy for homeowners to sell. Thirty-four percent of Americans expect the average price of houses in their area to increase over the next year -- up 12 points from last year, and the highest such expectations in Gallup's monitoring since June 2007. When this is combined with the 43% expecting house prices to stay the same, a total of 77% of Americans see housing values in their area stabilizing or moving higher during the year ahead. To the degree that potential home buyers agree, this should significantly reduce their fear that the homes they buy could decline in value shortly after purchase.

Over the next year, do you think the average price of houses in your area will increase, stay the same, or decrease?

	Increase	Stay the same	Decrease
	%	%	%
April 2010	34	43	22
April 2009	22	42	34
April 2008	29	31	38
April 2007	52	29	18
April 2006	60	27	11
May 2005	70	24	5

GALLUP®

Expectations for housing prices are best in the East and the West, followed closely by the South; they are poorest in the Midwest.

Over the next year, do you think that the average price of houses in your area will increase, stay the same, or decrease?

By region, April 2010

	Increase	Stay the same	Decrease
	%	%	%
East	39	44	17
Midwest	24	48	28
South	34	42	23
West	39	38	20

GALLUP®

Commentary

Americans' recognition that now is a good time to buy a house is good news not only for everyone associated with the real estate business but also for the economy overall. Even better, it appears that in many local real estate markets, housing price expectations are for stable or increasing prices over the next 12 months, giving prospective home buyers in these areas another reason to buy now. Further, mortgage money from the federal government continues to be available at historically low rates through such agencies as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and FHA/VA, although today's underwriting standards are more stringent than those during the housing boom.

While an overhang of foreclosures and distress sales continues to depress some areas, the basic problem facing housing in 2010-2011 is the same as that challenging the overall economy: jobs. Buying a home is the most important purchase and largest financial commitment most people

make during their lives. For most Americans, it is hard to feel financially secure enough to make such a commitment in an economy in which 20% of the U.S. workforce is underemployed.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,020 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted April 8-11, 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.

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Tomorrow's News

April 12, 2010

America's news executives are hesitant about many of the alternative funding ideas being discussed for journalism today and are overwhelmingly skeptical about the prospect of government financing, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism in association with the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) and the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA).

Many news executives, however, sense change for the better in their newsrooms despite cutbacks and declining revenue. Editors at newspaper-related companies praise the cultural shifts in their organizations, the younger, tech-savvy staff, and a growing sense of experimentation. Many broadcast executives see so-called one-person crews -- in which the same individual reports, produces and shoots video -- as improving their journalism by getting more people on the street.

But the leaders of America's newsrooms are nonetheless worried about the future. Fewer than half of all those surveyed are confident their operations will survive another 10 years -- absent significant new sources of revenue. Nearly a third believe their operations are at risk in just five years or less. And many blame the problems not on the inevitable effect of technology but on their industry's missed opportunities.

"Our mantra this year is experiment and fail quickly," one newspaper news executive volunteered. "Don't be afraid of change and don't stick with something too long if it doesn't work."

"Outside funding options are a bad idea overall," another broadcast news executive offered. "They are being used to 'save' old models of journalism that are no longer economically viable and will die out over time no matter what."

The survey found some significant differences between the attitudes of leaders of newspaper-based newsrooms and those of broadcast. Among them was their view of journalism's future. Broadcast news executives were strikingly more pessimistic, with those who see journalism headed in the wrong direction outnumbering those who think it is headed in the right direction by almost two-to-one. Leaders of newspaper newsrooms, by contrast, are split, with a slight tilt toward optimism.

These are some of the findings of a non-random online sample of 353 journalism executives from the ASNE or RTDNA membership lists, recruited via e-mail invitation from December 2009 through January 2010. In all, 353 news executives responded, representing 36% of those surveyed from ASNE and 24% from RTDNA.

Among the findings:

- Many of the new revenue options being debated today receive only limited or divided support from news executives. When it comes to the often-discussed option of pay walls for online content, for instance, only 10% say they are working on them, though that could change. Another 32% are considering them while 11% have written off the idea. More than a third (35%) have not considered them at all. Still, as they look ahead, only 15% of news executives believe pay walls will be a significant source of revenue in three years.
- There is significant resistance, however, to other discussed revenue streams, particularly from the government or from groups that engage in advocacy. Fully 75% of news executives have serious reservations about receiving government subsidies, and 78% have significant reluctance to accept financing from interest groups. Roughly half have significant worries about funds from government tax credits and more than a third have significant doubts about private donations.
- Most of the effort online is focused instead on more conventional revenue sources. Display and banner online advertising, for all that it has failed to grow, is still the No. 1 area of effort and the one that news executives pin their greatest hopes on. But second is revenue from products outside of news.
- Broadcast news executives are noticeably more pessimistic about journalism's future than editors at newspaper-based operations. Broadcasters think their profession is headed in the wrong direction by a margin of nearly two-to-one (64% vs. 35%). By contrast, editors working at newspapers were split (49% wrong direction vs. 51% right direction). A year ago, journalists who were members of the Online News Association surveyed by PEJ fell in between these two: 54% wrong direction, 45% right direction.
- And most news executives think the internet is changing the fundamental values of journalism. Six out of ten feel this way -- though executives from broadcast operations (62%) do so more than executives from newspapers (53%). Their biggest concern is loosening standards of accuracy and verification, much of it tied to the immediacy of the Web.

- Mobile applications are becoming increasingly important. Three-quarters say mobile applications are essential or very important while just 35% say that of YouTube postings or other video websites.

Americans Dread Foreign and Domestic Terrorism

April 14, 2010

Many adults in the United States foresee an act of terrorism taking place on U.S. soil in the next year, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 69 per cent of respondents think an attack carried out by foreigners is likely to happen, while 58 per cent feel foresee an act of terrorism carried out by Americans.

In April 1995, a bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. Timothy McVeigh was convicted of 11 federal offences—including use of a weapon of mass destruction and first-degree murder—and sentenced to death. McVeigh was executed in June 2001.

In November 2009, 13 people were killed and 30 more were wounded when a gunman opened fire inside Fort Hood, the most populous U.S. military base in the world. The suspected gunman was identified as Nidal Malik Hasan, an army psychiatrist and a Muslim.

Earlier this year, nine people thought to be members of a Michigan Christian militia group called Hutaree were arrested for their alleged involvement in a plot to kill various police officers, and a group called Guardians of the free Republics sent letters to all U.S. governors, warning them to leave office within three days or be removed.

National Intelligence director Dennis Blair discussed the current state of affairs, saying, "Thus far, radicalization of groups and individuals in the United States has done more to spread jihadist ideology and generate support for violent causes overseas than it has produced terrorists targeting the homeland. (...) The tragic violence at Fort Hood last year underscores our concerns about the damage that even an individual or small number of home-grown extremists can do if they have the will and access."

Polling Data

How likely is it that each of the following events will happen in the next year?

	Very likely	/ Moderately likely	/ Not too likely	/ Not sure
A terrorist attack on U.S. soil carried out by foreigners	69%		22%	9%
A terrorist attack on U.S. soil	58%		32%	9%

carried out by Americans

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,005 American adults, conducted on Apr. 6 and Apr. 7, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Americans in Tune with Obama on Nuclear Weapons

April 13, 2010

Most people in the United States agree with the notion that there should be fewer nuclear weapons in the world, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 36 per cent of respondents think the U.S. government should focus on eliminating weapons worldwide, while 35 per cent think it should try to reduce the number of nuclear arms in the world.

The proportion of people wanting the full elimination of nuclear armament has dropped 13 points since 2007.

Before the start of 2005, seven countries in the world—Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, Russia and the U.S.—had acknowledged possessing nuclear arsenals. Under the "strategic ambiguity" policy, Israel has refused to publicly discuss its purported nuclear capabilities. In February 2005, the government of North Korea admitted publicly for the first time that it possesses nuclear weapons.

On Apr. 8, U.S. president Barack Obama and Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev signed an agreement to reduce the two countries' nuclear warheads by 25 to 30 per cent. Obama vowed further action on this matter, declaring, "This treaty will set the stage for further cuts, and going forward, we hope to pursue further discussions with Russia on reducing both our strategic and tactical weapons, including non-deployed weapons."

Polling Data

What should be the goal of the United States government when it comes to nuclear weapons?

	2010	2007
Eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide	36%	49%
Reducing the number of nuclear weapons in the world to lower levels	35%	34%
Maintaining the current number of nuclear weapons in the world	12%	6%
Developing new nuclear weapons	6%	3%
Not sure	11%	9%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,005 American adults, conducted on Mar. 31 and Apr. 1, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Few Canadians Endorse Bigger House of Commons

April 12, 2010

Few people in Canada support a government proposal to increase the number of seats in the lower house of Parliament from 308 to 338, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 17 per cent of respondents think this would be beneficial for Canada, whereas 31 per cent say it would be detrimental.

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

The Harper government has introduced legislation seeking to increase the number of seats in the House of Commons. Under the plan, the province of Ontario would get 18 new mandates, British Columbia would get seven, and Alberta would get five.

On Apr. 1, Canadian democratic reform minister Steven Fletcher defended the government's bill saying that more populated provinces should have more seats, and adding, "Canadians deserve better. Our government deeply believes that each vote in Canadian elections should carry equal weight to the greatest extent possible."

Polling Data

Do you think having more MPs in the House of Commons will be good for Canada or bad for Canada?

Good for Canada	17%
Bad for Canada	31%
It will have no effect	31%
Not sure	21%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,006 Canadian adults, conducted on Apr. 6 and Apr. 7, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Canadian Majority Would Legalize Marijuana

April 18, 2010

Many adults in Canada believe marijuana should be legalized, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents agree with this idea.

Less than seven per cent of respondents want other drugs—such as ecstasy, powder cocaine, heroin, crack cocaine and crystal meth—to be legalized.

In July 2002, Canada became the first nation in the world to regulate the consumption of cannabis for medical reasons. In the 2004 federal election, the Marijuana party—which seeks the outright legalization of the substance—received 0.3 per cent of the popular vote.

In November 2004, the Canadian federal government—headed at the time by Liberal prime minister Paul Martin—re-introduced a controversial bill that sought "alternate penalty frameworks" for the possession of small amounts of marijuana. The bill, which would have allowed any person caught with 15 grams of the drug or less to face fines instead of criminal charges, was never put to a vote in the House of Commons.

On Mar. 16, Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper appeared on YouTube and answered several questions previously submitted by Canadians. On the topic of marijuana legalization, Harper declared: "I understand that people defend the use of drugs, but that said (...) I think I've been very fortunate to live a drug-free life, and I don't meet many people who've led a drug-free life who regret it. Met a lot of people who haven't, who've regretted it. So this is something that we want to encourage obviously for our children, for everybody's children."

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs? - "Strongly support" and "Moderately support" listed

	Apr. 2010	May 2008
Marijuana	53%	53%
Ecstasy	6%	9%
Crack cocaine	5%	8%
Powder cocaine	5%	9%
Heroin	5%	8%
Methamphetamine or "crystal meth"	4%	7%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,010 Canadian adults, conducted on Apr. 8 and Apr. 9, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

NDP Holds Double-Digit Lead in British Columbia

April 18, 2010

The opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) has extended its advantage in British Columbia, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 47 per cent of respondents would vote for the NDP in the next provincial election, up four points since March.

The governing BC Liberals are in second place with 29 per cent, followed by the BC Greens with 15 per cent and the BC Conservatives with five per cent.

In the 2001 election, the BC Liberals—led by Gordon Campbell—took control of 77 seats in the British Columbia Legislature, with the remaining two going to the NDP. The New Democrats had administered the westernmost province of Canada under four different premiers since

November 1991. British Columbia voters renewed their provincial legislature in May 2005. Campbell earned a new four-year term in office, with 46 seats. The opposition NDP—led by Carole James—elected 33 lawmakers.

In the May 2009 election, the BC Liberals secured a third consecutive majority mandate, with 46 per cent of the vote and 49 of the 85 seats at stake. The NDP received 42 per cent of the vote and won 35 seats.

Last year, the BC government outlined a proposal to implement a harmonized sales tax (HST). This decision has spawned a grass-roots movement that seeks to hold a referendum in order to repeal the tax, which is expected to come into effect on Jul. 1.

On Mar. 30, BC NDP leader Carole James declared: "The public has spoken loudly and clearly. They don't want the HST, it's not going to be good for the economy, it's going to slow down consumer confidence and once again we don't see the government listening."

Polling Data

If a provincial election were held tomorrow in British Columbia, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Nov. 2009
BC New Democratic Party (NDP)	47%	43%	47%
BC Liberals	29%	35%	33%
BC Greens	15%	13%	10%
BC Conservatives	5%	6%	7%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 800 British Columbia adults, conducted from Apr. 12 to Apr. 14, 2010. Margin of error is 3.5 per cent.

Serra Barely Ahead of Rousseff in Brazil

April 14, 2010

Brazilians could be facing a tight first round in this year's presidential election, according to a poll by Vox Populi released by Bandeirantes. 34 per cent of respondents would vote for Jose Serra of the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB) in the upcoming ballot.

Dilma Rousseff of the ruling Workers' Party (PT) is a close second with 31 per cent, followed by Ciro Gomes of the Socialist People's Party (PSB) with 10 per cent, and Marina Silva of the Green Party (PV) with seven per cent.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva—a member of the PT—won the October 2002 presidential election with 61 per cent of the vote in a run-off against Serra. In October 2006, he earned a new four-year term, defeating PSDB candidate Geraldo Alckmin with 60.8 per cent of the vote in the second round.

Lula has publicly endorsed Rousseff as his preferred successor. In February, the PT officially selected Rousseff as the party's presidential candidate.

In March, Rousseff stepped down as Lula's chief of staff and Serra resigned as governor of the state of Sao Paulo in order to launch their presidential bids.

On Mar. 31, Serra spoke about himself, saying, "I am considered an obsessive person, but my biggest obsession has been to serve the interests of my state and of my country."

Lula is ineligible for a third term in office. The first round of Brazil's next presidential election is scheduled for Oct. 3.

Polling Data

Who would you vote for in the next presidential election?

Jose Serra (PSDB)	34%
Dilma Rousseff (PT)	31%
Ciro Gomes (PSB)	10%
Marina Silva PV)	7%
None / Blank ballot	7%
Not sure / Undecided	13%

Source: Vox Populi / Bandeirantes

Methodology: Interviews with 2,000 Brazilian adults, conducted on Mar. 30 and Mar. 31, 2010.

Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa

April 15, 2010

The vast majority of people in many sub-Saharan African nations are deeply committed to the practices and major tenets of one or the other of the world's two largest religions, Christianity and Islam. Large majorities say they belong to one of these faiths, and, in sharp contrast with Europe and the United States, very few people are religiously unaffiliated. Despite the dominance of Christianity and Islam, traditional African religious beliefs and practices have not disappeared. Rather, they coexist with Islam and Christianity. Whether or not this entails some theological tension, it is a reality in people's lives: Large numbers of Africans actively participate in Christianity or Islam yet also believe in witchcraft, evil spirits, sacrifices to ancestors, traditional religious healers, reincarnation and other elements of traditional African religions.¹

Christianity and Islam also coexist with each other. Many Christians and Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa describe members of the other faith as tolerant and honest. In most countries, relatively few see evidence of widespread anti-Muslim or anti-Christian hostility, and on the whole they give their governments high marks for treating both religious groups fairly. But they

acknowledge that they know relatively little about each other's faith, and substantial numbers of African Christians (roughly 40% or more in a dozen nations) say they consider Muslims to be violent. Muslims are significantly more positive in their assessment of Christians than Christians are in their assessment of Muslims.

There are few significant gaps, however, in the degree of support among Christians and Muslims for democracy. Regardless of their faith, most sub-Saharan Africans say they favor democracy and think it is a good thing that people from other religions are able to practice their faith freely. At the same time, there is substantial backing among Muslims and Christians alike for government based on either the Bible or sharia law, and considerable support among Muslims for the imposition of severe punishments such as stoning people who commit adultery.

These are among the key findings from more than 25,000 face-to-face interviews conducted on behalf of the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life in more than 60 languages or dialects in 19 sub-Saharan African nations from December 2008 to April 2009. (For additional details, see the [survey methodology](#).) The countries were selected to span this vast geographical region and to reflect different colonial histories, linguistic backgrounds and religious compositions. In total, the countries surveyed contain three-quarters of the total population of sub-Saharan Africa. (View a PDF [map](#) of the 19 countries surveyed.)

Other Findings

In addition, the 19-nation survey finds:

- Africans generally rank unemployment, crime and corruption as bigger problems than religious conflict. However, substantial numbers of people (including nearly six-in-ten Nigerians and Rwandans) say religious conflict is a very big problem in their country.
- The degree of concern about religious conflict varies from country to country but tracks closely with the degree of concern about ethnic conflict in many countries, suggesting that they are often related.
- Many Africans are concerned about religious extremism, including within their own faith. Indeed, many Muslims say they are more concerned about Muslim extremism than about Christian extremism, and Christians in four countries say they are more concerned about Christian extremism than about Muslim extremism.
- Neither Christianity nor Islam is growing significantly in sub-Saharan Africa at the expense of the other; there is virtually no net change in either direction through religious switching.
- At least half of all Christians in every country surveyed expect that Jesus will return to earth in their lifetime, while roughly 30% or more of Muslims expect to live to see the re-establishment of the caliphate, the golden age of Islamic rule.
- People who say violence against civilians in defense of one's religion is rarely or never justified vastly outnumber those who say it is sometimes or often justified. But

substantial minorities (20% or more) in many countries say violence against civilians in defense of one's religion is sometimes or often justified.

- In most countries, at least half of Muslims say that women should not have the right to decide whether to wear a veil, saying instead that the decision should be up to society as a whole.
- Circumcision of girls (female genital cutting) is highest in the predominantly Muslim countries of Mali and Djibouti but is more common among Christians than among Muslims in Uganda.
- Majorities in almost every country say that Western music, movies and television have harmed morality in their nation. Yet majorities in most countries also say they personally like Western entertainment.
- In most countries, more than half of Christians believe in the prosperity gospel - that God will grant wealth and good health to people who have enough faith.
- By comparison with people in many other regions of the world, sub-Saharan Africans are much more optimistic that their lives will change for the better.

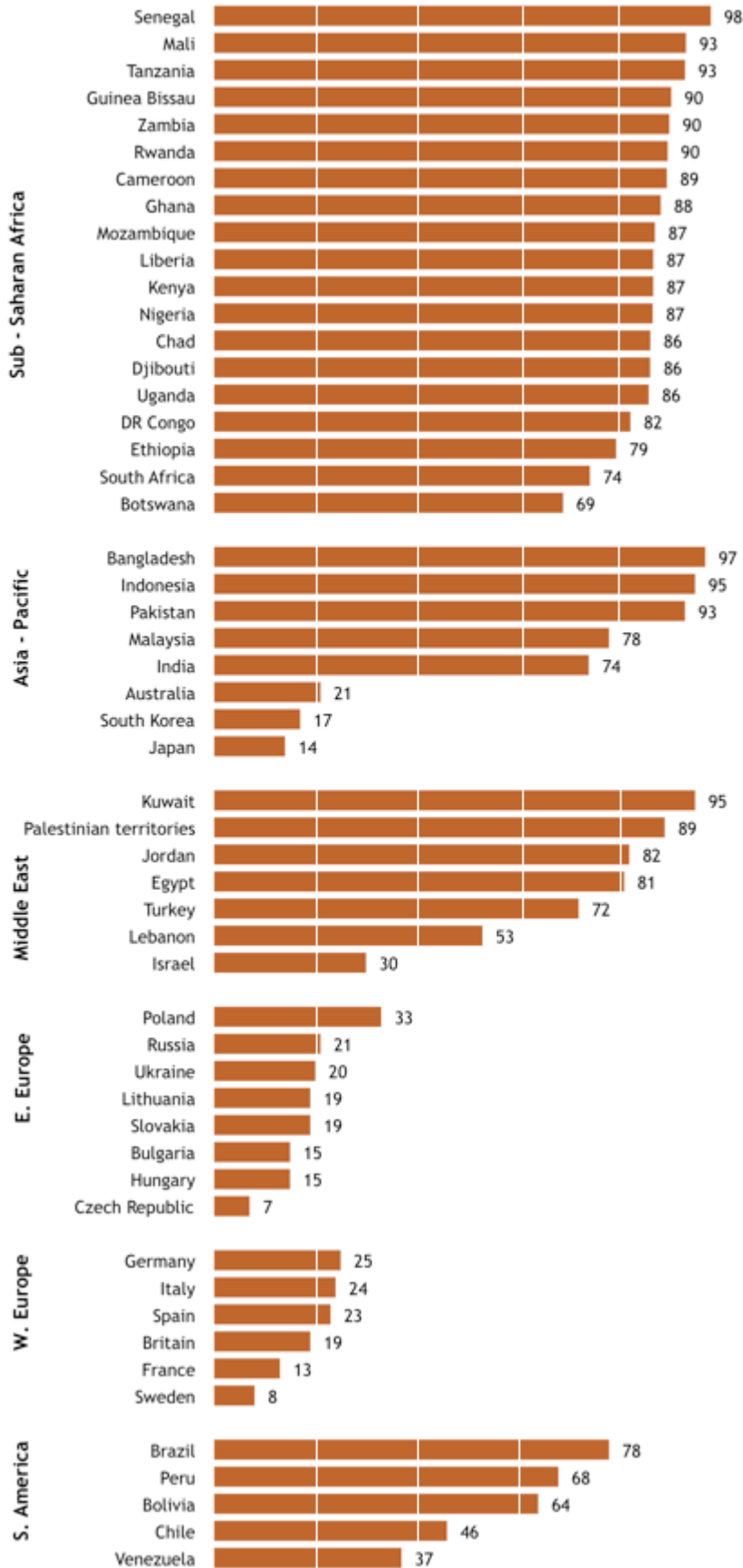
Adherence to Islam and Christianity

Large majorities in all the countries surveyed say they believe in one God and in heaven and hell, and large numbers of Christians and Muslims alike believe in the literal truth of their scriptures (either the Bible or the Koran). Most people also say they attend worship services at least once a week, pray every day (in the case of Muslims, generally five times a day), fast during the holy periods of Ramadan or Lent, and give religious alms (tithing for Christians, zakat for Muslims; see the [glossary of terms](#) for more information about tithing and zakat).

Indeed, sub-Saharan Africa is clearly among the most religious places in the world. In many countries across the continent, roughly nine-in-ten people or more say religion is *very important* in their lives. By this key measure, even the least religiously inclined nations in the region score higher than the United States, which is among the most religious of the advanced industrial countries.

Importance of Religion

% saying religion is very important in their lives



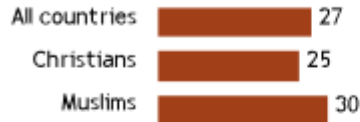
Persistence of Traditional African Religious Practices

At the same time, many of those who indicate they are deeply committed to the practice of Christianity or Islam also incorporate elements of African traditional religions into their daily lives. For example, in four countries (Tanzania, Mali, Senegal and South Africa) more than half the people surveyed believe that sacrifices to ancestors or spirits can protect them from harm.

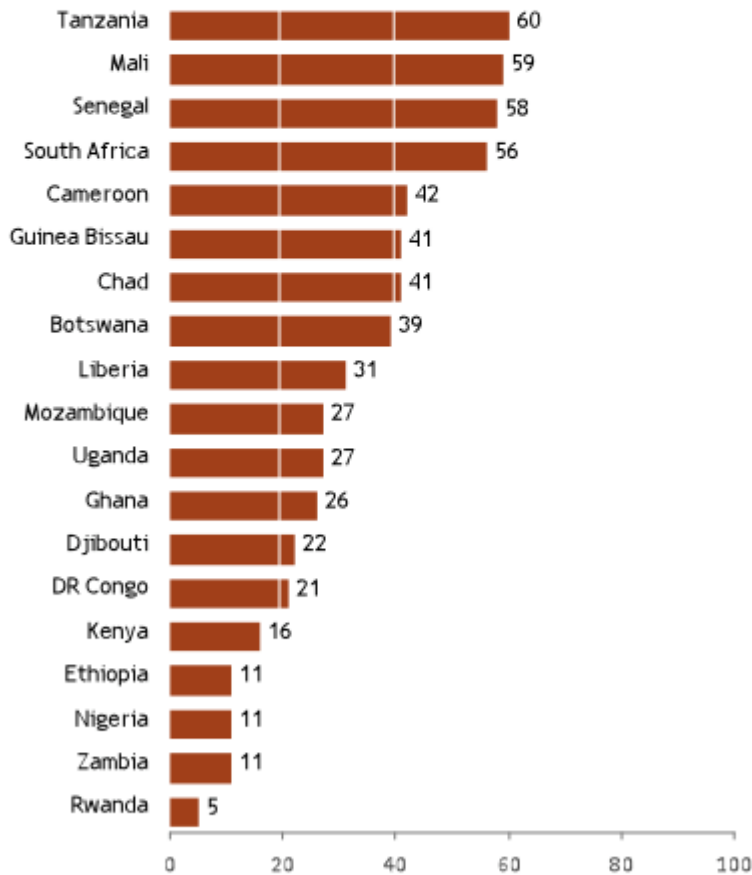
Belief in the Protective Power of Sacrifices to Spirits or Ancestors

% who believe sacrifices to spirits or ancestors can protect them from bad things happening

Median results:



Among general population in...



Q51i. Which, if any, of the following do you believe in? That sacrifices to spirits or ancestors can protect you from bad things happening.

Sizable percentages of both Christians and Muslims - a quarter or more in many countries - say they believe in the protective power of juju (charms or amulets). Many people also say they

consult traditional religious healers when someone in their household is sick, and sizable minorities in several countries keep sacred objects such as animal skins and skulls in their homes and participate in ceremonies to honor their ancestors. And although relatively few people today identify themselves primarily as followers of a traditional African religion, many people in

Quick Definition: African Traditional Religions

Handed down over generations, indigenous African religions have no formal creeds or sacred texts comparable to the Bible or Koran. They find expression, instead, in oral traditions, myths, rituals, festivals, shrines, art and symbols. In the past, Westerners sometimes described them as animism, paganism, ancestor worship or simply superstition, but today scholars acknowledge the existence of sophisticated African traditional religions whose primary role is to provide for human well-being in the present as opposed to offering salvation in a future world.

Because beliefs and practices vary across ethnic groups and regions, some experts perceive a multitude of different traditional religions in Africa. Others point to unifying themes and, thus, prefer to think of a single faith with local differences.

In general, traditional religion in Africa is characterized by belief in a supreme being who created and ordered the world but is often experienced as distant or unavailable to humans. Lesser divinities or spirits who are more accessible are sometimes believed to act as intermediaries. A number of traditional myths explain the creation and ordering of the world and provide explanations for contemporary social relationships and norms. Lapsed social responsibilities or violations of taboos are widely believed to result in hardship, suffering and illness for individuals or communities and must be countered with ritual acts to re-establish order, harmony and well-being.

Ancestors, considered to be in the spirit world, are believed to be part of the human community. Believers hold that ancestors sometimes act as emissaries between living beings and the divine, helping to maintain social order and withdrawing their support if the living behave wrongly. Religious specialists, such as diviners and healers, are called upon to discern what infractions are at the root of misfortune and to prescribe the appropriate rituals or traditional medicines to set things right.

African traditional religions tend to personify evil. Believers often blame witches or sorcerers for attacking their life-force, causing illness or other harm. They seek to protect themselves with ritual acts, sacred objects and traditional medicines. African slaves carried these beliefs and practices to the Americas, where they have evolved into religions such as Voodoo in Haiti and Santeria in Cuba.

several countries say they have relatives who identify with these traditional faiths.

Tolerance, but Also Tensions

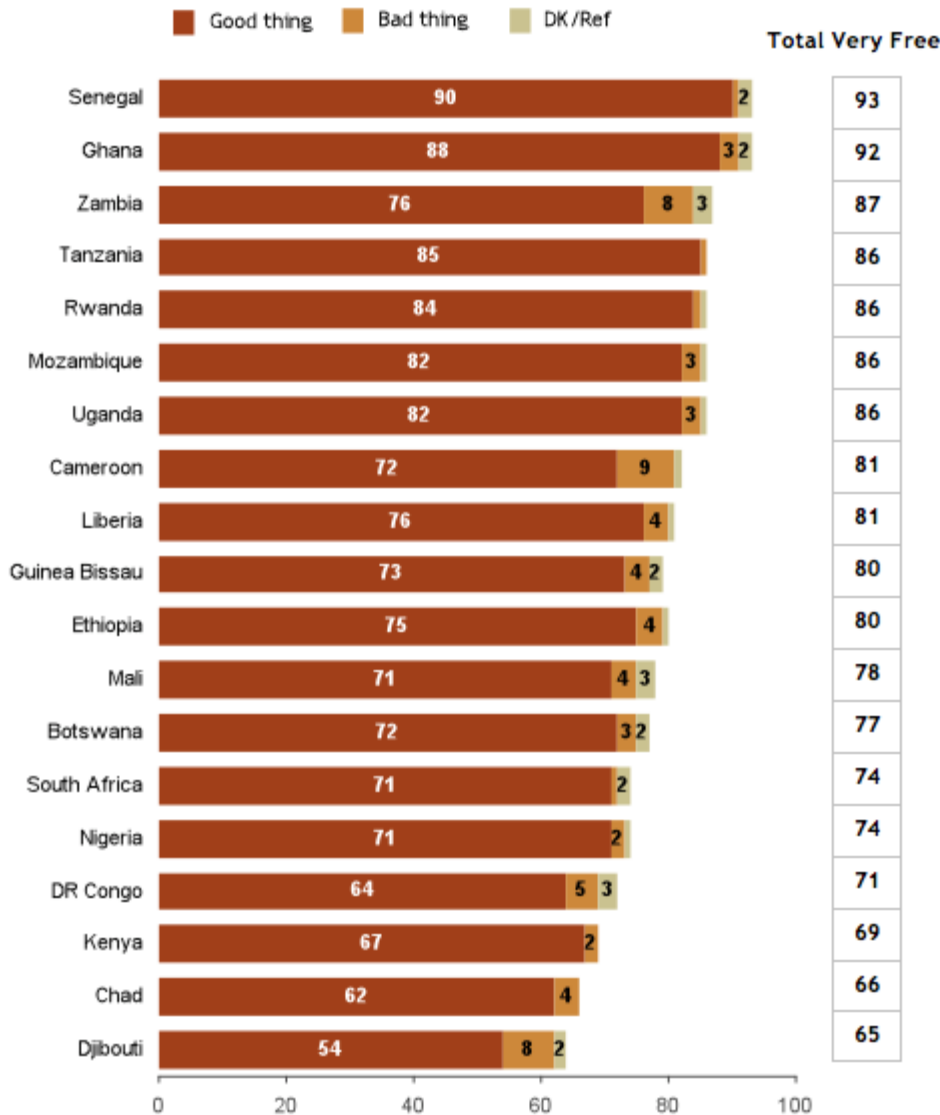
The survey finds that on several measures, many Muslims and Christians hold favorable views of each other. Muslims generally say Christians are tolerant, honest and respectful of women, and in most countries half or more Christians say Muslims are honest, devout and respectful of

women. In roughly half the countries surveyed, majorities also say they trust people who have different religious values than their own.

Sizable majorities in every country surveyed say that people of different faiths are very free to practice their religion, and most add that this is a good thing rather than a bad thing. In most countries, majorities say it is all right if their political leaders are of a different religion than their own. And in most countries, significant minorities (20% or more) of people who attend religious services say that their mosque or church works across religious lines to address community problems.

Most Think Others Are Very Free to Practice Their Religion and See This as a Good Thing

% who see others as very free to practice faith and think this is a...



Q18. *And in our country, how free are people from religions different than yours to practice their religion? Do you feel they are very free to practice their religion, somewhat free, not too free, or not at all free to practice their religion?*

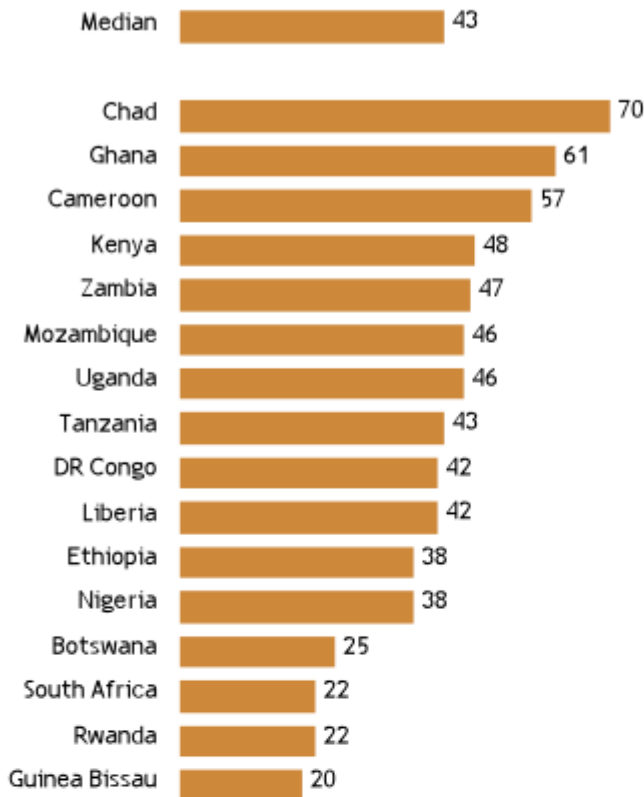
Q19. *And is this a good thing or a bad thing?*

On the other hand, the survey also reveals clear signs of tension and division. Overall, Christians are less positive in their views of Muslims than Muslims are of Christians; substantial numbers

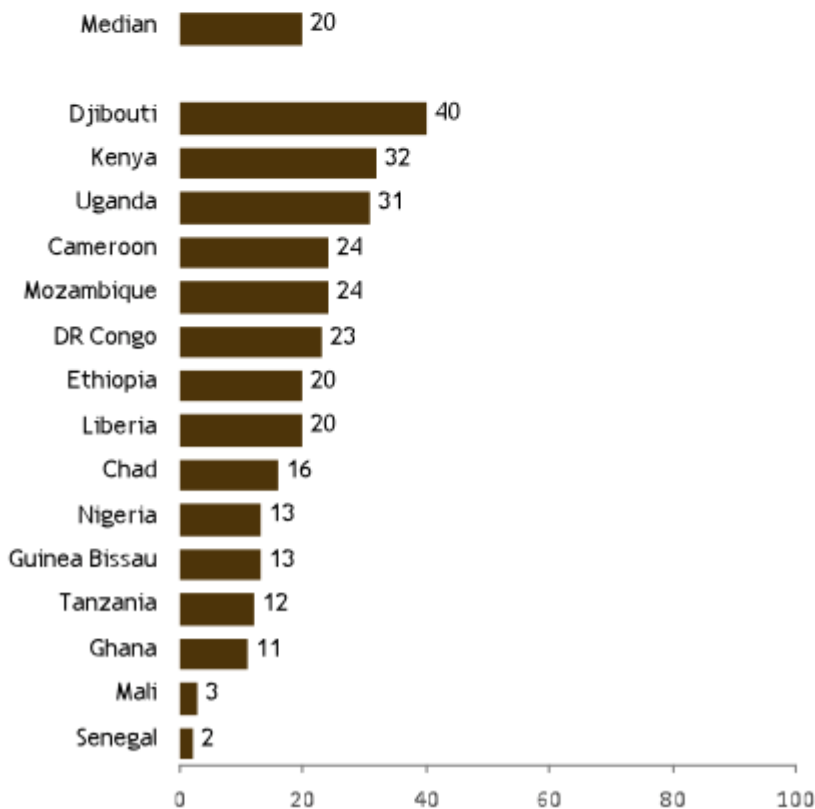
of Christians (ranging from 20% in Guinea Bissau to 70% in Chad) say they think of Muslims as violent. In a handful of countries, a third or more of Christians say many or most Muslims are hostile toward Christians, and in a few countries a third or more of Muslims say many or most Christians are hostile toward Muslims.

Muslims More Widely Seen as Violent than Christians

% of Christians who see Muslims as violent



% of Muslims who see Christians as violent



What Is a Median?

The median is the middle number in a list of numbers sorted from highest to lowest. For many questions in this report, medians are shown to help readers see differences between Muslim and Christian subpopulations and general populations, or to highlight differences between sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the world.

In charts showing results from all 19 countries on a particular question, the median for “all countries” is the 10th spot on the list. In charts where there is an even number of countries in the list and there is no country exactly in the middle, the median is computed as the average of the two countries at the middle of the list (e.g., where 16 nations are shown, the median is the average of the 8th and 9th countries on the list).

To help readers see whether Muslims and Christians differ significantly on certain questions, separate medians for Christians and Muslims also are shown. The median for Christians is based on the survey results among Christians in each of the 16 countries with a Christian population large enough to analyze. The median for Muslims is based on the survey results among Muslims in each of the 15 countries with a Muslim population large enough to analyze.

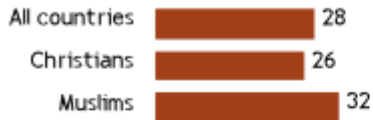
By their own reckoning, neither Christians nor Muslims in the region know very much about each other's faith. In most countries, fewer than half of Christians say they know either some or a great deal about Islam, and fewer than half of Muslims say they know either some or a great deal about Christianity. Moreover, people in most countries surveyed, especially Christians, tend to view the two faiths as very different rather than as having a lot in common. And many people say they are not comfortable with the idea of their children marrying a spouse from outside their religion.

People throughout the region generally see conflict between religious groups as a modest problem compared with other issues such as unemployment, crime and corruption. Still, substantial numbers in all the countries surveyed except Botswana and Zambia say religious conflict is a *very big* problem in their country, reaching a high of 58% in Nigeria and Rwanda. In addition, substantial minorities (20% or more) in many countries say that violence against civilians in defense of one's religion can sometimes or often be justified. And large numbers (more than 40%) in nearly every country express concern about extremist religious groups in their nation, including within their own religious community in some instances. Indeed, in almost all countries in which Muslims constitute at least 10% of the population, Muslims are more concerned about Muslim extremism than they are about Christian extremism, while in a few overwhelmingly Christian countries, including South Africa, Christians are more concerned about Christian extremism than about Muslim extremism. And in many countries, sizable numbers express concern about both Muslim and Christian extremism.

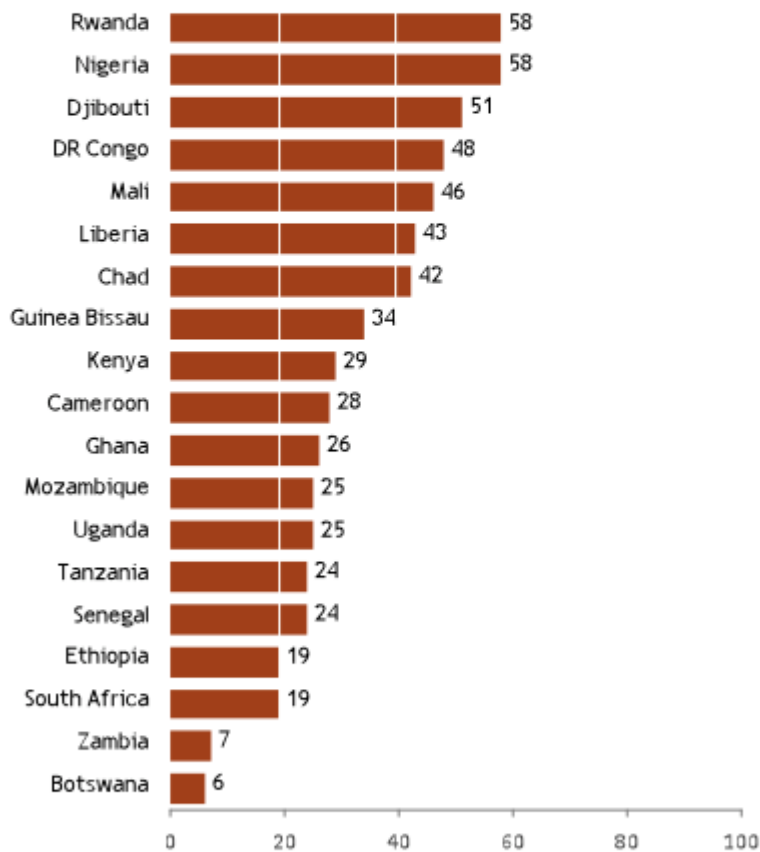
Views of Religious Conflict

% saying conflict between religious groups is a very big problem in their country

Median results:



Among general population in...



Q8b. Here is a list of things that may be problems in our country. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it is a very big problem, a moderately big problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all. Conflict between religious groups.

Support for Both Democracy and Religious Law

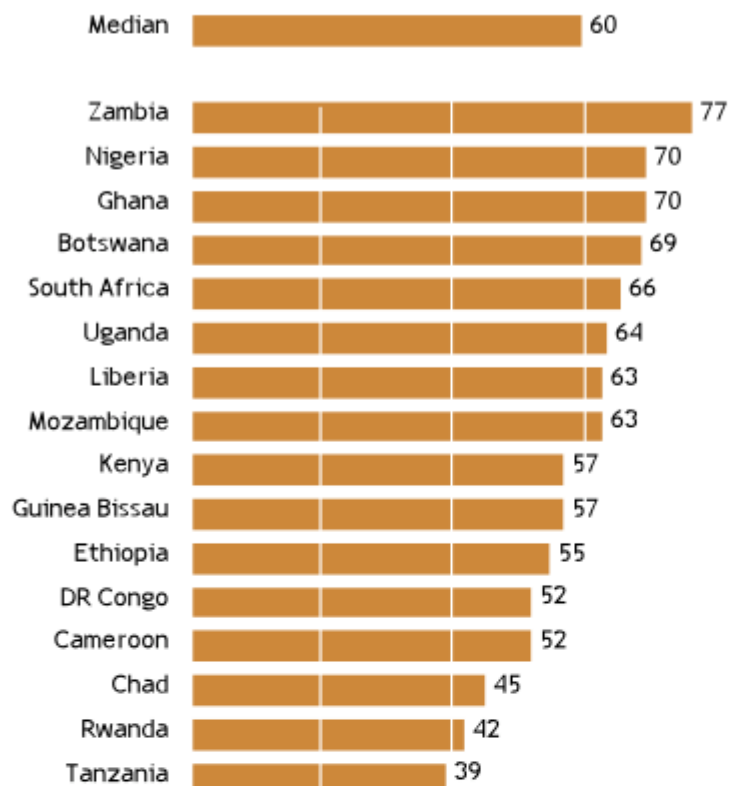
Across the sub-Saharan region, large numbers of people express strong support for democracy and say it is a good thing that people from religions different than their own are able to practice their faith freely. Asked whether democracy is preferable to any other kind of government or "in

some circumstances, a nondemocratic government can be preferable," strong majorities in every country choose democracy. In most places there is no significant difference between Muslims and Christians on this question.

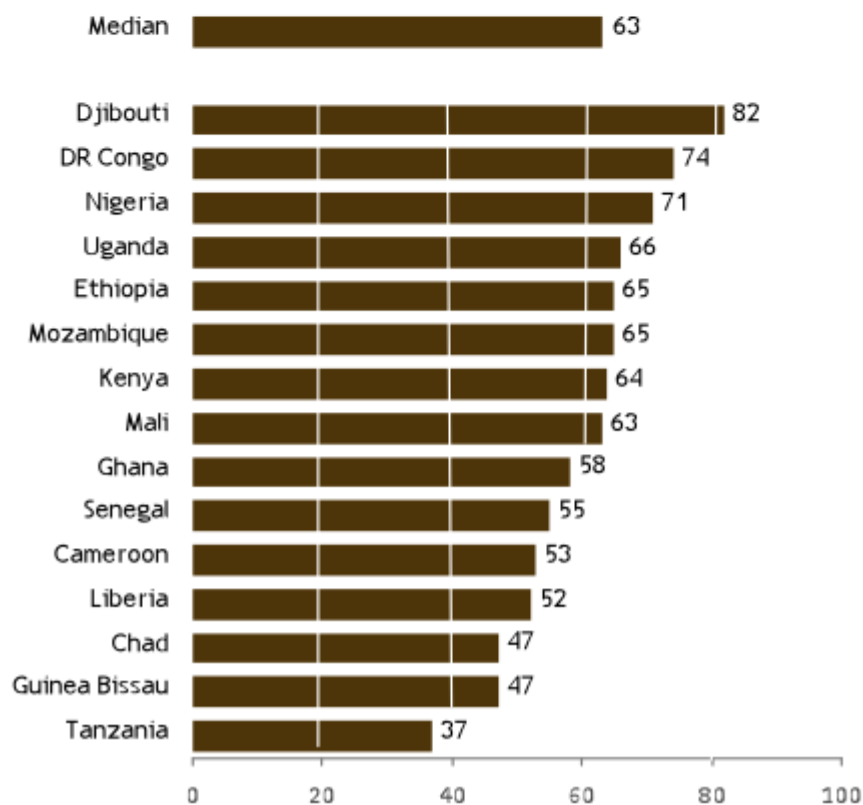
At the same time, there is substantial backing from both Muslims and Christians for basing civil laws on the Bible or sharia law. This may simply reflect the importance of religion in Africa. But it is nonetheless striking that in virtually all the countries surveyed, a majority or substantial minority (a third or more) of Christians favor making the Bible the official law of the land, while similarly large numbers of Muslims say they would like to enshrine sharia, or Islamic law.

Support for Biblical or Sharia Law Is Widespread

% of Christians who favor making Bible the official law of the land



% of Muslims who favor making sharia the official law of the land



Majorities of Muslims in nearly all the countries surveyed support allowing leaders and judges to use their religious beliefs when deciding family and property disputes, as do sizable minorities (30% or more) of Christians in most countries. Similarly, the survey finds considerable support among Muslims in several countries for the application of criminal sanctions such as stoning people who commit adultery, and whipping or cutting off the hands of thieves. Support for these kinds of punishments is consistently lower among Christians than among Muslims. The survey also finds that in seven countries, roughly one-third or more of Muslims say they support the death penalty for those who leave Islam.

The End of Christian and Muslim Expansion?

While the survey finds that both Christianity and Islam are flourishing in sub-Saharan Africa, the results suggest that neither faith may expand as rapidly in this region in the years ahead as it did in the 20th century, except possibly through natural population growth. There are two main reasons for this conclusion. First, the survey shows that most people in the region have committed to Christianity or Islam, which means the pool of potential converts from outside these two faiths has decreased dramatically. In most countries surveyed, 90% or more describe themselves as either Christians or Muslims, meaning that fewer than one-in-ten identify as adherents of other faiths (including African traditional religions) or no faith.

Second, there is little evidence in the survey findings to indicate that either Christianity or Islam is growing in sub-Saharan Africa at the expense of the other. Although a relatively small percentage of Muslims have become Christians, and a relatively small percentage of Christians have become Muslims, the survey finds no substantial shift in either direction. One exception is Uganda, where roughly one-third of respondents who were raised Muslim now describe themselves as Christian, while far fewer Ugandans who were raised Christian now describe themselves as Muslim.

Little Net Change From Religious Switching

	Raised Christian	Currently Christian	Net change		Raised Muslim	Currently Muslim	Net change
	%	%	%		%	%	%
Uganda	82	86	4	Uganda	18	13	-5
Botswana	84	87	3	Mali	88	90	2
Ethiopia	67	69	2	DR Congo	10	12	2
Ghana	81	83	2	Chad	53	54	1
Tanzania	58	60	2	Tanzania	35	36	1
South Africa	89	87	-2	Zambia	1	2	1
Guinea Bissau	61	62	1	Botswana	2	2	0
Kenya	89	88	-1	Rwanda	5	5	0
Cameroon	81	80	-1	Kenya	11	11	0
Mali	8	8	0	Ethiopia	30	30	0
DR Congo	80	80	0	Ghana	11	11	0
Chad	40	40	0	Guinea Bissau	38	38	0
Rwanda	93	93	0	Djibouti	97	97	0
Djibouti	2	2	0	Senegal	89	89	0
Senegal	10	10	0	Nigeria	52	52	0
Nigeria	46	46	0	Liberia	19	19	0
Liberia	69	69	0	Cameroon	16	16	0
Zambia	98	98	0	South Africa	2	2	0

Q32, Q73.

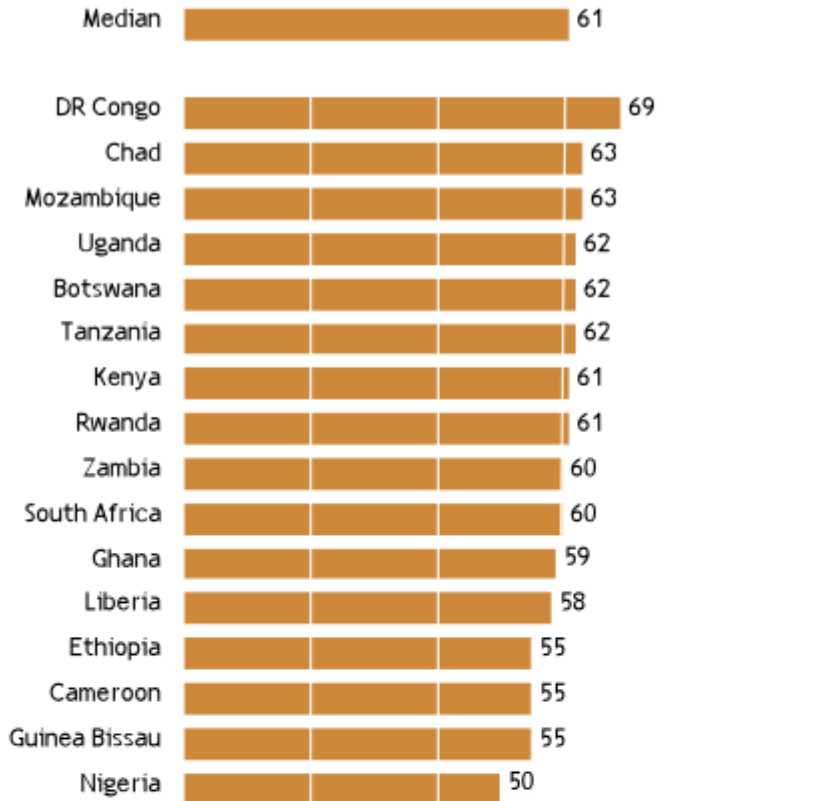
Due to data collection problems with Q73 in Mozambique, results for Mozambique are not reported here.

Intense Religious Experiences and the Influence of Pentecostalism

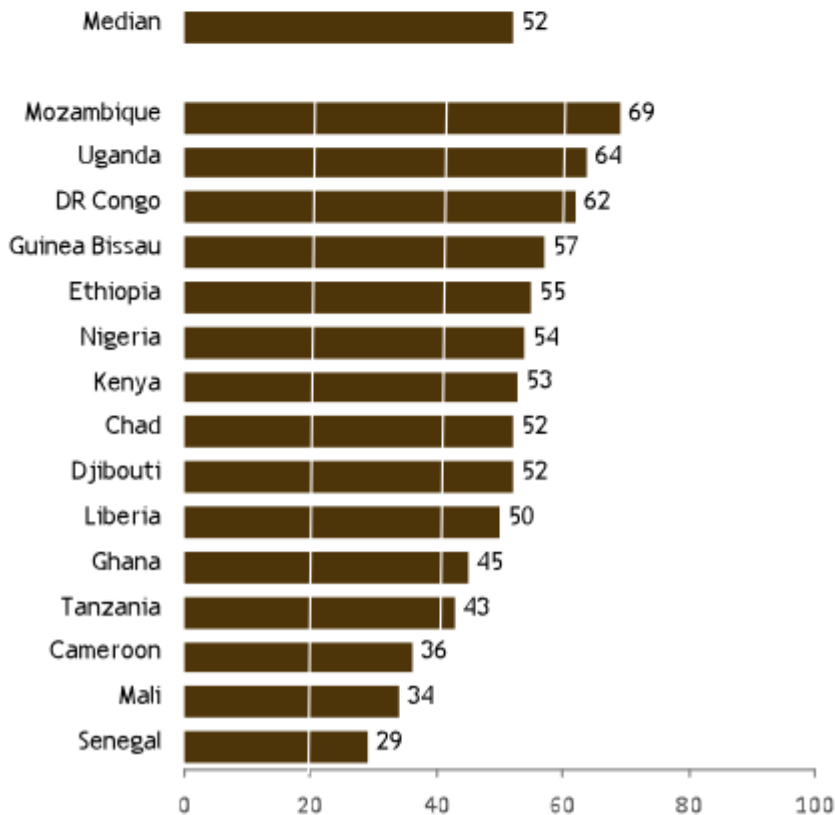
Many Christians and Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa experience their respective faiths in a very intense, immediate, personal way. For example, three-in-ten or more of the people in many countries say they have experienced a divine healing, witnessed the devil being driven out of a person or received a direct revelation from God. Moreover, in every country surveyed that has a substantial Christian population, at least half of Christians expect that Jesus will return to earth during their lifetime. And in every country surveyed that has a substantial Muslim population, roughly 30% or more of Muslims expect to personally witness the re-establishment of the caliphate, the golden age of Islamic rule that followed the death of Muhammad.

End Times Beliefs

% of Christians who believe Jesus will return during their lifetime



% of Muslims who believe the caliphate will be re-established during their lifetime



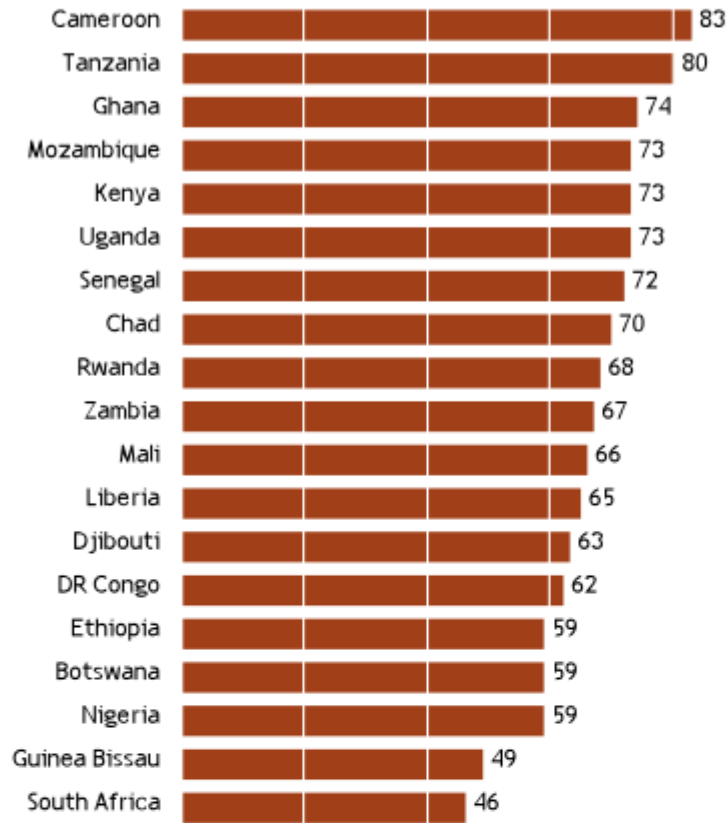
Many of these intense religious experiences, including divine healings and exorcisms, are also characteristic of traditional African religions. Within Christianity, these kinds of experiences are particularly associated with Pentecostalism, which emphasizes such gifts of the Holy Spirit as speaking in tongues, giving or interpreting prophecy, receiving direct revelations from God, exorcising evil and healing through prayer. About a quarter of all Christians in four sub-Saharan countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria) now belong to Pentecostal denominations, as do at least one-in-ten Christians in eight other countries. But the survey finds that divine healings, exorcisms and direct revelations from God are commonly reported by African Christians who are *not* affiliated with Pentecostal churches.

Morality and Culture

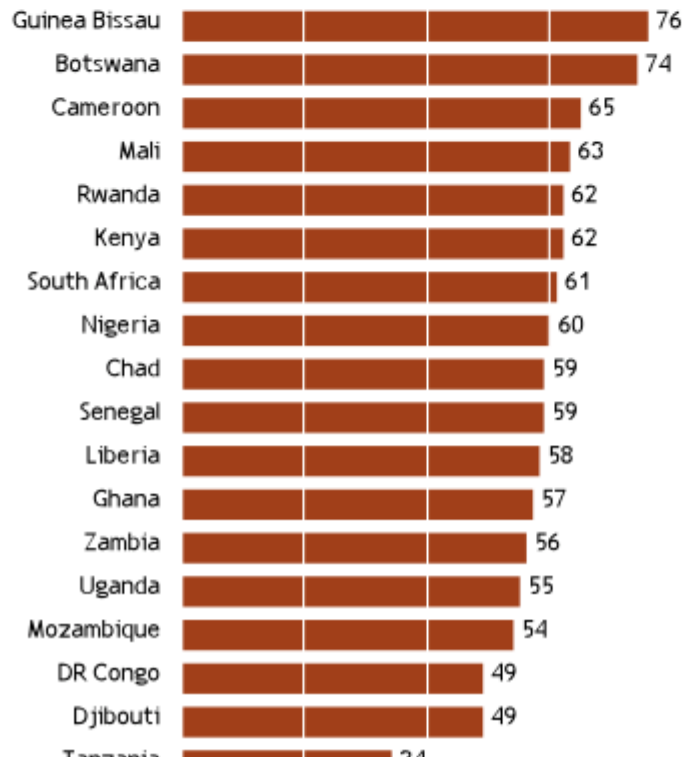
In nearly all the countries surveyed, large majorities believe it is necessary to believe in God in order to be moral and have good values. Clear majorities in almost every country believe that Western music, movies and television have hurt moral standards. South Africa and Guinea Bissau are the only exceptions to this finding, and even in those nations a plurality of the survey respondents view Western entertainment as exerting a harmful moral influence. On the other hand, majorities in most countries say they personally like Western TV, movies and music, with Christians particularly inclined to say so. And in many countries, people are more inclined to say there is not a conflict between being a devout religious person and living in modern society than to say there is a conflict.

Many Think Western Movies and Music Hurt Morality, But Many Also Like Western Entertainment

% who think Western movies, music and television have hurt morality



% who like Western movies, music and television



Throughout sub-Saharan Africa, Christians and Muslims alike express strong opposition to homosexual behavior, abortion, prostitution and sex between unmarried people. There are, however, pronounced differences between the two religious groups on the question of polygamy. Muslims are much more inclined than Christians to approve of polygamy or say this is not a moral issue.

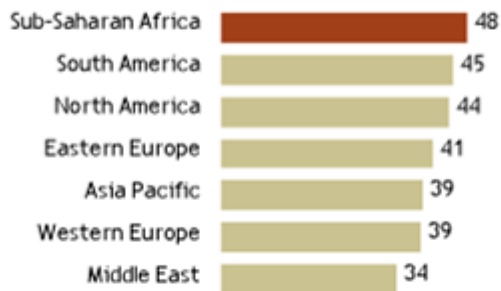
Optimism and Progress

Sub-Saharan Africans commonly cite unemployment as a major problem. In most countries, more than half of the people surveyed say they are dissatisfied with the way things are going in their country. And compared with people surveyed in 2007 in other regions of the world, somewhat fewer sub-Saharan Africans today indicate they are highly satisfied with their lives. At least 30% in every country say there have been times in the last year when they did not have enough money to buy food for their families. And yet, many sub-Saharan Africans say their lives have improved over the past five years. In fact, the percentage of sub-Saharan Africans who indicate in 2009 that their lives have improved over the preceding five years rivals or exceeds the number of people in many other regions of the world who said the same in 2007. And people in the African countries surveyed are more likely than people in many other regions to express optimism that their lives will improve in the future.

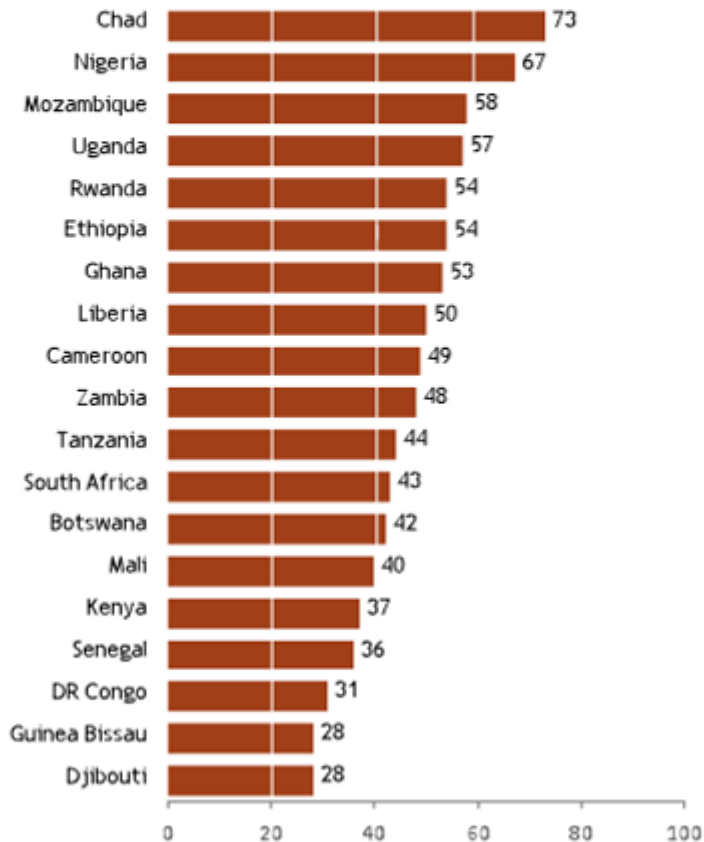
Many Think Their Lives Have Improved

% who say their lives are better than five years ago

Median results among countries in...



Among general population in...



Q2, 3. Here is a ladder representing the "ladder of life." Let's suppose the top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you; and the bottom, the worst possible life for you. On which step of the ladder do you feel you personally stand at the present time? (SHOW 0-10 CARD) On which step would you say you stood five years ago? (SHOW 0-10 CARD). Source for data from non-African nations: Pew Global Attitudes Project 2007 survey.

About the Report

These and other findings are discussed in more detail in the remainder of this report, which is divided into five main sections:

- Religious Affiliation
- Commitment to Christianity and Islam
- Traditional African Religious Beliefs and Practices
- Interreligious Harmony and Tensions
- Religion and Society

This report also includes a glossary of key terms, a description of the methods used for this survey, and a topline including full question wording and survey results.

The survey was conducted among at least 1,000 respondents in each of the 19 countries. In three predominantly Muslim countries (Djibouti, Mali and Senegal), there were too few interviews with Christian respondents to be able to analyze the Christian subpopulation. In four predominantly Christian countries (Botswana, Rwanda, South Africa and Zambia), there were too few interviews with Muslims to be able to analyze the Muslim subpopulation. This leaves 12 countries in which comparisons between Christians and Muslims are possible.

	----- Sample sizes -----		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Christians</u>	<u>Muslims</u>
Botswana	1,002	868	Not analyzed
Cameroon	1,503	1,209	245
Chad	1,503	592	811
DR Congo	1,519	1,209	185
Djibouti	1,500	Not analyzed	1,452
Ethiopia	1,500	1,037	453
Ghana	1,500	1,148	339
Guinea Bissau	1,000	619	373
Kenya	1,500	1,154	340
Liberia	1,500	1,040	279
Mali	1,000	Not analyzed	901
Mozambique	1,500	942	340
Nigeria	1,516	678	818
Rwanda	1,000	925	Not analyzed
Senegal	1,000	Not analyzed	891
South Africa	1,504	1,309	Not analyzed
Tanzania	1,504	907	539
Uganda	1,040	711	321
Zambia	1,000	976	Not analyzed

Readers should note that the 19 national polls on which this report is based were not designed to provide detailed demographic profiles of households in each country. Rather, the survey aims to compare the views of different religious groups and the general population of the countries on a wide variety of questions concerning religious beliefs and practices as well as religion's role in society. In other studies, such as "[Mapping the Global Muslim Population](#)" (2009), the Pew Forum provides estimates of the religious composition of countries in Africa and elsewhere based on very large datasets (such as national censuses and demographic and health surveys) that sometimes differ from the population figures presented here. An [appendix](#) provides comparative estimates of religious composition from some recent surveys and censuses.

Little Hope for Middle East Peace in Three Nations

April 16, 2010

People in three countries hold little hope in the success of a potential Middle East peace process, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. At least 40 per cent of respondents in Canada, the United States and Britain believe there will never be a solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

The former British mandate of Palestine was instituted at the end of World War I, to oversee a territory in the Middle East that formerly belonged to the Ottoman Empire. After the end of World War II and the Nazi holocaust, the Zionist movement succeeded in establishing an internationally recognized homeland. In November 1947, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the formation of a Jewish state.

In 1948, the British government withdrew from the mandate and the state of Israel was created in roughly 15,000 square kilometres of the mandate's land, with the remaining areas split under the control of Egypt and Transjordan. Since then, the region has seen constant disagreement between Israel and the Palestinians, represented for decades by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). Wars broke out in the region in the second half of the 20th Century, involving Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt.

Around 750,000 Palestinians fled or were forced to leave their territory during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. The "right of return"—under which Palestinians aim to re-occupy their homes in Israel—has always been a questionable point in peace negotiations. Hundreds of thousands of refugees from the war and their descendants still live in shantytown camps run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), next to Gaza cities and towns.

During the six-day war in 1967, Israel gained control of the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. About 300,000 Israelis currently live in more than 100 Jewish settlements in the West Bank, along with about 2.5 million Palestinians.

Fatah leader Mahmoud Abbas is currently heading the Palestinian Authority from the West Bank, endorsed by Israel and most of the Western international community. Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas has become the de-facto leader in the Gaza Strip.

The administration headed by U.S. president Barack Obama has urged the Israeli government to cease all settlement activity in order to break a deadlock in peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Earlier this year, Netanyahu allowed for the construction of some 900 new

settlements in occupied territory, citing the need to understand the "natural growth" of the Israeli population living in the area.

On Apr. 13, Obama discussed the situation, saying, "The Israeli people, through their government, and the Palestinian people, through the Palestinian Authority, as well as other Arab states may say to themselves: 'We are not prepared to resolve these issues no matter how much pressure the United States brings to bear'. (...) It's going to take time, and progress will be halting. And there will be frustrations."

Polling Data

When do you expect a solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians?

	CAN	USA	BRI
Less than two years from now	3%	4%	4%
Three to five years from now	8%	10%	8%
Six to ten years from now	7%	6%	8%
More than ten years from now	19%	8%	14%
Never	40%	46%	41%
Not sure	23%	26%	26%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,010 Canadian adults, 1,005 American adults and 2,006 British adults, conducted from Mar. 31 to Apr. 12, 2010. Margins of error range from 2.2 per cent to 3.1 per cent.

Bullying is a Crime for Canadians and Americans

April 15, 2010

People in two North American countries believe bullying should be considered a crime even if no physical violence is involved, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 62 per cent of respondents in Canada—and 52 per cent in the U.S.—agree with this notion.

In the United States, the death of teenager Phoebe Prince has sparked a national debate about bullying. Prince—an immigrant from Ireland—committed suicide in January after repeated instances of harassment and taunting. Last month, six teenagers from Prince's South Hadley High School were indicted as adults on felony charges by a Hampshire County grand jury.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has passed a bullying ban in a unanimous vote. The legislation calls for school districts to develop bullying prevention plans and expands the definition of bullying to include cyber-bullying: the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others.

In Canada, the Province of New Brunswick is currently debating an opposition bill that seeks to extend the scope of bullying to incidents that occur on school buses, and compel principals to report every incident to their superintendent.

Polling Data

Do you think bullying should be considered a crime?

	CAN	USA
Yes, but only if it involves physical violence	18%	32%
Yes, even if no physical violence is involved	62%	52%
No, bullying should not be considered a crime	11%	8%
Not sure	9%	8%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,010 Canadian adults and 1,005 American adults, conducted from Apr. 6 to Apr. 9, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.
