

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

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M. Zubair

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Prelude

This week report consists of 24 surveys. Two of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 22 are national surveys.

Dismissal of Gen. McChrystal: Frustrations or Disciplinary Action?

Commander of the U.S. forces in Afghanistan Gen. McChrystal was dismissed by the President Obama after he and his staff had made some inappropriate comments about U.S. Afghan war policy and about various U.S. political leaders and diplomats.

Afghanistan has been the center of U.S. war on terror since October 2001. Afghanistan was attacked primarily to capture Osama Bin Ladin and dismantle the network of Al-Qaeda. Second, to oust Taliban from government in Afghanistan as they had refused to hand over Osama bin Ladin to U.S. Taliban were easily over thrown from government but the prime U.S. mission of capturing Osama had failed so far and they had also failed to really eliminate Taliban from Afghanistan.

Gen. McChrystal remarks show a declining confidence in the campaign and the abilities of the political leadership to lead to any success. For a serving 'General' it may not be not appropriate or legal to pass such remarks but on the other side as a realist these remark refer to realities on ground. Does this not mean the American army has lost hope for success in Afghan war? The way Obama administration sharply reacted does not reflect the frustrations on part of the civilian leadership as well? Does the whole situation not show dearth of confidence between civilian and army leadership on the issue of Afghan war?

Afghan war never dominated the social media since Pew started its News Media Index (NMI) in January 2009 but the news of Gen. McChrystal became a top story on the social media as well. Looking at Pew NMI it becomes obvious that bloggers debate show frustrations regarding Afghan war.¹ Mostly the issue of withdrawal comes to the surface repeatedly at various blogs and the issue of 'success' & 'salvation' remains very dim. Bloggers really captured the frustrations surrounding the issue.

How do you see this whole episode of Gen. McChrystal dismissal? Why an army general will make negative statements about his campaign, or political leadership if he is winning the war? does it not show the dearth of confidence between army generals at ground in Afghanistan and a civilian leadership in U.S?

¹ <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1651/blogs-twitter-follow-msm-into-afghanistan-led-by-mcchrystal-viacom-lawsuit-pornography-domain-suffix>

Summary of Polls

MIDDLE EAST

Fatah Clearly Ahead of Hamas Among Palestinians

The next election to the Palestinian Legislative Council would see Fatah winning, according to a poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. 45 per cent of respondents would vote for Fatah in the next election, up three points since March.

July 01, 2010

NORTHEAST ASIA

Taiwan's Ma Fails to Regain Public's Trust

Most people in Taiwan remain disappointed with the performance of Ma Ying-jeou, according to a poll by Global Views. Only 28.4 per cent of respondents are satisfied with their president, down two points since May.

June 27, 2010

Kan Already Facing Negative Trend in Japan

Japan's new administration led by Naoto Kan is already losing public support, according to a poll by *Mainichi*. 52 per cent of respondents approve of Kan's appointed cabinet, down 14 points since early June.

July 02, 2010

EAST EUROPE

Half of Russians Would Back EU Entry

Half of people in Russia would agree with their country's potential accession to the European Union (EU), according to a poll by Yury Levada Analytical Center. 50 per cent of respondents think the country should enter the EU, down nine points since December 2004.

June 28, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Britons Clearly Dismayed with Economic Conditions

People in Britain are dissatisfied with their country's financial standing, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. Only nine per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as good or very good, down four points since May.

July 03, 2010

Britons Assess Government on Deficit Reduction

Almost half of adults in Britain trust their government to deal with the country's budget deficit, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 46 per cent of respondents are "very confident" or "moderately confident" that the government will be able to carry out its deficit reduction plan in a way that strengthens and unites the country.

July 01, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Majority of Americans Favor Obama's Afghanistan Timetable

A majority of Americans (58%) favor President Barack Obama's timetable that calls for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan beginning in July 2011. Most of the 38% of Americans who are opposed reject the idea of setting any timetable rather than setting one with an earlier or later date.

June 29, 2010

Most Americans Still Troubled by Economy

Many adults in the United States are dissatisfied with their country's economic standing, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 85 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the U.S. as poor or very poor.

July 02, 2010

One in Three Americans "Extremely Patriotic"

According to Gallup USA survey one in three Americans (32%) now say they are "extremely patriotic," up from 26% in 2005 and 19% in 1999.

July 2, 2010

Republicans, Democrats Still Fiercely Divided on Role of Gov't.

Gallup poll finds that 81% of Republicans say the government is trying to do too much that should be left to individuals and businesses, while 63% of Democrats say government should do more to solve the country's problems -- underscoring what will certainly be one of the most contentious issues facing voters in this fall's midterm elections

June 28, 2010

Tea Party Supporters Overlap Republican Base

There is significant overlap between Americans who identify as supporters of the Tea Party movement and those who identify as conservative Republicans. Their similar ideological makeup and views suggest that the Tea Party movement is more a rebranding of core Republicanism than a new or distinct entity on the American political scene.

July 2, 2010

The Great Recession at 30 Months

More than half (55%) of all adults in the labor force say that since the Great Recession began 30 months ago, they have suffered a spell of unemployment, a cut in pay, a reduction in hours or have become involuntary part-time workers, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center's Social and Demographic Trends Project.

June 30, 2010

Voting Intentions Even, Turnout Indicators Favor GOP

With four months to go before Election Day, voting intentions for the House remain closely divided, and neither party has gained or lost much ground over the course of 2010. However, Republicans are much more engaged in the coming election and more inclined to say they are certain to vote than are Democrats.

July 1, 2010

U.S. Congress Falls Below 20% Mark

Americans have a favourable view of the way members of the House of Representatives and the Senate are doing their jobs, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 18 per cent of respondents approve of the performance of Congress, down seven points since May.

July 03, 2010

Half of Americans Disapprove of Obama

Fewer adults in the United States are satisfied with Barack Obama, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 50 per cent of respondents disapprove of their president's performance, up five points since May.

June 30, 2010

Americans Agree with McChrystal's Dismissal

People in the United States believe their president was right in accepting the resignation of the Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents agree with General Stanley McChrystal's dismissal.

June 29, 2010

Flag is Most Cherished Symbol for Canadians

Many adults in Canada hold positive feelings on their flag, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 88 per cent of respondents are very or moderately proud of the Canadian flag.

July 03, 2010

Police Reaction in Toronto Justified for Canadians

People in Canada and residents of the latest G20 summit host city believe the reaction of the police to the demonstrations that took place during the meeting of world leaders was justified, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 66 per cent of respondents in Canada—and 73 per cent of people in Toronto—agree with this view.

July 02, 2010

Justice System Unfair for Three-in-Five Canadians

Many adults in Canada seem disappointed with their justice system, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 59 per cent of respondents think the justice system in their country does not treat every person fairly.

June 30, 2010

AUSTRALASIA

More Australians Call for Afghanistan Withdrawal

The proportion of people in Australia who want to end their country's commitment in Afghanistan has risen considerably, according to a poll by Essential Media Communications. 61 per cent of respondents think Australia should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, up 11 points since March 2009.

June 30, 2010

Half of New Zealanders Back Governing National

Support for New Zealand's governing conservatives has remained stable, according to a poll by Roy Morgan International. 50.5 per cent of respondents would vote for the National party in the next legislative election, down two points since May.

June 27, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Gender Equality Universally Embraced, but Inequalities Acknowledged

Fifteen years after the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women's Beijing Platform for Action proclaimed that "shared power and responsibility should be established between women and men at home, in the workplace and in

the wider national and international communities," people around the globe embrace the document's key principles.

July 01, 2010

East African Community Citizens Favor Freer Labor Flow

Services, capital, and labor should move more freely when the East African Community (EAC) common market opens Thursday, but people will still need permits to work in most of the five partner states. Although only Rwanda has eliminated work permits and Kenya looks to follow suit, Gallup surveys last year show the idea of moving freely for work within the EAC is popular in all countries.

July 1, 2010

CYBER WORLD

McChrystal's Comments Turn the Social Media to Afghanistan

The removal of Gen. Stanley McChrystal as the top commander in Afghanistan led to a rare week when the war captured the attention of social media. For the week of June 21-25, 27% of the news links on blogs and 10% on Twitter were about Afghanistan according to the New Media Index from the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism and this was the highest level of coverage that war has received since PEJ began News Media Index in January 2009.

July 1, 2010

MIDDLE EAST

Fatah Clearly Ahead of Hamas Among Palestinians

July 01, 2010

The next election to the Palestinian Legislative Council would see Fatah winning, according to a poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. 45 per cent of respondents would vote for Fatah in the next election, up three points since March.

Hamas is second with 26 per cent. 18 per cent of respondents remain undecided.

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

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

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

Abbas has extended his tenure—which was supposed to end in January 2009—indefinitely. The extension is part of an Egypt-sponsored plan to foster reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah. Abbas has said he does not intend to seek a new term in office in the next presidential election, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

On Jun. 11, Fayyad announced that the government has "decided to delay the [municipal] elections." Government officials later confirmed that Abbas's administration wants to postpone the ballot—originally scheduled for Jul. 17—"to give a new room for efforts to achieve reconciliation" between Fatah and Hamas.

Polling Data

If a parliamentary election were to take place today, which list would you vote for?

	Jun. 2010	Mar. 2010	Dec. 2009
Fatah list	45%	42%	43%
Change and Reform list (Hamas)	26%	28%	27%
Other parties	12%	11%	14%
Undecided	18%	19%	17%

*Source: Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research
Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,200 Palestinian adults in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, conducted from Jun. 10 to Jun. 13, 2010. Margin of error is 3 per cent.*

NORTHEAST ASIA

Taiwan's Ma Fails to Regain Public's Trust

June 27, 2010

Most people in Taiwan remain disappointed with the performance of Ma Ying-jeou, according to a poll by Global Views. Only 28.4 per cent of respondents are satisfied with their president, down two points since May.

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

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

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

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

On Jun. 24, Taiwan and China signed the much anticipated Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA), which will see trade between the two parts grow exponentially.

The DPP is scheduled to hold a protest rally against the ECFA today. The party says the deal will "eliminate 1.6 million jobs" by invading the local market with cheap Chinese goods.

Polling Data

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

	Jun. 2010	May 2010	Apr. 2010
Satisfied	28.4%	30.4%	26.6%
Dissatisfied	55.6%	58.9%	61.4%

Source: Global Views

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,006 Taiwanese adults, conducted on Jun. 14 and Jun. 15, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Kan Already Facing Negative Trend in Japan

July 02, 2010

Japan's new administration led by Naoto Kan is already losing public support, according to a poll by *Mainichi*. 52 per cent of respondents approve of Kan's appointed cabinet, down 14 points since early June.

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. Yukio 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.

On Jun. 2, the DPJ's Yukio Hatoyama tendered his resignation, citing a broken election promise over the permanence of an American army base in the Okinawa prefecture. Hatoyama had also been embroiled in a corruption scandal over campaign funding irregularities.

On Jun. 8, Kan, a former finance minister, took over as prime minister. Since the retirement of Junichiro Koizumi in September 2006, Japan has had five different heads of government: Shinzo Abe, Yasuo Fukuda and Taro Aso of the LDP; and Hatoyama and Kan of the DPJ.

On Jun. 27, Kan acknowledged that, if the DPJ coalition with the People's New Party (PNP) fails to retain its majority in the upper house after this month's election, the ruling party "would face a difficult situation in managing government," adding, "It would be necessary to have talks with other parties."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Naoto Kan's cabinet?

	Jun. 28	Jun. 9
Approve	52%	66%
Disapprove	28%	18%

Source: Mainichi

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,089 Japanese adults, conducted on Jun. 27 and Jun. 28, 2010. Margin of error is 3 per cent.

EAST EUROPE

Half of Russians Would Back EU Entry

June 28, 2010

Half of people in Russia would agree with their country's potential accession to the European Union (EU), according to a poll by Yury Levada Analytical Center. 50 per cent of respondents think the country should enter the EU, down nine points since December 2004.

The EU is Russia's largest trading partner. Europe is highly dependent on Russian natural gas.

The United Nations (UN) recently approved new sanctions against Iran for its alleged pursuit of a nuclear weapon. Russia supported the move. Days later, the United States and the EU issued new and more aggressive sanctions against Iran, angering Russia.

On Jun. 17, Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov declared: "We are extremely disappointed that neither the United States nor the European Union heed our calls to refrain from such moves," referring to their unilateral decision to go beyond the UN sanctions.

Polling Data

Do you think Russia should become a member of the European Union (EU)?

	May 2010	Dec. 2004
Yes	50%	59%
No	26%	20%
Not sure	24%	21%

Source: Yury Levada Analytical Center

Methodology: Interviews with 1,600 Russian adults, conducted from May 21 to May 25, 2010. Margin of error is 3.4 per cent.

WEST EUROPE

Britons Clearly Dismayed with Economic Conditions

July 03, 2010

People in Britain are dissatisfied with their country's financial standing, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. Only nine per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as good or very good, down four points since May.

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

Britain has been hit hard by the global financial crisis. In 2007, the British Northern Rock bank—a prominent mortgage lender—was forced to seek emergency funding from the government.

Britain's deficit reached 11.1 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the year through March and is one of the highest in the G-20.

In May, British voters participated in a General Election. The Conservative Party finished in first place with 36.1 per cent of the vote and 305 seats, followed by the Labour Party

with 29 per cent and 258 seats, and the Liberal Democrats with 23 per cent and 57 seats. Conservative leader David Cameron took over as prime minister in a coalition government with the Liberal Democrats, ending 13 years of Labour rule.

On Jun. 22, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne introduced the government's budget, which calls for a raise in the Value Added Tax (VAT) from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent, freezes the council tax for a year starting in April 2011, and introduces a levy on British banks and building societies with assets of £20 billion or more.

On Jul. 1, the Office for Budget Responsibility reported that close to 600,000 jobs are expected to be eliminated over the next six years. Cameron defended his policies, saying, "What's interesting from the tables is that you can see the effect of Labour's policy before the Budget and the effect of our policy after the Budget. The figures show that under Labour's plans next year there would be 70,000 fewer public sector jobs and the year after that there would be 150,000 fewer public sector jobs."

Polling Data

How would you rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom today?

	Jun. 2010	May 2010	Apr. 2010
Very Good / Good	9%	13%	14%
Poor / Very Poor	88%	83%	81%
Not sure	3%	4%	4%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,008 British adults, conducted from Jun. 23 to Jun. 25, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Britons Assess Government on Deficit Reduction

July 01, 2010

Almost half of adults in Britain trust their government to deal with the country's budget deficit, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 46 per cent of respondents are "very confident" or "moderately confident" that the government will be able to carry out its deficit reduction plan in a way that strengthens and unites the country.

In May, British voters participated in a General Election. The Conservative Party finished in first place with 36.1 per cent of the vote and 305 seats, followed by the Labour Party with 29 per cent and 258 seats, and the Liberal Democrats with 23 per cent and 57 seats. Conservative leader David Cameron took over as prime minister in a coalition government with the Liberal Democrats, ending 13 years of Labour rule.

On Jun. 7, Cameron warned that impending cuts would "affect every single person" in Britain, adding, "I want this government to carry out Britain's unavoidable deficit-reduction plan in a way that tries to strengthen and unite our country at the same time."

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Osborne declared: "This emergency budget deals decisively with our country's record debts. It pays for the past. And it plans for the future. It supports a strong enterprise-led recovery. It rewards work. And it protects the most vulnerable in our society. Yes it is tough; but it is also fair."

Polling Data

How confident are you that the Government will be able to carry out its deficit reduction plan in a way that strengthens and unites the country?

	Jun. 25	Jun. 20
Very confident	8%	7%
Moderately confident	38%	31%
Not too confident	27%	33%
Not confident at all	17%	19%
Not sure	10%	10%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,008 British adults, conducted from Jun. 23 to Jun. 25, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

NORTH AMERICA

Majority of Americans Favor Obama's Afghanistan Timetable

Opponents generally reject idea of setting any timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops

June 29, 2010

A majority of Americans (58%) favor President Barack Obama's timetable that calls for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan beginning in July 2011. Most of the 38% of Americans who are opposed reject the idea of setting any timetable rather than setting one with an earlier or later date.

*Favor/Oppose Timetable Barack Obama Has Set to Begin Withdrawing
U.S. Troops From Afghanistan No Later Than July 2011*

	2010 Jun 25-26
	%
Favor timetable	58
Oppose timetable	38
(Think withdrawal should begin earlier)	(7)
(Think withdrawal should begin later)	(1)
(Do not think U.S. should set timetable)	(29)
(Unspecified)	(1)
No opinion	5

USA Today/Gallup, June 25-26, 2010

GALLUP®

These results are based on a June 25-26 *USA Today*/Gallup poll, conducted in the days after the president announced he was relieving Gen. Stanley McChrystal of his command of U.S. forces in Afghanistan and replacing him with Gen. David Petraeus. A majority of Americans approve of Obama's decision to remove McChrystal.

Obama said the change in command would not signal a change in U.S. policy in Afghanistan. On Sunday at the G-20 summit, Obama reiterated that the July 2011 date would mark the beginning of withdrawal but that it would not mark the end of the U.S. military presence there, adding that the U.S. would be assisting the people of Afghanistan for "a long time to come."

Most Democrats, and the majority of independents, favor the timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops beginning in July of next year. Republicans, on the other hand, oppose it by a better than 2-to-1 margin.

Opinion of Afghanistan Timetable, by Political Party Affiliation

	% Favor	% Oppose
Democrats	80	17
Independents	57	36
Republicans	31	65

USA Today/Gallup, June 25-26, 2010

GALLUP®

More generally, Americans are somewhat divided in their views of Obama's handling of the situation in Afghanistan. The poll finds 50% saying Obama is doing a "very good" or "good" job, while 44% believe he is doing a "very poor" or "poor" job. Democrats give Obama high marks on Afghanistan, while Republicans mostly say he is doing a poor job.

How would you rate the job President Obama is doing of handling the situation in Afghanistan -- very good, good, poor, or very poor?

	% Very good/Good	% Very poor/Poor
All Americans	50	44
Democrats	76	19
Independents	48	45
Republicans	21	76

USA Today/Gallup, June 25-26, 2010

GALLUP®

Bottom Line

Americans generally support the timetable Obama has laid out for withdrawing U.S. troops from Afghanistan. Most of the opposition stems from philosophical disagreements as to whether any timetable should be set as opposed to the specifics of the July 2011 date Obama has set. At the G-20 summit Obama decried "the obsession" with the timetable, saying he was more focused on the mission's success, and refused to say whether the five-year exit strategy put forth at the summit was a reasonable timeline for getting all troops out of Afghanistan.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 25-26, 2010, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,044 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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). Each sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone-only respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, education, region, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in continental U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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.

Most Americans Still Troubled by Economy

July 02, 2010

Many adults in the United States are dissatisfied with their country's economic standing, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 85 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the U.S. as poor or very poor.

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

In 2008, the federal government—then under the leadership of U.S. president George W. Bush—took control of mortgage lenders Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Other financial institutions—including Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, American International Group (AIG), IndyMac Bancorp and Washington Mutual—have been sold, placed under bankruptcy protection, or received emergency loans from the Federal Reserve.

The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 2.2 per cent from July to September 2009—the first quarterly gain after four consecutive declines. The country's unemployment rate stands at 9.5 per cent.

On Jun. 28, U.S. President Barack Obama discussed the current state of affairs, saying, "There is a great concern about the 8 million jobs that were lost during the course of these last two years, and that we've got to continually push the pace of economic growth in order to put people back to work. That ultimately is the measure for most Americans of how well the economy is doing."

Polling Data

How would you rate the economic conditions in the United States today?

Jun. 2010 May 2010 Apr. 2010 Mar.

				2010
Very Good / Good	13%	11%	15%	16%
Poor / Very Poor	85%	87%	83%	81%
Not sure	3%	2%	3%	3%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,001 American adults, conducted from Jun. 25 to Jun. 27, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

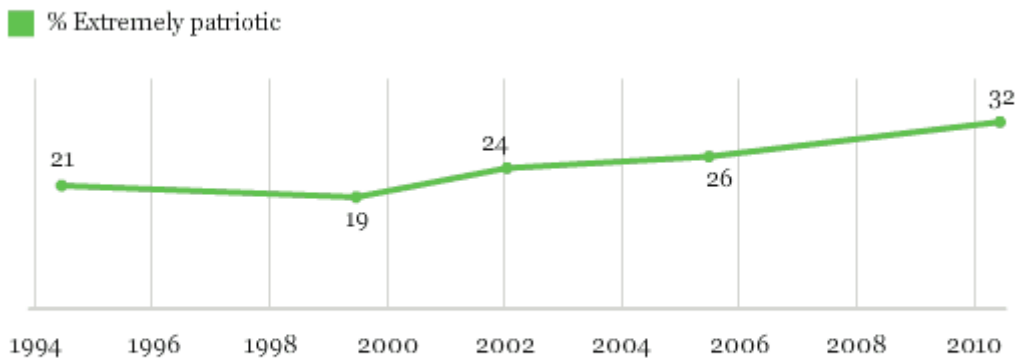
One in Three Americans "Extremely Patriotic"

Republicans, conservatives, and seniors most likely to say so

July 2, 2010

One in three Americans (32%) now say they are "extremely patriotic," up from 26% in 2005 and 19% in 1999.

Percentage of Americans Who Say They Are "Extremely Patriotic"



Note: 2002 results are based on a Gallup/Harwood Institute survey

GALLUP

These findings are from a *USA Today*/Gallup poll conducted June 11-13, 2010, Gallup's first update of this question since 2005. The overall percentage of Americans describing themselves as "extremely patriotic" is now measurably higher than at any point in this Gallup trend, including in the months after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The difference between "extremely" and "very" patriotic is left to respondents to interpret.

At least 7 in 10 Americans since 2002 have consistently said they are "extremely" or "very" patriotic; 74% say so this year. This is up slightly since the 1990s.

How patriotic are you? Would you say extremely patriotic, very patriotic, somewhat patriotic, or not especially patriotic?

	% Extremely patriotic	% Very patriotic	% Somewhat patriotic	% Not especially patriotic
Jun 11-13, 2010	32	42	19	6
Jun 24-26, 2005	26	46	22	5
Jan 4-20, 2002 [^]	24	47	24	4
Jun 25-27, 1999	19	46	28	5
Jun 17-19, 1994	21	44	28	7

[^]Gallup/Harwood Institute survey

GALLUP[®]

The increase in the overall percentage of Americans calling themselves "extremely patriotic" is driven largely by seniors, Republicans, and conservatives -- all of whom are significantly more likely to say so than they were in 2005. Republicans' relatively higher identification with the "extremely patriotic" label is particularly intriguing when one considers that Democrats are currently far more likely than Republicans to say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country (41% vs. 7%, respectively). Still, the majority of Americans in each of these subgroups say they are "extremely" or "very" patriotic.

Americans' Patriotism, 2005 vs. 2010, Among Key Subgroups

% "Extremely patriotic"; sorted by % extremely patriotic in 2010

	2005	2010	Change
	%	%	Pct. pts.
Republicans	35	52	17
Conservatives	33	48	15
Aged 65+	21	40	19
Men	29	37	8
Aged 50 to 64	29	35	6
NATIONAL ADULTS	26	32	6
Aged 30 to 49	29	32	3
Independents	21	30	9
Women	23	28	5
Moderates	23	22	-1
Aged 18 to 29	21	22	1
Democrats	22	20	-2
Liberals	23	19	-4

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As the nation celebrates the Fourth of July, some Americans do so with more fervent patriotism than they have in recent years. Self-expressed patriotism runs high across most segments of the population. The widespread willingness to describe oneself as patriotic is particularly noteworthy with the U.S. continuing to face serious economic challenges at home and approval challenges abroad.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 11-13, 2010, with a random sample of 1,014 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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). Each sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone-only respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, education, region, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in continental U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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, Democrats Still Fiercely Divided on Role of Gov't.

Majority of independents say the government is doing too much

June 28, 2010

Gallup poll finds that 81% of Republicans say the government is trying to do too much that should be left to individuals and businesses, while 63% of Democrats say government should do more to solve the country's problems -- underscoring what will certainly be one of the most contentious issues facing voters in this fall's midterm elections. Independents on average tilt in favor of saying the government is doing too much, making this also the majority view of all Americans.

Some people think the government is trying to do too many things that should be left to individuals and businesses. Others think that government should do more to solve our country's problems.

Which comes closer to your own view?

	% Government doing too much	% Government should do more	% Mixed/Depends (vol.)/No opinion
TOTAL	53	39	8
Republicans	81	13	5
Independents	58	32	10
Democrats	29	63	9

(vol.) = Volunteered response

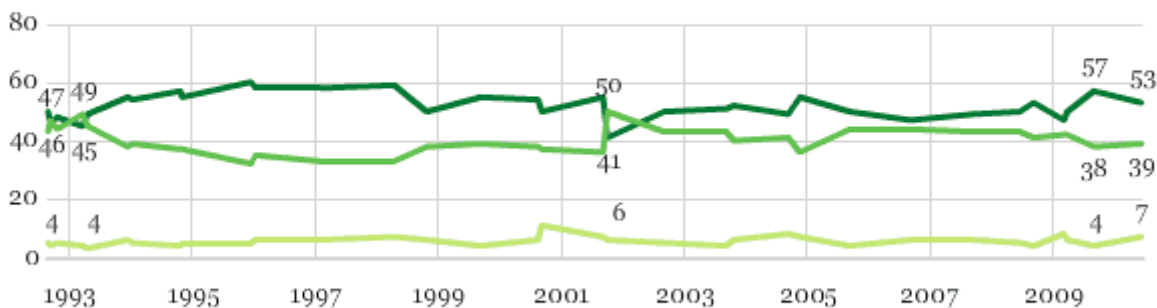
USA Today/Gallup, June 11-13, 2010

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The 53% of all Americans who say the government is doing too many things that should be left to others is down slightly from a survey conducted in late August/early September of last year, but is generally on par with Gallup's historical trend. In the 18-year history of this question, there have been only three points when a plurality thought the "government should do more": in 1992 and 1993, and immediately after the Sept. 11 attacks, in October 2001.

Some people think the government is trying to do too many things that should be left to individuals and businesses. Others think that government should do more to solve our country's problems. Which comes closer to your own view?

■ % Gov't doing too much ■ % Gov't should do more ■ % Mixed/Depends (vol.)



(vol.) = Volunteered response

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The highest percentage favoring the "government doing too much" option was 60%, recorded in December 1995.

Bottom Line

The issue of government involvement in social and economic policy will almost certainly arise at the confirmation hearings of Elena Kagan, President Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court, which began Monday. The issue will also be of major significance in this fall's midterm elections, as evidenced by the heated debate already underway on the role of the federal government in the nation's healthcare system.

Despite the fact that a majority of Americans say the government is doing too much, recent Gallup surveys show that Americans do favor legislation that would increase government stimulus spending to help create jobs, to regulate major financial institutions, and to regulate energy output from private companies in an effort to reduce global warming. These somewhat conflicting sentiments underscore the complex nature of the relationship between the average American citizen and his or her government.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 11-13, 2010, with a random sample of 1,014 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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). Each sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone-only respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, education, region, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in continental U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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.

Tea Party Supporters Overlap Republican Base

Eight out of 10 Tea Party supporters are Republicans

July 2, 2010

There is significant overlap between Americans who identify as supporters of the Tea Party movement and those who identify as conservative Republicans. Their similar ideological makeup and views suggest that the Tea Party movement is more a rebranding of core Republicanism than a new or distinct entity on the American political scene.

Partisan and Ideological Makeup of Tea Party Supporters

	% Liberal Dem- ocrat	% Moderate Dem- ocrat	% Conserv- ative Dem- ocrat	% Pure Indepen- dent	% Moderate/ Liberal Repub- lican	% Conserv- ative Repub- lican
Tea Party supporters	3	7	5	6	17	62
All Americans	18	19	9	8	15	29

Based on Gallup surveys conducted March 26-28, May 24-25, and June 11-13, 2010

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Conservative Republicans outnumber moderate/liberal Republicans in the general population by about a 2-to-1 margin; among Tea Party supporters, the ratio is well more than 3 to 1. More generally, almost 8 out of 10 Tea Party supporters are Republicans, compared with 44% of all national adults.

These findings are based on three surveys Gallup conducted in March, May, and June of this year. Thirty percent of Americans, on average, identify as Tea Party supporters -- a percentage remarkably consistent across the three surveys.

The Tea Party and the 2010 Vote

One reason for interest in the burgeoning Tea Party movement this year has been its potential impact on the midterm elections in November. Already the Tea Party is viewed as affecting Republican primaries, with its chosen candidates prevailing or poised to do so in several contests, including the withdrawal or defeat of well-funded "establishment" Republican candidates in the Florida and Kentucky Senate races.

This potential impact is clear from data showing that Tea Party supporters are more enthusiastic about voting this year than are Americans overall, and more likely to say they are certain to vote. At the same time, Tea Party supporters are no more enthusiastic or certain to vote than the traditional Republican base -- conservative Republicans.

Midterm Election Voting Enthusiasm and Certainty to Vote

	% More enthusiastic about voting this year	% Certain to vote this year
Tea Party supporters	71	82
Conservative Republicans	68	80
All Americans	51	66

Based on Gallup surveys conducted March 26-28, May 24-25, and June 11-13, 2010

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While Tea Party supporters are not universal in their backing of Republican candidates, they skew heavily in that direction. About 80% of Tea Party supporters say they will vote for the Republican candidate in their district, slightly lower than the projected 95% Republican vote among conservative Republicans.

This suggests that the potential impact of the Tea Party on Republican chances of winning in congressional and senatorial races this fall -- even if supporters turn out in record numbers -- may be slightly less than would be expected.

If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your congressional district?

Among registered voters

	% Republican	% Democrat	% Other candidate/ Undecided
Tea Party supporters	80	15	5
Conservative Republicans	95	2	3
All Americans	45	47	8

Based on Gallup surveys conducted March 26-28, May 24-25, and June 11-13, 2010

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Both Tea Party supporters and conservative Republicans are highly likely to hold unfavorable views of President Barack Obama and Democratic Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Images of President Barack Obama and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

	Tea Party supporters	Conservative Republicans	All Americans
Obama favorable	15%	11%	53%
Obama unfavorable	84%	88%	45%
Pelosi favorable	12%	6%	36%
Pelosi unfavorable	85%	90%	52%

Based on Gallup surveys conducted March 26-28, May 24-25, and June 11-13, 2010

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Same Cup of Tea?

The Tea Party movement has received considerable news coverage this year, in large part because it appears to represent a new and potentially powerful force on the American political scene. Whether Tea Party supporters are a voting segment that is unique and distinct from the more traditional Republican conservative base, however, appears questionable. There is significant overlap between Tea Party supporters and conservative Republicans, both groups are highly enthusiastic about voting, and both are heavily skewed toward Republican candidates -- although the latter somewhat more so than the former.

Republican leaders who worry about the Tea Party's impact on their races may in fact (and more simply) be defined as largely worrying about their party's core base. Additionally, GOP leaders eager to maximize turnout this fall may do just as well by targeting the more traditional voting category of conservative Republicans as by expending energy and effort to target those who identify with the Tea Party movement.

Further Gallup analysis of the Tea Party movement, including a particular emphasis on supporters' positions on specific issues, will be published at Gallup.com on Monday, July 5.

Survey Methods

Results are based on combined telephone interviews from *USA Today*/Gallup polls conducted March 26-28, May 24-25, and June 11-13, 2010, with a random sample of 3,095 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 2 percentage points.

For results based on the total sample of 1,008 Tea Party supporters, 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). Each sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone-only respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

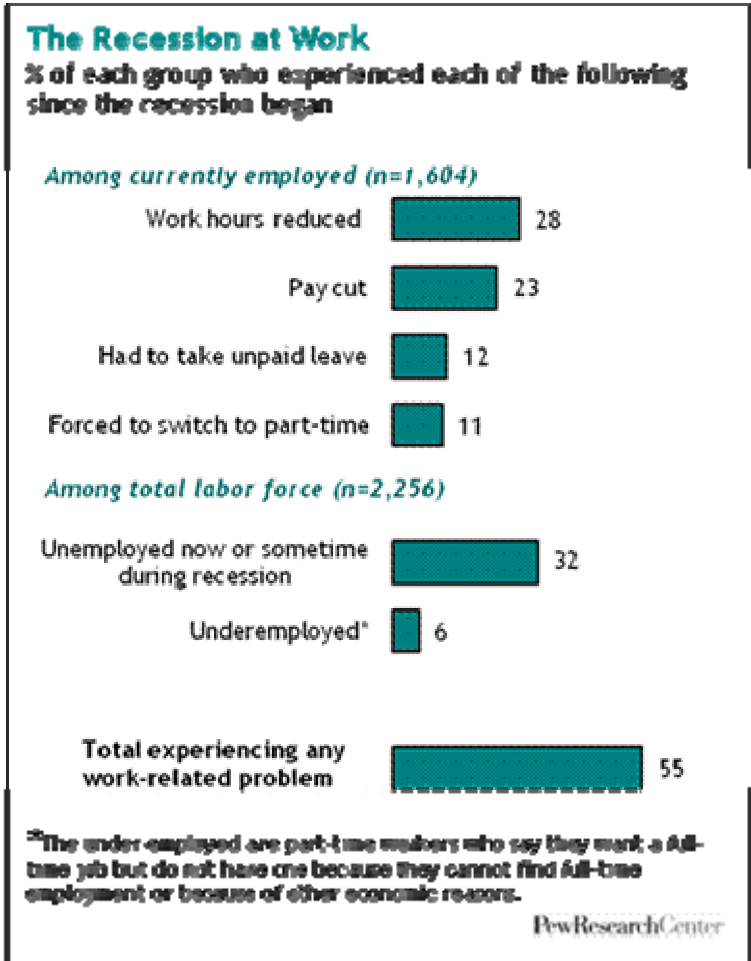
Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, education, region, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in continental U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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.

The Great Recession at 30 Months

Half of Work Force Has Taken a Job-Related Hit, but Some Green Shoots of Optimism

June 30, 2010

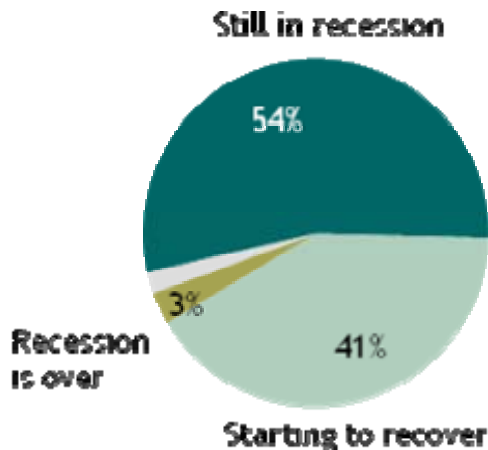


More than half (55%) of all adults in the labor force say that since the Great Recession began 30 months ago, they have suffered a spell of unemployment, a cut in pay, a reduction in hours or have become involuntary part-time workers, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center's Social and Demographic Trends Project.

The survey also finds that the recession has led to a new frugality in Americans' spending and borrowing habits; a diminished set of expectations about their retirements and their children's future; and a concern that it will take several years, at a minimum, for their family finances and house values to recover.

Not all survey findings are bleak. More than six-in-ten (62%) Americans believe that their personal finances will improve in the coming year, and a small but growing minority (15%) now says the national economy is in good shape.

These green shoots of public optimism are not evenly distributed -- nor do they always sprout from the most likely sources. Several groups that have been hardest hit by this recession (including blacks, young adults and Democrats) are significantly more upbeat

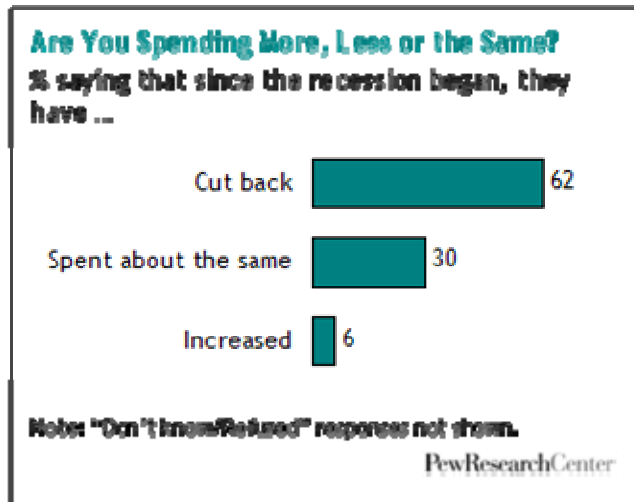


than their more sheltered counterparts (including whites, older adults and Republicans) about a recovery both for themselves and for the national economy.

This report analyzes economic outcomes, behavioral changes and attitudinal trends related to the recession among the full adult population and among different subgroups. It is based on a Pew Research Center survey of 2,967 adults conducted from May 11 to May 31, 2010, on cellular and landlines telephones and also on a Pew Research analysis of government economic and demographic data.

Key findings include:

- **The Recession at Work:** The work-related impact of this recession extends far beyond the 9.7% who are unemployed or the 16.6% who (according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) are either out of work or underemployed. The Pew Research survey finds that about a third (32%) of adults in the labor force have been unemployed for a period of time during the recession. And when asked about a broader range of work-related impacts, 55% of adults in the labor force say that during the recession they have suffered a spell of unemployment, a cut in pay, a reduction in hours or an involuntary spell in a part-time job.
- **Is It Over Yet?** Most Americans (54%) say the U.S. economy is still in a recession; 41% say it is beginning to come out of the recession; and just 3% say the recession is over. Whites (57%) are more inclined than blacks (45%) or Hispanics (43%) to say the recession is ongoing. Republicans (63%) are more inclined than Democrats (43%) to say the same.



- The New Frugality:** More than six-in-ten Americans (62%) say they have cut back on their spending since the recession began in December 2007; just 6% say they have increased their spending. Asked to predict their spending patterns once the economy improves, nearly one-in-three (31%) say they plan to spend less than they did before the recession began, while just 12% say they plan to spend more. A majority say they expect to spend about what they did before the recession.
- Family Finances:** About half the public (48%) say they are in worse financial shape now than before the recession began; one-in-five (21%) say they are in better shape. Grouped by income, those with annual household incomes below \$50,000 are the most likely to say they are in worse shape. Grouped by age, those in late middle age (50 to 64) are most likely to say this. Also, government data show that average household wealth fell by about 20% from 2007 to 2009, principally because of declining house values and retirement accounts. This is the biggest meltdown in U.S. household wealth in the post-World War II era.
- A Slow Road to Recovery:** Of those who say their family finances have lost ground during the recession, 63% say it will take at least three years to recover. Blacks who have lost ground believe that their recovery time will be shorter than whites who have lost ground.
- Retirement Worries:** A third (32%) of adults now say they are not confident that they will have enough income and assets to finance their retirement, up from 25% who said that in February 2009. Among adults ages 62 and older who are still working, a third say they have already delayed retirement because of the recession. And among workers in their 50s, about six-in-ten say they may have to do the same.
- The Recession Hits Home:** About half of all homeowners (48%) say the value of their home has declined during the recession. Of those who say this, nearly half (47%) believe it will take three to five years for the value to return to pre-recession levels, and nearly four-in-ten (39%) expect it will take six years or longer. Yet the vast majority (80%) of Americans say that owning a house is the

best long-term investment a person can make.

- **Lower Expectations for Children's Future:** More than a quarter (26%) of Americans say that when their children become the age they are now, their children will have a worse standard of living than they now have. A decade ago, just 10% of Americans had this concern. Blacks, Hispanics and young adults are more upbeat about the idea of intra-family intergenerational progress than are whites and older adults.
 - **A Partisan Switch:** Throughout most of the decade of the 2000s, Republicans were significantly more upbeat than Democrats about the state of the economy. That pattern is now reversed. Across six different measures of confidence in both personal finances and the national economy, Democrats are now much more upbeat than Republicans, even though they have lower incomes and less wealth and have suffered more job losses during the recession. To be sure, Republicans have had to endure their own distinctive mix of recession-related hardships. They are more likely than Democrats to say their house has lost value, and because they are more likely than Democrats to have investments in the stock market, they've been more exposed to its volatile swings up and down.
-

Voting Intentions Even, Turnout Indicators Favor GOP

Older Americans Eager to Vote...Republican, That Is

July 1, 2010

With four months to go before Election Day, voting intentions for the House remain closely divided, and neither party has gained or lost much ground over the course of 2010. However, Republicans are much more engaged in the coming election and more inclined to say they are certain to vote than are Democrats. This could translate into a sizable turnout advantage for the GOP in November that could transform an even race among registered voters into a solid victory for the Republicans.

Record-High Republican Enthusiasm					
	Oct 1994 ¹	Jun 1998	Jun 2002	Jun 2006	Jun 2010
More enthusiastic about voting this year	34	38	41	38	46
Republican	45	42	44	30	56
Democrat	30	38	40	46	42
Independent	29	35	39	37	42
<i>Rep-Dem gap</i>	+15	+4	+4	-16	+14
	Oct 1994 ²	Jun 1998	Sep 2002	Jun 2006	Jun 2010
Closely following campaign news	57	42	54	54	55
Republican	60	46	55	54	64
Democrat	58	43	55	54	50
Independent	55	42	51	55	51
<i>Rep-Dem gap</i>	+2	+3	0	0	+14

Pew Research Center June 16-20, 2010.
Based on registered voters.
¹October 1994 enthusiasm figures from Gallup.
²October 1994 campaign news based on general public.

Fully 56% of Republican voters say they are more enthusiastic about voting this year than in previous elections - the highest percentage of GOP voters expressing increased enthusiasm about voting in midterms dating back to 1994. While enthusiasm among Democratic voters overall is on par with levels in 2006, fewer liberal Democrats say they are more enthusiastic about voting than did so four years ago (52% then, 37% today).

The Republican Party now holds about the same advantage in enthusiasm among its party's voters that the Democratic Party held in June 2006 and the GOP had late in the 1994 campaign. Moreover, more Republicans than Democrats are now paying close attention to election news (64% vs. 50%). At this stage in previous midterms, news attentiveness was about the same for voters in both parties.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted June 16-20 among 1,802 adults and 1,496 registered voters reached on cell phones and landlines, finds that the Republicans also continue to hold a substantial advantage in the proportion of their party's voters who say they are "absolutely certain" to vote. Currently, 77% of Republican voters say they are absolutely certain to vote compared with 65% of Democratic voters.

**Older Voters Favor Republicans –
And Are Much More Engaged**

	All voters	18- 29	30- 49	50- 64	65+
<i>Midterm vote</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Republican/lean Rep	45	32	45	52	52
Democrat/lean Dem	45	57	43	41	41
Other/Don't know (Vol.)	10	11	13	8	7
	100	100	100	100	100
Absolutely certain to vote	69	50	65	80	78
Closely following campaign news	55	32	51	68	65

Pew Research Center June 16-20, 2010. Q10/10a,
PLANTO1/2, CAMPN11. Based on registered voters.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The new survey finds that 45% of registered voters say they support the Republican in their district while the same percentage favors the Democrat. While Democrats have a substantial advantage among the least engaged group of voters -- young people -- Republicans have a large advantage among the age groups that are most committed to voting - those ages 50 and older.

Voters younger than age 30 favor the Democratic candidate in their district by a wide margin (57% to 32%). Yet only half of young voters say they are absolutely certain to vote. Voters ages 50 and older favor the Republican candidate in their district by double digits (11 points) and roughly eight-in-ten (79%) say they are absolutely certain to vote.

In June 2006, Democrats held significant leads among both younger and older voters. Their advantage among voters under age 30 was about the same as it is today (56% vs. 36%), but they also held a 14-point lead among voters 50 and older (52% to 38%).

**Midterm Preferences among
Independent Voters**

	Vote Republican	Vote Democrat	R-D diff
	%	%	
June 2010	44	36	+8
June 2006	32	47	-15
June 2002	36	44	-8
June 1998	40	37	+3
July 1994	44	40	+4

Pew Research Center June 16-10, 2010. Q10/10a.
Based on independent registered voters.
Figures read across.

The GOP also is benefiting from a change in voting preferences among independents. Currently, Republicans have a slight edge over the Democrats among independent voters (44% to 36%). At this stage in 2006, independents backed the Democratic candidate in their district by a wide margin (47% to 32%).

Equally important, independents who say they will support the Republican candidate this November are much more engaged than those who favor the Democrat in their district. This pattern is evident across several measures - enthusiasm about voting, attentiveness to campaign news and intention to vote.

	<i>Plan to vote...</i>		<i>R-D diff</i>
	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	
More enthusiastic about voting this year than usual	55	36	+19
Closely following campaign news	63	48	+15
Absolutely certain to vote this fall	77	62	+15

Pew Research Center June 16-10, 2010. Q18, CAMPN11 & PLANTO1/2. Based on independent registered voters.

More than half of independent voters (55%) who back the Republican candidate in their district are more enthusiastic than usual about voting this year; that compares with 36% of independents who prefer the Democratic candidate. While 63% of independent voters who favor the GOP candidate are closely following news about the election, just 48% of independents who support the Democratic candidate say the same. And 77% of independent voters who support a Republican say they are absolutely certain to vote, compared with 62% of independents who back Democrat.

The 2010 Electoral Landscape

	All voters	Plan to vote...	
		Rep	Dem
<i>Biggest effect on vote...</i>	%	%	%
National issues	38	43	34
Local & state issues	28	23	35
Character & experience	21	23	18
Political party	5	4	6
Other/Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Like to see your member reelected</i>			
Yes	49	42	62
No	34	44	22
Other/Don't know	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Like to see most members reelected</i>			
Yes	31	18	46
No	56	73	40
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Is party control of Congress a factor in your vote?</i>			
Yes	58	66	57
No	39	31	40
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Is your vote a vote...</i>			
For Obama	23	6	44
Against Obama	28	52	5
Obama not much of a factor	47	41	49
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100

Pew Research Center June 16-20, 2010. Q14F1 & Q16-19. Based on registered voters.

In many ways, the 2010 campaign is shaping up as a mirror image of the midterm election four years ago. In June 2006, more Democratic than Republican voters said national issues would have the biggest impact on their vote. Anti-incumbent sentiment also was much stronger then among voters who planned to vote for a Democratic candidate than among those voting Republican.

This year, more voters who plan to vote Republican than those who intend to vote Democratic say national issues will make the biggest difference in their vote for Congress (by 43% to 34%). And fully 44% of Republican voters oppose their own member's reelection, compared with just 22% of Democratic voters. In June 2006, these figures were nearly reversed (39% of Democratic voters vs. 22% of Republican voters).

The issue of which party controls Congress is as big a factor today for Republicans as it was for Democrats four years ago; 66% of those planning to vote for a Republican say the issue of which party controls Congress will be a factor in their vote, compared with 57% of Democratic voters. Four years ago, 68% of Democratic voters cited party control of Congress as an influence on their vote as did 55% of Republican voters.

Barack Obama is not as big a negative factor for Republican voters as George W. Bush was for Democratic voters four years ago. Currently, 52% of Republican voters think of their vote as a vote against Obama. In June 2006, 64% of Democratic voters said that about Bush. And there are now more pro-Obama Democratic voters than there were pro-Bush Republican voters four years ago (44% vs. 34%).

GOP Leaders Get Modest Ratings from GOP Voters			
	All voters	Plan to vote...	
		Rep	Dem
<i>Democratic leaders job</i>	%	%	%
Approve	34	11	63
Disapprove	56	84	27
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Republican leaders job</i>			
Approve	31	48	19
Disapprove	57	43	69
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100
<i>This Congress has ...</i>			
Accomplished more	18	10	27
Accomplished less	35	52	18
About the same	42	33	51
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100

Pew Research Center June 16-20, 2010. Q3-Q4 & Q24.
Based on registered voters.

As was the case in 2006, voters take a dim view of both parties' congressional leaders -- just 34% of voters approve of the job performance of Democratic leaders while 31% approve of the job of GOP leaders. While Republican voters are highly enthusiastic about the election, they are not very impressed with the party's congressional leaders. Just 48% of voters who favor a GOP candidate in their district approve of the job of Republican congressional leaders while 43% disapprove. Far more Democratic voters (63%) approve of the job their party's congressional leaders are doing.

Somewhat fewer voters say that Congress has accomplished less than did so in June 2006 (35% today, 45% then). But Republican voters are currently about as critical of the accomplishments of the current Congress (52% accomplished less) as Democratic voters were four years ago (57%).

Looking Ahead to Nov. 2

How Will Your Party Do this November Compared to Previous Elections?			
	Jun	Nov	Jun
<i>Among Rep & Rep-leaning registered voters</i>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2010</u>
	%	%	%
Better	16	17	72
Worse	17	29	2
About the same	62	48	23
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Among Dem & Dem-leaning registered voters</i>			
Better	62	72	29
Worse	2	1	18
About the same	32	22	48
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100

Pew Research Center June 16-20, 2010. Q88 & Q89.
Based on registered voters.

Fully 72% of Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters expect that the GOP will do better than it has in recent elections. This is similar to Democratic expectations during the 2006 election. In June of that year, 62% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters anticipated that their party would make gains - a figure that grew to 72% by the end of the campaign.

However, Democratic voters this year are not particularly pessimistic about the election: 29% expect the Democrats to do better in this year's midterm, far more than the percentage of GOP voters who said that four years ago (16%). Nearly half of Democratic voters (48%) expect the party to do about the same this fall as in recent elections, while just 18% say it will do worse.

GOP Enthusiasm Linked to Obama, Control of Congress, and Tea Party	
<i>Voters who plan to vote Republican</i>	More enthusiastic than usual
<i>Obama job</i>	%
Disapprove, strongly (62%)	62
Disapprove, not strongly (14%)	45
Approve (17%)	40
<i>Midterm vote is...</i>	
A vote against Obama (52%)	62
Obama is not a factor (41%)	45
<i>Party control of Congress is...</i>	
A factor in vote (66%)	60
Not a factor (31%)	45
<i>In 2010 Republicans will...</i>	
Do better than it has in recent elections (74%)	63
Do about the same (22%)	45
<i>Tea party movement</i>	
Agree with (49%)	66
No opinion/Haven't heard of (45%)	45
Pew Research Center June 16-20, 2010. Q18. Based on registered voters who say they support or lean toward the Republican candidate in their district.	

The optimism of Republican voters about their party's chances this fall is one factor - though hardly the only factor -- boosting their enthusiasm about voting. Among the voters who favor the Republican candidate in their district and expect the party to do better than in recent elections, 63% are more enthusiastic about voting. That compares with 45% of voters who plan to vote Republican and expect the party to fare about the same as it has in recent elections.

The high level of enthusiasm among Republican voters also is linked to strongly negative opinions about Barack Obama. Fully 62% of Republican voters who think of their vote as a vote against Obama are more enthusiastic about voting than in previous elections. By comparison, fewer than half (45%) of those who say Obama is not a factor in their vote are more enthusiastic about voting. There is a similar gap in enthusiasm between Republican voters who say party control of Congress is a factor in their vote and those who do not (60% vs. 45%).

Republican voters who agree with the Tea Party movement - about half of all GOP voters - also are more enthusiastic about voting this fall than are Republican voters who have not heard of the Tea Party or have no opinion of the movement (66% vs. 45%).

GOP Image Still Weak

GOP Still Lags on Empathy, Ability to Bring Change, Honest Governance			
<i>Which party...</i>	<u>Dem Party</u> %	<u>Rep Party</u> %	<i>Dem adv</i>
Is more concerned about needs of people like me	50	34	+16
Can bring about the changes the country needs	45	33	+12
Governs more honestly and ethically	41	31	+10
Selects better candidates for office	43	35	+8
Can better manage the federal government	37	41	-4

Pew Research Center June 16-20, 2010. Q44a-e.
Figures read across. Based on general public.

Despite the Republican Party's favorable electoral prospects, its image with the public is still relatively weak. The public views the Democratic Party as more concerned about the needs of "people like me," more able to bring about needed change, and as governing in a more honest and ethical way.

These opinions are little changed from February of this year. The Democratic Party's lead on some traits is smaller than it was in October 2006, near the end of the previous midterm campaign. At that time, 55% viewed the Democrats as more concerned about the needs of average Americans, while just 27% said the GOP was more concerned.

Notably, the Republican Party holds a slight edge over the Democratic Party as better able to manage the federal government. Currently, 41% choose the Republican Party while 37% choose the Democratic Party. In October 2006, the Democratic Party held a 10-point lead as the party better able to manage the government (44% to 34%).

U.S. Congress Falls Below 20% Mark

July 03, 2010

Fewer Americans have a favourable view of the way members of the House of Representatives and the Senate are doing their jobs, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 18 per cent of respondents approve of the performance of Congress, down seven points since May.

American voters renewed the House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate in November 2006. In January 2007, the Democratic Party took control of the lower house for the first time since 1994, with 233 lawmakers. Democratic California congresswoman Nancy Pelosi became the first female speaker of the House.

A new congressional election took place in November 2008. The Democrats received 53.04 per cent of the vote and secured 257 seats in the lower house, while the Republicans got 44.16 per cent of the vote and won 178 seats.

On Jul. 1, Pelosi discussed the decision of Democrats in the lower house to cut \$7 billion U.S. from a presidential request for foreign aid and cabinet agencies, saying, "It demands that we live within our means and works to eliminate waste and inefficiency in our spending. And it sets us on-course to balanced budgets in the future."

The next legislative election is scheduled for Nov. 2. Every seat in the House and Representatives—as well as 36 of the 100 Senate seats—are at stake.

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the United States Congress?

	Jun. 2010	May 2010	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010
Approve	18%	25%	24%	24%
Disapprove	72%	63%	63%	66%
Not sure	10%	12%	13%	10%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,001 American adults, conducted from Jun. 25 to Jun. 27, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Half of Americans Disapprove of Obama

June 30, 2010

Fewer adults in the United States are satisfied with Barack Obama, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 50 per cent of respondents disapprove of their president's performance, up five points since May.

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

On Jun. 27, Obama discussed the situation in North Korea, saying, "Our main focus right now is in the UN Security Council making sure that there is a crystal-clear acknowledgement that North Korea engaged in belligerent behaviour that is unacceptable to the international community. And the United States participated in the investigation that was conducted around the Cheonan. Our experts concluded that North Korea had carried out that attack. That was consistent with South Korea's assessment and others who were observers in the process."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president?

	Jun. 2010	May 2010	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010
Approve	44%	48%	46%	48%
Disapprove	50%	45%	45%	45%
Not sure	6%	7%	9%	8%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,001 American adults, conducted from Jun. 25 to Jun. 27, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Americans Agree with McChrystal's Dismissal

June 29, 2010

People in the United States believe their president was right in accepting the resignation of the Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents agree with General Stanley McChrystal's dismissal.

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

At least 1,885 soldiers—including 1,139 Americans—have died in the war on terrorism, either in support of the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom or as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

In December 2009, U.S. President Barack Obama revealed that his administration plans to "begin the transfer of our forces out of Afghanistan" in July 2011.

McChrystal and his staff made some disparaging comments about several U.S. government officials—including Vice President Joe Biden, National Security Advisor James L. Jones, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl W. Eikenberry, and Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke—in a profile that was published this month in *Rolling Stone* magazine.

On Jun. 23, Obama announced McChrystal's dismissal, saying, "I don't make this decision based on any difference in policy with General McChrystal, as we are in full agreement about our strategy. Nor do I make this decision out of any sense of personal insult."

Polling Data

U.S. President Barack Obama has accepted General McChrystal's resignation as Commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan. Do you agree or disagree with this decision?

Agree 53%

Disagree 28%

Not sure 18%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,001 American adults, conducted from Jun. 25 to Jun. 27, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Flag is Most Cherished Symbol for Canadians

July 03, 2010

Many adults in Canada hold positive feelings on their flag, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 88 per cent of respondents are very or moderately proud of the Canadian flag.

Hockey is second on the list of sources of pride with 80 per cent, followed by the Canadian armed forces with 79 per cent, the health care system with 69 per cent, the state of democracy in Canada with 68 per cent, multiculturalism with 66 per cent, the Canadian economy with 65 per cent, and bilingualism with 52 per cent.

Less than half of respondents report feeling proud about the Canadian justice system, Parliament and the monarchy.

In 1867, the British America Act united four British colonies as provinces into the Dominion of Canada. Six more entities on the North American landmass would also go

on to join the confederation of Canada, which was granted full autonomy from Britain following the passage of the Statute of Westminster in 1931.

On Jul. 1, during a visit to Canada, Queen Elizabeth II declared: "I have watched with enormous admiration how Canada has grown and matured while remaining true to its history, its distinctive character and its values. This nation has dedicated itself to being a caring home for its own, a sanctuary for others and an example to the world."

Polling Data

Below is a list of institutions and features that can elicit feelings of pride among Canadians. For each one, please say if it makes you very proud, moderately proud, not too proud, or not proud at all. ("Very Proud" or "Moderately Proud" listed)

	Jul. 2010	Jul. 2009	Jul. 2008
The Canadian flag	88%	86%	86%
Hockey	80%	72%	71%
The Canadian Armed Forces	79%	84%	80%
The health care system	69%	58%	50%
State of democracy in Canada	68%	64%	57%
Multiculturalism	66%	64%	61%
The Canadian economy	65%	58%	62%
Bilingualism	55%	54%	52%
Aboriginal culture	55%	53%	51%
The Canadian justice system	44%	45%	42%
Parliament	41%	37%	32%
The Monarchy	40%	42%	36%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,009 Canadian adults, conducted on Jun. 22 and Jun. 23, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Police Reaction in Toronto Justified for Canadians

July 02, 2010

People in Canada and residents of the latest G20 summit host city believe the reaction of the police to the demonstrations that took place during the meeting of world leaders was justified, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 66 per cent of respondents in Canada—and 73 per cent of people in Toronto—agree with this view.

The G8 was created after the 1998 Birmingham summit. Russia had attended previous meetings of the G7, but had been excluded from specific discussions on financial and economic matters. The group holds annual summits where the heads of government of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States discuss economic and political affairs. The European Union (EU) also attends these meetings as an observer. The G20, which incorporates finance ministers and central bank governors from 19 countries and the EU, meets twice a year.

The latest G8 summit took place on Jun. 25 and Jun. 26 in Huntsville, Ontario, and the G20 meeting was held in Toronto on Jun. 26 and Jun. 27.

Toronto was the scene of violent demonstrations during the G20 summit. Some police vehicles were set on fire and several banks and stores were vandalized. More than 900 people were arrested.

Toronto Mayor David Miller called on the federal government to reimburse affected businesses, saying, "It's only fair and right, given what was spent [on G20 security]—over a billion dollars—I think the people would feel very aggrieved if Ottawa didn't compensate them and we'll certainly be pushing very strongly for that."

Polling Data

Overall, how would you describe the reaction of the police in Toronto to the demonstrations that took place on Saturday and Sunday?

	CAN	TOR
Justified	66%	73%
Unjustified	17%	23%
Not sure	17%	3%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,003 Canadian adults and 503 City of Toronto adults, conducted on Jun. 28 and Jun. 29, 2010. Margins of error are 3.1 per cent and 4.4 per cent.

Justice System Unfair for Three-in-Five Canadians

June 30, 2010

Many adults in Canada seem disappointed with their justice system, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 59 per cent of respondents think the justice system in their country does not treat every person fairly.

While 60 per cent of respondents believe the criminal courts in Canada do a good job in determining whether or not an accused person is guilty, only 19 per cent think the prison system in the UK does a good job in helping prisoners become law-abiding.

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.

During its previous and current terms, the Conservative government has sought to amend existing sentencing guidelines and proposed to establish mandatory minimums for offences related to the drug trade. The government has introduced the Truth in Sentencing Act, which seeks to end the practice of allowing offenders a two-for-one credit for time spent in custody before a trial.

Earlier this month, Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page commented on the proposed legislation—which would require the construction of as many as a dozen new prisons—saying, "It's a lot of money in a period of time we're generating deficits."

Polling Data

Do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
The justice system in Canada treats every person fairly	34%	59%	6%
The criminal courts in Canada do a good job in determining whether or not an accused person is guilty	60%	33%	7%
The prison system in Canada does a good job in helping prisoners become law-abiding	19%	66%	15%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,004 Canadian adults, conducted on Jun. 16 and Jun. 17, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

AUSTRALASIA

More Australians Call for Afghanistan Withdrawal

June 30, 2010

The proportion of people in Australia who want to end their country's commitment in Afghanistan has risen considerably, according to a poll by Essential Media Communications. 61 per cent of respondents think Australia should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, up 11 points since March 2009.

On the contrary, 24 per cent of respondents say the Australian troops should stay in Afghanistan.

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

At least 1,870 soldiers—including 16 Australians—have died in the war on terrorism, either in support of the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom or as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Close to 1,500 Australian troops remain staged in Afghanistan.

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

Howard was one of the staunchest supporters of the military interventions in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Rudd withdrew all Australian soldiers from Iraq in June 2008, but the country is still involved in the Afghanistan mission.

On Jun. 23, Australian defence minister John Faulkner said that the country's training mission in Afghanistan may be shorter than initially expected, declaring, "What that means is that at some time in that two-year to four-year timeframe we would see our training mission transition to an over-watch role, and that would obviously mean (...) we would start to see a reduction in the number of troops in Afghanistan."

On Jun. 24, the ALP's Julia Gillard was sworn in as Australia's new prime minister after Rudd's leadership was challenged by party members.

Polling Data

Thinking about the Australian troops in Afghanistan, do you think Australia should...?

	Jun. 2010	Mar. 2009
Increase the number of troops in Afghanistan	7%	14%
Keep the same number of troops in Afghanistan	24%	24%
Withdraw our troops from Afghanistan	61%	50%
Don't know	8%	12%

Source: Essential Media Communications

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,842 Australian adults, conducted in June 2010.

No margin of error was provided.

Half of New Zealanders Back Governing National

June 27, 2010

Support for New Zealand's governing conservatives has remained stable, according to a poll by Roy Morgan International. 50.5 per cent of respondents would vote for the National party in the next legislative election, down two points since May.

The opposition Labour party is second with 33 per cent—up three points—followed by the Greens with 9.5 per cent. Support is much lower for the Maori Party, New Zealand First, ACT, and United Future.

New Zealanders renewed the House of Representatives in November 2008. Final results gave the conservative National party 45.50 per cent of the vote and 59 seats in the 122-member legislature. The Labour party garnered 33.77 per cent of the vote and 43 mandates. The remaining seats went to other parties and independents.

Also in November 2008, National leader John Key formed a government with the support of ACT, United Future and the Maori Party. Helen Clark announced her resignation as Labour leader, and was supplanted by former trade and defence minister Phil Goff.

In April 2009, the Greens and National signed a memorandum of understanding, under which both parties established a "good faith working relationship" with no prerequisite policy commitments.

On Jun. 22, Labour's disarmament spokesman, Phil Twyford, urged Key's team to speak against an alleged plan by China to sell nuclear reactors to Pakistan, declaring, "New Zealanders expect their government to be willing to stand up, and speak frankly and honestly. The government should do what is right."

Polling Data

If an election were held today which party would receive your party vote?

	Jun. 13	May 30	May 16
National	50.5%	52.5%	48.5%
Labour	33%	30%	33.5%
Greens	9.5%	9.5%	9%
Maori Party	3%	3.5%	2.5%
New Zealand First	1.5%	2.5%	3%
ACT	1%	1%	2.5%
United Future	1%	0.5%	0.5%
Progressives	--	0.5%	0.5%

Source: Roy Morgan International

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 923 New Zealand voters, conducted from May 31 to Jun. 13, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Gender Equality Universally Embraced, but Inequalities Acknowledged

July 1, 2010

Widespread Support for Gender Equality, but More Changes Needed

	Women should have equal rights	Among supporters of equal rights	
		Most changes made	More changes needed
	%	%	%
U.S.	97	33	64
Britain	97	29	69
France	99	18	82
Germany	97	37	63
Spain	99	18	80
Poland	95	42	56
Russia	85	43	51
Turkey	89	32	64
Egypt	60	36	59
Jordan	61	61	37
Lebanon	95	47	51
China	95	53	46
India	92	57	41
Indonesia	64	58	41
Japan	89	8	89
Pakistan	79	34	60
S. Korea	93	27	71
Argentina	97	23	73
Brazil	95	15	84
Mexico	96	26	73
Kenya	73	22	77
Nigeria	45	29	70

Samples in China, India and Pakistan are disproportionately urban. See the Methods section for more information.

“Do you think women should have equal rights with men, or shouldn’t they?” If ‘yes’: “Which of these two statements comes closer to your own views— even if neither is exactly right. (Survey country) has made most of the changes needed to give women equal rights with men, OR (Survey country) needs to continue making changes to give women equal rights with men.” (Pew Research Center Q80 & Q81)

Fifteen years after the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women's Beijing Platform for Action proclaimed that "shared power and responsibility should be established between women and men at home, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities," people around the globe embrace the document's key principles.

Almost everywhere, solid majorities express support for gender equality and agree that women should be able to work outside the home. Most also find a marriage in which both spouses share financial and household responsibilities to be more satisfying than one in

which the husband provides for the family and the wife takes care of the house and children. In addition, majorities in most countries reject the notion that higher education is more important for a boy than for a girl.

Yet, despite a general consensus that women should have the same rights as men, people in many countries around the world say gender inequalities persist in their countries. Many say that men get more opportunities than equally qualified women for jobs that pay well and that life is generally better for men than it is for women in their countries. This is especially so in some of the wealthier nations surveyed. And while majorities in nearly every country surveyed express support for gender equality, equal rights supporters in most countries say that more changes are needed to ensure that women have the same rights as men.

These are among the findings of a 22-nation survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, conducted April 7 to May 8. This special in-depth look at views on

	Women should be able to work outside home	When jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job
% Agree	%	%
U.S.	97	14
Britain	97	12
France	97	20
Germany	97	19
Spain	97	12
Poland	92	44
Russia	95	47
Turkey	95	67
Egypt	61	75
Jordan	58	68
Lebanon	96	51
China	97	73
India	95	84
Indonesia	88	74
Japan	94	41
Pakistan	69	82
S. Korea	96	60
Argentina	87	43
Brazil	96	37
Mexico	90	28
Kenya	87	46
Nigeria	84	77

Pew Research Center Q69b & Q69c.

gender equality,

done in association with the International Herald Tribune, also suggests that, while egalitarian sentiments are pervasive, they are less than robust; when economically challenging times arise, many feel men should be given preferential treatment over women in the search for employment.

This is especially true in the predominantly Muslim countries surveyed as well as in India, China, South Korea and Nigeria. In these countries, solid majorities agree that women should be able to work outside the home; yet, most also agree that men should have more right to a job than women when jobs are scarce. For example, about six-in-ten in Egypt (61%) and Jordan (58%) say women should have the right to work outside the home, but even larger shares (75% and 68%, respectively) say the priority should be for men to have jobs.

In some countries, male respondents are considerably more likely than female respondents to agree that men should have more right to a job than women when jobs are scarce. For example, about nine-in-ten Egyptian men (92%) share this view, compared with 58% of Egyptian women. Similarly, while about three-quarters of Jordanian men (77%) say their sex should be more entitled to a job in tough economic times, a much slimmer majority of Jordanian women (56%) say the same.

Men and women also frequently offer diverging views on other aspects of gender equality, including a woman's right to work outside the home and the importance of higher education for boys and girls; this gender gap is evident most consistently in the predominantly Muslim countries surveyed.

Who Has the Better Life?				
			(Vol)	
<i>Where more</i>	<i>Men?</i>	<i>Women?</i>	<i>Same</i>	<i>DK</i>
<i>say men do</i>	%	%	%	%
France	75	14	9	2
Poland	55	15	25	6
Germany	49	15	27	9
Nigeria	46	25	26	3
Spain	45	16	33	5
Brazil	42	30	27	1
India	40	33	26	2
Britain	39	16	36	9
U. S.	39	23	24	15
Kenya	36	28	34	2
<i>Where more say both the same</i>				
Mexico	27	14	56	3
Indonesia	29	15	55	1
Russia	29	14	52	5
China	22	24	49	6
Jordan	28	23	47	2
Lebanon	18	34	47	1
Egypt	32	16	46	7
Argentina	27	21	46	6
Pakistan	37	16	42	6
Turkey	33	27	38	2
<i>Where more say women do</i>				
S. Korea	26	49	23	3
Japan	29	47	20	5

Pew Research Center Q6.

The survey also finds that women are far more likely than men to perceive gender inequalities. By double-digit margins, female respondents in 13 of 22 nations are more likely than male respondents to say men in their countries have the better life. And in most countries where majorities among both men and women agree that men get more opportunities than women for high-paying jobs, women are considerably more likely to say they completely agree that is the case.

Find the full report including methodology and topline questionnaire at pewglobal.org

East African Community Citizens Favor Freer Labor Flow

Kenyans, Tanzanians less likely to think moving freely for work is a good idea

July 1, 2010

Services, capital, and labor should move more freely when the East African Community (EAC) common market opens Thursday, but people will still need permits to work in

most of the five partner states. Although only Rwanda has eliminated work permits and Kenya looks to follow suit, Gallup surveys last year show the idea of moving freely for work within the EAC is popular in all countries.

One of the objectives of the EAC is to allow people to move freely to another country for work, without the need of a working permit.

Do you personally believe that this is a good idea or bad idea?

Asked of adults in EAC member countries in 2009

	Good idea	Bad idea	Don't know/ Refused	GDP-PPP*
Rwanda	91%	7%	2%	9.9
Uganda	89%	10%	1%	36.9
Burundi	87%	12%	1%	3.1
Kenya	65%	34%	1%	61.3
Tanzania	57%	40%	3%	53.7

*2008 GDP-PPP in millions of international dollars

GALLUP*

Majorities of Tanzanians (57%) and Kenyans (65%) saw free movement for work without a permit in a positive light, but they were cooler to the idea than Rwandans (91%), Ugandans (89%), and Burundians (87%). In the same survey, Gallup also found Tanzanians and Kenyans -- whose countries have much higher GDPs than the other respondents' countries -- least likely to see their countries gaining from the EAC.

Professional, Non-Professional Workers Favor Idea

According to EAC Secretary General Juma Mwapachu, eliminating the work permit requirement for professionals is the starting point for realizing the full benefits of free movement within the common market. The idea of free movement, however, appeals to professionals (76%) and non-professionals (81%) alike in the EAC countries surveyed.

One of the objectives of the EAC is to allow people to move freely to another country for work, without the need of a working permit. Do you personally believe that this is a good idea or bad idea?

By job classification

	Good idea
Professional	76%
Non-Professional	81%

Based on 2009 surveys of Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

Results are weighted by population.

Professionals are those who classify their jobs in the professional worker, manager, official, executive, or business owner categories.

GALLUP®

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with 1,000 adults each in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. All respondents were aged 15 and older, and the surveys were conducted in Burundi in July and August, in Kenya in April, in Rwanda in August, in Tanzania in November, and in Uganda in May and June 2009. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from ± 3.5 percentage points in Burundi to ± 4.2 percentage points in Tanzania. 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.

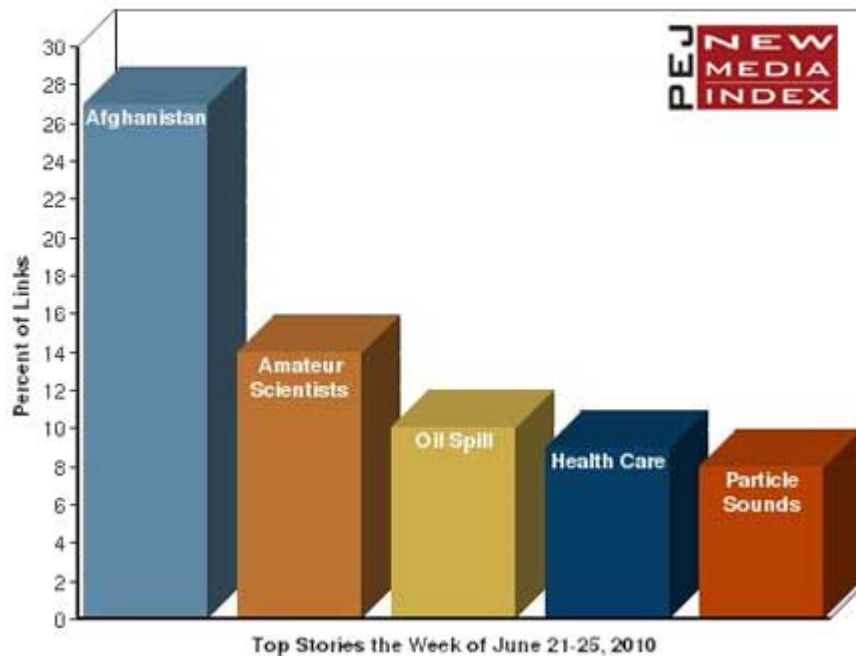
CYBER WORLD

McChrystal's Comments Turn the Social Media to Afghanistan

July 1, 2010

The removal of Gen. Stanley McChrystal as the top commander in Afghanistan led to a rare week when the war captured the attention of social media.

Bloggers Focus on Afghanistan



For the week of June 21-25, 27% of the news links on blogs and 10% on Twitter were about Afghanistan according to the New Media Index from the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism.

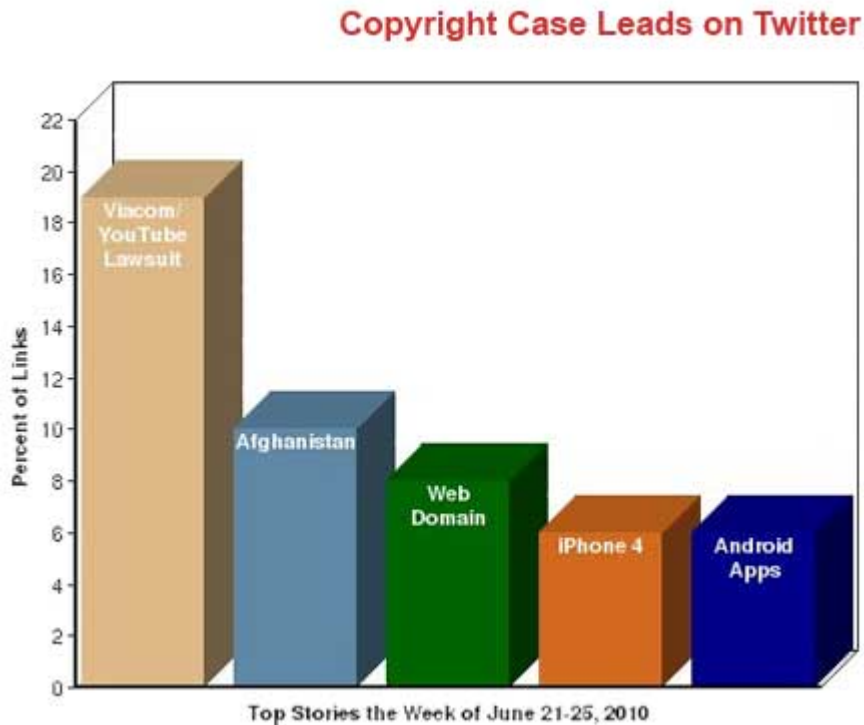
For blogs, this was the highest level of coverage the war had received since PEJ began the NMI in January 2009, and marks only the second time in 2010 that the subject was among the top five in a week.

On Twitter, the week was even more remarkable as, on the platform where attention often lasts only hours, the war became a top linked-to story for two weeks running.

Though it was McChrystal's comments condemning the civilian leadership which sparked news, it was President Obama that came under the fire of most online commentators. Many debated whether Obama should remove McChrystal from office. Some blamed Obama directly for the tension between McChrystal and the Afghan leaders. And others used the episode as an opening to criticize the war mission itself.

Overall, the driving theme both on Twitter and in blogs was primarily a level of frustration with the war itself. Some felt Obama had done a poor job conducting an important war while others thought the entire endeavor was beyond salvaging and that the troops should be brought home immediately.

The episode also illustrates the speed at which social media often operate. Almost immediately after mainstream news outlets reported the controversial quotes in *Rolling Stone* magazine, and days before the issue hit newsstands, online commentators were



The other most linked-to stories on Twitter last week turned back to technology and the Web. At the top, at 19% and ahead of Afghanistan, was a landmark court case involving online copyright laws that many felt could have far-reaching implications.

A Manhattan judge, on June 23, threw out a \$1 billion lawsuit that Viacom had brought against YouTube and its parent company, Google. Viacom claimed that YouTube allowed copyrighted material on its site without permission. The judge, however, ruled YouTube was not liable since the site works cooperatively with copyright holders to remove illegal videos once notified.

The vast majority of Twitterers passed along news stories about the ruling without additional comment. Those who did add commentary primarily approved of the judge's decision, claiming it to be a victory for freedom online.

The third-largest linked-to topic on Twitter (at 8%) was news that the board which oversees naming of Internet domains officially approved a domain suffix devoted solely to pornography (at 8%).

Two device-focused stories followed, both at 6%: an MSNBC.com story that aggregated various positive reviews of Apple's new iPhone 4, and a warning that some applications for the Android smartphone allow third-party entities to access sensitive or private information.

For bloggers, the rest of the top stories on blogs were a mixture of science and current events.

The second most linked-to story, at 14%, was a BBC report about Mark Suppes, a New York web designer who is part of a growing number of amateur scientists trying to produce clean energy on their own through nuclear fusion.

A variety of stories about the ongoing oil spill in the Gulf ranked third at 10%, including a BBC report that a rig worker identified a leak in the rig's safety equipment weeks before the explosion occurred.

A USA Today article about doctors refusing new Medicare patients because of low government payment rates was fourth at 9%. And news that scientists have simulated sounds made by sub-atomic particles when they are produced at the Large Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland, was fifth at 8%.

Afghanistan

Even before comments made by Gen. McChrystal surfaced on Tuesday, June 22, the online community had begun focusing their attention on the war in Afghanistan.

Some bloggers, for example, discussed a June 19 Washington Post report that the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan had entered into negotiations with insurgents fighting U.S. forces about how to make peace. On Twitter, a number of users shared news from a June 21 BBC report that the death toll for British soldiers in Afghanistan had reached 300.

Then once McChrystal's remarks became known and his future came into question, social media centered-in on that subject. Almost immediately after the initial reports became public, many bloggers weighed in on whether Obama should remove the general from his position.

"When a Runaway General trashes his Commander-in-Chief, or President Obama and his Administration, I think they call it insubordination," determined egalia at Tennessee Guerilla Women. "Bush would have fired the General's ass yesterday."

"It is a case of poor judgment on the part of the general and his staff to air comments on the character of senior civilian leaders to a reporter, but both the White House and the brass need to put this media gaff aside and focus on the real problem -- destroying al Qaeda, defeating the Taliban and helping establish an Afghanistan that can govern itself," argued An Ol' Broad's Ramblings.*

Others felt that the real and more long-term problem was Obama's leadership.

"If anyone deserves blame for the latest airing of the administration's internal feuds over

Afghanistan, it is President Obama," wrote [merriemarie](#). "For months Obama has tolerated deep divisions between his military and civilian aides over how to implement the counterinsurgency strategy he announced last December."

"No drama Obama and his crew have some 'message' problems now, but more importantly our troops on the ground have problems from a White House that does not fully support them or their mission," criticized [jmulder](#) at [The Washington Syndicate](#).

And when Obama announced that McChrystal would be dismissed and replaced by Gen. David Petraeus, the online reviews of Obama were mixed while widespread confidence came through for Petraeus.

"This move actually makes slightly more sense, blunting conservative criticism by tapping their Iraq hero for the job," wrote Perry Dorrell at [Brains and Eggs](#).

"There was only one choice that could have vindicated presidential authority over the military while ensuring the continuity of operations in Afghanistan - and Obama made it," wrote former George W. Bush speechwriter Michael Gerson at The Roosevelt Room. "Gen. David Petraeus is the intellectual architect of modern counterinsurgency strategy.... Most urgently, Petraeus knows how to show deference to civilian control of the military without abandoning his own military views."

"Safe facesaver kneejerk choice in Petraeus, anyway," determined [Jules Crittenden](#). "[Obama's] deeply considered overnight decision settled on a guy who, if now somewhat overstretched, has demonstrated he has a clue."

For some bloggers, the McChrystal episode was a chance to voice their opposition to the entire war itself.

"The 'surge' strategy has not actually worked, in either Iraq or Afghanistan," declared [Gorilla's Blog](#). "We've lost both wars, spent several trillion dollars and the people who attacked us remain at large. It's a total failure for which no one wants to take any responsibility."

"BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW FROM AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ!" exclaimed [White Noise Insanity](#). "There is no winning, so there's no reason to still be there!"

YouTube vs. Viacom Court Ruling

The news of the June 23 decision by U.S. District Judge Louis Stanton to throw out Viacom's lawsuit against YouTube and its parent company Google spread rapidly throughout the online community. On Twitter, it took just a few hours for many users to link to various accounts of the case from sites such as the BBC, CNET, and [Wired](#).

The majority of Twitterers who spotlighted the story simply posted a short description of

the case along with a link with messages such as, "#Google update Google defeats Viacom in landmark copyright case -- CNET."

The few tweets that included some commentary called the ruling a victory for users of the Web and a loss for large corporate interests.

"One small step for Google, one giant leap for user generated content," cheered Graeme Newman. "Take THAT, Viacom! You greedy, selfish, 100% purely evil company!" added Reuben Glaser. "YouTube - 1, Viacom - 0. Huzzah!"

That sentiment reverberated across the Web more broadly. As David Kravets of Most Viewed News & Politics Videos on YouTube For the Week of June 19-25, 2010

1. Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC) physically confronts two men who asked him questions on the street

2. Video of a baby in Brazil dancing the samba

3. Video of a large Jesus statue in Ohio burning after being hit by lightning

4. A Russia Today news report about a Seattle cop who is caught on video punching a teen girl

5. A comparison of musical performances from singers Katy Perry, Lady Gaga, and Miley Cyrus

wrote, "The ruling, if it survives, is a boon for internet freedom...Wednesday's decision says internet companies, even if they know they are hosting infringing material, are immune from copyright liability if they promptly remove works at a rights-holder's request - under what is known as a takedown notice."

YouTube

On YouTube last week, the audience split its attention between a Congressman's poor behavior and a uniquely talented toddler.

The most viewed news video was the same as it had been the previous week -- an embarrassing confrontation for Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC) who physically confronted two men who claimed to be students and asked him questions as he walked down the street.

The second most viewed video last week is a clear example of a viral video phenomenon. The clip is of a Brazilian baby named Luiz Otavio dancing the samba. The baby shows remarkable dancing skills for such a young age.

The version of the video that gained more than 2 million hits was posted by the website Geekdrop.com and spurred a conversation about whether the video was real or a fake. The video had drawn so much interest that it was featured on numerous television programs such as CNN's American Morning and NBC's Today Show. Geekdrop.com even created a page where people could debate whether the video was real and offered a contest for the funniest video response.

"I don't think there's any 'extraordinary' about this at all," posted one commenter. "Babies dance all the time and can be quite good at it, especially if they watch a certain video over and over and is being coached by mom or dad. I think it's real but not all that unusual."

"It's very easy to for anyone who is even partly familiar with this sort of editing to see this is a fake. The kid is being held and moved," responded another.

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