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Introductory Note

This week report consists of 33 surveys. Two of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 31 are national surveys.

164-34. TOPIC OF THE WEEK-

**GODHRA INCIDENT: Terrorism Blamed-
Regretted 9 Years Later**

Majority of Indians (46%) Think the 'Accused' Were Innocent

Compensate the Innocent, Apologize To Modi

After the special court ruling on the Godhra case, the court of the people makes its own recommendations, a CVOTER survey finds

BACKGROUND- Godhra Incident:

The Godhra train burning was a 2002 incident in which a sleeper coach on a passenger train was burned by Islamists in Godhra, Gujarat, India. 59 passengers died, all of them Hindu pilgrims coming from Ayodhya, and the event triggered widespread violence in Gujarat, resulting in the deaths of about 790 Muslims and 254 Hindus. (Source- Wikipedia)

CVoter:

At a time when democracy in multicultural, multireligious India is being held up as a shining example in Asia, particularly with the Jasmine Revolution changing the political and social order in much of the Arab world, the much-awaited Godhra verdict, pronounced by a special court recently, has been under sharp focus not just in the country but internationally too. The judgement, by a special "fasttrack" court set up to deal with the nine-year-old incident of the burning, in Godhra, of a bogey of the Sabarmati Express, carrying kar sevaks,

The trial court has ruled that the Godhra incident was a conspiracy and not an accident. Do you agree?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	28.2
Yes	39.6
No	21.1
I do not want to comment on court decision	11.1
Total	100

Should the 63 people who have been acquitted be given compensation in lieu of the nine years they've spent in jail?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	18.1
Yes	46.2
No	20.1
It should apply in all cases, not only in this case.	15.6
Total	100

headed to the temple town of Ayodhya, was eagerly awaited not merely in the interest of justice but also because this was an important case with a potential to rip the secular fabric of the country. The burning of the S6 bogey was followed by a horrible communal onslaught against the Muslims in Ahmedabad, largely believed to have been pro promoted by the Narendra Modi led government. The memory of that massacre in which thousands died is still a blot on the face of the nation and stirs debates in the international community even today.

But according to the recent court ruling, the attack on the train was part of a larger, planned conspiracy too. While the court let off the main accused for lack of evidence, it convicted 31 people for the heinous crime giving life imprisonment to 20, and death to 11, in what was described as an instance of the “rarest of the rare” depravity to merit the sentence. However, as many as 63 people were let off after having spent nine years in prison, their fundamental right to liberty having been overrun by a law which allowed the police at that time to arrest anyone on the basis of mere suspicion.

In this context, the Godhra verdict throws up a lot of important and interesting questions. While the BJP whose government was (and is) in power in Gujarat at the time of the attack on the train and the carnage has welcomed the judgement, there are two issues arising from this that are more worrying: One is the tendency to justify the subsequent communal riots as just retribution and a natural consequence of the train attack. And two, the fact that justice took almost a decade in being meted out (and even now, the parties concerned can appeal in higher courts) makes the citizens of the country understandably wary. For those who were wrongfully accused and let free after almost 10 years of their lives had gone by, can the state be brought to book and made to compensate?

Politically, the BJP’s communal stance in linking the Godhra attack to the subsequent carnage that followed needs to be condemned. Violence of any kind, by any community cannot be justified by the state, whose fundamental duty is to protect its citizens. Do India’s political parties at either end of the spectrum understand or value such a dictum? It is hard to say.

The court letting off the main accused due to inadequate proof also puts a question mark on the methods of policing employed in the country. The special court’s verdict has been seen as having surprising loose ends: the chief conspirators were found to have been not present at the site of the alleged conspiracy, but the confession which named these individuals as chief conspirators have been relied upon, in the main, to assert a conspiracy. These loose ends will be up for further legal scrutiny when the verdict is appealed in higher courts.

Both the police and judiciary are vital to the functioning of a vibrant democracy, but reforms are clearly needed, urgently, in both these areas in India. But while political will may be lacking to tackle such big issues, it is really the court of the people that can force the hands of the “system”. So what do the people of India think about the verdict and its repercussions? A recent CVOTER survey, across 21 states, found that out. While a majority of respondents polled (**39.6 %**) agreed with the court’s decision that the Godhra incident was a conspiracy, never mind legal experts pointing to the lacunae in the recorded evidence and scope for further appeal, what was also clear was that a majority of people felt that justice had been served but way too late. In response to the suggestion that the 63 people who had been let off by the court after spending nine years in jail should be compensated by the government for the loss of their liberty, more than **46 %** of the respondents replied in the affirmative.

An overwhelming majority of **84 %** agreed that the legal process in India takes too long to settle issues and that there should be a way to expedite judgement on such cases. Clearly, the

people of India want reforms in the judiciary and fast whether or not politicians are willing to take action in the matter.

But surprisingly, BJP's bid to justify the communal riots that followed the train-burning incident seems to have found favour with the masses. A majority of **47.2 %** said that the UPA government at the centre should now apologize to Modi.

However, **29.8 %** denied this while **23 %** were undecided and said "can't say". The court of the people will obviously have its own say and it is only election time that will decide the political fates of many. §

Source: http://teamcvoter.com/2011/newsletter3i1/newsletter_3issue1_2011.pdf

164-35 INDIA



INDIA:

Population: 1,156,897,766 (July 2010 est.)

GDP per Capita: \$3,100 (2009 est.)

The Indus Valley civilization, one of the world's oldest, flourished during the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C. and extended into northwestern India. Aryan tribes from the northwest infiltrated onto the Indian subcontinent about 1500 B.C.; their merger with the earlier Dravidian inhabitants created the classical Indian culture. The Maurya Empire of the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C. - which reached its zenith under ASHOKA - united much of South Asia. The Golden Age ushered in by the Gupta dynasty (4th to 6th centuries A.D.) saw a flowering of Indian science, art, and culture. Islam spread across the subcontinent over a period of 700 years. In the 10th and 11th centuries, Turks and Afghans invaded India and established the Delhi Sultanate. In the early 16th century, the Emperor BABUR established the Mughal Dynasty which ruled India for more than three centuries. European explorers began establishing footholds in India during the 16th century. By the 19th century, Great Britain had become the dominant political power on the subcontinent. The British Indian Army played a vital role in both World Wars. Nonviolent resistance to British rule, led by Mohandas GANDHI and Jawaharlal NEHRU, eventually brought about independence in 1947. Communal violence led to the subcontinent's bloody partition, which resulted in the creation of two separate states, India and Pakistan. The two countries have fought three wars since independence, the last of which in 1971 resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. India's nuclear weapons tests in 1998 caused Pakistan to conduct its own tests that same year. In November 2008, terrorists allegedly originating from Pakistan conducted a series of coordinated attacks in Mumbai, India's financial capital. Despite pressing problems such as significant overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and widespread

SUMMARY OF POLLS

MIDDLE EAST

Threats for Hamas and Fateh

According to a recent survey youth revolts in the Arab World pose a threat to Hamas and its government in the Gaza Strip while al Jazeera leaks of PLO documents recording Palestinian-Israeli negotiations pose a threat to Fateh and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. (PCPSR)

March 22, 2011

Abbas' Speech: The President's Visit To Gaza & Palestinian Elections

In the post President Abbas speech period, his positive evaluation increased by 12 points—from 64 percent on 7 March to 76 percent on 16 March. In contrast, there was slight decline in the positive evaluation of Prime Minister Haniyeh; from 44 percent to 40 percent. About 81 percent gave the overall content of the President's speech a positive evaluation. About 9 percent said that it was fair and 4 percent were not sure. (AWRAD)

March 21, 2011

WEST ASIA

Pakistani Optimism Inches Up In The Run Up To The Cricket World Cup Final

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, optimism in Pakistanis rises as the world cup final approaches. More than half of Pakistanis (52%) from across the country believe that Pakistan will win the world cup followed by those who think winner will be Australia (11%) or India (10%). (Gallup Pakistan)

March 18, 2011

SOUTH ASIA

Win the cup... for Sachin?

Though Sachin Tendulkar is respected as god in India however Indians believe that their world cup campaign is about their team and not only about Sachin. Indians are divided on the issue that Sachin can be a successful captain. (Cvoter)

March 2011

Compensate The Innocent, Apologise To Modi

About four in ten Indians believe that Godhra incident was a conspiracy and not an accident. In response to the suggestion that the 63 people who had been let off by the court after spending nine years in jail should be compensated by the government for the loss of their liberty, more than 46 per cent of the respondents replied in the affirmative.

(Cvoter)

March 2011

Indians Mixed Reaction to Manmohan Performance

A recent CVoter survey in India shows that Indians have mixed views about Manmohan performance in his second term as Primer Minister of India. More than four in ten say that he has not met their expectations and more than half believe he has failed as economist. (Cvoter)

February 2011

Indian Judiciary Needs To Be Overhauled Urgently

In a recent CVOTER survey an over whelming majority of Indians agreed with the statement that the judiciary needed to be overhauled at the earliest. As many as 85.5 per cent of respondents across 21 states agreed definitely with this suggestion. More than three quarters believe that corruption is the most serious problem in the judiciary.

(Cvoter)

February 2011

Can Indian Government Check Inflation

In a recent survey fifty per cent of middle class voters don't believe that the government can check inflation. (Cvoter)

February 2011

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

President Zuma's Approval Level In Metro Areas Steady At 49% As Elections Loom

After a year of volatility during 2010, President Zuma's approval level for February 2011 steadied at the same level as at the end of 2010 – 49% of metro adults approve of the way the President is doing his job. (TNS South Afrca)

March 17, 2011

Nigerian Presidential Poll

A survey before Presidential elections in Nigeria shows that Nigerians are making their mind for Presidential candidates. Majority of the unregistered voters have got themselves registered and they have knowledge about the candidates. (NOI)

March 2011

EAST EUROPE

Arab World'S Upheaval: Russian View

The overwhelming majority of Russians know about the recent developments in the Arab world (86%). Thirty-five percent of them keep a sharp eye on that; other 51% know about the situation in general. (Russian Public Opinion Research Center)

March 2, 2011

Collapse Of Ussr: Inevitable Or Accidental?

There is no common opinion among Russians about the role of Gorbachev in the USSR's collapse. Some say that his role was crucial (42%). Others believe that the USSR would have collapsed anyway due to objective reasons, even if there were any other politician instead of Gorbachev (37%). (Russian Public Opinion Research Center)

March 2, 2011

Recalling Gorbachev'S Time: Success And Failure Of The First And The Last USSR President

Over the recent decade the opinion o Russians about Mikhail Gorbachev has considerably changed. Less Russians feel irritation (from 30% in 2001 to 20% in 2011) and disgust (from 9 to 5%). At the same time, less Russians like him (from 16 to 5%) and respect him (from 15 to 10%). The basic feeling most of Russians share today about Gorbachev is indifference (from 25 to 47%). (Russian Public Opinion Research Center)

March 1, 2011

WEST EUROPE

Coalition Government's Policies Have Been Bad For Small And Medium Businesses

A new Yougov survey reveals that nearly half (48%) of senior decision makers in small and medium enterprises (SME) believe Government policies introduced since the 2010 election have been bad for small to medium businesses. However, 26% believe the new policies have been good for businesses, while just over a quarter (26%) disagree, believing on the contrary that the new policies have been good for business. (Yougov)

22 March 2011

NORTH AMERICA

Christie Tops Presidential Choice of GOP Primary Voters; Viewed as Most Likely to Beat Obama

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a man who says he has no plans to run in 2012, leads a field of hypothetical Republican presidential nominees, and is thought to have the best chance of knocking off President Obama. (Ibope-Zogyby)

March 23, 2011

What do Americans think of military action in Libya?

While polls in this country appear to show a public split on military action in Libya, across the pond there is significant support among Americans. The Ipsos poll for Reuters shows that 60% of Americans support US and allied military action in Libya, and eight in ten (79%) agree that the US and its Western allies should seek to remove Gaddafi. (Ipsos U.S)

24 March 2011

Support for Nuclear Power Down Somewhat from 2008

Compared to identical questions asked in 2008, the percentages believing nuclear power is safe and that more nuclear plants should be built fall slightly, but still number at least 60% of likely voters. (Ibope-Zogyby)

March 22, 2011

Majority Supports No-Fly Zone in Libya

A small majority backs the U.S.-led no-fly zone in Libya, including a third who would consider taking additional military action according to the latest IBOPE Zogby Interactive poll. (Ibope-Zogyby)

March 21, 2011

Obama Tests Well at Start of Reelection Run

Nearly half (47%) of registered voters say they would like to see Barack Obama reelected, while 37% say they would prefer to see a Republican candidate win the 2012 election, according to the survey by the Pew Research Center. (Pew Research Center)

March 23, 2011

Wide Gulf in Health Coverage Persists Across U.S. Metro Areas

Close to half of adults (46.1%) living in McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Texas, had no healthcare coverage last year -- nearly three times the national average -- and the highest percentage across the 188 U.S. metropolitan areas that Gallup and Healthways surveyed. (Gallup USA)

March 23, 2011

Americans Approve of Military Action Against Libya, 47% to 37%

A Gallup poll conducted Monday finds more Americans approving than disapproving of the military action against Libya by the United States and other countries. (Gallup USA)

March 22, 2011

3% vs. 27% - Public Wary of U.S. Military Intervention in Libya

On the eve of the start of military intervention in Libya by the U.S. and its allies, the American public by a wide margin expressed the view that the United States did not have a responsibility to do something about the fighting between government forces and anti-government groups in Libya. (Pew Research Center)

March 25, 2011

One Year Later, Americans Split on Healthcare Law

One year after President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law, Americans are divided on its passage, with 46% saying it was a good thing and 44% saying it was a bad thing. Most Americans are skeptical that the law will improve medical care in the U.S. or their own personal medical care. (Gallup USA)

March 21, 2011

Opposition to Nuclear Power Rises amid Japanese Crisis

Not surprisingly, public support for the increased use of nuclear power has declined amid the ongoing nuclear emergency in Japan. Currently, 39% say they favor promoting the increased use of nuclear power while 52% are opposed. Last October, 47% favored promoting the increased use of nuclear power and the same percentage (47%) was opposed. (Pew Research Center)

March 21, 2011

Huckabee Has Slight Edge, Palin Down, in GOP '12 Preferences

Mike Huckabee tops a large list of potential GOP presidential candidates in current support for the party's 2012 nomination, with 19% of Republicans saying they are most

likely to back him. This gives Huckabee a slight edge over Mitt Romney (15%). Sarah Palin is now at 12% after receiving 16% support in three prior Gallup polls. Newt Gingrich is the only other potential candidate who registers double-digit support. Sixteen percent of Republicans currently have no preference. (Gallup USA)

March 25, 2011

Jobs Key to Residents' Satisfaction With Their Communities

Lincoln, Neb., residents are close to unanimous in saying they are satisfied with the city or area where they live, according to 2010 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index data -- 96.7% respond this way, the highest proportion across 188 U.S. metropolitan areas. Lincoln is also the metro area with the lowest current unemployment rate in the country, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (Gallup USA)

March 25, 2011

Democrats Lead Ranks of Both Union and State Workers

Union members, whether they work for the government or the private sector, are more likely than nonunion workers to be Democrats than Republicans. The gap is greatest among unionized state government workers, who are twice as likely to be Democrats. (Gallup USA)

March 24, 2011

Pawlenty Begins Race With 41% GOP Name Recognition

Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who this week became the first major Republican to announce the formation of a presidential exploratory committee, has 41% name recognition among Republicans nationwide. He trails a number of other potential GOP presidential candidates on this measure. (Gallup USA)

March 23, 2011

Americans' Worries About Economy, Budget Top Other Issues

Nearly three in four Americans (71%) say they worry about the economy "a great deal," more than worry about 13 other issues Gallup measured in a March 3-6 poll. Nearly two in three (64%) worry a great deal about federal spending and the budget deficit. (Gallup USA)

March 21, 2011

After Government Falls, Half (49%) of Canadians Believe Harper would be Best Prime Minister for Canada

After the fall of Government in Canada, new Ipsos Reid poll has revealed that, heading into Canada's fourth General Election in seven years, one half (49%, up 1 point since early February) of Canadians believe that Stephen Harper would make the best Prime Minister of Canada. In second position is NDP leader Jack Layton (34%, down 1 point) who has garnered twice as many votes as Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff (17%, up 1 point). (Ipsos Canada)

March 26, 2011

AUSTRALASIA

8% of Australians support UN Intervention in Libya But majority (55.5%) don't want Australian Involvement

An overwhelming majority of Australians (78%) support the UN Resolution to implement a 'No Fly Zone' over Libya and for Coalition forces to take 'all necessary measures to protect civilians under threat of attack in Libya.' They are equally supportive

of US & Coalition military forces using their airforce however a majority (55.5%) do not support Australian involvement in it. (Roy Morgan)

March 25, 2011

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Worldwide Approval of U.S. Leadership Tops Major Powers

The United States continues to achieve higher global approval ratings than China, Russia, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Gallup's worldwide surveys document a noticeable change in the U.S. global leadership position from 2007 and 2008, when the U.S. trailed other major powers. (Gallup USA)

March 24, 2011

Before Conflict, Many Young Libyans Doubted Role in Progress

Ahead of the uprising in Libya, majorities of young Libyans believed young men and young women could help the country make substantial progress in the next decade. Sixty-six percent of 15- to 29-year-olds surveyed in the areas of Tripoli, Benghazi, and Al Kufrah in 2010 said young men could further the country's advancement and 55% said this about young women. (Gallup USA)

March 21, 2011

MIDDLE EAST

164-1. Threats for Hamas and Fateh

Youth revolts in the Arab World pose a threat to Hamas and its government in the Gaza Strip while al Jazeera leaks of PLO documents recording Palestinian-Israeli negotiations pose a threat to Fateh and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank

17-19 March 2011

March 22, 2011

Palestinian Public Opinion Poll No (39)

These are the results of the latest poll conducted by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR) in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip between 17-19 March 2011. The poll was conducted during a period of turmoil and revolt in the Arab World leading to regime change in Egypt and Tunisia. Moreover, the Palestinian areas witnessed demonstrations demanding end of the split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Before that, al Jazeera satellite TV news station released leaked Palestinian documents pertaining to Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. These documents were leaked from the PLO negotiations department. This press release covers issues related to the events in the Arab World, the leaks on al Jazeera, Palestinian domestic conditions, the performance of the governments of Salam Fayyad and Ismail Haniyeh, the internal balance of power between Fateh and Hamas, the future of reconciliation and reunification, and the views of the public on the most vital Palestinian goals and the most serious problems confronting Palestinians today. Total size of the sample is 1270 adults interviewed face to face in 127 randomly selected locations. Margin of error is 3%. While this press release covers domestic Palestinian issues, other issues related to the peace process and Israeli-Palestinian relations will be covered in a separate joint Palestinian-Israeli press release and later in our more detailed report on the poll.

Main Findings:

Findings of the first quarter of 2010 highlight a number of internal developments that came in response to external events. Two of the most significant events of the period under

consideration were the publication of PLO documents related to Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the eruption of youth demonstration in the Arab World demanding regime change in their countries. Palestinians were affected differently by these events. For example, the Palestinian Authority (PA) and its leadership were negatively affected by al Jazeera leaks as findings show a decrease in support for Fateh and a similar decrease in the level of satisfaction with the performance of president Mahmud Abbas. Several factors led to this outcome: al Jazeera remains the most watched TV news station in the Palestinian areas and the most credible one. While the PA leadership in the West Bank defended itself by accusing al Jazeera of conspiring against it, a large majority of Palestinians believed that al Jazeera goal was to seek the truth and not to conspire against the PA. Moreover, in responding to the leaks, the PA's case remained unconvincing in the eyes of a large majority of Palestinians. Above all else, and based on the leaks, half of the public concluded that the PA's negotiating position was not committed to the vital goals and interests of the Palestinian people.

By contrast, the events in the Arab World and particularly the youth demonstrations seem to pose a threat to Hamas in the Gaza Strip rather than to Fateh in the West Bank. For example, findings show that two thirds of Gazans believe that there is a need for demonstrations in the Gaza Strip demanding regime change in the Strip. More seriously for Hamas, half of Gazans indicate that they might participate in such demonstrations. In the West Bank, the picture is different: only one third believes there is a need to demonstrate and demand West Bank regime change and only one quarter indicate willingness to participate in such demonstrations.

Finally, findings show that if demonstrations were to erupt in the Gaza Strip, demands and slogans will focus not only on ending the West Bank-Gaza Strip split, but also on the absence of freedoms. By contrast, if demonstrations erupt in the West Bank, demands and slogans will focus on the two issues of ending the split and ending occupation.

(1) Youth demonstrations in the Arab World and in Palestine:

- An overwhelming majority of 92% sympathizes with the demonstrators in Arab countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, and Yemen; 7% do not sympathize with the Arab demonstrators.
- 41% believe that the first basic demand of the demonstrators in Egypt is to end the state of poverty and unemployment, 38% believe it is freedom from oppression of the ruling regime, 11% believe it is to end corruption, 5% believe it is to replace the Egyptian regime with an Islamist one, and 3% believe the demonstrators want to express opposition to Egypt's pro Western policies.
- About two thirds (64%) expect the developments in the Arab World to have a positive impact on Palestinian conditions, 17% believe they will have a negative impact, and 15% believe they will have no impact.
- Two thirds (66%) expect the fall of the Mubarak regime in Egypt to lead to permanent opening of the Rafah international crossing with Egypt and 27% do not expect that.
- But a majority of 54% believes the chances for the establishment of a Palestinian state next to the state of Israel in the next five years will not change as a result of the developments in the Arab World, 21% believe such chances will increase and 23% believe the chances will decrease.
- 47% of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip believe that there is a need for similar demonstrations in the *West Bank* demanding regime change and 50%

believe no need exists. However, among West Bankers, only 36% believe there should be demonstrations demanding *West Bank* regime change.

- By contrast, 52% of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip believe there is a need for similar demonstrations in the *Gaza Strip* demanding regime change in that area and 40% believe no need exists. However, among Gazans, belief in the need for regime-change demonstrations in the *Gaza Strip* increases to reach 67%.

- When asked about their possible participation in such regime-change demonstrations in their respective areas, major differences emerged between West Bankers and Gazans: while 50% of Gazans are ready to participate in demonstrations to demand regime change in the Gaza Strip, only 24% of West Bankers are ready to participate in demonstrations demanding regime change in PA in the West Bank.

- When asked about the most preferred slogan to raise in Palestinian demonstrations, a majority of 51% opted for “people want to end the split,” followed by “people want to end occupation” (24%), and “people want to end corruption” (14%). Four other slogans received 2% each: “people want to end negotiations,” “people want to end Oslo,” “people want an end to security coordination,” and “people want to return to the intifada.”

(2) Al Jazeera Publishes leaked PLO negotiations’ documents:

- 78% say they have seen or heard, on al Jazeera or other media outlets, about leaked documents published by al Jazeera news TV channel.

- 79% believe in the truthfulness of all or some of what has been published by al Jazeera regarding concessions made by Palestinian negotiators and 19% do not believe any of it.

- About half (49%) believes that the Palestinian negotiating position, as revealed by al Jazeera, was not committed to vital Palestinian goals and interests and 44% believe it has been committed to vital goals and interests.

- A majority of 59% believes that the goal of al Jazeera in publishing the leaked documents was to uncover the truth, but 36% believe the aim was to conspire against the Palestinian leadership.

- A majority of 62% believes that the PA response to al Jazeera leaks of the negotiations’ documents was not convincing and 33% believe it was convincing.

(3) Domestic Conditions:

- 21% describe conditions in the Gaza Strip as good or very good and 56% describe them as bad or very bad. In our last poll, three months ago, in December 2010, 17% described conditions in the Gaza Strip as good or very good and 62% said they were bad or very bad. By contrast, 33% describe conditions in the West Bank as good or very good and 33% describe them as bad or very bad. Three months ago, these percentages stood at 35% and 31% respectively.

- 70% say there is corruption in the PA institutions in the West Bank while only 59% say there is corruption in the institutions of the dismissed government in the Gaza Strip. These percentages are similar to those obtained three months ago.

- 65% say there is, or there is to some extent, press freedom in the West Bank and 31% say there is no such freedom in the West Bank. By contrast, 46% say there is, or there is to some extent, press freedom in the Gaza Strip while 42% say there is no such freedom in the Gaza Strip.

- 33% say people in the West Bank can criticize the authority in the West Bank without fear. By contrast, only 19% say people in the Gaza Strip can criticize the authorities in Gaza without fear. These findings reflect an improvement in the situation in the West Bank and lack of change in the Gaza Strip. Since the split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in June 2007, these percentages have witnessed gradual and significant decrease. As the table below shows, belief that people can criticize the authorities in the West Bank without fear stood at 56% while 52% believed that people can criticize the authorities without fear in the Gaza Strip.

Table: Gradual decrease in belief about the ability to criticize authorities in the West Bank or Gaza Strip since the split between the two areas

Date	Ability to criticize authorities in the West Bank	Ability to criticize authorities in the Gaza Strip
March 2011	33%	19%
December 2010	27%	19%
September 2010	30%	24%
March 2009	37%	29%
August 2008	47%	42%
September 2007	56%	52%

- Perception of safety and security stands at 54% in the West Bank and 67% in the Gaza Strip.

- Positive evaluation of the performance of the governments of Ismail Haniyeh stands at 31% and Salam Fayyad's at 39%. Three months ago, these percentages stood at 36% and 43% respectively.

- Findings show that the percentage of Gazans who say that political, security, and economic conditions force them to seek immigration to other countries stands at 37%; in the West Bank, the percentage stands at 21%.

- Percentage of satisfaction with the performance of President Abbas stands at 46% while 51% say they are dissatisfied with his performance. These percentages reflect a decrease in the level of satisfaction with the performance of the president, which stood at 50% three months ago while the level of dissatisfaction stood at 45%. Satisfaction with the performance of the president stands at 39% in the Gaza Strip and 51% in the West Bank.

- 23% say the government of Haniyeh is the legitimate Palestinian government and 25% say the Fayyad government is the legitimate one. 37% say both governments are illegitimate. These results indicate a decrease in the percentage of those who view the Fayyad government as legitimate.

(4) West Bank-Gaza Strip split and how to end it:

- A majority of 52% opposes and 43% support Salam Fayyad's proposal to end the West Bank-Gaza Strip split by an immediate unification of the two areas, the formation of a national unity government under the premiership of a prime minister acceptable to

Fateh and Hamas, and the maintenance of the status quo regarding security conditions in the Gaza Strip (under Hamas's control) and the West Bank (under Fateh).

- Fateh and Hamas together are responsible for the continuation of the split as seen by 62% of the public, but 15% blame Hamas alone and 15% blame Fateh alone. But when asked about the future of the split if Hamas won new presidential and parliamentary elections, 46% said it would be consolidated, but in a scenario in which Fateh would win such elections, only 25% said the split would, as a result, be consolidated.

- After the events in Egypt and the cessation of the Egyptian role in Fateh-Hamas reconciliation, 21% believe that unity between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will resume soon, 50% believe unity will resume but only after a long time, and 21% believe that unity will never return. These results reflect a significant decrease in the percentage of those who believe that the split is permanent (which stood at 39% three months ago), perhaps due to the increased public and youth demonstrations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip demanding an end to the split.

- In order to end the split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, 43% believe that the regimes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should fall, while 16% believe that ending the split requires the downfall of the regime in the Gaza Strip only, and 15% believe it requires the downfall of the regime in the West Bank only. 18% believe that ending the split does not require the downfall of either regime.

- In order to end the split, 33% support and 61% oppose a proposal whereby president Abbas would accept Hamas conditions for unification even if such a step would lead to the return of international sanctions and boycott. Findings show that 69% view such a step by the president as posing a threat to their own interests and those of the Palestinian people. A majority of 52% believe the chances for the president to take such a step are small or very small while 42% believe chances are high or medium.

- By contrast, a larger percentage (47%) support and 46% oppose a different proposal whereby Hamas would end the split by accepting international conditions imposed after it won the elections back in 2006, including accepting peace agreements with Israel. The lesser opposition to this proposal than to the previous one seems to be due to the fact that a much lower percentage (43%) perceive such Hamas shift as a threat to their interests or to the interests of the Palestinian people. But as in the previous proposal, 53% believe the chances Hamas would take such an initiative are small or very small and only 41% believe the chances are high or medium.

(5) Presidency and Legislative Elections:

- If new presidential elections are held today, and only two were nominated, Abbas would receive the vote of 55% and Haniyeh 38% of the vote of those participating. The rate of participation in such election would reach 58%. These results are similar to those obtained in our previous poll three months ago. In the Gaza Strip, Abbas receives in this poll 53% and Haniyeh 42% and in the West Bank Abbas receives 56% and Haniyeh 35%.

- If the presidential elections were between Marwan Barghouti and Ismail Haniyeh, the former would receive 64% and the latter would receive 31% of the participants' votes. The rate of participation in this case would reach 67%. In the Gaza Strip, Barghouti receives 59% and Haniyeh 36% and in the West Bank Barghouti receives 66% and Haniyeh 28%. These results are similar to those obtained three months ago.

- Most popular figures selected by the public as possible vice presidents from a list of five provided to respondents are Marwan Barghouti (selected by 30% of the public),

Ismail Haniyeh (18%), Salam Fayyad (14%) Mustafa Barghouti (11%) and Saeb Erekat (2%). These percentages are similar to those obtained by PSR three months ago.

- If new legislative elections are held today with the participation of all factions, 71% say they would participate in such elections. Of those who would participate, 26% say they would vote for Hamas and 40% say they would vote for Fateh, 12% would vote for all other third parties combined, and 22% are undecided. These results are similar to those obtained three months ago with the exception of the likely vote for Fateh which dropped by four percentage points. Vote for Hamas in the Gaza Strip in this poll is 33% and in the West Bank 21%. Vote for Fateh in the Gaza Strip is 42% and in the West Bank 39%.

(6) Local elections:

- 60% evaluate the performance of their local councils during the past five years as good or very good and 34% as bad or very bad.

- 51% believe that the upcoming July local elections will be fair and 38% believe they will not be fair.

- 47% believe the holding of local elections will consolidate the split and 20% believe it contributes positively to reconciliation while 28% believe that it will have no effect on reconciliation.

- 46% believe that Fateh will win the upcoming local elections, and 13% believe candidates from the left and independents will win the elections and 20% believe family candidates will be the winners.

- 61% of the West Bankers say they will participate in the local elections and 35% say they will not participate.

- 46% believe that if presidential and parliamentary elections were to be held today, Fateh would win and only 16% believe Hamas would win while 22% believe other factions will win.

- 51% believe that the reason Hamas is opposed to holding parliamentary and presidential elections today is due to Hamas' belief that it is not allowed to operate freely in the West Bank or because it believes such elections would not be fair or free, while 37% believe that the reason behind Hamas' opposition to elections is fear of losing them.

(7) Most vital Palestinian goals and the main problems confronting Palestinians today:

- The largest percentage (45%) believes that the *first* most vital Palestinian goal should be to end Israeli occupation in the areas occupied in 1967 and build a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital. By contrast, 27% believe the first most vital goal should be to obtain the right of return to refugees to their 1948 towns and villages, 17% believe that it should be to build a pious or moral individual and a religious society, one that applies all Islamic teachings, and 10% believe that the first and most vital goal should be to establish a democratic political system that respects freedoms and rights of Palestinians.

- The largest percentage (38%) believes that the *second* most vital Palestinian goal should be to obtain the right of return to refugees to their 1948 towns and villages. 25% believe that the second goal should be to establish a democratic political system that respects freedoms and rights of Palestinians, 22% believe that the second goal should be to end Israeli occupation in the areas occupied in 1967 and build a Palestinian state in the

West Bank and the Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital, and 15% believe the second most vital goal should be to build a pious or moral individual and a religious society, one that applies all Islamic teachings.

- The most serious problem confronting Palestinian society today is the spread of poverty and unemployment in the eyes of 28% of the public while a similar percentage believes the most serious problem is the absence of national unity due to the West Bank-Gaza Strip split, 22% believe the most serious problem is the continuation of occupation and settlement activities, 11% believe it to be the corruption in some public institutions, and 8% believe it is the siege and the closure of the Gaza border crossings.

Source: <http://www.pcpsr.org/survey/polls/2011/p39epressrelease.html>

164-2. Abbas' Speech: The President's Visit To Gaza & Palestinian Elections

Dated 21 March 2011

Results Of A National Opinion Poll In The West Bank And Gaza Strip

Publication Date: 21 March 2011

Field work: 20 March 2011

Sample Size: 300 Palestinians in the West Bank & Gaza

Margin of error: $\pm 2\%$

The Arab World for Research & Development (AWRAD) carried out an opinion poll to gauge Palestinian reactions to the March 16, 2011 speech delivered by President Mahmoud Abbas before the PLO Central Council. In his speech, Abbas called for the formation of an interim government responsible for the preparatory work needed for the municipal, parliamentary, and presidential elections. Abbas also announced his intent to visit Gaza with the aim of ending the division between Hamas and Fateh. The poll was carried out four days after the delivery of the speech with a sample of 300 adult Palestinians proportionally distributed between the West Bank and Gaza and the various socio-economic groups.

The results of the poll reveal widespread support for the President's speech and a parallel increase in his popularity:

- Positive evaluation of President Abbas increased by 12 points—from 64 percent on 7 March to 76 percent on 16 March.
- In contrast, there was slight decline in the positive evaluation of Prime Minister Haniyeh; from 44 percent to 40 percent.
- About 81 percent gave the overall content of the President's speech a positive evaluation. About 9 percent said that it was fair and 4 percent were not sure.
- 30 percent approved of Hamas's reaction to the speech. 22 percent said it was fair and 24 percent said it was negative. An additional 24 percent were not sure, reflecting the somewhat ambiguous and conflicting positions of Hamas in reaction to the speech.

As mentioned, the vast majority supported the statements made by President Abbas in his speech. For example:

- 91 percent supported the President's call for the formation of a government of independents to prepare for legislative, presidential and PNC elections. Only 4 percent were opposed and another 4 percent were not sure.
- 89 percent supported his call for elections within six months or as soon as possible. About 8 percent were opposed to this idea and 3 percent were not sure.

- 79 percent supported his statement about the need for elections to be sponsored by international, Arab and Islamic institutions. About 15 percent were opposed to this statement and 6 percent were not sure.

When asked about the most appropriate Palestinian leader to head the proposed interim government, 37 percent of respondents selected Dr. Salam Fayyad, followed by Ismael Haniyeh with 13 percent and Nabil Sha'ath with 7 percent. It is interesting to note that a significant number of respondents—43 percent—did not select any of the proposed three leaders, indicating they were undecided.

The results confirm the deep-rooted desire of the Palestinian people to achieve unity and reconciliation as prerequisites to achieve liberation and independence. The latest AWRAD poll confirms that the Palestinian public is increasingly weary and impatient with the two dominant political powers – Fateh and Hamas – and disillusioned by their lack of desire of ability to reach an agreement. In addition, AWRAD polling illustrates President Abbas's leadership qualities and the broad appeal of his willingness to transcend the political losses he incurred as a result of the 2007 Gaza coup and the local and international pressures that act against Palestinian unity. The poll shows that mounting public support for unity and the present efforts by the Palestinian leadership present an opportunity to end the stalemate. Dr. Nader Said, President of AWRAD, cites the results of the latest AWRAD poll as evidence of the need for Palestinian leaders to respect the will of the people, as they remain the best judge of Palestine's needs and priorities—overwhelmingly, the people wish to elect their representatives and reassert themselves as the source of legitimacy after five years of a stagnant electoral climate.

Source: <http://www.awrad.org/etemplate.php?id=241&x=4>

WEST ASIA

164-3. Pakistani Optimism Inches Up In The Run Up To The Cricket World Cup Final

Gilani Poll/Gallup Pakistan

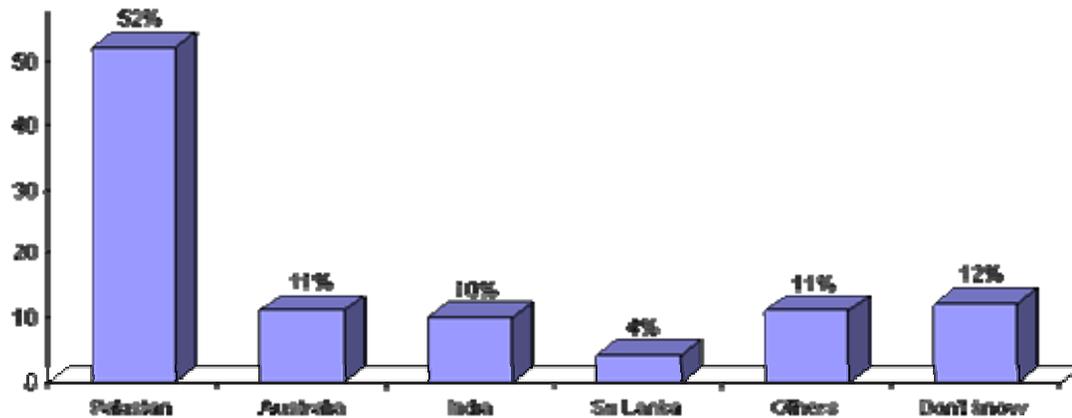
Islamabad, March 18, 2011

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, optimism in Pakistanis rises as the world cup final approaches. More than half of Pakistanis (52%) from across the country believe that Pakistan will win the world cup followed by those who think winner will be Australia (11%) or India (10%).

In a recent 2011 survey, a nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked “*In your opinion which team has the most chances of winning the Cricket World Cup 2011?*” Fifty two percent (52%) said that Pakistan has the highest probability of winning the world cup, followed by Australia (11%), India (10%) and Sri Lanka (4%). 11% gave other responses and 12% said they don't know.

The findings of the survey reveal no significant difference in opinion of people from across various demographics.

“*In your opinion which team has the most chances of winning the Cricket World Cup 2011?*”



Source: Gallup and Gilani Surveys

The study was released by Gilani foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The recent survey was carried out among a sample of 2737 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during March 2011. Error margin is estimated to be approximately + 2-3 per cent at 95% confidence level.

Source: <http://gallup.com.pk/Polls/18-03-11.pdf>

SOUTH ASIA

164-4. Win the cup... for Sachin?

We don't know as yet whether our often faltering Men in Blue will be able to bring home the ICC World Cup only for the second time since Kapil's Devils stole the show in 1982, in what will remain the most glorious of cricketing moments for India. But what we do know is that wishes are being made in this regard. Right from venerable cricket coach Ramakant Achrekar to Facebook fans who have floated a page dedicated to India's win to the average man on the street anxiously watching the action, everyone has just one thing to say to Dhoni's boys. "Win the World Cup" but not merely for the country. Instead, win the World Cup...er... "for Tendulkar"!

Steve Waugh says it is wrong to suggest that India's World Cup campaign is about Sachin Tendulkar. It is about the entire team. Do you agree?

	Valid Percent
Can't Say	18.4
Definitely Yes	61.5
Yes, may be	8.3
No, not at all	11.8
Total	100

In India, Sachin Tendulkar is god. Few would argue with that Tenstatement about the 37-year-old cricketer (he turns a year older in April), who has defied all odds, including age, to break all manner of records, deliver consistently ever since he made his Test debut as a 16-year-old in 1989, and face the enormous public pressure that undoubtedly builds up on him each time he steps on to the crease squarely. But despite all his achievements and fan following, the one milestone that eludes Sachin is, of course, bringing home the World Cup and being part of a team that manages to do just that.

Athletes and sportspersons of all hue have to battle fitness issues at each stage of their careers. But few of them defy the limitations of physical age in a way Tendulkar has been able to do. While most of his contemporaries, and even younger men, have bid adieu to international cricket, the zealously disciplined Tendulkar has been able to stay fit enough to not just play, but excel, at the highest level of the game. Merely having a legend such as him in the same side is inspiration enough for the younger players in the team. To have him score runs and demolish records is simply awe-inspiring. When Tendulkar scored his fifth World Cup century during the Group B game against England recently, he became the highest centurymaker in World up history. But such greatness is almost expected from the man who has also become the first person to score a double century in a One Day and 50 Test centuries to boot.

In an interview, Mohd Azharuddin has said Tendulkar did not have it in him to be a successful captain. Do you agree?

	Valid Percent
Can't Say	17
Definitely Yes	30
Yes, may be	10
No, not at all	43
Total	100

However, despite his mammoth achievements, this will be almost certainly Tendulkar's last World Cup and which is why fans and experts alike are clamouring for India to bring home the trophy... for the sake of the little maestro. Yet, how fair is this on the team as a whole? Regardless of the tendency in the subcontinent to deify players, cricket after all is a team sport and by placing one player and his achievement over the rest, we are also detracting from the true spirit of the game.

Tendulkar's detractors sometimes say that he has a tendency to prize individual achievement over the team. This may not be fair criticism of the man but what cannot be overlooked is the fact that he stepped down from captaincy to focus on his game. So when former Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin says that Tendulkar didn't have it in him to be the captain, how correct is he? A recent CVOTER survey across 21 states in the country decided to ask Indian fans not just about India's chances at the World Cup but also about Tendulkar's god-like status in the game. Should the World Cup be about him rather than for India? And should he retire after this?

These were just some of the questions we asked the masses on the streets each one a self-declared expert in his own right!

Never mind giant-killers Ireland and traditional rivals Pakistan, a majority of Indians (33 per cent) believe that it is Australia that India will have to slug it out against in the battle for the cup. But to the more interesting question of whether they thought Australian Steve Waugh justified in saying that India's World Cup campaign should be more than just merely about Tendulkar, an overwhelming number of respondents (more than 61 per cent) replied firmly in the affirmative ("definitely yes"). This shows that despite Tendulkar's god like status amongst fans, for the Indian masses, it is the country that takes precedence over an individual. Of these, the maximum number of people who responded as such (77 per cent were middle-aged while just about 56 per cent of the very young (18 to 25) felt that team spirit was more important than an individual.

A majority of 43 per cent of the respondents didn't agree with Azhar's statement that Tendulkar didn't have it in him to be a captain. But what is surprising is the relatively large

number of people 30 per cent who definitely agreed. A further 10 per cent, somewhat agreed with the statement, taking the number to 40 per cent of the total. The maximum number of people who agreed with the statement definitely was in the above-65 age bracket (more than 36 per cent)!

Which team poses the biggest threat to India ?	
	Valid Percent
Can't say	25.5
Australia	33
South Africa	19
England	4.3
Sri Lanka	18.2
Total	100

Finally to the most important question of whether Tendulkar should retire post World Cup, again, expectedly, a majority of 48.4 per cent said “no” to the suggestion. On the other hand, that still leaves us with more than half the number of respondents who either said that he should retire or were undecided.

Should Tendulkar call it a day if India does indeed win the World Cup?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	16.3
Yes	35.2
No	48.4
Total	100
Total	100.0

Of these, more than 50 per cent of the middle-aged were sure that Tendulkar should retire if India wins the cup. Clearly, despite his achievements and records, it is still a split verdict on whether the run-machine should carry on.

Methodology

National representative sample of 940 randomly selected respondents by CATI across 21 states in India during 17th to 19th Feb. 2011. Data weighted to known census profile. Margin of error +/-3% at national level.

Source: http://teamcvoter.com/2011/newsletter3i1/newsletter_3issue1_2011.pdf

164-5. Compensate The Innocent, Apologise To Modi

After the special court ruling on the Godhra case, the court of the people makes its own recommendations, a CVOTER survey finds

At a time when democracy in multicultural, multireligious India is being held up as a shining example in Asia, particularly with the Jasmine Revolution changing the political and social order in much of the Arab world, the much-awaited Godhra verdict, pronounced by a special court recently, has been under sharp focus not just in the country but internationally too. The judgement, by a special “fasttrack” court set up to deal with the nine-year-old incident of the

burning, in Godhra, of a bogey of the Sabarmati Express, carrying kar sevaks, headed to the temple town of Ayodhya, was eagerly awaited not merely in the interest of justice but also because this was an important case with a potential to rip the secular fabric of the country. The burning of the S6 bogey was, of course, followed by a horrible communal onslaught against the Muslims in Ahmedabad, largely believed to have been pro promoted by the Narendra Modi led government. The memory of that massacre in which thousands died is still a blot on the face of the nation and stirs debates in the international community even today.

The trial court has ruled that the Godhra incident was a conspiracy and not an accident. Do you agree?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	28.2
Yes	39.6
No	21.1
I do not want to comment on court decision	11.1
Total	100

But according to the recent court ruling, the attack on the train was part of a larger, planned conspiracy too. While the court let off the main accused for lack of evidence, it convicted 31 people for the heinous crime giving life imprisonment to 20, and death to 11, in what was described as an instance of the “rarest of the rare” depravity to merit the sentence. However, as many as 63 people were let off after having spent nine years in prison, their fundamental right to liberty having been overrun by a law which allowed the police at that time to arrest anyone on the basis of mere suspicion.

In this context, the Godhra verdict throws up a lot of important and interesting questions. While the BJP whose government was (and is) in power in Gujarat at the time of the attack on the train and the carnage has welcomed the judgement, there are two issues arising from this that are more worrying: One is the tendency to justify the subsequent communal riots as just retribution and a natural consequence of the train attack.

Should the 63 people who have been acquitted be given compensation in lieu of the nine years they've spent in jail?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	18.1
Yes	46.2
No	20.1
It should apply in all cases, not only in this case.	15.6
Total	100

And two, the fact that justice took almost a decade in being meted out (and even now, the parties concerned can appeal in higher courts) makes the citizens of the country understandably wary. For those who were wrongfully accused and let free after almost 10 years of their lives had gone by, can the state be brought to book and made to compensate? That is a question that bears

thinking about. And also why didn't the Supreme Court, the highest court of law in the land, not exert due pressure or closer scrutiny into the slow working of the special trial court, in effect, snatching away from so many innocent people, precious years of their lives?

Politically, the BJP's communal stance in linking the Godhra attack to the subsequent carnage that followed needs to be condemned.

Violence of any kind, by any community cannot be justified by the state, whose fundamental duty is to protect its citizens. Do India's political parties at either end of the spectrum understand or value such a dictum? It is hard to say.

The court letting off the main accused due to inadequate proof also puts a question mark on the methods of policing employed in the country. The special court's verdict has been seen as having surprising loose ends: the chief conspirators were found to have been not present at the site of the alleged conspiracy, but the confession which named these individuals as chief conspirators have been relied upon, in the main, to assert a conspiracy.

These loose ends will be up for further legal scrutiny when the verdict is appealed in higher courts.

Both the police and judiciary are vital to the functioning of a vibrant democracy, but reforms are clearly needed, urgently, in both these areas in India. But while political will may be lacking to tackle such big issues, it is really the court of the people that can force the hands of the "system". So what do the people of India think about the verdict and its repercussions? A recent

CVOTER survey, across 21 states, found that out. While a majority of respondents polled (39.6 per cent) agreed with the court's decision that the Godhra incident was a conspiracy, never mind legal experts pointing to the lacunae in the recorded evidence and scope for further appeal, what was also clear was that a majority of people felt that justice had been served but way too late. In response to the suggestion that the 63 people who had been let off by the court after spending nine years in jail should be compensated by the government for the loss of their liberty, more than 46 per cent of the respondents replied in the affirmative.

An overwhelming majority of 84 per cent agreed that the legal process in India takes too long to settle issues and that there should be a way to expedite judgement on such cases. Clearly, the people of India want reforms in the judiciary and fast whether or not politicians are willing to take action in the matter.

Do you think the law in India takes too long in such cases and there should be a way of expediting closure?

	Valid Percent
Can't Say	10.4
Yes	84
No	5.6
Total	100

Base: All Respondents

Is the BJP justified in asking the government to apologize to Gujarat CM Narendra Modi?

	Valid Percent
Can't Say	23
Yes	47.2
No	29.8
Total	100

But surprisingly, BJP's bid to justify the communal riots that followed the train-burning incident seems to have found favour with the masses. A majority of 47.2 per cent said that the UPA government at the centre should now apologise to Modi.

However, 29.8 per cent denied this while 23 per cent were undecided and said "can't say". The court of the people will obviously have its own say and it is only election time that will decide the political fates of many.

Methodology

National representative sample of 1657 randomly selected respondents by CATI across 21 states in India during 20th to 22nd and 24th Jan 2011. Data weighted to known census profile. Margin of error +/-3% at national level.

Source: http://teamcvoter.com/2011/newsletter3i1/newsletter_3issue1_2011.pdf

164-6. Indians Mixed Reaction to Manmohan Performance

Battle in PM's Camp!

A CVOTER survey finds that 50 per cent of the respondents believe he hasn't done enough to tackle corruption; 59 per cent feel he cares only for the rich.....

In a government beleaguered by scams, where governance is fast becoming a casualty to a corrupt system, can the prime minister abdicate all responsibility? But that, according to many observers, not to mention the opposition, is what Prime Minister Manmohan Singh did recently when he blamed the compulsions of coalition politics for tying up his hands and hampering total transparency in his government.

Has Manmohan Singh met your expectations as Prime Minister?	
	Valid Percent
Yes	37.8
Somewhat Yes	18.3
Perhaps No	15.6
Definitely No	28.2
Total	100.0

The prime minister, of course, also reiterated his personal commitment to the job and staked his clean reputation while taking on allegations against the PMO head on and while no one can perhaps doubt his good intentions as well as personal integrity, what is becoming increasingly clear is the fact that these alone many observers, not to mention the opposition, is what Prime may not be enough.

Do you think he has done enough to tackle corruption?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	10.4
Yes	39.6
No	50.0
Total	100.0

The 2G spectrum scam has been the biggest to hit the UPA government in recent times. With the government finally agreeing to the opposition's demand to have a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe it, there now seems to be some headway regarding the Parliamentary freeze that had set in. The CBI has of course put former telecom minister and main accused A Raja in the dock and has been questioning leading corporate czars too as to their involvement. But what remains to be seen is whether there is enough political will at the highest level to ensure total transparency in the path to justice and the fact that such scams that shame the nation are not repeated.

Has he become more of a puppet in his second term?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	6.9
Yes	72.5
No	20.6
Total	100.0

The common man in India, on the other hand, has not merely become cynical and frustrated at the shamelessly corrupt order of the day, but has also been burdened by the rising prices and inflation that the government has not been able to rein in.

For the economist-PM this should be a greatly troubling matter too for what is the point of flaunting India's spectacular GDP growth figures when the poorest spend almost 80 per cent of their earnings on food, according to some estimates?

He cares more for the rich than the poor	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	9.8
Yes	59.2
No	31.0
Total	100.0

A CVOTER survey recently tried to gauge the mood of the nation and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's personal popularity amongst the masses. For the survey, 1657 randomly selected people were questioned across 21 states in India. The answers should worry the ruling dispensation. Hopefully, they will also force the government to get its act together.

When asked whether Manmohan Singh had met their expectations as Prime Minister, the respondents gave a mixed verdict.

Do you think he has failed as an economist?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	11.2
Yes	51.2
No	37.7
Total	100.0

While a majority responded in "yes" or "somewhat yes", a substantial percentage of the public more than 43 per cent said "no".

From being seen as a somewhat reluctant, non-political PM, Singh has come into his own as far as political savviness goes.

This change of image is also reflected in the answers to the question whether the respondents were satisfied with Singh's performance as a politician. Almost 61 per cent of the people polled replied in the affirmative to this question. But that shouldn't be seen as a vindication of the PM's role in governance.

To a question whether they felt the PM had done enough to tackle corruption, a majority of 50 per cent of respondents replied "no". Clearly, whether or not he likes it or tries to distance himself from the various scams that have been unearthed during his tenure, in the eyes of the people, the Prime Minister is responsible for not effectively stemming the rot within his government.

Do you think he was a better finance minister than Prime Minister?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	14.9
Yes	62.0
No	23.1
Total	100.0

Worse, for the prime minister personally, an overwhelming number of people see him as a weak leader. Almost threequarters (about 72 per cent) of the respondents felt that he had become a puppet in his second term. Further, more than half the number of people polled also said that they felt the PM had failed as an economist too! This will be a bitter pill to swallow considering the flaunting of GDP figures that otherwise happens even in the face of grinding poverty.

The UPA government may have come in on a plank of social inclusiveness but more than 59 per cent of respondents also felt that the prime minister cared more about the rich than about the poor who are the worst sufferers in an inflationary regime.

A majority of 62 per cent also voted that Manmohan Singh was a better finance minister than he is prime minister.

There seems to be no credible alternative however to Singh as prime minister at least within the UPA coalition. More than half the number polled the majority replied “can’t say” when asked to name one person who could be a better PM than Singh.

Names mentioned by others included Pranab Mukherjee and P Chidambaram. More than 69 per cent of people believe that Singh and Sonia Gandhi are on good terms and a majority of 52.8 feel that Rahul Gandhi is right when he blames coalition politics for the government’s inability to control prices. This should come as a breather to the Congress, which is trying to distance itself from its allies and lay the blame for both corruption and price rise on their doorsteps.

Finally, the PM should be relieved that public perception of him being a learned and honourable man whom colleagues listen to holds and never mind the fact that he himself publically proclaimed his limitations! More than 44 per cent of people thought that his cabinet colleagues listened to him. But then, that just means that as captain of the ship, the Prime Minister cannot distance himself from governance failures.

Methodology

National representative sample of 1657 randomly selected respondents by CATI across 21 states in India during 20th to 22nd and 24th Jan 2011. Data weighted to known census profile. Margin of error +/-3% at national level.

Source: http://teamcvoter.com/2011/newsletter2i2/newsletter_2issue2_2011.pdf

164-7. Indian Judiciary Needs To Be Overhauled Urgently

February 2011

According to the constitution, an independent legislature, executive and judiciary are the three pillars of Indian democracy. And indeed, the last has been a venerable institution that the public has traditionally looked up to in times of crises to right various wrongs that a malfunctioning government or venal political parties can often inflict on the masses. Since our independence, the judiciary has performed an important role of not just providing justice to the common man but also of acting as a watchdog of democratic norms and practices. If the constitution of a free India promises to each and every citizen universal ideals of liberty and equality, it is through an independent judiciary that these are ensured.

The Indian judicial system needs an urgent overhaul. Do you agree?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	4.5
Yes, Definitely	85.5
Yes May be	5.3
No, I trust the judiciary completely and there is no change	4.8
Total	100.0

One of the most famous cases where the judiciary took on an errant executive in Indian democracy, of course, was the Allahabad High Court ruling against Indira Gandhi, then prime

minister, declaring her election null and void. And even subsequently, we have seen this institution stepping in and punishing the guilty when political might and corruption have colluded to shield the powerful. Yet, despite being the repository of public faith in the past, the Indian judicial system is increasingly being seen as one in need of urgent reforms.

Overworked judges, cases dragging on year after year and justice being meted out, often too little too late, of course are all problems that dog the Indian judicial system. But, of late, with exposes as to widespread corruption in the judicial ranks, there is cause to worry even more. As justice JS Verma himself point pointed out some time ago, there are pointers to a rot that goes down deep in the system. The most shocking beating the image of the Indian judiciary has taken is by way of the recent accusations against the kin of former CJI KG Balakrishnan who have been accused of large-scale corruption. The allegations are that Mr Balakrishnan’s sons-in-law PV Sreenijan, a Congress leader, and MJ Benny, a lawyer, garnered assets worth crores of rupees when Mr Balakrishnan was holding office as CJI. His brother, KG Bhaskaran, a special government pleader in Kerala, was also accused of buying up huge swathes of land in Tamil Nadu.

Corruption is the biggest problem plaguing the judicial system. Do you agree?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	4.5
Yes, Definitely	78.4
Yes May be	12.1
No, Not at all	5.0
Total	100.0

Allegations have come up against other family members too. While the former CJI, who is the chairman of the NHRC, has refused to step down from his post and claimed innocence, these charges as well as those against him vis-à-vis inaction at a letter from a Madras High Court judge alleging former telecom minister A Raja’s interference in a case have undoubtedly serious repercussions. What is especially dismaying is the fact that when Balakrishnan took charge as CJI in 2007, he was hailed as a hero a dalit had made it to the highest office, subverting centuries of oppression. However, the present charges of corruption obviously strike a serious blow to this image of a progressive judiciary.

The allegations against Balakrishnan and his family are not isolated instances. The Indian judiciary has been under the scanner for some time now. Just weeks before the allegations against Balakrishnan’s family, former union law minister Shanti Bhushan had risked contempt by openly accusing some former judges of corruption. This was followed by the Supreme Court expressing concern at the phenomenon of “uncle judges” in the Allahabad high court. And a Rajya Sabha panel had found Justice Soumitra Sen of the Calcutta high court guilty of misappropriation of funds and may well proceed with his impeachment.

So, what happens when a judge is found to be erring? Who pronounces judgement on him and what is the mechanism available under the constitution to punish such a person? At present, while transfers are used to deter the guilty, they are hardly punishments. Instead, the only serious punishment that can be meted out is by way of impeachment. This is a long and complicated legislative process, involving a motion by at least 100 Lok Sabha or 50 Rajya Sabha MPs. In the

absence of such an extreme step, there is little by way of tangible action that can be taken against corrupt judges.

Which is why, there is an increased clamour to get a new mechanism to provide much-needed judicial accountability.

The government may be contemplating bringing about a bill to this effect in the next session of the Parliament and some of the measures mooted include having a five-member national judicial oversight committee chaired by the Chief Justice of India, including the attorney general, CJI-nominated judges from the SC and high court, and an eminent person recommended by the president.

Is greater judicial accountability the way out?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	12.1
Yes, Definitely	66.4
Yes, may be but this is not a better solution	7.1
No, Judiciary is already accountable	14.4
Total	100.0

This committee would set up a scrutiny committee to conduct time-bound investigations (within three months). They would have many punitive options, including withdrawal of judicial work and public censure. If such measures are put in place, it would go a long way in stemming the rot as well restoring the credibility of the Indian judiciary in the eyes of the public.

In a nod to an urgent need to restore credibility to the Indian judicial system, an overwhelming number of respondents in a recent CVOTER survey agreed that the judiciary needed to be overhauled at the earliest. As many as 85.5 per cent of respondents across 21 states agreed definitely with this suggestion. In contrast, only 4.8 per cent felt that there was no need for any change and they completely trusted the judiciary as it is.

When asked whether they believed corruption was the biggest problem plaguing Indian judiciary, more than three quarter (78.4 per cent) of the respondents agreed definitely with the suggestion. Another 12 per cent also replied in the affirmative but with the addition of “yes, may be” taking the overall percentage of respondents who think that corruption mars the judiciary in India to an overwhelming more than 90 per cent!

Two thirds or more than 66 per cent of the respondents also agreed that “yes, definitely” greater accountability was the way out for our beleaguered judiciary. However, opinion seemed more divided on the question of NHRC chairman Balakrishnan.

When asked whether he should step down, a majority of 34.6 per cent of the respondents felt that he should since he had no right to continue. More than 30 per cent, on the other hand, felt that no, he should not resign and do so only if conclusively found guilty. Another 29.2 per cent were undecided and responded “can’t say”.

Finally, there can be no looking away from the fact that a majority of Indians not only support judicial reforms but are actively hopeful that these will come about in the near future.

Fifty five per cent of respondents replied in a firm affirmative when asked whether they believed that judicial reforms in India would happen soon. An additional 15.3 per cent also agreed but less firmly (“yes, may be”) while only 22 per cent disagreed.

With clear public support on the matter, the legislature and judiciary should both go about addressing this issue urgently.

Methodology

National representative sample of 1355 randomly selected respondents by CATI across 21 states in India during 5th to 8th Jan., 2011. Data weighted to known census profile. Margin of error +/-3% at national level.

Source: http://teamcvoter.com/2011/newsletter2i1/newsletter2_issues1.pdf

164-8. Can Indian Government Check Inflation

Fifty per cent of middle class voters don't believe that the government can check inflation

In a season of scams and one political skeleton tumbling out in various states as well as at the centre, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's cabinet reshuffle of last month was always going to be a much anticipated exercise on part of political watchers as well as the aam janta. Who would get dropped or have his wings clipped, who would get the coveted heavyweight portfolios, would the allies gain ground, and above all who would get the telecom portfolio from which A Raja, the tainted minister had just been evicted? These were some questions that were hotly debated and their answers eagerly sought.

However, the ensuing reshuffle proved to be a damp squib by comparison. There was a minor expansion to the council of ministers and some juggling around with portfolios but by and

large the prime minister kept most of his colleagues, errant or otherwise. The top four ministerial jobs (Finance, Home, External Affairs and Defence) were left untouched, and only three new faces were added by way of Beni Prasad Verma (Mos with independent charge), Ashwani Kumar and KC Venugopal. And to those who complained that the cabinet reshuffle was a trifle pointless beyond sending out some "signals" to allies and election-bound states, the prime minister promised a more expansive exercise later in the year. But if symbolism was the mere point of the reshuffle, there was some writing on the wall that was hard to miss.

Some political analysts would argue that such symbolism (as also the recent action of Raja's arrest) is too little too late and does not help the cause of the ruling party at all that has lost face due to the spate of recent scams, ranging from Adarsh housing in Maharashtra to the Commonwealth Games mess to the telecom scam. The Congress leadership has been seen as reluctant and slow in punishing the guilty, and that may well be true.

Will the latest Cabinet reshuffle help the UPA government refurbish its dented image?					
% within c5. Income Gp					
	Can't Say	Definetly Yes	Yes May be	No, Not at all	
LIG	27.2%	41.3%	15.7%	15.9%	100.0%
MIG	21.5%	25.3%	27.3%	25.9%	100.0%
HIG	35.5%	26.0%	10.0%	28.5%	100.0%
Total	26.4%	33.1%	19.1%	21.4%	100.0%

So how far has this exercise in symbolism gone on to restore the people's faith in the Manmohan Singh government after a season of scams? Did it have an impact as far as the government's perceived credibility is concerned or did the people take it as a weak reaction of a beleaguered government, hemmed in by the compulsions of coalition politics? A recent CVOTER survey sought to answer these critical questions.

There seemed to be a mixed verdict with regard to the question whether the recent cabinet reshuffle will help the UPA government refurbish its dented image? While a majority of more than 33 per cent of respondents replied "definitely yes" in a thumbs up to Manmohan Singh's gesture, a substantial percentage was more tentative with more than 19 per cent replying "may be" and 26.4 per cent across income groups replying "can't say", while 21.4 per cent outrightly declared that "no", the reshuffle will not refurbish the government's image at all.

Some Congress leaders blame coalition politics for UPA's failures. Do you agree with them?

% within c5. Income Gp					
	Can't Say	Definetly Yes	Yes May be	No, Not at all	
LIG	28.4%	37.0%	8.3%	26.2%	100.0%
MIG	16.4%	25.7%	23.2%	34.8%	100.0%
HIG	36.0%	32.5%	11.0%	20.5%	100.0%
Total	25.2%	32.2%	14.2%	28.5%	100.0%

Base: All Respondents

Can this government keep the runaway inflation figures in check?

% within c5. Income Gp					
	Can't Say	Definetly Yes	Yes May be	No, Not at all	
LIG	17.4%	33.6%	12.9%	36.1%	100.0%
MIG	3.1%	27.7%	18.6%	50.5%	100.0%
HIG	14.0%	31.5%	14.5%	40.0%	100.0%
Total	11.7%	31.1%	15.2%	42.0%	100.0%

Across income groups, the highest number of people who believed that the reshuffle signals the government's will to tackle corruption came from the lower income group (41.3 per cent), with only 25.3 per cent of the middle class and 26 per cent of the higher income group people being confident about the action and saying "definitely yes" to the query.

A majority of more than 46 per cent of respondents across income categories agreed answering ("definitely yes" or "yes, may be") with Congress leaders who said that allies and coalition politics were bogging down the government. Of these, once again, it was a majority of lower income group individuals (37 per cent), who replied with a firm "definitely yes", when asked the question whether coalition partners were to be blamed for the Congress's image being dented. In comparison, more than 25 per cent and 32 per cent respectively of the middle and higher income groups replied "definitely yes" to this question. People respectively replied similarly in a firm "no, not at all".

Clearly, these answers reflect a crisis of confidence that the UPA government is facing when it comes to inflation and high food prices. A total of more than 41 per cent of Indians across income groups are totally convinced that the government will not be able to tame the price spiral. At a time when many states are going for elections, this should serious worry the Congress.

When asked whether they thought the NDA coalition would have done a better job in the present scenario, a substantial 39.1 per cent of respondents across income groups responded in "yes, definitely". An additional 19.1 per cent replied "may be, yes", making the total affirmatives into more than 58 per cent of the respondents. Of these, about 53 per cent of those in the lower income groups said either "definitely yes or "yes, may be" to the question of the NDA being able to tackle the present scenario better, a whopping total of 62.2 per cent of the middle classes replied similarly, while 52 per cent of those in the higher income group replied in the affirmative (definitely or may be). Clearly, the signs are troubling for the UPA government.

Methodology

National representative sample of 1392 randomly selected respondents by CATI across 21 states in India during 20th to 22nd Jan. 2011. Data weighted to known census profile. Margin of error +/-3% at national level.

Source: http://teamcvoter.com/2011/newsletter2i1/newsletter2_issues1.pdf

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

164-9. President Zuma's Approval Level In Metro Areas Steady At 49% As Elections Loom

March 17, 2011

After a year of volatility during 2010, President Zuma's approval level for February 2011 steadied at the same level as at the end of 2010 – 49% of metro adults approve of the way the President is doing his job. This is according to a survey released today by TNS Research Surveys, South Africa's leading marketing and social insights company, which has been tracking approval levels of the incumbent President for many years, including our new president, President Jacob Zuma. The studies are each conducted amongst a sample of 2 000 SA adults from the seven major metropolitan areas of South Africa, interviewing them face-to-face in their homes, with a margin of error of under 2.5%.

The President's approval levels showed considerable volatility during 2010, dropping to 43% in February from an end- 2009 high of 58%. May showed a partial recovery but the September figures showed a sharp decline with some recovery in November to 49%, a figure maintained in the first reading for 2011..

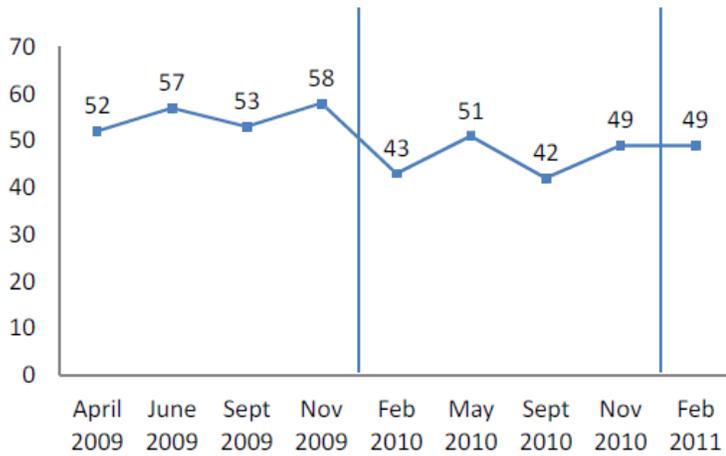
%	April 2009	June 2009	September 2009	November 2009	February 2010	May 2010	September 2010	November 2010	February 2011
Approve	52	57	53	58	43	51	42	49	49
Disapprove	29	13	19	23	41	33	44	34	35
Don't know	19	31	28	19	17	16	15	17	16
Net positives*	+23	+44	+34	35	+2	+18	-2	+15	+14

* Net positives are given by subtracting those who feel he is NOT doing a good job from those who feel he IS doing a good job.

The decline in February last year occurred at a time when the President's personal life was very much under the spotlight and there were growing service delivery protests. The May study was conducted just prior to the start of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, and these issues as well as service delivery protests were much less in the public eye.

The September study was conducted during the lengthy public servants' strike during part of which President Zuma visited China with a large trade delegation. The most recent study was conducted in February of 2011.

President Zuma's approval levels



Who is more or less positive?

Unfortunately, political views in South Africa tend to have a strong correlation with race. This is best illustrated in the following table:

%	Blacks 2009				Blacks 2010				Blacks 2011	Whites 2009				Whites 2010				Whites 2011
	Apr	Jun	Sept	Nov	Feb	May	Sept	Nov	Feb	Apr	Jun	Sept	Nov	Feb	May	Sept	Nov	Feb
Approve	73	75	67	75	58	67	54	62	63	16	24	29	22	17	19	17	25	22
Disapprove	9	4	9	11	27	18	33	22	22	64	36	43	45	64	60	60	54	60
Don't know	17	21	24	14	15	15	13	16	15	21	40	28	32	19	21	23	21	18
Net positives*	+64	+71	+58	+64	+29	+49	+19	+40	+38	-48	-12	-14	-23	-47	-41	-43	-29	-38

%	Coloureds 2009				Coloureds 2010				Coloureds 2011	Indians/Asians 2009				Indians/Asians 2010				Indians/Asians 2011
	Apr	Jun	Sept	Nov	Feb	May	Sept	Nov	Feb	Apr	Jun	Sept	Nov	Feb	May	Sept	Nov	Feb
Approve	11	23	31	38	15	23	27	26	25	25	35	38	29	18	43	17	26	36
Disapprove	68	19	26	35	66	59	60	55	59	49	23	35	50	65	48	69	62	45
Don't know	21	58	43	27	18	19	13	19	17	26	43	27	21	17	9	14	12	19
Net positives*	-57	+4	+5	+3	-51	-36	-33	-29	-34	-24	+12	+3	-21	-47	-5	-52	-36	-9

* Net positives are given by subtracting those who feel he is NOT doing a good job from those who feel he IS doing a good job.

- The 2011 reading for blacks is effectively unchanged.
- The figures for whites show some decline since the end of 2010
- For coloureds, sentiment has also shifted slightly more negatively.
- For Indians/Asians, a much more positive sentiment is evident for the 2011 figures.

Differences by area

There are usually strong regional differences in such ratings. These are outlined below for 2010 and the first reading for 2011:

		%				
		2010				2011
		Feb	May	Sept	Nov	Feb
Gauteng	Johannesburg and environs	47	57	49	56	56
	Johannesburg excl Soweto	50	60	50	59	58
	East Rand	48	54	53	57	58
	West Rand	54	64	53	68	57
	Soweto	47	62	55	47	47
	Vaal Triangle/South Rand	50	70	59	56	71
	Pretoria	49	47	40	48	57
			35	45	37	45
Cape Town		23	24	23	27	22
Durban		49	60	41	52	55
Eastern Cape		39	51	34	40	43
	Port Elizabeth	36	42	39	43	44
	East London	47	71	24	35	40
Bloemfontein		48	65	40	60	59

Compared with November 2010, there has been a drop in the East Rand but a rise the South Rand/Vaal Triangle and in Soweto. Overall, Gauteng has the highest approval levels, along with Durban and Bloemfontein. The Eastern Cape and, especially, Cape Town have the lowest.

Other notable differences

In terms of age group, people aged 18 to 34 years are the most positive at 52% whilst those aged 60 years and more are the least positive at 35%. In terms of language group, the most positive are those whose home language is isiZulu at 70%. Of the black language groups, those whose home language is Xhosa have the lowest approval level at 53%.

Our take out

President Zuma's approval levels in metro areas, as measured in February, steadied at 49% after a year of volatile readings. The overall average for 2010 was 46%. A rise in approval amongst Indians/Asians was balanced by small declines amongst whites and coloureds.

Technical note

All the studies were conducted amongst 2 000 adults (1260 blacks, 385 whites, 240 coloureds and 115 Indians/Asians) in the seven major metropolitan areas: it has a margin of error of under 2.5% for the results found for the total sample. The studies use probability sampling techniques and are fully representative of the major metropolitan areas.

The studies were conducted by TNS Research Surveys (Pty) Ltd as part of their ongoing research into current social and political issues and were funded by TNS Research Surveys.

About TNS

TNS is the global leader in custom market research delivering actionable insights and research-based business advice to clients around the globe so they can make more effective business decisions. TNS offers comprehensive industry knowledge within the Consumer, Technology, Finance, Automotive and Political & Social sectors, supported by a unique product offering that stretches across the entire range of marketing and business issues, specializing in product development & innovation, brand & communication, stakeholder management, retail & shopper, and qualitative research. Delivering best-in-class service across more than 80 countries, TNS is dedicated to discovering growth opportunities for its clients in an ever-changing world. Through its pioneering and innovative culture, TNS understands the latest marketing challenges and research techniques, being the first to discover and solve new marketing issues for clients.

Source: <http://www.tnsresearchsurveys.co.za/news-centre/pdf/2011/PresZumaApproval-17March2011.pdf>

164-10. Nigerian Presidential Poll

Lagos, Nigeria. March 2011– ANAP Foundation (ANAP) is a non profit organisation committed to promoting good governance in Nigeria.

Ahead of the presidential elections scheduled to hold on April 9, 2011, ANAP Foundation decided to commission NOI Polls Limited to conduct a face-to-face nationwide presidential poll to ascertain public sentiment on the candidacy of aspirants for the office of President.

NOI Polls administered the survey utilizing well established survey methodologies, including scientifically tested sampling techniques, developed by the Gallup Organization.

The opinion poll was carried out from February 11th – February 28th 2011 with a representative random sample of Nigerians drawn from Nigeria's six major geo-political zones and reflecting rural urban split in population.

The overriding objective of the poll is to empirically establish which of the presidential candidates stands the greatest chance of receiving the people's mandate to ascend to the nation's highest office. The rationale for the survey in the run up to the elections is to provide Nigerians with the opportunity to express their views on salient political issues and candidates, as well as to generate data which gives an indication of the voting intentions of the citizenry prior to the elections. Data generated from the nationwide presidential poll revealed the following:?

- Almost all Nigerians have given at least some thought to the April elections.
- Nearly 3 out of 4 of the respondents have voted in at least one previous election.
- Almost all Nigerians had registered or planned to register to vote in the upcoming elections.
- An extension of the period for the voter registration exercise would further enable registration of eligible voters in Nigeria.
- 46% of Nigerians were aware that Ibrahim Shekarau is running for president.
- 48% of respondents were aware that Nuhu Ribadu is running for president.
- 73% of Nigerians were aware that Muhammadu Buhari is running for president.
- 93% of respondents were aware that Goodluck Jonathan is running for president.
- For all other candidates, less than 20% of Nigerians knew that they were running for president.
- Majority (85%) of Nigerians feel very strongly about their choice for the presidential position.
- Most (53%) of the respondents think that Goodluck Jonathan will win the April presidential position.
- Most (68%) approve of Goodluck Jonathan's performance as president.

The questionnaire for the nationwide presidential poll was designed in English and translated into the major Nigerian languages- Hausa, Ibo, Yoruba and Pidgin English. In addition, interviewers were locally recruited to ensure coverage of all geographical and demographic groups.

Source: <http://www.noi-polls.net/Poll-Results/march-2011-presidential-poll.html>

EAST EUROPE

164-11. Arab World'S Upheaval: Russian View

Russians think the socio-economic problems are the main reasons behind the upheaval and expect positive changes to come.

MOSCOW, March 2, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data concerning the attitudes of Russians towards upheaval in the Arab world.

The overwhelming majority of Russians know about the recent developments in the Arab world (86%). Thirty-five percent of them keep a sharp eye on that; other 51% know about the situation in general. Those who are most informed are supporters of non-parliament parties (65%), CPRF (48%) and Fair Russia party (46%), respondents of pre-retirement and retirement

ages (37-39%), Russians with high income (40%). Young Russians, elderly respondents and rural area residents do not know anything about the unrest in the Arab world (9%, 13-14% and 14% respectively).

Those Russians who know about the Arab unrest regard low living standards to be the main reason behind the unrest (45%). This is followed by political reasons such as stagnation - 14%, rigid authoritarian regime - 13%. Eight percent are confident that the unrest was caused by high level of corruption. Those who say the reasons are Western intelligence services provocation (2%) and Islamists actions (1%) are in the minority.

Asked about the key participants of the Egypt demonstrations, Russians mention all the population of the country regardless of social status, age and religion (33%). Every fifth (22%) is confident that the main participants of the unrest are the poor who fight for a decent standard of living (22%). Other 12% mention different population groups such as youth (5%), unemployed, working class (3% for each), and Islamists (2%). Nine percent of participants name opposition (6%), professional agitators, and provocateurs (3%).

Predicting the life in Egypt after the riots, a relative majority of respondents (38%) expect positive changes and expect that the authorities would listen to people. Those who are optimistic are respondents aged 35-59 (41-43%), Russians with high level of education (40%), active internet users (43%). Every fourth (24%) believe the actions will only aggravate the situation in Egypt. Those who think so are mainly elderly respondents (28%), and respondents with the level of education above average (26-27%), supporters of the United Russia party (53%) and absentees (54%). Nineteen percent of respondents say that long-lasting mass protests will not lead to anything; they are mainly young respondents (22-32%), episodic internet users (21%), communists, Fair Russia party adherents and absentees (10-11%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 12-13 February, 2011. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

A wave of upheaval has swept across the Arab world. The power in Tunisia has changed. Demonstrations and rallies have also taken place in Egypt, Yemen, Jordan and other countries. Have you heard anything about that? (close-ended question, one answer)						
	Total respondents	Aged 18-24	Aged 25-34	Aged 35-44	Aged 45-59	60 and above
<i>Yes, I keep a sharp eye on the situation in the Arab world</i>	35	27	33	32	39	37
<i>I heard something about that but I do not know</i>	51	53	59	54	46	48

<i>in details</i>						
<i>I did not hear anything about that</i>	9	14	6	6	8	13
<i>Hard to tell</i>	5	6	2	7	7	3

In your opinion, what is behind the upheaval?
(open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who know about the unrest)

<i>Low living standards (poverty, unemployment, famine)</i>	45
<i>Long rule by one man</i>	14
<i>Rigid authoritarian regime</i>	13
<i>Corruption</i>	8
<i>Western services provocations</i>	2
<i>Islamists` actions (Islamists, Muslims)</i>	1
<i>Other</i>	1
<i>Hard to tell</i>	24

In your opinion, who participate in demonstrations and rallies in the Arab world, and why?
(open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who know about the unrest)

<i>All the population of the country</i>	33
<i>Those who fight for their rights</i>	11
<i>Poor</i>	8
<i>Opposition</i>	6
<i>Youth</i>	5
<i>Activists, supporters of the opposition</i>	3
<i>Unemployed, loafers</i>	3
<i>Working class (middle class)</i>	3
<i>Islamists</i>	2
<i>Provocateurs, agitators who make benefits out of it</i>	2
<i>Western services</i>	1
<i>Military officers, army</i>	0
<i>Other</i>	1
<i>Hard to tell</i>	30

In your opinion, what the mass protests would lead to?

(close-ended question, one answer, % of those who know about the protests)

	Total respondents	CPRF supporters	LDPR supporters	Fair Russia party supporters	United Russia party supporters	Supporters of non-parliament parties (Pravoe Delo, Yabloko, Patriots of Russia)	I would not take part in elections
to positive changes: the power will listen to the people	38	43	48	46	34	65	31
to negative changes: the power will tighten the screw	24	42	45	38	53	30	54
No changes	19	11	5	10	8	4	11
Hard to tell	19	4	2	6	5	0	5

Note: Using materials from the site www.wciom.ru or wciom.com, as well as distributed by VCIOM, the reference to the source (or hyperlink for the electronic media) is obligatory!

Source: <http://wciom.com/news/press-releases/press-release/single/111404.html>

164-12. Collapse Of Ussr: Inevitable Or Accidental?

Elderly Russians tend to think that the Soviet Union would have not collapsed without Gorbachev. Young Russians believe that the USSR would have collapsed anyway.

MOSCOW, March 2, 2011. In anticipation of the 80th anniversary of Mikhail S.Gorbachev Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data about the attitudes of Russians on the role Gorbachev played in the collapse of the USSR.

There is no common opinion among Russians about the role of Gorbachev in the USSR`s collapse. Some say that his role was crucial (42%). Others believe that the USSR would have collapsed anyway due to objective reasons, even if there were any other politician instead of Gorbachev (37%).

Young Russians tend to think that the USSR would have collapsed without Gorbachev's participation (41%); elderly respondents say he played the main role in this process (57%).

Those who think the Gorbachev's role was crucial are supporters of CPRF party (70%), respondents with low level of income (49%) and residents of middle cities (49%)

Those who think that the USSR would have collapsed with any other leader are basically LDPR party adherents (42%), Russians with high level of income (44%), Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (49%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 19-20 February, 2011. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

Which of the following statements about the role of Gorbachev in the collapse of the USSR agree? (close-ended question, one answer)					
	Total respondents	Aged 18-24	Aged 25-34	Aged 35-44	Aged 45-59
<i>Gorbachev played a key role in the collapse of the USSR; with any other leader the USSR would still exist</i>	42	24	32	39	48
<i>Even with any other leader (other than Gorbachev) the USSR would have collapsed due to objective reasons</i>	37	41	40	42	37
<i>Hard to tell</i>	21	35	28	19	15

Which of the following statements about the role of Gorbachev in the collapse of the USSR agree? (close-ended question, one answer)						
	Total respondents	CPRF	LDPR	Fair Russia	United Russia	Non-parliament parties
<i>Gorbachev played a key role in the collapse of the USSR; with any other leader the USSR would still exist</i>	42	70	42	44	40	33
<i>Even with any other leader (other than Gorbachev) the USSR would have collapsed</i>	37	21	44	37	38	33

<i>due to objective reasons</i>						
<i>Hard to tell</i>	21	9	14	19	22	33

Note: Using materials from the site www.wciom.ru or wciom.com, as well as distributed by VCIOM, the reference to the source (or hyperlink for the electronic media) is obligatory!

Source: <http://wciom.com/news/press-releases/press-release/single/111401.html>

164-13. Recalling Gorbachev`S Time: Success And Failure Of The First And The Last USSR President

The main failure of Gorbachev is regarded to be the collapse of the USSR; the main achievement is the introduction of democratic freedoms.

MOSCOW, March 1, 2011. In anticipation of the 80th anniversary of Mikhail S.Gorbachev Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data concerning the attitudes of Russians toward this person, as well as what failures and achievements they attribute to him.

Over the recent decade the opinion o Russians about Mikhail Gorbachev has considerably changed. Less Russians feel irritation (from 30% in 2001 to 20% in 2011) and disgust (from 9 to 5%). At the same time, less Russians like him (from 16 to 5%) and respect him (from 15 to 10%). The basic feeling most of Russians share today about Gorbachev is indifference (from 25 to 47%).

Those who are indifferent towards Gorbachev are mainly the supporters of United Russia party (51%) and absentees (52%), as well as Russians younger than 35 (56-59%). Adherents of CPRF party (42%) and elderly respondents (33%) often feel dislikes. Those who respect Gorbachev are supporters of non-parliament parties of Russia (19%); those who like him are Fair Russia party adherents (10%) and 25-59-year-old respondents (10-12%).

Russians are hard to assess the positive things of the Gorbachev`s time(73%). The rest of respondents mention his achievements in **reforming the country**: introduction of democratic freedoms (10%), allowing entrepreneurship. Other 5% mention the end of the cold war.

Russians are easier to recall what went wrong during Gorbachev`s time. The majority of Russians name the disintegration of the USSR (31%). Russians also remember the decline (5%), chaos (3%), introduction of the coupon system, "country being sold to the West", inability to finish what he initiated (2% for each), introduction of troops to Afghanistan and high unemployment rate (1% or each).

The most **ambiguous events** of the Gorbachev`s epoch was perestroika and anti-alcohol campaign: some people say it was his achievements (4% for each); for others these initiatives are bad memories about that times (4 and 7% respectively).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 19-20 February, 2011. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

What is your general attitude towards Mikhail S.Gorbachev? <i>(close-ended question, one answer)</i>		
	2001*	2011
<i>Admiration</i>	2	0
<i>Respect</i>	15	10

<i>Likes</i>	16	5
<i>Indifference</i>	25	47
<i>Irritation, hostility</i>	30	20
<i>Fear</i>	1	1
<i>Disgust, hatred</i>	9	5
<i>Hard to tell</i>	4	12

The rule of Gorbachev is assessed ambiguously today. What good was done by him during his rule?
(open-ended question, any number of answers)

	2011
<i>Introduced democratic freedoms</i>	10
<i>Put the end to the cold war</i>	5
<i>Initiated the anti-alcohol campaign</i>	4
<i>Initiated Perestroika</i>	4
<i>Nothing</i>	4
<i>Gave opportunities to earn money, to become an entrepreneur</i>	2
<i>Withdraw troops from Afghanistan</i>	2
<i>Other</i>	1
<i>Hard to tell</i>	73

The rule of Gorbachev is assessed ambiguously today. What good was done by him during his rule (open-ended question, any number of answers)

	2011
<i>Destroyed USSR</i>	31
<i>Initiated the anti-alcohol campaign</i>	7
<i>Led the country to decline (economy, army, society, et cet.)</i>	5
<i>Initiated Perestroika</i>	4
<i>Chaos</i>	3
<i>Initiated the coupon system (deficit in goods)</i>	3
<i>He did not finished anything he initiated</i>	2
<i>He sold the country to the West</i>	2
<i>General negative assessment</i>	2

<i>Introduced troops to Afghanistan</i>	1
<i>Failed to curb the rise in unemployment</i>	1
<i>Hard to tell</i>	51

Note: Using materials from the site www.wciom.ru or wciom.com, as well as distributed by VCIOM, the reference to the source (or hyperlink for the electronic media) is obligatory!

Source: <http://wciom.com/news/press-releases/press-release/single/111399.html>

WEST EUROPE

164-14. Coalition Government's Policies Have Been Bad For Small And Medium Businesses

22 March 2011

New online research from YouGov's SME Omnibus survey reveals that nearly half (48%) of senior decision makers in small and medium enterprises (SME) believe Government policies introduced since the 2010 election have been bad for small to medium businesses. However, 26% believe the new policies have been good for businesses, while just over a quarter (26%) disagree, believing on the contrary that the new policies have been good for business.

The 'Big Society' will make no difference to their business according to exactly half (50%) of SME senior decision makers questioned. Nearly a third (31%) agrees the 'Big Society' would be good for small and medium sized businesses and 15% believe it would be bad.

Senior decision makers were also asked which measures the Government should be concentrating on most to help small and medium sized businesses. The most popular measure for nearly a third of all respondents (31%) was for additional pressure to be placed on banks to make finance more easily available. Creating a competitive tax regime also proved popular with senior decision makers (28%). 15% would choose to lower VAT and 13% wanted the Government to lower personal income tax. 5% of senior decision makers wanted clearer guidelines on employment, whilst 2% said health and safety regulations.

Nearly three in ten senior decision makers in SMEs (29%) believe the Budget, due to be announced on the 23 March, will have a negative effect on their business. 7% think it will have a positive effect. However, nearly half of senior decision makers (48%) believe the upcoming budget will not make a difference to their business.

YouGov's SME Omnibus surveys 500 senior business decision makers in small to medium business enterprises on a monthly basis.

Notes to editors:

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 523 SME senior managers and above. Fieldwork was undertaken 7th - 11th March 2011. The survey was carried out online. YouGov's SME Omnibus interviews 500 senior decision makers or above once a month.

<http://www.yougov.co.uk/corporate/pdf/YG-press-CoalitionGovPolBadForSmallMedBus.pdf>

NORTH AMERICA

164-15. Christie Tops Presidential Choice of GOP Primary Voters; Viewed as Most Likely to Beat Obama Palin Next Most Popular And Best Represents Voters' Views

IBOPE Zogby

UTICA, NY - New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a man who says he has no plans to run in 2012, leads a field of hypothetical Republican presidential nominees, and is thought to have the best chance of knocking off President Obama.

Of 11 possible Republican candidates being discussed for a 2012 presidential run, Christie takes 19% of the vote and 19% also think he is the most capable of a victory over Obama.

With Christie not included, Sarah Palin edges out Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee and Donald Trump, and she also ranks first as best representing voters' values and views.

These results come from a March 18-21, 2011 IPOBE Zogby Interactive survey of Republicans who say they are likely to vote in the 2012 Presidential primaries or caucuses.

If the Republican primary for President were held today, for whom would you vote?

Candidate	%
Chris Christie	19%
Sarah Palin	13%
Donald Trump	9%
Mitt Romney	9%
Mike Huckabee	8%
Ron Paul	7%
Newt Gingrich	7%
Tim Pawlenty	5%
Mitch Daniels	4%
Michele Bachmann	3%
Haley Barbour	1%
None of these	9%
Not sure	8%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Here are the results when Christie is not included:

If the Republican primary for President were held today, for whom would you vote?

Candidate	%
Sarah Palin	14%
Mitt Romney	12%
Mike Huckabee	11%
Donald Trump	10%
Newt Gingrich	8%
Tim Pawlenty	8%
Mitch Daniels	7%
Ron Paul	7%
Michele Bachmann	6%
Haley Barbour	3%
None of these	9%
Not sure	9%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Which of the following possible Republican Presidential candidates for 2012 do you believe best represents your values and views?

Candidate	%
------------------	----------

Sarah Palin	17%
Chris Christie	14%
Mike Huckabee	11%
Michele Bachmann	9%
Ron Paul	7%
Mitt Romney	6%
Newt Gingrich	6%
Donald Trump	5%
Tim Pawlenty	4%
Mitch Daniels	3%
Haley Barbour	1%
None of these	11%
Not sure	7%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Which of the following possible Republican Presidential candidates for 2012 do you believe would most likely defeat Barack Obama?

Candidate	%
Chris Christie	19%
Donald Trump	11%
Mitt Romney	10%
Sarah Palin	8%
Mike Huckabee	7%
Newt Gingrich	5%
Tim Pawlenty	5%
Ron Paul	3%
Mitch Daniels	3%
Michele Bachmann	2%
Haley Barbour	1%
None of these	10%
Not sure	16%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The interactive poll of 2,168 likely voters has a margin of error of +/-2.1%. A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the U.S., was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, and education to more accurately reflect the population.

Source: <http://www.zogby.com/news/2011/03/23/ibo-pe-zogby-interactive-christie-top-presidential-choice-gop-primary-voters-viewed-most-likely-beat/>

164-16. What do Americans think of military action in Libya?

24 March 2011

While polls in this country appear to show a public split on military action in Libya, across the pond there is significant support among Americans.

The Ipsos office in DC has carried out a poll for Reuters which shows that 60% of Americans support US and allied military action in Libya, and eight in ten (79%) agree that the US and its Western allies should seek to remove Gaddafi.

As is often the case when the American military is deployed abroad, the public have rallied around the flag -- but it is important to bear in mind that this kind of support will have a half-life that depends on the ongoing cost of the undertaking. This cost can be counted in terms of either casualties or dollars, but as either increases support for the initiative is likely to drop off.

Politically, there is - so far - little cost to President Obama because the public prioritise his performance on domestic (ie. economic) issues rather than foreign policy issues right now. This is underpinned by the fact that almost half (48%) of Americans choose the phrase 'cautious and consultative' (from a list of options) as the best way to describe Obama's leadership now. Over a third (36%) feel he is 'indecisive and dithering', and one in six (17%) choose 'strong and decisive'.

Ipsos' latest poll carried out on behalf of Reuters and published today shows that 60% of Americans support US and allied military action in Libya, and eight in ten (79%) agree that the US and its Western allies should seek to remove Gaddafi.

As is often the case when the American military is deployed abroad, the public have rallied around the flag -- but it is important to bear in mind that this kind of support will have a half-life that depends on the ongoing cost of the undertaking. This cost can be counted in terms of either casualties or dollars, but as either increases support for the initiative is likely to drop off.

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Other key findings from the survey are below:

- A majority (60%) support US and allied military action in Libya. Men are more likely to support this than women (65% vs 56%). There is very little difference in support for the military action between Democrats (65%) and Republicans (63%)
- There is supermajority agreement that the US and its Western allies should seek to remove Gaddafi (79%, consistent across socio-demographic and political subgroups)
- The public are equally divided on whether the costs of the military operations are justified -- but a split sampling exercise demonstrates that opposition to this notion increases when a dollar amount is affixed to the operations (from 49% to 57% disagreeing that the costs are justified)
- Almost half (48%) of the public choose 'cautious and consultative' as the set of adjectives that best describe Obama's leadership -- and this figure rises to 63% among Democrats. Over a third (36%) choose 'indecisive and dithering' -- and this figure rises to 64% among Republicans. One in six (17%) choose 'strong and decisive'
- In the event that the air strikes fail to restrain Gaddafi, a quarter of people (25%) feel that the UN should send in peacekeeping troops, and another quarter (23%) believe air strikes should be increased. One in five (20%) advocate the US and allies sending in special forces. Just 7% advocate sending in ground troops. It is clear the public do not have any appetite for seeing American troops on the ground in Libya.

Source: <http://www.ipsos-mori.com/newsevents/blogs/thepoliticswire/672/What-do-Americans-think-of-military-action-in-Libya.aspx>

164-17. Support for Nuclear Power Down Somewhat from 2008

Natural gas displaces nuclear as choice for new local plants

UTICA, NY - Compared to identical questions asked in 2008, the percentages believing nuclear power is safe and that more nuclear plants should be built fall slightly, but still number at least 60% of likely voters.

However, the percentage that would support the building of a nuclear plant in their communities rather than some other type of energy production has dropped by 16 percentage points since 2008, with natural gas displacing nuclear as the top choice.

The most recent data comes from an IBOPE Zogby Interactive survey conducted from March 18-21, a time in which the Japanese were struggling to get nuclear reactors under control after damage by the recent earthquake. The same questions that were asked in 2008 are asked on the March 18-21 poll.

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that nuclear power is safe?

Poll conducted on...	Total Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Total Somewhat & Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
March 21, 2011	63%	34%	3%
June 23, 2008	65%	29%	5%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

The percentage of those strongly agreeing dropped 11 percentage points from the 2008 poll, dropping from 38% to 27%. The largest declines for strong agreement comes from groups who were the most positive in 2008: Republicans, voters 65 and older and men.

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree the U.S should build more nuclear power stations in order to meet our future energy needs?

Poll conducted on...	Total Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Total Somewhat & Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
March 21, 2011	60%	33%	7%
June 23, 2008	68%	24%	8%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Similar demographic group drops for strong agreement to build more nuclear power stations in the U.S. to meet future energy needs also exist. For example, for voters 65 and older, the percentage that strongly agrees falls from 57% to 30%.

A new electric power plant has been approved for construction in your community, and you have a choice for the fuel source used at the power plant, which type of power plant you would most likely support?

Energy source	March 21, 2011	May 22, 2008
Natural gas	45%	26%
Nuclear	28%	44%
Coal	8%	8%
Oil	2%	1%
Not sure	17%	22%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

The March 21 poll asks which nation among six choices is most capable of operating safe nuclear power plants. (This question was not asked in our 2008 polls.) The top choice among likely voters is the U.S. at 50%, with 20% saying none of the nations are capable. Totals for

other nations are France 11%, Japan 3%, and the United Kingdom 1%. Both Russia and Iran come in with less than 1%, and 14% are not sure.

The interactive poll of 2,168 likely voters has a margin of error of +/-2.1%. A sampling of IBOPE Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the U.S., was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, and education to more accurately reflect the population.

For more information contact the Communications Dept - 202-429-0022

ABOUT IBOPE Zogby International

IBOPE Zogby International is a non-partisan, premier global public opinion polling and market research firm that offers timely, accurate results and in-depth analysis and insights. IBOPE Zogby International works with issue experts in a vast array of fields including healthcare, technology, finance, insurance, energy, agriculture, public affairs, and media who offer insightful data analysis and exceptional service to clients in countries throughout the world. IBOPE Zogby International experts analyze data and work with clients to develop and implement new strategies, and offer customized and attractive solutions to challenges our clients face. IBOPE Zogby International was formed in January 2010 following the acquisition of Zogby International by IBOPE Inteligencia of Brazil, a subsidiary of IBOPE Group.

Please visit www.ibopezogby.com for more information on IBOPE Zogby International.

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Source: <http://www.zogby.com/news/2011/03/22/ibope-zogby-interactive-support-nuclear-power-down-somewhat-2008-still-reaches-majority-levels-/>

164-18. Majority Supports No-Fly Zone in Libya

Obama Approval at 45%

UTICA, NY - A small majority backs the U.S.-led no-fly zone in Libya, including a third who would consider taking additional military action according to the latest IBOPE Zogby Interactive poll.

These results are from a poll of 2,168 likely voters conducted from March 18-21, 2011. The United Nations Security Council voted to authorize military action and the imposition of a no-flight zone on March 18 and an ensuing air campaign led by the U.S. began the next day.

A total of 57% approve of the no-fly zone. This consists of 24% who favor only the no-fly zone and another 33% who also support it "with an open possibility of further engagement." A fifth thinks the U.S. should be offering only humanitarian help.

A combined 52% believe the U.S. has "no significant national interest in Libya," which includes 20% who think we should not intervene militarily in any way and 32% who believe the U.S. should intervene to help the Libyan people. Eighteen percent each feel that the U.S. does have a national interest in Libya, but disagree on whether military intervention should be used to protect it.

The poll also finds President Barack Obama's job approval rating falling two points, and a drop in job approval for Congress as a whole and for its Democrats. Approval for congressional Republicans is up slightly.

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's job as president?

Obama	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Feb.	Feb.	Feb.	Jan.	Jan.	Dec.	Dec.
--------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

Job Performance	21	8	4	24	21	8	31	4	10	1	2
Approve	45%	47%	44%	46%	45%	46%	44%	43%	39%	42%	
Disapprove	55%	52%	55%	53%	55%	53%	56%	56%	61%	58%	
Not sure	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Which course of action would you prefer the U.S. takes regarding unfolding events in Libya?

Action	Total
No-fly zone with an open possibility of further engagement	33%
No-fly zone only	24%
Humanitarian help only	19%
No substantive action (humanitarian or military)	13%
Other	3%
Not sure	9%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Republican voters are more likely than Democrats or independents to favor a no-fly zone with an open possibility of further engagement with a total of 41%.

Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion?

Statement	Total Agree
The U.S. has no significant national interest in Libya and should not intervene militarily in any way.	20%
The U.S. has no significant national interest in Libya but should intervene militarily to help the Libyan people.	32%
The U.S. has a significant national interest in Libya and should intervene militarily to protect it.	18%
The U.S. has a significant national interest in Libya but should not intervene militarily to protect it.	18%
Other	4%
Not sure	9%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Republicans are slightly more likely than other voters to believe the U.S. has both a national interest in Libya and should intervene militarily (23%).

Other results regarding Libya:

- 61% say the Libyan government was suppressing an uprising of ordinary people but 26% say it was civil war between competing political factions.
- 45% agree that the situation is very complex and Obama is duly cautious, but 38% agree that Obama “appears overwhelmed and should act more forcefully.” Two-thirds

of Republicans agree with the later statement, compared to 16% of Democrats and 32% of independents.

- 58% identify more with the Libyan rebels and 3% with Libyan leader Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi. Choosing neither are 19%, and 17% say they did not know enough to judge.

- 60% agree that the U.S. government has sufficient information about what is happening on the ground in Libya.

- 71% say the U.S. can no longer be the “world’s policeman.”

- 79% agree that generally speaking, U.S. military engagement is not appreciated by other nations.

Congressional approval and national direction:

- 22% approve of Congressional job performance, a decrease of three percentage points from March 8.

- 31% approve of Democratic Congressional job performance, a decrease of six percentage points from March 8.

- 33% approve of Republican Congressional job performance, an increase of two percentage points from March 8.

- Only 27% continue to say the nation is headed in the right direction.

The interactive poll of 2,168 likely voters has a margin of error of +/-2.1%. A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the U.S., was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, and education to more accurately reflect the population.

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Source: <http://www.zogby.com/news/2011/03/21/zogby-interactive-majority-supports-no-fly-zone-libya-most-being-open-possibility-further-engagement/>

164-19. Obama Tests Well at Start of Reelection Run

No Frontrunner in Slow-Starting GOP Race

March 23, 2011

Barack Obama currently fares as well against a generic opponent in the upcoming presidential election as George W. Bush did in April 2003, a time when Bush's job approval

rating was much higher than Obama's is today. He also tests considerably better than Bill Clinton did in March 1995.

Obama Tops Generic GOP Rival

	<i>Clinton</i>	<i>GW Bush</i>	<i>Obama</i>
<i>Looking ahead to the presidential election, would you...</i>	March 1995	April 2003	March 2011
	%	%	%
Reelect president	29	48	47
Prefer other party	33	35	37
Prefer independent	20	NA	NA
Other/Don't know (Vol.)	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 8-14, 2011. March 1995 figures based on general public. April 2003 and March 2011 figures based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Nearly half (47%) of registered voters say they would like to see Barack Obama reelected, while 37% say they would prefer to see a Republican candidate win the 2012 election, according to the survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press conducted March 8-14 among 1,525 adults. In April 2003, 48% of registered voters said they would like to see Bush reelected in 2004; 34% said they would prefer to see a Democrat win.

At the time, the Iraq war was viewed as moving to a successful conclusion and Bush's job approval rating among the public stood at 72%. In a survey released earlier this month, 51% of the public approved of the way Obama is handling his job as president.

Republican Race Is Wide Open

<i>Who would you most like to see nominated?</i>	All voters	Rep/ In R
	%	%
Mitt Romney	16	21
Mike Huckabee	14	20
Sarah Palin	11	13
Ron Paul	8	8
Newt Gingrich	7	11
Tim Pawlenty	2	3
Mitch Daniels	2	2
Rick Santorum	2	2
Haley Barbour	2	2
Chris Christie (Vol.)	1	2
Other	1	1
None/DK/Too early	<u>33</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 8-14, 2011. QB21. Based on registered voters; voters' first choice shown. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

In part, Obama is benefitting from the fact that the GOP has yet to coalesce behind a candidate. About one-in-five (21%) Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters say they would like to see Mitt Romney win the nomination while about the same percentage (20%) chooses Mike Huckabee; 13% back Sarah Palin, 11% opt for Newt Gingrich and 8% back Ron Paul. At this early stage in the race, 15% of GOP voters have no preference.

The race for the Republican nomination has gotten off to a much slower start than the presidential race four years ago. The Pew Research Center's news interest surveys have found that the campaign is drawing far less coverage and public interest than the previous presidential campaign at this stage. During the 2008 campaign, there were nomination races in both parties.

Through the first 10 weeks of 2007, coverage of the campaign accounted for about 7% of all news coverage on average, according to an analysis of coverage by Pew Research's Project for Excellence in Journalism. Through the first 10 weeks of this year -- a period that has seen a series of major international stories -- coverage of the 2012 campaign has accounted for only about 1% of the newshole.

The survey finds that Barack Obama's personal favorability remains fairly strong: 58% of the public say they have a favorable opinion of him while 39% view him unfavorably. Michelle Obama's favorable ratings continue to be higher than her husband's. Currently, 69% say they have a favorable opinion of Michelle Obama, compared with 21% who have an unfavorable opinion of her.

Views of John Boehner are little changed from December, the month before he officially became speaker of the House. About a quarter (26%) say they have a favorable opinion of the Ohio Republican, 27% say they have an unfavorable opinion. Nearly half (48%) have never heard of Boehner (32%) or cannot rate him (16%).

Comeback Kids?

<i>Opinion of</i>	Fav	Unfav	Can't
George W. Bush	%	%	rate/DK
March 2011	42	54	4=100
Sept 2010	37	57	6=100
April 2008	31	65	4=100
Bill Clinton			
March 2011	67	29	4=100
Feb 2008	52	42	6=100
Dec 2006	63	33	4=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 8-14, 2011. QB14c-d.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Meanwhile, favorable ratings for Obama's two predecessors in the White House have improved considerably since 2008. Currently, 42% say they have a favorable opinion of George W. Bush while 54% have an unfavorable view. Bush's favorable ratings are at their highest point in four years and have increased from a low of 31% in April 2008.

Bill Clinton's favorable ratings have rebounded after declining during Hillary Clinton's campaign for the Democratic nomination. Currently, 67% have a favorable opinion of Clinton, up 15 points since February 2008. Clinton's current mark is in line with his ratings in 2005 and 2006.

Obama's Obstacles, Advantages

Presidential Reelection Scorecard

	Clinton March 1995*	GW Bush April 2003	Obama March 2011
Generic ballot	%	%	%
Like to see president reelected	29	48	47
Prefer other party's candidate	33	35	37
Prefer independent	20	NA	NA
Other/Don't know	18	18	16
President's job rating			
Approve	44	72	51
Disapprove	44	22	39
Favorable ratings:			
President			
Favorable	55	72	58
Unfavorable	42	25	39
Republican Party			
Favorable	67	63	42
Unfavorable	27	31	51
Democratic Party			
Favorable	50	57	48
Unfavorable	44	36	45
State of nation			
Satisfied	23	50	22
Unsatisfied	74	41	73
Party affiliation			
Republican	34	31	25
Democrat	29	31	32
Independent	33	31	37

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Mar. 8-14, 2011. Obama job rating, party favorability ratings from Feb. 22-Mar. 1. Generic ballot figures for Bush and Obama based on registered voters; for Clinton based on general public. Other measures based on general public. Party affiliation data year-to-date, based on multiple surveys.

* Clinton favorability from February 1995, state of the nation from April 1995, party favorability from December 1994.

In his reelection race, Obama is running about as well as Bush did at this stage in 2003. Obama holds a 10-point lead even though opinions about the president and his party -- and views of national conditions -- are much less positive than they were for Bush and the GOP in April 2003, when the Iraq war was still widely seen as going well.

For most of the past year, the percent expressing positive views of national conditions has remained below 30% (22% in the new survey). In April 2003, fully half of Americans (50%) said they were satisfied with the way things were going in the country.

While Obama is viewed favorably today (58%), Bush's favorable ratings in April 2003 were much higher (72%). More than six-in-ten (63%) viewed the GOP favorably in April 2003; today 48% have a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party.

Yet Obama and his party hold several advantages. For one thing the Republican Party's image is fairly negative. Just 42% have a favorable opinion of the GOP while 51% view the party unfavorably. The public currently has a mixed view of the Democratic Party (48% favorable vs. 45% unfavorable).

Moreover, the Democratic Party currently holds a seven-point lead over the Republican Party in party affiliation (32% to 25%) in Pew Research surveys conducted so far this year. In early 2003, as many people affiliated with the GOP (31%) as with the Democratic Party (31%).

Comparisons between Obama and Clinton at a similar point in his reelection bid are difficult, because of the prospect that Clinton would face a three-way race with a viable independent candidate, Ross Perot. Still, while Obama holds a clear lead in the generic ballot, in March 1995 Clinton ran about even with unnamed Republican: 29% of all Americans said they would like to see Clinton reelected, 33% said they would prefer an unnamed Republican and 20% said they would prefer an independent candidate.

In many ways, Clinton's position at the start of the 1996 campaign was far weaker than Obama's is today. The Republican Party's favorable ratings were 17 points higher than the Democrats' (67% to 50%). In addition, the GOP held an edge (34% to 29%) over the Democrats in party affiliation, based on surveys conducted in February and March 1995.

Source: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1937/poll-2012-campaign-obama-reelection-republican-primary-romney-huckabee-palin>

164-20. Wide Gulf in Health Coverage Persists Across U.S. Metro Areas

Nine of the 10 most uninsured metro areas surveyed were in Texas or California
March 23, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Close to half of adults (46.1%) living in McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Texas, had no healthcare coverage last year -- nearly three times the national average -- and the highest percentage across the 188 U.S. metropolitan areas that Gallup and Healthways surveyed. Texas and California account for 9 of the 10 metro areas with the highest rates of uninsured residents. The four metro areas with the lowest rates of uninsured were in Massachusetts, each with about 1 in 20 adults lacking coverage.

10 Metro Areas With the Lowest Percentage of Uninsured Residents

Among the 188 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas surveyed

	% Uninsured
Worcester MA	4.7
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy MA-NH	4.8
Springfield MA	5.2
Barnstable Town MA	5.4
Green Bay WI	7.3
Albany-Schenectady-Troy NY	7.5
Honolulu HI	7.6
Hartford-West-Hartford-East-Hartford CT	7.6
York-Hanover PA	7.7
Utica-Rome NY	7.7

January-December 2010
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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These metro area findings are consistent with Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index 2010 state-level data, which show the uninsured rate is highest in Texas and lowest in Massachusetts, where state law requires almost all adults to carry health insurance.

The 2010 metro area findings are extracted from Gallup's 2010 Daily tracking data set and are based on more than 200,000 U.S. adults, aged 18 and older, who live in one of the nation's larger metro areas. Gallup categorizes U.S. metro areas according to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's definitions for Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and reports on all MSAs for which there are a minimum of 300 interviews available. In 2010, 188 MSAs met this criterion.

Uninsured Rates Highest in Largely Hispanic Metro Areas

The 10 metro areas with the highest uninsured rates have a significantly higher Hispanic population than the 10 metro areas with the lowest percentage of uninsured adults. On average, 44.5% of residents surveyed in the 10 metro areas with the highest rates of uninsured are of Hispanic or Latino origin according to U.S. Census Bureau data from 2009. This compares with an average of 7.1% in the 10 metro areas with the lowest percent uninsured.

10 Metro Areas With the Highest Percentage of Uninsured Residents

Among the 188 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas surveyed

	% Uninsured
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission TX	46.1
El Paso TX	35.3
Visalia-Porterville CA	32.9
Beaumont-Port Arthur TX	31.7
Bakersfield CA	30.8
Salinas CA	30.0
Myrtle Beach-North-Myrtle Beach-Conway SC	28.9
Stockton CA	27.5
Amarillo TX	26.8
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown TX	26.7

January-December 2010
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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In McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Texas, where nearly half the population is uninsured, 89.8% of residents are Hispanic. The 46.1% who were uninsured in that metro area is close to the national average of 38.9% of Hispanics who were uninsured in 2010.

*Average Percentage of Residents of Hispanic or Latino Origin
in Metro Areas With Highest and Lowest Uninsured Rates*

	10 most uninsured metro areas	10 least uninsured metro areas	Difference (pct. pts.)
% Hispanic/Latino origin	44.5	7.1	37.4

Among the 188 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas surveyed
January-December 2010
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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Gallup also found that low-income Americans are among the most likely to be uninsured, which explains, in part, the high rate of uninsured among Hispanics, who, in general, have lower than average incomes. Hispanics at every income level, however, are more likely than non-Hispanics to be uninsured.

But not all metro areas in the top 10 uninsured group have a high Hispanic population. One exception is Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway, S.C., where 28.9% are uninsured, but just 5% of the population is Hispanic. Additionally, more than 20% of U.S. adults were uninsured in 56 of the 188 U.S. metro areas Gallup and Healthways surveyed, representing 21 different states, clearly demonstrating that high rates of uninsured exist in all types of communities.

Money for and Access to Care Bigger Issue for Metro Areas With High Uninsured Rates

Americans living in the 10 metro areas with the highest rate of uninsured residents are about 25% less likely than those in the 10 metro areas with the lowest rate of uninsured to have a personal doctor.

Residents of the 10 metros with the highest uninsured rates are also less likely than those of the lowest uninsured rates to say there was *no time* in the past year when they failed to receive medical care because of the cost, 73.8% vs. 85.5%. This difference in being able to afford care is relatively small though, considering the significant difference in coverage rates between these two groups of metros.

Adults in the 10 metro areas with the highest rate of uninsured are slightly less likely to say they have easy access to medicine where they live, although nearly 9 in 10 say they do.

Healthcare-Related Issues in Metro Areas With Highest and Lowest Uninsured Rates

	10 most uninsured metro areas	10 least uninsured metro areas	Difference (pct. pts.)
% With a personal doctor	66.0	89.8	23.8
% Have not lacked money for healthcare or medicine	73.8	85.5	11.7
% Easy to get medicine in city or area	88.3	94.3	6.0

Among the 188 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas surveyed
January-December 2010
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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Bottom Line

As the new healthcare law reaches the one-year mark, Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index data continue to find significant differences in coverage across the United States. There has also been no change, so far, in the percentage of uninsured adults at the national level, with 16.3% lacking healthcare in February of this year. The government, however, has only implemented certain parts of the law since its passage in March 2010 -- the bulk of the legislation, including the individual mandate, does not go into effect until 2014.

Although the Obama administration continues to implement the law on course, it faces ongoing legal and political challenges from the states and Republican lawmakers. And a year later, the law still lacks strong public backing. Americans remain divided in their support for the law and more people believe the new healthcare reform law will worsen rather than improve medical care in the United States..

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index survey Jan. 2-Dec. 29, 2010, with a random sample of 245,817 adults, aged 18 and older, living in reportable metropolitan statistical areas in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

Metro areas in this article are based on the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. In many cases, more than one city is included in the same MSA. The San Jose metropolitan statistical area, for example, also includes the smaller nearby cities of Sunnyvale and Santa Clara in addition to San Jose itself. Each respondent is attributed to his or her MSA based on the self-report of his or her ZIP code. Gallup reports data for metropolitan statistical areas for which there were at least 300 completed interviews in 2010. A total of 188 MSAs met this criterion, which generally incorporates the larger MSAs according to population size.

Maximum expected error ranges for the MSAs vary according to size, ranging from less than one percentage point for the largest cities represented to $\pm 6.5\%$ for the smallest. Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone only and cell phone mostly).

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.

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/146756/Wide-Gulf-Health-Coverage-Persists-Across-Metro-Areas.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA%20-%20Wellbeing

164-21. Americans Approve of Military Action Against Libya, 47% to 37%

Support is lower than for other recent U.S. military actions

March 22, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- A Gallup poll conducted Monday finds more Americans approving than disapproving of the military action against Libya by the United States and other countries.

Next we have a question about the current military action by the United States and other countries against Libya. Do you approve or disapprove of the current U.S. military actions against Libya?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
Mar 21, 2011	47%	37%	16%

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The March 21 poll was conducted just days after the United States joined other countries in conducting airstrikes against Libya to enforce a United Nations no-fly zone. The U.N. passed a resolution calling for a no-fly zone in response to reports that Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi had attacked Libyan forces opposed to his government.

The 47% of Americans approving of the action against Libya is lower than what Gallup has found when asking about approval of other U.S. military campaigns in the past four decades.

Americans showed the highest level of support for the 2001 military action in Afghanistan that was a response to the 9/11 terror attacks. Americans also widely supported U.S. airstrikes against Iraq in 1993 and the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Support for the current involvement in Libya is also much lower than support for U.S. airstrikes against Libya in 1986 in response to the Libyan bombing of a German nightclub that killed two American servicemen.

Approval of Prior U.S. Military Actions

Country/Region	Dates	% Approve	% Disapprove
Libya	Mar 21, 2011	47	37
Iraq	Mar 20, 2003	76	20
Afghanistan	Oct 7, 2001	90	5
Kosovo/The Balkans	Apr 30-May 2, 1999	51	45
Afghanistan and Sudan	Aug 20, 1998	66	19
Haiti	Sep 23-25, 1994	54	45
Somalia	Jun 18-21, 1993	65	23
Iraq	Jan 13, 1993	83	9
Libya	Apr 17-18, 1986	71	21
Grenada	Oct 26-27, 1983	53	34

Notes:

- Includes recent U.S. military engagements asked about, using approve/disapprove response format
- Question wordings vary; see page 2 for full wordings.
- Data are from initial Gallup poll conducted after the military operation began.
- Gallup did not ask an approve/disapprove question after the 1989 invasion of Panama or the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

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While Gallup did not ask an approve/disapprove question about the 1991 Persian Gulf War, support for that action was also high, based on other question wordings.

Though approval of the current actions against Libya is lower than that for other U.S. military efforts, the level of disapproval is lower than Gallup measured for the Haiti and Kosovo/Balkan situations, and similar to that for Grenada.

Republicans, Democrats in General Agreement

Republicans and Democrats take opposing viewpoints on most issues, but they are in general agreement on Libya. Slim majorities of both groups approve of the action. Independents are the least approving, at 38%.

Approve/Disapprove of U.S. Military Action Against Libya, by Political Party

	% Approve	% Disapprove
Democrats	51	34
Independents	38	44
Republicans	57	31

Gallup, March 21, 2011

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The lack of a significant Republican-Democratic difference could be the net result of Republicans' inclination to support military action and Democrats' inclination to support the Obama administration's policies. Gallup found similar dynamics at play during the Vietnam and Korean Wars.

More generally, no demographic subgroup shows particularly strong support for the current U.S. military action against Libya, with postgraduates' (60%) and Republicans' support the highest among major subgroups.

Implications

Americans are more likely to favor than oppose the current military action against Libya, though they favor it to a lesser extent than prior U.S. military campaigns. The poll did not ask Americans' specific reasons for approving or disapproving of the efforts against Libya, so the reasons for their subdued support are not clear.

In the past, the public's views on military actions have changed in response to the progress or lack of progress of those ventures. Usually, the longer the United States is involved in a military operation, such as the recent war in Iraq, the more support drops.

The United States says it is planning to reduce its role in enforcing the no-fly zone over Libya, allowing European countries to take the lead. However, the length of the overall commitment in Libya is uncertain, depending on what transpires there.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted March 21, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,010 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 and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 200 cell phone respondents and 800 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, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell phone-only status, cell phone-mostly status, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in 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.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146738/Americans-Approve-Military-Action-Against-Libya.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

164-22. 3% vs. 27% - Public Wary of U.S. Military Intervention in Libya

On the eve of the start of military intervention in Libya by the U.S. and its allies, the American public by a wide margin expressed the view that the United States did not have a responsibility to do something about the fighting between government forces and anti-government groups in Libya. A survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press,

conducted March 10-13, found that 63% said the U.S. had no responsibility to act in Libya; fewer than half as many (27%) said the U.S. had this responsibility. Reflecting the public's reluctance about U.S. involvement in Libya, barely half (51%) favored increasing economic and diplomatic sanctions against Libya. The public was divided over the possibility of enforcing a no-fly zone -- 44% favored this action while 45% were opposed. Yet just 16% favored bombing Libyan air defenses, while 77% opposed such bombing. And large majorities rejected providing arms to anti-government groups (69%) and sending troops into Libya (82%). Thinking about the Middle East more generally, Americans see regional stability as more important than increasing democracy. In a separate survey conducted March 8-13, 52% say it is more important to have stable governments in the Middle East even if there is less democracy; 38% say it is more important to have democratic governments in the region, even if there is less stability. Read more

Public Split Over No-Fly Zone, Opposed to Bombing Air Defenses

Favor/oppose U.S. and its allies ...	Favor Oppose		DK
	%	%	%
Increasing sanctions	51	40	9=100
Enforcing no-fly zone	44	45	11=100
Sending arms to anti-government groups	23	69	8=100
Bombing Libyan air defenses	16	77	7=100
Sending troops into Libya	13	82	5=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 10-13, 2011. PEW6. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source: <http://pewresearch.org/databank/dailynumber/?NumberID=1218>

164-23. One Year Later, Americans Split on Healthcare Law

Democrats continue to be highly positive about the law; Republicans, highly negative
March 21, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- One year after President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law, Americans are divided on its passage, with 46% saying it was a good thing and 44% saying it was a bad thing. Most Americans are skeptical that the law will improve medical care in the U.S. or their own personal medical care.

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

	% Good thing	% Bad thing	% No opinion
Mar 18-19, 2011	46	44	10
Mar 22, 2010 [^]	49	40	11

[^] Question wording, for comparison: As you may know, yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that restructures the nation's healthcare system. All in all, do you think it is a good thing or a bad thing that Congress passed this bill?

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The current level of support for the bill, based on a Gallup poll conducted March 18-19, generally mirrors what Gallup found in polling conducted a year ago, just before President Obama signed the bill into law. At that point, in response to a slightly different question, 49% said the law was a good thing, while 40% said it was a bad thing. Other updates asked over the last year show a similar divide.

More Americans See the Law Making Things "Worse" Rather Than "Better"

Well less than half of Americans believe the law will make medical care better either for the United States as a whole, or for them personally. In both regards, more believe the law will make things worse rather than better.

Opinions on the impact of the healthcare law on medical care in the U.S. are divided in similar fashion to Americans' overall reactions to the bill: 39% say it will improve medical care in the United States, while 44% say it will make it worse. Small percentages say the law won't change anything or offer no opinion. These responses are roughly similar to attitudes seen in July 2009, as the outlines of the law were just coming into place.

Do you think the healthcare reform law will improve, not change, or worsen medical care in the U.S.?

	% Improve	% Not change	% Worsen	% No opinion
Mar 18-19, 2011	39	12	44	5
Jul 24-25, 2009 [^]	44	14	34	8

[^] Question wording, for comparison: Would a new healthcare reform law improve, not change, or worsen medical care in the U.S.?

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Americans are less positive about the impact of the healthcare reform law on their own medical care. Twenty-five percent say the law will improve their medical care, 39% say it will worsen it, and 31% say it will not make any difference. These results are also similar to those found in July 2009.

Do you think the healthcare reform law will improve, not change, or worsen your own medical care?

	% Improve	% Not change	% Worsen	% No opinion
Mar 18-19, 2011	25	31	39	6
Jul 24-25, 2009 [^]	26	29	34	11

[^] Question wording, for comparison: Would a new healthcare reform law improve, not change, or worsen your own medical care?

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Politics Shapes Views of Healthcare Law

Democrats and Republicans have totally different views of the healthcare law, as has consistently been the case since Gallup began measuring attitudes toward it. The law was proposed by a Democratic president, and passed by a Democratic-controlled House and Senate over the vehement objections of most Republicans in Congress. Republicans have also continued

to criticize the bill since its passage, and Republican leaders in Congress are now pursuing efforts to prevent many of the bill's provisions from taking effect.

Almost 8 in 10 Democrats say the law's passage was a good thing, while more than 7 in 10 Republicans say its passage was a bad thing. Independents tilt toward saying passage was a bad thing. Reactions to the impact of the law on medical care in the U.S. are similarly divided.

Reactions to the Healthcare Reform Law Passed a Year Ago

	% National adults	% Republicans	% Independents	% Democrats
GOOD THING OR BAD THING THAT LAW WAS PASSED?				
Good thing	46	18	37	79
Bad thing	44	74	51	14
No opinion	10	8	12	7
HOW WILL LAW AFFECT MEDICAL CARE IN U.S.?				
Improve	39	11	31	70
Not change	12	9	12	14
Worsen	44	74	50	15
No opinion	5	5	7	2
HOW WILL LAW AFFECT YOUR OWN MEDICAL CARE?				
Improve	25	7	19	47
Not change	31	25	29	37
Worsen	39	61	46	13
No opinion	6	7	6	3

March 18-19, 2011

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Democrats are a little more muted in their views of the law's impact on their own medical care, with about half saying it will improve their medical care, while most of the rest say it will not change it. About 6 in 10 Republicans say the law will worsen their medical care, while nearly half of independents agree.

Implications

The American public's reactions to the landmark healthcare law passed a year ago continue to echo the bitter partisan nature of congressional debate in 2009 and 2010.

Democrats applaud the law and say it will improve medical care in the U.S., while Republicans strongly believe that its passage was a bad thing and that it will make medical care worse. Independents tend to be more negative than positive about the law.

These reactions reflect a lot of politics and perhaps less reality, given that a full assessment of the real-world effects of the law is not possible at this time, because many of its provisions have not yet taken effect. Still, in politics, perception often becomes reality. And in that regard,

President Obama and Democratic leaders who supported the bill currently face a public that is less than overwhelmingly positive about the bill and its promised ability to fix healthcare problems in the U.S.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted March 18-19, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,038 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 and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 200 cell phone respondents and 800 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, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell phone-only status, cell phone-mostly status, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in 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.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146729/One-Year-Later-Americans-Split-Healthcare-Law.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

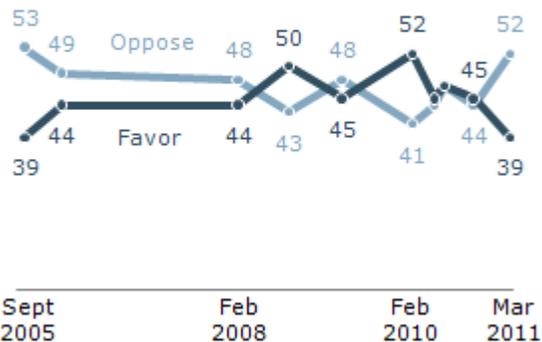
164-24. Opposition to Nuclear Power Rises amid Japanese Crisis

Support for Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling Rebounds

March 21, 2011

Not surprisingly, public support for the increased use of nuclear power has declined amid the ongoing nuclear emergency in Japan. Currently, 39% say they favor promoting the increased use of nuclear power while 52% are opposed. Last October, 47% favored promoting the increased use of nuclear power and the same percentage (47%) was opposed.

Most Now Oppose the Increased Use of Nuclear Power



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 17-20, 2011.

Opinion about expanding the use of nuclear power has fluctuated in recent years. However, the current measure matches a previous low in support for increased nuclear power recorded in September 2005 (39% favor, 53% oppose).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 17-20 among 1,004 adults, finds little recent change in opinions about other energy policies -- with one notable exception. With the recent surge in gas prices, support for increased offshore oil and gas drilling continues to rebound.

Currently, 57% say they favor allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters while 37% are opposed. Last June amid the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, there was more opposition (52%) than support (44%) for allowing more offshore drilling. Support for increased offshore energy drilling is approaching its pre-Gulf spill level; in February 2010, the public backed increased offshore drilling by about two-to-one (63% to 31%).

The survey shows that substantial majorities continue to support increased federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen technology (74%), spending more on subway, rail and bus systems (61%), and providing tax incentives for the purchase of hybrid vehicles (58%). These measures are virtually unchanged from last October, though there is less support for alternative energy research and spending on mass transit than from 2005 to 2009.

Continuing Gender Gap over Nuclear Power

Fewer College Graduates Back Increased Use of Nuclear Power

<i>Promoting the increased use of nuclear power...</i>	Oct 2010		Mar 2011	
	Favor %	Oppose %	Favor %	Oppose %
Total	45	44	39	52
Men	58	36	53	42
Women	33	52	26	63
18-29	39	51	41	55
30-49	43	49	34	60
50-64	49	40	42	49
65+	49	34	45	42
College grad+	57	35	44	50
Some college	45	45	37	54
HS or less	37	50	38	53
Republican	57	35	49	41
Democrat	36	55	31	60
Independent	47	42	41	54

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 17-20, 2011. PEW27b. Figures may add to 100% because of rounding.

There has long been a wide gender gap in views of increased use of nuclear power and these differences persist amid the crisis in Japan. By greater than two-to-one (63% to 26%), women oppose promoting the increased use of nuclear power. A narrow majority of men (53%) favor the increased use of nuclear power, while 42% are opposed.

The proportion of college graduates that supports the expanded use of nuclear power has fallen by 13 points since October (from 57% to 44%). College graduates remain slightly more likely than those with less education to support more use of nuclear power, but the gap has narrowed.

About half of Republicans (49%) favor the expanded use of nuclear power compared with 41% of independents and 31% of Democrats. There were comparable partisan differences in these views last October.

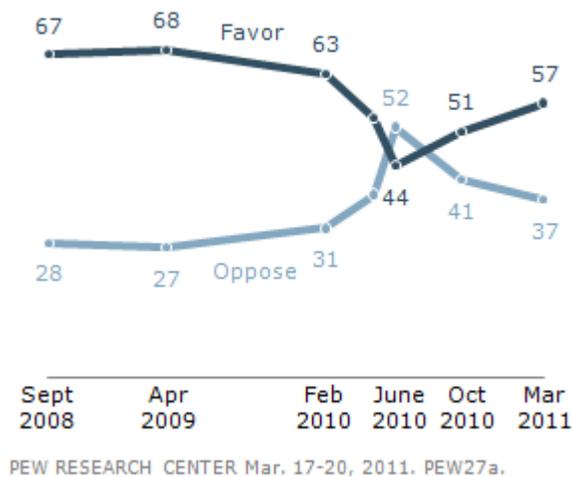
Are U.S. Nuclear Plants Safer?

Overall, about a quarter of Americans (24%) think that nuclear power plants in the United States are designed to be safer than those in Japan. A 53% majority says nuclear plants in this country are designed to be about as safe as nuclear facilities in Japan while 10% say plants in the United States are less safe.

At the time of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986, the public generally viewed U.S. nuclear plants as safer than those in the Soviet Union. In a May 1986 *Washington Post/ABC* News poll, 55% said that U.S. plants were safer (the question asked about overall safety, not the design of the plants).

New Turn in Views of Offshore Drilling

Increased Support for More Offshore Drilling



Public views of allowing increased offshore oil and gas drilling shifted noticeably last year in response to the Gulf oil leak. Since last summer, they have shifted again. Currently, 57% favor allowing more oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters, up 13 points since last June (44%). Nonetheless, support for expanded offshore drilling remains lower than in February 2010 (63%).

Since last June, support for expanded offshore oil and gas drilling has increased across most demographic and political groups. Still, while support has jumped by nearly 20 points since then among both Republicans and Democrats, there continues to be a sizable partisan divide in these opinions: 81% of Republicans favor allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters, compared with 54% of independents and 46% of Democrats.

Wide Partisan Gaps over Other Policies

Opinions about other energy policies have changed little since last fall. These views also continue to be deeply divided along partisan lines. While 81% of Democrats and 79% of independents favor increased federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen technology, far fewer Republicans agree (59%).

There also are substantial differences in opinions about spending more on mass transit systems: 72% of Democrats and 64% of independents favor this policy, compared with 46% of Republicans. In both cases, the partisan differences are relatively recent. In 2006, comparable percentages of Republicans, Democrats and independents favored these policies. (For more, see "Little Change in Opinions about Global Warming," Oct. 27, 2010.)

Source: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1934/support-nuclear-power-japan-gas-prices-offshore-oil-gas-drilling>

164-25. Huckabee Has Slight Edge, Palin Down, in GOP '12 Preferences

Romney, Palin would tie if Huckabee does not run
March 25, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Mike Huckabee tops a large list of potential GOP presidential candidates in current support for the party's 2012 nomination, with 19% of Republicans saying they are most likely to back him. This gives Huckabee a slight edge over Mitt Romney (15%). Sarah Palin is now at 12% after receiving 16% support in three prior Gallup polls. Newt

Gingrich is the only other potential candidate who registers double-digit support. Sixteen percent of Republicans currently have no preference.

Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primaries for president in the 2012 election. After I read all the names, please tell me which of those candidates you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in 2012, or if you would support someone else.

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	2010 Sep 25-26	2010 Nov 13-14	2011 Feb 18-20	2011 Mar 18-22
	%	%	%	%
Mike Huckabee	12	16	18	19
Mitt Romney	19	19	16	15
Sarah Palin	16	16	16	12
Newt Gingrich	9	13	9	10
Ron Paul	7	6	5	6
Michele Bachmann	--	--	4	5
Mitch Daniels	2	1	3	4
Tim Pawlenty	3	4	3	3
Haley Barbour	3	4	3	2
Jon Huntsman	--	--	1	2
Rick Santorum	2	1	2	2
Gary Johnson	1	1	1	2
Donald Trump (vol.)	--	*	*	1
Chris Christie (vol.)	1	1	1	*
Herman Cain (vol.)	--	--	*	*
Mike Pence (vol.)	1	1	1	*
John Thune (vol.)	2	2	1	--
Other	4	2	3	2
Any/All (vol.)	1	*	*	1
None (vol.)	7	5	4	7
No opinion	11	9	10	8

* Less than 0.5%

(vol.) = Volunteered response

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The March 18-22 poll of more than 1,000 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents was conducted as the field of candidates has yet to emerge. Since Gallup's February

measurement of nomination preferences, Gingrich and Tim Pawlenty have taken formal steps toward announcing their candidacies but have stopped short of doing so. Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann is reportedly going to formalize her candidacy by the summer.

There continues to be speculation about the leading candidates' plans. Most political experts believe Romney will eventually enter the race, but questions remain about whether Huckabee and Palin will want to abandon their lucrative media careers to pursue the presidency.

The poll sought to assess how the race might look if either Huckabee or Palin, or both, ultimately do not run, by asking Republicans to name their second and (in some instances) third choices for the nomination. This information was then used to simulate how the candidates would fare under various scenarios.

Romney, Palin Lead if Huckabee Declines to Run

If Huckabee were not a candidate, most of his support would go to the top three remaining candidates. Romney and Palin would essentially tie for the lead, at 19% and 17%, respectively, with Gingrich getting a bump in support to 13%.

2012 Republican Nomination Preferences, if Huckabee Votes Are Excluded

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	With Huckabee	Without Huckabee
	%	%
Mike Huckabee	19	--
Mitt Romney	15	19
Sarah Palin	12	17
Newt Gingrich	10	13
Ron Paul	6	8
Michele Bachmann	5	5
Mitch Daniels	4	4
Tim Pawlenty	3	3
Haley Barbour	2	3
Jon Huntsman	2	2
Rick Santorum	2	2
Gary Johnson	2	2
Donald Trump (vol.)	1	2
Herman Cain (vol.)	*	*
Other	2	3
Any/All/None/No opinion	16	18

Note: Ballot without Huckabee computed by substituting Huckabee voters' second choice

* Less than 0.5%

(vol.) = Volunteered response

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Huckabee Strengthens Position With Palin out of Race

Were Huckabee to run but not Palin, his current advantage over Romney would expand to seven points (23% to 16%), compared with the four-point edge he now has with all candidates in the race. Romney's support would essentially be flat with Palin out of the field.

2012 Republican Nomination Preferences, if Palin Votes Are Excluded

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	With Palin	Without Palin
	%	%
Mike Huckabee	19	23
Mitt Romney	15	16
Sarah Palin	12	--
Newt Gingrich	10	12
Ron Paul	6	7
Michele Bachmann	5	6
Mitch Daniels	4	4
Tim Pawlenty	3	3
Haley Barbour	2	2
Jon Huntsman	2	2
Rick Santorum	2	2
Gary Johnson	2	2
Donald Trump (vol.)	1	2
Herman Cain (vol.)	*	*
Other	2	2
Any/All/None/No opinion	16	18

Note: Ballot without Palin computed by substituting Palin voters' second choice

* Less than 0.5%

(vol.) = Volunteered response

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Romney Emerges if Huckabee, Palin Decline to Run

If neither Huckabee nor Palin runs, Romney and Gingrich benefit most, with Romney holding a 22% to 16% edge over Gingrich. No other candidate would receive double-digit support under this scenario, though several minor candidates would get slight increases in their support compared with what it is with all candidates running. Notably, nearly one in four Republicans would have no preference if the field did not include Huckabee and Palin.

2012 Republican Nomination Preferences, if Palin and Huckabee Votes Are Excluded

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	With Huckabee and Palin	Without Huckabee and Palin
	%	%
Mike Huckabee	19	--
Mitt Romney	15	22
Sarah Palin	12	--
Newt Gingrich	10	16
Ron Paul	6	9
Michele Bachmann	5	7
Mitch Daniels	4	5
Tim Pawlenty	3	4
Haley Barbour	2	3
Jon Huntsman	2	2
Rick Santorum	2	2
Gary Johnson	2	2
Donald Trump (vol.)	1	2
Herman Cain (vol.)	*	*
Other	2	3
Any/All/None/No opinion	16	24

Note: Ballot without Huckabee and Palin is computed by substituting Huckabee and Palin voters' second choice. If Huckabee and Palin are voters' top two choices, their third choice is substituted.

* Less than 0.5%

(vol.) = Volunteered response

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In addition to Palin and Huckabee, Donald Trump is another high-profile figure who could enter the race. Though he has said he is only considering running, 1% of poll respondents volunteer his name as their first choice, and enough mention him as a second choice to increase his share to 2% if either Huckabee or Palin do not run.

Implications

There is no clear front-runner for the 2012 Republican nomination, which is a departure from what it has been in years prior to a presidential election. Huckabee may be the closest thing to a front-runner at this point, but he has yet to hold a statistically significant lead in any survey. But his candidacy, as well as that of Sarah Palin, is far from assured.

Romney would apparently benefit more from Huckabee's sitting out the race than from Palin's doing so, and he would move to the front of the field (though not by a statistically significant margin) if neither Huckabee nor Palin runs.

All of this underscores the current wide-open nature of the race, which could eventually find some structure in the coming months as the potential candidates make official decisions about entering the race, begin to campaign in earnest, and face each other in a series of scheduled debates starting in May.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted March 18-22, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,082 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 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 Republicans, 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 and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 200 cell phone respondents and 800 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, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell phone-only status, cell phone-mostly status, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in 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.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146792/Huckabee-Slight-Edge-Palin-Down-GOP-Preferences.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

164-26. Jobs Key to Residents' Satisfaction With Their Communities

Lincoln, Neb., boasts the highest "satisfied" percentage among 188 metro areas studied
March 25, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Lincoln, Neb., residents are close to unanimous in saying they are satisfied with the city or area where they live, according to 2010 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index data -- 96.7% respond this way, the highest proportion across 188 U.S. metropolitan areas. Lincoln is also the metro area with the lowest current unemployment rate in the country, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. At the bottom of the list, about three-fourths of residents in Arizona's Lake Havasu City-Kingman area (74.1%) and in Stockton, Calif., (75%) are satisfied.

10 Metro Areas With the Highest Percentage of Satisfied Residents

Among the 188 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas surveyed

	% Satisfied with city or area
Lincoln, NE	96.7
Fort Collins-Loveland, CO	96.1
Holland-Grand Haven, MI	93.9
Boulder, CO	93.7
Provo-Orem, UT	92.9
Austin-Round Rock, TX	92.5
Madison, WI	92.1
Raleigh-Cary, NC	91.8
Little Rock-N Little Rock-Conway, AR	91.8
Bellingham, WA	91.4

January-December 2010
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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10 Metro Areas With the Lowest Percentage of Satisfied Residents

Among the 188 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas surveyed

	% Satisfied with city or area
Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ	74.1
Stockton, CA	75.0
Toledo, OH	75.9
Binghamton, NY	76.1
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	76.3
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	76.5
Fayetteville, NC	76.7
Corpus Christi, TX	77.1
Flint, MI	77.3
Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH	77.5

January-December 2010
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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The 2010 metro area findings are extracted from Gallup's 2010 Daily tracking data set of more than 200,000 U.S. adults, aged 18 and older. Gallup categorizes U.S. metro areas according to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's definitions for Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and reports on all MSAs for which there are a minimum of 300 interviews available.

Residents' likelihood to be satisfied with their city or area is significantly related to the area's average income level. Household income estimates for 2010 indicate the median figure among the 10 metro areas with the highest percentage of satisfied residents is \$71,250 -- significantly higher than the median \$55,000 among the 10 metro areas with the lowest percentage of satisfied residents. But a metro area's relative affluence is not a perfect indicator of how satisfied its residents are likely to be. After all, the Little Rock-N Little Rock-Conway, Ark., area, with a median household income of \$59,100, is on the "most satisfied" list, while residents of New York's Buffalo-Niagara Falls area, with a median income of \$63,700, are among the least likely to be satisfied with their city or area.

The presence of stable sources of employment is another key factor in satisfaction with one's city. Half of the metro areas on the most satisfied list -- Lincoln; Austin, Texas; Madison, Wis.; Raleigh-Cary, N.C.; and Little Rock-N Little Rock-Conway -- are state capitals with major universities, both factors that help cushion employment rates during tough economic times. Using government figures for January 2011, the median unemployment rate among the 10 metro

areas with the highest percentage of satisfied residents was 8.0%, below the national figure of 9.8%. Again, Lincoln's rate was the lowest in the country in January, at 4.1%.

Conversely, several of the metro areas on the "least satisfied" list -- including Toledo, Ohio; Binghamton, N.Y.; Buffalo-Niagara Falls; and Flint, Mich. -- have seen their large manufacturing sectors decline in recent decades and are now working to establish new sources of growth. Among the 10 metro areas with the lowest percentage of satisfied residents, the median unemployment rate is 10.6%. Topping the list is the Lake Havasu City-Kingman area, where the rate is 11.5%.

Median Unemployment Rates in Metro Areas With the Highest and Lowest Proportions of Satisfied Residents

Among the 188 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas surveyed

	10 "most satisfied" metro areas	10 "least satisfied" metro areas	Difference (pct. pts.)
January 2011 median unemployment rate	8.0%	10.6%	2.6

January-December 2010
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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Stockton, Calif., second on the least satisfied list, was named by *Forbes* in February 2011 as "America's Most Miserable City" -- the second time in three years the city has earned that dubious distinction. The magazine cites several reasons for Stockton's ranking -- the most prominent being the housing bust, which decimated the area's real estate market. However, Stockton residents are also burdened by long commute times, high crime rates, high income taxes, and high unemployment.

Optimism Among Metro Area Residents

Residents of the metro areas surveyed were also asked whether they think their city or area is getting better or getting worse as a place to live. Among all 188 metro areas, a median 56.4% of residents said things were getting better. These figures spanned a broad range, however, from more than two-thirds of residents in the top 10 "most optimistic" cities to well below half in cities on the "least optimistic" list.

10 Metro Areas About Which Residents Are Most Optimistic

Among the 188 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas surveyed

	% who say the city or area is "getting better" as a place to live
Provo-Orem, UT	76.9
Austin-Round Rock, TX	72.8
Huntsville, AL	71.6
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	71.3
Raleigh-Cary, NC	71.0
Kennewick-Pasco-Richland, WA	70.6
Amarillo, TX	70.3
Lincoln, NE	70.2
Fort Collins-Loveland, CO	69.5
Little Rock-N Little Rock-Conway, AR	68.6

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The differences in the least and most optimistic lists are revealing. Thriving knowledge-based industries support job growth in several of the metro areas with the highest percentage of residents who say their area is getting better as a place to live. In Huntsville, Ala., -- third on the most optimistic list -- technology and engineering research largely drives the local economy. The area's major employers include NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and Cummings Research Park, the second-largest research and technology park in the country, with 285 companies. The Kennewick-Pasco-Richland area in Washington State also has a large concentration of scientists and engineers and is home to the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. In 2009, *Forbes* named Kennewick the country's second-best city for new jobs.

The least optimistic cities, on the other hand, are home to some of the weakest economies in the country. Las Vegas' tourism- and construction-based economy was among the hardest hit by the recession. The city's current unemployment rate is 13.7%, and a recent report by the Brookings Institution and the London School of Economics ranked its economic performance as the fifth-worst among 150 major metro areas *worldwide*. Current unemployment rates in Flint, Mich.; Rockford, Ill.; and Florida's Cape Coral-Fort Myers area all top 12%.

Implications

None of this is to say that economic factors are alone in influencing Americans' satisfaction with their cities. The availability of high-quality education and healthcare services are likely to

10 Metro Areas About Which Residents Are Least Optimistic

Among the 188 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas surveyed

	% who say the city or area is "getting better" as a place to live
Binghamton, NY	31.0
Toledo, OH	35.2
Flint, MI	37.7
Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	38.0
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	38.9
Utica-Rome, NY	39.3
Rockford, IL	40.3
Scranton-Wilkes Barre, PA	41.9
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	42.3
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	42.4

January-December 2010
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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factor into the equation, as is the city's success in promoting healthy lifestyles and a strong sense of community.

However, cities with healthy economic bases are better able to address these kinds of issues than those that constantly struggle with budget shortfalls. The presence of good jobs means more residents have opportunities to actively contribute to the vitality of their communities, whether through the taxes they pay or the services they provide. It also means residents are less likely to turn to street crime out of desperation, or to move away from the area in search of opportunities elsewhere. So when it comes to boosting residents' satisfaction with their communities, promoting business development and job growth may not be the only consideration -- but it is a natural place to start.

About the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index tracks U.S. wellbeing and provides best-in-class solutions for a healthier world. To learn more, please visit well-beingindex.com.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index survey Jan. 2-Dec. 29, 2010, with a random sample of 245,817 adults, aged 18 and older, living in reportable metropolitan statistical areas in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

Metro areas in this article are based on the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. In many cases, more than one city is included in the same MSA. The San Jose, Calif., MSA, for example, also includes the smaller nearby cities of Sunnyvale and Santa Clara in addition to San Jose itself. Each respondent is attributed to his or her MSA based on the self-report of his or her ZIP code. Gallup reports data for MSAs for which there were at least 300 completed interviews in 2010. A total of 188 MSAs met this criterion, which generally incorporates the larger MSAs according to population size.

Maximum expected error ranges for the MSAs vary according to size, ranging from less than 1 percentage point for the largest cities represented to ± 6.5 percentage points for the smallest. Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone only and cell phone mostly).

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.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146789/Jobs-Key-Residents-Satisfaction-Communities.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA%20-%20Wellbeing

164-27. Democrats Lead Ranks of Both Union and State Workers

State workers have greatest Democrat-Republican party gap
March 24, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Union members, whether they work for the government or the private sector, are more likely than nonunion workers to be Democrats than Republicans. The gap is greatest among unionized state government workers, who are twice as likely to be Democrats. State workers are also more likely to be Democrats than are federal, local, or nongovernment workers, regardless of union status.

Political Party Identification Among Unionized and Nonunionized Workers in the U.S.

	Type of employee	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Federal government employees	Union	27.2%	39.5%	31.4%
	Nonunion	32.5%	29.3%	36.3%
State government employees	Union	23.7%	46.1%	29.1%
	Nonunion	29.5%	39.2%	30.4%
Local government employees	Union	26.6%	40.6%	31.8%
	Nonunion	32.7%	33.7%	32.2%
Nongovernment employees	Union	23.8%	41.9%	32.9%
	Nonunion	31.6%	30.1%	36.8%

Jan. 2-Dec. 29, 2010
Gallup Daily tracking

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These data are based on 177,775 interviews with employed Americans conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking in 2010. Government employment and union status are based on workers' self-reports. Among all U.S. adults interviewed, 32% are Democrats, 37% independents, and 28% Republicans.

Among other key findings:

- The gap in Democratic party identification between union and nonunion work environments is largest among private-sector workers and federal government workers, with an 11.8-percentage-point and a 10.2-point gap, respectively.
- Nonunionized state government workers show a smaller gap than the one found among unionized state workers, but still demonstrate a nearly 10-point Democrat (39.2%) to Republican (29.5%) gap.
- Among private-sector workers who are unionized, Democrats outnumber Republicans by a substantial 42% to 24% margin.
- Federal and local government workers who are unionized are also more likely to be Democrats than Republicans, albeit with a smaller partisan gap than among state and private-sector workers. Nonunion federal and local government workers are roughly even in terms of Democratic and Republican identification.
- Nonunion private-sector workers are about evenly split between Republicans and Democrats.
- The political profile of every major category of union workers is more strongly Democratic than that of the public at large -- with between 40% and 46% identifying as Democrats -- and somewhat less Republican and independent. Nevertheless, a significant minority -- ranging from 24% to 27% of unionized workers, depending on area of employment -- identify as Republicans.

Some of these political distinctions may be caused by underlying demographic patterns that characterize union jobs versus nonunion jobs. With that in mind, Gallup controlled for all relevant demographics and found a muted, but similar pattern.

Implications

Unions have been in the news in recent months as Republican Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin made state employee unions the major target of his efforts to cut costs and reduce his state's budget. Walker and Republican legislators in Wisconsin engaged in a protracted battle with the unions and Democratic legislators over these efforts, effectively underscoring the highly partisan nature of union politics in today's environment. Unions have become one of the largest financial supporters of Democratic candidates for office, and the confrontation with Gov. Walker was likely amplified still further because of the probable political orientation of unionized state workers in Wisconsin.

The current data show that rank-and-file union members tend to follow these same partisan patterns across both government and private industry employment sectors. Even when demographic characteristics of union and nonunion members are controlled for, those who are union members skew at least slightly more Democratic in their political orientation than those who are not union members.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup Daily tracking survey with 177,775 national working adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 2-Dec. 29, 2010. Of these, 144,682 respondents work inside of a nongovernment setting, and 133,317 of these are not in unions, while 11,365 are. For results based on the total sample of national working adults in a nongovernment setting, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 0.3 percentage point for those not in a union and ± 0.9 percentage point for those who are.

State, federal, and local government employees are defined via the questions:

- "Do you currently work for the federal, state, or local government?"
- (If yes) "Which one?"

Union membership is defined via the question: "Are you a member of a labor union?"

The margin of sampling error for government employee groups is larger, but still small. Among nonunionized respondents, there are 6,607 federal employee, 8,645 state employee, and 6,358 local employee respondents in the sample over the full 12-month period, yielding error ranges of around ± 1.0 percentage point for the cumulative data and about ± 1.5 to ± 2.5 percentage points for each government group. Among unionized respondents, there are 1,954 federal employee, 5,035 state employee, and 4,494 local employee respondents in the sample over the full 12-month period, yielding error ranges of around ± 1.0 percentage point for the cumulative data and about ± 1.5 to ± 2.5 percentage points for each government group.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 200 cell phone respondents and 800 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, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell phone-only status, cell phone-mostly status, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged

18 and older non-institutionalized population living in 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.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146786/Democrats-Lead-Ranks-Union-State-Workers.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

164-28. Pawlenty Begins Race With 41% GOP Name Recognition

Gallup tracking finds Pawlenty hardly better known than he was in January
March 23, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who this week became the first major Republican to announce the formation of a presidential exploratory committee, has 41% name recognition among Republicans nationwide. He trails a number of other potential GOP presidential candidates on this measure.

*Name Recognition of Potential Candidates for 2012 Republican Presidential Nomination
Among Republicans and Republican leaners*

	Jan 4-5, 2011	Feb 28-Mar 13, 2011	Mar 7-20, 2011
	%	%	%
Sarah Palin	95	96	97
Mike Huckabee	87	87	89
Newt Gingrich	84	85	86
Mitt Romney	84	81	83
Ron Paul	73	76	76
Michele Bachmann	--	52	52
Rick Santorum	40	42	42
Haley Barbour	41	42	42
Tim Pawlenty	39	41	41
Mitch Daniels	26	30	33
Jon Huntsman	21	20	21
Gary Johnson	14	12	11

Question wording: Next, I am going to mention the names of some people in the news. For each one, please tell me if you recognize the name, or not.

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While Pawlenty's announcement this week fell short of an official declaration of his presidential candidacy, it came close. Pawlenty's website is entitled "Pawlenty 2012," and his frequent visits to early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire make it clear that he is a candidate in all but name.

Pawlenty faces a significant challenge as a result of his overall lack of name recognition among Republicans nationwide. In early January, 39% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents recognized Pawlenty, virtually the same as the 41% name recognition he has registered in the last two weeks of Gallup's tracking of potential GOP candidates.

Overall, Pawlenty stands in a third tier of Republican candidates, based on name identification. Five potential candidates have greater than 70% name ID -- Sarah Palin, Mike Huckabee, Newt Gingrich, Mitt Romney, and Ron Paul -- likely because they have run prior presidential campaigns or have had prominent roles in Republican national politics.

Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann sits alone in a second tier with 52% recognition, followed by a group of three possible candidates, including Pawlenty, Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, whom 41% to 42% of Republicans recognize.

Three other Republicans Gallup tracks have name recognition scores of less than 35%: Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, Former Utah Gov. and current Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman, and former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson.

Pawlenty Fares Better in Intensity of Support

Pawlenty's Positive Intensity Score -- the net of strongly favorable views minus strongly unfavorable views -- is now at 16. A number of potential GOP candidates have similar scores, including the much better-known Gingrich and Romney. Huckabee, Bachmann, and Palin generate higher Positive Intensity Scores than Pawlenty at this point.

Positive Intensity Scores, Potential Candidates for 2012 Republican Presidential Nomination

Among Republicans and Republican leaners

	Positive Intensity Score* Feb 28-Mar 13, 2011	Positive Intensity Score* Mar 7-20, 2011
Mike Huckabee	25	25
Michele Bachmann	20	20
Sarah Palin	16	19
Mitt Romney	15	16
Tim Pawlenty	15	16
Newt Gingrich	17	15
Rick Santorum	16	15
Ron Paul	13	14
Mitch Daniels	10	12
Jon Huntsman	14	11
Haley Barbour	11	9
Gary Johnson	5	1

* % with highly favorable opinion minus % with highly unfavorable opinion, based only on those who recognize candidate

Question wording: Next, I am going to mention the names of some people in the news. For each one, please tell me if you recognize the name, or not. (Asked of those who recognize each person): Please tell me whether you have a generally favorable or unfavorable impression of _____. Is that a strongly (favorable/unfavorable) opinion or just (a/an) (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?

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Barbour Also in the News This Week

Both *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* this week carried major profiles of Barbour, who -- like Pawlenty -- is reported to be seriously considering running for president, although he has not yet set up an exploratory committee. Barbour has about the same level of name recognition as Pawlenty, but a considerably lower Positive Intensity Score (9). This suggests that Barbour does not yet generate much enthusiasm from those who are familiar with him.

Implications

Name recognition is a necessary ingredient in a politician's race to win his or her party's nomination for president. The last eight Republicans who won their party's presidential nomination -- John McCain, George W. Bush, Bob Dole, George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, Richard Nixon, and Barry Goldwater -- were well-known and well-established politicians. Even George W. Bush, who was a state governor with no national experience in the year before he won the Republican nomination, had a recognition score of over 80% when Gallup first measured him in February 1999, albeit aided in part by his famous last name.

Additionally, Barack Obama, who stands as an example of an individual who came from relative obscurity to national prominence, had a name recognition score of over 75% by March 2007, the year before he gained the Democratic nomination.

Pawlenty and Barbour thus face a serious challenge as they begin their quests to gain their party's nomination. Well under half of their party's rank-and-file members across the country at this point, less than a year before the first primaries and caucuses take place, know who they are. Both Pawlenty and Barbour, as well as other Republicans who are expected to formally announce their candidacies over the next few months, will be crisscrossing the country for the remainder of the year in an effort to make themselves known -- and liked -- by potential GOP primary voters. Gallup's weekly tracking and reporting on the name recognition and Positive Intensity Scores of potential Republican presidential candidates will gauge how successful the candidates are in these endeavors.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking March 7-20, 2011, with random samples of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling. Questions asking about the 12 potential candidates measured in this research were rotated among randomly selected samples of Republicans each night; over the 14-day period, each candidate was rated by a minimum of 1,500 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents.

For the overall ratings of each candidate among Republicans and Republican leaning independents, including recognition scores, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points. For the Positive Intensity Score for each candidate, the maximum margin of sampling error varies depending on the size of the group recognizing the individual.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 200 cell phone respondents and 800 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, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell phone-only status, cell phone-mostly status, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in 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.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146768/Pawlenty-Begins-Race-GOP-Name-Recognition.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

164-29. Americans' Worries About Economy, Budget Top Other Issues

Worry about energy up since 2010, flat for other issues
 March 21, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Nearly three in four Americans (71%) say they worry about the economy "a great deal," more than worry about 13 other issues Gallup measured in a March 3-6 poll. Nearly two in three (64%) worry a great deal about federal spending and the budget deficit. Americans show the least anxiety about race relations -- the only issue about which the majority is "only a little" or "not at all" concerned.

Americans' Concern About 14 Major National Issues

Next, I'm going to read a list of problems facing the country. For each one, please tell me if you personally worry about this problem a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all?

	Great deal	Fair amount	Only a little/ not at all
	%	%	%
Economy	71	22	7
Federal spending and the budget deficit	64	23	12
Availability and affordability of healthcare	58	25	17
Unemployment	57	27	15
Social Security system	51	26	22
Size and power of the federal government	48	24	28
Availability and affordability of energy	46	33	21
Crime and violence	44	30	25
Illegal immigration	42	23	34
Hunger and homelessness	41	34	26
Possibility of future terrorist attacks in the U.S.	40	29	31
Drug use	40	24	35
Quality of the environment	34	34	31
Race relations	16	28	54

March 3-6, 2011

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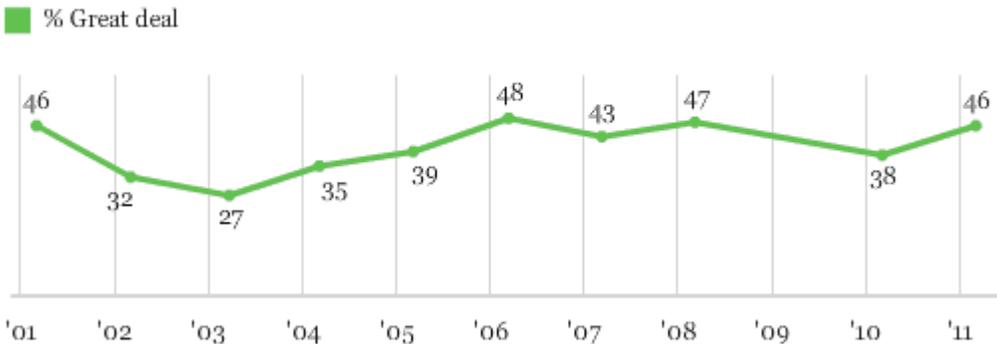
Gallup measures Americans' concern about major issues confronting the country each March as part of its annual Environment poll. This year's survey was conducted before a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck Japan on March 11, launching a series of events that has sparked a nuclear crisis in that country and has raised Americans' concerns about the safety of nuclear power.

Gallup has tracked 10 of the 14 items measured this year every year since 2001, except for 2009. Federal spending/the deficit as well as the size and power of the federal government -- both hallmark concerns of the national Tea Party movement -- are new to the list this year. The "possibility of future terrorist attacks" was added to the list in 2002 and Social Security in 2005.

The availability and affordability of energy is the only issue about which Americans have grown significantly more worried since last year, from 38% to 46%. The current level of concern about this issimilar to what it was from 2006 to 2008.

Worry About the Availability and Affordability of Energy

How much do you personally worry about the availability and affordability of energy -- a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all?



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Partisans Share Economic Concerns, Differ on Deficit and Healthcare

The economy and unemployment are top-ranking concerns for Republicans, independents, and Democrats. Additionally, majorities of Republicans and Democrats are highly worried about Social Security.

Beyond these areas of common concern, however, the parties diverge. Large majorities of Republicans say they worry a great deal about federal spending (79%) and the size and power of government (62%), and 55% worry a great deal about immigration. All of these issues are absent from Democrats' top concerns. In contrast, Democrats' top-ranking issue -- healthcare -- is not a great concern to most Republicans.

Among the four issues of concern to a majority of independents, the economy and unemployment are issues they have in common with both major parties, while federal spending is primarily a Republican concern and healthcare, a Democratic one.

Top Issues Party Groups Worry About

Issues listed are those about which at least 50% say they are worried "a great deal"

	Republicans' Top Issues	Independents' Top Issues	Democrats' Top Issues
1.	Federal spending (79%)	Economy (72%)	Healthcare (69%)
2.	Economy (76%)	Federal spending (65%)	Economy (64%)
3.	Size/Power of gov't (62%)	Healthcare (58%)	Unemployment (60%)
4.	Unemployment (58%)	Unemployment (55%)	Social Security (53%)
5.	Illegal immigration (55%)		
6.	Social Security (52%)		

March 3-6, 2011

GALLUP

Also of note, women are significantly more likely than men to be worried about healthcare, hunger/homelessness, Social Security, crime, unemployment, the environment, and drug use.

Young adults aged 18 to 34 are significantly less likely than older Americans to be concerned about Social Security and the size and power of the federal government. Young adults are significantly more likely to be concerned about the quality of the environment.

Bottom Line

Americans' economic anxiety has not abated over the past year, as 7 in 10 Americans continue to tell Gallup they personally worry a great deal about the economy. This has ranked as Americans' top concern on this measure since 2008. Healthcare led the list from 2002 through 2007 and remains among the top five today.

This year's additions reveal that federal spending and the budget deficit worry Americans nearly as much as the economy. The interesting distinction is that all three party groups worry about the economy, while the deficit concerns far more Republicans and independents than Democrats.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted March 3-6, 2011, with a random sample of 1,021 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 2010 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.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146708/Americans-Worries-Economy-Budget-Top-Issues.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

164-30. After Government Falls and Election Ensues, Half (49%) of Canadians Believe Harper would be Best Prime Minister for Canada,

Followed by Layton (34%) Bests Ignatieff (17%)

Harper Ahead on all Key Positive Leadership Traits as Canadians Say Healthcare (18%), Economy (15%), Taxes (12%), Jobs (8%) and Trustworthiness (7%) Most Important Issues of the Campaign

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Toronto, ON – Amid an historic moment in Canada that saw the fall of the Government on a vote of non-confidence by the opposition parties, a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted exclusively for Postmedia News and Global National has revealed that, heading into Canada's fourth General Election in seven years, one half (49%, up 1 point since early February) of Canadians believe that Stephen Harper would make the best Prime Minister of Canada. In second position is NDP leader Jack Layton (34%, down 1 point) who has garnered twice as many votes as Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff (17%, up 1 point).

The Conservatives will hit the campaign trail reminding voters of their track record on the economy, while the Liberals and other opposition parties will try to frame the ballot question around ethics, trust, accountability and transparency. Asking Canadians what they would say is the most important issue if a local candidate appeared on their doorstep, healthcare and health issues take the top spot with mentions from 18% of Canadians, unaided. Following closely is the economy (15%) while taxes (12%) are in third place. Unemployment/jobs (8%) and honesty/trust (7%) round out the top-five issues.

Other issues mentioned by Canadians, unaided, include the environment (5%), poverty/low-income Canadians (4%), seniors/the aging population (3%), debt (3%), pensions (3%), immigration (3%), government spending (2%), welfare and social programs (2%), energy costs (2%), and gas prices (2%) among other issues. Interestingly, 2% of Canadians say they would close the door and tell their local candidate to go away.

Examining key leadership attributes that could be at play during the campaign and in the minds of voters as they decide for whom to vote, the data reveal that Prime Minister Stephen Harper is ahead of his counterparts on every major positive attribute studied. Canadians were asked to pick which of the major leaders is best described by each respective trait:

- **Someone you can trust:** Stephen Harper (42%, up 6 points since November), Jack Layton (34%, down 1 point), Michael Ignatieff (15%, down 5 points), Gilles Duceppe (9%, up 1 point, 38% in Quebec).

- **Someone who will get things done:** Stephen Harper (47%, up 4 points since November), Jack Layton (27%, up 1 point), Michael Ignatieff (17%, down 4 points), Gilles Duceppe (8%, down 1 point, 34% in Quebec).

- **Someone who has what it takes to lead Canada:** Stephen Harper (50%, up 7 points since November), Jack Layton (26%, unchanged), Michael Ignatieff (18%, down 8 points), Gilles Duceppe (6%, up 1 point, 24% in Quebec).

- **Someone who is best to manage during tough economic times:** Stephen Harper (52%, up 7 points since November), Jack Layton (22%, down 2 points), Michael Ignatieff (18%, down 6 points), Gilles Duceppe (7%, unchanged, 30% in Quebec).

- **Someone who wants to be Prime Minister for the right reasons:** Stephen Harper (44%), Jack Layton (34%), Michael Ignatieff (16%), Gilles Duceppe (6%, 25% in Quebec).

- **Someone who has a vision of Canada that you can support:** Stephen Harper (45%, up 5 points since March), Jack Layton (30%, down 2 points), Michael Ignatieff (18%, down 6 points), Gilles Duceppe (7%, up 3 points, 31% in Quebec).

There remains one leadership attribute where Stephen Harper does not lead, but is in a close second place:

- **Someone who has a hidden agenda:** Michael Ignatieff (46%, up 9 points since November), Stephen Harper (39%, down 6 points), Jack Layton (10%, down 4 points), Gilles Duceppe (5%, up 1 point, 21% in Quebec).

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between March 21 to 23, 2011, on behalf of Postmedia News and Global National. For this survey, a sample of 1,014 adults from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics and political composition to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of +/-3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what the results would have been had the entire population of adults in Canada been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.

Source: <http://www.ipsos-na.com/news-polls/pressrelease.aspx?id=5176>

AUSTRALASIA

164-31. 8% of Australians support UN Intervention in Libya But majority (55.5%) don't want Australian Involvement

Finding No. 4651 - This special telephone Morgan Poll was conducted over the last two nights, March 22-24, 2011 with an Australia-wide cross-section of 638 Australians aged 14+.: March 25, 2011

An overwhelming majority of Australians (78%) support the UN Resolution 1973 to implement a 'No Fly Zone' over Libya and for Coalition forces to take 'all necessary measures to protect civilians under threat of attack in Libya.' Almost as many (72.5%) support US & Coalition military forces using their airforce to enforce the UN Resolution and potentially shoot down planes of Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi.

However a majority (55.5%) do not support Australian involvement according to a special telephone Morgan Poll taken over the last three nights, March 22-24, 2011.

The UN Resolution has clear support across the political spectrum with clear majorities of ALP supporters (82%), L-NP supporters (75.5%), Greens supporters (83.5%) and supporters of Other parties and independents (73.5%) all supporting UN Resolution 1973.

A clear majority of Australians also approve (72.5%) of US & Coalition military forces using their airforce to enforce the UN Resolution and potentially shooting down planes of Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi including 37.5% that strongly approve and 35% that approve. In contrast 19.5% disapprove including 9% that mildly disapprove and 10.5% that strongly disapprove.

This is similar to Australians position on the Gulf War in 1991 (75% approving, 30% disapproving in February 1991) but far more positive than for the Iraq War in 2003 (52% approving, 41.5% disapproving on March 24/25, 2003).

Australian Involvement

Despite support for the UN intervention in Libya, when asked whether Australia should be involved in the military action in any way a clear majority of Australians (55.5%) disapprove of any Australian involvement including 36% that strongly disapprove and 19.5% that mildly disapprove. Only 39.5% of Australians approve of Australian involvement including 13% that strongly approve and 26.5% that mildly approve.

Interestingly, more Australians approved of Australian involvement in the 1991 Gulf War (70% in Feb. 1991) and also Australian involvement in the Iraq War in 2003 (50.5% - March 24/25, 2003) than the present military action in Libya.

Slightly more L-NP supporters (40%) approve of Australian involvement in the military action in Libya than either Greens supporters (39.5%) or ALP supporters (37%). However, clear majorities of each of these parties supporters disapprove of Australian involvement: 58.5% of ALP supporters; 56% of L-NP supporters and 50.5% of Greens supporters disapprove.

Gary Morgan says:

“UN Resolution 1973 to enforce a ‘No Fly Zone’ over Libya and to ‘use all necessary measures to protect civilians under threat of attack in Libya’ is supported by a clear majority (78%) of Australians, and supported across the political spectrum by 82% of ALP supporters, 75.5% of L-NP supporters and 83.5% of Greens supporters.

“However, a clear majority of Australians (55.5%) do not approve of any Australian involvement in the enforcement of the UN Resolution while only 39.5% do. Interestingly, a bare majority of Australians (50.5% on March 24/25, 2003) approved Australian involvement in the last major international military action begun in Iraq in 2003 compared to 46% that disapproved.

“A clear political difference between the Iraq conflict and the present military action in Libya is that approval or disapproval of military action in Iraq was split strongly down party lines whereas the military action in Libya is strongly supported across the political spectrum.”

This special telephone Morgan Poll was conducted over the last two nights, March 22-24, 2011 with an Australia-wide cross-section of 638 Australians aged 14+.

Libyan Intervention — March 2011

Question 1: “UN Resolution 1973 authorises Coalition forces to use ‘all necessary measures’ to enforce a No Fly Zone over Libya and to ‘protect civilians under threat of attack’ in Libya. Do you support or oppose this measure?”

	<u>All Australians</u>	
	Iraq*	Libya
	Mar '03	Mar 22-24, 2011
	%	%
Support	61	78
Oppose	33.5	10.5
Can't say	5.5	11.5
TOTAL	100	100

	Mar 22-24, 2011							Federal Voting Intention						
	<u>14+</u>	<u>Electors</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>NP</u>	<u>L-</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>say</u>	<u>Can't</u>					
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%						
Support	78	78.5	82	75.5	83.5	73.5	81							
Oppose	10.5	11	8	14	13	4	6.5							
Can't say	11.5	10.5	10	10.5	3.5	22.5	12.5							
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						

***Question asked on March 24/25, 2003 in relation to the Iraq War.**

“Do you think the United Nations (UN) should have supported military action against Saddam Hussein or not?”

Question 2: “Do you approve or disapprove of US & Coalition military forces using their airforce to enforce the UN Resolution and maintain the 'No Fly Zone' over Libya which could mean shooting down planes of Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi?”

	Gulf War*		Iraq War*				Libya
	<u>Befor</u>	<u>Durin</u>	<u>Before</u>		<u>Durin</u>	<u>Durin</u>	
	<u>Dec '90</u>	<u>Feb '91</u>	<u>Se '02</u>	<u>De '02</u>	<u>Mar 19/20, 2003</u>	<u>Mar 24/25, 2003</u>	<u>Mar 22-24, 2011</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Strongly Approve			20	23	25	31	37.5
Mildly Approve			25	26	26.5	21	35
TOTAL APPROVE	57	75	45	49	51.5	52	72.5
Mildly Disapprove			16	16	11.5	10.5	9
Strongly Disapprove			31	27	29.5	31	10.5
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	37	20	47	43	41	41.5	19.5
Can't say	6	5	8	8	7.5	6.5	8
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

	Mar 22-24, 2011							Federal Voting Intention						
	<u>14+</u>	<u>Electors</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>NP</u>	<u>L-</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Can't</u>						
	<u>s</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>t say</u>							

		%	%	%	%	%	%
Strongly Approve	5	37.	39.5	37.55	42.	38.5	34.5
Mildly Approve		35	35.5	40.55	32.	33.5	26
TOTAL APPROVE	5	72.	75	78	75	72	60.5
Mildly Disapprove		9	7	2.5	8.5	10	13.5
Strongly Disapprove	5	10.	10	10.5	11	9.5	2.5
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	5	19.	17	13	5	19.5	16
Can't say		8	8	9	5.5	8.5	12
TOTAL		100	100	100	100	100	100

***Question asked in 2003 in relation to the Iraq War.**

“Next, about the use of an American military force to depose Saddam Hussein. Do you approve or disapprove of the use of an American military force against Iraq to depose Saddam Hussein?”

***Question asked in 1991 in relation to the Gulf War.**

“Next, about the use of an American-led military force to make Iraq leave Kuwait. Do you approve or disapprove of the use of military force to make Iraq leave Kuwait?”

Question 3: “Next, if it is suggested Australia should be a part of the military action in Libya, would you approve or disapprove of Australia’s involvement?”

	Gulf War*		Iraq War*			Libya
	<u>Before</u>	<u>During</u>	<u>Before</u>	<u>During</u>	<u>During</u>	
	<u>Dec '90</u>	<u>Feb '91</u>	<u>Sept '02</u>	<u>Dec '02</u>	<u>Mar 19/20, 2003</u>	<u>Mar 22-24, 2011</u>
Strongly Approve			15	17	22	13
Mildly Approve			25	28	24.5	26.5
TOTAL APPROVE	54	70	40	45	46.5	39.5
Mildly Disapprove			12	14	11	9
Strongly Disapprove			42	38	37.5	36
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	41	27	54	52	48.5	46

E	Can't say	5	3	6	3	5	3.5	5
	TOTAL	100						

	Mar 22-24, 2011		Federal Voting Intention					
	14+ s	Elector P	AL NP	L- s	Green s	Other t say	Can'	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Strongly Approve	13	12	9.5	16	6	11	7	
Mildly Approve	26.5	26.5	27.5	24	33.5	31.5	18	
TOTAL APPROVE	39.5	38.5	37	40	39.5	42.5	25	
Mildly Disapprove	19.5	19	22.5	18.	9.5	20.5	16.5	
Strongly Disapprove	36	37	36.5	37.	41	31	42.5	
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	55.	56	58.5	56	50.5	51.5	59	
E	Can't say	5	5.5	4.5	4	10	6	16
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

***Question asked in 2003 in relation to the Iraq War.**

“Next, about Australians being part of an American military force to depose Saddam Hussein, do you approve or disapprove of Australians being part of the American military force?”

***Question asked in 1991 in relation to the Gulf War.**

“Next, about Australians being part of the American-led military force which is now being used to make Iraq leave Kuwait. Do you approve or disapprove of Australians being part of the military force?”

Margin of Error

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate					
	40%- 60%	25% 75%	or	10% 90%	or	5% 95%
500	±4.3	±3.8		±2.6		±1.9
1,000	±3.0	±2.7		±1.9		±1.4

The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Source: <http://www.roymorgan.com/news/polls/2011/4651/>

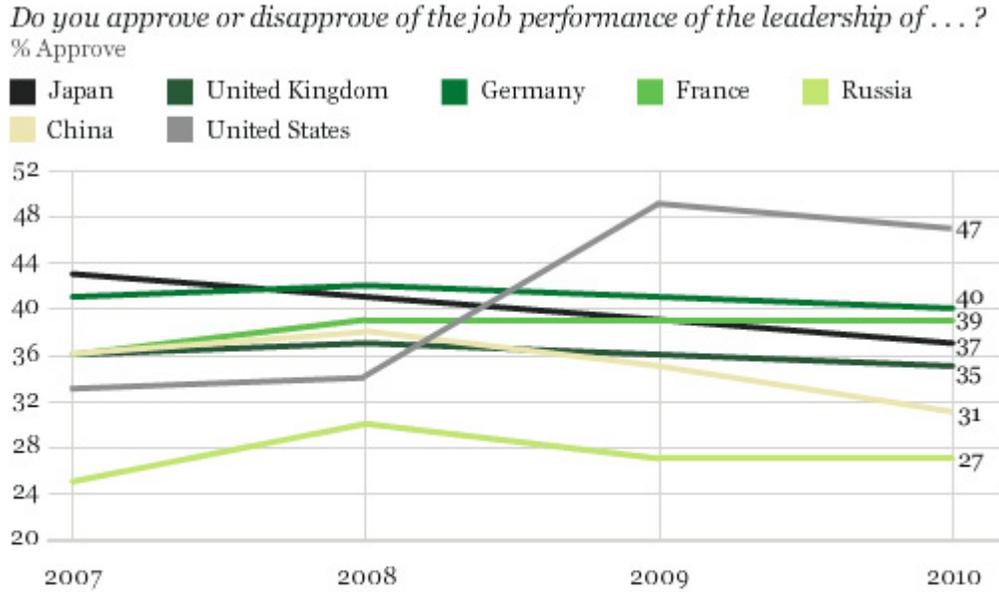
MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

164-32. Worldwide Approval of U.S. Leadership Tops Major Powers

U.S. also remains top desired destination for potential migrants

March 24, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The United States continues to achieve higher global approval ratings than China, Russia, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Gallup's worldwide surveys document a noticeable change in the U.S. global leadership position from 2007 and 2008, when the U.S. trailed other major powers. The increases the U.S. saw in 2009 did not necessarily carry over into 2010, and approval suffered double-digit declines in 14 countries, including Egypt, Japan, and the United Kingdom.



Medians are based on data that include aggregated data in countries where Gallup surveys more than once each year.

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Gallup asks respondents in more than 100 countries each year whether they approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States and the same question about the leadership of six other major countries. In many cases, high percentages of respondents say they don't know enough to rate the leadership of the country, meaning that low approval does not necessarily signal high disapproval.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of . . . ?

Medians

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know/Refused
United States	47%	25%	21%
Germany	40%	17%	38%
France	39%	22%	39%
Japan	37%	19%	38%
United Kingdom	35%	23%	36%
China	31%	27%	33%
Russia	27%	31%	33%

Based on surveys conducted in approximately 102 to 116 countries throughout 2010.
Residents in some countries did not rate all seven countries.

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China's 31% median leadership approval rating in 2010 is easily lower than the United States' 47% rating. In contrast, approval of China's leadership was similar to that for the U.S. in 2007 and 2008. Worldwide, opinion of China's leadership in 2010 is mixed, and a median of 33% don't have an opinion. Like most countries, China's highest approval ratings come from Africa, but some of its lowest approval ratings come from Europe and India.

World citizens tend to give Russia the lowest approval ratings of the seven countries that Gallup measures. A median of 27% approve, while 31% disapprove and 33% don't have an opinion. Russia's approval ratings have been relatively flat over the past several years. Russia is viewed favorably by its neighbors, with high approval ratings in Mongolia, Ukraine, and most Commonwealth of Independent States countries.

The image of the leadership of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom has not changed much in the past several years. France, Germany, and the U.K. have similar global ratings ranging from the mid-30s to the low 40s. Approval of Japan's leadership in 2007 was among the highest; however, its approval ratings have slightly declined, placing it on par with ratings for France, Germany, and the U.K. in 2010. Despite Japan's changing leadership over that period, the percentage worldwide who do not have an opinion hovered around 37% each year.

U.S. Steady as the Most Popular Destination for Potential Migrants

Another way to look at the image of a country's leadership is by the percentage of people who would like to move to that country permanently. From year to year, even when global ratings of U.S. leadership were lower, people worldwide who said they would like to leave their country permanently if they had the opportunity most frequently named the U.S. as their desired destination. Gallup calculates that based on surveys between 2007 and early 2010, roughly 166 million people would like to move to the U.S. permanently -- more than would like to move to any other nation. People who would like to leave their countries permanently also mention Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Germany, and Australia all as places they like would to move.

Top Desired Destination Countries

Ideally, if you had the opportunity, would you like to move permanently to another country, or would you prefer to continue living in this country? To which country would you like to move?

	% Who would like to migrate to these countries	Millions of adults (projected numbers based on percentages who would like to move)
United States	24	166
Canada	7	46
United Kingdom	7	46
France	6	39
Spain	4	31
Saudi Arabia	4	28
Germany	4	26
Australia	4	26
Italy	3	22
Japan	2	17
United Arab Emirates	2	12
Switzerland	1	10
South Africa	1	9
Singapore	1	8
Russia	1	8

Based on aggregated data from surveys conducted in 148 countries between 2007 and 2010

GALLUP'

Implications

Princeton economist Alan Krueger's recent analysis in *Science* magazine of 19 countries in the Middle East and North Africa suggests there is a statistical link between global leadership approval ratings and terrorist attacks. The findings should not be misconstrued to mean that lower approval ratings equal more terrorist attacks. The main takeaway is that the "...results are inconsistent with one hypothesis: that public opinion is irrelevant for terrorism because terrorists are extremists who act independently of their countrymen's attitudes toward the leadership of the countries that they attack."

Although global approval ratings of the United States lost some momentum in 2010, the U.S. still achieved higher ratings than China, Russia, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany. As leaders in the U.S. and in other major countries worldwide look to use their soft power for global policy and partnerships, they should do so with an understanding of how the people within these countries feel about their leadership and the visibility of their country in general.

See all countries worldwide for which 2010 U.S. approval data are available.

Read the complete findings from the U.S.-Global Leadership project.

Visit Real Clear World's Top 5s feature to learn more about the countries where residents have soured the most on U.S. leadership.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face and telephone interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. In Algeria, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Somaliland region, Tunisia, and Yemen, measures are aggregated based on two surveys conducted in 2009 and 2010. Data from Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Libya, and Russia in 2010 are based on aggregated data from two surveys that year. Results in Bahrain, Djibouti, Kuwait, Poland, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia in 2009 are based on aggregated data from two surveys that year. Results in Pakistan are based on aggregated data in 2008 and 2009. Results in Germany and Japan in 2008 are based on aggregated data for multiple surveys that year. For results based on the total samples, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from ± 1.7 percentage points to ± 5.7 percentage points. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146771/Worldwide-Approval-Leadership-Tops-Major-Powers.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Asia%20-%20Latin%20America%20-%20Muslim%20World%20-%20USA

164-33. Before Conflict, Many Young Libyans Doubted Role in Progress

Libya's youth less sure than young people in other middle-income Arab countries

March 21, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Ahead of the uprising in Libya, majorities of young Libyans believed young men and young women could help the country make substantial progress in the next decade. Sixty-six percent of 15- to 29-year-olds surveyed in the areas of Tripoli, Benghazi, and Al Kufrah in 2010 said young men could further the country's advancement and 55% said this about young women.

In your opinion, can the following help your country make substantial progress in the next 10 years?

Percentage of young Arabs in middle-income countries who say "yes"

	Young men	Young women
Algeria	99%	89%
Jordan	96%	78%
Morocco	96%	79%
Iraq	95%	92%
Tunisia	94%	89%
MEDIAN	94%	79%
Egypt	90%	71%
Lebanon	89%	86%
Syria	71%	66%
Libya	66%	55%

Surveys conducted between January and October 2010.

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However, compared with other young people living in Arab middle-income countries where GDP per capita ranges from \$2,600 to less than \$23,000, young Libyans were the least likely to say young men and women could help the country make substantial progress. Percentages were well above a majority in most middle-income countries: A median of 94% of young Arabs said young men could help, while the median who said this about young women was 79%.

Implications

The situation in Libya is changing by the hour as the allied military intervention continues, but the country's progress in the long term depends on its young people. Engaging young Libyans who were already feeling uncertain about their role in the country's future will be crucial in the days ahead and the next decade.

These results are based on the latest research to appear in the fourth edition of "The Silatech Index: Voices of Young Arabs," which will be published in April. The Silatech Index report, prepared in partnership with Gallup, measures and analyzes young Arabs' attitudes with respect to their hopes and desires, human capital, work, entrepreneurship, and obstacles to success.

For complete data sets or custom research from the more than 150 countries Gallup continually surveys, please contact worldpollpartners@gallup.com or call 202.715.3030.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with 906 nationals in Tripoli, Benghazi, and Al Kufrah, Libya, aged 15 to 29, conducted in September and October 2010. The 2010 survey skews high on education. The samples represent roughly half of the adult population. For results based on the sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.5 percentage points. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146726/Conflict-Young-Libyans-Doubted-Role-Progress.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Muslim%20World%20-%20Religion%20and%20Social%20Trends
