

Gallopedia

From **Gilani Research Foundation**

August 2012, issue # **236***

Compiled on a weekly basis since January 2007

Gilani's Gallopedia is a weekly Digest of Opinions in a globalized world - one window on global opinion polling compiled by Gilani Research Foundation

Who are we?

Gilani's Gallopedia is a weekly digest of opinions in a globalized world. It provides a one window access to Global Opinion Polls on a weekly basis. It is produced by a team of researchers led by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani, and is a not for profit public service. It is co-edited by Mohammad Zubair and Sara Salam.

Gilani's Gallopedia is in a way the 'wikipedia' for global polling. We plan to make it an interactive platform where you are both *reader* and *contributor*. ❖

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Topic of the week: (Click for details)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THIS WEEK'S REPORT CONSISTS OF **18** NATIONAL & MULTI COUNTRY SURVEYS. **11** POLLING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED.

Pg **2** **Asia** zone
this week- **02** national polls



Pg **2** **Africa** zone
this week- **01** national poll



Pg **3** **Euro Americas** zone
this week- **13** national polls
Multi-country Polls – 02 Polls



Pg **6** **Topic of the week-**
**The World's Muslims:
Unity and Diversity**



Countries are represented in blue; Polling organizations are represented in pink. For reference to source of each poll clicks to detail are provided in the text



Asia zone

► MIDDLE EAST& NORTH AFRICA; WEST ASIA; SOUTH ASIA; NORTH ASIA; EAST ASIA

► WEST ASIA

236-1 **Afghans' Outlook on Lives Remains Bleak** (Click for Details)

(Afghanistan) Afghans' views of their lives improved little between 2011 and 2012. One in four rate their lives poorly enough to be considered "suffering" -- a ratio essentially unchanged from the year before -- and the percentage who are "thriving" remained flat, at 4%. The majority of Afghans (71%) are still "struggling." (Gallup USA)
August 6, 2012

3.1 Economy » Perceptions on Performance/ Well-Being



► SOUTHEAST ASIA

236-2 **Net trust in China a bad -36; 48% of Filipinos closely followed the Philippines-China Scarborough Shoal Stand-off** (Click for Details)



(Philippines) The Second Quarter 2012 Social Weather Survey, fielded from May 24-27, 2012, found that 55% of adults have little trust, and 19% have much trust, in China, for a record-low bad net trust rating of -36 (% much trust minus % little trust). China's lowest net trust score of -36 was first reached in June 1995, during the Mischief Reef confrontation between the Philippines and China. (SWS)

August 10, 2012

1.5 Domestic Politics » National Image/ Trust



Africa zone

► WEST AFRICA; EAST AFRICA; CENTRAL AFRICA; SOUTHERN AFRICA

► SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

236-3 **Just over than half of SA's women believe their children have a bright future** (Click for Details)

(South Africa) According to a recent survey women are slightly more satisfied with their own lives than at the time of the previous general election in 2009. Three in every ten (30%) South African women indicated that satisfaction with their own lives have improved compared to 26% who were of this opinion in 2009. (Ipsos South Africa)

August 09, 2012

3.1 Economy » Perceptions on Performance/ Well-Being





Euro Americas zone

▶ EAST EUROPE; WEST EUROPE; NORTH AMERICA;
LATIN AMERICA & AUSTRALASIA

EUROPE

▶ WEST EUROPE

236-4 **Working from home?** [\(Click for Details\)](#)

(UK) Despite over half of Britons saying that they would like the chance to work from home if they had all the IT resources to do so and large numbers of office workers feeling that working from home would actually boost their productivity most admit that their company does not allow it, our survey has found. ([YouGov](#))

August 07, 2012

[3.3 Economy](#) » [Employment Issues](#)

[4.7 Society](#) » [Morality, Values & Customs / Lifestyle](#)



AMERICAS

▶ NORTH AMERICA

236-5 **More 2008 Obama Voters Than McCain Voters Switching Sides** [\(Click for Details\)](#)

(USA) Eighty-six percent of voters who say they voted for Barack Obama in 2008 are backing Obama again this year, a smaller proportion than the 92% of 2008 John McCain voters who are supporting 2012 Republican candidate Mitt Romney. Nine percent of 2008 Obama voters have switched to supporting Romney this year, while 5% of McCain voters have switched to Obama. ([Gallup USA](#))

August 6, 2012

[1.1 Domestic Politics](#) » [Elections](#)

[1.4 Domestic Politics](#) » [Political Parties](#)

236-6 **In U.S., Being Middle-Aged Most Linked to Having Higher BMI** [\(Click for Details\)](#)

Being middle-aged or black is more closely linked to being overweight -- defined as having a high Body Mass Index -- than any of 25 other factors, including exercise and healthy eating, examined in a Gallup analysis of the correlates of weight in America today. The analysis of interviews with more than 850,000 Americans also finds that being a man, having a lower level of education, not smoking, and not exercising are also strongly related to being overweight. Conversely, being very young or very old, Asian, a woman, having a high education level, smoking, and exercising three or more days per week are linked to having a low BMI.

([Gallup USA](#))

August 6, 2012

[4.7 Society](#) » [Morality, Values & Customs / Lifestyle](#)

[4.11 Society](#) » [Health](#)



236-7 **Eight-in-Ten Following Olympics on TV or Digitally** (Click for Details)

Large majorities of Americans are following coverage of the Olympic Games in London. Nearly eight-in-ten (78%) say they have watched or followed Olympic coverage either on television, online or on social networks.

([Pew Research Center](#))

August 6, 2012

[4.15 Society » Sports](#)

236-8 **Americans, Viewers Want Top Olympics Events Televised Live** (Click for Details)

Americans who say they are watching the Olympics "a lot" are most likely to want the most popular events televised both live during the day as they happen and on tape delay in the evening. Seven in 10 (71%) of these Americans want the most popular events televised live and on tape delay, as do a majority (57%) of those who are watching a little of the games and 43% of those who aren't watching at all. ([Gallup USA](#))

August 9, 2012

[4.15 Society » Sports](#)

236-9 **Economic Confidence Slips in July, for Second Month in a Row** (Click for Details)

Gallup's Economic Confidence Index averaged -26 in July, a decline from -22 in June, and close to the 2012 low of -27 measured in January. Economic confidence improved during the first five months of the year, but July marks the second monthly decline in a row. Still, the index remains significantly higher than the -42 from July of a year ago. ([Gallup USA](#))

August 7, 2012

[3.2 Economy » Consumer Confidence/Protection](#)

236-10 **U.S. Small-Business Owners' Optimism Declines in July** (Click for Details)

U.S. small business owners' optimism declined in July, with the Wells Fargo/Gallup Small Business Index at 17, down from April's four-year high of 23, but similar to the 15 of January. A year ago, the index was at zero, meaning owners were essentially neutral -- neither optimistic nor pessimistic -- about the present and future small-business operating environment. ([Gallup USA](#))

August 7, 2012

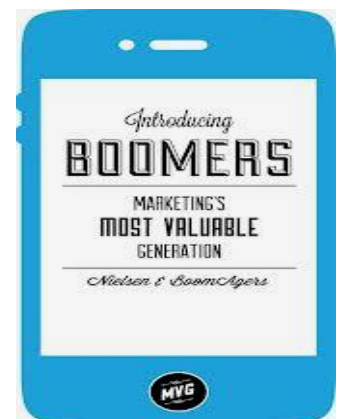
[3.8 Economy » Enterprise/ Investments](#)

236-11 **Don't Ignore Boomers – The Most Valuable Generation** (Click for Details)

Born between 1946 and 1964, the Baby Boomers are 80 million strong. Yet despite their significant size and spending power, these high potential consumers have been largely unaddressed by marketers and advertisers since they started to age out of the popular 18-49 cohort. In five years, 50 percent of the U.S. population will be 50+. These consumers spend close to 50 percent of all CPG dollars yet less than 5 percent of advertising is geared towards them. ([Nielson](#))

August 6, 2012

[3.2 Economy » Consumer Confidence/Protection](#)



236-12 **Americans Endorse Right to Bear Arms, But Half Call for Stricter Gun Laws** (Click for Details)

Nine-in-ten Americans maintain their views on the Second Amendment, but a majority of gun owners and non-gun owners alike believe that the AR-15 semi-automatic rifle should only be used by the police and other authorized persons, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found. More than seven-in-ten respondents believe the AR-15 semi-automatic rifle should only be used by the police and other authorized persons.

([Angus Reid](#))

August 07, 2012

[4.7 Society » Morality, Values & Customs / Lifestyle](#)

[4.12 Society » Crime](#)

236-13 **60% Have Negative View of Drones Over US Airspace** (Click for Details)

A majority of adults in a new IBOPE Inteligência poll have negative opinions of government use of unmanned drone aircraft over US airspace, but make exceptions if used strictly to track criminals or for emergency situations. ([Ibope-Zogby](#))

August 07, 2012

[2.4 Foreign Affairs & Security » Terrorism](#)

[2.10 Foreign Affairs & Security » Military Issues/ Defence](#)

236-14 **Quebec separatists take lead, promise to fight takeovers** (Click for Details)

A Quebec separatist party that is promising to fight foreign takeovers of firms based in the Canadian province is in the lead for the Sept. 4 elections, two new polls showed on Friday. The Parti Quebecois, which wants Quebec to break away from the rest of Canada, promises it will do more to combat takeover bids such the attempt by U.S. home-improvement retailer Lowe's Cos Inc to buy Rona Inc. ([CROP/Leger Internet Poll](#))

August 10, 2012

[2.5 Foreign Affairs & Security » Regional Conflicts/ Issues](#)

► AUSTRALASIA

236-15 **New Zealanders say the internet is the most useful media for information about health, wellbeing and fitness products** (Click for Details)

([New Zealand](#)) When New Zealanders aged 14+ were asked which media they considered “most useful for providing information on Health, Wellbeing or Fitness”, 36% nominated the Internet ahead of Magazines at 19% while only 9% said Newspapers. These are the latest findings from the Roy Morgan Research Single Source Survey of approximately 12,000 New Zealanders annually. ([Roy Morgan](#))

August 08, 2012

[4.6 Society » Media/ New Media](#)

236-16 **Australian Business Confidence Improves in July 2012** (Click for Details)

([Australia](#)) Business Confidence in Australia in July 2012 rose to 109.6, up from 105.4 in June 2012. This follows two months of declines and gives some optimism to the possibility that Business Confidence may have bottomed out in June. These are the latest findings from the Roy Morgan Research Business Confidence Survey conducted among a representative sample of 2,524 businesses across Australia in July 2012. ([Roy Morgan](#))

August 08, 2012

3.2 Economy » Consumer Confidence/Protection

3.8 Economy » Enterprise/ Investments

► MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

236-17 **The World's Muslims: Unity and Diversity** ([Click for Details](#))

The world's 1.6 billion Muslims are united in their belief in God and the Prophet Muhammad and are bound together by such religious practices as fasting during the holy month of Ramadan and almsgiving to assist people in need. But they have widely differing views about many other aspects of their faith, including how important religion is to their lives, who counts as a Muslim and what practices are acceptable in Islam, according to a worldwide survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. ([Pew Research Center](#))

August 9, 2012

4.1 Society » Religion

236-18 **Olympic Games Too Commercial for Americans, Britons and Canadians** ([Click for Details](#))

Americans, Britons and Canadians hold mixed feelings when assessing specific aspects of the Olympics, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found. A majority of respondents in the three countries believe the Olympics have benefitted from the presence of professional athletes. ([Angus Reid](#))

August 06, 2012

4.15 Society » Sports



Topic of the week:

The World's Muslims: Unity and Diversity

- This page is devoted to opinions of countries whose polling activity is generally not known very widely or where a recent topical issue requires special attention.

August 9, 2012



The world's 1.6 billion Muslims are united in their belief in God and the Prophet Muhammad and are bound together by such religious practices as fasting during the holy month of Ramadan and almsgiving to assist people in need. But they have widely differing views about many other aspects of their faith, including how important religion is to their lives, who counts as a Muslim and what practices are acceptable in Islam, according to a worldwide survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

The survey, which involved more than 38,000 face-to-face interviews in over 80 languages, finds that in addition to the widespread conviction that there is only one God and that Muhammad is His Prophet, large percentages of Muslims around the world share other articles of faith, including belief in angels, heaven, hell and fate (or predestination). While there is broad agreement on the core tenets of Islam, however, Muslims

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***Archives:** Gilani's Gallopedia has been compiled on a weekly basis since January 2007. Previous material is available upon request. Please contact sara.salam@gilanifoundation.com

across the 39 countries and territories surveyed differ significantly in their levels of religious commitment, openness to multiple interpretations of their faith and acceptance of various sects and movements.

Belief in God and Muhammad Nearly Universal

Median % in region who believe in one God and the Prophet Muhammad

Region	Median %	N
Middle East-North Africa	100	8,647
Southeast Asia	98	4,134
South Asia	97	4,877
Central Asia	97	7,189
Sub-Saharan Africa	96	9,233
Southern-Eastern Europe	85	4,111

N represents the number of Muslims interviewed in each region.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q43j.

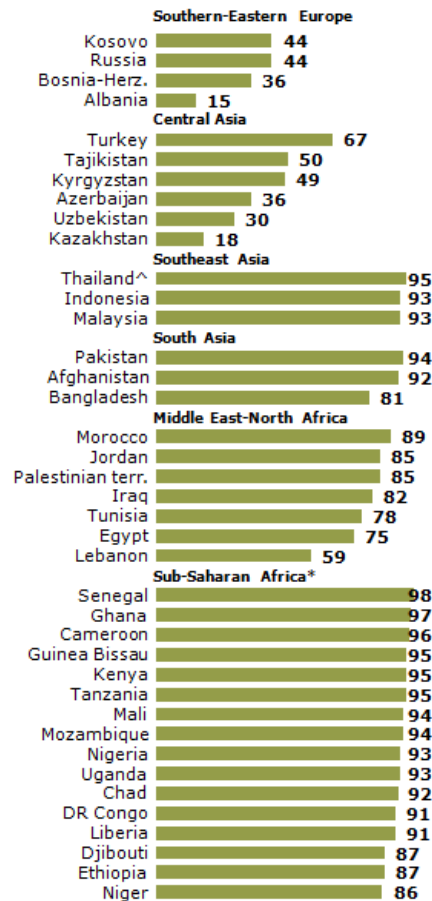
Some of these differences are apparent at a regional level. For example, at least eight-in-ten Muslims in every country surveyed in sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and South Asia say that religion is *very* important in their lives. Across the Middle East and North Africa, roughly six-in-ten or more say the same. And in the United States, a 2011 Pew Research Center survey found that nearly seven-in-ten Muslims (69%) say religion is very important to them. (For more comparisons with U.S. Muslims, see Appendix A.) But religion plays a much less central role for some Muslims, particularly in nations that only recently have emerged from communism. No more than half of those surveyed in Russia, the Balkans and the former Soviet republics of Central Asia say religion is very important in their lives. The one exception across this broad swath of Eastern Europe, Southern Europe and Central Asia is Turkey, which never came under communist rule; fully two-thirds of Turkish Muslims (67%) say religion is very important to them.

Generational differences are also apparent. Across the Middle East and North Africa, for example, Muslims 35 and older tend to place greater emphasis on religion and to exhibit higher levels of religious commitment than do Muslims between the ages of 18 and 34. In all seven countries surveyed in the region, older Muslims are more likely to report that they attend mosque, read the Quran (also spelled Koran) on a daily basis and pray multiple times each day. Outside of the Middle East and North Africa, the generational differences are not as sharp. And the survey finds that in one country – Russia – the general pattern is reversed and younger Muslims are significantly more observant than their elders.



How Much Religion Matters

% saying religion is very important in their lives



*Data for all countries except Niger from "Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa."
[^]Interviews conducted with Muslims in five southern provinces only.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q36.

There are also differences in how male and female Muslims practice their faith. In most of the 39 countries surveyed, men are more likely than women to attend mosque. This is especially true in Central Asia and South Asia, where majorities of women in most of the countries surveyed say they *never* attend mosque. However, this disparity appears to result from cultural norms or local customs that constrain women from attending mosque, rather than from differences in the importance that Muslim women and men place on religion. In most countries surveyed, for example, women are about as likely as men to read (or listen to readings from) the Quran on a daily basis. And there are no consistent differences between men and women when it comes to the frequency of prayer or participation in annual rites, such as almsgiving and fasting during Ramadan.

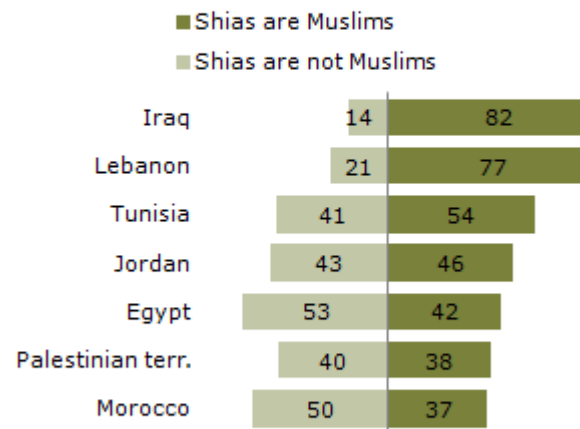
Sectarian Differences

The survey asked Muslims whether they identify with various branches of Islam and about their attitudes toward other branches or subgroups. While these sectarian differences are important in some countries, the survey suggests that many Muslims around the world either do not know or do not care about them.

Muslims in the Middle East and North Africa tend to be most keenly aware of the distinction between the two main branches of Islam, Sunni and Shia.² (See text box for definitions.) In most countries surveyed in the region, at least 40% of Sunnis do not accept Shias as fellow Muslims. In many cases, even greater percentages do not believe that some practices common among Shias, such as visiting the shrines of saints, are acceptable as part of Islamic tradition. Only in Lebanon and Iraq – nations where sizable populations of Sunnis and Shias live side by side – do large majorities of Sunnis recognize Shias as fellow Muslims and accept their distinctive practices as part of Islam.

Sunnis in Iraq, Lebanon More Accepting of Shias

% of Sunnis in the Middle East-North Africa who say ...



Figures exclude respondents who identify as Shia, "just a Muslim," "Something else" or Don't know/Nothing in particular.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q41b.

Outside of the Middle East and North Africa, the distinction between Sunni and Shia appears to be of lesser consequence. In many of the countries surveyed in Central Asia, for instance, most Muslims do not identify with either branch of Islam, saying instead that they are “just a Muslim.” A similar pattern prevails in Southern and Eastern Europe, where pluralities or majorities in all countries identify as “just a Muslim.” In some of these countries, decades of communist rule may have made sectarian distinctions unfamiliar. But identification as “just a Muslim” is also prevalent in many countries without a communist legacy. For example, in Indonesia, which has the world’s largest Muslim population, 26% of Muslims describe themselves as Sunnis, compared with 56% who say they are “just a Muslim” and 13% who do not give a definite response.

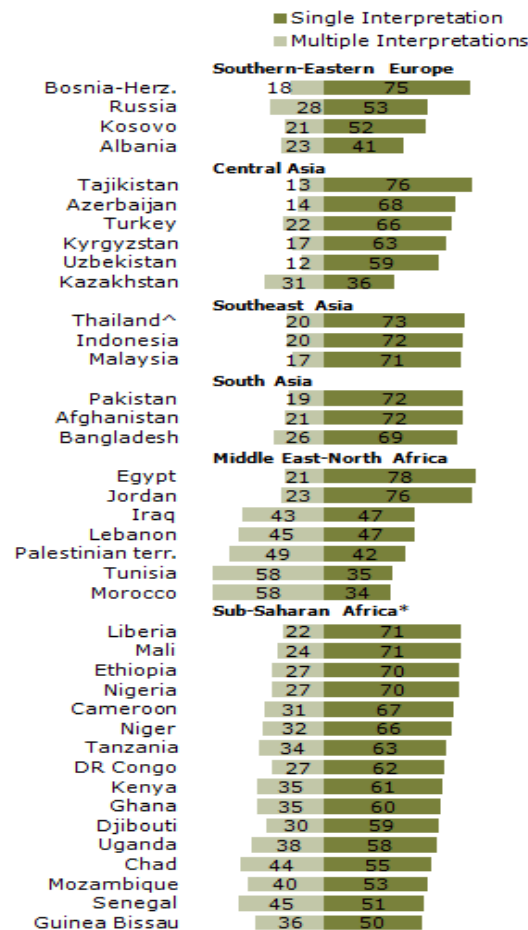
Opinion also varies as to whether Sufis – members of religious orders who emphasize the mystical dimensions of Islam – belong to the Islamic faith.³ In South Asia, Sufis are widely seen as Muslims, while in other regions they tend to be less well known or not widely accepted as part of the Islamic tradition. Views differ, too, with regard to certain practices traditionally associated with particular Sufi orders. For example, reciting poetry or singing in praise of God is generally accepted in most of the countries where the question was asked. But only in Turkey do a majority of Muslims believe that devotional dancing is an acceptable form of worship, likely reflecting the historical prominence of the Mevlevi or “whirling dervish” Sufi order in Turkey.

Differing Views on Orthodoxy

The survey asked Muslims whether they believe there is only one true way to understand Islam’s teachings or if multiple interpretations are possible. In 32 of the 39 countries surveyed, half or more Muslims say there is only one correct way to understand the teachings of Islam.

Interpreting Islam’s Teachings

% who say ...



*Data for all countries except Niger from "Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa."
 ^Interviews conducted with Muslims in five southern provinces only.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q57.

This view, however, is far from universal. In the Middle East and North Africa, majorities or substantial minorities in most countries – including Tunisia, Morocco, the Palestinian territories, Lebanon and Iraq – believe that it is possible to interpret Islam's teachings in multiple ways. In sub-Saharan Africa, at least one-in-five Muslims agree. In South Asia, Southeast Asia and across Southern and Eastern Europe, at least one-in-six in every country surveyed believe Islam is open to multiple interpretations.

In some Central Asian countries, slightly fewer Muslims say their faith can be subject to more than one interpretation. But in Kazakhstan (31%), Turkey (22%) and Kyrgyzstan (17%), the percentage that holds this view is on par with countries in other regions.

In the United States, by contrast, 57% of Muslims say Islam is open to multiple interpretations. On this measure, Muslim Americans look similar to Muslims in Morocco and Tunisia. (For more comparisons with previous surveys of U.S. Muslims, see [Appendix A](#).)

To read full article: <http://www.pewforum.org/Muslim/the-worlds-muslims-unity-and-diversity-executive-summary.aspx>

Gilani's Gallopedia (2007-2012)

A Quantitative Analysis

A quantitative analysis of global polls monitored during the 4 year period January 2007 – May 2012

KEY STATISTICS

- 1- Number of Surveys (*a selection on key political and social issues*): \approx 6,535 polls during the period 2007-2012
- 2- Subjects of Interest (*we have made a list of 125 subjects, further grouped into 9 broad categories, namely: **Governance**, **Globalization** (inclusive of global economic issues) **Global Conflicts** (conflict zones), **Global leaders** (USA and Emerging powers), **Global Environment**, **Family**, **Religion**, and **other miscellaneous***)
- 3- Number of **countries** covered by one or more surveys: \approx 178 during the period 2007-2012
- 4- Number **polling organizations** whose polls have been cited: \approx 347 during the period 2007-2012

