

Gallopedia

From **Gilani Research Foundation**

January 2012, issue # **205***

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 Rushna Shahid.

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 **24** NATIONAL & MULTI COUNTRY SURVEYS. **10** POLLING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED.

Pg **2** **Asia** zone this week- **3** National Polls

Pg **2** **Euro Americas** zone this week- **18** national polls

Pg **6** **Cyber World** this week- **3** polls

Pg **7** **Topic of the week-**

Syria's President Assad: Should He Resign?



Countries represented in **blue**, Polling organizations 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

► MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

205-1 **Palestinians Optimistic about Achieving Statehood** (Click for Details)

([Palestine](#)) Near East Consulting's (NEC) September 2011 survey reveals that 57% of the respondents expect that the recognition a Palestinian state will succeed while 43% think that the Palestinian quest for recognition by the UN will fail. ([Near East Consulting](#))

September 2011

[2.3 Foreign Affairs & Security](#) » [Palestine/ Israel Conflict](#)



205-2 **Syria's President Assad: Should He Resign? (Multi-country survey)** (Click for Details)

([Syria](#)) An online survey conducted in the Middle East and North Africa shows that the vast majority of respondents want Syria's President Bashar Al Assad to resign. The sentiment is highest in North Africa, a region that witnessed the biggest number of revolutions and ousting of rulers in the MENA region over the past year. ([Yougov Siraj](#))

December 25, 2011

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

[2.7 Foreign Affairs & Security](#) » [Muslim World](#)

205-3 **Disillusionment in Egypt Overrides the Class Divide** (Click for Details)

([Egypt](#)) Egyptians who say they are "living comfortably" on their present income were in September as likely as those who say they are finding it "very difficult" on their present income to expect their lives to improve as a result of President Hosni Mubarak's resignation. Among those who were living comfortably, optimism about the personal effect of Mubarak's ouster dropped sharply between August and September. This reality erases the class divide Gallup found on this measure in previous surveys this year. ([Gallup USA](#))

January 3, 2012

[3.1 Economy](#) » [Perceptions on Performance/ Well-Being](#)



Euro Americas zone

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

EUROPE

► WEST EUROPE

205-4 UK Business Leaders Pessimistic On Economy [\(Click for Details\)](#)

(UK) The majority of top British business leaders are pessimistic about the future of the country's economy, according to Ipsos MORI's Captains of Industry survey. Over half (56%) expect the country's economic condition to get worse over the next 12 months, although not all sectors are expected to fare the same. [\(Ipsos Mori\)](#)

January 08, 2012

[3.1 Economy » Perceptions on Performance/ Well-Being](#)

[3.8 Economy » Enterprise/ Investments](#)

205-5 Shoppers Out In Force Over Christmas; First Year-On-Year Increase In Retail Footfall For Over 2 Years [\(Click for Details\)](#)



(UK) Ipsos Retail Performance (formerly Synovate Retail Performance) show that retail footfall in the UK in December was stronger than expected. Ipsos' Retail Traffic Index (RTI) for the month recorded 2.9% more shopping trips to non-food stores compared to December 2010. This is the first time that a year-on-year increase has been seen in over 2 years, since October 2009. Against November, the RTI stood 30.7% higher. [\(Ipsos-Synovate\)](#)

January 06, 2012

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

205-6 Christmas 2011 - The Kindle Christmas [\(Click for Details\)](#)

The latest post-Christmas research from YouGov's Technology and Telecoms analysts shows that while e-readers and tablets were generally a popular choice to give as a present this Christmas, 2011 was definitely the 'Kindle Christmas'. In fact, YouGov data indicates that 1 in every 40 adults in Great Britain received an e-reader as a Christmas present, either bought for them as a gift, or as a present for themselves.

[\(Yougov\)](#)

January 04, 2012

[3.11 Economy » Science & Technology](#)

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



205-7 Most Britons Side with Cameron on EU Treaty Rejection

(Britain) Most people in Britain continue to hold negative views on the European Union (EU) and an insignificant fraction would like to see the Pound abandoned in favour of the Euro, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found. [\(Angus Reid\)](#)

January 04, 2012

[2.8 Foreign Affairs & Security » International / Regional Organizations](#)

AMERICAS

► NORTH AMERICA

205-8 Romney, Santorum Rising Nationally After Iowa [\(Click for Details\)](#)

(USA) Mitt Romney remains the first choice of registered Republican voters nationally in Gallup Daily tracking of the GOP race. He holds a 27% to 19% lead over Newt Gingrich, followed by Rick Santorum with

15% and Ron Paul with 12%. These results, based on interviewing conducted Dec. 29-Jan. 5, give Romney one of his largest leads over a competitor to date. ([Gallup USA](#))

January 6, 2012

[1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections](#)

[1.2 Domestic Politics » Performance Ratings](#)

[1.4 Domestic Politics » Political Parties](#)

205-9 **GOP 2012 Battle to Date Most Akin to Dems in 2003** ([Click for Details](#))

The lead in the Republican nomination race has thus far changed seven times since May in Gallup polling. Mitt Romney, Rick Perry, Herman Cain, and Newt Gingrich each held the top spot at various points in 2011, with Romney's standing rising and falling as other candidates surged and faded. ([Gallup USA](#))

January 2, 2012

[1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections](#)

[1.4 Domestic Politics » Political Parties](#)



205-10 **Most Americans Still Say They Are Better Off Than Their Parents** ([Click for Details](#))

The large majority of Americans (69%) say they are better off financially than their parents were when they were the same age. However, this is down slightly from 74% in 1998, the last time Gallup asked the question.

([Gallup USA](#))

December 26, 2011

[3.1 Economy » Perceptions on Performance/ Well-Being](#)

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

205-11 **Americans' Spending Rises Modestly in December** ([Click for Details](#))

([USA](#)) Americans' self-reported daily spending averaged \$76 in December, up from \$71 in November and the highest monthly average of 2011. However, December's spending level is not remarkably high when compared with average spending in several other months over the past two years, including both Decembers: \$75 in 2010 and \$72 in 2009. ([Gallup USA](#))

January 6, 2012

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

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



205-12 **1 in 4 Likely Voters Approve of Recently Signed National Defense Authorization Act** ([Click for Details](#))

Just one in four likely voters (24%) say they approve of the National Defense Authorization Act, and only 4% say they strongly support it, a new IBOPE Zogby Interactive survey finds. ([Zogby-Ibope](#))

January 06, 2012

[1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections](#)

[1.3 Domestic Politics » Governance](#)

205-13 **Tornadoes, Taxes Coincide With Most Stressful Days of 2011** ([Click for Details](#))

Despite a tumultuous year characterized by global instability, natural disasters, and high-stakes political brinksmanship, Americans' likelihood to report a lot of stress and worry without a lot of happiness and enjoyment remained virtually the same in 2011 as it was in 2010. What's more, the percentage who

experienced the reverse -- a lot of happiness and enjoyment without a lot of stress and worry -- has ticked slightly upward over the last two years. ([Gallup USA](#))

January 6, 2012

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

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

205-14 **The Santorum Surge Story Comes True** ([Click for Details](#))

If momentum in presidential politics is something that builds on itself, then Rick Santorum's last-minute surge to finish in a virtual tie for first with Mitt Romney in Tuesday's Iowa caucuses benefited from the narrative in the news media. ([Pew Research Center](#))

January 04, 2012

[1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections](#)

[1.4 Domestic Politics » Political Parties](#)



205-15 **Obama Begins 2012 at 46% Job Approval** ([Click for Details](#))

Barack Obama's initial three-day average approval rating in the new year is 46%, higher than the ratings he received in most of the latter part of 2011. He was generally in the low 40% range from August through December, including monthly approval averages of 41% in August, September, and October, and 43% in November and December. ([Gallup USA](#))

January 5, 2012

[1.2 Domestic Politics » Performance Ratings](#)

[3.3 Economy » Employment Issues](#)

205-16 **National GOP Leader Post-New Hampshire Is Good Bet to Win** ([Click for Details](#))

In recent Republican presidential nomination campaigns, the results of the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary have often made Republicans nationwide re-evaluate their preferences for the nominee, with the most change occurring in 1980 and 2008. Since 1976 -- the first year in the modern nominating era in which there was a competitive Republican contest -- the leader after New Hampshire has ultimately won the nomination.

([Gallup USA](#))

January 5, 2012

[1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections](#)

[1.4 Domestic Politics » Political Parties](#)

205-17 **Gallup Finds U.S. Unemployment Holding at 8.5% in December** ([Click for Details](#))

([USA](#)) Gallup finds U.S. unemployment, not seasonally adjusted, at 8.5% in December -- the same as at the end of November, but down from 9.6% a year ago. Gallup's unemployment measure suggests the government is likely to report essentially no change for December 2011 in its seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, though this December is especially hard to predict. ([Gallup USA](#))

January 5, 2012

[3.3 Economy » Employment Issues](#)



205-18 **U.S. Job Creation Unchanged in December** ([Click for Details](#))

Job market conditions in the U.S. remain unchanged in December, with Gallup's Job Creation Index continuing at +14 for the third month in a row. While job creation has not improved during recent months, the jobs situation has not deteriorated as it typically does at this time of year. It instead remains near the high point for the year and is significantly better than the +10 of one year ago. The Job Creation Index average for 2011 is +13, about twice the 2010 average of +7. (Gallup USA)

January 4, 2012

[3.3 Economy » Employment Issues](#)

205-19 **Protestant, Catholic GOP Vote Similar to National Average** (Click for Details)

Republican Mormons overwhelmingly supported Mitt Romney for the party's presidential nomination in December, while Republicans with no religious identity were disproportionately likely to support Ron Paul. Catholic Republicans were no more likely than average to support the two Catholics in the GOP race, Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum; Protestant Republicans did not disproportionately support any particular candidate. (Gallup USA)

January 3, 2012

[1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections](#)

[4.1 Society » Religion](#)

205-20 **U.S. Economic Confidence in December Best Since June** (Click for Details)

(USA) Americans' economic confidence continued to improve in December with Gallup's Economic Confidence Index reaching -38 as consumers expressed more optimism than at any time since June. However, consumers remain less confident than they were earlier in 2011 and in December of the prior two years. (Gallup USA)

January 3, 2012

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



► AUSTRALASIA

205-21 **2.01 Million Australians Unemployed Or Underemployed – Highest Ever Recorded** (Click for Details)

(Australia) Within the Australian workforce (12,005,000 people either employed or looking for work) — 2.01 million or 16.8% are unemployed or underemployed in December 2011. Unemployment is highest amongst the young with 18.5% of the 18-24yr old workforce unemployed and 17.5% of the workforce aged 14-17 yr olds unemployed. (Roy Morgan)

January 05, 2012

[3.3 Economy » Employment Issues](#)

► CYBER WORLD

205-22 **Bloggers Close Out 2011 With iPhone News** (Click for Details)

Bloggers last week shared news that iPad and iPhone shoppers accounted for 90% of all mobile purchases in December, according to a study by the ecommerce research firm, RichRelevance. The study also found that these shoppers spent 19% more than shoppers using Android devices. (Pew Research Center)

January 01, 2012

[3.12 Economy » IT & Telecom](#)



205-23 **Consumer Media Usage Across TV, Online, Mobile and Social** (Click for Details)

(USA) Almost one in three U.S. TV households – 35.9 million – owns four or more televisions, according to a new report on media usage from Nielsen. Across the ever-changing U.S. media landscape, TV maintains its stronghold as the most popular device, with 290 million Americans and 114.7 households owning at least one. In contrast, 211 million Americans are online and 116 million (ages 13+) access the mobile Web. (Nielsen)
January 6, 2012

4.6 Society » Media/ New Media

205-24 **64% Support Nationwide Ban on Cell Calls & Texting While Driving** (Click for Details)

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of adults support a National Transportation Safety Board recommendation for a nationwide ban on the use of cell phones and text messaging devices while driving, a new IBOPE Zogby poll finds. (IBOPE Zogby)

January 4, 2012

3.12 Economy » IT & Telecom

4.7 Society » Morality, Values & Customs / Lifestyle

Topic of the week:

Syria's President Assad: Should He Resign?

► This issue provides two interesting poll findings and buzz monitoring on this subject.

January 8, 2012



Date 25th December, 2011

Polling Dates 14th December 2011 - 19th December 2011

Methodology: The research was conducted using YouGov's regional online panel of 220,000+ respondents. Respondents from across the region (Arab world) were invited to participate in the survey. A total of 1,012 respondents completed the 5 - 7 minute survey. Fieldwork was conducted from the 14th to 19th of December 2011.

Executive Summary

According to the online survey conducted in the Middle East & North Africa shows that the vast majority of respondents want Syria's President Bashar Al Assad to resign.

The sentiment is highest in North Africa, a region that witnessed the biggest number of revolutions and ousting of rulers in the MENA region over the past year.

However, those in the Levant were not as insistent with less than two-thirds of them stating that President Assad should resign. A larger proportion of respondents in Syria are supportive of their president. 3 in 4 of those who believe **President Assad** should resign also believe the entire political regime needs to change to ensure similar practices do not take place again.

The largest proportion of respondents believe the best scenario for Syria would be to oust President Assad from power immediately and hold free democratic



elections under the supervision of a transitional government.

Interestingly, those who do not think President Assad should resign do not really want him to stay in power either as over half of them (51%) believe it is best for Syria if he remains in power but with the guarantee of free democratic elections in the near future.

Reasons for calling for the resignation of President Assad are: to end the regime's brutal treatment of protesters over the past 8 months, the belief that Al Assad has lost the support of his people in addition to the regime's reputation of abuse and torture for many years.

Interestingly, among those who do not think President Assad should resign, reasons are driven by fear regarding the future of the country rather than support as they do not want to see Syria become another Iraq.

At least half of the respondents do not think the protests are part of a conspiracy by the US, the West, and/or Israel. In fact, over half of the respondents believe the protests in Syria are by the Syrian people in line with the 'Arab Spring' movement and represent the view of the majority of Syrians as opposed to being led by 'trouble makers'. Over half also believe the news we hear about the protests are true and not exaggerated.

2 in 3 respondents in the GCC and North Africa approve the Arab League's decision to impose sanctions on Syria. Those in the Levant tend to oppose this decision with the larger proportion of them, particularly those in Syria, not approving of this course of action.

The high support for the Arab League's decision to impose sanctions on Syria appears to be derived from the belief that is the right thing to do to help the Syrian people as it would help bring down President Assad. The majority of respondents do not think Syria needed to be given more time by the Arab League to carry out reform.

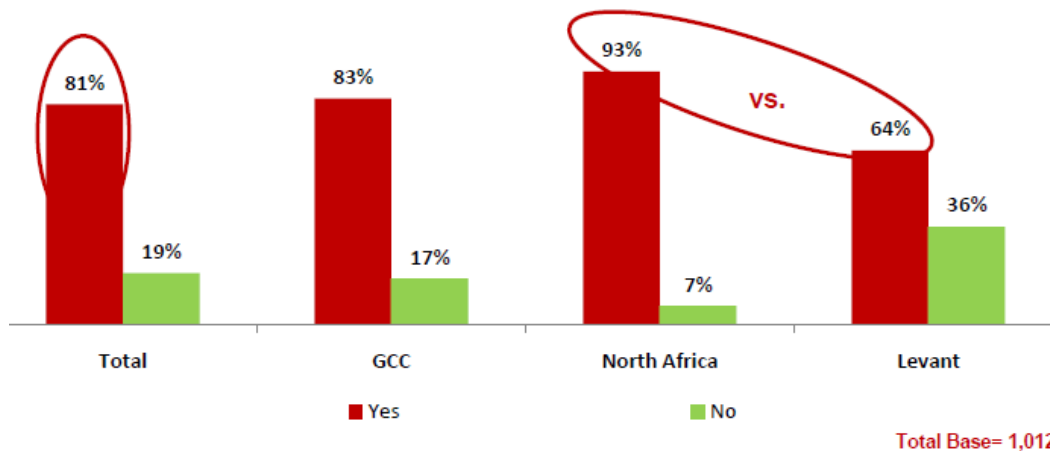
However, when comparing the situation to their position on Israel, a little over half of the respondents (52%) agree that the Arab League exhibited double standards by being tolerant with Israel to settle its dispute but not allowing Syria enough time to solve its own issues.

President Assad's place in history seems to be defined by the last eight months. Views among respondents were unfavorable even prior to the recent events with the majority saying he was an average to bad president.

President Assad must resign



In your opinion, should Syria's President Assad resign?



Finally, in the event of President Assad stepping down/being replaced or ousted, respondents predict the relationship between Syria and Iran will worsen, whereas the country's relationship with Lebanon and Turkey is expected to improve. Looking at the international landscape, the largest proportion of respondents believe Syria's relations with Israel will become worse if President Assad steps down/ gets ousted while an equal proportion expect the Syrian American relationship to become better.

Results:

The vast majority of respondents (81%) want Syria's President Bashar Al Assad to resign. This is highest in NA a region that witnessed the biggest number of revolutions and ousting of rulers in the MENA region over the past year. On the other hand, those in the Levant were not as insistent with almost two thirds (64%) stating that President Assad should resign.

Respondents in Syria are more supportive of their president. 55% do not believe Assad should resign vs. 45% wanting him to leave power.

When asked which scenario would be the best for Syria's future, the largest proportion of respondents (63%) called for the ousting of President Assad from power immediately and holding free democratic elections under the supervision of a transitional government. Those in NA are the biggest supporters of this strategy with 4 in 5 wanting a swift resolution to the trouble.

Interestingly, those who do not think President Assad should resign do not really want him to stay unchallenged in power either as over half of them (51%) believe it is best for Syria if he remains in power but with the guarantee of free democratic elections in the near future.

The main reasons respondents believe President Assad should resign are to end the regime's brutal treatment of protesters over the past 8 months (63%); because he has lost the support of his people (43%) and because of the regime's reputation of abuse and torture for many years (37%).

3 in 4 of those who believe President Assad should resign also believe the entire political regime needs to change to ensure similar practices do not take place again. Respondents from all regions shared very similar views on this point.

Support for President Assad to stay in power is not necessarily a reflection of support for his regime. 46% of respondents say they want President Assad to remain in power to save Syria from becoming another Iraq.

About a third (32%) of those in the Levant believe President Assad is the best president for Syria. Half of the respondents (50%) do not think the protests are part of a conspiracy by the US and the West. An almost similar percentage (52%) does not believe they are part of a conspiracy by Israel either. Only 1 in 5 respondents (22%) tend to think these protests are led by 'trouble makers' and not by loyal Syrians.

In fact, over half of the respondents (54%) believe the protests in Syria are by the Syrian people in line with the 'Arab Spring' movement. 64% also agree that these protests represent the view of the majority of Syrians.

Only 36% think the news they see and hear about the protests are exaggerated, while 52% believe they are true. Those in Syria are more skeptical with 52% believing the news about the protests are exaggerated.

2 in 3 respondents in the GCC and NA (67% and 66%, respectively) approve the Arab League's decision to impose sanctions on Syria. Those in the Levant, which would be affected the most, tend to oppose this



Syrians demand ouster of President Assad

decision with the larger proportion of them (54%) not approving of this course of action, particularly those in Syria (68% said 'No).

Those who believe President Assad should resign support the decision strongly (74% said 'Yes') while those who think it is better if he stays in power frown upon it (87% said 'No') C

The majority of respondents (57%) do not think the Arab League should have given the Syrian regime more time to carry out reform.

In fact, 55% of respondents believe that imposing the sanctions is the right thing to do to help the Syrian people.

The high level of support for the Arab League's decision to impose sanctions on Syria appears to be derived from being 'hopeful' they would help bring down President Assad (52%).

Arabs continue to support the Arab League's decision of imposing sanctions on Syria with 60% of them disagreeing with the statement 'the imposing of sanctions is wrong, Arab presidents should stand by each other (i.e. support Bashar Al Assad) against the West' • .

However, when comparing the situation to their position on Israel, a little over half of the respondents (52%) agree that the Arab League exhibited double standards by being tolerant with Israel to settle its dispute but not allowing Syria enough time to solve its own issues.

When asked if the sanctions will bring more chaos to Syria, respondents tended to agree (46% vs. 41% disagree). At best President Assad was deemed average prior to the recent events

While one third of the respondents (33%) accuse President Assad of being a bad president for Syria over the years, a slightly larger proportion of respondents believe he was 'average neither good nor bad'.

Those in the Levant are more likely to see him as a 'good' president with 30% saying he is/was with the highest in Syria (46%).

Those who do not want President Assad to resign believe he has been a good president for Syria over the years, not taking into account his response to the recent protests (56%). How will the external relationships be affected?

In the event of President Assad stepping down/ being replaced or ousted, respondents 'predict' the relationship between Syria and Iran to worsen (42%).

On the other hand, the relationship with Lebanon (40%) and Turkey (56%) is expected to improve.

Interestingly, while a third of the respondents (33%) think the relations with Israel will become worse (15% think will be better) if President Assad steps down/ gets ousted, an equal proportion (34%) expects **Syria's** relation with the **US** to become better.



Source: <http://clients.squareeye.net/uploads/doha/polling/YouGovSirajDoha%20Debates-%20President%20Assad%20report.pdf>

Gilani's Gallopedia (2007-2011)

A Quantitative Analysis

A quantitative analysis of global polls monitored during the 4 year period January 2007 –August 2011

KEY STATISTICS

- 1- Number of Surveys (*a selection on key political and social issues*): \approx 3,861 polls during the period 2007-2011
- 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 2007-2011
- 4- Number **polling organizations** whose polls have been cited: \approx 160 during the period 2007-2011

