



Global Views of the US

AFRICA BACKGROUNDER

Kenya: Views of the US in Kenya remain very favourable, though negative views have somewhat increased in the past year. A large majority (70%) has a mainly positive view of the US influence in the world, and while just 20 percent has a mainly negative view, this number is up from 12 percent in 2006. Kenyans tend to view US foreign policy actions favourably, including the US approach to Iran's nuclear program (62% approve), the handling of the war in Iraq (59%), global warming (56%), and North Korea's nuclear situation (54%). A slight plurality (46%) also approves of US actions in the Israel-Hezbollah war. Kenyans express some reservations about the US treatment of detainees at Guantanamo, as 38 percent say they disapprove and just 34 percent say they approve.

Kenyans have somewhat mixed feelings about the effect of US military presence in the Middle East; while a plurality (46%) does say that it provokes more conflict than it prevents, 40 percent say it is a stabilizing force.

Nigeria: Nigerians continue to demonstrate quite positive views of the United States. More than seven in ten (72%) say that the US is having a mainly positive influence in the world, while just 20 percent say that the US influence is mainly negative. Nigerians show mostly favourable attitudes about US foreign policy, particularly in their approval of the US approach to global warming (67% approve). Modest majorities also approve of the US handling of the Iraq war (57%), the North Korean nuclear situation (55%), Iran's nuclear program (53%), and the Israel-Hezbollah conflict in Lebanon (52%). A plurality (45%) also approves of the US actions on the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo and other prisons. Nigerians are unique in that they view the US military presence in the Middle East as a stabilizing force; nearly half (49%) hold this view, while 38 percent believe that the US presences provokes more conflict than it prevents.

For more information on this poll, please see the Questionnaire/Methodology:
http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/jan07/BBC_USRole_Jan07_quaire.pdf