



Global Views of the US

LATIN AMERICA BACKGROUNDER

Argentina: Views of the US in Argentina have continued to be very negative over the past several years, and positive views have slightly declined. A significant majority (64%) of Argentines sees US influence in the world as mainly negative, while just 13 percent see it as mainly positive (down from 19% in 2006). Overwhelming majorities disapprove of the US handling of the war in Iraq (92%), the Israel-Hezbollah conflict (85%), and Iran's nuclear program (85%). Argentines also strongly criticize the US on global warming (78%), US treatment of detainees at Guantanamo (78% disapprove), and the North Korean nuclear situation (78%). A very large majority views the US military presence in the Middle East unfavourably, with 86 percent saying it provokes more conflict than it prevents.

Brazil: Brazilian attitudes about the US remain quite negative, with little change over the last year. Fifty-seven percent say the US has mainly negative influence in the world, while just three in ten (29%) say that the US has a mainly positive influence. Views of US foreign policy are uniformly unfavourable, with more than four in five disapproving of the US on the war on in Iraq (85%), the Israel-Hezbollah conflict (82%), and the Iranian nuclear situation (80%). Nearly three-quarters also criticize the US on the treatment of detainees (76% disapprove), the North Korean nuclear weapons program (75%), and global warming (73%). Eighty-three percent of Brazilians say that the US military presence in the Middle East invited conflict rather than prevented it.

Chile: While Chileans have tended to hold milder feelings toward the US than other Latin Americans 51 percent now say they have a mostly negative view of US influence in the world (up from 46% in 2006), while just one in three (32%) says they have a positive view (down from 38% the previous year). Majorities disapprove of the US on the Israel-Hezbollah conflict (66%), the war in Iraq (65%), global warming (63%), treatment of detainees at Guantanamo (63%), Iran's nuclear program (62%), and North Korea's nuclear weapons program (59%). More than two-thirds (68%) of respondents in Chile see the US military presence in the Middle East as provoking more conflict than it prevents, while 14 percent say it is a stabilizing force.

Mexico: Mexican views of the US have remained consistently negative in recent years, with a slight majority (53%) seeing the US as a mostly negative influence in the world. Only 12 percent believe that the US is having a mainly positive influence. The issue of US handling of the Iraq war earns the highest level of disapproval (80%), followed by a large majority (70%) that disapproves of the

treatment of detainees at Guantanamo and other prisons. Two-thirds (67%) disapprove of the US on the issue of global warming, while 58 percent criticizes the US on its actions during the Israel-Hezbollah war in Lebanon. Mexicans also express slight disapproval of the US handling of the nuclear tensions in Asia: 51 percent disapprove of its approach to the Iranian nuclear program, and a plurality (46%) disapproves of its actions on North Korea's nuclear situation. Four in five (80%) in Mexico view the US military presence in the Middle East as a destabilizing force.

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