



Global Views of the US

MIDDLE EAST BACKGROUNDER

Egypt: Egyptian attitudes about the US have remained quite negative and seem to have grown worse over the past year. A significant majority (59%) views the US influence as mainly negative (up from 54% in 2006), while positive views have declined from 21 to 11 percent from 2006. Views of US foreign policy are uniformly negative, with overwhelming majorities disapproving of the US handling of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict (92%), Iran's nuclear program (91%), the war in Iraq (90%), and the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo (87%). Smaller, but still significant majorities also disapprove of the US approach to the North Korean nuclear weapon's program (66%) and the issue of global warming (59%). Not surprisingly, a very large majority of Egyptians (85%) sees the US military presence in the Middle East as provoking more conflict than it prevents.

Turkey: A large majority (69%) says they have a negative view of US influence in the world, a jump of 20 points from the previous year when only 49 percent held this position. Unfavourable views of US foreign policy are widespread across all areas, with nine in ten disapproving of US handling of the war in Iraq (90%) and the Israel-Hezbollah conflict (89%), and nearly as many criticizing US treatment of detainees at Guantanamo (85%) and its approach to Iran's nuclear program (81%). Turkish disapproval of the US on other issues is less fervent, yet significant majorities disapprove of the US on its handling of North Korea's nuclear situation (71%) and global warming (65%). More than three-quarters in Turkey (76%) agree that the US military presence in the Middle East is a disruptive force.

United Arab Emirates: Views of the US in the UAE are quite unfavourable, with a solid majority (57%) saying they have a mostly negative view of US influence in the world, and just one in four (25%) says they have a mainly positive view. Emirates have largely negative views of the US on its foreign policy issues, though they are somewhat less negative than other publics in the region. Four in five disapprove of US handling of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict (81%), the war in Iraq (80%), Iran's nuclear program (78%), and the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo and other prisons (77%). Two-thirds in the UAE (66%) are critical of the US on its approach to the North Korean nuclear situation and a majority (54%) also disapproves of the US on global warming. Emirates clearly see the US military presence as a destabilizing factor in the Middle East: 66 percent says the US is provoking more conflict than it prevents, and only 17 percent says it is a stabilizing force.

Lebanon: Lebanese views of the US remain largely negative. A majority (58%) sees the US influence in the world as mainly negative, while about one-third (34%) sees it as mainly positive. Attitudes about US foreign policy are unfavourable across most areas and mirror those of neighbouring Arab republics. Overwhelming majorities disapprove of the US handling of the war in Iraq (90%), the Israel-Hezbollah war (82%), and the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo (80%). Large majorities disapprove of the US approach to the North Korean nuclear issues (68%) and the Iranian nuclear situation (64%). A large majority (68%) also has an unfavourable view of the US actions on the issue of global warming. Respondents in Lebanon decidedly see the US military presence in the Middle East as provoking more conflict than it prevents, with more than three-quarters (77%) holding this view.

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