



Israel

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Globalization and Trade

Israel is one of the countries most unequivocally positive about the benefits of globalization and international trade.

- More than four in five Israelis (82%) see globalization as “mostly good” for Israel.
- Overwhelming majorities believe international trade is good for the Israeli economy (88%) and Israeli companies (86%).
- About three-quarters also see trade as positive for Israeli consumers (77%) and for Israelis’ standard of living (74%).
- Israelis also believe trade helps create jobs in their country (74%) and is good for Israeli job security (63%).
- Israel is one of the few countries where a majority (56%) thinks trade is good for the environment.
- Nine out of 10 Israelis say trade agreements should include minimum standards for the protection of the environment (93%) and minimum standards for working conditions (91%).

Climate Change

Israelis are among the publics most willing to take steps to address the problem of global warming.

- An overwhelming majority of Israelis (83%) favor measures to deal with climate change. This includes 54% who favor immediate action “even if this involves significant costs” and 29% who believe the problem can be addressed gradually through low cost measures. Only 10% says action can be delayed “until we are sure that global warming is really a problem.”
- Most Israelis (77%) think global warming could pose a threat to their national interests over the next decade, including 52% who consider it a “critical threat.”

Genocide and Darfur

Israelis are among those most likely to support UN action against human rights violations such as genocide. They

are also among the countries with the highest numbers saying that the US has a responsibility to intervene in Darfur, though there is not majority support for contributing troops to a peacekeeping mission there.

- Four out of five (83%) say the UN Security Council has the right to authorize the use of force to prevent genocide and other severe abuses.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) say the UN has the responsibility to authorize military intervention to protect people from such abuse “even against the will of their own government.”
- More than three-quarters (77%) say that the UN has the responsibility (46%), or the right (31%) to authorize military intervention to stop the killing in Darfur, where militias linked to the Sudanese government are accused of massacring civilians.
- A slim majority (52%) opposes contributing Israeli troops to an international peacekeeping mission in Darfur (39% favor).

Future of the United Nations

Israelis show strong support for strengthening the United Nations and express willingness to accept adverse UN decisions. This support is especially striking given Israel’s often difficult relations with the United Nations.

- Significant majorities support establishing a standing UN peacekeeping force (64%), allowing the UN to go into countries to investigate human rights violations (64%) and having the UN regulate the international arms trade (60%).
- Israel is one of the few countries where a majority supports allowing the UN to impose a small tax on the international sale of arms or oil to fund its activities (52%).
- Very large majorities of Israelis believe the UN Security Council has the right to use force to stop countries from supporting terrorist groups (85%), to stop severe human rights violations such as genocide (83%), to defend a country that has been attacked (77%), and to restore a democratic government to power (58%).
- 62% of Israelis believe the Security Council should have the right to authorize force to prevent new countries from acquiring nuclear weapons, while 54% say it should be able to prevent countries from producing fuel that could be used to make nuclear weapons.
- A majority of Israelis (54%) believe their government should be more willing to make decisions within the United Nations, even if this means sometimes going along with a policy that is not Israel’s first choice.

US Leadership

Like other publics, Israelis reject the US role as preeminent world leader in favor of one that involves cooperating with other countries to solve international problems. But Israelis are unique in that they trust the United States to act responsibly in the world and believe it takes Israel’s interests into account. They are divided as to whether the US plays the role of world policeman more than it should (only one other country, the Philippines, does not have a majority saying that the US plays this role too much).

- Only one quarter (24%) say the United States should “continue to be the preeminent world leader in solving international problems.” Three out of five Israelis (62%) think the United States should “do its share” with other countries in solving international problems. Only one tenth (10%) would like it to “withdraw from most efforts to solve international problems.”
- Israelis are evenly divided about whether the United States is playing the role of world policeman more

than it should be (48% agree, 48% disagree).

- A large majority of Israelis (81%) trust the United States to act responsibly in the world.
- Most Israelis (82%) say they believe the United States takes Israel's interests into account when making foreign policy and a majority (57%) says it does so "a great deal."
- A majority (59%) believes the United States should either maintain or increase its overseas bases: 39% want it to keep the current number and 20% think there should be more.
- A slight majority of Israelis (52%) believe that relations with the United States are staying about the same, while one-third (32%) believes they are improving and just 12% say they are getting worse.

Rise of China

The Israeli public has one of the largest majorities convinced that China's economy will catch up with the United States' economy. Despite its close relationship with the United States, very few Israelis express concern about this prospect. They lean toward doubting that China will act responsibly in the world.

- A large majority of Israelis (75%) believe that China's economy will catch up with the US economy.
- Were China to catch up only 17% say this would be mainly negative. A plurality (41%) says that it would be equally positive and negative and one quarter (27%) says it would be mainly positive.
- A plurality of Israelis (47%) say China cannot be trusted to act responsibly in the world, though 42% say they can. A modest majority feels Japan can be trusted (54%).
- A majority (61%) says the Chinese do not take Israeli interests into account when making foreign policy and nearly as many say the same about Japan (55%).
- The most common view among Israeli respondents is that their country's relations with China are improving (40%). A quarter say they are stable (26%) and relatively few think they are getting worse (8%). Fewer say relations with Japan are improving (27%) though a third say they are stable (33%) and only 7% getting worse.