



# Palestinian Territories

Palestinian Center for Public Opinion

## Globalization and Trade

Most Palestinians believe that globalization and international trade are good for the Palestinian economy and for Palestinians themselves.

- A majority (58%) says that globalization is mostly good for Palestinians.
- Large majorities believe international trade is positive for the Palestinian economy (70%) and for Palestinian companies (67%).
- Palestinians think trade is good for their own standard of living (62%) and consumers like themselves (57%) and that it helps create Palestinian jobs (62%) and provide job security (57%).
- Palestinians are one of the few publics with a majority that believes trade is good for the environment (53%).

## Genocide and Darfur

Palestinians are among the publics most convinced that the United Nations has an obligation to protect people from genocide and other severe human rights violations.

- Four out of five (78%) say the UN Security Council has the right to authorize the use of military force to prevent severe human rights abuses such as genocide.
- A large majority (69%) says the Security Council has a “responsibility” to authorize military action in such cases. This is the third highest of all publics polled.

## Future of the United Nations

Palestinians generally express strong support for allowing the Security Council to authorize the use of military force though they oppose its use to prevent nuclear proliferation. But an overwhelming majority—the largest among all countries polled—rejects the idea that their government should go along with UN decisions that it does not consider optimal.

- Palestinians believe the UN Security Council has the right to authorize the use of force to defend a country that has been attacked (81%), to prevent severe human rights violations (78%), to restore a democratic government to power (67%), and to stop a country from supporting terrorist groups (61%).
- Palestinians do not think the Security Council has the right to authorize the use of force to prevent countries from acquiring nuclear weapons (59%) or to stop them from producing nuclear fuel that could be used to make nuclear weapons (57%). These positions may be related to sympathy for Iran in its conflict with the UN Security Council over Iran's nuclear program.
- Palestinians disagree overwhelmingly (81%) with the idea that their government should be more willing to make decisions within the United Nations even if they have to accept policies that are not their first choice.
- Palestinians' feelings toward the UN are moderately warm: 58 degrees on average. They feel more warmly toward the World Health Organization (65°) but quite coldly toward the World Court (32°).

### US Leadership

Palestinians believe the United States should disengage from world affairs, one of only two countries (along with Argentina) that believe this. Average feelings toward the United States are cold.

- A majority of Palestinians (55%) say that the United States should “withdraw from most efforts to solve international problems.” Only one-third (36%) believes the United States should “do its share” with other countries to solve problems, which is the majority position in most other countries. Very few (5%) think the United States should “continue to be the preeminent world leader in solving international problems.”
- Nearly three-quarters (74%) say the United States is playing the role of world policeman more than it should, while the same proportion (76%) rejects the idea that the United States “has the responsibility” to act as a policeman.
- Seven in 10 (70%) say that the United States should have fewer military bases overseas.
- Palestinian feelings toward the United States register on average a freezing 17 degrees. But the Palestinians feel quite coolly toward many countries. The United States' closest ally, Great Britain, fares equally badly (17°), though not as badly as Israel (6°). Feelings toward other countries are somewhat better, but also chilly: South Korea (29°), Germany (34°), France (39°), Japan (39°). China and North Korea register the same rather cool temperature (42°). Only Muslim countries get warm ratings: Iraq (71°), Iran (65°), and Saudi Arabia (59°).