



The American Public and the Arab Awakening

**A Study of American Public Opinion
Released in Conjunction with the US-Islamic World Forum**

Dates of Survey: April 1-5, 2011
Sample Size: 802

Margin of Error: +/- 3.5%

First we would like to ask you some questions about your view of recent events that have occurred in the Arab world.

Q1. When you watched the Arab popular uprisings, as compared to what you expected, were the demonstrators:

More violent.....	23%
More peaceful	19
About the same as you expected.....	53
Don't know/Refused	4

Q2. Do you think the popular uprisings in the Arab world are:

More about Islamist groups seeking political power	15%
More about ordinary people seeking freedom and democracy	45
Both equally	37
Don't know/Refused	3

Q3. How likely do you think it is that the changes occurring in the Middle East will lead to more democracy there?

Very likely 9%
Somewhat likely.....42
Not very likely40
Not at all likely.....7

Don't know/Refused1

[GRID; RANDOMIZE]

Q4. In responding to the popular uprisings in the following countries, do you think the US should:

Q4a. Syria

Express support for the demonstrators..... 26%
Express support for the government4
Not take a position66

Don't know/Refused4

Q4b. Bahrain

Express support for the demonstrators..... 21%
Express support for the government6
Not take a position69

Don't know/Refused4

Q4c. Jordan

Express support for the demonstrators..... 21%
Express support for the government7
Not take a position68

Don't know/Refused4

Q4d. Saudi Arabia

Express support for the demonstrators..... 21%
Express support for the government10
Not take a position65

Don't know/Refused3

Q4e. Yemen

Express support for the demonstrators..... 24%
Express support for the government5
Not take a position68

Don't know/Refused3

Q5. Do you think that if the countries of the Middle East become more democratic this will be more positive or more negative for the US:

Q5a. Over the next few years

More positive 65%
More negative31

Don't know/Refused4

Q5b. In the long run

More positive 76%
More negative19

Don't know/Refused4

Q6. As you may know, in the last few months there have been numerous popular uprisings in the Arab world. Please select how this has affected your views on the following.

Q6a. Your level of sympathy for the Arab people

Increased a lot 12%
Increased a little27
No change54
Decreased a little.....3
Decreased a lot.....3

Don't know/Refused1

Q6b. Your optimism about relations between the US and the Arab world

Increased a lot	4%
Increased a little	23
No change	54
Decreased a little.....	11
Decreased a lot.....	6
Don't know/Refused	1

Q6c. Your optimism that peaceful change is possible in the Arab world

Increased a lot	6%
Increased a little	23
No change	46
Decreased a little.....	13
Decreased a lot.....	11
Don't know/Refused	1

Q6d. Your sense of how similar the aspirations of the Arab people are to yours

Increased a lot	8%
Increased a little	25
No change	56
Decreased a little.....	5
Decreased a lot.....	4
Don't know/Refused	1

Q6e. Your sense of how widespread religious fanaticism is among Arabs

Increased a lot	11%
Increased a little	15
No change	64
Decreased a little.....	6
Decreased a lot.....	3
Don't know/Refused	1

Q7. Compared to other cultures, do you think there are more violent extremists among Arabs, fewer, or about the same number as in other cultures?

More violent extremists	59%
Fewer violent extremists	4
About the same as in other cultures	35
Don't know/Refused	1

STATEMENT. Now here are some questions about America's relationship with the Muslim world.

Q8. Thinking about US interests, how important an issue is the US relationship with Muslims and Muslim majority countries?

	4/2011	10/2010
The single most important issue for the US.....	3%	2%
Among the top three issues	15	19
Among the top five issues.....	43	37
Not among the top five issues	36	37
Don't know/Refused	3	6

Q9. Which of the following is closest to your view of the Obama Administration's diplomatic efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

	4/2011	11/10
The Administration is not trying hard enough.....	26%	30%
The Administration is trying too hard.....	28	21
The Administration's efforts are at the right level	41	41
Don't know/Refused	5	8

Q10. In its efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, what position do you believe the US should take?

	4/20/11	11/10
Lean toward Israel.....	27%	25%
Lean toward the Palestinians	5	2
Lean toward neither side.....	65	67
Don't know/Refused	3	5

Next, we would like to ask your overall opinion of some foreign countries and groups of people.

Q11. What is your overall opinion of each of the following countries:

Q11a. Saudi Arabia

	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know /Refused
8/91 (Gallup)	11	45	21	12	11
2/01 (Gallup)	7	40	28	18	7
2/02 (Gallup)	4	23	42	22	9
2/03 (Gallup)	3	27	41	20	9
2/04 (Gallup)	3	25	47	19	6
2/05 (Gallup)	3	33	42	16	6
2/06 (Gallup)	3	28	44	18	7
2/07 (Gallup)	4	31	40	18	7
2/08 (Gallup)	3	28	43	18	8
2/09 (Gallup)	2	29	40	20	9
2/10 (Gallup)	3	32	41	17	7
2/11 (Gallup)	4	33	40	13	10
4/2011	4	40	39	12	6

Q11b. Egypt

	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know /Refused
1/91 (Gallup)	10	56	12	3	19
3/91 (Gallup)	11	55	14	3	17
8/91 (Gallup)	9	54	15	5	17
3/96 (Gallup)	10	48	19	5	17
2/01 (Gallup)	11	54	19	4	12
2/02 (Gallup)	7	47	29	5	12
2/03 (Gallup)	6	50	20	5	19
2/04 (Gallup)	7	51	25	7	10
2/05 (Gallup)	8	56	22	4	10
2/06 (Gallup)	8	50	22	5	14
2/07 (Gallup)	8	52	23	5	11
2/08 (Gallup)	9	53	21	5	13
2/09 (Gallup)	8	51	21	6	14
2/10 (Gallup)	8	50	24	5	14
2/11 (Gallup)	4	36	37	13	10
4/2011	6	54	27	6	7

Q11c. Israel

	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	DK/ Refused
2/89 (Gallup)	8	41	25	13	13
7/89 (LA Times)	8	33	30	11	18
10/90 (Gallup)	10	38	26	13	13
1/91 (Gallup)	28	51	10	3	8
3/91 (Gallup)	20	49	16	7	8
8/91 (Gallup)	15	47	19	6	12
11/91 (Gallup)	11	36	26	11	16
2/92 (Gallup)	12	36	27	16	9
3/96 (Gallup)	17	45	18	11	9
4/98 (NY Times)	11	46	26	5	13
2/99 (Gallup)	18	48	16	7	11
5/99 (Gallup)	15	53	19	6	7
1/00 (Gallup)	11	43	21	6	18
3/00 (Gallup)	16	46	20	8	10
2/01 (Gallup)	18	45	20	12	5
10/01 (CBS News/NY Times)	13	47	17	7	16
2/02 (Gallup)	16	42	25	10	7
2/03 (Gallup)	22	42	23	6	7
2/04 (Gallup)	14	45	25	10	6
2/05 (Gallup)	19	50	20	5	6
2/06 (Gallup)	21	47	18	5	9
7/06 (CBS News/NY Times)	20	41	20	6	13
9/06 (CBS News/NY Times)	18	47	20	5	10
2/07 (Gallup)	22	41	22	8	7
2/08 (Gallup)	23	48	18	7	5
2/09 (Gallup)	21	42	21	8	7
4/09 (CNN)	29	40	21	9	0
2/10 (Gallup)	22	45	19	6	8
4/10 (CBS News/NY Times)	15	40	16	7	22
6/10 (CNN)	24	43	23	9	1
2/11 (Gallup)	24	44	20	7	6
4/2011	21	48	21	5	5

Q11d. Syria

	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know/Refused
8/91 (Gallup)	2	22	37	15	25
1/00 (Gallup)	2	18	32	12	36
2/05 (Gallup)	2	23	41	19	15
2/07 (Gallup)	2	19	44	22	13
4/2011	2	30	47	14	7

Q11e. Turkey

	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know/Refused
2/03 (Gallup)	8	55	15	5	17
3/03 (Gallup)	6	42	30	7	15
2/07 (Gallup)	5	48	25	6	15
4/09 (CNN)	9	52	26	8	5
4/2011	5	58	25	6	6

[GRID; RANDOMIZE]

Q12. What is your overall opinion of each of the following groups of people:

Q12a. People of Saudi Arabia

Very favorable 6%
 Mostly favorable51
 Mostly unfavorable29
 Very unfavorable8

 Don't know/Refused5

Q12b. People of Egypt

Very favorable 11%
 Mostly favorable59
 Mostly unfavorable19
 Very unfavorable5

 Don't know/Refused6

Q12c. Arab people in general

Very favorable	7%
Mostly favorable	49
Mostly unfavorable	30
Very unfavorable	8
Don't know/Refused	5

Q12d. Israeli people

Very favorable	21%
Mostly favorable	52
Mostly unfavorable	15
Very unfavorable	5
Don't know/Refused	6

Q13. Which position is closer to yours?

	4/11	PIPA 9/05
It is possible for Islamic countries to be democratic	56%	55%
Democracy and Islam are incompatible.....	41	34
Don't know/Refused	3	11

Q14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? I would want to see a country become more democratic even if this resulted in the country being more likely to oppose US policies.

	4/11	PIPA 9/05
Agree.....	57%	48%
Disagree	40	39
Don't know/Refused	4	12

Q15. Thinking about Muslim and Western cultures, do you think that it is possible to find common ground between them, or that violent conflict between them is inevitable?

	4/11	9/08*
Strongly possible to find common ground.....	13%	41%
Somewhat possible to find common ground.....	46	29
Somewhat inevitable violent conflict.....	27	8
Strongly inevitable violent conflict.....	14	14
Don't know/Refused	1	8

Q16. Compared to other religions, do you think there are more violent extremists within Islam, fewer, or about the same number as in other religions?

	4/11	ABC News 3/06	ABC News 2/02
More violent extremists	62%	58%	38%
Fewer violent extremists	6	3	5
About the same as in other religions.....	31	34	41
Don't know/Refused	1	5	17

Q17. As you may know, the U.S. military and other countries have begun cruise missile and air strikes in Libya in order to protect civilians from attacks by Qaddafi's forces. Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. and other countries taking this military action in Libya?

	4/11	CBS News 3/20-21/11
Approve.....	54%	68%
Disapprove	43	26
Don't know/Refused	3	6

* Religion & Ethics Newsweekly/United Nations Foundation Religion and America's Role in the World Survey

Q18. If the air campaign does not succeed in protecting civilians from attacks by Qaddafi's forces, would you support or oppose the US and other countries providing arms to the Libyan rebels?

Support..... 36%
 Oppose59
 Don't know/Refused5

Q19. Which position is closer to yours?

It is possible for Arab countries to be democratic 54%
 Democracy and Islam are incompatible.....42
 Don't know/Refused4

Q20. Please rate your feelings toward some countries and peoples, with 100 meaning a very warm, favorable feeling, 0 meaning a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and 50 meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from 0 to 100. The higher the number, the more favorable your feelings are toward that country.

Q20a. The Muslim people

	Mean
2002 (CCGA/GMF)	49°
2004 (CCGA)	39°
4/11	44°

Q20b. Egypt

	Mean
1/90 (Gallup/CCGA)	52°
6/02 (CCGA/GMF)	45°
4/11	49°

Q20c. Saudi Arabia

	Mean
1994 (CCGA)	48°
1998 (CCGA)	46°
2002 (CCGA/GMF)	33°
6/03 (GMF)	38°
2004 (CCGA)	37°
2006 (CCGA)	34°
2008 (CCGA)	39°
2010 (CCGA)	39°
4/11	43°

Q20d. The people of the Arab world

	Mean
4/11	45°

Q21. Do you think Western nations and Muslim nations can find a way to peacefully co-exist in the world today, or do you think that violent conflict between them is inevitable?

	4/11	CBS News 10/07
Can coexist.....	55%	43%
Conflict inevitable.....	44	49
Don't know/Refused	1	8

DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

Male	49%
Female.....	51

Age

18-29	22%
30-44	26
45-59	27
60+	25

Education

Less than high school.....	13%
High school	32
Some college.....	28
BA+.....	28

Race/Ethnicity

White, Non-Hispanic	69%
Black, Non-Hispanic.....	11
Other, Non-Hispanic	5
Hispanic	14
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic	1

Region (based on state of residence)

Northeast.....	19%
Midwest.....	21
South	37
West	23

D1. Who did you vote for President in the last election in 2008?

Barack Obama.....	37%
John McCain	30
Someone else	6
Did not vote.....	25
Don't know/Refused	2

D1a. Did you vote in the midterm Congressional elections in November 2010?

Yes	59%
No.....	40
Don't know/Refused	1

[ASK IF "YES" IN D1a]

D2a. Thinking about the vote for member of the US House of Representatives in your district, please select whether you

Voted for the Republican.....	46%
Voted for the Democrat	46
Voted for the candidate of another party	6
Don't know/Refused	2

D2. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a:

Republican	23%
Independent.....	25
Democrat.....	30
Other	2
No preference.....	19
Don't know/Refused	1

D3. How sympathetic are you to the Tea Party movement?

Very sympathetic	10%
Somewhat sympathetic	34
Somewhat unsympathetic	21
Very unsympathetic	29
Don't know/Refused	6

D4. Please select how often you get news and opinion from the following sources.

D4a. Newspapers and news magazines (in print or online)

Almost every day	33%
About 2-3 times a week	13
About once a week.....	15
Rarely	24
Never.....	14
Don't know/Refused	1

D4b. Public broadcasting (NPR or PBS)

Almost every day	13%
About 2-3 times a week	11
About once a week.....	13
Rarely	29
Never.....	31
Don't know/Refused	3

D4c. Network TV news broadcasts (For example: ABC, NBC, or CBS)

Almost every day	39%
About 2-3 times a week	19
About once a week.....	10
Rarely	18
Never.....	12
Don't know/Refused	2

D4d. CNN

Almost every day	13%
About 2-3 times a week	13
About once a week.....	15
Rarely	28
Never.....	29
Don't know/Refused	2

D4e. Fox News

Almost every day	21%
About 2-3 times a week	13
About once a week.....	12
Rarely	21
Never.....	30
Don't know/Refused	2

D4e. MSNBC

Almost every day	9%
About 2-3 times a week	11
About once a week.....	13
Rarely	27
Never.....	39
Don't know/Refused	2