



World Public Opinion on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

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THE PROGRAM ON INTERNATIONAL POLICY ATTITUDES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

WorldPublicOpinion.org (WPO) is an international collaborative project whose aim is to give voice to public opinion around the world on international issues. As the world becomes increasingly integrated, problems have become increasingly global, pointing to a greater need for understanding between nations and for elucidating global norms. With the growth of democracy in the world, public opinion has come to play a greater role in the foreign policy process. WorldPublicOpinion.org seeks to reveal the values and views of publics in specific nations around the world as well as global patterns of world public opinion.

The WorldPublicOpinion.org network is a consortium of research centers studying public opinion on international issues in their respective countries. At present the network consists of research centers in 22 countries across all of the major continents. The network includes countries that represent the majority of the world population. In some countries there are two centers—one that conducts the polling and another that emphasizes policy analysis. For more complete information about each center including contact information please see the list of Research Partners at the end of this study.

The Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) was established in 1992 with the purpose of giving public opinion a greater voice in international relations. PIPA conducts in-depth studies of public opinion that include polls, focus groups and interviews. It integrates its findings together with those of other organizations. It actively seeks the participation of members of the policy community in developing its polls so as to make them immediately relevant to the needs of policymakers. PIPA is a joint program of the Center on Policy Attitudes (COPA) and the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM).

WORLDPUBLICOPINION.ORG

International Poll: Most Publics—including Americans—Oppose Taking Sides in Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Israeli, Palestinian, American and Arab Leaders All Get Low Marks On Efforts to Resolve Conflict

Most Favor UN Playing Robust Role in Peace Enforcement

A new WorldPublicOpinion.org poll of 18 countries finds that in 14 of them people mostly say their government should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Just three countries favor taking the Palestinian side (Egypt, Iran, and Turkey) and one is divided (India). No country favors taking Israel's side, including the United States, where 71 percent favor taking neither side.

Asked to evaluate how well a number of key actors are doing their part to resolve the conflict, none of them get good grades, including Israel, the Palestinians, the United States, and the Arab countries. On average across all the countries polled, none of the actors receives good grades from more than 3 in 10. Interestingly, Americans are divided as to whether the United States is doing its part.

Publics in most countries favor the United Nations offering to play a robust role in support of a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Nearly all publics would favor the UN saying that, if the parties come to a peace agreement, the UN would send a peacekeeping force to enforce it. Most publics would also favor the UN offering to provide security guarantees to both Israel and the Arab countries should a peace agreement be reached.

“Publics around the world are not cheering for either side and want their governments to take an even-handed approach,” said Steven Kull, director of WorldPublicOpinion.org. “All of the key actors are seen as failing to do their part to break the impasse and most want the UN Security Council to step in and offer peacekeeping forces and even security guarantees to help resolve the conflict.”

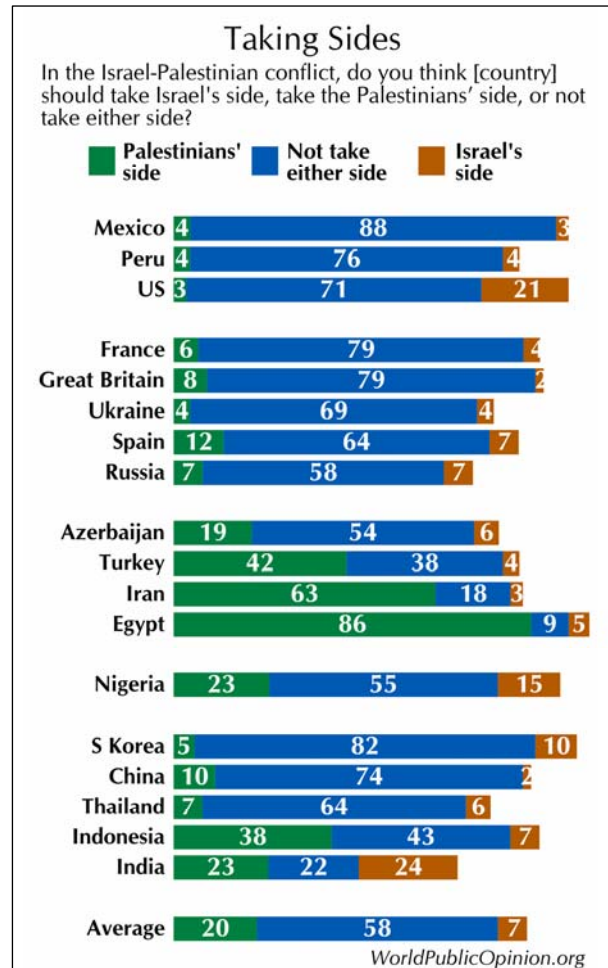
The poll of 18,792 respondents was conducted by WorldPublicOpinion.org, a collaborative research project involving research centers from around the world and managed by the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland. Interviews were conducted in 18 countries, including most of the largest nations –China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Russia—as well as Mexico, Peru, Britain, France, Spain, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Thailand and South Korea. Not all questions were asked in all countries. In addition, most of the questions were asked in the Palestinian Territories. The nations included represent 60 percent of the world population.

Publics Support Even-Handed Approach to Conflict

Asked how their country should approach the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, 14 out of 18 publics preferred taking neither side. On average, 58 percent say that their country should not take either side, while just 20 percent favor siding with the Palestinians and 7 percent say that their country should take Israel's side.

In eight of the countries this was a large majority—seven in 10 or more—including Mexicans (88%), South Koreans (82%), Britons (79%), the French (79%), Peruvians (76%), the Chinese (74%), Americans (71%), and Ukrainians (69%).

Only in a few predominantly Muslim countries do most favor taking the side of the Palestinians. Robust majorities take this position in Egypt (86%) and Iran (63%), as does a modest plurality in Turkey (42% Palestinians' side, 38% neither side). However two other predominantly Muslim countries primarily favor taking neither side—Azerbaijan (54%) and Indonesia (43%).



In no country does a majority favor taking Israel's side. The largest percentages favoring taking Israel's side are Indians (24%), Americans (21%), and Nigerians (15%).

Negative Reviews of Israel, Palestinians, US, Arab Countries, Quartet

World publics give low marks to all the various parties who play a major role in trying to resolve the conflict. Respondents were asked to evaluate how well each party is “doing its part,” in “the effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” In nearly all cases publics give poor grades to Israel, the Palestinians, the United States, or the Arab countries.

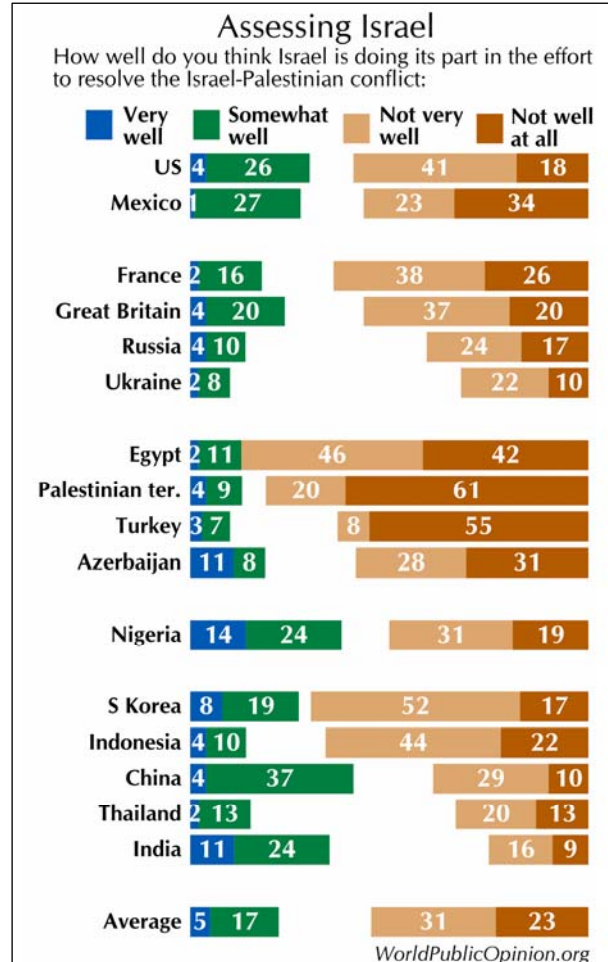
Israel

Israel receives the worst ratings, with most saying they are not doing their part very well in 13 out of 15 countries asked. On average, 54 percent say it is not doing its part well (31% not very, 23% not at all) while just 22 percent say it is (5% very, 17% somewhat).

Negative ratings of Israel are not confined to predominantly Muslim publics—the largest majorities saying Israel is not doing its part well include Egypt (88%), South Korea (69%), Indonesia (66%), France (64%), the United States (59%), Azerbaijan (59%), Mexico (57%), and Great Britain (57%).

Only in India do more say that Israel is doing its part than do not (35% to 25%), while the Chinese are divided (41% to 39%).

In addition, the Palestinians were asked to evaluate Israel (though they are not included in the averages). Not surprisingly, 81 percent say that Israel is not doing its part well (61%, not at all well). Just 13 percent say that it is (4% very well).



Palestinians

Ratings of the Palestinians are not much better than those of Israel. In ten out of 15 countries most say they are not doing their part well to resolve the conflict. An average of 47 percent says they are not doing their part well, while just 28 percent say they are.

The largest majorities critical of Palestinian efforts are Americans (75%), South Koreans (74%), the French (66%), Mexicans (61%) and British (57%). Pluralities in Turkey (42%) and Azerbaijan (50%) also rate the Palestinians' efforts poorly, as do pluralities of Russians (41%), Ukrainians (34%), and Thais (33%), though many decline to offer an opinion.

Palestinians receive the most positive ratings from Egyptians (63%) and Nigerians (46%), though a significant number of Nigerians is also critical (43%) making the overall public

divided. Pluralities in Indonesia (49%), China (40%), and India (34%) all say the Palestinians are doing their part at least somewhat well.

The Palestinians give themselves quite good ratings (again, they were excluded from the averages). Seventy-five percent say they are doing their part well (40%, very). However, 15 percent give them poor ratings (5%, not well at all).

United States

Asked to rate how well the United States is doing its part to resolve the conflict, 12 out of 15 nations say the United States is not doing its part well (excluding Americans but including Palestinians). On average, 59 percent rate US efforts poorly, while just 20 percent give positive ratings.

US efforts receive the most negative evaluations from Egyptians (86%), Mexicans (77%), the Palestinians (77%), the French (71%), South Koreans (70%), the Chinese (69%), and Turks (64%).

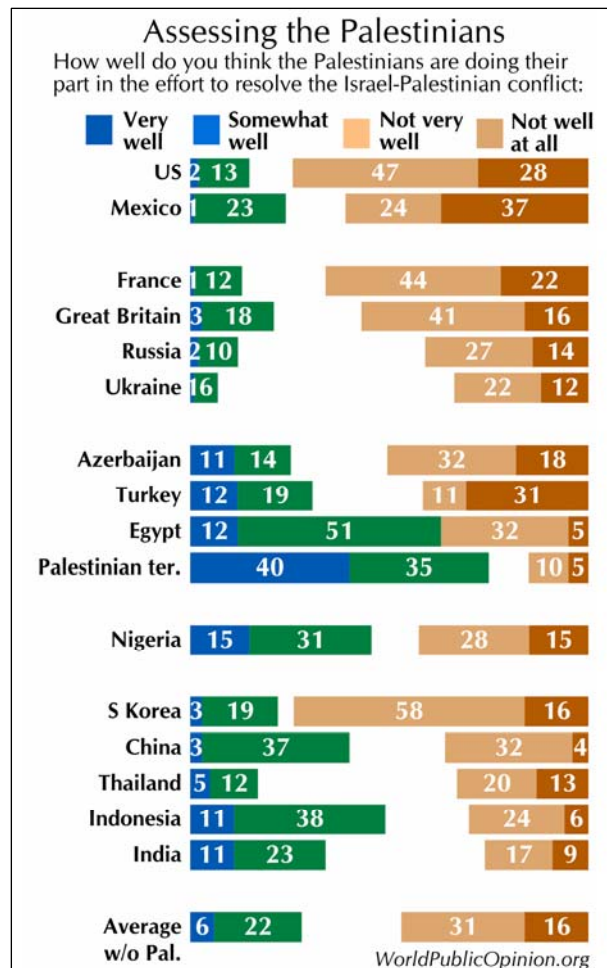
A majority of Nigerians (53%) says that the US is doing its part at least somewhat well. Indians are divided (33% well, 34% not well), as are Thais (27% well, 26% not well).

Interestingly, Americans themselves are divided. Only 44 percent say the United States is doing its part well (7%, very), while 46 percent say it is not (15%, not at all).

Arab Countries

Evaluations of the Arab countries are somewhat less negative than those of Israel or the US, with most in 11 out of 15 publics rating their efforts negatively (excluding the Egyptians). On average, a plurality among the nations polled (48%) says they are not doing their part well, while just 23 percent say they are.

Americans (78%) and South Koreans (76%) rate the Arab countries most negatively, followed by the French (69%). Majorities of the Palestinians (57%) and Turks (58%) also rate them negatively.



In just two countries a plurality gives a positive rating—Indonesia (50%) and China (40%). Two publics are divided: Nigeria and India.

The one Arab nation (other than the Palestinians) polled—Egypt—gives the Arab countries a positive evaluation. Seventy-one percent say the Arab countries are doing their part well (9%, very well), while just 29 percent say they are not.

The Quartet

The countries that are part of the “Quartet” were also polled on the performance of their country and of the European Union. The Quartet consists of the US, Russia, the UN, and the European Union.

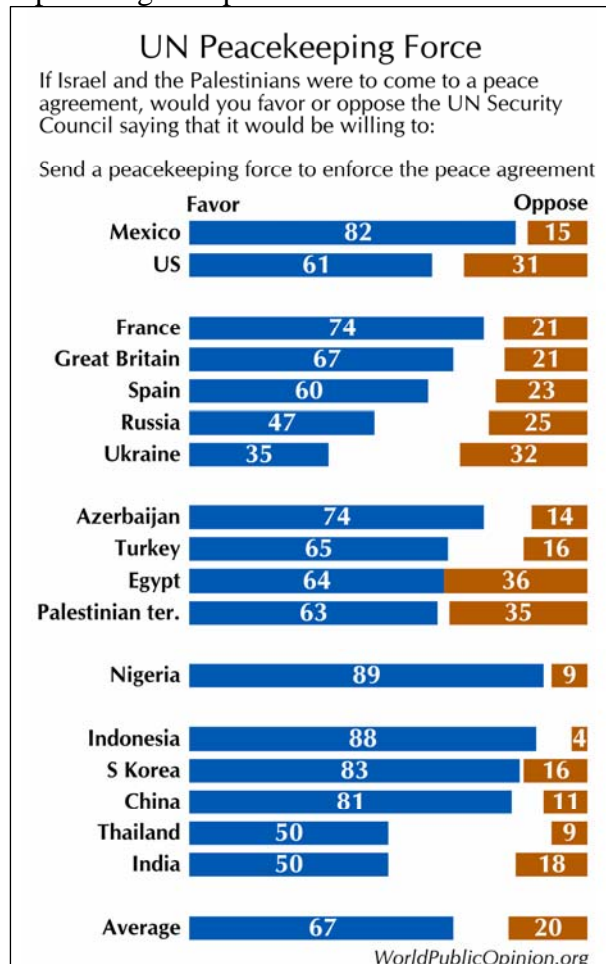
The European Union’s efforts were evaluated by France and Britain. The EU receives negative ratings from pluralities in both countries (France 48%, Britain 45%), and in both countries those giving positive ratings does not exceed one third (France 33%, Britain 31%).

The British also give their own country poor ratings. A plurality of 47 percent gives their government an unfavorable review while 33 percent give a positive review.

Russians are a bit more upbeat about their country’s performance. While many do not provide an answer, a plurality of 36 percent give a positive evaluation while 17 percent give a negative one.

Widespread Support for Robust UN Role

Overall, there is strong support for the United Nations playing a robust role in the effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Very large numbers favor the United Nations contributing a peacekeeping force to enforce a peace agreement and substantial numbers favor the UN Security Council offering to provide security guarantees to Israel and the Arab countries.



Enforcement of Peace Agreement

In 16 of 17 countries polled, majorities or pluralities favor the UN Security Council offering—if Israel and the Palestinians come to a peace agreement—to send a peacekeeping force to enforce the agreement. On average, 67 percent favor such an approach, while just 20 percent oppose the idea.

Among all of the permanent members of the UN Security Council publics are supportive. In four countries this is by a robust majority—China (81%), France (74%), Great Britain (67%), and the United States (61%). Only in Russia is support limited to a plurality (47%), though few are opposed (25%).

Palestinians are strongly in favor of such an idea (63%), as are those in other predominantly Muslim countries—Turkey (65%), and Egypt (64%).

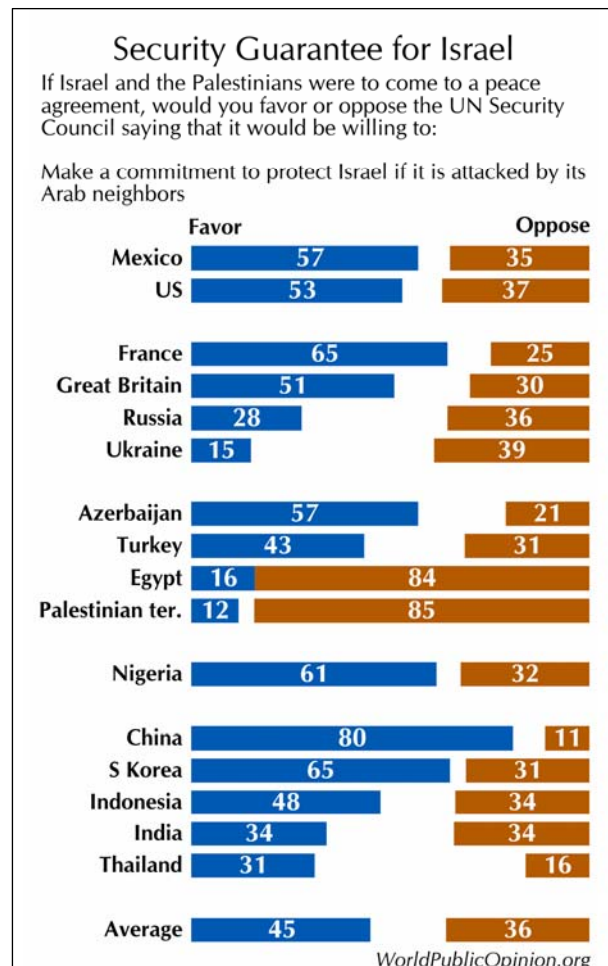
In addition, large majorities also favor this idea in Nigeria (89%), Indonesia (88%), South Korea (83%), Mexico (82%), and Azerbaijan (74%). Only Ukrainians are not in favor, but rather are divided (35% favor, 32% oppose) with a large number uncertain.

Providing Security Guarantees

Respondents were also asked about a much stronger possible commitment by the UN Security Council in the event of a peace agreement—committing to protect Israel if attacked by its Arab neighbors, and to protect Arab countries if attacked by Israel. Though such a commitment could prove costly, support was surprisingly high. Out of 16 nations, 11 favor such a UNSC commitment to protect Israel and 13 favor a commitment to protect Arab countries.

On average, 45 percent favor providing security guarantees to Israel (36% opposed), while 55 percent favor providing guarantees to Arab countries (24% opposed).

Ten countries favor the UN Security Council providing security guarantees to both Arab countries and Israel. This includes three of the permanent members of the Security Council. Very



large majorities are supportive in China (84% for Arab countries, 80% for Israel), with more modest majorities in France (61% for Arab countries, 65% for Israel) and Great Britain (54% for Arab countries, 51% for Israel).

Other countries include Mexico (66% for Arab countries, 57% for Israel), Nigeria (67% for Arab countries, 61% for Israel), Azerbaijan (63% for Arab countries, 57% for Israel), and Turkey (50% for Arab countries, 43% for Israel). South Koreans support both proposed commitments equally (63% for the Arab countries, 65% for Israel), Indonesia has a large majority favoring protection of the Arab countries (71%), while a much smaller plurality (48%) favors the UNSC protecting Israel as well. Pluralities in Thailand are also favorable, though many appear to have an unformed opinion on the issue (for Arab countries 32% favor, 14% oppose; for Israel 31% favor, 16% oppose).

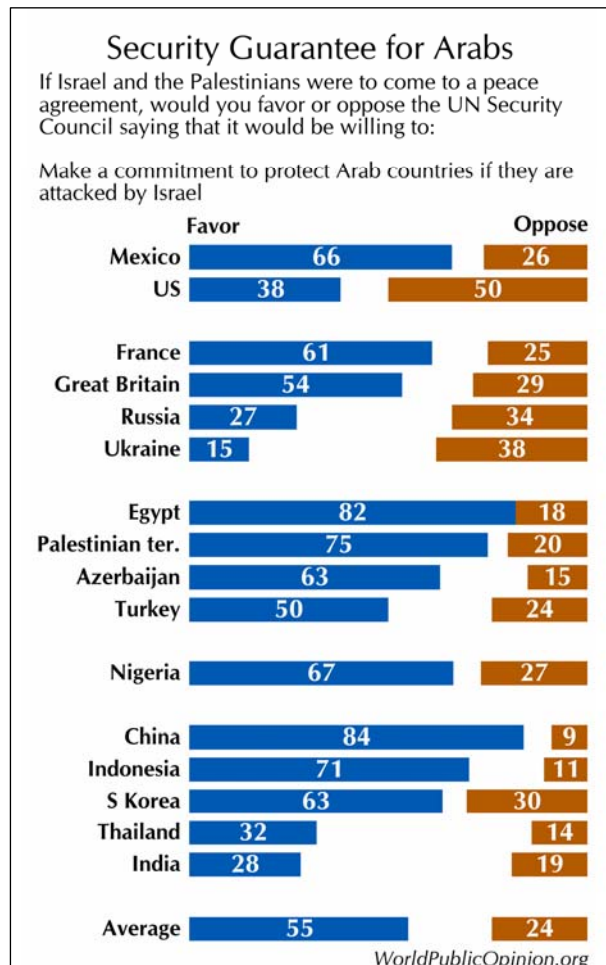
The other two permanent members of the UN Security Council—the United States and Russia—have less robust public support. A majority of Americans favor making a commitment to protect Israel (53% favor), but a plurality opposes protecting Arab countries (38% favor, 50% oppose).

Russians oppose protecting Israel from an attack by its Arab neighbors by a slight margin (36% oppose, 28% favor) while a similar number oppose protecting Israel (34% to 27%). But large numbers of Russians do not take a position.

Only two publics where a majority favors protection of Arab countries do not also favor protecting Israel: Egyptians (82% Arab countries, 16% Israel) and the Palestinians themselves (75% Arab countries, 12% Israel).

Among Indians, a plurality favors protecting Arab countries (28% favor, 19% oppose), but they are divided on whether Israel should also receive protection from the UNSC (34% favor, 34% oppose).

Ukrainians, like Russians, have pluralities opposed to protecting Israel (39% oppose, 15% favor) and Arab countries (38% to 15%), with large numbers undecided.



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY RESULTS:

AMERICAS:

MEXICO

[Reforma](#)

Mexicans have the largest majority of all nations polled saying that their country should not take either side in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While disapproving the performances of all the major actors, Mexicans' disapproval of the US performance showed the most intensity of all nations polled, with 63 percent saying it was performing "not well at all."

- Nine in ten (88%) say Mexico should not take sides in the conflict. Only 3 percent say Mexico should take Israel's side, and only 4 percent say it should take the Palestinians' side.
- About three in five Mexicans think none of the main actors in the conflict are doing their part well in the effort toward a resolution, but even more think this in regard to the United States. This view among Mexicans holds for Israel (57%), the Palestinians (61%), the Arab countries (55%), and especially the United States (77%).
- Clear majorities support the UN Security Council offering to take a strong role in an eventual peace agreement. Eighty-two percent would support an offer to send a peacekeeping force; 57 percent would support proposing a commitment to protect Israel if attacked by the Arab countries; and 66 percent would support such a commitment to Arab countries if attacked by Israel.

PERU

[Grupo de Opinión Pública](#), Universidad de Lima

Three in four Peruvians think their country should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this they responded similarly to people in Mexico, and in European countries such as France and Britain. (Peruvians were not asked the other questions in this study.)

- Seventy-six percent think Peru should not take either side in the conflict. Only 4 percent each would rather see Peru take Israel's side, or the Palestinians' side.

UNITED STATES

[Program on International Policy Attitudes](#) / [Knowledge Networks](#)

Seven in ten Americans think the US should take neither side in the conflict. However the number who thinks the US should take Israel's side is relatively high among the other nations polled—second only to India. Americans are divided over whether their own

nation is doing its part and six in ten think that Israel is not. Their ratings of Palestinian efforts, and Arab countries' efforts, are the lowest of all nations polled. Half oppose the Security Council offering to protect Arab countries in the event of a settlement—the highest resistance to the idea of any nation in the study.

- Seven in ten Americans (71%) think the United States should take neither side in the conflict. Twenty-one percent think the United States should take Israel's side and 3 percent think it should take the Palestinians' side.
- Three in five (59%) think Israel is not doing its part well in making efforts to resolve the conflict; 30 percent think it is. A larger 75 percent think the Palestinians are not doing their part well; only 15 percent think they are. Even more—78 percent—think the Arab countries are not doing their part well (12% think they are).
- Americans are sharply divided about the United States' own performance: 46 percent think it is not playing its part well (15%, “not well at all”), while 44 percent think it is doing so—though only 7 percent say “very well.”
- Americans support the idea of the UN Security Council offering a peacekeeping force in the event of an agreement, 61 to 31 percent. A modest majority supports offering a commitment to protect Israel (53 to 37%); but only four in ten support offering a commitment to Arab countries (38% favor, 50% oppose).

EUROPE:

FRANCE

[Efficiency 3](#)

Though the French are sometimes characterized as sympathetic to the Palestinians, a large majority opposes taking sides in the conflict. They are among the publics most in favor of the UN Security Council offering Israel a security guarantee in the event of a peace agreement.

- Four in five of the French (79%) say their nation should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Only 4 percent think France should take Israel's side and only 6 percent think it should take the Palestinians' side.
- Two thirds or more are critical of the performance of most of the major actors, with somewhat softer criticism for the European Union. Sixty-four percent think Israel is not doing its part well, with only 18 percent disagreeing. Sixty-six percent think the same about the Palestinians' performance (13% disagree); 69 percent think so about the Arab countries (10% disagree); and 71 percent think so about the United States (15% disagree). Asked the same question about the

European Union, 48 percent are critical but 33 percent think it was doing its part at least somewhat well (2%, “very well”).

- Large majorities support all three ideas for the UN Security Council taking a greater role. Seventy-four percent favor the idea of a peacekeeping force in the event of an agreement (21% oppose); 65 percent support a commitment to protect Israel if attacked by Arab countries (25% opposed); and 61 percent support an equivalent commitment to Arab countries (25% oppose).

GREAT BRITAIN

[Chatham House \(Royal Institute of International Affairs\)](#) / [GlobeScan](#)

The British are exceptionally even-handed in their criticism of all of the various main actors in efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They also show no favoritism in their willingness to support security guarantees for Israel on one hand and for the Arab countries on the other. A plurality is critical of how well Britain is doing its part in efforts toward a resolution.

- Four in five Britons (79%) say their nation should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Only 2 percent would take Israel’s side, and only 8 percent would take the Palestinians’ side.
- Britons show no favoritism in their low ratings of the various actors’ efforts in trying to resolve the conflict. Only 24 percent give Israel good marks, while 57 percent say it is not doing its part well; for the Palestinians, 21 percent give good marks, and again 57 percent say they are not doing their part well. Fifty-nine percent are likewise negative about the United States (22% positive), as are 51 percent about the Arab countries (23% positive).
- In addition, a 45 percent plurality gives the European Union low marks, though 31 percent disagree—and a similar 47 percent is critical of Britain’s own performance (33% disagree).
- Two thirds (67%) favor the idea of the UN Security Council offering a peacekeeping force in the event of an agreement. A bare majority of 51 percent favor the idea of committing to protect Israel (30% oppose), but this is about the same as the 54% who favor the equivalent commitment for Arab countries (29% oppose).

RUSSIA

[Levada Center](#)

Given the history of Russia’s role in the Middle East, the Russian public is strikingly even-handed in the Israel-Palestinian conflict and shows little sympathy for the Arab

countries. However Russians show some of the lowest levels of support for a United Nations role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

- A majority of Russians (58%) think that their nation should not take side in this conflict. Just 7 percent favor taking the Palestinians side: the same number that favors taking Israel's side.
- Russians give all of the main actors low marks on their efforts to resolve the conflict: none receive more than 14 percent approval. However, there are significant differences in the size of the percentages disapproving. This public is most critical of the United States, with a plurality (49%) saying they think it is not doing its part well. Pluralities also say that Israel (41%), the Palestinians (41%), and the Arab countries (37%) are not doing their part well.
- An unusually small plurality of Russians (47%) favor sending a UN peacekeeping force to enforce a possible Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement and pluralities oppose offering UN commitments to protect Israel (36% to 28%) or Arab countries (34% to 27%) from attack.

SPAIN

[Elcano Royal Institute](#)

Spain is among the nations with a clear majority preferring that their government not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Spanish public is also among the nations with a clear majority favoring sending a UN peacekeeping force to enforce a potential peace agreement between the two parties.

- A majority of Spaniards (64%) feel that their nation should not take a side in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Only 12 percent say that Spain should take the Palestinians' side while 7 percent say it should take Israel's side.
- Six in ten Spaniards (60%) support the United Nations Security Council taking a stronger role in the conflict by offering to send a peacekeeping force to enforce a potential peace agreement. Less than a quarter (23%) opposes this idea.

UKRAINE

[Kiev International Institute of Sociology](#)

Ukrainians stand out in giving very low levels of approval to all of the parties of the conflict and giving low levels of approval to a potential role for the United Nations.

- Just 6 percent of Ukrainians say Arab countries are doing their part well, 7 percent say both the United States and the Palestinians are doing their part well, and 10 percent feel this way about Israel.

- Ukrainians are skeptical about whether the United Nations Security Council should take a stronger role in the conflict. Pluralities oppose a proposed commitment to protect Israel if attacked by the Arab countries (39%) and vice versa (38%). On a proposed UN peacekeeping force to enforce an eventual peace agreement, Ukrainians are divided—35% in favor, 32% opposed.
- Nearly seven in ten Ukrainians (69%) feel that their nation should not take sides in the conflict. Only 4 percent feel that either Israel or the Palestinians' side should be taken.

MIDDLE EAST/EURASIA:

AZERBAIJAN

International Center for Social Research

Azerbaijanis express exceptionally high support for possible UN roles in working to mitigate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

- Majorities of Azerbaijanis favor all three proposed ideas for the United Nations Security Council to take a stronger role in this conflict. The strongest support (74%) is for a peacekeeping force to enforce an eventual peace agreement between the two parties. Sixty-three percent of Azerbaijanis favor a proposed a commitment to protect Arab countries if attacked by Israel, and 57 percent favor the reverse proposal.
- A majority of Azerbaijanis (54%) say that their nation should not take sides in this conflict. Two in ten in Azerbaijan (19%) say that their nation should take the Palestinians' side, while 6 percent say it should take Israel's.
- Majorities or pluralities of Azerbaijanis say each of the main actors is not doing their part well in trying to resolve the conflict. Majorities see Israel (59%) and the United States (58%) this way, while pluralities take the view that the Palestinians (50%) and Arab countries (49%) are not doing their part well. Nineteen to 25 percent of Azerbaijanis say that these actors are doing their part well.

EGYPT

Attitude Market Research

Out of all nations polled, Egypt is the only nation with an overwhelming majority favoring taking the Palestinians' side. After the Palestinians themselves, Egyptians have the strongest majority out of all nations polled giving the Palestinians good marks. Egyptians are the most negative about Israel—even more than the Palestinians. Besides

the Palestinians, Egyptians are the only public polled to have a majority opposing a UN commitment to protect Israel if it is attacked by its Arab neighbors.

- Eighty-six percent say that their nation should take the Palestinians' side, while only 9 percent say it should take neither side and 5 percent say it should take Israel's side. Egypt is 23 points higher than Iran (63%), the only other nation with a majority expressing this view.
- Similarly, a majority of Egyptians (63%) say that the Palestinians are doing their part well in attempting to resolve the conflict. This number is 8 points higher (71%) for the efforts of Arab countries—with Egypt likely being seen as part of this group. Still, a substantial minority of Egyptians (37%) say, rather, that the Palestinians are not doing their part well, and 29 percent say this about Arab countries. Almost nine in ten Egyptians (88%) say Israel is not doing its part well in resolving the conflict and are about equally critical of the United States (86%).
- At the same time, a majority of Egyptians does support two of the proposed ideas for the United Nations Security Council to take a stronger role in the conflict. If Israel and the Palestinians were to come to a peace agreement, a majority of Egyptians (64%) favor enforcing this agreement by a UN peacekeeping force. Not surprisingly, eight in ten Egyptians (82%) also support a commitment from the UN to protect Arab countries if they came under attack by Israel. However, the reverse scenario is rejected by roughly the same number of Egyptians: 84 percent oppose a UN commitment to protect Israel if attacked by the Arab countries.

IRAN

WorldPublicOpinion.org

Iran is one of two countries (along with Egypt) to have a majority saying that its government should take the Palestinians' side in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. (Iranians were not asked the other questions in this study.)

- A majority of Iranians (63%) favor their government taking the Palestinians' side in this conflict. Nearly two in ten (18%) prefer for their government to take neither side, and only 3 percent say it should take Israel's side.

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

[Palestinian Center for Public Opinion](http://PalestinianCenterforPublicOpinion.org)

A majority of Palestinians are critical of the efforts of their Arab neighbors and the United States, as well as Israel, in their efforts to resolve the conflict. While Palestinians would like the UN to play a greater role in other ways, they show the highest levels of opposition to a UN commitment to protect Israel if it is attacked by its Arab neighbors.

- Eight in ten Palestinians think that Israel is not doing its part well in trying to resolve the conflict, and 61 percent say “not well at all.” Palestinian opinion is only slightly less critical of the United States; more than three-quarters (77%) say that the US is not doing its part well, with a majority (55%) saying “not well at all.” Palestinians are also critical of the efforts of their Arab neighbors: a majority (57%) says that they are not doing their part well, while one-third (33%) says that they are. On the other hand, three-quarters of Palestinians (75%) say that their own nation is doing its part well in its attempts to resolve the conflict, and 40 percent say “very well.”
- Palestinians support the United Nations taking a stronger role in the conflict in two out of the three proposed ways. Sixty-three percent support an offer to send a peacekeeping force in the event of an agreement, with 35 percent opposed. Seventy-five percent would support the Security Council offering a commitment to protect Arab countries if attacked by Israel, while 20 percent oppose. However, 85 percent would oppose such a commitment to protect Israel if it were attacked by its Arab neighbors.

TURKEY

[ARI Foundation](#) / [Infakto Research Workshop](#)

Turks are unusual in that they are divided about whether to take the Palestinians’ side or neither side. Turks are also exceptionally negative about the efforts of Arab countries, the US, and Israel. A plurality is also critical of the Palestinians, and the percentage of Turks saying Palestinians are doing their part “not well at all” is second only to that of Americans.

- Turks are divided on whether their government should take either the Palestinian’s side (42%) or neither side (38%) in this conflict. Only 4 percent of Turks say Turkey should take Israel’s side.
- Turks give all the main actors low marks on how well they are doing their part to resolve the conflict. Turks are about equally critical of Israel as of the United States: 63 and 64 percent say that Israel and the US are not doing their part well, respectively, with 55 and 57 percent saying that Israel and the US are doing their part “not well at all.” A majority of Turks (58%) also say that the Arab countries are not doing their part well (not well at all: 49%). Positive views of the main actors are strongest for the Palestinians, but this is still only a 31 percent minority of Turks. Rather, 42% say the Palestinians are not doing their part well. Support for the other three actors’ efforts ranges from 8 to 12 percent.
- Turks show varying levels of support for different ideas that would give the UN Security Council a stronger role in resolving the conflict, but all ideas get at least plurality support. Two in three (65%) support the UN offering to send a peacekeeping force to enforce a potential peace agreement, and pluralities support

proposing a commitment to protect Israel if attacked by the Arab countries (43%) and the reciprocal commitment to Arab countries (50%).

AFRICA:

NIGERIA

Market Trends Research International

Nigerians are the only public with a majority saying the United States is doing its part well in trying to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; this number is even higher than American opinion. Nigerians have one of the largest numbers, though still a minority, approving Israel's efforts.

Of the three proposed ways the United Nations Security Council could take a stronger role in the conflict, Nigeria has the strongest majority out of all nations polled to favor sending a peacekeeping force to enforce a potential peace agreement.

- A majority of Nigerians (55%) thinks their nation should take neither side in this conflict. Nearly one quarter (23%) favors taking the Palestinians' side while 15 percent favor taking Israel's side.
- The largest percentage of Nigerians (53%) says that the United States is doing its part well in attempting to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; 38 percent think it is not. On the other hand, a plurality of Nigerians (50%) says that Israel is not doing its part well, while 38 percent say it is. Nigerians are divided about how well the Palestinians (46% well, 43% not well) and the Arab countries (45% well, 43% not well) are doing their part.
- Strong majorities support all three ideas for the UN Security Council taking a greater role. A robust majority of Nigerians (89%)—the largest number out of all 17 nations polled—supports the idea of the UN Security Council offering a peacekeeping force in the event of a peace agreement. Only 9 percent of Nigerians oppose this idea. There is also majority-level support among Nigerians for a Security Council commitment to protect Israel if it were attacked by its Arab neighbors, as well as the opposite scenario. Sixty-one percent favor protecting Israel, with roughly one third (32%) opposing, and 67 percent favor protecting Arab countries, with roughly one quarter (27%) opposing.

ASIA/PACIFIC:

CHINA

WorldPublicOpinion.org

The Chinese, though divided, have the largest percentage out of all nations polled saying that Israel is doing its part well in attempting to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Asked about ways the United Nations Security Council can take a stronger role in the conflict, Chinese are the public strongest in their support for a commitment to protect both Israel and Arab countries, if one attacked the other.

- A strong majority of Chinese (74%) says that their nation should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Just 10 percent say that China should take the Palestinians' side and only 2 percent say that it should take Israel's side.
- Seven in ten Chinese (69%) say that the United States is not doing its part well in trying to resolve the conflict, while these numbers are divided concerning Israel (41% well, 39% not well). Modest pluralities are positive about the Palestinians (40% well, 36% not well) and about Arab countries (40% well, 30% not well).
- The Chinese are equally strong in their support for all three ideas on how the UN Security Council could take a greater role in the conflict. Robust majorities favor the UN: sending a peacekeeping force to enforce a peace agreement by a margin of 81 to 11 percent; protecting Israel if it comes under attack by its Arab neighbors by a margin of 80 to 11 percent; and protecting Arab countries if they are attacked by Israel by a margin of 84 to 9 percent.

INDIA

[Team CVoter](#)

India has one of the largest percentages who think that the United States and Israel are doing their part well in trying to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Indians are one of the few publics who do not take the clear position that their government should not take sides in the conflict.

- Indians are divided about whose side their nation should take in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Twenty-four percent say India should take Israel's side, 23 percent say the Palestinian's side, and 22 percent say their nation should take neither side.
- Indian opinion is also divided about how well the two parties are doing their part in the effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: the United States (33% say well, and 34% say not well) and Arab countries (34% say well, and 31% say not well). Small pluralities of Indians say the two main actors, Israel (35%) and Palestine (34%), are doing their part well, while one quarter (25% and 26%, respectively) disagrees.
- Indians show modest support for the UN Security Council taking a greater role in the conflict. A plurality of Indians (50%) favors the idea of the UN Security Council offering a peacekeeping force to enforce a potential peace agreement

between the Israelis and the Palestinians. While more Indians support a UN Security Council commitment to protect Israel if it were to come under attack by Arab countries than if the scenario were reversed, they are still divided about the idea (34% favor, 34% oppose). Support for a Security Council commitment to protect Arab countries against an attack from Israel is quite low (28% favor, 19% oppose).

INDONESIA

[Synovate](#)

Indonesians have the greatest percentage thinking the Palestinians are doing their part well in trying to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (apart from the Palestinians themselves). Out of all nations polled, Indonesians also have the second highest percentage saying that Arab countries are doing their part well. Indonesians' exceptionally high support for the UN Security Council offering a peacekeeping force in the event of an agreement ranked second highest (after Nigeria).

- A plurality of Indonesians (43%) say that their nation should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while 38 percent say Indonesia should take the Palestinian side. Only 7 percent say that it should take Israel's side.
- Indonesians are critical of the efforts both the United States and Israel are taking to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and by similar margins. Sixty and 66 percent of Indonesians say the United States and Israel, respectively, are not doing their part well, as opposed to 20 and 14 percent who say they are. On the other hand, pluralities think both the Palestinians and Arab countries are doing their part well—by a margin of 49 to 30 percent in the case of the Palestinians, and 50 to 26 percent in the case of the Arab countries.
- Indonesians show strong support for UN involvement in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in two of the three cases proposed. First, nine in ten (88%) favor the idea of a UN peacekeeping force to enforce a potential peace agreement—only 4 percent oppose. Second, a large majority (71%) supports a commitment to protect Arab countries if attacked by Israel. Though support for an equivalent commitment to protect Israel is much lower, it is still a plurality; 48 percent favor this and 34 oppose.

SOUTH KOREA

[East Asia Institute](#)

South Koreans have the second largest majority saying that their nation should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While South Koreans are critical of all the main actors attempting to resolve the conflict, they are the second highest in expressing criticism of the Palestinians' efforts (after the United States).

- A robust majority (82%) of South Koreans—the second largest out of all 18 nations polled—says that their nation should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Ten percent of South Koreans say that their nation should take Israel’s side, and only 5 percent say that it should take the Palestinians’ side.
- By similar margins South Koreans are critical of all the major actors’ efforts to resolve the conflict. The largest number of South Koreans (76%) say Arab countries are not doing their part well, though they say the Palestinians (74%), the United States (70%), and Israel (69%) are not doing their part well either. Only 19 to 28 percent of South Koreans say that these actors are doing their part well.
- South Koreans show strong support for all three ideas for the UN Security Council taking a greater role in resolving the conflict. Eighty-three percent would support an offer to send a peacekeeping force; 65 percent would support proposing a commitment to protect Israel if attacked by the Arab countries; and 63 percent would support such a commitment to Arab countries if attacked by Israel.

THAILAND

[ABAC Poll Research Center, Assumption University](#)

Two in three Thais think that Thailand should not take either side in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While many did not give answers to other questions, pluralities are supportive of a greater UN Security Council role in trying to resolve the conflict, especially in offering to supply a peacekeeping force in the event of an agreement.

- A majority of Thais (64%) prefers that their government not take sides in this conflict. Only 6 percent think their nation should take Israel’s side and 7 percent think it should take the Palestinians’.
- A plurality of Thais (32-33%) think none of the main actors in the conflict are doing their part well in the effort toward a resolution, with the exception of the United States, about whom they are divided (27% say well, 26% not well).
- Thais show modest support for the UN Security Council taking a greater role in the conflict. Pluralities (31% and 32%) would support proposing commitments to protect Israel if it were attacked by the Arab countries, and vice versa. A stronger plurality of Thais (50%) would support a UN offer to send a peacekeeping force to enforce a potential peace agreement.

WORLDPUBLICOPINION.ORG

World Public Opinion on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

July 1, 2008

Q31-IP1: In the Israel-Palestinian conflict, do you think [Country] should take Israel's side, take the Palestinians' side, or not take either side?

	Take Israel's side	Take the Palestinians' side	Take neither side	DK / NS
Mexico	3	4	88	5
Peru	4	4	76	17
US	21	3	71	5
France	4	6	79	12
Great Britain	2	8	79	11
Russia	7	7	58	28
Spain*	7	12	64	17
Ukraine	4	4	69	23
Azerbaijan	6	19	54	22
Egypt	5	86	9	0
Iran	3	63	18	16
Turkey	4	42	38	17
Nigeria	15	23	55	7
China	2	10	74	14
India	24	23	22	32
Indonesia	7	38	43	12
South Korea	10	5	82	3
Thailand	6	7	64	24
Average	7	20	58	15

* Take neither side combines Spanish answers of "take neither side" plus "take both sides"

Q32-IP2: I would like to know how well you think various parties are doing their part in the effort to resolve the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Q32a-IP2a: How well do you think Israel is doing its part: very well, somewhat well, not very well, or not well at all?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Very / Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all	Not very / Not at all well	DK / NS
Mexico	1	27	28	23	34	57	16
US	4	26	30	41	18	59	11
France	2	16	18	38	26	64	18
Great Britain	4	20	24	37	20	57	20
Russia	4	10	14	24	17	41	46
Ukraine	2	8	10	22	10	32	58
Azerbaijan	11	8	19	28	31	59	23
Egypt	2	11	13	46	42	88	0
Turkey	3	7	10	8	55	63	27
Nigeria	14	24	38	31	19	50	12
China	4	37	41	29	10	39	20
India	11	24	35	16	9	25	40
Indonesia	4	10	14	44	22	66	20
South Korea	8	19	27	52	17	69	3
Thailand	2	13	15	20	13	33	51
Average	5	17	22	31	23	54	24
Palestinian ter.	4	9	13	20	61	81	6
Average w/ Palestinian ter.	5	17	22	30	25	55	23

Q32b-IP2b: What about the Palestinians?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Very / Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all	Not very / Not at all well	DK / NS
Mexico	1	23	24	24	37	61	15
US	2	13	15	47	28	75	11
France	1	12	13	44	22	66	21
Great Britain	3	18	21	41	16	57	22
Russia	2	10	12	27	14	41	47

Ukraine	1	6	7	22	12	34	60
Azerbaijan	11	14	25	32	18	50	24
Egypt	12	51	63	32	5	37	0
Turkey	12	19	31	11	31	42	28
Nigeria	15	31	46	28	15	43	12
China	3	37	40	32	4	36	24
India	11	23	34	17	9	26	40
Indonesia	11	38	49	24	6	30	21
South Korea	3	19	22	58	16	74	4
Thailand	5	12	17	20	13	33	50
Average	6	22	28	31	16	47	25
Palestinian ter.	40	35	75	10	5	15	10
Average w/Palestinian ter.	8	23	31	29	16	45	24

Q32c-IP2c: What about the US?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Very / Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all	Not very / Not at all well	DK / NS
Mexico	3	11	14	14	63	77	9
France	2	13	15	27	44	71	15
Great Britain	4	18	22	37	22	59	20
Russia	3	7	10	20	29	49	41
Ukraine	1	6	7	20	21	41	53
Azerbaijan	7	12	19	20	38	58	23
Egypt	3	13	16	43	43	86	0
Palestinian ter.	2	10	12	22	55	77	11
Turkey	2	6	8	7	57	64	27
Nigeria	23	30	53	21	17	38	10
China	2	13	15	43	26	69	16
India	9	24	33	20	14	34	33
Indonesia	3	17	20	41	19	60	20
South Korea	5	23	28	40	30	70	3
Thailand	10	17	27	15	11	26	46
Average	5	15	20	26	33	59	22
US	7	37	44	31	15	46	10

Average w/ US	5	14	19	26	34	60	21
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Q32d-IP2d: What about the Arab countries?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Very / Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all	Not very / Not at all well	DK / NS
Mexico	2	26	28	18	37	55	17
US	1	11	12	47	31	78	11
France	1	9	10	37	32	69	21
Great Britain	3	20	23	37	14	51	26
Russia	2	10	12	22	15	37	51
Ukraine	1	5	6	17	11	28	66
Azerbaijan	6	13	19	27	22	49	32
Palestinian ter.	4	29	33	34	23	57	10
Turkey	2	10	12	9	49	58	30
Nigeria	19	26	45	25	18	43	13
China	3	37	40	25	5	30	31
India	16	18	34	18	13	31	35
Indonesia	13	37	50	22	4	26	24
South Korea	2	17	19	59	17	76	5
Thailand	4	10	14	19	13	32	54
Average	5	18	23	28	20	48	28
Egypt	9	62	71	19	10	29	
Average w/Egypt	5	19	24	28	21	49	27

Q32e-IP2e: What about the European Union?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Very / Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all	Not very / Not at all well	DK / NS
France	2	31	33	32	16	48	19
Great Britain	6	25	31	33	12	45	25

Q32f-IP2f: What about [country]?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Very / Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all	Not very / Not at all well	DK / NS
Great Britain	7	26	33	35	12	47	19
Russia	10	26	36	10	7	17	47

Q33-IP3: Here are some things that the UN Security Council could offer to do if Israel and the Palestinians were to come to a peace agreement. Please say whether you favor or oppose the UN Security Council saying that it would be willing to:

Q33a-IP3a: Send a peacekeeping force to enforce the peace agreement

	Favor	Oppose	DK / NS
Mexico	82	15	3
US	61	31	8
France	74	21	5
Great Britain	67	21	13
Russia	47	25	29
Spain	60	23	17
Ukraine	35	32	33
Azerbaijan	74	14	12
Egypt	64	36	0
Palestinian ter.	63	35	3
Turkey	65	16	19
Nigeria	89	9	2
China	81	11	8
India	50	18	32
Indonesia	88	4	9
South Korea	83	16	1
Thailand	50	9	41
Average	67	20	14

Q33b-IP3b: Make a commitment to protect Israel if it is attacked by its Arab neighbors

	Favor	Oppose	DK / NS
Mexico	57	35	8
US	53	37	10
France	65	25	11
Great Britain	51	30	19
Russia	28	36	37
Ukraine	15	39	46
Azerbaijan	57	21	22
Egypt	16	84	0
Palestinian ter.	12	85	4
Turkey	43	31	25
Nigeria	61	32	6

China	80	11	8
India	34	34	32
Indonesia	48	34	19
South Korea	65	31	4
Thailand	31	16	53
Average	45	36	19

Q33c-IP3c: Make a commitment to protect Arab countries if they are attacked by Israel

	Favor	Oppose	DK / NS
Mexico	66	26	8
US	38	50	12
France	61	25	14
Great Britain	54	29	18
Russia	27	34	39
Ukraine	15	38	47
Azerbaijan	63	15	22
Egypt	82	18	
Palestinian ter.	75	20	5
Turkey	50	24	26
Nigeria	67	27	7
China	84	9	7
India	28	19	53
Indonesia	71	11	19
South Korea	63	30	6
Thailand	32	14	54
Average	55	24	21

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METHODOLOGY

Country	Sample Size (unweighted)	MoE (%)	Field dates	Survey methodology	Type of sample
Azerbaijan	602	4.1	Jan 13 – Feb 5, 2008	Face-to-face	National
China	1000	3.2	Jan 10-25, 2008	Telephone	Urban ¹
Egypt	600	4.1	Jan 17-27, 2008	Face-to-face	Urban ²
France	600	4.1	Feb 5-11, 2008	Telephone	National
Great Britain	800	3.5	Jan 29 – Feb 19, 2008	Telephone	National
India	1023	3.2	February 25-29, 2008	Face-to-face	National ³
Indonesia	811	3.5	Jan 19-29, 2008	Face-to-face	National ⁴
Iran	710	3.8	Jan 13 – Feb 9, 2008	Face-to-face	National
Mexico	850	3.4	Jan 25-27, 2008	Telephone	National ⁵
Nigeria	1000	3.2	February 7-18, 2008	Face-to-face	National ⁶
Palestinian territories	626	4.0	February 10-23, 2008	Face-to-face	National ⁷
Peru	597	4.1	March 15-16, 2008	Face-to-face	Urban ⁸
Russia	1600	3.5	Jan 18-22, 2008	Face-to-Face	National ⁹
South Korea	600	4.1	Feb 11-12, 2008	Telephone	National
Spain	600	4.1	Mar 26 – Apr 9, 2008	Telephone	National
Thailand	2699	1.9	Apr 21 – May 6, 2008	Face-to-face	National ¹⁰
Turkey	719	3.7	Jan 12-24, 2008	Face-to-face	National
Ukraine	2046	3.1	Feb 8-18, 2008	Face-to-face	National ¹¹

United States	1309	3.3	Jan 18-27, 2008	Internet	National ¹²
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¹ In China, the survey was a national probability sample of urban telephone households across China. A stratified PPS sample design was developed to sample 20 cities; urban households represent approximately 45 percent of the Chinese population.

² In Egypt, the survey was executed in the urban areas of Cairo, Alexandria, Giza, and Subra. These four urbanized areas represent 75 percent of Egypt's urban population, which is 42 percent of the national population.

³ In India, a face-to-face survey was conducted in urban and rural areas in 14 of the largest Indian states; these states comprise 77 percent of India's population. The sample is 60 percent urban, India's population is approximately 30 percent urban.

⁴ In Indonesia, a national probability sample was conducted in both urban and rural areas and covering approximately 87 percent of Indonesia's population.

⁵ In Mexico, a random telephone sample of adults who had landline telephones was conducted in all 31 states and the Federal District. Telephone penetration in Mexico is 55 percent.

⁶ In Nigeria, the sample was developed by selecting six states, one per geographic region, based upon their size and representativeness. Within each state, sampling points were selected by means of a multi-stage random sample which disproportionately sampled urban areas. The final sample is 75 percent urban; Nigeria is approximately 50 percent urban.

⁷ In the Palestinian Territories, a face-to-face national probability survey was conducted among the population of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

⁸ In Peru, the survey was executed in the metropolitan areas of Lima and Callao, representing 31 percent of the population.

⁹ In Russia, all items were half sampled; each item was answered by 800 respondents.

¹⁰ In Thailand, the survey was conducted in 10 provinces of the country including Bangkok, Samutprakarn, Chantaburi, Ratchaburi, Chiang Mai, Kampanget, Kornkean, Sakonnakorn, Chumporn, and Songkla.

¹¹ In the Ukraine, all items were half-sampled; each item was answered by at least 1,020 respondents.

¹² In the United States, the poll was an online survey drawn from a nationally representative sample of the Knowledge Networks online panel. This panel is probabilistically-based, selected from the population of US telephone households and subsequently provided with an Internet connection if needed. Items in the US survey were split sampled so that each item was answered by at least 940 respondents.