



America's Global Image in the Obama Era

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**WORLDPUBLICOPINION.ORG IS A PROJECT MANAGED BY
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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).

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WORLDPUBLICOPINION.ORG

Though Obama Viewed Positively, Still Much Criticism of US Foreign Policy: Global Poll

A new WorldPublicOpinion.org poll finds that around the world US foreign policy continues to receive heavy criticism on a variety of fronts, even though in 13 of 19 nations most people say they have confidence in President Obama to do the right thing in international affairs.

The US is criticized for coercing other nations with its superior power (15 of 19 nations), failing to abide by international law (17 of 19 nations), and for how it is dealing with climate change (11 of 18 nations). Overall, views are mixed on whether the US is playing a mainly positive or mainly negative role in the world.

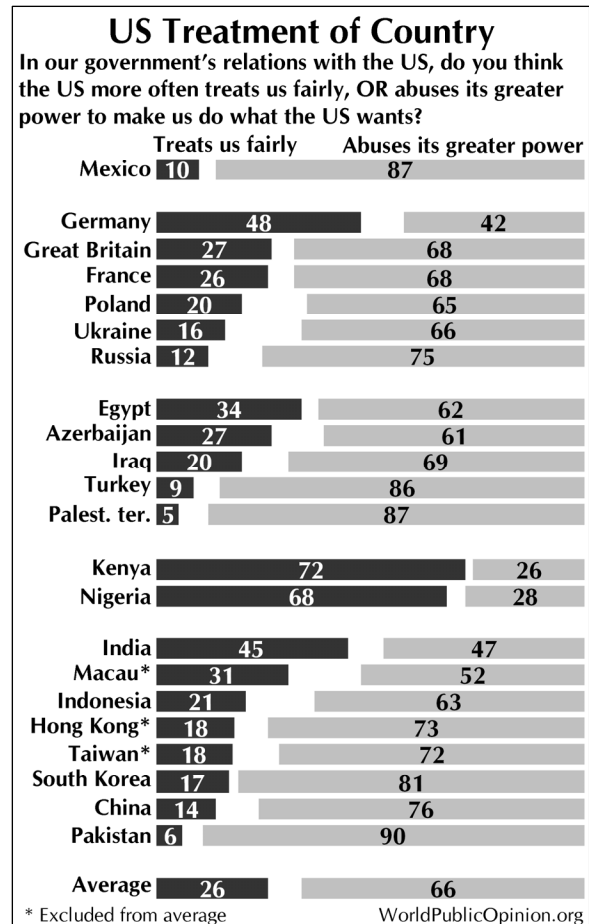
Asked whether they have confidence in Barack Obama to “do the right thing regarding world affairs,” for all nations (excluding the US) an average of 61 percent say they have some or a lot of confidence.

But asked how the US treats their government, few—on average just one in four—say it “treats us fairly,” while two-thirds say that it “abuses its greater power to make us do what the US wants.” Overall, these views are no better than they were in 2008. Only three countries diverged from this view (Kenya, Nigeria, and Germany).

In all nations polled, majorities say that the US “use(s) the threat of military force to gain advantages.” Majorities range from 61 percent in India and Poland to 92 percent in South Korea and include America’s close ally Great Britain (83%). On average, across all nations polled, 77 percent perceive the US as threatening. Even 71 percent of Americans agree.

Steven Kull, director of WorldPublicOpinion.org comments, “Most people around the world seem to have a positive view of the young new captain at the helm of the American ship of state, though many people see this huge ship as still carrying forward domineering policies.”

WorldPublicOpinion.org conducted the poll of



19,914 respondents in 20 nations that comprise 62 percent of the world's population. This includes most of the largest nations—China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Russia—as well as Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, France, Poland, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Kenya, Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, the Palestinian territories, and South Korea. Polling was also conducted in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau.

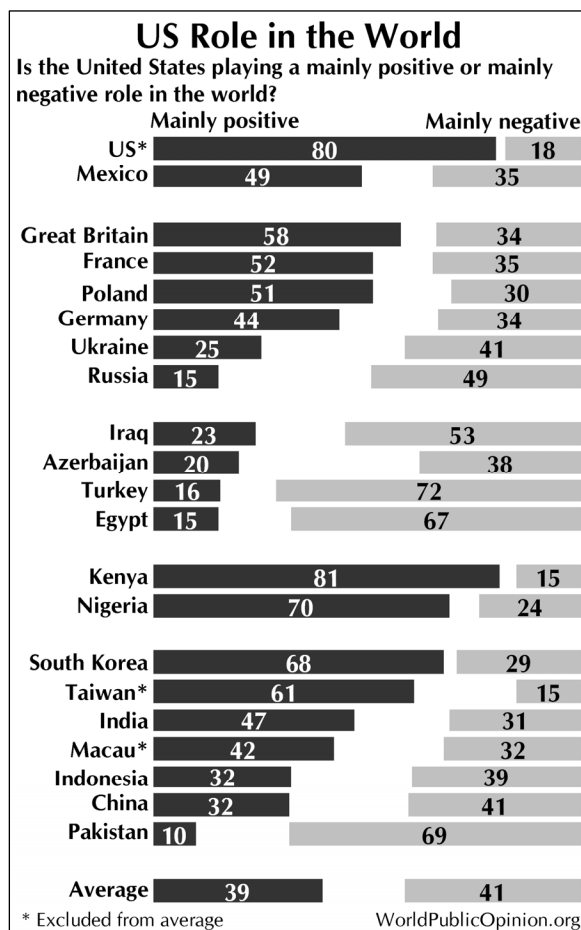
WorldPublicOpinion.org, a collaborative project involving research centers from around the world, is managed by the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland. The margins of error range from +/-3 to 4 percent. Not all questions were asked in all nations. The survey was conducted between April 4 and June 12, 2009, prior to Obama's speech in Cairo but subsequent to his Ankara speech. Funding for this research was provided by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Calvert Foundation.

Views of Obama are especially positive among Europeans including 92 percent of the British, 89 percent of the Germans, and 88 percent of the French. Even a majority of the Chinese concur (55%). The exceptions are majority-Muslim nations and Russia. Those saying they have not too much confidence or no confidence at all include majorities in the Palestinian territories (67%), Pakistan (62%), Egypt (60%), and Iraq (57%) as well as Russia (55%).

But on average, only one in four agrees that the US is “an important leader in promoting international laws and sets a good example by following them,” while two-thirds say “the US tries to promote international laws for other countries, but is hypocritical because it does not follow these rules itself.” Here too, overall, there has been no significant change from 2008. The most negative are France (79%) and Egypt (78%). Even in America's close ally Britain three-quarters say the US is hypocritical. Kenya and Nigeria are the only nations that give the US good grades (55% and 52% respectively) on complying with international law.

Americans, though, think the US has changed on this front. While in 2008 a majority of Americans (54%) agreed that the US was hypocritical, now 56 percent say the US sets a good example by following international law.

Climate change is another area where US policy comes in for criticism. Eleven out of 18 nations say that they disapprove of how the US is dealing with the issue. Europeans are



especially critical including majorities in Britain (65%), France (62%), and Germany (56%). Majority-Muslim nations are critical as well, especially Egypt (68%), Pakistan (62%), and Turkey (56%). However, Asians take a more positive view, led by South Korea (67%), Indonesia (56%), and India (53%)—though the Chinese lean to the negative (21% approve, 41% disapprove). Views again are most positive in Nigeria (79%) and Kenya (74%). On average 41% disapprove and 39% approve.

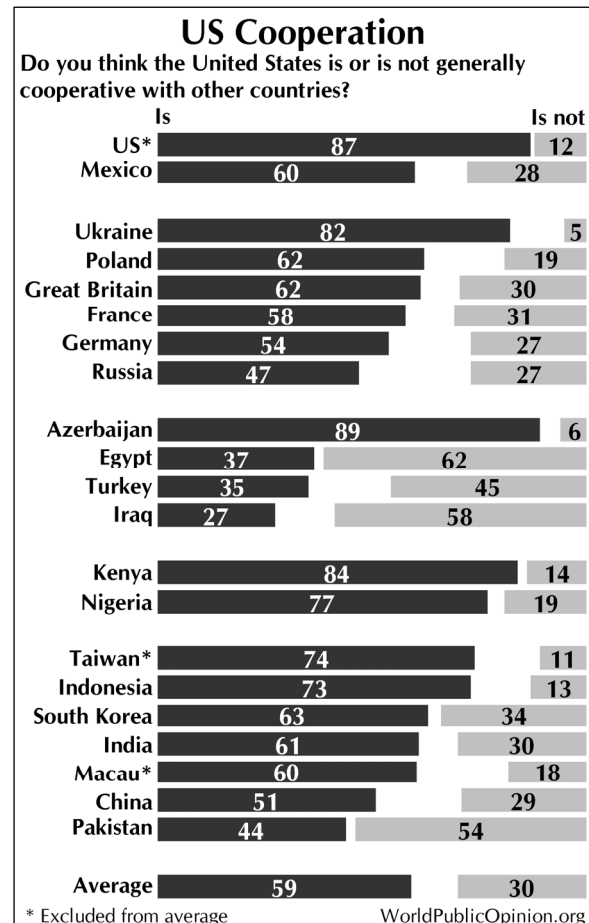
On two fronts the US scores fairly well. In all but four nations a majority or plurality says that the US is “generally cooperative with other countries.” On average 59 percent have this view, including 51 percent of Chinese and a plurality of Russians (47%). Those tending to say the US is not cooperative are all majority-Muslim nations: Egypt (62%), Iraq (58%), Pakistan (54%), and Turkey (45%).

In 12 out of 18 nations most people say the US is “generally respectful of human rights,” led by roughly eight in 10 in South Korea, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, and Kenya. On average 51 percent say the US is respectful while 38 percent say it is not. The exceptions are several majority-Muslim nations and Mexico. Germans are divided on this question.

Asked, overall, whether the US is “playing a mainly positive or mainly negative role in the world” views are mixed. Nine nations say that the US is playing a mainly positive role. This includes European allies that were quite critical of the US during the Bush years. Now a majority in France (52%) and Britain (58%), as well as a plurality in Germany (44% to 34%) say that the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world. Nearly half in Mexico (49%) also see the US playing a positive role. Large majorities of Kenyans (81%), Nigerian (70%) and South Koreans (68%) agree, as do Taiwanese (61%).

But nine nations say the US is playing a mainly negative role. Despite Obama’s speech in Ankara in early April, 72 percent of Turks say the US is playing a mainly negative role, as well as majorities in Pakistan (69%), Egypt (67%), Iraq (53%), and pluralities in Russia (49%), China (41%), Ukraine (41%), Indonesia (39%), and Azerbaijan (38%).

For more information, please visit www.worldpublicopinion.org.



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY RESULTS:

AMERICAS:

MEXICO

[Data OPM](#)

While Mexicans express confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs, they have one of the largest majorities that believes the US abuses its greater power to make them do what it wants and the second-largest majority that thinks the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.

- 61% say they have at least some confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs, while 36% say they lack confidence in Obama.
- A majority (61%) sees the US as disrespectful of human rights; however, 60% say that the US is generally cooperative with other countries.
- 87% say that the US abuses its greater power to make Mexico do what it wants (down slightly from 92% in 2008), rather than treating their country fairly (10%), and more than nine in 10 (91%) believe that the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- More than seven in 10 (73%) see the US as trying to promote international laws for other countries but also as hypocritical because it often does not follow these rules itself (down from 83% in 2008)—just 22% say that the US sets a good example by following them.
- A plurality of Mexicans (42%) disapprove of how the US is dealing with climate change, while 36% approve..
- Nearly half (49%) say that the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world whereas 35% see the US as playing a mainly negative role in the world.

UNITED STATES

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

While a majority of Americans express confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs and largely say that the US is playing a positive role in the world, Americans also share the global view that the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages. While in 2008 a majority said that the US is hypocritical because it does not abide by international law, now a majority sees the US as setting a good example by following international law.

- Seven in 10 (70%) of Americans say they have at least some confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs.
- A large majority (87%) sees the US as generally respectful of human rights and 87% think that the US is generally cooperative with other countries.
- More than seven in 10 Americans (71%) say that the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.

- 56% of Americans see the US as an important leader in promoting international laws and sets a good example following them, while 40% say the US promotes international laws but does not follow them itself. A reversal from 2008 when 54% said the US is hypocritical and 41% said the US sets a good example.
- Americans are divided (45% approve, 47% disapprove) on whether they approve of how the US is dealing with the issue of climate change.
- The majority of Americans (80%) believe that the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world.

EUROPE:

FRANCE

[Efficiency 3](#)

The French are among the largest majorities that express confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs and lean toward seeing the US playing a positive role in the world. However, they express some of the greatest disapproval for how the US handles climate change and have the largest majority that sees the US as hypocritical when it comes to following international laws.

- Nearly nine in 10 (88%) say they have at least some confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs.
- A slight majority (52%) sees the US as respectful of human rights, 58% believe the US is generally cooperative with other countries, and (52%) say that the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world.
- 68% say the US abuses its greater power to get France to do what it wants (down slightly from 75% in 2008), rather than treating their country fairly (26%) and more than seven in 10 (72%) believe the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- Nearly eight in 10 (79%) see the US as promoting international laws for other countries but also as hypocritical because it often neglects to apply the same rules to itself—just 15 percent say the US sets a good example by following them. This is nearly unchanged from 2008.
- A majority (62%) disapproves of how the US is handling climate change.

GERMANY

[Ri*Questa GmbH](#)

Germany has the third-largest majority expressing confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs and leans toward saying the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world. Germans are also now more inclined to think the US treats their country fairly rather than abusing its greater power. However, Germans are divided on whether the US is respectful of human rights and a majority says that the US is hypocritical when it comes to following international laws.

- Nearly nine in 10 (89%) of Germans say they have at least some confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs.
- German views are divided on whether US is as generally respectful of human rights (42%) or not (40%), while 54% think that the US is generally cooperative with other countries.
- Nearly half (48%) say that the US more often treats Germany fairly, while 42% say the US abuses its greater power to make Germany do what it wants. This is an improvement from 2008, when only 33% said that the US more often treats Germany fairly. However, two-thirds (66%) see the US as using the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- Two-thirds (67%) see the US as trying to promote international laws for other countries but also as hypocritical because it often does not follow these rules itself (down from 75% in 2008). Just 19% say the US sets a good example by following rules itself.
- A majority of Germans (56%) disapprove of how the US is dealing with the issue of climate change.
- A plurality (44%) of Germans think the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world, while 34% sees the US as playing a mainly negative role.

GREAT BRITAIN

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

Great Britain has the second-largest majority expressing confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs and the largest majority among European publics seeing the US playing a positive role in the world. However, they also have the largest majority among European nations that sees the US as using the threat of military force to gain advantages and the second-largest majority disapproving of US handling of climate change.

- Britons near-unanimously (92%) say they have confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs.
- Majorities see the US as generally respectful of human rights (62%) and generally cooperative with other countries (62%).
- 68% say the US abuses its greater power to make Great Britain do what it wants, while only 27% percent say the US treats Great Britain fairly. These numbers are relatively unchanged from 2008. A large majority (83%) also says the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- More than seven in 10 (74%) say that the US tries to promote international laws for other countries but is hypocritical because it often does not follow these rules itself—just 19% say the US sets a good example by following these rules. These views have remained stable compared to 2008.
- A majority (65%) of people in Great Britain disapprove of how the US is dealing with the issue of climate change.
- 58% of people in Great Britain think the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world, while 34% see the US as playing a negative role.

POLAND

[CBOS](#)

While a plurality of Poland says they have confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs, their views are more lukewarm than most other nations in the world and the region. Like most neighboring nations, Poles view the US as generally respectful of human rights and cooperative with other nations, but also say the US abuses its greater power to make them do what they want and uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.

- A plurality of Poles (47%) say they have confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs, while 38% say they do not have confidence in Obama.
- Two-thirds (66%) say the US is generally respectful of human rights and 62% view the US as generally cooperative with other countries.
- A majority of Poles (65%) say that the US abuses its greater power to make Poland do what the US wants, but this is down from 75% in 2008; however, a majority (61%) says the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- More than six in 10 (61%) believe the US tries to promote international laws for other countries, but is hypocritical because it often does not follow these rules itself—just 20% agree that the US is an important leader and sets a good example by following these rules.
- Poles are divided on whether or not they approve of how the US is dealing with the issue of climate change: 34% approve, while 32% disapprove.
- A slight majority of people in Poland (51%) see the US as playing a mainly positive role in the world, whereas 30% say the US is playing a mainly negative role.

RUSSIA

[Levada Center](#)

Russians are the only non-Muslim nation with a majority that lacks confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding global affairs. While they lean toward viewing the US as generally respectful of human rights and cooperative, these views are much less widespread than in other nations. A growing majority sees the US as abusing its greater power to make Russia do what it wants, while in most nations this view has remained stable from 2008.

- A majority of Russians (55%) lack confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs—only 23% say they have confidence in Obama.
- A plurality (41%) says that the US is generally respectful of human rights (29% say it is not) while 47% see the US as generally cooperative with other countries (27% do not).
- 75% of Russians see the US as abusing its greater power to make Russia do what it wants (up from 69% in 2008) and (78%) views the US as using the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- More than three in four (76%) say the US tries to promote international laws for other countries, but is hypocritical because it often does not follow those rules itself, which is consistent with Russian views from 2008.

- A plurality of Russians (31%) disapprove of how the US is dealing with the issue of climate change, while just 18% approve.
- Nearly half of Russians (49%) view the US as playing a mainly negative role in the world, with just 15% seeing the US playing a positive role.

UKRAINE

[Kiev International Institute of Sociology](#)

Of all nations that express confidence in Barack Obama, Ukrainian attitudes are the most lukewarm and more Ukrainians than not see the US playing a mainly negative role in the world. However, Ukrainians views that the US is respectful of human rights are just as widespread as in other European nations polled, and Ukrainians have the largest majority among European nations that sees the US as cooperative with other countries.

- Only 27% say they lack confidence in Obama, but only 35% express confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs; 38% decline to offer an opinion.
- 65% of Ukrainians see the US as being generally respectful of human rights and 82% view the US as generally cooperative with other countries.
- Nearly two-thirds of Ukrainians (66%) believe that the US abuses its greater power to make Ukraine do what it wants (consistent with views from 2008) and a large majority (80%) says the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- 62% see the US as hypocritical for trying to promote international laws for other countries but often failing to follow these rules itself (relatively unchanged from 2008), while just 17% see the US as a leader in setting an example by following these laws.
- A plurality of Ukrainians (34%) disagrees with how the US is dealing with climate change (just 23% approve).
- 41% of Ukrainians believe the US is playing a mainly negative role in the world, while 25% say the US is playing a positive role.

MIDDLE EAST/EURASIA

AZERBAIJAN

International Center for Social Research

Azerbaijan has the largest majority of any predominantly Muslim nation that expresses confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs. Azerbaijan also has the third-largest majority overall saying the US is generally respectful of human rights, and has the largest majority with the view that the US is generally cooperative with other countries. However, Azerbaijanis lean toward viewing the US role in the world as mainly negative and see it as using the threat of military force to gain advantages.

- More than three in four (76%) express confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs.

- 79% of Azerbaijanis say the US is generally respectful of human rights and a very large majority (89%) sees the US as generally cooperative with other countries.
- A majority (61%) believes the US abuses its greater power to make Azerbaijan do what the US wants (relatively unchanged from 2008) and 77% say the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- 73% of Azerbaijanis say that the US tries to promote international laws for other countries but is hypocritical because it often does not follow these rules itself, down slightly from views expressed in 2008 (78%).
- A plurality (43%) of Azerbaijanis approve of how the US is dealing with the issue of climate change, while just 22% disapprove of how the US is dealing with the issue.
- 38% of Azerbaijanis see the US playing a mainly negative role in the world, while 20% say the US is playing a positive role and significant numbers say it depends (30%) or is neither positive nor negative (10%).

EGYPT

Attitude Market Research

Egypt is one of the most negative countries toward the US. It has the third-largest majority that expresses little to no confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs, as well as the largest majority seeing the US as generally uncooperative with other countries and one of the largest majorities saying the US is disrespectful of human rights. Egyptians also have the largest majority disapproving of the way the US deals with climate change, the second-largest majority saying the US is hypocritical about following international laws, and the second-largest majority seeing the US as playing a mainly negative role in the world.

- 60% of Egyptians express little or no confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs—only 39 percent say they have confidence in Obama.
- Nearly seven in 10 (68%) Egyptians say that the US is not respectful of human rights and a majority (62%) sees the US as generally uncooperative with other countries.
- A majority of Egyptians (62%) say the US abuses its greater power to make Egypt do what the US wants (consistent with views from 2008), while 86% say the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- 78% of Egyptians express the view that the US tries to promote international laws for other countries, but is hypocritical because it often does not follow these rules itself (up from 68% in 2008).
- More than two-thirds (68%) disapprove of how the US is dealing with the issue of climate change.
- 67% of Egyptians see the US as playing a mainly negative role in the world—just 15% believe it plays a mainly positive role.

IRAQ

[Asharq Research Center](#)

Like most other predominantly Muslim nations, Iraqis lack confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs. Iraq also has the second-largest majority seeing the

US as generally uncooperative with other countries and is among the five nations with majorities saying the US is disrespectful of human rights.

- A majority of Iraqis (57%) do not express confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs—only 40% say they have confidence in Obama.
- 60% say the US is not generally respectful of human rights and 58% see the US as generally uncooperative with other countries.
- Nearly seven in 10 Iraqis (69%) express the view that the US abuses its greater power to make Iraq do what the US wants and 79% of Iraqis say the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- 68% of people in Iraq say the US tries to promote international laws for other countries but is hypocritical because it often does not follow these rules itself—only 20% say the US sets a good example by following these rules.
- A plurality of Iraqis (39%) disagree with how the US is dealing with the issue of climate change, while 32% say they approve of how the US is dealing with the issue.
- 53% of Iraqis says that the US is playing a mainly negative role in the world, with 23% seeing the US playing a mainly positive role.

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

[Palestinian Center for Public Opinion](#)

The Palestinians have the largest majority lacking confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs and are among the largest majorities that say the US abuses its greater power to get them to do what it wants. While a majority sees the US as hypocritical for promoting international laws but not following them itself, fewer hold this view than in the previous year and a significant number agree that the US does set a good example by following these laws.

- A majority of Palestinians (67%) say they have little or no confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs – only one-third (33%) express confidence.
- A large majority (87%) says the US abuses its greater power to get them to do what it wants.
- 61% see the US as promoting international laws for other countries but also as hypocritical because it often neglects to apply the same rules to itself (down from 72% in 2008) — though a significant minority (37 percent) say the US sets a good example by following international laws itself, up from 27% in 2008..

TURKEY

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

Turks have the large majority seeing the US having a negative role in world affairs, though they are divided on whether they have confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs. They are also the second-largest majority that sees the US as disrespectful of

human rights and are one of four nations where the predominant view is that the US is generally not cooperative with other countries.

- Turks are divided on whether they have confidence in Obama to do the right thing in world affairs: 45% say they have confidence, while 46% say they do not.
- A large majority (70%) sees the US as not respectful of human rights, while a plurality (45%) believes the US is generally not cooperative with other countries (35% do say the US is cooperative).
- 86% say the US abuses its greater power to get Turkey to do what it wants (unchanged from 2008), rather than treating their country fairly (9%) and 86% believe the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- More than three in four (76%) see the US as hypocritical for promoting international laws for other countries but neglecting to apply the same rules to itself (down slightly from 81% in 2008) — but just 12 percent say the US sets a good example by following them.
- A majority (56%) disapproves of how the US is handling the issue of climate change.
- A large majority (72%) says that the US is playing a mainly negative role in the world.

AFRICA

KENYA

[Research Path Associates Limited](#)

Overall Kenyans have some of the most favorable views of the US and US policy among all nations polled: they have the largest majority expressing confidence in Barack Obama, the most saying the US plays a mainly positive role in the world, the largest number saying the US is an important leader in international law, and the largest majority out of only three nations where the predominant view is that the US treats their country fairly.

- A near-unanimous majority of Kenyans (95%) say they have at least some confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs.
- A majority (78%) sees the US as respectful of human rights and a very large 84% believe the US is generally cooperative with other countries.
- More than seven in 10 (72%) believe that the US treats their country fairly, while just 26% say that the US abuses its greater power (this is unchanged from the previous year). However, two-thirds (66%) say that the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages, though 31% say that the US does not.
- 55% say the US sets a good example by promoting international laws for other countries as well as following them itself (up from 47% in 2008), while 43% see the US as hypocritical by not following the international laws it promotes.
- A large majority (74%) approves of how the US is handling climate change.
- More than eight in 10 (81%), say that the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world.

NIGERIA

Market Trends Research International

Nigerians are among the publics with the largest majorities showing confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs and they have the second-largest majority that sees the US playing a mainly positive role in the world. Nigeria also has the largest majority which approves of how the US is handling climate change and is one of the only nations where a majority says that the US is treating their country fairly as opposed to abusing its power.

- A large majority (85%) says they have confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs.
- A majority (79%) sees the US as respectful of human rights and 77% believe the US is generally cooperative with other countries.
- Nearly seven in 10 (68%) say that the US is treating their country fairly (28% saying that the US abuses its greater power) although two-thirds (66%) say the the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- A slight majority (52%) say the US sets a good example by promoting international laws for other countries as well as following them itself, while 44% see the US as hypocritical by not following the international laws it promotes.
- Nearly eight in 10 (79%) approve of how the US is handling climate change.
- A large majority (70%) says that the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world.

ASIA

CHINA

[Fudan Media and Public Opinion Research Center \(FMORC\), Fudan University](#)

A majority of Chinese express confidence in Barack Obama, although this view is less widespread than in most other nations polled. They lean toward seeing the US as respectful of human rights and generally cooperative with other countries, although again these views are less common than in other nations. Growing numbers see the US as abusing its power to get China to do what it wants and as hypocritical for not following international laws that it promotes.

- A slight majority (55%) says they have confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs (25% say they have little or no confidence).
- A plurality (45%) sees the US as respectful of human rights and a slight majority (51%) believes the US is generally cooperative with other countries.
- 76% say the US abuses its greater power to get China to do what it wants (up from 62% in 2008), rather than treating their country fairly (14%) and more than eight in 10 (84%) believe the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- A majority (75%) see the US as promoting international laws for other countries but also as hypocritical because it often neglects to apply the same rules to itself—just 12

- percent say the US sets a good example by following them. In 2008 64% said the US was hypocritical.
- A plurality (41%) disapproves of how the US is handling climate change, while 21% approve.
 - 41% say that the US is playing a mainly negative role in the world, while less than one-third (32%) believe it plays a mainly positive role.

HONG KONG

[Hong Kong University Public Opinion Programme](#)

People in Hong Kong express considerable confidence in Barack Obama and views are comparable to other publics in the region. However, Hong Kong also views the US as hypocritical in how it often neglects to follow international laws and see the US as abusing its greater power.

- A large majority in Hong Kong (80%) has confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs.
- Seven in 10 (73%) view the US as abusing its greater power to make Hong Kong do what the US wants, while 18% believe the US treats them fairly, consistent with views from 2008..
- 71% in Hong Kong view the US as hypocritical because it tries to promote international laws for other countries but often does not follow these rules itself, compared to just 19% that see the US as an important leader in promoting international law. These views are unchanged from the previous year.

INDIA

[Centre for Voting Opinion & Trends in Election Research \(CVoter\)](#)

While Indians widely express confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs, they only lean toward seeing the US as playing a positive role in the world. Like most nations polled, Indians see the US as respectful of human rights and cooperative with other countries. However, a growing number say the US is hypocritical for promoting international laws and not following them itself, and Indians are now divided on whether the US treats their country fairly or abuses its greater power.

- A majority (80%) says they have confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs.
- Half of Indians (50%) see the US as respectful of human rights and a majority (61%) believes the US is generally cooperative with other countries.
- Indians are divided over whether the US treats their country fairly (45%) or abuses its greater power to get India to do what it wants (47%, up from 32% in 2008), and a majority (61%) believes the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- A majority (62%) see the US as promoting international laws for other countries but also as hypocritical because it often neglects to apply the same rules to itself (up from 51% in 2008).

- A slight majority (53%) approves of how the US is handling climate change, while 35% disapprove.
- A plurality (47%) says that the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world, while 31% see its role as mainly negative.

INDONESIA

[Synovate](#)

A modest majority of Indonesians express confidence in Barack Obama; low compared to most other nations in the region, but high compare to other majority-Muslim nations. While a large majority of Indonesians see the US as cooperative with other countries, significantly fewer see it as respectful of human rights (though this is still the predominant view). Indonesians are one of five publics with a majority that approves of US handling of climate change.

- A majority (54%) says they have confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs, while 31% say they lack confidence in Obama.
- A plurality (48%) sees the US as respectful of human rights and a majority (73%) believes the US is generally cooperative with other countries.
- 63% say the US abuses its greater power to get Indonesia to do what it wants (up from 57% in 2008), rather than treating their country fairly (21%, up from 8%) and almost eight in 10 (79%) believe the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- Nearly two-thirds (66%) see the US as promoting international laws for other countries but also as hypocritical because it often neglects to apply the same rules to itself (up from 56% in 2008) – just 11% say the US sets a good example by following international laws.
- A majority (56%) approves of how the US is handling climate change.
- 39% says that the US is playing a mainly negative role in the world, while 32% see it playing a positive role.

MACAU

[University of Macau](#)

Macau expresses confidence in Barack Obama on similar levels as other publics in the region, and while a majority still sees the US abusing its greater power, this view has decreased somewhat over the previous year. While people in Macau lean toward viewing the US role in the world as mainly positive, a majority still sees the US as hypocritical in promoting international laws but failing to follow them.

- Eight in 10 (80%) people in Macau have at least some confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs.
- Nearly half (49%) view the US as generally respectful of human rights and 60% see the US as generally cooperative with other countries.

- A modest majority (52%) says the US abuses its greater power to make Macau do what the US wants (down from 73% in 2008) rather than treating them fairly (31%), while 76% say the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- Six in 10 (63%) view the US as hypocritical because it tries to promote international laws for other countries but often does not follow those rules itself, compared to just 22% that see the US an important leader in international law.
- Views about how the US is handling climate change are divided: 32% approve of how the US deals with the issue, while 34% disapprove.
- A plurality (42%) of people in Macau sees the US as playing a mainly positive role in the world, while less than one-third (32%) see the US as mainly negative.

PAKISTAN

SEDCO

Pakistan is extremely negative toward the US. It has the second-largest majority expressing little or no confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs, the largest majority saying the US is not respectful of human rights, and one of the largest majorities expressing the view that the US is generally uncooperative with other countries. Pakistan also has the largest majority holding the view that the US abuses its power regarding to make Pakistan do what it wants and the largest majority saying the US plays a mainly negative role in the world.

- 62% of Pakistanis say they have little or no confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs—just 30 percent say they have confidence in Obama.
- Nearly eight in 10 (79%) of Pakistanis say the US is not respectful of human rights and 54% see the US as being generally uncooperative with other countries.
- Most Pakistanis (90%) express the view that the US abuses its greater power to make Pakistan do what it wants, while 84% of Pakistanis say the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- 66% of Pakistanis say the US tries to promote international laws for other countries but is hypocritical because it often does not follow these rules itself—just 28% say the US has been an important leader in international law and sets a good example.
- More than six in 10 (62%) disapprove of how the US is dealing with the issue of climate change.
- 69% of Pakistanis see the US as playing a mainly negative role in the world, while just 10% believe the US plays a mainly positive role.

SOUTH KOREA

[East Asia Institute](#)

South Koreans have the largest numbers among Asian publics expressing confidence in Barack Obama and see the US as playing a positive role in the world. South Korea also has the largest majority that sees the US as respectful of human rights out of all nations polled. However, they also have the largest majority that sees the US as using the threat of military

force to gain advantages and a very large number believes the US abuses its greater power to get what it wants.

- Nearly nine in 10 (88%) say they have confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing in world affairs.
- A very large majority (82%) sees the US as respectful of human rights and 63% believe the US is generally cooperative with other countries.
- 81% say the US abuses its greater power to get South Korea to do what it wants, rather than treating their country fairly (17%), and more than nine in 10 (92%) believe the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- A majority (75%) sees the US as hypocritical for promoting international laws for other countries but often neglecting to apply the same rules to itself (up significantly from 64% in 2008).
- Two-thirds (67%) approve of how the US is handling climate change.
- A majority (68%) says that the US is playing a mainly positive role in the world.

TAIWAN

[TVBS](#)

Taiwanese see the US somewhat more positively than most other publics in Asia, with some of the largest majorities that see the US as respectful of human rights and generally cooperative with other countries, as well as expressing widespread confidence in Barack Obama. However, like other publics in the region the Taiwanese also see the US as abusing its greater power and using the threat of military force.

- A large majority (81%) of Taiwanese have confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing regarding world affairs.
- More than eight in 10 (82%) say the US is generally respectful of human rights and a majority (74%) says the US is generally cooperative with other countries.
- 72% of people in Taiwan express the view that the US abuses its greater power to make Taiwan do what the US wants (nearly unchanged from 2008), while 76% of Taiwanese say the US uses the threat of military force to gain advantages.
- A majority of Taiwanese (57%) express the view that the US tries to promote international laws for other countries but is hypocritical because it often does not follow these rules itself, while 28% see the US as setting a good example by following international law, with views remaining stable from 2008.
- Nearly half (49%) approves of how the US is dealing with climate change—21% disapprove.
- 61% of Taiwanese express positive views about the US role in the world.

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World Public Opinion on US Foreign Policy and Barack Obama

July 7, 2009

*Publics marked with an * excluded from the average for that question.*

Q1-CE1b. Please tell me if you think...the United States...is playing a mainly positive or mainly negative role in the world.

	Mainly positive	Mainly negative	Depends (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	DK/NR
Mexico	49	35	9	4	4
US*	80	18	0	0	2
Britain	58	34	3	3	2
France	52	35	7	4	3
Germany	44	34	6	15	2
Poland	51	30	11	2	5
Russia	15	49	25	2	9
Ukraine	25	41	16	5	12
Azerbaijan	20	38	30	10	3
Egypt	15	67	17	0	0
Iraq	23	53	12	3	8
Turkey	16	72	5	1	7
Kenya	81	15	2	1	1
Nigeria	70	24	4	1	2
China	32	41	11	4	13
Macau*	42	32	6	8	12
Taiwan*	61	15	5	7	12
India	47	31	11	6	5
Indonesia	32	39	10	1	17
Pakistan	10	69	10	10	2
S Korea	68	29	2	1	0
Average	39	41	11	4	5

Q2-CE2b. Please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how...the United States...is dealing with the issue of climate change?

	Approve	Disapprove	DK/NR
Mexico	36	42	22
US*	45	47	8
Britain	26	65	9
France	27	62	12
Germany	25	56	18
Poland	34	32	34
Russia	18	31	51
Ukraine	23	34	43
Azerbaijan	43	22	35
Egypt	31	68	1
Iraq	32	39	30
Turkey	18	56	26
Kenya	74	22	4
Nigeria	79	16	5
China	21	41	38
Macau*	32	34	34
Taiwan*	49	21	30
India	53	35	12
Indonesia	56	27	16
Pakistan	35	62	3
S Korea	67	30	3
Average	39	41	20

Q3-CE3b. Please tell me if you think...the United States...is or is not generally respectful of human rights.

	Is	Is not	DK/NR
Mexico	31	61	8
US*	87	13	1
Britain	62	31	8
France	52	37	11
Germany	42	40	17
Poland	66	19	15
Russia	41	29	30
Ukraine	65	12	23
Azerbaijan	79	14	8
Egypt	30	68	2
Iraq	30	60	10
Turkey	18	70	12
Kenya	78	20	2
Nigeria	79	18	3
China	45	31	25
Macau*	49	25	26
Taiwan*	82	8	10
India	50	39	11
Indonesia	48	39	13
Pakistan	18	79	3
S Korea	82	16	2
Average	51	38	11

Q4-CE4b. Please tell me if you think...the United States...is or is not generally cooperative with other countries.

	Is	Is not	DK/NR
Mexico	60	28	12
US*	87	12	1
Britain	62	30	9
France	58	31	11
Germany	54	27	19
Poland	62	19	19
Russia	47	27	26
Ukraine	82	5	13
Azerbaijan	89	6	5
Egypt	37	62	2
Iraq	27	58	16
Turkey	35	45	19
Kenya	84	14	2
Nigeria	77	19	4
China	51	29	20
Macau*	60	18	21
Taiwan*	74	11	15
India	61	30	9
Indonesia	73	13	14
Pakistan	44	54	2
S Korea	63	34	3
Average	59	30	11

Q5-CE5b. Please tell me if you think...the United States...does or does not use the threat of military force to gain advantages.

	Does	Does not	DK/NR
Mexico	91	6	3
US*	71	26	2
Britain	83	12	5
France	72	22	7
Germany	66	19	15
Poland	61	25	14
Russia	78	7	15
Ukraine	80	6	14
Azerbaijan	77	14	9
Egypt	86	12	3
Iraq	79	14	7
Turkey	86	8	6
Kenya	66	31	3
Nigeria	66	27	7
China	84	4	13
Macau*	76	11	14
Taiwan*	76	15	9
India	61	28	11
Indonesia	79	5	16
Pakistan	84	14	2
S Korea	92	7	1
Average	77	15	8

Q6-CE6a. Now I am going to read a list of political leaders from around the world. Tell me how much confidence you have in each leader to do the right thing regarding world affairs—a lot of confidence, some confidence, Not too much confidence, or no confidence at all.

US President Barack Obama 2009; US President George W. Bush (2008)

	A lot of confidence		Some confidence		Not too much confidence		No confidence at all		Depends / DK (vol.)	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Mexico	24	4	37	12	23	29	13	54	4	2
US*	38	13	32	29	16	24	13	32	1	2
Britain	47	4	46	14	4	29	2	48	2	4
France	21	1	67	10	8	22	2	63	3	4
Germany	47	-	42	-	8	-	2	-	2	-
Poland	9	-	38	-	21	-	17	-	16	-
Russia	2	2	21	12	36	30	19	36	23	19
Ukraine	10	3	25	11	21	24	6	36	38	26
Azerbaijan	30	20	46	22	18	26	4	23	3	9
Egypt	4	0	35	8	34	24	26	68	0	0
Iraq	18	-	22	-	25	-	32	-	4	-
Palest. ter.	2	1	31	2	45	16	22	79	0	1
Turkey	8	3	37	4	16	6	30	77	8	8
Kenya	76	-	19	-	3	-	1	-	1	-
Nigeria	59	31	26	29	9	14	4	21	1	4
China	10	8	45	33	19	34	6	11	20	15
Hong Kong*	28	-	61	-	9	-	1	-	2	-
Macau*	46	-	34	-	9	-	5	-	5	-
Taiwan*	22	-	59	-	10	-	1	-	8	-
India	46	17	34	28	9	18	5	16	5	21
Indonesia	11	9	43	19	29	38	2	19	15	16
Pakistan	11	-	19	-	21	-	41	-	8	-
S Korea	21	4	67	26	11	51	1	18	1	2
Average	24	7	38	16	18	25	12	43	8	10

Q7-US1. Which of these two views is closer to yours?

	A. The US tries to promote international laws for other countries, but is hypocritical because it often does not follow these rules itself.		B. The US has been an important leader in promoting international laws, and sets a good example by following them.		DK / NS	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Mexico	73	83	22	13	5	5
US*	40	54	56	41	4	5
Britain	74	72	19	18	8	10
France	79	83	15	14	6	3
Germany	67	75	19	19	13	7
Poland	61	-	20	-	19	-
Russia	76	76	13	10	12	15
Ukraine	62	65	17	11	22	24
Azerbaijan	73	78	18	15	9	8
Egypt	78	68	21	29	2	4
Iraq	68	-	20	-	12	-
Palest. ter.	61	72	37	27	2	2
Turkey	76	81	12	6	12	13
Kenya	43	51	55	47	2	3
Nigeria	44	43	52	49	4	8
China	75	64	12	12	14	24
Hong Kong*	71	73	19	18	10	9
Macau*	63	67	22	16	15	17
Taiwan*	57	57	28	25	16	18
India	62	51	31	28	7	21
Indonesia	66	56	11	15	23	29
Pakistan	66	-	28	-	5	-
S Korea	75	76	23	18	2	6
Thailand	-	29	-	18	-	54
Average	67	66	23	20	9	14
Trend average	68	68	23	21	9	11

Q8-US2. In our government's relations with the US, do you think the US more often treats us fairly, OR abuses its greater power to make us do what the US wants?

	Treats us fairly		Abuses its greater power		DK / NS	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Argentina	-	10	-	83	-	7
Mexico	10	5	87	92	4	3
Britain	27	23	68	70	5	7
France	26	23	68	75	6	3
Germany	48	33	42	61	10	7
Italy	-	31	-	62	-	8
Poland	20	9	65	75	15	17
Russia	12	19	75	69	13	12
Ukraine	16	12	66	66	18	22
Azerbaijan	27	26	61	63	12	11
Egypt	34	30	62	66	4	4
Iraq	20	-	69	-	11	-
Palest. ter.	5	6	87	91	7	3
Turkey	9	8	86	87	6	5
Kenya	72	72	26	26	2	2
Nigeria	68	66	28	26	4	8
China	14	17	76	62	10	22
Hong Kong*	18	18	73	74	8	8
Macau*	31	14	52	73	17	13
Taiwan*	18	16	72	73	11	11
India	45	45	47	32	8	23
Indonesia	21	8	63	57	16	35
Pakistan	6	-	90	-	5	-
S Korea	17	17	81	80	2	3
Thailand	-	24	-	33	-	43
Average	26	24	66	64	8	12
Trend average	28	25	64	65	8	11

Publics marked with an * excluded from the average for that question.

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METHODOLOGY

Country	Sample Size (unweighted)	MoE (%)	Field dates	Survey methodology	Type of sample
Azerbaijan	600	4.1	May 26 – Jun 5, 2009	Face-to-face	National
China	1006	3.2	May 14-21, 2009	Telephone	National ¹
<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>1018</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>May 18 – Jun 3, 2009</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Representative of Hong Kong</i>
<i>Macau</i>	<i>1357 685</i>	<i>2.7 3.8</i>	<i>May 18-28, 2009</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Representative of Macau</i>
<i>Taiwan</i>	<i>808</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>May 13-26, 2009</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Representative of Taiwan</i>
Egypt	600	4.1	Apr 25 – May 12, 2009	Face-to-face	Urban ²
France	600	4.1	May 25-29, 2009	Telephone	National
Germany	1008	3.2	Apr 29 – May 14, 2009	Telephone	National
Great Britain	600	4.1	May 13 – Jun 4, 2009	Telephone	National
India	1049	3.1	June 4-6, 2009	Face-to-face	National ³
Indonesia	712	3.7	May 12-21, 2009	Face-to-face	National ⁴
Iraq	1235	2.8	Apr 29 – May 15, 2009	Face-to-face	National ⁵
Kenya	1000	3.2	May 7-14, 2009	Face-to-face	National
Mexico	816	3.5	May 23 – Jun 12, 2009	Telephone	National ⁶
Nigeria	1000	3.2	May 31 – Jun 6, 2009	Face-to-face	National ⁷
Pakistan	1000	3.2	May 17-28, 2009	Face-to-face	National
Palestinian territories	500	4.5	May 20 – Jun 1, 2009	Face-to-face	National ⁸

Poland	1078	3.0	May 7-13 and	Face-to-face	National
Russia	800	3.5	May 22-26, 2009	Face-to-Face	National
South Korea	600	4.1	May 6, 2009	Telephone	National
Turkey	720	3.7	May 13-23, 2009	Face-to-face	National
Ukraine	989 1007	3.2 3.2	April 4-12, 2009 May 21-31, 2009	Face-to-face	National
United States	805	3.5	May 27 – Jun 4, 2009	Internet	National ⁹

¹ In China, the survey was a probability sample of urban and rural households with land-line telephones in the provinces of Anhui, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Hubei, Jiangsu, Shanxi, Shanghai, Sichuan, and Yunnan—representing approximately 60 percent of the mainland Chinese population. The sample was 40 percent rural, 60 percent urban (rural households make up approximately 55 percent of the 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 Iraq, the survey was a national sample conducted across all 18 Iraqi provinces.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

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