

THE MARTTILA COMMUNICATIONS GROUP



AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST

AN ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE SURVEY

1200 NATIONAL INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED DECEMBER 1-4, 2003

Two demographically representative split samples of 600 interviews



METHODOLOGY

Over the past ten years, the Marttila Communications Group -- a Boston-based public opinion research firm -- has conducted numerous national surveys (1992, 1998, 2002, and 2003) for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to study the American attitudes toward the Middle East, and measure and monitor levels of anti-Semitism in the United States.

In this latest survey 1,200 Americans age 18 and older were interviewed on the evenings of December 1-4, 2003, by trained professionals working from a central, monitored location.

Respondents were selected from all American households using a random probability sampling procedure which included unlisted telephone numbers.

Some questions were asked to all 1,200 respondents. For these questions, the margin of error is +/- 2.8%. Other questions, including most of the questions about the situation in the Middle East, were asked to demographically proportional "split samples" of 600 adults. For these questions, the margin of error is +/- 4%.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. When they think about the conflict in the Middle East, Americans continue to sympathize more with Israel than with the Palestinians.
2. Americans believe the Palestinians are more responsible for the violence in the region -- and they believe Israel is working much harder for peace.
3. Americans bring very positive views to a consideration of the U.S.-Israeli relationship. However, a plurality believes the U.S. may have to work more closely with moderate Arab nations in the future -- even if it means weakening our relationship with Israel.
4. Even though most Americans believe the U.S. is more likely to be targeted for terrorist attacks because of our support for Israel, a clear majority believes we should continue to support Israel in spite of this risk.
5. A majority believes American news coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is balanced; those who believe the coverage favors one side, believe it favors Israel.
6. Americans support the creation of a Palestinian state as a necessary step to bring peace to the region.



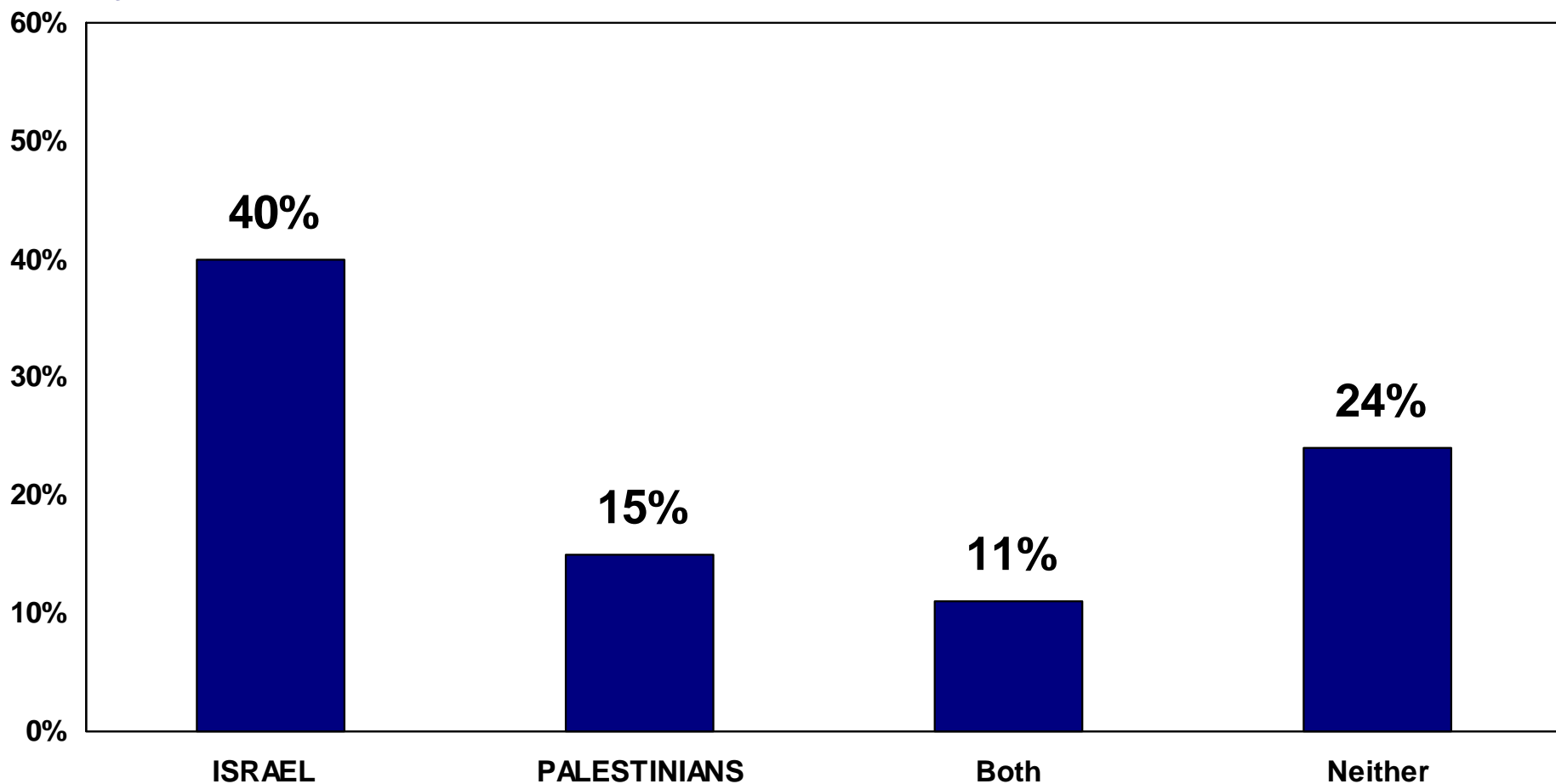
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

7. A recent survey of the European Union asked Europeans to rate fifteen countries as a potential threat to world peace. Israel and the United States fared very badly. The identical question, posed to Americans, produced sharply different results.
8. Americans continue to hold Great Britain in enormous regard, but esteem for France has slipped strikingly. In the Middle East, Americans hold favorable views of Israel, Egypt and Jordan and negative views of Syria, Saudi Arabia, the Palestinian Authority, and Iran.
9. Many Americans believe that anti-Semitism is reaching dangerous levels throughout the world.
10. Americans believe the U.S. has a moral obligation to combat the growth of anti-Semitism in its foreign policy.
11. The country is conflicted on the issue of U.S. military involvement in Iraq. A plurality of Americans believes that, considering the costs, the war in Iraq was worth fighting. However, by slightly narrower margins, Americans believe the war has made us less secure because it has unleashed radical Islamic terrorism and anti-American sentiment throughout the world.



When they think about the conflict in the Middle East, Americans continue to sympathize more with Israel than with the Palestinian.

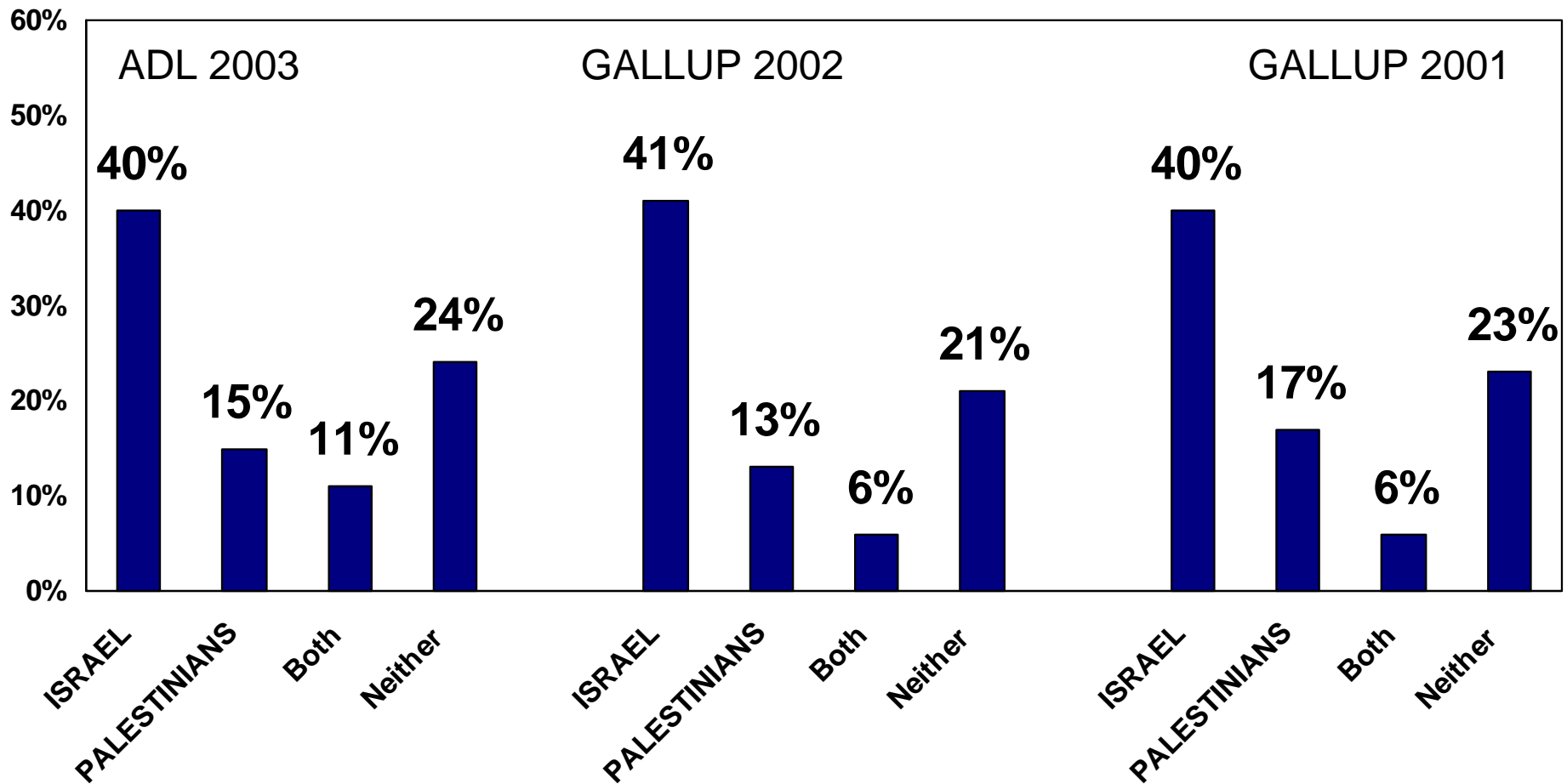
In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more?





When they think about the conflict in the Middle East, Americans continue to sympathize more with Israel than with the Palestinian.

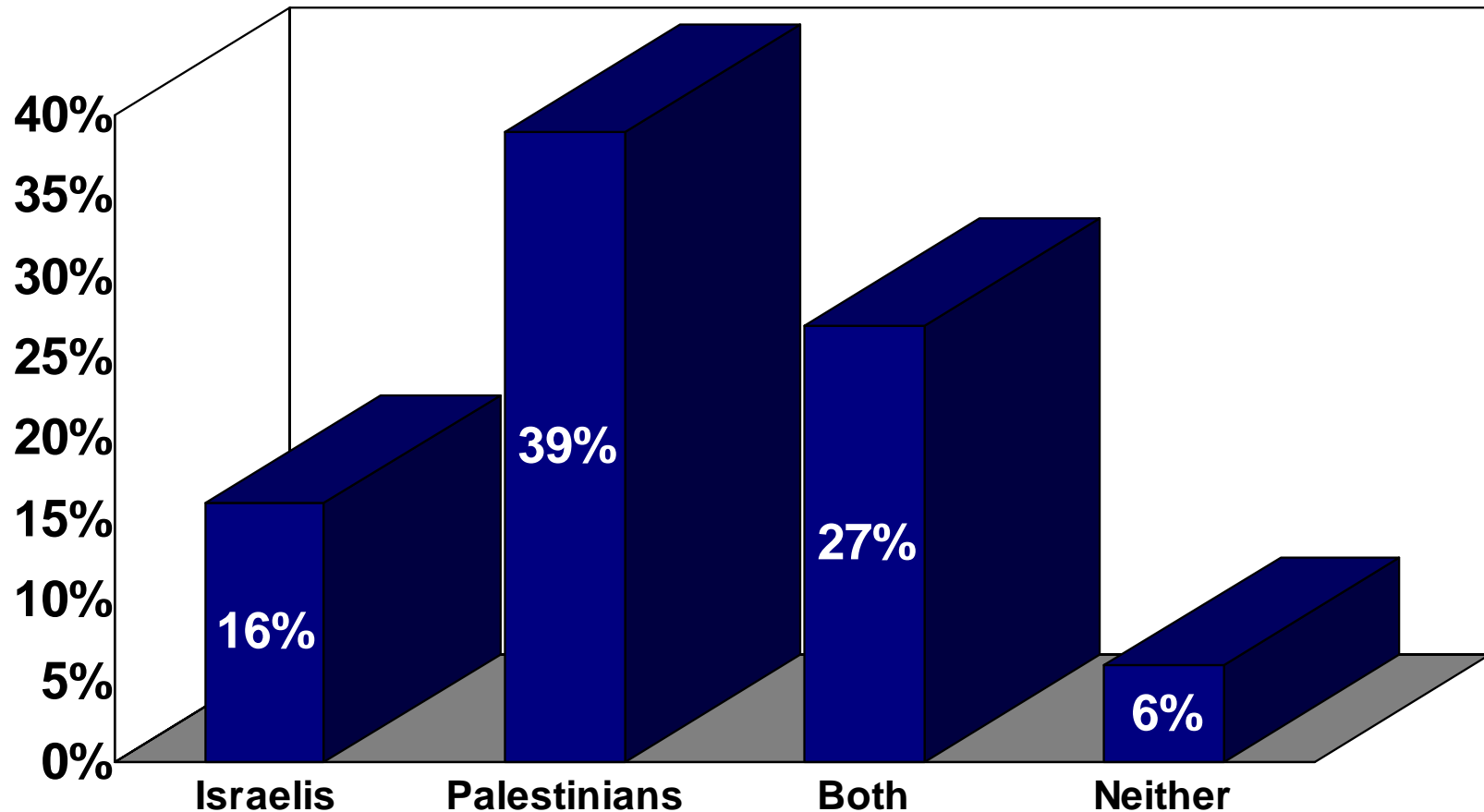
In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more?





Americans believe the Palestinians are more responsible for the violence in the region -- and they believe Israel is working much harder for peace.

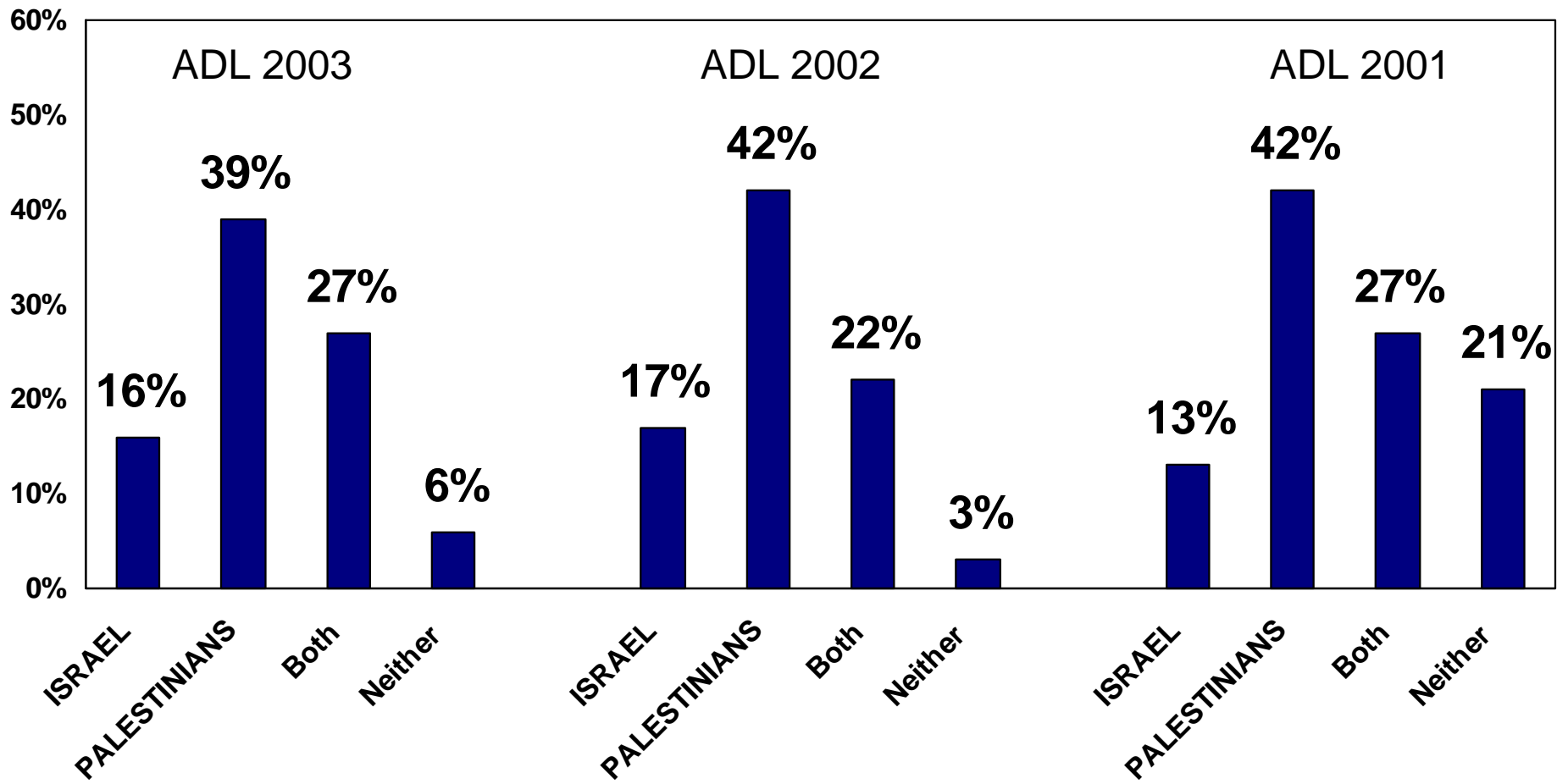
Who do you think is more responsible for the current violence in the Middle East: The Israelis or the Palestinians?





Americans believe the Palestinians are more responsible for the violence in the region -- and they believe Israel is working much harder for peace.

Who do you think is more responsible for the current (escalation of) violence in the Middle East -- the Israelis or the Palestinians?

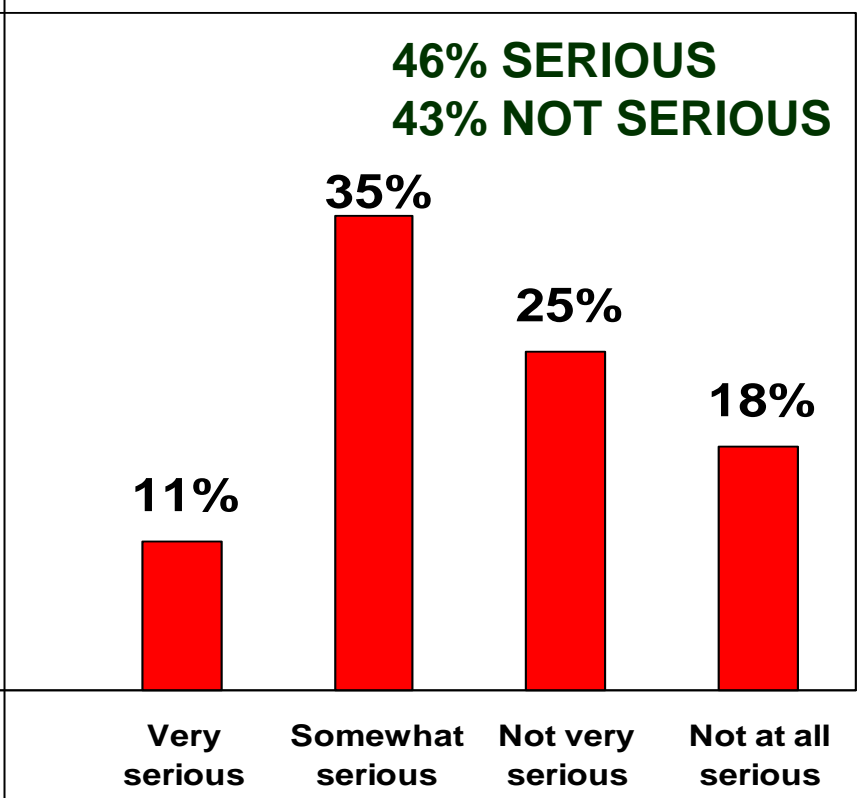
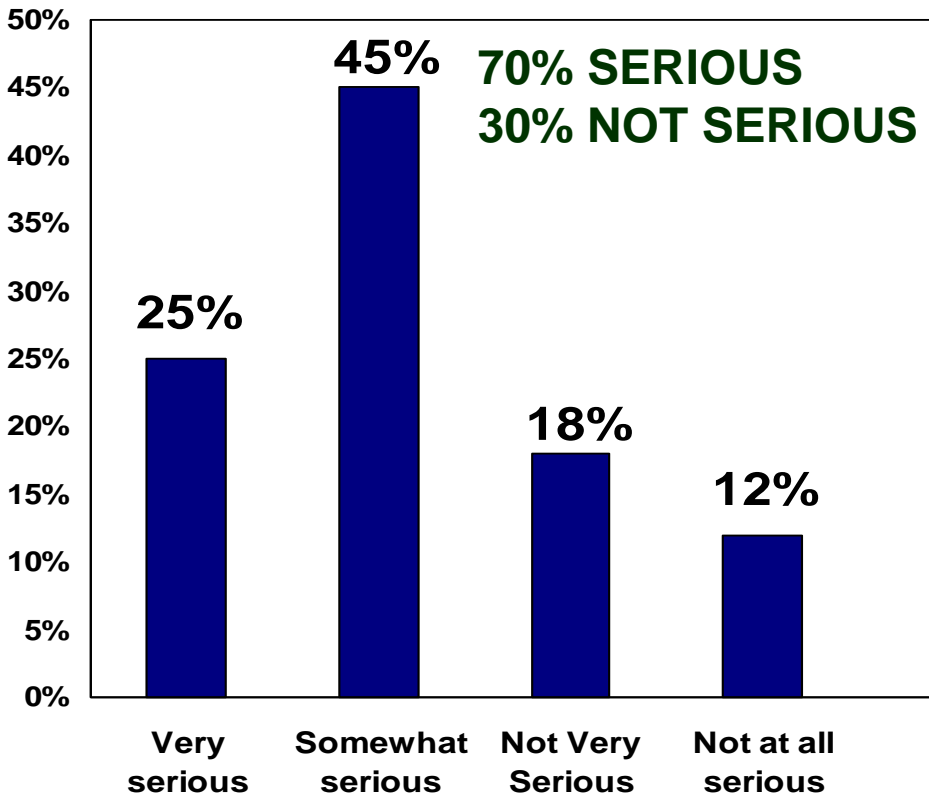




Americans believe the Palestinians are more responsible for the violence in the region -- and they believe Israel is working much harder for peace.

In your opinion, how serious is Israel about wanting to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians -- is it very serious, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not at all serious.

In your opinion, how serious are the Palestinians about wanting to reach a peace agreement with the Israelis -- are they very serious, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not at all serious.

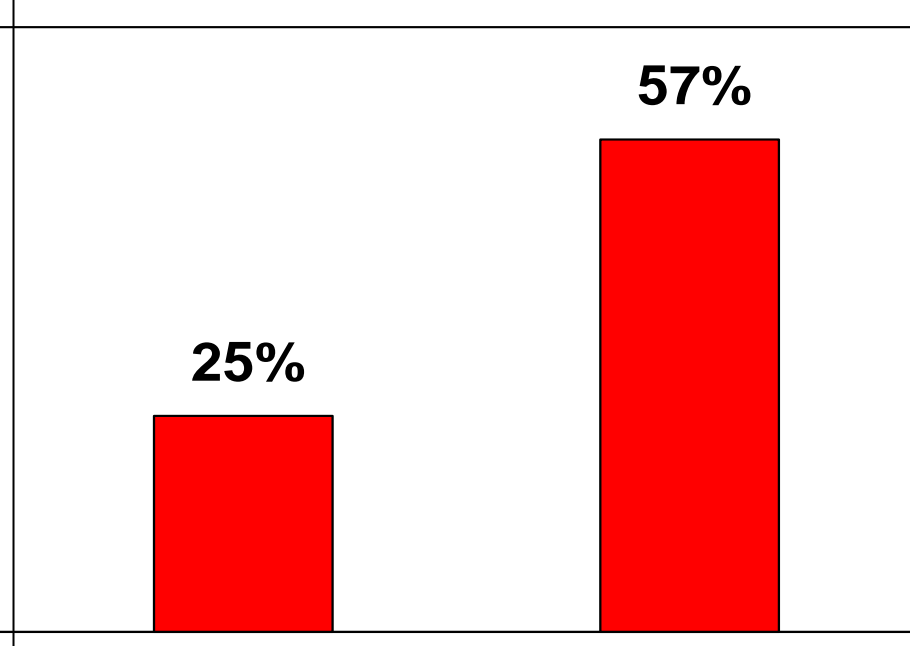
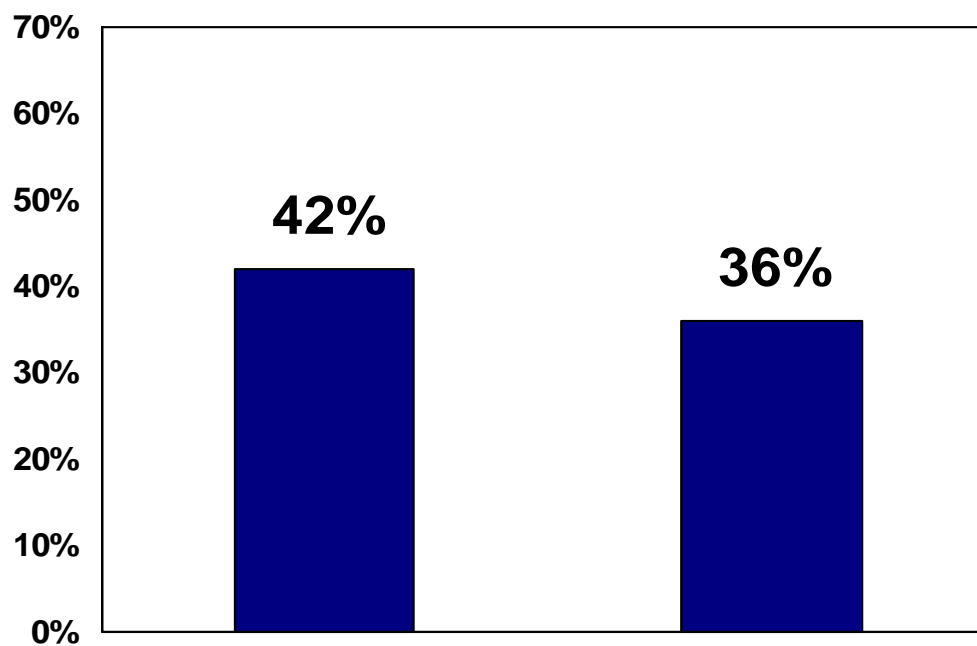




By decisive margins, Americans are more inclined to trust the long-range intentions of Ariel Sharon than they are those of Yasser Arafat.

Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

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The Israelis and their leader Ariel Sharon are genuinely interested in reaching a long-term peace agreement with the Palestinians

The real goal of Ariel Sharon and the Israelis is to squeeze the Palestinians into the smallest territory possible

The Palestinians and their leader, Yasser Arafat, are genuinely interested in reaching a long-term peace agreement with Israel.

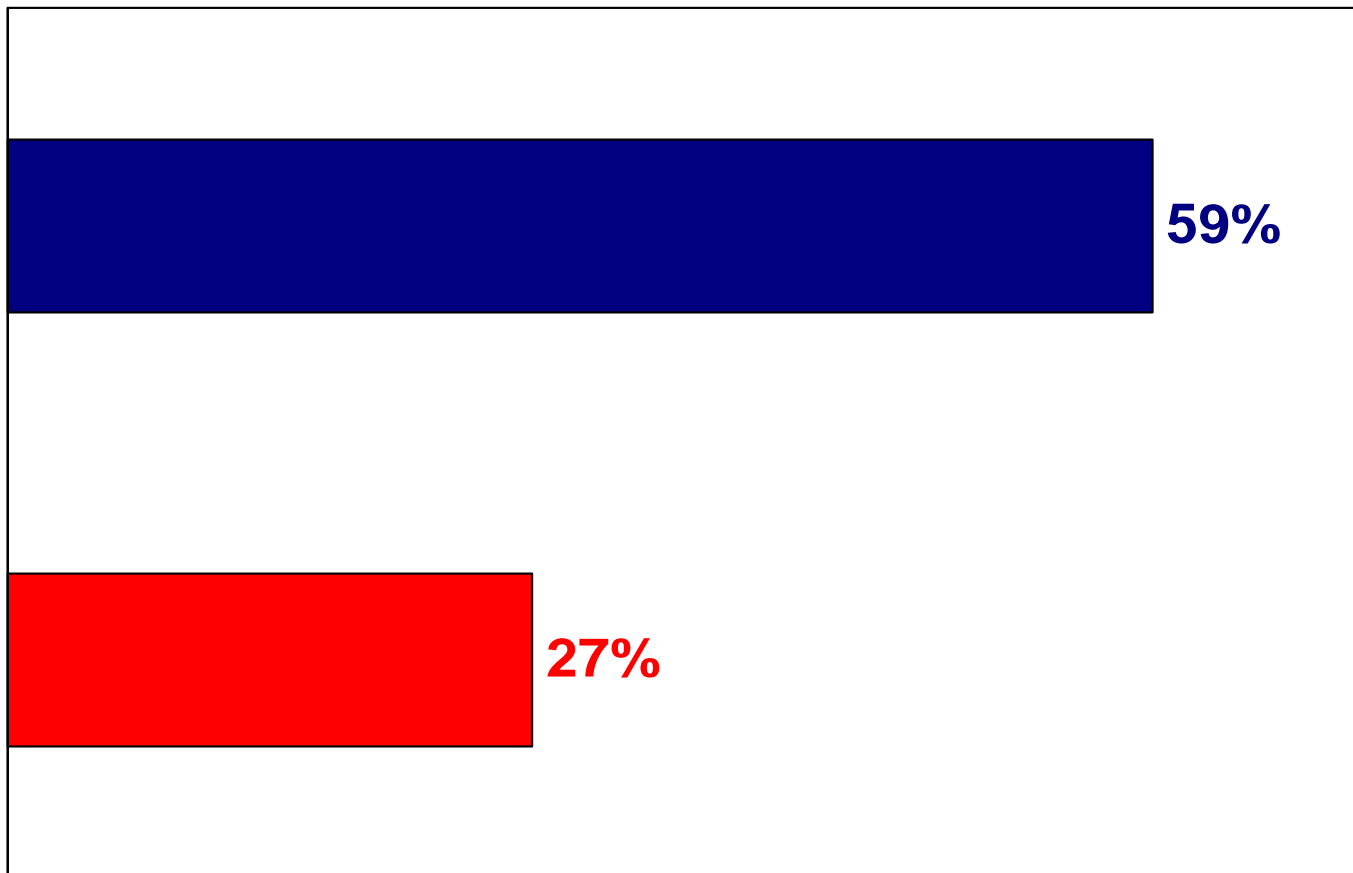
The real goal of Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian leadership is to destroy Israel.



Americans believe that the US and Israel have made the right decision not to deal with Arafat.

Which statement is closest to your own view ...?

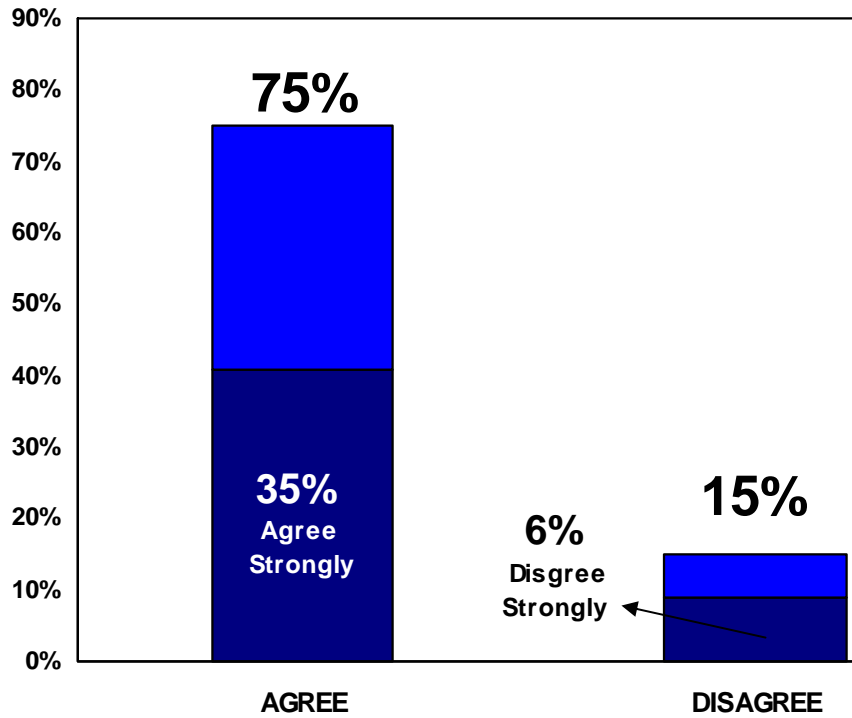
The U.S. and Israeli governments are correct in their decision to stop dealing with Yasser Arafat because he has refused or been unable to stop the terror attacks against Israel.



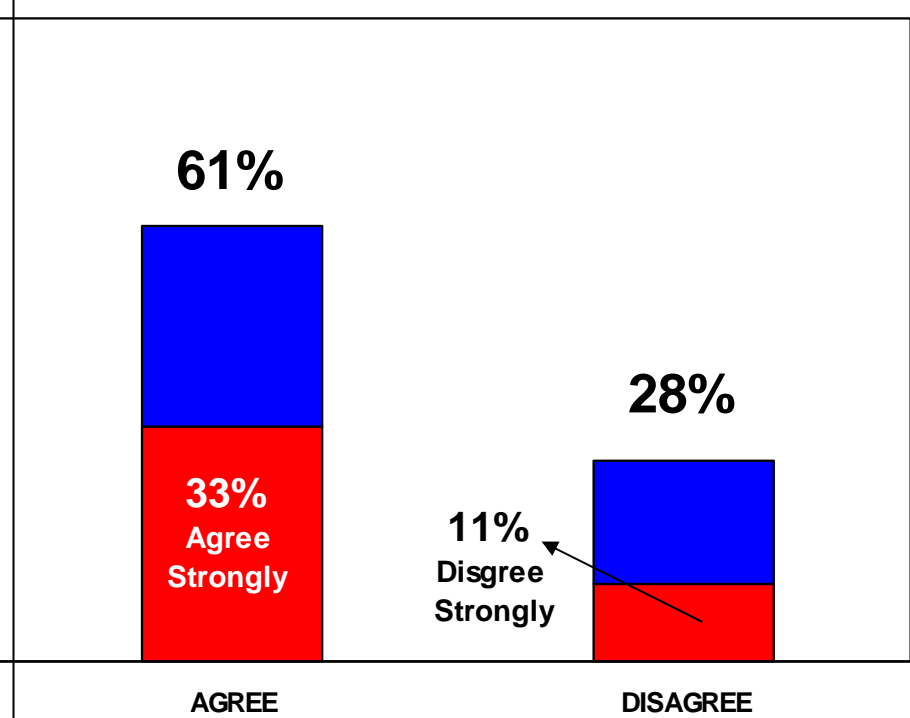


Americans bring very positive views to a consideration of the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

AGREE or DISAGREE?



AGREE or DISAGREE?



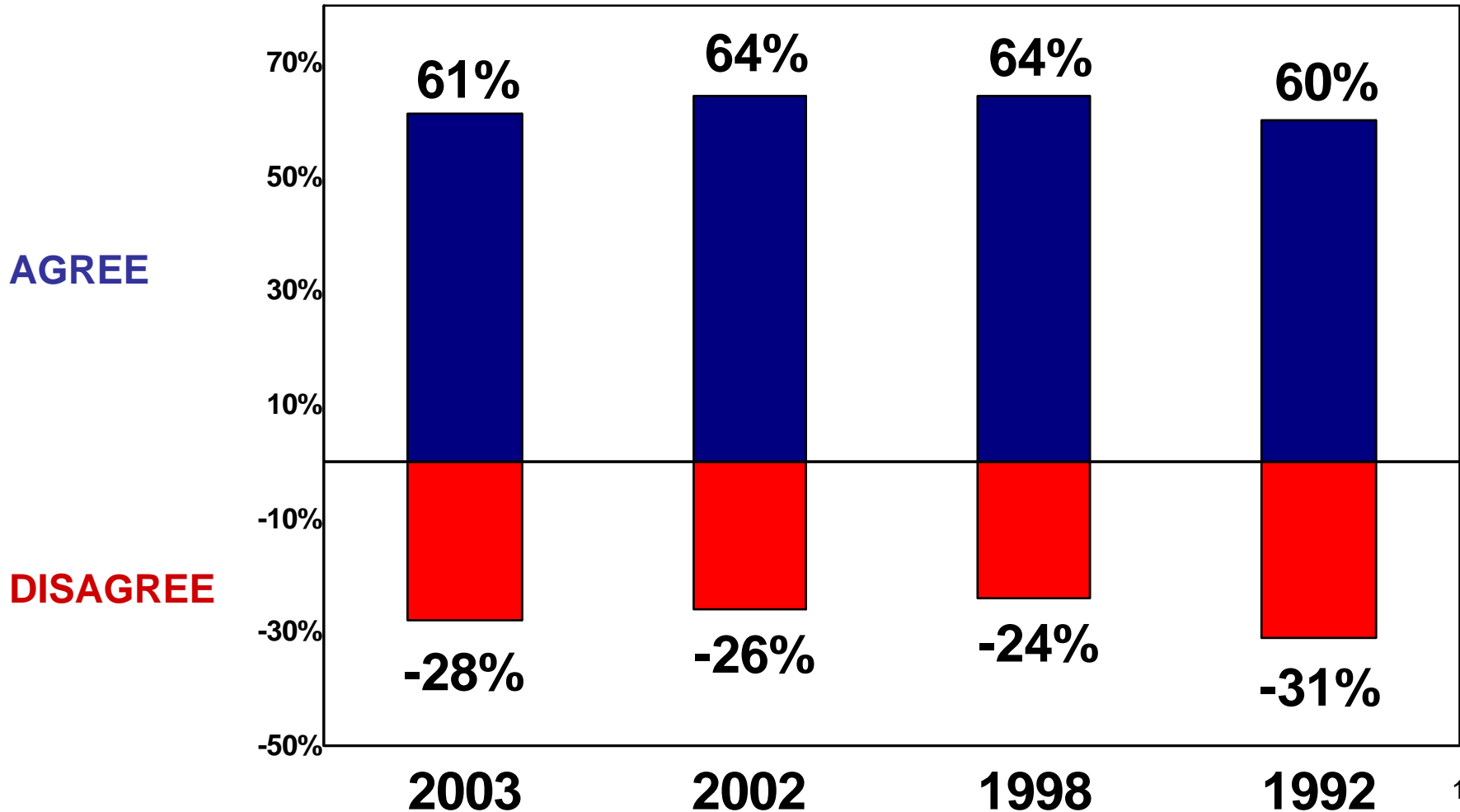
The United States has a special relationship with Israel because the two countries share many common values, including a commitment to freedom and democracy

Israel can be counted on as a strong, loyal U.S. ally



Americans bring very positive views to a consideration of the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

Israel can be counted on as a loyal U.S. ally

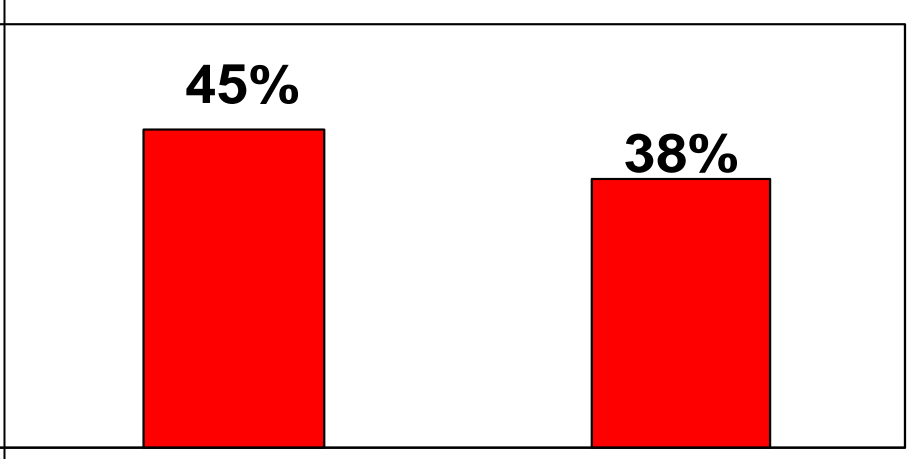
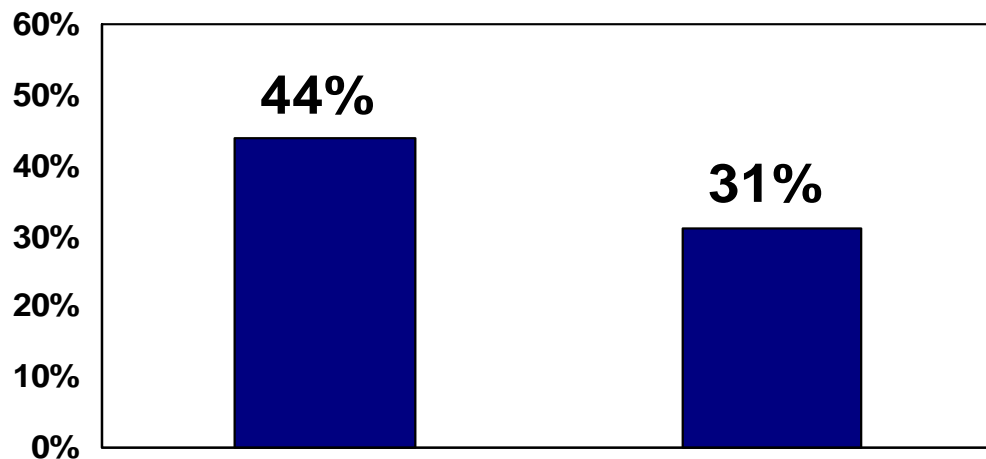




Americans bring very positive views to a consideration of the U.S.-Israeli relationship. However, a plurality believes the U.S. may have to work more closely with moderate Arab nations in the future -- even if it means weakening our relationship with Israel.

Which statement is closest to your own view ...?

Which statement is closest to your own view ...?



As a world leader trying to bring peace to the Middle East, it is important for the U.S. to work with Arab nations like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, even if it means weakening our strong relationship with Israel.

Israel is America's most loyal ally in the Middle East. The U.S. has a moral and strategic obligation keep our relationship with Israel strong, even if this means weakening our relationship with the Arab world.

Peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians will never take place without the continuing leadership and involvement of the U.S. government.

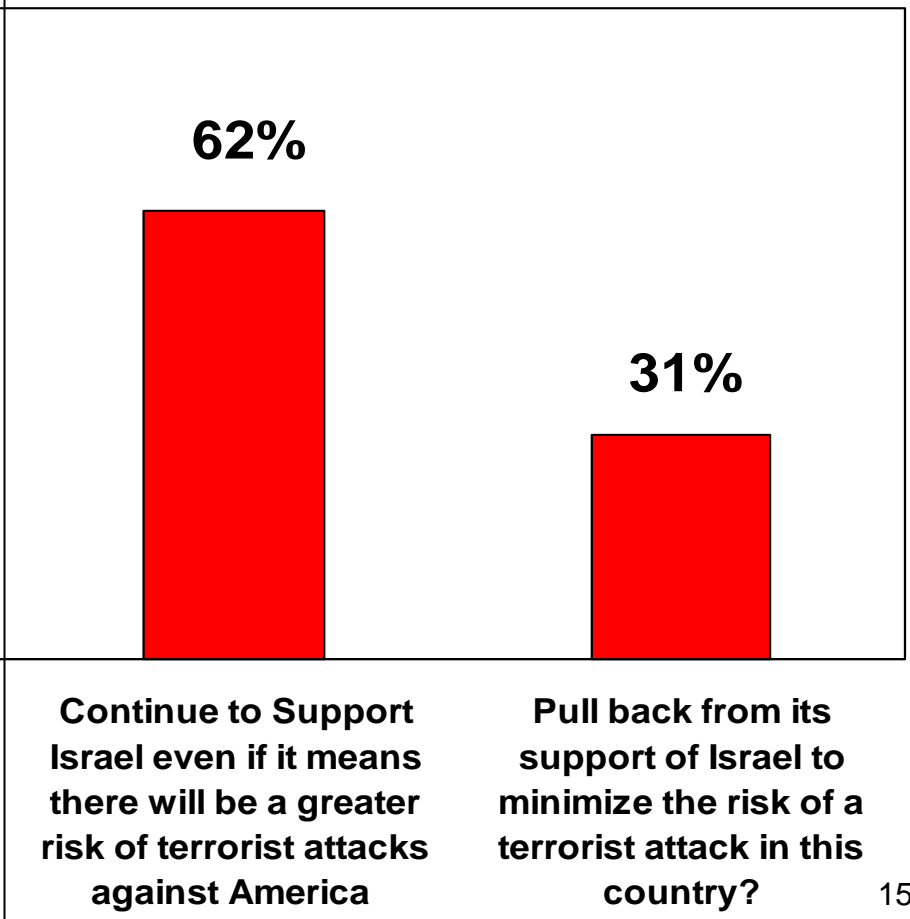
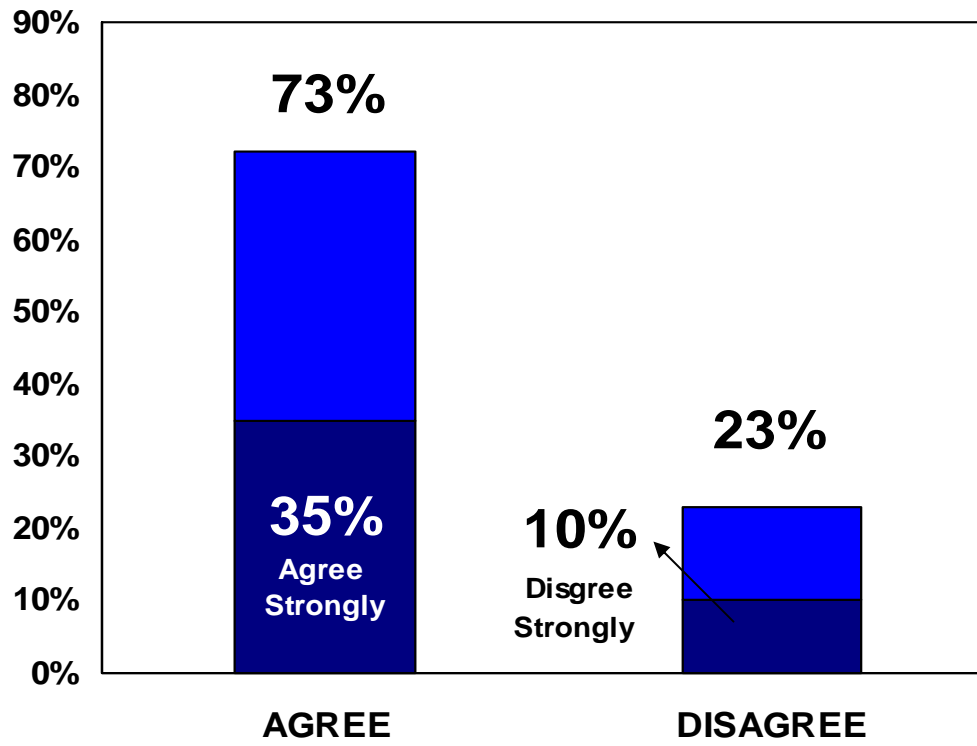
It is up to the Palestinians and the Israelis to solve their own problems; any lasting peace agreement between them must be reached with minimal involvement from the U.S.



Even though most Americans believe the U.S. is more likely to be targeted for terrorist attacks because of our support for Israel, a clear majority believes we should continue to support Israel in spite of this risk.

AGREE/DISAGREE: The U.S. is more likely to be targeted for terrorist attack because of our support for Israel

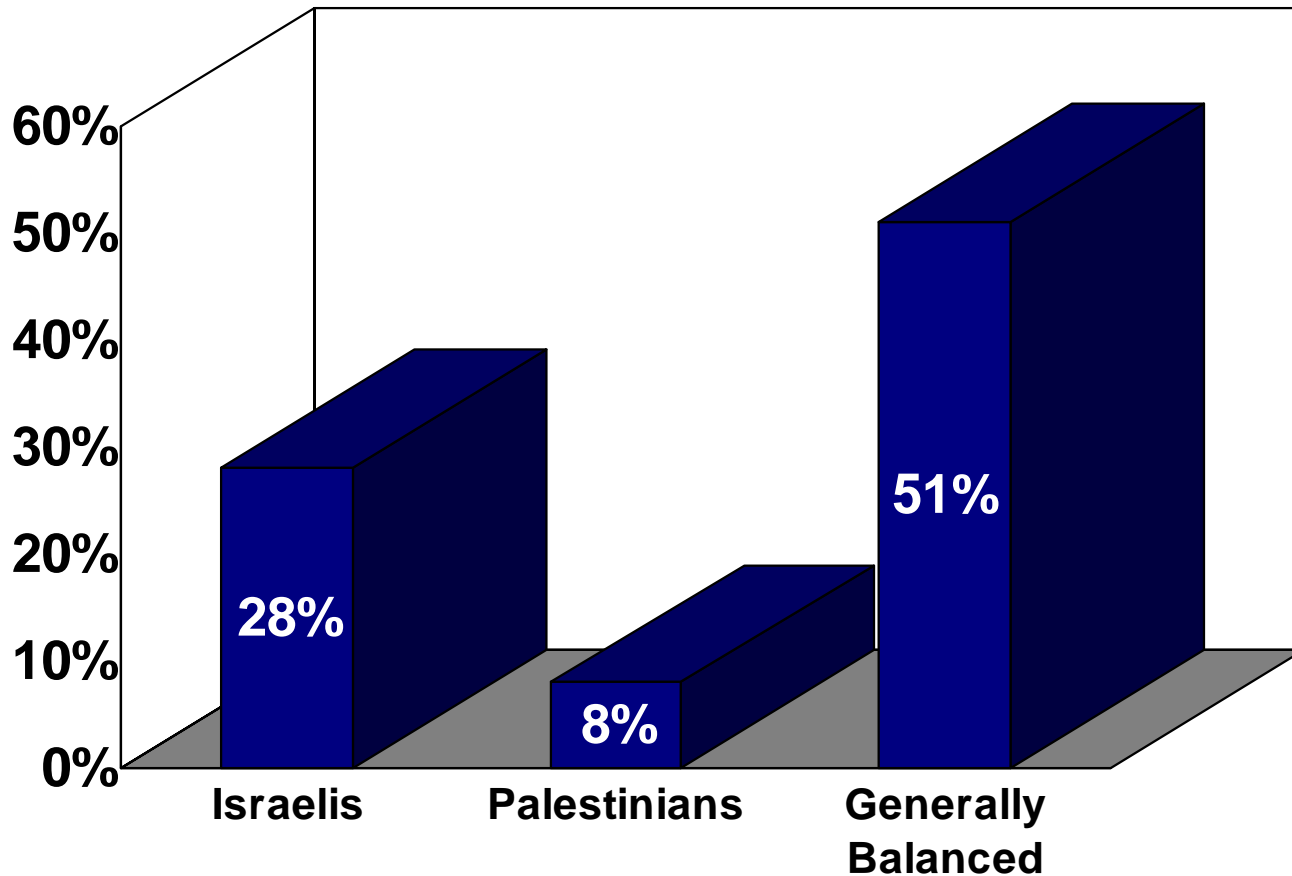
ASKED TO THOSE WHO AGREE: In your opinion, should the US ...





A majority believes American news coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is balanced; those who believe the coverage favors one side, believe it favors Israel.

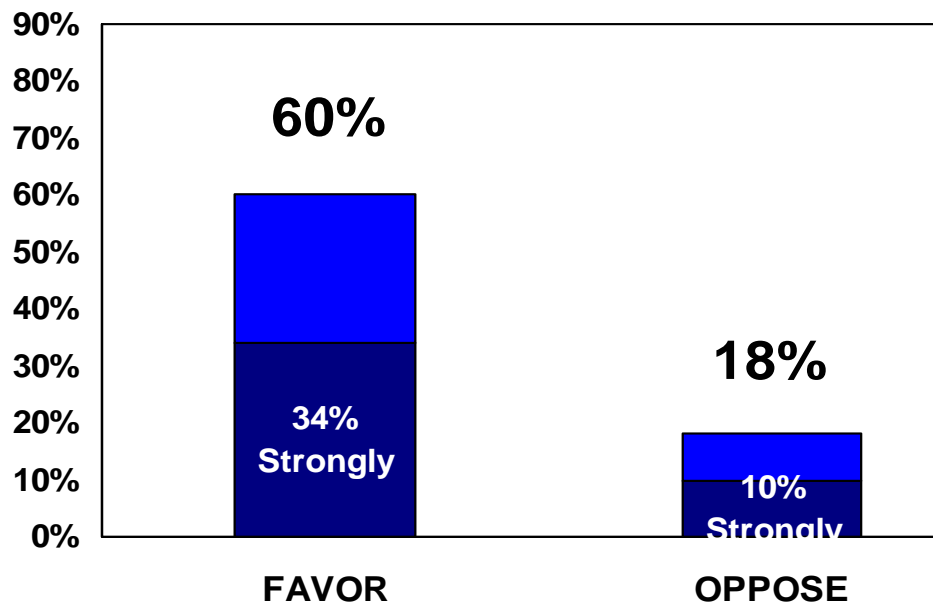
In general, do you believe the American news coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the Middle East tends to favor the Israelis, the Palestinians, or is it generally balanced?



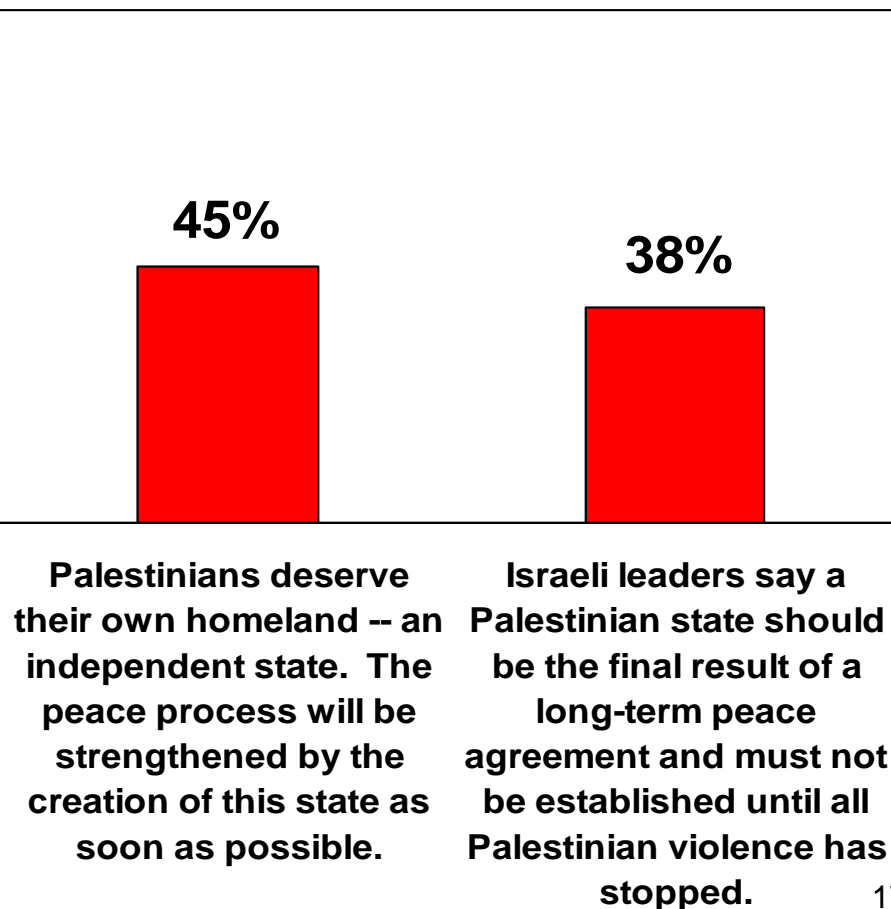


Americans support the creation of a Palestinian state as a necessary step to bring peace to the region.

Would you favor or oppose the creation of a Palestinian homeland – and independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?



Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

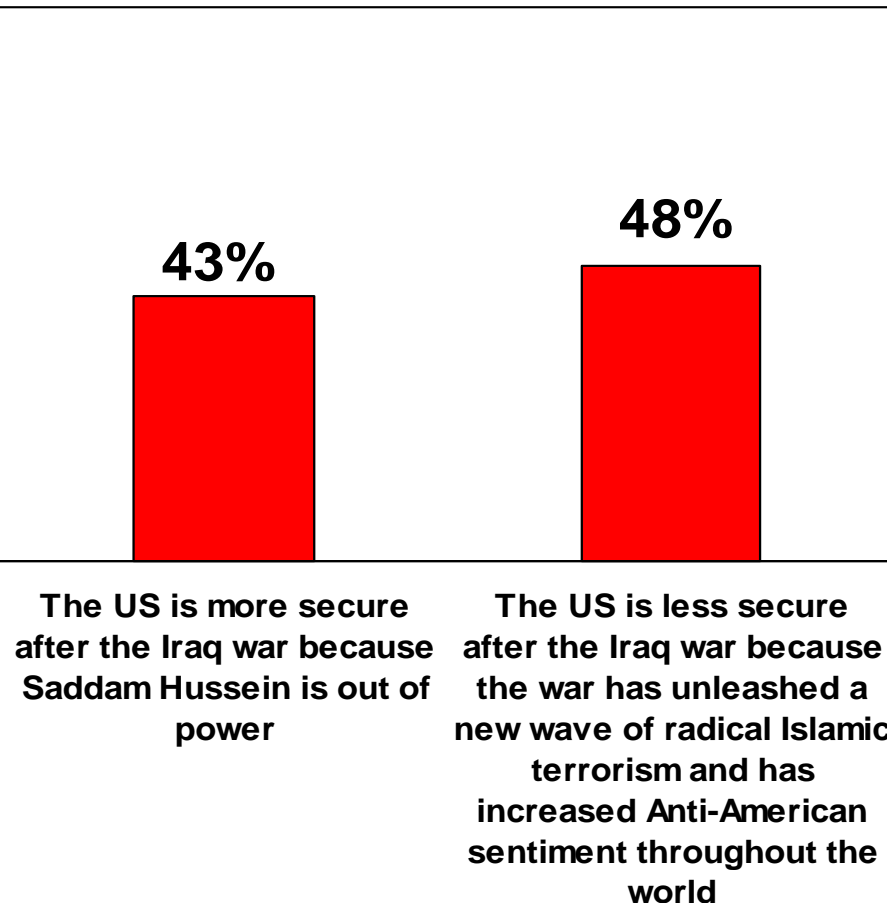
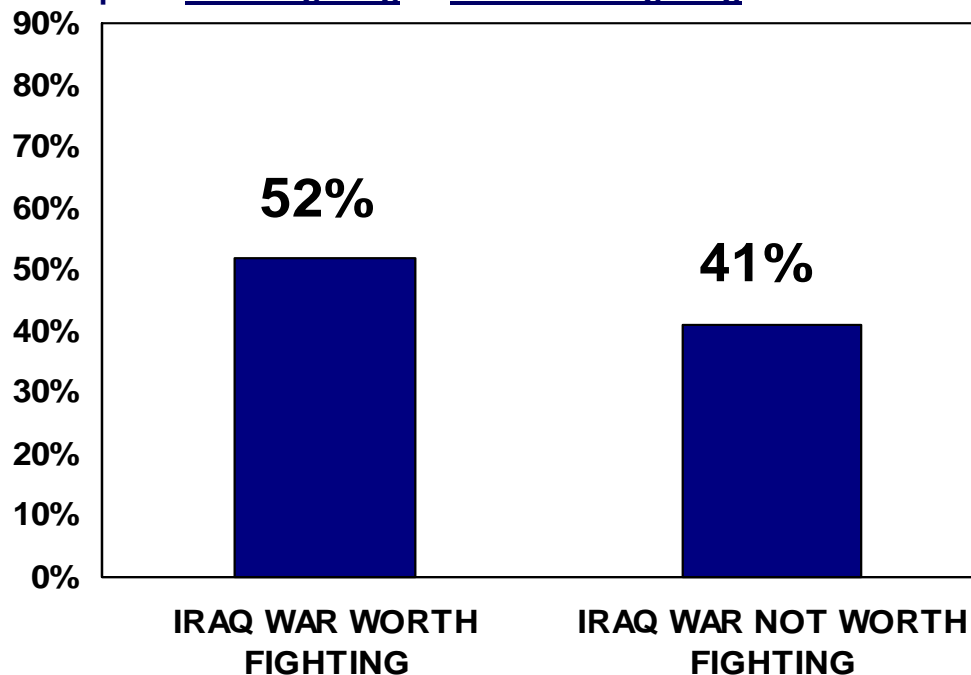




The country is conflicted on the issue of U.S. military involvement in Iraq. A plurality of Americans believes that, considering the costs, the war in Iraq was worth fighting. However, by slightly narrower margins, Americans believe the war has made us less secure because it has unleashed radical Islamic terrorism and anti-American sentiment throughout the world.

All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting or NOT worth fighting?

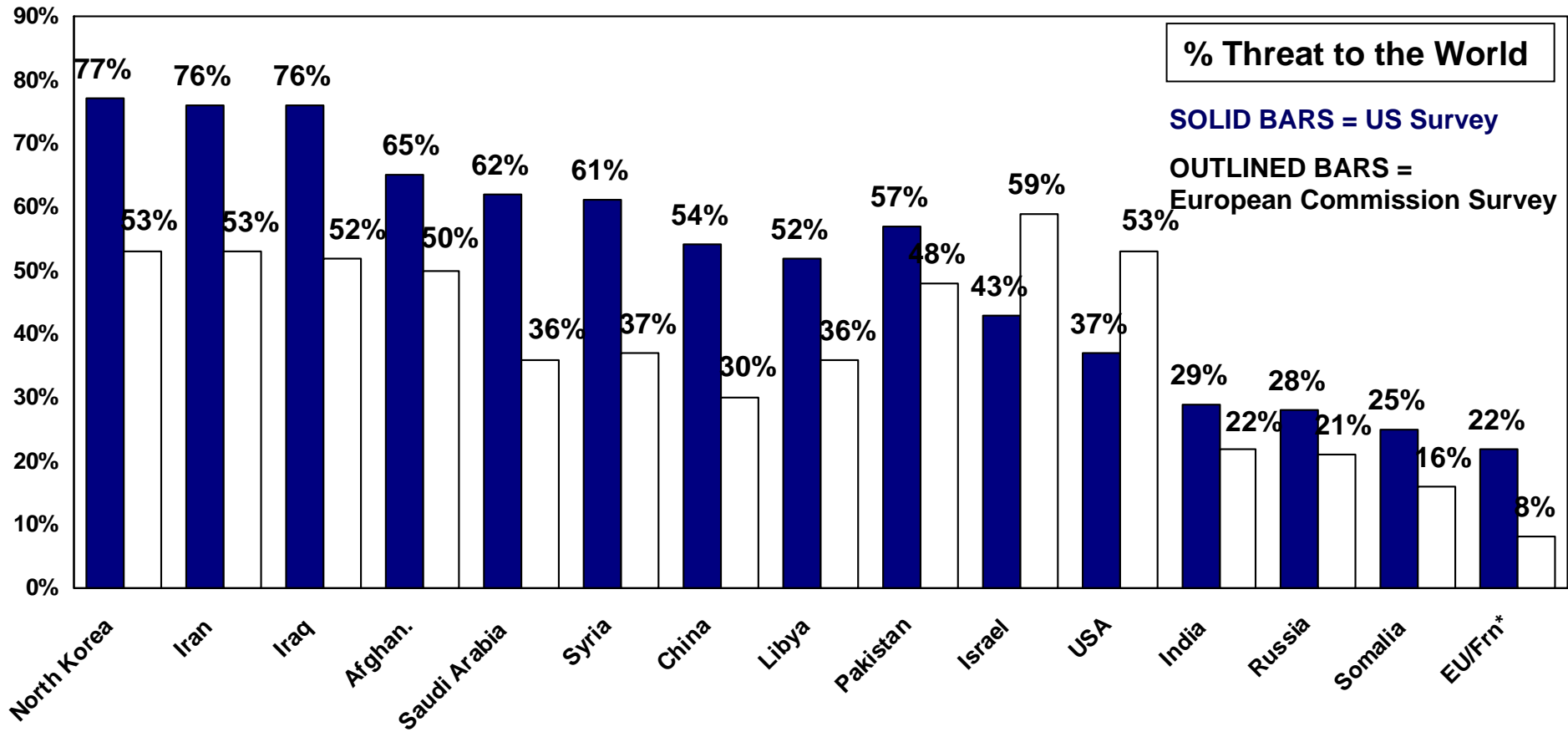
Which of the following statements is closest to your own view ... ?





A recent survey of the European Union asked Europeans to rate fifteen countries as a potential threat to world peace. Israel and the United States fared very badly. The identical question, posed to Americans, produced sharply different results.

For each of the following countries, tell me if in your opinion, it presents a threat to peace in the world, or if it does not present a threat to peace in the world.

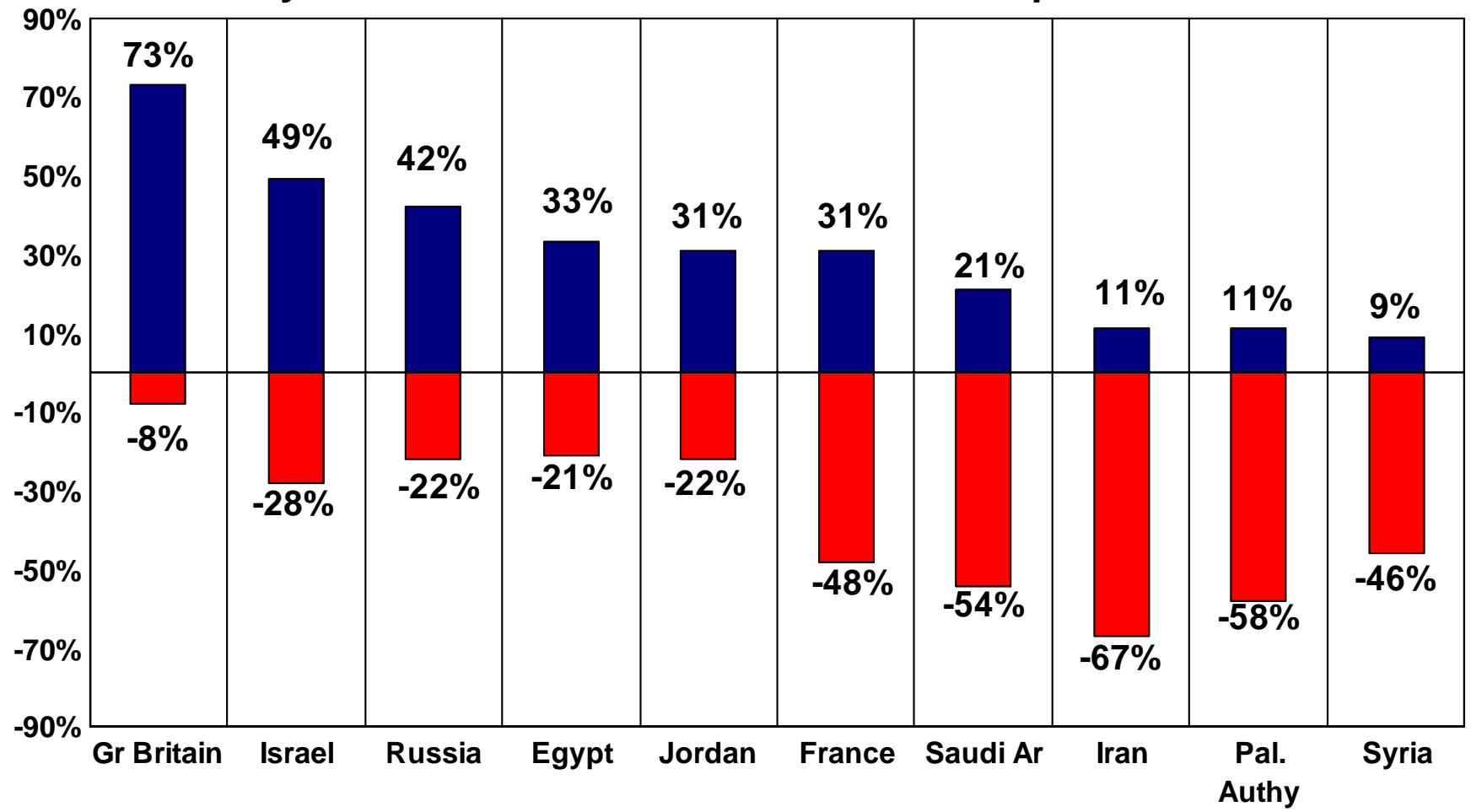


European respondents were asked "EU" while American respondents were asked "France."
 ALL US QUESTIONS ASKED TO 1/2 THE NATIONAL SAMPLE (600 Adults) except for Israel (asked to 1200 adults).



Americans continue to hold Great Britain in enormous regard, but esteem for France has slipped strikingly. In the Middle East, Americans hold favorable views of Israel, Egypt and Jordan and negative views of Syria, Saudi Arabia, the Palestinian Authority, and Iran.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of it?



■ Favorable ■ Unfavorable

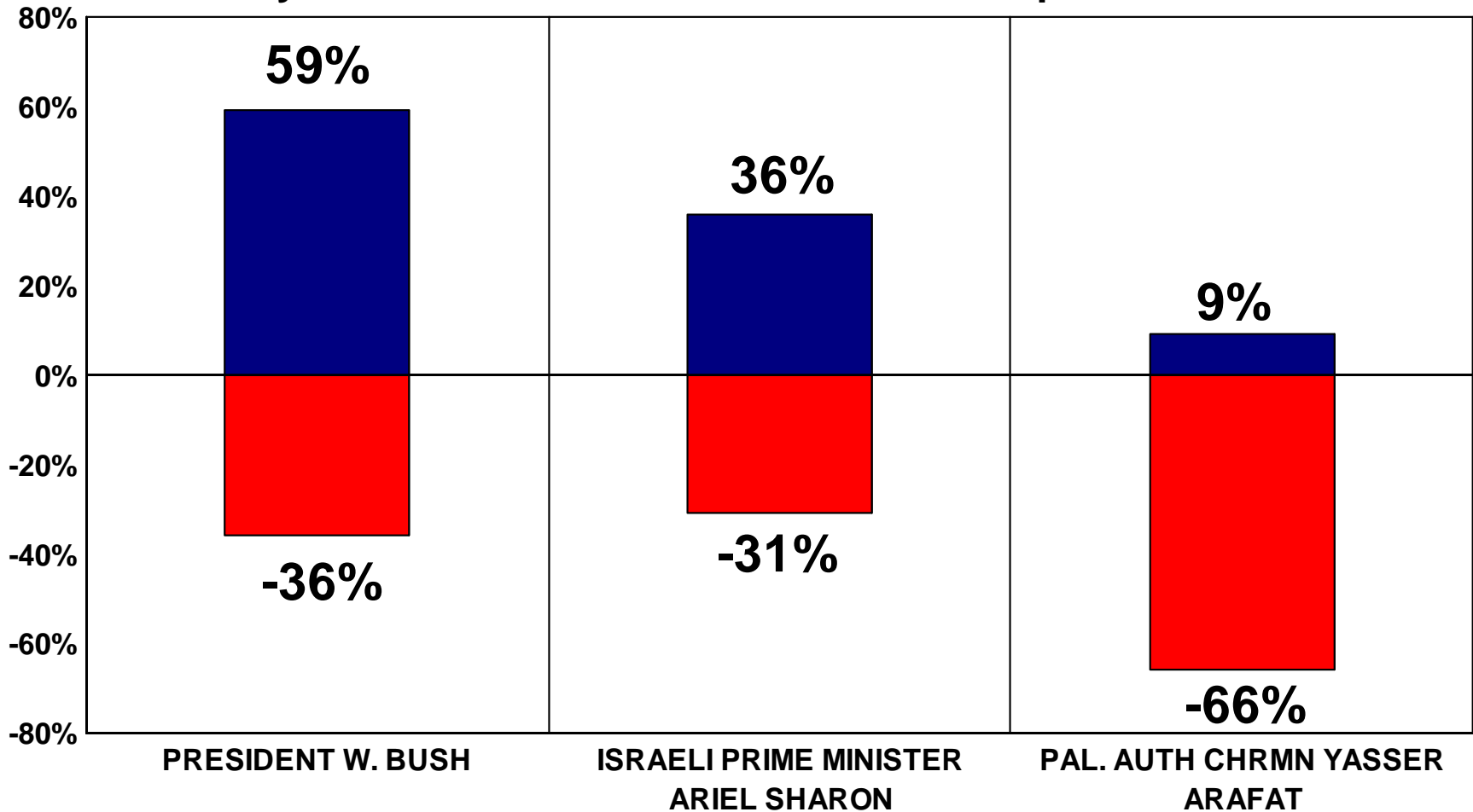
Israel, France asked to 1200.

All other countries asked to 600



Favorable/Unfavorable Ratings: Sharon & Arafat.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of him?



■ Favorable ■ Unfavorable

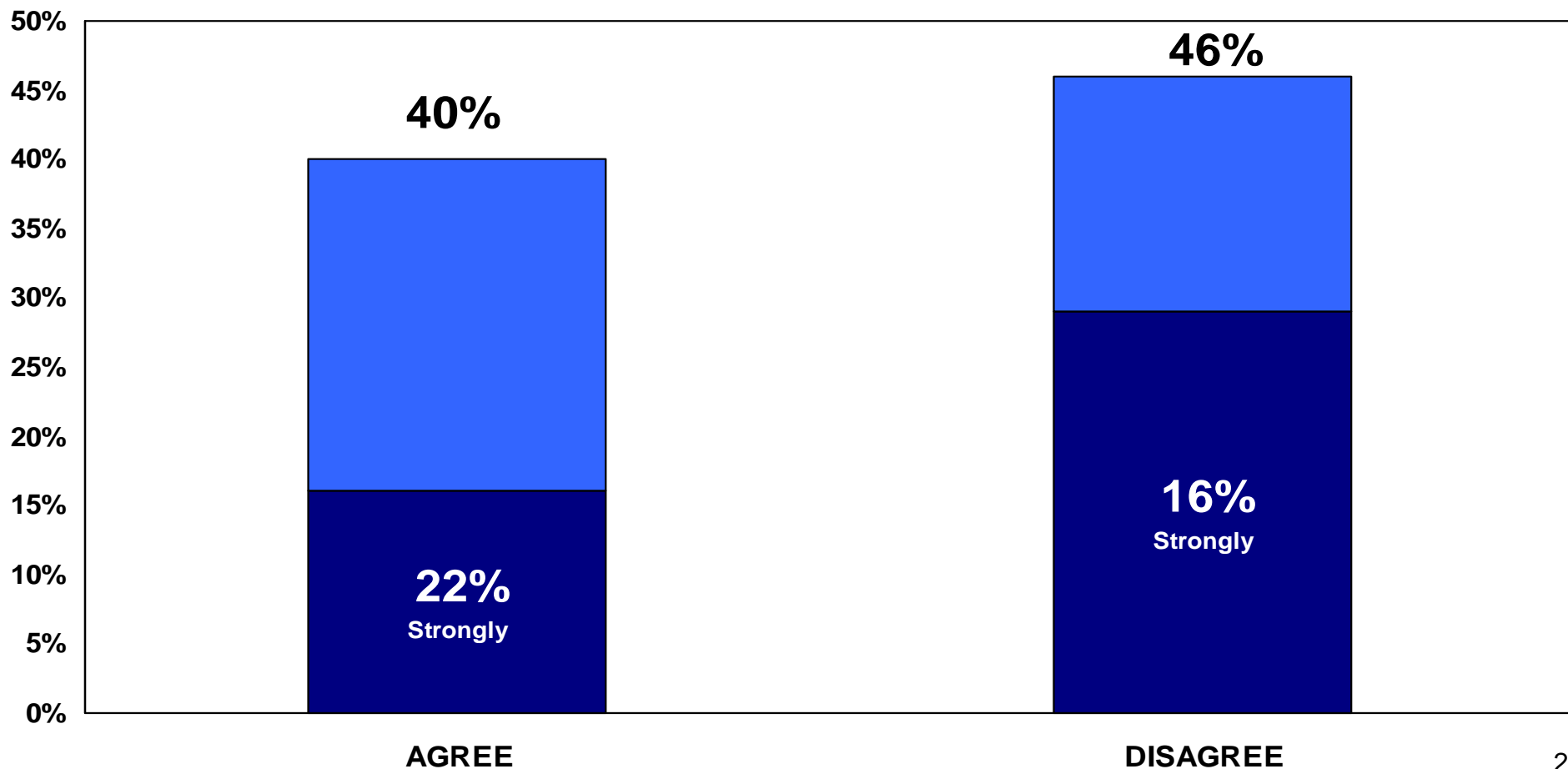
Bush asked to 1200.

Sharon/Arafat asked to 600



Many Americans believe that anti-Semitism is reaching dangerous levels throughout the world.

AGREE or DISAGREE? Throughout the world, Anti-Semitism has reached its most dangerous levels since the 1930s.





Americans believe the U.S. has a moral obligation to combat the growth of anti-Semitism in its foreign policy.

AGREE or DISAGREE? The US has a moral obligation to combat anti-Semitism in Europe as part of its foreign policy.

AGREE or DISAGREE? The US has a moral obligation to combat anti-Semitism throughout the world as part of its foreign policy.

