

# Poll of the Iranian Public

-A WorldPublicOpinion.org Poll-

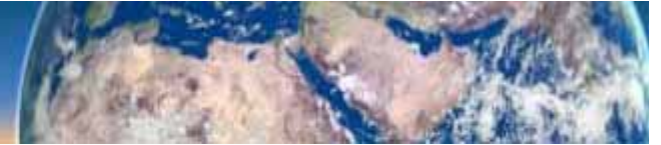
Conducted in Partnership With  
Search for Common Ground and  
the U.S. Institute of Peace

January 16, 2007



**Program on International  
Policy Attitudes (PIPA)**

A joint program of the Center on Policy  
Attitudes and the Center for International and  
Security Studies at the University of Maryland



## Poll of Iranian Public

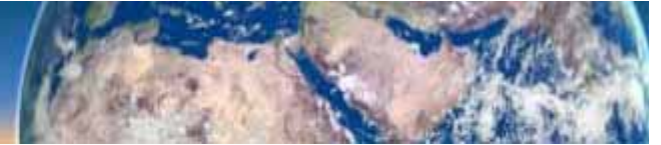
**Sample:** Nationwide (All 30 provinces)

1000 respondents

**Margin of Error:** +/- 3.2%

**Method:** Face-to-face interviews

**Dates of fielding:** October 31-December 6, 2006



## Topics

**Views of the United States**

**Iran's Role in World**

**Iran's Nuclear Program**

**The NPT Regime**

**The UN System**

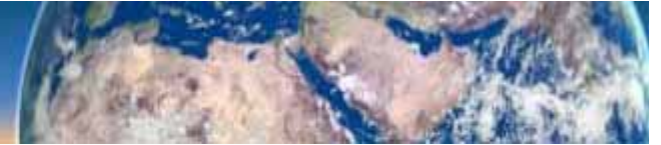
**Islam and the West**

**Islamic Militancy, Terrorism, Attacks on Civilian**

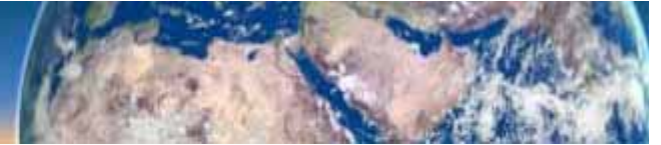
**Globalization, Western Influences, and Democracy**

**Iraq**

**Regional Issues**

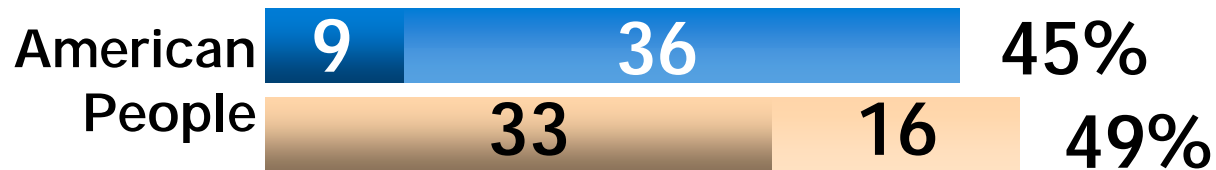
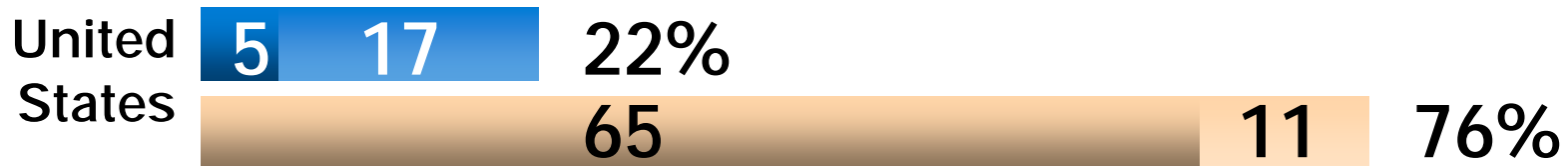


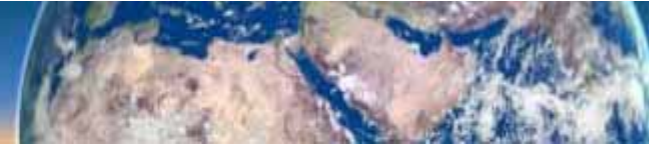
# Views of the United States



# Views of the US

■ Very Favorable   
 ■ Somewhat Favorable   
 ■ Very Unfavorable   
 ■ Somewhat Unfavorable





## US Bases and Iran

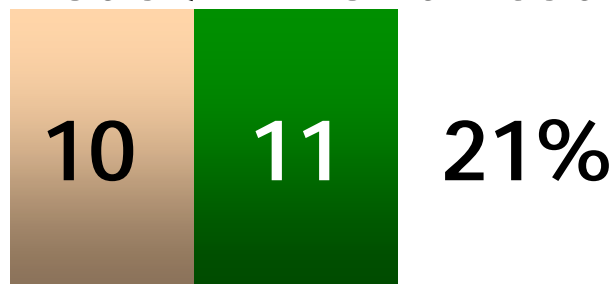
How much, if at all, do you think US bases in the Middle East are a threat to Iran?

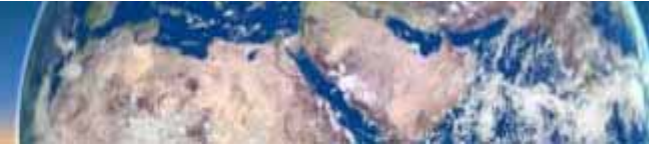
Major threat

Some threat



Not a / Minor threat





# US Bases in Middle East

Do you think that US bases in the Middle East have a positive or negative affect on stability in the region?

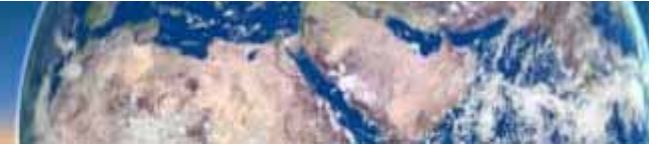


Positive



Negative





# US War on Terror

Do you think the primary goal of what the US calls the war on terrorism is to:

Achieve political and military domination to control Middle East resources



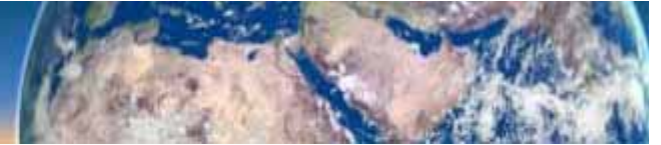
Weaken and divide the Islamic world, the Islamic religion and its people



Protect itself [the US] from terrorist attacks







# US Commitment to Palestinian State

How committed do you think the US is to the goal of creating an independent and viable Palestinian state?

Very / Somewhat committed



Not at all committed

Not very





# Iran's Role in World



# Iran's Role in World

Do you think it will be best for the future of the country if we take an active part in world affairs or if we stay out of world affairs?

Take active part

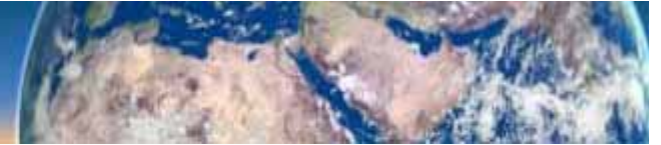


86%

Stay out



9%

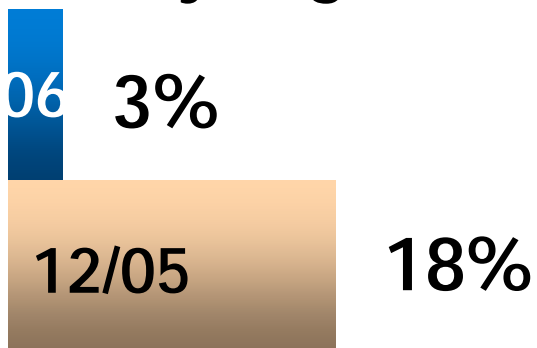


# Iran's Influence in World

## Mainly positive

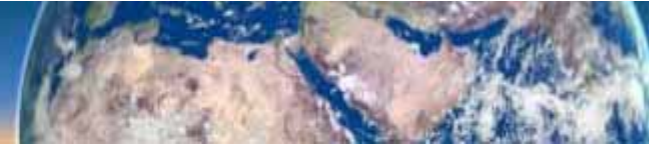


## Mainly negative





# Iran's Nuclear Program



# Importance of Iran's Nuclear Program

How important is it:

For Iran to have a full-fuel-cycle nuclear program?

Very

Somewhat

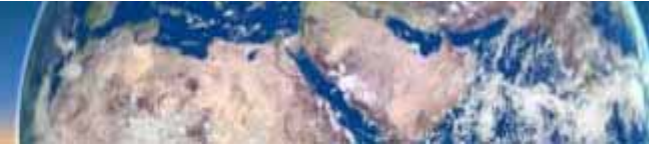


For Iran's economy to develop the capacity to produce nuclear energy?

Very

Somewhat





# Reasons for Iranian Nuclear Program

--Percent Iranians Saying Most Important Reason--

Secures Iran' energy needs



Enhances Iran's national technical competence



Enhances Iran's great power status

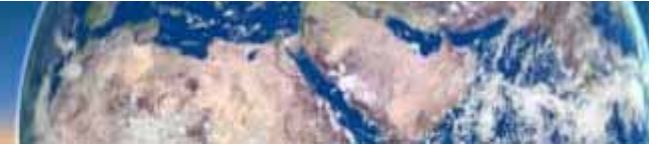


Will preserve Iran's rights to energy under NPT



Will deter other countries from trying to economically and politically dominate Iran





# Views of Nuclear Energy

Countries with nuclear power plants should use the ones they already have, but no one should build new ones

3%

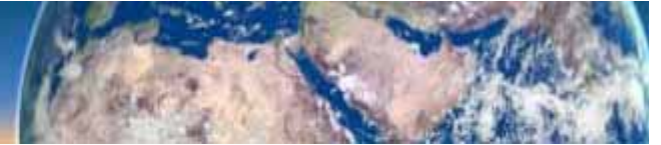
Nuclear power is dangerous and we should close down all operating nuclear power plants in the world as soon as possible

3%

Nuclear power is relatively safe and an important source of elec., and interested countries should build new nuclear power plants

80%





# Incentives for Giving Up Enrichment



Allowing Iran to join the World Trade Organization



Providing spare parts for civilian aircraft

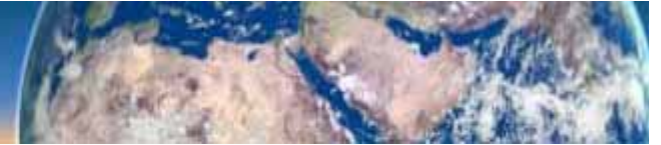


Transfer of nuclear energy technology to Iran



Lifting US economic sanctions against Iran





# Incentives for Giving Up Enrichment



Unfreezing Iranian assets held by the US



Europe committing to ensure Iranian access to enriched uranium

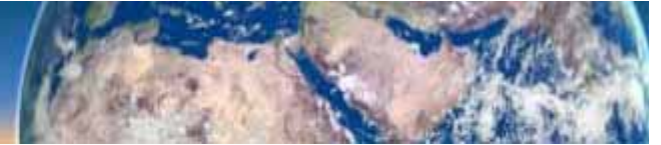


US making commitment not to use military force against Iran



Repealing US legislation calling for regime change in Iran

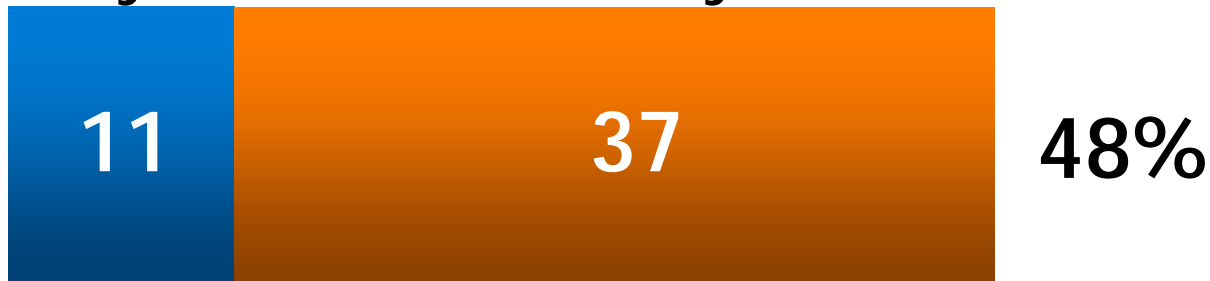




## Likelihood of Military Action

How likely do you think it is that the US will take military action against Iran's nuclear facilities in the next year or two?

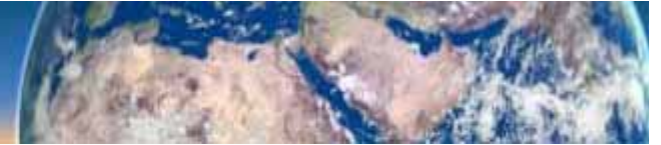
Very / Somewhat likely



Not at all likely

Not very likely





# Likelihood of Military Confrontation

For the following statement please tell me how much you agree with the following statement. ... A military confrontation between Iran and the United States is likely to occur within the next ten years.

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

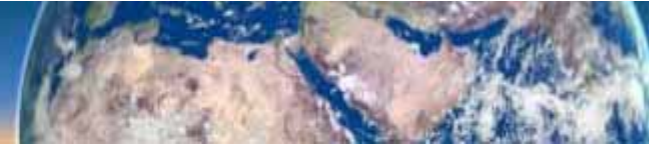
28

20

39



# Nuclear Weapons



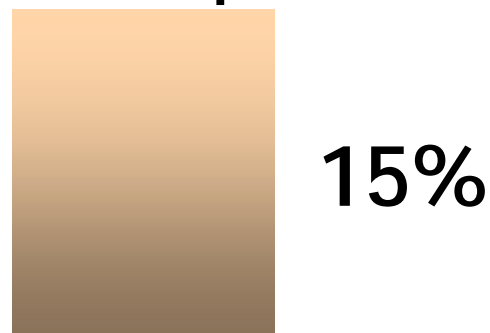
# Threat Perception: Iran's neighbors developing nuclear weapons

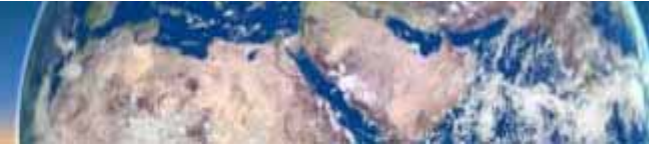
Critical

Important



Not important





# Israel and Nuclear Weapons

Is it your impression that Israel does or does not have nuclear weapons?

Does

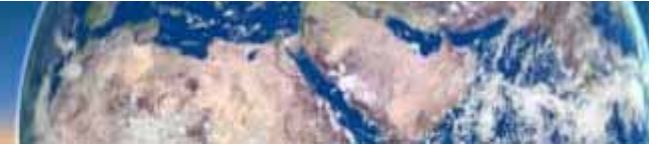


72%

Does not

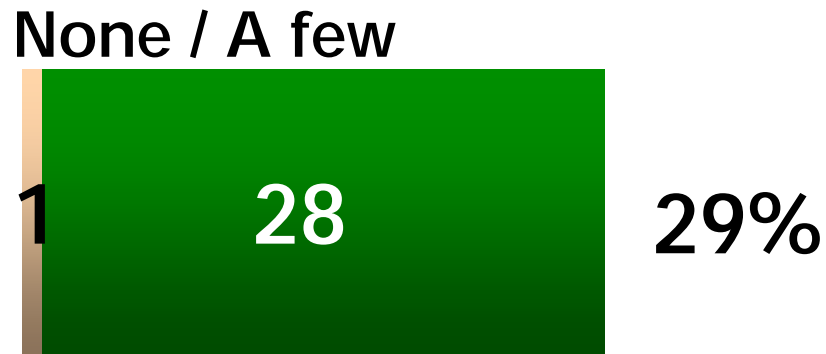
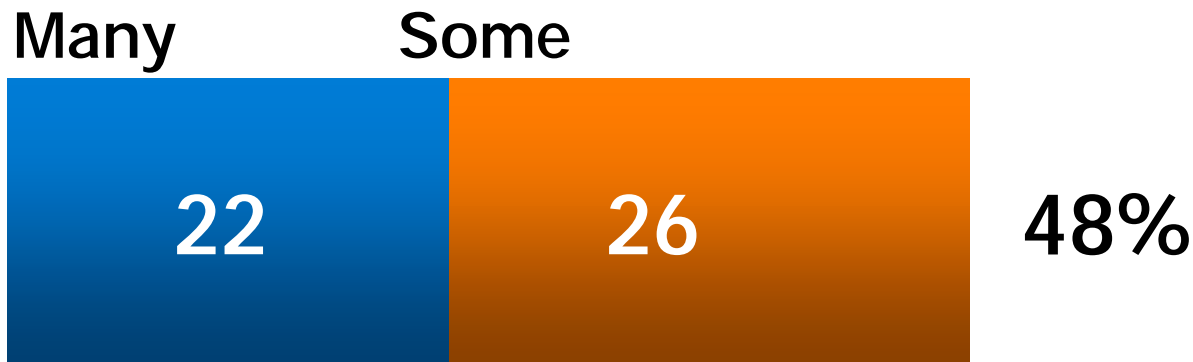


9%

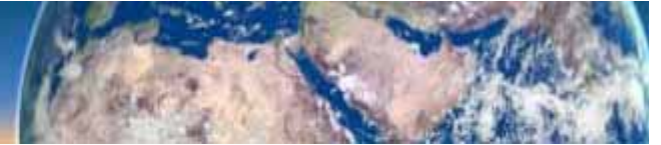


# Secret Nuclear Weapons Programs

How many countries do you think have secret programs for developing the capacity to produce nuclear weapons?







# New Nuclear Weapon States in the

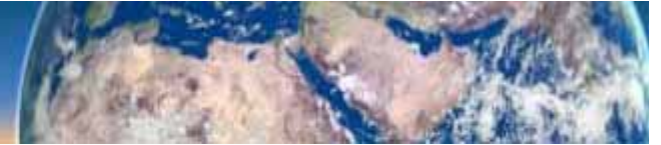
## Future

Do you think that fifty years from now there will be more countries with nuclear weapons than there are today?

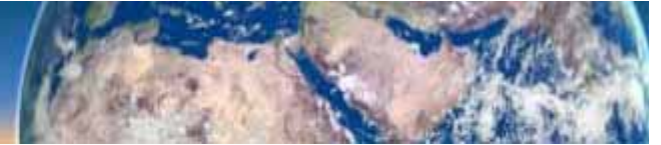


[IF "YES"] Do you think that Iran will be one of them?





# The NPT Regime



# The Non-Proliferation Treaty

## Awareness

Yes



No



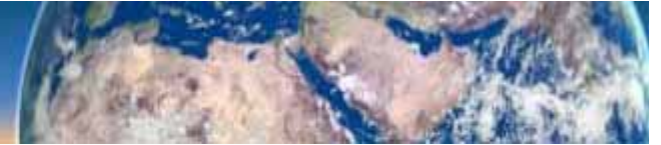
## Approval

Good idea



Bad idea





# Withdrawing from NPT

Do you think Iran should or should not withdraw from [the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty]?

Should

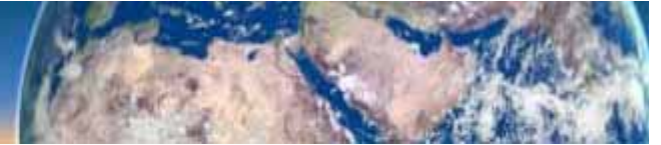


15%

Should not



60%



# Middle East Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone

Do you favor or oppose the idea of having a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East that would include both Islamic countries and Israel?

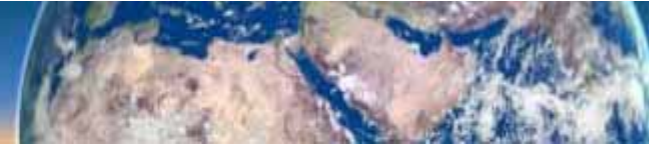


Favor



Oppose





# Eliminating Nuclear Weapons

Do you favor or oppose the goal of eventually eliminating all nuclear weapons, which is stated in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)?

Favor

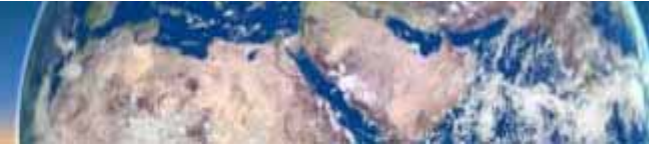


68%

Oppose



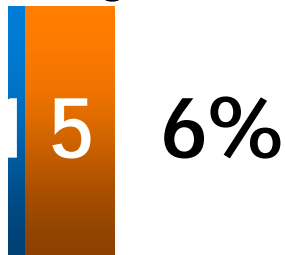
18%



# US Working Toward Eliminating Nukes

The United States and other countries with nuclear weapons are obliged under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to actively work together toward eliminating nuclear weapons? Please say how well you think the United States is fulfilling this obligation.

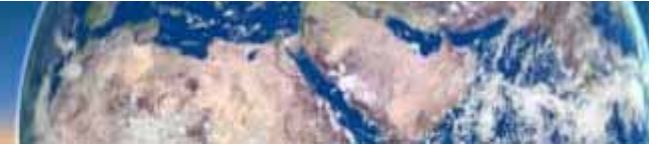
Very / Somewhat well



Not at all well

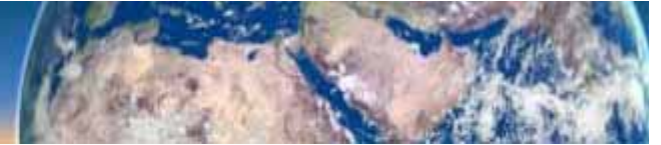
Not very well





# The UN System





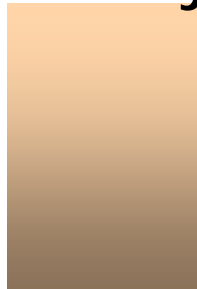
## View of IAEA's Influence

Mainly positive

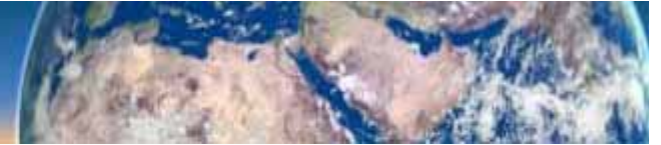


54%

Mainly negative



10%



# View of UN Influence in World

2006

Positive



Negative



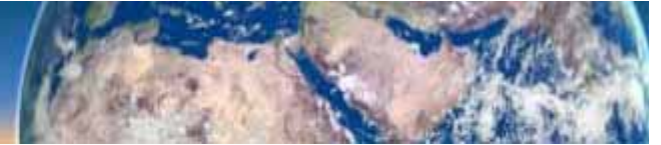
2005

Positive



Negative

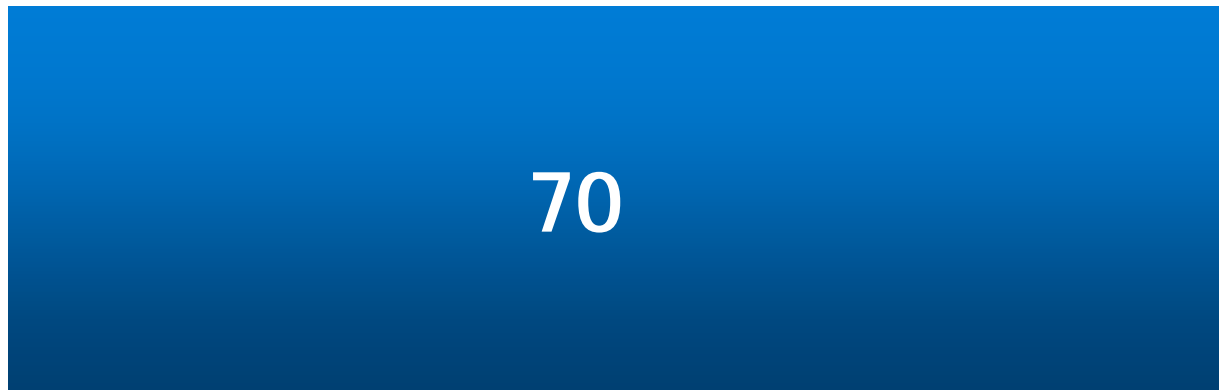




## A More Powerful UN

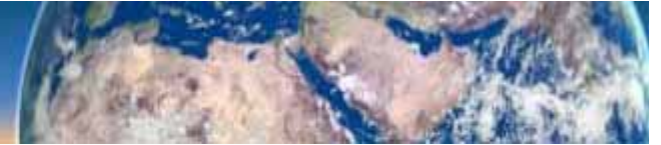
Possible future trend: The United Nations becomes significantly more powerful in world affairs

Positive



Negative

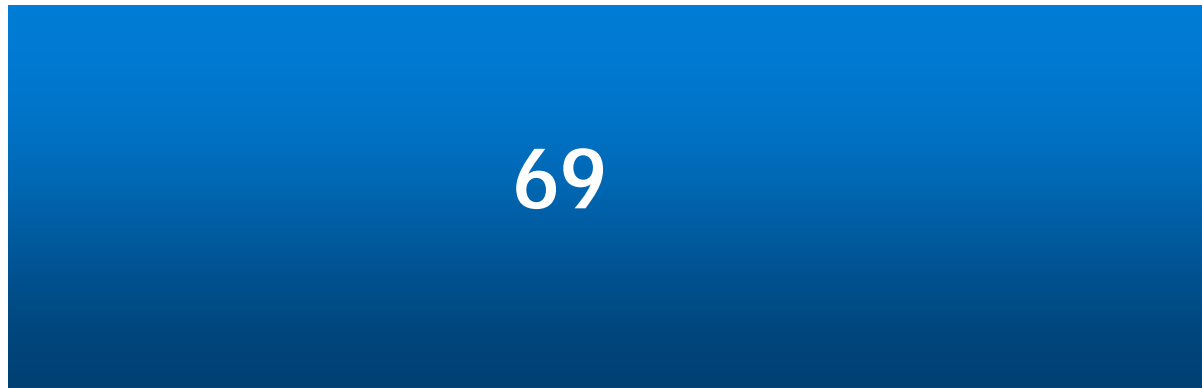




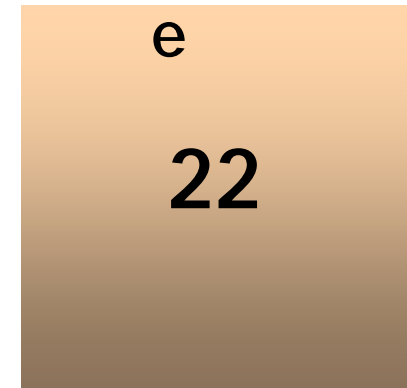
# UN Legitimizing Military Force

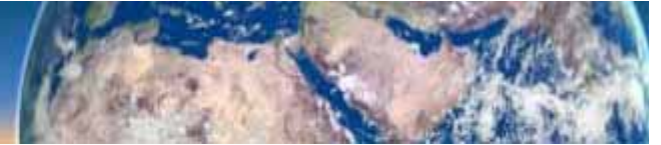
The use of military force is more legitimate when the United Nations (UN) approves it.

Agree

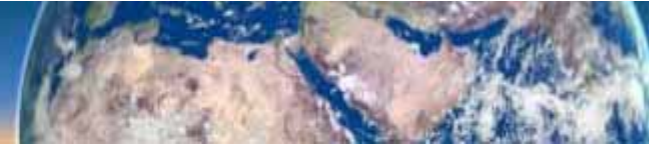


Disagree





# Islam and the West



# Religion and Identity

Which of the following statements do you agree with most?  
I think of myself...

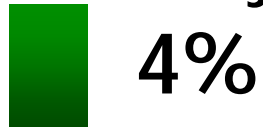
Primarily as a citizen of Iran



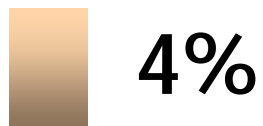
Primarily as a member of my religion

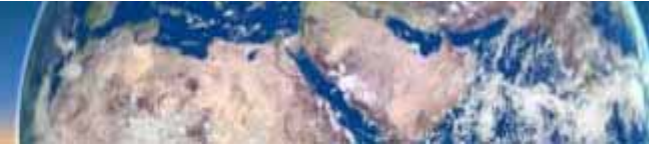


Primarily as a member of my ethnic group



Not so much in these ways but primarily as an individual





## Relations Between West and Muslim World

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

Conflict inevitable



25%

Possible to find common ground



58%



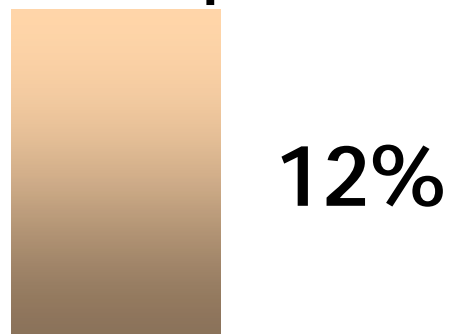
# Threat Perception: Conflict Between Western and Islamic Countries

Critical

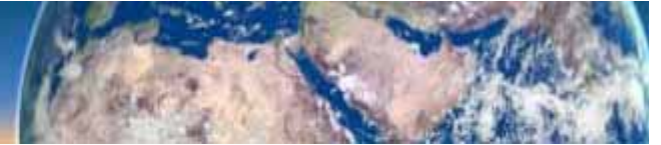
Important



Not important







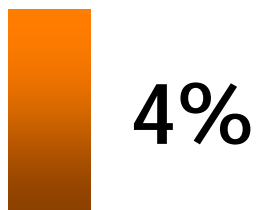
## Iran's Ties With West vs. Muslim Countries

Which should be a more important goal for Iran?

To strengthen ties with Muslim countries

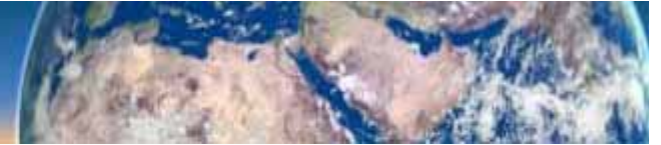


To strengthen ties with the West



To do both equally





# Views of Europe

## Influence on the World

Mainly positive

48

Mainly negative

35

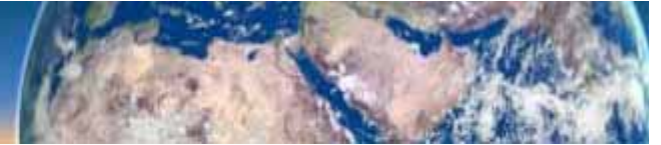
Please tell me if you would see...Europe becom[ing] more influential than the United States in world affairs as mainly positive or mainly negative . . .

Mainly positive

48

Mainly negative

24



# Views of France and Britain

## Influence on the World

Mainly positive

Mainly negative

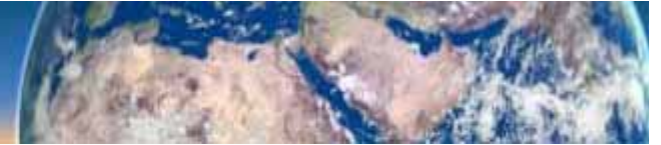


## Favorability of leaders

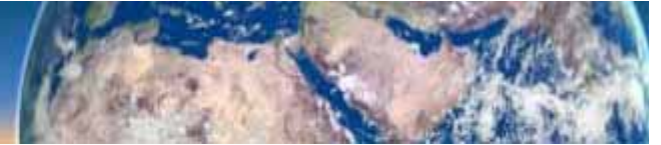
Favorable

Unfavorable





# Islamic Militancy Terrorism, Attacks on Civilian



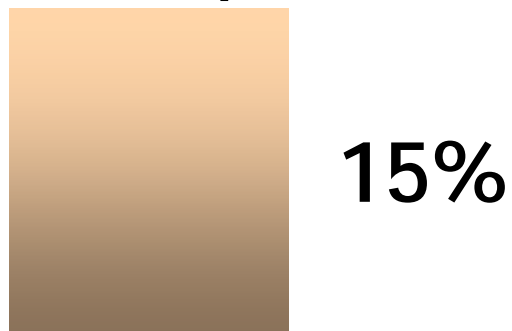
# Threat Perception: Islamist Sectarian Militant Groups

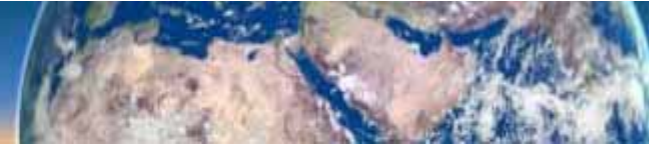
Critical

Important



Not important





# Threat Perception: Al Qaeda

Critical

Important



Not important

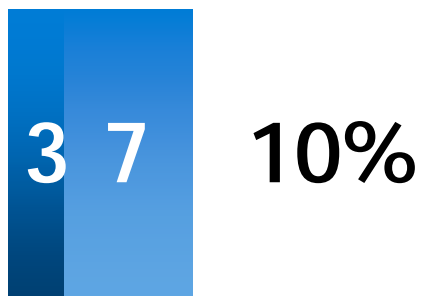




# View of Osama Bin Laden

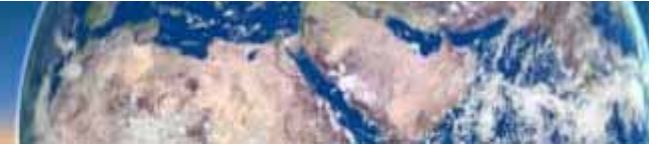


## Favorable



## Unfavorable





# Threat Perception: Terrorism

## International terrorism

Critical

Important



Not important



## Terrorist attacks in our country

Critical

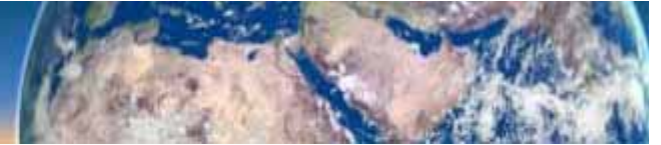
Important



Not important







# Attacks on Civilians

Some people think that bombing and other types of attacks intentionally aimed at civilians are sometimes justified while others think that this kind of violence is never justified. Do you personally feel that such attacks are often justified, sometimes justified, rarely justified, or never justified?

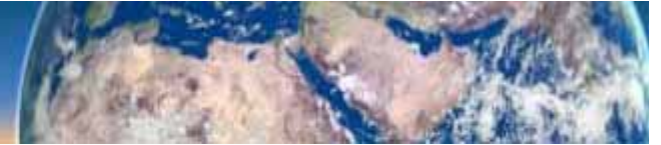
Often / Sometimes



Never

Rarely

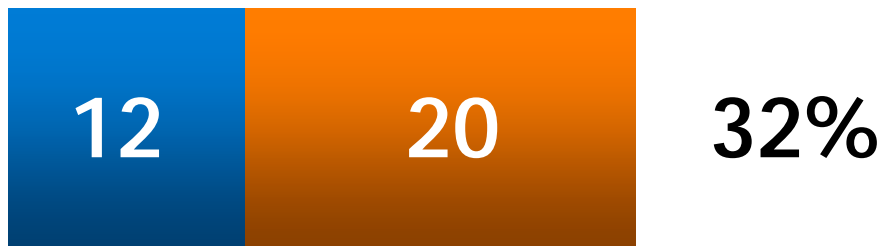




# Attacks on Civilians: Policemen

In the context of war and other forms of military conflict for each of the following types of people please tell me if you think that attacks against them are...justified?

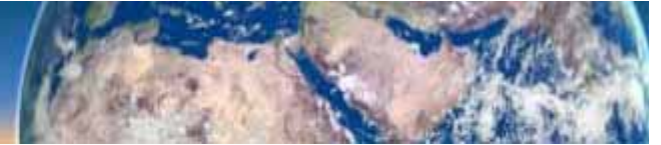
Often / Sometimes



Never

Rarely





## Attacks on Civilians: Government Officials

In the context of war and other forms of military conflict for each of the following types of people please tell me if you think that attacks against them are...justified?

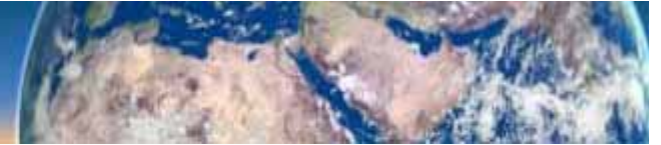
Often / Sometimes



Never

Rarely

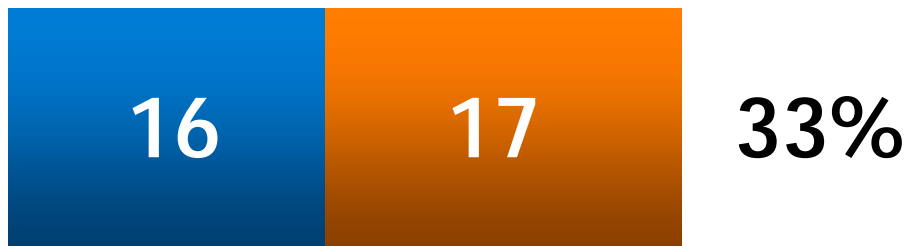




# Attacks on Civilians: Intelligence Agents

In the context of war and other forms of military conflict for each of the following types of people please tell me if you think that attacks against them are...justified?

Often / Sometimes



Never

Rarely





# Attacks on Palestinian and Israeli Civilians

Please tell me if you personally feel that these are sometimes justified or never justified:

## Attacks by Palestinians on Israeli civilians

Sometimes justified

Never justified



## Attacks by Israelis on Palestinian civilians

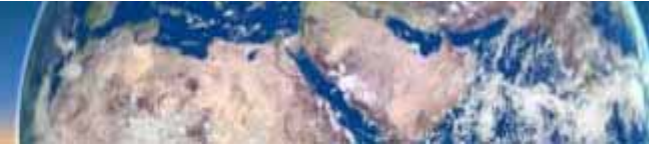
Sometimes justified

Never justified





# Improving US-Iranian Relations



# Steps for Improving US-Iran Relations

--Percentage Who Favor--

Direct talks on issues of mutual concern



Greater trade



Provide more access for each other's journalists

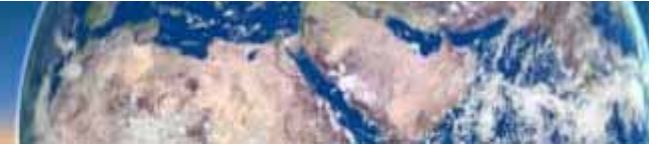


Have more Americans and Iranians visit as tourists



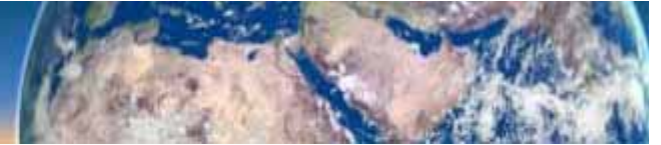
Greater cultural, educational, and sporting exchanges





# **Globalization, Western Influences and Democracy**





# Globalization

Do you believe that globalization, especially the increasing connections of our economy with others around the world, is mostly good or mostly bad for Iran?

Mostly good

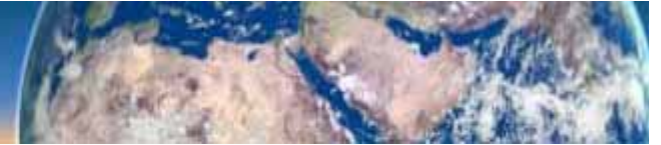


63%

Mostly bad



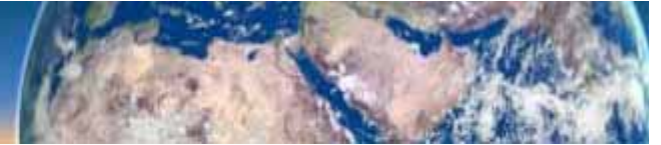
31%



# Importing Cultural Influences

Do you think that having movies, TV and music from different parts of the world available in Iran is a very good thing, somewhat good, somewhat bad or a very bad thing for our country?





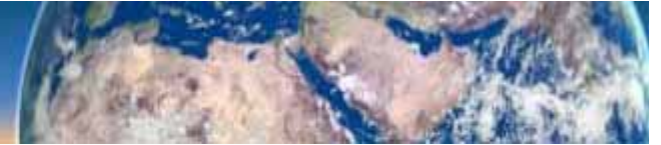
# Democratic Representation

How important is it for you to live in a country that is governed by representatives elected by the people? On this scale where 1 means it is “not at all important” and 10 means “absolutely important” what position would you choose?

Mean: 9.1

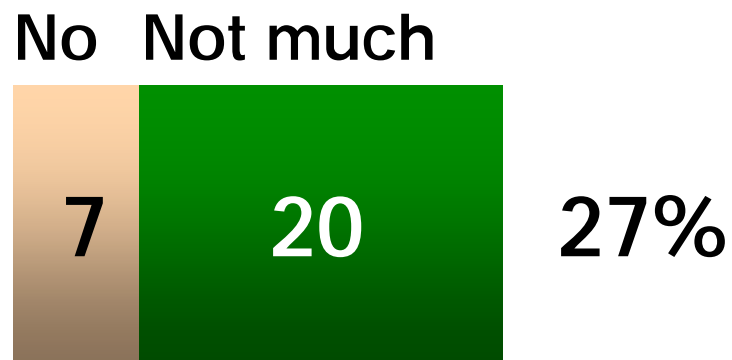
And how much do you think Iran is governed by representatives elected by the people? Again using a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means “not at all” and 10 means “completely,” what position would you choose?

Mean: 6.9



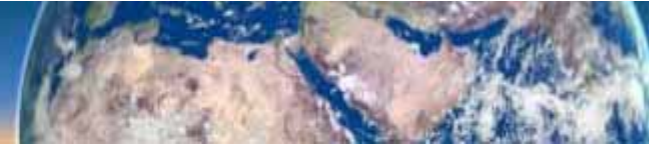
# Respect for Individual Rights

How much respect is there for individual human rights nowadays in our country?

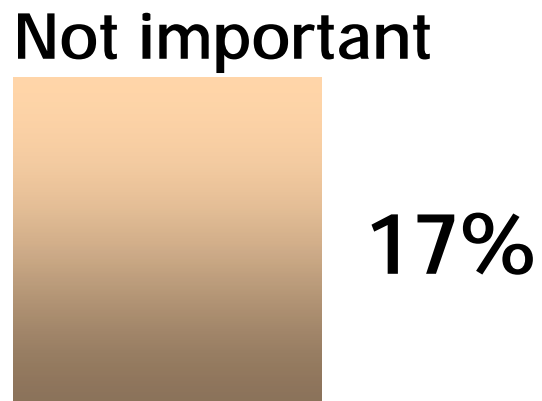
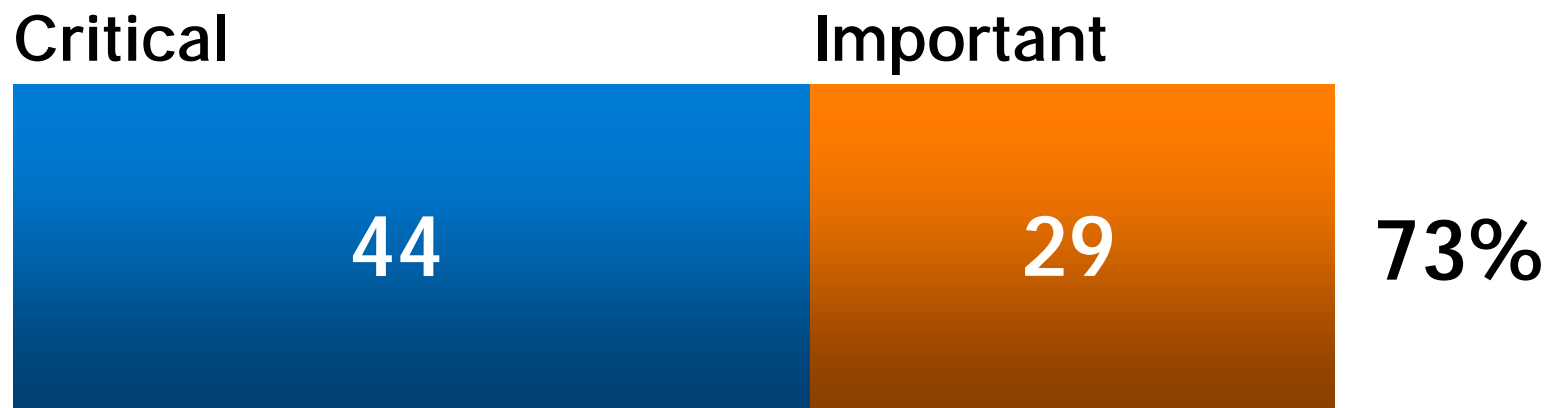


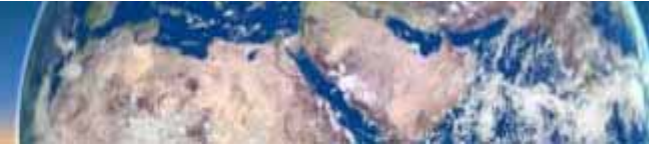


# Iraq



# Threat Perception: Instability in Iraq





## Effect of Iraq War

Do you think that the war in Iraq has increased, decreased, or had no effect on the likelihood of terrorist attacks around the world?

Increased the likelihood



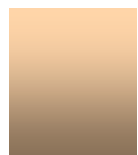
75%

Decreased the likelihood

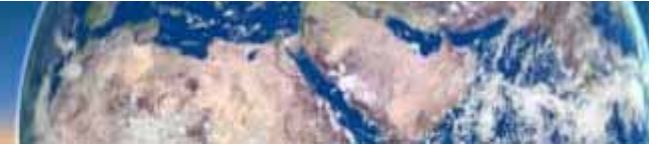


6%

Had no effect on the likelihood of terrorist attacks



7%



## Views of Iraq Government

Is the current Iraqi government the legitimate representative of the Iraqi people?

Yes

54

No

31

View of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki

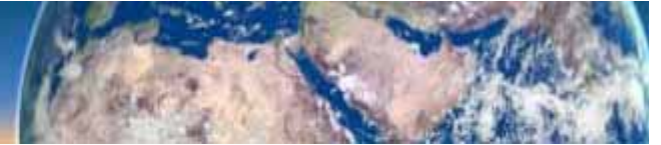
Favorable

48

Unfavorable

22





## US-led Forces in Iraq

Which of the following do you think the US-led forces in Iraq should do?

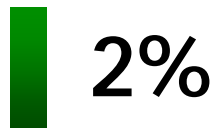
Withdraw all US-led forces within six months



Gradually withdraw US-led forces according to a 1-year timeline

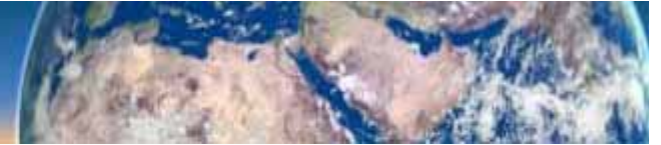


Gradually withdraw US-led forces according to a 2-year timeline



Only reduce US-led forces as the security improves in Iraq





# Regional Issues



# Views of Middle East Players

■ Mainly positive

■ Mainly negative

Syria



Hezbollah



Hamas

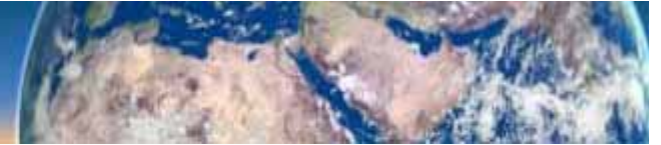


Palestinians



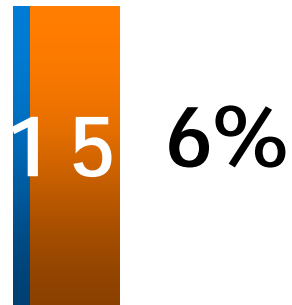
Israel





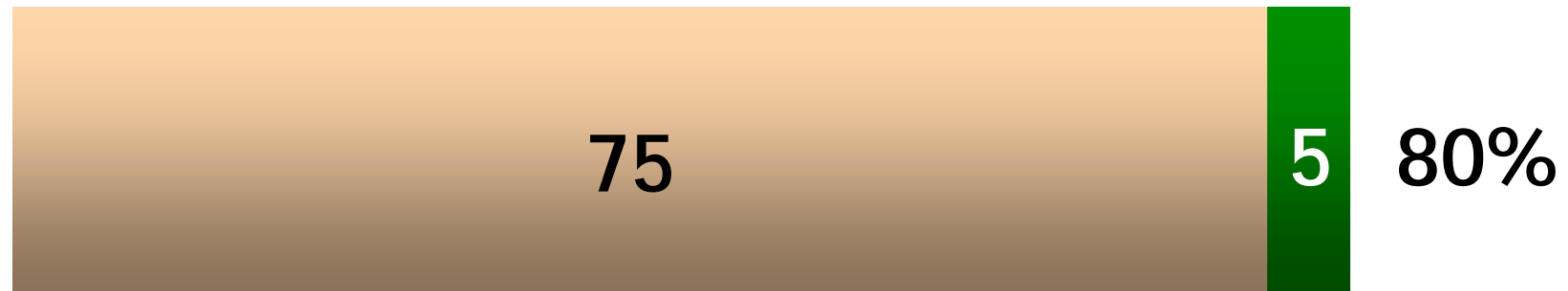
# View of Taliban

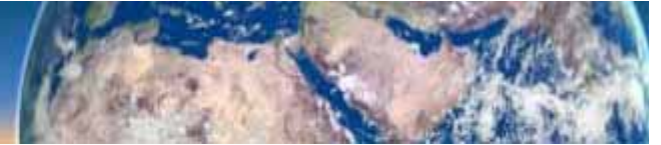
Very / Somewhat Favorable



Very Unfavorable

Somewhat Unfav.





# Effect of Overthrow of Taliban

Gotten better
  No change
  Gotten worse

Drug trafficking in the region



Iran's security on its border with Afghanistan

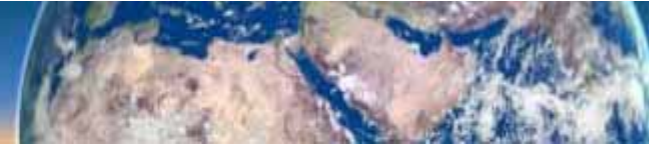


Security of Shia in Afghanistan



The ability of the Sunni militant groups to operate in the region





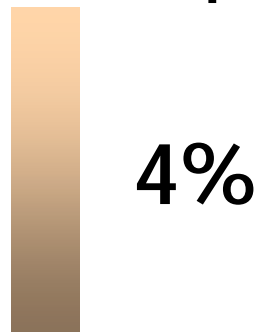
# Threat Perception: Drug Trafficking

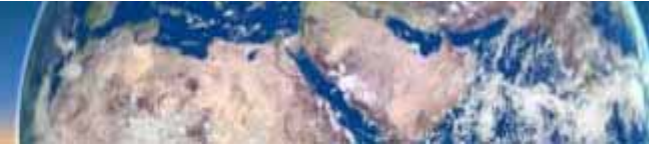
Critical

Important



Not important





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