AMERICA IN THE WORLD

Some Survey Data Give a Superficial Impression of Growing Isolationism

Editor's Note: As Richard J. Cattani points out in the preceding article, for all the talk this election season of Americans turning inward, polls continue to show a public which is keenly aware of the country's inescapable needs, interests and responsibilities internationally. Even in the area of foreign aid, where the public's first response has been, throughout the post-World War II years, "We're doing quite enough already, thank you," there is substantial support for assistance—including assistance to the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Question: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements...We shouldn't think so much in international terms but concentrate more on our own national problems and building up our strength and prosperity here at home.


Question: ...Do you favor or oppose reducing the amount of aid the US provides to foreign countries?


Question: Should federal spending on foreign aid be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?


But Does the Public Really Want to Withdraw From International Affairs?

Question: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements...The US should mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along as best they can on their own.

**NO TO ISOLATIONISM: THE PUBLIC STILL SEES MILITARY PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION**

Many Americans Distrust Soviet or Republic Leaders on Nuclear Arms

**Question:** Do you think the Soviet Union can be trusted to cut back its nuclear weapons without a formal treaty, or not?

**Source:** Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, October 16-21, 1991.

![Bar chart showing opinions on trusting the Soviet Union](image)

**Concern Remains About Control of Nuclear Weapons**

Responses of Registered Voters:

- Extremely/Quite Concerned: 53%
- Just Somewhat/Not That Concerned: 46%
- Not Sure: 1%

**Question:** How concerned are you that the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union are no longer controlled by the leaders of one central government...

**Source:** Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, January 17-21, 1992.

![Bar chart showing concern levels](image)

**The Public Is Split on Reducing the CIA Budget**

**Question:** In reaching agreements on nuclear arms reductions, do you think the emerging republics of the Soviet Union can be trusted to keep their part of the bargain or not?

**Source:** Survey by Market Strategies & Greenberg-Lake, November 25-December 2, 1991.

![Pie chart showing public opinion on reducing the CIA budget](image)

**Don't Let Down Our Guard in Europe**

**Question:** How do you feel about the number of American troops stationed in Europe? In general, do you feel we have too many troops there now, about the right number, or should we send more?


![Pie chart showing views on troop numbers in Europe](image)

**Question:** In today's world, is it still necessary for the US to maintain NATO—its military alliance with countries in Western Europe—or is this military alliance no longer necessary?


![Pie chart showing views on the necessity of NATO](image)
NO TO ISOLATIONISM: THE PUBLIC SEES OTHER REASONS FOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENT

The Persian Gulf War Was Worth the Cost

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the US having sent troops to fight in the Persian Gulf?


We Need to Keep a Military Presence in the Middle East...

Question: Do you think we should or should not keep a military presence in the Middle East, like we did in Germany and Korea?


And Maintain Ties With Israel

Question: Do you think the US should strengthen its ties to Israel, weaken its ties, or keep its ties to Israel about the same as they are now?


The War Cautions Many Against Making Massive Defense Cuts

Question: Which is closest to your opinion? The collapse of the Soviet Union means the US can make massive cuts in defense spending in the next year or so, or continued threats from countries like Iran and Iraq mean that we can only afford to make small, gradual cuts in defense spending?

**NO TO ISOLATIONISM: EVEN IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN AID, THE PUBLIC SEES MANY NEEDS**

**In the Former Soviet Union**

- **Oppose**: 12%
- **Favor**: 82%
- **DK/No Answer**: 6%

**Question**: Would you favor or oppose the US giving economic aid to the Soviet Union in order to help the Soviet Union to prevent a possible famine this winter?


**And Elsewhere**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Should Help</th>
<th>Should Not Help</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Soviet Union</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Question**: Here is a list of some countries. For each one, please tell me whether you think we should or should not help that country with economic aid.


**Question**: Would you favor or oppose the US giving Soviet Union economic aid, if that's necessary to prevent it from sliding back into dictatorship and once again becoming a threat to the US?


**Question**: Would you favor or oppose the US giving economic aid to the Soviet Union in order to help the Soviet Union reform its economy?


**Question**: Do you think the US should increase or decrease the amount of military and economic aid it gives to Israel, or do you think it should remain about the same?