

RELIGION HERE AND ABROAD

The data on the next five pages remind us that the United States is—comparatively speaking—a very religious country. On each dimension of the strength of personal belief shown here, Americans evince more religious commitment than do people in Britain and Germany. Formerly communist East Germany stands apart.

Question: Please indicate which statement below comes closest to expressing what you believe about God.

	I know God really exists and I have no doubts about it	While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God	I find myself believing in God some of the time, but not at others	I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a Higher Power of some kind	I don't know whether there is a God and I don't believe there is any way to find out	I don't believe in God
United States	63%	18%	5%	7%	5%	2%
United Kingdom	24%	27	13	13	14	10
W. Germany	27%	21	9	22	10	10
E. Germany	9%	9	9	10	14	49

Question: How often have you felt as though you were close to a powerful, spiritual force that seemed to lift you out of yourself?

Question: Which best describes your beliefs about God?

	Never in my life	Once or twice	Several times	Often	I believe in God now and I always have	I believe in God now, but I didn't used to	I don't believe in God now, but I used to	I don't believe in God now and I never have
United States	67%	18%	10%	5%	89%	5%	4%	2%
United Kingdom	72%	17	7	4	61%	8	17	14
W. Germany	82%	8	8	2	58%	9	23	10
E. Germany	93%	2	4	1	20%	5	25	51

Question: Would you describe yourself as...?

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following?

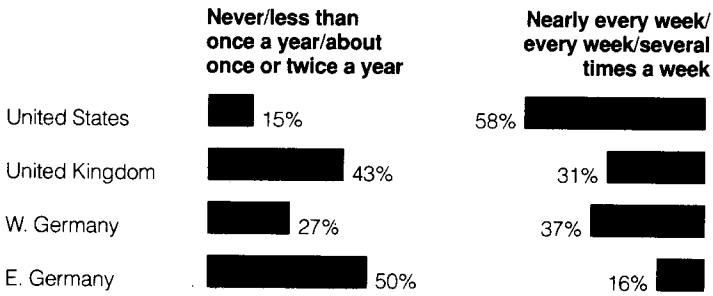
	Extremely/very/somewhat religious	Somewhat/very/extremely non-religious	To me, life is meaningful only because God exists	Strongly agree/agree	Disagree/strongly disagree
United States	73%	9%	United States	49%	26%
United Kingdom	44%	26	United Kingdom	22%	53
W. Germany	48%	31	W. Germany	26%	58
E. Germany	21%	71	E. Germany	11%	81

Source: Surveys for the International Social Survey Program, 1991, by the National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago (U.S.); Social and Community Planning Research (London, U.K.); and Zentrum fuer Umfragen, Methoden, und Analysen (Mannheim, Germany).

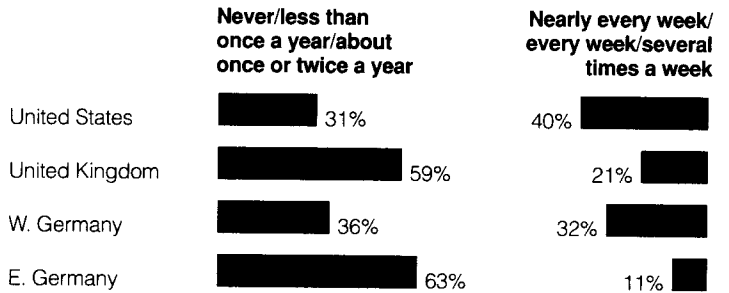
Religious Practice

In terms of religious practice, Americans once again show a more active commitment than people in these other nations. Data from surveys taken in countries besides the United States, Britain, and Germany are not yet available.

Question: **When you were a child, how often did your mother attend religious services?**

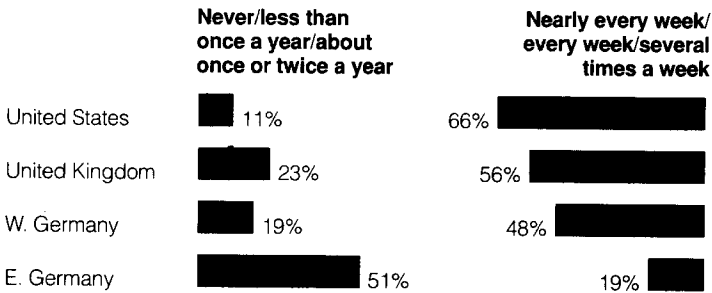


Question: **When you were a child, how often did your father attend religious services?**

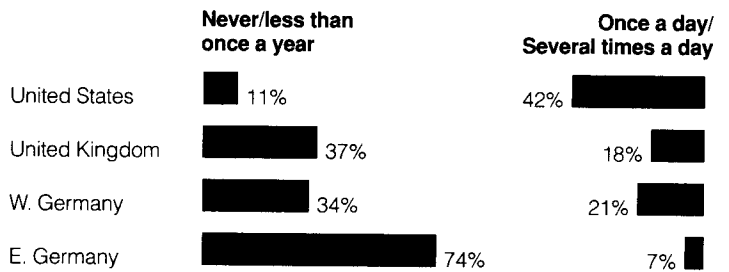


Note: Responses not shown: "Several times a year"; "About once a month"; "2-3 times a month."

Question: **And, when you were around 11 or 12, how often did you attend religious services?**



Question: **Now, thinking about the present, about how often do you pray?**

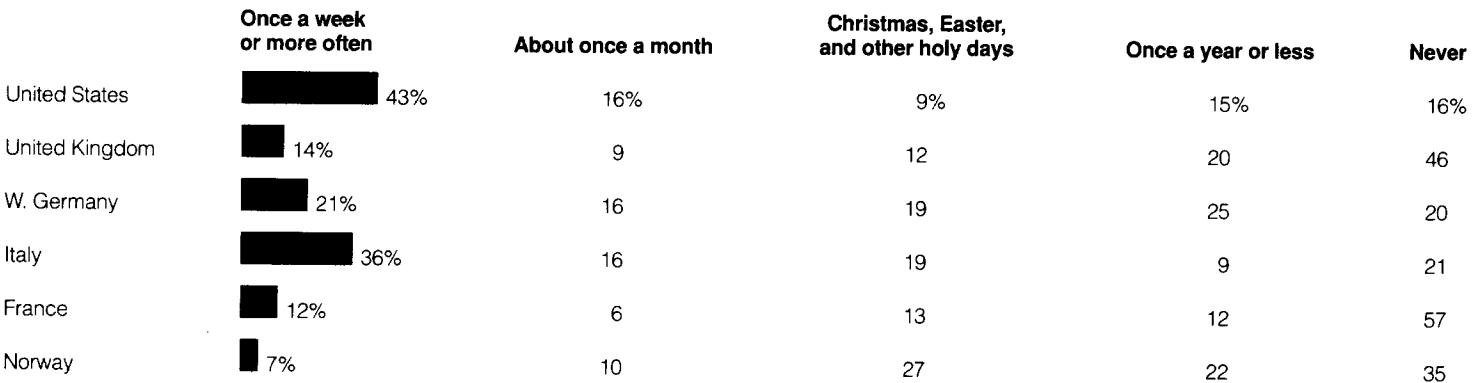


Note: Responses not shown: "Several times a year"; "About once a month"; "2-3 times a month."

Note: Responses not shown: "About once or twice a year"; "Several times a year"; "About once a month"; "two to three times a month"; "Nearly every week"; "Every week"; "Several times a week."

Source: Surveys for the International Social Survey Program, 1991, by the National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago (U.S.); Social and Community Planning Research (London, U.K.); and Zentrum fuer Umfragen, Methoden, und Analysen (Mannheim, Germany).

Question: **How often respondent attends religious services?**



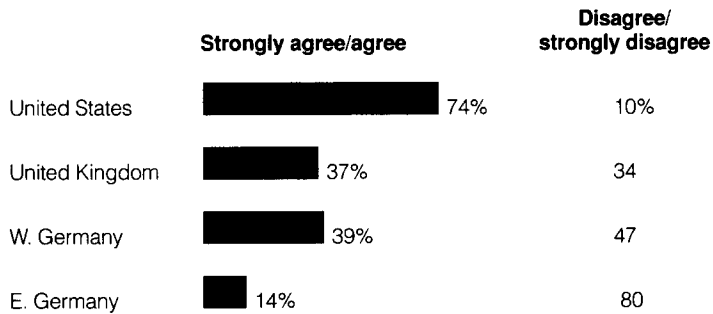
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, for the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, 1981.

Theology

Americans are more likely than those in other nations to believe in life after death, in miracles, in Heaven, Hell, and the Devil. Twice as many Americans as Brits or West Germans believe that there is a God who concerns himself with every human being personally.

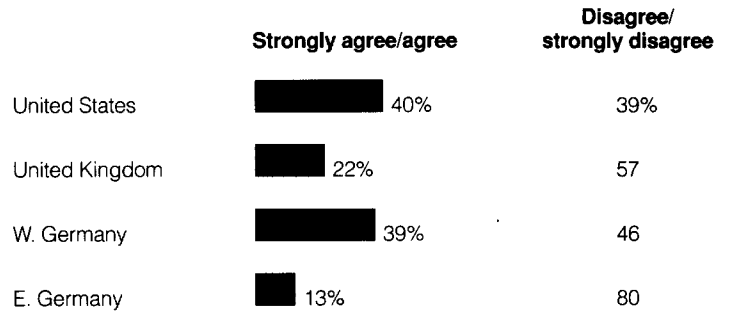
Question: **Do you agree or disagree with the following?**

There is a God who concerns Himself with every human being personally

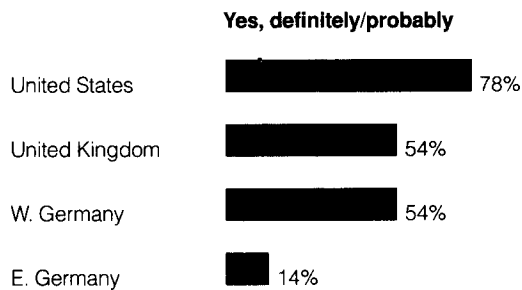


Question: **Do you agree or disagree with the following?**

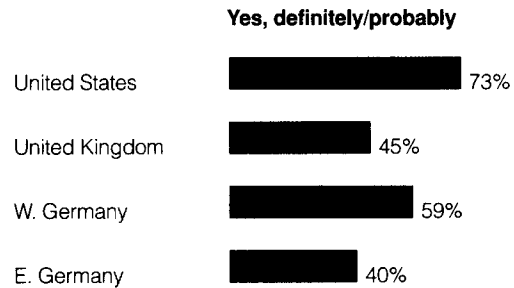
The course of our lives is decided by God



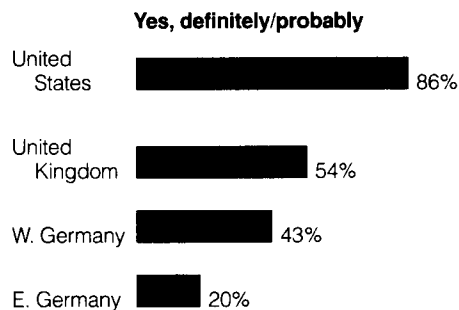
Question: **Do you believe in life after death?**



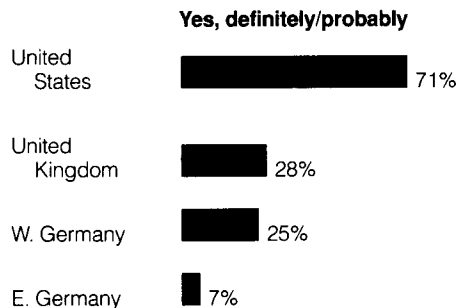
Question: **Do you believe in miracles?**



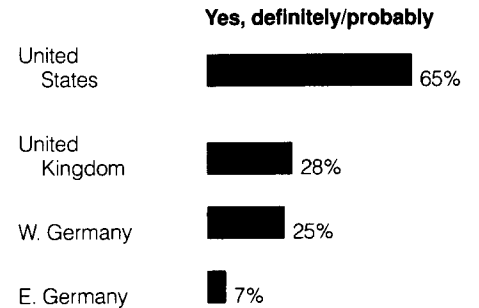
Question: **Do you believe in Heaven?**



Question: **Do you believe in Hell?**



Question: **Do you believe in the Devil?**

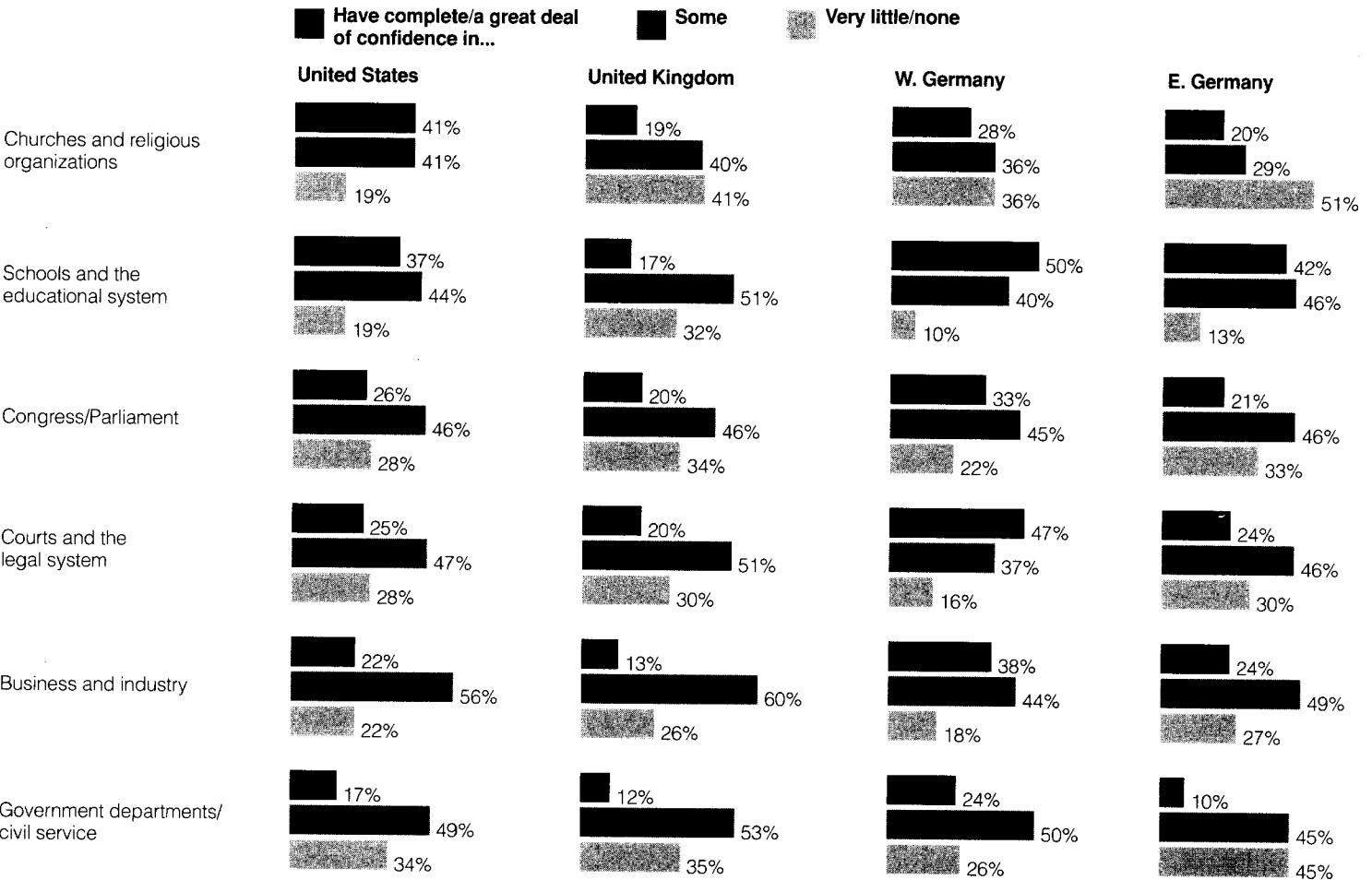


Source: Surveys for the International Social Survey Program, 1991, by the National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago (U.S.); Social and Community Planning Research (London, U.K.); and Zentrum fuer Umfragen, Methoden, und Analysen (Mannheim, Germany).

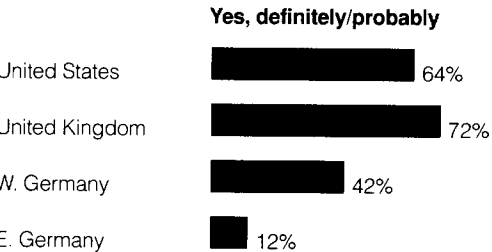
Religion in Society...

Strong majorities of Americans and Brits believe that there should be daily prayers in public schools. Germans are less likely to agree. Our strong religious commitment influences our positions on social issues. Americans are more likely, for example, to say that premarital sex and abortion are wrong than are Europeans.

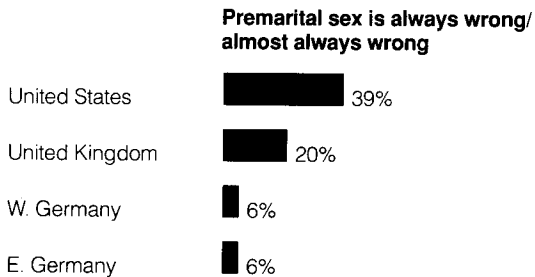
Question: **How much confidence do you have in...?**



Question: **In your opinion, should there be daily prayers in all public schools?**



Question: **Do you think it is wrong or not wrong if a man and a woman have sexual relations before marriage?**

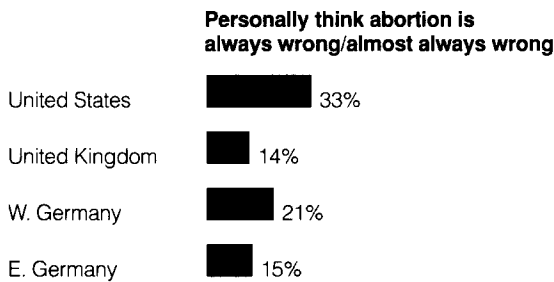


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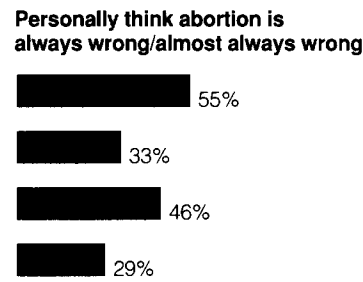
What role should religion play in public life? Americans are more likely than the others shown here to believe that atheists are unfit for public office and to agree that the country would be better off if more people with strong religious beliefs served in office.

Question: **Do you think the law should or should not allow a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion...? Do you personally think it is wrong or not wrong for a woman to have an abortion...?**

If there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby



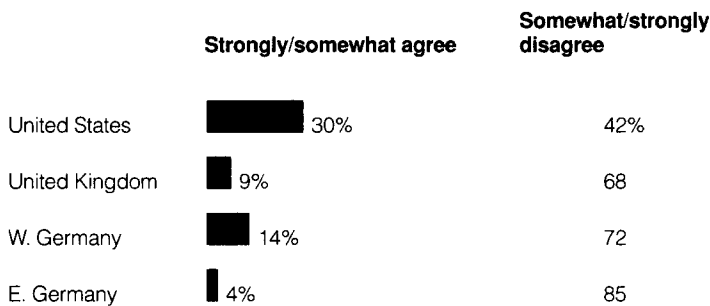
If the family has a very low income and cannot afford more children



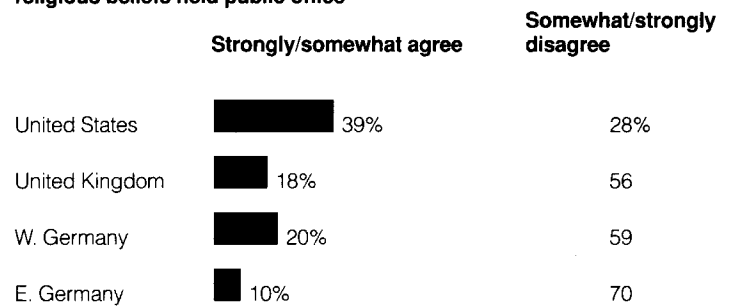
...And In Public Life

Question: **How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?**

Politicians who do not believe in God are unfit for public office

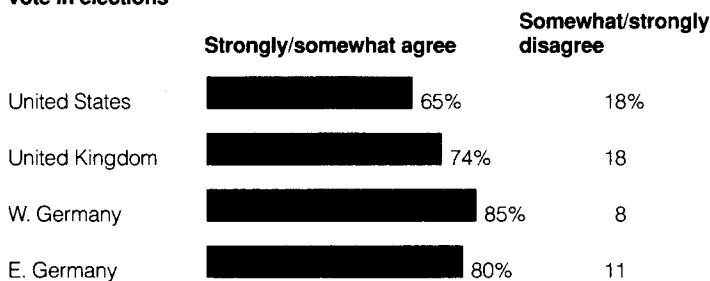


It would be better for (country) if more people with strong religious beliefs held public office

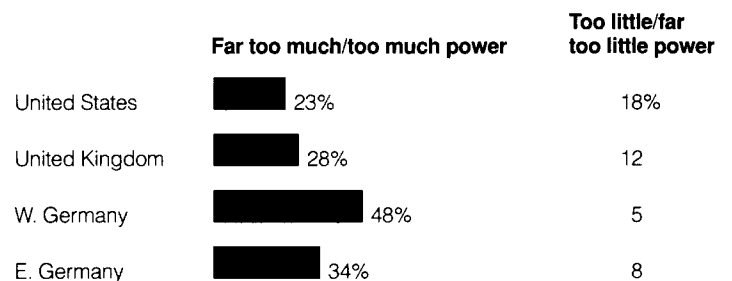


Question: **How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?**

Religious leaders should not try to influence how people vote in elections



Question: **Do you think that churches and religious organizations in this country have...?**



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