National Defense: Consistently High Support

AmERICANS HAVE BACKED HEAVy MILITARY OUTLAyS FOR SIX DECAdES...

Question: Do you think the amount of money we are now spending on the Army and Navy is too much, too little, or about right?

Too much: 20%
Too little: 25%
About right: 46%

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, May 12-17, 1937.

Question: Do you think government spending should be increased or decreased on the following... national defense?

Decrease: 8%
Increase: 68%
Remain same: 16%

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, January 9-14, 1939.

Question: Do you think federal government spending for national defense should be increased or decreased?

Decreased: 14%
Increased: 59%
No change: 19%

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, January 12-18, 1940.

Question: Do you think we should keep on spending as much as we do now for our defense programs, or should we cut down on the amount we spend for defense?

Cut down: 19%
Spend as much: 72%

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, September 15-20, 1955.

Question: There is much discussion as to the amount this country should spend for national defense. How do you feel about this—Do you think we are spending too little, too much, or about the right amount?

Too much: 19%
Too little: 22%
About right: 45%

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 2-7, 1960.

Question: There is much discussion as to the amount the government in Washington should spend for national defense and military purposes. How do you feel about this: Do you think we are spending too little, too much, or about the right amount?

Too much: 46%
Too little: 6%
About right: 36%

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, November 12-17, 1969.

Too much: 50%
Too little: 11%
About right: 31%

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 11-14, 1971.
...Rarely Has a Plurality Called Current Expenditures Too High

**Question:** We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. Are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on the military, armaments, and defense?

**Source:** Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center-General Social Survey (GSS), latest that of February 1-May 26, 1996.
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Americans Have Backed NATO Strongly

1949

**Question:** Do you think the US and such countries as Canada, England, France, Norway, Holland and other North Atlantic countries, should join together in a mutual defense pact—that is, agree to come to each other’s defense immediately if any of them is attacked?

- Should: 81%
- Should not: 11%
- No opinion: 8%

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 20-25, 1949.

**Question:** What is your opinion of the North Atlantic Security Pact—do you approve or disapprove of it?

- Approve: 76%
- Disapprove: 8%
- No opinion: 15%

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, April 10-15, 1949.

1956

**Question:** How about the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, sometimes called NATO. Under this treaty, the United States and the countries of western Europe have agreed to defend each other against any attack. Do you think this agreement is a good idea, or a bad idea?

- Good idea: 82%
- Bad idea: 10%
- Don’t know: 8%

**Source:** Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, April 21-30, 1956.

1976

**Question:** In the area of foreign policy, do you favor or oppose...The US strengthening military security arrangements with our allies, such as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) in western Europe?

- Favor: 63%
- Oppose: 19%
- Not sure: 18%

**Source:** Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, August 27-30, 1976.

NATO Today

**Question:** Do you think the North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance should be maintained or is the alliance not necessary anymore?

- Maintained: 75%
- Not necessary: 15%
- Don’t know: 10%

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Maintained</th>
<th>Not necessary</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td>1995</td>
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