

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT'S TRACKING POLL ON  
THE WAR IN THE GULF: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE**

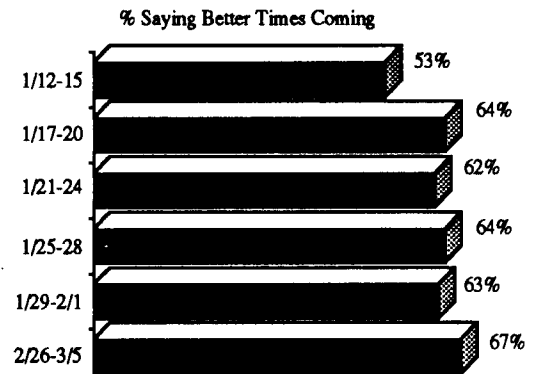
On January 12, 1991, the Institute for Social Inquiry at the University of Connecticut, host institution for the Roper Center, began a daily tracking survey to (1) follow changes in opinion on policy issues relating to the Gulf crisis; (2) examine changes which might occur in where people get their news of developments in the Gulf, and how they evaluate this coverage; (3) chart opinion change on the collateral issue of energy policy; (4) examine how confidence as to the disposition of the crisis shifts with events and reporting of events; and 5) explore how confidence in the nation and its larger standing fluctuates with these developments. Daily tracking was concluded February 1. In late February and early March, however, a regular ISI survey (ConnPoll) repeated many of the questions from the earlier tracking.

One finding of the above inquiry is especially interesting. Many reports since the US-led coalition won its speedy victory have suggested that the victory had greatly boosted public confidence, even "finally put an end to the legacy of Vietnam." Public Perspective doubts this—not because we doubt that most Americans have taken satisfaction from their country's handling of the crisis, but because we think data show that a recovery of confidence—shaken by Vietnam and other events of the late 1960s and 1970s—had already long-since been achieved. The resolution of the Gulf crisis thus produced satisfaction—but not a transformation of the general public's view of the nation.

The data shown here are consistent with this interpretation. Connecticut residents entered the war in January with positive views of the country's larger place and performance. The uptick which did occur came with the initial decision to begin the war, not with winning it.

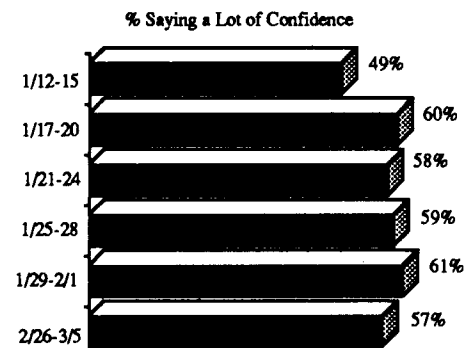
**Question:** Some people think that the US will never again have it as good as we did in the past; others disagree. How about you? Do you think the country has already seen the best times we are going to, or not?

	Yes, seen best times	No, better coming	DK, etc.
1/12-15/91	41%	53%	6%
1/17-20/91	27	64	9
1/21-24/91	32	62	7
1/25-28/91	29	64	7
1/29-2/1/91	32	63	5
2/26-3/5/91	24	67	9



**Question:** Generally speaking, how much confidence do you have that the United States will fulfill its responsibilities in the world over the next few years?

	A Lot	Some	Only a Little	None at all	DK, etc.
1/12-15/91	49%	37%	8%	1%	5%
1/17-20/91	60	33	5	1	2
1/21-24/91	58	35	5	1	2
1/25-28/91	59	33	4	1	4
1/29-2/1/91	61	28	5	1	5
2/16-3/5/91	57	32	6	1	3



**Question:** The United States has great military power. Do you think that on the whole, we've been too ready to use it to protect our vital interests, not ready enough, or have we generally shown good judgment about its use?

	Too Ready	Good Judgment	Not Ready Enough	DK, etc.
1/12-15/91	27%	55%	14%	4%
1/17-20/91	17	73	6	4
1/21-24/91	16	72	7	5
1/25-28/91	20	68	7	4
1/29-2/1/91	18	71	9	2
2/26-3/5/91	20	73	4	3

