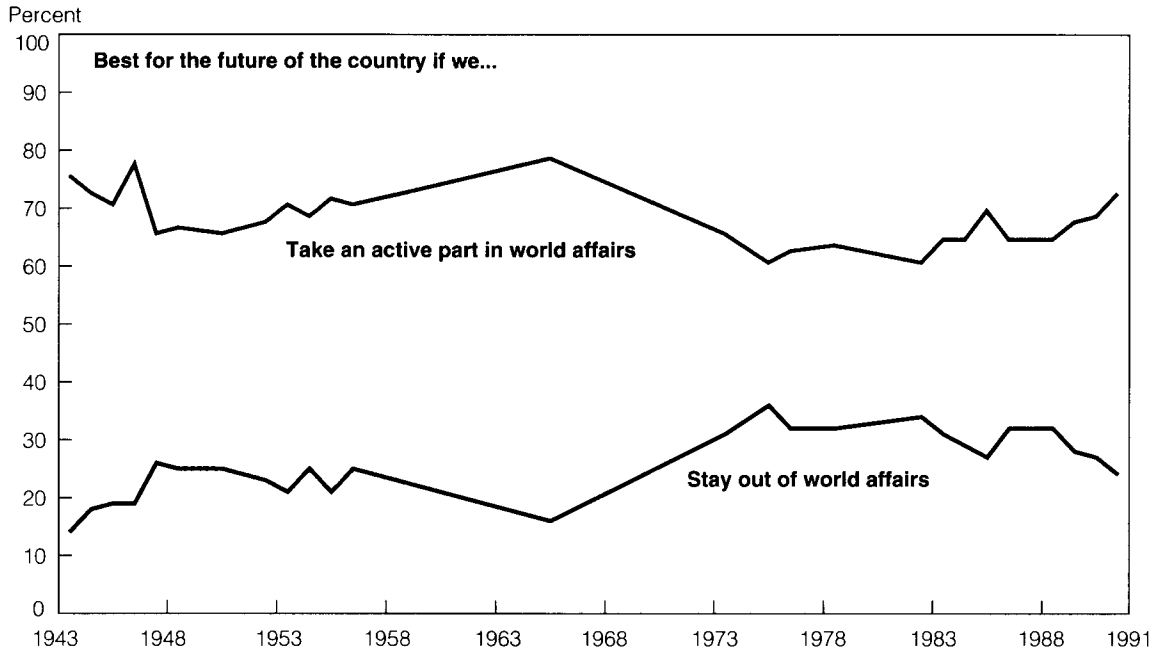


# SENSIBLE INTERNATIONALISM

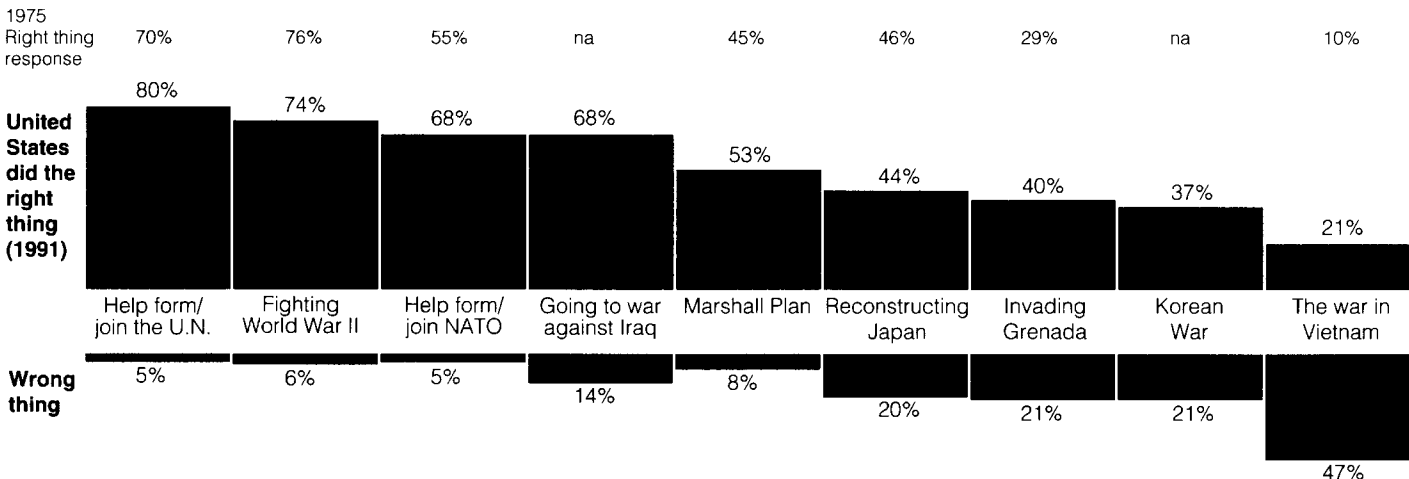
For more than a half century, solid majorities of Americans have said that this country should take an active part in world affairs; about a quarter have said we should stay out. Strong majorities or pluralities say that we did the right thing in a variety of risky and costly foreign policy involvements. Vietnam is the exception.



	Take an active part	Stay out
1943	76%	14%
1944	73	18
1945	71	19
1946	78	19
1947	66	26
1948	67	25
1950	66	25
1952	68	23
1953	71	21
1954	69	25
1955	72	21
1956	71	25
1965	79	16
1973	66	31
1975	61	36
1976	63	32
1978	64	32
1982	61	34
1983	65	31
1984	65	29
1985	70	27
1986	65	32
1988	65	32
1989	68	28
1990	69	27
1991	73	24

**Question wordings:** After this war, do you think the United States should stay out of world affairs, or take an active part in world affairs? (1943) Do you agree with those people who think that the United States should take an active part in world affairs after the war, or with those people who think we should stay out of world affairs? (1944) Do you think it would be best for the future of this country if we take an active part in world affairs or if we stayed out of world affairs? (1945-46) Do you think it will be best for the future of this country if we take an active part in world affairs, or if we stay out of world affairs? (1947-1991)  
**Source:** Surveys by the Gallup Organization (1943-1946) and the National Opinion Research Center (1947-1991).

**Question:** Now I'll name some major events in our history. I'd like to know for each whether you think what this country did was the right thing, or the wrong thing, or somewhere in between? How about fighting World War II...?



**Note:** Categories abbreviated and some not shown: Sending troops into Panama to overthrow Noriega (61% right thing, 15% wrong). Bombing Libya in 1986 (49%-15%), Sending Marines into Lebanon in 1982 (35%-23%).  
**Source:** Surveys by the Roper Organization (Roper Reports 91-3), latest that of February 9-23, 1991.

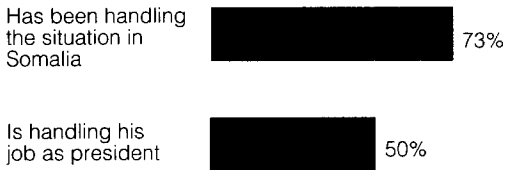
# International Involvement: Now...

At a time when much of the political commentary was suggesting that Americans were weary of our responsibilities in the world, Americans were telling the pollsters that they supported administration actions in Somalia, felt it important to help the Soviets economically, and preferred staying in NATO to getting out.

Question: **Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush (is handling his job/has been handling the situation in Somalia)?**

1992

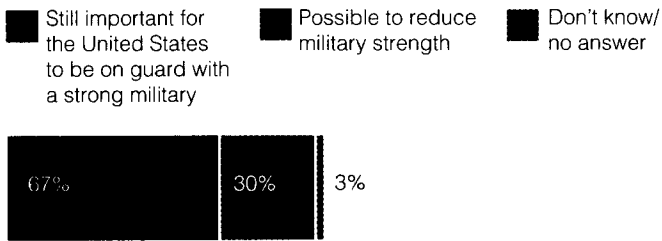
## Approve of the way George Bush...



Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, December 7-9, 1992.

Question: **In today's world, is it still important for the United States to continue to be on guard with a strong military or is it possible for the United States to reduce its military strength?**

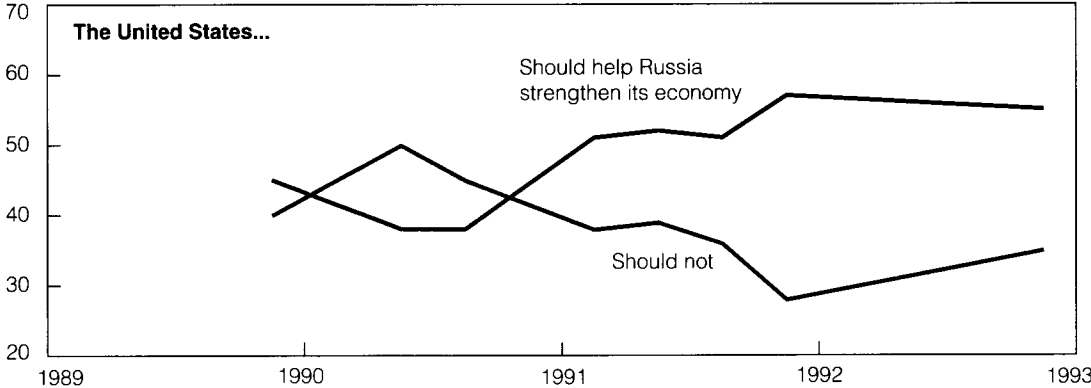
1991



Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, October 5-7, 1991.

Question: **Do you feel that the United States should or should not help Russia to strengthen its economy?**

Percent



Source: Surveys by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, latest that of December 12-15, 1992.

Question: **If Saddam Hussein does not comply with the United Nations resolutions and other arrangements made by the United States and its allies at the end of the Persian Gulf War, do you think we should...?**

1993

**If Saddam Hussein does not comply with the United Nations resolutions...**

**We should use planes to attack Iraq again**



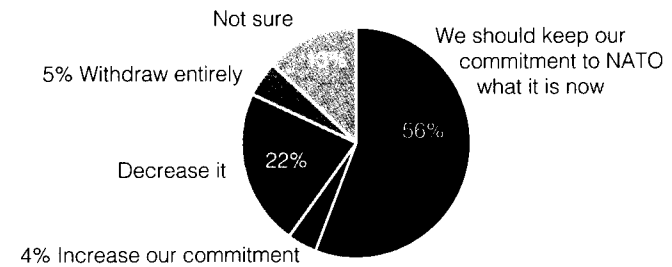
**We should use ground troops to invade Iraq**



Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners, inc., for Time and CNN, January 13-14, 1993.

Question: **Some people feel that NATO, the military organization of Western Europe and the United States, has outlived its usefulness, and that the United States should withdraw militarily from NATO. Others say that NATO still has a function in preserving peace in Europe. Do you feel...?**

1990



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, October 23-November 15, 1990.

	Should	Should not
Dec. 1989	45%	40%
May	38	50
Jul.	38	45
Jun. 1991	51	38
Jul.	52	39
Aug.	51	36
Sep.	57	28
Dec. 1992	55	35

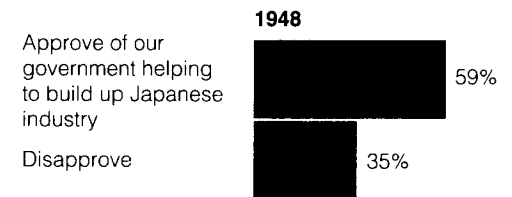
# And Then

Awareness that being a great power carries responsibilities can be seen in data from earlier periods in our history. After World War II, we were quick and steadfast in our support of the Marshall Plan and also of the effort to rebuild Japan. The speed with which opinion changed in the direction of supporting Japanese reconstruction is striking.

Question: **Would you like to see our government help Japan get her peacetime industry going again after this war, or not? (1945)**

Question: **Would you like to see our government help Japan get her peacetime industry going again? (1946)**

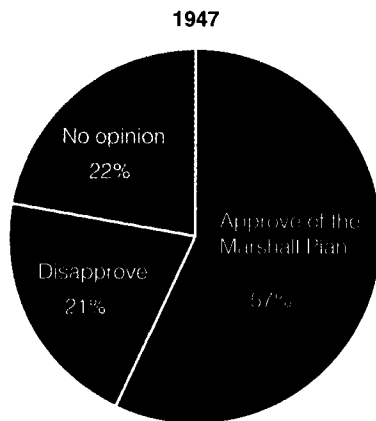
Question: **Do you approve or disapprove of our government helping to build up Japanese industry?**



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of December 1946.

Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, June 1948.

Question: **What is your opinion of the Marshall Plan?**



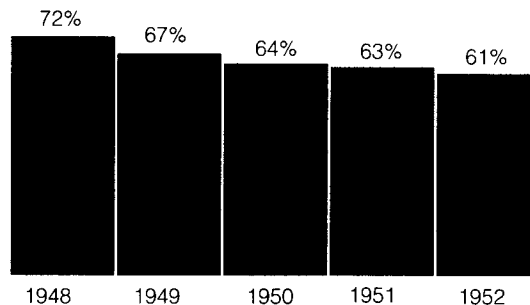
Note: Asked of 49% who said they had heard of or read about the Marshall Plan. In a February 1948 Gallup survey, 79% of respondents said that they heard of the plan and 57% of those respondents had a favorable impression of it.

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, July 4-9, 1947.

Question: **Do you approve or disapprove of continuing to send economic aid to Western Europe under the Marshall Plan?**

1952

Approve of continuing to send economic aid to Western Europe under the Marshall Plan



Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of June 1952.