

Part VI: 1988-1997

Dramatic Change Abroad; Political Deadlock at Home

“ALLIED UNITS SURGE THROUGH KUWAIT; TROOPS CONFRONT ELITE FORCE IN IRAQ; BUSH SPURNS HUSSEIN’S PULLOUT MOVE SURRENDER DEMAND”

THE NEW YORK TIMES
FEBRUARY 27, 1991

“END OF SOVIET UNION; THE SOVIET STATE, BORN OF A DREAM, DIES”

THE NEW YORK TIMES
DECEMBER 26, 1991

“CLINTON ELECTED TO A 2ND TERM WITH SOLID MARGINS ACROSS US; GOP KEEPS HOLD ON CONGRESS”

THE NEW YORK TIMES
NOVEMBER 6, 1996

Popular Culture and Style

Note: Beginning in 1992, most of the Gallup survey data presented here were done in collaboration with *USA Today* and CNN.

Question: [Asked of respondents in households with television sets] How many television sets do you own?

Two	37%
One	29%
Three	20%
Four	10%
Five or more	4%

8/16-19/90

Question: About how many hours do you personally spend watching television on an average weekday...?

2-4 hours	35%
1-2 hours	29%
4-6 hours	15%
Less than 1 hour	11%
6 hours or more	9%

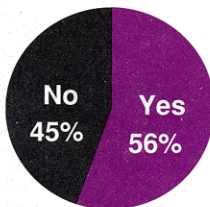
11/19-21/93

Question: When teenagers aged 13-17 are exposed to violence and sex in the movies, on television and in music, who do you feel is mostly to blame—the parents or, the entertainment industry?

Parents	48%
Entertainment industry	31%
Both equally (vol.)	18%
Neither (vol.)	2%

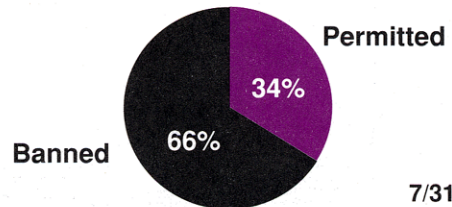
6/5-6/95

Question: Do you think our popular culture threatens to undermine our character as a nation, or don't you think so?



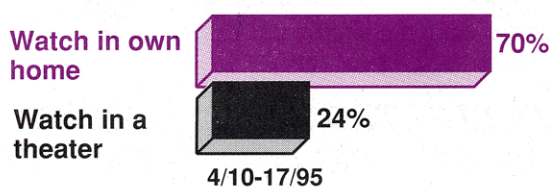
6/5-6/95

Question: Do you think women should be permitted to sunbathe topless on public beaches if they choose to, or do you think topless sunbathing on public beaches should be banned?



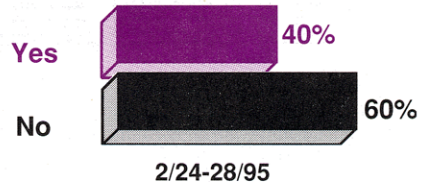
7/31-8/2/92

Question: Would you rather watch a movie in a theater or watch a movie in your own home?



4/10-17/95

Question: Do you or does a member of your household own a computer?



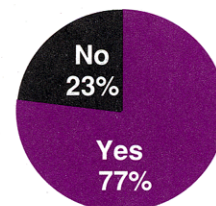
2/24-28/95

Question: Currently the federal government is considering getting rid of the one dollar bill and replacing it with a new, one dollar coin. Would you favor or oppose that action?



6/5-6/95

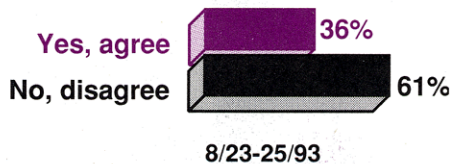
Question: Do you ever visit the library with your children?



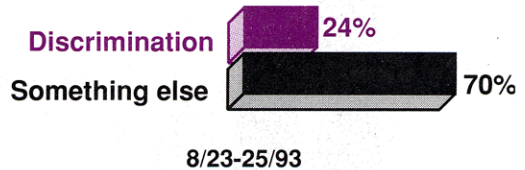
10/13-16/95

Social Issues

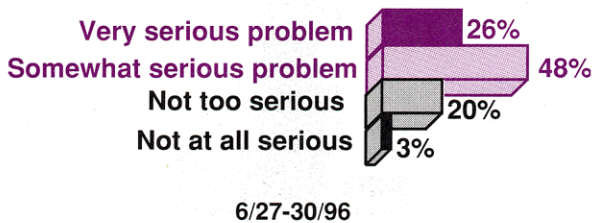
Question: Some people say our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal. Do you agree with this or not?



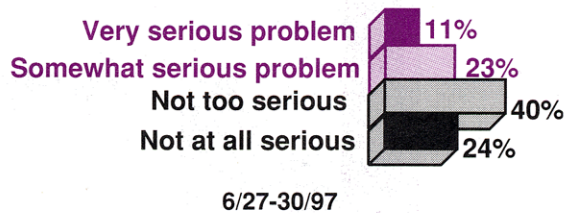
Question: On the average, blacks have worse jobs, income and housing than white people. Do you think this is mostly due to discrimination against blacks, or is it mostly due to something else?



Question: How serious a problem do you think racial discrimination against blacks is in this country—a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, not too serious, or not at all serious?



Question: How serious a problem do you think racial discrimination against blacks is where you live—a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, not too serious, or not at all serious?



Question: In your opinion, how well do you think blacks are treated in your community—the same as whites are, not very well, or badly?

response of blacks



response of whites



6/7-10/90

Question: Looking back over the last 10 years, do you think the quality of life of blacks has gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse?

response of blacks



response of whites

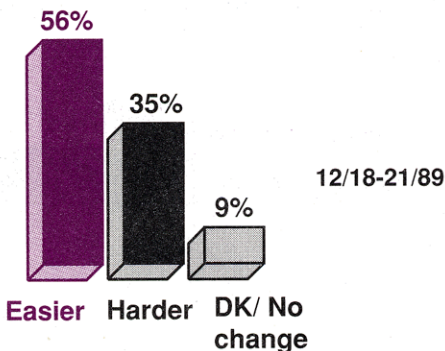


6/7-10/90

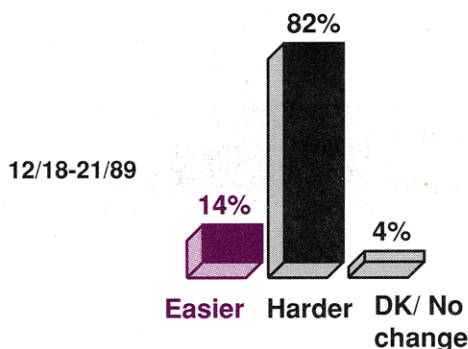
Social Issues

Question: For each of the following aspects of life, please tell me whether you think the women's movement has made things easier or harder for people in this country....

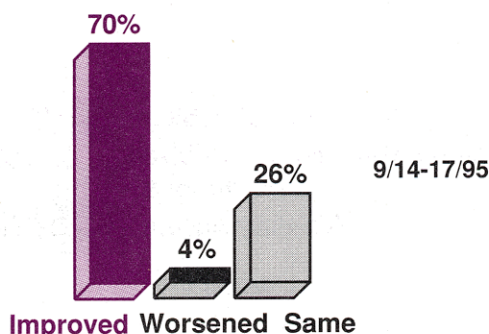
...For women to lead satisfying lives...



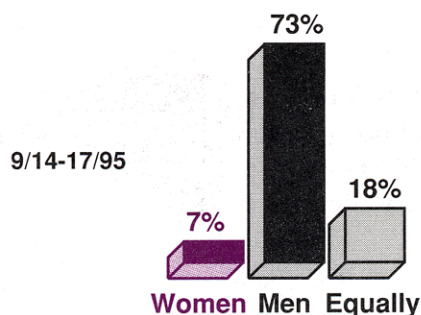
...For parents to raise children...



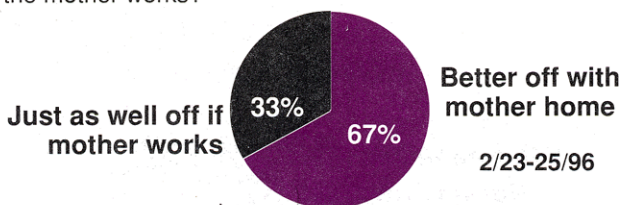
Question: In the past five years, do you think that the overall position of women compared to men in his country has improved, worsened, or remained the same?



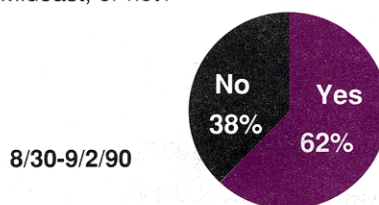
Question: Do you think that in this country, society generally favors men and women equally, or does it favor women over men, or men over women?



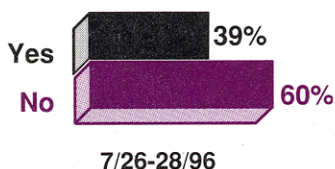
Question: Do you think children are better off if their mother is home and doesn't hold a job or are the children just as well off if the mother works?



Question: Should women in the US military serve in actual combat roles if it becomes necessary in the current situation in the Mideast, or not?



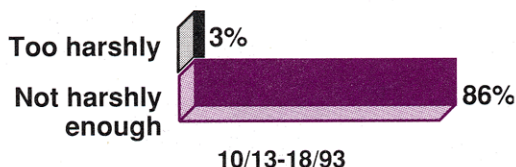
Question: Is there any area near where you live—that is, within a mile—where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?



Question: How safe do you feel being...alone at night in your home? Do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe?

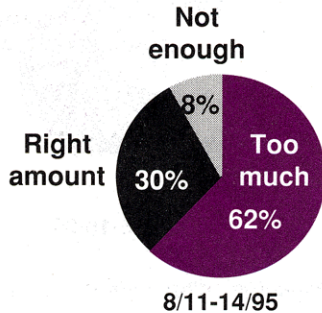


Question: In general, do you think the courts in your area deal too harshly or not harshly enough with criminals?

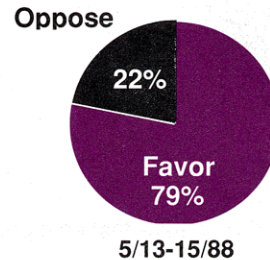


Public Policy

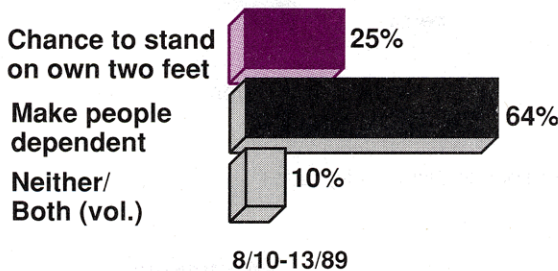
Question: ...[P]lease tell me whether you think [the federal government in Washington] has too much power in the United States today, about the right amount of power, or not enough power...?



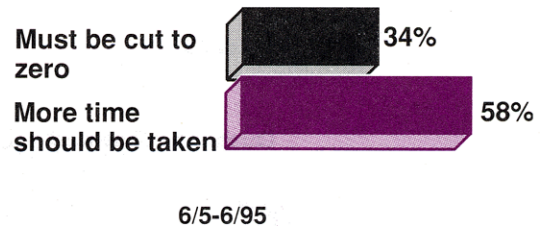
Question: ...Congress is now considering legislation that would gradually raise the minimum wage from the present \$3.35 per hour to \$5.05 per hour over the next four years....[D]o you favor or oppose increasing the minimum wage to \$5.05 per hour over the next four years?



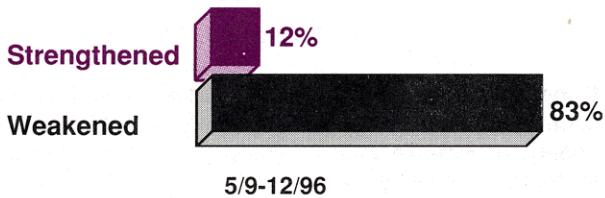
Question: Which statement do you agree with most: "Welfare benefits give poor people a chance to stand on their own two feet and get started again," or "Welfare benefits make poor people dependent and encourage them to stay poor?"



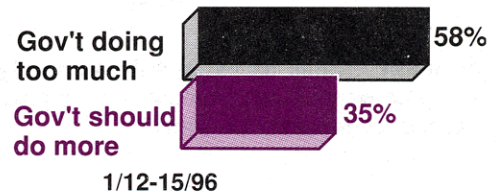
Question: Which comes closer to your point of view—the budget deficit is so large and harmful to the economy it must be cut to zero within the next seven years, or cutting the budget deficit to zero within 7 years would hurt too many Americans and more time should be taken?



Question: Over the last twenty-five years, do you think government policies have generally strengthened or generally weakened Americans' moral values?



Question: Some people think the government is trying to do too many things that should be left to individuals and businesses. Others think that government should do more to solve our country's problems. Which comes closer to your own view?



Question: From everything you have heard or read about the plan, do you favor or oppose Clinton's plan to reform health care?

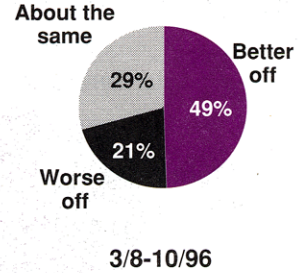
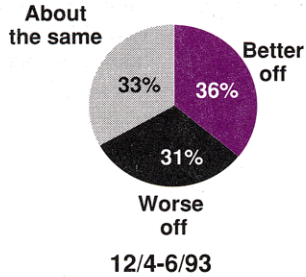
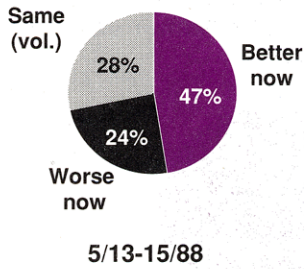


Question: What do you think Congress should do with Clinton's health care plan: pass it without any changes, pass it with minor changes, pass it, but with major changes, or not pass any of it?

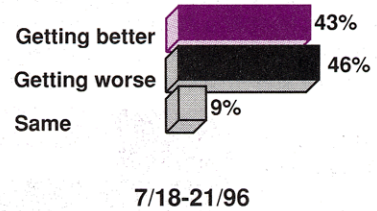
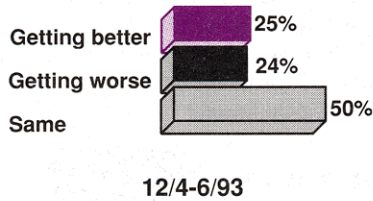


The Economy

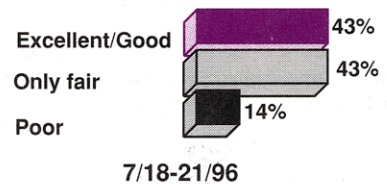
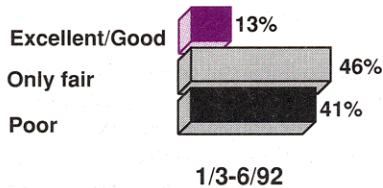
Question: We are interested in how people's financial situation may have changed. Would you say that you are financially better off now than you were a year ago, or are you financially worse off now?



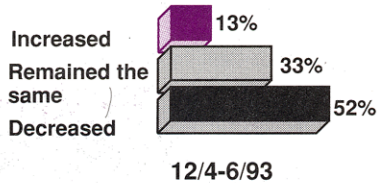
Question: Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?



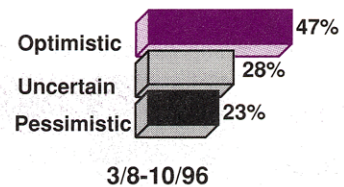
Question: How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?...



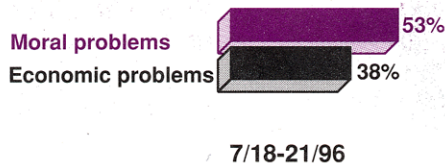
Question: Overall, do you think the quality of jobs available to American workers has increased in the past few years, decreased, or remained the same?



Question: ...[P]lease say whether you feel generally optimistic about it as far as the future is concerned, generally pessimistic about it, or uncertain about it...The soundness of our economic system over the long run?

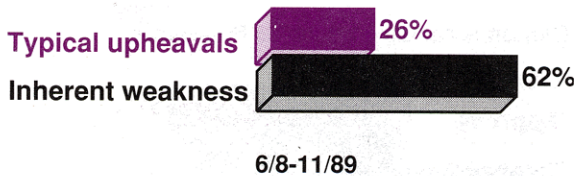


Question: Which concerns you more—the nation's economic problems or the nation's moral problems?

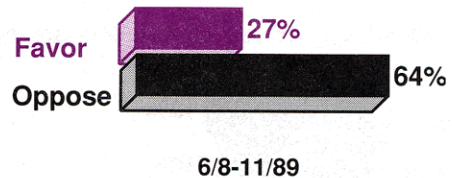


Foreign Affairs

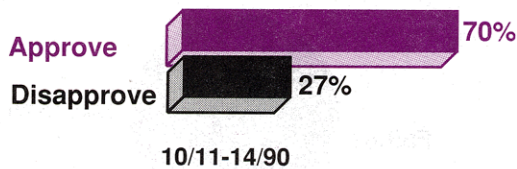
Question: Do you think the current problems in China and Russia are typical of the upheavals that all nations go through or that they are an indication of the basic weakness of the communist system?



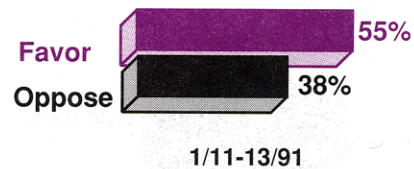
Question: If a full-scale civil war were to break out (in China), would you favor or oppose the US sending military aid to the pro-democracy side?



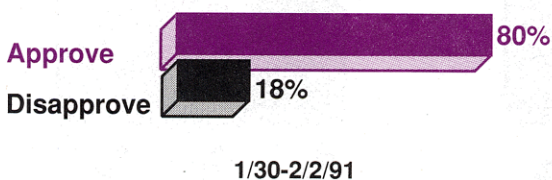
Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the United States' decision to send US troops to Saudi Arabia as a defense against Iraq?



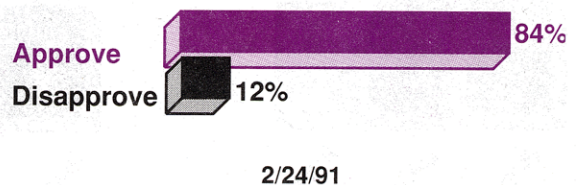
Question: If the current situation in the Middle East involving Iraq and Kuwait does not change by January 15, 1991, would you favor or oppose the United States going to war with Iraq in order to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait?



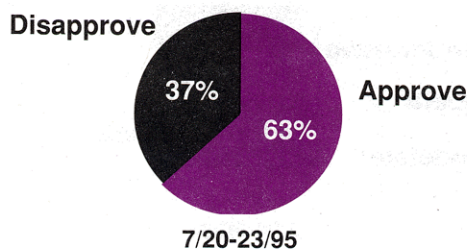
Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the United States' decision to go to war with Iraq in order to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait?



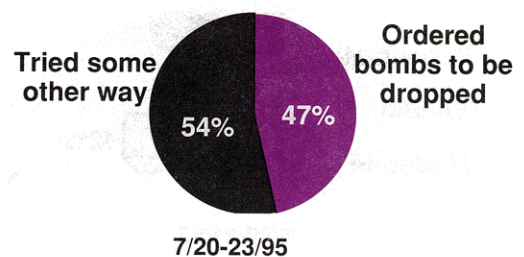
Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the United States' decision to start the ground war against the Iraqis in Kuwait?



Question: As you may know, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 near the end of World War II. Looking back, would you say you approve or disapprove of using the atomic bomb on Japanese cities in 1945?

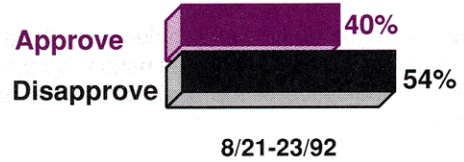
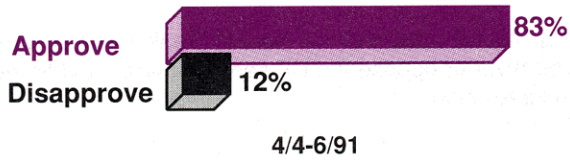


Question: If the decision about dropping the atomic bomb (in World War II) had been yours to make, would you have ordered the bombs to be dropped, or would you have tried some other way to force the Japanese to surrender?

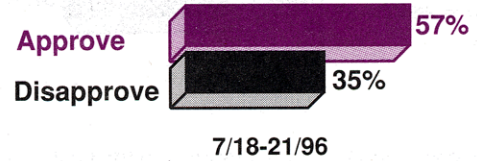
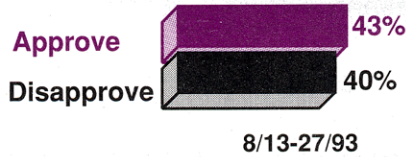


Presidents, Parties, and Ideology

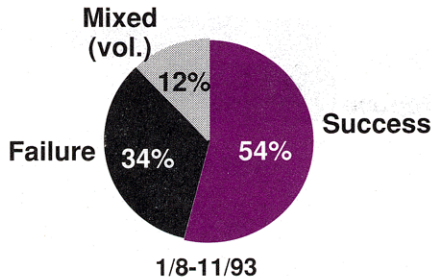
Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way **George Bush** is handling his job as President?



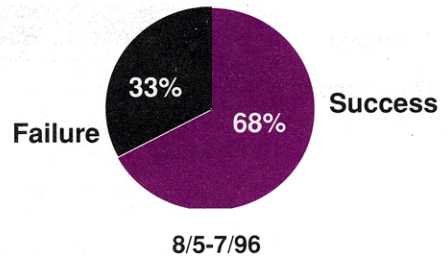
Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Bill Clinton** is handling his job as President?



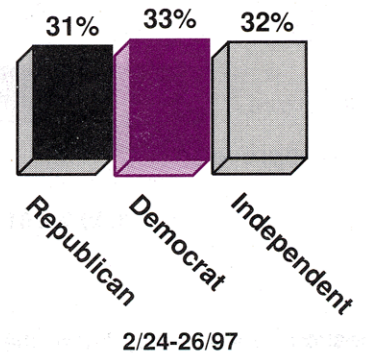
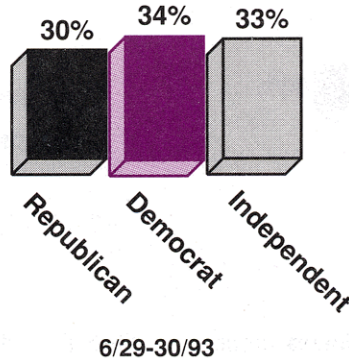
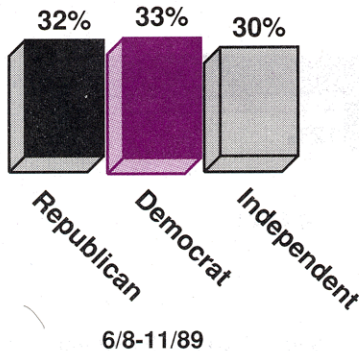
Question: Looking back on **George Bush's** four years in office, in general, would you say his presidency was a success or a failure?



Question: Looking back on **Bill Clinton's** first term in office, in general, would you say his presidency has been a success or a failure?



Question: In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat or Independent?



Question: How would you describe your political views...very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal? [Very conservative/conservative and liberal/very liberal percentages have been combined in these figures.]

