German Public Opinion on Obama, US Policies, and Afghanistan

June 4, 2009

Questionnaire

Dates of Survey: April 29-May 14, 2009    Margin of Error: +/- 3.2 percentage points
Sample Size: 1000

Q1-CE6a. Now I am going to read a list of political leaders from around the world. Tell me how much confidence you have in each leader to do the right thing regarding world affairs—a lot of confidence, some confidence, not too much confidence, or no confidence at all.

US President Barack Obama

A lot of confidence................................................................. 47%
Some confidence................................................................. 42
Not too much................................................................. 8
None at all........................................................................ 2

Refused/Don’t know......................................................... 2

Q2-CE1b. Please tell me if you think each is playing a mainly positive or mainly negative role in the world.

The United States

Mainly positive ................................................................. 44%
Mainly negative ................................................................. 34
Depends (vol.) ................................................................. 6
Neither (vol.)................................................................. 15

Refused/Don’t know......................................................... 2

Q3-US2. In our government’s relations with the US, do you think the US more often treats us fairly, OR abuses its greater power to make us do what the US wants?

Treats us fairly ................................................................. 48%
Abuses its greater power ..................................................... 42

Refused/Don’t know ......................................................... 10

Q4-CE4b. Please tell me if you think each is or is not generally cooperative with other countries.

The United States

Is................................................................. 54%
Q5-CE2b. Please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is dealing with the issue of climate change?

The United States

Approve......................................................................................... 25%
Disapprove .....................................................................................56
Refused/Don’t know............................................................................18

Q6-CE6b. Please tell me if you think each does or does not use the threat of military force to gain advantages.

The United States

Does .............................................................................................. 66%
Does not .........................................................................................19
Refused/Don’t know............................................................................15

Q7-FC1b. Now turning to the economy, here is a list of factors that some people say have contributed to the downturn in Germany’s economy.

For each one please tell me if you think it has contributed a lot, some, or not at all to the downturn.

Economic policies of the United States

A lot .............................................................................................. 68%
Some ..............................................................................................26
Not at all...........................................................................................4
Refused/Don’t know............................................................................2

Q8-Afg1. As you may know the UN has authorized a NATO mission in Afghanistan, manned by forces from the US and other countries. This mission is meant to stabilize Afghanistan and help the government defend itself from Taliban insurgents. Do you approve or disapprove of this mission?

Approve......................................................................................... 45%
Disapprove .....................................................................................49
Refused/Don’t know............................................................................6

Q9-Afg2. Do you think the NATO mission in Afghanistan should be continued or do you think it should be ended now?

NATO mission should be continued............................................. 42%
NATO mission should be ended now ............................................52
Refused/Don’t know............................................................................7
Q10-Afg3. Do you think that most people in Afghanistan want NATO forces to remain for now, or do you think most want the NATO forces to leave now?

Most want NATO forces to remain for now ......................... 33%
Most want NATO forces to leave now ................................. 55
Refused/Don’t know .............................................................. 12

Q11-Afg5. As you may know, the Obama administration decided to increase the number of American troops in Afghanistan. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

Approve ................................................................. 37%
Disapprove ............................................................... 54
Refused/Don’t know .............................................................. 9

Q12-Afg4. If the Taliban were to regain power in Afghanistan do you think this would be very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad?

Very good ................................................................. *%
Somewhat good .............................................................. 1
Somewhat bad ............................................................... 15
Very bad ................................................................. 78
Neither good nor bad (vol.) .............................................. 2
Refused/Don’t know .............................................................. 4

DEMOGRAPHICS

D1. Gender

Male .............................................................................. 50%
Female .............................................................................. 50

D2. Education

Illiterate ............................................................................. *%
Primary or less ................................................................. 3
Some secondary ............................................................. 51
Completed secondary ..................................................... 27
Some intermediate .......................................................... 4
Completed university ....................................................... 15
Post-graduate degree ...................................................... 1

D3. Religion

Christian .......................................................................... 61%
Muslim ............................................................................. 1
Jewish ................................................................................ *
Buddhist ........................................................................ *
Hindu........................................................................................................* 
Other religion..........................................................................................1 
No preference / No religion ..................................................................33 

Refused .................................................................................................3 

D4. Age 

16-29 ................................................................................................. 21% 
30-39 .................................................................................................17 
40-49 .................................................................................................22 
50-59 .................................................................................................17 
60+ .................................................................................................23 

D5. Total household income 

Very low ..........................................................................................12% 
Low ....................................................................................................27 
Average/Median ..............................................................................47 
High ....................................................................................................9 
Very high ..........................................................................................6 

METHODOLOGY 

The nationwide poll of 1000 German adults was conducted by telephone from April 29 to May 14 by the German polling firm Ri*QUESTA GmbH, a member of the WorldPublicOpinion.org network. The findings have a margin of error of +/-3.2 percent. For further questions on the methodology please contact Dr. Bernhard Rieder at (+49) 7641-934336.