

World Public Opinion on Governance and Democracy

May 13, 2008

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**WORLDPUBLICOPINION.ORG IS A PROJECT MANAGED BY
THE PROGRAM ON INTERNATIONAL POLICY ATTITUDES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

WorldPublicOpinion.org (WPO) is an international collaborative project whose aim is to give voice to public opinion around the world on international issues. As the world becomes increasingly integrated, problems have become increasingly global, pointing to a greater need for understanding between nations and for elucidating global norms. With the growth of democracy in the world, public opinion has come to play a greater role in the foreign policy process. WorldPublicOpinion.org seeks to reveal the values and views of publics in specific nations around the world as well as global patterns of world public opinion.

The WorldPublicOpinion.org network is a consortium of research centers studying public opinion on international issues in their respective countries. At present the network consists of research centers in 22 countries across all of the major continents. The network includes countries that represent the majority of the world population. In some countries there are two centers—one that conducts the polling and another that emphasizes policy analysis. For more complete information about each center including contact information please see the list of Research Partners at the end of this study.

The Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) was established in 1992 with the purpose of giving public opinion a greater voice in international relations. PIPA conducts in-depth studies of public opinion that include polls, focus groups and interviews. It integrates its findings together with those of other organizations. It actively seeks the participation of members of the policy community in developing its polls so as to make them immediately relevant to the needs of policymakers. PIPA is a joint program of the Center on Policy Attitudes (COPA) and the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM).

WORLDPUBLICOPINION.ORG

World Publics Say Governments Should Be More Responsive to the Will of the People

Governments Widely Seen as Serving Big Interests, Not the People

A WorldPublicOpinion.org poll of 19 nations conducted around the world finds that, in every nation polled, publics support the principles of democracy. At the same time, in nearly every nation, majorities are dissatisfied with how responsive their government is to the will of the people.

In all 19 nations polled majorities agree with the democratic principle that “the will of the people should be the basis for the authority of government”—a principle enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose 60th anniversary is being celebrated this year. On average 85 percent agree—52 percent strongly. Across the 19 nations, 74 percent say that the “will of the people” should have more influence than it currently does.

“The perception that governments are not responsive to the popular will appears to be contributing to the low levels of confidence in government found around the world,” comments Steven Kull, director of WorldPublicOpinion.org. Kull adds: “Most see their governments as primarily serving big interests rather than the people as a whole.”

The poll of 17,525 respondents was conducted between January 10 and March 20, 2008 by WorldPublicOpinion.org, a collaborative research project involving research centers from around the world and managed by the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland. Interviews were conducted in 19 nations, though in three of them not all questions were asked.

Those nations interviewed include most of the world's largest nations—China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Russia—as well as Argentina, Azerbaijan, Britain, Egypt, France, Iran, Jordan, Mexico, Poland, South Korea, Turkey, Ukraine, and the Palestinian Territories. These nations represent 59 percent of the world population.

Strong Support for Democratic Principles

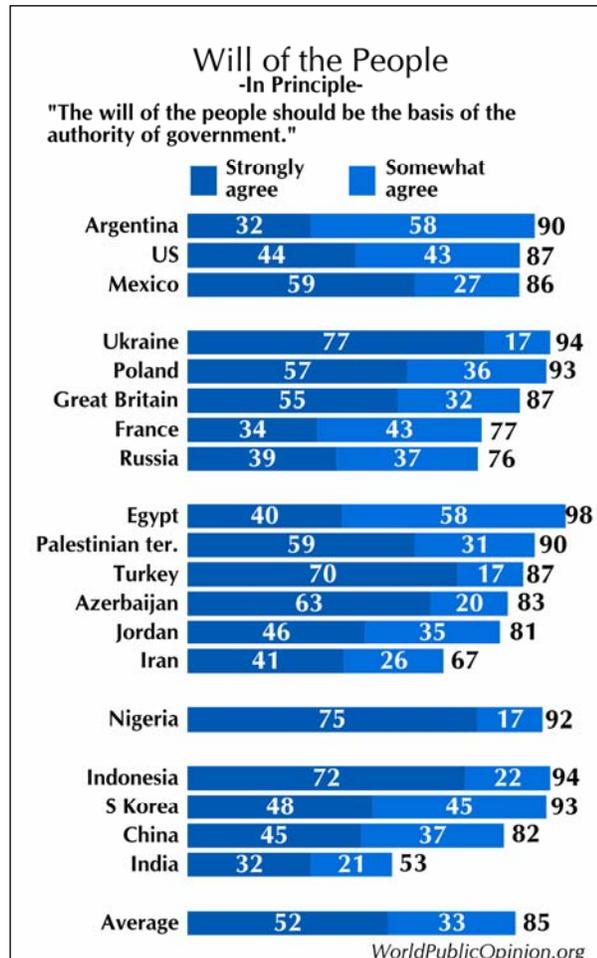
In all 19 nations polled majorities agree with the democratic principle that “the will of the people should be the basis for the authority of government.” On average 85 percent agree—52 percent “strongly.”

Interestingly, the most robust support for this principle does not come from the western democracies. The largest percentages saying that they strongly agree with this principle are found in Ukraine (77%), Nigeria (75%), Turkey (70%), and Indonesia (72%)

Among western democracies the numbers in strong agreement are more modest: France (34%), the United States (44%), and Great Britain (55%). However, only very small numbers in these nations disagree (12-21%).

Asked how much their nation “should be governed according to the will of the people” (on a scale with 0 meaning “not at all” and 10 meaning “completely”), the mean response for all nations is well above 5 and in only two does the mean dip below 7: India (6.2), and Jordan (6.6). On average, the mean across all nations is 8.0.

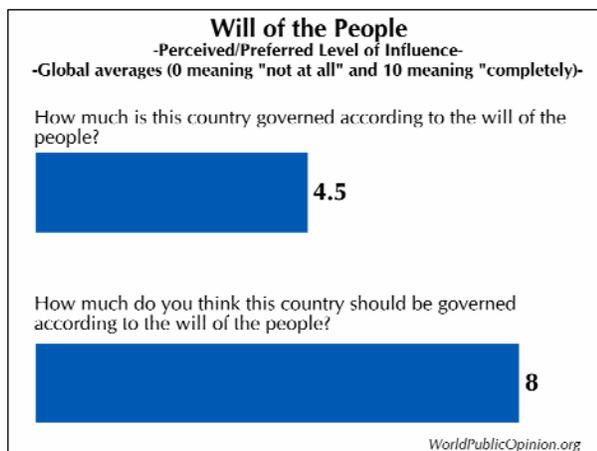
At the same time, relatively few say that the people should have complete control over the government’s decisions. On average only 31 percent give the answer of 10. However majorities in two nations give an answer of 10: Ukraine (52 %), and Indonesia (51%). Russia also has a large percentage (49%) endorsing complete control by the people.



Majorities in all nations also endorse the democratic principle that “government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote,” another principle enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On average 84 percent agree with this view, while 12 percent say that government leaders should be selected “some other way.” In only one nation is support for democratic elections below 7 in 10: India (54%). Thirty-three percent in India say leaders should be selected in some other way.

Dissatisfaction with Democratic Responsiveness

All publics polled show substantial dissatisfaction with the level of democratic responsiveness of their governments. When comparing how much influence the will of the people *has* on their government to how much it *should* have, the mean perceived level is well below the preferred level in every

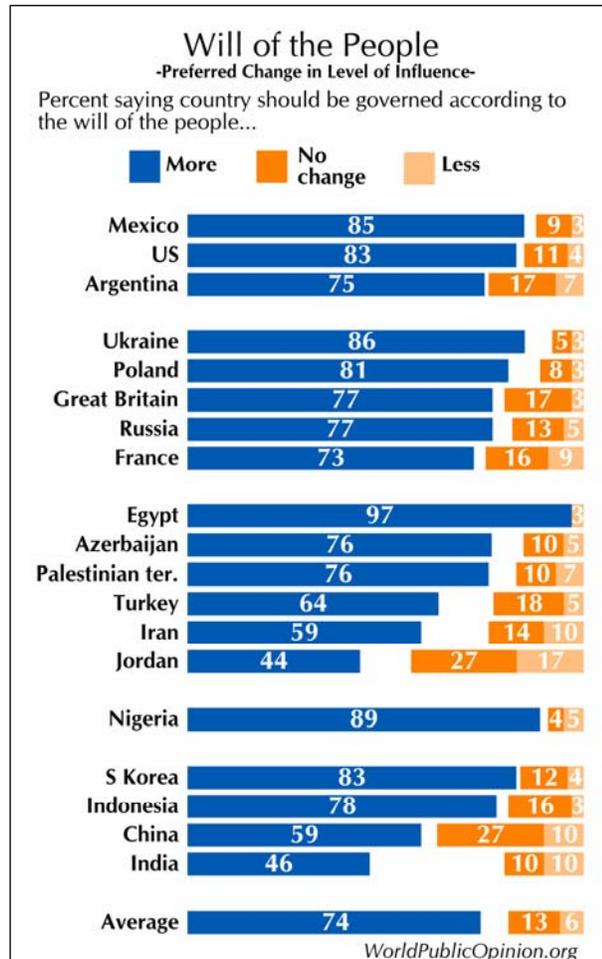


nation polled. On average the mean perceived level of government responsiveness is 4.5 (on a 0-10 scale)—well below the mean preferred level of 8.0.

Looking at individual responses to these two questions, overwhelming majorities in most nations give a preferred level of government responsiveness that is higher than the perceived level. On average 74 percent of responses show such a gap and in all but two nations the ratio is 6 in 10 or higher. The two exceptions are India (46%) and Jordan (44%), where a plurality express a desire for more responsiveness.

The highest levels of dissatisfaction in government responsiveness are found in Egypt (97%) and Nigeria (88%). However, high levels of dissatisfaction are also found in long-established western liberal democracies, including the United States (83%), Great Britain (77%), and France (73%).

Overall dissatisfaction with government democratic responsiveness tends to rise with greater education. For the sample as a whole, among those with less than a high school education, 71 percent favor more government responsiveness to the will of the people, while among those with a bachelors degree or higher, 82 percent favor more responsiveness.



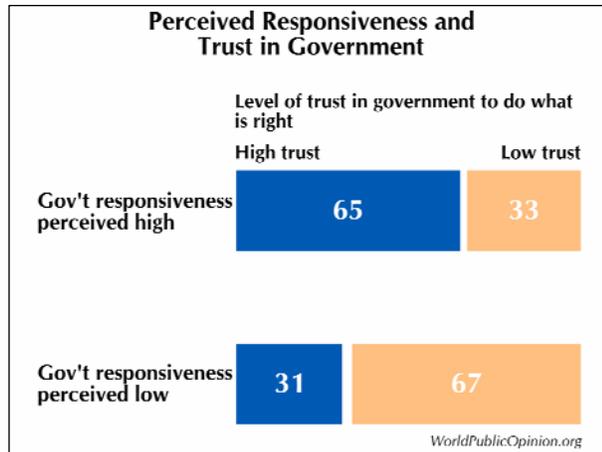
Low Trust in Government

Most publics express low levels of trust in their government to do what is right and this low trust appears to be related to the perception that governments are not being responsive to the will of the people.

When people are asked how much of the time they “trust” their national government to “do the right thing,” in eleven of the seventeen countries clear majorities say “only some of the time” or “never.” On average 48 percent say they trust their government to do the right thing only some of the time and 6 percent volunteered “never.” Thirty-two percent say they trust their government “most of the time” and 12 percent say “just about always.”

Only five publics have a majority expressing confidence that they can trust their government most of the time: Egypt (84%), China (83%), Russia (64%), the Palestinian Territories (55%), and Jordan (54%).

Interestingly, publics give their governments poor ratings in all of the western democracies. Majorities say they trust their government only some of the time or never in Britain (67%), France (64%), and the United States (60%).



Trust in government appears to be highly related to how much people perceive the government as being responsive to the will of the people. For the entire sample, among those who give high ratings of their governments’ responsiveness to the will of the people (a rating of 6 to 10 on a 10 points scale) 64 percent say they trust their government to do the right thing most of the time or just about always. However among those who give their government low ratings (0-4), less than half as many (31 %) express substantial levels of trust in their government.

Trust in government is negatively related to education. Overall, among those without a high school diploma, 47 percent say they can trust the government only some of the time or never. This rises to 57 percent among those with some college education.

The Benefit of the People

Similar to the low levels of trust in governments to do the right thing, majorities in most nations perceive their government as serving powerful special interests rather than the interests of the people as a whole. This view is also highly related to the perception that governments are not responsive to the will of the people.

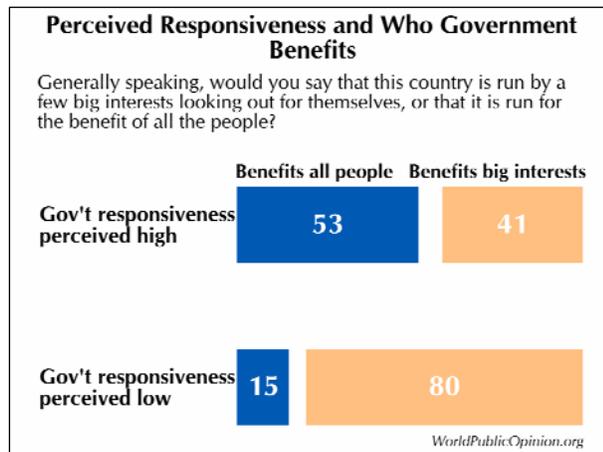
Asked whether their nation is “run by a few big interests looking out for themselves” or whether it is run “for the benefit of all people,” in 15 of the 18 nations asked, respondents say that it is run by big interests. On average 63 percent say it is run by big interests and only 30 percent say it is run for the benefit of all people.

The three exceptions include two nations where a majority says the government is run for the benefit of the people—China (65%) and Egypt (57%). Views in Jordan are divided.

Once again, established western democracies give their governments poor ratings. Majorities say that their government is run by and for big interests in the United States (80%), Britain (60 %), and France (59%).

The highest percentages saying their nation is run by big interests are found in Mexico (83%), the United States (80%), Nigeria (78%), and South Korea (78%).

The perception that the government is run for the benefit of all people is positively related to the perception that it is responsive to the will of the people. For the entire sample, among those who give their government a high rating for democratic responsiveness (6-10), a majority (53%) say that their government is run for the benefit of all the people. Among those who give their government low ratings (0-4) for democratic responsiveness, the numbers saying the government is run for the benefit of the people is 38 points lower—a mere 15 percent.



Conversely, those who perceive low levels of government responsiveness to the will of the people are twice as likely as those who perceive high levels (80% to 41%) to say that their government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.

Overall the perception that the nation is run by a few big interests rises with education. For the sample as a whole, among those with less than a high school diploma, 59 percent hold this view, rising to 67 percent among those with a bachelors degree or more education.

However there are some variations between nations. The perception that big interests run the country rises sharply with education in Argentina, Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, South Korea, Turkey, and Ukraine. However the opposite is true in France, Great Britain, Nigeria, Poland, and Russia.

Elections Alone Not Seen as Adequate

As discussed, majorities in all nations polled endorse the democratic principle that “government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.” However, most do not think that input from the public should be limited to elections. In other words, few subscribe to the view of the British philosopher and legislator Edmund Burke, that the influence of the public should be limited to occasional elections.

Respondents were asked whether they thought that “elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence, or that also between elections leaders should consider the views of the people as they make decisions.” Majorities in 14 out of 17 nations asked this question say that leaders should pay attention to the views of the people between elections.

On average 74 percent endorse the view that the public should have ongoing influence and 22 percent hold the “Burkian” view that elections are the only time the public should have a say in the government’s decisions.

In just one country do a majority favor the view that elections are the only time the public should have influence: 53 percent of Turks. In India a plurality favor this view and in the Palestinian Territories views are divided.

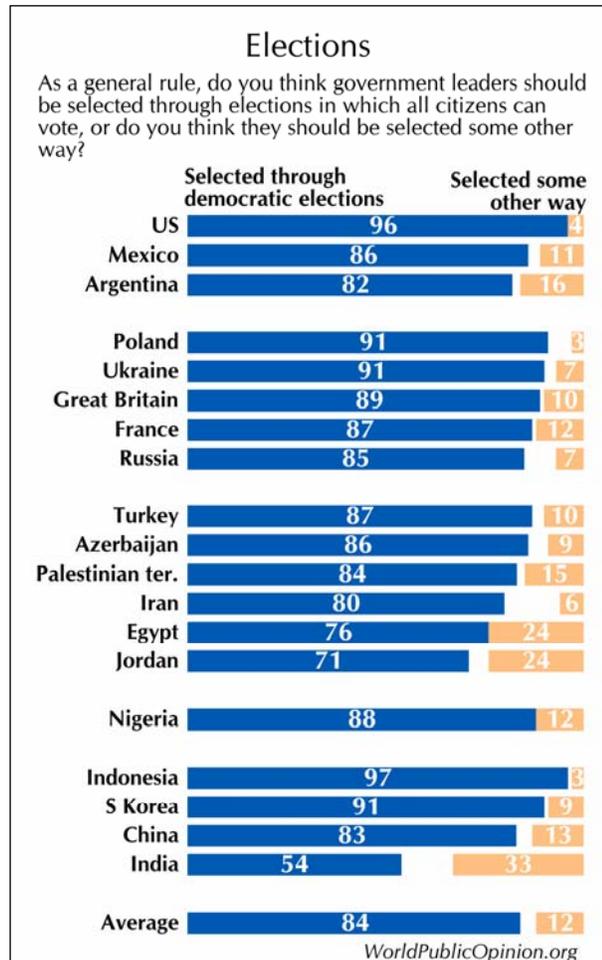
A modest majority (55%) is supportive of ongoing public influence in Indonesia. In all other nations support ranges from 72 to 94 percent.

Overall, support for leaders giving ongoing attention to the views of the public rises with education. Among those who have not graduated from high school, 65 percent approve of paying attention to the public’s views, rising to 80 percent among those with a bachelors degree or more education.

Paying Attention to Polls

Consistent with their support for the government giving ongoing attention to the views of the public, even larger majorities say that leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls.

Respondents were presented a common argument that “when government leaders are thinking about an important decision” they “should not pay attention to public opinion polls because this will distract them from deciding what they think is right.” They also heard the argument that government leaders “should pay attention to public opinion polls because this will help them get a sense of the public’s views.”



The public response was remarkably unequivocal—in all 18 nations polled a majority says that government leaders should pay attention to polls. On average 8 in 10 opt for this view while just 15 percent endorse the view that lawmakers should not heed the polls.

Even in the United States—where some elected leaders assert proudly that they do not pay attention to polls—81 percent say that they should (including 70% of Republicans and 88% of Democrats).

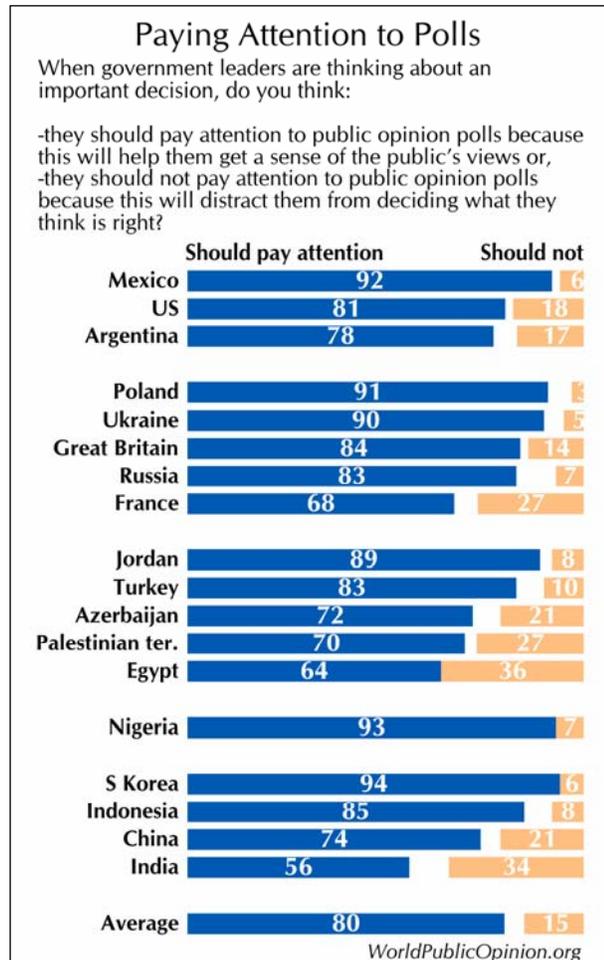
There are only two nations where less than 7 in 10 respondents endorse polls: India (56%) and Egypt (64%). In these two nations more than 3 in 10 reject polls (34% and 36% respectively).

Paying Attention to World Public Opinion

When developing foreign policy, how much should government leaders pay attention to public opinion outside the country? On one hand it may be argued that world public opinion is irrelevant to the interests of the nation. On the other hand there may be pragmatic concerns about a nation’s public diplomacy. There may also be a normative response: the democratic belief that the will of the people is a proper source of legitimacy for domestic policies can flow logically into the belief that foreign policies that are supported by the will of the people globally also have greater legitimacy.

Asked, how much “the government *should* take into account world public opinion” when “developing its foreign policy,” on a 0-10 scale (with 0 meaning “not at all” and 10 meaning “a great deal,”) the mean response is above 5 in every nation polled. The average across all 16 nations is 7.1—only slightly lower than the average preferred level for government responsiveness to public opinion at home (8.0).

The lowest levels of support for world public opinion are found in India (5.8), the Palestinian Territories (5.9), the United States (6.6), and Russia (6.6). The highest are found in Indonesia (8.4), Mexico (8.2), and Nigeria (8.2).



When asked how much attention their government *does* pay attention to world public opinion, using the same 0-10 scale, the mean assessment is lower than the preferred level in every nation polled. Across the 16 nations asked, the mean assessment is 5.1.

The lowest mean estimates of government responsiveness to world public opinion are found in the United States (3.9), Egypt (4.1), and Ukraine (4.5). The highest are found in China (6.6), Indonesia (6.6), and South Korea (5.9).

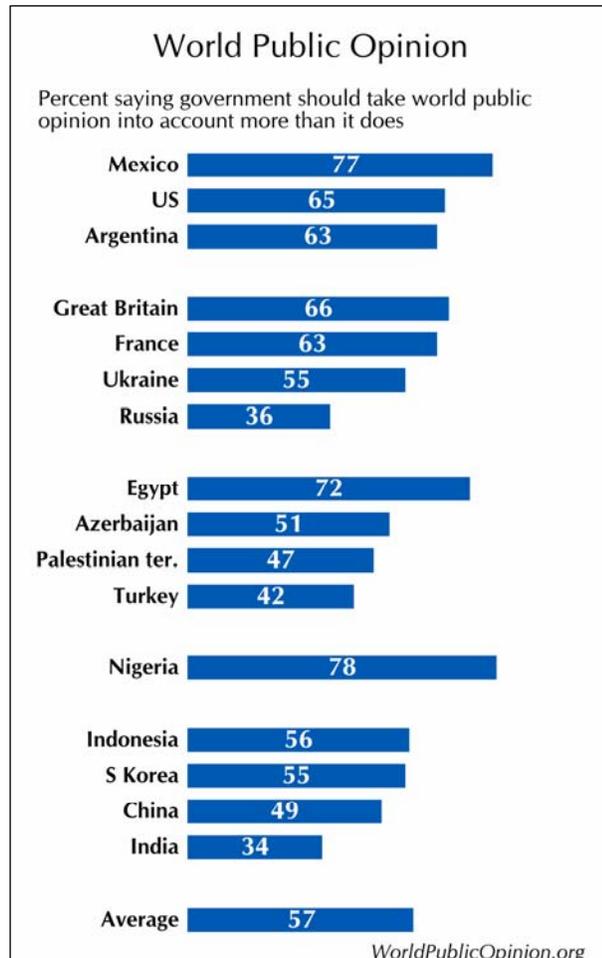
Interestingly, estimates of government responsiveness to world public opinion tend to be higher than the estimates of responsiveness to public opinion at home—5.1 as compared to 4.5.

Looking at individual responses on the two questions, majorities or pluralities in all nations give a preferred level of government responsiveness to world public opinion that is higher than the perceived level. On average 57 percent favor greater responsiveness.

The highest majorities are in Nigeria (78%), Mexico (77%), and Egypt (72%). In the United States—which has received substantial criticism by world public opinion in recent years—65 percent say that the government should be more responsive.

Pluralities favor greater responsiveness in China (49%) and India (34%) and it is the most commonly held belief in the Palestinian Territories (47%), Turkey (42%), and Russia (36%).

Overall, support for greater government responsiveness to world public opinion rises with education. Among those with less than a high school education, 53 percent favor greater responsiveness, as compared to 61 percent among those with a bachelors degree or more education.



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY RESULTS:

AMERICAS:

ARGENTINA

[Graciela Romer y Asociados](#)

Argentines are among the largest majorities endorsing the principle that the will of the people should be basis of the authority of government. At the same time, they have the second-lowest trust in their government to do the right thing and one of the largest majorities that says their country is run for the benefit of a few big interests as opposed to the benefit of the people.

- Nine in 10 (90%) agree the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government and 82% feel that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to rate how much the country should be governed by the will of the people, Argentines give a response of 7.7 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”). Yet when asked to rate how much this is currently true, on average Argentines give a 4.4. Three-quarters (75%) say the country should be governed by the will of the people more than it already is.
- Asked how much of the time they can trust their national government to do what is right, a large majority (73%) says “only some of the time” rather than always (13%) or most of the time (10%).
- More than seven in 10 (71%) say their government is run by a few big interests rather than for the benefit of all the people (21%)
- 78% favor leaders paying attention to polls when making an important decision, and 82% say leaders should pay attention to the views of the people between elections as they make decisions, rather than having elections be the only time the views of the people should have influence (14%).
- Rating the degree to which their government should take into account world public opinion, Argentines give a response of 6.7 on 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), while they give a score of 5.0 for how much it already takes world public opinion into account. Sixty-three percent say it should take world public opinion into account more than it already does.

MEXICO

[Reforma](#)

The Mexican public strongly supports democratic principles and gives one of the highest scores for how much their country should be governed by the will of the people. However, they have the second-largest majority that feels their country is run for a few big interests rather than the benefit of the people and are the third-largest majority saying they can only trust their government some of the time. They are also the second-largest majority saying their government should consider world public opinion more than it already does.

- A very large majority (86%) agrees that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, including 59% saying they “strongly agree.” A similar majority (86%) says that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to rate the degree to which their country should be governed by the will of the people, Mexicans give a response of 8.6 on a scale of 0-10 (with 10 meaning “completely”), although when asked how much their country is governed by this principle, Mexicans only give a score of 4.5. A very large majority (85%) says the government should respond to the will of the people more than it already is.
- Seven in 10 (70%) say they can only trust their national government to do the right thing some of the time, while just 22% say it can be trusted “most of the time” (12%) or “just about always” (10%).
- 83% say their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves over the benefit of all the people (16%).
- An overwhelming 92% say that leaders should pay attention to polls when making decisions to get a sense of the public’s views and nearly nine in 10 (89%) say that leaders should pay attention to the views of the people between elections, rather than having elections as the only time when the views of the people should have influence (8%).
- Asked to rate the degree to which their government should consider world public opinion, Mexicans give a response of 8.2 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), while giving the degree to which the government already takes world opinion into account a mean score of 4.6. More than three-quarters (77%) say that the government should take world public opinion into account more than it already does.

UNITED STATES

[Program on International Policy Attitudes](#) / [Knowledge Networks](#)

Americans are among the publics most supportive of democratic principles. They are also the largest majority in support of government leaders considering the views of the people between elections. However, they have the third-largest majority saying their country is run by a few big interests over the benefit of the people and a majority express low levels of trust for their government. Americans also give their government the lowest scores of all publics asked for considering world public opinion when making foreign policy, though a large majority favors their government being more responsive to world public opinion.

- 87% agree that “the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government” and an overwhelming 96% say that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote, the second-largest majority out of all countries asked.
- Asked to rate how much the country should be governed by the will of the people, Americans give a response of 7.9 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), although when asked to what extent the country is currently

- governed by the will of the people, Americans only give a score of 4.0. Eighty-three percent say the government should be more responsive to the will of the people than it already is.
- A majority (60%) says they can only trust their government to do the right thing “some of the time,” while 40% say they can trust the government “most of the time” (37%) or “always” (3%).
 - Four in five (80%) Americans say that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of all the people (19%).
 - 81% say that leaders should consider public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public’s views, and an overwhelming 94% say that leaders should consider the views of the people as they make decisions in between elections.
 - Asked how much their government should take into account world public opinion in developing its foreign policy, Americans give a response of 6.6 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), however when asked how much their government does take world public opinion into account, they give the lowest score (3.9) among all countries polled. Sixty-five percent say the government should consider world public opinion more than it already does.

EUROPE:

FRANCE

[Efficiency 3](#)

The French endorse the principle of the will of the people serving as the basis for the authority of government. However, while the minority that disagrees is fairly small (one in five) it is the second largest of all countries polled. The French are one of the highest in rejecting the view that the public’s influence should be limited to elections.

- More than three in four (77%) in France support the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government (although 21% disagree), and 87% say that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to rate how much the country should be governed by the will of the people French respondents give a 7.3 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), although when asked to rate how much the country is currently governed this way, the average score is 4.6. Nearly three-quarters (73%) say that the will of the people should have greater influence than it currently does.
- 58% in France say they can only trust their government to do what is right some of the time, in comparison to 37% who say they can trust the government “most of the time” (29%) or “just about always” (8%).
- A majority (59%) feels that France is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, while 35% say it is run for the benefit of all the people.
- More than two-thirds (68%) say leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision, and 90% say leaders should consider

the views of the people between elections as they make decisions, rather than just when elections occur.

- Asked how much the French government should consider world public opinion as it makes foreign policy on a scale of 0-10, with 10 being “a great deal,” respondents give a 6.8, although when asked to rate how much the government currently considers world public opinion, the response is 4.9. Sixty-three percent say the government should give more consideration to world public opinion than it already does.

GREAT BRITAIN

[Chatham House \(Royal Institute of International Affairs\)](#) / [GlobeScan](#)

Britons widely support democratic principles, including that the will of the people should serve as the basis for government authority, and a majority feels that the will of the people should have greater influence in government. A majority says their country is run for a few big interests, though a few more than average believe it is run for the benefit of all the people. Britons are also the fourth-largest majority saying their government should consider world public opinion more as it makes foreign policy decisions.

- 87% in Britain agree with the principle that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, including 55% that say “strongly agree,” and 89% favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to say how much the country should be governed by the will of the people, Britons give a mean response of 8.0 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), though when asked to say how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, they give a rating of 4.9. More than three-quarters (77%) say the government should be more responsive to the will of the people.
- A majority (63%) feels they can only trust their national government to do the right thing some of the time, while much smaller numbers say it can be trusted most of the time (29%) or always (3%).
- Six in 10 (60%) Britons say their government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, instead of the benefit of all the people (36%).
- 84% favor leaders paying attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public’s views, and 88% support leaders paying attention to the views of the people in between elections, rather than having elections be the only time when their views have influence (11%).
- Asked to rate how much their government should consider world public opinion when making foreign policy, Britons give a response of 7.1 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), although when asked to say how much the government considers world public opinion now, they only give a response of 4.6. Two-thirds (66%) say their government should consider world public opinion more than it does.

POLAND

[CBOS](#)

Poles widely endorse democratic principles and are among the largest majorities in favor of the will of the people having greater influence. Poles are also one of the largest majorities favoring the selection of government leaders through elections. At the same time, they have the third-lowest assessment of how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people.

- An overwhelming majority (93%) agrees that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, and 91% say that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to say how much the country should be governed by the will of the people, Poles give a mean response of 8.1 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “completely”). Asked to say how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, Poles give a very low score of 3.4. An very large 81% say the government should be more responsive to the will of the people.
- 63% say that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of all the people (19%).
- More than nine in 10 (91%) support leaders paying attention to public opinion polls when they make a big decision in order to get a sense of the public views, and 88% say that leaders should consider the views of the public between elections as they make decisions.

RUSSIA

[Levada Center](#)

Russians widely favor democratic principles, including that the will of the people should serve as the basis for the authority of government, and have one of the highest ratings for how much their country should be governed by the will of the people. A majority of Russians also believe they can trust their government to do the right thing most of the time, although a majority also says their country is run by a few big interests for themselves over the benefit of all the people. While Russians say that world public opinion should have substantial influence over their government they are one of only two countries that does not have a plurality or majority calling for greater influence..

- More than three in four (76%) Russians endorse the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government, along with 85% favoring the selection of leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to what degree the country should be governed according to the will of the people, Russians give a response of 8.6 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), one of the highest among nations asked. However, when asked how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, Russians give a response of 4.7. Seventy-seven percent say that the government should be more responsive to the will of the people.

- A majority (53%) of Russians says they trust their government to do the right thing “most of the time,” rather than “only some of the time” (29%) or “just about always” (11%).
- Nearly three in five (59%) say that their country is run for the benefit of a few big interests over the benefit of all the people (30%).
- 83% of Russians say leaders should pay attention to polls to help them get a sense of the public’s views, and 73% take the position that leaders should pay attention to the views of the people between elections, rather than having elections be the only time when the views of the people have influence (22%).
- Asked how much their government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy, Russians give a response of 6.6 on a scale of 0-10, (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), although when asked how much their government takes world public opinion into account currently, Russians give a 5.5. Only 36% say the government should give world public opinion greater influence, while 24% say it should have the same amount and 21% feel it should have less.

UKRAINE

[Kiev International Institute of Sociology](#)

Ukrainians have the largest majority strongly agreeing that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government and are one of two publics giving the highest mean number for how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people. However, Ukrainians also rate their country the lowest on the degree to which it is governed by the will of the people, and a very large number believe that the government should be more responsive to the will of the people.

- An overwhelming majority (94%) endorses the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government, including 77% who strongly agree. More than nine in 10 (91%) also favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, Ukrainians give an 8.7 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”). However, Ukrainians also give their country the lowest rating (2.8) for how much the country is currently governed according to the will of the people. Eighty-six percent favor the will of the people having greater influence on the government.
- A majority (57%) of Ukrainians say they can only trust the national government to do the right thing “some of the time,” while just 20% say they can trust it “most of the time” (16%) or “just about always” (4%).
- Ukrainians widely perceive their country as being run by a few big interests looking out for themselves (84%), rather than for the benefit of all the people (5%).
- Nine in 10 (90%) say leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public’s views, and three-

- quarters (76%) also feel that leaders should consider the views of the people between elections when making decisions.
- Asked how much the government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions Ukrainians give a response of 7.2 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 being “a great deal”), but only give a response of 4.5 when asked how much the government currently takes world public opinion into account. Fifty-five percent favor the government paying more attention to world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions.

MIDDLE EAST/EURASIA:

AZERBAIJAN

International Center for Social Research

Azerbaijanis have one of the largest majorities strongly agreeing that the will of the people should be the basis of government authority, and give a very high rating for how much the country should be governed by the will of the people. They are also among the large majorities that favor the government giving the will of the people greater influence.

- 83% of Azerbaijanis agree that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, including a majority (63%) saying they “strongly agree,” and 86% favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to say how much their country should be governed according to the will of the people Azerbaijanis give a response of 8.3 on a scale of 0-10 (with 10 being “completely”), although when asked to what degree the country is currently governed by the will of the people, on average the response is only 4.2. More than three in four (76%) say the will of the people should have greater influence than it currently does.
- Azerbaijanis are divided between those who say they can only trust their government some of the time (40%), and those who say it can be trusted “most of the time (33%) or “just about always” (8%). A further 16% volunteer they can never trust the government.
- A majority (61%) says that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, while just 25% feel it is run for the benefit of all the people.
- 72% favor leaders paying attention to public opinion polls when they make an important decision in order to get a sense of the public’s view, and 76% believe that leaders should consider the views of the people in between elections.
- Asked how much their government should consider world public opinion when making foreign policy, Azerbaijanis give a response of 7.5 on a scale of 0-10 (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), although when asked to say how much their government already considers world public opinion, the response is a 5.4. A slight majority (51%) favors the government taking world public opinion into greater account.

EGYPT

Attitude Market Research

Egyptians have the largest majority—nearly unanimous—endorsing the principle of the will of the people serving as the basis of government authority, and widely believe that their country should give the will of the people greater influence. However they give the second-lowest rating for how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people. On the other hand large numbers feel they can trust their government most of the time and a majority believes their country is run for the benefit of all the people.

- A near unanimous 98% of Egyptians agree that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, and 76% favor government leaders being selected by elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much their country should be governed by the will of the people, Egyptians give a response of 8.3 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), though when asked to say how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, they give a very low rating of 3.2. A very large majority (97%) believes the will of the people should have greater influence than it currently does.
- A large majority of Egyptians (84%) say they can trust their national government to do the right thing most of the time (71%) or just about always (13%), while just 16 percent say they can only trust the government some of the time.
- 57% say that their country is run for the benefit of all the people, though a significant number (44%) say that it is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.
- 64% of Egyptians say leaders should pay attention to polls when making decisions because this will help them gain a sense of the public’s views, while just 36% take the opposite view that this will distract leaders from deciding what they think is right.
- Asked how much their government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, Egyptians give a response of 7.3 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), although when asked to rate how much their government is currently taking into account world public opinion, they only give a 4.1. A large majority (72%) favors the government taking world public opinion into account more than it already does.

IRAN

WorldPublicOpinion.org

Iranians widely endorse democratic principles, including that the will of the people should be the basis for the authority of government and that leaders should be elected by all the citizens. They give one of the highest mean numbers for how much the will of the people should have influence and a majority calls for greater influence. A significant number express trust in the national government to do the right thing.

- Two in three Iranians (67%) endorse the principle that the authority of government should be based on the will of the people, and 80% favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much the will of the people should influence the governing of the country on a 10-point scale, with 10 meaning “completely,” Iranians give a response of 8.4. When asked to rate how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, Iranians give a 5.9 and 59% say the will of the people should have greater influence in governing the country than it currently does.
- Half of Iranians (48%) say that they trust the national government to do what is right “most of the time,” while one in four say “some of the time” (26%). Only 13% say they trust the government “rarely” (11%) or “never” (2%). [Note: In Iran this question was asked slightly different than for other countries.]
- More than two-thirds (68%) of Iranians say leaders should pay attention to the views of the peoples as they make decisions between elections, while very few (14%) say that elections are the only the time views of the people should have influence.

JORDAN

[Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan](#)

Jordanians strongly support democratic principles, including that leaders should be elected by all the citizens. While Jordanians are lower than average in their support for the will of the people having influence, their mean level of support is quite high and half favor greater influence. At the same time, a modest majority of Jordanians express trust in their government to do the right thing and half believe it is run for the benefit of all the people.

- 81% of Jordanians agree that the will of the people should be the basis of government authority, while 71% say that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to say how much their country should be governed by the will of the people Jordanians give a response of 6.6 on a scale of 0-10 (with 10 being “completely). When asked to rate how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, Jordanians say 5.4 on average, one of the higher numbers among publics polled. Still, 44% say that the will of the people should have greater influence on the government than it currently does, though 27% say it is the same as it should be and 17% say it should be less.
- A majority (54%) says they trust their national government to do the right thing “most of the time” (38%) or “just about always” (16%), while 41% say they can only trust the government some of the time.
- Jordanians are divided whether their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves (47%) or whether it is run for the benefit of all the people (47%).
- Nearly nine in 10 (89%) favor leaders paying attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision in order to get a sense of the public’s views,

while just 8% reject this position because they think it will distract leaders from deciding what they think is right.

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

[Palestinian Center for Public Opinion](#)

Palestinians widely support the will of the people being the basis of the authority of government and favor the government being more responsive to the will of the people. Although a majority says their country is run by a few big interests rather than the benefit of all the people, Palestinians are one of the few publics to have a majority say they trust their government to do the right thing. While Palestinians say that world public opinion should have substantial influence and half of Palestinians think it should have more influence, they are lower than most countries on both of these dimensions.

- Nine in 10 (90%) Palestinians endorse the principle that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, and 84% say that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, Palestinians on average say 7.6 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), although when given the same scale and asked how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, they only give a response of 4.1. More than three in four (76%) favor the government being more responsive to the will of the people.
- A majority (55%) says they can trust the government to do the right thing “most of the time” (39%) or “just about always,” (16%), while one-third (32%) says it can only be trusted some of the time.
- Two-thirds (66%) say that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of all the people (28%).
- 70% say that leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision, although they are divided on whether elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence (49%) or whether leaders should also pay attention between elections (48%).
- Asked how much the government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy, Palestinians give a response of 5.9 on a 0-10 scale, with 10 being “a great deal,” although Palestinians also say world public opinion already has some influence on their government (5.1). Forty-seven percent say world public opinion should have greater influence, while 29% say it should have less and 16% believe it should have the same amount.

TURKEY

[ARI Foundation](#) / [Infakto Research Workshop](#)

Turks strongly support democratic principles, and are the fourth-largest majority that strongly agrees the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government. They also give one of the highest ratings for how much influence the will of the people should have in governing their country. Turks support leaders paying attention to polls as

they make their decisions, but, curiously, a slight majority (and the only one of all nations polled) says the public should only have influence at the time of elections.

- 87% in Turkey endorse the principle of the will of the people as the basis of authority of government, including a very large 70% saying they “strongly agree” with this principle. A very large majority (87%) also says they favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to say how much their country should be governed by the will of the people, Turks give a response of 8.4 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 being “completely”). Yet, when asked to rate how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people on the same scale, on average Turks say 5.0. Sixty-four percent say that the will of the people should have greater influence on the way the country is governed.
- While 40% of Turks say they can only trust the national government to do the right thing “some of the time,” 43% also say they can trust the government “most of the time” (24%) or “all of the time” (19%). A further 14% volunteers the government can never be trusted.
- A significant majority (61%) feels their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, while just 31% says it is run for the benefit of all the people.
- 83% believe that government leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to help them get a sense of the public’s views. However Turks are unique in that a slight majority (53%) also says that elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence, rather than leaders paying attention to the views of the people between elections (43%); they are the only public to take this position.
- Asked how much their government should consider world public opinion when it makes foreign policy decisions, Turks give a 6.8 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”). Rating how much the government currently considers world public opinion on the same scale, they give a 5.7. More Turks say world public opinion should be taken into account more (42%) than those who say less (21%), although 25% say it should be considered the same amount.

AFRICA:

NIGERIA

Market Trends Research International

Nigerians are among the publics most supportive of democratic principles. They are the second-largest majority both strongly agreeing that the will of the people should serve as the basis for the authority of government and favoring greater influence for the will of the people in governing their country. They are also the largest majority favoring their government giving greater consideration to world public opinion as it makes foreign policy decisions.

- More than nine in 10 (92%) agree the will of the people should be the basis the authority of government (75% strongly), while 88% support the selection of government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much their country should be governed by the will of the people, Nigerians give a response of 8.5 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), although when asked how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people, Nigerians only give a 3.9. Nearly nine in 10 (89%) favor the will of the people having greater influence in the governing of their country.
- A majority of Nigerians (53%) say they can only trust their government to do the right thing “some of the time,” while 41% feel it can be trusted “most of the time” (27%) or “just about always” (14%).
- 78% say that their government is run by a few big interests looking out for their own benefit, rather than for the benefit of all the people (21%).
- 93% favor government leaders paying attention to public opinion polls as they make important decisions, while 72% say leaders should pay attention to the views of the public between elections.
- Asked to what degree their government should consider world public opinion as it makes its foreign policy decisions, Nigerians give a score of 8.2 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”). Rating how much the government currently considers world public opinion on the same scale, Nigerians only give a mean of 4.6. An exceptionally large 78% favor their government paying more attention to world public opinion.

ASIA/PACIFIC:

CHINA

WorldPublicOpinion.org

The Chinese public expresses robust support for democratic principles, including the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government and selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote. They have uniquely positive views among all countries on how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people, but a majority still favors the will of the people having greater influence. China also has the largest majority saying the government is run for the benefit of the people and that they trust their government to do the right thing.

- A large majority (82%) endorses the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government, and 83% also favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, the Chinese give an 8.0 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”). When asked how much the country is currently governed according to the will of the people, the Chinese give their country the highest rating (6.7) of all publics polled, though roughly six in 10 (59%) still favor the will of the people having greater influence on the government than it does.

- A large majority (83%) of Chinese say they can trust the national government to do the right thing “most of the time” (60%) or “just about always” (23%), while just 15% say they can trust it “some of the time.”
- The Chinese are one of two publics (along with Egypt) that perceives their country as being run for the benefit of the people (65%), rather than by a few big interests looking out for themselves (30%).
- 74% say leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public’s views, and four out of five (81%) also feel that leaders should consider the views of the people between elections when making decisions.
- Asked how much the government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, the Chinese give a response of 7.8 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 being “a great deal”), but give a response of 6.6 when asked how much the government currently takes world public opinion into account. Still, a plurality of 49% favors the government paying more attention to world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions.

INDIA

[Team CVoter](#)

While India is the largest democracy in the world, Indians show some of the lowest levels of enthusiasm for democratic principles. Though a majority of Indians endorse the principle of the will of the people as the basis for government authority, it is the smallest majority out of all publics polled. Indians also give the lowest score for how much the will of the people should influence the governing of their country, and only modest numbers say it should have more influence than it currently does. India also has the smallest majority that says government leaders should be selected by elections in which all citizens can vote.

- A modest majority (53%) of Indians endorse the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government (26% disagree), while 54% of Indians favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote, though one-third (33%) say leaders should be selected some other way, the largest number out of all countries asked.
- Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, Indians give the lowest score of any country (6.2) on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”). However, Indians give their country a lower rating (4.1) for how much the country is currently governed according to the will of the people, and a plurality (46%) still says government should be governed by the will of the people more than it is.
- A plurality (43%) of Indians say they can trust the national government to do the right thing “most of the time” (24%) or “just about always” (19%), while 39% say they can trust it just “some of the time” (22%) or even volunteer “never” (17%).
- Six in 10 (60%) Indians say their country is being run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of the people (30%).

- Indians have the lowest percentage (56%) saying leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public's views, and only a plurality of Indians (45%) feels that leaders should consider the views of the people when making decisions between elections, with a sizable minority (41%) says that elections are the only time when the views of people should have influence.
- Asked how much the government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, Indians only give a response of 5.8 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 being "a great deal"), the lowest rating of any country. When asked how much the government currently takes world public opinion into account, Indians give a response of 4.7, and only a small plurality of 34 percent says India should pay more attention to world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, while fewer say it should stay the same (15%) or pay less attention (13%).

INDONESIA

[Synovate](#)

Indonesians have some of the most widespread support for the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government, and the largest majority saying leaders should be selected through elections. Though Indonesians widely support leaders paying attention to public opinion polls, a significant minority believes elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence. Indonesians express very high levels of support for being responsive to world public opinion and though they also give one of the highest ratings to their government's responsiveness, a modest majority favors even more responsiveness.

- An overwhelming 94% endorses the principle that the will of the people should be the basis of government authority, including 72% that "strongly agree," while an even greater 97% supports selecting government leaders via elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to rate how much their country should be governed by the will of the people, Indonesians give a score of 8.7 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning "completely), though when asked to give a score for how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people, they respond with a mean of 5.9. More than three-quarters (78%) favor giving the will of the people greater influence in governing their country.
- Indonesians are quite skeptical about trusting their government, with 65% saying it can only be trusted "some of the time" and just 32% saying they trust it "most of the time" (19%) or "just about always" (13%).
- A majority (57%) believes that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of all the people (37%).
- 85% say that leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making important decisions to get a sense of the public's views, and a more modest majority (55%) says leaders should pay attention to the views of the people

between elections, while 44% say that elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence.

- When asked how much their government should consider world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, Indonesians give the highest score (8.4) out of all countries polled on a 10-point scale (with 10 being “a great deal”). Indonesians also give the highest score (6.6, along with China) when asked to rate how much their government currently considers world public opinion, although 56% still say that their government should consider world public opinion more than it already does.

SOUTH KOREA

[East Asia Institute](#)

Overwhelming majorities in South Korea endorse democratic principles and are among the very highest in their support for leaders paying attention to public opinion polls as well as considering the views of the people between elections. A large majority favors the will of the people having greater influence on the government than it does. South Koreans show the most skepticism about trusting their government to do the right thing.

- An overwhelming majority (93%) endorses the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government and 91% also favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, South Koreans give a 7.4 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”). Yet, South Koreans give their country a fairly low rating (4.6) for how much the country is currently governed according to the will of the people and more than four in five (83%) favor the will of the people having greater influence on the government than it does.
- Nearly eight in 10 (79%) say they can trust the government to do the right thing “only some of the time”, the largest majority out of all publics asked, with an additional 3% volunteering never. Only 18% say they trust the government “most of the time” (15%) or “just about always” (3%), the lowest of any other nation.
- South Koreans widely perceive their country as being run by a few big interests looking out for themselves (78%), rather than for the benefit of all the people (20%).
- Overwhelming majorities (94%) say leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public’s views and also feel that leaders should consider the views of the people between elections when making decisions (93%).

Asked how much the government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, South Koreans give a response of 6.9 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 being “a great deal”), and when asked how much the government currently takes world public opinion into account, give a response of 5.9. A majority (55%) favors the government paying more attention to world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions.

WORLDPUBLICOPINION.ORG

World Public Opinion on Governance and Democracy

May 13, 2008

Q5-GP1: Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: The will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree (vol.)	DK / NS
Argentina	32	58	7	1	1	1
Mexico	59	27	8	3	1	1
US	44	43	10	3	0	0
France	34	43	15	6	2	1
Great Britain	55	32	8	4	0	1
Poland	57	36	2	0	0	5
Russia	39	37	7	2	7	10
Ukraine	77	17	3	1	0	1
Azerbaijan	63	20	4	5	6	2
Egypt	40	58	2	0	0	0
Iran	41	26	7	2	2	23
Jordan	46	35	7	5	0	7
Palestinian ter.	59	31	5	1	2	2
Turkey	70	17	2	4	3	4
Nigeria	75	17	6	2	0	0
China	45	37	10	3	1	3
India	32	21	11	15	12	10
Indonesia	72	22	2	0	2	2
S Korea	48	45	6	0	0	0
Average	52	33	6	3	2	4

Q6-GP2: As a general rule, do you think government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote, or do you think they should be selected some other way?

	Selected through elections in which citizens can vote	Selected some other way	DK / NS
Argentina	82	16	2
Mexico	86	11	3

US	96	4	0
France	87	12	1
Great Britain	89	10	1
Poland	91	3	6
Russia	85	7	8
Ukraine	91	7	3
Azerbaijan	86	9	5
Egypt	76	24	0
Iran	80	6	14
Jordan	71	24	5
Palestinian ter.	84	15	2
Turkey	87	10	3
Nigeria	88	12	0
China	83	13	4
India	54	33	13
Indonesia	97	3	1
S Korea	91	9	1
Average	84	12	4

Q7-GP3: Do you think that: elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence, or that also between elections leaders should consider the views of the people as they make decisions?

	Elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence	Leaders should pay attention to the views of the people as they make decisions	DK / NS
Argentina	14	82	4
Mexico	8	89	3
US	5	94	1
France	9	90	2
Great Britain	11	88	1
Poland	13	84	4
Russia	22	73	5
Ukraine	22	76	2
Azerbaijan	14	76	11
Iran	14	68	18
Palestinian ter.	49	48	3
Turkey	53	43	4
Nigeria	28	72	0
China	16	81	3
India	41	45	14

Indonesia	44	55	1
S Korea	7	93	0
Average	22	74	4

Q8-GP4: When government leaders are thinking about an important decision, do you think:

	A: They should pay attention to public opinion polls because this will help them get a sense of the public's views.	B: They should not pay attention to public opinion polls because this will distract them from deciding what they think is right	DK / NS
Argentina	78	17	6
Mexico	92	6	2
US	81	18	2
France	68	27	6
Great Britain	84	14	2
Poland	91	3	6
Russia	83	7	10
Ukraine	90	5	5
Azerbaijan	72	21	7
Egypt	64	36	0
Jordan	89	8	3
Palestinian ter.	70	27	3
Turkey	83	10	7
Nigeria	93	7	0
China	74	21	5
India	56	34	10
Indonesia	85	8	7
S Korea	94	6	0
Average	80	15	5

Q9-GA4a: In developing its foreign policy how much do you think the government takes into account world public opinion? Please answer on a scale of 0-10 with 0 meaning “not at all” and 10 meaning “a great deal”.

	Mean	Median
Argentina	5.0	5.0
Mexico	4.6	5.0
US	3.9	4.0
France	4.9	5.0
Great Britain	4.6	5.0
Russia	5.5	5.0

Ukraine	4.5	5.0
Azerbaijan	5.4	5.0
Egypt	4.1	3.0
Palestinian ter.	5.1	5.0
Turkey	5.7	6.0
Nigeria	4.6	5.0
China	6.6	7.0
India	4.7	5.0
Indonesia	6.6	7.0
S Korea	5.9	6.0
Average	5.1	5.0

Q10-GA4b: Using the same scale, how much do you think the government should take into account world public opinion?

	Mean	Median
Argentina	6.7	7.0
Mexico	8.2	9.0
US	6.6	7.0
France	6.8	7.0
Great Britain	7.1	7.0
Russia	6.6	7.0
Ukraine	7.2	8.0
Azerbaijan	7.5	8.0
Egypt	7.3	8.0
Palestinian ter.	5.9	6.0
Turkey	6.8	7.0
Nigeria	8.2	8.0
China	7.8	8.0
India	5.8	6.0
Indonesia	8.4	9.0
S Korea	6.9	7.0
Average	7.1	8.0

Statement: Now I would like to ask you about the government of [country]

Q12-GA1: How much of the time do you think you can trust the national government in [capital of survey country] to do what is right?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Only some of the time	Never (vol.)	DK / NS
Argentina	13	10	73	3	1
Mexico	10	12	70	6	1
US	3	37	60	0	0
France	8	29	58	6	0
Great Britain	3	29	63	4	1
Russia	11	53	29	3	4
Ukraine	4	16	57	12	12
Azerbaijan	8	33	40	16	3
Egypt	13	71	16	1	0
Jordan	16	38	41	0	5
Palestinian ter.	16	39	32	10	3
Turkey	19	24	40	14	4
Nigeria	14	27	53	6	1
China	23	60	15	0	2
India	19	24	22	17	18
Indonesia	13	19	65	1	3
S Korea	3	15	79	3	1
Average	12	32	48	6	3

Q12-GA1: How much of the time do you think you can trust the national government in [capital of survey country] to do what is right?

	Most of the time	Some of the time	Rarely	Never	DK / NS
Iran	48	26	11	2	12

Q13-GA2: Generally speaking, would you say that this country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?

	Run by a few big interests	Run for the benefit of the people	DK / NS
Argentina	71	21	7
Mexico	83	16	2
US	80	19	1
France	59	35	6
Great Britain	60	36	5
Poland	63	19	18
Russia	59	30	12
Ukraine	84	5	11
Azerbaijan	61	25	14
Egypt	44	57	
Jordan	47	47	7
Palestinian ter.	66	28	6
Turkey	61	31	8
Nigeria	78	21	1
China	30	65	5
India	60	30	9
Indonesia	57	37	6
S Korea	78	20	2
Average	63	30	7

Q14-GA3a: How much is this country governed according to the will of the people? Please answer on a scale of 0-10 with 0 meaning “not at all” and 10 meaning “completely.”

	Mean	Media
Argentina	4.4	5.0
Mexico	4.5	5.0
US	4.0	4.0
France	4.6	5.0
Great Britain	4.9	5.0
Poland	3.4	3.0
Russia	4.7	5.0
Ukraine	2.8	3.0
Azerbaijan	4.2	4.0
Egypt	3.2	3.0
Iran	5.9	6.0
Jordan	5.4	5.0
Palestinian ter.	4.1	4.0

Turkey	5.0	5.0
Nigeria	3.9	4.0
China	6.7	7.0
India	4.1	4.0
Indonesia	5.9	6.0
S Korea	4.6	5.0
Average	4.5	5.0

Q15-GA3b: Using the same scale, how much do you think this country should be governed according to the will of the people?

	Mean	Median
Argentina	7.7	8.0
Mexico	8.6	9.0
US	7.9	8.0
France	7.3	8.0
Great Britain	8.0	8.0
Poland	8.1	8.0
Russia	8.6	10.0
Ukraine	8.7	10.0
Azerbaijan	8.3	9.0
Egypt	8.3	9.0
Iran	8.4	9.0
Jordan	6.6	7.0
Palestinian ter.	7.6	8.0
Turkey	8.4	9.0
Nigeria	8.5	9.0
China	8.0	8.0
India	6.2	6.0
Indonesia	8.7	10.0
S Korea	7.4	8.0
Average	8.0	8.0

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METHODOLOGY

Country	Sample Size (unweighted)	MoE (%)	Field dates	Survey methodology	Type of sample
Argentina	800	3.5	March 14-20, 2008	Face-to-face	Urban ¹
Azerbaijan	602	4.1	Jan 13 – Feb 5, 2008	Face-to-face	National
China	1000	3.2	Jan 10-25, 2008	Telephone	Urban ²
Egypt	600	4.1	Jan 17-27, 2008	Face-to-face	Urban ³
France	600	4.1	Feb 5-11, 2008	Telephone	National
Great Britain	800	3.5	Jan 29 – Feb 19, 2008	Telephone	National
India	1023	3.2	February 25-29, 2008	Face-to-face	National ⁴
Indonesia	811	3.5	Jan 19-29, 2008	Face-to-face	National ⁵
Iran	710	3.8	Jan 13 – Feb 9, 2008	Face-to-face	National
Jordan	959	3.2	March 4-10, 2008	Face-to-face	National
Mexico	850	3.4	Jan 25-27, 2008	Telephone	National ⁶
Nigeria	1000	3.2	February 7-18, 2008	Face-to-face	National ⁷
Palestinian territories	626	4.0	February 10-23, 2008	Face-to-face	National ⁸
Poland	870	3.4	Nov 29 – Dec 4, 2007	Face-to-face	National
Russia	1600	3.5	Jan 18-22, 2008	Face-to-Face	National ⁹
South Korea	600	4.1	Feb 11-12, 2008	Telephone	National
Turkey	719	3.7	Jan 12-24, 2008	Face-to-face	National
Ukraine	2046	3.1	Feb 8-18, 2008	Face-to-face	National ¹⁰

United States	1309	3.3	Jan 18-27, 2008	Internet	National ¹¹
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¹ In Argentina, the survey was executed in the urban areas of Capital Federal, Gran Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Mendoza, and Rosario, representing 39 percent of Argentina’s population.

² In China, the survey was a national probability sample of urban telephone households across China. A stratified PPS sample design was developed to sample 20 cities; urban households represent approximately 45 percent of the Chinese population.

³ In Egypt, the survey was executed in the urban areas of Cairo, Alexandria, Giza, and Subra. These four urbanized areas represent 75 percent of Egypt’s urban population, which is 42 percent of the national population.

⁴ In India, a face-to-face survey was conducted in urban and rural areas in 14 of the largest Indian states; these states comprise 77 percent of India’s population. The sample is 60 percent urban, India’s population is approximately 30 percent urban.

⁵ In Indonesia, a national probability sample was conducted in both urban and rural areas and covering approximately 87 percent of Indonesia’s population.

⁶ In Mexico, a random telephone sample of adults who had landline telephones was conducted in all 31 states and the Federal District. Telephone penetration in Mexico is 55 percent.

⁷ In Nigeria, the sample was developed by selecting six states, one per geographic region, based upon their size and representativeness. Within each state, sampling points were selected by means of a multi-stage random sample which disproportionately sampled urban areas. The final sample is 75 percent urban; Nigeria is approximately 50 percent urban.

⁸ In the Palestinian Territories, a face-to-face national probability survey was conducted among the population of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

⁹ In Russia, all items were half sampled; each item was answered by 800 respondents.

¹⁰ In the Ukraine, all items were half-sampled; each item was answered by at least 1,020 respondents.

¹¹ In the United States, the poll was an online survey drawn from a nationally representative sample of the Knowledge Networks online panel. This panel is probabilistically-based, selected from the population of US telephone households and subsequently provided with an Internet connection if needed. Items in the US survey were split sampled so that each item was answered by at least 940 respondents.