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Assessing Leaders Worldwide

June 16th, 2008

COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY RESULTS:

Key to Graphs:

Global Leaders

President George W. Bush	United States
President Nicolas Sarkozy	France
Prime Minister Gordon Brown	Great Britain
President Vladimir Putin	Russia
Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon	United Nations
President Hu Jintao	China
President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad	Iran
President Pervez Musharraf	Pakistan

Regional Leaders

Africa

President Robert Mugabe	Zimbabwe
President Thabo Mbeki	South Africa
President Omar al-Bashir	Sudan
President Umaru Yar'adua	Nigeria
President Joseph Kabila	Democratic Republic of Congo

Americas

President Cristina Kirchner	Argentina
President Lula da Silva	Brazil
President Evo Morales	Bolivia
President Alvaro Uribe	Colombia
President Michelle Bachelet	Chile
President Felipe Calderon	Mexico
President Alan Garcia	Peru
President Hugo Chavez	Venezuela

Asia

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda	Japan
Prime Minister Manmohan Singh	India
President Gloria Arroyo	Philippines
President Susilo Yudhoyono	Indonesia
President Kim Jong-Il	North Korea
Prime Minister Kevin Rudd	Australia

Europe

President Viktor Yushchenko	Ukraine
President Lech Kaczyński	Poland
Chancellor Angela Merkel	Germany
President José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero	Spain
President José Barroso	EU Commission

Eurasia/Middle East

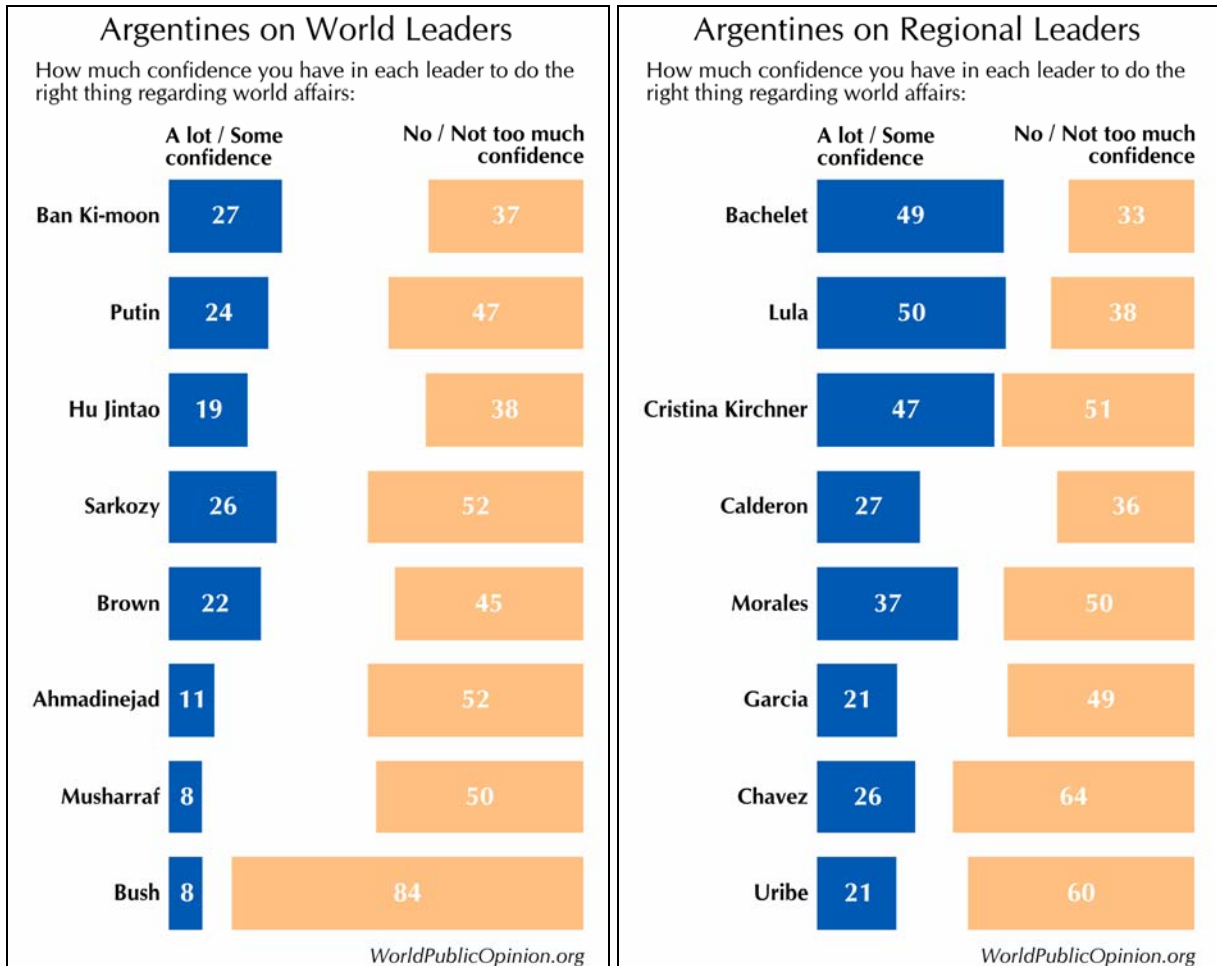
President Ilham Aliyev	Azerbaijan
King Abdullah	Saudi Arabia
Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan	Turkey
Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki	Iraq
President Hosni Mubarak	Egypt
President Bashar al-Assad	Syria
President Mahmoud Abbas	Palestinian National Authority
Secretary General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah	Hezbollah

AMERICAS:

ARGENTINA

[Graciela Romer y Asociados](#)

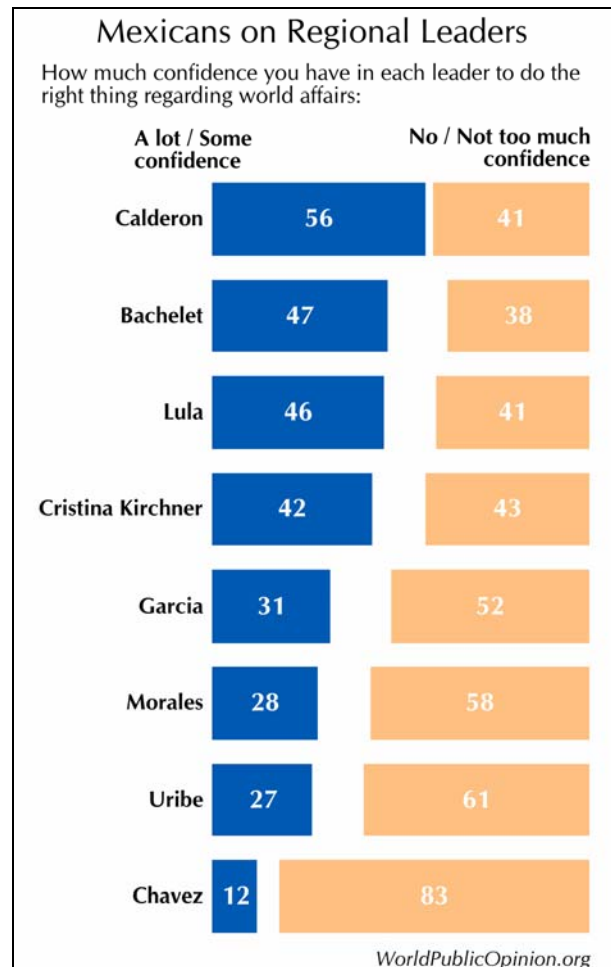
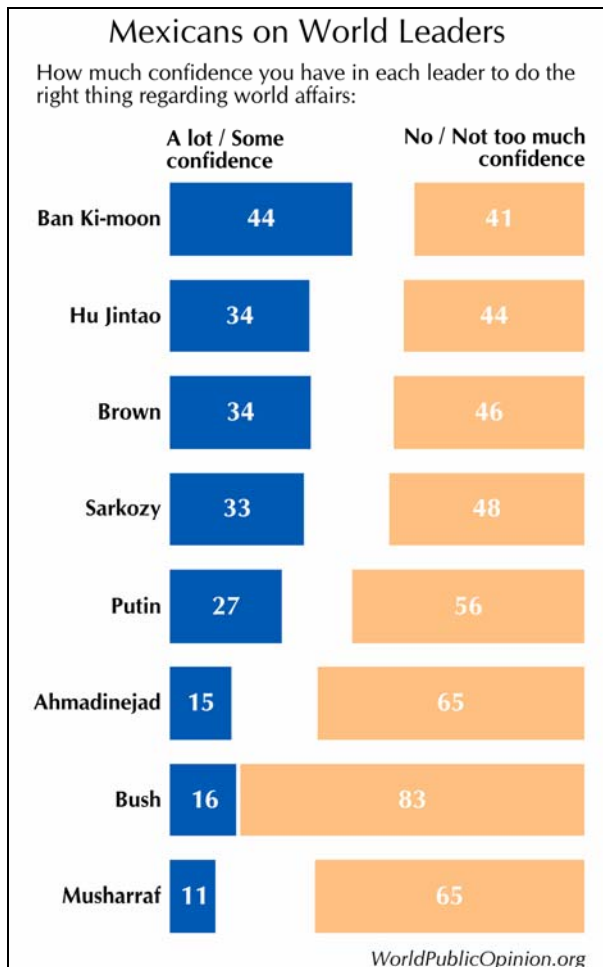
Argentines have negative views on all eight world leaders. Only a quarter or less express confidence in the leaders of Britain, France, Russia, China, the United States. When asked about leaders in their region, views are more mixed, though still predominantly negative. Pluralities do express confidence in Chilean President Bachelet and Brazilian President Lula.



MEXICO

[Reforma](#)

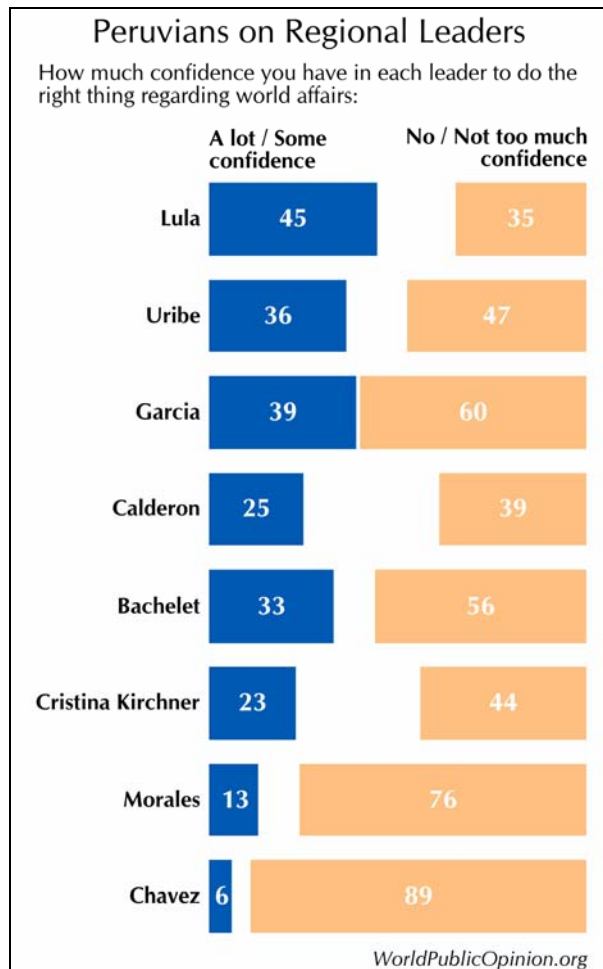
Mexicans have negative views about all world leaders except for Ban Ki-moon, and are extremely negative about Bush. However, at the same time, they are not drawn to leaders who take positions polarized against Bush, such as Chavez—whom Mexicans view as negatively as they do Bush. Among Latin American leaders, pluralities do express confidence in Bachelet of Chile and Lula of Brazil.



PERU

[Grupo de Opinión Publica, Universidad de Lima](#)

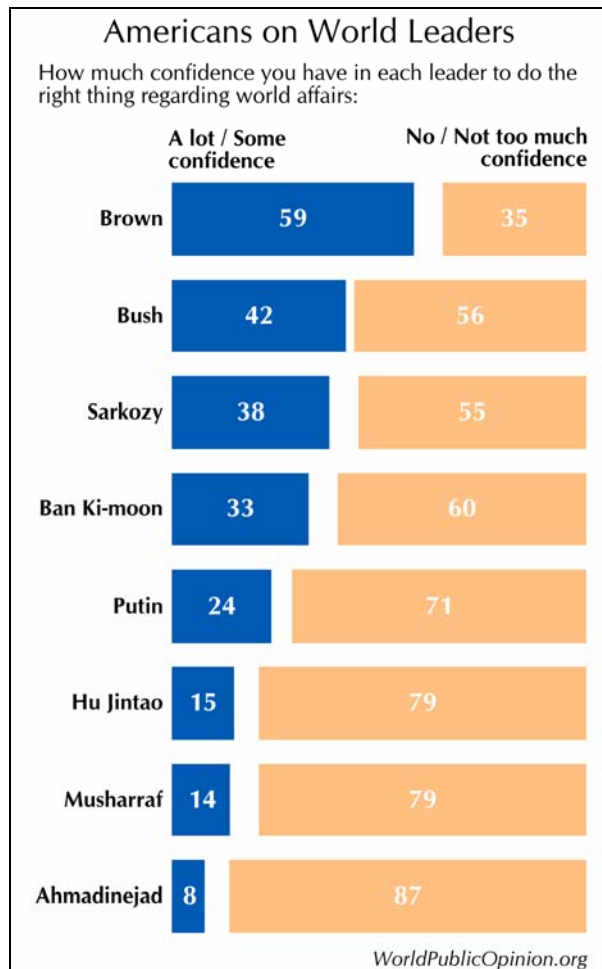
Peruvians generally express low confidence in Latin American leaders, and are especially negative toward Venezuelan President Chavez and Bolivian President Morales. However, a plurality does express confidence in Brazilian President Lula.



UNITED STATES

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

Majorities of Americans express low confidence not only with their own president, but with most global leaders—including the leaders of France, Russia, China, and the UN. A majority is positive, however, about new British Prime Minister Brown.

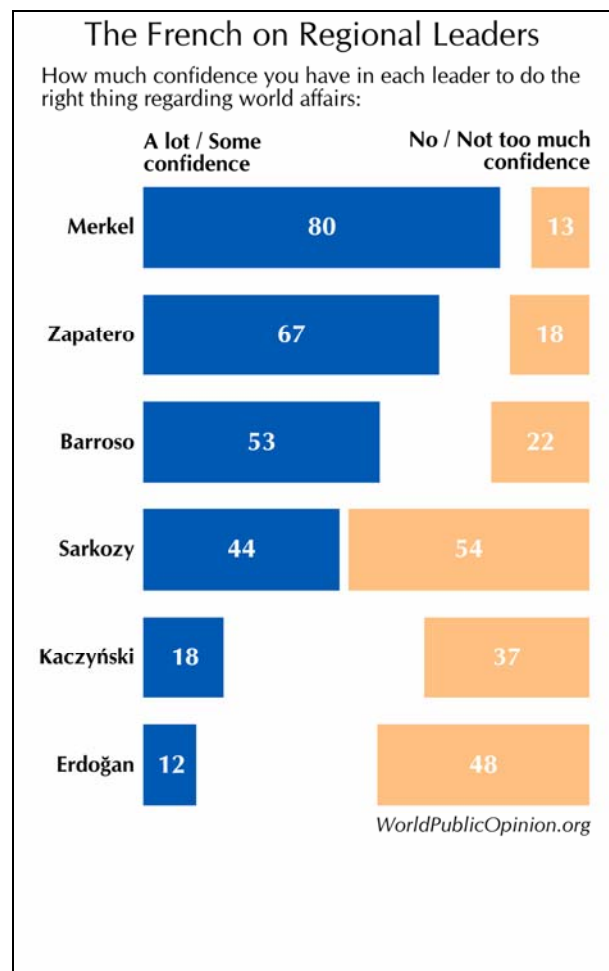
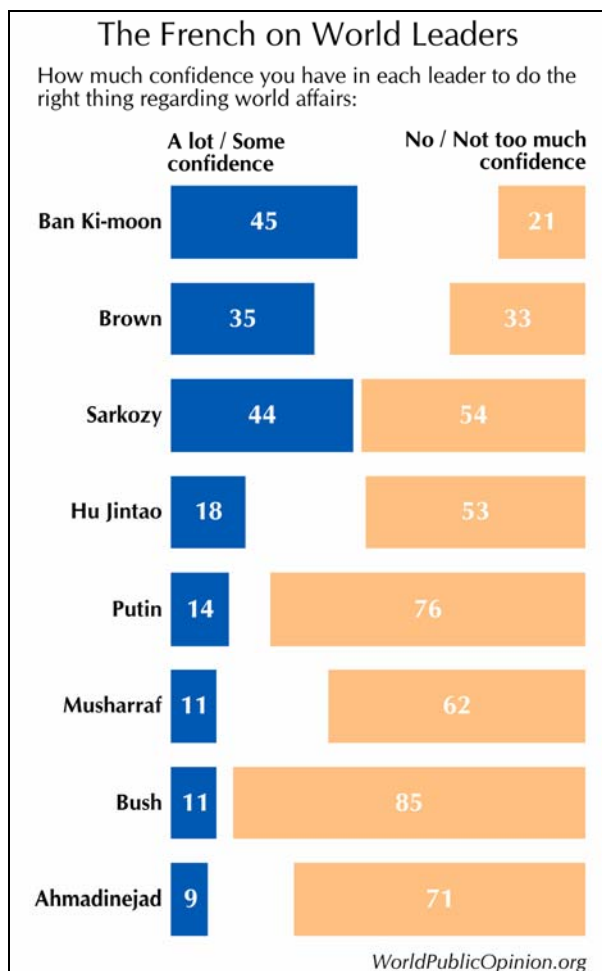


EUROPE:

FRANCE

[Efficiency 3](#)

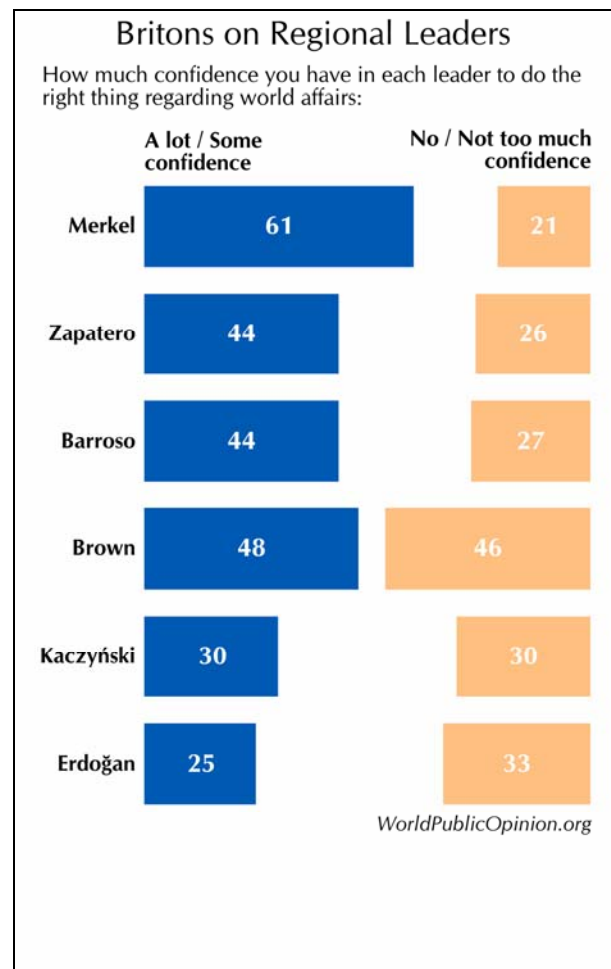
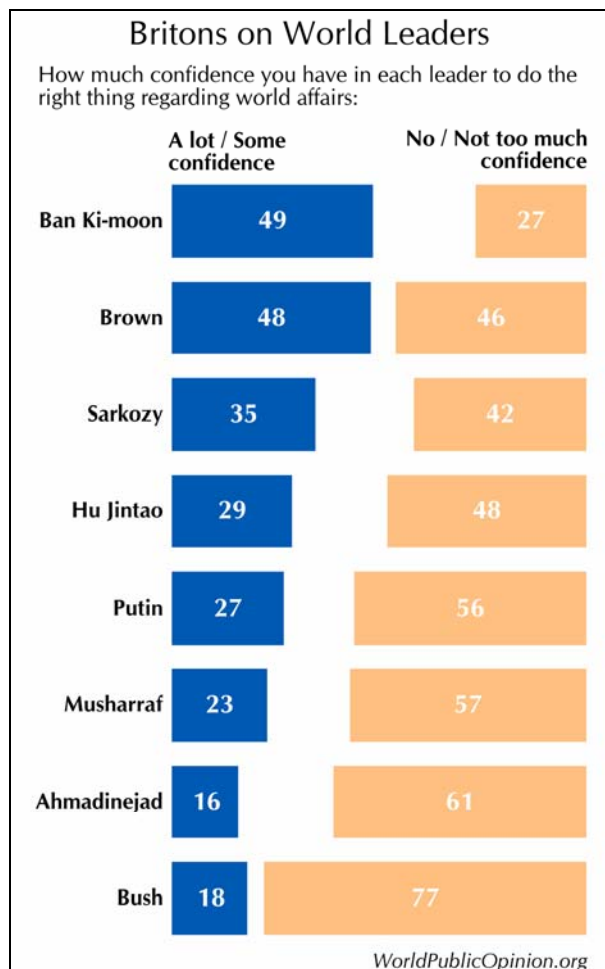
The French have a positive view of Ban Ki-moon, but lack confidence in all the other world leaders—with the exception of Gordon Brown, on whom they are divided. However, the French rate their neighboring continental European leaders warmly, with an overwhelming 80 percent expressing confidence in Germany's Chancellor Merkel.



GREAT BRITAIN

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

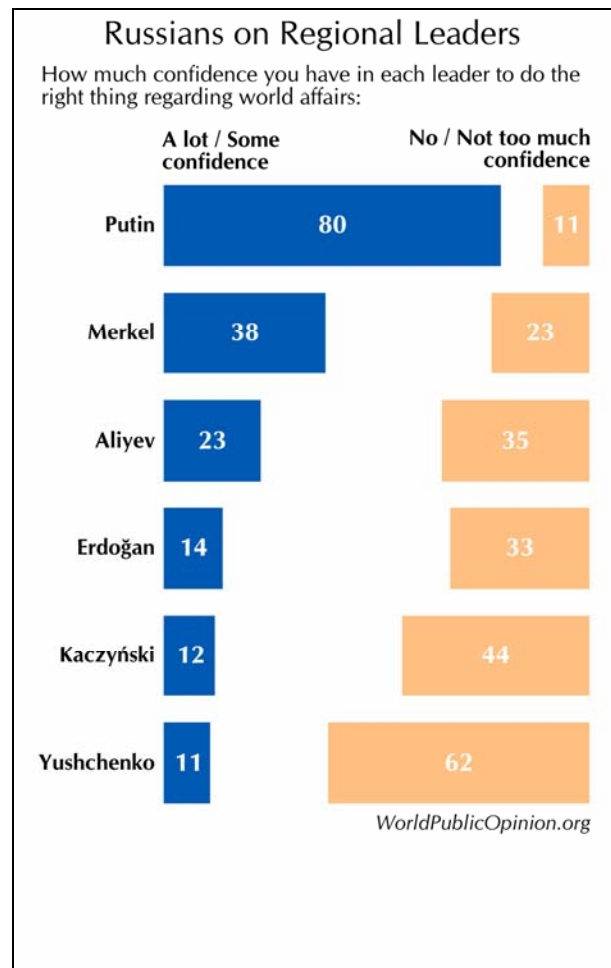
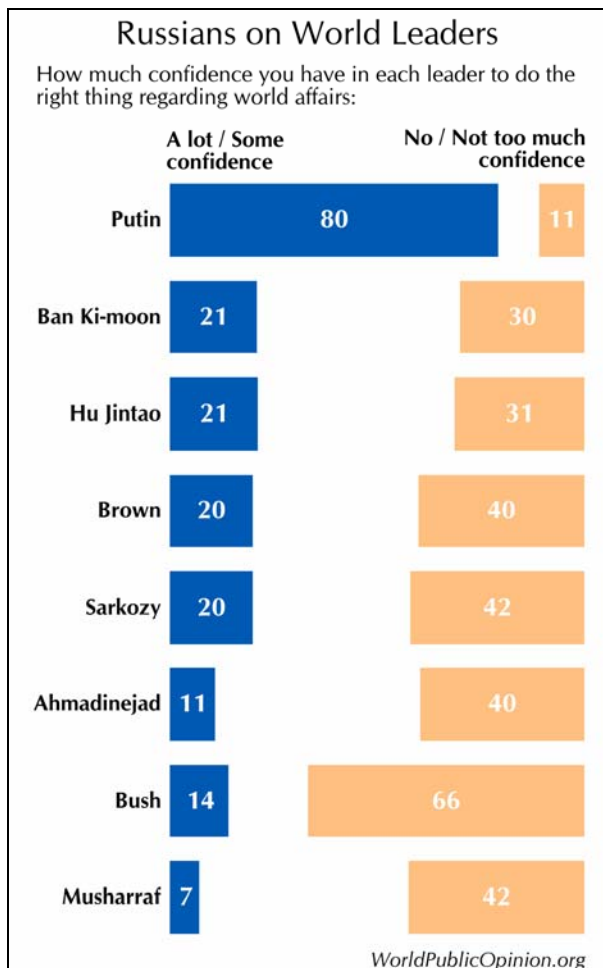
The only world or regional leader in whom a majority of Britons express confidence is Chancellor Merkel of Germany. Pluralities also express confidence in UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, European Commission President Barroso and Spain's Prime Minister Zapatero. Overall, Britons are divided or express low confidence in every other leader asked about.



RUSSIA

[Levada Center](#)

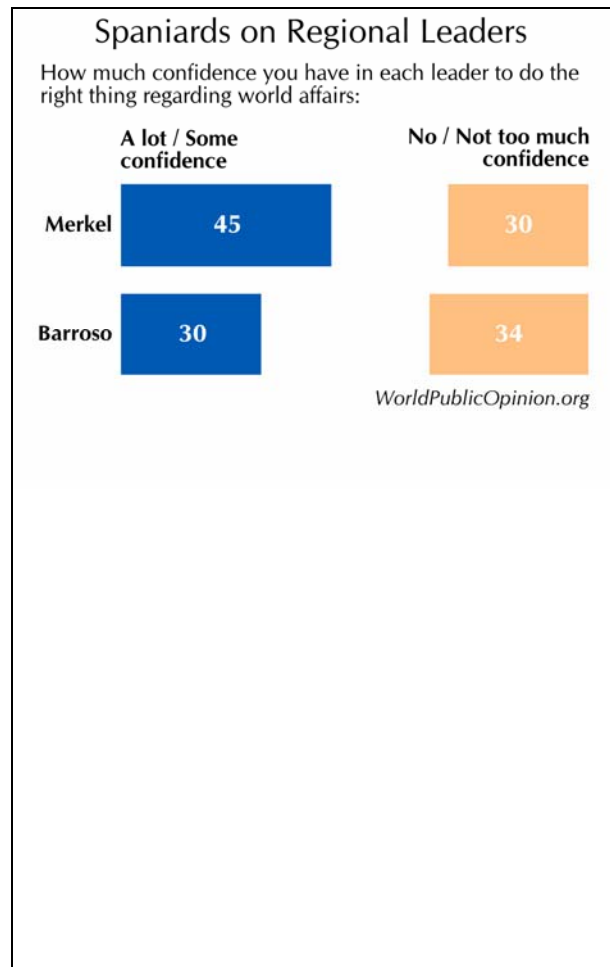
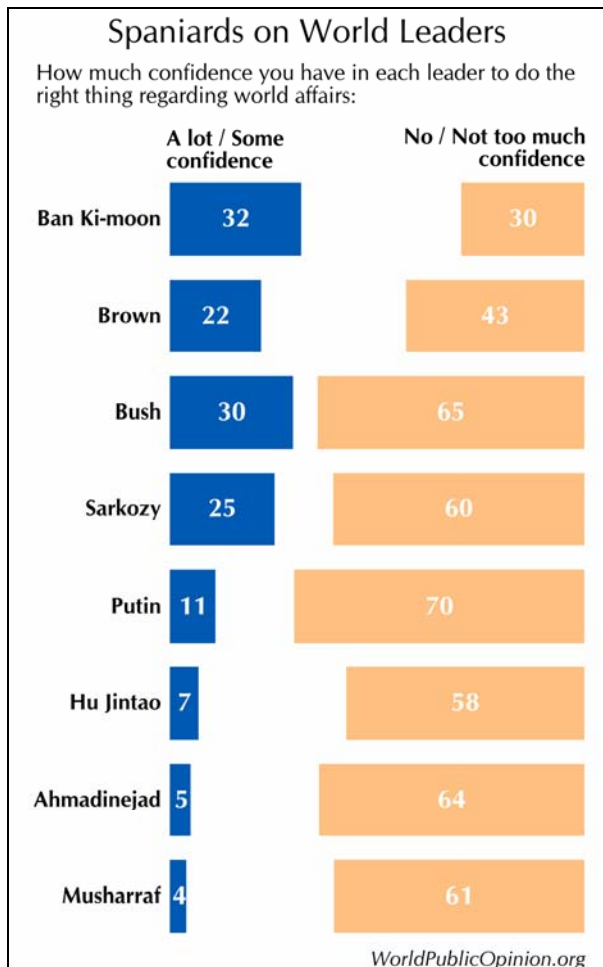
Russians are negative about all the leaders, with the exception of their own—Putin—and, interestingly, Merkel, whom they rate much higher than any other foreign leader.



SPAIN

[Elcano Royal Institute](#)

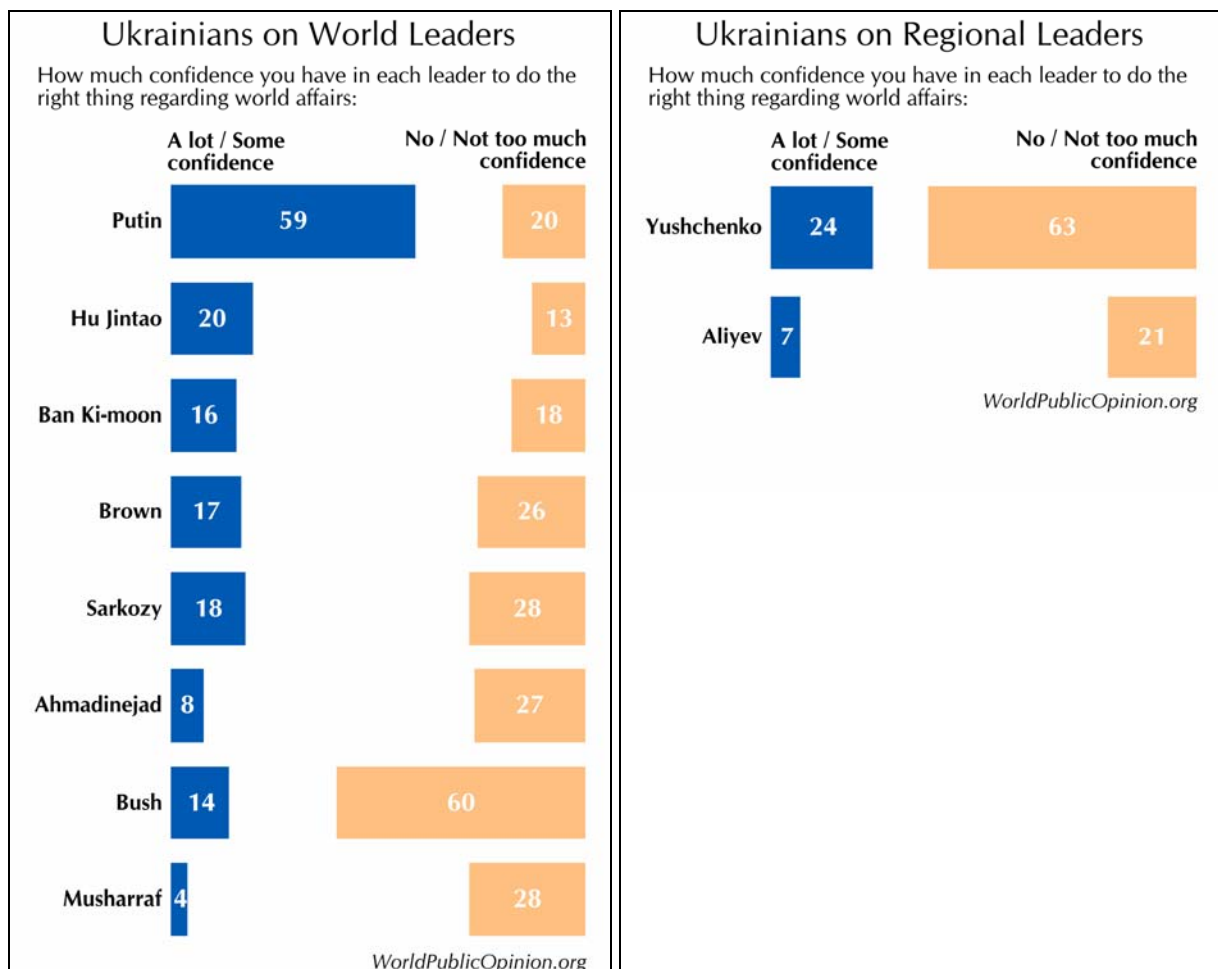
Among the Spanish, majorities or pluralities express fairly low confidence toward all world leaders, though they are divided about Ban Ki-moon. Among European leaders, though, a plurality expresses confidence in Merkel, and the Spanish are nearly divided on Barroso, the president of the European Commission.



UKRAINE

[Kiev International Institute of Sociology](http://www.kiis.org.ua)

Ukrainians seem to have a low level of engagement in world affairs. More Ukrainians than not declined to give views on every leader except Bush, Putin and their own president Yushchenko. A majority of Ukrainians expressed confidence in only one leader: Prime Minister Putin of Russia. Chinese President Hu Jintao was also favorably regarded on balance.

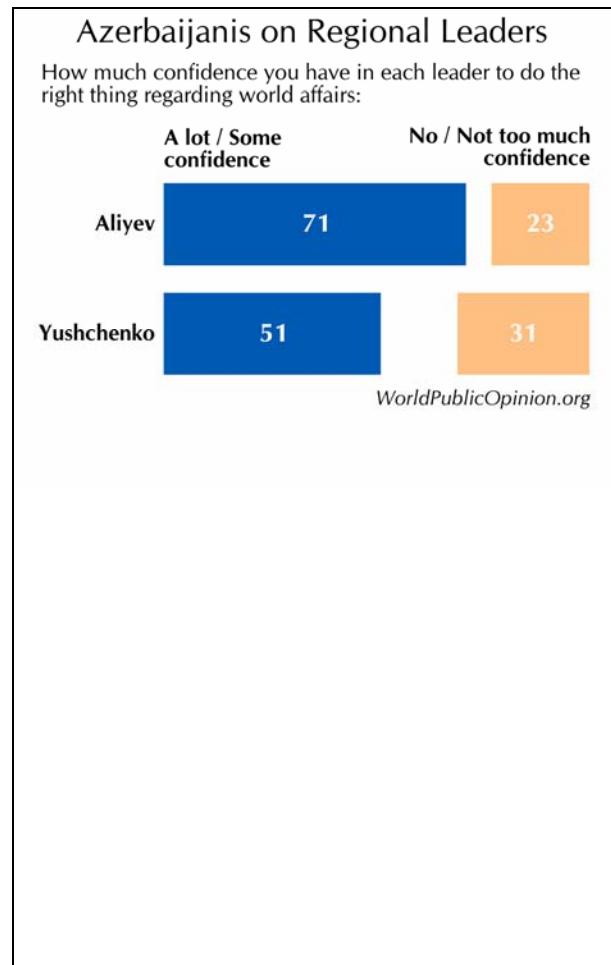
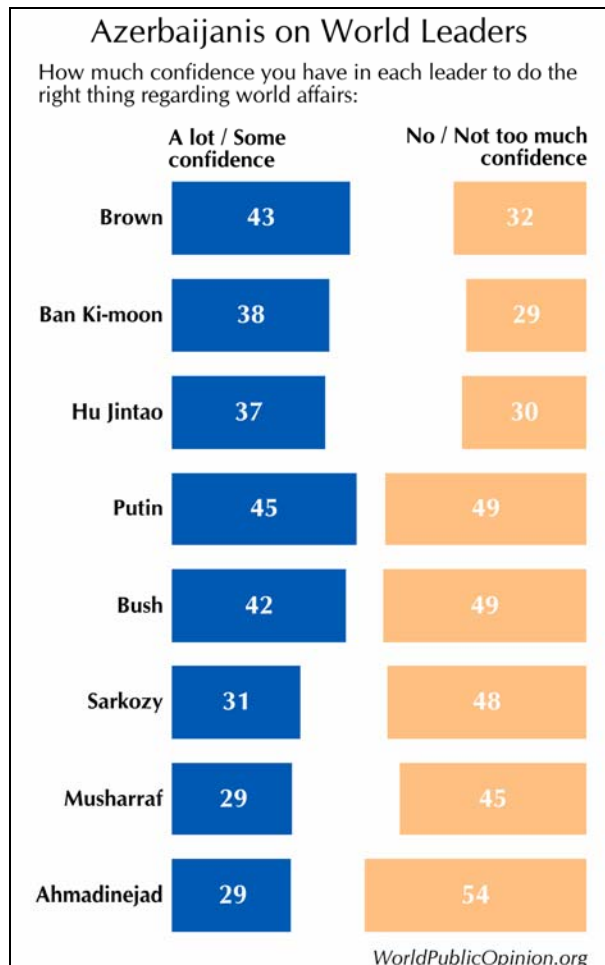


MIDDLE EAST/EURASIA:

AZERBAIJAN

International Center for Social Research

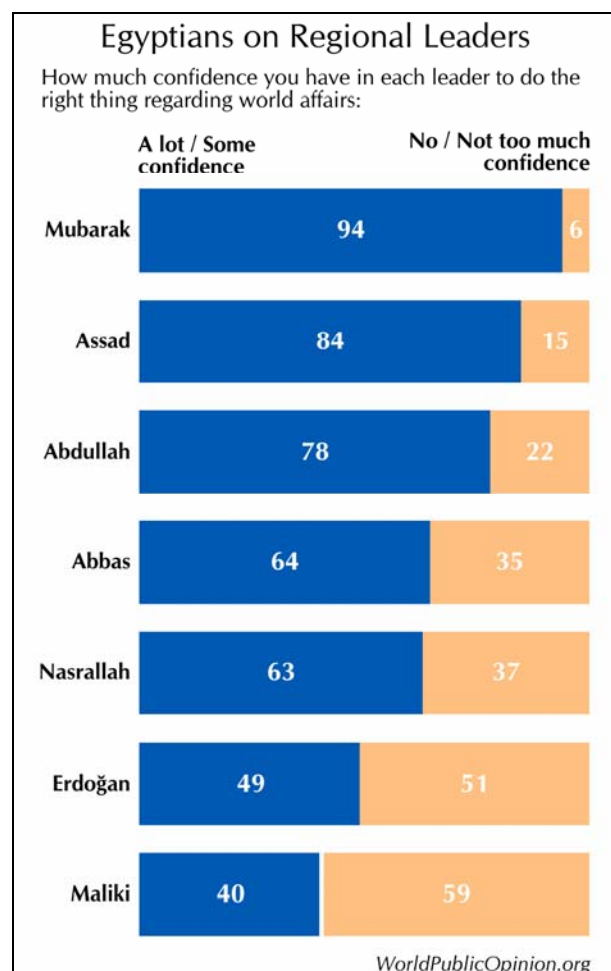
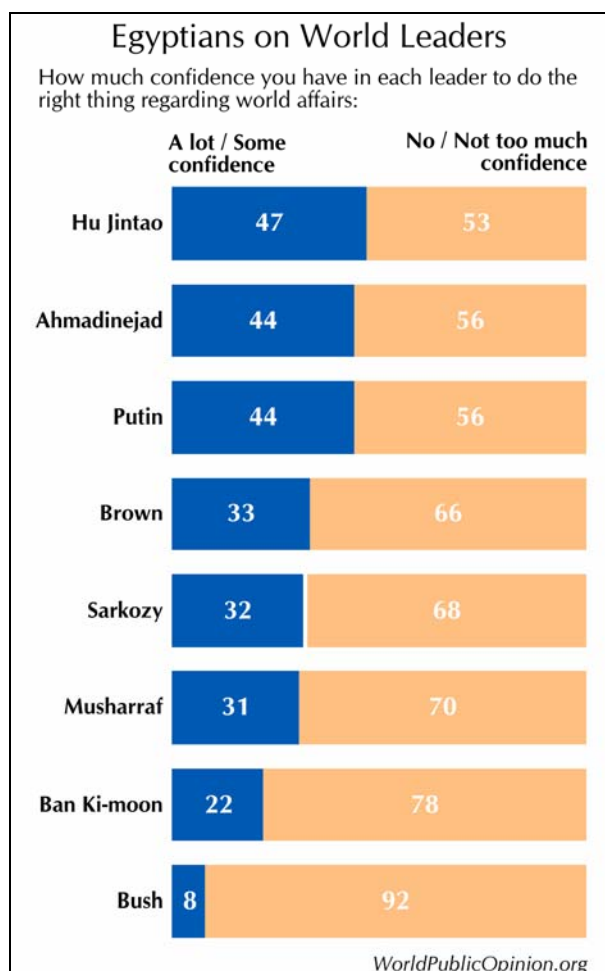
Despite Azerbaijan's past as part of the old Soviet Union, Azerbaijanis show no partiality toward either the American or the Russian leader. Azerbaijanis tend to be equally negative toward Putin and Bush, with 49 percent pluralities expressing low confidence. Azerbaijanis lean positive, however, toward Brown, Hu Jintao, and Ban Ki-moon. Closer to home, a large majority is positive about Azerbaijani President Aliyev and a slight majority is positive about Ukrainian President Yushchenko.



EGYPT

Attitude Market Research

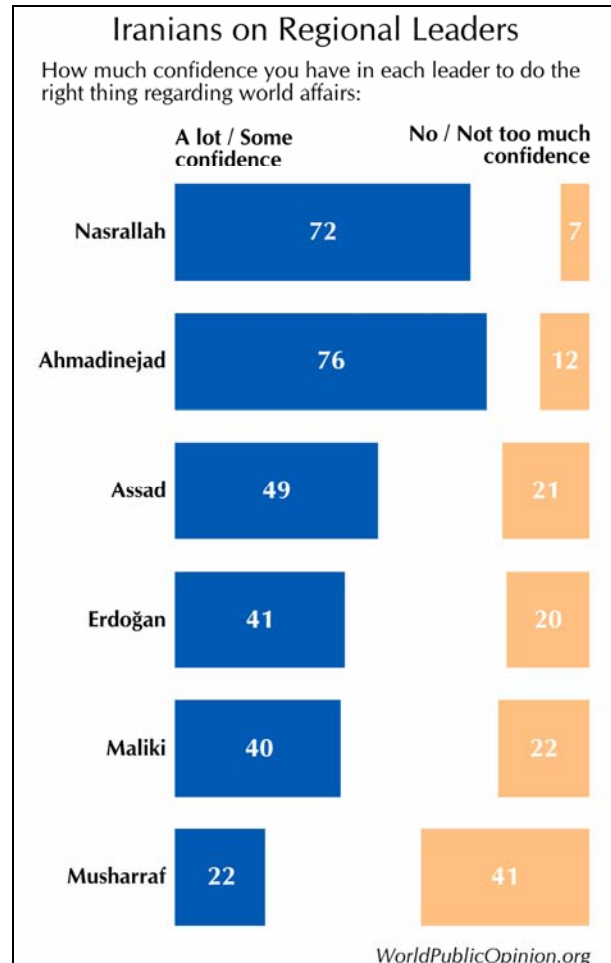
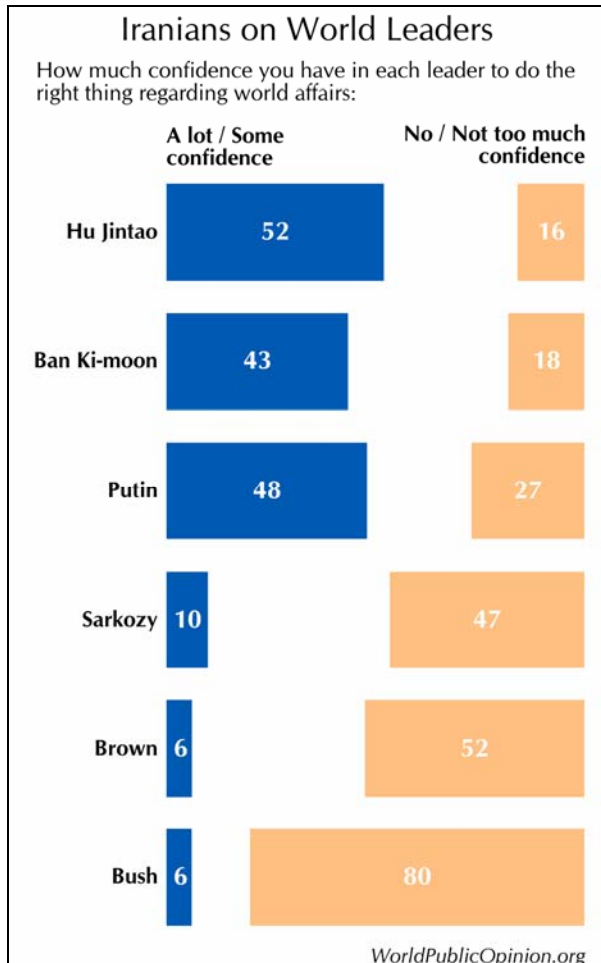
Egyptians do not express confidence in any global leader, but tend to be quite positive about the leaders in their own region. King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, and Prime Minister Abbas of the Palestinian Territories all have strong majorities of Egyptians expressing confidence in them. Egyptians are one of just three publics (the others being Palestinians and Jordanians) that have a very large majority negative about the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.



IRAN

WorldPublicOpinion.org

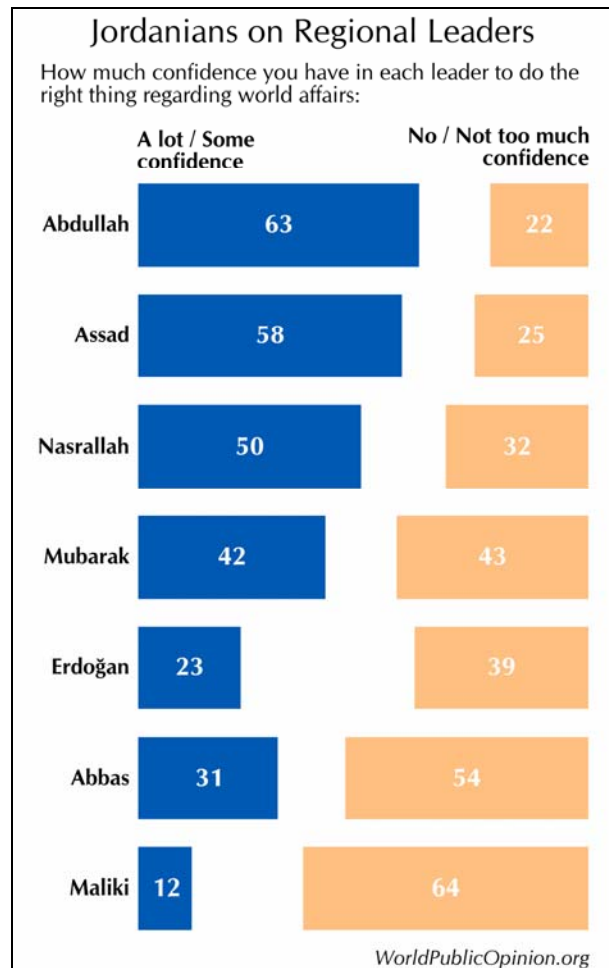
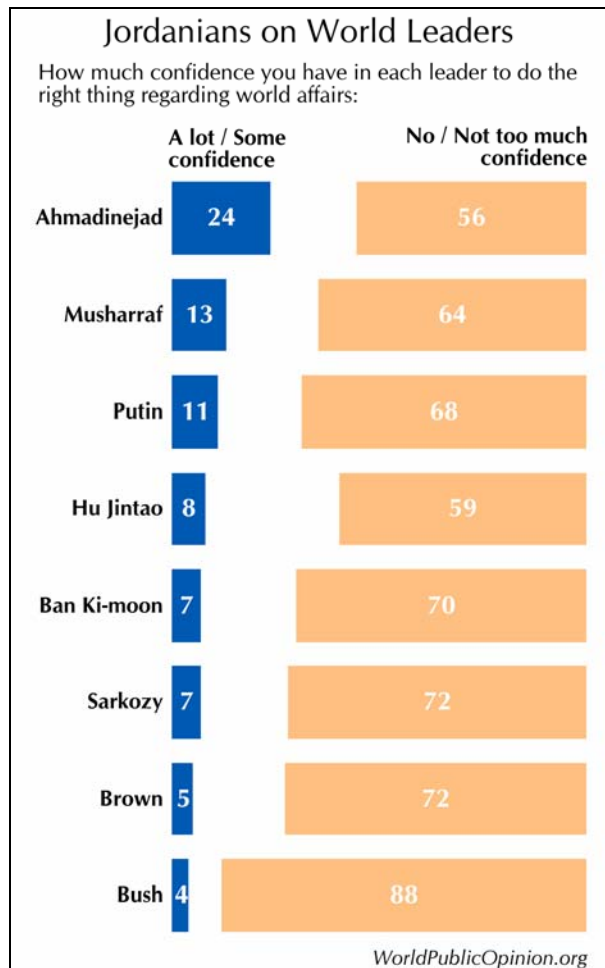
Asked about their confidence in various global leaders, Iranians show a clear pull in the direction of China and Russia. Chinese President Hu Jintao is the most favorably viewed among foreign heads of state, followed by Russia's Putin. Strikingly, despite all the pressures on Iran from the UN, Ban Ki-moon is seen as worthy of confidence. Pluralities also expressed confidence in Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey and Syrian President Assad. However the leader that elicits the greatest confidence, other than Ahmadinejad, is Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.



JORDAN

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

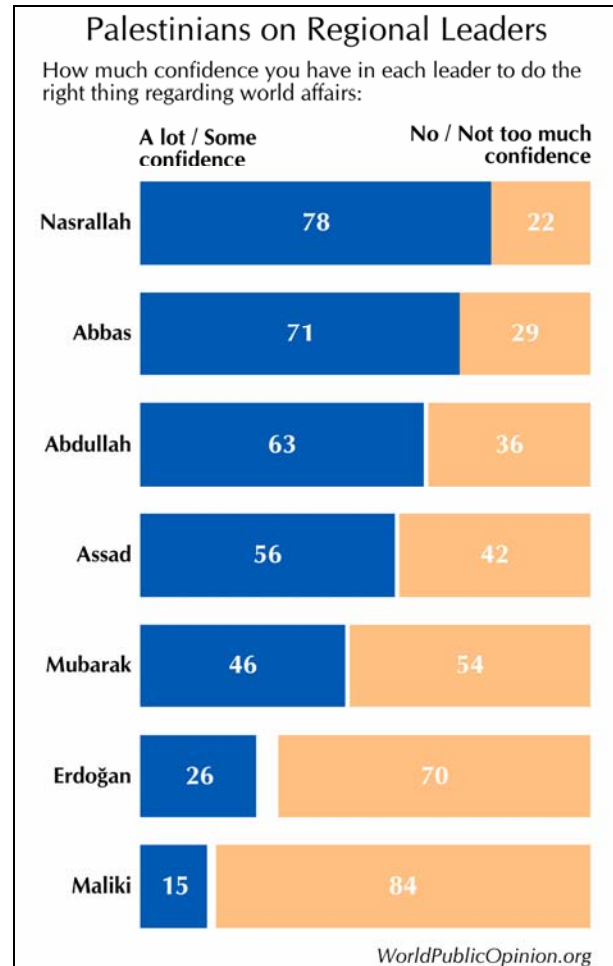
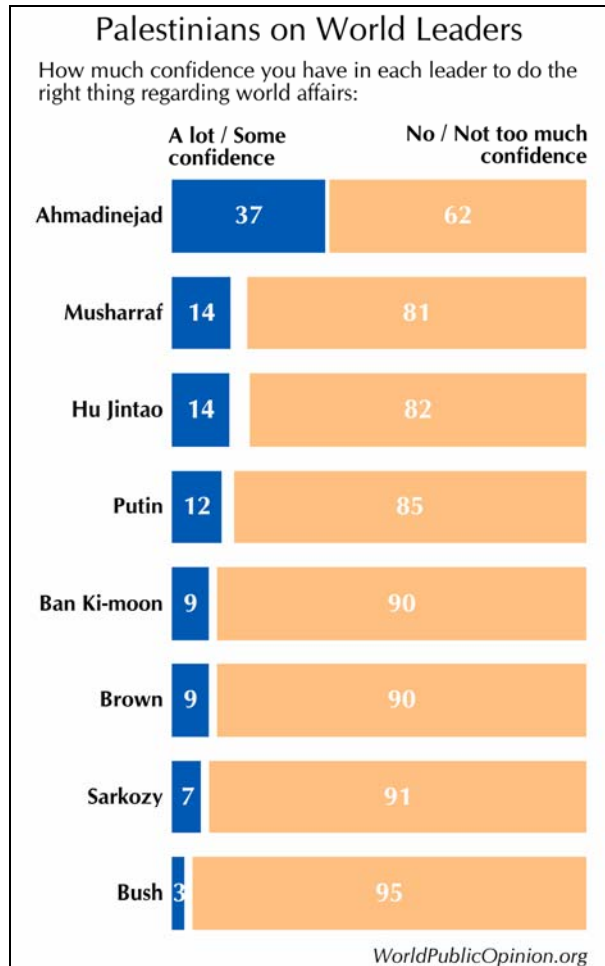
Jordanians have very low confidence in all world leaders, including those of Muslim countries, but show substantial confidence in some of the leaders of their own region—especially Saudi King Abdullah and Syrian President Assad. At the same time Palestinian leader Abbas and Iraqi President Maliki get poor marks.



PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

[Palestinian Center for Public Opinion](http://PalestinianCenterforPublicOpinion.org)

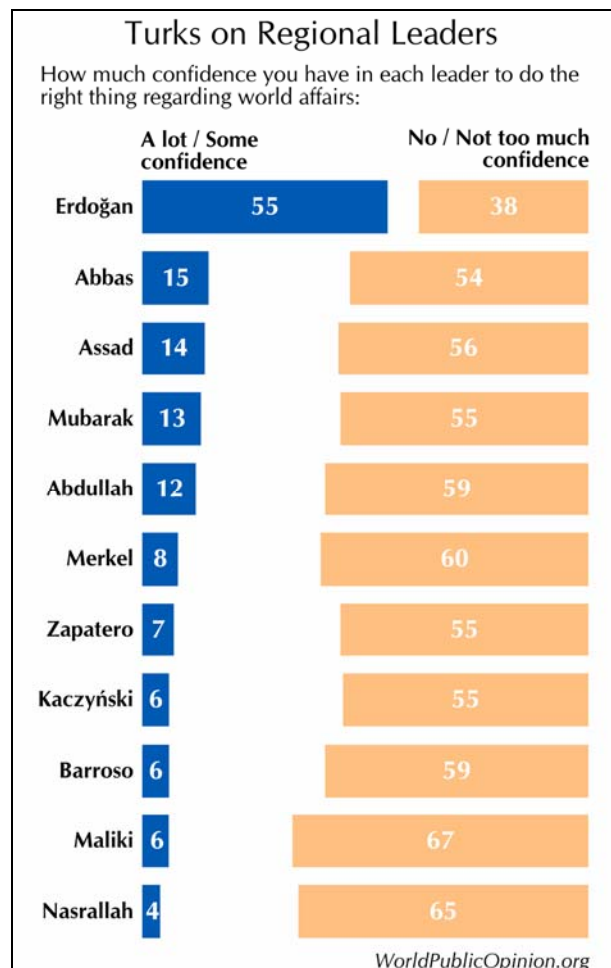
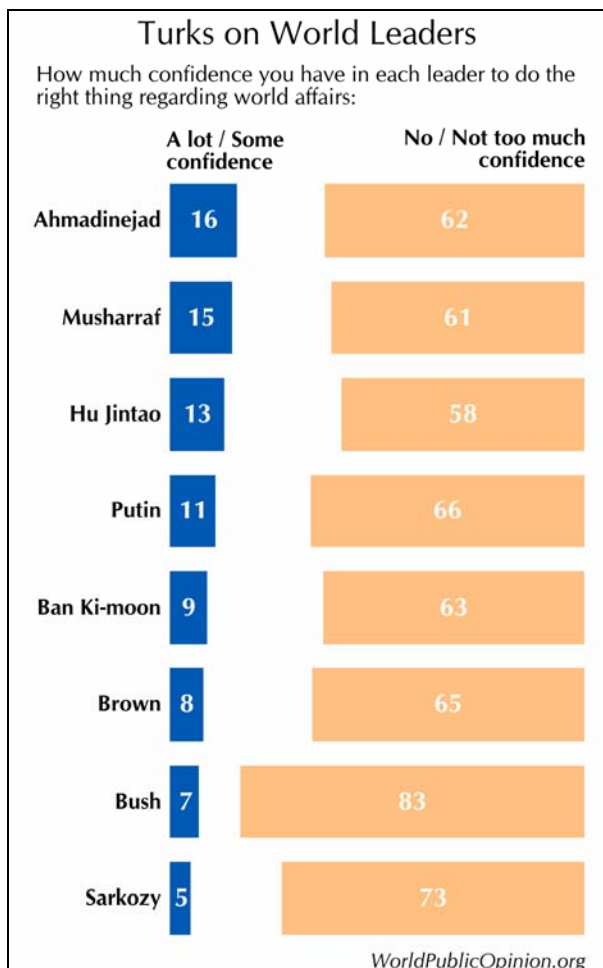
When asked about world leaders Palestinians are extremely negative with more than 8 in 10 giving poor ratings in nearly every case. However, in sharp contrast, numerous regional leaders get positive ratings.



TURKEY

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

Turks, like other Middle Eastern publics, express low confidence in world leaders—but unlike them, they express low confidence in Middle Eastern leaders as well. Turks lack confidence in every one—without exception—of an extensive list of foreign leaders, near and far, that they were asked to rate.

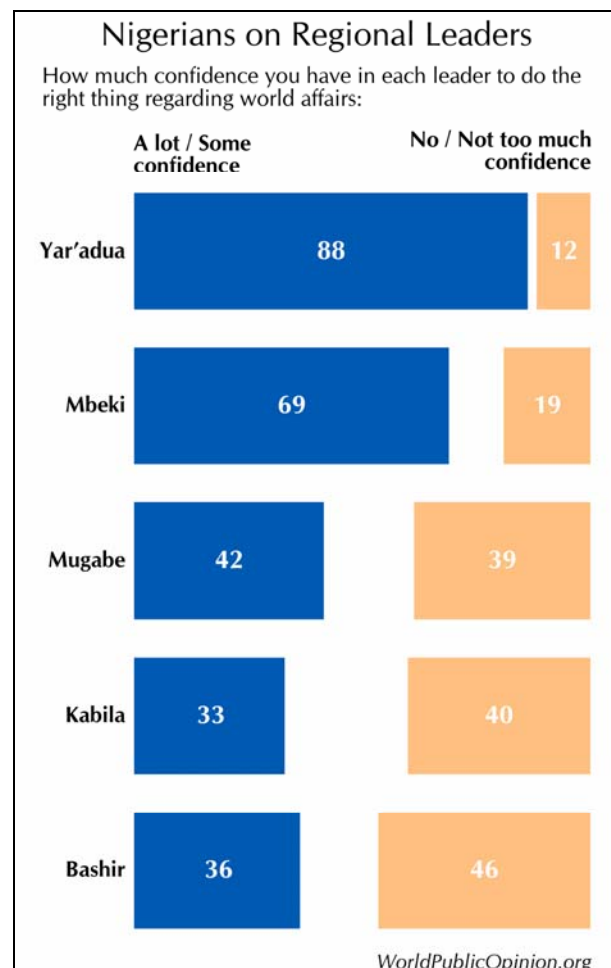
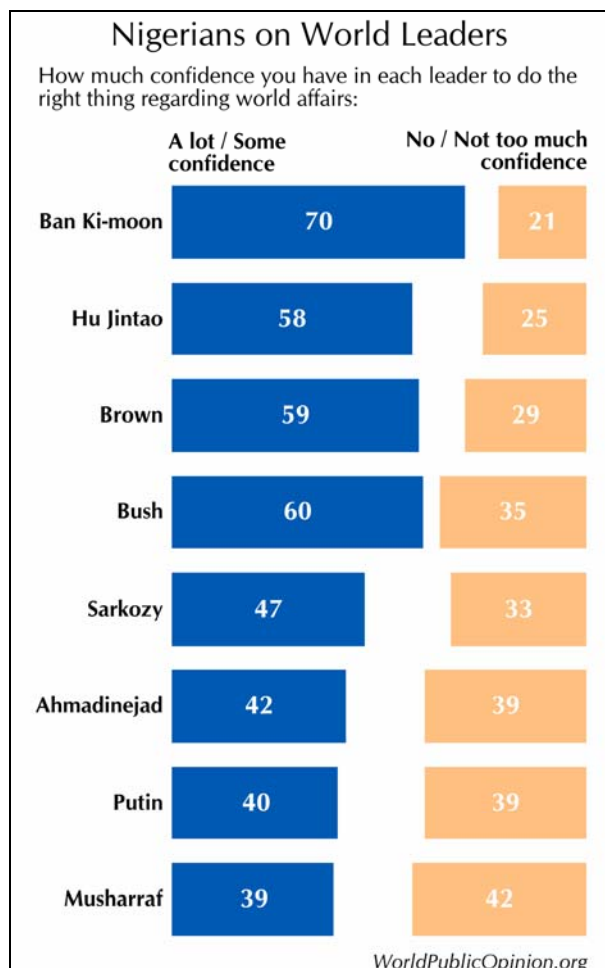


AFRICA:

NIGERIA

Market Trends Research International

Of all publics polled, none are more positive overall about world leaders than Nigerians. Robust majorities express confidence in US President Bush, UK Prime Minister Brown, Chinese President Hu Jintao, and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Regionally, Yar’adua and Mbeki also get very positive ratings. Only the Chinese—who are the second most positive overall—rival the Nigerians in their sense of confidence in world and regional leaders.

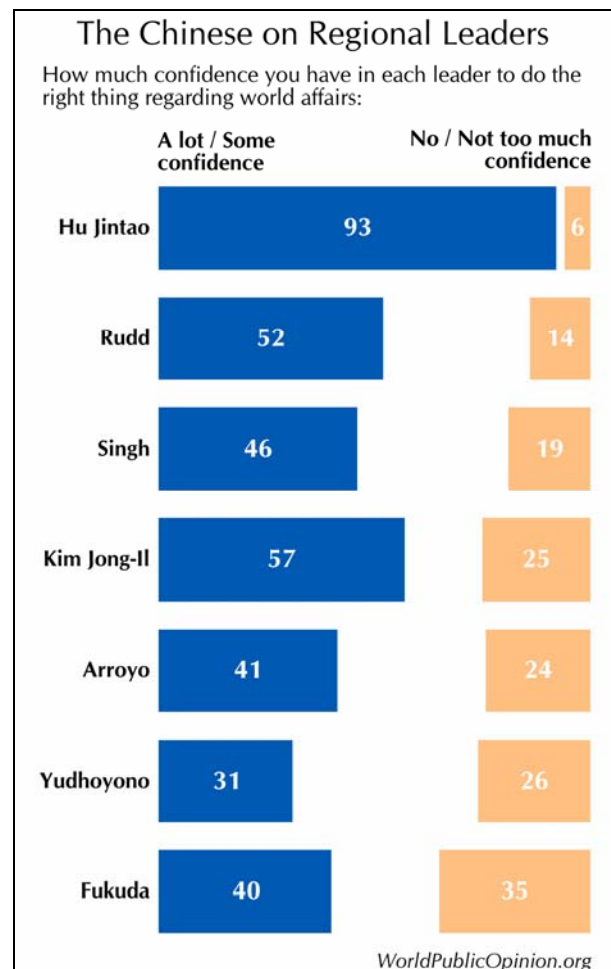
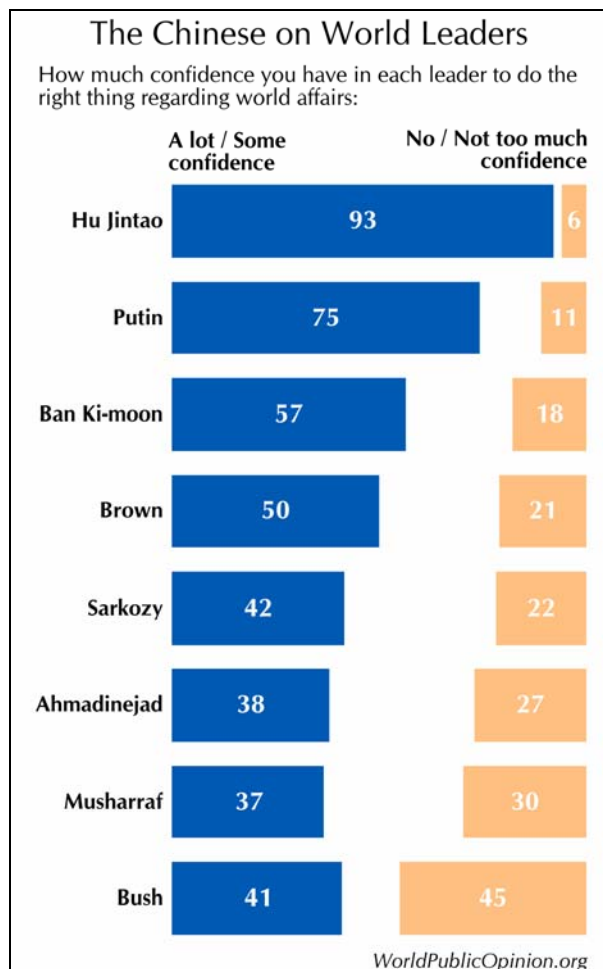


ASIA/PACIFIC:

CHINA

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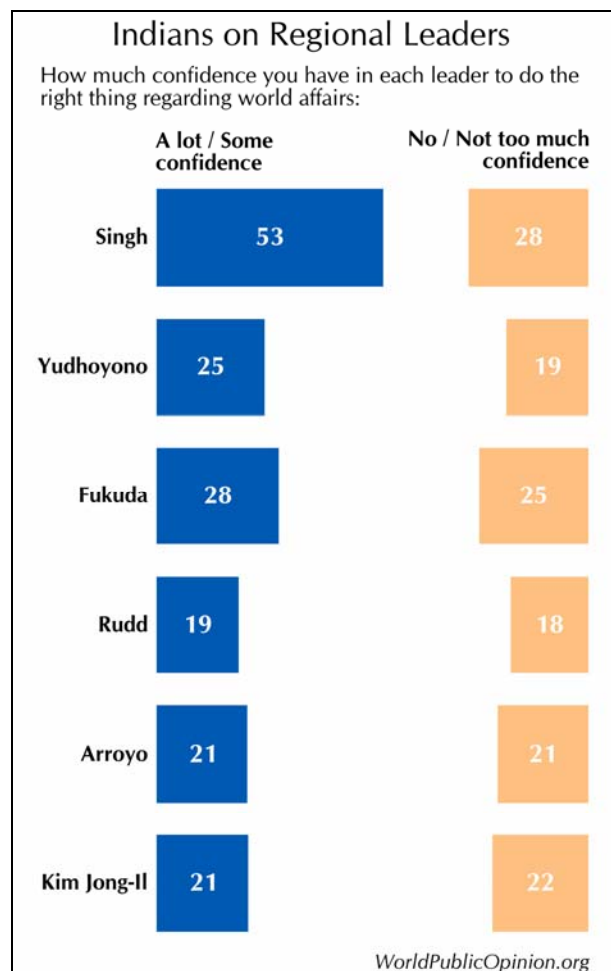
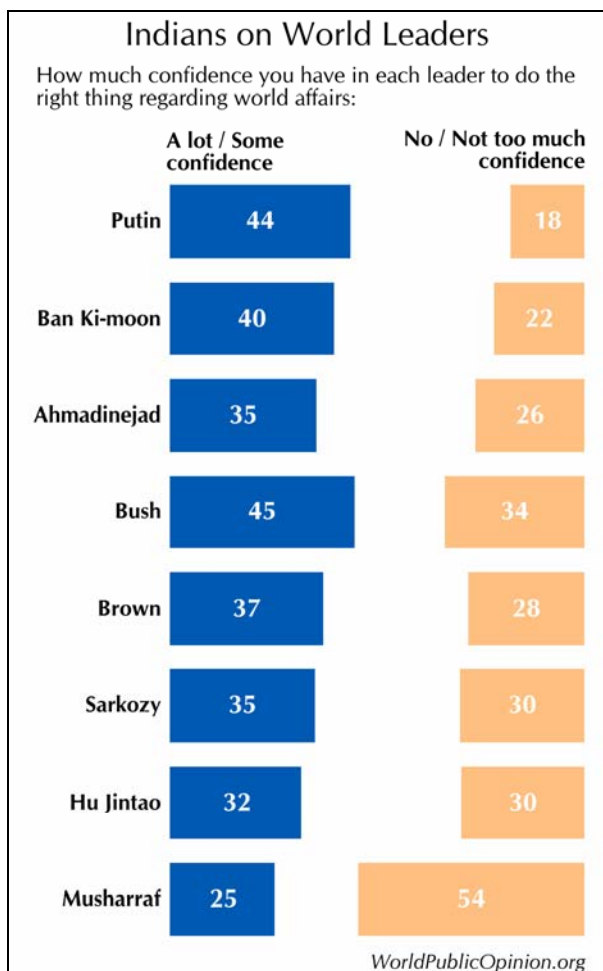
The Chinese public expresses confidence in a wide range of leaders in China's region and around the world, making the Chinese the second most positive public about the world leaders (after Nigerians). Majorities or pluralities express confidence in almost every leader mentioned. Even a bare plurality gives Prime Minister Fukuda of Japan positive ratings—surprisingly, given the surges of ill feeling toward Japan that occurred not long ago. Chinese are positive on regional leaders as different as Kim Jong-Il of North Korea and Rudd of Australia. They are also very positive on Russia's Putin (though Russians do not reciprocate by expressing confidence in Hu Jintao). Although Chinese lean negative on US President Bush, they are relatively more positive toward him than most countries polled.



INDIA

[Team CVoter](#)

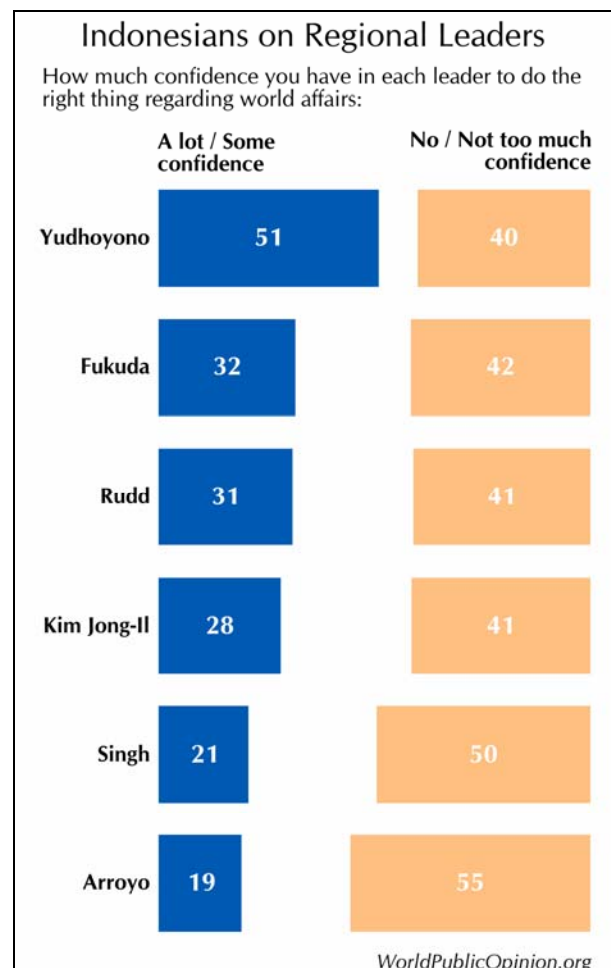
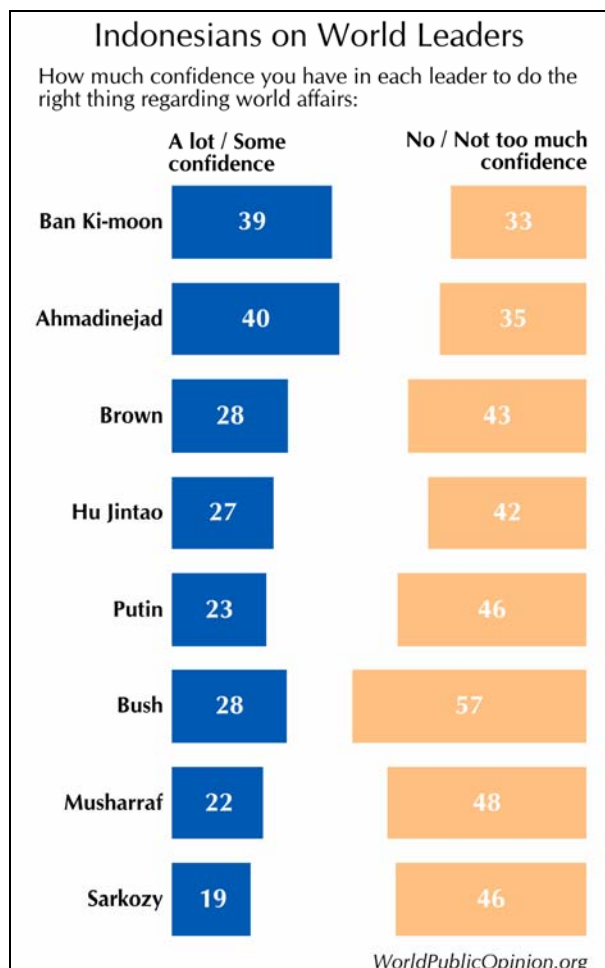
Indians are one of only two countries polled where a majority or plurality express confidence in US President Bush (the other is Nigeria). Indians are mildly positive in their views of most world leaders, but tend to be more neutral about leaders of countries in their region. The big exception is Indians' view of Musharraf, in whom a majority lacks confidence by a two-to-one margin.



INDONESIA

[Synovate](#)

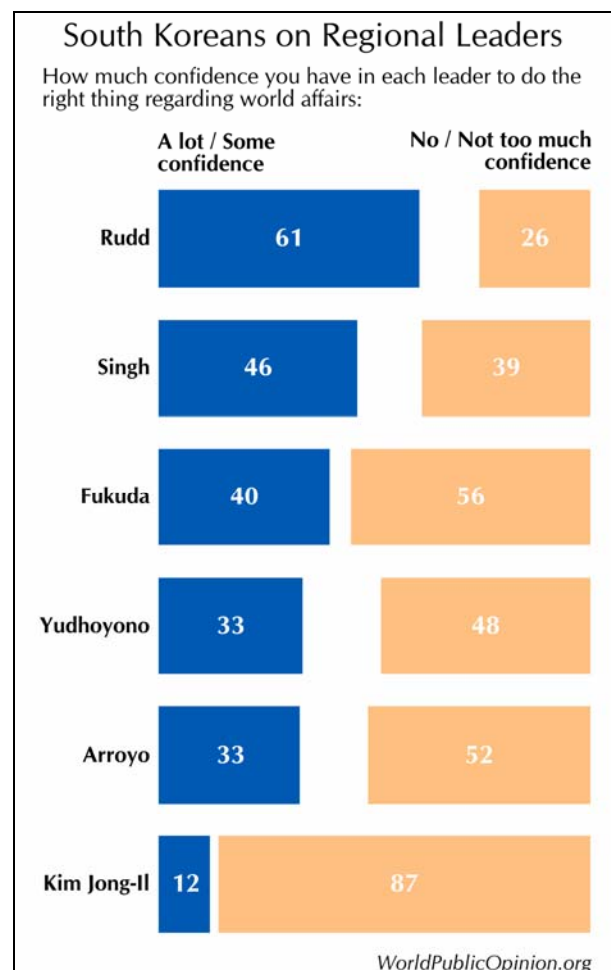
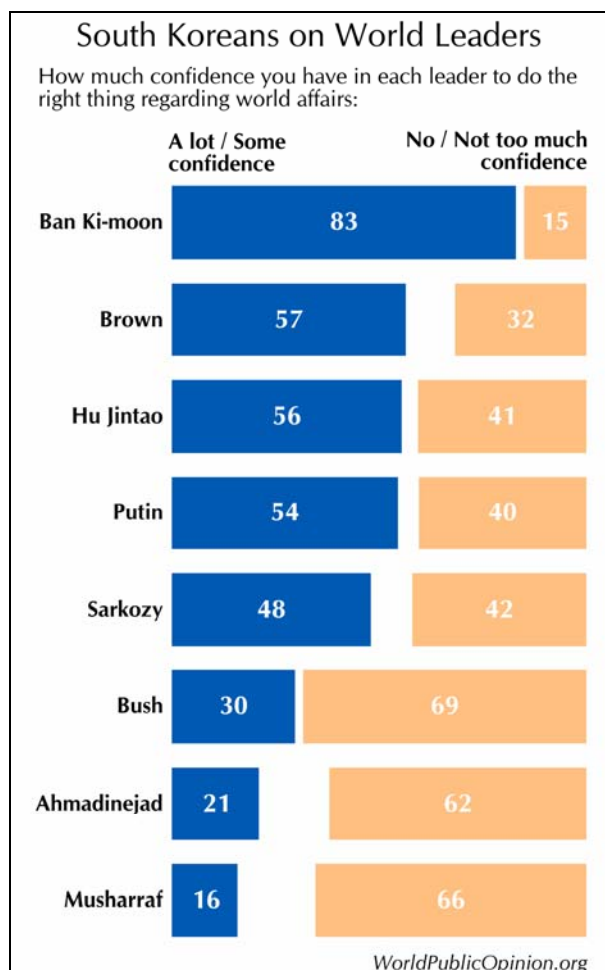
Indonesians are exceptionally pervasive in their negative views about of global and regional leaders, including those of China, Britain, France, Russia, and the United States. However, modest pluralities express confidence in Secretary General Ban Ki-moon of the UN and—more unusually--President Ahmadinejad of Iran. Ahmadinejad is the only foreign state leader about whom Indonesians are positive on balance (India is the only other country polled that shares this view). Indonesians are also fairly positive toward their own leader Yudhoyono.



SOUTH KOREA

[East Asia Institute](#)

South Koreans have more confidence in global leaders than do most of the publics polled. Majorities express confidence in British Prime Minister Brown, Chinese President Hu Jintao, and Russian Prime Minister Putin—and a plurality feels the same way toward French President Sarkozy. However South Koreans are quite negative toward Bush and their views of leaders in their own region are generally negative, with majorities expressing lack of confidence in Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda, Indonesian President Yudhoyono, and Philippine President Arroyo, in addition to overwhelmingly negative views of Kim Jong Il.



THAILAND

[ABAC Poll Research Center](#), Assumption University

Thais as a whole are exceptionally low key in their views of leaders; many do not take a position and those that do are often evenly divided. They lean toward expressing confidence in Prime Minister Fukuda of Japan, but lean toward having low confidence in Prime Minister Singh of India, President Yudhoyono of Indonesia, and President Arroyo of the Philippines. (Thailand was not occupied by Japan during World War II and may have less of the postwar allergy to Japan notable at times in East Asia.)

