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World Public Opinion on Governance and Democracy

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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. A 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

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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.