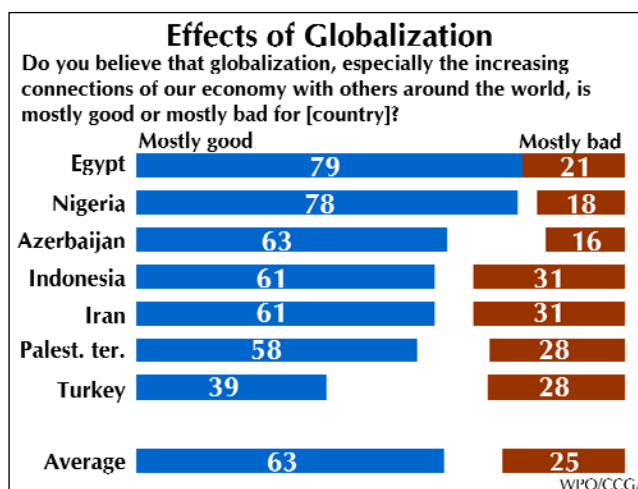


Muslims Positive About Globalization, Trade

Contrary to the common assumption that Muslims view globalization as a threat to their society, a new poll of Muslim countries finds that globalization is generally viewed positively. The poll was conducted by WorldPublicOpinion.org in six nations with predominantly Muslim populations in different regions of the world including Egypt, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran, Indonesia, and the Palestinian Territories, plus the Muslim population of Nigeria.

Asked about “globalization, especially the increasing connections of our economy with others around the world,” majorities in six of the seven nations polled say that it is “mostly good” for their country. Approval is highest among Egyptians and Nigerian Muslims (79% and 78% saying mostly good, respectively). Sixty-three percent of Azerbaijanis, 61 percent of both Iranians and Indonesians, and 58 percent of Palestinians see globalization as mostly good. While support in Turkey does not reach a majority, a plurality still calls globalization mostly good (39% to 28%). On average across all seven publics, 63 percent say that globalization is good for their own countries. Only 25 percent think it is mostly bad.



The poll of 5,216 respondents was conducted January 12 – February 23, 2008¹ 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. Not all questions were asked in every country. Margins of error range from +/- 3.2 to 4.1 percent.

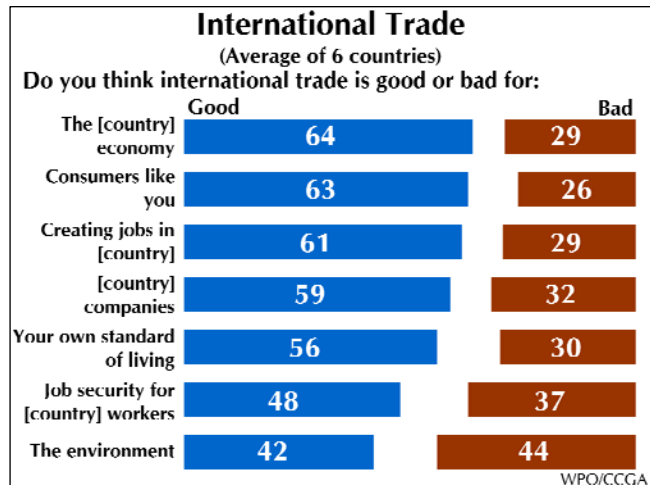
The poll finds that most respondents also view international trade as good for their countries and themselves. At the same time, many are concerned about trade’s effects on workers and the environment. However most express interest in addressing these effects, not through protectionism but through an international, cooperative effort integrating labor and environmental standards into agreements on international trade.

¹ Fielding in the Palestinian Territories was conducted Oct 8-15, 2006. Fielding in Iran was conducted Oct 31-Dec 6, 2006.

Steven Kull, director of WorldPublicOpinion.org comments, “These findings run counter to the widespread assumption that people in the Muslim world are anxious and hostile about the prospect of integration into the global economy.”

International Trade

Asked whether international trade is good or bad for **their country’s economy**, majorities in five of six nations polled say that it is good. Similar to answers on globalization, on average 64 percent think international trade is good for their country’s economy, while 29 percent say it is bad. However individual nations vary. While Turks only have a plurality positive about globalization, they have a strong majority (72%) positive about trade. While Egyptians and Nigerian Muslims are the most positive about globalization, they are the most skeptical about trade—a bare plurality of Nigerians give it a positive rating (51% to 46%) while Egyptians are evenly divided. The most enthusiastic public is that of Azerbaijan, where 85 percent are positive. Palestinians and Indonesians are also quite positive (70% and 60% say mostly good).



Majorities or pluralities in five of six nations see international trade as good for **their countries’ companies**, Nigerian Muslims being the only exception (though the Nigerian population as a whole is positive). Eighty percent of Azerbaijanis, 70 percent of Turks, 67 percent of Palestinians, and 52 percent of Egyptians see their national companies as benefiting from international trade. Among Indonesians a 49-percent plurality agreed, with 39 percent seeing trade’s effects as bad. Among Nigerian Muslims, though, 59 percent see trade as adversely affecting Nigerian companies, and only 37 percent think the effects are good. Overall, on average 59 percent see trade as beneficial to their respective countries’ companies.

Majorities in every population polled think trade is good for **consumers**, on average 63 percent. On this Nigerian Muslims lead the way, with 77 percent positive, followed by Azerbaijanis (67%), Turks (62%), Indonesians (59%), Palestinians (57%), and Egyptians (54%). Those who see trade as hurting consumers were most numerous in Egypt (46%) and Indonesia (32%).

Most think international trade is also good for their own **standard of living**—on average 56 percent hold this view, with 30 percent saying their standard of living is hurt by trade. The exception is Egypt where 56 percent say it is bad for their standard of living. Elsewhere, Azerbaijanis, Palestinians, and Turks are the most positive, at 65, 62, and 61

percent respectively. Fifty-four percent of Nigerian Muslims and 51 percent of Indonesians agree.

The reservations expressed by Egyptians and Nigerian Muslims may be related to the economic conditions in their country, where economic booms in some sectors, often associated with greater trade, have been matched with growing inequality. In Egypt, where ambitious economic reforms launched in 2004 have contributed to growth rates of around 7 percent, poverty has nonetheless increased over the past three years². In Nigeria, oil industry practices have been a focus of complaints and opposition for decades, on both economic and environmental grounds³.

Trade and Labor

Views of the effect of international trade on workers is more mixed. While trade is widely seen as positive for **creating jobs**, its effect on **job security** for workers produces more divided responses. On average, a 61-percent majority thinks international trade is good for creating jobs in their own countries (29% bad), while a 48-percent plurality think international trade is good for job security (37% bad).

Again Azerbaijanis and Turks are the most positive. Seventy-seven percent of Azerbaijanis see job creation, and 57 percent see job security, as benefiting from international trade—as did 66 and 62 percent of Turks, respectively. Among the Palestinians, 62 percent think international trade aids job creation, and 57 percent think it aids job security. In Indonesia, a 55-percent majority says trade helps to create jobs, but a lesser 47-percent plurality thinks trade helps job security. On both points 37 percent disagree.

Egyptians are negative by a margin of almost two to one about trade's impact on job creation and security: Sixty-four percent think that trade is bad for job creation and 65 percent think it is bad for job security.

Nigerian Muslims have divergent responses to the two questions. Seventy-two percent think trade is good for job creation, while 64 percent think it is bad for job security. These responses reflect the fact that international trade can indeed stimulate the creation of new jobs while also engendering rapid changes that undermine job security.

Trade and the Environment

Out of all the effects posed to respondents, international trade's effect on the **environment** elicited the most negative views from respondents. On average across the

² David J. Lynch, "Egypt's economy soars; so does misery," *USA Today*, May 14, 2008, http://www.usatoday.com/money/world/2008-05-14-egypt-economy_N.htm

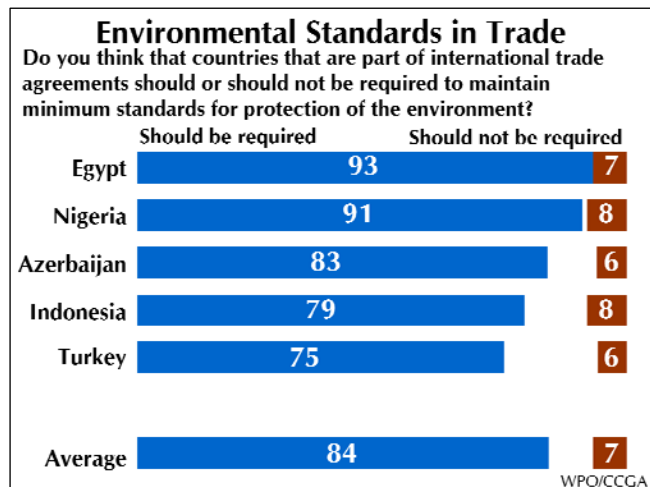
³ *Economist*, "Another deadline goes up in flames: Continued gas flaring harms both the environment and the economy," April 3, 2008, http://www.economist.com/world/mideast-africa/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10979890.

six populations opinion is divided, with 44 percent saying it has a bad effect and 42 percent saying it has a good effect on the environment.

Views vary considerably on this issue between nations. Majorities in three nations see trade's environmental effects as negative—most strongly among Egyptians (63%), Nigerian Muslims (58%), and Indonesians (56%). In two other nations majorities take a positive view—Turkey (58%) and the Palestinian Territories (53%). In Azerbaijan, a 42-percent plurality see trade's environmental effects as good while 33 percent see them as bad.

Environmental and Labor Standards in Trade Agreements

Some propose requiring minimum environmental standards in trade agreements as a way to mitigate the potentially negative impact of trade on the environment. They argue that this would subvert the potential for companies to seek out countries with the lowest environmental standards and for countries to compete by lowering their standards. Critics say, however, that including environmental standards in trade agreements can hurt developing countries' competitive edge by raising costs and discouraging investment. The leaders of many developing countries oppose requiring such standards.



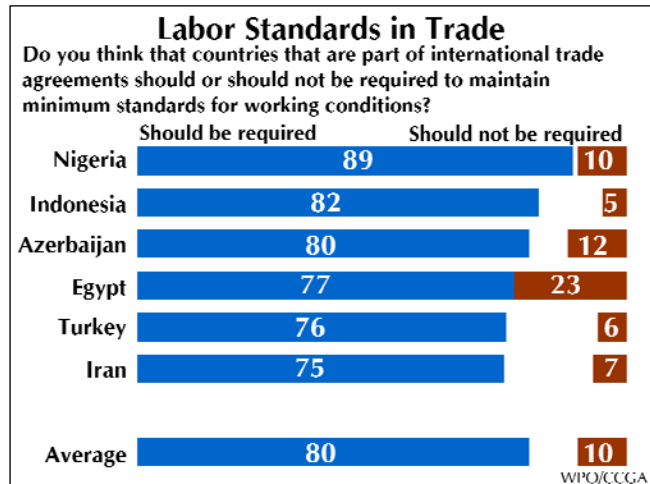
Even though the predominantly Muslim countries in this poll are considered developing countries, the data show that very large majorities in all five countries polled support incorporating environmental standards into trade agreements. On average 84 percent approve, with no country having less than three in four in support.

Interestingly, the highest majorities come from the two populations that express the most doubts about international trade in general, and the highest level of concern about the impact of trade on the environment. Ninety-three percent of Egyptians and 91 percent of Nigerian Muslims say that trade agreements should include “minimum standards for protection of the environment.” Eighty-three percent of Azerbaijanis, 79 percent of Indonesians, and 75 percent of Turks agree.

A concern that runs parallel to international trade's effect on the environment is its effect on labor standards. Here again there is concern that, in an attempt to cut labor costs, multinational companies will seek out—and developing countries will provide—a labor market with low levels of protections for workers. Thus it has been proposed that international trade agreements include labor standards that would require signatory

agreements to comply with international labor standards, such as prohibiting child labor and allowing workers to form labor unions. As in the case of environmental standards, critics say that adding labor protections to trade agreements would hurt developing countries by raising costs and discouraging investment.

Although most of the six nations polled are considered to have low-cost labor markets, all publics overwhelmingly support including labor standards in trade agreements. On average 8 in 10 support them, as do at least three in four within each nation. The highest levels of support come from Nigerian Muslims at 89 percent, followed by Indonesians (82%), Azerbaijanis (80%), Egyptians (77%), and Turks (76%).



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Views of Globalization and Trade in Predominantly Muslim Countries

August 27, 2008

1. Turning to something else, do you believe that globalization, especially the increasing connections of our economy with others around the world, is mostly good or mostly bad for [country]?

	Mostly good	Mostly bad	DK
Azerbaijan	63	16	20
Egypt	79	21	0
Indonesia	61	31	8
Iran	61	31	6
Nigerian Muslims	78	18	4
Palestinian ter.	58	28	15
Turkey	39	28	33
Average	63	25	12

2a. Do you think international trade is good or bad for: The [country] economy

	Good	Bad	DK
Azerbaijan	85	7	8
Egypt	49	51	0
Indonesia	60	35	6
Nigerian Muslims	51	46	3
Palestinian ter.	70	25	5
Turkey	72	10	18
Average	64	29	7

2b. Do you think international trade is good or bad for: [country] companies

	Good	Bad	DK
Azerbaijan	80	8	13
Egypt	52	48	0
Indonesia	49	39	13
Nigerian Muslims	37	59	4
Palestinian ter.	67	25	8
Turkey	70	12	19
Average	59	32	9

2c. Do you think international trade is good or bad for: Consumers like you

	Good	Bad	DK
Azerbaijan	67	10	23
Egypt	54	46	0
Indonesia	59	32	9
Nigerian Muslims	77	21	2

Palestinian ter.	57	30	13
Turkey	62	17	22
Average	63	26	11

2d. Do you think international trade is good or bad for: Creating jobs in [country]

	Good	Bad	DK
Azerbaijan	77	9	14
Egypt	36	64	0
Indonesia	55	37	9
Nigerian Muslims	72	25	3
Palestinian ter.	62	26	11
Turkey	66	15	19
Average	61	29	9

2e. Do you think international trade is good or bad for: The environment

	Good	Bad	DK
Azerbaijan	42	33	25
Egypt	37	63	0
Indonesia	27	56	18
Nigerian Muslims	37	58	4
Palestinian ter.	53	32	14
Turkey	58	19	23
Average	42	44	14

2f. Do you think international trade is good or bad for: Job security for [country] workers

	Good	Bad	DK
Azerbaijan	57	11	32
Egypt	35	65	0
Indonesia	47	37	16
Nigerian Muslims	30	64	6
Palestinian ter.	57	29	14
Turkey	62	16	22
Average	48	37	15

2g. Do you think international trade is good or bad for: Your own standard of living

	Good	Bad	DK
Azerbaijan	65	5	30
Egypt	44	56	0
Indonesia	51	33	16
Nigerian Muslims	54	43	3
Palestinian ter.	62	26	12
Turkey	61	16	23
Average	56	30	14

3. Do you think that countries that are part of international trade agreements should or should not be required to maintain minimum standards for working conditions?

	Should be required	Should not be required	DK
Azerbaijan	80	12	8
Egypt	77	23	0
Indonesia	82	5	13
Iran	75	7	18
Nigerian Muslims	89	10	1
Turkey	76	6	19
Average	80	10	10

4. Do you think that countries that are part of international trade agreements should or should not be required to maintain minimum standards for protection of the environment?

	Should be required	Should not be required	DK
Azerbaijan	83	6	10
Egypt	93	7	0
Indonesia	79	8	13
Nigerian Muslims	91	8	1
Turkey	75	6	19
Average	84	7	9

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METHODOLOGY

Country	Sample Size (unweighted)	MoE (%)	Field dates	Survey methodology	Type of sample
Azerbaijan	602	4.1	Jan 13 – Feb 5, 2008	Face-to-face	National
Egypt	600	4.1	Jan 17-27, 2008	Face-to-face	Urban ¹
Indonesia	811	3.5	Jan 19-29, 2008	Face-to-face	National ²
Iran	1,000	3.2	Oct 31-Dec 6, 2006	Face-to-face	National
Nigeria	428 Muslims	3.2 [*]	February 7-18, 2008	Face-to-face	National ³
Palestinian territories	1,056	2.8	October 8-15, 2006	Face-to-face	National ⁴
Turkey	719	3.7	Jan 12-24, 2008	Face-to-face	National

¹ 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.

² In Indonesia, a national probability sample was conducted in both urban and rural areas and covering approximately 87 percent of Indonesia's population.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

^{*} The margin of error refers to the full sample size of 1,000 respondents, not the Muslim population.

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Poll: Muslims Positive About Globalization, Trade

For Release: 23:00 GMT August 27, 2008

Contact: Steven Kull (202) 232-7500

College Park, MD—Contrary to the common assumption that Muslims view globalization as a threat to their society, a new poll of Muslim countries finds that globalization is generally viewed positively. The poll was conducted by WorldPublicOpinion.org in six nations with predominantly Muslim populations in different regions of the world, including Egypt, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran, Indonesia, and the Palestinian Territories, plus the Muslim population of Nigeria.

Asked about “globalization, especially the increasing connections of our economy with others around the world,” majorities in six of the seven publics polled say that it is “mostly good” for their country. Approval is highest among Egyptians and Nigerian Muslims (79% and 78% saying mostly good, respectively). Sixty-three percent of Azerbaijanis, 61 percent of both Iranians and Indonesians, and 58 percent of Palestinians see globalization as mostly good. Turkey is the only country whose support does not reach a majority, but a plurality still calls globalization mostly good (39% to 28%). On average across all seven publics, 63 percent say that globalization is good for their own countries. Only 25 percent think it is mostly bad.

Steven Kull, director of WorldPublicOpinion.org comments, “These findings run counter to the widespread assumption that people in the Muslim world are anxious and hostile about the prospect of integration into the global economy.”

The poll of 5,216 respondents was conducted 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. Not all questions were asked in every country. Margins of error range from +/- 3.2 to 4.1 percent.

Most people in these predominantly Muslim countries also have positive attitudes about international trade. Majorities or pluralities in five of six nations see international trade as good for their countries’ companies—Nigerian Muslims being the only exception (37% good, 59% bad). Overall, on average 59 percent see trade as beneficial to their respective countries’ companies.

Majorities in every population polled think trade is good for consumers (on average 63%) and for their own standard of living (on average 56%).

Views of the effect of international trade on workers is more mixed. While trade is widely seen as positive for creating jobs, its effect on job security for workers produces

more divided responses. On average, a 61-percent majority thinks international trade is good for creating jobs in their own countries (29% bad), while a 48-percent plurality thinks international trade is good for job security (37% bad).

The most negative views of the effect of trade on workers is found among Egyptians: 64 percent think that trade is bad for job creation and 65 percent think it is bad for job security. Nigerian Muslims have divergent responses to the two questions: 64 percent think it is bad for job security but, 72 percent think trade is good for job creation.

The effect of international trade on the environment elicited the most negative views from respondents. On average across the six populations opinion is divided, with 44 percent saying it has a bad effect and 42 percent saying it has a good effect on the environment. Majorities in three nations see trade's environmental effects as negative: Egyptians (63%), Nigerian Muslims (58%), and Indonesians (56%).

However most respondents express interest in addressing the negative effects of trade on the environment and workers—not through protectionism but through an international, cooperative effort integrating labor and environmental standards into agreements on international trade.

When asked: “Do you think that countries that are part of international trade agreements should or should not be required to maintain minimum standards for protection of the environment,” on average, across all five countries polled, a robust 84-percent majority says they should be required to do so, with no country having less than three in four in support.

Support among these populations is equally strong for requiring minimum standards for working conditions in international trade agreements. On average 8 in 10 support them, as do at least three in four within each nation.

These findings are notable, considering that most of the six nations polled are considered to be developing countries and leaders of many developing countries oppose including environmental and labor standards in trade agreements in fear that it would undermine their competitive edge by raising costs and discouraging investment. Advocates of labor and environmental standards, however, argue that without such standards companies would seek out countries with lower standards and that developing countries would compete amongst each other by lowering their standards. Publics in the countries polled clearly favor maintaining such standards despite the competitive potential of lowering them.

For more information, visit www.WorldPublicOpinion.org.

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