

FOR RELEASE JUNE 29, 2022

Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights

Large majorities in most of the 19 countries surveyed have negative views of China, but relatively few say bilateral relations are bad

BY *Laura Silver, Christine Huang and Laura Clancy*

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Laura Silver, Senior Researcher
Gar Meng Leong, Communications Associate

202.419.4372
www.pewresearch.org

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Pew Research Center, June, 2022, "Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

About Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan, nonadvocacy fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. It does not take policy positions. The Center conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, computational social science research and other data-driven research. It studies politics and policy; news habits and media; the internet and technology; religion; race and ethnicity; international affairs; social, demographic and economic trends; science; research methodology and data science; and immigration and migration. Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

© Pew Research Center 2022

How we did this

This Pew Research Center analysis focuses on public opinion of China in 19 countries in North America, Europe, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region. Views of China, its president, its bilateral relations and its policies on human rights are examined in the context of long-term trend data.

For non-U.S. data, the report draws on nationally representative surveys of 20,944 adults from Feb. 14 to June 3, 2022. All surveys were conducted over the phone with adults in Canada, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea. Surveys were conducted face to face in Hungary, Poland and Israel and online in Australia.

In the United States, we surveyed 3,581 U.S. adults from March 21 to 27, 2022. Everyone who took part in the U.S. survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, [face-to-face interviewing is not currently possible](#) in many parts of the world. For this study, we conducted surveys only in places where nationally representative telephone or online surveys are feasible, or where vaccination rates and outbreak rates were at sufficiently safe levels that our local contractors believed face-to-face interviewing could be safely conducted. Opinion of China may differ in other countries where we are not currently able to survey and we hope to be able to resume this work in a broader group of countries in upcoming years.

Here are the [questions](#) used for the report, along with responses, and the [survey methodology](#).

Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights

Large majorities in most of the 19 countries surveyed have negative views of China, but relatively few say bilateral relations are bad

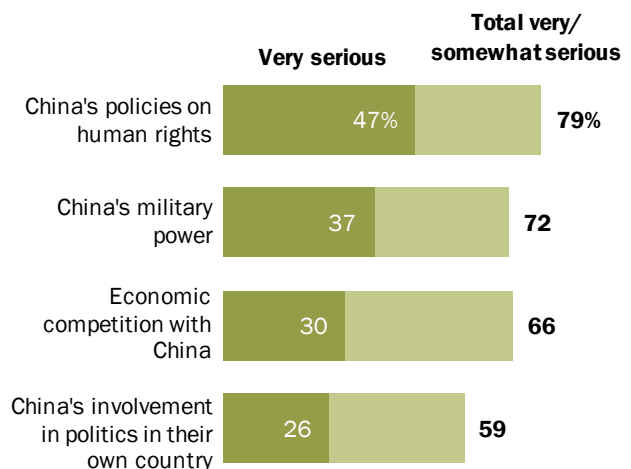
Negative views of China remain at or near historic highs in many of the 19 countries in a new Pew Research Center survey. Unfavorable opinions of the country are related to concerns about China's policies on human rights. Across the nations surveyed, a median of 79% consider these policies a serious problem, and 47% say they are a *very* serious problem. Among the four issues asked about – also including China's military power, economic competition with China and China's involvement in domestic politics in each country – more people label the human rights policies as a very serious problem than say the same of the others.

Unfavorable views are also closely related to concerns about China's military power – something that a median of 37% say is a very serious problem. Worries are particularly acute among China's neighbors – especially Japan (60%), Australia (57%) and South Korea (46%) – though nearly half in some non-geographically proximate countries like Spain (47%) and the Netherlands (46%) also feel this way.

Economic competition with China is seen as a less serious problem. A median of 30% describe it as very serious, and outside of Israel, it is not seen as the top problem among the four tested in any of the 19 countries.

China's human rights policies are seen as a more serious issue than military power, economic competition

% who say each issue is a ___ problem for their country



Note: Percentages are medians based on 19 countries.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q17a-d. "Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Negative views of China [shot up in 2020](#) in many of the places surveyed; since then, they have largely [remained near these elevated levels](#) or even increased. Today, unfavorable opinion of China is at or near historic highs in most of the 18 countries for which trend data is available.

Large majorities continue to hold unfavorable view of China

% who have an **unfavorable** opinion of China

	Most unfavorable										Least unfavorable								
	'02	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	76	82
Canada	-	27	-	37	-	36	-	-	-	45	-	48	40	40	45	67	73	73	74
Sweden	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	49	52	70	85	80	83
Netherlands	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	42	45	58	73	72	75
Germany	-	37	33	54	68	63	61	59	67	64	64	60	60	53	54	56	71	71	74
UK	-	16	14	27	36	29	35	26	35	31	38	37	44	37	35	55	74	63	69
France	-	42	41	51	72	60	59	49	60	58	53	49	61	52	54	62	70	66	68
Italy	-	-	-	61	-	-	-	-	64	62	70	57	61	59	60	57	62	60	64
Spain	-	21	38	43	56	41	38	39	46	47	55	50	56	43	48	53	63	57	63
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	67	61
Poland	-	34	-	42	54	41	41	32	41	43	52	44	42	29	37	34	-	-	55
Hungary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	45	47	37	-	-	52
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	37	46	-	37	40	48	32	-	42	50
Israel	-	-	-	45	-	37	-	46	-	60	50	42	-	43	42	25	-	-	46
Japan	42	-	71	67	84	69	69	61	84	93	91	89	86	83	78	85	86	88	87
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87	85	86
South Korea	31	-	-	42	49	54	56	-	-	50	42	37	-	61	60	63	75	77	80
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	34

Note: Prior to 2020, U.S. and Australia surveys were conducted by phone. See topline for results.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey. Q5b.

"Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

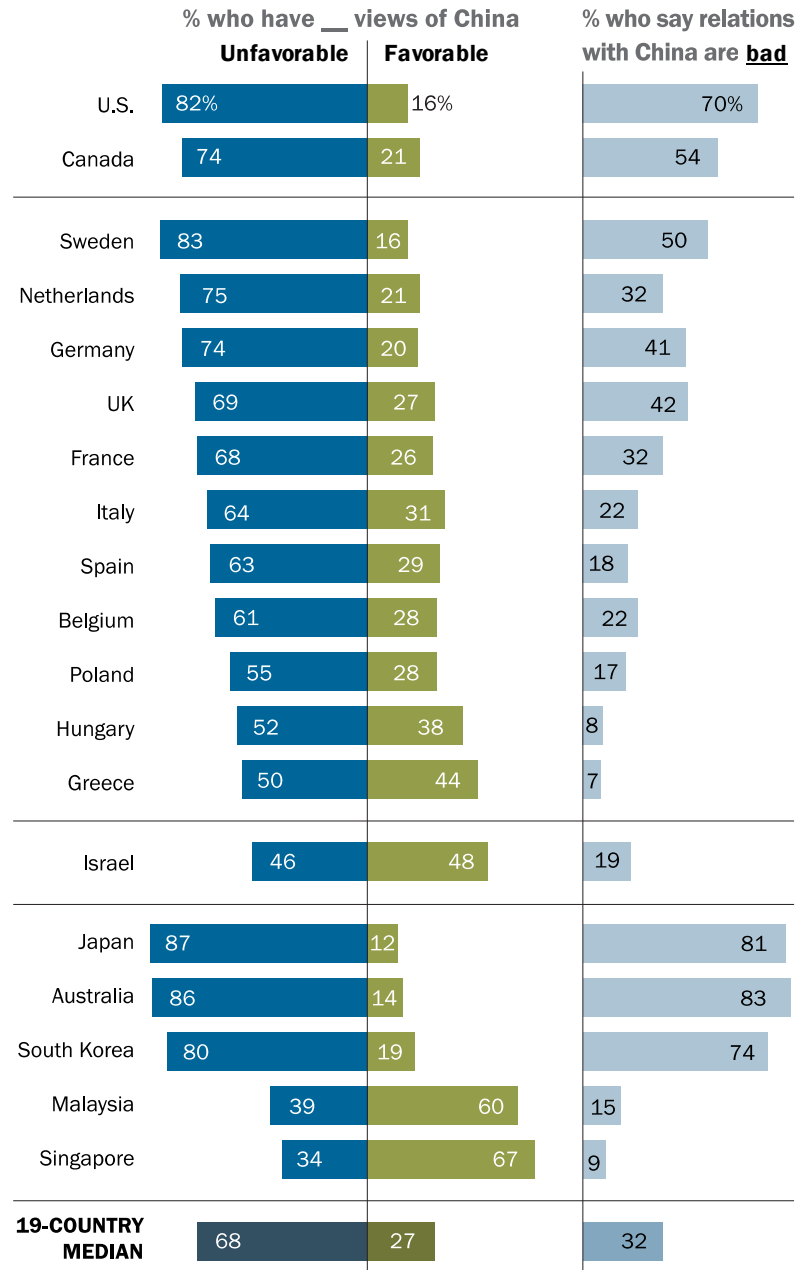
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Adults in Greece, the United Kingdom and [the United States](#) have become significantly more critical of China over the past year. Unfavorable views of China have gone up by 21 percentage points in Poland and Israel and 15 points in Hungary, which were all last surveyed in 2019. Belgium stands as the only country where fewer people hold an unfavorable view of China this year than last year (61%, down from 67%).

Despite broadly unfavorable opinions about China, majorities in over half of the countries surveyed think relations between their country and the superpower are currently in good shape. Take, for example, the Netherlands: 75% have negative views of China, and the country – which was the first in Europe to [pass a motion](#) declaring treatment of the Uyghurs in China to be a genocide – stands apart for having the highest share (64%) calling China’s policies on human rights a very serious problem. Still, 65% of the Dutch people think their country’s relationship with China is currently in good shape.

The countries where bilateral relations are seen *negatively* tend to be those where another problem is paramount: China’s involvement in domestic politics. While a median of only 26% describe this issue as very serious, it is seen as particularly severe in places like South Korea, Australia, the U.S. and Japan – the four places where a majority says relations are in bad shape.

While unfavorable views of China are widespread, fewer see relations as bad



Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey. Q5b, Q15.

“Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights”


PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Spotlight: Views of China in countries where bilateral relations are strained

One way to explore views of China is to look at which publics are most concerned about *all* of the four issues tested: China’s policies on human rights, China’s military power, economic competition with China and China’s involvement in politics in each country. Taking the average of the share in each country who says each issue is “very” serious creates a “severity score”. The “severity score” is highly correlated with both unfavorable views of China ($r=+0.81$) and the sense that bilateral relations are poor ($r=0.72$). Four countries stand out for having high scores on this measure and for saying relations with China are bad: Australia, South Korea, Japan and the U.S.

Certain countries stand out for the degree to which they see issues as very serious problems when it comes to China

% who say each issue is a **very serious** problem for their country

More serious ◀  ▶ Less serious

	Severity score	China’s policies on human rights	China’s military power	Economic competition with China	China’s involvement in domestic politics in their own country
Australia	47	49	57	30	52
South Korea	45	42	46	37	54
Japan	43	41	60	38	34
U.S.	42	42	43	35	47
Netherlands	42	64	46	30	27
Spain	41	55	47	36	24
Canada	39	56	40	26	34
Germany	38	54	44	31	22
France	37	52	33	36	27
Italy	36	47	38	33	25
Belgium	35	54	36	31	20
Greece	35	40	31	36	31
Sweden	35	59	34	17	31
UK	35	58	37	21	22
Malaysia	28	25	31	28	26
Poland	25	34	31	20	15
Singapore	22	18	24	20	25
Hungary	18	21	25	10	14
Israel	14	10	14	16	16

Note: The severity score is an average of the share who say each of the four issues tested is “very serious.”

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q17a-d.

“Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Australia

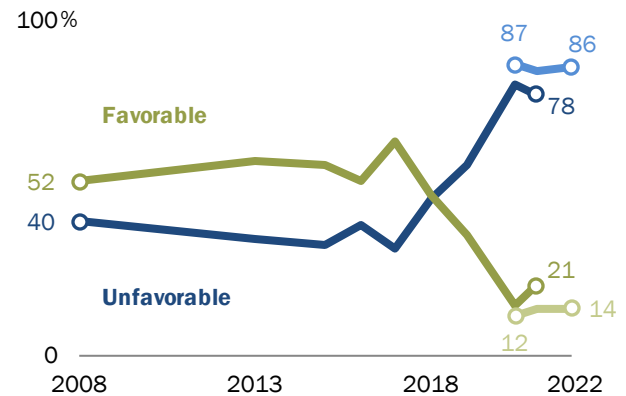
Australian views of China turned particularly negative in phone surveys conducted [between 2019 and 2020](#) but have stayed consistently negative since then, with 86% reporting unfavorable views this year. More Australians (83%) describe bilateral relations with China as bad than do the same in any of the other countries surveyed. Australians score highest when it comes to seeing each of the four problems asked about as very serious problems for their country. They also stand out for the degree to which they view China's military power as a very serious issue (57%). The survey was conducted a few weeks after a [high-profile incident](#) involving Chinese ships but prior to the interception of an [Australian aircraft](#).

South Korea

South Korea was [heavily affected by Chinese economic retribution](#) following the country's 2017 decision to install an [American missile interceptor \(THAAD\)](#). Negative views of China went up substantially in 2017 alongside this turmoil; they increased again in 2020 when, in the wake of COVID-19, unfavorable opinion went up [in nearly every country surveyed](#). But views have continued to sour and today, and unfavorable views of China are at a historic high of 80%. Around three-quarters of Koreans think bilateral relations with China are in poor shape, and the country stands out for having the highest share of people (54%) who say that China's involvement in domestic politics is a very serious problem for the country. South Korea is also the only country surveyed where young people have more unfavorable views of China than older people.

Negative views of China remain near record high in Australia

% of Australians who have a(n) ___ view of China

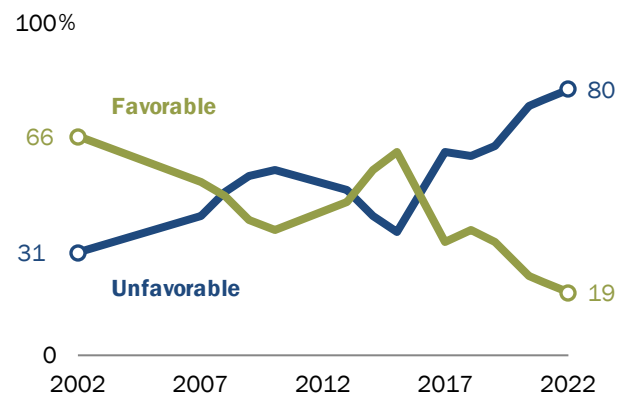


Note: In spring 2021 and summer 2020, the Center ran concurrent phone (dark blue and dark green in chart) and online panel (light blue and light green in chart) surveys in Australia. Prior to 2020, Australia surveys were conducted over the phone. Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q5b. "Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

South Koreans see China more unfavorably than ever

% of South Koreans who have a(n) ___ view of China



Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q5b. "Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Japan

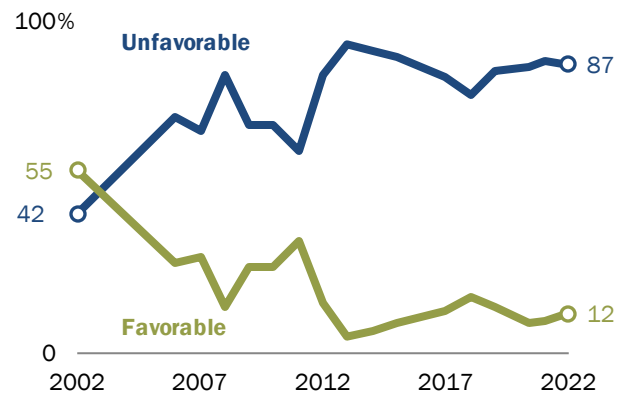
For the past 20 years, Japanese views of China have always been among the most negative in our surveys, if not *the* most negative, and this year is no exception: 87% have an unfavorable view of China. This is only slightly lower than the historic high of 93% who had an unfavorable view of China in 2013, following [extreme tension in the East China Sea](#). Very unfavorable views of China have also been particularly elevated since 2020, with around half of Japanese adults saying this describes their views of China. Compared with other publics, a greater share in Japan say that China's military power is a very serious problem for their country (60%) and that relations with China are poor (81%).

United States

Negative views of China have fluctuated over time in the U.S., but there has been a consistent upward trajectory since 2018. Today, 82% of Americans have an unfavorable view of China, up slightly (+6 percentage points) since last year and now [hovering near historic highs](#). Seven-in-ten Americans also describe current bilateral relations with China as poor. Republicans in the U.S. are somewhat more likely than Democrats to have negative views of China and to describe relations as poor.

Large majority in Japan continue to see China unfavorably

% of Japanese who have a(n) ___ view of China

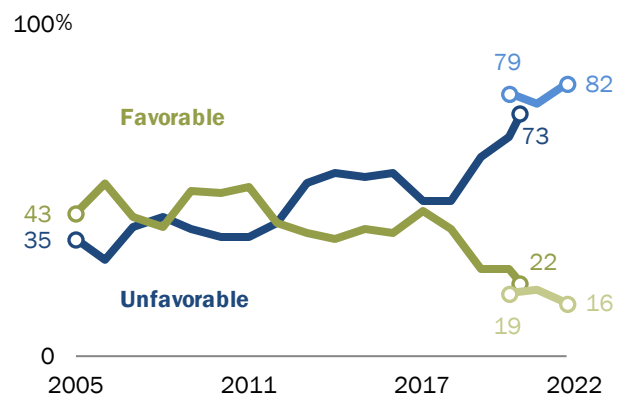


Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey. Q5b. "Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Roughly eight-in-ten Americans see China unfavorably

% of Americans who have a(n) ___ view of China



Note: In spring 2020, the Center ran concurrent phone (dark blue and dark green in chart) and online panel (light blue and light green in chart) surveys in the U.S. In summer 2020 and prior to 2020, U.S. surveys were conducted over the phone.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey. Q5b. "Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

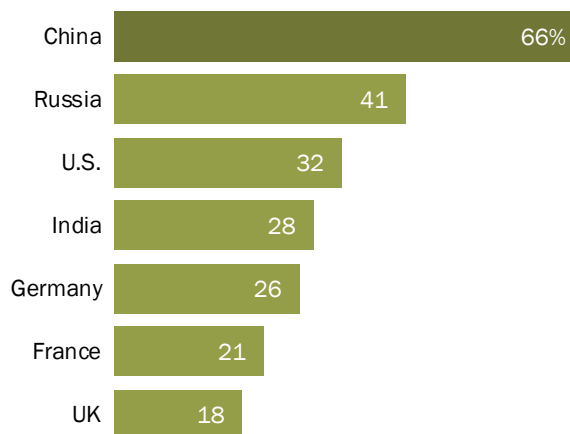
These are among the major findings of a new Pew Research Center survey, conducted from Feb. 14 to June 3, 2022, among 24,525 adults in 19 nations. Other key findings include:

- **Few have confidence in Chinese President Xi Jinping to do the right thing regarding world affairs.** Outside of Singapore and Malaysia, a majority say they have little or no confidence in him, including at least three-quarters who say this in Japan (89%), Australia (88%), South Korea (87%), Sweden (85%), the U.S. (83%), France (80%), Germany (79%), Spain (79%), Canada (77%), the Netherlands (77%) and Belgium (75%). In most places, negative views of Xi did not significantly change over the past year and continue to hover at or near historic highs. (For more on attitudes toward Xi, U.S. President Joe Biden, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other world leaders, see [“International Attitudes Toward the U.S., NATO and Russia in a Time of Crisis.”](#))
- Across most places surveyed, a majority of people think it is **more important to try to promote human rights in China, even if it harms economic relations with China**, rather than prioritizing strengthening economic relations with China, even if it means not addressing human rights issues. However, there are clear regional differences: In the U.S., Canada and every European country surveyed except Hungary, majorities say human rights should be prioritized over economic relations. In Israel and most places surveyed in the Asia-Pacific region, the opposite is true; majorities in Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea favor strengthening their economic relationships with China, even if it means not addressing human rights issues. Those on the ideological left are particularly likely to favor promoting human rights compared with those on the ideological right.

- Half or more in every country surveyed think **China’s influence in the world has gotten stronger in recent years**, as opposed to getting weaker or staying about the same. This is many more than say the same of other countries asked about, including Russia, the U.S., India, Germany, France and the UK. In most countries, people who say economic competition with China is a very serious problem for their country are more likely to say China’s influence in recent years has strengthened. (For more on how views of China’s power and influence compare with that of the U.S., see [“Across 19 countries, more people see the U.S. than China favorably – but more see China’s influence growing.”](#))

More consider China’s power and influence to be growing than that of other countries

Median % who say ___’s power and influence has been **getting stronger** in recent years



Note: Percentages are medians based on 19 countries. Percentages for France, Germany, the U.S. and the UK include evaluations from those survey publics. See topline for full question wording.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey. Q14a-h.

“Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Views of China mostly negative with some exceptions

Across the 19 countries surveyed, a median of 68% say they have an unfavorable view of China. In North America, about three-quarters or more see China unfavorably, including more than a third in both the U.S. and Canada who hold a *very* unfavorable opinion of China.

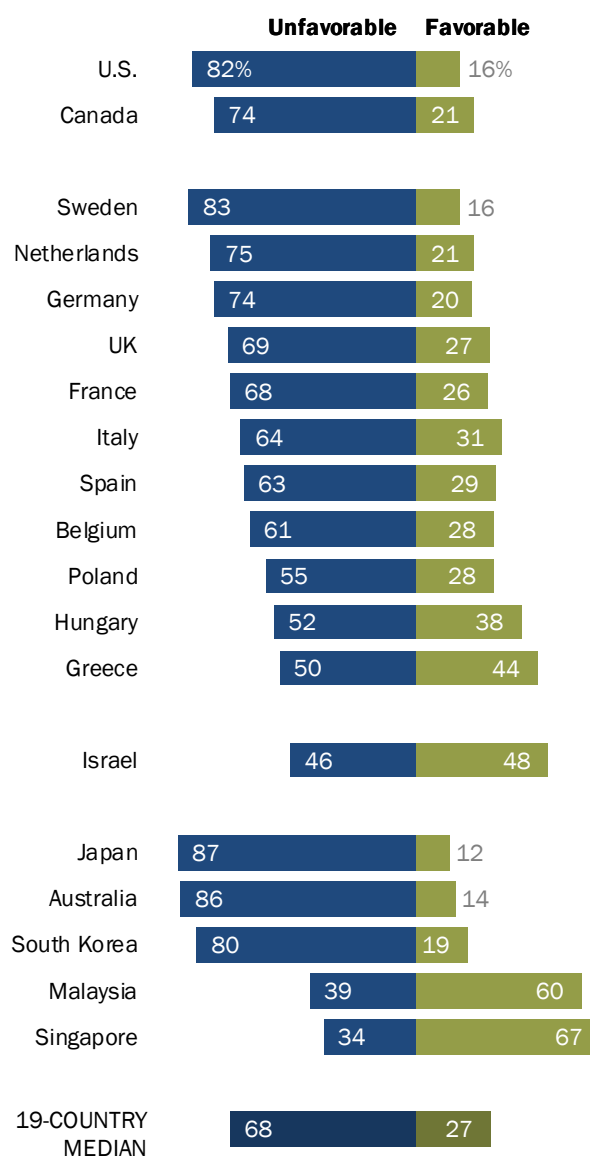
Majorities in nine of the 11 European countries surveyed also hold unfavorable views of China. Those in Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany are particularly negative: About three-quarters or more say their opinion of China is unfavorable. Roughly two-thirds in the UK and France agree. Views in Greece are more divided, with 50% saying they have an unfavorable view and 44% holding a favorable view.

Opinions in Israel are also divided, with roughly equal shares holding unfavorable and favorable views (46% vs. 48%).

Views vary most widely across the five Asia-Pacific countries surveyed. In Japan, Australia and South Korea, at least eight-in-ten hold unfavorable views of China. This includes 47% in Japan, 43% in Australia and 32% in South Korea who have a *very* unfavorable opinion of the country. Malaysians and Singaporeans see China differently. Six-in-ten or more in both countries say they hold a favorable opinion of China. In both countries, those who identify as ethnically Chinese are more likely than those who identify as another ethnicity to hold favorable views of China.

China seen unfavorably in North America, Europe, receives mixed feedback in Asia-Pacific

% who have a(n) ___ opinion of China



Note: Those who did not answer not shown.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q5b.
 “Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights”

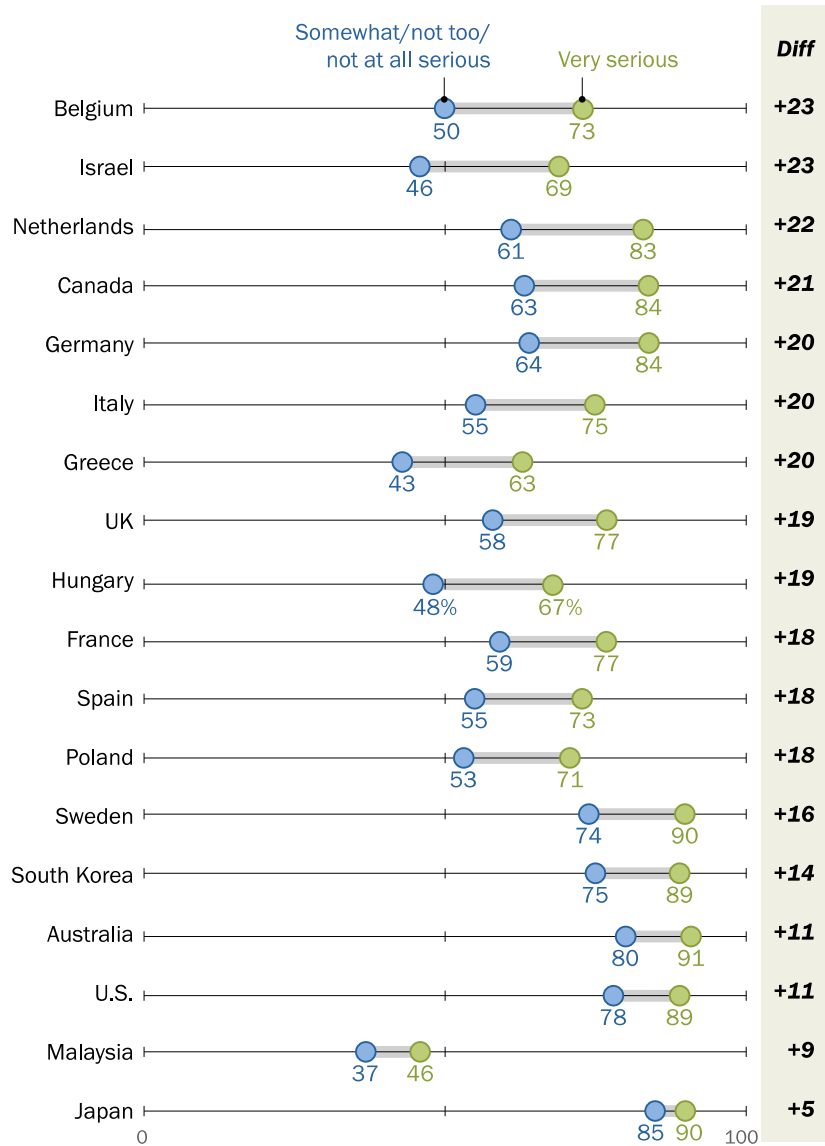
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Adults in Greece, [the U.S.](#) and the UK have become significantly more critical of China over the past year. And unfavorable views of China have gone up by 21 percentage points in Poland and Israel and by 15 points in Hungary, which were all last surveyed in 2019. In the U.S., South Korea, the Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Spain, Poland, Hungary and Greece, unfavorable views of China are also at the highest level recorded since the Center started polling on this issue. Belgium stands as the only country where fewer people hold an unfavorable view of China this year than last (61%, down from 67%).

Unfavorable views of China are, in part, linked to concerns about the country’s policies on human rights. In 18 of 19 countries surveyed, those who say China’s human rights policies are a *very serious* problem for their country are significantly more likely than those who are less concerned to hold an unfavorable view of China. The difference is greatest in Belgium, where 73% of those who say China’s policies on human rights are a

Unfavorable views of China much more common among those with very serious concerns about Beijing’s human rights policies

% who have an **unfavorable** view of China, among those who say China’s policies on human rights is a ___ problem for their country



Note: Only statistically significant differences shown.
 Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey. Q5b.
 “Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

very serious problem see China unfavorably and 50% of those who consider Beijing's human rights policies a less serious problem say the same. Singapore is the only country where there is no significant difference.

Reservations about China's military power and involvement in their country's politics also tie into how people see China. Those who say China's military power is a *very* serious problem for their country are more inclined to see China unfavorably in most countries. Only in South Korea and Greece are people equally likely to hold unfavorable views of China regardless of how they view its military power. Similarly, those who consider China's involvement in their country's politics a *very* serious problem are more likely to hold an unfavorable view of China in all countries except the Netherlands, Japan and Malaysia. The idea that economic competition from China is a *very* serious problem is likewise related to more negative views in most countries.

In some countries, older adults are more likely to hold an unfavorable view of China. For example, in Japan, 90% of adults ages 50 and older say they have an unfavorable view of China, which is 18 points higher than the 72% of adults ages 18 to 29 who say the same. The opposite is true in South Korea: Adults under 30 are 22 points more likely than those 50 and older to hold an unfavorable view of China.

China's policies on human rights are seen as a very serious problem by many

People across the 19 countries surveyed see myriad issues in their country's bilateral relationship with China. When it comes to the four issues asked about – China's military power, economic competition with China, China's policies on human rights and China's involvement in domestic politics – large majorities in most countries tend to describe each as at least a somewhat serious problem.

When it comes to which problem is seen as *most* serious, however, China's policies on human rights stands out. A median of 47% describe the issue as *very* serious, ranging from a high of 64% who say this in the Netherlands to a low of 10% who say the same in Israel. Europeans are much more likely to describe China's policies on human rights as a

very serious problem than those in the Asia-Pacific: Outside of Greece (40%), Poland (34%) and Hungary (21%), around half or more in every European country hold this view, while Australia is the only Asia-Pacific nation where this view is similarly prevalent.

In contrast, China's military power – which is seen as a very serious threat by a median of 37% – is seen as a relatively more important problem in the Asia-Pacific region. In every Asia-Pacific country surveyed, more people describe China's military power as a very serious problem for their

China's policies on human rights are described as a very serious problem more often than other issues

% who say each issue is a *very serious* problem for their country

● Most common response

	China's policies on human rights	China's military power	Economic competition with China	China's involvement in politics in their own country
Canada	56	40	26	34
U.S.	42	43	35	47
Netherlands	64	46	30	27
Sweden	59	34	17	31
UK	58	37	21	22
Spain	55	47	36	24
Germany	54	44	31	22
Belgium	54	36	31	20
France	52	33	36	27
Italy	47	38	33	25
Greece	40	31	36	31
Poland	34	31	20	15
Hungary	21	25	10	14
Israel	10	14	16	16
Australia	49	57	30	52
South Korea	42	46	37	54
Japan	41	60	38	34
Malaysia	25	31	28	26
Singapore	18	24	20	25

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey. Q17a-d.

"Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

country than say the same about Beijing's human rights policies, while the opposite is true in every European country surveyed except Hungary. Japan and Australia particularly stand out for having publics where a majority is *very* concerned about China's military.

A median of 30% describe economic competition with China as a very serious problem. Opinion is relatively similar across most places surveyed, ranging from a high of 38% in Japan to a low of 10% in Hungary, with around three-in-ten in most places saying this is a very serious issue.

While fewer in most places describe China's involvement in politics in their country as a very serious problem, it is the *top* concern in South Korea (54%), the U.S. (47%) and Singapore (24%). Around half in Australia (52%) also describe this as a very serious problem.

There are very few differences between men and women or among those who have higher and lower levels of education when it comes to concerns about China. In some countries, older people tend to be somewhat more concerned – particularly regarding China's military power. For example, 55% of those ages 65 and older in South Korea say China's military power is a very serious problem, compared with 31% of those under 30. These age dynamics are especially pronounced [in the U.S.](#), where older people are more likely to call every issue asked about a very serious problem for the U.S.

Those on the ideological left in some countries are more likely to say China's policies on human rights are a very serious problem. In Israel, for example, those on the left (27%) are more than five times as likely as those on the right (5%) to say the issue is very serious. On the other hand, those on the ideological right tend to be relatively more concerned about economic competition with China.

Evaluations of bilateral relations with China vary widely

When asked to evaluate their country's relationship with China, most say the relationship is good, though results vary widely across regions. A median of 62% across the 19 countries surveyed say current relations between their country and China are good, and a median of 32% say relations are bad.

More than half in Canada and the U.S. say their country's relationship with China is bad. This includes about one-in-ten in both countries who say the relationship is *very* bad.

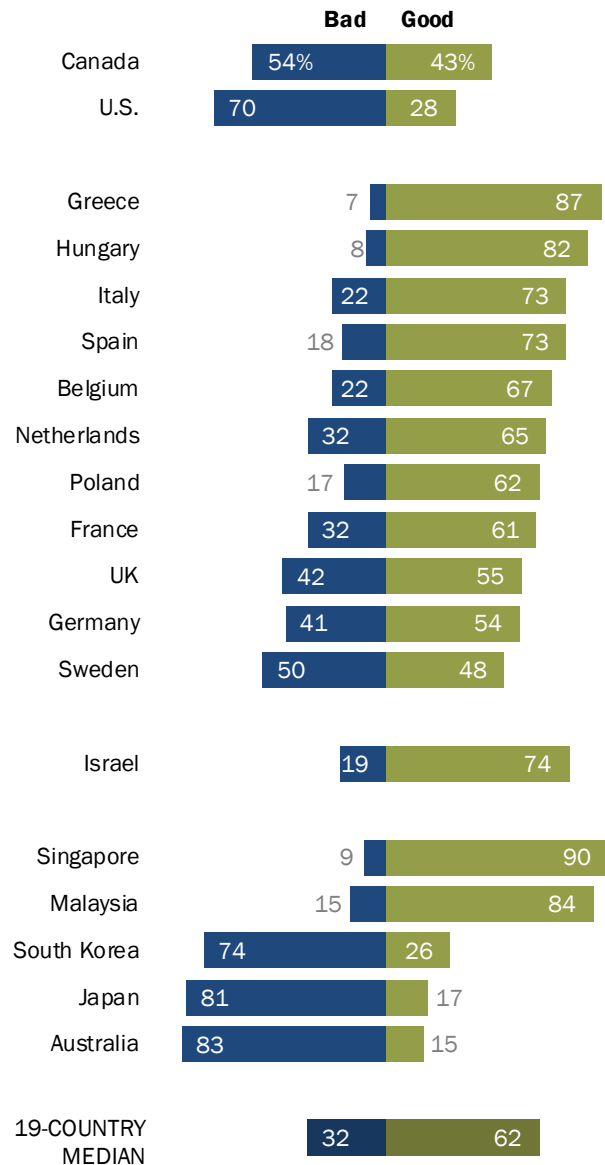
In Europe, the feedback is more positive. About nine-in-ten in Greece and two-thirds or more in Hungary, Italy, Spain and Belgium say current relations between their country and China are good. Majorities in the Netherlands, Poland, France and the UK also share this perspective. Views in Sweden are mixed: Roughly equal shares offer positive and negative evaluations of the relationship.

Israelis have a positive outlook on bilateral relations with China: About three-quarters say the relationship is good, and roughly one-in-ten say the relationship is *very* good.

Opinions in the Asia-Pacific region vary widely. In both Singapore and Malaysia, more than eight-in-ten say relations between their country and China are good. This includes about a quarter in both countries who say the relationship is *very* good. On the other hand, about three-quarters or more in South Korea, Japan and Australia describe bilateral relations

In Europe, most say their country has a good relationship with China

% who say current relations between their country and China are ...



Note: Those who did not answer not shown.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q15.

"Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

with China as bad. In all three countries, at least about a fifth say relations are *very* bad.

How people see specific issues in their country's bilateral relationship with China is linked to overall evaluations of the relationship. In 15 of 19 countries, those who see China's involvement in their country's politics as a *very* serious problem are less likely than those who show less concern to describe the bilateral relationship as good. For example, 50% of Poles who say China's involvement in Polish politics is a *very* serious problem say China and Poland have a good relationship. Conversely, 71% of Poles who see China's influence in politics as a less serious problem consider the relationship good.

Serious concerns about China's human rights policies are also tied to less optimism about the bilateral relationship in 15 countries. And those who are very troubled by China's military power or economic competition from China are less inclined to describe the bilateral relationship as good in 14 and 13 countries, respectively.

Seeing China's involvement in domestic politics as very serious problem tied to less positive views of bilateral relations

*% who say current relations between their country and China are **good**, among those who say China's involvement in politics in their own country is a ___ problem for their country*

	Somewhat/ too/not at all serious	Very serious	Diff
	%	%	
Poland	71	50	-21
Belgium	75	56	-19
Netherlands	70	52	-18
U.S.	37	20	-17
Spain	80	64	-16
France	66	50	-16
UK	58	43	-15
Germany	57	43	-14
Canada	48	34	-14
South Korea	31	20	-11
Italy	77	68	-9
Israel	74	65	-9
Japan	21	12	-9
Greece	91	84	-7
Australia	19	12	-7

Note: All differences shown are statistically significant.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q15.

"Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

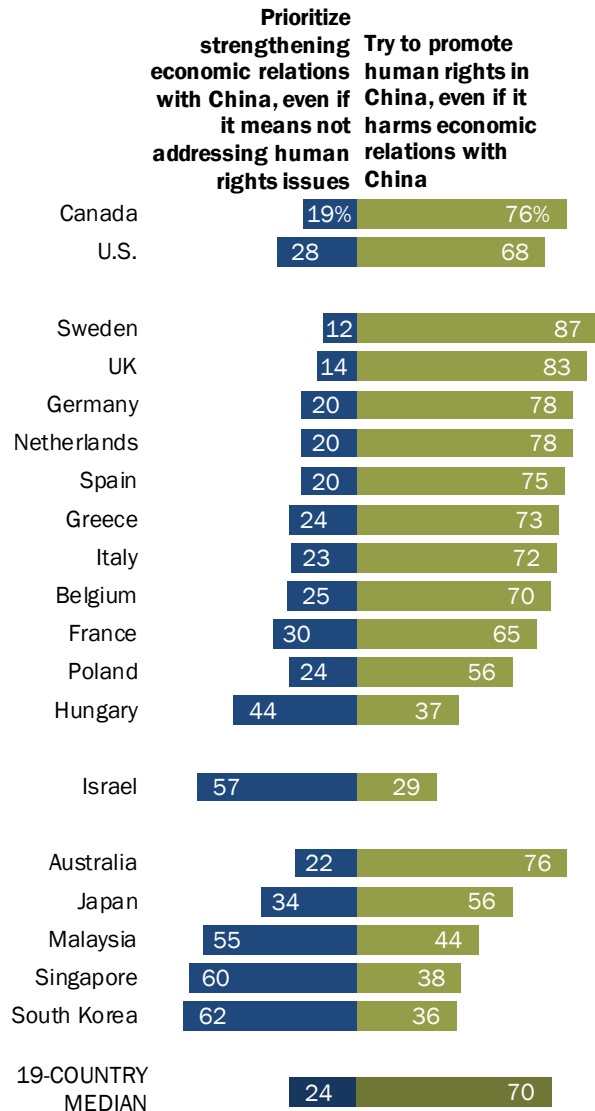
Most favor promoting human rights over strengthening economic ties with China

When asked to choose between promoting human rights in China and strengthening economic ties with China – both potentially at the expense of the other – clear regional differences emerge. In the U.S., Canada and nearly all of the European countries surveyed, majorities say human rights should be prioritized over economic relations. In Israel, the opposite is true. Opinion in the Asia-Pacific is divided: Majorities in Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea favor strengthening their economic relationships with China, even if it means not addressing human rights issues.

In nearly all places surveyed, those who see China’s human rights policies as a very serious problem favor promoting human rights regardless of economic consequences. For example, 87% of Canadians who see China’s policies as a very serious issue prioritize human rights, compared with 64% of those who show less concern. This is the case in each country surveyed except Malaysia.

Majorities in North America, Europe prioritize human rights in China over economic relations

% who say their country should ...



Note: Those who did not answer not shown.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q16.

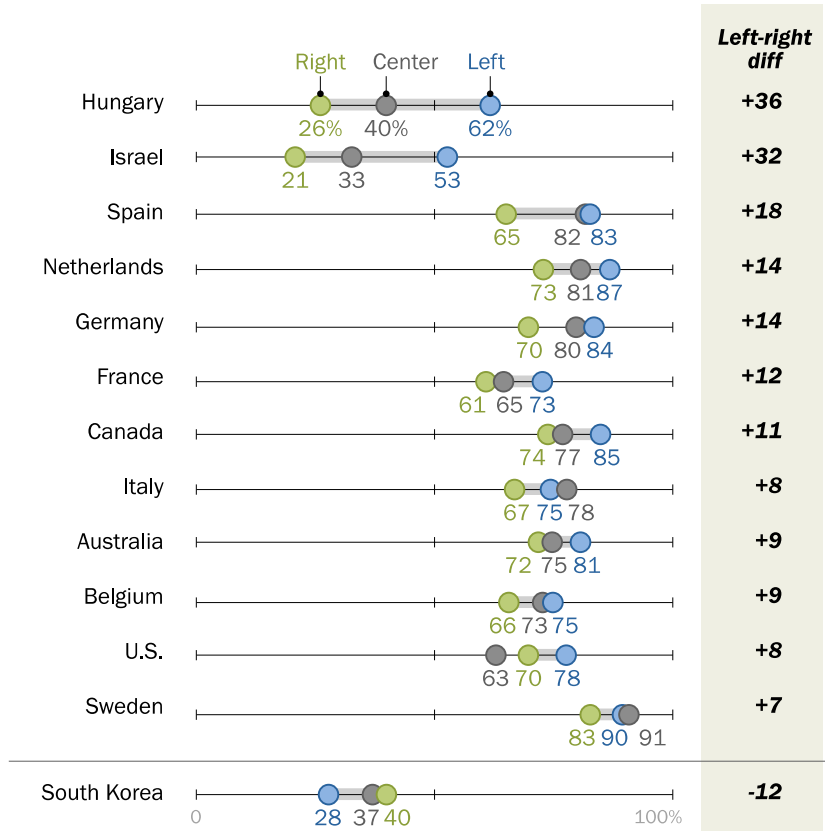
“Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Preference for promoting human rights or strengthening economic ties is also related to ideology. In 12 of the 19 countries surveyed, people on the ideological left choose promoting human rights over strengthening economic ties with China. The opposite is true only in South Korea, where 72% of those on the left favor strengthening economic ties even if it means not addressing human rights issues, compared with 58% of those on the right. In the U.S., while those on the ideological left (“liberals” in U.S. parlance) are more likely to hold this view than those on the right (“conservatives”), they are also both more likely to think this than those in the center (“moderates”). (For more on U.S. opinion toward China, see [“China’s Partnership With Russia Seen as Serious Problem for the U.S.”](#))

Ideological left more likely to prioritize human rights over economic relations with China

% who say their country should **try to promote human rights in China, even if it harms economic relations**, among those on the ...



Note: All differences shown are significant. In the U.S., ideology is defined as conservative (right), moderate (center) and liberal (left).
 Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey. Q16.
 “Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Although few people in most of the countries surveyed say they have a favorable view of China, those that do are far more likely to prioritize economic relations over human rights. In Australia, 45% of those who see China favorably place economic relations ahead of human rights in regard to China, compared with just 18% of those who hold unfavorable views of the country.

Many think China's international influence is getting stronger

A median of 66% across the 19 countries surveyed say China's influence in the world has been getting stronger – as opposed to getting weaker or staying about the same – in recent years. This is more than say the same of India or Russia, [two other emerging economies](#) asked about in the survey, and of the U.S., Germany, France or the UK.

In the U.S. and Canada, about six-in-ten or more say China's influence is growing stronger and roughly a fifth say the country's influence is staying about the same.

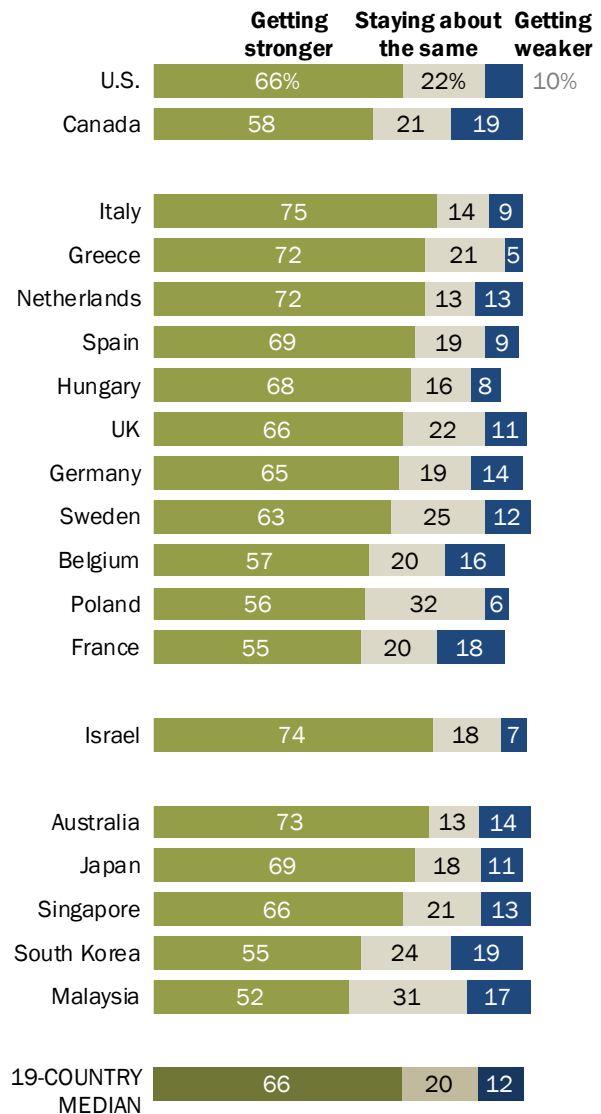
Europeans agree that China's influence in recent years has been getting stronger. Three-quarters in Italy say China's influence is growing, as do at least two-thirds in Greece, the Netherlands, Spain and Hungary. Substantial minorities in the European countries surveyed also say that China's influence is staying about the same, ranging from about a third in Poland (32%) to about a tenth in the Netherlands (13%).

Most Israelis say China's influence is growing stronger. About three-quarters say the country's influence is getting stronger, and about a fifth say the influence is staying about the same.

Pluralities in the Asia-Pacific countries surveyed agree that China's influence is growing. In Australia, Japan and Singapore, about two-thirds or more hold this view, and about half or more in South Korea and Malaysia

Most say China's influence has grown stronger in recent years

% who say China's influence in the world has been ___ in recent years



Note: Those who did not answer not shown.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q14b.

"Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

agree. In both Malaysia and Singapore, those who self-identify as ethnically Chinese are more inclined to say China's influence is getting stronger than those who identify as another race or ethnicity.

Education, income and gender are tied to how people evaluate China's influence in recent years. In 14 countries, those with more education are more likely than those with less schooling to say China's influence is growing stronger. The same pattern holds for those with higher incomes and men, when compared with those with lower incomes and women. In some countries, those with more education, those with higher incomes and men are also more likely to provide an answer to the question.

Those with more education more likely to say China's international influence has grown recently

*% who say China's influence in the world has been **getting stronger** in recent years, among those with ...*

	Less education	More education	Diff
	%	%	
Belgium	51	71	+20
Spain	63	82	+19
Germany	59	78	+19
France	50	69	+19
U.S.	58	76	+18
Malaysia	49	66	+17
Netherlands	65	80	+15
Singapore	57	72	+15
Greece	68	82	+14
UK	62	75	+13
Italy	74	84	+10
Canada	52	62	+10
Japan	66	74	+8
Australia	71	77	+6

Note: All differences shown are statistically significant.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q14b.

"Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Few have confidence in Chinese President Xi Jinping

Majorities in all countries surveyed – except Singapore and Malaysia – have little to no confidence in Chinese President Xi Jinping’s approach to world affairs. Around four-in-ten or more in most places surveyed even say they have no confidence *at all* in Xi, including more than half of those in Australia, France and Sweden.

Roughly seven-in-ten adults or more have little or no confidence in Xi in the U.S., Canada and all but two of the European countries surveyed. In Greece, while more still say they distrust than trust Xi (57% vs. 33%, respectively), opinion is somewhat more divided.

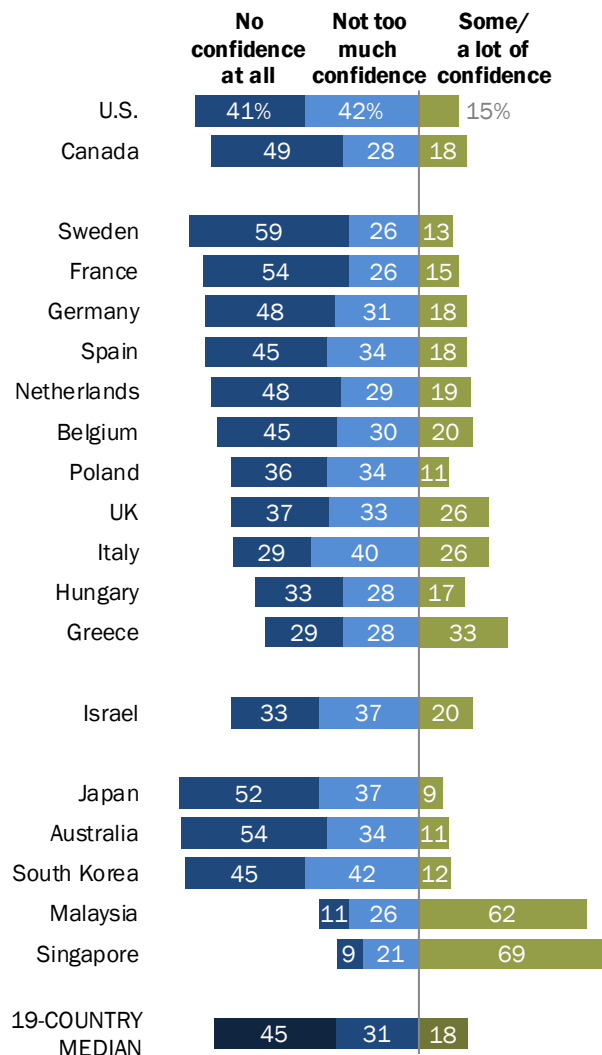
The Asia-Pacific region is very divided. While Japan, Australia and South Korea are among the publics with the least confidence in Xi, Malaysia and Singapore stand out for the opposite: A majority has at least some confidence in the Chinese leader.

Confidence in Xi is closely related to views of China at large. In all places surveyed, people with favorable views of China are more likely to have confidence in the president than those who see China unfavorably.

In Malaysia and Singapore, confidence in Xi differs by ethnic identity. In both countries, adults who describe themselves as ethnic Chinese have more confidence in Xi than those who identify as Malay or another ethnicity.

Little confidence in President Xi across Europe, North America

% who have ___ in Chinese President Xi Jinping to do the right thing regarding world affairs



Note: Those who did not answer not shown.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey, Q18b.

“Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals.

Laura Silver, *Senior Researcher*

Christine Huang, *Research Analyst*

Laura Clancy, *Research Assistant*

Dorene Asare-Marfo, *Panel Manager*

Alexandra Castillo, *Research Methodologist*

Janakee Chavda, *Editorial Assistant*

Aidan Connaughton, *Research Assistant*

Moira Fagan, *Research Analyst*

Janell Fetterolf, *Senior Researcher*

Reem Nadeem, *Digital Producer*

Sneha Gubbala, *Research Assistant*

Michael Keegan, *Senior Information Graphics Designer*

David Kent, *Senior Copy Editor*

Hannah Klein, *Communications Manager*

Gar Meng Leong, *Communications Associate*

Rebecca Leppert, *Editorial Assistant*

Clark Letterman, *Senior Survey Manager*

Gracie Martinez, *Senior Administrative Coordinator*

Patrick Moynihan, *Associate Director, International Research Methods*

Jacob Poushter, *Associate Director, Global Attitudes Research*

Richard Wike, *Director, Global Attitudes Research*

Adam Wolsky, *Research Methodologist*

Methodology

About Pew Research Center's Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey

Results for the survey are based on telephone, face-to-face and online interviews conducted under the direction of Gallup, Langer Research Associates and the Social Research Centre. The results are based on national samples, unless otherwise noted. More details about our international survey methodology and country-specific sample designs are [available here](#). Results for the U.S. survey are based on data from the American Trends Panel.

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted from March 21 to March 27, 2022. A total of 3,581 panelists responded out of 4,120 who were sampled, for a response rate of 87%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 3,581 respondents is plus or minus 2.3 percentage points.

Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Sampled households receive mailings asking a randomly selected adult to complete a survey online. A question at the end of the survey asks if the respondent is willing to join the ATP. Starting in 2020, another stage was added to the recruitment. Households that do not

respond to the online survey are sent a paper version of the questionnaire, \$5 and a postage-paid return envelope. A subset of the adults returning the paper version of the survey are invited to join the ATP. This subset of adults receive a follow-up mailing with a \$10 pre-incentive and invitation to join the ATP.

Across the four address-based recruitments, a total of 19,822 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 17,472 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile

survey. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 27,414 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 11,685 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.¹ The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

Sample design

This study featured a stratified random sample from the ATP. The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii.

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	1,598
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	938
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	470
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	4,425
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,625
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,694
May 29 to July 7, 2021 Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	935
	Total	39,540	27,414	11,685

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling, 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#)."

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was March 21 to March 27, 2022. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on March 21, 2022.

Invitations were sent out in two separate launches: Soft Launch and Full Launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on March 21, 2022. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on March 22, 2022.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	March 21, 2022	March 22, 2022
First reminder	March 24, 2022	March 24, 2022
Final reminder	March 26, 2022	March 26, 2022

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center’s researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, four ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey. The base weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort and then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2019 American Community Survey (ACS)
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2020 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2019 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2021 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

Some of the population benchmarks used for weighting come from surveys conducted prior to the coronavirus outbreak that began in February 2020. However, the weighting variables for panelists recruited in 2021 were measured at the time they were recruited to the panel. Likewise, the profile variables for existing panelists were updated from panel surveys conducted in July or August 2021.

This does not pose a problem for most of the variables used in the weighting, which are quite stable at both the population and individual levels. However, volunteerism may have changed over the intervening period in ways that made their 2021 measurements incompatible with the available (pre-pandemic) benchmarks. To address this, volunteerism is weighted using the profile variables that were measured in 2020. For all other weighting dimensions, the more recent panelist measurements from 2021 are used.

For panelists recruited in 2021, plausible values were imputed using the 2020 volunteerism values from existing panelists with similar characteristics. This ensures that any patterns of change that were observed in the existing panelists were also reflected in the new recruits when the weighting was performed.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	3,581	2.3 percentage points
Half sample	At least 1,764	3.2 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	1,600	3.3 percentage points
Half sample	At least 790	4.6 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	1,881	3.1 percentage points
Half sample	At least 927	4.4 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	3,581
Logged onto survey; broke-off	2.12	44
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	27
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	463
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	1
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		4
Screened out		0
Total panelists in the survey		4,120
Completed interviews	I	3,581
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	538
Non-contact	NC	1
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		4,120
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		87%

Cumulative response rate	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	69%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 105	43%
Response rate to Wave 105 survey	87%
Cumulative response rate	3%

© Pew Research Center, 2022

Topline questionnaire

Pew Research Center
Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey
June 29, 2022 Release

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see Methodology section and our [international survey methods database](#).
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Since 2007, Pew Research Center has used an automated process to generate toplines for its Global Attitudes surveys. As a result, numbers may differ slightly from those published prior to 2007.
- Surveys in the U.S. and Australia were conducted online. The U.S. survey was conducted on Pew Research Center’s American Trends Panel. The Australia survey was conducted on the Social Research Centre’s Life in Australia Panel. In both countries, many questions have been asked in previous surveys on the phone. Phone trends for comparison are provided in separate tables throughout the topline. The extent of the mode differences varies across questions; while there are negligible differences on some questions, others have more pronounced differences. Caution should be taken when evaluating online and phone estimates.
- Since 2020, the Italy survey has been conducted by telephone; surveys were conducted face-to-face in 2002 and 2007-2019.
- Since 2021, the Greece survey has been conducted by telephone; all prior surveys in Greece were conducted face-to-face.
- In 2022, the Malaysia survey was conducted by telephone. Prior surveys in Malaysia were conducted face-to-face. Due to this shift in mode and differences in past sample designs and weighting parameters, all previous trends in Malaysia are not directly comparable and have been omitted from the topline.

- For some countries, trends for certain years are omitted due to differences in sample design or population coverage. Omitted trends often reflect less representative samples than more recent surveys in the same countries. Trends that are omitted include:
 - Poland in March 2003
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.