



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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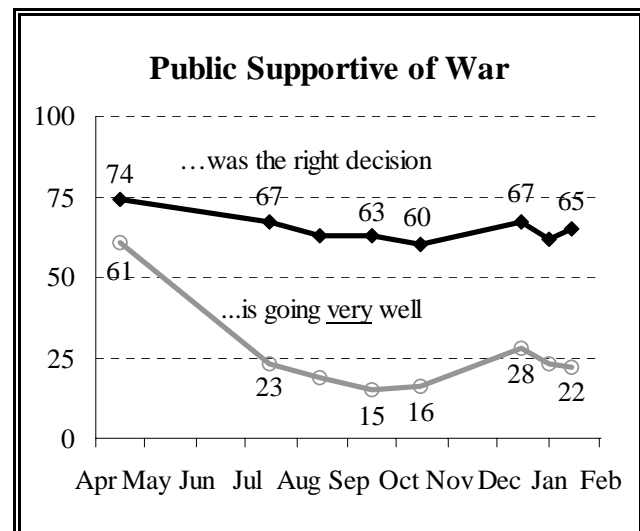
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**  
Andrew Kohut, Director  
Carroll Doherty, Editor

## **41% Worry U.S. Will Leave Iraq Too Soon**

### **IRAQ SUPPORT STABLE, BUSH NOT SEEN AS UNILATERALIST**

Public support for the U.S. military operation in Iraq has remained strong since the capture of Saddam Hussein, despite the continuing American casualties there. Nearly two-thirds of Americans (65%) feel the war was the right decision, which represents little change from December, shortly after Hussein's capture (67%). That event also boosted the public's sense of progress in Iraq; even so, fewer than a quarter (22%) say things there are going *very well* there.

The latest Pew Research Center national survey, conducted Jan. 6-11, shows that, on balance, the public believes that the Bush administration pays the right amount of attention to the concerns of U.S. allies and is not overly aggressive in pushing American interests abroad. A 46% plurality of Americans thinks the administration gives appropriate attention to concerns of U.S. allies, compared with 30% who say he gives too little attention to those concerns.



However, Democrats have become more critical of how Bush deals with the allies. Compared with early September 2001<sup>1</sup>, more Democrats think the administration pays too little attention allied interests (44% now vs. 28% then). By contrast, increasing numbers of independents and Republicans believe the administration gives an appropriate level of attention to allied concerns.

<sup>1</sup> Survey was conducted Aug. 21-Sept. 5, 2001, before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In a survey conducted last year by the Pew Global Attitudes Project, lopsided majorities in 16 of 20 populations surveyed said the U.S. does not take their country's interests into account in carrying out its foreign policy. This perception was widespread even in friendly nations like Canada (70%). But Americans have consistently rejected that idea; 73% of U.S. respondents in the survey taken last May saw the United States taking the concerns of other nations into account in conducting its foreign policy.

The latest Pew poll also finds the public believing that Bush strikes the right balance in advocating America's overseas interests. Nearly half of Americans (47%) say Bush pushes U.S. interests "about right," while 26% think he is too aggressive in pursuing those interests and 22% say he is not aggressive enough. Bush's image is quite different from former President Clinton's in this regard. In June 1995, 42% of the public felt Clinton did not press hard enough for American interests while 39% said he had advocated those interests appropriately.

The partisan gap over the war in Iraq, which briefly narrowed following Hussein's capture, has again widened. Only about four-in-ten Democrats (42%) feel the war was the right decision, down from 56% in December. By comparison, independents have become somewhat more supportive of the war – 66% now, 60% then – while Republicans overwhelmingly believe the war was the right decision.

Americans are feeling more positive about the situation in Iraq than they were in the fall. While fewer than a quarter (22%) say the U.S. military effort there is going *very* well, another 51% believe things are going fairly well. Both ratings are up significantly since October, and the percentage of the public expressing a negative view of progress in Iraq has fallen from 36% to 24% in that period. Currently, four-in-ten Democrats rate progress in Iraq negatively, compared with just one-in-ten Republicans.

Nearly half of Americans (48%) say their greater concern in Iraq is that the United States will wait too long to withdraw its forces from the country. But a sizable minority (41%) are more concerned that the U.S. will put out too quickly, before a stable democracy is established. Democrats by more than two-to-one (62%-30%) say the bigger concern is the U.S. will stay too long in Iraq; Republicans by a smaller margin (53%-34%) voice the opposite concern.

<b>Limited Criticism of Bush Foreign Policy</b>		
	<i>Clinton</i>	<i>Bush</i>
	June	Jan
	<u>1995</u>	<u>2004</u>
<i>Pushes U.S. interests...</i>	%	%
Too hard	12	26
Not hard enough	42	22
About right	39	47
Don't know	7	5
	100	100
	Summer	Jan
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2004</u>
<i>Bush admin. listens to allies...</i>	%	%
Too much	19	18
Too little	22	30
Right amount	42	46
Don't know	17	6
	100	100

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### **ABOUT THIS SURVEY**

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,503 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period January 6-11, 2004. Based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=755) or Form 2 (N=748), the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JANUARY 2004 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**January 6 - 11, 2004**  
**N=1503**

**Q.1 THROUGH Q.25 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=755]:**

Q.26F1 In international affairs, do you think George W. Bush pushes American interests too hard, not hard enough, or about right?

		<b>Clinton</b>
		<u>June 1995</u>
26	Too hard	12
22	Not hard enough	42
47	About right	39
<u>5</u>	Don't know	<u>7</u>
100		100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=748]:**

Q.27F2 In formulating U.S. foreign policy, is the Bush administration taking into account the interests and views of our allies... Too much, too little, or about the right amount?

		Early Sept
		<u>2001</u>
18	Too much	19
30	Too little	22
46	Right amount	42
<u>6</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>17</u>
100		100

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about Iraq...

Q.28 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

		Early				Early		---- April ----			----- March 2003 -----			Late	
		Jan	Dec	Oct	Sept	Aug	July							Jan	
		<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>10-16</u>	<u>8-9</u>	<u>2-7</u>	<u>28-4/1</u>	<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>	<u>1991</u>
65	Right decision	62	67	60	63	63	67	74	74	72	69	74	74	71	77
30	Wrong decision	28	26	33	31	30	24	19	19	20	25	21	21	22	15
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Ref.	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.29 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

		Early				Early		---- April ----			--- March 2003 ---		
		Jan	Dec	Oct	Sept	Aug	July						
		<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>10-16</u>	<u>8-9</u>	<u>2-7</u>	<u>25-4/1</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>
22	Very well	23	28	16	15	19	23	61	60	55	39	45	65
51	Fairly well	47	47	44	47	43	52	32	32	37	46	41	25
18	Not too well	18	16	25	26	24	16	3	3	3	8	6	2
6	Not at all well	7	6	11	9	11	5	1	3	2	2	2	1
<u>3</u>	DK/Ref.	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.30 From what you've seen and read, has stabilizing Iraq been HARDER than President Bush and his advisors expected, EASIER than they expected, or about as they expected?

64 Harder than expected  
 2 Easier than expected  
 30 About as expected  
4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100

Q.31 Which concerns you more... [READ AND ROTATE]

41 That the U.S. will leave Iraq before a stable democracy is in place  
 OR  
 48 That the U.S. will wait too long to withdraw its troops from Iraq  
 5 Neither (VOL.)  
6 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100

Q.32 Do you think President Bush should have waited to get more of our major allies to join us before taking military action in Iraq, or do you think he was right to use military force when he did?

		<u>Sept</u>	<u>April</u>
		<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>
40	Should have waited	42	28
56	Right to use force when he did	53	65
1	Should not have done it at all (VOL.)	1	2
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.36 How worried are you that there will soon be another terrorist attack in the United States? [READ]

		Aug	March	Feb	Jan	Dec	Early	Late	June	Jan	Dec	Oct	Oct	Early
		<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>
20	Very worried	13	22	34	18	31	20	16	32	20	13	29	27	28
45	Somewhat worried	45	42	41	50	42	46	46	44	42	39	42	40	45
24	Not too worried	29	20	17	23	18	22	25	17	28	27	18	19	15
10	Not at all worried	12	14	7	8	8	11	12	7	9	19	10	12	11
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	*	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100