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**EMBARGOED**

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**Vietnam Parallel Rejected**  
**BUSH RATINGS RISE EVEN AS IRAQ CONCERNS CONTINUE**

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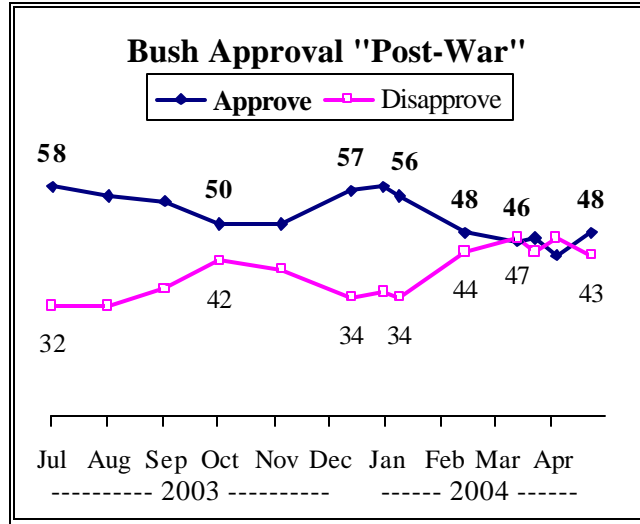
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## Vietnam Parallel Rejected

### **BUSH RATINGS RISE EVEN AS IRAQ CONCERNS CONTINUE**

President Bush's approval ratings have improved over the month of April even as Americans continue to express strong concerns about Iraq and the way the president is handling that situation. The latest nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center finds 48% approving and 43% disapproving of Bush's overall job performance. This is slightly better than the 43% rating he received in early April, conducted in the days immediately following the murder and mutilation of American contractors in Falluja.

While the president's overall job scores are up, a slim plurality of Americans (48%) disapprove of the way he is dealing with Iraq, and just 36% think Bush has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion. Nonetheless, these evaluations are no worse – and if anything slightly better – than they were in Pew's previous survey, conducted April 1-4.



Further, nearly a month of bad news of mounting casualties and growing instability in Iraq have not resulted in a sea change in opinions about Iraq policy. Most Americans continue to say the U.S. made the right decision to go to war (54% now, 57% in early April). Moreover, 53% favor keeping U.S. forces in Iraq until a stable government is established, compared with 40% who support withdrawing the troops as soon as possible. This measure also has changed little from early April (50%-44%).

While some recent nationwide polls have found many Americans expressing concern that Iraq *might* turn into another Vietnam, just 25% think that Iraq *will* turn out to be another Vietnam; a 54% majority believes that the U.S. will accomplish its goals there. There is a wide

	Early Jan	Early Feb	Mid Mar	Early Apr	Late Apr
<i>How well is effort going?</i>					
Very well	23	17	16	14	12
Fairly well	47	46	45	43	43
Not too well	18	23	26	26	26
Not at all well	7	11	11	13	15
Don't know	5	3	2	4	4
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>War in Iraq</i>					
Right decision	62	56	55	57	54
Wrong decision	28	39	39	35	37
Don't know	10	5	6	8	9
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>What to do now</i>					
Keep troops in	63	--	--	50	53
Bring troops home	32	--	--	44	40
Don't know	5	--	--	6	7
	100			100	100

partisan disparity on this issue, as a 41% plurality of Democrats believe Iraq will become another Vietnam while Republicans overwhelmingly reject that idea (80%). But age is not a factor in these attitudes. Americans in the mid-40s and older – those who personally remember the Vietnam War – are no more likely to see parallels between Iraq and Vietnam than are younger people.

The latest Pew Research Center survey, conducted April 21-25 among 1,000 adults, finds that a majority of Americans (55%) continue to approve of Bush's handling of terrorist threats. But Bush's standing on this issue has eroded noticeably since last year; in December 2003, 65% approved of his job in handling terrorist threats. In addition, only about four-in-ten (42%) approve of the way Bush is handling the economy, while 51% disapprove.

There has been a slight uptick in the percentage of Americans who rate the economy positively (38% now, 31% in February). But perceptions of the employment picture have not brightened; just 30% say there are plenty of jobs available in their community, virtually unchanged from February (31%). A majority of Americans (57%) continue to say that jobs are difficult to find in their area.

	Sept 2003	Mid Jan	Early Apr	Late Apr
<i>Iraq situation</i>	%	%	%	%
Approve	52	59	40	44
Disapprove	40	37	53	48
Don't know	8	4	7	8
	100	100	100	100
<i>Terrorist threats</i>				
Approve	64	65*	53	55
Disapprove	28	33*	38	36
Don't know	8	2*	9	9
	100	100	100	100
<i>The economy</i>				
Approve	43	47	39	42
Disapprove	48	47	53	51
Don't know	9	6	8	7
	100	100	100	100

\* Terrorism figures from Gallup, Dec 2003

### **Age and Vietnam Parallels**

Most Americans do not believe that the situation in Iraq will turn out to be another Vietnam, and this view is shared by those who lived through the Vietnam war era and by those too young to remember it. Among people age 50-64 – roughly, those who were in their teens and 20s during the height of the war – just 27% think Iraq will turn out like Vietnam; 51% say the U.S. will accomplish its goals. Views among those age 65 and older are virtually identical.

Young people are no different in the belief that Iraq will be another Vietnam, but more young people than others in the survey think the U.S. will accomplish its goals there. More than six-in-ten of those age 30 and under (62%) believe the U.S. will accomplish its goals in Iraq.

<i>What will happen in Iraq?</i>	----- Age -----			
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Will be another Vietnam	26	24	27	27
U.S. will achieve goals	62	54	51	49
Don't know	12	22	22	24
	100	100	100	100

In general, young people are as supportive

of the decision to go to war as are older Americans and a solid majority of those under age 30 (61%) think things there are going at least fairly well. By comparison, only half of those age 50 and older agree in that positive assessment.

Despite their optimistic outlook, however, young people also stand out in their support for a quick withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. Nearly half of those age 30 and younger (47%) say the United States should pull its troops from Iraq as soon as possible, significantly more than any other group.

Aside from age, education is also related to peoples' views on what the U.S. should do in Iraq. While people with more education hold no different views from the rest of the nation regarding whether it was the right decision to take military action in Iraq in the first place, there is a significant educational gap over staying the course. College graduates overwhelmingly favor keeping troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there (by a 67% to 27% margin), and people who have had some college generally agree (57% vs. 35% who want to bring troops home). But those with no more than a high school diploma are divided on this question, with nearly half (49%) saying the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible, and just 44% preferring to keep troops in Iraq.

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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 International among a nationwide sample of 1,000 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period April 21-25, 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 3.5 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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## WILL IRAQ TURN INTO ANOTHER VIETNAM?

	Will be another <u>Vietnam</u> %	U.S. will accomplish <u>its goals</u> %	Too early to <u>tell (VOL)</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u>	(N)
<b>Total</b>	25	54	6	15	(1000)
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	23	60	5	12	(450)
Female	28	48	7	17	(550)
<b>Race</b>					
White	23	58	5	14	(815)
Non-White	38	37	7	18	(166)
Black	42	30	7	21	(114)
Hispanic**	29	56	5	10	(69)
<b>Race and Sex</b>					
White Men	20	64	3	13	(361)
White Women	25	52	8	15	(454)
<b>Age</b>					
Under 30	26	62	1	11	(170)
30-49	24	53	7	16	(385)
50-64	27	51	10	12	(239)
65+	27	49	5	19	(197)
<b>Sex and Age</b>					
Men under 50	21	65	3	11	(251)
Women under 50	29	48	6	17	(304)
Men 50+	26	52	8	14	(197)
Women 50+	27	49	8	16	(239)
<b>Education</b>					
College Grad.	22	54	6	18	(317)
Some College	25	57	4	14	(233)
High School Grad.	27	54	6	13	(359)
< H.S. Grad.	30	46	8	16	(85)

\*\* Note: Small sample size. The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Some people are now comparing Iraq to the war in Vietnam thirty years ago. Do you think Iraq will turn out to be another Vietnam, or do you think the U.S. will accomplish its goals in Iraq?

	Will be another	U.S. will accomplish	Too early to		
	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>its goals</u>	<u>tell (VOL)</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	(N)
	%	%	%	%	
<b>Total</b>	25	54	6	15	(1000)
<b>Region</b>					
East	27	46	7	20	(211)
Midwest	25	56	5	14	(224)
South	25	56	5	14	(362)
West	26	54	7	13	(203)
<b>Party ID</b>					
Republican	9	80	3	8	(315)
Democrat	41	33	7	19	(306)
Independent	28	50	6	16	(298)
<b>Party and Ideology</b>					
Conservative Republican	6	88	1	5	(201)
Moderate/Liberal Rep.	15	68	7	10	(102)
Conservative/Mod. Dem.	39	37	6	18	(199)
Liberal Democrat	45	26	8	21	(87)
<b>Bush Approval</b>					
Approve	8	82	4	6	(486)
Disapprove	44	28	8	20	(428)

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS**  
**LATE APRIL 2004 IRAQ OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**April 21 - 25, 2004**  
**N=1000**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	<b>2001</b>			
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100	August, 2001	50	32	18=100
<b>2003</b>				July, 2001	51	32	17=100
December, 2003	57	34	9=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
November, 2003	50	40	10=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
October, 2003	50	42	8=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100				
Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100				
Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100				
June, 2003	62	27	11=100				
May, 2003	65	27	8=100				
April 10-16, 2003	72	22	6=100				
April 9, 2003	74	20	6=100				
April 2-7, 2003	69	25	6=100				
March 28-April 1, 2003	71	23	6=100				
March 25-27, 2003	70	24	6=100				
March 20-24, 2003	67	26	7=100				
March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100				
February, 2003	54	36	10=100				
January, 2003	58	32	10=100				
<b>2002</b>							
December, 2002	61	28	11=100				
Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100				
Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100				
Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100				
Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100				
Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100				
August, 2002	67	21	12=100				
Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100				
July, 2002	67	21	12=100				
June, 2002	70	20	10=100				
April, 2002	69	18	13=100				
Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100				
February, 2002	78	13	9=100				
January, 2002	80	11	9=100				

More specifically...

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. The economy	42	51	7=100
Early April, 2004	39	53	8=100
Mid-January, 2004	47	47	6=100
September, 2003	43	48	9=100
February, 2003	43	48	9=100
January, 2003	47	45	8=100
Early October, 2002	49	40	11=100
June, 2002	53	36	11=100
January, 2002	60	28	12=100
Early September, 2001	47	44	9=100
February, 2001	50	22	28=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early September, 1998	71	23	6=100
<b>Clinton:</b> September, 1997	60	34	6=100
<b>Clinton:</b> January, 1996	50	42	8=100
<b>Clinton:</b> June, 1995	46	46	8=100
<b>Clinton:</b> October, 1994	45	46	9=100
<b>Clinton:</b> July, 1994	38	56	6=100
<b>Bush, Sr.:</b> August, 1990	40	52	8=100
<b>Bush, Sr.:</b> May, 1990	42	47	11=100
b. The situation in Iraq	44	48	8=100
Early April, 2004	40	53	7=100
Mid-January, 2004	59	37	4=100
September, 2003	52	40	8=100
April 10-16, 2003 <sup>1</sup>	77	17	6=100
April 8-9, 2003	71	23	6=100
--April 9, 2003	76	18	6=100
--April 8, 2003	65	28	7=100
April 2-7, 2003	73	21	6=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	69	26	5=100
March 25-27, 2003	73	23	4=100
March 23-24, 2003	72	22	6=100
March 20-22, 2003	70	23	7=100
February, 2003	56	37	7=100
January, 2003	56	36	8=100
Early October, 2002	56	34	10=100
<b>Gallup:</b> Late January, 1991	84	11	5=100

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<sup>1</sup> From March to April 2003 the item was worded: "... dealing with the war in Iraq?" The 1991 Gallup trend was worded "...George Bush is handling the situation in the Persian Gulf region."



**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
c. Terrorist threats	55	36	9=100
Early April, 2004	53	38	9=100
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today: 12/03</i>	65	33	2=100
September, 2003	64	28	8=100
February, 2003	67	25	8=100
January, 2003	69	23	8=100
Early October, 2002	71	22	7=100
June, 2002	74	18	8=100
Mid-September, 2001 <sup>2</sup>	85	6	9=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early September, 1998	72	20	8=100

On a different subject...

C.1 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today? as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused</u>
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2=100
Late February, 2004	2	29	42	26	1=100
February 9-12, 2004 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	2	31	46	21	0=100
January 12-15, 2004 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	3	34	42	21	0=100
January 2-5, 2004 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	3	40	41	16	*=100
December 11-14, 2003 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	3	34	44	19	*=100
November 3-5, 2003 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	2	28	49	21	*=100
October 24-26, 2003 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	2	24	44	30	*=100
October 6-8, 2003 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	2	20	50	27	1=100
September 8-10, 2003 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	1	20	49	30	*=100
August 4-6, 2003 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	1	24	52	23	*=100
February 17-19, 2003 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	1	17	48	34	*=100
February 4-6, 2002 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	2	26	55	16	1=100
March 5-7, 2001 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	3	43	43	10	1=100
January 7-10, 2000 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	19	52	23	5	1=100
January 15-17, 1999 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	14	55	27	4	*=100
March 20-22, 1998 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	20	46	27	7	*=100
Jan 31 - Feb 2, 1997 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	4	38	43	15	*=100
March 15-17, 1996 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	2	31	48	18	1=100
May 11-14, 1995 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	2	27	50	20	1=100
January 15-17, 1994 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	*	22	54	24	*=100
February 12-14, 1993 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	*	14	46	39	1=100
January 3-6, 1992 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	*	12	46	41	1=100

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<sup>2</sup> In Mid-September, 2001 the question was worded: "...dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington." In Early September 1998 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling current threats from international terrorist groups?"

Now thinking about Iraq...

Q.3 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	<u>Don't know/ Ref.</u>
Late April, 2004	54	37	9=100
Early April, 2004	57	35	8=100
Mid-March, 2004	55	39	6=100
Late February, 2004	60	32	8=100
Early February, 2004	56	39	5=100
Mid-January, 2004	65	30	5=100
Early January, 2004	62	28	10=100
December, 2003	67	26	7=100
October, 2003	60	33	7=100
September, 2003	63	31	6=100
August, 2003	63	30	7=100
Early July, 2003	67	24	9=100
May, 2003	74	20	6=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>7=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>7=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>8=100</i>
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>7=100</i>
Late January, 1991	77	15	9=100

Q.4 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>Don't know/ Ref.</u>
Late April, 2004	12	43	26	15	4=100
Early April, 2004	14	43	26	13	4=100
Mid-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100
Early February, 2004	17	46	23	11	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	22	51	18	6	3=100
Early January, 2004	23	47	18	7	5=100
December, 2003	28	47	16	6	3=100
October, 2003	16	44	25	11	4=100
September, 2003	15	47	26	9	3=100
August, 2003	19	43	24	11	3=100
Early July, 2003	23	52	16	5	4=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>March 25-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7=100</i>

Q.5 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

		Early April <u>2004</u>	Early Jan <u>2004</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>	Sept <u>2003</u>
53	Keep troops in Iraq	50	63	58	64
40	Bring troops home	44	32	39	32
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.6 Do you think George W. Bush has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?

		Early April <u>2004</u>	Dec <u>2003</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>	Sept <u>2003</u>
36	Has a clear plan	32	44	35	32
54	Doesn't have a clear plan	57	45	54	58
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100

#### NO QUESTION 7

Q.8 Some people are now comparing Iraq to the war in Vietnam thirty years ago. Do you think Iraq will turn out to be another Vietnam, or do you think the U.S. will accomplish its goals in Iraq?

25	Will be another Vietnam
54	U.S. will accomplish its goals
6	Too early to tell (VOL.)
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

Q.9 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of jobs available in your community or are jobs difficult to find?

		Late Feb <u>2004</u>	Mid- Jan <u>2004</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>	June <u>2002</u>	June <u>2001</u>	<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>		
							Aug <u>1992</u>	May <u>1992</u>	Jan <u>1992</u>
30	Plenty of jobs available	31	27	24	31	42	15	16	12
57	Jobs are difficult to find	59	60	66	59	44	76	77	79
4	Lots of some jobs, few of others (VOL.)	5	6	5	4	8	6	4	6
<u>9</u>	Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100