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Two-Thirds Say U.S. Is 'Losing Ground' in Preventing Civil War
PESSIMISM GROWS AS IRAQ WAR ENTERS FOURTH YEAR

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Two-Thirds Say U.S. Is ‘Losing Ground’ in Preventing Civil War **PESSIMISM GROWS AS IRAQ WAR ENTERS FOURTH YEAR**

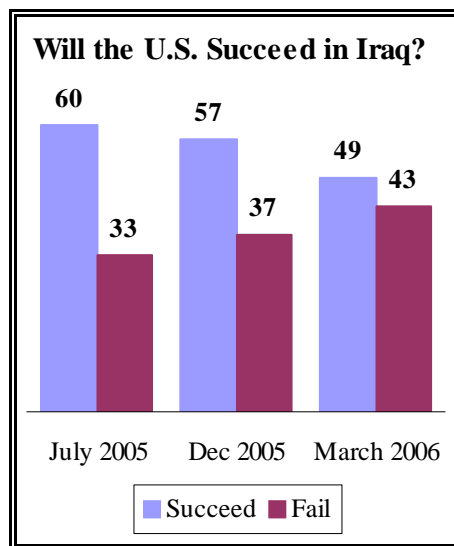
As the third anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq approaches, public support for keeping U.S. troops in Iraq has reached its lowest point and assessments of progress there have turned significantly more negative than they were just a few months ago.

Optimism about the potential for establishing democracy in Iraq has declined sharply. In several surveys since last July, consistent majorities of Americans – including 57% in December and 55% as recently as last month – had said they believed that the U.S. will succeed in establishing a stable democratic government in Iraq. But today fewer than half (49%) say that success is probable.

The public’s more negative view of the situation in Iraq is reflected in the growing numbers of Americans who believe the U.S. is losing ground, rather than making progress, on such key objectives as preventing a civil war and defeating the insurgents. Two-thirds say the U.S. is losing ground in preventing a civil war in Iraq, up from 48% in January. About half (51%) believe the U.S. is losing ground in defeating the insurgents militarily, compared with 38% two months ago. And even in areas where majorities continue to see progress being achieved – such as in training Iraqi forces and rebuilding Iraq’s infrastructure – increasing numbers think the U.S. is losing ground.

Public perceptions of the character of the conflict in Iraq are also shifting. Americans increasingly are coming to perceive the ongoing conflict as having developed into a civil war. Currently the public is divided between those who see it primarily as a civil war and those who view it as an anti-U.S. insurgency (42% vs. 45%). As recently as December, 30% saw it as mostly a civil war.

Currently, half of the public (50%) says that the U.S. should bring its troops home from Iraq as soon as possible, compared with 44% who say we should stay



Growing Numbers See U.S. ‘Losing Ground’ In Iraq

<i>Percent who say we are “losing ground” in...</i>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Change</u>
	%	%	
Preventing a civil war	48	66	+18
Defeating the insurgents	38	51	+13
Establishing a democracy	26	38	+12
Preventing terrorist bases in Iraq	33	44	+11
Training Iraqi forces	22	30	+8
Rebuilding roads, power plants, etc.	22	29	+7
Reducing civilian casualties	54	56	+2

there until the situation has stabilized. The number favoring an immediate withdrawal is up only slightly from January (48%), but represents the highest measure of support for a troop pullout since the war began.

In addition, 55% of Americans favor the U.S. establishing a timetable for when troops should be withdrawn from Iraq, about the same number that expressed that view in December. And by two-to-one (61%-30%), more say their bigger concern is that the U.S. will wait too long to withdraw its troops from Iraq as opposed to leaving too soon before a stable democracy is in place.

A growing number of Americans also believe the war in Iraq has hurt, rather than helped, the war on terror. More than four-in-ten (44%) think the war has hurt the war on terrorism, compared with 38% who say it has helped. In January, 44% said the Iraq war helped the broader struggle against terrorism.

However, while support for a troop pullout has inched up, a solid majority (57%) continues to say that an American withdrawal would strengthen terrorist organizations operating in Iraq; that compares with 23% who think terrorists would be unaffected by a U.S. withdrawal, and 9% who say the terrorists in Iraq would be weaker. Even among those who feel the decision to go to war was wrong, a plurality (45%) believes that terrorist organizations in Iraq would become stronger if the U.S. withdraws.

Bush Ratings on Iraq Go Lower

A large majority (70%) of the public now believes that President Bush lacks a clear plan for ending the war successfully, which is the highest number expressing that view in surveys dating to September 2003. Fully 89% of Democrats and 79% of independents believe Bush lacks a clear plan on resolving the conflict, but 40% of Republicans share this opinion.

Just 30% of the public approves of the way Bush is handling the situation in Iraq, down eight points since February and a low point for his presidency. The decline mirrors the slide in Bush's overall job approval, from 40% in February to 33% in March.

Iraq Opinions			
	Dec	Jan	Mar
<i>Using force in Iraq</i>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>06</u>
	%	%	%
Right decision	47	45	45
Wrong decision	48	47	49
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100
<i>What to do now?</i>			
Bring troops home	46	48	50
Keep troops in Iraq	49	48	44
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Should set timetable for troop withdrawal?</i>			
Yes	56	50	55
No	38	42	39
Other/Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Iraq war effect on war on terrorism</i>			
Helped	44 [^]	44	38
Hurt	44	38	44
No effect (Vol)	6	8	8
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Is violence in Iraq a civil war or insurgency?</i>			
Mostly an insurgency	58	--	45
Mostly a civil war	30	--	42
Don't know	<u>12</u>	--	<u>13</u>
	100		100
^ Late October 2005			

Huge Partisan Divide in Optimism

The decline in optimism about prospects for success in Iraq has come across the demographic spectrum. Men, in particular, are more dubious that the U.S. can establish a stable democratic government; 50% say that now, down from 62% in December. Consequently, the gender gap in these attitudes has nearly disappeared.

Republicans, Democrats and independents are all less likely to say that the U.S. will definitely or probably succeed in establishing a stable democratic government. But the political divide remains enormous; more than twice as many Republicans as Democrats think the U.S. will succeed in Iraq (74% vs. 34%).

Notably, men ages 50 and older who have not served in the military have become much less confident that the U.S. will succeed in Iraq. Fewer than half (45%) now say the U.S. is likely to achieve its goals, compared with 62% in December. By contrast, opinions among older male veterans have remained stable.

Civil War Worries Grow

Perceptions of the Iraq war have shifted over the past few months, with a dramatic increase in the number seeing the current violence as a civil war rather than an insurgency targeting U.S. forces. And views of American efforts to forestall a civil war have grown much more negative, especially among Republicans.

In December, Republicans by nearly two-to-one (56%-29%) said we are making progress rather than losing ground in preventing a civil war. But today Republicans are divided; if anything, slightly more say the U.S. is losing ground rather than making progress (by 46%-41%). The shift has been less dramatic, though substantial, among Democrats and independents.

Iraq Optimism Drops Among Most Groups			
	<i>U.S. will succeed</i>		
	Dec	Mar	<i>Change</i>
	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	
	%	%	
Total	57	49	-8
Men	62	50	-12
Women	53	47	-6
Whites	59	49	-10
Blacks	47	38	-9
Republican	83	74	-9
Democrat	39	34	-5
Independent	53	44	-9
College grad	50	45	-5
Some college	61	48	-13
HS grad	61	50	-11
<i>Males age 50+</i>			
Military veteran	52	49	-3
Not a veteran	62	45	-17

Percent saying U.S. will definitely or probably succeed in establishing stable democratic government

Rating U.S. Efforts to Prevent Civil War in Iraq			
	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%
<i>Feb 2006</i>			
Making progress	41	12	19
Losing ground	46	79	75
No change (Vol)	4	2	1
Other/DK	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Dec 2005</i>			
Making progress	56	23	34
Losing ground	29	65	52
No change (Vol)	5	2	2
Other/DK	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100

Republicans remain much more positive about progress toward other goals in Iraq; large majorities believe the U.S. is making progress toward establishing a democracy (77%), training Iraqi forces (76%), and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure (74%). Roughly six-in-ten Republicans (61%) believe the U.S. is making progress in defeating the insurgents, though that is down from 70% in December.

Perceptions of Progress in Iraq			
<i>Percent saying we're making progress in...</i>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%
Training Iraqi forces	76	46	54
Rebuilding infrastructure	74	44	48
Establishing a democracy	77	34	49
Preventing terrorist base for attacks	67	29	39
Defeating the insurgents	61	20	31
Reducing civilian casualties	46	16	24
Preventing a civil war	41	12	19
Minimum number of cases	(201)	(234)	(199)

Democrats generally are far more gloomy. Just a third (34%) see progress in establishing a democracy in Iraq and even fewer (20%) say the U.S. is making progress in defeating the insurgents militarily. The only areas in which there is even modest optimism among Democrats are in views of training the Iraqi military and rebuilding infrastructure; even here, however, fewer than half say the U.S. is achieving progress.

Describing Iraq in a Word

When respondents were asked to give a one-word impression of the situation in Iraq, the words "mess," "bad," "chaos," "terrible," and "disaster" were offered most frequently along with such variants as "hopeless," "pitiful," "Vietnam," and "out of control."

Those who said that the decision to launch military action in Iraq was the right decision were more likely to offer positive or neutral words, among which "improving," "hopeful," and "good" were mentioned most frequently. However, even among people who approved of the decision to invade Iraq, negative attributes outweighed positive ones by two-to-one.

One-Word Descriptions of Current Situation in Iraq	
<i>Said war was wrong decision</i>	<i>Said war was right decision</i>
26 bad	12 bad
26 mess	10 improving
21 chaos	10 mess
15 terrible	9 too long
12 disaster	8 sad
10 horrible	7 difficult
10 Vietnam	7 good
7 hopeless	6 terrible
7 sad	6 chaos
6 get out	6 confusing
5 tragic	5 hopeful
4 out of control	4 horrible
4 pitiful	4 necessary
4 unnecessary	4 trouble
4 unstable	4 turmoil
(N=347)	(N=311)

Note: Figures show the actual number of respondents who offered each response; these are NOT percentages.

Islam and Democracy in Iraq

The public is divided over whether democracy in Iraq can succeed if people elect Islamic religious leaders to power. A slight plurality (43%) believes democracy cannot succeed in these circumstances, while 37% say it can and a relatively large minority (20%) declined to offer an opinion. Attitudes on this issue have been fairly stable over the past year; in September 2005, 47% felt democracy could not succeed in Iraq if Islamic religious leaders gain power.

More See Islam as Violent

Roughly half of Americans (53%) believe generally that some religions are more likely than others to encourage violence among their believers, while 36% say religions are all pretty much the same in this regard. About a third of the public (34%) points to Islam as the most violent religion.

The beliefs that some religions encourage violence – and that Islam is most violent – have become somewhat more prevalent since last summer. In July 2005, shortly after the terrorist bombings in London, there was a modest decline in the number who regard Islam as a religion that promotes violence. The current measure is nearly identical to one from May of last year.

There is a stark political division in attitudes toward religion and violence. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans (65%) say some religions are more violent than others, while half (51%) cite Islam as the most violent religion. Democrats are split over the question of whether some religions are more likely to encourage violence – 44% say yes, while 45% say all religions are pretty much the same. Just a quarter of Democrats see Islam as the most violent religion.

	May <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Mar <u>2006</u>
<i>Religions and violence...</i>	%	%	%
Some more likely to encourage violence	52	45	53
All about the same	39	43	36
Neither/DK	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Which religion is most violent..*</i>	May <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Mar <u>2006</u>
	%	%	%
Islam	35	27	34
Christianity	5	5	5
Hinduism	2	2	2
Judaism	2	2	1
None (Vol)	1	2	2
DK/ref	7	7	9
All about the same	39	43	36
Neither/DK	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100
* Asked of those who say some religions are more likely than others to encourage violence. Percentages shown here are based on the total population.			

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,405 adults, 18 years of age or older, from March 8-12, 2006. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on form 1 (N=710) and form 2 (N=695) 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.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of six projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 2006 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
March 8-12, 2006
N = 1,405

Q.1-Q.10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=695]:

More specifically...

Q.3 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>
b.F2 The situation in Iraq	30	65	5=100
February, 2006	38	57	5=100
December, 2005	36	58	6=100
Late October, 2005	37	57	6=100
Early September, 2005	34	58	8=100
July, 2005	35	57	8=100
Mid-May, 2005	37	56	7=100
February, 2005	40	53	7=100
January, 2005	45	50	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	37	56	7=100
Early September, 2004	47	45	8=100
August, 2004	43	52	5=100
July, 2004	42	53	5=100
June, 2004	42	51	7=100
Late April, 2004	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 ¹	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

Q.11-Q.13, Q.25 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
Q.14-Q.18, Q.51-Q.55 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 56-59

¹ 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."

ASK ALL:

Q.26 As I read you a pair of statements, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views even if neither is exactly right. **[READ]**

		July <u>2005</u>	Late May <u>2005²</u>	Mid- July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u>
53	Some religions are more likely than others to encourage violence among believers	45	52	52	47
	-OR-				
36	Religions are all about the same in this regard	43	39	38	41
4	Neither (VOL.)	5	3	5	4
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100	100

IF "SOME MORE VIOLENT" (1 IN Q.26) ASK:

Q.27 Which one of the religions that I name do you think of as most violent – Christianity, Islam, Judaism or Hinduism?

		July <u>2005</u>	May <u>2005</u>
5	Christianity	5	5
34	Islam	27	35
1	Judaism	2	2
2	Hinduism	2	2
2	None (VOL.) (DO NOT READ)	2	1
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	7
36	Religions are all about the same [in Q.26]	43	39
<u>11</u>	Neither/Don't know/Refused (VOL.) [in Q.26]	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100

Q.28-Q.29, Q.51-Q.55 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

Q.30-Q.50 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

² In Late May 2005 the question was worded "Which statement comes closer to your own views even if neither is exactly right? Some religions are more prone to violence than others; OR All religions are about the same when it comes to violence."

ASK ALL:

Turning to the subject of Iraq ...

Q.60 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/ Refused</u>
March, 2006	45	49	6=100
February, 2006	51	44	5=100
January, 2006	45	47	8=100
December, 2005	47	48	5=100
Late October, 2005	48	45	7=100
Early October, 2005	44	50	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	49	44	7=100
July, 2005	49	44	7=100
June, 2005	47	45	8=100
February, 2005	47	47	6=100
January, 2005	51	44	5=100
December, 2004	49	44	7=100
November, 2004 (RVs)	48	41	11=100
Mid-October, 2004	46	42	12=100
Early October, 2004	50	39	11=100
Early September, 2004	53	39	8=100
August, 2004	53	41	6=100
July, 2004	52	43	5=100
June, 2004	55	38	7=100
May, 2004	51	42	7=100
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	8=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=710]:

Q.61F1 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	Very <u>well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
March, 2006	9	34	30	21	6=100
February, 2006	13	38	29	17	3=100
January, 2006	12	39	27	17	5=100
December, 2005	14	37	29	17	3=100
Early October, 2005	9	35	31	22	3=100
Mid-September, 2005	12	41	26	18	3=100
July, 2005	14	38	27	17	4=100
June, 2005	9	41	27	19	4=100
February, 2005	14	40	25	17	4=100
January, 2005	9	39	29	20	3=100
December, 2004	10	40	28	18	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	13	38	26	17	6=100
Early September, 2004	12	40	26	18	4=100
August, 2004	12	41	28	16	3=100
July, 2004	13	42	26	16	3=100
June, 2004	16	41	25	14	4=100
May, 2004	10	36	32	19	3=100
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>

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=695]:

Q.62F2 What one word best describes your impression of the situation in Iraq these days? (**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE**).*

39	Bad
37	Mess
29	Chaos
22	Terrible
18	Sad
15	Disaster
15	Horrible
12	Improving
12	Vietnam
10	Hopeless
10	Too long
8	Better
8	Confused
7	Difficult
7	Good
7	Unstable
6	Bring troops home
6	Get out
6	Hopeful
6	Not good
6	Poor
6	Stalemate
5	Frustrated
5	Killing
5	Necessary
5	Never-ending
5	Out of control
5	Pitiful
5	Tragic
5	Unnecessary
4	Deplorable
4	Unrest
4	Turmoil
4	Trouble
4	Scary
4	Stupid
4	Quagmire

** The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.*

ASK ALL:

Q.63 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
March, 2006	44	50	6=100
February, 2006	50	46	4=100
January, 2006	48	48	4=100
December, 2005	49	46	5=100
Early October, 2005	47	48	5=100
Mid-September, 2005	51	45	4=100
July, 2005	52	43	5=100
June, 2005	50	46	4=100
February, 2005	55	42	3=100
January, 2005	54	41	5=100
December, 2004	56	40	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	57	36	7=100
Early September, 2004	54	40	6=100
August, 2004	54	42	4=100
July, 2004	53	43	4=100
June, 2004 ³	51	44	5=100
May, 2004	53	42	5=100
Late April, 2004	53	40	7=100
Early April, 2004	50	44	6=100
Early January, 2004	63	32	5=100
October, 2003	58	39	3=100
September, 2003	64	32	4=100

Q.64 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?

	Has a clear <u>plan</u>	Doesn't have <u>a clear plan</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
March, 2006	23	70	7=100
December, 2005	28	66	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	30	63	7=100
July, 2005	27	64	9=100
February, 2005	32	61	7=100
Early October, 2004	35	55	10=100
Early September, 2004	36	55	9=100
August, 2004	36	58	6=100
July, 2004	34	59	7=100
June, 2004	37	55	8=100
Late April, 2004	36	54	10=100
Early April, 2004	32	57	11=100
December, 2003	44	45	11=100
October, 2003	35	54	11=100
September, 2003	32	58	10=100

³ In June 2004 and earlier, the question was worded: "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?"

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=710]:

Q.65F1 Do you think the war in Iraq has helped the war on terrorism, or has it hurt the war on terrorism?

	<u>Helped</u>	<u>Hurt</u>	(VOL) <u>No effect</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
March, 2006	38	44	8	10=100
January, 2006	44	38	8	10=100
Late October, 2005	44	44	6	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	43	43	6	8=100
July, 2005	39	47	7	7=100
February, 2005	44	41	7	8=100
Mid-October, 2004	45	40	6	9=100
Early September, 2004	46	40	6	8=100
August, 2004	45	44	4	7=100
July, 2004	43	45	5	7=100
June, 2004	43	44	4	9=100
Mid-March, 2004	50	37	5	8=100
Late February, 2004	62	28	3	7=100
Early February, 2004	55	32	7	6=100
December, 2003	59	26	6	9=100
September, 2003	54	31	7	8=100
May, 2003	65	22	6	7=100
April, 2003 ⁴	63	22	--	15=100
Early October, 2002	52	34	--	14=100

NO QUESTION 66

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=695]:

Q.67F2 Which concerns you more... [READ AND ROTATE]

	That the U.S. will leave Iraq before a stable <u>democracy is in place</u>	That the U.S. will wait too long to withdraw <u>its troops from Iraq</u>	<u>Neither</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
March, 2006	30	61	3	6=100
Early October, 2005	32	55	4	9=100
July, 2005	34	50	9	7=100
Early April, 2004	36	52	2	10=100
Mid-January, 2004	41	48	5	6=100

NO QUESTION 68

ASK ALL:

Q.69 Do you think the U.S. should or should not set a timetable for when troops will be withdrawn from Iraq?

	Jan <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2005</u>	Early Oct <u>2005</u>	Mid-Sep <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>	
55	Should set a timetable	50	56	52	57	49
39	Should not set a timetable	42	38	43	37	45
1	Should get out now (VOL.)	2	1	1	1	*
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

⁴ In April 2003, the question was worded: "Do you think the war in Iraq will help the war on terrorism, or will it hurt the war on terrorism?" In Early October 2002 the question was worded: "If the U.S. uses military force in Iraq, do you think this will help the war on terrorism, or will it hurt the war on terrorism?"

Q.70 Regardless of what you think about the original decision to use military force in Iraq, do you now believe that the United States will definitely succeed, probably succeed, probably fail, or definitely fail in establishing a stable democratic government in Iraq?

		Feb <u>2006</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2005</u>	Late Oct <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>
10	Definitely succeed	16	14	16	12	17
39	Probably succeed	39	42	41	44	43
33	Probably fail	28	26	28	29	25
10	Definitely fail	11	8	9	8	8
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.71 As I read a few specific things about Iraq, tell me if you think we are making progress or losing ground in each area. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]?**

		Making <u>progress</u>	Losing <u>ground</u>	(VOL) No <u>change</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
ASK ITEMS a THRU d OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=710]:					
a.F1	Training Iraqi security forces so they can replace U.S. troops	56	30	1	13=100
	January, 2006	65	22	1	12=100
	December, 2005	61	27	1	11=100
b.F1	Reducing the number of civilian casualties there	27	56	3	14=100
	January, 2006	32	54	3	11=100
	December, 2005	35	53	3	9=100
c.F1	Preventing terrorists from using Iraq as a base for attacks against the U.S. and its allies	42	44	2	12=100
	January, 2006	52	33	2	13=100
	December, 2005	48	41	2	9=100
d.F1	Establishing democracy in Iraq	50	38	2	10=100
	January, 2006	62	26	2	10=100
	December, 2005	58	32	2	8=100
ASK ITEMS e THRU g OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=695]:					
e.F2	Defeating the insurgents militarily	36	51	1	12=100
	January, 2006	46	38	3	13=100
	December, 2005	44	41	3	12=100
f.F2	Preventing a civil war between various religious and ethnic groups	24	66	2	8=100
	January, 2006	34	48	4	14=100
	December, 2005	36	49	3	12=100
g.F2	Rebuilding roads, power plants and other services in Iraq	53	29	1	17=100
	January, 2006	59	22	1	18=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=710]:

Q.72F1 If the U.S. were to withdraw its troops from Iraq soon, do you think terrorist organizations there will become stronger, will become weaker, or would they not be affected as a result of the withdrawal?

		<u>Dec 2005</u>
57	Stronger	58
9	Weaker	13
23	Would not be affected	22
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=695]:

Q.73F2 If the U.S. continues to keep troops in Iraq, do you think terrorist organizations there will become stronger, will become weaker, or would they not be affected as a result of America's continued presence there?

		<u>Dec 2005</u>
32	Stronger	30
30	Weaker	36
30	Would not be affected	29
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

Q.74 In your opinion, do you think democracy can succeed if the Iraqi people elect Islamic religious leaders to positions of power, or not?

		<u>Sept 2005</u>	<u>Feb 2005</u>
37	Yes, can succeed	34	37
43	No	47	40
<u>20</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>19</u>	<u>23</u>
100		100	100

Q.75 From what you've read and heard, how would you describe the current violence in Iraq, is it... **[READ AND ROTATE]**?

		<u>Dec 2005</u>
42	Mostly a civil war between competing factions in Iraq	30
	OR	
45	Mostly an insurgency aimed against the U.S. and its allies	58
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u>
100		100

Now, just a few questions for statistical purposes only.

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL) <u>No Preference</u>	(VOL) <u>Other Party</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
March, 2006	28	34	30	4	*	4=100
February, 2006	30	33	31	3	*	3=100
January, 2006	28	32	32	5	*	3=100
December, 2005	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
Late November, 2005	27	34	29	5	1	4=100
Early November, 2005	28	34	31	5	*	2=100
Late October, 2005	29	33	31	5	*	2=100
Early October, 2005	26	34	34	4	*	2=100
September 8-11, 2005	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
September 6-7, 2005	27	33	33	4	*	3=100
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
Late March, 2005	29	32	36	2	*	1=100
Mid-March, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
Yearly Totals						
2005	30	33	31	4	*	2=100
2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
2003	30	31	31	5	*	3=100
2002	30	31	30	5	1	3=100
2001	29	34	29	5	*	3=100
2001 Post-Sept 11	31	32	28	5	1	3=100
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28	35	30	5	*	2=100
2000	28	33	29	6	*	4=100
1999	27	33	34	4	*	2=100
1998	28	33	32	5	*	2=100
1997	28	33	32	4	1	2=100
				No Preference/ <u>Other/DK</u>		
1996	<u>29</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	5=100		
1995	32	30	34	4=100		
1994	30	32	34	4=100		
1993	27	34	34	5=100		
1992	28	33	35	4=100		
1991	31	32	33	4=100		
1990	31	33	30	6=100		
			Independent/ <u>No Pref/Oth/DK</u>			
1989	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	34=100			
1987	26	35	39=100			

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Refused to lean</u>
March, 2006	11	14	13=38%
February, 2006	11	16	10=37%
January, 2006	10	16	14=40%
December, 2005	10	16	11=37%
Late November, 2005	9	13	17=39%
Early November, 2005	11	14	13=38%
Late October, 2005	11	15	12=38%
Early October, 2005	11	18	11=40%
September 8-11, 2005	10	18	9=37%
September 6-7, 2005	10	15	15=40%
July, 2005	9	15	11=35%
June, 2005	10	16	12=38%
Mid-May, 2005	9	13	14=36%
Late March, 2005	13	17	9=39%
December, 2004	14	12	9=35%
August, 2003	12	16	14=42%
August, 2002	12	13	13=38%
September, 2000	11	13	15=39%
Late September, 1999	14	15	16=45%
August, 1999	15	15	12=42%