

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
& COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
AMERICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD, III
GENERAL PUBLIC CALLBACK TOPLINE
OCT 15-21, 2001
N = 1,281**

All in all,

Q.1 What kind of leadership role should the United States play in the world? Should it be the single world leader, or should it play a shared leadership role, or shouldn't it play any leadership role?

IF ANSWERED 2 "SHARED LEADERSHIP ROLE" IN Q.1, ASK:

Q.2 Should the United States be the most active of the leading nations, or should it be about as active as other leading nations?¹

		Early Sept <u>2001</u>	Sept <u>1997</u>	June <u>1995</u>	Oct <u>1993</u>	Sept <u>1993</u>
12	Be the single world leader, or	13	12	13	9	10
79	Should it play a shared leadership role	75	73	74	78	81
33	Most active	25	22	25	23	27
45	About as active	49	50	47	53	52
1	Don't know/Refused	1	1	2	2	2
3	Shouldn't it play any leadership role	8	11	9	9	7
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.3 In general, how well do you think the U.S. government is doing in reducing the threat of terrorism?
[READ]

		Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u>
38	Very well	48
46	Fairly well	40
9	Not too well	6
4	Not at all well	2
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

Q.4 How should the U.S. determine its policy with regard to the war on terrorism? Should it be based mostly on the national interests of the U.S., or should it strongly take into account the interests of its allies?

		Early Sept <u>2001</u> ²
30	U.S. national interests	38
59	Interests and views of allies	48
7	Both (VOL)	7
*	Neither (VOL)	1
<u>4</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>6</u>
100		100

¹ Before 1997 the answer categories were "... most active, or should it be no more or less active than other leading nations?"

² In Early September 2001, the question was worded: "All in all, how should the U.S. determine its foreign policy? Should it be based mostly on the national interests of the U.S., or should it strongly take into account the interests of its allies?"

Q.5F1/

Q.6F2 As I read a list of possible LONG-RANGE foreign policy goals which the United States might have, tell me how much priority you think each should be given. First, [READ AND ROTATE], do you think this should have top priority, some priority, or no priority at all.³

Q.5F1/Q.6F2 ITEM [N=1,281]:		Top Priority	Some Priority	No Priority	DK/Ref
5F1d/					
6F2a.	Taking measures to protect the U.S. from terrorist attacks	93	6	*	1=100
	Early September, 2001	80	16	3	1=100
Q.5F1 ITEMS ONLY [N=638]:					
5F1a.	Preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction	81	14	2	3=100
	Early September, 2001	78	16	5	1=100
	September, 1997	70	23	6	1=100
	June, 1995	68	21	9	2=100
	September, 1993	69	24	5	1=100
5F1b.	Insuring adequate energy supplies for the U.S.	69	29	1	1=100
	Early September, 2001	74	23	2	1=100
	September, 1997	58	36	3	3=100
	June, 1995	59	34	3	4=100
	September, 1993	60	34	4	2=100
5F1c.	Promoting democracy in other nations	24	61	12	3=100
	Early September, 2001	29	52	16	3=100
	September, 1997	22	57	18	3=100
	June, 1995	16	57	24	3=100
	September, 1993	22	52	24	2=100
5F1e.	Promoting U.S. business and economic interests abroad	30	63	4	3=100
	Early September, 2001	37	53	8	2=100
	September, 1997 ⁴	16	62	20	2=100
	June, 1995	26	50	20	4=100
	September, 1993	27	51	19	3=100
5F1f.	Strengthening the United Nations	46	46	7	1=100
	Early September, 2001	42	43	13	2=100
	September, 1997	30	53	14	3=100
	June, 1995	36	45	17	2=100
	September, 1993	41	46	11	2=100
5F1g.	Reducing the spread of AIDS and other infectious diseases	59	38	2	1=100
	Early September, 2001	73	23	3	1=100
5F1h.	Protecting groups or nations that are threatened with genocide	48	43	3	6=100
	Early September, 2001	49	41	5	5=100

³ Before 1997 the answer categories were "... should have top priority, priority but not top priority, or no priority at all."

⁴ In September 1993, June 1995 and September 1997 the item was worded "Aiding the interests of US businesses abroad."

Q.6F2 ITEMS ONLY [N=643]:		<u>Top</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Some</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
6F2b.	Helping improve the living standards in developing nations	20	67	12	1=100
	Early September, 2001	25	61	12	2=100
	September, 1997	23	63	13	1=100
	June, 1995	16	59	22	3=100
	September, 1993	19	60	20	1=100
6F2c.	Protecting the jobs of American workers	74	24	1	1=100
	Early September, 2001	77	19	3	1=100
	September, 1997	77	20	2	1=100
	June, 1995	80	17	2	1=100
	September, 1993	85	13	2	*=100
6F2d.	Promoting and defending human rights in other countries	27	61	10	2=100
	Early September, 2001	29	54	14	3=100
	September, 1997	27	56	15	2=100
	June, 1995	21	56	20	3=100
	September, 1993	22	54	22	2=100
6F2e.	Combating international drug trafficking	55	38	5	2=100
	Early September, 2001	64	26	9	1=100
	September, 1997	67	24	7	2=100
6F2f.	Getting other countries to assume more of the costs of maintaining world order	54	41	3	2=100
	Early September, 2001	56	35	6	3=100
6F2g.	Dealing with the problem of world hunger	34	59	6	1=100
	Early September, 2001	47	44	7	2=100
6F2h.	Dealing with global warming	31	51	13	5=100
	Early September, 2001	44	39	12	5=100
	September, 1997 ⁵	50	42	6	2=100
	June, 1995	56	36	6	2=100
	September, 1993	56	37	6	1=100

NO Q.7 OR Q.8

⁵ In September 1993, June 1995 and September 1997 the item was worded "Improving the global environment."

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Do you think that we should increase our spending on national defense, keep it about the same, or cut it back?

		Early RV's												
		Sept 2001	Sept 2000	Aug 1999	June 1999	Sept 1997	Feb 1995 ⁶	10/94+	Sept 1993	10-90+	10-11/86+	10-11/82+	11/78+	12/74+
50	Increase	32	34	27	31	17	19	18	10	12	21	22	32	13
41	Keep same	44	48	54	47	57	56	53	52	53	55	52	45	47
7	Cut back	20	14	16	19	24	24	26	36	32	23	24	16	33
<u>2</u>	DK/Ref.	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

+ Chicago Council on Foreign Relations

Q.10 In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more, Israel or the Palestinians?

		Early			Chicago Council on Foreign Relations		
		Sept 2001	Sept 1997	Sept 1993	Oct-Nov 1990	Oct-Nov 1982	Nov 1978
47	Israel	40	48	45	34	41	39
10	Palestinians	17	13	21	13	17	12
8	Both (VOL)	6	5	3	7	8	8
18	Neither (VOL)	23	16	18	26	19	15
<u>17</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=638]:

Q.11 Thinking about the financial aid the United States provides Israel for military purposes, do you think U.S. military aid to Israel should be—increased, kept the same, or decreased?

		----- Gallup -----	
		Sept 2001	July 1999
10	Increased	16	10
56	Kept the same	47	42
25	Decreased	31	44
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=643]:

Q.12 Thinking about the Mideast situation these days, do you think the U.S. should take Israel's side more, less or about as much as it has in the past?

16	More
19	Less
56	As much as in the past
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

⁶ In 1995 and previous years, the question was worded "Do you think that we should expand our spending on national defense, keep it about the same or cut it back?"

ASK ALL:

Q.13 Do you think the U.S. should put into effect a national missile defense system, or don't you think so?

IF 1 "YES" IN Q.13 ASK:

Q.14 Do we have a pressing need for this system right now or is this something we should put off into the future?

		Early Sept <u>2001</u>	May <u>2001</u>	Feb <u>2001</u> ⁷
64	Yes, U.S. should put into effect a national missile defense system	56	51	54
49	Need the system right now	35	29	n/a
14	Should put it off into the future	19	19	n/a
1	Don't know/Refused	2	3	n/a
26	No, U.S. should not	35	38	32
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK ALL:

In your view,

Q.15 How well is the MILITARY effort to destroy the terrorist groups going? **[READ]**

		Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u>
38	Very well	<u>45</u>
45	Fairly well	35
9	Not too well	6
2	Not at all well	4
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>10</u>
100		100

Q.16 How would you rate the job the government is doing in BUILDING DEFENSES at home to prevent future terrorist attacks? Would you say the government is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job? **[READ]**

		Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u>
18	Excellent	20
51	Good	47
22	Only fair	22
5	Poor	4
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>
100		100

Q.17 If you had to choose, what should get a higher priority now? **[READ AND ROTATE]**

		Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u>	Late Sept <u>2001</u>
37	Building our defenses at home to prevent future terrorist attacks	36	33
	-OR--		
48	Taking military action to destroy terrorist networks around the world	45	44
13	Both (VOL)	13	16
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100

⁷

In February 2001 question was worded slightly different: "Do you favor or oppose the development of a national missile defense system?"

Q.18 How worried are you that there will soon be another terrorist attack in the United States? **[READ]**

		Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u>	Early Oct <u>2001</u>
29	Very worried	27	28
42	Somewhat worried	40	45
18	Not too worried	19	15
10	Not at all worried	12	11
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100

Q.19 As of today, do you feel that your life... **[READ]**

		<i>Newsweek</i> <u>9/27-28/01</u>
41	Has returned to normal	40
31	Is BEGINNING to return to normal	35
8	Still hasn't begun to return to normal	7
17	Will NEVER return to normal?	15
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
100		100

Q.20 In the long run, what is the best way for the U.S. to avoid problems like terrorism? Should the U.S.: **[READ AND ROTATE]**

61	Be very much involved in solving international problems?
	--OR--
32	Not get too involved with international problems?
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.21 Do you think the terrorist attacks are the start of a major conflict between the people of America and Europe versus the people of Islam, or is it only a conflict with a small, radical group?

28	Major conflict
63	Conflict with a radical group
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

N.1 TO N.3 ONLY ASKED OCT. 17-21 [N=404]:

N.1 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
a.	The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan January, 1991 ⁸	51 67	35 28	10 4	3 1	1=100 0=100
b.	Terrorism attacks on the United States	78	16	4	1	1=100
	Early October, 2001 ⁹	73	22	4	1	*=100
	Mid-September, 2001	74	22	3	1	*=100
	July, 1996 ¹⁰	69	23	6	2	*=100
	June, 1995 ¹¹	58	32	8	2	*=100

N.2 I'd like to ask you a few questions about how you feel when you are watching coverage of terrorism on TV. For each statement that I read tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with that statement?¹²

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK/Ref
a.	I can't stop watching news about terrorism	17	32	39	8	4=100
	Mid-September, 2001	24	39	30	4	3=100
	January, 1991	11	39		48	2=100
b.	It's frightening to watch news about terrorism	26	43	26	3	2=100
	Mid-September, 2001	33	44	19	2	2=100
	January, 1991	17	50		32	1=100

N.3 Generally speaking, do you think the news media have [READ AND ROTATE]

		<i>ABC/Wash. Post</i> <u>Oct 15, 2001</u>
42	Exaggerated the danger of the anthrax situation or have they	34
50	Reported the anthrax situation without exaggerating the danger	62
8	Don't know/Refused	4
100		100

⁸ In January 1991, the question was worded: "How closely have you been following news about the War in the Gulf?"

⁹ In Early October 2001 and Mid-September 2001 the question was worded: "News about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington?"

¹⁰ In July 1996 the question was worded: "the crash of a Paris-bound TWA plane off the coast of New York."

¹¹ In June 1995 the question was worded: "the Oklahoma City bombing."

¹² In Mid-September 2001 the question was asked about "terrorists attacks." In January 1991 the question asked about "watching coverage of the war on TV."