

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
LATE MARCH 2003 WAR TRACKING
FINAL TOPLINE
March 20 - 24, 2003
N=1,495

PRC1 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> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't know</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Late March, 2003 | 67 | 26 | 7=100 |
| March, 2003 | 55 | 34 | 11=100 |
| February, 2003 | 54 | 36 | 10=100 |
| January, 2003 | 58 | 32 | 10=100 |
| December, 2002 | 61 | 28 | 11=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 |
| June, 2002 | 70 | 20 | 10=100 |
| April, 2002 | 69 | 18 | 13=100 |
| February, 2002 | 78 | 13 | 9=100 |
| January, 2002 | 80 | 11 | 9=100 |
| Mid-November, 2001 | 84 | 9 | 7=100 |
| Early October, 2001 | 84 | 8 | 8=100 |
| Late September, 2001 | 86 | 7 | 7=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 80 | 9 | 11=100 |
| Early September, 2001 | 51 | 34 | 15=100 |
| August, 2001 | 50 | 32 | 18=100 |
| June, 2001 | 50 | 33 | 17=100 |
| April, 2001 | 56 | 27 | 17=100 |
| February, 2001 | 53 | 21 | 26=100 |

PRC2 How closely have you been following news about the war in Iraq – very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

| | <u>Very Closely</u> | <u>Fairly Closely</u> | <u>Not too Closely</u> | <u>Not at all Closely</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Late March, 2003 | 57 | 33 | 7 | 2 | 1=100 |
| March, 2003 ¹ | 62 | 27 | 6 | 4 | 1=100 |
| February, 2003 | 62 | 25 | 8 | 4 | 1=100 |
| January, 2003 | 55 | 29 | 10 | 4 | 2=100 |
| December, 2002 | 51 | 32 | 10 | 6 | 1=100 |
| Late October, 2002 | 53 | 33 | 8 | 5 | 1=100 |
| Early October, 2002 | 60 | 28 | 6 | 5 | 1=100 |
| Early September, 2002 ² | 48 | 29 | 15 | 6 | 2=100 |
| Early January, 1991 | 59 | 31 | 7 | 2 | 1=100 |

1 From October 2002 to March 2003, the story was listed as “Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq.”

2 In Early September 2002 the story was listed as “...U.S. will invade Iraq.” In Early January 1991 the story was listed as “Iraq’s occupation of Kuwait and the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.”

PRC3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is dealing with the war in Iraq?

| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>DK/Ref.</u> |
|--|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Late March, 2003 | 71 | 23 | 6=100 |
| February, 2003 ³ | 56 | 37 | 7=100 |
| January, 2003 | 56 | 36 | 8=100 |
| Early October, 2002 | 56 | 34 | 10=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 85 | 6 | 9=100 |
| Gallup: Late January, 1991 ⁴ | 84 | 11 | 5=100 |

PRC4 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

IF 1 'RIGHT DECISION' IN PRC4 ASK:

PRC4a Which comes closer to your view **[ROTATE]**: You support going to war because you think it is the best thing for the U.S. to do; OR you are not sure if going to war is the best thing to do, but you support Bush's decision because he is president?

| | | Late Jan <u>1991</u> |
|----------|---|-------------------------|
| 72 | Right decision | <u>77</u> |
| 50 | Support because best thing for U.S. to do | -- |
| 18 | Support because Bush is president | -- |
| 4 | Don't know/Refused | -- |
| 22 | Wrong decision | 15 |
| <u>6</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>8</u> |
| 100 | | 100 |

ASK ALL:

PRC5 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ]**

| | Early Nov <u>2001⁵</u> | Oct 15-21 <u>2001</u> | Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u> |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 57 | Very well | 30 | 38 |
| 31 | Fairly well | 45 | 45 |
| 4 | Not too well | 12 | 9 |
| 1 | Not at all well | 4 | 2 |
| <u>7</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>9</u> | <u>6</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 |

3 In February, 2003 and earlier the question was worded "...handling the situation with Iraq." 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."

4 Gallup trend was worded "...George Bush is handling the situation in the Persian Gulf region."

5 In 2001 the question was worded "How well is the MILITARY effort to destroy the terrorist groups going?"

ASKED MARCH 20-23, 2003 ONLY [N=1,207]:

WAR1 Thinking about **YESTERDAY/WEDNESDAY/(MARCH 19)**, how did you **FIRST** learn about the start of war in Iraq? Was it from talking with others; listening to the radio; watching television; reading a newspaper; or going on-line over the Internet?

WAR1b Was this on an all-news cable channel such as CNN, MSNBC, FOX News or CNBC; on network broadcast television such as ABC, NBC, or CBS; or on a local television news broadcast in your area?

WAR1c Was this in a face-to-face conversation with someone or in a telephone call?

WAR1d Was this from an email, an instant message or from a web site?

| | | Sept 12-19 <u>2001⁶</u> |
|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8 | Talking with others | 31 |
| 5 | Face to face | 16 |
| 2 | Telephone calls | 15 |
| 13 | Radio | 22 |
| 73 | Television | 44 |
| | 37 Cable channel | 11 |
| | 22 Network news | 20 |
| | 11 Local news | 9 |
| 2 | Newspaper | * |
| 3 | Internet | 1 |
| | * Email | * |
| | * Instant message | 0 |
| | 2 Web Site | * |
| 1 | Other | 2 |
| 0 | Did not know about attacks | 0 |
| * | Don't know/Refused | * |
| <u>100</u> | | <u>100</u> |

6 Trend is from a survey conducted for the Pew Internet and American Life Project (N=2039). Question was worded "...cable channel such as CNN or CNBC..."

WAR2 How have you been getting most of your news about the war in Iraq...From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from the Internet? [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE]

IF "TELEVISION" IN War2=3, AS EITHER FIRST OR SECOND RESPONSE ASK:

WAR2b [THURSDAY/FRIDAY : Have you gotten] [SATURDAY AND LATER: Do you get] most of your news about the war in Iraq from network TV news, from local TV news, or from cable news networks such as CNN, MSNBC and the Fox News Channel?⁷ [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE]

| | | Feb 2003 ⁸ | Jan 2003 | Jan 2002 | Mid- Sept 2001 ⁹ | Early Sept 2001 | Feb 2001 | Oct 1999 | Jan 1999 | Jan 1996 | Sept 1995 ¹⁰ | Jan 1994 | Sept 1993 | Jan 1993 | Early Jan 1991 ¹¹ |
|----|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 89 | Television | 83 | 81 | 82 | 90 | 74 | 76 | 80 | 82 | 88 | 82 | 83 | 83 | 83 | 82 |
| 23 | Network TV news | -- | 13 | 19 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 22 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 39 | -- |
| 18 | Local TV news | -- | 24 | 24 | 17 | 26 | 25 | 31 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 30 | -- |
| 50 | Cable news ¹² | -- | 49 | 44 | 45 | 34 | 35 | 35 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 38 | -- |
| 1 | Other | -- | * | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2 | -- |
| 2 | Don't know | -- | 1 | * | 2 | * | 1 | * | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- |
| 24 | Newspapers | 42 | 44 | 42 | 11 | 45 | 40 | 48 | 42 | 61 | 63 | 51 | 60 | 52 | 40 |
| 19 | Radio | 19 | 22 | 21 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 19 | 18 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 17 | 17 | 15 |
| * | Magazines | 4 | 4 | 3 | * | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| 11 | Internet | 15 | 17 | 14 | 5 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 6 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 2 | Other (VOL) | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| * | Don't know/Ref | * | 1 | * | 1 | * | 1 | * | * | * | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | * |

PRC6 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the war in Iraq...excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

| | <u>Excellent</u> | <u>Good</u> | <u>Only Fair</u> | <u>Poor</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Late March, 2003 | 39 | 40 | 12 | 4 | 5=100 |
| December, 2001 ¹³ | 32 | 45 | 15 | 5 | 3=100 |
| Mid-November, 2001 | 30 | 47 | 16 | 5 | 2=100 |
| Mid-October, 2001 | 32 | 42 | 17 | 6 | 3=100 |
| Early October, 2001 | 48 | 37 | 10 | 3 | 2=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 56 | 33 | 6 | 3 | 2=100 |
| March, 1991 | 45 | 38 | 11 | 5 | 1=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 36 | 42 | 15 | 5 | 2=100 |

7 Roughly half of respondents were asked WAR2b without the examples of cable networks listed. There was no significant difference, and the results for both forms of the question are combined here.

8 In February 2003 and earlier the question was worded "news about national and international issues."

9 In Mid-September 2001, the question was worded "news about the terrorist attacks."

10 In September 1995, question wording did not include "international."

11 In Early January 1991 the question asked about "the latest developments in the Persian Gulf."

12 Beginning in October 1999, "cable news networks such as CNN and MSNBC" was substituted for "CNN." Beginning in February 2001, "Internet" was substituted for "computer online sources."

13 From Mid-October to December 2001, the question was worded "...covering the terrorist attacks and the war against terrorism." In Early October and Mid-September 2001 the question was worded "...covering the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?" In March and Late January 1991 the question was worded "...covering the War in the Gulf."

PRC7 Have you heard too much, too little, or the right amount about the views of Americans who oppose the war in Iraq?

| | | Feb <u>2003</u> ¹⁴ | Late Jan <u>1991</u> | Early Jan <u>1991</u> | Sept <u>1990</u> |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 40 | Too much | 24 | 47 | 18 | 15 |
| 17 | Too little | 42 | 13 | 42 | 40 |
| 36 | Right amount | 30 | 33 | 31 | 35 |
| <u>7</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>4</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>10</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

PRC8 Have you yourself felt depressed by the war in Iraq?

| | | Early Nov <u>2001</u> ¹⁵ | Mid-Oct <u>2001</u> | Early Oct <u>2001</u> | Mid-Sept <u>2001</u> | Late Jan <u>1991</u> |
|----------|--------------------|--|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 32 | Yes | 24 | 31 | 42 | 71 | 50 |
| 66 | No | 75 | 66 | 57 | 27 | 49 |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>1</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

PRC9 Have you had any difficulty concentrating on your job or your normal activities because of the way you feel about the war in Iraq?

| | | BASED ON DEPRESSED IN PRC8 | | | Mid-SeptLate Jan | | |
|----------|-----------------|--|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|--|
| | | Early Oct <u>2001</u> ¹⁶ | Mid-Sept <u>2001</u> | <u>Current</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>1991</u> | |
| 14 | Yes | 21 | 49 | 33 | 59 | 30 | |
| 85 | No | 79 | 50 | 66 | 40 | 70 | |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Ref. | <u>*</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>*</u> | |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | |

(N=464)

PRC10 Have you had any trouble sleeping because of the way you feel about the war in Iraq?

| | | BASED ON DEPRESSED IN PRC8 | | | Mid-SeptLate Jan | | |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Mid-Oct <u>2001</u> ¹⁷ | Early Oct <u>2001</u> | Mid-Sept <u>2001</u> | <u>Current</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>1991</u> |
| 10 | Yes | 13 | 18 | 33 | 25 | 42 | 26 |
| 90 | No | 86 | 81 | 66 | 75 | 57 | 74 |
| <u>*</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>*</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

(N=464)

14 In February 2003 the question was worded "...Americans who oppose taking military action in Iraq." In Late January 1991 the question was worded "...Americans who oppose the War in the Gulf?" In Early January 1991 and September 1990 the question was worded "...Americans who oppose sending U.S. forces to the Gulf?"

15 In Early November and Mid-October 2001 the question was worded "...concerns about terrorist attacks or the war against terrorism?" In Early October and Mid-September 2001, the question was worded "...the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?"

16 In 2001 the question was worded "...the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?"

17 In Mid-October 2001, the question was worded "...concerns about terrorist attacks or the war against terrorism?" In Early October and Mid-September 2001 the question was worded "...the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?"

PRC11 I'd like to ask you a few questions about how you feel when you are watching coverage of the war on TV.¹⁸
 For each statement that I read tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree. [ROTATE.
READ STATEMENT.]

| | <u>Strongly Agree</u> | <u>Agree</u> | <u>Disagree</u> | <u>Strongly Disagree</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| a. I can't stop watching news about the war | 11 | 29 | 46 | 11 | 3=100 |
| Mid-October, 2001 | 17 | 32 | 39 | 8 | 4=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 24 | 39 | 30 | 4 | 3=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 11 | 39 | 48 | | 2=100 |
| b. I feel sad when watching | 17 | 42 | 29 | 9 | 3=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 47 | 45 | 5 | 1 | 2=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 22 | 52 | 25 | | 1=100 |
| c. It's frightening to watch | 13 | 35 | 38 | 11 | 3=100 |
| Mid-October, 2001 | 26 | 43 | 26 | 3 | 2=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 33 | 44 | 19 | 2 | 2=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 17 | 50 | 32 | | 1=100 |
| d. It tires me out to watch | 7 | 25 | 53 | 13 | 2=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 12 | 33 | 43 | 8 | 4=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 6 | 28 | 64 | | 2=100 |
| e. The war doesn't seem real | 7 | 19 | 48 | 23 | 3=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 7 | 26 | 66 | | 1=100 |

PRC12 As a result of the war in the Iraq,¹⁹ ... [INTERVIEWER: READ THIS PREFACE BEFORE EACH PHRASE]

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|------------|-----------|---------------|
| a. Are you reading newspapers more closely | 30 | 69 | 1=100 |
| Early October, 2001 | 50 | 49 | 1=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 46 | 54 | *=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 51 | 48 | 1=100 |
| b. Are you keeping the TV or radio tuned to the news | 69 | 30 | 1=100 |
| Early October, 2001 | 67 | 31 | 2=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 81 | 19 | *=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 81 | 18 | 1=100 |
| c. Are you considering canceling an airplane trip | 10 | 88 | 2=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 24 | 73 | 3=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 14 | 85 | 1=100 |
| d. Are you considering canceling a trip to a major city | 10 | 89 | 1=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 21 | 77 | 2=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 11 | 89 | 0=100 |

18 In 2001 the question was worded, "...coverage of terrorism on TV."

19 In 2001 the question asked "As a result of the terrorist attacks..."

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|---------------|
| e. Are you praying more | 53 | 46 | 1=100 |
| Mid-November, 2001 ²⁰ | 44 | 55 | 1=100 |
| Early October, 2001 | 57 | 42 | 1=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 69 | 30 | 1=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 65 | 35 | 0=100 |
| f. Are you using the Internet more? | 10 | 90 | *=100 |
| Early October, 2001 ²¹ | 30 | 69 | 1=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 33 | 66 | 1=100 |
| g. Have you taken steps to prepare your home for an emergency situation, such as storing supplies or creating a protected area where your family can go for shelter? | | | |
| February, 2003 ²² | 19 | 80 | 1=100 |
| <i>Newsweek</i> : November, 2001 | 23 | 77 | *=100 |
| | 22 | 77 | 1=100 |

PRC13 All in all, how worried are you that you or someone in your family might become a victim of a terrorist attack? Would you say you are [**READ**]

| | <u>Very Worried</u> | <u>Somewhat Worried</u> | <u>Not too Worried</u> | <u>Not at all Worried</u> | <u>(VOL.) Already a Victim</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Late March, 2003 | 9 | 26 | 37 | 26 | * | 2=100 |
| February, 2003 | 22 | 29 | 30 | 18 | 0 | 1=100 |
| January, 2003 | 11 | 30 | 37 | 21 | * | 1=100 |
| Late August, 2002 | 12 | 28 | 35 | 24 | * | 1=100 |
| June, 2002 | 17 | 28 | 36 | 19 | * | *=100 |
| January, 2002 | 12 | 26 | 38 | 24 | * | *=100 |
| Early November, 2001 | 13 | 27 | 35 | 24 | 0 | 1=100 |
| Mid-October, 2001 | 18 | 32 | 29 | 19 | 0 | 2=100 |
| Late September, 2001 | 17 | 36 | 31 | 15 | * | 1=100 |
| <i>Gallup</i> : 9/14-15/01 ²³ | 18 | 33 | 35 | 13 | * | 1=100 |
| <i>Gallup</i> : 9/11/01 ²⁴ | 23 | 35 | 24 | 16 | 1 | 1=100 |
| <i>Gallup</i> : August, 1998 | 10 | 22 | 38 | 29 | -- | 1=100 |
| <i>Gallup</i> : July, 1996 | 13 | 26 | 34 | 27 | -- | *=100 |
| <i>Gallup</i> : April, 1995 ²⁵ | 14 | 28 | 33 | 24 | -- | 1=100 |

20 In Mid-November 2001 the item was "Are you praying more or not."

21 In 2001 the item was "Are you checking the Internet for news updates."

22 In February 2003 the question was worded "Since the terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001, have you personally taken steps to prepare your home for an emergency situation, such as storing supplies or creating a protected area where your family can go for shelter?" In November 2001 the *Newsweek* question was asked as part of a series and was worded, "We're interested in how, if at all, people's lives are changing since the terrorist attacks of September 11th..."

23 For the September 14-15 Gallup trend the question started with "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred this past Tuesday in New York City and Washington, DC..."

24 For the September 11 Gallup trend the question started with "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred today in New York City and Washington, DC..."

25 For the April 1995 Gallup trend the question was worded "How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of a terrorist attack similar to the bombing in Oklahoma City?"

PRC14 How worried are you that [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE]... a great deal, a fair amount, or not much?
[REPEAT RESPONSE CATEGORIES FOR EACH ITEM]

| | A Great <u>Deal</u> | A Fair <u>Amount</u> | Not <u>Much</u> | DK/ <u>Ref.</u> |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| a. U.S. forces might sustain a lot of casualties | 38 | 36 | 25 | 1=100 |
| February, 2003 | 55 | 25 | 18 | 2=100 |
| Late October, 2002 | 52 | 28 | 18 | 2=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 57 | 30 | 12 | 1=100 |
| b. Many Iraqi civilians might be killed | 37 | 34 | 26 | 3=100 |
| February, 2003 | 47 | 28 | 23 | 2=100 |
| Late October, 2002 | 40 | 30 | 27 | 3=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 33 | 35 | 28 | 4=100 |
| c. Terrorists might strike within the U.S. | 35 | 39 | 24 | 2=100 |
| February, 2003 ²⁶ | 57 | 25 | 16 | 2=100 |
| Late October, 2002 | 51 | 26 | 20 | 3=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 33 | 38 | 28 | 1=100 |
| d. U.S. troops will be involved in the Mideast for years to come | 35 | 34 | 28 | 3=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 38 | 30 | 29 | 3=100 |
| e. Iraq might use biological or chemical weapons against U.S. troops | 48 | 33 | 17 | 2=100 |
| February, 2003 | 66 | 24 | 9 | 1=100 |
| Late October, 2002 | 59 | 26 | 13 | 2=100 |
| f. It might lead to an all-out war in the Middle East | 26 | 32 | 39 | 3=100 |
| February, 2003 | 46 | 26 | 26 | 2=100 |
| Late October, 2002 | 46 | 27 | 25 | 2=100 |

26 In February 2003 and Late October 2002 the item was worded "This might increase the chances of a terrorist attack within the U.S."