

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH-APRIL 2003 WAR TRACKING
FINAL TOPLINE
March 20-April 1, 2003
March 20-22, 2003 N=903
March 23-24, 2003 N=592
March 25-27, 2003 N=539
March 28-April 1, 2003 N=674
April 2-7, 2003 N=912

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>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	68	25	7=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
<i>March 13-16, 2003</i>	55	34	11=100
<i>February, 2003</i>	54	36	10=100
<i>January, 2003</i>	58	32	10=100
<i>December, 2002</i>	61	28	11=100
<i>Early October, 2002</i>	61	30	9=100
<i>Mid-September, 2002</i>	67	22	11=100
<i>Early September, 2002</i>	63	26	11=100
<i>Late August, 2002</i>	60	27	13=100
<i>June, 2002</i>	70	20	10=100
<i>April, 2002</i>	69	18	13=100
<i>February, 2002</i>	78	13	9=100
<i>January, 2002</i>	80	11	9=100
<i>Mid-November, 2001</i>	84	9	7=100
<i>Early October, 2001</i>	84	8	8=100
<i>Late September, 2001</i>	86	7	7=100
<i>Mid-September, 2001</i>	80	9	11=100
<i>Early September, 2001</i>	51	34	15=100
<i>August, 2001</i>	50	32	18=100
<i>June, 2001</i>	50	33	17=100
<i>April, 2001</i>	56	27	17=100
<i>February, 2001</i>	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>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	54	34	9	2	1=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	58	33	6	2	1=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	58	33	7	1	1=100
<i>March, 2003¹</i>	62	27	6	4	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."

PRC2 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
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

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>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	73	21	6=100
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	69	26	5=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	73	23	4=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	70	23	7=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?

-----March 2003-----						Late Jan <u>1991</u>
<u>4/2-7</u>	<u>28-4/1</u>	<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>		
72	69	74	74	71	Right decision	77
53	48	51	49	52	Support because best thing for U.S. to do	--
16	18	20	22	15	Support because Bush is president	--
3	3	3	3	4	Don't know/Refused	--
20	25	21	21	22	Wrong decision	15
<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>
100	100	100	100	100		100

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."

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."

ASK ALL:

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

-----March 2003-----						Early Nov	Oct 15-21	Oct 10-14
<u>4/2-7</u>	<u>28-4/1</u>	<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>		<u>2001⁵</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>
55	39	39	45	65	Very well	30	38	45
37	46	46	41	25	Fairly well	45	45	35
3	8	8	6	2	Not too well	12	9	6
2	2	2	2	1	Not at all well	4	2	4
<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
100	100	100	100	100		100	100	100

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>
April 2-7, 2003	32	42	15	9	2=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	32	40	16	9	3=100
March 25-27, 2003	34	41	16	7	2=100
March 23-24, 2003	34	42	14	5	5=100
March 20-22, 2003	42	38	11	4	5=100
December, 2001 ⁶	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

WAR10 In your opinion, which is better... that news coverage of a war be pro-American or that news coverage of a war be neutral?

<u>4/2-7</u>	<u>3/28-4/1</u>		<u>Feb 2003</u>	<u>Mid-Nov 2001</u>	<u>March 1991</u>
23	25	Pro-American	16	30	22
69	68	Neutral	78	64	71
<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	No opinion/Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100	100		100	100	100

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

6 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."

WAR11 Thinking about press coverage of the war thus far, do you think the press has been too critical of the way the allies are conducting the military campaign, not critical enough, or do you think that the press has handled this about right?

<u>4/2-7</u>	<u>3/28-4/1</u>	
23	22	Too critical
9	8	Not critical enough
62	62	About right
<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	

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

-----March 2003-----						Early Nov 2001 ⁷	Mid- Oct 2001	Early Oct 2001	Mid- Sept 2001	Late Jan 1991
<u>4/2-7</u>	<u>28-4/1</u>	<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>						
36	41	40	35	30	Yes	24	31	42	71	50
63	58	59	63	69	No	75	66	57	27	49
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Ref.	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	1
100	100	100	100	100		100	100	100	100	100

PRC11 I'd like to ask you a few questions about how you feel when you are watching coverage of the war on TV.⁸ For each statement that I read tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree.

[ROTATE. READ STATEMENT.]

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. I can't stop watching news about the war					
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	12	27	49	11	1=100
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	8	24	51	14	3=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	14	27	47	10	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	11	31	46	9	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	12	27	45	12	4=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					
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	18	44	29	6	3=100
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	21	45	26	6	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	23	44	24	7	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	20	43	28	6	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	15	41	30	11	3=100
Mid-September, 2001	47	45	5	1	2=100
Late January, 1991	22	52		25	1=100

7 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?"

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

PRC11 CONTINUED...

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
c. It's frightening to watch					
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	14	36	38	10	2=100
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	13	38	40	7	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	17	41	32	8	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	13	38	38	8	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	12	33	38	13	4=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					
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	11	26	50	12	1=100
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	11	31	46	10	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	10	32	43	13	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	7	24	57	11	1=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	7	26	50	14	3=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					
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	8	19	50	22	1=100
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	7	21	50	20	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	9	22	46	21	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	6	17	51	23	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	8	21	45	23	3=100
Late January, 1991	7	26		66	1=100

ASK APRIL 4-7, 2003 ONLY [N=595]:

WAR14 Do you think the U.S. and its allies have won the war in Iraq, or is it too early to tell?

24	Have won
74	Too early to tell
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK MARCH 28-APRIL 7, 2003 ONLY [N=1,586]:

KIDS How many children between and including the ages of five and twelve, if any, are living in your household?

		<u>Mid-Sept 2001</u>	<u>Late Jan 1991</u>
71	None	71	73
13	One	14	14
15	More than one	15	13
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	*	<u>0</u>
100		100	100

IF HAVE CHILD BETWEEN FIVE AND TWELVE IN THE HOUSEHOLD [N=381]:

Thinking about your (child/children) between five and twelve...

KID1 (Has/have) your (child/children) been following news about the war in Iraq?

		Mid-Sept <u>2001⁹</u>	Late Jan <u>1991</u>
55	Yes	48	69
43	No	51	29
<u>2</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100

KID2 Have you been trying to restrict how much coverage of the war in Iraq your (child/children) (watch/watches)?

		Mid-Sept <u>2001</u>	Late Jan <u>1991</u>
51	Yes	54	30
48	No	46	69
<u>1</u>	Don't Know/Refused	*	<u>1</u>
100		100	100

KID3 (Has/have) your (child/children) expressed any fears about the war in Iraq?

		Mid-Sept <u>2001</u>	Late Jan <u>1991</u>
34	Yes	46	43
66	No	54	57
*	Don't Know/Refused	<u>0</u>	*
100		100	100

ASK NWS1-4 APRIL 2-7, 2003 ONLY [N=912]:

NWS1 As I read a short list of issues and topics, please tell me if you think the press is giving it too much coverage, too little coverage, or about the right amount of coverage. First, [ROTATE]. Is the press giving this too much, too little, or about the right amount of coverage?

		Too much <u>coverage</u>	Too little <u>coverage</u>	About the <u>right amount</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	News about the war in Iraq	39	4	55	2=100
b.	The debate about the president's plan to cut taxes	10	45	39	6=100
c.	The condition of the U.S. economy	11	43	44	2=100
d.	The federal budget deficit	11	42	40	7=100
e.	The lung disease called "SARS" that has spread from Asia	8	33	55	4=100
f.	The race for the Democratic presidential nomination	15	38	38	9=100

9 In Mid-September 2001 the question asked about "the terrorist attacks."

NWS2 Now thinking specifically about the war in Iraq, please tell me if you think the press is giving too much, too little, or about the right amount of coverage to... [ROTATE]?

	<u>Too much coverage</u>	<u>Too little coverage</u>	<u>About the right amount</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Ground troops in action in Iraq	24	16	58	2=100
b. Reports about the personal experiences of soldiers	15	30	52	3=100
c. The air war and the bombardment of Baghdad	26	9	62	3=100
d. Allied troop casualties	15	20	63	2=100
e. Iraqi civilian casualties	17	28	51	4=100
f. Briefings by Pentagon and military officials	21	12	62	5=100
g. Commentary from former military officers	36	11	48	5=100
h. Anti-war sentiment in the United States	40	18	38	4=100
i. How much the war is going to cost	25	31	41	3=100

NWS3 As I read a short list of news organizations, please tell me if you think their coverage of the war in Iraq has been too pro-American, too critical of the American effort, or has it generally been fair. First, [ROTATE]. Has their coverage been too pro-American, too critical of the American effort, or generally fair?

	<u>Too pro-American</u>	<u>Too critical of American effort</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. NBC News	10	13	58	19=100
b. CBS News	9	11	55	25=100
c. ABC News	9	12	56	23=100
d. Fox News	13	4	63	20=100
e. CNN	10	15	56	19=100
f. National Public Radio -- NPR	5	7	41	47=100
g. News from PBS television, the Public Broadcasting System	3	7	42	48=100
h. Your local newspaper	11	9	60	20=100

NWS4 Do you think that reporters who are traveling with the troops in Iraq are taking the side of these troops too much, are being too critical of the troops they're traveling with, or are they being fair and objective in their reporting?

7 Taking the side of the troops too much
 7 Too critical
 81 Fair and objective
5 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
 100