

Five Nation Survey of the Middle East

Submitted to:



Submitted by:
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December 2006

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I. Summary

Continuing Conflict in Iraq and Palestine Deepens U.S. – Arab Rift with Growing Costs to Both Sides

Results of the 2006 AAI/Zogby International poll in 5 Arab countries show:

- Overall Arab attitudes toward U.S. have worsened; negative attitudes have hardened.
- Attitudes toward U.S. policies in Iraq and Palestine are to blame.
- Attitudes toward American values, people and culture have declined as well.
- Uncertainty resulting from these two conflicts has significantly dampened Arab confidence in prospects for economic development and political stability.

II. Results

1. Generally speaking, is your attitude the United States very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or are you not familiar enough to make a judgment?

Table 1.1: Opinion of the United States

	2002		2005		2006	
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav
KSA	12	87	9	89	12	82
Egypt	15	76	14	85	14	83
Morocco	38	61	34	64	7	87
Jordan	34	61	33	62	5	90
Lebanon	26	70	32	60	28	68

Overall U.S. favorable/unfavorable ratings in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Lebanon are largely unchanged (though the negatives have hardened). In Jordan and Morocco, the U.S. rating has dropped significantly.

2. Is your opinion of the United States better, the same or worse from a year ago?

Table 2.1: Opinion of U.S. vs. 1 Year Ago

	Better	Worse	Same
KSA	9	62	28
Egypt	4	72	18
Morocco	1	57	40
Jordan	1	76	22
Lebanon	10	47	40

In all five countries, attitudes toward the U.S. have worsened in the last year. While this does not always show up in overall rankings, it is reflected in a hardening of negative attitudes.

3. On a scale of 1-5 where 1 is “very negatively” and 5 is “very positively,” how do each of the following shape your overall opinion of the United States.

Table 3.1: Impact on Overall Opinion of the United States

	American Freedom/Democracy		American People		American Products		American Movies TV		American Education	
	Pos.*	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.
KSA	41	31	18	34	50	24	22	43	40	28
Egypt	21	41	23	28	28	31	34	35	36	21
Morocco	23	46	28	29	36	34	27	40	39	23
Jordan	27	43	31	33	30	41	23	51	47	32
Lebanon	42	32	44	18	34	25	28	37	43	19

*Positive includes both Positive and Very Positive Responses (4&5). Negative includes both Negative and Very Negative Responses (1&2).

Table 3.2: Impact on Overall Opinion of the United States

	Palestinian Policy		Lebanon Policy		Iraq Policy		Promotion of Democracy		Challenge to Nuclear Iran	
	Pos.*	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.
KSA	4	88	4	91	2	96	7	79	13	74
Egypt	20	51	19	51	26	50	22	42	28	38
Morocco	6	93	6	92	6	93	21	80	7	70
Jordan	7	88	7	88	7	86	10	72	11	71
Lebanon	16	74	27	62	16	73	26	55	33	51

*Positive includes both Positive and Very Positive Responses (4&5). Negative includes both Negative and Very Negative Responses (1&2).

Only “American Education” receives a net favorable rating in all five countries. In Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, “American Freedom/Democracy” and “American Products” are viewed positively.

In earlier polls the “American People” were viewed positively in most Arab countries. In 2006, this is the case only in Lebanon.

All of the U.S. policies are seen as negatively impacting attitudes toward America.

Table 3.3: Impact on Overall Opinion of the United States – Lebanon Only

	Lebanon All		Shi'a		Sunni		Christian	
	Pos.*	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.
Challenge to Nuclear Iran	33	51	13	80	28	50	51	24
American Freedom/Democracy	42	32	24	43	28	44	64	15
American People	44	18	34	19	32	32	59	9
American Products	34	25	21	28	19	43	57	13
American Movies/TV	28	37	19	46	13	53	46	20
American Education	43	19	46	19	30	33	53	10
Palestine	16	74	6	90	20	70	26	57
Lebanon	22	62	7	90	31	52	45	40
Iraq	16	73	7	91	17	71	26	55
Promotion of Democracy	26	55	21	70	13	66	43	35

*Positive includes both Positive and Very Positive Responses (4&5). Negative includes both Negative and Very Negative Responses (1&2).

There is a deep divide in Lebanon on questions relating to the U.S. This is in part because the U.S. has taken a side in internal Lebanese politics and was viewed as not having acted to restrain this summer's assault by Israel. Lebanon's Shi'a community has very strong negative attitudes toward the U.S. Christians are more supportive and the Sunni Muslim community is split.

4. What two factors most contributed to your change in attitude toward the U.S.? (See Question 2)

Table 4.1: Two Greatest Factors Behind Change

	KSA		Egypt		Morocco		Jordan		Lebanon	
	B**	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	B	W
Iraq	5	80	10	60	--	72	--	63	3	31
Palestine	3	80	13	55	--	78	--	70	7	43
Lebanon	5	17	10	16	--	34	--	22	80	75
Iran	14	5	3	7	--	7	--	6	35	15
American Democracy	68	7	39	3	--	--	--	5	24	4
Products	6	3	16	20	--	--	--	4	--	--
Promote Democracy	--	--	13	6	--	--	--	8	40	10

* Rank represents overall ranking (both Better and Worse)

** Better/Worse responses represent % of those responding that their opinion of the U.S. is better/worse from the past year by issue. Numbers do not add to 100% as respondents were asked to name top TWO issues. '--' represents that totals were insignificant.

Overall American policy toward Iraq and Palestine accounts for the most negative attitudes toward the U.S. American policy toward Lebanon also accounts for some negative attitudes, most especially in Lebanon. U.S. policy toward Iran and “American Democracy” account for some positive sentiment.

5. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is “no impact” and 5 is “great impact,” to what extent have the following issues had a negative impact on the economic development of your country?

Table 5.1: Rank of Impact on Economic Development in Your Country*

	Lebanon	KSA	Jordan	Egypt	Morocco
Israel-Lebanon Conflict	1	2	3	4	4(t)
Iraq	4	1	2	1(t)	2
Nuclear Iran	5	4(t)	5	5	4(t)
Political Reform	3	4(t)	4	3	1
Arab/Israeli	2	3	1	1(t)	3

*Numbers presented represent percentage listing the issue as having either a 4 or 5.

On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is “no impact” and 5 is “great impact,” to what extent have of the following issues had a negative impact on the political stability of your country?

Table 5.2: Rank of Impact on Political Stability in Your Country*

	Lebanon	KSA	Jordan	Egypt	Morocco
Isr-Leb Conflict	1	3	3	4	4
Iraq	5	2	2	2	3
Nuclear Iran	4	5	5	5	5
Political Reform	3	4	4	3	1
Arab/Israeli	2	1	1	1	2

*Numbers presented represent percentage listing the issue as having either a 4 or 5.

The war in Iraq and the continuing Arab-Israeli conflict are viewed as having the greatest negative impact on economic development and political stability in the region. In Morocco and Lebanon responses were significantly different.

Domestic political reform issues were seen as most important in Morocco and rated fairly high in Lebanon. The war in Lebanon was, of course, rated the most significant factor affecting economic development and political stability in that country.

6. Are you better or worse off than you were 4 years ago?

Table 6.1: Better Off/Worse Off vs. 4 Years Ago

	Lebanon			KSA			Jordan			Egypt			Morocco		
	'02	'05	'06	'02	'05	'06	'02	'05	'06	'02	'05	'06	'02	'05	'06
Better	9	25	16	34	49	47	28	37	19	47	45	14	41	41	31
Worse	65	39	50	28	12	16	25	16	57	20	18	58	9	19	18
Same			33			36			22			22			48
N/S			3			1			1			6			3

Do you think you will be better or worse off 4 years from now?

Table 6.2: Better Off/Worse Off vs. 4 Years From Now

	Lebanon			KSA			Jordan			Egypt			Morocco		
	'02	'05	'06	'02	'05	'06	'02	'05	'06	'02	'05	'06	'02	'05	'06
Better	15	29	24	40	71	56	34	36	27	48	29	14	55	51	39
Worse	46	28	24	18	2	14	15	14	40	10	8	48	2	5	5
Same			14			21			14			15			22
N/S			37			9			20			24			34

Overall answers to both better off/worse off questions indicate a drop in the public's optimism and satisfaction in the last year.

III. Methodology

Results for this survey are based on face-to-face interviews conducted under the direction of Zogby International. All surveys are based on urban samples except in Lebanon where the sample was nationwide.

The tables below show the margin of sampling error based on all interviews conducted in that country. For results based on the full sample in a given country, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus the margin of error. 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. It should also be noted that the majority of field work was conducted during the month of Ramadan.

Country	Saudi Arabia (KSA)
<i>Sample Design</i>	Probability sampling in three cities and surrounding areas – Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam
<i>Mode</i>	Face-to-face, adults 18+
<i>Language</i>	Arabic
<i>Fieldwork Dates</i>	November 13-19, 2006
<i>Sample Size</i>	750
<i>Margin of Error</i>	+/- 3.7%
<i>Representative of</i>	Urban Adult Population

Country	Morocco
<i>Sample Design</i>	Probability sampling in two cities and surrounding areas – Casablanca and Rabat
<i>Mode</i>	Face-to-face, adults 18+
<i>Language</i>	Arabic
<i>Fieldwork Dates</i>	November 14-21, 2006
<i>Sample Size</i>	750
<i>Margin of Error</i>	+/- 3.7%
<i>Representative of</i>	Urban Adult Population

Country	Egypt
<i>Sample Design</i>	Probability sampling in two cities and surrounding areas – Cairo and Alexandria
<i>Mode</i>	Face-to-face, adults 18+
<i>Language</i>	Arabic
<i>Fieldwork Dates</i>	November 14-20, 2006
<i>Sample Size</i>	800
<i>Margin of Error</i>	+/- 3.5%
<i>Representative of</i>	Adult Population

Country	Lebanon
<i>Sample Design</i>	Nationwide Probability sampling
<i>Mode</i>	Face-to-face, adults 18+
<i>Language</i>	Arabic
<i>Fieldwork Dates</i>	November 11-16, 2006
<i>Sample Size</i>	600, weight was applied to religion to better represent the population
<i>Margin of Error</i>	+/- 4.1%
<i>Representative of</i>	Adult Population

Country	Jordan
<i>Sample Design</i>	Probability sampling in two cities and surrounding areas – Amman and Al Zarqa
<i>Mode</i>	Face-to-face, adults 18+
<i>Language</i>	Arabic
<i>Fieldwork Dates</i>	November 14-21, 2006
<i>Sample Size</i>	600
<i>Margin of Error</i>	+/- 4.7%
<i>Representative of</i>	Adult Population