

U.S. Attitudes Toward Egypt and the Muslim Brotherhood

July 2013 Update

Zogby Analytics conducted an online survey of 1,014 US likely voters between 7/12/13 and 7/13/13. Based on a confidence interval of 95%, the margin of error for 1,014 is +/- 3.1 percentage points.

1. What is your overall impression towards Egypt?

Response	Jul-13	Feb-13	Aug-12	2010	2000	1993
<i>Favorable</i>	26	36	33	58	62	64
<i>Unfavorable</i>	41	48	34	29	16	13

Egypt's favorable ratings continue to fall. No matter how Egyptians might view recent changes in their country, to Americans it's just more turmoil.

In the 1990's, Egypt had favorable ratings in the 60% range. However, the positive attitudes were "soft", because Americans didn't know much about Egypt beyond "pyramids", etc. With the election of the Muslim Brotherhood, ratings dropped into the 30% range. And have now dropped even further.

2. What is your overall impression towards the Muslim Brotherhood?

Response	Jul-13	Feb-13
<i>Favorable</i>	11	15
<i>Unfavorable</i>	61	53
<i>Not sure</i>	27	33

US attitudes toward the Muslim Brotherhood continue to be quite low, with negative attitudes climbing.

3. Which of the following best explains what you thought about the fact that the Muslim Brotherhood won the elections in Egypt last year?

Response	Jul-13	Feb-13	Aug-12
<i>Positive Development</i>	5	4	4
<i>Must respect results</i>	18	15	19
<i>Setback for Egypt</i>	36	38	26
<i>Made no difference</i>	14	15	12
<i>Not sure</i>	28	29	39

Attitudes toward the 2012 electoral victory of the Muslim Brotherhood also remain quite negative.

4. Morsi has admitted to making mistakes but insists that he is the legitimately elected president and that he should be returned to power. For the past week, his party, the Muslim Brotherhood, has been demonstrating across Egypt demanding Morsi's reinstatement. In your opinion, what should be the response of the US government?

Response	Jul-13
<i>Continue to support gov't</i>	7
<i>Protesters and Military</i>	16
<i>Stay out of it</i>	63
<i>Not sure</i>	14

Almost two-thirds of all Americans want the US to "stay out of" the dispute between the Muslim Brotherhood and their opponents (protesters and the military).

5. Which of the following best explains your reaction to the July 3rd action by the Egyptian military to depose of President Morsi can call for new elections?

Response	Jul-13
<i>Positive development</i>	29
<i>Setback for Egypt</i>	18
<i>No difference</i>	24
<i>Not sure</i>	29

Opinion is divided on the decision by the military to depose President Morsi. A slight plurality of 29% say it was positive but almost as many Americans say it "makes no difference", evidence of the growing antipathy to Egypt.

6. Which of the following statements do you believe is the better goal for American foreign policy?
 Statement A- We should support governments, whether they are elected or not, if they work closely with us to promote regional stability and protect our own interests. Statement B- We should only support democratically elected governments, even if those governments might pursue policies hostile to our interests.

Response	Jul-13	Feb-13
<i>Statement A</i>	51	72
<i>Statement B</i>	19	17
<i>Not sure</i>	30	11

When given the option as to whether the US should "support governments, whether elected or not, if they work with us to protect our interests" or "only support democratically elected governments, even if those governments might pursue policies hostile to our interests", a majority of Americans support the former option.