

THE WORLDPUBLICOPINION.ORG/KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS POLL

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Americans on Iraq: Three Years On

Questionnaire

Dates of Survey: 3/1/06-3/6/06
 Sample Size: 851

Margin of Error: +/- 3.4 % [full sample]
 +/- 4.0 % [3/4 sample]

Q1. How closely are you following the news about the situation in Iraq now?

	3/06	10/04
Very closely	11%	17%
Republicans.....	12	18
Democrats	10	19
Independents	10	15
Fairly closely.....	40	47
Republicans.....	45	50
Democrats	44	51
Independents	28	47
Not too closely	36	30
Republicans.....	34	29
Democrats	36	27
Independents	40	32
Not closely at all	13	6
Republicans.....	9	3
Democrats	9	4
Independents	22	6

Q2. Do you think that the situation in Iraq is getting:

	3/06	10/04
Much better	2%	4%
Somewhat better.....	10	14
A little better	24	28
A little worse.....	22	18
Somewhat worse	19	18
Much worse.....	23	18
(No Answer).....	1	1

Better.....	36	46
Republicans.....	58	77
Democrats	16	19
Independents	34	46
Worse	64	53
Republicans.....	42	22
Democrats	84	80
Independents	64	54

Q3. How confident are you that the US intervention in Iraq will succeed. Please answer on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being not at all confident and 10 being extremely confident.

	3/06	10/04	8/04
10.....	5%	8%	7%
9.....	4	4	4
8.....	8	12	9
7.....	6	10	10
6.....	6	6	6
5.....	13	16	17
4.....	9	8	9
3.....	13	11	9
2.....	12	11	10
1.....	8	4	5
0.....	16	11	13
(No answer).....	*	1	2
Confident (6-10).....	28%	40%	36%
Republicans.....	60	72	
Democrats	8	14	
Independents	17	35	
Uncertain (5)	13	16	17
Republicans.....	10	12	
Democrats	12	16	
Independents	18	17	
Not confident (4-0)	58	45	46
Republicans.....	30	16	
Democrats	79	69	
Independents	64	46	
Mean response	3.97	4.80	4.63
Median	4	5	5

* All asterisked answers are less than one percent.

Q4. Given any hardships they might have suffered since the US-Britain invasion of Iraq, do you think that most Iraqis think that ousting Saddam Hussein was worth it, was not worth it, or views are evenly balanced?

	3/06
Iraqis say worth it.....	44%
Iraqis say not worth it	22
Evenly balanced.....	33
(No answer).....	1

Q5. Over the next six months, do you think the numbers of US troops in Iraq should be:

	3/06	12/04	10/04	8/04
Increased a lot	4%	14%	9%	6%
Increased some.....	6	17	19	12
Maintained at current level	22	18	29	26
Decreased some	24	13	11	17
Decreased a lot.....	18	8	8	12
Withdrawn completely.....	26	27	19	24
(No answer).....	1	2	5	3
Increased	10%	31	28	18
Republicans.....	12		32	
Democrats	7		23	
Independents	9		34	
Maintained	22	18	29	26
Republicans.....	34		46	
Democrats	12		18	
Independents	20		26	
Decreased.....	42	21	19	29
Republicans.....	39		11	
Democrats	46		27	
Independents	40		21	
Withdrawn completely.....	26	27	19	24
Republicans.....	13		7	
Democrats	34		28	
Independents	30		19	

Q5a. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation in Iraq?

	3/06	Pew 2/06	Pew 12/05	Pew 10/05
Approve.....	36%	38%	36%	37%

Republicans.....	71			
Democrats	7			
Independents	32			
Disapprove	63	57	58	57
Republicans.....	28			
Democrats	92			
Independents	66			
(No answer).....	1	5	6	6

Q6. If the newly elected Iraqi government asks the US to establish a timeline for withdrawing its forces within the next two years, do you think the US should:

		3/06
Agree to commit to a timeline for withdrawing US forces		71%
Only reduce US forces as the security situation improves in Iraq.....	28	
(No answer).....	1	

Q7. If the new Iraqi government were to tell the US to withdraw all of its forces within six months, do you think the US:

	3/06	1/05*
Should withdraw	69%	73%
Republicans.....	55	60
Democrats	76	85
Independents	75	79
Should not withdraw until the US thinks the time is right.....	31	25
Republicans.....	44	38
Democrats	24	14
Independents	25	19
(No answer).....	*	2

Q8. Do you think the US made the right decision or the wrong decision in going to war against Iraq?

	3/06	10/04	8/04
Right decision	44%	46%	46%
Republicans.....	76	80	

* Question is different from question asked to respondents in 1/05. In 1/05 respondents were asked “As you may know Iraq is scheduled to have elections shortly. If, after the election, the new government requests that the US withdraw its forces, do you think the US...”

Democrats	14	13	
Independents	44	48	
Wrong decision	54	51	49
Republicans.....	23	17	
Democrats	84	86	
Independents	53	49	
(No answer).....	2	3	5

[IF “RIGHT DECISION”]

Q8a. Which comes closer to your view? [ORDER RANDOMIZED]:

	3/06	10/04	8/04
I support having gone to war, because I think it was the best thing for the US to do.....	33%	33%	33
I am not sure if going to war was the best thing to do, but I support Bush’s decision, because he is the president.....	11	12	13
(No answer).....*		1	0

Q9. Do you think the US government plans to have permanent military bases in Iraq or remove all its military forces once Iraq is stabilized?

	3/06	WPO Poll of Iraqis 1/06
US plans to have permanent military bases in Iraq.....	51%	80%
US plans to remove its military forces once Iraq is stabilized.....	45	18
(No answer).....	4	1

Q10. Do you think the US military presence in Iraq is currently:

	3/06	10/04
A stabilizing force.....	43%	46%
Republicans.....	75	75
Democrats	19	19
Independents	37	50
Provoking more conflict than it is preventing.....	55	51
Republicans.....	24	24

Democrats	78	77
Independents	62	49
(No answer).....	2	3

Q11a-e. Presented below is a list of how the US has been involved in Iraq in non-military ways. For each of the following, please tell me if you approve of the US being involved and think the US is doing a good job, approve but think the US is doing a poor job, or disapprove of the US being involved in Iraq in this way.

	Approve and US is Doing a good job	Approve, but US is doing a poor job	Disapprove	(Ref./DK)
a. assisting with the economic development of Iraq	39%	34	25	2
b. training Iraqi security forces	48%	32	18	1
c. helping to build Iraqi government institutions.....	42%	32	22	3
d. helping to mediate between ethnic groups.....	24%	45	28	3
e. helping Iraqis organize their communities to address local needs (such as building schools and health clinics)	44%	34	19	3

Q12. At this point do you think the majority of the Iraqi people want the US to:

	3/06
Commit to withdraw US forces according to a timeline of no more than two years	60%
Only reduce US forces as the security situation improves in Iraq	38
(No answer)	2

Q14. Please just give your impression. About how many American soldiers do you think have been killed by hostile fire in Iraq since the US went to war with Iraq in March 2003? [Give number - Offer 5 digits]

	3/06	6/05	2/05	8/04	3/04
Median	2000	1600	1200	900	500

Q15. Please just give your impression. About how many Iraqi civilians have been killed in Iraq since the beginning of the war? [Give number - Offer 5 digits]

	3/06	2/05	8/04	3/04
Median	5000	5000	2000	800

Q16a-d. If US-led forces were to withdraw from Iraq in the next six months, do you think each of the following would increase a lot, increase a little, decrease a little, decrease a lot, or have no effect either way:

	Increase a lot	Increase a little	No effect either way	Decrease a little	Decrease a lot
a. willingness of factions in Parliament to cooperate	7	24	42	14	10
b. amount of inter-ethnic violence	23	27	32	12	3
c. presence of foreign fighters in Iraq	23	23	31	13	7
d. day-to-day security for ordinary Iraqis	7	22	30	21	18

Q17. If the new Iraqi government were to tell the US to withdraw all of its forces within six months do you think the US would or would not do so?

	3/06	WPO Poll of Iraqis 1/06
Would withdraw.....	23%	23%
Would not withdraw	76	76
(No answer).....	1	2

Q18. As you may recall before the war with Iraq the UN agency that was inspecting Iraq said that there was no clear evidence that Iraq had a major program for developing weapons of mass destruction. Is it your impression that this UN agency has since been proven to be correct or incorrect about whether Iraq had a major program for developing weapons of mass destruction?

Correct.....	57%
Republicans.....	40
Democrats	73
Independents	57
Incorrect	40
Republicans.....	56
Democrats	25
Independents	41

(No answer).....3

[IF “CORRECT” IN Q18]

Q18a. Do you think the US has admitted that it made a mistake when it said that Iraq had a major program for developing weapons of mass destruction?

Has admitted 16%
 Has not admitted41
 (No answer).....*

Q18b. Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the US to admit that it made a mistake when it said that Iraq had a major program for developing weapons of mass destruction?

Good idea 44%
 Bad idea12
 (No answer).....2

[IF “INCORRECT” or “DK” in Q18]

Q18c. If it is proven that the UN agency was correct do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the US to admit that it made a mistake when it said that Iraq had a major program for developing weapons of mass destruction?

Good idea 23%
 Bad idea17
 (No answer).....2

Q19. Thinking back, for the war on terrorism, do you think the better use of US resources would have been:

	3/06	10/04	8/04
To invade Iraq and overthrow Saddam Hussein, as the US did	37%	39%	39%
Republicans	61	67	
Democrats	17	14	
Independents	31	38	
To use those same resources instead for pursuing al-Qaeda and stabilizing Afghanistan	59%	53%	52%
Republicans	36	26	
Democrats	77	79	
Independents	65	56	
(No answer)	4%	8%	10%

Q20. If, before the war, US intelligence services had concluded that Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction and was not providing substantial support to al Qaeda, do you think the US:

	3/06	10/04
Should still have gone to war with Iraq for other reasons	27%	21%
Republicans.....	43	36
Democrats	11	9
Independents	29	20
Should not have gone to war with Iraq	71	74
Republicans.....	53	60
Democrats	87	89
Independents	70	78
(No answer).....	2	4

Q21: Since the war with Iraq ended, is it your impression that the US has or has not found Iraqi weapons of mass destruction?

	3/06	3/04	11/03	9/03
US has	18%	15%	15%	24%
Republicans	27	21		
Democrats	6	8		
Independents	22	16		
US has not.....	80	83	84	73
Republicans	69	79		
Democrats	93	88		
Independents	77	81		
(No answer).....	2	3	1	3

Q22. Is it your impression that the US has or has not found clear evidence in Iraq that Saddam Hussein was working closely with the al-Qaeda terrorist organization?

	3/06	10/04	8/04
US has	42%	38%	41%
Republicans.....	62	63	
Democrats	26	14	
Independents	39	38	
US has not	55	57	54
Republicans.....	34	31	
Democrats	73	83	
Independents	58	59	

(No answer).....3 5 5

Q23. Do you think the US should or should not have permanent military bases in Iraq?

	3/06	10/04
Should	27%	30
Republicans.....	39	39
Democrats	17	22
Independents	27	33
Should not	71	67
Republicans.....	60	58
Democrats	82	77
Independents	70	66
(No answer).....	2	3

[If “Should” in Q23]

Q23a. What if the newly elected Iraqi government is opposed to the US having permanent military bases? In that case, do you think the US should or should not have such bases?

Should	12% **
Should not	15
(No answer).....	*

Q24. Is it your impression that the attacks on US forces are approved of by:

	3/06
A majority of the Iraqi people.....	12%
About half approve	40
A minority	45
(No answer).....	3

Q25. Is it your impression that the attacks on Iraqi government security forces are approved of by:

	3/06
A majority of the Iraqi people.....	5%
About half approve	36
A minority	55
(No answer).....	4

** All responses are percent of total

Q26. Is it your impression that the attacks on Iraqi civilians are approved of by:

	3/06
A majority of the Iraqi people.....	3%
About half approve	20
A minority	72
(No answer).....	5

Q27. Would you prefer to have the US or the UN take the lead in Iraq's economic reconstruction?

[If DK offer neither]

	3/06	WPO Poll of Iraqis 1/06
US	22%	21%
UN.....	77	59
Neither.....	0	18
(No answer).....	1	1

Q28. If other countries would be willing to contribute more troops if the operation in Iraq were to be put under UN command, would you then favor or oppose putting the Iraq operation under UN command?

	3/06	10/04
Favor	72%	68%
Republicans.....	60	60
Democrats	86	79
Independents	67	69
Oppose	27	26
Republicans.....	39	36
Democrats	12	16
Independents	30	26
(No answer).....	1	6

Q29. Do you think the majority of the Iraqi people favor or oppose the US having permanent military bases in Iraq?

	3/06	10/04
Favor	21%	21%
Republicans.....	38	29
Democrats	9	14
Independents	17	21

Oppose	77	76
Republicans.....	60	66
Democrats	90	83
Independents	81	78
(No answer).....	2	4

Q30. Do you think President Bush gave the country the most accurate information he had before going to war with Iraq, or do you think President Bush deliberately misled people to make the case for war with Iraq?

	3/06	8/04	NBC/WSJ 6/04
Gave the most accurate information he had.....	46%	48%	44
Republicans	83	92	
Democrats	18	21	
Independents	40	40	
Deliberately misled people to make the case for war	53	49	47
Republicans	17	7	
Democrats	81	76	
Independents	59	57	
Not sure.....	1	4	9

Q31. Would you favor having a major conference where leaders from the US, Europe, the UN, and various Arab countries would meet with leaders of the new Iraqi government to coordinate efforts to help Iraq achieve greater stability and economic growth or do you think it is best for other countries to stay out of Iraq's affairs?

	3/06	WPO Poll of Iraqis 1/06
Favor a major conference where new Iraqi government meets leaders from US, Europe, the UN, and various Arab countries.....	77%	64%
Best for other countries to stay out of Iraq's affairs	21	34
(Refused/Don't know)	2	2

Q32. At a recent Arab League conference, Iraqi leaders from all major ethnic groups signed a statement that said that terrorism should be rejected. Just based on your impressions, how much of the Iraqi public approved of their leaders doing this?

	3/06
Small minority	7%
Minority	6
About half	33
Majority.....	35
Large majority.....	14
(Refused/Don't know)	4

Q32a. Here are two views on the Iraq war. Which is closer to yours? Would you say that going to war with Iraq was:

A “war of choice,” that is, some US interests and values were at stake, but it was not necessary for the defense of the United States.....	67%
Republicans.....	46
Democrats	88
Independents	63

A “war of necessity,” that is, it was necessary for the defense of the United States	31
Republicans.....	54
Democrats	11
Independents	32

(No answer).....2

Q33. Is it your belief that, just before the war, Iraq:

	3/06	10/04	8/04
Had actual weapons of mass destruction	23%	27	35
Republicans.....	41	47	
Democrats	7	9	
Independents	22	27	
Had no weapons of mass destruction but had a major program for developing them.....	18	22	18
Republicans.....	19	23	
Democrats	16	19	
Independents	19	24	
Had some limited activities that could be used to help develop weapons of mass destruction, but not an active program	42	37	34

Republicans.....	36	26	
Democrats	50	48	
Independents	39	39	
Did not have any activities related to weapons of mass destruction.....	16	12	10
Republicans.....	4	3	
Democrats	28	22	
Independents	16	9	
(No answer).....	1	2	4

Q34. Please select what you think is the best description of the relationship between the Iraqi government under Saddam Hussein and the terrorist group al-Qaeda.

	3/06	10/04	8/04
There was no connection at all.....	12%	9%	10
Republicans.....	6	3	
Democrats	18	15	
Independents	12	10	
A few al-Qaeda individuals visited Iraq or had contact with Iraqi officials but Iraq did not provide substantial support to al-Qaeda.....	35	32	32
Republicans.....	26	22	
Democrats	45	42	
Independents	33	33	
Iraq gave substantial support to al-Qaeda, but was not involved in the September 11th attacks	35	38	35
Republicans.....	50	53	
Democrats	25	27	
Independents	31	38	
Iraq was directly involved in carrying out the September 11 th attacks	14	14	15
Republicans.....	13	18	
Democrats	10	10	
Independents	20	14	
(No answer).....	3	7	9

Q35. On the question of what Iraq had just before the war, is it your impression experts...

3/06 10/04 8/04

Mostly agree Iraq DID have weapons of mass destruction.....	24%	37%	31%
Republicans.....	39	51	
Democrats.....	10	22	
Independents.....	25	40	
 Mostly agree Iraq DID NOT have weapons of mass destruction, though it may have had some programs for developing them.....	50	38	43
Republicans.....	43	26	
Democrats.....	62	50	
Independents.....	44	41	
 Are evenly divided on the question.....	25	21	21
Republicans.....	18	18	
Democrats.....	27	25	
Independents.....	29	17	
 (No answer).....	1	4	5

Q36. On the question of the relationship between Iraq and al Qaeda is it your impression experts...

	3/06	10/04	8/04
Mostly agree Iraq WAS providing substantial support to al Qaeda.....	36%	41%	40%
Republicans.....	51	57	
Democrats.....	27	23	
Independents.....	32	44	
 Mostly agree Iraq WAS NOT providing substantial support to al Qaeda.....	31	28	29
Republicans.....	22	15	
Democrats.....	40	45	
Independents.....	30	24	
 Are evenly divided on the question.....	31	26	24
Republicans.....	26	24	
Democrats.....	32	28	
Independents.....	35	27	
 (No answer).....	2	6	7

Q37. Thinking about how all the people in the world felt about the US going to war with Iraq in 2003, do you think:

	3/06	10/04*	8/04
The majority of people favored the US going to war	21%	14%	16%
Republicans.....	34	22	
Democrats	11	6	
Independents	18	16	
 The majority of people opposed the US going to war	 49	 53	 50
Republicans.....	34	36	
Democrats	67	76	
Independents	46	52	
 Views were evenly balanced.....	 28	 31	 33
Republicans.....	30	39	
Democrats	21	21	
Independents	34	30	
 (No answer).....	 1	 2	 2

Q38. Do you think President Bush decided to go to war on the basis of assumptions about Iraq that were:

	3/06	10/04	8/04
Correct.....	25%	23%	27%
Republicans.....	44	39	
Democrats	9	9	
Independents	22	21	
 Incorrect, but the President believed they were correct.....	 39	 49	 39
Republicans.....	46	54	
Democrats	31	48	
Independents	42	51	
 Incorrect, and the President knew they were incorrect.....	 34	 24	 30
Republicans.....	9	5	
Democrats	59	41	
Independents	33	27	

* The wording for this question was altered slightly from previous fieldings. Present tense was changed to past tense throughout the question. The word “felt” was substituted for “feel” in the intro. In the response options, “favored” replaced “favor,” “opposed” replaced “oppose,” and “were” replaced “are.”

(No answer).....2 4 4

[IF ANSWER “INCORRECT” ON Q38]

Q38a. Do you think that some key people in US intelligence agencies knew these assumptions were incorrect or do you think none of the key people knew?

	3/06	10/04	8/04
Some key people knew	64%*	56	59
None of the key people knew	9*	16	9
(No answer).....	1	2	1

Q39. Which of the following comes closest to your impression of what the Bush administration is currently saying the relationship was, just before the war, between the Iraqi government under Saddam Hussein and the terrorist group al-Qaeda?

	3/06	10/04	8/04
There was no connection at all	8%	4%	3%
Republicans.....	5	2	
Democrats	9	6	
Independents	11	2	
A few al-Qaeda individuals visited Iraq or had contact with Iraqi officials, but Iraq did not give substantial support to al-Qaeda	23	15	18
Republicans.....	18	19	
Democrats	24	16	
Independents	26	14	
Iraq gave substantial support to al-Qaeda, but was not involved in the September 11 th attacks	44	52	43
Republicans.....	58	58	
Democrats	37	47	
Independents	35	55	
Iraq was directly involved in carrying out the September 11 th attacks	21	23	27
Republicans.....	14	17	
Democrats	25	27	
Independents	23	22	

* All response options are percent of total.

Q41. If, before the war, US intelligence services had told President Bush there was no reliable evidence that Iraq possessed or was building weapons of mass destruction or was providing substantial support to al Qaeda, do you think:

	3/06	10/04
He would still have gone to war with Iraq for other reasons	66%	59
Republicans.....	47	37
Democrats	87	81
Independents	64	59
He would not have gone to war with Iraq	32	37
Republicans.....	51	58
Democrats	12	17
Independents	34	38
(No answer).....	2	5

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

[FULL SAMPLE]

D1. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a:

Republican	28%
Independent.....	16
Democrat.....	29
Other	3
No preference.....	22
(No answer).....	2

D1 (From Knowledge Networks). Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a:

Republican	35%
Independent.....	28
Democrat.....	37

D2. What is your religious preference? Do you consider yourself:

Christian.....	72%
Jewish.....	1.5
Muslim	*
Buddhist	0.5
Hindu.....	1
Other religion	6
No religious preference.....	13

Agnostic	3
Atheist	2
(No answer).....	2

[IF “CHRISTIAN”]

D2a. Would you describe yourself as

Protestant.....	41%*
Catholic	20
Mormon.....	1.5
Orthodox	2
(No answer).....	7.5

[IF “CHRISTIAN”]

D2b. Would you describe yourself as a 'born-again' or evangelical?

Yes	23%*
No.....	34
No opinion	14
(No answer).....	1

D3. How would you characterize where you live? Would you characterize it as

An urban area or part of a city	33%
A suburban area or bedroom community just outside of a city	30
A small town or rural area	37

D4. Age

18-29	22%
30-44	29
45-59	27
60+	22

D5. Education level (categorical)

Less than High School	15%
High School Graduate.....	32
Some College	28
College Graduate	26

D6. Race/Ethnicity

White, Non-Hispanic	70%
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Black, Non-Hispanic.....	11
Other, Non-Hispanic.....	5
Hispanic.....	13
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic.....	1

D7. Gender

Male.....	48%
Female.....	52

D8. Region

Northeast.....	19%
Midwest.....	22
South.....	36
West.....	23

METHODOLOGY

The poll was fielded by Knowledge Networks, a polling, social science, and market research firm in Menlo Park, California, with a stratified random sample of its large-scale nationwide research panel. This panel itself has been randomly recruited from the national population of households having telephones; households without internet access are subsequently provided with free web access and an internet appliance. Thus the panel is not limited to those who already have home internet access. The distribution of the sample in the Web-enabled panel closely tracks the distribution of United States Census counts for the US population on age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, geographical region, employment status, income, education, etc. Upon survey completion, the data were weighted by gender, age, education, ethnicity, and partisan identity (Republican – 35%; Democrat – 37%; independent - 28%.)

For more information about the methodology, please go to:
www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp.