

IRAQ, TERRORISM AND THE PRESIDENT
October 5th -8th, 2006

Americans are more negative than they have ever been about the state of the Iraq war, and - despite positive assessments of the state of the economy - the war and the recent debate over pre-9/11 intelligence continue to take a toll on President Bush's ratings.

President Bush has seen approval of his handling the campaign against terrorism and his overall job approval drop. Moreover, the President seems unable to connect Iraq to that broader war on terror. Most Americans would like to see troop levels in Iraq lowered, if not withdrawn altogether.

Today just 31% think the war is going well for the U.S. - down from last month and the lowest number ever in this poll. And now, two-thirds say the war is going badly - the highest number ever.

	HOW IS THE WAR GOING?			
	Now	9/2006	2/2006	2/2005
Well	31%	38%	36%	53%
Badly	66	61	62	47

This change is driven in large part by Independents. Today 25% of Independents say the war is going well, while last month 34% said so. As was the case last month, six in ten Republicans think things are going well, and most Democrats see things going badly.

	PARTISANS' VIEWS OF HOW THE WAR IS GOING					
	Republicans		Democrats		Independents	
	<u>Now</u>	<u>9/2006</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>9/2006</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>9/2006</u>
Well	61%	62%	13%	18%	25%	34%
Badly	39	37	86	80	71	63

Assessments of President Bush's handling of the war have dropped. 30% approve of his performance on this, and 66% disapprove. After rising last month, these ratings are now back to where they were in August.

	BUSH'S HANDLING OF IRAQ				
	Now	9/2006	8/2006	5/2006	10/2004
Approve	30%	36%	30%	29%	45%
Disapprove	66	59	65	67	51

Looking back, 40% of Americans say the war was the right thing to do. That sentiment is down from last month, and the number who say the U.S. should've stayed out is up to 55%, from 51% last month.

DID U.S. DO THE RIGHT THING GOING TO WAR WITH IRAQ?

	Now	9/2006	5/2006	10/2004
Right thing	40%	44%	39%	53%
Should have stayed out	55	51	56	42

The war remains the nation's most pressing problem to Americans, volunteered by 27% today, up from 22% last month. That is more than double the number who cite terrorism (12%) or the economy and jobs (12%). Democrats and Independents call Iraq the nation's top problem; Republicans say terrorism is.

MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM

	Now	9/2006
War in Iraq	27%	22%
Terrorism (general)	12	14
Economy / jobs	12	11

Most Americans would like U.S. troops to start leaving Iraq, including 30% who want them all removed. 38% would keep the same number, or increase levels. Views were similar last spring.

U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN IRAQ SHOULD BE...?

	Now	4/2006
Increased	17%	12%
Keep same number	21	25
Decreased	26	30
Remove them all	30	27

Most Republicans would at least hold troop levels where they are. But Democrats and Independents would reduce or remove them.

Americans are not worried that a withdrawal from Iraq would boost the terror threat to the U.S. Most - 56% - say the threat would stay the same, up from 48% last month.

IF U.S. WITHDREW FROM IRAQ NOW, TERROR THREAT TO U.S. WOULD...

	Now	9/2006
Increase	34%	42%
Stay same	56	48
Decrease	8	8

This finding may be due to the fact that most Americans don't see a link between Iraq and the war on terror. President Bush appears to be making little progress at making that link, despite his claim that this is one of the most important parts of his job. There has been little change on this in the last few months, although two years ago, Americans felt differently.

IS IRAQ PART OF WAR ON TERROR?

	Now	9/2006	8/2006	7/2005	10/2004	5/2003
Yes	43%	49%	44%	46%	54%	65%
No	52	46	51	50	42	32

45% say withdrawal from Iraq would mean defeat for the U.S., while 48% say it would not. As with many other views on the war, this is colored by partisanship. Republicans see withdrawal now as defeat; Democrats and Independents would not.

WOULD WITHDRAWAL NOW MEAN DEFEAT IN IRAQ?

	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Yes	45%	60%	35%	42%
No	48	36	56	51

Most Americans think the Iraqi people want U.S. troops out: 56% think Iraqis do. Last month, 52% thought this.

Most Americans think the Iraq war has left the terror threat to the U.S. unchanged: 52% say so. That is an increase from 39% who said so in August. 34% say the war has increased the terror threat. In August, 48% said it had, a sentiment that may have been heightened in those weeks because of the uncovering of a terrorist plot against airliners in England.

THE PRESIDENT, TERRORISM AND THE WAR

Ratings for President Bush's handling of the broader campaign against terrorism - long his strongest rating - are down from last month, and perhaps affected by recent debate about pre-9/11 intelligence failures. Today fewer than half approve of how President Bush has handled the war on terror. Ratings on this hit their low point in February of this year, amid the controversy over the Dubai ports deal, rebounded in the summer, and are now down again.

BUSH'S HANDLING OF TERRORISM

	Now	9/2006	8/2006	2/2006
Approve	46%	54%	55%	43%
Disapprove	48	40	38	50

Three-quarters of Republicans still approve, but Mr. Bush has lost ground on this evaluation with Independents. Today just 44% of Independents approve of his handling of it. Last month 55% did.

Most Americans think neither the Bush nor Clinton Administrations were paying enough attention to terrorism prior to 9/11. 77% say the Bush Administration wasn't paying enough attention, and fewer, 67%, say the same about the Clinton Administration.

PAYING ENOUGH ATTENTION TO TERROR PRE-9/11?

	Yes	No
Bush Administration	16%	77
Clinton Administration	23%	67

Today, most Americans - 57% - think that George W. Bush personally had intelligence warnings prior to 9/11 about a terror attack using airplanes. That is a change from the view held four years ago, the last time the question was asked. In 2002, 41% thought Bush had such knowledge.

PRE-9/11, DID BUSH HAVE INTEL ABOUT TERROR ATTACKS?

	Now	5/2002
Yes	57%	41%
No	33	43

49% of Americans think the U.S. would be safer by simply staying out of other countries' affairs in the Middle East. Fewer, 44%, say the U.S. must confront groups and states that support terrorists, a cornerstone of the Bush Administration's approach. The number who would have the U.S. stay out is up slightly from last month. Republicans and Democrats have very different views on this. Independents are more closely divided, but favor staying out.

THE U.S. WILL BE SAFER FROM TERRORISM IF IT...

	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Confronts terror groups in the Mideast	44%	69%	27%	39%
Stays out of other countries' affairs	49	25	69	50

THE IMPACT ON THE PRESIDENT

The President's overall job approval has dropped to 34% in this poll, down from 37% last month, and six in ten now disapprove.

BUSH'S JOB APPROVAL

	Now	9/2006	8/2006	5/2006
Approve	34%	37%	36%	31%
Disapprove	60	56	57	63

Republican approval is still strong at 71%, but down a bit from 75% last month. Approval among Independents has dropped to 27% from 31% and their disapproval is up eight points.

Views on the Mark Foley scandal do not appear closely related to Mr. Bush's job approval. Republicans who think that the former Congressman's scandal is a very serious matter for the nation - and four in ten of them do - still give President Bush high job approval ratings.

But the Iraq war does appear to be tied to Mr. Bush's ratings. Independents who think the Iraq war is going badly give Mr. Bush just an 18% job approval. Republicans who think the war is going badly - about four in ten of them do - give the President a 54% overall approval rating, much lower than Republicans, overall.

Bob Woodward's new book State of Denial charges that the Bush Administration painted an unrealistic picture of events in Iraq. Most Americans believe the President is hiding some things when he describes the war, and 31% think he is lying about the situation. Only 14% say he's telling the entire truth. But most people thought the President was hiding something in 2004, too, before he was re-elected.

WHEN BUSH TALKS ABOUT HOW IRAQ IS GOING HE IS...

	Now	9/2006	9/2004
Telling entire truth	14%	12%	20%
Hiding something	52	59	51
Mostly lying	31	25	24

On foreign policy and the economy, President Bush's marks are lower this month, too, despite the fact that most Americans say the economy is in good shape today.

BUSH'S APPROVAL RATINGS

	Now	9/2006	8/2006
Terrorism	46%	54%	55%
Economy	34%	37%	35%
Foreign policy	32%	37%	34%
Iraq	30%	36%	30%

Personal ratings of George W. Bush, at 34% favorable, remain about the same as in January of this year. Views of Dick Cheney are lower than Bush's, but also unchanged. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld gets more negative ratings than positive, while Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice gets the most favorable ratings of those officials tested here.

VIEWS OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Undecided/Haven't heard
George W. Bush	34%	52	14
Dick Cheney	20%	48	32
Condoleezza Rice	44%	25	30
Donald Rumsfeld	20%	43	36

RATING THE ECONOMY

60% of Americans say the economy is good today - up from 56% last month and the highest rating for the economy since the spring of 2002. In the last week, the Stock Market has bounced back to an all-time high from its post-9/11 drop.

VIEWS OF THE ECONOMY

	Now	9/2006	8/2006	9/2004	5/2002
Good	60%	56%	52%	56%	66%
Bad	39	43	47	43	34

Belief that the economy is getting better, though, stands at 19% and is mostly unchanged from last month, when 17% said so. 49% think it is holding steady, about the same as said so last month.

46% of Americans say their income is just enough to meet their monthly bills, while fewer - 36% - say their income is more than enough to do so.

This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 983 adults, interviewed by telephone October 5-8, 2006. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. Error for subgroups may be higher.

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
Iraq, Terrorism and the President
October 5-8, 2006

q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****				Sep06a
	Total	**** Party ID ****			
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Approve	34	71	10	27	37
Disapprove	60	23	87	66	56
DK/NA	6	6	3	7	7

q2 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep06a
War in Iraq	27	15	37	27	22
Terrorism (general)	12	27	4	8	14
Economy and Jobs	12	7	13	14	11
Education	5	4	4	7	1
Illegal Immigration	4	8	2	2	4
The President/G.W. Bush	4	2	6	4	3
Health Care	3	1	6	2	3
Politicians/Government	3	2	4	3	2
Crime	2	4	3	1	1
Poverty / Homelessness	2	1	2	4	2
Foreign Policy	2	3	1	2	3
Defense / Military	2	2	2	2	3
Miscellaneous Social Issue	2	1	1	2	1
Other	15	18	11	16	24
DK/NA	5	5	4	6	6

q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy?

Approve	32	65	11	26	37
Disapprove	61	27	85	65	56
DK/NA	7	8	4	9	7

q4 How about the economy? Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

Approve	34	67	12	27	37
Disapprove	57	28	81	59	56
DK/NA	9	5	7	14	7

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	30	66	7	22	36
Disapprove	66	30	91	73	59
DK/NA	4	4	2	5	5

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

	**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****				
	**** Party ID ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	46	77	21	44	54
Disapprove	48	17	73	50	40
DK/NA	6	6	6	6	6

q7-q8 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q9 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days?
Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	7	13	3	4	5
Fairly good	53	68	40	53	51
Fairly bad	28	17	39	27	30
Very bad	11	2	16	15	13
DK/NA	1	0	2	1	1

q10 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	19	35	7	16	17
Worse	31	12	42	37	36
Same	49	52	50	46	46
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1

q11-q19 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q20 Is your opinion of George W. Bush favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about George W. Bush yet to have an opinion?

					Jul06a
Favorable	34	70	8	28	32
Not favorable	52	17	80	55	50
Undecided	11	8	8	15	15
Haven't heard enough	3	5	3	1	1
Refused	0	0	1	1	2

q21 Is your opinion of Dick Cheney favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Dick Cheney yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	20	48	4	11	20
Not favorable	48	18	71	50	44
Undecided	16	18	10	20	20
Haven't heard enough	16	16	15	18	16
Refused	0	0	0	1	0

q22 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q23 Is your opinion of Condoleezza Rice favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Condoleezza Rice yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	44	71	30	35
Not favorable	25	7	37	28
Undecided	20	13	25	23
Haven't heard enough	10	9	8	14
Refused	1	0	0	0

q24 Is your opinion of Donald Rumsfeld favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Donald Rumsfeld yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	20	43	7	15	Jan1987 4
Not favorable	43	19	61	45	3
Undecided	21	26	16	22	14
Haven't heard enough	15	12	16	18	78
Refused	1	0	0	0	0

q25-q43 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q44-q50 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q51-q61 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q61 Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the US have stayed out?

Right thing	40	71	20	35	Sep06a 44
Stayed out	55	25	78	58	51
Don't know/No answer	5	4	2	7	5

q62 How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

Very well	3	8	1	1	4
Somewhat well	28	53	12	24	34
Somewhat badly	30	30	25	36	28
Very badly	36	9	61	35	33
Don't know/No answer	3	0	1	4	1

q63 Do you think of the war with Iraq as part of the war on terrorism, or do you think of it as separate from the war on terrorism? IF YES, ASK: Is it a major part of the war on terrorism, or a minor part of the war on terrorism?

Major part	31	57	17	24	36
Minor part	12	16	11	10	13
Not part	52	24	68	61	46
DK/NA	5	3	4	5	5

q64 From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Iraq, what should the United States do now--should the U.S. increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, keep the same number of U.S. troops in Iraq as there are now, decrease the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, or remove all its troops from Iraq?

	**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****				Apr06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Increase	17	30	11	13	12
Keep the same number	21	32	15	17	25
Decrease	26	20	29	27	30
Remove all troops	30	11	42	34	27
Don't know/No answer	6	7	3	9	6

q65 If the U.S. withdrew its troops from Iraq now, then do you think the U.S. will have lost the war in Iraq, or not?

					Sep06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Yes, will have lost	45	60	35	42	42
No, will not have lost	48	36	56	51	52
DK/NA	7	4	9	7	6

q66 If the U.S. withdrew its troops from Iraq now, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Increase	34	58	22	27	42
Decrease	8	2	13	9	8
Stayed about the same	56	38	65	62	48
DK/NA	2	2	0	2	2

q67 Based on what you have heard or read, do you think most Iraqis would prefer that U.S. troops leave Iraq, or would most Iraqis prefer that U.S. troops stay in Iraq?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Prefer U.S. troops leave	56	32	76	56	52
Prefer U.S. troops stay	33	56	18	29	38
DK/NA	11	12	6	15	10

q68 As a result of the United States' military action against Iraq, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

					Aug06b
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Increased	34	18	43	38	48
Decreased	12	26	4	8	12
Stayed about the same	52	55	51	50	39
Don't know/No answer	2	1	2	4	1

q69 Which comes closer to your view: In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it confronts the countries and groups that promote terrorism in the Middle East; OR In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it stays out of other countries' affairs in the Middle East?

					Sep06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Confronts countries	44	69	27	39	47
Stays out of affairs	49	25	69	50	45
DK/NA	7	6	4	11	8

q70 When he talks about how things are going for the U.S. in Iraq today, do you think George W. Bush is telling the entire truth, is mostly telling the truth but is hiding something, or is mostly lying?

	**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****				Sep06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Telling the entire truth	14	33	3	9	12
Mostly telling the truth	52	57	46	55	59
Mostly lying	31	8	49	31	25
Depends (vol.)	1	1	0	1	0
DK/NA	2	1	2	4	4

71-q77 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q78 Do you think that George W. Bush personally knew before September 11th, 2001 about intelligence reports that warned of possible terrorist attacks against the United States using airplanes, or not?

					May02b
Personally knew	57	39	68	60	41
Did not know	33	48	23	29	43
DK/NA	10	13	9	11	16

q79 Was the Bush Administration paying enough or not enough attention to terrorism prior to September 11th, 2001?

					Apr04d
Enough	16	35	6	11	18
Not enough	77	57	90	80	75
DK/NA	7	8	4	9	7

q80 Was the Clinton Administration paying enough or not enough attention to terrorism prior to September 11th, 2001?

Enough	23	14	35	20	18
Not enough	67	78	59	66	73
DK/NA	10	8	6	14	9

q81 When it comes to what they knew prior to September 11th, 2001 about possible terrorist attacks against the United States, do you think members of the Bush Administration are telling the truth, are mostly telling the truth but hiding something, or are they mostly lying?

Telling the truth	16	35	5	12	24
Hiding Something	53	55	47	57	56
Mostly lying	28	8	44	28	16
DK/NA	3	2	4	3	4

q82-q83 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q84 Think about your household income, would say that it is more than enough so that you can save and buy some extras, just enough to meet your bills and obligations, or it is not enough to meet your bills and obligations?

**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep06a
	%	%	%	%	%
More than enough	36	48	29	33	34
Just enough	46	38	51	47	51
Not enough	17	12	19	19	15
DK/NA	1	2	1	1	0

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	983	
Total Republicans	298	293
Total Democrats	335	340
Total Independents	350	350