



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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THE WAR IN IRAQ AND PRESIDENT BUSH

March 7-11, 2007

Americans continue to be very pessimistic about the war in Iraq. Fewer say the U.S. is likely to succeed in Iraq than ever before, including a growing number of Republicans. Most think the administration isn't doing enough for injured troops. But half would support the U.S. enlisting the help of Iran and Syria in its efforts to stabilize Iraq.

But even with continued concern about Iraq, this poll provides some better news for President George W. Bush. His overall job approval rating, though still low, has risen to 34%, and approval ratings for his handling of specific issues have also increased - in large part due to improvements in Republicans' evaluations of him.

U.S. TROOPS AND THE WAR IN IRAQ

After a week of Congressional hearings investigating reports of shoddy treatment of veterans at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, most Americans are critical of the Bush Administration's efforts for the wounded soldiers returning from the Iraq War. Three out of four Americans do not think the Bush Administration has done enough to care for these veterans. A majority of Republicans agree with Americans overall on this issue.

HAS BUSH ADMINISTRATION DONE ENOUGH FOR IRAQ WAR VETS?

Yes	17%
No	76

Most Americans are also leery of putting more American troops in harm's way by sending additional troops to Iraq. 59% of Americans oppose President Bush's recent decision to send more than 20,000 additional troops to Iraq. 36% now favor that decision, a slight increase from last month, and a rise of 7 points since January.

SENDING OVER 20,000 MORE TROOPS TO IRAQ

	Now	2/2007	1/2007
Favor	36%	33%	29%
Oppose	59	63	66

Instead, most Americans - 56% - favor decreasing or removing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq. 17% of Americans think current U.S. troop levels in Iraq should be maintained, while 22% think more troops should be added.

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

Increase	22%
Keep the same number	17
Decrease	28
Remove all troops	28

But even those who want to remove all U.S. troops from Iraq don't want to remove them all at once.

Most Americans still believe a timetable for troop withdrawal is appropriate, although President Bush has threatened to veto any spending bill that calls for a deadline. 52% of Americans think the U.S. should set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops, but that is down from 59% in January. Democrats and Independents support the idea of a timetable for the removal of U.S. troops from Iraq, while Republicans oppose the idea.

Three in four Americans - 73% - believe that one can oppose the war in Iraq and still support U.S. troops. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents agree.

ASSESSING THE WAR

As the Iraq War enters its fifth year, optimism about the prospects for a successful resolution is now at its lowest level so far. Only one in 10 Americans believe the U.S. is very likely to succeed in Iraq. 34% of Americans think success is somewhat likely, but over half - 53% - believe the prospect for success in Iraq is not very or not at all likely.

WILL THE U.S. SUCCEED IN IRAQ?

	Now	2/2007	3/2006
Very likely	11%	13%	15%
Somewhat likely	34	37	36
Not very/at all likely	53	47	47

There has been a drop even among Republicans when it comes to optimism about the war's outcome. Now just 19% of Republicans think success in Iraq is very likely - down 10 points from last month. A majority of Republicans believe success in Iraq is at least somewhat likely. Democrats and Independents disagree.

Just 29% of Americans think the war is going even somewhat well for the U.S. now, though this is up slightly from last month's assessment.

Rather than engage in a military conflict with Iran over Iraq, Americans seem more inclined to look to Iran for help in providing stability to Iraq. A slight majority of Americans - 51% - believes the United States should request the support of Iraq's neighbors in the Middle East - such as Iran and Syria - even if the governments in

those countries have been unfriendly or hostile to the U.S. in the past.

SHOULD THE U.S. REQUEST THE SUPPORT OF IRAN AND SYRIA?

	Now	2/2007	12/2006
Yes	51%	46%	51%
No	40	46	40

Looking back, most Americans think the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq in the first place. Just 39% of Americans think the U.S. did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, while 56% believe the U.S. should have stayed out. Those numbers have been generally consistent for the past year.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

The President's job approval rating has risen to 34% in this poll, its highest level since November 2006.

BUSH'S JOB APPROVAL RATING

	Now	2/2007
Approve	34%	29%
Disapprove	58	61

The increase is due almost entirely to an uptick in approval among Republicans; 75% now approve, up from 65% last month.

BUSH'S JOB APPROVAL RATING

(By Party)

	Now	2/2007
Total	34%	29%
Republicans	75%	65%
Democrats	8%	6%
Independents	28%	27%

The President's approval ratings on handling specific issues have also risen, again due mostly to gains among Republicans. 45% now approve of his handling of terrorism, his highest rating since last October. 32% approve of his handling of foreign policy, and 28% approve of how he is dealing with Iraq; these ratings are also the highest he has received in months. 38% approve of how the President is handling the economy.

BUSH JOB APPROVALS

	Now	2/2007	1/2007
Terrorism	45%	40%	42%
Economy	38%	35%	37%
Foreign policy	32%	25%	26%
Iraq	28%	23%	24%

Compared to last month, the President's marks have improved among Republicans on all of these specific issues.

However, there is significant dissatisfaction nationally with how the President has handled the budget deficit, and mixed views of how he has handled taxes and abortion.

SATISFACTION WITH BUSH'S HANDLING OF ISSUES

	Satisfied	Not satisfied
Taxes	42%	49
Federal budget deficit	29%	60
Abortion	37%	41

44% think his judicial appointments have been about right. 24% say his appointments have been more conservative than they would like, and 17% say they have not been conservative enough.

Although his job approval ratings have risen, many Americans possess negative views of the President's personal qualities. 30% of Americans have a favorable view of the President, but far more, 55%, have an unfavorable opinion of him. Many see him as out of touch. Just 29% think he has the same priorities for the country as they do, while more than twice as many, 66%, think he does not.

Americans are divided as to whether Bush is a strong leader: 43% think he is, while 54% think he is not. This had been a strong suit for this president until Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in September 2005. It reached a high of 83% in the aftermath of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

IS PRESIDENT BUSH A STRONG LEADER?

	Now	9/2005	9/2003	9/2001
Yes	43%	48%	63%	83%
No	54	49	35	14

THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE WAR

More than four in 10 Americans believe that the Bush Administration is focusing too much on Iraq and not enough on Afghanistan. Almost as many say the balance is about right, and 3% believe the Administration is focusing too much on Afghanistan and not enough on Iraq.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION HAS FOCUSED TOO MUCH ON...

Iraq	44%
Afghanistan	3
Balance about right	41

In spite of recently released evidence of Iranians fighting against the U.S. in Iraq, Americans remain wary of engaging in a military confrontation with Iran. One in 10 Americans views Iran as a threat that requires military action now, down 11 points from last month.

Most say that the threat from Iran can be contained through diplomacy, and 18% say Iran is not a threat to the U.S. now.

IRAN IS...

	Now	2/2007
A threat requiring military action now	10%	21%
A threat that can be contained now	65	57
Not a threat to the U.S. now	18	14

Some Americans are skeptical about the Bush Administration's claims regarding the threat posed by Iran. Only 14% of Americans believe the Administration is telling the entire truth when discussing Iran's involvement with Iraq. A majority - 56% - thinks the Administration is mostly telling the truth but hiding something, and one in four Americans thinks the Administration is mostly lying.

Americans are also more reluctant than ever before to say that the United States should try to change a dictatorship to a democracy when it can. Now only 15% of Americans believe the United States should try to get involved with dictatorships abroad in this way, the lowest number recorded since CBS News started asking this question in 1986. Support for this type of U.S. action has always been well below 50%, but it reached as high as 29% in April 2003 - right after the initial invasion of Iraq - and back in 1989 - during the collapse of many Communist dictatorships in Eastern Europe and the Tiananmen Square protests in China.

SHOULD U.S. TRY TO CHANGE DICTATORSHIPS TO DEMOCRACIES?

	Now	12/2006	2/2005	4/2003	5/1989
Yes	15%	18%	27%	29%	29%
No	68	66	59	48	60

THE VICE PRESIDENT

By a wide margin, views of Vice President Dick Cheney are much more negative than positive. 48% have an unfavorable view of him, and 18% are favorable. Views of the Vice President have remained mostly negative since late 2005.

VIEWS OF VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY

	Now	2/2007	10/2005	1/2004
Favorable	18%	21%	19%	20%
Unfavorable	48	43	44	24

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1362 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone March 7-11, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. An oversample of Republicans was also conducted for this poll, for a total of 698 interviews among this group. The results were then weighted in proportion to the average party distributions in previous 2007 CBS News and CBS News/New York Times Polls. The margin of error for Republicans is plus or minus four percentage points.

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

	**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****				
	**** Party ID ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb07b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	34	75	8	28	29
Disapprove	58	17	88	60	61
DK/NA	8	8	4	12	10

q2 Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	25	58	7	19	23
Wrong track	69	36	91	72	68
DK/NA	6	6	2	9	9

q3 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

					Feb07a
War in Iraq	29	26	40	22	31
Economy & Jobs	8	8	10	8	9
Health Care	8	5	10	8	8
Immigration	5	9	2	6	4
Education	5	5	6	3	3
Terrorism (general)	4	7	1	4	4
Foreign Policy	3	1	3	4	2
The President/George W. Bush	3	1	3	4	3
Poverty / Homelessness	2	2	2	1	3
Defense / Military	2	3	2	2	2
Foreign aid/Attn. to Domestic	2	0	2	2	2
Politicians/Government	2	2	1	4	3
Religious Values	2	3	1	3	2
Moral Values/Family Values	2	5	1	2	3
Gas/Heating Oil Crisis	2	3	1	1	1
Other	15	16	13	16	15
DK/NA	6	4	2	10	5

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy?

					Feb07b
Approve	32	70	10	26	25
Disapprove	60	25	83	64	66
DK/NA	8	5	7	10	9

q5 How about the economy? Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

Approve	38	78	13	34	35
Disapprove	53	18	80	52	56
DK/NA	9	4	7	14	9

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb07b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	28	61	6	24	23
Disapprove	66	32	91	68	71
DK/NA	6	7	3	8	6

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	45	82	24	38	40
Disapprove	48	16	67	52	53
DK/NA	7	2	9	10	7

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Approve	31	32	34	29	33
Disapprove	53	60	47	53	50
DK/NA	16	8	19	18	17

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	8	19	2	5	7
Fairly good	47	62	39	46	55
Fairly bad	33	13	42	38	25
Very bad	11	6	17	9	10
DK/NA	1	0	0	2	3

q18 Should the United States try to change a dictatorship to a democracy where it can, OR should the United States stay out of other countries' affairs?

					Dec06a
Change	15	33	7	10	18%
Stay out	68	48	78	74	66
Depends (vol.)	11	14	9	11	11
DK/NA	6	5	6	5	5

q21 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?

					Feb07a
Favorable	30	72	7	23	32
Not favorable	55	13	84	57	50
Undecided	13	15	8	15	15
Haven't heard enough	2	1	1	3	2
Refused	0	0	1	2	1

q22 Is your opinion of Dick Cheney favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Dick Cheney yet to have an opinion?

**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****

	**** Party ID ****				Feb07a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	18	47	6	10	21
Not favorable	48	16	69	51	43
Undecided	19	22	11	23	20
Haven't heard enough	14	14	13	15	16
Refused	1	1	1	1	0

q27 Which comes closest to your feelings about the Bush administration -- enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

Enthusiastic	4	11	1	2
Satisfied, not enthusiastic	30	63	10	26
Dissatisfied but not angry	36	21	41	43
Angry	28	5	46	27
DK/NA	2	0	2	2

q28 Do you think George W. Bush has strong qualities of leadership, or not?

					Jan07c
Has	43	82	16	40	42
Does not have	54	17	82	56	55
DK/NA	3	1	2	4	3

q29 Do you think George W. Bush has more honesty and integrity than most people in public life? IF NO, ASK: Do you think George W. Bush has less honesty and integrity than most people in public life or about the same honesty and integrity as most people in public life?

					May06a
Yes, has more	40	78	18	34	38%
Less	27	5	42	28	27
Same	26	14	33	29	28
Don't know/No answer	7	3	7	9	7

q30 Do you think George W. Bush has the same priorities for the country as you have, or not?

					Jan07c
Has	29	69	7	22	28
Does not have	66	25	89	73	69
DK/NA	5	6	4	5	3

q31 Are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with how George W. Bush is handling the federal budget deficit?

Very satisfied	7	20	1	4
Somewhat satisfied	22	42	9	20
Somewhat dissatisfied	26	20	31	25
Very dissatisfied	34	8	50	38
DK/NA	11	10	9	13

q32 Are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with how George W. Bush is handling taxes?

**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very satisfied	16	41	5	10
Somewhat satisfied	26	36	11	33
Somewhat dissatisfied	21	12	29	21
Very dissatisfied	28	7	48	24
DK/NA	9	4	7	12

q33 Are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with how George W. Bush is handling the issue of abortion?

Very satisfied	16	38	5	11
Somewhat satisfied	21	31	16	18
Somewhat dissatisfied	19	9	28	18
Very dissatisfied	22	7	38	19
DK/NA	22	15	13	34

q34 Do you think George W. Bush's nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court have been more conservative than you would like, not conservative enough, or about right?

					Dec05a
					%
More conservative	24	4	40	24	25
Not conservative enough	17	12	23	15	15
About right	44	74	23	42	50
DK/NA	15	10	14	19	10

q76 In order to help provide stability in Iraq, do you think the U.S. should request the support of neighboring countries in the Middle East, such as Iran and Syria, even if the governments in those countries have been unfriendly or hostile to the U.S. in the past?

					Feb07a
Yes	51	45	51	55	46
No	40	49	41	34	46
DK/NA	9	6	8	11	8

q77 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?

					Feb07b
Right thing	39	71	16	39	38
Stayed out	56	26	78	56	55
Don't know/No answer	5	3	6	5	7

q78 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?

**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb07b
	%	%	%	%	%
Very well	4	7	2	3	3
Somewhat well	25	52	11	20	20
Somewhat badly	30	30	30	31	31
Very badly	39	10	57	42	43
Don't know/No answer	2	1	0	4	3

q79 Regardless of whether you think taking military action in Iraq was the right thing to do - would you say that the U.S. is very likely to succeed in Iraq, somewhat likely to succeed, not very likely to succeed, or not at all likely to succeed in Iraq?

					Feb07a
Very likely	11	19	6	9	13
Somewhat likely	34	56	24	29	37
Not very likely	34	17	43	37	26
Not at all likely	19	5	26	21	21
DK/NA	2	3	1	4	3

q80 Has the Bush administration done all that it could reasonably be expected to do to care for the needs and problems facing returning military personnel from the Iraq War, or not?

Doing all it could	17	33	8	13
Not	76	57	87	78
DK/NA	7	10	5	9

q81 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?

Increase	22	43	8	19	26
Keep the same number	17	27	12	15	17
Decrease	28	16	38	27	23
Remove all troops	28	7	38	33	28
DK/NA	5	7	4	6	6

q82 Should the U.S. remove troops gradually or all at once?

AMONG THOSE WHO WANT TO REMOVE ALL TROOPS FROM IRAQ

Gradually	52
All at once	46
DK/NA	2

q83 Do you think the United States should or should not set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq?

					Jan07a
Should	52	36	60	55	59
Should not	43	61	34	38	38
DK/NA	5	3	6	7	3

q84 Do you think it is possible to oppose the war in Iraq and still support U.S. troops, or not?

**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****

	**** Party ID ****				Jan07c
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	73	60	78	77	78
No	22	38	14	19	18
DK/NA	5	2	8	4	4

q85 Last January, George W. Bush sent another 20,000 troops into Iraq to try and gain control of Baghdad. Do you favor or oppose this increase?

					Feb07a*
Favor	36	71	16	31	33
Oppose	59	25	81	62	63
DK/NA	5	4	3	7	4

*Varied wording: Do you favor or oppose sending more than 20,000 additional U.S. troops to Iraq in order to try and gain control of Baghdad and other areas?

q86 Thinking now about IRAN. Which comes closer to your opinion? 1. Iran is a threat to the United States that requires military action now, OR 2. Iran is a threat that can be contained with diplomacy now, OR 3. Iran is not a threat to the United States at this time.

					Feb07b
Threat requiring action now	10	18	7	8	15
Threat that can be contained	65	69	63	65	57
Not a threat at this time	18	5	24	20	20
DK/NA	7	7	6	7	8

q87 As you may know, members of the Bush administration have accused IRAN of supporting Iraqi insurgents by supplying them with weapons to use against American forces. When members of the Bush administration talk about Iran's involvement in Iraq, do you think they are telling the entire truth, mostly telling the truth but hiding something, OR are they mostly lying?

Telling entire truth	14	34	3	11
Mostly telling truth	56	53	59	55
Mostly lying	24	8	33	26
DK/NA	6	5	5	8

q88 Over the last couple of years, do you think the Bush administration has focused too much on the war in Iraq and not enough on Afghanistan, or focused too much on Afghanistan and not enough on the war in Iraq, or has the balance been about right?

Too much on Iraq	44	31	53	46
Too much on Afghanistan	3	2	5	3
Balance about right	41	60	30	37
DK/NA	12	7	12	14

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1362	
Total Republicans	698	362
Total Democrats	294	472
Total Independents	370	528