

2008 Annual Arab Public Opinion Poll

Survey of the Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and
Development at the University of Maryland

(with Zogby International)

Professor Shibley Telhami, Principal Investigator

Survey conducted March 2008 in Egypt, Jordan,
Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the
UAE

Sample Size: 4,046

MOE +/- 1.6%

Special thanks to Carnegie Corporation of New York for their support

Some Key Findings

- ***Iraq:*** Only 6% of Arabs polled believe that the American surge has worked. A plurality (35%) do not believe reports that violence has in fact declined. Over 61% believe that if the US were to withdraw from Iraq, Iraqis will find a way to bridge their differences, and only 15% believe the civil war would expand. 81% of Arabs polled (outside Iraq) believe that the Iraqis are worse off than they were before the Iraq war.
- ***Iran:*** In contrast with the fears of many Arab governments, the Arab public does not appear to see Iran as a major threat. Most believe that Iran has the right to its nuclear program and do not support international pressure to force it to curtail its program. A plurality of Arabs (44%) believes that if Iran were to acquire nuclear weapons, the outcome would be more positive for the region than negative.
- ***The Arab Israeli conflict:*** There is an increase in the expressed importance of the Palestinian issue, with 86% of the public identifying it as being at least among the top three issues to them. A majority of Arabs continues to support the two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, but an increasing majority is pessimistic about its prospects. If the prospects of a two state solution collapse, 50% believe it would lead to a state of intense conflict for years to come, while only 9% believe it would lead to a one-state solution, and only 7% believe that the Palestinians would eventually surrender.
- ***Palestinian Divisions:*** In the conflict between Hamas and Fatah, only 8% sympathize with Fatah most, while 18% sympathize with Hamas, and 38% sympathize with both to some extent. In so far as they see Palestinians as somewhat responsible for the state of affairs in Gaza, 15% blame Hamas's government most, 23% blame the government appointed by President Mahmoud Abbas, and 39% blame both equally.
- ***The Lebanese Crisis:*** Only 9% express sympathy with the majority governing coalition in the current internal crisis in Lebanon, while 30% sympathize with the opposition led by Hizbollah, 24% sympathize with neither side, and 19% sympathize with both to some extent.

Key Findings (continued)

- **Popular Leaders:** Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, increased his popularity as the most admired leader in the Arab world (26%) There was also an increase in the popularity of President Bashar Assad of Syria. Also striking, however, was the emerging popularity of modernizing Sunni Arab leaders, particularly Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al Maktoum of Dubai, when respondents identify the *two* leaders they admire most.
- **Attitudes toward the US:** 83% of the public has an unfavorable view of the US and 70% express no confidence in the US. Still, Arabs continue to rank the US among the top countries with freedom and democracy for their own people. 32% believe that, from the point of view of advancing peace in the Middle East, American policy will remain the same, no matter who wins the US elections. 18% believe that Barack Obama has the best chance of advancing peace, 13% believe Hillary Clinton has the best chance, while 4% identify John McCain as having the best chance for advancing peace.
- **Global Outlook:** France continues to be the most popular country, China continues to make a good showing, and views of Pakistan have declined.
- **Media:** Al-Jazeera continues to command the largest share of the Arabic news market, with 53% of Arabs polled identifying it as their first choice for news, with practically no change from last year. Egyptian Television and Al-Arabiya have made some gains over last year. To a plurality of respondents, the quality OF both Al-Arabiya and Al-Jazeera has improved over previous years, with only a small minority perceiving a decline.

Sampling Methodology

Country	Cities	Sample Size
Egypt	Greater Cairo {Giza, Cairo, Qalyobia}, Alexandria	800
KSA	Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam	750
UAE	Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah	500
Morocco	Casablanca, Rabat	750
Lebanon	Beirut – East & West, Baabda, Tripoli	600
Jordan	Amman, Zarqa	600

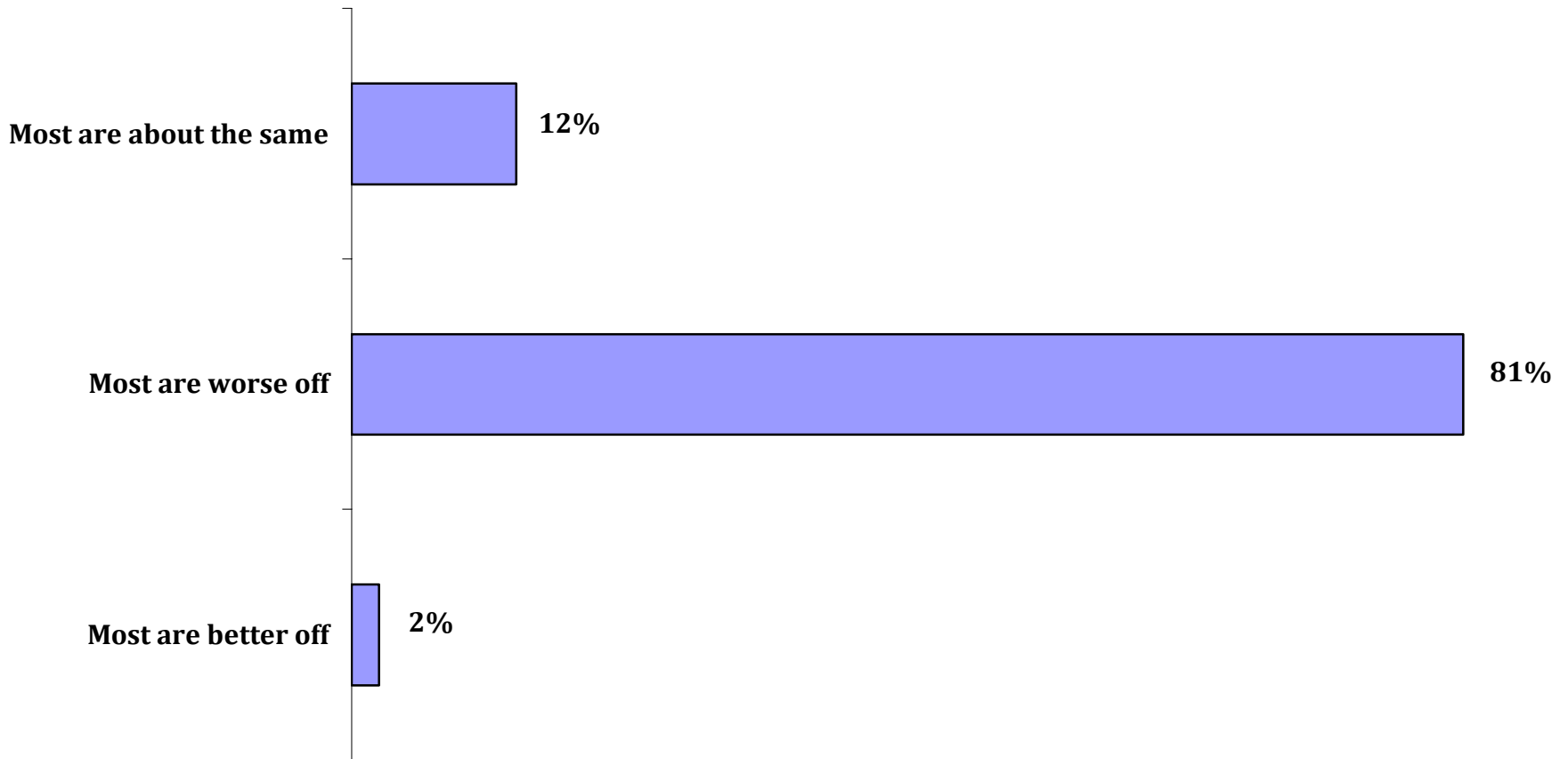
Probability-based sampling methods were used in countries where door-to-door random sampling is possible. Thus in Morocco, Egypt, Jordan & Lebanon, multi-stage stratified probability sampling was used to ensure a random, representative sample. In Saudi Arabia and the UAE, where door-to-door sampling is not possible, a referral sampling approach was used. However, adequate measures were taken to ensure that the sample is not skewed and is broadly representative.

War in Iraq

2008 Arab Public Opinion Poll

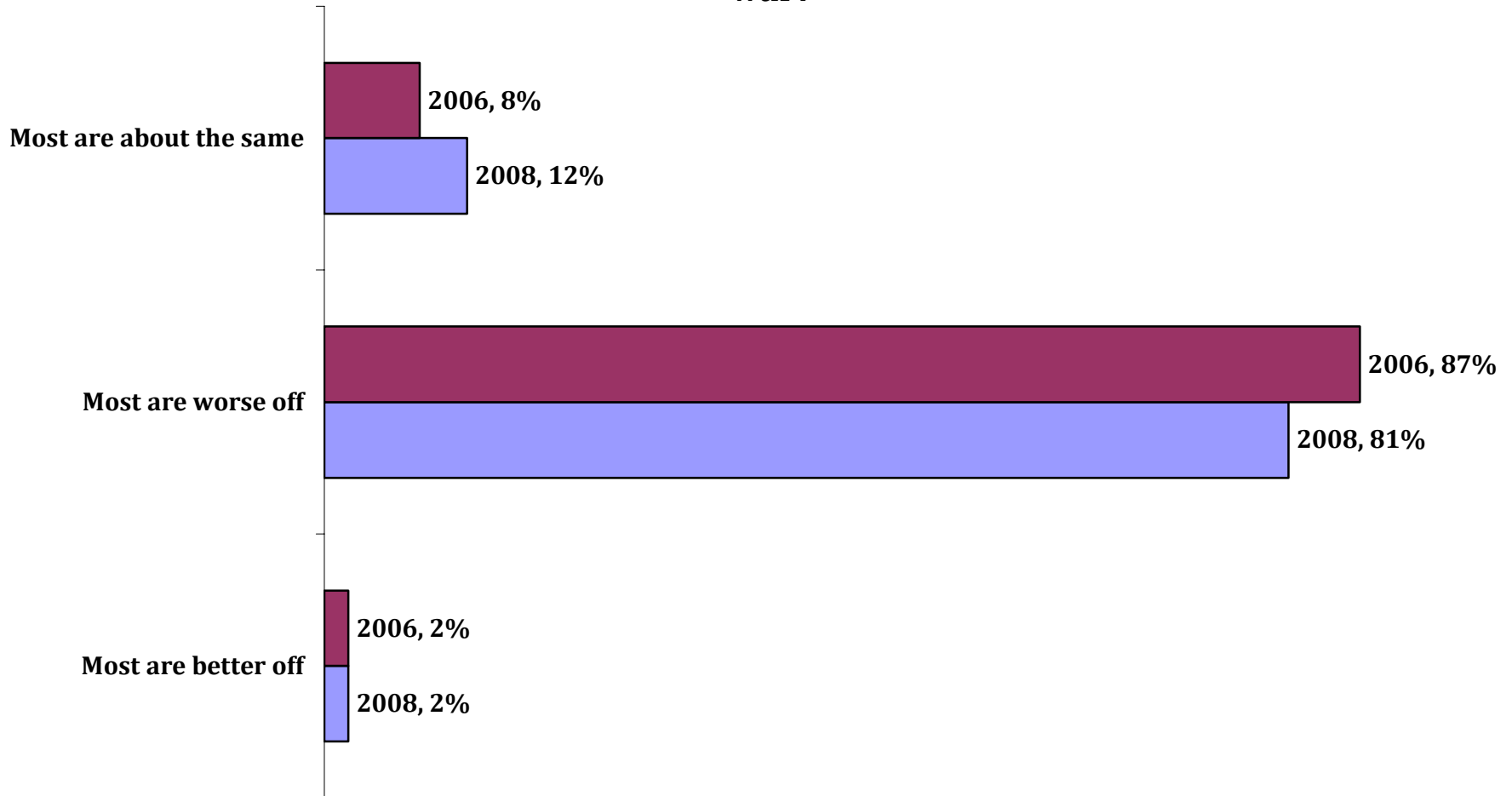
**2008 War in Iraq
6-Country Total**

Do you feel most of the Iraqi people are now better off or worse off after the war, or do you feel things for them are about the same as before the war?



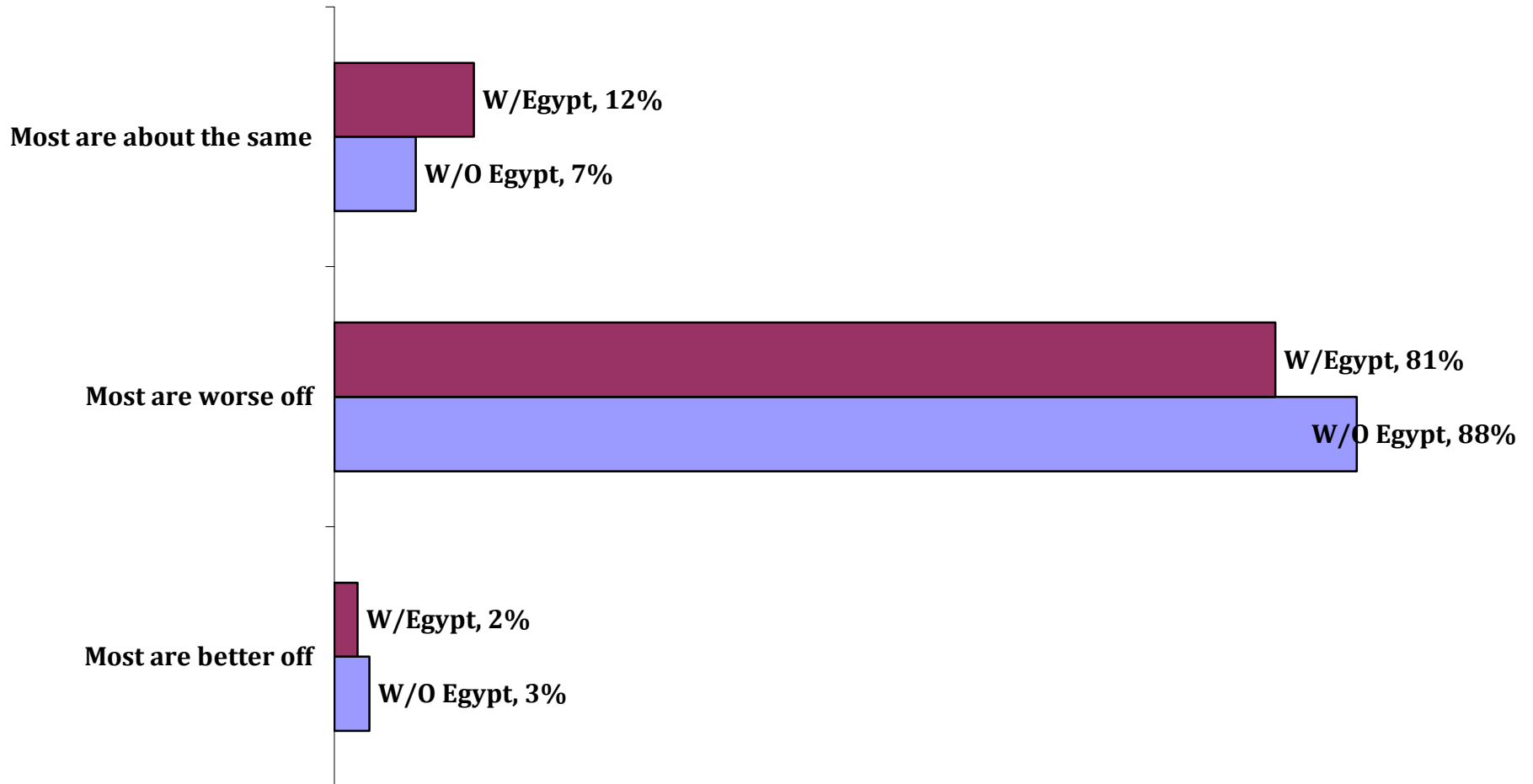
2008 War in Iraq 6-Country Total

Do you feel most of the Iraqi people are now better off or worse off after the war, or do you feel things for them are about the same as before the war?



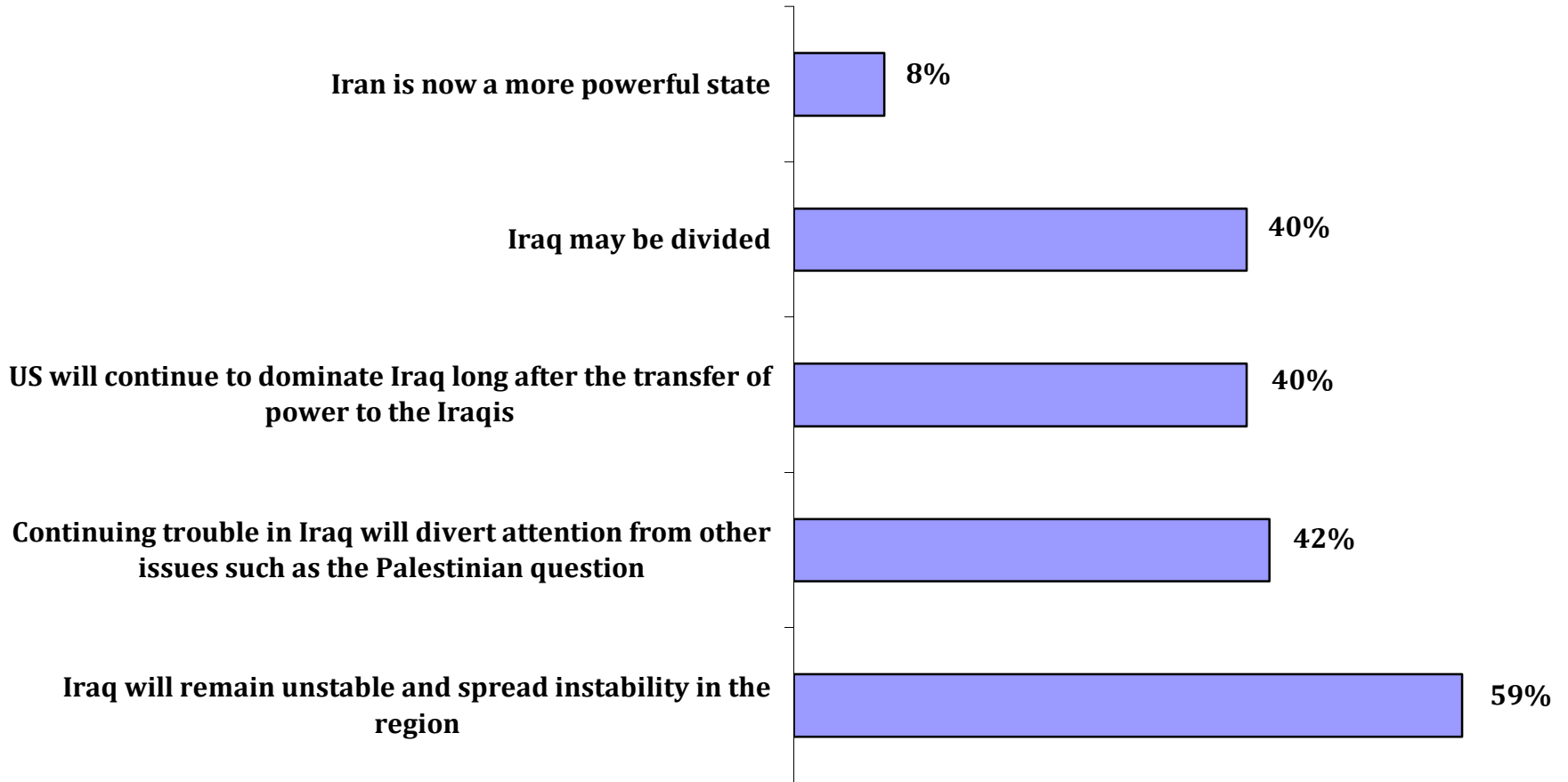
**2008 War in Iraq
6-Country Total**

Do you feel most of the Iraqi people are now better off or worse off after the war, or do you feel things for them are about the same as before the war?



**2008 Iraq War
6-Country Total**

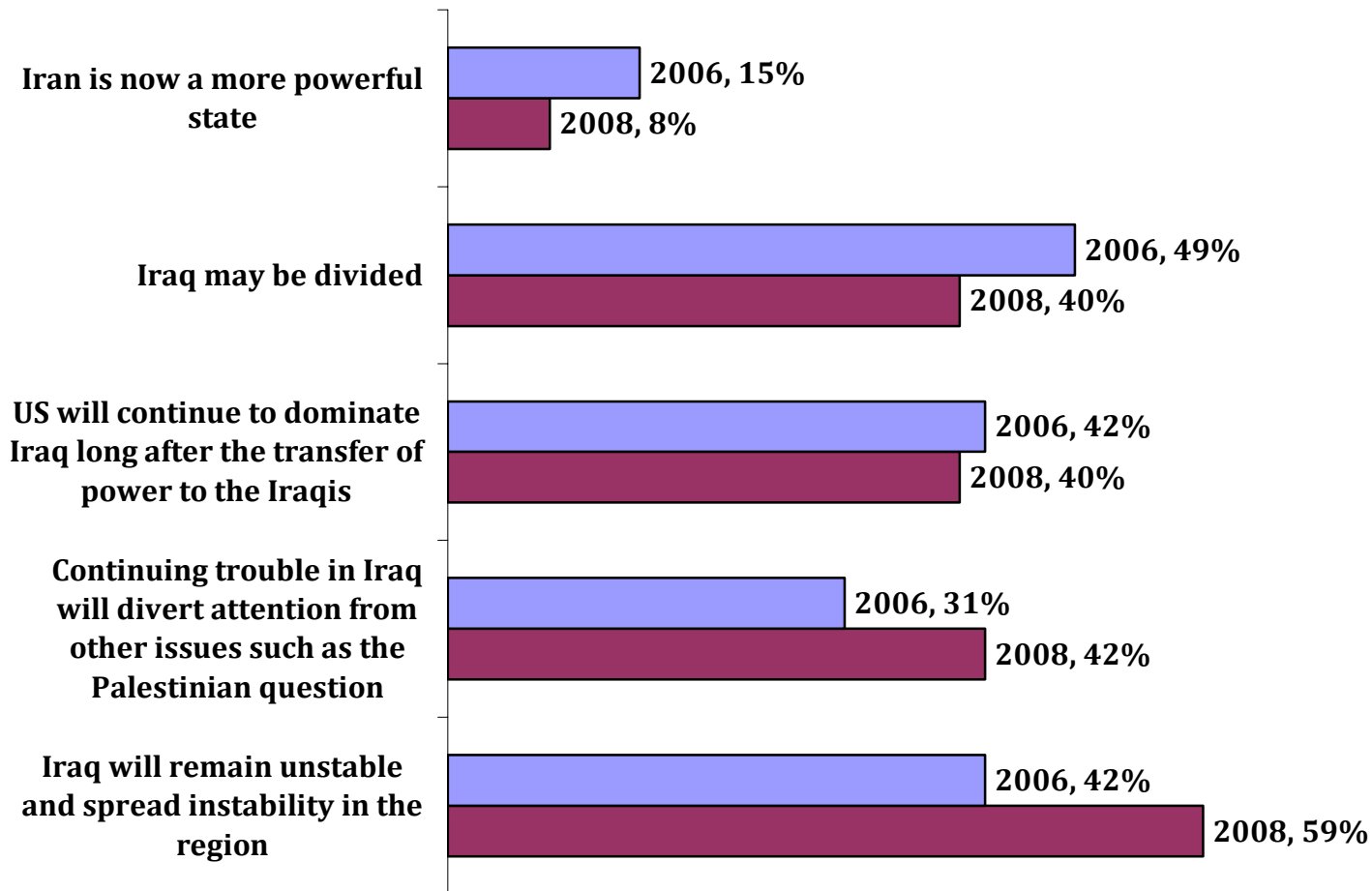
Which of the following is your biggest concern about the consequences of the war in Iraq? (Choose two)



Iraq War, 2006-2008

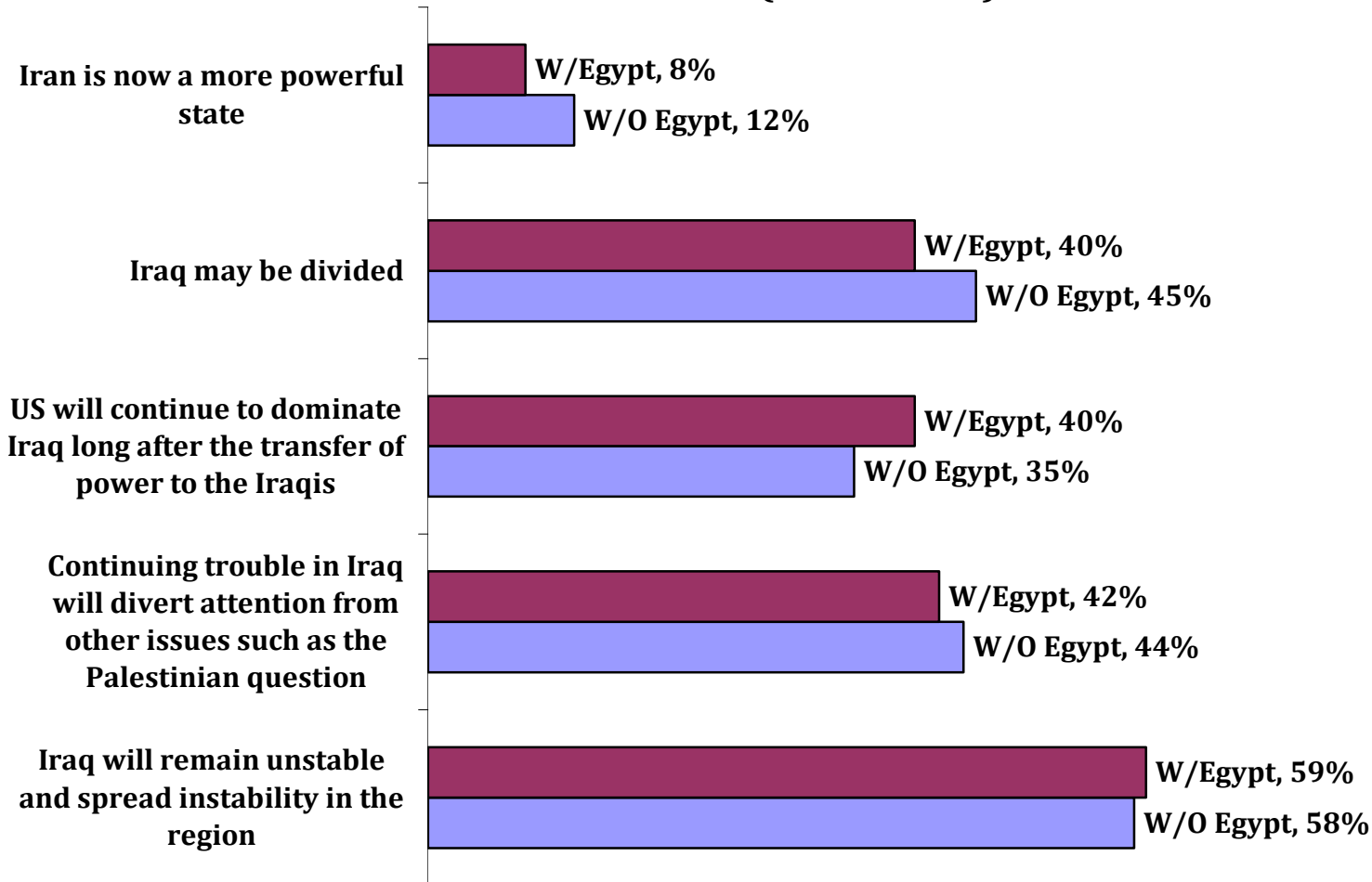
6-Country Total

Which of the following is your biggest concern about the consequences of the war in Iraq? (Choose two)



**2008 War in Iraq
6-Country Total**

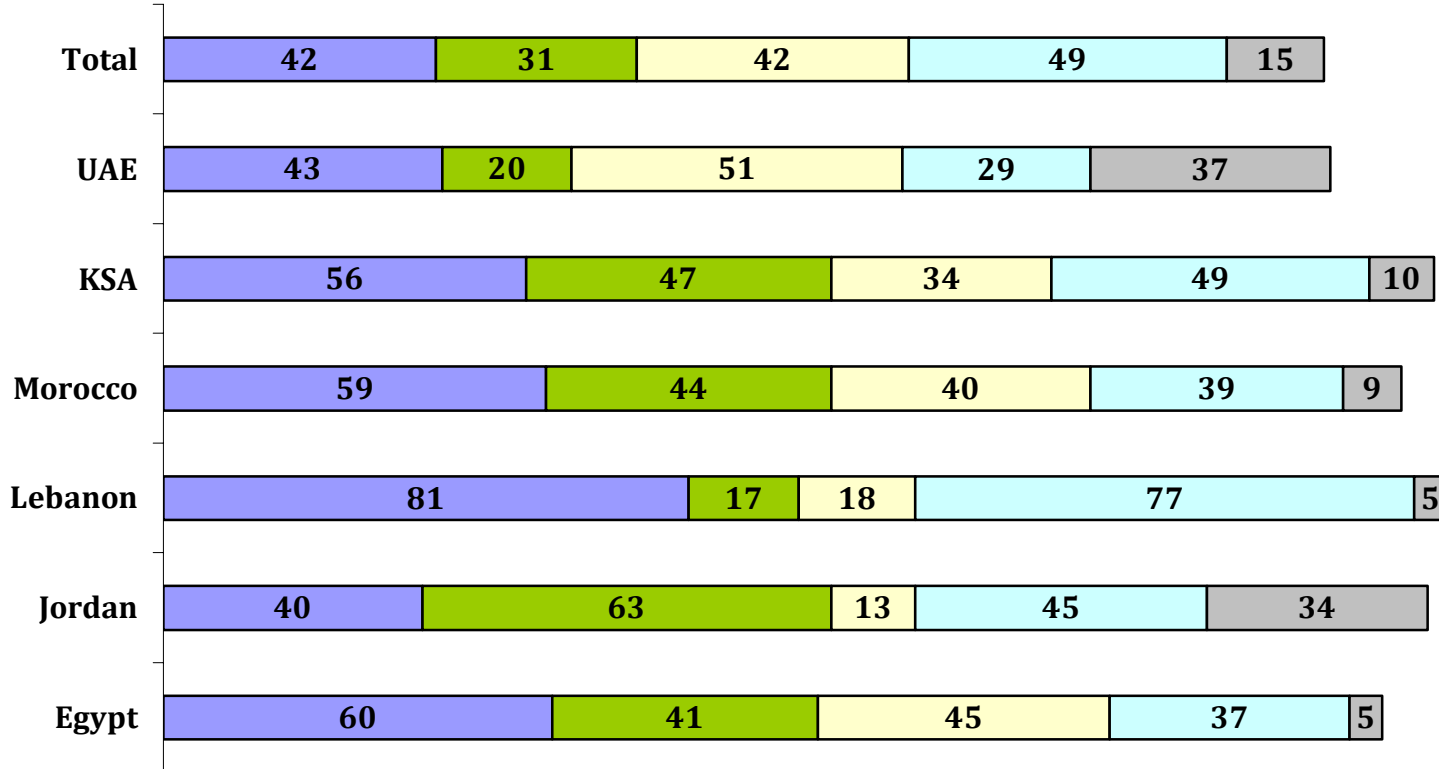
**Which of the following is your biggest concern about the consequences
of the war in Iraq?
(Choose two)**



2008 War in Iraq

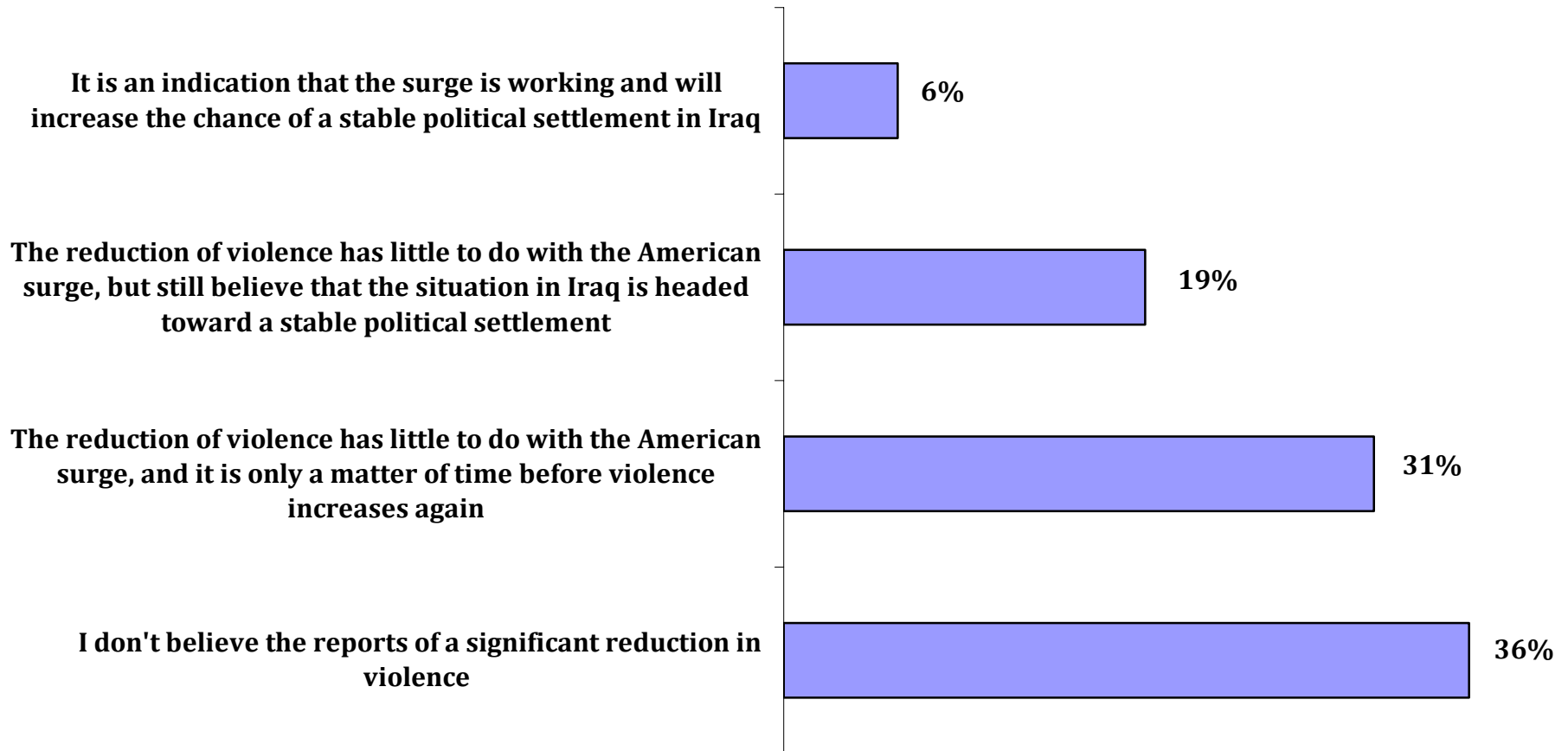
Which of the following is your biggest concern about the consequences of the war in Iraq? (Choose two)

- Iraq will remain unstable and spread instability in the region
- Continuing trouble in Iraq will divert attention from other issues such as the Palestinian question
- US will continue to dominate Iraq long after the transfer of power to the Iraqis
- Iraq may be divided
- Iran is now a more powerful state



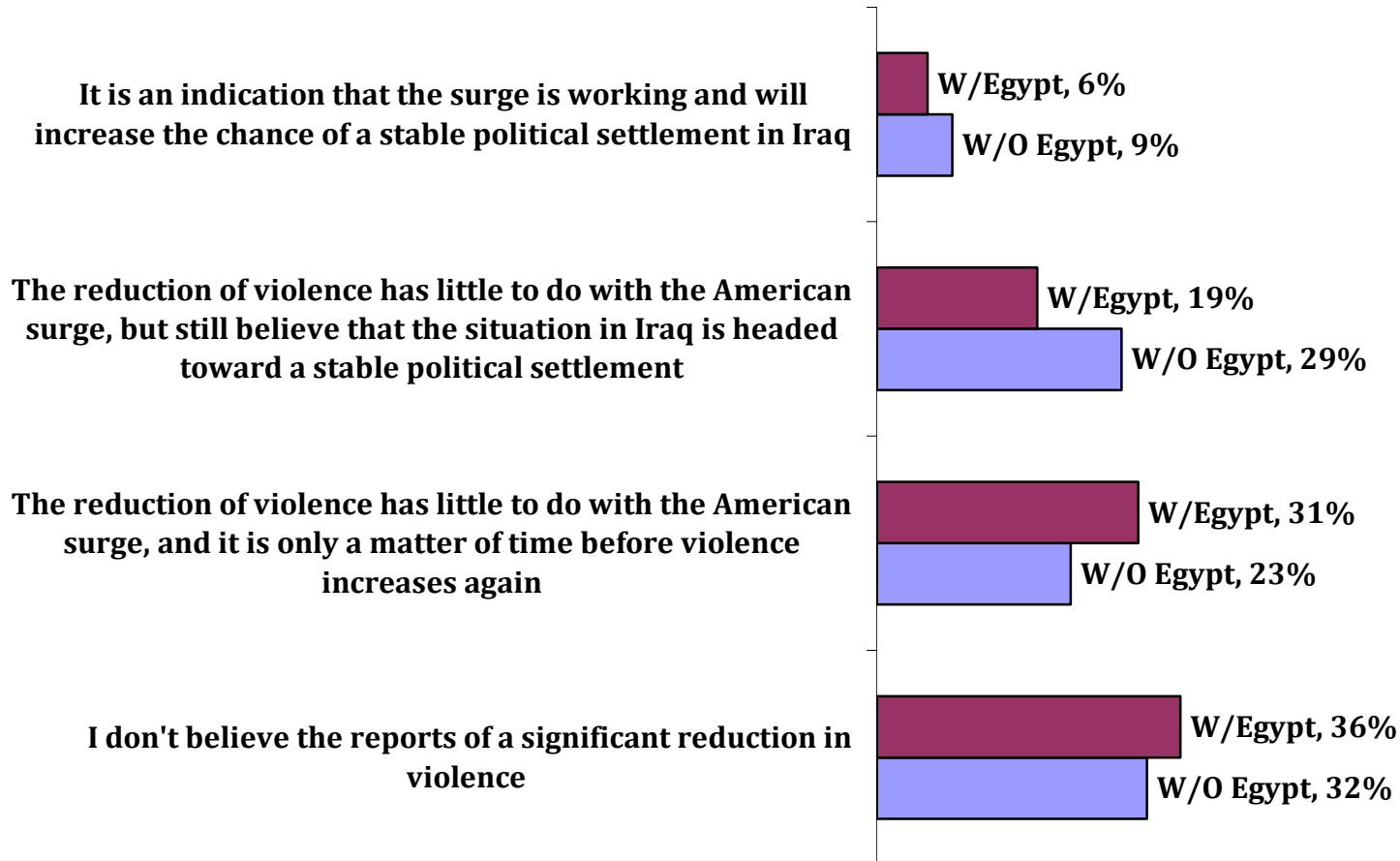
**2008 Iraq War
6-Country Total**

Since the surge of American forces in Iraq, the number of reported violent incidents has significantly declined in many parts of Iraq. Which of the following is closest to your view?



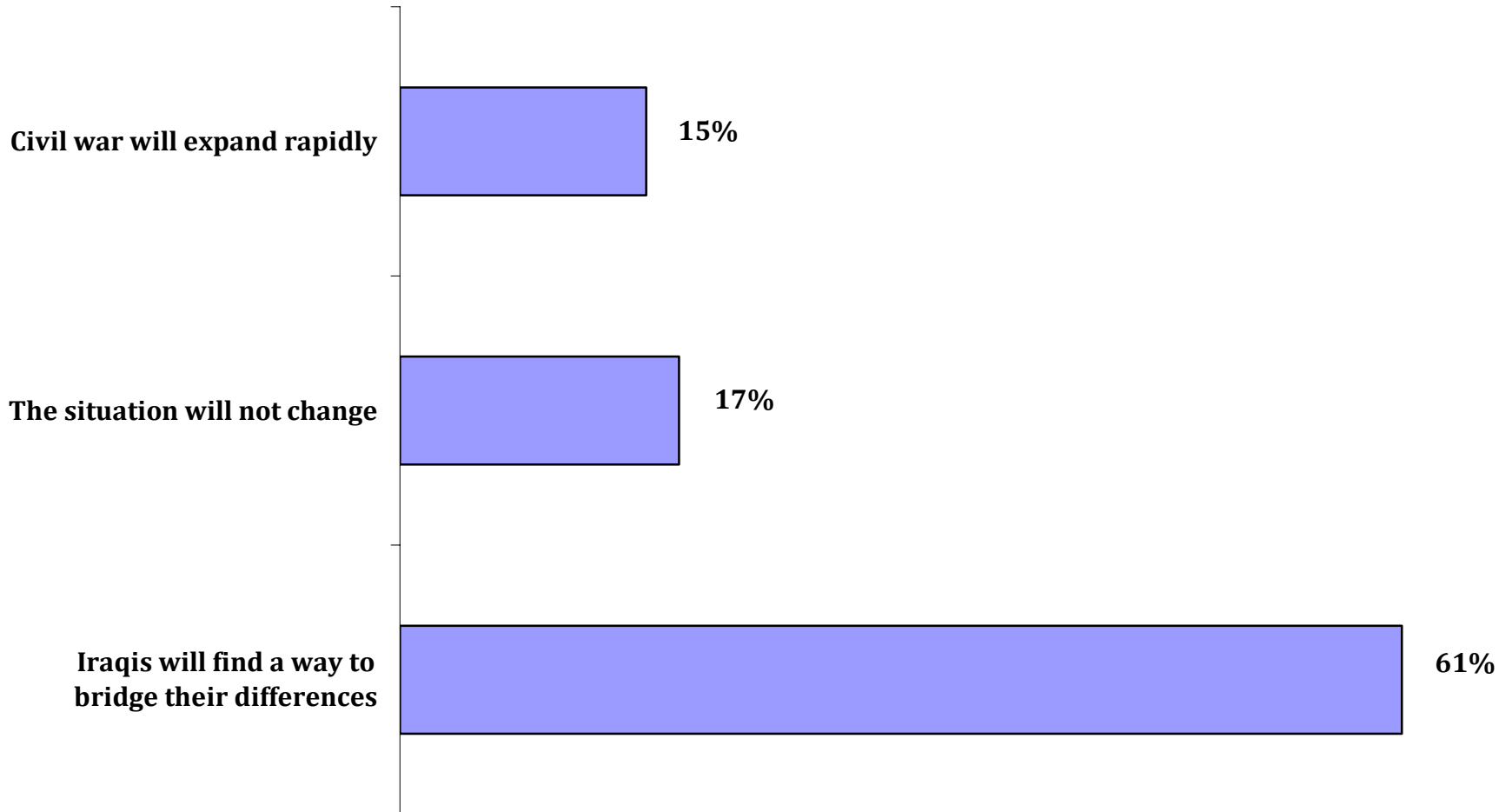
2008 War in Iraq 6-Country Total

Since the surge of American forces in Iraq, the number of violent incidents has significantly declined in many parts of Iraq. Which of the following is closest to your view?



2008 Iraq War 6-Country Total

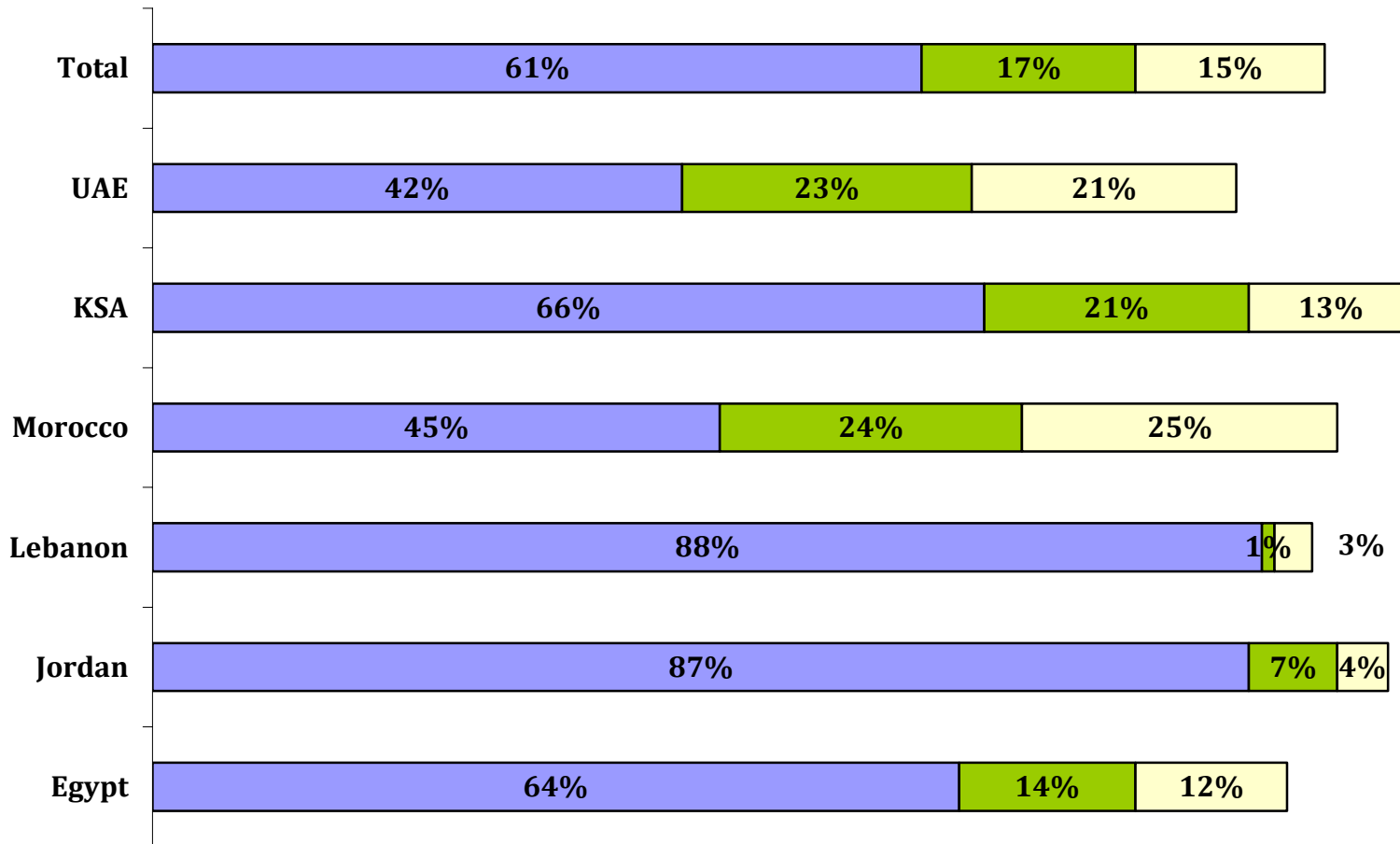
What do you believe would happen if the United States quickly withdrew its forces?



2008 Iraq War

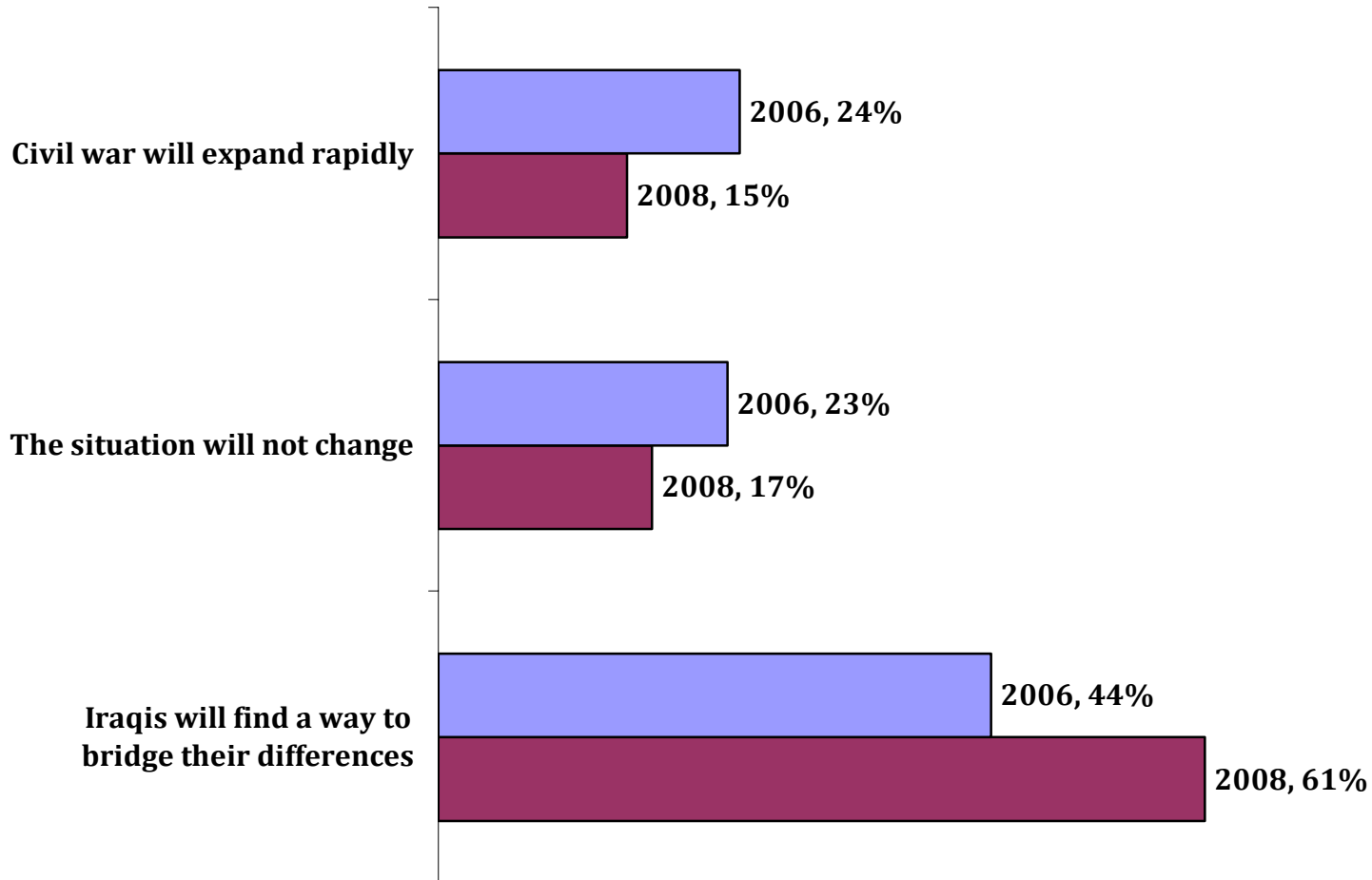
What do you believe would happen in Iraq if the United States quickly withdrew its forces?

■ Iraqis will find a way to bridge their differences ■ The situation will not change □ Civil war will expand rapidly



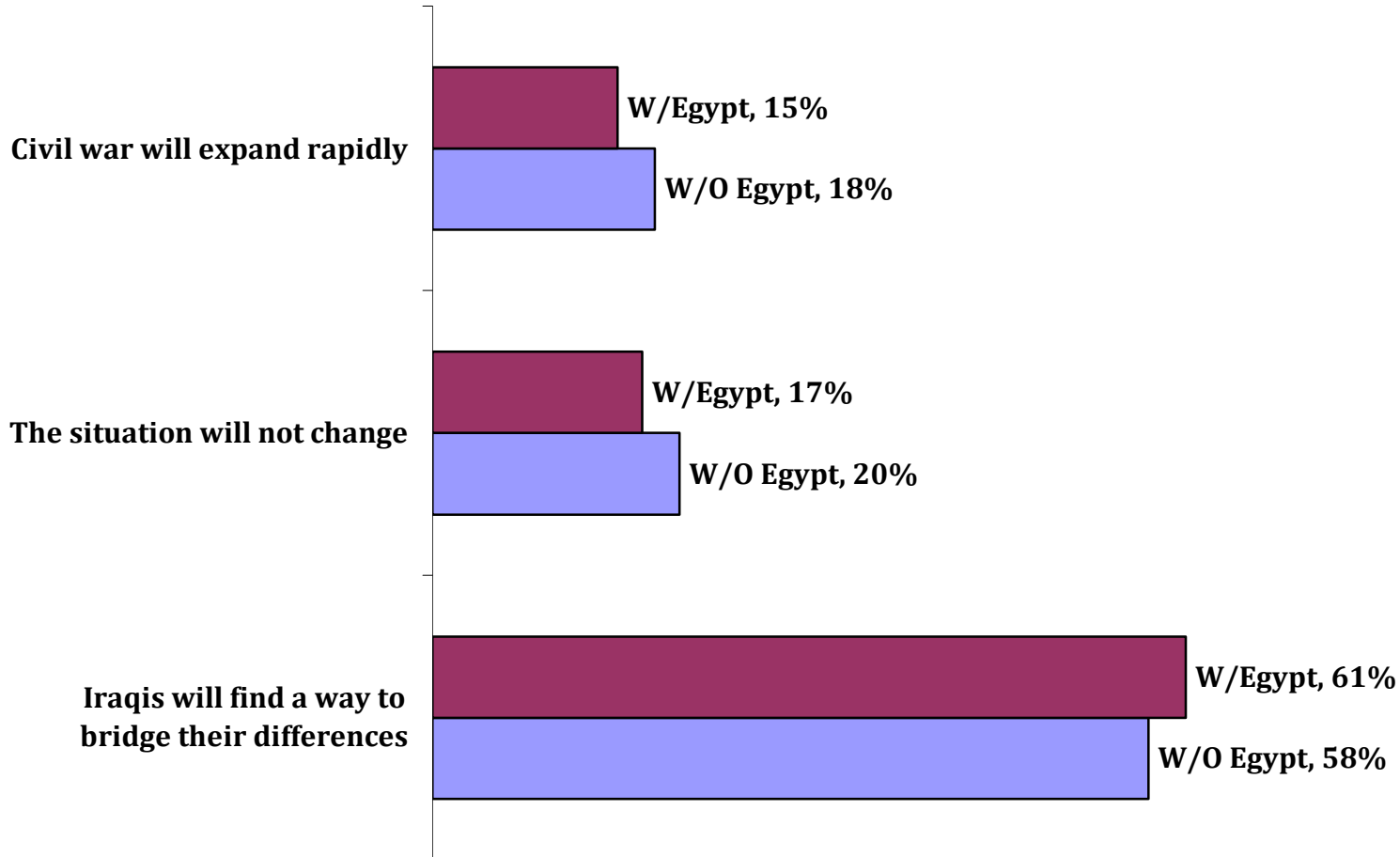
**Iraq War, 2006-2008
6-Country Total**

What do you believe would happen in Iraq if the US quickly withdrew its forces?



**2008 War in Iraq
6-Country Total**

What do you believe would happen in Iraq if the US quickly withdrew its forces?

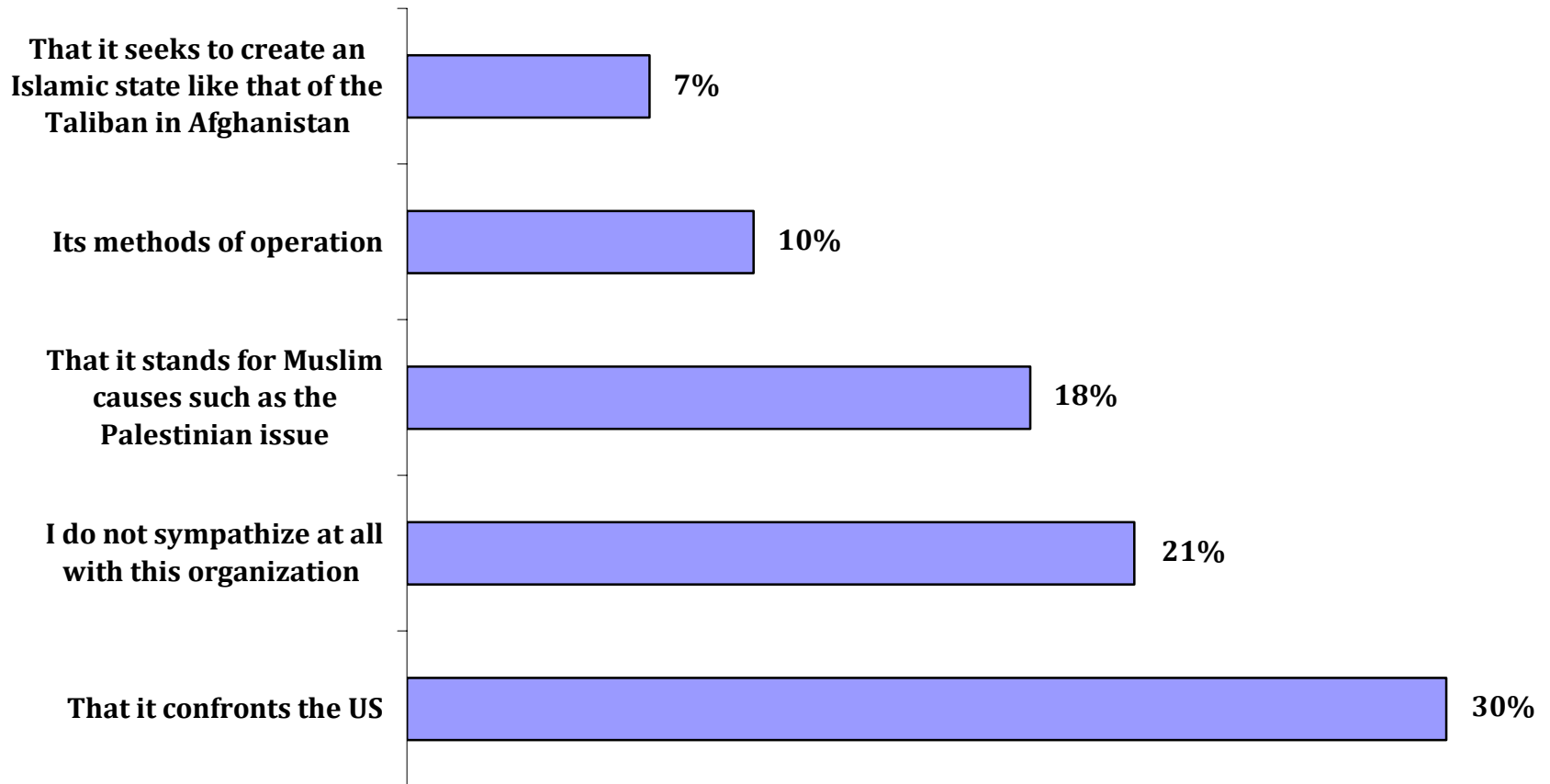


Views of Al Qaeda

2008 Arab Public Opinion Poll

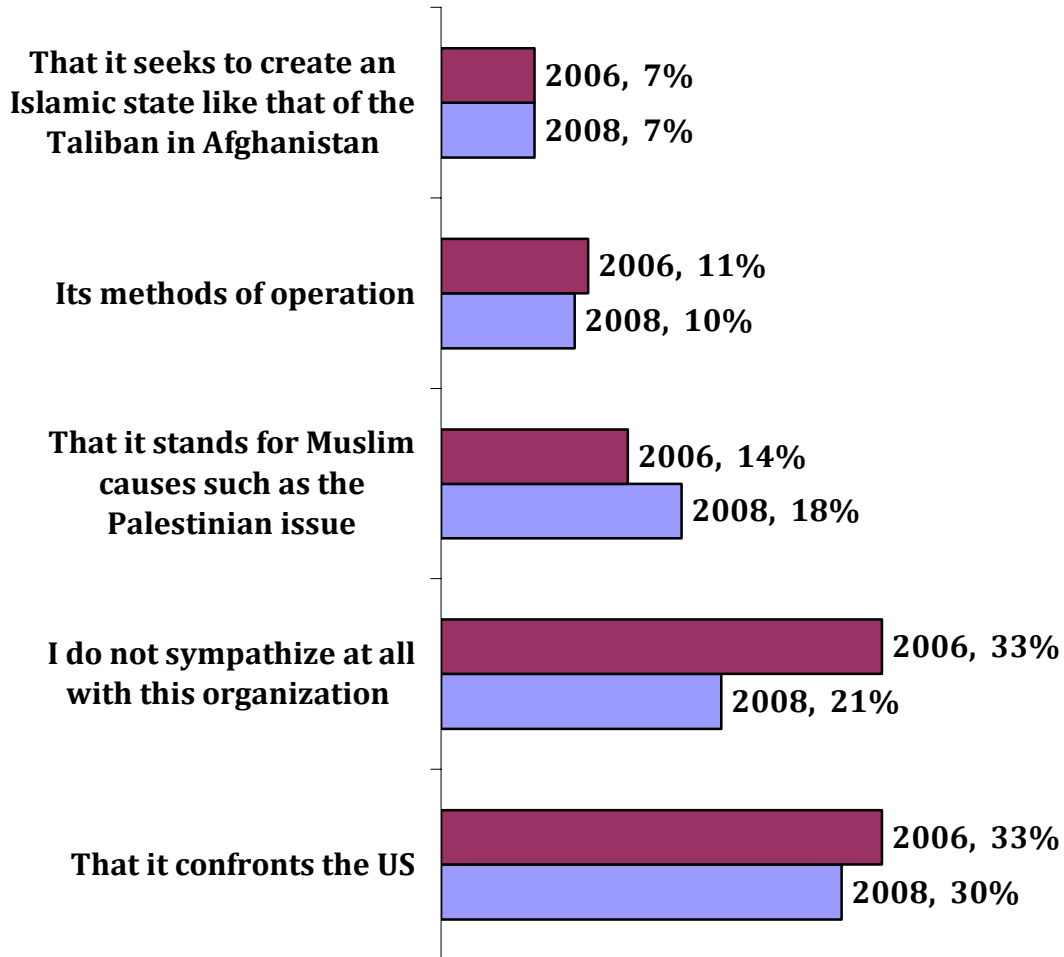
2008 Al Qaeda Aggregate

When you think about Al Qaeda, what aspect of the organization, if any, do you sympathize with most:



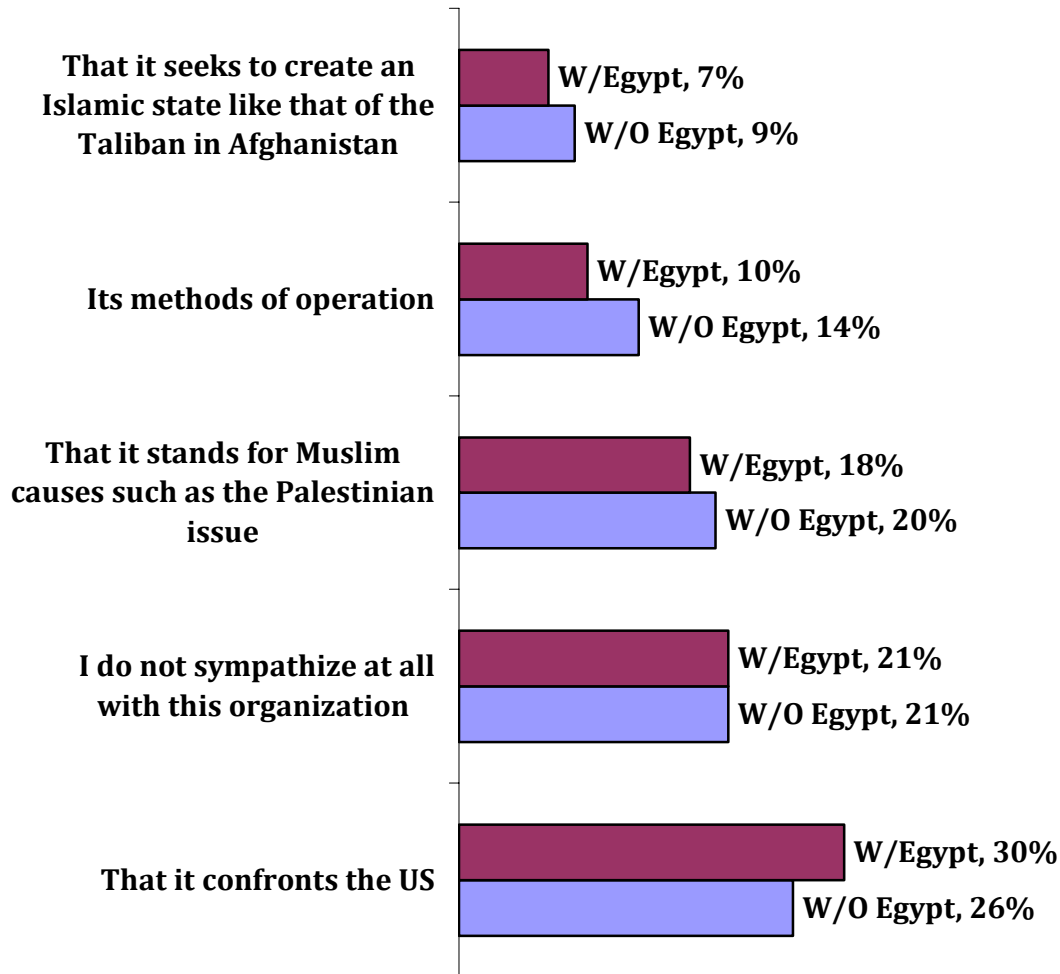
2008 Al Qaeda 6-Country Totals

When you think about Al Qaeda, what aspect of the organization, if any, do you sympathize with most:



2008 Al Qaeda Aggregate

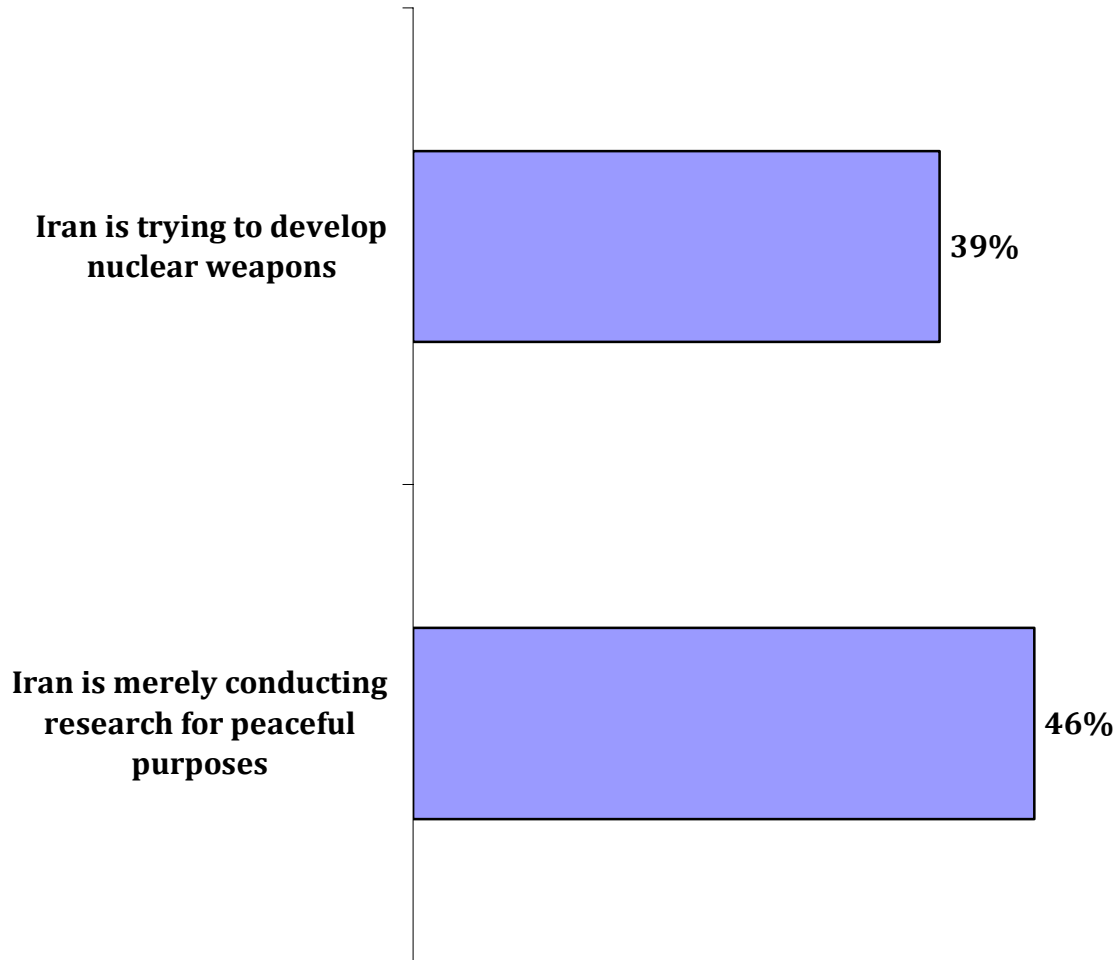
When you think about Al Qaeda, which aspect of the organization, if any, do you sympathize with most?



Views of Iran's Nuclear Program

2008 Arab Public Opinion Poll

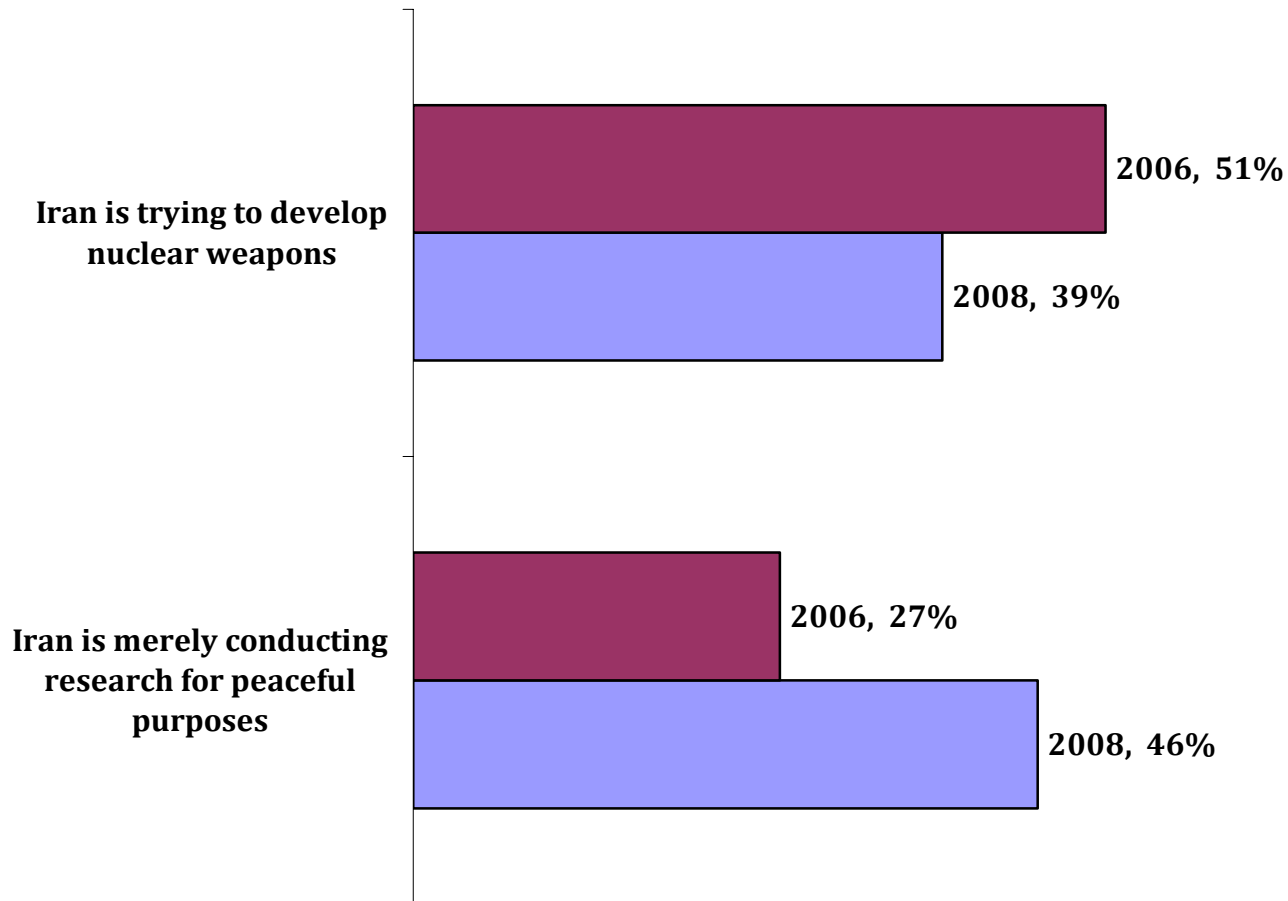
**2008 Iran's Nuclear Program
6-Country Total
Do you believe that:**



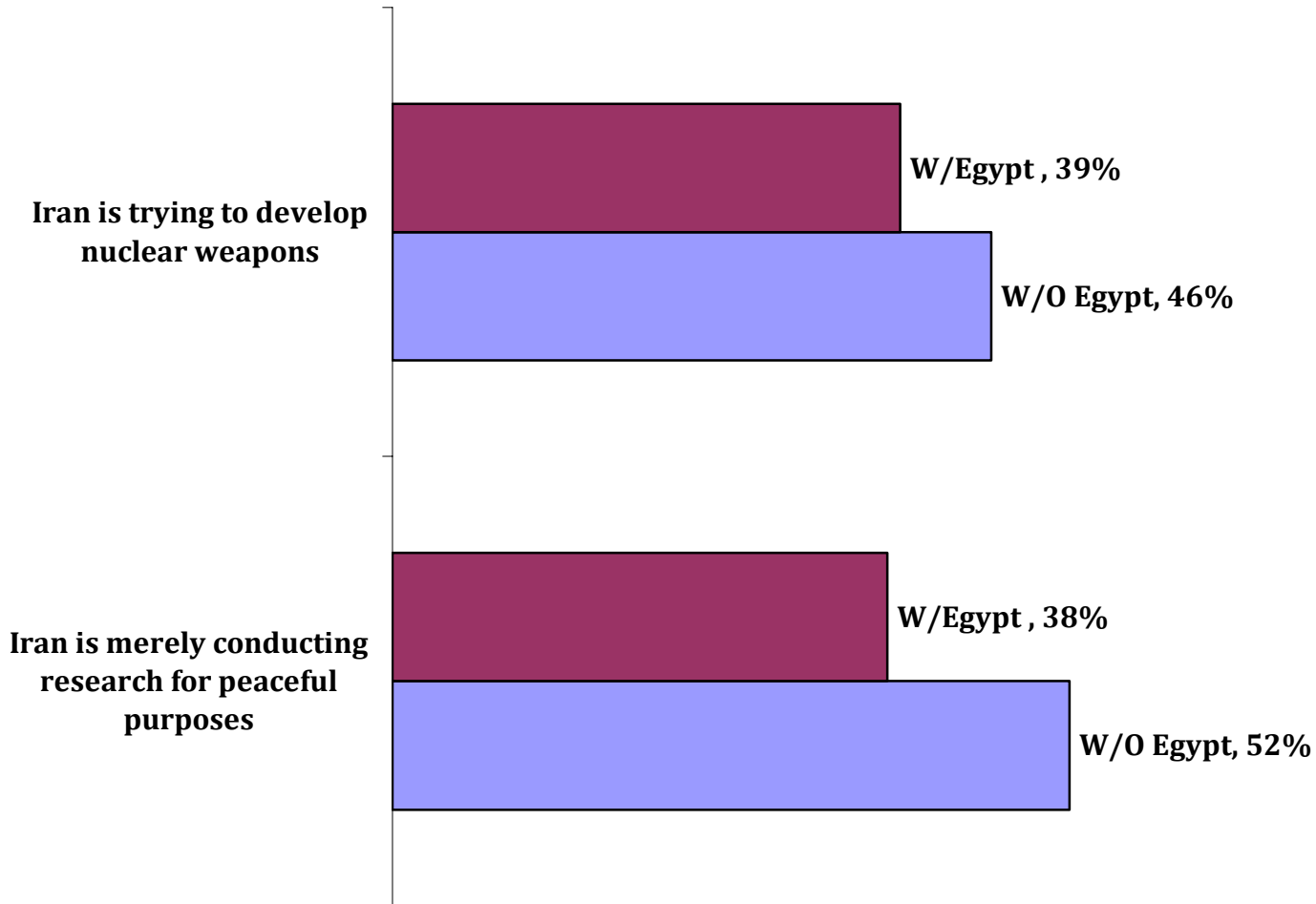
Changes in Views of Iran's Nuclear Program, 2006-2008

6-Country Total

Do you believe that:

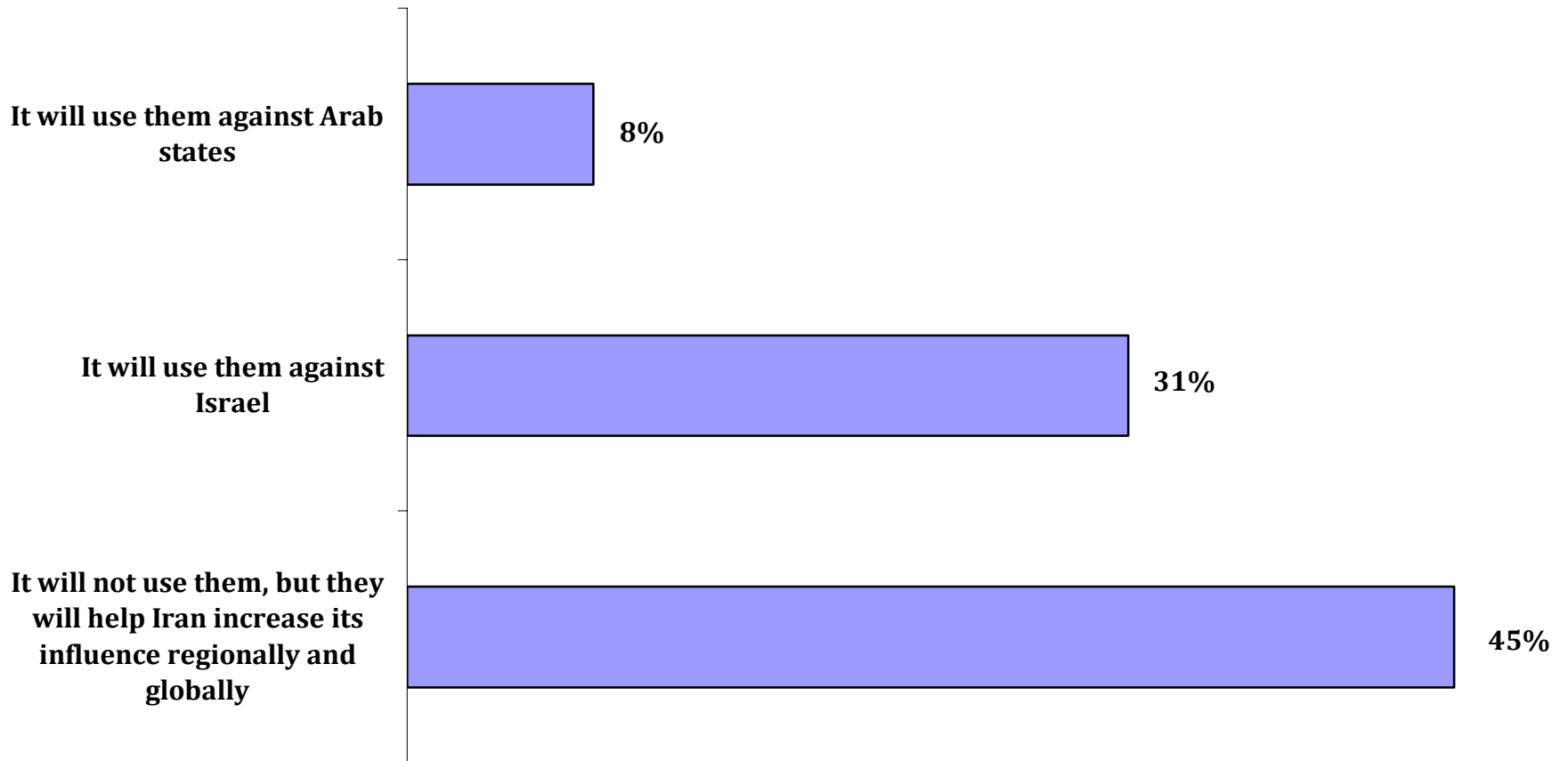


**2008 Iran's Nuclear Program
6-Country Total
Do you believe that:**



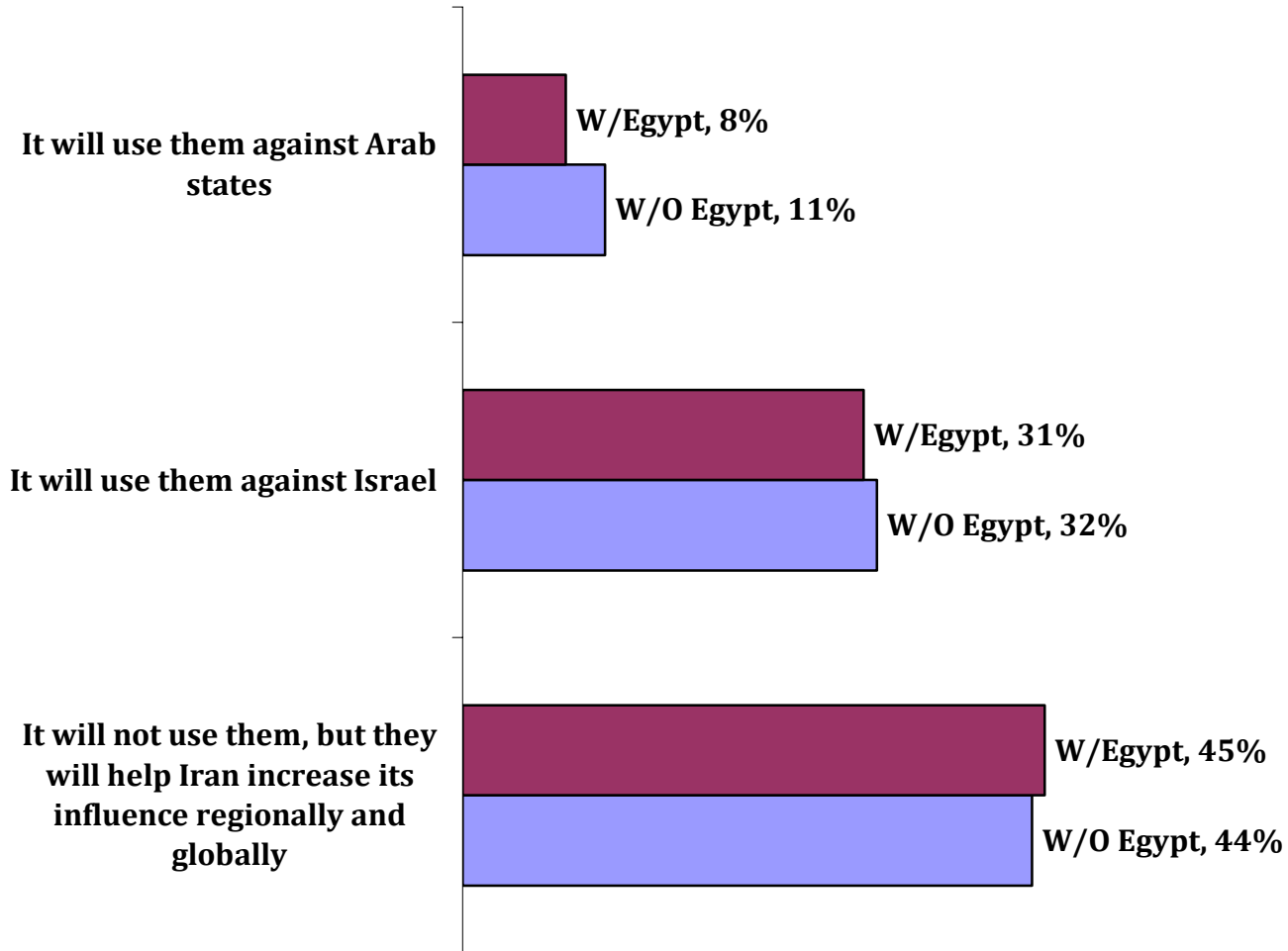
**2008 Iran's Nuclear Program
6-Country Total**

If Iran acquires nuclear weapons, which of the following is closest to your view?



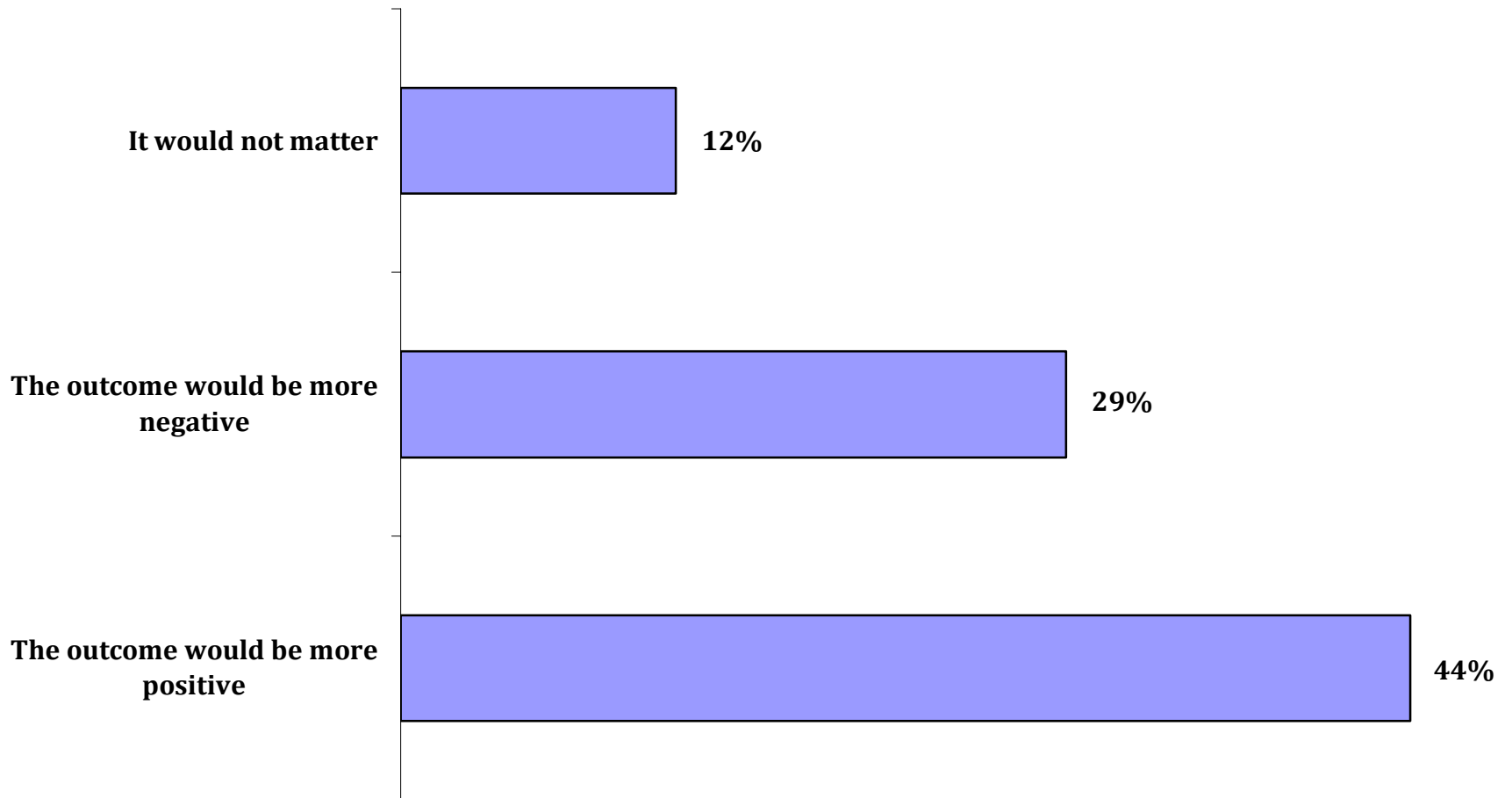
2008 Iran's Nuclear Program 6-Country Total

If Iran acquires nuclear weapons, which of the following is closest to your view:



**2008 Iran's Nuclear Program
6-Country Total**

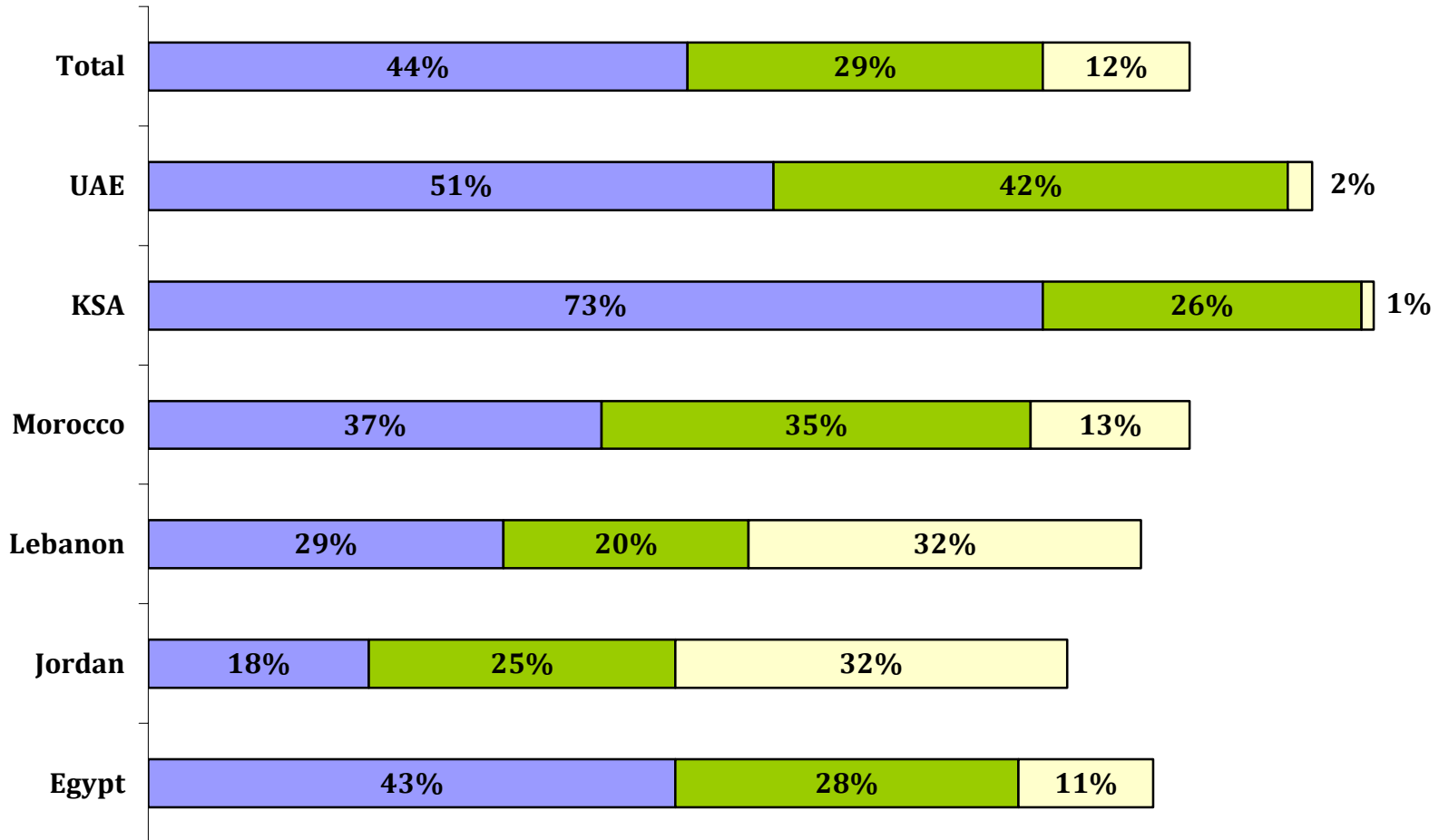
**If Iran acquires nuclear weapons, which of the following is the likely
outcome for the Middle East:**



2008 Iran's Nuclear Program

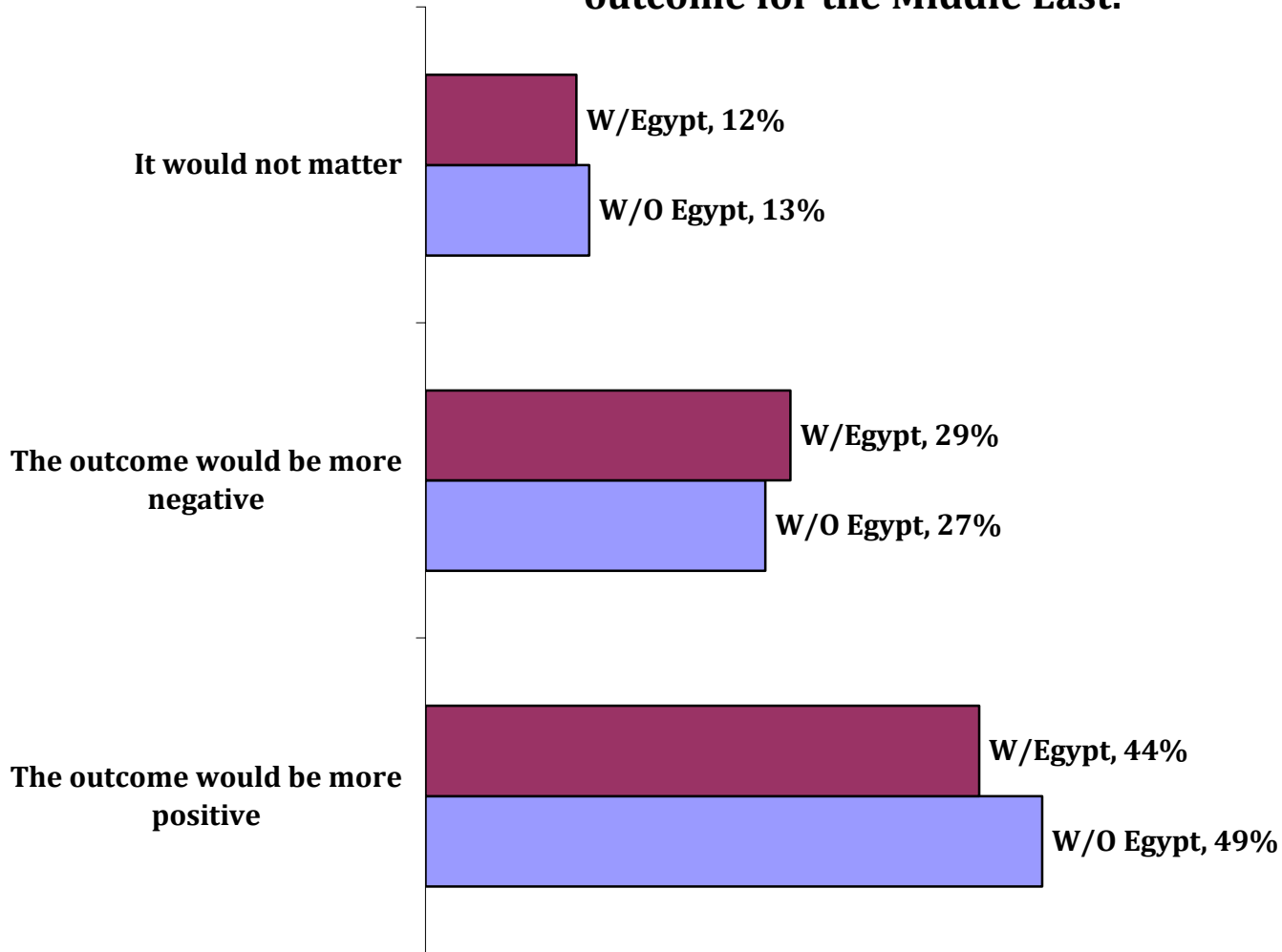
If Iran acquires nuclear weapons, which of the following is the likely outcome for the Middle East:

■ The outcome would be more positive ■ The outcome would be more negative □ It would not matter



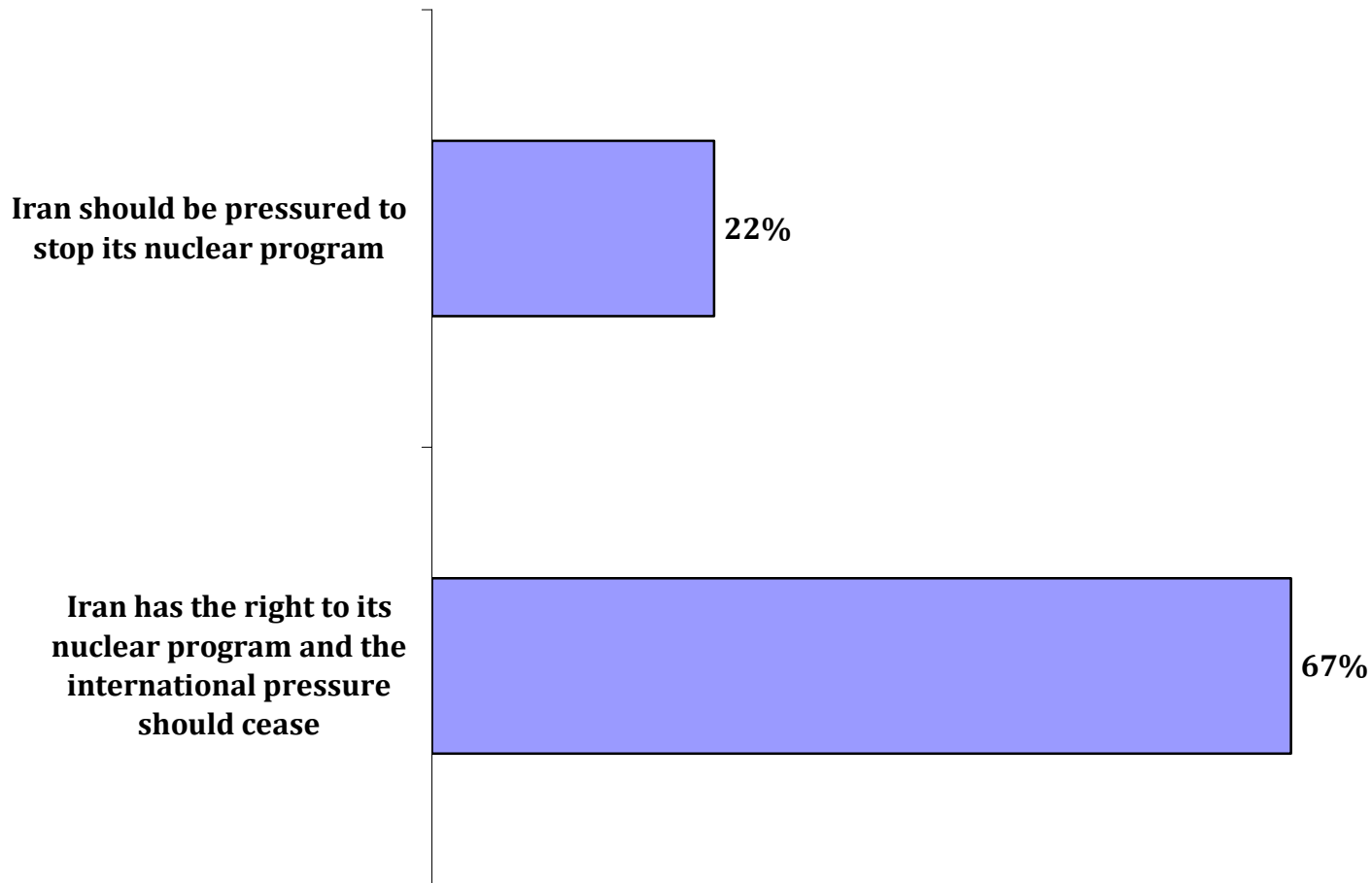
**2008 Iran's Nuclear Program
6-Country Total**

**If Iran acquires nuclear weapons, which of the following is the likely
outcome for the Middle East:**



**2008 Iran's Nuclear Program
6-Country Total**

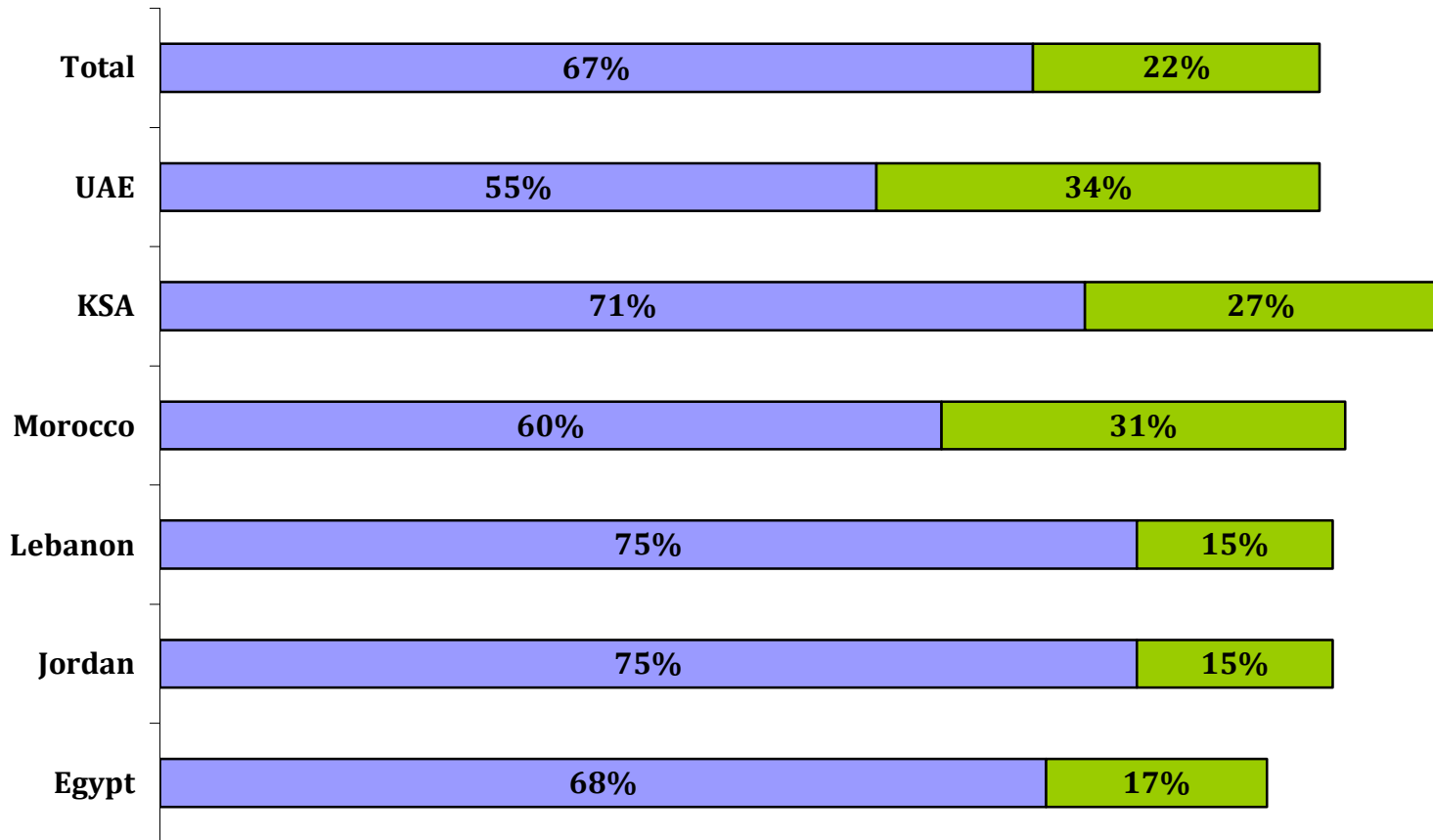
**There is international pressure on Iran to curtail its nuclear program.
What is your opinion?**



2008 Iran's Nuclear Program

There is international pressure on Iran to curtail its nuclear program.
What is your opinion?

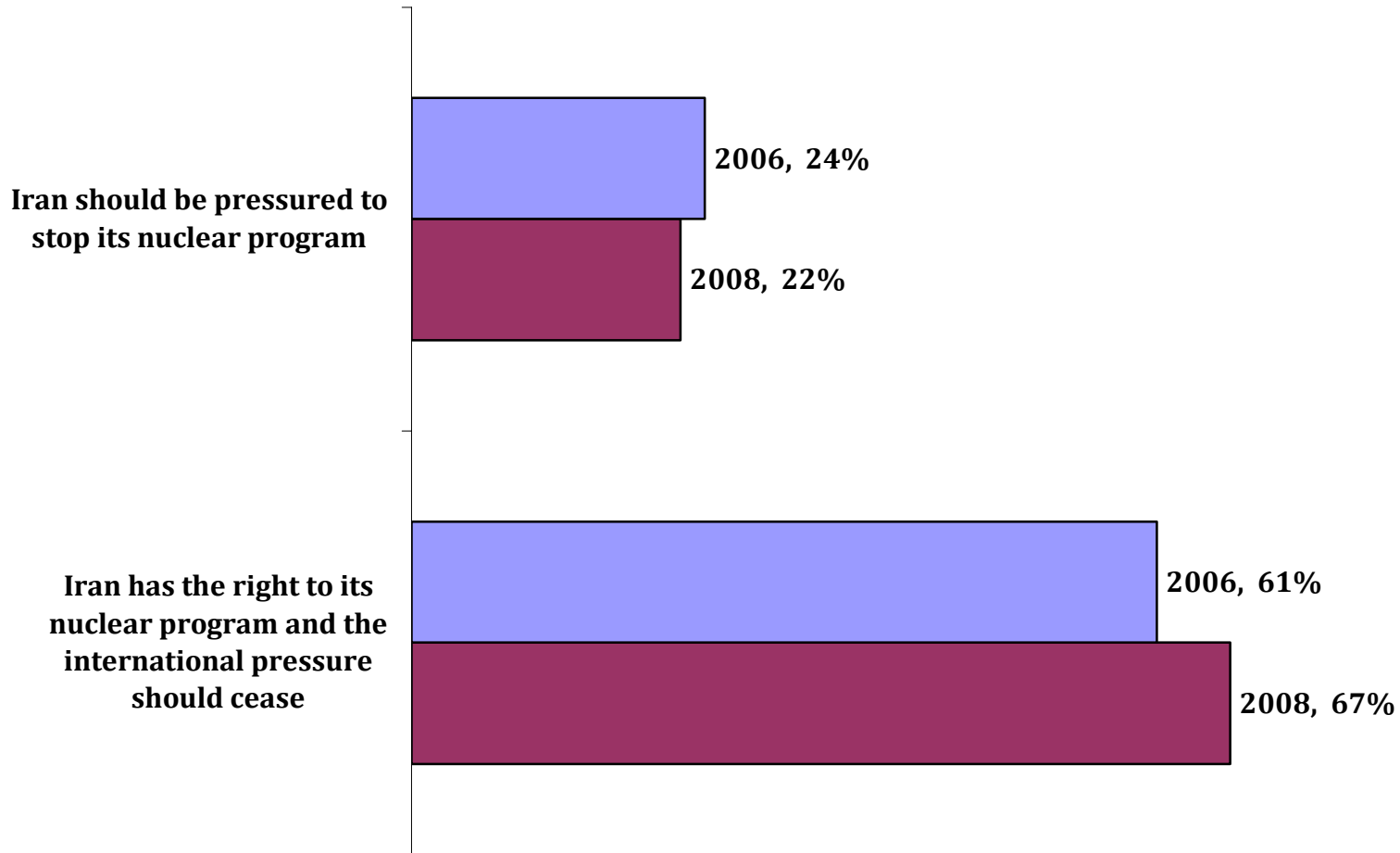
- Iran has the right to its nuclear program and the international pressure should cease
- Iran should be pressured to stop its nuclear program



Changes in Views of Iran's Nuclear Program, 2006-2008

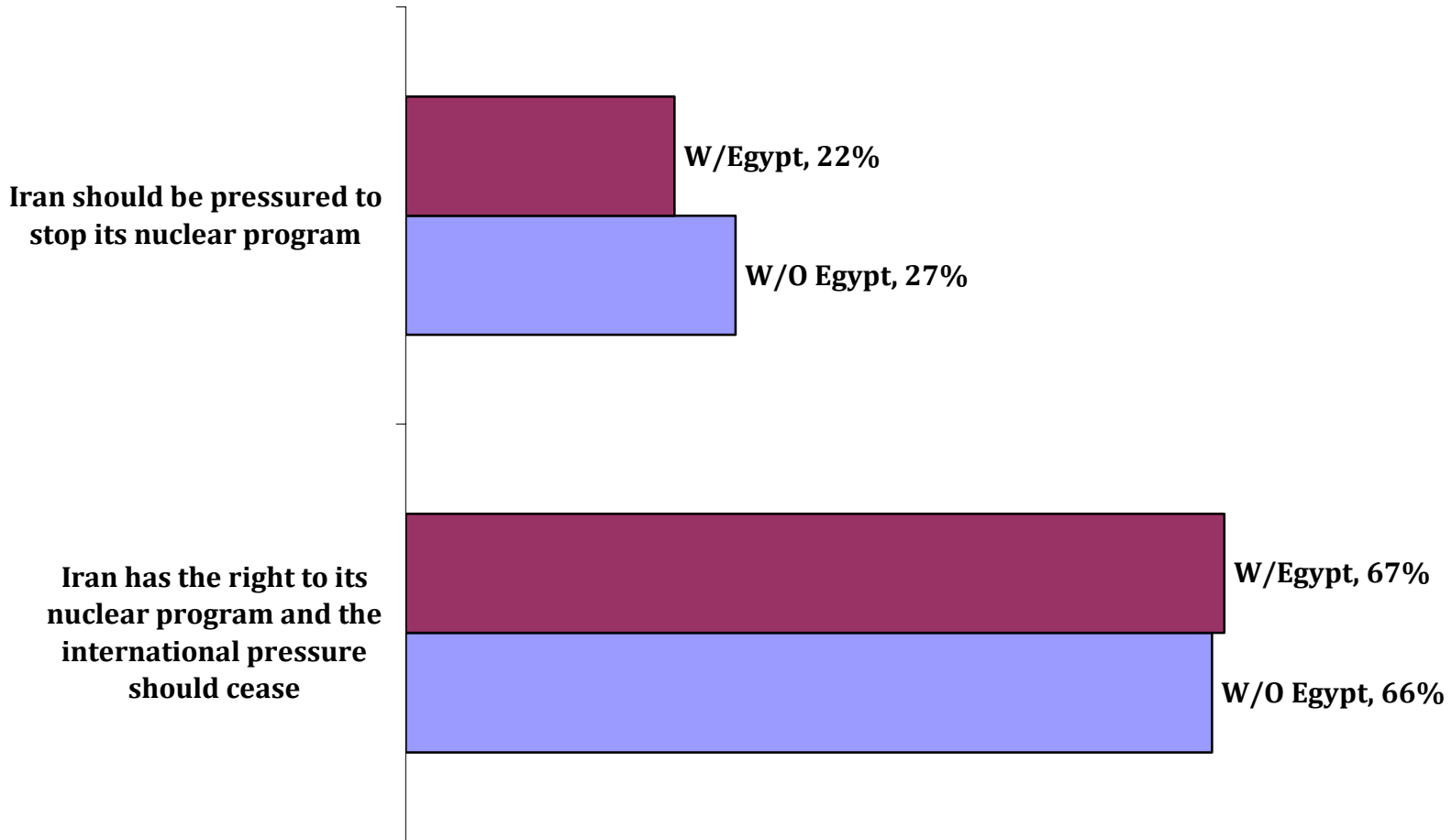
6-Country Total

There is international pressure on Iran to curtail its nuclear program. What is your opinion?



2008 Iran's Nuclear Program 6-Country Total

**There is international pressure on Iran to curtail its nuclear program.
What is your opinion?**

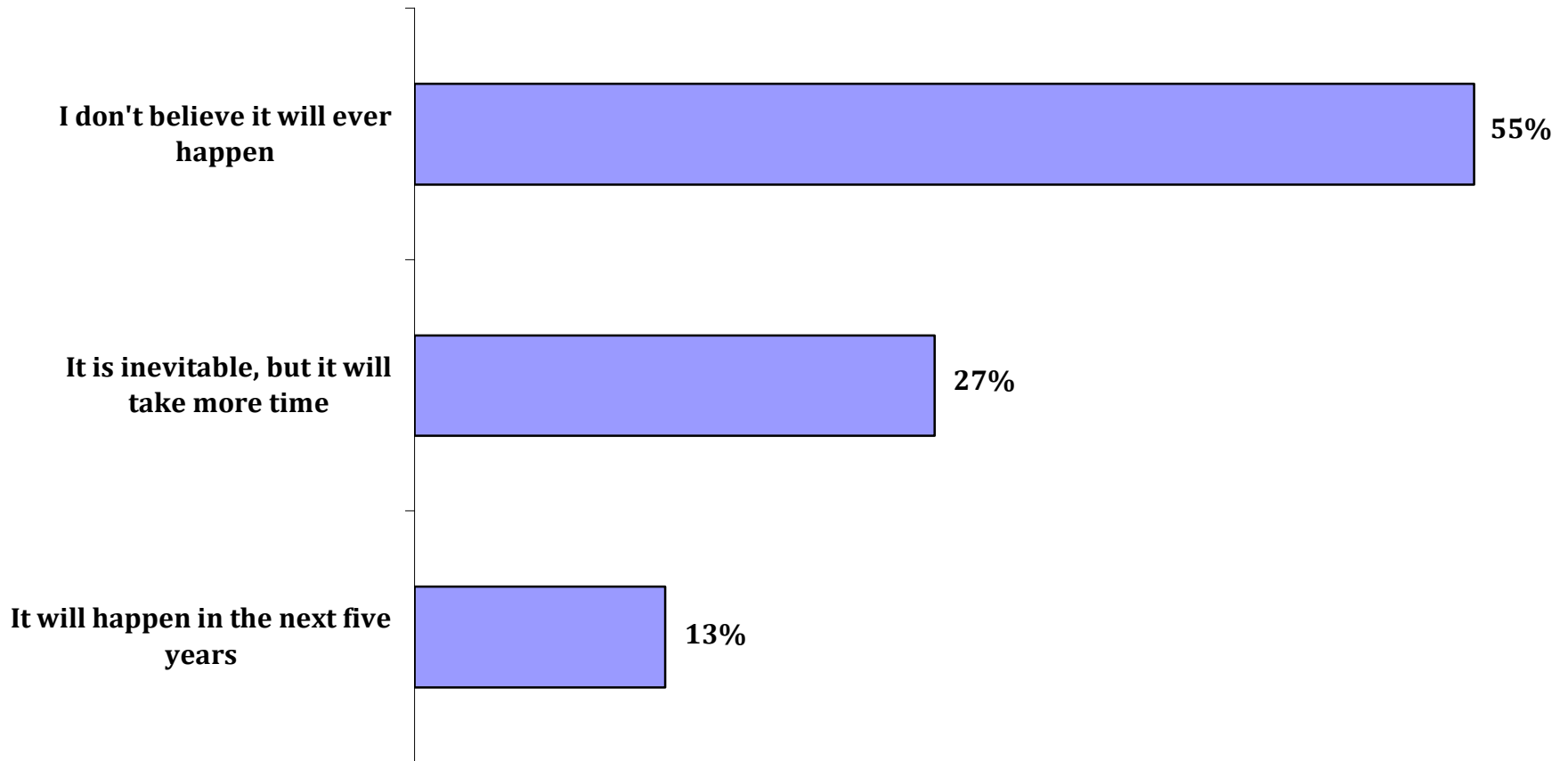


Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

2008 Arab Public Opinion Poll

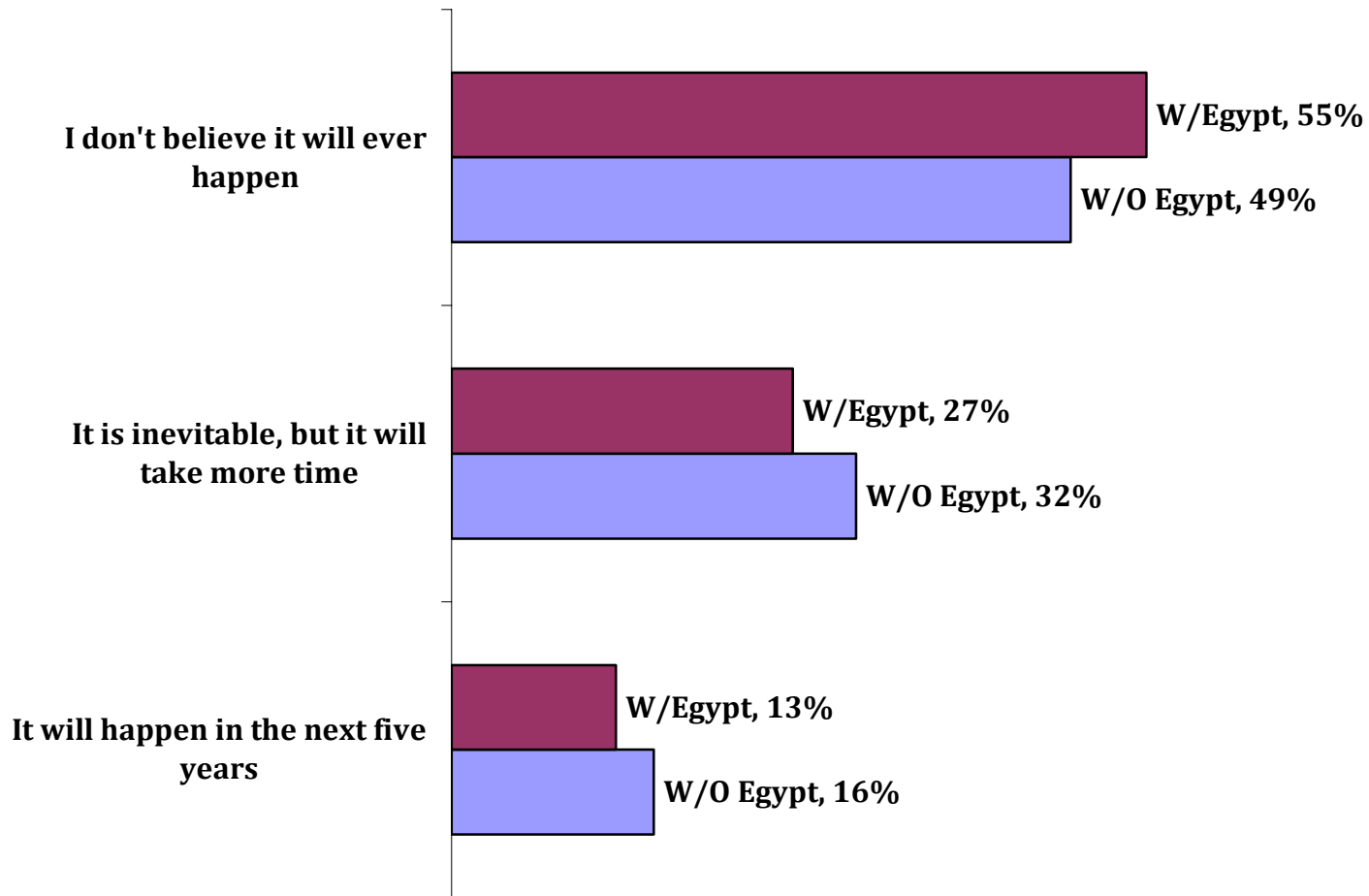
**2008 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
6-Country Total**

Which of the following statements is closest to your view about the prospects of lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians?



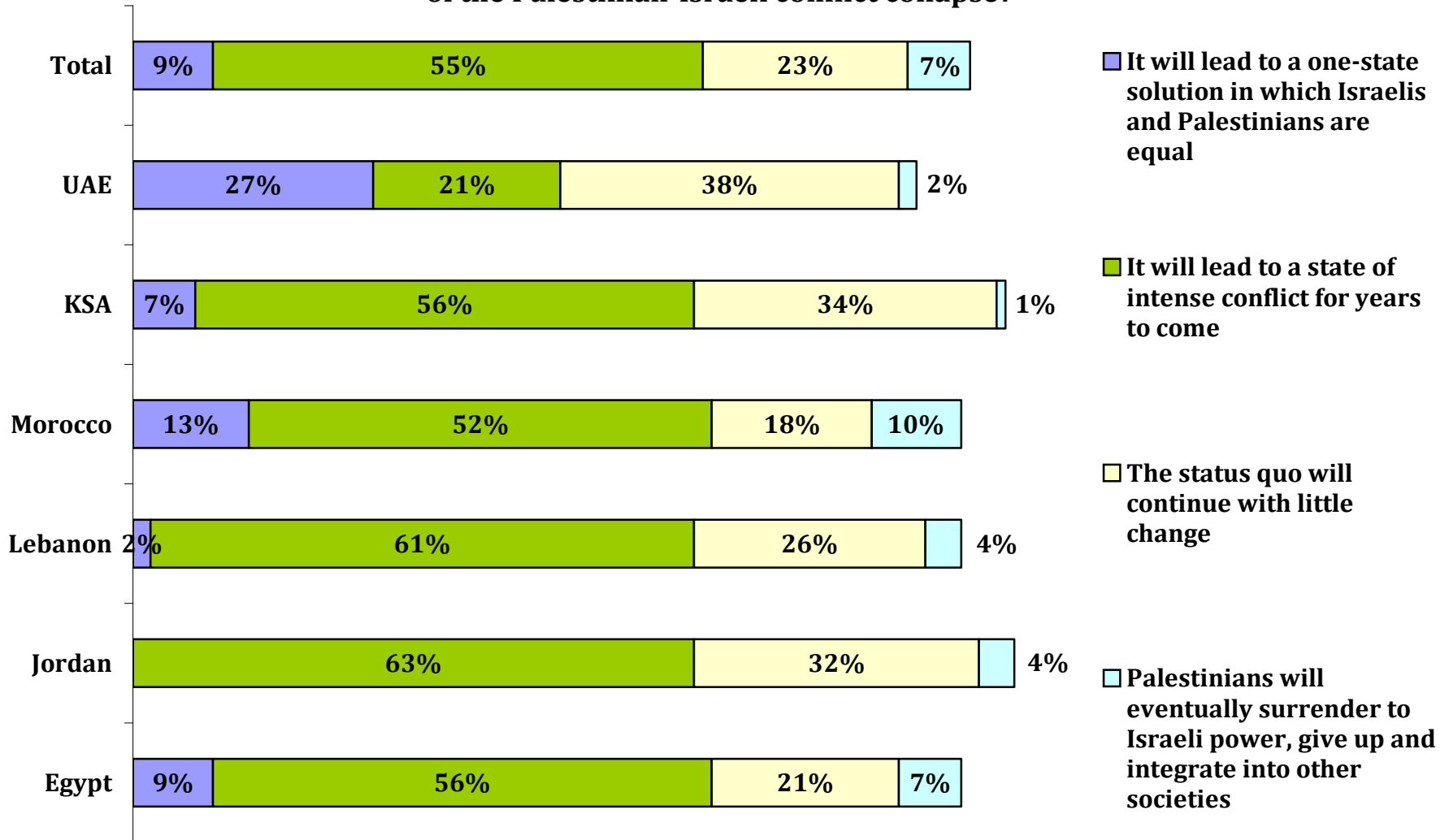
2008 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 6-Country Total

Which of the following statements is closest to your view about the prospects of lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians?



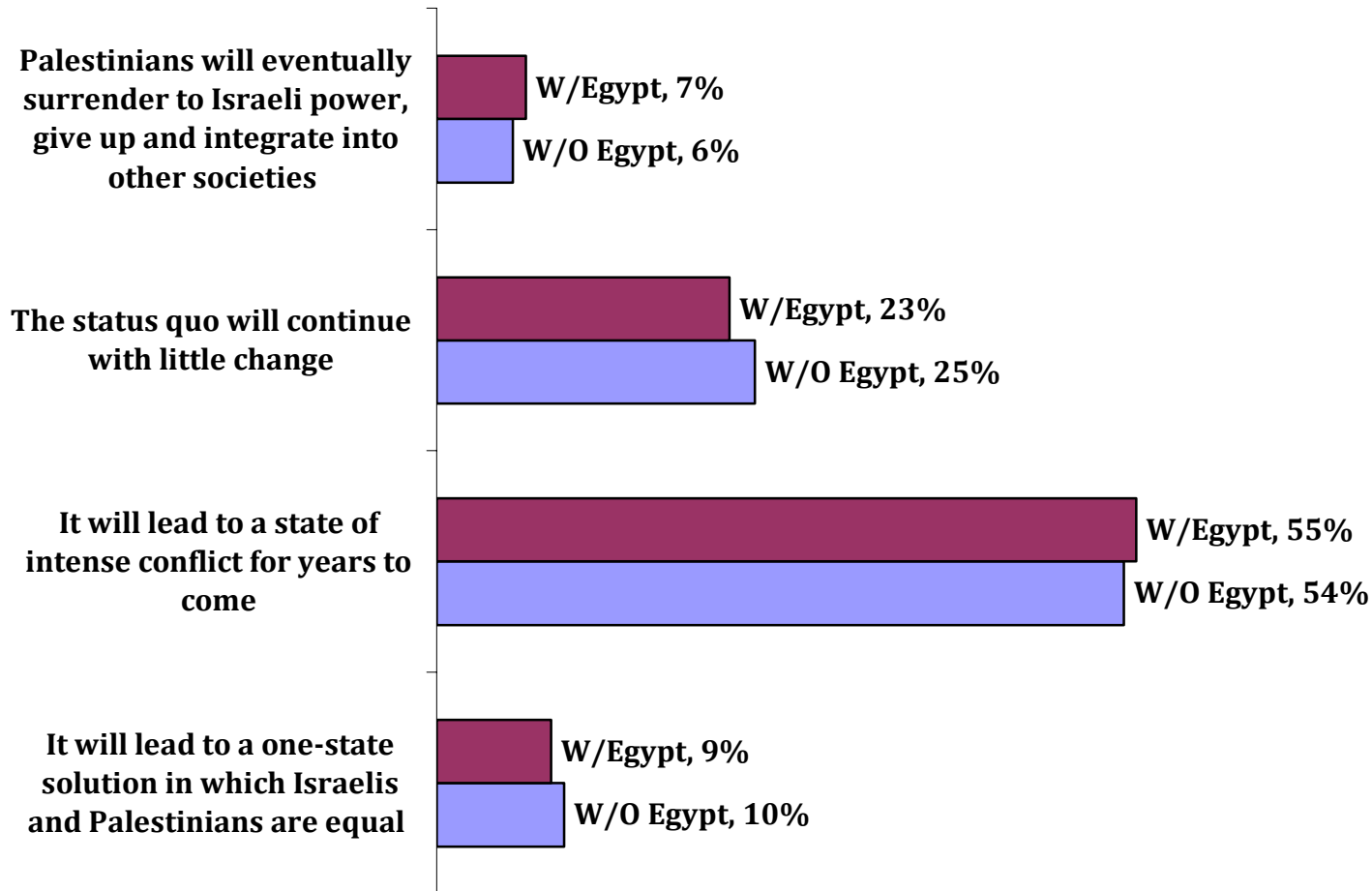
2008 Israeli Palestinian Conflict

What do you believe is the likely outcome if the prospects for a two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict collapse?



2008 Palestinian-Israeli Conflict 6-Country Total

What do you believe is the likely outcome if the prospects for a two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict collapse?

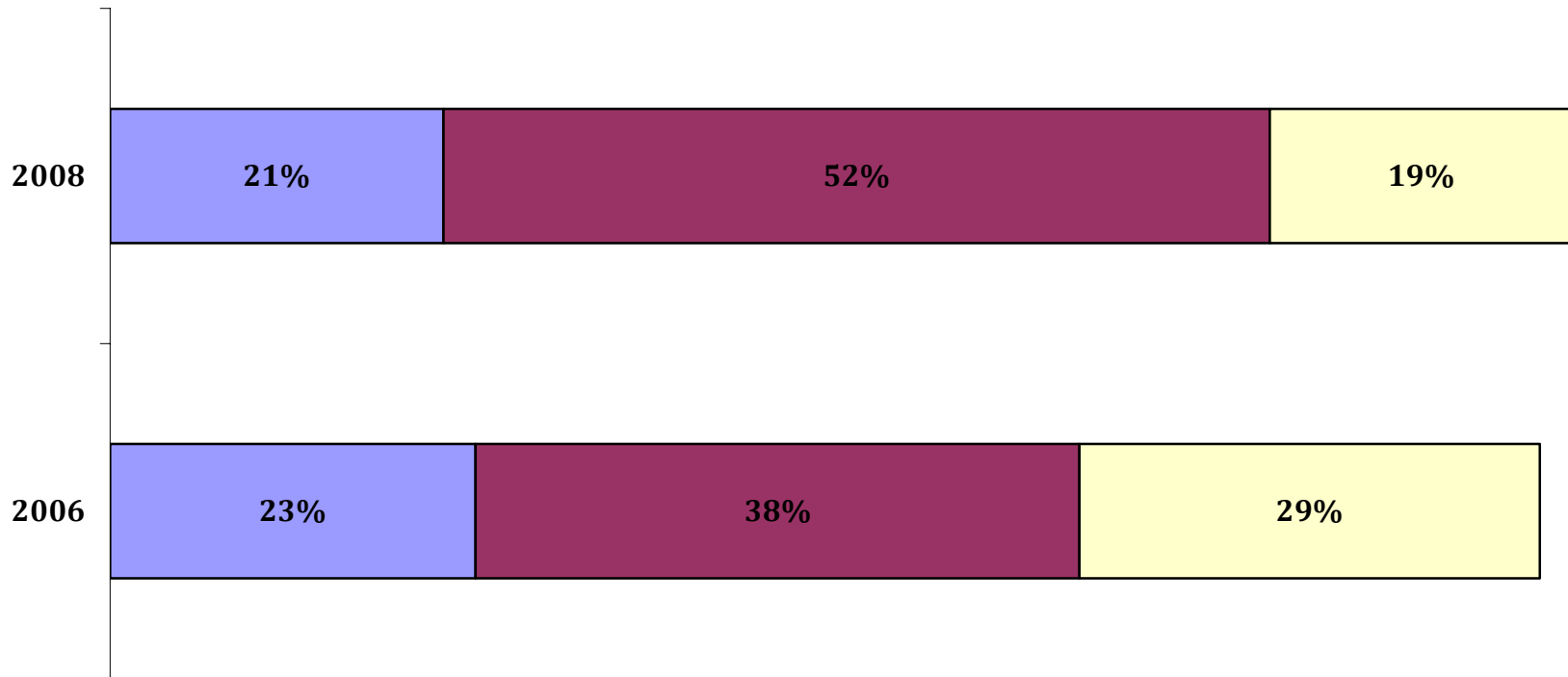


Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 2006-2008

6-Country Total

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

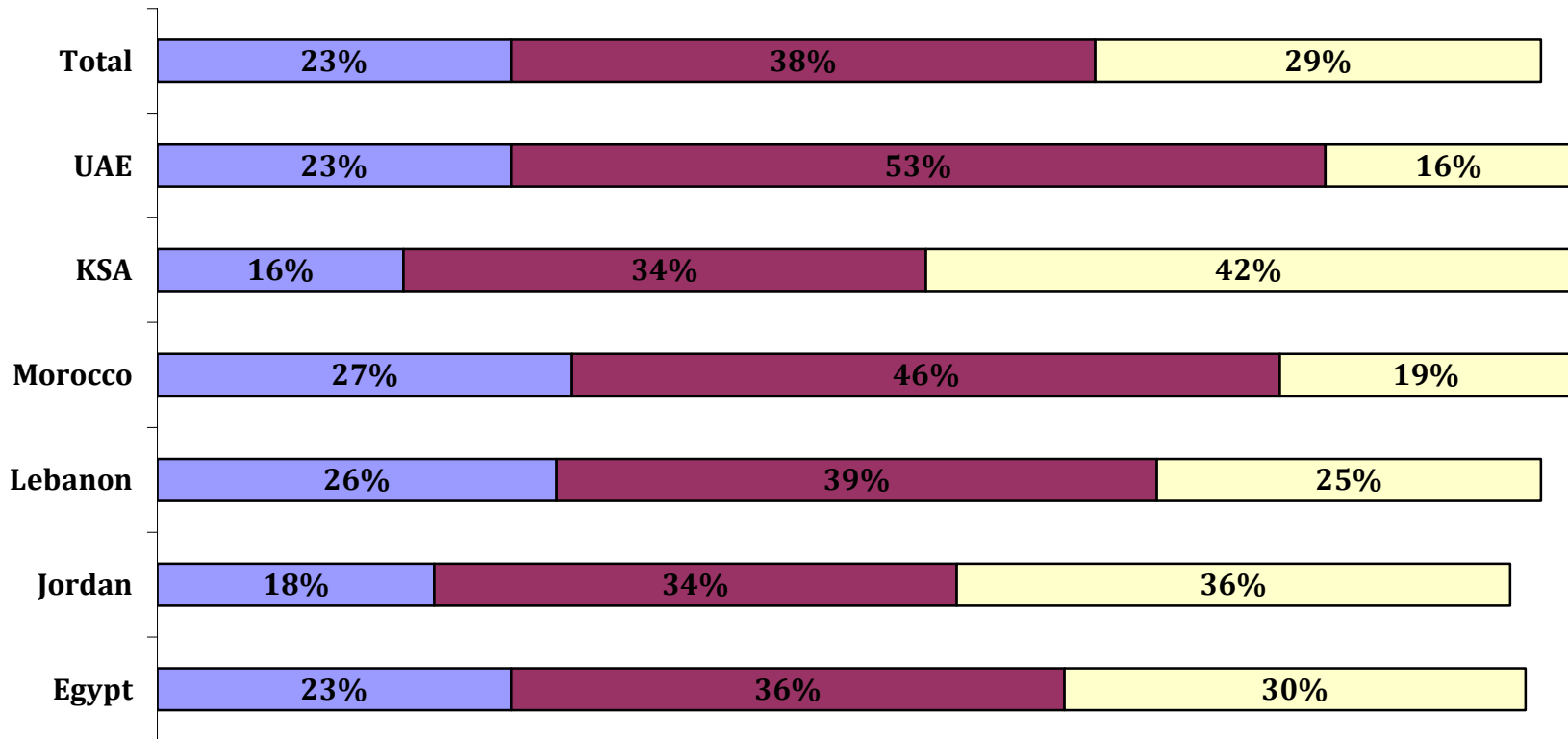
- I am prepared for a just and comprehensive peace with Israel if Israel is willing to return all the territories occupied in the 1967 war including East Jerusalem, and the Arab governments should put more effort into this
- I am prepared for a just and comprehensive peace with Israel if Israel is willing to return all the territories occupied in the 1967 war including East Jerusalem, but I don't believe the Israelis will ever give up these territories peacefully
- Even if the Israelis return all of the territories occupied in 1967 peacefully, the Arabs should continue to fight Israel no matter what the outcome



2006 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

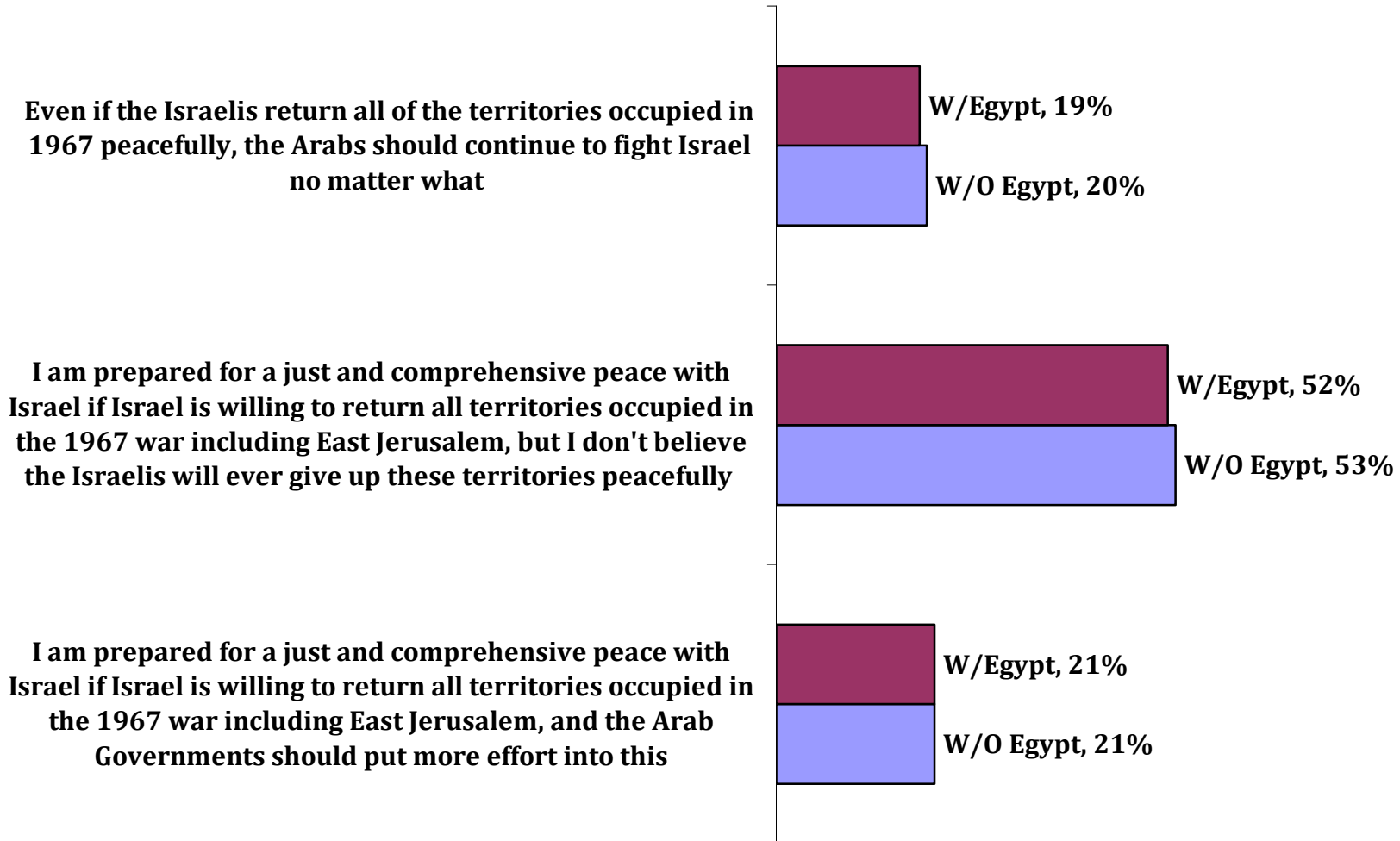
Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

- I am prepared for a just and comprehensive peace with Israel if Israel is willing to return all the territories occupied in the 1967 war including East Jerusalem, and the Arab governments should put more effort into this
- I am prepared for a just and comprehensive peace with Israel if Israel is willing to return all the territories occupied in the 1967 war including East Jerusalem, but I don't believe the Israelis will ever give up these territories peacefully
- Even if the Israelis return all of the territories occupied in 1967 peacefully, the Arabs should continue to fight Israel no matter what the outcome



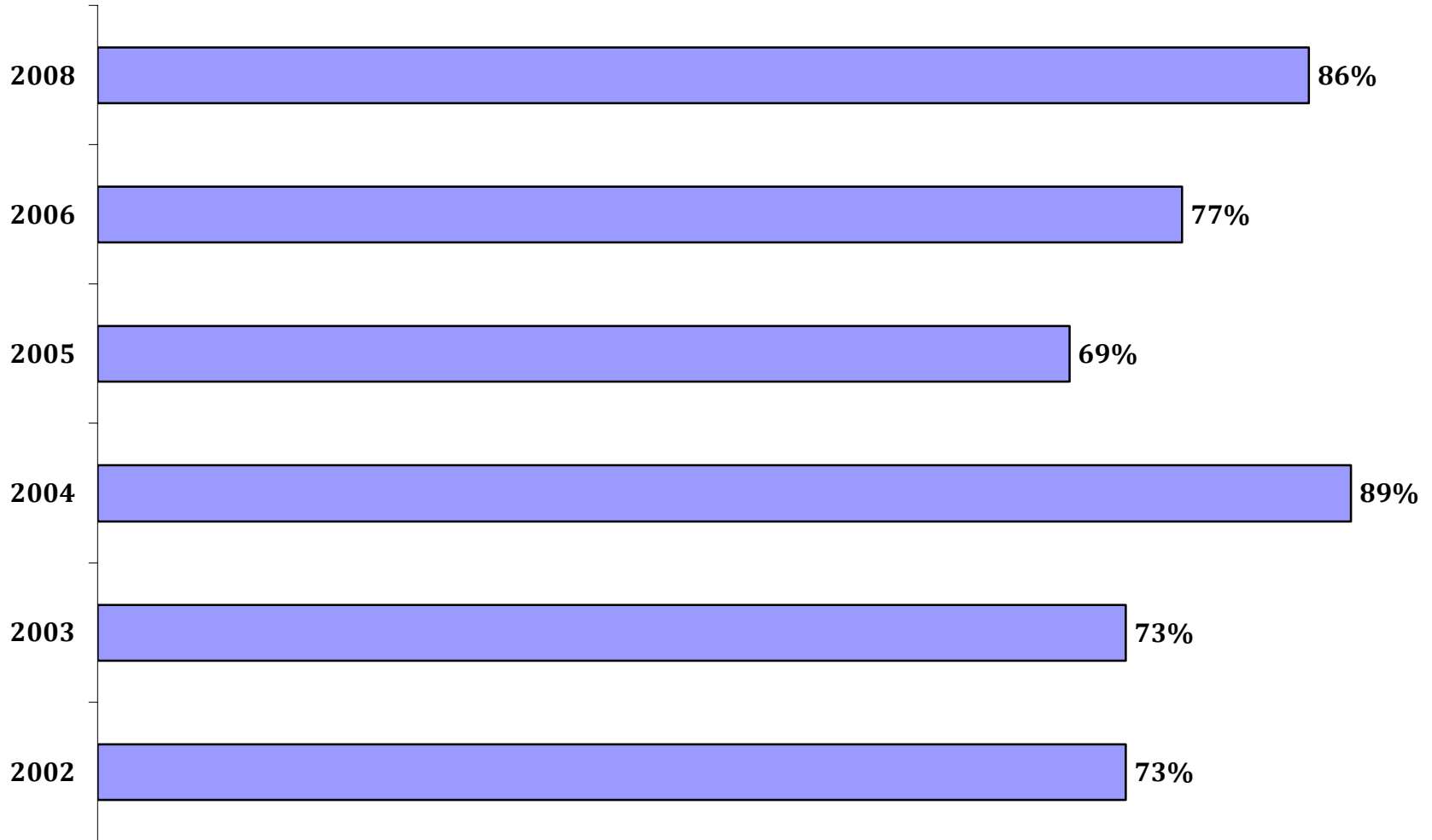
2008 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 6-Country Total

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



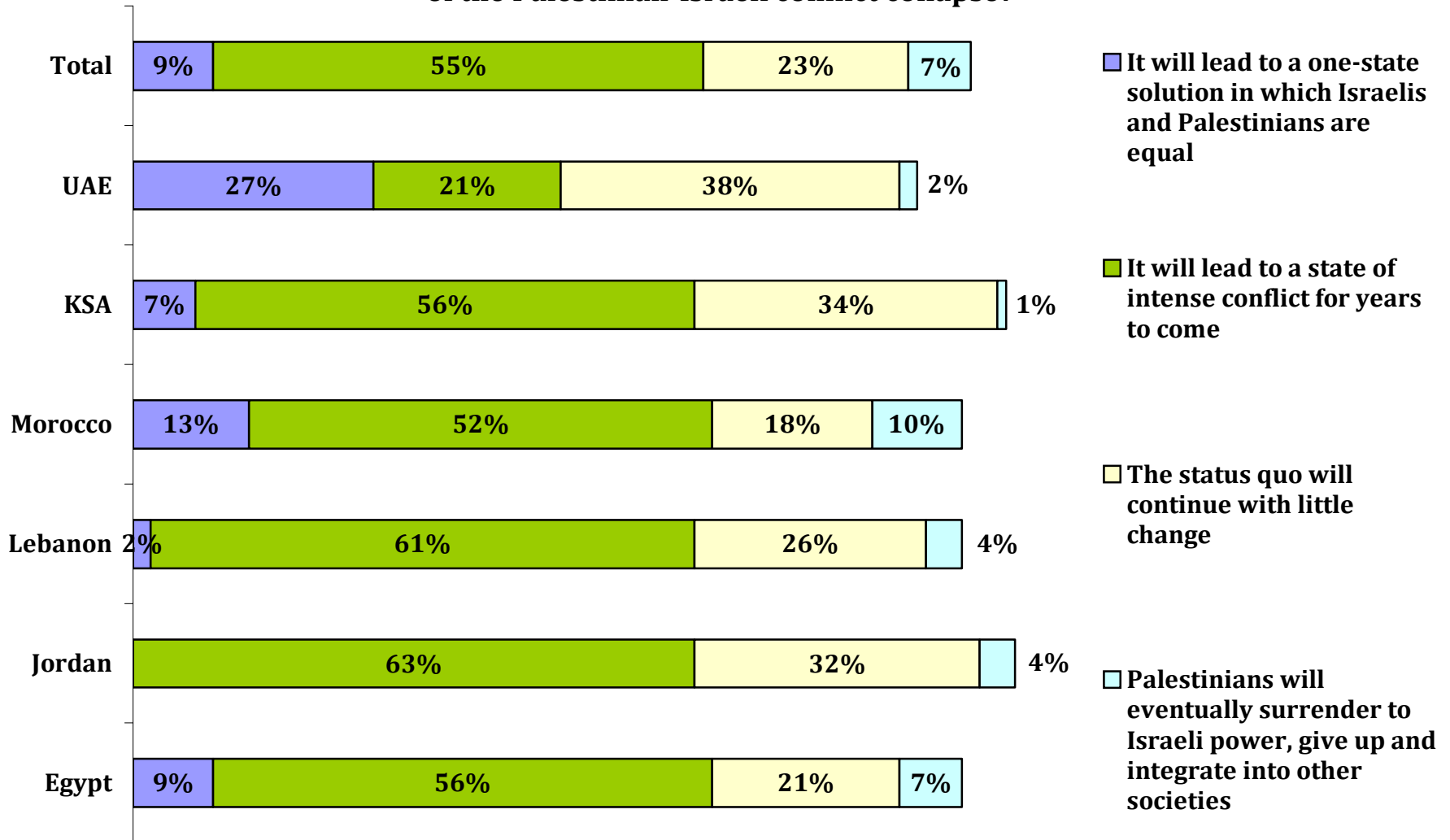
Importance of Palestine Among Non-Palestinian Arabs

How important is the issue of Palestine in your priorities?
(respondents who answered "most important" or "top three")



2008 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

What do you believe is the likely outcome if the prospects for a two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict collapse?

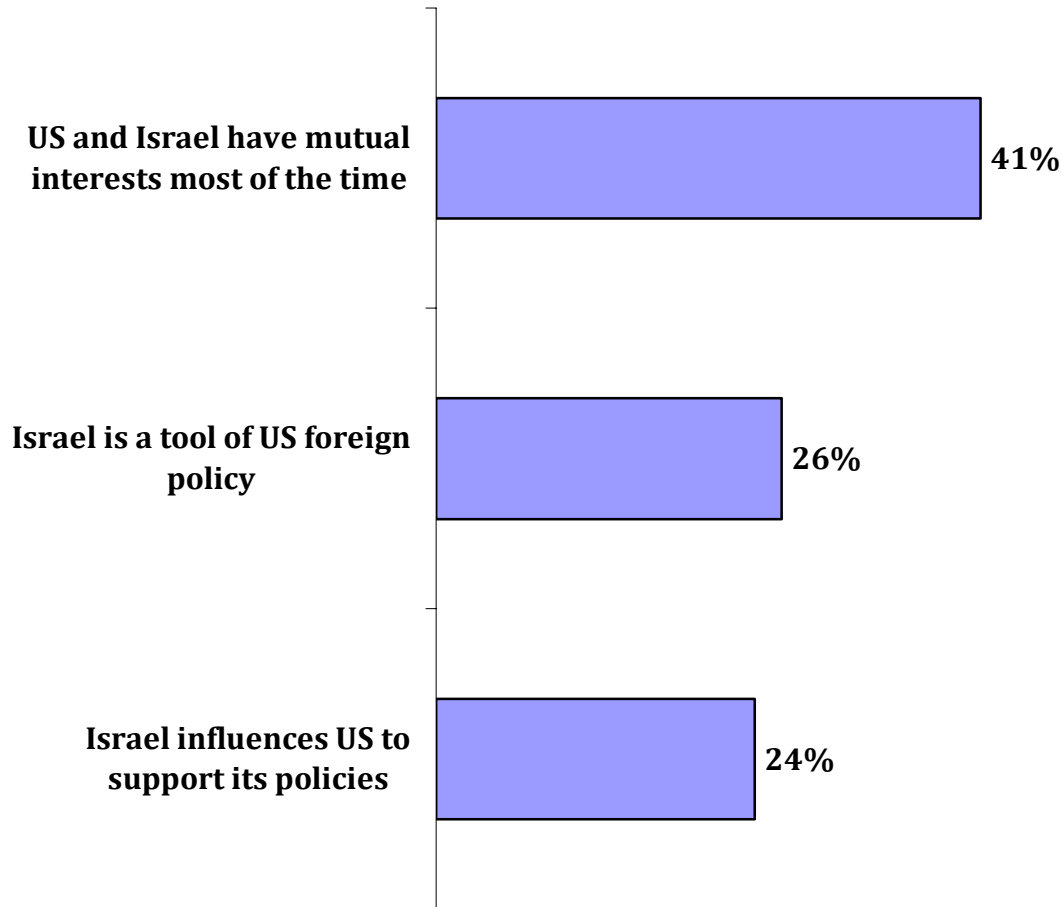


Views of Israel

2008 Arab Public Opinion Poll

**2008 US-Israeli Relations
6-Country Total**

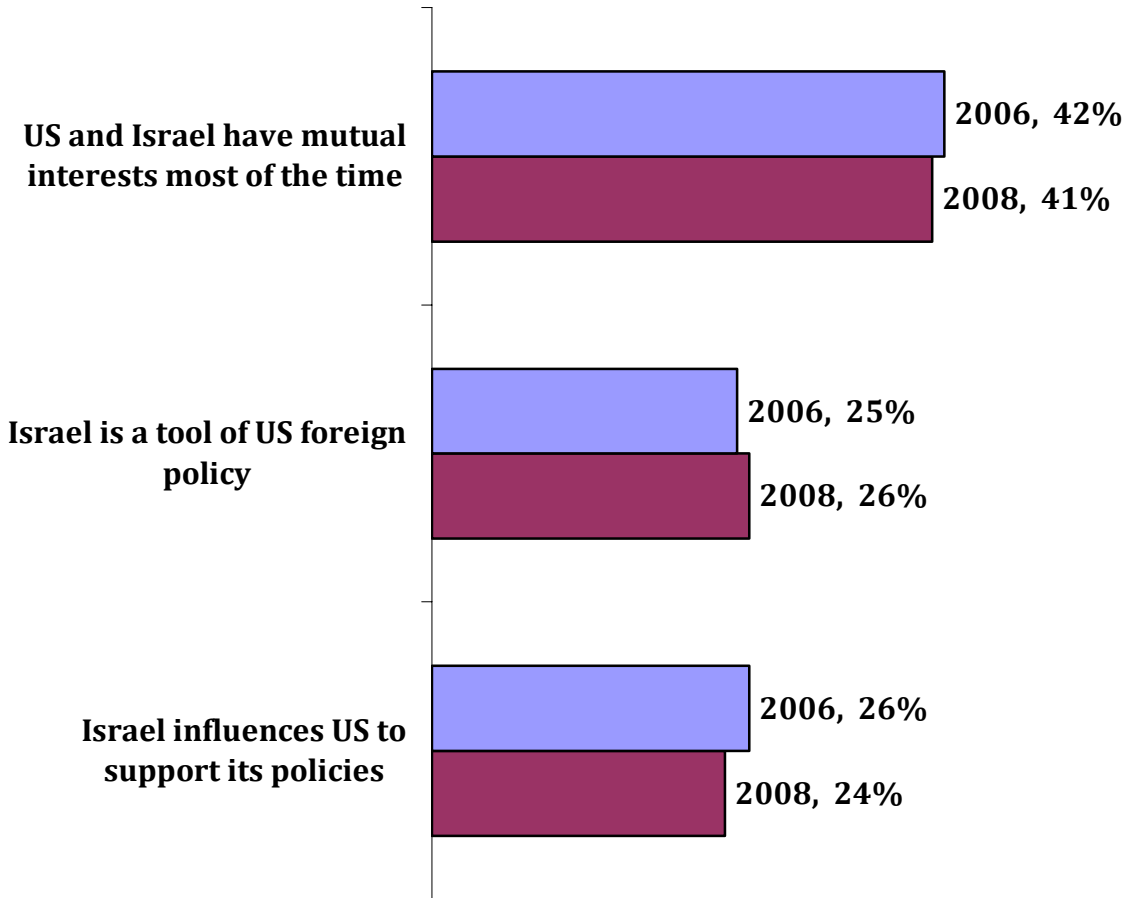
**What do you believe motivates Israeli policies in the region and
American support for these policies?**



US-Israeli Relations, 2006-2008

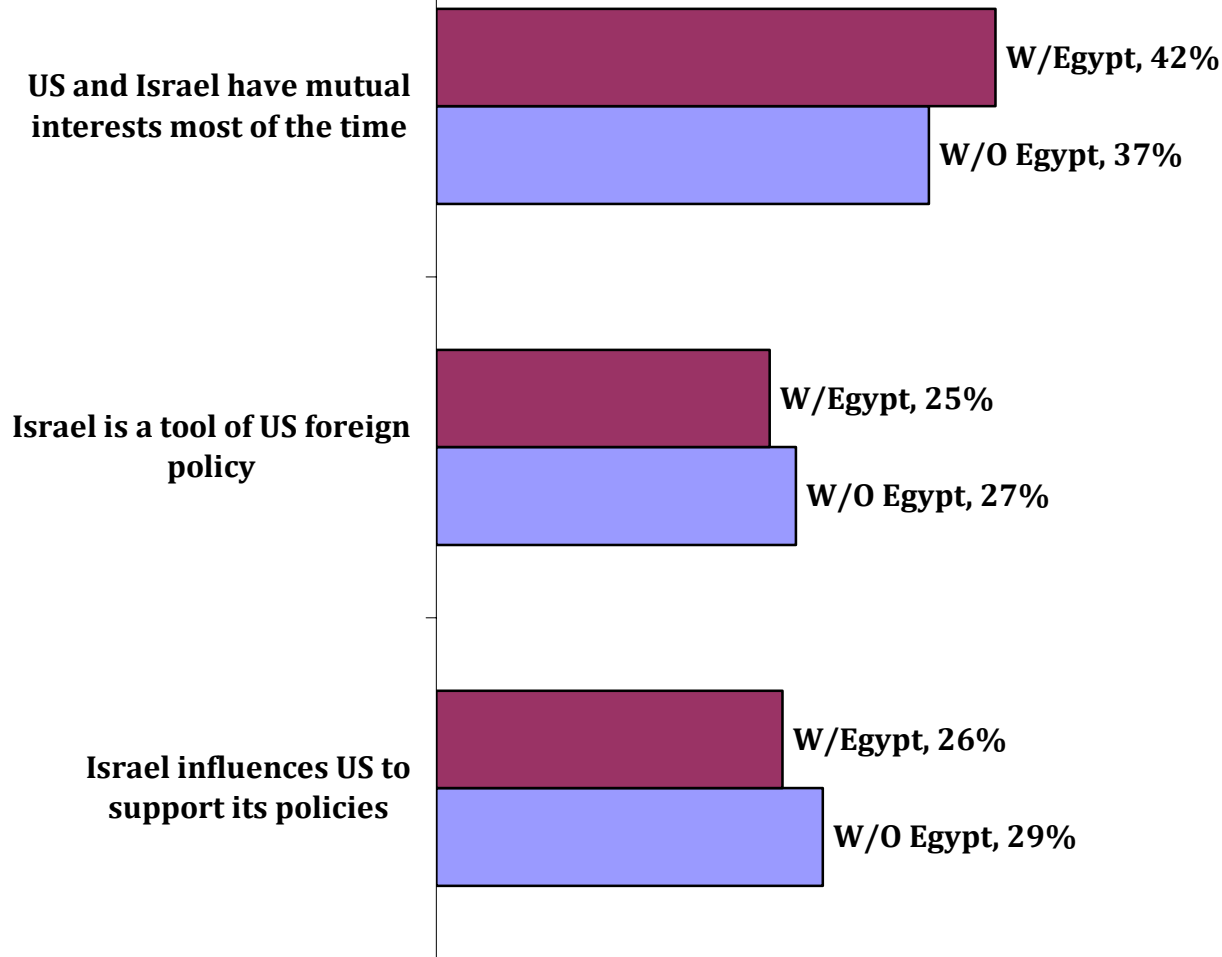
6-Country Total

What do you believe motivates Israeli policies in the region and American support for these policies?



2008 US-Israeli Relations 6-Country Total

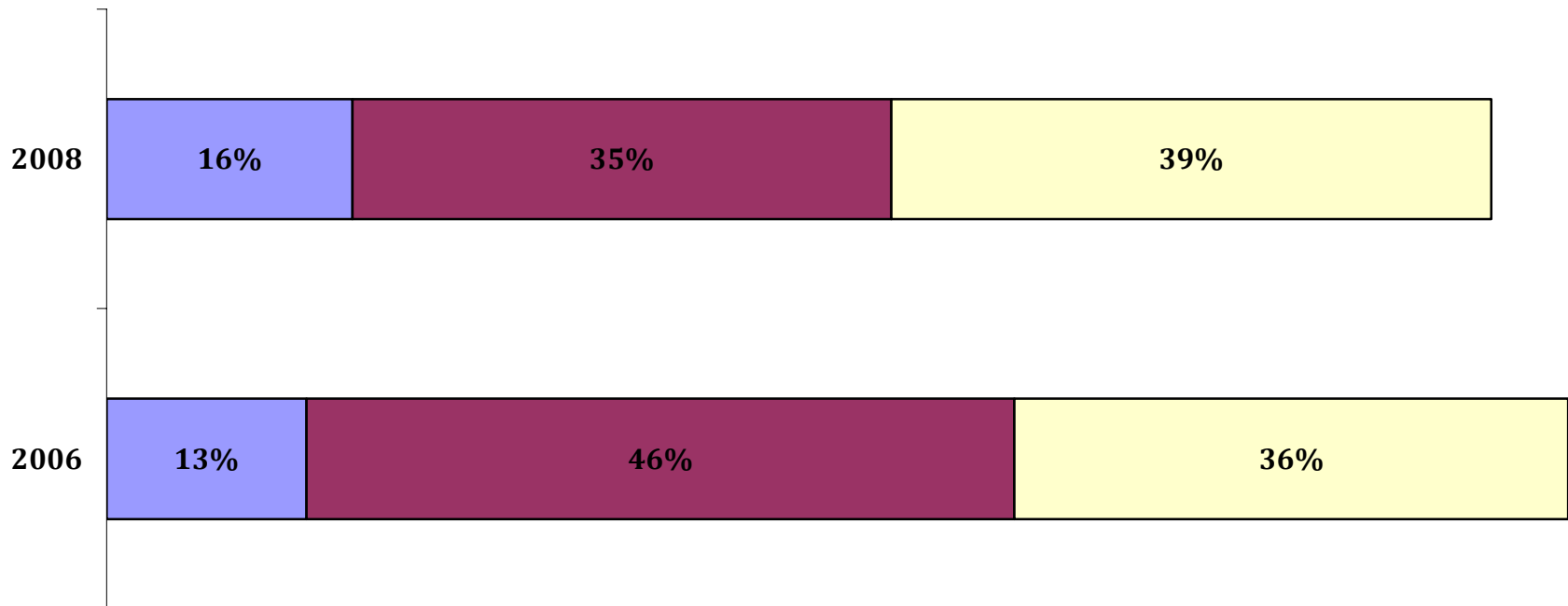
What do you believe motivates Israeli policies in the region and the US support for these policies?



Views of Israel 6-Country Total

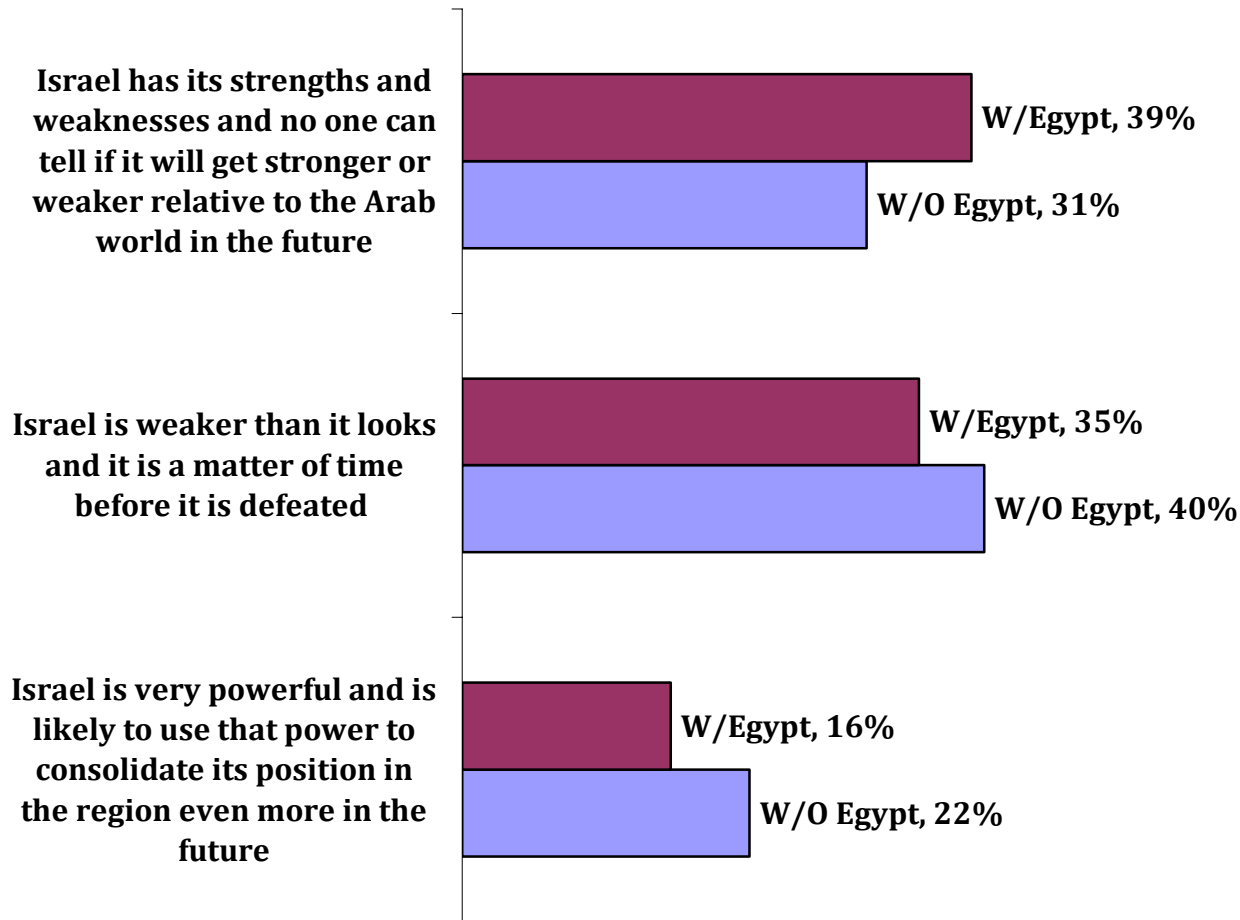
Looking at the recent violence in Lebanon and Gaza, describe your attitudes toward Israel's power:

- Israel is very powerful and is likely to use that power to consolidate its position in the region even more in the future
- Israel is weaker than it looks and it is a matter of time before it is defeated
- Israel has its strengths and weaknesses and no one can tell if it will get stronger or weaker relative to the Arab world in the future



2008 Views of Israel 6-Country Aggregate

Looking at the recent violence in Lebanon and Gaza, describe your attitude towards Israel's power



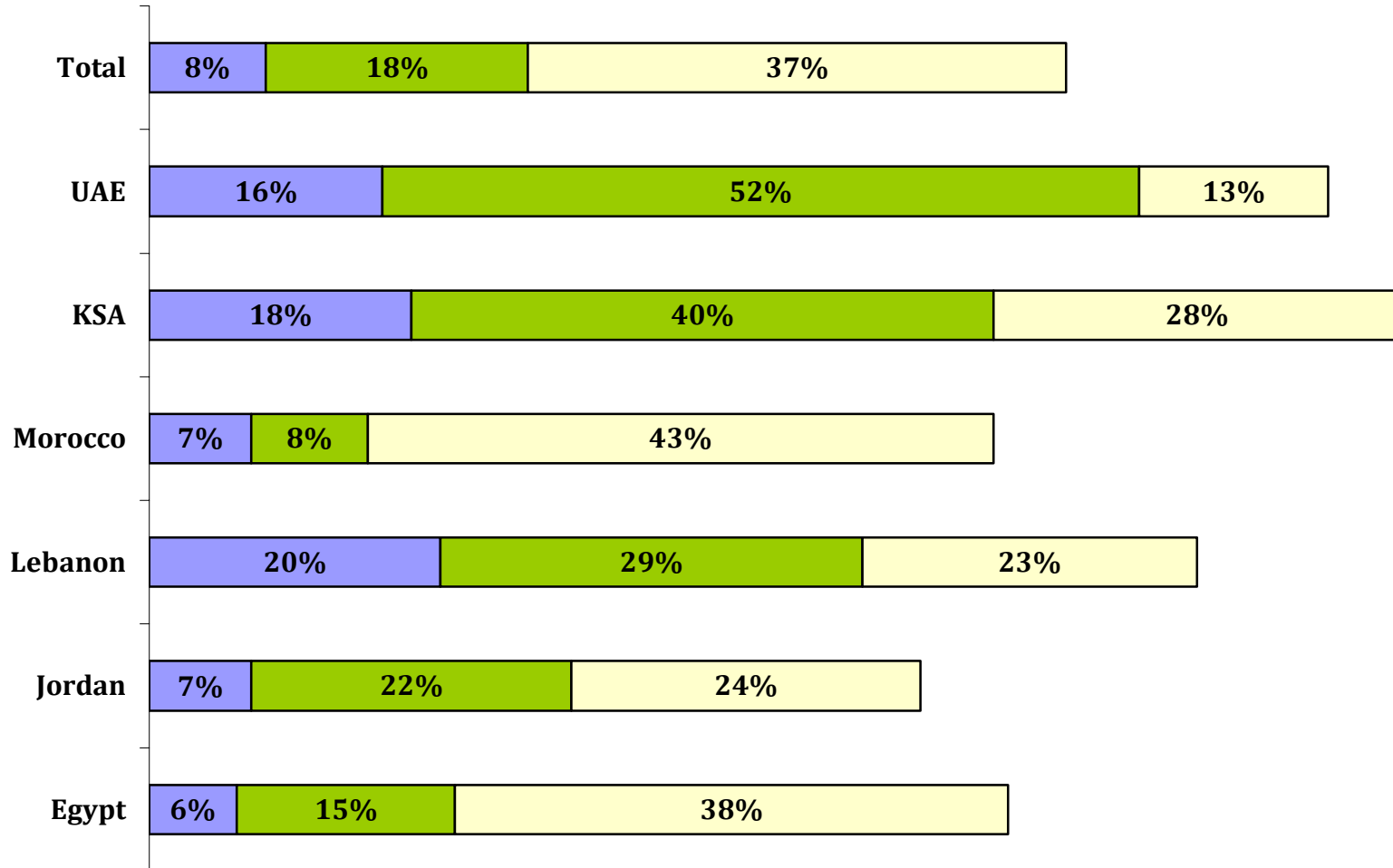
Palestinian Domestic Politics

2008 Arab Public Opinion Poll

2008 Palestinian Politics

In the current conflict among the Palestinians with whom do you sympathize most?

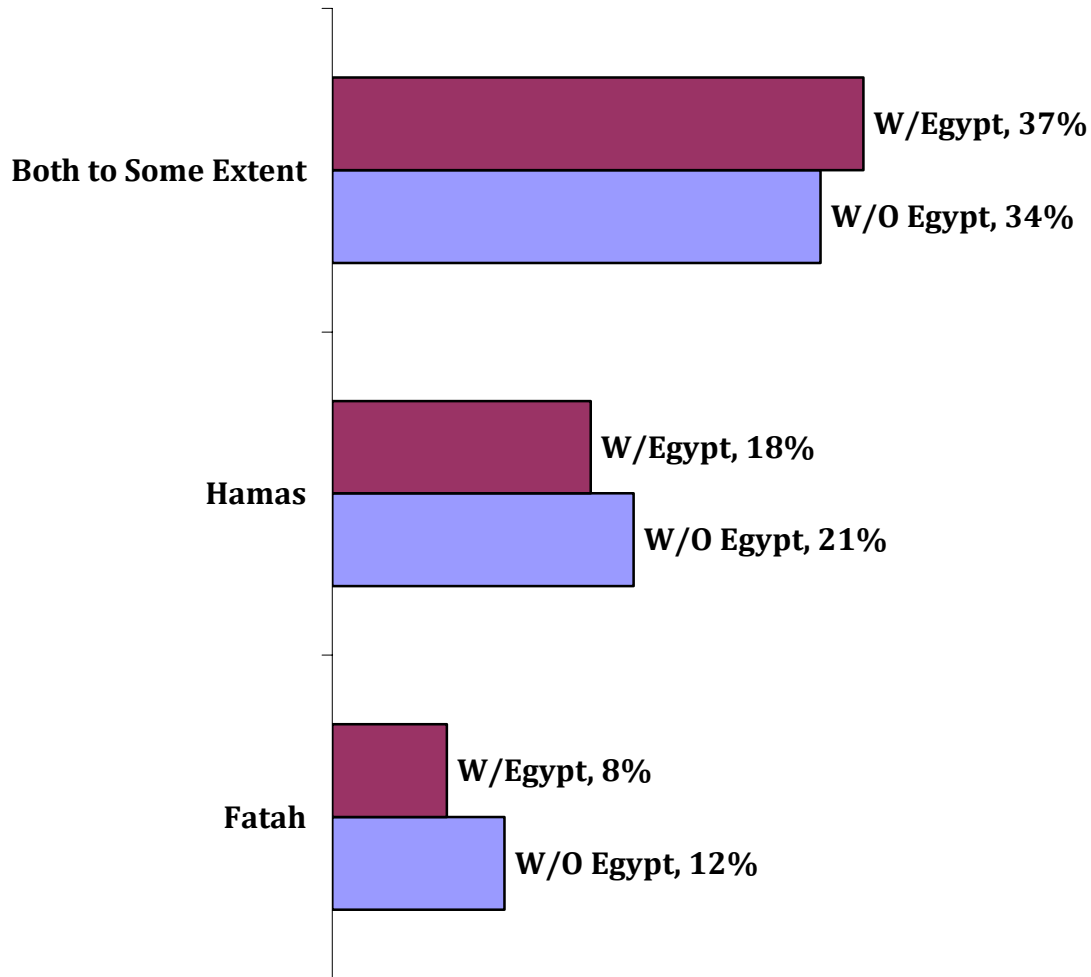
■ Fatah ■ Hamas ■ Both to Some Extent



2008 Palestinian Domestic Politics

6-Country Total

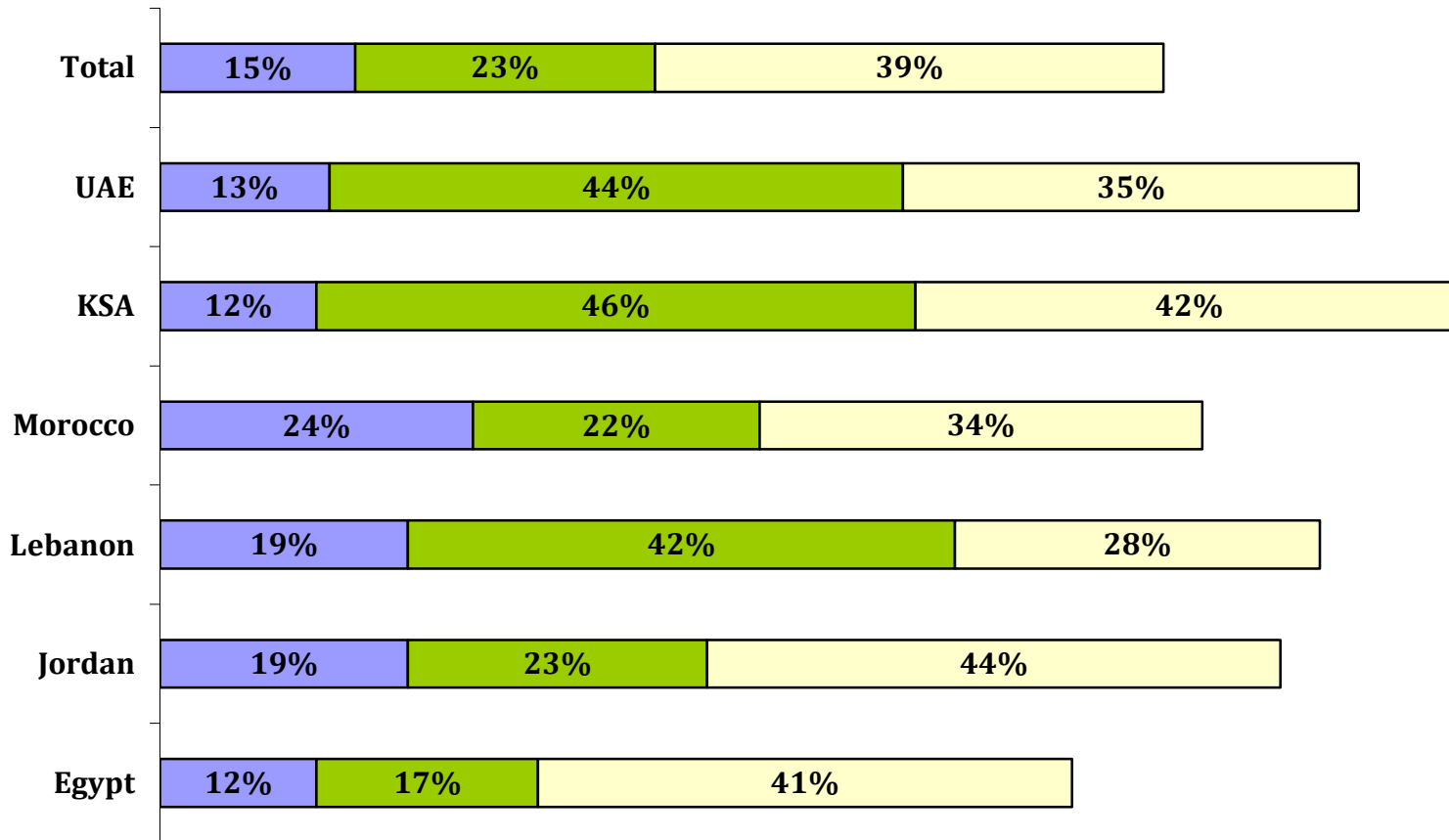
In the current conflict among the Palestinians, with whom do you sympathize most?



2008 Palestinian Politics

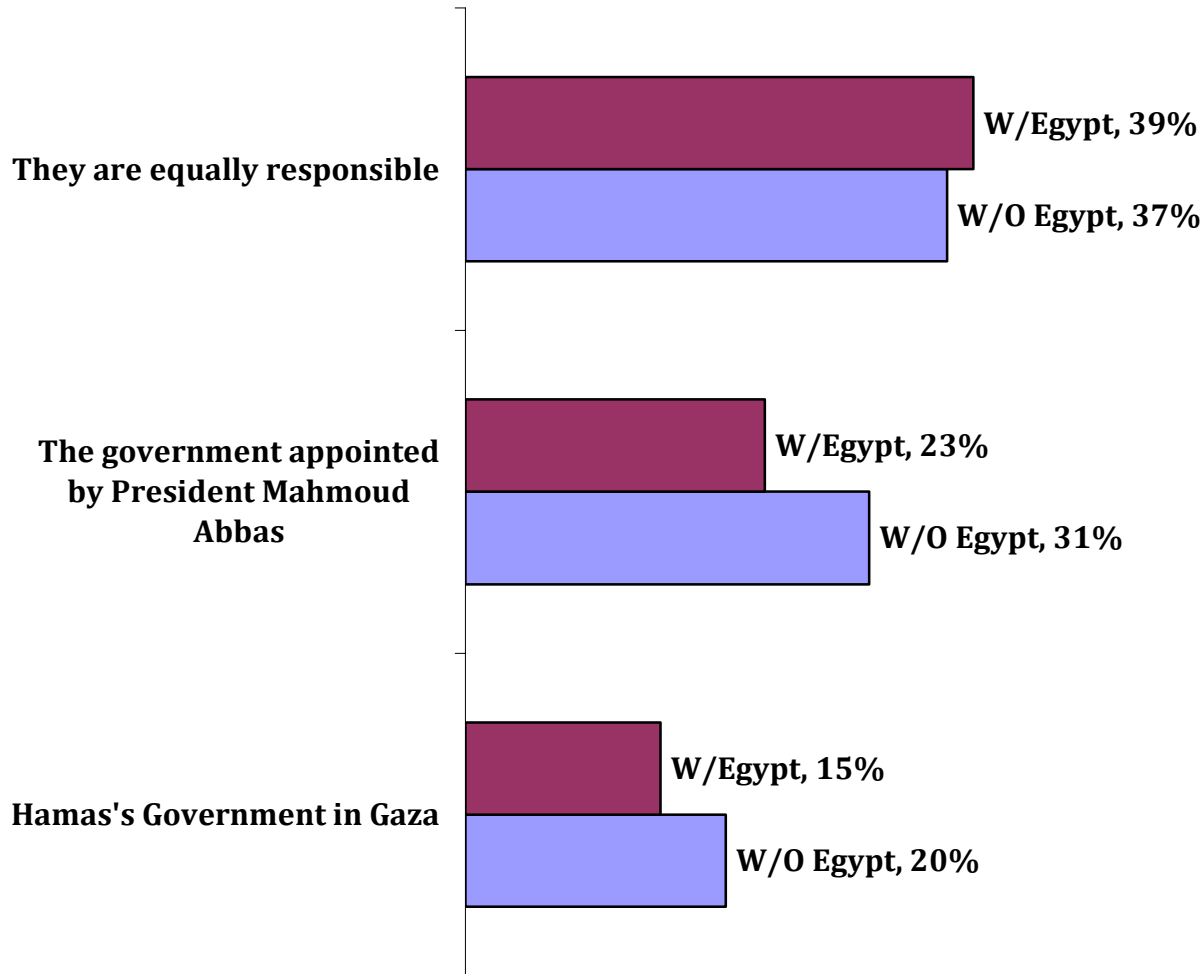
When you observe the current state of affairs in Gaza, which of the Palestinian parties do you believe is most responsible for it?

- Hamas's Government in Gaza
- The government appointed by President Mahmoud Abbas
- They are equally responsible



**2008 Palestinian Domestic Politics
6-Country Total**

**When you observe the current state of affairs in Gaza, which of the
Palestinian parties do you believe is most responsible for it?**

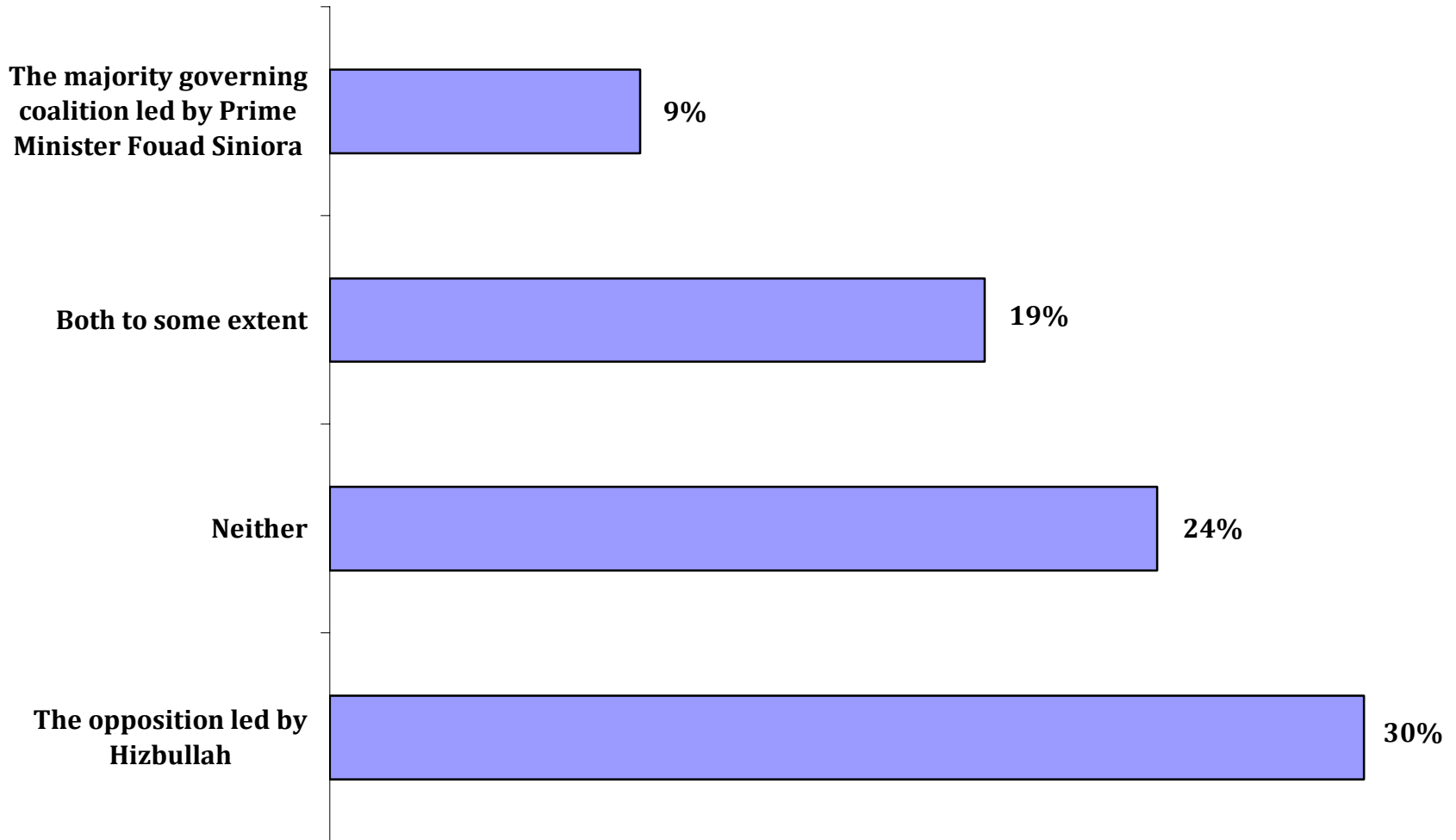


Lebanese Politics

2008 Arab Public Opinion Poll

**2008 Lebanese Politics
6-Country Total**

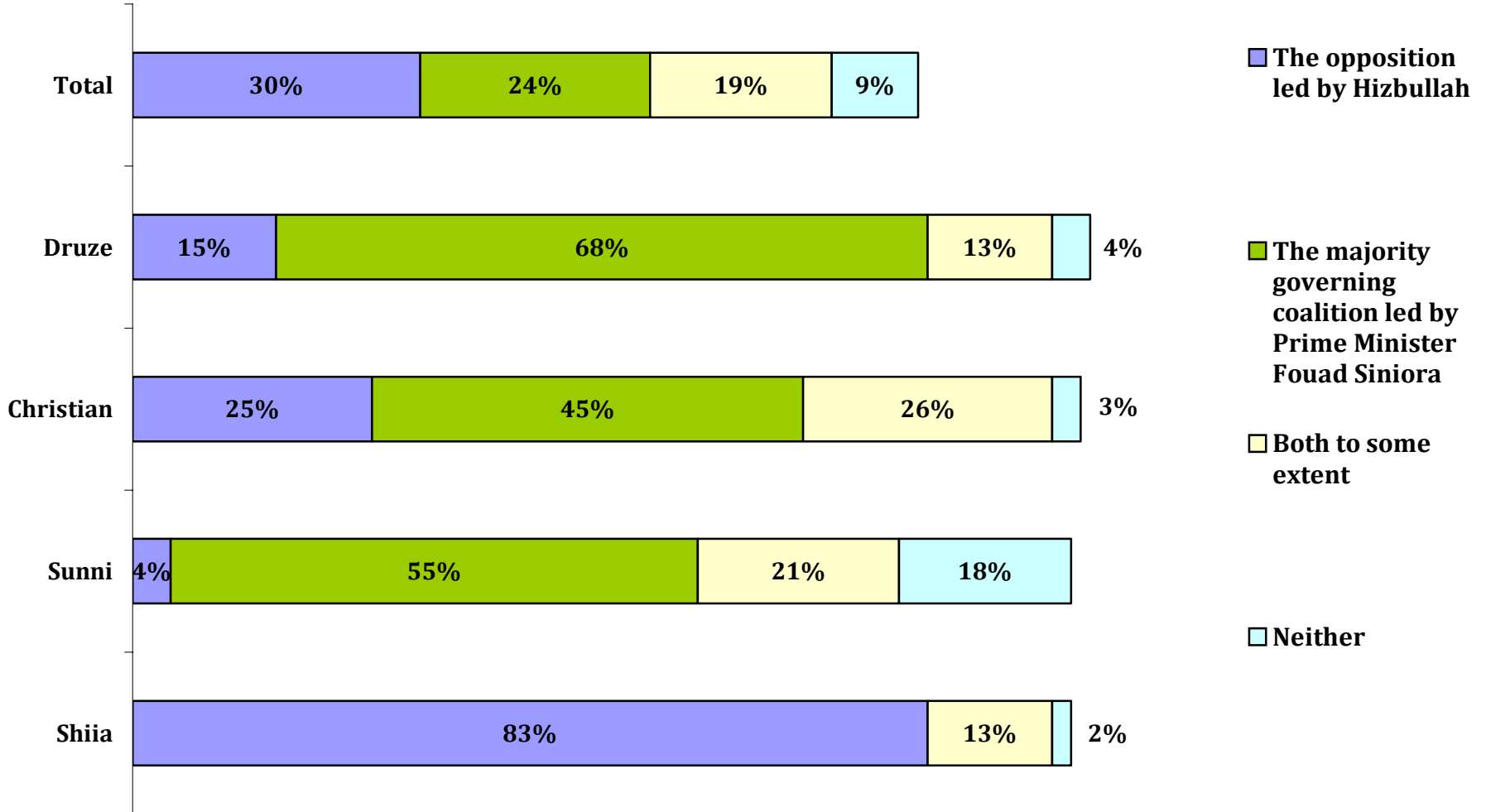
In the internal crisis in Lebanon, with whom do you sympathize most?



2008 Lebanese Politics

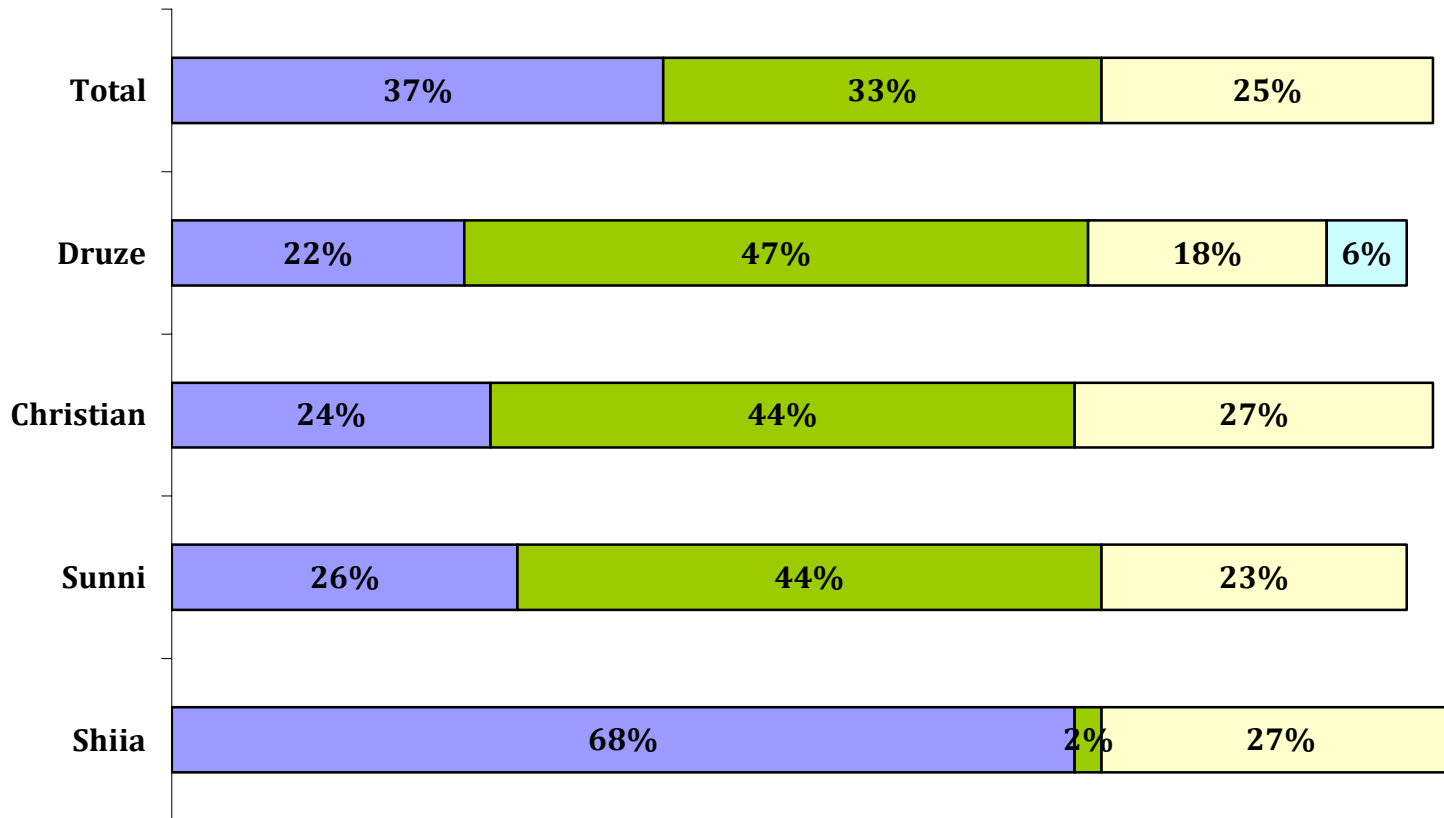
Lebanon by Confessional Group

In the current internal crisis in Lebanon, with whom do you sympathize most?



2006 Lebanese Politics
Lebanon by Confessional Group
After the Lebanon War, describe your attitudes toward Hizbullah

- My view is more positive
- My view is more negative
- My view has not changed
- My view has shifted from positive to negative



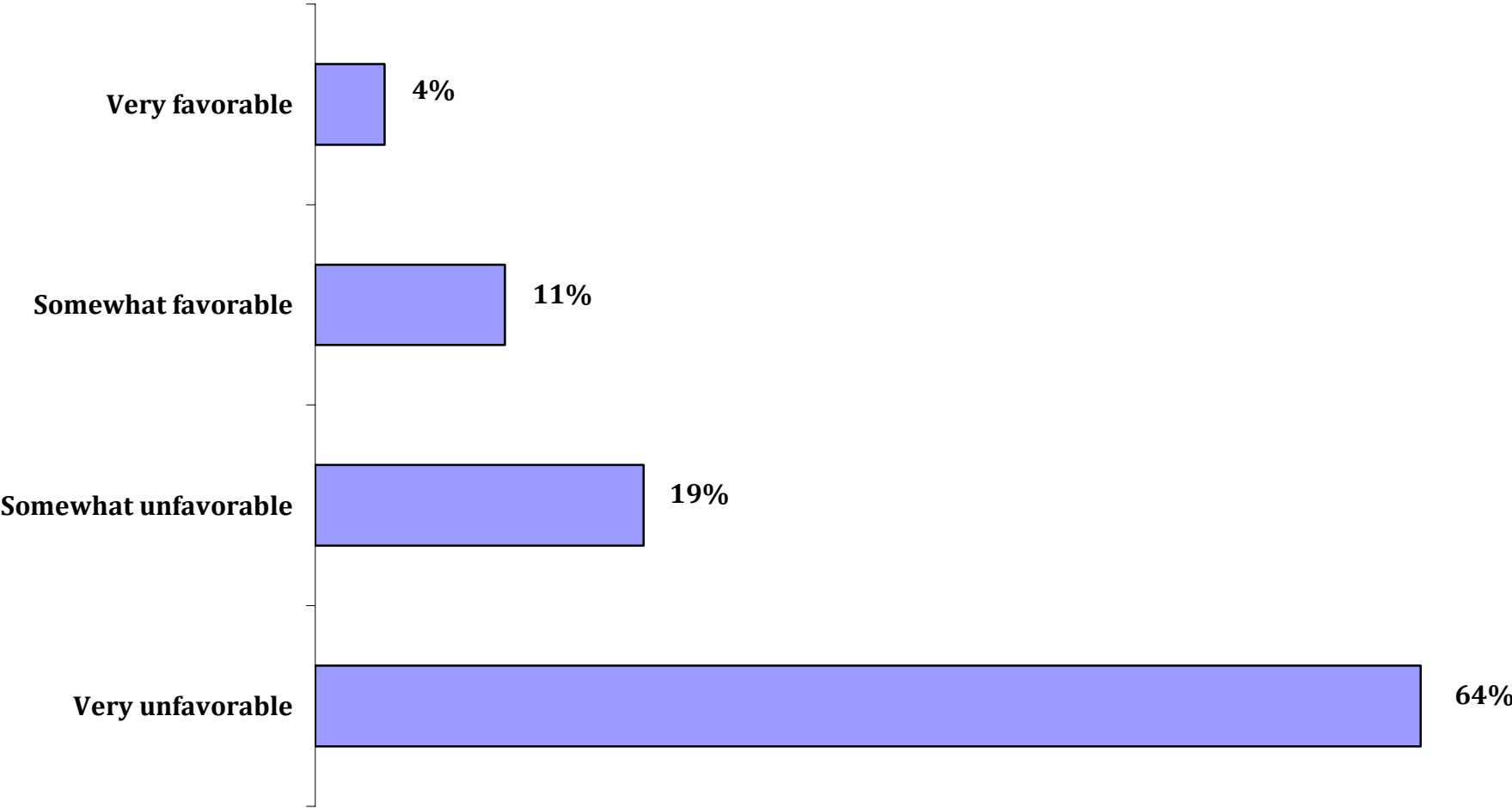
Views of the US

2008 Arab Public Opinion Poll

2008 Views of the US

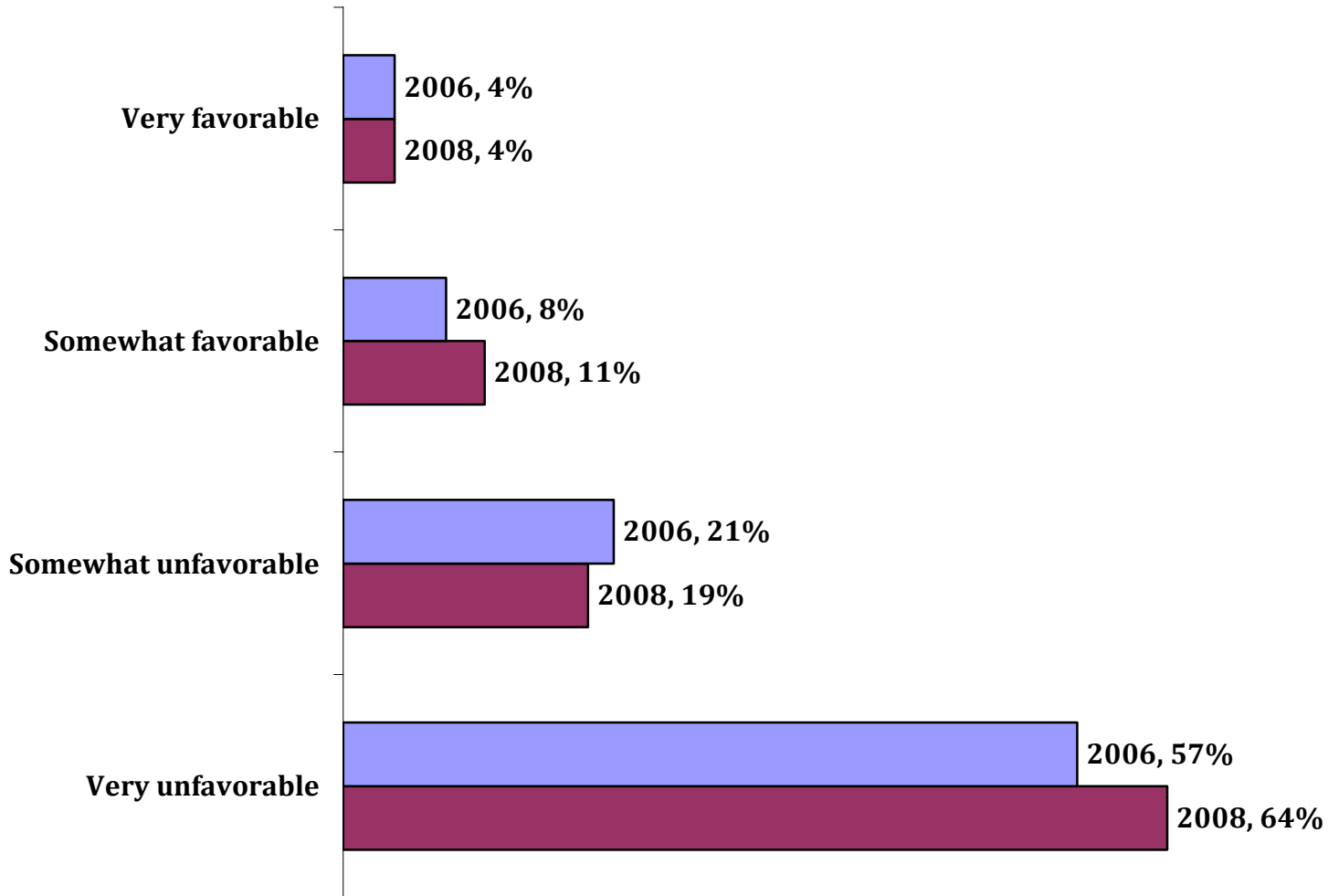
6-Country Total

Generally speaking, is your attitude towards the United States:



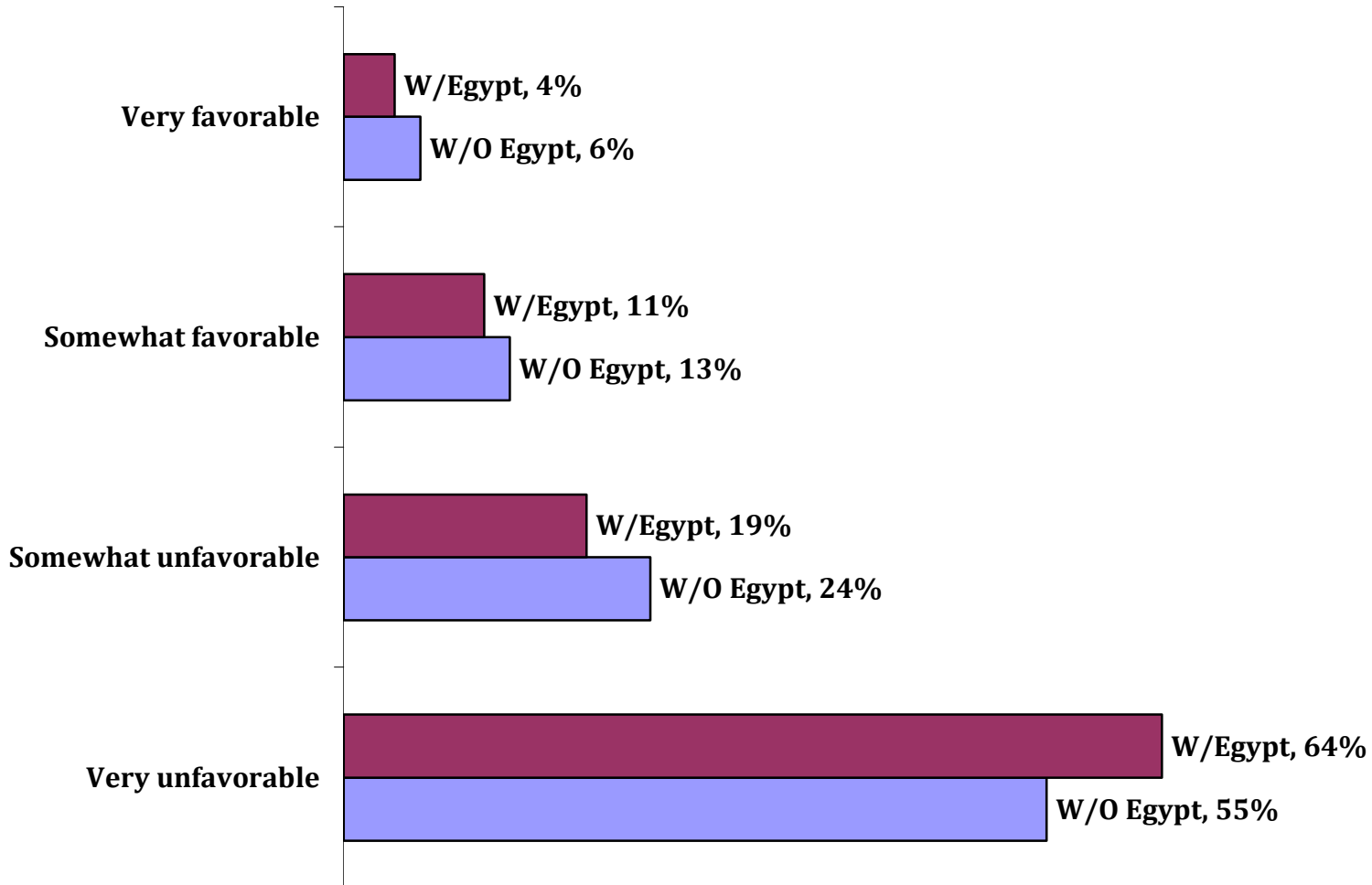
**Views of the US, 2006-2008
6-Country Total**

Generally speaking, is your attitude towards the United States:

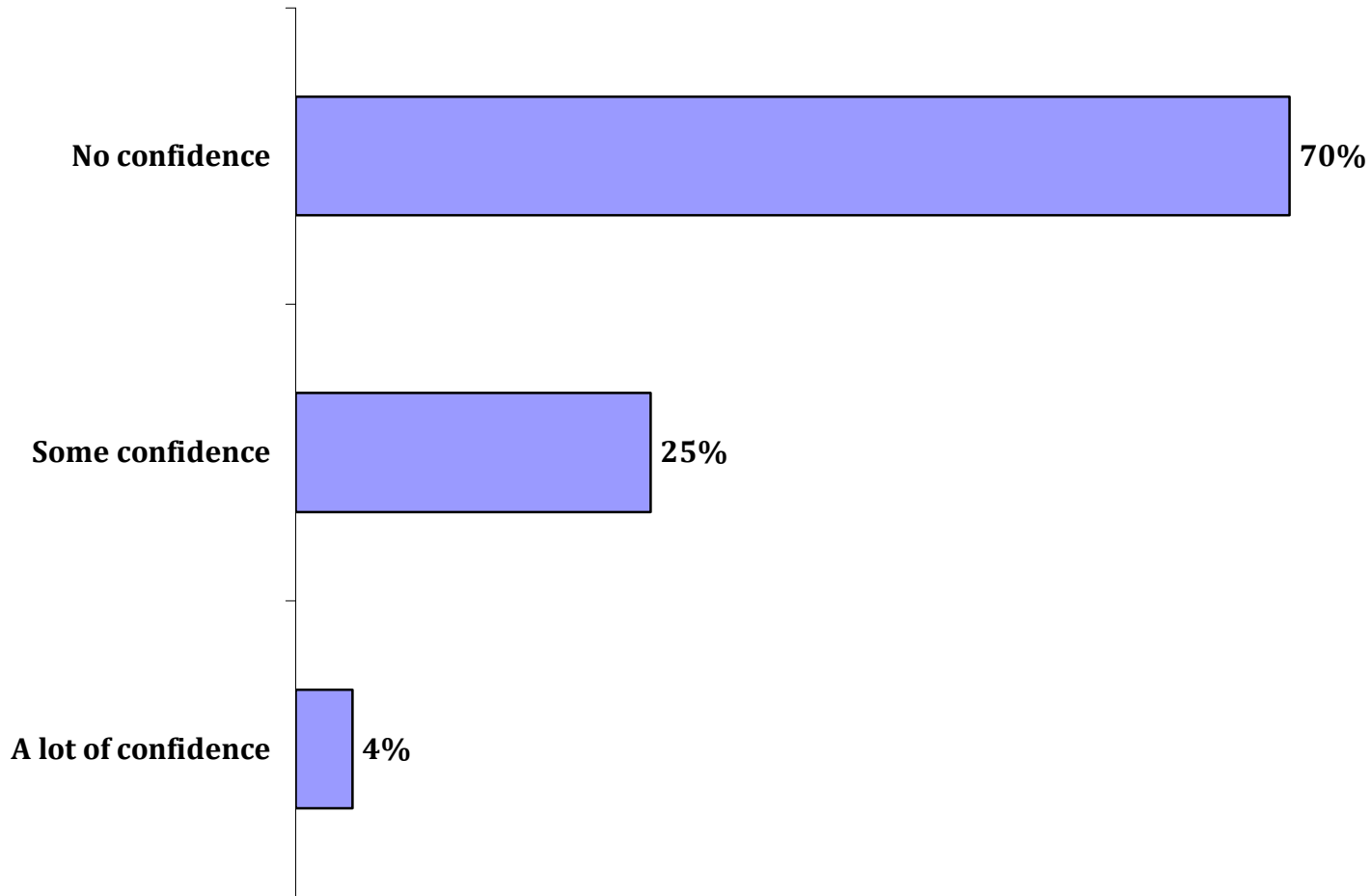


2008 Views of the US 6-Country Total

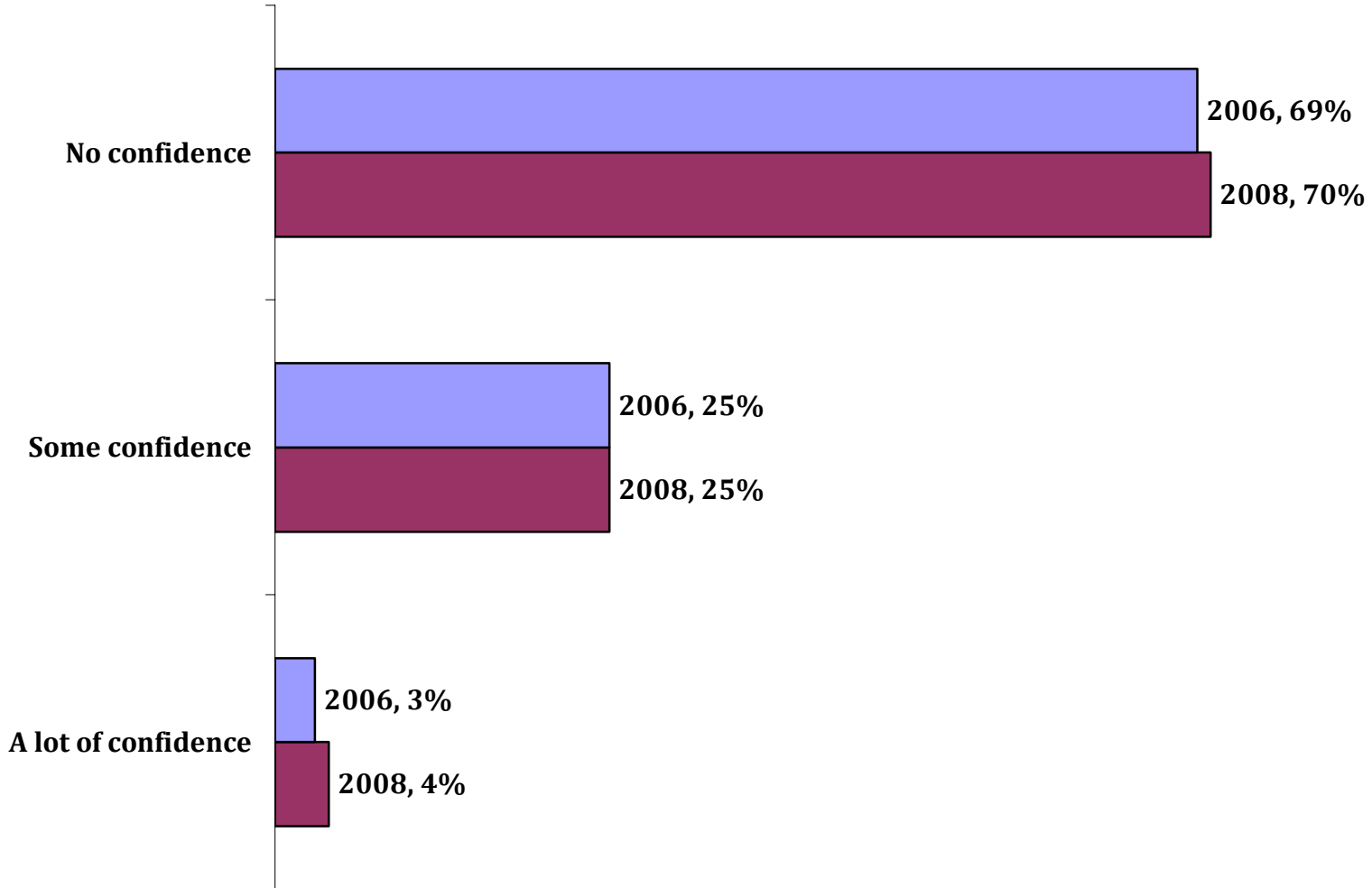
Generally speaking, is your attitude towards the United States:



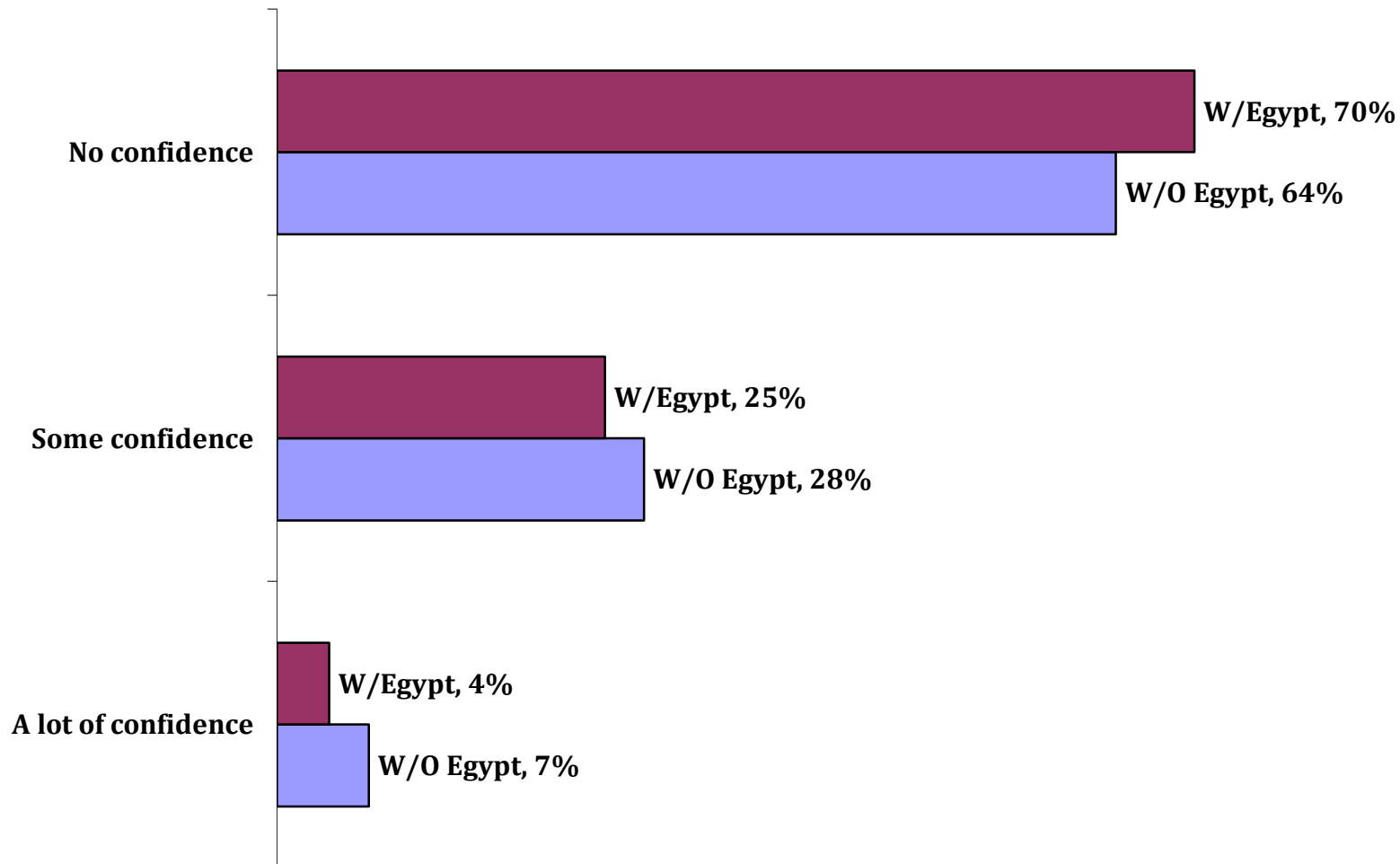
**2008 Views of the US
6-Country Total
How much confidence do you have in the United States?**



Views of the US, 2006-2008
6-Country Total
How much confidence do you have in the United States?

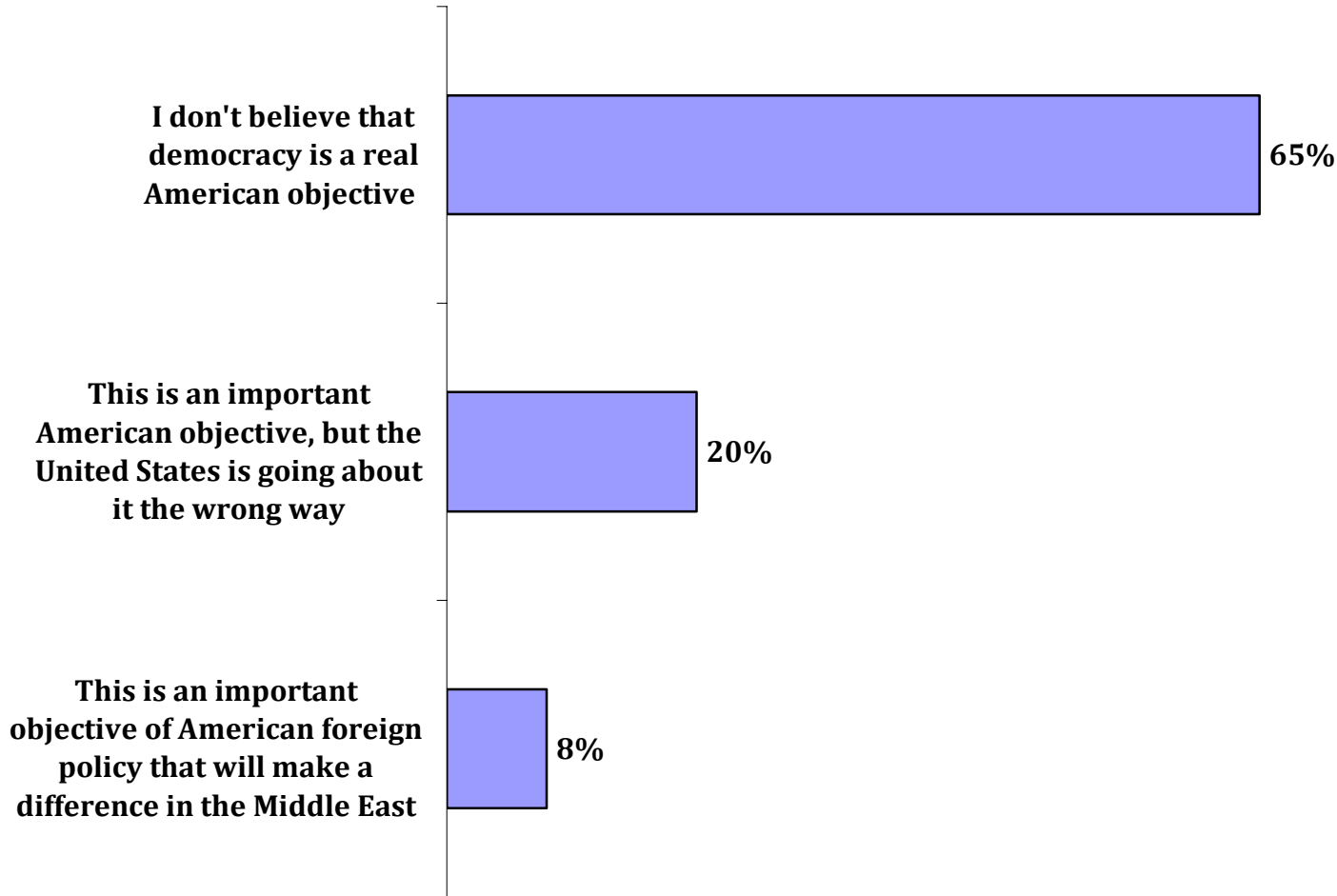


**2008 Views of the US
6-Country Total
How much confidence do you have in the United States?**



**2008 Views of the US
6-Country Total**

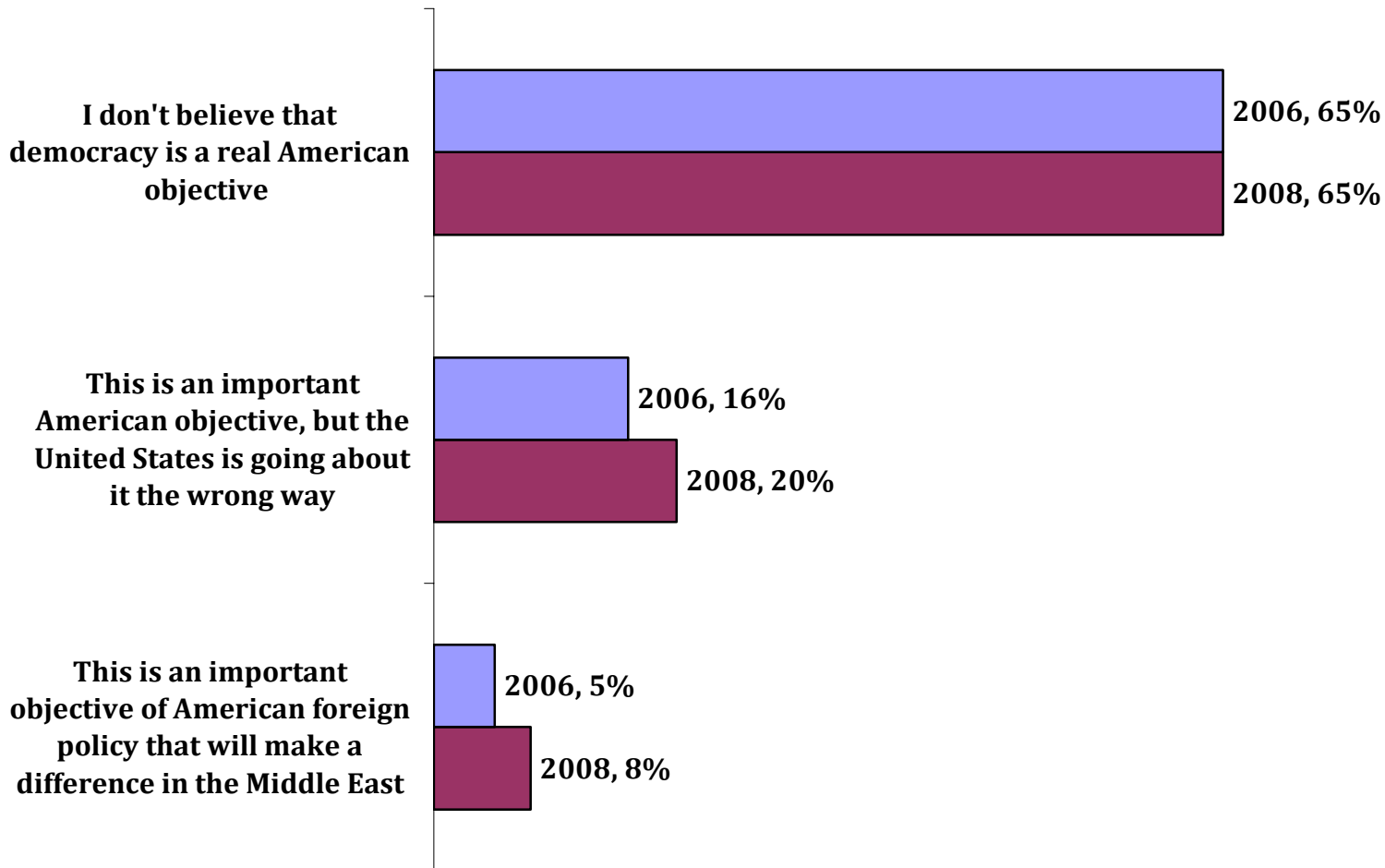
**The United States has been actively advocating the spread of democracy
in the Middle East, especially since the Iraq War. Do you believe that:**



Views of the US, 2006-2008

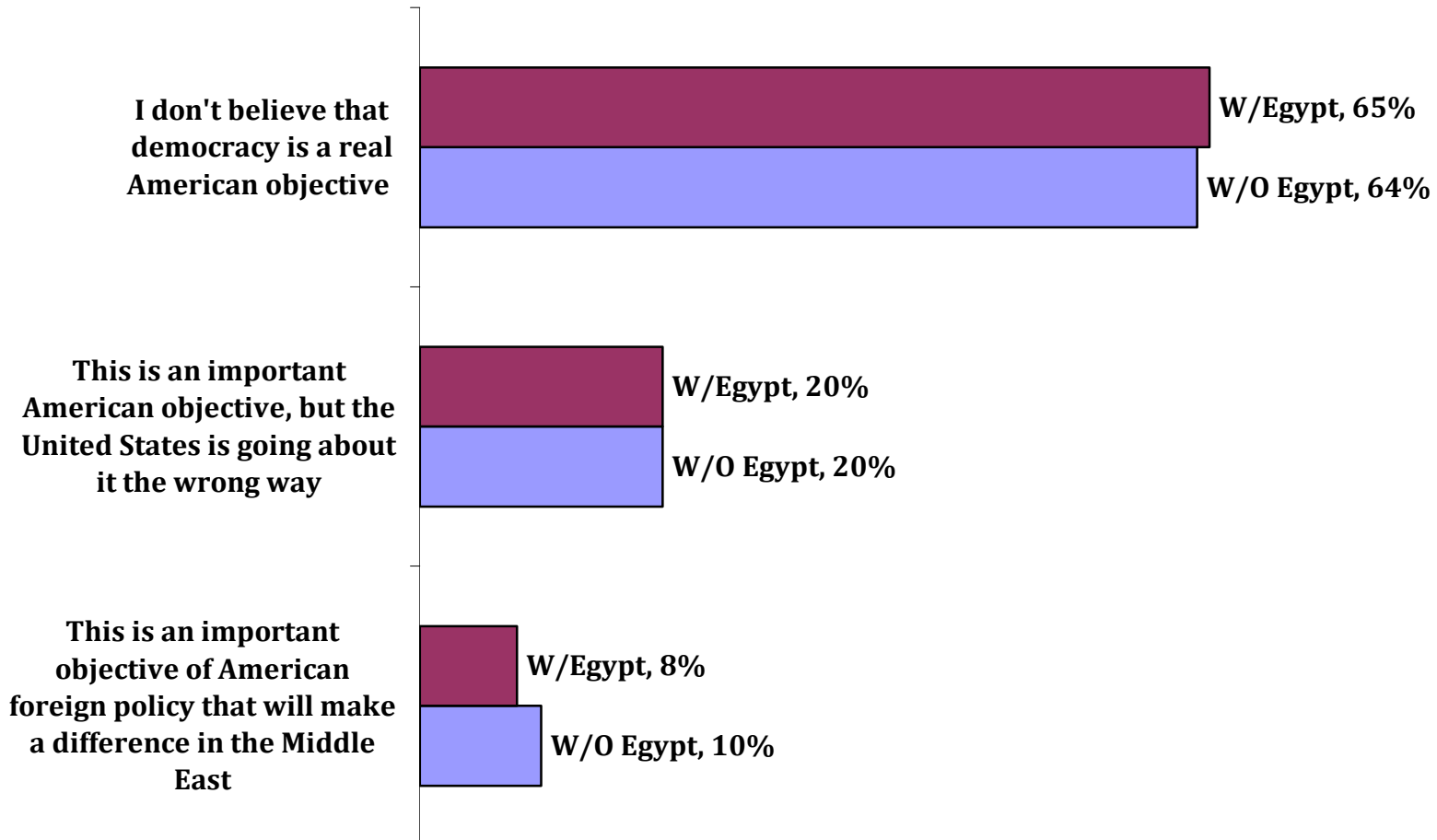
6-Country Total

The US has been actively advocating the spread of democracy in the Middle East especially since the Iraq War. Do you believe that:



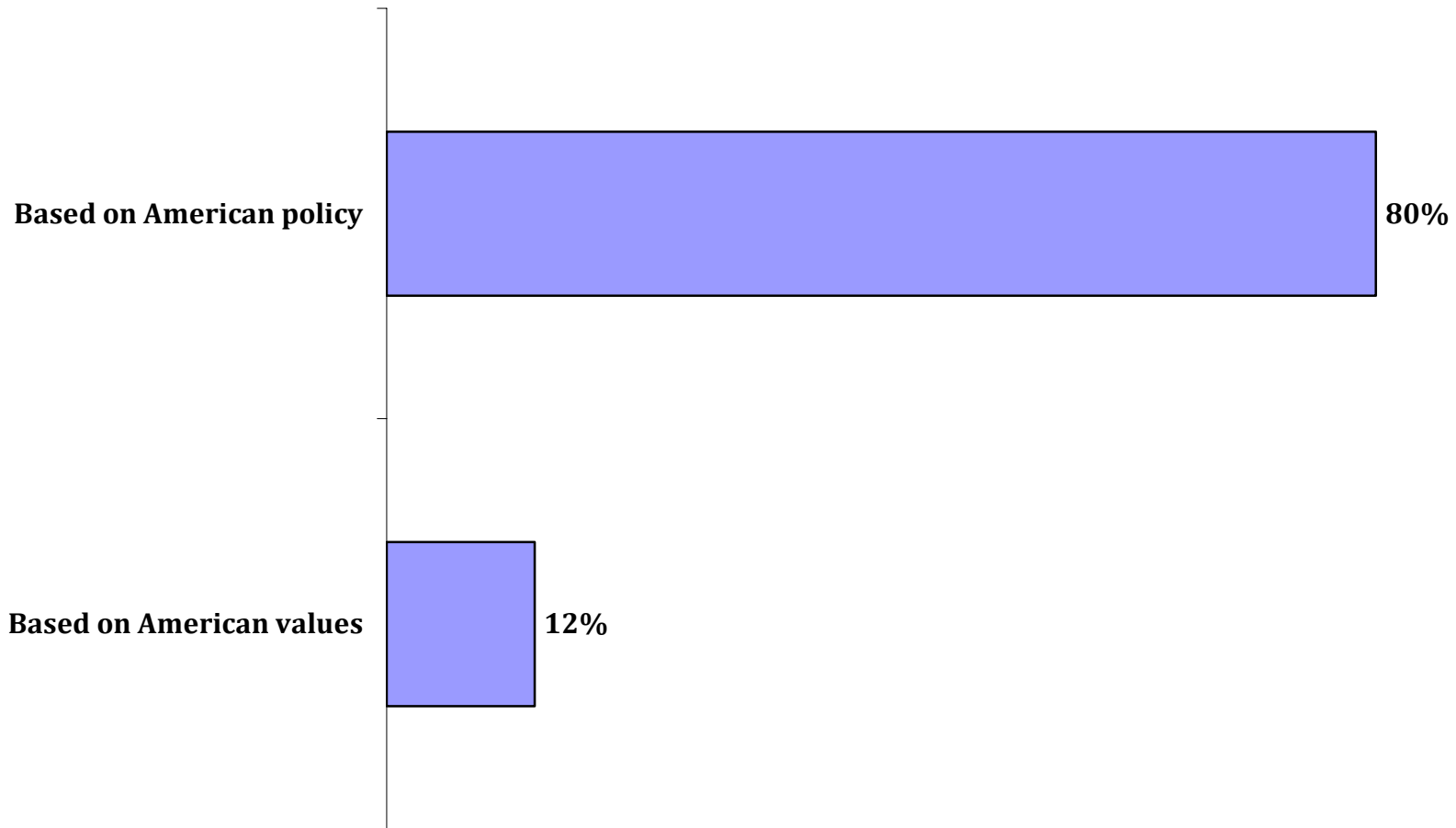
2008 Views of the US 6-Country Total

The United States has been actively advocating the spread of democracy in the Middle East, especially since the Iraq War. Do you believe that:



**2008 Views of the US
6-Country Total**

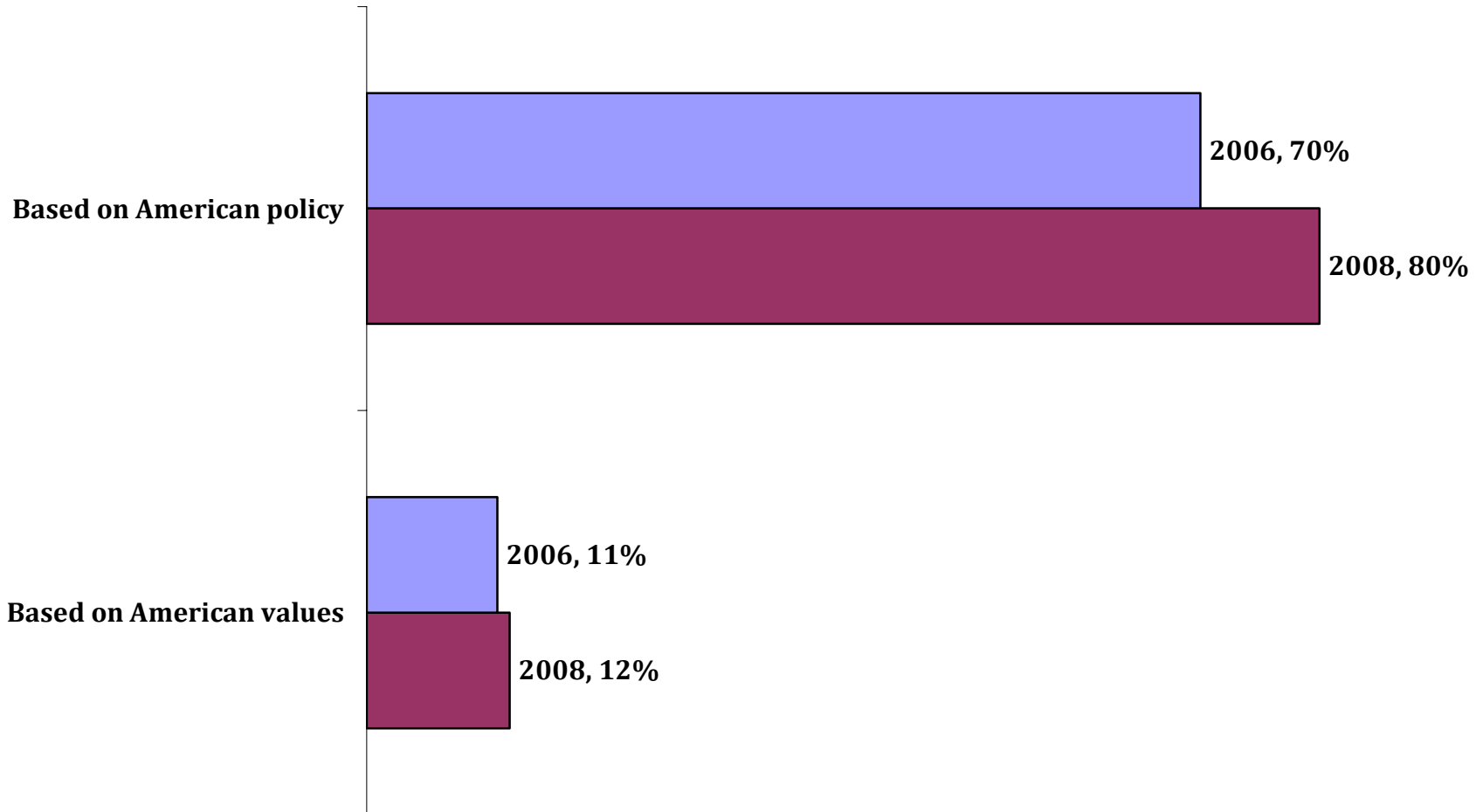
**Would you say your attitudes toward the US are based more on
American values or American policy in the Middle East?**



Views of the US, 2006-2008

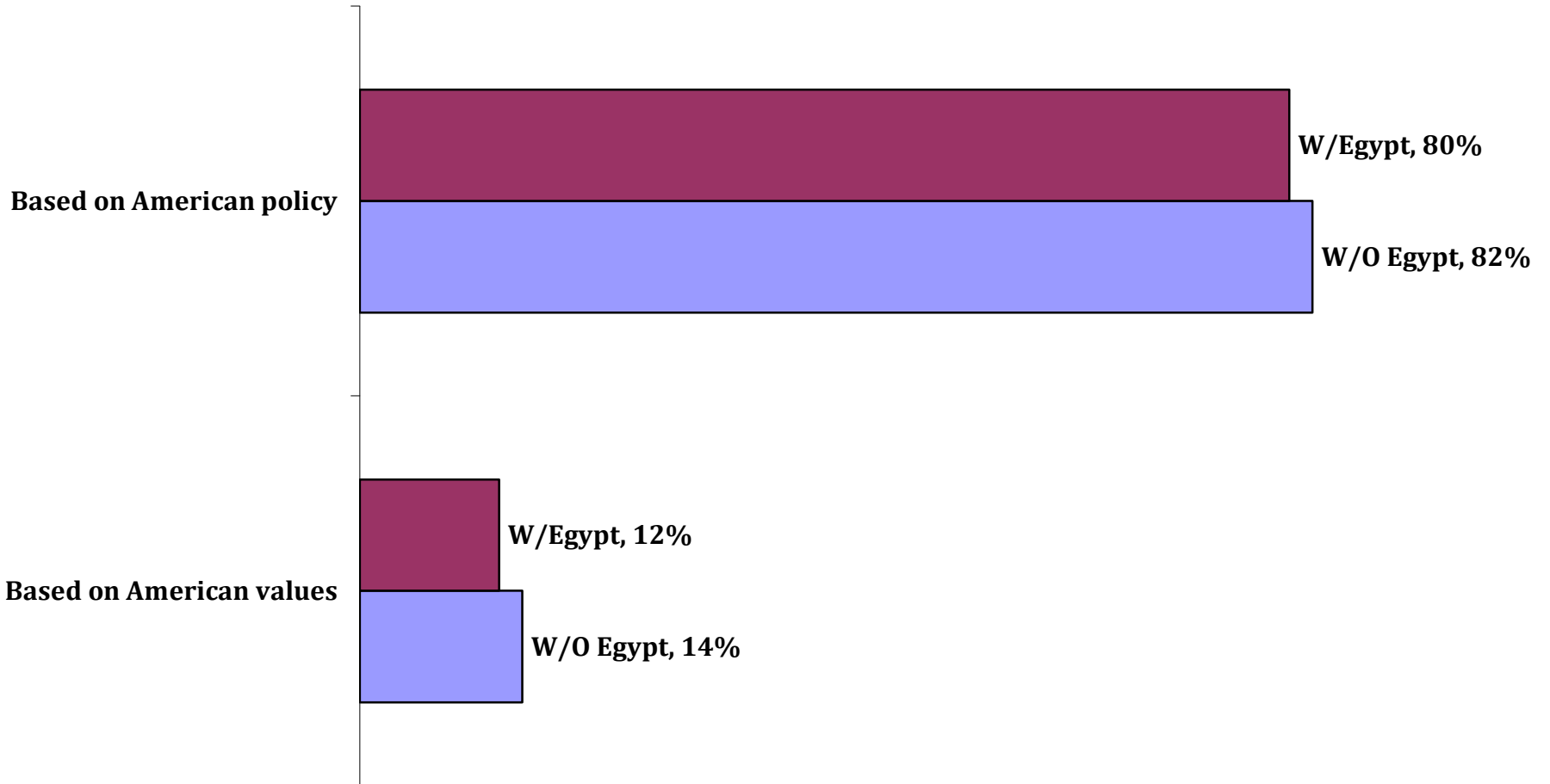
6-Country Total

Would you say your attitudes toward the US are based more on American values or on American policy in the Middle East?



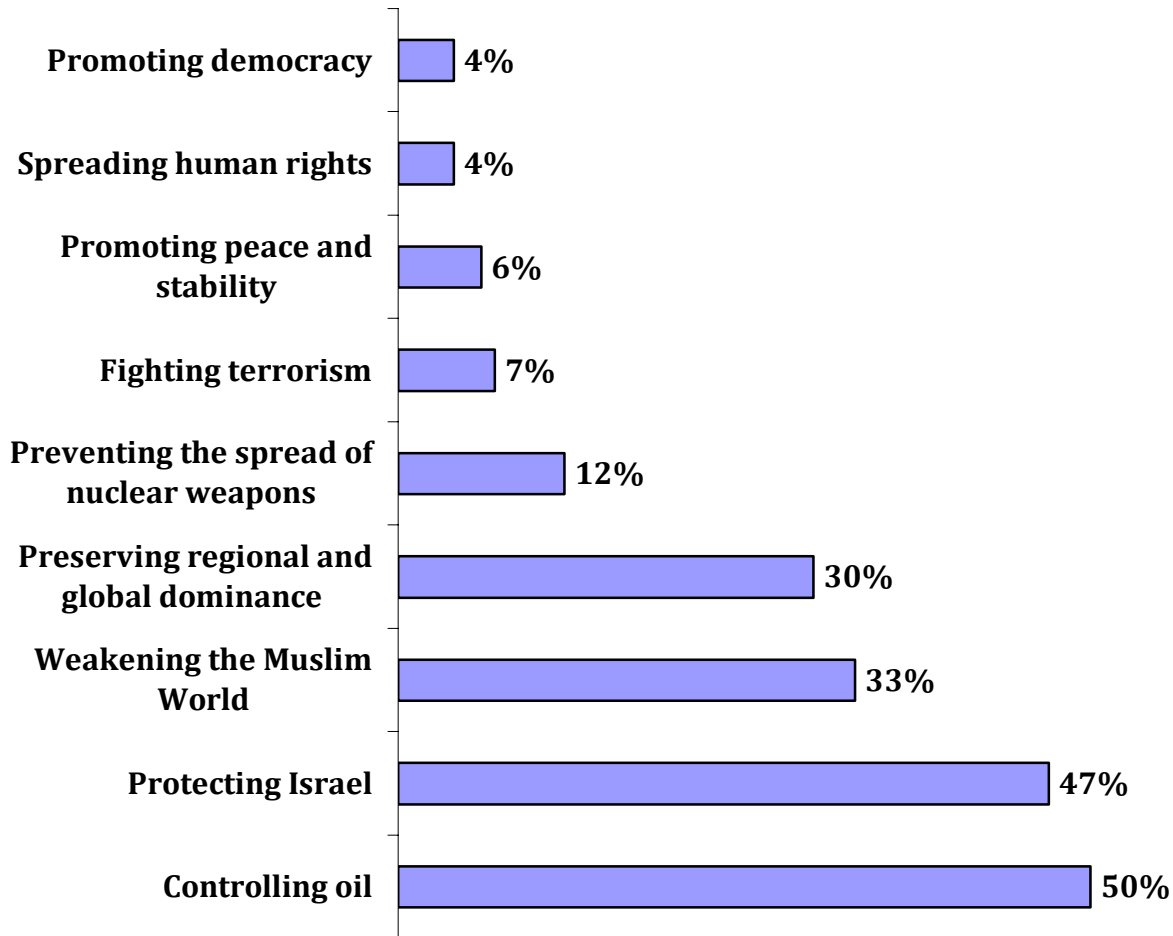
**2008 Views of the US
6-Country Total**

**Would you say your attitudes toward the US are based more on
American values or American policy in the Middle East?**



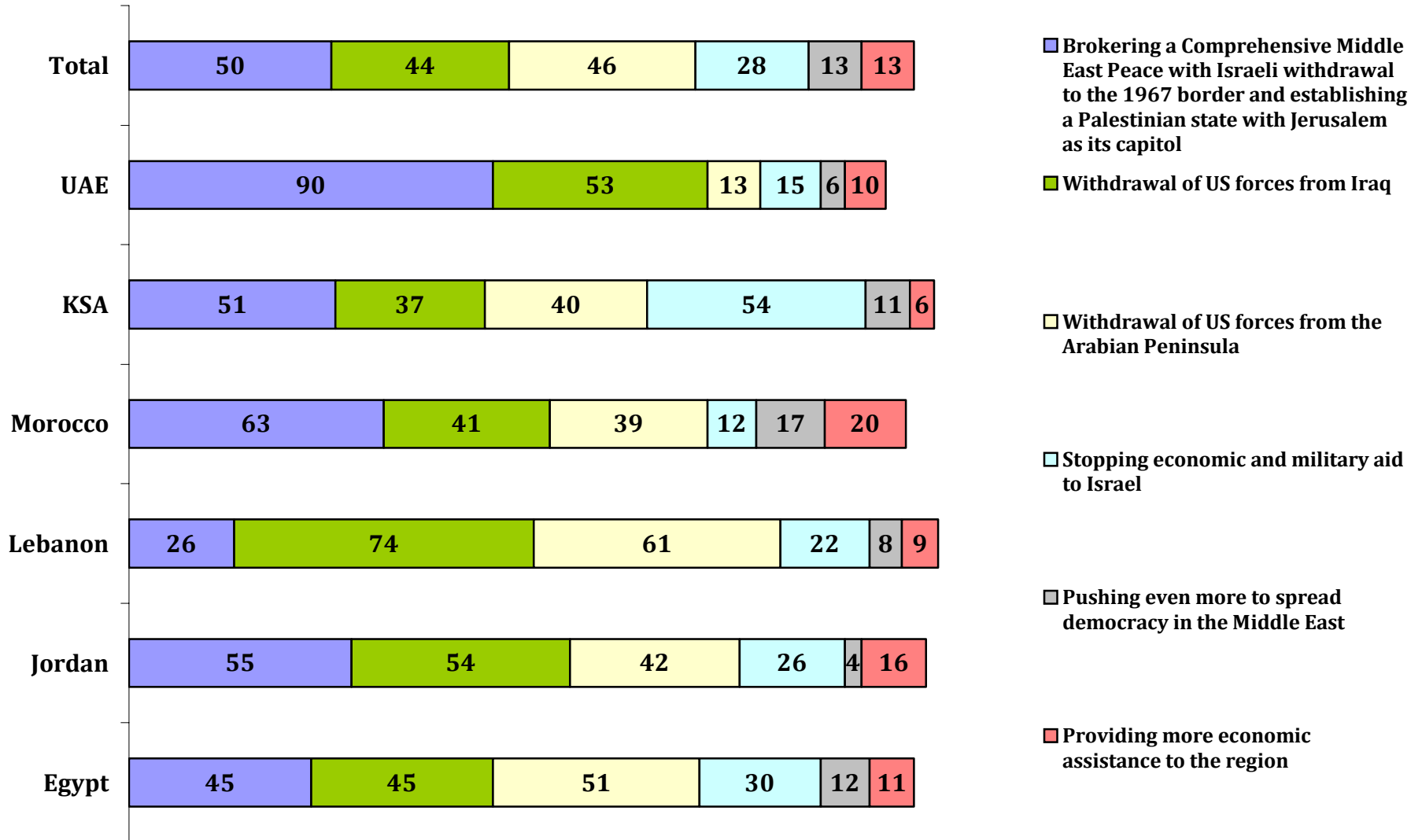
2008 Views of the US 6-Country Total

Which TWO of the following factors do you believe are most important in driving American policy in the Middle East?



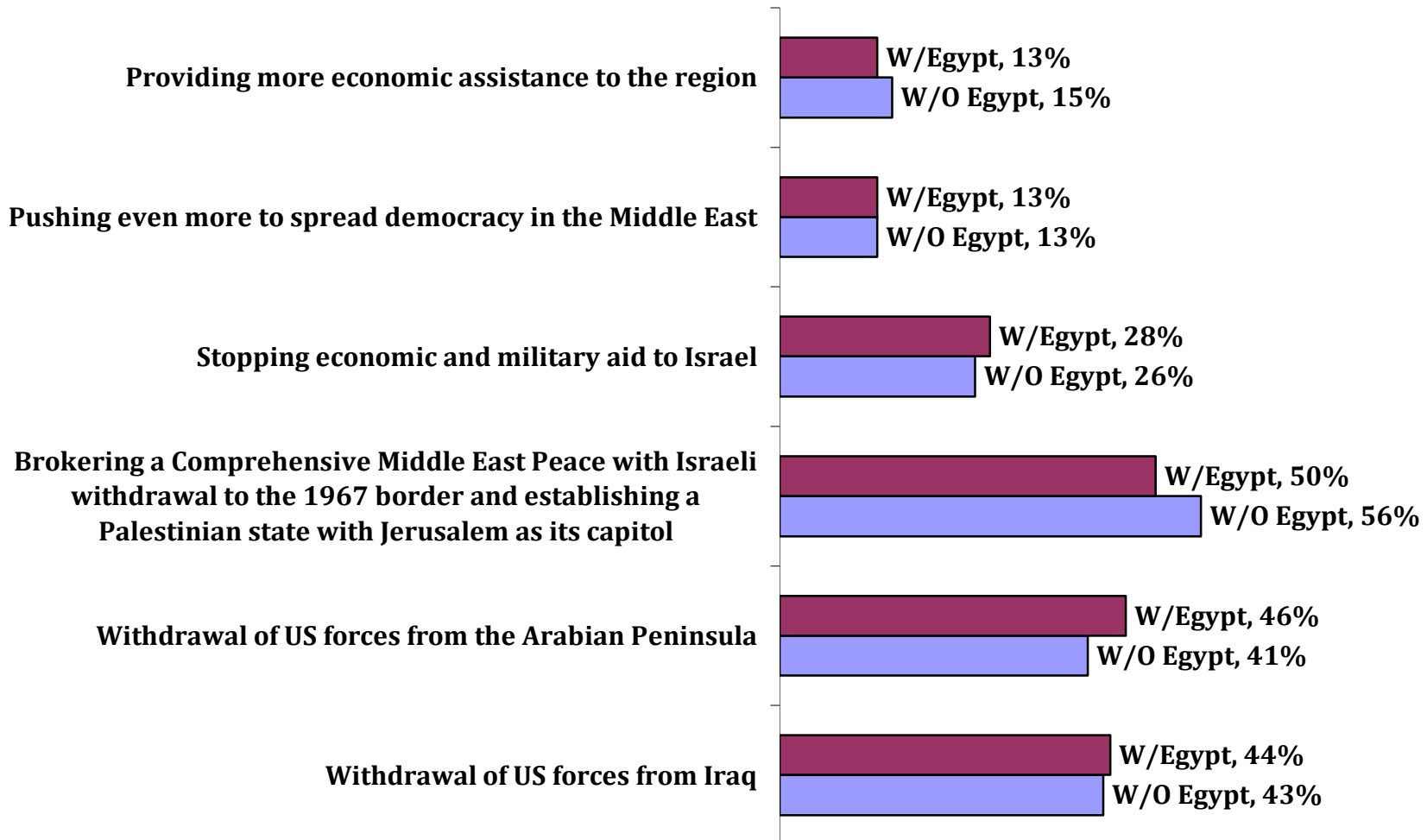
2008 Views of the US

What TWO steps by the US would improve your views of the US most?



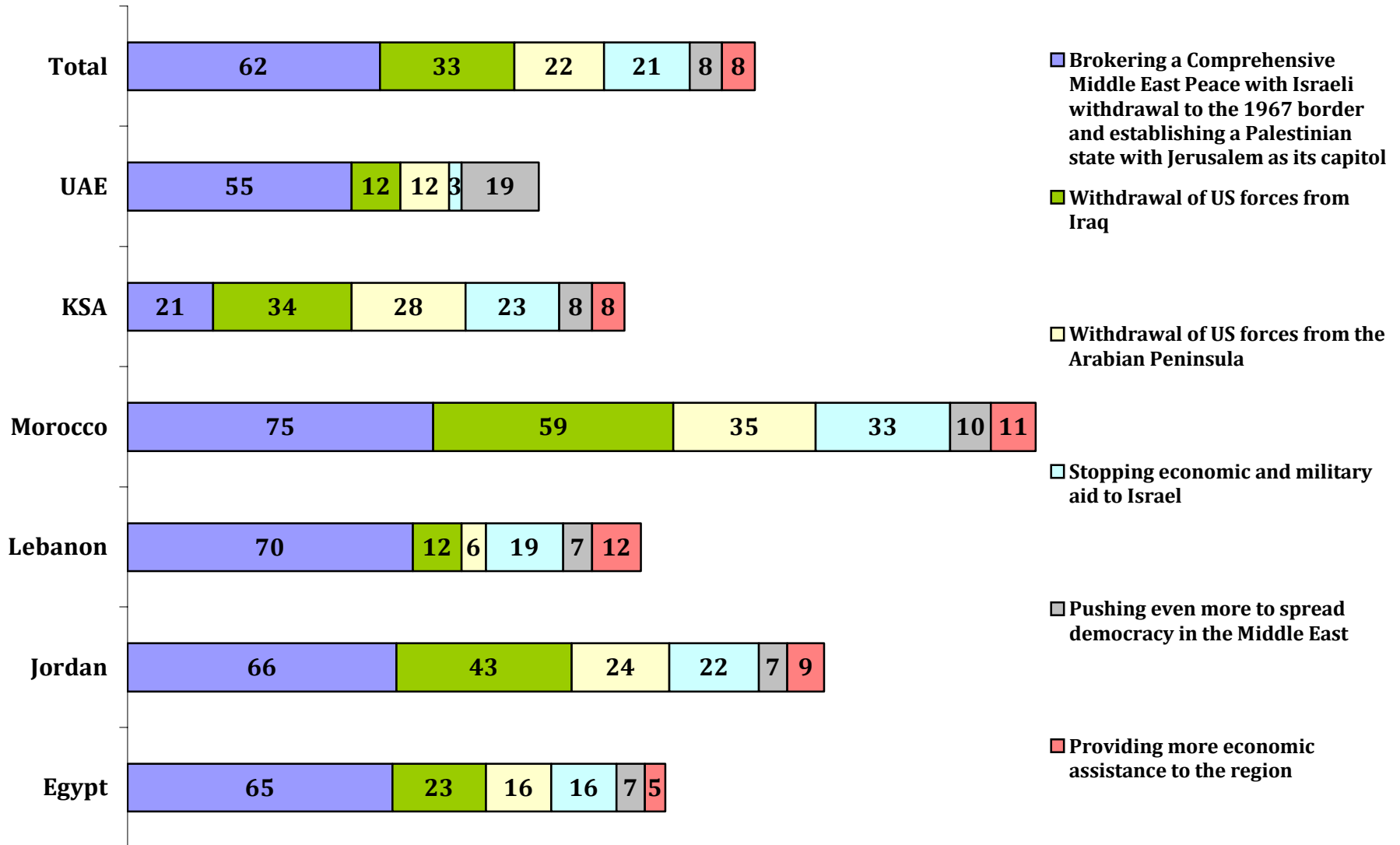
2008 Views of the US 6-Country Total

What TWO steps by the US would improve your views of the US most?



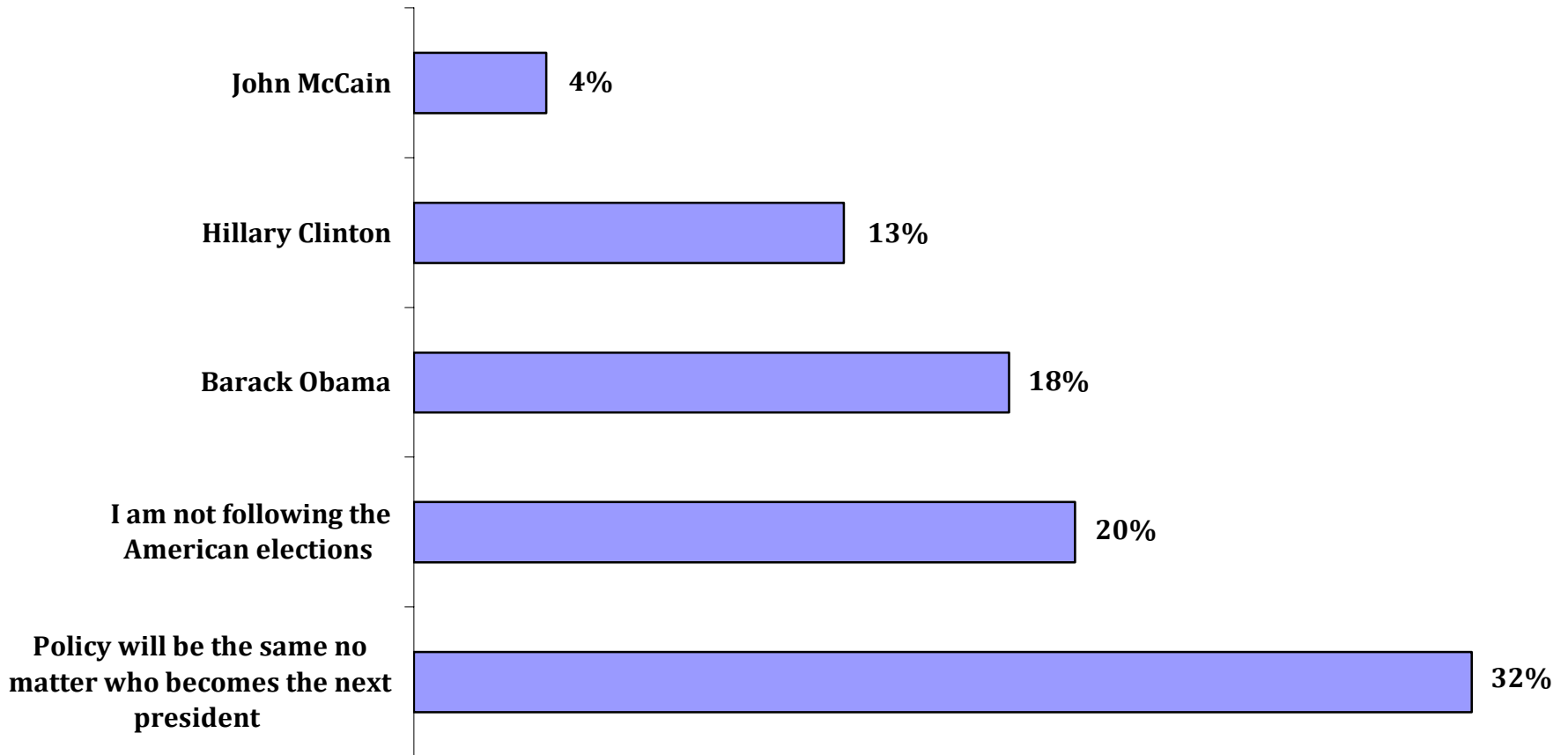
2006 Views of the US

What TWO steps by the US would improve your views of the US most?



**2008 US Domestic Politics
6-Country Total**

The American People are in the midst of choosing the next President of the US. Which of the following candidates do you believe has the best chance of advancing peace in the Middle East?

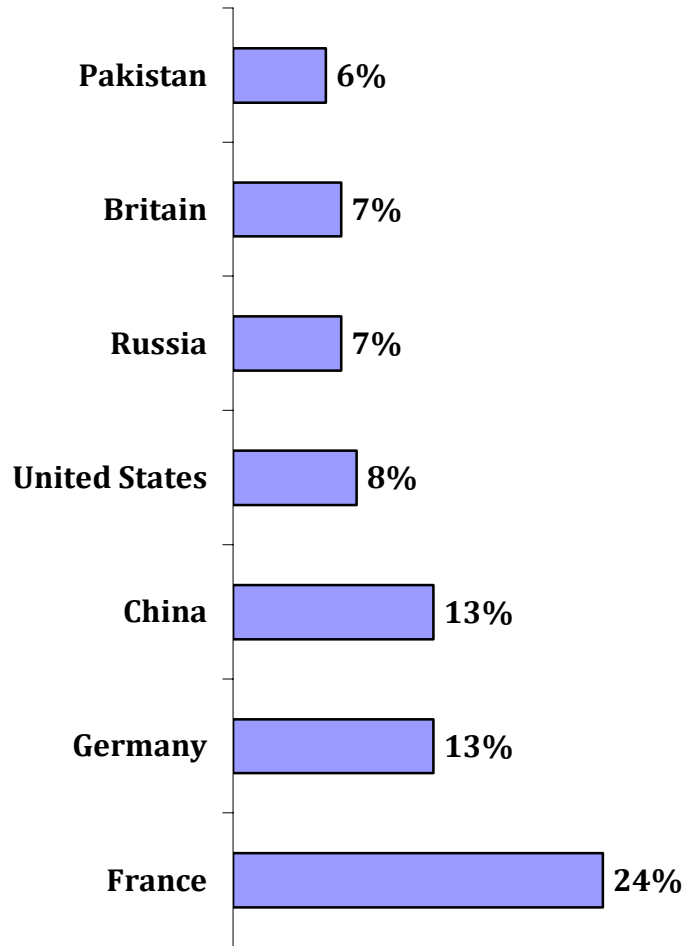


Global Powers and Leaders

2008 Arab Public Opinion Poll

2008 Global Powers 6-Country Total

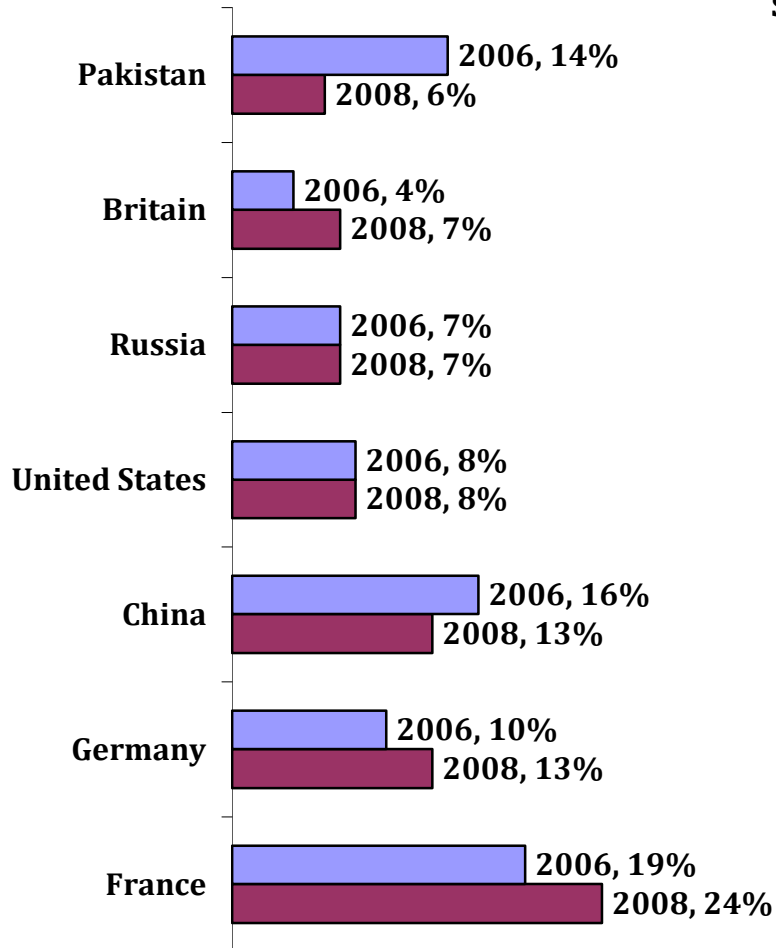
In a world where there is only one superpower, which of the following countries would you prefer more than the others to be that superpower?



Global Powers, 2006-2008

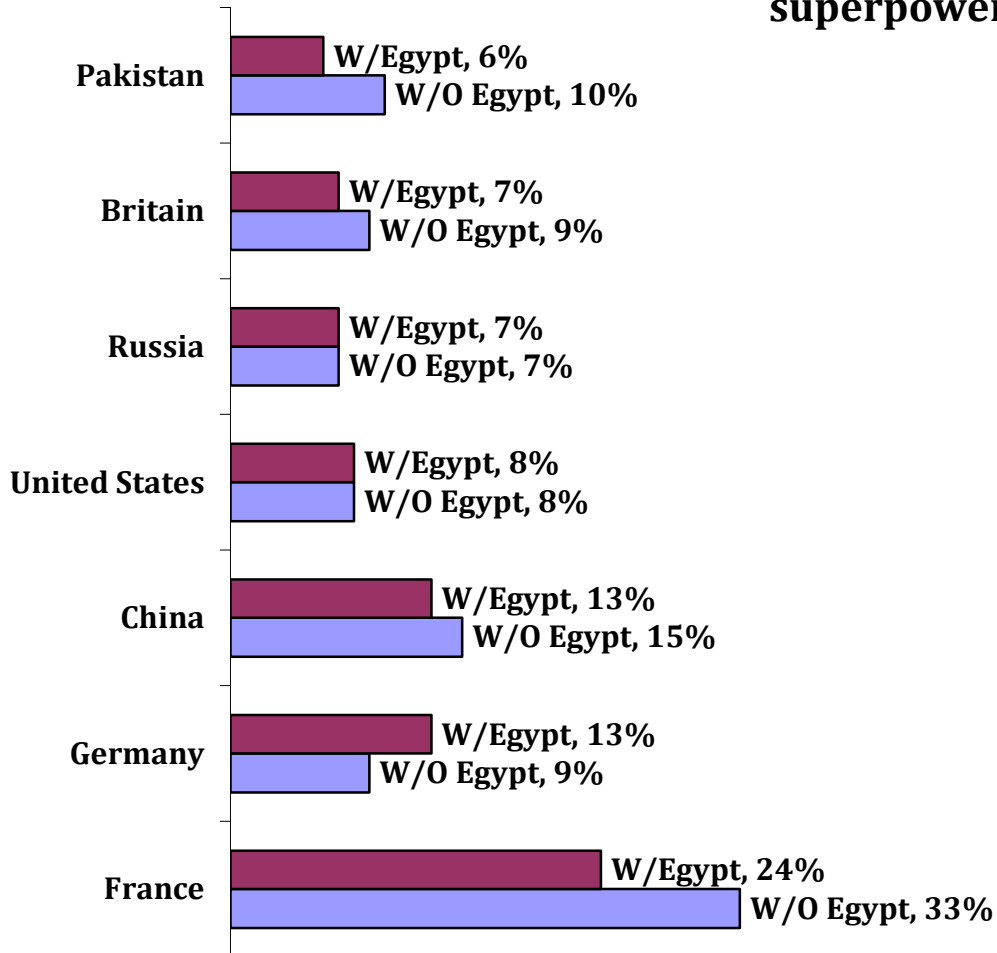
6-Country Total

In a world where there is only one superpower, which of the following countries would you prefer more than the others to be that superpower?



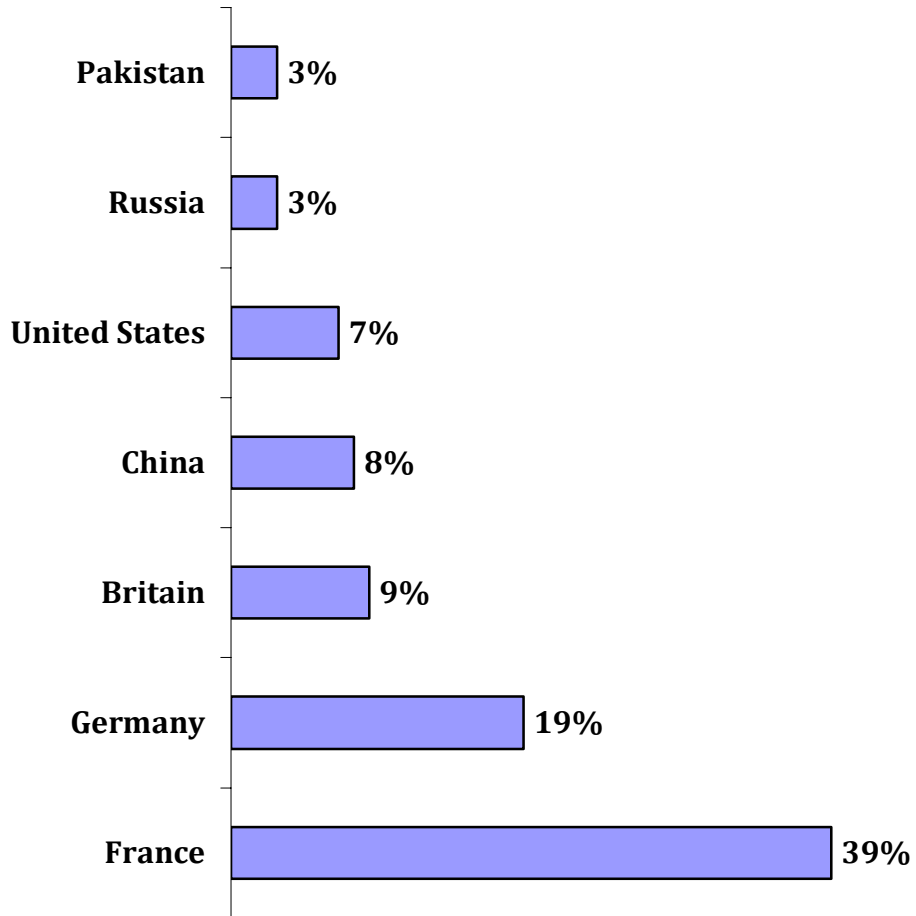
2008 Global Powers 6-Country Total

In a world where there is only one superpower, which of the following countries would you prefer more than the others to be that superpower?



2008 Global Powers 6-Country Total

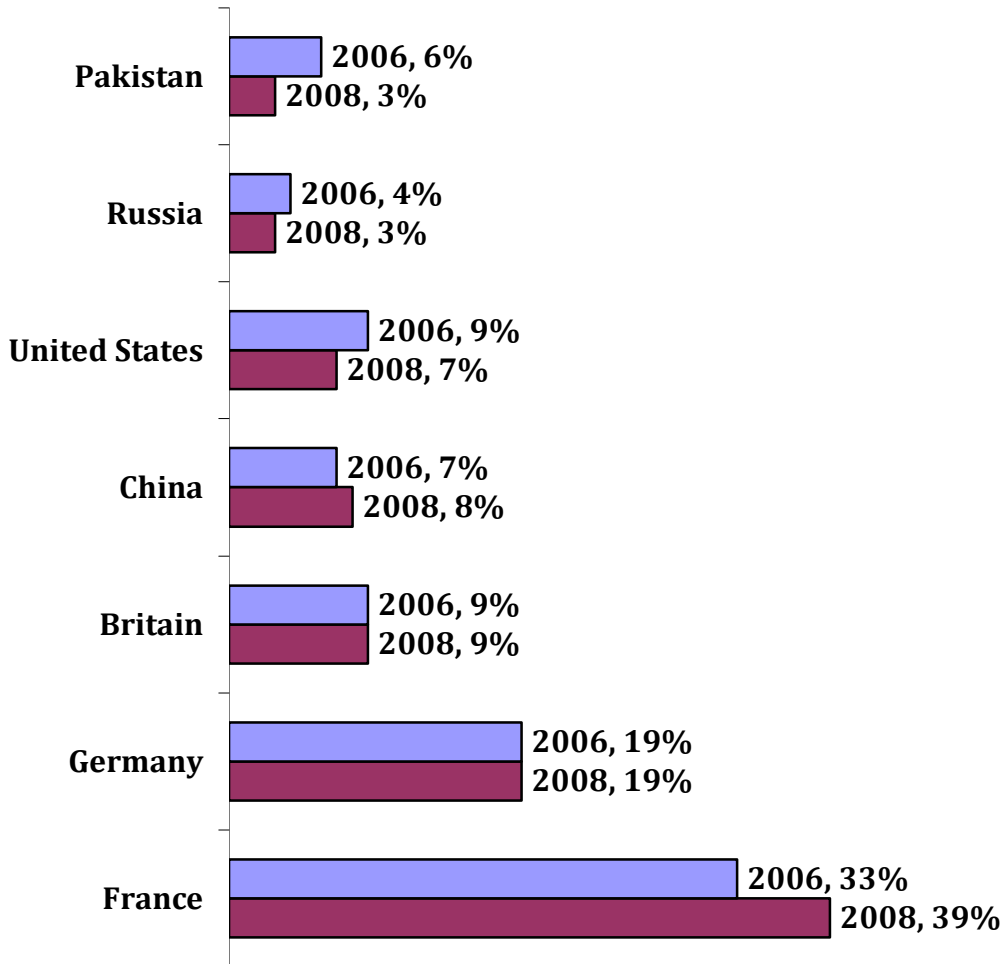
If you had to live in one of the following countries, which one would you prefer most?



Global Powers, 2006-2008

6-Country Total

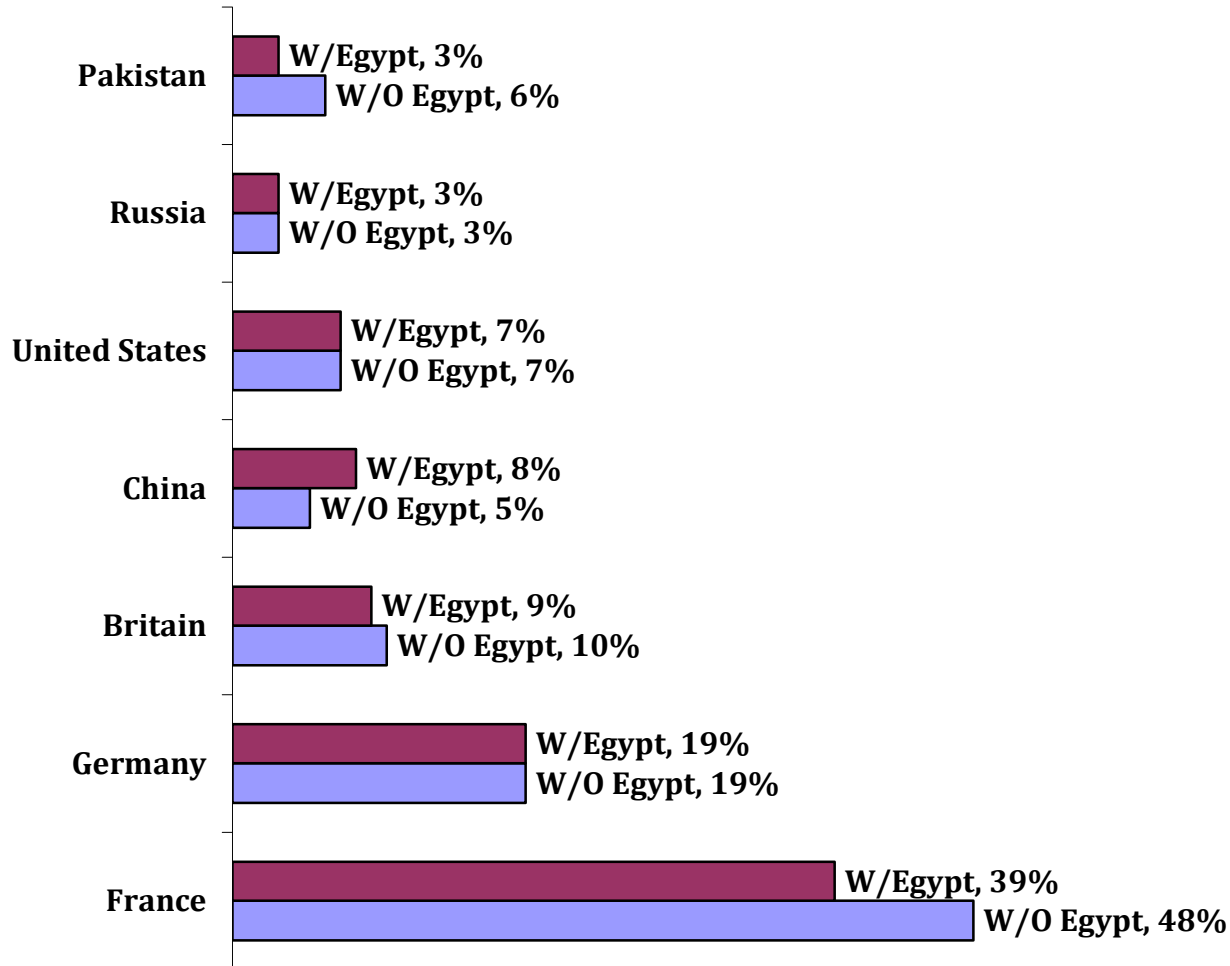
If you had to live in one of the following countries, which one would you prefer most?



2008 Global Powers

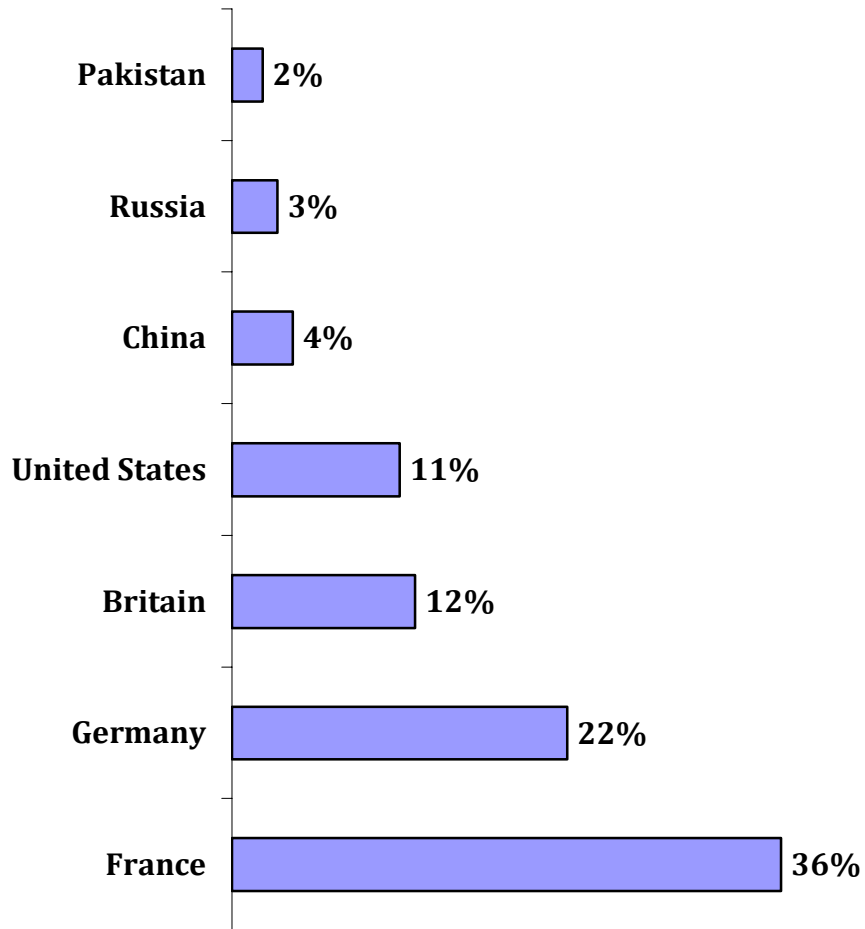
6-Country Total

If you had to live in one of the following countries, which one would you prefer most?



**2008 Global Powers
6-Country Total**

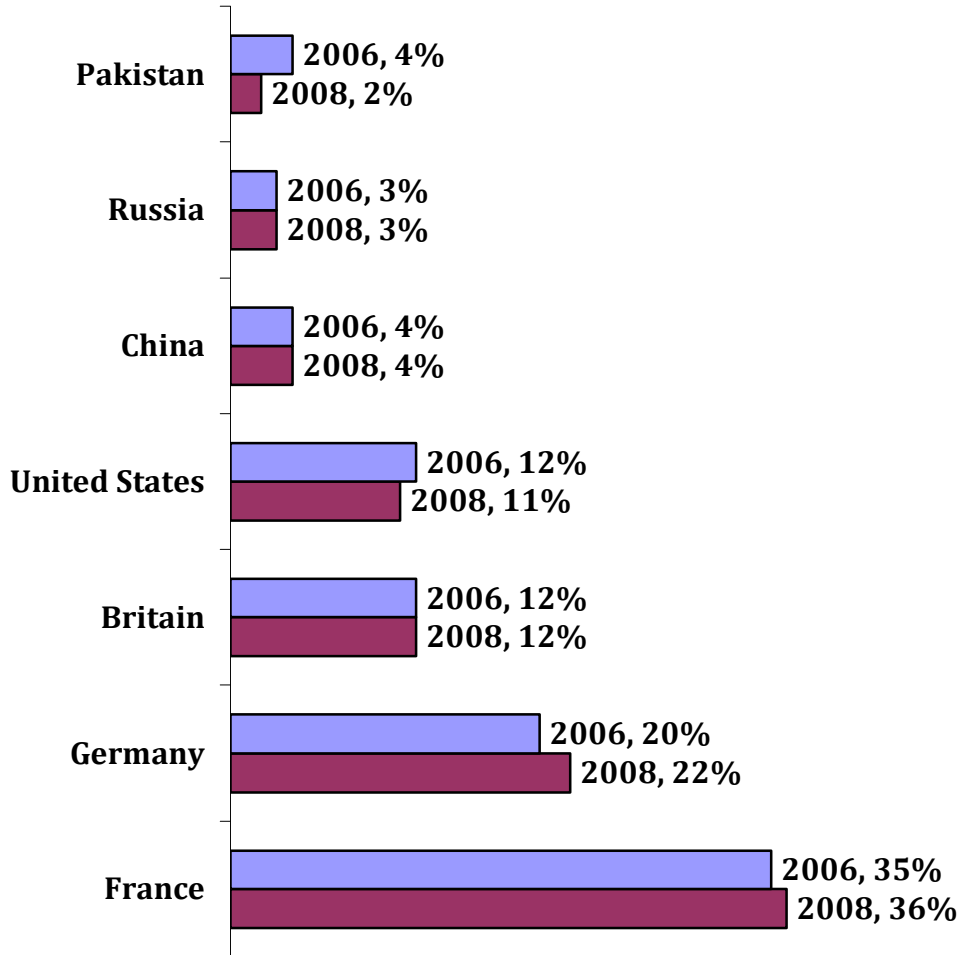
If a member of your family had to study in one of the following countries, which country would you prefer?



Global Powers, 2006-2008

6-Country Total

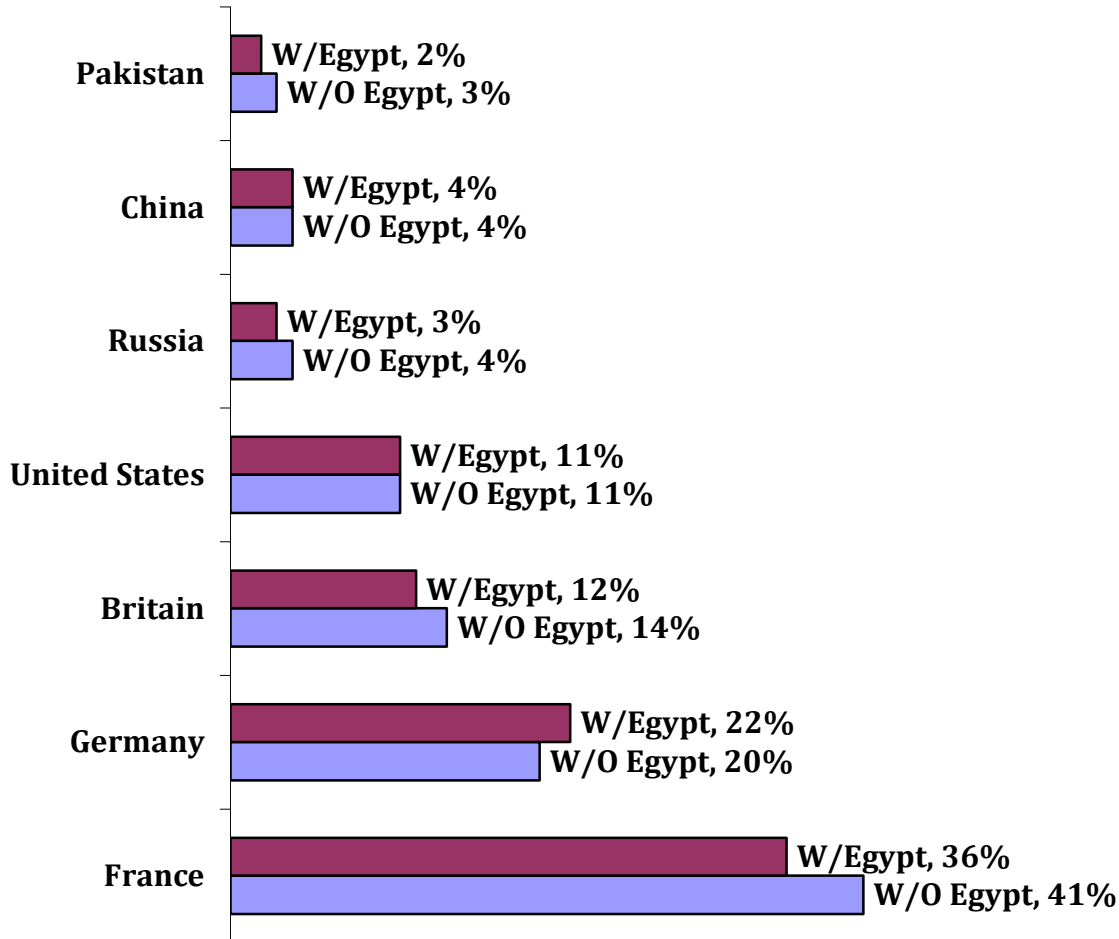
If a member of your family had to study in one of the following countries which country would you prefer?



2008 Global Powers

6-Country Total

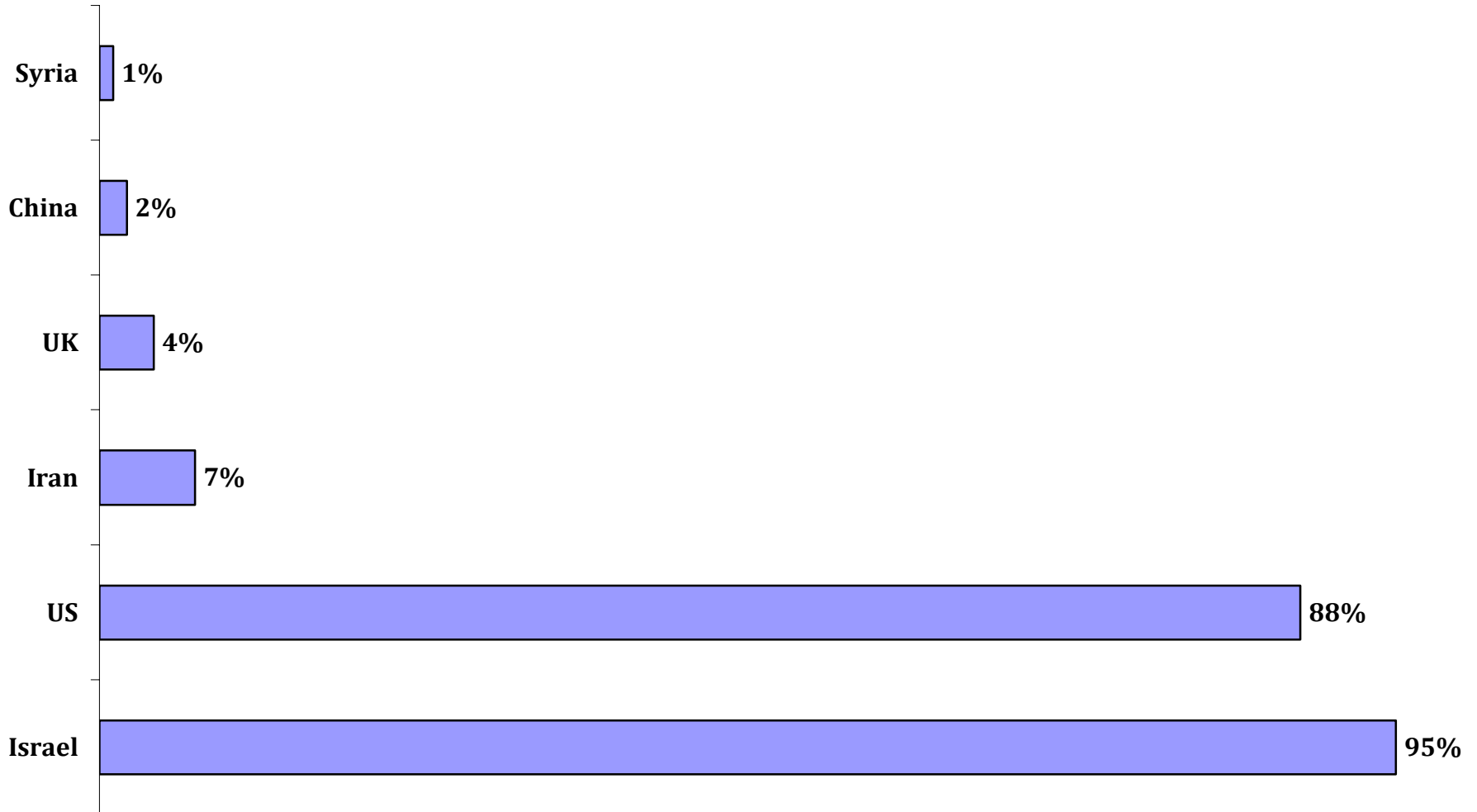
If a member of your family had to study in one of the following countries, which country would you prefer?



2008 Global Powers

6-Country Total

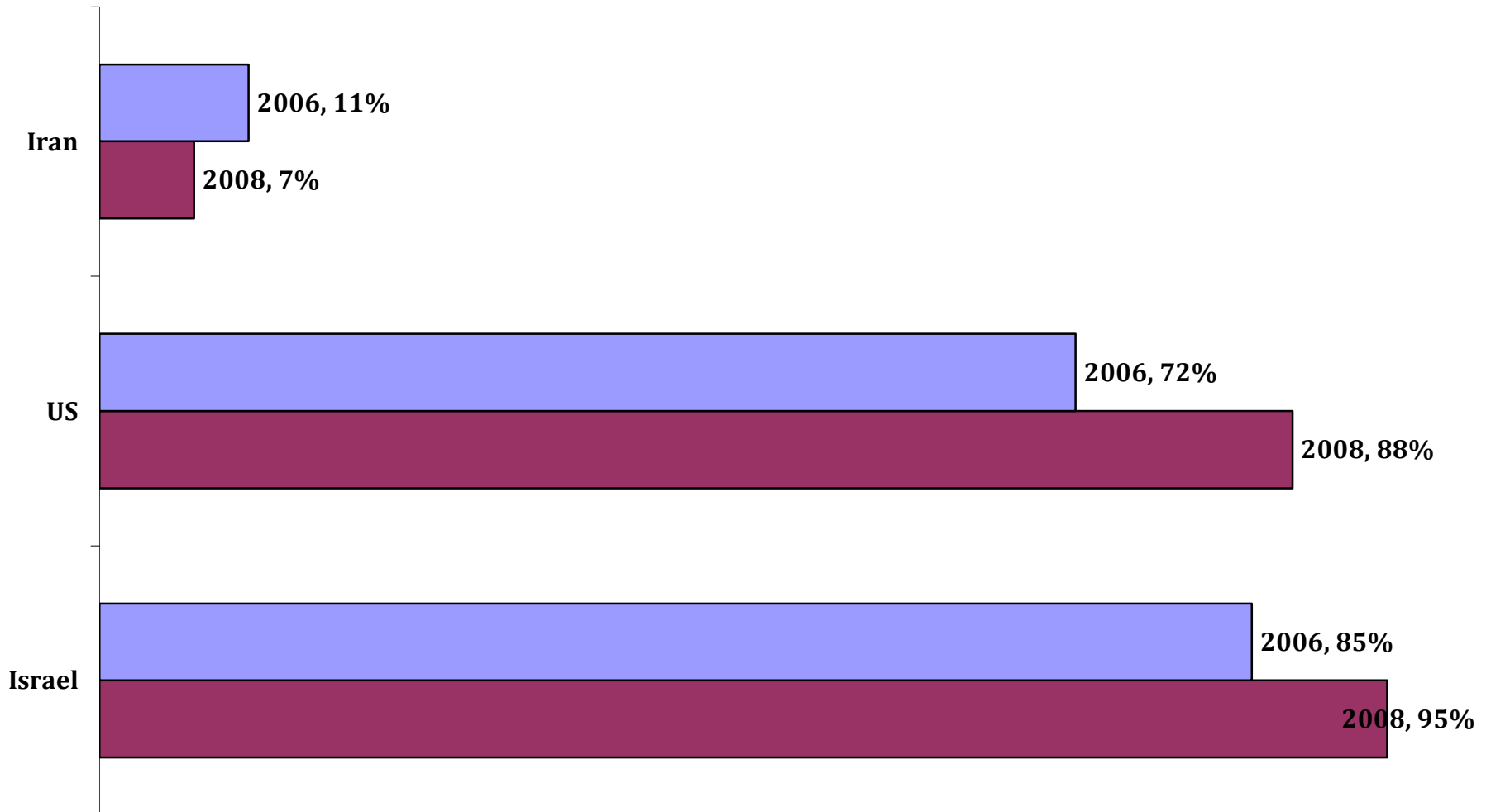
Name TWO countries that you think pose the biggest threat to you:



Global Powers, 2006-2008

6-Country Total

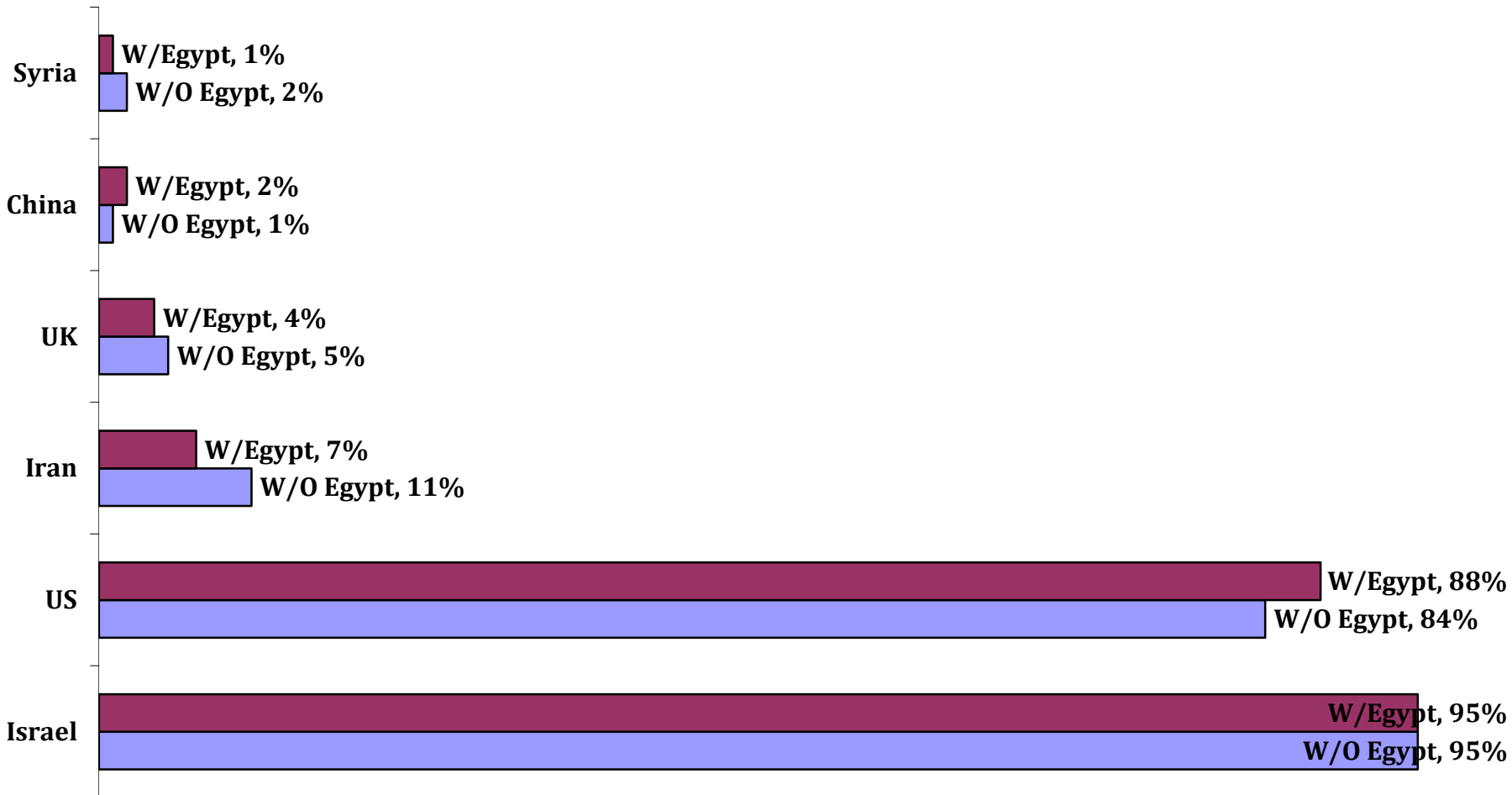
Name TWO countries that you think pose the biggest threat to you:



2008 Global Powers

6-Country Total

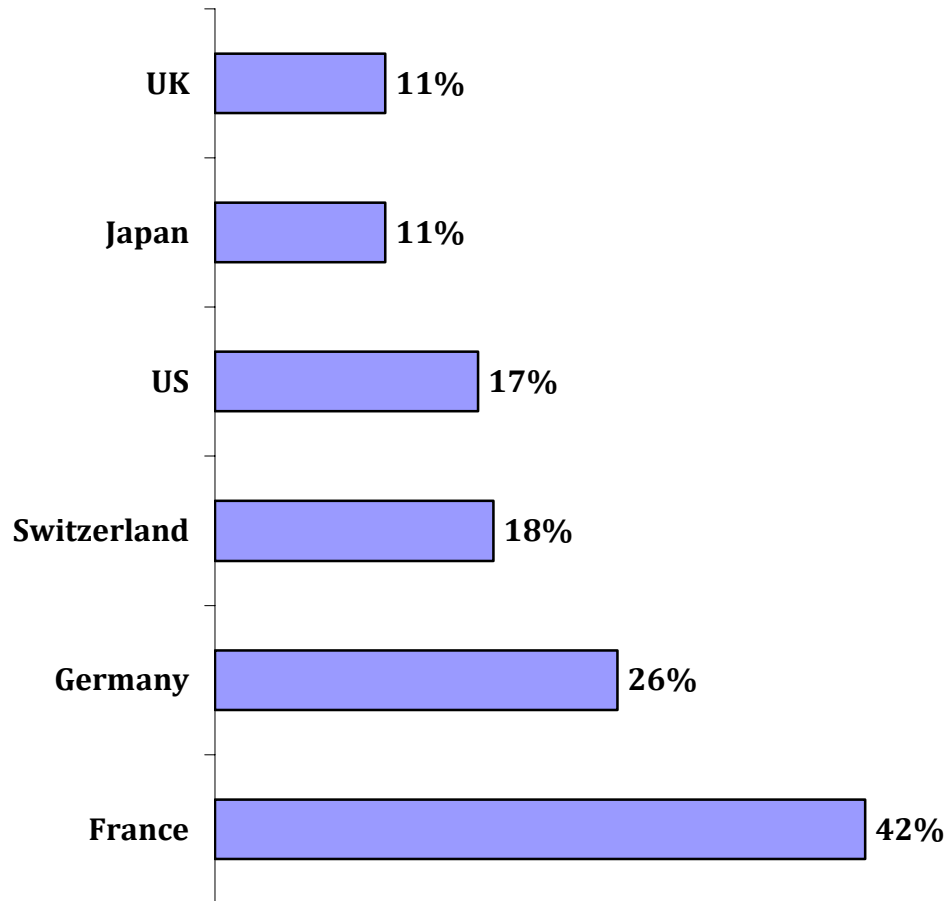
Name TWO countries that you think pose the biggest threat to you:



2008 Global Powers

6-Country Total

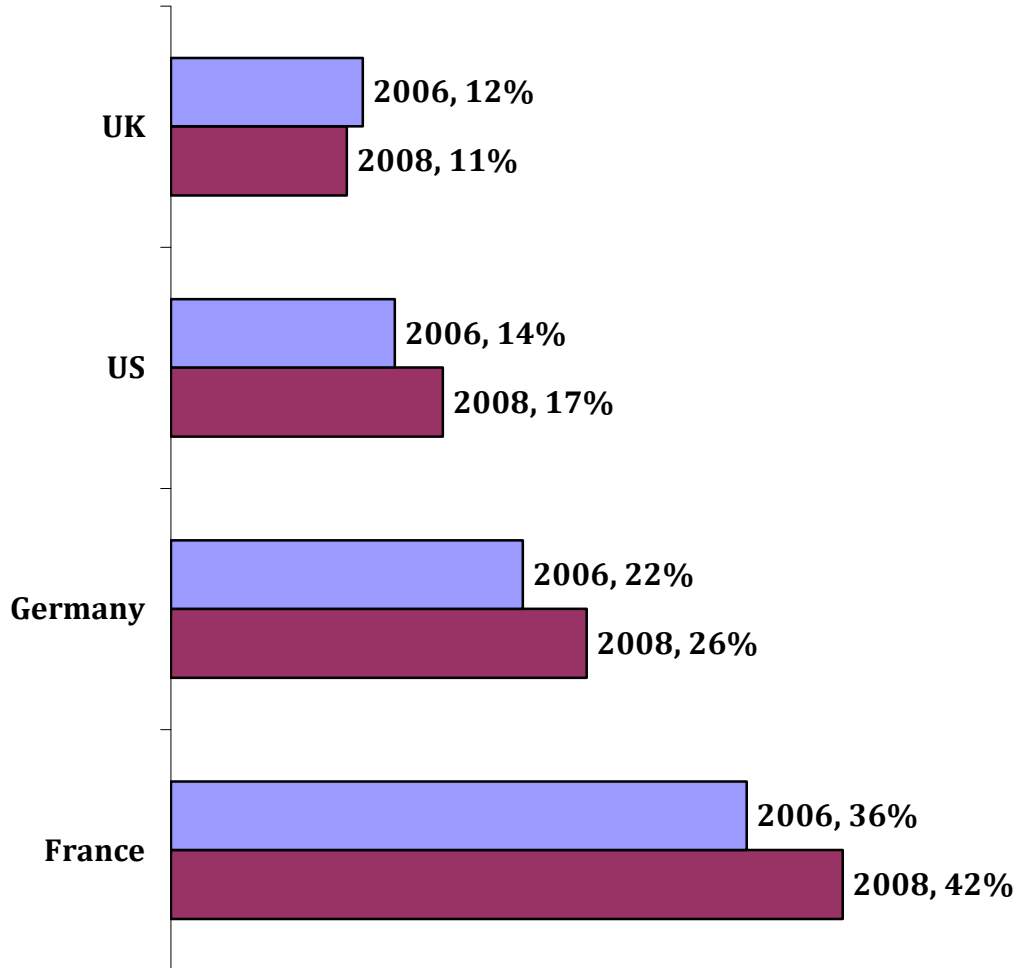
Name TWO countries where you think there is the most freedom and democracy for their own people:



Global Powers, 2006-2008

6-Country Total

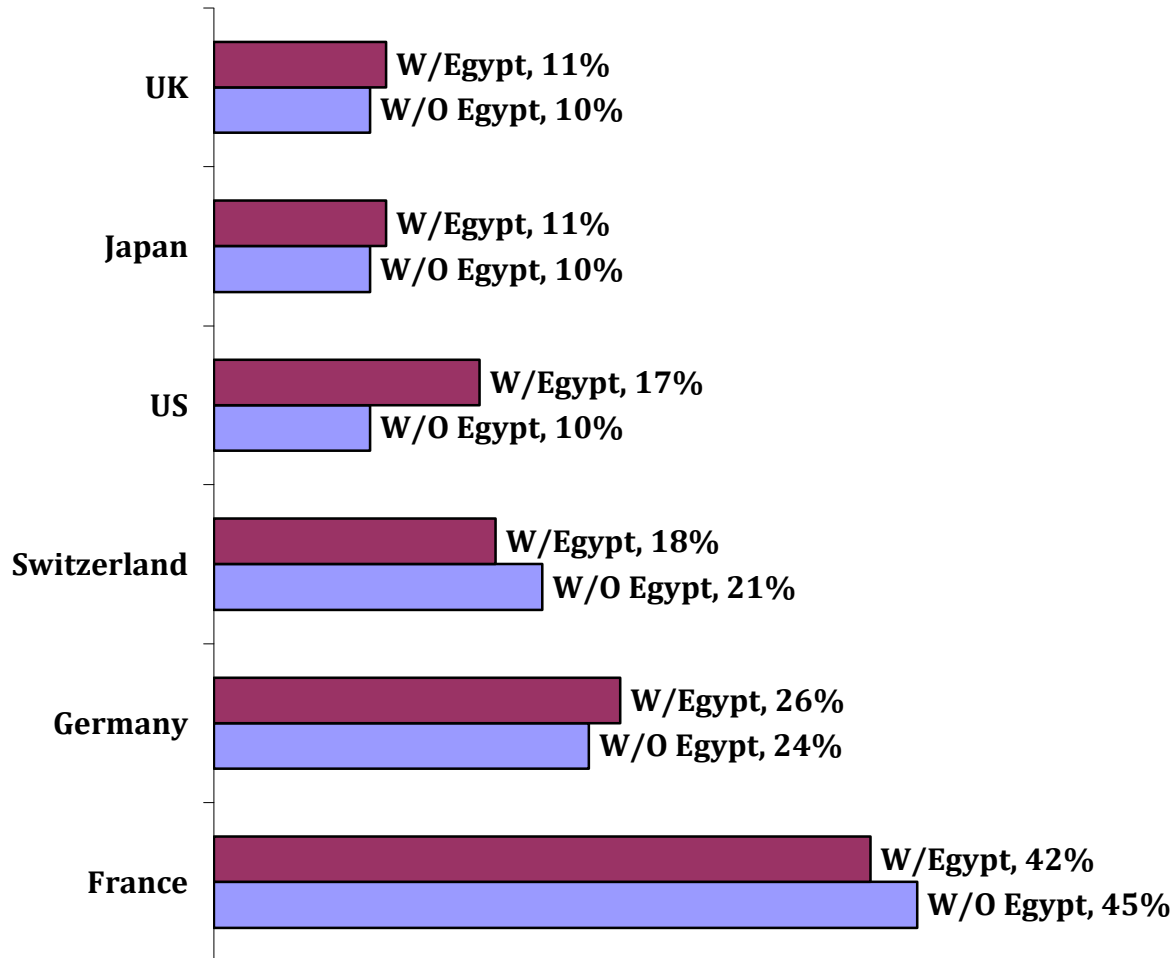
Name TWO countries where you think there is the most freedom and democracy for their own people:



2008 Global Powers

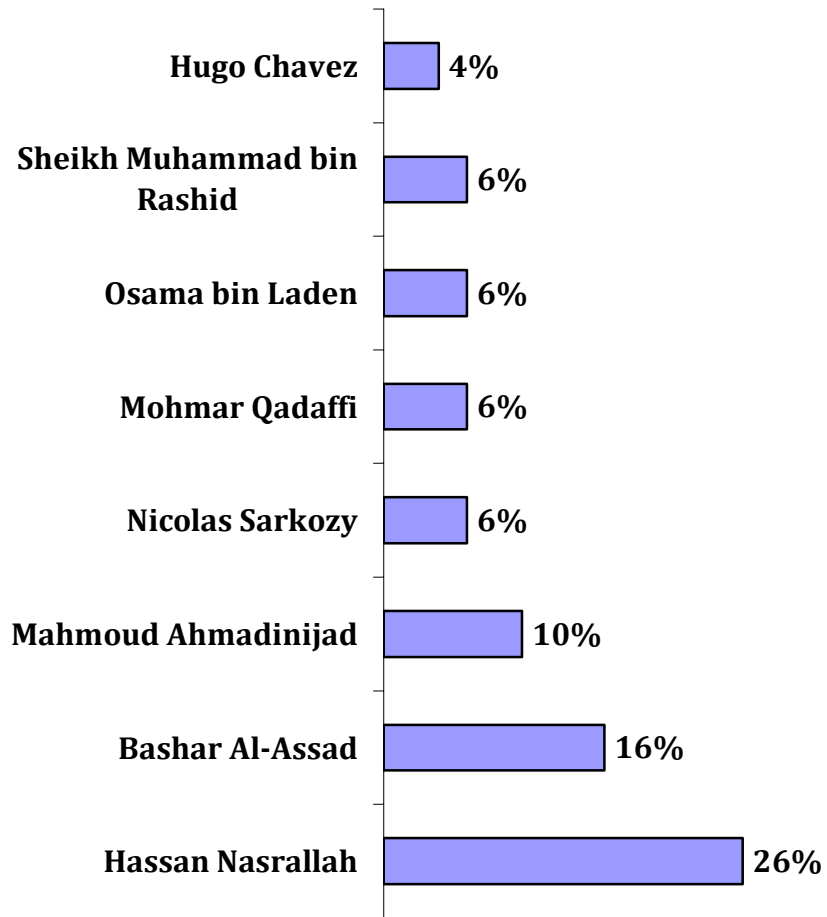
6-Country Total

Name TWO countries where you think there is the most freedom and democracy for their own people:

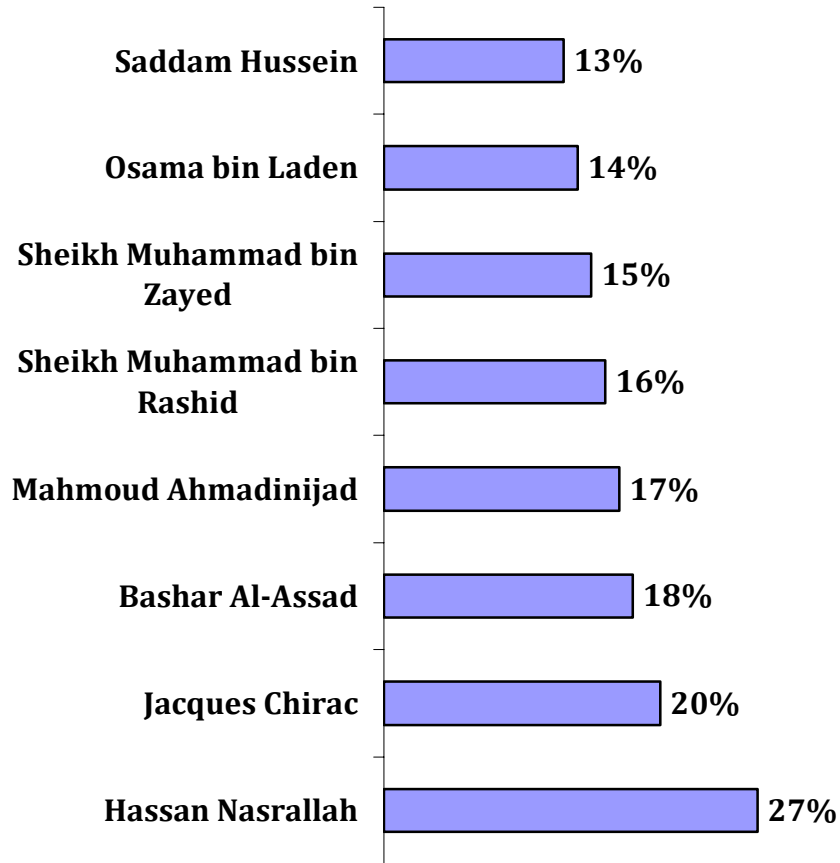


**2008 Global Leaders
6-Country Total**

**Please tell me which world leader (outside your own country) you
admire most?**

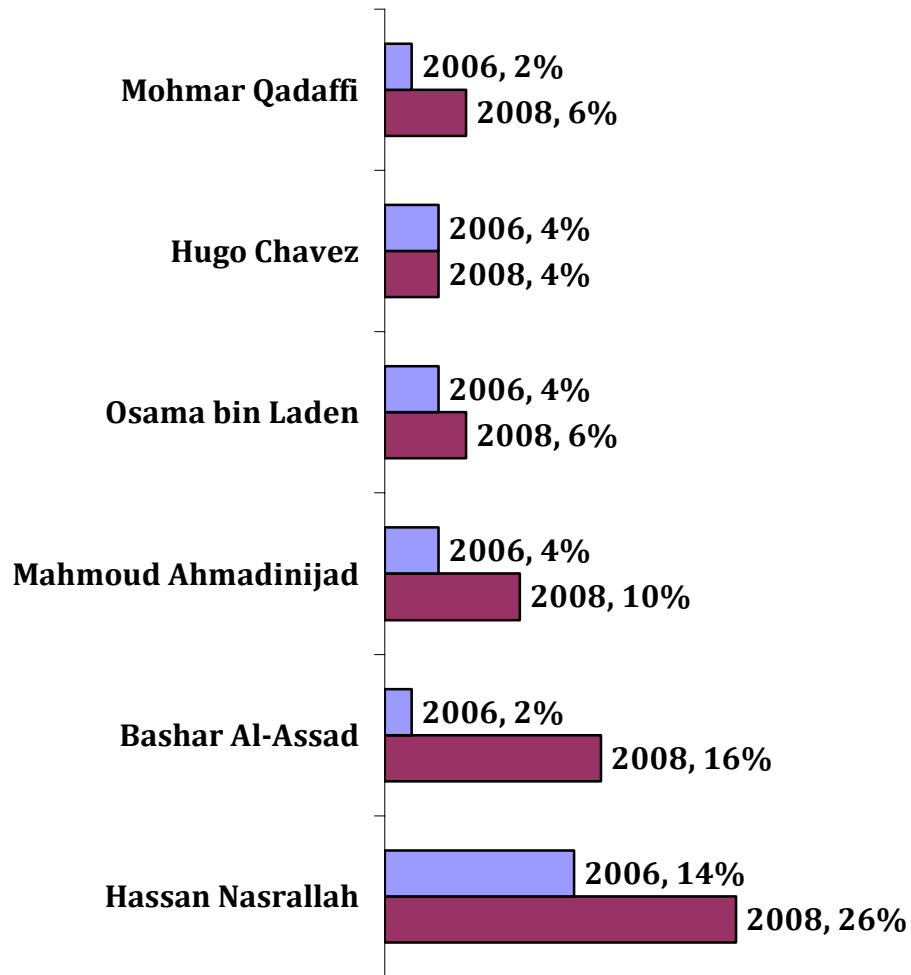


**2008 Global Leaders
6-Country Total**
**Please tell me which world leader (outside your own country) you
admire most?**
(Combined first and second choice)



Global Leaders, 2006-2008 6-Country Total

Please tell me which world leader (outside your own country) you admire most?

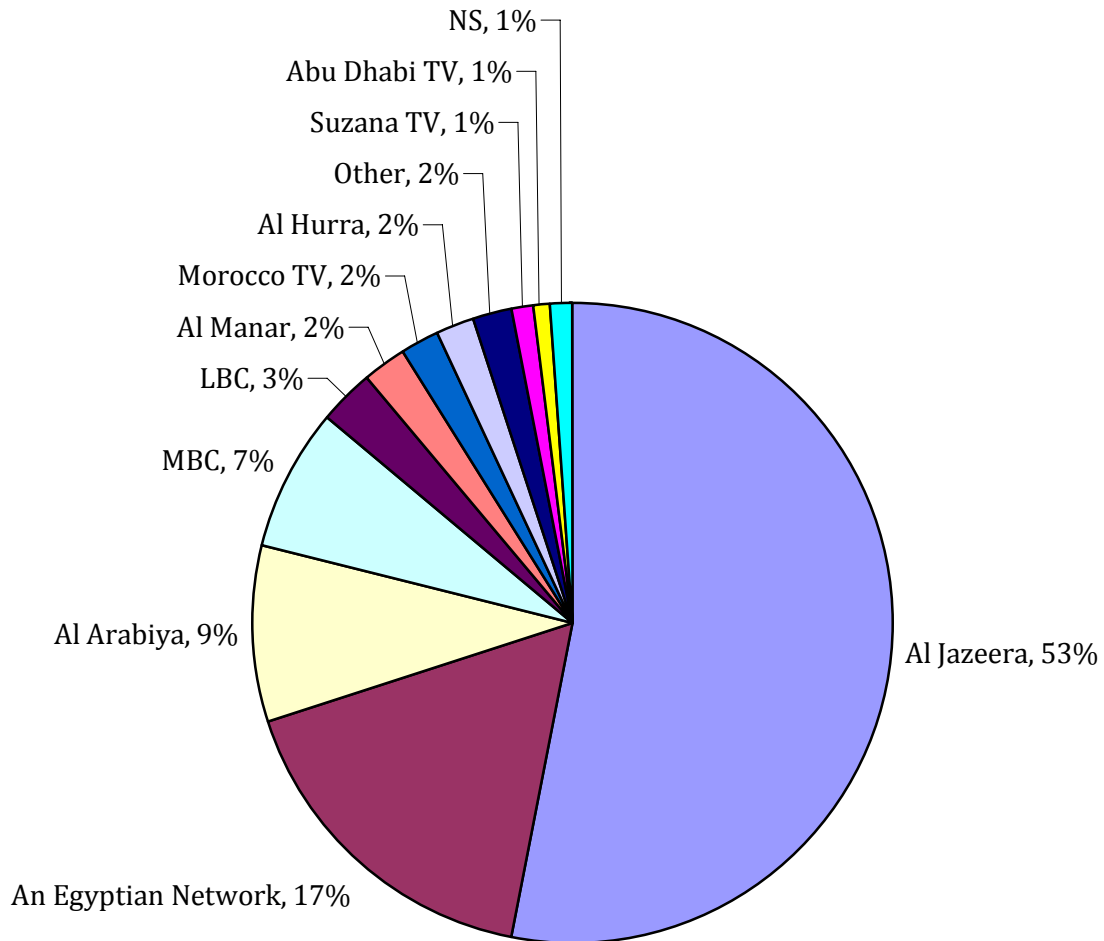


Media Viewership

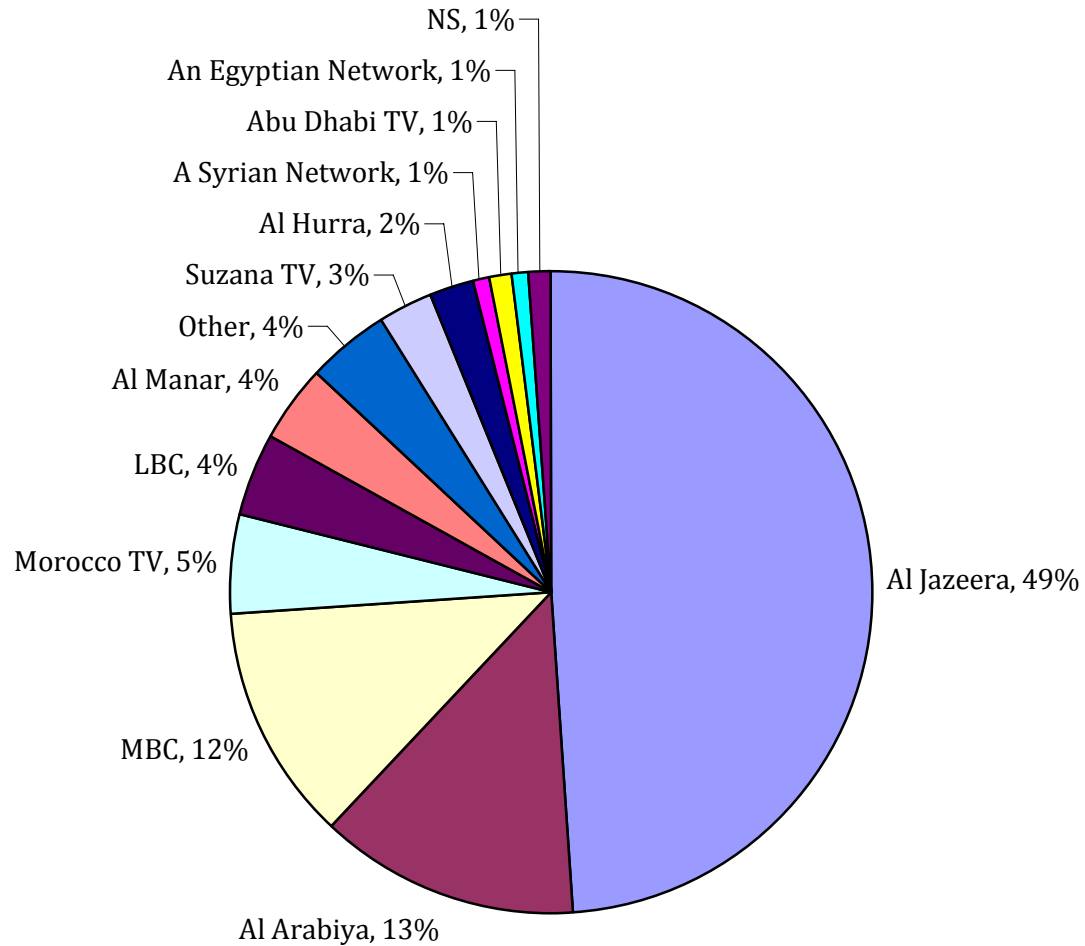
2008 Arab Public Opinion Poll

2008 Media Viewership 6-Country Total

When you watch international news, which of the following network's news broadcasts do you watch most often?

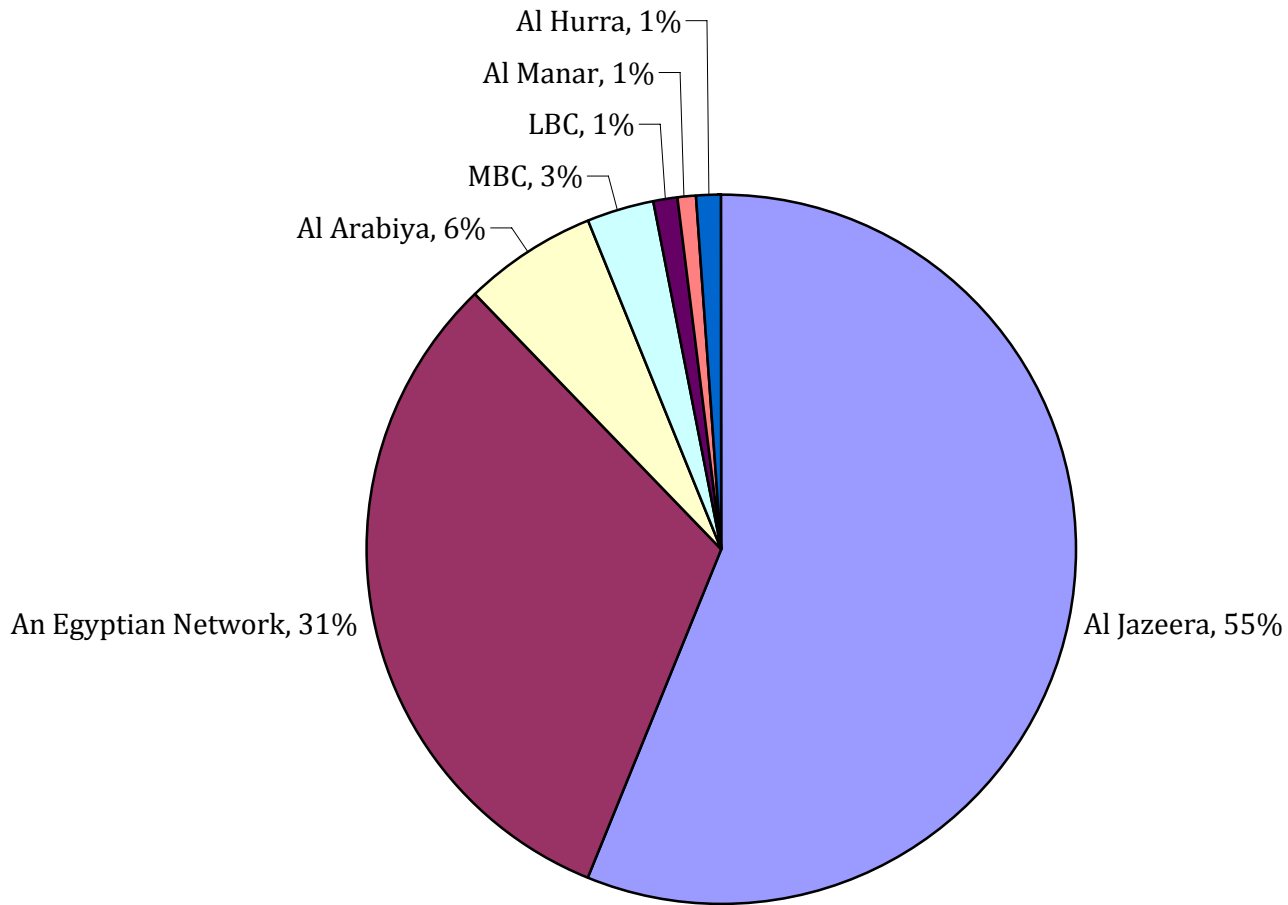


2008 Media Viewership
6-Country Total WITHOUT Egypt
When you watch international news, which of the following network's news broadcasts do you watch most often?



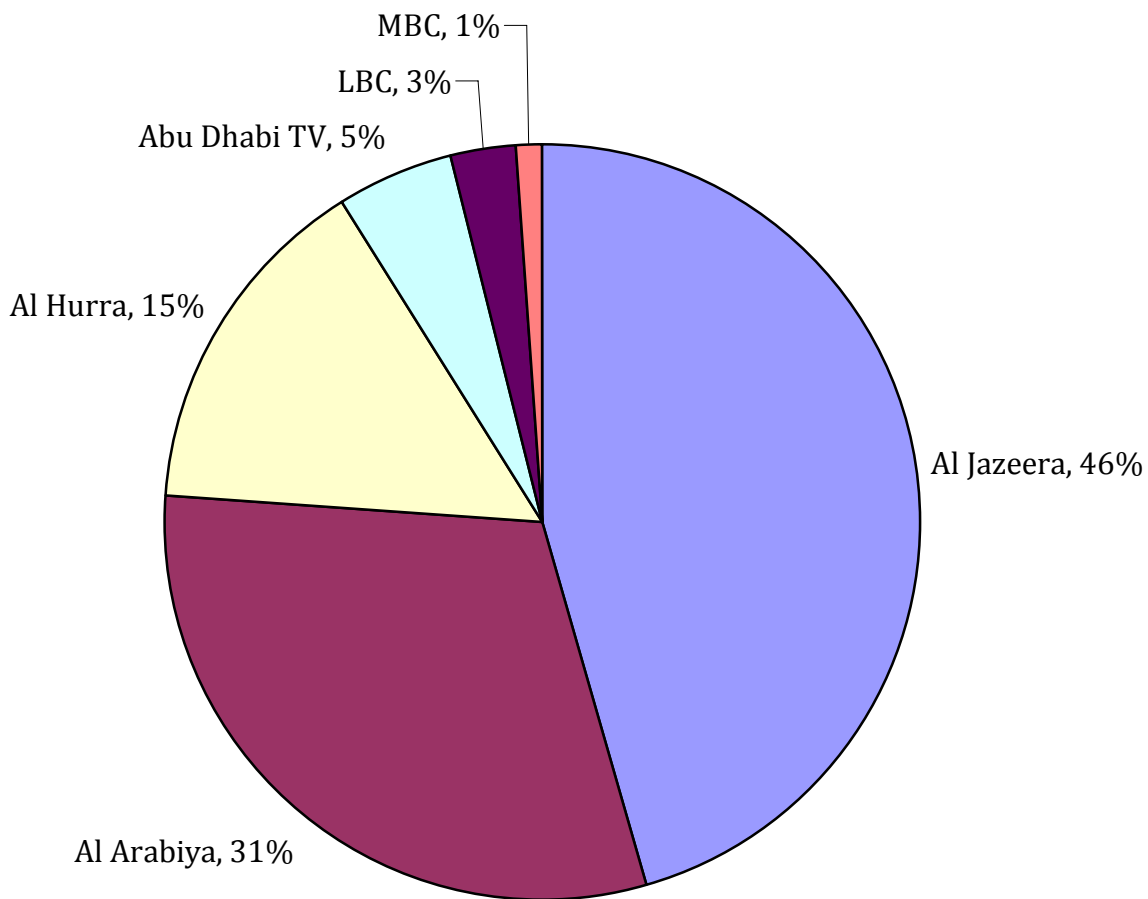
**2008 Media Viewership
Egypt Only**

When you watch international news, which of the following network's news broadcasts do you watch most often?



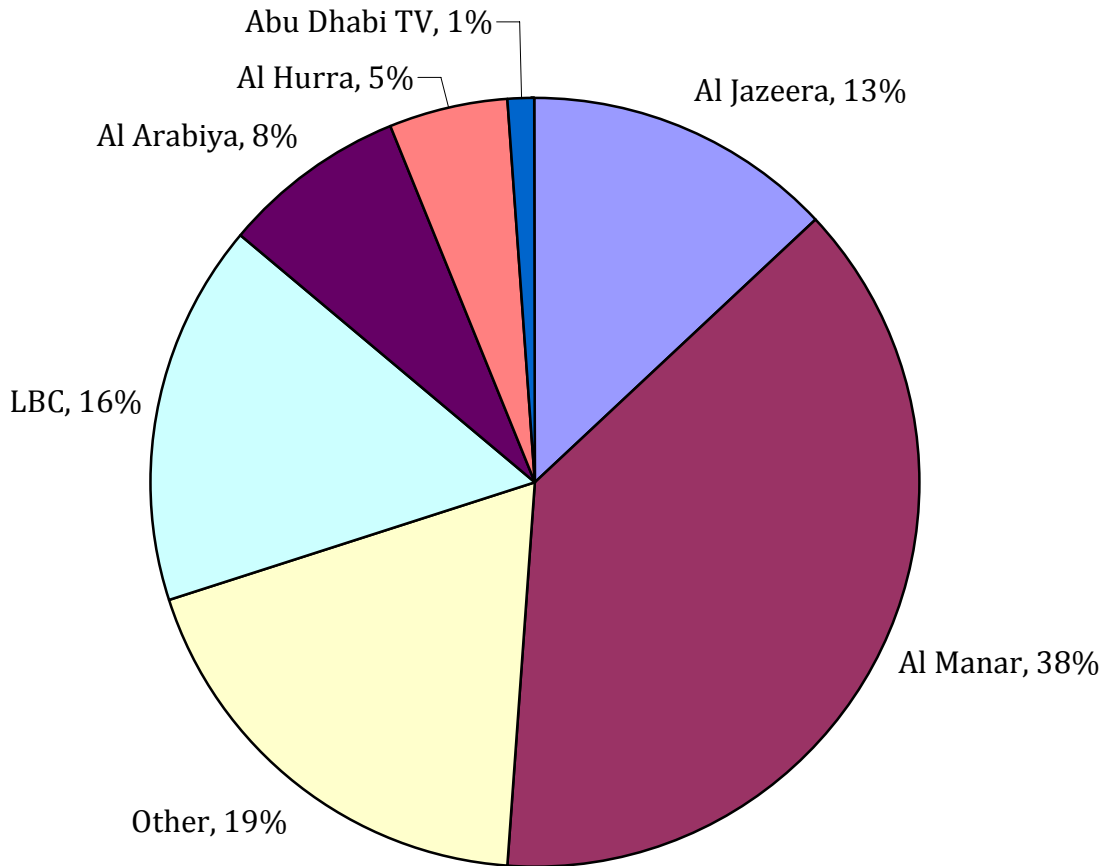
**2008 Media Viewership
Jordan Only**

When you watch international news, which of the following network's news broadcasts do you watch most often?



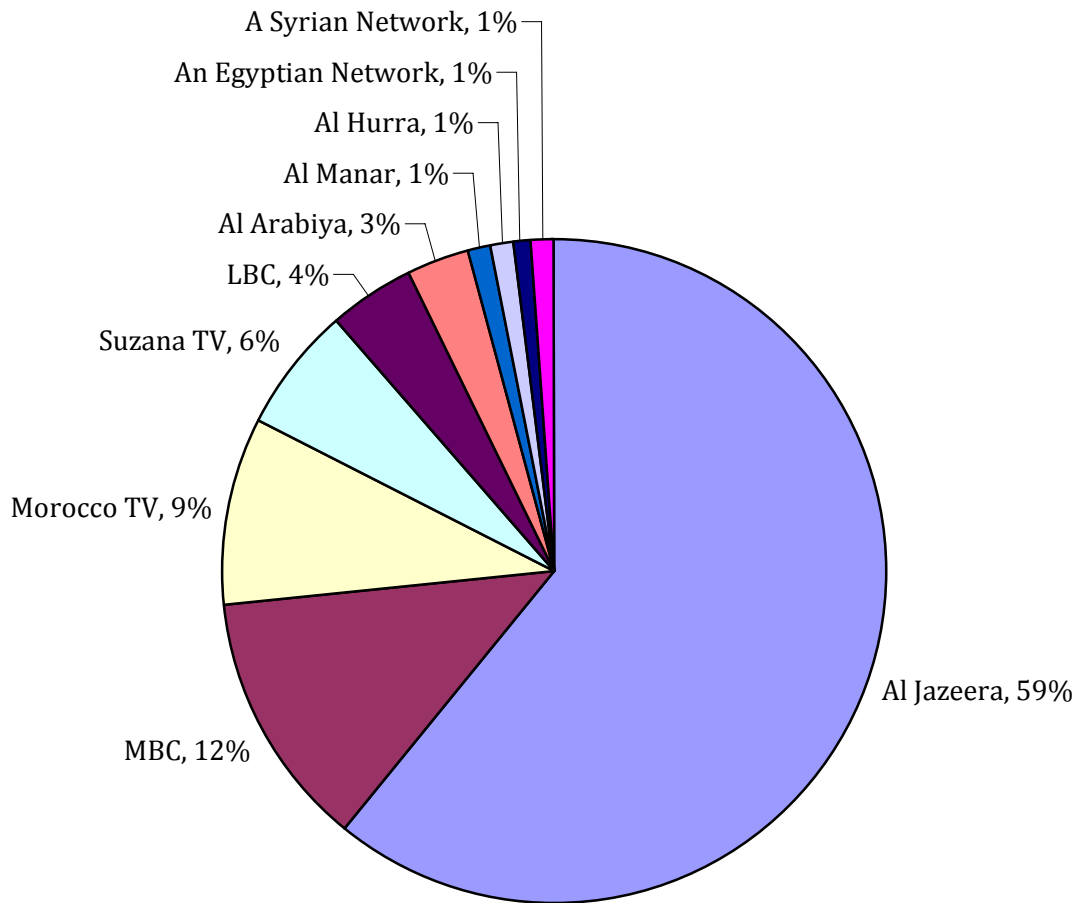
**2008 Media Viewership
Lebanon Only**

When you watch international news, which of the following network's news broadcasts do you watch most often?



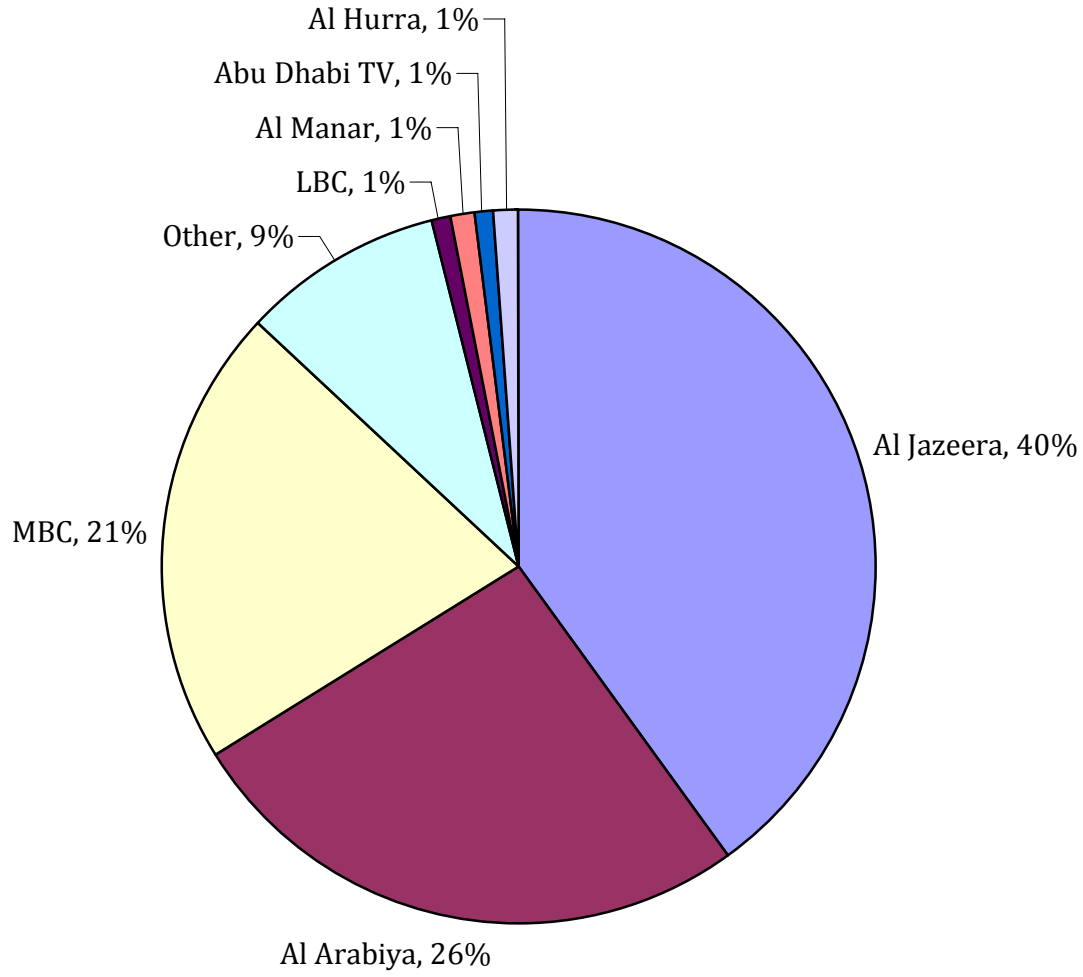
2008 Media Viewership Morocco Only

When you watch international news, which of the following network's news broadcasts do you watch most often?



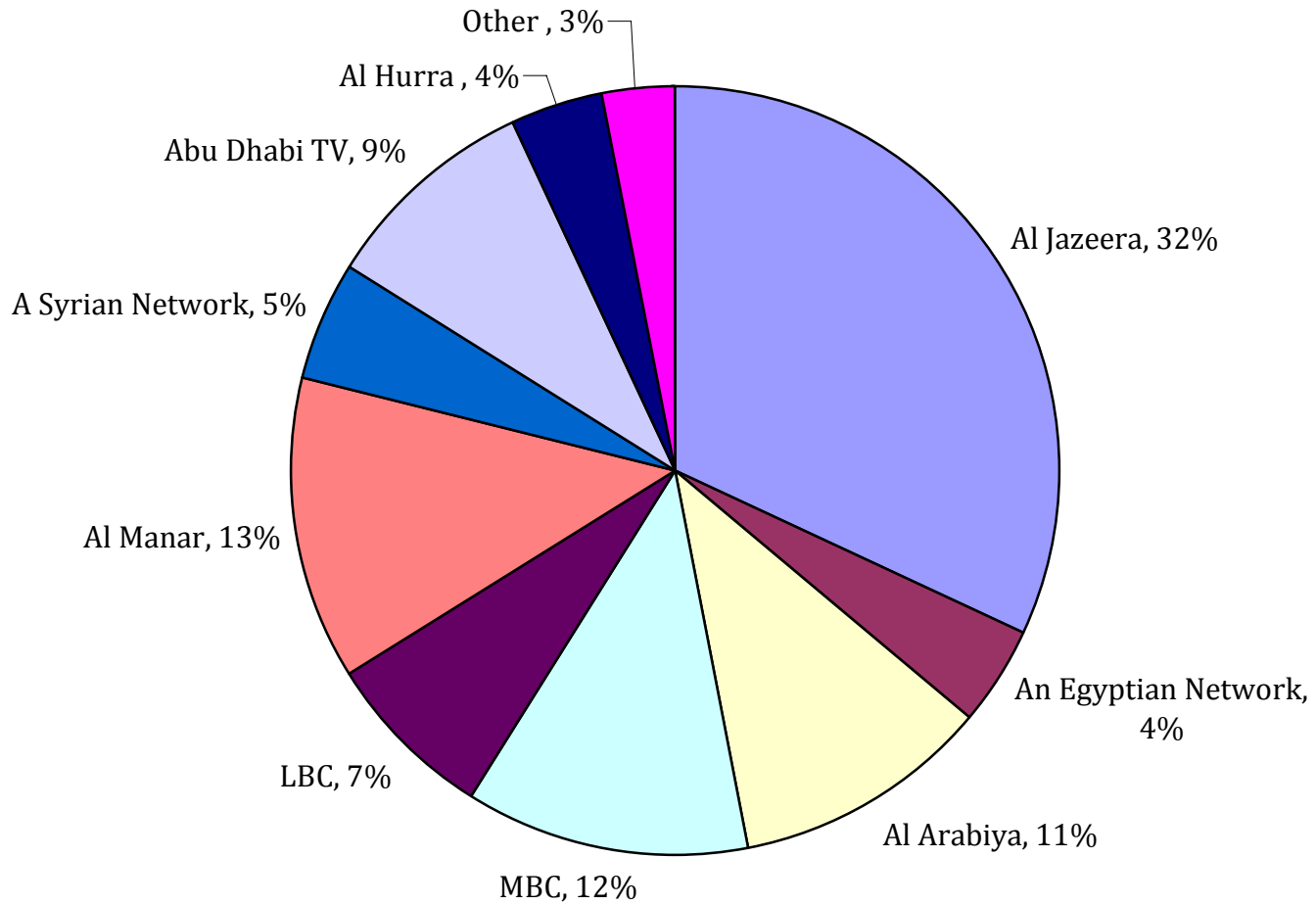
**2008 Media Viewership
KSA Only**

When you watch international news, which of the following network's news broadcasts do you watch most often?



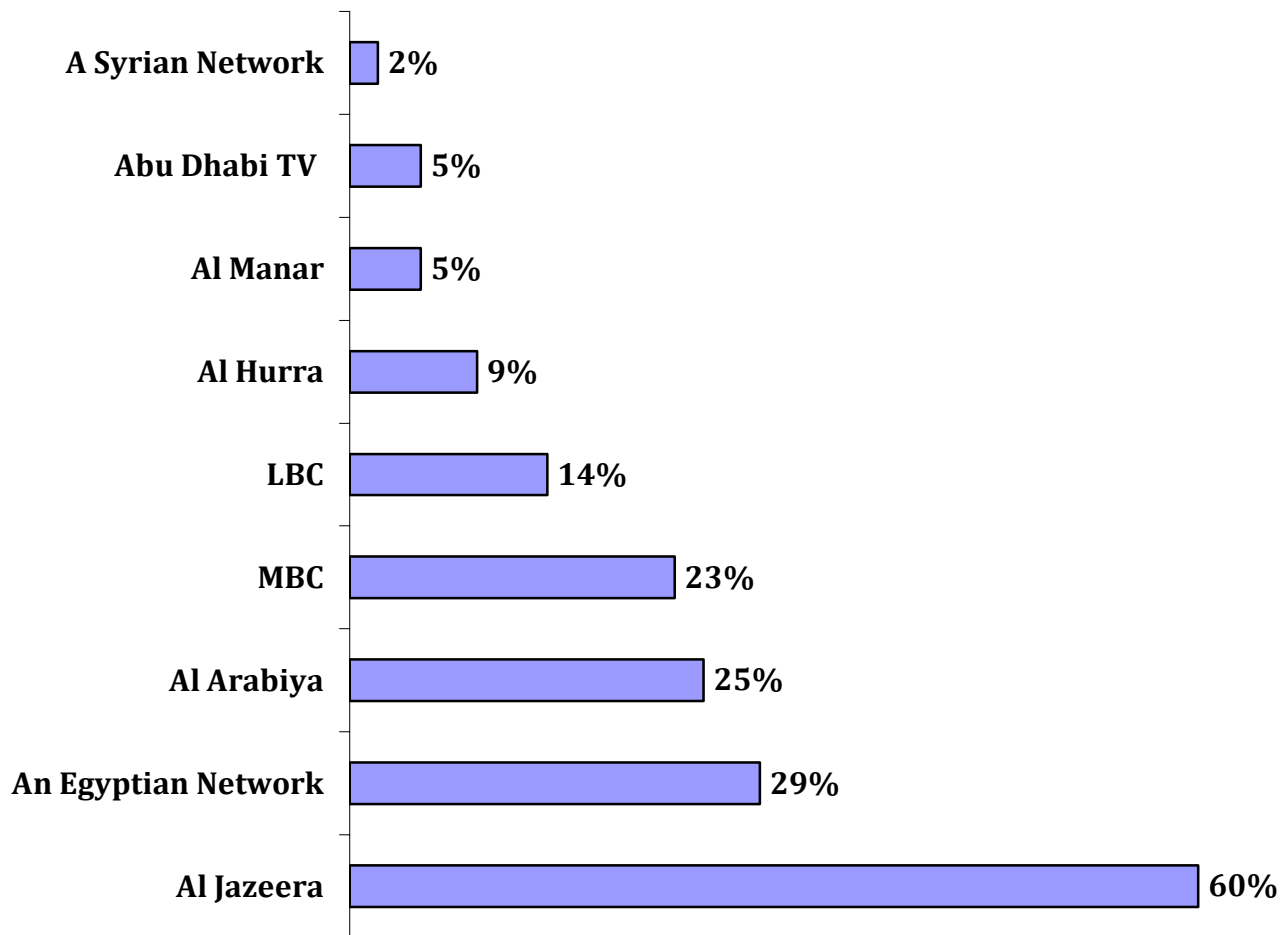
**2008 Media Viewership
UAE Only**

When you watch international news, which of the following network's news broadcasts do you watch most often?



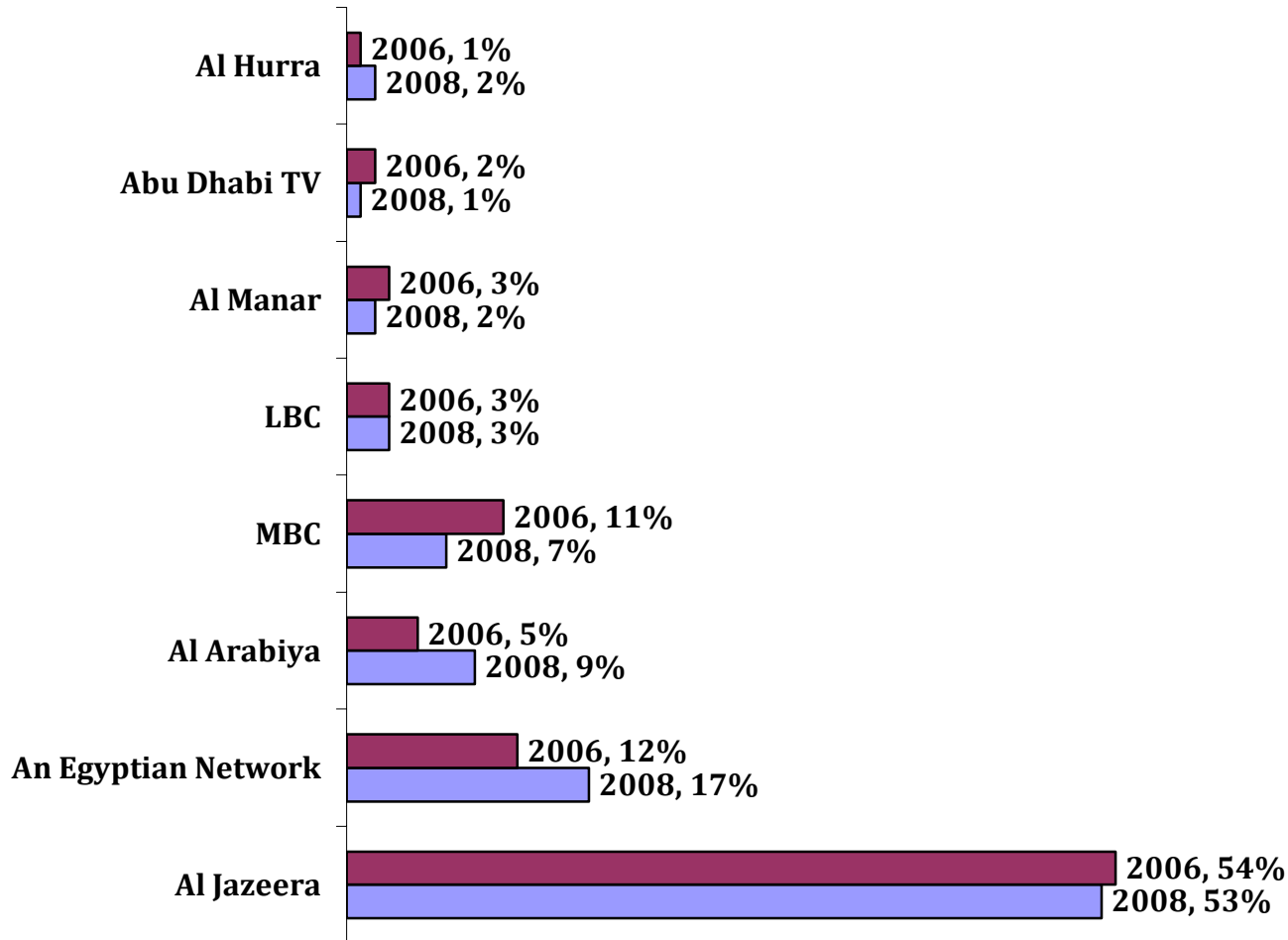
2008 Media Viewership Aggregate

Respondents who watched the following networks "daily" or "5 or 6 times a week"



Changes in Media Viewership, 2006-2008 6-Country Total

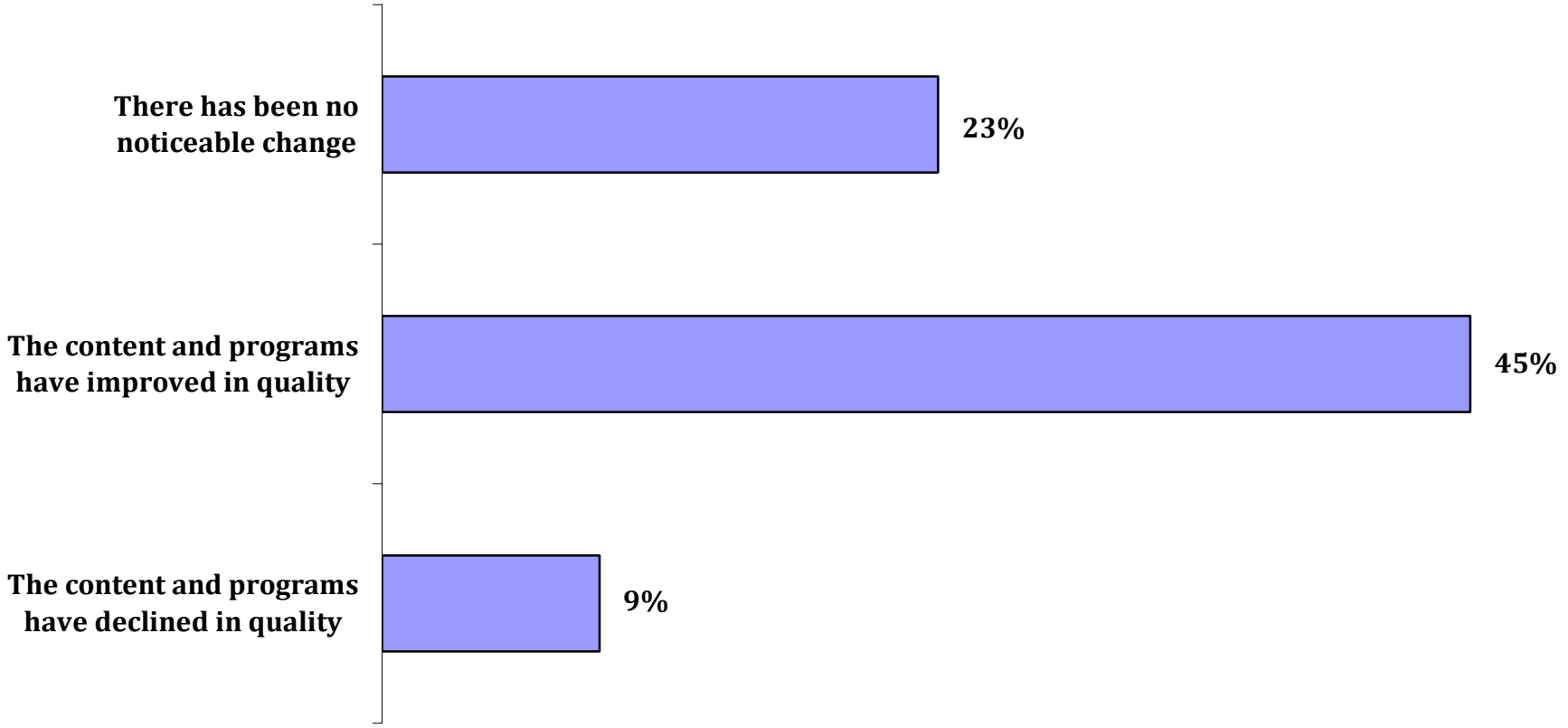
When you watch international news, which of the following network's news broadcasts do you watch most often?



2008 Media Viewership

6-Country Total

When you compare the content and programs on *Al Jazeera TV* in the past year with previous years, which of the following would be closest to your view?



**2008 Media Viewership
6-Country Total**

When you compare the content and programs on *Al Arabiya TV* in the past year with previous years, which of the following would be closest to your view?

