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Program on International
Policy Attitudes (PIPA)

The American Public and the Arab Awakening

April 11, 2011



Methodology

Dates of Survey: April 1-5, 2011

Margin of Error: +/- 3.5 percentage points

Sample Sizes: 802

Survey Method: Knowledge Networks probability-based
online panel

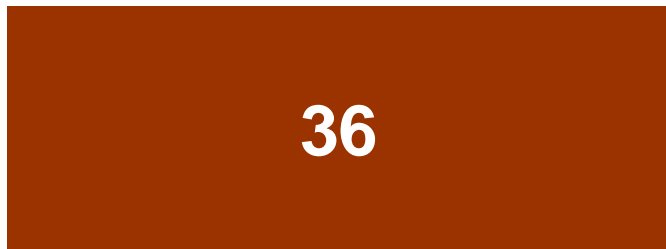
Priority of US-Muslim World Relations

Thinking about US interests, how important an issue is the US relationship with Muslims and Muslim majority countries?

Most important / Top 3 / Top 5



Not among the top five issues



Views of Middle East Democratization

Do you think that if the countries of the Middle East become more democratic this will be more positive or more negative for the US:

Over the next few years

More positive

65

More negative

31

In the long run

More positive

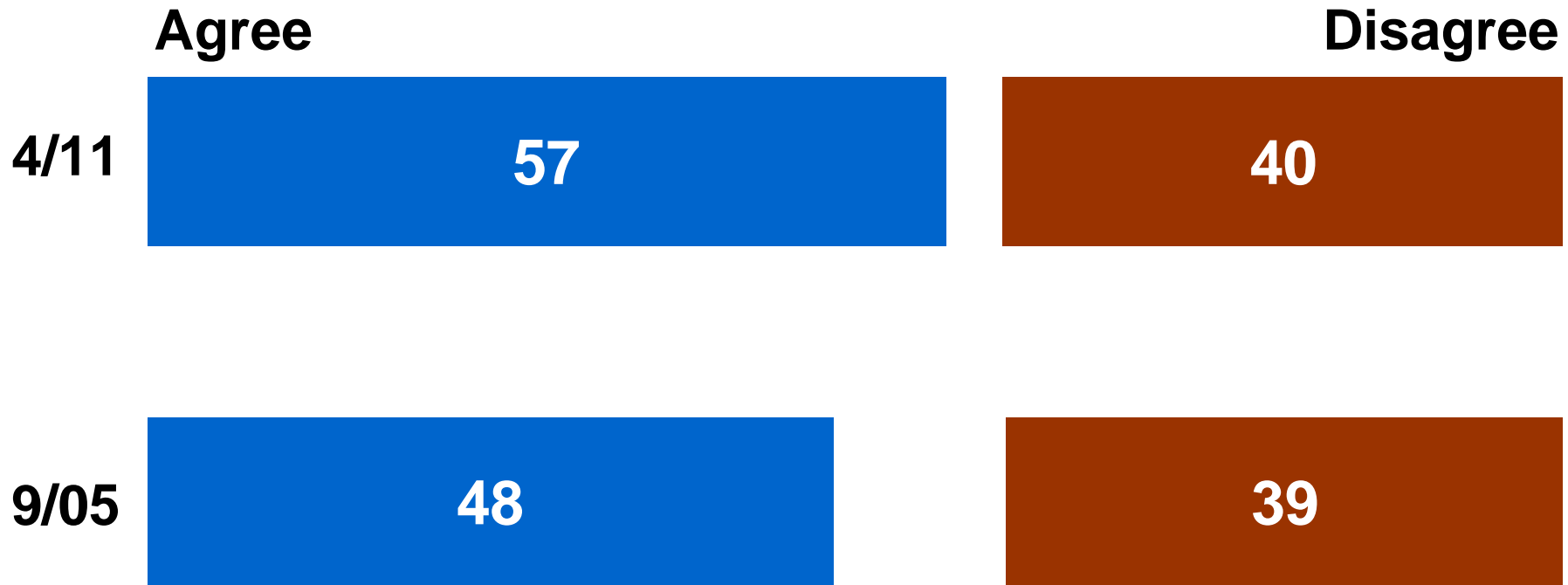
76

More negative

19

What if Democratization Leads to Unfriendly Government?

“I would want to see a country become more democratic even if this resulted in the country being more likely to oppose US policies.”



Perceptions of Uprisings

Do you think the popular uprisings in the Arab world are:

More about Islamist groups seeking political power



More about ordinary people seeking freedom and democracy



Both equally



Are Islam and Democracy Compatible?

Which position is closer to yours?

It is possible for Islamic countries to be democratic

Democracy and Islam are incompatible

4/11

56

41

9/05

55

34

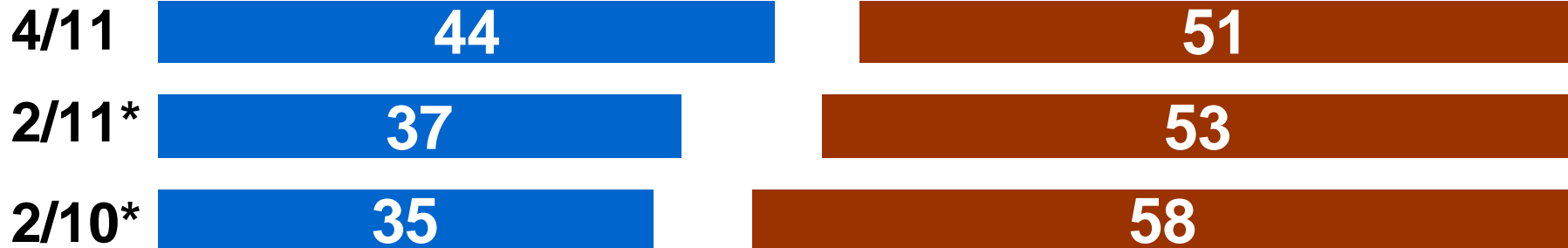
Views of Arab Nations

What is your overall opinion of each of the following countries:

 Favorable

 Unfavorable

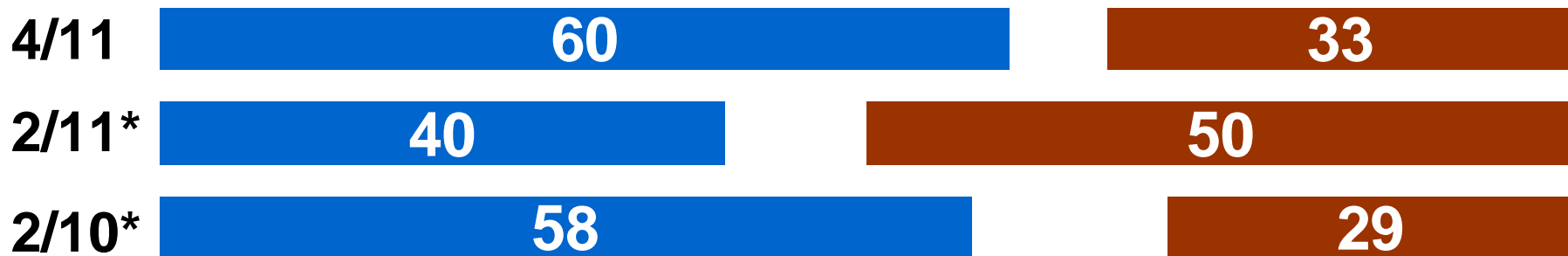
Saudi Arabia



Syria



Egypt



* Trends from Gallup

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011

Views of Arab People

What is your overall opinion of each of the following groups of people:

 Favorable

 Unfavorable

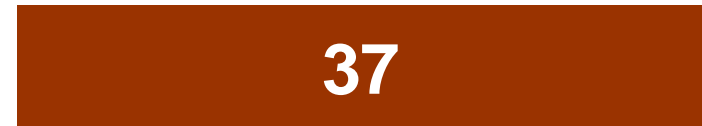
Arab people in general



People of Egypt



People of Saudi Arabia



Effect of Uprisings on Views of Arab World

 Increased  Decreased

Your level of sympathy for the Arab people



Category	Percentage
Increased	39
Decreased	6

Your sense of how similar the aspirations of the Arab people are to yours



Category	Percentage
Increased	33
Decreased	9

US Position Toward Uprisings

In responding to the popular uprisings in the following countries, do you think the US should:

 Express support for demonstrators

 Not take a position

 Express support for government

Syria



Yemen



Bahrain



Jordan



Saudi Arabia



Compatibility of Muslim and Western Cultures

Thinking about Muslim and Western cultures, do you think that:

It is possible to find common ground between them



59

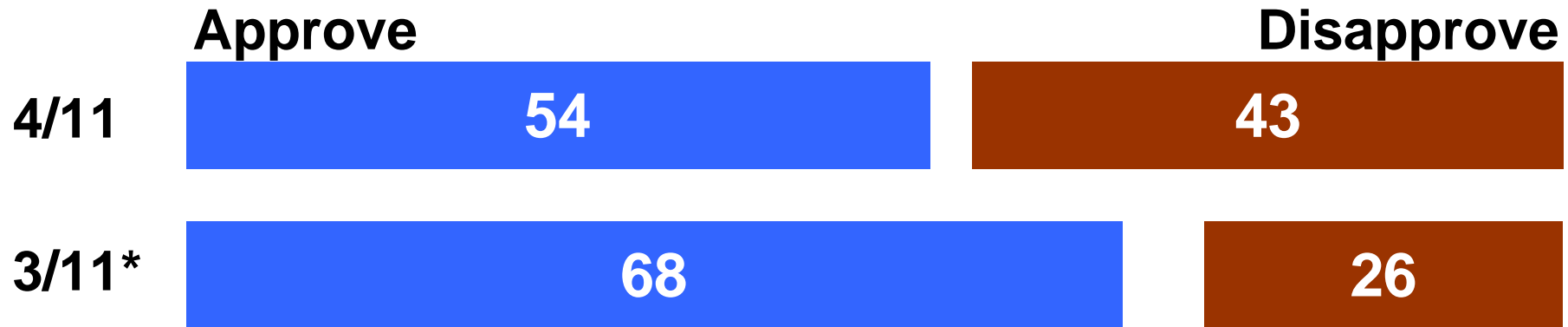
Violent conflict between them is inevitable



41

Support for Action on Libya

As you may know, the U.S. military and other countries have begun cruise missile and air strikes in Libya in order to protect civilians from attacks by Qaddafi's forces. Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. and other countries taking this military action in Libya?



If the air campaign does not succeed in protecting civilians from attacks by Qaddafi's forces, would you support or oppose the US and other countries providing arms to the Libyan rebels?



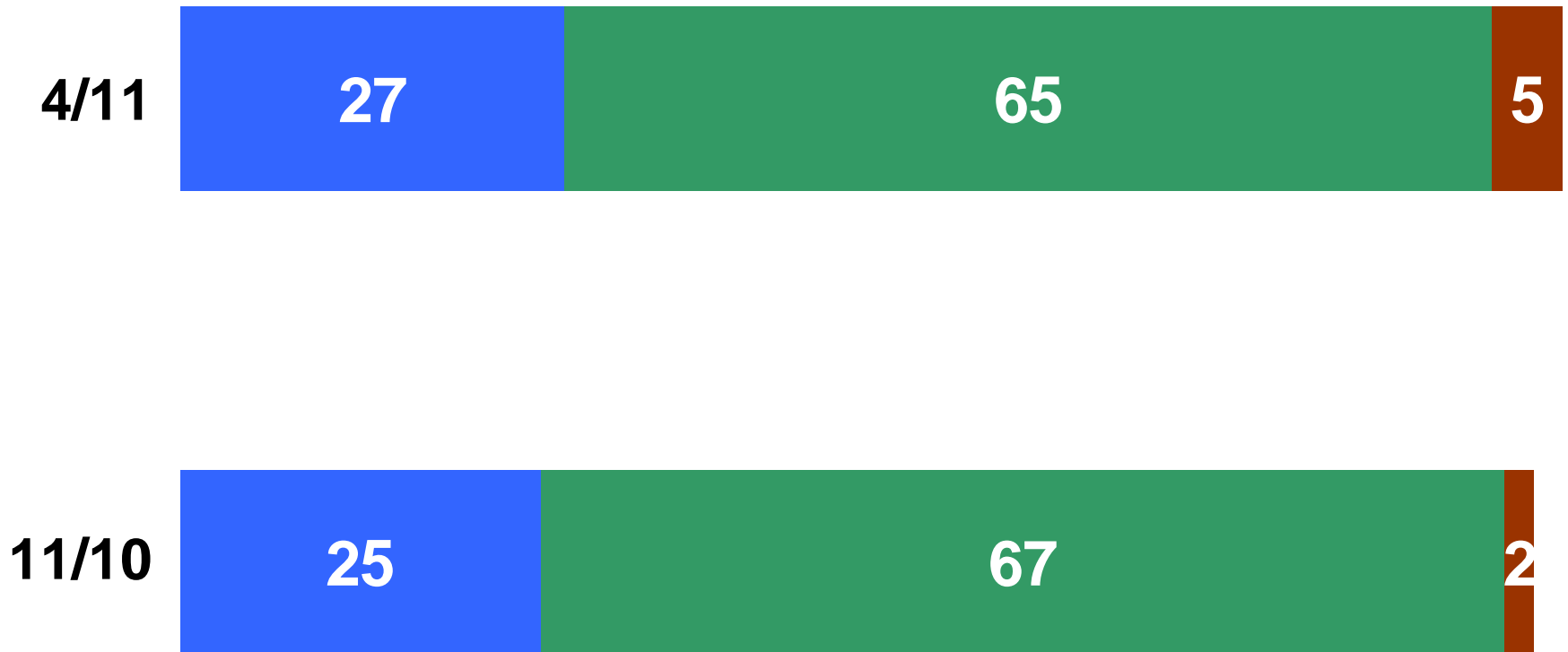
Approach to Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

In its efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, what position do you believe the US should take?

Lean toward Israel

Lean toward neither side

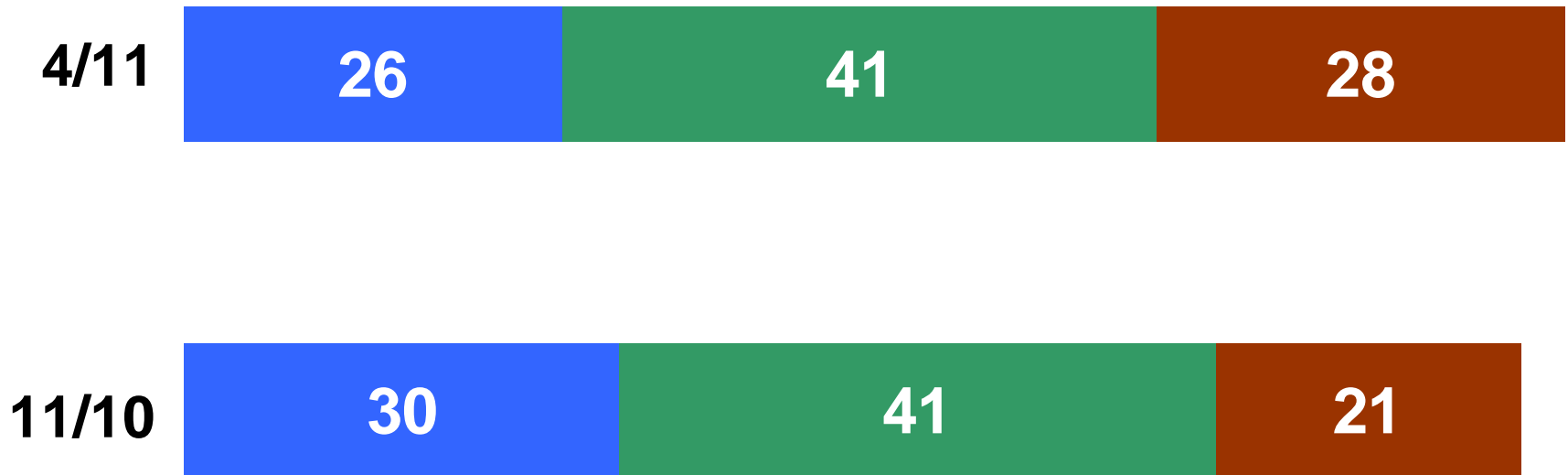
Lean toward the Palestinians



Administration Efforts on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Which of the following is closest to your view of the Obama Administration's diplomatic efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

■ Not trying hard enough ■ Efforts are at the right level ■ Trying too hard



Effect of Uprisings on Views of Arab World

■ Increased

■ Decreased

Your level of sympathy for the Arab people

39

6

Your sense of how similar the aspirations of the Arab people are to yours

33

9

Your optimism that peaceful change is possible in the Arab world

29

24

Your optimism about relations between the US and the Arab world

27

17

Your sense of how widespread religious fanaticism is among Arabs

26

9