American attitudes toward the Middle East
(May 2016)

Shibley Telhami
Principal Investigator

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

The survey was conducted May 20-31, 2016 with a panel consisting of a probability-based representative sample. The panel was recruited by Nielsen Scarborough from its larger probability-based national panel, which was recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of households provided by Survey Sampling International. A total of 1580 panelists completed the survey including a national sample of 855 adults, plus an oversample of 735 millennials (18-34), making for a total sample of millennials of 863. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the US Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification and millennials were down-weighted consistent with these groups' incidence rate in the U.S. Census. The margins of error for the national sample and for each subgroup is: National – 855 respondents, MoE: 3.4% Millennials – 863, MoE: 3.3%

The margins of error for the national sample and for each subgroup is:

National – 855 respondents, MoE: 3.4%
Millennial (18-34) - 863 respondents, MoE: 3.3%

Q6: Please name a national or world leader you admire most? [**Open-ended text box**]

		Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1.	Angela Merkel	4%	3%	6%	3%
2.	Pope Francis	3	5	1	4
3.	Nelson Mandela	1	2	2	1
4.	Barack Obama	4	40	9	22
5.	Benjamin Netanyahu	14	1	5	7
6.	Dalai Lama	<1	1	1	1
7.	Ronald Reagan	6	<1	3	3
8.	Jimmy Carter	<1	1	1	1
9.	Paul Ryan	3	<1	0	1
10.	George Bush	3	<1	0	1
11.	Martin Luther King, Jr.	<1	2	0	1
12.	Gandhi	1	1	2	1
13.	Vladimir Putin	3	1	6	2
14.	Bill Clinton	1	1	1	1
15.	Queen Elizabeth II	3	3	1	3
16.	JFK	2	1	0	1
17.	Bernie Sanders	0	1	1	1
18.	Justin Trudeau	1	3	2	2
19.	David Cameron	1	1	1	1
20.	Other	21	10	17	16
21.	Elizabeth Warren	0	1	0	1
22.	Donald Trump	2	<1	0	1
23.	Nobody	12	10	19	11
24.	Refused/Don't know	16	14	21	15

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict:

Q21. How much influence do you believe the Israeli government has on American politics and policies? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS A+B]**

		Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
a.	Too little influence	23%	8%	21%	16%
b.	Too much influence	27	53	46	41
c.	About the right level of influence	48	38	34	42
d.	Refused	2	2	0	2

Q24. As you may know, the United States has been acting as a mediator between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority, with the aim of reaching an agreement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Whether or not these efforts succeed, there is a question about what kind of

future for Israel and the Palestinians the U.S. should be supporting over the long term, and many analysts feel that time is running out for some options. Here are four possible approaches that are frequently discussed. Please select the one you think the U.S. should support. **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]**

	Rep	**Dem**	**Ind**	**Total**
1. A two-state solution: Israel and a Palestinian state side by side. The Palestinian state would be established on the territories that Israel has occupied since 1967.	27%	41%	30%	34%
2. A one-state solution: A single democratic state in which both Jews and Arabs are full and equal citizens, covering all of what is now Israel and the Palestinian Territories.	28	37	34	33
3. Annexation without equal citizenship: Israel would annex the Palestinian territories, but keep a majority-Jewish state in the expanded territories by restricting citizenship rights of Palestinians.	16	9	11	13
4. Maintain the occupation of both the territories Israel has captured in 1967 and the Palestinians inhabiting them indefinitely.	23	8	18	16
5. Refused	6	5	7	5

Q26. Which of the following statements is closer to your view if a two-state solution is not an option? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Rep	**Dem**	**Ind**	**Total**
1. I favor the Jewishness of Israel more than its democracy. I support the continuation of Israel's Jewish majority in the government even if it means that Palestinians will not have citizenship and full rights.	39%	16%	24%	26%
2. I favor Israel's democracy more than its Jewishness. I support a single democratic state in which Arabs and Jews are equal.	57	81	67	69
3. Refused	4	4	9	5

Q27. In general, what role do you want the United States to play in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Should the United States: **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1+2]**

	Rep	**Dem**	**Ind**	**Total**
1. Lean toward Israel	52%	15%	30%	32%
2. Lean toward the Palestinians	2	6	3	4
3. Lean toward neither side **[ANCHOR]**	46	78	65	63
4. Refused	1	1	2	1

Q29. As you may know, there have been suggestions that the UN Security Council should endorse the establishment of a Palestinian state. This idea has received some support in Europe, but opposition in Israel. If the UN Security Council considers such a plan, what do you think the U.S. should do as a member of the UN Security Council? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1+2]**

	Rep	**Dem**	**Ind**	**Total**
1. Vote in favor of endorsing the establishment of a Palestinian state	15%	39%	20%	27%
2. Vote against endorsing the establishment of a Palestinian state (including using America's veto power to prevent such an endorsement)	53	19	29	35
3. Abstain from voting **[ANCHOR]**	29	37	48	35
4. Refused	3	5	3	4

Q30. One of the issues of tension between the United States and Israel has been its construction of Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war. These settlements are considered illegal by most of the international community and have been opposed by every U.S. administration, both Republican and Democratic. The Israeli government has continued to build settlements arguing that they have the right to do so, or that these are not obstacles to peace. How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?

	Rep	**Dem**	**Ind**	**Total**
1. Do nothing	35%	18%	23%	26%
2. Limit U.S. opposition to words, but take no other action	38	29	34	33
3. Impose some economic sanctions, either through the United Nations or unilaterally	19	38	26	29
4. Take more serious action	7	13	15	11
5. Refused	1	3	3	2

Attitudes toward Islam and Muslims:

[ALL QUESTIONS Q31a-Q31b SHOULD BE ON SAME SCREEN]

Q31. What is your attitude about each of the following?

        Q31A. The Muslim People

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Very favorable	12%	28%	16%	20%
2 Somewhat favorable	31	44	37	38
3 Somewhat unfavorable	33	20	26	26
4 Very unfavorable	22	7	21	15
5 Refused	1	1	0	1

        Q31B. The Muslim Religion

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Very favorable	5%	18%	9%	12%
2 Somewhat favorable	19	41	25	30
3 Somewhat unfavorable	30	25	34	28
4 Very unfavorable	45	14	32	29
5 Refused	1	3	0	2

Q33a. Which position is closer to yours? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Islamic and Western religious and social traditions are incompatible with each other	55%	21%	40%	37%
2. Most people in the West and the Islamic world have similar needs and wants, so it is possible to find common ground	44	77	56	61
3. Refused	1	2	5	2

Q77. On a scale of 1-10, where ten is very important and one is not important, how important are the following issues in American global priorities?

Q77A. The rise of China

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	3%	3%	10%	4%
2	1	5	1	3
3	3	3	5	3
4	4	9	7	7
5	11	15	14	13
6	9	9	11	9
7	17	13	17	15
8	16	19	10	17
9	15	9	8	11
10 Very Important	23	14	17	18
Refused	1	1	1	1

Q77B. The Assertiveness of Russia

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	1%	3%	11%	3%
2	3	3	2	3
3	3	3	5	3
4	4	9	7	6
5	12	20	17	16
6	12	9	10	10
7	14	17	15	15
8	21	16	11	18
9	13	8	7	10
10 Very Important	17	11	15	14
Refused	1	2	0	1

Q77C. North Korea

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	3%	3%	9%	4%
2	3	3	2	3
3	4	5	6	5
4	3	7	6	5
5	11	15	19	14
6	10	12	10	11
7	11	14	11	12
8	16	13	15	15
9	15	10	8	12
10 Very Important	23	18	14	20
Refused	1	1	1	1

Q77D. Iran

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	3%	2%	13%	3%
2	1	3	2	2
3	4	5	3	4
4	4	7	7	6
5	10	16	17	14
6	9	16	6	12
7	11	16	15	14
8	13	13	10	13
9	16	7	7	11
10 Very Important	29	12	21	20
Refused	1	4	0	2

Q77E. Trade Deficit

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	1%	2%	7%	2%
2	1	2	1	1
3	1	4	1	2
4	3	3	5	3
5	8	16	15	13
6	9	13	8	11
7	12	14	11	13
8	20	17	18	18
9	14	8	10	10
10 Very Important	32	20	23	25
Refused	1	2	1	2

Q77F. The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	3%	5%	13%	5%
2	4	4	2	4
3	4	4	9	5
4	7	11	5	9
5	15	21	26	19
6	15	9	8	12
7	12	18	15	15
8	11	9	5	9
9	11	9	7	10
10 Very Important	15	7	11	11
Refused	1	1	0	1

Q77G. The War on ISIS

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	1%	1%	6%	2%
2	1	1	2	1
3	1	1	2	1
4	2	4	2	3
5	3	8	10	6
6	2	6	5	4
7	7	12	7	10
8	13	16	13	14
9	13	9	11	11
10 Very Important	57	39	42	47
Refused	<1	2	0	1

Q77H. The War on al-Qaeda

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	1%	2%	9%	2%
2	1	3	3	2
3	1	2	5	2
4	3	7	6	5
5	5	9	8	7
6	6	9	6	7
7	10	13	12	12
8	14	15	10	14
9	14	11	16	13
10 Very Important	45	27	26	35
Refused	1	2	0	1

Q77I. The Civil War in Libya

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	8%	7%	14%	8%
2	7	7	8	7
3	9	7	7	8
4	13	12	8	12
5	21	24	25	23
6	10	14	11	12
7	14	10	11	12
8	8	7	6	7
9	5	4	3	4
10 Very Important	4	6	7	5
Refused	1	2	0	2

Q77J. The Civil War in Yemen

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	9%	8%	19%	10%
2	9	9	7	9
3	11	7	10	9
4	11	10	7	10
5	21	24	24	23
6	10	13	9	11
7	12	9	11	10
8	7	7	4	7
9	6	4	4	5
10 Very Important	4	6	4	5
Refused	1	2	0	1

Q77K. US Immigration Policy

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	0%	3%	3%	2%
2	1	2	2	2
3	1	1	2	1
4	2	6	2	4
5	5	11	6	8
6	6	9	8	7
7	7	15	14	11
8	12	16	7	13
9	14	13	18	14
10 Very Important	54	23	36	38
Refused	1	1	1	1

Q77L. The tense relations with Egypt and Saudi Arabia

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	4%	6%	12%	6%
2	3	5	3	4
3	6	7	4	6
4	6	10	8	8
5	18	22	24	21
6	17	14	10	15
7	18	10	14	14
8	6	12	11	10
9	10	7	6	8
10 Very Important	11	7	7	9
Refused	1	1	0	1

Q77M. Other issue (please specify)

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Not Important	7%	8%	16%	8%
2	1	<1	1	1
3	<1	5	1	2
4	1	2	1	1
5	2	4	6	3
6	1	3	1	1
7	2	5	5	4
8	3	5	3	4
9	4	4	1	4
10 Very Important	19	22	25	21
Refused	60	44	40	51

Q78. **[PIPE IN ALL ISSUES FROM Q77 IF >1][MAINTAIN ORDER FROM Q77][SKIP QUESTION AND AUTOCODE ISSUES FROM Q77 IF ONLY ONE OR TWO ISSUES ARE >1 IN Q77]** Which of the following issues should be America's top global priorities? Please select two.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
A. The rise of China	9%	9%	10%	9%
B. The assertiveness of Russia	5	5	7	5
C. North Korea	7	13	10	10
D. Iran	8	6	2	7
E. Trade deficit	23	26	23	25
F. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict	7	8	8	7
G. The war on ISIS	66	58	60	61
H. The war on al-Qaeda	10	11	6	11
I. The civil war in Libya	1	1	2	1
J. The civil war in Yemen	1	<1	1	1
K. US immigration policy	52	31	39	41
L. The tense relations with Egypt and Saudi Arabia	1	4	0	2
M. Other issue (please specify)	11	25	25	19

N. Refused   1   2   7   2

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(June 2016)

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Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted June 24-30, 2016 with a panel consisting of a probability-based representative sample. The panel was recruited by Nielsen Scarborough from its larger probability-based national panel, which was recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of households provided by Survey Sampling International. A national sample of 1312 panelists completed the survey. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the US Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification. The margin of error is 2.7%

The margins of error for the national sample are:

National – 1312 respondents, MoE: 2.7%

Attitudes toward Islam and Muslims:

[ALL QUESTIONS Q31a-Q31b SHOULD BE ON SAME SCREEN]

Q31. What is your attitude about each of the following?

Q31A. The Muslim People

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Very favorable	7%	31%	14%	19%
2 Somewhat favorable	35	48	46	42
3 Somewhat unfavorable	45	15	33	30
4 Very unfavorable	12	5	6	8
5 Refused	1	1	2	1

Q31B. The Muslim Religion

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Very favorable	6%	20%	10%	13%
2 Somewhat favorable	18	44	27	31
3 Somewhat unfavorable	42	25	44	35
4 Very unfavorable	33	10	17	20
5 Refused	1	2	2	1

Q33a. Which position is closer to yours? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Islamic and Western religious and social traditions are incompatible with each other	55%	17%	27%	34%
2. Most people in the West and the Islamic world have similar needs and wants, so it is possible to find common ground	42	82	71	64
3. Refused	3	2	2	2

Now we are going to ask you a few questions about the Orlando Mass Shooting. As you probably know, a shooter, Omar Mateen, assaulted the Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando Florida on June 12th, 2016, killing 49 people and wounding many more.

[RANDOMLY SHOW OPTIONS IN ORDER: 1, 2, 3, 4 OR 4, 3, 2, 1]
QOS1. Based on what you have heard, is it your impression that the Orlando shooter, Omar Mateen, was:

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. An American citizen born in the United States	65%	68%	64%	66%
2. An American citizen who immigrated to the United States	11	10	8	10
3. A foreigner who has been living in the United States for some years	17	19	25	19
4. A foreigner who came to the United States recently	5	2	1	4
5. Refused	1	<1	2	1

QOS2. Based on what you have heard, please rank your impression of each of the following factors that may have contributed to the Orlando shooter's behavior. Use a scale of 0-10, where 0 is not important and 10 is most important.

QOS2A. Hate for LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) community

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not Important	6%	3%	5%	4%
1	3	1	3	2
2	3	3	2	3
3	4	2	2	3
4	3	2	2	3
5	10	8	6	9
6	4	6	8	5
7	5	9	9	7
8	11	16	11	13
9	17	14	18	15
10 Most Important	34	36	33	35
Refused	1	1	2	1

QOS2B. Self-hate of his own sexuality

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not Important	18%	4%	14%	11%
1	6	2	6	4
2	3	2	4	3
3	3	1	4	2
4	3	1	4	2
5	19	11	13	14
6	6	2	7	4
7	5	9	7	7
8	7	11	8	9
9	10	12	6	11
10 Most Important	19	44	24	31
Refused	2	1	3	2

QOS2C. Feeling rejected as a Muslim in America

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not Important	35%	15%	16%	24%
1	5	4	4	5
2	8	7	12	8
3	5	6	5	6
4	7	8	4	7
5	9	12	21	12
6	6	8	6	7
7	4	8	8	7
8	7	11	6	9
9	3	8	7	6
10 Most Important	9	11	9	10
Refused	2	2	3	2

QOS2D. Militant Islamist Ideology

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not Important	2%	11%	3%	6%
1	1	5	0	3
2	1	4	1	2
3	3	5	7	4
4	1	7	8	5
5	3	8	10	6
6	7	7	4	7
7	5	7	11	7
8	10	12	9	11
9	9	12	10	10
10 Most Important	58	21	34	38
Refused	1	2	2	1

QOS2AE. Mental Illness

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not Important	12%	4%	8%	8%
1	5	1	3	3
2	5	2	4	3
3	5	3	3	4
4	2	3	3	3
5	12	7	15	10
6	9	5	9	7
7	5	11	5	8
8	13	10	12	12
9	7	14	10	11
10 Most Important	25	39	27	32
Refused	1	1	2	1

QOSF. Other, please specify:

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not Important	21%	15%	15%	18%
1	2	1	2	1
2	1	<1	0	1
3	<1	1	0	<1
4	<1	1	1	1
5	6	5	5	6
6	<1	2	2	1
7	<1	2	1	1
8	1	2	5	2
9	3	3	3	3
10 Most Important	16	17	19	17
Refused	50	52	47	50

[SHOW IN SAME ORDER AS Q OS2] [SHOW EACH ROW FROM Q OS2 IF RESPONDENT DEEM AS IMPORTANT [NOT EQUAL TO 0]]
QOS3. Now, in your opinion, which one of these is the most important factor that may have contributed to the Orlando shooter's behavior?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
A. Hate for LBGT community	11%	20%	21%	16%
B. Self-hate	8	30	12	19
C. Feeling rejected as a Muslim in America	<1	5	2	2
D. Militant Islamist ideology	58	11	30	33
E. Mental illness	16	26	18	21
F. Other	6	8	12	8
G. Refused	1	1	4	1

[RANDOMLY SHOW OPTIONS IN ORDER: 1, 2, 3 OR 3, 2, 1]
QOS4. Based on your impression, was the Orlando shooter acting:

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Under the direction of ISIS	13%	4%	7%	8%
2. Independently, but inspired by ISIS ideology	71	45	57	57
3. Independently, for reasons unrelated to ISIS, but claiming links to ISIS for boasting	16	51	35	34
4. Refused	<1	1	2	1

QOS6. How much do you approve or disapprove of the following leaders' reactions to the Orlando shooting?

QOS6A. President Obama

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Strongly Approve	5%	58%	7%	30%
2 Somewhat Approve	10	30	32	22
3 Somewhat Disapprove	23	8	24	16
4 Strongly Disapprove	62	3	35	31
5 Refused	1	1	2	1

QOS6B. Hillary Clinton

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Strongly Approve	5%	48%	7%	25%
2 Somewhat Approve	8	38	32	25
3 Somewhat Disapprove	28	9	26	19
4 Strongly Disapprove	58	4	32	30
5 Refused	1	1	4	1

QOS6C. Donald Trump

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Strongly Approve	39%	3%	15%	20%
2 Somewhat Approve	36	10	24	23
3 Somewhat Disapprove	14	13	17	14
4 Strongly Disapprove	10	74	42	43
5 Refused	1	1	2	1

QOS7. How would you rate the effectiveness of the following actions in reducing the chance of an Orlando-like shooting? Please rate on a scale of 0-10 where 0 is not effective, and 10 is most effective.

QOS7A. Banning the sale of assault rifles, that is a rifle that fires rapid bursts of bullets

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not effective	46%	6%	29%	26%
1	9	1	2	4
2	3	1	8	3
3	4	2	4	3
4	1	2	0	2
5	7	9	12	8
6	2	3	6	3
7	2	4	5	3
8	4	8	5	6
9	3	7	3	5
10 Most effective	20	57	24	38
Refused	0	1	2	<1

QOS7B. Banning the sale of any weapons to people on terrorist and criminal watch lists

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not effective	17%	2%	10%	9%
1	2	1	2	2
2	3	1	4	2
3	2	2	1	2
4	1	1	1	1
5	7	5	11	7
6	2	4	4	3
7	5	2	6	4
8	8	7	3	7
9	9	8	12	9
10 Most effective	44	67	46	55
Refused	1	<1	2	1

QOS7C. Better security at public venues

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not effective	3%	3%	2%	3%
1	1	1	1	1
2	3	3	2	3
3	2	4	2	3
4	5	3	3	4
5	13	12	15	12
6	8	7	5	7
7	11	13	13	12
8	8	16	16	13
9	12	9	13	11
10 Most effective	35	29	27	31
Refused	1	0	2	1

QOS7D. Closely monitoring Mosques and Muslim American groups

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not effective	7%	24%	11%	16%
1	3	8	4	5
2	5	9	8	7
3	2	8	9	5
4	2	5	10	4
5	9	17	13	13
6	5	5	4	5
7	9	6	7	7
8	12	6	8	9
9	11	2	5	6
10 Most effective	36	10	20	22
Refused	1	1	2	1

QOS7E. Fighting ISIS and similar groups abroad more effectively

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not effective	3%	9%	7%	6%
1	<1	3	1	1
2	4	5	4	4
3	2	3	10	3
4	1	3	8	3
5	6	15	9	10
6	3	7	6	5
7	5	8	4	6
8	13	14	10	13
9	14	8	4	10
10 Most effective	50	26	35	37
Refused	<1	1	2	1

QOS7F. Other, please specify

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
0 Not effective	9%	6%	9%	8%
1	<1	<1	0	<1
2	0	<1	0	<1
3	<1	1	0	1
4	<1	0	0	<1
5	5	3	2	4
6	<1	1	2	1
7	1	1	2	1
8	1	4	6	3
9	4	1	2	2
10 Most effective	19	17	13	17
Refused	60	66	65	64

[SHOW IN SAME ORDER AS Q OS7] [SHOW EACH ROW FROM Q OS7 IF RESPONDENT DEEM AS EFFECTIVE [NOT EQUAL TO 0]]
QOS8. Now, of these actions, which would be the most likely to reduce the chance of an Orlando-like shooting?

		Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1.	Banning the sale of assault rifles, that is a rifle that fires rapid bursts of bullets	8%	40%	13%	23%
2.	Banning the sale of any weapons to people on terrorist and criminal watch lists	22	27	30	25
3.	Better security at public venues	17	14	24	17
4.	Closely monitoring Mosques and Muslim American groups	19	3	7	10
5.	Fighting ISIS and similar groups abroad more	19	6	7	12
6.	Other	14	10	15	12
7.	Refused	1	1	2	1

[MAINTAIN ORDER FROM Q OS9] [SHOW IF Q OS9A NE 3 AND Q OS9B NE 3 – THE TWO OPTIONS ARE AT LEAST A SMALL FACTOR][IF ONLY ONE FACTOR SHOWN IN Q OS10, AUTOCODE THAT OPTION IN Q OS10 AND SKIP]
QOS10. Now which one of the two factors do you believe is most important?

		Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1.	Going to war with Iraq in 2003	34%	74%	53%	55%
2.	Withdrawing most US troops from Iraq	61	22	44	41
3.	Refused	5	5	3	5