



**Americans' Views on Involvement in Iraq, Response to Violence There**

June 20-22, 2014

- A slim majority of Americans support sending military advisers to Iraq to train, advise and collect intelligence, and 56% favor the use of unmanned drone attacks. But there is less support for manned airstrikes, and strong opposition to sending U.S. ground troops.
- More than half of Americans are very concerned that U.S. intervention in Iraq could lead to a long and costly involvement there.
- Less than half thinks the U.S. has a responsibility to do something about the violence in Iraq, and 57% think the situation there is beyond U.S. control.
- Views of the war in Iraq are at a historic low in this poll. Only 18% now say the Iraq war was worth the costs – the lowest in CBS News/New York Times Polls.
- Just 37% of Americans approve of President Barack Obama's handling of the situation in Iraq. His overall job rating is 40% - down slightly from May.

**Military Options in Iraq**

When Americans are asked about a range of military options in Iraq, there is support for some actions, but not others. A slim majority of Americans (51%) favor sending military advisers into Iraq to train and advise the Iraqi military and collect intelligence, which the President has proposed. 42% oppose it. There is bipartisan support for this plan.

**U.S. Sending Military Advisers into Iraq**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Favor	51%	54%	54%	48%
Oppose	42	41	40	44

Nevertheless, four in 10 don't think that will have much of an effect on the violence there. 28% think sending advisers will increase the violence there, while 23% expect it to decrease.

**Impact of U.S. Military Advisers on Violence in Iraq**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Increase it	28%	22%	30%	30%
Decrease it	23	22	26	21
Not much effect	43	51	39	42

In addition to sending military advisers into Iraq, there is public support for using unmanned aircraft or drones to target militants in Iraq – something the President has not ruled out. But there is less support for airstrikes using manned aircraft.

Large majorities, however, oppose sending U.S. ground troops into Iraq -- something President Obama has said the U.S. will not do.

**Possible U.S. Actions in Iraq**

	Favor	Oppose
Sending military advisers into Iraq	51%	42
Using unmanned drones to target militants	56%	38
Using manned aircraft to target militants	43%	51
Sending U.S. ground troops	19%	77

Republicans are more likely than Democrats or independents to support the use of drones and manned airstrikes (although most oppose sending ground troops).

**Support for Possible U.S. Actions in Iraq**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Sending military advisers into Iraq	51%	54%	54%	48%
Using drones to target militants	56%	69%	55%	49%
Using manned aircraft to target militants	43%	54%	38%	40%
Sending U.S. ground troops	19%	30%	15%	16%

50% of Americans think the U.S. does not have a responsibility to do something about the recent violence in Iraq, while fewer – 42% - think the U.S. does. More Republicans than Democrats or independents think the U.S. has a responsibility to do something about the violence, but even among Republicans, 42% think that is not the U.S.'s responsibility.

**Does U.S. Have Responsibility to Do Something about Violence in Iraq?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Yes	42%	52%	43%	37%
No	50	42	51	55

The poll also suggests the public views the situation in Iraq with some futility; most Americans do not think the U.S. can do something about the situation in Iraq. 57% think the situation there is beyond the control of the U.S., including majorities of all partisans.

**Can the U.S. Do Something about the Situation in Iraq?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
U.S. can do something	38%	45%	35%	37%
Beyond the control of the U.S.	57	53	60	57

Two-thirds of Americans have heard or read at least some about the recent violence in Iraq, but just 36% have heard or read a lot about it. Those who have been paying the most attention to news about Iraq are more inclined to think the U.S. has a responsibility there and that the President should be doing more about it.

**The War in Iraq and U.S. Troops**

Discussions of U.S. involvement in stemming the violence in Iraq are occurring amid a backdrop of highly negative views of the Iraq war. Just 18% of Americans think the result of the war in

Iraq was worth the loss of American lives and other costs of attacking Iraq, the lowest percentage ever recorded in CBS News Polls. 75% do not think the Iraq War was worth it, up eight percentage points since 2011 (just before all U.S. troops were removed), and up 30 points since August 2003.

<b>Was the Iraq War Worth the Costs?</b>					
	Now	11/2011	8/2010	3/2008	8/2003
Worth it	18%	24%	20%	28%	46%
Not worth it	75	67	72	66	45

Republicans, Democrats and independents alike view the Iraq war as not worth the costs.

<b>Was the Iraq War Worth the Costs?</b>				
	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Worth it	18%	27%	14%	16%
Not worth it	75	63	79	79

As old sectarian rivalries erupt again in Iraq, some have criticized the removal of all U.S. troops from that country in 2011. 50% think the U.S. should have removed all its troops, while 42% think the U.S. should have left some troops behind. Most Republicans think U.S. troops should have remained, while most Democrats and independents think they should have been removed.

**Should the U.S. Have Removed all of its Troops From Iraq in 2011?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Yes	50%	29%	62%	54%
No	42	65	31	38

More Americans from households with either an Iraq or Afghanistan War veteran think the U.S. should have left some troops behind in Iraq, but they agree with Americans overall that the Iraq War was not worth the loss of life and other costs.

**Assessing the Iraq War**

(Among Households with an Iraq/Afghanistan War Veteran)

	Yes	No
Should the U.S. have removed all troops in 2011?	43%	50
Was the Iraq War worth the loss of life and other costs?	20%	73

**The President**

President Obama receives low marks for his handling of the situation in Iraq: just 37% approve, and 52% disapprove. While most Democrats approve, nearly a third of them disapproves.

**President Obama's Handling of Situation in Iraq**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Approve	37%	12%	60%	34%
Disapprove	52	76	32	55

Moreover, more than two-thirds of Americans do not think President Obama has clearly explained what the U.S. goals are in Iraq. Among members of his own party, more say the President hasn't explained U.S. goals than say he has.

Looking back, most didn't think George W. Bush's administration clearly explained U.S. goals in Iraq either.

**Has Pres. Obama Clearly Explained U.S. Goals in Iraq?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Yes	23%	7%	39%	19%
No	67	88	48	71

41% of Americans think President Barack Obama's response to the violence in Iraq has been about right, but 29% think he should be doing more (including a majority of Republicans), and 22% think he should be doing less.

**Pres. Obama's Response to Violence in Iraq**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Should do more	29%	53%	13%	29%
Should do less	22	21	19	25
Right amount	41	19	63	37

Among those who disapprove of President Obama's handling of Iraq, 47% think he should be doing more, while 33% think he should be doing less.

And President Obama's overall job approval rating has dropped slightly in the wake of the violence in Iraq and the repatriation of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl. 40% now approve of the job he is doing as President, down three points from May. 54% now disapprove.

**President Obama's Job Rating**

	Now	5/2014	2/2014	1/2014	11/2013	9/2013
Approve	40%	43%	41%	46%	37%	43%
Disapprove	54	48	51	47	57	49

Among Democrats, the President receives a 70% approval rating, down from 76% in May. His disapproval rating among that group has risen nine points since then.

**President Obama's Job Rating**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Approve	40%	10%	70%	34%
Disapprove	54	88	25	58

The President's ratings on the economy and foreign policy remain more negative than positive. 54% disapprove of his handling of the economy. 58% disapprove of his handling of foreign policy – the first time a majority has disapproved of his handling of this issue.

**President Obama's Job Ratings on...**

	----- Now -----		----- May 2014 -----	
	Approve	Disapprove	Approve	Disapprove
Economy	41%	54	42%	52
Foreign policy	36%	58	39%	48

He fares poorly on terrorism as well: 36% now say the policies of the Obama Administration have made the U.S. less safe from terrorism – a high mark for CBS News/New York Times Polls. Just 29% of Americans think the administration’s policies have made the country safer from terrorism.

There are political differences. Most Republicans (65%) think the Obama Administration’s policies have made the U.S. less safe, while Democrats (50%) are more inclined to think they have made the U.S. safer.

**The Policies of the Obama Administration Have Made the U.S....**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Safer	29%	11%	50%	23%
Less safe	36	65	19	32
No effect	31	22	26	41

**Involvement in Iraq: Concerns and Consequences**

Americans express concern that U.S. intervention in Iraq now will lead to a long and costly involvement there. More than eight in 10 are at least somewhat concerned about that, including 54% who are very concerned.

**Concerned that U.S. Intervention in Iraq will Lead to Long & Costly Involvement?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Very	54%	52%	58%	51%
Somewhat	31	33	30	31
Not too/not at all	13	13	11	15

Beyond stemming the current violence in Iraq, just 37% of Americans think the U.S. has a broader responsibility to make sure Iraq is a stable democracy. Far more - 57% - do not think the U.S. has that obligation.

**Does the U.S. Have a Responsibility to Make Sure Iraq is a Stable Democracy?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Yes	37%	40%	35%	37%
No	57	50	61	57

53% of Americans favor the U.S. working with Iran in a limited capacity to resolve the situation in Iraq. Republicans divide on this course of action, but 62% of Democrats favor it.

**U.S. Working with Iran in Limited Capacity to Resolve Iraq Situation**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Favor	53%	50%	62%	48%
Oppose	39	47	31	41

Eight in 10 Americans think what happens in Iraq is at least somewhat important to the interests of the United States, though just a third think it is very important.

**How Important to the U.S. is What Happens in Iraq?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Very Important	34%	39%	35%	30%
Somewhat important	46	47	46	46
Not very/at all important	18	13	17	21

Still, many Americans are concerned that the violence in Iraq will lead to a more widespread war in neighboring countries and other parts of the Middle East. 42% are very concerned, and another 37% are somewhat concerned.

**How Concerned Are You that the Violence in Iraq Will Lead to a More Widespread War?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Very concerned	42%	49%	46%	36%
Somewhat concerned	37	31	35	42
Not too/not at all concerned	20	19	19	20

Most Americans think the situation in Iraq will impact prices at the pump. 83% expect gas prices in the U.S. to go up in the wake of the violence in Iraq. Americans across partisan lines hold this view.

**Situation in Iraq Will Make Gas Prices in U.S....**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Go up	83%	86%	83%	81%
Go down	1	*	2	1
No impact	12	10	11	14

**The Threat of Terrorism**

Some expect there to be repercussions in the U.S. from the violence in Iraq. 44% of Americans think the threat of terrorism against the U.S. will increase as a result of the current violence there, but more – 50% - think it will remain unchanged. Most Republicans (60%) think the terrorism threat against the U.S. will increase, while Democrats and independents are more doubtful.

**The Violence in Iraq Will Cause the Threat of Terrorism Against the U.S. to...**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Increase	44%	60%	36%	42%
Decrease	3	3	3	3
Stay the same	50	36	57	53

**International Conflicts**

Broadly speaking, most Americans (including most Republicans, Democrats, and independents) do not think the U.S. should take the leading role among all other countries in the world in trying to solve international conflicts. Support for U.S. involvement in international conflicts has declined since the beginning of the Iraq War, when nearly half thought the U.S. should take the lead role.

**Should the U.S. Take the Lead Role to Solve International Conflicts?**

	Now	2/2014	5/2013	4/2003
Yes	37%	31%	35%	48%
No	58	65	58	43

**The November Elections**

More than four months before the Congressional elections, less than one in four voters say they are very enthusiastic about voting in November, and another 37% are somewhat enthusiastic. Republicans are more enthused than Democrats.

**Enthusiasm About Voting in November**

(Among registered voters)

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Very	23%	29%	22%	19%
Somewhat	37	44	38	32
Not too	23	17	22	29
Not at all	15	10	17	19

Democrats now have a small three-point lead among all registered voters in the national measure for November’s Congressional vote. But among voters who are paying a lot of attention to the 2014 campaign, Republicans have the edge.

**Generic Ballot: 2014 Congressional Vote**

(Among registered voters)

	All Voters	Paying a lot of attention
Republican	39%	48%
Democrat	42	43
Depends/Not sure	16	7

National polls are imperfect predictors of the November vote for individual House races.

Two thirds of voters are paying at least some attention to the campaign, including just 28% who are paying a lot of attention.

**Attention to the Campaign**

(Among registered voters)

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
A lot	28%	33%	28%	25%
Some	37	39	36	37
Not much	23	22	21	25
None	12	7	14	14

Congressional approval is now at 14%; 78% disapprove.

**Congress Job Performance**

	Now	5/2014	2/2014	10/2013	7/2012	6/2010
Approve	14%	12%	13%	9%	12%	19%
Disapprove	78	80	80	85	79	70

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This poll was conducted by telephone June 20-22, 2014 among 1,009 adults nationwide. Data collection was conducted on behalf of CBS News and The New York Times by SSRS of Media, PA. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups may be higher Results based on the sample of veterans is plus or minus eight points. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.



**CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL**  
**Americans' Views on Involvement in Iraq**  
**June 20-22, 2014**

Q1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May14c
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	40	10	70	34	43
Disapprove	54	88	25	58	48
Don't know/No answer	6	2	6	8	9

Q2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

Approve	36	8	63	30	39
Disapprove	58	90	30	61	48
Don't know/No answer	6	2	6	9	13

Q3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

Approve	41	11	70	35	42
Disapprove	54	86	25	57	52
Don't know/No answer	5	3	4	7	6

Q4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the current situation in Iraq?

Approve	37	12	60	34
Disapprove	52	76	32	55
Don't know/No answer	10	12	8	11

Q5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Approve	14	13	12	16	12
Disapprove	78	79	82	75	80
Don't know/No answer	8	7	7	9	8

Q6. How much attention have you been able to pay to the 2014 election campaign — a lot, some, not much or no attention so far?

	*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***			
A lot	28	33	28	25
Some	37	39	36	37
Not much	23	22	21	25
No attention	12	7	14	14
Don't know/No answer	*	*	*	-

Q8. If the 2014 election for U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the (Republican) candidate or the (Democratic) candidate in your district?

	*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May14c
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican	39	87	3	35	39
Democratic	42	6	85	30	40
Other	2	1	-	5	2
Won't vote	1	1	1	2	2
Depends	7	2	6	11	6
Don't know/No answer	9	4	4	17	10

Q9. Thinking about this November's elections for Congress, overall, would you say you are very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all about voting?

Very enthusiastic	23	29	22	19
Somewhat enthusiastic	37	44	38	32
Not too enthusiastic	23	17	22	29
Not enthusiastic at all	15	10	17	19
Don't know/No answer	1	1	1	1

Q10. Do you think the United States should or should not take the leading role among all other countries in the world in trying to solve international conflicts?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Feb14c
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, should take the leading role	37	41	40	31	31
No, should not take the leading role	58	52	57	63	65
Don't know/No answer	5	6	3	6	4

Q11. Do you think the policies of the Obama administration have made the United States safer from terrorism, less safe from terrorism, or have the policies of the Obama administration not affected the safety of the United States from terrorism?

					May13b
Safer	29	11	50	23	36
Less safe	36	65	19	32	28
No effect	31	22	26	41	30
Don't know/No answer	4	2	5	4	6

Q12. Do you think the result of the war with Iraq was worth the loss of American lives and other costs of attacking Iraq, or not?

					Nov11a
					%
Worth it	18	27	14	16	24
Not worth it	75	63	79	79	67
Don't know/No answer	7	10	7	5	9

Q24. Do you think the U.S. should have removed all U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011, or should the U.S. have left some troops there?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Should have removed all	50	29	62	54
Should have left some troops	42	65	31	38
Wasn't United States' decision	*	-	1	-
Don't know/No answer	7	6	6	9

Q25. Do you think the U.S. has a responsibility to make sure Iraq has a stable democracy in place, or don't you think the U.S. has that responsibility?

US has responsibility	37	40	35	37
US doesn't have this responsibility	57	50	61	57
Don't know/No answer	6	10	3	6

Q13. A militant group called the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, known as ISIS or ISIL, has recently taken control of some areas of Iraq. How much have you heard or read about this recent violence in Iraq – a lot, some, or not much?

A lot	36	44	35	33
Some	31	34	29	31
Not much	29	21	32	32
Nothing	3	1	3	5
Don't know/No answer	*	-	*	*

Q15. Do you think the United States has a responsibility to do something about the violence in Iraq in which militants have taken control of some areas of the country, or doesn't the United States have this responsibility?

US has responsibility	42	52	43	37
US doesn't have this responsibility	50	42	51	55
Don't know/No answer	7	6	6	8

Q15A. Do you think Barack Obama should be doing more to address the violence in Iraq, should be doing less to address the violence in Iraq, or is he doing the right amount?

More	29	53	13	29
Less	22	21	19	25
Right amount	41	19	63	37
Don't know/No answer	8	7	5	10

Q16. Do you think Barak Obama has clearly explained what the United States' goals are in Iraq, or hasn't he done that yet?

Clearly explained	23	7	39	19
Hasn't done that yet	67	88	48	71
Don't know/No answer	10	5	14	10

Q19. As you may know, in response to recent violence, the United States is sending about 300 military advisers into Iraq to train and advise the Iraqi military and help with the collection of intelligence. Do you favor or oppose sending U.S. military advisers into Iraq?

Favor	51	54	54	48
Oppose	42	41	40	44
Don't know/No answer	7	5	6	9

Q17. In response to the recent violence in Iraq, do you favor or oppose the United States using UNMANNED aircraft or “drones” to carry out targeted attacks against militants in Iraq?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Favor	56	69	55	49
Oppose	38	27	38	43
Don't know/No answer	6	4	7	7

Q18. In response to the recent violence in Iraq, do you favor or oppose the United States using MANNED aircraft to carry out targeted attacks against militants in Iraq?

Favor	43	54	38	40
Oppose	51	41	55	54
Don't know/No answer	6	5	7	6

Q20. In response to the recent violence in Iraq, do you favor or oppose the United States sending ground troops into Iraq?

Favor	19	30	15	16
Oppose	77	66	81	79
Don't know/No answer	4	5	4	4

Q21. How concerned are you that U.S. intervention in Iraq would lead to a long and costly involvement there – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	54	52	58	51
Somewhat concerned	31	33	30	31
Not too concerned	9	9	9	9
Not at all concerned	4	4	2	6
Don't know/No answer	1	2	*	2

Q23. Do you favor or oppose the United States working with Iran in a limited capacity in order to try and resolve the situation in Iraq?

Favor	53	50	62	48
Oppose	39	47	31	41
Don't know/No answer	8	3	7	11

Q26. How important to the interests of the United States is what happens in Iraq – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

Very important	34	39	35	30
Somewhat important	46	47	46	46
Not too important	11	10	9	13
Not at all important	7	3	8	8
Don't know/No answer	2	1	2	3

Q27. Do you think the situation in Iraq is something the United States can do something about, or is it something beyond the control of the United States?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Do something about	38	45	35	37
Beyond US control	57	53	60	57
Don't know/No answer	4	3	5	5

Q22. How concerned are you that the violence in Iraq would lead to a more widespread war in neighboring countries and other parts of the Middle East - very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	42	49	46	36
Somewhat concerned	37	31	35	42
Not too concerned	14	15	14	14
Not at all concerned	6	4	5	6
Don't know/No answer	1	1	*	2

Q28. As a result of the recent violence in Iraq, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	44	60	36	42
Decrease	3	3	3	3
Stay about the same	50	36	57	53
Don't know/No answer	2	*	4	2

Q30. The U.S. plans to send military advisers to Iraq. Do you think that will increase the violence in Iraq, decrease the violence, or will it not have much of an effect?

Increase	28	22	30	30
Decrease	23	22	26	21
Not much effect	43	51	39	42
Don't know/No answer	6	6	5	7

Q31. Do you think the situation in Iraq will make gas prices in the United States go up, go down, or will it have no impact on gas prices in the U.S.?

Go up	83	86	83	81
Go down	1	*	2	1
No impact	12	10	11	14
Depends	1	2	1	2
Don't know/No answer	2	1	3	3

Q32- Q36 Held for future release.

Q37. Have you or has anyone in your immediate family served in the US armed forces in Afghanistan or Iraq since 2001?

Yes, self	2	3	1	2
Yes, other	20	21	17	22
Yes, self and other	1	3	-	1
No	75	73	80	73
Don't know/No answer	1	-	2	2

	Unweighted	Weighted
Total Respondents	1009	
Total Republicans	263	242
Total Democrats	339	333
Total Independents	407	434

*Margin of error: 3pts*