

**CBS NEWS POLL**  
**FIGHTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST**  
**April 1-2, 2002**

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

	Total	*** Party ID ***			Feb02a
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
		%	%	%	
Approve	77	96	62	72	78
Disapprove	17	4	32	16	14
DK/NA	6	0	6	12	8

q2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	80	96	66	77	82
Disapprove	17	3	29	18	13
DK/NA	3	1	5	5	5

q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy?

Approve	65	87	48	60	65
Disapprove	23	8	41	22	22
DK/NA	12	5	11	18	13

q4 In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more - Israel or the Palestinians?

					Oct00i*
Israel	52	59	54	43	46
Palestinians	10	10	11	11	10
Both (Vol.)	6	6	4	8	7
Neither (Vol.)	15	10	13	22	14
DK/NA	17	15	18	16	23

\*Trend is among registered voters.

q5 Is your opinion of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Yasser Arafat yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	2	2	3	1
Not favorable	53	64	49	47
Undecided	23	20	20	28
Haven't heard enough	20	12	28	20
Refused	2	2	0	4

q6 Is your opinion of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Ariel Sharon yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	18	24	15	15
Not favorable	16	13	13	22
Undecided	28	33	24	25
Haven't heard enough	37	28	46	36
Refused	2	2	2	2

q7 Do you think Yasser Arafat wants peace in the Middle East enough to make real concessions to the Israeli government in order to get it, or not?

	*** Party ID ***				Jan1989*
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	14	11	18	11	24
No	70	76	69	66	56
DK/NA	16	13	13	23	20

\*Varied wording: Do you think Yasser Arafat and the P.L.O. (Palestine Liberation Organization) want peace in the Middle East enough to make real concessions to the government of Israel in order to get it, or not?

q8 Do you think the Israeli government wants peace in the Middle East enough to make real concessions to Yasser Arafat in order to get it, or not?

					Jan1989**
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Yes	33	37	33	28	28
No	47	42	46	51	52
DK/NA	20	21	21	21	20

\*\*Varied wording: Do you think the government of Israel wants peace in the Middle East enough to make real concessions to Yasser Arafat and the P.L.O. (Palestine Liberation Organization) in order to get it, or not?

q9 Do you approve or disapprove of the recent United Nations Security Council resolution calling on Israel to withdraw its troops from certain occupied territories?

Approve	47	47	47	45
Disapprove	28	27	29	29
DK/NA	25	26	24	26

q10 How closely have you been following news about the current fighting between Israel and the Palestinians? Have you been following it very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?

Very closely	23	28	16	26
Somewhat closely	47	50	46	47
Not too closely	27	21	37	23
Not at all	2	1	1	4
DK/NA	1	0	0	0

q11 In the past few months, there has been an increase in attacks by Palestinian suicide bombers in Israel. Last week, Israeli military tanks and personnel surrounded Yasser Arafat's compound, saying they wanted to pressure him into putting an end to these attacks. Do you think the Israelis are justified in taking that military action in response to the recent suicide bombing attacks, or not?

Justified	65	75	65	55
Not justified	23	15	27	27
DK/NA	12	10	8	18

q12 What should the United States do? Should the United States government publicly support Israel, should it say or do nothing, or should it publicly criticize Israel?

	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Support	37	43	38	29
Say nothing	36	33	36	38
Criticize	10	8	11	13
DK/NA	17	16	15	20

q13 Do you think the Israelis have tried hard enough to reach a diplomatic solution to the conflict with the Palestinians, or have they been too quick to get military forces involved?

Tried hard enough	30	38	29	23
Too quick to use military	51	42	58	52
DK/NA	19	20	13	25

q14 Do you think the current fighting between Israel and the Palestinians will make terrorist attacks against Israel more likely to happen in the near future, less likely to happen, or won't it make any difference?

More likely	63	64	65	60
Less likely	3	5	2	1
No difference	26	22	29	27
DK/NA	8	9	4	12

q15 Do you think Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has done all he could to stop the recent suicide bombings in Israel, or could he have done more?

Done all he could	10	13	7	9
Could have done more	82	80	87	78
DK/NA	8	7	6	13

q16 Do you think Yasser Arafat CAN control the actions of Palestinians to prevent more suicide bombing attacks, or is he unable to control that?

Can control bombings	28	32	30	23
Unable to control bombings	60	58	58	64
DK/NA	12	10	12	13

q17 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation between Israel and the Palestinians?

Approve	59	73	47	56
Disapprove	23	12	35	23
DK/NA	18	15	18	21

q18 How important to the interests of the United States is what happens in Israel -- very important, somewhat important, or not very important?

Very important	59	59	59	58
Somewhat important	33	35	29	33
Not very important	6	3	11	2
DK/NA	2	3	1	7

q19 Should the United States government publicly support Yasser Arafat and the Palestinians, should it say or do nothing, or should it publicly criticize Arafat and the Palestinians?

	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Support	8	6	10	9
Say nothing	40	32	48	41
Criticize	32	42	26	29
DK/NA	20	20	16	21

q20 Do you think Israel has too much influence, too little influence, or the right amount of influence on American foreign policy makers in Washington?

					Oct1991
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Too much	34	28	38	36	40
Too little	12	10	13	13	11
Right amount	30	42	26	23	31
No influence (Vol.)	3	3	2	3	NA
DK/NA	21	17	21	25	18

q21 From what you know right now, do you think George W. Bush has enough of the kind of experience a President would need to try to negotiate a peace settlement in the Middle East, or doesn't he have enough of that kind of experience?

					Oct00i*
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Has experience	44	68	27	35	36
Does not have experience	46	26	59	53	54
DK/NA	10	6	14	12	10

\*Trend is among registered voters.

q22 What do you think George W. Bush's personal involvement in the Middle East should be? Should he be more personally involved than he is now, less involved, or is his personal involvement about right?

					Dec01a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
More involved	25	16	32	27	18
Less involved	12	8	17	13	13
Involvement is about right	56	69	47	51	64
DK/NA	7	7	4	9	5

q23 Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about the U.S. response to the September 11th attacks. Do you approve or disapprove of the military attacks led by the United States against targets in Afghanistan?

					Feb02a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Approve	88	95	87	81	87
Disapprove	9	2	11	14	8
DK/NA	3	3	2	5	5

q24 How likely do you think it is that the fighting in Afghanistan will spread to a larger war between Western countries and Muslim countries B very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

	*** Party ID ***				Feb02a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Very likely	34	27	37	39	25
Somewhat likely	43	45	47	36	46
Not too likely	14	18	12	12	19
Not at all likely	3	4	2	2	5
DK/NA	6	7	2	11	5

q25 How likely do you think it is that there will be another terrorist attack in the United States within the next few MONTHS -- very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, not at all likely?

Very likely	28	24	32	29	18
Somewhat likely	46	54	42	43	44
Not very likely	17	17	17	16	29
Not at all likely	5	4	6	6	5
Already happened (Vol.)	0	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	4	1	3	6	4

q26 Do you think the current fighting between Israel and the Palestinians will make a terrorist attack against the United States more likely to happen in the near future, less likely to happen, or won't it make any difference?

More likely	46	41	49	47
Less likely	9	7	9	12
No difference	40	44	40	34
DK/NA	5	8	2	7

q27 Do you approve or disapprove of the United States leading military attacks in other countries where it believes terrorists are hiding, like Iraq, Somalia, and the Philippines?

					Jan02c
Approve	68	78	62	63	73
Disapprove	21	11	30	23	18
Approve of some (Vol.)	2	2	3	2	1
DK/NA	9	9	5	12	8

q28 What if other countries refused to support U.S. military action in those countries -- would you approve or disapprove of the United States leading military attacks in other countries where it believes terrorists are hiding?

Approve	58	66	53	54	65
Disapprove	28	21	34	29	26
Approve of some (Vol.)	3	3	4	3	2
DK/NA	11	10	9	14	7

q29 In order to try and end the fighting between Israel and the Palestinians, would you favor or oppose the United States sending in troops as part of a peacekeeping force?

	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Favor	49	46	56	46
Oppose	43	47	39	44
DK/NA	8	7	5	10

q30 Do you think the presence of U.S. troops in Israel would or would not make a difference in resolving the conflict there?

Would	43	39	51	39
Would not	48	51	42	50
DK/NA	9	10	7	11

q31 Do you think most Palestinians share the views of the suicide bombers who want to kill Jews and other Israelis, or do only a few Palestinians hold those views?

Most	33	35	30	33
Only a few	53	51	59	49
DK/NA	14	14	11	18

q32 Do you think the U.S. has a responsibility to try to resolve the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, or isn't that really this country's business?

U.S. has responsibility	44	46	40	46
Not U.S. business	46	42	52	45
DK/NA	10	12	8	9

q33 Do you think establishing peace in the Middle East is something the American government can do something about, or not?

					Dec01a
					%
Can do something about	50	49	57	43	48
Cannot do something about	40	38	36	48	45
DK/NA	10	13	7	9	7

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	616	
Total Republicans	229	208
Total Democrats	191	205
Total Independents	196	203