

# Data For Progress - Foreign Policy

## September 2019 — Toplines



Sample                    Online sample of 1,009 voters fielded 09/27/19-09/30/19  
 Margin of Error    ±3.5%

1. Even if it's not exactly right, which of the following statements most closely reflects your view of national security threats to the United States?

The United States primarily faces military threats, such as the risk of conventional attack by a foreign army (such as Iran), a nuclear strike (such as by North Korea) or international terror group (such as al-Qaeda or ISIS) .....	37%
The United States primarily faces non-military threats, such as political (the rise of white nationalism and authoritarianism), environmental (the climate crisis), and economic (competing globally with other countries) threats .....	46%
Don't know .....	17%
Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

2. Next, you will see a list of some issues many people worry about. Please rank those issues from 1-4, with 1 being what you spend the most time worrying about and 4 being what you spend the least amount of time worrying about: My livelihood: I spend a lot of time worrying about maintaining my job and my home, and making sure that my family has what they need to survive

1 .....	37%
2 .....	21%
3 .....	17%
4 .....	21%
5 .....	5%
Totals .....	101%
Unweighted N .....	981

3. Next, you will see a list of some issues many people worry about. Please rank those issues from 1-4, with 1 being what you spend the most time worrying about and 4 being what you spend the least amount of time worrying about: Violence here at home: I spend a lot of my time worrying about my safety and the safety of my loved ones because of mass shootings and other acts of violence inside the United States

1 .....	18%
2 .....	36%
3 .....	30%
4 .....	15%
5 .....	2%
Totals .....	101%
Unweighted N .....	981

4. Next, you will see a list of some issues many people worry about. Please rank those issues from 1-4, with 1 being what you spend the most time worrying about and 4 being what you spend the least amount of time worrying about: International terrorism and war: I spend a lot of time thinking about my safety as a result of potential foreign attacks on the United States

1	13%
2	19%
3	26%
4	35%
5	7%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	981

5. Next, you will see a list of some issues many people worry about. Please rank those issues from 1-4, with 1 being what you spend the most time worrying about and 4 being what you spend the least amount of time worrying about: Global problems: I spend a lot of time worrying about my future and the future of the next generation because of existential threats to the planet like climate change, the decline of democracy, or the spread of nuclear weapons

1	22%
2	20%
3	23%
4	24%
5	10%
Totals	99%
Unweighted N	981

6. Next, you will see a list of some issues many people worry about. Please rank those issues from 1-4, with 1 being what you spend the most time worrying about and 4 being what you spend the least amount of time worrying about:

1	12%
2	5%
3	6%
4	7%
5	70%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	745

7. In terms of direct military threats to the United States, with a 1 representing "there are no serious threats of attack to the United States" and a 10 representing "there are many imminent threats of attack to the United States," how dangerous do you think the world is on a scale of 1-10?

1 - There are no serious threats of attack to the United States	3%
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2	5%
3	9%
4	7%
5	11%
6	15%
7	16%
8	14%
9	8%
10 - There are many imminent threats of attack to the United States	13%
Totals	101%
Unweighted N	1,009

8. Even if it's not exactly right, which statement comes closest to your view?

The United States is an exceptional nation that is predominantly a force for good in the world, and it is to our benefit that it remain the most militarily powerful country in the world	40%
The United States is a nation with strengths and weaknesses like any other country and can be a force for good in the world, but must reckon with the fact that some of its actions have caused harm in the world	53%
Don't know	7%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

9. Even if it's not exactly right, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

The United States should provide U.S.-made weapons and other military support to countries like Saudi Arabia. Even if our allies are imperfect, they help us defeat terror groups and remain militarily dominant in the Middle East. Manufacturing these weapons creates American jobs. Even if we have to ally with countries that may use American weapons to violate human rights, we must do what we need to keep America safe	24%
The United States may have to conduct diplomacy with dictators and authoritarians to resolve global security challenges, but that partnership should not be a "blank check" that causes the U.S. to become complicit in human rights abuses, even if that means the U.S. loses influence, dominance, and business in critical regions	58%
Don't know	18%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

10. Even if it's not exactly right, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

It is good for the U.S. to actively participate in building a stronger international community through alliances and international organizations like the United Nations, because that makes the world safer, allows us to lead international institutions and solve global problems like trade rules and climate change, and gives nations the ability to better work out their disagreements .....	49%
For too long the U.S. has been carrying the burden of supporting bureaucratic international organizations and alliances where other countries don't pay their fair share while criticizing our actions. We have no obligation to participate in these cumbersome institutions unless the U.S. gets more benefits out of our support and others pay their fair share .....	39%
Don't know .....	12%
Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

11. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the United States is expected to spend \$738 billion on its military in 2020. Some say that maintaining a dominant global military footprint is necessary to keep us safe, and is worth the cost. Others say that money could be better spent on domestic needs like health care, education, or protecting the environment. Based on what you've just read, would you [support or oppose] reallocating money from the Pentagon budget to other priorities?

Strongly support .....	30%
Somewhat support .....	22%
Somewhat oppose .....	15%
Strongly oppose .....	20%
Not sure .....	13%
Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

12. Defense Spending Split Statement (Screen only shown in testing)

Split A: "That's more than the next seven countries..." .....	50%
Split B: Blank .....	50%
Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

13. The United States currently spends more than half of its discretionary budget on military spending, which is considerably more than it spends on other foreign policy tools such as diplomacy and economic development programs. Some argue that maintaining U.S. military superiority should be the top foreign policy goal, and we should continue spending levels as they are. Others argue that rather than pouring money into war we should invest in preventing wars before they happen. Do you [support or oppose] a proposal to spend at least ten cents on non-military war prevention tools for every dollar we spend on the Pentagon?

Strongly support .....	31%
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Somewhat support .....	26%
Somewhat oppose .....	11%
Strongly oppose .....	10%
Not sure .....	21%
Totals .....	99%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

14. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States launched wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that are both ongoing today. Additionally, prosecuting the War on Terror has led to US military activity in 80 countries around the world. Due to their duration and scope, some call these the "forever wars." Some say that it is time to acknowledge that there is no military solution to terrorism, and that the wars must end. Others insist that though they are difficult, our military conflicts simply need adequate funding and support and a modernized strategy, and must continue until the threat of terror is extinguished. Even if it's not exactly right, which of the following is closest to your view?

The United States should end its ground wars in the Middle East, but maintain targeted strikes against alleged terrorists and military support to partners. This way, the U.S. military can ramp up its focus on other countries like Russia and China .....	32%
The United States should end its wars in the Middle East. Those military operations have been costly disasters and have not made us safer. The U.S. should change course by scaling back its global military presence in order to focus resources on other national security tools like diplomacy, peacebuilding, and economic development .....	37%
The U.S. should continue prosecuting its conflicts in the Middle East. Fighting terror militarily makes the United States more secure and these operations should continue as long as needed .....	16%
Don't know .....	15%
Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

15. Have recent wars the U.S. has fought since 2001 directly impacted you or someone you care about? Select all that apply.

Yes, I have served in one of these conflicts .....	5%
Yes, someone I know closely, like a family member or close friend, has served in one of these conflicts .....	30%
Yes, someone I know but not closely, like a casual acquaintance or social media connection, has served in one of these conflicts .....	28%
No, I don't know anyone who has served in one of these conflicts .....	38%
Don't know .....	8%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

16. Other than defending the territorial United States, what should be the primary role of the U.S. military in the world?

Hunting alleged terrorists .....	13%
Protecting allies from attack by Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and other foreign adversaries .....	35%
Training foreign militaries .....	4%
Toppling authoritarian regimes .....	5%
Preventing genocide .....	16%
Other (please specify): .....	6%
Don't know .....	20%
Totals .....	99%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

17. Since 2001, the so-called "War on Terror" has involved policies beyond active military conflicts. These include surveillance of both foreign nationals and American citizens under laws like the Patriot Act, monitoring and profiling of American Muslim communities, providing military equipment to local police, and indefinite detention of people without charge in places like Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Some say these policies have hurt our global standing as a leader on human rights, have done harm in impacted communities, and have not made us safer. Others say they are necessary tools that are worth it to ensure our security, and have helped capture terrorists and protect vulnerable communities from radicalization. Even if it's not exactly right, which of the following statements comes closest to your views?

Policies like these harm rights and liberties, discriminate against Americans based on their race and religion, and don't actually help national security .....	41%
These are necessary tools that are effective at making Americans safer and are worth it, even if they infringe on certain rights and liberties .....	37%
Don't know .....	22%
Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

18. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Full repeal of the so-called "Muslim ban," which severely limits immigration from many Muslim-majority countries

Strongly support .....	33%
Somewhat support .....	17%
Somewhat oppose .....	11%
Strongly oppose .....	27%
Not sure .....	12%
Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

19. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Limiting or repealing mass surveillance authorities like the USA Patriot Act

Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	13%
Not sure	20%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

20. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Closing Guantanamo Bay and ending the practice of indefinite detention without charge

Strongly support	32%
Somewhat support	20%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	16%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

21. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Ceasing the practice of targeted drone strikes against alleged terrorists who have not yet been convicted of anything

Strongly support	22%
Somewhat support	21%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	21%
Not sure	20%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

22. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Ending weapons sales to Saudi Arabia

Strongly support	42%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	17%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

23. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Maintaining an absolute ban on the use of torture

Strongly support	43%
Somewhat support	20%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	10%
Not sure	12%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

24. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Negotiating a peace agreement with North Korea

Strongly support	29%
Somewhat support	38%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	4%
Not sure	18%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

25. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: A 'no first use' of nuclear weapons policy (i.e., the United States pledging never to start a nuclear war)

Strongly support	44%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	16%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

26. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Limiting or ending military aid to Israel as leverage to curtail its human rights abuses against Palestinians

Strongly support	23%
Somewhat support	23%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	29%
Not sure	17%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009



27. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Ramping up economic development and humanitarian aid in Latin America to address the root causes of migration

Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	11%
Not sure	15%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

28. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Ending the practice of appointing political campaign donors as ambassadors

Strongly support	51%
Somewhat support	17%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	5%
Not sure	19%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

29. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Ending the ban on transgender Americans from serving openly in the military

Strongly support	41%
Somewhat support	14%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	26%
Not sure	11%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

30. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you support that proposal: Halting the deportation of veterans, and granting citizenship automatically to every immigrant who volunteers to serve in the military

Strongly support	37%
Somewhat support	32%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	9%
Not sure	13%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

31. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you \$supop\_text that proposal: Establishing a program at universities that trains diplomats, similar to military ROTC programs

Strongly support	31%
Somewhat support	37%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	5%
Not sure	19%
Totals	99%
Unweighted N	1,009

32. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you \$supop\_text that proposal: Purchasing Greenland from Denmark and making it into a U.S. territory

Strongly support	15%
Somewhat support	17%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	36%
Not sure	24%
Totals	101%
Unweighted N	1,009

33. For each of the following proposals, please say whether you \$supop\_text that proposal: Eliminating Trump's 'Space Force'

Strongly support	34%
Somewhat support	10%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	24%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	1,009

34. Would you say you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the cable television network Fox News, or have you not thought about it much?

Strongly favorable	19%
Somewhat favorable	23%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Strongly unfavorable	36%
Have not heard of them	9%

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September 2019 — Toplines



Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	1,009

This survey is based on 1,009 interviews conducted by YouGov on the internet of self-identified registered voters. The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, Census region, and 2016 Presidential vote choice. Respondents were selected from YouGov's panel to be representative of registered voters. The weights range from 0.16 to 4.9 with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.6. Not all percentages add to 100% due to rounding.

The *margin of error* (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage  $p$  based upon the entire sample is approximately 3.5%. It is calculated using the formula

$$\hat{p} \pm 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{1 + CV^2}{n}}$$

where CV is the coefficient of variation of the sample weights and  $n$  is the sample size used to compute the proportion. This is a measure of sampling error (the average of all estimates obtained using the same sample selection and weighting procedures repeatedly). The sample estimate should differ from its expected value by less than margin of error in 95 percent of all samples. It does not reflect non-sampling errors, including potential selection bias in panel participation or in response to a particular survey.