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# As New Dangers Loom, More Think the U.S. Does 'Too Little' to Solve World Problems

*54% Say Obama Approach on Foreign  
Policy Is 'Not Tough Enough'*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON THIS REPORT:**

Carroll Doherty, Director of Political Research

Rachel Weisel, Communications Associate

202.419.4372

[www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org)

# As New Dangers Loom, More Think the U.S. Does ‘Too Little’ to Solve World Problems

*54% Say Obama Approach on Foreign Policy Is ‘Not Tough Enough’*

A large majority of Americans think the world is a more dangerous place than it was several years ago. And a terrorist group that was not even on the public’s radar a year ago – the Islamic militants known as ISIS or ISIL – today ranks near the top of its list of U.S. security threats.

As the public’s views of global threats have changed, so too have opinions about America’s role in solving world problems. On balance, more continue to think the United States does too much, rather than too little, to help solve world problems. But the share saying the U.S. does too little to address global problems has nearly doubled – from 17% to 31% – since last November, while the percentage saying it is doing too much has fallen from 51% to 39%.

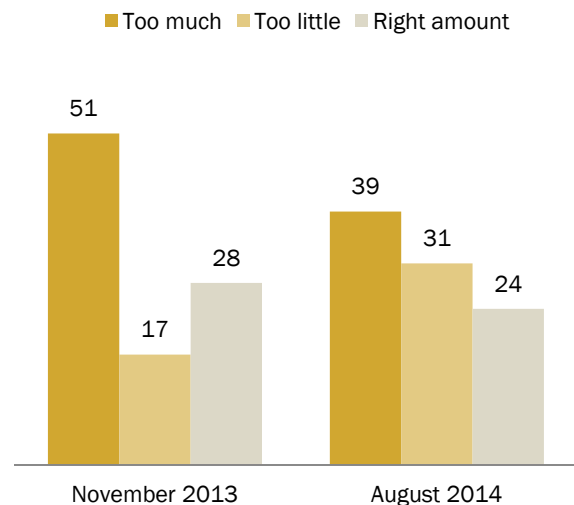
Republicans, Democrats and independents all are more likely to say the U.S. does too little to solve world problems, but the shift among Republicans has been striking. Last fall, 52% of Republicans said the U.S. does too much to help solve global problems, while just 18% said it does too little. Today, 46% of Republicans think the U.S. does too little to solve global problems, while 37% say it does too much.

The new national survey by the Pew Research Center and USA TODAY, conducted August 20-24 among 1,501 adults, finds that 65% say the world is more dangerous than it was several years ago; just 7% say the world has gotten safer while 27% say things have not changed much.

Public perceptions of the global threats confronting the United States have changed since the Pew Research Center released its major study of foreign policy attitudes – [America’s Place in the World](#) – in December 2013. Currently, 71% view “Islamic extremist groups like al Qaeda” as a major

## Changing Opinions about U.S. Role in Solving Global Problems

*In terms of helping to solve world problems, does the United States do ...*



Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Other/Don't know response not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

threat to U.S. well-being, about the same as last year. But nearly as many (67%) say “the Islamic militant group in Iraq and Syria known as ISIS,” represents a major threat.

The public generally supports U.S. airstrikes against Islamic militants in Iraq. A survey [earlier this month](#) by the Pew Research Center and USA TODAY found that 54% approve of airstrikes against the militants while 31% disapprove.

Other ongoing international crises also draw public concern. About half (53%) regard growing tension between Russia and its neighbors as a major threat to the U.S. Last fall, when asked about growing authoritarianism in Russia, just 32% viewed that as a major threat.

As the death toll from the spread of the Ebola virus in West Africa grows, 52% say the rapid spread of infectious diseases is major threat to the U.S.; that is about the same percentage that views tensions between Russia and its neighbors as a major threat.

Meanwhile, the public expresses less concern about some long-standing foreign policy issues. The percentage rating Iran’s nuclear program as major threat has fallen by nine points since last November (from 68% to 59%), while the share saying North Korea’s nuclear program is a substantial threat has declined by 10 points (from 67% to 57%). And somewhat fewer think that China’s emergence as a world power poses a major threat to the U.S. than did so last year (54% then, 48% now).

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### Top Security Threats: Al Qaeda, ISIS, Iran, N. Korea

*% saying each is a “major threat” to the U.S. ...*

November 2013		August 2014	
	%		%
Islamic extremist groups like al Qaeda	75	Islamic extremist groups like al Qaeda	71
Cyber-attacks from other countries	70	The Islamic militant group in Iraq & Syria, known as ISIS	67
Iran’s nuclear program	68	Iran’s nuclear program	59
N. Korea’s nuclear program	67	N. Korea’s nuclear program	57
China’s emergence as a world power	54	Growing tension between Russia and its neighbors	53
Global climate change	45	The rapid spread of infectious diseases from country to country	52
Economic problems in the EU	37	China’s emergence as a world power	48
Growing authoritarianism in Russia	32	Global climate change	48
		The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians	48

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. “Cyber-attacks from other countries,” “Economic problems in EU” not asked in current survey.

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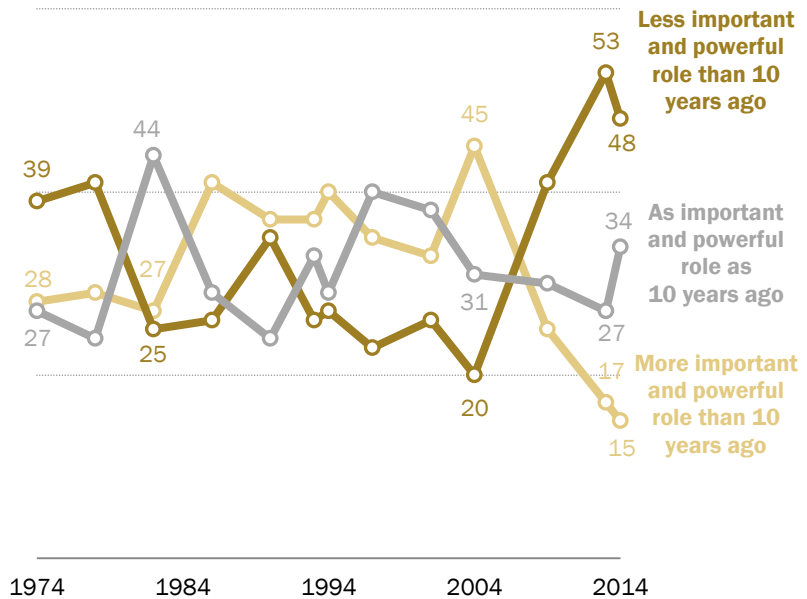
Public views of U.S. global power continue to be close to a four-decade low, though these opinions also have changed modestly since last fall.

Currently, 48% say the U.S. is a less important and powerful world leader than it was 10 years ago; 34% think the U.S. is *as* important and powerful as it was a decade ago while 15% think it is more important. In November, 53% said the U.S. was less important globally, while 27% said it was as important (17% said it was more important).

In 2009, President Obama's first year in office, opinions about U.S. global power were more mixed: 41% said the U.S. was less powerful and important than it was a decade earlier, 30% about as powerful, while 25% said the U.S. was more powerful.

### Nearly Half Say U.S. Is Less Important as a World Leader Than It Was a Decade Ago

*% saying U.S. role as a world leader is ...*



Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Don't know responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

Obama's approach to foreign policy continues to be viewed as not tough enough: 54% say Obama is not tough enough in his approach on foreign policy and national security issues, while 36% say his approach is about right and just 3% say he is too tough.

While these opinions are largely unchanged since last fall, in Sept. 2012, during the presidential campaign, just 41% said Obama was not tough enough in foreign policy and national security.

Obama's overall job rating remains stable: Currently 42% approve of his job performance while 50% disapprove. Obama's job rating has shown very little change all year.

Obama gets his best rating for handling race relations; nearly half approve of how he is handling race relations (48%) compared with 42% who disapprove. His ratings for handling other issues – including policy toward Israel (37% approve), the situation involving Russia and Ukraine (35%) and the situation in Iraq (35%) – are more negative than positive. (For more on opinions about the Middle East, including views of Obama's handling of the situation, see [this report](#).)

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## More Say Obama Is 'Not Tough Enough' than 'About Right' on National Security

Is Obama _____ when it comes to foreign policy and national security?	June 2009	April 2010	Sept 2012	Nov 2013	Aug 2014
	%	%	%	%	%
Too tough	2	2	2	5	3
Not tough enough	38	47	41	51	54
About right	51	41	42	37	36
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Obama Job Rating for Race Relations Higher than for Economy, Foreign Crises

	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK %
Overall job approval	42	50	8=100
<i>Job rating for handling...</i>			
Race relations	48	42	10=100
The economy	39	55	6=100
Nation's immigration policy	31	61	7=100
Policy toward Israel	37	48	15=100
Situation involving Russia, Ukraine	35	52	14=100
Situation in Iraq	35	56	9=100

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Views of U.S. Global Role and Power

Since last fall, there have been declines in the percentages of Republicans, Democrats and independents who think the U.S. does too much in the world, while increasing shares of all three groups say it does too little. But the biggest shift in opinion has come among Republicans.

Nearly twice as many Republicans as Democrats now think the United States does too little to help solve world problems (46% vs. 24%). Last fall, there were virtually no partisan differences in these opinions; just 18% of Republicans and 15% of Democrats said the U.S. did too little to solve world problems.

Tea Party Republicans' views of the U.S. role in solving world problems have changed dramatically since last November. Today, 54% of Republicans and GOP leaners who agree with the Tea Party say it does too little to help solve world problems; just 33% say it does too much. Last year, opinions were nearly the reverse: 54% of Tea Party Republicans said the U.S. did too much global problem-solving while 22% said it did too little.

By contrast, there has been far less change in the opinions of non-Tea Party Republicans. Today, a 46% plurality of non-Tea Party Republicans say the U.S. does too much to help solve world problems; last November, 52% expressed this view.

### More Republicans than Democrats Say U.S. Does Too Little on Global Problems

*% saying the U.S. does \_\_\_ in helping solve world problems ...*

	Nov 2013	Aug 2014	13-14 Change
<b>Total</b>	%	%	
Too much	51	39	-12
Too little	17	31	+14
Right amount	28	24	-4
<b>Republicans</b>			
Too much	52	37	-15
Too little	18	46	+28
Right amount	26	14	-12
<b>Democrats</b>			
Too much	46	36	-10
Too little	15	24	+9
Right amount	36	35	-1
<b>Independents</b>			
Too much	55	45	-10
Too little	18	28	+10
Right amount	24	23	-1

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Other/Don't know responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

Meanwhile, the public's views of U.S. power and importance have changed only modestly since last year. Currently, 48% say the U.S. plays a less important and powerful role as a world leader than it did 10 years ago; 34% say it plays as important a role while 15% think it is more important and powerful.

Partisan differences in perceptions of U.S. global power remain large. Most Republicans (64%) and about half of independents (53%) think the U.S. is less powerful globally than it was a decade ago (when George W. Bush was president). Among Democrats, just 30% think the U.S. is less powerful and important than it was 10 years ago, while 46% say it is as important.

Among Tea Party Republicans, fully 82% think the U.S. is a less important and powerful world leader than it was a decade ago. That compares with 61% of non-Tea Party Republicans.

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### Wide Partisan Differences in Views of U.S. Power, Importance

*% saying that compared to 10 years ago, the U.S.'s role as a world leader is...*

	<b>Less important</b>	<b>More important</b>	<b>As important</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
Total	48	15	34	2=100
Republican	64	11	24	1=100
Independent	53	14	32	1=100
Democrat	30	22	46	3=100
<i>Among Reps/ Rep leaners</i>				
Tea Party	82	4	14	*=100
Non-Tea Party	61	13	25	1=100

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## ISIS Emerges as Major Threat

Following the beheading of American journalist James Foley, two-thirds of the public (67%) cite ISIS as a major threat to the U.S.

About two-in-ten (21%) name the Islamic militant group in Iraq and Syria as a “minor threat” and just 5% say it is not a threat.

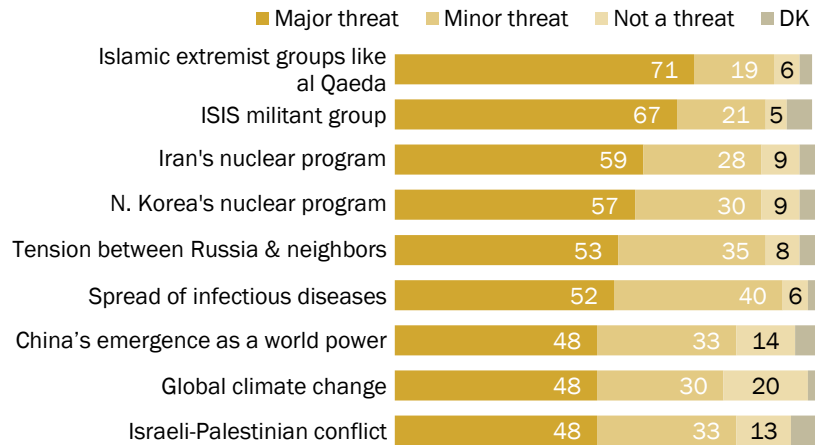
Half of the sample was asked about ISIS and the other half was asked about the broader threat of “Islamic extremist groups like al Qaeda,” which registered similar concern (71% major threat, 19% minor threat, 6% not a threat).

In light of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, roughly half (52%) believe the spread of infectious diseases between countries is a major threat and four-in-ten (40%) label it a minor threat. However, the public shows less concern today about the international spread of diseases than it did in May 2001: About two-thirds (66%) then said it was a major threat, following an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the U.K. and the ongoing “mad cow disease” crisis.

About half (48%) label the continuing conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians as a major threat to the U.S. The same share rates China’s emergence as a world power and global climate change as major threats.

### Public’s Views of Global Threats Facing the U.S.

*% saying each is a ...*



Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY



The public's concerns have shifted over the past nine months. Today, more than half (53%) say that growing tension between Russia and its neighbors poses a major threat to the U.S. Last November, months before Russia seized control of Ukraine's Crimea region, just about one-in-three (32%) named "growing authoritarianism in Russia" as a major threat.

Since November, concerns about Iran's and North Korea's nuclear programs have decreased. Roughly six-in-ten (59%) say Iran's nuclear program is a major threat, down from 68% in November. And concerns about North Korea's nuclear program have dropped 10 points, from 67% labeling it a major threat to 57% today.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats and independents to see Islamic extremist groups, Iran's nuclear program, China's emergence as a world power and the Israel-Palestinian conflict as major threats to the U.S. On the other hand, global climate change registers for Democrats as among the greatest threats to the U.S. (68% major). By comparison, just 25% of Republicans see global climate change as a major threat to the U.S.

As in prior surveys on international threats, most Republicans say that global climate change is either a minor threat (32%) or not a threat (40%) to the U.S. Among Republicans and GOP leaners, most (62%) who agree with the Tea Party say that global climate change is "not a threat." Non-Tea Party Republicans are divided: 39% think global climate change is a minor threat, 33% say it is a major threat and 25% say it is not a threat.

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### Partisan Differences in Views of Global Threats

*% saying each is a 'major threat' to the U.S.*

	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	R-D diff
Iran's nuclear program	74	56	54	+18
China's emergence as a world power	60	43	46	+17
The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians	60	44	45	+16
Islamic extremist groups like al Qaeda	80	67	69	+13
The Islamic militant group in Iraq & Syria, known as ISIS	78	65	63	+13
N. Korea's nuclear program	63	58	54	+5
Growing tension between Russia and its neighbors	54	54	52	0
The rapid spread of infectious diseases from country to country	49	55	50	-6
Global climate change	25	68	44	-43

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014.

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The emerging threat of ISIS, also known as ISIL or the Islamic State, especially concerns Republicans and older adults.

Nearly eight-in-ten Republicans (78%) label ISIS as a major threat, compared with 65% of Democrats and 63% of independents. Among Republicans and those who lean Republican, Tea Party supporters are the most concerned — 91% say ISIS is a major threat, compared with 72% of those who do not agree with the Tea Party.

As with many other international concerns, adults ages 50 and older are more likely than younger adults to call ISIS a major threat. About three-quarters of older adults say ISIS is a major threat, compared with 61% of adults 30-49 and 57% of those younger than 30.

## Nine-in-Ten Tea Party Republicans Describe ISIS as a ‘Major Threat’

*% saying ISIS is a ...*

	<b>Major threat</b>	<b>Minor threat</b>	<b>Not a threat</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
Total	67	21	5	6=100
Men	65	25	6	4=100
Women	70	18	5	8=100
18-29	57	29	8	6=100
30-49	61	23	7	8=100
50-64	75	19	4	2=100
65+	78	12	2	8=100
College grad+	70	23	4	4=100
Some college	66	22	6	6=100
HS or less	66	20	6	8=100
Republican	78	15	3	4=100
Democrat	65	24	5	5=100
Independent	63	25	6	6=100
<i>Among Reps/Rep leaners</i>				
Tea Party	91	6	2	1=100
Non-Tea Party	72	22	2	4=100

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Aside from the specific threat posed by ISIS, most Americans think that militant forms of Islam are on the rise in the Middle East. Nearly six-in-ten (63%) say that, in thinking about the long-term future of the Middle East, they expect militant forms of Islam to grow in influence. Just 25% say militant Islam will decline in influence.

As with opinions about ISIS, there are age and partisan differences in views of whether militant Islam will grow in influence. Two-thirds of those 65 and older (66%) anticipate that militant forms of Islam will grow in influence, compared with 54% of those under 30. And while 75% of Republicans and 67% of independents think militant Islam will grow in influence, only about half of Democrats (53%) agree.

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## Majority Thinks Militant Forms of Islam Will Gain Influence in Middle East

*Thinking about long-term future of the Middle East, will militant forms of Islam \_\_\_\_\_ in influence?*

	<b>Grow</b>	<b>Decline</b>	<b>Other/ DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total	63	25	12=100
18-29	54	37	9=100
30-49	59	28	13=100
50-64	72	19	9=100
65+	66	16	17=100
College grad+	70	21	9=100
Some college	62	27	11=100
HS or less	58	27	15=100
Republican	75	18	7=100
Democrat	53	33	14=100
Independent	67	23	10=100

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Obama's Approach on Foreign Policy

Overall, 54% say Obama's approach to foreign policy and national security issues is not tough enough, while 36% say the president's approach is about right and just 3% say it is too tough. The share saying Obama's approach to security issues is not tough enough has increased 13 points since Sept. 2012.

Majorities of whites (60%) and independents (56%) say Obama is not tough enough in dealing with foreign policy and national security. Older Americans also are skeptical of Obama's approach to foreign policy issues: Among those 30-49, 50-64 and 65 and older, more view his national security policy as not tough enough than about right. Those younger than 30 are divided: 45% say his approach is not tough enough, while 42% say it is about right.

Liberal Democrats offer strongly positive assessments of Obama's foreign policy: 66% say his approach is about right while just 26% think it is not tough enough. But among conservative and moderate Democrats, 52% say Obama's policies are about right and 40% say they are not tough enough.

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### Most Whites, Independents Say Obama Is Not Tough Enough on Security Issues

*% saying Barack Obama is \_\_\_\_\_ in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues ...*

	<b>Too tough</b>	<b>Not tough enough</b>	<b>About right</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
Total	3	54	36	7=100
White	2	60	32	7=100
Black	7	40	51	3=100
Hispanic	5	41	44	10=100
18-29	7	45	42	6=100
30-49	4	51	37	9=100
50-64	1	60	32	7=100
65+	2	61	31	6=100
College grad+	2	46	47	5=100
Some college	3	56	33	7=100
HS or less	4	57	30	8=100
Republican	2	77	16	5=100
Conservative	1	81	14	4=100
Mod/Liberal	5	72	20	3=100
Independent	3	56	33	8=100
Democrat	4	34	56	5=100
Conserv/Mod	4	40	52	5=100
Liberal	6	26	66	2=100

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted August 20-24, 2014 among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (600 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 901 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 487 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted under the direction of Abt SRBI. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,501	2.9 percentage points
Republican	382	5.8 percentage points
Conserv Rep	268	6.9 percentage points
Mod/Lib Rep	110	10.8 percentage points
Independent	534	4.9 percentage points
Democrat	473	5.2 percentage points
Conserv/Mod Dem	244	7.2 percentage points
Liberal Dem	210	7.8 percentage points
<i>Among Rep/Rep lean</i>		
Tea Party	234	7.4 percentage points
Non-Tea Party	357	6.0 percentage points
18-29 years old	236	7.4 percentage points
30-49	412	5.6 percentage points
50-64	422	5.5 percentage points
65+	405	5.6 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS/USA TODAY  
AUGUST 2014 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
August 20-24, 2014  
N=1,501**

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	Dis- (VOL.)				Dis- (VOL.)		
	Approve	Approve	DK/Ref		Approve	Approve	DK/Ref
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	42	50	8	May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11
Jul 8-14, 2014	44	49	6	May 2, 2011 (WP)	56	38	6
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	44	50	7	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8
Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	44	49	7	Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10
Feb 14-23, 2014	44	48	8	Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	43	49	8	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	45	49	6	Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	41	53	6	Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12
Oct 9-13, 2013	43	51	6	Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	44	49	8	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9
Jul 17-21, 2013	46	46	7	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
Jun 12-16, 2013	49	43	7	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
May 1-5, 2013	51	43	6	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Mar 13-17, 2013	47	46	8	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	51	41	7	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	40	7	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	39	6	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	50	43	7	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jun 7-17, 2012	47	45	8	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	46	42	11	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	45	9	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	41	9	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

See past presidents' approval trends: [George W. Bush](#), [Bill Clinton](#)

**QUESTIONS 2-3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE  
NO QUESTIONS 4-12**

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about some issues...

Q.13 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]**  
 How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The economy			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	39	55	6
Jul 8-14, 2014	40	56	4
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	42	53	5
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	31	65	3
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	43	52	5
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	50	5
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	40	56	4
Mar 7-11, 2012	43	53	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	59	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	35	58	6
Aug 17-21, 2011	34	60	6
May 2, 2011	40	55	4
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	56	6
Jan 6-9, 2011	42	51	7
Jun 16-20, 2010	43	51	5
May 6-9, 2010	41	51	8
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	54	8
Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	42	51	7
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	52	5
Jul 22-26, 2009	38	53	9
Jun 10-14, 2009	52	40	8
Apr 14-21, 2009	60	33	7
Feb 4-8, 2009	56	24	20
b. The nation's immigration policy			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	31	61	7
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	32	60	7
Jun 12-16, 2013	43	47	11
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	44	43	13
Nov 9-14, 2011	32	49	20
Jan 6-9, 2011	35	50	16
Jun 16-20, 2010	33	54	12
May 6-9, 2010	25	54	21
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	47	24
Jan 6-10, 2010	30	50	21
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	31	48	21

**QUESTION 13c PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

d. The situation involving Russia and Ukraine			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	35	52	14
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>			
<i>Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Obama administration is handling the situation involving Russia and Ukraine?</i>			
Mar 6-9, 2014	30	44	26
e. The nation's policy toward Israel			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	37	48	15
Jun 12-16, 2013	41	39	20



**Q.13 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
f. The situation in Iraq			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	35	56	9
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	54	11
Jan 6-9, 2011	46	41	12
Jun 16-20, 2010	45	44	11
Jan 6-10, 2010	45	44	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	41	48	12
Jul 22-26, 2009	47	38	15

**ASK ALL:**

Now, thinking about foreign policy and national security...

Q.14 Do you think Barack Obama is too tough, not tough enough or about right in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues?

(U)		Oct 30-Nov 6	Sept 13-16	Apr 21-26	Oct 28-Nov 8	June 10-14
Aug 20-24		2013	2012	2010	2009	2009
<u>2014</u>						
3	Too tough	5	2	2	3	2
54	Not tough enough	51	41	47	47	38
36	About right	37	42	41	43	51
7	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	6	15	10	7	8

**NO QUESTIONS 15-20, 23, 26-29, 37, 39, 41-48  
QUESTIONS THOUGHT, 21-22, 24-25 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED  
QUESTIONS 30-36, 38, 40 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**RANDOMIZE Q.49 AND Q.50****ASK ALL:**

Q.49 Do you think we live in a safer world now than we did several years ago, a more dangerous world, or have things not changed very much?

(U)		(Gallup/CNN/USA Today)
Aug 20-24		March
<u>2014</u>		<u>1993</u>
7	Safer world	19
65	More dangerous world	58
27	Not changed very much	22
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1

**RANDOMIZE Q.49 AND Q.50****ASK ALL:**

Q.50 Do you think the United States plays a more important and powerful role as a world leader today compared to 10 years ago, a less important role, or about as important a role as a world leader as it did 10 years ago?

	<u>More important</u>	<u>Less important</u>	<u>As important</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	15	48	34	2
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	17	53	27	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	41	30	4
July, 2004	45	20	31	4
Early September, 2001	33	26	38	3
September, 1997	35	23	40	2
December, 1994	40	27	29	4
October, 1993	37	26	33	4
September, 1993	37	30	31	2

**Q.50 CONTINUED...**

	More <u>important</u>	Less <u>important</u>	As <u>important</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>Chicago CFR: November, 1990</i> <sup>1</sup>	37	35	24	4
<i>Chicago CFR: November, 1986</i>	41	26	29	4
<i>Chicago CFR: November, 1982</i>	27	25	44	5
<i>Chicago CFR: November, 1978</i>	29	41	24	6
<i>Chicago CFR: December, 1974</i>	28	39	27	6

**NO QUESTION 51****ASK ALL:**

Q.52 In terms of solving world problems, does the United States do too much, too little, or the right amount in helping solve world problems?

(U)		(GA)
Aug 20-24 <u>2014</u>		Oct 30-Nov 6 <u>2013</u>
		Summer <u>2002</u>
39	Does too much	51
31	Does too little	17
24	Does right amount	28
*	United States does nothing (VOL.)	1
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3
		5

**NO QUESTION 53****ASK ALL:**

Q.54 I'd like your opinion about some possible international concerns for the U.S. Do you think that **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** is a major threat, a minor threat or not a threat to the well being of the United States? What about **[INSERT ITEM]**? **[READ THE ANSWER CHOICES AS NECESSARY AFTER THE FIRST TIME]**

	Major <u>threat</u>	Minor <u>threat</u>	Not a <u>threat</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. China's emergence as a world power				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	48	33	14	5
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	54	31	11	4
May, 2012 (C)	52	35	9	5
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	53	30	10	7
Jun 10-14, 2009	52	31	11	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	46	36	13	5
September, 2008	48	35	11	6
Late May, 2008	50	31	10	9
February, 2006	47	34	12	7
Late October, 2005	52	31	10	7
May, 2001	51	30	10	9
July, 1999	53	33	10	4
b. Growing tension between Russia and its neighbors				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	53	35	8	5
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	38	44	9	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	37	48	8	7
September, 2008	44	41	10	5
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>				
<i>Growing authoritarianism in Russia</i>				
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	32	41	13	14
Late May, 2008	24	46	12	18

<sup>1</sup> Surveys conducted December 1974 through November 1990 by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

**Q.54 CONTINUED...**

	Major threat	Minor threat	Not a threat	(VOL.) DK/Ref
February, 2006	22	45	16	17
Late October, 2005	23	44	13	20
<i>Political and economic instability in Russia</i>				
May, 2001	27	46	12	15
July, 1999	40	42	14	4
c. North Korea's nuclear program				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	57	30	9	4
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	67	24	6	3
May, 2012 (C)	69	22	5	5
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	69	23	3	5
June 10-14, 2009	72	19	5	5
January 7-11, 2009	53	32	8	7
September, 2008	55	33	7	5
Late May, 2008	55	32	7	6
February, 2006	60	27	6	7
Late October, 2005	66	24	4	6
d. Iran's nuclear program				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	59	28	9	4
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	68	23	5	3
May, 2012 (C)	70	21	4	5
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	72	20	3	6
June 10-14, 2009	69	20	5	5
January 7-11, 2009	65	23	6	6
September, 2008	60	29	6	5
Late May, 2008	62	25	8	5
February, 2006	65	24	5	6
Late October, 2005	61	27	5	7
e. Global climate change				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	48	30	20	3
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	45	30	20	4
May, 2012 (C)	45	32	19	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	44	36	15	5
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON</b>				
<i>Global environmental problems</i>				
May, 2001	53	32	6	9
f. The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	48	33	13	6
June, 2009	49	35	9	6
January, 2009	45	40	9	6
g. The rapid spread of infectious diseases from country to country				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	52	40	6	2
May, 2001	66	26	3	5
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=757]:</b>				
h. Islamic extremist groups like al Qaeda				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	71	19	6	3
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	75	18	4	3
May, 2012 (C)	70	21	4	5
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	76	18	2	3
June 10-14, 2009	78	14	4	4
January 7-11, 2009	77	15	4	4

**Q.54 CONTINUED...**

	Major threat	Minor threat	Not a threat	(VOL.) DK/Ref
September, 2008	72	21	3	4
Late May, 2008	72	18	4	6

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=744]:**

i. The Islamic militant group in Iraq and Syria, known as ISIS Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	67	21	5	6
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**NO QUESTIONS 55-59, 61, 64-65, 67-68, 71-76  
QUESTIONS 60, 62-63 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED  
QUESTIONS 66, 69-70 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.77 Thinking about the long-term future of the Middle East, do you think militant forms of Islam will grow in influence or decline in influence?

(U)	
Aug 20-24 2014	
63	Grow in influence
25	Decline in influence
1	Stay about the same (VOL.)
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**NO QUESTIONS 78-84, 87-89  
QUESTIONS 85-86, 90-91 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>(VOL.) (VOL.) (VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):**

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

**BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=608]**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<u>Not heard of/ DK</u>
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10	53	*	2	--
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	12	50	2	1	--
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11	54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11	50	1	1	--
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--

## TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<u>Not heard of/ DK</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>2</sup>	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	2

**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
(C)	Pew Research Global Attitudes/Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
(GA)	Pew Research Center Global Attitudes Project

<sup>2</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."