



a PewResearchCenter project

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16-Country Global Attitudes Report Released June 23, 2005

France

Image of the United States and France

- 43% of the French have a favorable opinion of the U.S., up slightly from 2004 (37%). But positive views of the U.S. remain significantly lower than in 2002 (63%)
- Like other European publics, the French have a more favorable opinion of the American people than they do of the U.S. Nearly two-thirds of the French (64%) have a positive view of Americans.
- Nearly nine-in-ten (89%) associate the characteristic “hard-working” with Americans; majorities also call Americans “inventive” (76%) and “honest” (57%). But 63% of the French also associate the term “violent” with Americans. However, far fewer ascribe other negative traits – such as “greedy,” “rude,” and “immoral” – to Americans.
- France tops all other European publics in saying the U.S. is too religious; fully 61% of the French express this opinion. Americans disagree, with 21% viewing the U.S. as too religious, and 58% saying the U.S. is not religious enough.
- Nearly half of Americans (46%) express favorable views of France, up from a third (33%) last year. But three years ago, 79% of Americans expressed favorable opinions of France.
- Among other European publics, France is viewed quite favorably in Germany (78%), Spain (74%), Great Britain (71%), and the Netherlands (69%).

French opinions of their own country

- Eight-in-ten French believe France is generally liked by other countries of the world; about three-quarters (74%) have a favorable view of their own country.
- But just 28% of French respondents are satisfied with the way things are going in their country, down slightly from a year ago (32%) and considerably less than 2003 (44%).
- By a 53%-45% margin, the French say immigration from the Middle East and North Africa is a good thing rather than a bad thing; a comparable majority (52%) has a positive view of immigration from Eastern Europe. That represents a modest rise from three years ago, when

44% said immigration from the Middle East and North Africa was a good thing, and 47% said the same about immigration from Eastern Europe.

The Iraq War and U.S. Policies

- More than nine-in-ten in France (92%) believe their government made the right decision not to use military force against Iraq.
- Fully 70% of the French believe the world is a more dangerous place as a result of the war with Iraq that removed Saddam Hussein from power; 23% believe it is safer. And just 28% say Iraq will be more stable in the wake of the January elections there while two thirds think the situation in Iraq will not change much.
- Just 18% say the U.S. takes France's interests into account a great deal or a fair amount when formulating its foreign policy.
- Fully 73% of the French want Western Europe to take a more independent approach from the U.S. on diplomatic and security affairs than it has in the past.
- And 85% of French respondents believe it would be better if the EU or another country emerged as a military rival of the U.S. – more than any nation surveyed.

About the Survey

- The Global Attitudes Project conducted telephone interviews with a quota sample of 751 French respondents from May 2- 7, 2005. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 4 percentage points.