

## **Response to NATO Pact is Subdued Amid Doubts the Peace Will Last**

Americans by a 2-1 margin doubt that NATO's pact with Serbia will pacify the fractious Balkans, a level of skepticism that denies Bill Clinton any political boost from the deal.

An ABC News poll conducted after Clinton's address Thursday night finds none of the euphoria that can follow a military victory. Clinton's job approval rating is just 57 percent, its lowest in nine months and well below his near-record standing this winter. His approval rating for handling the Kosovo conflict specifically is no better, 56 percent.

Most people nonetheless are willing to give the deal a try. Seventy-one percent support U.S. participation in the Kosovo peacekeeping force, and 61 percent say the NATO air strikes should resume if Serbia fails to abide by the peace deal.

Support for the pact..

Support participation in peacekeeping force	71%
Resume air strikes if Serbia reneges	61

But no boost for Clinton..

Clinton job approval	57%
Clinton approval on Kosovo	56

**SUBDUED** - Why the subdued reaction? For one thing, many Americans are dubious about the outcome; only 53 percent say the United States and its allies won the conflict. And most doubt that the peace will stick: Just 33 percent think the pact with Serbia "stands a good chance of bringing peace to the region." Sixty-three percent think not.

Does the agreement stand a good chance of bringing lasting peace to the region?	
Yes	33%
No	63

Among people who think the accord does stand a good chance of bringing lasting peace, Clinton enjoys a smashing 76 percent job approval rating. But among the majority that doubts it, Clinton's approval score dives to just 45 percent.

Serbia itself carries much of the blame for the public's doubts: Seventy-seven percent of Americans think it cannot be trusted to carry out the terms of the peace agreement.

AID – In addition to dampening satisfaction with the outcome, doubts about lasting peace

also seem to be restraining support for a heavy investment in rebuilding Kosovo. Less than half the public, 48 percent, says the United States should contribute "significant money and material" to help rebuild Kosovo; 50 percent think not.

Among people who think the peace stands a good chance of enduring, 64 percent support large-scale aid for Kosovo. But among the majority who doubt it, support for aid plummets to just 39 percent.

WORTH IT? – Was it worth it? Most Americans do say the United States did the right thing by getting involved in the conflict. But again, the numbers are not overwhelming: Fifty-five percent think so. But a sizable minority, 41 percent, maintains that it was a mistake to get involved in Kosovo in the first place.

METHODOLOGY - This poll was conducted by telephone on June 10, 1999, among a random national sample of 507 adults. Interviews began after Clinton's televised address on the Kosovo peace agreement. The results have a 4.5-point error margin. Field work by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

News and research organizations wishing to receive ABC News polls via e-mail may send a request to [Ben.X.Fitzpatrick@ABC.com](mailto:Ben.X.Fitzpatrick@ABC.com).

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at: <http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

Here are the full results:

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president?

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
6/10/99	57	NA	NA	39	NA	NA	4
6/6/99*	58	30	28	38	12	26	4
4/26/99	60	NA	NA	37	NA	NA	3
3/14/99	64	38	26	34	9	25	3
2/14/99	68	46	22	30	7	23	2
2/12/99	67	NA	NA	31	NA	NA	2
2/7/99	66	45	21	33	9	24	1
1/30/99	65	43	22	33	7	26	2

Call for full results dating to 1993.

\*Washington Post

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling the situation in Kosovo?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
6/10/99	56	39	4
6/6/99*	54	41	5
5/16/99	53	41	6
4/26/99	56	36	9

4/8/99	56	38	6
4/6/99	60	34	6
4/5/99	57	36	8
3/30/99	54	30	16
3/28/99	51	31	17
3/26/99	51	32	17
3/23/99	48	39	12

\*Washington Post

3. As you may know, the United States and its European allies have reached a peace agreement with Serbia. It includes an international peacekeeping force in Kosovo with 7,000 troops from the United States and 43,000 troops from other countries. Do you support or oppose U.S. participation in this peacekeeping force?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
6/10/99	71	26	3

4. Do you think Serbia can or cannot be trusted to carry out the terms of the peace agreement?

	Can	Cannot	No opin.
6/10/99	15	77	8

5. If Serbia does not carry out the terms of the peace agreement, do you think the United States and its allies should resume their air strikes against Serbia, or not?

	Yes	No	No opin.
6/10/99	61	33	6

6. Which side do you think won the Kosovo conflict: The United States and its European allies, or Serbia?

	Serbia	US and its European allies	Neither, draw (vol.)	No opin.
6/10/99	14	53	29	4
6/6/99*	17	48	27	8
5/16/99**	22	45	28	5
4/26/99**	25	47	21	6

\*Washington Post; "As of now.."

\*\*"As of now.. is winning"

7. Do you think the peace agreement with Serbia stands a good chance of bringing lasting peace to the region, or not?

	Yes	No	No opin.
6/6/99	33	63	5

8. Do you support or oppose the United States contributing significant amounts of money and material to help rebuild Kosovo?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
6/10/99	48	50	2

9. Considering everything, do you think the United States did the right thing in getting involved in the military conflict in Serbia, or do you think it was a mistake?

	Right thing	Mistake	No opin.
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6/10/99	55	41	4
6/6/99*	48	47	5
5/16/99	54	42	3
4/26/99	56	41	2
4/6/99	58	40	2
*Washington Post			

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