

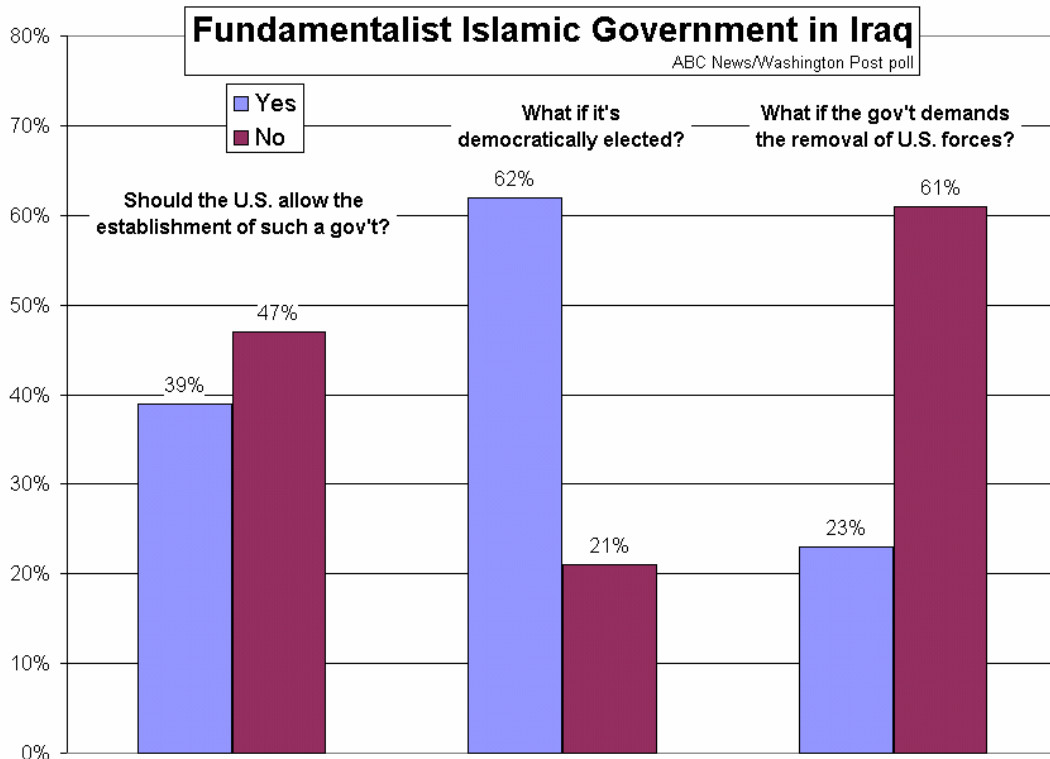
If Elected, Most Say U.S. Should Back a Fundamentalist Government in Iraq

More than six in 10 Americans say the United States should permit Iraq to establish a fundamentalist Islamic government – provided that it's popularly elected.

At first blush, the public is cool to the idea: Just 39 percent say the United States should allow such a government to be established, while 47 percent say not. But if it were to win an open, democratic election, half of opponents switch sides, and support jumps to 62 percent.

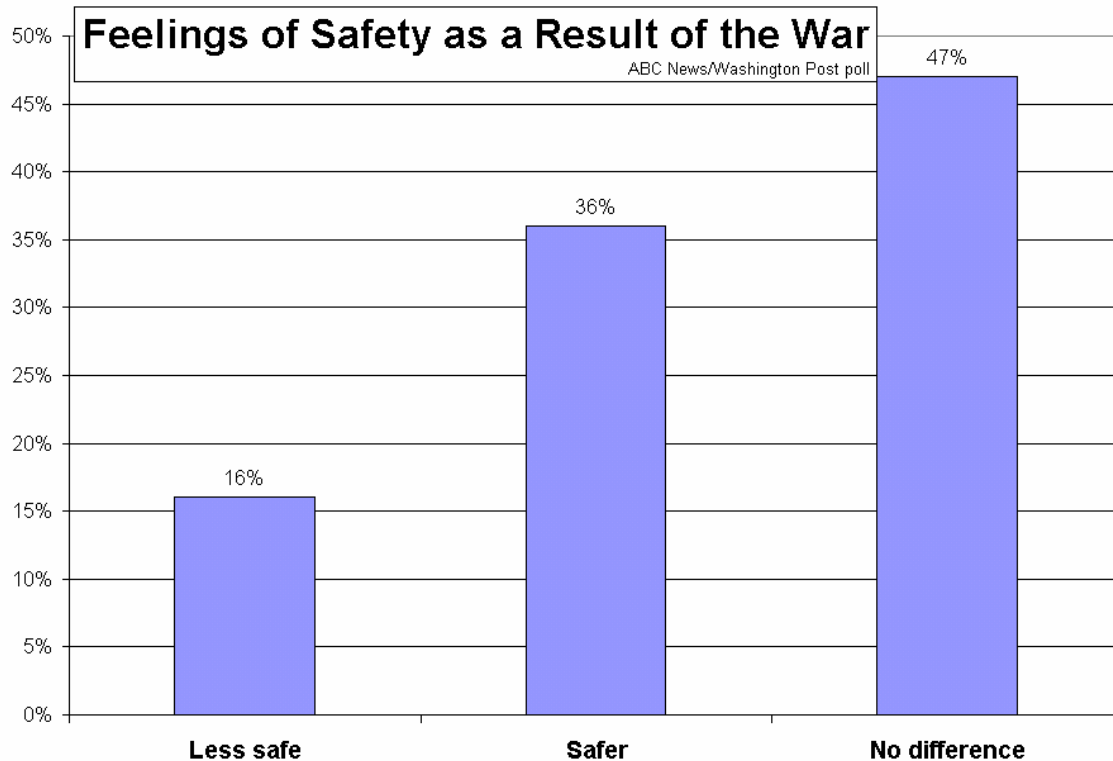
But such support is conditional in another sense: Six in 10 Americans oppose allowing the creation of fundamentalist government if it were to demand that all U.S. forces leave Iraq.

While the Bush administration has said Iraq would be able to establish a government of its own choosing, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said last week, “an Iranian-type government with a few clerics running everything... Isn't going to happen.”



SAFER? – On the postwar home front, Americans are twice as apt to say the war has left them feeling safer, rather than less safe, from terrorism, 36-16 percent. But a plurality, 47 percent, says the war hasn't affected their sense of threat from terrorist attack.

These views are tied to political partisanship and support for Bush. Republicans, conservatives and people who approve of Bush’s work are more likely to say the war’s made them feel safer; Democrats, liberals and Bush disapprovers are more apt to say otherwise. Feelings of safety also are higher among older Americans, and lower among blacks, who tend to be Democrats.



	Feel Safer Since the War
All	36%
Democrats	26
Independents	36
Republicans	47
Age 18-30	27
Age 31-44	33
Age 45+	42
Whites	39
Blacks	21
Approve of Bush	44
Disapprove of Bush	15

BUSH – All told, Bush wins broad approval for his handling of the situation in Iraq – 75 percent, up six points since last month to his best rating on the issue to date. Again, Bush’s rating is highly

partisan, ranging from 93 percent among Republicans to 76 percent among independents and 57 percent among Democrats.

Bush's rating for dealing with Iraq, while high, is well below his father's comparable rating, 94 percent approval just after the Persian Gulf war in 1991. And this Bush's ratings pale by other comparisons: Seventy percent say the war with Iraq was worth fighting, compared to 86 percent just after the Gulf war. Forty-three percent say the war has increased their confidence in Bush's ability to handle other issues; 70 percent said so about his father in 1991. And 37 percent say the war has made them more likely to support Bush's re-election; in March 1991, 55 percent said so – not that it turned out that way, 20 months later.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone April 27-30, 2003, among a random national sample of 1,105 adults, including an oversample of blacks (for a total of 169). The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, PA.

Analysis by Dalia Sussman.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934

Results follow.

*= less than 0.5 percent

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling:

b. The situation in Iraq

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
4/30/03	75	22	2
3/27/03*	69	26	5
3/23/03	71	26	3
3/20/03	65	29	5
3/17/03	64	29	7
3/9/03	55	38	8
2/23/03	55	39	6
2/9/03	61	37	2
2/5/03	61	32	7
2/1/03	61	35	3
1/28/03	58	38	4
1/27/03	57	40	3
1/20/03	50	46	4
12/15/02	58	37	5
11/4/02 LV	56	40	4
11/3/02 LV	57	40	4
11/2/02 LV	56	41	3
10/27/02	57	38	57
9/26/02	58	39	3
9/14/02	65	31	4
8/29/02	52	36	12

*3/27/03 and previous: The situation with Iraq and Saddam Hussein

9. All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting, or not?

	Worth fighting	Not worth fighting	No opinion
4/30/03	70	27	4
2/2/92*	66	32	2
7/28/91	67	30	3
6/2/91	70	26	3
3/4/91	86	13	1

*2/2/92 and previous: "the Persian Gulf war"

**3/4/91: "this war"

11. Do you think the United States should or should not allow a fundamentalist Islamic government to be established in Iraq?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
4/30/03	39	47	14

12. (IF SHOULD NOT) What if it wins an open, democratic election? In that case do you think the United States should or should not allow a fundamentalist Islamic government to be established in Iraq?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
4/30/03	50	46	5

11/12 NET

	Should	Should not	No opinion
4/30/03	62	21	16

13. (IF SHOULD) What if it demands that all United States forces leave Iraq? In that case do you think the United States should or should not allow a fundamentalist Islamic government to be established in Iraq?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
4/30/03	59	35	6

11/13 NET

	Should	Should not	No opinion
4/30/03	23	61	16

14. As a result of the war, do you yourself feel more safe from terrorism, less safe from terrorism, or hasn't the war affected the way you feel?

	More	Less	Has not affected	No opinion
4/30/03	36	16	47	1

33. Has the war with Iraq made you more confident in the ability of Bush to handle the country's other big problems, less confident, or hasn't it made much of a difference? IF MORE OR LESS: Is that much (more/less) confident or only somewhat (more/less) confident?

-----More----- Not much -----Less----- No

	NET	Much	Somewhat	difference	NET	Somewhat	Much	opinion
4/30/03	43	29	14	41	15	5	10	*
George H. W. Bush								
3/4/91	70	45	26	24	5	2	3	1

34. As a result of the war, are you now more likely to support Bush for a second term as president, less likely to support him for a second term, or hasn't the war changed your feeling on that?

	More likely	Less likely	Has not changed	No opinion
4/30/03	37	24	37	2
George H. W. Bush				
3/4/91	55	6	37	1

END