

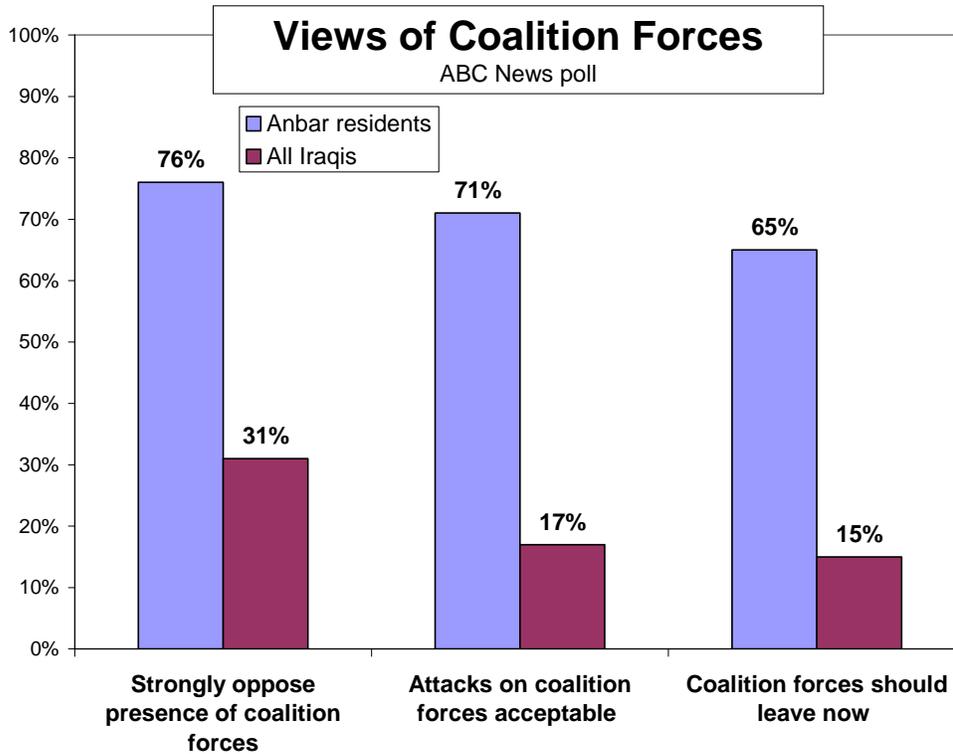
Anti-Coalition Sentiment in Anbar Is Vastly Higher Than in All Iraq

This week's attacks on Americans in Iraq's Anbar province should not be taken as an indicator of broader views across the country: The area, including Fallujah and the provincial capital, Ramadi, is a center of anti-coalition sentiment.

Anbar is the single most Sunni Arab-dominated province in Iraq, and anger over the U.S.-led invasion spikes among Sunni Arabs, who were favored under Saddam Hussein's regime. This hostility soars most particularly in Anbar.

In the recent ABC News poll of Iraq – the first media-sponsored national opinion survey there – 71 percent of respondents in Anbar viewed attacks on coalition forces as “acceptable” political action. Among all Iraqis, just 17 percent held that view.

Similarly, 56 percent in Anbar said attacks on foreigners working alongside the CPA are acceptable, compared with 10 percent of all Iraqis.



Four Americans working for a security company were killed in an ambush in Fallujah on Wednesday; their bodies were then mutilated by a mob. The same day, also in Anbar province, a roadside bomb killed five U.S. soldiers.

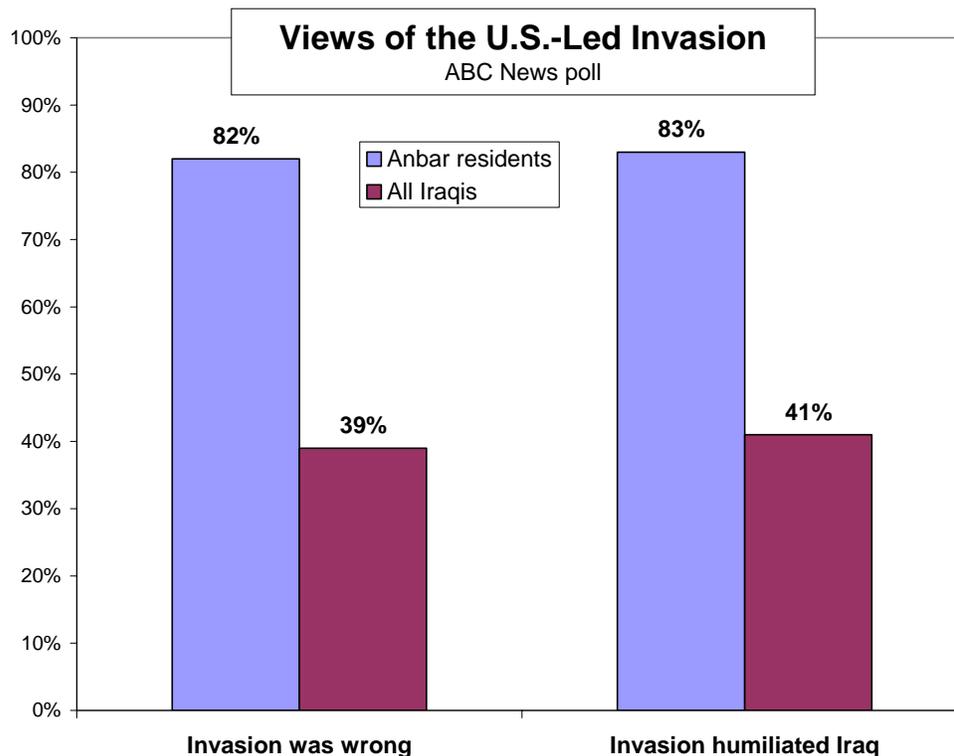
Anbar residents are no worse off economically than most Iraqis. But they are less apt to say their lives are going well (52 percent in Anbar, compared with 70 percent in all Iraq); their expectations for the future are less positive; and above all, they are far more deeply aggrieved over the invasion and occupation.

Examples:

-Eighty-two percent in Anbar say the invasion was “wrong,” compared with 39 percent of all Iraqis. (Sixty-seven percent in Anbar say it was “absolutely” wrong, compared with 26 percent nationally.)

-Residents of Anbar are twice as likely as all Iraqis to say the invasion humiliated rather than liberated Iraq.

-Sixty-five percent in Anbar say coalition forces should leave now, compared with 15 percent of all Iraqis.



-More residents in Anbar prefer "a strong leader for life" than either a democracy or an Islamic state. In all Iraq, more prefer democracy.

	Anbar	All Iraqis
Attacks "acceptable" on		
Coalition forces	71%	17
Foreigners working with CPA	56	10
Presence of coalition forces		
Support	9	39
Oppose	85	51
"Strongly" oppose	76	31
Say coalition forces should leave now	65	15
Invasion was		
Right	9	48
Wrong	82	39
Invasion was "absolutely" wrong	67	26
Invasion		
Liberated Iraq	9	42
Humiliated Iraq	83	41
Confident in CPA	12	28
Confident in occupation forces	9	25
Preferred political system		
Single leader for life	45	28
Islamic state	18	21
Democracy	18	49
No opinion	19	4
% Sunni	92	40

SOMALIA – Separately, some have drawn comparisons between the Fallujah attack and the Battle of Mogadishu in Somalia in 1993, in which a soldier's body was dragged through the streets. But that event has been broadly misinterpreted. Most of the drop in American public support for the U.S. deployment in Somalia occurred *before* the Battle of Mogadishu, not after it.

Specifically, in Time/CNN polls, support for the presence of U.S. troops in Somalia fell from 79 percent in January 1993 to 43 percent in September that year, a 36-point drop. The Battle of Mogadishu occurred Oct. 3; in an Oct. 7 poll, support for the deployment was 36 percent, down an additional seven points.

METHODOLOGY – This poll was conducted for ABC News, ARD, the BBC and NHK by Oxford Research International of Oxford, England. Interviews were conducted in person, in Arabic and Kurdish, among a random national sample of 2,737 Iraqis age 15 and up from Feb. 9-28, 2004. The results have a two-point error margin.

See previous analyses, full questionnaire and details of the Iraq poll's methodology at ABCNEWS.com, <http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>.

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