

RELEASE IN PART  
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**From:** McHale, Judith A <McHaleJA@state.gov>  
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**Subject:** FW: Pew Global Attitudes 22-Nation Poll

FYI

**From:** Andrew Kohut [mailto: ]  
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## **Obama More Popular Abroad Than in U.S.; Muslim Disappointment** ***U.S. Image Strong, Despite Criticism of U.S. Policies***

Even as his domestic job approval rating has declined, President Barack Obama remains highly popular in most parts of the world, and opinions of the United States – which improved markedly in 2009 reflecting global optimism about Obama – have remained much more positive than they were for much of George W. Bush's tenure.

But America continues to face image challenges in the Muslim world. After edging up slightly in 2009, U.S. favorability and confidence in Obama have slipped in key predominantly Muslim nations: America's favorability rating in Egypt has dropped from 27% to 17% – the lowest figure recorded there in five years. In Turkey, a NATO ally, confidence in Obama has fallen from 33% to 23%. Opposition to key aspects of U.S. foreign policy remains pervasive and many Muslim publics continue to view the U.S. as a military threat.

Even beyond largely Muslim nations, the survey finds disagreement with Obama's foreign policies. Majorities continue to see the U.S. as acting unilaterally in world affairs. And global publics give Obama a mixed report card on his handling of specific problems: About as many countries approve as disapprove of Obama's handling of the situations in Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. Of 22 nations surveyed, including the U.S., only in three nations do majorities approve of Obama's handling of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In Western Europe, while substantial majorities support U.S. anti-terrorism efforts, nearly 6-in-10 Germans favor withdrawing their troops from Afghanistan, and British and French publics are evenly split on whether troops should be withdrawn or kept.

But in a striking difference from the Bush years, these policy disagreements have not significantly dented the U.S. image. The U.S. favorability rating in Western Europe is overwhelmingly positive, and confidence in Obama to do the right thing in world affairs remains high: 90% express confidence in Germany, 87% in France, 84% in Britain and 69% in Spain. Moreover, Obama gets good marks on his handling of two issues of importance to European publics – climate change and the economic crisis.

More generally, global publics express widespread dissatisfaction about the economy, though they are less gloomy than in 2009. In 20 of 22 countries, less than half the population expresses satisfaction with their country's direction, and only in four countries do people say economic conditions are good. Disgruntled publics fault their governments, banks and then themselves for their economic troubles. In Europe, amid growing economic troubles, there are no signs of a backlash against the European Union. Large majorities remain supportive of the EU and the euro. But European publics are divided about the merits of economic integration and differ over the bailing-out of EU member countries.

The new survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, conducted among more than 24,000 people in 22 nations April 7 to May 8, provides an in-depth look at attitudes toward major powers and world leaders; the global economic situation from free trade to financial regulation; Islamic extremism; and international problems such as climate change. Key findings include:

- **America's Image** – U.S. favorability has improved markedly in Russia, China and Japan. It has fallen in India, but remains high – dipping from 76% in 2009 to 66% in 2010. America's image is highly positive in South Korea (79% favorable), Poland (74%) and Brazil (62%).
- **The Arizona Effect:** U.S. favorability in Mexico has tumbled in the wake of Arizona's new immigration law – from 62% in polling conducted before the law's enactment to 44% afterward.
- **European Leaders:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel is well regarded in Britain and Spain, and gets higher ratings for her handling of international affairs in France than in Germany itself. French President Nicolas Sarkozy, similarly, gets better ratings in Germany than in France, but the French leader is less well-regarded in Britain and Spain. Confidence about Russian President Dmitri Medvedev is on the rise, with ratings up in all five EU member nations surveyed.
- **China on the Rise:** A growing portion of global publics sees China, rather than the U.S, as the world's leading economic power. China itself is the most self-satisfied nation in the survey. Roughly nine-in-ten Chinese are happy with the direction of the country (87%), its economic conditions (91%), and optimistic about its economic future (87%).
- **Islamic Extremism:** There is no predominantly Muslim nation polled in which a majority of Muslims endorse suicide bombing, al Qaeda or Osama bin Laden. But in Nigeria, a significant minority of Muslims express extremist views -- 49% express a favorable view of al Qaeda.
- **Isolationism:** Americans are no more isolationist than Europeans. When asked whether their country should deal with its own problems and let others take care of themselves, nearly half of Americans (46%), Germans (44%) and British (49%) agree. The French are the most isolationist, with 65% opposing helping other nations cope with their challenges.
- **Environment:** Substantial majorities in most countries see global climate change as a serious problem, but global opinion is more divided when it comes to paying increased prices to combat climate change. Willingness to pay higher prices is nearly universal in China and majorities express support in India, South Korea, Japan, Turkey and Germany. Views about paying higher prices are mixed in Spain, Britain and Brazil, while majorities express opposition in the U.S., France, Russia and many less affluent nations surveyed.
- **Iran and Nuclear Weapons:** Majorities in nearly every country surveyed, including predominantly Muslim nations, express opposition to a nuclear-armed Iran. A notable exception is Pakistan, the only nation surveyed in which a majority (58%) favor Iran's nuclear weapons program. Among global publics who oppose a nuclear-armed Iran, substantial support exists for applying tougher international economic sanctions against Iran. Less widespread, but still significant, support exists for considering the use of military force to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

For a direct link to the full report, go to <http://pewglobal.org/2010/06/17/obama-more-popular-abroad-than-at-home/>. The survey is for immediate release and is available on our website, <http://pewglobal.org/>.

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