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Even Military Less Well-Regarded

Turks Downbeat About Their Institutions

As Turks debate an upcoming referendum that would modify the country's constitution, a recent Pew Global Attitudes survey reveals how much confidence in Turkish institutions has slipped over the last few years.

The referendum, which is backed by the ruling religiously-oriented Justice and Development Party (AKP) and opposed by more secular opposition groups, includes provisions regarding the judiciary, as well as measures that would

increase civilian control of the military. Throughout the country's history, the military has played a major role in Turkish politics, and it continues to be a popular institution: 72% say it is having a very or somewhat good influence on the way things are going in Turkey. However, this is down from 85% in 2007. And the number of Turks who believe the military is having a *very* good impact has declined from 57% to 30% over this period. Confidence in the military has dropped most steeply among the nation's Kurdish population – just 37% of Kurds give the military a positive rating, compared with 64% in the 2007 poll.

Among the institutions and leaders tested on the poll, which was conducted April 12-30, the police receive the second highest ratings, with 68% of Turks saying the police are having a good influence on the way things are going. The police receive especially

Rating Groups and Institutions

% Good influence

	2002	2007	2010	'07-'10 Change
	%	%	%	%
Military	79	85	72	-13
Police	--	--	68	--
Prime Minister*	7	63	52	-11
Nat'l government	7	61	51	-10
Religious leaders	32	61	41	-20
Media	47	26	30	+4

*In 2002, question asked about Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit
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favorable ratings from AKP supporters (84% good). Relatively few Kurds (39% good) offer a positive assessment.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ratings have slipped over the last three years. Currently, 52% say he is having a good impact and 43% say he is having a bad impact, while in 2007 63% described his impact as good and 33% as bad. Unsurprisingly, Erdogan gets his highest marks from supporters of his own AKP, 90% of whom think he is having a positive effect. The prime minister receives especially strong ratings in the Central Anatolia region of the country (71% good), which is a stronghold of the AKP.

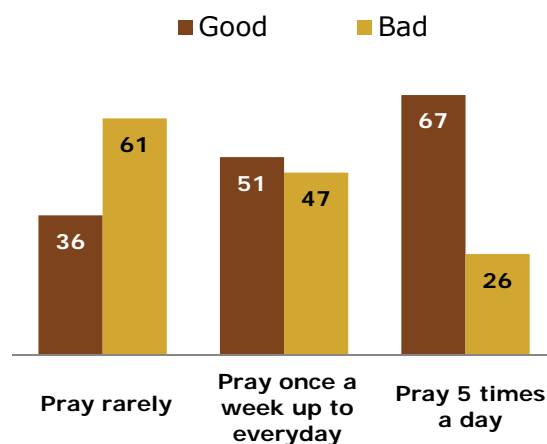
Views about Erdogan are also correlated with religiosity. Two-thirds (67%) of Muslim Turks who pray five times a day assign the prime minister a positive rating. Among those who pray at least once a week but less than five times daily, views are essentially split (51% good, 47% bad). And among those who hardly ever pray or only do so during religious holidays, just 36% say Erdogan is having good impact.

Although Erdogan's ratings have declined since 2007, he still gets considerably better marks than former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit received in 2002 – at the time only, 7% of Turks felt he was having a good influence on the country.

Views about the national government are very similar to views about Prime Minister Erdogan. Roughly half (51%) think the national government is having a positive impact, down from 61% three years ago. And the national government gets its best reviews among AKP supporters, residents of Central Anatolia, and Muslims who pray frequently.

Ratings for religious leaders have declined substantially since 2007 – 41% believe they are having a positive influence, a decline of 20 percentage points from three years ago. Muslims who pray five times daily (56% good) give religious leaders higher ratings than do those who pray at least once a week but less than five times a day (37%) and those

More Religious Turks Say Erdogan Having Good Impact



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who rarely pray (24%). AKP supporters (63% good) and residents of Central Anatolia (61%) also believe religious leaders are having a positive effect in Turkey.

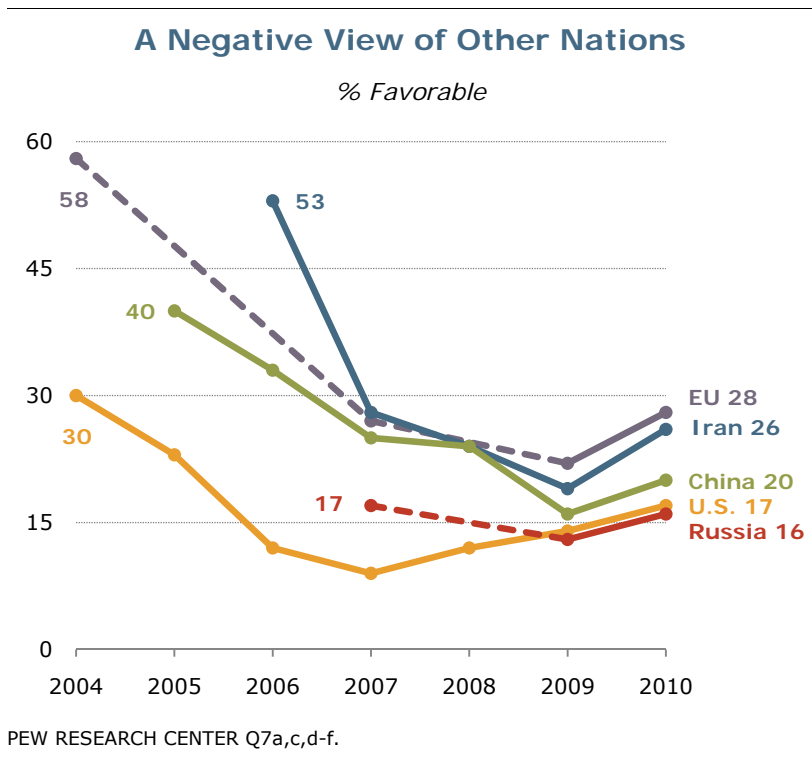
The media receive the lowest ratings among the institutions tested: only 30% of Turks think the media is having a positive effect on society.

Negative Ratings for Major Powers

In recent years, the image of the United States has been largely negative in Turkey. In fact, Turkey was the country in which the U.S. received its lowest favorability rating in every Pew Global Attitudes survey conducted between 2006 and 2009. This year, just 17% of Turks have a positive opinion of the U.S., tying Turkey with Pakistan and Egypt for the lowest U.S. favorability rating among the 22 nations surveyed.¹ Still, the number of Turks who hold a positive view of the U.S. is larger today than it was at its nadir in 2007, when only 9% rated the U.S. favorably.

The U.S. is not alone in receiving negative reviews in Turkey. Ratings for other countries and organizations are also low, and in many cases are lower today than they were a few years ago.

For instance, as negotiations regarding Turkey's bid for membership in the European Union have stalled, attitudes toward the EU have deteriorated. In 2004, 58% of Turks held a favorable opinion of the EU, however, by 2009 this number had plummeted to 22%. Views of the EU have



¹ For more findings regarding the image of the U.S., see "Obama More Popular Abroad Than at Home, Global Image of U.S. Continues to Benefit," released June 17, 2010.

improved slightly over the last year – currently, 28% rate the organization favorably. Support for joining the EU has also declined: in 2005, 68% of Turks wanted their country to become an EU member; today, a slim 54% majority holds this view.

The Kurdish minority is much more pro-European than the rest of the population. About half (49%) express a favorable opinion of the EU and eight-in-ten favor EU membership for Turkey.

Ratings for Iran and China have also tumbled in recent years. In 2006, when the Pew Global Attitudes Project first asked about Iran, 53% of Turks expressed a positive opinion; today, just 26% hold this view. In 2005, 40% expressed a favorable opinion of China, compared with 20% now. However, as is the case with the EU, ratings for both Iran and China did improve marginally between 2009 and 2010.

Attitudes toward Russia have remained consistently low over the last three years – 17% of Turks said they had a positive view of Russia in 2007 and 16% express this view in the 2010 survey.

While Turks express largely negative opinions about other countries, they also tend to believe the feeling is mutual. When asked how they think people in other nations around the world feel about Turkey, 68% of Turks say they think their country is generally disliked, the highest percentage among the 22 countries surveyed. The only other nation in which a majority believes their country is unpopular abroad is the U.S. – 60% of Americans think the U.S. is generally disliked by others around the globe.

About the Pew Global Attitudes Project

The *Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project* conducts public opinion surveys around the world on a broad array of subjects ranging from people's assessments of their own lives to their views about the current state of the world and important issues of the day. The project is directed by Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" in Washington, DC, that provides information on the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world. The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* is principally funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* is co-chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, currently principal, the Albright Stonebridge Group, and by former Senator John C. Danforth, currently partner, Bryan Cave LLP.

Since its inception in 2001, the *Pew Global Attitudes Project* has released numerous major reports, analyses, and other releases, on topics including attitudes toward the U.S. and American foreign policy, globalization, terrorism, and democracy.

Findings from the project are also analyzed in *America Against the World: How We Are Different and Why We Are Disliked* by Andrew Kohut and Bruce Stokes, international economics columnist at the National Journal. A paperback edition of the book was released in May 2007.

Pew Global Attitudes Project team members

include Richard Wike, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Jacob Poushter, Mattie Ressler, Elizabeth Mueller Gross and Bruce Stokes. Other contributors to the project include Pew Research Center staff members Jodie T. Allen, Carroll Doherty, Michael Dimock, and Neha Sahgal. Additional members of the team include Mary McIntosh, president of Princeton Survey Research Associates International, and Wendy Sherman, principal at the Albright Stonebridge Group. The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* team regularly consults with survey and policy experts, regional and academic experts, journalists, and policymakers whose expertise provides tremendous guidance in shaping the surveys.

All of the project's reports and commentaries are available at www.pewglobal.org. The data are also made available on our website within two years of publication.

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Pew Global Attitudes Project Public Opinion Surveys

<u>Survey</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Interviews</u>
Summer 2002	44 Nations	38,263
November 2002	6 Nations	6,056
March 2003	9 Nations	5,520
May 2003	21 Publics*	15,948
March 2004	9 Nations	7,765
May 2005	17 Nations	17,766
Spring 2006	15 Nations	16,710
Spring 2007	47 Publics*	45,239
Spring 2008	24 Nations	24,717
Spring 2009	25 Publics*	26,397
Fall 2009	14 Nations	14,760
Spring 2010	22 Nations	24,790

* Includes the Palestinian territories

2010 Pew Global Attitudes Survey in Turkey

--Survey Methods--

Results for the survey are based on face-to-face interviews conducted April 12 to 30, 2010. The survey in Turkey is part of the larger 2010 Pew Global Attitudes survey conducted in 22 nations from April 7 to May 8, 2010, under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. (For more results from the 22-nation 2010 poll, see “Obama More Popular Abroad Than At Home, Global Image Of U.S. Continues To Benefit” released June 17, 2010.)

The table provides details about the survey’s methodology, including the margin of sampling error based on all interviews conducted in Turkey. For the results based on the full sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus the margin of error. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Survey Details	
Sample Design	Multi-stage cluster sample in all 26 regions (based on geographical location and level of development (NUTS 2) and proportional to population size and urban/rural population
Mode	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages	Turkish
Fieldwork dates	April 12 – April 30, 2010
Sample Size	1,003
Margin of error	±4.0 percentage points
Representative	Adult population

**Pew Global Attitudes Project
2010 Spring Survey Topline Results
Turkey Report**

Methodological notes:

- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Since 2007, the Global Attitudes Project has used an automated process to generate topline. As a result, numbers may differ slightly from those published prior to 2007.
- Questions previously released in “Obama More Popular Abroad Than At Home, Global Image of U.S. Continues to Benefit” include Q5, Q7a-f, Q7j, Q7l-m, Q7p, Q9, Q9RUS, Q9aRUS-Q9cRUS, Q12-Q15, Q18, Q23a-c, Q24-Q25b, Q30-Q31, Q34a-f, Q34h, Q37-Q46, Q48-Q49, Q51, Q54-Q55, Q61, Q67a-Q68b, Q73, Q77, Q79a-f, Q82-Q87CHI, Q96, Q98, and Q119a-Q119cc.
- Questions previously released in “Gender Equality Universally Embraced, But Inequalities Acknowledged” include Q6, Q33, Q47, Q69a-c, Q80-Q81, and Q93.
- Questions previously released in “Widespread Support For Banning Full Islamic Veil in Western Europe” include Q59 and Q59fra.
- Questions previously released in “Concern About Extremist Threat Slips in Pakistan” include Q19a-m, Q24b, Q27a-g, Q35a-h, Q52-Q53, Q70-Q71, Q74-Q76, Q78, Q79pak-pakc, Q94-Q95, Q99a-c, Q100, Q103-Q110c, and Q115-Q118.
- Questions previously released in “Mexicans Continue Support for Drug War” include Q111-Q114.
- Questions held for future release: Q1-Q4, Q7g-i, Q7k, Q7n-o, Q7q-Q7t, Q11, Q17, Q19e-g, Q19k, Q20-Q22, Q26, Q27i, Q32, Q32b, Q34g, Q34i-m, Q36a-d, Q56, Q62-Q66, Q72, Q88CHI, Q97, Q101a-Q102, Q119b, Q126, and Q131b.

		Q7a Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of: a. The United States					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	2	15	15	59	9	100
	Spring, 2009	2	12	12	57	16	100
	Spring, 2008	4	8	7	70	11	100
	Spring, 2007	2	7	8	75	8	100
	Spring, 2006	2	10	9	67	12	100
	May, 2005	4	19	13	54	10	100
	March, 2004	6	24	18	45	7	100
	May, 2003	2	13	15	68	3	100
	March, 2003	3	9	17	67	5	100
Summer, 2002	6	24	13	41	16	100	

		Q7c Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of: c. China					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	3	17	16	45	19	100
	Spring, 2009	3	13	12	45	27	100
	Spring, 2008	6	18	11	39	26	100
	Spring, 2007	4	21	17	36	22	100
	Spring, 2006	7	26	12	32	24	100
	May, 2005	9	31	15	24	22	100

		Q7d Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of: d. Iran					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	5	21	15	43	16	100
	Spring, 2009	4	15	12	46	23	100
	Spring, 2008	6	18	11	45	20	100
	Spring, 2007	5	23	18	38	16	100
	Spring, 2006	18	35	15	20	12	100
	Summer, 2002	5	17	17	44	17	100

		Q7e Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of: e. Russia					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	1	15	17	48	18	100
	Spring, 2009	2	11	14	49	24	100
	Spring, 2007	1	16	16	48	18	100

		Q7f Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of: f. The European Union					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	4	24	12	45	14	100
	Spring, 2009	4	18	9	50	20	100
	Spring, 2007	5	22	14	44	15	100
	March, 2004	22	36	15	20	7	100

		Q9 How do you think people in other countries of the world feel about Turkey? Is Turkey generally liked or disliked?				
		Generally liked	Generally disliked	DK/Refused	Total	
Turkey	Spring, 2010	27	68	5	100	
	May, 2005	30	66	4	100	

		Q18 How do you feel about our country becoming a member of the EU? Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose our country becoming a member of the EU?					
		Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	16	38	18	22	7	100
	May, 2005	31	37	12	15	5	100

		Q27a As I read a list of groups and organizations, for each, please tell me what kind of influence the group is having on the way things are going in Turkey: a. our national government					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	13	38	19	26	3	100
	Spring, 2007	24	37	13	22	3	100
	Summer, 2002	2	5	11	81	1	100

		Q27btur As I read a list of groups and organizations, for each, please tell me what kind of influence the group is having on the way things are going in Turkey: b. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	16	36	15	28	4	100
	Spring, 2007	29	34	12	21	3	100
	Summer, 2002	2	5	10	81	2	100

In 2002, question asked about Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit

		Q27c As I read a list of groups and organizations, for each, please tell me what kind of influence the group is having on the way things are going in Turkey: c. the military					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	30	42	13	9	6	100
	Spring, 2007	57	28	5	5	5	100
	Summer, 2002	43	36	7	8	5	100

		Q27d As I read a list of groups and organizations, for each, please tell me what kind of influence the group is having on the way things are going in Turkey: d. the media - such as television, radio, newspapers and magazines					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	5	25	29	34	7	100
	Spring, 2007	6	20	30	38	6	100
	Summer, 2002	15	32	18	31	4	100

		Q27e As I read a list of groups and organizations, for each, please tell me what kind of influence the group is having on the way things are going in Turkey: e. religious leaders					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	8	33	16	25	19	100
	Spring, 2007	18	43	15	14	10	100
	Summer, 2002	7	25	22	32	15	100

		Q27g As I read a list of groups and organizations, for each, please tell me what kind of influence the group is having on the way things are going in Turkey: g. the police					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2010	21	47	13	14	5	100