

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
LATE MARCH 2003 WAR TRACKING
FINAL TOPLINE
March 20 - 27, 2003
March 20-22, 2003 N=903
March 23-24, 2003 N=592
March 25-27, 2003 N=539

PRC1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	68	25	7=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
February, 2003	54	36	10=100
January, 2003	58	32	10=100
December, 2002	61	28	11=100
Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
June, 2002	70	20	10=100
April, 2002	69	18	13=100
February, 2002	78	13	9=100
January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

PRC3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is dealing with the war in Iraq?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	73	23	4=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	70	23	7=100
February, 2003 ¹	56	37	7=100
January, 2003	56	36	8=100
Early October, 2002	56	34	10=100
Mid-September, 2001	85	6	9=100
Gallup: Late January, 1991 ²	84	11	5=100

1 In February, 2003 and earlier the question was worded "...handling the situation with Iraq." In Mid-September, 2001 the question was worded "...dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington."

2 Gallup trend was worded "...George Bush is handling the situation in the Persian Gulf region."

PRC4 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?
IF 1 'RIGHT DECISION' IN PRC4 ASK:

PRC4a Which comes closer to your view **[ROTATE]**: You support going to war because you think it is the best thing for the U.S. to do; OR you are not sure if going to war is the best thing to do, but you support Bush's decision because he is president?

----March 2003----				Late Jan
<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>		<u>1991</u>
74	74	71	Right decision	77
51	49	52	Support because best thing for U.S. to do	--
20	22	15	Support because Bush is president	--
3	3	4	Don't know/Refused	--
21	21	22	Wrong decision	15
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>
100	100	100		100

ASK ALL:

PRC5 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ]**

----March 2003----			Early Nov	Oct 15-21	Oct 10-14	
<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>	<u>2001</u> ³	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	
39	45	65	Very well	30	38	45
46	41	25	Fairly well	45	45	35
8	6	2	Not too well	12	9	6
2	2	1	Not at all well	4	2	4
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	

PRC6 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the war in Iraq...excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
March 25-27, 2003	34	41	16	7	2=100
March 23-24, 2003	34	42	14	5	5=100
March 20-22, 2003	42	38	11	4	5=100
December, 2001 ⁴	32	45	15	5	3=100
Mid-November, 2001	30	47	16	5	2=100
Mid-October, 2001	32	42	17	6	3=100
Early October, 2001	48	37	10	3	2=100
Mid-September, 2001	56	33	6	3	2=100
March, 1991	45	38	11	5	1=100
Late January, 1991	36	42	15	5	2=100

3 In 2001 the question was worded "How well is the MILITARY effort to destroy the terrorist groups going?"

4 From Mid-October to December 2001, the question was worded "...covering the terrorist attacks and the war against terrorism." In Early October and Mid-September 2001 the question was worded "...covering the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?" In March and Late January 1991 the question was worded "...covering the War in the Gulf."

ASKED MARCH 24-27, 2003 ONLY [N=814]:

REP1 How much confidence do you have that the U.S. military is giving the public an accurate picture of how the war is going?

		Afghanistan		
		Mid-Nov	March	Late Jan
		<u>2001</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1991</u>
40	A great deal of confidence	28	44	29
44	A fair amount of confidence	52	46	58
12	Not too much/No confidence at all	17	9	11
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100

REP2 How much confidence do you have that the press is giving the public an accurate picture of how the war is going?

		Late Jan
		<u>1991</u>
30	A great deal of confidence	26
51	A fair amount of confidence	59
15	Not too much/No confidence at all	13
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

PRC8 Have you yourself felt depressed by the war in Iraq?

				Early	Mid-	Early	Mid-	Late
				Nov	Oct	Oct	Sept	Jan
				<u>2001⁵</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1991</u>
----March 2003----								
<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>						
40	35	30	Yes	24	31	42	71	50
59	63	69	No	75	66	57	27	49
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	1
100	100	100		100	100	100	100	100

5 In Early November and Mid-October 2001 the question was worded "...concerns about terrorist attacks or the war against terrorism?" In Early October and Mid-September 2001, the question was worded "...the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?"

PRC11 I'd like to ask you a few questions about how you feel when you are watching coverage of the war on TV.⁶
 For each statement that I read tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree.
[ROTATE. READ STATEMENT.]

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. I can't stop watching news about the war					
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	14	27	47	10	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	11	31	46	9	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	12	27	45	12	4=100
Mid-October, 2001	17	32	39	8	4=100
Mid-September, 2001	24	39	30	4	3=100
Late January, 1991	11	39		48	2=100
b. I feel sad when watching					
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	23	44	24	7	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	20	43	28	6	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	15	41	30	11	3=100
Mid-September, 2001	47	45	5	1	2=100
Late January, 1991	22	52		25	1=100
c. It's frightening to watch					
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	17	41	32	8	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	13	38	38	8	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	12	33	38	13	4=100
Mid-October, 2001	26	43	26	3	2=100
Mid-September, 2001	33	44	19	2	2=100
Late January, 1991	17	50		32	1=100
d. It tires me out to watch					
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	10	32	43	13	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	7	24	57	11	1=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	7	26	50	14	3=100
Mid-September, 2001	12	33	43	8	4=100
Late January, 1991	6	28		64	2=100
e. The war doesn't seem real					
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	9	22	46	21	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	6	17	51	23	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	8	21	45	23	3=100
Late January, 1991	7	26		66	1=100

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In 2001 the question was worded, "...coverage of terrorism on TV."

PRC13 All in all, how worried are you that you or someone in your family might become a victim of a terrorist attack? Would you say you are **[READ]**

	(VOL.)					
	Very <u>Worried</u>	Somewhat <u>Worried</u>	Not too <u>Worried</u>	Not at all <u>Worried</u>	Already a Victim	DK/Ref
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	12	30	33	23	1	1=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	8	25	37	28	*	2=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	9	27	37	26	*	1=100
February, 2003	22	29	30	18	0	1=100
January, 2003	11	30	37	21	*	1=100
Late August, 2002	12	28	35	24	*	1=100
June, 2002	17	28	36	19	*	*=100
January, 2002	12	26	38	24	*	*=100
Early November, 2001	13	27	35	24	0	1=100
Mid-October, 2001	18	32	29	19	0	2=100
Late September, 2001	17	36	31	15	*	1=100
<i>Gallup: 9/14-15/01⁷</i>	18	33	35	13	*	1=100
<i>Gallup: 9/11/01⁸</i>	23	35	24	16	1	1=100
<i>Gallup: August, 1998</i>	10	22	38	29	--	1=100
<i>Gallup: July, 1996</i>	13	26	34	27	--	*=100
<i>Gallup: April, 1995⁹</i>	14	28	33	24	--	1=100

PRC14 How worried are you that **[INSERT ITEM, ROTATE]**... a great deal, a fair amount, or not much? **[REPEAT RESPONSE CATEGORIES FOR EACH ITEM]**

	A Great <u>Deal</u>	A Fair <u>Amount</u>	Not <u>Much</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a. U.S. forces might sustain a lot of casualties				
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	44	39	16	1=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	43	36	20	1=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	35	35	28	2=100
February, 2003	55	25	18	2=100
Late October, 2002	52	28	18	2=100
Late January, 1991	57	30	12	1=100
b. Many Iraqi civilians might be killed				
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	37	38	23	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	37	35	26	2=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	37	34	26	3=100
February, 2003	47	28	23	2=100
Late October, 2002	40	30	27	3=100
Late January, 1991	33	35	28	4=100

7 For the September 14-15 Gallup trend the question started with "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred this past Tuesday in New York City and Washington, DC..."

8 For the September 11 Gallup trend the question started with "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred today in New York City and Washington, DC..."

9 For the April 1995 Gallup trend the question was worded "How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of a terrorist attack similar to the bombing in Oklahoma City?"

	<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>A Fair Amount</u>	<u>Not Much</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
c. Terrorists might strike within the U.S.				
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	40	37	23	*=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	34	42	23	1=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	35	38	25	2=100
February, 2003 ¹⁰	57	25	16	2=100
Late October, 2002	51	26	20	3=100
Late January, 1991	33	38	28	1=100
d. U.S. troops will be involved in the Mideast for years to come				
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	37	37	24	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	37	34	27	2=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	33	34	29	4=100
Late January, 1991	38	30	29	3=100
e. Iraq might use biological or chemical weapons against U.S. troops				
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	58	31	10	1=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	50	34	15	1=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	46	33	19	2=100
February, 2003	66	24	9	1=100
Late October, 2002	59	26	13	2=100
f. It might lead to an all-out war in the Middle East				
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	28	36	33	3=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	29	32	37	2=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	25	32	40	3=100
February, 2003	46	26	26	2=100
Late October, 2002	46	27	25	2=100

10 In February 2003 and Late October 2002 the item was worded "This might increase the chances of a terrorist attack within the U.S."

ASKED MARCH 24-27, 2003 ONLY [N=814]:

REP3 Television and newspaper reporters are traveling with allied military forces in Iraq and submitting dispatches from combat areas. Do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing that reporters are doing this?

58	Good thing
34	Bad thing
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

REP4 This weekend, Iraqi television showed videotape of U.S. soldiers who were being held as prisoners of war. In general, do you think that American television networks should or should not broadcast videotape of American prisoners of war?

		<u>Aug 1989¹¹</u>
37	Should	43
58	Should not	50
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>
100		100

11 In August 1989 the question was worded "Many news programs ran a videotape showing the hanging of Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins by his captors in Lebanon. Do you think these news organizations acted properly or improperly in showing the tape?"