

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**KOSOVO NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**— FINAL TOPLINE —**  
**April 15-18, 1999**  
**N=1,000**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton 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 Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
April, 1999	56	38	6=100
March, 1999	62	31	7=100
February, 1999	64	30	6=100
Mid-January, 1999	66	29	5=100
January, 1999	63	30	7=100
Late December, 1998	71	27	2=100
Early December, 1998	61	32	7=100
November, 1998	65	29	6=100
September 21-22, 1998	62	33	5=100
September 19-20, 1998	55	36	9=100
Early September, 1998	61	33	6=100
Late August, 1998	62	32	6=100
Early August, 1998	63	28	9=100
June, 1998	59	32	9=100
May, 1998	62	28	10=100
April, 1998	62	28	10=100
March, 1998	65	26	9=100
Early February, 1998	71	26	3=100
January, 1998	61	30	9=100
November, 1997	58	31	11=100
September, 1997	58	29	13=100
August, 1997	59	32	9=100
June, 1997	54	34	12=100
May, 1997	57	34	9=100
April, 1997	55	34	11=100
February, 1997	60	32	8=100
Early February, 1997	57	30	13=100
January, 1997	59	31	10=100
November, 1996	57	34	9=100
July, 1996	54	38	8=100
June, 1996	54	38	8=100
April, 1996	53	39	8=100
March, 1996	55	38	7=100
February, 1996	51	39	10=100
January, 1996	50	43	7=100
October, 1995	48	42	10=100
September, 1995	45	42	13=100
August, 1995	44	44	12=100
June, 1995	50	40	10=100
April, 1995	47	43	10=100
March, 1995	44	44	12=100

**Q.1 CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
February, 1995	44	44	12=100
December, 1994	41	47	12=100
November, 1994	48	40	12=100
October, 1994	41	47	12=100
Early October, 1994	38	47	15=100
September, 1994	41	52	7=100
July, 1994	45	46	9=100
June, 1994	42	44	14=100
May, 1994	46	42	12=100
March, 1994	45	42	13=100
January, 1994	51	35	14=100
Early January, 1994	48	35	17=100
December, 1993	48	36	16=100
October, 1993	44	42	14=100
September, 1993	49	35	16=100
Early September, 1993	43	43	14=100
August, 1993	39	46	15=100
May, 1993	39	43	18=100
Early May, 1993	45	37	18=100
April, 1993	49	29	22=100
February, 1993	56	25	19=100

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling the nation's foreign policy? **[IF DON'T KNOW, ENTER AS DON'T KNOW. IF "DEPENDS", PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling the nation's foreign policy? IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS DON'T KNOW]**

		March	Sept	Sept	Jan	June	Oct	July	Oct	Sept	Aug	Newsweek
		<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>6/30-7/1</u>
		<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1993</u>
51	Approve	56	61	54	52	39	50	38	39	47	52	49
39	Disapprove	34	30	34	39	52	42	53	46	33	25	35
<u>10</u>	DK/Refused	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>16</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.3 Do you happen to know the name of the province in Yugoslavia where there is conflict between Serbians and ethnic Albanians? **(IF YES, ASK: Which province?)**

		<u>March 1999</u>
66	Kosovo	42
7	All other answers	8
<u>27</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>50</u>
100		100

Q.4 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS]

		Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
a.	NATO air strikes against Serbian forces	41	37	16	6	0=100
	March, 1999 <sup>1</sup>	43	32	15	9	1=100
	February, 1999 <sup>2</sup>	11	30	28	30	1=100
	Mid-January, 1999 <sup>3</sup>	9	21	24	44	2=100
	March, 1998 <sup>4</sup>	5	12	26	55	2=100
b.	The capture of three U.S. soldiers near Kosovo, Serbia	47	37	11	5	0=100
c.	The ruling by an Arkansas judge holding President Clinton in contempt of court for giving false testimony in the Paula Jones lawsuit	20	31	29	20	*=100
d.	The sentencing of Dr. Jack Kevorkian to 10 to 25 years in prison	22	34	26	18	0=100

[ NO QUESTION 5 ]

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<sup>1</sup> In March 1999, the story was listed "NATO air strikes against Serbian forces in Kosovo."

<sup>2</sup> In February 1999, the story was listed "NATO efforts to end ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia."

<sup>3</sup> In Mid-January, the story was listed as "The massacre of 45 people in Kosovo, Serbia."

<sup>4</sup> In March 1998, the story was listed as "Ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia."

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

Q.6 Now I'm going to read a list of things that have been happening around the world. For each one, please tell me how serious a problem it is for the United States — very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious. How serious a problem is ...**(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS)** — very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

		<u>Very Serious</u>	<u>Somewhat Serious</u>	<u>Not too Serious</u>	<u>Not at all Serious</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
a.	Allegations that China stole nuclear technology from the United States	65	21	8	3	3=100
	March, 1999	68	22	5	1	4=100
b.	The presence of Saddam Hussein in Iraq	59	27	10	2	2=100
	March, 1999	58	28	7	4	3=100
d.	The testing of nuclear weapons in India and Pakistan	65	23	8	1	3=100
	March, 1999	68	23	4	1	4=100

**ASKED ITEM (e) FRIDAY-SUNDAY ONLY: [N=766]**

e.	Conflict between Serbians and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo	57	27	10	4	2=100
	March, 1999 <sup>5</sup>	38	35	12	6	9=100

Q.7 Do you approve or disapprove of NATO forces, including the United States, conducting air strikes against Serbia to force the Serbs to agree to the terms of the peace agreement and end the fighting in Kosovo?

		<u>March 1999</u>
62	Approve	60
29	Disapprove	29
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>11</u>
100		100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=500]**

Q.8 If the air strikes do not stop Serbian military attacks in Kosovo, would you favor or oppose sending U.S. ground troops to Kosovo along with troops from other NATO countries?

47	Favor
48	Oppose
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

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<sup>5</sup>

In March 1999, the item was listed "Ethnic conflict in Kosovo."

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=500]**

Q.9 If the air strikes do not stop Serbian military attacks in Kosovo, would you favor or oppose sending U.S. ground troops to Kosovo along with troops from other NATO countries to try to end the conflict in Kosovo?

51 Favor  
42 Oppose  
7 Don't know/Refused  
100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.10 Do you think the air strikes WILL be enough to make Yugoslav president Milosevic comply fully with the peace plan, OR do you think NATO ground forces WILL be required?

		----- Newsweek -----		
		<u>4/8-9/99</u>	<u>4/1-2/99</u>	<u>3-25-26/99</u>
19	Air strikes will be enough	15	12	21
65	Ground forces will be required	71	71	60
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>
100		100	100	100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=500]**

Q.11 If the air strikes against Serbia continue for at least several more weeks, in your opinion how important is it that President Clinton get the approval of Congress to continue the military action in Kosovo — very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

72 Very important  
19 Somewhat important  
5 Not too important  
3 Not at all important  
1 Don't know/Refused  
100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=500]**

Q.12 If U.S. ground troops are required to stop the Serbian military attacks in Kosovo, in your opinion how important is it that President Clinton get the approval of Congress before sending U.S. troops to Kosovo — very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

72 Very important  
17 Somewhat important  
5 Not too important  
4 Not at all important  
2 Don't know/Refused  
100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.13 Do you think Bill Clinton has explained the situation well enough so that you feel you understand why the United States and its NATO allies have launched air strikes against Serbian military targets, or hasn't he?

				----- CBS News -----	
		<u>3/28/99</u>		<u>3/24/99</u>	
50	Clinton has explained situation well enough	41		50	
43	Clinton has not explained situation well enough	45		33	
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>		<u>17</u>	
100		100		100	

Q.14a From what you've heard or read, do you think the NATO air strikes in Yugoslavia are making the Serbs more likely to agree to a peace agreement, or less likely to agree to a peace agreement?

34	Making Serbs more likely to agree to peace
53	Making Serbs less likely to agree to peace
4	<b>(VOL)</b> No difference
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.14b Looking ahead, in the end do you think the NATO air strikes in Yugoslavia will make the Serbs agree to a peace agreement, or don't you think the strikes will make the Serbs agree to a peace agreement?

35	Will make Serbs agree to peace
52	Will not make Serbs agree to peace
2	<b>(VOL)</b> No difference
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.15 Do you think U.S. efforts to end the fighting in Kosovo are taking too much attention away from domestic concerns here in the United States, OR do you think it's important for the U.S. to pay a lot of attention to the situation in Kosovo now?

35	Efforts are taking too much attention away from domestic concerns
59	Important for the U.S. to pay a lot of attention to the situation in Kosovo
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.16 Here are some reasons being given for using U.S. troops to help secure peace in Kosovo, Serbia. For each one, please tell me whether, in your opinion, it is a very important reason, a somewhat important reason, a not too important reason, or not at all important reason for the use of U.S. troops. How about... **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS)** — is this a very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important reason for the use of U.S. troops?

		<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a.	To prevent a larger war involving other countries in that part of Europe	56	24	11	7	2=100
	March, 1999	53	29	9	6	3=100
b.	To prevent the killing of citizens in Kosovo	69	19	6	5	1=100
	March, 1999 <sup>6</sup>	67	21	4	6	2=100
c.	To end starvation and a major refugee problem in that region	59	26	8	5	2=100
	March, 1999 <sup>7</sup>	56	29	6	6	3=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=500]**

Q.17 How worried are you **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS)** — very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

		<u>Very Worried</u>	<u>Somewhat Worried</u>	<u>Not too Worried</u>	<u>Not at all Worried</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a.	That U.S. troops in Kosovo might suffer casualties	66	25	5	3	1=100
	March, 1999	55	31	9	3	2=100
b.	About the financial cost of sending U.S. troops to Kosovo	38	35	16	11	*=100
	March, 1999	21	33	26	17	3=100
c.	That U.S. troops could be involved in Kosovo for a long time	63	25	9	3	*=100
d.	That U.S. attacks against Serbian forces are hurting our relations with Russia	28	31	21	18	2=100

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<sup>6</sup> March 1999 trend was worded, “To prevent the killing of innocent citizens in Kosovo.”

<sup>7</sup> March 1999 trend was worded, “To prevent starvation and a major refugee problem in that region.”

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=500]**

Q.18 How worried are you **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS)** — very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

	<u>Very Worried</u>	<u>Somewhat Worried</u>	<u>Not too Worried</u>	<u>Not at all Worried</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. That Serbian civilians are being hurt or killed by U.S. and NATO air strikes	40	38	16	5	1=100
b. About the attacks on ethnic Albanians by Serbian forces in Kosovo	44	39	10	4	3=100
c. About the impact of ethnic Albanian refugees on other countries in the region	28	44	18	7	3=100
d. About the conditions in which ethnic Albanian refugees are living	46	41	8	3	2=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.19 Thinking about the news coverage of the situation in Yugoslavia, which pictures and stories have caught your attention most — **(READ LIST; ROTATE ITEMS)**

Q.19a And after that, which pictures and stories have caught your attention the next most — **(READ LIST except item selected in Q.19; ROTATE ITEMS)**

<u>First Choice</u>	<u>Second Choice</u>	
30	26	Pictures and stories about the refugees leaving Kosovo;
8	15	Pictures and stories about the air attacks and damage in Serbia;
24	25	Pictures and stories about the victims of violence in Kosovo;
35	29	Pictures and stories about the three captured U.S. soldiers
<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	



- Q.20 Have you read or heard anything about what **(INSERT NAME; ROTATE ITEMS)** has said concerning U.S. and NATO efforts to end the fighting in Kosovo?
- Q.21 Overall, do you mostly agree or mostly disagree with what **(REPEAT NAME)** has said concerning U.S. and NATO efforts to end the fighting in Kosovo?

		<b>BASED ON THOSE WHO HEARD/READ:</b>						
		Yes, heard	No,	DK/	Mostly	Mostly	DK/	
		<u>Or Read</u>	<u>Have not</u>	<u>Refused</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Refused</u>	<u>(N)</u>
a.	Al Gore	12	87	1=100	59	34	7=100	(137)
b.	John McCain	17	82	1=100	61	25	14=100	(191)
c.	Dan Quayle	10	89	1=100	38	38	24=100	(116)
d.	George W. Bush	11	88	1=100	70	23	7=100	(111)
e.	Elizabeth Dole	12	87	1=100	63	21	16=100	(126)
f.	Patrick Buchanan	10	89	1=100	44	43	13=100	(109)

- Q.22 Do you think the media is giving too MUCH attention to the military attacks in Kosovo, too LITTLE attention, or about the right amount?

21 Too much attention  
 8 Too little attention  
 67 About the right amount  
4 Don't know/Refused  
 100