

IRAQ WAR

Americans and Britons Express Little Confidence in Iraq Withdrawal by 2011

A majority of respondents in both nations agree with Tony Blair's notion that removing Saddam Hussein was the right course of action.

[LONDON – Feb. 8, 2010] – As the seventh anniversary of the start of the Iraq War approaches, people in the United States and Great Britain are doubtful about the scheduled withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq, and sizeable proportions regret the decision to launch military action in the first place, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of representative national samples of 2,010 British adults and 1,001 American adults, two thirds of Britons (68%) and more than half of Americans (58%) say they currently oppose the war in Iraq.

Almost half of Americans (48%) believe the U.S. government made a mistake in launching military action against Iraq in 2003. This view is shared by three-in-five Britons (62%).

The Future

A security agreement signed between the United States and Iraq calls for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq by the end of 2011.

Only 31 per cent of Americans—and 21 per cent of Britons—are "very confident" or "moderately confident" that the timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops will be met.

KEY FINDINGS

- **62% of Britons and 48% of Americans think the U.S. government made a mistake in launching military action against Iraq in 2003**
- **21% of Britons and 31% of Americans are confident that U.S. troops will withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011**
- **55% of Britons and 69% of Americans think removing Saddam Hussein from power was the right thing to do, even if his regime did not possess weapons of mass destruction**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From February 2 to February 3, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,010 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists, and 1,001 randomly selected American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/-2.2% in Britain and +/-3.1% in the U.S. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain and the United States. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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One-in-four Britons (24%) believe that the world will look back on the war in Iraq in twenty years and brand it as a defeat for the U.S. and its allies, while 11 per cent claim it will be regarded as a victory. Americans are almost evenly divided in their assessment (18% defeat, 19% victory).

Tony Blair

Recently, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said that removing Saddam Hussein from power was the right thing to do, even if his regime did not possess weapons of mass destruction. More than half of Britons (55%) agree with Blair's statement, along with seven-in-ten Americans (69%).



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Iraq War		
Now, we'd like to ask you some questions about the war in Iraq. Which of the following statements best describes how you felt about the war in Iraq when it first began, in March 2003?		
	GREAT BRITAIN 	UNITED STATES 
I strongly supported the war in Iraq	9%	20%
I moderately supported the war in Iraq	23%	21%
I moderately opposed the war in Iraq	23%	17%
I strongly opposed the war in Iraq	38%	34%
Not sure	7%	8%
Supported the war – Net	32%	41%
Opposed the war – Net	61%	51%

Iraq War		
And at this moment, do you support or oppose the war in Iraq?		
	GREAT BRITAIN 	UNITED STATES 
Strongly support	7%	12%
Moderately support	19%	22%
Moderately oppose	22%	21%
Strongly oppose	45%	37%
Not sure	7%	8%
Support – Net	26%	34%
Oppose – Net	68%	58%

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Iraq War		
Do you think the U.S. government made the right decision, or made a mistake, in launching military action against Iraq in 2003?		
	GREAT BRITAIN 	UNITED STATES 
Made the right decision	22%	35%
Made a mistake	62%	48%
Not sure	16%	18%



Iraq War		
A security agreement signed between the United States and Iraq calls for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq by the end of 2011. Thinking about this, how confident are you that this timetable will be met?		
	GREAT BRITAIN 	UNITED STATES 
Very confident	3%	6%
Moderately confident	18%	25%
Not too confident	45%	39%
Not confident at all	26%	20%
Not sure	8%	9%

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Iraq War		
In 20 years, how do you expect the world to look back on the war in Iraq?		
	GREAT BRITAIN 	UNITED STATES 
As a defeat for the U.S. and its allies	24%	18%
As a victory for the U.S. and its allies	11%	19%
Neither	52%	44%
Not sure	13%	19%

Iraq War		
Recently, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said that removing Saddam Hussein from power was the right thing to do, even if his regime did not possess weapons of mass destruction. Do you agree or disagree with Blair's statement?		
	GREAT BRITAIN 	UNITED STATES 
Strongly agree	21%	42%
Moderately agree	34%	27%
Moderately disagree	15%	9%
Strongly disagree	22%	8%
Not sure	9%	14%
Agree – Net	55%	69%
Disagree – Net	37%	17%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

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