



# Executive Summary

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- Despite the persistence of negative attitudes toward several U.S. policies in the Arab World, there has been an uptick in U.S. favorable ratings in some Arab countries and an increase in Arab support for President Obama in all countries. While both remain well below the 50% level, the increase is, nevertheless, noteworthy. In most Arab countries, attitudes toward the U.S. are back to where they were in 2009, and are higher than the Bush-era lows.
- Arabs judge the Obama Administration to have been most effective in “ending the U.S. presence in Iraq” and “working to end Iran’s nuclear program” and least effective in “improving relations with the Arab/Muslim Worlds” and handling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab Spring.
- Strong majorities (from 60% to 83%) say it is important for their countries to have “good relations with the United States.” And majorities say that the Obama Administration is at least “trying” though has not yet been effective in maintaining those good relations – with Saudis, Emiratis, and Egyptians giving the Administration the highest scores.
- Note that while there has been an uptick in overall favorable ratings toward the United States in some Arab countries, Iran and Turkey continue their downward slide in Arab opinion. Iran’s began after 2008; Turkey’s slide began in 2012. Saudi Arabia, followed by China, continue to enjoy strong support in most Arab countries.
- Far and away Arabs view Bill Clinton as the most positive U.S. president in recent history and George W. Bush as the most negative. Opinion on Barack Obama is divided.
- On Syria: Strong majorities in every country favor U.S. policies that support a negotiated solution to the conflict, coupled with more support for Syrian refugees. Majorities in all countries oppose any form of U.S. military engagement (i.e., “no-fly zone,” air strikes, or supplying advanced weapons to the opposition).
- On Egypt: Majorities in most of the Arab countries covered in the study say the United States was too supportive of Hosni Mubarak and not supportive enough of Mohammed Morsi. Opinion is divided on whether the United States has shown too much or not enough support for the current interim government.
- On Iran: There appears to be strong Arab support for the U.S.-led negotiations to limit Iran’s nuclear program, but little confidence that these negotiations will succeed or that they will be of benefit to Arab countries.
- On Palestine and Democracy: Strong majorities in every Arab country believe that the United States is not even-handed in its approach to Israeli-Palestinian peace-making and have very little confidence that the United States is committed to an independent Palestinian state. There is a sharp decline in confidence that the United States is committed to democracy across the Middle East.

- Obstacles to peace and stability in the Arab World: Far and away Arabs view the greatest obstacles they face to be the continued occupation of Palestinian lands and U.S. interference in the region.