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Abstract

Attention to news regarding international affairs has been slight in recent decades in the United States. Since systematic polling of public knowledge of and opinion on foreign affairs and foreign aid began in the 1970s, the American public has demonstrated little familiarity and interest in such issues. In the past two years, since the beginning of the Bush administration, American attention to international issues increased slightly following the bombing of the World Trade Center and the beginning of the U.S. war on terrorism. The purpose of this paper is to monitor changes in public knowledge of and opinion toward U.S. involvement in foreign affairs, with particular attention to changes in attitudes on U.S. foreign aid for development assistance, family planning, and environmental protection.