Korea, Containing Communism

During the Korean War, more Americans believed that the United States was right to send troops to stop the communist invasion than believed it was wrong. In general, containing communism had strong support.

Question: As things stand now, do you think the United States was right or wrong in deciding to send American troops to stop the communist invasion in Korea?

The United States was right to send troops to stop the communist invasion in Korea

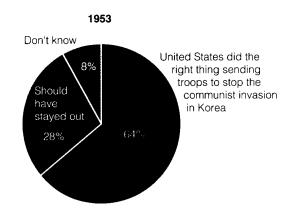




Dec. 1951 56% 34% 10%

Jun. 1952 55% 38% 7%

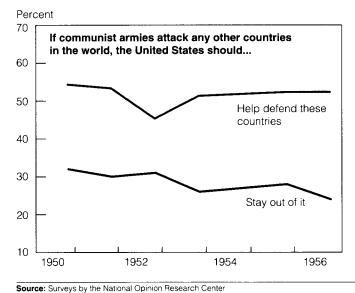
Question: As you look back on the Korean war, do you think the United States did the right thing in sending troops to stop the communist invasion, or should we have stayed out of it entirely?



Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center.

Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, September 1953.

Question: If communist armies attack any other countries in the world, do you think the United States should stay out of it, or should we help defend these countries, like we did in Korea?



	Help	Stay
	defend	out
Dec. 1950	54%	32%
Dec. 1951	53	30
Oct. 1952	45	31
Nov. 1953	51	26
Oct. 1955	52	28
Nov. 1956	52	24

Question: Do you think it makes much difference to our country whether China goes communist or not?

1948

Yes, makes much difference to our country whether China goes communist



Question: Do you think the United States should send military supplies to help those countries in Asia that are threatened by communism?

1952

U.S. should send military supplies to help Asian countries threatened by communism

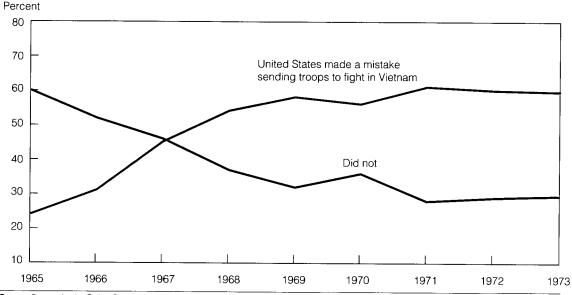


Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of June 1952.

Vietnam

The view that we made a mistake sending troops to fight in Vietnam took hold after 1965. Still, Americans wanted to keep the pressure up on the North, including bombing, and saw themselves more as hawks than doves.

Question: In view of the developments since we entered the fighting in Vietnam, do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Vietnam?



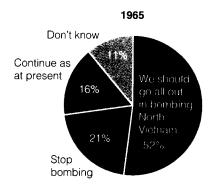
	Made	Did
	mistake	not
Sep. 1965	24%	60%
Nov. 1966	31	52
Dec. 1967	45	46
Oct. 1968	54	37
Sep. 1969	58	32
May 1970	56	36
May 1971	61	28
Jan. 1973	60	29

Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of January 12-15, 1973.

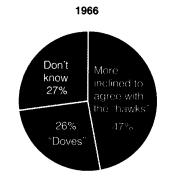
Question: Some people have said we should go all out in bombing North Vietnam until the communists are ready to negotiate. Others say we should stop bombing North Vietnam right now and call upon the communists to negotiate. What is your opinion, should we go all out or stop bombing in North Vietnam?

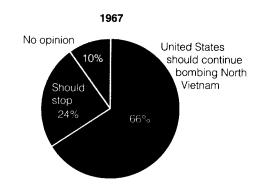
Question: Are you more inclined to agree with the "hawks" or the "doves" on the issue of fighting in Vietnam?

Question: In your opinion, should the United States continue the bombing of North Vietnam, or should we stop the bombing?



11-16 1965





Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, December

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 24-29,

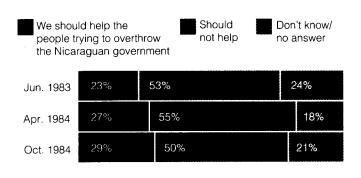
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, February 16-21, 1967

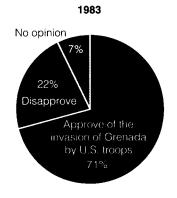
Nicaragua, Grenada, Libya, Iraq

The guick strategic actions in Grenada and Libya had wide public support, and solid majorities believed, and continue to believe, that the war to defeat Iraq was worth its costs to us. Americans were consistently skeptical, however, of U.S. involvement in Nicaragua.

Question: Ronald Reagan says the United States should help the people in Nicaragua who are trying to overthrow the pro-Soviet government there. Other people say that even if our country does not like the government in Nicaragua, we should not help overthrow it. Do you think we should help the people trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua, or should we not help them?

Question: Now I want to ask you a few questions about the events in the Caribbean island of Grenada. First, would you say you approve or disapprove of the invasion of Grenada by U.S. troops?





Source: Surveys by CBS News/New York Times, May 29-June 2, 1985.

Source: Surveys by ABC News/Washington Post, November 3-7, 1983

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of United States jets bombing Libya last night (April 14, 1986)? (CBS/NYT)

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the

United States having launched the military air strike against Libya on April 14, 1986? (ABC/WP)

1986

Approve of U.S. jets bombing Libya last night

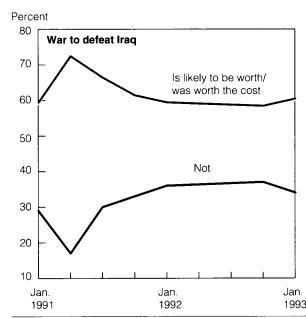


Approve of United States having launched the military air strike against Libya on April 14, 1986



Source: Surveys by CBS News/New York Times and ABC News/Washington Post, latest that of May 15-19, 1986

Question: Given the loss of life and the other costs of the war in the Persian Gulf, do you think the war to defeat Iraq is likely to be worth the cost (Jan.-Feb.). Given the loss of life and other costs of war in the Persian Gulf, do you think the war to defeat Iraq was worth the cost, or not?



Jan.	1992	59%	29%
Feb.		72	17
Jun.		66	30
Oct.		61	33
Jan.		59	36
Dec.		58	37
Jan.		60	34

Worth it Not

Note: For months when more than one survey was conducted, the latest asking is shown. Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, latest that of January 12-14, 1993

Somalia, Former Yugoslavia

Americans support U.S. humanitarian efforts in Somalia, though we worry about an open-ended commitment. We are opposed to U.S. military involvement in the former Yugoslavia, but supportive of U.N. efforts there.

Question: Now I'd like to turn to the issue of American troops in Somalia. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the presence of U.S. troops in Somalia?

Question: Do you think U.S. troops should stay in Somalia only as long as it takes to set up supply lines to make sure people don't starve, or do you think they should stay there as long as it takes to make sure Somalia will remain peaceful?

Question: Do you think it would be possible to make sure that food gets to the people in Somalia without U.S. military involvement, or do you think this could not be done without the U.S. military?

1993

Jan

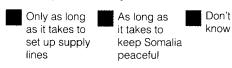
1993

Approve of the presence of U.S. troops in Somalia



79%

U.S. troops should stay in Somalia...





1992 Don't know/ no answer 9% Possible 20% 71% Would not be possible to deliver food without U.S. military involvement

Source: Survey by CBS News, December 6, 1992.

Source: Surveys by Yankelovich Partners, Inc., for *Time* and CNN, January 13–14, 1993.

Question: As you may know, violence has erupted in the city of Sarajevo and the surrounding area called Bosnia, one of the new republics that used to be part of Yugoslavia. Should the United States do more to stop the war in Sarajevo and Bosnia, or has the United States already done enough?

United States has done enough to stop the war Should in Sarajevo and Bosnia do more Aug 1992

30%

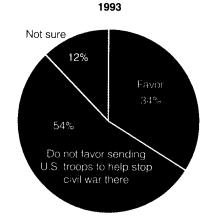
Question: Do you favor or oppose the United States sending troops to the former Yugoslavia to try to help stop the civil war

there?

Note: *=includes 3% who volunteered the response "shouldn't

Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, January 12-14,

Question: Please tell me if you support or oppose the following policies in Yugoslavia, Bosnia, and Iraq.



1993

Support sending United Nations troops including some U.S. troops to help Bosnians defend themselves against the Serbs



Source: Surveys by Yankelovich Partners. Inc., for Time and CNN. January 13-14, 1993

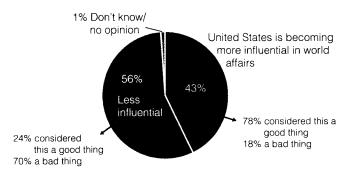
Note: In an August 1992 NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey. 33% favored sending troops and 54% opposed this measure Source: Surveys by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, January

Source: Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, January

Offense and Defense

Americans who think we are losing influence in the world see it as a bad thing; those who see us gaining see it as a plus. In terms of our general involvement abroad, we prefer U.N. or allied actions but recognize that there will be times when we must act alone. We want a defensive posture that is neither too weak nor unnecessarily costly.

Question: Generally speaking, is the United States becoming more influential or less influential in world affairs?



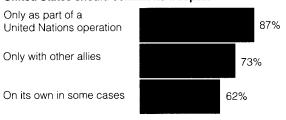
Question: When it comes to foreign policy and defense issues, some people think of themselves as hawks—or people who believe the United States should be ready and willing to use military force around the world. Others see themselves as doves—or people who are very reluctant to use military force. How about you, on a scale of 1 to 7 where 1 is dovish and 7 is very hawkish, where are you on this scale of 1 to 7?



Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, May 17-21, 1990

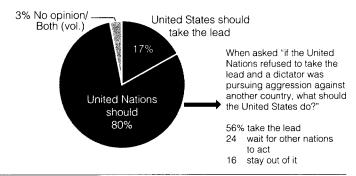
Question: Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

United States should commit its troops...



Source: Survey by the Los Angeles Times, March 9–11, 1991.

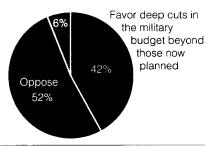
Question: Thinking about the United States and the United Nations, when faced with future problems involving aggression, who should take the lead?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, December 3-4, 1992.

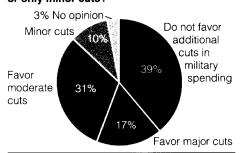
Source: Surveys by Market Strategies and Greenberg-Lake: The Analysis Group, June 23–July 1, 1991.

Question: I'm going to read you some proposals that are now being discussed nationally. As I read each, tell me if you generally favor or oppose it.



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for *USA Today* and CNN, June 12–14, 1992.

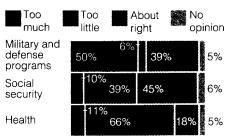
Question: Considering the state of the world today, do you favor or oppose additional cuts in U.S. military spending? If "yes": Would you favor major cuts, moderate cuts, or only minor cuts?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for *Life*, March 30–April 5, 1992.

Question: Do you think the share of tax dollars spent by the federal government on...is too much, too little, or about right?

Share of tax dollars spent on...is



Source: Survey by the CBS/New York Times, February 9–11, 1993.