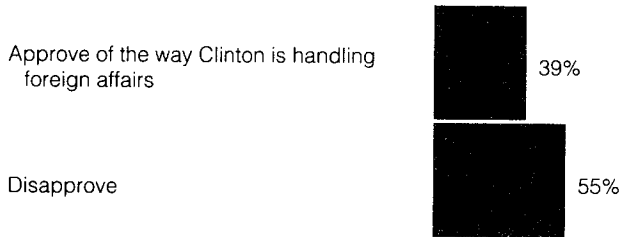


CLINTON AND FOREIGN POLICY

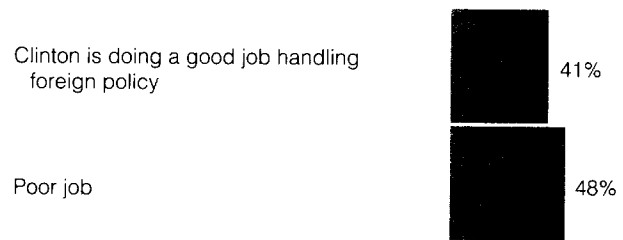
A review of public opinion data on President Clinton's handling of foreign policy shows serious concerns. Nearly three-quarters say he needs to make fundamental changes in the way he makes foreign policy decisions. Nearly two-thirds are uneasy about his ability to deal with an international crisis.

Question: **Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling foreign affairs?**



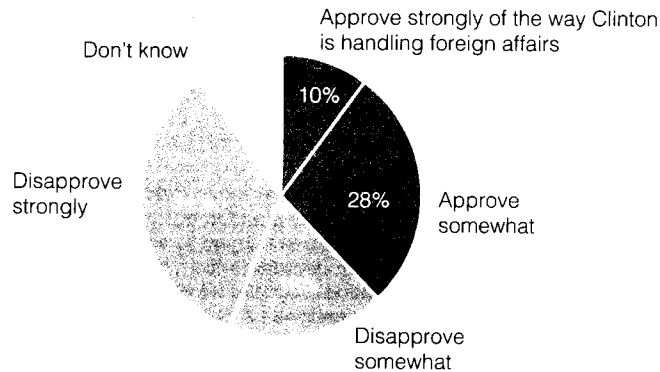
Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, August 5-7, 1994.

Question: **Do you think President Clinton is doing a good job or a poor job handling foreign policy?**



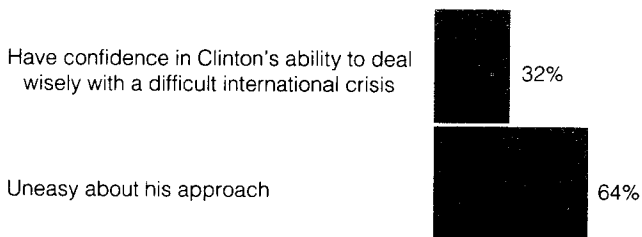
Note: Sample = 600 adults.
Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time and CNN, August 4, 1994.

Question: **Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling foreign affairs? (If approve/disapprove, ask:) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or (approve/disapprove) somewhat?**



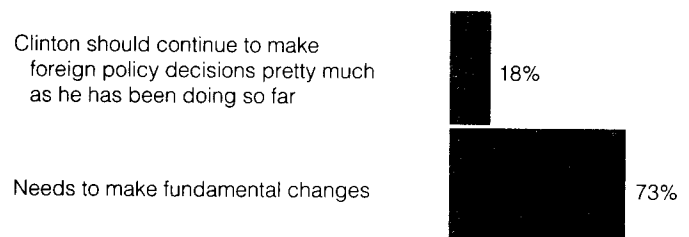
Source: Survey by the Los Angeles Times, July 23-26, 1994.

Question: **Do you have confidence in Bill Clinton's ability to deal wisely with a difficult international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?**



Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, July 15-17, 1994.

Question: **Do you think Bill Clinton should continue to make foreign policy decisions pretty much as he has been doing so far, or do you think Clinton needs to make fundamental changes in how he makes foreign policy decisions?**

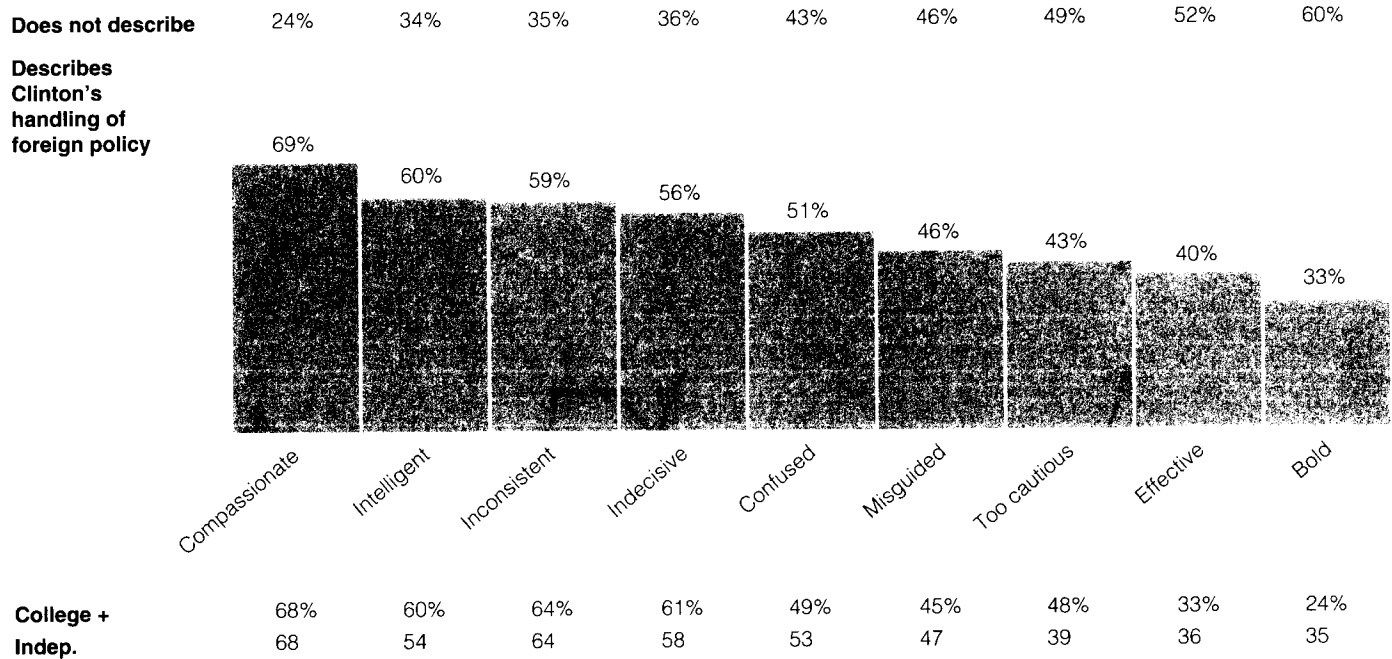


Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time and CNN, October 21, 1993.

The Nature of Our Concerns

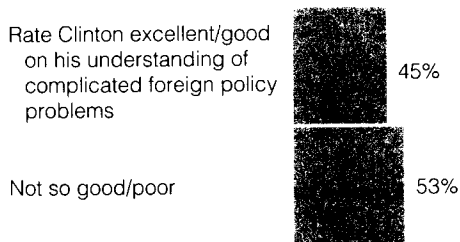
Most people don't think Clinton has a clear plan for foreign policy. Those who might be expected to be more attentive—the college educated and independents—are more critical than the population about his execution of foreign policy, though not about the qualities he brings to the job.

Question: Please tell me whether, in your view, each of the following describes or does not describe President Clinton's handling of foreign policy.



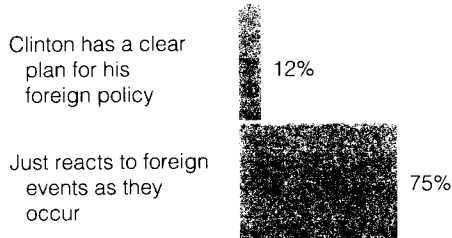
Note: Sample = 600 adults.
Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time and CNN, April 21, 1994.

Question: On another subject, how would you rate Clinton on his understanding of complicated foreign policy problems—excellent, good, not so good, or poor?



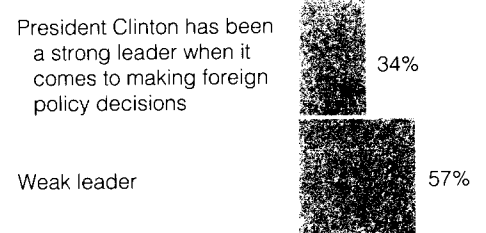
Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, May 12-15, 1994.

Question: Do you think Bill Clinton has a clear plan for his foreign policy, or do you think he just reacts to foreign events as they occur?



Source: Survey by CBS News, June 20-22, 1994.

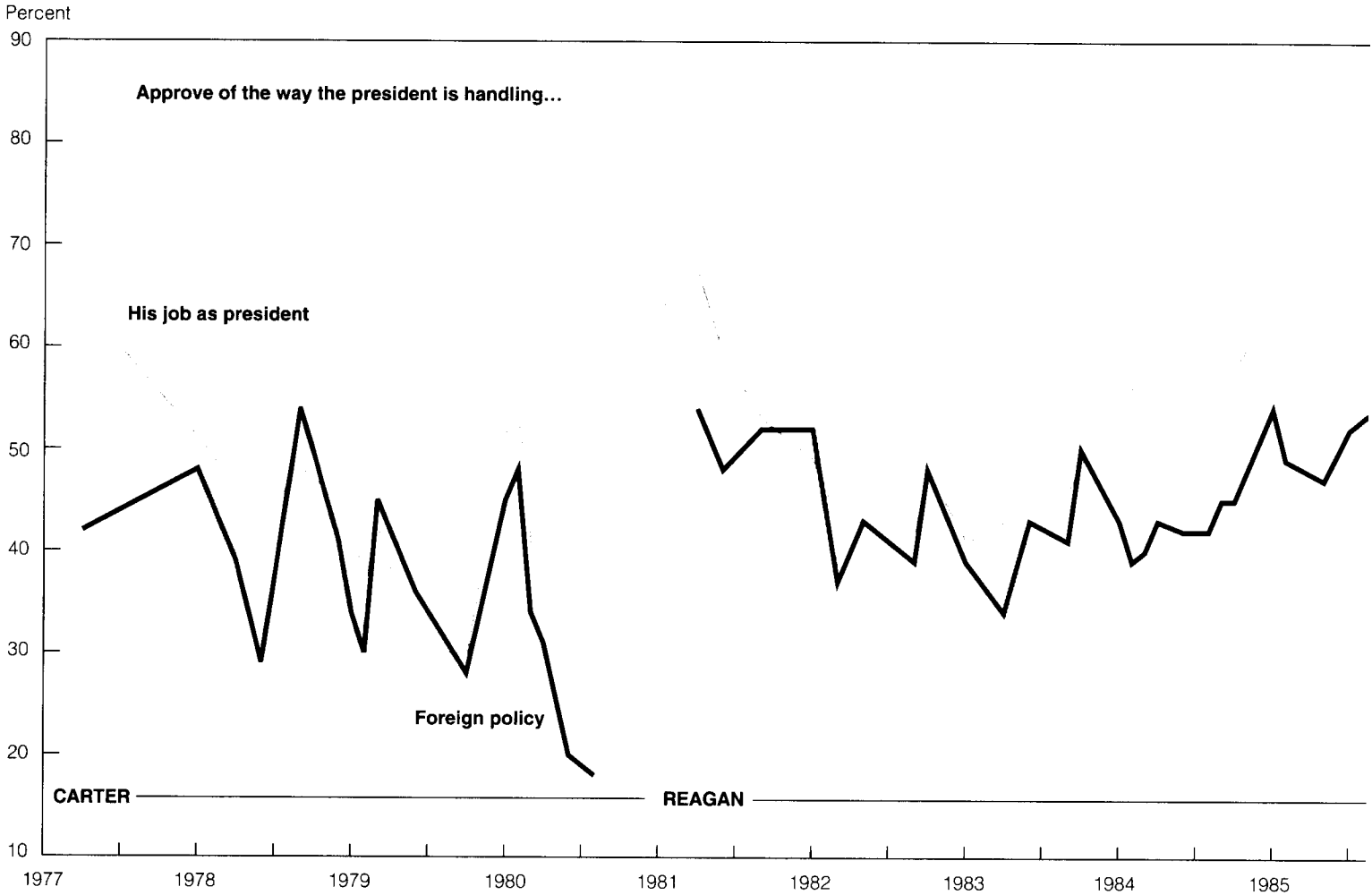
Question: In general, do you think President Clinton has been a strong leader or a weak leader when it comes to making foreign policy decisions?



Note: Sample = 600 adults.
Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time and CNN, August 4, 1994.

Clinton and His Predecessors

A president's standing in specific areas is strongly influenced by our overall confidence in him. This explains why ratings of job performance and foreign policy tend to move together. The data on page 112 about the president's handling of the economy make the same point.



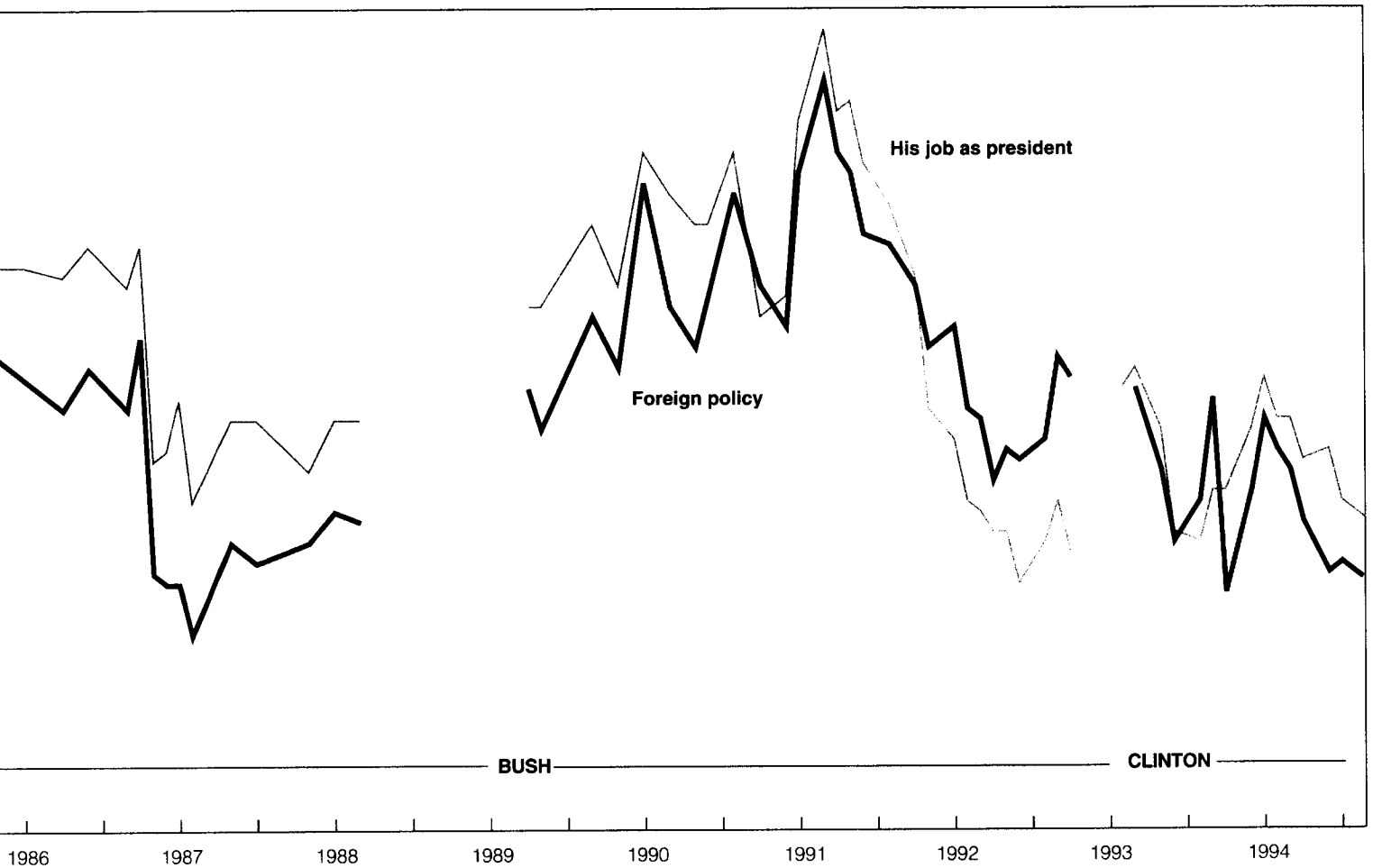
Approve of how president is handling...

| Year | Carter | | | | | | | | | | | | Reagan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|--------|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | '77 | | | '78 | | | '79 | | | '80 | | | '81 | | | '82 | | | '83 | | | | | | | | | |
| Month | 4 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| Foreign policy | 42 | 48 | 39 | 29 | 54 | 41 | 34 | 30 | 45 | 36 | 28 | 45 | 48 | 34 | 31 | 20 | 18 | 54 | 48 | 52 | 52 | 37 | 43 | 39 | 48 | 39 | 34 | 43 |
| His job as president | 64 | 51 | 46 | 43 | 48 | 45 | 42 | 37 | 42 | 30 | 30 | 52 | 53 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 26 | 67 | 59 | 53 | 49 | 43 | 43 | 42 | 48 | 41 | 43 | 47 |

| Year | Bush | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | '89 | | | '90 | | | '91 | | | '92 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Month | 4 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Foreign policy | 53 | 49 | 60 | 55 | 73 | 61 | 57 | 62 | 72 | 63 | 59 | 74 | 83 | 76 | 74 | 68 | 67 | 63 | 57 | 59 | 51 | 50 | 44 | 47 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 56 |
| His job as president | 61 | 61 | 69 | 63 | 76 | 72 | 69 | 69 | 76 | 60 | 62 | 79 | 88 | 80 | 81 | 75 | 71 | 64 | 51 | 48 | 42 | 41 | 39 | 39 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 42 |

Source: Surveys by CBS News/New York Times, latest that of August 16-17, 1994.

Still, Reagan's overall ratings were considerably higher than his ratings on foreign policy. And at the end of his presidency, George Bush's marks on handling foreign policy surpassed his overall marks. Clinton's foreign policy ratings have generally been somewhat lower than his overall ratings.



| | '84 | | | | | | | | | | | | '85 | | | | | '86 | | | | | '87 | | | | | '88 | | |
|---|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|--|--|
| 0 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 3 | | |
| 1 | 50 | 43 | 39 | 40 | 43 | 42 | 42 | 45 | 45 | 54 | 49 | 47 | 52 | 56 | 54 | 51 | 55 | 51 | 58 | 35 | 34 | 34 | 29 | 38 | 36 | 38 | 41 | 40 | | |
| 6 | — | 57 | 56 | 57 | 53 | 58 | 54 | 58 | 58 | 65 | 59 | 59 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 64 | 67 | 63 | 67 | 46 | 47 | 52 | 42 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 50 | 50 | | |

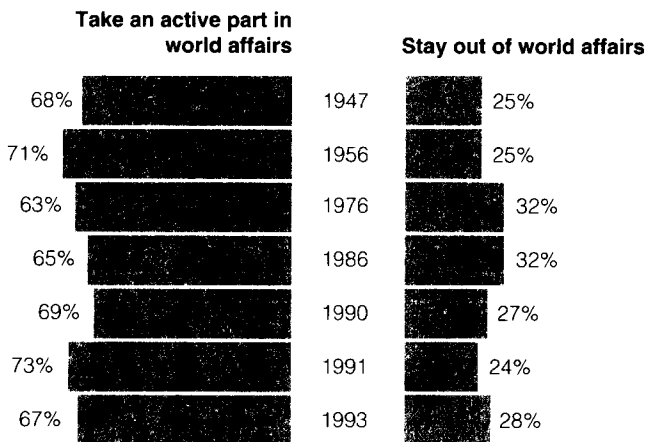
| Clinton | '93 | | | | | | | | | | | | '94 | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|
| 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | | | |
| 4 | — | 53 | 45 | 38 | 42 | 52 | 33 | 38 | 43 | 50 | 47 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 36 | 34 | | | | |
| 7 | 53 | 55 | 49 | 38 | 38 | 43 | 43 | 46 | 51 | 54 | 50 | 50 | 46 | 47 | 42 | 40 | | | | |

Defining Our Role

While conventional wisdom suggests that Americans want to quit the world, the data show a different picture. As many Americans today (67%) as 50 years ago (68%) say we should take an active part in world affairs. A shared leadership role is, not surprisingly, strongly preferred.

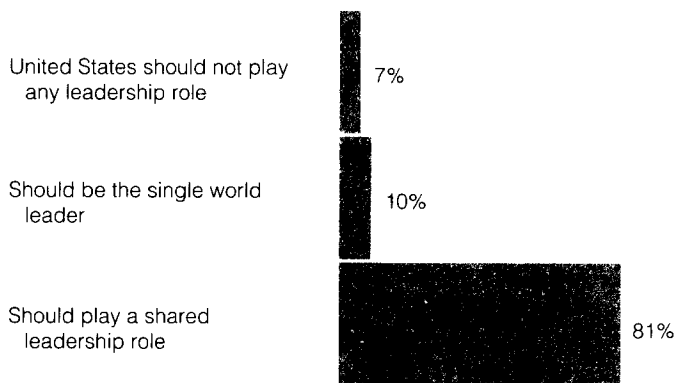
Question: **Do you think it will be best for the future of this country if we take an active part in world affairs, or if we stay out of world affairs?**

Best for the future of this country if we...



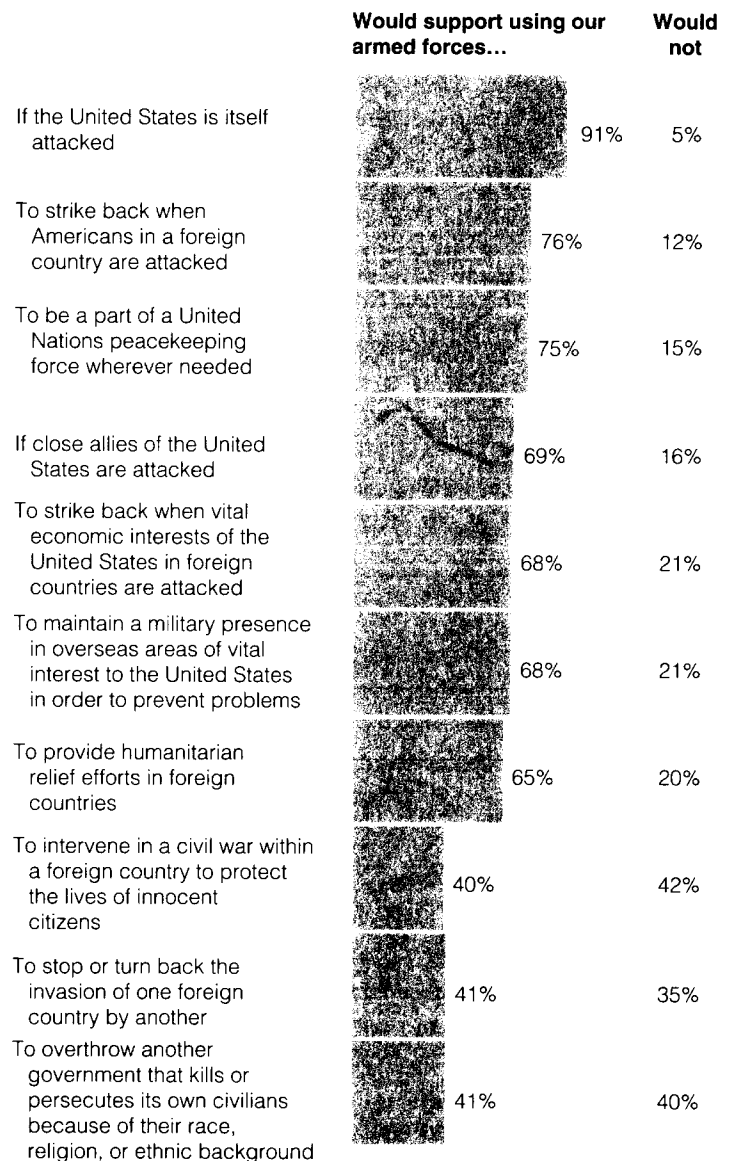
Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of February–April, 1993

Question: **What kind of leadership role should the United States play in the world? Should the United States be the most active of the leading nations, or should it be no more or less active than other leading nations?**



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Times Mirror Center for the People and the Press, September 9–15, 1993.

Question: **There are numerous situations—some strictly military, some other than military—in which our armed forces could be used. As I read each situation, please tell me whether you definitely support using our armed forces, probably would, probably would not, or definitely would not.**



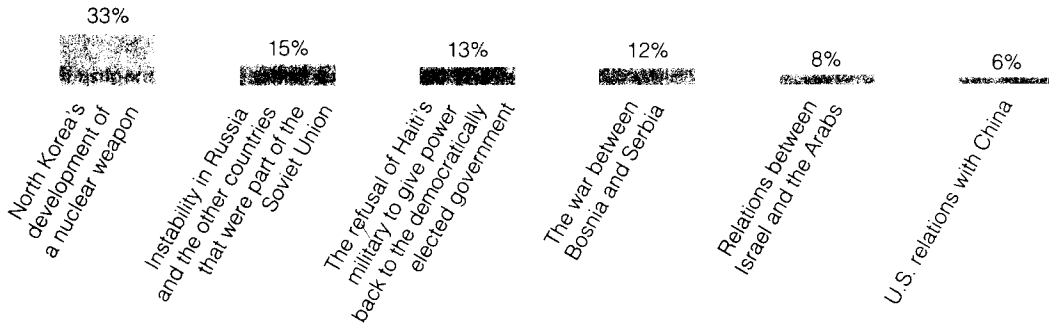
Source: Survey by the Roper Organization (Roper Reports 94–3), February 12–26, 1994.

Trouble Spots

President Clinton gets higher marks on handling foreign policy in areas where we believe the United States has a vital interest. Our greatest foreign policy concern is North Korea's development of nuclear weapons.

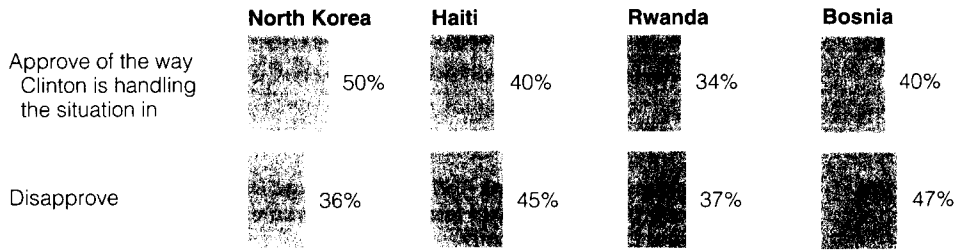
Question: Which one of the following do you think is the most serious foreign policy issue facing the United States today?

Most serious foreign policy issue facing the United States

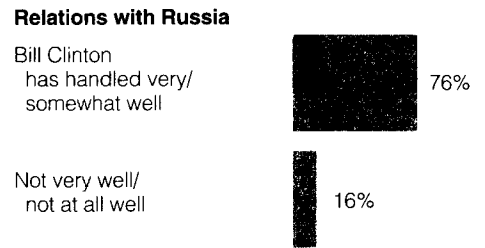


Source: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, July 23-26, 1994.

Question: I'm going to name a few countries. For each one, would you please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling the situation in that country. How about (name first country)? Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling the situation in (name first country)? How about...?

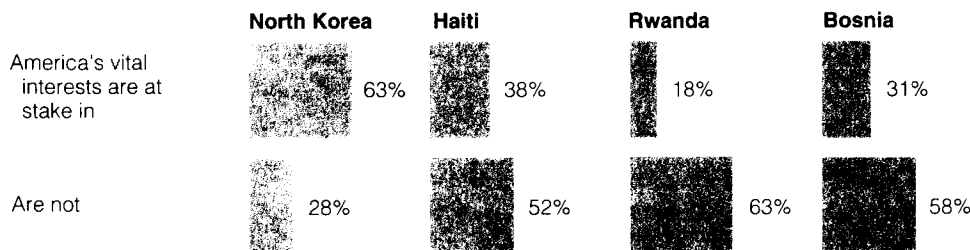


Question: For each of the following, please tell me how well you think Bill Clinton has handled the situation—very well, somewhat well, not very well, or not at all well?

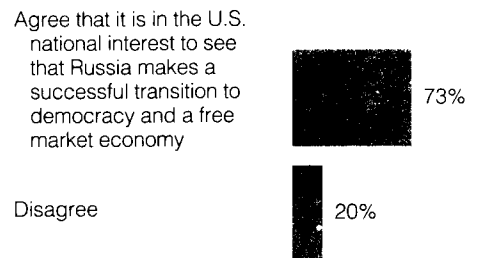


Source: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, April 30-May 3, 1994.

Question: Now for each country would you please tell me whether or not you think America's vital interests are at stake in the situation involving that country. Do you think America's vital interests are at stake in (name first country) or not? How about...?



Question: Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



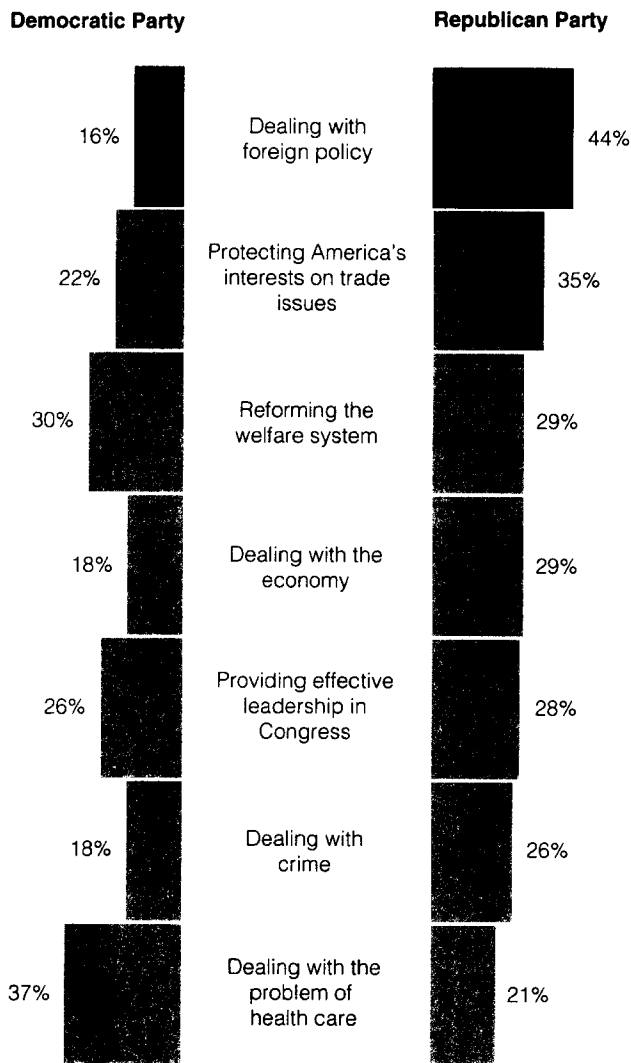
Source: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, April 17-20, 1993.

Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, June 23-26, 1994.

The Republicans have an advantage on handling foreign policy and on trade. A plurality think President Clinton is devoting the right amount of time to foreign policy problems. In George Bush's last year in office, a majority thought he was devoting too much time to them.

Question: **Now, let me read you some specific issues. When it comes to ..., which party do you think would do a better job—the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, both about the same, or neither?**

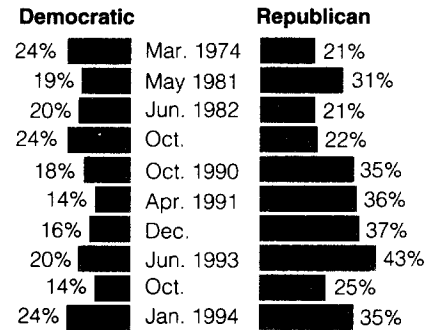
Would do a better job...



Source: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, July 23–26, 1994.

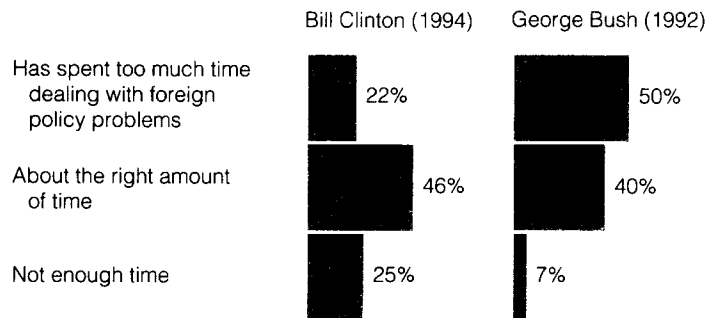
Question: **Do you think the Democratic Party or the Republican Party can do a better job in each of the following, or don't you think there's any difference between them?**

Party that can do a better job of managing the country's foreign policy*



Note: *In 1974–82, refers to "foreign affairs and relations abroad." "No difference" responses ranged from 28–56%.
Source: Surveys by Yankelovich Partners for Time and CNN, latest that of January 17–18, 1994.

Question: **Do you think (Bill Clinton/George Bush) has spent too much time dealing with foreign policy problems, not enough time, or about the right amount?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for USA Today and CNN, latest that of June 11–12, 1994.