

# Part V: 1978-1987

## Regrouping, and Changing Direction

**“REAGAN TAKES OATH AS  
40TH PRESIDENT; PROMISES AN ‘ERA  
OF NATIONAL RENEWAL’”**

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*  
JANUARY 21, 1981

**“HOUSE APPROVES BUDGET PLAN  
SUPPORTED BY REAGAN, 270-154;  
DEMOCRATS SPLIT ON KEY VOTE/THE  
REAGAN VICTORY”**

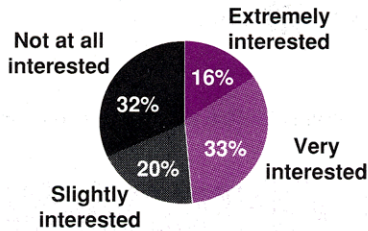
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*  
MAY 8, 1981

**“FOR MOSCOW AND BEIJING,  
AIR IS FILLED WITH CHANGE”**

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*  
NOVEMBER 4, 1987

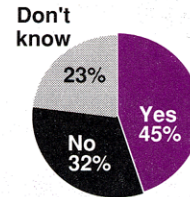
## Popular Culture and Style

**Question:** ...Please tell me how interested you are in each of these [library] services...a computer which you can use to search for information or books you want?



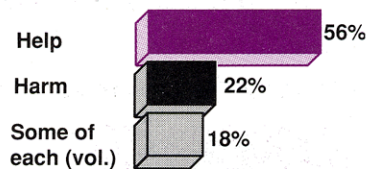
7/21-8/14/78

**Question:** Does the school your child attends have a computer that students can use?



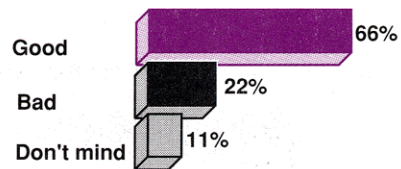
5/13-22/83

**Question:** In the long run, do you think that scientific advances we are making will help or harm mankind?



April-June 1981

**Question:** ...Please tell me...whether you think...[more emphasis on the development of technology] would be a good thing, a bad thing, or don't you mind...?



April-June 1981

**Question:** Could you estimate how many hours you spend on an average weekday, that is from Monday to Friday, watching the TV...?

Less than 1 hour/Between 1-2 hours	38%
Between 2-4 hours	37%
More than 4 hours	25%

April-June 1981

**Question:** What would you say is your main source of news about national and international events?

Television news programs	53%
A daily newspaper	27%
Radio	7%
Other	13%

July 27-30, 1984

**Question:** When was the last time you, yourself, went out to the movies?

Over 1 year/Never attend	47%
30 days to 1 year	29%
7 days to 30 days	16%
Within 7 days	8%

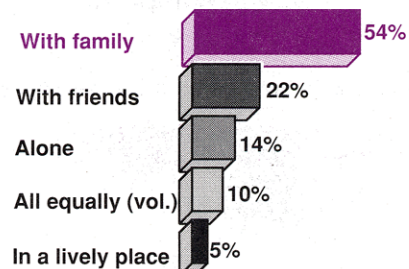
April 10-13, 1981

**Question:** Aside from any work you do here at home or at a job, do you do anything regularly—that is on a daily basis—that helps you keep physically fit?



5/7-13/84

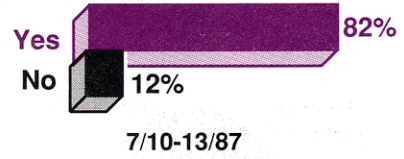
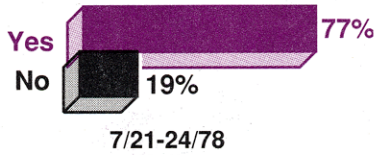
**Question:** During your leisure time do you prefer to be alone, to be with your family, to be with friends or to be in a lively place with many people?



1/81-12/31/81

## Social Issues

**Question:** If your party nominated a woman for president, would you vote for her if she were qualified for the job?



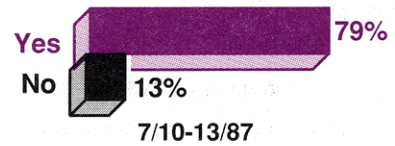
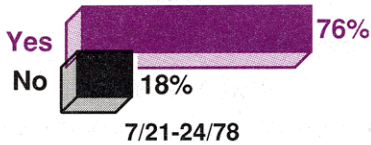
**Question:** Let's talk about the ideal life for you personally. Which one of the alternatives on this card do you feel would provide the most interesting and satisfying life for you, personally?

**Note: Asked of women only.**

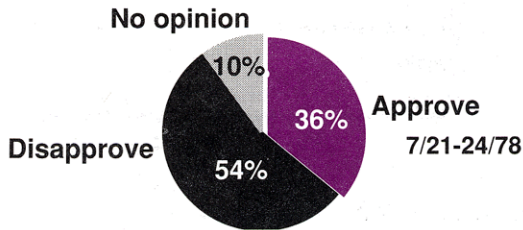
Married with children, full-time job	40%	Unmarried, with full-time job	6%
Married with children, no full-time job	39%	Married, no children, full-time job	5%
No opinion	8%	Married, no children, no full-time job	2%

6/25-28/82

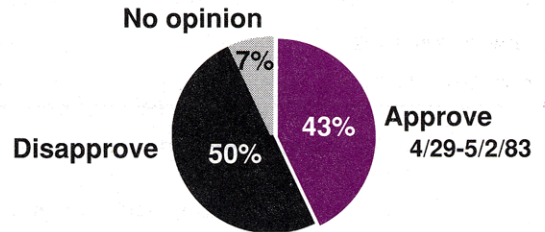
**Question:** If your party nominated a generally well-qualified man for president, and he happened to be black, would you vote for him?



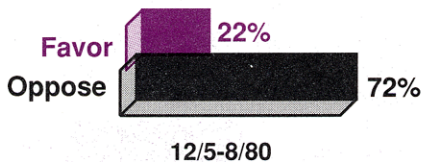
**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of marriage between whites and non-whites?



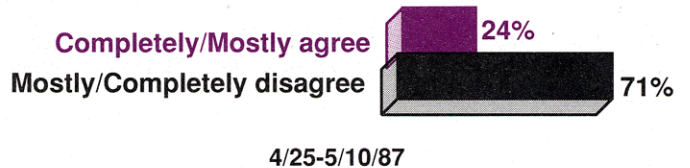
**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of marriage between blacks and whites?



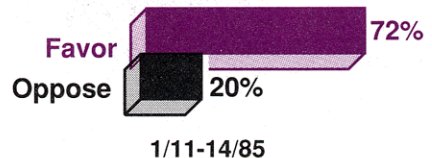
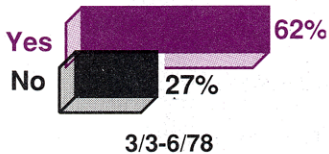
**Question:** Do you favor or oppose busing children to achieve a better racial balance in the schools?



**Question:** For each statement, please tell me whether you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it, or completely disagree with it...We should make every possible effort to improve the position of blacks and other minorities, even if it means giving them preferential treatment.



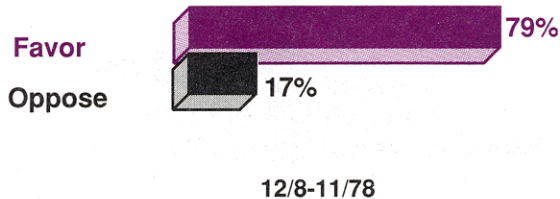
**Question:** Are you in favor of the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?





## Public Policy

**Question:** It has been proposed that all able-bodied mothers of children thirteen and older who are on welfare be required to register with state employment offices and to take any full-time work available. Would you favor or oppose such a plan?



**Question:** It is estimated that the federal government will have a deficit of as much as \$200 billion for fiscal 1984—that is, it will spend more than it takes in—unless some steps are taken to reduce the deficit. Basically, there are only a few ways this deficit can be reduced. ...[Do] you approve or disapprove of each of the following ways...?

	Approve	Disapprove
Make cuts in defense spending	57%	35%
Make further cuts in government spending for social programs	41%	52%
Raise income taxes	18%	77%
Make cuts in "entitlement" programs such as Social Security, Medicaid, and the like	12%	83%

1/14-17/83

**Question:** ...[Do] you generally favor or oppose each of these proposals...?

	Favor	Oppose
Increased spending for social programs such as education and Medicare	74%	24%
Prayer in public schools	69%	28%
Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution	63%	31%
Reduced defense spending	50%	46%
Tuition tax credits for children attending private or parochial schools	50%	45%
A ban on all abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's life is endangered	50%	46%
Tax increases to reduce the federal budget deficit	34%	62%
Relaxing pollution controls to reduce costs to industry?	33%	64%

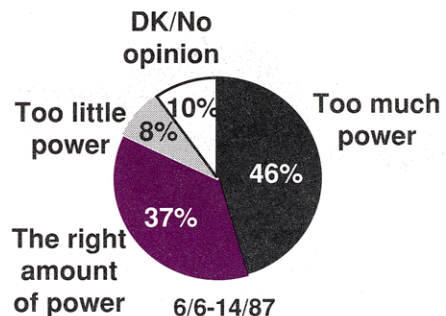
9/28-10/1/84

**Question:** ....For each statement, please tell me whether you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it, or completely disagree with it...When something is run by the government, it is usually inefficient and wasteful.



**Note:** Responses of "completely/mostly agree" and "mostly/completely disagree" have been combined.

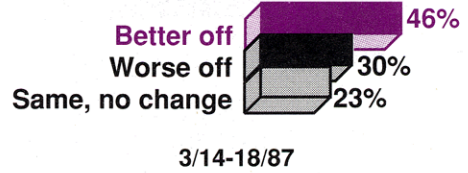
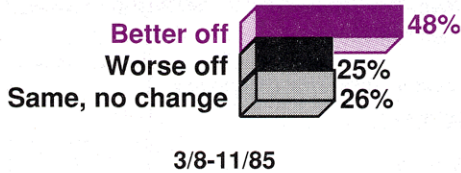
**Question:** Overall, do you feel that the federal government has too much power, the right amount of power, or too little power over the activities of state and local governments today?





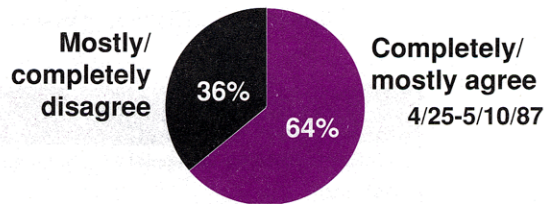
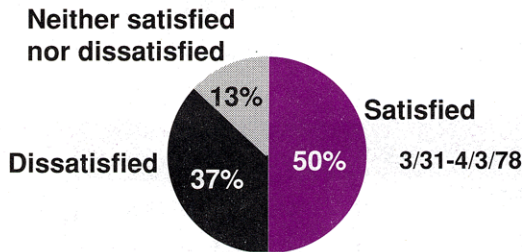
# The Economy

**Question:** We are interested in how people's financial situations may have changed. Would you say that you are financially better off now than you were a year ago, or are you financially worse off now?



**Question:** In general, would you say you are pretty well satisfied with how things are going for you financially, or are you not satisfied?

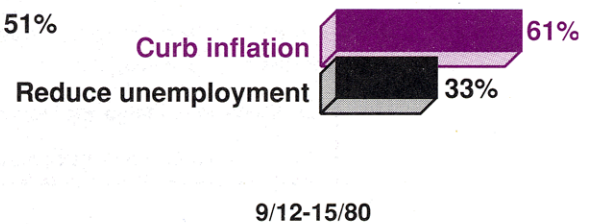
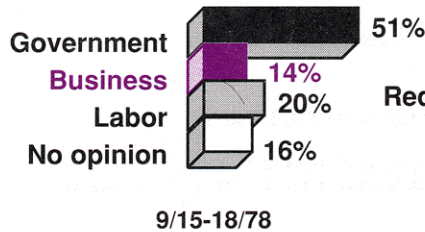
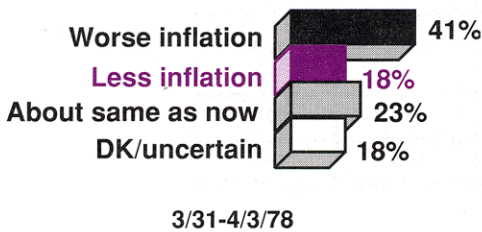
**Question:** I'm pretty well satisfied with the way things are going for me financially.



**Question:** Thinking ahead five years from now, do you think the problem of inflation will be worse then, or will there be less inflation five years from now?

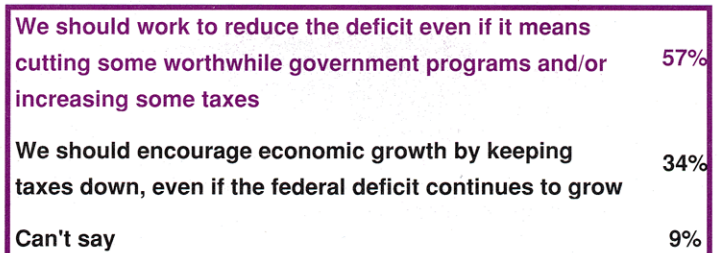
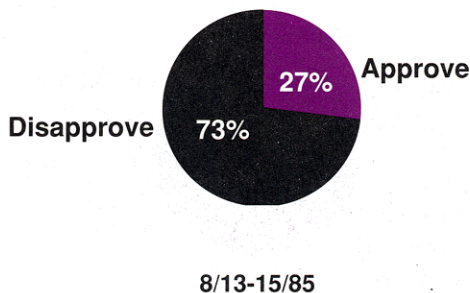
**Question:** In your opinion, which is most responsible for inflation—government, business, or labor?

**Question:** Which do you think the federal government should give greater attention to—trying to curb inflation or trying to reduce unemployment?



**Question:** Would you approve or disapprove of raising personal income taxes to reduce the federal deficit?

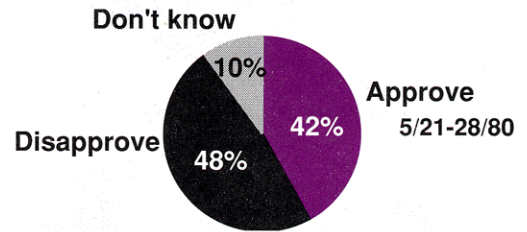
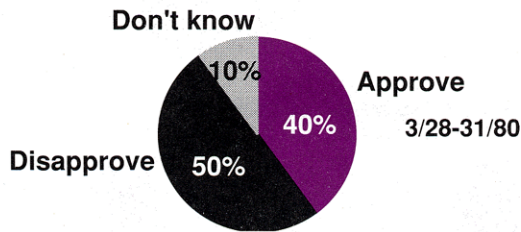
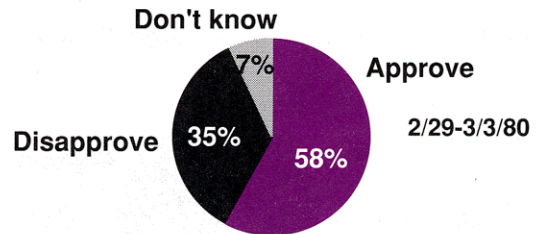
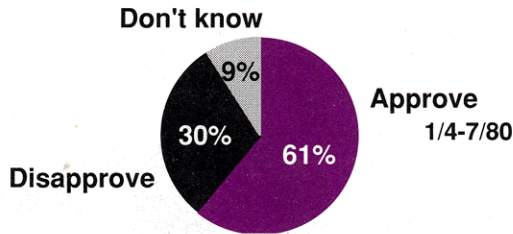
**Questions:** In your opinion which one of the following statements describes the better policy for dealing with the nation's economy?



9/1-13/87

# Foreign Affairs

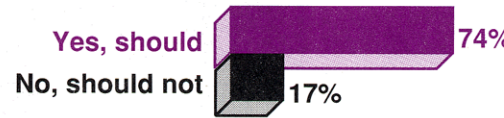
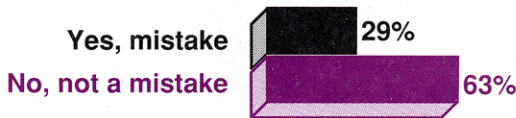
**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jimmy Carter is handling the (hostage) crisis in Iran?



**Question:** Do you think the US made a mistake in sending troops to Grenada, or not?

**Question:** Do you think the US made a mistake in sending the Marines to Lebanon, or not?

**Question:** Do you think the United States should withdraw its troops from Lebanon at the present time, or not?



11/18-21/83

11/18-21/83

2/10-13/84

**Question:** The US is providing military assistance to the forces trying to overthrow the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua. Do you approve or disapprove of this US policy?

**Question:** In your opinion, should the US government be giving assistance to the guerrilla forces now opposing the Marxist government in Nicaragua?



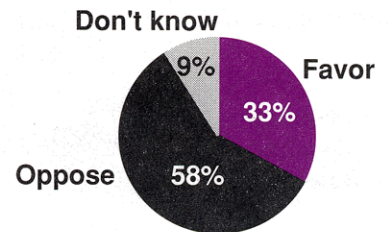
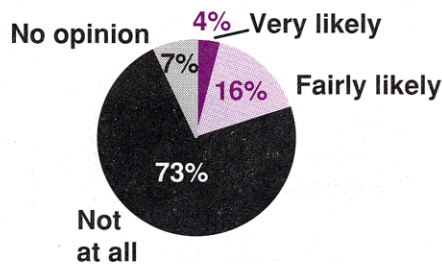
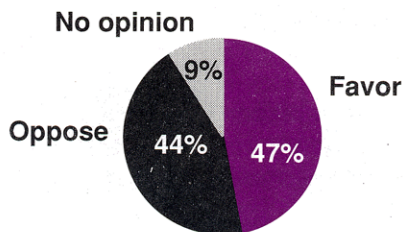
11/18-21/83

12/4-5/86

**Question:** Would you favor or oppose an agreement between the US and the Soviet Union to destroy all nuclear weapons that have already been built?

**Question:** How likely do you think the Soviet Union would be to abide by such an agreement (to destroy all nuclear weapons that have already been built)—very likely, fairly likely, or not at all likely?

**Question:** On the whole do you favor or oppose our giving military aid to other nations? By military aid I mean arms and equipment, but not troops.



5/8-11/81

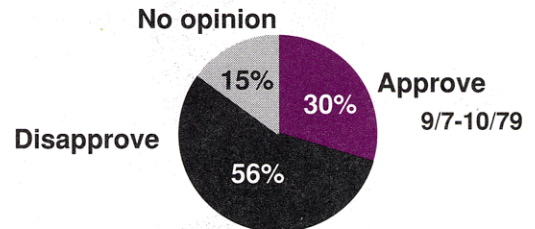
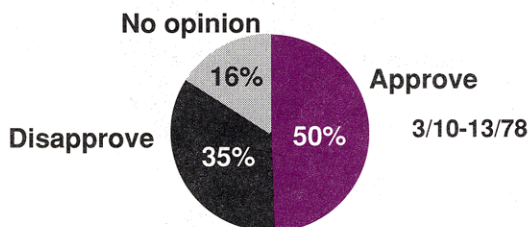
5/8-11/81

10/30-11/12/86

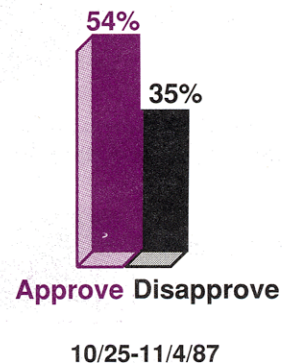
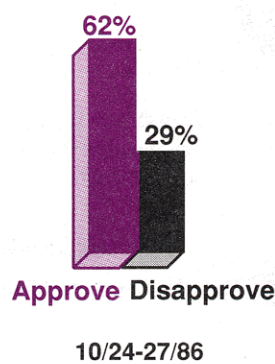
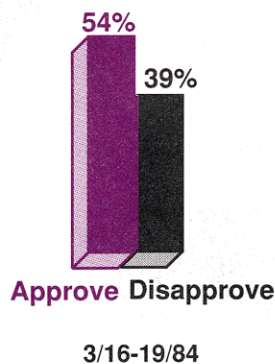
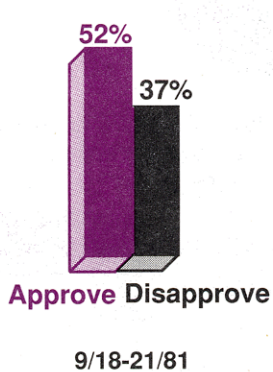


## Presidents, Parties, and Ideology

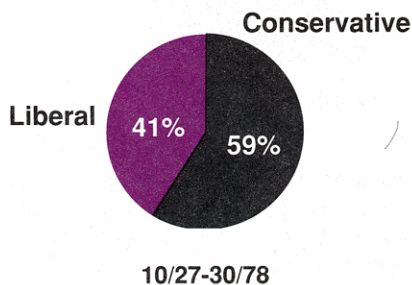
**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Jimmy Carter** is handling his job as President?



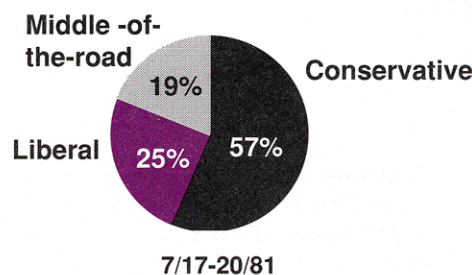
**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Ronald Reagan** is handling his job as President?



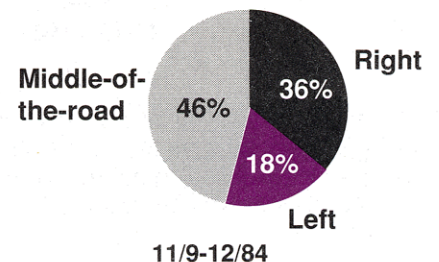
**Question:** If there were only two political parties in this country—Conservative and Liberal—which would you join?



**Question:** Politically, do you consider yourself to be conservative or liberal?



**Question:** People who are conservative in their political views are referred to as being right of center and people who are liberal in their political views are referred to as being left of center...Which one of these categories best describes your own political position?



**Question:** In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

