

# Since World War II, A Firm US Commitment to Internationalism, Though Not Without Complaints About the Burden

## Not the World's Policeman...

**Question:** ...[W]hich of these two approaches to foreign policy do you think the United States should follow in the 1990s? Use leadership position in the world to help settle international disputes and promote democracy. Reduce its involvement in world politics in order to concentrate on problems at home.



**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners, Inc. for *Time/CNN*, June 21-22, 1995.

## ...But a Strong Affirmation of Leadership

**Question:** ...[Please] tell me if you generally agree or disagree with the statement...The United States should remain a world superpower, even if the costs and risks are high.



**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Knight-Ridder, January 5-15, 1996.

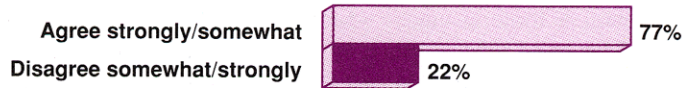
## Some Conflicting Impulses

**Question:** ...For each statement tell me whether you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it or completely disagree with it...The United States should play a leading role in dealing with the world's problems.



**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for *Times Mirror*, October 25-30, 1995.

**Question:** ...[Please] tell me if you agree or disagree...In America today, we worry too much about people in foreign countries and don't take enough care of our own...



**Source:** Survey by the Tarrance Group & Lake Research for *US News & World Report*, November 2-3, 1996.

**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? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?



**Source:** Survey by the Program on International Policy Attitudes, University of Maryland, September 14-20, 1996.

**Question:** Do you think the United States should radically reduce its role in international affairs, or don't you feel this way?



**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners, Inc. for *Time/CNN*, February 24-27, 1996.

# Leaders Overwhelmingly, and the Public By Large Majorities, Endorse An Active US Role

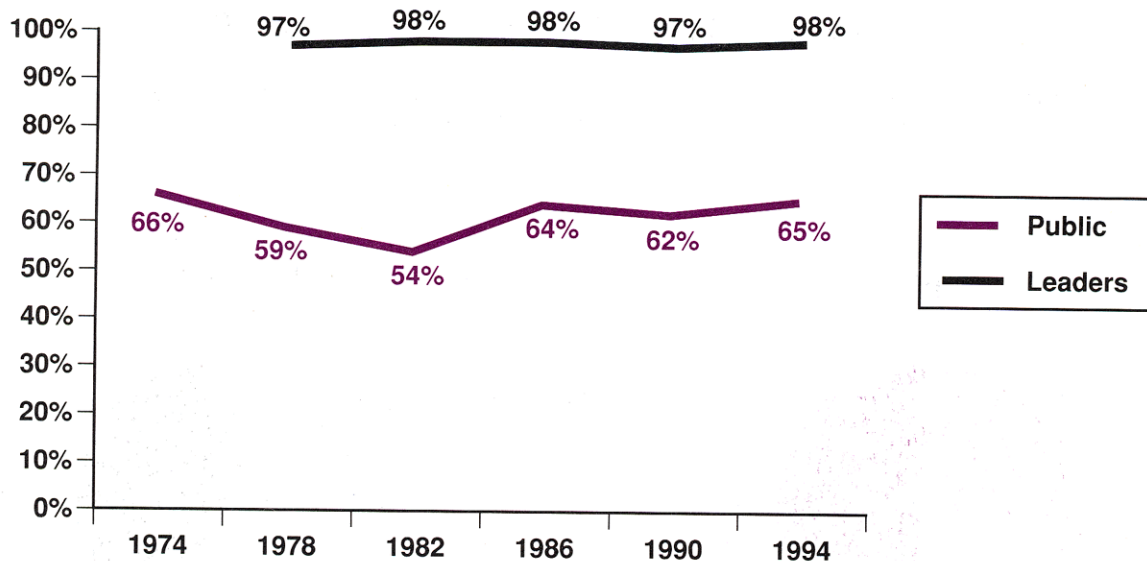
**Question:** Do you think it will be best for the future of the country if we take an active part in world affairs or if we stay out of world affairs?

1994



## Little Change Over Time

Respondents who favor an active role for the United States in world affairs

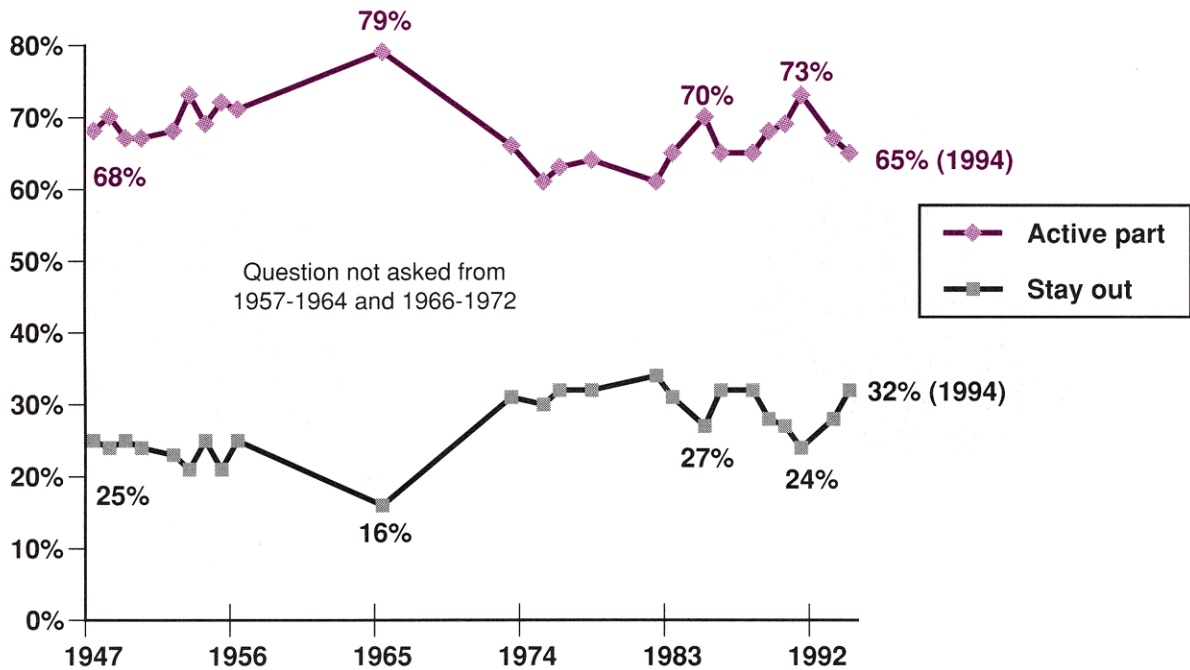


**Note:** The "leaders" include those who are in positions of leadership in government, academia, business and labor, the media, religious institutions, special interest groups, and private foreign policy organizations.

**Source:** Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, latest survey by the Gallup Organization, October 7-25, 1994.

## The General Social Surveys Find this Same High Public Support For an Active US Place in World Affairs

**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?



Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center-General Social Survey (GSS), latest that of January 27-May 31, 1994.

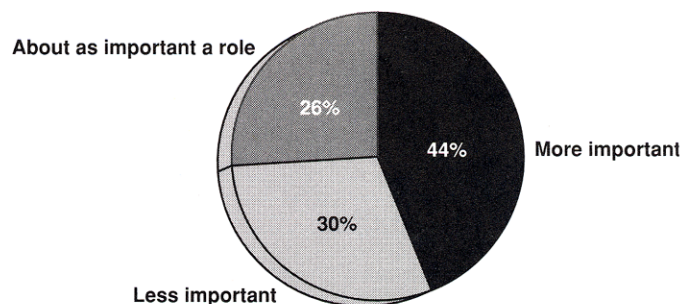
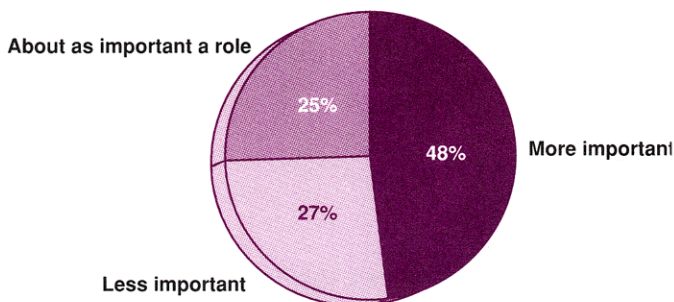
## By Large Pluralities, Both Leaders and the Public See the US Playing a More Important, Rather than Less Important Role

**Question:** Do you think the US plays a more important and powerful role as a world leader today compared to ten years ago, a less important role, or about as important a role as a world leader as it did ten years ago?

1994

Public

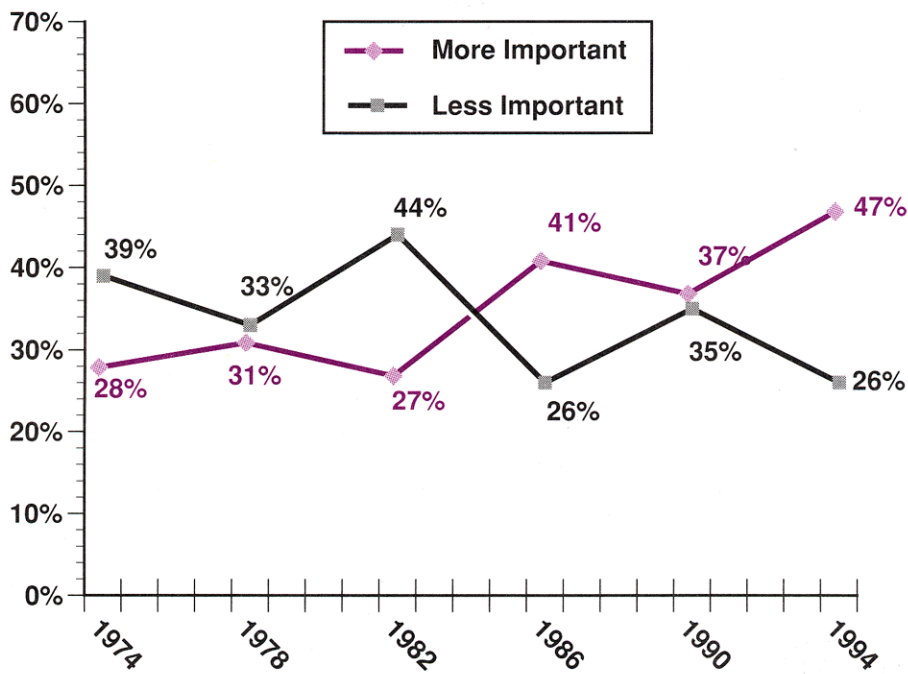
Leaders



Note: "Don't knows" of less than 7% calculated out of pie charts for display purposes.

## The Proportion Seeing the US Leadership Role as Important Has been Increasing Over Time, Not Declining

**Question:** Do you think the US plays a more important and powerful role as a world leader today compared to ten years ago, a less important role, or about as important a role as a world leader as it did ten years ago?



**Source:** Surveys by Louis Harris and Associates for the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, December 6-14, 1974; ABC News/Louis Harris and Associates, November 13-December 1, 1978; the Gallup Organization for the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, October 29-November 6, 1982, October 30-November 12, 1986, October 23-November 15, 1990, and October 7-25, 1994.

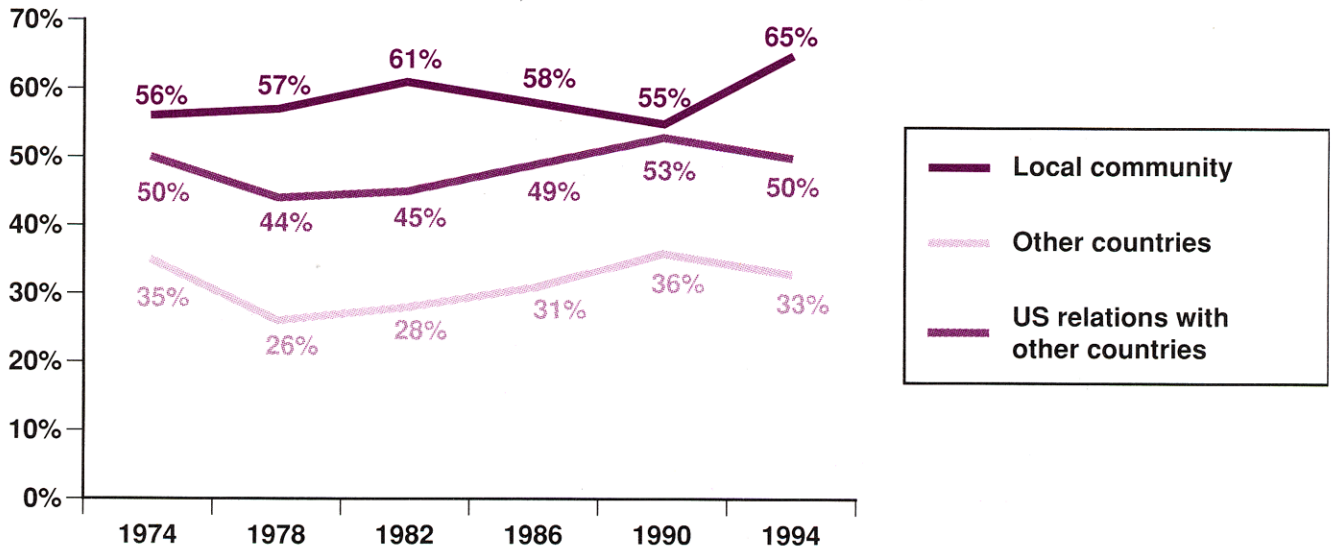


**Wanted: An Activist US**

# That Many Americans Favor a Large Engagement in the World Doesn't Mean, Of Course, That They Follow Foreign Affairs News Closely

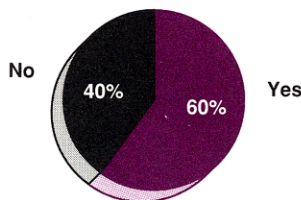
**Question:** When you pick up a newspaper these days, how interested are you in reading articles relating to news about the following....(local community...other countries...US relations with other countries...?)...very interested, somewhat interested, or hardly interested at all?

*Responses of those who are "very interested" in news about their local community, other countries, and US relations with other countries*



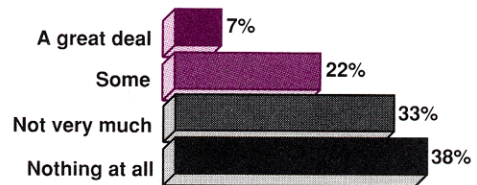
**Source:** Surveys by Louis Harris and Associates for the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, December 6-14, 1974; ABC News/Louis Harris and Associates, November 13-December 1, 1978; the Gallup Organization for the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, October 29-November 6, 1982, October 30-November 12, 1986, October 23-November 15, 1990, and October 7-25, 1994.

**Question:** Have you read or heard about Hong Kong being transferred from British rule to China?



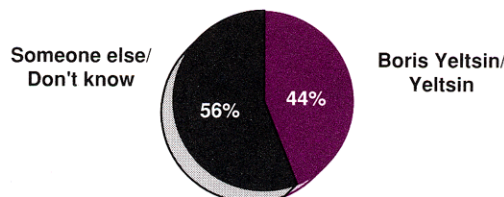
**Source:** Survey by Opinion Dynamics for Fox News, June 1997.

**Question:** Some people are saying that NATO should expand to include some Eastern European countries such as Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. How much have you heard about this idea?



**Source:** Survey by the Program on International Policy Attitudes, University of Maryland, September 14-20, 1996.

**Question:** I would like to ask you a few questions about some things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them. What is the name of the President of Russia?



**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Times Mirror, May 25-June 22, 1995.

## US Foreign Aid Spending Since World War II: Are We Doing Enough?

<b>Foreign aid spending, 1946-1996</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Current dollars</b>	<b>Constant (1995) dollars</b>	<b>Foreign aid spending</b>
	<b>(in millions of dollars)</b>		<b>(as percent of GDP)</b>
1946	1,935	15,087.7	0.92
1951	3,647	21,381.6	1.10
1956	2,414	13,534.6	0.58
1961	3,184	16,211.2	0.61
1966	5,580	26,198.8	0.74
1971	4,159	15,634.3	0.39
1976	6,433	17,229.8	0.38
1981	13,104	21,933.2	0.42
1986	14,152	19,696.3	0.32
1991	15,851	17,735.7	0.27
1996	13,496	13,125.7	0.18
<b>Total foreign aid spending, 1946-1996, in current year dollars \$391.5 billion</b>			

**Note:** The "foreign aid" spending levels shown here are official US calculations ("outlays by function" of the International Affairs Budget). Some of the over-time change may be due to technical matters of what is included, rather than actual change in levels of commitment. For example, most of US assistance to Bosnia under the Clinton Administration has been budgeted under the Department of Defense and not considered "foreign aid," even though much of it is broadly humanitarian.

**Source:** *FY 1998 Budget of the United States Government: Historical Tables*, pp. 42-64.