The American Public and the Arab Awakening

April 11, 2011
Methodology

Dates of Survey: April 1-5, 2011

Margin of Error: +/- 3.5 percentage points

Sample Sizes: 802

Survey Method: Knowledge Networks probability-based online panel
Priority of US-Muslim World Relations

Thinking about US interests, how important an issue is the US relationship with Muslims and Muslim majority countries?

Most important / Top 3 / Top 5

3 15 43 61

Not among the top five issues

36
Views of Middle East Democratization

Do you think that if the countries of the Middle East become more democratic this will be more positive or more negative for the US:

Over the next few years

- More positive: 65
- More negative: 31

In the long run

- More positive: 76
- More negative: 19

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011
What if Democratization Leads to Unfriendly Government?

“I would want to see a country become more democratic even if this resulted in the country being more likely to oppose US policies.”

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/05</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perceptions of Uprisings

Do you think the popular uprisings in the Arab world are:

- More about Islamist groups seeking political power: 15
- More about ordinary people seeking freedom and democracy: 45
- Both equally: 37
Likelihood of More Democracy

How likely do you think it is that the changes occurring in the Middle East will lead to more democracy there?

Very / Somewhat likely

Not at all / Not very likely

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011
Are Islam and Democracy Compatible?

Which position is closer to yours?

- It is possible for Islamic countries to be democratic
  - 4/11: 56
  - 9/05: 55

- Democracy and Islam are incompatible
  - 4/11: 41
  - 9/05: 34

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011
Views of Arab Nations

What is your overall opinion of each of the following countries:

- Favorable
- Unfavorable

Saudi Arabia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Favorable (4/11)</th>
<th>Unfavorable (4/11)</th>
<th>Favorable (2/11*)</th>
<th>Unfavorable (2/11*)</th>
<th>Favorable (2/10*)</th>
<th>Unfavorable (2/10*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/11*</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/10*</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Syria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Favorable (4/11)</th>
<th>Unfavorable (4/11)</th>
<th>Favorable (2/07*)</th>
<th>Unfavorable (2/07*)</th>
<th>Favorable (2/11*)</th>
<th>Unfavorable (2/11*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/07*</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>66</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Egypt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Favorable (4/11)</th>
<th>Unfavorable (4/11)</th>
<th>Favorable (2/11*)</th>
<th>Unfavorable (2/11*)</th>
<th>Favorable (2/10*)</th>
<th>Unfavorable (2/10*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/11*</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/10*</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Trends from Gallup
Views of Arab People

What is your overall opinion of each of the following groups of people:

- Arab people in general
  - Favorable: 56
  - Unfavorable: 38

- People of Egypt
  - Favorable: 70
  - Unfavorable: 24

- People of Saudi Arabia
  - Favorable: 57
  - Unfavorable: 37

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011
Effect of Uprisings on Views of Arab World

- Increased: 39
- Decreased: 6

Your level of sympathy for the Arab people

- Increased: 33
- Decreased: 9

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011
### US Position Toward Uprisings

In responding to the popular uprisings in the following countries, do you think the US should:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Express support for demonstrators</th>
<th>Not take a position</th>
<th>Express support for government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011
Compatibility of Muslim and Western Cultures

Thinking about Muslim and Western cultures, do you think that:

- It is possible to find common ground between them: 59%
- Violent conflict between them is inevitable: 41%
As you may know, the U.S. military and other countries have begun cruise missile and air strikes in Libya in order to protect civilians from attacks by Qaddafi's forces. Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. and other countries taking this military action in Libya?

- 4/11: 54% Approve, 43% Disapprove
- 3/11*: 68% Approve, 26% Disapprove

* CBS News poll

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011
Arming the Rebels

If the air campaign does not succeed in protecting civilians from attacks by Qaddafi’s forces, would you support or oppose the US and other countries providing arms to the Libyan rebels?

Support 36

Oppose 59
Approach to Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

In its efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, what position do you believe the US should take?

- Lean toward Israel: 27
- Lean toward neither side: 65
- Lean toward the Palestinians: 5

4/11

11/10

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011
Administration Efforts on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Which of the following is closest to your view of the Obama Administration’s diplomatic efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

- Not trying hard enough
- Efforts are at the right level
- Trying too hard

4/11:
- Not trying hard enough: 26
- Efforts are at the right level: 41
- Trying too hard: 28

11/10:
- Not trying hard enough: 30
- Efforts are at the right level: 41
- Trying too hard: 21

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Increased</th>
<th>Decreased</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your level of sympathy for the Arab people</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your sense of how similar the aspirations of the Arab people are to yours</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your optimism that peaceful change is possible in the Arab world</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your optimism about relations between the US and the Arab world</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your sense of how widespread religious fanaticism is among Arabs</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sadat/PIPA, April 2011