

# AMERICA AND THE WORLD

**Evolving Attitudes on National Security  
and Foreign Policy**



American Security Project  
**MARTTILA COMMUNICATIONS**

**Survey of 2,000 voters completed May 8, 2007**

# Methodology

**A national telephone survey of 2,000 voters conducted between April 30 through May 8, 2007.**

**For those questions that were answered by all 2,000 respondents, the survey has a margin of error of +/- 2.19**

**For many questions, the survey used the technique of “split sampling,” a process in which the 2,000-voter sample was split into two demographically representative national samples of 1,000 respondents each. For those questions that were answered by 1,000 respondents, the margin of error is +/- 3.09 percent. For a limited number of questions, the 1,000 person samples were also split into two representative samples of 500 respondents each. The margin of error for these questions is +/- 4.38 percent.**

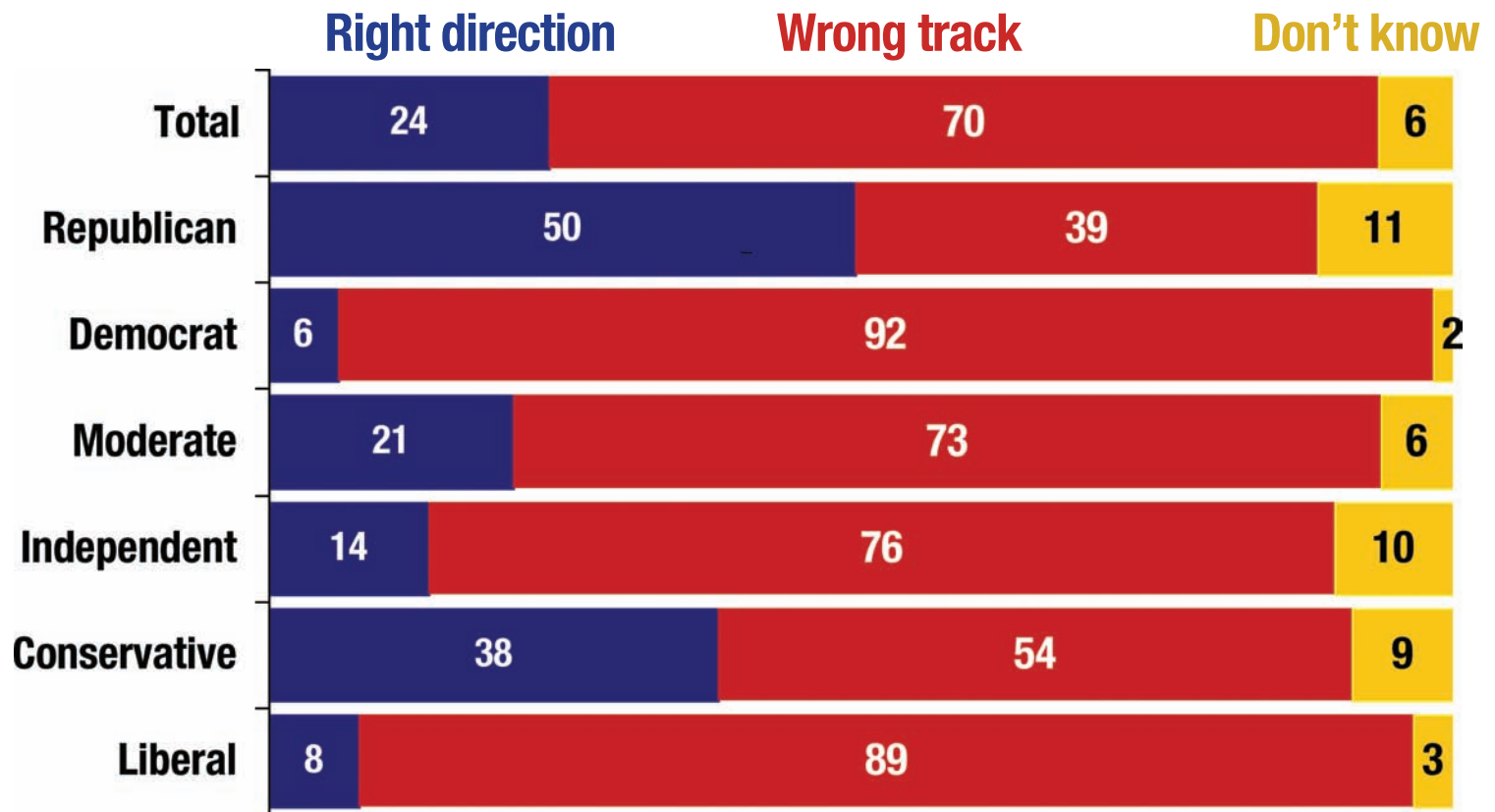
**The purpose for split sampling in the survey was to maximize the number of questions that could be asked, to test different hypotheses about an issue and to test the impact of different question wording.**

# America's role in the world

**Americans favor a multilateral approach and a desire to remain engaged in the world.**

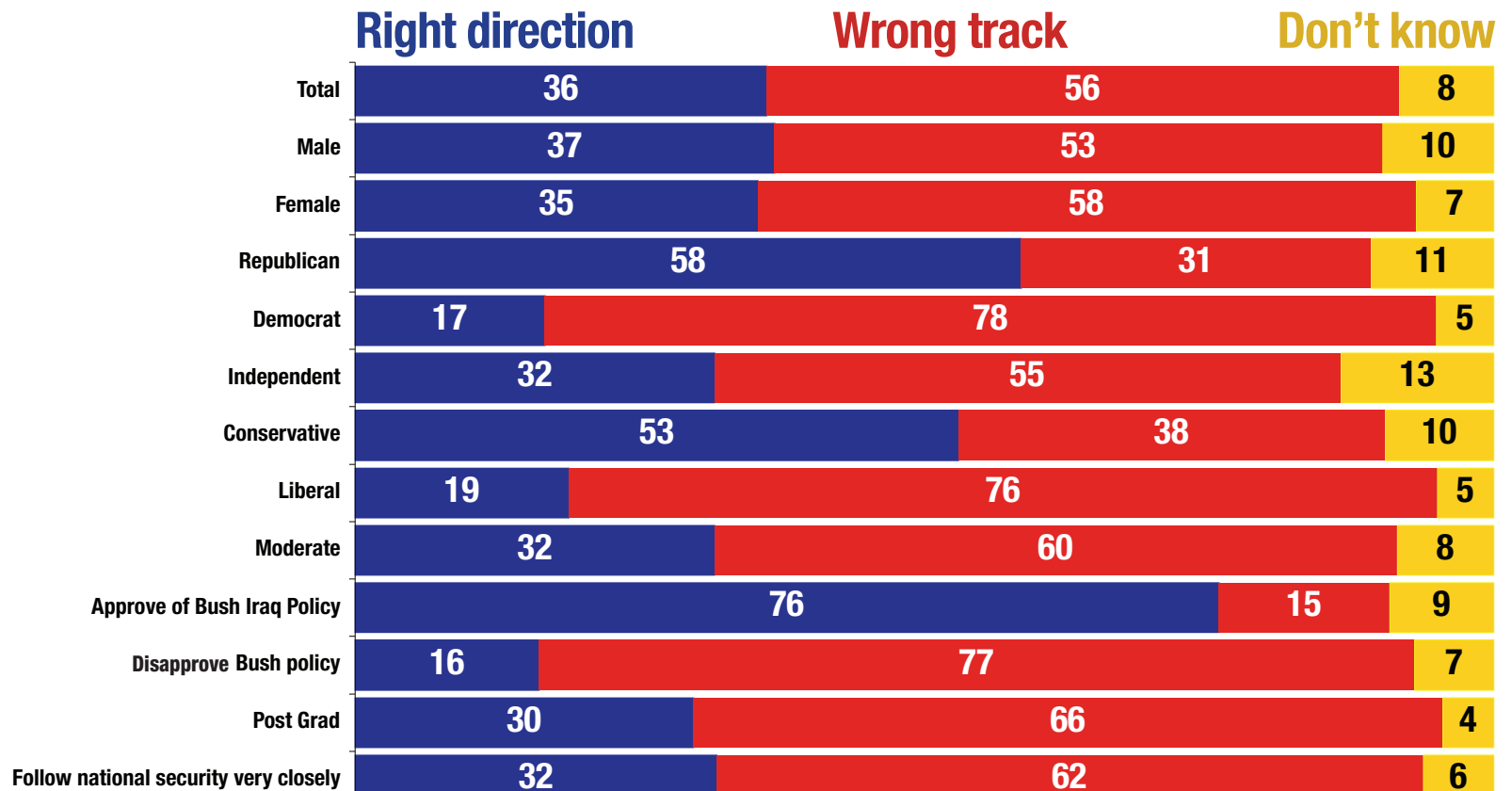


**When you think about America's leadership role in the world, do you feel that things are heading in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?**



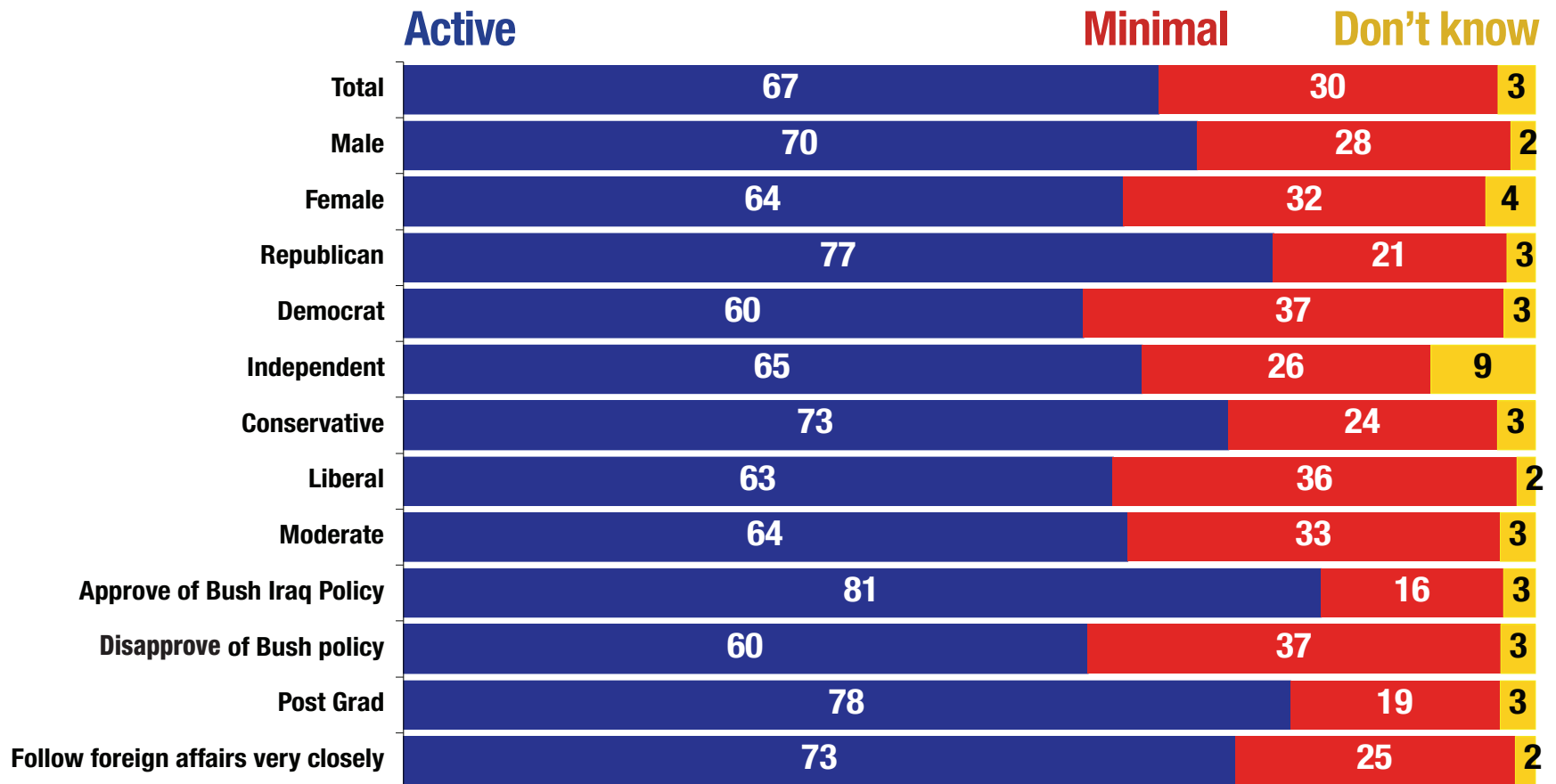


# When you think about our efforts to advance America's national security in the world, do you feel that things are heading in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?





# Do you think it will be best for the future of the country if we take an active role in world affairs or play a minimal role in world affairs?

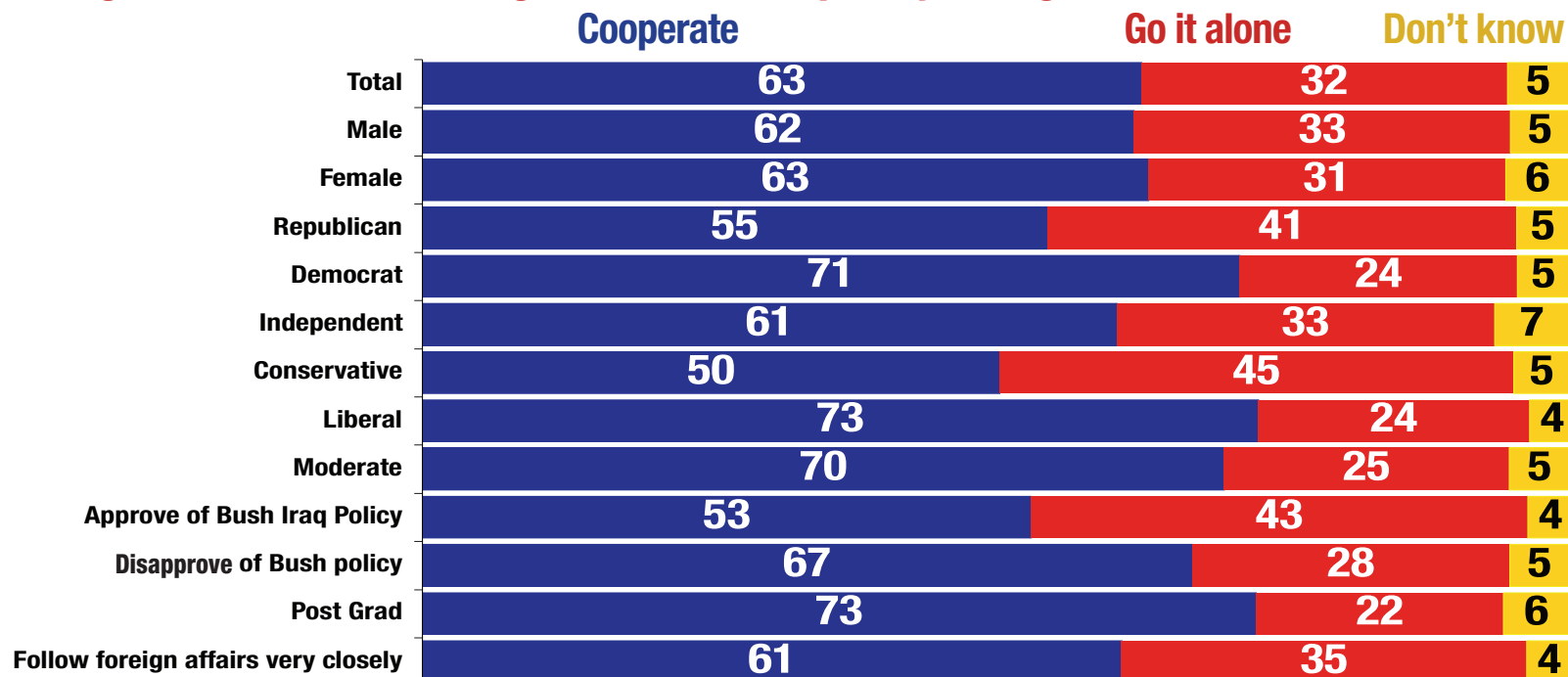




## Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

**We should cooperate with other countries as often as we can, even if this means we have to compromise on occasion. America should only act alone as a last resort.**

**We should put American interests first at all times - even if this means pulling out of international agreements or frequently acting alone.**

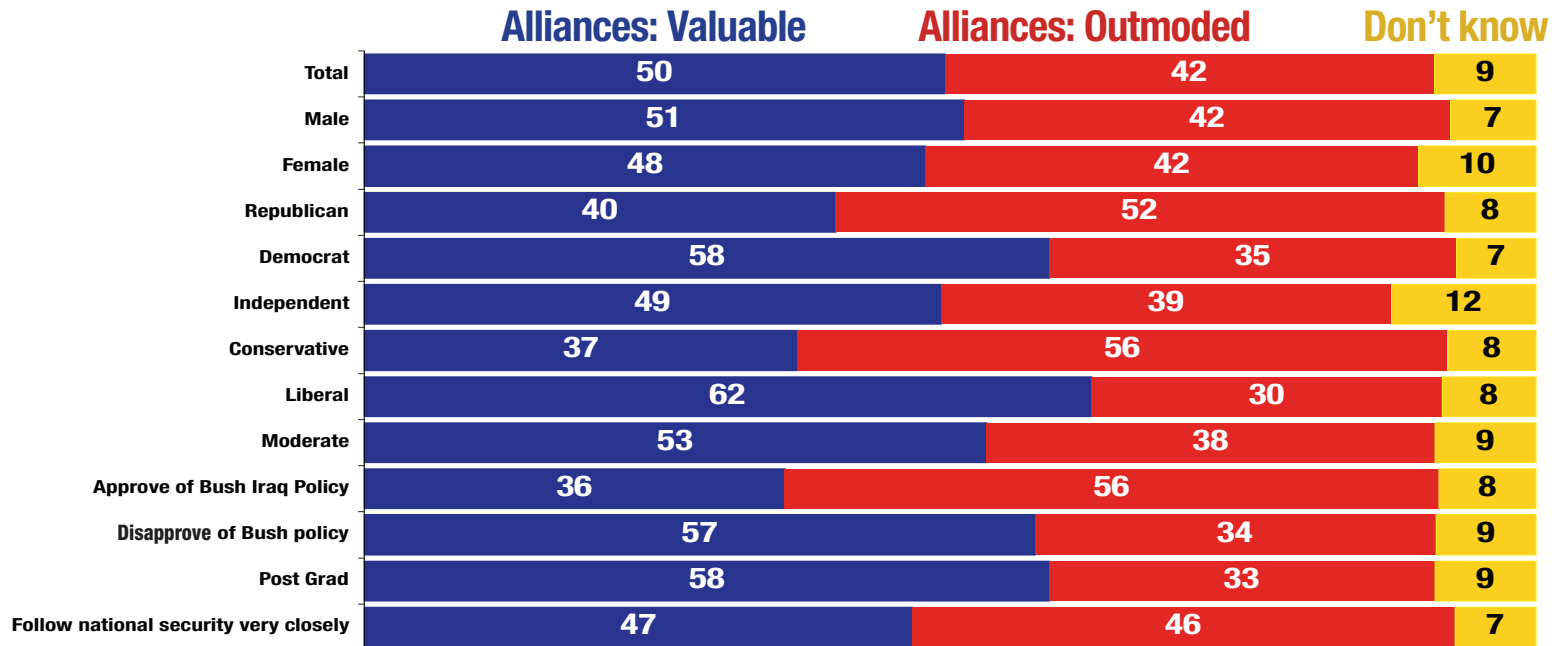




# Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

History has proven that working closely with other nations makes us safer. The United States has a long tradition of balancing its military might with international cooperation. America was behind the founding of the United Nations, the Marshall Plan, and NATO. This helped us win the Cold War, and can help us win the War on Terror.

**We live in unique and dangerous times. The United States cannot rely on the tactics that won the Cold War to fight the War on Terror. We must never compromise our security in order to be more respected in the world. A strong military and a strong resolve will ultimately lead us to victory, not treaties and outdated alliances.**

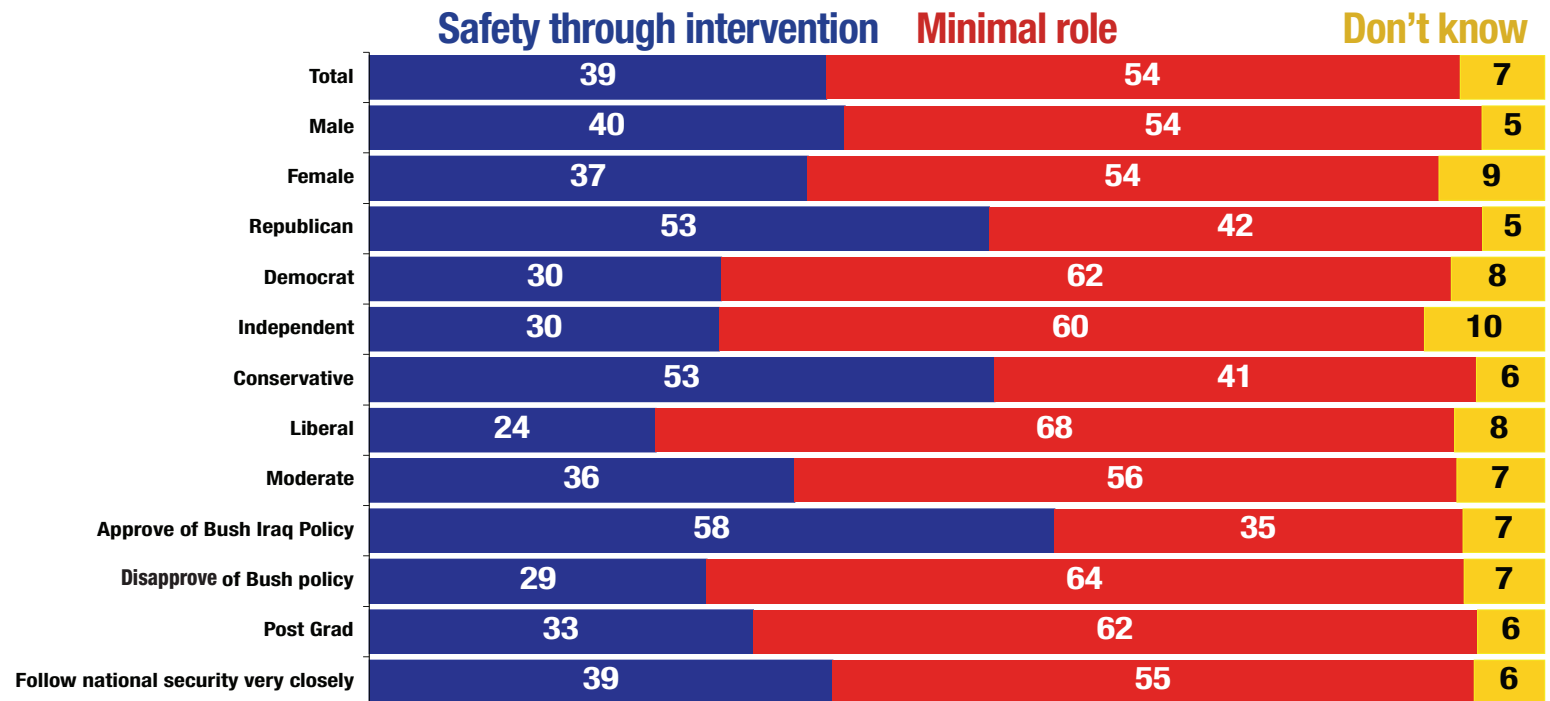




## Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

The U.S. will be safer if it intervenes to prevent dictators and hostile regimes from coming to power in foreign countries.

The U.S. will be safer if it plays only a minimal role in the internal business of foreign countries.

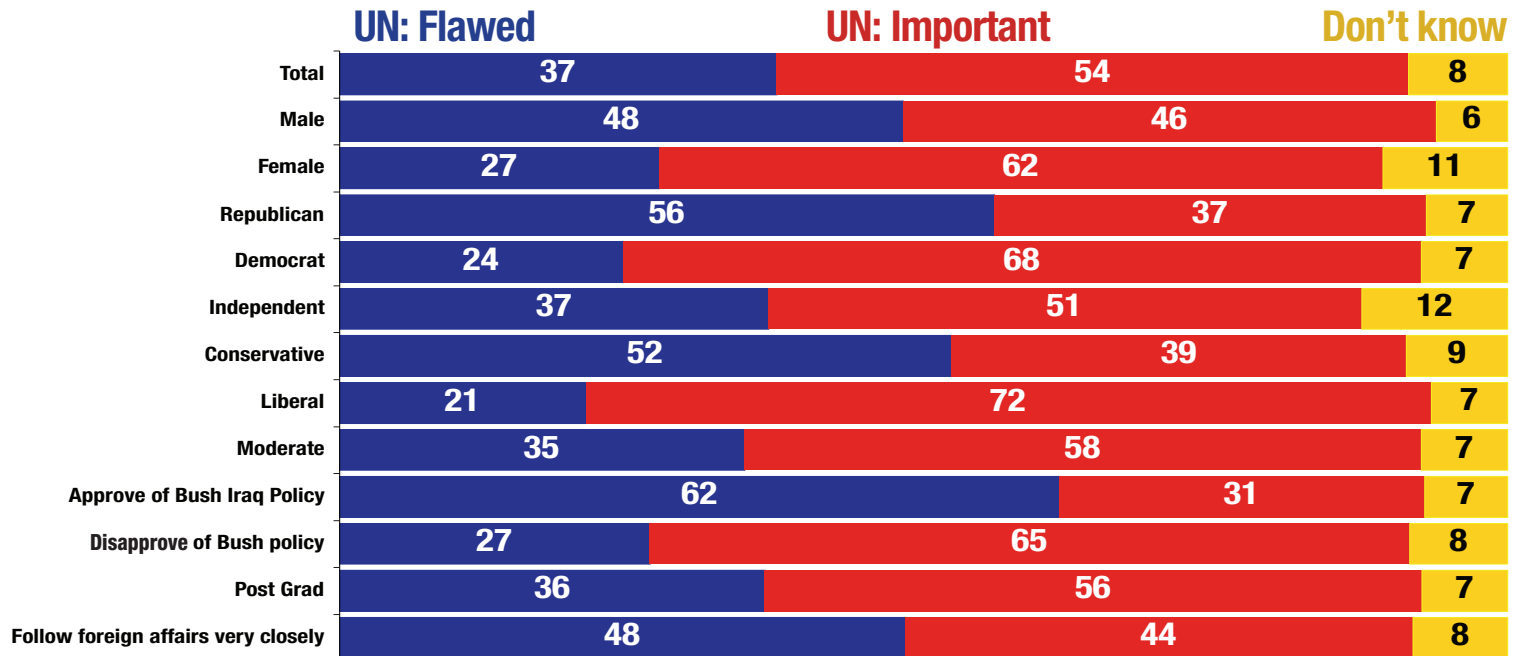




# Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

The United Nations is a flawed, ineffective, and corrupt institution. Its resolutions are often ignored or circumvented, often by its own members. Its officials got rich helping Iraq cheat on the Oil for Food program in the 1990s, and it provides a platform for anti-Americanism.

The United Nations, despite its flaws, is important to American national security. The U.N. has peacekeepers in more than a dozen countries, it immunizes millions of children, and it monitors the spread of weapons of mass destruction. What's more, it is a place where nations can work out their conflicts peacefully instead of on the battlefield.





## Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

The U.S. should not work with countries that violate human rights.

Our national interest requires us to work with governments with which we do not necessarily agree or approve.

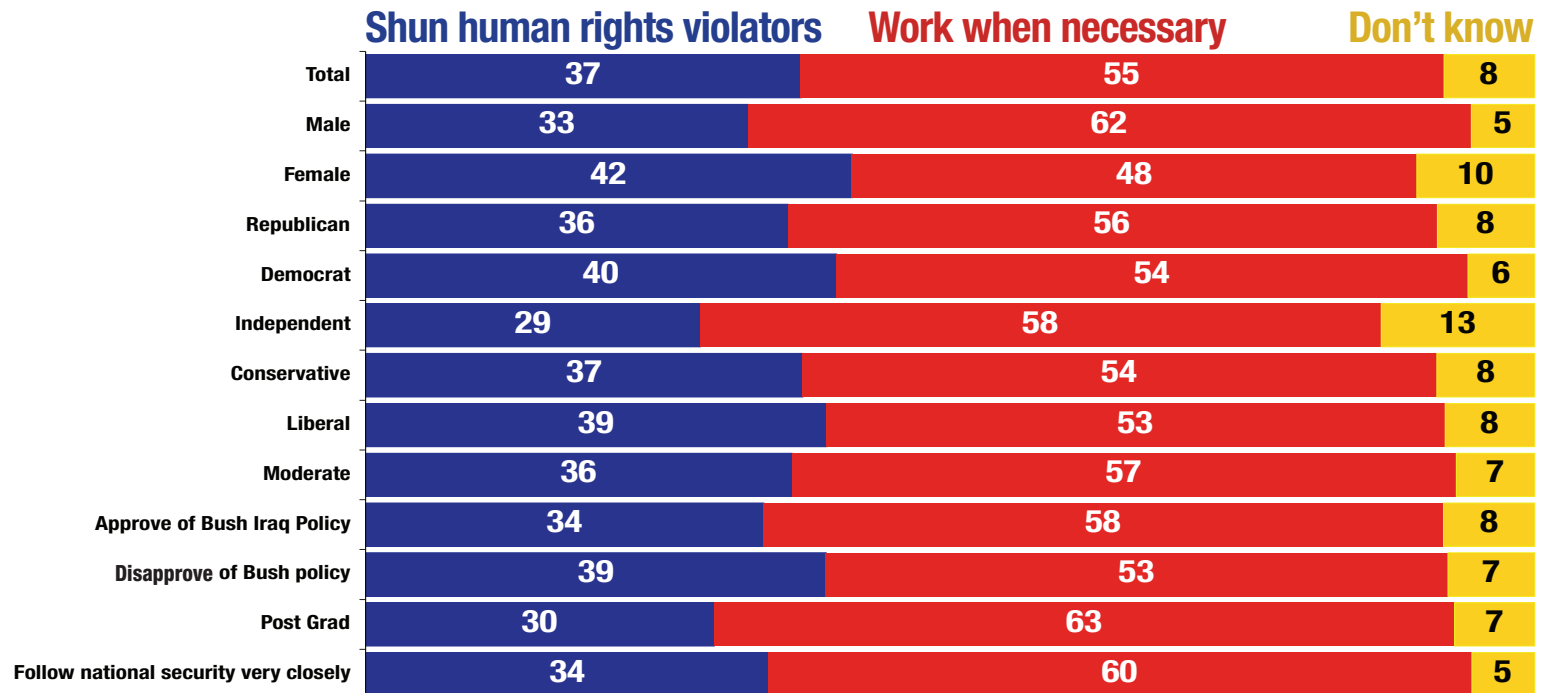




## Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

The U.S. should not work with countries that violate human rights.

Our national interest requires us to work with governments with which we do not necessarily agree or approve — such as the governments in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and China.



# National Security Objectives

**Americans place the highest premium on stopping the spread and smuggling of nuclear weapons.**

Q

# Which of these U.S. foreign policy and national security goals is an absolute top priority and needs maximum immediate attention during the next twelve months?

Preventing the smuggling of a nuclear weapon into the US

**79%** REP DEM IND CNS LIBL MOD  
83% 76% 84% 83% 80% 76%

Keeping nuclear weapons away from countries and groups hostile to the US and our allies

**64%** REP DEM IND CNS LIBL MOD  
76% 57% 63% 76% 46% 63%

Protecting the United States from an attack by intercontinental ballistic missiles

**61%** REP DEM IND CNS LIBL MOD  
63% 60% 63% 72% 43% 62%

Dismantling the Al Qaeda terrorist network

**59%** REP DEM IND CNS LIBL MOD  
72% 52% 58% 74% 45% 55%

Promoting and developing alternative energy sources

**58%** REP DEM IND CNS LIBL MOD  
51% 64% 58% 52% 65% 57%

Containing Iran's export of terror

**58%** REP DEM IND CNS LIBL MOD  
70% 56% 44% 72% 53% 50%

Preventing the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran

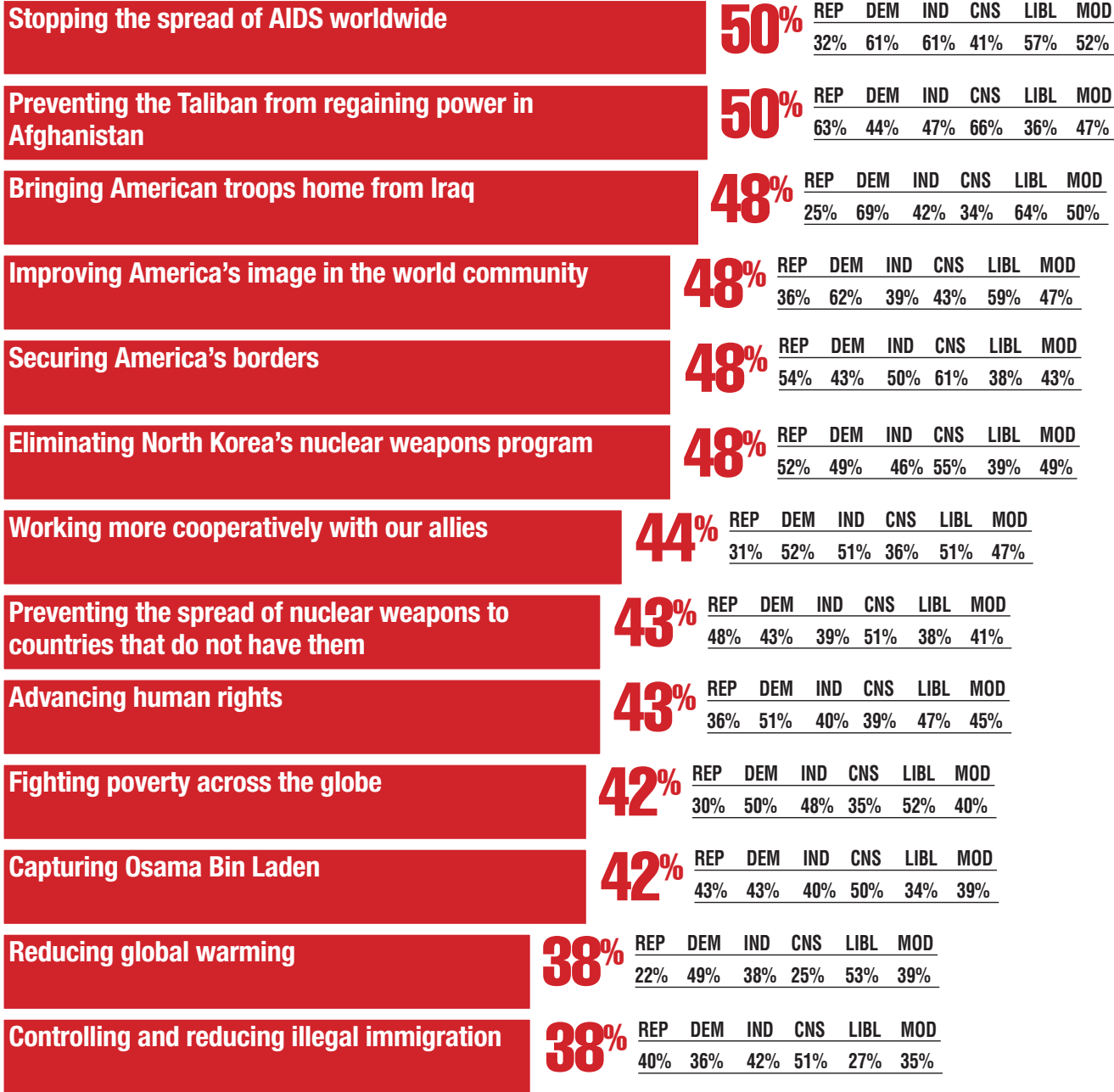
**58%** REP DEM IND CNS LIBL MOD  
73% 49% 55% 73% 44% 54%

Reducing America's dependence on Middle Eastern oil

**57%** REP DEM IND CNS LIBL MOD  
54% 59% 57% 60% 58% 54%

Preventing American jobs from moving overseas

**53%** REP DEM IND CNS LIBL MOD  
51% 58% 49% 58% 48% 51%



**Bringing stability to the Middle East** **38%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
40%	36%	38%	45%	41%	30%

**Ending the mass ethnic violence in the Darfur region of Sudan** **36%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
32%	41%	35%	31%	49%	33%

**Establishing a secure and stable government in Iraq** **33%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
43%	24%	35%	39%	29%	30%

**Minimizing Iran's influence in the Middle East** **33%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
33%	32%	39%	45%	28%	25%

**Negotiating fairer more balanced trade deals between the US and other countries** **28%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
20%	34%	26%	28%	38%	22%

**Establishing a secure and stable government in Afghanistan** **25%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
30%	22%	24%	31%	23%	22%

**Increasing America's influence abroad** **24%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
23%	23%	23%	33%	23%	15%

**Promoting religious and cultural dialogue with Islam** **22%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
24%	23%	20%	16%	30%	25%

**Helping end the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians** **22%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
14%	27%	28%	18%	28%	21%

**Improving our relations with Latin America** **20%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
14%	25%	23%	17%	23%	21%

**Improving our relations with Mexico** **19%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
14%	23%	27%	22%	20%	15%

**Spreading Democracy throughout the world** **19%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
22%	20%	12%	27%	9%	16%

**Reducing America's commitments abroad** **19%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
20%	17%	21%	21%	20%	17%

**Preventing weak states from failing** **15%**

REP	DEM	IND	CNS	LIBL	MOD
12%	17%	16%	15%	16%	14%



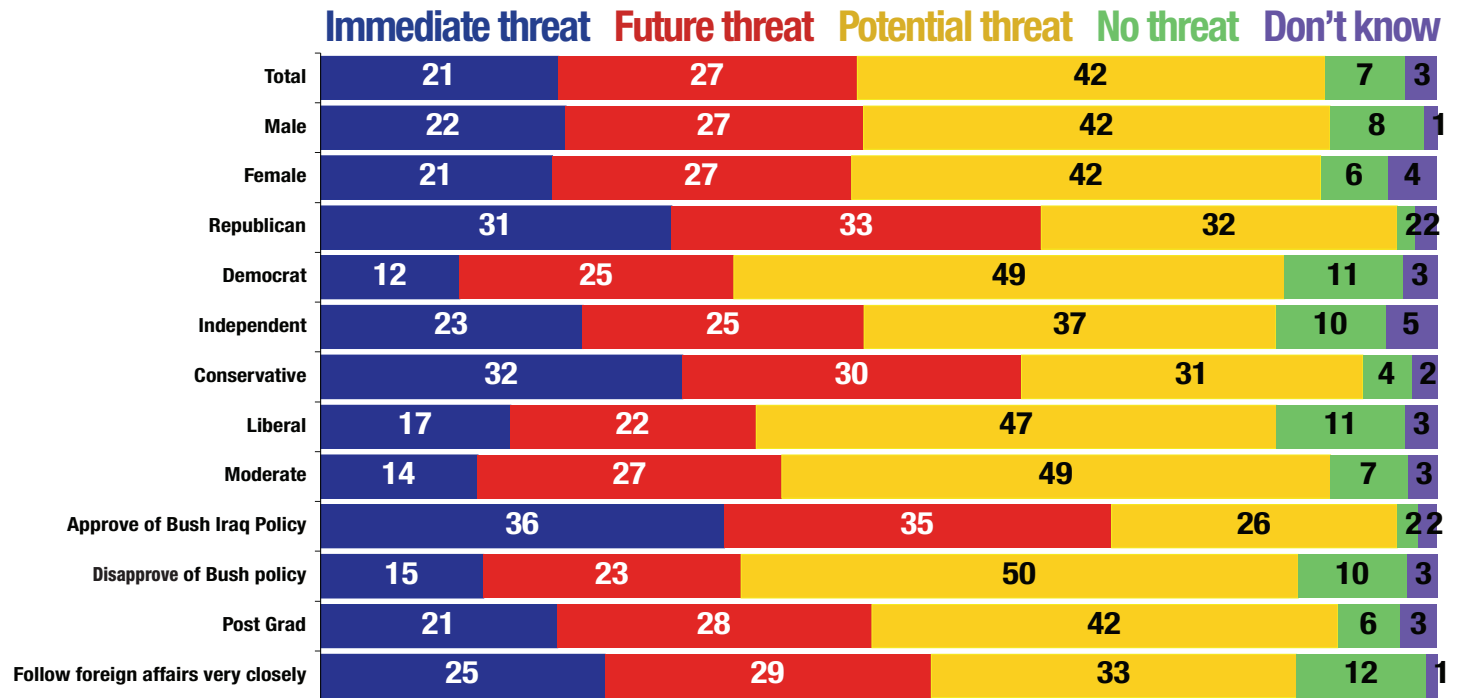
# Which one of the following best describes your view of Iran today?

Iran is an immediate security threat to the United States

Iran is a threat in the near future

Iran is a potential threat further down the road

Iran is no threat at all





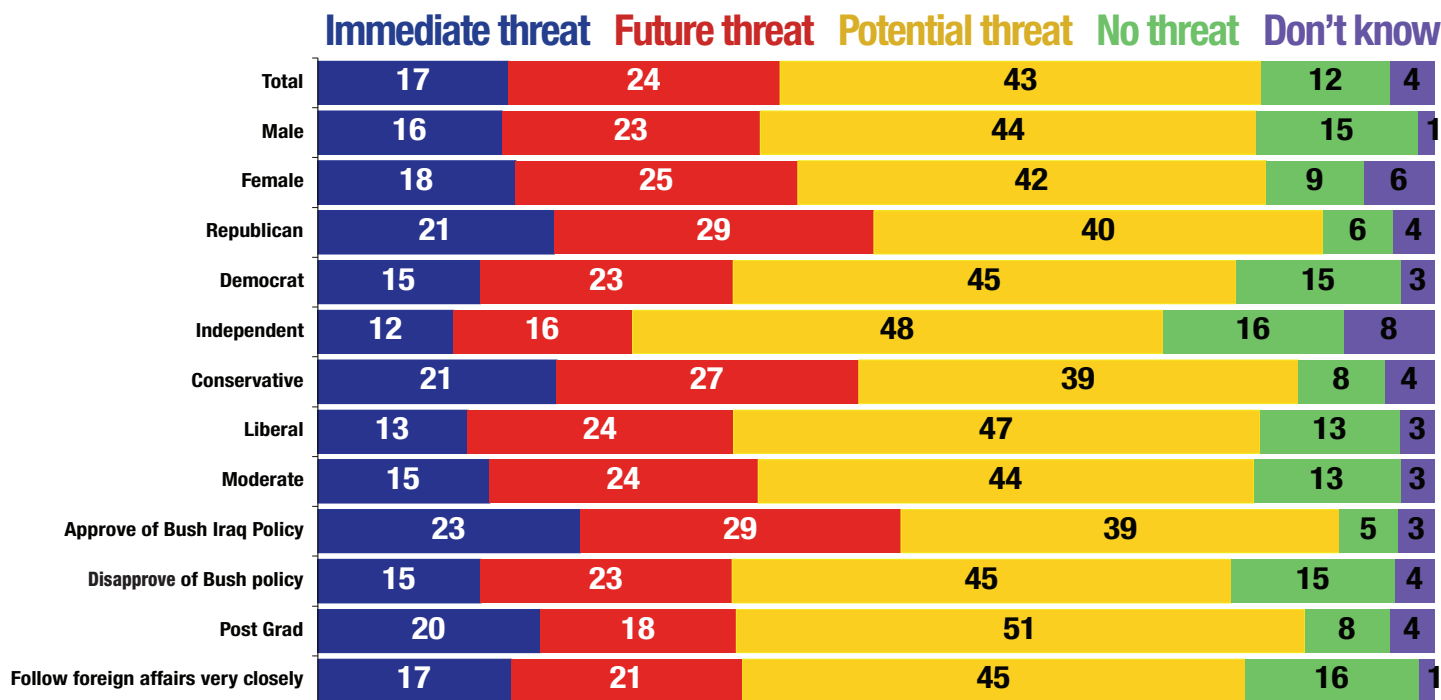
# Which one of the following best describes your view of North Korea today?

North Korea is an immediate security threat to the United States

North Korea is a threat in the near future

North Korea is a potential threat further down the road

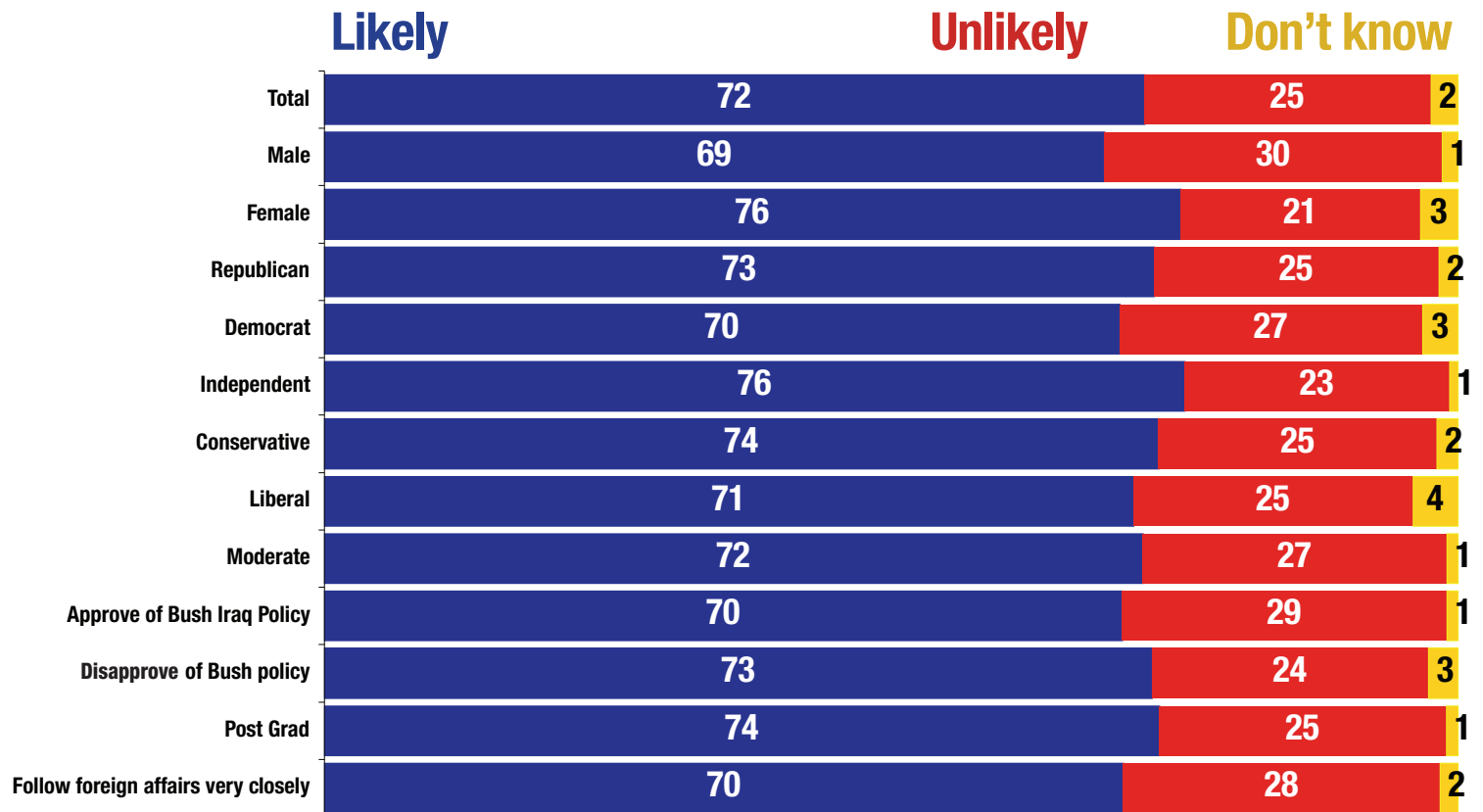
North Korea is no threat at all



**Americans continue to be deeply concerned about the War on Terror, with a plurality believing we are losing the war.**

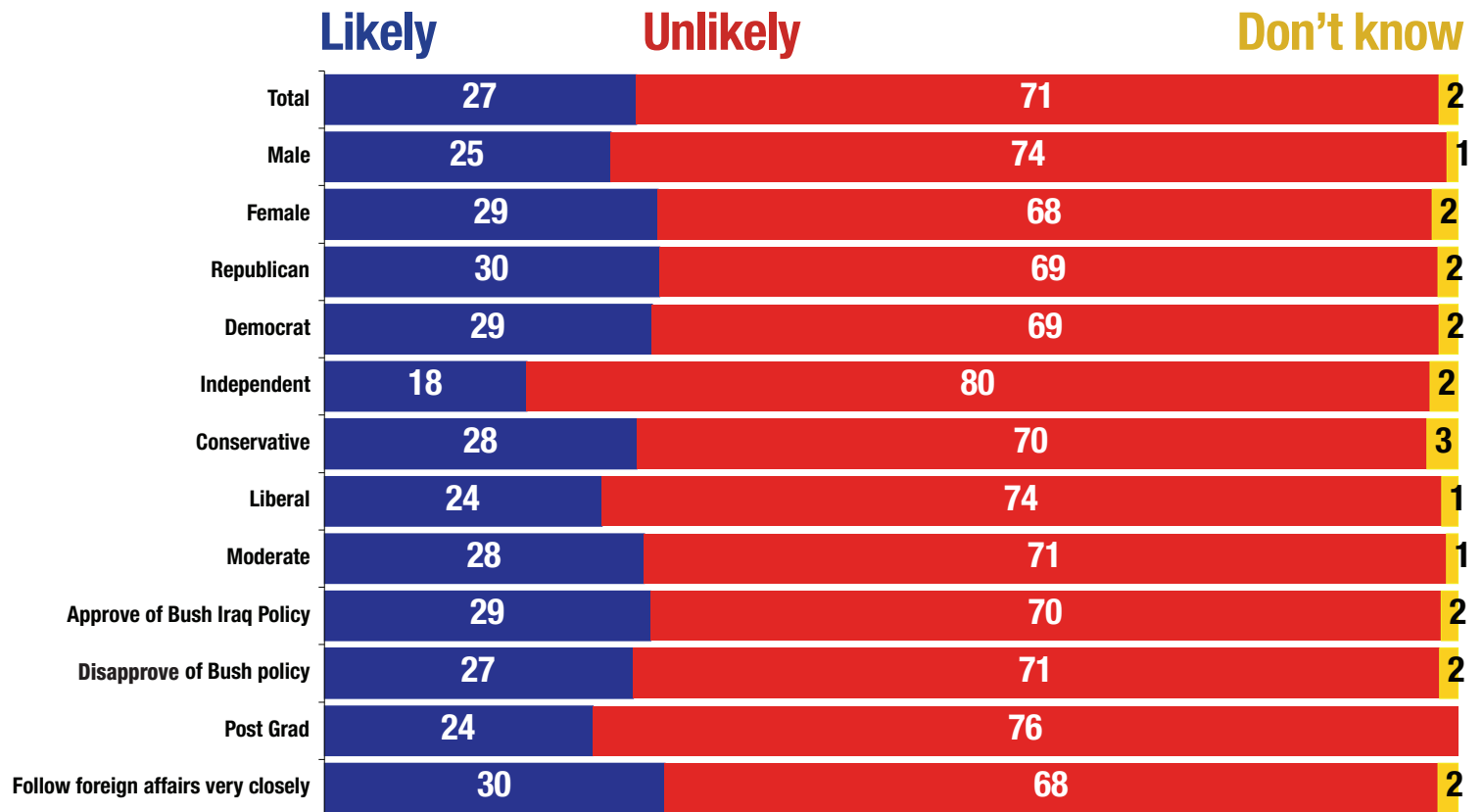


# In your opinion, do you believe that during the next two years a terrorist attack against the U.S. mainland is likely, or unlikely?



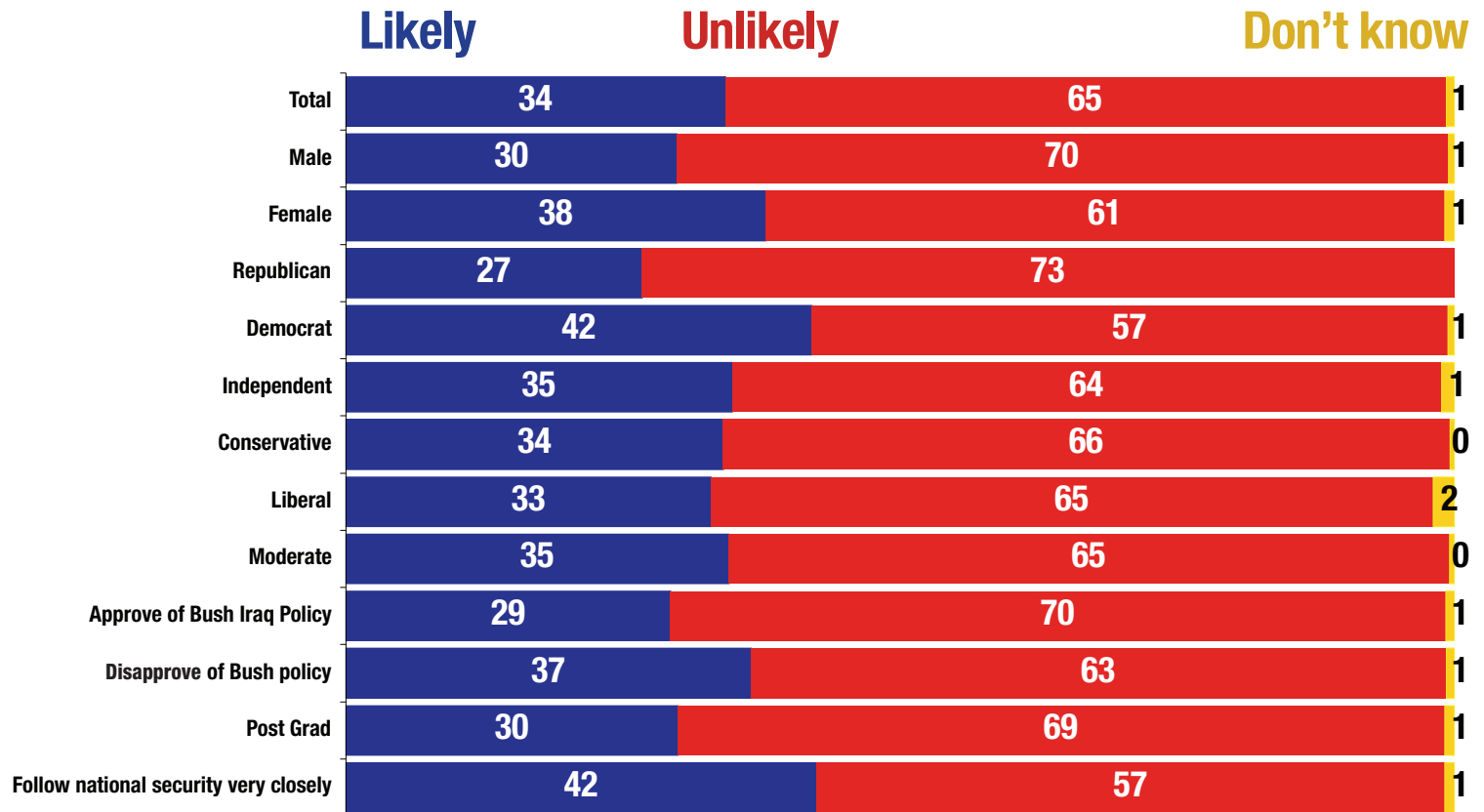


# Do you believe that your city or community is likely to be the target of a terrorist attack?



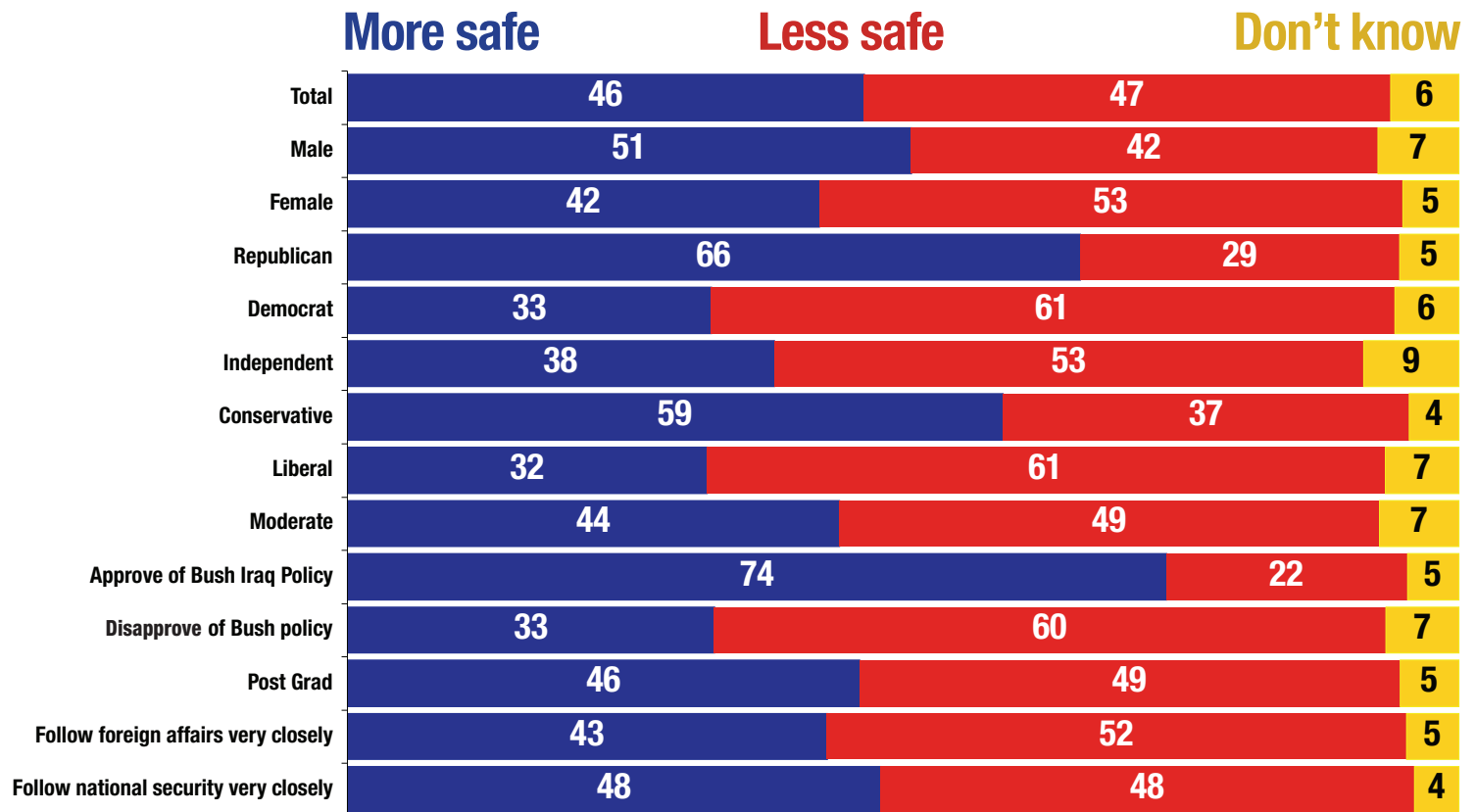


# Do you worry that you or your family is likely to be the victim of a terrorist attack?



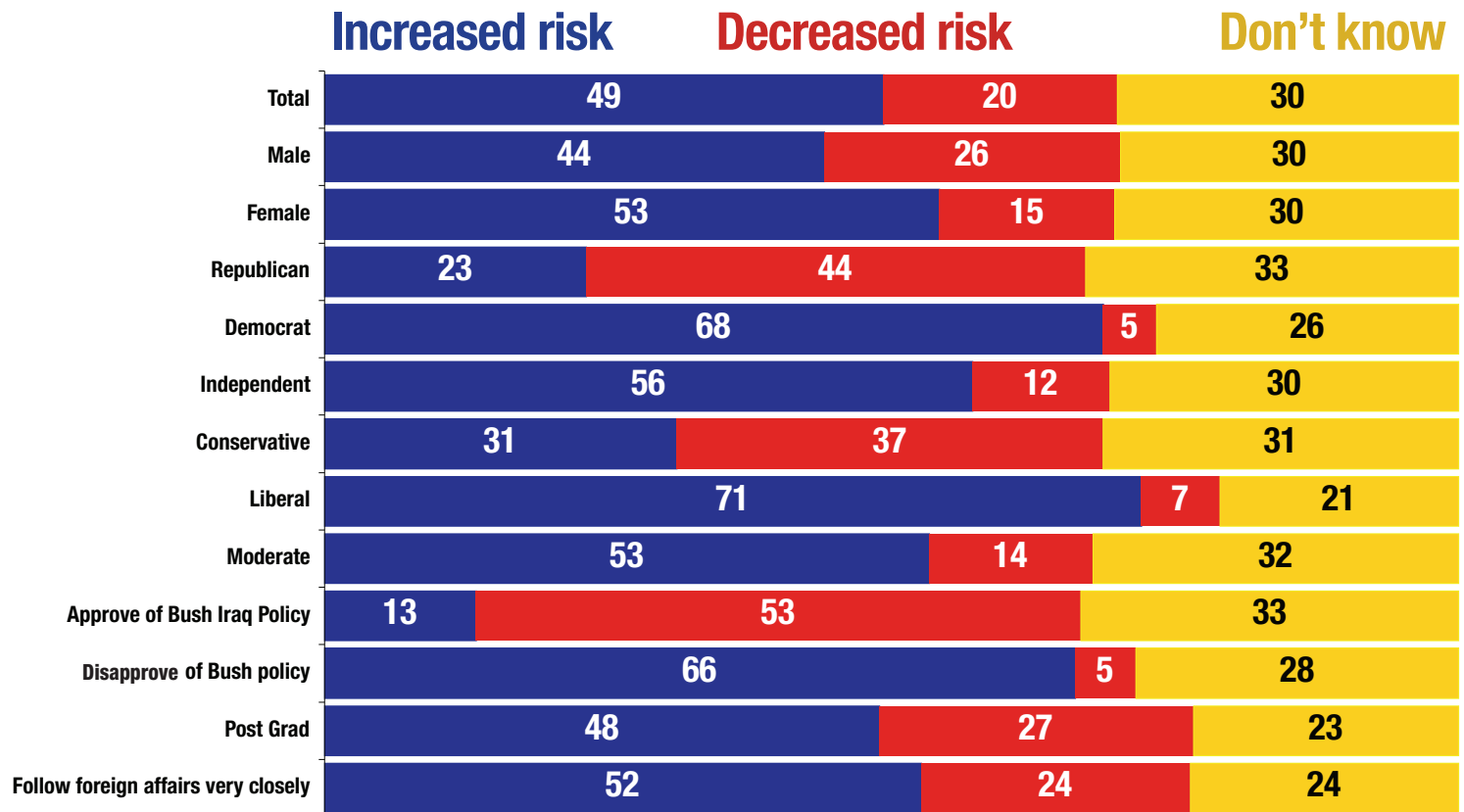


**In general, when thinking about terrorism and issues related to national security, do you feel safer now than you did five years ago? And would that be more safe, or less safe?**



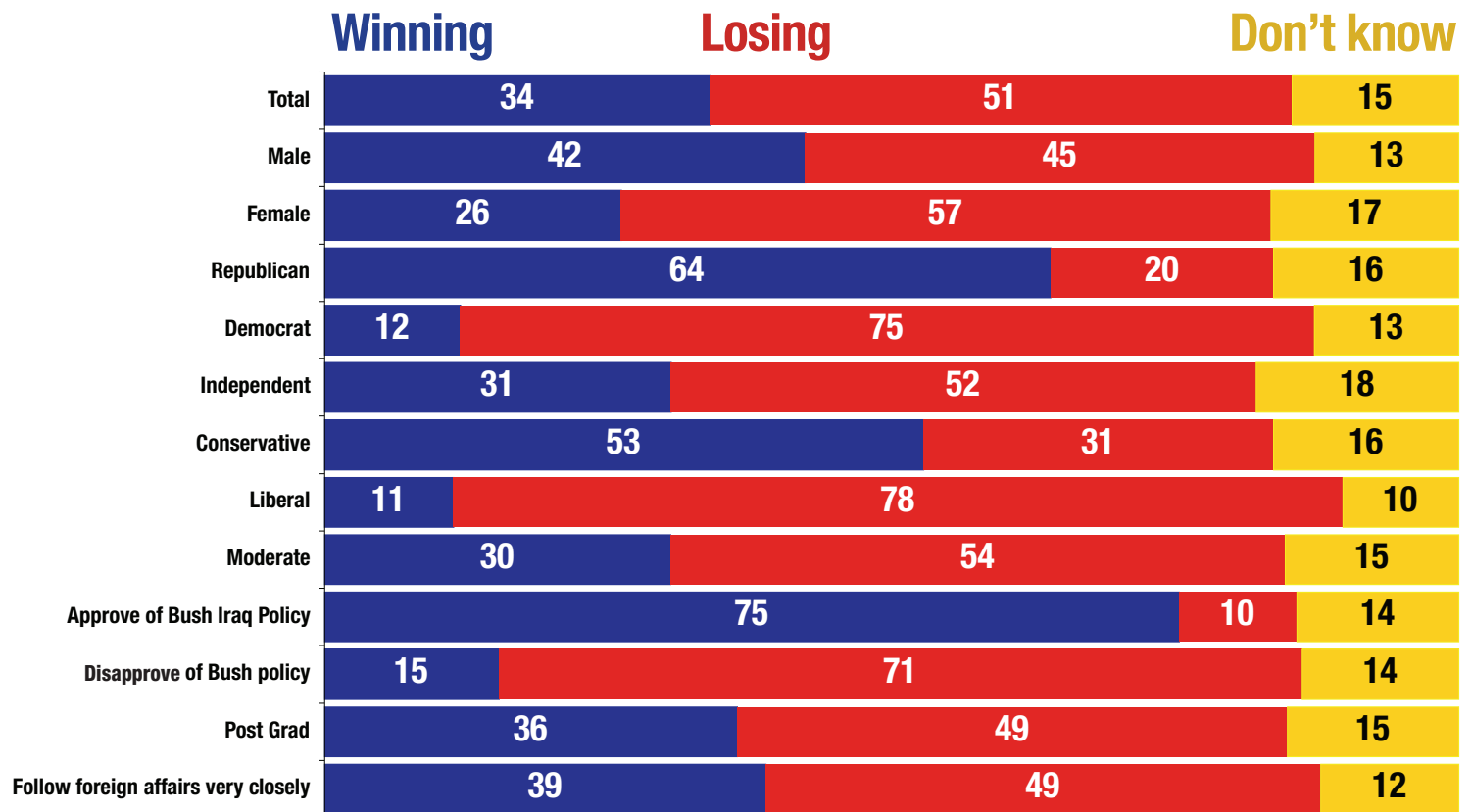


# Do you believe the War in Iraq has increased the risk of a terrorist attack against the United States, decreased the risk, or made no difference?



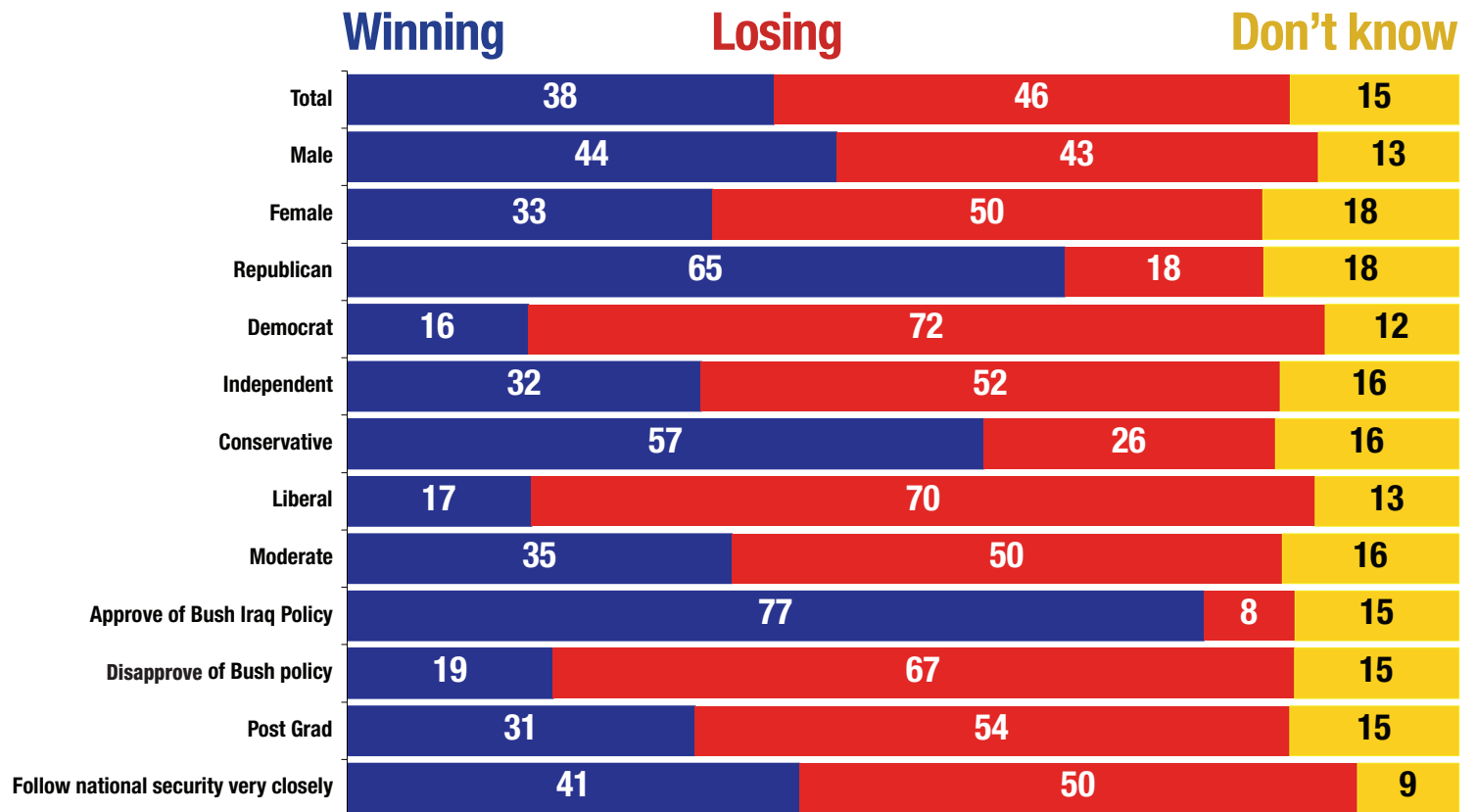


# In your opinion, is the United States winning or losing the “war on terror”?





# In your opinion, is the United States winning or losing the “campaign against terrorism”?

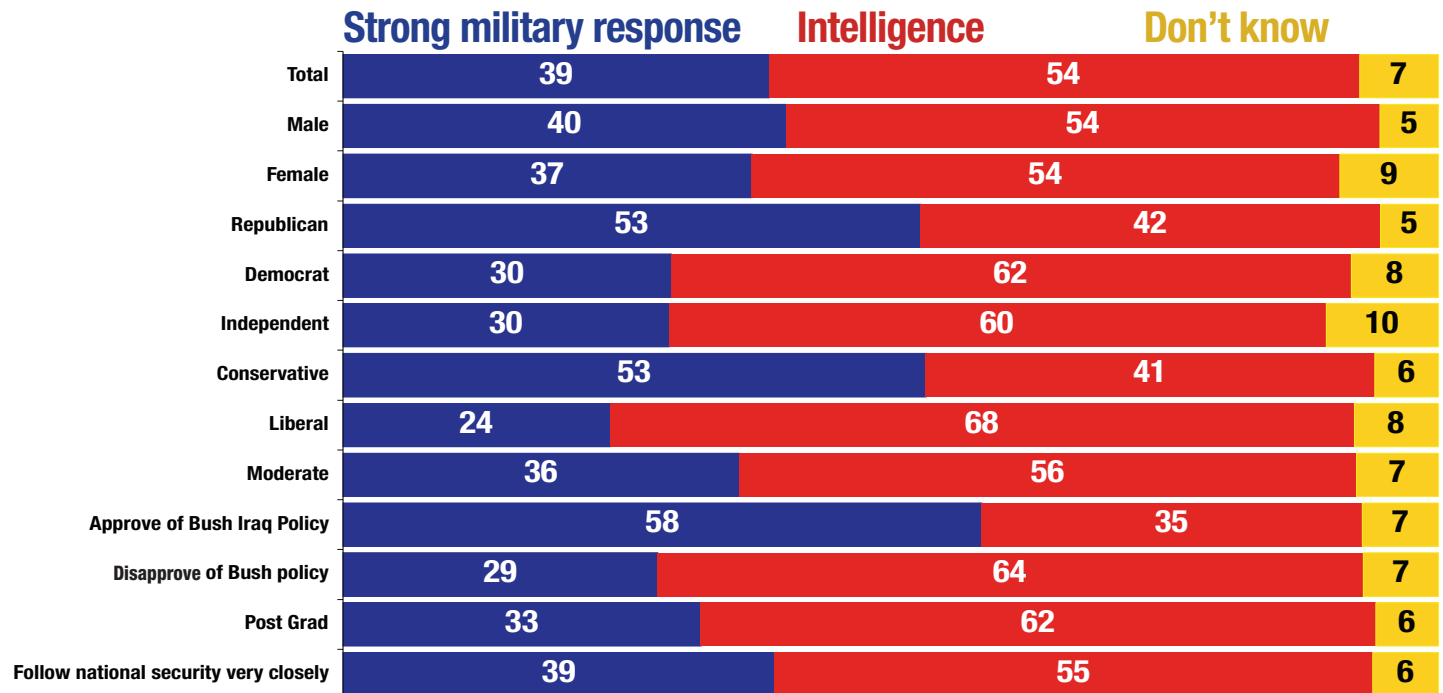




# Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

The war on terror requires a strong military response. It will be won primarily through the aggressive use of military force to attack and destroy the terrorists and their supporters, wherever they may be.

The war on terror will be won primarily through the aggressive use of intelligence and law enforcement. The use of military force should be used in a limited and precise way.

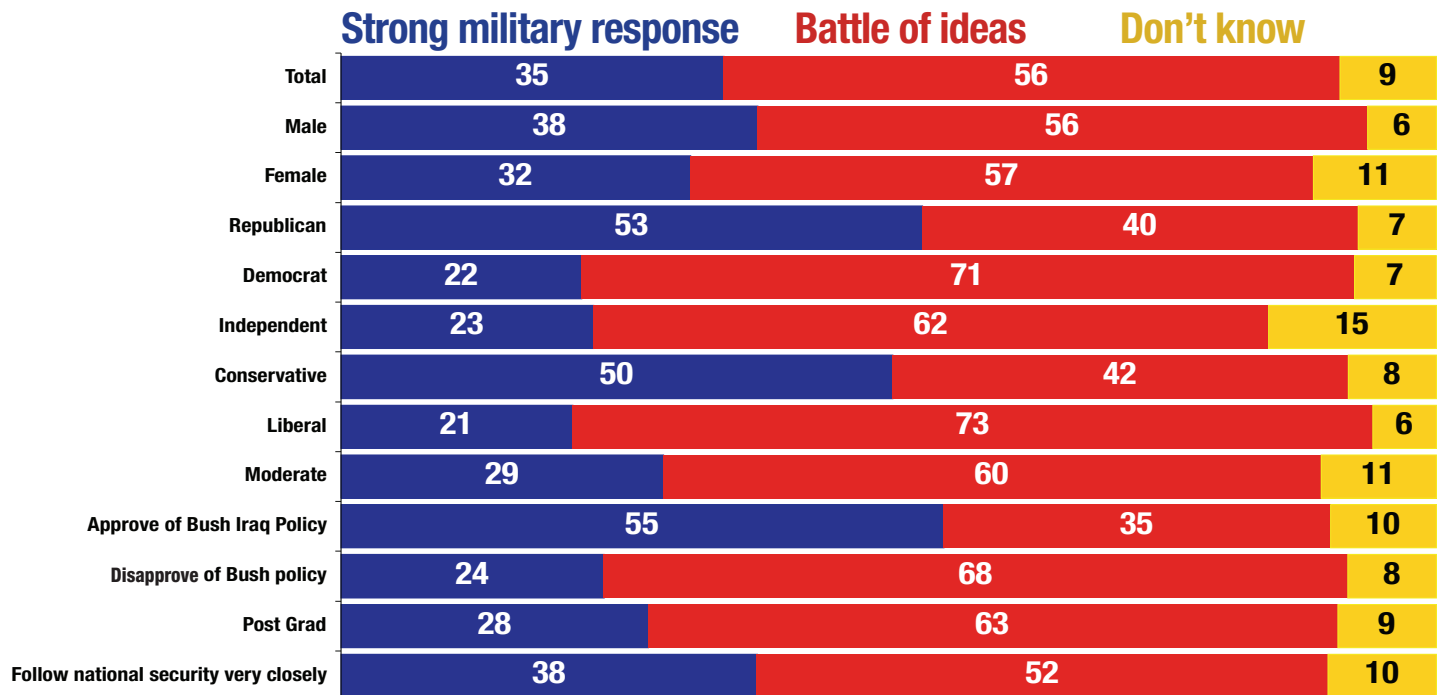




# Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

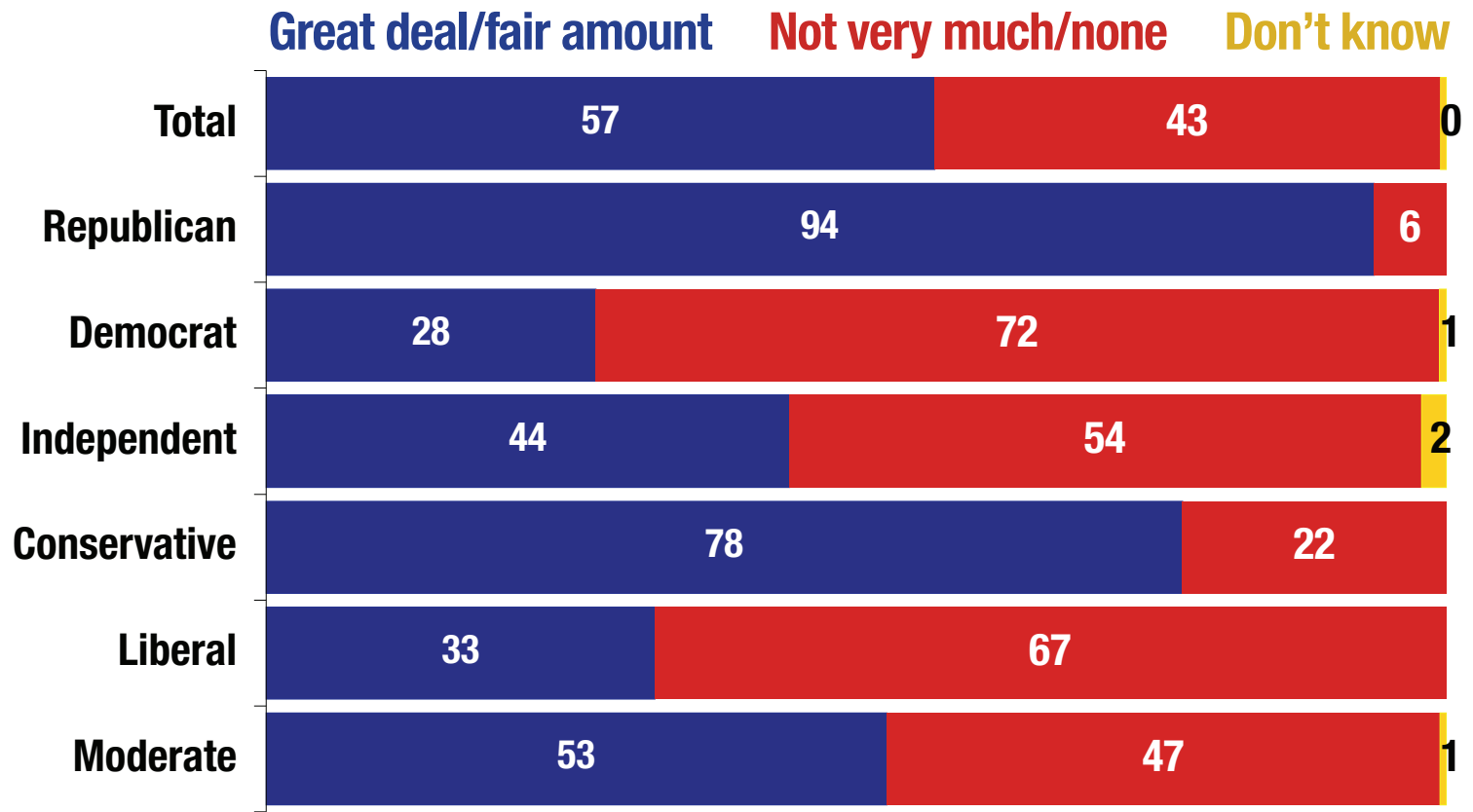
The war on terror requires a strong military response. It will be won primarily through the aggressive use of military force to attack and destroy the terrorists and their supporters, wherever they may be.

The war on terror will never be won until we win the battle for people throughout the Muslim world. The war on terror is a battle of ideas.



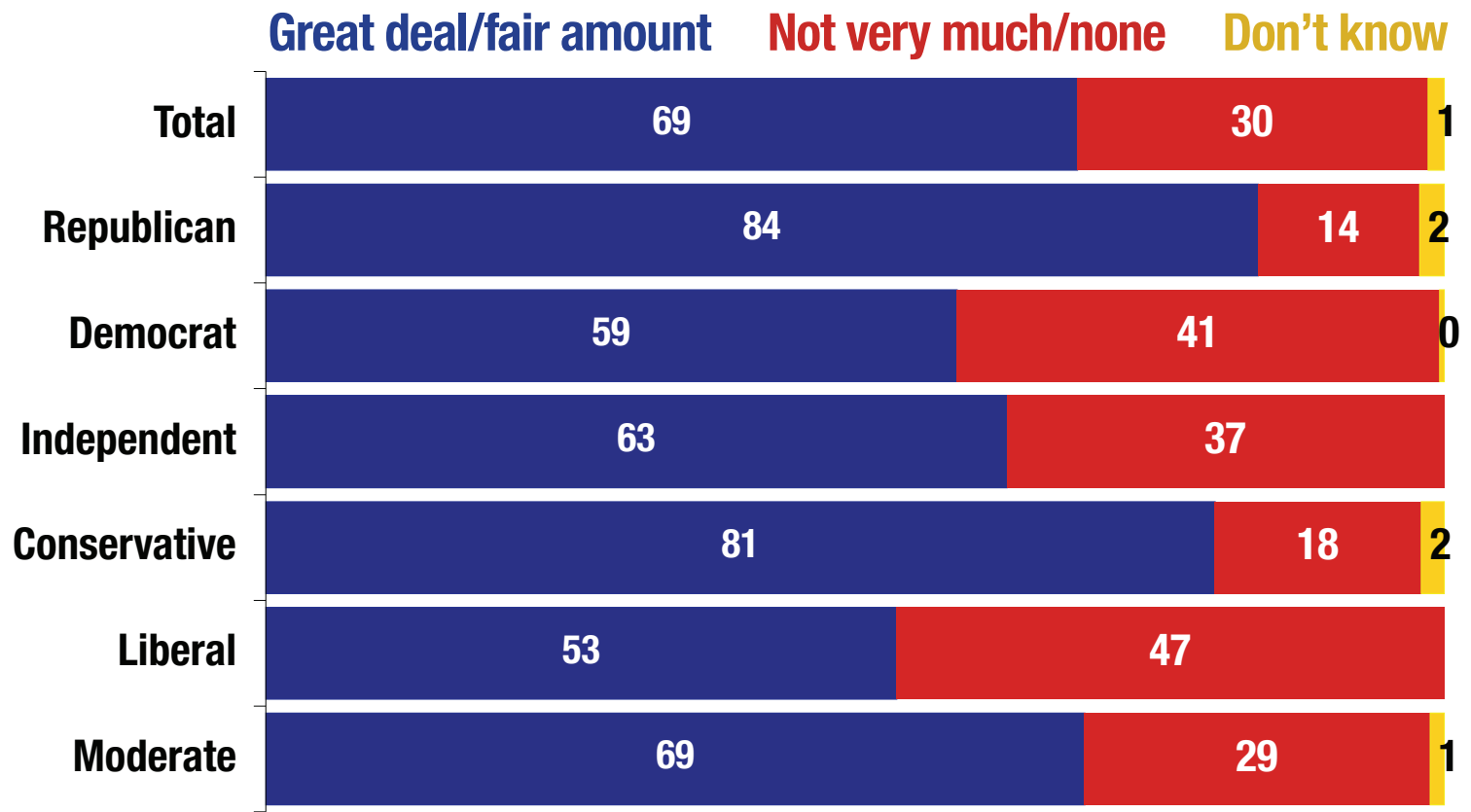


# How much confidence do you have in the Bush Administration to protect America from future terrorist attacks: a great deal/fair amount, or not very much/none at all?





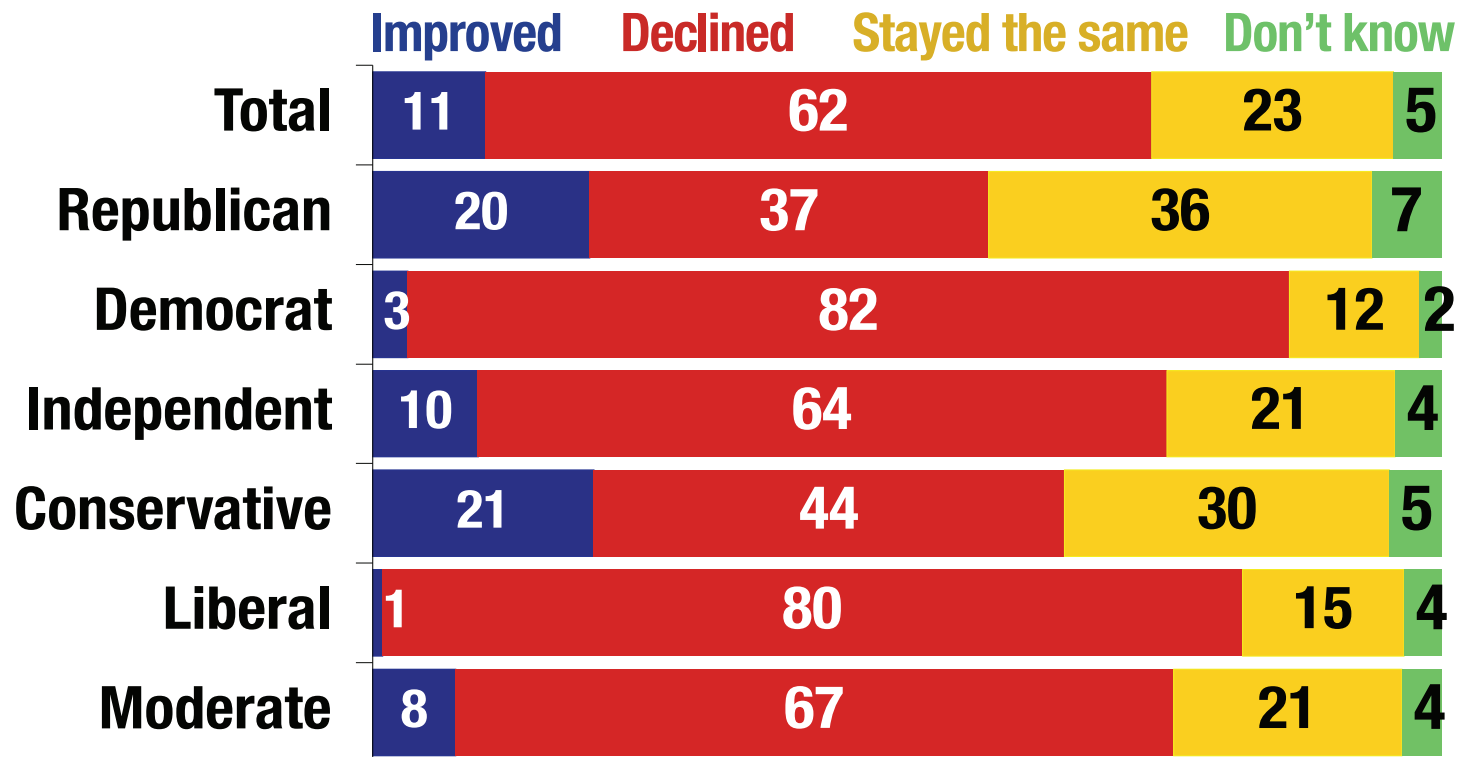
# How much confidence do you have in the U.S. government to protect America from future terrorist attacks: a great deal/fair amount, or not very much/none at all?



**Americans overwhelmingly believe  
that America's leadership and  
moral authority are in decline.**

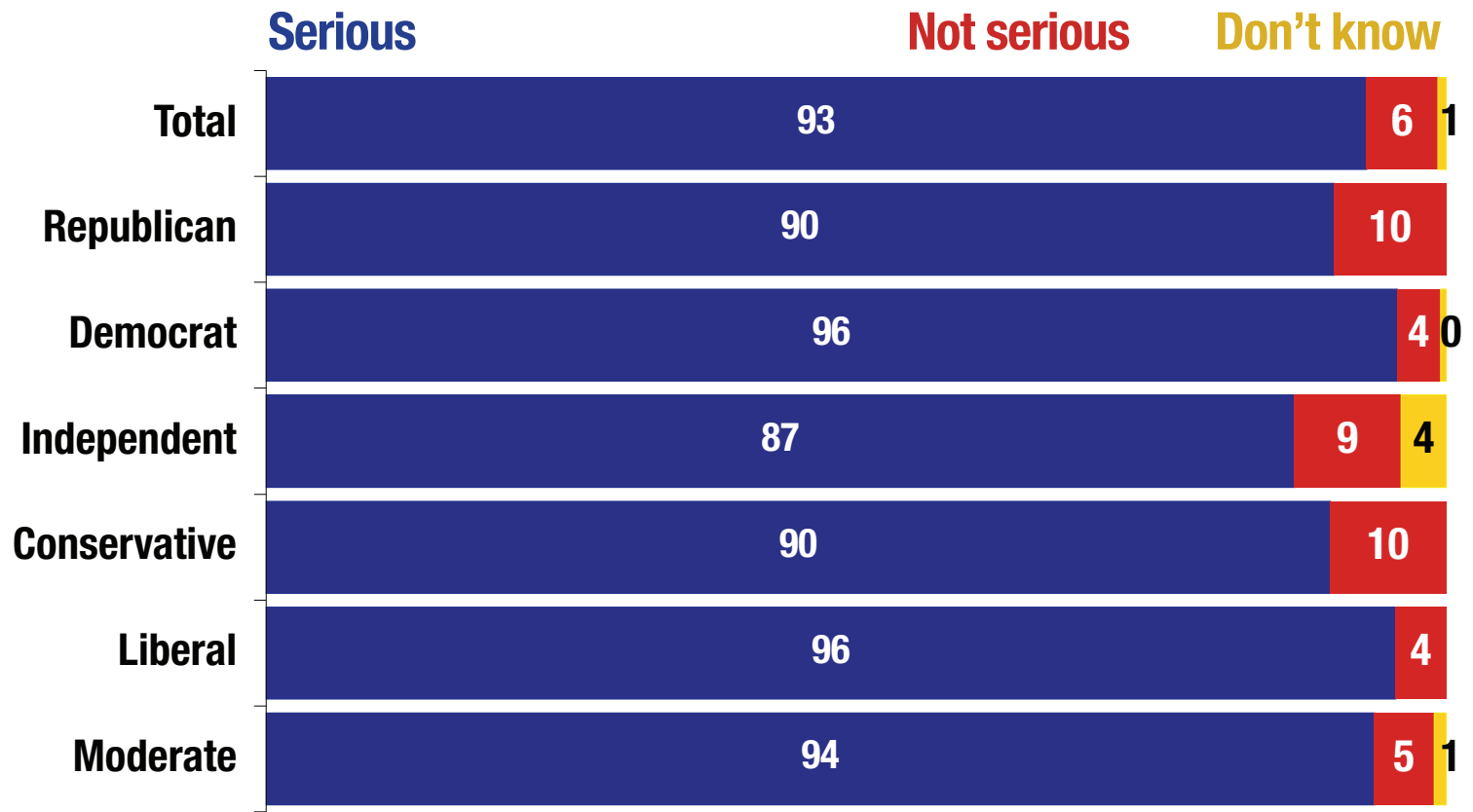


**In your opinion, has America's moral authority in the world generally improved since President Bush took office, declined since Bush took office, or has it mostly stayed the same?**





## How serious a problem is the decline of America's moral authority in the world - is it serious, or not serious?





# Has the war in Iraq damaged America's moral authority in the world?

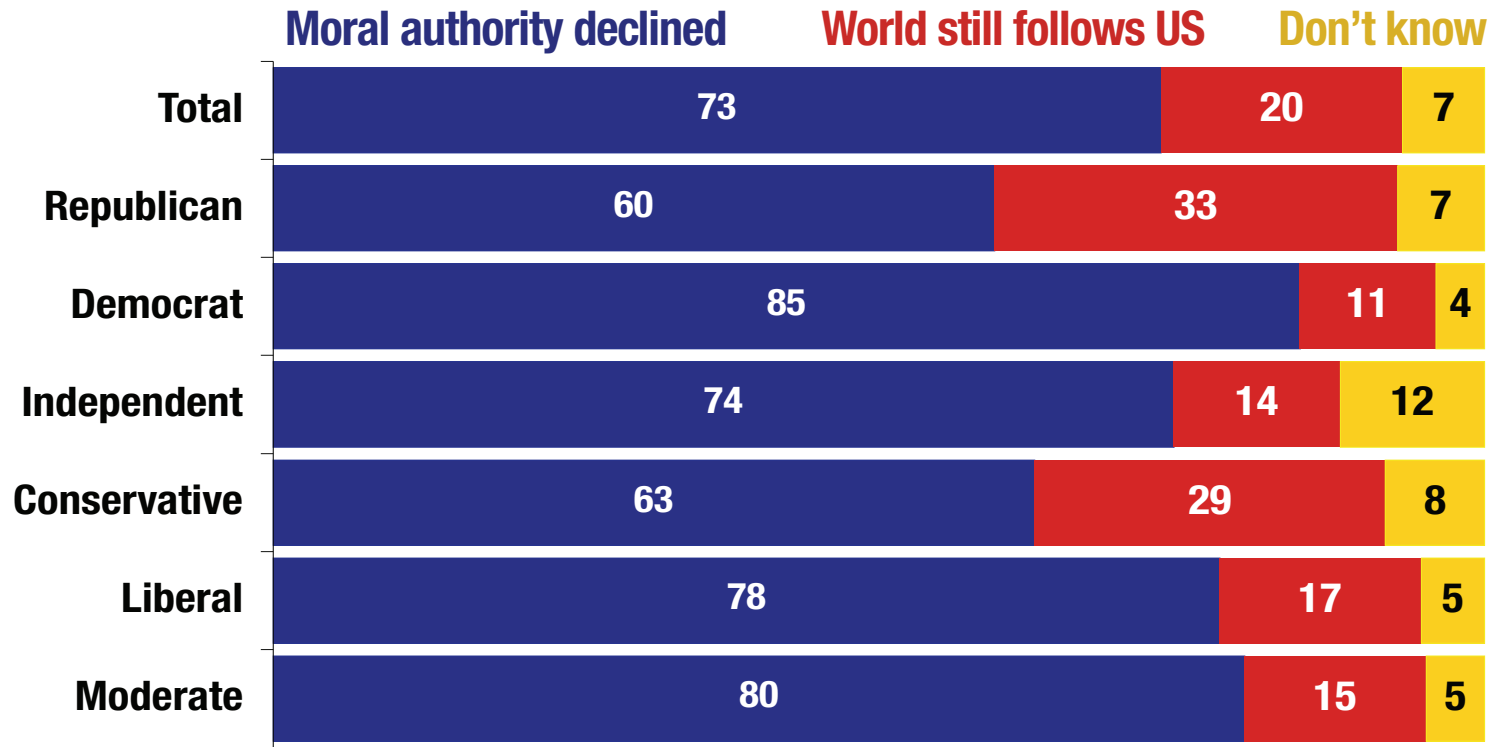




## Which of the following do you agree with more?

America's moral authority in the world has declined significantly making it much harder to persuade our allies to work with us.

Our allies and people around the world still see America as the indispensable nation and they are more than willing to follow our lead on the key issues facing the world.



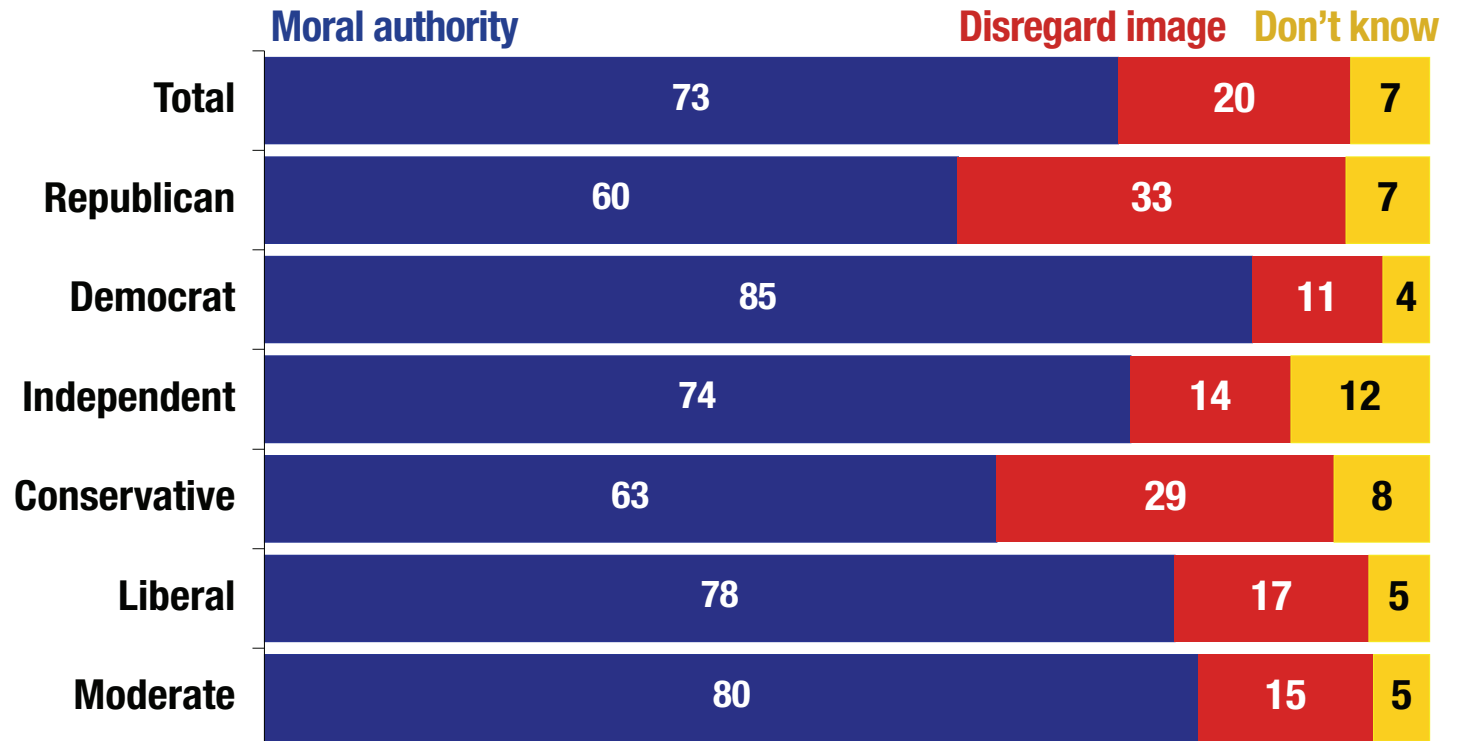


## Which of the following do you agree with more?

The United States should balance our military might with moral authority. During the Cold War, the U.S. was a beacon of democracy and freedom throughout the world.

America will never be more secure if we obsess about our image in the world.

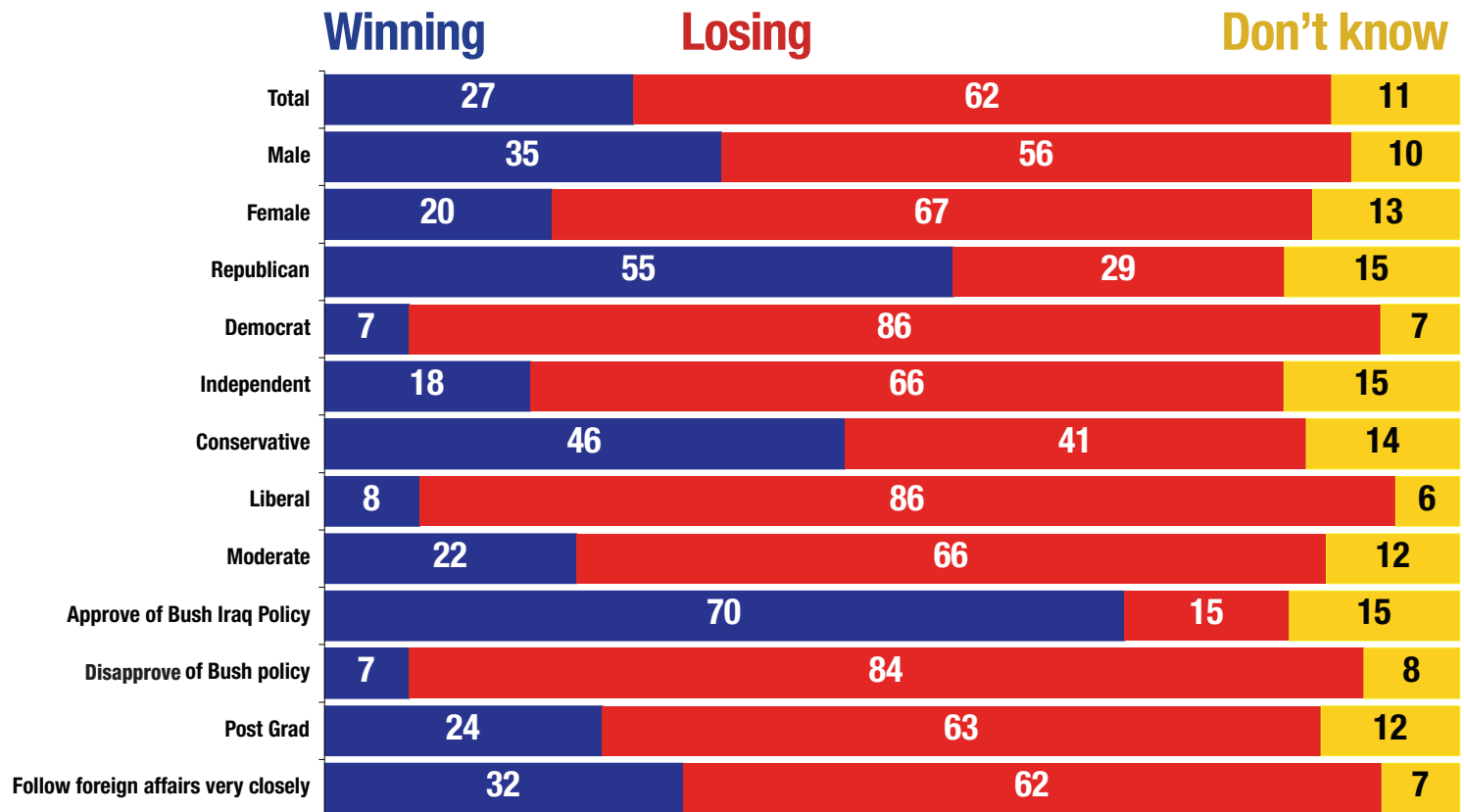
The U.S. is in a unique and dangerous position because our enemy is different than any we have ever faced.



**Americans are increasingly  
pessimistic about the direction of  
the War in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

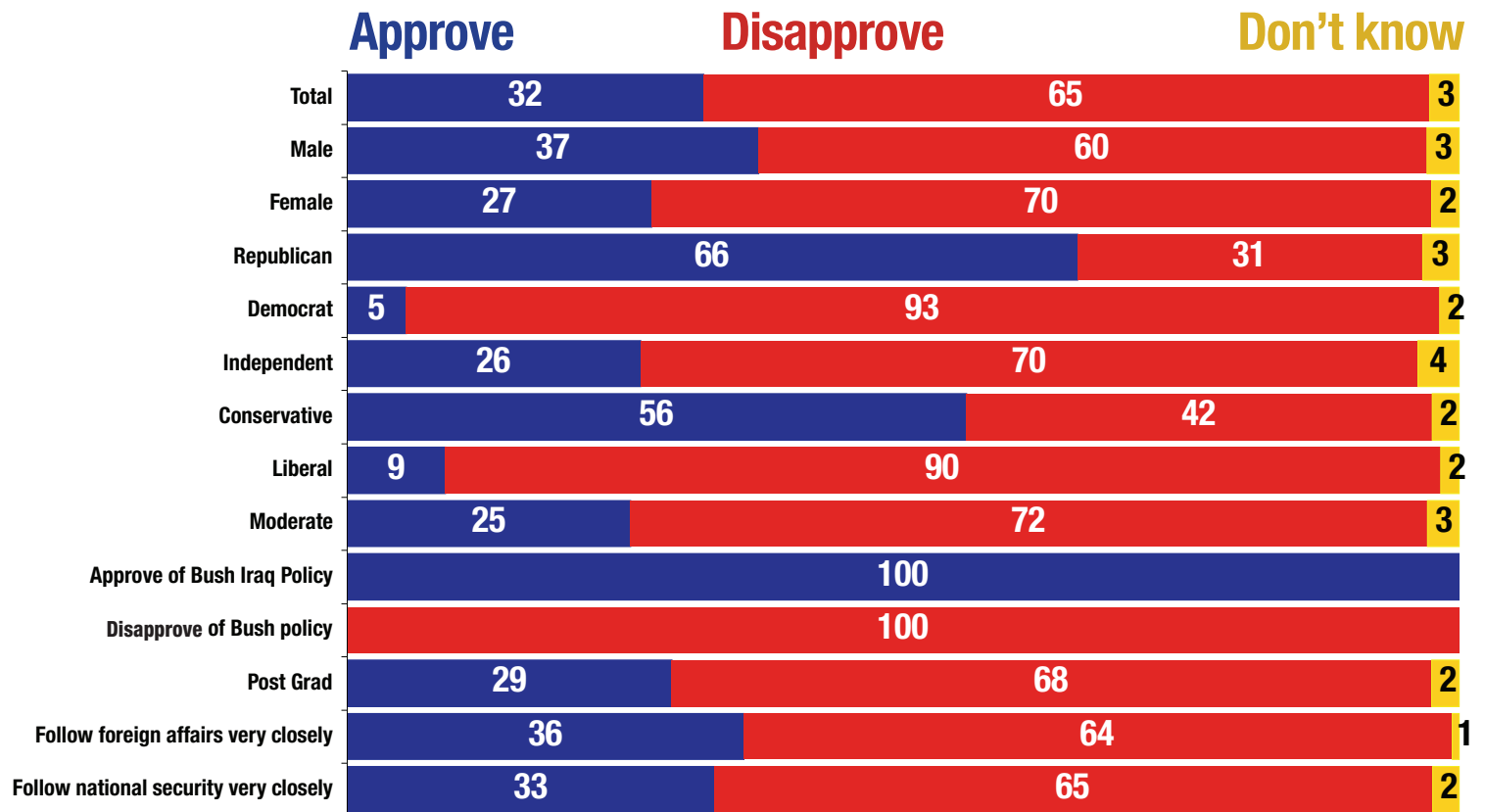


# In your opinion is the United States winning or losing the war in Iraq?



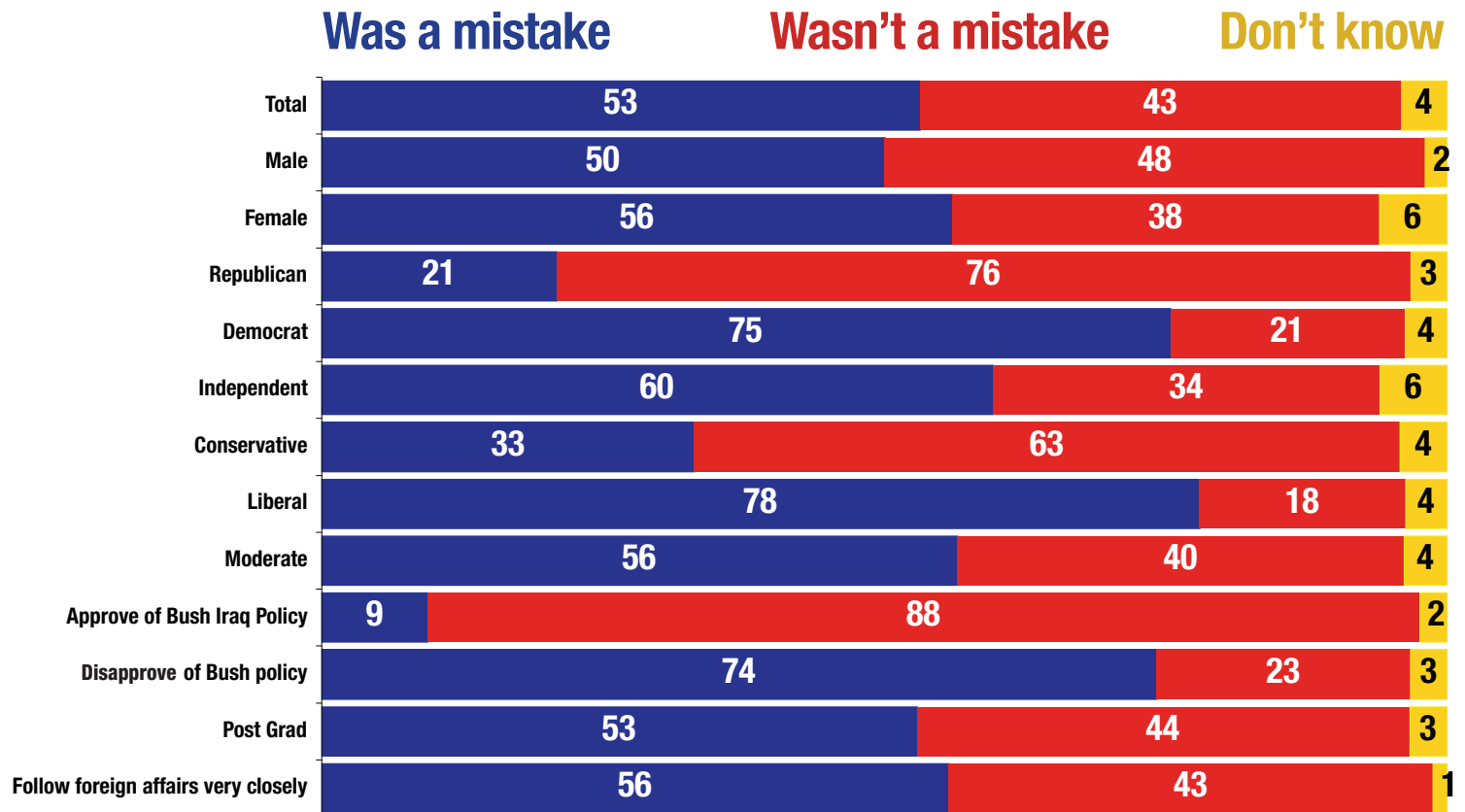


# Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the war in Iraq?



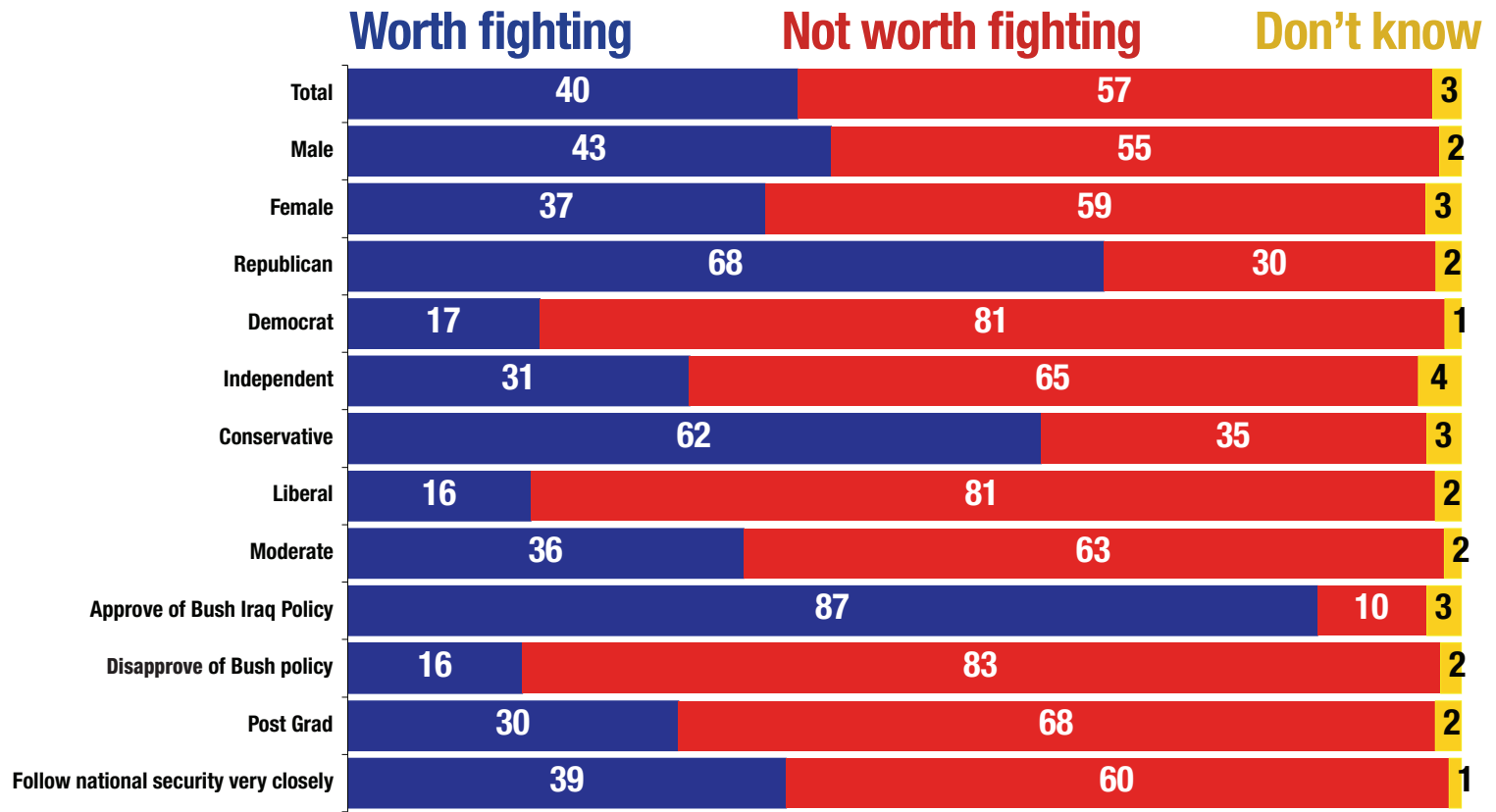


# Do you think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq, or not?





# All in all considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war in Iraq was worth fighting or not worth fighting?





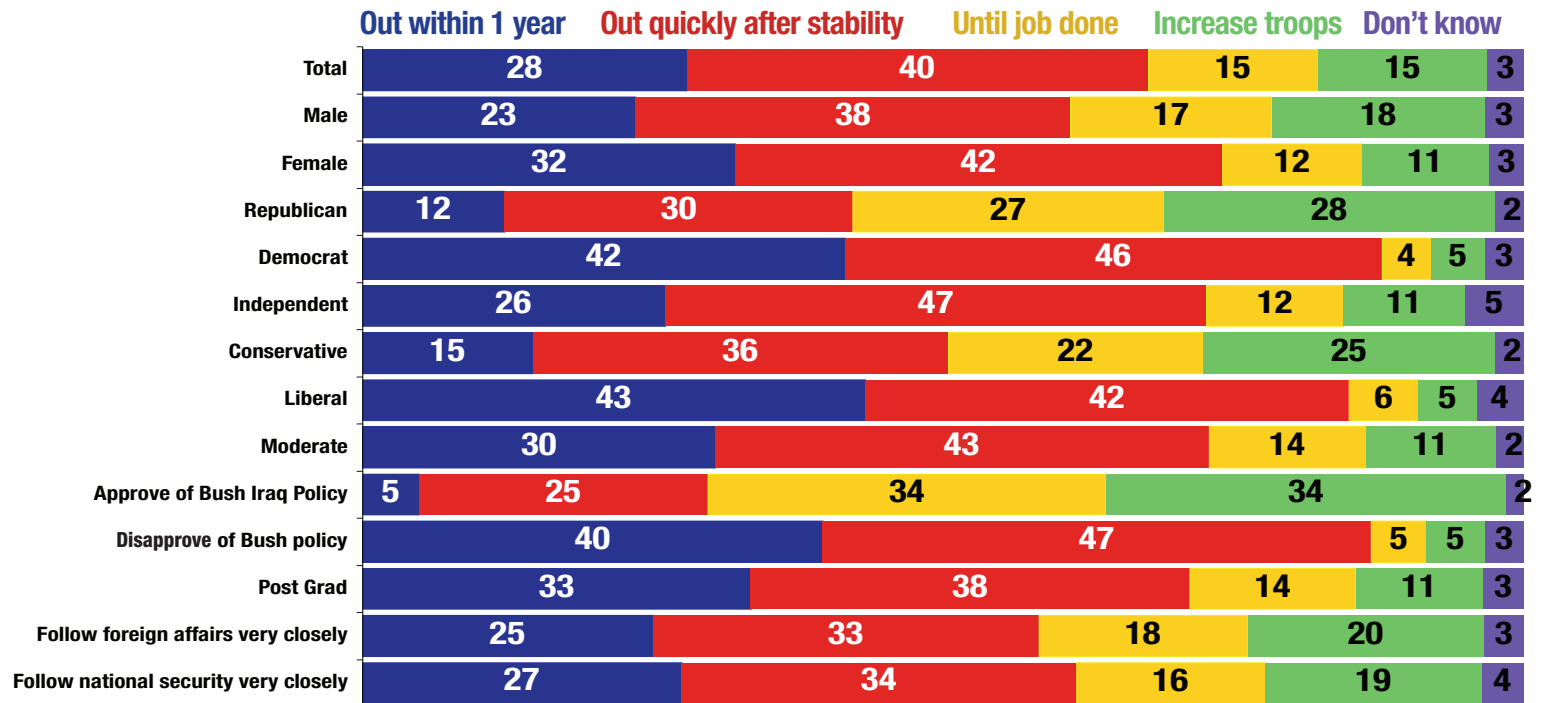
# Considering all of the proposals about Iraq, there appear to be four basic options. Which of the following is closest to your view?

**We should set a timetable to remove all American troops from Iraq within one year.**

**We should remove our troops as quickly as possible, but we cannot leave entirely until Iraq has achieved a basic level of security and stability.**

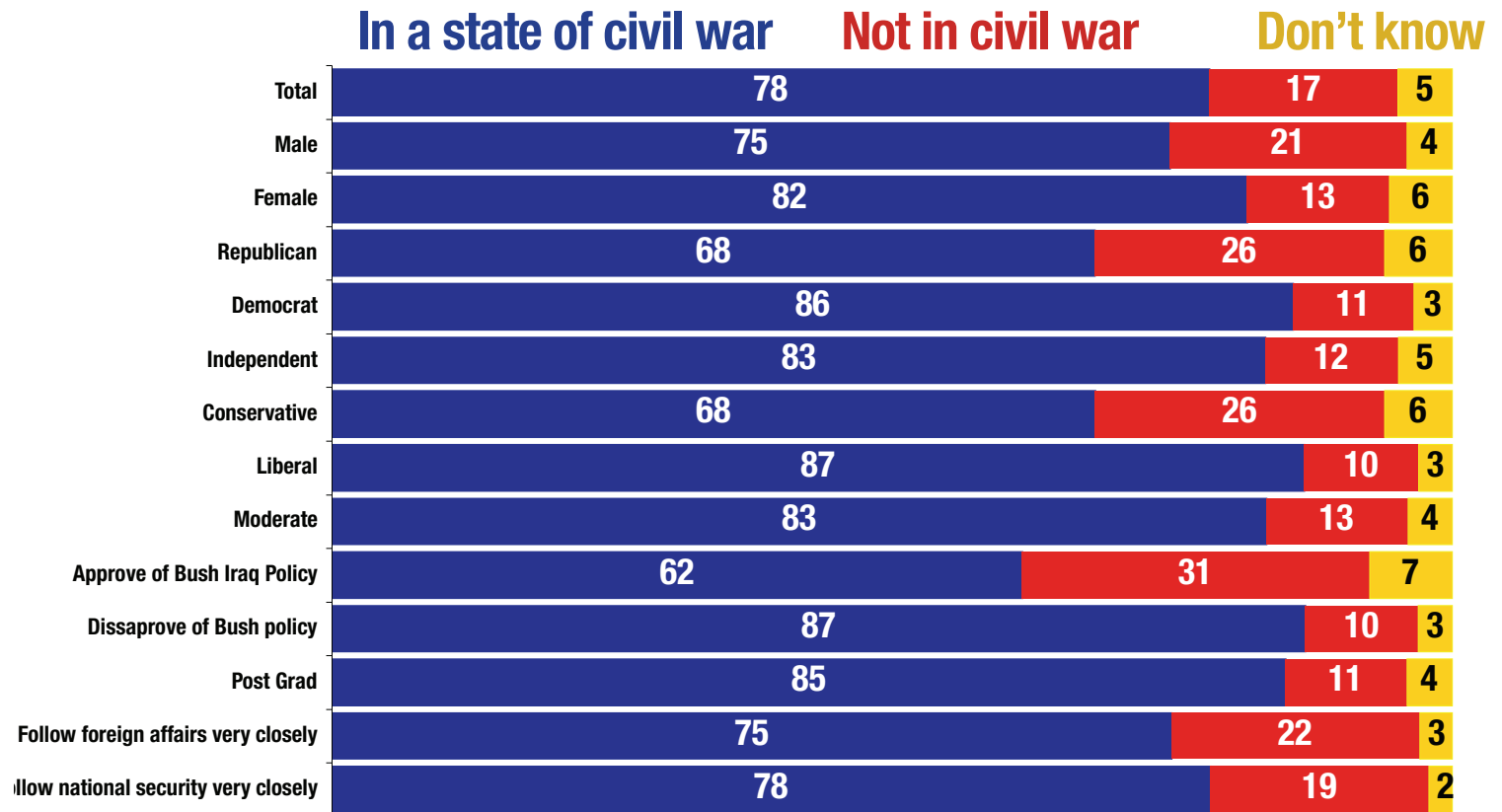
**We should keep our troops in Iraq until we get the job done.**

**We should increase our troop level in Iraq in order to get the job done.**



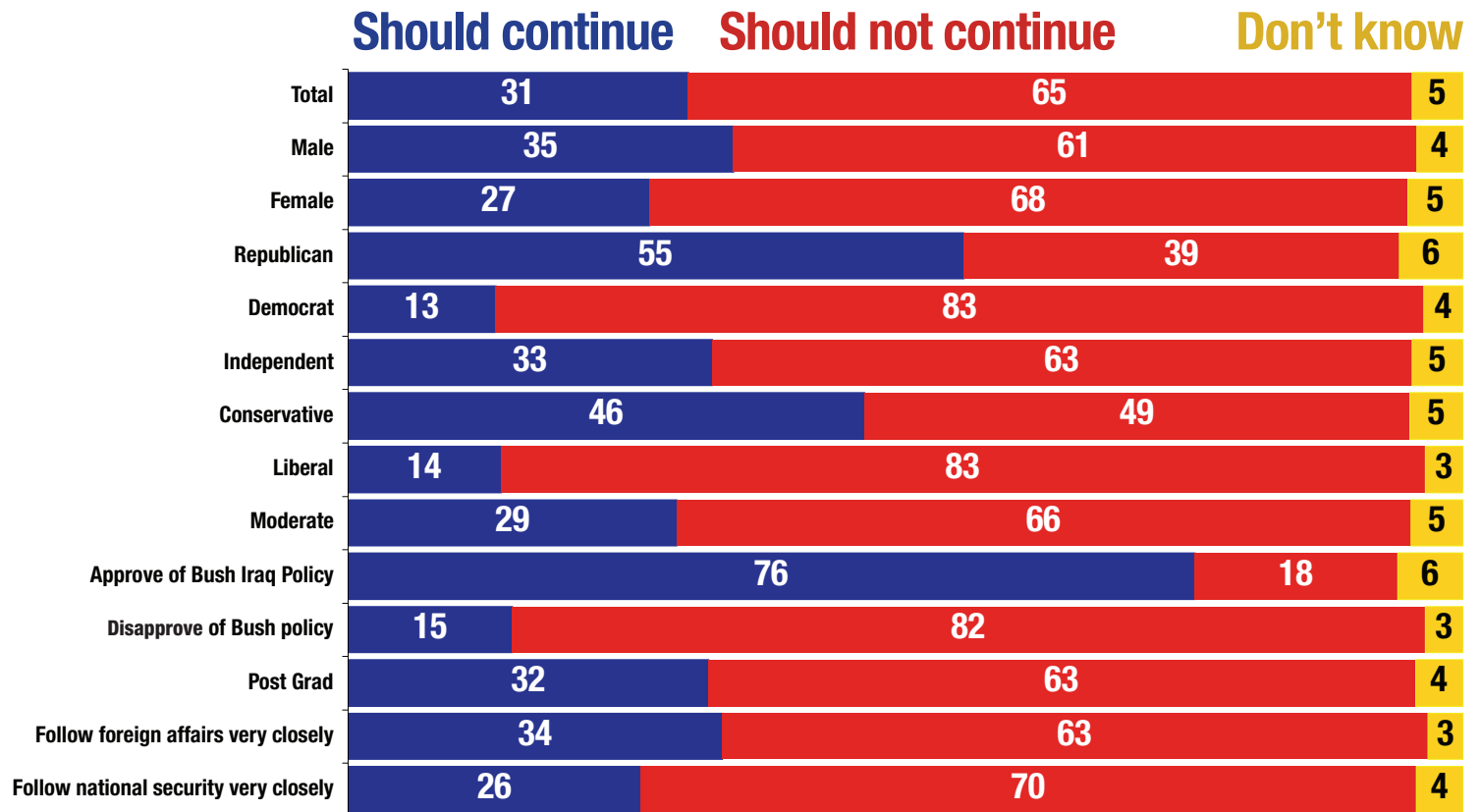


# Based on what you have heard or read, do you think Iraq is in a state of civil war or is not in a state of civil war right now?

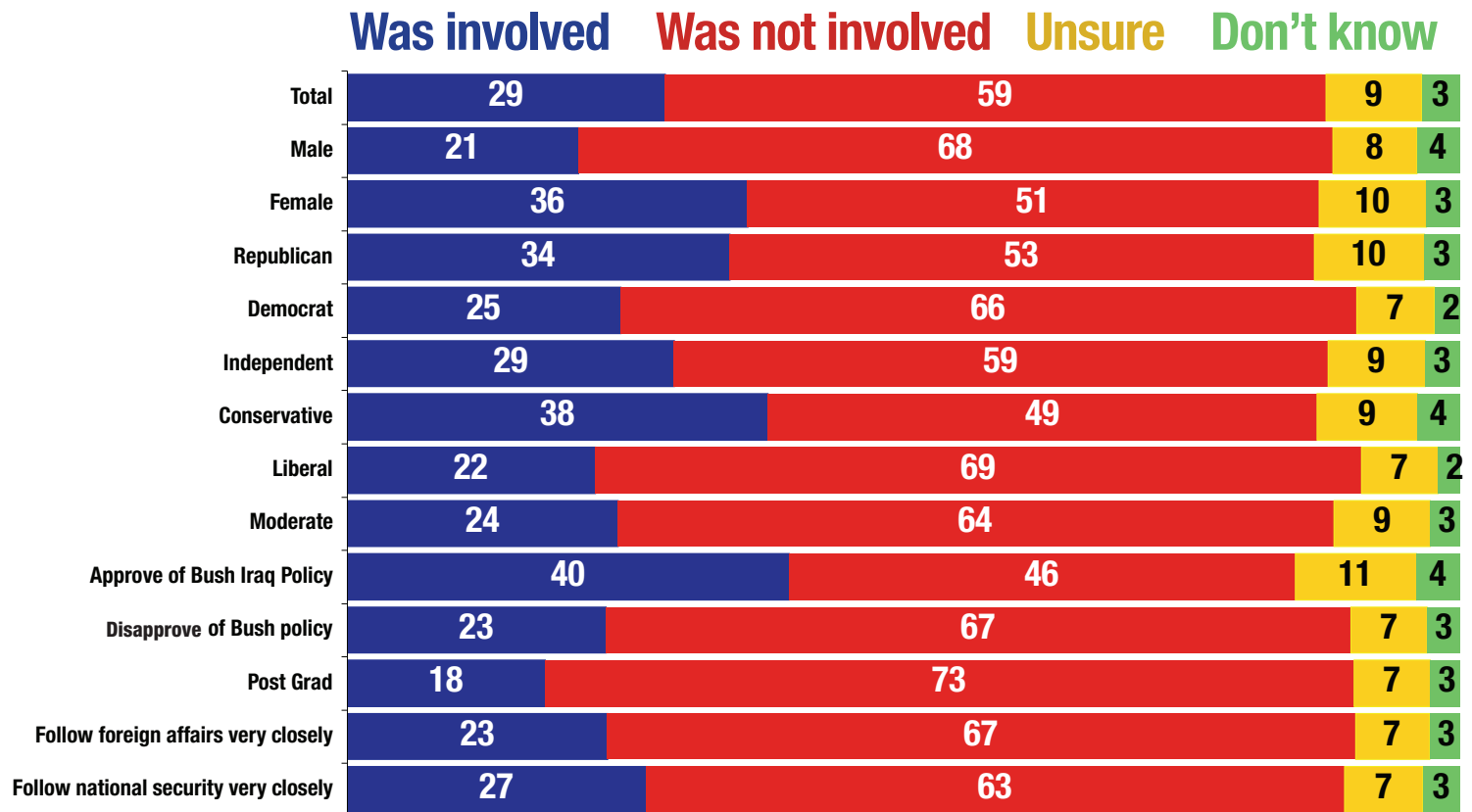




# Do you believe American troops should continue fighting in Iraq in the midst of a civil war?

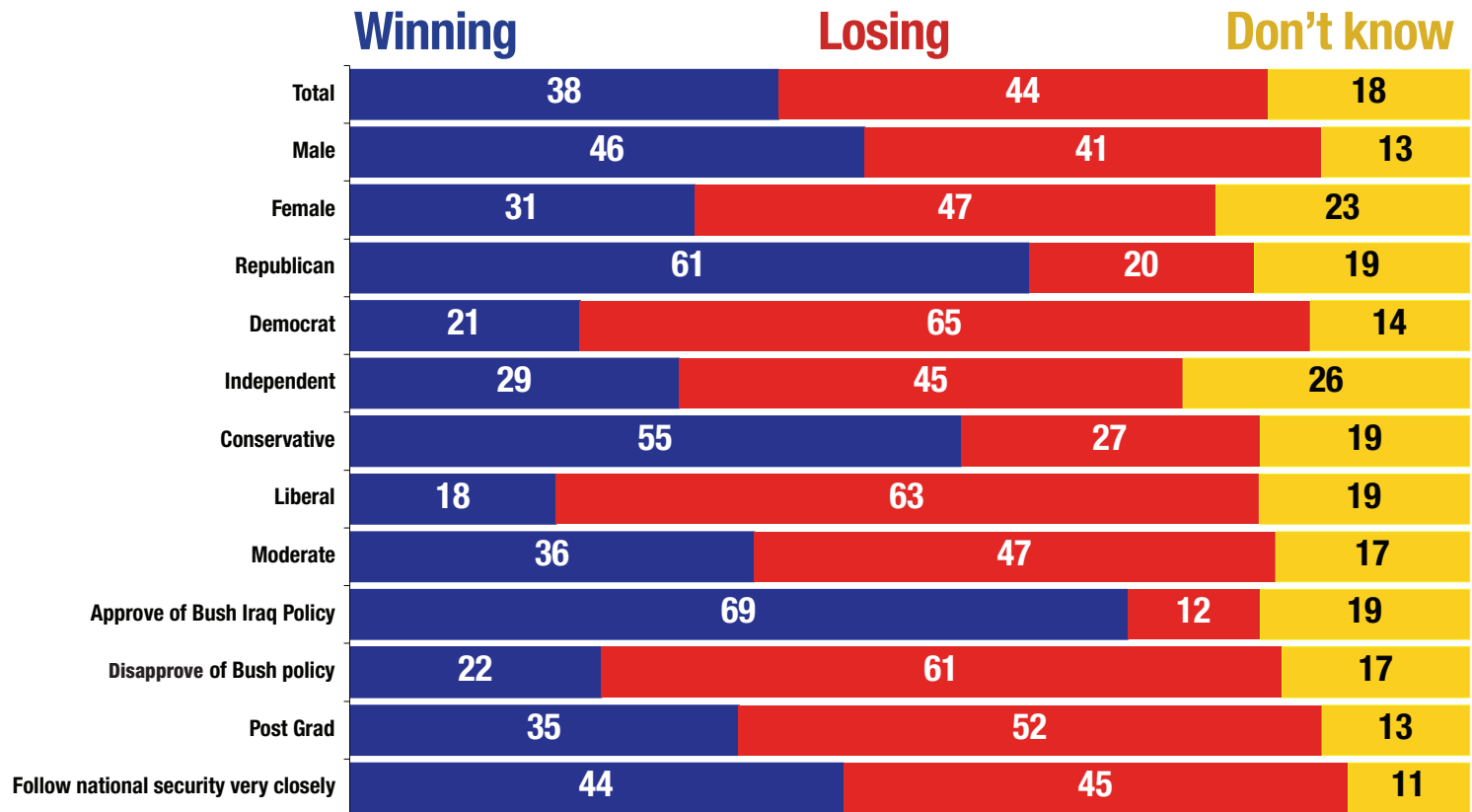


# Q Do you think that Saddam Hussein, the former Iraqi leader, was personally involved in the September 11th terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, or not?





# In your opinion is the United States winning or losing the war in Afghanistan?

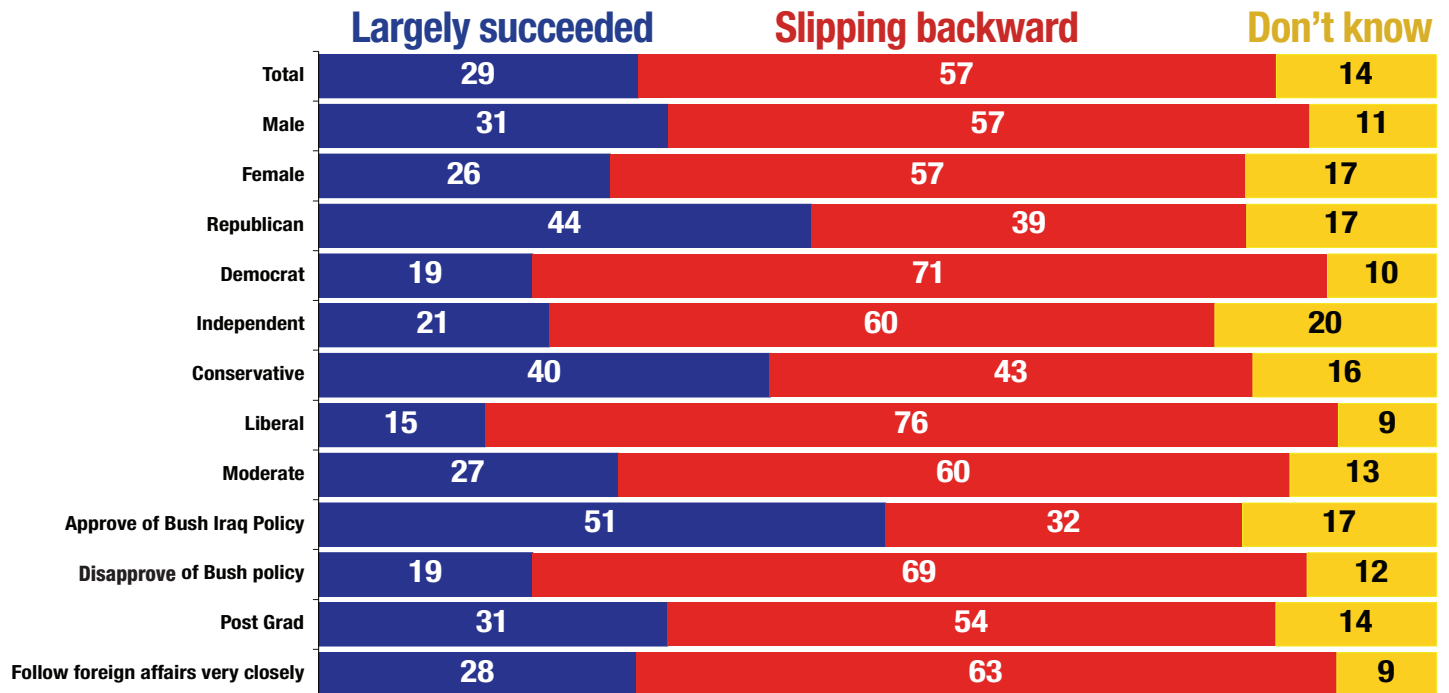




# Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

**We have largely succeeded in our mission in Afghanistan. Al Qaeda forces have been defeated, the Taliban are out of power and the Afghan people have more freedom.**

**We are slipping backward in Afghanistan. The Taliban is regaining strength, war lords rule much of the country, and Afghan heroin production is at its highest levels in a decade.**





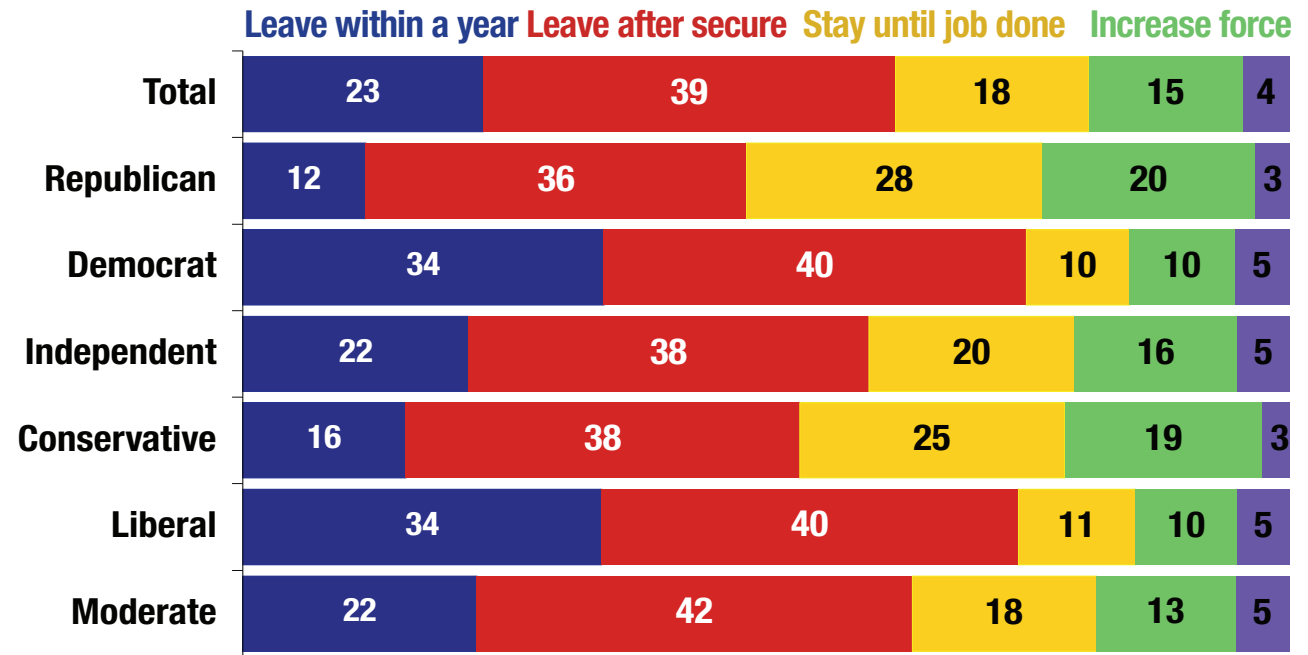
# If the level of violence continues to escalate in Afghanistan and threatens to spin out of control, which of the following options is closest to your view?

We should set a timetable to remove all American troops from Afghanistan within one year.

We should remove our troops as quickly as possible, but we cannot leave entirely until Afghanistan has achieved a basic level of security and stability.

We should keep our troops in Afghanistan until we get the job done

We should increase our troop level in Afghanistan in order to get the job done



**Americans reject the doctrine of preemption but support the use of military power under specific circumstances.**

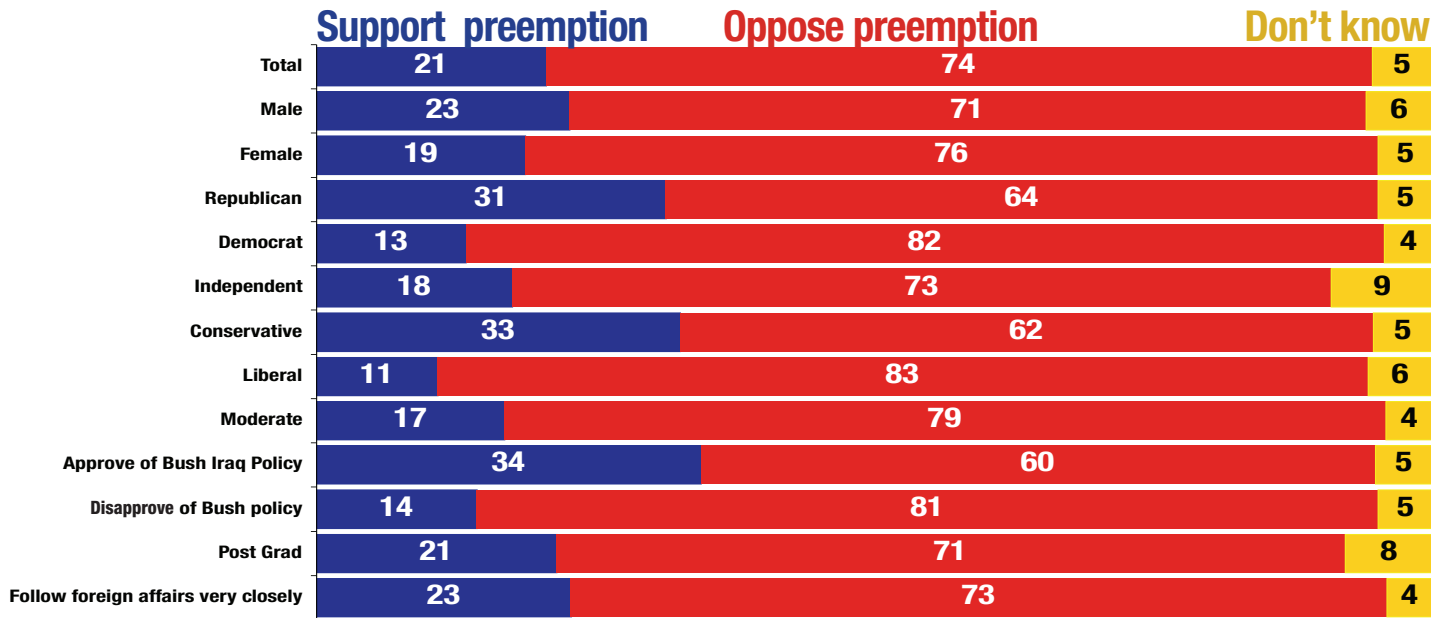
**Most do not favor immediate military action against Iran.**



**The so-called “preemption strategy” says that the U.S. should attack countries as soon as we perceive them to be threats. Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?**

**Supporters of preemption say we should be willing to attack a foreign country if we believe it is a threat to U.S. national security—particularly if it seeks weapons of mass destruction—even if an attack against the U.S. is not imminent.**

**Opponents of preemption say we should only attack a foreign country if it presents a clear and immediate threat to U.S. national security. Since intelligence can be flawed, perceived threats can turn out to be overblown. It is dangerous and shortsighted to rush to war.**

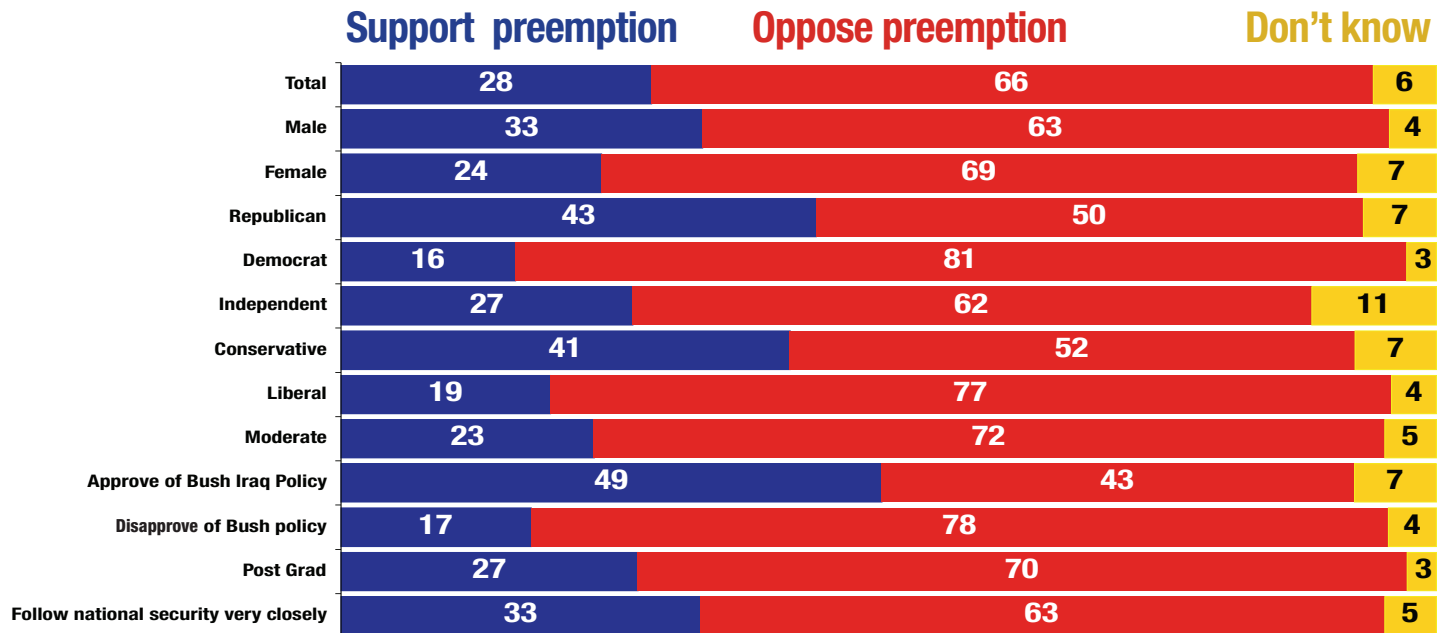




# Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

Supporters of preemption say we should be willing to attack a foreign country if we believe it is a threat to U.S. national security—particularly if it seeks weapons of mass destruction—even if an attack against the U.S. is not imminent. The best defense is a good offense.

Opponents of preemption say we should only attack a foreign country if it presents a clear and immediate threat to U.S. national security. Since intelligence can be flawed, perceived threats can turn out to be overblown. It is dangerous and shortsighted to rush to war. The quagmire of the Iraq War—and the false intelligence that led us into the war—is a stark reminder of the dangers of preemption.





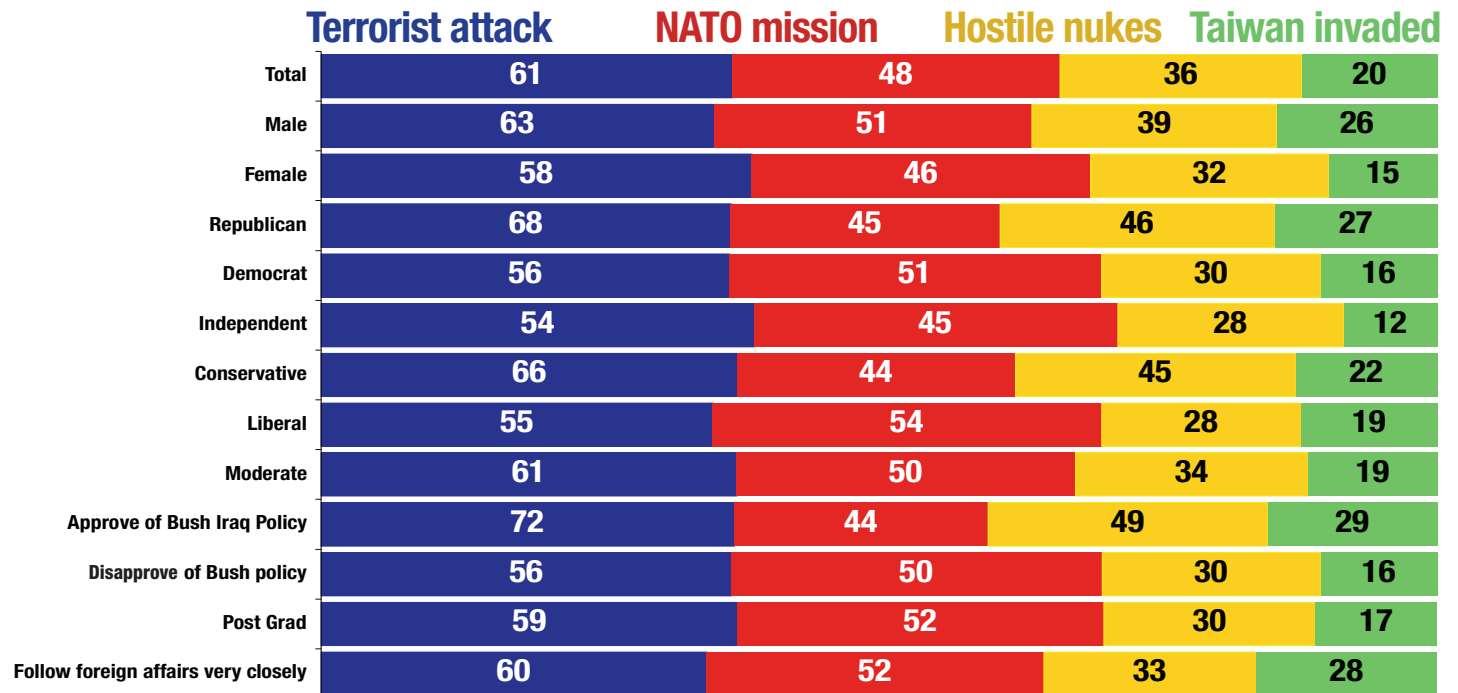
# Under which of the following circumstances—if they were to occur—would you favor using American troops to resolve the situation?

Terrorists are planning an attack on American embassies abroad

American troops are needed in a NATO peacekeeping mission

A hostile nation is close to developing nuclear weapons

China has invaded Taiwan





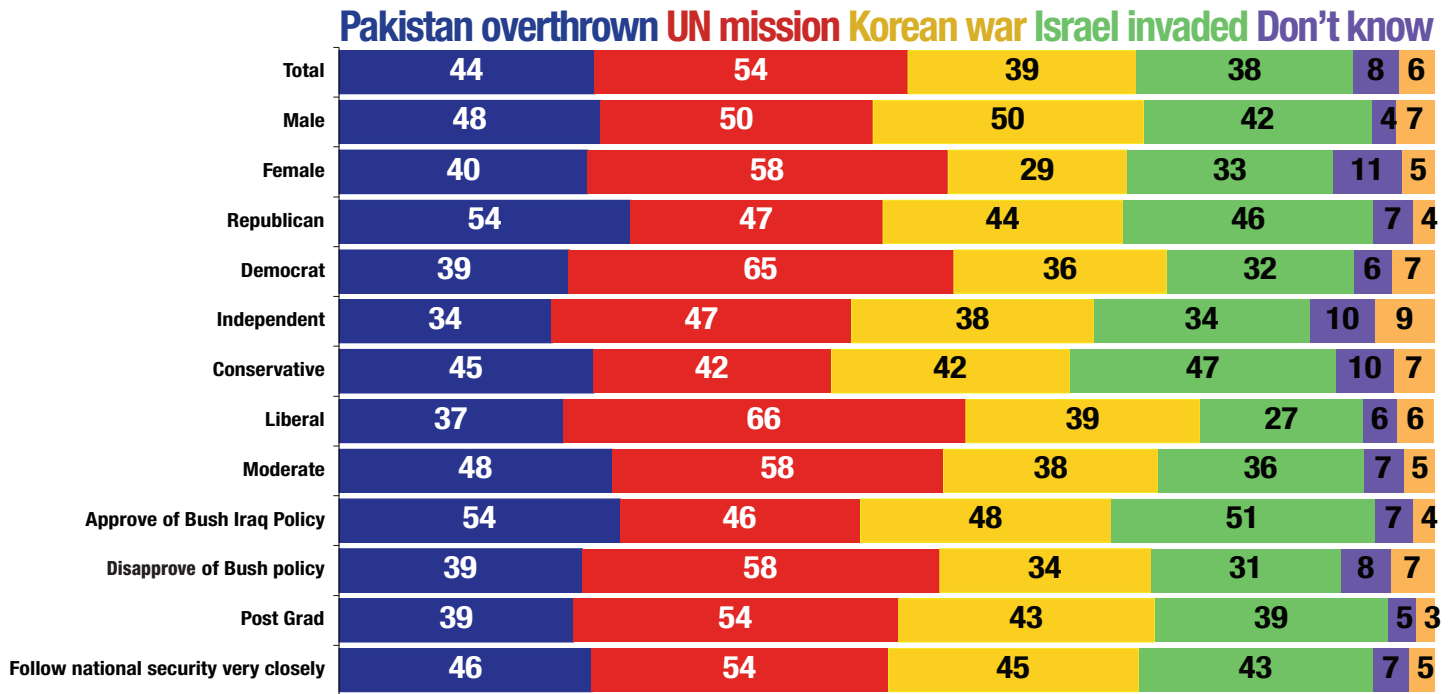
# Under which of the following circumstances—if they were to occur—would you favor using American troops to resolve the situation?

Pakistan, a nation with nuclear weapons, is overthrown by fundamentalists sympathetic to Al Qaeda

American troops are needed in a UN peacekeeping mission

North Korea attacks South Korea

Arab countries have invaded Israel





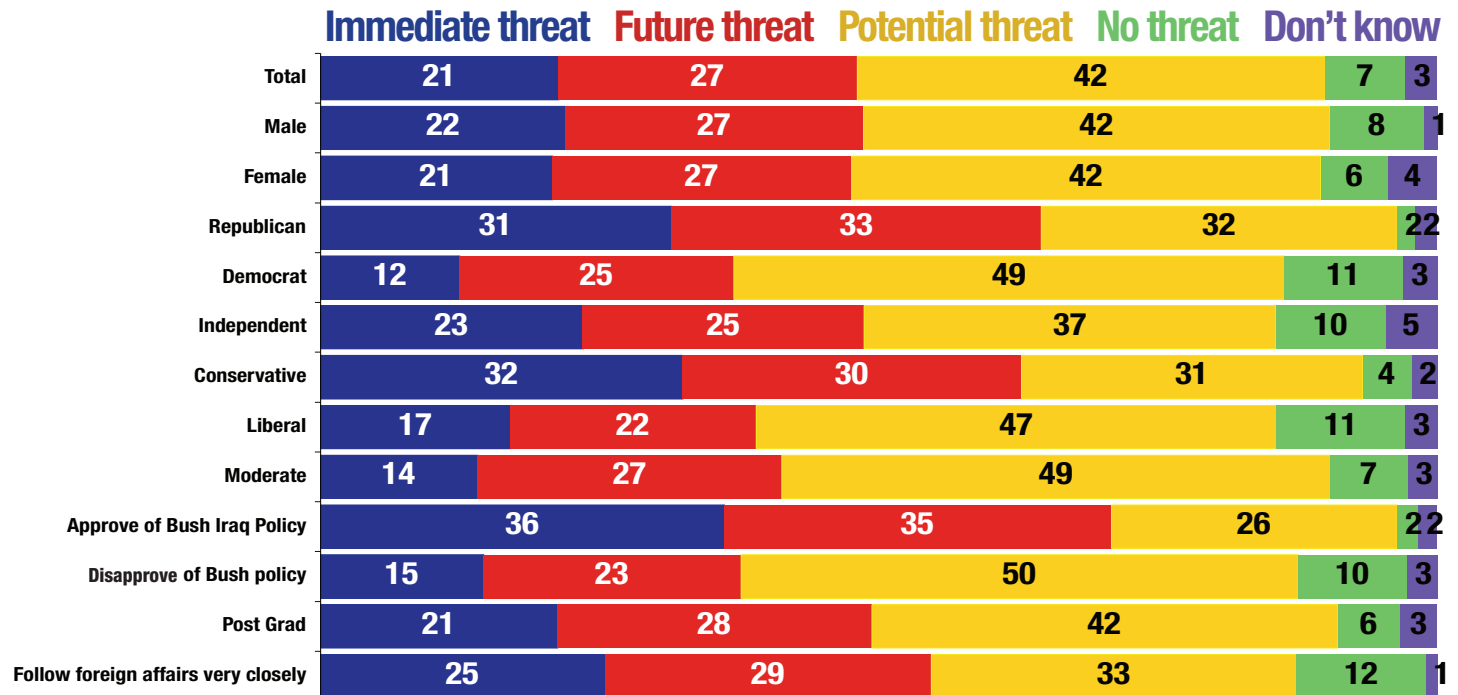
# Which one of the following best describes your view of Iran today?

Iran is an immediate security threat to the United States

Iran is a threat in the near future

Iran is a potential threat further down the road

Iran is no threat at all





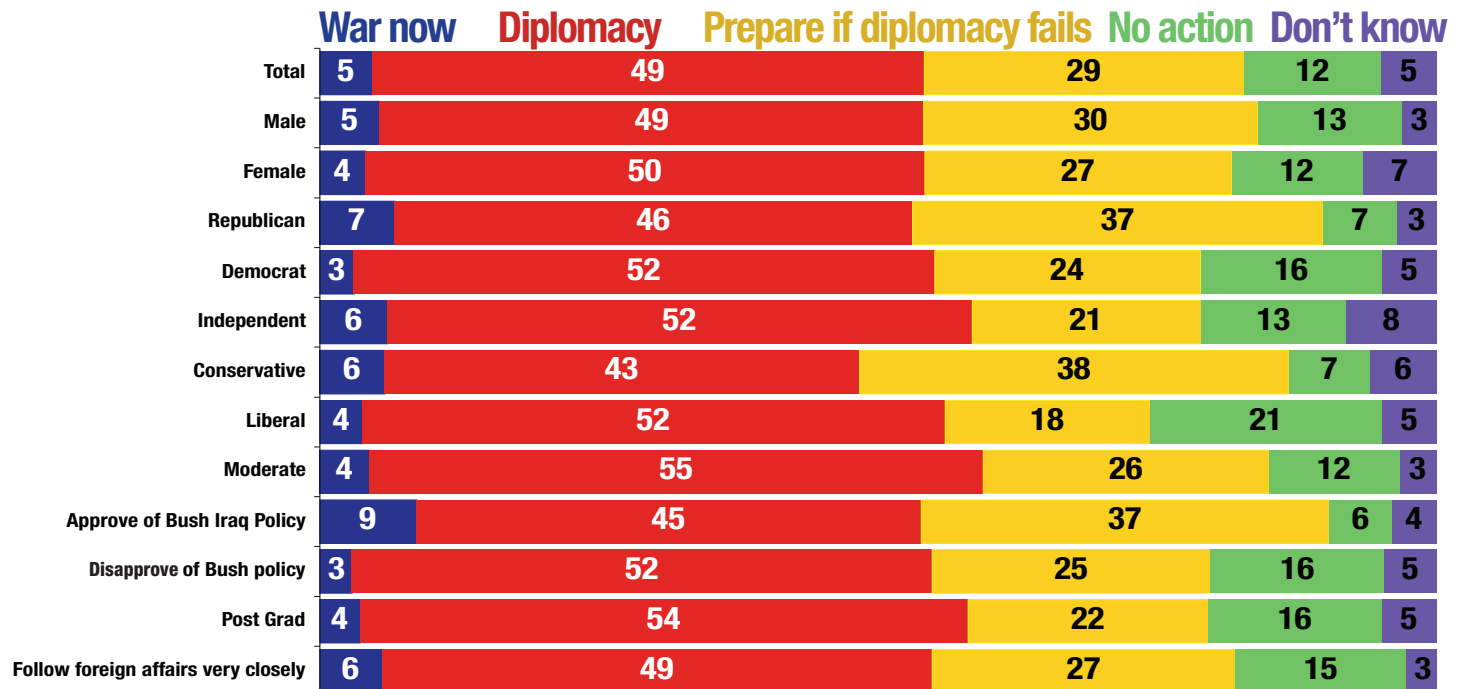
# What should the United States do to get Iran to end its uranium enrichment program?

Take military action against Iran now

Use economic and diplomatic efforts but do not take military action now

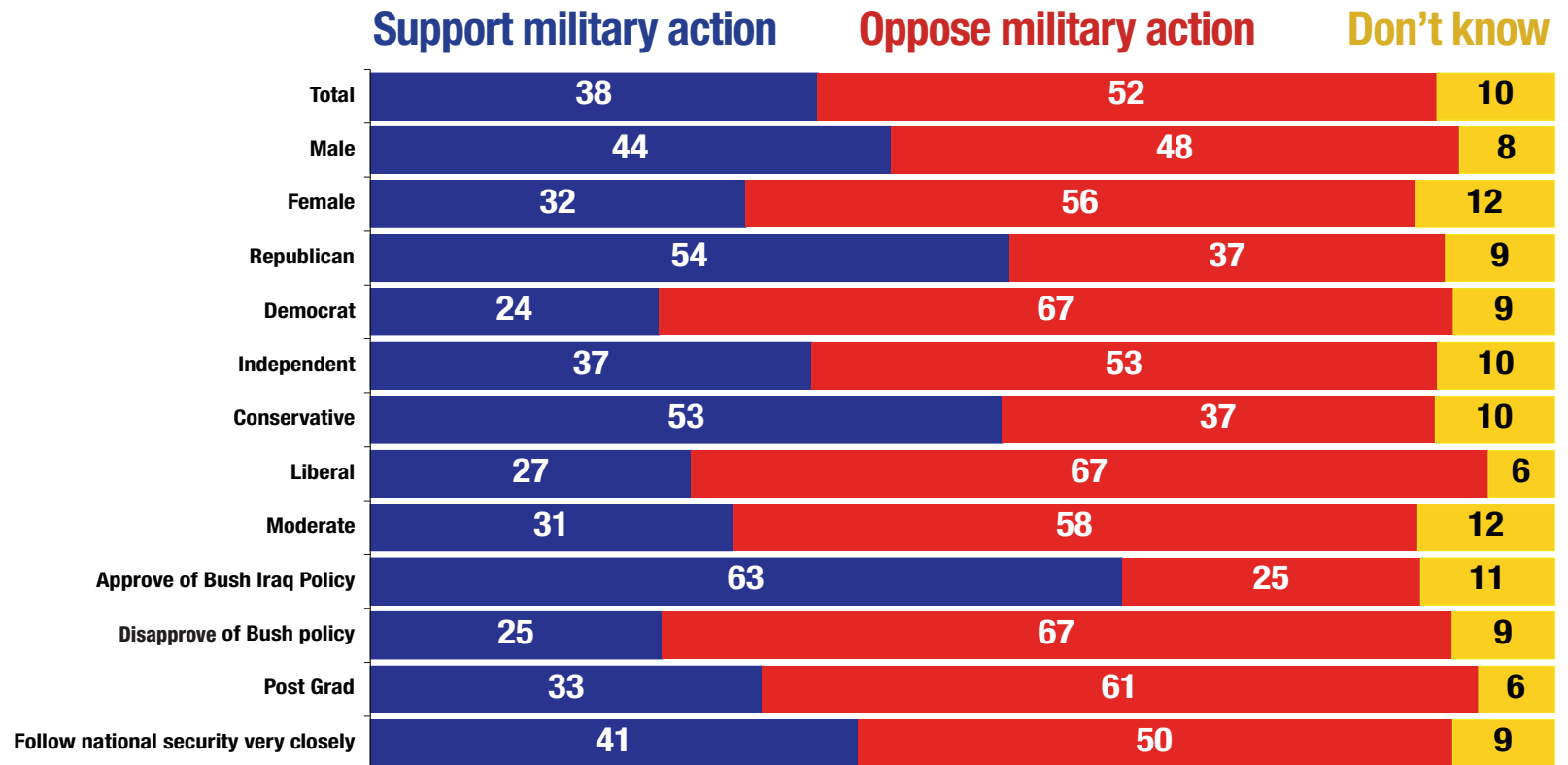
Prepare to take military action in the future should current efforts fail

Do not take military action against Iran





# Suppose all economic and diplomatic efforts fail to get Iran to shut down its nuclear enrichment program. If that happens, would you support or oppose taking military action against Iran?





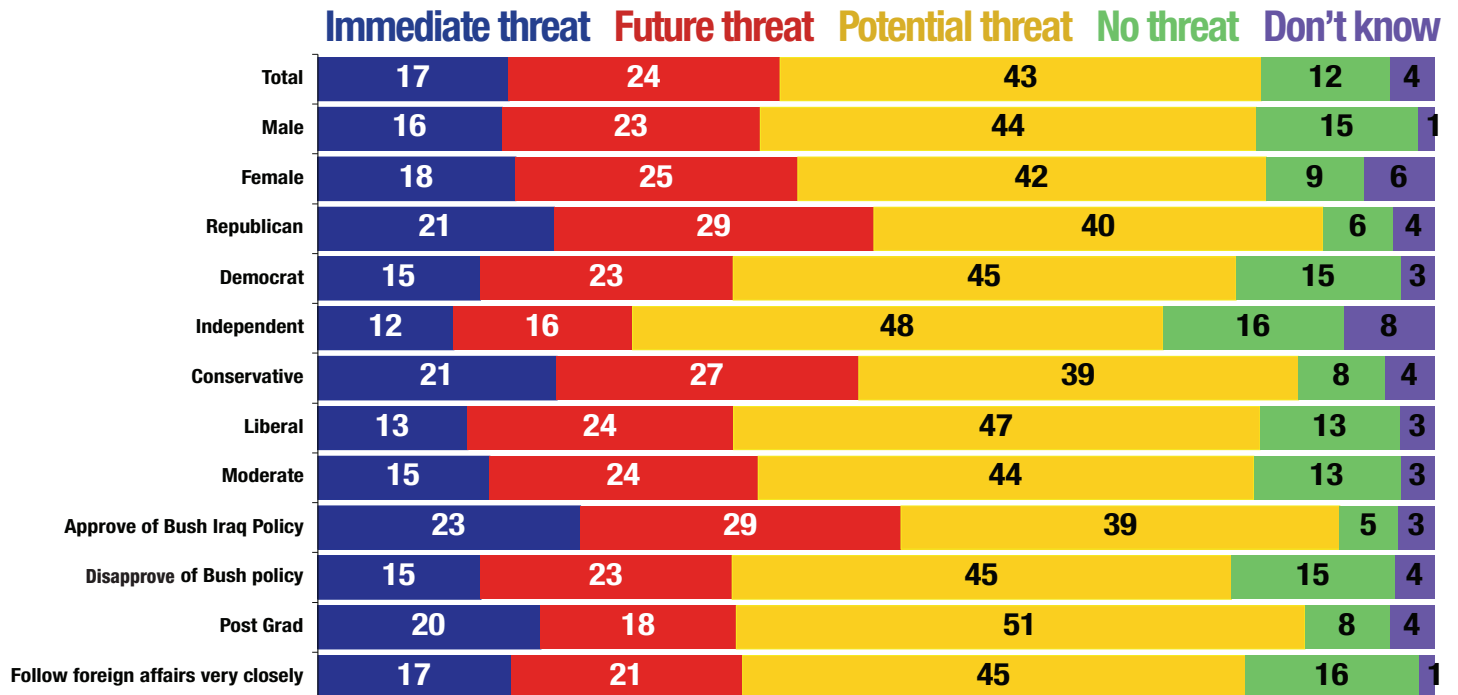
# Which one of the following best describes your view of North Korea today?

North Korea is an immediate security threat to the United States

North Korea is a threat in the near future

North Korea is a potential threat further down the road

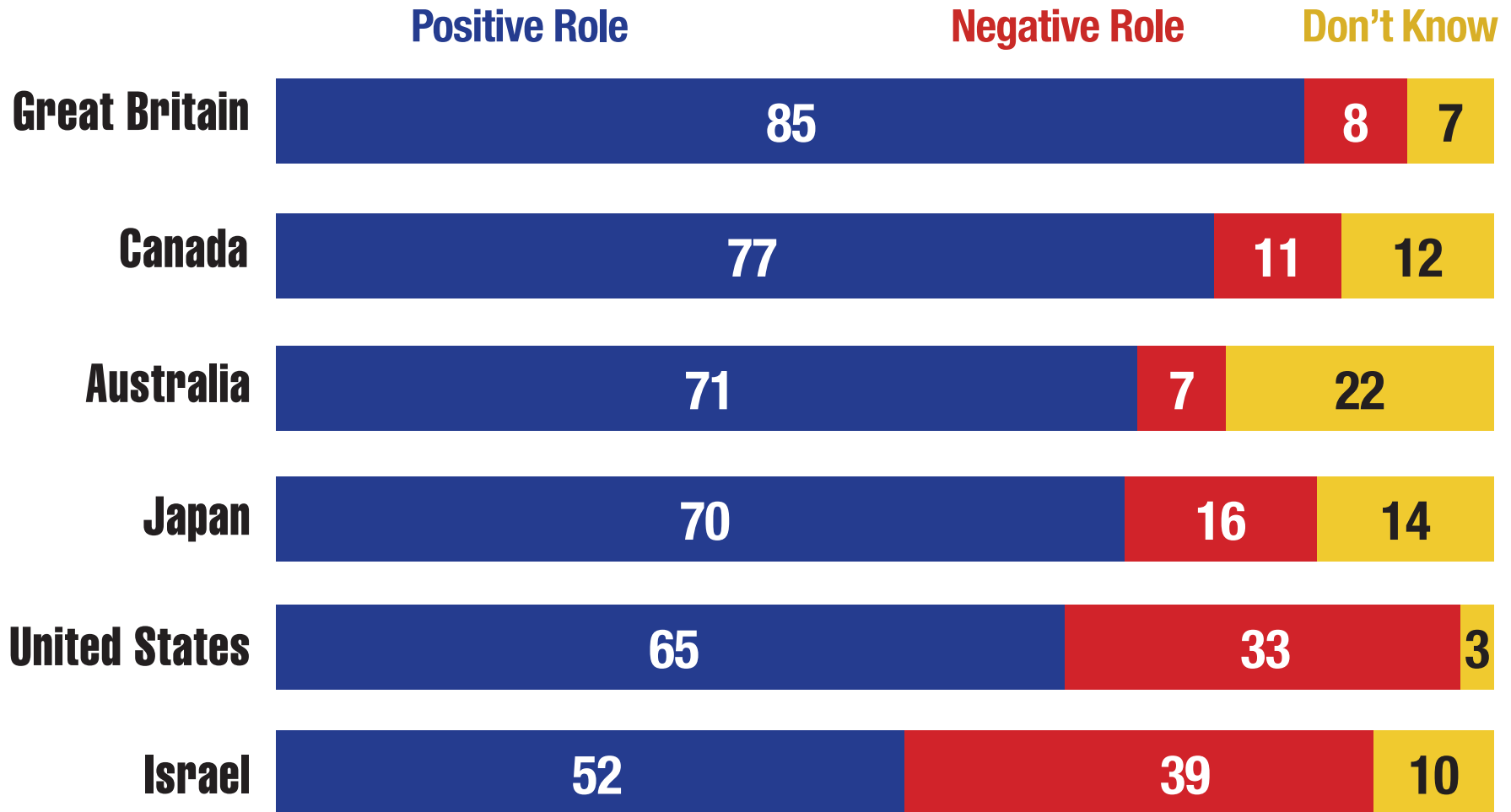
North Korea is no threat at all



**Americans believe that America's traditional allies are playing the most positive roles in world affairs.**



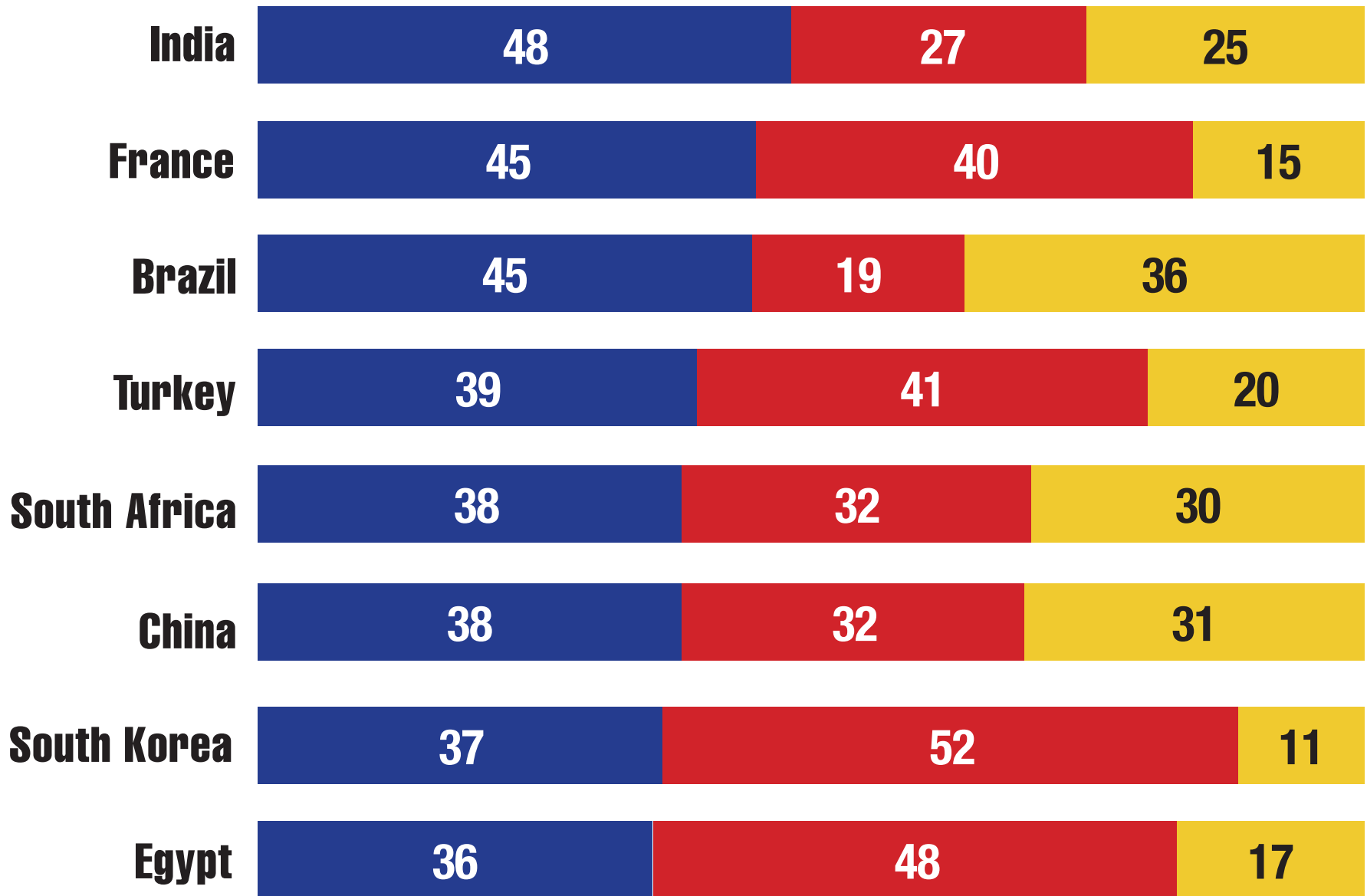
Overall, do you believe that these countries are playing a **POSITIVE** role in world affairs or a **NEGATIVE** role in world Affairs?

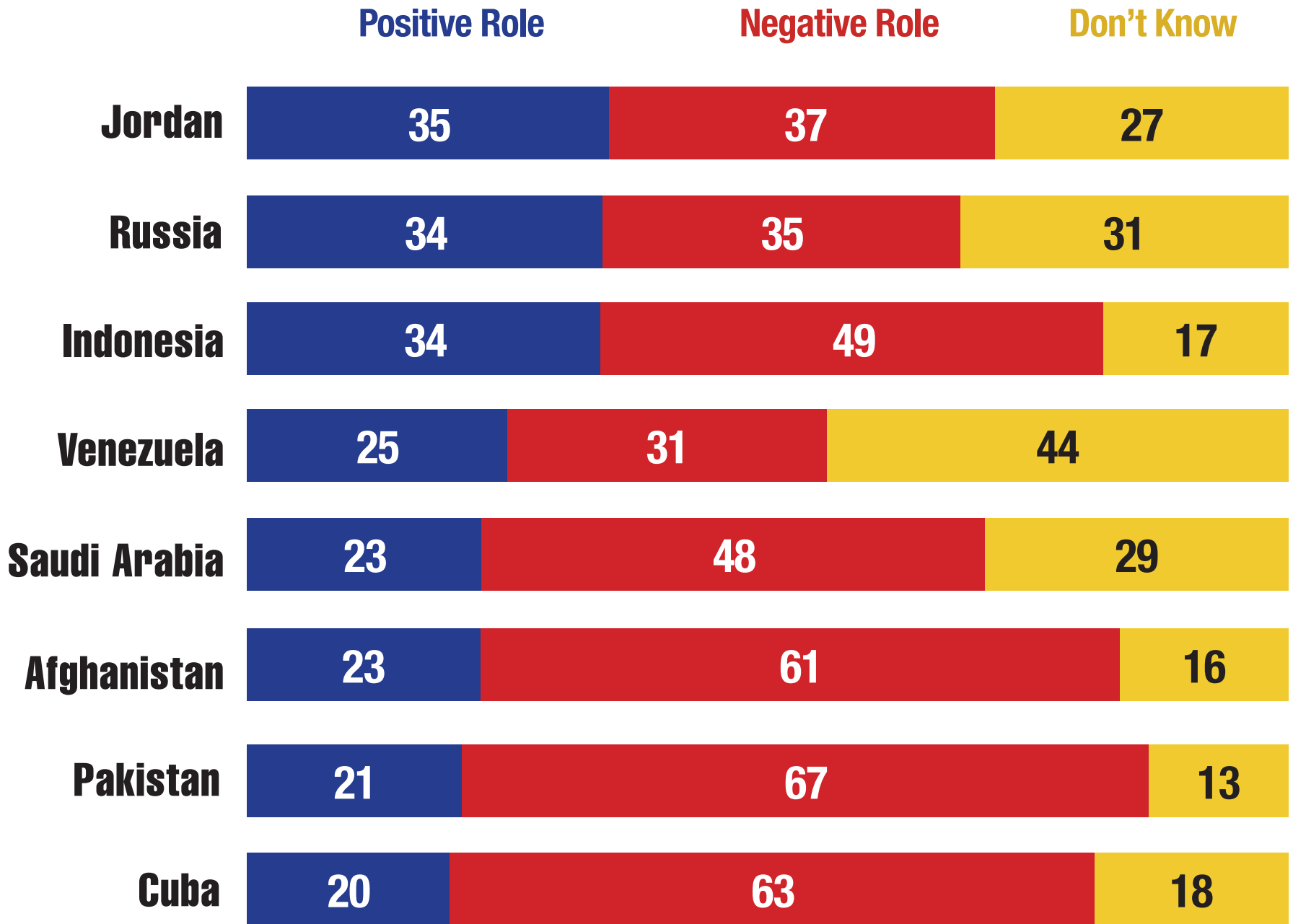


**Positive Role**

**Negative Role**

**Don't Know**





**Positive Role**

**Negative Role**

**Don't Know**

**Iraq**

**14**

**61**

**25**

**The Palestinian Territories**

**13**

**79**

**9**

**Syria**

**12**

**75**

**13**

**Sudan**

**10**

**62**

**28**

**North Korea**

**9**

**62**

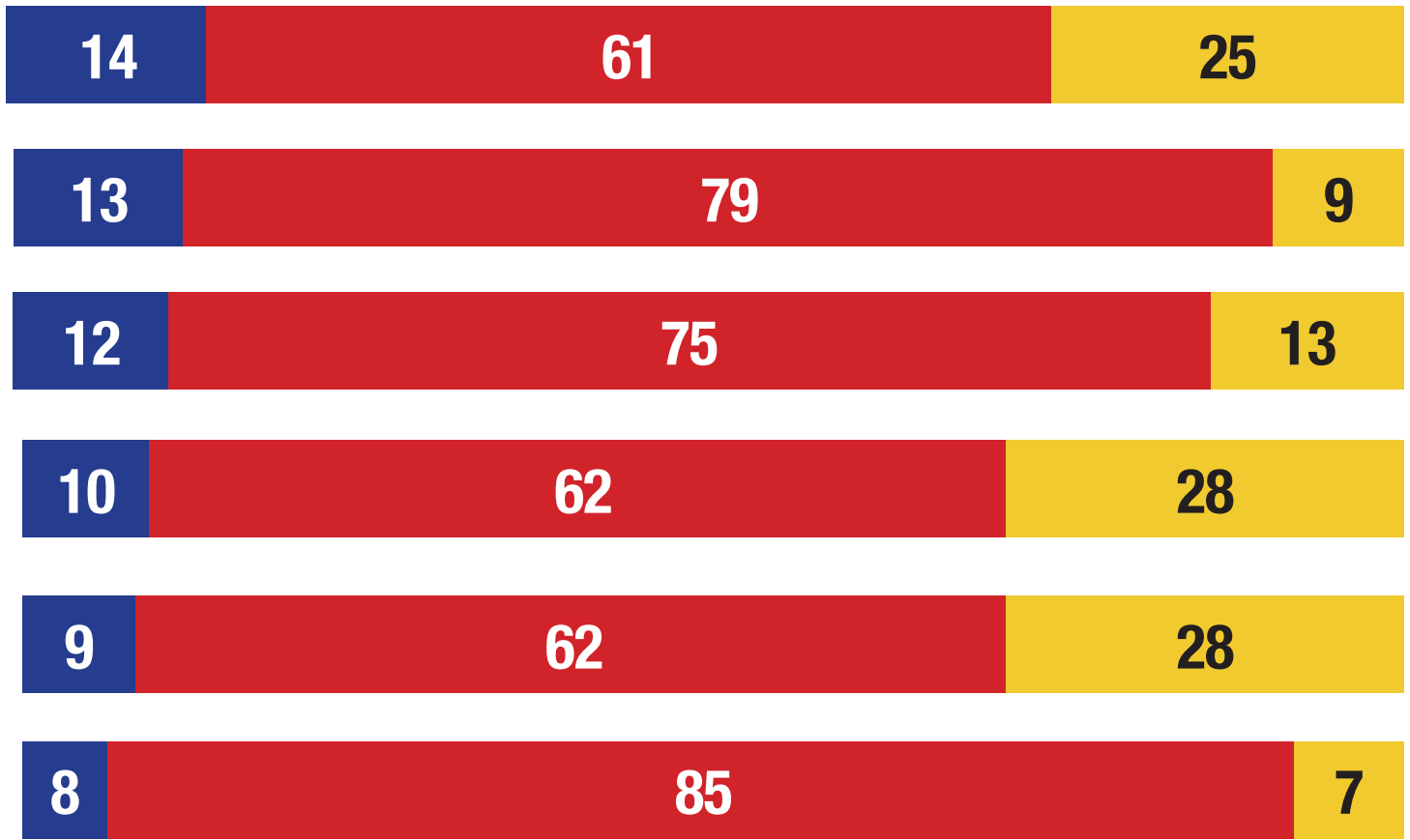
**28**

**Iran**

**8**

**85**

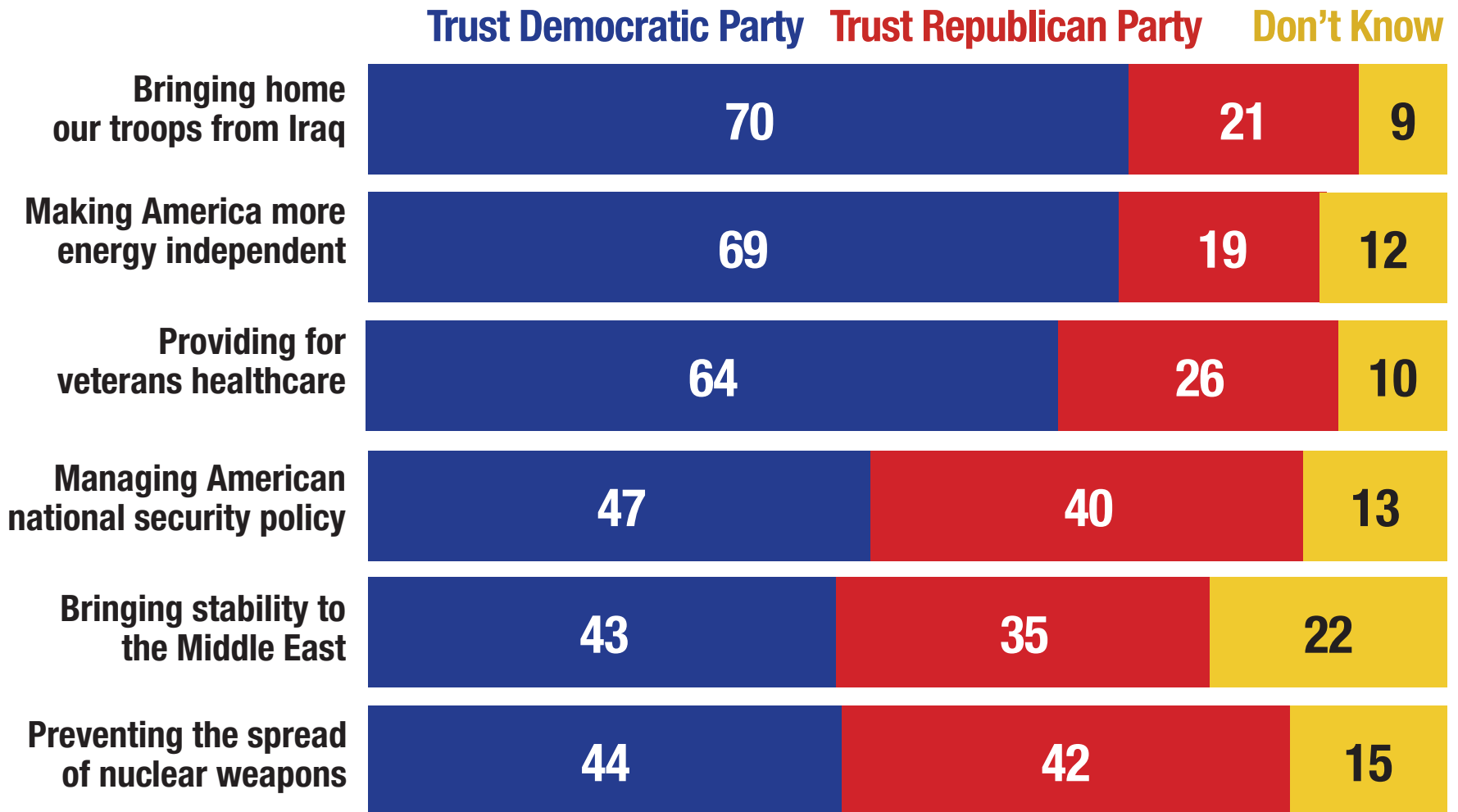
**7**

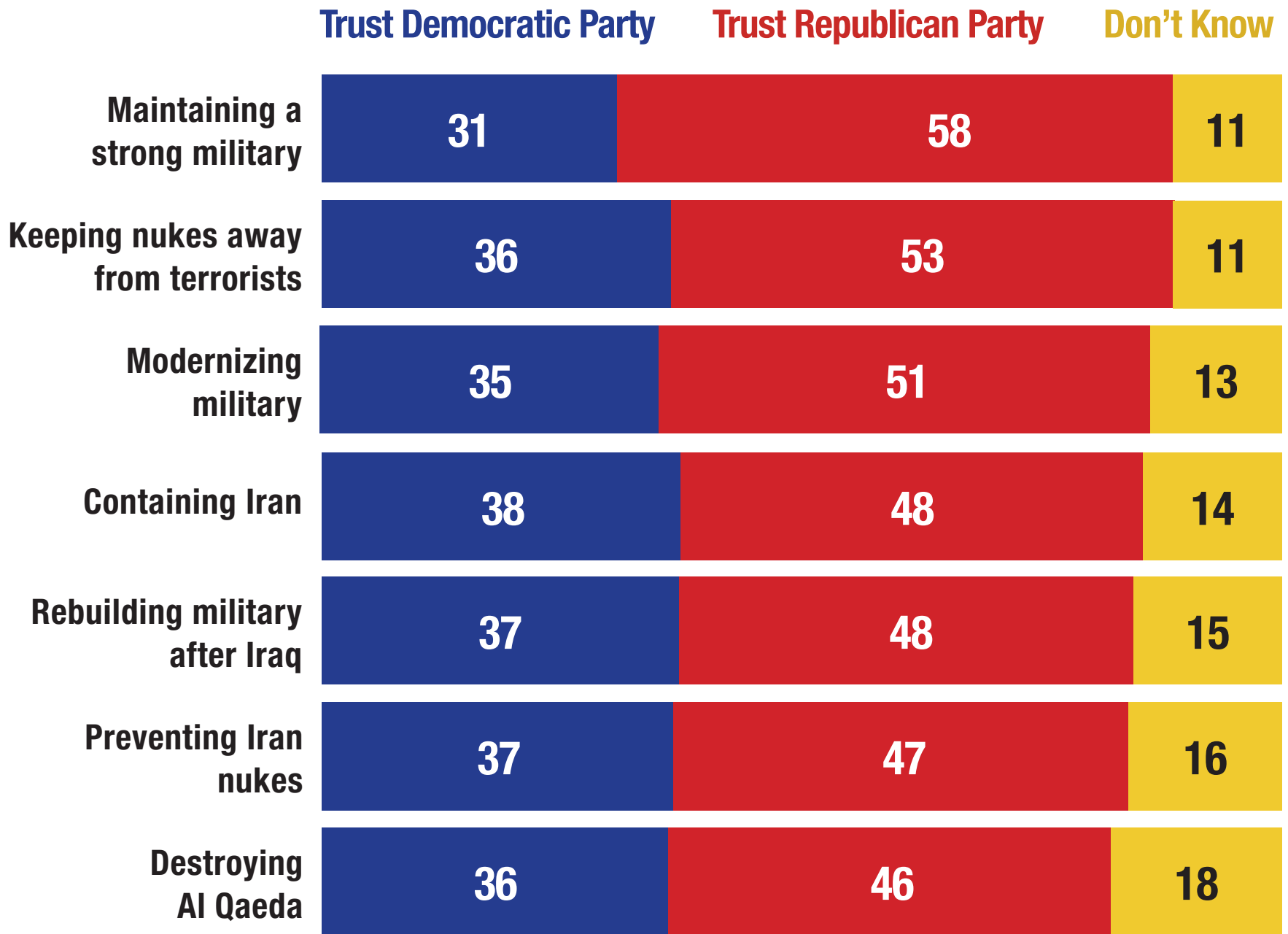


**Americans want Democrats in Congress to have more influence over America's policy in Iraq and on terrorism. But on several key national security issues, Americans continue to trust Republicans more than Democrats.**



## Which party do you trust to do a better job in these areas?





**Trust Democratic Party**

**Trust Republican Party**

**Don't Know**

**Keeping my family  
safe from terror**

**36**

**44**

**20**

**Capturing Osama**

**31**

**45**

**24**

**Protecting US home-  
land from terrorism**

**41**

**47**

**12**

**Finishing job in Iraq**

**40**

**45**

**15**

**Equipment for troops**

**41**

**45**

**14**

**Ending North  
Korea nukes**

**40**

**44**

**15**

**Minimizing  
Iranian influence**

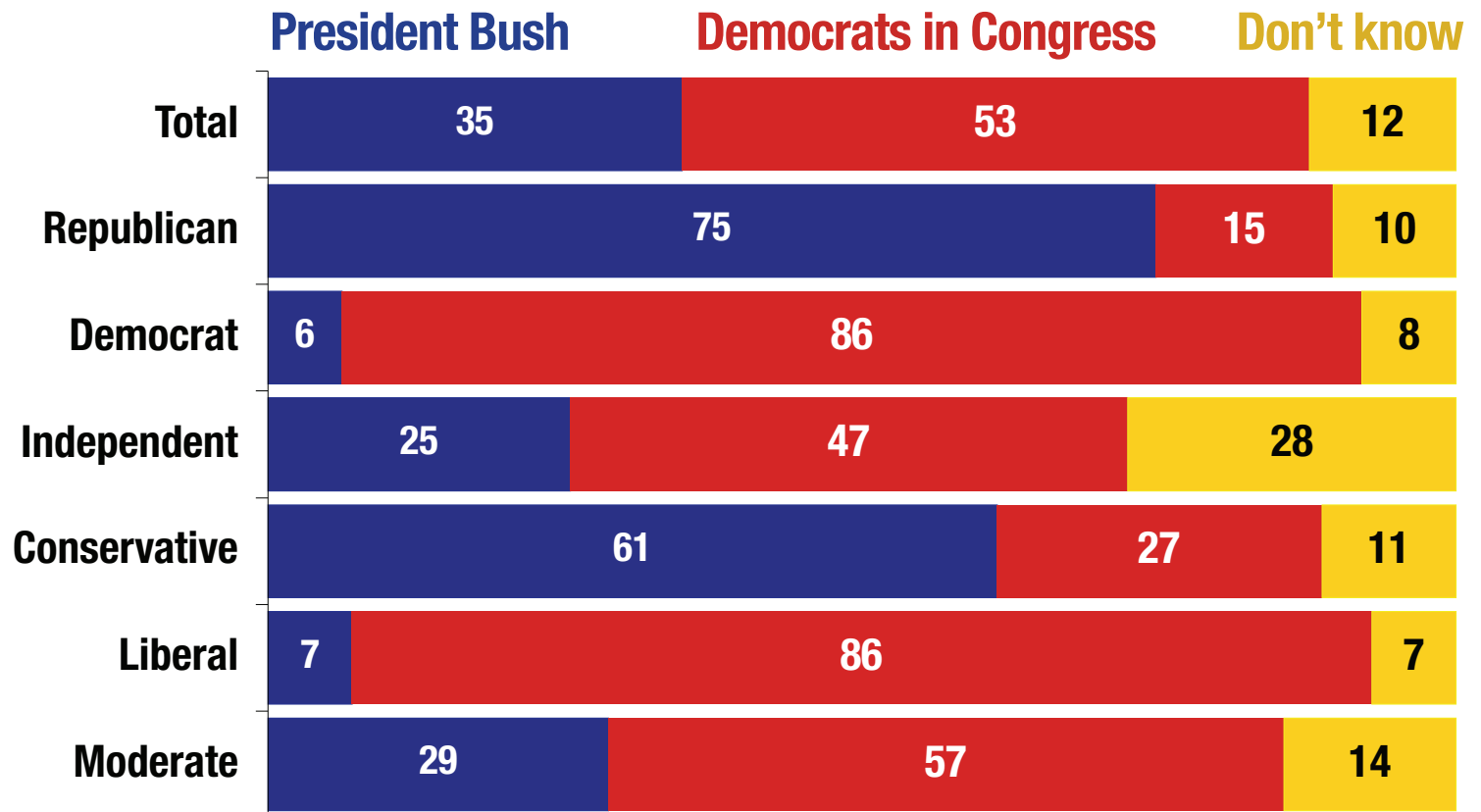
**39**

**43**

**18**



## Who do you want to have more influence over America's policy in Iraq: President Bush or the Democrats in Congress?





## Who do you want to have more influence over issues related to terrorism: President Bush or the Democrats in Congress?

