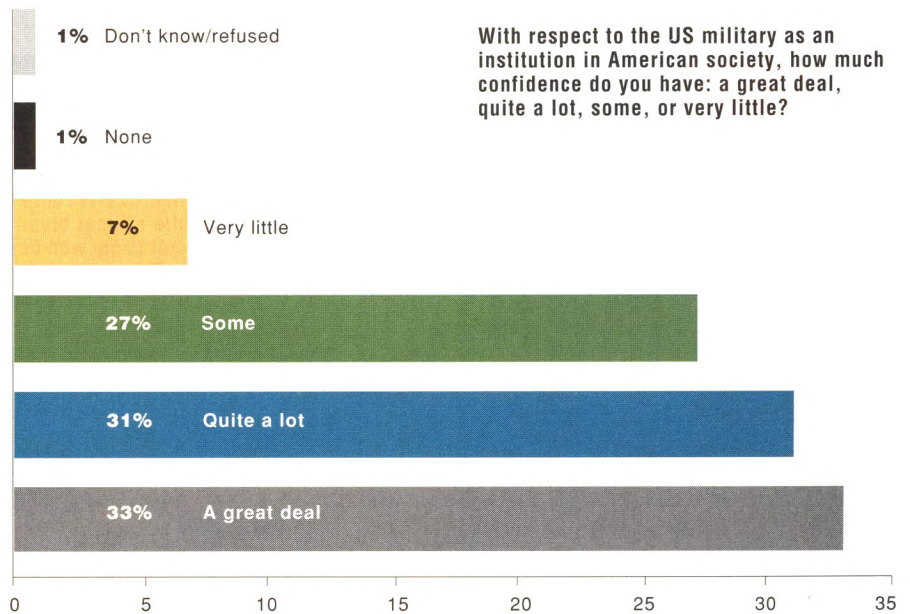


Here's a sampling of views on defense issues as expressed in public opinion surveys.

Defense in the Polls

Confidence in the Armed Forces



AMERICANS have considerable confidence in US troops and their leaders. However, they tend to think skilled diplomacy, rather than military strength, is more likely to ensure peace. They are not opposed to dispatching US forces on nontraditional humanitarian missions, for certain specific purposes, but they want US troops overseas to be under American command.

Judging from a survey of polls taken during 1995, the public has little desire to raise the Pentagon's budget. Nor does it evince much enthusiasm for cutting it, either. Americans apparently do think that the US and Russia ought to work harder to make deeper cuts in their Cold War-era nuclear arsenals.

A Consensus

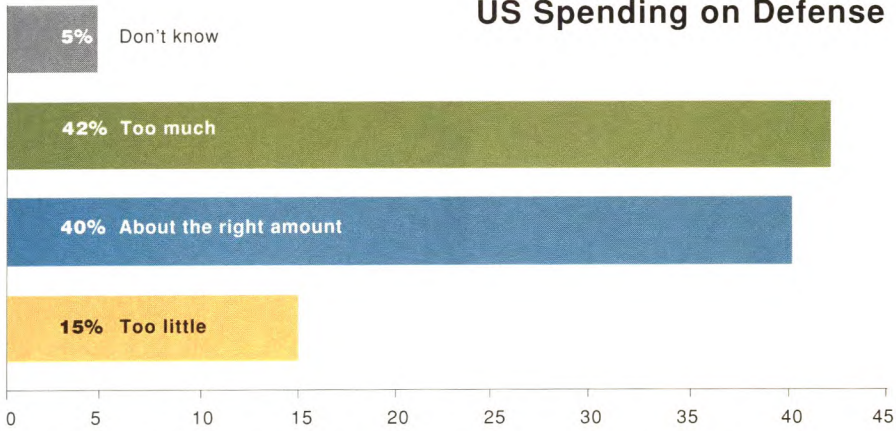
Such are a few results of polls published in recent months. They come from a large sampling of polling data made available to *Air Force Magazine* by the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, located at the University of Connecticut. Poll results fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, but the results cited herein are representative of a broad consensus of views.

As part of that consensus, Americans give top priority to the possible use of force to halt the spread of mass-destruction weapons, such as nuclear, biological, and chemical arms. The public, however, does not feel as strongly about protecting weak nations from invasion. Americans think Washington should extract payment from allies whom it defends with military force. They emphatically do not want Germany and Japan to take on bigger military roles in the defense of Europe and Asia, respectively.

Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

Source: The Gallup Organization, for Cable News Network and *USA Today*, April 1995.

US Spending on Defense

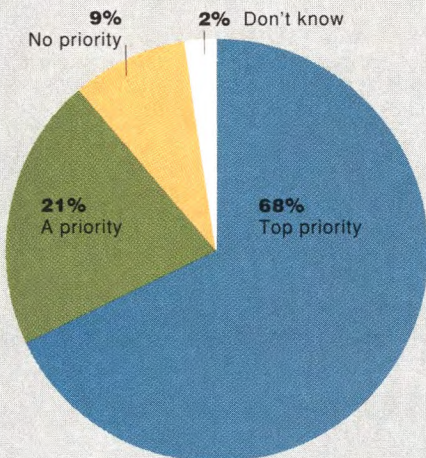


In terms of the amount of money the government in Washington spends for national defense, do you think we are spending too little, too much, or about the right amount?

Source: Market Strategies/Greenberg Research, for The Americans Talk Issues Foundation, June 1995.

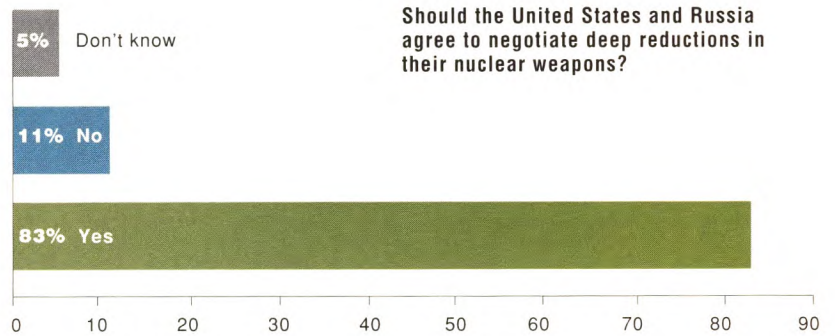
Stop Weapons of Mass Destruction

On a list of possible long-range foreign policy goals, should preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction have top priority, priority but not top priority, or no priority at all?



Deeper Cuts in Nuclear Arms?

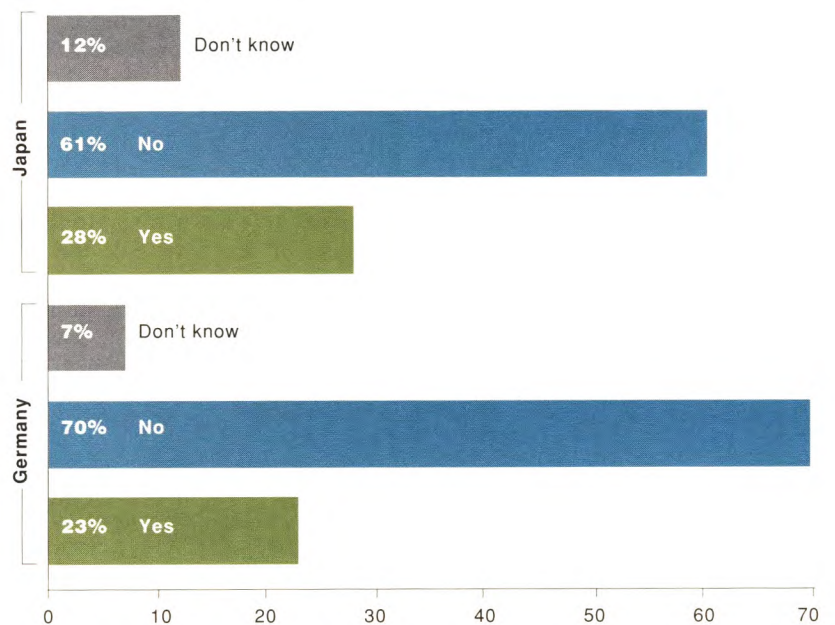
Should the United States and Russia agree to negotiate deep reductions in their nuclear weapons?



Source: Associated Press, April 1995.

Germany and Japan

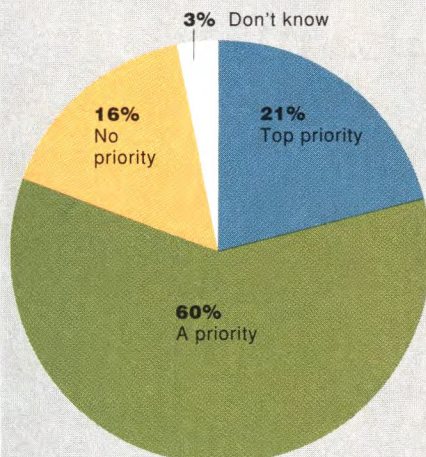
After World War II, America and its Allies forced Japan and Germany to limit their armed forces, and the United States has provided military deterrence in Asia and Europe. Would you like to see Japan and Germany take on a larger military defense role?



Source: Associated Press, March 1995.

Protect Weak Nations

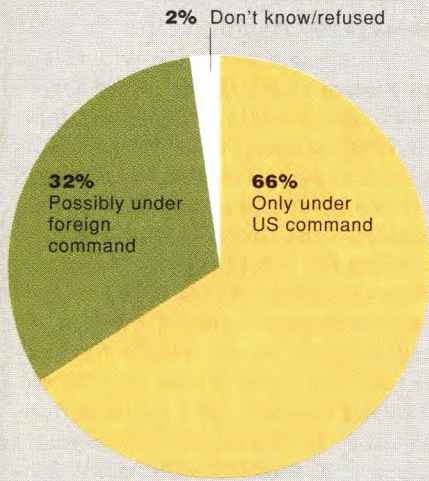
Should protecting weaker nations against foreign aggression have top priority, priority but not top priority, or no priority at all?



Source: Princeton Survey Research Associates, for Times Mirror Co., June 1995.

Command of US Troops

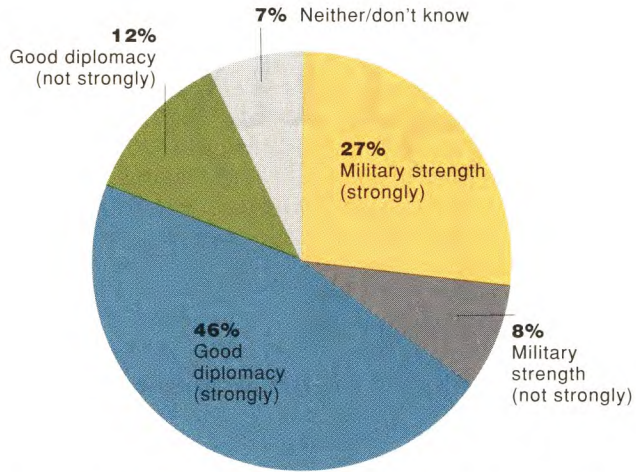
Do you think American troops should only take part in military operations under US command, or do you think there may be circumstances when American troops could be placed under foreign command?



Source: Market Strategies/Greenberg Research, for The Americans Talk Issues Foundation, June 1995.

Military Force vs. Diplomacy

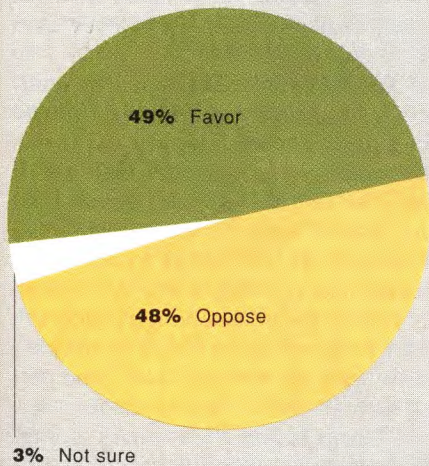
Does the statement, "The best way to ensure peace is through military strength," reflect your views, or does the statement, "The best way to ensure peace is through good diplomacy," reflect your views, even if neither is exactly right? Do you feel strongly about either statement?



Source: Princeton Survey Research Associates, for Times Mirror Co., April 1995.

Defense for Deficit Reduction?

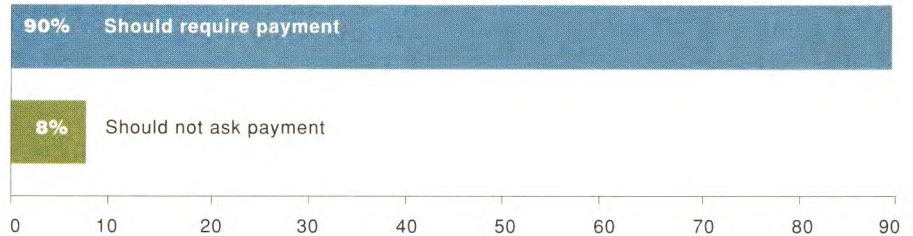
Would you favor or oppose cutting spending on defense to reduce the budget deficit?



Source: Louis Harris and Associates, June 1995.

Seek Payment for US Operations?

If the US intervenes militarily anywhere in the world for the benefit of other nations as well as ourselves, then which of these two positions comes closer to your own thinking? "We should require other nations to pay a share of the costs depending on their ability to pay and how much the intervention is in their interest," or, "We should not ask other nations to pay a share of the costs because it might compromise our moral leadership and make us seem too mercenary."



Source: Market Strategies/Greenberg Research, for The Americans Talk Issues Foundation, June 1995.

US Involvement in UN's Third World Operations

Do you approve or disapprove of sending UN forces—including some US military forces—to Asian or African countries in order to do the following missions?

Possible Mission	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know
Prevent famines and mass starvation?	63%	30%	7%
Prevent one side from slaughtering the other in a regional conflict?	52%	40%	8%
Restore law and order if the governments break down completely?	47%	46%	7%
Keep peace when two sides in a conflict have called a truce?	46%	47%	7%

Source: Princeton Survey Research Associates, for Times Mirror Co., June 1995.