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## Egyptians on Obama, US Policies, and Democracy

June 3, 2009

### Questionnaire

Dates of Survey: April 25-May 12, 2009  
Sample Size: 600

Margin of Error: +/- 4.1 percentage points

Q1-CE1b. Please tell me if you think each is playing a mainly positive or mainly negative role in the world.

The United States

Mainly positive .....	15%
Mainly negative .....	67
Depends (vol.).....	18
Neither (vol.).....	*
Refused/Don't know .....	*

Now I am going to read a list of political leaders from around the world. Tell me how much confidence you have in each leader to do the right thing regarding world affairs—a lot of confidence, some confidence, not too much confidence, or no confidence at all.

Q2-CE6a. US President Barack Obama

A lot of confidence.....	4%
Some confidence.....	35
Not too much.....	34
None at all.....	26
Refused/Don't know .....	*

Q3-Afg1. As you may know the UN has authorized a NATO mission in Afghanistan, manned by forces from the US and other countries. This mission is meant to stabilize Afghanistan and help the government defend itself from Taliban insurgents. Do you approve or disapprove of this mission?

Approve.....	44%
Disapprove .....	56
Refused/Don't know .....	*

Q4-Afg2. Do you think the NATO mission in Afghanistan should be continued or do you think it should be ended now?

NATO mission should be continued.....	37%
NATO mission should be ended now .....	60
Refused/Don't know .....	3

Q5-Afg3. Do you think that most people in Afghanistan want NATO forces to remain for now, or do you think most want the NATO forces to leave now?

Most want NATO forces to remain for now ..... 30%  
Most want NATO forces to leave now .....67  
  
Refused/Don't know .....3

Q6-Afg5. As you may know, the Obama administration decided to increase the number of American troops in Afghanistan. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

Approve..... 33%  
Disapprove .....66  
  
Refused/Don't know .....1

Q7-D1. How important is it for you to live in a country that is governed democratically? Would you say it is:

Very important ..... 75%  
Somewhat important .....24  
Not very important .....2  
Not at all important .....\*  
  
Refused/Don't know .....0

Q8-D8. Do you think that Egypt would or would not benefit from having international observers monitor elections here?

Would..... 63%  
Would not.....37  
  
Refused/Don't know .....\*

**STATEMENT:** Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of the following:

Q9-US1. The current US Government?

Very favorable ..... 15%  
Somewhat favorable.....31  
Somewhat unfavorable.....31  
Very unfavorable .....24  
  
Refused/Don't know .....\*

Q10. Thinking now about US actions around the world, please tell me if you think the following are or are not US goals. Please say if you think it is:

Q10a-US5. To impose American culture on Muslim society

Definitely a goal..... 45%  
Probably a goal .....35

Probably not a goal .....	12
Definitely not a goal.....	8
Refused/Don't know .....	1

Q10b-US6. To maintain control over the oil resources of the Middle East

Definitely a goal.....	48%
Probably a goal .....	32
Probably not a goal .....	14
Definitely not a goal.....	5
Refused/Don't know .....	1

Q10c-US7. To see the creation of an independent and economically viable Palestinian state

Definitely a goal.....	14%
Probably a goal .....	24
Probably not a goal .....	31
Definitely not a goal.....	30
Refused/Don't know .....	2

Q10d-US8. To weaken and divide the Islamic world

Definitely a goal.....	48%
Probably a goal .....	28
Probably not a goal .....	13
Definitely not a goal.....	10
Refused/Don't know .....	1

Q11-US17. Which of these three positions is closest to yours?

The US opposes democracy in Muslim countries.....	41%
The US favors democracy in Muslim countries, but only if the government is cooperative with the US.....	53
The US favors democracy in Muslim countries, whether or not the government is cooperative with the US.....	6
Refused/Don't know .....	*

Q12-IsDem1. Now I would like to ask you about the Muslim Brotherhood or Islamist groups. Overall, would you say your feelings toward the Muslim Brotherhood are very positive, somewhat positive; mixed, somewhat negative, or very negative?

Very positive.....	29%
Somewhat positive .....	35
Mixed .....	19
Somewhat negative .....	5

Very negative .....11

Refused/Don't know .....2

Q13-IsDem2. Is it your impression that the Muslim Brotherhood or Islamist groups do or do not believe democracy is the best type of political system?

Does ..... 69%

Does not .....25

Refused/Don't know .....6

Q14-IsDem3b. Do you think that as Muslim Brotherhood has participated in elections:

It has departed too far from its Islamist principles ..... 19%

It has found an acceptable way to blend Islamism  
and democracy .....56

It is still too extreme and not genuinely democratic .....22

Refused/Don't know .....3

Q15-IsDem4. Do you think that the government in Egypt:

Should be based on universal principles of democracy  
that apply in all countries ..... 39%

Should be based on a form of democracy that is unique  
for Islamic countries .....60

Should not be based on democracy..... 1

Refused/Don't know .....0

Q16-IsDem5. Do you think:

There should be a body of senior religious scholars  
that has the power to overturn laws when it believes  
they are contrary to the Quran. .... 75%

If laws are passed by democratically-elected officials  
and consistent with the constitution they should not  
be subject to a veto by religious scholars.....23

Refused/Don't know .....2

Q17-IsDem6. Do you think that a non-Muslim should or should not be able to run for public office?

Should ..... 66%

Should not .....26

Depends (vol.).....8

Refused/Don't know .....1

**[ASK ONLY IF "SHOULD", "DEPENDS" OR "DK/REFUSED" ON Q17-IsDem6]**

Q18-IsDem7. Do you think that a non-Muslim should or should not be able to run for president?

Should .....36%\*

Should not .....34

Depends (vol.).....3

Refused/Don't know .....2

Q19. Do you think that US President Obama does or does not have the following goals? Please say if you think it is:

Q19a-US18. To impose American culture on Muslim society

Definitely a goal.....42%

Probably a goal .....39

Probably not a goal .....10

Definitely not a goal.....8

Refused/Don't know .....\*

Q19b-US19. To maintain control over the oil resources of the Middle East

Definitely a goal.....47%

Probably a goal .....30

Probably not a goal .....17

Definitely not a goal.....6

Refused/Don't know .....1

Q19c-US20. To see the creation of an independent and economically viable Palestinian state

Definitely a goal.....12%

Probably a goal .....26

Probably not a goal .....31

Definitely not a goal.....30

Refused/Don't know .....2

Q19d-US21. To weaken and divide the Islamic world

Definitely a goal.....44%

Probably a goal .....26

Probably not a goal .....20

Definitely not a goal.....9

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\* Percent of total

Refused/Don't know .....2

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### D1. Gender

Male ..... 50%  
Female.....50

### D2. Education

Illiterate ..... 10%  
Primary or less ..... 25  
Some secondary ..... 20  
Completed secondary ..... 15  
Some intermediate ..... 4  
Completed university ..... 20

### D3. Religion

Christian ..... 9%  
Muslim ..... 91

### D4. Age

16-29 ..... 38%  
30-39 ..... 24  
40-49 ..... 17  
50-59 ..... 12  
60+ ..... 9

### D5. Total household income

Very low..... 5%  
Low ..... 20  
Average/Median..... 35  
High..... 25  
Very high ..... 15

## METHODOLOGY

The poll was conducted through face-to-face interviews from April 25-May 12, 2009 with 600 urban Egyptians in the areas of Cairo, Alexandria, Giza, and Subra. These four urbanized areas represent 75 percent of Egypt's urban population, which is 42 percent of the national population. The margin of error is 4.1 percent.