

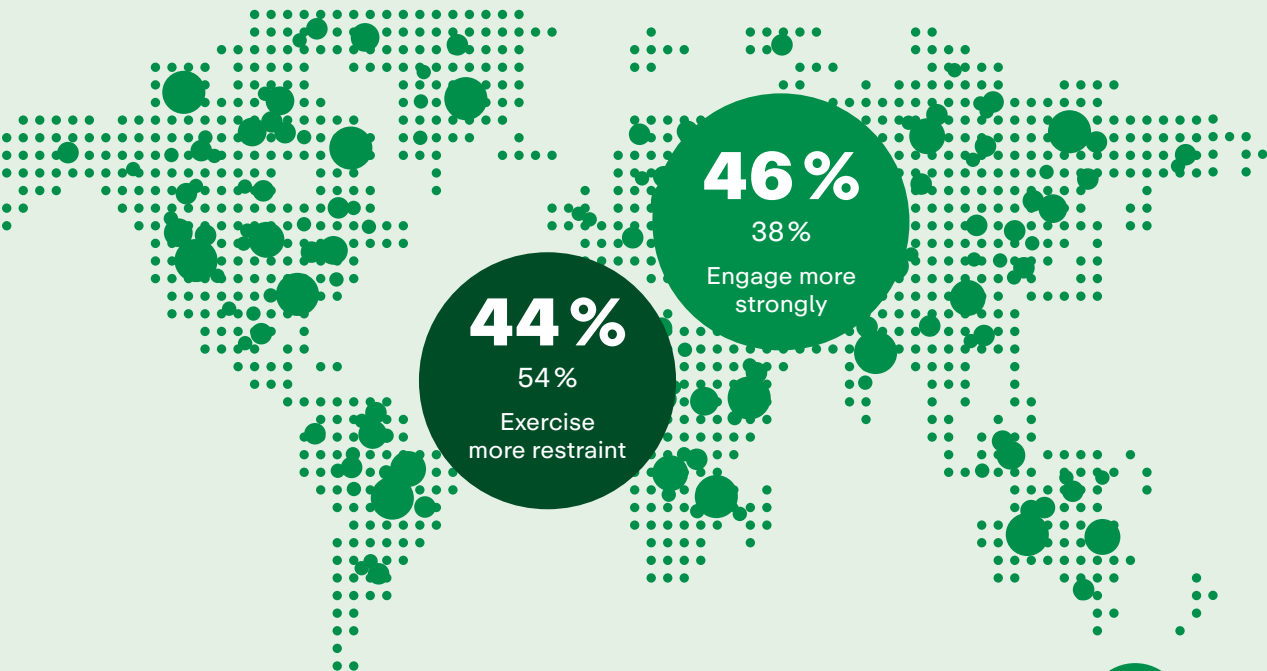
The Berlin Pulse Survey 2024/2025

A representative survey on German attitudes to foreign policy commissioned by Körber-Stiftung

All US results by Pew Research Center 
September and November 2024

Divided on engagement

Should Germany engage more strongly on international crises or exercise more restraint?



Of those who favour more engagement:
Should Germany become more strongly engaged militarily, diplomatically or financially?

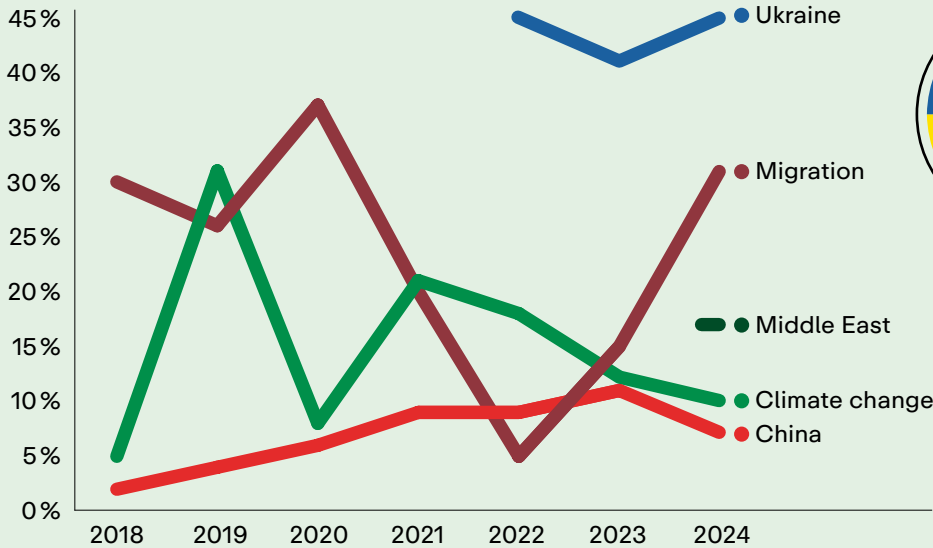


2024
2023

2024: spontaneously: none of the above 6%, don't know 3%, no answer 1% | 2024: don't know 3%, no answer 1%

Biggest challenges: Ukraine and migration

What are the greatest challenges currently facing German foreign policy?



2024: don't know 11%, no answer 2%

Fit for war

Defence Minister Pistorius proposed raising Germany's defence spending to 3–3.5% of GDP. Is this target ...

Too high



Just right



Too low



Of those who favour higher defence spending:

Would you approve cutting social, environmental, cultural and development budgets to increase defence spending in Germany?

Yes, definitely



Rather yes



Rather no



No, by no means

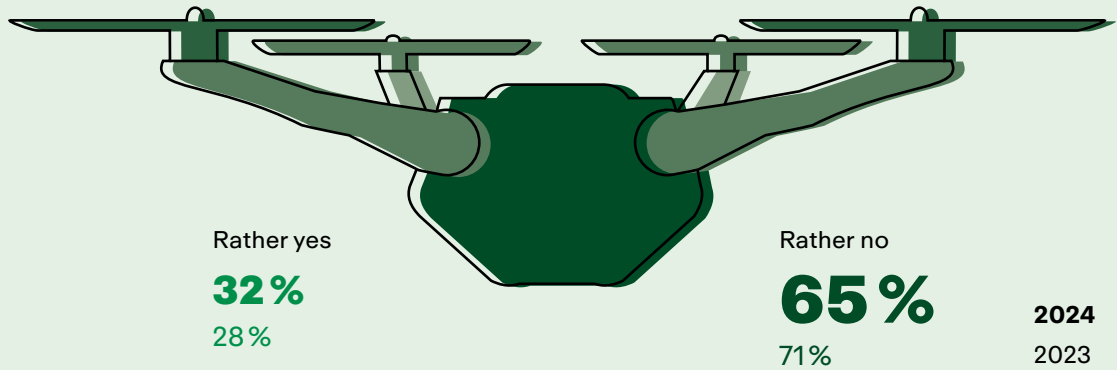


2024: don't know 3%, no answer 1%

2024: don't know 1%, no answer 0%

No military leadership

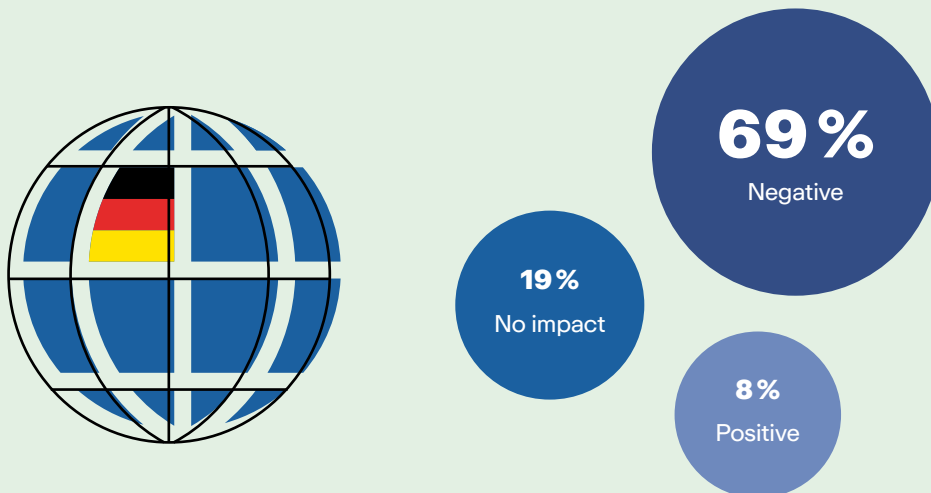
Should Germany play a military leadership role in Europe?



2024: don't know 2%, no answer 1%

Reputational risk

How does the AfD's growing support affect Germany's global reputation?

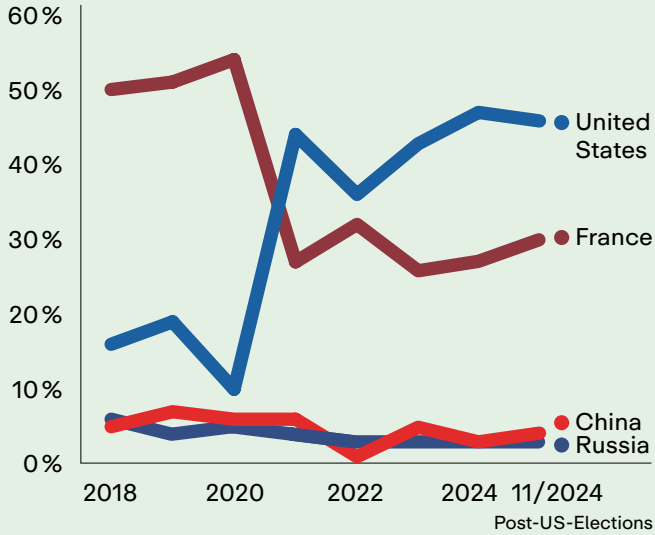


don't know 3%, no answer 1%

Four good years

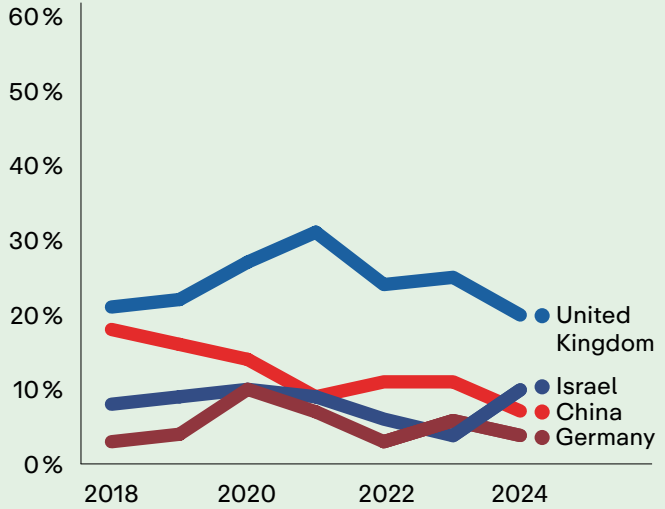
German respondents:

Which country is currently the most important partner for Germany?



US respondents:

Which country is currently the most important partner for the United States?

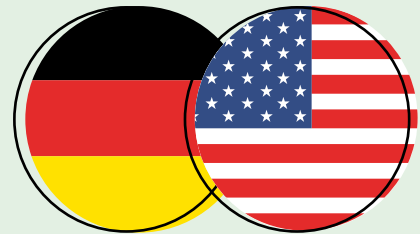
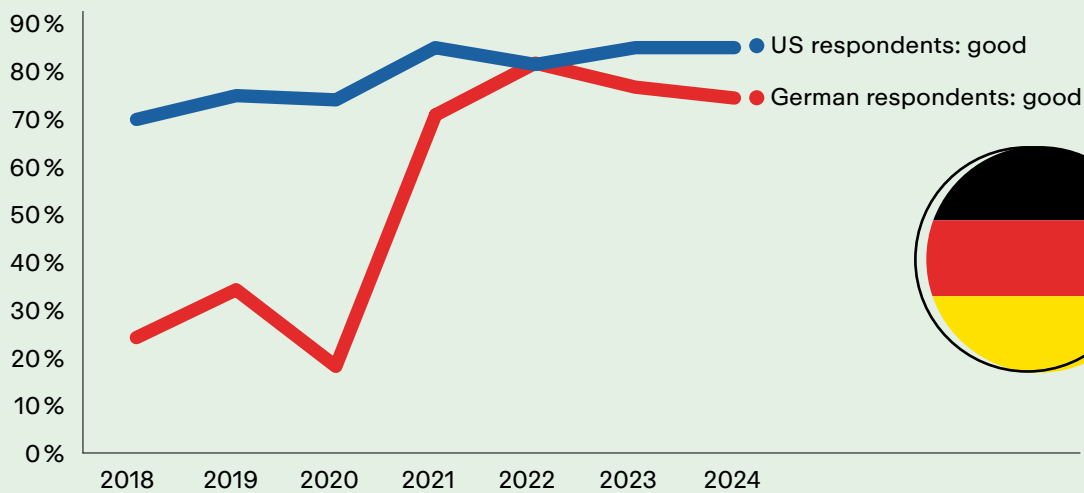


German respondents, 2024: don't know 13–14%, no answer 2%

US respondents, 2024: don't know/no answer 37%

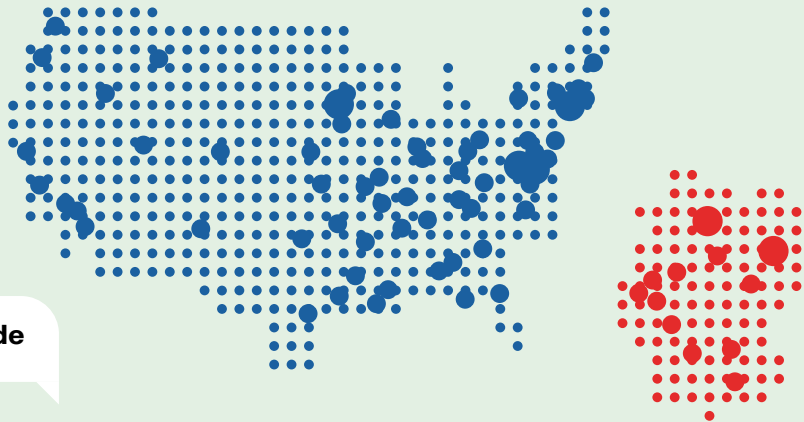
Best friends across the Atlantic

How would you rate the current relations between Germany and the United States?



German respondents, 2024: bad 22%, don't know 3%, no answer 1%

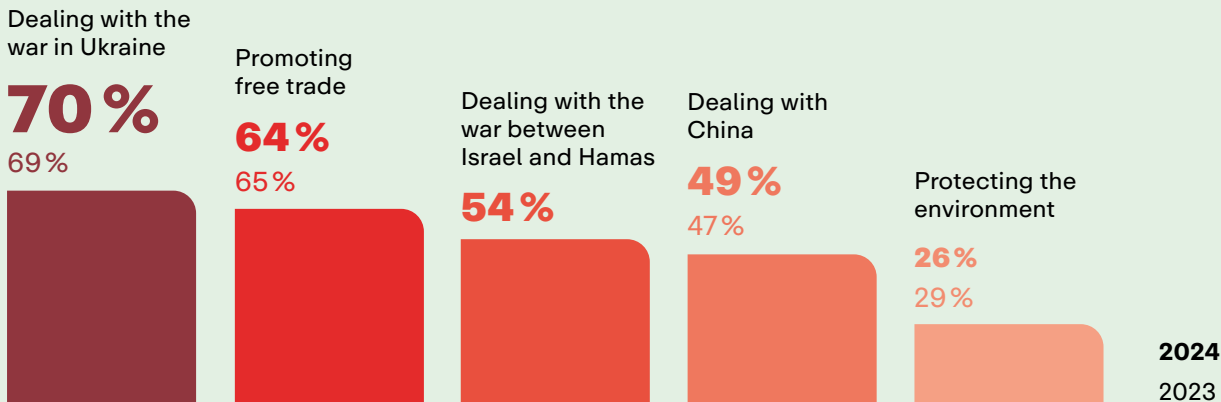
US respondents, 2024: bad 9%, don't know/no answer 6%



Partnership for Ukraine and free trade

German respondents:

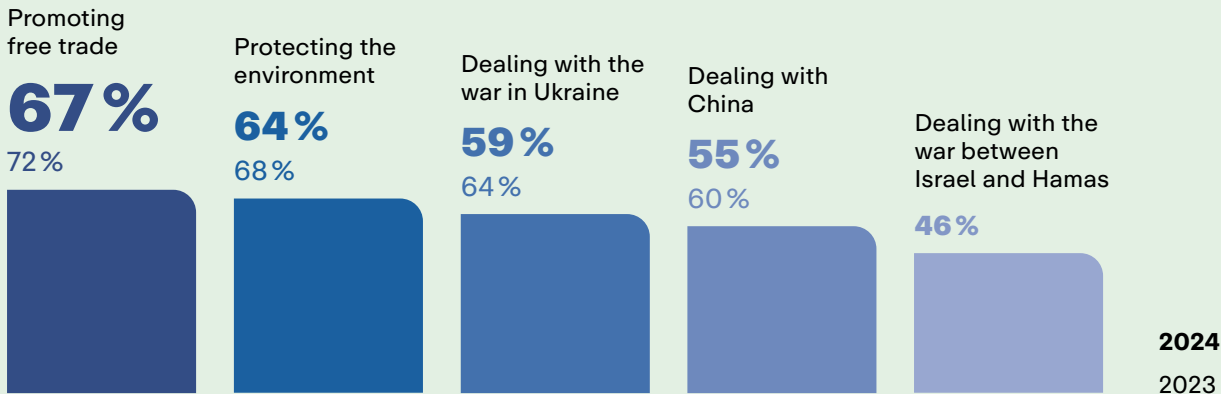
Do you see the United States as a partner on these issues?



answer 'neither' ranged from 0 to 2 per cent for all issues

US respondents:

Do you see Germany as a partner on these issues?



answer 'neither' ranged from 11 to 12 per cent for all issues

Transatlantic Relations After the US Elections and the German Coalition Break-up

The following questions were posed to the German public between 7 and 8 November 2024

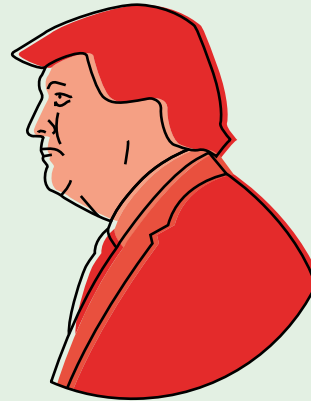
Transatlantic wrecking ball

How do you assess the impact of Donald Trump's re-election on German-US relations?

Positive



Negative

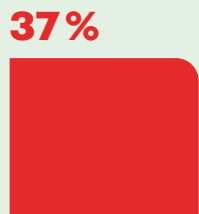


spontaneously: none of the above 1%, don't know 2%, no answer 1%

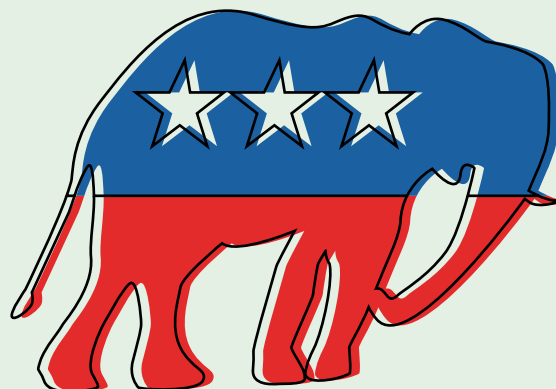
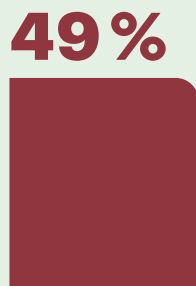
American decline?

How will the the United States' global importance change over the next four years under Donald Trump?

Increase



Decrease



spontaneously: none of the above 8%, don't know 5%, no answer 1%

Focus on Europe

Do you agree that ... ?

Germany should prioritize cooperation with European partners.



Germany should invest more money in European security.



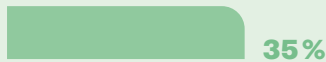
Germany should strengthen partnerships in Asia, Africa and Latin America.



The US elections threaten Europe's political stability.



If the United States withdraws as the leader of the West, Germany will have to take over.



'don't know/no answer' ranged from 1 to 6 per cent for all issues

Conservative competence

Which potential candidate for chancellor would you rate to be most competent as regards foreign policy?

Friedrich Merz

28%

Robert Habeck

18%

Olaf Scholz

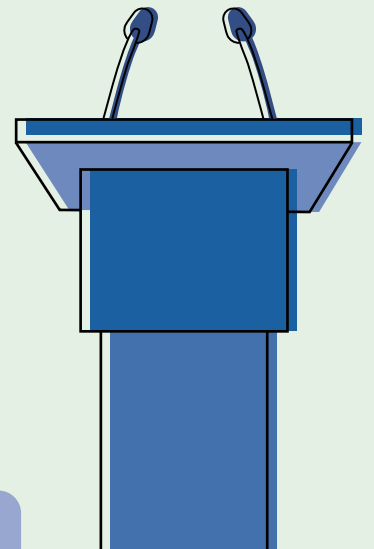
15%

Sahra Wagenknecht

9%

Alice Weidel

8%

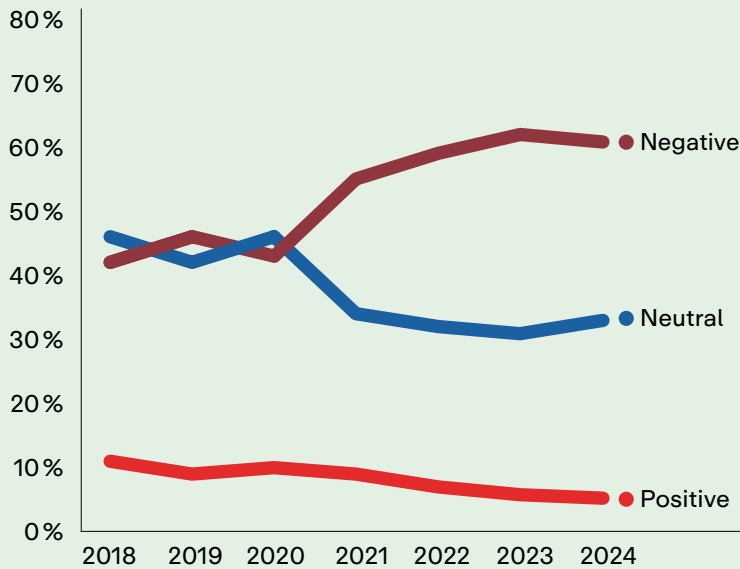


spontaneously: none of the above 15%, don't know 6%, no answer 1%

China scepticism remains

German respondents:

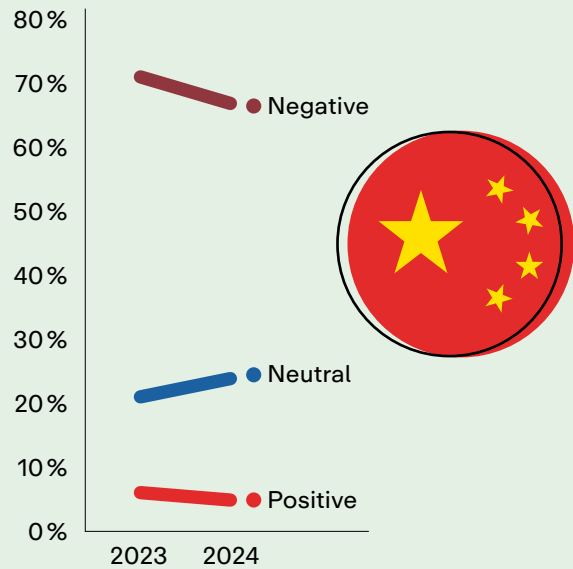
How do you see China's rising influence?



German respondents, 2024: don't know 1%, no answer 0%

US respondents:

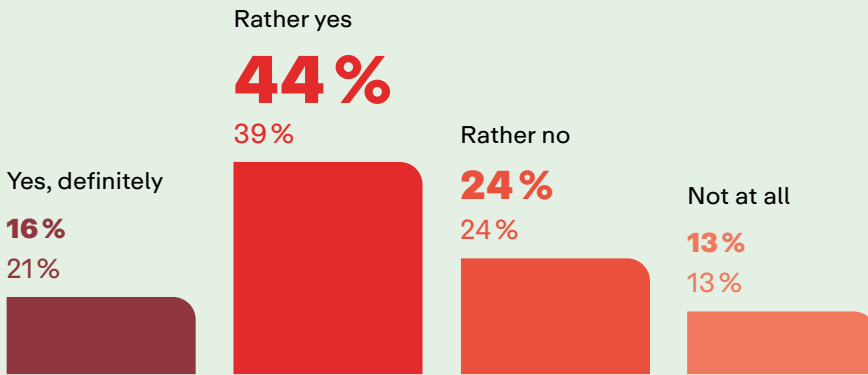
How do you see China's rising influence?



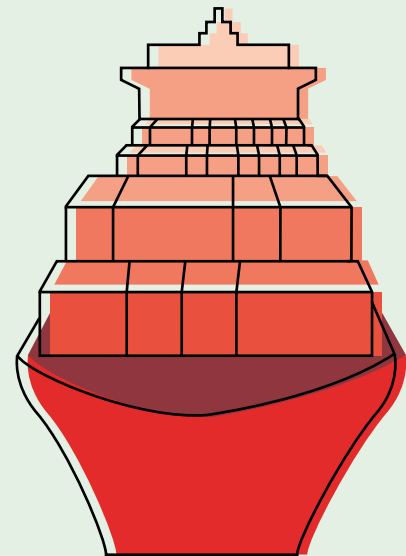
US respondents, 2024: don't know/no answer 4%

Let's de-risk!

Should German companies reduce their dependency on China, even if it leads to economic loss?



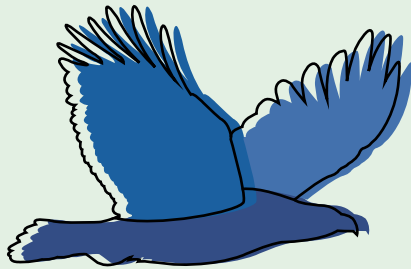
2024: don't know 2%, no answer 1%



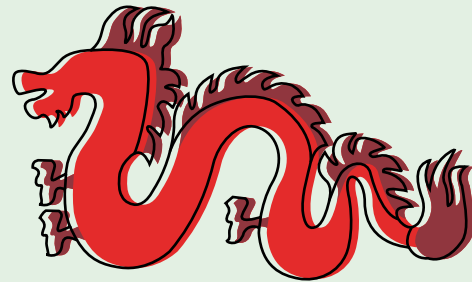
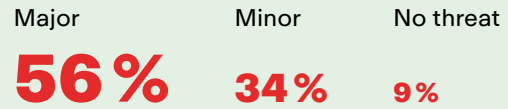
China's economy seen as a threat

Do the following countries represent a major, a minor or no threat to Germany's economy? (German respondents):

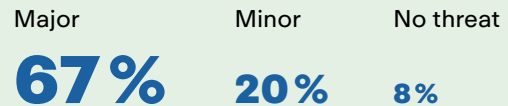
United States



China



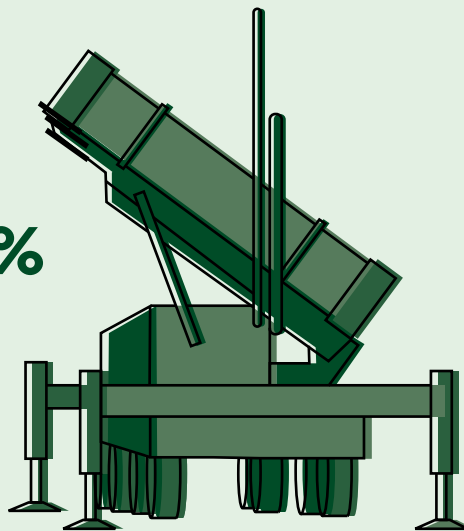
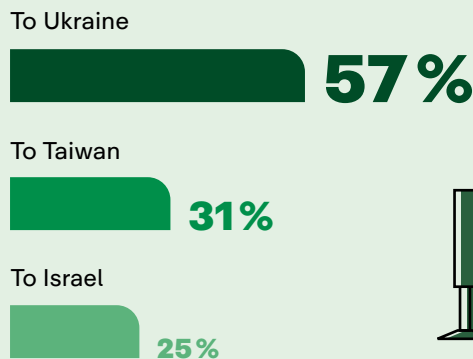
Does China represent a major, a minor or no threat to the American economy? (US respondents):



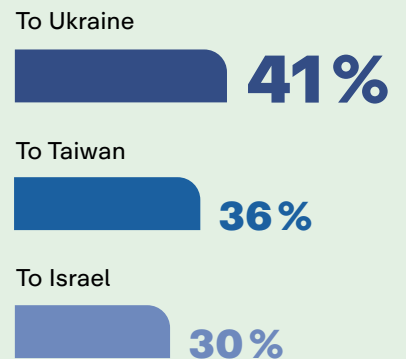
German and US respondents, 2024: 'don't know/no answer' ranged from 1 to 5 per cent for all issues

Only to Ukraine

German respondents:
Germany should provide
military assistance ...



US respondents:
The United States should provide
military assistance ...

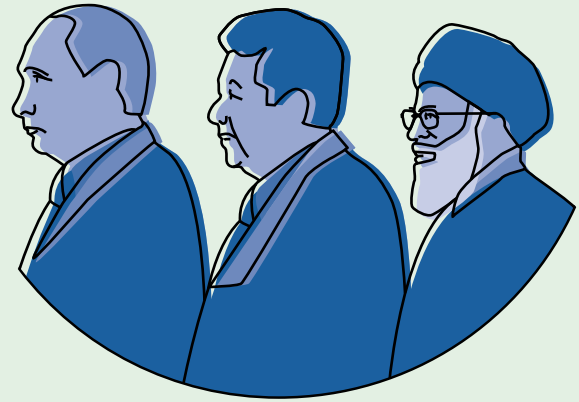


German respondents: 'don't know/no answer' ranged from 2 to 4 per cent for all issues.

US respondents: 'not sure' ranged from 27 to 34 per cent for all issues.

Russia threatens Germany's security

Do the following countries represent a military threat to...?

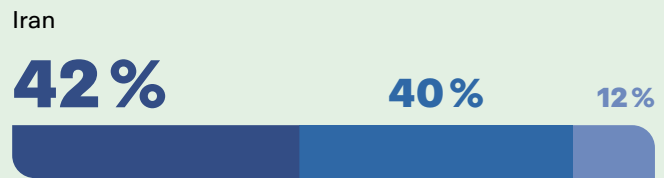


...Germany's security? (German respondents):



- Major military threat
- Minor military threat
- No military threat

...security in the United States? (US respondents):



- Major military threat
- Minor military threat
- No military threat

German and US respondents: 'don't know/no answer' ranged from 0 to 7 per cent for all issues

Fear of an arms race

How will the stationing of US medium-range missiles in Germany from 2026 affect the risk of war with Russia? It will ...

Increases the risk



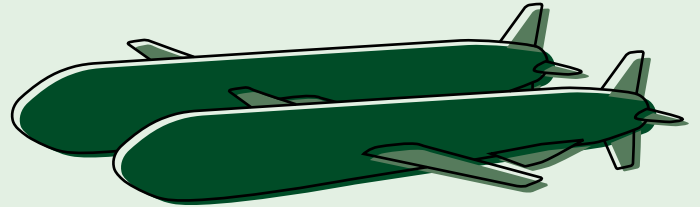
Reduces the risk



No significant impact



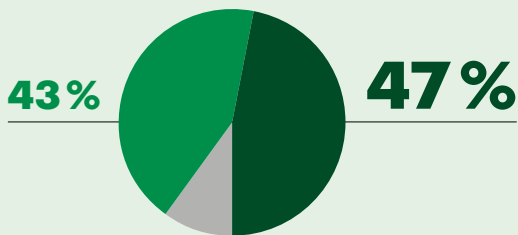
don't know 2%, no answer 2%



No shortcut to peace

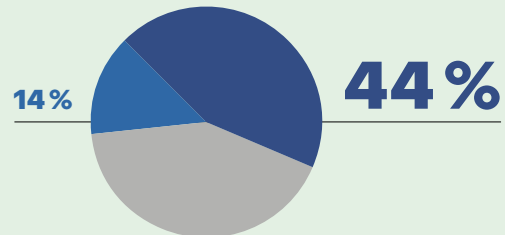
Which of the following actions by Ukraine would you support?

German respondents:

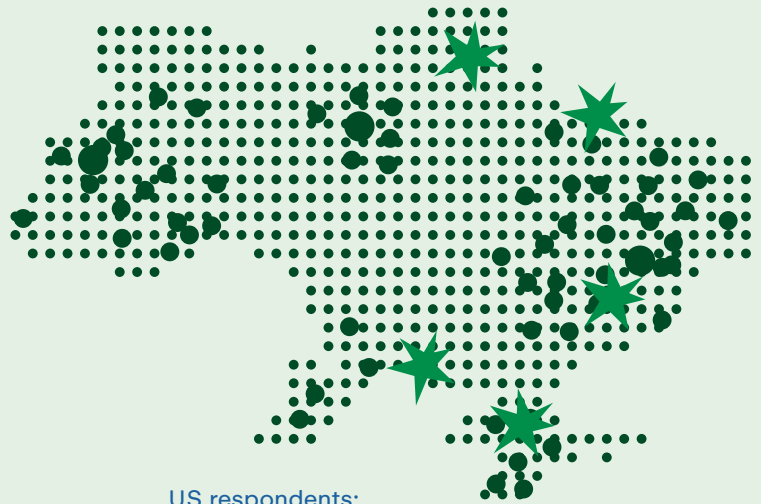


- Ukraine fights to recapture all Russian-occupied territory
- Ukraine cedes parts of its territory to Russia in an attempt to end the war
- don't know 6%, no answer 4%

US respondents:



- Ukraine fights to recapture all Russian-occupied territory
- Ukraine cedes parts of its territory to Russia in an attempt to end the war
- not sure 39%, don't know/no answer 3%



No military support to Israel

How should Germany react to the war between Israel and Hamas? Germany should ...

Provide humanitarian aid for the people in Gaza

87%

Act as a mediator between Israel and Hamas

64%

Stay out of the war

56%

Support Israel militarily in the war against Hamas

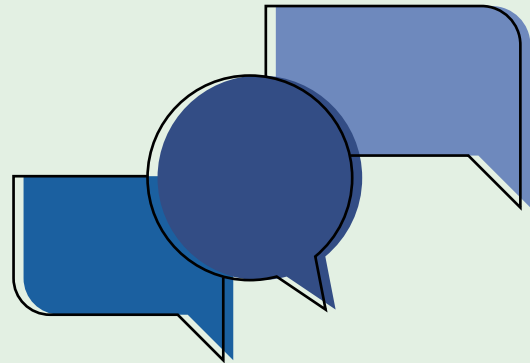
19%



don't know 1%, no answer 1%

High expectations

What role should European countries play in diplomatically resolving the war between Israel and Hamas?



German respondents:

Major role

39%

Minor role

36%

No role

23%

US respondents:

Major role

34%

Minor role

20%

No role

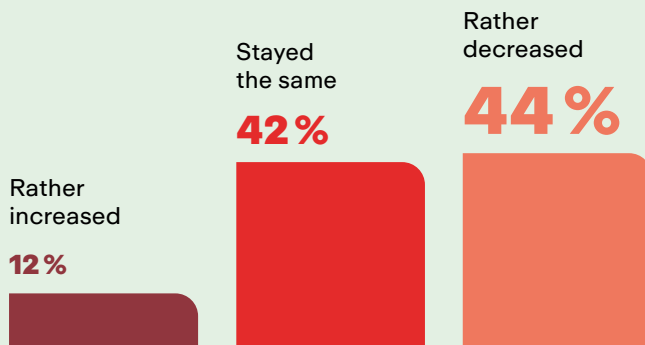
8%

German respondents: don't know 1%, no answer 1% | US respondents: don't know/no answer 34%

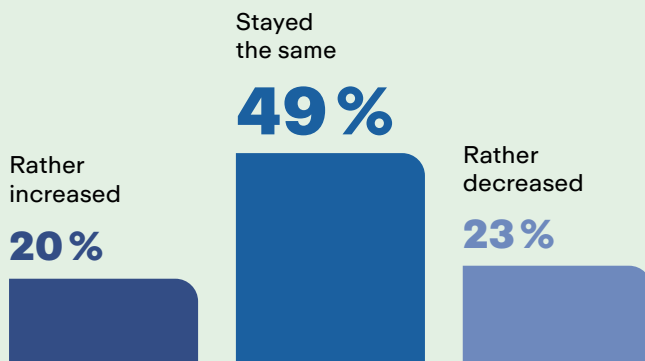
Loss of influence

Has the European Union's influence in the world in recent years ... ?

German respondents:



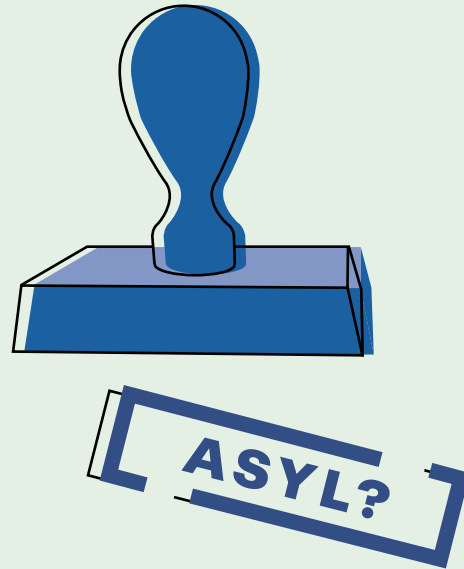
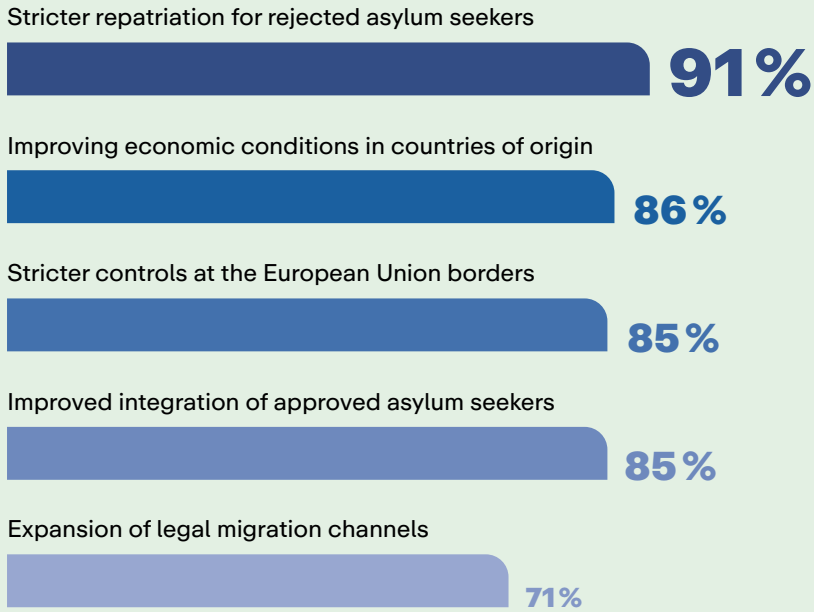
US respondents:



German respondents: don't know 2%, no answer 0% | US respondents: don't know/no answer 8%

Tighter regulation, more integration

In 2023, asylum applications in EU countries have risen significantly. How should the European Union respond?



don't know 1%, no answer 1%

The survey for Germany was commissioned by Körber-Stiftung and carried out by Verian, September 11–20, 2024. Telephone interviews conducted with a representative random sample of 1,010 participants in September (Margin of error: < 1.4 per cent for unit values of 5 per cent; < 3.1 per cent for unit values of 50 per cent). German data and results available at www.theberlinpulse.org.

The survey 'Transatlantic Relations After the US Elections and the German Coalition Break-up' was commissioned by Körber-Stiftung and carried out by Verian. Telephone interviews were conducted with a representative random sample of 1,000 participants in October 7–9, 2024 (Margin of error: < 1.4 per cent for unit values of 5 per cent; < 3.1 per cent for unit values of 50 per cent). German data and results available at www.theberlinpulse.org.

The survey for the United States was conducted by Ipsos for Pew Research Center in September 2024. Online interviews were conducted with a representative random sample of 1,021 participants, September 20–29, 2024 (Margin of error: +/- 3.1 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level).

The 2024 US survey was conducted on the Ipsos Knowledge Panel G&A Omnibus. Many questions have been asked in previous surveys on the phone and Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel. The extent of the mode differences varies across questions; while there are negligible differences on some questions, others have more pronounced differences. Caution should be taken when evaluating online and phone estimates as well as ad hoc survey after US elections.