

The Israel Project

Facts for a Better Future

American Attitudes toward the Middle East

Data from a national survey of 800 registered voters,
conducted June 5-7, 2011.

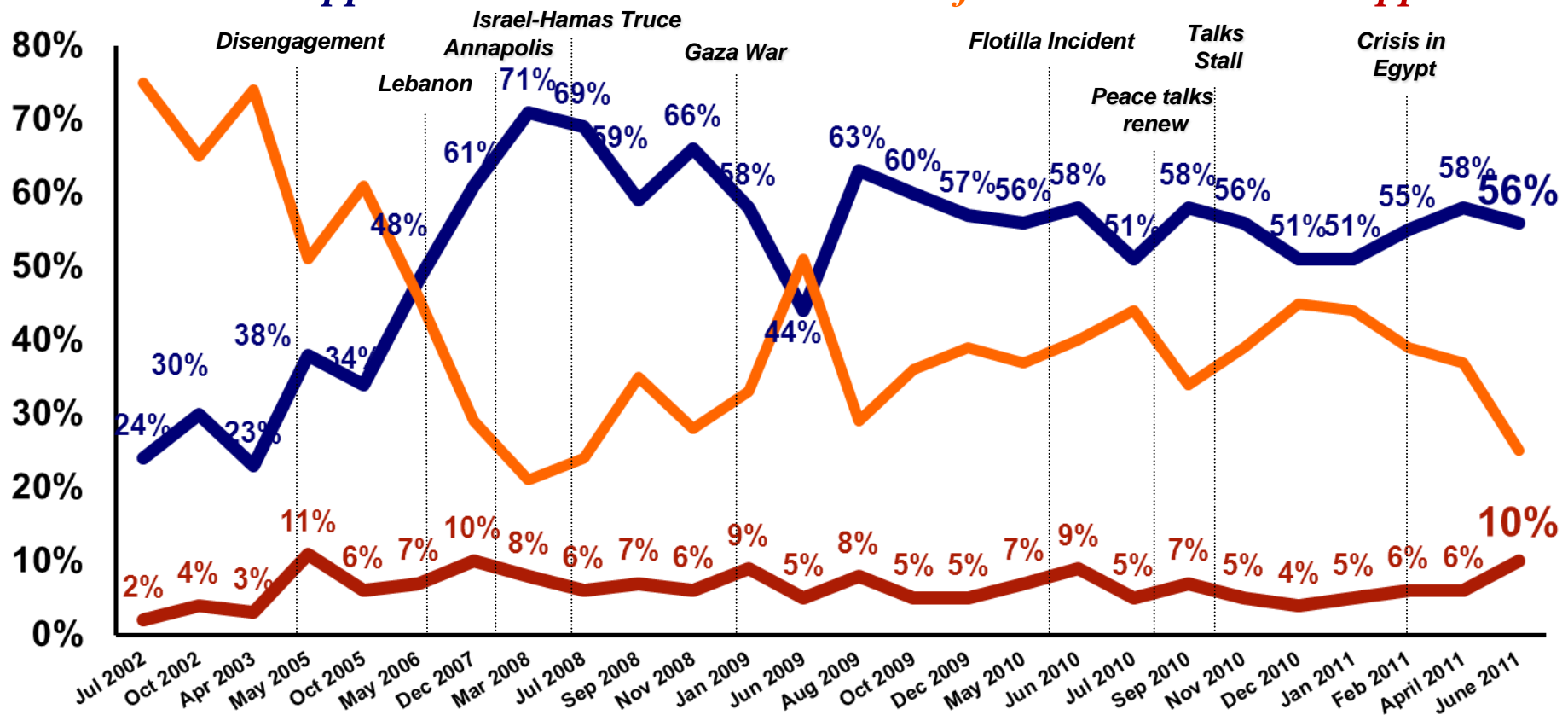
#11227

Support for Israel

Voters continue to believe the U.S. should side with Israel in the conflict with the Palestinians.

Now, thinking about the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in the Middle East, please tell me whether, in general, you think America should be... A strong supporter of Israel, a supporter of Israel, a supporter of the Palestinians ...or... a strong supporter of the Palestinians?

Israel Supporter **Neither/Don't Know/Refused** **Palestinian Supporter**

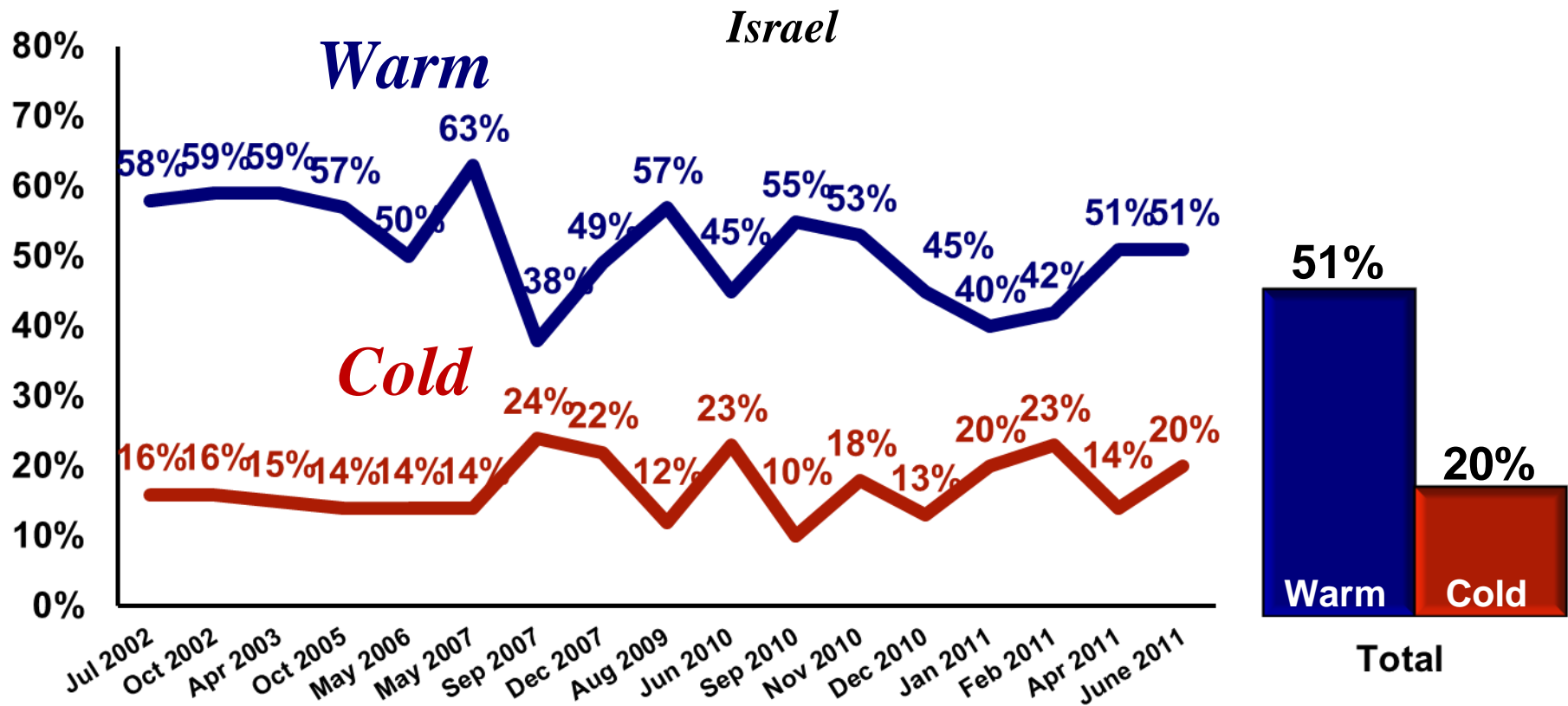


** Trend from joint research by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner and Public Opinion Strategies.

Thermometer Scores

A majority of voters continue to view Israel positively.

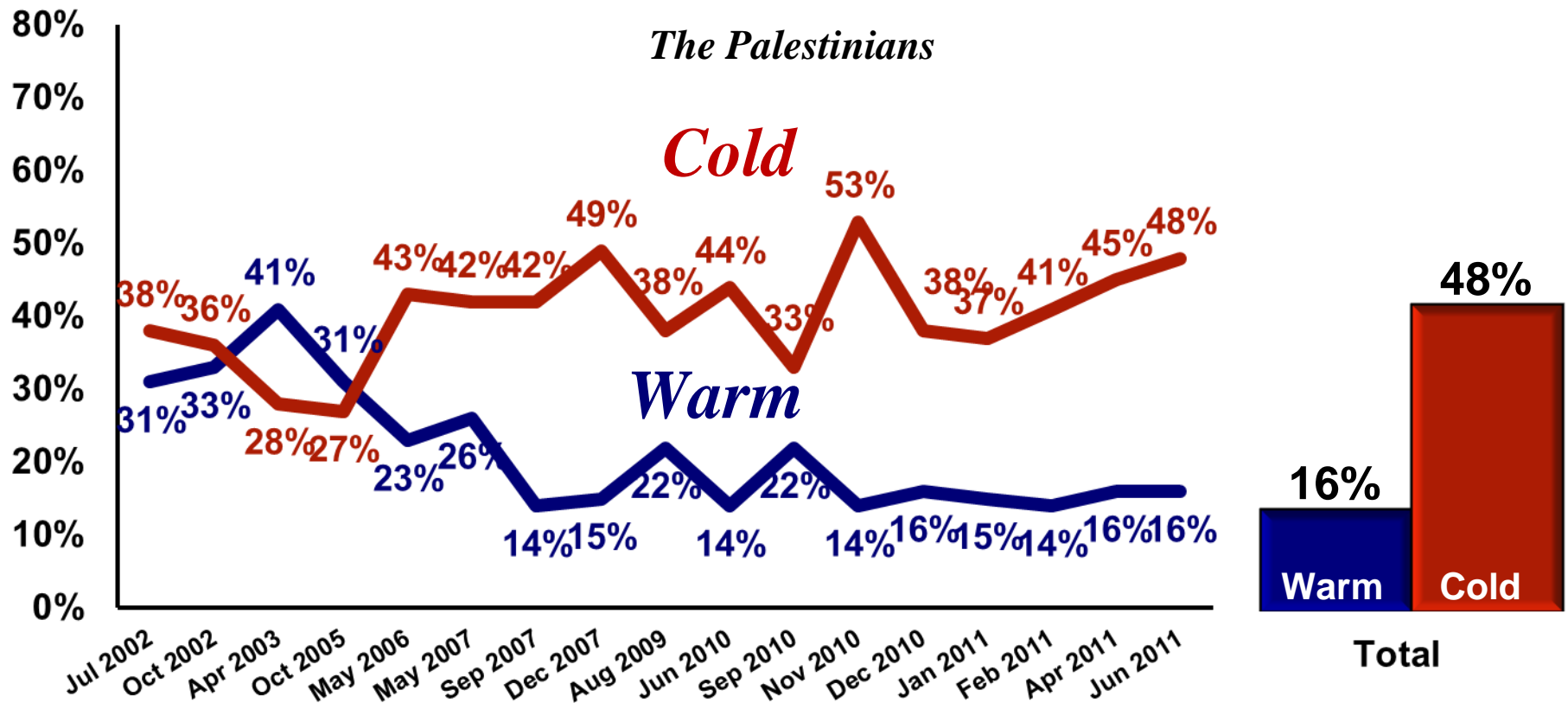
For each of the following people or groups of people, please rate each one using a one to one hundred scale, where one means you have a cold/very unfavorable feeling toward that person and one hundred means you have a warm/very favorable feeling toward that person, and fifty is neutral. Of course, you can choose any number between one and one hundred depending on how you feel...



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American's view of the Palestinians continues to erode.

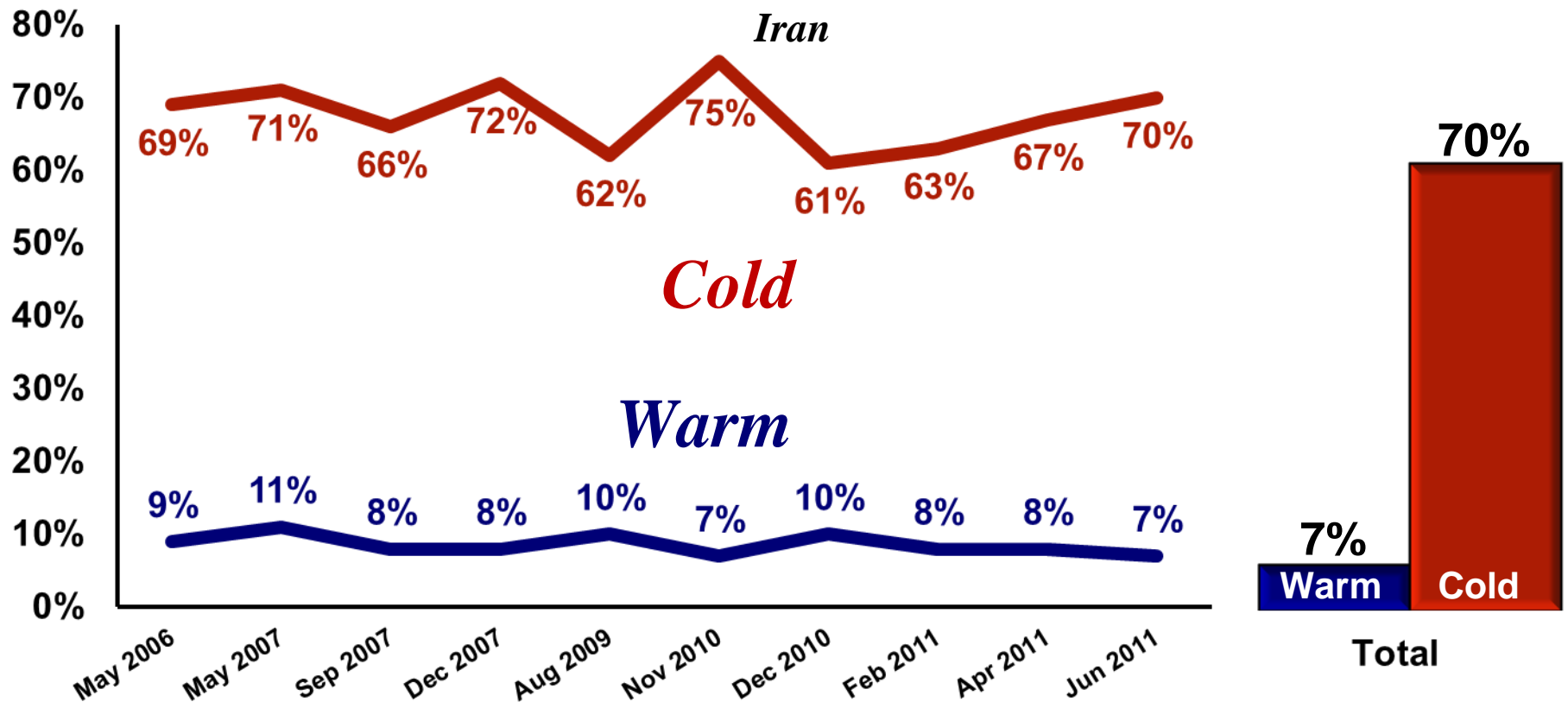
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Iran is viewed very unfavorably by Americans.

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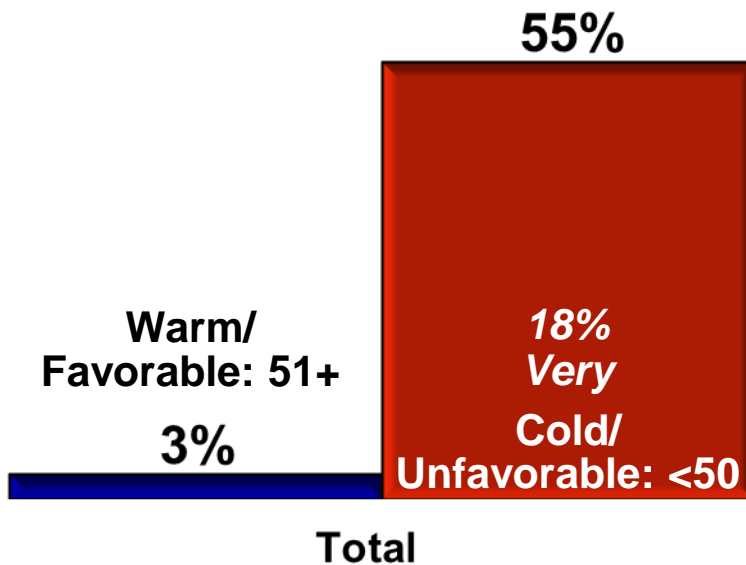


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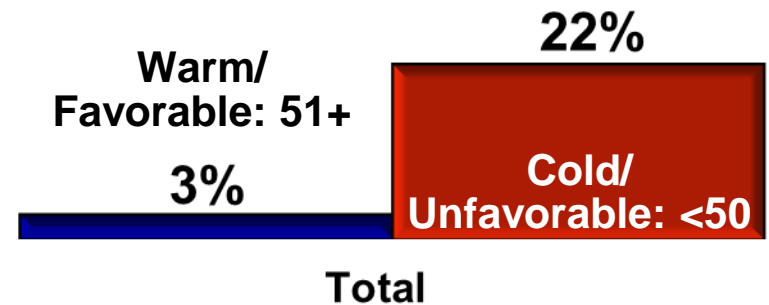
Hamas is viewed unfavorably, whereas Fatah is less known among Americans.

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Hamas



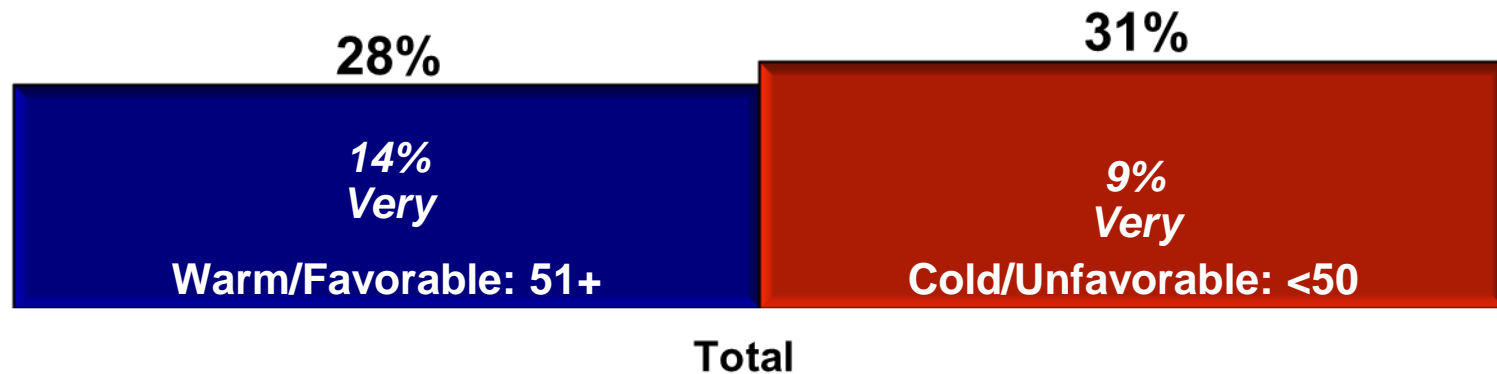
Fatah



Voters are divided on their image of Egypt.

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Egypt



The Effort Toward Peace

Voters believe the conflict is more about ideology and religion than land.

I am going to read you two statements about this conflict, and after I read them, please tell me which statement you agree with more...

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is really about land. Once agreements are reached on how to divide Jerusalem and establishing borders, the two sides can achieve a peace agreement.

27%

...or...

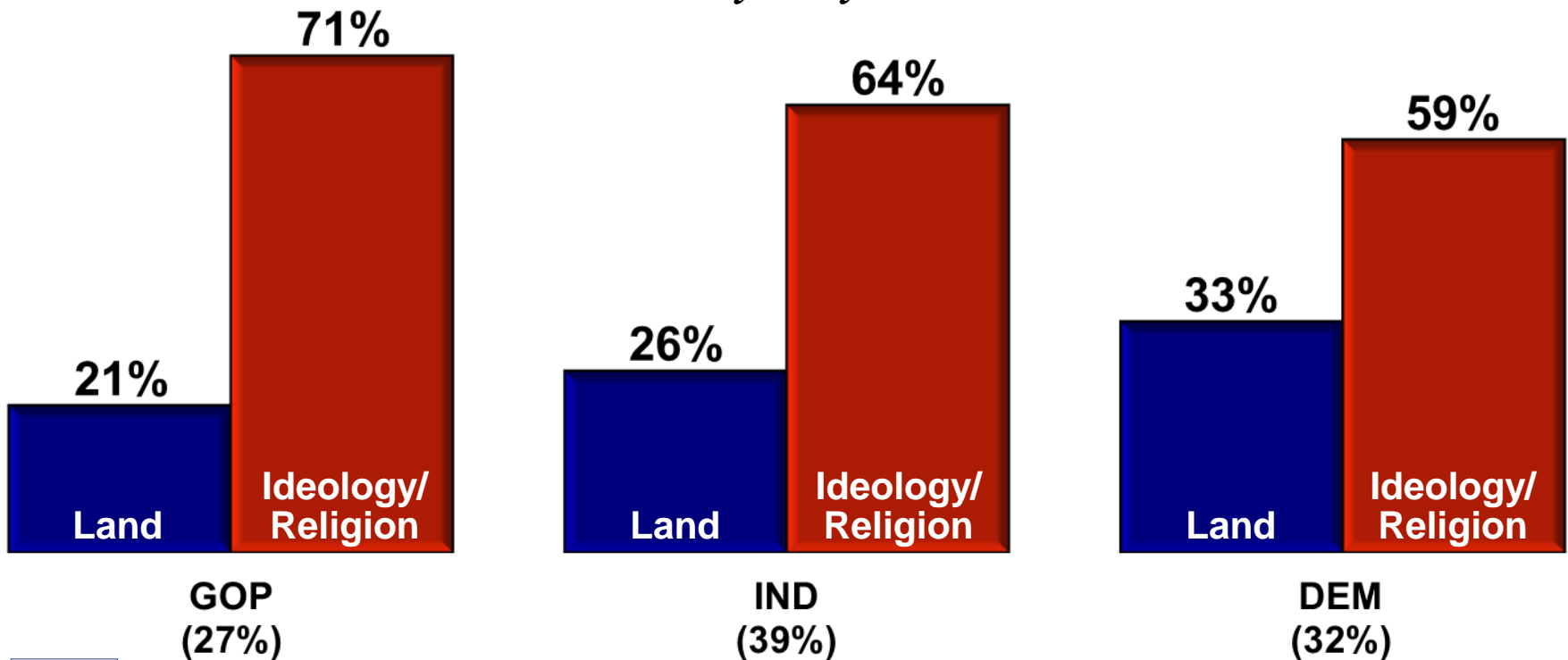
The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is about ideology and religion. The two sides can achieve a peace agreement only when they acknowledge each other's right to exist.

64%

This sentiment cuts across party lines...

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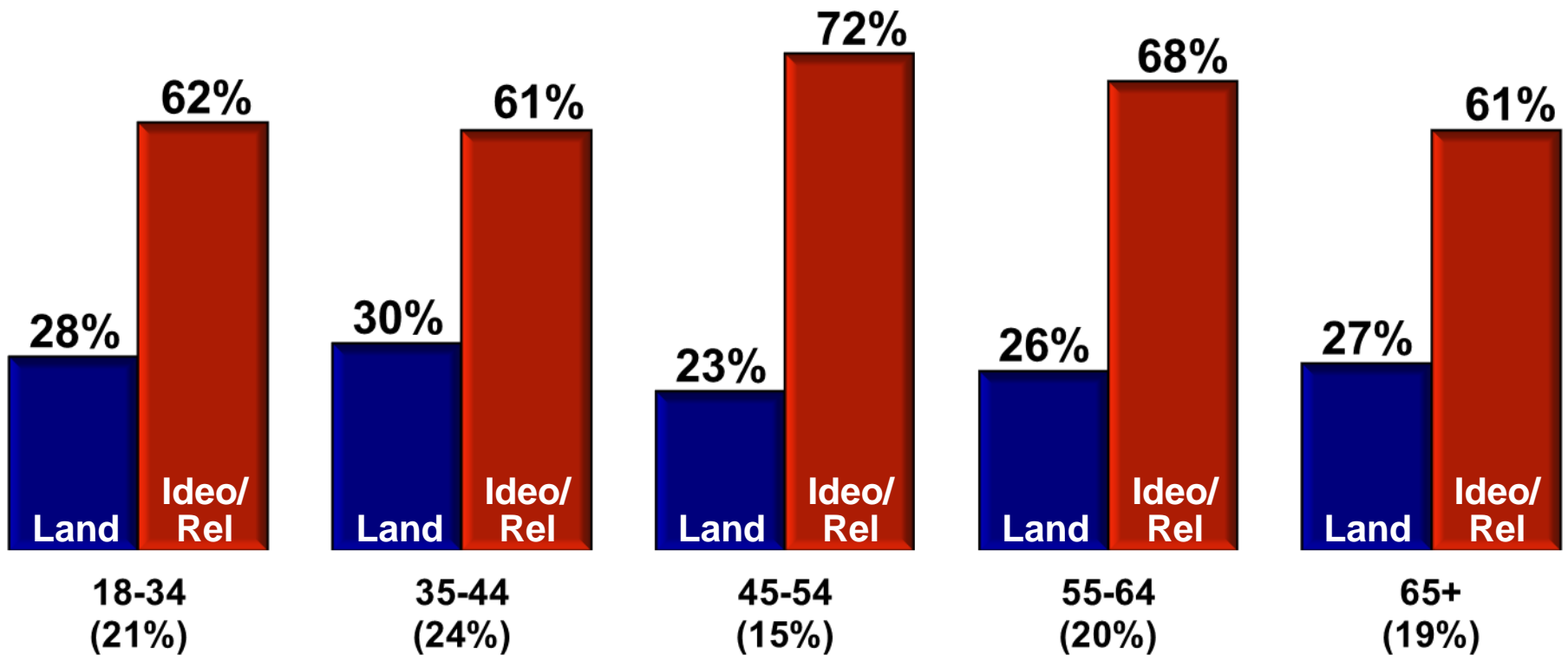
By Party



Age groups...

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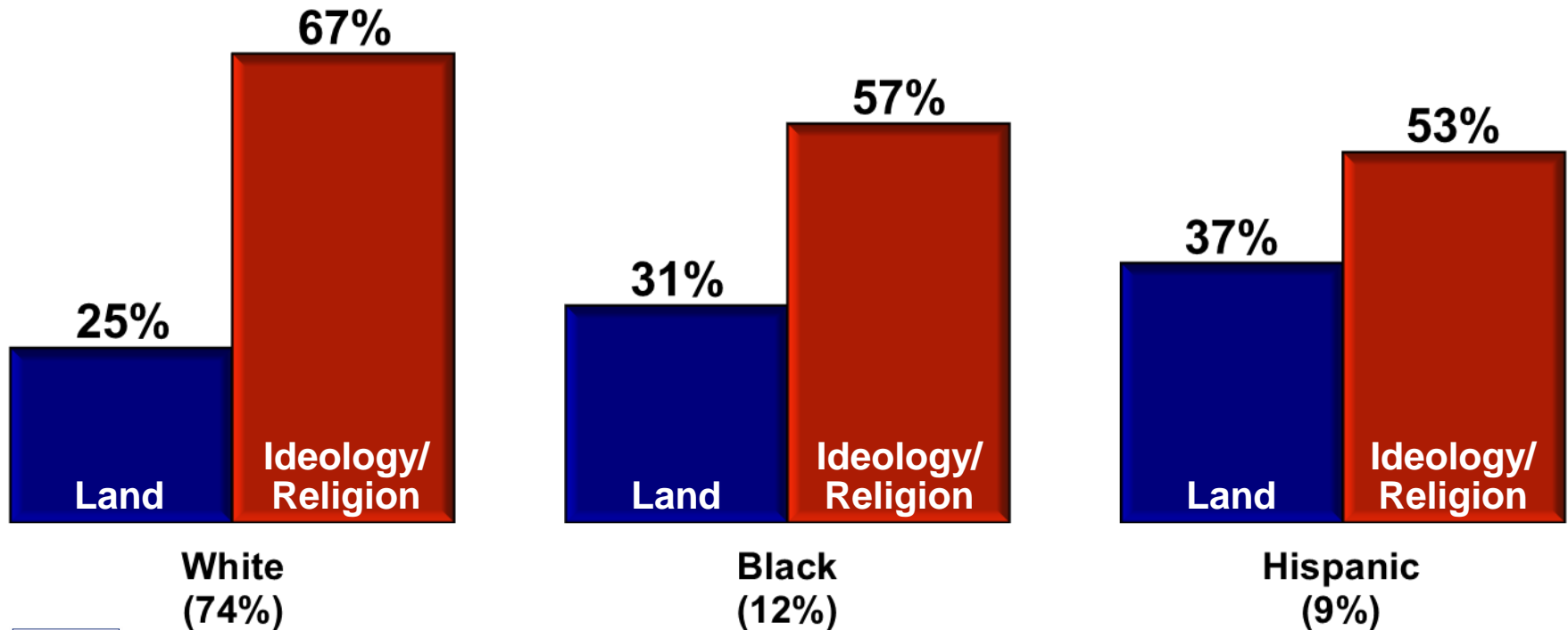
By Age



Ethnicity...

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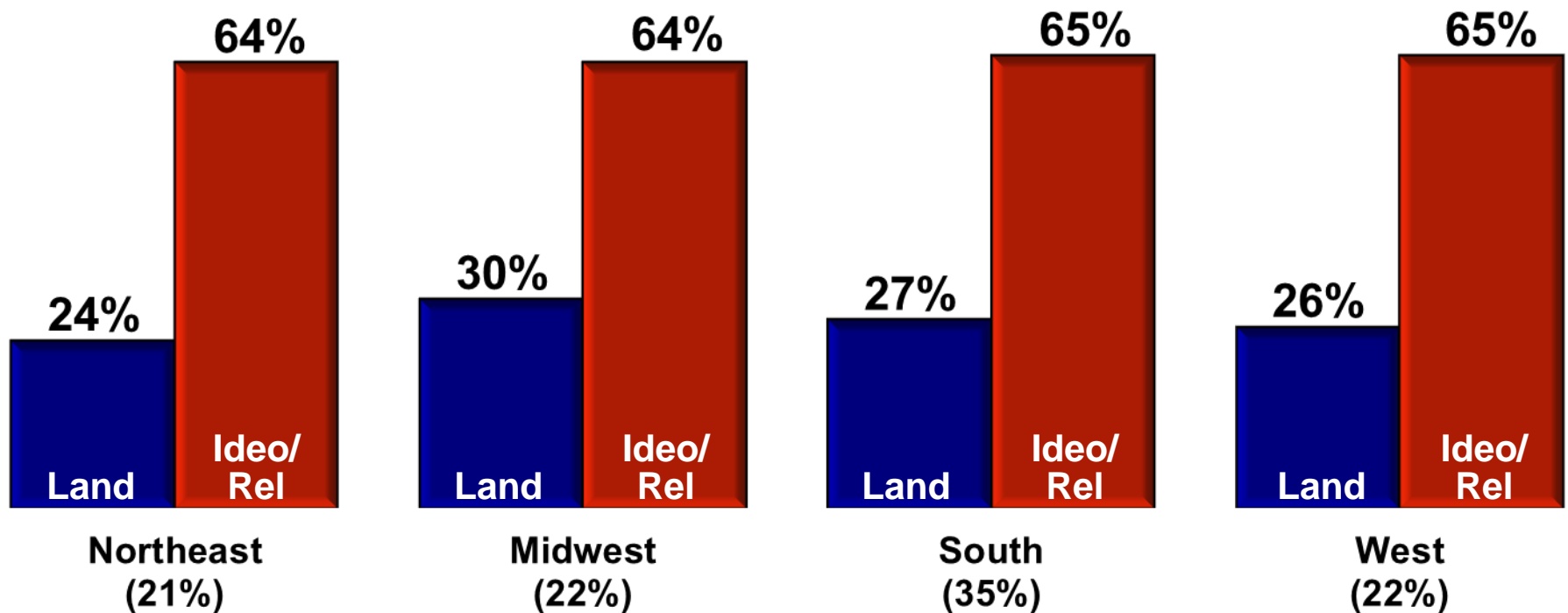
By Ethnicity



And region.

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By Region

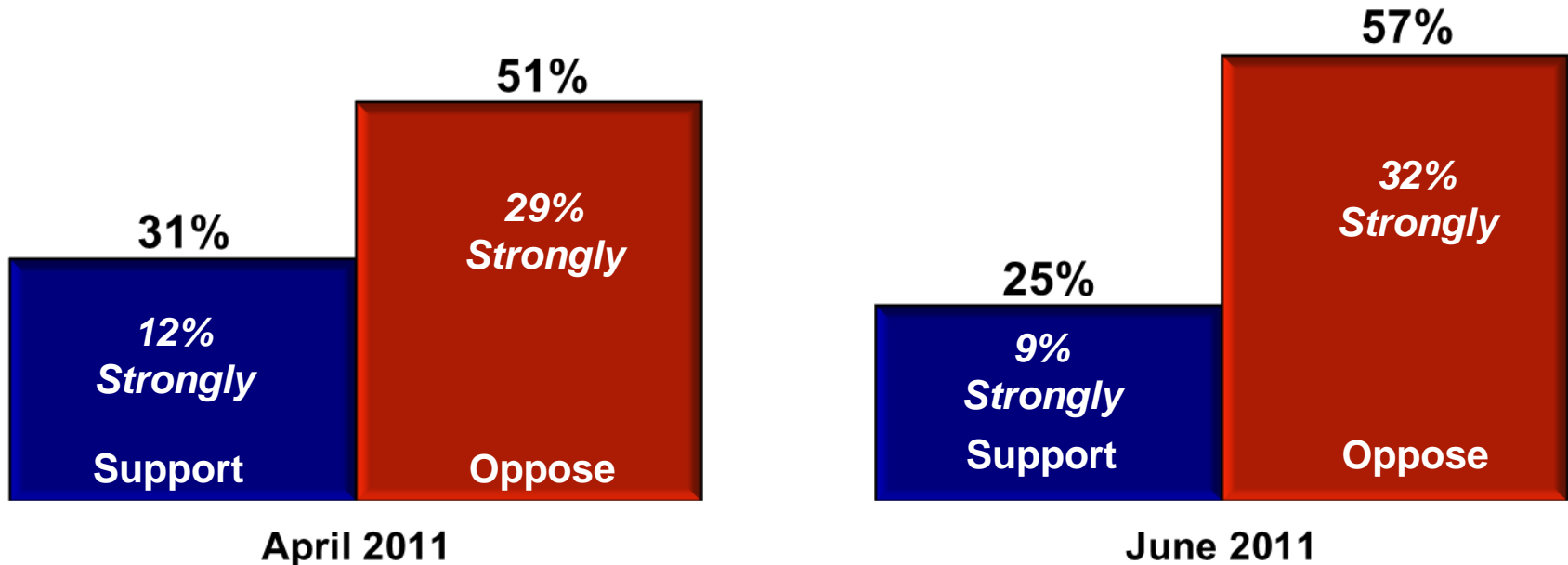


A Palestinian State

A majority of Americans continue to oppose a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.

Now, thinking about possible actions regarding the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians... Some Palestinian leaders, like Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, have suggested that the Palestinians break the stalemate and unilaterally declare an independent Palestinian state WITHOUT a signed peace treaty with Israel.

Would you support or oppose the Palestinians doing this? (N=393)



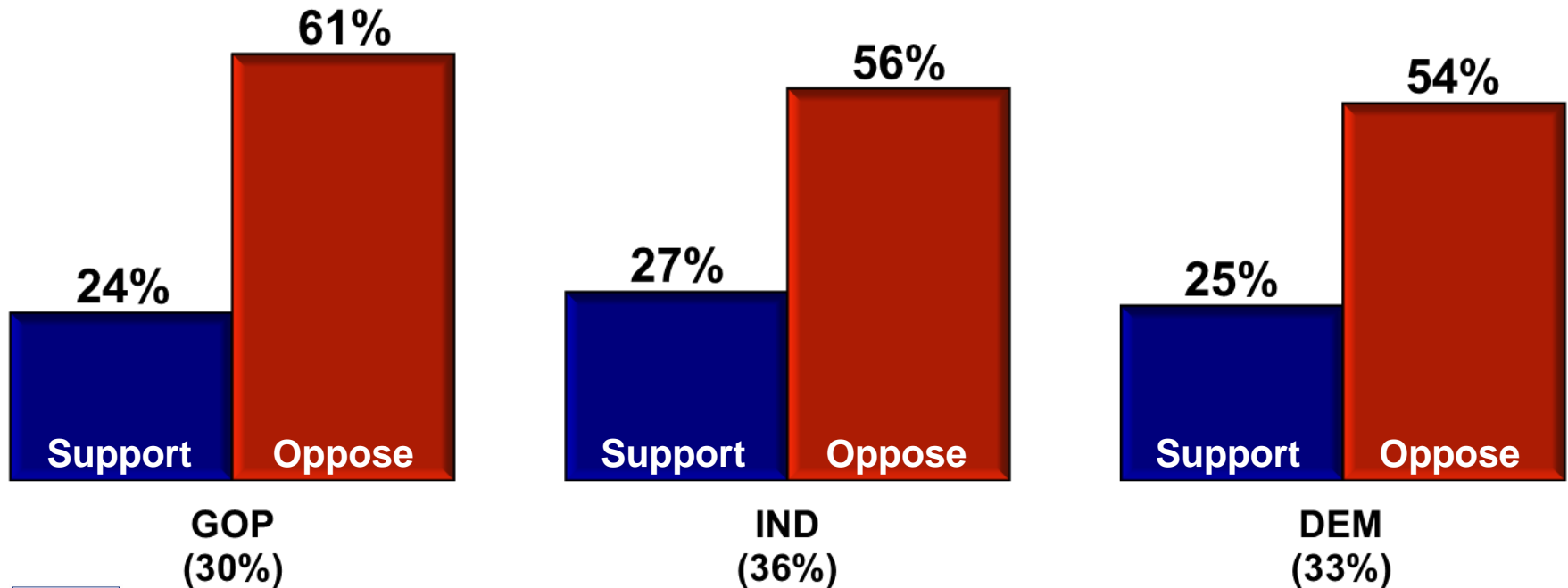
Opposition on this issue cuts across party lines.

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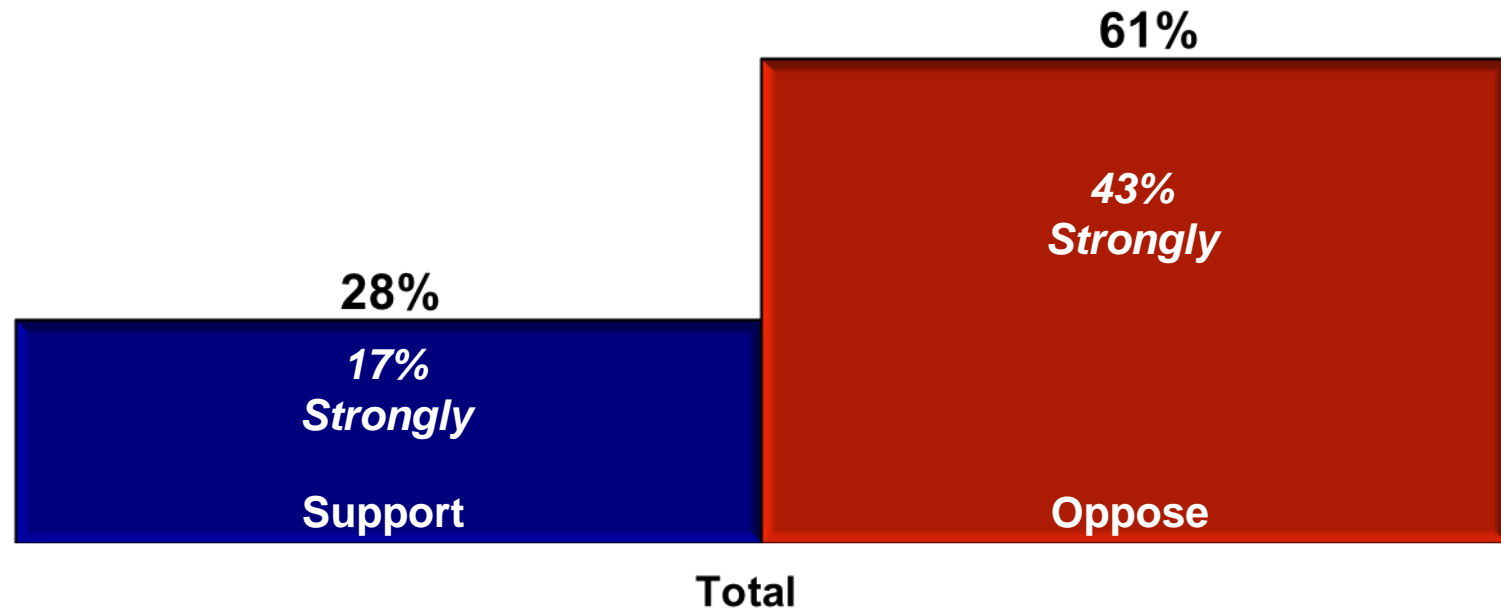
Would you support or oppose the Palestinians doing this? (N=393)

By Party



If the issue is presented to the UN this September, voters strongly believe the U.S. government should oppose the resolution.

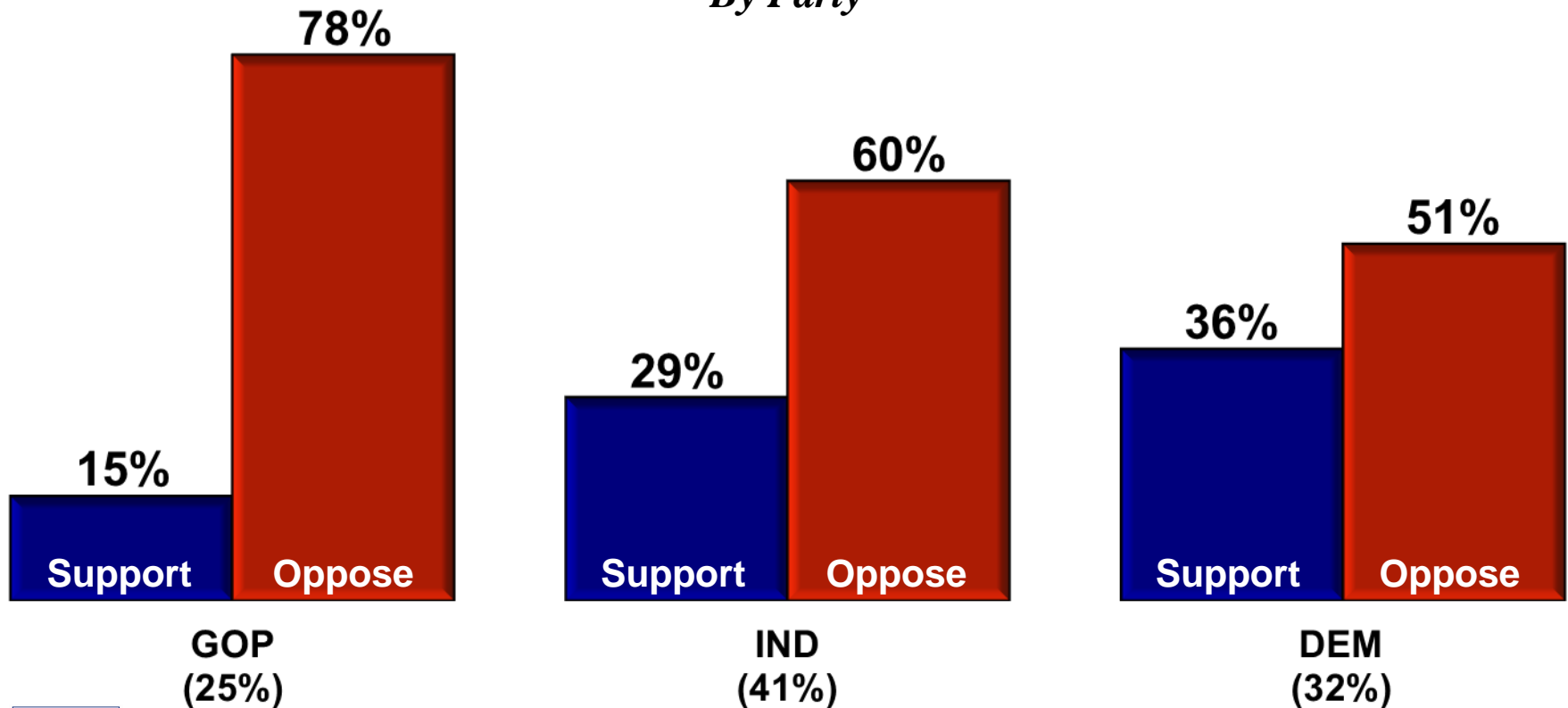
Now, thinking about possible actions regarding the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians... Some Palestinian leaders, like Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, have voiced an intention to seek recognition of a Palestinian state from the United Nations this September without a negotiated peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. If this issue is brought up in the UN, should the US government SUPPORT or OPPOSE the UN resolution recognizing a unilaterally declared Palestinian state without a peace agreement between the parties? (N=407)



Opposition cuts across partisan lines.

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By Party



Fully 50% of voters believe a peace agreement will be less likely if the UN General Assembly recognizes a Palestinian state.

I am going to read you two statements and after I read them, please tell me which statement you agree with more...

If the United Nations General Assembly votes to recognize a Palestinian state it will help strengthen the position of the Palestinian Authority and make an agreement with Israel more likely.

34%

...or...

If the United Nations General Assembly votes to recognize a Palestinian state without any negotiations between Israel and Palestinians, it will make an agreement with Israel less likely.

50%

And, a majority of voters believe it will only harden extremists on both sides.

I am going to read you two statements and after I read them, please tell me which statement you agree with more...

If the United Nations votes to recognize a Palestinian state it will pressure Israel to make helpful concessions and make peace easier to achieve.

31%

...or...

If the United Nations votes to recognize a Palestinian state it will only harden extremists on both sides and make peace much harder to achieve.

57%

Working with the Palestinians

A majority of voters believe the deal between Hamas and Fatah is a bad idea.

I am going to read you two statements and after I read them, please tell me which statement you agree with more...

The agreement between Palestinian groups Hamas, which controls Gaza, and Fatah, which controls the West Bank, is a GOOD IDEA because now the Palestinians can speak with one voice, move to elections and have one government.

28%

...or...

The deal between Hamas and Fatah is a BAD IDEA because Hamas is backed by Iran and the US government considers it a terrorist organization and Hamas would have a bigger role among Palestinians.

55%

And, voters believe the Israelis should not work with the new Palestinian government until they recognize Israel and renounce violence.

I am going to read you two statements and after I read them, please tell me which statement you agree with more...

Israelis should WORK with the new Hamas/Fatah interim government that will be comprised of technocrats and managers without party affiliation until there are Palestinian elections.

24%

...or...

Israelis should NOT WORK with the new Palestinian government until Hamas is willing to abide by previous agreements signed by Palestinian leaders including recognizing Israel and renouncing violence.

63%

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