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Iran's Global Image Mostly Negative

*Israel, Arab States Share Unfavorable
View of Middle East Neighbor*

BY *Hani Zainulbhai and Richard Wike*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

Richard Wike, Director, Global Attitudes Research

Russ Oates, Senior Communications Manager

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

About This Report

This report examines global public opinion about Iran. It is based on 45,435 face-to-face and telephone interviews in 40 countries with adults 18 and older conducted from March 25 to May 27, 2015. For more details, see survey methodology and topline results.

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

Richard Wike, *Director, Global Attitudes Research*

Hani Zainulbhai, *Research Analyst*

James Bell, *Vice President, Global Strategy*

Danielle Cuddington, *Research Assistant*

Kat Devlin, *Research Analyst*

Michael Keegan, *Information Graphics Designer*

Jacob Poushter, *Research Associate*

Katie Simmons, *Associate Director, Research*

Bruce Stokes, *Director, Global Economic Attitudes*

Jill Carle, *Research Associate*

Claudia Deane, *Vice President, Research*

Bruce Drake, *Senior Editor*

Bridget Parker, *Research Assistant*

Steve Schwarzer, *Research Methodologist*

Bethany Smith, *Administrative Coordinator*

Ben Wormald, *Associate Digital Producer*

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Iran's Global Image Mostly Negative

Israel, Arab States Share Unfavorable View of Middle East Neighbor

As the June 30 deadline for negotiations over its nuclear program approaches, a new Pew Research Center poll finds that attitudes toward Iran are mostly negative worldwide. Majorities or pluralities in 31 of 40 countries surveyed hold an unfavorable opinion of the Islamic Republic. And in several Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East and Asia, ratings have declined considerably in recent years.

June also marks the second anniversary of the election of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who generally receives low marks across the Middle Eastern nations polled.

These are among the key findings of a new survey by the Pew Research Center conducted in 40 countries among 45,435 respondents from March 25 to May 27, 2015.

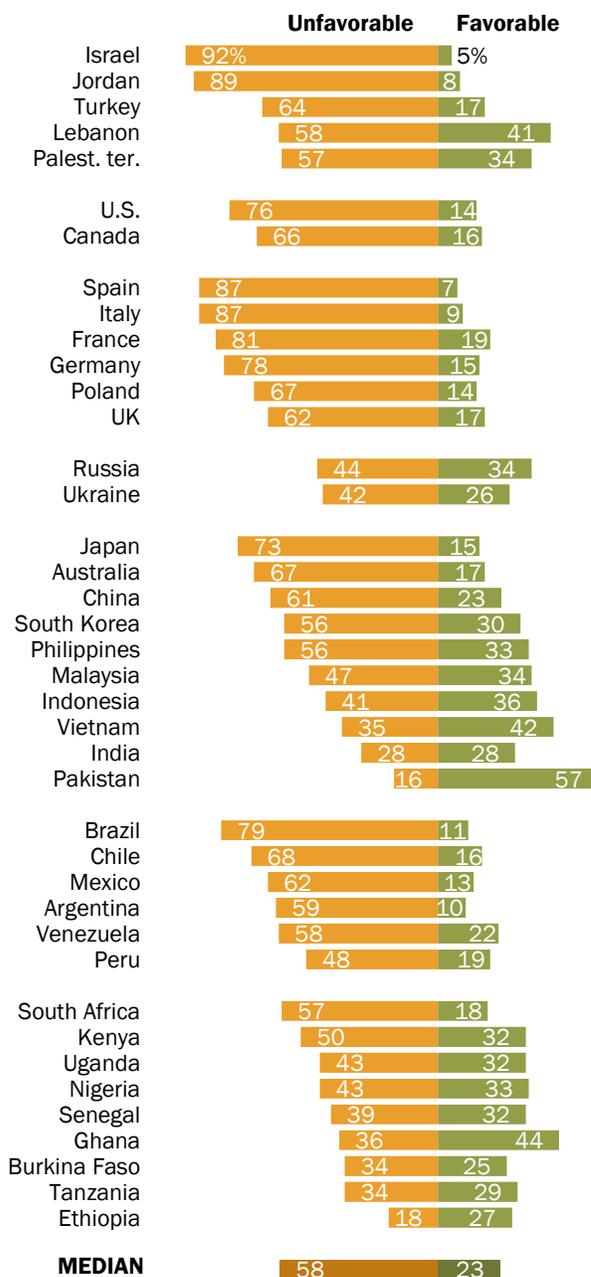
Low Marks for Iran in Middle East, Other Regions

Iran is viewed negatively by most nations surveyed, with a global median of 58% saying they have an unfavorable opinion of the country that borders Afghanistan in the east and Iraq in the west. Pakistan is the only country polled where a majority (57%) views Iran favorably.

In the Middle East, roughly nine-in-ten Israelis (92%) hold a negative opinion of Iran, including nearly all Israeli Jews (97%) and more than six-in-ten Israeli Arabs (63%).

Mostly Unfavorable View of Iran

Views of Iran



Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey. Q12c.

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Attitudes are nearly as negative in Jordan, where 89% have an unfavorable view of Iran. Smaller majorities of Turks, Lebanese and Palestinians also give their regional neighbor low marks. Meanwhile, in Lebanon attitudes divide along religious lines. More than nine-in-ten Lebanese Shia Muslims (95%) express a *positive* opinion of Iran — the country with the world’s largest Shia Muslim population — compared with 29% of Lebanese Christians and just 5% of Sunni Muslims.

With the exception of Pakistan, publics in the Asia-Pacific region are either mixed or negative in their assessments of Iran. Unfavorable views of the Islamic Republic are especially widespread in Japan and Australia (73% and 67%, respectively). Even in Pakistan, opinion of Iran has somewhat soured, with negative ratings increasing from 8% to 16% over the past year.

Iran’s image also suffers in Latin America, where a median of 61% across six countries express unfavorable views. Publics in Africa, while negative on balance, are more mixed in their assessments of Iran. A median of 39% in nine African nations surveyed view Iran in a negative light, 32% view the nation positively, and a quarter do not offer any opinion. In Nigeria, attitudes differ among the predominant religious groups: 43% of Muslims express favorable views of Iran while only 23% of Christians hold that view.

Amidst the negotiations over the future of Tehran’s nuclear program, publics in the so-called “P5+1” countries are generally critical of Iran. Roughly three-quarters of Americans (76%) view Iran unfavorably, virtually unchanged from last year. Majorities in France (81%), Germany (78%), the UK (62%) and China (61%) share this opinion. Only in Russia do about a third (34%) rate Iran positively, and even here the prevailing view is negative (44%).

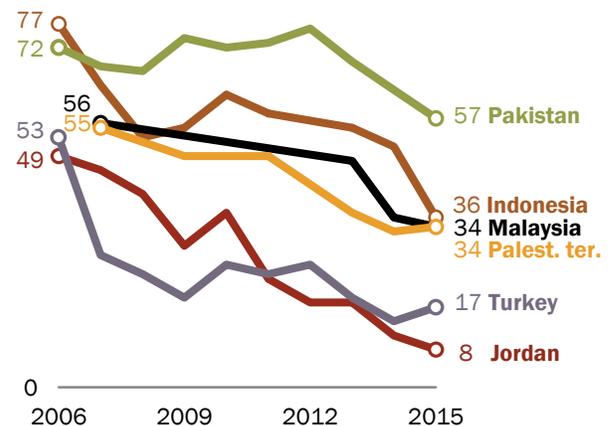
Declining Ratings for Iran in Muslim-Majority Nations

Perhaps influenced by political and sectarian tensions in the Middle East, favorable views of majority-Shia Iran have declined precipitously in some Muslim-majority countries over the last decade.

Iran Generally Losing Favor in Muslim-Majority Countries

Favorable view of Iran

100%



Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey. Q12c.

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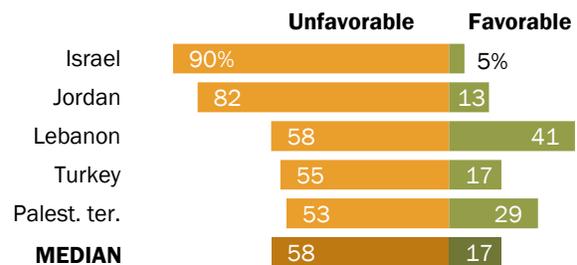
Since 2006-2007, favorable ratings of Iran have dropped by 41 percentage points each in Indonesia and Jordan. Turkish public opinion has also deteriorated significantly (-36 points) over the same period. Sizable declines in Iran's standing are also evident in Malaysia (-22), the Palestinian territories (-21) and Pakistan (-15). In Lebanon, opinions of Iran have remained relatively stable – 41% currently express a positive view, similar to the 36% registered in 2007. Over the last eight years, however, the percentage of Lebanese Shia who have a *very* favorable opinion of the Persian nation has increased significantly, rising from 47% to 80%.

Little Support for Rouhani in Middle East

As is the case with his country as a whole, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani receives generally poor marks among neighboring publics in the Middle East, with half or more in each country surveyed viewing him unfavorably. In Lebanon, views divide along religious lines: 95% of Lebanese Shia have a positive opinion of Rouhani, compared with a quarter of Christians and roughly one-in-ten Sunnis (11%). Since his first year in office, the Iranian president's favorable ratings have slightly increased in the Palestinian territories (+10 percentage points) and Jordan (+8).

Rouhani Unpopular in Middle East

Views of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani



Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey, Q106f.

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Methodology

About the 2015 Spring Pew Global Attitudes Survey

Results for the survey are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. The results are based on national samples, unless otherwise noted. More details about our international survey methodology and country-specific sample designs are available on our [website](#).

For more detailed information on survey methods for this report, see here:

http://www.pewglobal.org/international-survey-methodology/?year_select=2015

For more general information on international survey research, see here:

<http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/international-survey-research/>

Topline Results

Pew Research Center
Spring 2015 survey
June 18, 2015 Release

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see Methodology section and our [international survey methods database](#).
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Since 2007, the Pew Research Center has used an automated process to generate topline results for its Global Attitudes surveys. As a result, numbers may differ slightly from those published prior to 2007.
- Throughout this report, trends from India in 2013 refer to a survey conducted between December 7, 2013, and January 12, 2014 (Winter 2013-2014).
- Spring, 2011 survey in Pakistan was fielded before the death of Osama bin Laden (April 10 – April 26), while the Late Spring, 2011 survey was conducted afterwards (May 8 – May 15).
- Results for Ukraine in 2014 may differ from previously published figures. To make the 2014 sample comparable to 2015, Luhans’k, Donets’k and Crimea were excluded from the 2014 sample. These areas were not surveyed in 2015 due to security concerns. Throughout the topline results, 2014 Ukraine figures are noted with an asterisk.
- For some countries, trends for certain years are omitted due to differences in sample design or population coverage. Omitted trends often reflect less representative samples than more recent surveys in the same countries. Trends that are omitted include:
 - Ethiopia prior to 2015
 - Ukraine prior to 2014
 - India prior to Winter 2013-2014
 - Senegal prior to 2013

- Venezuela prior to 2013
 - Brazil prior to 2010
 - Nigeria prior to 2010
 - South Africa in 2007
-
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2015 survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

		Q12c. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of ____? c. Iran					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2015	1	13	28	48	9	100
	Spring, 2014	2	12	30	46	11	100
	Spring, 2013	2	14	27	42	15	100
	Spring, 2012	1	12	26	42	19	100
	Spring, 2011	3	16	28	39	14	100
	Spring, 2010	3	15	29	38	15	100
	Fall, 2009	1	10	25	52	12	100
	Spring, 2009	4	17	28	35	15	100
	Spring, 2008	5	15	27	37	16	100
	Spring, 2007	2	12	26	45	14	100
Spring, 2006	8	17	26	31	18	100	
Canada	Spring, 2015	2	14	36	30	17	100
	Spring, 2013	1	13	36	34	16	100
	Spring, 2009	4	23	34	23	16	100
	Spring, 2007	3	19	34	33	11	100
France	Spring, 2015	2	17	39	42	1	100
	Spring, 2014	2	18	38	42	1	100
	Spring, 2013	1	10	36	52	1	100
	Spring, 2012	1	13	32	54	0	100
	Spring, 2011	3	18	37	41	1	100
	Spring, 2010	1	17	37	44	0	100
	Spring, 2009	2	21	44	32	1	100
	Spring, 2008	2	17	45	37	0	100
	Spring, 2007	1	13	41	43	1	100
Spring, 2006	1	21	47	30	0	100	
Germany	Spring, 2015	1	14	51	27	7	100
	Spring, 2014	0	9	57	28	6	100
	Spring, 2013	0	7	46	39	7	100
	Spring, 2012	1	5	46	45	4	100
	Spring, 2011	1	8	48	38	5	100
	Spring, 2010	0	8	49	37	6	100
	Spring, 2009	1	10	55	27	7	100
	Spring, 2008	1	11	53	29	6	100
	Spring, 2007	2	8	45	40	5	100
Spring, 2006	1	11	50	32	6	100	
Italy	Spring, 2015	2	7	36	51	5	100
	Spring, 2014	0	7	35	51	7	100
	Spring, 2013	1	4	35	50	10	100
	Spring, 2012	0	5	28	57	9	100
	Spring, 2007	1	11	41	36	11	100
Poland	Spring, 2015	1	13	48	19	19	100
	Spring, 2014	2	15	48	19	16	100
	Spring, 2013	2	16	48	18	16	100
	Spring, 2012	2	18	43	26	12	100
	Spring, 2011	1	23	41	15	20	100
	Spring, 2010	4	22	42	20	12	100
	Spring, 2009	1	19	42	19	18	100
	Spring, 2008	0	16	46	22	15	100
	Spring, 2007	2	15	43	25	15	100
Spain	Spring, 2015	1	6	38	49	6	100
	Spring, 2014	2	8	41	42	7	100
	Spring, 2013	2	5	33	51	10	100
	Spring, 2012	3	6	34	50	7	100
	Spring, 2011	3	8	39	43	7	100
	Spring, 2010	2	11	48	25	13	100
	Spring, 2009	1	13	46	24	15	100
	Spring, 2008	1	10	36	41	13	100
	Spring, 2007	1	14	40	32	13	100
Spring, 2006	3	19	34	32	11	100	

		Q12c. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of ____? c. Iran					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
United Kingdom	Spring, 2015	2	15	35	27	20	100
	Spring, 2014	2	17	36	27	18	100
	Spring, 2013	2	15	31	28	24	100
	Spring, 2012	1	15	32	36	15	100
	Spring, 2011	4	19	32	26	19	100
	Spring, 2010	2	20	33	25	19	100
	Spring, 2009	4	25	33	19	19	100
	Spring, 2008	3	30	30	16	22	100
	Spring, 2007	2	22	33	24	19	100
Spring, 2006	3	31	24	15	28	100	
Russia	Spring, 2015	6	28	33	11	22	100
	Spring, 2014	5	30	32	12	20	100
	Spring, 2013	6	26	37	12	19	100
	Spring, 2012	6	30	28	10	26	100
	Spring, 2011	9	33	27	8	24	100
	Spring, 2010	7	29	30	15	20	100
	Spring, 2009	5	33	28	7	26	100
	Spring, 2008	6	34	29	10	22	100
	Spring, 2007	6	31	33	7	23	100
Spring, 2006	10	33	29	9	20	100	
Ukraine	Spring, 2015	5	21	29	13	32	100
	Spring, 2014*	4	20	33	9	34	100
Turkey	Spring, 2015	3	14	25	39	20	100
	Spring, 2014	4	10	16	59	11	100
	Spring, 2013	3	16	24	44	12	100
	Spring, 2012	8	18	16	39	19	100
	Spring, 2011	6	18	25	37	15	100
	Spring, 2010	5	21	15	43	16	100
	Spring, 2009	4	15	12	46	23	100
	Spring, 2008	6	18	11	45	20	100
	Spring, 2007	5	23	18	38	16	100
	Spring, 2006	18	35	15	20	12	100
Summer, 2002	5	17	17	44	17	100	
Jordan	Spring, 2015	1	7	36	53	3	100
	Spring, 2014	3	8	35	52	3	100
	Spring, 2013	3	15	37	44	2	100
	Spring, 2012	3	15	38	41	3	100
	Spring, 2011	3	20	35	37	5	100
	Spring, 2010	11	26	34	29	1	100
	Spring, 2009	5	25	24	42	4	100
	Spring, 2008	10	31	29	27	4	100
	Spring, 2007	8	38	32	21	1	100
Spring, 2006	12	37	33	18	1	100	
Lebanon	Spring, 2015	29	12	10	48	1	100
	Spring, 2014	31	10	8	50	1	100
	Spring, 2013	27	13	9	51	0	100
	Spring, 2012	26	13	13	48	0	100
	Spring, 2011	25	14	12	47	2	100
	Spring, 2010	23	16	13	47	1	100
	Spring, 2009	23	12	8	54	3	100
	Spring, 2008	19	15	10	56	1	100
Spring, 2007	17	19	14	50	1	100	
Palest. ter.	Spring, 2015	9	25	28	29	10	100
	Spring, 2014	6	27	28	29	9	100
	Spring, 2013	7	30	26	29	8	100
	Spring, 2011	7	42	30	19	2	100
	Spring, 2009	12	37	19	29	3	100
Spring, 2007	17	38	17	22	6	100	

		Q12c. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of ____? c. Iran					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Israel	Spring, 2015	1	4	13	79	2	100
	Spring, 2014	2	6	36	55	2	100
	Spring, 2013	1	4	17	75	2	100
	Spring, 2011	1	5	11	81	2	100
	Spring, 2009	2	5	25	64	4	100
Spring, 2007	1	4	16	77	3	100	
Australia	Spring, 2015	1	16	35	32	15	100
	Spring, 2013	1	15	36	32	17	100
	Spring, 2008	2	29	36	19	14	100
China	Spring, 2015	3	20	44	17	16	100
	Spring, 2014	3	27	44	11	15	100
	Spring, 2013	3	23	42	16	16	100
	Spring, 2012	2	19	43	19	16	100
	Spring, 2011	3	26	41	13	18	100
	Spring, 2010	3	24	47	13	14	100
	Spring, 2009	2	23	47	10	17	100
	Spring, 2008	2	22	42	11	23	100
	Spring, 2007	2	24	46	9	19	100
Spring, 2006	2	24	40	8	26	100	
India	Spring, 2015	9	19	17	11	44	100
	Spring, 2014	6	17	18	12	47	100
	Winter, 2013-2014	8	22	19	16	36	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2015	6	30	28	13	24	100
	Spring, 2014	7	44	29	5	15	100
	Spring, 2013	12	43	20	4	20	100
	Spring, 2011	11	47	22	4	16	100
	Spring, 2010	7	55	22	4	13	100
	Spring, 2009	8	47	23	4	17	100
	Spring, 2008	8	45	21	6	20	100
	Spring, 2007	8	56	17	3	16	100
	Spring, 2006	22	55	13	2	7	100
Japan	Spring, 2015	1	14	44	29	13	100
	Spring, 2014	0	14	47	23	16	100
	Spring, 2013	0	12	51	24	14	100
	Spring, 2012	0	15	48	28	8	100
	Spring, 2011	1	19	44	13	24	100
	Spring, 2010	1	11	53	22	13	100
	Spring, 2009	1	15	48	19	17	100
	Spring, 2008	1	16	51	19	12	100
	Spring, 2007	1	13	46	24	15	100
Spring, 2006	3	20	53	15	8	100	
Malaysia	Spring, 2015	7	27	36	11	19	100
	Spring, 2014	3	33	28	9	26	100
	Spring, 2013	8	40	19	6	27	100
	Spring, 2007	7	49	17	10	17	100
Pakistan	Spring, 2015	18	39	9	7	27	100
	Spring, 2014	20	43	5	3	29	100
	Spring, 2013	36	33	2	4	25	100
	Spring, 2012	40	36	4	4	15	100
	Late Spring, 2011	33	38	5	3	22	100
	Spring, 2011	35	38	5	5	18	100
	Spring, 2010	35	37	6	3	19	100
	Spring, 2009	33	41	4	4	18	100
	Spring, 2008	39	28	7	5	21	100
	Spring, 2007	38	30	4	6	21	100
Spring, 2006	41	31	6	4	18	100	
Philippines	Spring, 2015	5	28	37	19	12	100
	Spring, 2014	3	27	38	21	11	100
	Spring, 2013	2	27	41	19	10	100

		Q12c. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of ____? c. Iran					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
South Korea	Spring, 2015	1	29	45	11	15	100
	Spring, 2014	1	25	46	13	16	100
	Spring, 2013	1	24	47	12	15	100
	Spring, 2010	1	27	44	11	18	100
	Spring, 2009	0	33	45	4	18	100
	Spring, 2008	1	32	39	8	20	100
Vietnam	Spring, 2015	7	35	27	8	24	100
	Spring, 2014	3	37	37	9	15	100
Argentina	Spring, 2015	1	9	34	25	31	100
	Spring, 2014	1	7	27	25	39	100
	Spring, 2013	2	9	32	17	39	100
	Spring, 2010	2	11	29	22	36	100
	Spring, 2009	2	9	25	22	42	100
	Spring, 2008	1	9	26	26	37	100
Brazil	Spring, 2015	1	10	23	30	37	100
	Spring, 2015	2	9	43	36	11	100
	Spring, 2014	1	8	53	22	16	100
	Spring, 2013	1	16	53	19	11	100
	Spring, 2012	2	11	41	33	14	100
	Spring, 2011	2	18	40	21	20	100
Chile	Spring, 2010	1	17	46	19	16	100
	Spring, 2015	2	14	35	33	16	100
	Spring, 2014	3	16	36	21	24	100
	Spring, 2013	3	19	37	18	23	100
Mexico	Spring, 2007	4	16	41	16	22	100
	Spring, 2015	1	12	29	33	26	100
	Spring, 2014	1	11	26	32	30	100
	Spring, 2013	3	17	30	22	29	100
	Spring, 2012	3	13	21	32	31	100
	Spring, 2011	2	19	38	20	21	100
	Spring, 2010	1	15	27	19	38	100
	Spring, 2009	3	17	27	23	30	100
Peru	Spring, 2008	2	11	24	32	32	100
	Spring, 2007	6	18	33	25	17	100
	Spring, 2015	2	17	31	17	33	100
Venezuela	Spring, 2014	2	18	33	16	31	100
	Spring, 2007	2	16	32	21	29	100
	Spring, 2015	4	18	24	34	20	100
Burkina Faso	Spring, 2014	6	17	30	36	13	100
	Spring, 2013	10	19	24	27	20	100
	Spring, 2015	7	18	20	14	41	100
Ethiopia	Spring, 2015	7	20	9	9	55	100
Ghana	Spring, 2015	19	25	20	16	20	100
	Spring, 2014	8	24	19	23	26	100
	Spring, 2013	12	25	25	13	24	100
	Spring, 2007	9	17	25	31	18	100
Kenya	Spring, 2015	10	22	26	24	17	100
	Spring, 2014	16	26	26	16	17	100
	Spring, 2013	14	28	22	12	24	100
	Spring, 2011	7	20	30	27	17	100
	Spring, 2010	15	31	31	13	10	100
	Spring, 2009	10	26	23	19	22	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2007	13	25	33	23	6	100
	Spring, 2015	15	18	21	22	25	100
	Spring, 2014	14	19	13	25	29	100
	Spring, 2013	10	19	17	27	27	100
Senegal	Spring, 2010	18	26	22	19	15	100
	Spring, 2015	10	22	20	19	29	100
	Spring, 2014	8	23	25	16	29	100
	Spring, 2013	14	27	18	10	32	100

		Q12c. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of ____? c. Iran					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
South Africa	Spring, 2015	5	13	22	35	25	100
	Spring, 2014	4	16	24	32	24	100
	Spring, 2013	6	17	25	32	20	100
	Spring, 2008	1	9	16	42	32	100
Tanzania	Spring, 2015	11	18	16	18	36	100
	Spring, 2014	9	27	23	17	23	100
	Spring, 2008	11	23	15	23	28	100
	Spring, 2007	13	20	16	27	24	100
Uganda	Spring, 2015	12	20	20	23	25	100
	Spring, 2014	9	20	14	21	37	100
	Spring, 2013	8	12	20	14	46	100
	Spring, 2007	7	14	19	19	42	100

		Q106f. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of ____? f. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2015	4	13	21	34	28	100
	Spring, 2014	4	7	9	50	29	100
Jordan	Spring, 2015	1	12	37	45	6	100
	Spring, 2014	1	4	36	47	12	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2015	29	12	8	50	1	100
	Spring, 2014	31	11	6	52	1	100
Palest. ter.	Spring, 2015	6	23	23	30	18	100
	Spring, 2014	3	16	19	40	22	100
Israel	Spring, 2015	1	4	10	80	5	100
	Spring, 2014	2	4	28	63	3	100