

GALLUP®

2019

Rating World Leaders

The U.S. vs. Germany,
China and Russia



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From Gallup's Global Managing Partner

“Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?”

The image of U.S. leadership abroad is not good right now. Its approval rating is stuck at an all-time low for any of the past three presidential administrations.

Maybe this isn't a bad thing. Doing what's right isn't always popular. President Donald Trump's America First foreign policy wasn't designed to win friends around the globe.

Trump believes that the U.S. has been wronged in most international agreements. He notably pulled out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, the Paris Climate Accord and the Iran nuclear deal. He's renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement and started trade wars with China, the EU and other longstanding trade partners. He criticized NATO allies and opened direct dialogue with North Korea. These actions were intended to benefit America, not make the country more popular.

Should anyone really care what the world thinks of the U.S.?

The short answer is yes.

Years ago, Harvard Professor Joseph Nye popularized a concept known as “soft power.” If hard power is a country's economic and military strength, then soft power is a country's intangible power — the power that makes people want to go along with you because they want to, not because they have to.

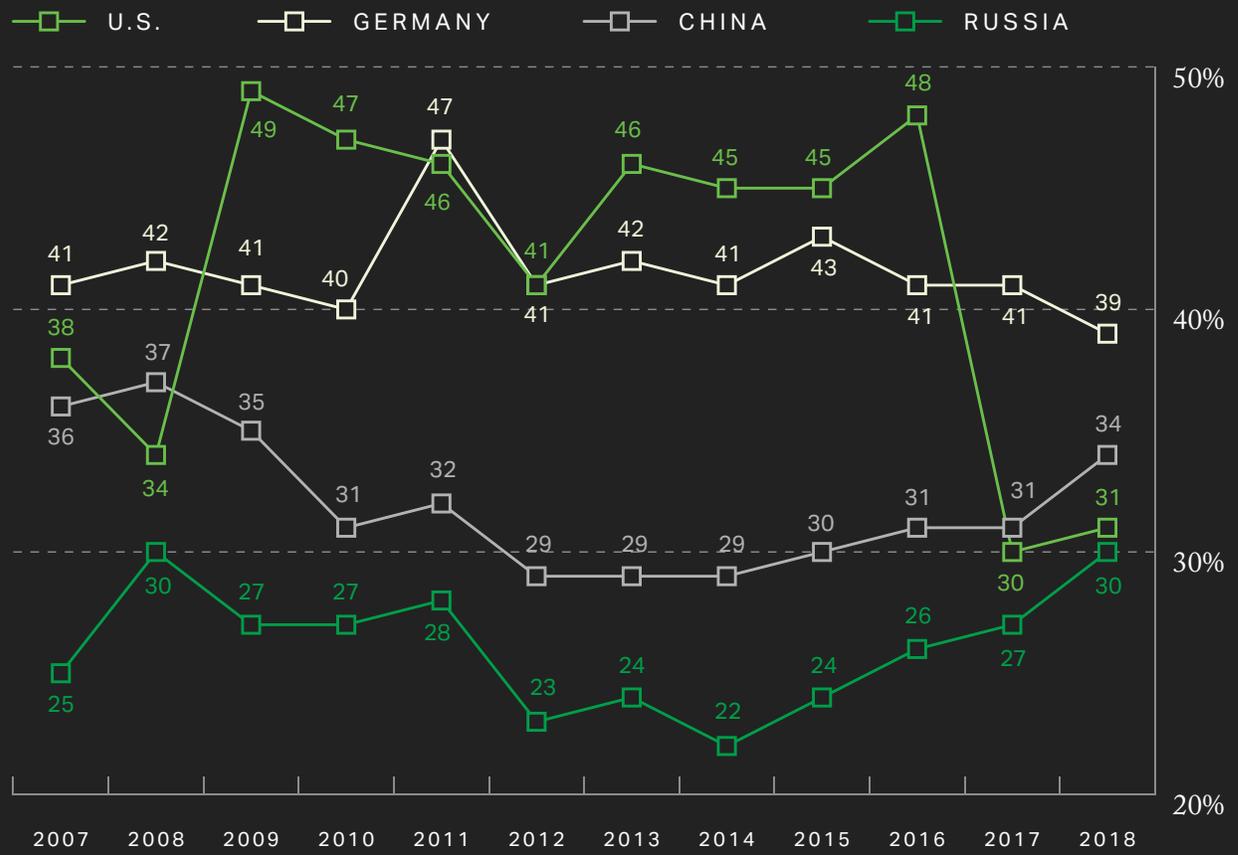
Other scholars have been able to prove quantitatively that this type of influence exists. Research at Dartmouth College and the University of Sydney found that “public opinion about U.S. foreign policy in foreign countries does affect their policies toward the U.S.” And, according to new research at Berkeley, it also impacts trade. The scholar's estimates suggest that America's recent unpopularity abroad is costing the country billions in trade.

Our founder, George Gallup, famously said that leaders should not “vote the polls.” Instead, they should know what people are thinking and then choose to do what they think is right. This report details what people outside the U.S. think about its leadership, and how it compares with other global leaders. It helps leaders know what people are thinking. After that, it's up to them to decide what's right.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Clifton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Global Leadership Ratings

MEDIAN APPROVAL



Trump's Second Year: Global Power Continues to Shift, With China, Russia Gaining Ground

After tumbling to a new record low of 30% during the first year of Donald Trump's presidency, the image of the U.S. is still as poor in his second. The median global approval rating that adults across 133 countries and areas give the job performance of U.S. leadership remained stable at 31% in 2018.

Although the approval rating for U.S. leadership did not change, the global balance of soft power continued to shift abroad. Despite a number of domestic and regional challenges, Germany securely remained the top-rated global power for the second consecutive year. However, the country's 39% approval rating in 2018 was its first score below 40% in a decade.

China and Russia, on the other hand, gained considerable ground. After tying with the U.S. in 2017, China edged farther ahead of the U.S. in 2018 with its leadership earning a median approval rating of 34%. This is China's highest score since 2009, but it is still well short of its previous highs. Russia's approval rating rose to 30% in 2018, tying its previous high in 2008 and notably placing the ratings of the U.S. and Russia on nearly equal footing for the first time.

The approval ratings of China's and Russia's leadership rose substantially — by at least 10 percentage points or more — in more than a dozen countries, while they lost this much ground in relatively only a few. Neither Germany nor the U.S. saw substantial increases in as many countries. In several instances, China and Russia gained ground last year where the U.S. lost it. For example, while ratings of Russia, China and the U.S. were each at about 30% in Turkey in 2017, China and Russia saw their ratings rise by at least 10 points in 2018, while the U.S. saw its ratings drop 13 points.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2017, U.S. leadership approval ratings declined substantially — by 10 percentage points or more — in 65 countries. In 2018, it declined this much in just five.
- The median 40% worldwide who disapprove of U.S. leadership is still at record levels — and higher than median disapproval of Germany's (22%), China's (28%) or Russia's (31%) leadership.
- China's advantage over the U.S. in terms of leadership approval has widened.

U.S. Approval Rating Remains Near Record Low

Trump's second year in office was no less tumultuous than his first, with the U.S. retreating even further from multilateralism abroad and the president doubling down on stances that raised even more questions about the future of traditional alliances. This was perhaps nowhere more publicly spelled out than in his speech to the United Nations in September, when he said the U.S. rejected the ideology of globalism and embraced the doctrine of patriotism.

Still, the stagnant, low approval rating of 31% for the U.S. in 2018 suggests that the doubts sowed in Trump's first year about U.S. commitments abroad have taken root — and the unpredictability of the U.S. president is now somewhat expected. But even if some view this unpopularity as a byproduct of putting America first, it has provided an opening for China and Russia to assert their global influence.

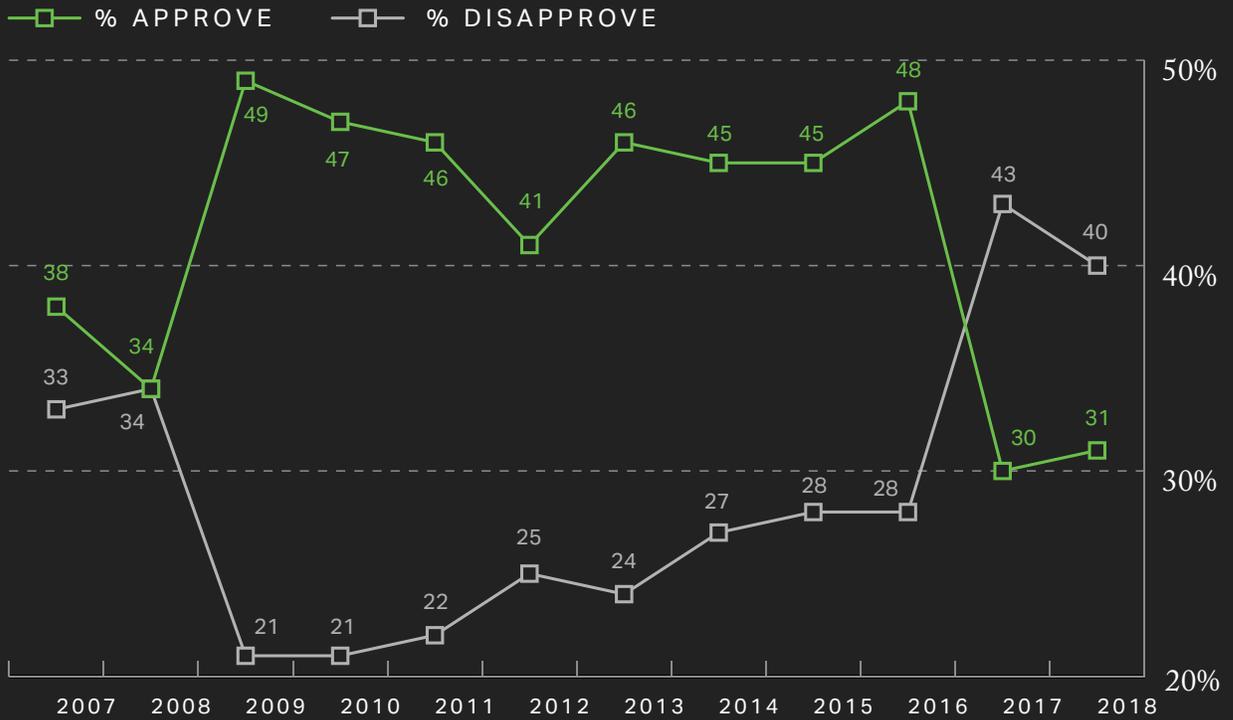
In this climate, China's leadership has gained a larger advantage in the "great power competition," and the other player, Russia, is now on a more even level with the U.S.

Median approval of U.S. leadership across the 133 countries surveyed in 2018 remained stable at 31%, basically unchanged from the record low set the previous year. Disapproval of U.S. leadership dropped slightly to 40%, but still higher than measures before Trump took office.

The world still frowned on U.S. leadership more than the leadership of any other country asked about in 2018; the disapproval rating of the U.S. was higher than Germany's (22%), China's (28%) or Russia's (31%).

Global Approval of U.S. Leadership

MEDIANS



More Gains Than Losses After a Big Year of Losses

Following a year of seismic losses in approval in 2017, when U.S. leadership ratings declined 10 points or more in 65 countries, the ground was far more settled in 2018. Out of 133 countries, U.S. leadership approval ratings declined substantially in just five countries — Macedonia, Slovakia, Cambodia, Iran and Turkey. The scores in Iran, Turkey and Cambodia notably were the lowest on record for these three countries in the past decade, with approval dropping to 8% in Iran, 14% in Turkey and 39% in Cambodia.

U.S. leadership approval increased 10 points or more in a mix of 11 countries or areas that span across Africa, Asia and the Americas. There were no substantial increases in Europe.

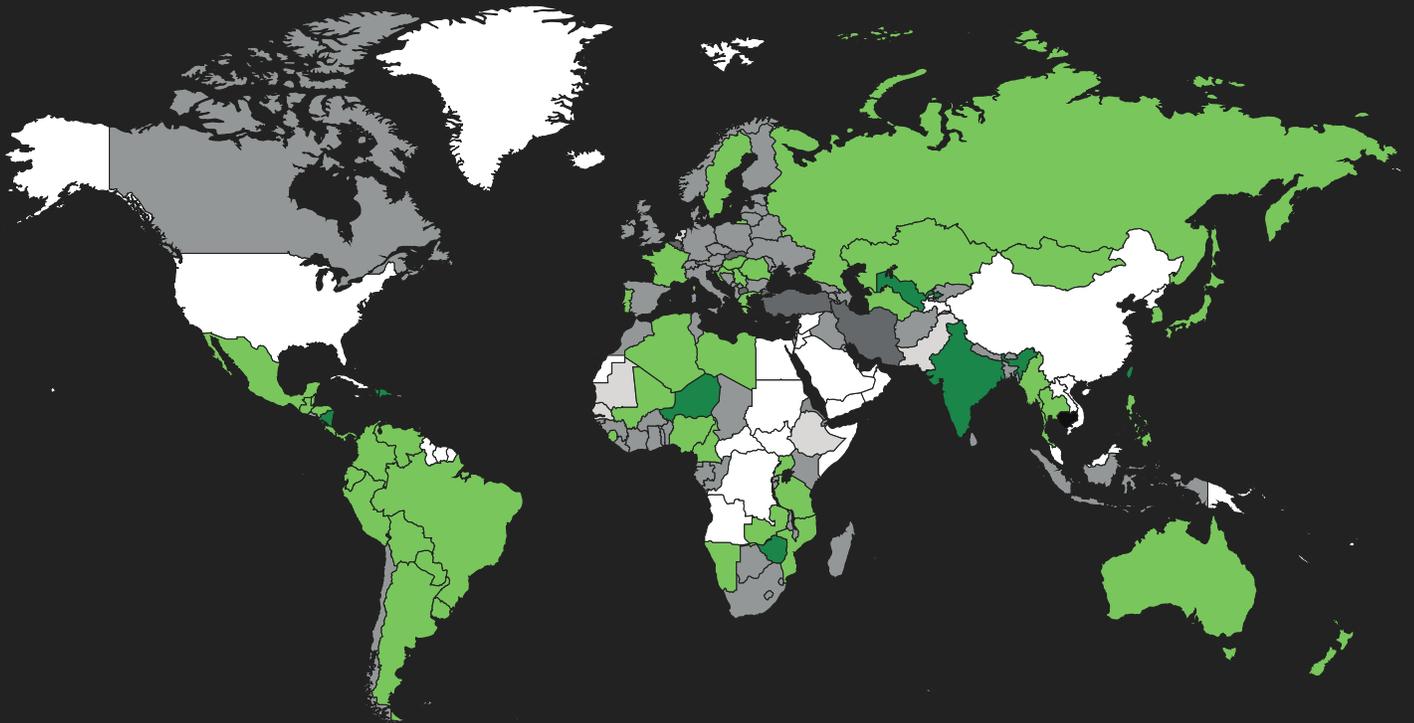
Regionally, the image of U.S. leadership fared worst in Europe, where approval remained low and stable, dropping one percentage point from the previous year to 24%. The situation was similar in Asia, where approval remained relatively stable, rising only slightly from 30% to 32%.

Median approval increased most in 2018 where the ratings were the worst the previous year — the Americas. Approval increased from a median of 24% in 2017 to 31% in 2018 — mostly reflecting not large increases, but positive movement in all but three countries in the entire region.

Africa as a whole remained the bright spot for U.S. leadership approval, as it has been for the past decade. Nonetheless, approval ratings for the region remained near its lowest level, clinging to a bare majority at 52%.

A closer look at where U.S. leadership stands at the regional and country levels reveals the areas of greatest vulnerability and strength.

More Big Gains Than Losses



European Approval Stable and Low

Europe became embittered toward U.S. leadership in 2017, with median approval dropping 19 points between Obama's last and Trump's first year. The situation did not improve in 2018, and if anything might have turned slightly worse. The 24% approval rating is largely stable, down just one point from the previous year. However, the 59% disapproval rating is up three points from 2017, and by one point it is the worst on record for Europe.

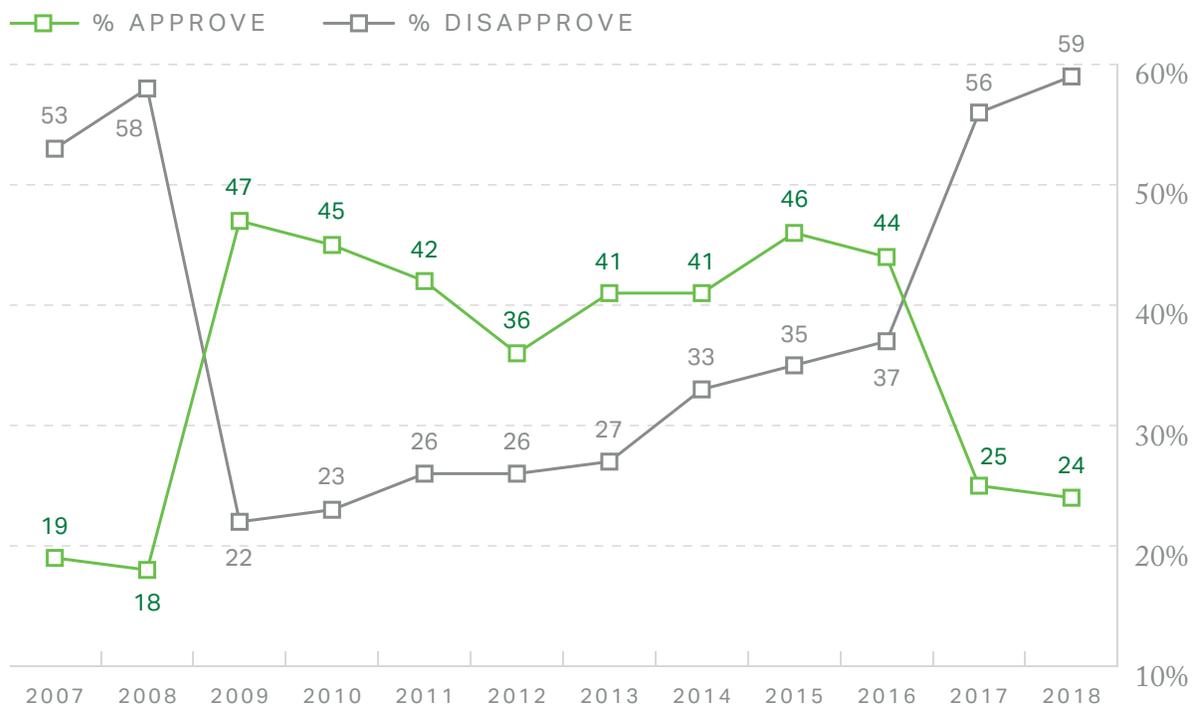
The U.S. garnered majority approval in just two countries or areas in Europe in 2018 — Kosovo, which leads the region (and the world) in approval of U.S. leadership (80%) and Albania, which ranks third worldwide (69%). However, these two populations typically give the U.S. high ratings.

Trump both praised and criticized Russia during his second year — as he did in his first — but Russians are still the least likely in Europe to approve of U.S. leadership, at 11%. However, it's important to note that Russians' ratings are continuing to head in a positive direction since Trump took office; they jumped six points to 8% in 2017 and another three points to 11% in 2018.

Although Russia no longer has the lowest approval ratings of U.S. leadership in the world, which was true for many years of the Obama administration, only three countries or areas — Yemen (9%), Iran (8%) and the Palestinian Territories (7%) — posted lower scores than Russia in 2018.

Approval of U.S. Leadership in Europe

MEDIANS



GALLUP WORLD POLL

EUROPE

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of:

MEDIANS

<i>GERMANY</i>	<i>CHINA</i>	<i>U. S.</i>	<i>RUSSIA</i>
+ Approve: 56%	+ Approve: 28%	+ Approve: 24%	+ Approve: 21%
- Disapprove: 25%	- Disapprove: 44%	- Disapprove: 59%	- Disapprove: 59%
? Don't Know/ Refused: 19%	? Don't Know/ Refused: 30%	? Don't Know/ Refused: 17%	? Don't Know/ Refused: 20%

Columns may not add to 100% because of rounding
GALLUP WORLD POLL, 2018

Germany Tops Leadership Approval, China Overtakes U.S.

Of the four countries, Germany's leadership continues to be the most popular among Europeans, with a median approval rating of 56%, basically unchanged from the 54% the previous year. While the U.S. tied with China in 2017, it now trails the country by a safe margin of four points. Russia, with a median rating of 21%, continues to earn the lowest ratings of all.

Russia and the U.S. notably elicit the same level of disapproval in Europe — with nearly six in 10 Europeans disapproving of the leadership of the two countries.

No Big Improvements After Free Fall in 2017

U.S. leadership approval was in free fall across most of Europe between 2016 and 2017, with NATO member states leading the way. Portugal posted a 51-point decline in approval ratings, followed by a loss of 44 points in Belgium and a 42-point drop in Norway. Ratings also dropped precipitously among longtime allies and G7 countries France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy.

Although many of these same countries were involved, either directly or indirectly, in spats with the U.S. president over tariffs or other issues, it may have been difficult for approval ratings of U.S. leadership to sink substantially lower.

However, in two countries, they did. Approval in Macedonia — which, in the first year of Trump's term was one of few European countries to see ratings increase — dropped 12 points within the span of a year. And in Slovakia, whose car exports were particularly vulnerable during the escalating trade war between the U.S. and EU last year, the U.S. approval rating dipped 10 points.

U.S. approval ratings did not increase substantially in any European countries.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND INSIGHTS

- U.S. leadership approval declined substantially in two countries, Macedonia and Slovakia.
- Residents in six countries or areas were more likely to approve than disapprove of U.S. leadership: Hungary, Poland, Romania, Moldova, Kosovo and Albania.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

EUROPE	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED	CHANGE FROM 2017 TO 2018 (PCT. PTS.)
Kosovo	80%	12%	8%	5
Albania	69%	20%	11%	-3
Poland	49%	30%	20%	-7
Hungary	42%	22%	36%	1
Romania	42%	28%	31%	1
Moldova	38%	34%	27%	6
Italy	36%	57%	8%	-9
Macedonia	33%	42%	25%	-12
Croatia	31%	52%	17%	7
Denmark	31%	65%	5%	2
Czech Republic	31%**	38%	32%	-7
Montenegro	28%	39%	32%	3
Cyprus	28%	40%	31%	4
Lithuania	28%	41%	31%	-5
Slovakia	27%	56%	16%	-10
Ukraine	27%	34%	39%	-9
Malta	26%	59%	14%	0
Ireland	26%	67%	7%	-3
United Kingdom	26%	64%	11%	-7
France	26%	65%	9%	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	24%	52%	23%	-4
Bulgaria	23%	34%	43%	-5
Spain	22%	73%	6%	-4
Netherlands	21%	77%	2%	0
Slovenia	21%	74%	5%	-3
Finland	20%**	75%	5%	-1
Greece	19%	57%	23%	1
Northern Cyprus	19%	61%	20%	*
Luxembourg	18%	74%	9%	-3
Germany	17%	73%	9%	-5
Serbia	17%	59%	24%	1
Switzerland	16%	73%	11%	-2
Belgium	16%	74%	10%	-4
Estonia	14%	50%	36%	-3
Portugal	14%	74%	13%	2
Austria	14%	76%	10%	-3
Belarus	13%	62%	25%	-7
Latvia	13%	55%	32%	-8
Sweden	13%	66%	21%	2
Norway	12%	87%	2%	-1
Russia	11%	60%	29%	3

*No data available for 2017 ** Indicates new record low

After a Bad Year, a Reprieve in the Americas

The image of the U.S. looked the worst in 2017 among the country's closest neighbors, but the situation looked slightly better in 2018 with median approval increasing from 24% to 31%. This increase is mostly because numbers changed for the better — although not substantially — in all but three countries in the region. Scores moved in a negative direction in Canada, Chile and El Salvador.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND INSIGHTS

- Approval of U.S. leadership dropped to a new record-low 16% in Canada.
- Argentines, Chileans, Mexicans, Canadians and Uruguayans are among the least likely in the Americas to approve of U.S. leadership, with 19% or fewer in each country approving.

A Few Gains, No Major Losses

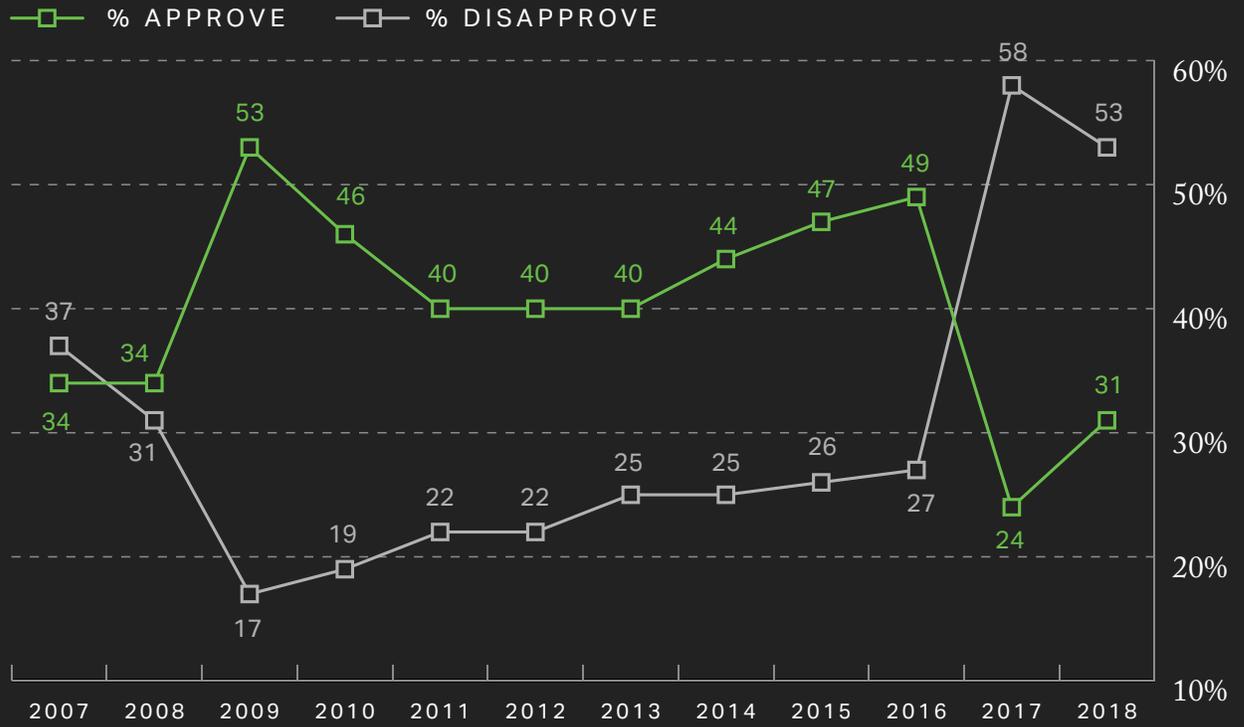
Following a year in which approval of U.S. leadership plunged in every country in the region, 2018 offered a bit of a reprieve. There were no double-digit losses in any country.

But the news wasn't all positive. In the midst of a trade war with the U.S. and with the future of NAFTA still hanging in the balance at the time of the survey, approval ratings of U.S. leadership in Canada hit an all-time low of 16%. And in Mexico, the survey period overlapped the final signing of the new trade deal between the three, but its approval rating of 19% was no higher than the record-low 16% set the previous year.

Residents in most countries in the Americas are more disapproving than approving of U.S. leadership. The exceptions are the Dominican Republic — where a majority of residents approve of U.S. leadership — and Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Honduras. Although Trump allegedly made some vulgar remarks about Haiti in 2018, the fieldwork there took place many months after the controversy and may have been old news. The 19-point increase in approval of U.S. leadership in Haiti brings the numbers back in line with the historical trend.

Approval of U.S. Leadership in the Americas

MEDIANS



Germany Highest Rated in Region

China, rather than the U.S., is the top trading partner in parts of Latin America, but neither of them has much of an advantage over the other in leadership approval. Although no country garners particularly high approval ratings in the Americas, residents in the region are more likely to approve of Germany's leadership (35%) than of U.S. leadership (31%) and the leadership of China (30%) or Russia (28%).

Residents of the Americas are more likely to say they don't know enough to rate leadership of Germany, China and Russia than to say the same of U.S. leadership — but are also far more likely to disapprove of U.S. leadership than that of the other three countries.

THE AMERICAS

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of:

MEDIANS

GERMANY

+ Approve:
35%

- Disapprove:
24%

? Don't Know/
Refused:
41%

U.S.

+ Approve:
31%

- Disapprove:
53%

? Don't Know/
Refused:
17%

CHINA

+ Approve:
30%

- Disapprove:
33%

? Don't Know/
Refused:
36%

RUSSIA

+ Approve:
28%

- Disapprove:
31%

? Don't Know/
Refused:
39%

Columns may not add to 100% because of rounding
GALLUP WORLD POLL, 2018

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

AMERICAS	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED	CHANGE FROM 2017 TO 2018 (PCT. PTS.)
Dominican Republic	54%	31%	16%	12
Haiti	48%	35%	16%	19
Honduras	40%	41%	19%	5
Venezuela	38%	52%	10%	1
Paraguay	37%	25%	38%	5
Nicaragua	37%	31%	32%	18
Colombia	35%	48%	17%	9
Brazil	35%	49%	17%	2
Guatemala	33%	54%	13%	3
Peru	32%	54%	14%	4
Ecuador	30%	51%	18%	6
Panama	30%	43%	28%	4
Costa Rica	26%	56%	18%	6
El Salvador	23%	63%	13%	-1
Bolivia	22%	55%	23%	2
Mexico	19%	74%	6%	3
Uruguay	17%	62%	22%	4
Canada	16%**	79%	5%	-4
Argentina	14%	60%	26%	1
Chile	12%**	75%	13%	-1

*No data available for 2017 ** Indicates new record low

U.S. Approval Still in Record-Low Territory

Ratings of U.S. leadership in Asia in 2017 slumped to lows not seen since the Bush administration, and largely stayed there in 2018. The median approval rating of 32% in 2018 is lower than any rating in the Obama years, but is almost exactly the same as ratings during the last years of the George W. Bush presidency.

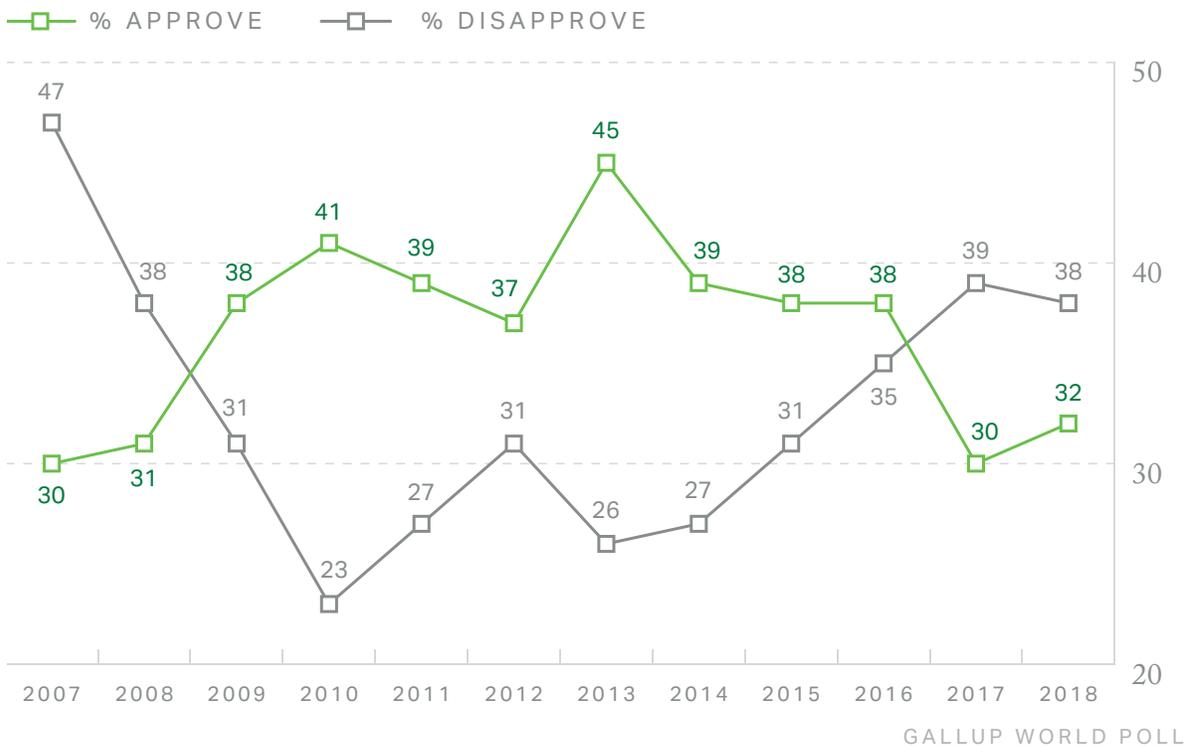
A number of factors likely did not aid the U.S. image in Asia, including: 1) the escalating trade war and rising tensions with China, and 2) the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran deal and renewal of U.S. sanctions.

Majorities in just five Asian countries approved of U.S. leadership. This includes Israel (67%), the Philippines (61%), Mongolia (60%), Nepal (55%) and Myanmar (52%).

Majorities in more than twice as many countries and areas, from all parts of Asia, disapproved of U.S. leadership: Iran (85%), Palestinian Territories (81%), Yemen (75%), Turkey (73%), Pakistan (73%), New Zealand (69%), Afghanistan (69%), Australia (66%), Indonesia (61%), Lebanon (58%) and Iraq (57%).

Approval of U.S. Leadership in Asia

MEDIANS



ASIA

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of:

MEDIANS

GERMANY

- + Approve: 36%
- Disapprove: 22%
- ? Don't Know/Refused: 35%

CHINA

- + Approve: 34%
- Disapprove: 33%
- ? Don't Know/Refused: 28%

U.S.

- + Approve: 32%
- Disapprove: 38%
- ? Don't Know/Refused: 25%

RUSSIA

- + Approve: 32%
- Disapprove: 28%
- ? Don't Know/Refused: 25%

Columns may not add to 100% because of rounding
GALLUP WORLD POLL, 2018

Germany, China Earn Highest Approval Ratings

The U.S. announced initiatives in emerging Asia in 2018 as part of its Indo-Pacific strategy to shore up partnerships in the region. Its weakened image puts the U.S. at a slight disadvantage to achieve its goals, compared with the leadership of Germany and China, which get slightly higher approval ratings and lower disapproval ratings than the U.S.

Mixed Gains and Losses

U.S. leadership lost substantial clout with the public in Asia between 2016 and 2017, in many of the countries or areas that the Trump administration identified in its national security strategy as critical allies “to responding to mutual threats, such as North Korea, and preserving our mutual interests in the Indo-Pacific region” or “growing security and economic partners.” This was not an ideal set up for the trade war to come with China in 2018.

Still, the U.S. rating declined substantially in only three countries in 2018 — Iran, Turkey and Cambodia — and for reasons that have little to do with the trade situation with China.

On the heels of the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran deal, approval of U.S. leadership in Iran dropped 11 points to 8%, its lowest rating ever by one point. Amid worsening relations between the U.S. and Turkey, the two countries additionally engaged in a trade spat in 2018, and U.S. approval dropped 13 points to 14% — a new low. And finally, facing potential U.S. sanctions over its political climate, U.S. approval dropped to a record-low 39% in Cambodia.

U.S. leadership did earn a few more admirers in the region, with approval increasing substantially in India, Taiwan, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan. The 10-point increase in India between 2017 and 2018 was particularly notable because it pushed U.S. approval ratings there to a new record high of 39%.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND INSIGHTS

- Approval ratings of U.S. leadership dropped to record lows in Iran, Turkey and Cambodia.
- U.S. leadership gained considerable clout in India, Taiwan, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.

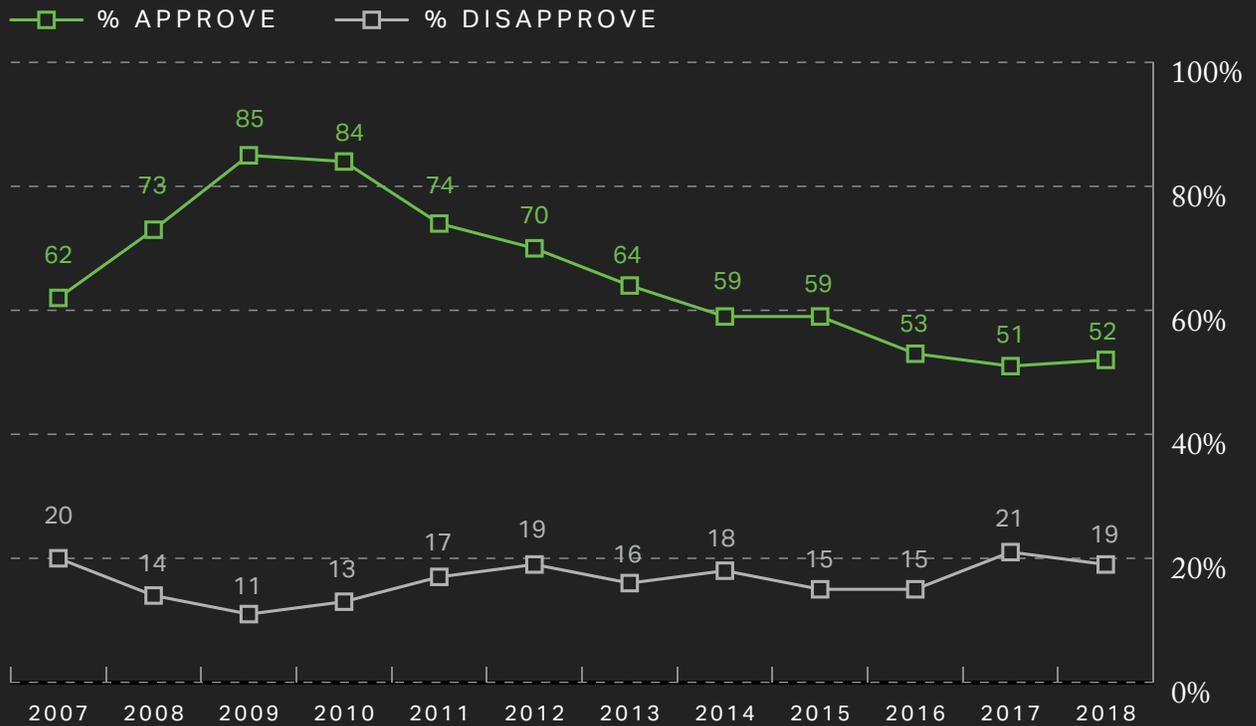
Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

ASIA	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED	CHANGE FROM 2017 TO 2018 (PCT. PTS.)
Israel	67%	23%	10%	0
Philippines	61%	31%	8%	2
Mongolia	60%	18%	22%	4
Nepal	55%	17%	28%	7
Myanmar	52%	8%	40%	4
Georgia	44%	25%	30%	7
South Korea	44%	37%	19%	5
Bangladesh	41%	24%	34%	10
Sri Lanka	39%	14%	47%	9
Thailand	39%	12%	49%	7
India	39%***	20%	41%	10
Cambodia	39%**	5%	57%	-16
Iraq	38%	57%	5%	-3
Uzbekistan	37%	28%	35%	12
Taiwan	36%	42%	22%	10
Japan	34%	39%	28%	3
Azerbaijan	33%	48%	20%	3
Vietnam	31%	10%	59%	*
Armenia	31%	32%	37%	-7
Lebanon	30%	58%	12%	-1
Kyrgyzstan	30%	43%	27%	-1
Turkmenistan	30%	40%	30%	3
Singapore	27%	28%	45%	0
Kazakhstan	25%	36%	39%	1
Afghanistan	23%	69%	7%	-5
Australia	23%	66%	11%	4
Indonesia	21%	61%	18%	-1
New Zealand	19%	69%	12%	4
Malaysia	17%	43%	40%	*
Turkey	14%	73%	12%	-13
Pakistan	14%	73%	12%	0
Yemen	9%	75%	16%	*
Iran	8%**	85%	7%	-11
Palestinian Territories	7%**	81%	11%	-5

*No data available for 2017 **Indicates new record low ***Indicates new record high

Approval of U.S. Leadership in Africa

MEDIANS



Bare Majority in Africa Still Approve of U.S. Leadership

Even in the aftermath of Trump's alleged vulgar remarks about the continent in early 2018, the image of U.S. leadership remained strongest worldwide in Africa in 2018, bolstered by majority approval in 21 sub-Saharan African countries. Overall, Africans were no more or less positive toward U.S. leadership than they were the previous year, with median approval remaining stable at 52%.

It's entirely possible that the alleged remarks did not have the same fallout inside Africa that they did elsewhere, even though they drew condemnation from the 55-member African Union.

Residents in most African countries are more likely to approve than disapprove of U.S. leadership. Only in Namibia, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Morocco are residents — for the second consecutive year — more likely to disapprove than approve. This question was not fielded in 2017 or 2018 in Egypt, which typically ranks toward the bottom of the approval list, and where residents have been more likely to disapprove than approve in past U.S. administrations.

Those in North Africa do not share the affinity for U.S. leadership that their counterparts in most sub-Saharan African countries do — and this is typically where the U.S. gets its lowest ratings on the continent. One in three or fewer adults in Algeria (33%), Libya (22%), Morocco (16%) and Tunisia (16%) approved of U.S. leadership in 2018.

China and U.S. Have Strongest Images in Africa

The Trump administration's recently announced plans to counter rapidly expanding Chinese influence in Africa may be a little too late. China and the U.S. were pretty evenly matched in 2018, with approval of the leadership of China (53%) higher than the approval of U.S. leadership (52%) by one point.

Germany (46%) and Russia (37%) — whose influence is also a target of concern for U.S. leadership — trail the other countries.

AFRICA

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of:

MEDIANS

CHINA

+ Approve:
53%

- Disapprove:
16%

? Don't Know/
Refused:
30%

U.S.

+ Approve:
52%

- Disapprove:
19%

? Don't Know/
Refused:
30%

GERMANY

+ Approve:
46%

- Disapprove:
16%

? Don't Know/
Refused:
36%

RUSSIA

+ Approve:
37%

- Disapprove:
21%

? Don't Know/
Refused:
36%

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GALLUP WORLD POLL, 2018

Big Gains in Four Countries

The U.S. typically garners higher approval ratings in Africa than elsewhere in the world, but this approval is not guaranteed. The U.S. suffered substantial losses in approval in the region between 2016 and 2017. However, there were no such losses in 2018 in any African country.

Ratings did rise substantially in four countries — Congo (Brazzaville), Niger, Rwanda and Zimbabwe — where approval ratings are now safely back above the majority level in each of them after hitting or tying decade lows in 2017. Trump's meeting with Rwandan President and then-African Union head Paul Kagame in the aftermath of the alleged remarks may have earned Trump some social currency in Rwanda, where approval ratings rose from 48% to 58%.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND INSIGHTS

- Majorities in more than half of the African countries surveyed approve of the job performance of U.S. leadership. Residents of Guinea, Togo, Niger and Ghana are among the most likely in Africa to approve, with at least two in three expressing support.
- There were no instances in which approval ratings of U.S. leadership declined by 10 points or more in the past year in African countries. Ratings improved substantially in four, with the largest increase observed in Niger, where approval rose 14 points to 67%.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

AFRICA	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED	CHANGE FROM 2017 TO 2018 (PCT. PTS.)
Togo	72%	16%	13%	2
Guinea	69%	7%	24%	-2
Niger	67%	14%	20%	14
Ghana	65%	13%	12%	-1
Sierra Leone	63%	10%	27%	5
Congo (Brazzaville)	62%	15%	23%	12
Zimbabwe	61%	11%	28%	11
Benin	60%	14%	25%	9
Nigeria	59%	8%	33%	3
Rwanda	58%	6%	36%	10
Ivory Coast	57%	15%	28%	2
Kenya	57%	22%	21%	-5
Mali	56%	10%	33%	3
Gabon	56%	16%	28%	-7
Chad	55%	17%	28%	-2
Mauritius	54%	32%	13%	-5
Liberia	54%	23%	23%	-7
Comoros	54%	20%	26%	*
Burkina Faso	52%	16%	32%	-3
Uganda	52%	19%	29%	8
Cameroon	51%	17%	33%	3
Senegal	48%	20%	32%	0
Tanzania	48%	34%	18%	7
Malawi	47%	27%	26%	-6
Madagascar	45%	19%	36%	-7
Zambia	45%	20%	36%	3
Mozambique	42%	27%	31%	2
South Africa	42%	31%	27%	-5
Mauritania	36%	31%	33%	0
Algeria	33%	45%	21%	6
Gambia	33%	23%	44%	3
Swaziland	31%	18%	50%	*
Namibia	31%	41%	27%	1
Ethiopia	31%	9%	60%	0
Botswana	29%	25%	46%	-6
Libya	22%	66%	13%	1
Morocco	16%	45%	39%	-2
Tunisia	16%	55%	29%	-7

*No data available for 2017

Implications for 2019 and Beyond

At the halfway mark of Trump's presidency, the global image of U.S. leadership is still in bad shape, but its approval ratings are no longer in free fall.

While not yet a clear success or failure, Trump's "America First" foreign policy so far has not achieved the pillars of the administration's initial security strategy — advancing American influence. Instead, the administration's transactional approach appears to have allowed the main challengers to U.S. influence, values and wealth — China and Russia, to gain ground.

However, as the global balance of soft power continues to shift, it may prove even more difficult for the U.S. to counter this influence and remain relevant in the second half of Trump's presidency, unless the administration can erase some of the doubts that U.S. partners and allies have about its commitment.

Methodology

Results are based on face-to-face and telephone interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, in each country or area. Between March and December 2018, residents were asked to rate U.S., German and Russian leadership in 133 countries or areas, and residents in 134 countries or areas were asked to rate the leadership of China. For results based on the total samples, the margin of sampling error ranges from ± 2.0 percentage points to ± 5.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

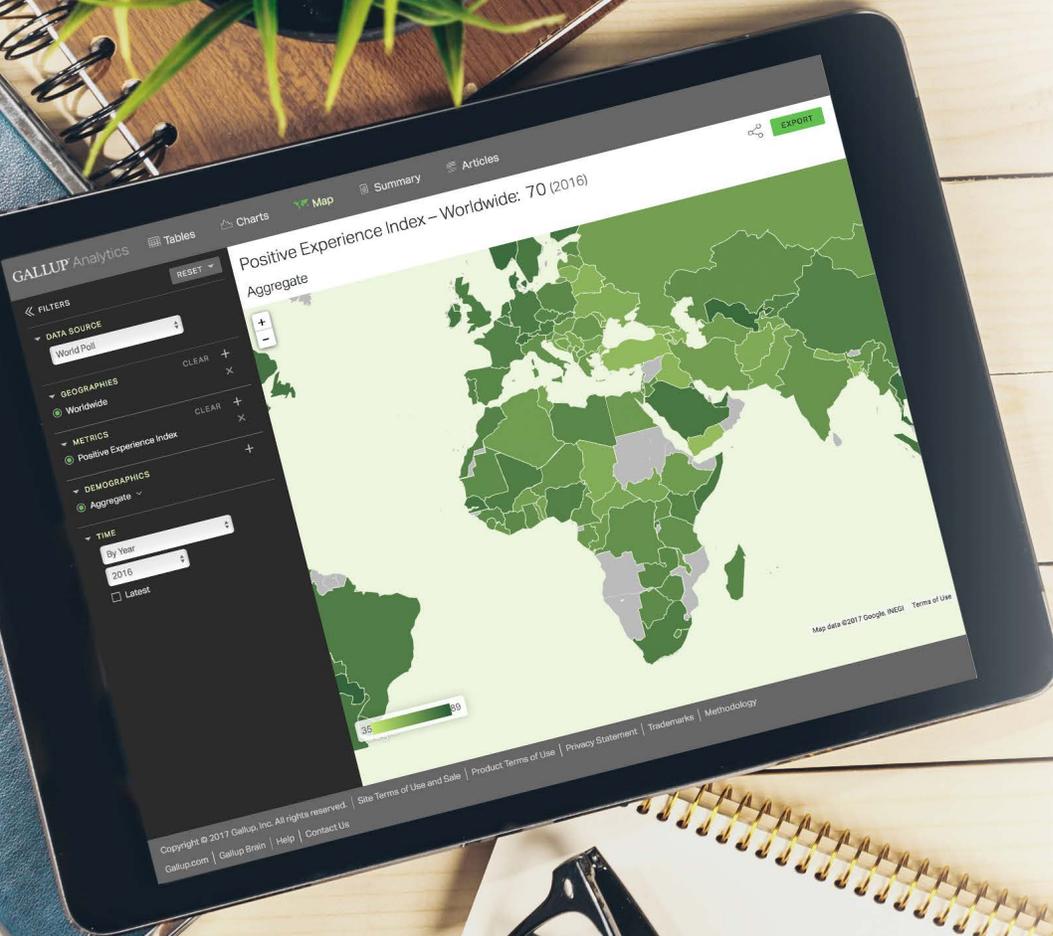
For complete methodology and specific survey dates, please review [Gallup's Country Data Set](#) details.

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