

GLOBAL RESEARCH

What Tokyo, Beirut, Rome, and New York think about the state of the universe: A 400-person poll.

Polls conducted in West Beirut's Hamra district, Tokyo's Yoyogi Park, central Rome, and Greenwich Village.

	Is your country headed in...	What do you like best about your country?	What do you like least?	What is the biggest problem currently facing the Earth as a whole?	Being gay is...	On the whole, do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's actions as president of the United States?	The upheaval in the Middle East...	Do you agree with the United States's decision to support the rebellion in Libya?	If you've visited New York, did you find New Yorkers...
BEIRUT	<p>20 THE RIGHT DIRECTION</p> <p>80 THE WRONG DIRECTION</p>	<p>MOST COMMON ANSWERS: "Cosmopolitanism." "Zest for life."</p> <p>OTHER RESPONSES: "Minimal intervention of the state in personal lives [as compared with other Arab countries]." "Tabbouleh."</p>	<p>MOST COMMON ANSWER, OVERWHELMINGLY: "Sectarian politics."</p> <p>OTHER RESPONSES: "Erratic water, electricity, and Internet services." "The extinction of the Lebanese nose [through plastic surgery]." "The fucking Saudis who have ruined it for the local guys with their bling."</p>	<p>» Poverty 20</p> <p>» Political instability and war in the Middle East 12</p> <p>» Nuclear weapons in the hands of dangerous states12</p> <p>» Lack of human rights and political freedoms 28</p> <p>» Global warming 28</p>	<p>MORALLY WRONG 28</p> <p>Okay 72</p>	<p>APPROVE 51</p> <p>DISAPPROVE 46</p> <p>DON'T CARE 3</p>	<p>» Is a triumph for freedom 21</p> <p>» Will only lead to more trouble and terrorism as radicals seize power19</p> <p>» Is just a small rearrangement that will end with the same type of people in charge60</p>	<p>Yes 18</p> <p>No 79</p>	<p>PLEASANT 5</p> <p>RUDE 36</p>
TOKYO	<p>33 THE RIGHT DIRECTION</p> <p>59* THE WRONG DIRECTION</p>	<p>MOST COMMON ANSWERS: "The patience of its people." "Politeness."</p> <p>OTHER RESPONSES: "The four seasons are really beautiful here." "We learn from our past." "The countryside." "The food culture." "Social-welfare systems like pension and National Health Insurance." "Cherry blossoms." "Good service at restaurants."</p>	<p>MOST COMMON ANSWERS: "People don't share their true feelings." "We're not assertive enough." "People just follow the government blindly."</p> <p>OTHER RESPONSES: "There aren't enough green spaces in Tokyo." "People say mean things online."</p>	<p>» Poverty 24</p> <p>» Political instability and war in the Middle East 10</p> <p>» Nuclear weapons in the hands of dangerous states 19</p> <p>» Lack of human rights and political freedoms 9</p> <p>» Global warming 38</p>	<p>MORALLY WRONG 4</p> <p>Okay 96</p>	<p>APPROVE 86</p> <p>DISAPPROVE 8</p>	<p>» Is a triumph for freedom 22</p> <p>» Will only lead to more trouble and terrorism as radicals seize power 27</p> <p>» Is just a small rearrangement that will end with the same type of people in charge 38</p>	<p>Yes 51</p> <p>No 41</p>	<p>PLEASANT 19</p> <p>RUDE 5</p>
ROME	<p>14 THE RIGHT DIRECTION</p> <p>86 THE WRONG DIRECTION</p>	<p>MOST COMMON ANSWERS: "Food." "Art and culture."</p> <p>OTHER RESPONSES: "Small towns." "Wine." "The fantasy." "Women."</p>	<p>MOST COMMON ANSWERS: "Politics." "Politicians." "Corruption." "Bureaucracy." "Lack of job opportunities." "Lack of meritocracy." "Berlusconi."</p> <p>OTHER RESPONSES: "The attitude of trying to trick people." "Incivility." "Everything." "Only one person said the Mafia."</p>	<p>» Poverty 27</p> <p>» Political instability and war in the Middle East 10</p> <p>» Nuclear weapons in the hands of dangerous states13</p> <p>» Lack of human rights and political freedoms 37</p> <p>» Global warming 11</p>	<p>MORALLY WRONG 8</p> <p>Okay 88</p>	<p>APPROVE 85</p> <p>DISAPPROVE 12</p>	<p>» Is a triumph for freedom 38</p> <p>» Will only lead to more trouble and terrorism as radicals seize power 17</p> <p>» Is just a small rearrangement that will end with the same type of people in charge 45</p>	<p>Yes 66</p> <p>No 31</p>	<p>PLEASANT 44</p> <p>RUDE 6</p>
NEW YORK	<p>39 THE RIGHT DIRECTION</p> <p>52 THE WRONG DIRECTION</p>	<p>MOST COMMON ANSWER, OVERWHELMINGLY: "Freedom."</p> <p>OTHER RESPONSES: "Women's rights." "Shopping." "That my grandparents could come here and make a great and happy life." "Irony." "Krispy Kreme." "Rick Moranis." (Ed.: Rick Moranis is Canadian.)</p>	<p>MOST COMMON ANSWERS: "Taxes." "Inequality."</p> <p>OTHER RESPONSES: "Idiots." "The CIA." "Ignorance." "Lack of a safety net." "Cars." "Capitalism, slavery, the Illuminati, and self-importance."</p>	<p>» Poverty 22</p> <p>» Political instability and war in the Middle East 8</p> <p>» Nuclear weapons in the hands of dangerous states 6</p> <p>» Lack of human rights and political freedoms 37</p> <p>» Global warming 26</p>	<p>MORALLY WRONG 3</p> <p>Okay 94</p>	<p>APPROVE 75</p> <p>DISAPPROVE 19</p>	<p>» Is a triumph for freedom 35</p> <p>» Will only lead to more trouble and terrorism as radicals seize power 21</p> <p>» Is just a small rearrangement that will end with the same type of people in charge 39</p>	<p>Yes 62</p> <p>No 30</p>	

PHOTOGRAPHS: THIS SPREAD, SAM ALBERTS (ROME); NAZIHA BAASSIRI (BEIRUT); MELISSA FEINEMAN (TOKYO); ANNIE FERRER (NEW YORK)

* NOT ALL TALLIES ADD UP TO 100; SOME INDECISIVE RESPONDENTS SKIPPED CERTAIN QUESTIONS.

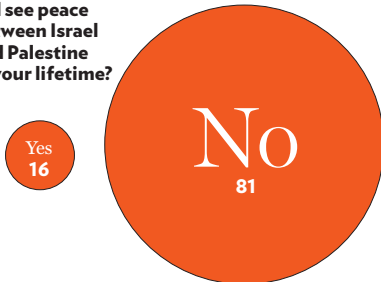
BEIRUT



How much do you worry about another civil war happening in Lebanon?

A LOT..... 26
 SOMEWHAT..... 36
 ONLY A LITTLE..... 23
 NOT AT ALL..... 15

Do you think you will see peace between Israel and Palestine in your lifetime?



Do you think U.S. involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over the years has made the situation ...

Worse

82

Better
 13

Do you worry about Iran getting the nuclear bomb?

Yes 54
 No 45



What is the best thing that's happened to Beirut as a city in the past five years?

MOST COMMON ANSWERS:
 "Global exposure."
 "Booming tourism."

And the worst? MOST COMMON ANSWERS:
 "May 7, 2008" (the day Hezbollah fighters attacked West Beirut).
 "The 2006 July War."

TOKYO



The government's response to the disasters has been ...

EXCELLENT..... 1
 POOR 38
 SOMEWHAT LACKING, BUT THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE ... 61



TEPCO is handling the situation at the plant ...

Well 4

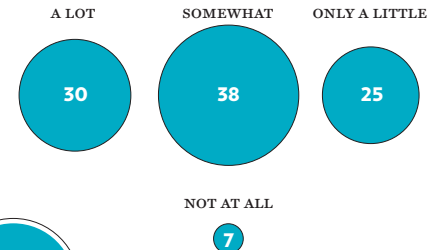
Badly

78

As well as can be expected 18

"They're trying their best."

How worried are you about radiation?



ITALY

What do you think about Berlusconi?

» I supported him, but it is time for him to go 17
 » Even after all this, I still don't mind him as prime minister 15
 » Don't blame me, I voted for someone else 53



"He's the only true leader in Italy right now."

"Good for business, but not for the country."

"He's gross."

"Italy is a country of old people, governed by old people, and the voice of the youth is not considered in conversation."



Have you seen Jersey Shore?

» Yes, and I love it 2
 » Yes, and I am ashamed that those people claim a connection to Italy.... 16
 » No 53
 » I don't know what Jersey Shore is..... 23

Choose one:

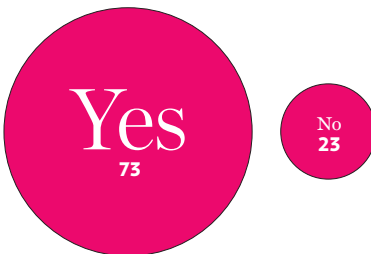
ITALY WILL WIN THE NEXT WORLD CUP

35

ITALY WILL NOT WIN THE NEXT WORLD CUP

60

Do you think Italy and Qaddafi had too cozy of a relationship?



What is the worst thing America has done to Italian food?

MOST COMMON ANSWER (BY FAR):

"Bringing McDonald's to Italy."

OTHER RESPONSES:

"Spaghetti with ketchup."

"Pizza with too many toppings." "Pizza by the slice."

"More or less everything."

"Pronouncing bruschetta incorrectly."

NEW YORK

Trump for president?

Yes 7

No 19

Noooooo

70

"I'm not dignifying this with an answer."

