


RONALD  REAGAN  
INSTITUTE



**2019 National Defense Survey**  
*Briefing Slides*



# About the Survey

<b>Mode</b>	Telephone survey conducted by trained professional interviewers from a central, monitored location. Respondents interviewed on landlines (50%) and cellphones (50%).
<b>Sample</b>	1,003 U.S. Adults.
<b>Dates</b>	October 24-30, 2019.
<b>Weights</b>	Slight weights were applied to ensure the sample accurately reflects the demographic profile of the U.S. population.
<b>Margin of Error</b>	±3% at the 95% confidence level for the entire sample; the margin of error for subgroups is higher.
<b>Research Partnership</b>	 The logos for the research partners are displayed. On the left is the logo for SHAW & Company research, which includes a blue square with a white grid pattern and the text "SHAW & Company research". To its right is the logo for BEACON RESEARCH, which features a blue flame icon above the word "BEACON" and the word "RESEARCH" below it.
<b>Note</b>	Some data may not add to 100% due to rounding.



# Table of Contents

Views Toward the Military.....	3
U.S. Leadership and Alliances.....	9
Freedom and Democracy.....	14
China.....	18
Russia.....	26
Middle East.....	29
Presidents.....	33
Executive Memorandum.....	34

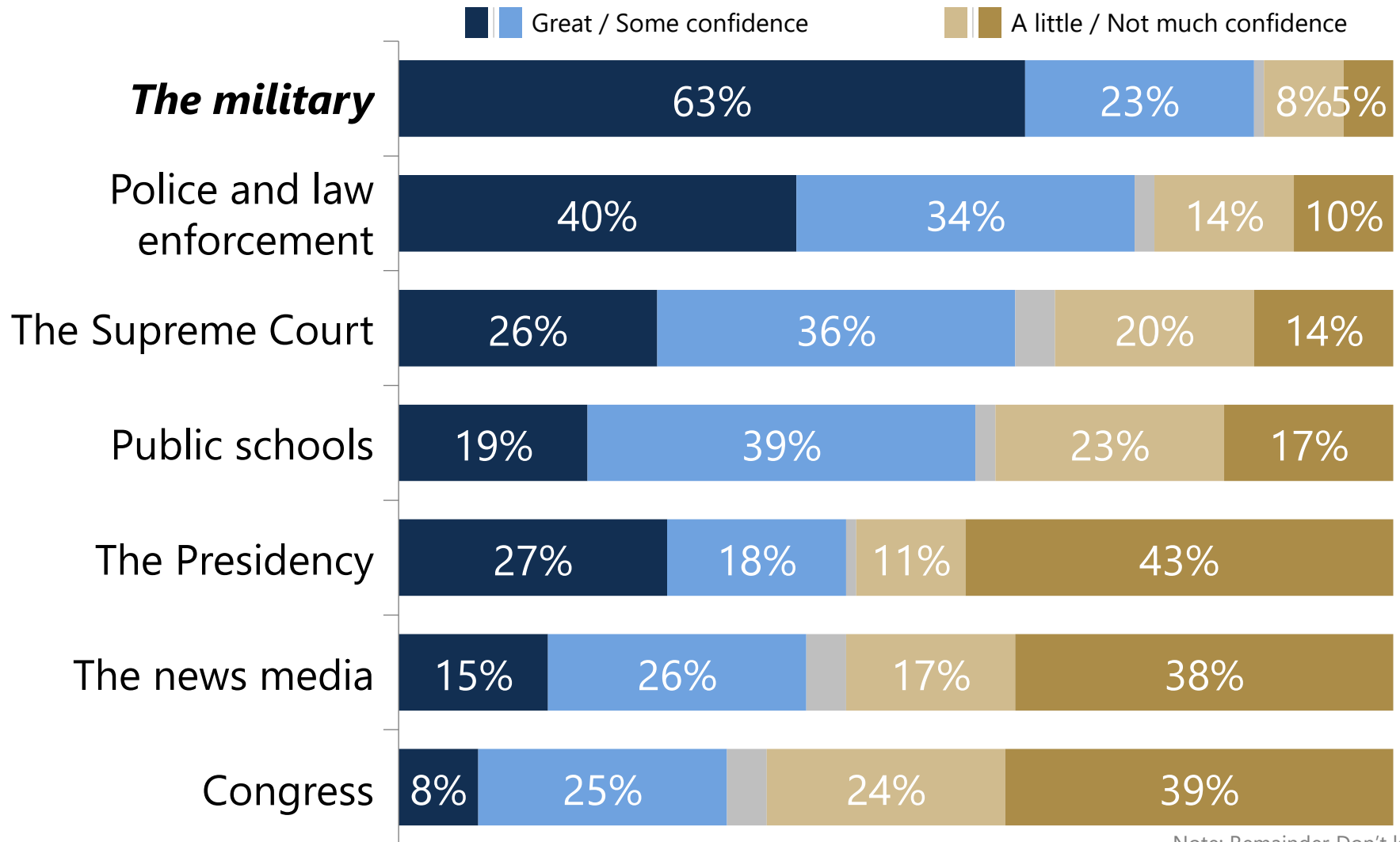


# VIEWS TOWARDS THE MILITARY





# The military is more trusted than other institutions.

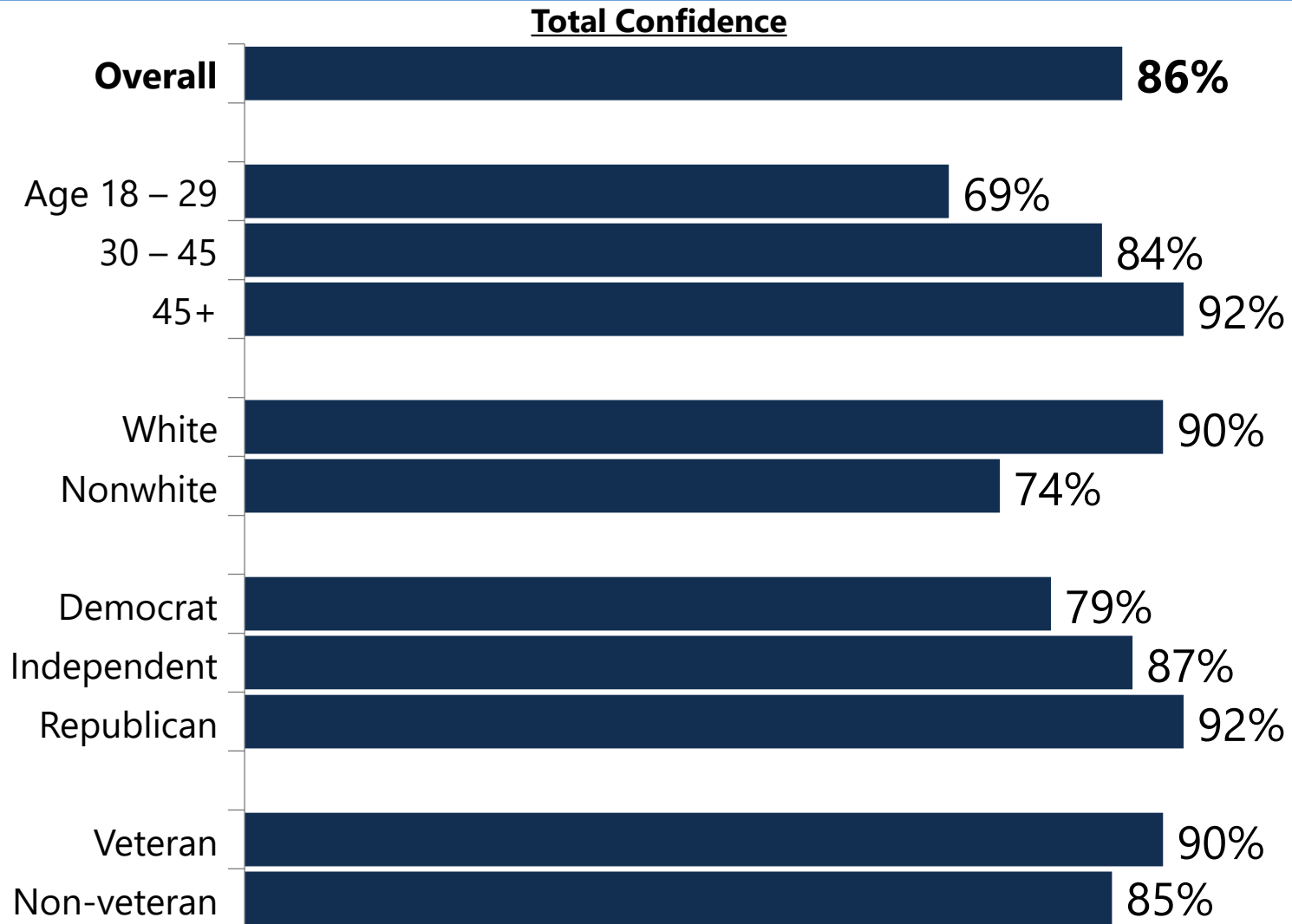


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q4 – Q10: For each of the following groups or institutions, please tell us how much trust and confidence you have in them?



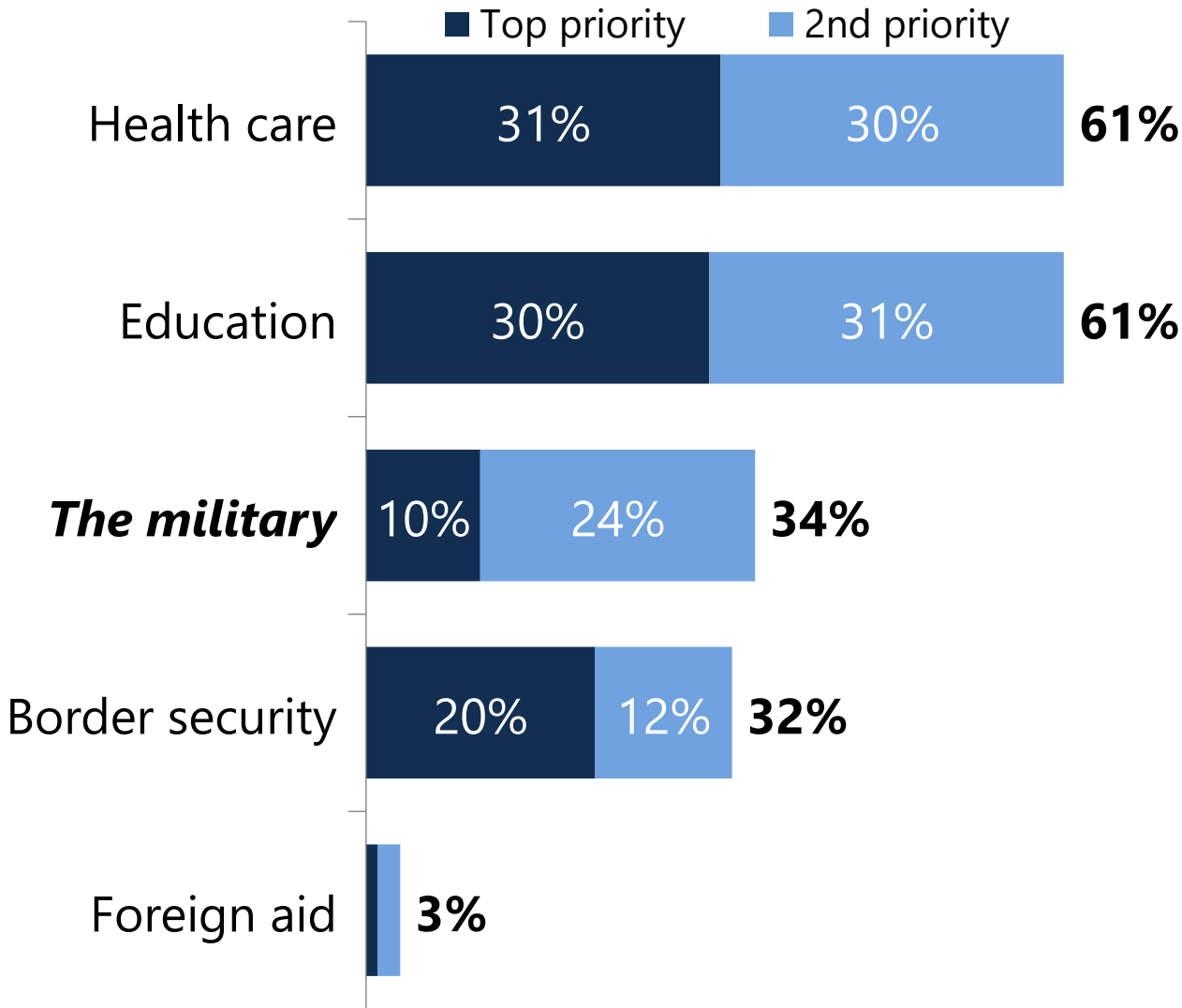
# Loss in confidence in military largest among young people, communities of color.



Q8: For each of the following groups or institutions, please tell us how much trust and confidence you have in them? The military.



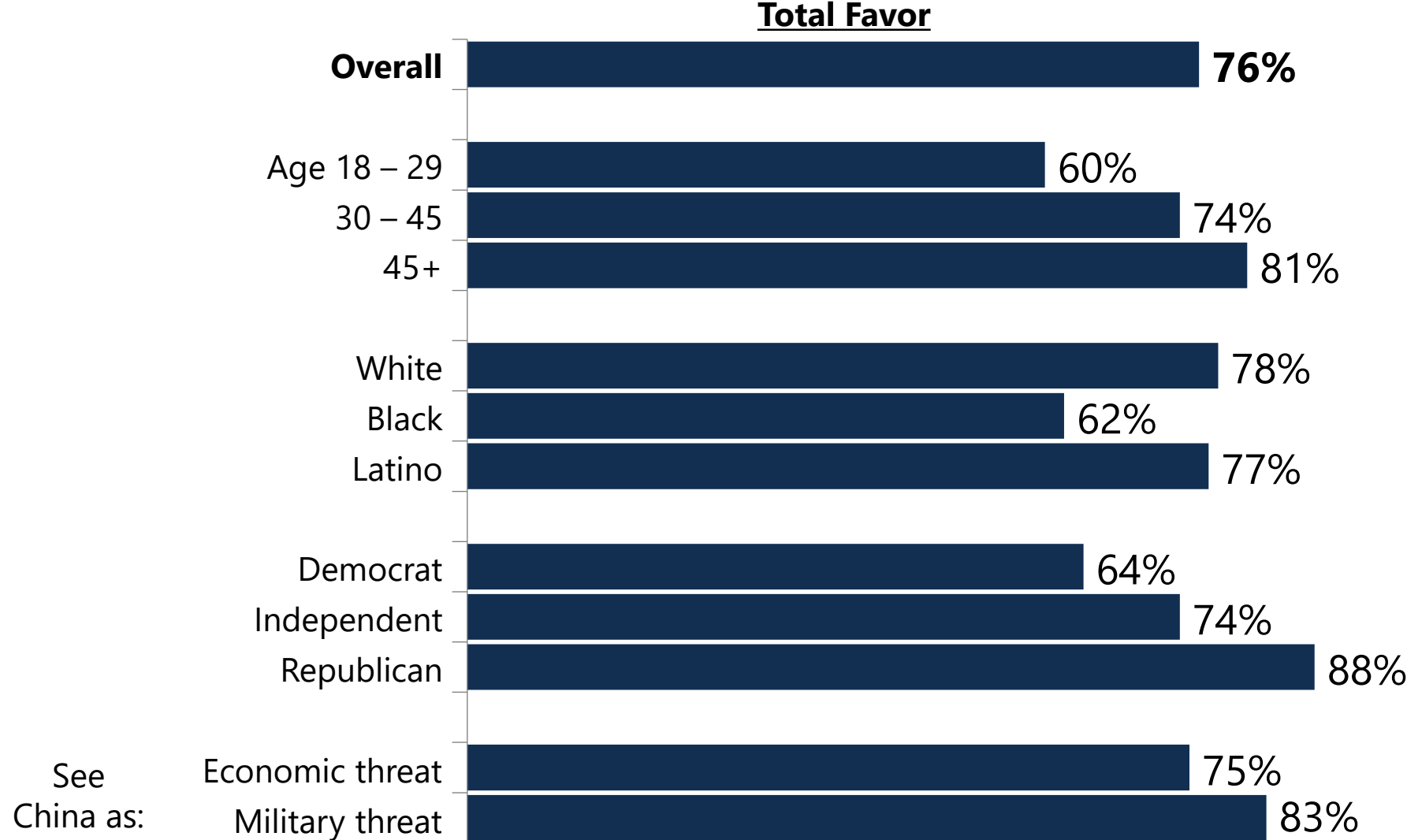
# Though 76% of Americans support increasing defense spending, health care and education are higher priorities.



Q24: Of all the areas I just mentioned, which one should be the highest priority for increased funding?  
AND Q25: And which should be the next-highest priority?



# Older Americans and Republicans are most in favor of increasing government spending on the military.

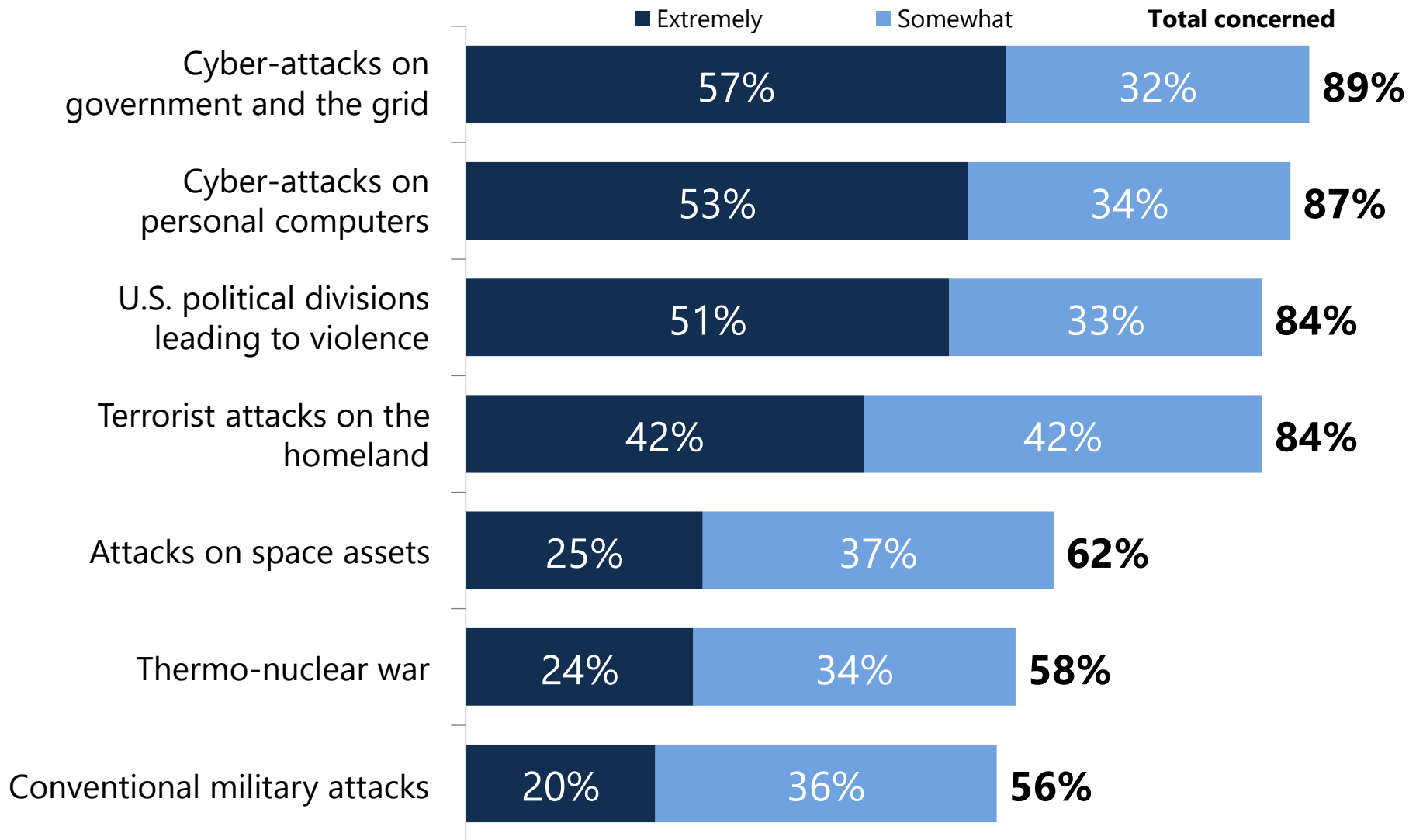


Q19: Please tell me if you favor or oppose increasing government spending in each of the following areas. The military.





# Americans are extremely concerned about the threat of cyber-attacks.



Q59 – Q65: How concerned are you about the threat of each of the following in the next five years?

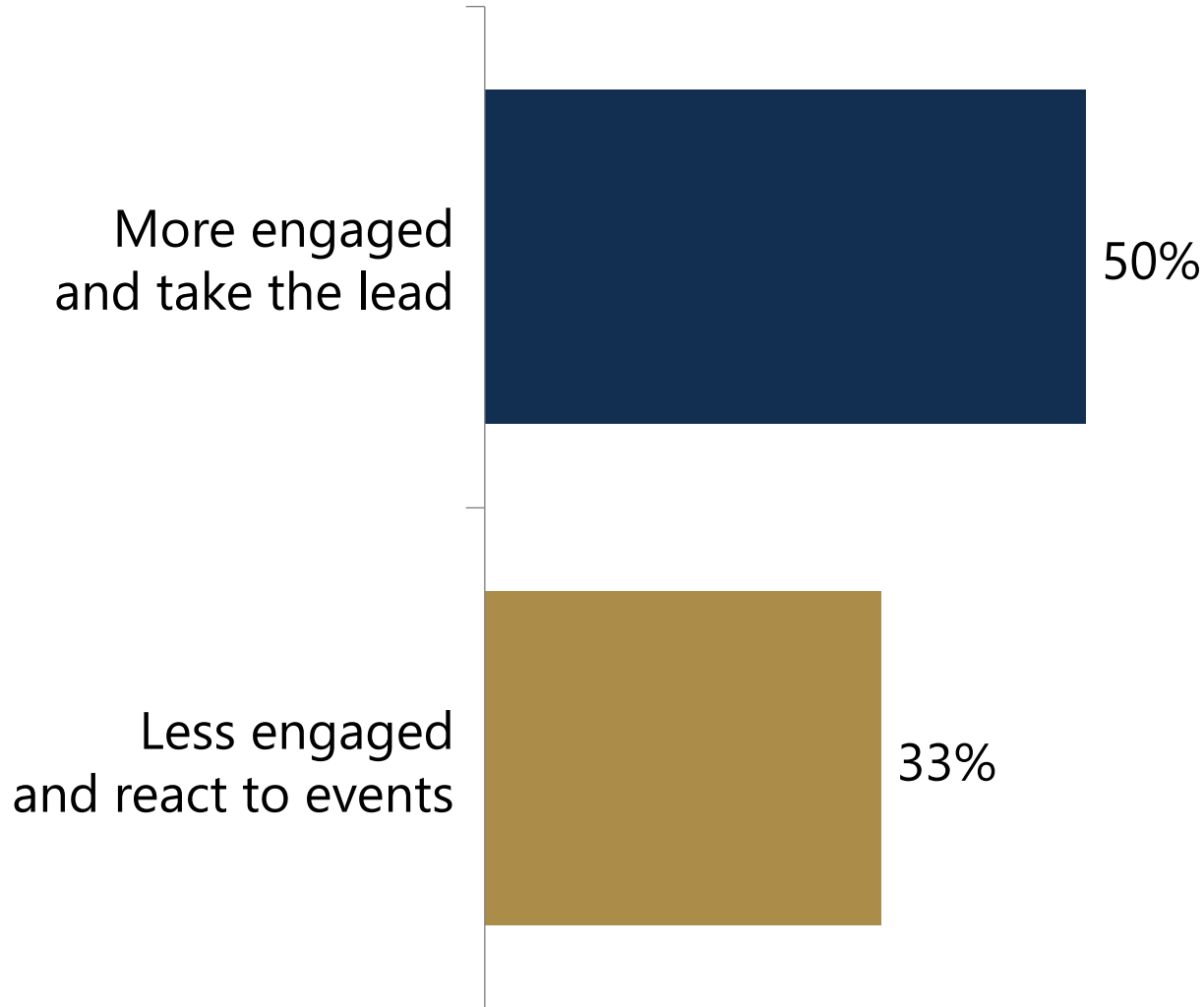


# U.S. LEADERSHIP AND ALLIANCES





# Americans want the U.S. to be more engaged and take the lead in international events.

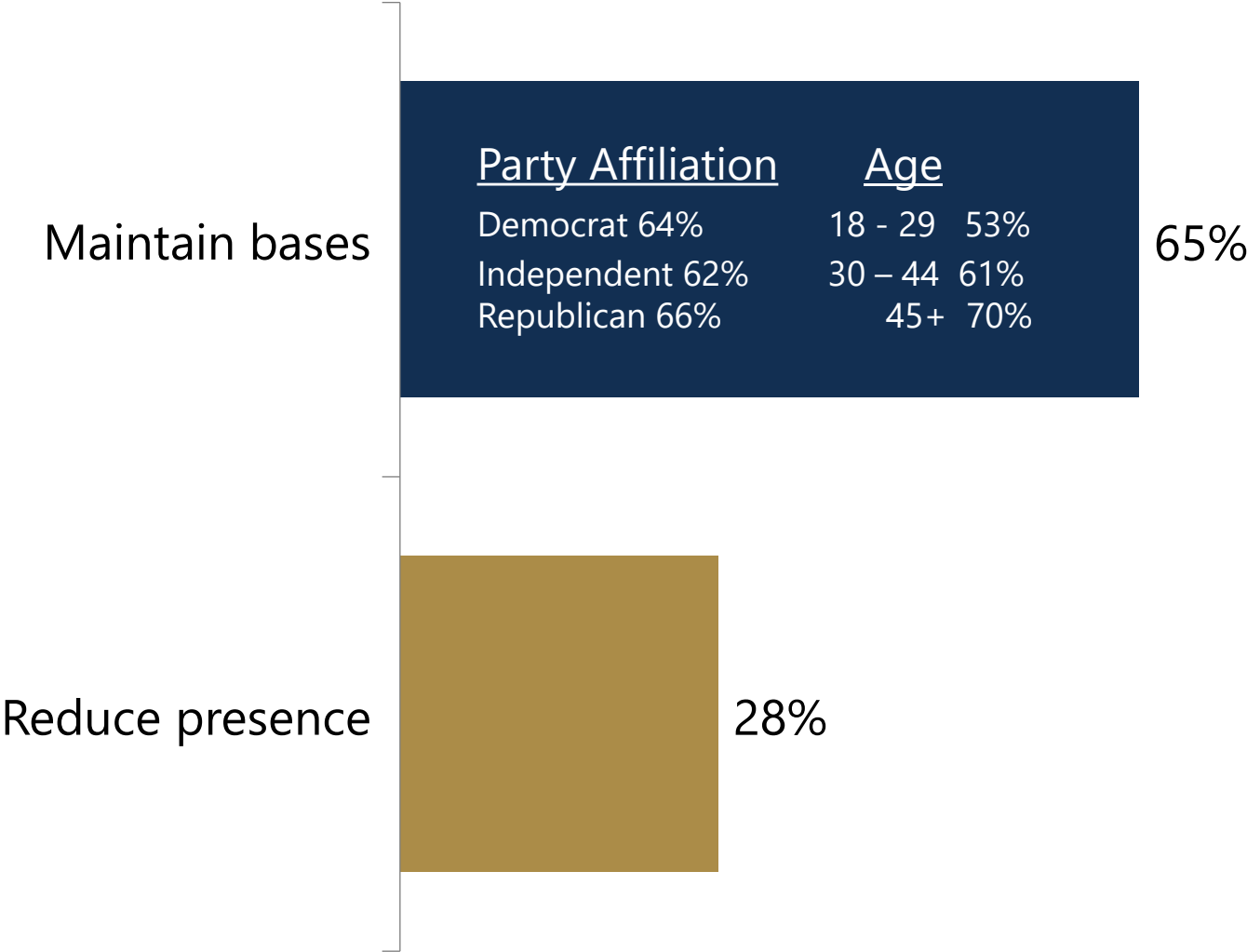


Note: Remainder Depends / Don't know

Q54A: When it comes to international events, do you think it is better for the United States to be more engaged and take the lead, or to be less engaged and react to events?



# Americans strongly support maintaining an overseas military base presence.



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q55: In general, do you think it is better for the U.S. to maintain military bases around the world to deter attacks and respond quickly if something happens, or do you think the U.S. should reduce our military presence overseas and only deploy troops in response to aggression?



# While Americans support alliances, majorities think NATO and Indo-Pacific allies should do more.

## NATO allies

They do their fair share

27%



They should do more

58%



## Indo-Pacific allies

They do their fair share

34%



They should do more

51%



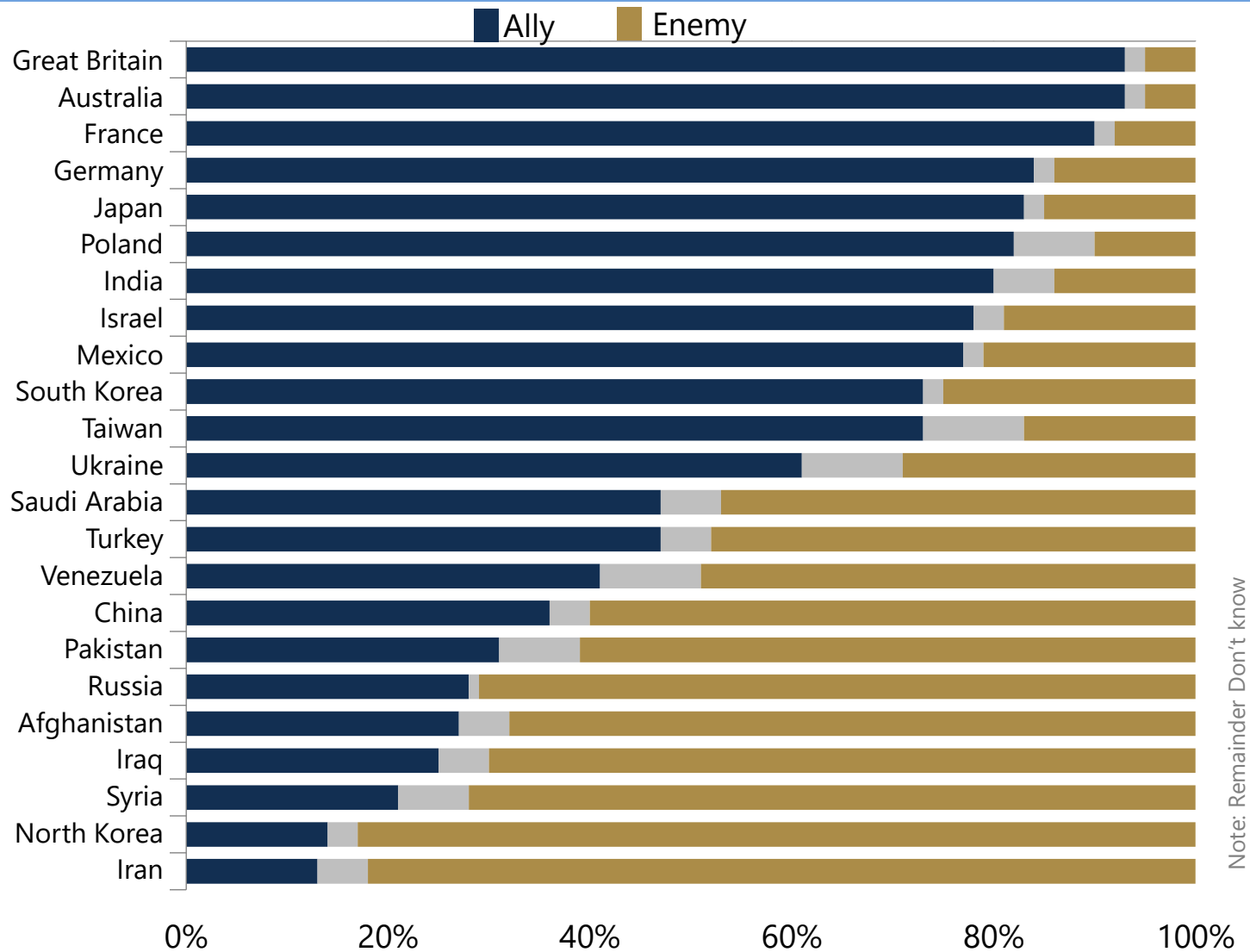
Note: Remainder Don't know

Q90: Do you think our NATO allies do their fair share or should they do more? AND

Q91: Do you think our allies on the Pacific Rim, including Australia, Japan, and South Korea do their fair share or should they do more?



# Overview of Allies and Enemies



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q31 – Q53: For each of the following countries, please tell us whether you see them as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy?

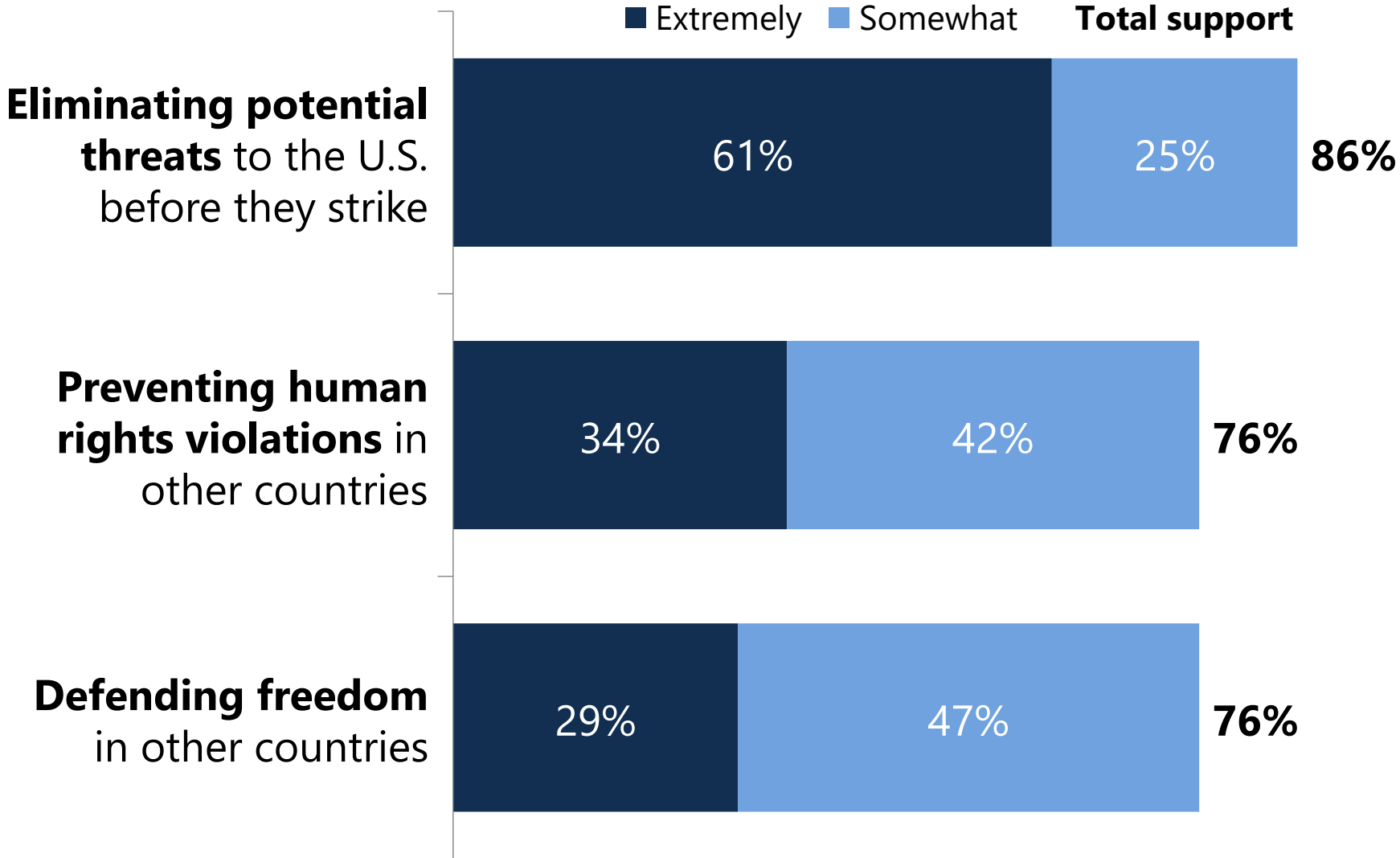


# FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY





# Large majorities support a U.S. military role in deterring aggression and defending freedom.

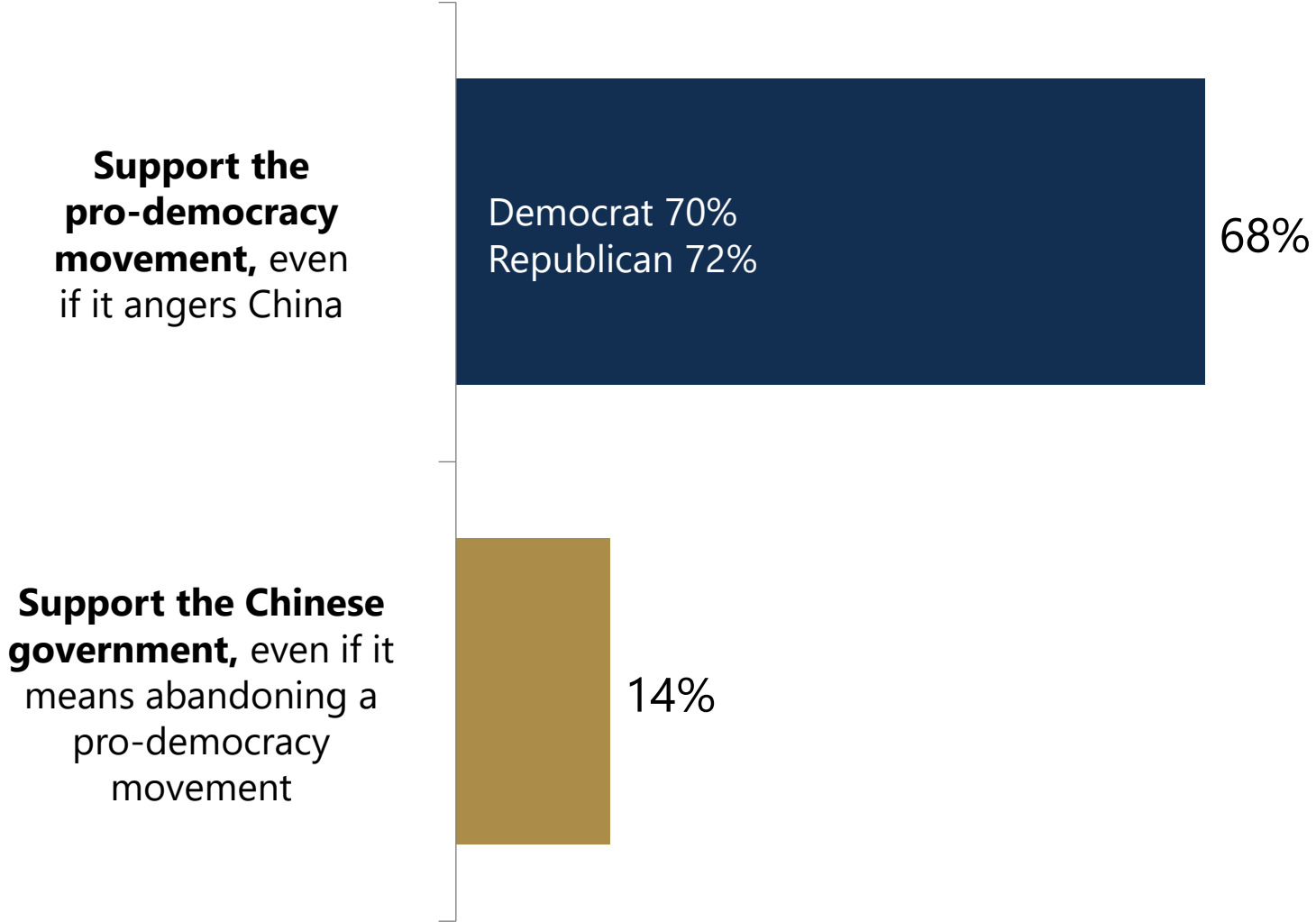


Q56 – Q58: In general, how likely are you to support the use of the U.S. military in each of the following situations?





# Bipartisan majorities support democracy in Hong Kong, even at the expense of relations with China.

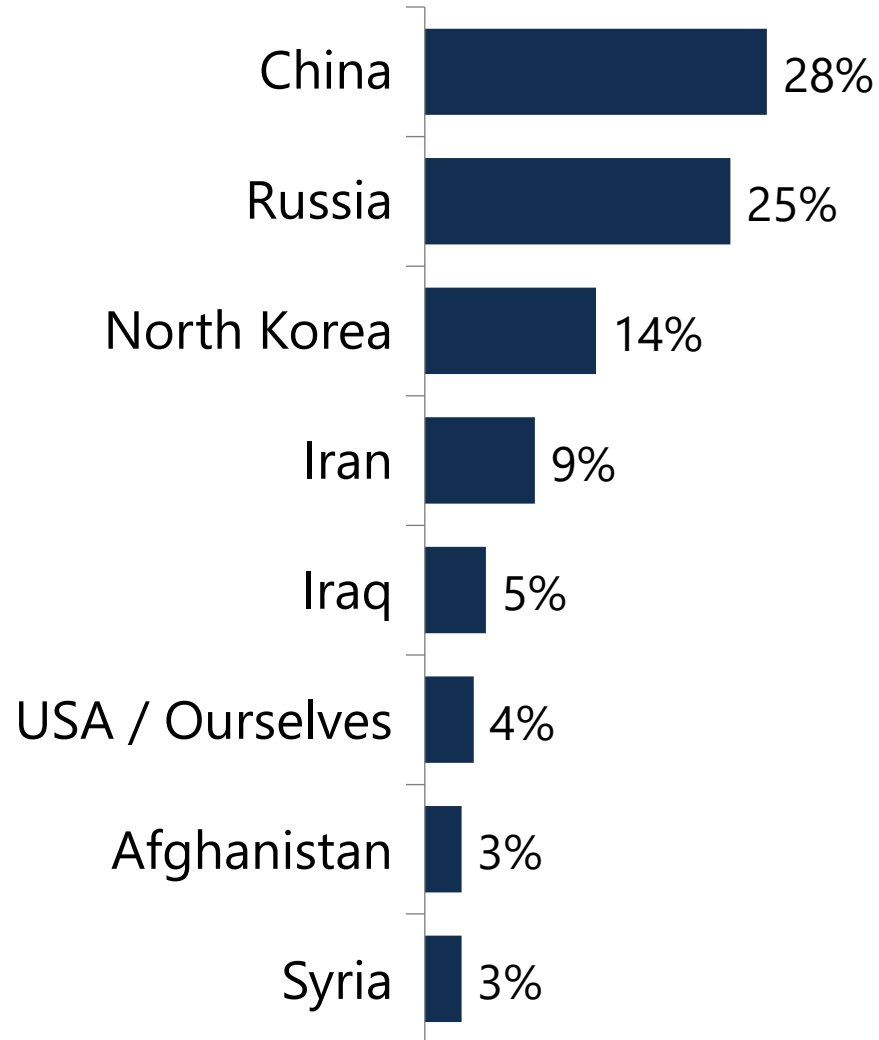


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q74: Which of the following is closer to your view about what the U.S. should do with regard to the situation in Hong Kong?



# Americans agree with the NDS: our strategic competitors are the countries that pose the greatest threat to the U.S.



Note: Asked as an open-ended question. Responses under 2% are not shown. Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q54: Which country do you see as the greatest threat to the U.S.?

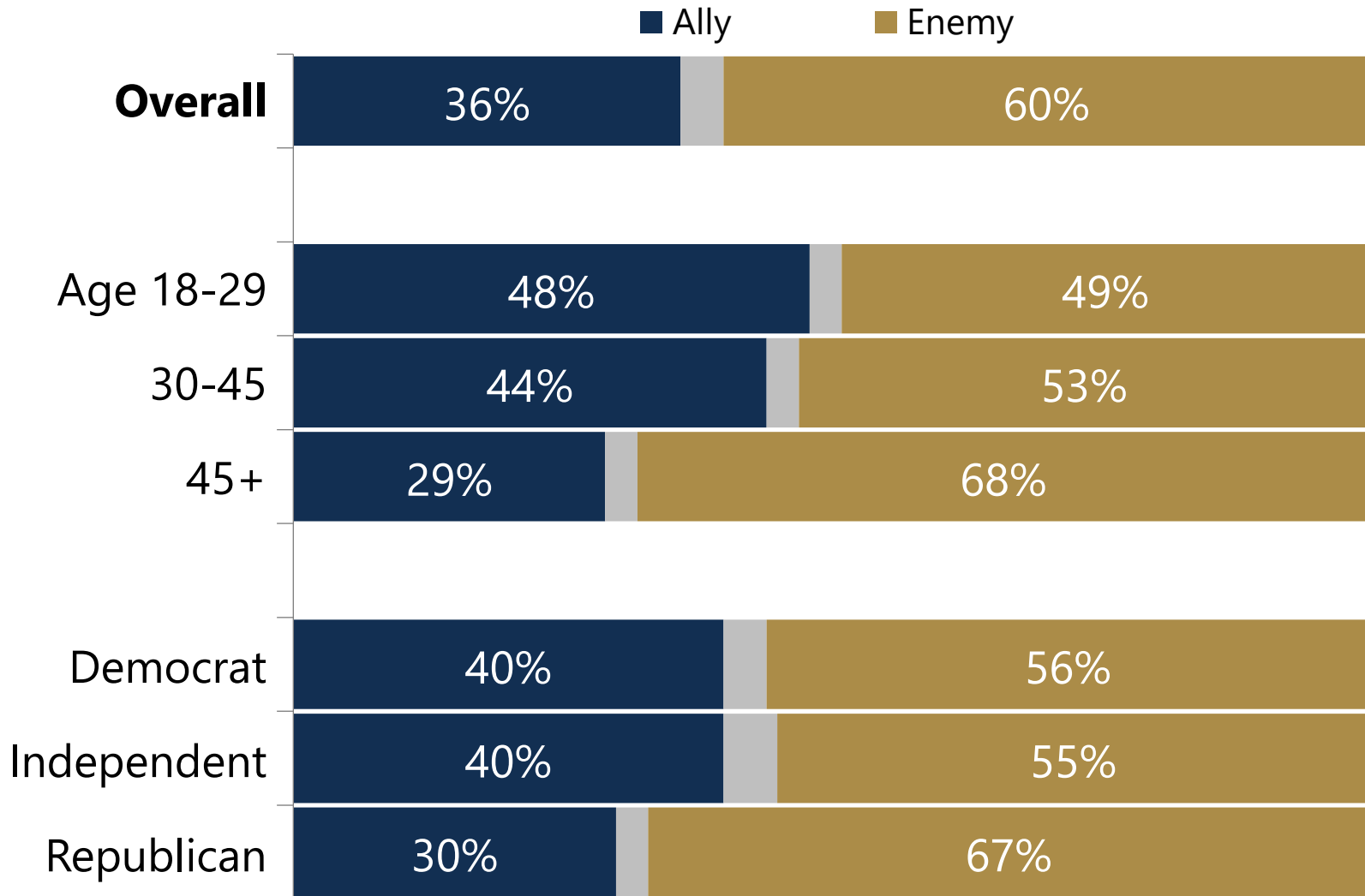


# CHINA





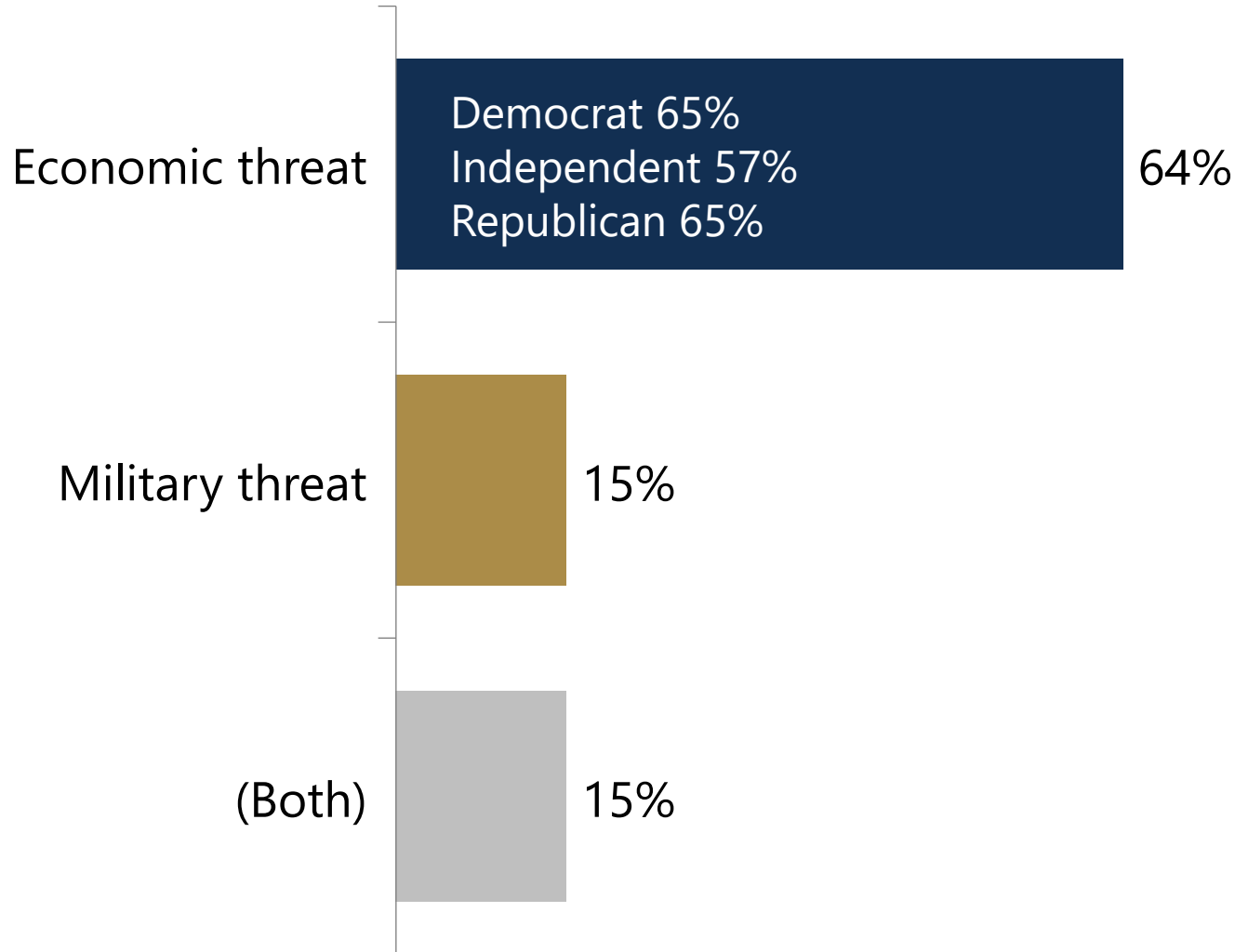
# Majority of Americans view China as an enemy, but young people are split.



Q46 Please tell us whether you see China as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy?



# Americans see China as more of an economic threat than a military threat.

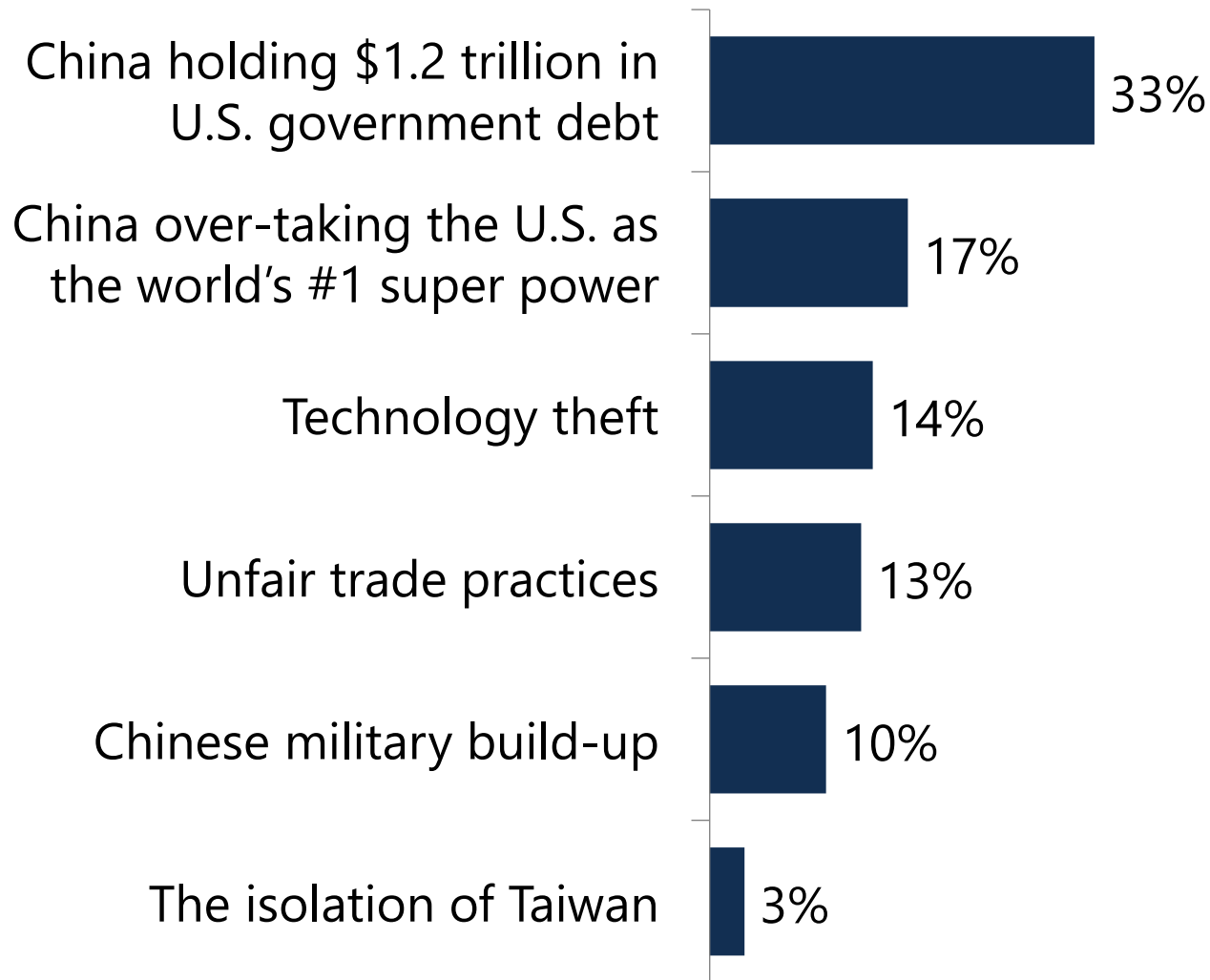


Note: Remainder Neither / Don't know

Q69: Do you view China as more of an economic threat to the United States or more of a military threat?



# Biggest concerns with China center on economics and trade.

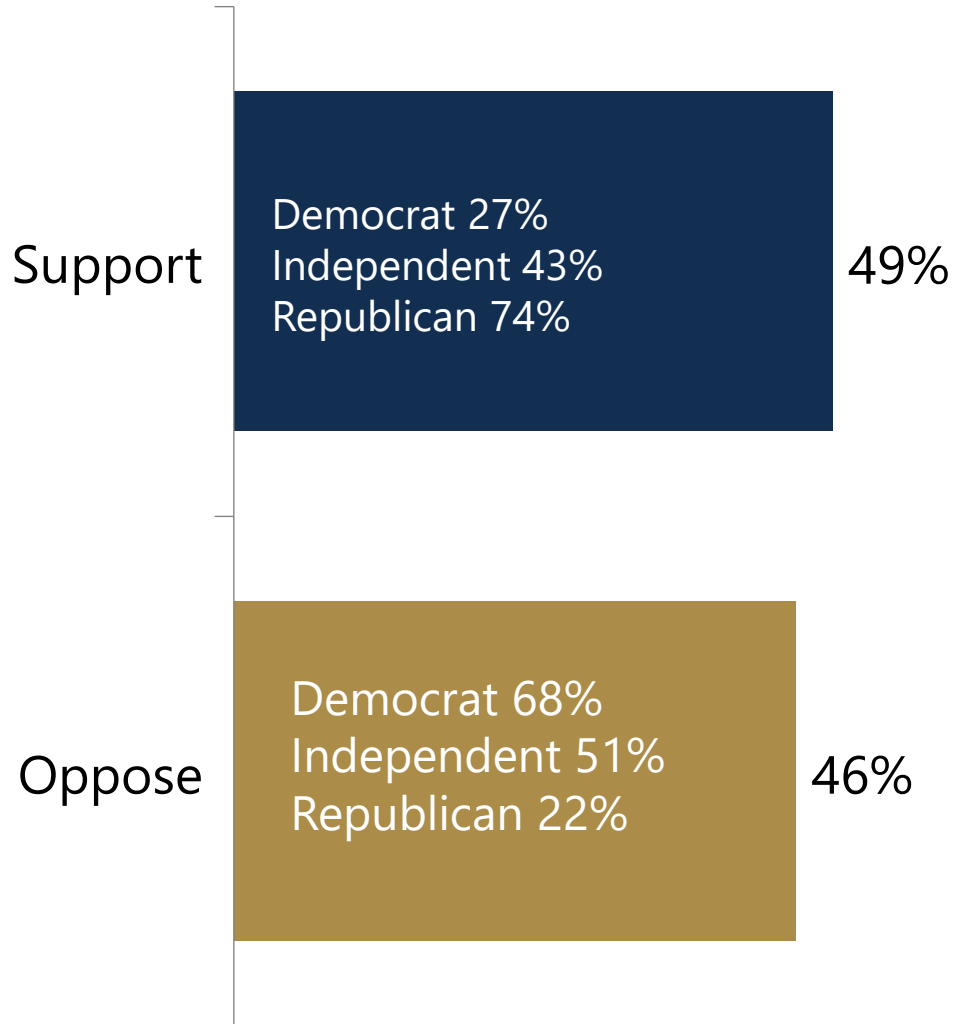


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q68: Thinking now about China, which of the following most concerns you about U.S. relations with China?



# Americans are split along party lines on the trade war.

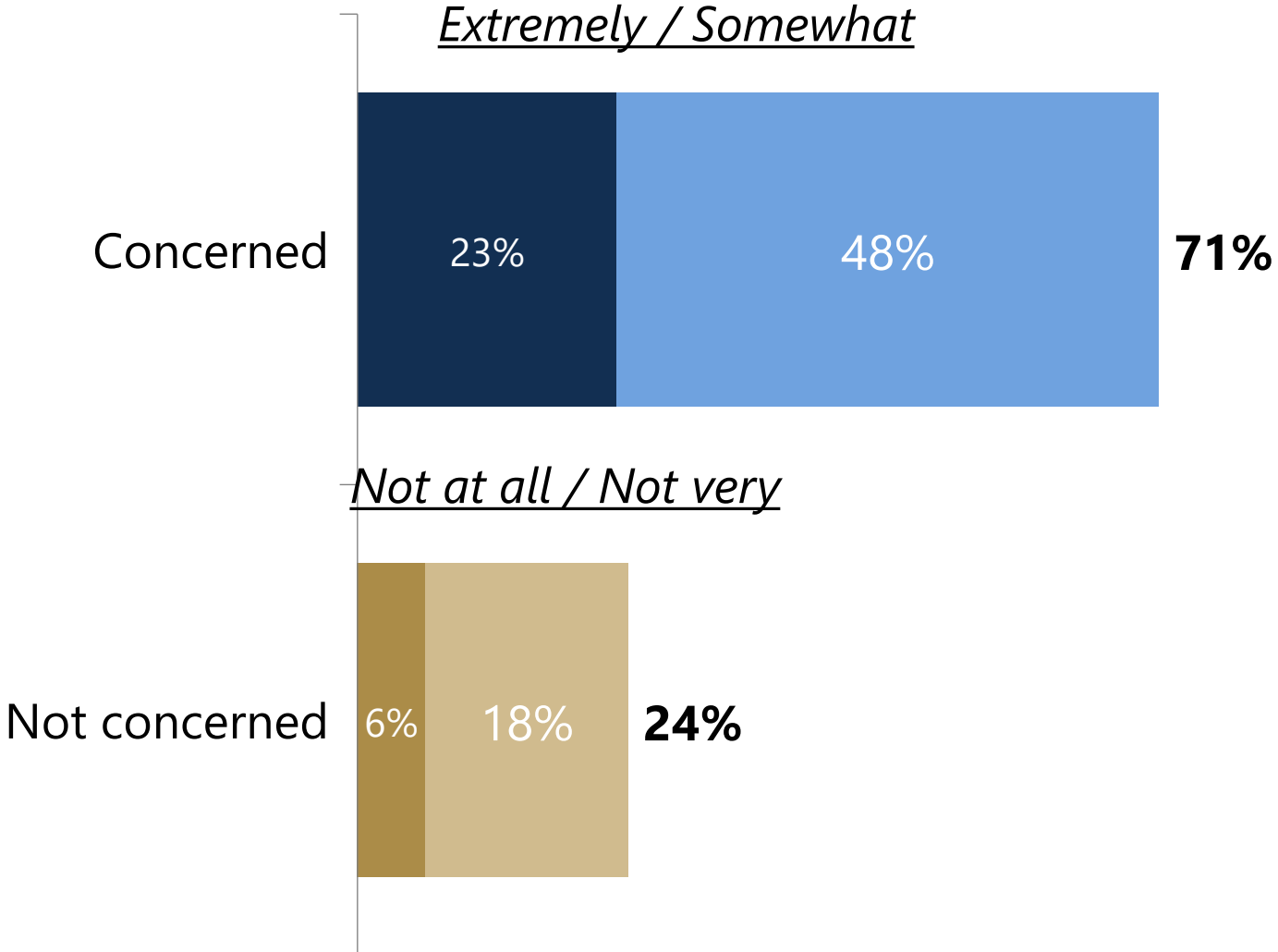


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q70: Do you support or oppose the trade war the United States is currently engaged in with China?



# Many are concerned with Chinese military buildup in the South China Sea...



Note: Remainder Don't know

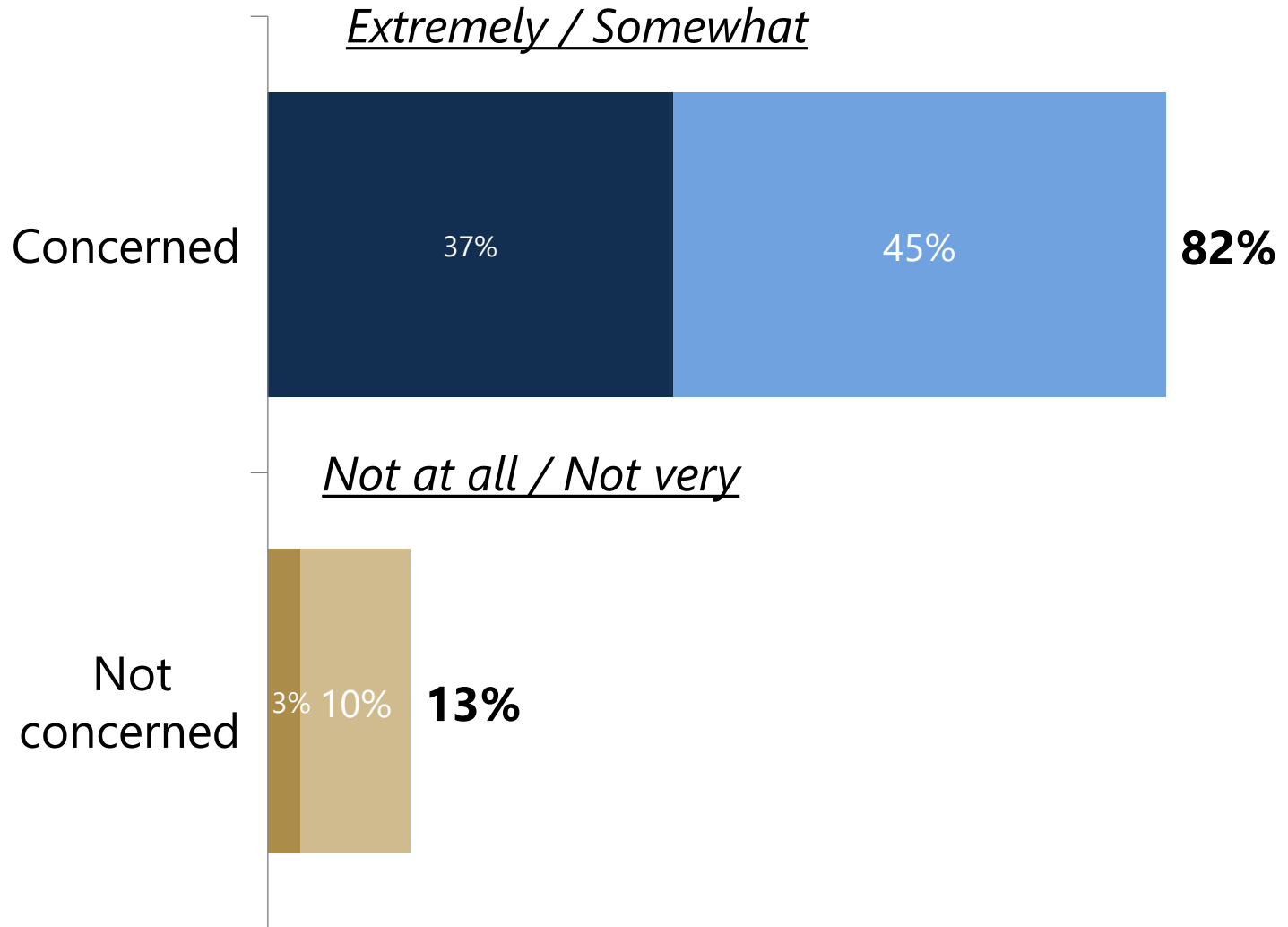
Q72: How concerned are you with Chinese military buildup in the South China Sea?





# ... And concern increases as voters learn more about Chinese actions.

One-third of the world's ocean-based trade goes through the South China Sea, and there are disputes between several countries about who controls the area and its natural resources. Since 2013, China has built a series of naval and military bases in the region and moved to claim territory.

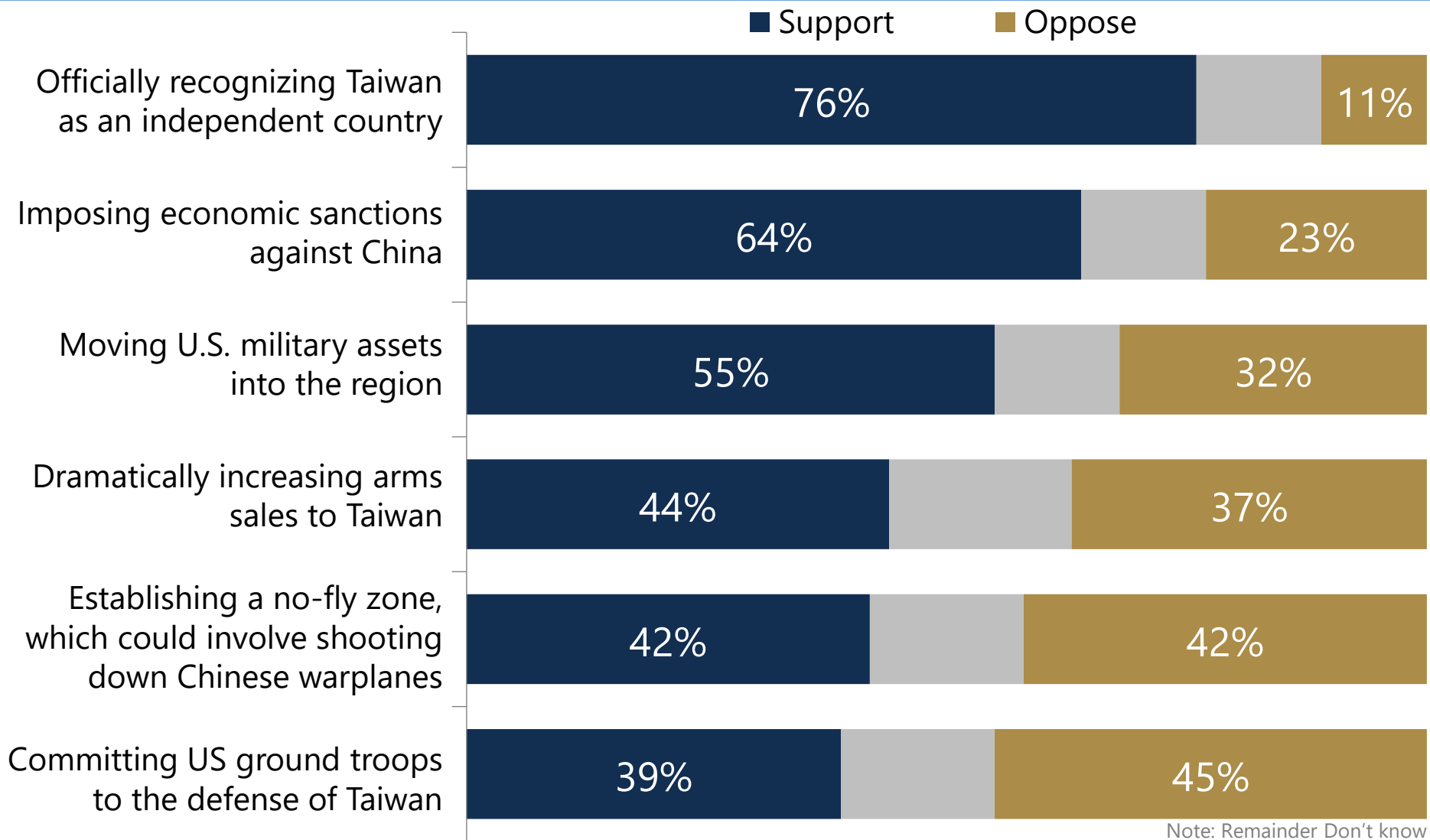


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q73: Knowing this, how concerned are you with these actions by China?



# Support for diplomatic and economic pressure if China invades Taiwan; uncertainty about military options.



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q77 – Q82: Although official Chinese policy is that Taiwan is part of China, Taiwan has operated as a relatively independent state for the last forty years. If China invaded Taiwan, please tell me if you would support or oppose the United States coming to Taiwan's defense in each of the following ways

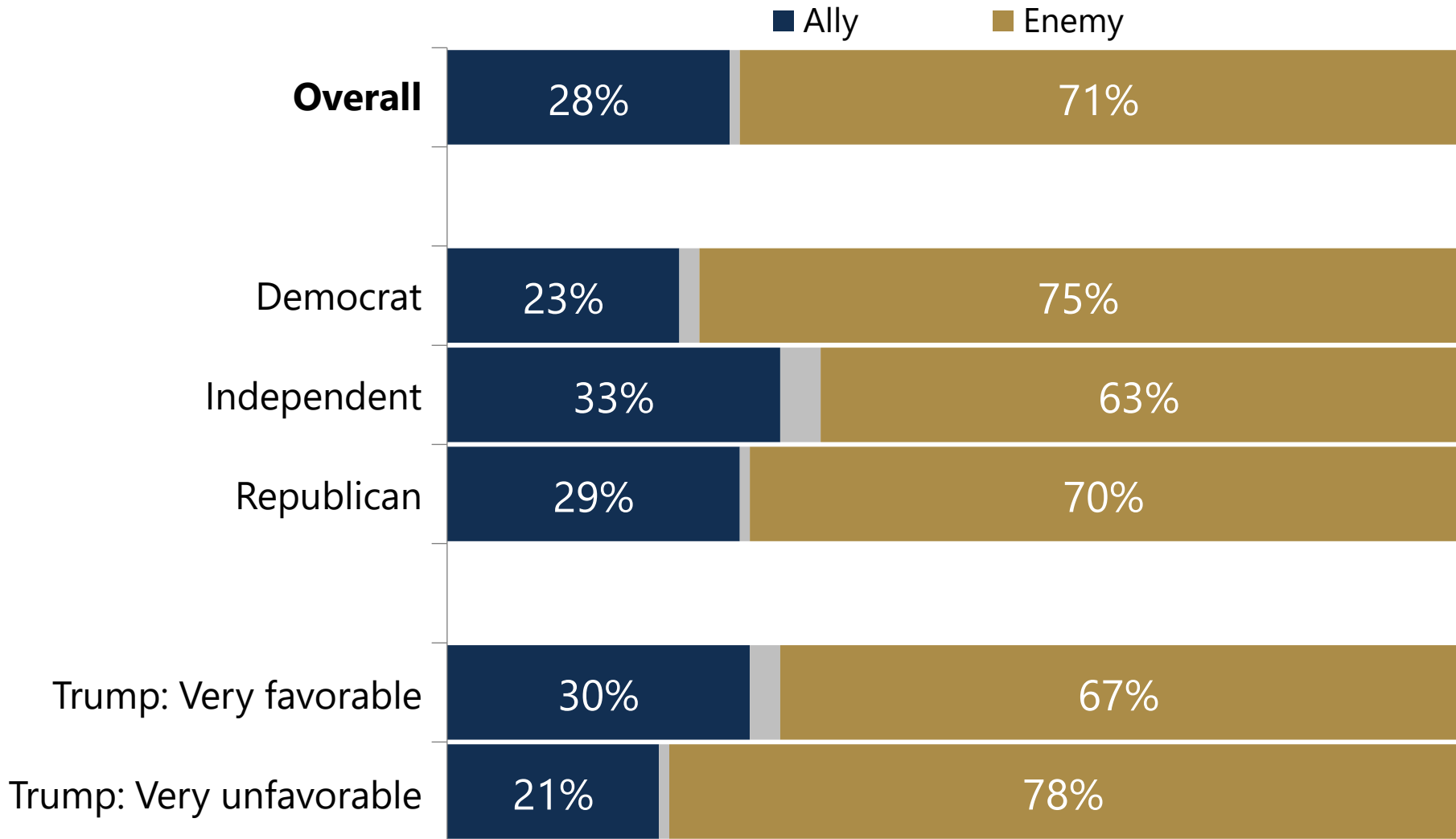


# RUSSIA





# Even more Americans view Russia as an enemy than China.

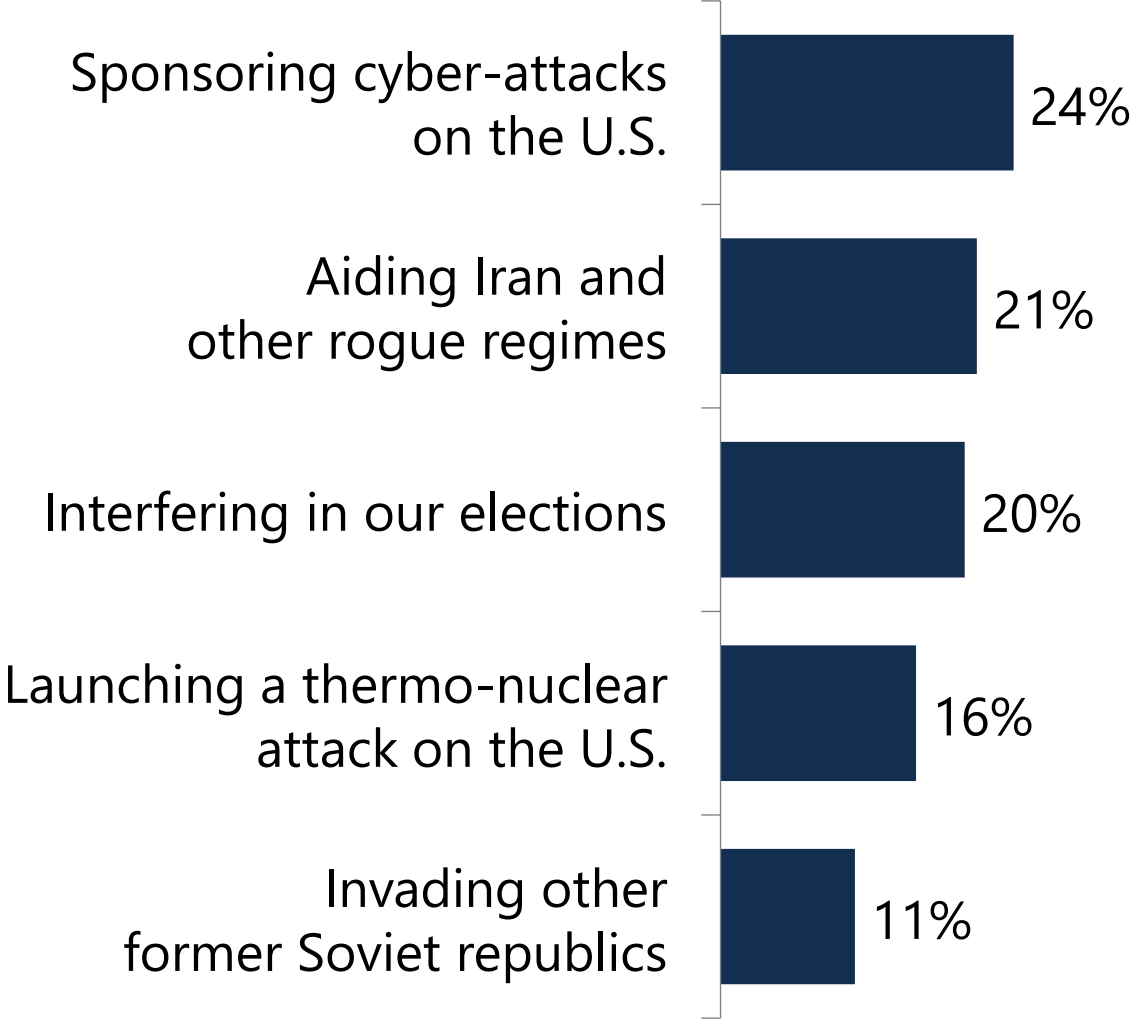


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q51: For each of the following countries, please tell us whether you see them as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy? Russia



# Biggest concerns with Russia center on cyber-attacks, election interference, and aid to rogue regimes.



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q83: Which of the following most concerns you about Russia?

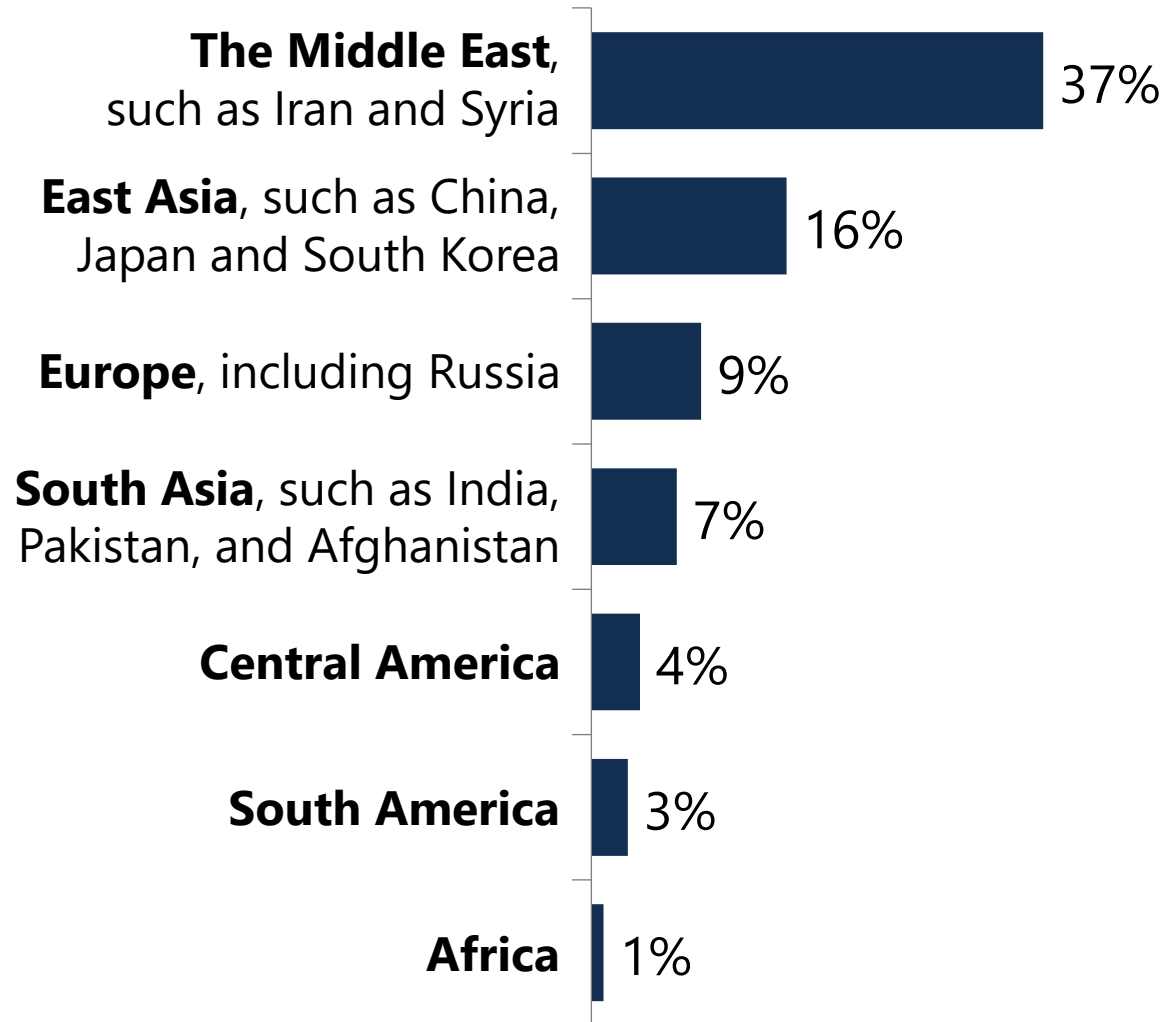


# MIDDLE EAST





# Despite concerns about Russia and China, Americans think the U.S. should focus its military forces in the Middle East.

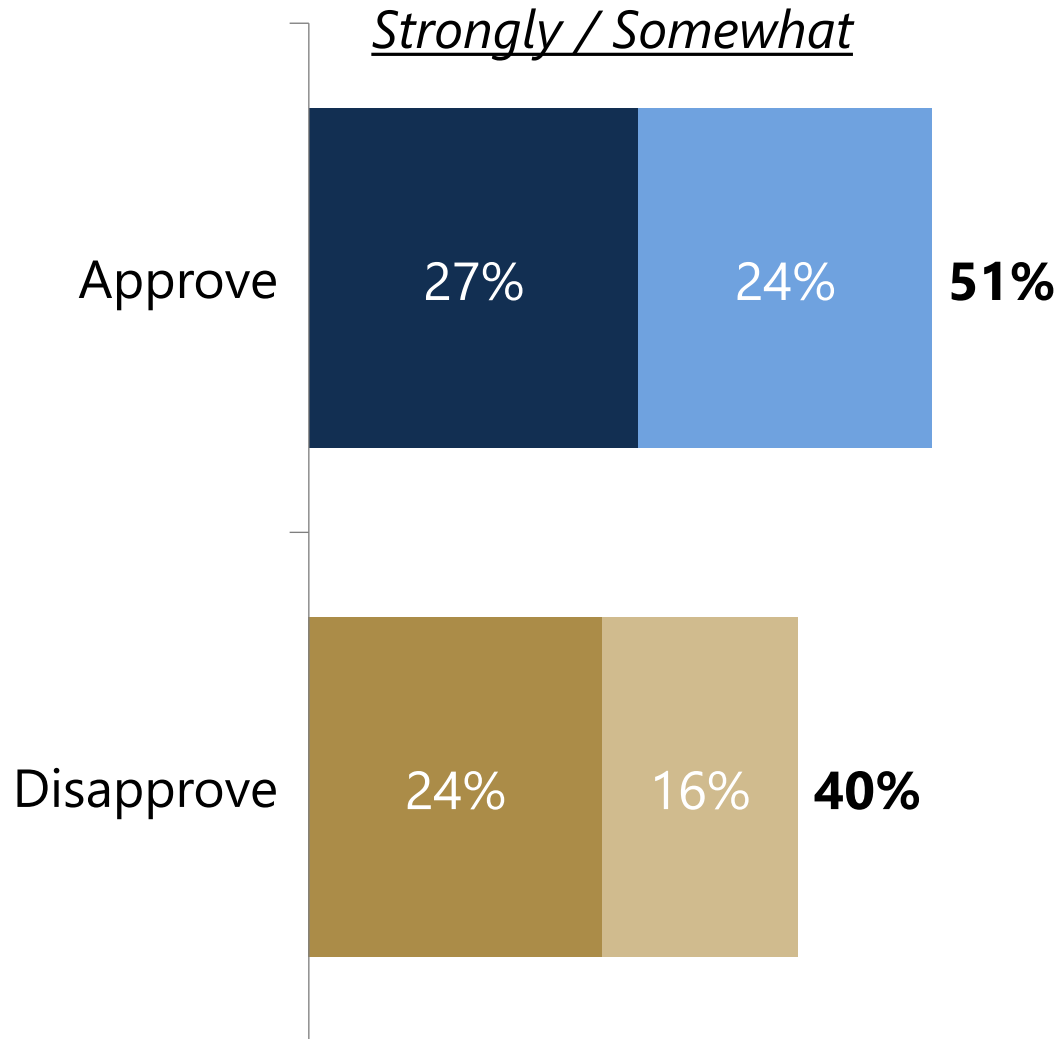


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q30: Thinking about American interests and the threats that exist in the world today, where do you think the U.S. should focus its military forces?



# A narrow majority approves of the decision to withdraw from Syria...



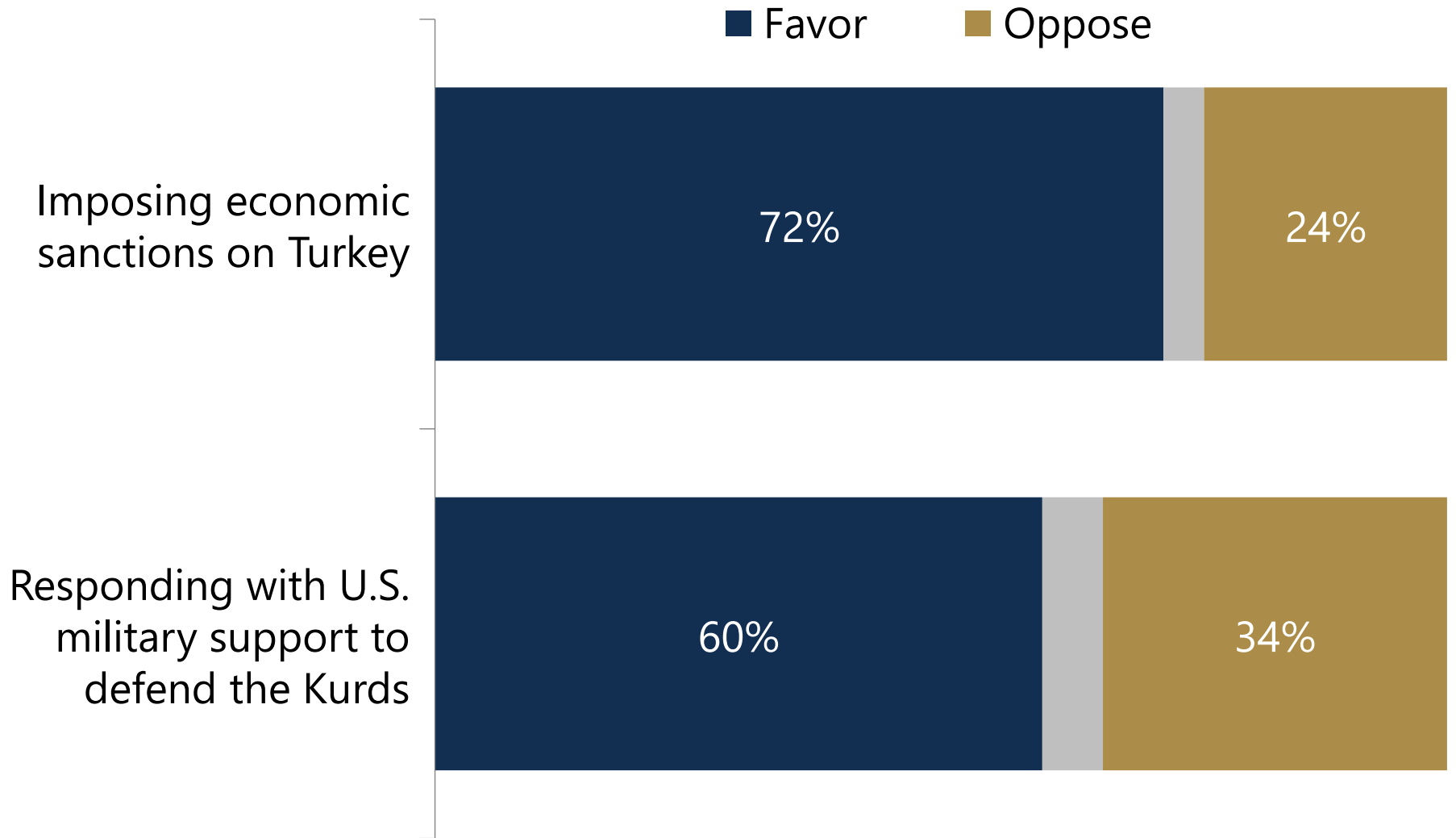
Note: Remainder Don't know

Q84: The U.S. recently announced it would withdraw its troops from Syria. Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. troop withdrawal from Syria?





# ... But majorities would punish Turkish aggression in Syria with sanctions or military support for the Kurds.

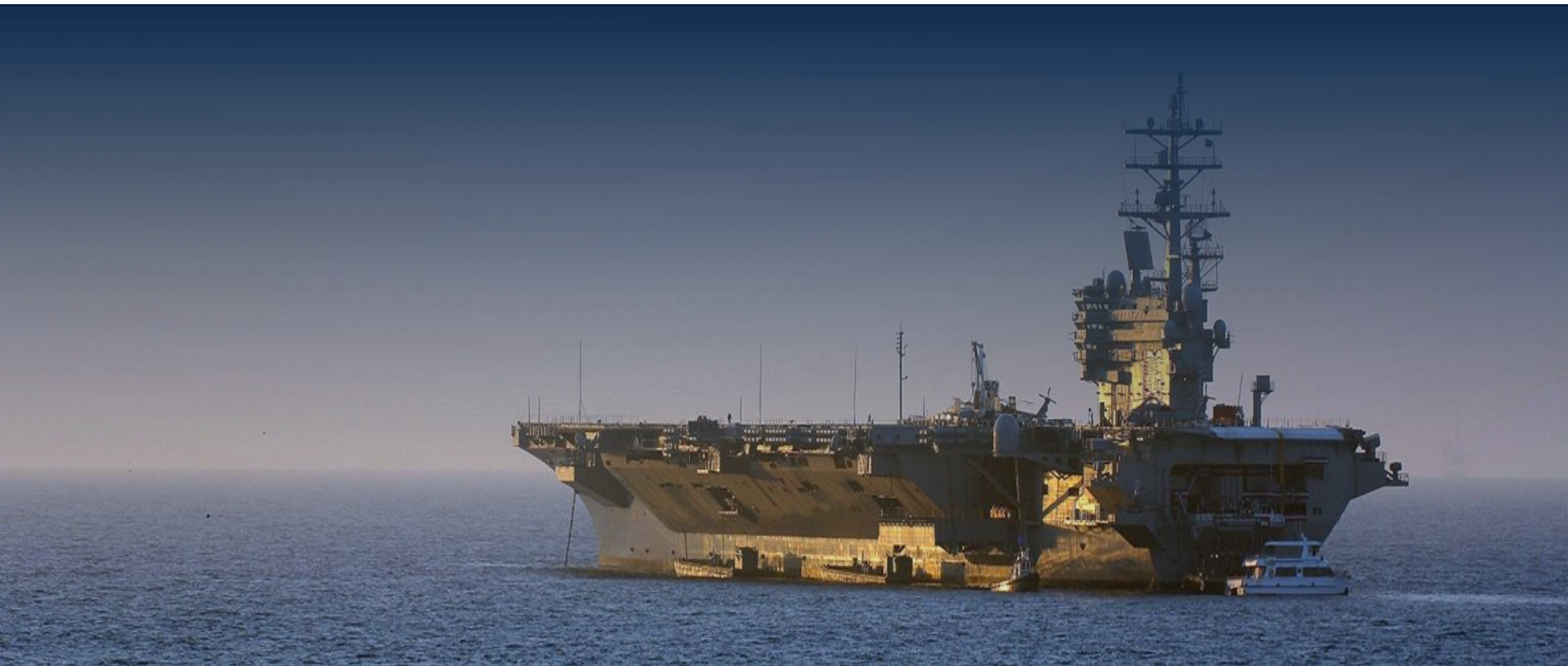


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q85 AND Q86: As you may know, the Turkish military has advanced into Syria and attacked Kurdish forces who helped the United States fight ISIS. Do you favor or oppose each of the following potential responses to Turkey from the United States?

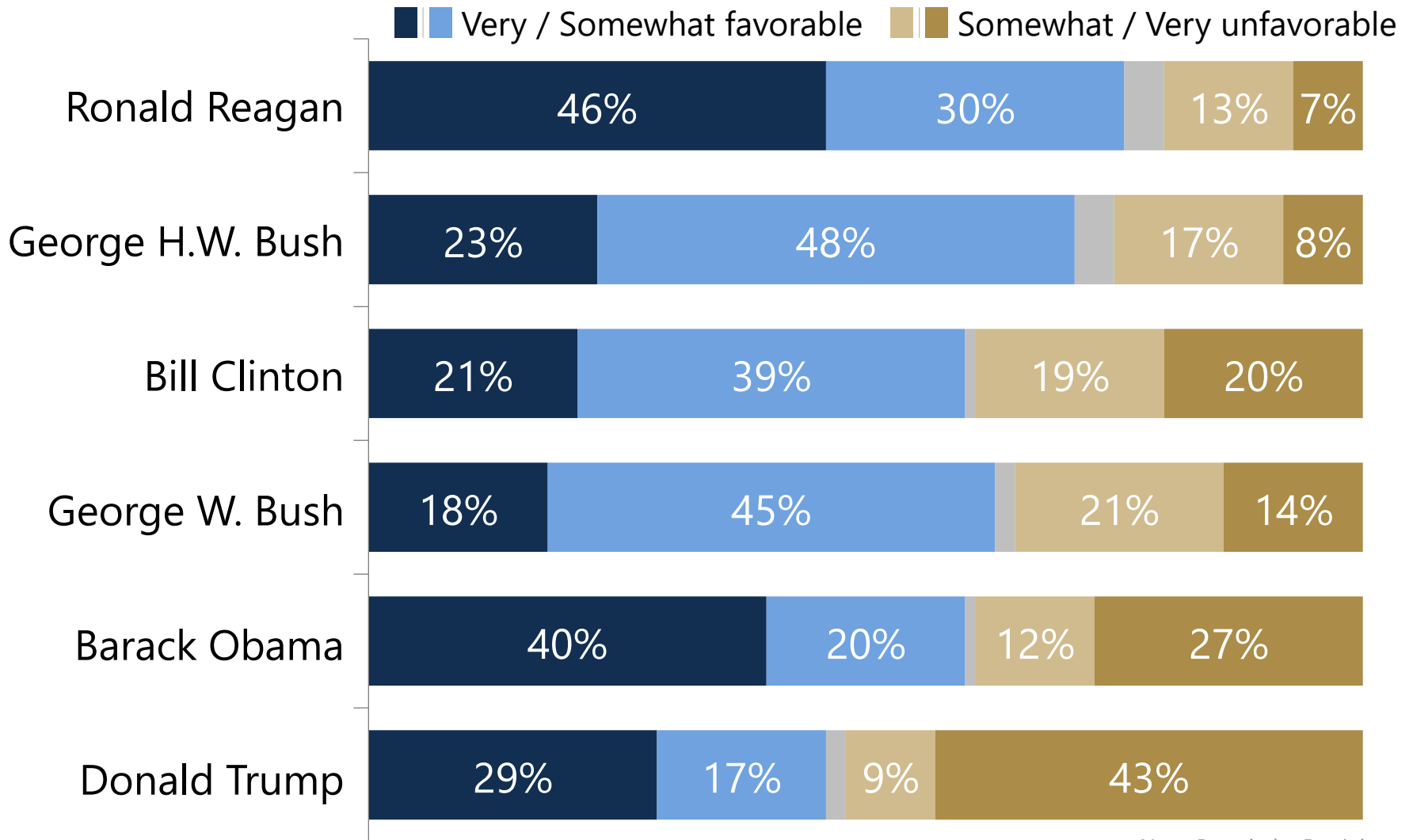


# MODERN PRESIDENTS





# Reagan viewed most favorably among recent presidents.



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q92 – Q97: Thinking now about recent presidents, please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each one I mention.