2020
NATIONAL SECURITY INDEX
PUBLIC OPINION STUDY 2019-2020
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National Security Index
Public Opinion Studies

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Worldview and values
What is the most significant external threat to the State of Israel?

- **Northern arena**: 32%
- **Nuclear Iran**: 26%
- **Terrorist activity**: 8%
- **Israeli-Palestinian conflict**: 14%
- **Hamas**: 12%
- **Diplomatic isolation**: 8%
The State of Israel can successfully deal with the following challenges:

- Ongoing severe terror attacks: 81%
- Escalation on all fronts at once: 73%
- Polarization between the different sectors: 72%
- Corruption in the government system: 62%
- International isolation: 56%
- Reduced support by the United States: 55%
If Israel is involved in a war on the northern front or in Gaza, how will it likely end?

- 43% A clear Israeli military victory
- 34% The other side could also claim victory
- 11% A sense of loss and missed opportunity for Israel
- 12% Serious damage to the home front that will cloud the results of the war
If Israel is involved in a war on the northern front or in Gaza, how will it likely end?

- **21%** A clear Israeli military victory
- **34%** A sense of loss and missed opportunity for Israel
- **12%** The other side could also claim victory
- **33%** Serious damage to the home front that will cloud the results of the war
Looking back, who won?

The Second Lebanon War

- 50% Israel
- 42% The other side
- 8% No one

Operation Protective Edge

- 49% Israel
- 44% No one
- 7% The other side
Looking back, was it justified?

The Second Lebanon War: 82% justified, 18% not justified.
Operation Protective Edge: 85% justified, 15% not justified.
Favor a solution of two states for two peoples

2006: 71% Yes, 29% No
2009: 64% Yes, 36% No
2012: 69% Yes, 31% No
2015: 60% Yes, 40% No
2016: 59% Yes, 41% No
2017: 55% Yes, 45% No
2018: 58% Yes, 42% No
2019: 55% Yes, 45% No

*Jews only*
2019 - Favor a two-state solution

Religious: 25% Secular: 72%
Arabs: 89% Jews: 55%
Right: 39% Center: 82% Left: 82%
How should Israel deal with the Hamas threat from Gaza?

- **34%**
  - Military operation to dismantle Hamas’s military wing

- **26%**
  - A prolonged ceasefire in exchange for easing the closure and improving daily life and infrastructures in Gaza

- **23%**
  - Sever the Strip from Israel (closure of the border crossings)

- **6%**
  - Accept Hamas governance and work toward an agreement

- **11%**
  - Continue the existing conflict management policy
Does a continuation of the existing situation without a political arrangement work to Israel’s advantage or disadvantage?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Advantage</th>
<th>Disadvantage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>34%</td>
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Do you believe that a two-state solution is achievable in the foreseeable future?

- 15% Don’t know
- 40% Not achievable
- 11% Achievable in the near future
- 34% Achievable in the distant future
On recent ideas regarding a unilateral annexation of areas in the West Bank:

- **26%** in favor of a unilateral annexation of settlement blocs
- **14%** in favor of a unilateral annexation of all settlement areas
- **7%** in favor of a unilateral annexation of all areas of the West Bank
- **8%** in favor of annexation of all of Area C
- **45%** opposed to any unilateral annexation
What should be the civilian status of the Palestinians in the areas after annexation?

- **46%**
  - Residency status without the right to obtain citizenship

- **31%**
  - No citizenship and no permanent residency rights

- **22%**
  - Full and equal citizenship rights

*Jews only*
What is the best option for Israel regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

- **17%** Annex settlement blocs in the West Bank to Israel
- **9%** Annex all areas in the West Bank to Israel and create one state
- **37%** Strive for a comprehensive solution
- **23%** Temporary arrangements to separate from the Palestinians
- **14%** Continue the existing situation
Implications for Israel’s identity, barring two states for two peoples:

- 8% It will be necessary to redefine the character of the State
- 28% It will harm the State of Israel’s character as a Jewish state
- 46% The State of Israel will remain as it is today
- 18% It will harm the State of Israel’s character as a democratic state
Do you support or oppose an initiated action by the IDF to prevent Iran becoming entrenched in Syria, even at the price of war?

Support: 70%
Oppose: 30%
Do you support or oppose an initiated action by the IDF to prevent Iran becoming entrenched in Syria, even at the price of war?

Support: 36%
Oppose: 64%
Confidence in the security establishment

- IDF: 93%
- Mossad: 86%
- Israel Security Agency (GCC): 80%
- Police: 53%

*Jews only*
Is the IDF prepared for the next military confrontation?

13% Not prepared

87% Prepared
Do the ideological disputes in Israeli society affect the performance of the IDF?

- 64% have a negative effect
- 26% have no effect
- 10% have a positive effect
Are the values currently guiding the IDF’s senior command close to the values acceptable to most of the Israeli public?

30% Distant

70% Close
If you had to advise youth about to be drafted into the IDF, what advice would you give?

- **15%**
  To enlist in the IDF as a combat soldier in a select elite unit

- **20%**
  To enlist in the IDF as a combat soldier

- **35%**
  To enlist in the IDF and be assigned in line with the military’s needs

- **21%**
  To enlist in the IDF in a role that has value in civilian life

- **5%**
  To enlist in the IDF in a role that is easy

- **4%**
  To make efforts not to enlist at all
The media’s handling of military and security issues:

- **74%** Credible
- **64%** Objective
- **61%** Patriotic
- **59%** Balanced
How do you view Israel’s Arab citizens?

- 25% Potential enemies
- 21% Citizens with equal rights
- 54% People who should be respected but suspected
Which of the following sentences is closest to your opinion?

- **31%**
  The government need not invest in Israel’s Arab citizens

- **34%**
  The government must invest in Israel’s Arab citizens in a manner equal to the investment in its Jewish citizens

- **35%**
  The government must invest in order to close the gaps between Jewish and Arab citizens quickly
What issue heads your list of preferences?

- Finding a solution to the problem of the Palestinians in the territories: 20%
- Equal rights for Arabs in Israel: 37%
- Economic distress of the Arabs in Israel: 20%
- Social distress of the Arabs in Israel: 8%
- Security in Arab localities: 15%
The sense of solidarity in Israeli society has weakened

30% Disagree

70% Agree
What is the central element responsible for the weakened sense of solidarity?

- Tension between right and left: 40%
- Religious-secular relations: 23%
- Israeli-Palestinian conflict: 11%
- Gaps between rich and poor: 10%
- Jewish-Arab relations: 8%
- Tension between conservative and liberal worldviews: 8%
Is the Israeli home front prepared for a possible military confrontation?

- 58% To a great extent
- 42% To a limited extent
Is the Israeli home front prepared for a possible military confrontation?

66% 
To a limited extent

34% 
To a great extent

*Arabs only*
Are you and your family prepared for a military confrontation?

- 31% To a great extent
- 38% To a limited extent
- 31% Not at all
Are you and your family prepared for a military confrontation?

- **12%** To a great extent
- **56%** Not at all
- **32%** To a limited extent

*Arabs only*
What is the value that is most important to you?

- **A democratic state**: 19% in 2019, 15% in 1988
- **Greater Land of Israel**: 15% in 2019, 19% in 1988
- **State of peace**: 15% in 2019, 33% in 1988
- **A state with a Jewish majority**: 51% in 2019, 33% in 1988
To what extent do you agree with each of the following sentences?

Israel and the World

- The Jewish nation is the chosen nation: 60%
- The nation dwells alone: 56%
- The entire world is against us: 49%
- We can rely only on ourselves: 82%
To what extent do you agree with each of the following sentences?

Israel’s Strategic Situation

66% The State of Israel is a 'villa in the jungle'

55% Israeli democracy is in danger

44% Israel’s strategic position in the world has never been better

64% We will always live by the sword
To what extent do you agree with each of the following sentences?

**Attitude toward the Other**

- 84% If someone comes to kill you, kill him first
- 61% Arabs understand only force
- 62% There is no partner for peace
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