

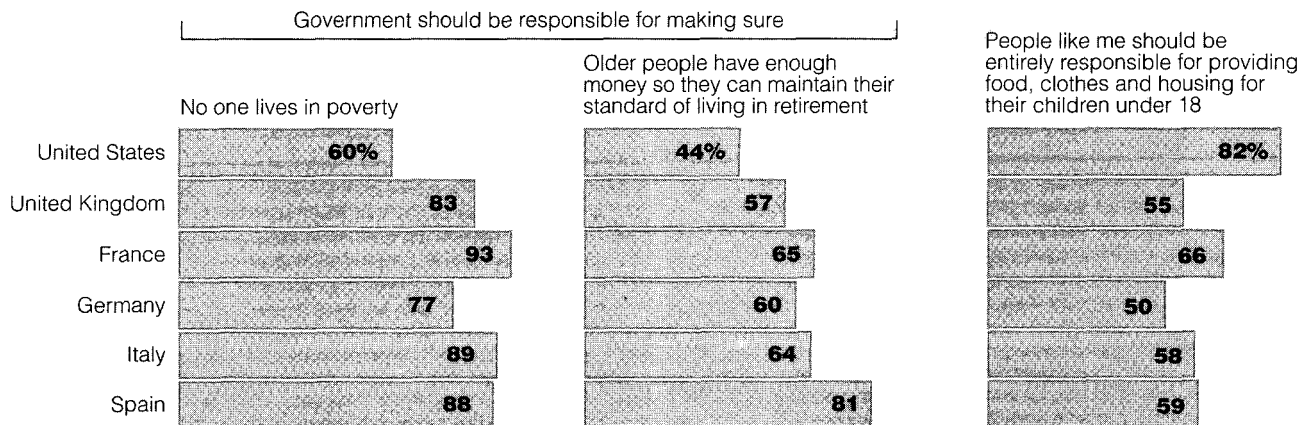
Opinion Pulse

Edited by Karlyn Bowman

European Views

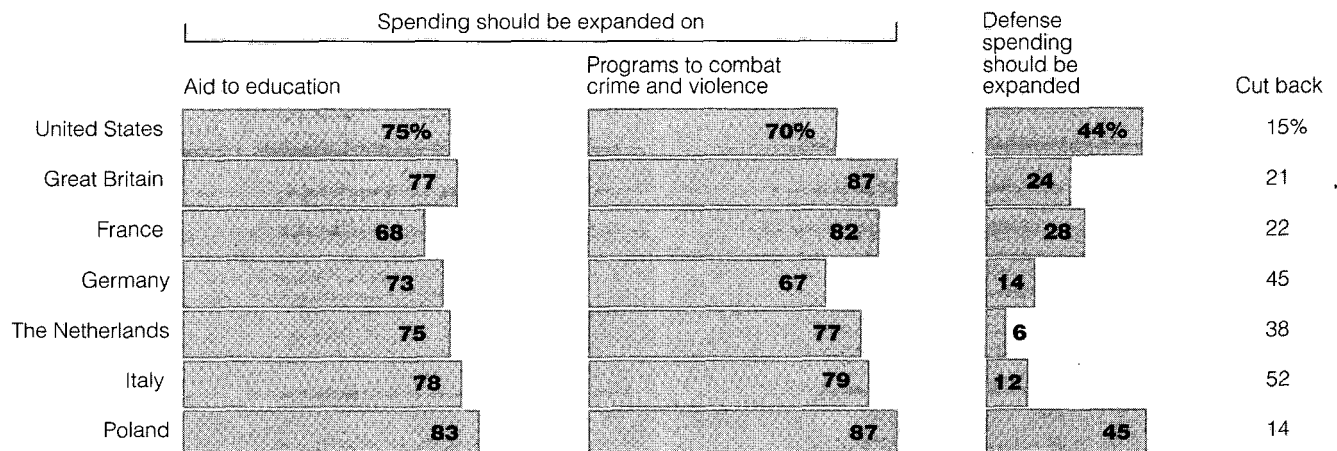
Europeans favor a stronger role for government on social welfare issues than do Americans. In some areas such as education and crime, both populations want an active government. Questions about the proper level of defense spending produce stark differences between the continents.

Question: Now I'll read a list of things that have been mentioned as things the government has responsibility to do for citizens. For each, please tell me whether you think...? Please tell me if...



Source: Princeton Survey Research Associates (U.S.), Market & Opinion Research International (U.K.), IFOP (France), EMNID (Germany), Pragma (Italy), Demoscopia (Spain) for Americans Discuss Social Security, 1997.

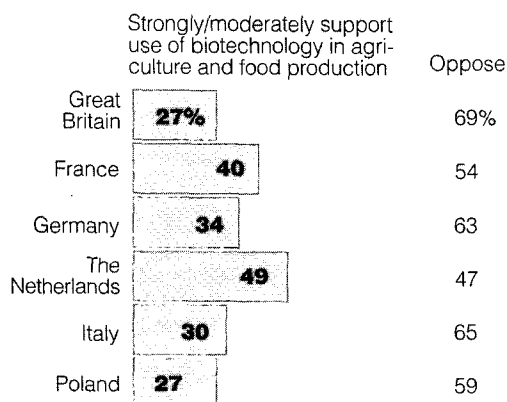
Question: Now I am going to read a list of government programs. For each, I'd like you to tell me whether you feel it should be...



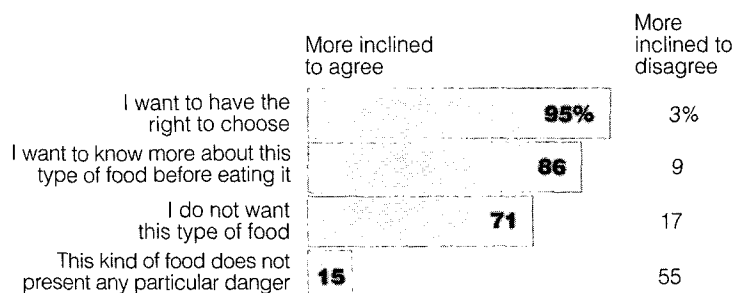
Source: Market & Opinion Research International in Europe, Harris Interactive in the United States for the German Marshall Fund and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, summer 2002.

In Europe, opposition to biotechnology outweighs support. Still, the surveys reveal contradictory impulses. Seventy-one percent of Europeans say they don't want genetically modified food, but an even larger majority want to decide for themselves what they buy. Economic globalization isn't high on the European list in terms of extremely critical threats over the next ten years. Despite complaints, most Europeans want the United States to exert strong leadership in world affairs.

Question: Overall, would you say you...?



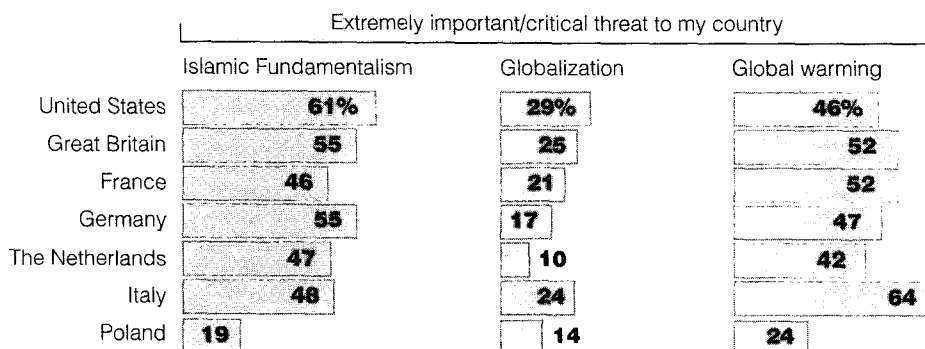
Question: Would you say you are ... with each of the following propositions on genetically modified foods?



Source: European Commission, Eurobarometer, May-June 2001.

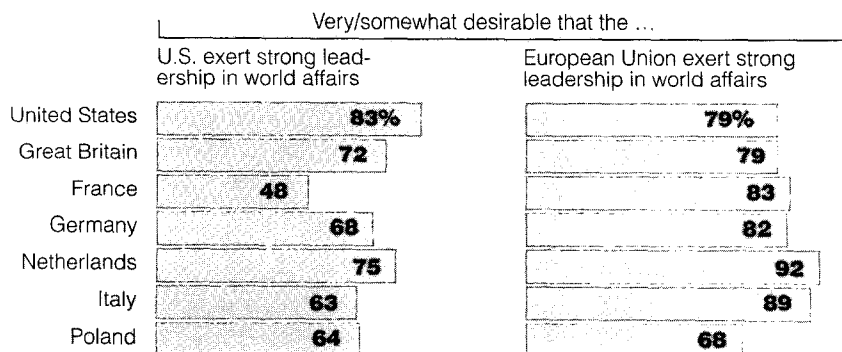
Source: Market & Opinion Research International in Europe, Harris Interactive in the United States for the German Marshall Fund and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, summer 2002.

Question: I am going to read you a list of possible threats to the vital interests of (your country) in the next ten years. For each one, please tell me if you see this as...?



Source: Market & Opinion Research International in Europe, Harris Interactive in the United States for the German Marshall Fund and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, summer 2002.

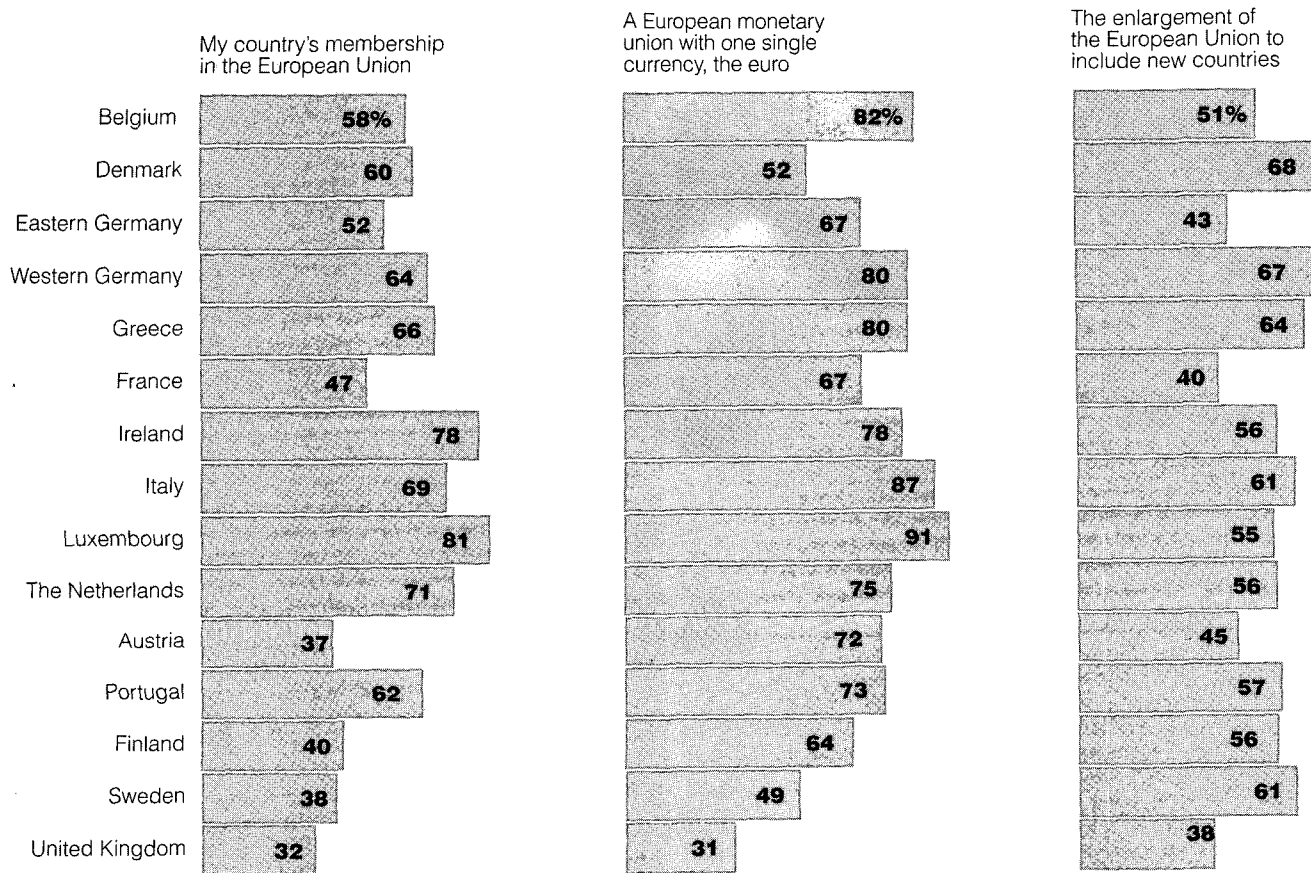
Question: From your point of view, how desirable is ...?



Europe on Europe

Europeans differ about whether membership in the European Union is a plus for their country. They differ on the single currency and on whether the E.U. should be expanded to include new countries. When asked specifically about expanding NATO to include former Eastern European countries and Russia, majorities agree. Most people thought the introduction of the euro went smoothly, and it made them feel more like Europeans.

Question: Generally speaking, do you support...?



Source: European Commission, Eurobarometer, spring 2002.

In the German Marshall Fund/Chicago Council of Foreign Relations 2002 survey, 53 percent of Europeans surveyed favored expansion of NATO to include Romania; 57 percent, Slovakia; 55 percent Bulgaria; 56 percent, Slovenia; 61 percent, the Baltic States; and 60 percent, Russia. More than 60 percent in all the countries surveyed said that NATO was "still essential" to their country's security. Fifty-six percent of those surveyed in the United States agreed.

Question: Do you think that, generally speaking, here in (my country)...?

The introduction of euro notes and coins went very/fairly well in my country

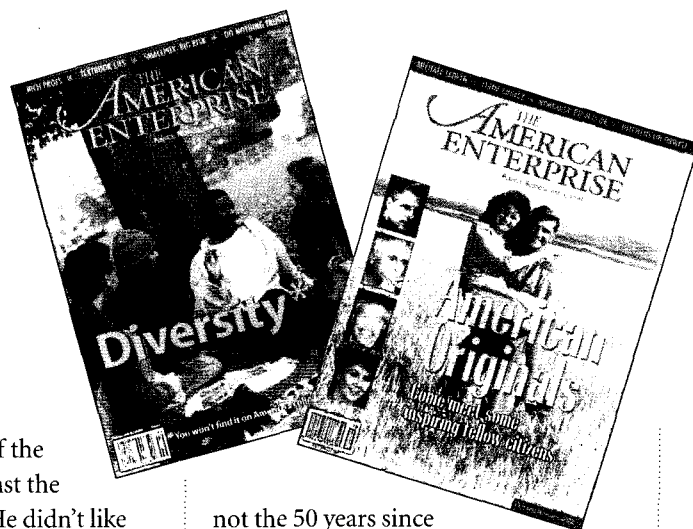
82%

Question: Could you tell me for the following sentence, if you ...?

Agree, by using euros instead of my national currency, we feel a bit more European than before

60%

Source: European Commission, Eurobarometer, spring 2002.



I enjoyed Michael Ledeen's excellent and thoughtful piece on Bobby Knight ("The Real Bobby Knight," October/November). Ledeen's depiction of Knight captures his character and personality far more accurately than do the mainstream media. One point that Ledeen drives home is that Knight's staunchest critics hardly ever apply the same criticisms to any other coach.

Purdue University coach Gene Keady, for example, is notorious for leaping from his chair, tossing his jacket on the court, and working himself into a state of rage that few coaches ever exhibit. But Knight, unlike most coaches, is politically controversial. That explains why Knight's critics have hounded him relentlessly while remaining silent about his colleagues.

Kevin Lamb
Managing Editor, Human Events

I am appalled by Michael Ledeen's preposterous claim that Bobby Knight was "subjected to a 'Borking' as harsh and unfair as that experienced by any political figure in America," and that his downfall was the result of his unwillingness to kowtow to journalists or "political correctness." Journalists and the politically correct Left commit plenty of sins, but let's save such rhetoric for the real ones. It is true that Bobby Knight's virtues are considerable. But his own flaws brought him down.

Knight compiled a three-decade record of repeated failures to show the maturity and sportsmanship his position demands. For me his worst abuse was

when he took his team off the floor during a game against the Russian National Team. He didn't like the officiating, so he preferred to forfeit the game. This gave Indiana University's student body an unforgettable lesson in sportsmanship.

James W. Fox
Fairfax, Virginia

Scott Gottlieb advocates the right of private individuals to be vaccinated against smallpox (SCAN, "Smallpox, Big Risk," September). The government currently prohibits this. He is wrong and the government right.

The problem with live virus vaccines—the only kind we have for smallpox right now—is that recipients not only accept a risk to themselves, but impose the risk on others. Some of them will get sick and could spread the infection. True, the rate of contagion from smallpox vaccine is low: Of every million people who get the vaccine, only about 30 would become contagious. Nevertheless, given the potentially serious consequences, the government is correct in prohibiting individuals from receiving the vaccine.

Peter Borregard
Berkeley, California

In the October/November OPINION PULSE Karlyn Bowman writes that "Divided control of government in Washington has been the rule for most of the past 50 years." This is misleading. The reality is, divided control has benefited one side disproportionately.

To begin with, the proper watershed is

not the 50 years since Eisenhower, but the 70 years since Franklin Roosevelt established the modern Democratic Party. Since then, Democrats have had undivided control of the government for 32 years, while Republicans have had such control for only three.

The rest of the time, we have generally had Democratic control of the legislature under Republican Presidents. There have not been four consecutive years with a Republican President, House, and Senate since 1930.

Two cheers for four years of completely Republican government before another 72 years go by.

Norman Henry
Colchester, Vermont

Blake Hurst's "Calamity in Klamath" (October/November) is an excellent account of the plight of the westerners who settled on what was once government land. (In that part of the country, what wasn't?) The West's environmental problems stem from radical environmentalists and the bureaucrats at the Fish and Wildlife Service.

These groups simply want to return all the land to the government. People like the farmers in Klamath are getting better organized to fight, but thanks to various radical groups they are still getting picked off one at a time throughout the West.

Toby Elster
Wichita, Kansas