



COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

GLOBAL STRATEGIES TO COMBAT EXTREMISM

**Research Highlights
U.S. & European Surveys
August-September 2014**

Confidential & Proprietary

Overview

- Key Takeaways
- Most Important Issues
- Views of Islamic Extremism, the Middle East, & U.S. Impact
- Groups & Countries that Pose the Greatest Threats to National Security
- ISIS
- Methodology

Key Takeaways

Islamic extremism & ISIS are seen as the greatest threat to national security

- Islamic extremism is seen as the greatest threat to national security in the U.S. & Europe
 - It has doubled in the U.S. from 13% to 26% as the top threat
 - Seen as top threat by Republicans, Independents, and Opinion Leaders. Second among Democrats
 - Concern jumped 15% in Europe from 41% in June to 56% in September
- ISIS is now seen as a direct threat to the U.S.
 - 82% of Americans see ISIS as a direct threat to the U.S.
 - Taliban ranks slightly behind at 79%
 - Hamas is ranked at 55% and Boko Haram at 35%
- Iraq & Syria have grown as a perceived threat since May in U.S.
 - Iraq jumped from 70% to 76%
 - Syria jumped from 65% to 72%

Key Takeaways

Terrorism & Foreign Policy poll numbers have increased since May

- Nearly twice as many Americans & Europeans believe terrorism is the most important issue today
 - Polls increased from 5% to 10% from May to August in the U.S.
 - Distinct differences can be shown among Republicans and Democrats
 - Polls nearly doubled from 4% to 9% from June to September in Europe
- Foreign policy issues rose rapidly as the most important issue in the U.S. and Europe
 - Foreign policy issues nearly tripled in the U.S. (3% to 8%) from May to August
 - Foreign policy issues in Europe jumped from 1% to 6% from June to September
- Economic issues, healthcare, and education remain top of mind among voters across Europe and the U.S.

Key Takeaways

American views on action against ISIS

- Americans display war mentality toward ISIS
- U.S. voters support recent military strikes on ISIS; plurality would like to see more:
 - 67% voters support more military action; 22% oppose
 - 80% of Opinion Leaders support more military action; 13% oppose
 - Support is across the board: 78% Republicans; 66% Independents; and 60% Democrats
- Majority of voters think we should do more or at least maintain the current course in fighting ISIS; small minority think we should do less:
 - 40% want more military action
 - 34% want to stay the course
 - 16% want less

Key Takeaways

American views on action against Islamic extremism

- In May, a plurality believed fighting Islamic extremism should be a top priority. In August, it moved to where a majority believe it should be a top priority
 - 51% say it should be a top priority, which is up from 45% in May
 - This is driven by Republican voters, where 66% support this belief
- In May, a plurality of people said the U.S. is spending too much time fighting Islamic extremism
- Today, a plurality believes that the U.S. spends too little time fighting Islamic extremism

Key Takeaways

European views on action against ISIS

- A majority of British, French, Dutch & Swedish voters support U.S. military engagement against ISIS
 - Spain & Germany oppose U.S. involvement
- Europeans are split over whether the U.S. & European allies should commit ground troops to target ISIS fighters
 - French, Swedish & Dutch voters are more likely to agree, whereas British & German voters are opposed
- Right-of-center voters support ground troops while left-of-center voters are more reluctant to agree


Key Takeaways

European views on action against Islamic extremism

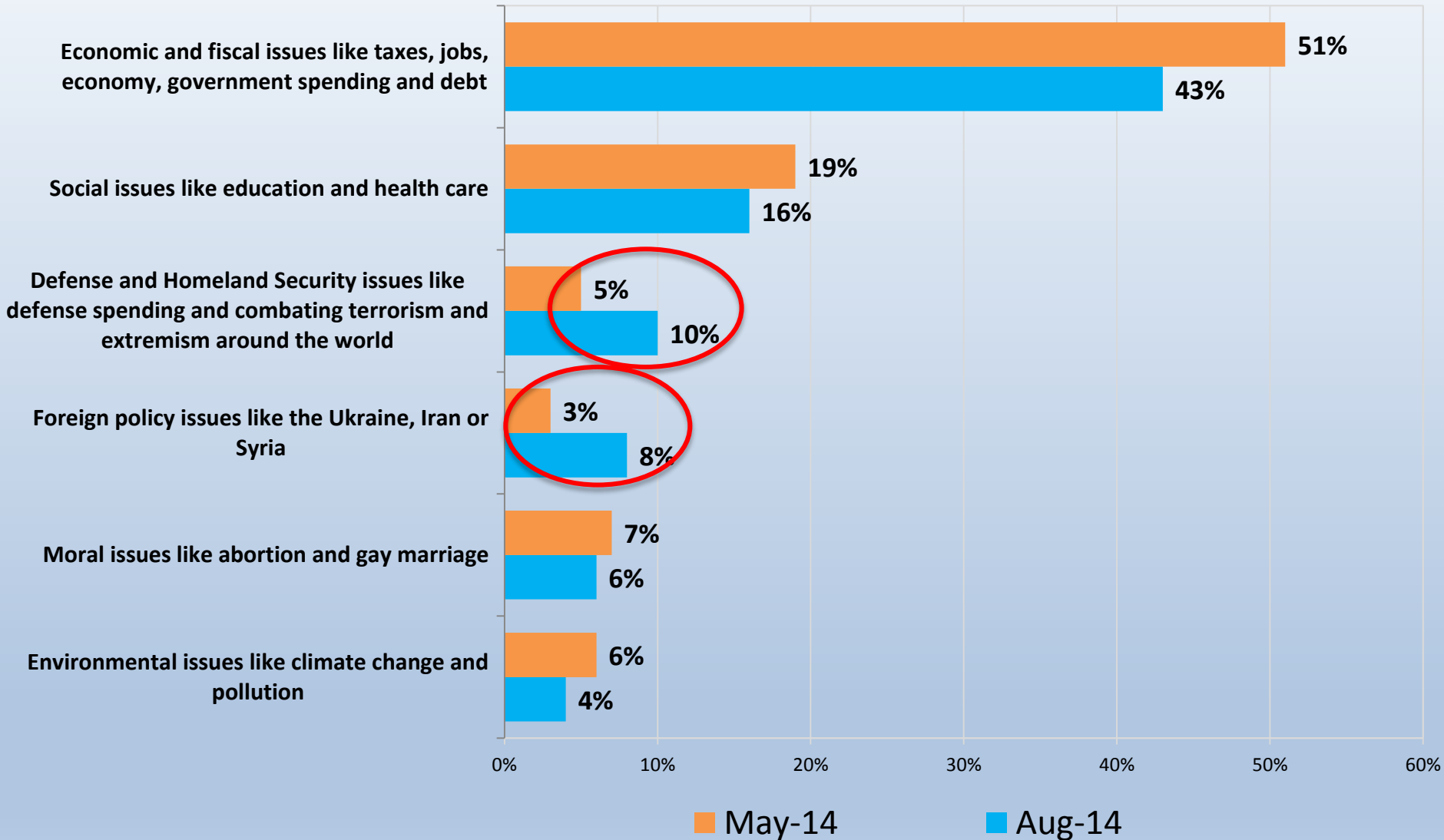
- Islamic extremism is increasingly seen as a serious threat to national security over the next ten years in all countries except Spain and Sweden
- Among all countries surveyed, support for military action as the “most effective approach to dealing with countries that allow Islamist extremism” doubled to 20 % compared to June
- 27% of European voters believe we do not spend enough time reducing the threat of Islamist extremism

Most Important Issue
U.S. Polls

Most Important Issue

 Emphasis

Importance of Defense and Foreign Policy issues has clearly increased, but they remain fourth tier issues



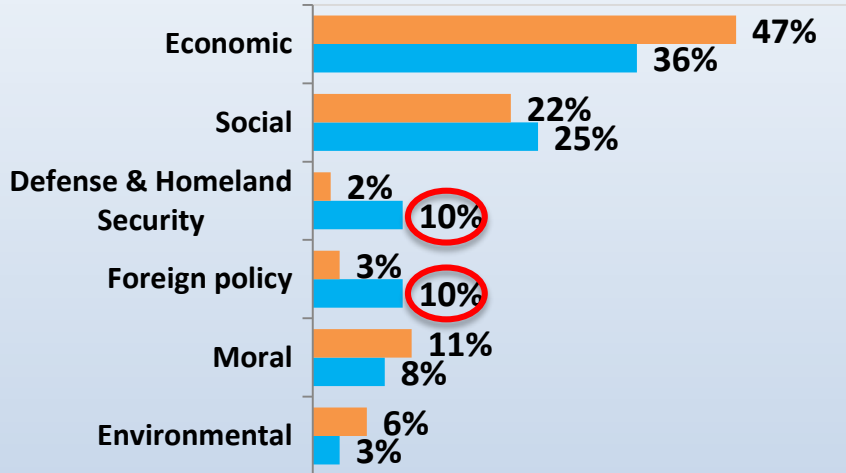
Q3. Thinking about over the next year or so, which of the following issue groups is MOST important for our country to address?

Most Important Issue

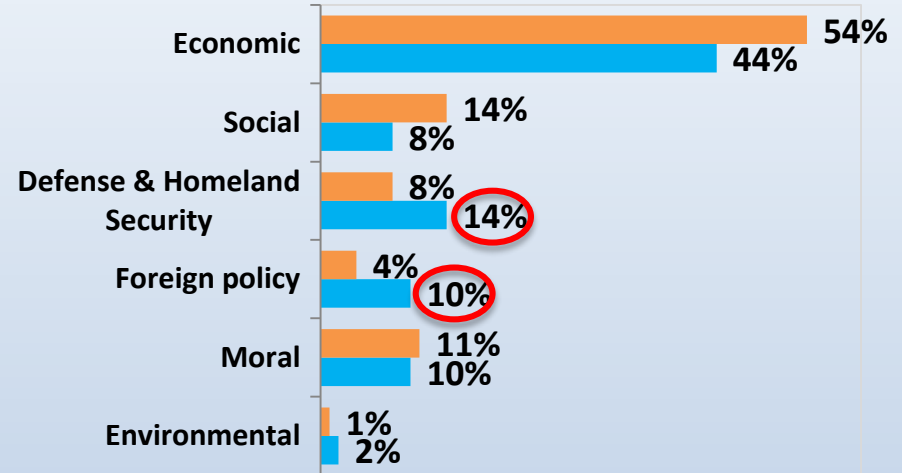
 Emphasis

Defense/Foreign Policy increased among partisans and Opinion Leaders. Republicans and Opinion Leaders are still most likely to cite these issues as most important.

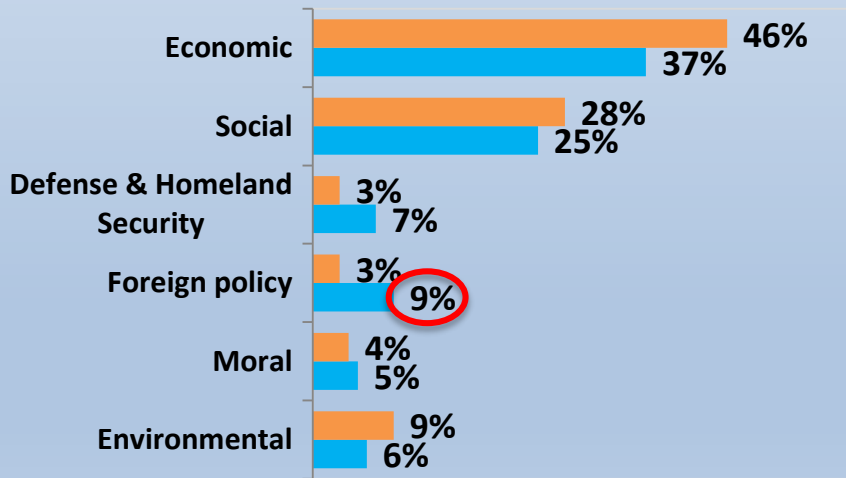
Opinion Leaders



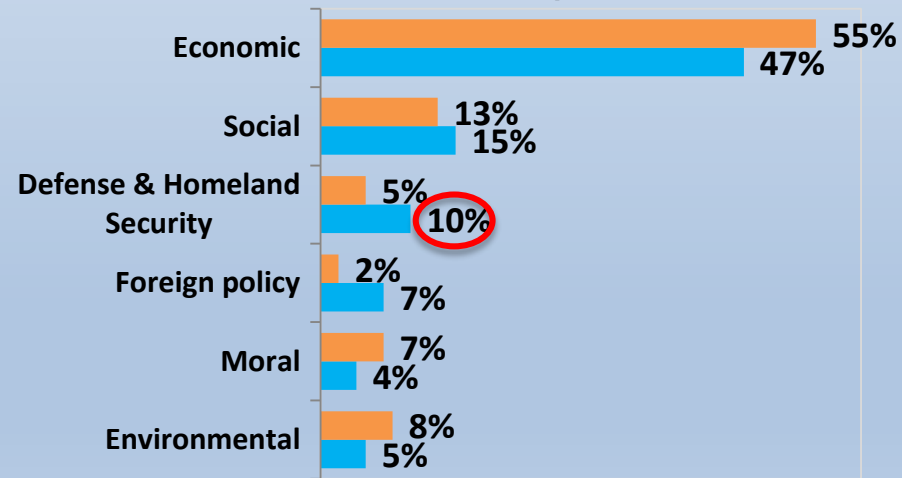
Republicans





Democrats



Independents



Q3. Thinking about over the next year or so, which of the following issue groups is MOST important for our country to address?

 May-14  Aug-14

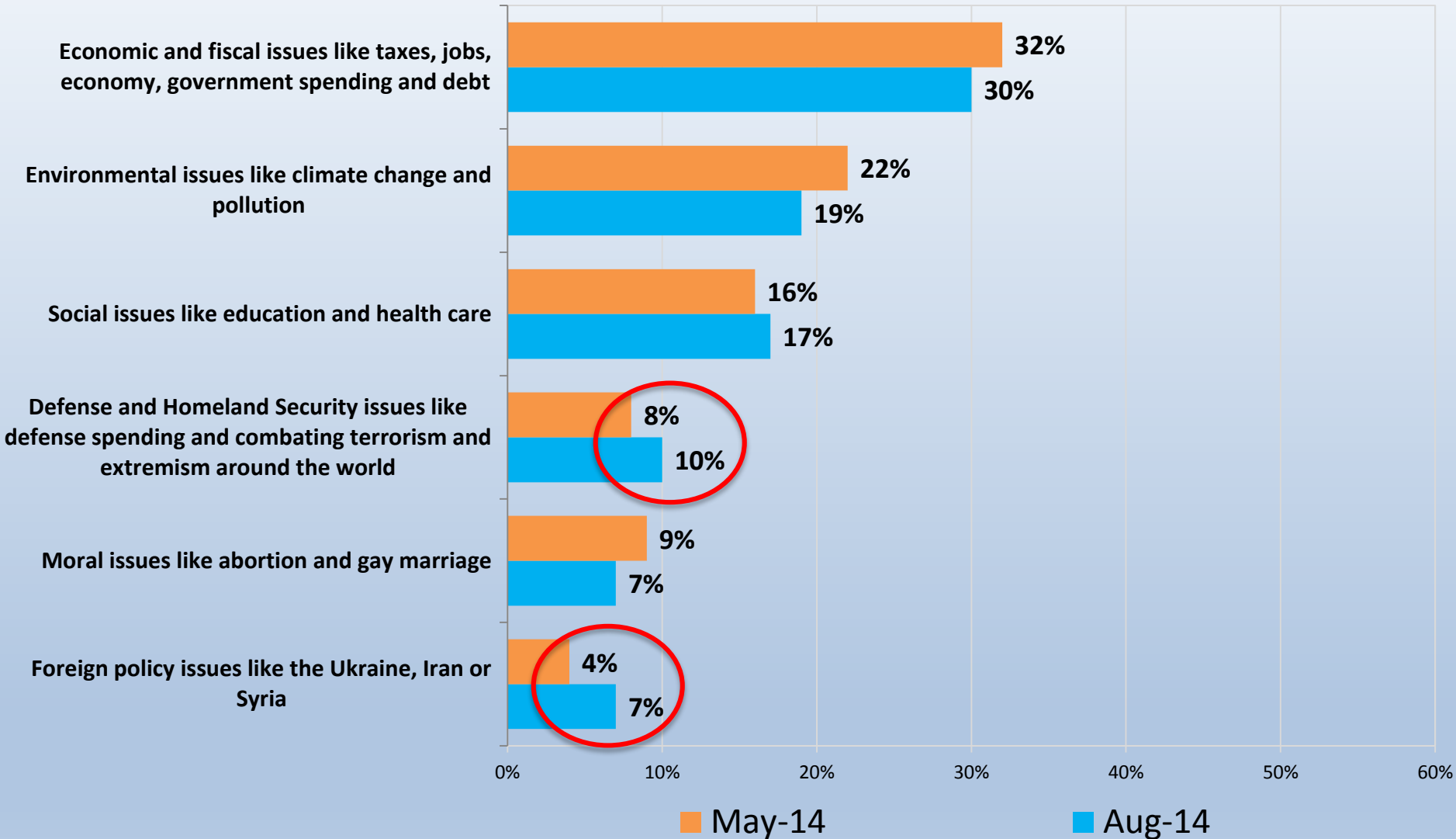
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Most Important Long Term Issue
U.S. Polls

Most Important Long Term Issue

 Emphasis

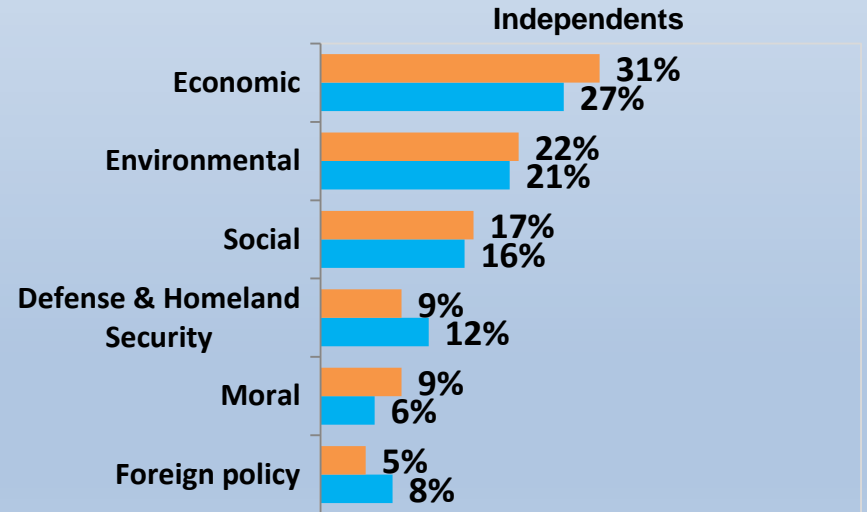
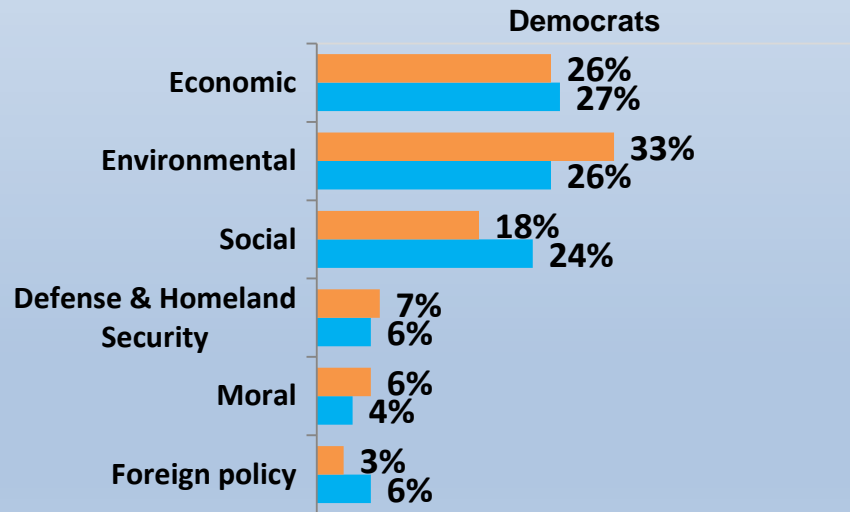
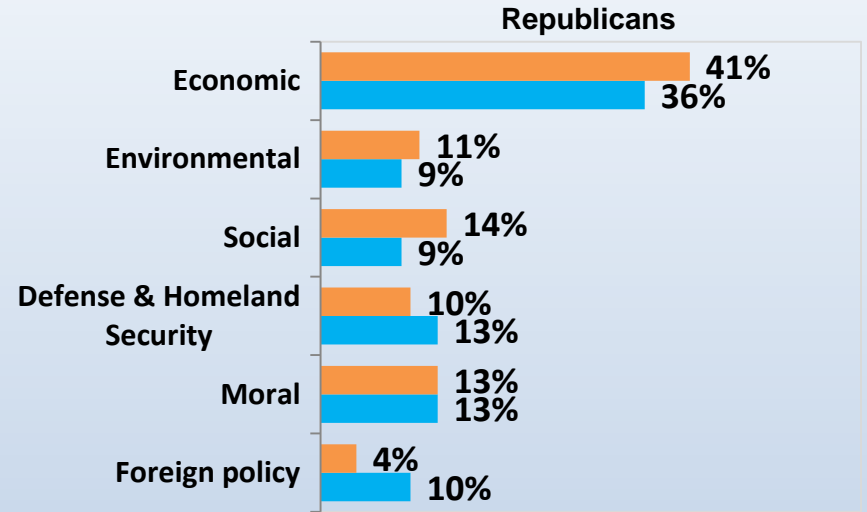
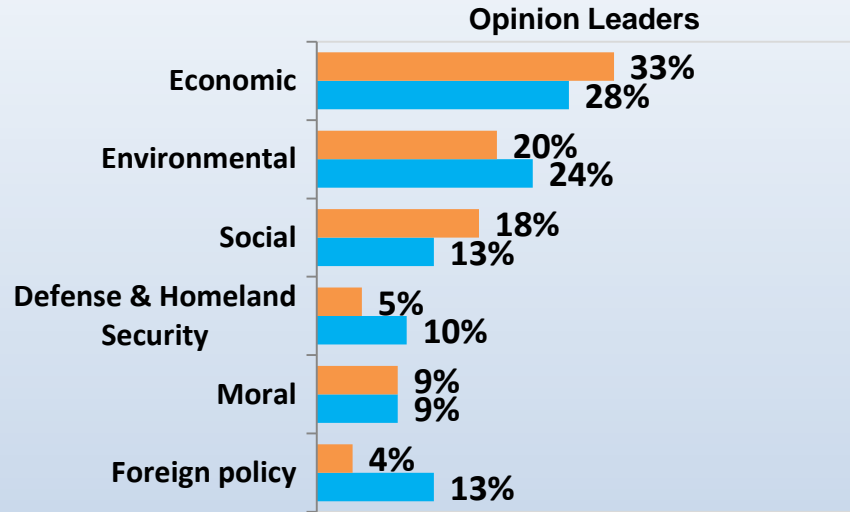
As a long term issue, Defense/Foreign Policy only marginally increases in importance



Q4. Now I want you to think more long-term – perhaps 50 or 100 years from now – and tell me which of the following issues groups will be MOST important for our country to address to preserve our way of life?

Most Important Long Term Issue

While GOP voters still rate Defense/Foreign Policy issues higher than Democrats, the growth in long term importance of these issues is more pronounced among Opinion Leaders



May-14 Aug-14

Q4. Now I want you to think more long-term – perhaps 50 or 100 years from now – and tell me which of the following issues groups will be MOST important for our country to address to preserve our way of life?

Most Important Issue

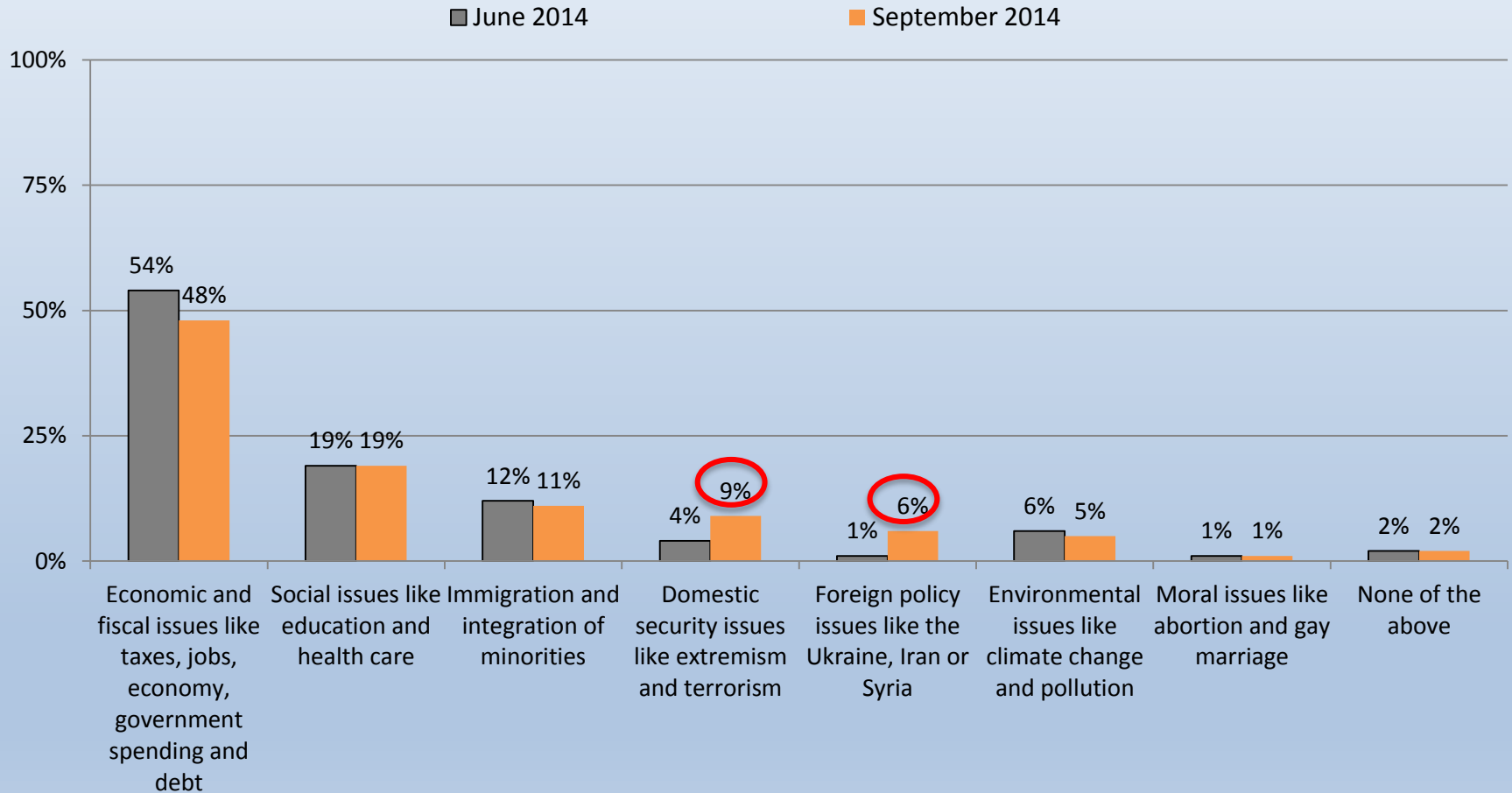
European Polls

Most Important Issue for Your Country to Address



[All Countries – Over Time]

As of June 2014, economic security and security issues are the most important issues for countries to address. However, the proportion mentioning domestic security issues or foreign policy issues has dramatically grown since June.

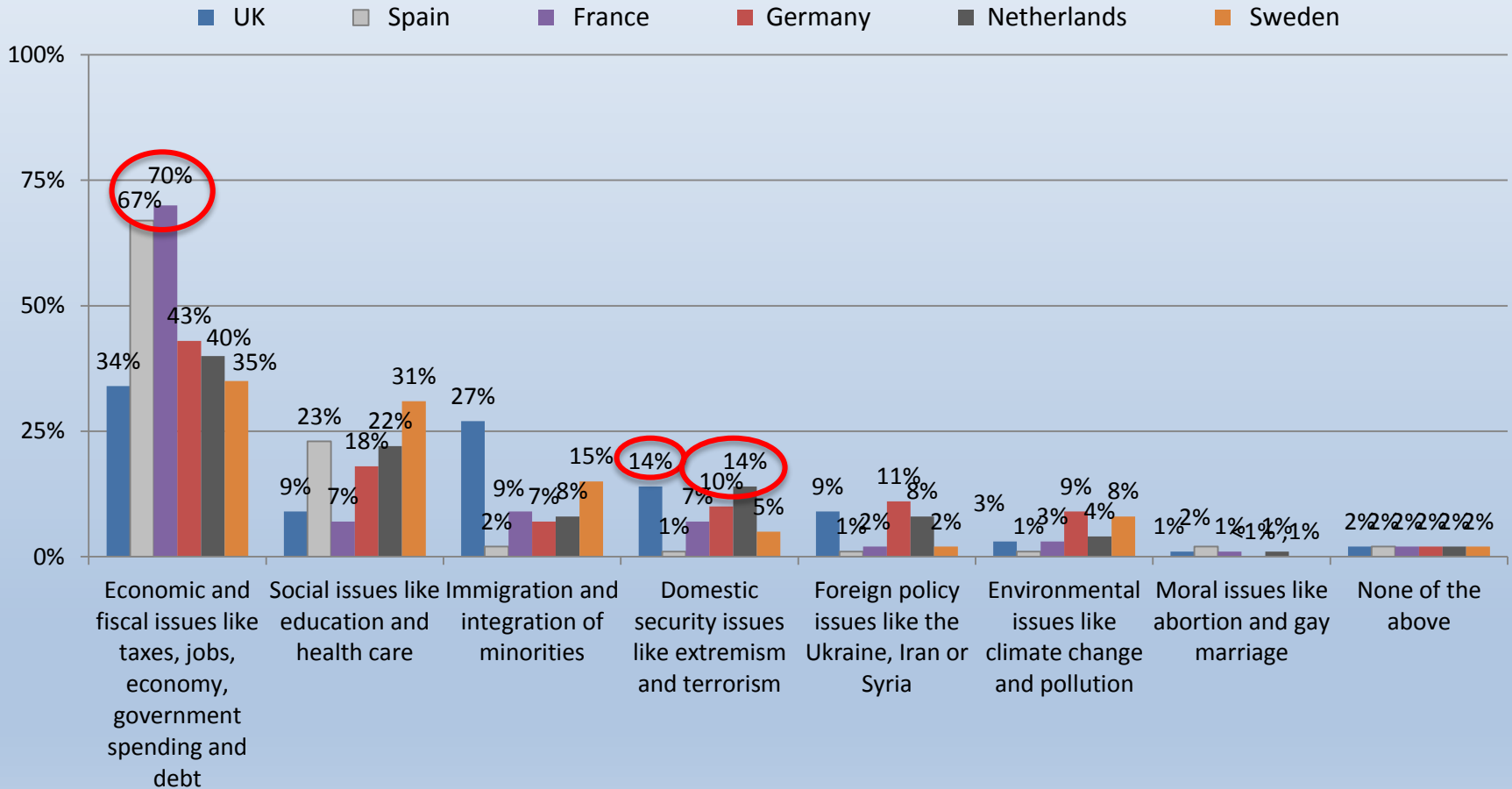


Q2. Thinking about the next year or so, which of the following issues is most important for our country to address?

Most Important Issue for Your Country to Address

 Emphasis

Economic issues remain the most important issue for countries to address, particularly for the French and Spanish. British, Germans and Dutch respondents are more likely than other countries to view domestic and foreign policy issues as important.

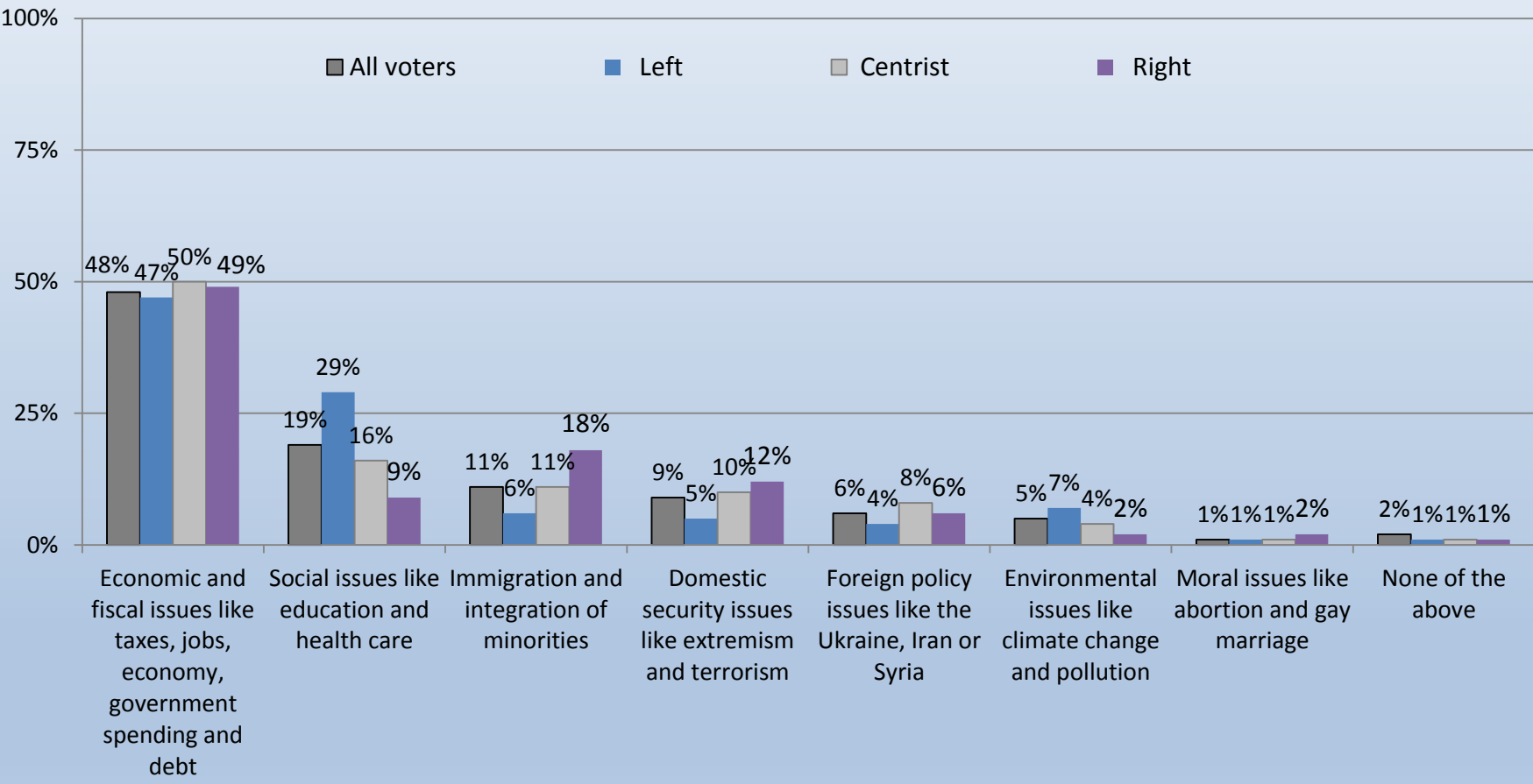


Q2. Thinking about the next year or so, which of the following issues is most important for our country to address?

Most Important Issue for Your Country to Address

[All – Countries – Political Spectrum]

When looking at public opinion by political affiliation, right-of-center voters are more likely to view immigration and domestic security issues as an important issue to address, while left-of-center voters are more likely to regard social issues as important.

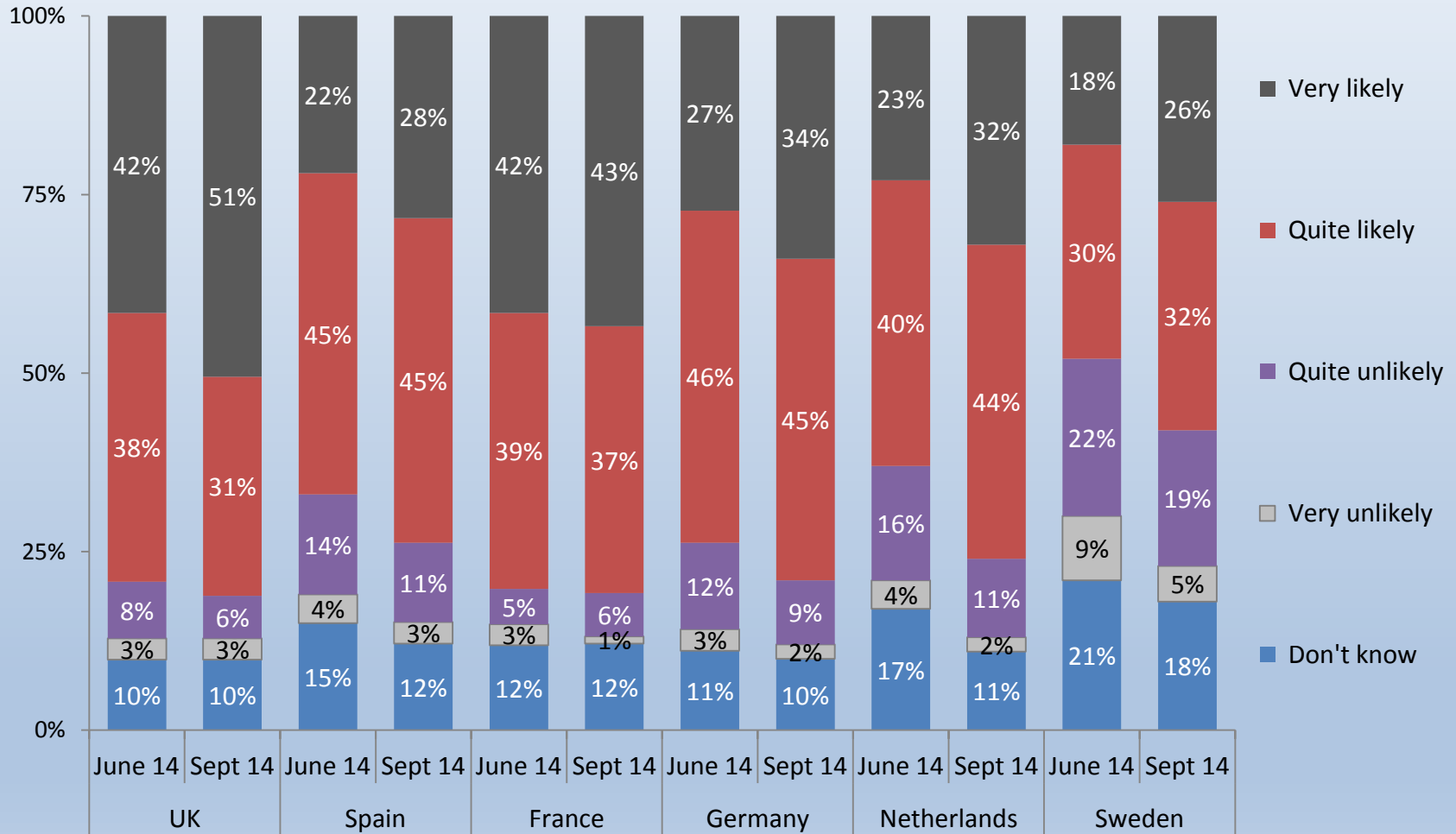


Q2. Thinking about the next year or so, which of the following issues is most important for our country to address?

Most Important Long Term Issue
European Polls

Likelihood of Islamist Extremism Being a Serious Threat Over the Next Ten Years [Over Time]

Islamic extremism is increasingly seen as a serious threat to national security over the next ten years in all countries except France.



Q20a. Based on what you know, how likely is it in your opinion that Islamist extremism will present a serious threat to our national security over the next ten years or so?

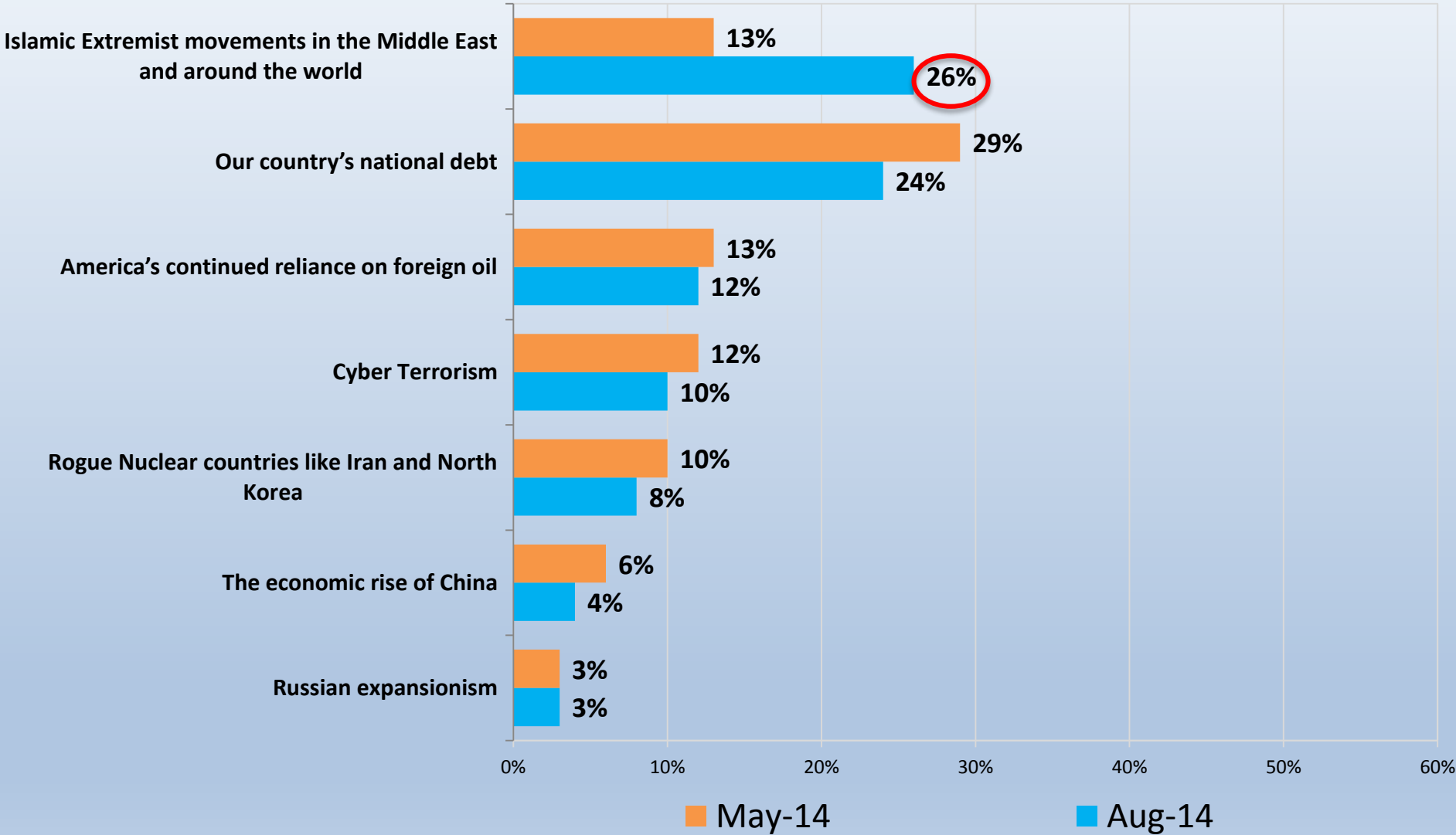
Views of Islamic Extremism, the Middle East, & U.S. Impact

U.S. Polls

Greatest Threat to National Security

 Emphasis

Twice as many voters cite Islamic extremism as the top national security threat we face as did in May. It is now the top threat, cited by 1 in 4 voters.



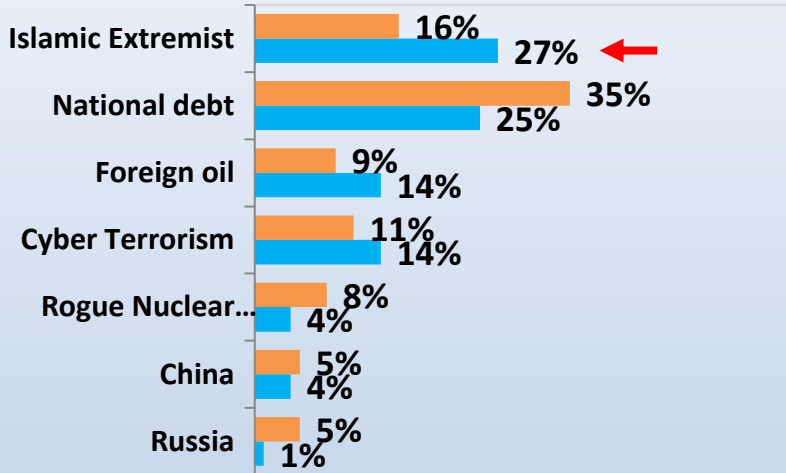
Q5. Regardless of which issue group is most important today or in the future, which of the following do you think presents the GREATEST threat to the U.S. national security today?

Greatest Threat to National Security

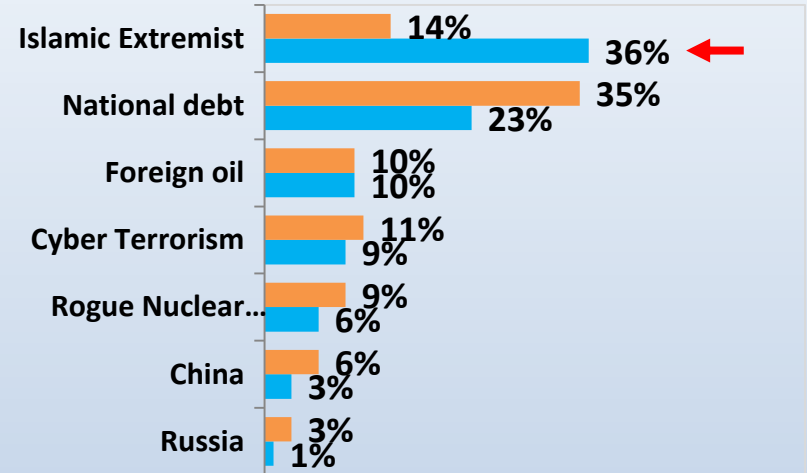
← Top Issue

Biggest growth in citing Islamic extremism as our top national security threat is among Republican voters. While the issue grew (doubled) among Democrats, it still trails the national debt as the top concern.

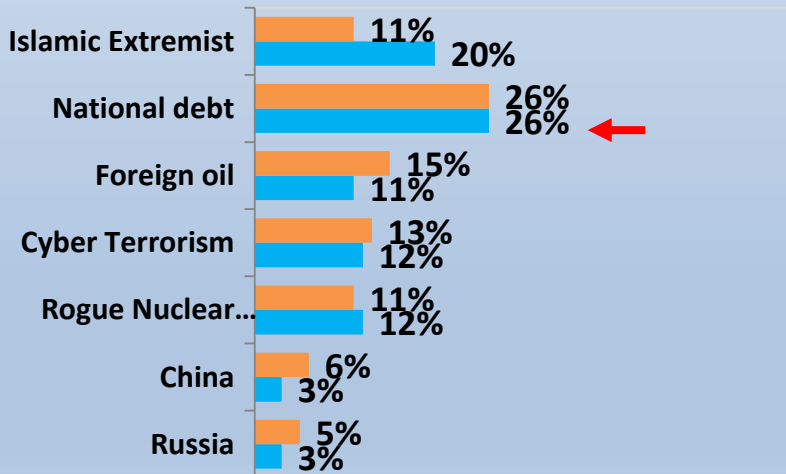
Opinion Leaders



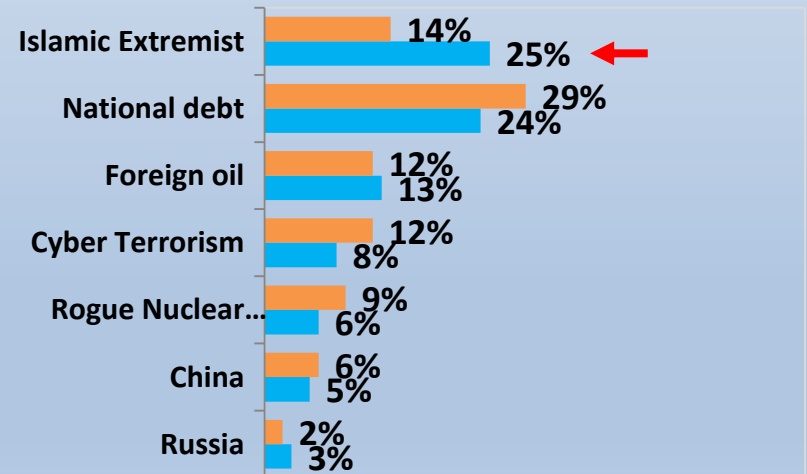
Republicans



Democrats



Independents



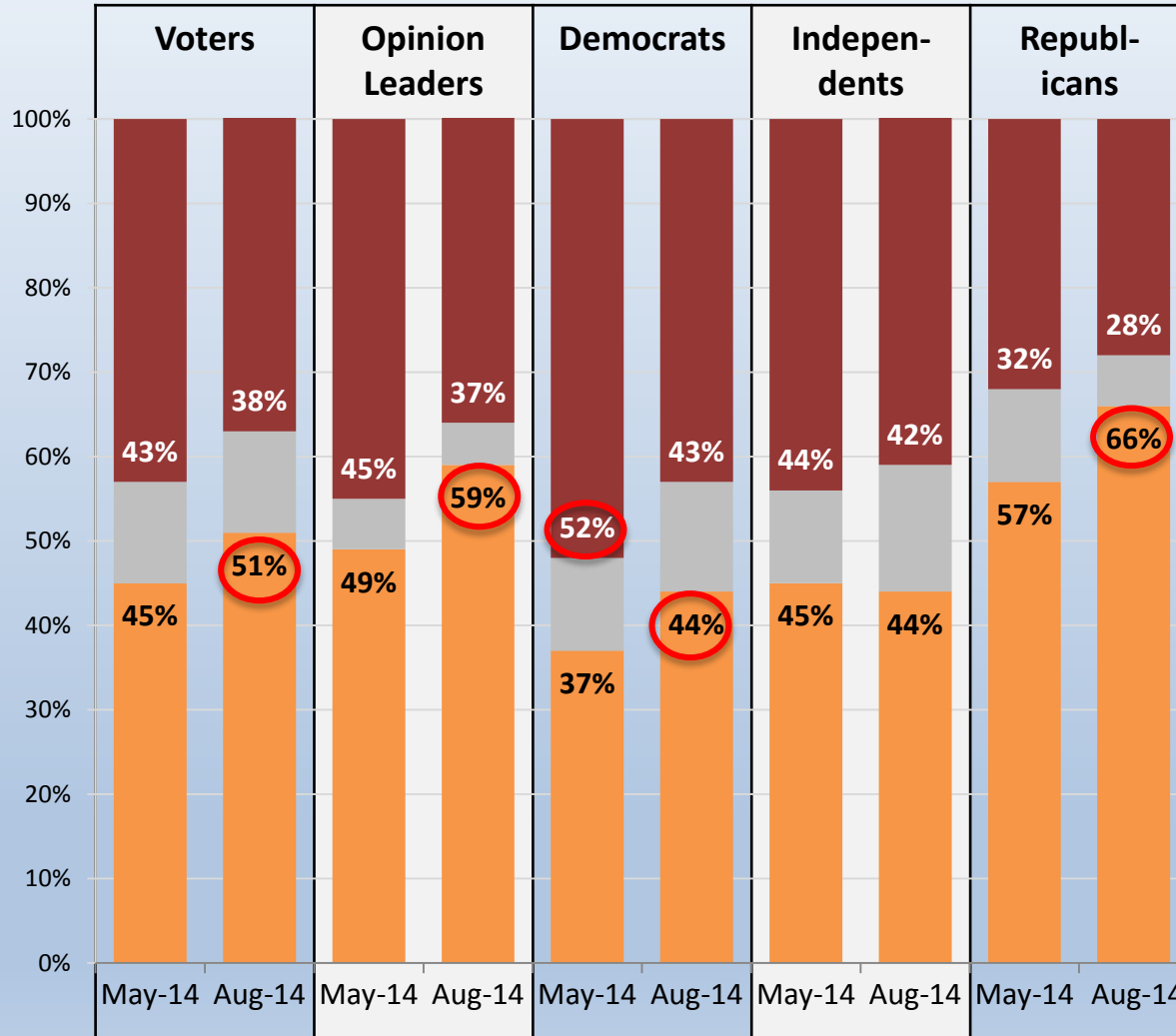
Q5. Regardless of which issue group is most important today or in the future, which of the following do you think presents the GREATEST threat to the U.S. national security today?

May-14 Aug-14

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Priority of Fighting Islamic Extremism

The view that fighting Islamic extremism should be a top priority in the U.S. has crystallized, moving from a slight plurality in May to a majority now. Movement on this issue is biggest among Opinion Leaders. While a majority of Democrats had sided against prioritizing a fight, a narrow plurality now are on the other side.



■ Opposing Islamic Extremism is certainly important for the U.S., but with all the other problems our country faces at home and abroad, fighting Islamic Extremism should NOT be a top priority.

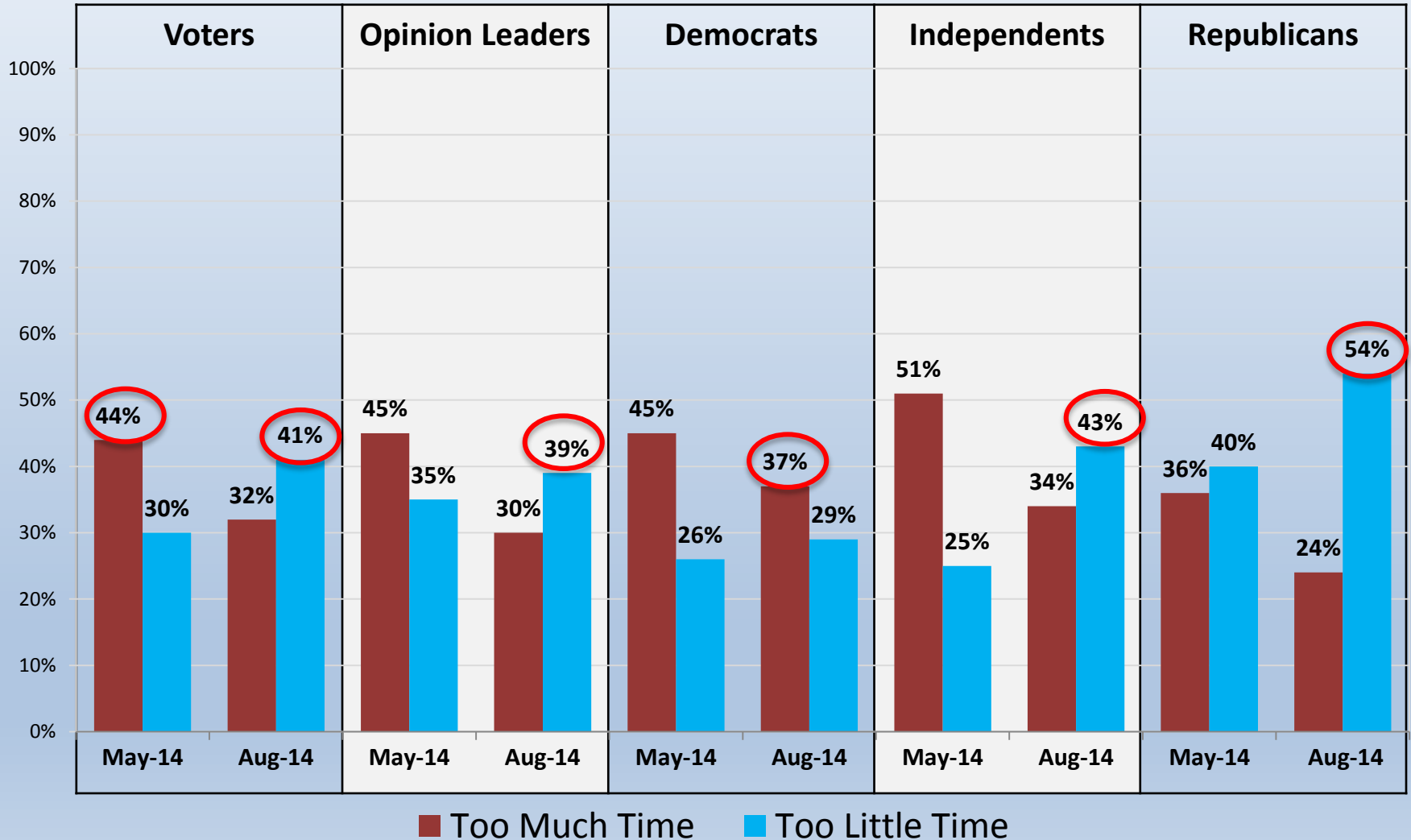
■ Fighting Islamic Extremism should be a top priority for the U.S. because its continued growth is dangerous, causes conflict and destabilizes the world economy.

Q31. Thinking some more about Islamic extremism and its impact on the U.S., please tell me which of the following statements comes CLOSEST to your opinion? (READ AND ROTATE STATEMENTS)

Time U.S. Spending on Reducing Extremism

 Emphasis

Sentiment about the amount of time the U.S. spends on Islamic extremism has changed course. Now a plurality of voters say the U.S. spends too little time on Islamic extremism, while in May a plurality stated the U.S. spends too much time on the issue. Democrats are the only party where a plurality continues to say the U.S. is spending too much time on the issue, while Republicans have grown to a majority that believe the U.S. is spending too little time on Islamic extremism.

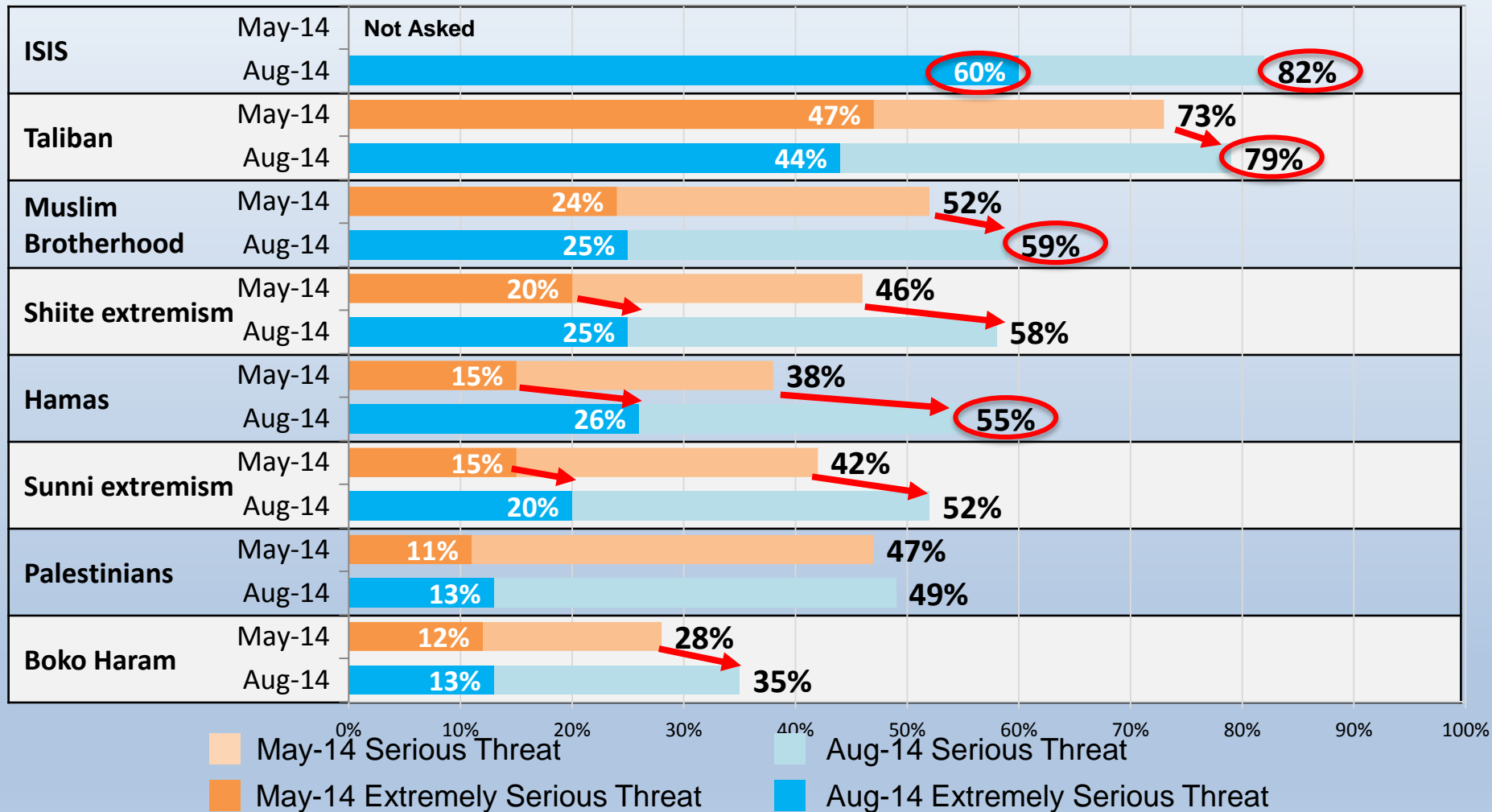


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Group Threat to U.S. Security

○ Emphasis ← Significant Movement

ISIS is seen as the group that poses the greatest threat to the U.S. followed by the Taliban, and then the Muslim Brotherhood as a distant third. ISIS is the only group that a majority see as an extremely serious threat. The number of voters viewing these entities as a threat grew for every group except the Palestinians. Hamas grew the most: a majority now views them as a threat. Hamas, Shiite, and Sunni grew in intensity as well.



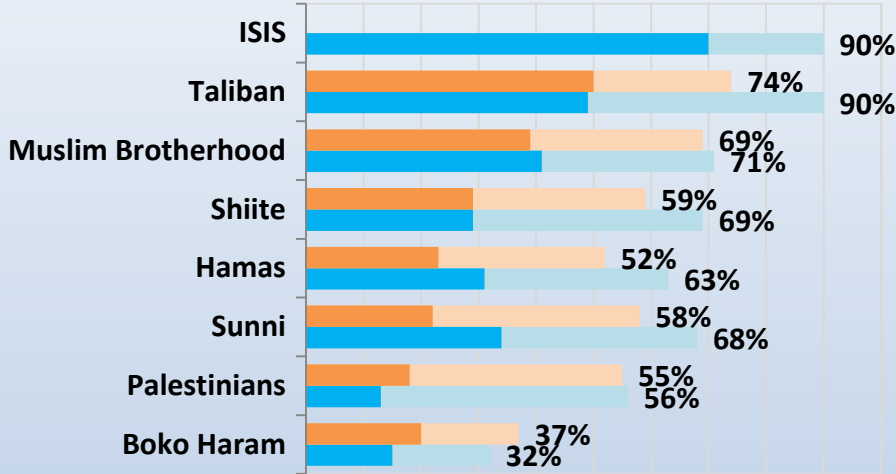
Q16-23. Now I want to discuss some specific groups that are in the Middle East and ask you, based on what you know, how serious a threat that group is to U.S. national security? Would you say (INSERT GROUP NAME) is an extremely serious threat to U.S. national security, a somewhat serious threat or not a threat to U.S. national security at all? If you don't know, just say so.

Group Threat to U.S. Security

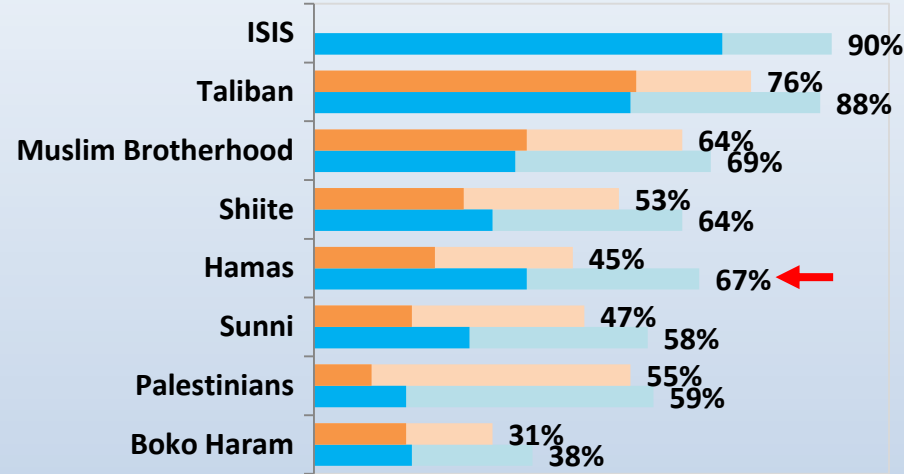
← Significant Movement

ISIS is the top threat to all groups. An increased number of Opinion Leaders now view the Taliban as a threat. While among Democrats the Muslim Brotherhood, Shiite and Sunni extremists, and Hamas are seen by more as being a threat. GOP voters increased their 'threat' rating for Hamas by 22 points.

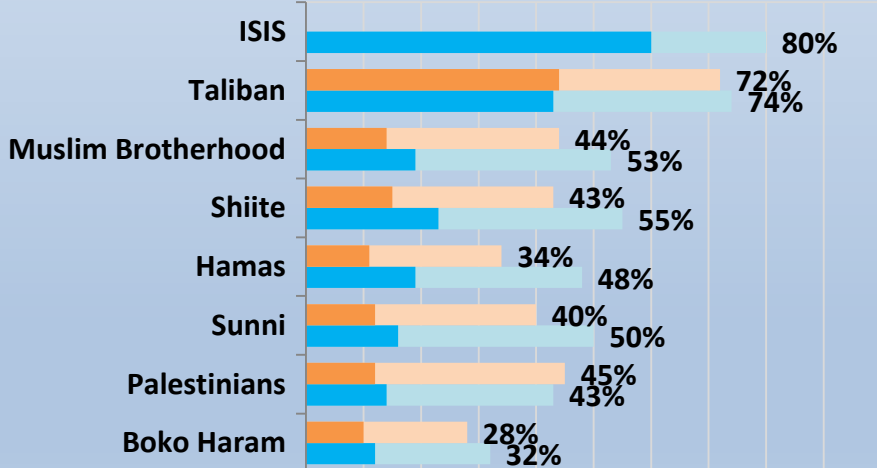
Opinion Leaders



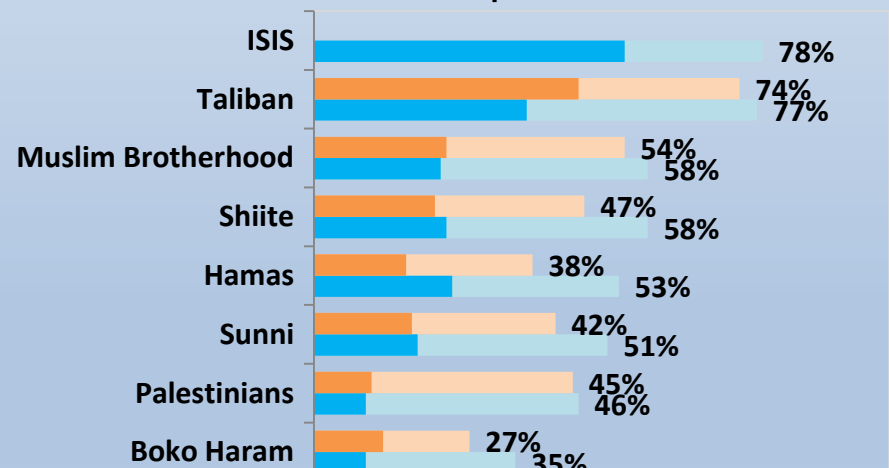
Republicans



Democrats



Independents



May-14 Serious Threat
 May-14 Extremely Serious Threat

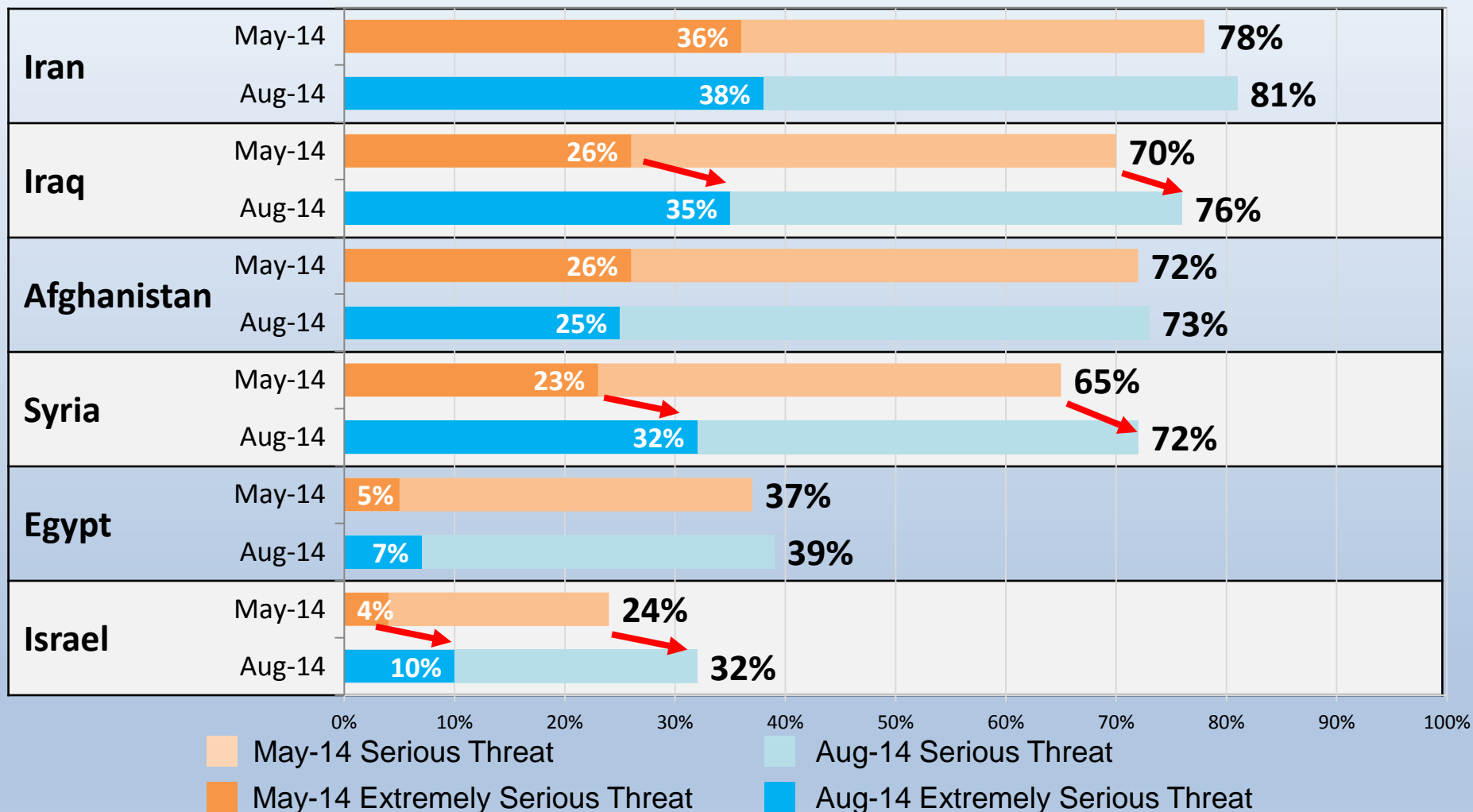
Aug-14 Serious Threat
 Aug-14 Extremely Serious Threat

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Country Threat to U.S. Security

← Significant Movement

While voters still see Iran as the country that poses the greatest threat to the U.S., threat ratings are up for all other countries except Egypt.



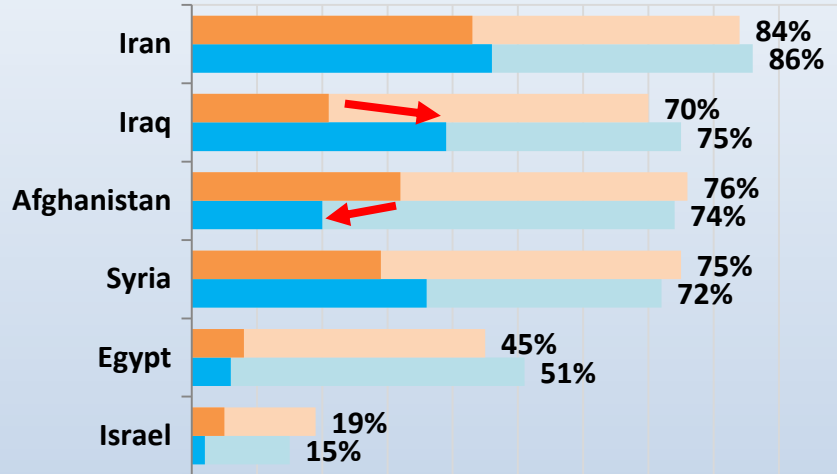
Q8-13. Now I want to focus a bit on several countries in the Middle East and ask you, based on what you know, whether that country is a threat to U.S. national security? Would you say (INSERT COUNTRY NAME) is an extremely serious threat to U.S. national security, a somewhat serious threat or not a threat to U.S. national security at all? If you don't know, just say so. (RANDOMIZE COUNTRIES)

Country Threat to U.S. Security

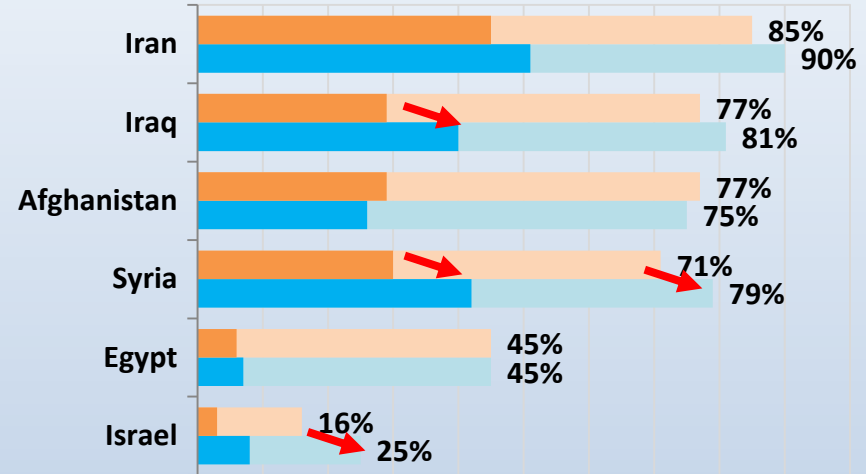
← Significant Movement

The intensity of an Iraq threat rose among all groups, while Syria is seen as a more intense threat among the parties. Among Opinion Leaders, Afghanistan is seen as less of an extreme threat. More Democrats and Republicans view Israel as a threat. An increased number of Democrats also say Iran is a threat now.

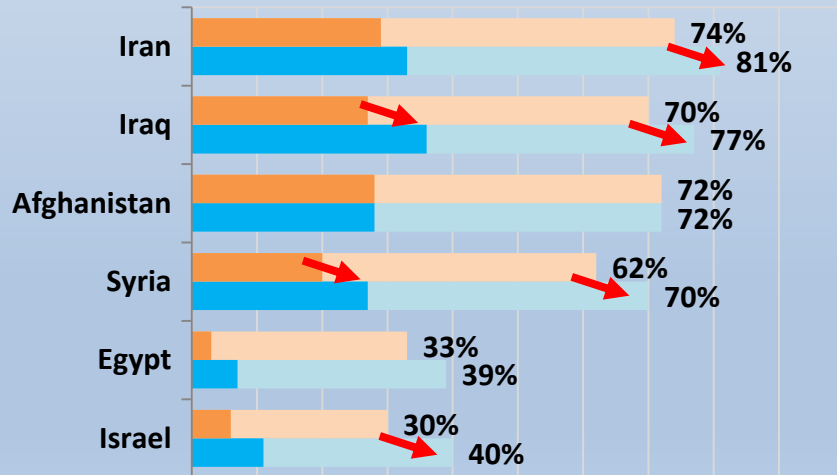
Opinion Leaders



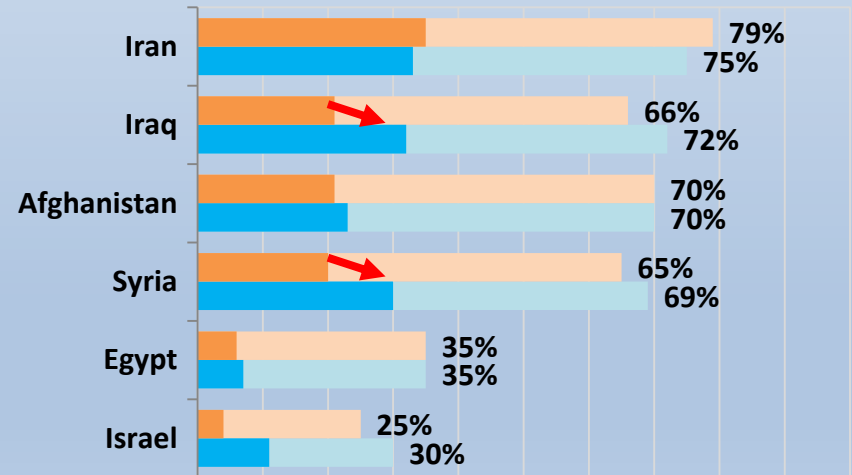
Republicans



Democrats



Independents



May-14 Serious Threat

May-14 Extremely Serious Threat

Aug-14 Serious Threat

Aug-14 Extremely Serious Threat

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Q8-13. ...based on what you know, whether that country is a threat to U.S. national security...

Greatest Threat to National Security

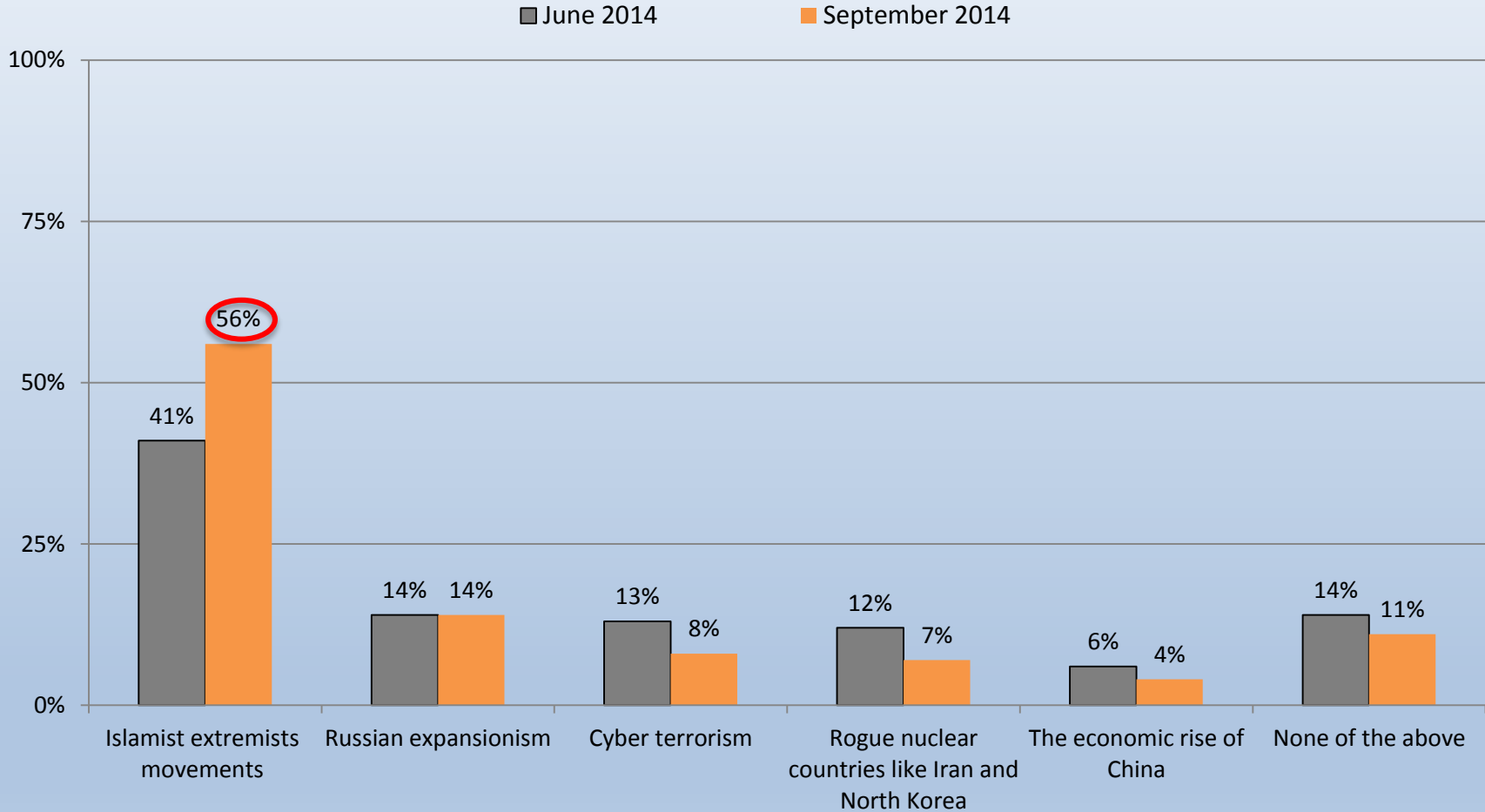
European Polls

Greatest Threat to the National Security of Your Country Today

[All Countries – Over Time]

 Emphasis


The perceived threat of Islam has increased dramatically since June 2014, while the threat of cyber terrorism, China and nuclear countries has dropped.

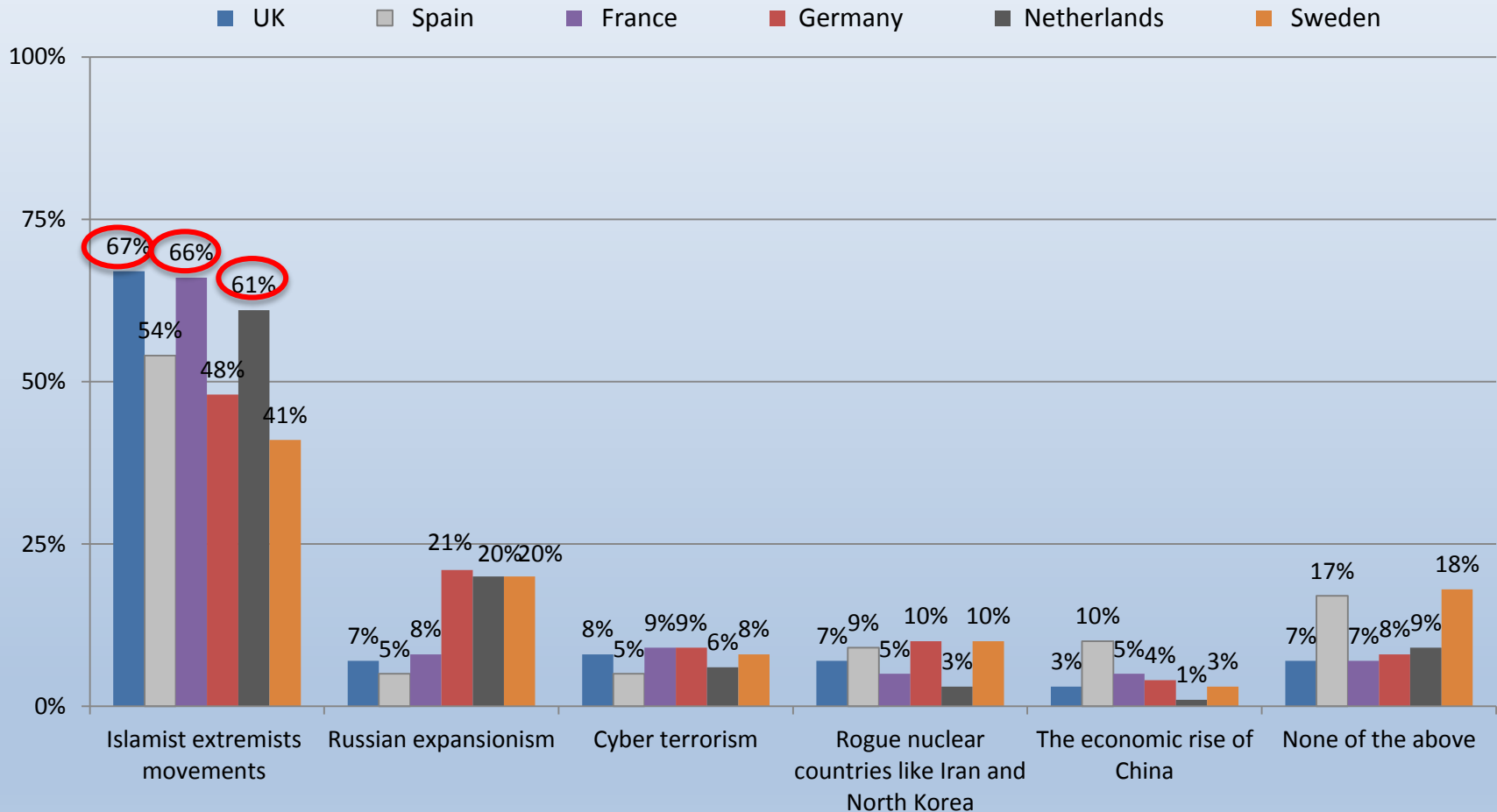


Q3. Regardless of which issues you think are most important, which of the following do you think presents the greatest threat to the national security of our country today?

Greatest Threat to the National Security of Your Country Today

All countries now see Islamist extremist movements as the greatest threats to their national security. The French, British and Dutch are most likely to view this as the greatest threat.

 Emphasis

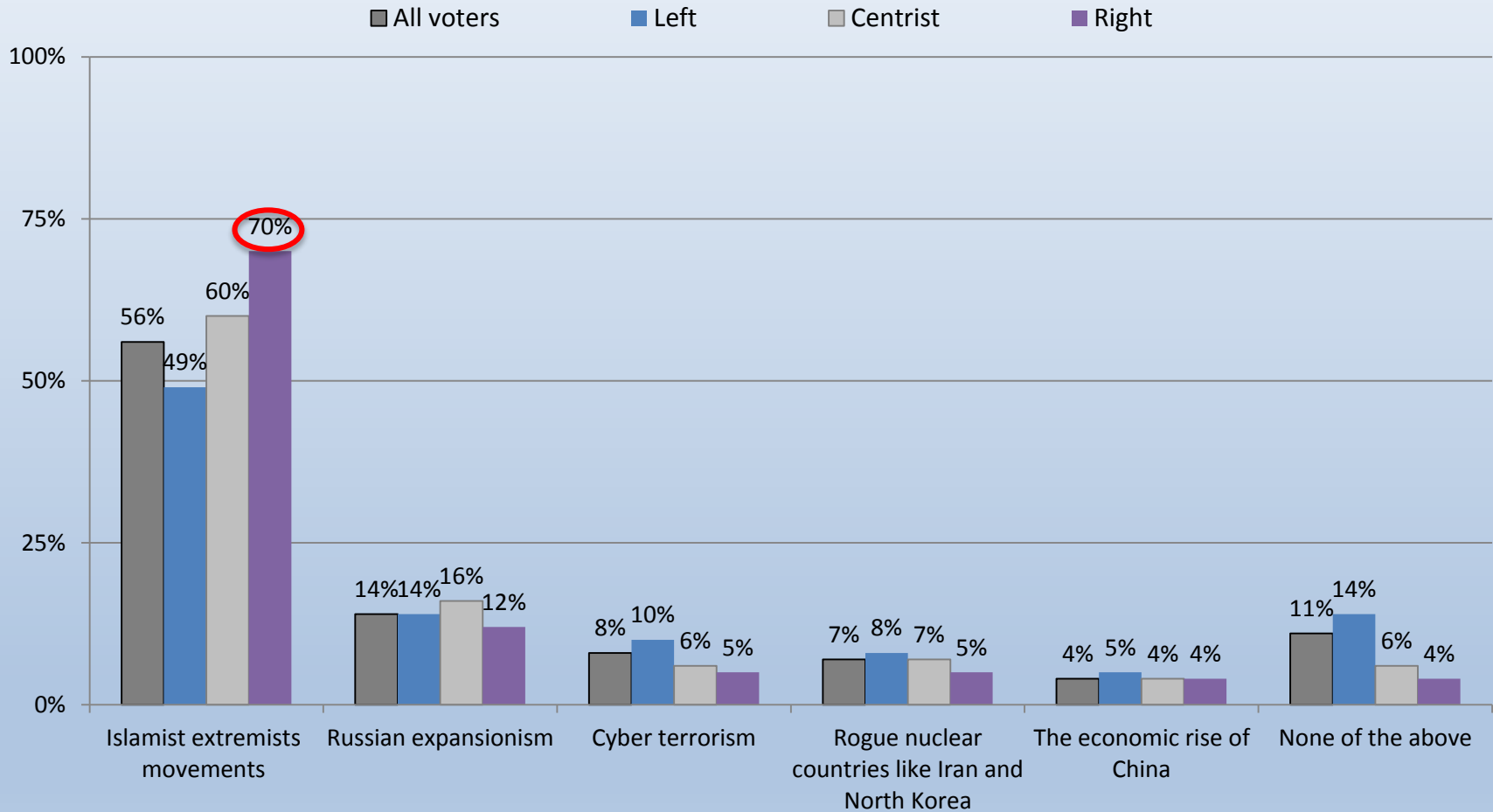


Q3. Regardless of which issues you think are most important, which of the following do you think presents the greatest threat to the national security of our country today?

Greatest Threat to the National Security [All Countries – Political Spectrum]

 Emphasis

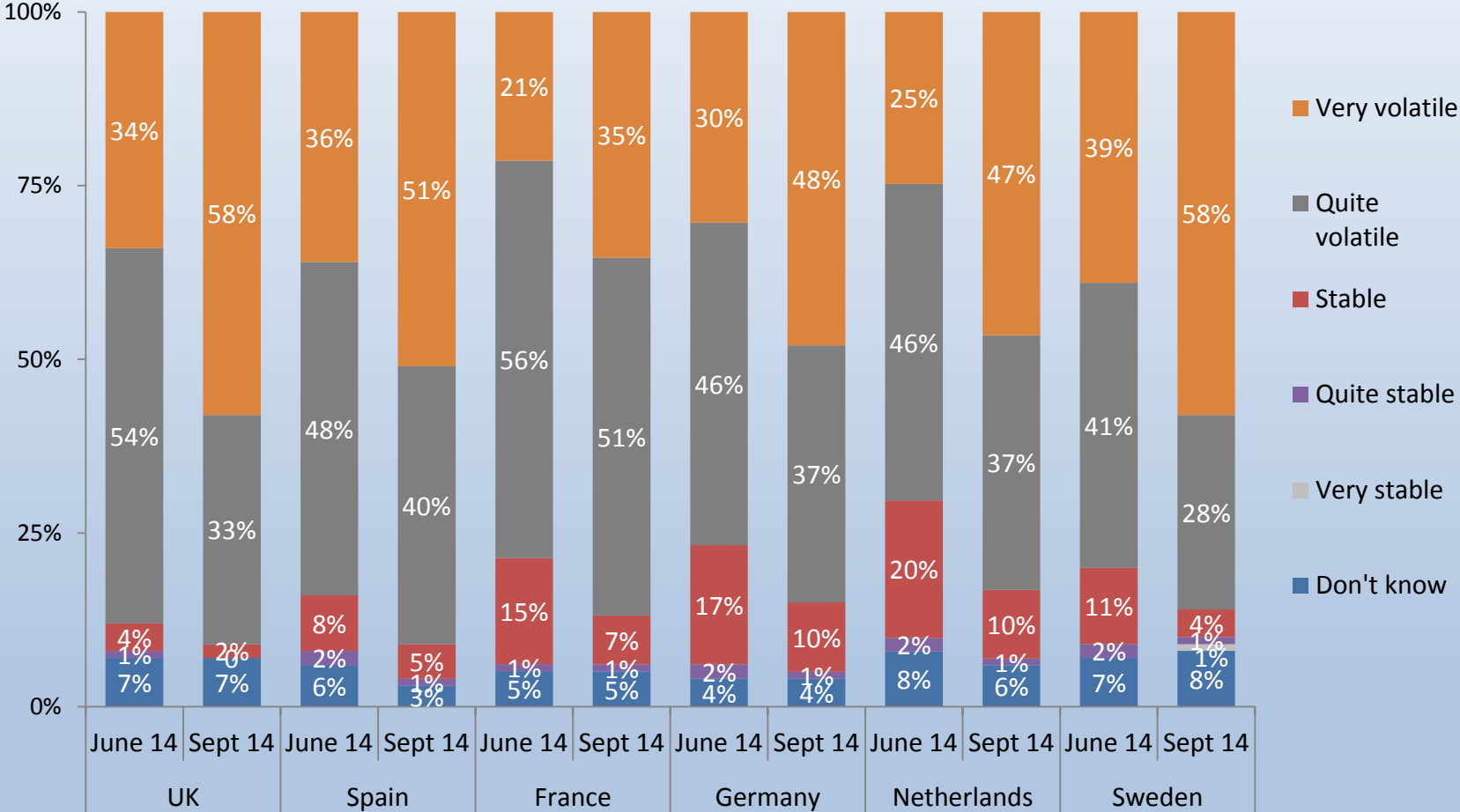
All voters view Islamist extremism as the greatest threat to the national security of their country. Right-of-center voters are more likely than those on the left to believe this is the case.



Q3. Regardless of which issues you think are most important, which of the following do you think presents the greatest threat to the national security of our country today?

Political Situation in the Middle East & North Africa [Over Time]

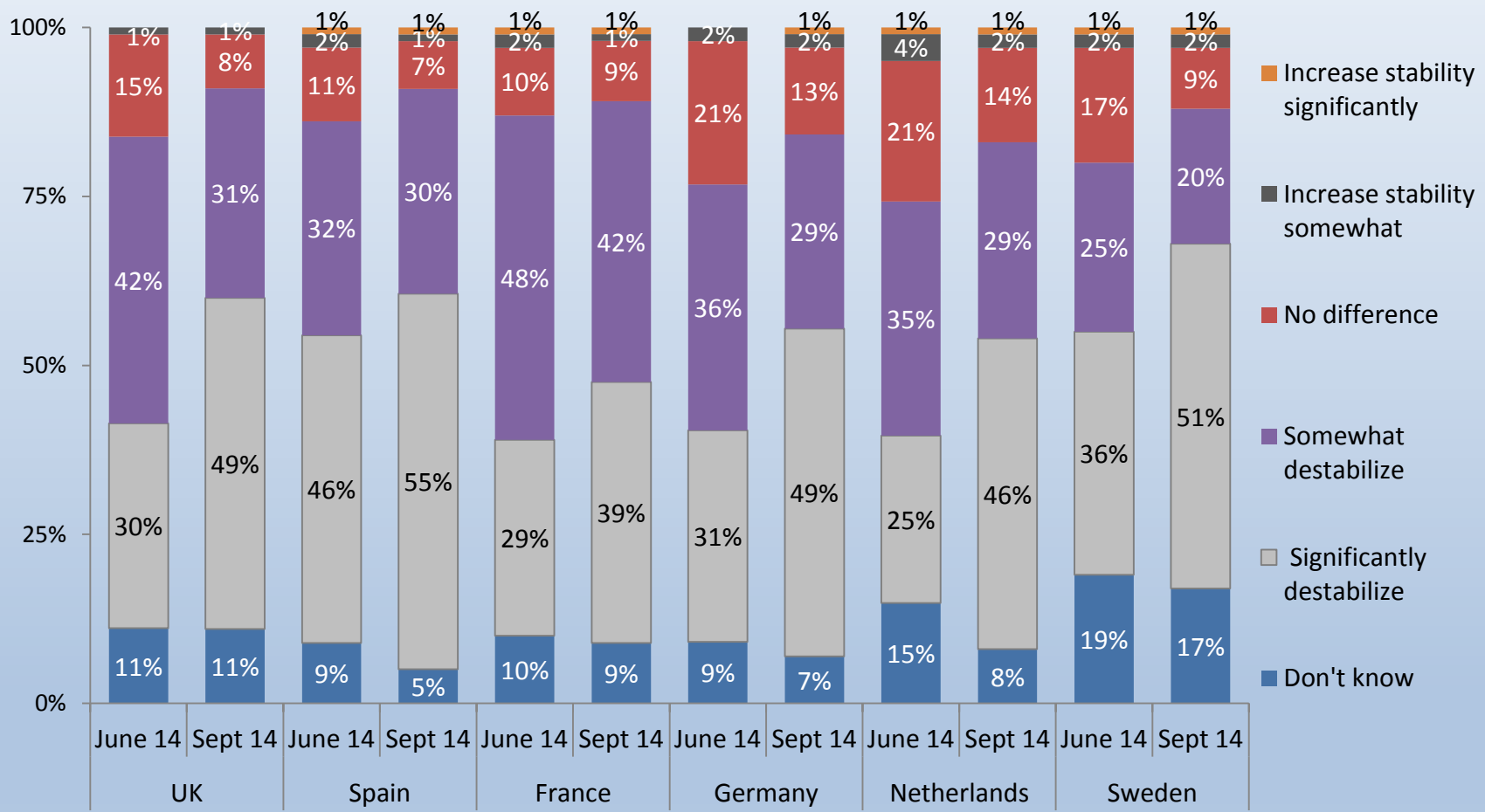
All countries have become much more likely to view the political situation in the Middle East and North Africa as “very” or “quite” volatile.*



* NB: question change between June and August 2014. June 2014 referred to only Middle East, September 2014 refers to both Middle East and North Africa Q4. Based on what you know, would you say that the political situation in the Middle East and North Africa is ...?

Impact of the Growth of Islamist Extremism in the Middle East on the Region [Over Time]

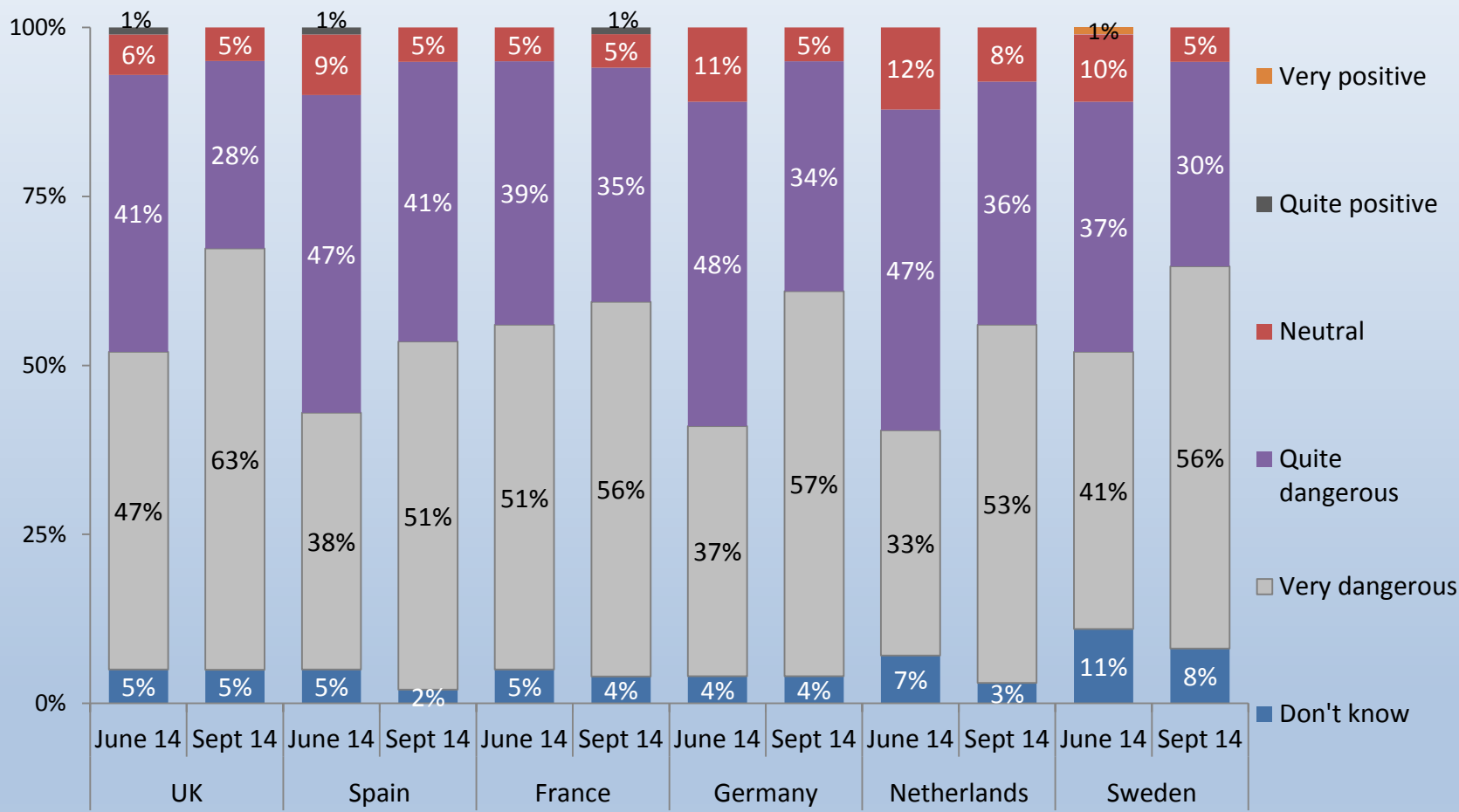
Versus June 2014, slightly more people in every country now believe that the growth of Islamist extremism in the Middle East and North Africa will destabilize the region.*



Q5. And based on what you know, to what extent do you think that the growth of Islamist extremism in the Middle East and North Africa will or will not destabilize the region – or do you think it will make no real difference?
 * NB question change between June and August 2014. June 2014 referred to only Middle East, September 2014 refers to both Middle East and North Africa

Attitude Towards Growth of Islamist Extremism in the Middle East and North Africa [Over Time]

All countries increasingly view Islamist extremism in the Middle East and North Africa as dangerous.



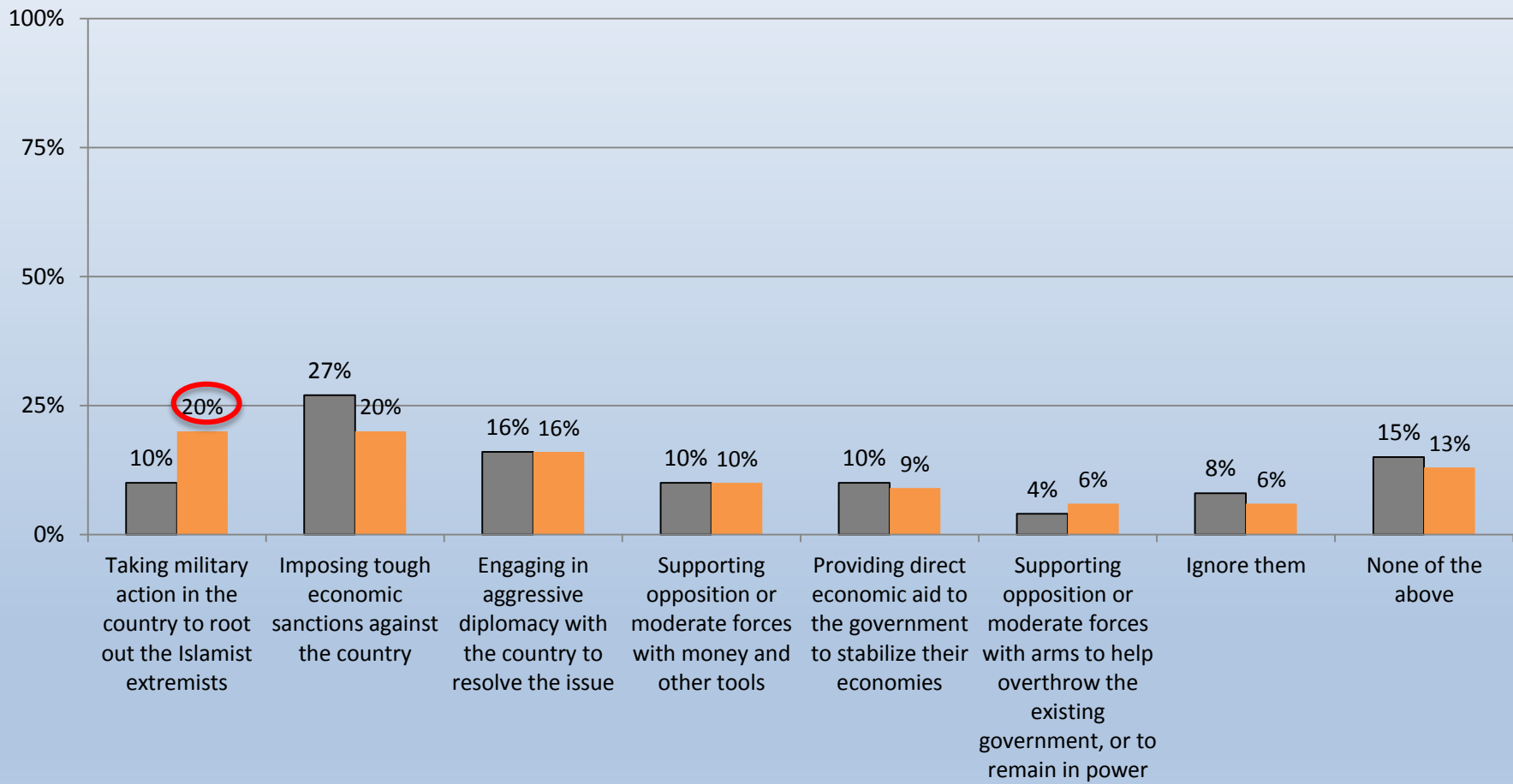
Q6. Would you say that that the growth of Islamist extremism in the Middle East and North Africa is...
 * NB question change between June and August 2014. June 2014 referred to only Middle East, September 2014 refers to both Middle East and North Africa

Most Effective Approach to Dealing with Countries that Allow Islamist Extremism [All Countries - Over Time]

 Emphasis

Taking military action and imposing economic sanctions are seen as the most effective approaches to dealing with Islamist extremism. The appeal of military action has doubled since June 2014, while interest in imposing sanctions has increased.

■ June 2014 ■ September 2014

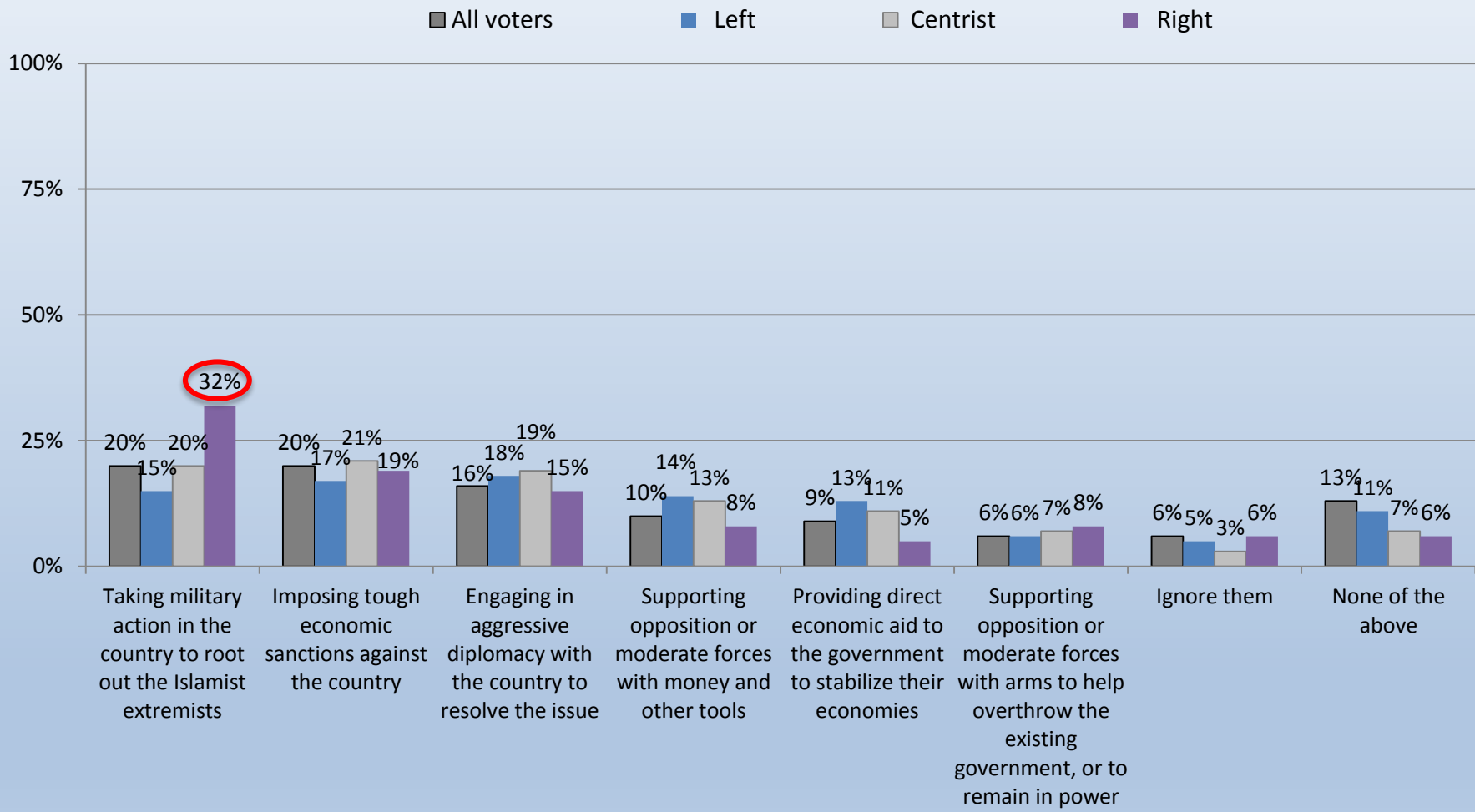


Q7. Which of the following do you think is the MOST effective approach to dealing with countries that allow Islamist extremism to grow within their borders?

Most Effective Approach to Dealing with Countries that Allow Islamist Extremism [All Countries – Political Spectrum]

 Emphasis

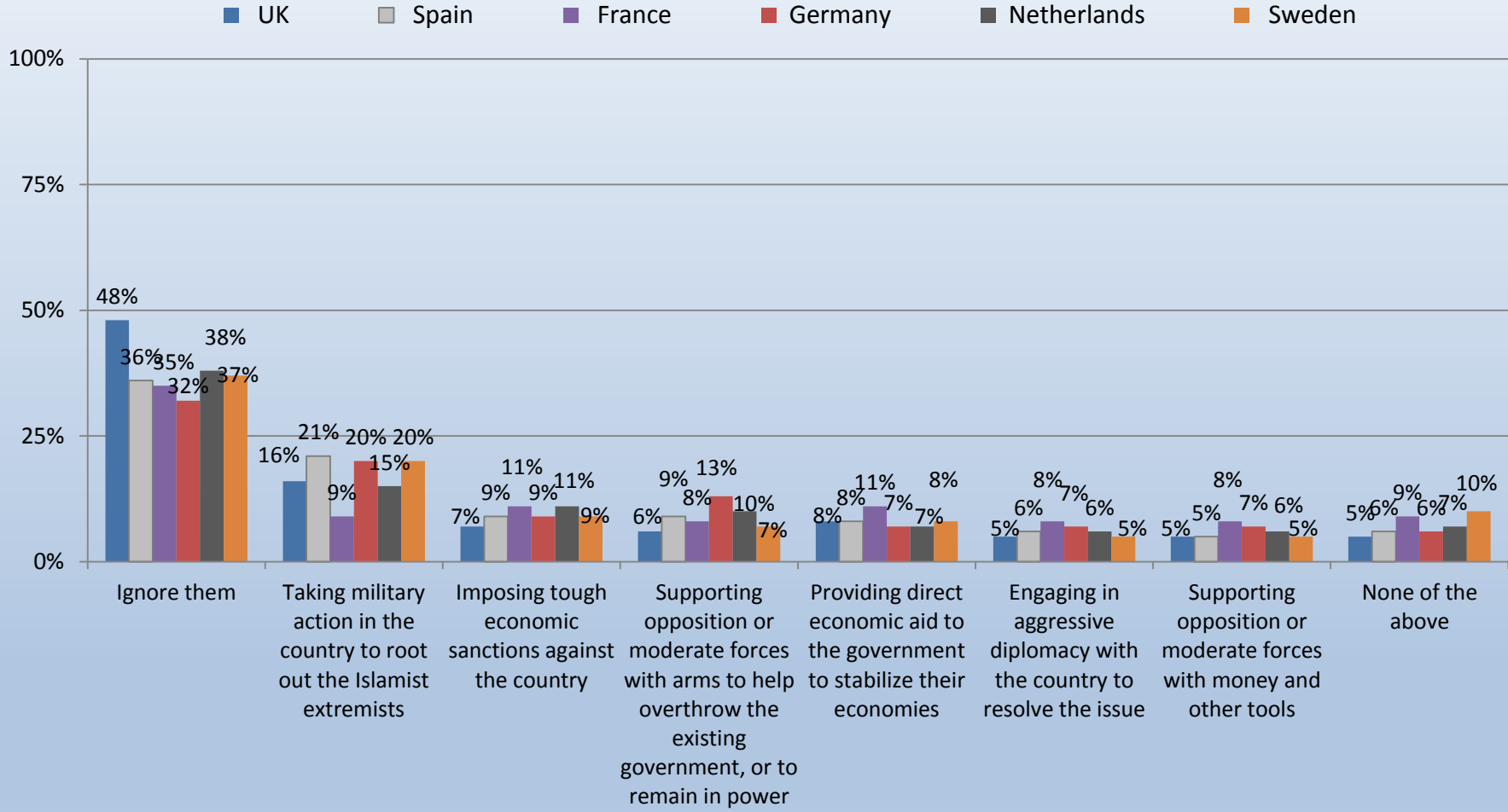
As in June 2014, right-of-center voters are much more likely to favour military action than those left-of-center.



Q7. Which of the following do you think is the MOST effective approach to dealing with countries that allow Islamist extremism to grow within their borders?

Least Effective Approach to Dealing with Countries that Allow Islamist Extremists

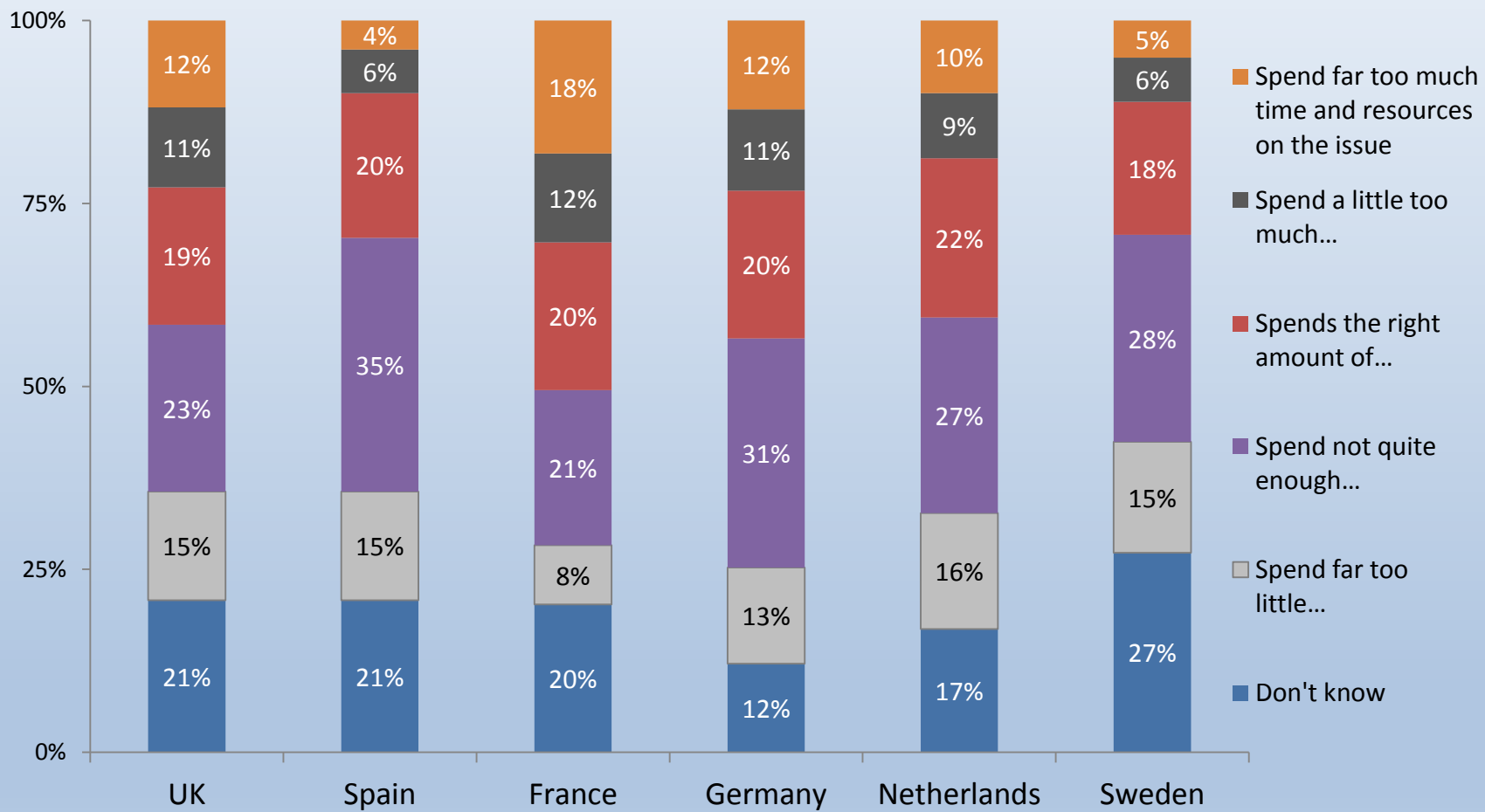
Ignoring countries that allow Islamic extremism to grow within European borders is viewed as the least effective approach. This is followed by military action and imposing tough sanctions.



Q8. Which of the following do you think is the LEAST effective approach to dealing with countries that allow Islamist extremism to grow within their borders?

Approach of Government to Reducing the Threat of Islamist Extremism

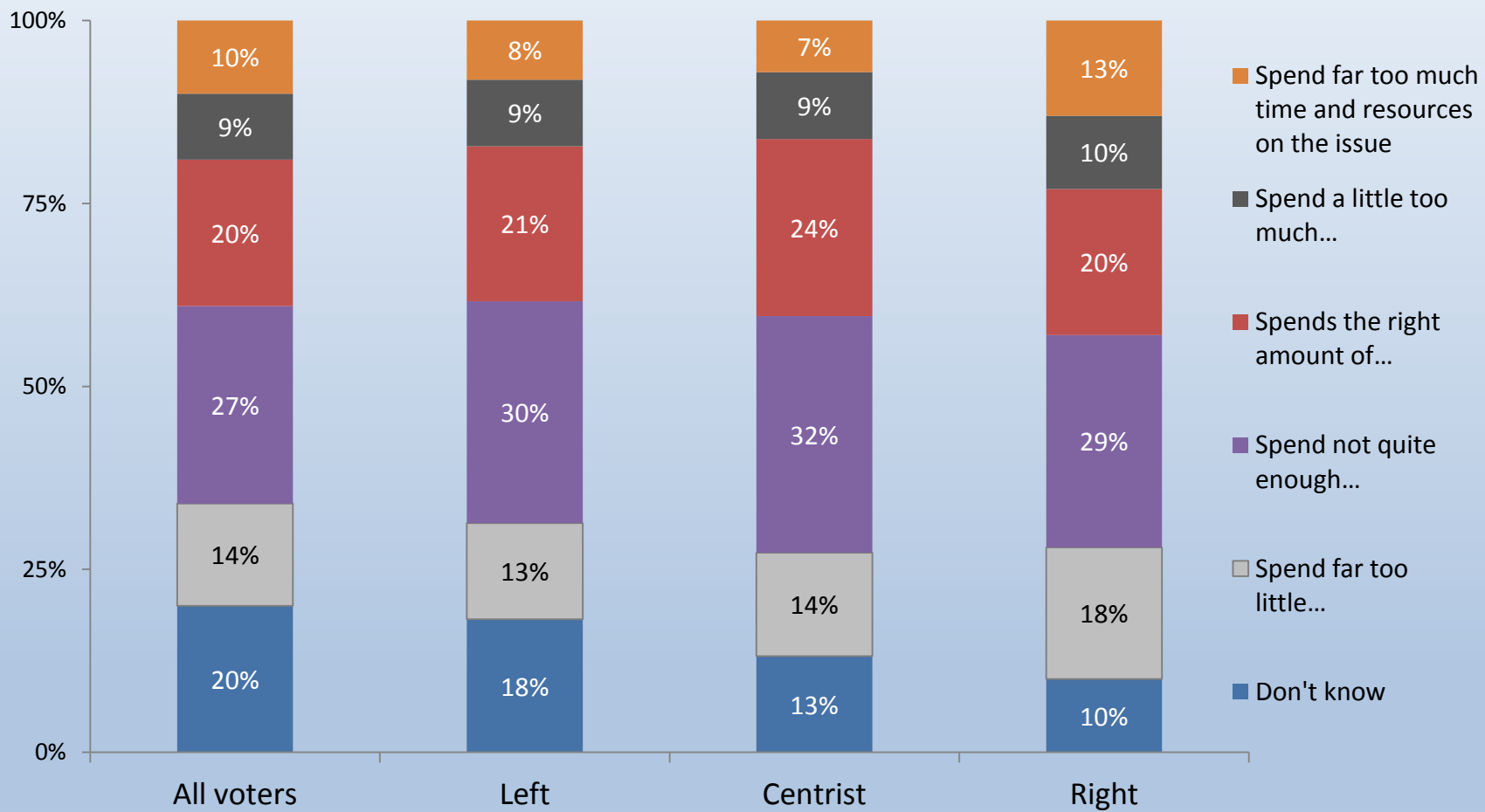
Respondents from all countries agree that governments spend too little rather than too much time and resources reducing the threat of Islamist extremism. The Spanish are the most likely to share this sentiment.



Q9. When it comes to reducing the threat of Islamist extremism, does the government of <country>...


Approach of Government to Reducing the Threat of Islamist Extremism [All Countries – Political Spectrum]

Those right-of-center are most likely to have an opinion either way while a large proportion agree that governments do not spend enough, they are also the most likely of all groups to think governments spend too much.

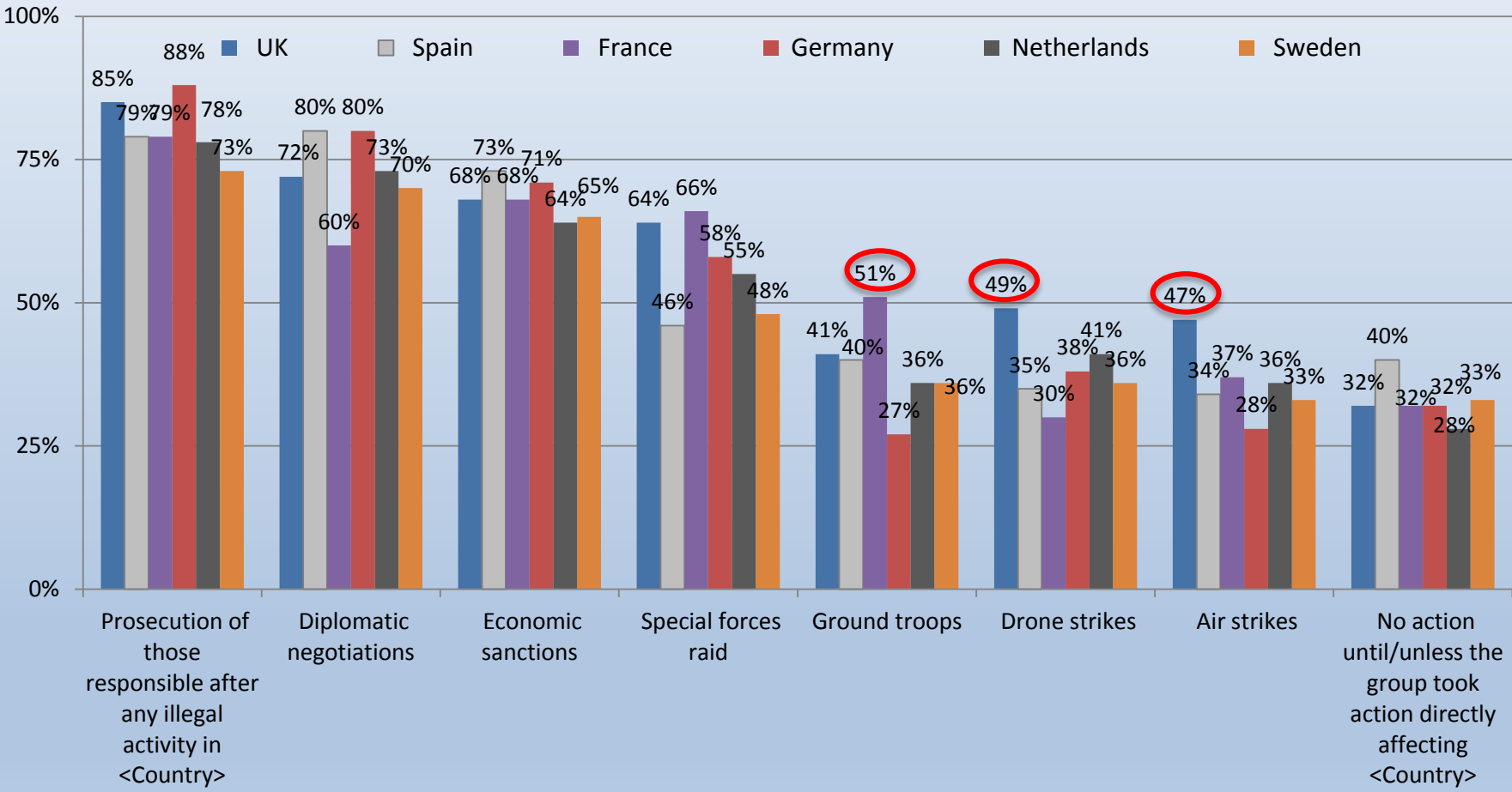


Q9. When it comes to reducing the threat of Islamist extremism, does the government of <country>...

Support for Actions in Response to Plot by Violent Extremists in Your Country

 Emphasis

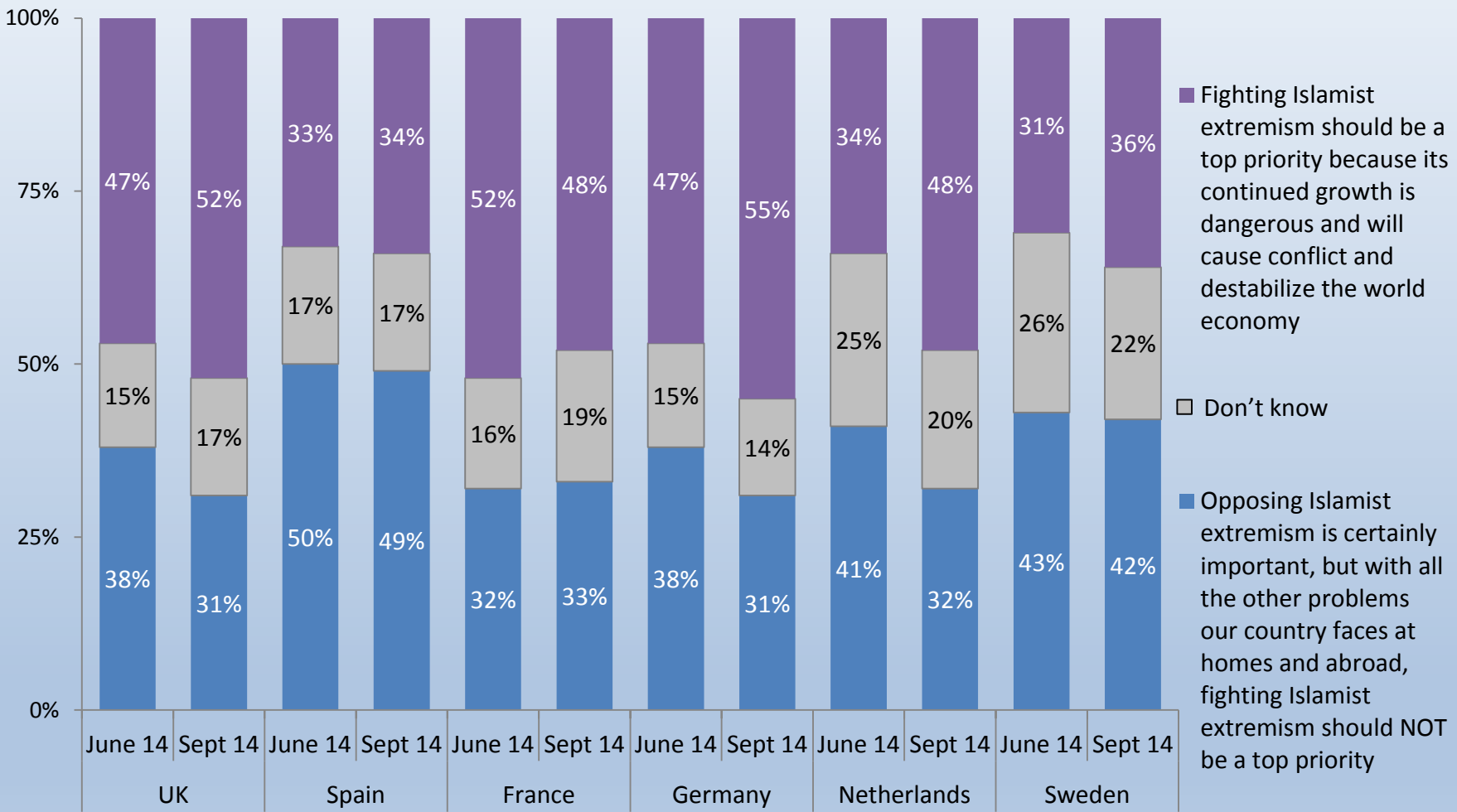
The majority of Europeans in all countries support prosecution, diplomatic negotiations and economic sanctions as responses to extremist groups planning activities. Those in France are the most likely to support ground troops, while the British are most likely to prefer drone or air strikes.



Q11. If <Country> learned of a foreign-based violent extremist group plotting activities in our country, to what extent would you support or oppose each of the following actions by <Country> in response?

Importance of Fighting Islamist Extremism [Over Time]

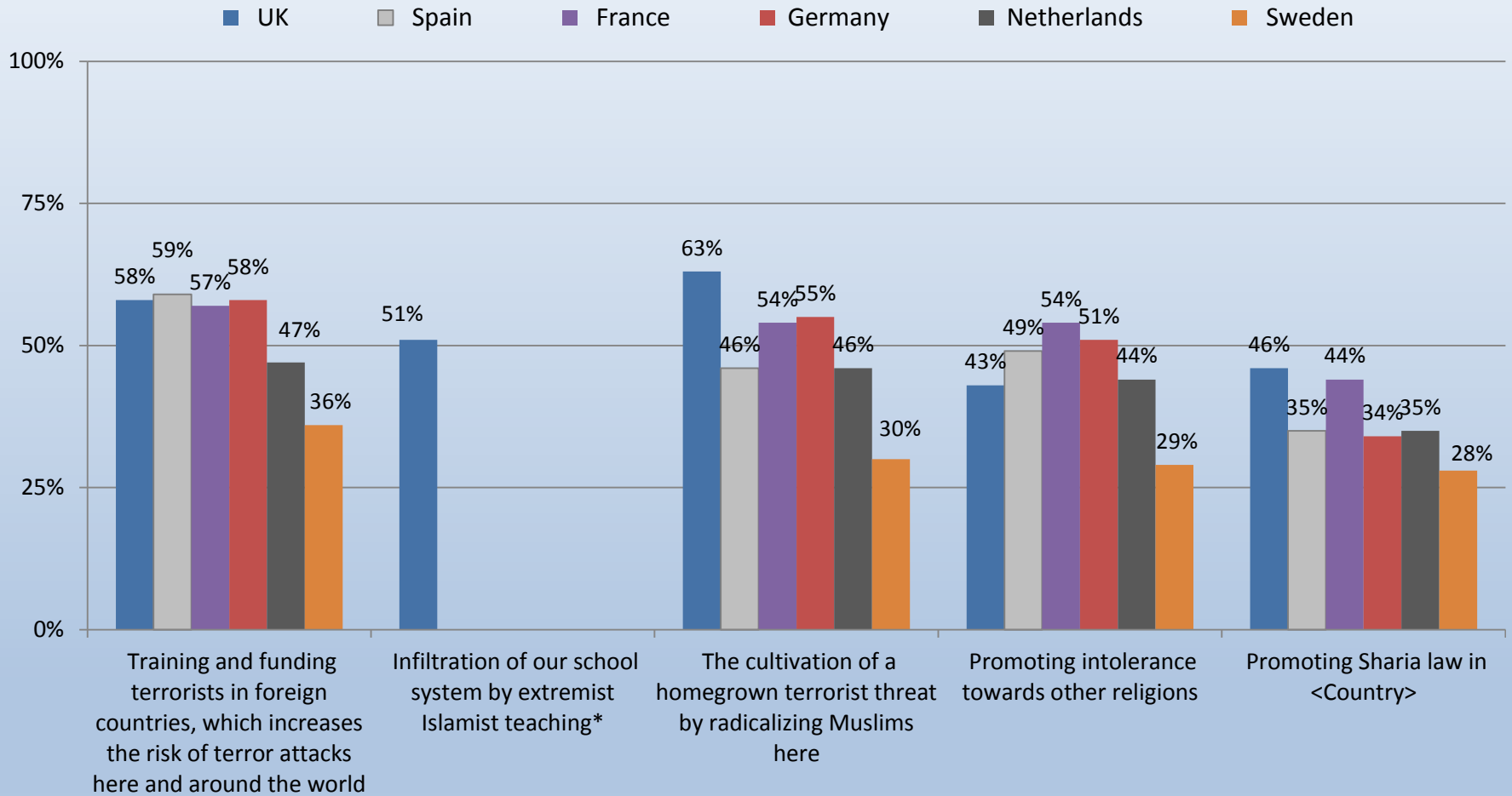
Fighting Islamist extremism is increasingly seen as a top priority in all countries except Spain and Sweden.



Q20b. Thinking of Islamist extremism and its impact on <country>, please indicate which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion?

Future Risks to National Security

Training and funding terrorists in foreign countries, the cultivation of homegrown terrorist threats by the radicalization of Muslims and promoting intolerance towards other religions are seen as the biggest risks to national security. For the UK, the infiltration of the school system by extremists Islamic teaching is also a risk.



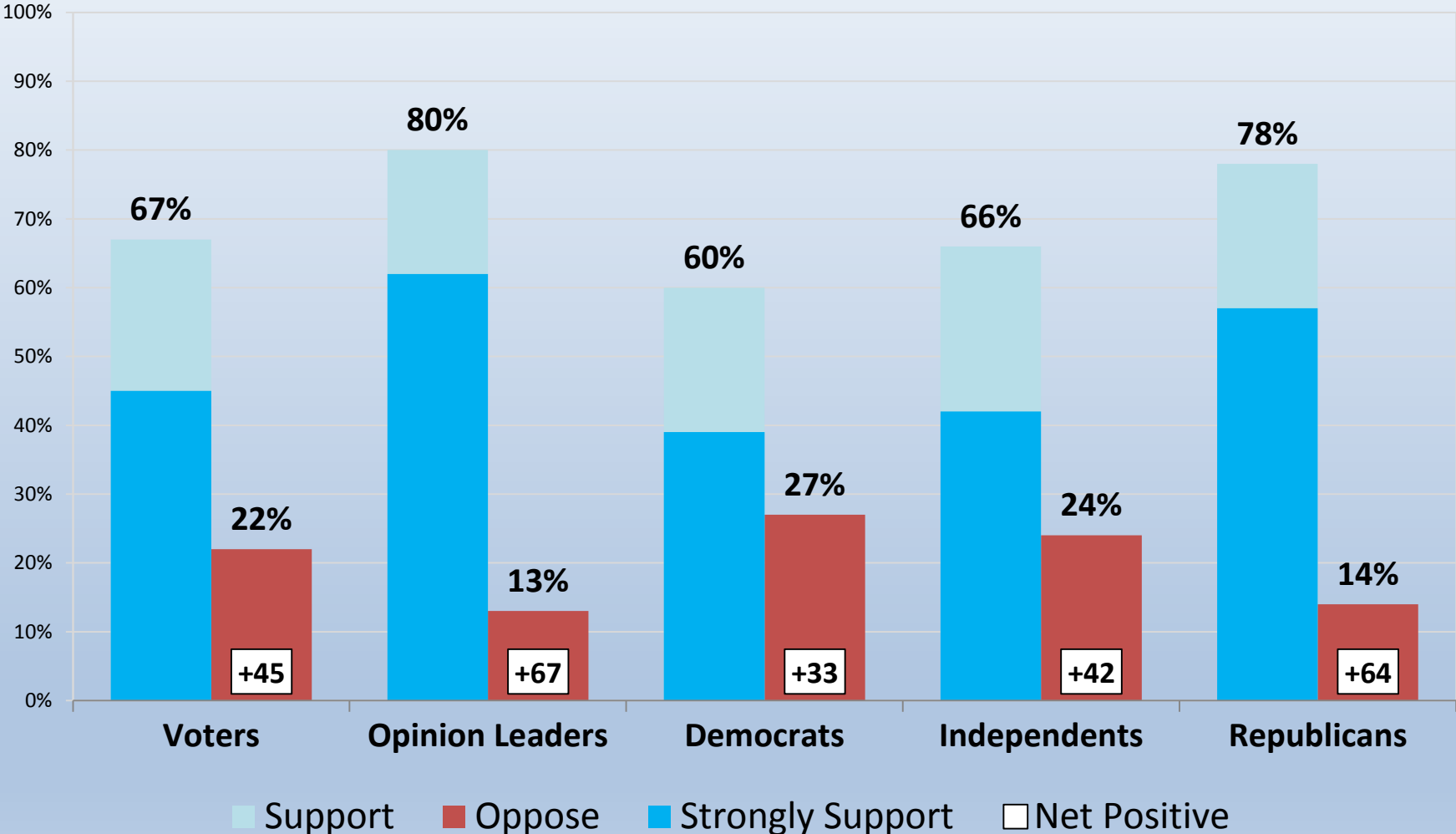
Q21. To what extent do you think of each of the following as being risks to our security, prosperity and/or way of life here in <Country>, resulting directly or indirectly from Islamist extremism?

*NB: asked only to UK voters

ISIS
U.S. Polls

ISIS Airstrikes

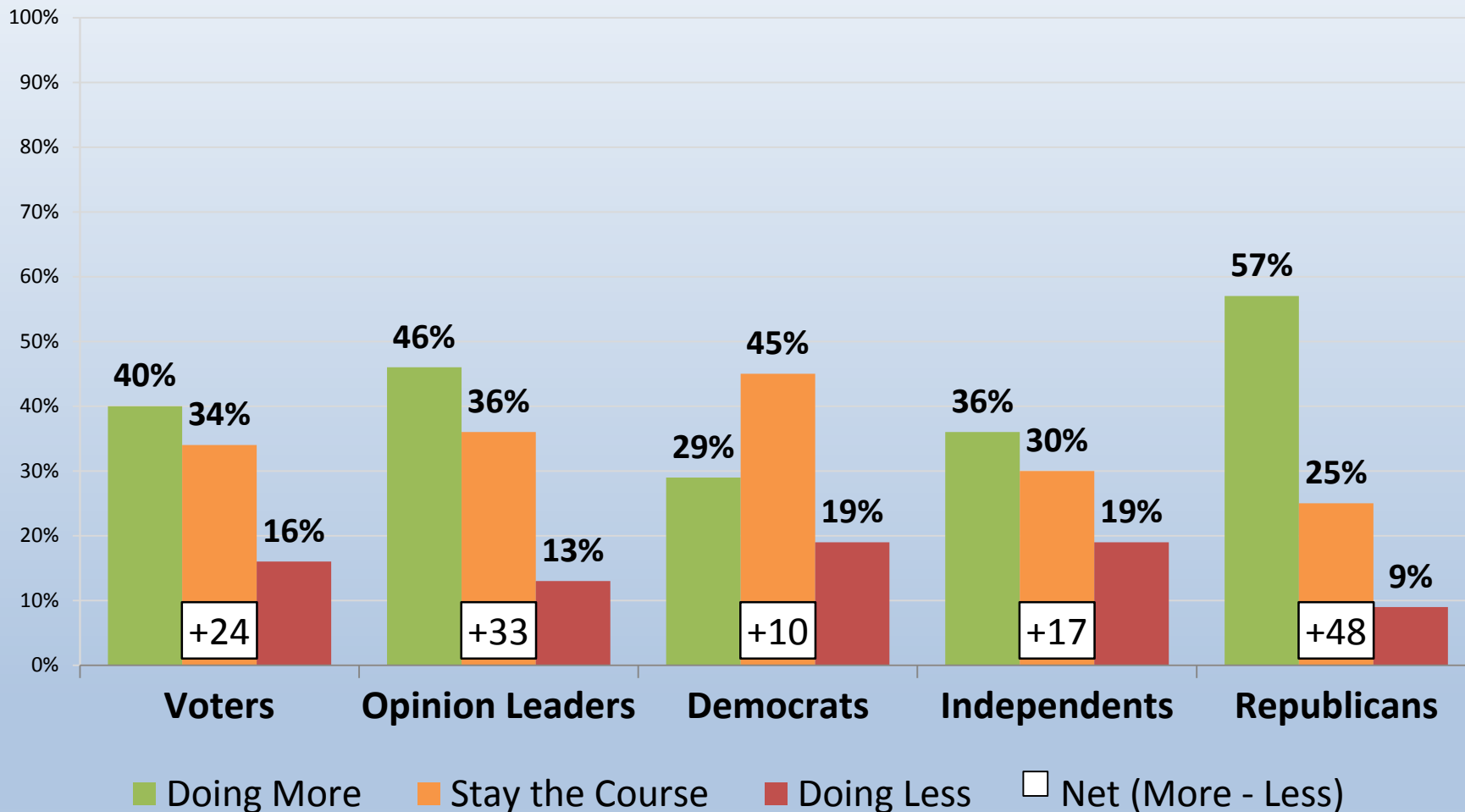
Two thirds of U.S. voters support the airstrikes in Iraq to combat ISIS. The support has high intensity and is broadly bipartisan, with Opinion Leaders and Republican voters being the most supportive.



Q26. Do you support or oppose the United States using airborne strikes and bombings to combat the insurgent group, Islamic State in Iraq?

U.S. Actions Against ISIS

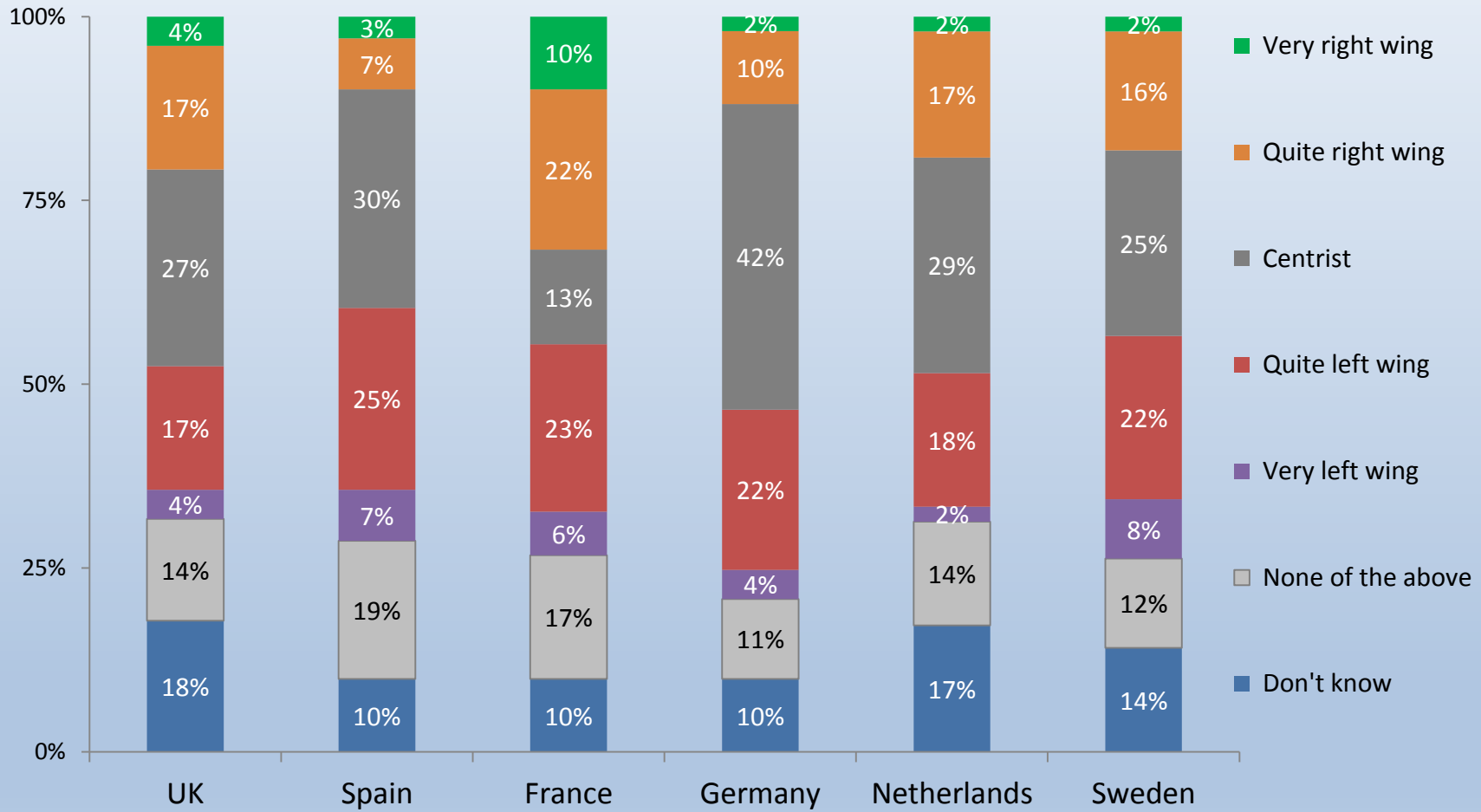
A plurality thinks we should be doing more to combat ISIS – driven largely by Republicans, and to a lesser extent, Independents. A plurality of Democrats think we are currently doing enough. Escalation, without additional provocation, seems likely to be a partisan flash point.



Q27. When it comes to combatting the insurgent group Islamic State in Iraq, should the U.S. be ...

Political Views by Country

More voters in Spain, Germany, and Sweden identify themselves as “very” or “quite” left wing, while the distribution of voters in the balanced UK, the Netherlands, and France.

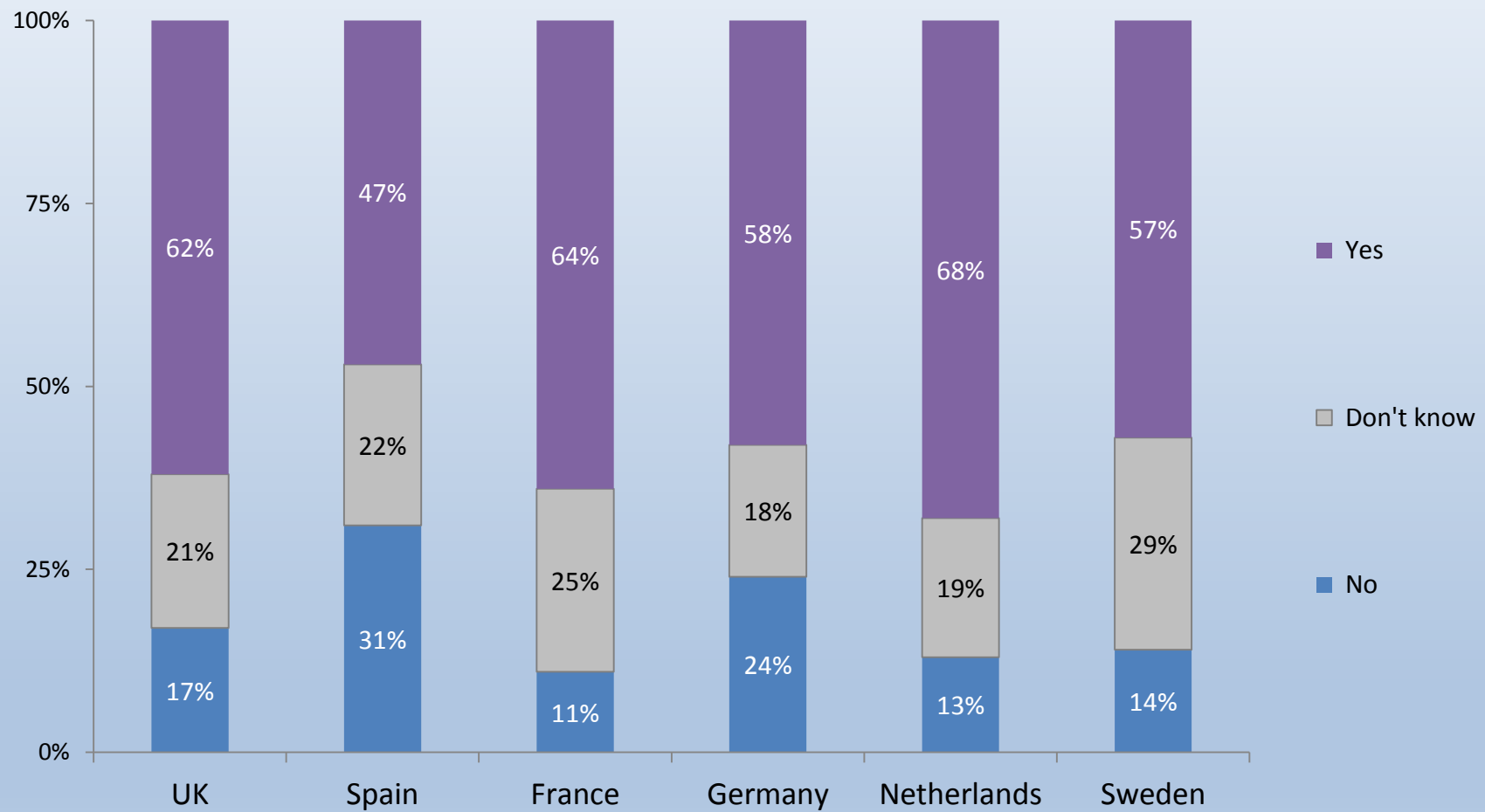


Q25. Thinking about your political views overall, how would you describe yourself?

ISIS
European Polls

United States' Military Engagement in Iraq

The majority of British, French, Dutch and Swedish voters support the United States' military engagement against the Islamic State or ISIS. Opposition towards the United States' involvement is most strongly felt in Spain and Germany.



Q17. Given recent events in Iraq, do you support United States' military engagement - in the form of targeted airstrikes - against the jihadist group known as the Islamic State or ISIS?

Support for National Contribution to U.S.-Led Effort

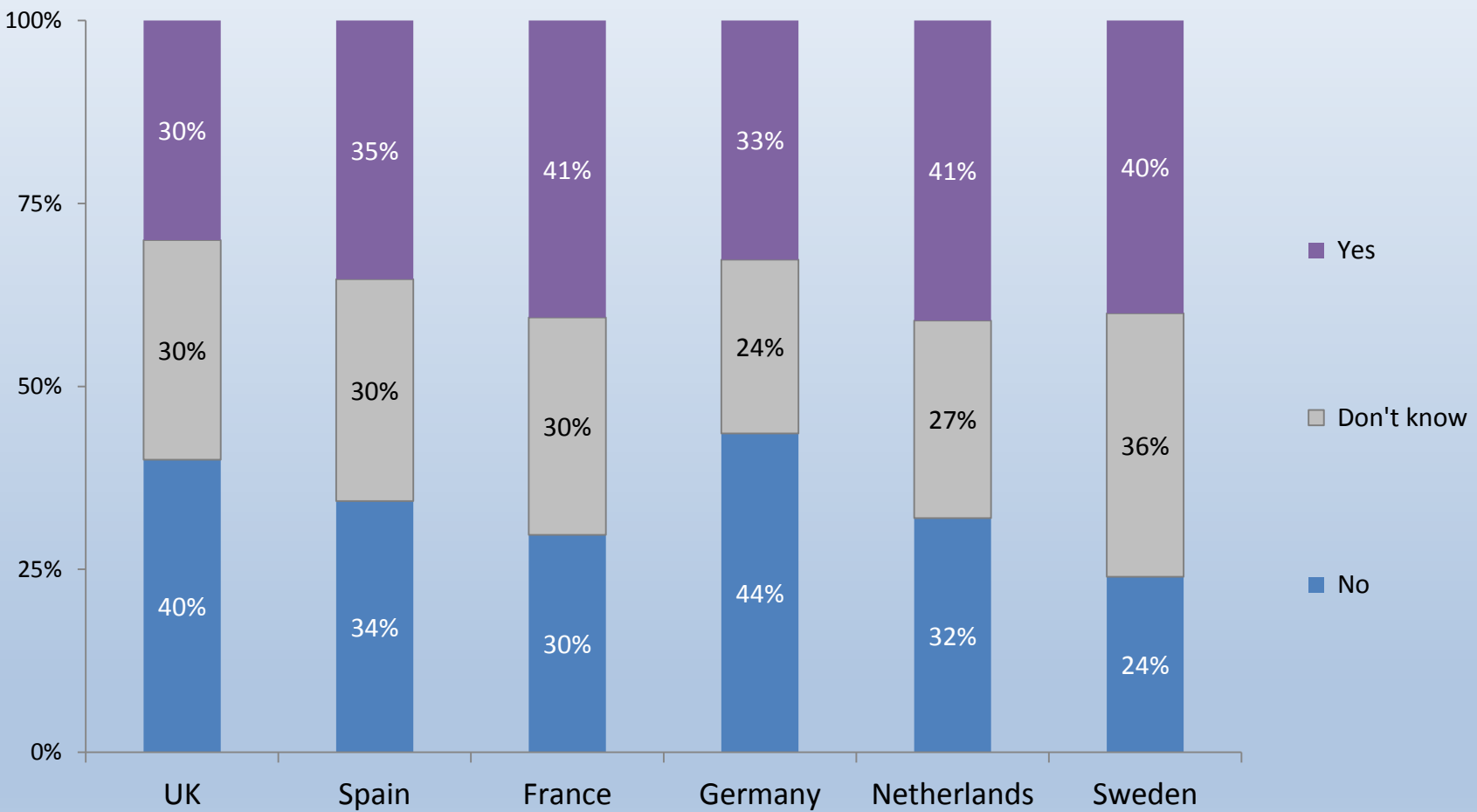
British, Swedish and German voters are most likely to support providing military personnel to train and advise Kurdish & Iraqi forces, while the French and Dutch prefer publicly supporting U.S. airstrikes.

		UK	Spain	France	Germany	Netherlands	Sweden	AVERAGE
Providing military personnel to train and advise Kurdish & Iraqi forces fighting against the Islamic State	TOTAL: Support	60%	44%	57%	59%	54%	51%	54%
	Strongly support	25%	17%	24%	25%	20%	23%	22%
Publicly supporting U.S. targeted airstrikes against the Islamic State	TOTAL: Support	55%	42%	60%	52%	58%	50%	53%
	Strongly support	27%	21%	28%	25%	30%	26%	26%
Supplying arms to the Kurdish & Iraqi forces fighting against the Islamic State	TOTAL: Support	50%	36%	48%	40%	48%	38%	44%
	Strongly support	21%	15%	21%	14%	20%	18%	18%
Directly participating in the U.S.-led targeted airstrikes against the Islamic State	TOTAL: Support	47%	32%	54%	33%	50%	30%	41%
	Strongly support	21%	13%	23%	13%	23%	14%	18%
Putting troops on the ground to fight against the Islamic State	TOTAL: Support	30%	31%	42%	27%	38%	31%	33%
	Strongly support	10%	11%	18%	9%	14%	14%	13%

Q18. Would you support or oppose <Country> contributing in each of the following ways to the U.S.-led effort against the Islamic state?

Support for Targeting ISIS Rebels through Ground Forces

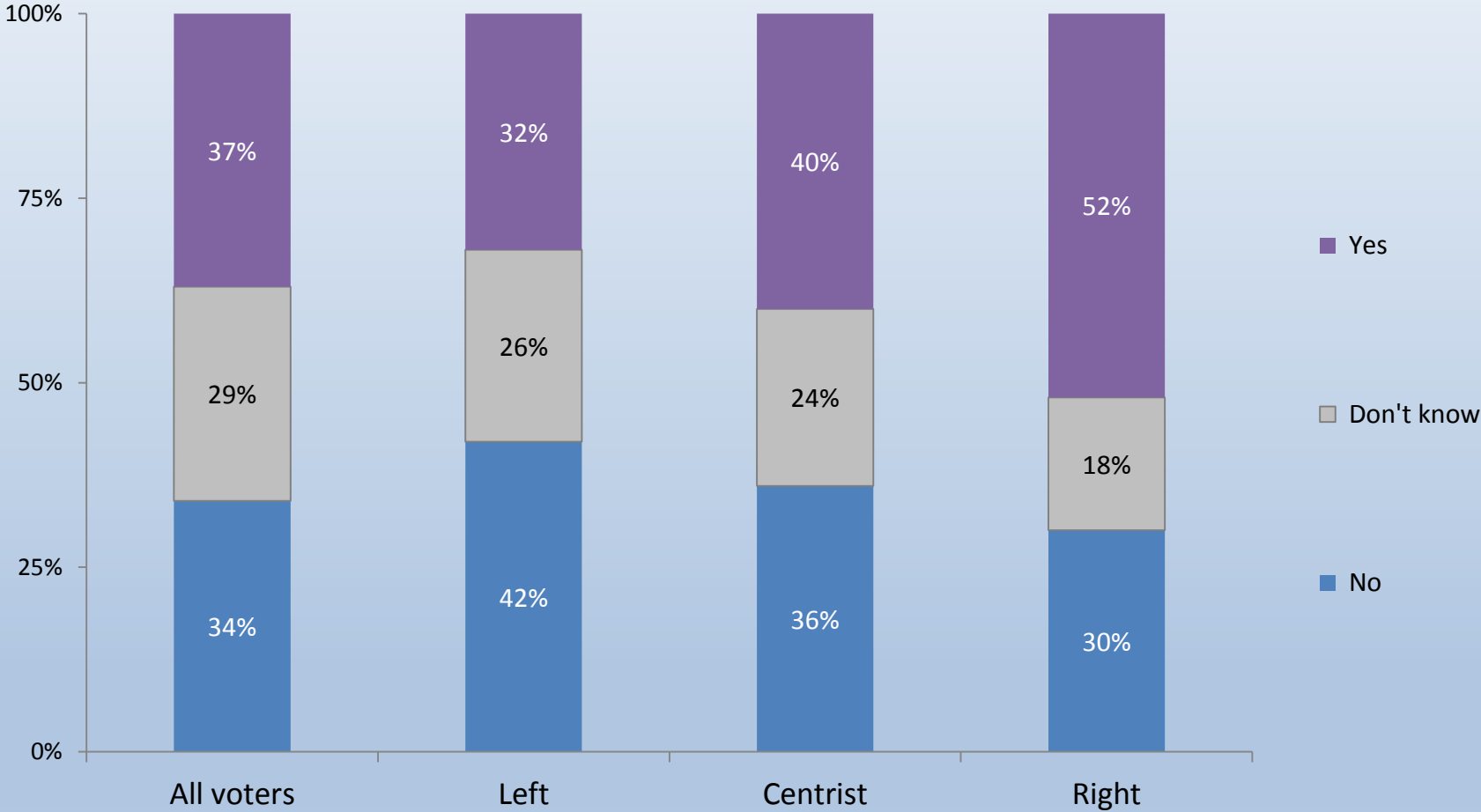
Voters are split over whether the U.S. or its European allies should commit ground forces in order to more effectively target ISIS rebel fighters. French, Swedish, and Dutch voters are slightly more likely to agree, while opposition is slightly stronger among British and German voters.



Q19 Do you believe the United States and its European allies should commit ground forces in order to more effectively target ISIS rebel fighters?

Support for Targeting ISIS Rebels through Ground Forces [All Countries – Political Spectrum]

Right-of-center voters are more likely to support committing ground forces to target ISIS rebel fighters, while left-of-center voters are more reluctant to agree.



Q19 Do you believe the United States and its European allies should commit ground forces in order to more effectively target ISIS rebel fighters?



U.S. Survey Details

- Nationwide Telephone Survey
 - August 24 – 28, 2014
 - N= 1,000 Registered Voters (30% on cell phones)
 - Margin of Error +/- 3.1 %
- Nationwide Telephone Survey
 - May 19 – 22, 2014
 - N= 1,200 Registered Voters Nationally (32% on cell phones)
 - Margin of Error +/- 2.8%

COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

European Survey Details

- Nationally representative online survey* of adult populations were conducted in the following countries:
 - May 21 – May 29, 2014 (finalized early June)
 - UK= 1,218 interviews
 - Spain= 1,218 interviews
 - France= 1,223 interviews
 - Germany= 1,246 interviews
 - Netherlands= 1,211 interviews
 - Sweden= 1,213 interviews
 - Margin of Error +/- 2.9 %
- Nationally representative online survey of adult populations were conducted in the following countries:
 - August 27 – September 8, 2014
 - UK= 1,200 interviews
 - Spain= 1,281 interviews
 - France= 1,238 interviews
 - Germany= 1,244 interviews
 - Netherlands=1,205 interviews
 - Sweden= 1,209 interviews
 - Margin of Error +/- 2.9 %

** Online polling has become standard practice in most western European countries. It has a strong record of accuracy in polling elections.*