

Provisional Executive Summary

- Overwhelmingly, Iraqis wish to live in a united and centralised Iraq. Few people are interested in a federal Iraq, and virtually none are keen to split up the country
- Iraqis are not unhappy. On balance, both with life in general and across ten specific life areas, people are reasonably satisfied
- Iraqis agree that their lives have improved since the fall of Saddam
- Transition has brought about great optimism. Iraqis believe that in the near future they will be happier, better off and safer
- The greatest worry is security/stability at the national level. In their neighbourhoods, however, Iraqis feel relatively safe
- Iraqis are split on the merits of the US-led invasion. A small majority thinks the war was 'right'; half think the war humiliated Iraq, the other half think it liberated the country
- Overwhelmingly, Iraqis disapprove of political violence and terrorist attacks, even against Coalition Forces
- First and foremost, Iraqis trust their religious leaders, the police and the New Iraqi Army. They mistrust the Coalition Forces the CPA and their own political parties
- While almost all Iraqis agree that Coalition Forces must leave eventually, most think the troops should stay until security is restored and an Iraqi government is in place. Very few people think that the presence of Coalition Forces is the cause of security problems
- Iraqis do not want an Islamic state or government. Around two in ten think a theocracy is the right way forward
- Iraqis are not particularly interested in politics but interest is slowly growing
- Democracy is the top choice in the long term. People think democracy will bring freedom but not necessarily security and stability
- In the short term a strong leader is seen as a panacea for the most salient issue in Iraq (security/stability). However, no potential national leader attracts clear support for the job
- Seven out of ten Iraqis cannot or will not give a party preference. Those who do, choose around 30 different parties. Only Islamists and Kurds seem to have a clearer idea what to vote for. Iraq does not seem ready for national election
- Most Iraqis think that Iraq needs no role model. Those who do, choose the UAE over the US or European countries. Overwhelmingly people think Iraqi problems should be solved by Iraqis, and not by outsiders
- When it comes to the reconstruction of the country, Iraqis want to see the US on duty. Also Japan and an array of other countries are mentioned