



The
University
of Sydney

THE UNITED STATES STUDIES CENTRE

new opportunities built on understanding

Australian attitudes towards the United States: Foreign Policy, Security, Economics and Trade

**2007 UNITED STATES STUDIES CENTRE
NATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS**

Part 1

**Presentation by
Professor Murray Goot**

3 October 2007

Survey Details

- **Survey period: Friday 13 July - Sunday 29 July**
- **Fieldwork: Surveys Australia (a subsidiary of ACNielsen)**
- **Sample size: 1,213**
- **Method: Telephone (average time of interview: 29 minutes)**
- **Weighting factors: age, sex, education**

Methodological Features

Includes questions used in other surveys (as well as new ones) allowing comparisons to:

- earlier findings
- contemporaneous data

Asks questions about other countries – including UK, Japan, China, Indonesia and North Korea – that parallel those asked about the US on a range of topics, including:

- the image of each country
- the ability of each country to deal responsibly with world problems
- the importance of each country to Australia as a security and economic partner
- foreign investment

Uses split samples (e.g. Sample A/B) to show how responses vary with:

- slightly different questions
- the same questions but in a different order
- the same questions but with different introductions

Australian Opinion Towards Other Countries

Sample A. Very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable, or very unfavourable opinion of ... [country]?

n = 595	Favourable			Unfavourable			Don't know
	Very	Somewhat	Total	Very	Somewhat	Total	
UK	34	53	87	7	2	9	4
Japan	21	54	75	14	4	18	8
<i>United States</i>	18	41	59	28	10	38	4
China	9	48	57	28	7	35	9
Indonesia	4	33	37	38	15	53	10
North Korea	2	13	15	40	30	70	15

Sample B. Very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable, or very unfavourable opinion of ... [country] or no opinion?

n = 618	Favourable			Unfavourable			No opinion
	Very	Somewhat	Total	Very	Somewhat	Total	
UK	28	52	80	8	2	10	10
Japan	18	53	71	10	3	14	16
<i>United States</i>	14	37	51	26	13	39	10
China	7	41	48	26	8	34	18
Indonesia	3	30	33	32	16	48	20
North Korea	1	13	14	32	32	64	23

Security Partners of Australia

Sample A. Thinking about the next five-to-ten years, in your opinion how close a **SECURITY** partner of Australia will... [country] be?

n = 595	Very close	Fairly close	Not very close	DK
<i>United States</i>	62	30	6	3
UK	50	36	11	3
Japan	21	54	19	6
China	14	37	42	6
Indonesia	10	39	44	6
North Korea	3	10	80	7

Sample B. Thinking about the next five-to-ten years, in your opinion how close a **SECURITY** partner of Australia will... [country] be or no opinion?

n = 618	Very close	Fairly close	Not very close	No opinion
<i>United States</i>	52	34	8	7
UK	47	36	11	6
Japan	20	52	17	12
China	10	35	40	15
Indonesia	9	37	42	12
North Korea	1	10	71	18

Economic Partners of Australia

Sample A. Thinking about the next five-to-ten years, in your opinion how close an **ECONOMIC** partner of Australia will... [country] be?

n = 595	Very close	Fairly close	Not very close	DK
China	53	36	7	4
<i>United States</i>	48	40	9	3
Japan	44	44	9	4
UK	29	46	22	3
Indonesia	14	50	31	6
North Korea	3	22	65	9

Sample B. Thinking about the next five-to-ten years, in your opinion how close an **ECONOMIC** partner of Australia will... [country] be or no opinion?

n = 618	Very close	Fairly close	Not very close	No opinion
China	53	31	8	8
Japan	40	43	8	8
<i>United States</i>	37	46	12	5
UK	29	45	20	5
Indonesia	18	41	30	11
North Korea	6	18	59	17

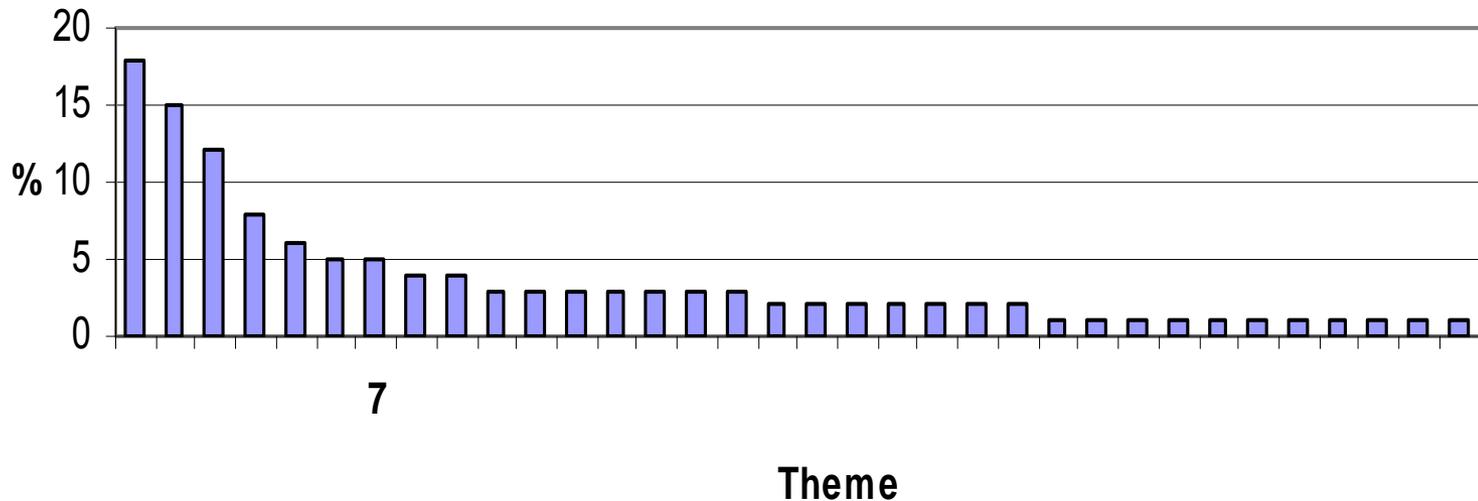
Sample A. Likes about the US

Open Ended Question: Could you tell me something you **like** about the US?

(Answers reported here only relate to Part 1 of the Survey: defence, foreign, economic and trade issues.)

[n = 595]

7. Support Australia/Australian allies	5
Nothing/ Don't know	13



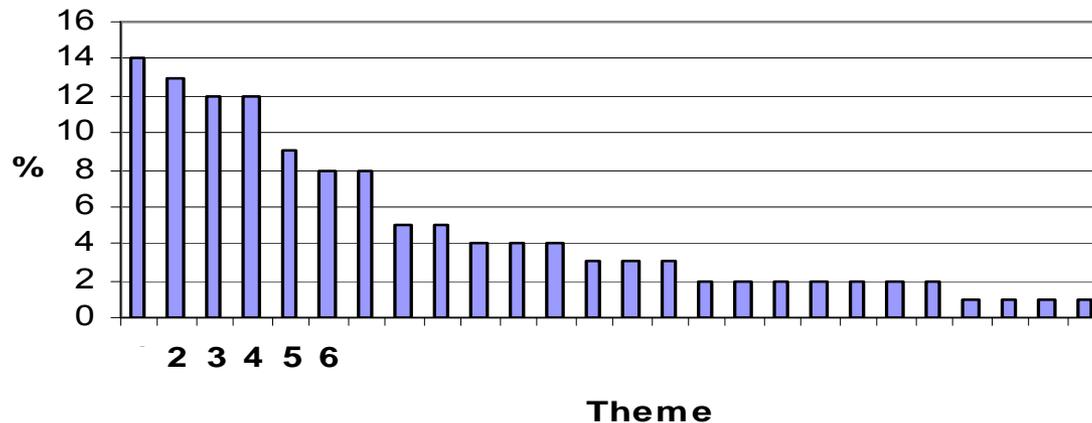
Sample A. Dislikes about the US

Could you tell me something you **dislike** about the US?

(Answers reported here only relate to Part 1 of the Survey: defence, foreign, economic and trade issues.)

[n = 595]

2. Bush/George Bush/the president	13
3. Self-proclaimed world watch dog attitude/impose views on others/influence/bully others	12
4. Government/current administration/politics	12
5. The war/war in Iraq/war on terrorism/troops fighting overseas	9
6. Foreign policies	8
Nothing/Don't Know	12



Influence of US Policies & Practices

Sample A. WORRIED about the influence of US policies and practices on Australia.

n = 595	<i>Very worried</i>	<i>Somewhat worried</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Not at all worried</i>	<i>DK</i>
American foreign policy	<i>38</i>	39	77	15	8
American trade subsidies	<i>30</i>	39	69	20	10
American policies on climate change	<i>31</i>	38	69	25	6
American business practices	<i>19</i>	42	61	28	11
American workplace practices	<i>20</i>	33	53	29	19

Sample B. PLEASED about the influence US policies and practices on Australia.

n = 618	<i>Very pleased</i>	<i>Somewhat pleased</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Not at all pleased</i>	<i>DK</i>
American trade subsidies	4	21	25	<i>56</i>	19
American policies on climate change	6	29	35	<i>52</i>	13
American foreign policy	4	30	34	<i>52</i>	13
American workplace practices	3	30	33	<i>39</i>	27
American business practices	7	39	46	<i>38</i>	17

United States in the World

Confidence in [country] ... to deal responsibly with world problems?

n = 1213	A great deal	A fair amount	Total	Not very much	None at all	Total	DK
UK	15	56	71	22	4	26	4
Australia	14	47	61	29	8	37	2
Japan	8	45	53	31	8	39	8
<i>United States</i>	7	30	37	39	21	60	3
China	4	25	29	42	22	64	7
Indonesia	1	10	11	41	38	81	9

Do you happen to know the full name of the President of the United States?

[n = 1213]

George W. Bush/George Bush	88
President Bush/Bush	7
Other (includes DK)	5

Opinion of the American President

Sample A. What is your overall opinion of the American President?

n = 398	Favourable			Unfavourable			DK
	Very	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Very	Total	
	4	24	28	28	39	67	5

Sample B. (a) What do you think the overall opinion of most Australians is of the US President? (b) What is your overall opinion of the American President?

n = 406	Favourable			Unfavourable			DK
	Very	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Very	Total	
(a) Estimate	1	18	19	48	30	78	3
(b) Actual	3	24	27	32	37	69	4

Sample C. Most Australians seem to have an unfavourable view of the American President.

n = 409	Favourable			Unfavourable			DK
	Very	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Very	Total	
	4	26	30	26	42	68	2

Impact of US Economic Policies

Do you think that the economic policies and actions of the US have been more helpful or more harmful to the economic situation in Australia, or have they had little effect on Australia?

[n = 1213]

Helpful	Little effect	Harmful	DK
18	29	40	12

When you say that, what 'economic policies and actions of the US are you thinking of? Any others?

[n = 1067]

Subsidies /agricultural/farming subsidies/protection of their own farmers/products	15
The war /war in Iraq/war on terrorism	13
Imports & exports - meat/wheat/fruit/sugar	9
Farming /agricultural policies	8
Wheat policy /trade/scandal	5
Nothing / no comment	8
Don't know	10

US – Australia Free Trade Agreement

Have you read or heard of the United States – Australia Free Trade Agreement?

[n = 1213]	Yes	79
	No/Don't know	21

[IF YES] How much would you say you know about it?

[n = 970]	A fair bit	22
	Not much	67
	Nothing at all	11

Which of these views about the US-Australia Free Trade agreement is closest to your view?

[n = 1213]	Australia is likely to do better than the US out of the agreement	6
	Australia and the US are likely to do equally well out of the agreement	20
	The US is likely to do better than Australia out of the agreement	63
	Don't know	11

Foreign Investment in Australia

How do you feel about the following countries investing money in Australia?

Investment from...	All for it/for it within limits	Total	Neither for nor against/don't mind	Total	Against it generally/absolutely	Total
Britain	(21/42)	63	(15/15)	30	(5/3)	8
Europe	(18/41)	59	(16/15)	31	(7/3)	10
Japan	(17/39)	56	(16/15)	31	(9/5)	14
<i>America</i>	<i>(15/41)</i>	56	<i>(15/15)</i>	30	<i>(10/5)</i>	15
China	(12/36)	48	(16/15)	31	(14/7)	21
India	(11/34)	45	(17/18)	35	(11/9)	20

[n = 1213]

Climate Change and Global Warming

Global warming versus Islamic fundamentalism as an international problem.

	More serious	Equally serious	Less serious	DK
[n = 1213]	40	36	20	4

Opinions about Australia and the US not willing to make a binding commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

[n = 1213]	Support US-Australia decision not to set targets	24
	Oppose US-Australia decision not to set targets	69
	Don't know	7

Which of the following views about the US and Australian position on greenhouse emissions comes closest to your view

[n = 1213]	Australia is likely to do better than the US by not agreeing to a target	21
	Australia and the US are likely to do equally well or badly by not agreeing to a target	51
	The US is likely to do better than Australia by not agreeing to a target	17
	Don't know	11

Australia's Defence Force and the National Interest

Sample A. Equipping Australia's defence force along the same lines as the American defence force will...

[n = 595]	Make it easier for them to work with the Americans against common enemies	32
	Make it easier for them to pursue Australia's national interest independently of the Americans	62
	Don't know	6

Sample B. Under present circumstances, which do you think would be better for Australia's national interests...?

[n = 618]	To seek closer cooperation with the US	9
	To maintain the present relationship	41
	To act more independently of the US	48
	Don't know	3

ANZUS Treaty

Have you read or heard of the ANZUS Treaty?

[n = 1213]

Yes	61
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Those who have read or heard of the ANZUS Treaty and happen to know that the US is a member of ANZUS

[n = 783]

Yes	37
No	63

ANZUS Treaty

[IF YES] What else can you tell me about the ANZUS Treaty?

[n = 783]

1. Australia/New Zealand/US alliance/treaty	34
2. Defence/security/military treaty/alliance	26
3. Formed after WWII/in the late 40's/ 50's/long time ago	13
4. New Zealand is involved	10
5. NZ now out of it/NZ pulled out because of anti-nuclear stance	8
6. Nothing/don't know	22

ANZUS Treaty

How important do you think the US alliance under ANZUS is for protecting Australia's security?

[n = 1213]

Very important	Fairly important	Total	Not important	Not at all important	Total	DK
37	42	79	11	5	16	6

Do you think that our defence alliance with the United States is:

[n = 1213]

Likely to reduce the risk of an attack on Australia	19
Likely to make no difference to the risk of attack on Australia	34
Likely to increase the risk of an attack on Australia	44
Don't Know	4

If Australia's security were threatened by some other country, how much trust do you feel Australia can have in the United States to come to Australia's defence?

[n = 1213]

A great deal	Fair amount	Total	Not very much	None at all	Total	DK
28	46	74	20	5	25	1

US Missile Defence System

A question about US plans to build a missile defence system to shoot down missiles fired at the US or its allies. Have you read or heard anything about this plan?

[n = 1213]

Yes	49
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Do you think that such a missile defence system would be a good idea, a bad idea, or have you not read or heard enough to say?

[n = 1213]

Good idea	Bad idea	Not read or heard enough to say	DK	Total
23	26	48	3	51

Threat from Terrorism

Some people say there is a real threat to Australia from Al Qaeda or Islamic fundamentalism. Other people say the threat to Australia from Al Qaeda or Islamic fundamentalism has been exaggerated.

Asked before questions on Iraq and Afghanistan

[n = 595]	Al Qaeda or Islamic fundamentalism is a real threat	49
	The threat posed has been exaggerated	46
	Don't Know	4

Asked after questions on Iraq and Afghanistan

[n = 618]	Al Qaeda or Islamic fundamentalism is a real threat	53
	The threat posed has been exaggerated	40
	Don't Know	7

Australia as a Terrorist Target

Some people say that Australia's decision to join the US Government in the war on terror has made Australia more of a terrorist target. Other people say that Australia's decision to join the US government in the war on terror has not made Australia more of a terrorist target.

Asked before questions on Iraq and Afghanistan

[n = 595]

Australia's decision has made Australia more of a target	73
Australia's decision has made Australia no more of a target	24
Don't Know	2

Asked after questions on Iraq and Afghanistan

[n = 618]

Australia's decision has made Australia more of a target	71
Australia's decision has made Australia no more of a target	25
Don't Know	4

Attitudes to US involvement in Iraq

Leaving aside your views about Australia's involvement in the war in Iraq, what is your view about the continuing involvement of the United States in the war in Iraq? Do you...

Asked before questions on the threat of Al Qaeda and the 'war on terror'

[n = 618]

Support US in Iraq			Oppose US in Iraq			
Strongly	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Strongly	Total	DK
10	23	33	26	36	62	4

Asked after questions on the threat of Al Qaeda and the 'war on terror'

[n = 595]

Support US in Iraq			Oppose US in Iraq			
Strongly	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Strongly	Total	DK
12	27	39	29	30	59	2

Australian involvement in Iraq

And when it comes to Australia's military presence in Iraq, do you...

Asked before questions on the threat of Al Qaeda and the 'war on terror'

[n = 620]

Support Australia in Iraq			Oppose Australia in Iraq			
Strongly	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Strongly	Total	DK
10	23	33	23	41	64	3

Asked after questions on the threat of Al Qaeda and the 'war on terror'

[n = 595]

Support Australia in Iraq			Oppose Australia in Iraq			
Strongly	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Strongly	Total	DK
12	27	39	25	34	59	2

US involvement in Afghanistan

Leaving aside your views about Australia's involvement in Afghanistan, what is your view about the continuing involvement of the United States in the war in Afghanistan? Do you...

Asked before questions on the threat of Al Qaeda and the 'war on terror'

[n = 618]

Support US in Afghanistan			Oppose US in Afghanistan			
Strongly	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Strongly	Total	DK
15	30	45	27	23	50	5

Asked after questions on the threat of Al Qaeda and the 'war on terror'

[n = 595]

Support US in Afghanistan			Oppose US in Afghanistan			
Strongly	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Strongly	Total	DK
14	35	49	26	18	44	6

Australian involvement in Afghanistan

And when it comes to Australia's military presence in Afghanistan, do you...

Asked before questions on the threat of Al Qaeda and the 'war on terror'

[n = 618]

Support Australia in Afghanistan			Oppose Australia in Afghanistan			
Strongly	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Strongly	Total	DK
15	29	44	23	28	51	4

Asked after questions on the threat of Al Qaeda and the 'war on terror'

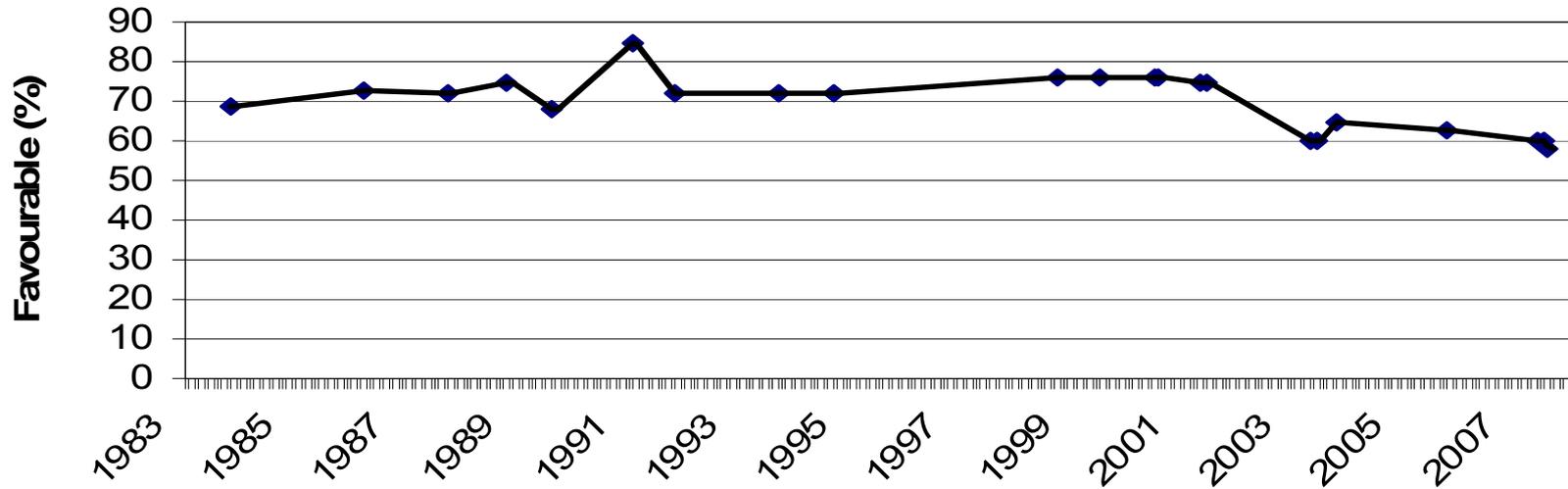
[n = 595]

Support Australia in Afghanistan			Oppose Australia in Afghanistan			
Strongly	Somewhat	Total	Somewhat	Strongly	Total	DK
15	35	50	24	22	46	3

Australian Opinion of the US, 1983-2007

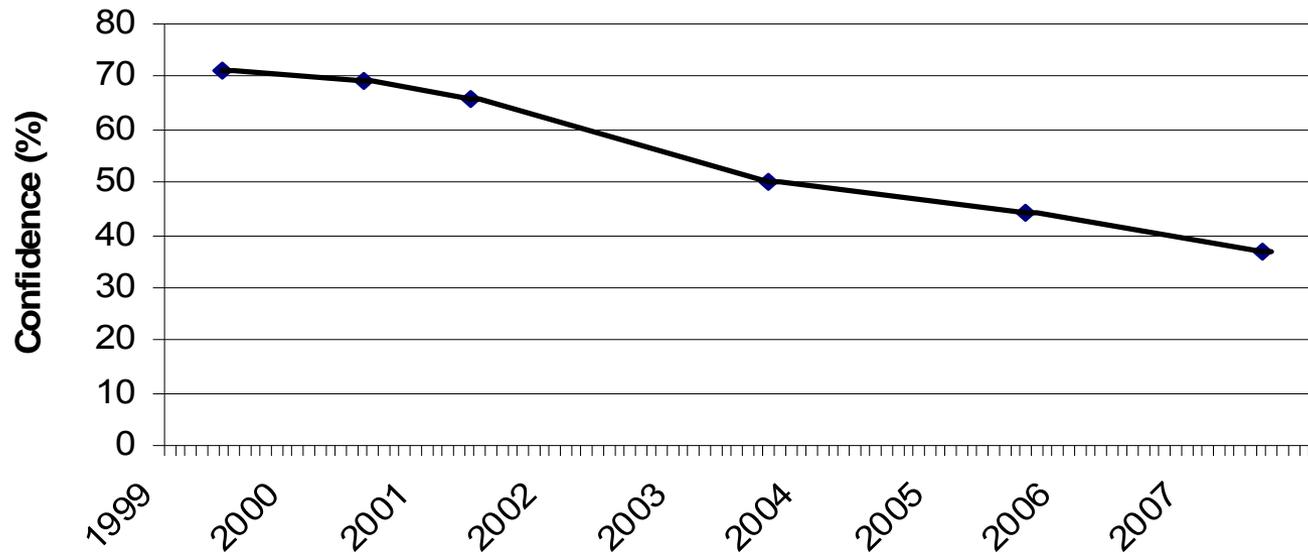
Please tell me if you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable, or very unfavourable opinion of the United States?

Opinion of the United States



Australian Opinion of the US, 1999-2007

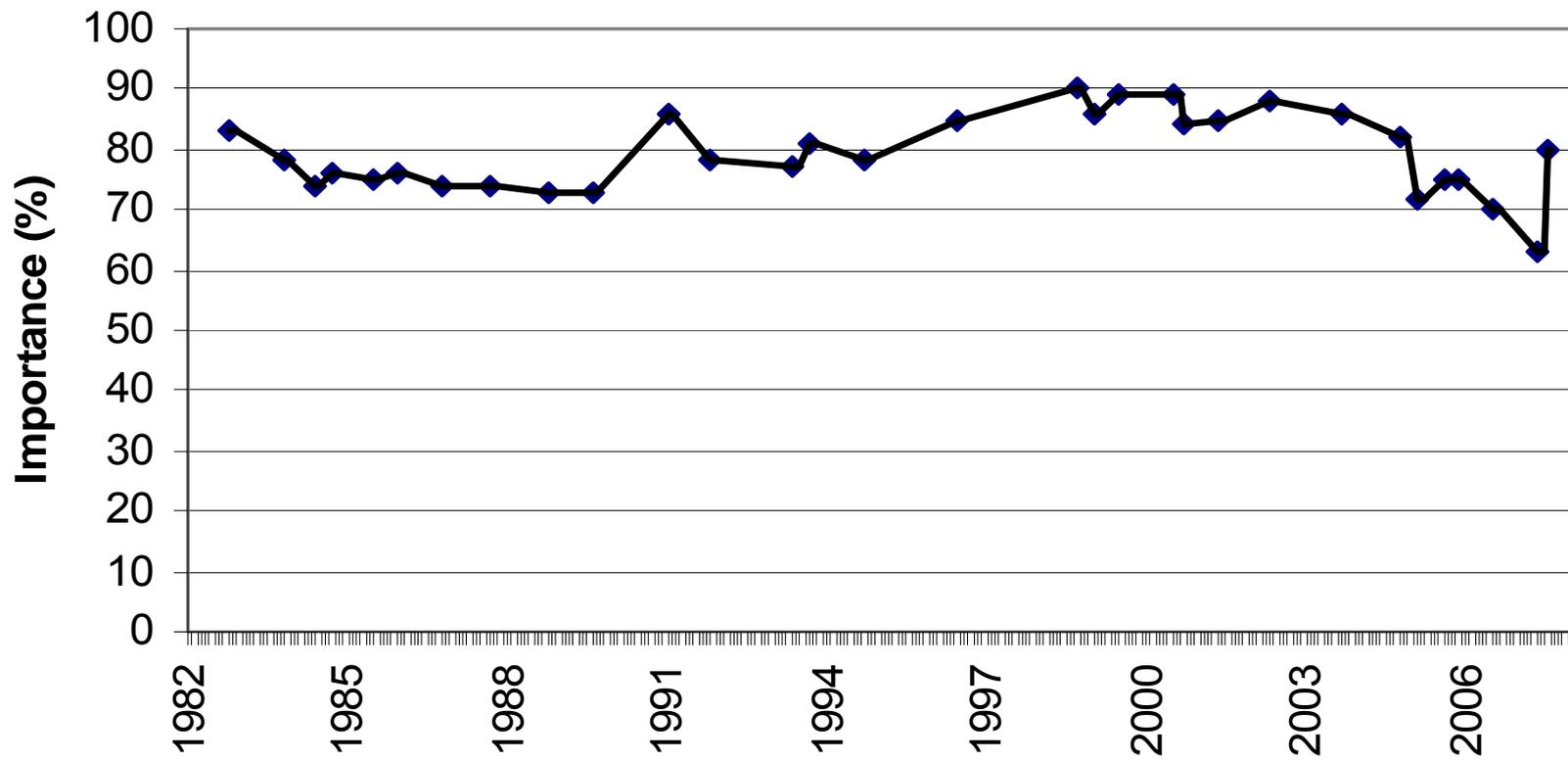
Confidence that US will deal fairly with the world



Views of US missile defence system, 2001-07

		Good idea	Bad idea	Have not heard enough to say	DK	n
July 2007	USSC	23	26	48	3	(1213)
Apr/May 2001	USIA	41	19	35	5	(1120)

Importance of ANZUS for protecting Australia's security



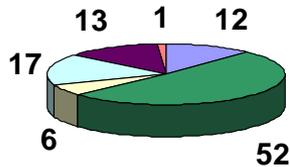
Whether Australia should be more independent of the US, 1975 and 2007

	1975 Sept	2007 July	Δ
	USIA	USSC	
Seek closer co-operation with the US	39	9	-30
Maintain the present relationship	30	41	+11
Act more independently of the US	26	48	+22
DK	5	3	-2
n	(933)	(618)	

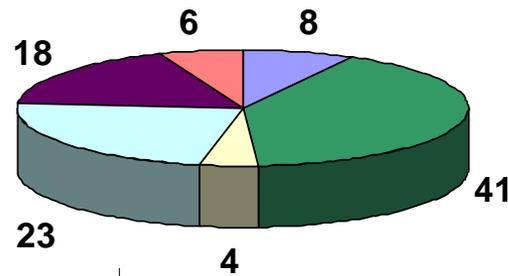
Historical Australian Opinion of Japan, 1971-2007

Attitudes to foreign investment from Japan

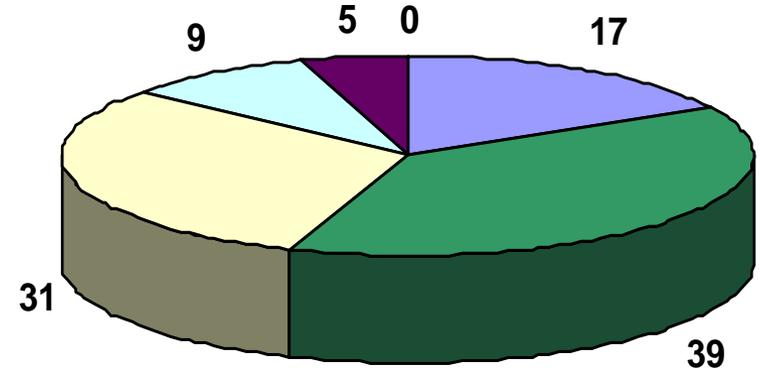
1971



1989



2007



- All for it - the more the better
- For it - but within limits
- Neither for it nor against it/don't mind*
- Against it generally but can see advantages
- Against it absolutely
- DK

* in 2007 these were two separate response options