Roadmap

• Introduction to the Arab Opinion Index

• Examples of data:
  • Democracy
  • US Policy
  • Israel and Palestine
Arab Opinion Index: Introduction

• Arab-led public opinion survey coming out of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies
  • largest public opinion survey in the Arab world

• Develop battery of questions relevant to region through iterative process of pilot surveys, focus groups, and in-depth interviews

• Arab public opinion matters
Arab Opinion Index: Sampling

• Sampling followed a randomized, stratified, multi-stage, self-weighted clustered approach, giving an overall margin of error between +/- 2% and 3% for the individual country samples.

• Overall samples guarantee probability-proportional-to-size (PPS), ensuring fairness in the representation of various population segments.
2022 Index

- Conducted in 14 countries in conjunction with local partners
  - 33,300 respondents
  - 4,500 over the phone – Saudi sample
  - 85% of the overall Arab population
حجم العينات في كل بلد

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>دولة</th>
<th>العينات</th>
<th>دولة</th>
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<td>تونس</td>
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<td>مصر</td>
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<td>المغرب</td>
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2022 Index

- Fieldwork was carried out by an overall team of 920 individuals, equally balanced by gender, who conducted 72,000 hours of face-to-face interviews.

- Team covered a total of 890,000 kilometers across the population clusters sampled.
Sections
Sections

- Living conditions of Arab citizens
- Perception of state institutions
- Attitudes towards democracy
- Civic and political participation
- Intra-Arab relations, foreign relations
- Religion in politics
Democracy
Attitudes toward Democracy

• The survey asks about democracy directly, different components of democracy, and how respondents perceive democracy across countries
Attitudes toward Democracy

- My society is unprepared for democracy
- Democracies are characterized by indecisiveness and discord
- Democracies are not effective in the maintenance of security and public order
- Economic performance suffers in a democracy
- Democracy is incompatible with Islam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitude/Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>DK / Declined to answer</th>
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<td>Democracies are characterized by indecisiveness and discord</td>
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<td>Democracy is incompatible with Islam</td>
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“Democracy is the best system”

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>DK /Declined to answer</th>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019 /2020</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017 /2018</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>
“Democracy is the best system” – regional comparison

- The Maghreb: 37 strongly agree, 36 agree, 7 disagree, 8 strongly disagree
- Nile Valley: 29 strongly agree, 43 agree, 15 disagree, 7 strongly disagree
- The Levant/Mashreq: 28 strongly agree, 50 agree, 13 disagree, 6 strongly disagree
- The Gulf: 22 strongly agree, 41 agree, 14 disagree, 6 strongly disagree
- Aggregate: 30 strongly agree, 42 agree, 13 disagree, 6 strongly disagree

Legend:
- **Strongly agree**
- **Agree**
- **Disagree**
- **Strongly Disagree**
- **DK /Declined to answer**
US Policy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certainly: Dark blue
Yes, to an extent: Light blue
No, to an extent: Red
Certainly Not: Light red
Dk /Declined to answer: Grey
US Policy

• 78% consider the US the biggest source of threat and instability in the region, compared to 57% Russia and 57% Iran

• A general sense of American hypocrisy
  • The Arab exception to pro-democracy policy
    • Especially in comparison to US response to Ukraine
  • Support for human rights violators
  • Support for Abraham Accords
Palestine
Attitudes towards the Palestinian cause

The Palestinian cause concerns all Arabs and not the Palestinian people alone
The Palestinian cause concerns the Palestinians solely
Neither of the above two statements
Dk /Declined to answer

The chart shows the percentage of respondents who agree with each statement from 2011 to 2022.
Attitudes towards Arab unity

The Arab peoples constitute a single nation, separated by artificial borders
The Arab peoples constitute a single nation, even if each people has its own specificities
The Arab peoples are distinct nations, tied together by only tenuous links
Dk /Declined to answer
Attitudes towards Arab unity – by region

- **The Gulf**: 44% agree the Arab peoples constitute a single nation, separated by artificial borders; 41% agree they are a single nation, even if each has its own specificities; 8% believe they are distinct nations tied together by only tenuous links; 7% declined to answer.
- **The Maghreb**: 43% agree the Arab peoples constitute a single nation, separated by artificial borders; 37% agree they are a single nation, even if each has its own specificities; 17% believe they are distinct nations tied together by only tenuous links; 3% declined to answer.
- **Nile Valley**: 42% agree the Arab peoples constitute a single nation, separated by artificial borders; 45% agree they are a single nation, even if each has its own specificities; 10% believe they are distinct nations tied together by only tenuous links; 3% declined to answer.
- **The Levant/Mashreq**: 29% agree the Arab peoples constitute a single nation, separated by artificial borders; 44% agree they are a single nation, even if each has its own specificities; 26% believe they are distinct nations tied together by only tenuous links; 1% declined to answer.
- **Aggregate**: 39% agree the Arab peoples constitute a single nation, separated by artificial borders; 41% agree they are a single nation, even if each has its own specificities; 17% believe they are distinct nations tied together by only tenuous links; 3% declined to answer.

- The Arab peoples constitute a single nation, separated by artificial borders
- The Arab peoples constitute a single nation, even if each people has its own specificities
- The Arab peoples are distinct nations, tied together by only tenuous links
- Dk/Declined to answer
### Diplomatic relations with Israel - 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Dk /Declined to answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>0</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>Qatar</td>
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<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
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<td>85</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
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<td>Morocco</td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aggregate</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- **Support**
- **Oppose**
- **Dk /Declined to answer**
Diplomatic relations with Israel – over time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Dk /Declined to answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- **Support**
- **Oppose**
- **Dk /Declined to answer**
Diplomatic relations with Israel – by region

- The Levant/Mashreq: 6 support, 92 oppose, 2 Dk/Declined to answer
- The Maghreb: 6 support, 90 oppose, 4 Dk/Declined to answer
- Nile Valley: 15 support, 78 oppose, 7 Dk/Declined to answer
- The Gulf: 8 support, 70 oppose, 22 Dk/Declined to answer
- Aggregate: 8 support, 84 oppose, 8 Dk/Declined to answer

Legend:
- Support
- Oppose
- Dk/Declined to answer

Data source: [International Public Opinion poll results]
Comparisons to other surveys

- **AOI**
  - Does not poll those in Bahrain or UAE, the initial Abraham Accords signatories, but does poll Morocco and Sudan
  - 8% approval of diplomatic relations with Israel

- **Arab Barometer**
  - Does not poll in the Gulf at all on this question
  - 13% approval of diplomatic relations with Israel

- **Washington Institute for Near East Policy**
  - Polling in the UAE and Bahrain (unclear data collection and sampling method)
  - Only 25% “see the effects of the agreement on the region in an even somewhat positive light”
Why do Arabs refuse diplomatic relations?

• The majority that opposed diplomatic ties between their countries and Israel highlighted factors such as Israeli racism towards the Palestinians and its expansionist policies.

• A minority of respondents also named Israeli racism towards Arabs and its role in regional instability as reason for the opposition.

• Among the minority who accepted recognition of Israel by their governments, their reasons were nuanced.
  • In a similar open-ended question, half of this minority made such recognition conditional on the formation of an independent Palestinian state.

• Political reasons were most salient for both groups.
US Policy on Palestine

The Levant/Mashreq
- Very Positive: 2
- Positive: 7
- Negative: 24
- Very Negative: 61
- Dk/Declined to answer: 7

The Maghreb
- Very Positive: 3
- Positive: 8
- Negative: 23
- Very Negative: 56
- Dk/Declined to answer: 11

Nile Valley
- Very Positive: 3
- Positive: 10
- Negative: 28
- Very Negative: 48
- Dk/Declined to answer: 11

The Gulf
- Very Positive: 4
- Positive: 7
- Negative: 23
- Very Negative: 44
- Dk/Declined to answer: 22

Aggregate
- Very Positive: 3
- Positive: 8
- Negative: 24
- Very Negative: 53
- Dk/Declined to answer: 12
Russian Policy on Palestine

The Gulf
- Very Positive: 4
- Positive: 18
- Negative: 27
- Very Negative: 22
- Dk / Declined to answer: 29

The Levant/ Mashreq
- Very Positive: 4
- Positive: 24
- Negative: 31
- Very Negative: 26
- Dk / Declined to answer: 15

The Maghreb
- Very Positive: 3
- Positive: 16
- Negative: 30
- Very Negative: 33
- Dk / Declined to answer: 18

Nile Valley
- Very Positive: 4
- Positive: 15
- Negative: 31
- Very Negative: 30
- Dk / Declined to answer: 20

Aggregate
- Very Positive: 4
- Positive: 19
- Negative: 30
- Very Negative: 28
- Dk / Declined to answer: 19

Legend:
- Very Positive
- Positive
- Negative
- Very Negative
- Dk / Declined to answer
Iranian Policy on Palestine

The Gulf
- Very Positive: 8
- Positive: 25
- Negative: 21
- Very Negative: 28
- Dk /Declined to answer: 18

The Levant/ Mashreq
- Very Positive: 9
- Positive: 26
- Negative: 25
- Very Negative: 27
- Dk /Declined to answer: 13

The Maghreb
- Very Positive: 6
- Positive: 23
- Negative: 24
- Very Negative: 27
- Dk /Declined to answer: 20

Nile Valley
- Very Positive: 9
- Positive: 21
- Negative: 30
- Very Negative: 25
- Dk /Declined to answer: 17

Aggregate
- Very Positive: 8
- Positive: 23
- Negative: 25
- Very Negative: 27
- Dk /Declined to answer: 17

Legend:
- Very Positive
- Positive
- Negative
- Very Negative
- Dk /Declined to answer
Conclusions

• AOI’s comparative advantage is creating measures that capture underlying, persistent problems in the Arab world using highly contextualized knowledge of the cases

• Yearly measures of a variety of variables
  • As well as current events

• Rich data that can help inform policy and highlight important trends
Thank you