

2022 Arab Opinion Index

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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



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

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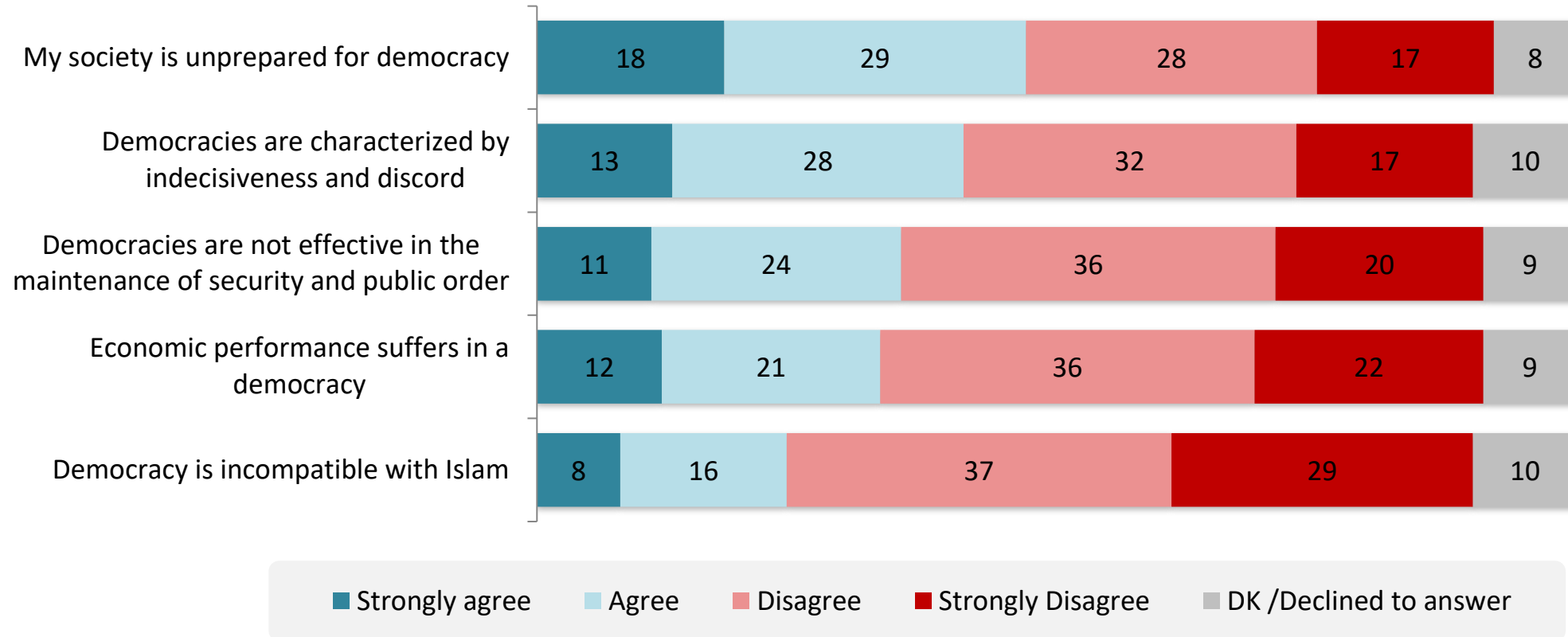
- Living conditions of Arab citizens
- Perception of state institutions
- Attitudes towards democracy
- Civic and political participation
- Intra-Arab relations, foreign relations
- Religion in politics

Democracy

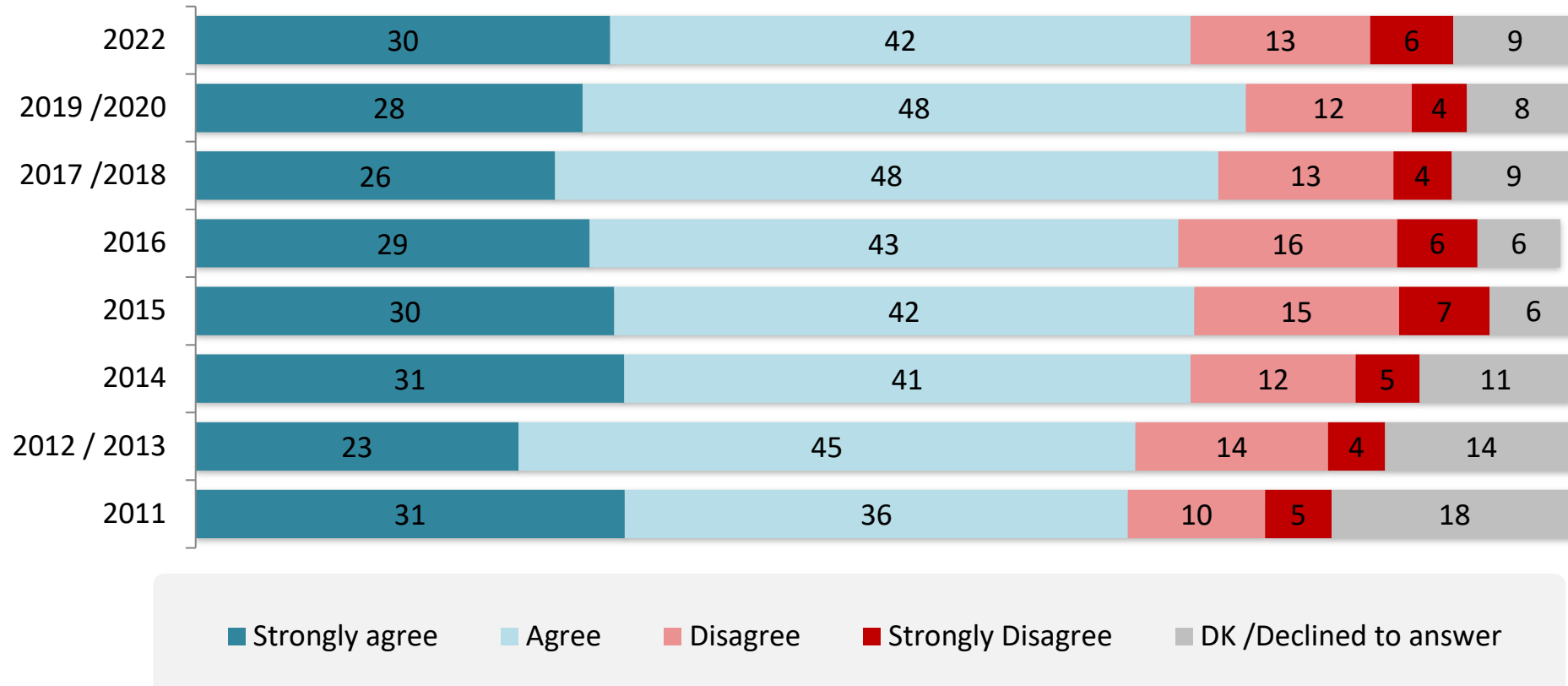
Attitudes toward Democracy

- The survey asks about democracy directly, different components of democracy, and how respondents perceive democracy across countries

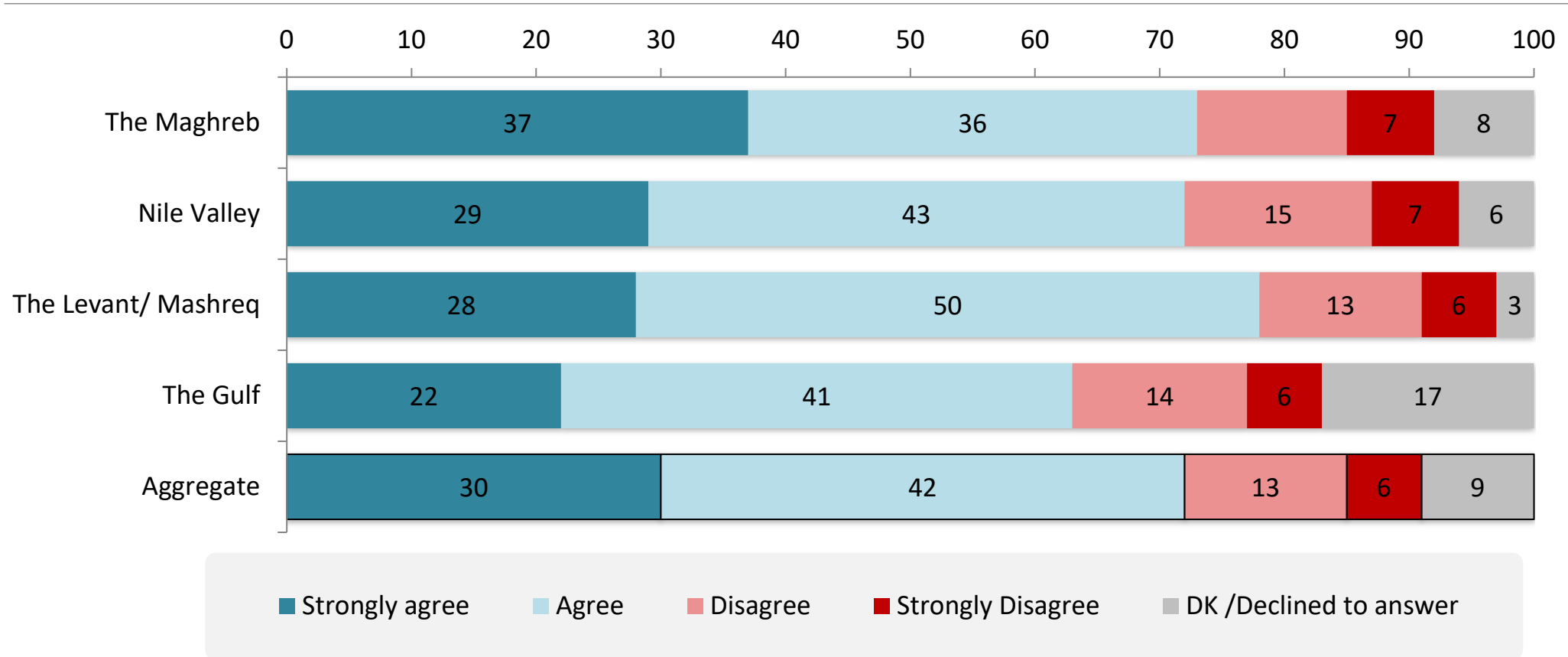
Attitudes toward Democracy



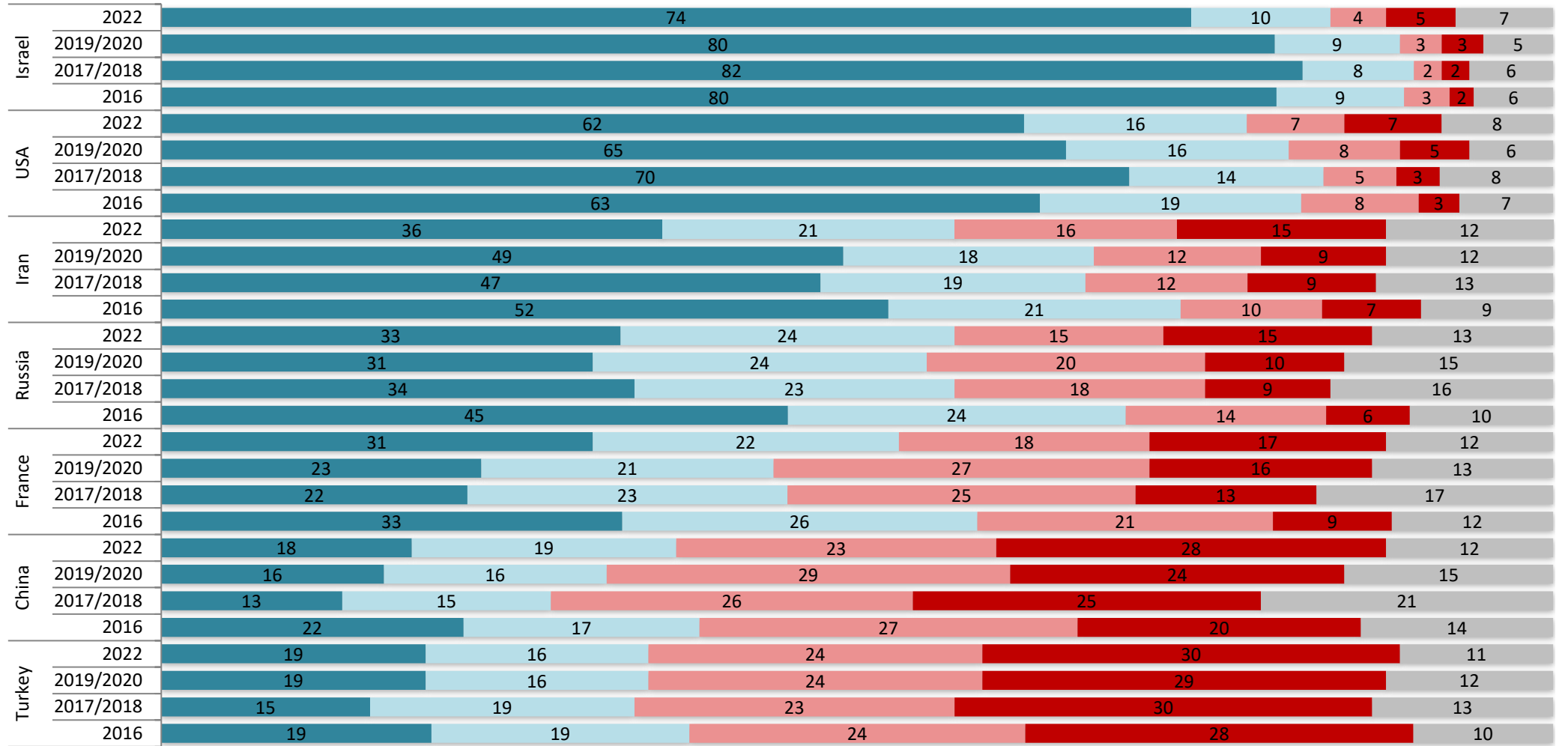
“Democracy is the best system”



“Democracy is the best system” – regional comparison



US Policy



■ Certainly

■ Yes, to an extent

■ No, to an extent

■ Certainly Not

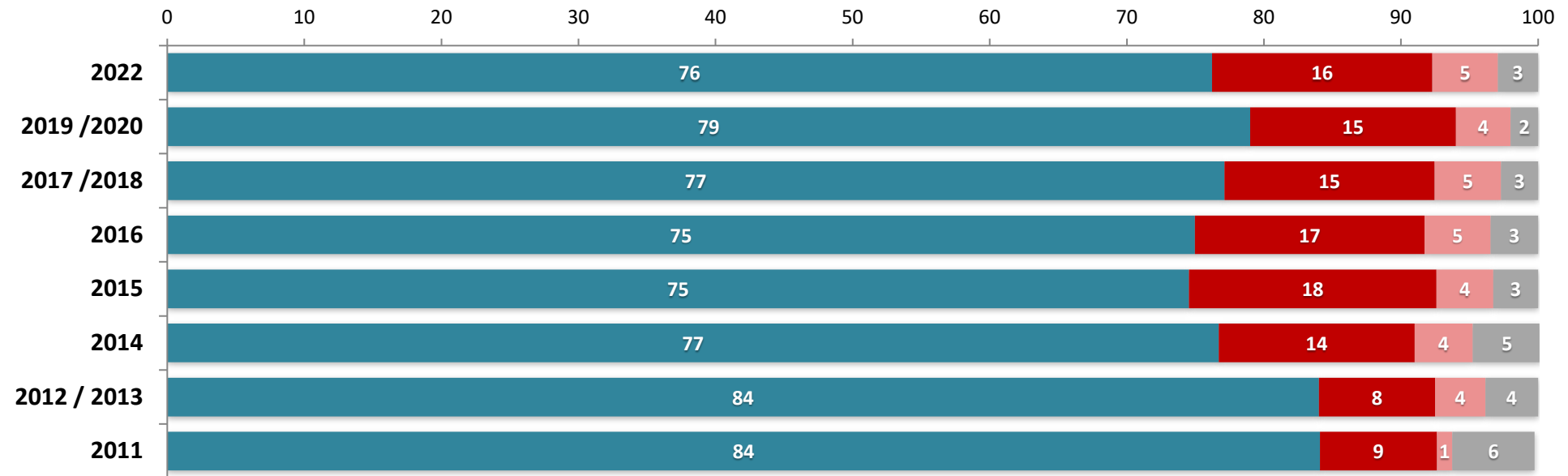
■ Dk / Declined to answer

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

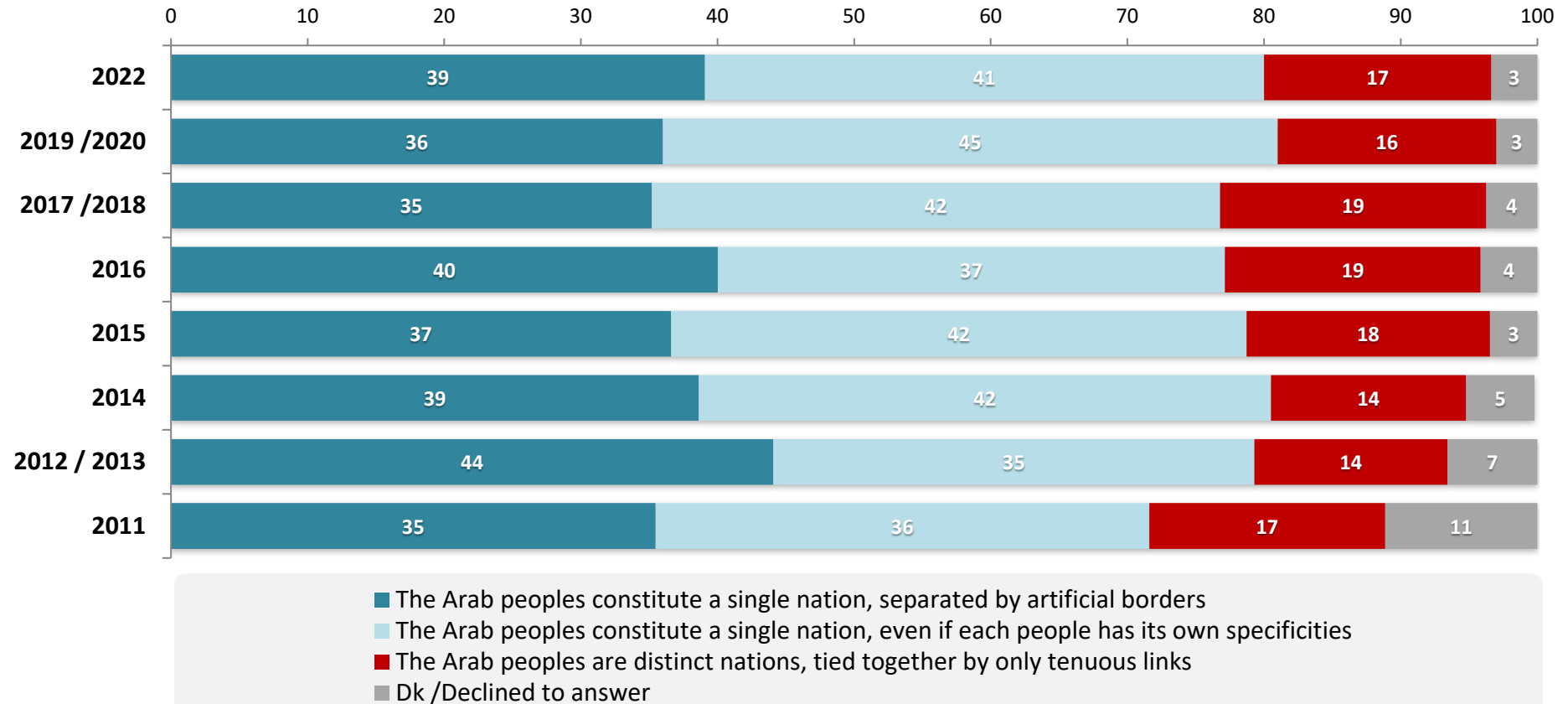
Palestine

Attitudes towards the Palestinian cause

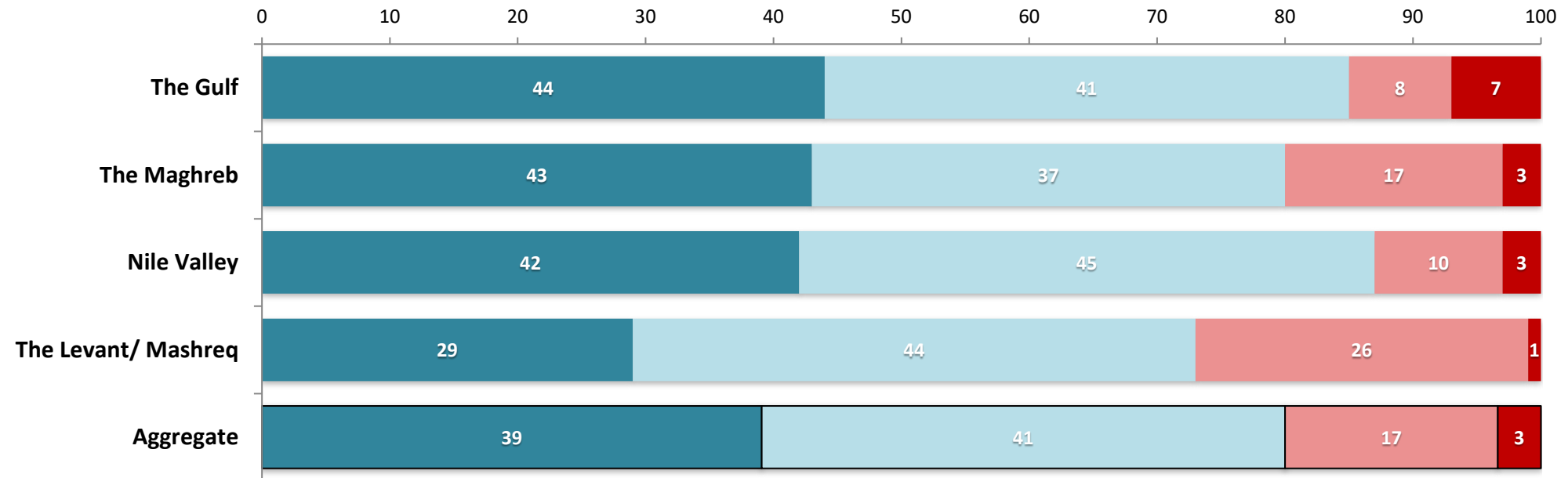


- The Palestinian cause concerns all Arabs and not the Palestinian people alone
- The Palestinian cause concerns the Palestinians solely
- Neither of the above two statements
- Dk /Declined to answer

Attitudes towards Arab unity

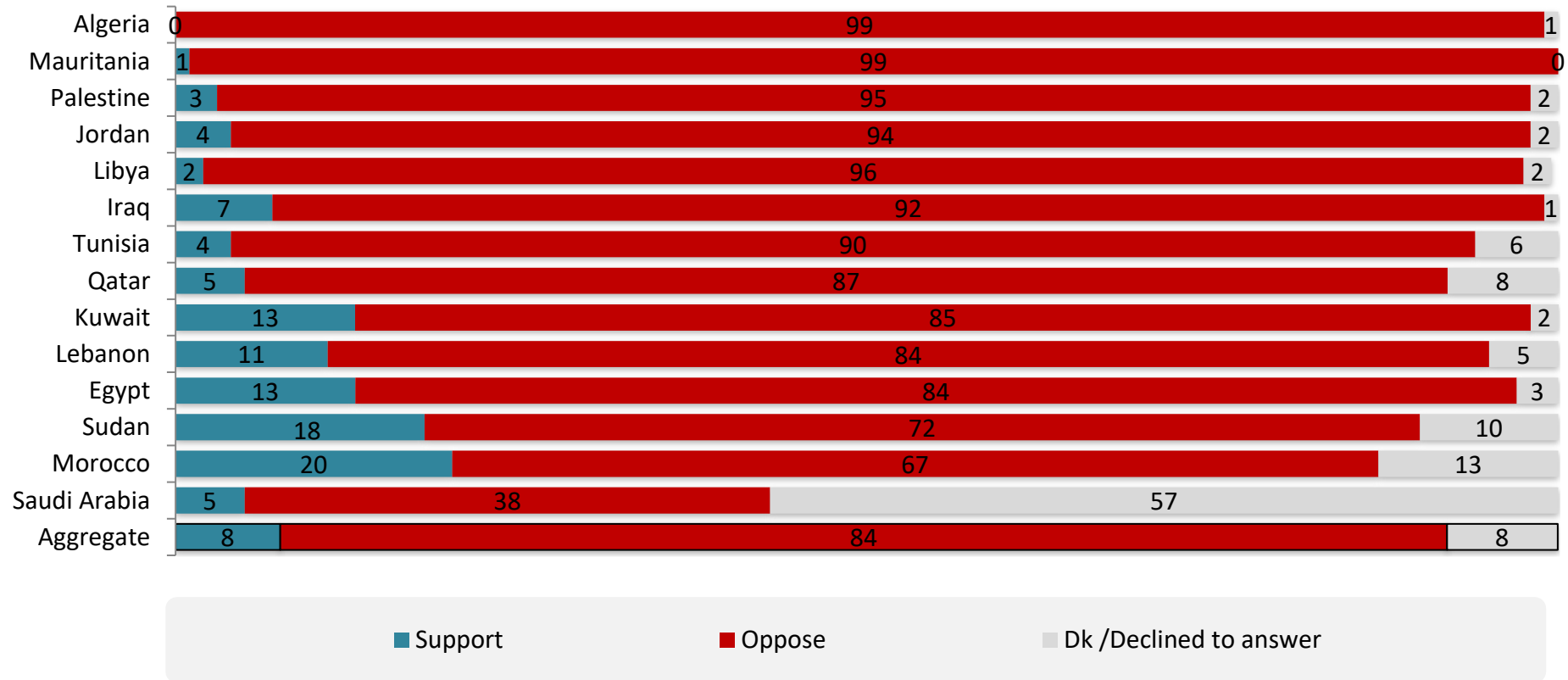


Attitudes towards Arab unity – by region

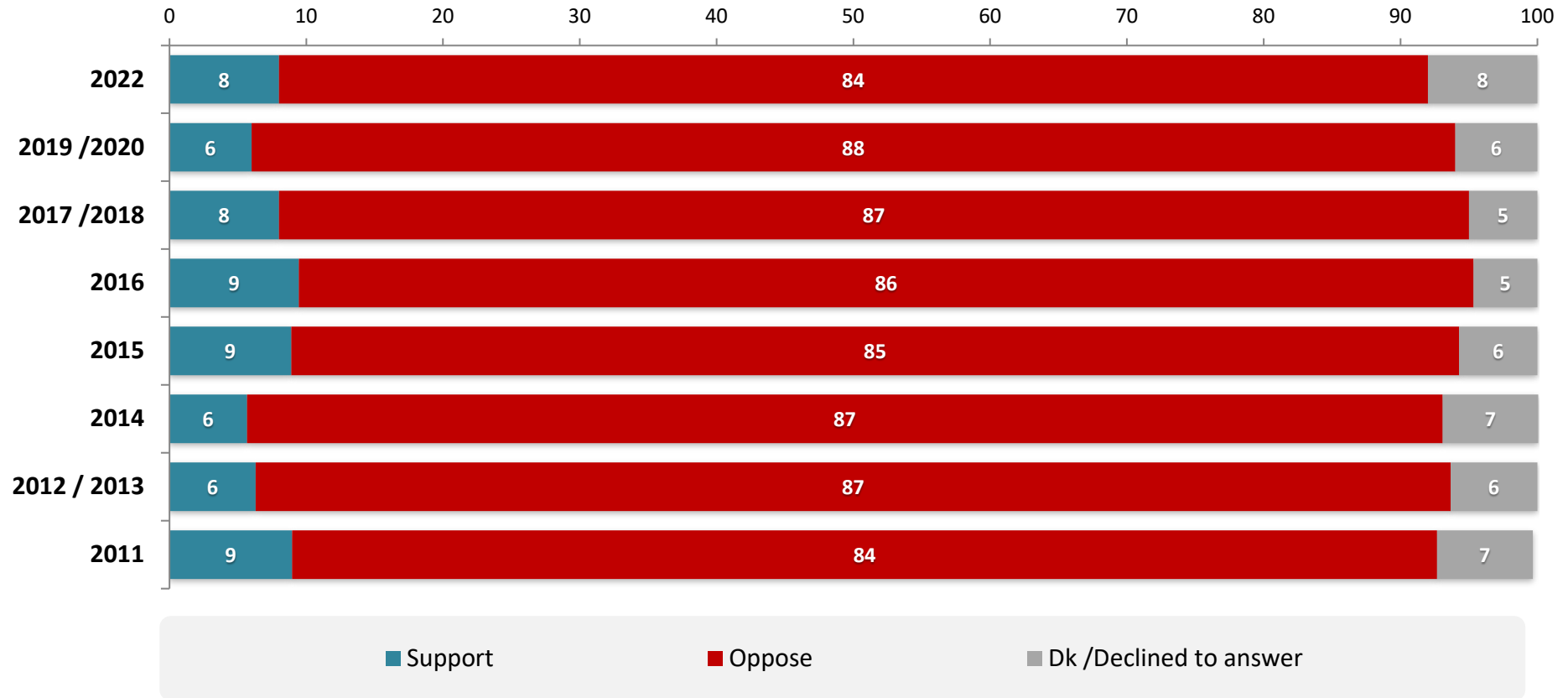


- The Arab peoples constitute a single nation, separated by artificial borders
- The Arab peoples constitute a single nation, even if each person has their own specificities
- The Arab peoples are distinct nations, tied together by only tenuous links
- Dk / Declined to answer

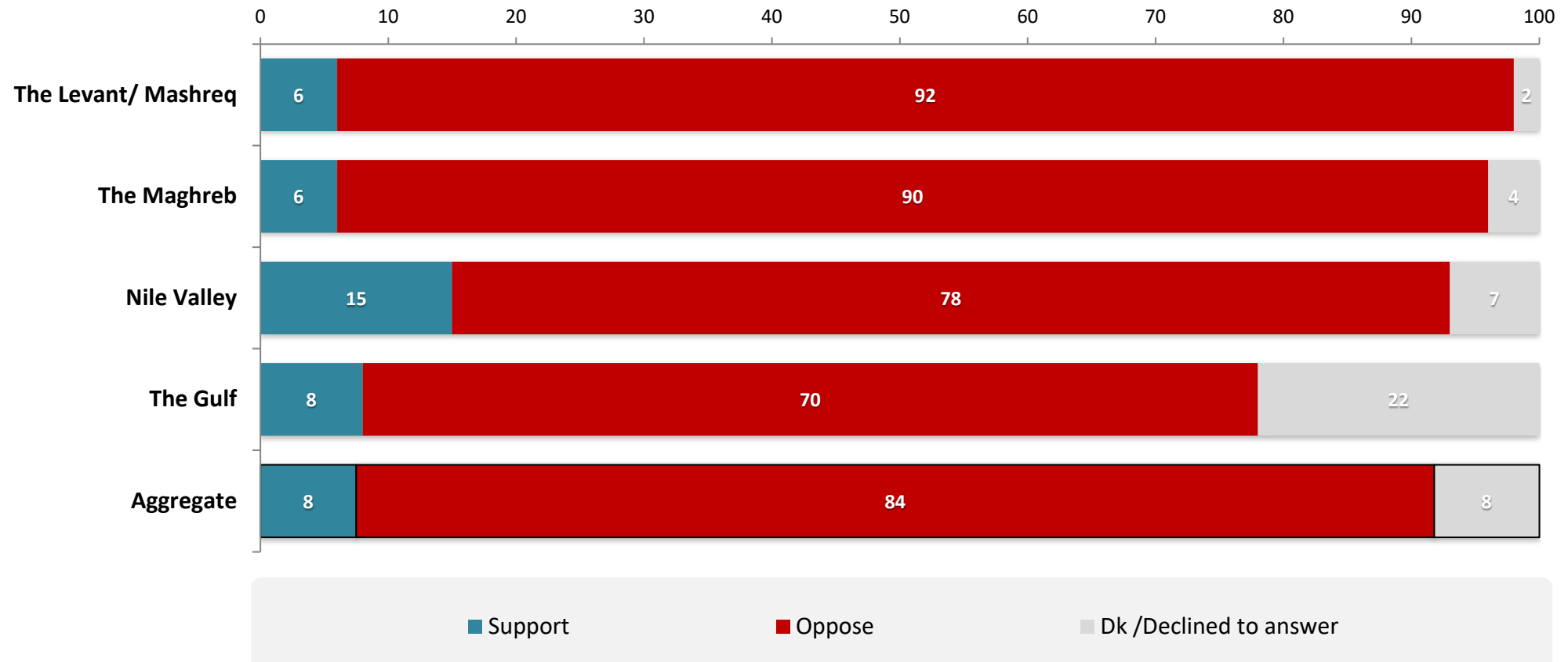
Diplomatic relations with Israel - 2022



Diplomatic relations with Israel – over time



Diplomatic relations with Israel – by region



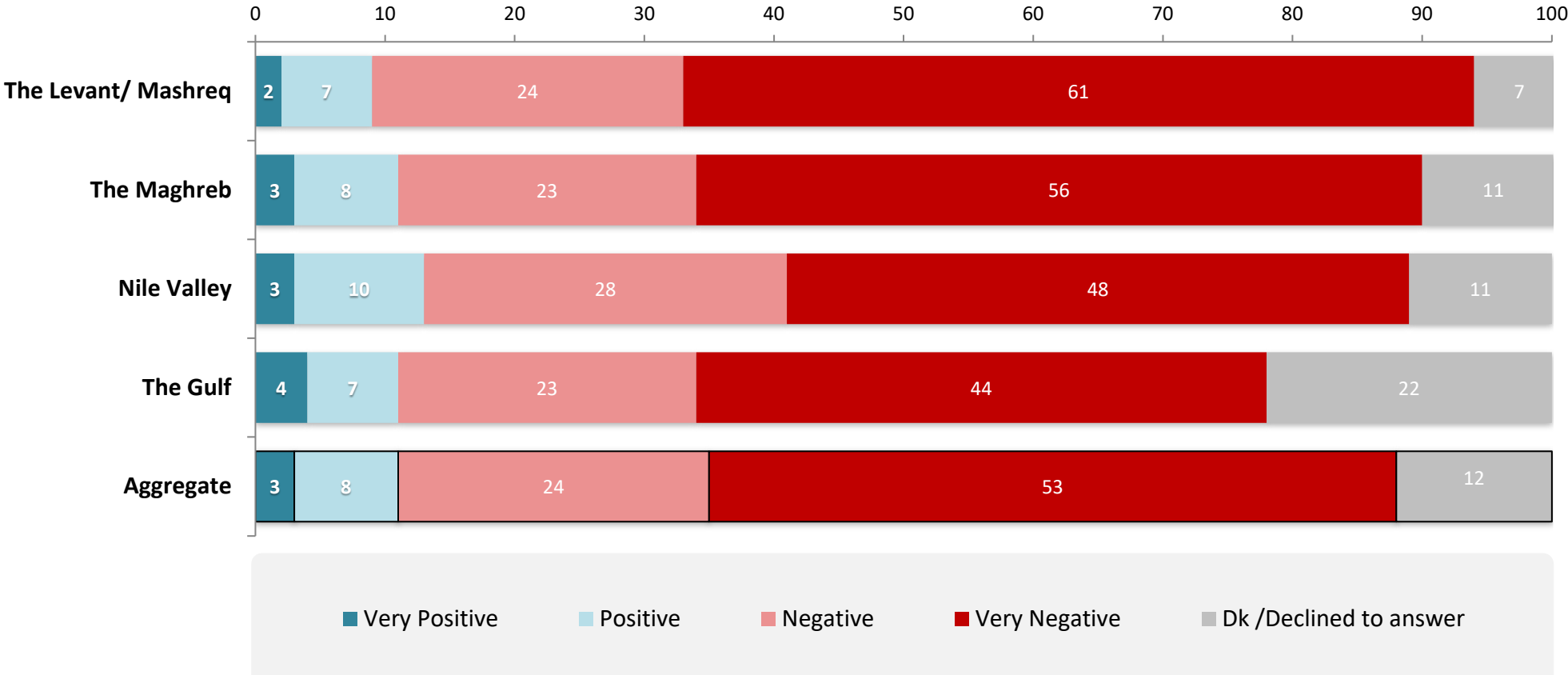
Comparisons to other surveys

- 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”

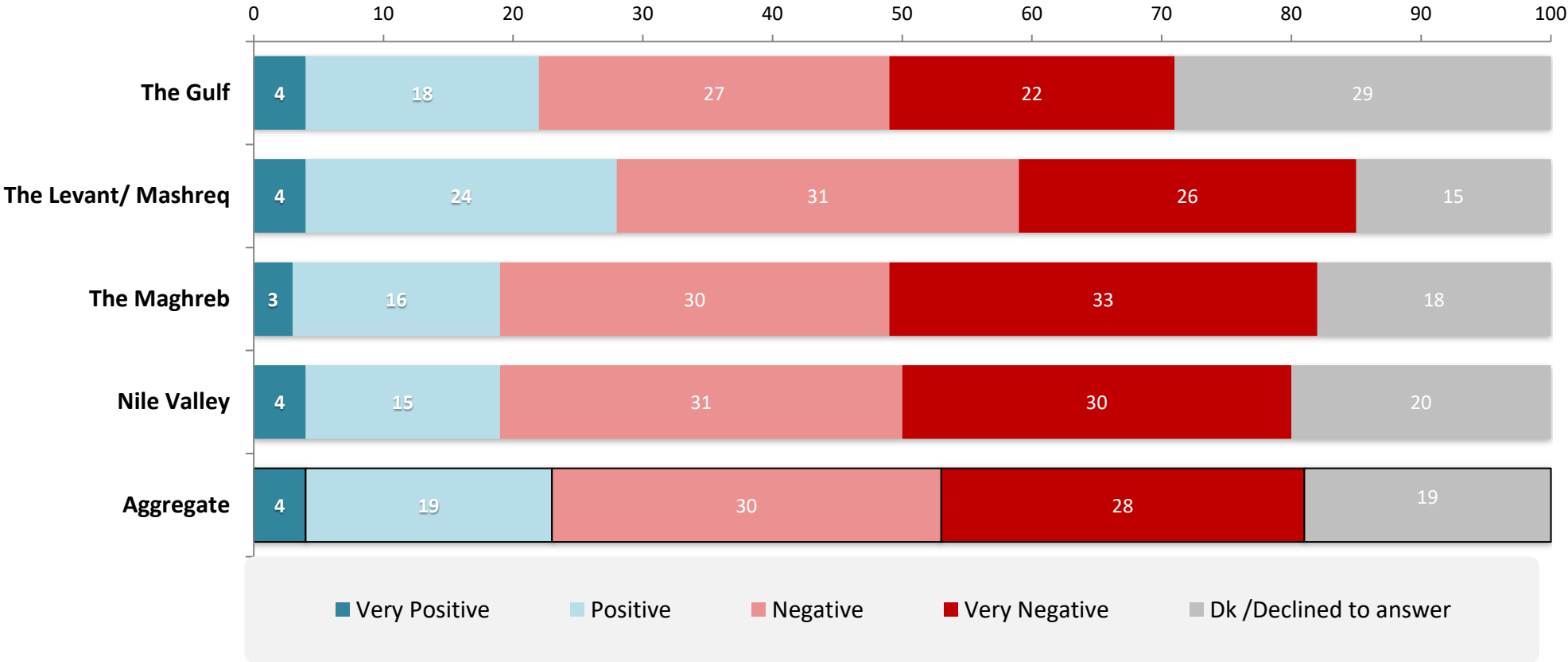
Why do Arabs refuse diplomatic relations?

- 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.*

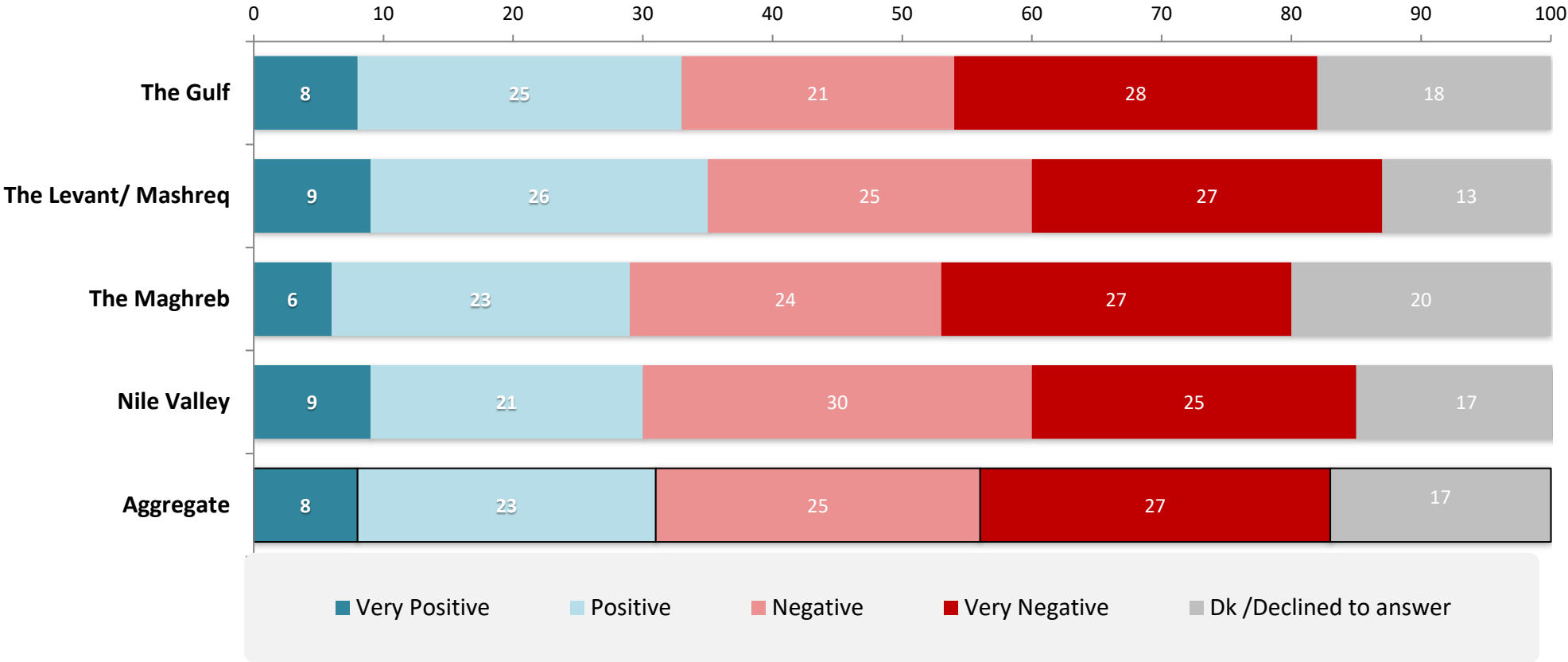
US Policy on Palestine



Russian Policy on Palestine



Iranian Policy on Palestine



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
