Involvement or Restraint?

A representative survey on German attitudes to foreign policy commissioned by Körber-Stiftung in September 2020 (p. 1–6; 9–12) and November 2020 (p. 7–8).

All US results by Pew Research Center

German Foreign Policy: Challenges, Partners and Priorities

International responsibility: Should Germany become more strongly involved in international crises?

- Restraint: 49%
- Become more strongly involved: 44%

2020: don’t know 5%, no answer 2% | 2019: don’t know 5%, no answer 3%

German respondents:
What are the greatest challenges currently facing German foreign policy?

- Climate and Environment
- Refugees and migration policy
- Relations with Russia/Putin
- Relations with the US/Trump
- COVID-19

UK respondents:
What are the greatest challenges currently facing British foreign policy?

- Climate and Environment
- Refugees and migration policy
- Trade
- COVID-19
- US/Elections/Trump

Multiple answers possible

Results from the UK by YONDER. In cooperation with British Embassy Berlin.
How democratic do you think the following countries are?

- Germany
- United States
- Poland
- United Kingdom
- France
- China
- Russia

Fully democratic: 10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

Not at all democratic: 1

Transatlantic Relations

How would you rate the current relationship between Germany and the United States?

German respondents:

- US respondents:

US respondents:

- Germany
- United States
- Poland
- United Kingdom
- France
- China
- Russia

In previous editions the results referred to added value of the most and second most important partner.

Post-US-Election

[Graphs showing relationships over time]

September 2020: don't know 2 %, no answer 1 %

Transatlantic Relations

What is more important for Germany...

- Germany
- United States
- France
- China
- Russia

Having close relations with the United States

Spontaneous response: equidistance

Having close relations with Russia

Germany respondents:

US respondents:

UK respondents:

What is more important for the United Kingdom...

- Germany
- United States
- France
- Israel

Having close relations with China

Spontaneous response: equidistance

Having close relations with Russia

September 2020: don't know 5 %, no answer 1 %

2019: don't know 3 %, no answer 1 %

September 2019: neither 3 %, don't know / no answer 4 %
For each of the following issues, do you see the United States as a partner or not?

**German respondents:**

- Protecting the environment
  - Partner: 56%
  - Not a partner: 44%
- Preventing Iran from possessing nuclear weapons
  - Partner: 57%
  - Not a partner: 43%
- Protecting democracy and human rights worldwide
  - Partner: 58%
  - Not a partner: 42%
- Promoting free trade
  - Partner: 63%
  - Not a partner: 37%
- Dealing with China
  - Partner: 84%
  - Not a partner: 16%

**US respondents:**

- Having close relations with China
  - Partner: 35%
  - Not a partner: 65%
- Spontaneous response: equidistance
  - Partner: 37%
  - Not a partner: 63%
- Having close relations with the United States
  - Partner: 56%
  - Not a partner: 44%

**What has a bigger impact on your perception of the United States?**

- US domestic policy: 37%
- US foreign policy: 39%

**Which aspects of US domestic policy particularly influence your perception of the United States?**

- Racism/protests: 30%
- Trump: 28%
- Health and social issues: 10%
**UK respondents:**
For each of the following issues, do you see Germany as a partner or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Not a partner</th>
<th>Neither/no opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protecting the environment</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting European security</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Dealing with China</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventing Iran from possessing nuclear weapons</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following five questions were posed to the German public between 6 and 10 November 2020.

- Which of the following statements corresponds most with your own view?
  - The transatlantic partnership worsened under President Trump and will normalize again under President Biden. **78%**
  - The transatlantic partnership worsened under President Trump and will remain the same under President Biden. **13%**
  - The transatlantic partnership did not worsen under President Trump. **4%**

- Has the US election rather strengthened or weakened your trust in US democracy?
  - Rather weakened **34%**
  - Rather strengthened **53%**
  - Neither 7%, don’t know 5%, no answer 1%
What does the US election mean to you personally?

- Somewhat unconcerned: 28%
- Somewhat worried: 52%
- Neither: 17%

don’t know 2%, no answer 1%

With which statement do you agree most?

- Germany and Europe should continue to rely on the relationship with the United States: 45%
- Germany and Europe should become more independent from the United States: 51%

don’t know 2%, no answer 2%

How will the international position of the United States develop within the next four years?

- The United States will rather become more relevant: 36%
- The United States will rather become less relevant: 21%
- The United States will be as relevant as before: 36%

don’t know 5%, no answer 2%

Europe-US-China Triangle

How likely is the possibility that the current US-Chinese confrontation turns into a Cold War?

2020: don’t know 2%, no answer 1%
2019: don’t know 2%

German respondents:
- Very unlikely: 48%
- Somewhat unlikely: 7%
- Somewhat likely: 8%
- Very likely: 8%

US respondents:
- Somewhat unlikely: 42%
- Very likely: 9%

If there is a new US-Chinese cold war, how should Germany position itself?

- Very unlikely: 25%
- Somewhat unlikely: 14%
- Somewhat likely: 41%
- Very likely: 18%

German respondents:
- US side: 3%
- Chinese side: 82%
- Neutral: 28%

UK respondents:
- US side: 4%
- Chinese side: 68%
- Neutral: 28%

don’t know 3%, no answer 1%

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don’t know 5%, no answer 2%
What is your view of China’s growing influence?

UK respondents:

- 60% Positive
- 40% Neutral
- 10% Negative

German respondents:

- 73% Positive
- 22% Neutral
- 5% Negative

Has the COVID-19 pandemic rather strengthened or rather weakened solidarity within the EU?

- 49% Rather strengthened
- 41% Rather weakened
- 3% Neither
- 4% don’t know
- 1% no answer

Who is better suited to meet the international challenges of the 21st century, such as pandemics, climate change, digitalization and international tensions?

- 85% Democratic states
- 7% Non-democratic states
- 3% Neither
- 4% don’t know
- 1% no answer

Should Germany deny non-democratic states to provide critical infrastructure, like telecommunication technology or energy supply, on its territory?

- 51% Yes
- 42% No
- 5% don’t know
- 2% no answer

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- 3% Neither
- 4% don’t know
- 1% no answer
The survey for Germany was commissioned by Körber-Stiftung and carried out by KANTAR PUBLIC Germany in September 2020 or as indicated in November 2020. Telephone interviews conducted with a representative random sample of 1,005 participants in September and 1,058 participants in November. (Margin of error: < 1.4 percent for unit values of 5 percent; < 3.1 percent for unit values of 50 percent). German data and results available at www.theberlinpulse.org.

The survey for the United States was conducted by SSRS for Pew Research Center in September 2020. Telephone interviews conducted with a representative random sample of 1,007 participants. (Margin of error: +/- 3.66 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.)

The survey for the United Kingdom was conducted by Yonder on behalf of the British Embassy Berlin in September and October 2020. Online survey with a sample of 2,096 participants. Data is weighted to be representative of the population of the United Kingdom (Margin of error: +/- 2.2 % at the 95 percent confidence level for unit values of 5 percent).

### German respondents:

**What would you expect once the COVID-19 crisis is over?**

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<thead>
<tr>
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### US respondents:

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**April 2020**

**September 2020**