

The slide features a decorative arrangement of five light purple circles. Two circles are positioned at the top, overlapping the main title. Below the title, there are two solid purple circles on the left and one hollow purple circle on the right, which contains the text 'Public Opinion'.

Introduction to the American Political Process

Public Opinion

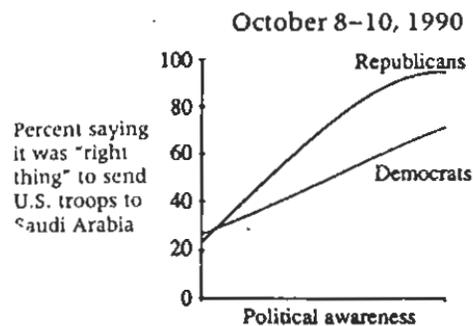
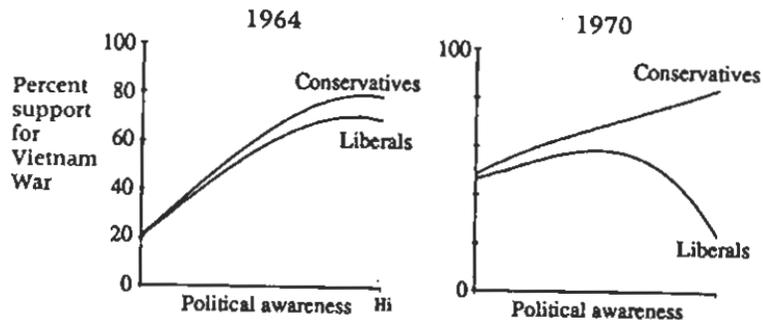
What drives public opposition to war?

- Mueller: External events – *Casualties*
 - As casualties rise, costs of war rise
 - Public will not tolerate high costs
 - Not explicitly political. Rests on notions of collective rationality
 - Has been modified to include costs and benefits – Larson (1996)

What drives public opposition to war?

- Zaller: Elite discourse

- Mainstream Pattern: If elite discourse is unified, more informed citizens will be more supportive of war
- Polarization Pattern: If elite discourse is split, more informed citizens will follow those leaders who share their political views
- Role for political process and conflict



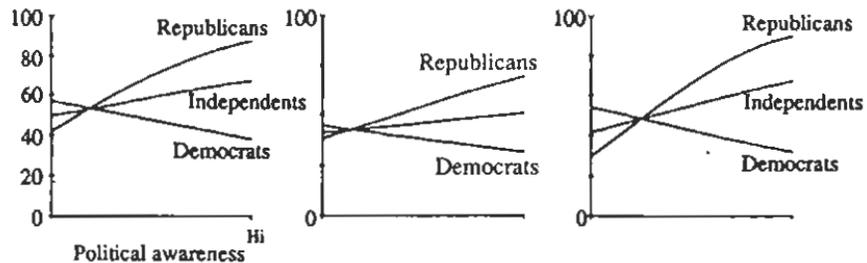
Source: CBS News-New York Times surveys.

JANUARY 11-13
1991

Percent who say Congress should approve military action against Iraq

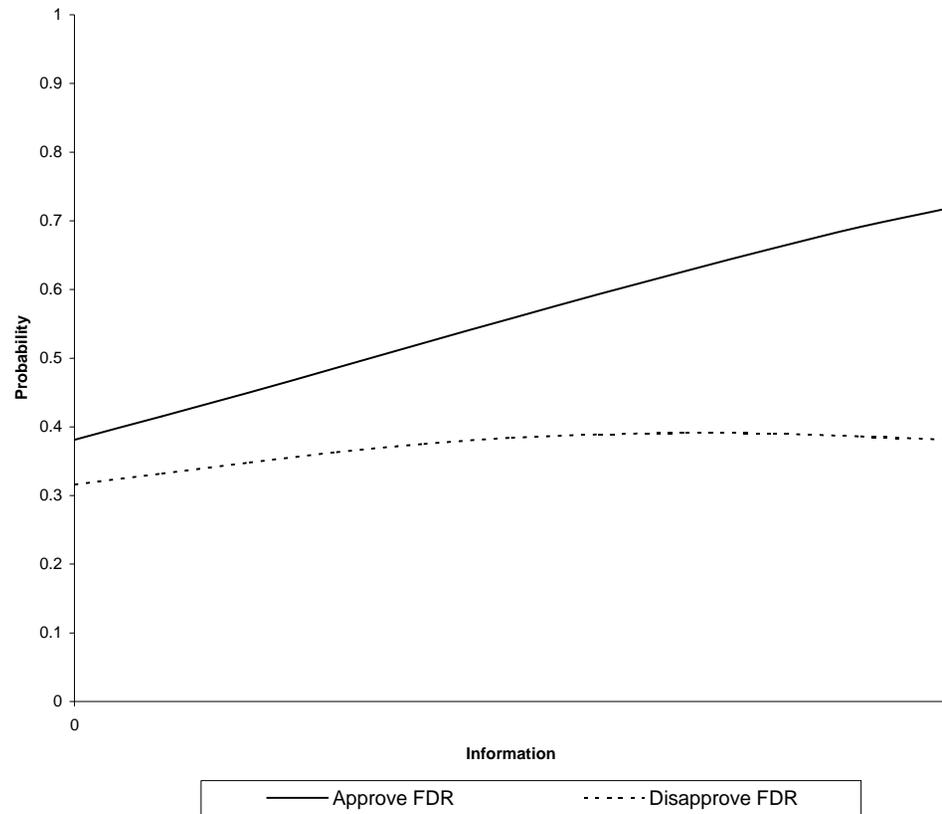
Percent who favor early start to military action against Iraq

Percent who approve of Bush's handling of gulf crisis



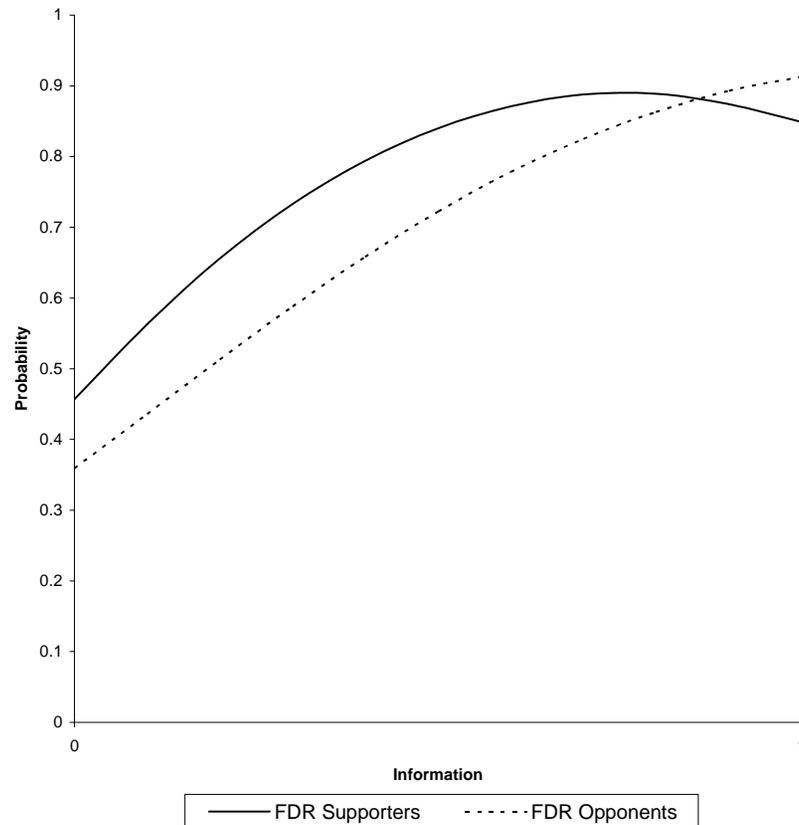
OPOR January 1941: Evidence of Two-Sided Information Flows

More Important to Help England than Stay out of War

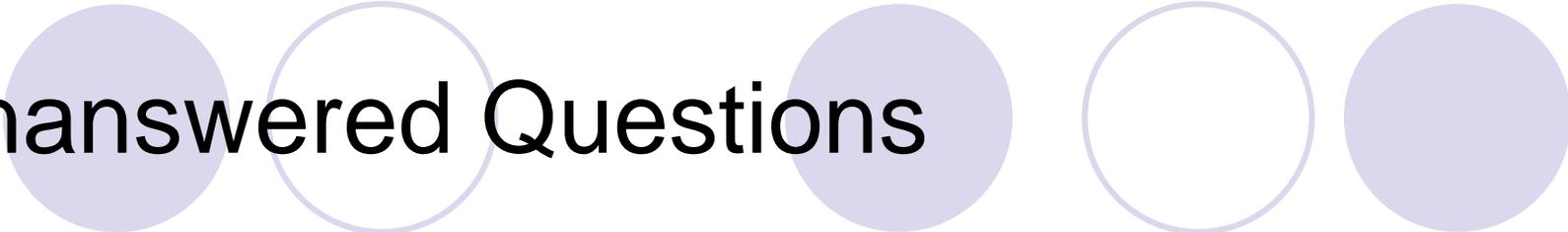


Roper March 1943: Evidence of One-Sided Information Flows

U.S. Should Take an Active Part in an International Organization after War



Unanswered Questions



- What determines flow of elite discourse?
 - What are conditions under which elites remain unified?
 - Perhaps arguments that have been made about the mass public (aversion to casualties, cost/benefit analysis) can be applied to elites
- Implications for theories of Democracy at War

ABC News/Washington Post

"All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting, or not?"

	Worth Fighting	Not Worth Fighting	No Opinion
	%	%	%
4/15-18/04	51	47	2
3/4-7/04	52	44	3
2/10-11/04	48	50	2
1/15-18/04	56	41	3
12/18-21/03	59	39	2
12/14/03	53	42	5
11/12-16/03	52	44	4
10/26-29/03	54	44	2
10/9-13/03	54	44	2
9/10-13/03	61	37	2
9/4-7/03	54	42	4
8/20-24/03	57	37	5
7/9-10/03	57	40	3
6/18-22/03	64	33	3
4/27-30/03	70	27	4

ABC News/Washington Post

Again thinking about the goals versus the costs of the war, so far in your opinion has there been an acceptable or unacceptable number of U.S. military casualties in Iraq?"

	Acceptable	Unacceptable	No Opinion
	%	%	%
4/15-18/04	33	65	2
1/15-18/04	34	62	4
12/18-21/03	37	60	4
11/12-16/03	33	64	3
10/26-29/03	35	62	3
10/9-13/03	37	60	3
9/10-13/03	43	55	2
9/4-7/03	38	57	5
8/7-11/03	42	53	5
7/9-10/03	44	52	3
6/18-22/03	51	44	5
4/9/03	66	28	6
4/3/03	62	32	5
3/27/03	58	34	9

ABC News/Washington Post

"Considering everything, do you think the United States did the right thing in going to war with Iraq, or do you think it was a mistake?"

	Right Thing	Mistake	No Opinion
	%	%	%
4/15-18/04	52	46	1
4/9/03	81	16	3
3/27/03	69	26	5

Time/CNN Poll

"Do you think the United States was right or wrong in going to war with Iraq?"

	Right	Wrong	Not Sure
	%	%	%
ALL	53	41	6
Republicans	79	20	1
Independents	52	41	7
Democrats	39	55	6
<i>Trend:</i>			
2/5-6/04	55	38	7
11/18-19/03	55	39	6
9/3-4/03	63	32	5
7/16-17/03	61	35	4
3/27/03	65	28	7