

Attitudes of Arabs *2005*

An In-Depth Look at Social and Political
Concerns of Arabs

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Arabs Looking Inward

By Dr. James Zogby

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Arabs are looking more inward today, focusing on issues close to home and self-identifying more with their countries. And despite concerns with employment, most Arabs are quite optimistic about their future. These are some of the results of a new Zogby International poll conducted in the last half of October 2005. Commissioned by Young Arab Leaders, a Dubai-based group, but supported, as well, by the Arab American Institute, the poll surveyed 3,900 Arabs from Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, and Jordan.

The results demonstrate some real changes taking place in Arab opinion. For example, when asked what were the most important issues facing the region, the responses in rank order of importance were: expanding employment opportunities, improving health care, combating corruption and nepotism, improving the educational system and fighting extremism and terrorism. The most notable change here was with regard to the importance given to “resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.” In our 2002 poll, given the brutal repression of Palestinians that was gripping Arab public opinion, this issue ranked second in importance. Today, it is number seven.

Concerns about employment are far and away the number one concern in Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan, with substantial majorities saying prospects of finding a job are dim. As a result, majorities in those countries indicate that they would leave their homes and countries and move to another country to find employment. Only in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, were citizens optimistic about finding work and are, therefore, less inclined to want to leave to find work elsewhere.

Despite this concern, by a margin of more than two to one, most Arabs in all six countries now say that they are better off than their parents were and say they are quite positive about their future prospects. What this somewhat contradictory finding appears to indicate is that Arab opinion, despite current difficulties, remains hopeful that solutions can be found to remedy the present economic distress.

Maybe the most dramatic changes occurred with regard to how Arabs prefer to self-identify. In 2002 in most countries the preferred self-identification was either “being Arab” or one’s religion. Today, most Arabs indicate that they identify primarily with their country. This significant change, most likely the result of developments within each country, is important. Identification with one’s country rather than the larger transnational identities offered, for example, of “Arab” and “Islam,” does not mean a rejection of either “Arabness” or religion, but a realism and a self-confident pride that should allow governments and civil society institutions within each country the opportunity to mobilize citizens in solution-oriented efforts at improvement.

Another area where answers surprised some experts came in response to the question “How acceptable is it for women to work outside the home?” In every country substantial majorities agreed that it was acceptable for women to work for any of the reasons given: “to provide financial support for the family,” “to find a fulfilling career,” or simply “because she wants to work.”

What the results show is an Arab world in which citizens are taking a look at what needs to be done to improve their lives. It is important to note that this looking inwards coexists with the sense of satisfaction

(most saying they are better off) and a sense of optimism (most saying they believe things will continue to improve). Arab opinion, in other words, is saying that it sees the problems that exist, wants them solved, and is hopeful that change will come.

What our poll also shows is that these views coexist in an environment where there is a diminishing belief in the “likelihood of peace” and a hardening of negative attitudes toward American policies—especially toward Iraq and “US treatment of Arabs and Muslims.”

The poll, therefore, helps to define an agenda both for countries in the region and US policy makers as well. As in our earlier polling, this survey establishes that as long as American policies are viewed negatively, it is difficult for the US to be an agent for change. The poll also helps focus on what are the real priorities that must be pursued: employment, health care, corruption, education, and combating extremism.

This is what most Arabs want, and this is what they are looking to their governments to deliver, with or without the US, and regardless of whether or not peace is established soon in the broader region.

Executive Summary

- 1.** The most important political issues facing the Arab world are largely the same in 2005 as they were in 2004: expanding employment, improving health care, and education ranking first, second, and fourth. In third place is an issue we did not include in our 2004 poll: ending corruption and nepotism. It is noteworthy that “resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict” has dropped from second place in 2004 to seventh place in this year’s survey.
- 2.** The most important concerns in personal life are matters close to home; family, quality of work, marriage, and religion. The significance of religion has declined in most countries and is in 5th place among younger Arabs.
- 3.** Overall, Arabs appear to be satisfied with their present situation and optimistic about their future. Most significant changes occurred in Lebanon where both optimism and satisfaction doubled since 2002.
- 4.** Significant majorities of Arabs in all countries accept women in the work place, especially if the reason is to provide financial support for their families, and smaller majorities also support women working for other reasons: “to find a fulfilling career” or “because she wants to work.”
- 5.** In 2005, more Arabs prefer to self-identify with their country of origin, than with their religion, or “being Arab.” In 2002, religion and “Arab” were principle self-identifiers.
- 6.** Overall, favorable attitudes toward the U.S. have rebounded since 2004, but are still slightly lower than the already low 2002 ratings. Negative attitudes toward the U.S. have hardened due largely to Iraq and “American treatment of Arabs and Muslims.”
- 7.** There is a growing pessimism toward “the likelihood of peace.” Positive attitudes have dropped in most countries, most notably in Egypt and Jordan.
- 8.** Only in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates do Arabs report optimism in the promise of finding a job in their own country. Majorities, in the other four countries polled, report that they would relocate to another country to find work.

Notes regarding the following tables:

1. Overall percentages/rankings for each country

a. In the instances where there are two percentages/rankings, the first percentage/ranking represents results from the previous (2002 or 2004) survey; the second percentage/ranking denotes the results from this recent survey

2. In Tables 4&5:

Percentages/Rankings for each country broken out by age groups

a. The first percentage/ranking denotes respondents under 30 years of age; the second percentage/ranking denotes respondents age 30 and older

3. In Tables 4&5:

Percentages for each country broken out by gender

a. The first percentage/ranking denotes men; the second percentage/ranking denotes women

* Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and might not total 100.

Survey Results

1 – 11. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is “not important” and 5 is “most important,” how important are the following issues facing your country today?

Table 1: Importance of Issues Facing Own Country - 2004 v. 2005 Overall

Importance (4+5)	2004 Ranking	2005 Ranking
Expanding employment opportunities	3	1
Improving the health care system	1	2
Improving the educational system	4	4
Increasing rights for women	7	10
Combating extremism and terrorism	5	5
Resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict	2	7
Lack of political debate on important issues	10	11
Political government reform	9	9
Protecting personal and civil rights	6	6
Advancing democracy	8	8
Ending corruption and nepotism	--*	2

*Not asked in 2004 survey.

Table 1a: Importance of Issues Facing Own Country - 2004 v. 2005 Rankings

Importance (4+5)	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Expanding employment opportunities	1	7/1	1/2	2/1	2/1	4/2
Improving health care system	1	4/3	4/2	2/3	1/3	2/2
Improving the educational system	3	2/4	9/5	4/4	3/4	2/1
Increasing rights for women	10	3/8	10/10	5/10	9/6	7/8
Combating extremism and terrorism	5	5/10	3/6	1/6	7/2	6/4
Resolving the Israel-Palestinian conflict	8	1/2	2/9	7/9	4/5	1/6
Lack of political debate on important issues	11	10/11	6/11	6/11	10/11	9/11
Political or governmental reform	9	5/9	7/4	9/8	8/10	8/9
Protecting personal and civil rights	7	7/6	7/7	6/5	6/9	5/5
Advancing democracy	6	9/6	5/8	8/7	4/8	10/9
Ending Corruption and nepotism	3	5	1	2	7	7

Four of the top five items remain the same from 2004 to 2005. “Expanding employment opportunities” now ranks 1st, followed by “improving the health care system” in 2nd, ending corruption and nepotism” in 3rd, “improving the educational system” in 4th, and “combating extremism and terrorism” in 5th.

“Ending corruption and nepotism” premieres in 3rd place, largely due to being 1st in Lebanon and 2nd in Morocco.

The issue of “resolving the Israel-Palestinian conflict” dropped to 7th place, with big declines in Lebanon and the UAE, and smaller declines in all other countries. This issue ranked 2nd overall in 2004.

In Jordan, “combating extremism and terrorism” drops from 5th place in 2004 to next-to-last place in 2005. Note, however, that this survey took place before the bombings at three Amman hotels on November 9th.

“Lack of political debate” and “increasing rights for women” consistently rank at or near the bottom in each country. An exception is in Saudi Arabia, where “increasing rights for women” climbs from 9th place in 2004 to 6th place in 2005.

Very little differences are seen in age and gender, except with “increasing rights for women,” as it ranks 6th among women and 10th among men.

12-20. Using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not important and 5 is extremely important, please tell me how important each of the following is in your life.

Table 2: Importance of Concerns in Personal Life - 2002 v. 2005 Overall

Importance (4+5)	2002 Ranking	2005 Ranking
Family	3	1
Friends	6	5
Marriage	5	3
Quality of your work	1	2
Job security	4	6
Political issues in your country	7	7
Political issues facing the Arab nations in general	8	9
Leisure time	9	8
Religion	2	3

Table 2a: Importance of Concerns in Personal Life - 2002 v. 2005 Rankings

Importance (4+5)	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Family	3/1	2/1	1/1	5/2	1/1	4/1
Friends	5/2	5/5	6/5	7/7	6/3	5/5
Marriage	6/3	7/4	3/2	4/5	5/5	3/2
Quality of your work	2/5	3/2	2/2	2/3	3/4	1/4
Job security	4/6	4/3	3/4	3/4	3/6	2/6
Political issues in your country	7/7	6/7	7/7	6/9	7/7	7/9
Political issues facing the Arab nations in general	8/8	8/8	8/9	8/8	8/8	8/7
Leisure time	9/9	9/8	9/8	9/6	9/9	9/7
Religion	1/4	1/6	5/6	1/1	1/2	6/2

As in 2002, issues very close to home dominate the rankings, with “family,” “work,” and “marriage” ranking #1, #2, and #3. “Political issues facing Arab nations,” “leisure time,” and “domestic political issues” remain at the bottom of the list.



“Family” is now #1 – up overall from #3 in 2002, and up in every country where it did not rank #1 in 2002, as well. “Marriage” has also climbed overall and in most countries. “Religion,” however, has declined in most countries, seeing the biggest drops in Egypt (from 1st to 4th) and Jordan (from 1st to 6th).

Age differences are seen with “religion,” as it ranks #5 among younger adults and is #2 for older adults. Also, differences are seen with “friends” and “marriage,” as “friends” ranks more important for younger adults, and “marriage” ranks more important for older adults.

21-24. Are you better off or worse off now than you were four years ago? Do you feel that four years from now, your situation will be better off or worse off? Are you better off today or worse off than your parents were at your age? Do you feel that your children will be better off or worse off than you?

Table 3: Better Off/Worse Off - 2002 v. 2005

Better Off...	Egypt		Jordan		Lebanon		Morocco		Saudi Arabia		UAE	
	2002 B/W	2005 B/W	2005 B/W	2005 B/W	2002 B/W	2005 B/W	2002 B/W	2005 B/W	2002 B/W	2005 B/W	2002 B/W	2005 B/W
Than 4 years ago	47/20	45/18	28/25	37/16	9/65	25/39	41/9	41/19	34/28	49/12	61/3	77/5
4 years from now	48/10	29/8	34/15	36/14	15/46	29/28	55/2	51/5	40/18	71/2	71/1	53/4
Than parents were	53/18	44/21	41/25	40/20	26/49	52/24	39/10	46/25	27/26	45/12	69/4	86/2
Children will be	54/13	29/6	42/15	41/13	26/31	55/14	74/1	58/3	56/17	80/4	74/2	43/1

Overall, Arabs are optimistic and satisfied. The greatest change since 2002 is seen in Lebanon, where optimism and satisfaction have doubled since 2002. Still, Lebanon is the only country of the six where Arabs are more dissatisfied than satisfied now as compared to four years ago.

In Saudi Arabia, both optimism and satisfaction have increased dramatically.

In the UAE – where there are almost no negatives – satisfaction has increased, while optimism has dropped, but remains high.

In Egypt, satisfaction rates have remained stable, but optimism for the future has dropped significantly.

25. Is it acceptable or unacceptable for women to work outside the home?

Table 4: Acceptability of Women Working Outside Home - 2005

Is it...?	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Acceptable	84	74	88	77	57	71
Unacceptable	15	21	10	22	26	22

Table 4a: Acceptability of Women Working Outside Home - 2005 By Age (< 30/ > 30)

Is it...?	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Acceptable	83/84	77/72	90/86	82/74	68/53	66/77
Unacceptable	15/16	15/26	8/11	18/25	20/29	23/20

Table 4b: Acceptability of Women Working Outside Home - 2005 By Gender (M/F)

Is it...?	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Acceptable	76/91	68/82	80/95	65/88	44/74	66/86
Unacceptable	22/8	24/17	16/5	34/12	36/14	25/14

Significant majorities accept women in the workplace, with women being much more supportive than men in all countries.

By age, the biggest differences in acceptance are seen within Saudi Arabia and the UAE. In Saudi Arabia, younger Arabs are more accepting than older Arabs (68% to 53%), while in the UAE, older Arabs are more accepting than younger Arabs (77% to 66%).



26-28. The following are some of the reasons why some women do work outside of their homes. The respondents answered giving reasons for why it is always acceptable, sometimes acceptable, or never acceptable as a reason for women to work outside the home.

Table 5: When it is Acceptable for Women to Work Outside Home - 2005

How Acceptable is it...?	Egypt			Jordan			Lebanon		
	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never
To provide financial support for their family	54	35	8	46	43	10	67	27	6
To find a fulfilling career	40	40	17	29	48	21	51	32	16
Because she wants to	34	35	29	28	48	22	45	29	25

How Acceptable is it...?	Morocco			Saudi Arabia			UAE		
	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never
To provide financial support for their family	49	43	9	40	41	18	22	62	16
To find a fulfilling career	37	36	27	24	35	39	13	56	25
Because she wants to	43	29	28	20	33	45	21	42	36

Table 5a: When it is Acceptable for Women to Work Outside Home - 2005 By Age (< 30/> 30)

How Acceptable is it...?	Egypt			Jordan			Lebanon		
	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never
To provide financial support for their family	59/56	33/37	8/8	50/43	44/42	5/13	69/65	26/28	4/7
To find a fulfilling career	41/40	39/41	17/17	30/28	44/50	24/19	55/48	38/27	6/23
Because she wants to	37/33	34/36	29/29	32/26	44/51	23/21	51/41	37/24	11/34

How Acceptable is it...?	Morocco			Saudi Arabia			UAE		
	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never
To provide financial support for their family	51/46	40/45	9/8	46/36	41/41	11/21	16/27	63/61	21/11
To find a fulfilling career	44/31	34/37	22/31	30/22	37/34	33/42	16/10	44/67	34/18
Because she wants to	49/38	28/31	23/31	26/17	37/31	37/49	17/24	38/46	45/29

Table 5b: When it is Acceptable for Women to Work Outside Home - 2005 By Gender (M/F)

How Acceptable is it...?	Egypt			Jordan			Lebanon		
	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never
To provide financial support for their family	39/74	47/24	14/2	39/55	48/37	12/7	56/78	35/19	8/3
To find a fulfilling career	22/58	49/32	25/9	25/34	52/42	22/21	36/66	35/28	26/6
Because she wants to	18/50	40/30	40/19	20/39	51/43	26/16	28/62	31/27	39/10

How Acceptable is it...?	Morocco			Saudi Arabia			UAE		
	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never
To provide financial support for their family	32/64	54/33	14/3	24/58	48/32	24/9	19/29	62/60	18/11
To find a fulfilling career	21/51	40/31	38/17	12/39	32/38	53/23	8/27	54/63	30/11
Because she wants to	21/62	37/23	42/15	8/34	30/36	59/29	18/29	36/60	45/10

Majorities in Egypt and Lebanon, and pluralities in Jordan and Morocco, say it is “always” acceptable for women to work to “provide financial support.” Arabs in the UAE and Saudi Arabia are least supportive of women working outside the home, yet more than four-fifths in both countries at least “sometimes” support women working to “provide financial support.”

Percentages in all six countries drop when the reason for women working is “to find a fulfilling career” or “because she wants to work.” Nevertheless, majorities in all countries are at least “sometimes” supportive for any reason.

Women, in every country and for each reason, are much more likely than men to “always” support a woman working outside the home.

29. You are having a conversation with someone from another Arab country. Of the following, which do you feel is the best way to define your identity to another Arab?

Table 6: Best Way of Defining Yourself to Another Arab - 2002 v. 2005

Best Way	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Family	3/4	16/9	7/3	5/3	12/13	9/4
City/region	3/16	13/6	7/6	6/10	10/14	--/2
Country	26/61	24/35	31/71	15/55	13/45	9/35
Religion	29/12	13/12	20/3	34/16	15/19	16/19
Being Arab	31/5	24/28	32/13	36/14	43/4	52/33
Social background of family	2/2	5/7	3/2	2/1	5/2	4/6

When speaking to another Arab, the preferred self-identity in every country is now “country” – up sharply in all countries since 2002. This is especially true in Egypt, Lebanon, and Morocco, where majorities say their “country” is their choice for self-identity. This comes at the expense of “being Arab” or “religion,” which were more dominating in 2002.

Arabs in Jordan and the UAE are the most ambivalent about identity, but still choose “country” over “being Arab.”

30. Now, suppose you are talking to a European. Of the following, which do you feel is the best way to define your identity to that European?

Table 7: Best Way of Defining Yourself to Another American (2002)/European (2005)

Best Way	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Family	1/1	10/5	4/2	6/2	4/4	1/1
City/region	2/10	12/4	4/8	3/4	4/8	1/4
Country	25/58	19/27	42/63	7/44	8/33	6/18
Religion	26/12	20/22	16/5	53/41	17/28	15/19
Being Arab	40/16	30/27	30/20	26/8	64/16	68/58
Social background	2/2	4/12	2/1	2/1	2/6	3/1

When speaking to a European, “country” is by far the top identity in Egypt and Lebanon. “Country” also leads in Saudi Arabia and Morocco, with “religion” a not-too-distant 2nd.

In only the UAE is “being Arab” far and away the top identifier. Jordan is divided fairly evenly among “country,” “being Arab,” and “religion.”

31-34. I will read you a list of countries. Please tell me if your overall impression of each is very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable, or if you are not familiar enough to form a judgment.

Table 8: Impression of Countries - 2002 v. 2005

Impression	Egypt		Jordan		Lebanon	
	2002 Fav/Unfav	2005 Fav/Unfav	2002 Fav/Unfav	2005 Fav/Unfav	2002 Fav/Unfav	2005 Fav/Unfav
USA	15/76	14/85	34/61	33/63	26/70	32/66
China	60/20	70/15	56/27	68/26	60/29	46/25
India	34/45	50/19	40/42	55/37	51/35	38/30
Russia	37/36	28/41	44/38	55/35	62/28	45/33

Impression	Morocco		Saudi Arabia		UAE	
	2002 Fav/Unfav	2005 Fav/Unfav	2002 Fav/Unfav	2005 Fav/Unfav	2002 Fav/Unfav	2005 Fav/Unfav
USA	38/61	34/64	12/87	9/89	11/87	21/73
China	55/43	52/37	71/23	40/41	18/69	34/40
India	48/48	39/47	54/41	39/43	34/57	58/23
Russia	28/66	30/55	51/43	21/62	12/73	25/47

Arabs were polled on their opinions of several countries in 2002, but only four countries were tested in 2005. This year, China received the most favorable ratings, including in Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco, where majorities view it favorably.

Majorities in Egypt, Jordan, and the UAE have favorable opinions of India, while a majority in Jordan also rates Russia favorably.

Attitudes towards the U.S. have rebounded somewhat since 2002, but still rate low compared to other countries. Highest favorability comes from one-third of Arabs in Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco. Furthermore, younger Arabs have a slightly more favorable attitude than older Arabs towards the U.S.

35. In the past year, how has your attitude towards the United States changed? Is it now...?

Table 9: Change in Attitude Towards USA - 2005

Change	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Better	5	13	21	6	8	8
Worse	84	62	49	72	82	58
Same	11	18	27	21	9	31

Overall attitudes toward the U.S. have worsened over the past year. Nearly half or more in every country feel this way, including vast majorities in Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Lebanon is more likely than the other countries to have improved attitudes towards the U.S., due to Christian responses in that country.

36. Which of the following has been the most important factor in determining your attitude towards the United States in the past year?

Table 10: Most Important Factor in Determining Attitude Towards US - 2005

Factor	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
War in Iraq	57	48	34	45	49	31
President Bush's promotion of democracy and reform	4	6	16	2	9	9
Developments in the Arab-Israeli front	8	13	19	8	8	7
American treatment of Arabs and Muslims	28	28	22	40	32	41
Other	0	3	4	2	0	5

The principal factors in worsening attitudes towards the U.S. include “the war in Iraq” and “American treatment of Arabs and Muslims.”

The “U.S. advocacy of democracy” only resonated in Lebanon, and this was mostly among Christians. Lebanese are also more likely than those in the other countries to say that “developments in the Arab-Israeli front” most impacted their opinions towards the U.S.

In Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the two countries where the U.S. focused its democracy message, the effort appeared to backfire. Of the small percentage in each country who said that “President Bush’s promotion of democracy and reform” was the most important factor determining their attitudes toward the U.S. (4% in Egypt and 9% in Saudi Arabia), over 80 percent said this effort worsened their view of the U.S.

37-38. How likely do you think it is that there will be peace in the region in the next five years? How likely do you think it is that there will be peace in the region in your lifetime? (Asked only of those who feel it not at all likely or not sure if there will be peace in next five years.)

Table 11: Likelihood of Peace - 2002 v. 2005

	Egypt		Jordan		Lebanon	
	2002 L/NL	2005 L/NL	2002 L/NL	2005 L/NL	2002 L/NL	2005 L/NL
Peace in 5 years	57/33	33/46	64/26	43/33	51/45	53/45
Peace in lifetime	25/54	8/26	16/54	31/35	25/65	39/44

	Morocco		Saudi Arabia		UAE	
	2002 L/NL	2005 L/NL	2002 L/NL	2005 L/NL	2002 L/NL	2005 L/NL
Peace in 5 years	70/13	59/35	57/42	52/43	58/30	54/30
Peace in lifetime	47/15	50/32	19/75	10/74	20/45	19/62

The likelihood of peace dropped in most countries from 2002 to 2005. The most significant declines are seen in Egypt and Jordan. Lebanon is the only country to show a slight increase. Still, majorities in Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE do feel it is likely there will be peace in the region in the next five years.

39. If you were offered a job that would cause you to move away from your city and country, would you accept the job or turn it down?

Table 12: Employment and Attachment - 2005

Likelihood	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Accept the job	55	74	88	70	32	49
Turn it down	39	12	10	26	58	41

Majorities in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco would accept a job even if it meant leaving their countries. The highest percentage is in Lebanon (88%).

Only in Saudi Arabia are Arabs more likely to turn down this opportunity, by a margin of almost two to one.

In most countries, younger Arabs are more inclined than older Arabs to leave their country for a job. Highest percentages of younger Arabs willing to leave their country are seen in Lebanon (96%) and Morocco (88%).

40-45. I will read you another list of countries. Using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all likely and 5 is very likely, how likely would you be to relocate to that country if you were accept a job that asked you to relocate?

Table 13: Likelihood of Relocating to a Country for a Job - 2005

Likely (4+5)	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
United States	30	46	55	44	9	23
Another Arab country	66	67	72	42	24	60
Canada	39	56	67	63	14	24
United Kingdom	28	52	45	46	13	34
Australia	29	55	68	32	12	37
France	53	58	71	69	18	41

Of those who would leave their country, the preferred destination in most of the six countries is “another Arab Country.”

“France” ranks 1st in Morocco and a close 2nd in Lebanon. It also ranks 2nd in each of the remaining four countries. (Note, however, that the poll was conducted prior to the French riots.)

Although the U.S. ranks low as a choice, younger Arabs are more inclined than older Arabs to relocate there for a job opportunity.

46. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all promising and 5 is very promising, how promising are employment opportunities in your country?

Table 14: Employment Opportunities - 2005

	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Not promising (1+2)	55	50	71	62	14	22
Promising	22	23	13	15	61	64

Only in Saudi Arabia and the UAE are employment opportunities promising, as nearly two-thirds of Arabs in these two countries feel this way.

Majorities in the four remaining countries say that job opportunities are not promising, with the worst attitudes seen in Lebanon and Morocco.

47. Why would someone find it difficult to secure employment in your country?
 (Asked only of those who said employment opportunities are not promising.)

Table 15: Why Employment is Hard to Find - 2005

	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Educational system did not prepare them	10	12	13	19	29	17
Jobs don't exist	64	43	62	38	29	20
They don't have skills needed	2	9	3	5	10	4
Nepotism	20	32	22	34	28	44
Other	--	2	--	2	--	7
Not sure	3	3	--	2	3	8

With the exception of the UAE, the biggest reason why employment opportunities are hard to find is that “jobs don’t exist.” This is reason given by nearly two-thirds in Egypt and Lebanon. “Nepotism” ranks 2nd in most of these five countries, followed by “education doesn’t prepare” in 3rd place

“Nepotism” is cited as the biggest reason for a lack of employment opportunities in the UAE.

Methodology

800 interviews conducted in Egypt, from Oct. 18-24, 2005 in Cairo, Alexandria, and Luxor. Slight weights were applied to religion, age, and education to more accurately reflect the adult population. MOE +/- 3.5 percentage points.

500 interviews conducted in Jordan, from Oct. 15-23, 2005 in Amman, Irbid, and Al Zarqa. Slight weights were applied to religion, age, and education to more accurately reflect the adult population. MOE +/- 4.5 percentage points.

500 interviews conducted in Lebanon, from Oct. 15-21, 2005 in Beirut, Beqaa, Mountain Lebanon, North Lebanon, and South Lebanon. Slight weights were applied to religion, age, and education to more accurately reflect the adult population. MOE +/- 4.5 percentage points.

800 interviews conducted in Morocco, from Oct. 15-22, 2005 in Rabat, Casablanca, Marrakech, and Tangier. Slight weights were applied to age and education to more accurately reflect the adult population. MOE +/- 3.5 percentage points.

800 interviews conducted in Saudi Arabia, from Oct. 15-21, 2005 in Dammam, Riyadh, Jeddah, and Mecca. Slight weights were applied to education and gender to more accurately reflect the adult population. MOE +/- 3.5 percentage points.

500 interviews conducted in UAE, from Oct. 18-24, 2005 in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah. Of these, 101 were Emirati citizens. Slight weights were applied to religion, age, education, nationality, and city to more accurately reflect the adult population. MOE for the sample of 101 is +/- 10.0 percentage points.

In each of the six countries, interviewers resorted only to households randomly chosen from different social neighborhoods. Each area was divided into several neighborhoods. Each neighborhood was divided into sub-zones and respondents were randomly selected from each zone. After being introduced to the survey objectives and shown the questionnaire, potential respondents were re-assured of the confidentiality of the information they may submit and were asked whether they were willing to participate in the survey. Some accepted directly to fill in the questionnaire while appointments were re-scheduled for other respondents.

The Arab American Institute is celebrating 20 years of political and civic empowerment of Arab Americans!



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What Arabs Think: Values, Beliefs and Concerns, by Dr. James Zogby

The book analyzes the views of 3,800 Arab adults polled by Zogby International from eight countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Morocco, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Israel). It takes the first-ever probing look at Arab values, identity, political concerns and attitudes toward other countries of the world.

Available for purchase at: <http://www.zogby.com/>

Additional Resources Located at www.aaiusa.org:

▪ **Poll Shows Bases for Unity in Lebanon (April 2005)**

Despite deep differences, which continue to divide the so-called "opposition" and "loyalist" movements in Lebanon, there are some important areas of agreement that could form the basis for national unity and democratic reform in that country.

▪ **Arabs Want Reform, But Not US Help (December 2004)**

An AAI/Zogby Poll found that Arabs in the Middle East want reform, but the change they want is more related to quality of life than political issues.

▪ **Impressions of America Poll (July 2004)**

Survey of almost 3,300 Arabs living in Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt on how they view America and how they learn about America in July 2004

▪ **Profiling and Pride: Arab American Attitudes and Behavior Since September 11 (May 2002)**

Arab Americans have increased their concern about how the aftermath of September 11 has affected their community, but continue to maintain strong attachments to their ethnic identity and pride.



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