Turkey’s Relations with the Changing Arab World

May 3rd, 2011
Overview

• The Perception of Turkey in the Middle East is a cross-country survey conducted between August 25th and September 27th, 2010 by KA Research Limited.

• A total sample of 2,267 participants were interviewed in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Iran.
Regional concerns

The Israeli Palestinian Conflict
The Economy/Economic problems
Lack of peace
Other political issues

- 2009 Regional Weighted Average, Iran not included
- 2010 Regional Weighted Average, Iran not included
- 2010 Regional Weighted Average, Iran included

0 3 3 10 3 3
## Domestic concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2009 Regional Weighted Average, Iran not included</th>
<th>2010 Regional Weighted Average, Iran not included</th>
<th>2010 Regional Weighted Average, Iran included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Economy/Economic problems</strong></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infrastructure and public services</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Israeli Palestinian Conflict</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education and Schools</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is your opinion of the following countries?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total Favorable and Somewhat Favorable Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which country poses the greatest threat to the Middle East?

The diagram shows the weighted average responses from different regions to the question of which country poses the greatest threat. The regions include Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, and Iran. The responses are categorized into three options: USA, Israel, and Iran.

The weighted average for each region is as follows:
- Region: 26, Weighted Average: 40
- Egypt: 54, 56, 62
- Jordan: 8, 13, 8
- Lebanon: 30, 47
- Palestine: 17, 18, 17, 40
- Saudi Arabia: 25, 25
- Syria: 26, 21
- Iraq: 43
- Iran: 24, 5
Iran’s regional role

How much of a political and economic role does Iran play in the Middle East?

Regional Weighted Average, Iran not included
Regional Weighted Average, Iran included

How much of a political and economic role should Iran play in the Middle East?

Total Large Role Responses
Support for Iran developing nuclear weapons

- Favor: 39, 40
- Neither favor nor oppose: 11, 20
- Oppose: 35, 28

Regional Average, Iran not included
Regional Average, Iran included
Turkey’s role in the Middle East

What impact does Turkey have on peace in the Middle East?

- Agree: 75
- Disagree: 16

Turkey has recently become more influential in Middle Eastern politics

- Agree: 73
- Disagree: 12
Turkey’s role in the Middle East

- **78%** agree that Turkey should play a bigger role in the Middle East.
- **78%** agree that Turkey should play a mediatory role in resolving the Israeli Palestinian conflict.
- **15%** disagree with both statements.

Graph: TESEV
Turkish mediation: The view from Iran

- Favorably: %61
- Unfavorably: %9
- Neither favorably not unfavorably: %18
- DK/Ref: %12
Turkey’s role in the Middle East

Turkey can be a model for countries in the Middle East

66 Agree
18 Disagree

Turkey is a successful example of the coherence between Islam and Democracy

66 Agree
19 Disagree
What do people see in Turkey?

**Why can Turkey be a model?**
- Its Muslim background: 15
- Its economy: 12
- Its democratic regime: 11
- It stands up for Palestinians and Muslims: 10

**Why can't Turkey be a model?**
- Its secular political system: 12
- It is not Muslim enough: 11
- Its relations with the West: 10
- No need for a model: 8
Cultural influence

Top 4 Most Popular Holiday Destinations in the Middle East

- Turkey: 35
- Saudi Arabia: 19
- Lebanon: 13
- Egypt: 9

Have you ever watched a Turkish TV series?

- Yes: 78%
- No: 22%
Region’s strongest economy: Now and in 10 years

Turkey: Now 14, In ten years 27
Saudi Arabia: Now 22, In ten years 16
UAE: Now 8, In ten years 5
Iran: Now 4, In ten years 11
Foreign investment: Preferred origin

- Turkey: 32
- Saudi Arabia: 17
- My own country: 8
- UAE: 4
Have you ever consumed a Turkish product?

- Yes: 76%
- No: 21%
- DK/REF: 3%