

**TIME/ASPEN IDEAS FESTIVAL POLL CONDUCTED BY PENN SCHOEN BERLAND:
AMERICANS VIEW SEPTEMBER 11 AS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT OF THE LAST DECADE**

68% believe the last decade has been one of decline for the U.S., with 75% saying economic concerns present a greater threat to current stability than national security concerns.

Aspen, Colorado – June 30, 2011 – Americans still overwhelmingly view the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks as the most significant event of the past decade, according to new research from a TIME/Aspen Ideas Festival poll conducted by Penn Schoen Berland. Only 6% believe that the country has completely recovered from the events of that day. Additionally, the country's focus has shifted inward with 2 in 3 Americans who think the greatest threats to long-term stability come primarily from within the United States, not from outside.

In an essay for TIME on newsstands Friday, Penn Schoen Berland CEO Mark Penn writes, "The poll confirms that the country is going through one of its longest sustained periods of unhappiness and pessimism ever." Read his essay here: www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2080607,00.html

The TIME/Aspen Ideas Festival survey polled more than 2,000 Americans, finding that in the next ten years, most Americans want their government to focus on domestic, rather than international, issues, in hopes that the coming decade will be one of progress.

Read the full poll results here: http://psbresearch.com/press_pubs/TIME_AIF_2011.html

Penn, TIME Managing Editor Richard Stengel and Penn Schoen Berland Chairman Donald Baer will discuss the survey today at the Aspen Ideas Festival in a panel moderated by Elliot Gerson at 12:00 pm MT. To watch the panel live online, visit: <http://www.aifestival.org/session/watch-live-2011-aspen-ideas-festival>

Key findings from the survey:

The Decade's Defining Moment: September 11, 2001: 41% of respondents cite September 11, 2001 as the single most important event in the past decade.

A Decade of Decline: 68% of respondents think the past decade has been one of decline for the United States, while only 23% believe the U.S. has progressed. More than two-thirds of Americans believe the U.S. is in a worse position today than it was a decade ago, while only 11% think the country is in a better position.

Americans Blame Their Leaders for the Decline: 23% blame the Bush administration the most the country's decline, 20% blame the Obama administration, and 16% blame the U.S. Congress. Just 7% of the Americans who think the U.S. has declined in the last decade believe that terrorist groups are most to blame instead of political leadership.

The Enemy Within: Economic Issues Paramount: 83% of Americans want the U.S. government to focus on domestic issues, instead of international affairs, in the next decade. 53% of Americans think the country is not effectively addressing threats that are within our control. More than 3 in 4 Americans believe the rising national debt, high government spending, and budget deficit are major current threats compared to the 58% and 53% who believe Al Qaeda and the Taliban are major threats, respectively.

Ability to Protect Against Terrorism: When asked how the two major U.S. parties and potential presidential candidates of 2012 rank in their perceived ability to protect the U.S. from a terrorist attack, 52% of respondents listed President Barack Obama above all the current 2012 GOP nominees as well as the Republican and the Democratic Party.

A Terrorist Attack is Likely in the Next Decade: 78% believe that it is likely that a major terrorist attack will take place in the U.S. in the next decade. 47% percent of respondents believe such an attack would be more likely carried out by foreign terrorists, compared to 41% who think that domestic terrorists would more likely be responsible. Nearly one in two Americans is concerned that they will be victims of terrorism in the next decade.

Confidence In U.S. Defense Efforts: 85% of respondents think the U.S. military is capable of protecting the U.S. from attack, while 68% say the same about the CIA and 56% about the federal government and local law enforcement.

About the TIME/Aspen Ideas Festival poll conducted by Penn Schoen Berland:

Penn Schoen Berland conducted 2,017 interviews with the general population in the United States from June 1, 2011 to June 8, 2011. Of the 2,017 interviews completed, 1,008 interviews were conducted by phone and 1,009 interviews were conducted online. The margin of error for the general population is +/- 2.18% and larger for the sub-groups.

The data is reflective of the U.S. Census Bureau demographic statistics in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, income, education, region, and urbanicity.

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