



[Pew Survey Finds That More Americans Believe the United States' Global Influence is Getting Weaker Rather Than Stronger](#)

A recent Pew Research Center survey highlighted how a significant plurality of Americans (by a margin of 41% to 34%) think that the United States' influence around the world is weakening as opposed to strengthening. To many observers, this perception indicates a growing belief that the country's international standing has declined in recent years. By a notable margin, Americans deem a palpable drop in global influence, with this being cited more frequently as a top-of-mind concern as compared to years past. The data suggests an increasingly widespread contention among U.S. public opinion that the country's global role is not as strong as it was previously.

In addition to the sentiment among Americans that the United States' influence in the world has been getting weaker in recent years as opposed to getting stronger by a 41% to 34% margin, the Pew survey also shed light on other interesting findings. When it comes to China, a substantial majority of all respondents (62%) – not just a plurality – expressed the view that the country's global influence has been getting stronger in recent years, while less than 1 in 10 (9%) said that it was getting weaker. Furthermore, a growing share contend that Israel's global influence is strengthening – with the 45% figure up 7 percentage points from last year. However, at the same time, Americans' overall opinion of Israel is getting increasingly more negative, as another recent Pew survey found that 60% of U.S. adults have an unfavorable view of Israel which is up from 53% last year. It was also noteworthy to see that traditional European powers like the United Kingdom, France, and Germany were all perceived as getting weaker as opposed to getting stronger by significant margins: 14 percentage points in the case of France, 9 percentage points in the case of Germany, and a particularly sizable 25 percentage points in the case of the United Kingdom. All of this would suggest that many view other non-European countries as gaining notable levels of global influence at their expense.

While the aforementioned plurality of Americans overall believe that the United States' global influence has been waning in recent years, the perceptions regarding this vary considerably by political party affiliation and even among ideological wings of Republicans and Democrats. In general, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to actually say that the United States' global influence is getting stronger – and it is conservative Republicans in particular who largely believe this. In total, 62% of conservative Republicans deem that American global influence is

getting stronger in recent years compared to 44% when it comes to their more moderate or liberal Republican counterparts. On the other hand, Democrats overwhelmingly believe that the United States' influence in the world has been getting weaker in recent years, but this is especially pronounced among liberal Democrats – with 72% believing this compared to a small majority (56%) of more moderate or conservative Democrats. The findings demonstrate a consistent pattern among the entire political spectrum whereby perception regarding U.S. global influence is in line with how far ideologically “left” or “right” one sits.

There has also been a much larger shift among Republicans than Democrats when it comes to their perceptions of the United States' global influence. Since 2024, the change in this figure for Democrats has only shifted by 5 percentage points (down from 19 to 14) compared to a gigantic 45 percentage points (up from 10 to 55) among Republicans. The difference is stark, although probably not totally surprising given that many Republicans' views have likely changed so drastically during the past two years for largely partisan reasons since Former Democratic President Biden left office and Republican President Trump began his second term. The fact that the percentage of Republicans who felt the United States' influence in the world jumped so significantly from around 10% during the years of Biden's presidency to 34% and then 55% in Trump's first two years back in office indicates that the political environment within the United States is a major determining factor in this vast uptick.

In the end, the overall shifting tide of U.S. public opinion regarding the United States' global standing is telling. The Pew Research Center's finding – that a 41% plurality of Americans now view their country's global influence as waning – suggests that the era of unquestioned American primacy in international affairs is giving way to an evolving one in which other countries like China are gaining a significant foothold. Moving forward, this perception signals that one of the major challenges in the coming years will not only be about navigating various foreign policy considerations but also about reconciling the nation's global role and reputation on the international stage.