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European Confidence in U.S. Leadership Rises

More Also See NATO As Essential to Their Country's Security

In the aftermath of September 11th, European governments have put aside quarrels over issues such as the Kyoto Protocol to stand by the U.S. and its efforts to combat terrorism – evident in NATO's first-ever invocation of Article V. Just-completed Office of Research surveys in Britain, France and Germany indicate that these key allied publics solidly back their governments' stand as well as the U.S. and NATO.

KEY FINDINGS

- Larger majorities in Britain, France and Germany now view U.S. leadership as desirable and have confidence in the U.S to deal responsibly with world affairs.
- An increasing percentage also say NATO is essential to their country's security.

Favorable Opinion of the U.S. Remains Solid

In the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks, solid majorities among publics in Britain (84%), France (67%) and Germany (79%) continue to express favorable views of the United States. Favorable opinion has increased slightly in France (62% in Fall 2000) and remained steady and high in Britain (83% in Fall 2000) and Germany (78% in Fall 2000).

Support for U.S. Leadership Rises

These key allied publics are more likely now than before September 11th to find strong U.S. leadership desirable for their country's national

interests (Figure 1, next page). The British (82%) and Germans (72%) are much more likely to hold this view now than earlier this year (68% Britain, 52% Germany). Half (51%, up slightly from 46% in Spring 2001) among the French agree. Minorities in Britain (17%) and Germany (27%) but nearly half (46%) in France say U.S. leadership is undesirable.

In addition, half or more in each of these countries (Britain 75%, France 53%, Germany 73%) now have confidence in the ability of the U.S. to deal responsibly with world affairs. The percentage of those expressing confidence has increased in France and Germany and remained stable but high in Britain (Figure 2, next page).

Greater Majorities Now Consider NATO Essential
NATO's invocation of Article V appears to have affirmed the importance of the Alliance among publics. The percentage of those viewing NATO as essential has increased 10 to 15 percent since Spring 2001 (Figure 3, next page). Strong majorities in Britain (79%), France (67%) and Germany (86%) say NATO is "still essential" to their country's security.

Support among publics for their country's membership in the Alliance also remains strong. Support in Britain (87%; 76% in Fall 2000) and Germany (89%; 82% in Fall 2000) has increased, and in France (78%; 76% in Fall 2000) has remained steady.

Figure 1. Desirability of U.S. Leadership 1982-2001

"For the interests of [SURVEY COUNTRY], how desirable is it that the United States exert strong leadership in world affairs? Is it very desirable, somewhat desirable, somewhat undesirable or very undesirable?"

		1982	1993	1997	1998	1999	2000	s2001	f2001
Britain	Desirable	75%	65%	72%	77%	69%	68%	68%	82%
	Undesirable	20	30	18	13	25	21	20	17
France	Desirable	23%	37%	44%	53%	45%	43%	46%	51%
	Undesirable	54	59	48	44	50	50	46	46
Germany	Desirable	56%	70%	47%	64%	50%	51%	52%	72%
	Undesirable	30	28	38	26	36	37	39	27

Figure 2. Confidence in the U.S. to Deal Responsibly with World Affairs 1981-2001
% with confidence

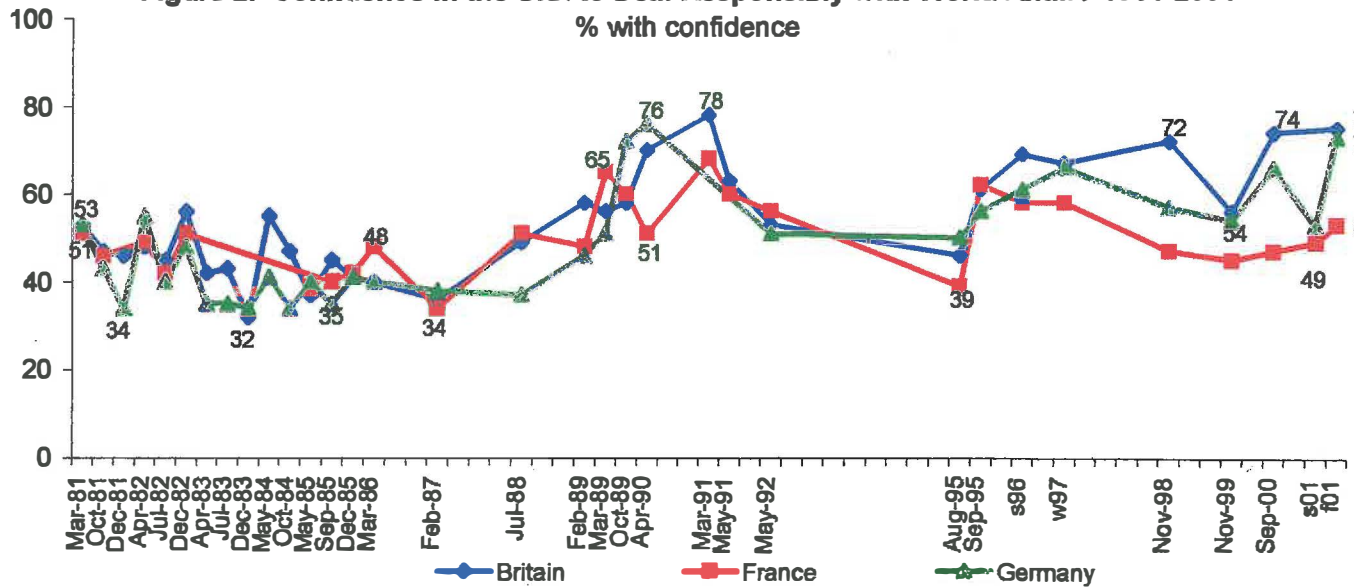


Figure 3. NATO Essential 1990-2001

