

# NATIONAL POLL: AMERICANS' REACTIONS TO THE UKRAINE INVASION

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February 25, 2022

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Poll conducted February 24, 2022 via IVR among more than 600 registered voters across the US, with a maximum margin of error of 3.9%.

Self-reported partisan breakdown: 35D/35R/30I





## (A) Executive Summary

Early in the morning on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a “special military operation” in Ukraine. Though his words downplayed the severity of what was about to occur, it was immediately clear: Russia was invading Ukraine. Later that day, we surveyed hundreds of Americans about the crisis, asking them the following questions:

- Would you support or oppose the US sending troops to Ukraine to assist in defending against the Russian invasion?
- Do you think Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is a severe threat to the US, a small threat to the US, or no threat to the US?
- Do you believe that Joe Biden bears any responsibility for Russia’s invasion of Ukraine?
- Do you believe that Russia would have invaded Ukraine if Donald Trump were still president?
- Joe Biden has recently announced that he will issue severe economic sanctions on Russia to punish them for their invasion of Ukraine. Do you believe that these sanctions are enough punishment for Russia?

Now, less than one day later, we’re releasing the results. Some answers follow conventional wisdom, while others are more surprising. Here are some of the biggest takeaways and surprises from our poll:

- The vast majority (85%) of Americans view Russia’s invasion of Ukraine as a threat to the US.
- About half of Americans would support sending US troops to Ukraine to help defend against Russia’s invasion.
- Democrats are more likely than Republicans and nonpartisan voters to support sending US troops to Ukraine.
- The questions of Biden’s responsibility and whether the invasion would have occurred if Trump were president were largely split down party lines.
- A majority of Republicans, Democrats, and nonpartisan voters believe that the sanctions imposed on Russia do not go far enough.

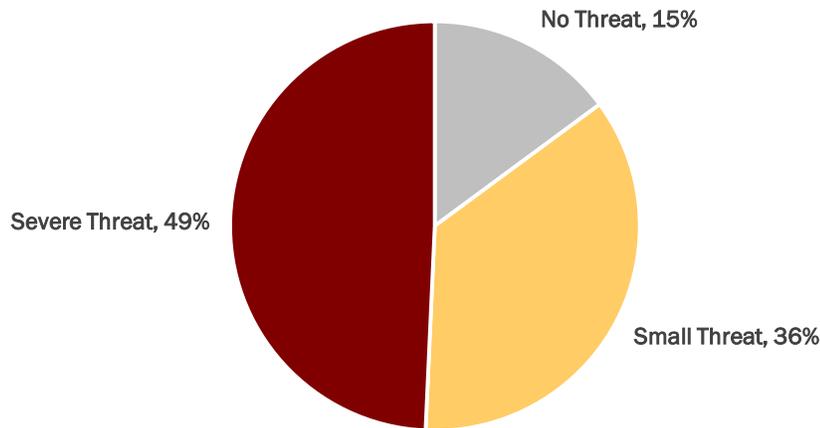
The results don’t look great for Biden, as there are more Americans who think he bears responsibility for the invasion than those who do not. In addition, 48% of voters believe that the invasion would not have happened if Trump were president, compared with only 40% of voters who think it would have happened regardless. Nevertheless, Biden certainly hasn’t crumbled entirely, as Democratic voters consistently answered in his favor.

**Read on to learn more.**



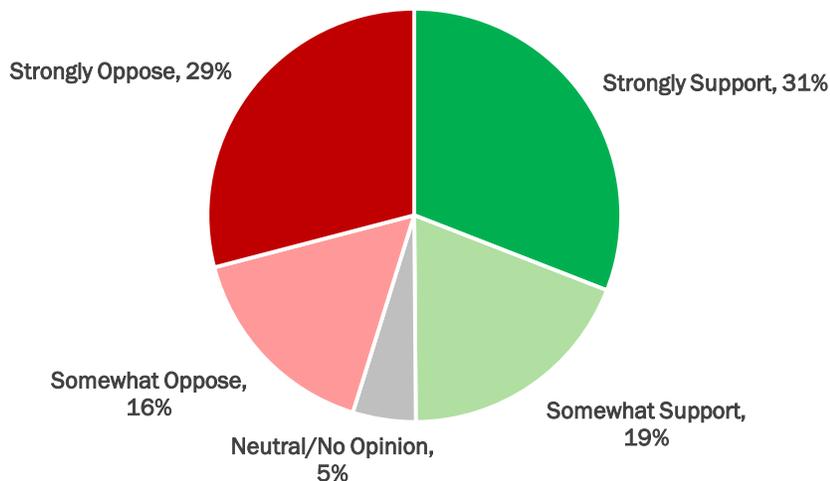
## (B) Perceived Threat Severity

The first thing we want to understand about the public's perception of the Ukraine crisis is how severe of a threat they think it is to the US. It turns out that 85% of Americans view the invasion as a threat to the US. About half of Americans perceive it as a "severe threat," with another 36% perceiving it as a "small threat." This trend remains relatively consistent across party lines, although nonpartisan voters tend to perceive the crisis as less of a threat than partisan voters do.



## (C) Support for Deploying US Troops in Ukraine

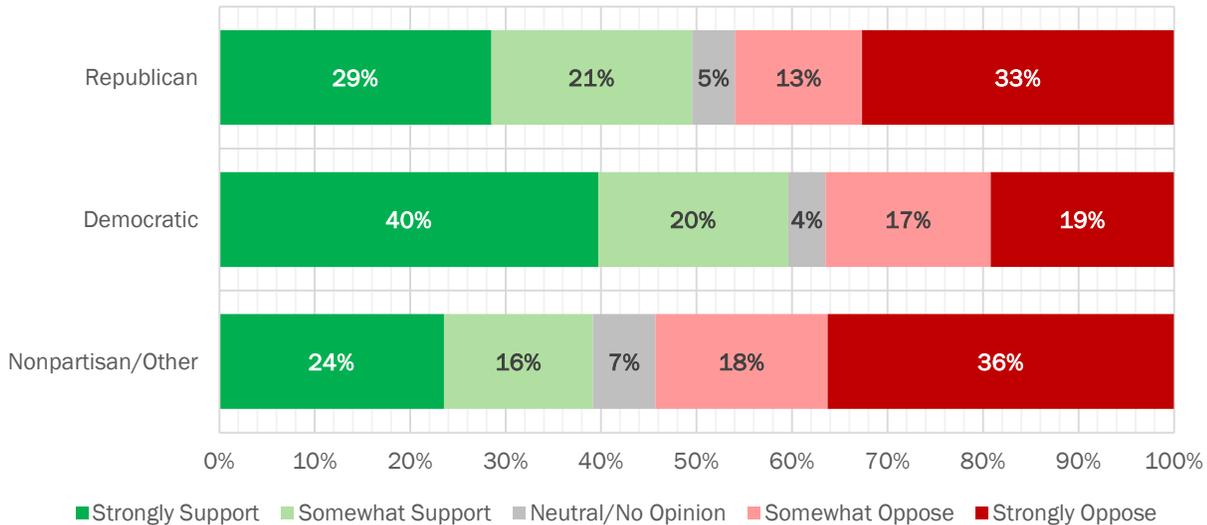
Poll respondents were asked whether they would support or oppose the US sending troops to Ukraine to assist in defending against the Russian invasion. About half of Americans said yes, with about a third of the population saying they'd "strongly support" such action. On the flip side, a solid 45% of Americans would be opposed, and 5% don't have an opinion on the matter.





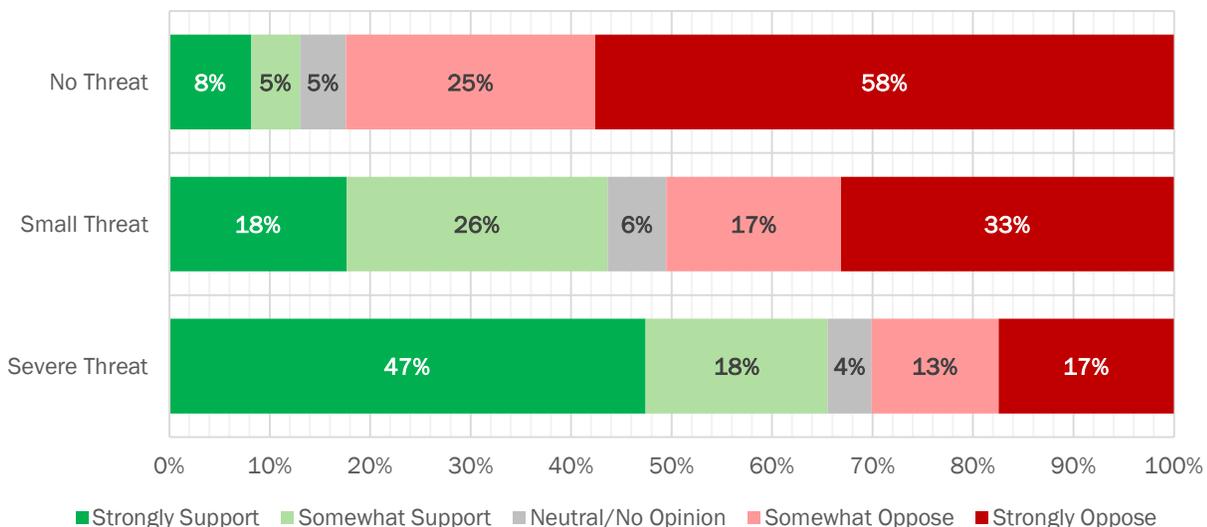
## (D) Support for Deployment by Party Affiliation

When broken down by party affiliation, this question reveals some internal trends. Democrats are the most likely to support deploying US troops in Ukraine, with about 60% support. Compare that with just under half of Republicans and under 40% of nonpartisan voters, and Democrats certainly appear hawkish.



## (E) Support for Deployment by Perceived Threat Severity

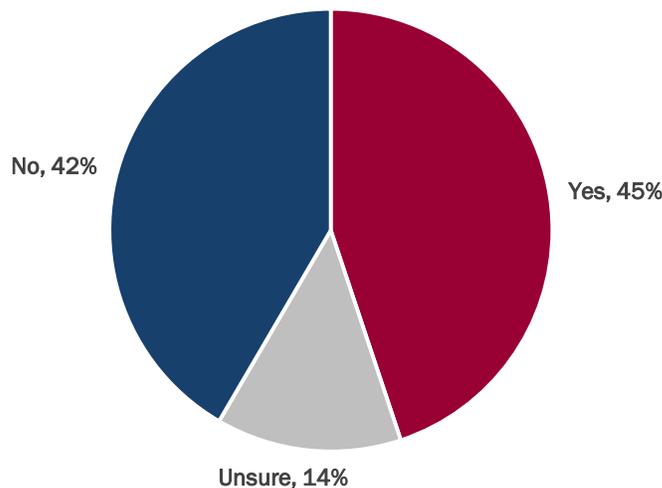
A voter's perception of how severely the invasion threatens the US is a much better predictor of supporting deployment than party affiliation. Approximately two thirds of those who see it as a "severe threat" support sending US troops to Ukraine, compared to only 8% of those who see it as "no threat." Essentially, only those who think that the US is in danger believe that we should send in troops.





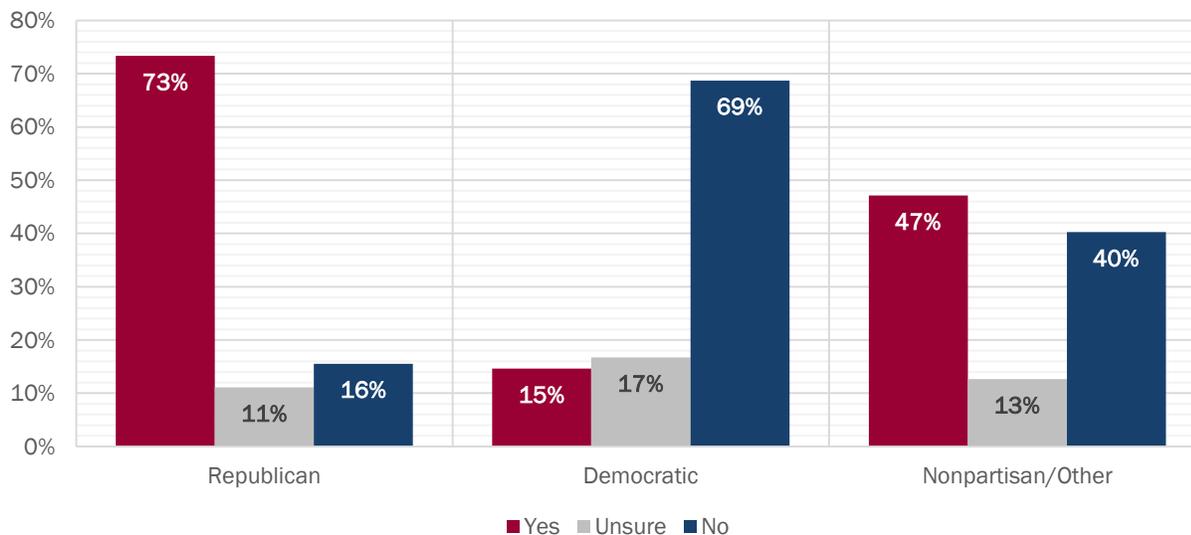
## (F) Does Biden Bear Responsibility?

Poll respondents were asked whether they believed that Joe Biden bears any responsibility for Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This question divided the country quite evenly. Slightly more Americans (45%) think Biden *does* bear responsibility for Russia's invasion of Ukraine than those who think he's free of blame (42%).



## (G) How Much of Each Party Blames Biden?

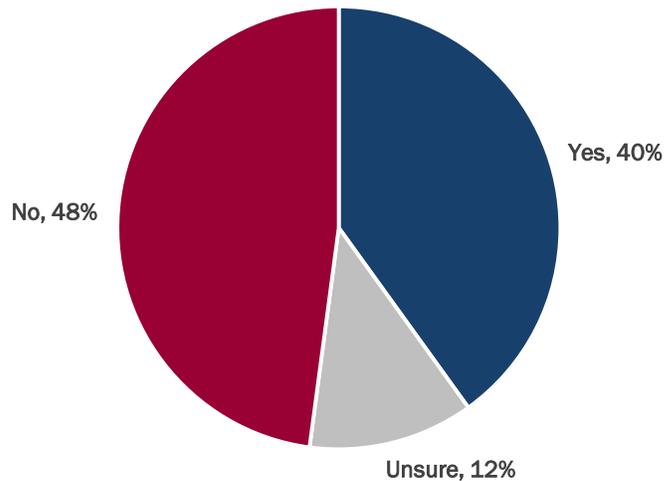
With responses as starkly divided as those in Section F, it shouldn't surprise you that responses were largely influenced by party affiliation. 73% of Republicans said yes, Biden does bear responsibility, while only 15% of Democrats agreed. On the contrary, 69% of Democrats think Biden bears no responsibility, while only 16% of Republicans agree.





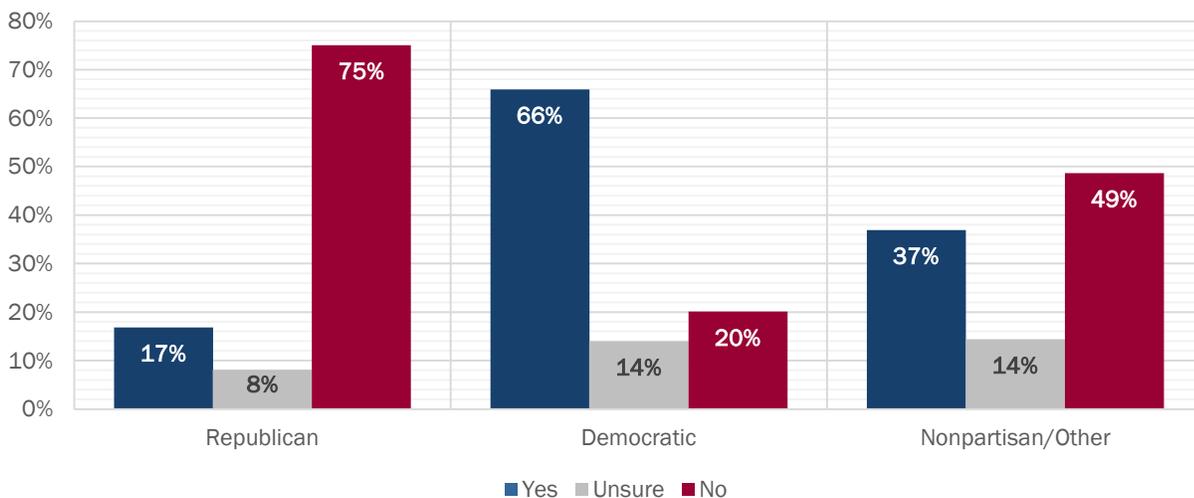
## (H) Would This Have Happened Under Trump?

One of the most common quips in conservative political commentary since Russia's invasion began was that Putin would not have invaded Ukraine if Trump were President. To see if Americans believe that, we asked poll respondents whether they think Russia would have invaded Ukraine if Donald Trump had still been president. Nearly half of voters said no, this would not have happened under Trump, compared to only 40% of voters who believe that this would have happened regardless of who won the 2020 presidential election.



## (I) How Much of Each Party Believes Russia Would Have Invaded Ukraine if Trump Were Still President?

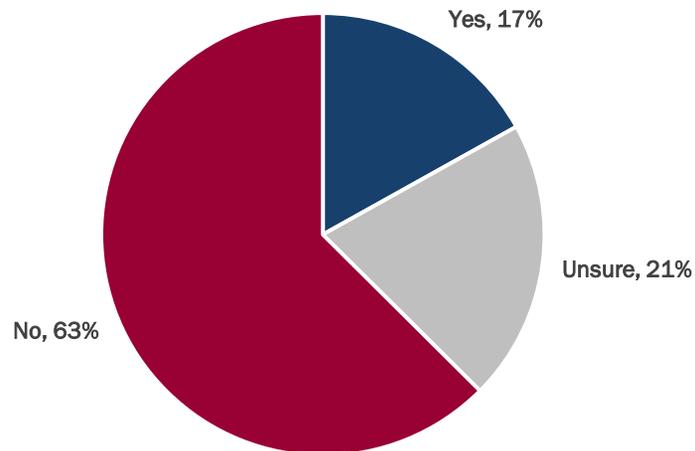
Once again, answers to the question in Section H largely followed the party line. More than 75% of Republicans and about half of nonpartisan voters believe that this wouldn't have happened under Trump. An additional 20% of Democrats agree.





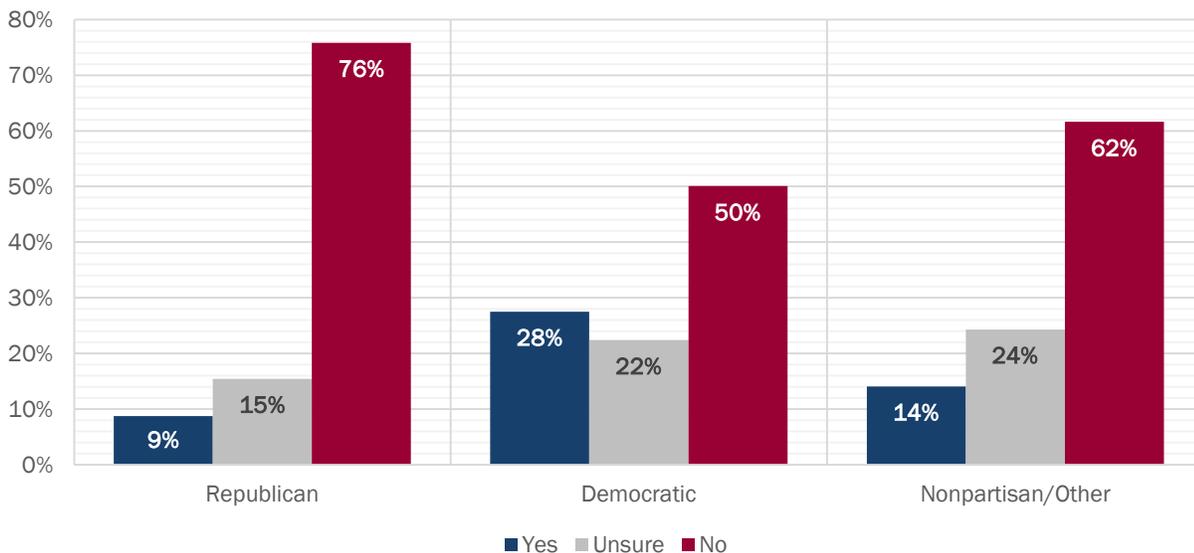
## (J) Do Biden's Sanctions Go Far Enough?

Poll respondents were asked whether they believed that the severe economic sanctions Biden announced in retaliation to Russia's invasion of Ukraine were sufficient punishment for Russia's actions. A strong majority of voters (63%) said no, the sanctions do *not* go far enough. Only 17% of voters believed the sanctions were sufficient, while another 21% remained unsure.



## (K) Americans Agree: Sanctions Are Insufficient

A majority of Republicans, Democrats, and nonpartisan voters all agree that the economic sanctions Biden instituted on Russia are not sufficient punishment for the invasion of Ukraine. Only 28% of voters in Biden's own party believe the sanctions go far enough.





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