

## Major New Polls: Americans are Sick of War

Americans Think that Putin and Even Assad Have Done a Better Job than Obama

By [Washington's Blog](#)

Global Research, September 27, 2013

[Washington's Blog](#)

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [History](#), [Militarization and WMD](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

A new CBS News/New York Times poll [shows](#) :

More Americans disapprove than approve of how Mr. Obama is handling relations with Iran.

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Americans overwhelmingly favor (82 percent) the deal reached between the U.S. and Russia for Syria to turn over its chemical weapons.

Americans still would not support airstrikes against the Syrian government, even if Syria fails to comply — an option that the U.S. says remains on the table if the diplomatic solution ultimately fails.

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Underlying these views, a large majority (68 percent) continues to believe in principle that the U.S. doesn't have a responsibility to do something about the fighting in Syria. As was the case earlier this month, majorities of Democrats and Republicans don't view this as a U.S. responsibility, and there has been little shift in the public's views about this in recent weeks, or over the longer term.

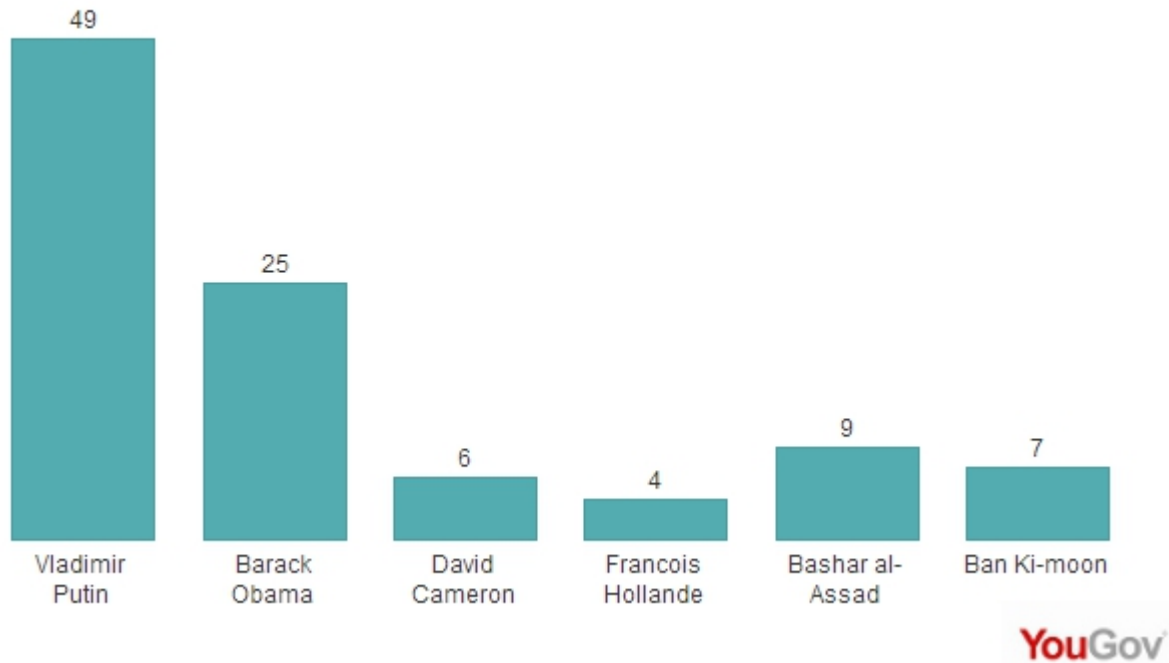
Most Americans don't differentiate in how civilians are killed: 68 percent say the international community should respond to all civilian killings the same, while 25 percent say civilian killings from chemical and biological weapons warrant a stronger response than killings using conventional weapons.

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The president's rating on foreign policy overall is more negative than in July, before the escalation of U.S. involvement in the Syria crisis. Just 40 percent approve of his handling of foreign policy, while 49 percent disapprove – the highest disapproval he has ever received on this measure.

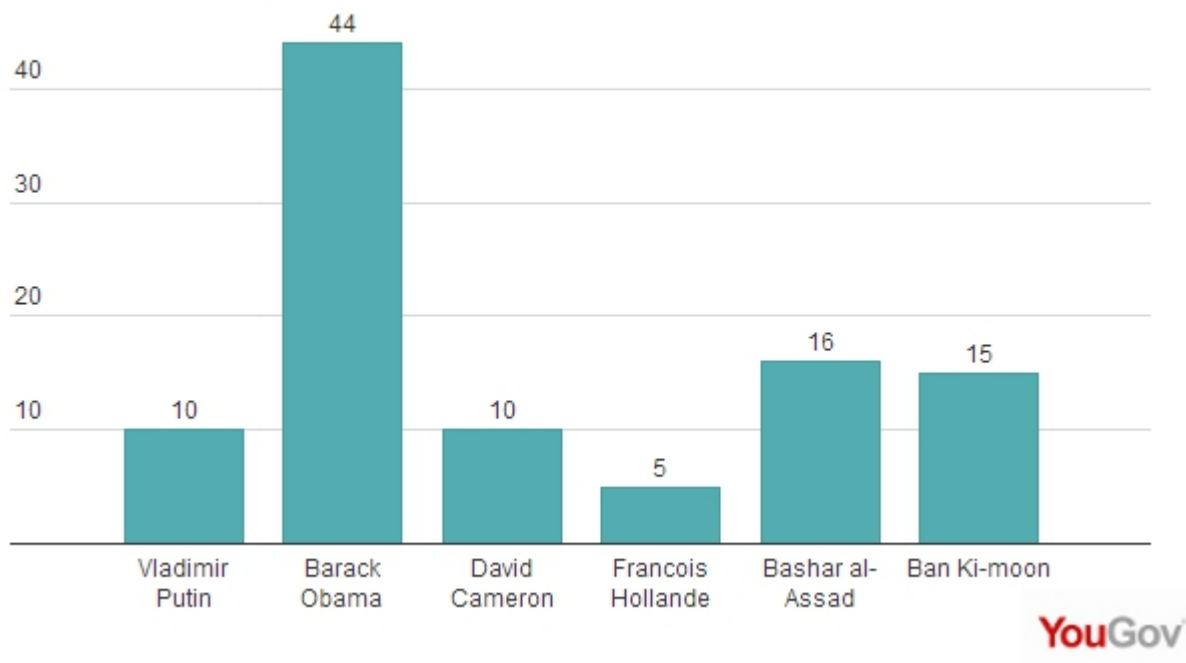
An Economist/YouTube poll [shows](#) that – by a margin of 49% to 25% – Americans think that Putin has been a more effective leader than Obama on Syria:

## Which world leader was most effective during the Syrian chemical weapons crisis? %



Even more stunning, when the question – who was the *least* effective leader on Syria – was asked, Obama was voted *least* effective ... even less effective than *Syrian* leader Assad:

## Which world leader was the least effective during the Syrian chemical weapons crisis?



It's not because Americans particularly like Russian or Arab leaders. Rather, it's because Americans want to avoid another war. The Syrian leader agreed to give up his chemical weapons, and the Russian leader brokered the deal. Obama, on the other hand, wanted war, and was dragged kicking and screaming to the negotiating table.

As the Economist/YouGov poll notes:

58% oppose action. Even if Syria fails to abide by the agreement, few Americans favor military action. Only 28% say they would support a military strike by a coalition of countries that included the United States.

A new German Marshall Fund of the United States finds even [higher levels of opposition](#) against a war in Syria. Indeed, Americans oppose [arming the Syrian rebels](#) ... even if we keep our own troops out of the war.

A September 2012 poll conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs showed [overwhelming opposition](#) to the idea of attacking Iran among American voters, with [70 percent](#) saying they are opposed to the idea of a unilateral US attack on Iran. And that was *before* the new moderate Iranian leader started [negotiating a nuclear deal](#).

The truth is that Americans have been sick and tired of war in the Middle East [for years](#).

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