

**Recent Gallup World Poll data finds that residents of Germany, France and the United Kingdom overwhelmingly believe it makes a difference to their country who is elected president of the United States, and a substantial majority in each of those European countries prefers Barack Obama to John McCain as the next U.S. president.**

July 23, 2008

## **Britons, French, Germans solidly back Obama**

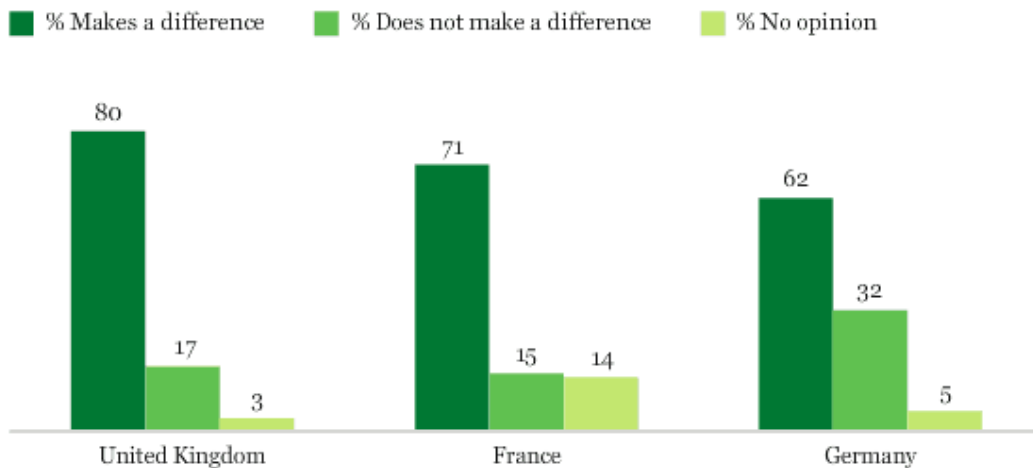
Most say it matters to their country who is elected U.S. president

*By Zsolt Nyiri, Frank Newport, and Jeffrey M. Jones*

PRINCETON, NJ – A significant majority of Britons, French and Germans say it makes a difference to their country who is elected U.S. president.

*Do you think who is elected President of the United States makes a difference to (Great Britain/France/Germany) or not?*

Based on adults 15 years or older in each country



Gallup World Poll

GALLUP POLL

Barack Obama, with a small group of other Senators, is set to visit with the leaders of these three major European nations as he continues his overseas trip, establishing relationships with those he would have to work with if elected president.

Recent Gallup World Polls in these countries, conducted between May 20 and June 24, 2008, suggest that citizens of these countries have more than a curious interest in who gets elected. Indeed, last year's Gallup World Poll found that in all three nations approval of U.S. leadership was abysmal--just 8% approval in Germany, 9% in France and 20% in the United Kingdom. Approval of U.S. leadership was only lower in countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

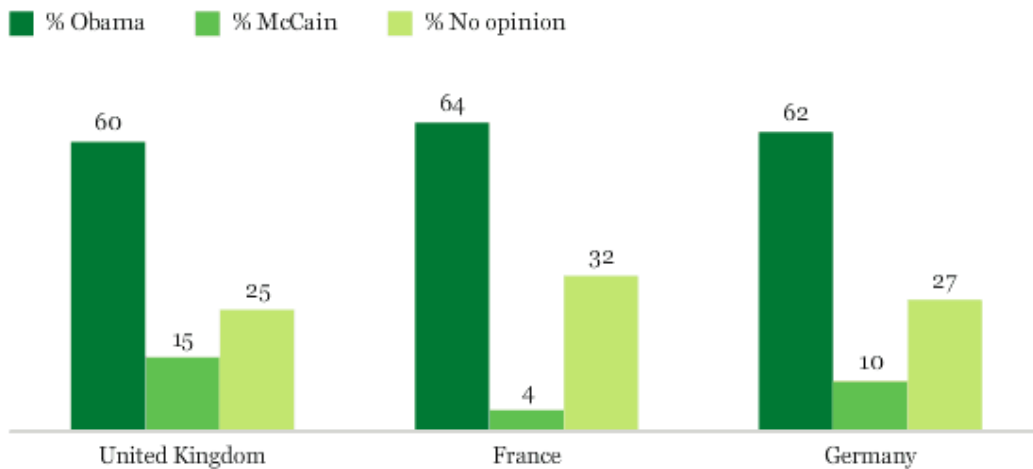
<http://www.gallup.com/poll/105967/US-Leadership-Approval-Lowest-Europe-Mideast.aspx>

Clearly, the next U.S. president, whether it be John McCain or Obama, has much work to do to repair relations with some of the United States' closest allies and improve US public image abroad. Much of this likely results from opposition to the U.S.-led Iraq War, but also could result from U.S. policy on global warming, or reported human rights abuses in Guantanamo Bay.

If the choice of the U.S. president were up to Europeans, Obama would defeat McCain in a landslide. Even with relatively high no opinion percentages in each country (ranging from 25% to 32%), solid majorities of residents in Great Britain, France and Germany would rather see Obama than McCain elected U.S. president this fall.

*Who would you personally rather see elected President of the United States--  
(ROTATED: Barack Obama or John McCain)?*

Based on adults 15 years or older in each country



Gallup World Poll

GALLUP POLL

It should be noted that Obama's current strength in these countries may have to do with the early publicity surrounding his nomination, particularly the fascinating and dramatic primary contest between Obama and the extremely well-known Hillary Clinton. John McCain during much of the spring, as a result, was off the front page of the world's newspapers. It is possible, therefore, that McCain could gain some as the visibility of the two candidates in worldwide media becomes more equal over the next three months. Still, there is no question but that Obama has become a "rock star" of sorts in these countries, and whether it is simple name recognition or a more nuanced view of his policy positions, he clearly is the favorite at this point.

### Implications

These results suggest that Europeans will likely pay attention to the outcome of the U.S. election, and also that the election of Obama would resonate with how people in these three countries feel about the candidates and could go a long way toward restoring U.S. prestige in Europe. That is not to say McCain could not also improve the United States' image-- given the low regard in which Europeans hold U.S. leadership almost any change would likely be welcomed by Europeans. However, Europeans seem very positively disposed to the Democratic presidential nominee at this point, and he might not need to work as hard to earn their favor as McCain would if his positive image is maintained up through November. The Obama campaign even recognizes some risk to his being so widely adored in Europe, which some Americans may not view as a plus.

## Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with randomly selected samples of adults 15 and older, conducted May 20-June 24, 2008 in Germany, June 5-20, 2008 in France, and June 4-24 in the United Kingdom. This includes interviews with 1,011 adults in Germany, 1,006 adults in France, and 1,001 adults in the United Kingdom.

For results based on each of these samples of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is  $\pm 3$  percentage points. The sampling error is determined by the actual number of respondents to that particular question and might be higher than indicated above if less people answered a question.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

## Data Tables

### Q.: Do you think who is elected President of the United States makes a difference to (Country) or not?

	GERMANY		FRANCE		UK	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Makes a difference	627	62	710	71	804	80
Does not make a difference	328	32	153	15	172	17
Don't know	53	5	100	10	25	3
Refused	3	0	42	4		
Total	1011	100	1006	100	1001	100

### Q.: Who would you personally rather see elected President of the United States?

	GERMANY		FRANCE		UK	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Barack Obama	631	62	647	64	604	60
John McCain	105	10	38	4	149	15
Don't Know	241	24	263	26	241	24
Refused	34	3	58	6	7	1

## About Gallup

Gallup has studied human nature and behavior for more than 70 years. Gallup's reputation for delivering relevant, timely, and visionary research on what people around the world think and feel is the cornerstone of the organization. Gallup employs many of the world's leading scientists in management, economics, psychology, and sociology, and our consultants assist leaders in identifying and monitoring behavioral economic indicators worldwide.

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