



## **TRIP Snap Poll III: Seven Questions on Current Global Issues for International Relations Scholars**

**January 25, 2015**

**Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) Project  
Institute for the Theory and Practice of International Relations (ITPIR)  
The College of William & Mary**

<http://www.wm.edu/offices/itpir/>

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**Methodology:** We contacted all International Relations scholars in the U.S. We define IR scholars as individuals who are employed at a university in a political science department or public policy school and who teach or conduct research on issues that cross international borders.

The poll was open February 24-27, 2014. Of the 2,805 scholars across the U.S. that we contacted, 908 responded. The resulting response rate is approximately 30 percent, and the margin of error for the poll is +/-2.7 percent. In terms of gender, tenure status, and university ranking, our respondents are statistically indistinguishable from the general population of IR scholars in the U.S.

## **Introduction**

By Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, Ryan Powers, and Michael J. Tierney

We are pleased to share results from the November 2014 Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) Snap Poll. With the support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, we field Snap Polls several times a year. Our polls provide real-time data in the wake of significant policy proposals, during international crises, and on emerging foreign policy debates. In this poll, we asked scholars about the probability of war between the United States and major world powers, U.S. foreign policy towards ISIS, the international community's ability to respond to international financial or health crises, and immigration. A related essay identifying some interesting patterns and raising new questions is published on [ForeignPolicy.com](http://ForeignPolicy.com).

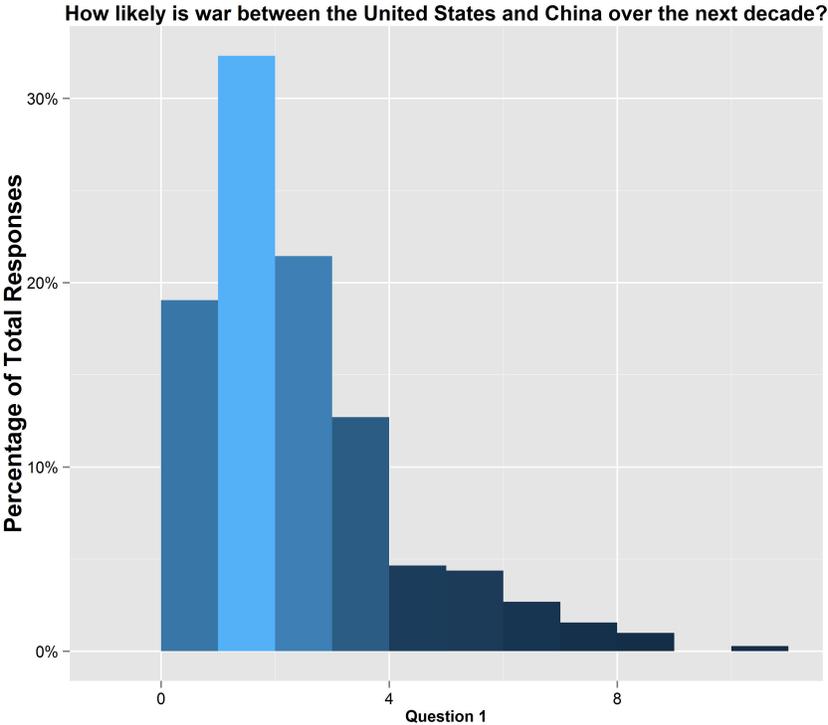
### **How TRIP Snap Polls work**

TRIP Snap Polls survey all IR scholars in the United States. To be included in our sample, individuals must be employed at a U.S. college or university in a political science department or professional school and teach or conduct research on issues that cross international borders. To date we have identified 4,187 individuals who fit these criteria. The Snap Poll was open September 9–November 3, 2014, along with a faculty survey and was open for approximately six weeks. In this survey, 1,395 scholars responded to at least one of our seven questions, a response rate of approximately 33 percent with a margin of error  $\pm 2.14\%$ . The number of responses to each question is listed below. We compared the demographic makeup of our respondent pool against the total population of IR scholars in the United States, which is provided at the end of this report.

# Survey Results

**Question 1:** How likely is war between the United States and China over the next decade?  
Please use the 0 to 10 scale with 10 indicating that war will definitely occur.

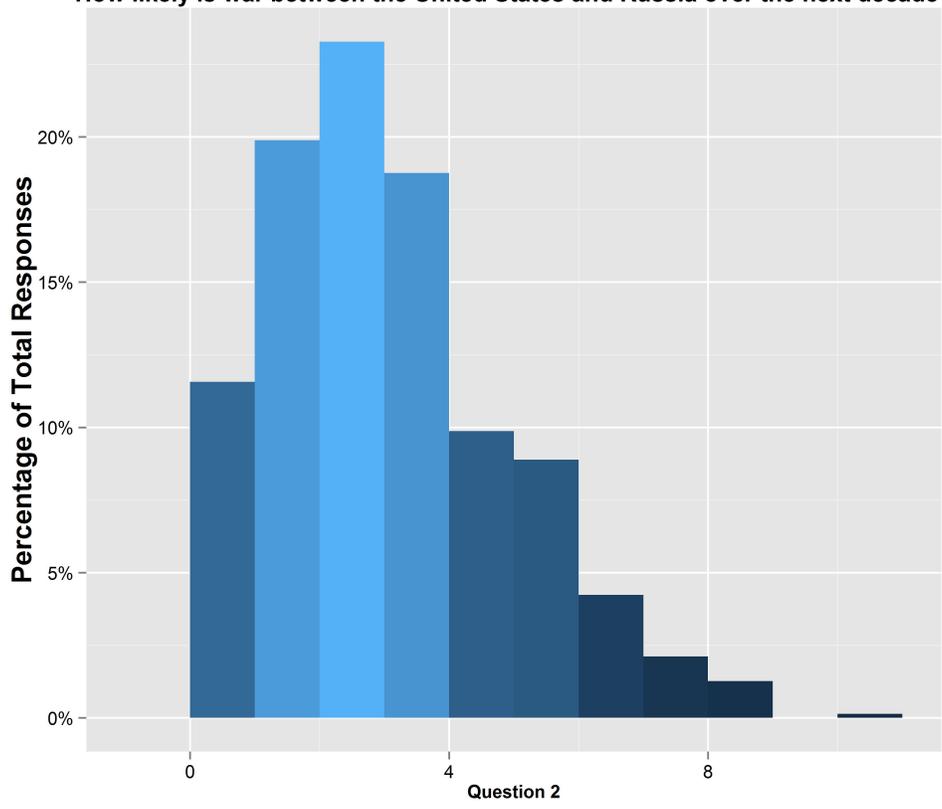
|           | Percent | Count |
|-----------|---------|-------|
| <b>0</b>  | 19.04   | 135   |
| <b>1</b>  | 32.30   | 229   |
| <b>2</b>  | 21.44   | 152   |
| <b>3</b>  | 12.70   | 90    |
| <b>4</b>  | 0.05    | 33    |
| <b>5</b>  | 0.04    | 31    |
| <b>6</b>  | 0.03    | 19    |
| <b>7</b>  | 0.02    | 11    |
| <b>8</b>  | 0.01    | 7     |
| <b>9</b>  | 0.00    | 0     |
| <b>10</b> | 0.00    | 2     |
| <b>N</b>  | 1345    | 1345  |



**Question 2:** How likely is war between the United States and China over the next decade?  
Please use the 0 to 10 scale with 10 indicating that war will definitely occur.

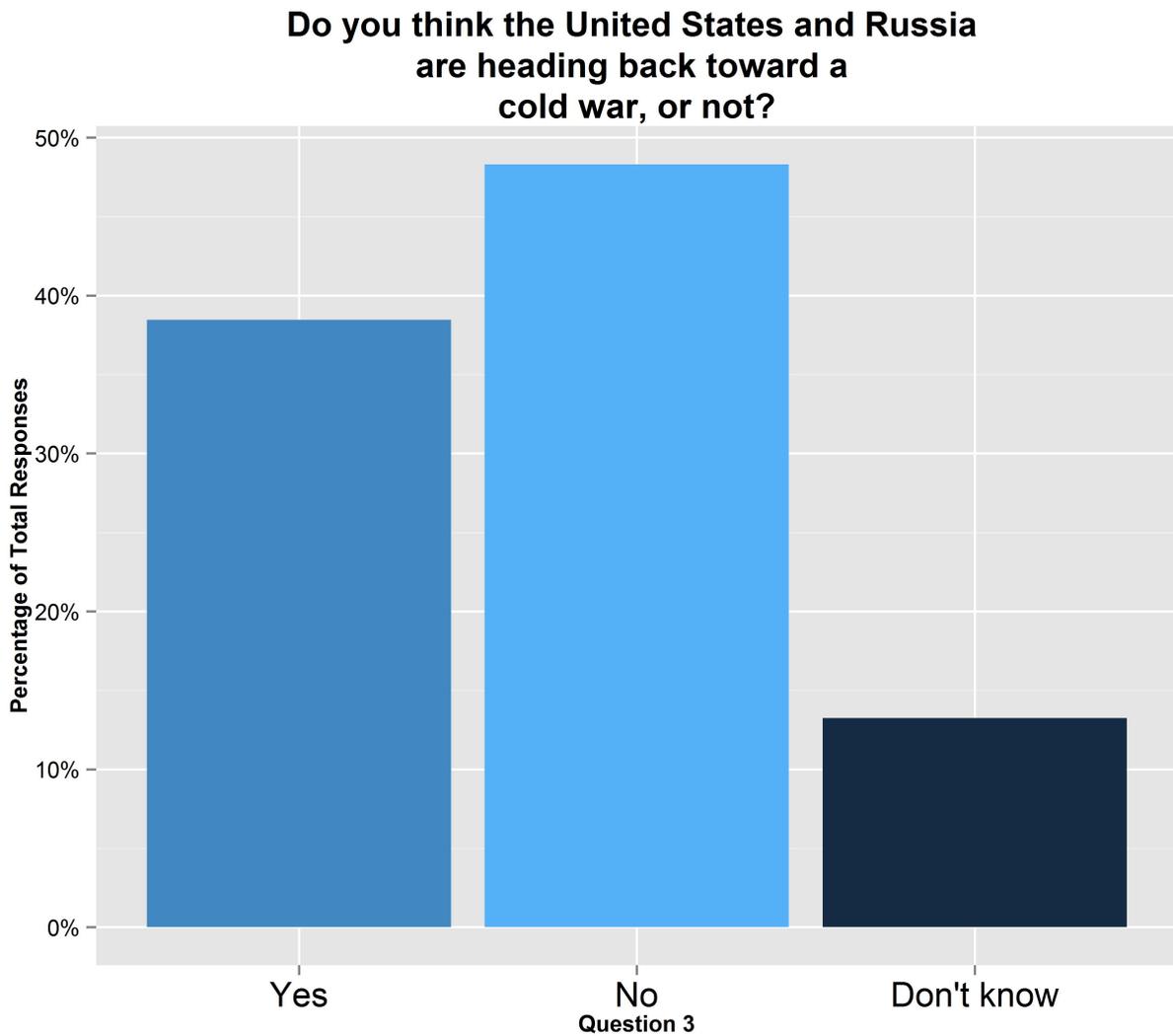
|           | Percent | Count |
|-----------|---------|-------|
| <b>0</b>  | 19.04   | 135   |
| <b>1</b>  | 32.30   | 229   |
| <b>2</b>  | 21.44   | 152   |
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| <b>7</b>  | 0.02    | 11    |
| <b>8</b>  | 0.01    | 7     |
| <b>9</b>  | 0.00    | 0     |
| <b>10</b> | 0.00    | 2     |
| <b>N</b>  | 1345    | 1345  |

How likely is war between the United States and Russia over the next decade?



**Question 3:** Do you think the United States and Russia are heading back toward a cold war, or not?

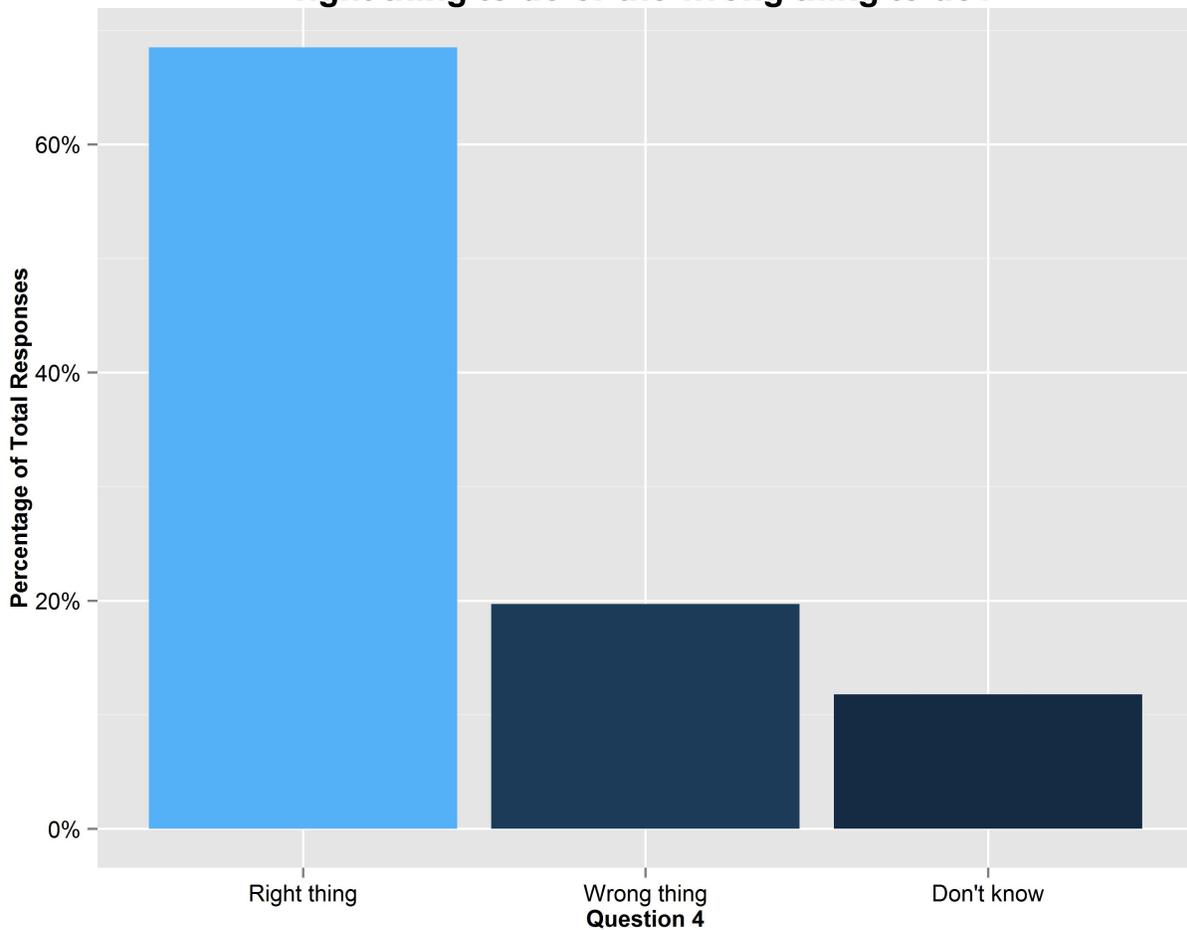
|                   | Percent | Count |
|-------------------|---------|-------|
| <b>Yes</b>        | 38.45   | 273   |
| <b>No</b>         | 48.31   | 343   |
| <b>Don't know</b> | 13.24   | 94    |
| <b>N</b>          | 710     | 710   |



**Question 4:** Do you think President Obama's decision to withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of 2011 was the right thing to do or the wrong thing to do?

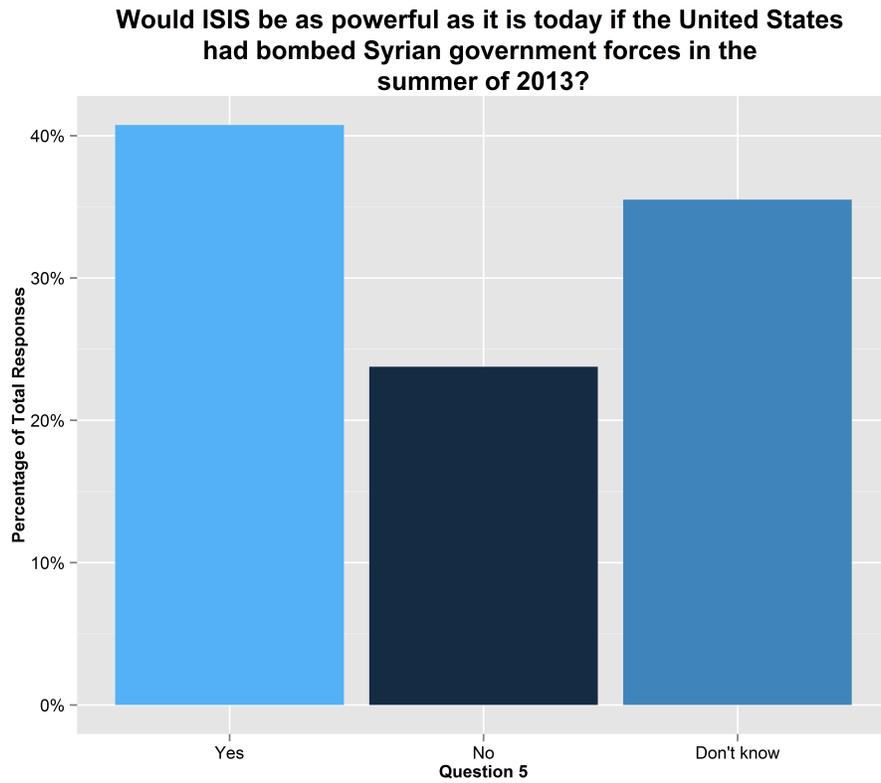
|                    | Percent | Count |
|--------------------|---------|-------|
| <b>Right thing</b> | 68.51   | 459   |
| <b>Wrong thing</b> | 19.70   | 132   |
| <b>Don't know</b>  | 11.79   | 79    |
| <b>N</b>           | 670     | 670   |

**Do you think President Obama's decision to withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of 2011 was the right thing to do or the wrong thing to do?**



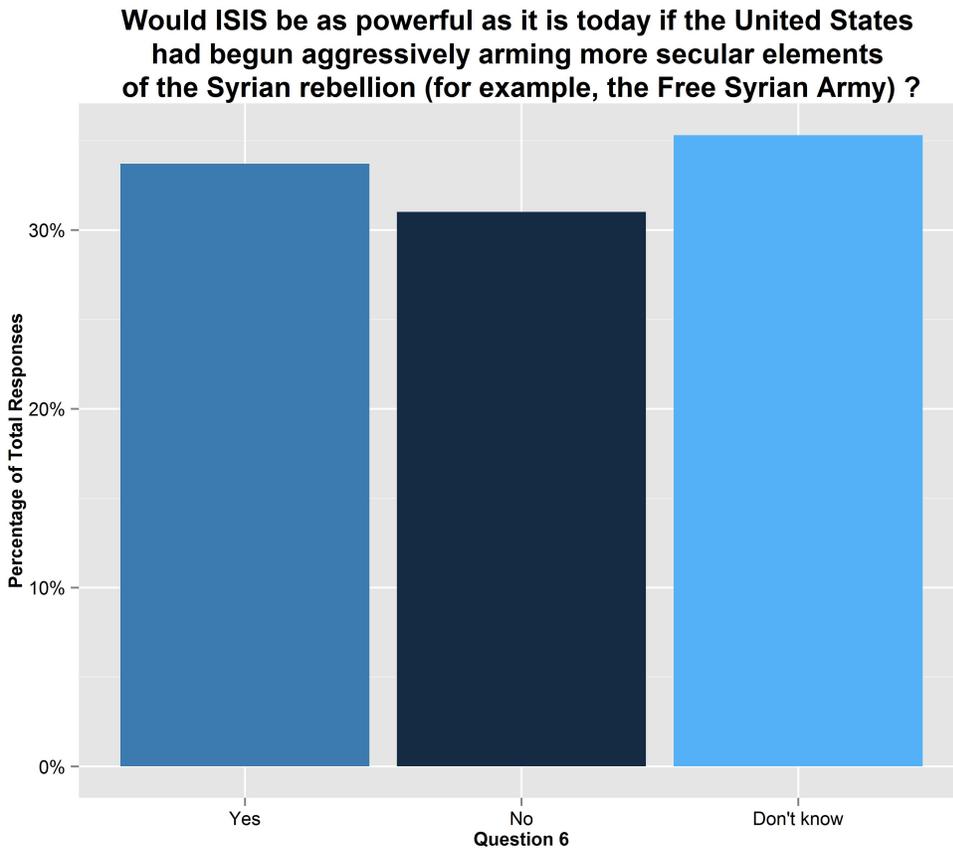
**Question 5:** Would ISIS be as powerful as it is today if the United States had bombed Syrian government forces in the summer of 2013?

|                   | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Count</b> |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Yes</b>        | 40.74          | 559          |
| <b>No</b>         | 23.76          | 326          |
| <b>Don't know</b> | 35.50          | 487          |
| <b>N</b>          | 1372           | 1372         |



**Question 6:** Would ISIS be as powerful as it is today if the United States had begun aggressively arming more secular elements of the Syrian rebellion (for example, the Free Syrian Army) in the summer of 2013?

|                   | Percent | Count |
|-------------------|---------|-------|
| <b>Yes</b>        | 33.70   | 462   |
| <b>No</b>         | 31.00   | 425   |
| <b>Don't know</b> | 35.30   | 484   |
| <b>N</b>          | 1371    | 1371  |

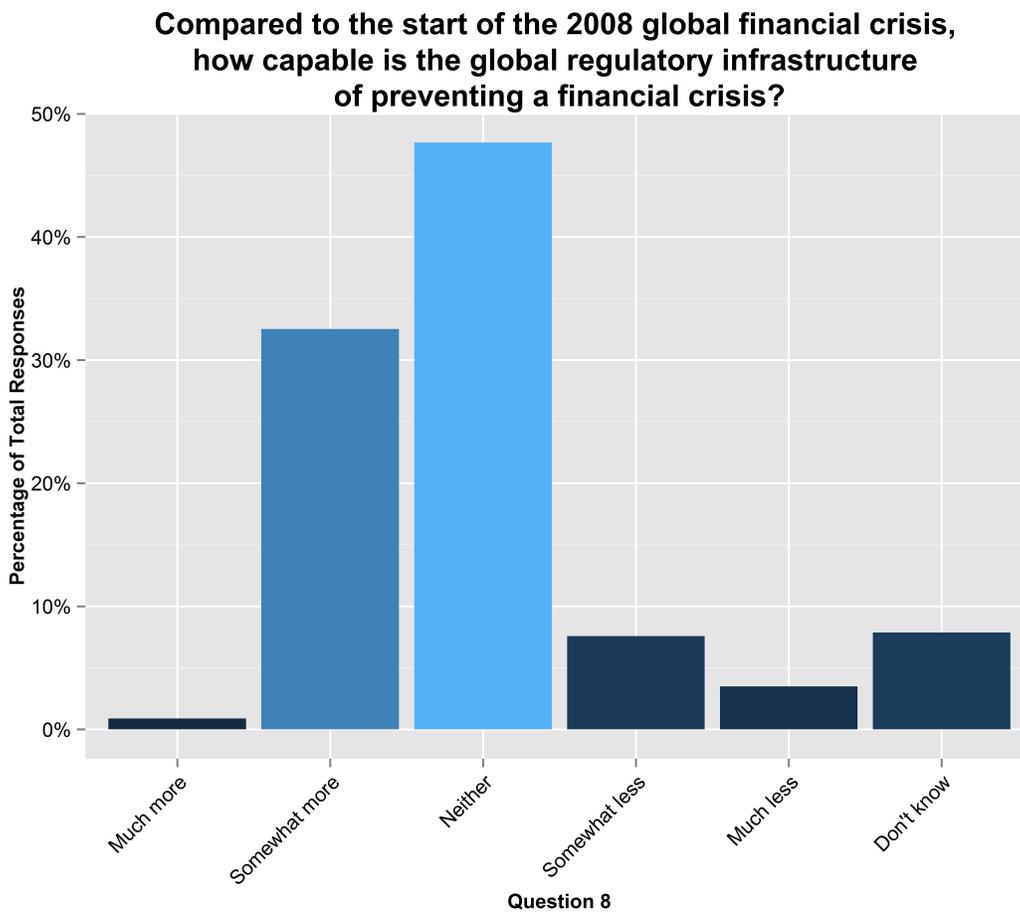


**Question 7:** Who was the most effective U.S. Secretary of State in the past 50 years?

|                             | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Count</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Henry Kissinger</b>      | 32.27          | 213          |
| <b>Don't know</b>           | 18.18          | 120          |
| <b>James Baker</b>          | 17.73          | 117          |
| <b>Madeleine Albright</b>   | 8.79           | 58           |
| <b>Hillary Clinton</b>      | 8.79           | 58           |
| <b>George Shultz</b>        | 5.61           | 37           |
| <b>Dean Rusk</b>            | 3.48           | 23           |
| <b>Cyrus Vance</b>          | 1.52           | 10           |
| <b>Warren Christopher</b>   | 1.52           | 10           |
| <b>Colin Powell</b>         | 1.06           | 7            |
| <b>Condoleezza Rice</b>     | 0.45           | 3            |
| <b>Lawrence Eagleburger</b> | 0.30           | 2            |
| <b>John Kerry</b>           | 0.30           | 2            |
| <b>William Rogers</b>       | 0.00           | 0            |
| <b>Edmund Muskie</b>        | 0.00           | 0            |
| <b>Alexander Haig Jr.</b>   | 0.00           | 0            |
| <b>N</b>                    | 660            | 660          |

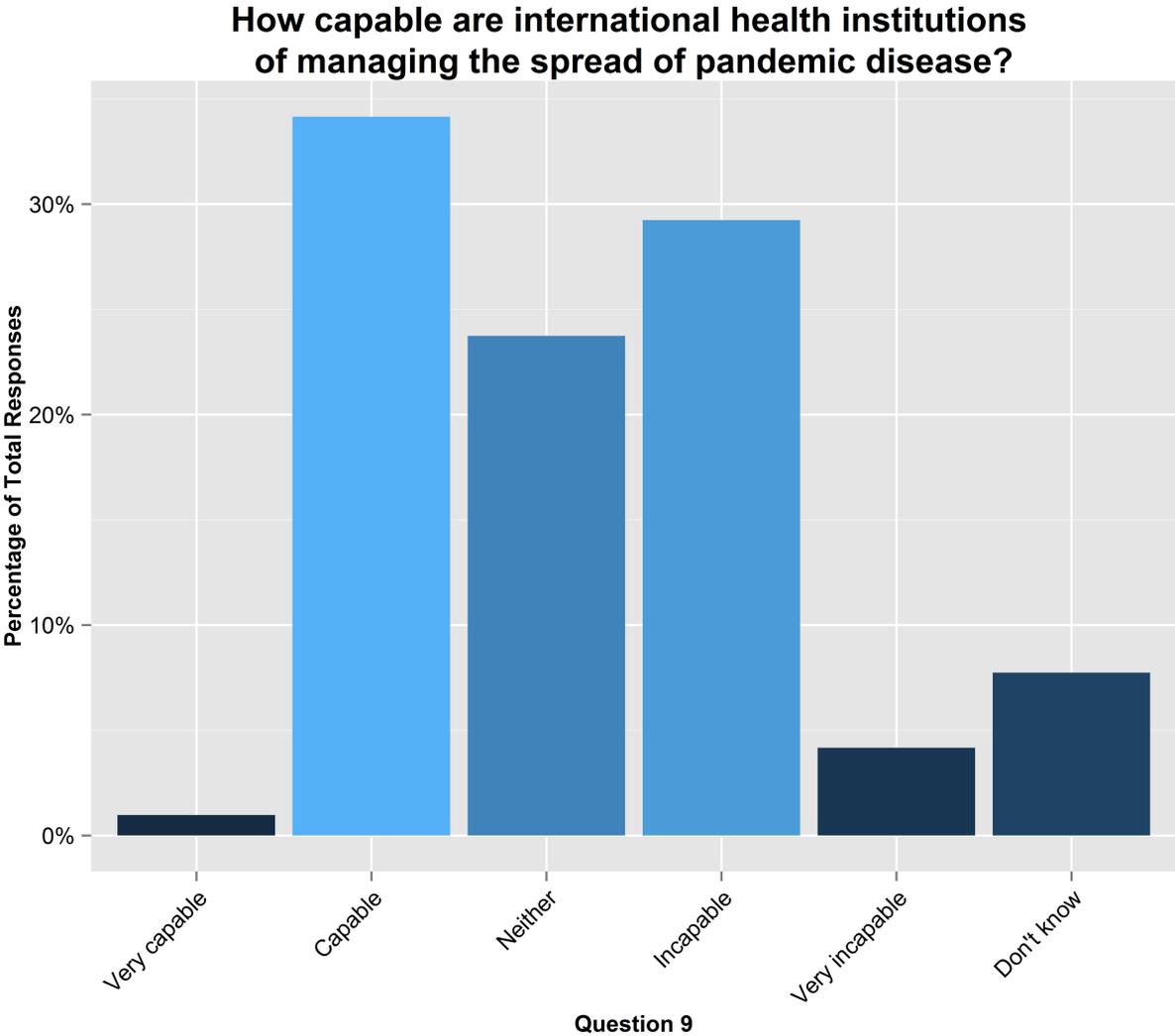
**Question 8:** Compared to the start of the 2008 global financial crisis, how capable is the global regulatory infrastructure of preventing a financial crisis?

|                                      | Percent | Count |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| <b>Much more capable</b>             | 0.89    | 12    |
| <b>Somewhat more capable</b>         | 32.52   | 438   |
| <b>Neither more nor less capable</b> | 47.66   | 642   |
| <b>Somewhat less capable</b>         | 7.57    | 102   |
| <b>Much less capable</b>             | 3.49    | 47    |
| <b>Don't know</b>                    | 7.87    | 106   |
| <b>N</b>                             | 1347    | 1347  |



**Question 9:** How capable are international health institutions of managing the spread of pandemic disease?

|                                      | Percent | Count |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| <b>Very capable</b>                  | 0.97    | 13    |
| <b>Capable</b>                       | 34.15   | 459   |
| <b>Neither capable nor incapable</b> | 23.74   | 319   |
| <b>Incapable</b>                     | 29.24   | 393   |
| <b>Very incapable</b>                | 4.17    | 56    |
| <b>Don't know</b>                    | 7.74    | 104   |
| <b>N</b>                             | 1344    | 1344  |



**Question 10:** In your view, should immigration to the United States be:

|                                  | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Count</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Kept at its present level</b> | 26.54          | 357          |
| <b>Increased</b>                 | 52.71          | 709          |
| <b>Decreased</b>                 | 5.65           | 76           |
| <b>No opinion</b>                | 15.09          | 203          |
| <b>N</b>                         | 1345           | 1345         |

