



MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: American Edge Project
RE: U.S. and European Voters Want Transatlantic Cooperation to Preserve Technological Edge, Counter Russia-China Threats
DATE: September 2022

New Poll: U.S. and European Voters Share View That China and Russia Are Global Economic and Security Threats *Almost nine-in-10 Believe the U.S. and Europe Must Work Together to Defend Shared Values*

As a war rages on in Ukraine and China-Taiwan tensions escalate, a new poll by the American Edge Project finds that voters on both sides of the Atlantic are aligned on a common set of values and concerns about the growing technological threats posed by China and Russia.

The survey shows that voters are clear-eyed about what it will take to counter increasingly confrontational geopolitical maneuvers by China and hostilities by Russia leading to land war in Europe. As a result, they are calling for the U.S. and Europe to work together to defend their shared values, confront common threats, and preserve the economic and security benefits of today's internet technologies. **To do so, they want a coalition of democratic nations to lead the way and set the rules and standards for the internet.**

The poll surveyed 1,000 registered voters in the U.S., 1,000 registered voters in the United Kingdom, 1,000 registered voters in France, 1,000 registered voters in Germany, and 500 voters in Belgium (with Brussels considered the de facto capital of the European Union) between August 7 and August 21, 2022. The survey is a continuation of research that began in 2021, with a similar poll surveying a comparable audience.

Key findings include:

- **U.S. and European voters are reaffirming their shared values – and view China and Russia warily.** Voter sentiment across the surveyed countries indicates that the Western alliance is fundamentally strong. By nearly a six-to-one ratio, Americans believe Europe shares its values more than either China or Russia does. Similarly, UK voters are six times as likely to say the U.S. shares their values compared to China and Russia; Belgian voters are four times as likely, French voters are five times as likely, and German voters are six times as likely. U.S. and European voters also agree that China “promotes censorship of ideas” (68% in U.S., 62% in Europe) and “uses state-sponsored technology companies to discriminate and repress minorities” (66% in U.S., 61% in Europe). Accordingly, these voters also agree “we must protect an open, accessible, and free internet in the U.S./EU” (80% in U.S. and Europe).
- **Voters on both sides of the Atlantic see China and Russia as economic and security threats, which must be checked urgently.** Western voters are concerned by the threats posed by Russia and China – nearly nine in 10 are concerned with “Russia’s invasion on Ukraine emboldening China to invade Taiwan” (88% in U.S., 87% in Europe) and “Russia attempting to annex countries in Eastern Europe” (89% in U.S., 88% in Europe). Given these tensions, an overwhelming majority of voters in the U.S. and Europe agree that the growing technological influence of China and Russia is a threat to their country’s national security (76% in U.S., 72% in Europe) and economy (76% in U.S., 70% in Europe). Unsurprisingly, voters are also alarmed by the prospect of “foreign countries gaining a technological advantage over the U.S. and Europe” (86% concern in U.S., 80% in Europe).

“The more China and Russia control the global internet, the more it will hurt [COUNTRY]’s <u>national security</u> .”	“The more China and Russia control the global internet, the more it will hurt the health of [COUNTRY]’s <u>economy</u> .”
76% agree in the U.S. 79% agree in the UK 74% agree in France 74% agree in Germany 62% agree in Belgium	76% agree in the U.S. 79% agree in the UK 72% agree in France 72% agree in Germany 58% agree in Belgium

- In response, an increasing number of U.S. and European voters are calling for greater cooperation with each other to balance China and Russia’s growing technological influence.** Voters surveyed across the Western alliance strongly and increasingly agree that “we should work with our allies in the U.S. and Europe against common adversaries” (89% in U.S., up five-points since last year; 88% in Europe, up nine-points since last year); that “Europe and the U.S. should work together to defend our shared values” (87% in U.S., up one-point since last year; 88% in Europe, up seven-points since last year); that “if the U.S. and Europe don’t work together against common adversaries like Russia and China, the security and prosperity of Europe and the U.S. are in jeopardy” (86% in U.S., 87% in Europe); and that “Europe and the U.S. should reduce regulations and barriers between each other” (82% in U.S., up 15-points since last year; 85% in Europe, up 11-points since last year). These voters recognize that there is strength in unity, and want a coalition of democratic nations to set the rules and standards for the internet (coalition preferred by 45% in U.S. and 44% in Europe).

The bottom line: With threats emanating from China and Russia, U.S. and European voters want to see Western partnerships prevail. They believe the U.S. and Europe champion a common set of values that China and Russia fundamentally oppose, and that without stronger multilateral ties, the technological edge enjoyed by the U.S. and Europe could be at risk, along with its related economic and security benefits.

Additional Methodology Notes

2022 Survey Methodology:

American Edge Project conducted a survey between August 7th and August 21st, 2022 in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Belgium. A sample of 4,500 adults age 18+ who are registered to vote were interviewed online.

1,000 interviews were done in each of the following: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, as well as 500 interviews done in Belgium.

The margin of error among these audiences at the 95% confidence interval level is +/- 3.2%.

2021 Survey Methodology

American Edge Project conducted a survey between May 19th and May 27th, 2021 in the United States and the United Kingdom, and May 21st-27th, 2021 in France, Belgium and Germany. A sample of 4,500 adults age 18+ who were registered to vote were interviewed online.

1,000 interviews were done in each of the following: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, as well as 500 interviews done in Belgium.

The poll had a credibility interval of +/- 3.2% for all respondents.

About American Edge Project

The American Edge Project is a coalition dedicated to the proposition that American innovators are an essential part of U.S. economic health, national security and individual freedoms.

For more information, visit <https://americanedgeproject.org/>