AMERICAN EDGE PROJECT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: American Edge Project
RE: Western Voters Support Transatlantic Cooperation to Invest in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Prevent China from Becoming the Leading Global Superpower
DATE: November 2025

New Poll: 8-in-10 Voters in the U.S. and Europe Are Concerned by China's Vision for a New Global Order; 7-in-10 Believe Western Countries Should Work Together and Use AI to Maintain Their Edge Over China

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to evolve and support global economies, societies, and national security systems, countries around the world are in a race to innovate and come out ahead of their adversaries. A new survey from the American Edge Project (AEP) finds that voters across both the U.S. and Europe share a common set of values and want Western countries to work together to invest in AI and use technology to support their economies, national security, and edge over China. The survey also shows that voters on both sides of the Atlantic are **deeply worried about China's plans to create a new global order and its technological threat to Western nations**.

"Voters across the U.S. and Europe see what's at stake: China isn't just competing in the tech race – it's trying to rewrite the global order," said Doug Kelly, CEO of the AEP. **"Voters on both sides of the Atlantic overwhelmingly want America and its allies to unite, invest in AI, and keep technological leadership in democratic hands. This isn't just a tech race: it's a fight to secure the future of free societies."**

This poll – conducted by Mercury Analytics – surveyed 1,000 registered voters in the U.S., 1,000 registered voters in the U.K., 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 October 7 and October 20, 2025. This survey is a continuation of research by the AEP that began in 2021, with surveys being conducted annually.

Key findings include:

- **U.S. and European voters share common values and view the values of foreign adversaries – such as China and Russia – in opposition.** On both sides of the Atlantic, there continues to be agreement that "Europe and the U.S. should work together to defend our shared values" (82% in U.S., 77% in Europe). Both American and European voters believe the other allows for freedom of speech (75% in U.S., 58% in Europe) and believe the other values a "free and open internet" (71% in U.S., 65% in Europe). These shared values stand in stark contrast to how American and European voters perceive the values exhibited by China and Russia. In particular, Western voters believe China uses "state-sponsored technology companies to discriminate and repress dissenters" (77% in U.S., 77% in Europe) and don't see Russia sharing the same values as their own country (85% in U.S., 88% in Europe).

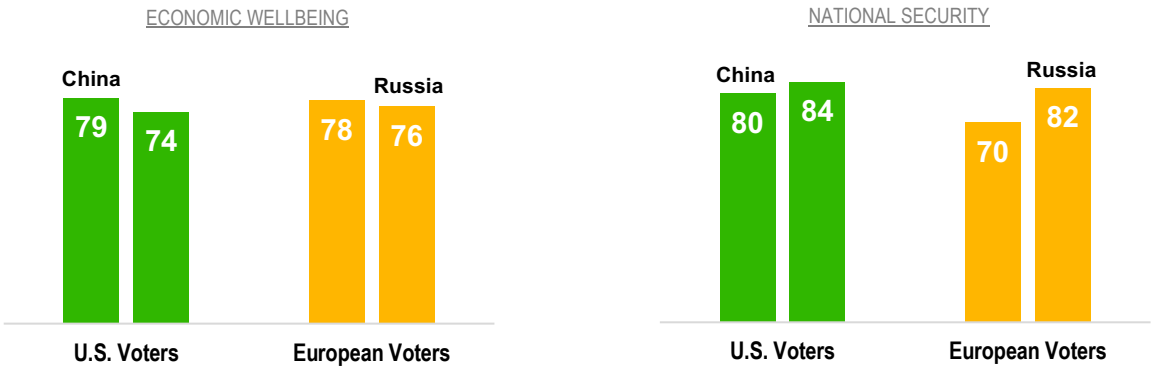
- **Western voters are worried about China's ambition to fortify alliances with non-Western countries and create a new global order to challenge the West.** On both sides of the Atlantic, more than eight-in-10 voters are concerned by recent news of Chinese President Xi Jinping holding a massive military parade to challenge Western powers and – separately – hosting China-friendly foreign leaders to offer financial incentives to countries that support his vision for a new global security and economic order (see chart below).

  PROMPT: JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING JOINED A SUMMIT - WITH RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN, INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI, AND IRANIAN PRESIDENT MASOUD PEZESHKIAN - WHERE HE OFFERED NEW FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO COUNTRIES THAT SUPPORT HIS VISION FOR A NEW GLOBAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ORDER. EVEN MORE RECENTLY, CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING HOSTED MORE THAN TWO-DOZEN CHINA-FRIENDLY WORLD LEADERS - INCLUDING RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN, NORTH KOREAN LEADER KIM JONG UN, AND IRANIAN PRESIDENT MASOUD PEZESHKIAN - FOR A HUGE MILITARY PARADE IN A CHALLENGE TO THE WEST.

  QUESTION: HOW CONCERNING IS THIS TO YOU PERSONALLY?

- **Western voters are extremely concerned about foreign technological threats and want to invest in AI in order to maintain their edge over China.** An overwhelming majority of voters in the U.S. and Europe agree that China and Russia are a threat to their economic wellbeing and national security (see table below). Further, about nine-in-10 are alarmed by the prospect of China and Russia conducting cyberattacks on their country's critical infrastructure, hacking government entities and private citizens, and launching political influence campaigns. More than seven-in-10 say that "to compete with China and maintain their edge, Europe and the U.S. need to invest in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and cloud computing" (see chart below).

% OF VOTERS WHO BELIEVE [CHINA / RUSSIA] POSE A THREAT TO THEIR COUNTRY'S _____.

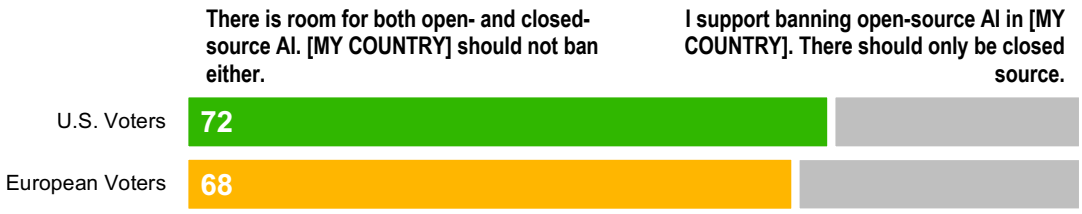


PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: TO COMPETE WITH CHINA AND MAINTAIN THEIR EDGE, EUROPE AND THE U.S. NEED TO INVEST IN EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES SUCH AS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES, AND CLOUD COMPUTING.

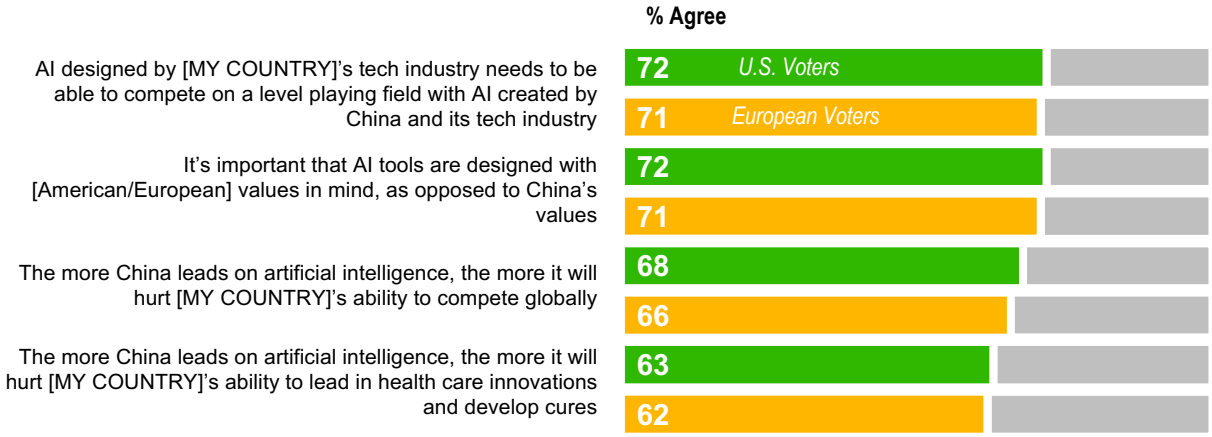
- **Western voters are united in their support for innovations in both open-source and closed-source AI and oppose overregulation of either.** As Western voters become more familiar with AI, they are becoming more favorable of it (AI has a net favorability of +28 points among U.S. voters and +25 points among European voters, indicating that both familiarity and favorability are up from 2024). Additionally, the vast majority of Western voters want to make space for innovations in both open- and closed-source AI (see chart below), and seven-in-10 agree their countries need to stay away from overregulating either model.

PROMPT: AS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT ALREADY KNOW, AI SYSTEMS ARE BUILT USING AI MODELS. IN OTHER WORDS, "BLUEPRINTS" OF COMPUTER CODE, DETAILED OPERATING RULES, AND DATA. **OPEN-SOURCE AI** REFERS TO AI MODELS THAT TECH COMPANIES RELEASE OPENLY AND FREELY TO OTHER COMPANIES, RESEARCHERS, AND DEVELOPERS TO DOWNLOAD, USE, AND MODIFY WITHOUT NEEDING SPECIAL PERMISSION OR HAVING TO PAY FOR ACCESS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE AI "BLUEPRINTS" ARE FREELY SHARED. **CLOSED-SOURCE AI** REFERS TO AI MODELS THAT ARE KEPT PROPRIETARY AND NOT FREELY SHARED WITH OTHERS. THIS IS AI WHERE THE "BLUEPRINTS" REMAIN PRIVATE. IN OTHER WORDS, A DEVELOPER WHO WANTS ACCESS TO THE "BLUEPRINTS" MUST PAY OR MEET SPECIAL TERMS, AND THEY CAN'T MODIFY IT.

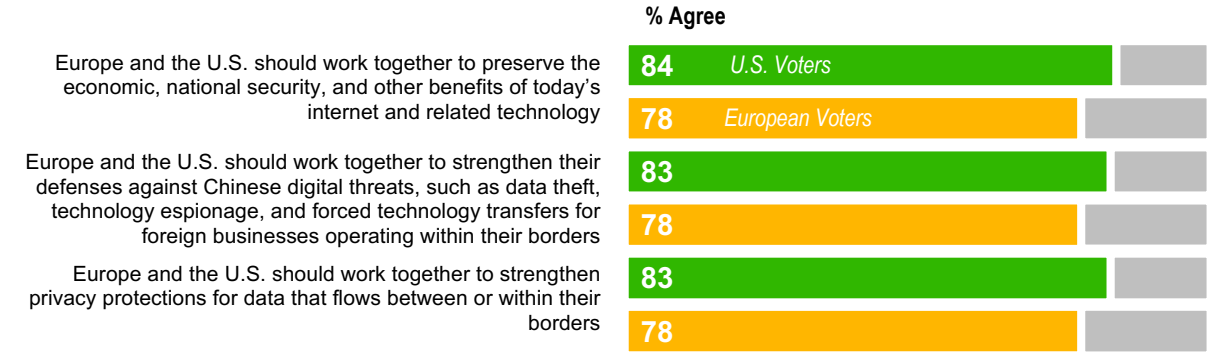
QUESTION: KEEPING THESE DEFINITIONS IN MIND, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS DO YOU AGREE WITH MOST?



- **Western voters agree that domestic innovations in AI and tech will help their nation compete on a global level.** 3-in-5 voters on both sides of the Atlantic agree that their country's national security and economic growth will be better off if their domestically designed AI (rather than China's) is adopted globally and can compete with the technology of foreign competitors (see chart below).



- **Most U.S. and European voters view Western technological cooperation as a way to support their country's economy, protect their national security, and guard against China's growing influence.** Voters surveyed across the Western alliance continue to agree that the U.S. and Europe must cooperate to protect and strengthen their technological edge against foreign threats (see chart below). And similar to where voters were in 2024, once again, about 8-in-10 voters say Western countries should work together against common threats (82% in U.S., 78% in Europe), and against common adversaries (82% in U.S., 76% in Europe). Specifically, they agree that:



The bottom line: For the fifth straight year, this survey data demonstrates that Western voters are concerned about threats posed by China and Russia, especially as China pushes to create and lead a new global order counter to the West. Western voters who share a common set of values want to lean on their alliances and invest in technological innovations – such as AI – to protect their economies, national security, and competitive edge.

Additional Methodology Notes

2025 Survey Methodology:

American Edge Project conducted a survey between October 7 and October 20, 2025, 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.

The following number of interviews were done: 1,000 interviews in the U.S.; 1,000 interviews in the U.K.; 1,000 interviews in France; 1,000 interviews in Germany; 500 interviews in Belgium

The margin of error among these audiences at the 95% confidence interval level is +/- 3.1%.

2024 Survey Methodology:

American Edge Project conducted a survey between August 27 and September 16, 2024, in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Belgium. A sample of 4,508 adults age 18+ who are registered to vote were interviewed online.

The following number of interviews were done: 1,001 interviews in the U.S.; 1,000 interviews in the U.K.; 1,001 interviews in France; 1,004 interviews in Germany; 502 interviews in Belgium

The margin of error among these audiences at the 95% confidence interval level is +/- 3.1%.

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/