

THE LOWY INSTITUTE CHINA POLL 2009



China and the World PUBLIC OPINION AND FOREIGN POLICY

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Executive summary

The Lowy Institute China Poll reports the results of a foreign policy opinion survey conducted by telephone in China between 29 August and 13 September 2009 using a sample of 1,200 adults randomly selected from urban and nearby rural communities. The Lowy Institute gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to fund part of the survey work.

China and the world

Most Chinese people seemed relatively content with the level of respect China receives from other countries. Sixty per cent said either China receives more respect than it deserves or about the right amount of respect.

Of nine possible threats, it was non-traditional threats that most worried the Chinese people. 'Environmental issues like climate change' and 'water and food shortages' topped the list with 76% and 67% respectively saying they were a threat.

Fifty per cent of Chinese people said the United States posed a threat to China's security, while only a slim majority (51%) said Japan did not pose a threat. Larger majorities said India (60%), Russia (71%) and North Korea (81%) did not pose a threat.

Of the five countries, the United States was considered the greatest threat to China's security by one third (34%) of Chinese adults: only 14% said Japan and India posed the greatest threat.

Of the 50% of Chinese people who said the United States posed a threat to China's security, most (77%) agreed strongly or somewhat it was because it might seek to restrain China's growing influence in the world or (76%) because it might support separatist elements in China. Most other reasons tested also received similar but lower levels of agreement.

Younger Chinese adults tended to be more likely than their elders to say China was receiving less respect than it deserved and that Japan and the United States posed a threat.

China and Australia

The fieldwork for the Lowy Institute China Poll was conducted during a low point in the China-Australia diplomatic relationship following controversy over foreign investment in Australia by Chinese state-owned entities, the arrest of a senior Australian mining executive in China, Stern Hu, the visit to Australia by exiled Uighur activist

Rebiya Kadeer and negative commentary about Australia in the Chinese media. Despite these developments the Chinese people had quite favourable impressions of Australia.

Eighty-four per cent agreed strongly or somewhat that Australia was a good place to visit. A majority (68%) agreed strongly or somewhat that Australia was a country with attractive values and 57% said it was a country with a good political system. A majority (64%) also agreed strongly or somewhat that Australia was a reliable supplier of natural resources.

There was some unease with Australia though. Forty-eight per cent of Chinese people said Australia's alliance with the United States had a very or somewhat negative influence on China-Australia relations compared with 31% who said it had a very or somewhat positive influence. And almost half agreed (48%) that Australia was a country suspicious of China, compared with 36% who disagreed.

Foreign investment

The Chinese people were more partial to certain foreign investment from Singapore, Canada and Australia than they were to investment from the United States or Japan.

A majority (56%) were in favour of companies controlled by the Singaporean government trying to buy a controlling stake in a major Chinese company. Sizeable minorities were also in favour of this sort of investment by Canada (45%) and Australia (41%). However, large majorities of 70% and 79% respectively were against investment from the United States and Japan.

Education abroad

At an overall level, large majorities said all five countries included in the survey were good places in which to be educated. The largest majority (84%) said the United Kingdom was a good place in which to be educated. Australia ranked equal with Singapore with 78% saying it was a good place in which to be educated just behind Canada with 82%. Seventy-seven per cent said the United States was a good place in which to be educated.

But when it came to choosing the best place in which to be educated the United States came out on top with 36% of the Chinese people, saying it was the best place followed by the United Kingdom (19%), Singapore (15%), Australia (14%) and Canada (11%).

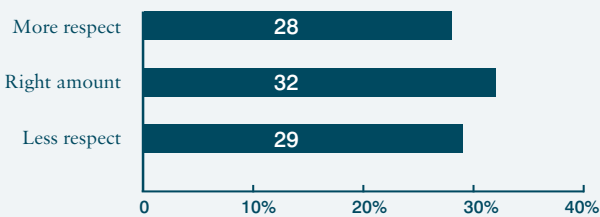
China and the World

RESPECT FOR CHINA

Most Chinese adults are happy with the level of respect China receives from other countries. A majority (60%) said China is being given ‘more respect’ than it deserves (28%) or ‘about the right amount’ (32%).

Fig. 1: Respect from other countries

Thinking firstly about how other countries interact with China. Do you personally think that China is being given more respect or less respect than it deserves, or is it getting about the right amount of respect?



Younger Chinese people and those with higher education levels were more likely to say China was receiving ‘less respect’ than it deserved than their elders and those with less formal education. Thirty-three per cent of 18-44 year olds said it was receiving ‘less respect’ than it deserved compared with 19% of those 55 years old or older and 38% of people with a college or university education compared with 15% of people whose highest level of formal education was junior secondary school.

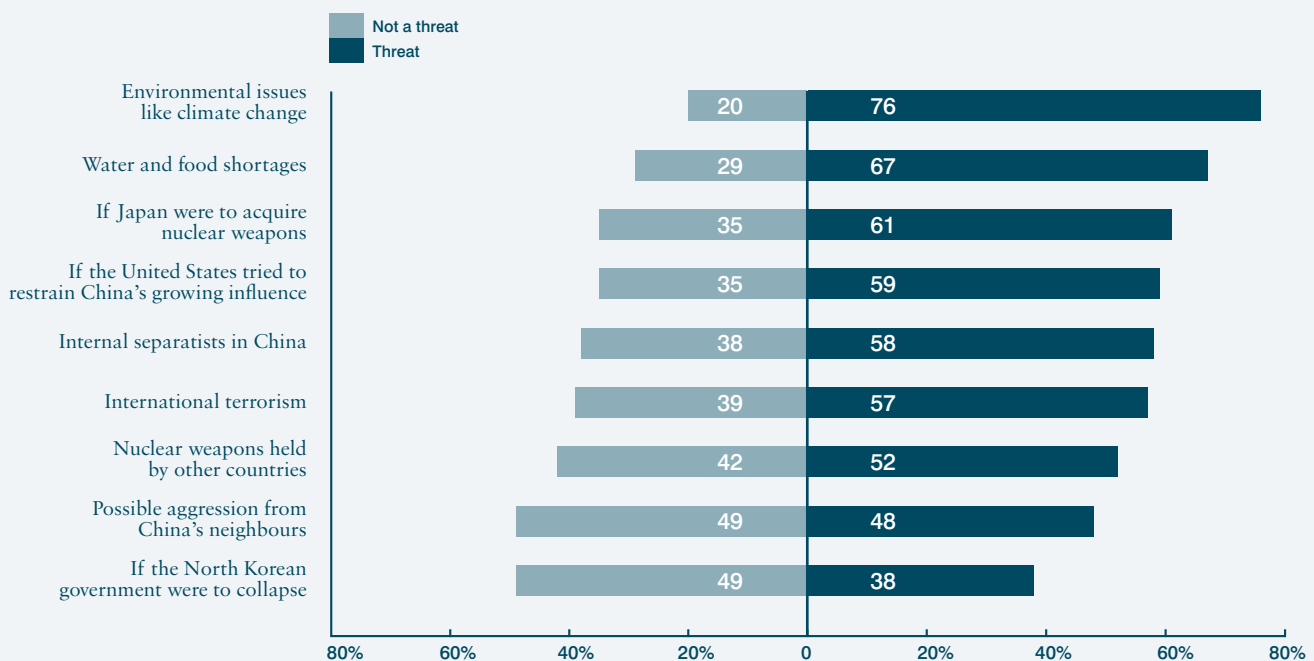
POSSIBLE THREATS

To find out which issues worried the Chinese people we asked how they felt about a range of possible threats, from the United States to internal separatists to environmental threats.

Interestingly, it was two non-traditional threats that most worried respondents. Of nine possible threats, ‘environmental issues like climate change’ and ‘water and food shortages’ topped the list with 76% and 67% of respondents respectively saying they were a threat ‘to China’s security over the next ten years’.

Fig. 2: Possible threats

Now about possible threats to China’s security over the next ten years, please say whether you regard each of the following as a threat to China or not a threat to China:



China and Australia compared

There are some interesting parallels between the views of Chinese people and Australians. Results from China regarding non-traditional threats corresponded somewhat to the views of Australians from the 2008 and 2009 Lowy Institute polls. In the 2008 Lowy Institute Poll 83% of Australians said the ‘increasing scarcity of water’ was a critical threat to Australia’s vital interests over the next ten years: the highest ranked of 14 possible threats. In the 2009 Lowy Institute Poll 52% of Australians said ‘global warming’ was a critical threat: ranking fourth-highest out of 12 possible threats.

‘If Japan were to acquire nuclear weapons’ was ranked third with 61% saying it was a threat and ‘if the United States tried to restrain China’s growing influence’ fourth with 59% saying it was a threat.

‘Internal separatists in China’, ‘international terrorism’ and ‘nuclear weapons held by other countries’ were all considered threats by a majority of people.

There was a division over whether ‘possible aggression from China’s neighbours’ was a threat or not, with 48% saying it was a threat and 49% saying it was not.

Ranked lowest, only 38% said ‘if the North Korean government were to collapse’ was a threat, while 49% said it was not a threat.

For all threats there was a difference in threat perception between the generations with more younger Chinese feeling threatened. For example, 72% of 18-24 year olds said it was a threat ‘if the United States tried to restrain China’s growing influence’ compared with 43% of those 55 years

of age or older. Seventy-five per cent of 18-24 years olds said ‘internal separatists in China’ were a threat compared with 45% of those 55 years old or older. For ‘international terrorism’ the difference between the respective age groups was 71% and 49%, for ‘possible aggression from China’s neighbours’ it was 60% and 38% and ‘if the North Korean government were to collapse’ it was 47% and 29%.

POSSIBLE THREATS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

To find out whether the Chinese people felt threatened by other powers and some of China’s neighbours we asked if they thought five countries posed a threat or not ‘to the security of China in the next ten years’.

Fifty per cent said the United States ‘poses a threat’. A slim majority (51%) said Japan did ‘not pose a threat’. Larger majorities said India (60%), Russia (71%) and North Korea (81%) did ‘not pose a threat’.

Once again younger people felt more threatened, with a majority (64%) of younger Chinese people (18-24 years old) agreeing the United States posed a threat, but only a third (35%) of those 55 years or older felt the same way.

For Japan, a majority (54%) of younger Chinese people (18-24 year olds) said it posed a threat compared with 34% of those 55 years old and older. For India, men were almost twice as likely as women to say it posed a threat: 44% compared with 24%.

Respondents with a university or college education were more likely to say India and Japan posed a threat than those whose highest level of education was junior secondary school: 43% compared with 25% for India and 49% compared with 36% for Japan.

Fig. 3a: Possible threats from other countries

For each of the following countries please say whether you think it poses a threat or does not pose a threat to the security of China in the next ten years?

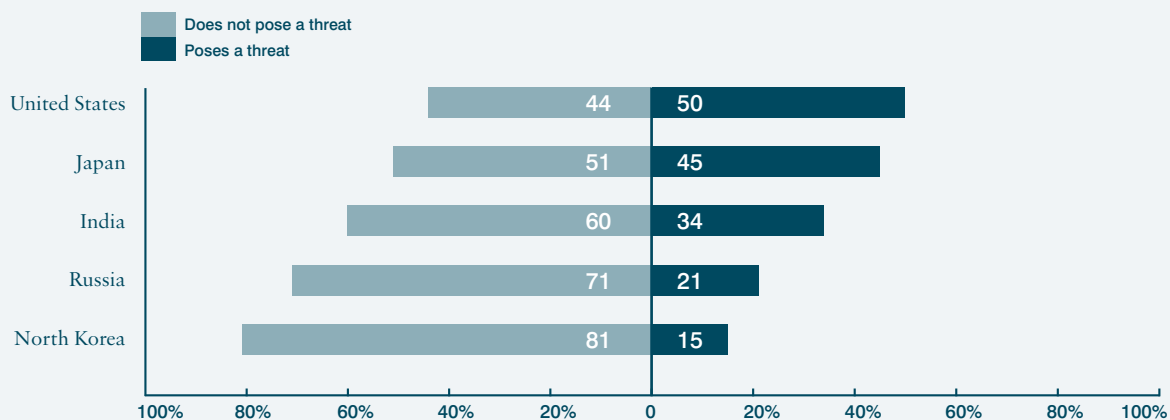
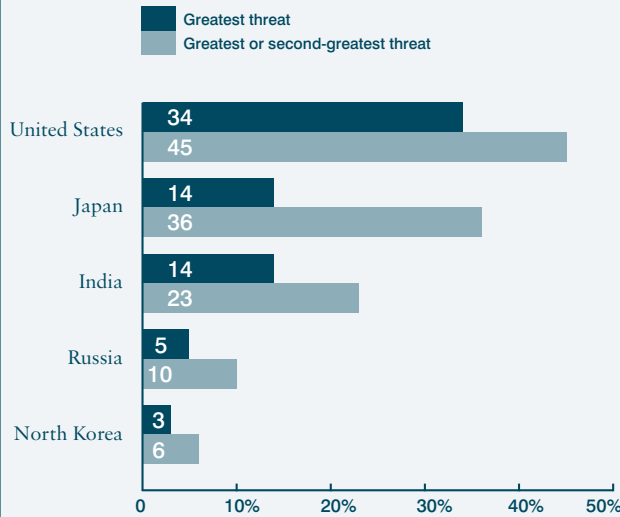


Fig. 3b: Countries posing the greatest threat

Which one of the following ... do you think poses the greatest threat to China's security in the next ten years?

Which one of ... poses the second-greatest threat to China's security in the next ten years?#



#Note: This chart includes those who said only one country was a threat in the 'greatest threat' response option.

For respondents who said more than one country posed a threat we asked them which of the countries posed 'the greatest threat to China's security in the next ten years' and which the 'second-greatest'. Combining these results with those who had said just one country posed a threat we produced a ranking of the most threatening countries.

One third (34%) of Chinese adults said the United States posed 'the greatest threat to China's security', while 14% said each of Japan and India posed 'the greatest threat'. Very few said Russia or North Korea was 'the greatest threat' (5% and 3% respectively).

When those saying a country posed 'the greatest threat' were combined with those saying a country posed 'the second-greatest threat' the rankings remained the same but 45% said the United States posed the greatest or second-greatest threat, 36% Japan and 23% India.

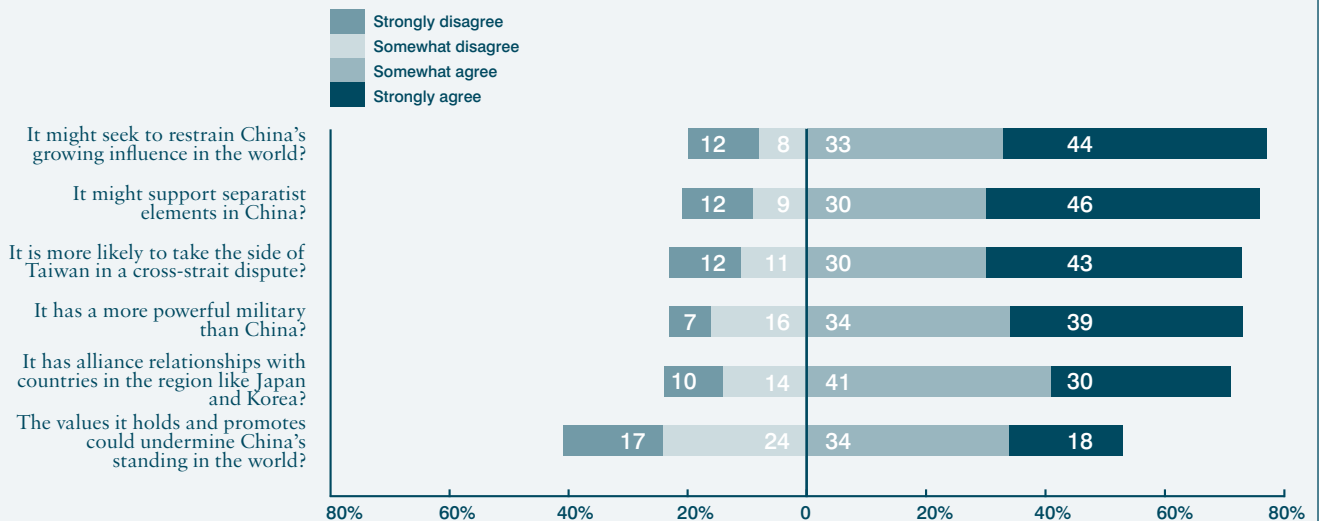
Younger Chinese (18-24 years old) were twice as likely as their elders (55 years old and older) to say the United States posed the greatest or second greatest threat: 60% compared with 30%. For Japan the difference was 43% and 28% across the respective age groups.

THE UNITED STATES

To find out why the United States was perceived as a threat, we presented the 50% of Chinese respondents who said it posed a threat with six propositions and asked them if they

Fig. 4: Why the United States poses a threat

You mentioned earlier that you think the United States poses a threat to the security of China in the next ten years. Do you personally strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree the United States poses a threat to China because:#



#Note: This question was only asked if respondents had previously said the United States posed a threat to China's security; that is to 604 of 1,200 respondents.

agreed or disagreed that they explained why the United States posed a threat.

Of this subsample, 77% strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that the United States posed a threat to China because ‘it might seek to restrain China’s growing influence in the world’.

An equally large majority (76%) of the subsample agreed strongly or somewhat it was because ‘it might support separatist elements in China’.

Similar majorities of the subsample agreed with three other propositions: ‘it is more likely to take the side of Taiwan in a cross-strait dispute’ (73%), ‘it has a more powerful military than China’ (73%) and ‘it has alliance relationships with countries in the region like Japan and Korea’ (71%).

The lowest level of agreement (52%) was for the proposition that ‘the values it holds and promotes could undermine China’s standing in the world’.

Across all propositions the threat perception increased the more formal education people had. In the most pronounced case 86% of people with university or college education agreed strongly or somewhat the United States posed a threat because ‘it might seek to restrain China’s growing influence’ compared with 58% of people whose highest level of education was junior secondary school and 82% of those whose highest level of education was senior secondary school.

China and Australia

China is Australia’s second-largest trading partner, behind Japan (2008),¹ our largest source of international students²

and a growing source of foreign investment. While China looms increasingly large in Australia, what do the Chinese people think of Australia? To find out we included a number of questions probing the different aspects of our relationship.

Our polling was conducted at a low point in the China-Australia diplomatic relationship following the arrest of senior Rio Tinto executive and Australian citizen, Stern Hu, as well as some of his Chinese colleagues. The visit of exiled Uighur activist Rebiya Kadeer to Australia also received widespread negative coverage in China prior to the field dates for this poll.

AUSTRALIA IS...?

Despite the tensions in our diplomatic relationship and the fact that fewer than 1% of those polled said they had travelled to Australia, the Chinese people had quite positive feelings towards Australia.

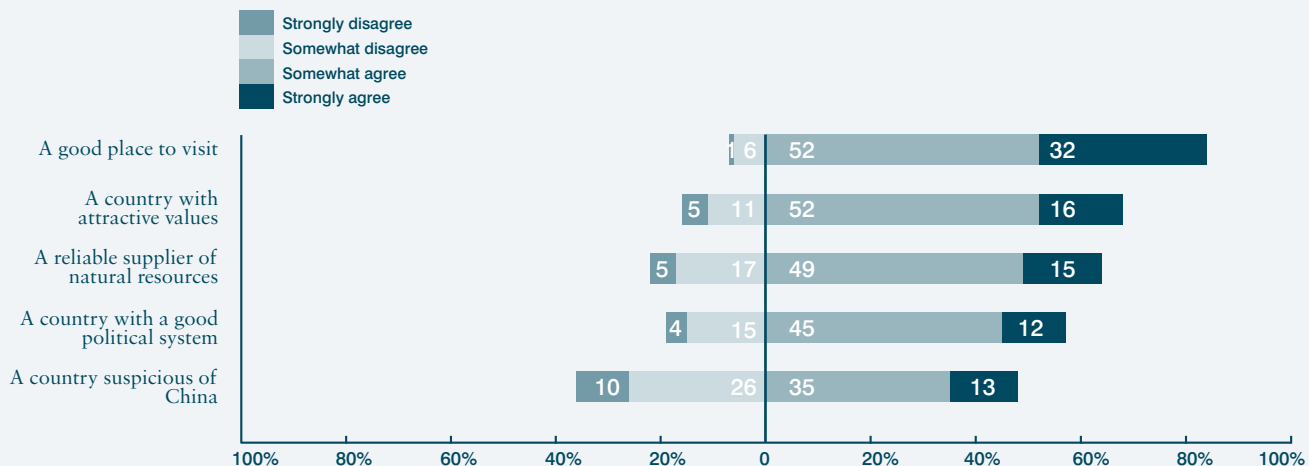
Asked whether they agreed or disagreed with five propositions about Australia, 84% strongly agreed (32%) or somewhat agreed (52%) that Australia was ‘a good place to visit’: the highest level of agreement for any of the five options. Only 7% disagreed strongly or somewhat. Ninety per cent of people with a university or college education agreed strongly or somewhat compared with 78% of those whose highest level of formal education was junior secondary school.

Two propositions looked at Chinese attitudes towards Australian values and Australia’s system of government. A sizeable majority (68%) agreed strongly or somewhat that

Fig. 5: What is Australia?

Still just about Australia, for each of the following do you agree or disagree that it applies to Australia? And would that be strongly or somewhat?

Firstly, is Australia...?



Interpreting Chinese opinion

A 2008 WorldPublicOpinion.org poll of 19 countries³ found 83% of urban Chinese people said ‘government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote’. The poll report went on to state:

‘Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, the Chinese give an 8.0 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning ‘completely’). When asked how much the country is currently governed according to the will of the people, the Chinese give their country the highest rating (6.7) of all publics polled.’

So does the Chinese public want a democratic transition or see the current authoritarian system as already reflecting the will of the people? The WorldPublicOpinion.org poll found that ‘roughly six in 10 (59%) still favor the will of the people having greater influence on the government than it does’. The 2009 Lowy Institute China Poll found a similar majority (57%) of Chinese people saying Australia is ‘a country with a good political system’. So perhaps they do want change.

Australia was ‘a country with attractive values’ and 57% that it was ‘a country with a good political system’.

In 2008, Australia’s iron ore exports to China alone were worth approximately \$18 billion, or nearly half of Australia’s total exports to China.⁴ Australia exports a range of other natural resources to China and a majority (64%) of the Chinese people agreed strongly or somewhat that Australia was ‘a reliable supplier of natural resources’.

But the sentiment towards Australia was not all positive. More Chinese people agreed strongly or somewhat (48%) that Australia was ‘a country suspicious of China’, than disagreed strongly or somewhat (36%). Men were more likely than women to agree: 57% compared with 38%. Those who had travelled outside of China were also more likely to agree than those who had not: 63% compared with 46%.

AUSTRALIA AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Australia has been an active participant, promoter and developer of regional organisations, but to find out what

the Chinese people thought about our place in these bodies we asked whether they agreed or disagreed ‘that Australia should be a member of Asian regional organisations’.

Sixty-five percent of the Chinese people agreed strongly or somewhat that Australia ‘should be a member of Asian regional organisations’, while just 18% disagreed strongly or somewhat.

Chinese aged under 55 years old were more likely to agree than those 55 years old and older: 68% compared with 54%.

OVERSEAS EDUCATION DESTINATIONS

International education is Australia’s third-largest export market, worth over \$15 billion annually in export income⁵ and it is a highly competitive market among English-speaking countries. To find out which countries the Chinese people favour as education destinations we asked if they thought five countries were good or poor places in which to be educated.

There was not a big distinction between the five countries — with the United Kingdom top ranked with 84% saying it was ‘a good place’ in which to be educated and the United States bottom ranked with a still high 77% saying it was ‘a good place’ in which to be educated. Australia ranked equal with Singapore with 78% saying it was ‘a good place’ in which to be educated just behind Canada with 82%.

To find out which of these five countries people considered the best place in which to be educated we asked respondents who nominated more than one country as a ‘good place’ in which to be educated which of the countries they ‘regard as the best place in which to be educated’ and which ‘as the second-best’. Combining these results with those who had nominated just one country as ‘a good place’ we produced a ranking of the best countries in which to be educated.

Thirty-six per cent of Chinese adults said the United States was the best place in which to be educated, followed by the United Kingdom (19%), Singapore (15%), Australia (14%) and Canada (11%).

Fig. 6: Australia and regional organisations

And now just about Australia and its role in Asian regional organisations. Do you agree, or disagree that Australia should be a member of Asian regional organisations? Would that be strongly or somewhat?

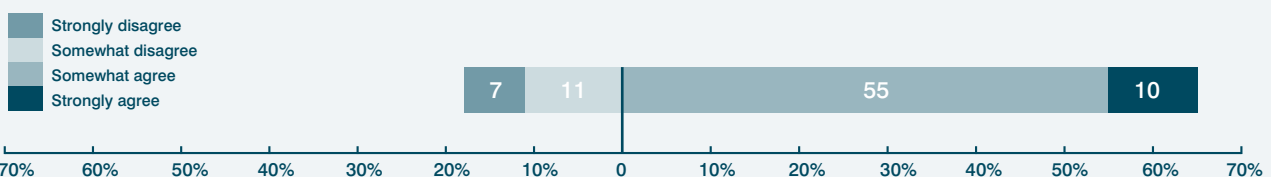
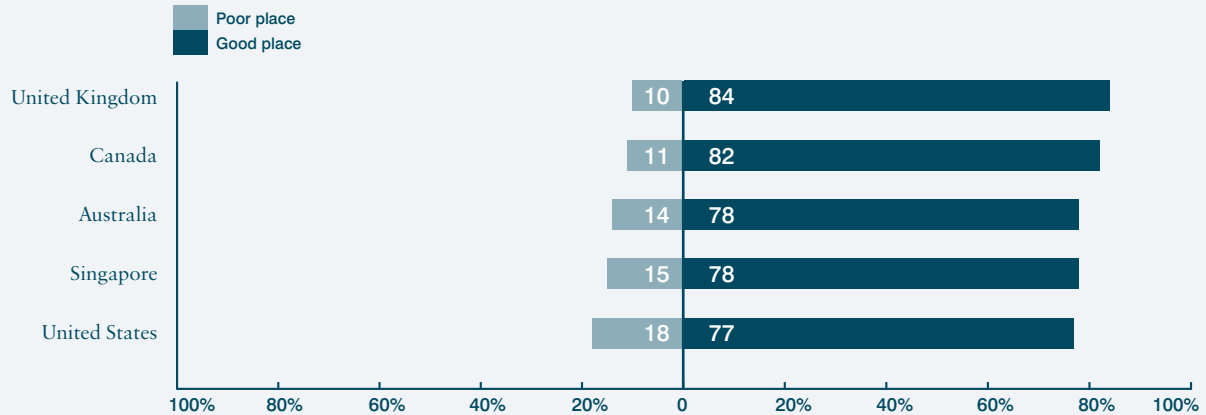


Fig. 7a: Overseas education

Now about being educated in an overseas country. For each of the following countries, do you personally think each of them is a good place or a poor place in which to be educated?



When those who said a country was ‘the best place in which to be educated’ were combined with those who said a country was ‘the second-best’, 53% said the United States was the best or second-best place in which to be educated, 48% the United Kingdom, 32% Singapore while Australia and Canada tied with 28%.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Last year we asked Australians what they thought about foreign government-controlled companies, banks or

investment funds trying to buy controlling stakes in major Australian companies.

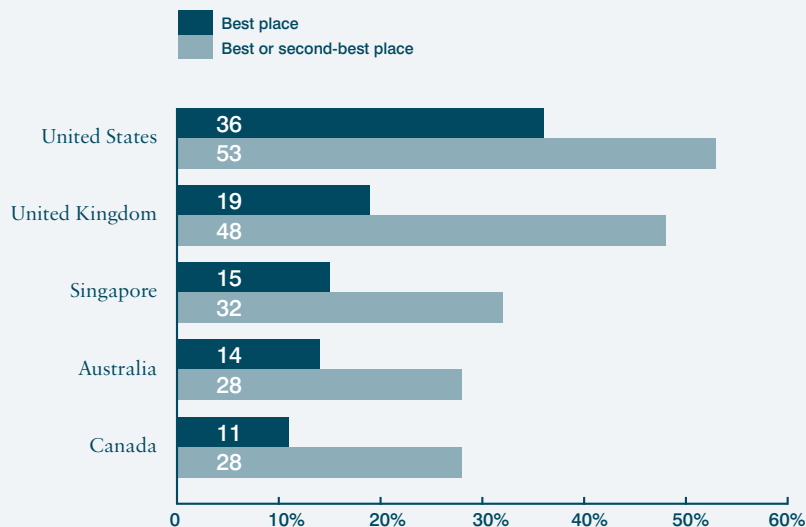
The results from the 2008 Lowy Institute Poll (see over page) show a majority of Australians were opposed no matter which of the six countries included in the survey were involved and Australians were most opposed to investment coming from China.

The relative economic weights of China and Australia as well as the investment levels from each country are, of

Fig. 7b: Best countries in which to be educated

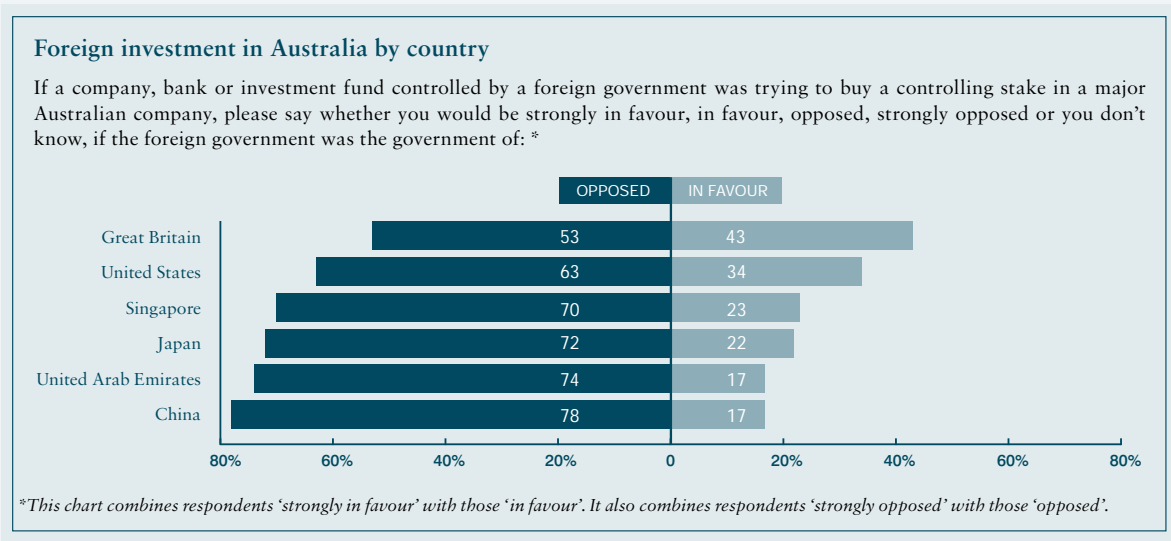
And which of ... do you regard as the best place in which to be educated?

And which of ... do you regard as the second-best place in which to be educated?#



#Note: This chart includes those who said only one country was a ‘good place’ in which to be educated in the ‘best place’ response option.

From the 2008 Lowy Institute Poll: Australia and the World.



course, quite different, but to test Chinese attitudes towards foreign investment, we included a similar question in this year's Lowy Institute China Poll.

We asked respondents if they were 'in favour' or 'against' companies controlled by five foreign governments trying 'to buy a controlling stake in a major Chinese company'. The only country from which sovereign foreign investment was favoured by a majority (56%) of Chinese people was Singapore, but a sizeable minority was in favour of this sort of investment by Canada (45%) and Australia (41%).

Large majorities were against sovereign foreign investment from the United States (70%) and Japan (79%).

In the case of Australia, Canada and Singapore majorities of younger Chinese people (18-24 year olds) were in favour of investment from these countries (51%, 54% and 62% respectively) while only about a third of those aged 55 years old and older were in favour (31%, 34% and 39% respectively).

Fig. 8: Foreign investment

Now about companies controlled by foreign governments. What if one of these companies tried to buy a controlling stake in a major Chinese company. Would you be in favour or against this happening if the government controlling the company was from...

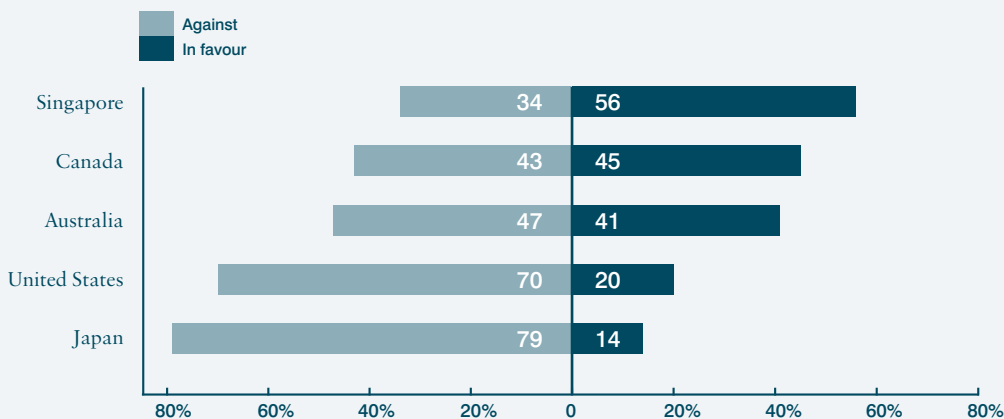
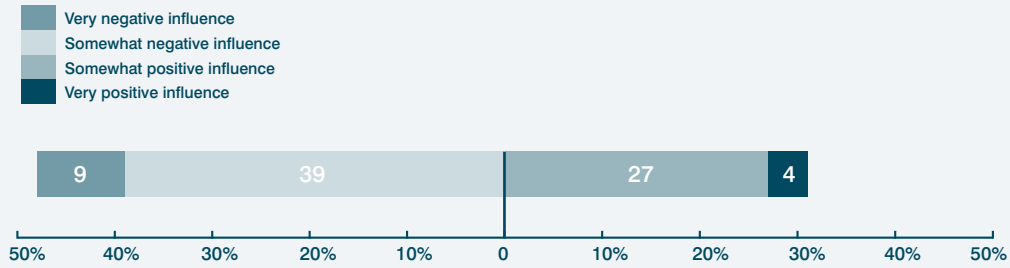


Fig. 9: Australia's alliance with the United States

Thinking now of Australia's alliance with the United States. Do you think Australia's alliance with the United States has more of a positive influence or more of a negative influence on relations between China and Australia? Would that be very or somewhat?



ANZUS ALLIANCE

To test Chinese attitudes towards the ANZUS alliance we asked respondents whether they thought 'Australia's alliance with the United States has more of a positive influence or more of a negative influence on relations between China and Australia'. Almost half said its influence was very or somewhat negative (48%) while 31% said it was very or somewhat positive. Younger Chinese respondents (18-24 years of age) were more likely than those 55 years old or older to say it was very or somewhat positive: 42% compared with 25%.

Notes

- ¹ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Trade in services Australia 2008*, July 2009, p 9.
- ² Michael Wesley, *Australia's poisoned alumni: international education and the costs to Australia*, Lowy Institute Policy Brief, August 2009, Annexure 2.
- ³ WorldPublicOpinion.org, *World public opinion on governance and democracy*, 13 May 2008, http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/may08/WPO_Governance_May08_packet.pdf.
- ⁴ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *People's Republic of China country brief*, http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/china/china_brief.html.
- ⁵ Michael Wesley, *Australia's poisoned alumni: international education and the costs to Australia*, p 4.

Tables of results

Please note that totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Each response option has been rounded individually and grouped responses (e.g. those who 'somewhat agree' plus 'strongly agree') have not been rounded at the group level.

TABLE 1: RESPECT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Thinking firstly about how other countries interact with China. Do you personally think that China is being given more respect or less respect than it deserves, or is it getting about the right amount of respect?

IF LESS: Is it receiving a lot less respect or a little less respect than it deserves?

IF MORE: Is it receiving a lot more respect or a little more respect than it deserves?

A lot more	18%
A little more	10%
Total: More respect	28%
Right amount	32%
A little less	13%
A lot less	16%
Total: Less respect	29%
Don't know	11%

TABLE 2: POSSIBLE THREATS

Now about possible threats to China's security over the next ten years, please say whether you regard each of the following as a threat to China or not a threat to China:

	Threat	Not a threat	Don't know
Environmental issues like climate change	76%	20%	4%
Water and food shortages	67%	29%	2%
If Japan were to acquire nuclear weapons	61%	35%	4%
If the United States tried to restrain China's growing influence	59%	35%	6%
Internal separatists in China	58%	38%	4%
International terrorism	57%	39%	4%
Nuclear weapons held by other countries	52%	42%	6%
Possible aggression from China's neighbours	48%	49%	3%
If the North Korean government were to collapse	38%	49%	13%

TABLE 3A: POSSIBLE THREATS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

For each of the following countries please say whether you think it poses a threat or does not pose a threat to the security of China in the next ten years?

	United States	Japan	India	Russia	North Korea
Poses a threat	50%	45%	34%	21%	15%
Does not pose a threat	44%	51%	60%	71%	81%
Don't know	5%	4%	6%	7%	4%

TABLE 3B: COUNTRIES POSING THE GREATEST THREAT

Which one of the following ... (ADD COUNTRIES SEEN AS A THREAT) do you think poses the greatest threat to China's security in the next ten years?

Which one of ... poses the second-greatest threat to China's security in the next ten years?#

	Greatest threat	Greatest or second-greatest threat
United States	34%	45%
Japan	14%	36%
India	14%	23%
Russia	5%	10%
North Korea	3%	6%
Not applicable	30%	30%

#This table includes those who said only one country was a threat in the 'greatest threat' response option.

TABLE 4: WHY THE UNITED STATES POSES A THREAT

[FOR THOSE SAYING THE UNITED STATES POSES A THREAT – 604 OF 1,200 RESPONDENTS]

You mentioned earlier that you think the United States poses a threat to the security of China in the next ten years. Do you personally strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree the United States poses a threat to China because:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Total: agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Total: disagree	Neither/ Don't know
It might seek to restrain China's growing influence in the world?	44%	33%	77%	8%	12%	20%	3%
It might support separatist elements in China?	46%	30%	76%	9%	12%	21%	3%
It is more likely to take the side of Taiwan in a cross-strait dispute?	43%	30%	73%	11%	12%	23%	4%
It has a more powerful military than China?	39%	34%	73%	16%	7%	23%	4%
It has alliance relationships with countries in the region like Japan and Korea?	30%	41%	71%	14%	10%	24%	6%
The values it holds and promotes could undermine China's standing in the world?	18%	34%	52%	24%	17%	41%	7%

TABLE 5: WHAT IS AUSTRALIA?

Still just about Australia, for each of the following do you agree or disagree that it applies to Australia? And would that be strongly or somewhat?

Firstly, is Australia...?

	A good place to visit	A country with attractive values	A reliable supplier of natural resources	A country with a good political system	A country suspicious of China
Strongly agree	32%	16%	15%	12%	13%
Somewhat agree	52%	52%	49%	45%	35%
Total: agree	84%	68%	64%	57%	48%
Somewhat disagree	6%	11%	17%	15%	26%
Strongly disagree	1%	5%	5%	4%	10%
Total: disagree	7%	16%	22%	19%	36%
Neither/Don't know	8%	15%	15%	25%	16%

TABLE 6: AUSTRALIA AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

And now just about Australia and its role in Asian regional organisations. Do you agree, or disagree that Australia should be a member of Asian regional organisations? Would that be strongly or somewhat?

Strongly agree	10%
Somewhat agree	55%
Total: agree	65%
Somewhat disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	7%
Total: disagree	18%
Don't know/Neither	17%

TABLE 7A: OVERSEAS EDUCATION

Now about being educated in an overseas country. For each of the following countries, do you personally think each of them is a good place or a poor place in which to be educated?

	United Kingdom	Canada	Australia	Singapore	United States
Good place	84%	82%	78%	78%	77%
Poor place	10%	11%	14%	15%	18%
Don't know	6%	6%	8%	7%	5%

TABLE 7B: BEST COUNTRIES IN WHICH TO BE EDUCATED

And which of ... [ADD COUNTRIES SEEN AS GOOD PLACE TO BE EDUCATED] do you regard as the best place in which to be educated?

And which of ... do you regard as the second-best place in which to be educated?#

	Best place	Best place or second-best place
United States	36%	53%
United Kingdom	19%	48%
Singapore	15%	32%
Australia	14%	28%
Canada	11%	28%
Not applicable	5%	5%

#This table includes those who said only one country was a 'good place' in which to be educated in the 'best place' response option.

TABLE 8: FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Now about companies controlled by foreign governments. What if one of these companies tried to buy a controlling stake in a major Chinese company. Would you be in favour or against this happening if the government controlling the company was from ...

	Singapore	Canada	Australia	United States	Japan
In favour	56%	45%	41%	20%	14%
Against	34%	43%	47%	70%	79%
Don't know	11%	12%	12%	9%	7%

TABLE 9: AUSTRALIA'S ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES

Thinking now of Australia's alliance with the United States. Do you think Australia's alliance with the United States has more of a positive influence or more of a negative influence on relations between China and Australia? Would that be very or somewhat?

Very positive influence	4%
Somewhat positive influence	27%
Total: positive	31%
Somewhat negative influence	39%
Very negative influence	9%
Total: negative	48%
Don't know	22%

About the Lowy Institute China Poll and Acknowledgements

The Lowy Institute China Poll was conducted in China from 29 August to 13 September 2009. The fieldwork was conducted by Globescan and was managed by Ilda Islas, Director International Fieldwork. Sol Lebovic, Research Consultant, provided technical support, reviewed the questionnaire and helped interpret the data. The survey was funded by the Lowy Institute for International Policy and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as part of the Lowy Institute MacArthur Foundation Asia Security Project. The Lowy Institute China Poll is overseen by the Institute's Executive Director, Dr Michael Wesley, and was managed by Fergus Hanson and Andrew Shearer.

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Methodology

Polling in China presents a number of challenges. Face-to-face surveys are expensive and difficult to manage while low telephone penetration rates in rural China do not allow for a nationally representative sample through telephone-based surveys. However, the telephone penetration rates in urban China allow statistically valid generalisations about the country's urban population.

The sampling methodology used for this survey can be defined as stratified multi-stage random sample. On stage one 661 cities chosen from China's National Statistical Bureau were stratified into six strata-based on four stratification criteria including population size, population density, and social-economic variables. The stratification incorporated the following groupings: major metropolitan areas, economically developed big cities, just big cities, middle-sized cities, developing middle/small sized-cities, and economically undeveloped middle/small sized-cities.

The sample was proportionally allocated across the defined strata. Urban communities within each stratum were selected at random. Samples for selected urban communities were complemented by additional respondents in their suburbs or nearby rural communities. Published telephone directories were used as the sampling frame.

The data was collected via telephone interviews (n=1200) with household members aged 18 years and older whose birthday had been most recently. The survey data was weighted across the strata, and key population demographics (gender, age, educational attainment) and

against the population estimates published by China's National Statistical Bureau (2006).

A truly random sample of this size and distribution, surveyed with 100% response rate would deliver findings representing the urban population of China, and accurate within + or - 2.8% margin of error at 95% confidence interval.