

# Public Opinion in Russia: Russians' Attitudes on Foreign Affairs and Social Issues

Russian public sees United States and European Union as adversaries, China as ally

**Chicago, April 2, 2015**— Russians' attitudes toward the United States and President Barack Obama are extremely unfavorable and have grown sharply more negative since 2012, according to a new poll of the Russian public conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The poll released today is a nationally representative in-person survey of 2,008 Russian adults taken between November 22 and December 7, 2014. The survey also found that opinions toward the European Union have worsened, while Russians increasingly view China favorably. Most Russians believe their country should make at least some effort to improve its relationship with the United States and the European Union.

"The Russian people are increasingly turning against the West and Western leaders," said Trevor Tompson, director of the AP-NORC Center. "For instance, the proportion of Russians who hold an unfavorable view of the United States has more than doubled since the last poll in 2012 while China's favorability continues to rise."

## Here are some of the key findings from the AP-NORC Center poll:

- 1) Sixty-five percent of Russians hold an unfavorable view of the United States, more than double the proportion who held such views in 2012. Only 2 percent hold a favorable view of President Obama, down from 15 percent in 2012.
- 2) Compared with 2012, Russians express increasingly unfavorable opinions of the European Union (nearly 49 percent) while their impressions of China grow more positive.
- 3) Despite the negative sentiment toward the United States and the European Union, most Russians believe their country should make at least some effort to improve relations with each.
- 4) A majority of Russians believe the country is a stronger international power than 10 years ago, and about 2 in 3 say Russia should play a more active role in world affairs.
- 5) Russians have become less tolerant of LGBT individuals since 2012, with a majority saying that LGBT individuals should not be accepted by society.



The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

### **About the Survey**

This survey, funded by NORC at the University of Chicago, was conducted by NORC with fieldwork by GfK Russia between the dates of November 22 and December 7, 2014. The survey featured a nationally representative, multi-stage cluster, random route-sample of adults 18 years and older in Russia. The poll was conducted with in-person interviews of 2,008 adults. Interviewers selected and visited 14,021 addresses, and had a 57 percent contact rate. Among those contacted, 21 percent responded. Including non-contacts, the cumulative response rate is 14 percent. The overall margin of error +/- 2.4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level (including the design effect). The data are weighted to reflect the Russian population based on the 2010 Russian Census.

### **About The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**

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The two organizations have established the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

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