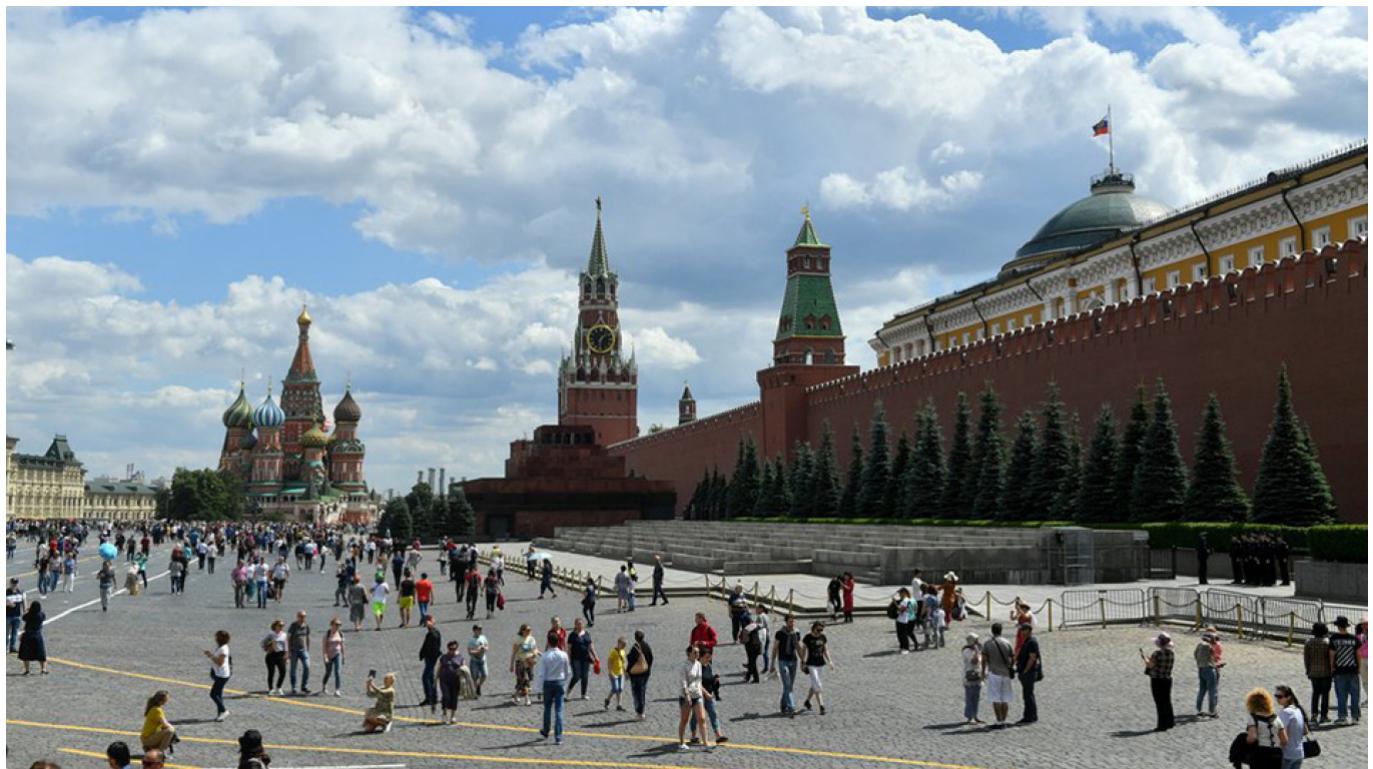


# 4 in 5 Russians View West as a Friend – Poll

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Only 3% of Russian respondents said they see the West as Russia's enemy, the latest Levada Center poll results said. **Sergei Kiselyov / Moskva News Agency**

Almost 80% of Russians believe that Russia and the West should become friends and partners, according to the results of an independent Levada Center poll [published](#) Tuesday.

Only 3% of Russian respondents said they see the West as Russia's enemy, Levada said. Another 16% said they view the West as a rival.

**Related article: [Share of Russians Predicting Better Ties With the West Hits 5-Year High – Poll](#)**

Two-thirds of Levada's respondents (67%) said Russia should treat the West as a "partner," while 11% said Russia should treat the West as a "friend," according to the *Kommersant* business daily's [breakdown](#) of the data.

Russians view the European Union more favorably than the United States, with 49%

expressing positive opinions toward the former and 42% toward the latter. Negative views of the EU and the U.S. were split among Russian respondents at 37% and 46%, respectively.

When asked about NATO, 61% of the respondents said its member countries should not fear Russia and 44% said that Russia should not fear NATO members.

Conversely, 35% of the respondents told Levada that members of the Western military bloc should fear Russia and 52% percent said Russia should fear NATO member states.

Levada sociologist Karina Pipia told *Kommersant* that the latest results point toward Russians' "mass fatigue of foreign policy confrontation and an unwillingness to fight with anyone."

Russia's relations with the West plummeted to Cold War-era lows after Moscow annexed the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine and conflict broke out between Russian-backed rebels and Ukrainian government forces in 2014.

The Levada poll also showed an [uptick](#) in the share of Russian respondents who view China negatively since November 2019, from 18% to 24%. The share of Russians who view China positively declined from 72% to 65% in what sociologists linked to coronavirus fears.

Levada conducted the survey among 1,603 respondents in 50 Russian regions on Jan. 23-29.

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