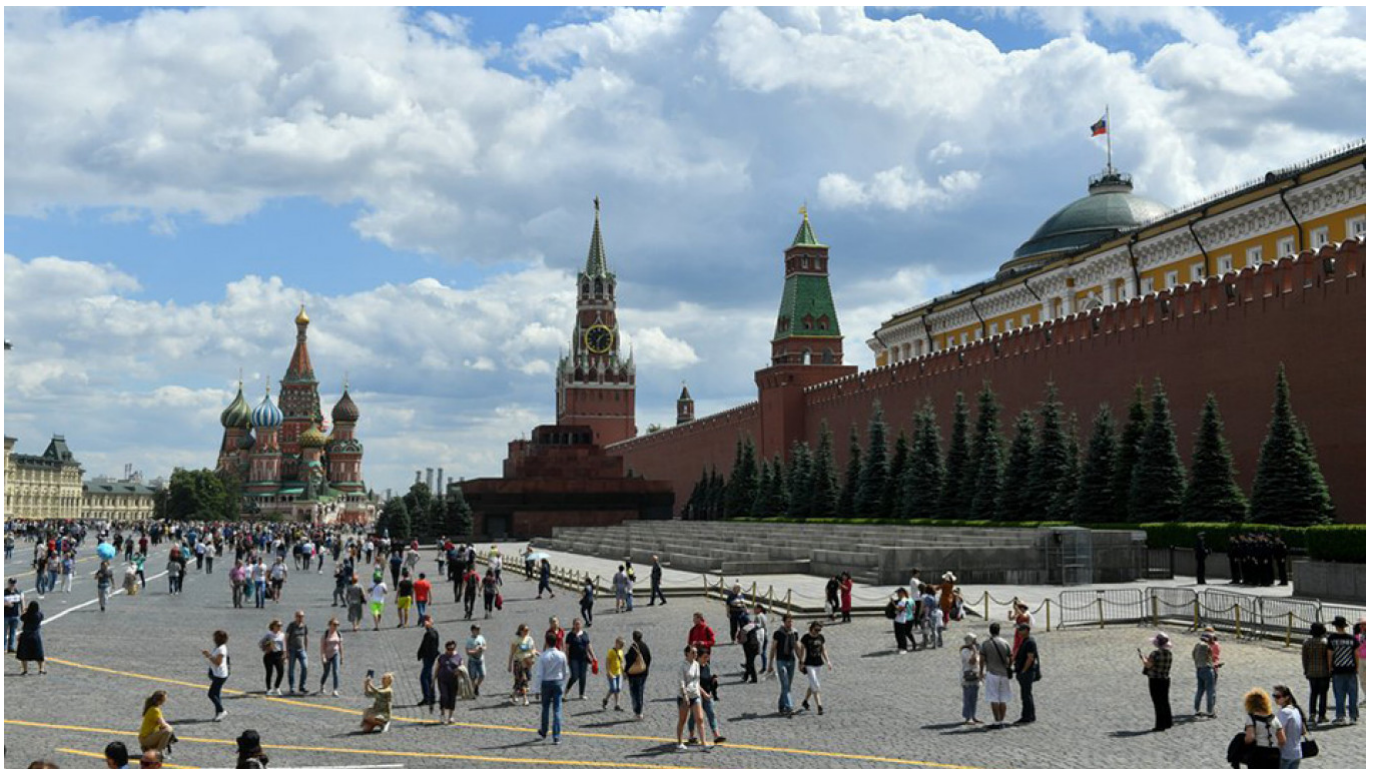


4 in 5 Russians View West as a Friend – Poll

February 18, 2020



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.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/02/18/4-in-5-russians-view-west-as-a-friend-poll-a69322>