

Most Russians Say Their Country is Isolated – Poll

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Russia has made global headlines in recent years for its strained relations with the West over a litany of disagreements. **Dmitry Korobeinikov / TASS**

A majority of Russians believe that their country is isolated on the world stage, according to an independent poll [published](#) Wednesday.

Russia has made global headlines in recent years for its strained relations with the West over a litany of disagreements, from alleged election meddling and espionage to Moscow's annexation of Crimea and the eastern Ukraine conflict.

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According to the independent Levada Center polling agency, 57% of Russian respondents say their country is isolated internationally compared to 38% who hold the opposite view.

Russians' positive attitudes toward China (70%) and Belarus (82%) far exceed their positive

views of Ukraine (39%) and Georgia (55%), which both have strained relations with their larger neighbor.

Positive views toward the U.S. (39%) and European Union (46%) also lagged far behind those of Russia's allies.

Yet positive attitudes toward the West and Ukraine are gradually improving following a notable drop in spring 2021, Levada's latest results said. In March and April, the EU and U.S. [issued](#) new sanctions against Russia over the treatment of poisoned and jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny while tensions [ratcheted up](#) over Russian military buildup near the Ukrainian border.

Levada also said that 44% of Russians believe that Russia should treat the West as an ally while 29% say it should be treated as a rival, 13% as a friend and 5% as an enemy.

Younger Russians aged 18-24 were most likely to favor treating the West as an ally (50%) or as a friend (21%) compared to Russians aged 55 and older, who were most likely to back treating the West as a rival (33%).

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