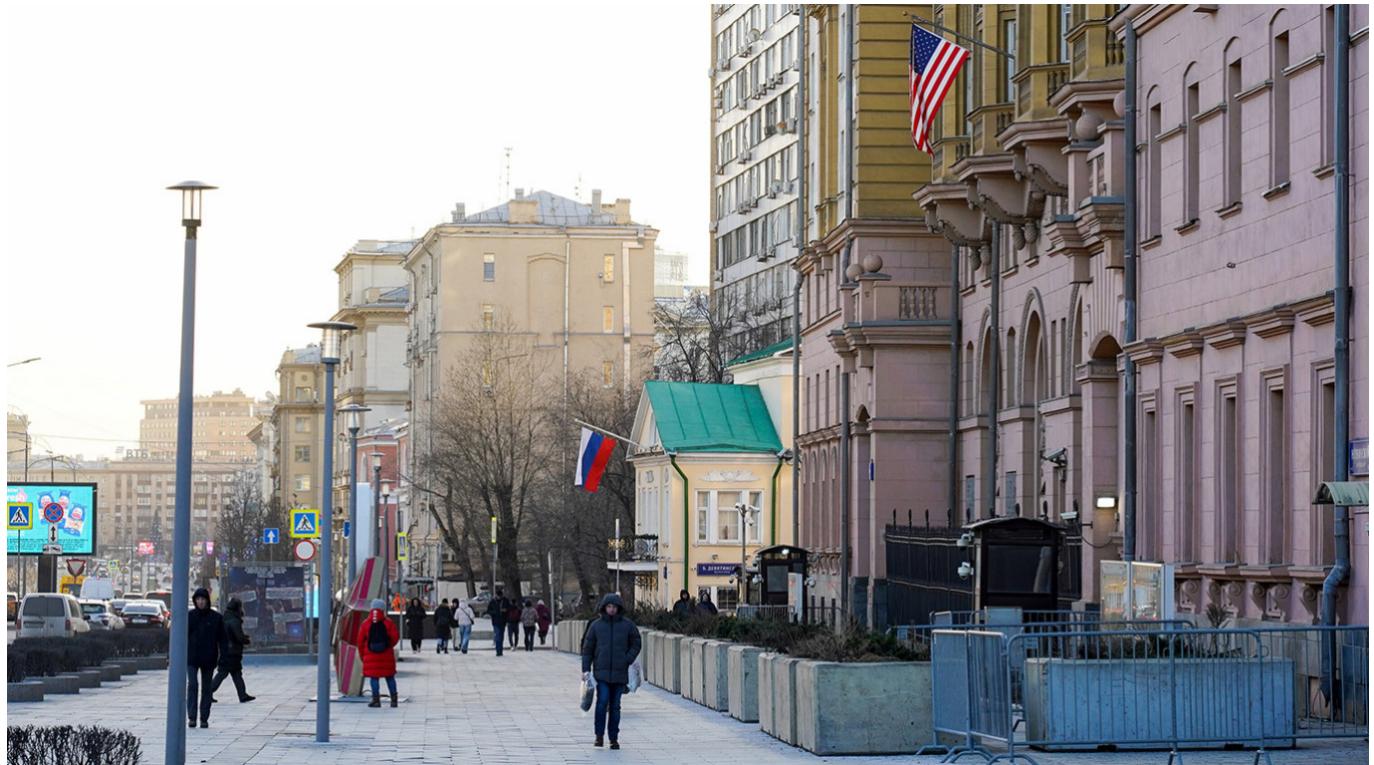


Russian Favorability Toward U.S. Nearly Doubles Since Trump's Return, Survey Finds

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The U.S. Embassy in Moscow. **Alexander Avilov / Moskva News Agency**

Almost a third of Russians now view the United States favorably, about double the share from before U.S. President Donald Trump took office in January, according to a Levada Center survey [released Thursday](#).

Positive attitudes toward the U.S. had plunged to 12% in May 2023 — the lowest level since Levada began tracking sentiments in 1997. Attitudes have remained significantly low following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

The latest survey, conducted in late February among 1,615 respondents across 50 Russian regions, found that 30% of Russian adults now have a positive view of the U.S., up from 16% in September. Meanwhile, negative views of the U.S. have fallen sharply from 72% in September to 51%.

The share of respondents who were unsure also rose from 13% to 20% over the same period.

Since Trump took office in January and pledged to broker a swift end to the war in Ukraine, Russian state media have increasingly portrayed him as a pragmatic leader open to engagement with Moscow. However, reports [suggest](#) the Kremlin has quietly instructed media outlets to scale back their positive coverage of Trump.

Related article: [‘We Cannot Trust the Russians’: Ukrainians Skeptical Toward Ceasefire Hopes](#)

Historically, Russian attitudes toward the U.S. have fluctuated in response to global events.

In 2008, after the Russo-Georgian war, U.S. favorability among Russians plummeted as the Bush administration condemned Moscow’s actions and sent humanitarian aid to Georgia. However, positive sentiment later rebounded, peaking at 63% three years later, according to Levada.

A similar decline followed the 2014 annexation of Crimea and Russia’s support of separatists in eastern Ukraine, after which the U.S. imposed sanctions against Russia.

The largest post-annexation surge in positive sentiment toward the U.S. came in the summer of 2018 after the [Helsinki Summit](#), where Trump publicly sided with President Vladimir Putin over U.S. intelligence agencies on alleged election interference.

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