



**Ipsos Public Affairs**

The Social Research and Corporate Reputation Specialists

**Global @dvisory**

## **The Munk Debates: Blair and Hitchens**

### **November 2010**



**The Ipsos *Global @dvisory***

## BE IT RESOLVED **RELIGION** IS A **FORCE** FOR GOOD IN THE **WORLD**...



**In a world of globalization and rapid social change some say religion provides the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to thrive in the 21st century;**

***while others say that:***



**deeply held religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions, and impede social progress in developing and developed nations alike... which is closer to your own point of view?**



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**The Munk Debates is an initiative of the Aurea Foundation, a charitable organization founded by Peter and Melanie Munk to support Canadian institutions involved in the study and development of public policy.**

**The Munk Debates is organized by Rudyard Griffiths and Patrick Luciani, the co-directors of the Salon Speakers Series.**

**The Munk Debates benefit from advice and insights of an advisory board. Its members include Mark Cameron, Andrew Coyne, Devon Cross, Allan Gotlieb, George Jonas, Margaret MacMillan, Anthony Munk and Janice Stein.**



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## **The Debate**

In a world of globalization and rapid social change does religion provide the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to thrive in the 21st century? Or, do deeply held religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions, and impede social progress in developing and developed nations alike? To encourage a far-ranging discussion on one of human kind's most vexing questions, the 6th semi-annual Munk Debate will tackle the resolution: be it resolved, religion is a force for good in the world.

## **Tony Blair**

Religious faith has a major part to play in shaping the values which guide the modern world, and can and should be a force for progress.

## **Christopher Hitchens**

If religious instruction were not allowed until the child had attained the age of reason, we would be living in a quite different world.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2010**

**Roy Thomson Hall  
60 Simcoe Street,  
Toronto, Canada**

**6:30 PM Doors open**

**7:00 PM Debate begins**

**8:45 PM Reception & Voting Results**



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**As part of the debate program, Ipsos—the world's second largest market and opinion research company—was contracted to put the Munk Debate proposition to the citizens of 23 countries representing 75% of the world's GDP...**



## Methodology

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- These are the findings of the Global @dvisor Wave 14 (G@14), an Ipsos survey conducted between September 7, 2010 and September 23, 2010.
- The survey was conducted in 23 countries around the world via the Ipsos Online Panel system. The countries reporting herein are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America.
- For the results of the survey presented herein, an international sample of 18,192 adults aged 18-64 in the US and Canada, and age 16-64 in all other countries, were interviewed. Approximately 1000+ individuals participated on a country by country basis via the Ipsos Online Panel with the exception of Argentina, Belgium, Indonesia, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden and Turkey, where each have a sample of 500+.
- Weighting was then employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to the most recent country Census data, and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of +/-3.1 percentage points for a sample of 1,000 and an estimated margin of error of +/- 4.5 percentage points for a sample of 500 19 times out of 20 per country of what the results would have been had the entire population of adults in that country had been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.



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**In a world of globalization and rapid social change some say religion provides the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to thrive in the 21st century while others say that deeply held religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions, and impede social progress in developing and developed nations alike...**

*Which is closer to your own point of view?*



**World Citizens Split on Role of Religion in the World...**  
**but slim majority (52%) believe religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions and impede social progress...**

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**Total**

**Religion provides the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to thrive in the 21st century**

**48%**

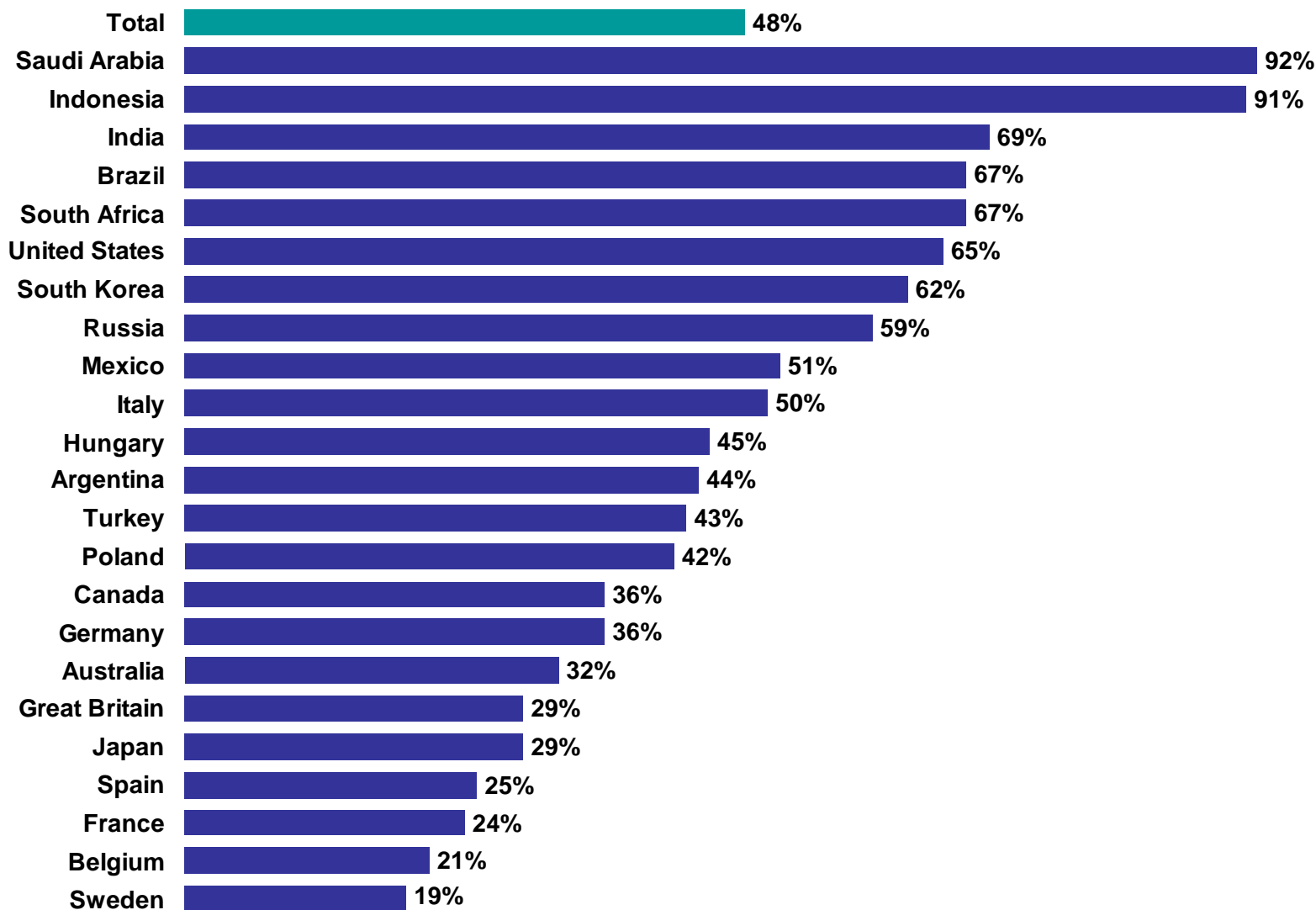
**Religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions, and impede social progress in developing and developed nations alike**

**52%**



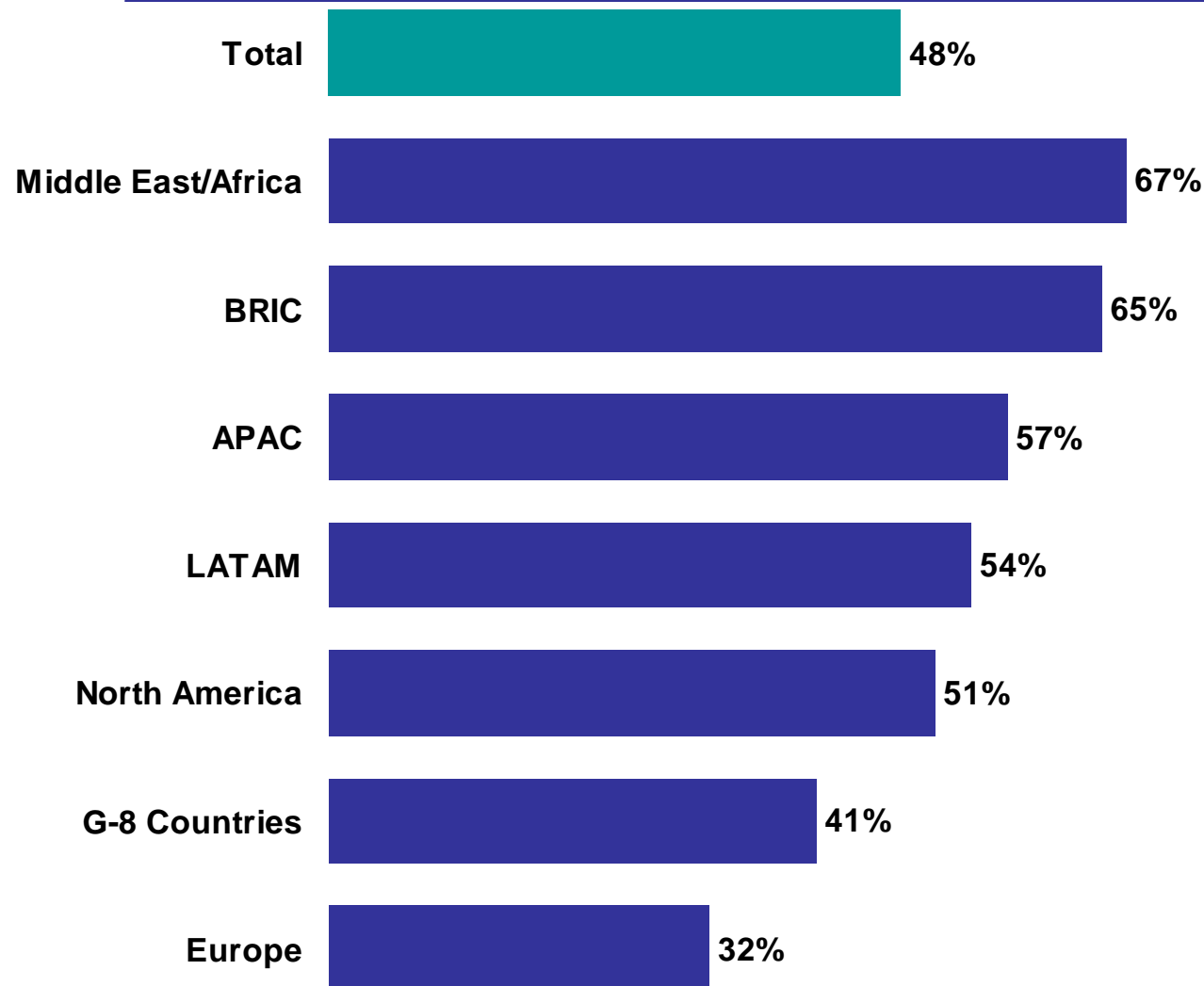


## Those who believe religion provides the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to thrive in the 21st century (48%) by Country:



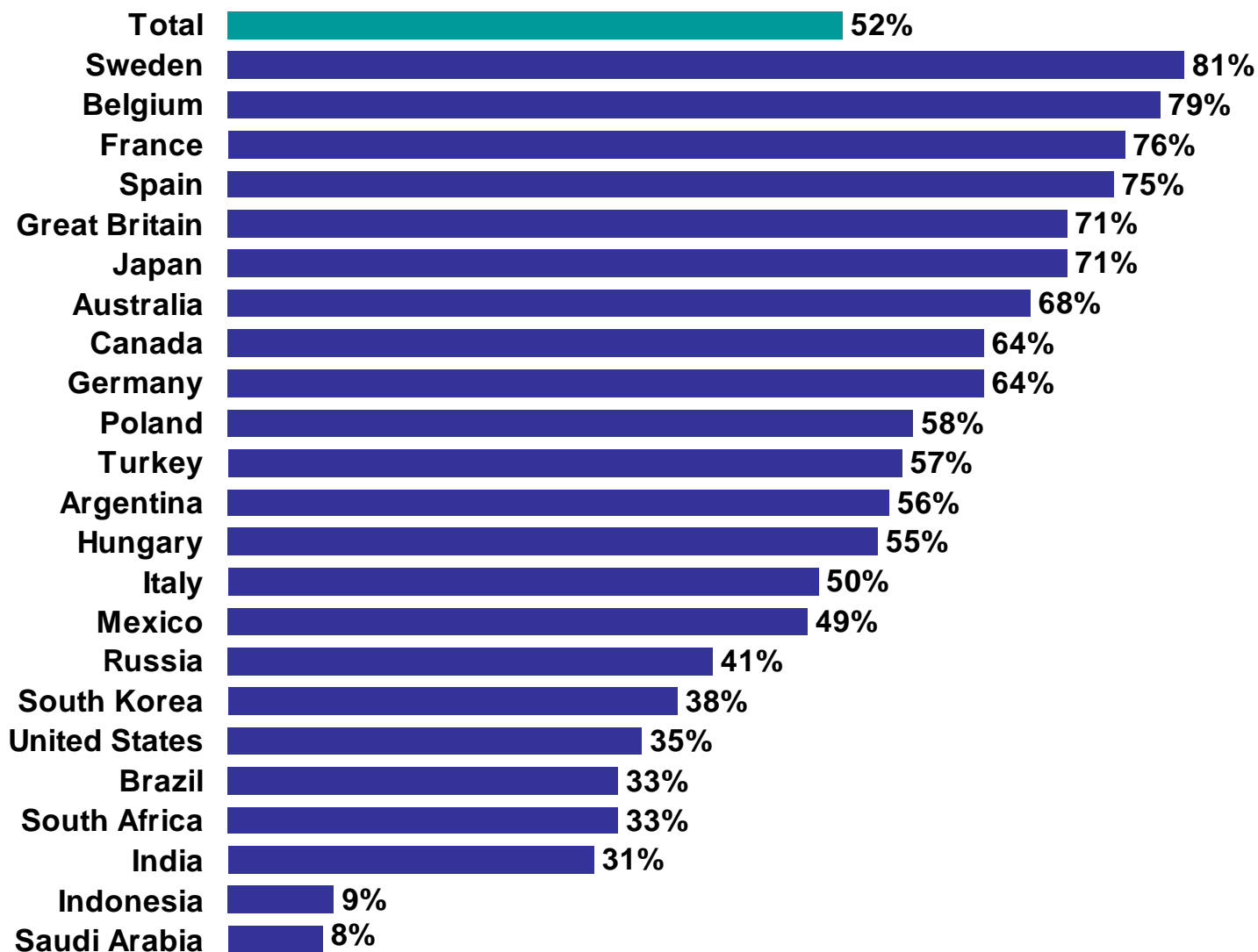


## Those who believe religion provides the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to thrive in the 21st century (48%) by Region:



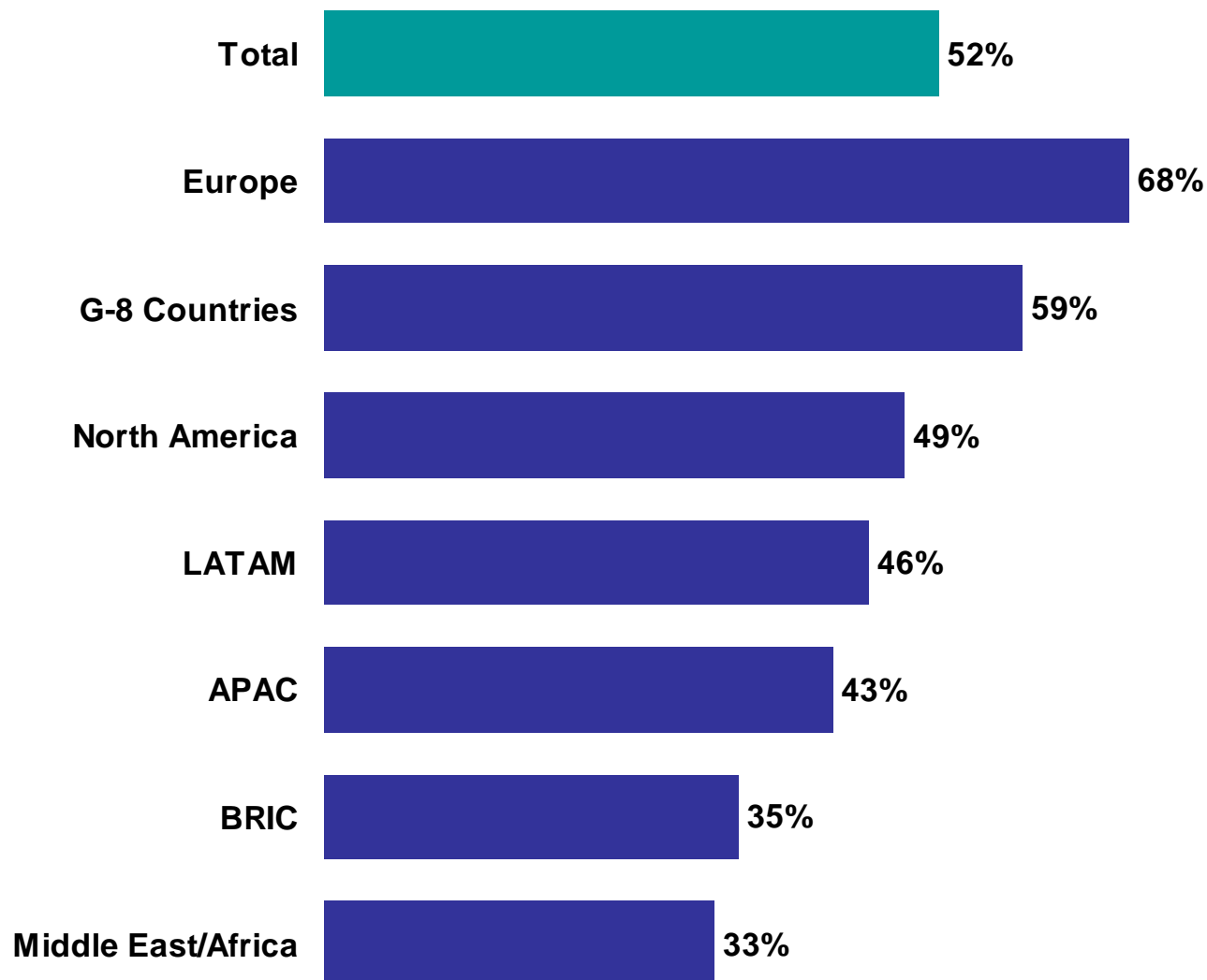


## Those who believe religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions, and impede social progress in developing and developed nations alike (52%) by Country:





## Those who believe religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions, and impede social progress in developing and developed nations alike (52%) by Region:



## Summary of Findings by Country...

	Religion provides the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to thrive in the 21st century	Religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions, and impede social progress in developing and developed nations alike
<b>Total</b>	48%	52%
<b>Argentina</b>	44%	56%
<b>Australia</b>	32%	68%
<b>Belgium</b>	21%	79%
<b>Brazil</b>	67%	33%
<b>Canada</b>	36%	64%
<b>France</b>	24%	76%
<b>Germany</b>	36%	64%
<b>Great Britain</b>	29%	71%
<b>Hungary</b>	45%	55%
<b>India</b>	69%	31%
<b>Indonesia</b>	91%	9%
<b>Italy</b>	50%	50%
<b>Japan</b>	29%	71%
<b>Mexico</b>	51%	49%
<b>Poland</b>	42%	58%
<b>Russia</b>	59%	41%
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	92%	8%
<b>South Africa</b>	67%	33%
<b>South Korea</b>	62%	38%
<b>Spain</b>	25%	75%
<b>Sweden</b>	19%	81%
<b>Turkey</b>	43%	57%
<b>United States</b>	65%	35%



## Summary of Findings by Region...

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	Religion provides the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to thrive in the 21st century	Religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions, and impede social progress in developing and developed nations alike
Total	48%	52%
North America	51%	49%
LATAM	54%	46%
Europe	32%	68%
APAC	57%	43%
G-8 Countries	41%	59%
BRIC	65%	35%
Middle East/Africa	67%	33%



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## ■ About Ipsos

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The Ipsos **Global @dvisor Omnibus** is a monthly, online survey of consumer citizens in 24 countries and produces syndicated reports and studies specifically tailored to the needs of corporations, advertising and PR agencies, and governments. For information contact:

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