

The Arab Spring:

What it represents & implications for national security

(Data from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, & Saudi Arabia)

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Overview

- The Arab Spring *as a departure from extremism*: Non-ideological movements for democracy & economic prosperity
- The Internet as an ideologically-neutral organizing tool
- A shift in people's political and cultural values
- Who participated in the Arab Spring?
- Westernization, democracy, equality, & economic prosperity
- Interest in Western technology
- Positive implications for national security:
 - (1) The Arab Spring's focus on freedom and democracy counters tendencies toward political violence
 - (2) Positive attitudes toward Westernization and Western technology provide a basis for constructive dialog with the Arab public

Data Collection Methods

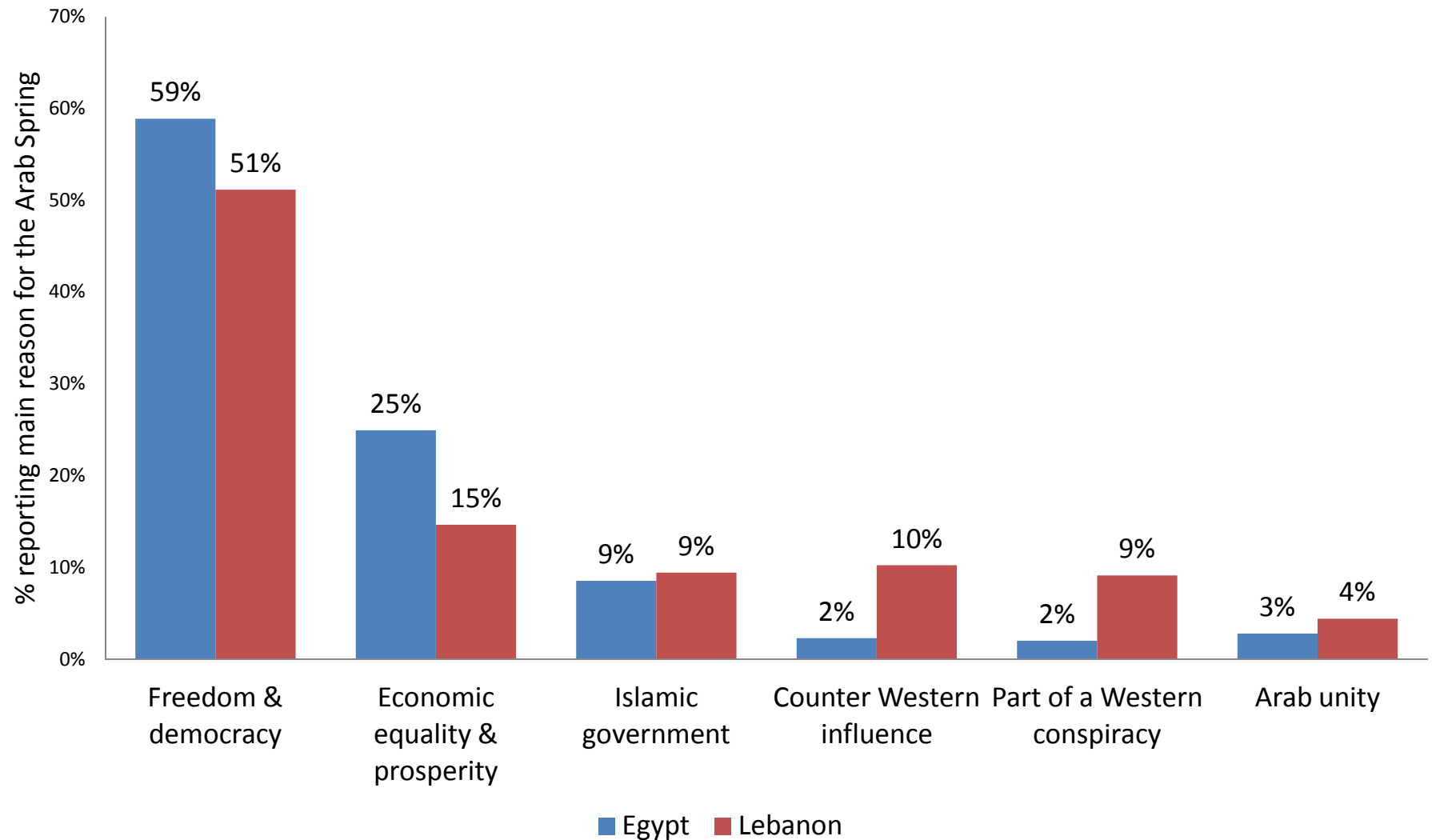
Face-to-face interviews with nationally-representative samples

	Survey Field Period	Sample Size
Egypt	June – August 2011	3,496
Iraq	January – February 2011	3,000
Lebanon	March – July 2011	3,034
Saudi Arabia	January – February 2011	2,005

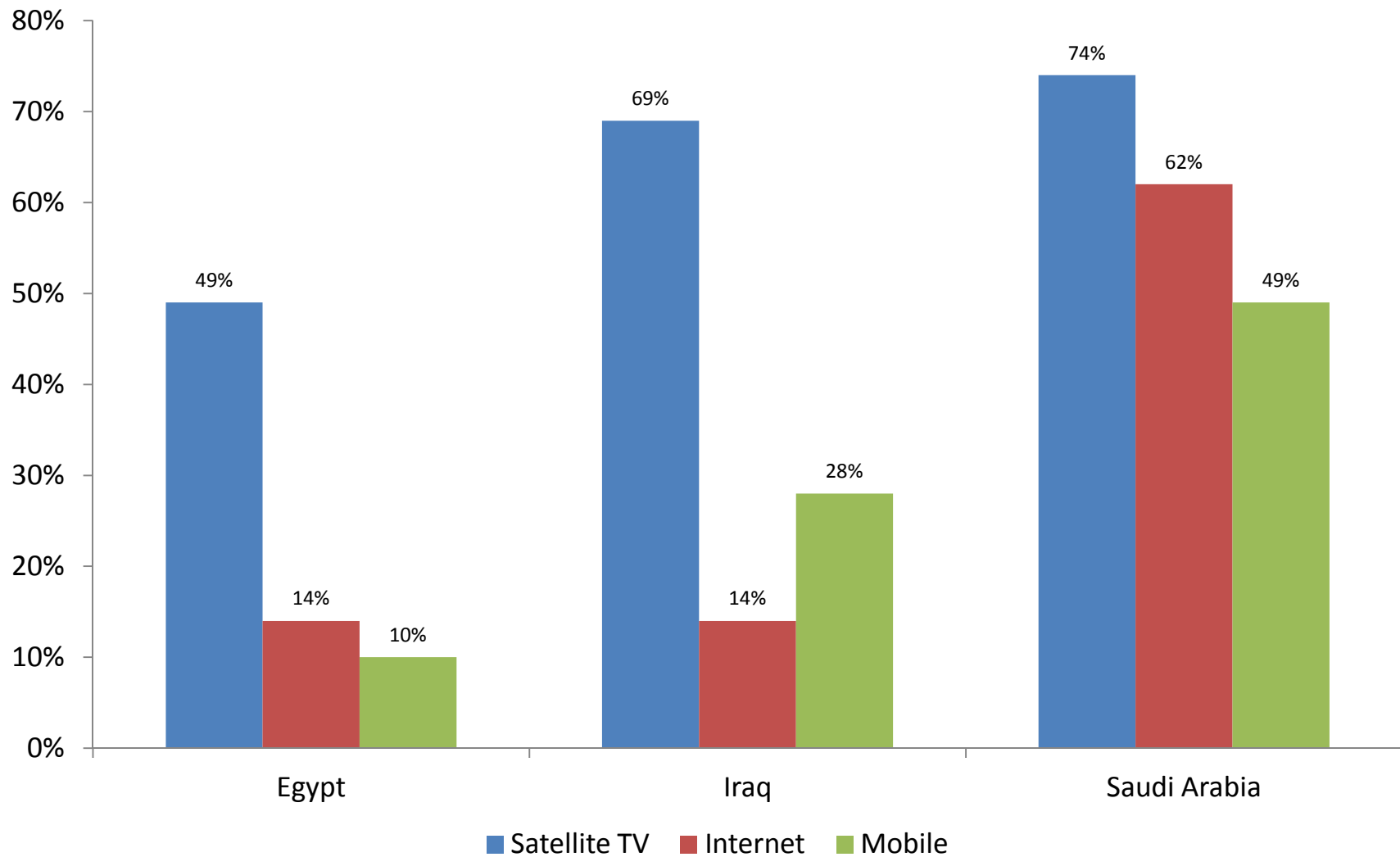
Survey questionnaire available:

<http://mevs.org/data/survey-summary/1004>

People's Explanations for the Arab Spring: Movements for democracy & economic prosperity



%Relying on Satellite TV, Internet, or Mobile as Sources of Information



Trends in values among Egyptians, Iraqis, and Saudis

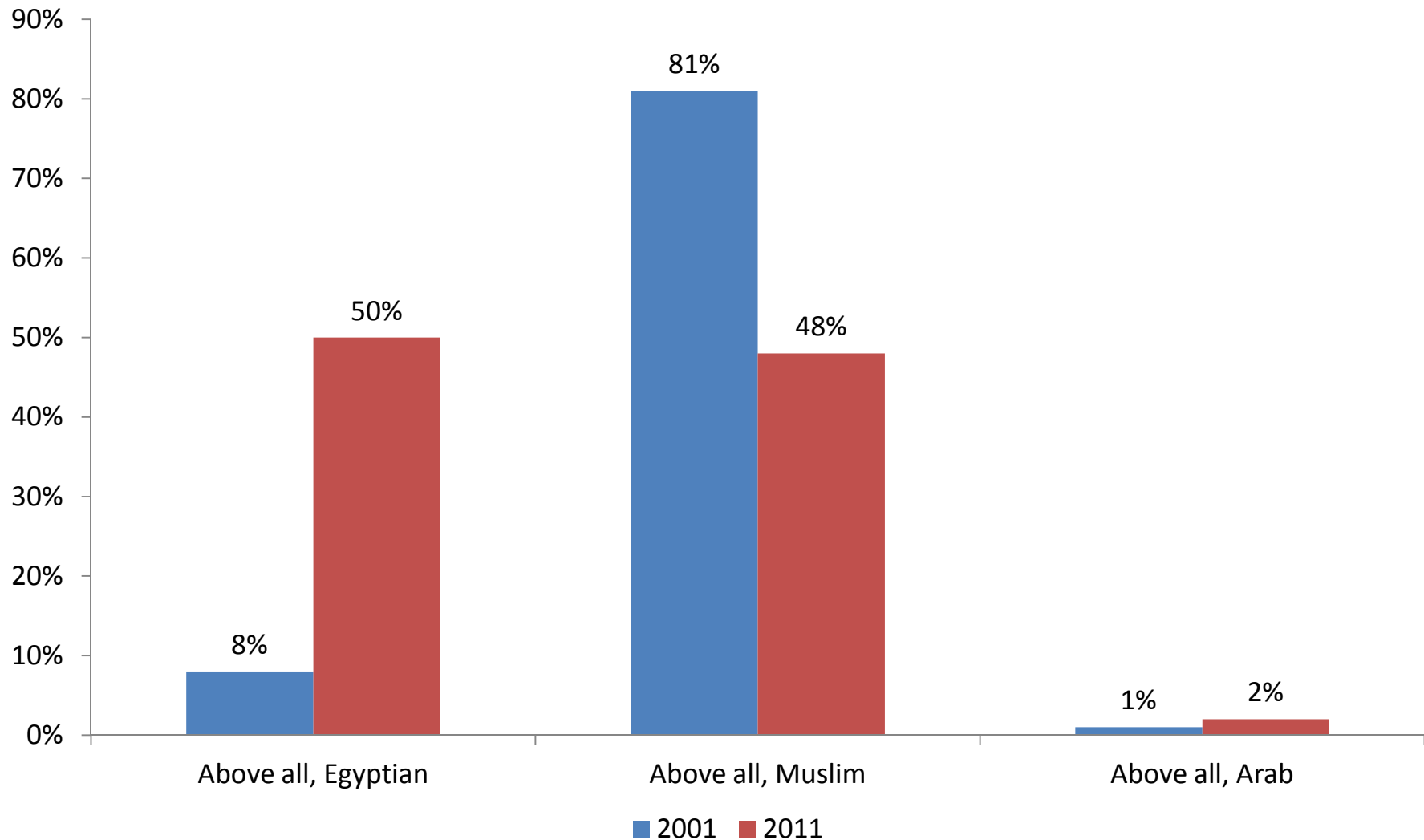
National Identity

Which one of the following best describes you?

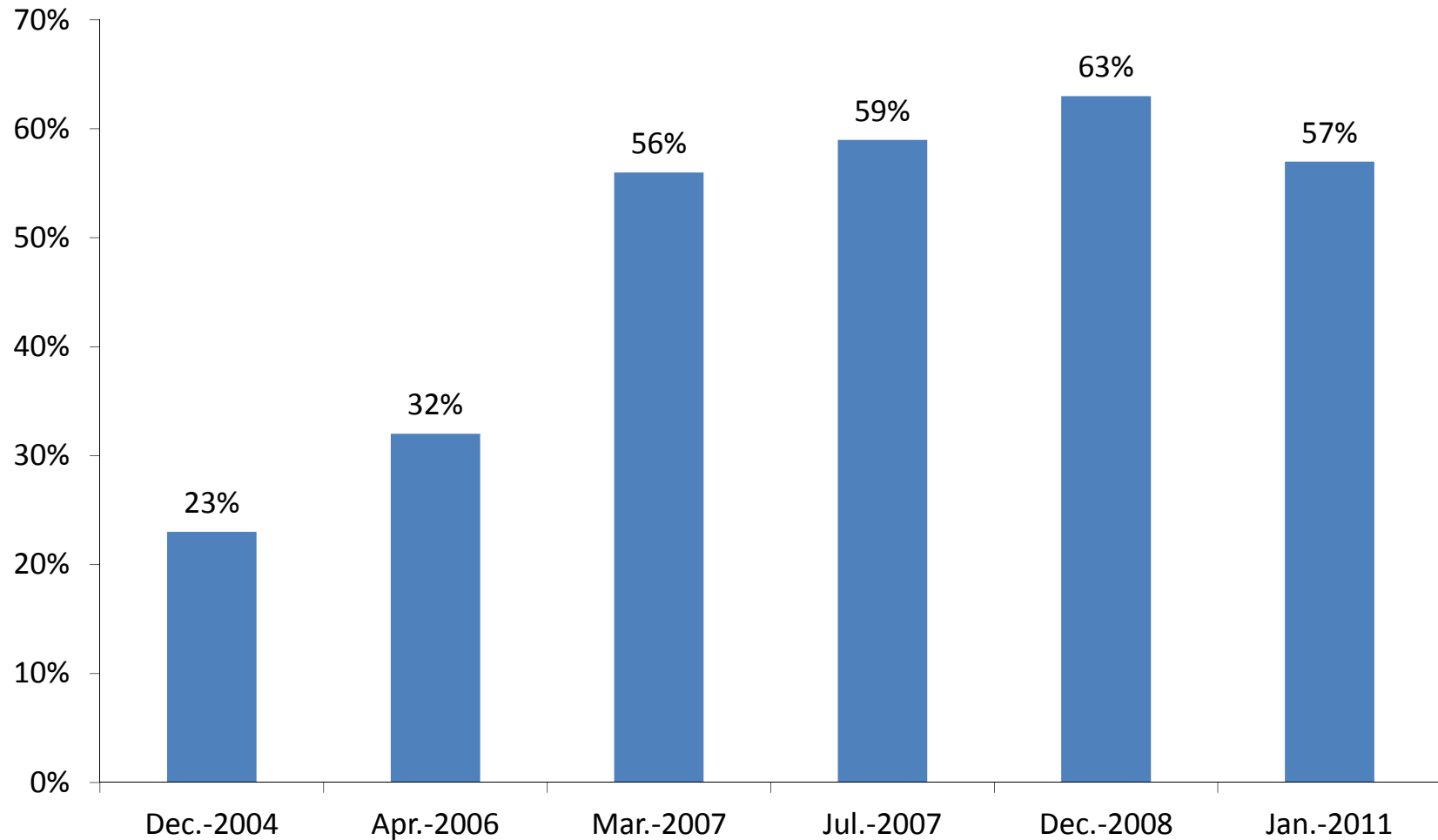
1. I am an Egyptian, Iraqi, Saudi, above all
2. I am a Muslim, above all
3. I am an Arab, above all
4. I am a Kurd, above all
5. Other



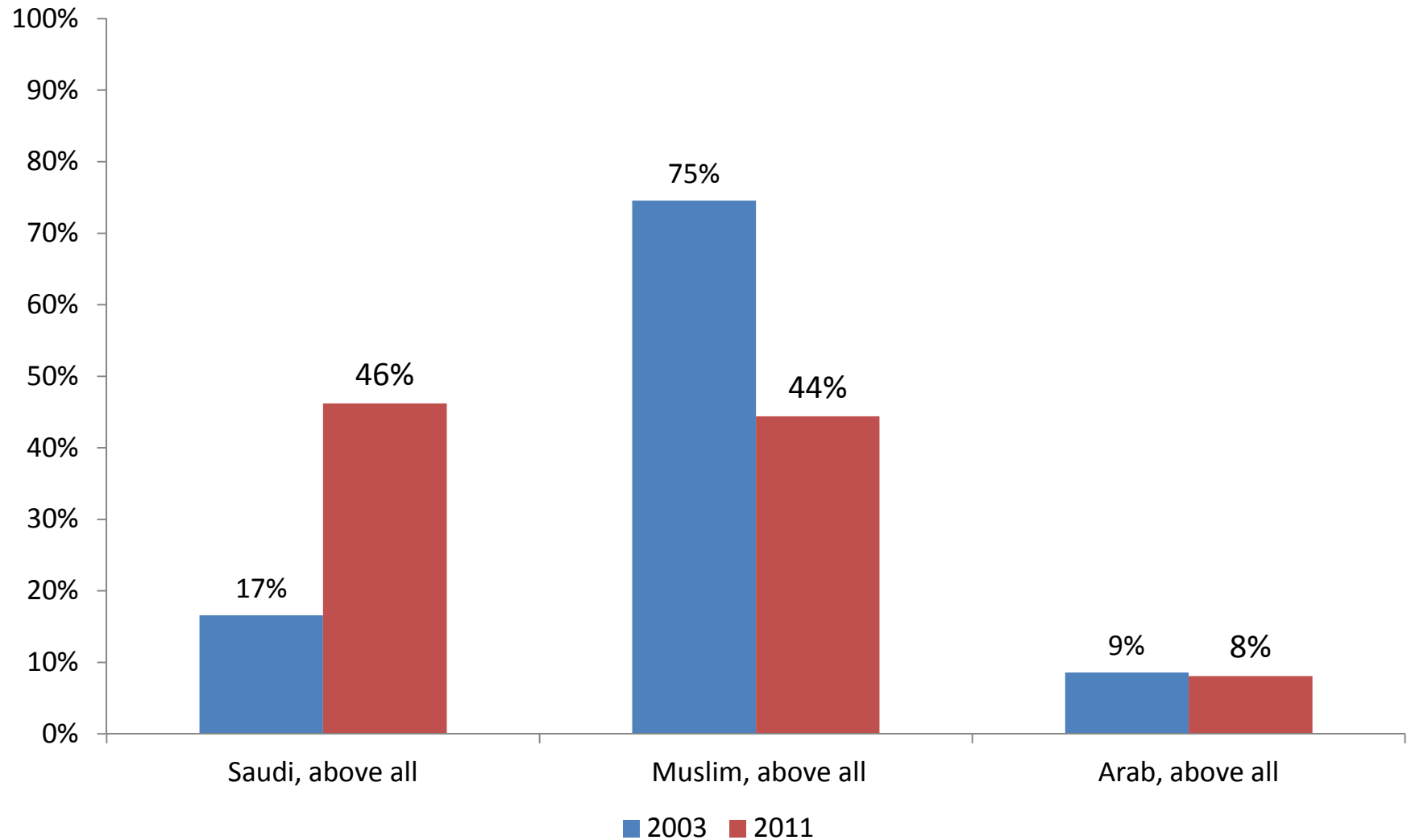
Egypt: % Expressing “I am an Egyptian, Muslim, or Arab, above all”



Iraq: % Expressing “I am Iraqi, above all”



Saudi Arabia: % Expressing “I Am Saudi, Muslim, or Arab, above all”



Trends in values

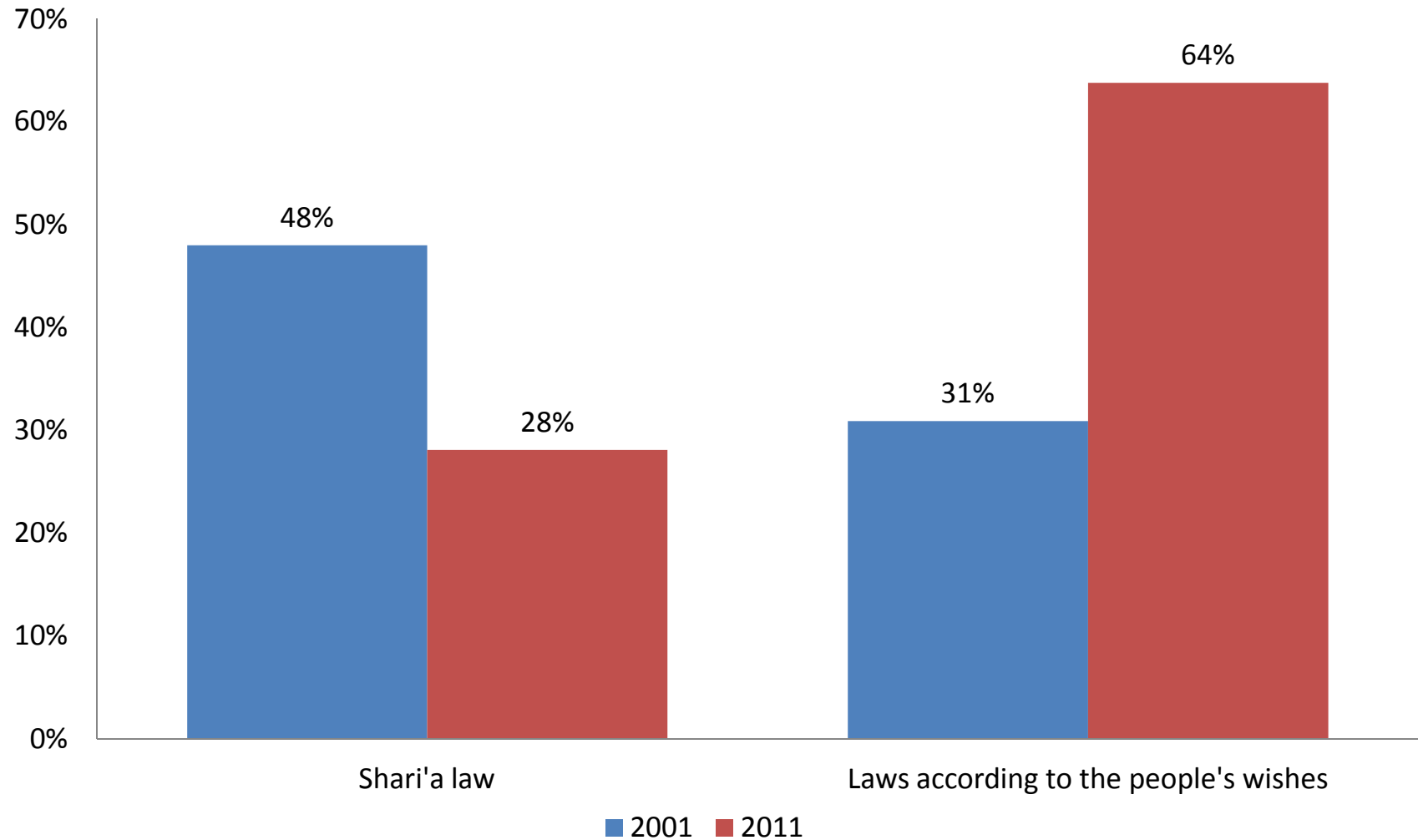
Religion & Politics

Is it very important, important, somewhat important, not important, or not at all important for a good government to

1. Implement only the Shari'a law?
2. Implement only the wishes of the people?

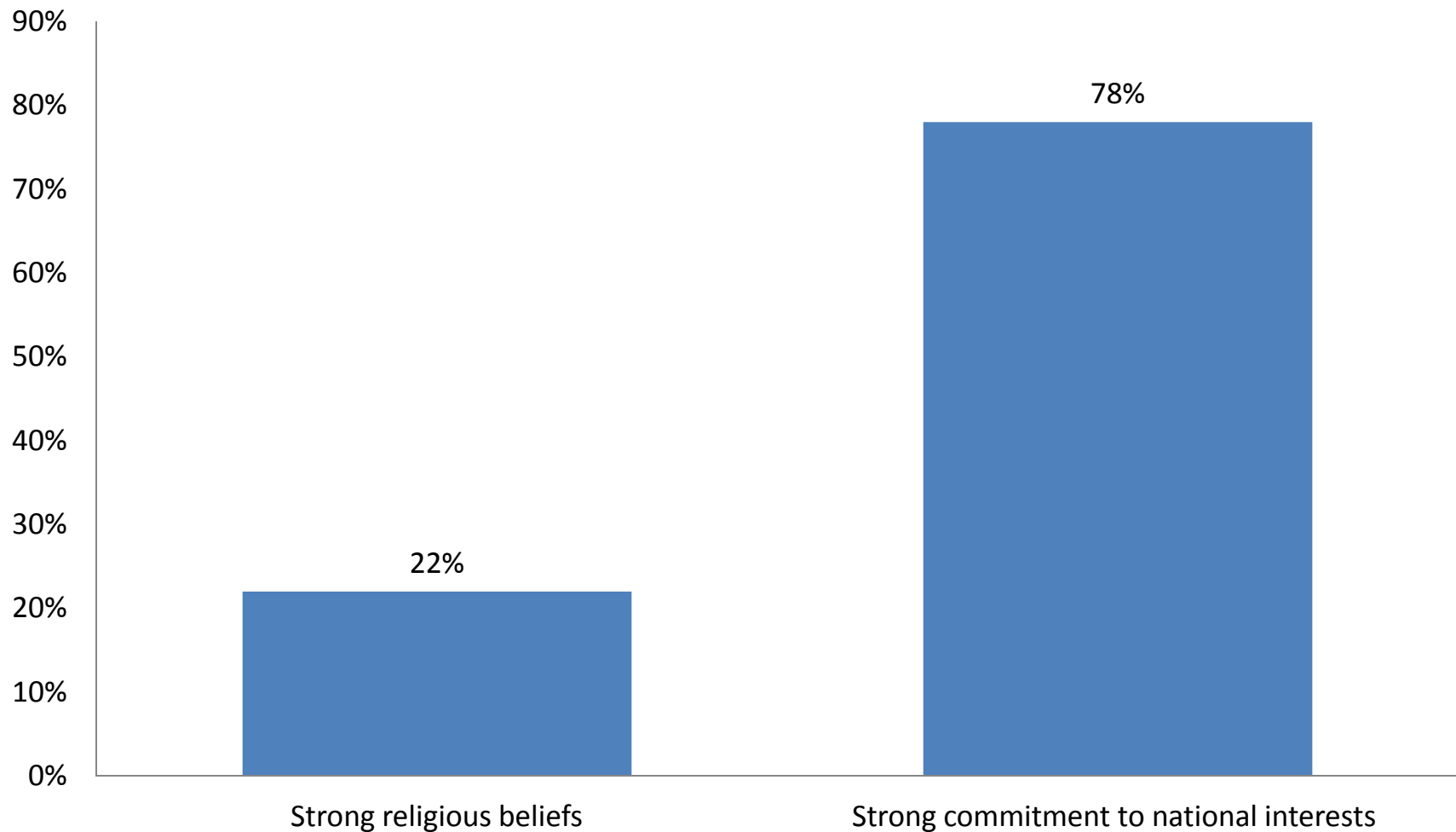


Egyptian Muslims: People's Wishes Versus the Shari'a

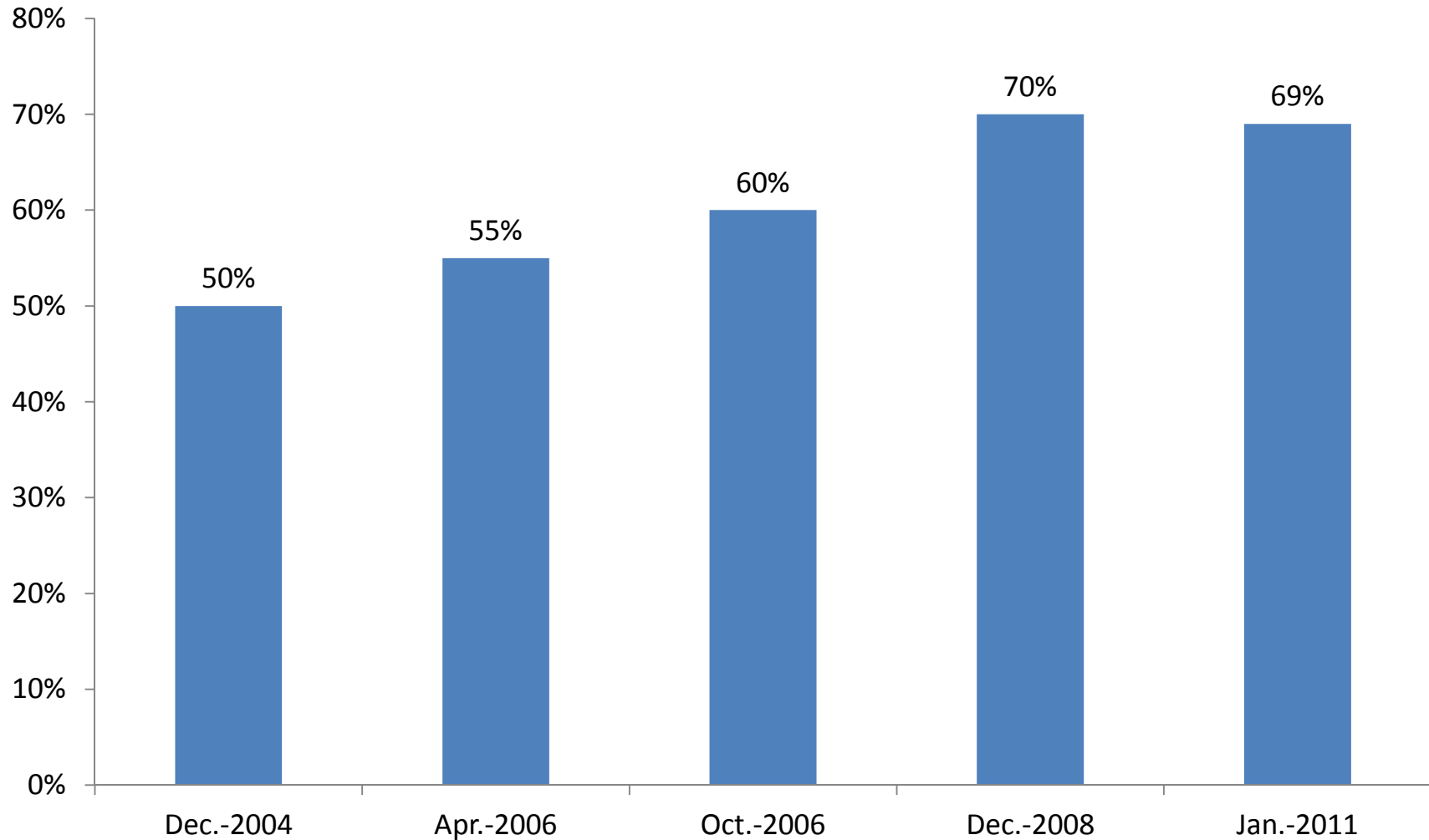


Egypt: Which is better in a politician?

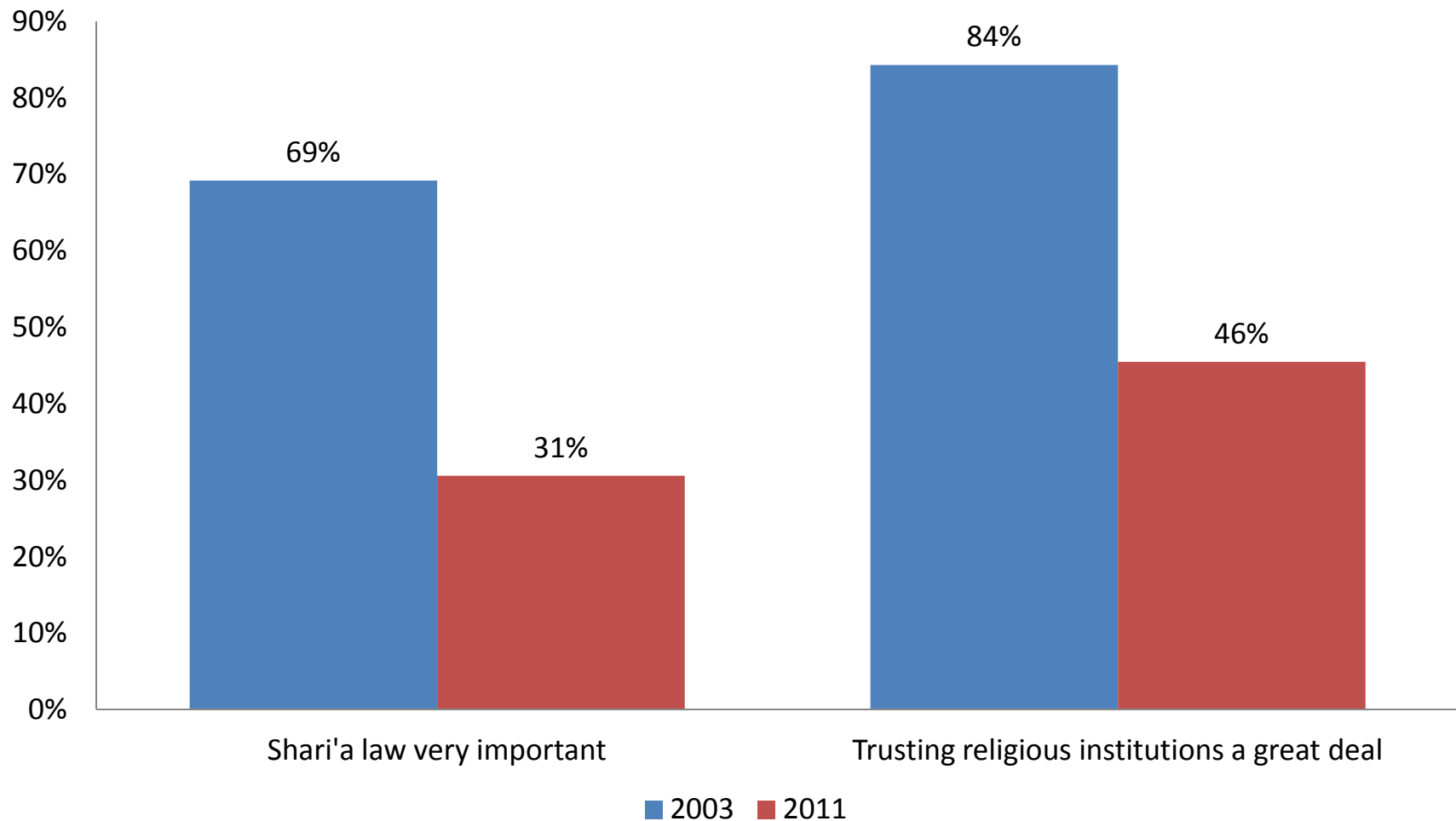
Strong religious beliefs or strong commitment to national interests(2011)



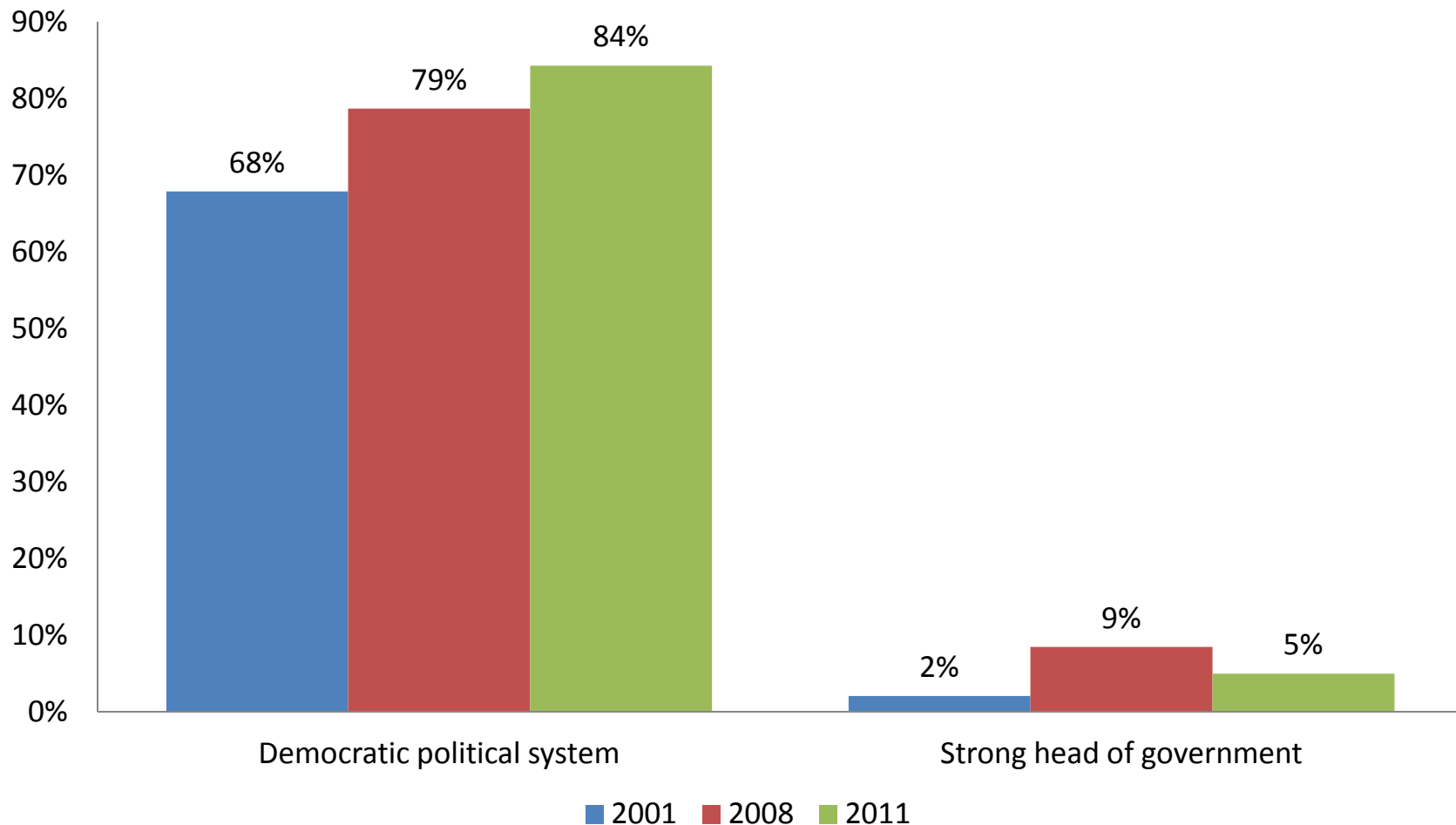
Iraq: % Agree that Iraq would be a better place if religion and politics are separated



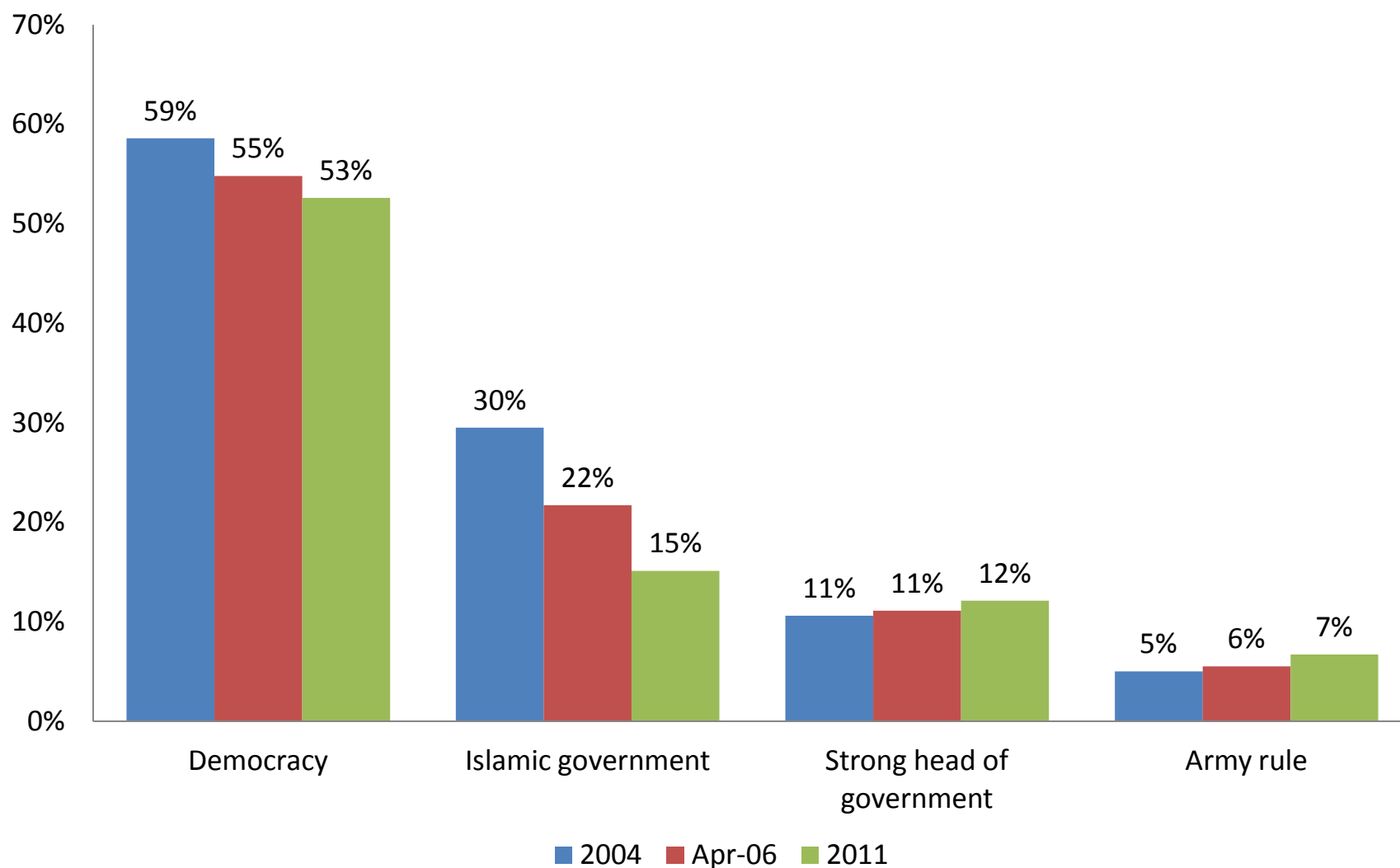
Saudi Arabia: Decline in support for the Shari'a & in trust of religious institutions



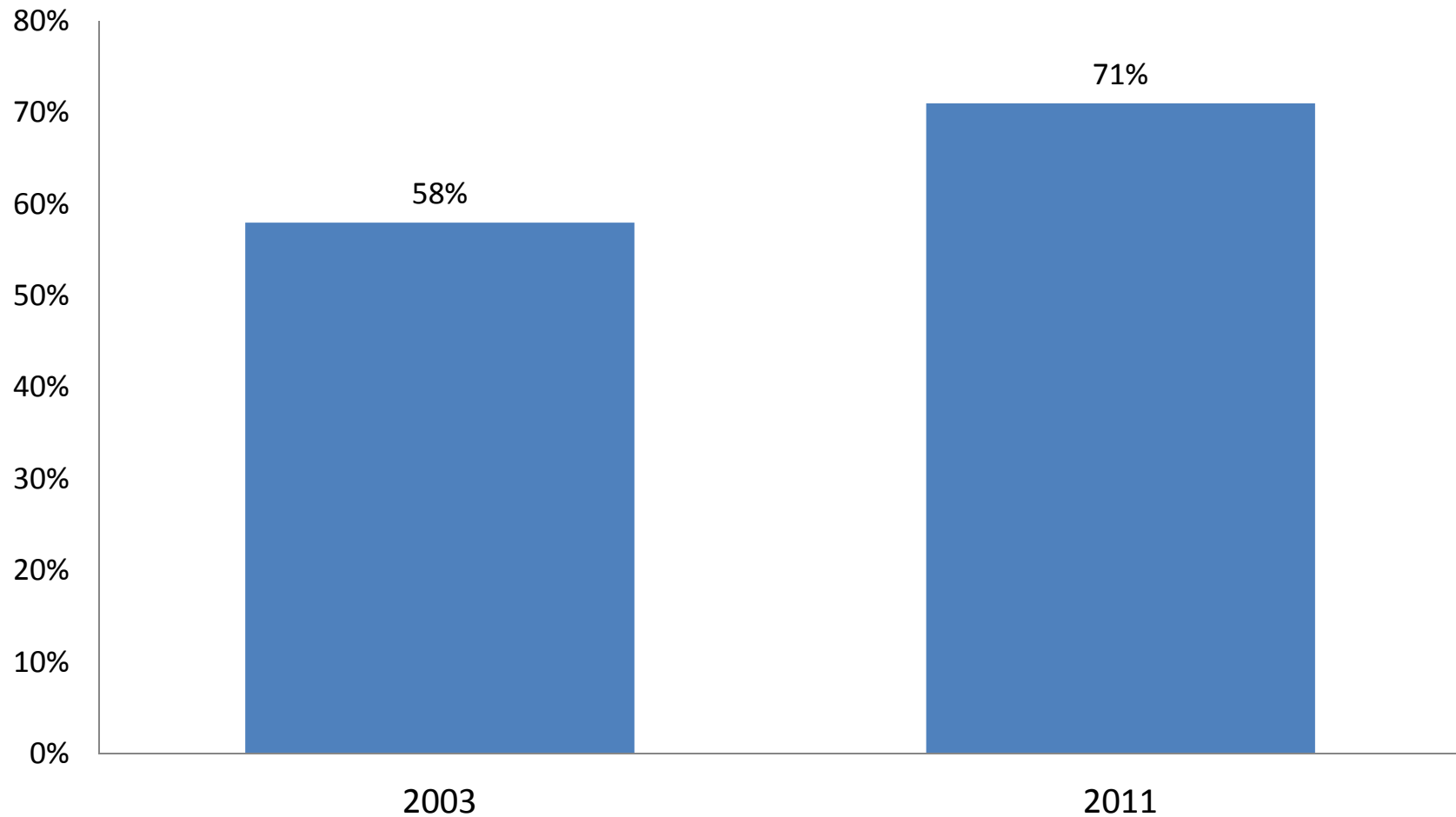
Egypt: Democracy vs. Strong head of gov't (% Strongly agree)



Iraq: % Strongly agree that form of government is good



Saudi Arabia: Democracy as the best form of government (% agree)



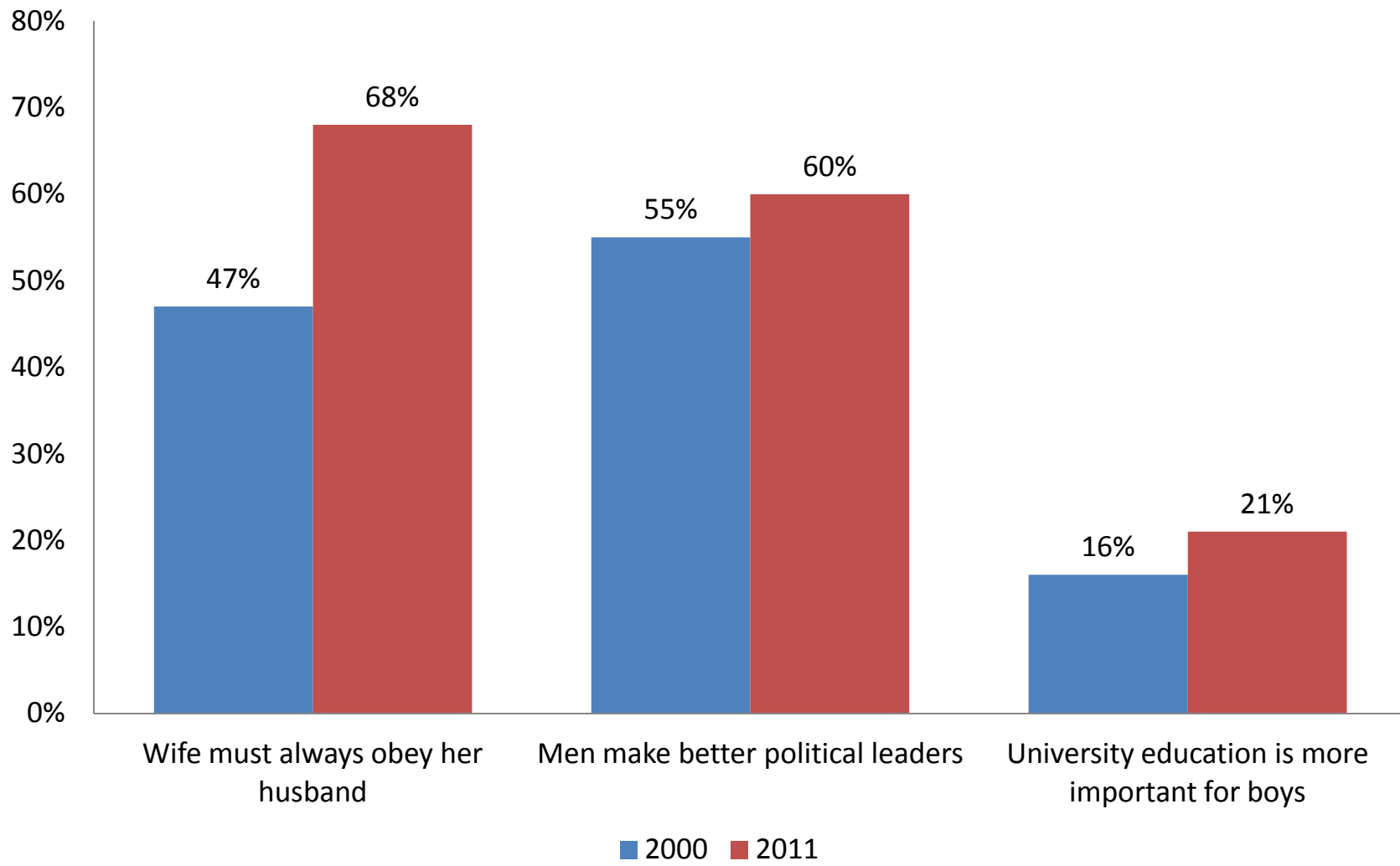
Trends in values

Attitudes toward gender equality

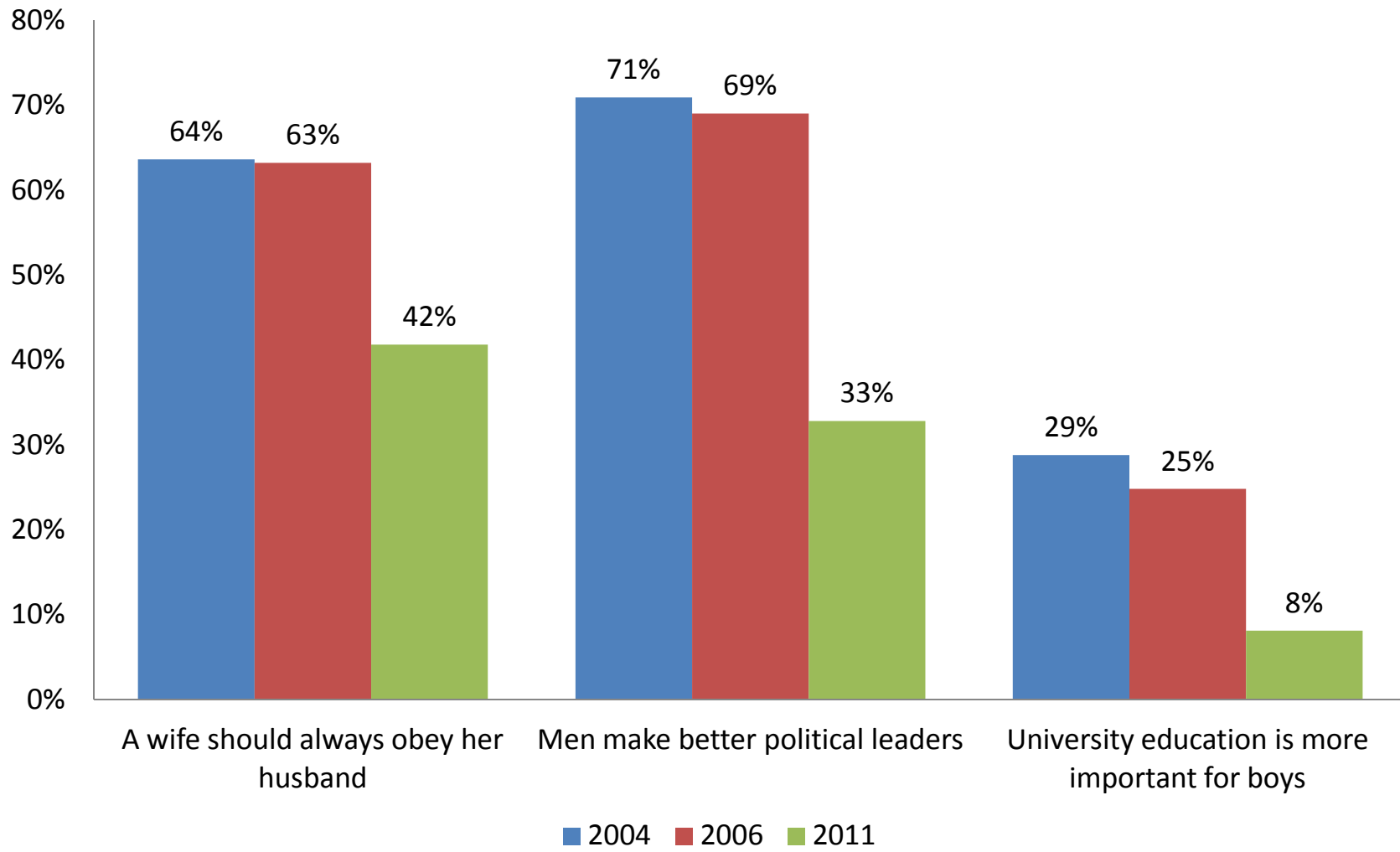
1. A wife must always obey her husband.
2. Men make better political leaders than women do.
3. University education is more important for boys than it is for girls.



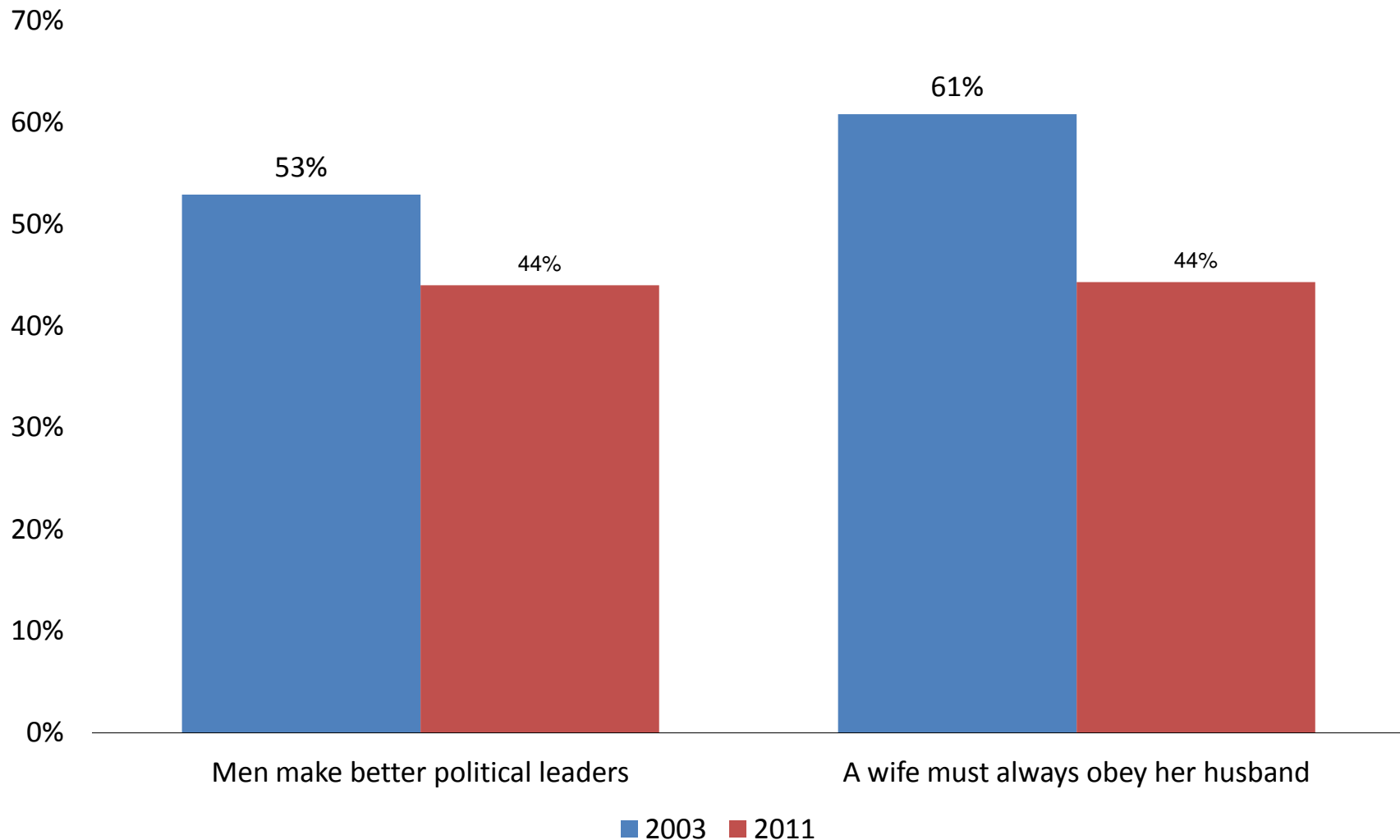
Egyptian Muslims: Increase in support for gender inequality



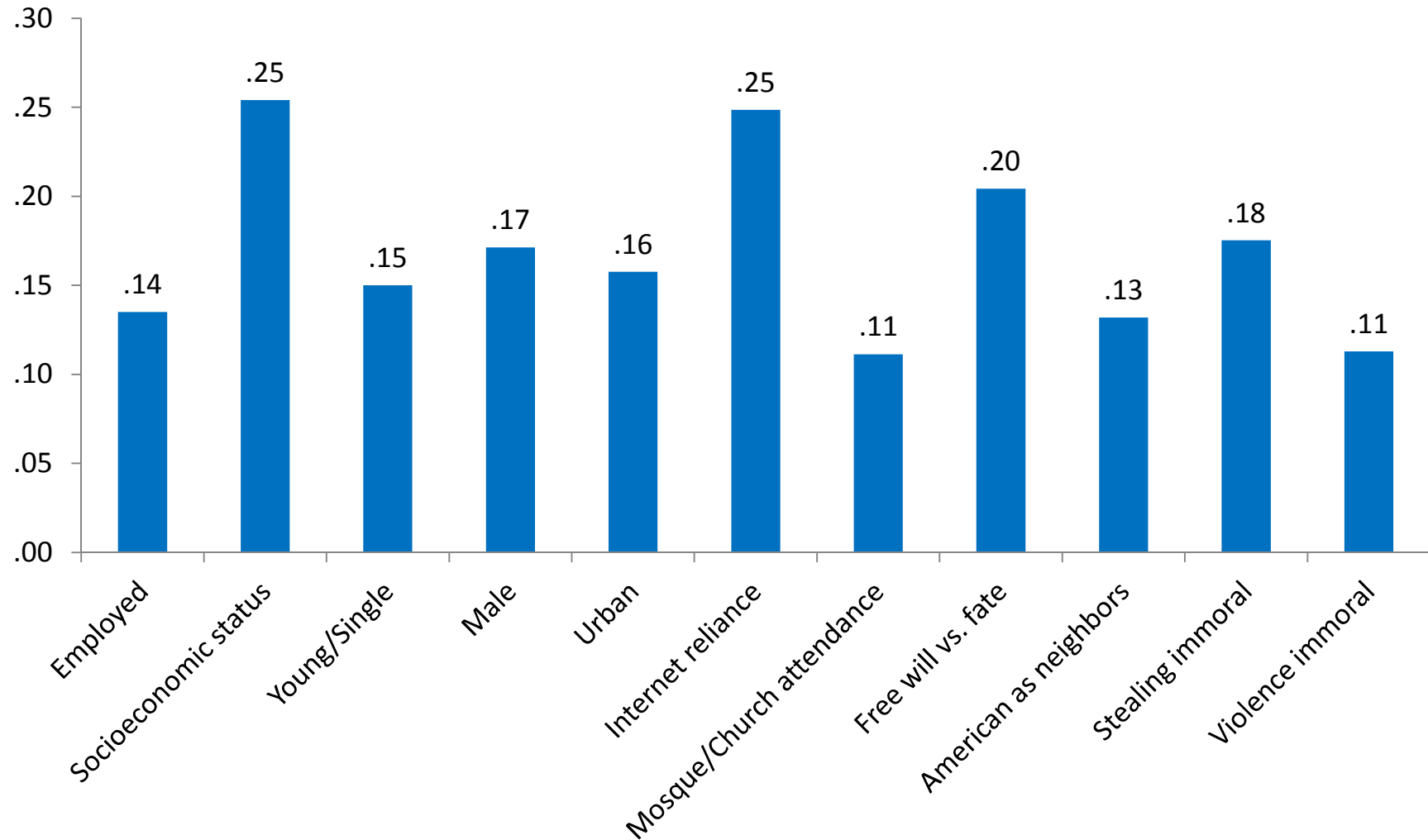
Iraq: Decline in support for gender inequality (% Strongly agree)



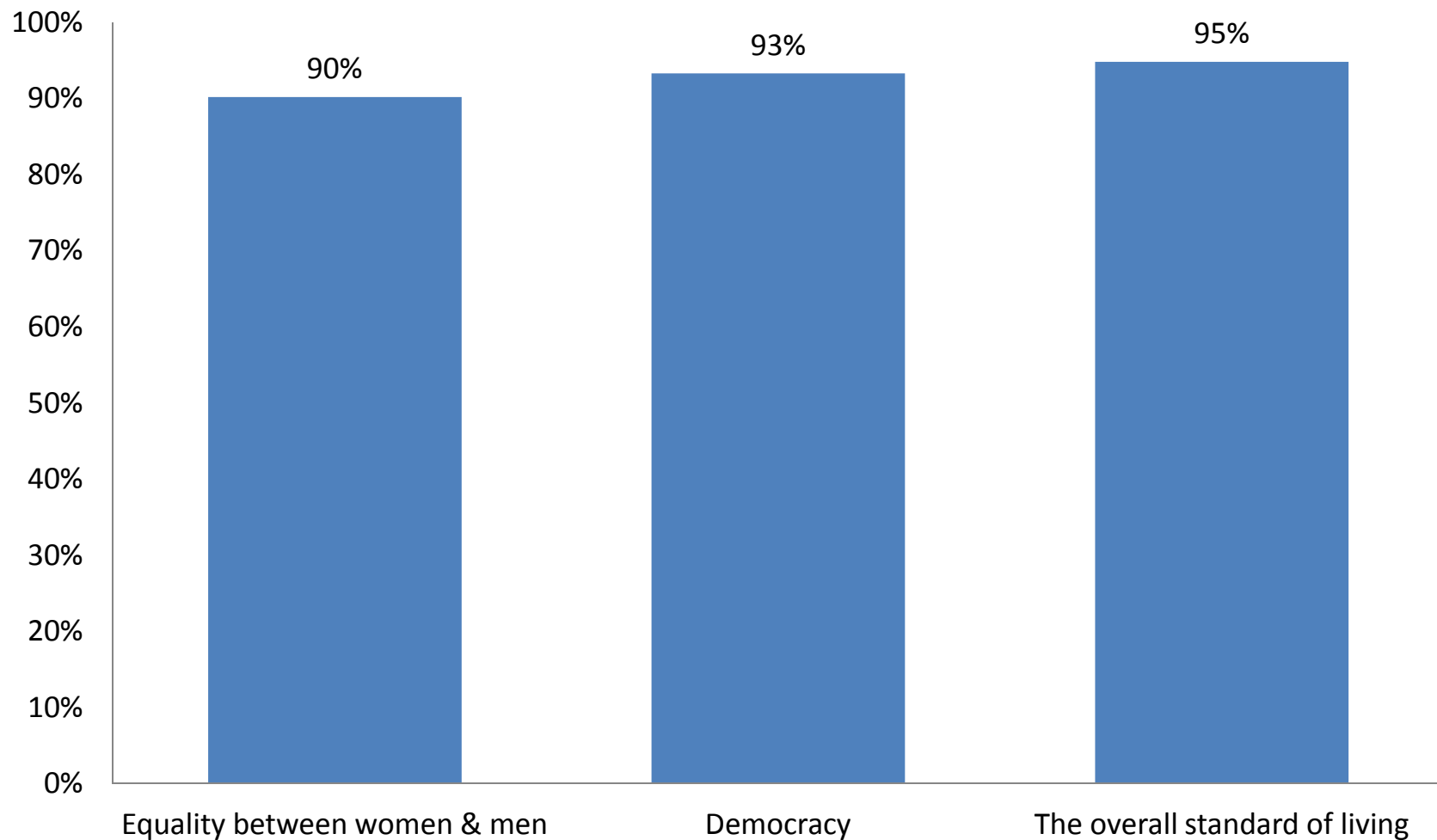
Saudi Arabia: Decline in support for gender inequality (% Strongly agree)



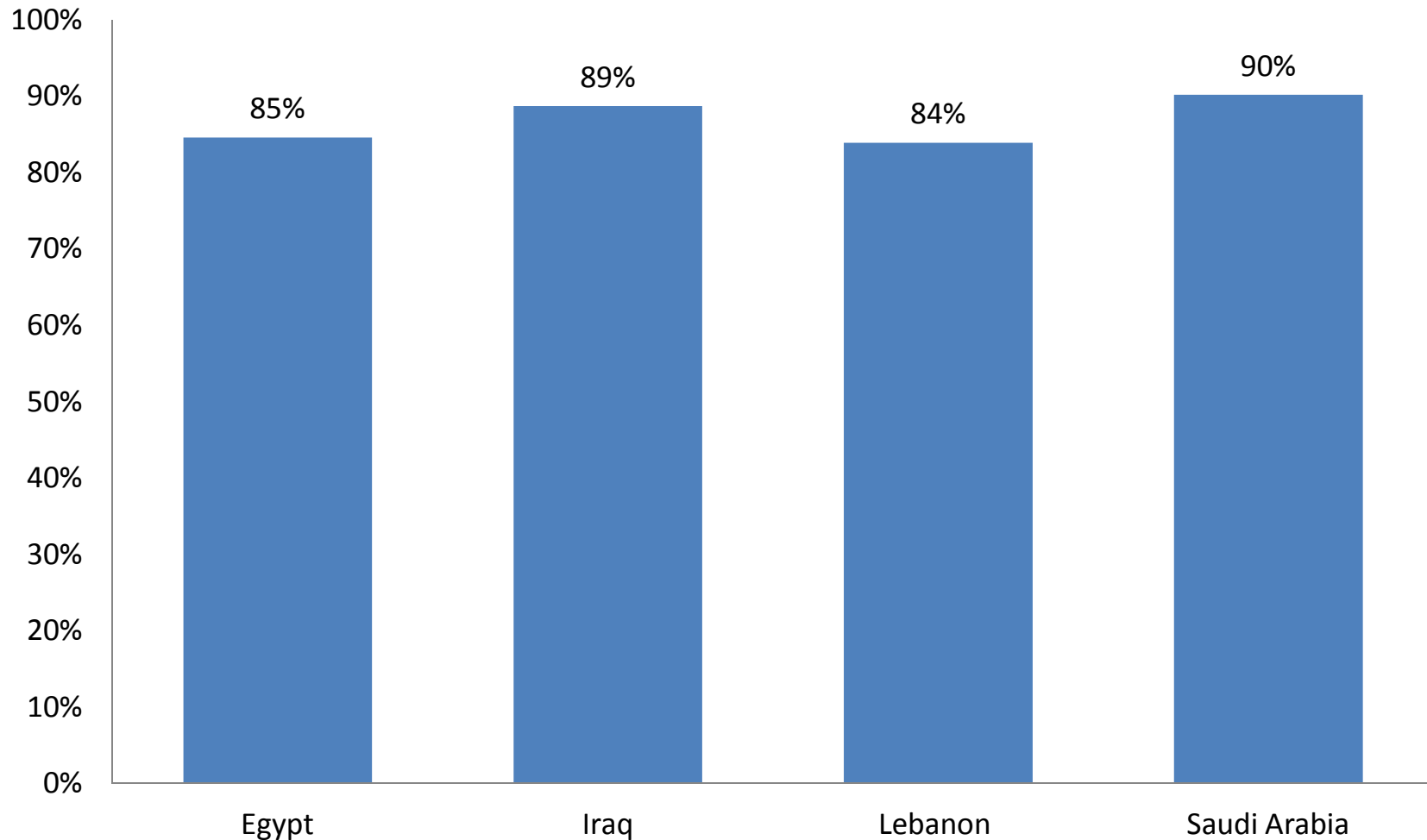
Egyptian Muslims: Correlates of protest participations (Correlation coefficients)



Egypt: Increased Westernization is tied to increased gender equality, democracy, and overall standard of living



COUNTRY Would Be Better with Technology of the West (2011)



Summary

1. Increase in national identity
2. Decline in support for the shari'a
3. Increase in gender equality (except in Egypt)
4. Positive implications for national security:
 - (1) The Arab Spring's focus on freedom and democracy counters tendencies toward political violence
 - (2) Positive attitudes toward Westernization and Western technology provide a basis for constructive dialog with the Arab public

