

EMBARGOED UNTIL: 16:00, 10th April 2012

British and Argentinian poll on the Falklands War

YouGov and Ibarómetro have together conducted the first parallel polling of the British and Argentinian public on the Falklands War and future of the Islands

- Most Argentinians have a negative view of the 1982 invasion, and think the then dictatorship did it to solve their own political reasons
- 52% of Britons think it was right to retake the islands by force
- Most Argentinians are opposed to any further military action, British adults are evenly split on whether Britain should use force to defend the islands
- British and Argentinians both think their country has the most legitimate claim over the Islands

In a joint project, YouGov polled 1744 British adults and Ibarómetro polled a parallel sample of 1800 Argentinian adults.

The Argentinian public are more likely than the British public to see their claims on the Islands as legitimate, and more likely to think that they have the international community on their side; 89% of Argentinian adults think their country's claims to the Falklands are very or fairly legitimate, compared to 62% of British adults who think the UK's claims are legitimate. 46% of Argentinians think that the international community backs their claim on the Falklands, compared to 11% of Britons.

The majority (56%) of Argentinians have a negative perception of the 1982 war, and 77% of them see it as something that was done by the then dictatorship to prop up its political position, rather than something the Argentinian people wanted. In Britain, 52% of people think that the UK government took the right decision to retake the islands by force, 26% think more effort should have been made to solve the issue diplomatically.

There is very little appetite for military action today; 59% of Argentinians would oppose any military action today, compared to 26% in support. The British public are evenly split on whether or not they would support using military force to try and retain the islands – 42% would support it, 39% would oppose it. There is a significant age difference as respondents over 40, and likely to remember the 1982 war, would support Britain using force to retain the islands, whereas those under 40 are more likely to oppose it.

More British people would support opening negotiations with Argentina over the future of the Falklands than would oppose it – 37% would support negotiations, with 25% opposed. The overwhelming majority (83%) of Argentinians would support negotiation.

While both countries would support negotiation, there is little common ground on what they would like the outcome to be. 66% of Argentine adults think the Islands should become Argentinian sovereignty territory, with 21% supporting shared sovereignty. British opinion is more evenly divided – 37% think the Islands should remain British and 14% would support shared sovereignty, but 28% think the fairest outcome would be for the Falklands to become independent from both countries.

When asked what outcome people expect to actually happen, a majority (55%) of British respondents expect that the islands will actually remain British. Argentinian respondents

were more divided – 31% expect the islands to end up remaining British, 33% expect them to become Argentinian.

[See a summary of the results here](#)

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Notes to editors:

All British figures are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1,744 GB adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 2nd-3rd April 2012. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).

All Argentinian figures are from Ibarómetro. Total sample size was 1,800 Argentinian adults. Fieldwork was undertaken on the 2nd April 2012. The survey was carried out by telephone. The figures have been weighted by age, gender, level of education and region and are representative of all Argentinian adults (aged 18+).

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About YouGov

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YouGov is considered a pioneer of online market research and has a panel of 2.5 million people worldwide, including over 350,000 people in the UK representing all ages, socio-economic groups and other demographic types.

As the most quoted market research agency in the UK, YouGov has a well-documented and published track record illustrating the accuracy of its survey methods.

For further information visit yougov.co.uk

About Ibarómetro

Ibarómetro is a leading public opinion and market research consultancy company in Argentina, outstanding for being a pioneer in the use of the most advanced technologies in measurement and data collection. Ibarómetro's telephone procedures are developed under ISO 9001:2000 quality standards.

For further information visit ibarometro.com