

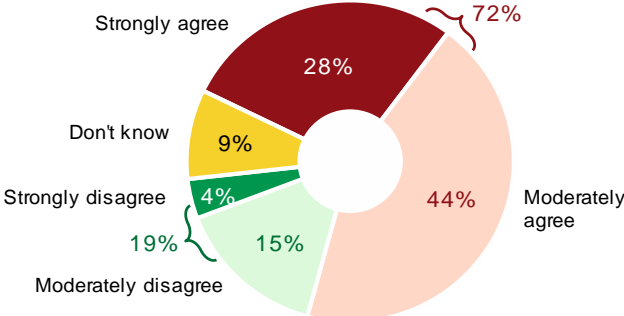
Opinions about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict intensified last autumn. After Hamas, i.e. the Islamist organization that has controlled the Palestinian Gaza Strip for several years, launched a surprise attack on Israel in early October, Israel responded with a large-scale invasion on the aggressor's territory, which continues to this day and is aimed at the complete destruction of Hamas. Very early on, the conflict also began to arouse huge controversy abroad, polarizing public opinion in many Western countries. The war in the Middle East was also an important topic of conversation among Poles. The November CBOS survey showed that it was mentioned less often than the problems of high prices and difficulties in access to doctors, which more directly affect Polish society, and slightly more often than the ongoing war in Ukraine, occurring beyond our borders.

From the first days of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the opinion was voiced that it could quickly expand. The possibility of Hezbollah, another Islamist organization based in Lebanon and supported by Iran, joining the war was particularly feared. Active involvement of Iran would, in turn, force the United States to react clearly and would threaten an uncontrolled escalation of the conflict. Such a scenario is considered possible by the vast majority of respondents (72%), and only less than one-fifth (19%) reject this possibility. It is

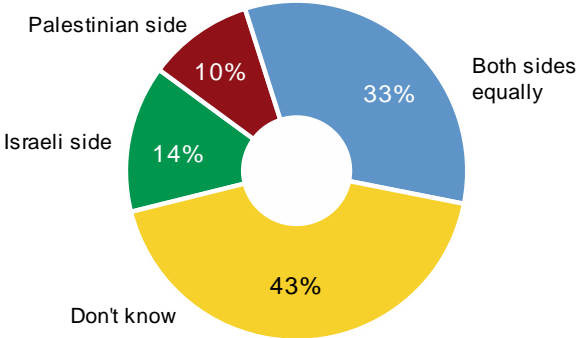
worth noting that after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, a very similar percentage of Poles (75%) considered the Russian invasion a threat to global security, although it obviously posed a more immediate threat to Poland than the war in the Middle East.

Do you agree that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict poses a threat to global security?



Pro-Israel sympathies slightly predominate in Polish society (14%), compared to 10% who have a more favourable attitude towards the Palestinian side. It is worth emphasizing, however, that people with clear views on the war are a minority. The dominant answers here are “don't know” (43%) and declarations of sympathy for both sides to an equal extent (33%).

Which side of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict do you sympathize with more?



In November, the YouGov research centre asked respondents from Great Britain and the United States the question about their sympathies towards the parties to the conflict. In both of these countries, the percentages of "don't know" answers were significantly lower than in Poland (31% in the UK and 21% in the USA), so more people had strong opinions about the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. In Great Britain, pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian sympathies were at the same level in November (19%), although even before the October attack by Hamas (when the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remained relatively dormant), pro-

Palestinian sentiments prevailed. In the United States, the predominance of pro-Israel sympathies was even more pronounced than in Poland (37% compared to 15% pro-Palestinian sympathies).

Among Poles, pro-Israel sympathies significantly outweigh pro-Palestinian sympathies among men (18% vs. 10% of pro-Palestinian sympathies), respondents aged 55-64 (18% vs. 6%) and people with higher education (18% vs. 9%). Pro-Palestinian sympathies are clearly more common among the youngest respondents (19% compared to 6% of pro-Israel sympathies) and among school and university students (26% compared to 3%).

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles' Opinions about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict", December 2023. Fieldwork dates for the sample: December 2023, N=961, mixed-mode interviews. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.