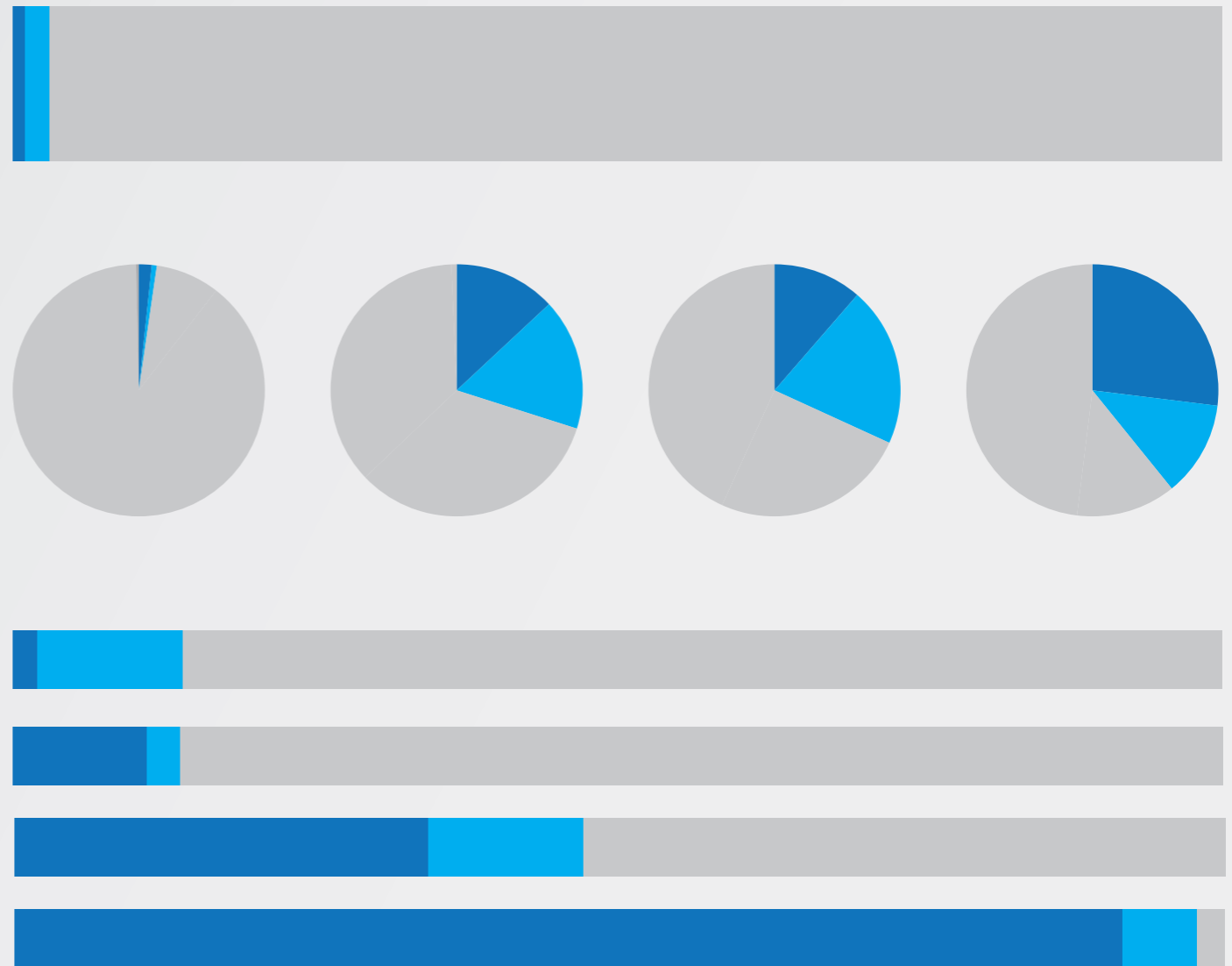


ARAB PUBLIC OPINION & THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIS

Findings from new public opinion polls in Egypt, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia, commissioned by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy



Read the article by David Pollock:
<http://bit.ly/ISISPoll-Oct2014>



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Finding #1

ISIS has almost no popular support in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, or Lebanon.

Considering their recent policies, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative, or very negative view of ISIS?

Saudi Arabia - 5% support ISIS

2% Very Positive, 3% Fairly Positive

17% Fairly Negative
73% Very Negative
3% Don't Know
3% No Answer

Egypt - 3% support ISIS

1% Very Positive, 2% Fairly Positive

3% Fairly Negative
82% Very Negative
5% Don't Know
6% No Answer

Lebanon - 0% support ISIS

1% Fairly Negative
99% Very Negative

Not even among Lebanon's Sunnis.

1% Fairly Positive

2% Fairly Negative
97% Very Negative

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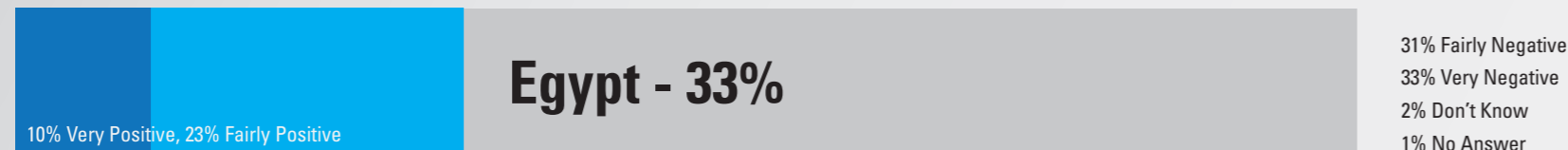
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Finding #2

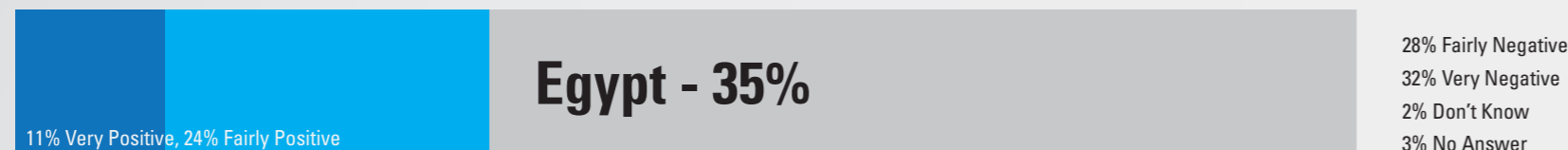
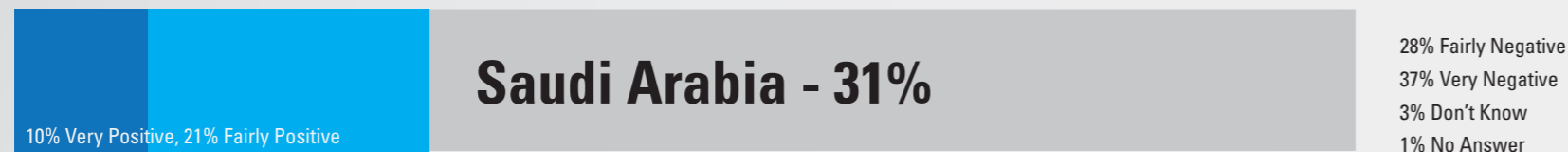
But nearly uniform opposition to ISIS does not extend to other political Islamist groups...

Considering their recent policies, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative, or very negative view of ...?

SUPPORT HAMAS



SUPPORT MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD



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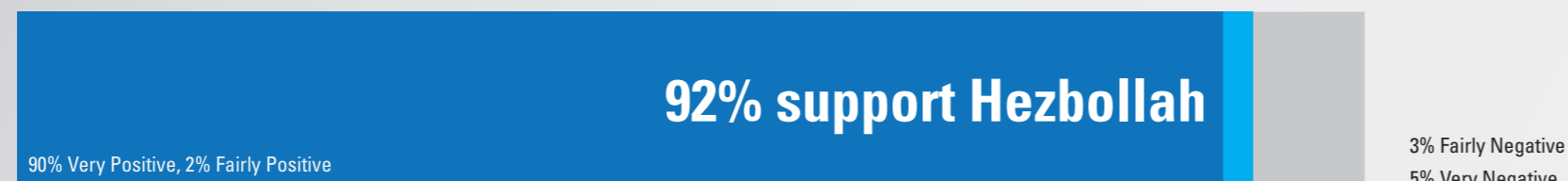
Finding #2...continued

...and in Lebanon, views are highly polarized by sect.

LEBANON

Considering their recent policies, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative, or very negative view of Hezbollah?

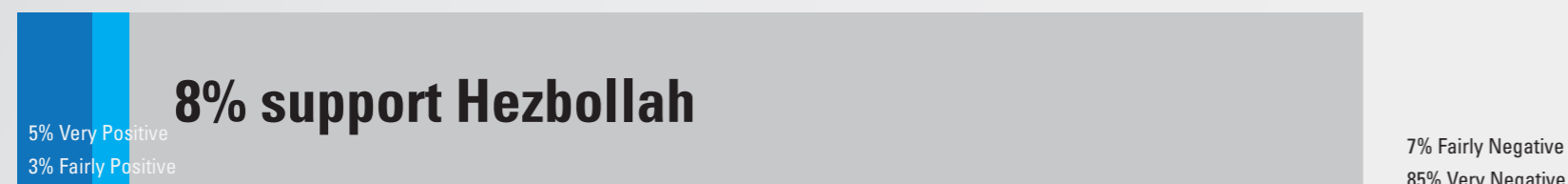
SHIITES



CHRISTIANS



SUNNIS



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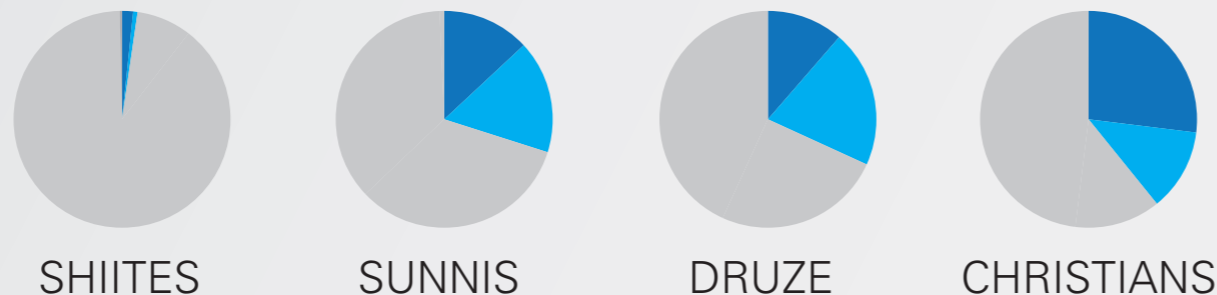
Finding #3

Shared opposition to ISIS does not mean high ratings for the United States.

Considering their recent policies, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative, or very negative view of the United States?



Again, varying by sect, from just 3% among Lebanon's plurality Shiite population to 39% among Christians:



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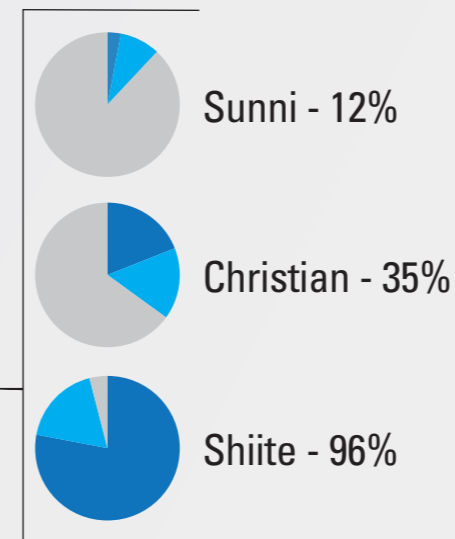
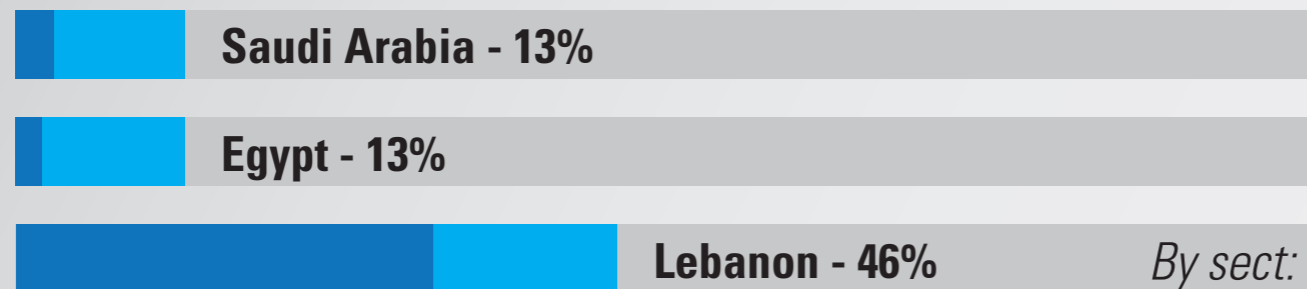
Read the article by David Pollock:
<http://bit.ly/ISISPoll-Oct2014>

Finding #4

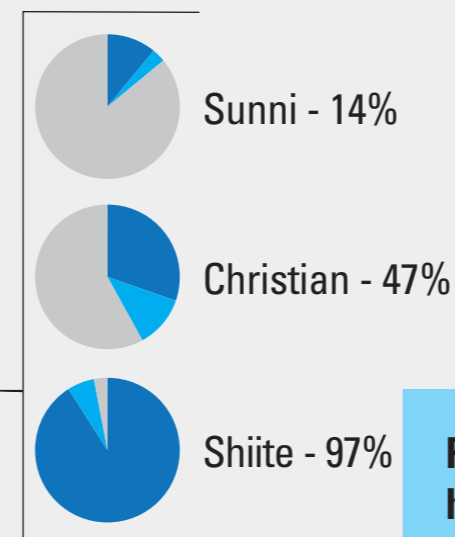
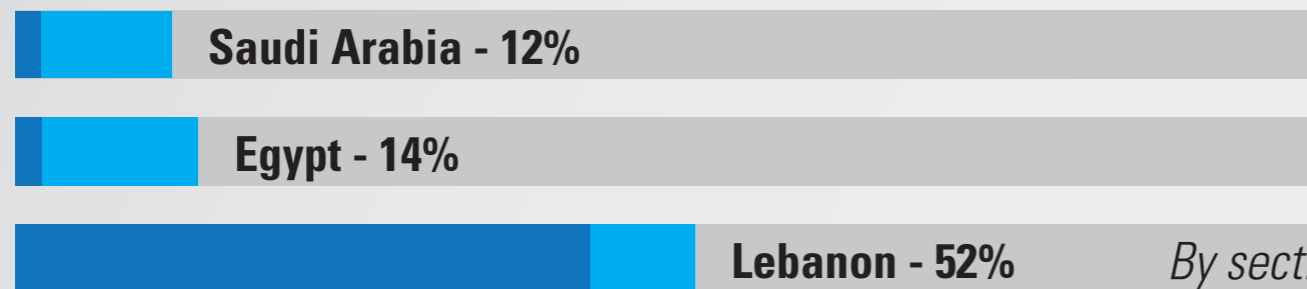
Nor does it predict attitudes toward two other common enemies of ISIS: Iran and Syria.

Considering their recent policies, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative, or very negative view of...?

FAVORABLE TOWARD IRAN



FAVORABLE TOWARD SYRIA



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Implications

What do these numbers mean for U.S. policy?

1

We need not fear a mass following for ISIS or strong popular backlash against U.S. airstrikes in these nearby Arab societies. But there is a real difference between almost no support and no support at all.

2

The United States would be well-advised to target its actions very narrowly against ISIS, not against other Islamist groups.

3

Any overtures to Iran or the Syrian regime as potential partners against ISIS run the risk of both further alienating the Egyptian and Saudi publics and further inflaming sectarian tension in Lebanon.

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