

# Public Opinion and the US-Russian Relationship

September 21, 2018

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# Favorability of the United States: Recent shifts with US response to Crimea, Helsinki Summit

## Russian Opinion of the United States

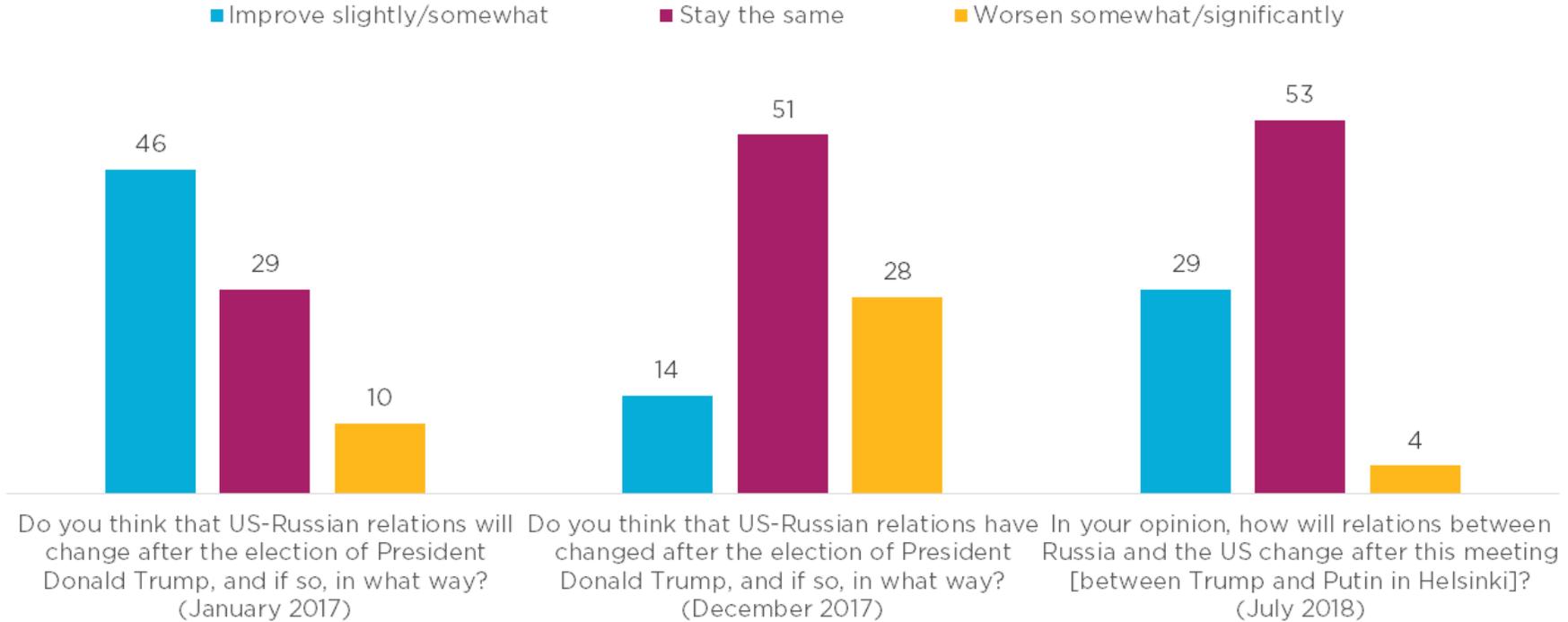
*In general, how do you feel about the United States? (% favorable)*



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# Shifts in Russian expectations of bilateral relationship

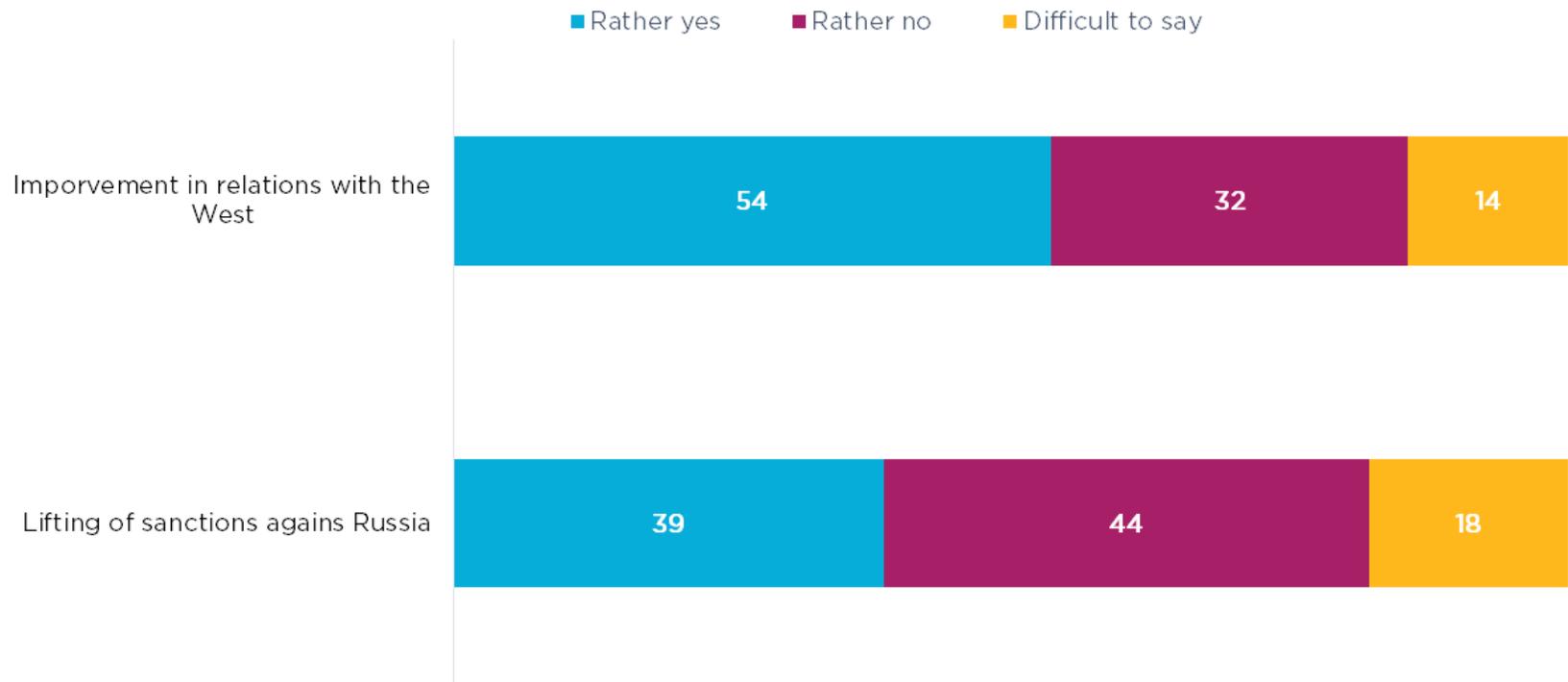
## View of the US-Russian Relationship from Russia



# Mixed expectations after Russia's 2018 election

## Changes in the US-Russian Relationship

*During the presidential term of Vladimir Putin, will the following changes happen or not? (%)*



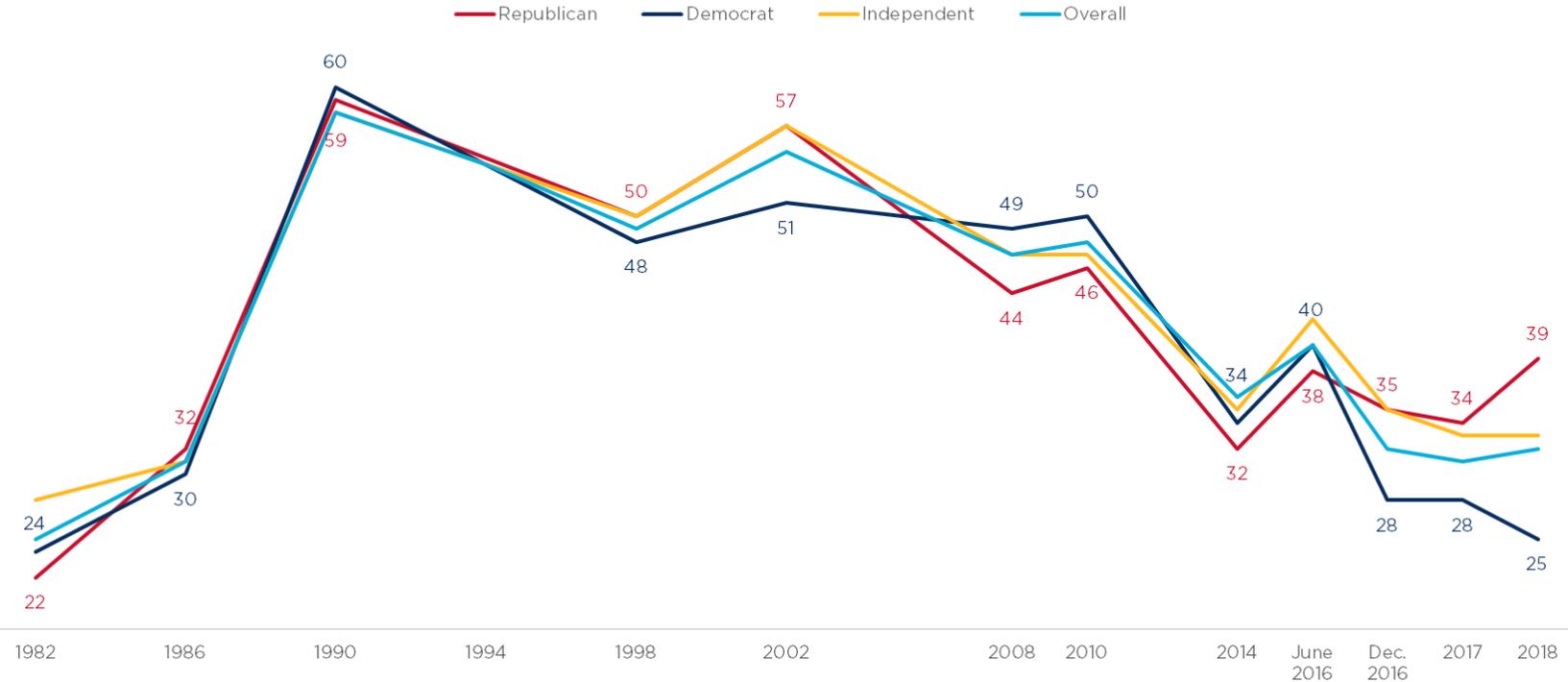
# Roots of Russian negative sentiment

- **“There is a crisis of trust on one hand and an unwillingness to have a dialogue... and national pride on the other.” -Russian expert**
- The Russian government does not trust US motives internationally
  - Kosovo, Iraq, Libya solidified the concern that the US doesn't respect state sovereignty
  - NATO expansion and missile defense seen as aimed at Russia
- The Russian public has a natural distrust of the US, dating back to the 90s, which is utilized and exacerbated by the state-run media

# Favorability of Russia: negative downturn after Crimea annexation

## American Views of Russia

Please rate your feelings toward some countries and peoples, with one hundred meaning a very warm, favorable feeling, zero meaning a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred, the higher the number the more favorable your feelings are toward that country or those people. **Russia.**



# Roots of American negative sentiment

- **“Empathy is entirely lacking on the US side, we are currently experiencing another Red Scare.” -US Expert**
- Putin is the problem for the US government, few experts think the relationship can change while he’s in office. The US government has also demonstrated an unwillingness to understand Russia’s position
  - Many experts also pointed to US President Trump as further hindrance to improving relations, given that Congress appears willing to check his policy towards Russia and his mercurial temperament
- Russian interference in the 2016 election greatly damaged US public opinion of Russia. The media coverage of Russia and the 2016 further demonizes Russia in the eyes of the US public.

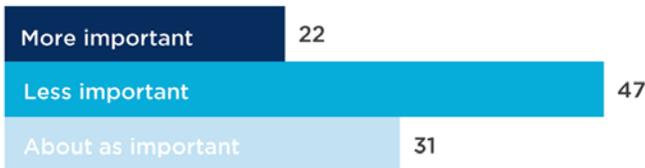
# Perceptions of increased importance for Russia; decreased importance for US

## The US Role in the World

*Russian Survey: And what about the United States, does it play a more important role in the world today compared to ten years ago, a less important role or about as important a role as it did ten years ago?*



*US Survey: Do you think the United States plays a more important and powerful role as a world leader today compared to 10 years ago, a less important role, or about as important a role as a world leader as it did 10 years ago?*



## Russia's Role in the World

*Russian Survey: Do you think Russia plays a more important role in the world today compared to ten years ago, a less important role or about as important a role as it did ten years ago?*



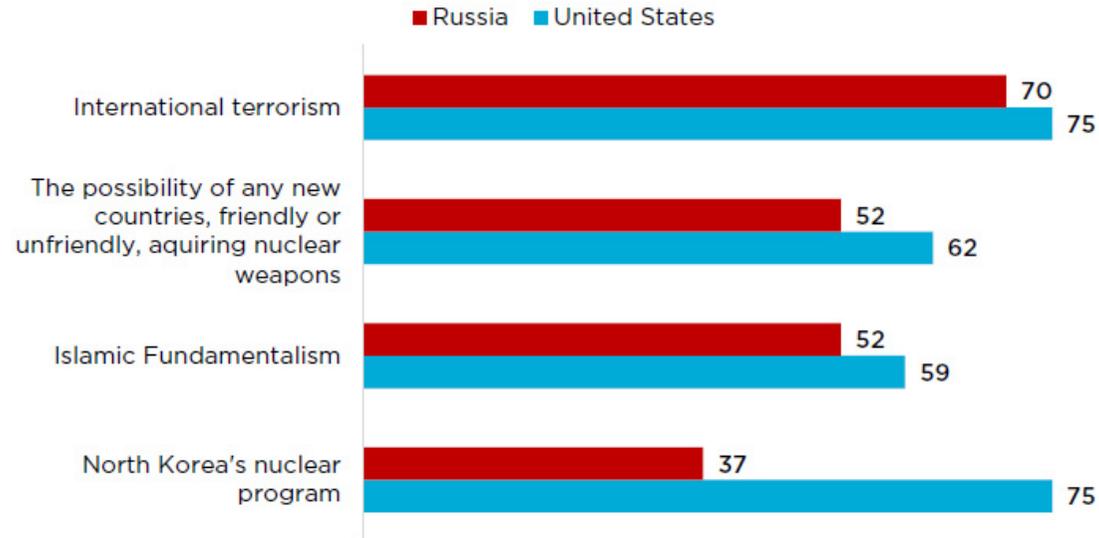
*US Survey: Do the following countries play a more important role in the world today compared to ten years ago, a less important role or about as important a role as it did ten years ago?... Russia*



# Shared sense of threats

## American and Russian Views of Threats

Below is a list of possible threats to the vital interest of the United States/Russia in the 10 years. For each one, please select whether you see this as a critical threat, an important but not critical threat, or not an important threat at all. (% critical threat)

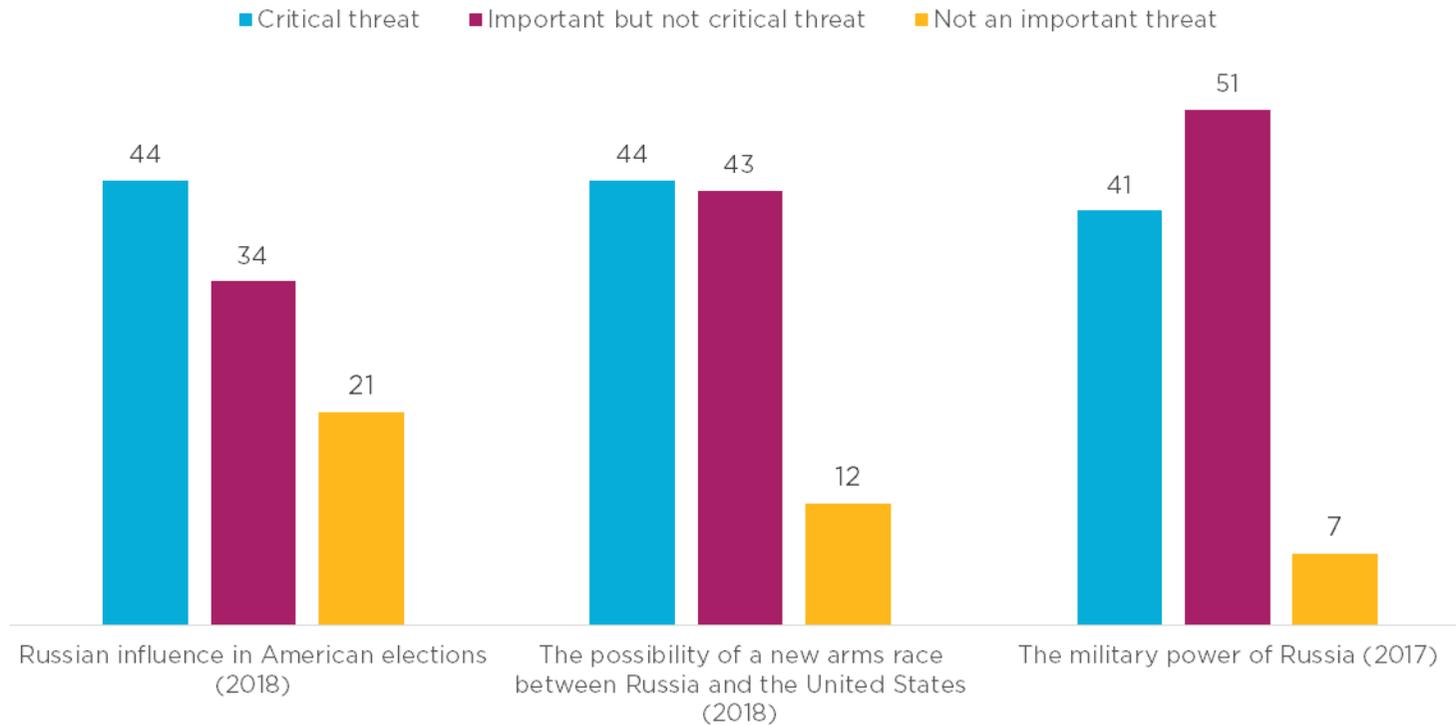


*\*Islamic Fundamentalism was last asked in the United States in 2016.*

# Limited portion of US public views Russia as a threat

## Russia as a Threat

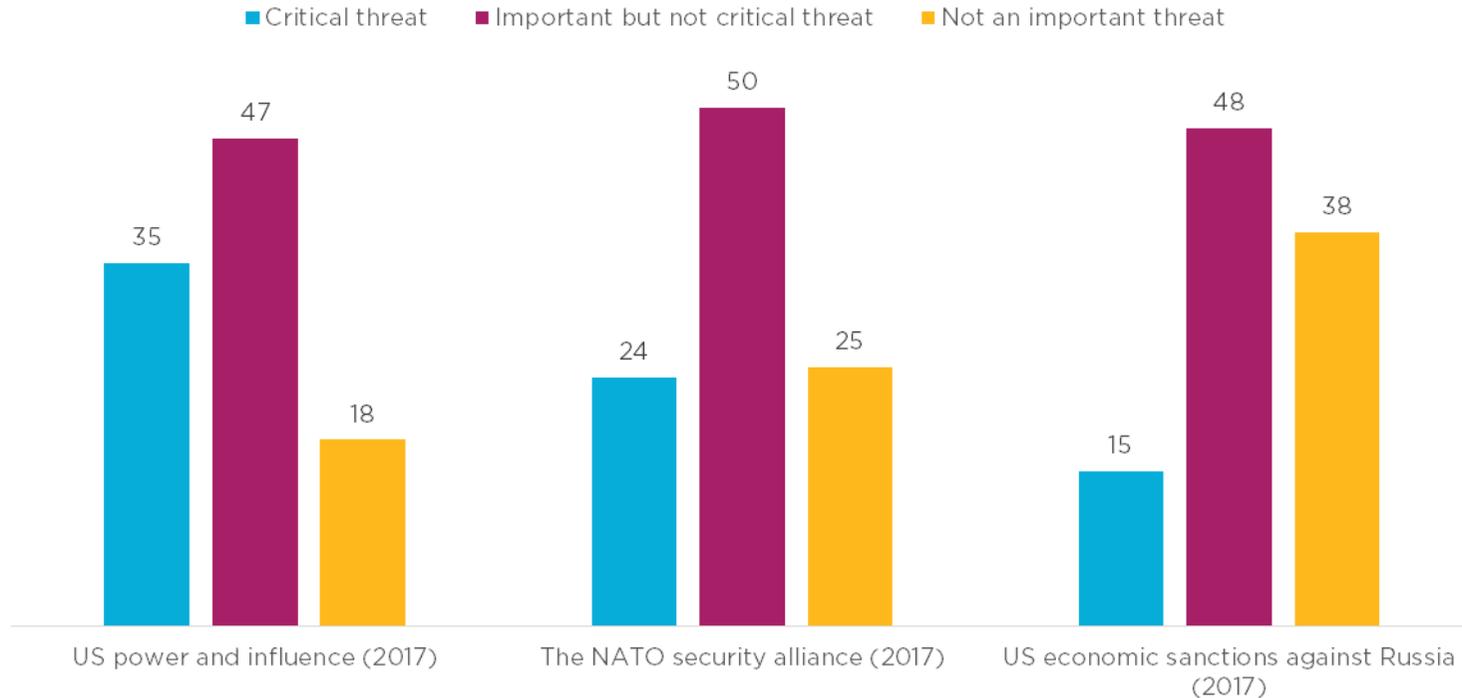
*Below is a list of possible threats to the vital interest of the United States in the next 10 years. For each one, please select whether you see this as a critical threat, an important threat but not critical threat, or not an important threat at all. (%)*



# Even fewer Russians consider the US a threat

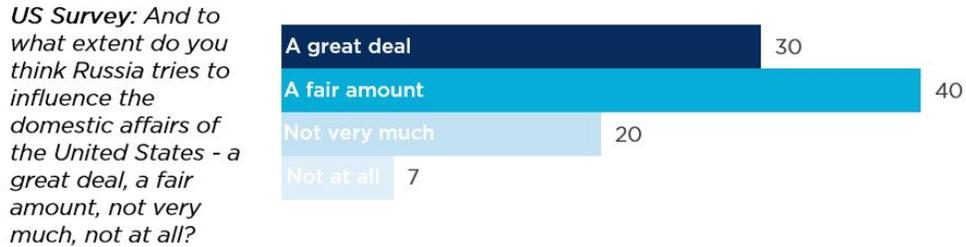
## The United States as a Threat

*Below is a list of possible threats to the vital interest of Russia in the next 10 years. For each one, please select whether you see this as a critical threat, an important threat but not critical threat, or not an important threat at all. (%)*



# Contrasting views of interference in domestic affairs

## Russian Interference in US Domestic Affairs



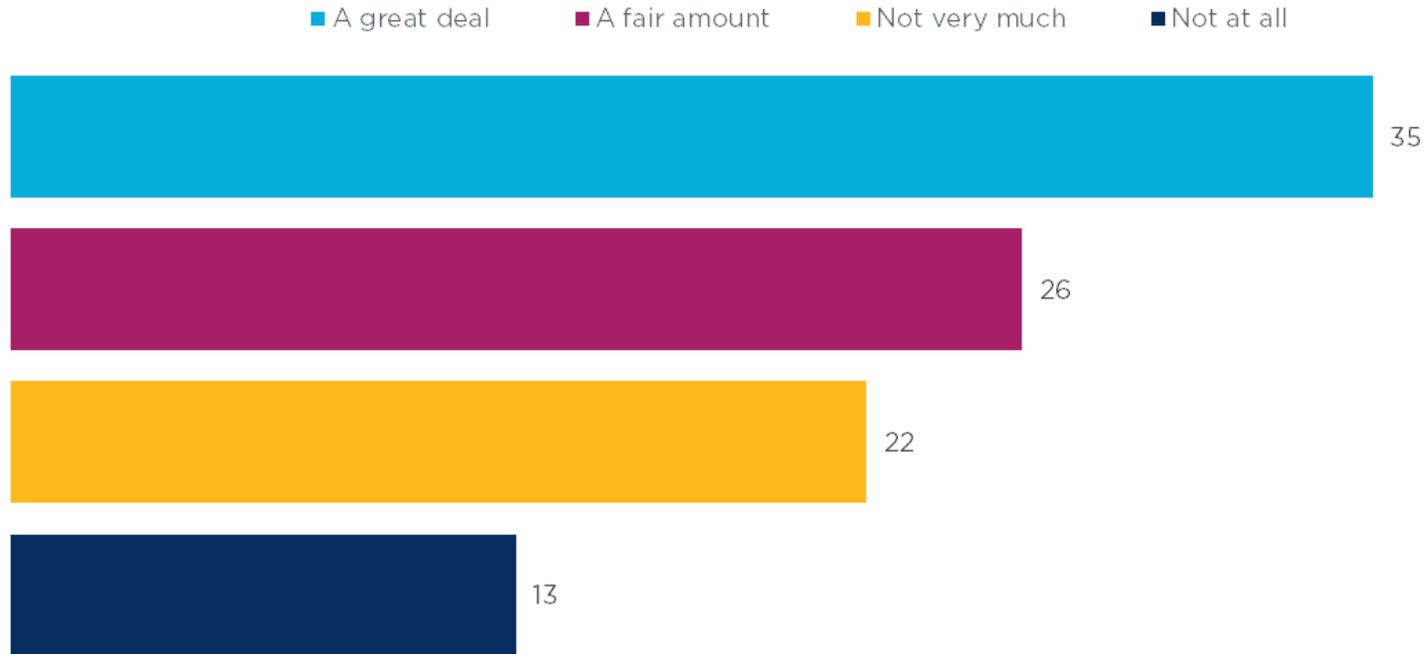
## US Interference in Russian Domestic Affairs



# Majority of Americans think Russia interfered to some extent in the 2016 US Election

## Interference in 2016 Election

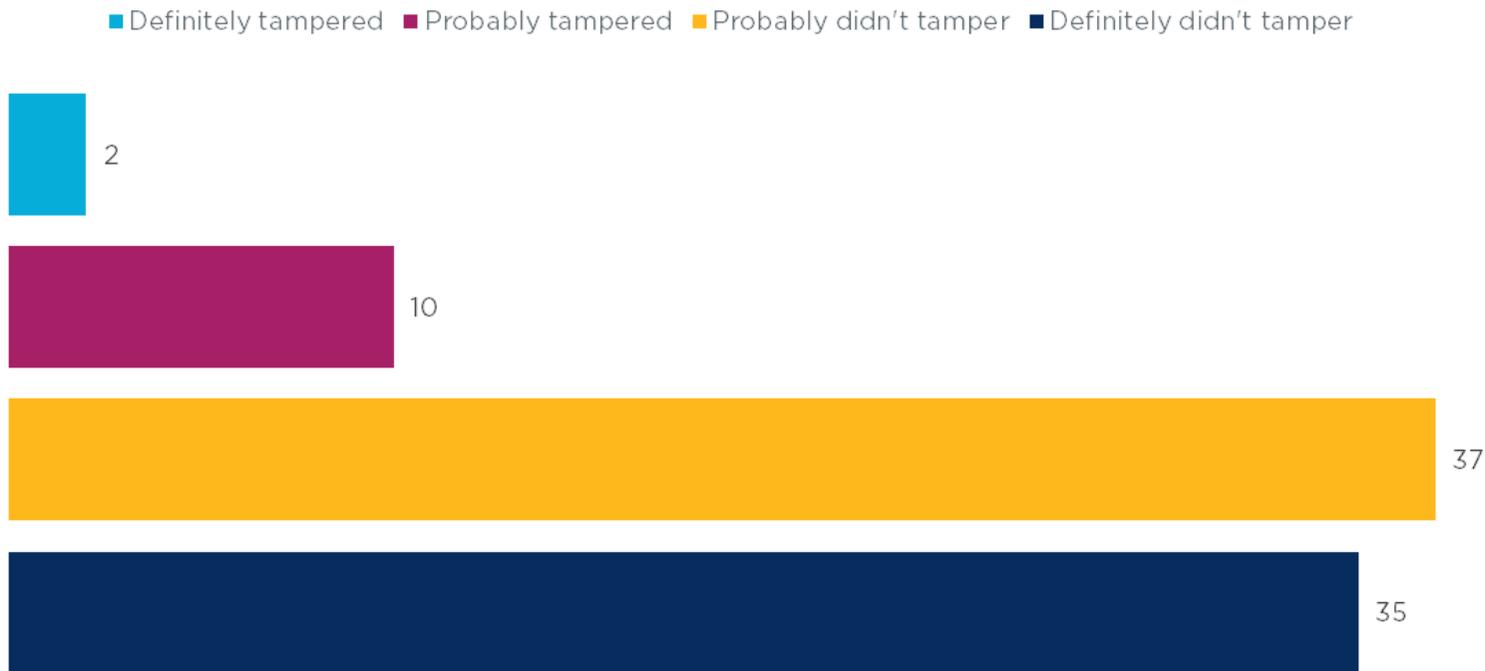
*To what extent do you think the Russian government tried to influence the outcome of last fall's US presidential election?*



# Majority of Russians think Russia did not interfere in the 2016 US election

## Interference in 2016 Election

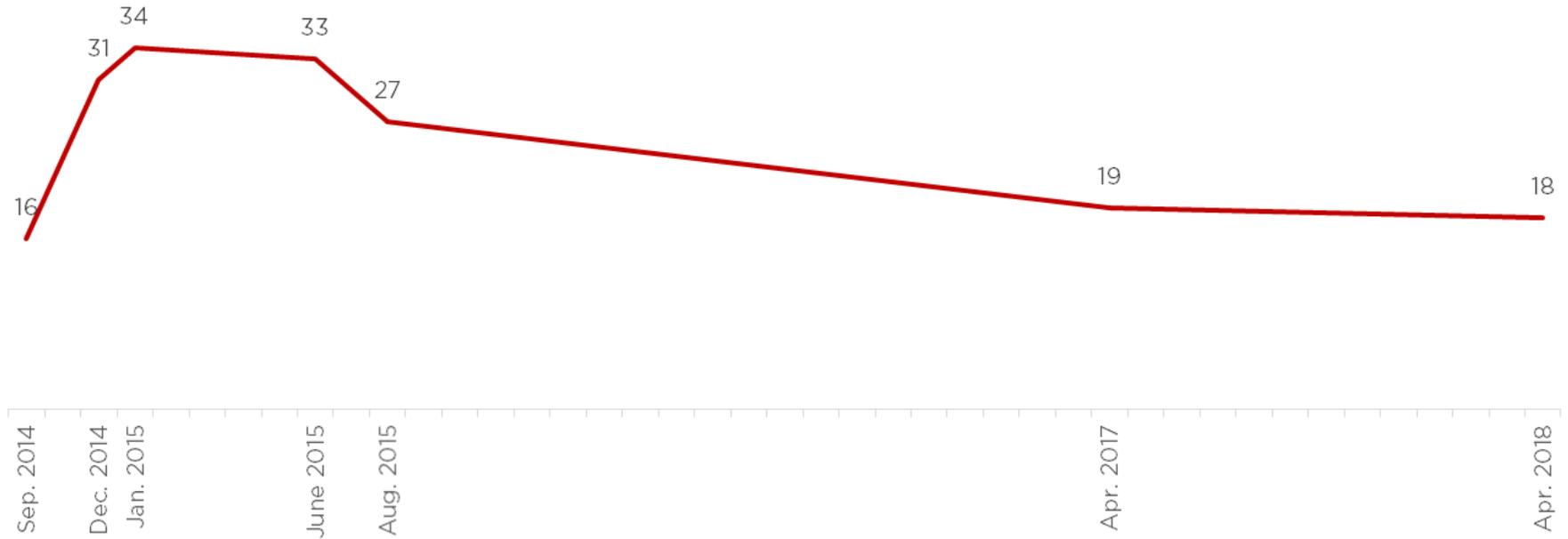
*Do you think that Russia could have tampered with the US elections?*



# Russians not feeling the pinch from sanctions personally

## Impact of Sanctions

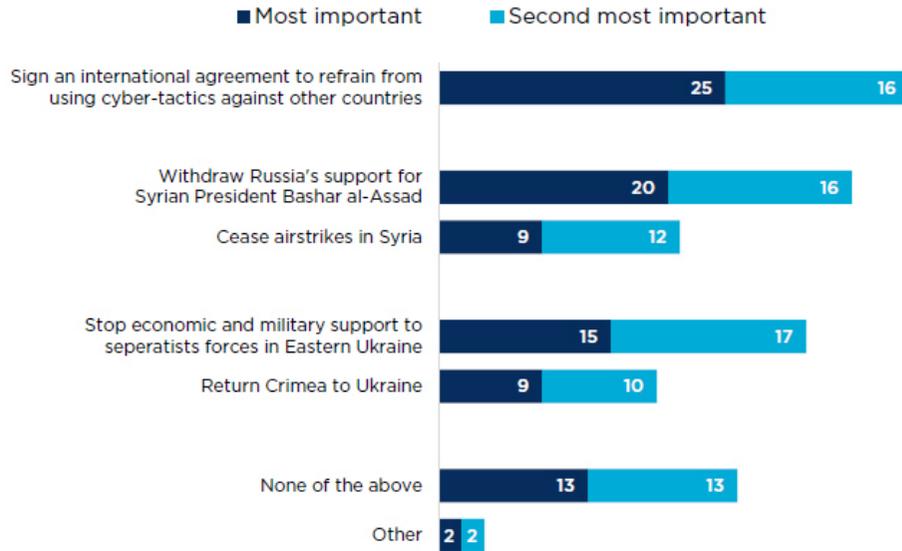
*Did Western sanctions create complications for you personally and your family? (% very/quite significant complications)*



# Not much middle ground for concessions

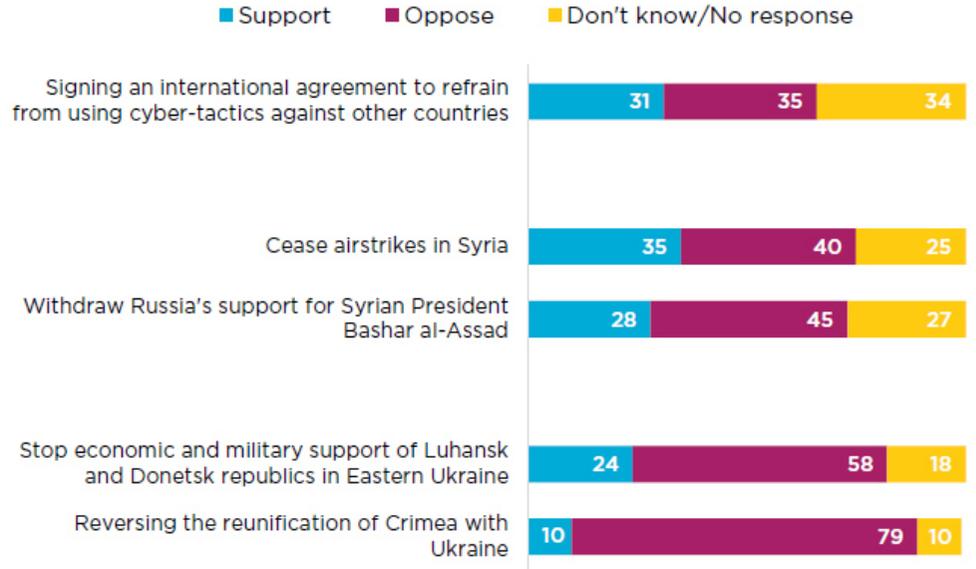
## American Priorities for Lifting Sanctions

Which one of the following actions is the most important for Russia to take before the US eases the sanctions against Russia? And which is the second most important?



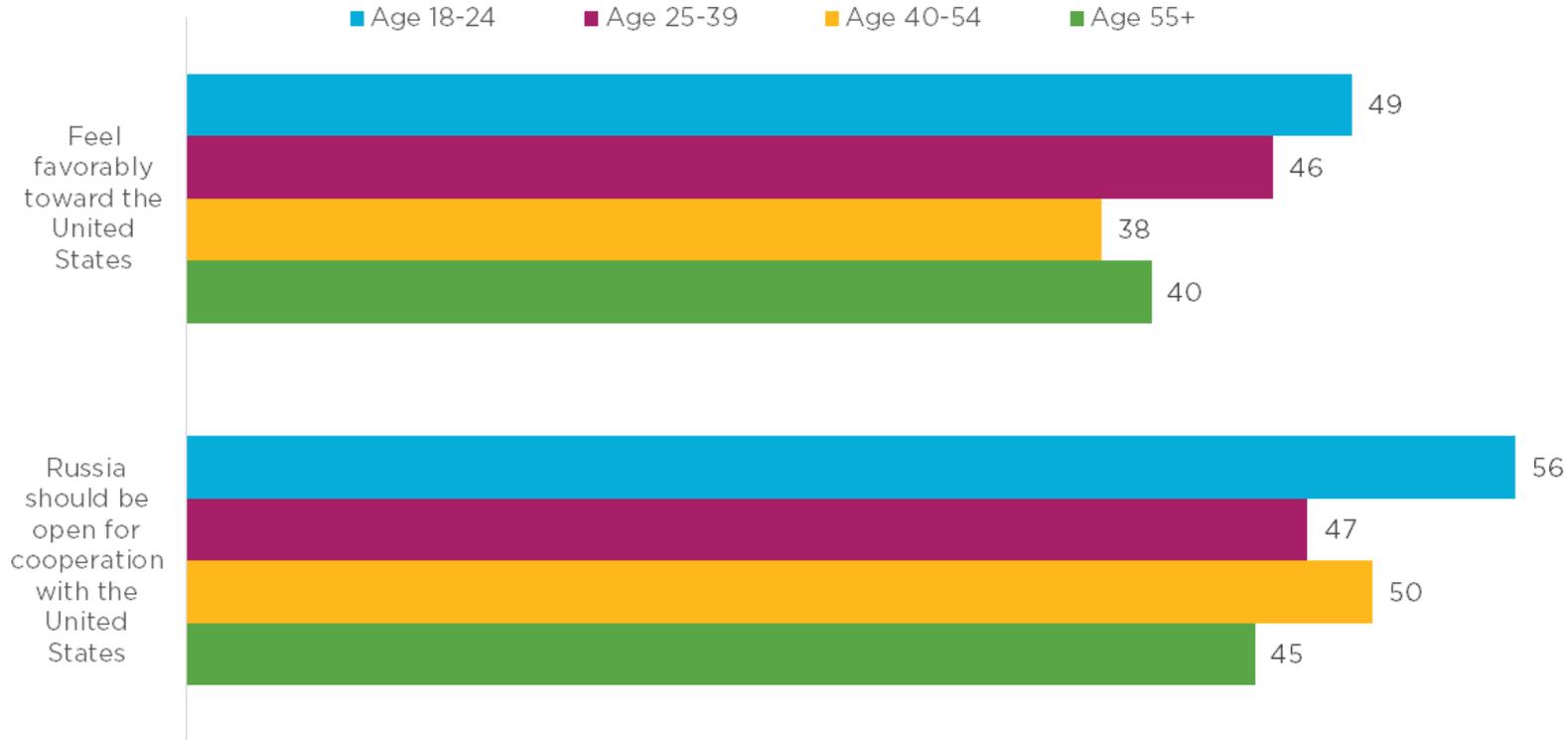
## Russian Views on Concessions for Lifting Sanctions

Would you support or oppose Russia taking the following actions in exchange for the lifting of sanctions against Russia?



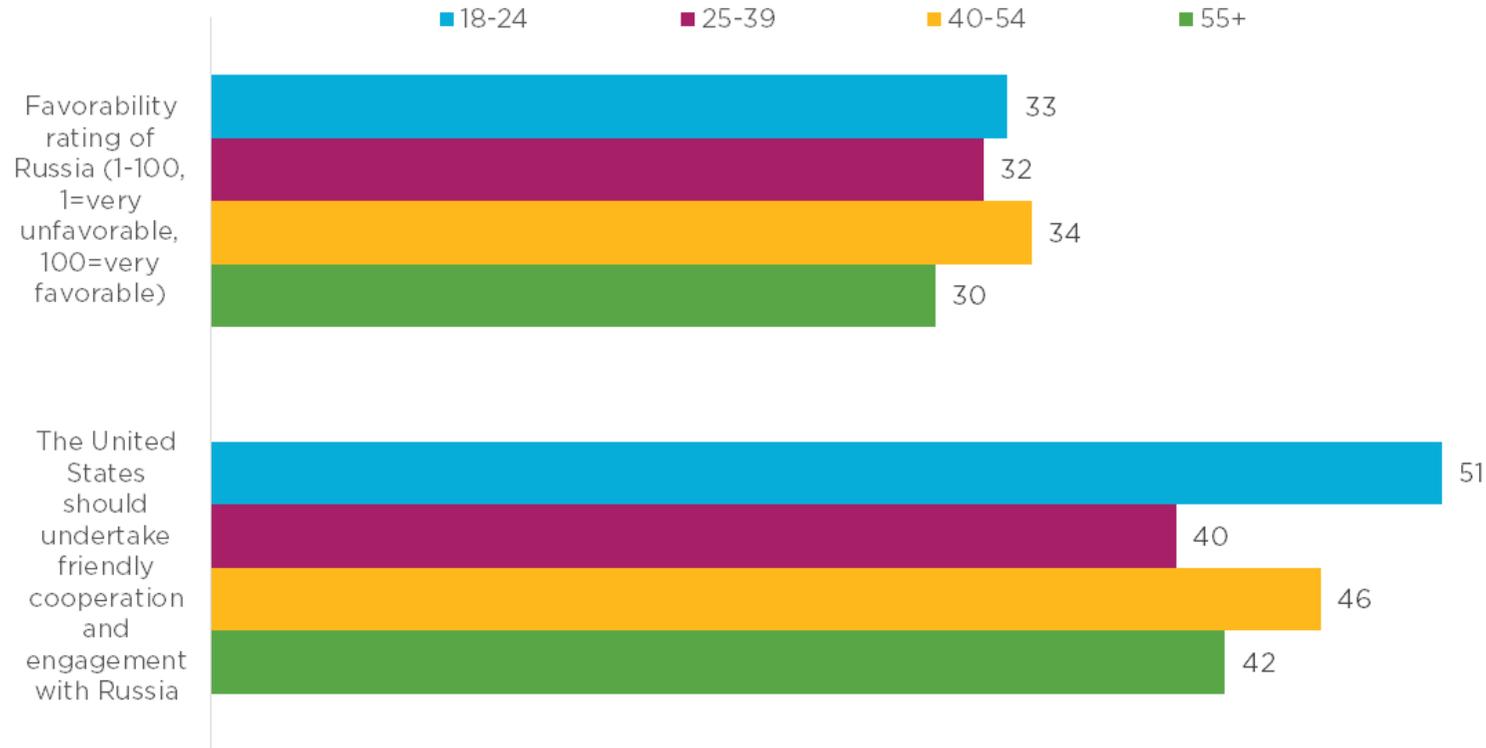
# Hope for the future? Younger Russians more positive

## Russian Views of United States by Age



# American views of Russia differ little by age

## US Views of Russia by Age



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