



Palestinian Public Opinion Trends on Regional War and Its Political Impacts

Dr. Nabil Kukali

“Palestinians tend toward neutrality in the regional conflict and fear its repercussions on stability in the region and the future of the Palestinian cause.”

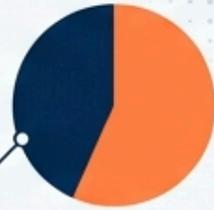


Key Findings

Responsibility for Outbreak of War



56.6%



Public believes all parties bear responsibility for the outbreak of war or military escalation in the region.

Neutrality in Prolonged Conflict



78.3%

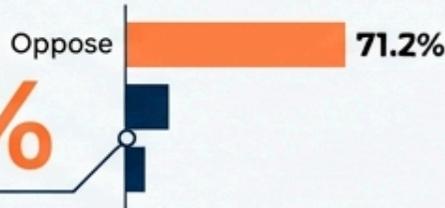


Respondents said they do not lean toward any party if the war continues.

Opposition to Attacks on Gulf States



71.2%

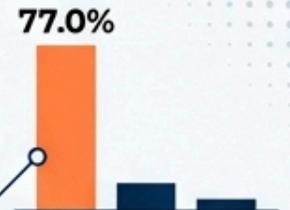


Oppose Iranian missile and drone attacks targeting some Gulf states.

Impact on Palestinians



77.0%



Believe the war will lead to deterioration of economic and political conditions for Palestinians.



Introduction

The Middle East region is witnessing continuous escalation in military and political tensions, especially in light of the indirect confrontation between Iran, Israel, and the United States, along with the possibilities of conflict expansion and its implications for regional stability. At such moments, the importance of analysis is not limited to reading the positions of governments and conflicting powers, but also extends to understanding how public opinion perceives these transformations, as it is an important indicator of the nature of popular mood, fears, and expectations.

In this context, the Palestinian Center for **Public Opinion** (PCPO) conducted a public opinion poll on **Palestinian public opinion trends** trends toward the regional war and its political impacts, prepared by Dr. Nabil Kukali, founder and president of the center. The results reveal a complex picture of Palestinian public opinion characterized by **three central features**: wide **follow-up of developments**, clear tendency toward neutrality in the conflict, and high concern about the political and economic repercussions of the war on Palestinians and the region in general.

Dr. Nabil Kukali



Data Collection Methodology



Sampling Method

Random Digit Dialing (RDD) Method

The survey relied on the Random Digit Dialing (RDD) method to ensure representative sampling by randomly generating and dialing telephone numbers within the target area.



Data Collection Tool

Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) System

Interviews were conducted using the Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system, enabling efficient data entry and quality control during live calls.

SURVEY KEY STATISTICS



309

Respondents from West Bank & Gaza Strip



69%

Response Rate



±5.57%

Margin of Error



95%

Confidence Level



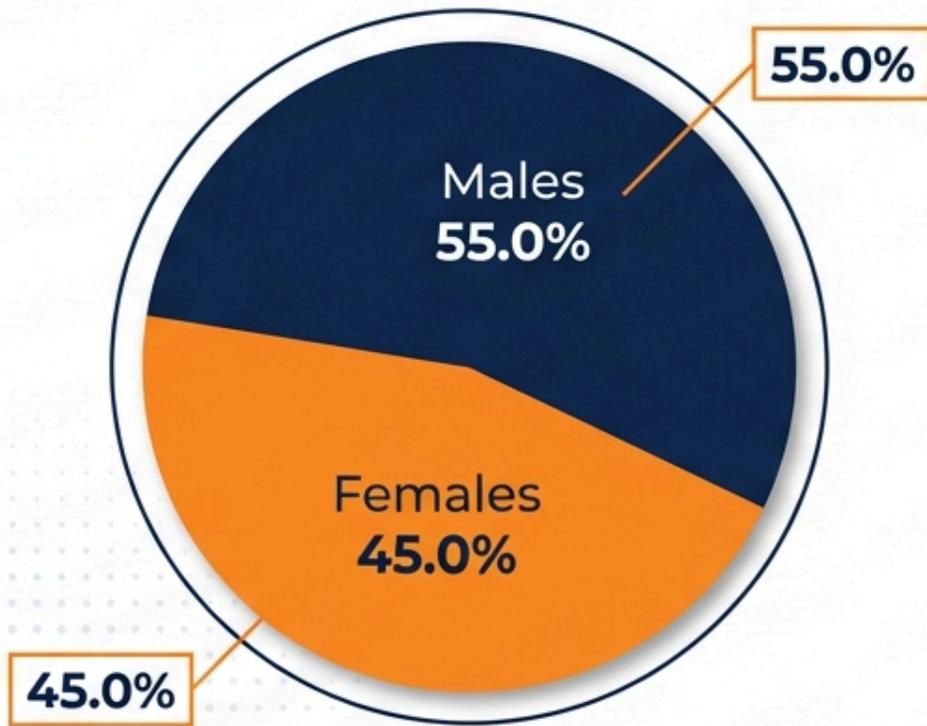
March 7-11, 2026

Fieldwork Period

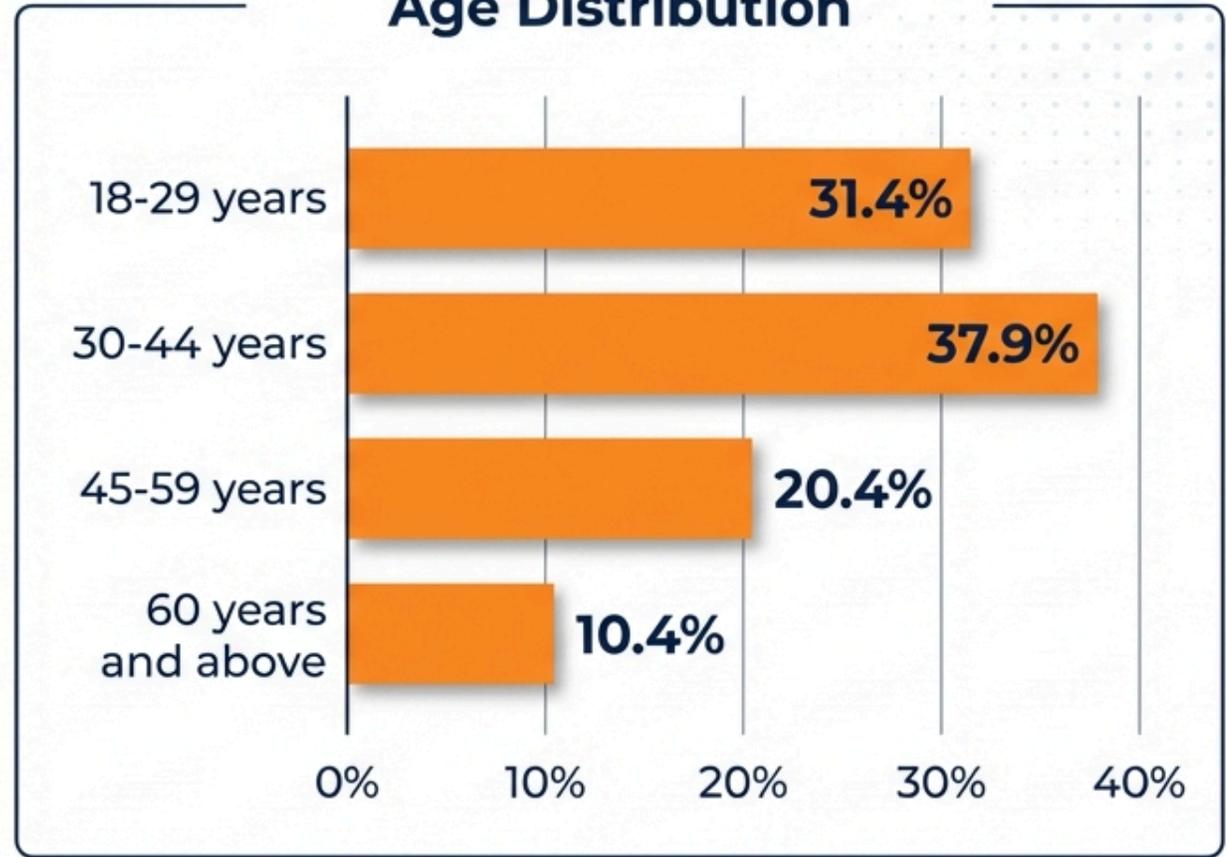


Demographic Characteristics: Gender and Age

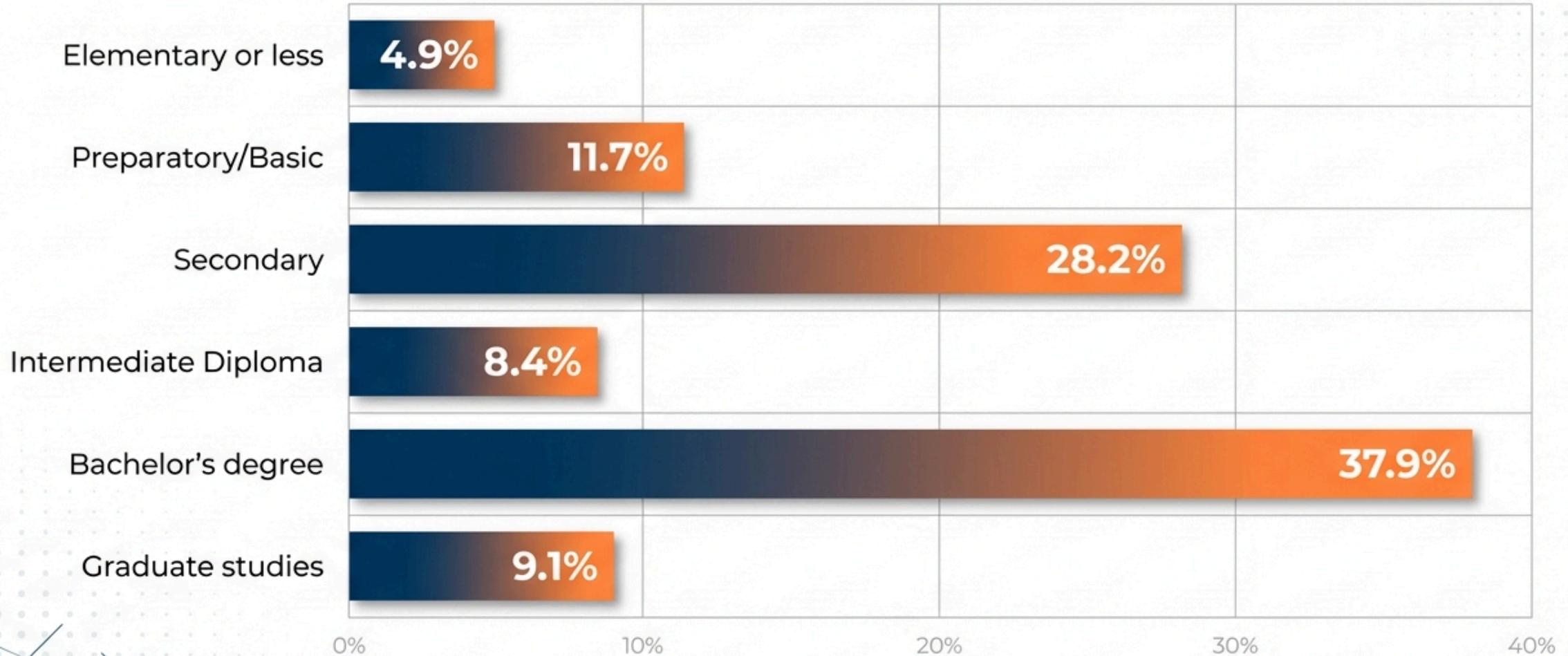
Gender Distribution



Age Distribution



Demographic Characteristics: Educational Level



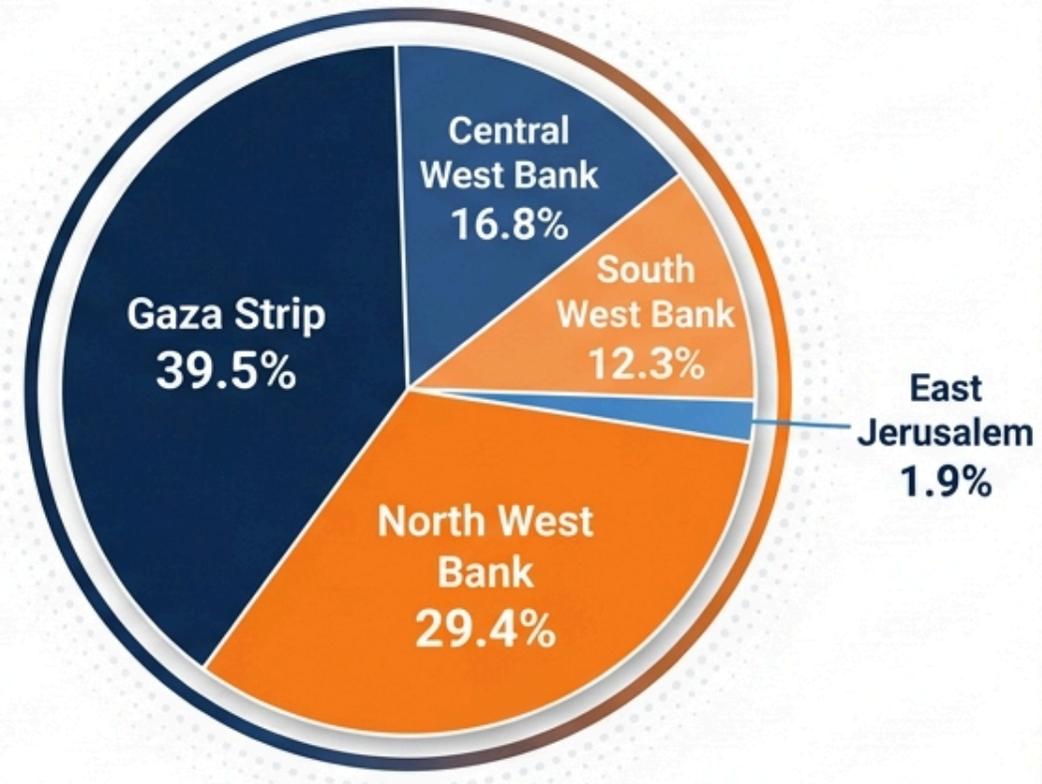


Demographic Characteristics: Residence and Geography

Place of Residence

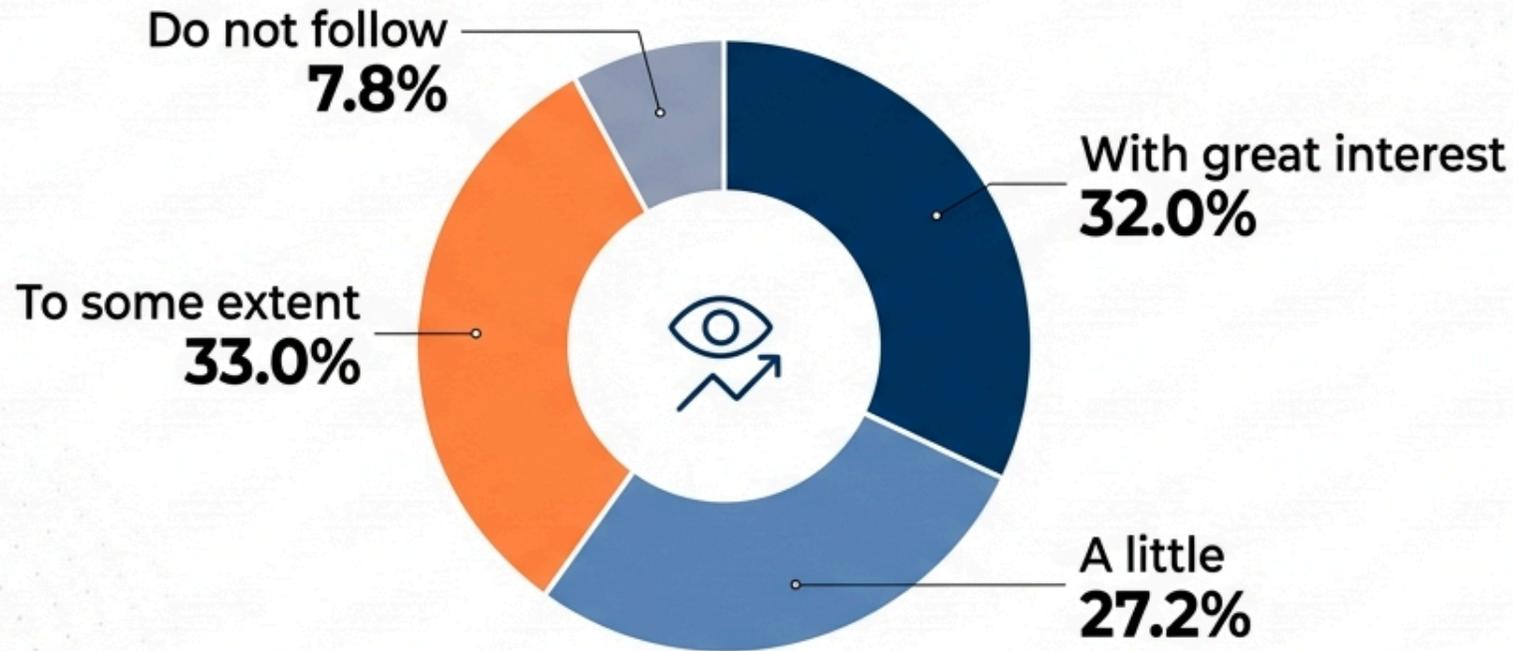


Geographic Distribution



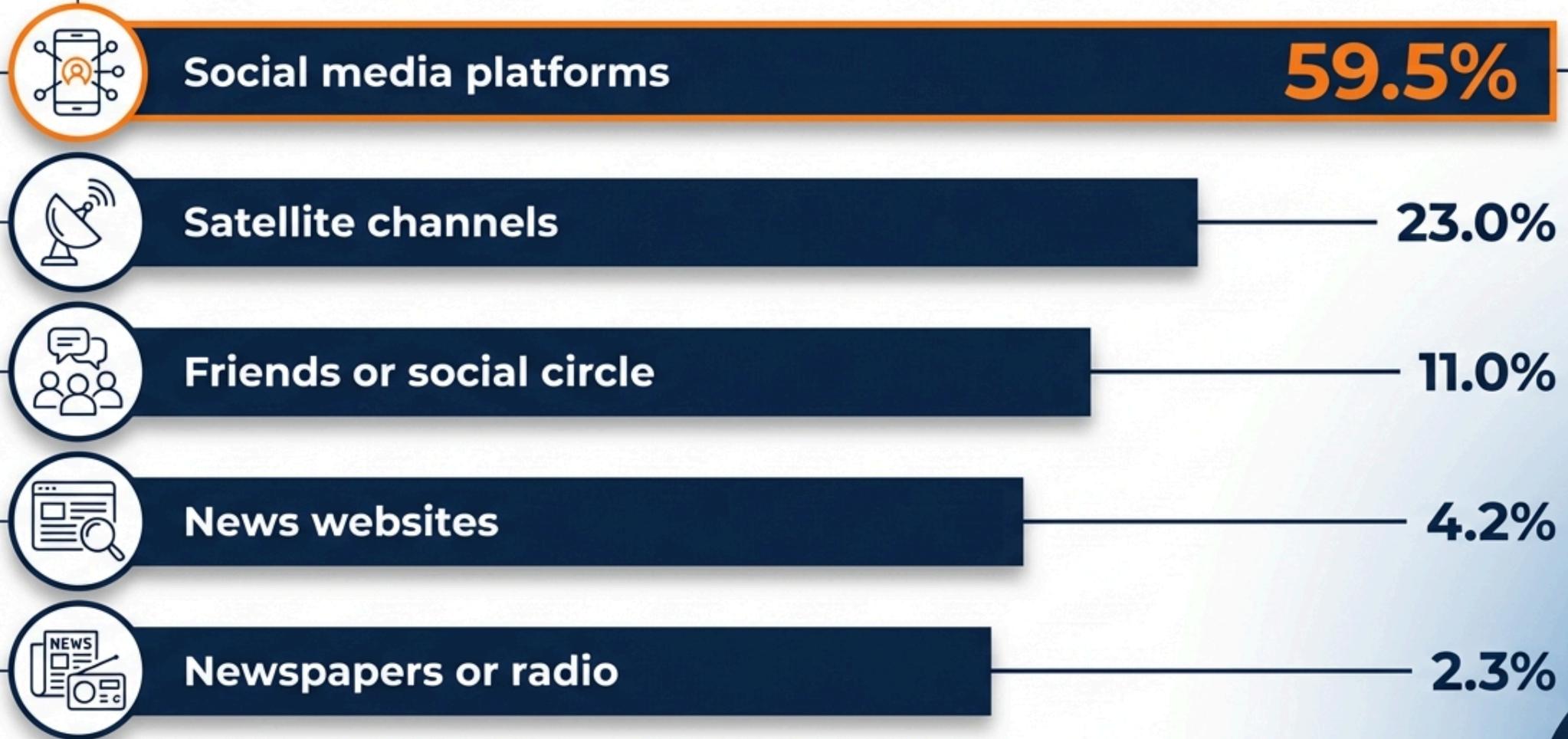
Level of Following the War

To what extent do you follow the war or military tension between Iran, Israel, and the United States?



65.0% follow developments to a large or medium degree, reflecting high popular attention to regional events.

Main News Sources



These results reflect a clear shift in patterns of receiving political information, where digital platforms have become the most present source in shaping daily awareness of events.

Responsibility for War Outbreak

Which party bears the main responsibility for the outbreak of war or military escalation in the region?



These results indicate that the majority does not view the crisis as a unilateral act, but interprets it within an escalatory context involving multiple parties and interests.



Main Goal of the War

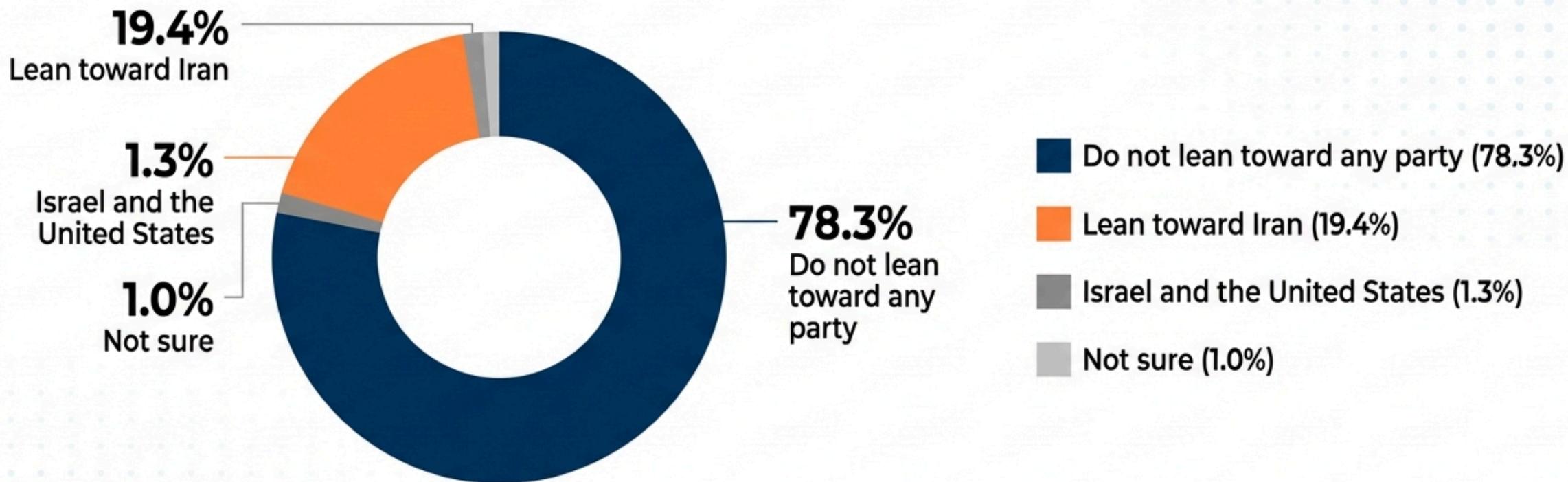
What is the main goal of this war?



This indicates that public opinion tends to read the war within the framework of broader geopolitical competition rather than as a limited localized confrontation.

Political Leaning in the Conflict

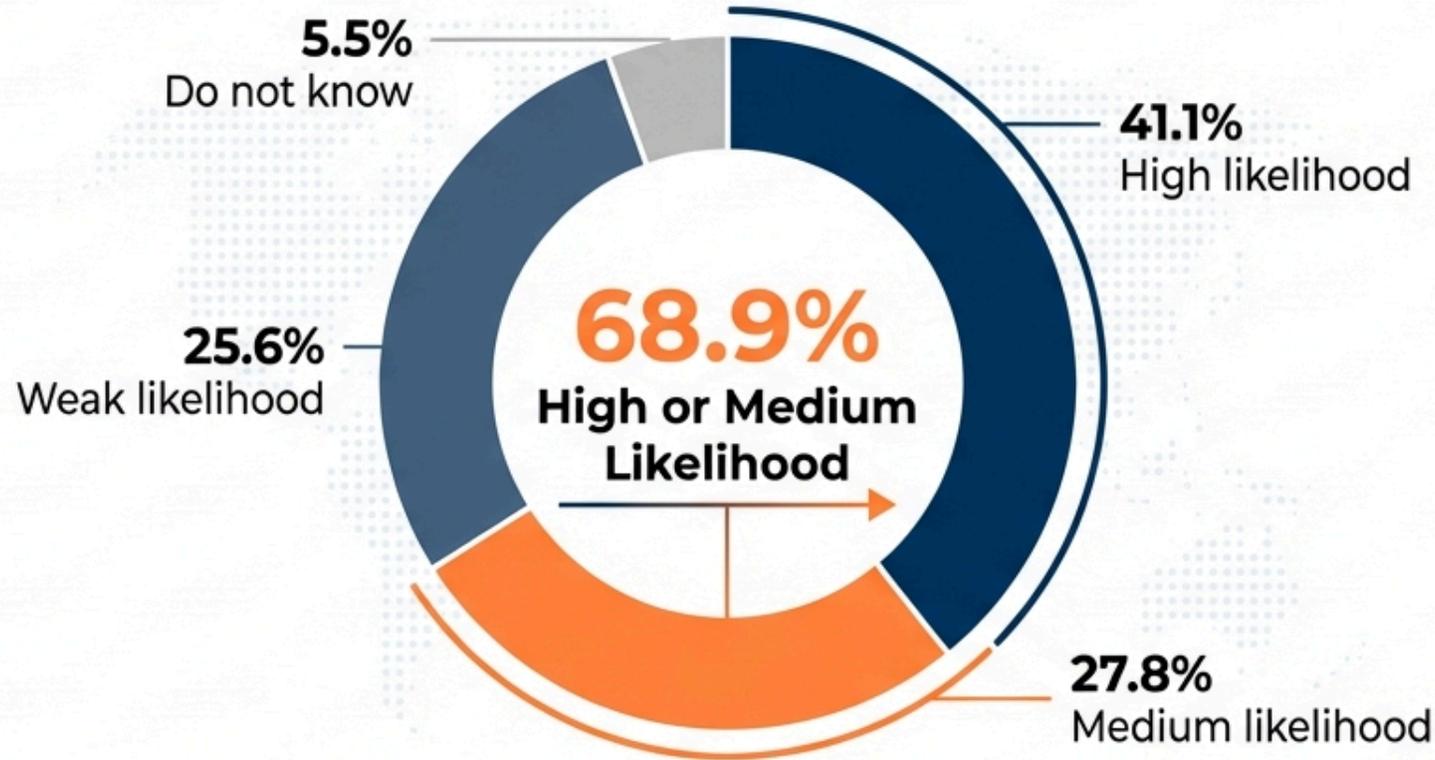
If the war continues, which party do you lean toward?



This result reveals a strong tendency toward neutrality, especially given the prevailing awareness that the cost of war exceeds the boundaries of the fighting parties.

Likelihood of War Expansion

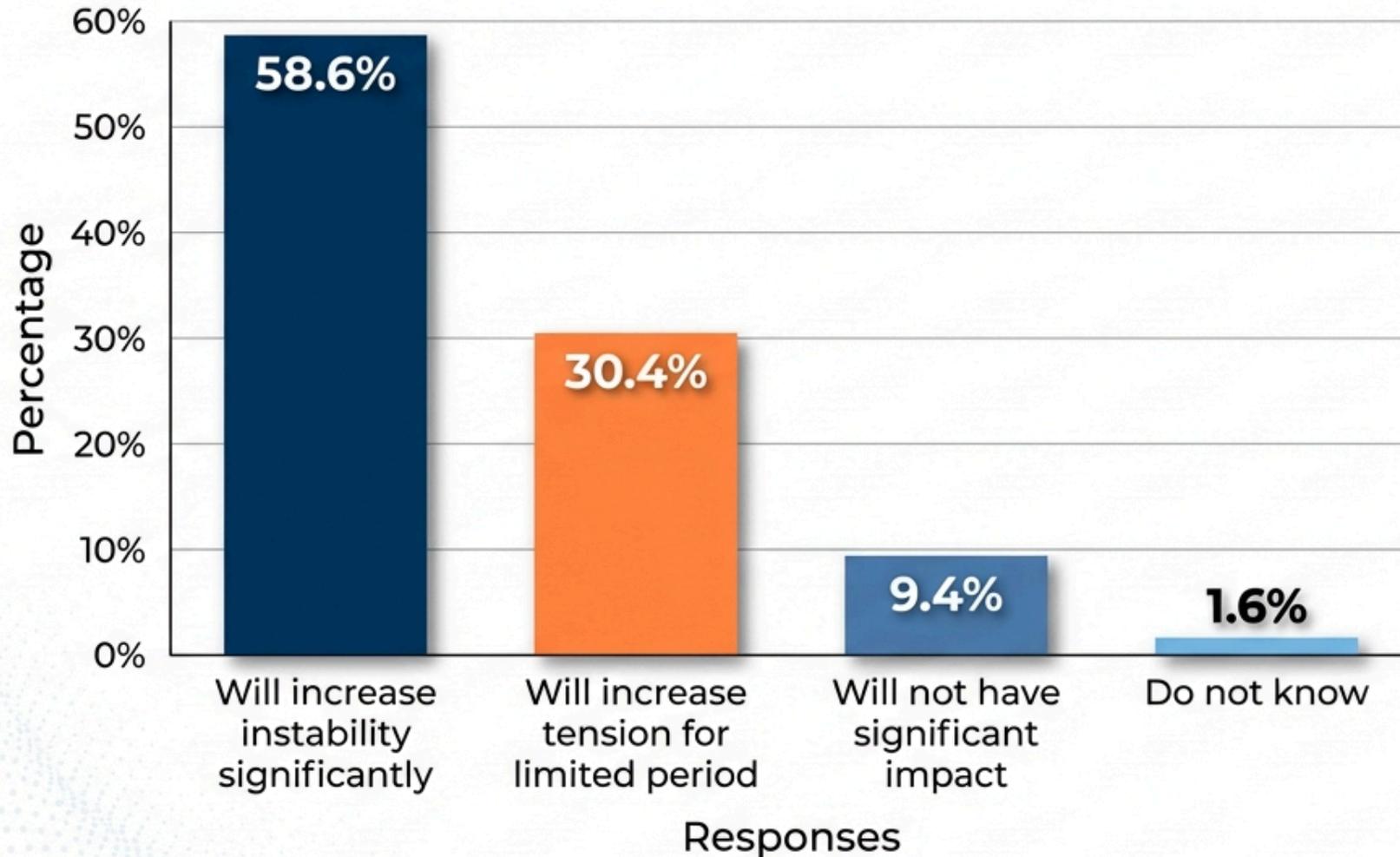
What is the likelihood that the war will expand to include other countries in the region?



Analysis: A majority of **68.9%** see high or medium likelihood of expanding war scope, reflecting elevated popular concern about conflict moving to broader regional levels.

Impact on Middle East Stability

Question: What is the impact of the war on stability in the Middle East?



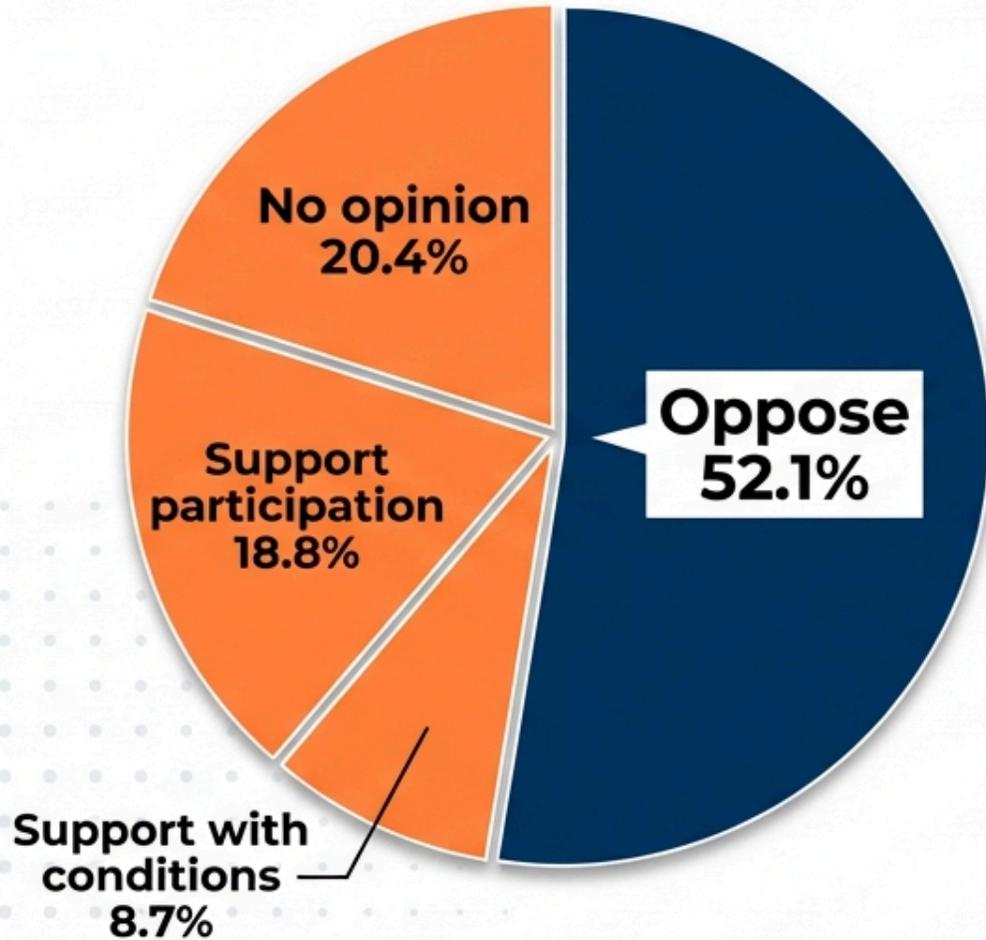
Analysis:

General assessment is predominantly pessimistic, war understood as additional factor deepening region's fragility.



POSITION ON HEZBOLLAH PARTICIPATION

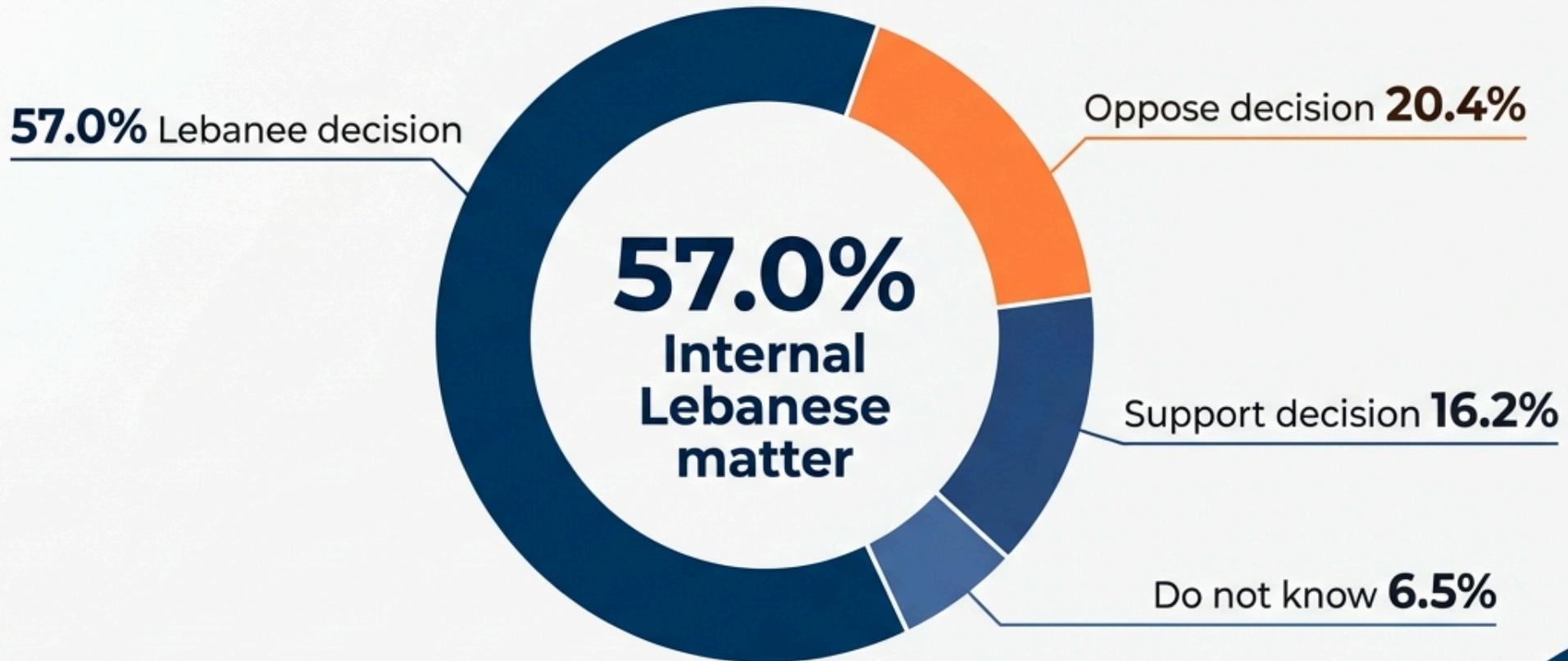
Question: “What is your position on Hezbollah’s participation in the war?”



ANALYSIS: Opposition clearly exceeds support, but coexists with **space of hesitation** and **lack of decisiveness.**

Lebanese Government Decision on Hezbollah

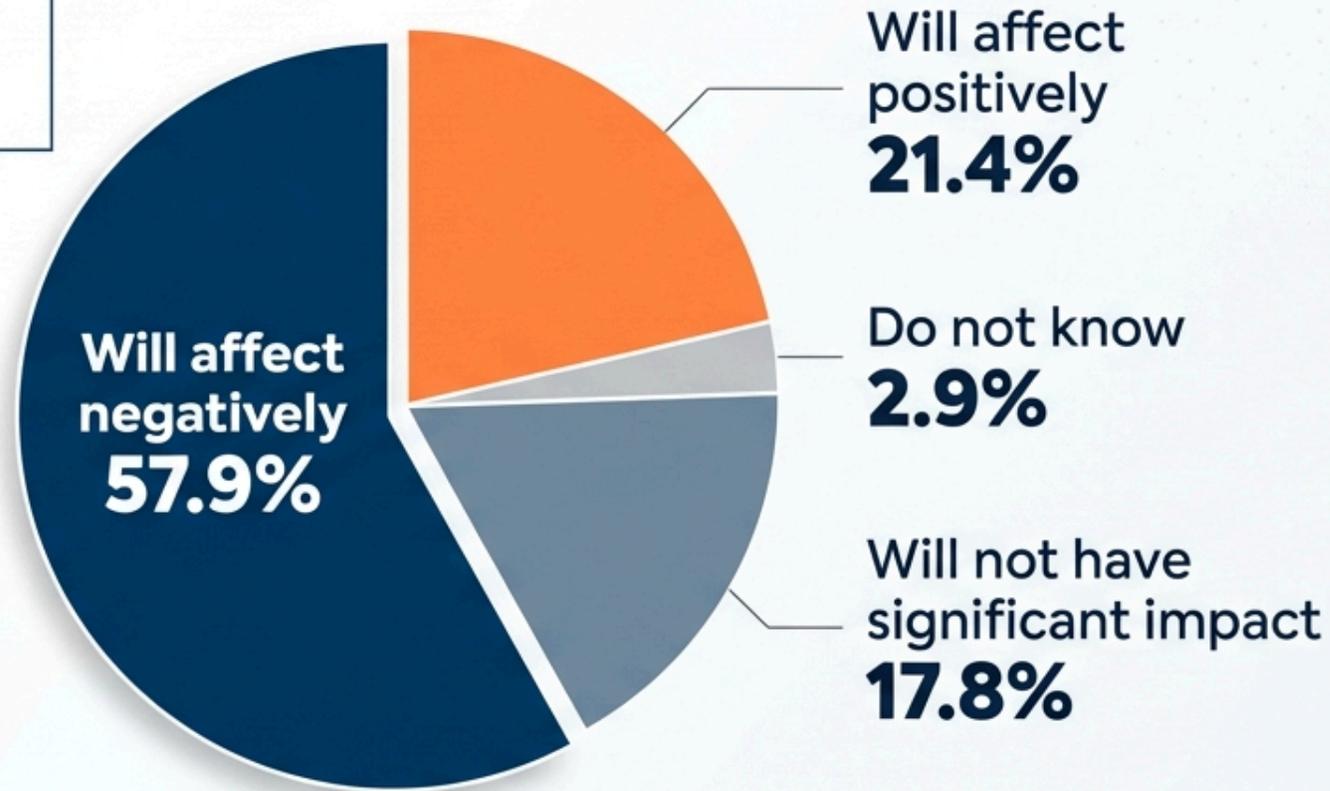
Question: “What is your position on the Lebanese government's decision considering Hezbollah's military wing outside the framework of state legal legitimacy?”



Analysis: Majority prefers to deal with issue as **internal sovereign file** rather than regional political issue subject to external judgment.

Impact on Palestinian Cause

Will the results of the war affect the future of the Palestinian cause?



Analysis:

Negative view dominates general assessments, reflecting fear that regional escalation will reflect on declining priority of Palestinian cause.

Question: "Can this war lead to changing the balance of power in the region to serve the Palestinian cause?"



Analysis:

Close division between skepticism and possibility, with slight tendency toward having margin of waiting and anticipation rather than definitive resolution.

Impact on Palestinian Economic and Political Conditions

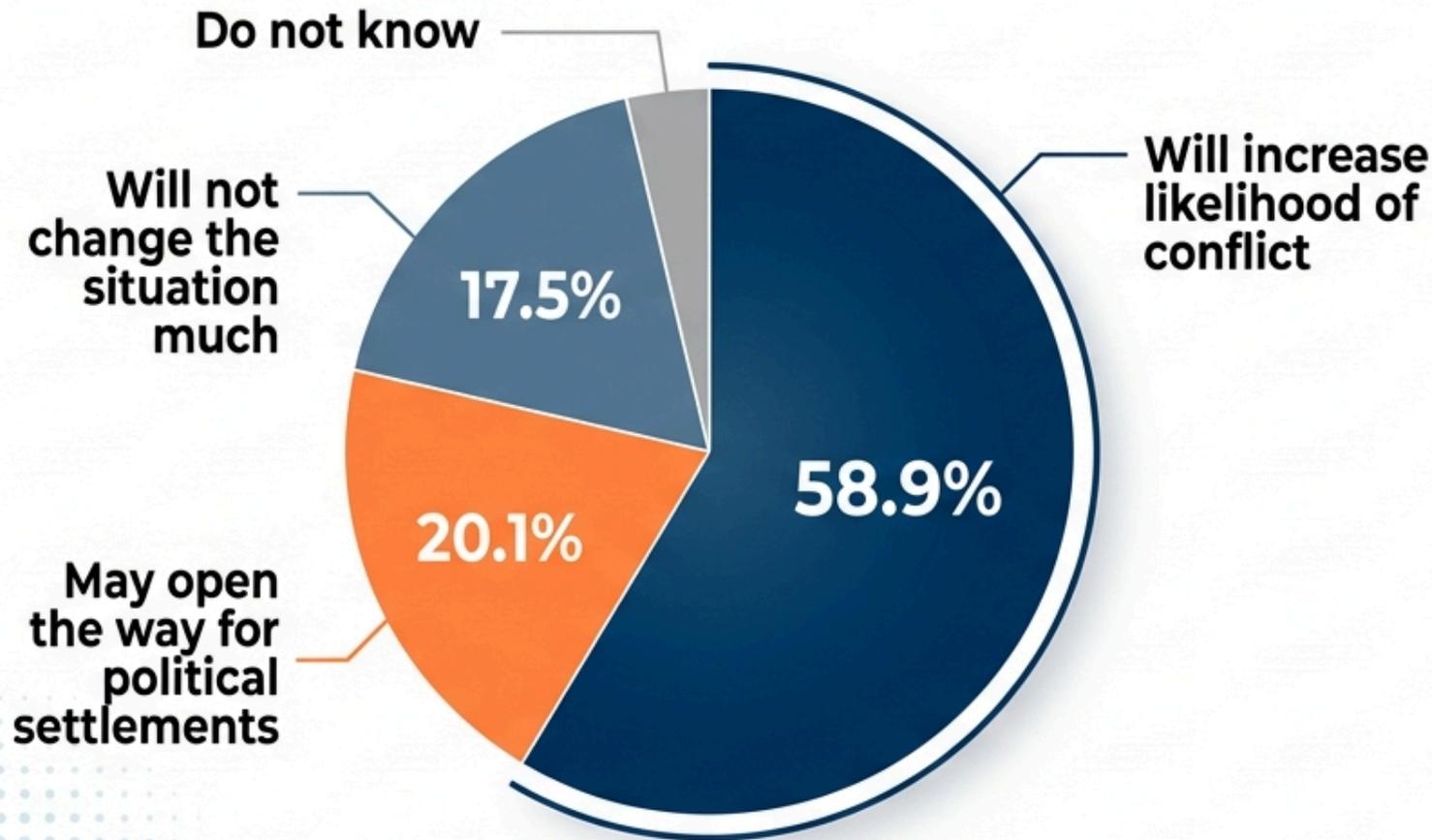
What is the impact of the war on the economic and political conditions of Palestinians?



Analysis: This is one of the clearest results in the survey, revealing widespread awareness that the Palestinian cost of war will be high, especially at the economic and political levels.

War: Peace or More Conflict

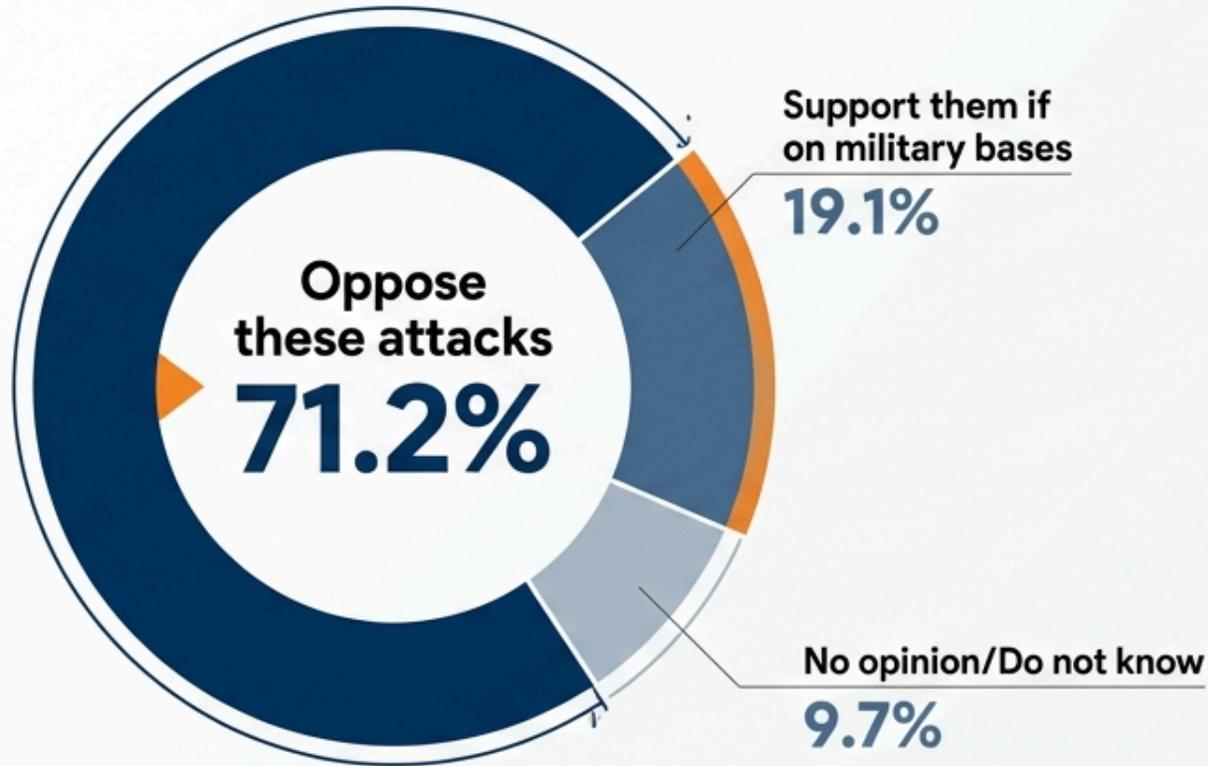
Question: "Will the war bring the region closer to peace or increase the likelihood of conflict?"



Analysis:

Palestinian public opinion does not see the war as a natural path toward settlement, but rather closer to a factor for entrenching tension and instability.

Iranian Attacks on Gulf States



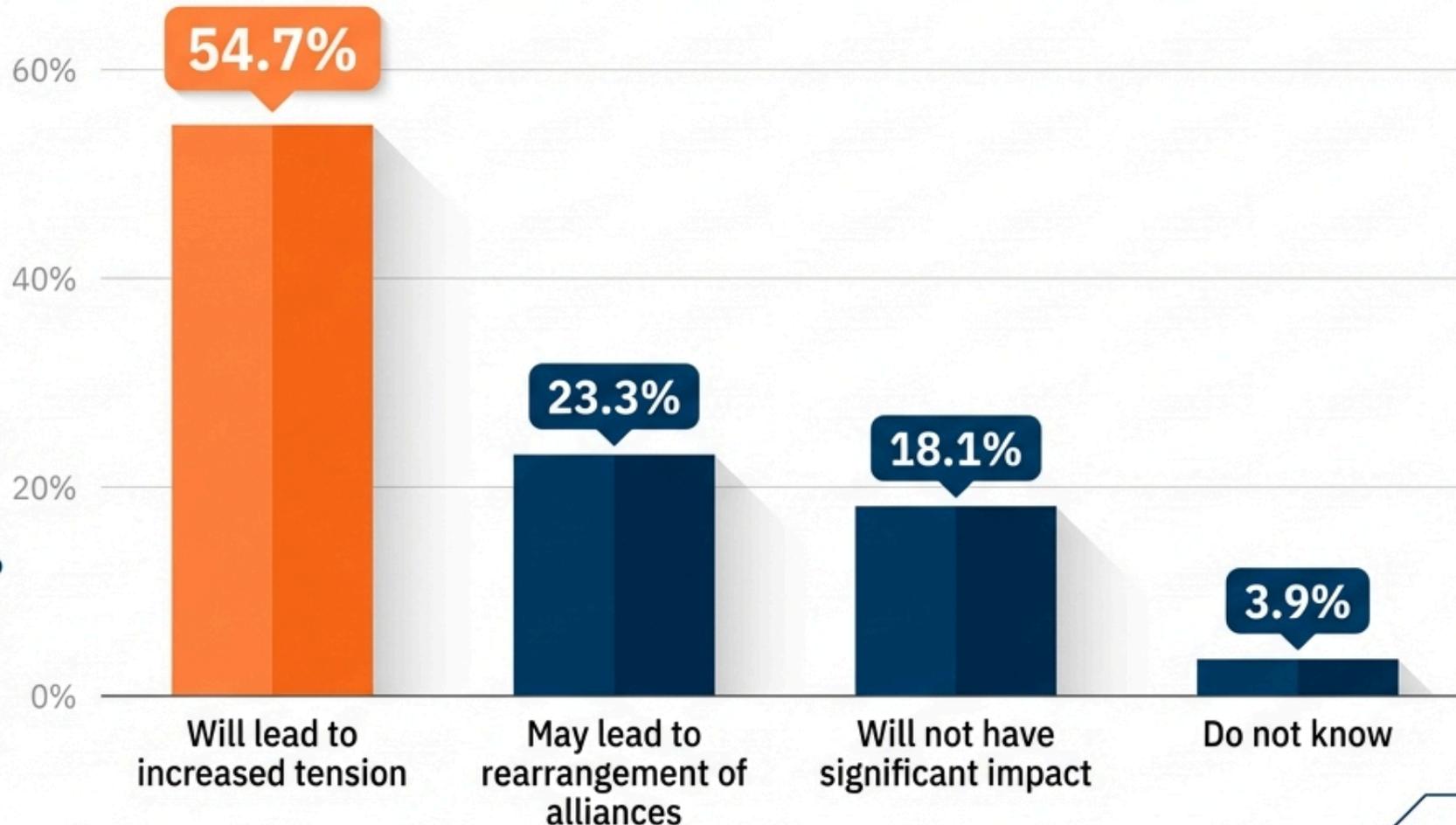
Question: “What is your position on Iranian missile and drone attacks targeting some “Gulf states in the context of regional conflict?”

Analysis:

These numbers indicate widespread rejection of expanding engagement arenas toward the Gulf, with its threat to general Arab stability.

Gulf Developments Impact on Arab Stability

Question: “What is the impact of these developments in Gulf countries on stability in the Arab region?”



Analysis: “A view emerges that considers the Gulf not a margin in this conflict, but an arena where an important part of the shape of the coming region may be determined.”

US-Iran Peace Scenario

Question: “Regarding US President Donald Trump’s statement that the United States is ready for peace with Iran if Iranian leadership appears that accepts normal relations – do you think this is possible?”

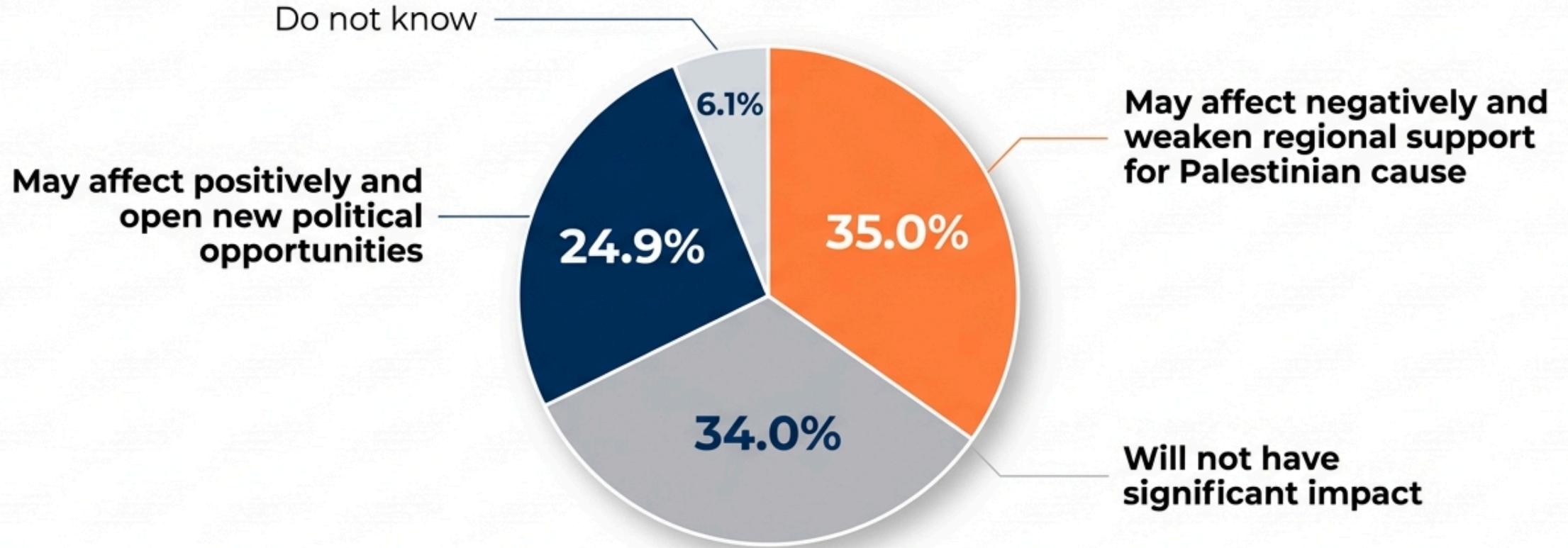


Analysis

The public is divided between exclusion and possibility, but leans more toward skepticism that this scenario will materialize soon.

Impact of Iran-US-Israel Peace on Palestine

Question: If any peace or rapprochement occurs between Iran, the United States, and Israel, what is its impact on the Palestinian cause?



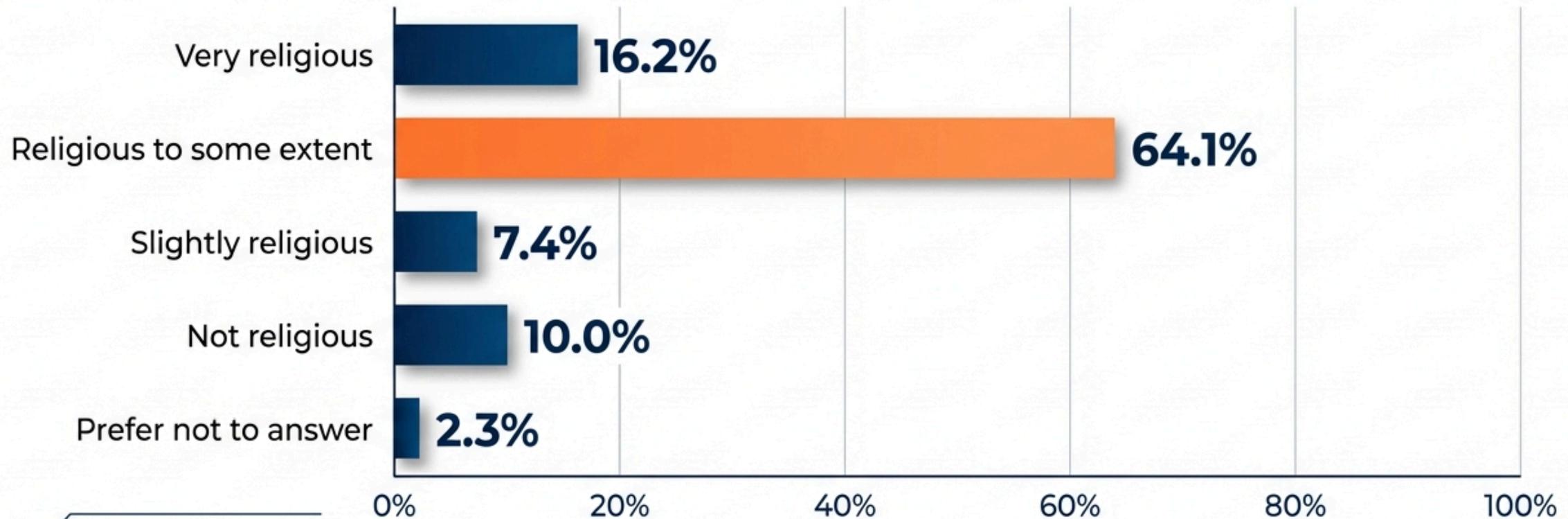
Analysis: This result reveals a largely reserved view, where the majority does not appear **convinced** that any rapprochement of this kind will automatically serve Palestinian interests.



Level of Religiosity



How would you describe your level of religiosity?



This result indicates that the overwhelming majority, 80.3%, place themselves within high or medium levels of religiosity.

Analytical Conclusion



Dr. Nabil Kukali

Founder & President, PCPO

Dr. Nabil Kukali, founder and president of the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO), stated that the survey results reveal a Palestinian public opinion characterized by political realism and caution rather than alignment in the regional conflict. Despite widespread monitoring of the tension between Iran, Israel, and the United States, the majority of citizens tend toward neutrality and alignment, with clear focus on the potential repercussions of war on the region.

Dr. Kukali added that the results also reflect notable concern about the potential economic and political effects of military escalation on Palestinians and regional stability.

He pointed out that public opinion deals with these developments with the logic of strategic caution, aware that major regional conflicts often transcend their direct parties to affect the balance of power and stability in the Middle East and the future of the Palestinian cause.