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Arab Public Opinion and Democracy Promotion Policy

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A presentation to POMED
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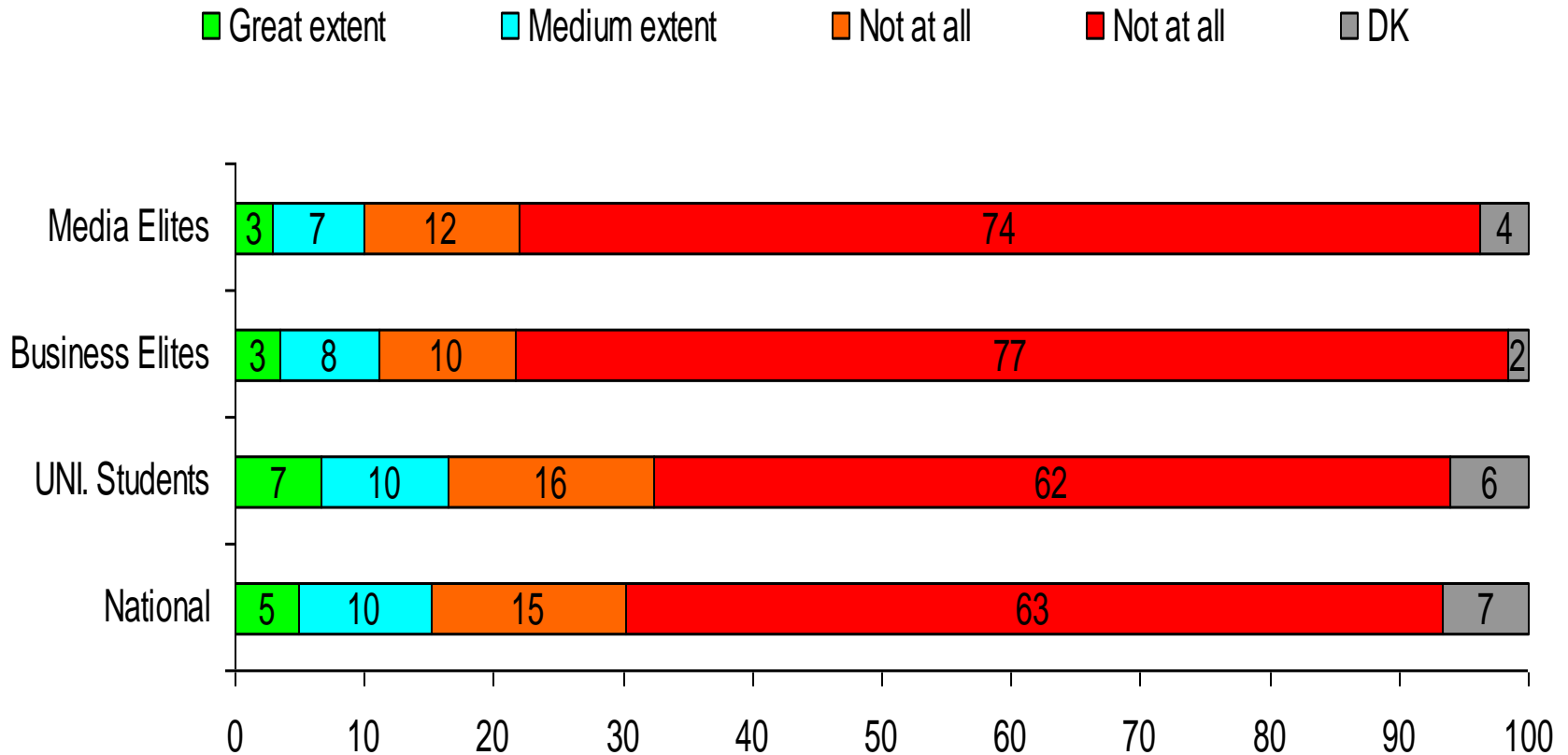
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Questions

- Do Middle Easterners believe the U.S. sincerely supports democratic reform?
- Do Middle Easterners perceive that in practice, the U.S. acts as a positive or negative force for democratic reform in the Middle East?
- What types of policies and programs (if any) do Middle Easterners perceive as permissible and legitimate ways for the U.S. to impact political reform?

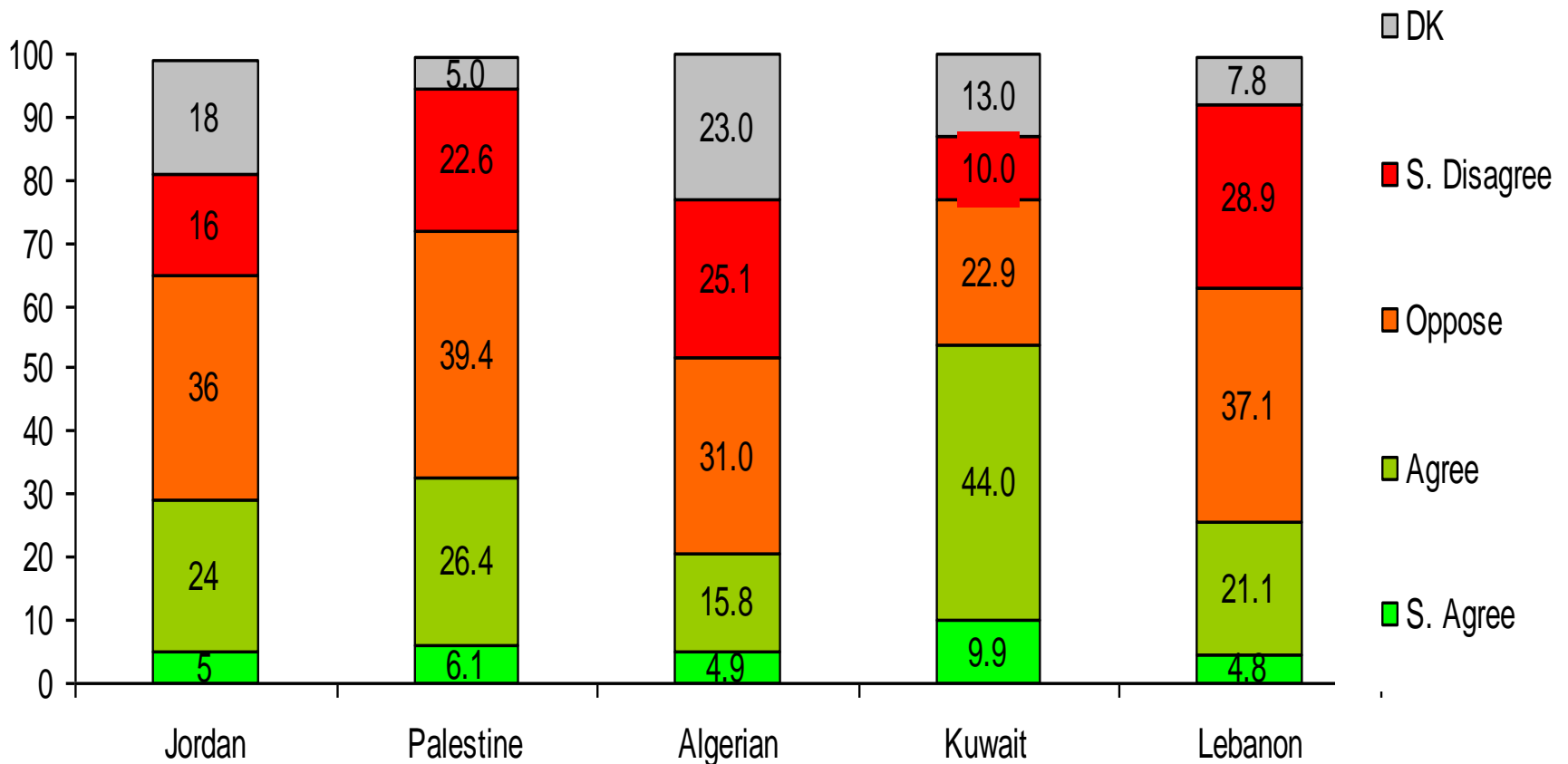
To what extent do you think the U.S. will succeed in turning Iraq to a model of democracy for the region?

US Sincere in democracy promotion?

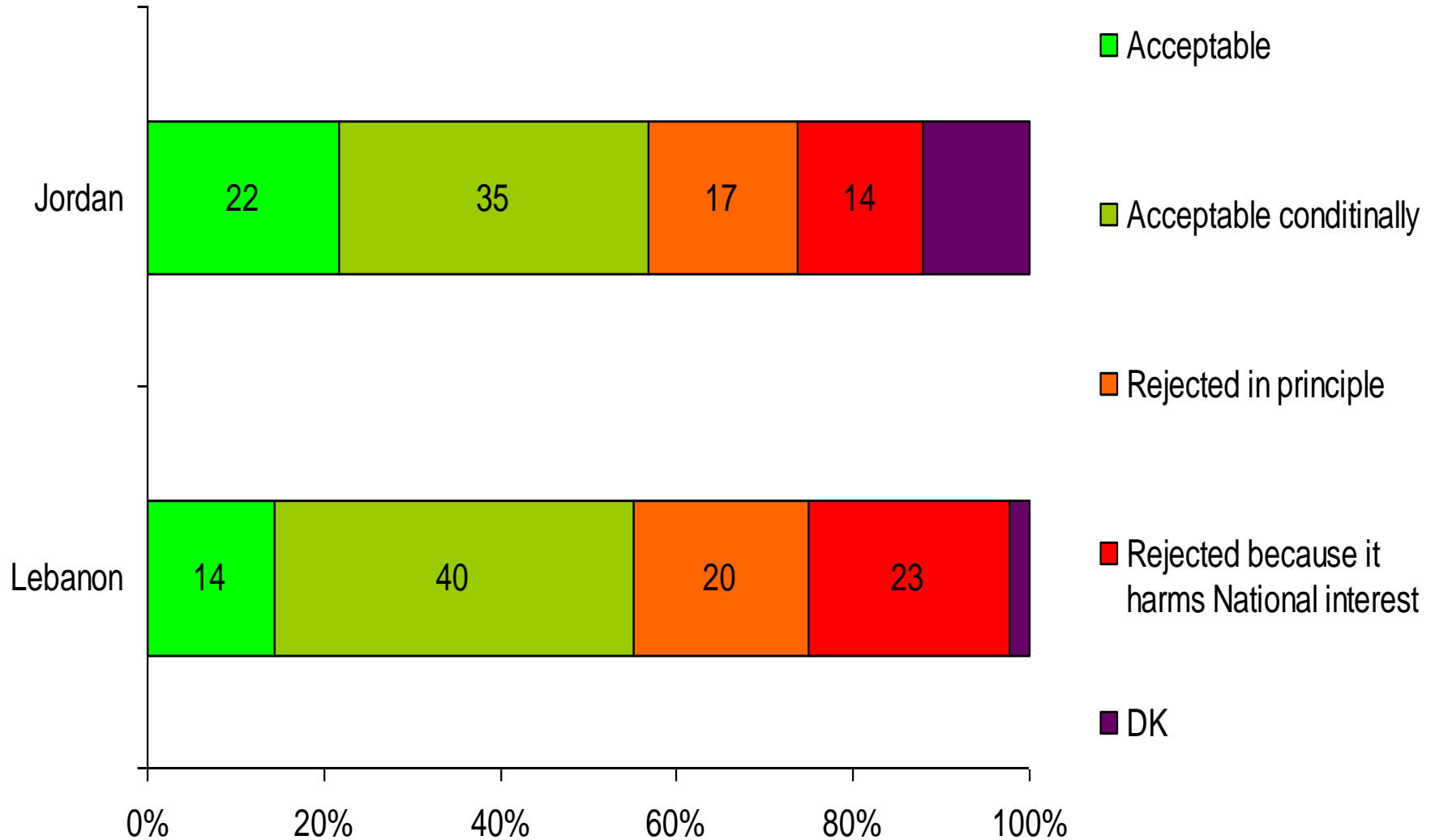


Evaluation of U.S. democracy promotion policy!

To what extent do agree or disagree with the following statement: "The US has been successful in promoting democracy despite its intentions"

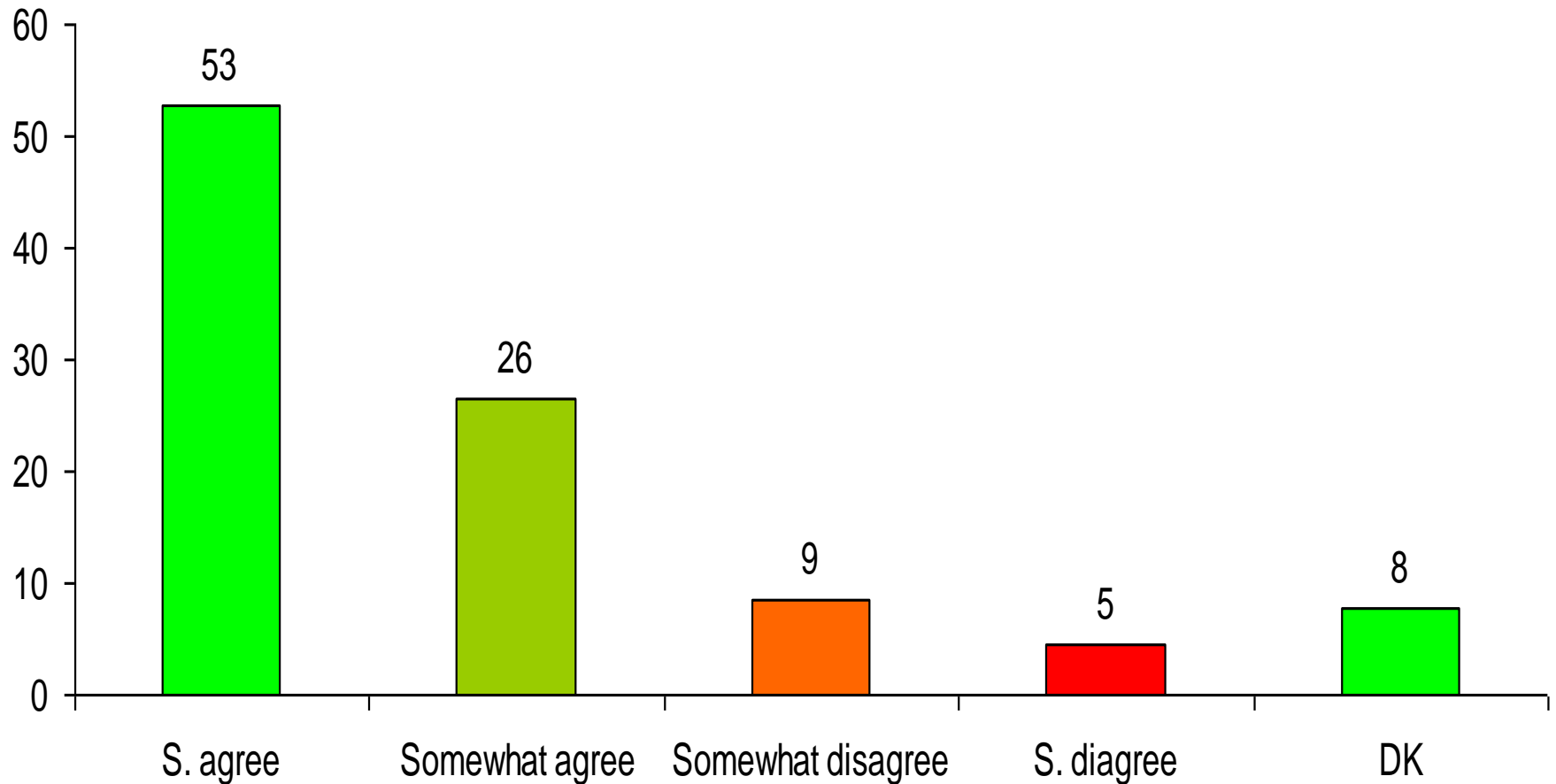


External demand for reform:



Demand not intervention!

External intervention is an obstacle to reform in Jordan



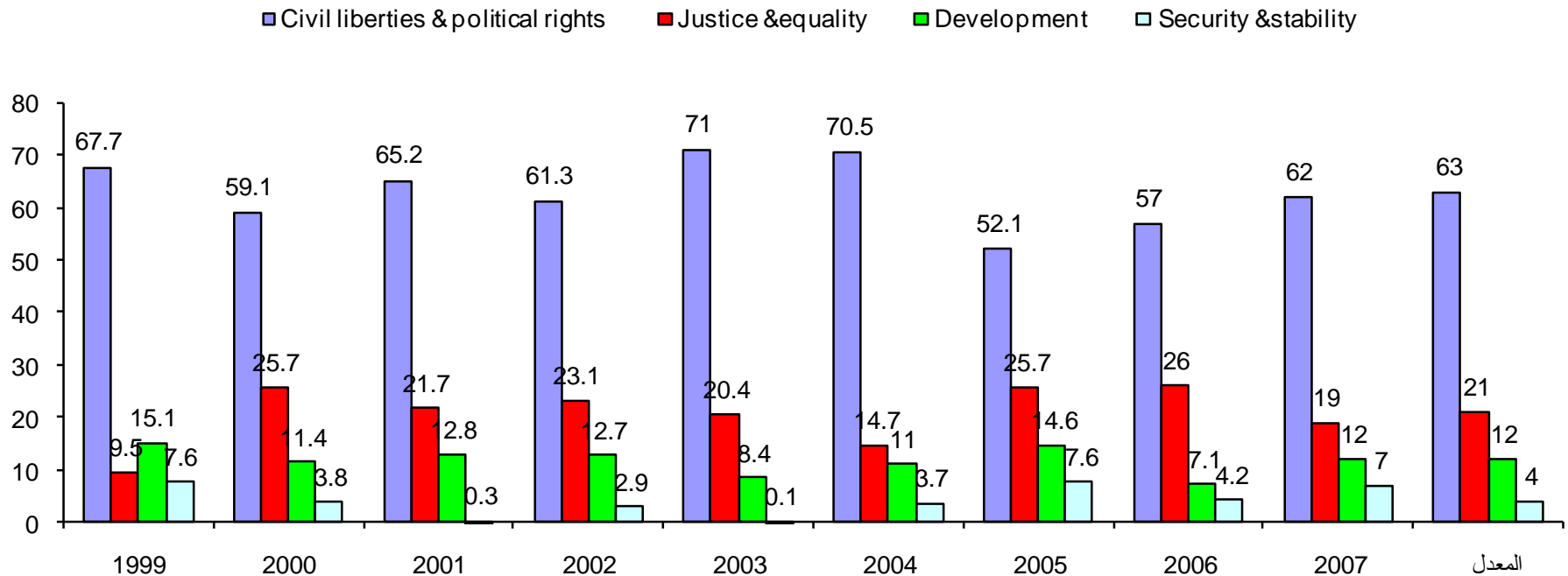
Frame of reference

- Arab-Israeli conflict – Bush discourse
- Iraq
- Support for authoritarianism
- Shy and weak diplomatic support
- Militarization of – strong states versus weak societies

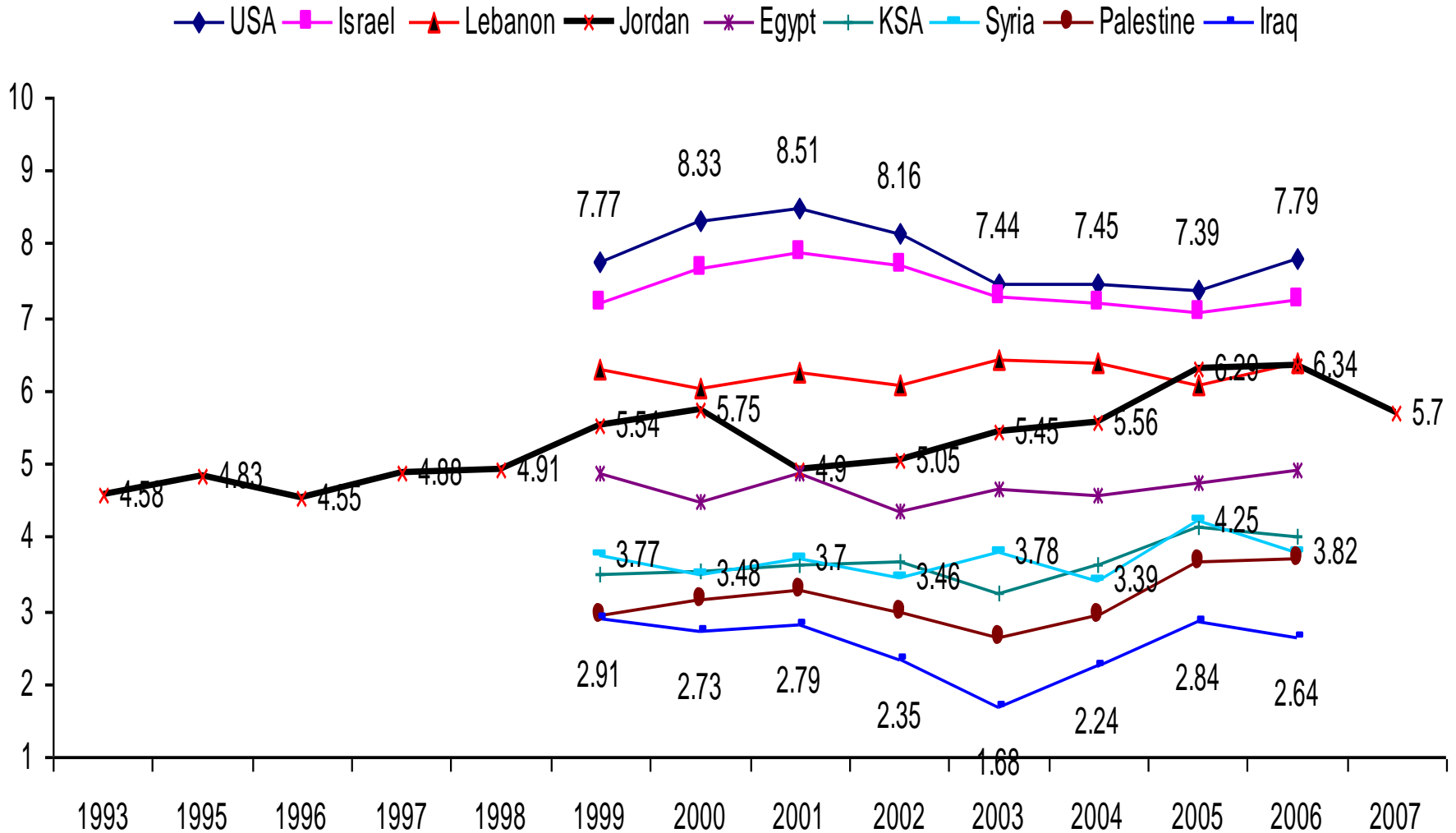
What do Arabs mean by
Democracy?

Knowledge of Politics

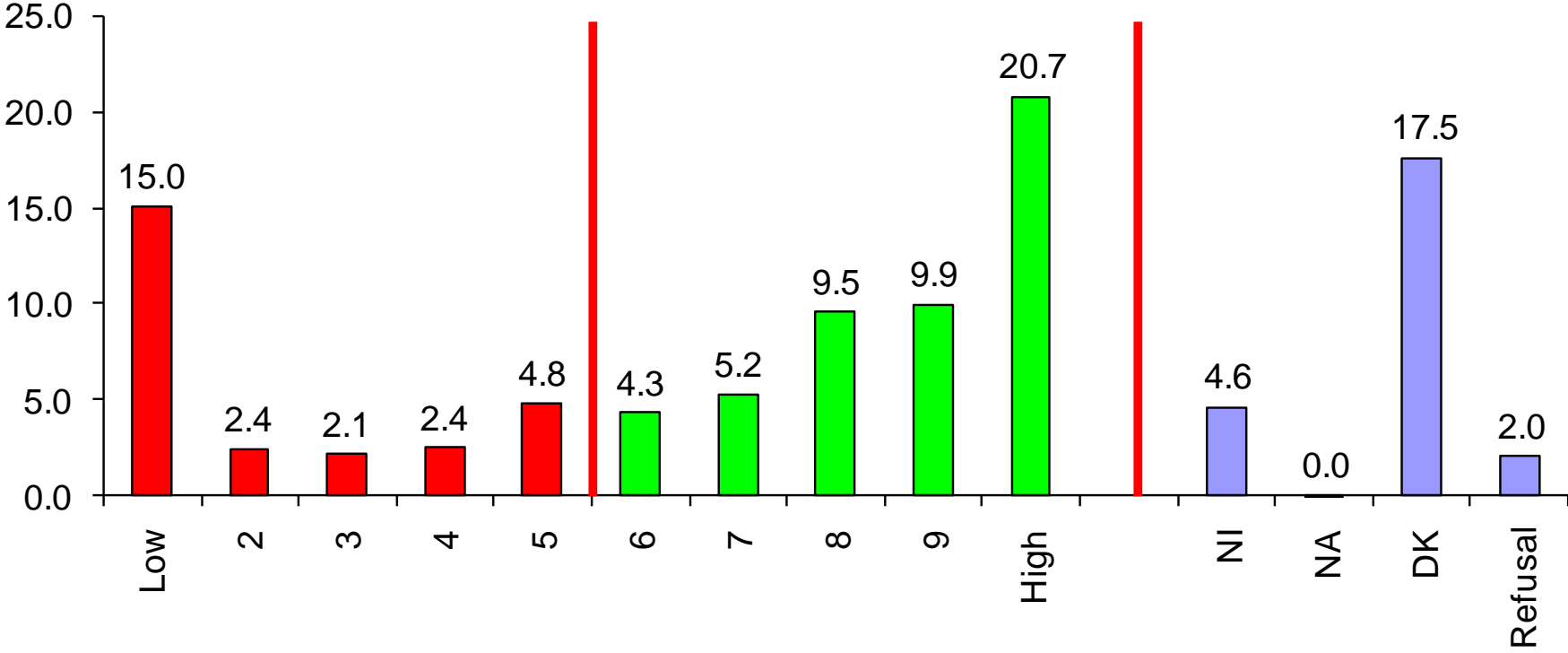
what do Arabs mean by “democracy”?



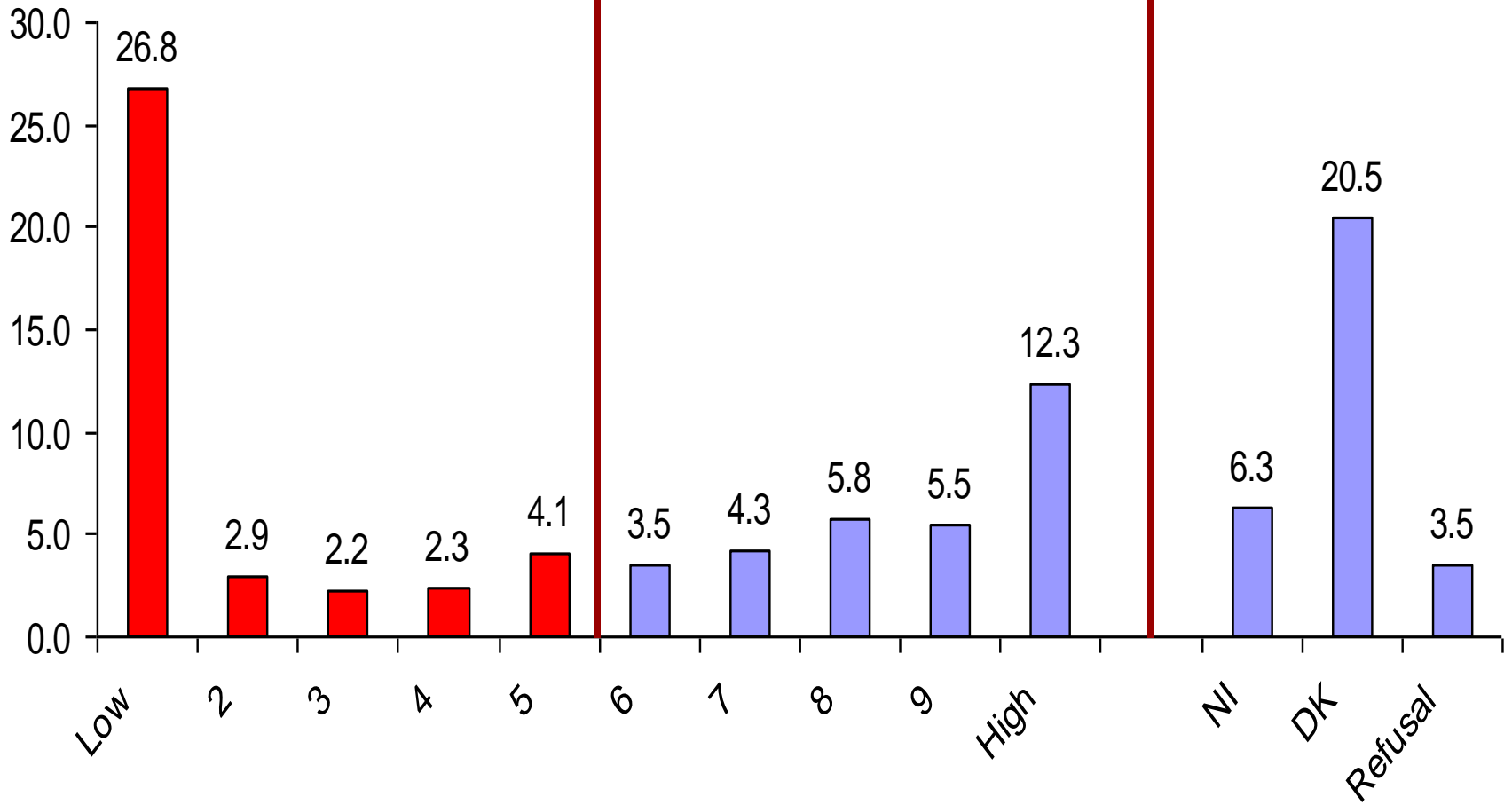
Are they consistent?



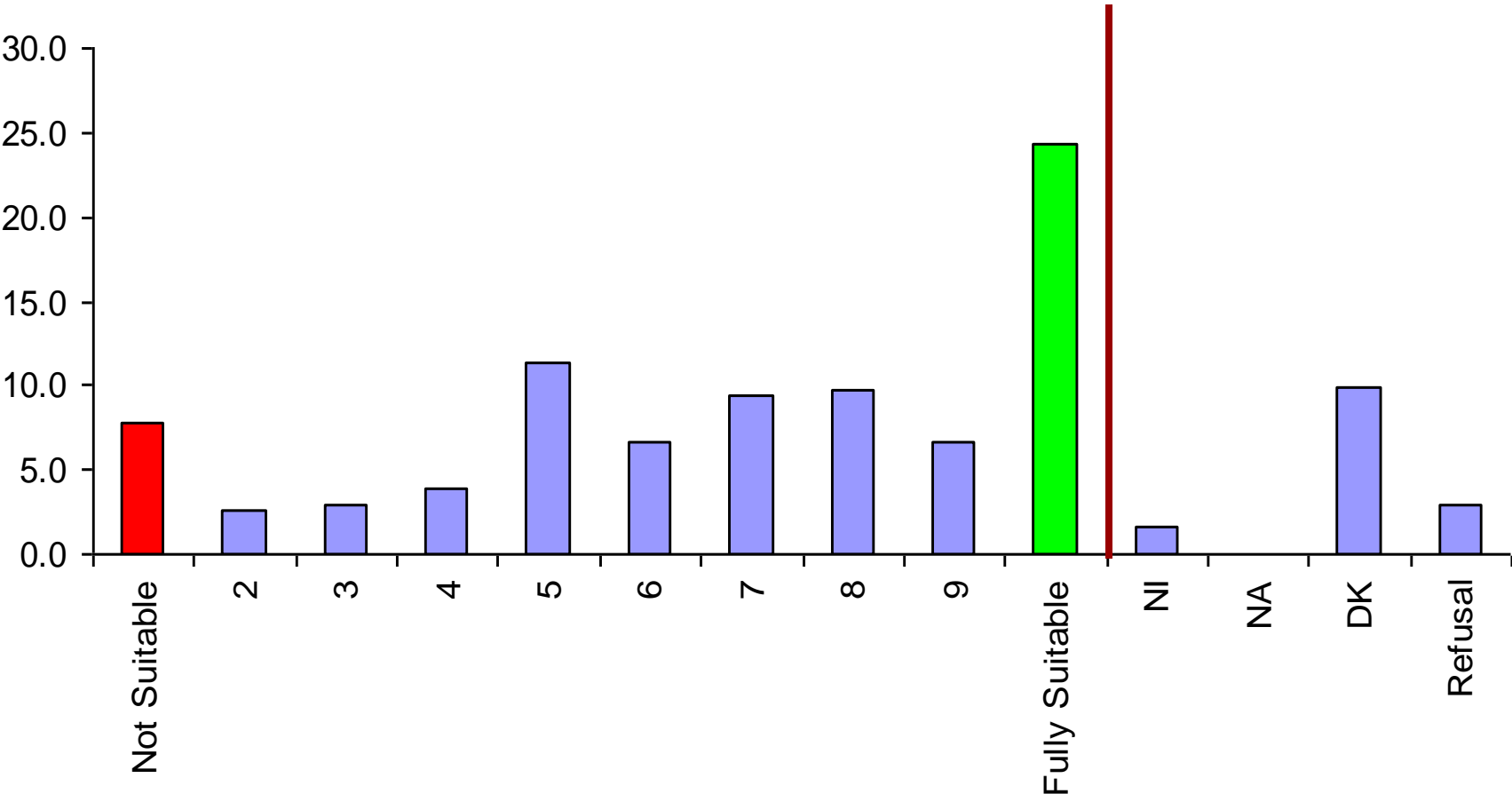
Arab Perceptions of the Level of democracy in the US



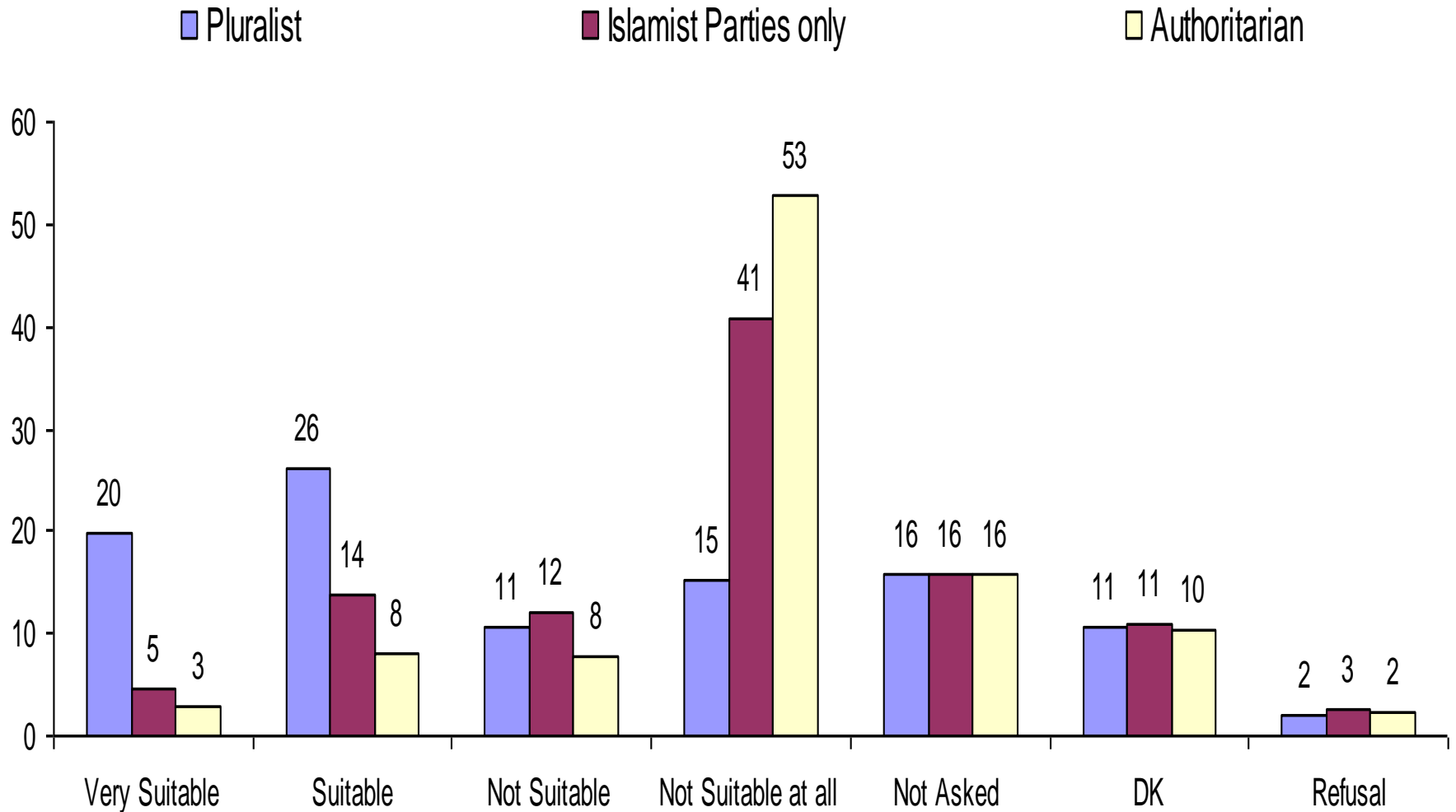
Arab Perceptions of the Level of Democracy in Israel



Attitudes towards democracy: 7 countries

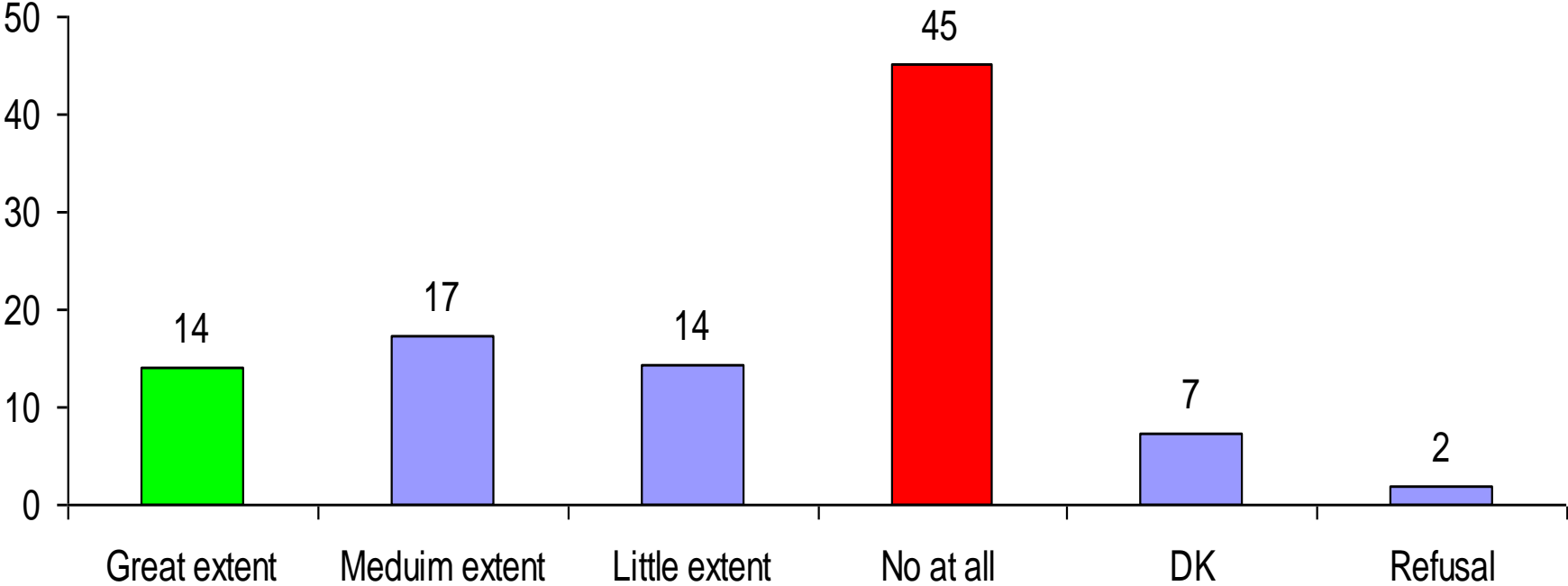


System preference



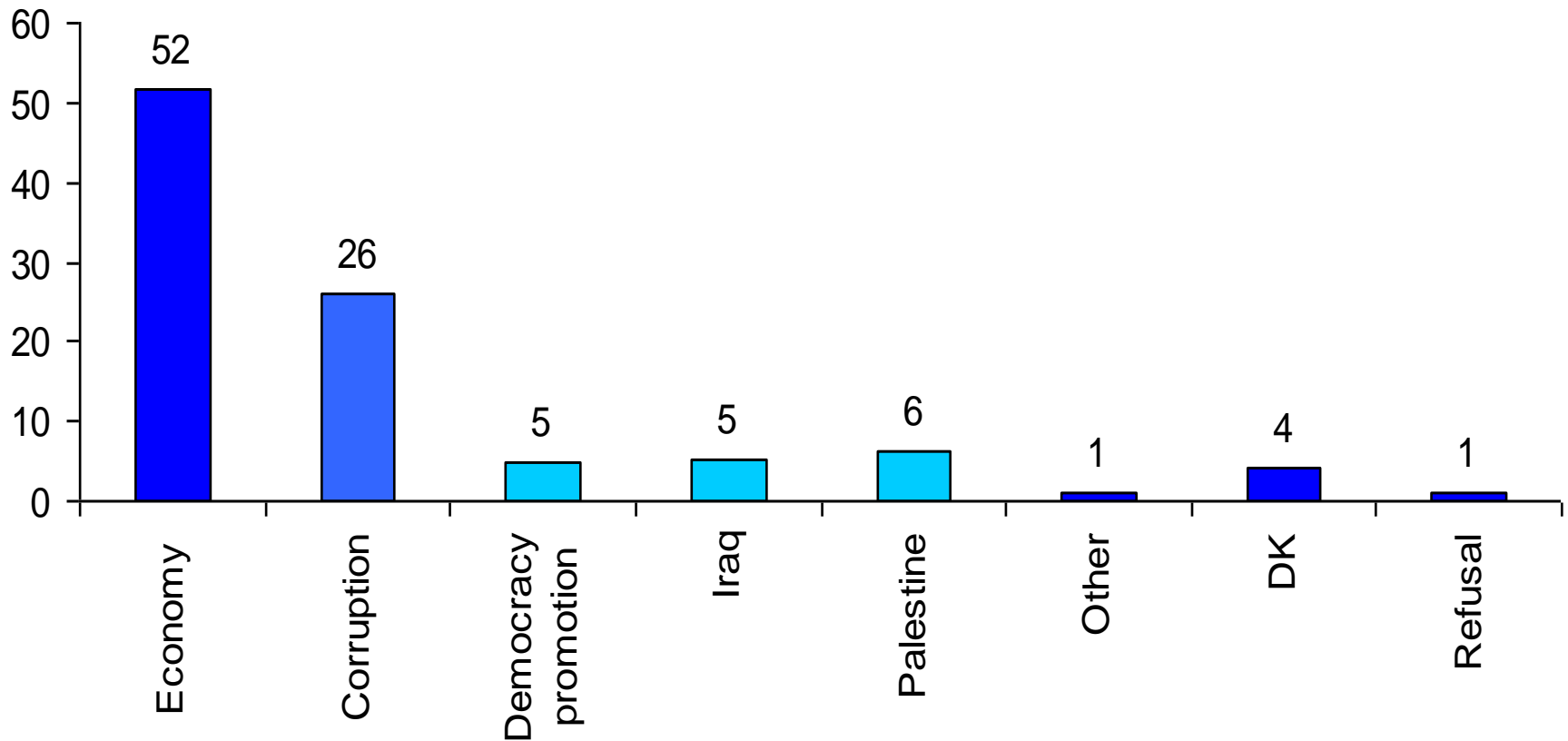
Security and Human Rights

To what extent do you think sacrificing human rights for security is justifiable?



Challenges and the Dilemma of prioritizing

What is the most important challenge facing your country today



What should be the policy focus?

- Economic development or democracy?
 - Which comes first?
- Track-records and responsibility
 - Economy, failing states?
 - Who is to be held accountable?
 - Fragmented demand due to state-dependent labor
 - Predicament of the private sector – but it will come to a point of “expression of interests”