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مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية  
Arab World For Research & Development

# **Democracy Promotion: A Shift in Paradigm (Development, Justice and Respect)**

**Nader Said**

**POMED, May 2008**

# Contextual Basics

## U.S. Side

- **Rise of Neo-Conservatives in Politics**
- **Caught Between Moralistic and Realist Approaches**
- **Contradictions and Double Standards in Implementation (Internationally & Regionally)**
- **Anti- Muslim Statements & Actions**
- **Larger Allocations for (Democracy Promotion) Programs**
- **Ever - More Restrictive Regulations on Implementing Agencies (ATC, Vetting, etc.)**

# Arab Side

- **Israeli Occupation, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan**
- **Arab Oil and Markets**
- **Failing Stories (No Real Changes in Arab Regimes)**
- **Regimes and Window – Dressing (A Crisis of Credibility)**
- **Weak Indigenous Democratic Groups- Civil Society: Embarrassing Out the Real Democrats and Luring in the Funding Brokers**
- **Increasing Developmental Crisis (Poverty, Unemployment, Illiteracy)**
- **Youth and the Future (Insecurity, Vulnerability, Absence of Role-Models, Self-Defense)**
- **Reactionary and Conflicting Identities (The Other and Me: Blurred Boundaries)**
- **Fundamentalism Vs. Fundamentalism**

# Popular Side

**Arab Street:  
Disappointed  
But**

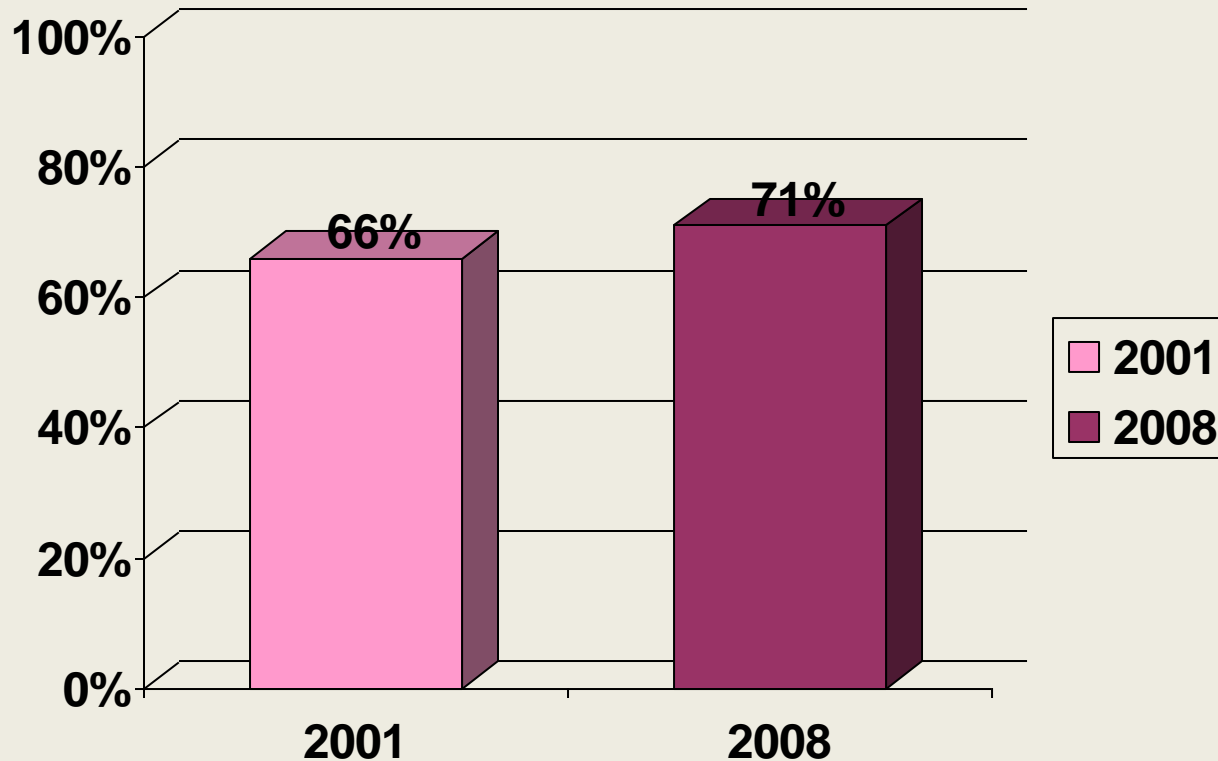
**No Question About Support for  
Democracy – Secularism Within an  
Islamic Society**

**(If you Ask the Right Questions)**

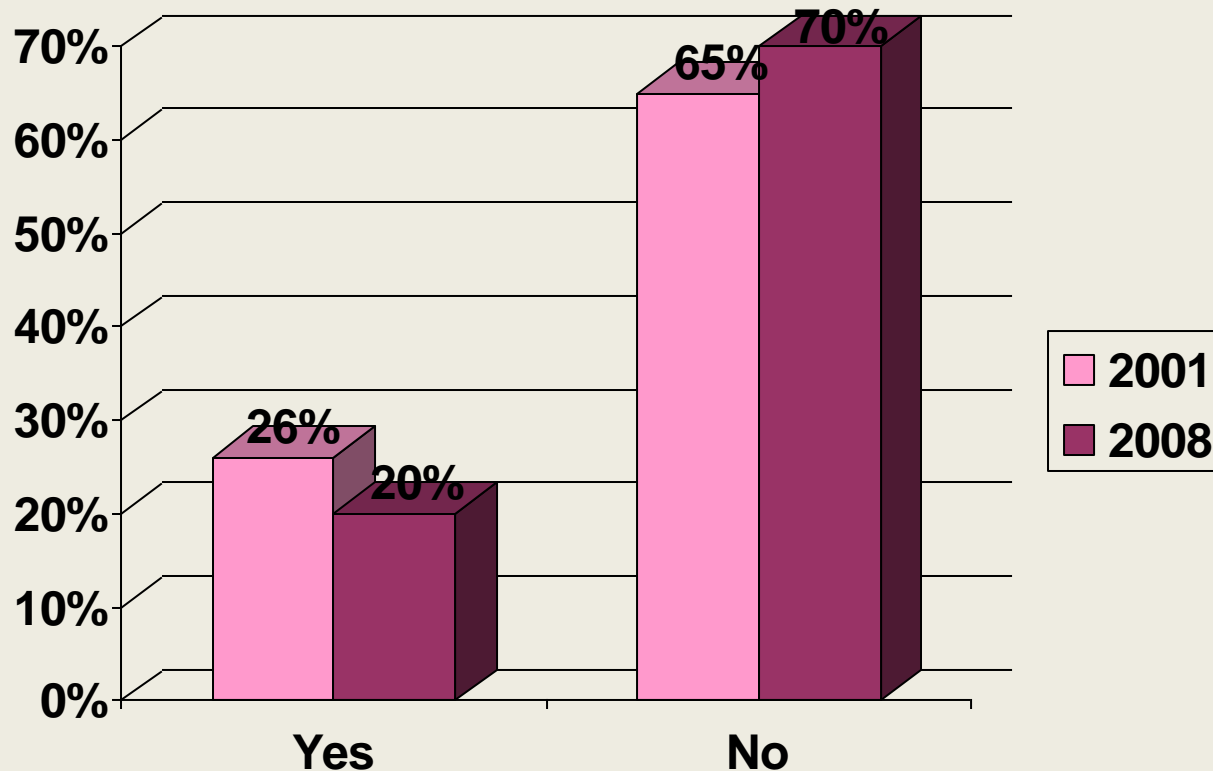
## Commitment to Democracy & Secularism (Palestine)

- **Political groups should not use religion to promote their status within society (87%)**
- **Mosques should not be used to promote agendas of political parties (85%)**
- **Religion is for God and the state is for all people (78%)**
- **People should not be coerced into religion (94%)**
- **Private sector must play a major role in developing society (88%)**
- **Democracy (incorporating free and fair elections, rule of law and transparent and accountable government) should be adopted as a system of governance in the Arab region (67%)**

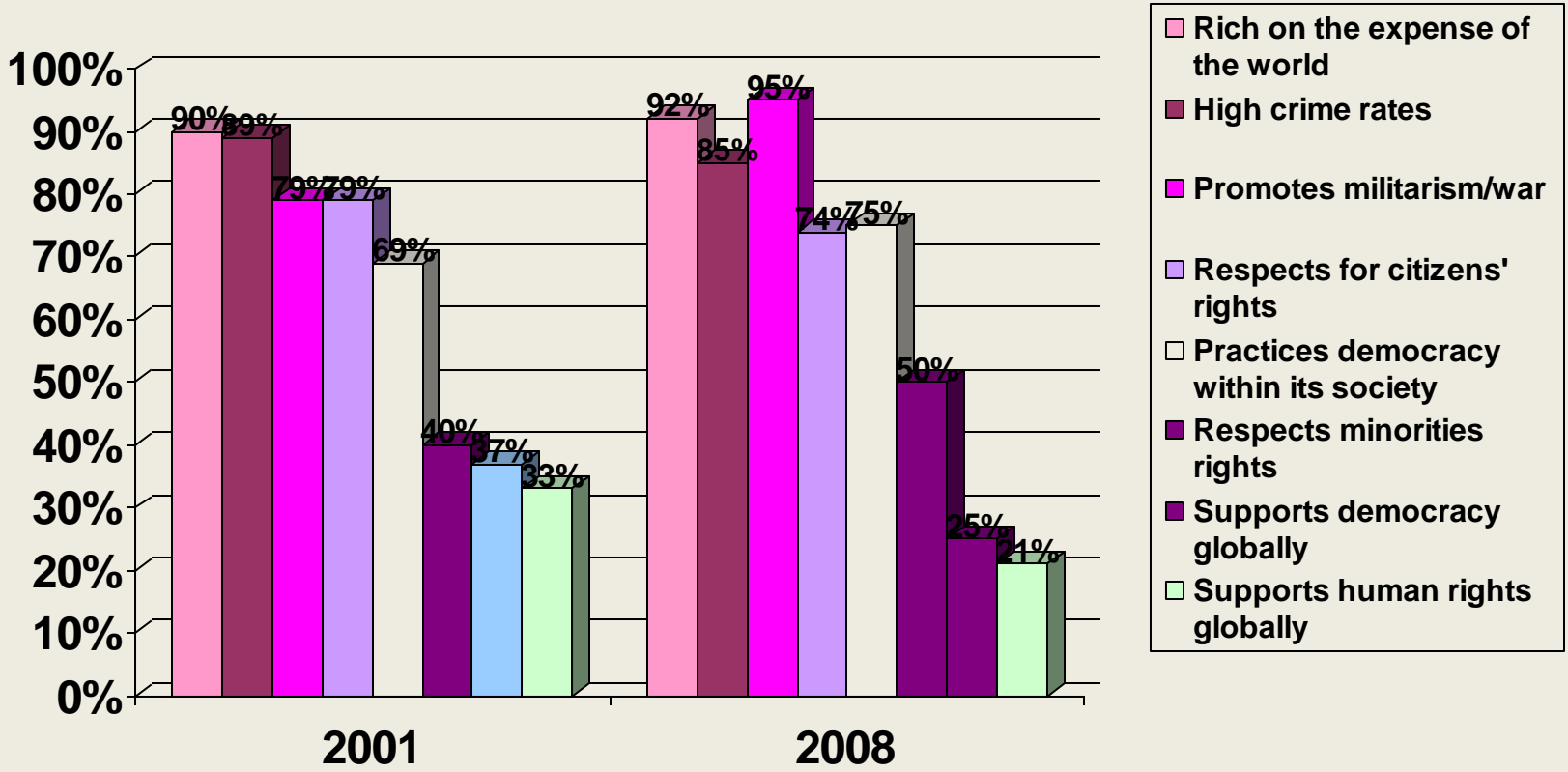
# Percentage saying (I dislike American policy/practices, but not the American People) or (I don't dislike American Government or People)



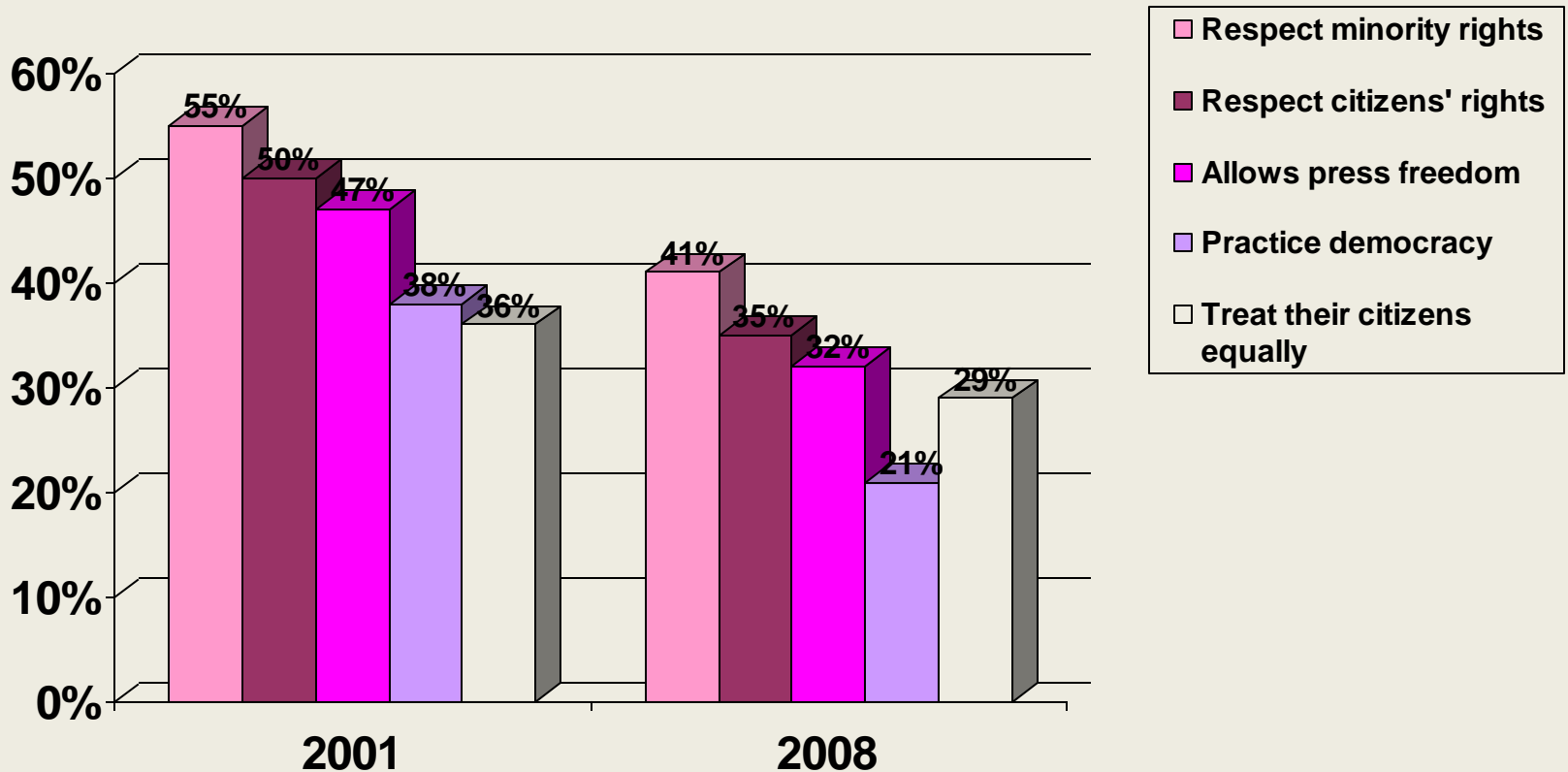
# Does Targeting civilians (as the case September 11) conform with Islamic Sharia'? (2001 & 2008)



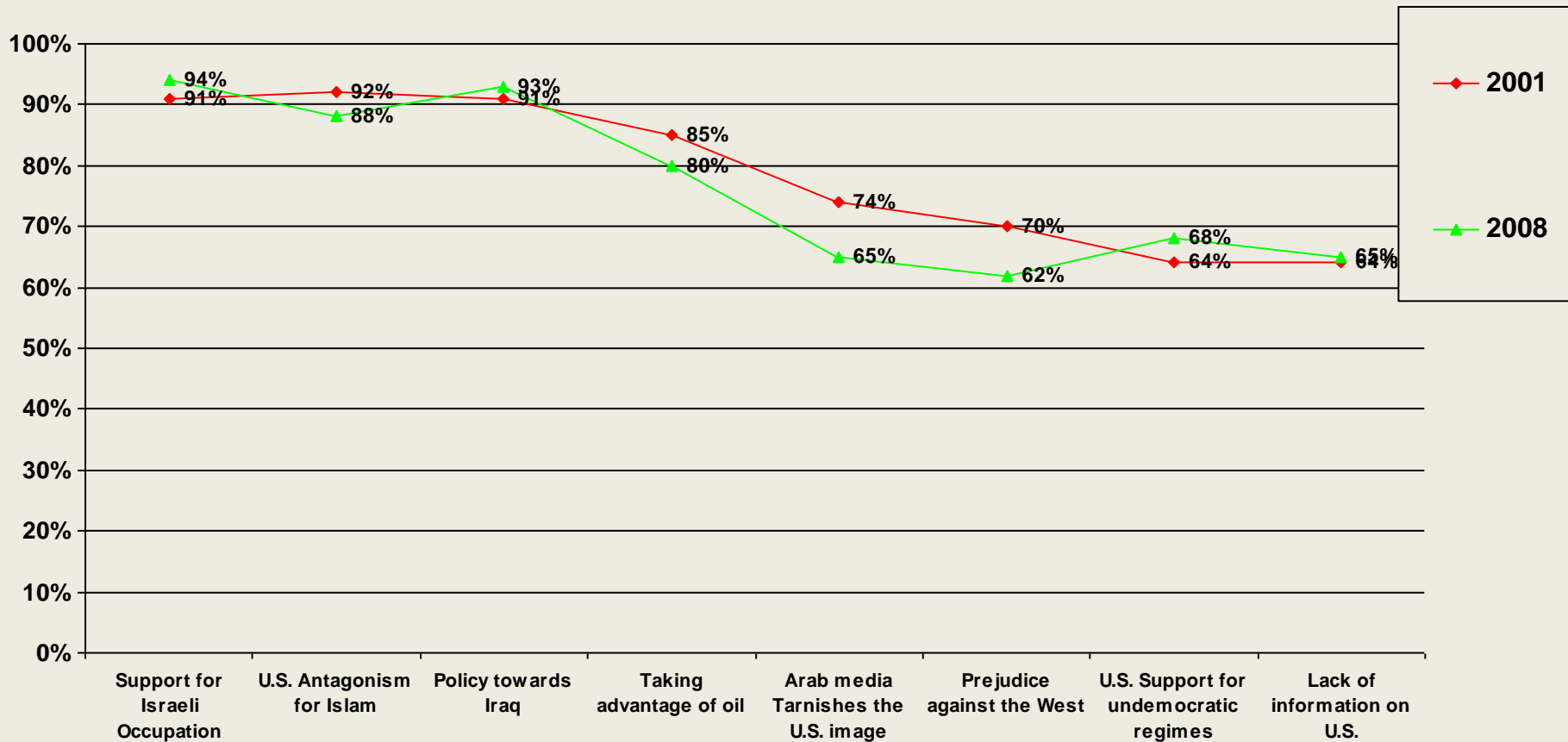
# Perceptions of U.S.



# View of Arab Countries



# Factors that contribute to Hostility Against the U.S. (percentage saying: important or important to an extent)



# Future Directions

## Democracy: A Developmental Perspective

**Democracy Does Not Feed Itself!**  
**Stronger Economic Development**  
**Improvement of living conditions**  
**Equitable Services for Democracy**

# Future Directions

**Civic education**

**Vs.**

**Enabling Environment**

**(Women Programs; After Hamas Win)**

# Future Directions

**Approach:**

**Projectizing**

**Vs.**

**Sustainability**

# Future Directions

**From Regimes  
to  
People – Centered Approaches  
(Bottom-Top Approaches)  
Respect, Trust and Success....**