

Global distrust high for U.S., China

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Public opinion among 47 countries surveyed showed distrust in the United States, China and Russia, the Pew Research Center reported Thursday.

Majorities of respondents in 25 of the 47 countries surveyed express positive views of the United States but, since a similar poll in 2002, favorable ratings are lower in 26 of 33 countries for which trends are available.

China's expanding economic and military power is also a cause for anxiety, as large majorities of poll participants in many countries said they think China's growing military might is a bad thing, and residents of many advanced nations are increasingly concerned about the impact on their own countries' economies, the report said.

Pew said opinions about Russia are mixed but confidence in Russian President Vladimir Putin has declined sharply since the last survey. Putin's negatives have soared to the point to where they mirror the worldwide lack of confidence in U.S. President George Bush.

Huge majorities in most countries also said they have little or no confidence in Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to do the right thing regarding world affairs.

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