

Turning Inward: The Decline of Foreign News Interest in the American Mind

American Appetite for Foreign News is Lean

- **71% of Americans consume little to no foreign news** (news coverage about countries outside of the U.S.), with **47%** consuming less than 30 minutes a day and **24% never** consuming foreign news.
- In contrast, **63%** of all respondents report consuming **30 minutes or more of U.S. national news** each day.
- Notably, younger generations outperform their elders in their foreign news interest. **36% of Millennials and 34% of Gen Z spend 30 minutes or more each day** consuming this type of news. In contrast, only 26% of Gen X and 24% of Boomers spend this same amount of time reading foreign news each day.

Out of Mind, Out of Sight: Why Foreign News Is Overlooked

- When those respondents who don't read foreign news at all were asked why, **40% indicated that it was due to a lack of interest**, the top-cited reason by far.
- Additionally, **10%** of respondents indicated that they were **more concerned with what is happening in the United States** versus internationally.
- Just **6%** of respondents don't read foreign news because they said **it was too stressful or caused a negative mental health reaction**.

TV Leads in Trust, But Social Media Is the Most-Used Source for Foreign News

- **35% of all respondents use social media to get foreign news, the top cited source** across generations, political affiliations and geographic regions. This is followed by network TV and cable news channels - both of which are watched by 29% of all respondents for foreign news.
- **While social media is the most-used platform for foreign news, only 19% of respondents trust it**, highlighting a significant gap between usage and credibility.
- **41% of all respondents cited TV news as the most trusted foreign news source** - 22% chose cable news channels (e.g., CNN, Fox News) as the most trustworthy source, while 19% chose network TV (e.g., ABC, NBC).
- When asked which news outlet they believe provides the **most trustworthy foreign news coverage**, respondents most frequently chose the BBC, followed by CNN and Fox News.

The Who, What and Where of Global News Interest

- **Europe is the number one region of interest**, with **46%** of all respondents saying when they do consume foreign news, it's about this continent.
- This is followed by the Middle East, Canada, Mexico, Asia and Africa.
- **Economic issues and military conflicts are the top global topics** capturing Americans' attention, with **51%** of all respondents selecting both as a foreign news topic of interest. Other leading areas of interest include human rights (selected by 37% of

respondents), immigration policies and trends (33%), political development (33%) and travel and tourism (24%).

Methodology

- This survey of 1,284 U.S. adults was conducted on April 7, 2025