

Public Opinion: Military Intervention in Syria?



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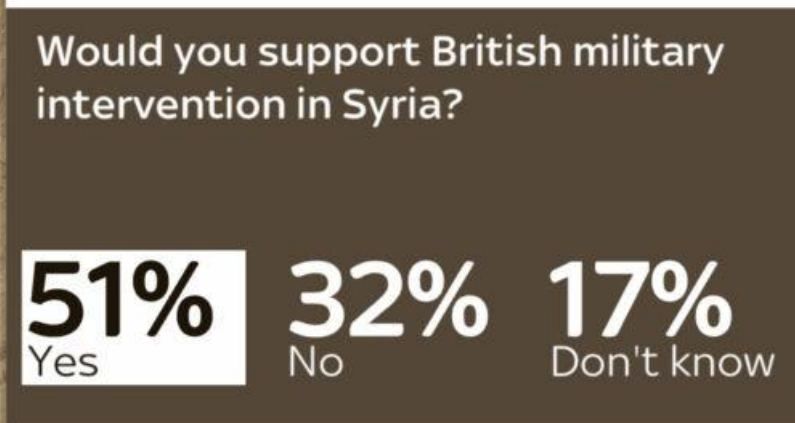
partnership in policy

This week has seen renewed calls for Britain to take diplomatic [action](#) over the alleged use of chemical weapons used by President Bashar al-Assad on his own Syrian citizens. The US, UK and France all tabled a resolution before the United Nations Security Council that has demanded a full investigation in the suspected chemical attack that took place this week. President Donald Trump reacted to the attacks on Thursday night by taking military intervention and launched [“several dozen cruise missiles”](#) from the Mediterranean. This policy marked a dramatic [“dramatic reversal”](#) on U.S. foreign policy and involvement in Syria.

The polling company YouGov sought to gauge [British public opinion](#) on Trump’s missile strike, by asking whether British citizens thought that “the US should or should not have responded to the chemical attack, and is how appropriate a response was the US missile strike?” The YouGov [survey](#) showed that more respondents (27%) stated that the US should have responded than not responded (15%). However, a large proportion of respondents (29%) stated that they were unsure about whether this was an appropriate policy response. We must therefore be cautious about interpreting too much from this poll and further survey analysis is required to explore this issue more deeply.

In light of the dramatic events that have unfolded this week, this article provides a bitesize report of the latest polling evidence about whether British voters think that the Britain should intervene in the worsening Syrian conflict.

A recent poll carried out by Sky Data has shown that over half of Britons would support military intervention in Syria. [“Some 51% answered saying they would support British military involvement alongside other Western countries, while 32% would oppose it.”](#)



SKY DATA SNAP POLL

“However, when asked whether the British military should get involved in the country if it results in conflict with Russia, Britons are more evenly split. In that scenario, some 41% would support UK involvement, while 38% would oppose it. RAF planes are currently involved in a US-led coalition campaign against Islamic State in Syria, but do not target government forces.”



Would you support British military intervention in Syria if it meant conflict with Russia?

41%
Yes

38%
No

21%
Don't know

SKY DATA SNAP POLL

“When asked the same if it would result in conflict with Russia, more still support than oppose an intervention (41% to 33%). The public are more convinced than ever that Britain has a responsibility to do what it can to protect people in Syria.”



Does Britain have a responsibility to protect Syrians?

51%
Yes

31%
No

18%
Don't know

SKY DATA SNAP POLL

“Some 51% say the UK has such a responsibility, while 31% say it does not. Younger voters are more likely to support military intervention even if it means conflict with Russia. Those aged 18-34 back British intervention by 54% to 28%, while those aged 55 or older oppose intervention if it risks conflict with Russia by 45% to 30%.”

Whilst this single poll alone cannot fundamentally show us whether British public opinion has shifted or changed considerably on military intervention in Syria, it is becoming clear that decisive action may need to be taken to reduce the conflict in Syria (see Parliament Street CEO Patrick Sullivan’s [article](#) for a more in-depth analysis on the Syrian situation).