

SERBIA: REFORM CONSTITUENCY SHRINKS

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

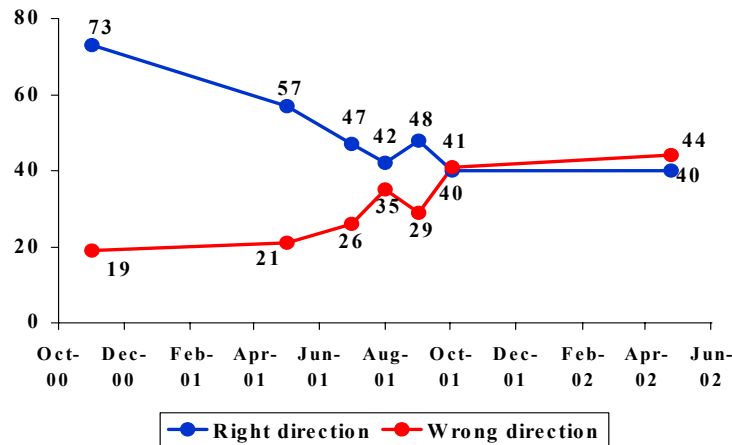
*Results of the Nationwide Survey Conducted by
Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, Inc.
June 2002*

As the hard work of reform continues in the face of a languishing economy and other pressing problems, Serbia's constituency for reform is shrinking. Worries about the economy are growing, and for the first time since October 2000 a plurality of citizens see the country heading in the wrong direction. There is increased resentment against the United States and European Union. As a result, voters are running out of patience with the reform process and its leaders.

Since last fall, there has been a drop in the image of virtually every significant leader and party in the governing coalition. The notable exception to this downward trend among political leaders is Slobodan Milosevic and the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS). Milosevic, who is still held in low regard by the bulk of the public, has nevertheless gained marginally due to the widespread perception that the proceedings against him in The Hague are unjust.

Country Direction

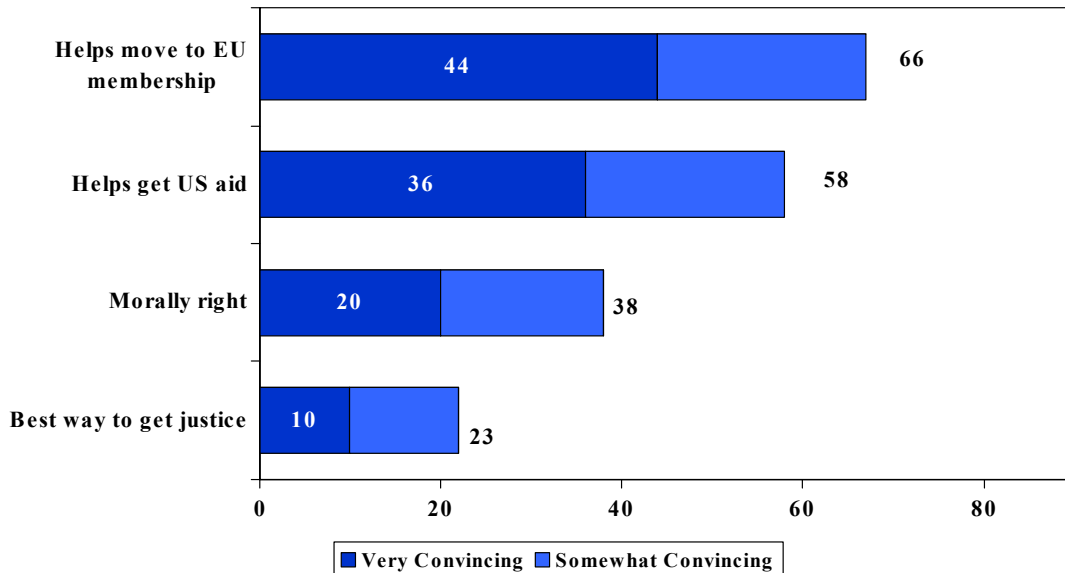
(IRI data May to Sept '01; NDI data Dec '00, Oct '01, April



The Milosevic trial is just one cause of a building resentment against the West. Significant pluralities think that the conditioning of American aid and the European Union's role in the negotiations over the agreement between Serbia and Montenegro weakened, rather than helped, Serbia. As a result, a smaller share of the public believes that Serbia's natural friends are in the West, rather than the Slavic and Orthodox peoples.

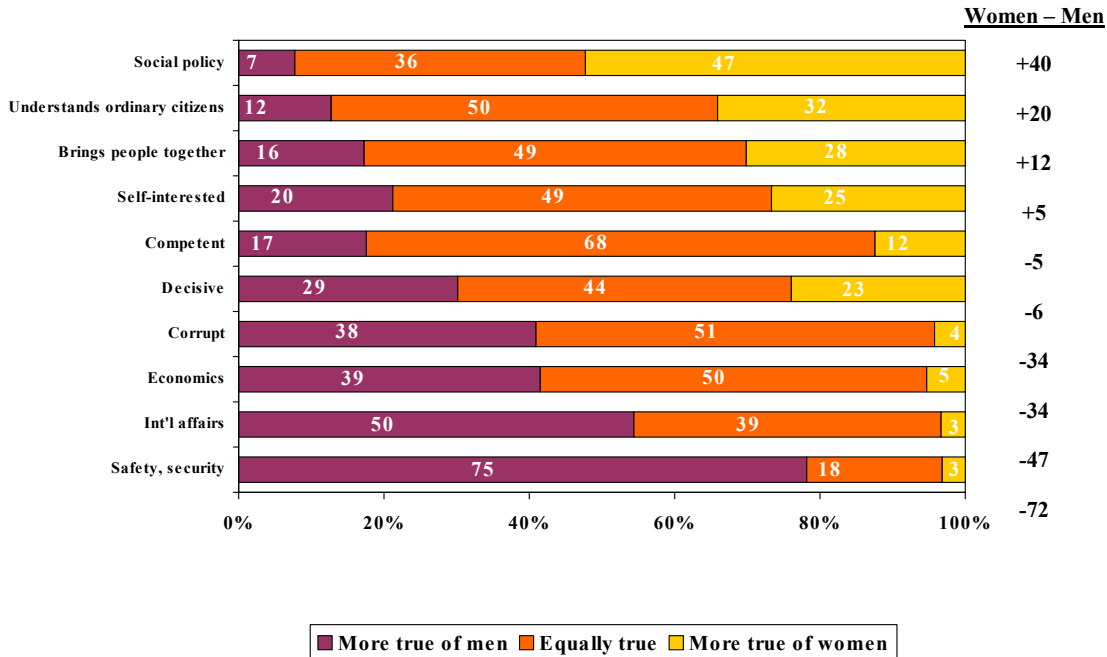
The Serbian public's feelings about the West are conflicted, however. The public seems eager for Serbia to join the European Union and welcomes economic assistance from the United States. This creates leverage for the West. The most convincing arguments that we test for cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal at The Hague are distinctly pragmatic -- the opportunity to move toward membership in the EU and the need for aid from the United States.

Arguments for Cooperation with ICTY



The survey shows that the public, particularly the most reform-minded elements, is prepared to back women candidates; large majorities believe that women are qualified to hold high-level political positions. Women also hold advantages over men in that they are seen as less corrupt and more capable on “soft” social issues. The challenge for women, however, is that voters, including women, still trust men more on the “hard” economic and security issues, which rank at the top of the public’s concerns. For women to play a strong role in legislative and particularly executive positions, they need to find ways to bolster their “hard” economic and management skills.

Capabilities of Women vs. Men



This analysis is based on the results of a face-to-face survey with 1,290 adults in Serbia (excluding Kosovo), conducted between April 19-25. The survey was designed and the analysis conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, Inc, and is the second in a series of surveys (the first was in October 2001) examining the politics of reform in Serbia. Interviews were conducted by the Center for Political Studies and Public Opinion Research at the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade. The sample was stratified to reflect the demographic and geographic distribution of the Serbian public. The margin of sampling error is about plus or minus 3 percent, at a confidence level of 95 percent.