America's Electoral Dilemma: A Case Study of Political Participation at St. John Fisher College

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Abstract
In lieu of an abstract, below is the first paragraph of the paper.

Freedom and opportunity, the greatest virtues of American idealism, are now cornerstones of democratic and capitalist philosophies throughout the world. These ideals have impacted the collective social psyches of generations of Americans, providing them with hope for the future and goals for which to strive. Throughout its young history, Americans have seen their nation as a beacon of these virtues and have sought to spread American-style democracy throughout the globe.
America’s Electoral Dilemma
A Case Study of Political Participation at Saint John Fisher College
Jacob Morley

New York Times

Freedom is not merely the opportunity to do as one pleases; neither is it merely the opportunity to choose between set alternatives. Freedom is, first of all, the chance to formulate the available choices, to argue over them – and then, the opportunity to choose.

-Charles Wright Mills (Lewis)

Freedom and opportunity, the greatest virtues of American idealism, are now cornerstones of democratic and capitalist philosophies throughout the world. These ideals have impacted the collective social psyches of generations of Americans, providing them with hope for the future and goals for which to strive. Throughout its young history, Americans have seen their nation as a beacon of these virtues and have sought to spread American-style democracy throughout the globe.

This form of idealism is best symbolized by America’s unique system of republican government, which seeks to represent the collective wishes of American citizens and to provide for the common good of the American people. The shared responsibility of implementing such ideals rests upon two groups - representatives and citizens. While it is the representatives who resolve the issues facing the American people, it remains the citizens’ responsibility to choose their representatives through the American electoral process. Charles Wright Mills, a 20th century American sociologist, contextualizes the idea of freedom, emphasizing the importance of active participation in American government. Ideally, American democracy is meant to be driven by the voices of its people, responding to their changing concerns and implementing solutions for the common good of all (Smith). However when one group fails to make its voice heard, its concerns often fall upon the deaf ears of its representatives.

Currently, the American republic is in the midst of an electoral dilemma, as segments of the American population are turning away from the American political process by failing to exercise their electoral rights. America’s youth is among the groups that have seen a decline in electoral participation in recent decades despite efforts to stimulate electoral participation amongst young Americans. The 26th Amendment, ratified on July 1, 1971, granted voting rights to citizens aged 18 years for the first time. Upon ratification of this amendment, President Nixon remarked, “The country needs an infusion of new spirit from time to time. As I stand here, I sense that we can have confidence that America’s new voters will provide what this country needs” (qtd in Wattenberg, 98). Generations of young Americans have failed to live up to the aspirations outlined in the words of President Nixon through their continual failure to voice their political opinions at the polls.

Since the ratification of the 26th Amendment, turnout amongst eligible American voters between the ages of 18 and 24 has remained consistently low in presidential elections. Participation amongst this age group reached a peak of 49% in the 1972 contest between Richard Nixon and George McGovern (Wattenberg, 99). This record turnout was largely a result of timing, as the 1972 election was the first opportunity for Americans between the ages of 18 and 21 to participate in the electoral process. Since the 1972 election, levels of participation in presidential elections have been significantly lower, reaching a record low in the 2000 contest between Al Gore and George W. Bush. The 2000 election saw only 31% of America’s eligible 18-24 year olds vote, as compared to a rate of nearly 65% amongst voters aged at least 45 years (Jamieson, Shin, and Day, 4). A sad testament to the significance of each and every vote, if young Americans had not voted in such low numbers in the presidential election of 2000, the outcome could have been completely different, as the 2000 race was one of the closest in American history.

An examination of voter turnout in midterm elections reveals an even more disheartening reality. While it is true that midterm elections draw fewer voters from each age demographic than presidential elections, 18-24 year olds participate at staggeringly lower rates in elections that do not decide the nation’s highest
office. Since 1974, turnout in midterm elections amongst eligible voters between the ages of 18 and 24 has never eclipsed 25% (Wattenberg, 116). In comparison, turnout rates amongst this same age group have never been below 30% in a presidential election (Wattenberg, 99).

"Many observers thought that Al Qaeda's attack on American soil and the on-going war against terrorism would reinvigorate electoral participation in America, especially amongst the young" (Wattenberg, 116). This hopeful assessment might ring true in presidential elections. In November 2004, the presidential election between George W. Bush and John Kerry yielded the first turnout rate above 45% amongst eligible 18-24 year olds since the aforementioned 1972 election (Holder, 4). Just two years prior, in a midterm election that featured such critical issues as the War on Terror and a potential invasion of Iraq, that same age group registered a turnout rate that failed to eclipse 20% for the first time since the ratification of the 26th Amendment (Day and Holder, 6).

Perhaps the most unique aspect of this phenomenon is that it has occurred despite drastically increased educational opportunities for America's young people. Between the years of 1970 and 2004, fall enrollment in degree-granting institutions has more than doubled, totaling over 17 million in the fall of 2004 as compared to the 8 million enrolled in 1970 (US Department of Education, 2006). Rapid rates of technological advancement throughout these years have also provided these generations with increased informational opportunities. The introduction of cable news networks such as CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News has provided Americans with unprecedented access to a wealth of political information literally 24 hours a day. The advent of the internet has likewise provided American youth the freedom to access political information at their leisure. The wealth of both freedom and opportunity to learn about political events, a broad segment of American youth is failing to participate in the political process, and the impact of this trend could be damaging to their welfare. By failing to exercise their right to vote, America's youth is "ced[ing] important decisions to those who have different values and interests" (Wattenberg, 6).

Recognizing that a majority of young Americans are now pursuing education beyond the high school level and that this age demographic has consistently failed to participate in recent elections, it is important to examine why a group that has been provided with unprecedented access to political knowledge continually fails to display its collective opinion at the polls. Increased access to political knowledge both inside the collegiate classroom and in the media should seemingly have the opposite effect, yielding high levels of participation amongst American youth.

This essay seeks to examine the level of electoral participation and political awareness amongst the student body at St. John Fisher College, investigating news consumption habits, student turnout, and participation in politically-affiliated groups, both on and off campus, amongst multiple demographics within the campus community just prior to the midterm elections of 2006. Through research into these particular aspects of campus life, this essay will show that political awareness and electoral participation are low amongst specific groups within the current student body at St. John Fisher College. Secondly, this essay seeks to reveal methods through which political awareness and electoral participation can be increased amongst the student body at St. John Fisher College.

Research Methodology

Having defined the aspirations of this essay, it now seems pertinent to establish the methodology through which its writer has researched the topics covered within this paper. This essay is formatted to serve as a case study of political awareness and participation among several groups within the St. John Fisher campus community.

For the purpose of measuring political awareness amongst various groups within the student body at St. John Fisher College, 200 surveys were conducted in the week prior to the 2006 midterm elections. These surveys required participants to list six pieces of information about themselves. The survey's qualifiers consisted of gender, class status, political

1 See Appendix for detailed survey.
affiliation, likelihood of voting in the upcoming election, amount of time spent keeping up-to-date with news stories in a given week, and finally the participant's two most likely sources of political information.

Participants were then asked to answer ten questions pertaining to three distinct areas of political knowledge. The first four questions sought to assess the student body's knowledge about the makeup of the federal government since the election of President Bush in 2000. The next three questions were devoted specifically to the 2006 midterm elections, measuring knowledge about key issues in Congressional races throughout the country, including the local race to represent New York's 26th District in the House of Representatives. The survey's final three questions were devoted to international affairs, as foreign policy has been a major focus of the federal government throughout the Bush Administration's tenure in office.

In an effort to properly account for political participation on the St. John Fisher campus, this researcher has conducted informal interviews and correspondences with the presidents of this campus' two politically-affiliated organizations, College Democrats and the Young Republicans Club. Political participation is also accounted for in the aforementioned surveys through a question regarding voting likelihood in the November 2006 midterm elections.

To conclude this section, it seems relevant to address weaknesses within the research methods adopted by this researcher, particularly with regards to survey results. First and foremost, the survey was formatted improperly. It was two pages long and printed on both sides, something that was not made clear to participants when distributing them. As one might expect, many respondents did not recognize this and only responded to the questions on the front side of the survey. This problem was identified too late by this researcher and some of the surveys had to be thrown out in order to maintain an accurate sample. Therefore, the sample does not include all 200 surveys; instead it includes the results of the 168 completed surveys. Secondly, in order to find data that corresponds most appropriately with statistics referenced in this article, namely those in Martin Wattenberg's "Is Voting For Young People?", and the reports issued by the United States Census Bureau, the surveys should have asked for another qualifier, namely whether or not participants are registered to vote. Noting these setbacks for future endeavors, this essay will still accurately reflect levels of political awareness and participation on campus.

**General Survey Results**

The results of the surveys conducted just prior to the midterm elections do not seem to reflect a low level of political awareness amongst the collective St. John Fisher student body, as the student population at large responded correctly at a 43% rate to the survey questions. Certainly many students at Fisher follow contemporary political events, however, Fisher students seem to identify specific types of news stories at higher rates than others, namely those covered most extensively by the television news media. The two questions to which Fisher students correctly responded at the highest rate seem to point out trends within their collective levels of political awareness. That is to say that the most easily recognizable political stories to St. John Fisher students, those that are continually mentioned in the television news media, maintain characteristics of scandal and outrageousness that set them apart from other political stories.

The question that extracted the highest level of political awareness amongst respondents was question 8, which asked "What nation performed its first ever nuclear test on October 8, 2006?" The correct answer, which was identified by 76% of survey respondents, was North Korea. The importance of North Korea has been emphasized throughout the news media since President Bush's State of the Union Address in January 2002. In this speech, President Bush described three nations, namely Iraq, Iran, and North Korea as part of an "axis of evil" and defined their importance in the War on Terrorism. These three governments have drawn the constant attention of the news media in the years since Bush's 2002 State of the Union, highlighted by an invasion and overthrow of the Iraqi regime, continual rhetorical combative ness between President Bush and Iranian Prime Minister Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, as well as the aforementioned
nuclear tests performed by North Korea’s military. While knowledge of this event is both important and reflective of knowledge of the greater War on Terror, this topic had little bearing on the midterm elections of 2006, except to potentially represent a foreign policy failure of the Bush Administration. Yet Fisher students were nearly twice more aware of North Korea’s nuclear test than of the Congressional race occurring in the 26th District in the week leading up to the 2006 midterm elections.

The survey question that yielded the second-highest level of political awareness was question 6, to which 112 survey respondents answered correctly, a collective rate of 67%. This question asked the name of the United States Congressman who had recently resigned his position after being exposed for sexual misconduct with minors. This was a major news story in the weeks leading up to the midterm elections, so it is not surprising that a large portion of St. John Fisher students recognized the scandal. What is surprising is that a larger proportion of the student body could recognize Congressman Foley’s name than could identify Condoleezza Rice’s position within the federal government, as posed in the survey’s second question. This is a reflection of the emphasis put on scandal within American society, particularly by the news media. As of June 2006, Secretary Rice was the most popular member of President Bush’s cabinet (Americans On: Bush’s Cabinet). She has directly impacted policy decisions of the federal government since her appointment as Secretary of State in November 2004. Her tenure has been marked by the coordination of policy decisions on Iraq and diplomatic negotiations with political leaders throughout the world. Yet students at St. John Fisher found the Foley scandal more easily recognizable than Rice’s position within the federal government although Secretary Rice has had a much greater impact upon policies that have directly affected them. This is largely due to the massive media coverage surrounding the Foley scandal in the weeks leading up to the election.

Removing these sensationalist stories from the survey results in order to develop a sample that is more reflective of ‘hard news’ stories, the rate at which Fisher students correctly respond falls drastically from 43% to a mere 35%. By removing these stories due to their sensational nature and their overall lack of significance with regards to the 2006 elections, it becomes clear that the St. John Fisher student body was not as well-informed as one might have originally thought upon original observation of the surveys.

From here, this essay will first seek to demographically examine political awareness and participation amongst two distinct groups within the St. John Fisher student body, identifying factors that repel their interests from America’s political landscape.

Seeking a Louder Voice: Young Women and Government

Because man and woman are the complement of one another, we need woman’s thought in national affairs to make a safe and stable government.
—Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Words of Wisdom)

The most marked and surprising difference in the level of political knowledge amongst a particular demographic within the St. John Fisher campus community is between women and men. While men answered correctly at a level of 51%, women responded at a considerably lower rate of 36%. In addition to responding at a lower rate than men, women at Fisher were 1/3 less likely to claim to be voting in the midterm elections, an interesting phenomenon as compared to national rates. Since the 1984 presidential election between Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale, larger
percentages of registered women have shown up at the polls than their male counterparts in every presidential election except the 2000 contest (Holder, 2). This sparks an interesting question; why are young women less likely to know about and participate in the political process than their male peers?

In order to answer that question, it is important to look at women’s representation throughout various areas of the federal government. Research into these areas will serve two purposes: first, it will become apparent that women have far fewer political role models in the federal government than their male counterparts and secondly, it will become clear that American women are under-represented in the legislative process, and that the combined impact of these two phenomena effectively repels the interest of young American women from interest in American politics.

Currently, there is a record 82 women serving in the 109th Congress – 14 in the Senate, 68 in the House of Representatives (Library of Congress, 1). The 110th Congress will include at least five more women than the 109th, and will be highlighted by the appointment of Nancy Pelosi as the first female Speaker of the House, a position that puts Representative Pelosi third in line to the presidency. Despite these modest gains in Congress, the political arena will continue to be dominated by men, who will hold at least 442 of the 534 seats in Congress (Romano, 19). Throughout American history, a woman has never been elected President. In fact, a woman has never been represented as a candidate for President by one of the two major political parties, although there is serious speculation that Hillary Clinton will be the Democratic nominee for President in 2008. Also only two women, Sandra Day O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg have served on the Supreme Court.

While the 110th Congress will boast the highest representation of the female gender in American history, women’s representation within the various branches of the federal government remains extremely limited. This under-representation within the federal government might lead young women to feel as if their voices aren’t being heard in the nation’s capital, and repel their interests from the American political landscape. While this does not fully explain their apparent lower level of political awareness, it might provide insight into why women at Fisher are less politically aware than their male peers. It is entirely plausible that the election of a woman to the presidency or even a higher representation of America’s female population throughout other areas of the federal government might spark the political interests of these young women, in which case the health of the American political process can only benefit.

Growing Disinterest in Party Membership Amongst SJFC Students

“[If I could not go to heaven except with a political party, I would rather not go there at all.]”
– Thomas Jefferson (McKenna, 54)

Thomas Jefferson, one of this nation’s founding fathers and the writer of one its most sacred documents, the Declaration of Independence, reflects his aversion for political parties in the above quote. Of course, after writing this, Jefferson would go on to found the Democratic-Republican Party, largely out of recognition that political parties were not going to disappear from the American political landscape (McKenna, 54). Jefferson was not the only well-respected member of his generation to openly outline his distrust for political parties. In his farewell address, President George Washington warned citizens of the young American republic of the potential dangers posed by political parties to the health and
stability of their nation’s governmental institutions, saying:

[Political parties] serve to organize faction, to give it an artificial and extraordinary force; to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation, the will of the party ... and to make the public administration the mirror of the ill-concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common councils and modified by mutual interests (Safire, 413).

Washington suggests that political parties work against the common goals of democratic institutions by misrepresenting the concerns of their members and oppressing bipartisan efforts at negotiation and compromise. Despite these men’s aspirations to the contrary, political parties have evolved throughout American political history to the point that America’s contemporary political landscape reflects that of a nation geographically polarized along party lines.

The founding fathers’ distaste for political parties seems to be reflected amongst contemporary America’s youth. According to survey results amongst the St. John Fisher student body, only 92 of the 168 respondents chose to identify themselves with a political party, a rate of 55% amongst total survey respondents. In comparison to studies conducted by Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, the rate at which members of the St. John Fisher student body identify themselves with a political party is higher than the national rate amongst America’s college students, which stands at 45% (“A Guide to Reaching Young Voters”, 5). This same study also shows that more than half of America’s young people tend to consider themselves centrists (“A Guide to Reaching Young Voters”, 4), as opposed to traditional labels at the extremes of the political spectrum. This is not merely a coincidence, but a response from American youth in defiance of traditional political labels amidst contemporary America’s polarized political landscape.

Just over 5% of survey respondents chose to identify themselves as ‘liberal’ or ‘conservative’ rather than with one of the two major political parties. While there is no ‘liberal’ party, an organized Conservative Party does exist, although this writer tends to believe that most respondents who identified themselves as ‘conservative’ did so in an effort to establish their political principles rather than to identify themselves with the Conservative Party. These respondents probably chose to label themselves through their political principles rather than with traditional party labels out of recognition that they were not formally registered with a political party. Despite this lack of formal registration, these respondents still felt compelled to express their political views on the survey.

Recognizing that 45% of Fisher students chose not to identify themselves with either of the two major political parties, it is interesting that those who did identify themselves with one of the parties registered higher average levels of political awareness. Members of the Republican Party responded at the highest rate, nearly 51%; Democrats trailed slightly, responding at a rate of 46%. What is particularly interesting is that those who chose not to identify themselves with a political party responded at a rate of 36%, significantly lower than the rate amongst those who identified with one of the two major political parties. Higher levels of political awareness amongst survey participants who identified themselves with a political party do not necessarily reflect an innate ability of party membership to stimulate political awareness amongst America’s youth. It is entirely feasible that this phenomenon reflects these qualities of party membership, but it might instead simply reveal these individuals’ interest in politics and a sense of duty to reflect that interest through party membership.

Political Participation Amongst the SJFC Student Body

Having established a low rate of political awareness amongst the general population of the St. John Fisher student body, and provided analysis of potential reasons for such low political awareness, it now seems pertinent to shift the attention of this essay to political participation, and finally to provide steps
through which to increase political participation amongst the student body.

Survey results reflect a relatively low level of electoral participation amongst the student body at St. John Fisher, as only 17% of the student body claimed to be 'likely' to vote in the 2006 midterm elections. This is consistent with national participation rates within the 18-21 year old age demographic in the 2002 midterm elections (Day and Holder, 6). However, seeking an answer to the question as to whether or not St. John Fisher students are participating in the American political process does not merely require an analysis of voter turnout rates. While turnout rates serve as one of the indicators of political participation, there are other ways for students to participate in the political process.

The St. John Fisher Student Government Association recognizes two politically-oriented campus groups, both maintaining high memberships. The Young Republicans Club boasts approximately 80 members and states its purpose in the Council of Presidents Charter:

> The purpose of the Young Republicans is to expand the knowledge of politics and to get the entire SJFC community involved in the political process. As a group, we encourage the open expression of views on all issues (Clubs).

By recognizing the importance of political knowledge and involvement in the political process, this group seeks to establish a base of young, politically active students on the Fisher campus. The Young Republicans have most likely been ineffective in achieving these goals this semester, as they have held only one organized meeting, which took place in early September.

The College Democrats, a group of 73 students seeking to represent ideals from the opposite end of the political spectrum, have again met only once. This meeting occurred on October 10, featuring guest speakers. Among these guest speakers was State Assemblyman David Koon, who expressed the origins of his interest in politics at a young age and provided insight into how students can get involved in the political process. He urged students to become political activists, discussing his own early experiences in politics and the potential for politics to change people's lives. About ten students attended the event, only the club's officers and a few other members. Neither the College Democrats nor the Young Republicans Club had an event focused on the midterm elections.

While the majority of students at St. John Fisher seem to be failing to participate in the political process, there is still reason to have hope, as many young St. John Fisher students remain active within the realm of politics. Every semester, groups of young Saint John Fisher students represent their school in the nation's capitol as part of the "Washington Experience," in which they learn about the federal government through direct participation within various institutions pertaining to that entity. Although the campus' politically-affiliated organizations have failed to invigorate the campus community for the midterm elections of 2006, they have succeeded in the past, holding a joint event on election night 2004 for students to watch election returns live on television in a friendly, bi-partisan atmosphere. The College Democrats had hoped to travel to Rhode Island to campaign for Democratic senatorial candidate Sheldon Whitehouse during October 2006, but were limited by their affiliation's budget. The Young Republicans Club's president spent time campaigning for Congressman Tom Reynolds throughout the summer of 2006. Certainly, some of the campus community is remaining active, a reflection of their interest in politics and their core beliefs that politics can positively affect people's lives.

As a conclusion to this essay, it seems relevant to address methods through which political participation can be increased throughout the St. John Fisher student body. First and foremost, student organizations need to become more involved at election time. In the weeks preceding the 2006 elections, there were no registration drives; there were no flyers put up that provided details about the election; there was no bi-partisan event to increase awareness about electoral issues. These groups failed to even send out an email to the Fisher community at large, urging them to vote. If the student body
is to become more politically active, it is pertinent that these groups become more active in the weeks prior to the 2008 elections.

Secondly, there needs to be a greater emphasis put on political participation both by professors and by the campus administration. It would be simple for professors to take a short time out of their lecture to acknowledge the importance of upcoming electoral contests, something that they have failed to do throughout this writer’s tenure as a student. Recognizing that a large portion of the student population is not from the Rochester area, it would be helpful if these students had access to absentee ballots on-campus. These needs could easily be accommodated by campus administration for the 2008 election. Certainly registration drives could be held at little expense to the college, yielding great rewards for the campus’ image.

Finally if political participation is to be increased on campus, the student body needs to acknowledge the importance of these electoral contests instead of simply ignoring them. Students need to take time to educate themselves about the status of their government. Students also need to put aside any lack of confidence about their own political knowledge and simply get to the polls on Election Day.

Through a combined effort to stimulate political participation amongst the student body, strides can be made to improve the quality of the education at St. John Fisher and the college’s image in the eyes of the public. By making a concerted effort to increase political participation, the campus community will be taking small steps to preserve American democracy and the ideals reflected within those institutions.
Works Cited


Appendix A:

Gender:  _____ Male  _____ Female

Class Status:  _____ Freshman  _____ Sophomore  _____ Junior  _____ Senior

Political Party:  _____ Republican  _____ Democrat  _____ No Party Affiliation

   _____ Other (Please Indicate) ____________________________________________

Are you likely to vote in the upcoming mid-term election on November 7?

   _____ Yes   _____ No

How many hours per week do you spend keeping up-to date with the news?

   _____ 0   _____ 1-3   _____ 4-6   _____ 7-10   _____ More than 10

From which types of sources are you most likely to get your news?

Please Indicate 2 most likely sources

   _____ Newspaper

   _____ Radio (NPR, Talk-radio)

   _____ Cable News (CNN, MSNBC, Fox News)

   _____ Nightly News

   _____ Internet Sources

   _____ Blogs

   _____ International News (Reuters, BBC, CBC)

   _____ Magazines (Time, Newsweek, etc)

   _____ Comedy Shows (The Daily Show, Real Time, etc)

   _____ Other (Please Indicate) ____________________________________________
Directions: Answer the following questions by placing a check mark next to the correct answer. If you do not know the answer, DO NOT GUESS! Please indicate that you do not know.

What governmental position does Alberto Gonzalez hold?

- [ ] Secretary of the State
- [ ] Attorney General
- [ ] Secretary of Defense
- [ ] Secretary of the Treasury
- Do not know

What governmental position does Condoleezza Rice hold?

- [ ] Secretary of State
- [ ] Attorney General
- [ ] Secretary of Defense
- [ ] Secretary of the Treasury
- Do not know

Who was Condoleezza Rice’s predecessor in that position?

- [ ] Donald Rumsfeld
- [ ] Tony Snow
- [ ] Madeline Albright
- [ ] Colin Powell
- Do not know

Which party currently has a majority in the United States Senate?

- [ ] Republicans
- [ ] Democrats
- Do not know

Who is opposing Tom Reynolds for the House congressional seat in the upcoming election?

- [ ] Jack Davis
- [ ] Hillary Clinton
- [ ] Eliot Spitzer
- [ ] Bob Duffy
- Do not know

Recently a United States Congressman resigned his position after being exposed for sexual misconduct with minors. What was his name?

- [ ] Barak Obama
- [ ] Jack Davis
- [ ] Tom Reynolds
- [ ] Mark Foley
- Do not know

In Virginia, Democratic senatorial hopeful Jim Webb has tightened the gap between himself and incumbent Republican senator George Allen after Allen made a major mistake during his campaign. Which issue allowed Webb to climb back into the race?

- [ ] Racism
- [ ] Abortion
- [ ] Iraq War
- [ ] Sexual Misconduct
- Do not know

What nation performed its first-ever nuclear weapons test on October 8, 2006?

- [ ] Iran
- [ ] Saudi Arabia
- [ ] North Korea
- [ ] China
- Do not know

Israeli forces fought a war against Hezbollah during the summer of 2006 as retaliation for terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens. Other than the state of Israel, in what nation did most of the fighting occur?

- [ ] Iraq
- [ ] Iran
- [ ] Lebanon
- [ ] Syria
- Do not know

Recently a leader of one of the United States’ allies, due to mounting pressure from his nation’s Parliament, was forced to announce the resignation of his position as Prime Minister. Who was the leader and in what nation does he serve his position?

- [ ] Jacques Chirac (France)
- [ ] Tony Blair (England)
- [ ] Vladimir Putin (Russia)
- [ ] Pervez Musharraf (Pakistan)
- Do not know