

The Arab Barometer

What is the contribution and under what conditions?

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Obstacles to Survey Research

- Political Obstruction
 - Censorship
 - Media Attention – channeled
 - Elite responses
- Procedural Obstacles
 - Permissions: disguise of politics?
 - Know-how: lack of skills? Where?

The political context: regime types

- 4 Types
 - Gradual shift from Despotic to “Liberal” Rule
 - Some space for transparency
 - Political pluralism
 - Some balance between branches of government
 - AB: Yes with limits.
 - Backtracking Semi Authoritarianism - Absolute Electoral Despotism, management (AB: Yes and No)
 - Absolute “Transparent” Despotism – administrative reform. (AB: No way so far)
 - Top-down managed reform (AB: Not yet but possible if it fits the approach)

How to explain, understand this stagnation?

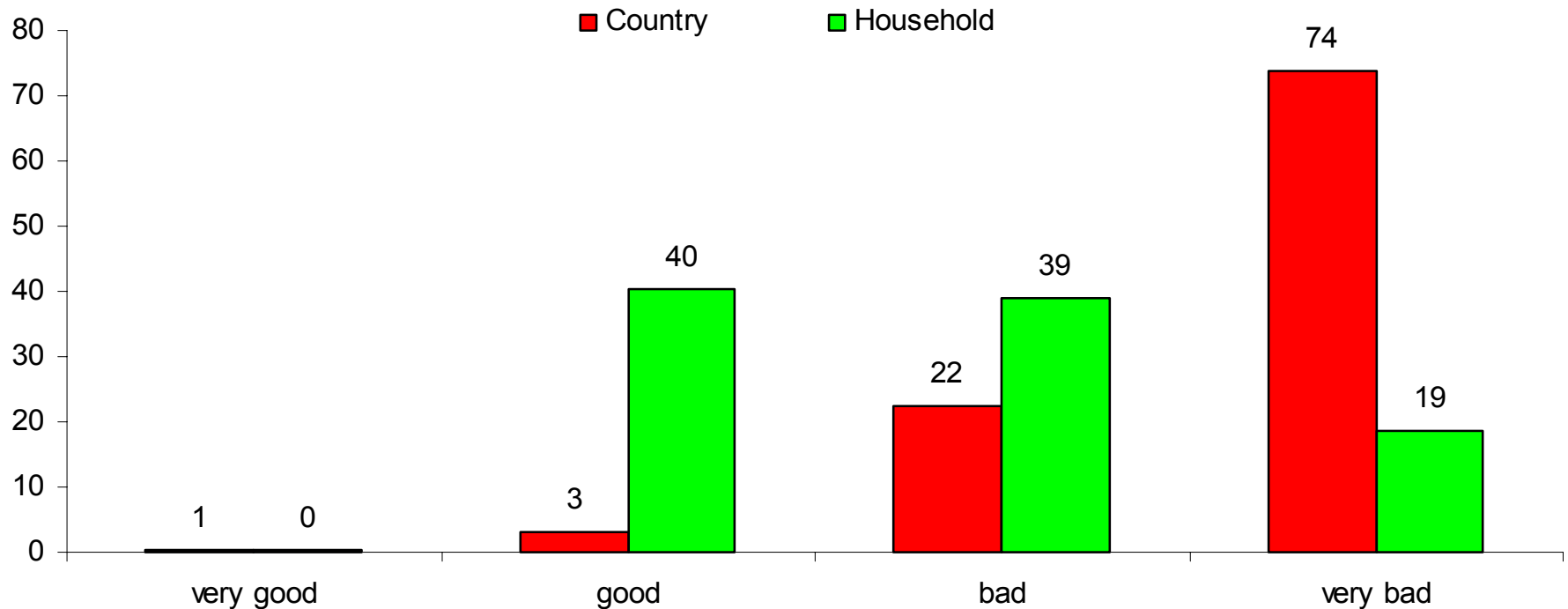
- “People are not ready”
- Ruling Elites
- Inefficient institutions
- Weak and struggling opposition
- A. Hamzawi argument: Fragmentation of “democratic demand”
- So is it possible create a “social science free zone?”

Despite this, what do we know?

- On the economy
 - Evaluation and expectations
- Immigration: disposition
- Politics: knowledge and involvement
- International relations: attitudes
- Political Islam

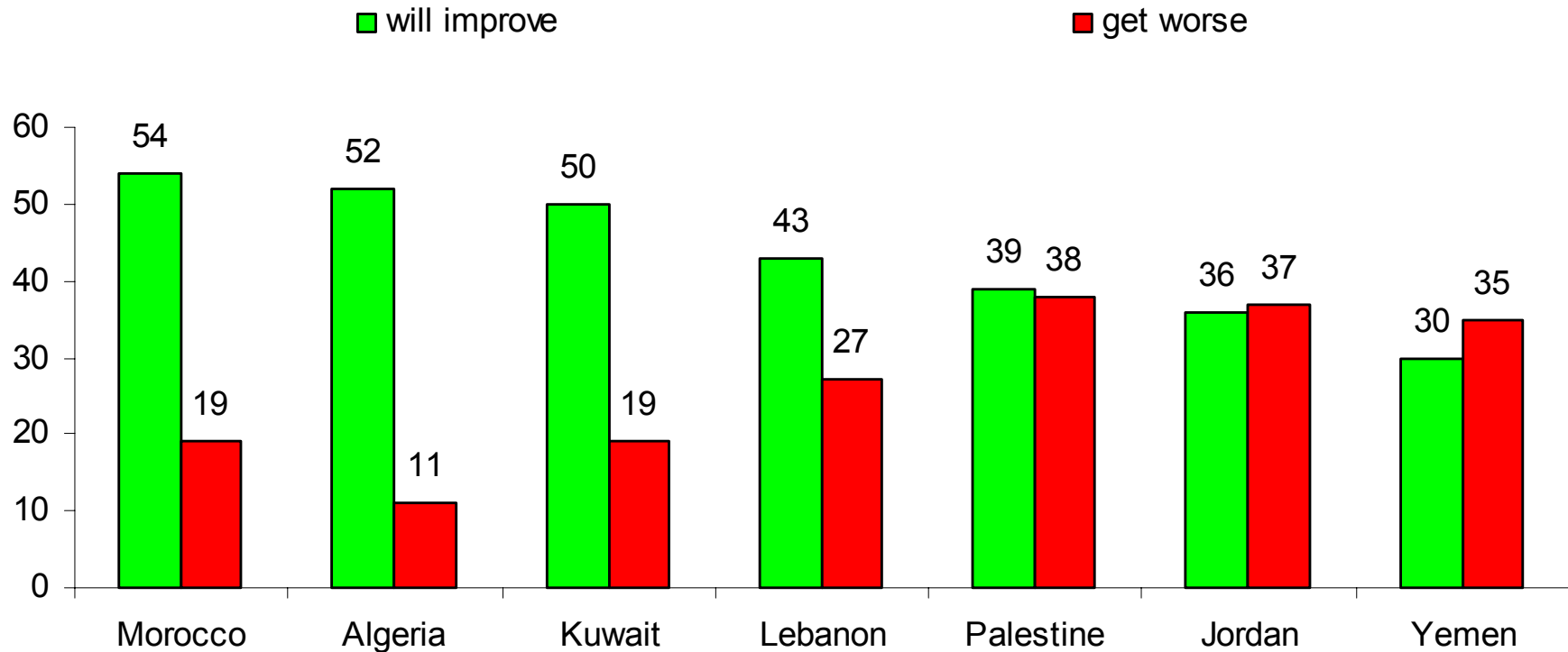
Household better than country

Lebanon: Evaluation of the economic situation for ...



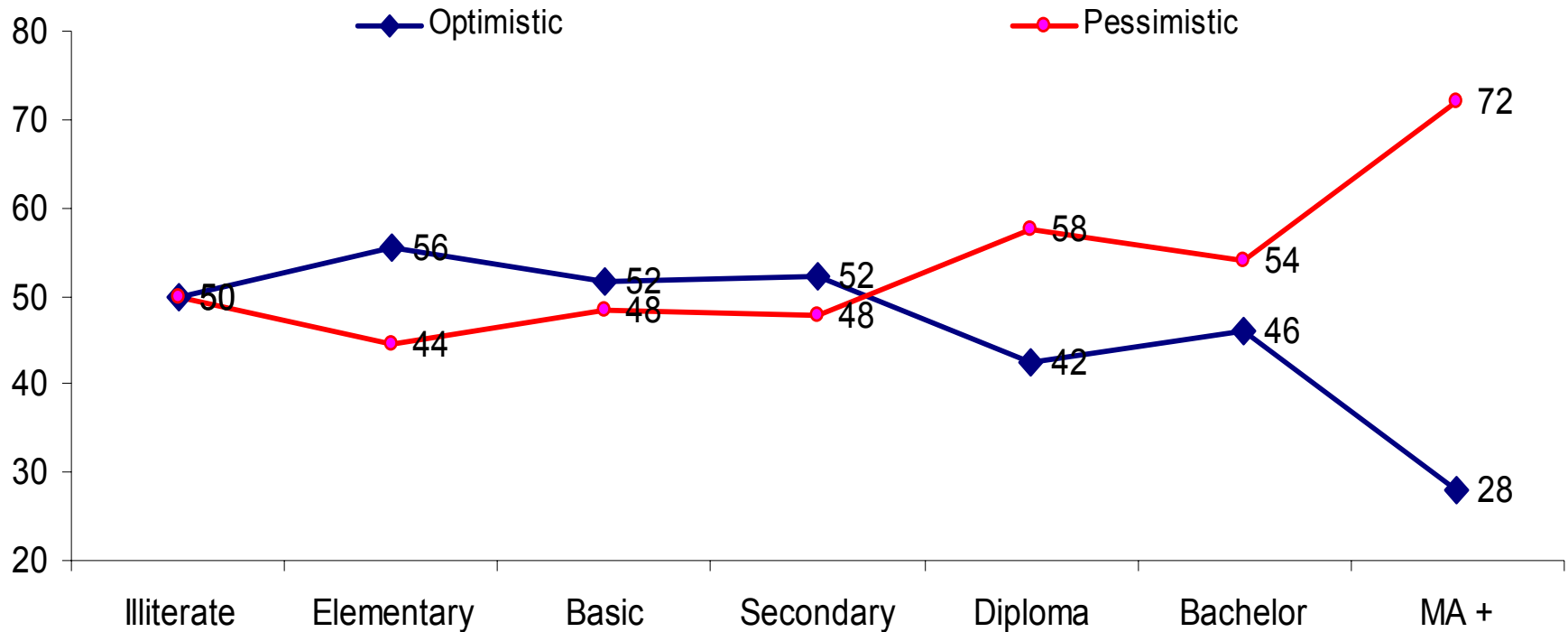
Public Expectations of the economy

Percentage of people expecting the economy to improve or get worse in 3-5 years

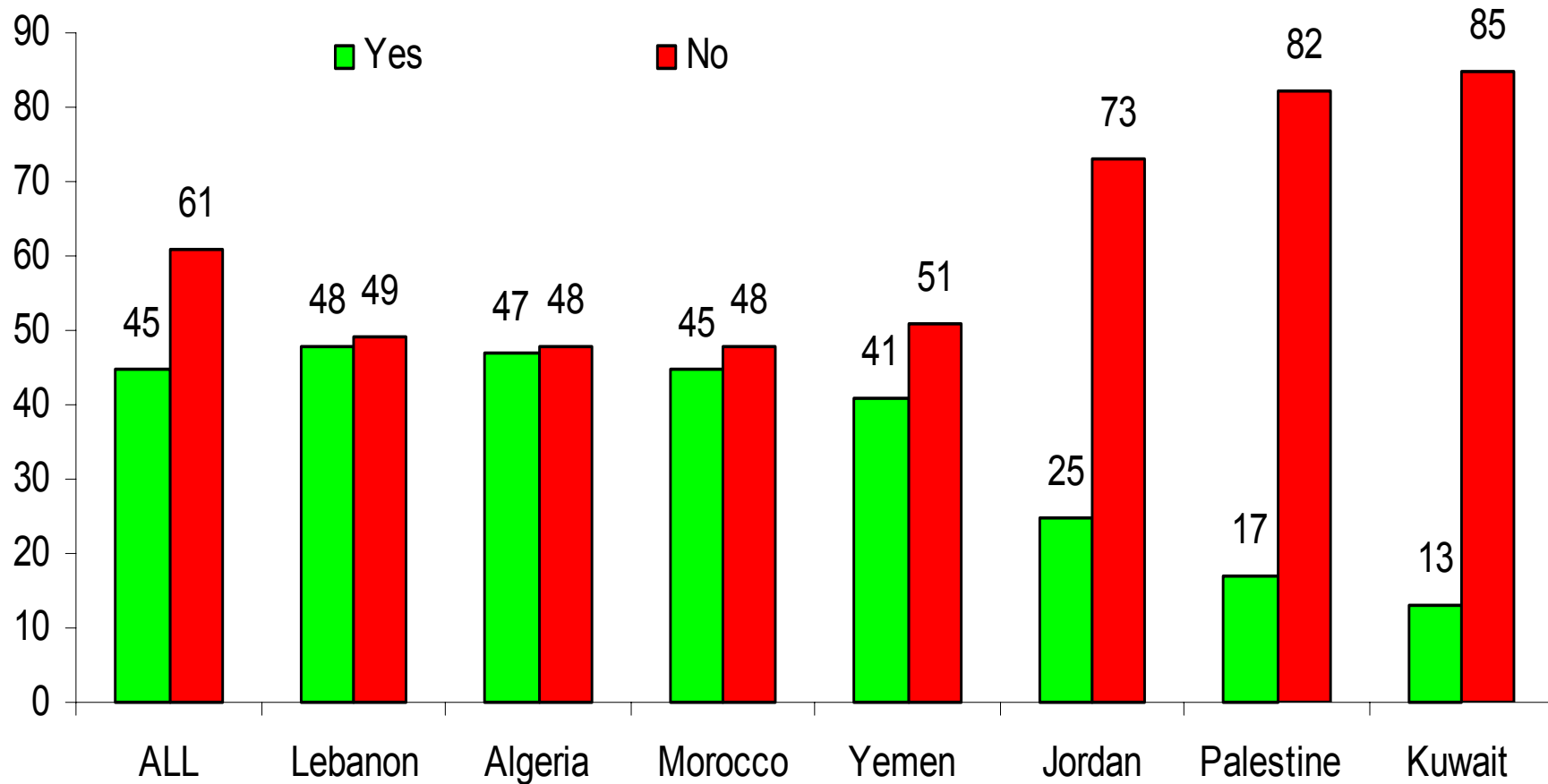


Critical citizens: education

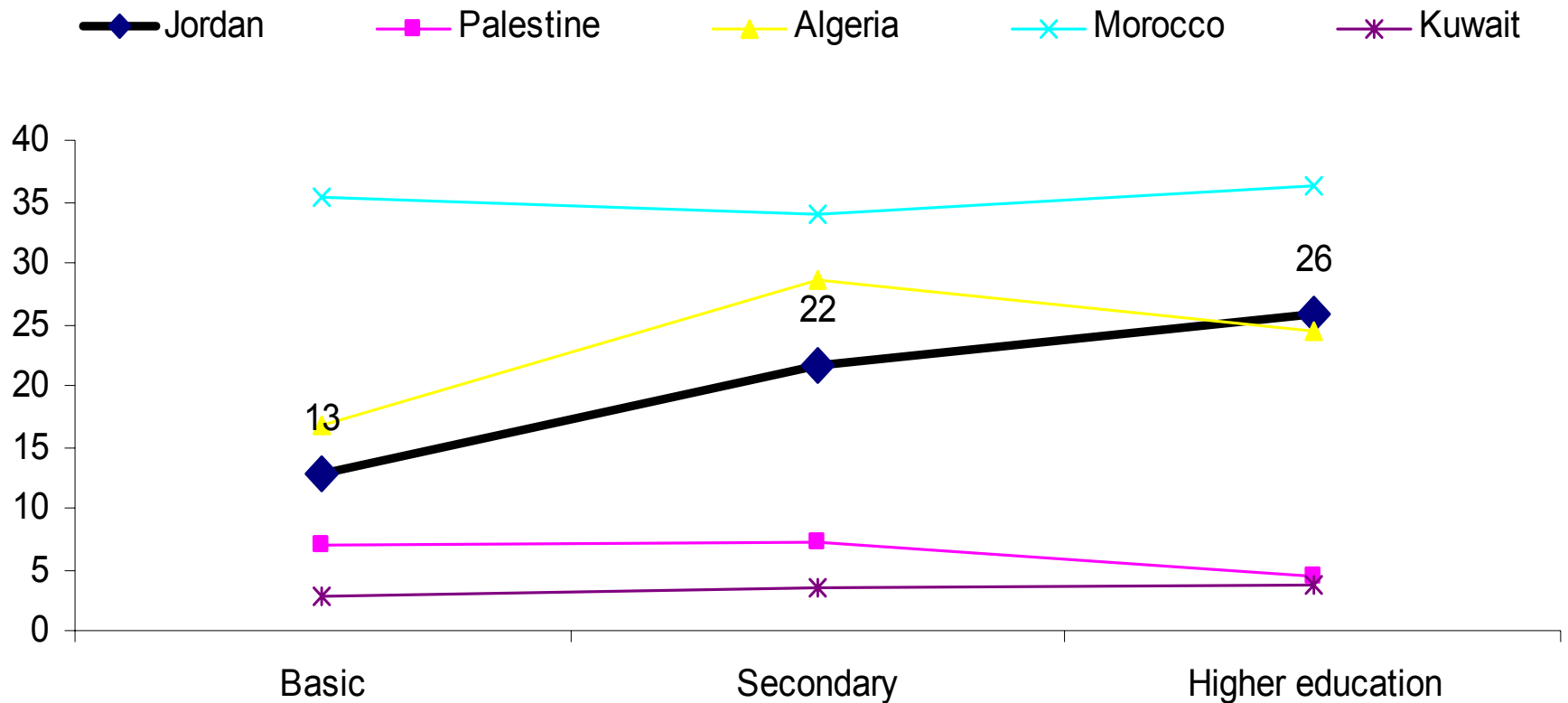
Pesimism increases with education



Are you considering immigration?



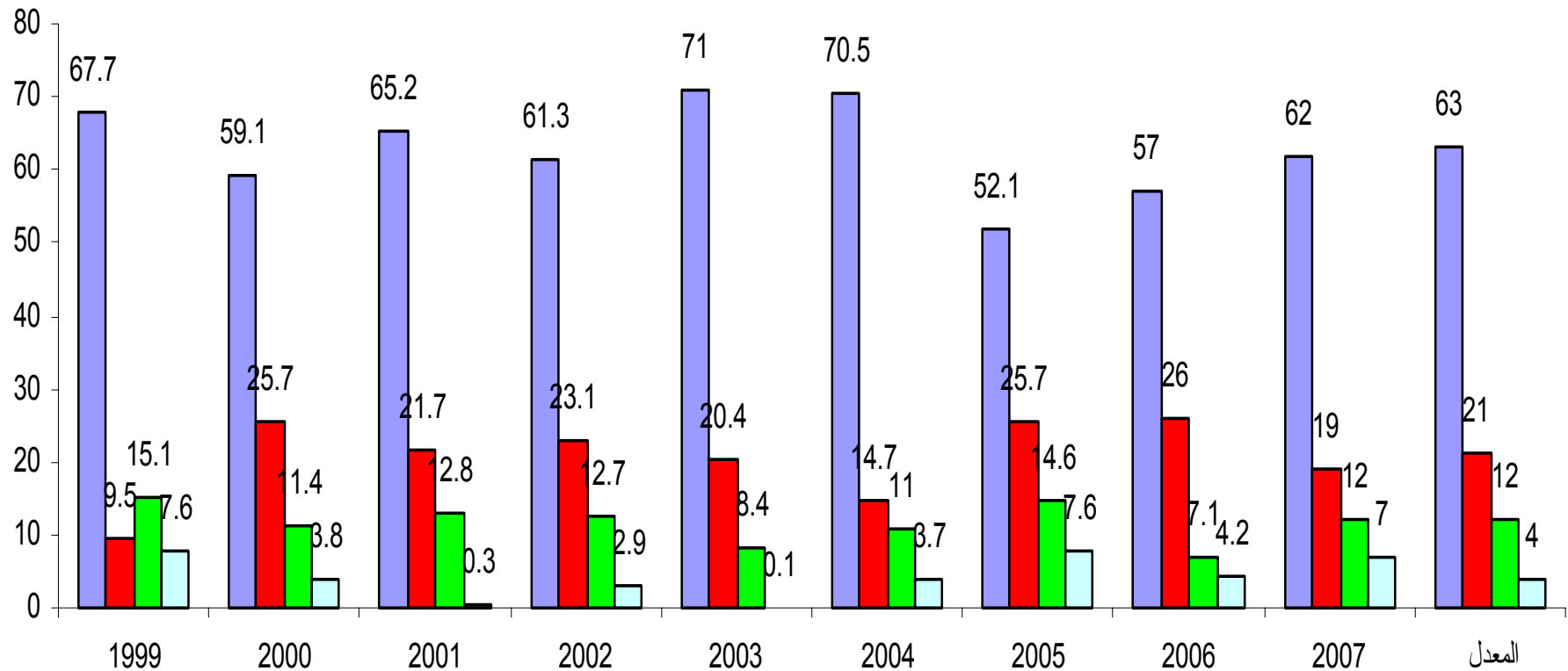
Education and intention to immigrate: Jordan



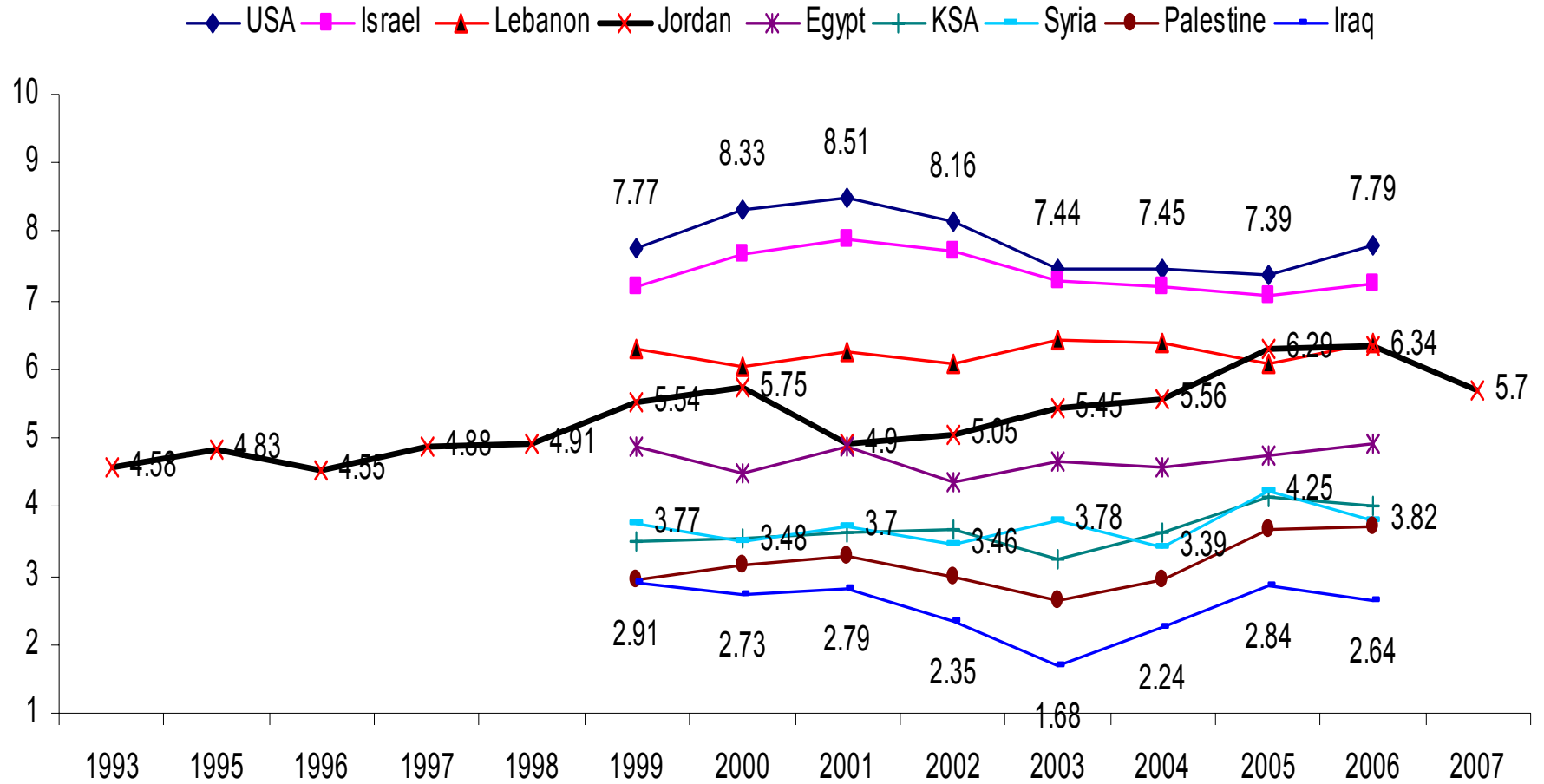
Knowledge of Politics

what do Arabs mean by “democracy”?

■ Civil liberties & political rights
 ■ Justice & equality
 ■ Development
 ■ Security & stability

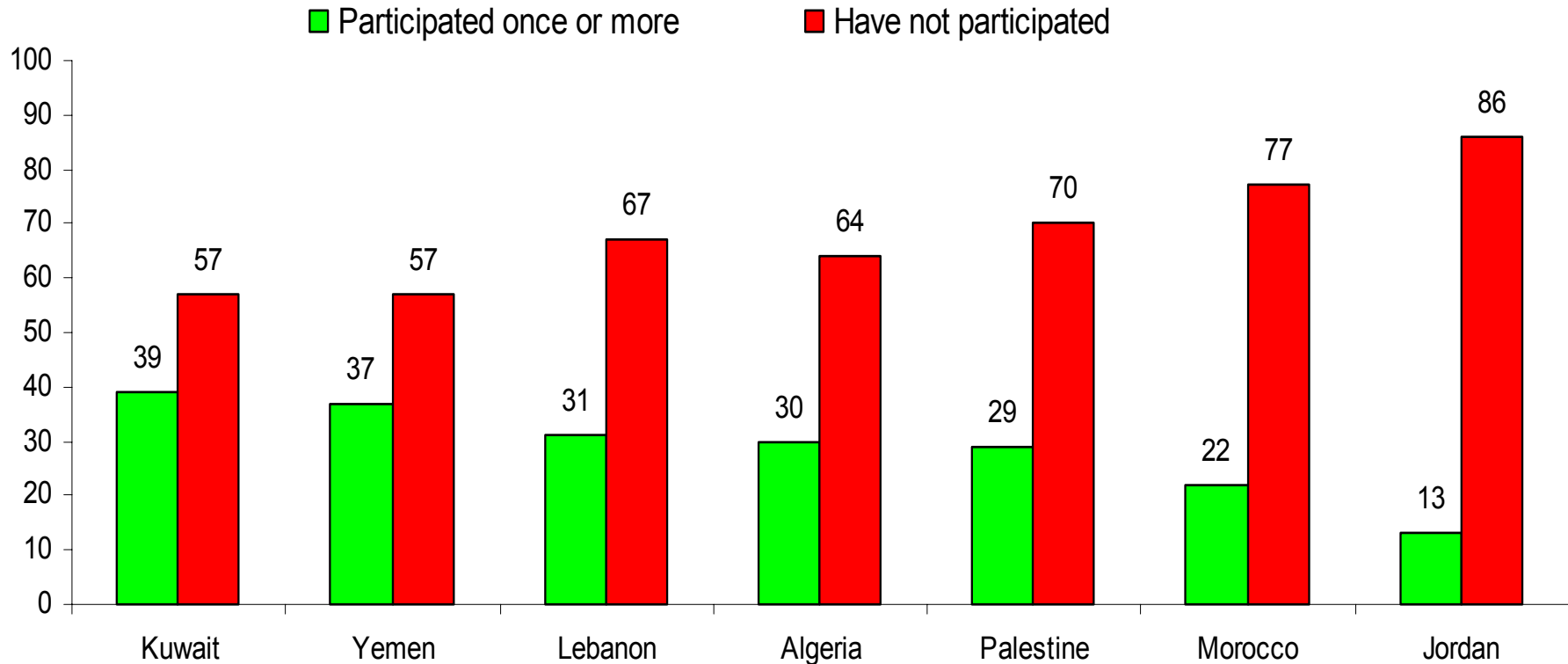


Are they consistent?



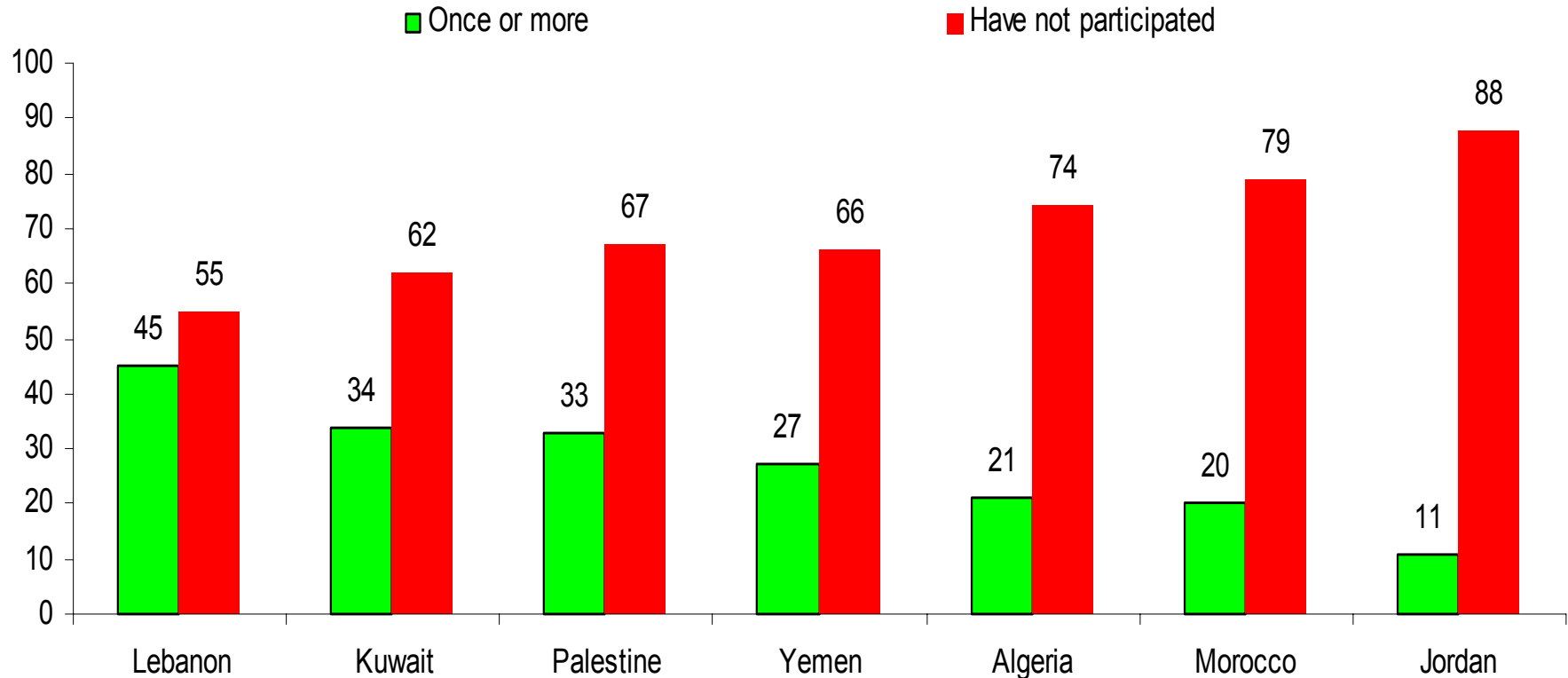
Political action: saying

Over the past three years have you participated in a meeting or signed a petition to protest something?

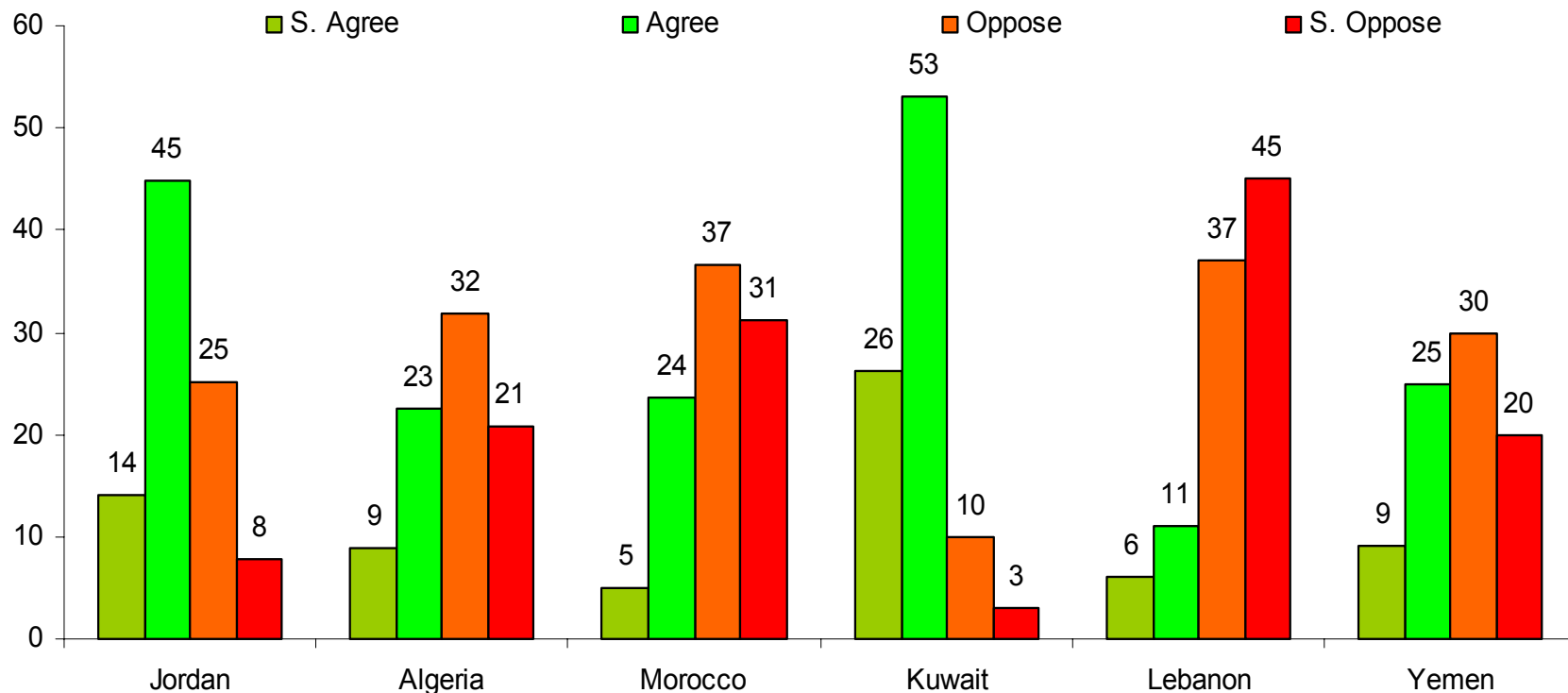


Political action: doing

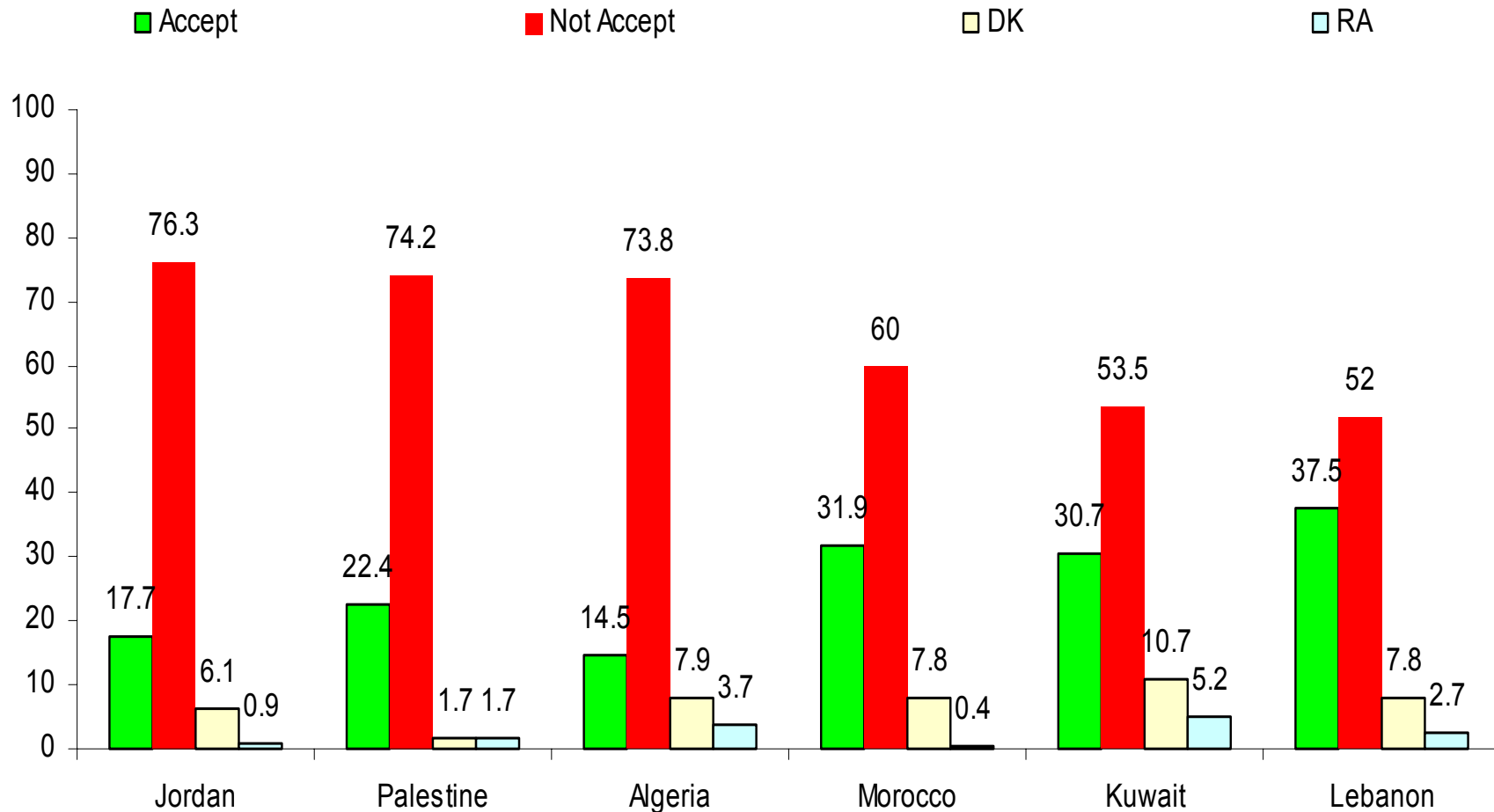
Over the past three years, have you participated in a demonstration or a protest or a sit-in?



Perceived effectiveness of the State: Government does its best to provide suitable conditions for people to improve their lives through their efforts

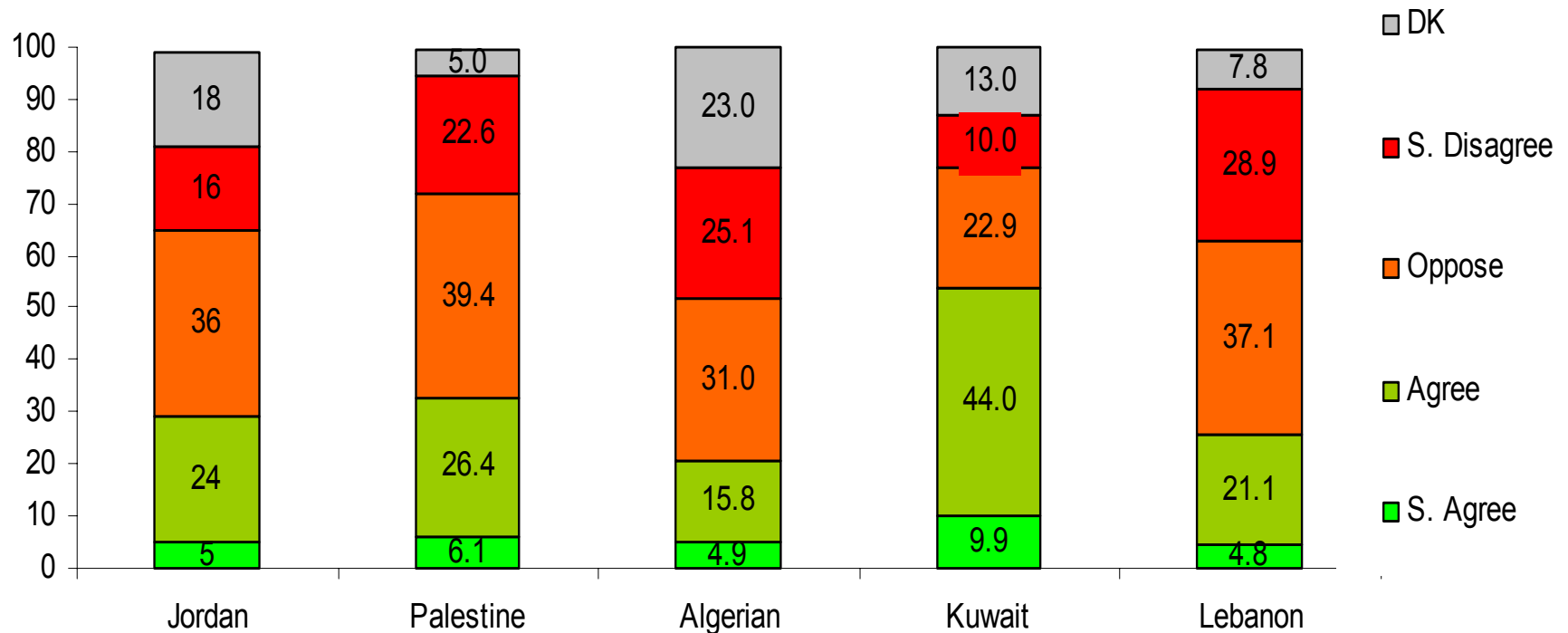


Recognizing Israel?



Evaluation of US democracy promotion policy!

To what extent do agree or disagree with the following statement: "The US has been successful in promoting democracy despite its intentions"

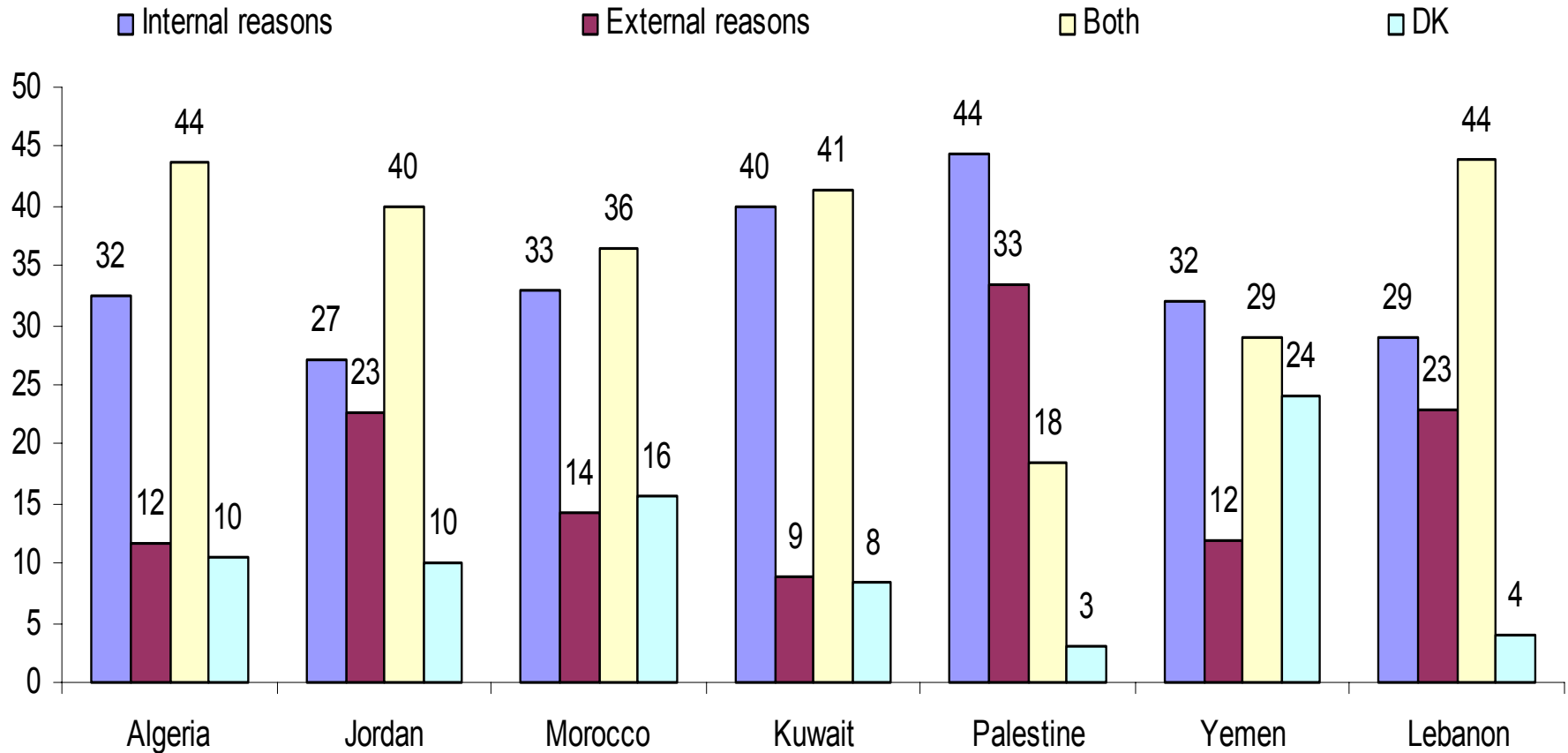


Credibility

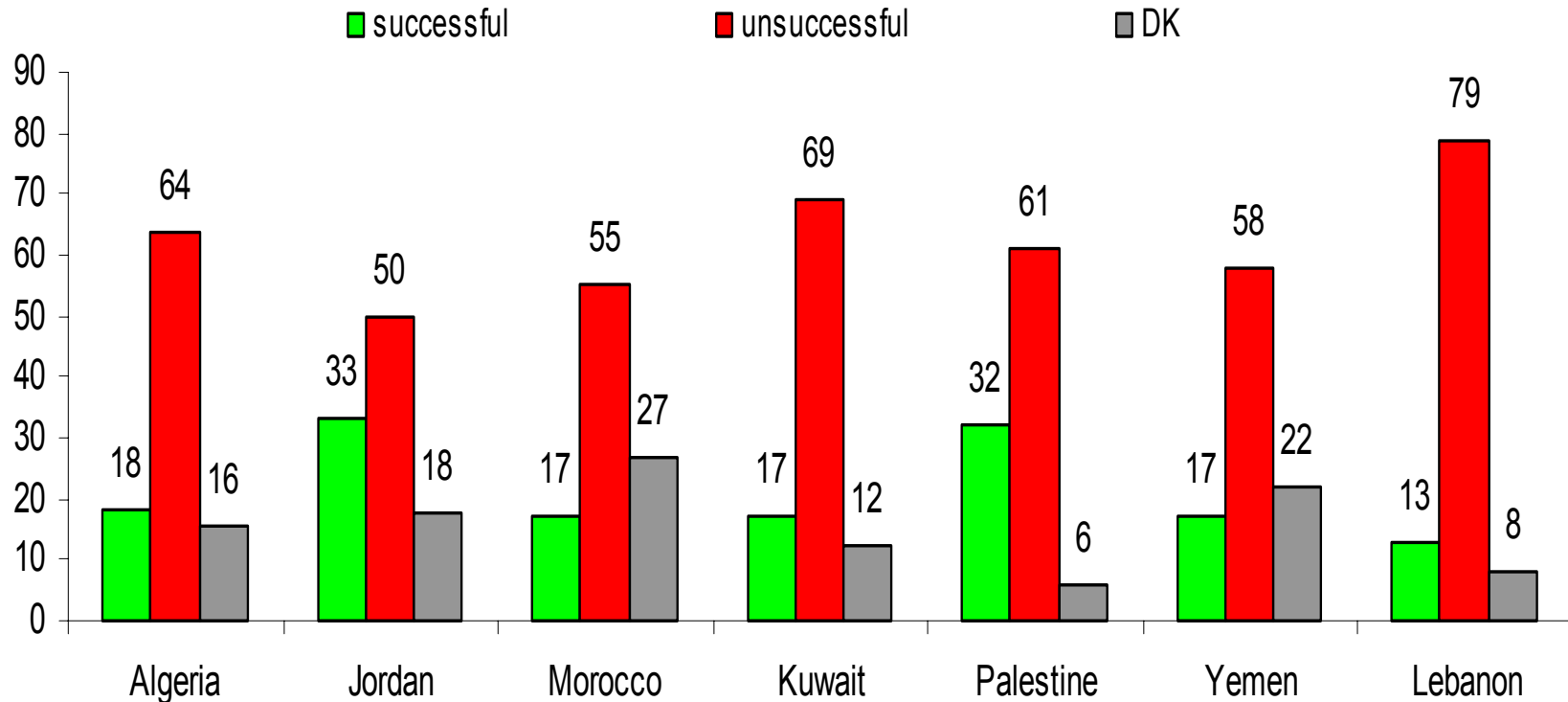
Percentage of respondents satisfied with US handling of the Arab-Israeli conflict

	National	University Students	Business	Media
Jordan	5	5	2	2
Syria	1	1	0	1
Lebanon	5	4	15	15
Palestine	1	1	2	4
Egypt	2	1	3	3

Why the Arab World Lags behind?

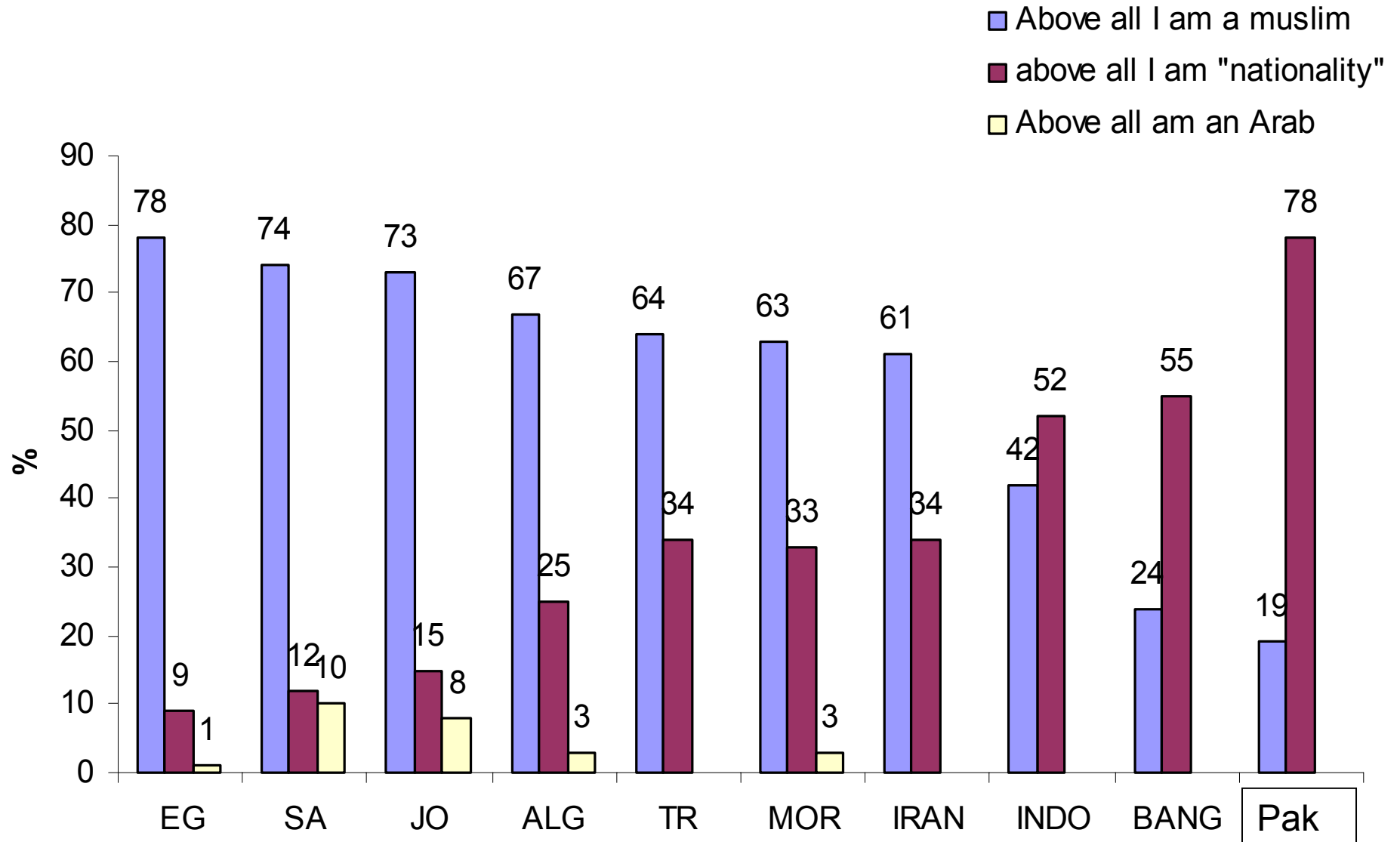


To what extent do you think the Arab League has been successful in enhancing Arab cooperation?



Do attitudes translate into political action?

Explaining Jordan's case



Thank you

For listening ...