

# Syrian Opposition Survey

June 1 – July 2, 2012



# Survey Methodology



# SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- From June 1-July 2, 2012, the International Republican Institute (IRI) and Pechter Polls of Princeton, NJ (P3) surveyed members of the Syrian opposition. P3 provided consultative guidance on the survey's implementation and analysis.
- Due to the logistical and political complexities of the project, several months of preparation were required for both survey development and recruitment of opposition activists who had strong in-country networks that had not been permeated by the regime.
- To minimize the possibility of participants' arrest, or any other form of regime interference, IRI and P3 employed a referral or "snowball" methodology – relying strictly on dissidents who were known to IRI or P3. Thus the survey is not a randomized sample – as would be seen in a public opinion poll – and is also skewed heavily toward men, which is partially a reflection of the opposition's composition.
- The project primarily relied upon five networks to initiate the survey's circulation. From there, activists within and outside of Syria from different ethnic, religious, political and socioeconomic backgrounds were encouraged to circulate the survey amongst their sub-networks.
- The questionnaire was developed with the input of all network leaders, under the guidance of Dr. David Pollock, former chief of Near East/South Asia and Africa Research for the U.S. Information Agency.
- The survey was translated from English into Syrian colloquial Arabic and placed on a secure server outside of Syria with extensive security protocols to mitigate against regime tampering.

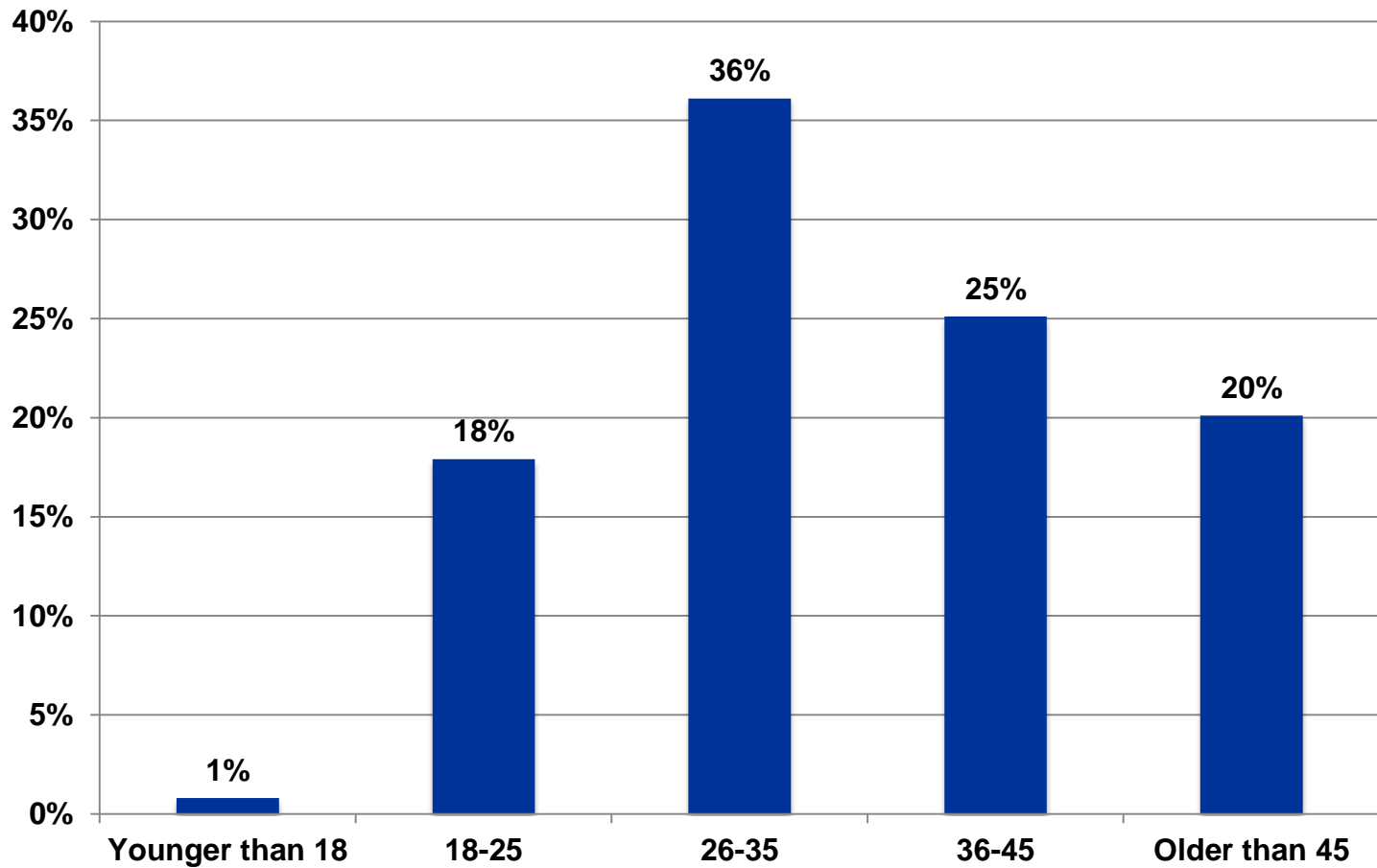
## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- Each of the five trusted network leaders was given an individual link to access the questionnaire, allowing P3 to track progress and observe any suspicious results in real-time throughout the survey's administration.
- Respondents were assured that their responses to the online survey would be anonymous.
- A total of 1,168 interviews were completed by July 2, 2012, 85 percent of respondents were male and 15 percent were female. Margin of error is not strictly applicable to this survey because of the non-random selection of respondents.
- Of the sample of 1,168, approximately 315 of the respondents indicated they were inside Syria when they completed the questionnaire, though there is discrepancy in the survey regarding this figure as some respondents may have inconsistently reported the place where they live versus the place where they were when taking the survey.
- Not all respondents answered every question. Therefore, the number of responses for any question may not total 1,168.
- Figures in charts and tables may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding error.

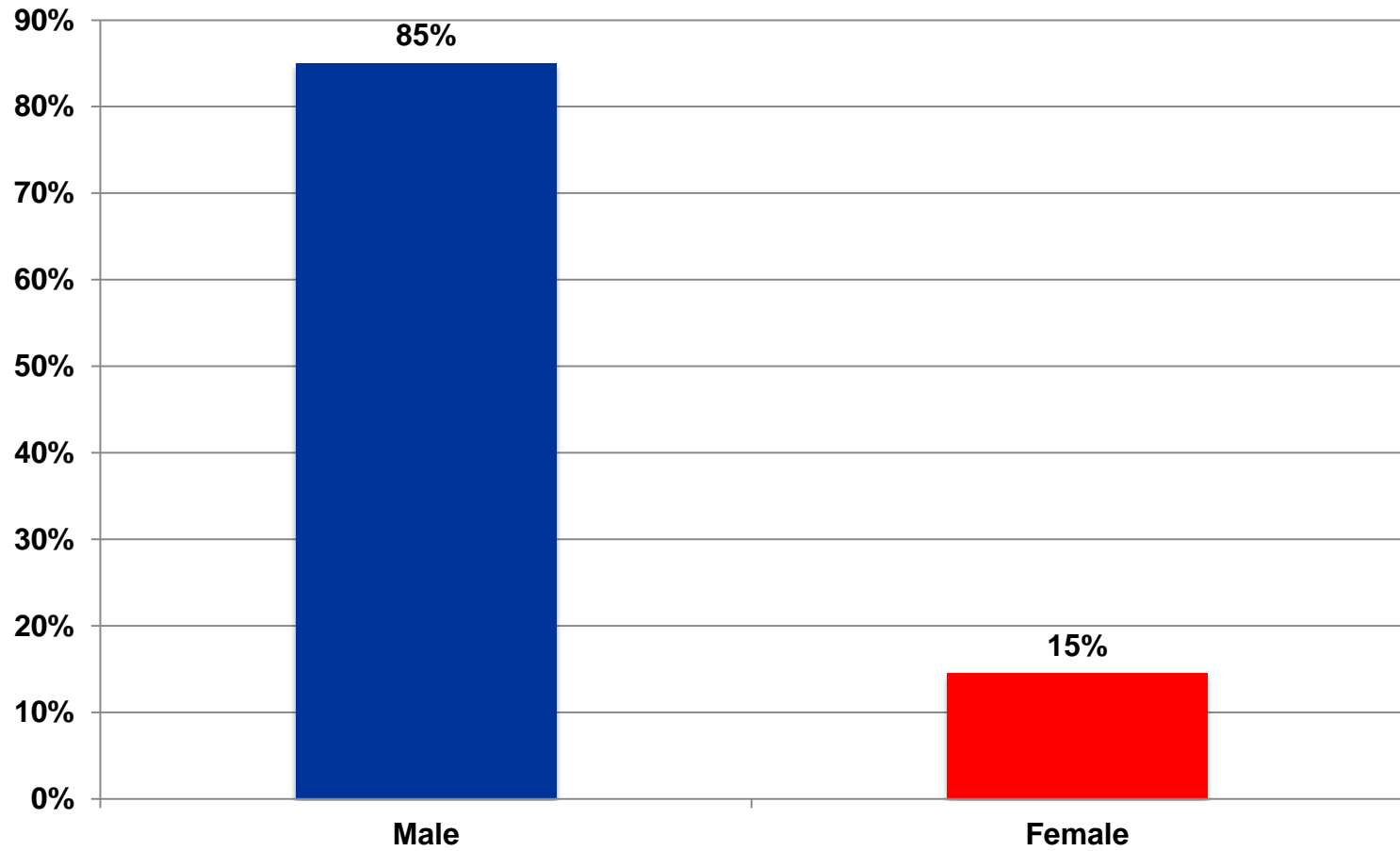
# Demographics



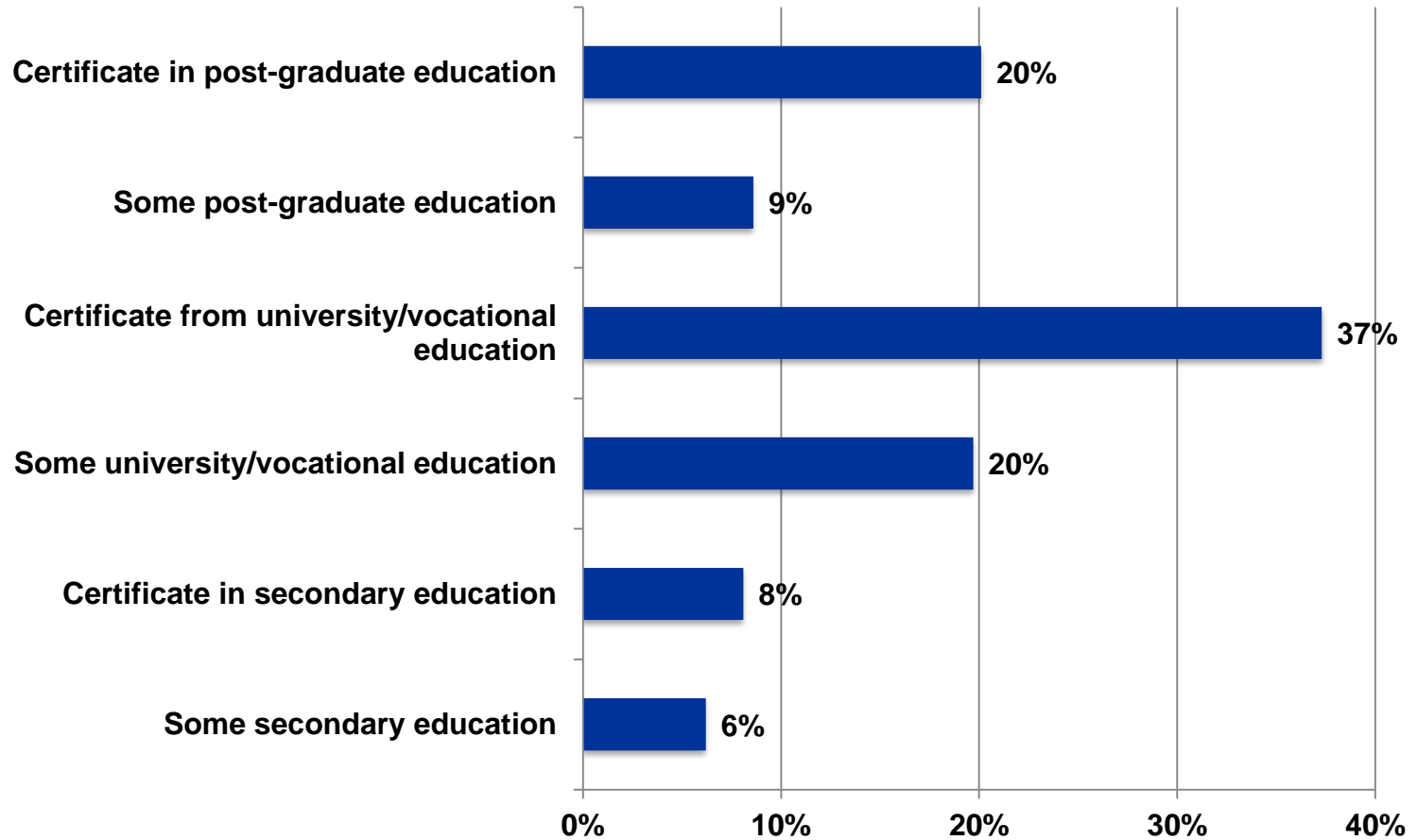
# Age



# Gender

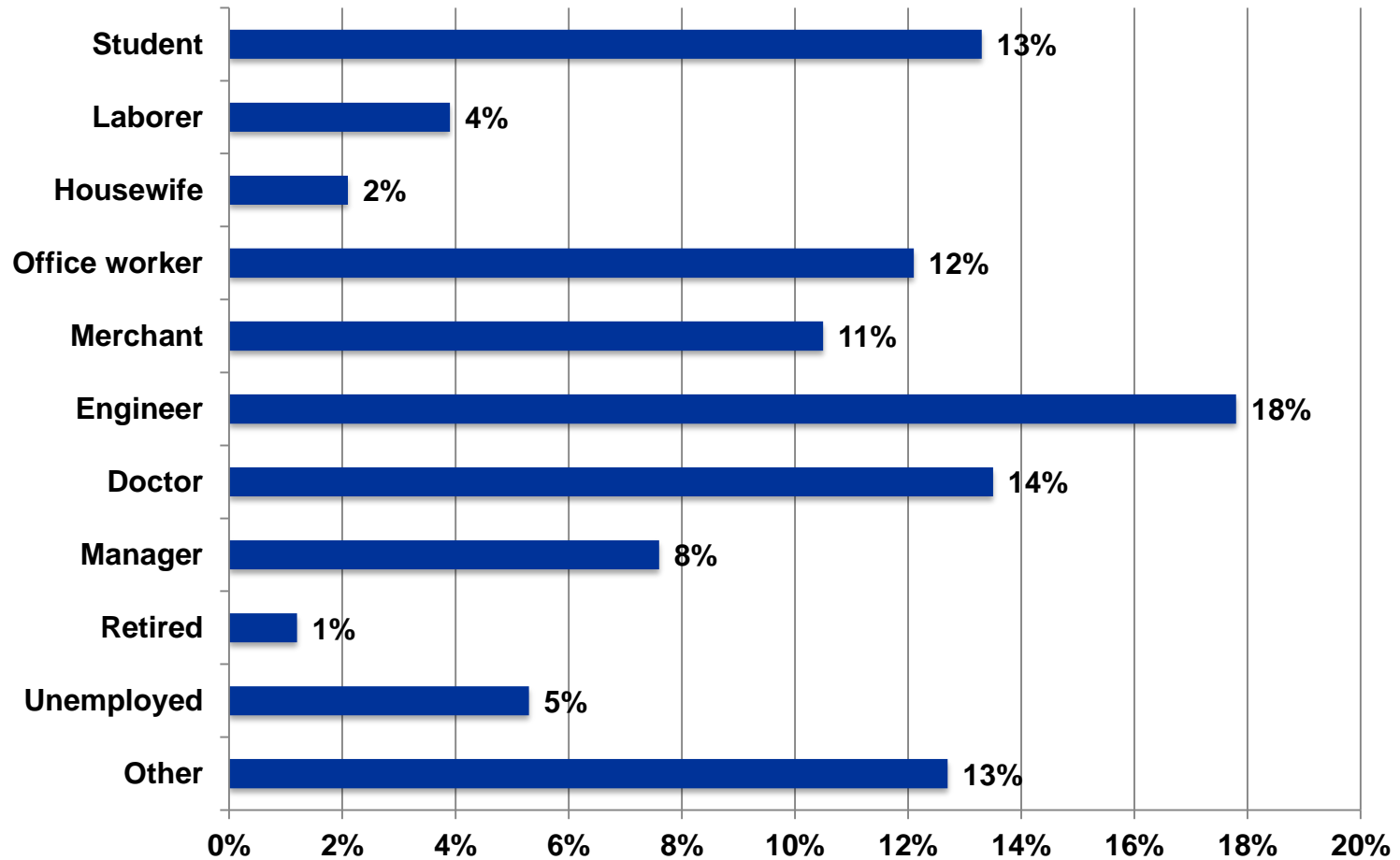


## Highest level of education achieved

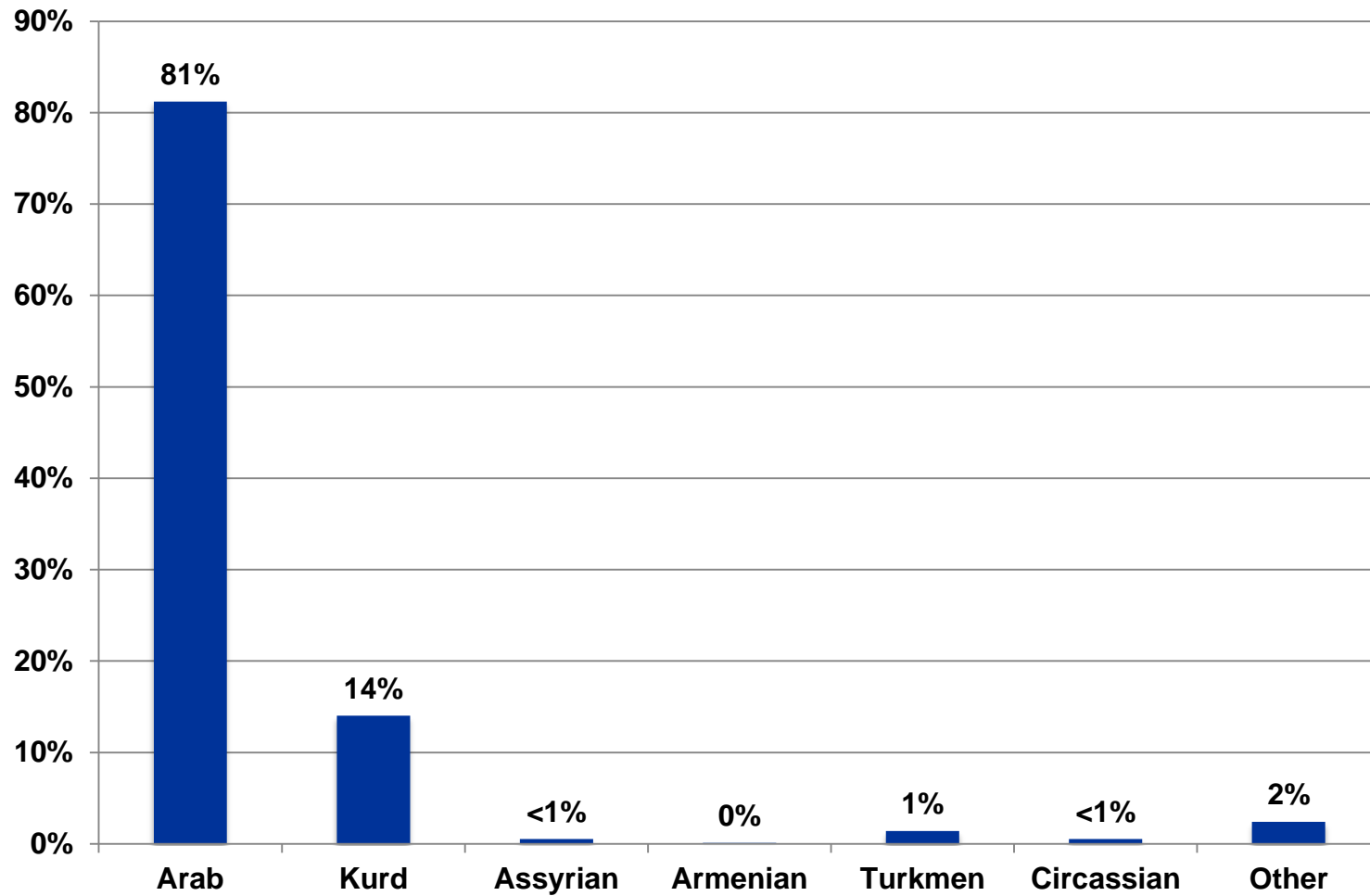




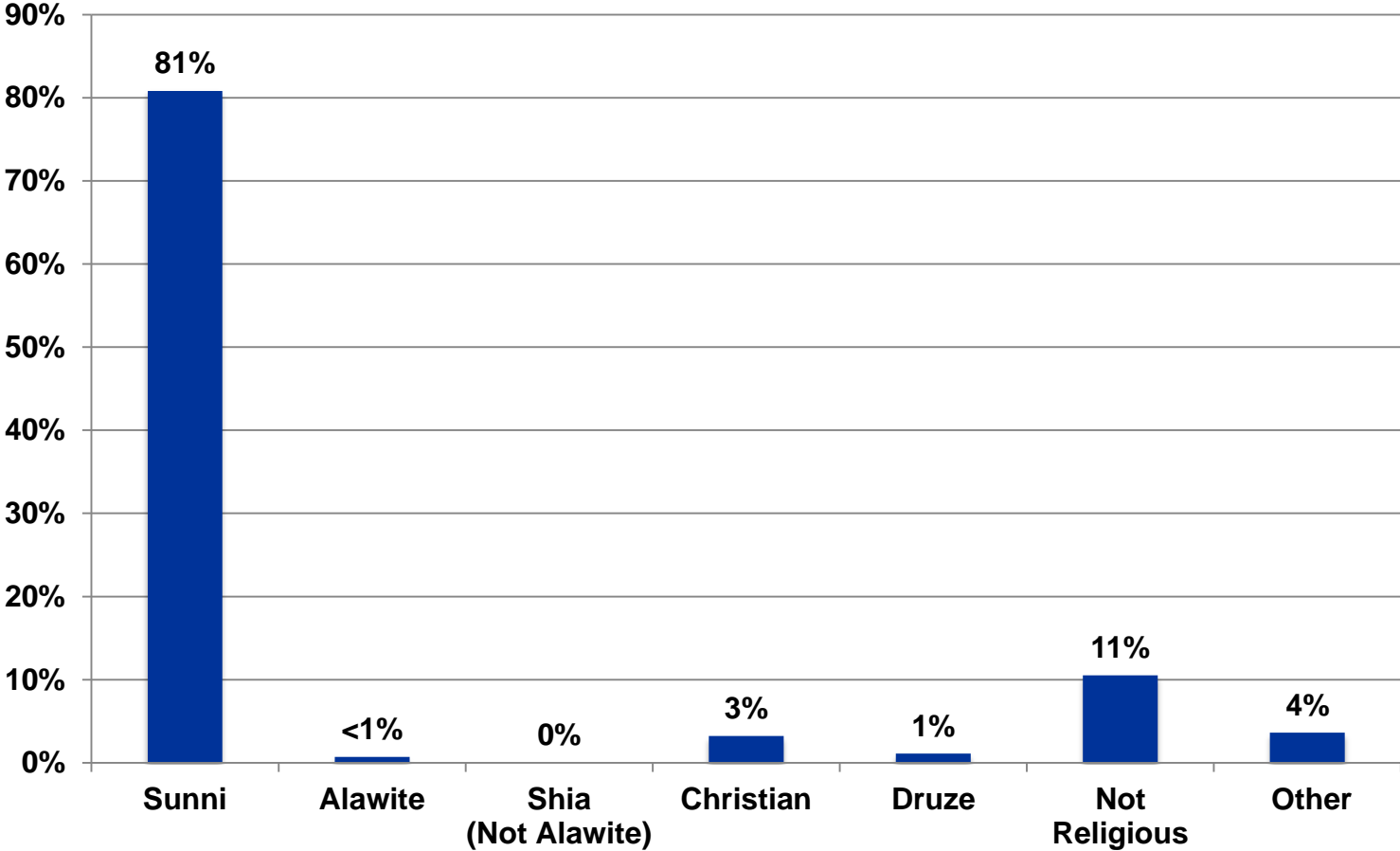
## Your normal profession or occupation



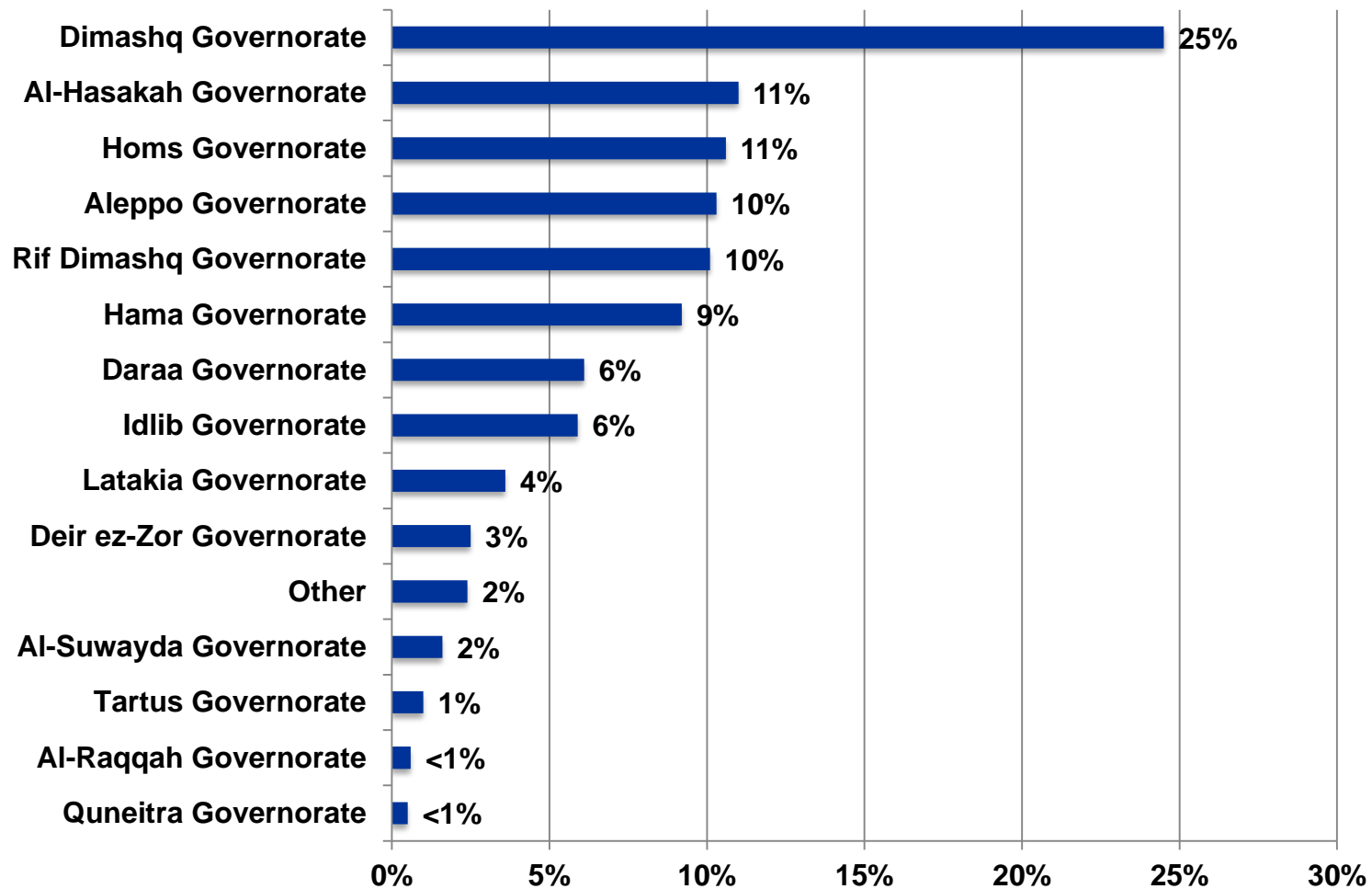
## Your ethnic background



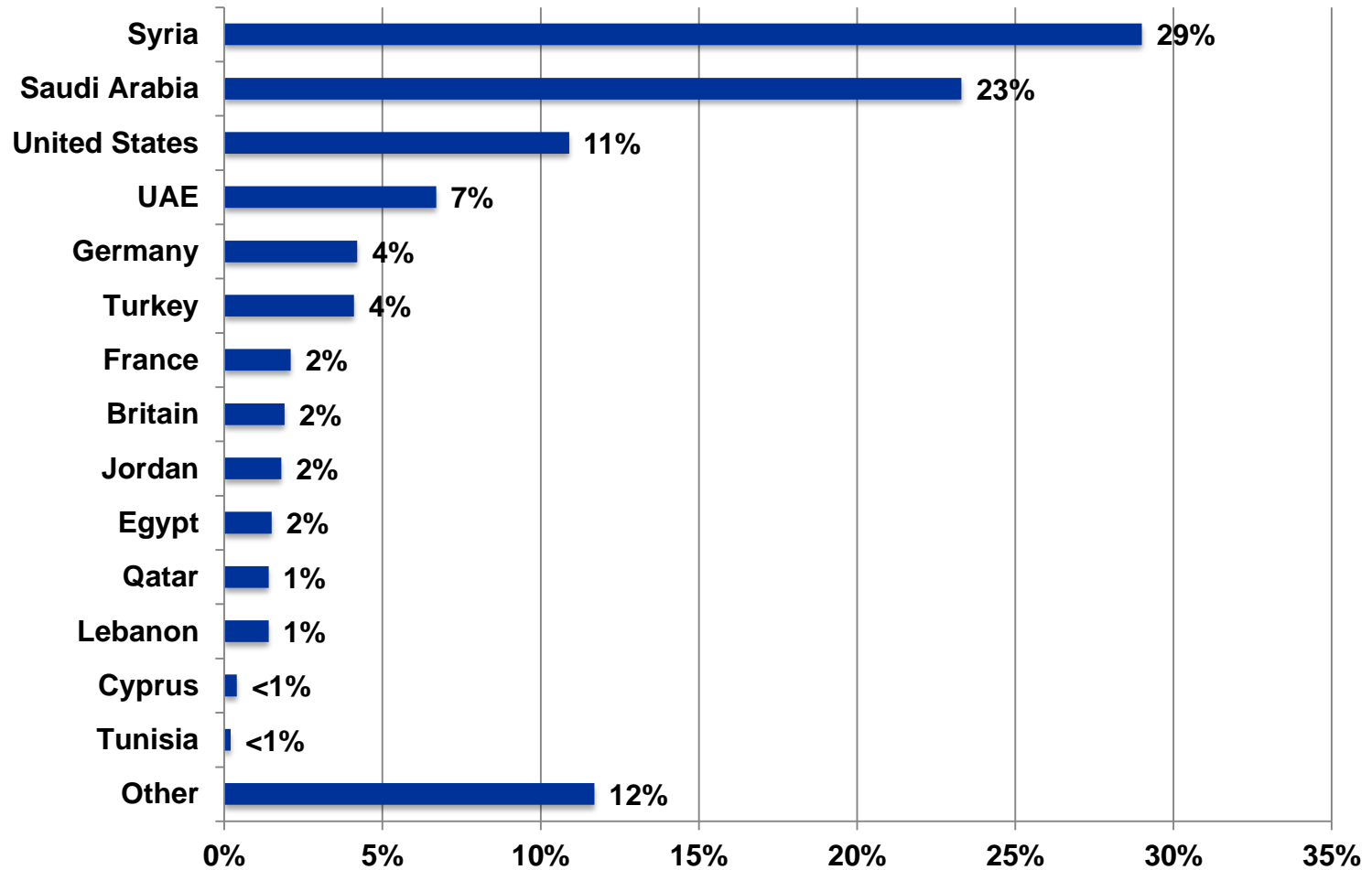
# Your religious background



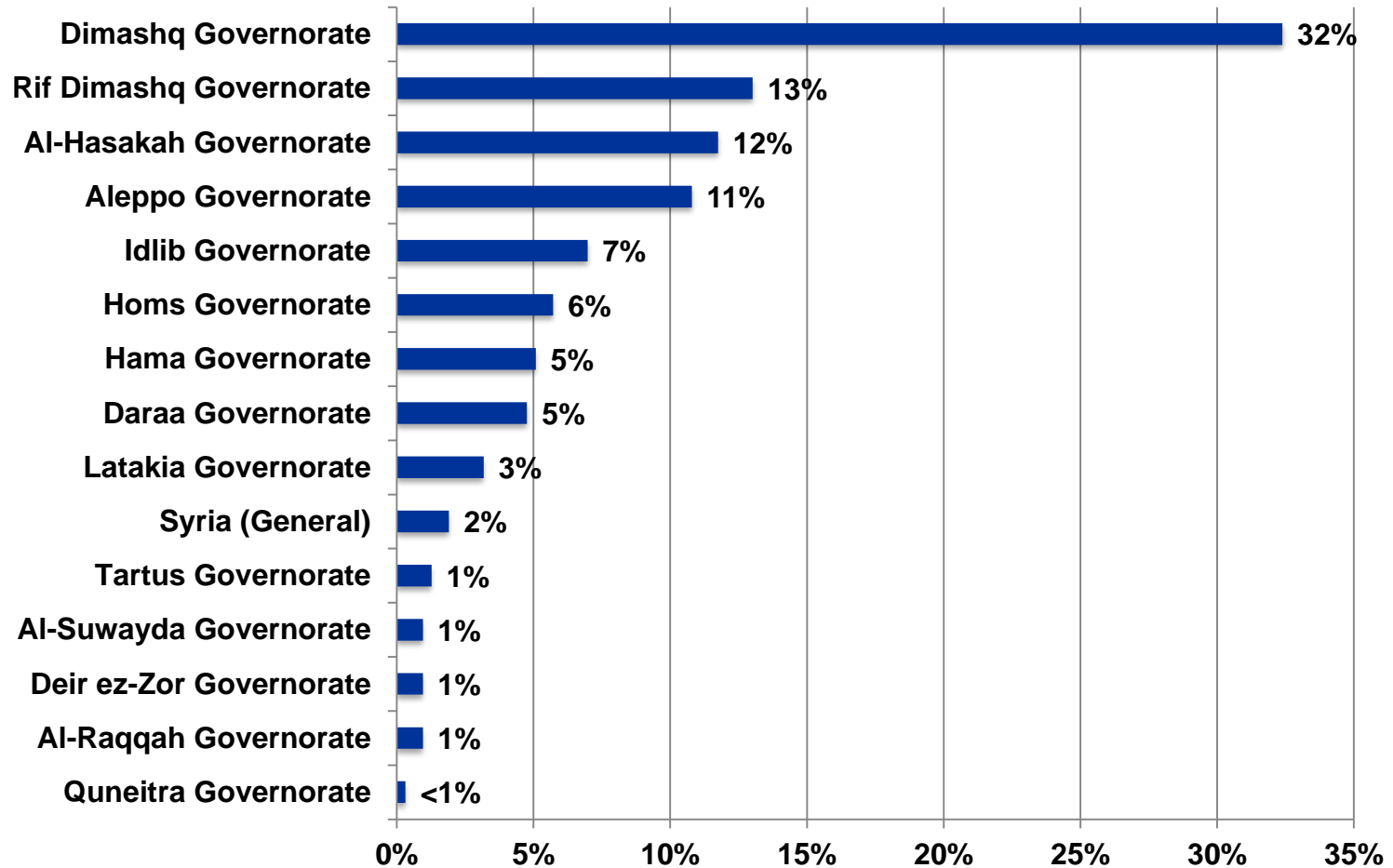
## The governorate you consider your home



## The place where you now live



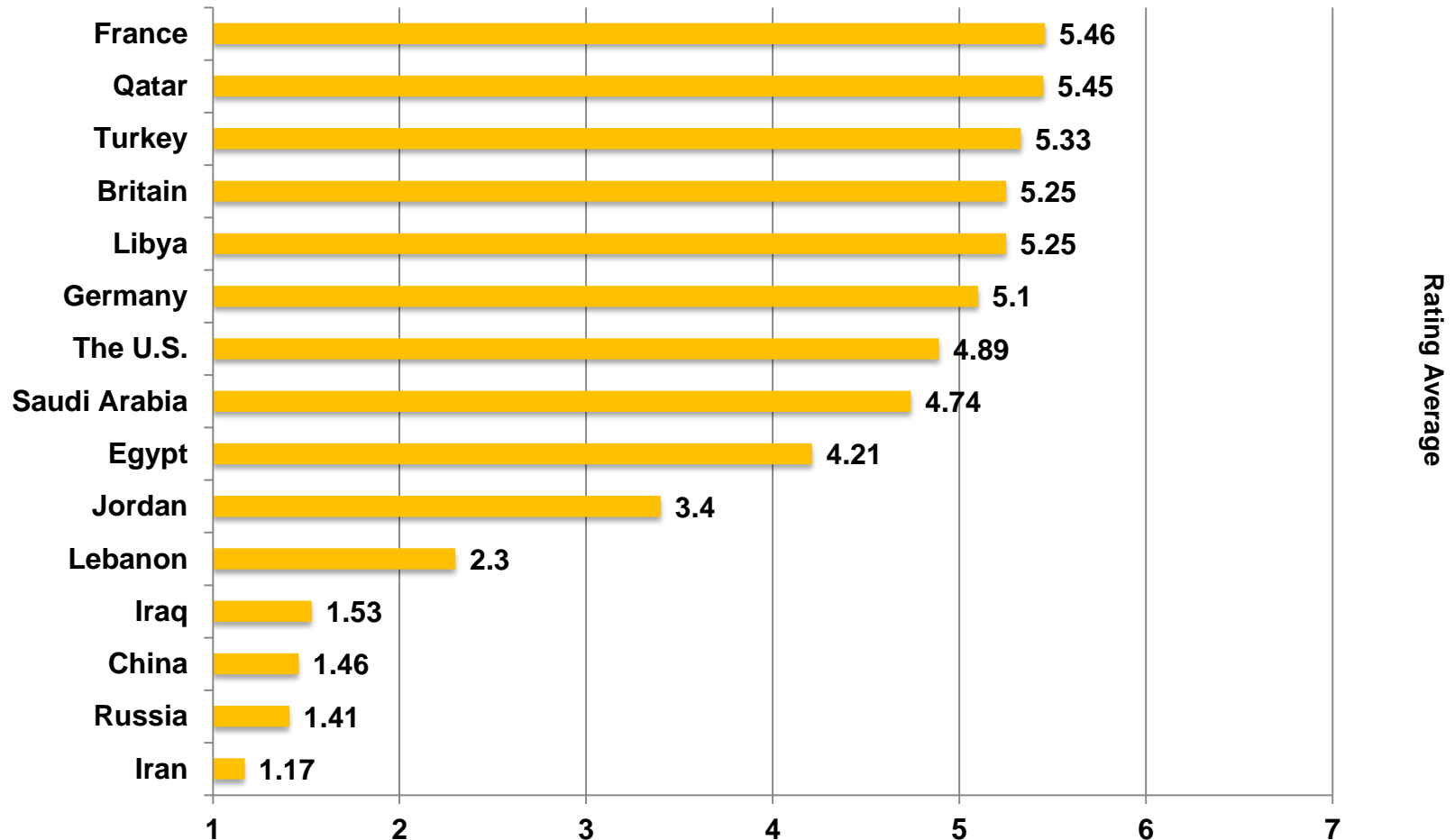
## If you are now living in Syria, where are you living? (315 of sample living in Syria)



# International Relations

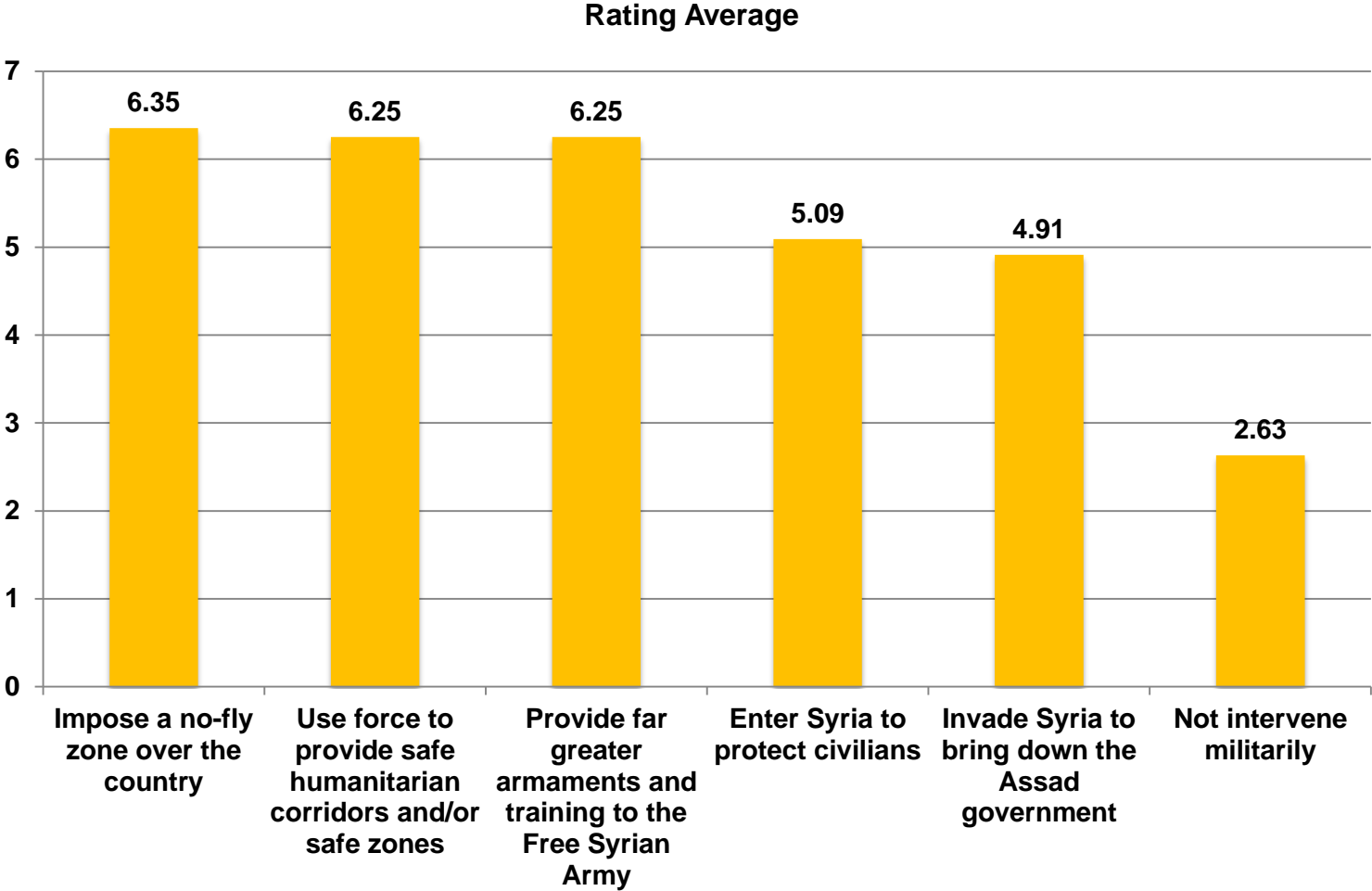


Thinking of how various foreign countries have treated the Syrian opposition in recent months, please rank the following countries where seven means the country has treated the Syrian opposition the best and one means the country has treated the Syrian opposition the worst.

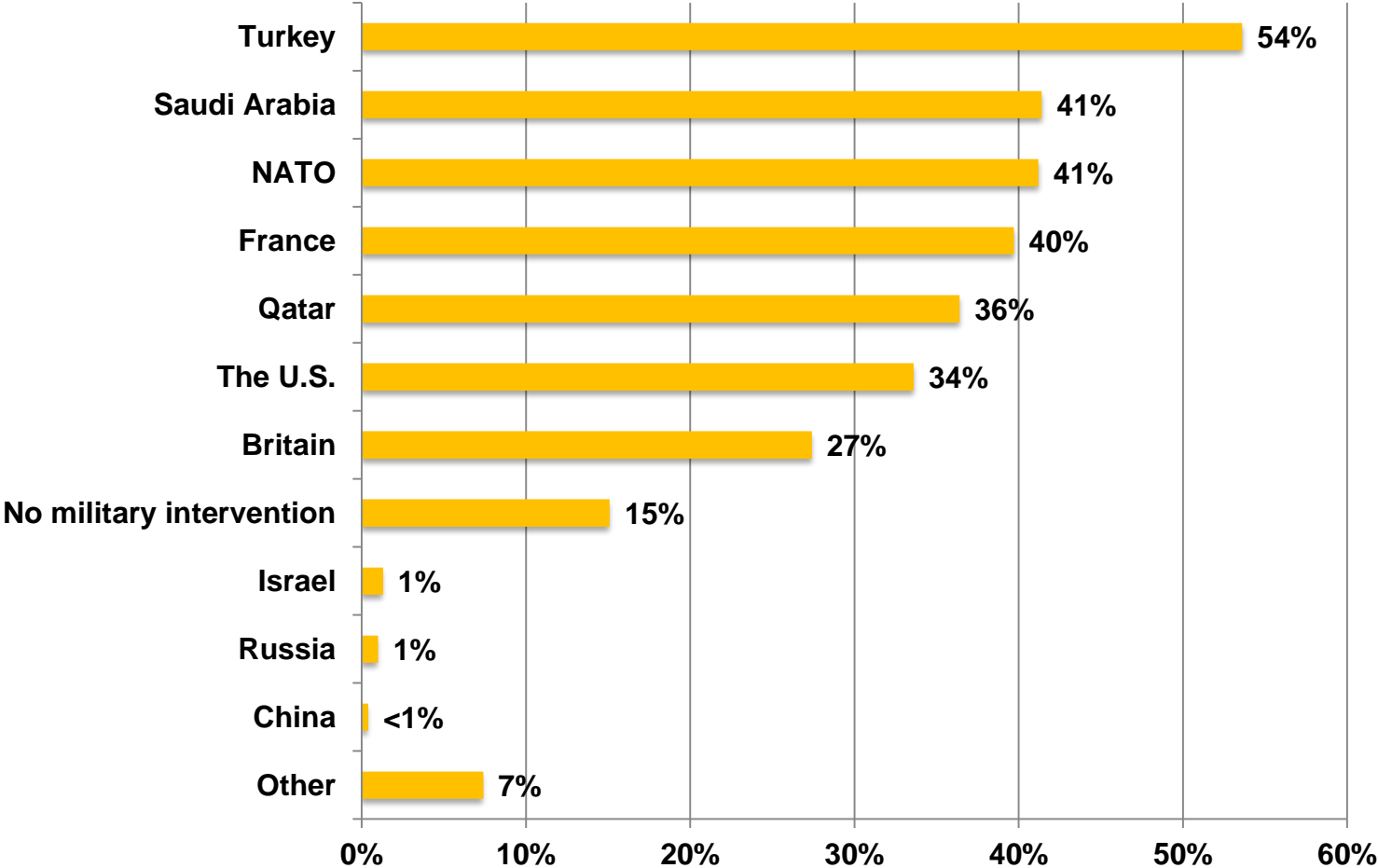




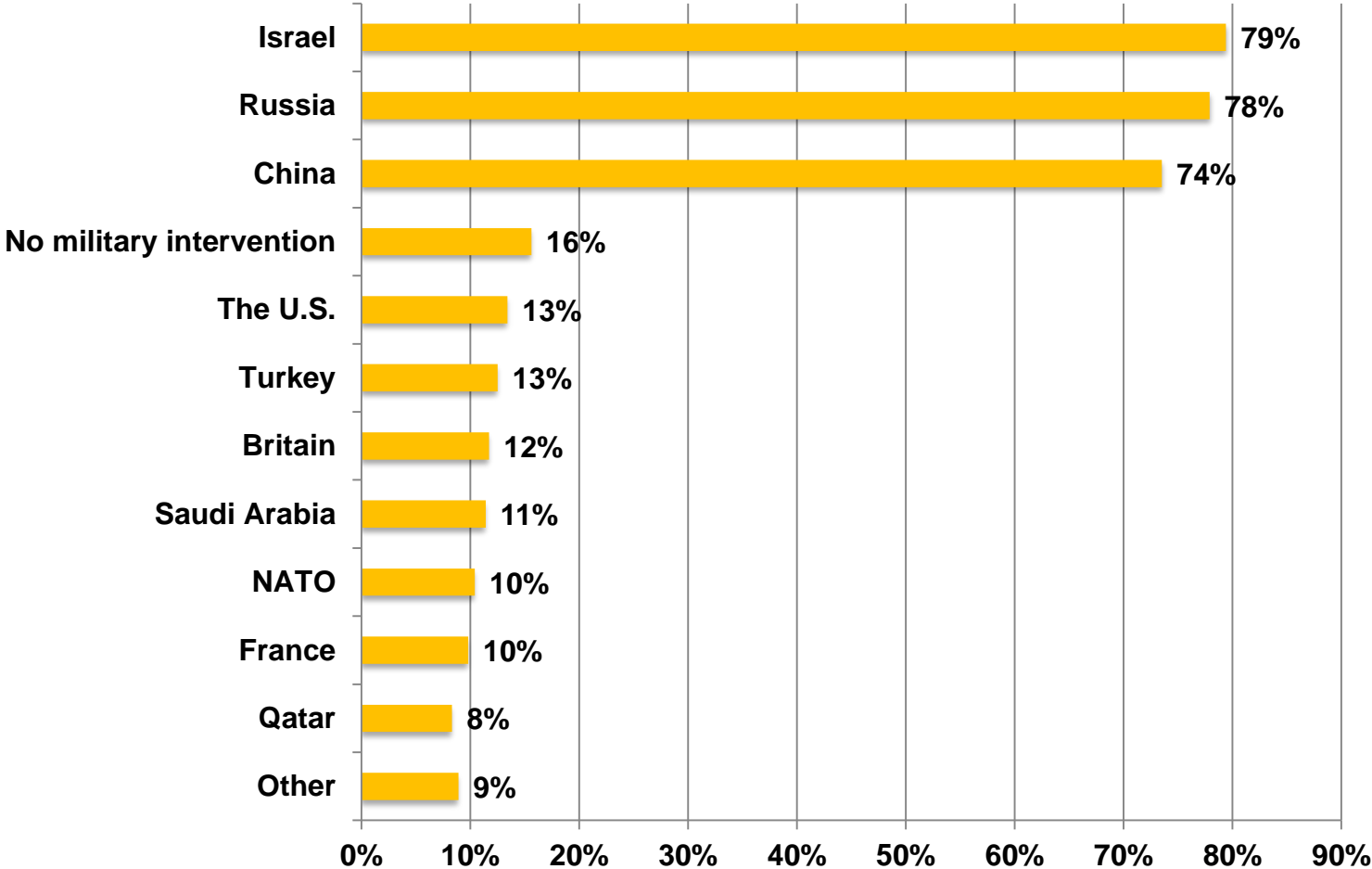
On a seven-point agreement scale where seven means agree strongly and one disagree strongly, how strongly do you agree with the following ideas about foreign military intervention in Syria today? An international alliance should ...



**If an international alliance does intervene militarily, which of the following countries should lead the alliance? Select all that apply.**



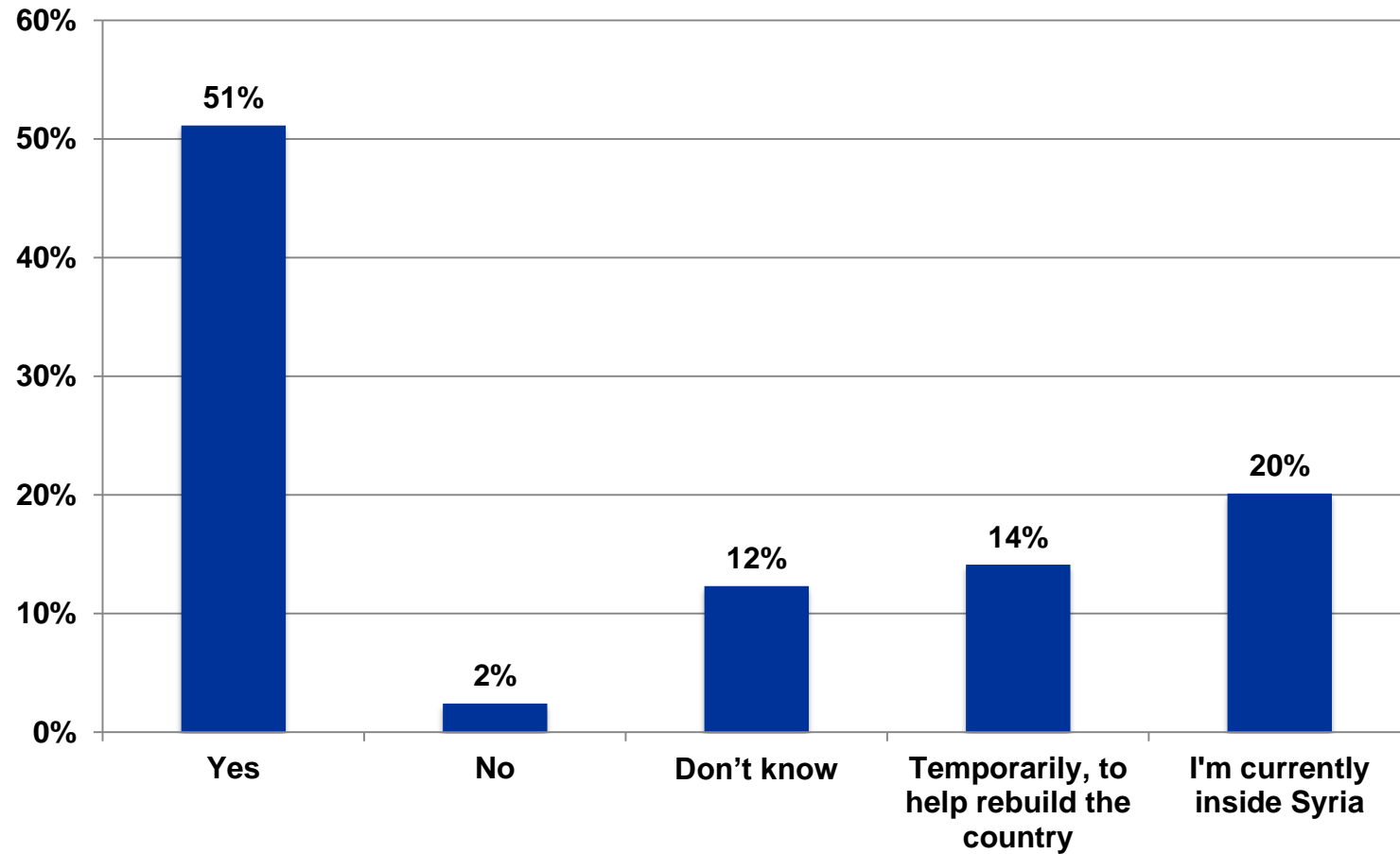
**If an international alliance does intervene militarily, which of the following countries should not be involved? Select all that apply.**



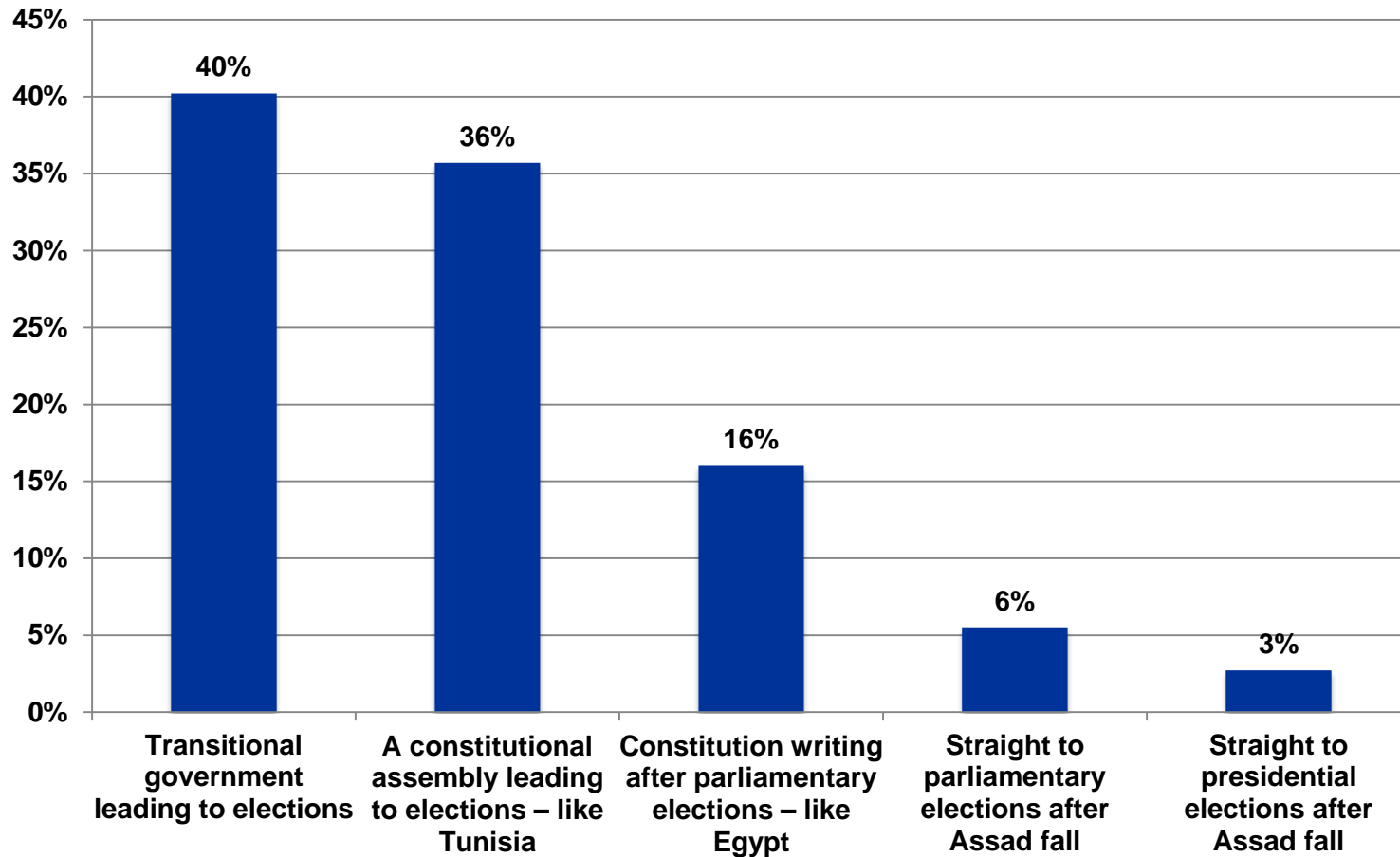
# Post-Assad Syria



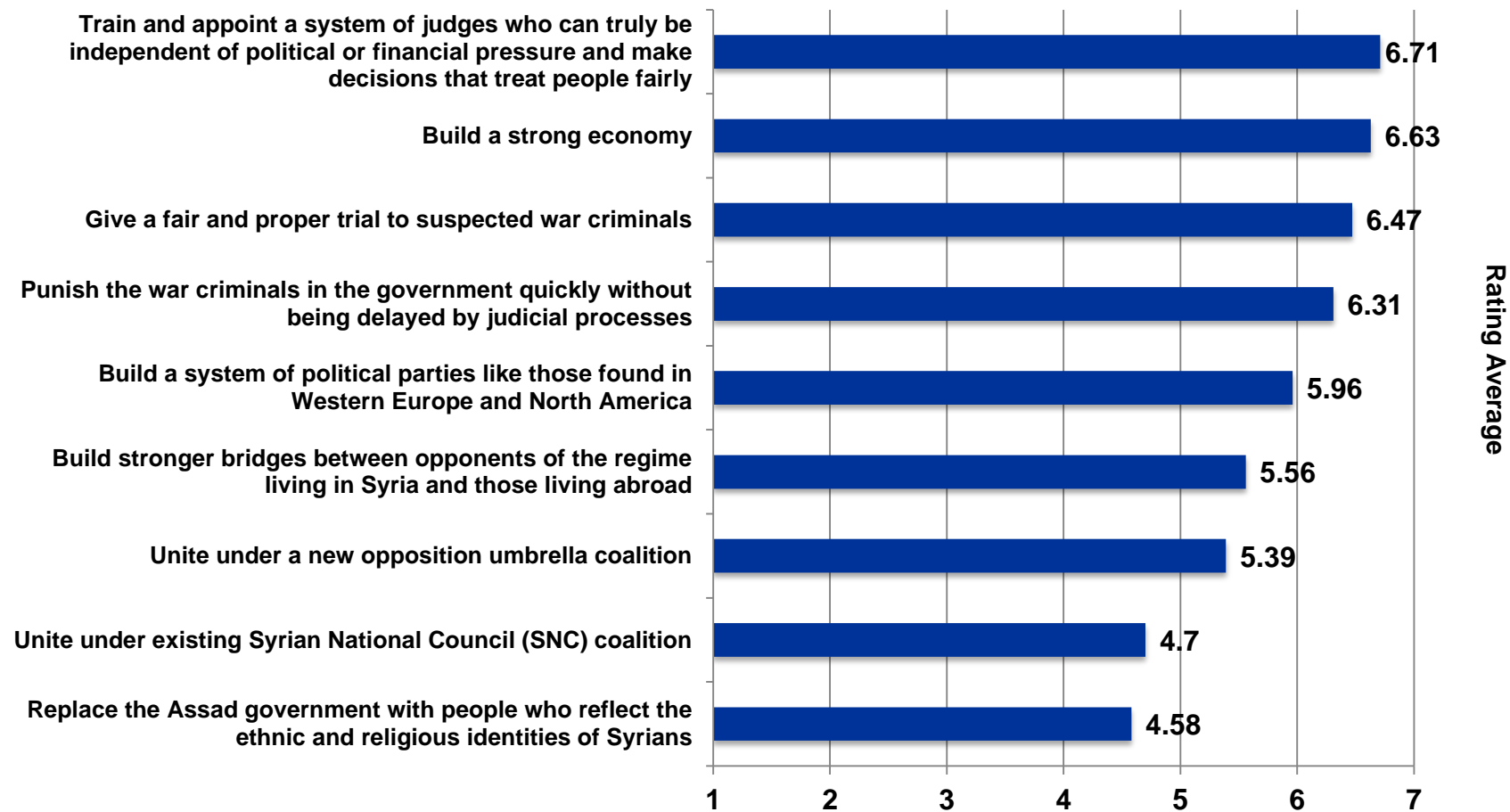
## If the Assad regime is no longer in power, would you return to live in Syria?



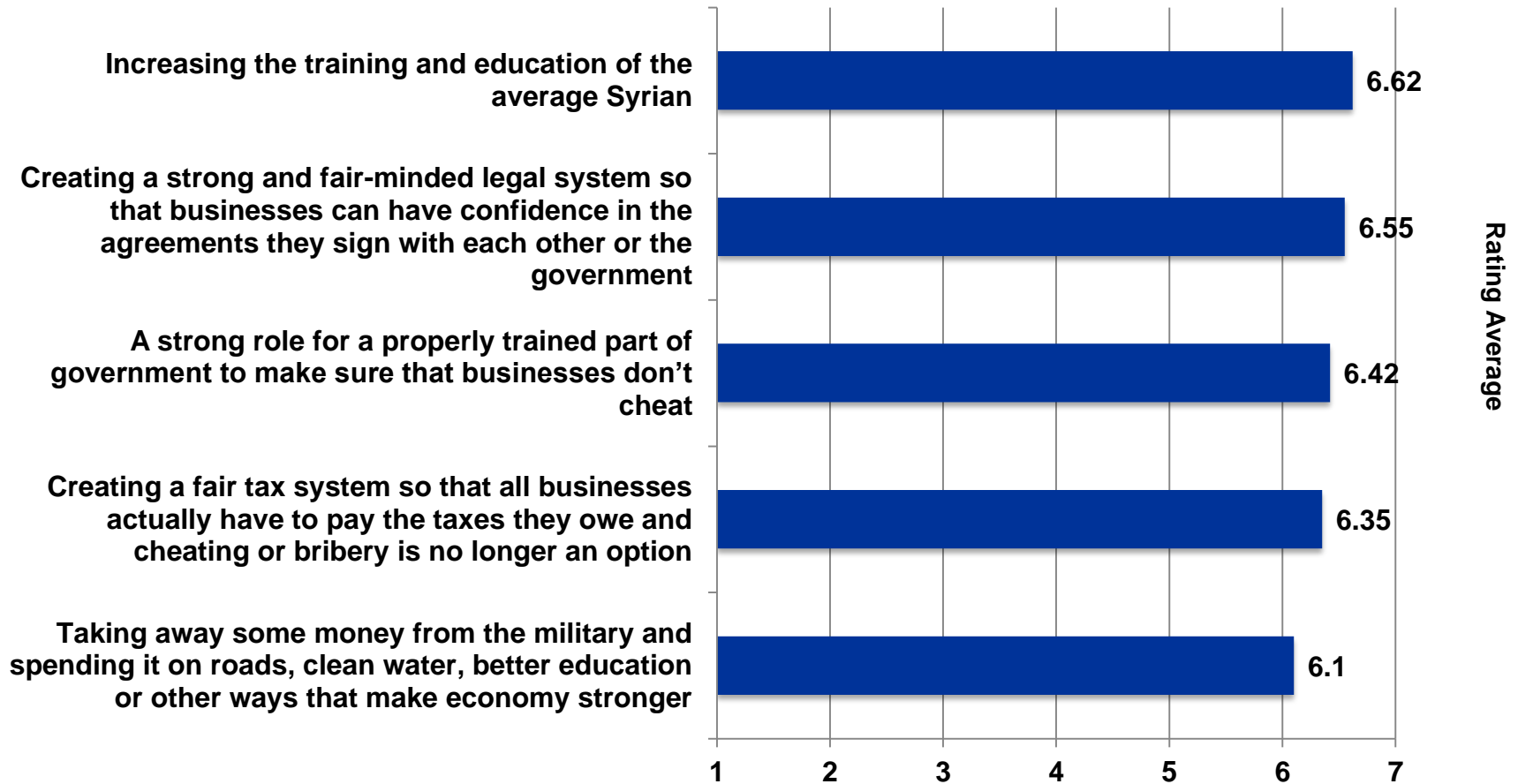
# After the Assad regime falls, what should be the electoral/government process?



**Suppose for a moment that the Opposition to the Assad regime could achieve any objective it wanted to achieve. Please score the options below on a seven point scale where seven means important and one means not important.**



**How important is each of the following in your opinion for helping Syria build a strong economy? Please score each on a seven point scale where seven means important and one means not important.**



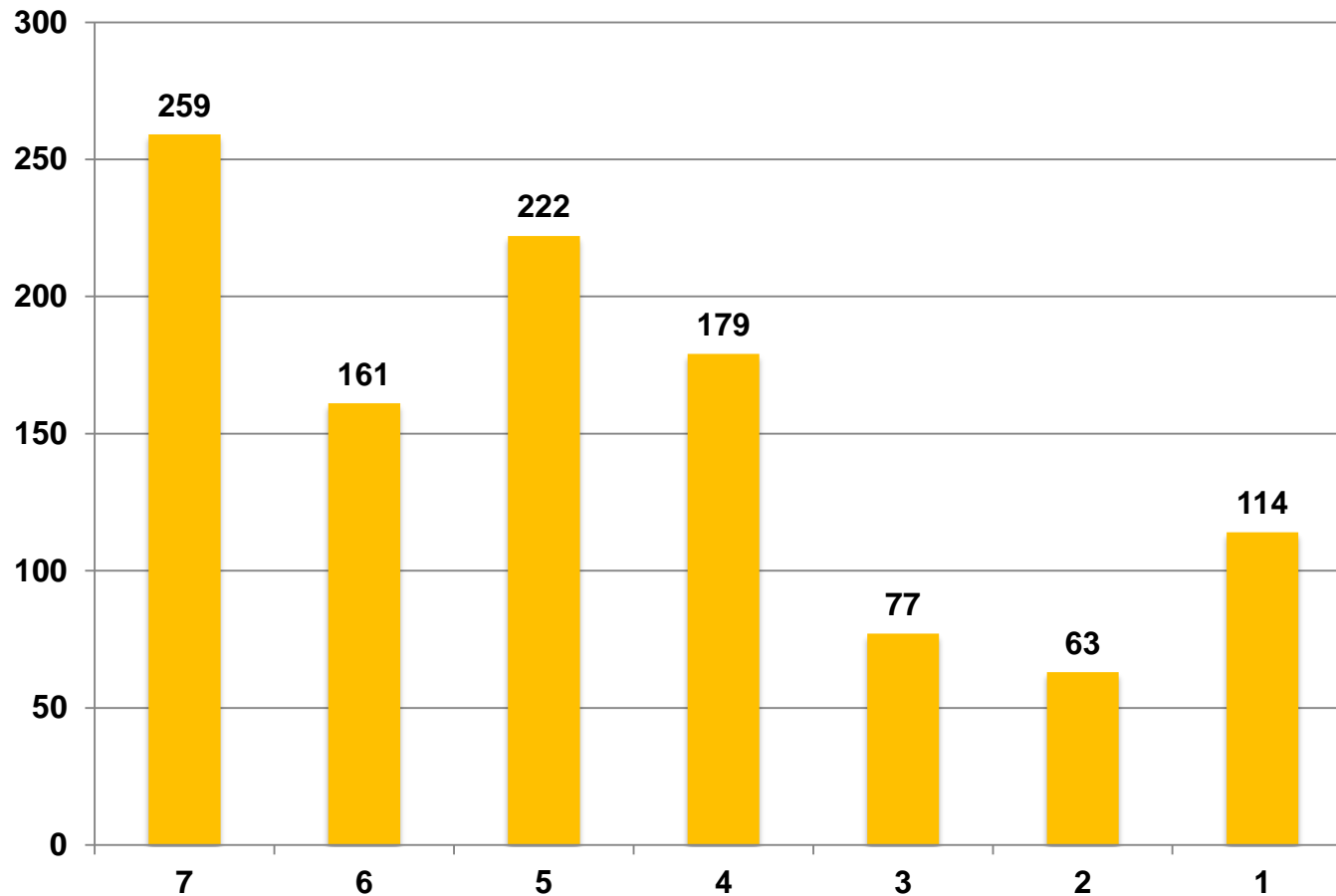


# The Opposition

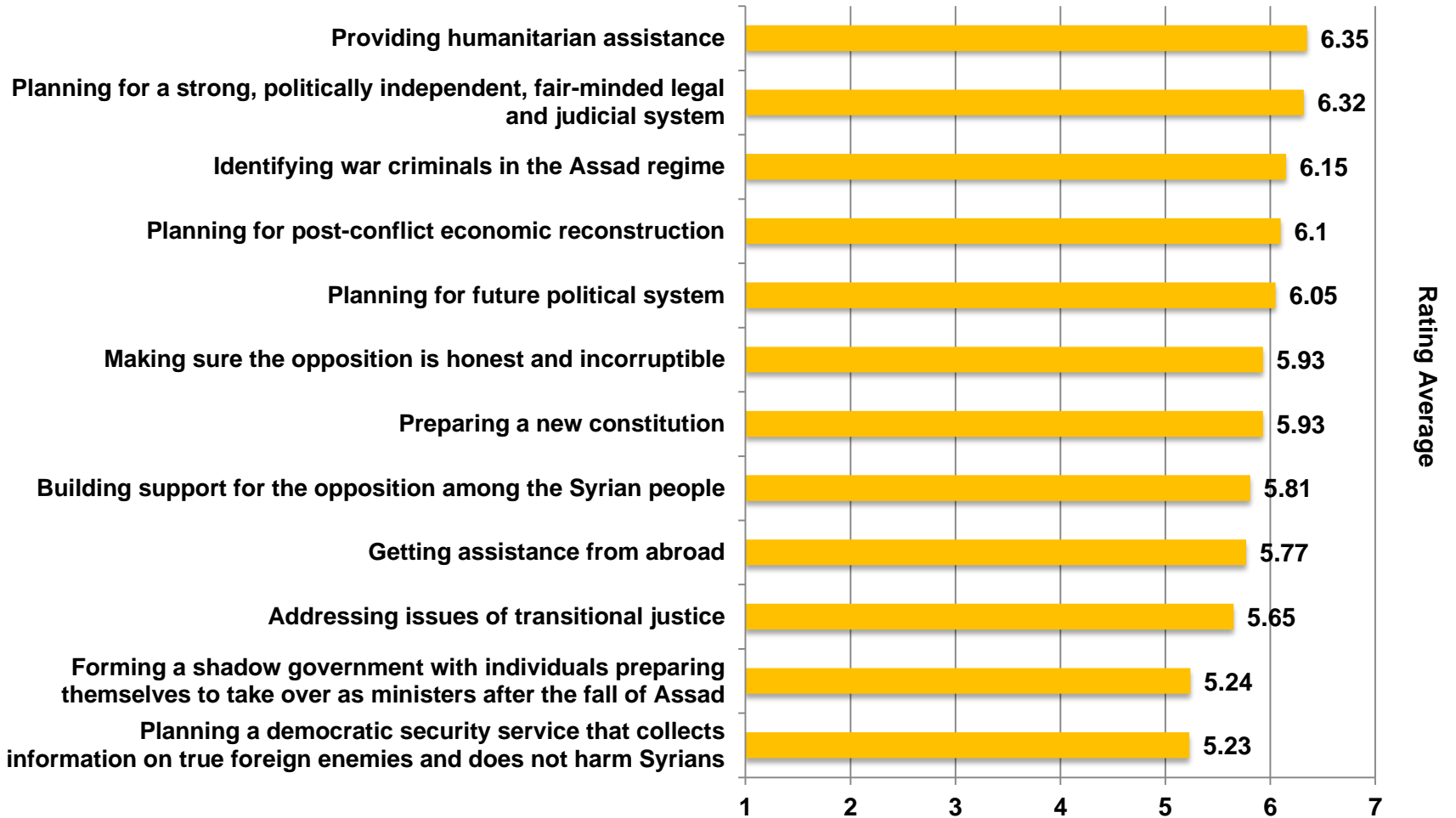


# How legitimate is the SNC as a body representing Syrians, where seven means the SNC is legitimate and one means the SNC is not legitimate.

(Number of responses for each response option seven through one)

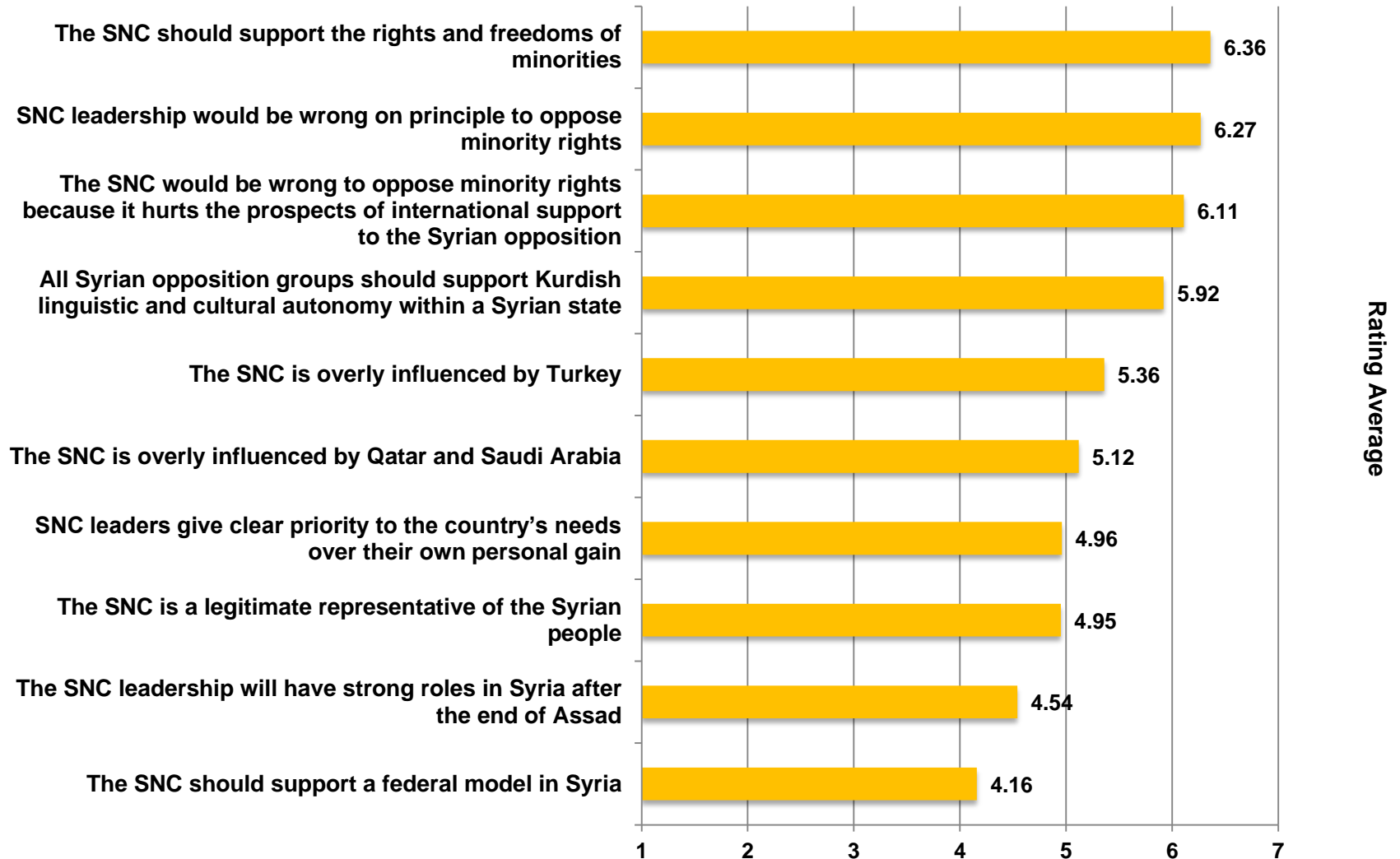


**Please tell me how the Syrian opposition prioritizes the following, using a seven-point scale where seven means a priority and one not a priority.**

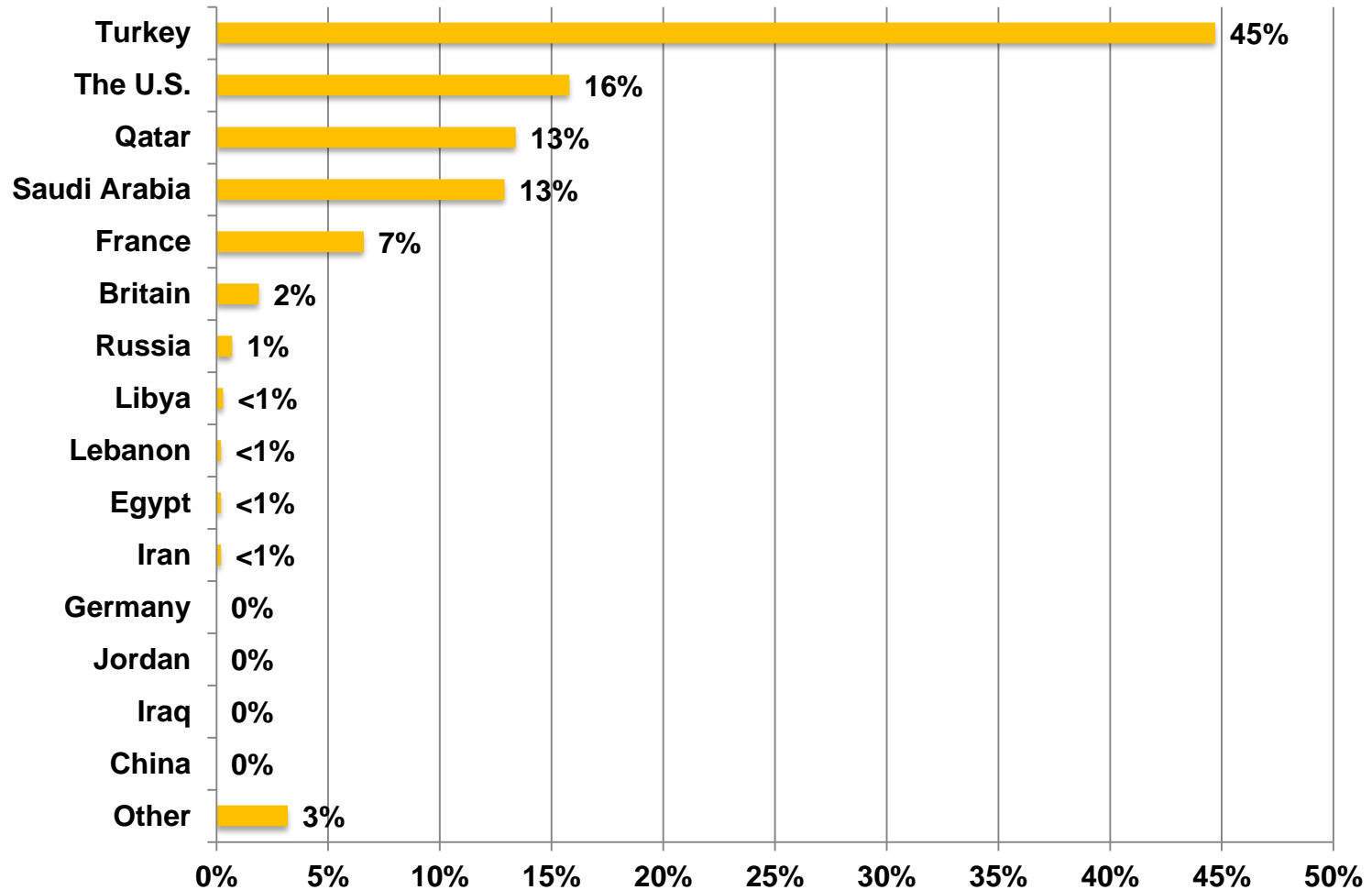


Rating Average

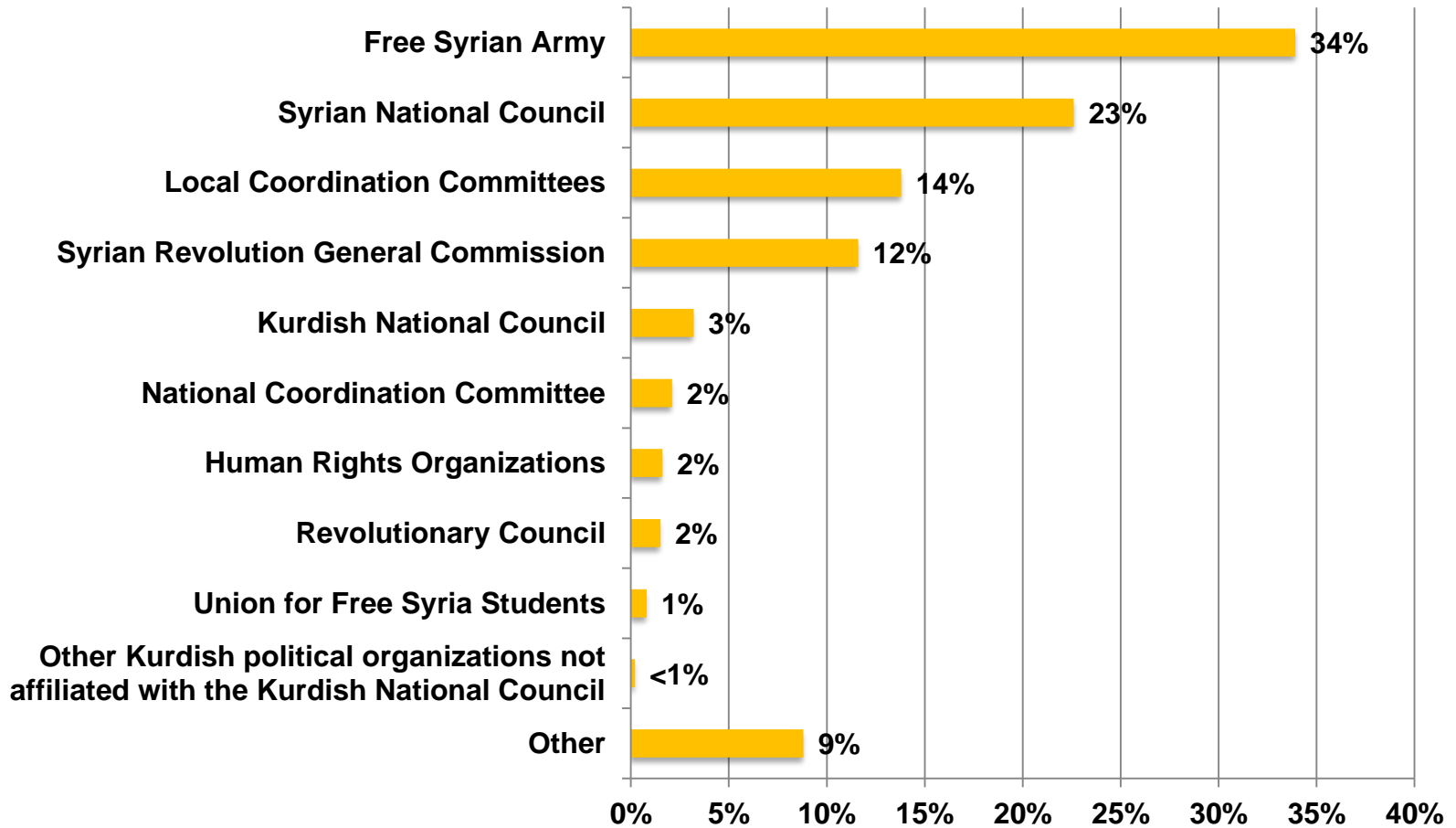
**On a seven point scale where seven means you agree and one means you disagree, to what extent do you agree with the following opinions?**



## Is there any one country with too much influence over the SNC?



# In your personal opinion, what opposition group is the most legitimate representative of the Syrian people?



## What opposition group do you affiliate yourself with most strongly?

