

MONITORING OF OPINIONS: MARCH–APRIL 2026

Results of the daily surveys “VCIOM–Sputnik”. Survey methods: (1) Telephone interviews based on a stratified dual-frame random sample of landline and mobile numbers, with a total of 1,600 respondents aged 18 and older (the sample was drawn from the complete list of phone numbers used within the Russian Federation); (2) Online survey using a structured questionnaire administered through the probability-based panel “VCIOM-Online.” Participants of the panel are recruited during the daily nationwide telephone (CATI) survey “Sputnik,” conducted with a random digit dialing (RDD) sample of mobile numbers drawn from the complete list of phone numbers used within the Russian Federation. The data are weighted by selection probability and socio-demographic parameters. The maximum sampling error with a 95% confidence level does not exceed 2.5–3.1%. In addition to sampling error, question wording and various circumstances arising during fieldwork may also introduce bias into the survey data.

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THE U.S.—IRAN WAR: RUSSIANS’ PERCEPTIONS

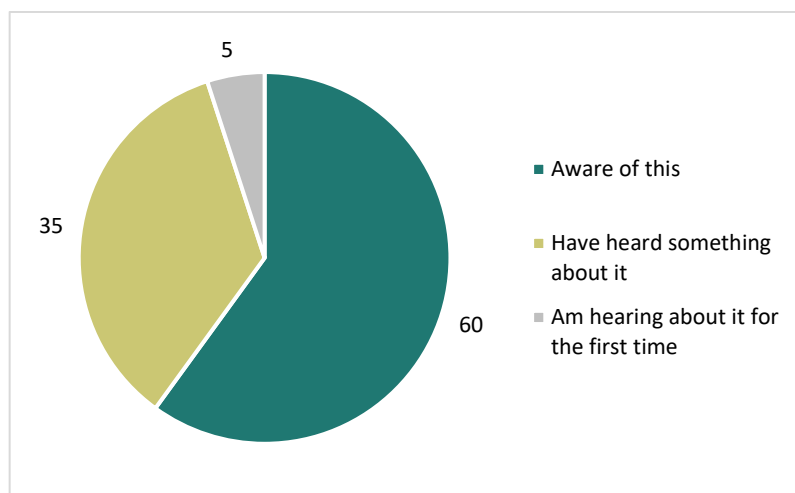
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THE U.S.—IRAN WAR: RUSSIANS' PERCEPTIONS

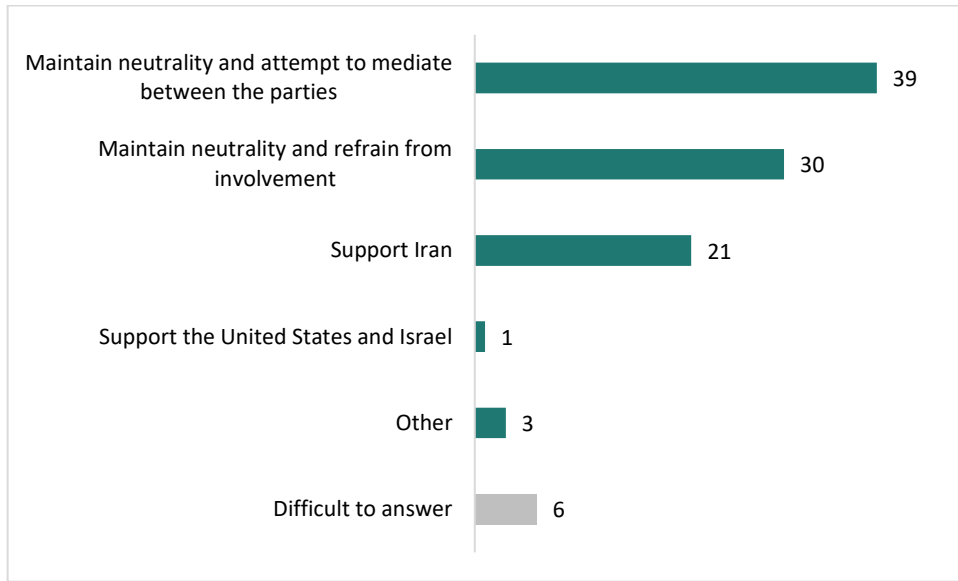
March 20, 2026

An overwhelming majority of Russians are at least generally aware of the military conflict involving the United States and Israel against Iran. Awareness is particularly high among those who consume information from both television and the internet. However, even among those who use neither source, most are still informed about the hostilities. This suggests that the situation is not only covered in the media but also actively discussed in everyday communication. The military conflict in the Middle East generates considerable concern among Russians, with seven in ten explicitly expressing anxiety. This concern is structured around three main fears. First, the risk of large-scale escalation, potentially leading to a Third World War and the use of nuclear weapons. Second, the humanitarian consequences associated with the horrors of war, including loss of life, destruction, and displacement. Third, potential threats to Russia, both direct — such as possible involvement in the conflict — and indirect, including rising prices and broader economic instability. In public opinion, there is a clear preference for a neutral stance by Russia in relation to the ongoing conflict between the United States, Israel, and Iran. Most Russians believe that the country should maintain distance, preserve neutrality, and either act as a mediator or refrain from involvement altogether. The non-interventionist position is particularly widespread among younger respondents. Approximately one in five supports a strategy of backing Iran, with such views more common among older cohorts. By contrast, the idea of supporting the United States and Israel finds virtually no support among Russians. Iran is generally perceived as a friendly country and has traditionally been regarded as a partner of Russia. At the same time, many Russians view the actions of the United States and its allies critically, reflecting a long-standing political confrontation that has intensified in recent years in the context of Russia's Special Military Operation (SMO).

Pic. 1. On February 28, 2026, an armed conflict involving the United States and Israel against Iran began. Would you say that you are aware of this, have heard something about it, or are hearing about it for the first time? (closed-ended question, single response, % of all respondents)



Pic. 2. What position, in your opinion, should Russia take in this situation? (closed-ended question, single response, % of all respondents)



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES
HOME ALONE, RUSSIAN STYLE

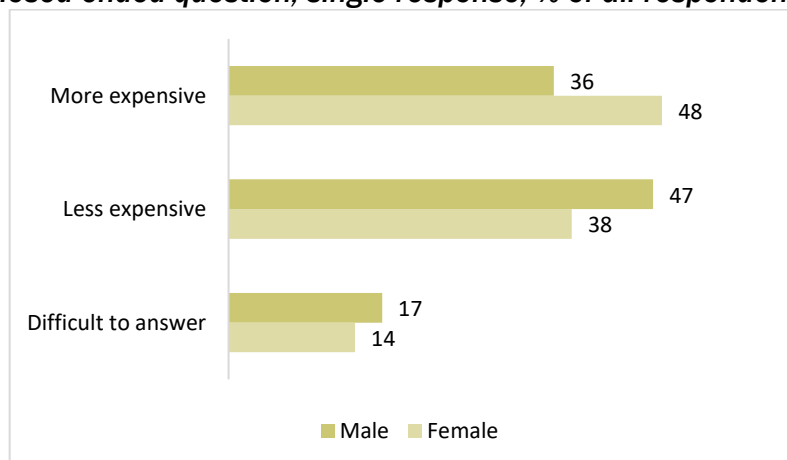
HOME ALONE, RUSSIAN STYLE

April 14, 2026

One of the defining trends of the contemporary world is the growth in single-person households. This process is also advancing rapidly in Russia. The highest concentrations of such households are found in major metropolitan areas and economically dynamic regions — Moscow, St. Petersburg, the Northwest, as well as parts of the Urals and the Far East. Contrary to the widespread perception that living alone is more typical of older people, single-person households in Russia are predominantly composed of individuals of working age. In other words, solo living is relatively “young” and is not primarily the result of losing a partner, children growing up, or aging. Overall, two types of solitude coexist in Russia: traditional (age-related) and new (economically active).

Despite the increasing prevalence of solo living, it cannot yet be described as a social norm or a widely desired lifestyle. More often, living alone is interpreted as a forced circumstance — something that has “just happened.” Russians do not typically associate solo living with personal choice, autonomy, or freedom. More broadly, society continues to operate within a framework in which the family is understood as a collective unit, and a single individual is not readily recognized as a “family”. Although social reality is changing, normative conceptions of the family remain stable. The idea of recognizing a single person as a “family” is somewhat more common among women, older generations, and those who themselves live alone. In other words, the closer an individual’s personal experience is to this model, the more likely they are to accept it.

Pic 1. In your opinion, is it generally more expensive or less expensive to live alone nowadays than to live with someone? (closed-ended question, single response, % of all respondents)



LIFESTYLE

DNA PATERNITY TESTS IN MATERNITY HOSPITALS: PROS AND CONS

DNA PATERNITY TESTS IN MATERNITY HOSPITALS: PROS AND CONS

April 17, 2026

Although DNA testing is a rather sensitive issue and closely tied to trust within a couple, half of Russians support the idea of confirming paternity immediately after a child is born. One in four take a neutral position, while the group of opponents is relatively small. The further people are from actual parenthood — younger age, no children — the more readily they support DNA testing. Personal experience of parenthood and broader life experience, by contrast, make people more cautious in their assessments. Predictably, men are more likely to support testing, while women do not necessarily oppose the idea; rather, they are more likely to say that they are indifferent to it. The good intentions behind the initiative — protecting the rights of the child — in fact pave the way for the legalization of relationship disputes within the couple. For supporters of the initiative, a DNA test appears to be not so much an instrument for protecting the child as a mechanism for checking the mother. Above all, respondents speak of the need to avoid deception and dispel suspicions, and only then of the child's legal protection. In this situation, the woman finds herself in a morally vulnerable position: instead of legal guarantees, she receives the status of an unreliable partner. As a result, an initiative conceived as protective essentially legitimizes mistrust and verification.

Opponents of the initiative justify their position by appealing to the boundaries of private and family life: in their view, the state should not interfere in such intimate matters. They also express concerns that the very possibility of testing will provoke relationship conflicts and increase the number of divorces. This is further compounded by a broader distrust of the system: fears of control, misuse of data, and inefficient spending of public funds. Despite the ambiguity of the issue, seven in ten Russians declare their readiness to undergo DNA testing at the birth of a child, with the figure equally high among men and women. Willingness is higher among younger Russians and those who do not yet have children — that is, among those for whom the issue remains fairly abstract. However, as people come closer to actual parental experience, and among older generations, this readiness declines. For Russians, preserving established parental bonds is far more important than biological truth. If a man were suddenly to discover that he had been raising someone else's child for years, society believes that he should continue raising the child: only one in nine supports ending the relationship with the child.

Pic. 1. Imagine that a man learns that the child he has been raising is not his biological child. In your opinion, what should he do? (closed-ended question, single response, % of all respondents)

