

*The Impact of 9/11
on Value Orientations
Of the Islamic Public in Egypt*

Mansoor Moaddel
Professor of Sociology, EMU
Research Affiliate, U of M

Two waves of surveys in Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Morocco (2000-2002):

Variety of issues: family, women, religion, interpersonal relationships, economy, politics, social, tolerance, attitudes toward the West.

Replicated after 9/11: Data here are from Egypt.

- ~ Difference in Worldviews between Egyptians, Jordanians, Iranians.
- ~ Changes in Egyptian attitudes since 9/11.

Figure 1 - Religiosity versus Spirituality

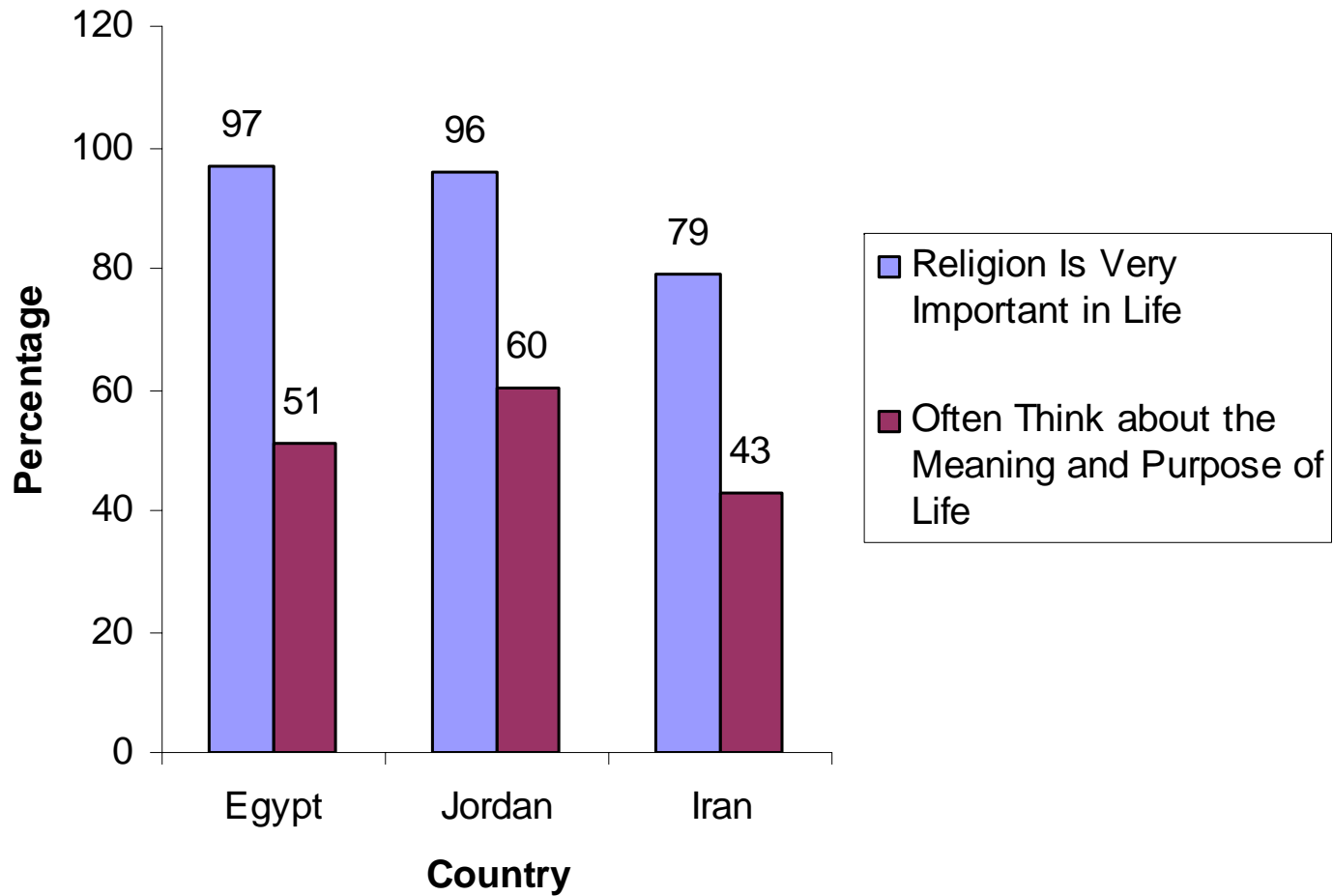


Figure 2-Identity: Religion versus Nationalism

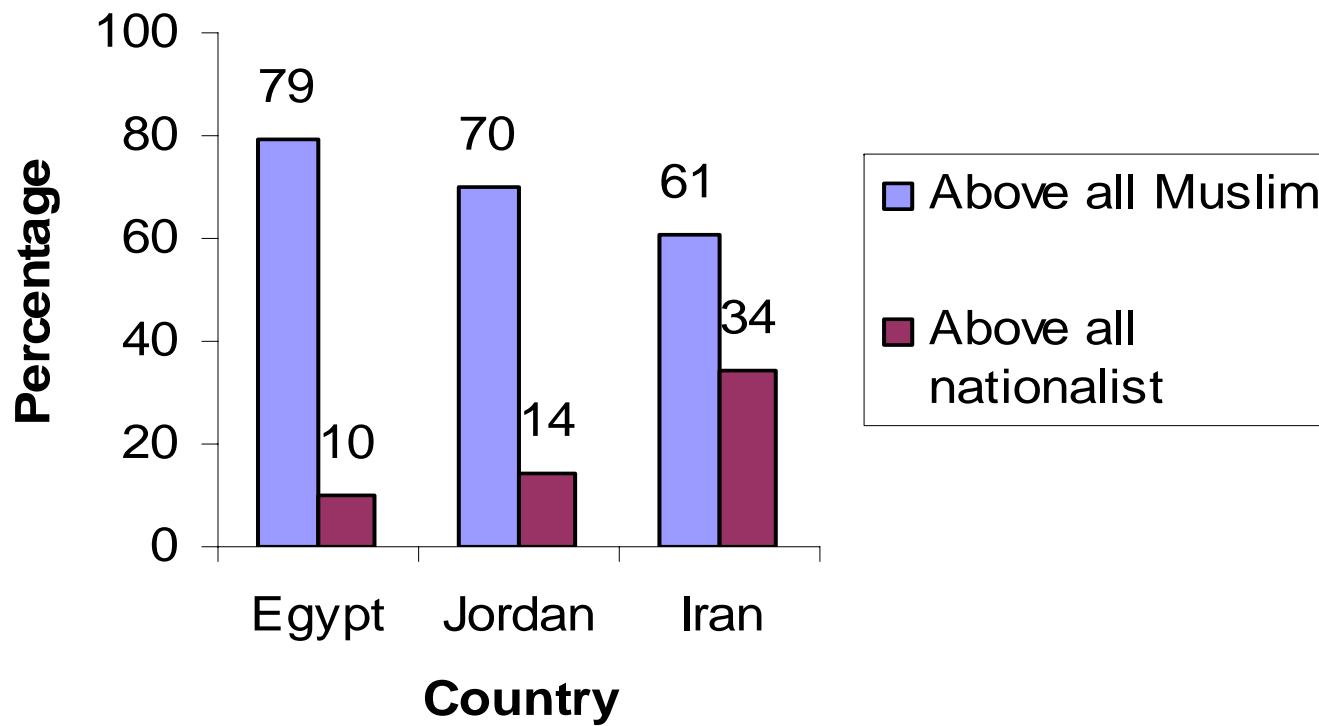


Figure 3 - Participation in Religious Services

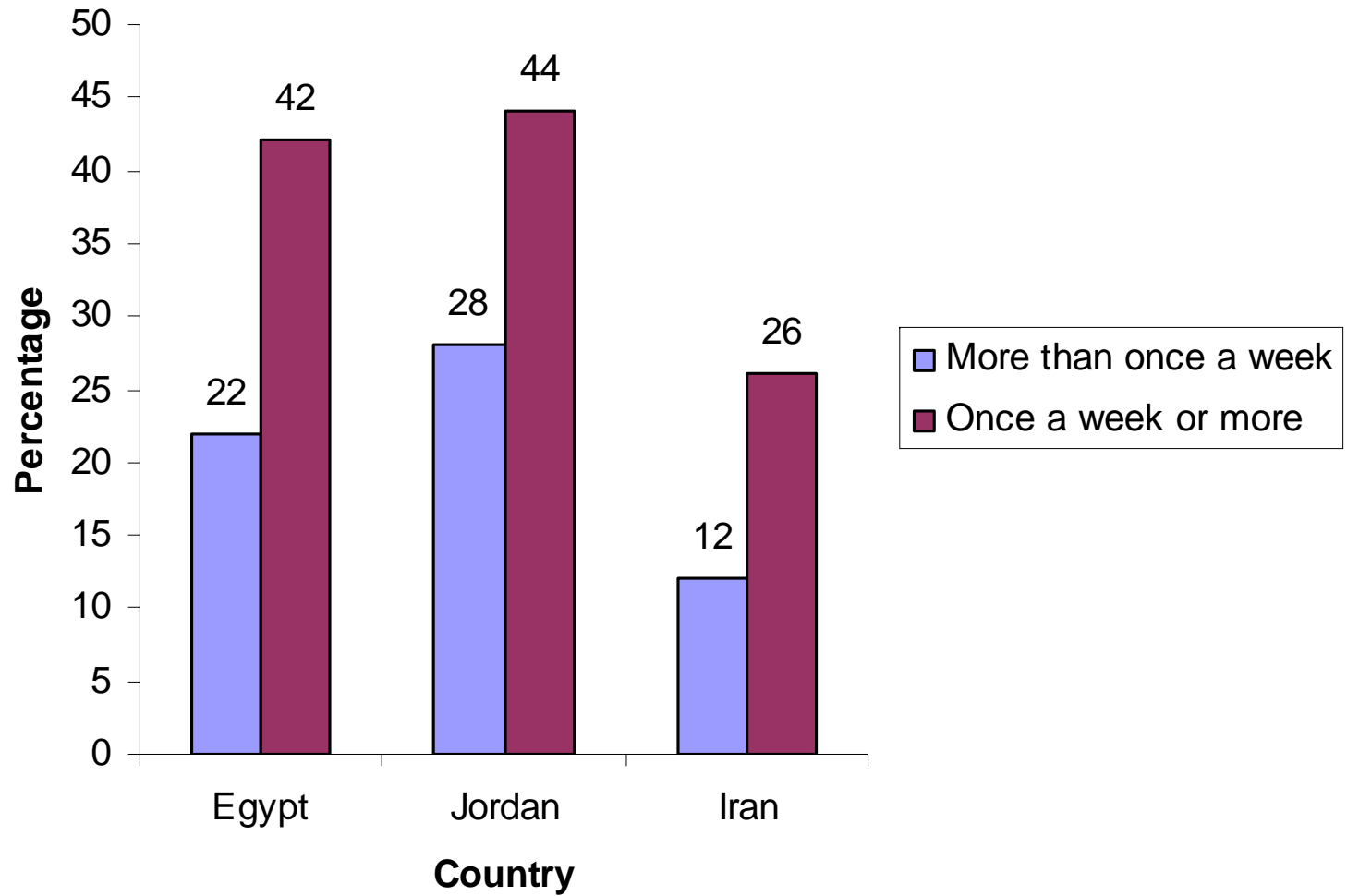


Figure 4 - Religious Authorities Sufficiently Respond to Country's Problems

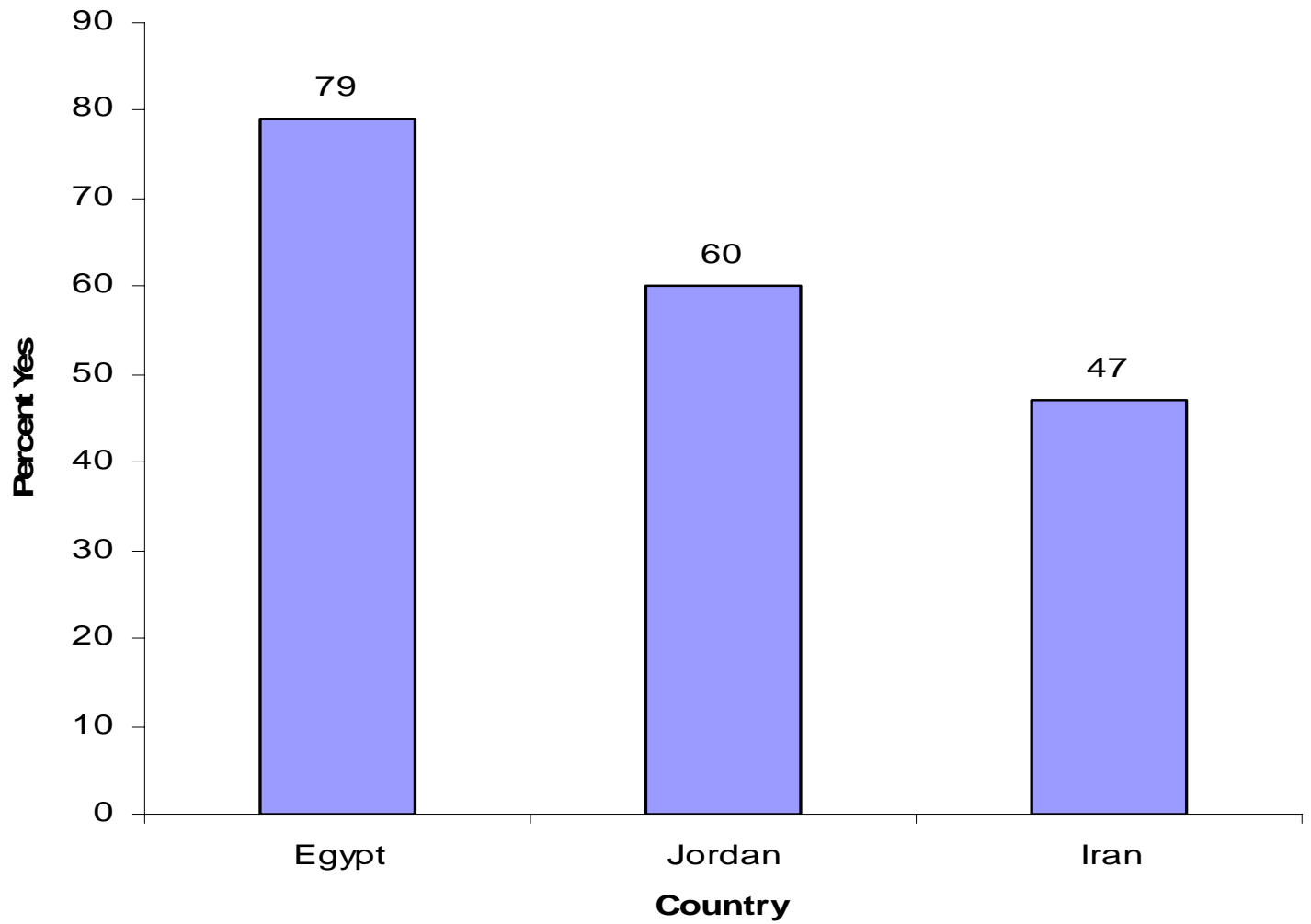
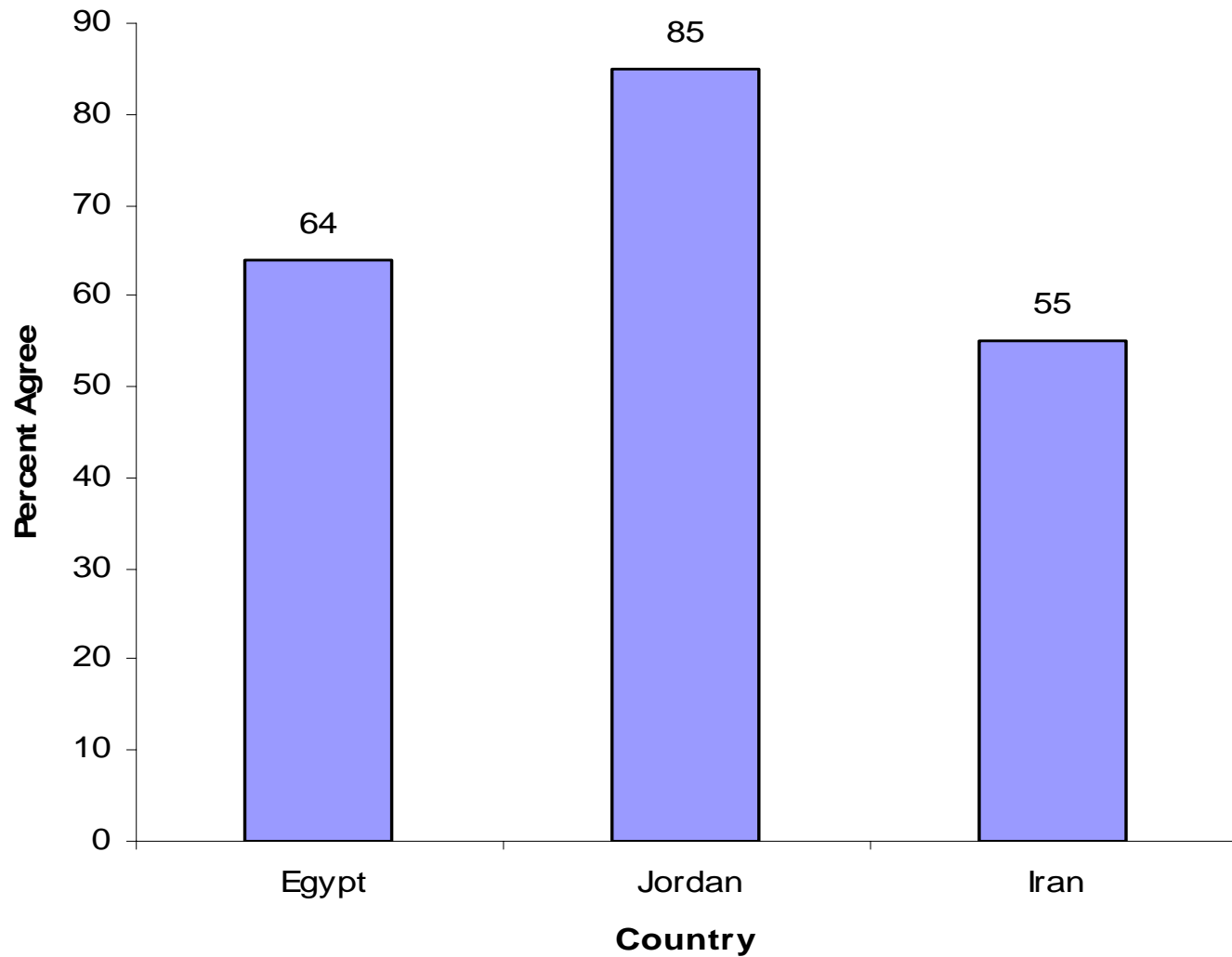


Figure 5 - Western Cultural Invasion Is A Very Important Problem



SSummary of Differences in Worldviews

BBetween Egypt, Jordan, and Iran

~ Egyptians and Jordanians are more religious than Iranians.

~ Iranians are less concerned about Western cultural invasion and more critical of the Islamic establishment than either Egyptians or Jordanians.

~ Across the three countries, education and trust in mosque are inversely related. But the effect of education on the overall attitude toward religion is different among these countries. While in Iran education is correlated with increase in secularism, in Egypt and Jordan, education has no significant effect on attitudes toward religion.

. ~ ***Conclusion:*** Iranians appear to be moving toward secularism, while no such move was detectable among either Egyptians or Jordanians.

Figure 1 - Percentage expressing Western cultural invasion to be a very important problem

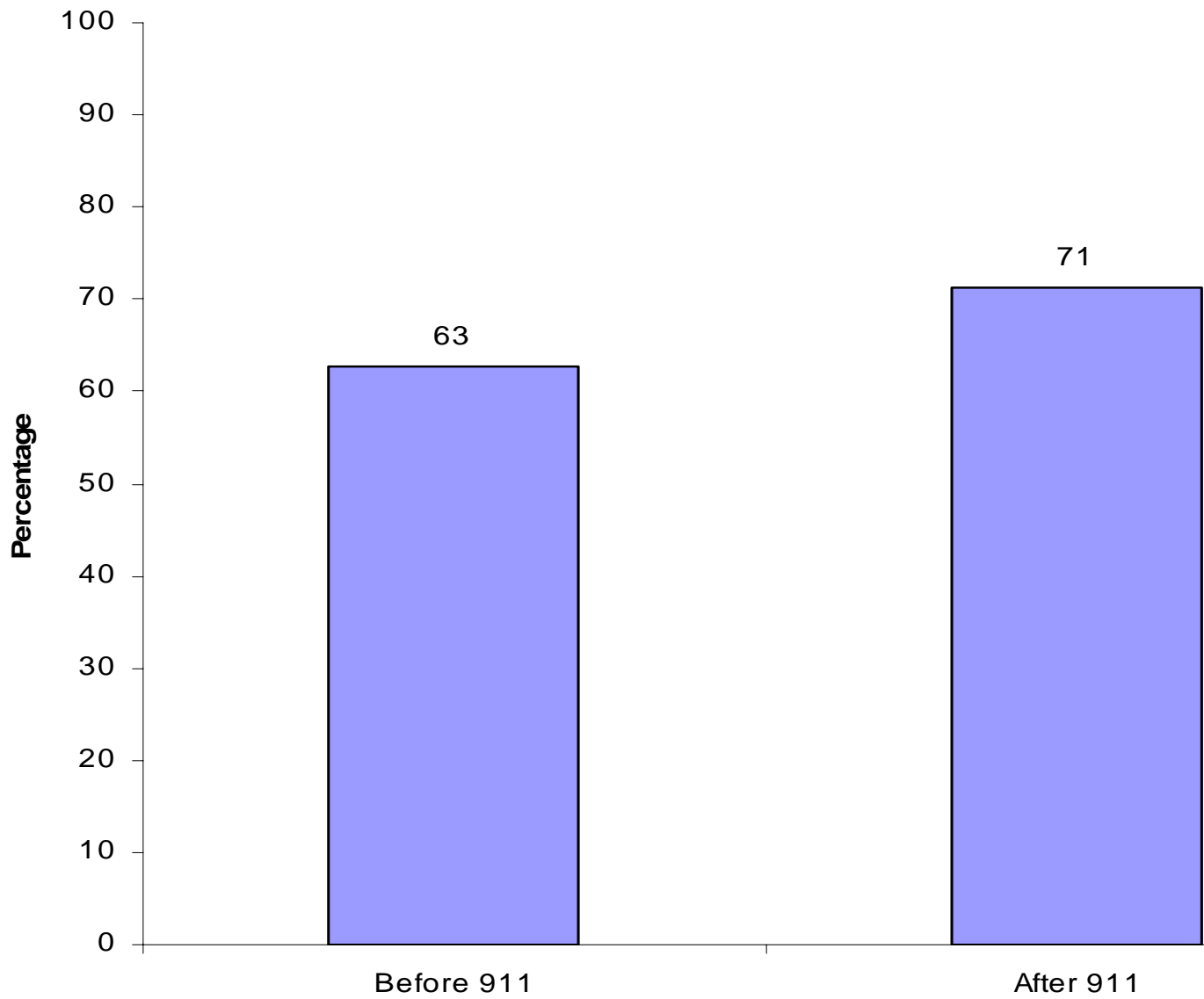


Figure 2 - Percentage who do not like to have Jews as neighbors

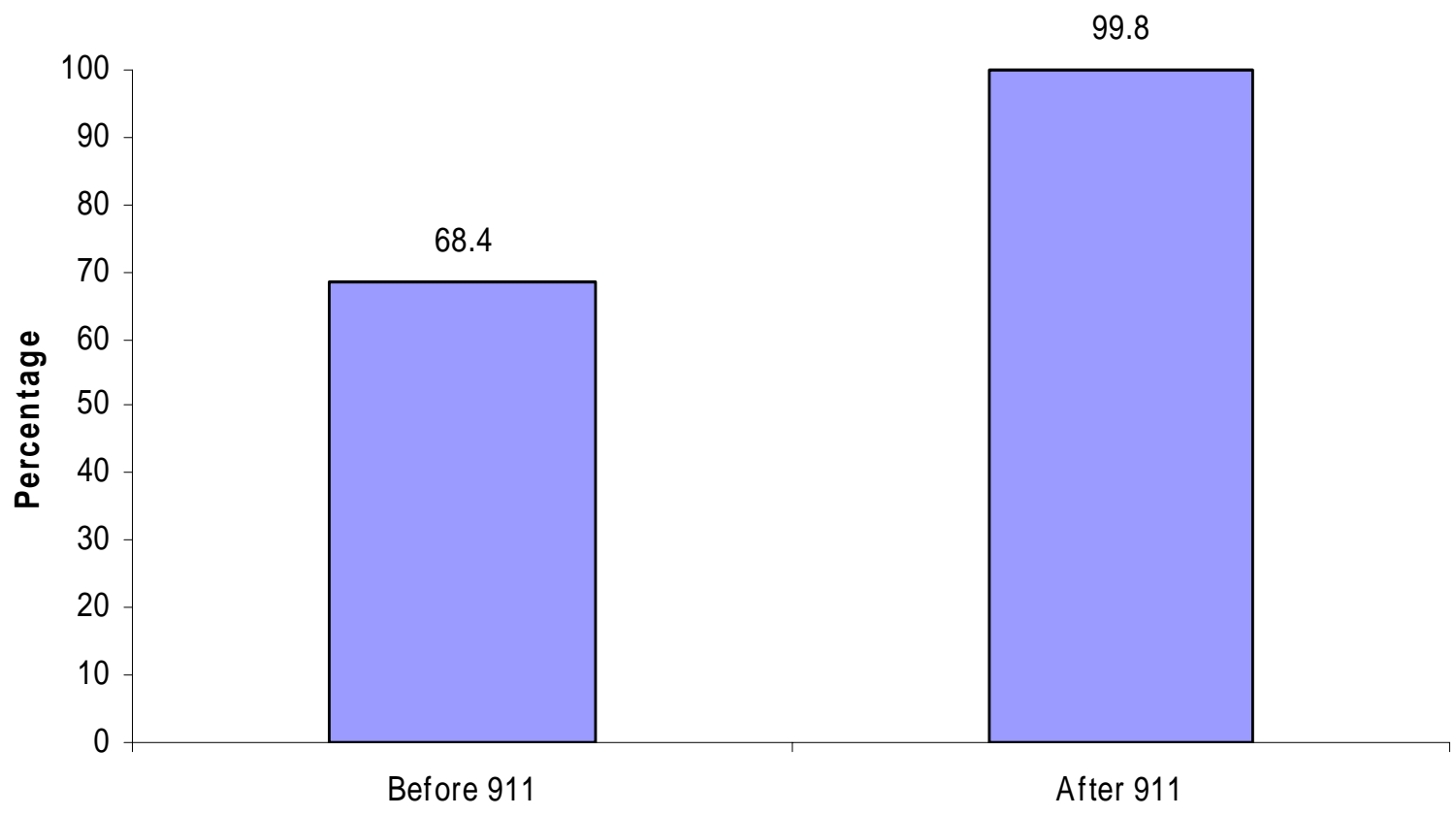


Figure 3 - Religious authorities adequately responded to:

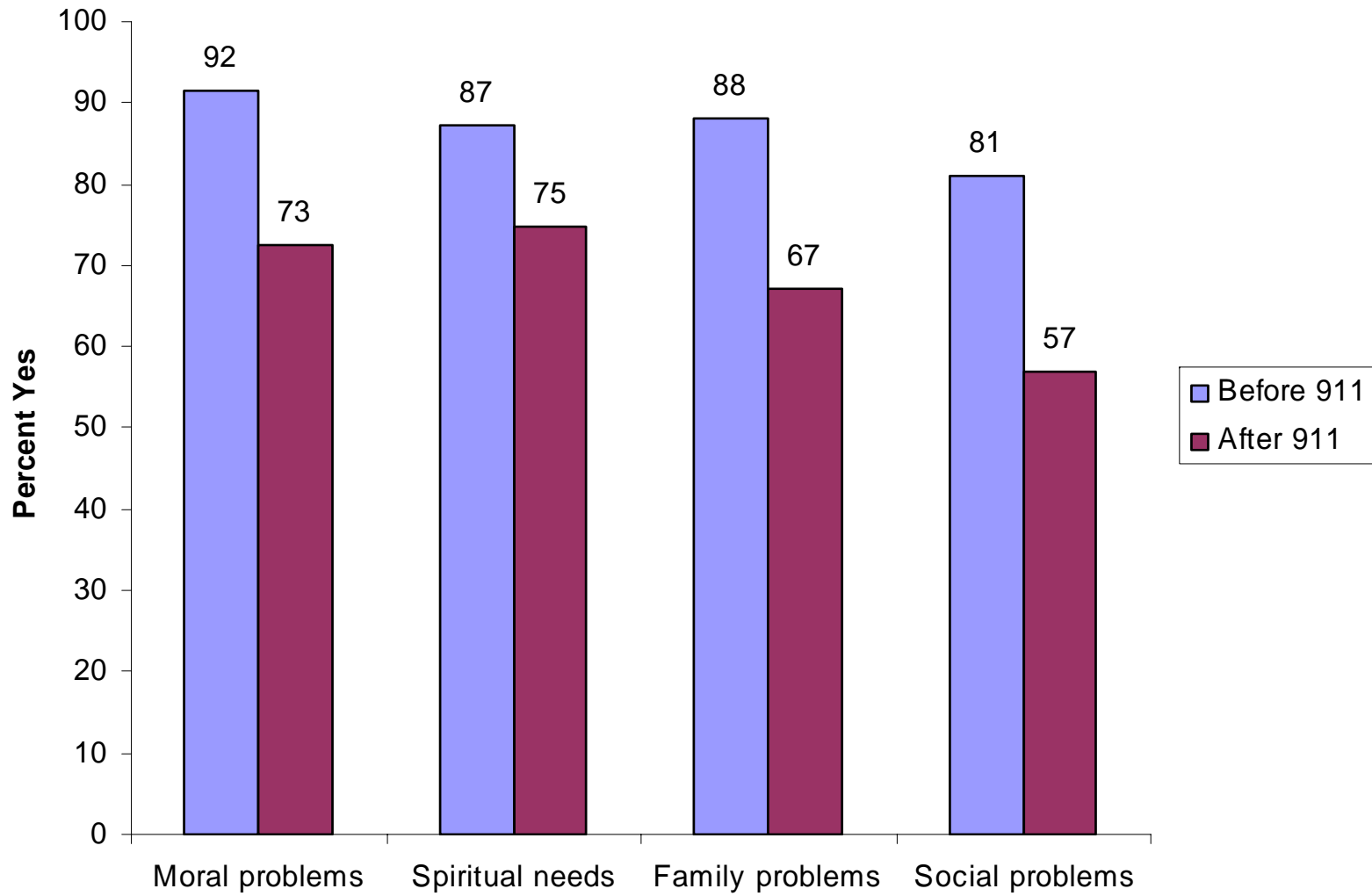


Figure 4 - Gender issues

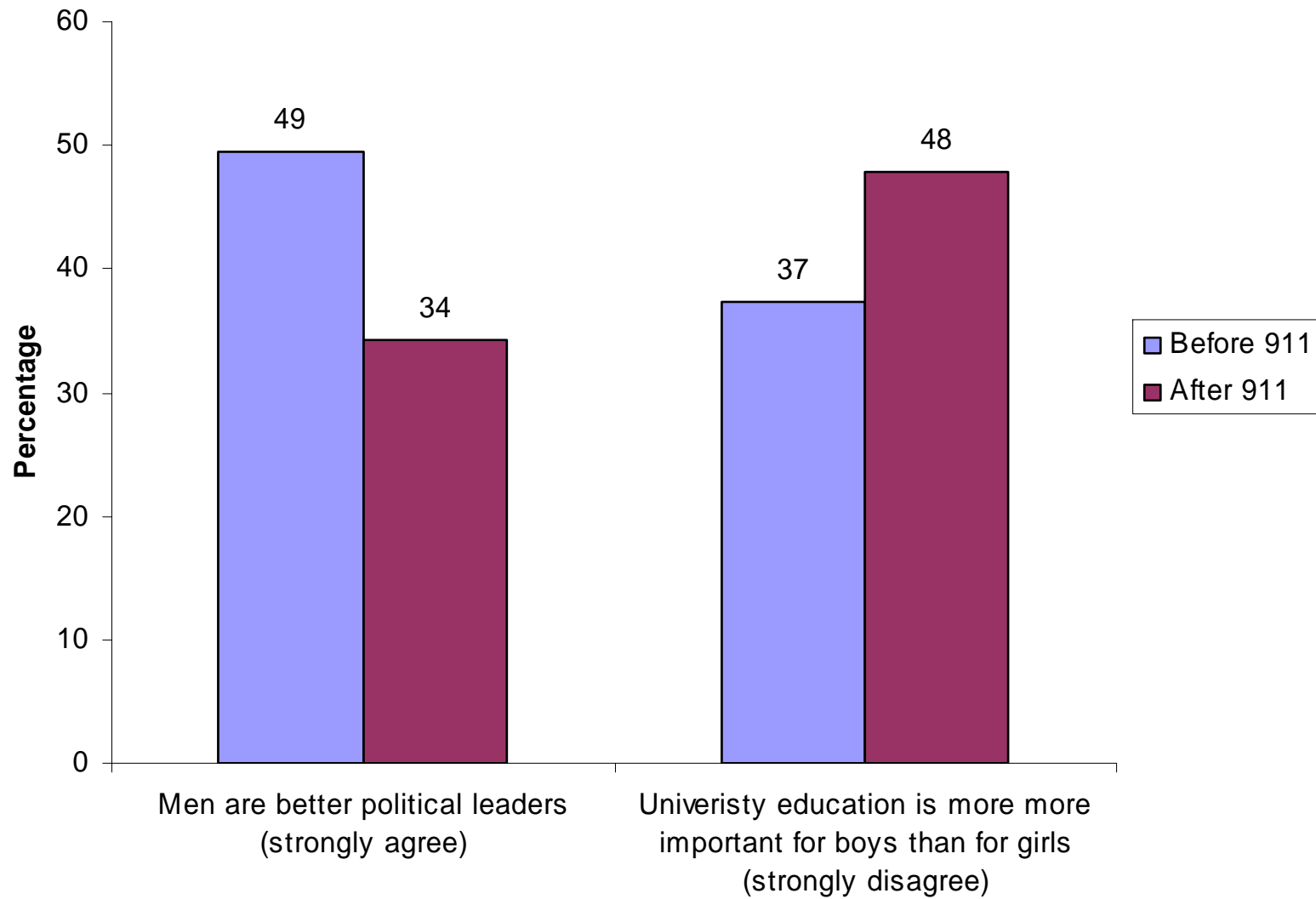


Figure 5 - The effectiveness of democratic political system

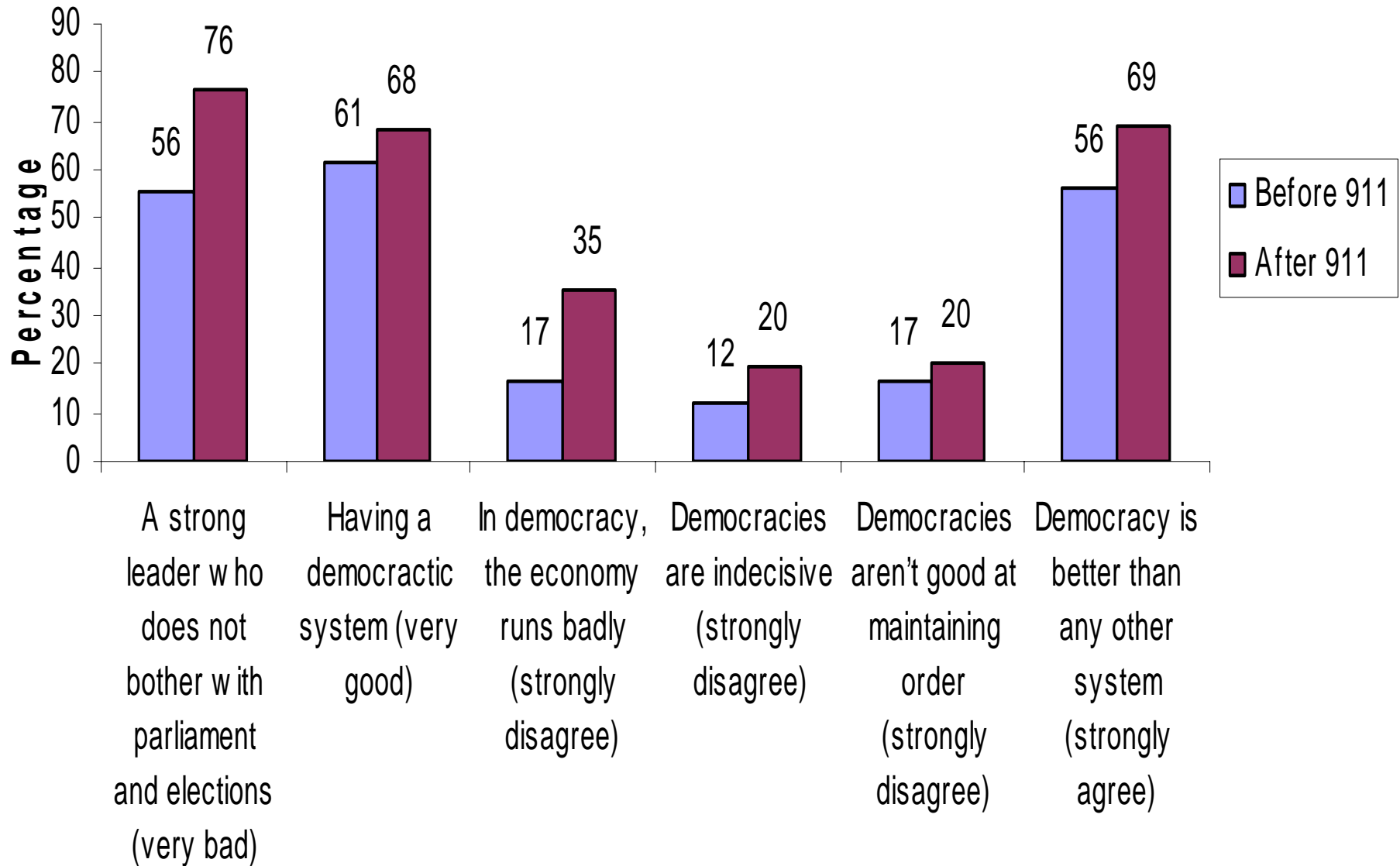


Figure 6 - Percentage expressing a great deal of confidence in major social institutions

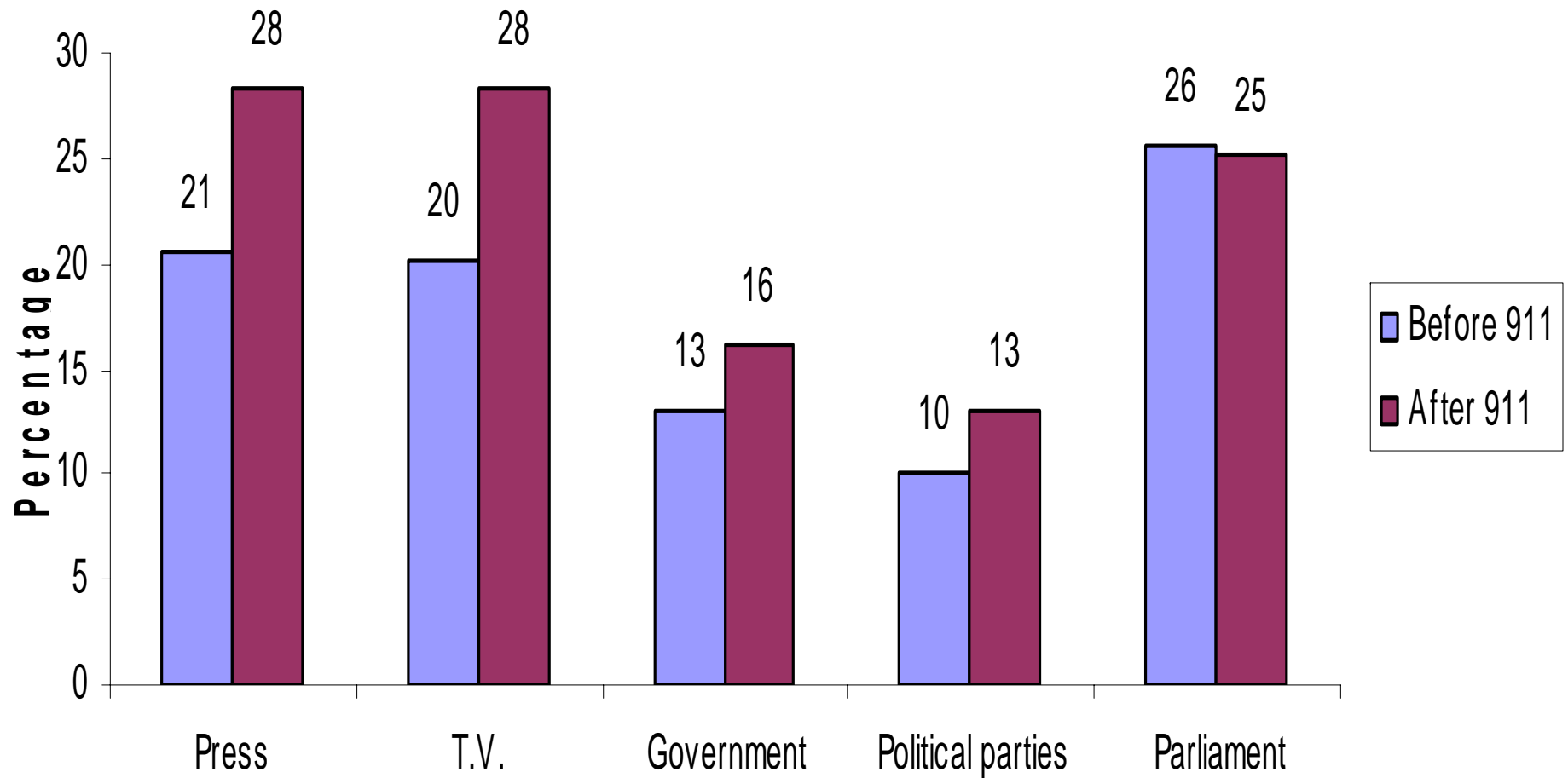


Figure 7 - Who controls the country

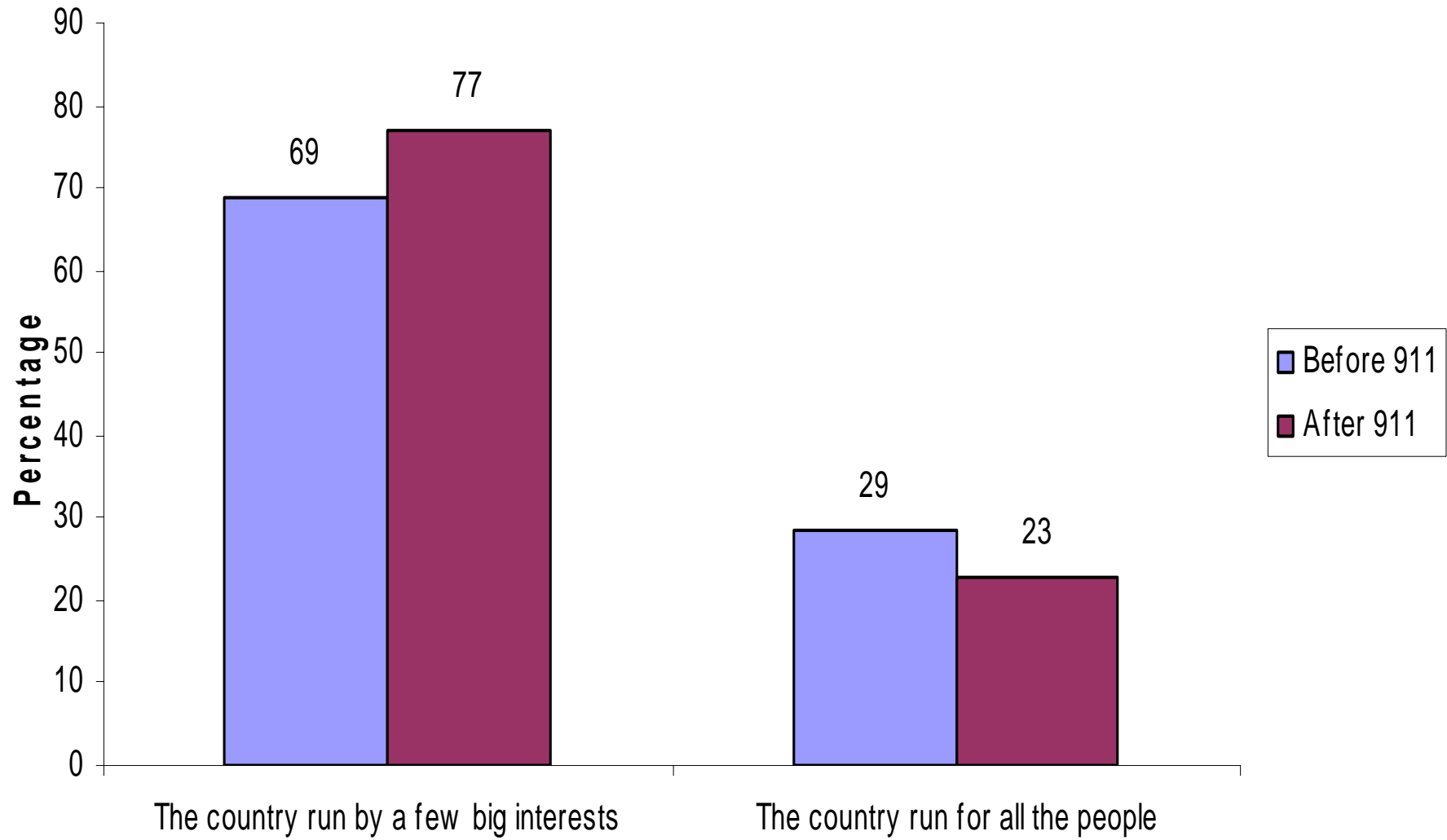


Figure 8 - Percentage who strongly agree with Western cultural invasion to be a very important problem

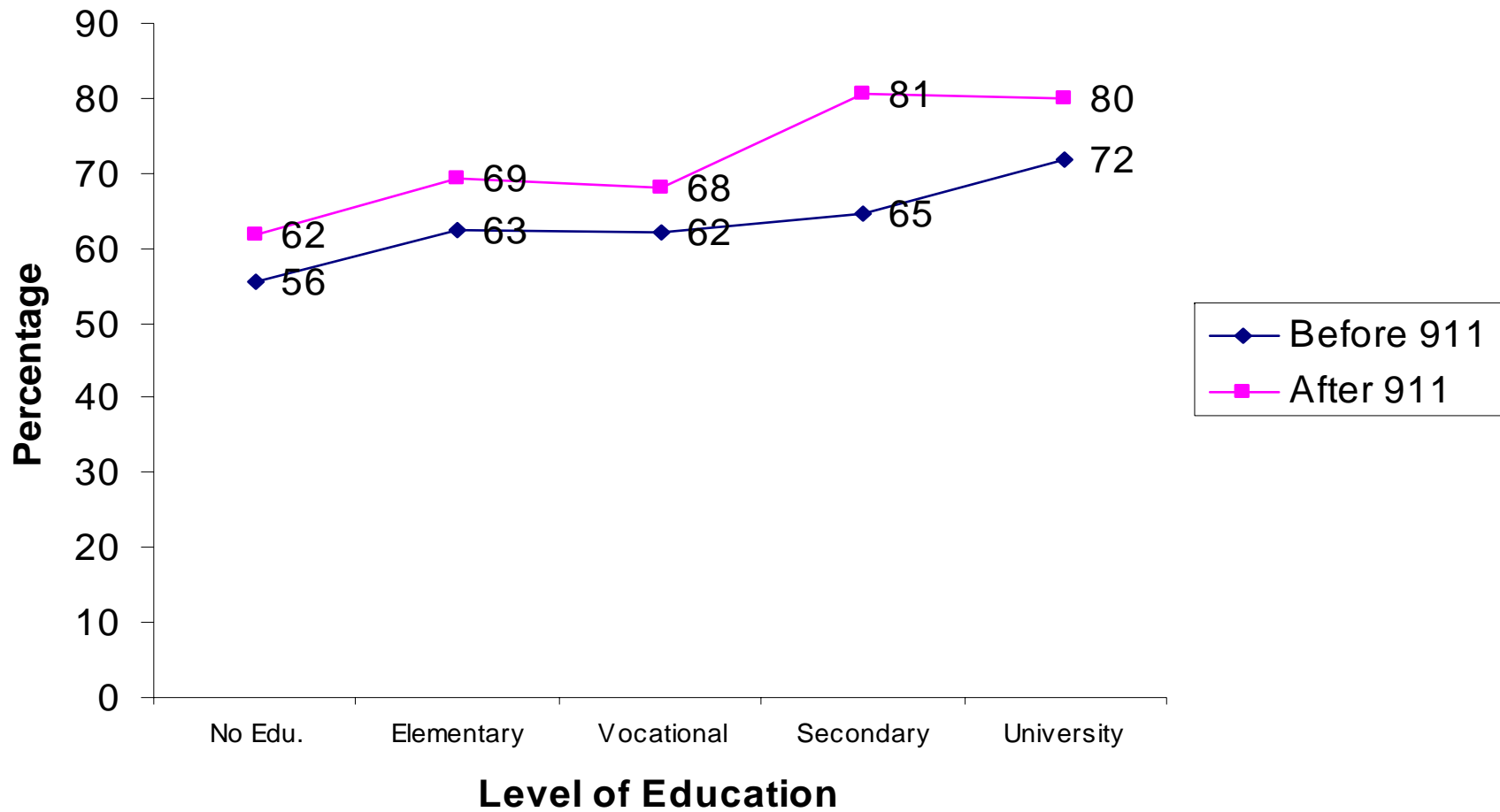


Figure 9 - Percentage who strongly disagree with "the economy runs badly in democracies"

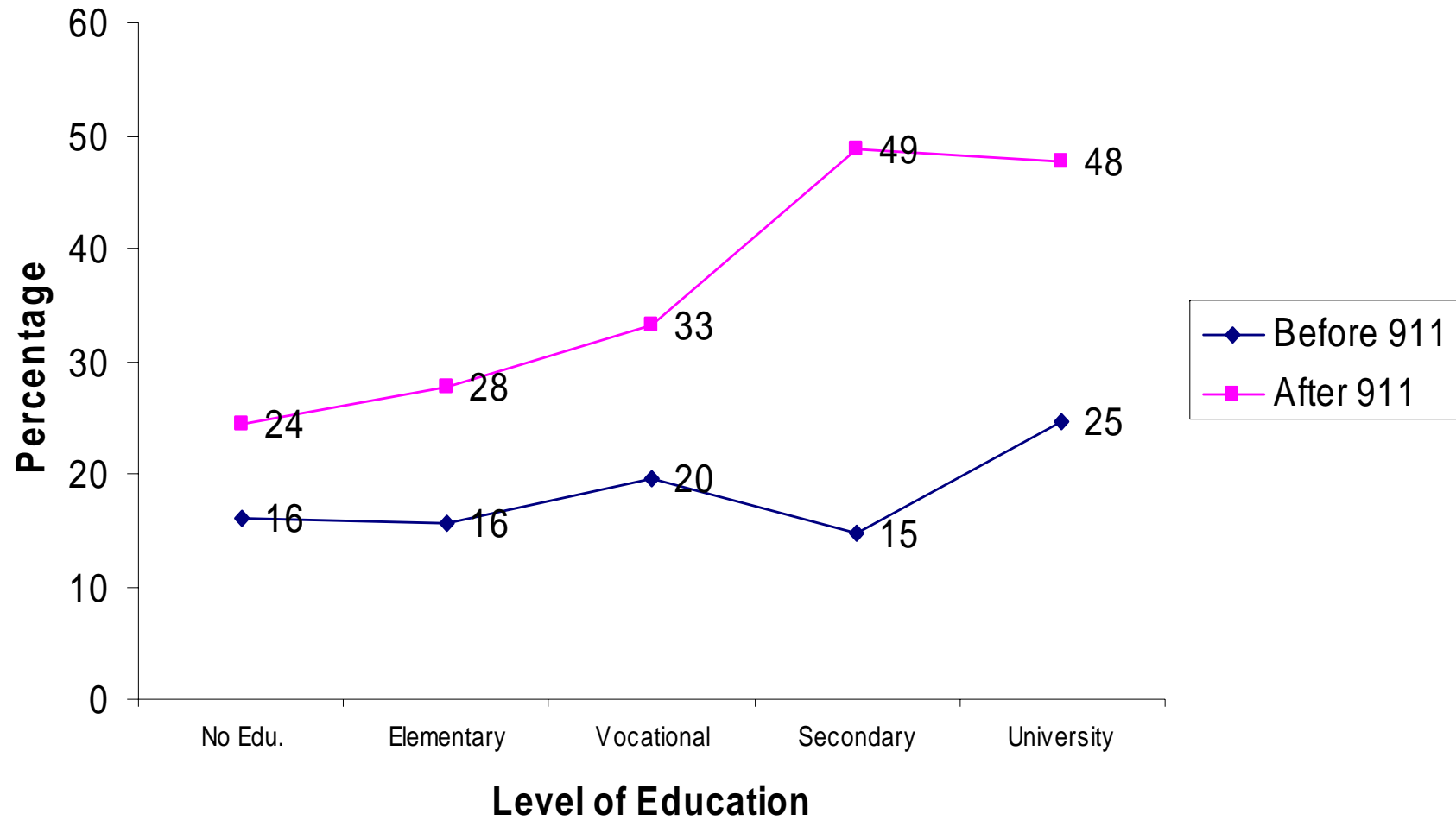


Figure 10 - Percentage who strongly disagree with "university education is more important for boys than for girls"

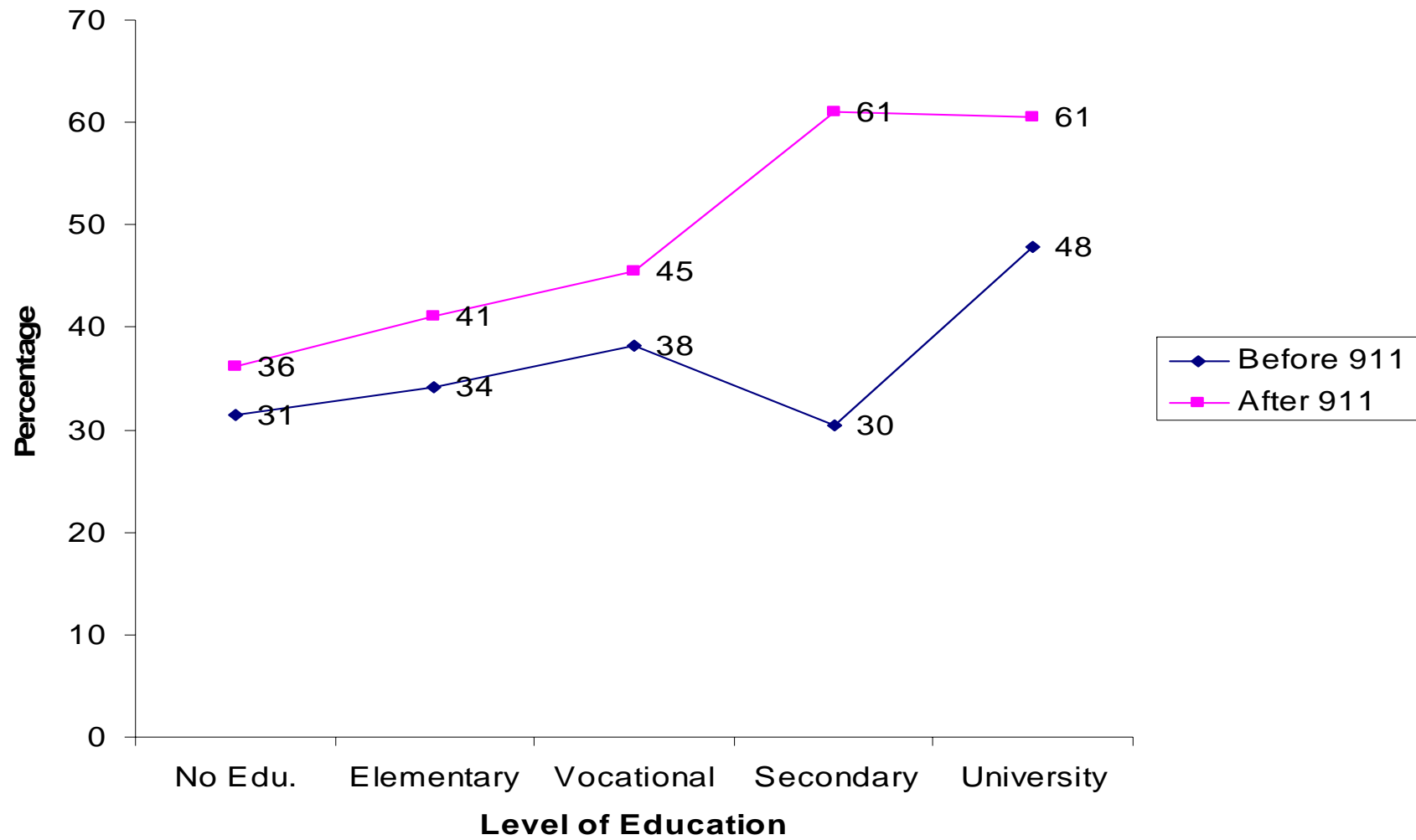


Figure 11 - Percentage saying yes to "religious authorities adequately responded to social problems"

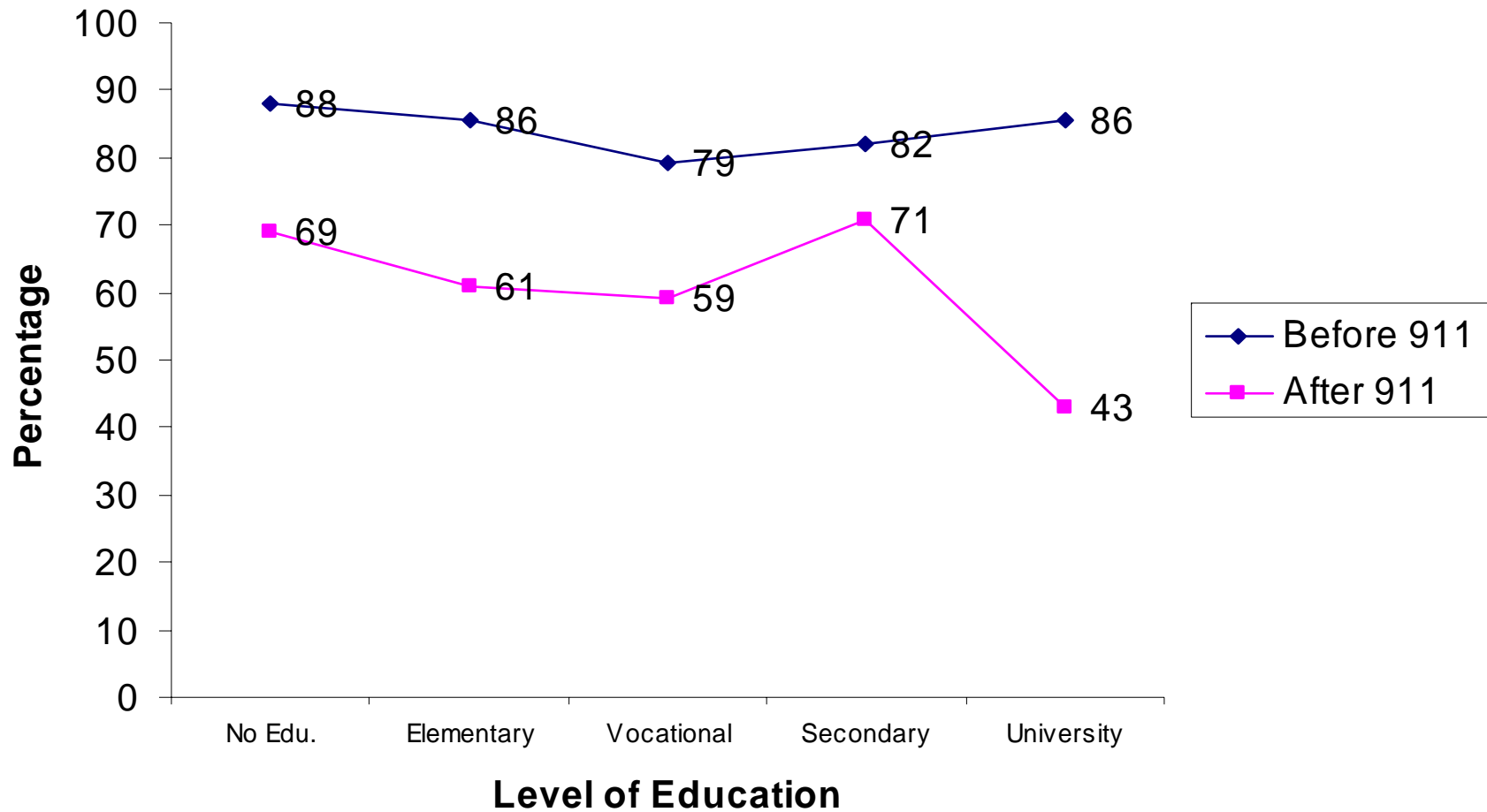


Figure 12 - Percentage expressing that the country is run by a few big interests

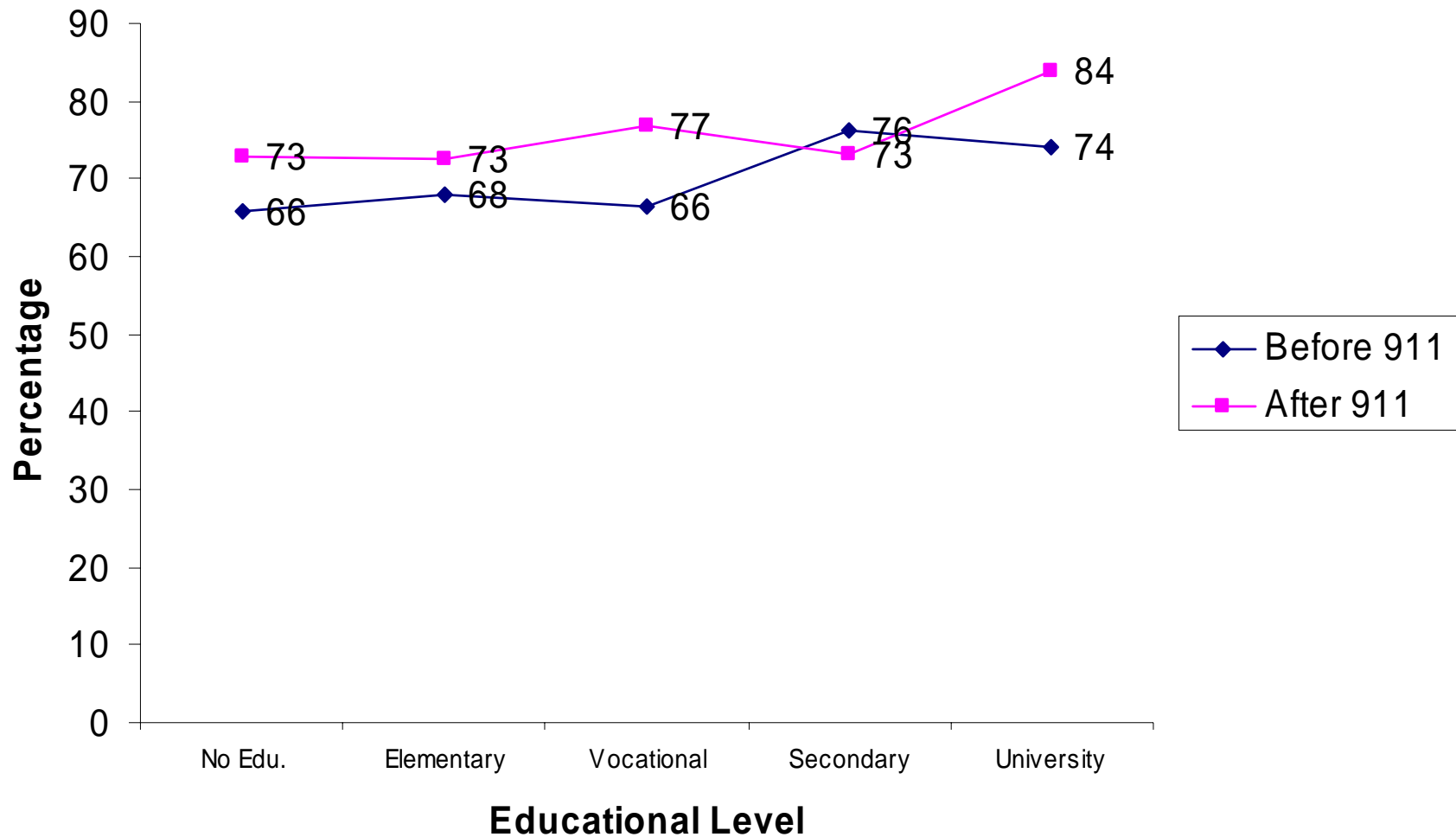
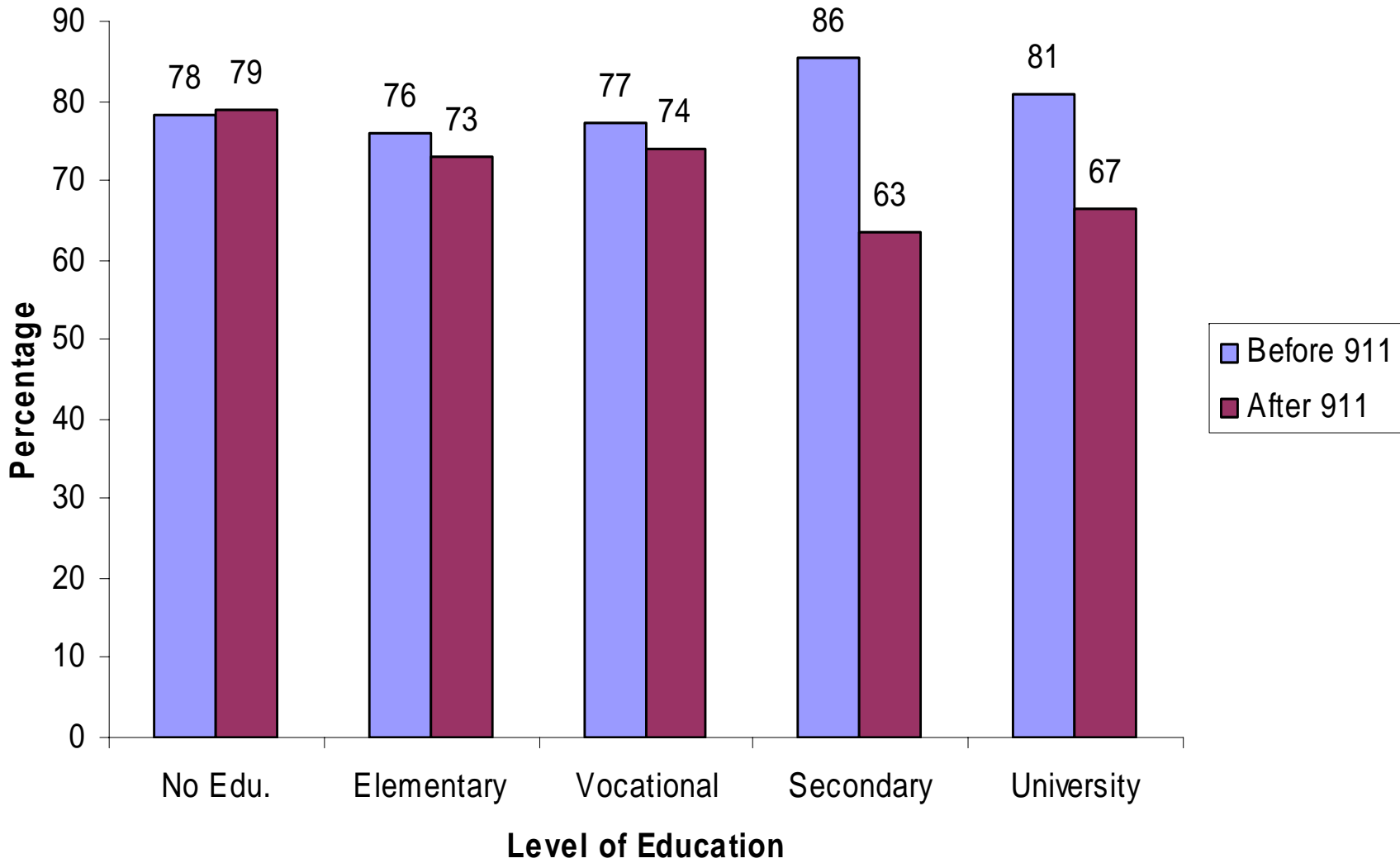


Figure 13 - Percentage Expressing Above All Muslim



Summary of Egyptian Worldviews After 9/11

- ~ Concerns over Western cultural invasion have increased. There is also a considerable increase in anti-Jewish attitude.
 - ~ Egyptian views have changed in the direction less favorable to religious authorities, more favorable toward women, more favorable toward democracy, and more critical of the way the country is run.
- ~ Education has positive effect on concerns over Western cultural invasion.
- ~ Education has positive effect on favorable attitude toward democracy and women.
- ~ Education has negative effect on favorable attitude toward religious authority and on religious identity.

Conclusion:

Egypt is experiencing a cultural change. This change is certainly in a direction favorable to democracy, gender equality, and secularism, and away from the Islamic fundamentalism of the past decades.

This new cultural turn, however, is accompanied by two major perceptions. One is that Western culture may not be good for Egypt. The other is that a small and powerful interest group is running the country. These perceptions are even stronger among people with university education.

Considering all these factors, Egypt may experience a fairly strong pro-democracy and somewhat secularist movement in the near future. This movement is certainly oppositional and may display critical attitudes toward the West.

Two corroborating factors lend additional support to these