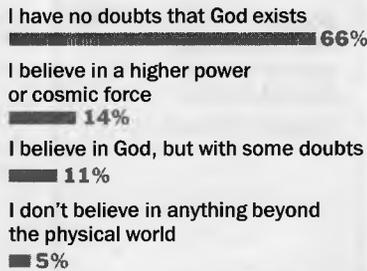


# What We Believe...

The U.S. is overwhelmingly a nation of believers. We just don't believe the same things. More than 85% of Americans follow a Christian faith, but that strong majority is built of dozens of denominations that diverge on the most basic questions: What role does God play in the world? What does he want of us? What does the Bible really mean?



The largest segment of believers is evangelical Protestant, a blanket term for the dozens of denominations that emphasize the authority of the Bible, salvation through a personal relationship with Jesus, and the need to share their faith with others. But few Evangelicals welcome that label, preferring "Bible-believing" or "born again."

## HOW WE SEE GOD ...

Participation in a particular religious denomination doesn't always translate into a consistent set of views about the world and society. By asking dozens of questions about how Americans perceive God, researchers have constructed four religious viewpoints that correlate strongly with a person's social and political outlook.



**31%** believe in an **AUTHORITARIAN GOD** who is deeply involved in daily life and world events. God is angry at sin and can punish the unfaithful or ungodly

**53%** of African Americans share this view, as do **56%** of people who strongly believe that God is a "he"

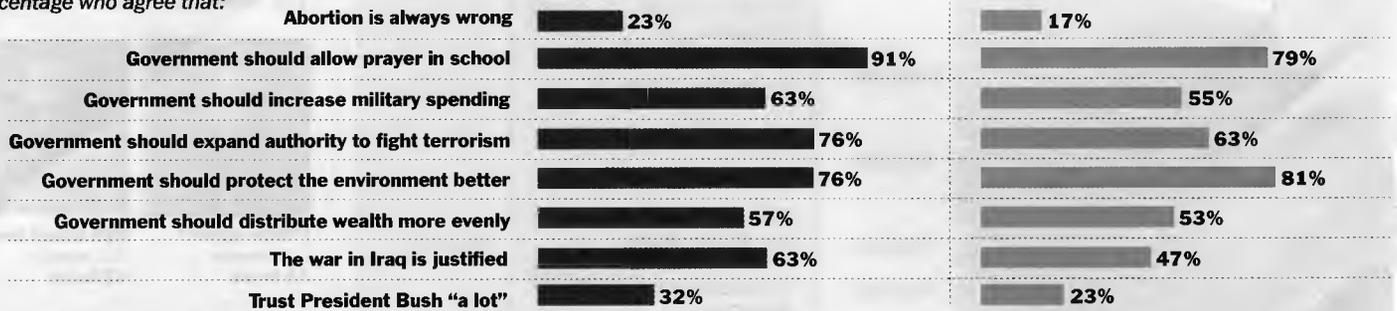


**23%** believe in a **BENEVOLENT GOD** who is deeply involved in daily life and world events but is mainly a positive force reluctant to punish

People younger than 30 are the least likely to hold this conception of God—just **13%** in the cohort do

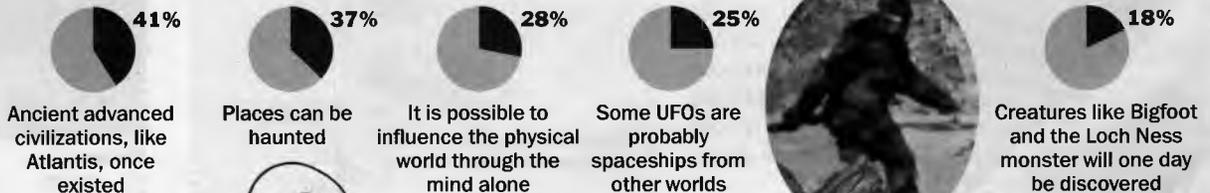
## ... SHAPES OUR POLITICS

Percentage who agree that:



## HOW WEIRD IS THAT?

Percentage who agree that:



HANNA-BARBERA/EVERETT



CORBIS BETTMANN