

WIN WITHOUT WAR

September 2019

REIMAGINING SECURITY SPENDING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY & BEYOND

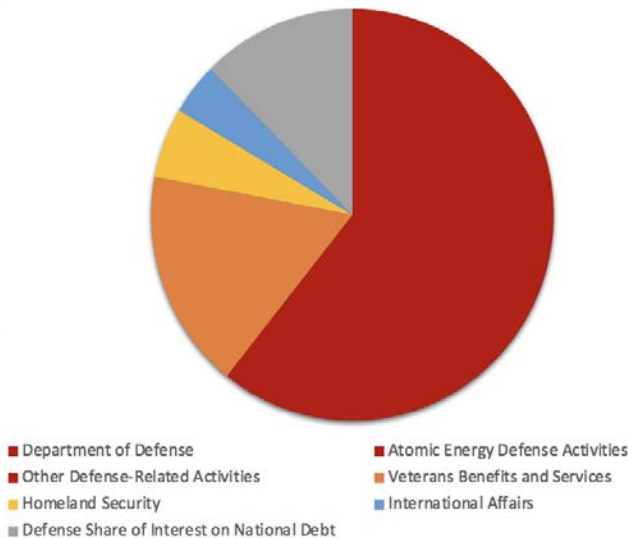


With the Pentagon's budget increasingly untethered from any coherent strategy, policymakers must reorient security spending towards the solutions to today and tomorrow's major challenges, rather than the weapons of yesterday's wars.

The existential threats the United States faces today – such as the deteriorating health of the planet and the spread of nuclear weapons and materials – do not have military solutions.

- To truly keep Americans safe, policymakers must embrace the reality that the military alone does not safeguard the United States and make investments in nonmilitary tools.
- To construct a budget truly in line with today's contemporary, interconnected security landscape, the United States must re-conceptualize national security to be based on "human security."
- U.S. security spending should make investments in goals that safeguard true human security, like halting the spread of global authoritarianism, combating climate change, reducing mass inequality, and repudiating militarism.
- Policymakers must also consider how U.S. government and corporate investments in technological advancements should be regulated to prevent the militarization of data and technology.

U.S. SECURITY SPENDING (FY2020)



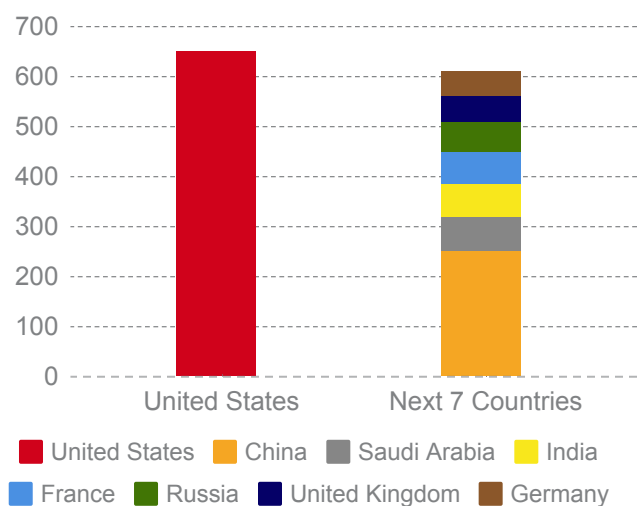
The United States already spends more than a trillion dollars on security.

- The U.S. spends more on the military today than it did during the wars in Korea and Vietnam, even after adjusting for inflation.
- Current security spending maintains a militarized status quo that jeopardizes the safety of people at home and abroad.
- After accounting for funding at the Departments of Defense, Energy, State, Homeland Security, and other agencies managing security-related programs, security spending in Trump's FY2020 budget request surpasses \$1.2 trillion.
- While the president's FY2020 budget request is merely a recommendation to Congress, it continues to reflect a few basic trends in U.S. security spending - minimal funding for diplomacy and foreign aid paired with outsized military and defense spending.

Today's U.S. security investments do not make Americans or the world more secure.

- Nearly half of the Pentagon's budget goes directly to defense contractors, with the CEOs of the top ten U.S. defense companies earning a combined \$160 million in 2016 - a bill largely footed by taxpayer dollars.
- The U.S. spends more than the next seven countries combined. Though defense hawks use "great power competition" to justify higher spending, both Chinese and Russian influence has grown in spite of the U.S.' massive military expenditures and due to these countries' investments in soft power.
- The federal government pours money into hard security strategies that don't little to make the U.S. safer, such as:
 - financing an endless global war that has only proliferated violent groups that perpetuate terrorism;
 - maintaining 800 military bases in 70 countries in an outdated and provocative forward-deployed posture;
 - investing billions of dollars in new nuclear weapons, triggering a global arms race;
 - militarizing the southern border, jeopardizing the security of migrants and asylum seekers, while failing to address the drivers of migration in South and Central America;
 - prioritizing embassy protection, weapons sales, or security assistance in the State Department's already skeletal budget, which does nothing to further recipient countries.

GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING (billions of dollars)



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Drawing down the Pentagon's budget will force the military to prioritize missions, plan strategically, and only act as a matter of last resort.

- The Pentagon failed its first ever audit in 2018 and remains the only federal agency to have never passed an audit, demonstrating the agency's lack of financial controls and ability to assess whether taxpayers' dollars are being spent responsibly.
- Any military "readiness crisis" touted to justify increased Pentagon spending is the result of the United States' post-9/11 overextension and the Pentagon's inability to spend its enormous budget wisely – not a lack of funding.
- Prioritization will improve the military's efficiency and prevent service members from being deployed into ill-thought and ill-planned military misadventures, as well as help legislators to turn more readily to non-military alternatives.

To construct a budget that truly keeps Americans and all people secure, the United States must re-conceptualize national security to be based on "human security."

- In today's contemporary, interconnected security landscape, American security is not divisible nor distinct from the security of peoples all over the world. Increasingly, national threats are global threats whose solutions require bold, multilateral engagement.
- Human security relies on both environmental security and global security, respectively representing the health of our planet and shared interests like poverty reduction and equitable access to resources and opportunity.
- Without addressing these various facets of security, the United States cannot help to protect the safety and well-being of individuals and communities at home and abroad.

To build human security, U.S. security spending should focus on four priorities that do not have military solutions:



In addition to these priorities, there also must be appropriate regulation, oversight, and ethics guidelines put in place to prevent the militarization of technology and the weaponization of data.

Policymakers should focus on addressing vulnerabilities in U.S. infrastructure, increasing privacy and data protection, and addressing human security concerns related to the rise of artificial intelligence and automation.

Members of Congress can begin realigning security spending with these true security needs by working towards the following goals for 2021 and beyond:



1. Following the expiration of the current budget caps deal, cut \$2 – 3.5 trillion from the Pentagon's budget over the next ten years by cutting the annual budget by \$200 – 350 billion per year.



2. Eliminate the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, which has become a slush fund for war and require any war-related funded to be included in the base budget.



3. Double the State Department's Budget to rebuild U.S. diplomacy, peacebuilding, and development tools, and prioritize investments in flexible funding accounts like the Complex Crises Fund.



4. Force the Pentagon to pass an audit and impose real consequences until it does.



5. Reinstate a comprehensive reporting requirement for climate change spending in annual appropriations legislation, and invest in climate research, mitigation, and adaptation.



6. Authorize a Commission on Budgeting for National Security and International Affairs to analyze the current budget process and recommend changes that results in a more unified approach to security spending.