

Is the U.S.A. a Warfare State? Is it Addicted to War?

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Perpetual War

In the 242 year existence of the U.S.A. (1776 – 2018), it has been involved in 79 wars.

If we define a “war year” as one during which the U.S.A. was involved in war part or all of the year, and if we define a “peace year” as one during which the U.S.A. was not involved in war, then the record shows there were 224 war years (92.5%) and *only* 18 peace years (7.5%)!

There have been 45 presidents. If we define a “war president” as one whose entire term included at least one war year, and if we define a “peace president” as one whose entire term included only peace years, then the record shows there were 45 war presidents and *no* peace presidents!

In addition to the aforementioned 79 wars, the U.S.A. is involved in many “secret wars”. In 2017, U.S. Special Operations forces, including Navy SEALs and Army Green Berets, deployed to 149 countries around the world, according to figures provided to Tom Dispatch by U.S. Special Operations Command. That’s about 75 percent of the nations on the planet and represents a jump from the 138 countries that saw such deployments in 2016 under the Obama administration. It’s also a jump of nearly 150 percent from the last days of George W. Bush’s administration. This record-setting number of deployments comes as American commandos are battling a plethora of terror groups in quasi-wars that stretch from Africa and the Middle East to Asia.

Prisoner of the Military Industrial Complex

Dwight D. Eisenhower's Farewell Address to the Nation, January 17, 1961. He warned against a formidable union of defense contractors and the armed forces:

“In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.”

We shall see below how much his wisdom has been ignored.

“The Greatest Purveyor of Violence in the World Today: My Own Government”

“Beyond Vietnam - A Time to Break Silence” - Speech delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1967, at Riverside Church in New York City.

MLK proclaims that “my conscience leaves me no other choice”, and he describes the war’s destructive effects on both America’s poor and Vietnamese peasants, and insists

that it was morally imperative for the United States to take radical steps to halt the war through nonviolent means.

He recounts his experience in the ghettos of the North over the last three years -- especially the last three summers. "As I have walked among the desperate, rejected and angry young men I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems. I have tried to offer them my deepest compassion while maintaining my conviction that social change comes most meaningfully through nonviolent action. But they asked -- and rightly so -- what about Vietnam? They asked if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems, to bring about the changes it wanted. Their questions hit home, and I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to ***the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today -- my own government.*** For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent."

The historical record, however, overwhelmingly shows that MLK's impassioned and humane plea for non-violence has fallen on the deaf ears of the military industrial complex.

Consequences of the Out-of-Control Military Industrial Complex, the American Empire and the National Security/Surveillance State.

Department of Defense (DOD)

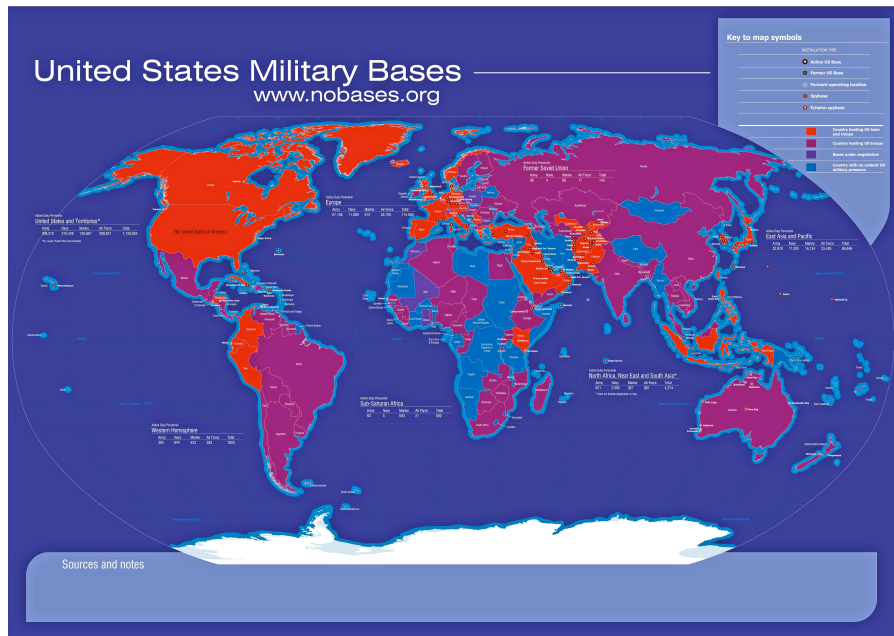
The defense industry is a partnership between government agencies and the private sector industry involved in research, development, production, and service of military programs, arms, personnel, and facilities.

DOD is the *largest employer in the World*. It has 3.2 million employees, including 1.6 million active-duty military personnel of which 250,000 staff foreign U.S. military bases. There are 800,000 in the Coast Guard and Reserves and 800,000 civilian employees.

DOD has *66,000 contractors*, of which over 50,000 are corporations. The total employment is just under 2,000,000.

DOD has contractors in *190 of the 200* nations on Earth.

There are between *1,077 and 1,180* U.S. military bases dotting the globe. In each of *80 different countries*, there are at least one or more bases.



US military presence overseas



Military Spending

In every year of the existence of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds, the **Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA)**, also called the “payroll tax” (paid by both employee and employer), is enough to pay full benefits to all beneficiaries and leaves a surplus. The surplus (\$3.044 trillion in fiscal year 2017) may be borrowed (with IOU’s) to pay for the set of all programs *except* Social Security and Medicare. We partition this set into *three* categories:

Military (M), Interest on National Debt (I) and All Other (AO).

We examine the 17 fiscal year (October 1 to September 30 of the following year) period from 2001 to 2017

The following table shows non-FICA receipts, outlays for M, I and AO, Shortfalls, national debt, annual deficits, and program outlay percentages relative to non-FICA outlays. Just below the table is a summary of vital facts. *Source: War Resisters League*

amounts in trillions of dollars

fiscal yr	non FICA receipts	M, I, AO outlays	Shortfall:	national debt	annual deficit	military		interest		all other	
			outlays minus receipt			outlays	percent	outlays	percent	outlays	percent
2001	1.222	1.298	0.076	5.807	0.133	0.439	33.8%	0.275	21.2%	0.584	45.0%
2002	1.058	1.417	0.359	6.228	0.421	0.473	33.4%	0.248	17.5%	0.697	49.2%
2003	0.974	1.543	0.568	6.783	0.555	0.571	37.0%	0.257	16.6%	0.715	46.4%
2004	1.053	1.655	0.602	7.379	0.596	0.607	36.7%	0.246	14.9%	0.801	48.4%
2005	0.658	1.775	1.117	7.933	0.554	0.714	40.2%	0.276	15.5%	0.785	44.2%
2006	1.455	1.927	0.472	8.507	0.574	0.768	39.8%	0.324	16.8%	0.835	43.3%
2007	1.571	1.947	0.376	9.008	0.501	0.818	42.0%	0.343	17.6%	0.787	40.4%
2008	1.486	2.152	0.666	10.025	1.017	1.056	49.1%	0.366	17.0%	0.730	33.9%
2009	1.064	2.618	1.555	11.910	1.885	1.405	53.7%	0.305	11.6%	0.908	34.7%
2010	1.152	2.512	1.360	13.562	1.652	1.361	54.2%	0.315	12.5%	0.836	33.3%
2011	1.273	2.623	1.350	14.790	1.228	1.280	48.8%	0.346	13.2%	0.997	38.0%
2012	1.363	2.513	1.150	16.066	1.276	1.283	51.0%	0.333	13.2%	0.898	35.7%
2013	1.670	2.379	0.710	16.738	0.672	1.183	49.7%	0.327	13.7%	0.870	36.6%
2014	1.873	2.396	0.523	17.824	1.086	1.071	44.7%	0.329	13.7%	0.996	41.6%
2015	2.059	2.534	0.475	18.151	0.327	1.052	41.5%	0.319	12.6%	1.163	45.9%
2016	2.022	2.654	0.631	19.538	1.387	1.036	39.0%	0.331	12.5%	1.288	48.5%
2017	2.153	2.827	0.674	20.201	0.663	1.067	37.7%	0.363	12.8%	1.398	49.4%
TOTAL	24.107	36.771	12.664		14.527	16.181	44.0%	5.302	14.4%	15.287	41.6%

1. The national debt increased by \$14.327 trillion, from \$5.674 trillion to \$20.201 trillion, a 356% increase! The equivalent annual compound interest rate is 7.47%!
2. Military spending exceeded the national debt growth by \$1.654 trillion, an 11.4% increase!
3. The percentage of federal outlays for all other programs was 41.6% (\$15.267 trillion); the percentage for military outlays was 44.0% (\$15.181 trillion); the percentage for interest outlays was 14.4% (\$5.302 trillion); the percentage for military and interest outlays combined was 58.4% (\$21.683 trillion)!
4. In March 2018, the federal budget was signed by President Trump. The War Resisters League (WRL) reported that the military spending for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 is, respectively, \$1.450 and 1.501 trillion. For the 19 fiscal year period, 2001 – 2019, the analysis of all federal budgets by WRL shows that 80% of annual interest outlays are due to military spending. It comes to \$23.374 trillion! Here is the table:

amounts in trillions of dollars (*total: past includes 80% interest on national debt due to military spending)

fiscal yr	military spending		
	past	current	*total
2001	0.334	0.325	0.659
2002	0.338	0.333	0.671
2003	0.339	0.437	0.776
2004	0.345	0.459	0.804
2005	0.349	0.586	0.935
2006	0.384	0.643	1.027
2007	0.429	0.663	1.092
2008	0.461	0.888	1.349
2009	0.484	1.165	1.649
2010	0.503	1.110	1.613
2011	0.522	1.035	1.557
2012	0.563	0.986	1.549
2013	0.516	0.928	1.444
2014	0.567	0.767	1.334
2015	0.521	0.786	1.307
2016	0.518	0.782	1.3
2017	0.589	0.768	1.357
TOTALS	7.762	12.661	20.423
2018	0.600	0.850	1.450
2019	0.644	0.857	1.501
TOTALS: 2001 - 2019	9.006	14.368	23.374

Military Spending of U.S.A. versus All Other Countries

In 2016, the U.S.A. spent \$1.036 trillion, which is 3.66 times more than the combined total of \$0.2829 trillion for China (\$0.2157) and Russia (\$0.0672)!

In 2016, the USA spent 1.6 times more than the rest of the world combined (\$0.650 trillion)!

Nuclear Weapons Spending

Between 1940 and 1996, the U.S. government spent at least \$9.08 trillion in present-day terms on nuclear weapons, including platforms development (aircraft, rockets and facilities), command and control, maintenance, waste management and administrative costs. Since 1945, the United States produced more than 70,000 nuclear warheads, which is more than all other nuclear weapon states combined. As of 2017, the U.S. has an inventory of 6,800 nuclear warheads; of these, 2,800 are retired and awaiting dismantlement and 4,018 are part of the U.S. stockpile. Of the stockpiled warheads, the U.S. stated in its April 2017 New Start declaration that 1,411 are deployed on 673 ICBMs, SLBMs and strategic bombers. Currently (2018), Trump wants to spend \$1.2 trillion on upgrading the nuclear arsenal.

Destruction, Deaths and Casualties Caused by U.S. Military Forces

1. Estimates of the number of American Indians killed by the U.S. government range from 1 to 4 million. The first estimate was sponsored by the United States government, and, while official, does not stand up to scrutiny and is therefore generally discounted. The second study was not sponsored by the U.S. Government but was done by independent researchers. This study estimated populations and population reductions using later census data. The figure was at least 10 million. Two figures are given, both low and high, at between 10 and 14 million.
2. Since the end of World War II, U.S. military forces were directly responsible for about 10 to 15 million deaths during the Korean and Vietnam Wars and the two Iraq Wars. The Korean War also includes Chinese deaths while the Vietnam War also includes fatalities in Cambodia and Laos.

There also are proxy wars for which the United States is responsible. In these wars there were between 9 and 14 million deaths in Afghanistan, Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor, Guatemala, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sudan.

But the victims are not just from big nations or one part of the world. The remaining deaths were in smaller ones which constitute over half the total number of nations. Virtually all parts of the world have been the target of U.S. intervention.

The overall conclusion reached is that the United States most likely has been responsible since WWII for the deaths of between 20 and 30 million people in wars and conflicts scattered over the world.

To the families and friends of these victims it makes little difference whether the causes were U.S. military action, proxy military forces, the provision of U.S. military supplies or advisors, or other ways, such as economic pressures applied by our nation. They had to make decisions such as finding lost loved ones, whether to become refugees, and how to survive.

(Source: James A. Lucas, Global Research, April 15, 2018)

3. During the war with North Korea (1950 – 1953), U.S. military forces killed 1.8 million people (20% of the 9.726 million population in 1950). U.S. combat deaths were 33,000, so the ratio is 55 to 1. It destroyed 75% of North Korea's cities and villages, including 75% of the capitol, Pyongyang. The U.S. dropped a total of 635,000 tons of bombs on Korea, including 32,557 tons of napalm. By comparison, 503,000 tons were dropped in the Pacific theater during World War II, 864,000 tons were dropped on North Vietnam

4. The Vietnam War occurred in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia from 1 November 1955 to the fall of Saigon on 30 April 1975. There were 3.8 million violent war deaths, of which 2 million were civilian. The U.S. dropped over 7 million tons of bombs (flown in 3.4 million U.S. and South Vietnamese sorties) on Indochina during the war—more than triple the 2.1 million tons of bombs the U.S. dropped on Europe and Asia during all of World War II, and more than ten times the amount dropped by the U.S. during the Korean War. 500 thousand tons were dropped on Cambodia, 1 million tons were dropped on North Vietnam, and 4 million tons were dropped on South Vietnam. On a per capita basis, the 2 million tons dropped on Laos make it the most heavily bombed country in history, amounting to a ton for every person in Laos. The amount of ammunition fired per soldier was 26 times higher than in World War II.

Climbing Out Of The Abyss

So, you see, we are a warfare state, and are hopelessly addicted to war. What can we do to end this madness?

We the People of the United States, in Order to assure a non-violent and humane world society, do create a Department of Peace to establish Justice, Liberty and the General Welfare of all.

The Department of Defense, as decades of history show, is a euphemism for Department of War. By contrast, a Department of Peace would be dedicated to the resolution of conflicts by exhaustive, peaceful, non-violent, non-threatening means, rather than by the use or threats of force if “irresolvable” impasses in negotiations ultimately occur. In short, let’s agree to disagree and coexist without killing each other.

A national commitment is essential in order to transform our horrendously, astronomically waste infested war economy to one that fulfills the multitude of severely neglected needs of the people.

A future outlay of at least \$23.374 trillion (= military/national debt spending for the 19 fiscal year period 2001 – 2019) would go a long way in providing the trillions of dollars to pay for:

- Free tuition for every enrolled post-secondary student.
- Free job training for anyone who seeks employment.
- Rebuilding the crumbling infrastructure of America.
- Medicare for all citizens.
- Free internet service for all households.
- Free mass transit for all urban regions.
- Free U.S. Postal Service.
- Conversion from fossil fuel usage to clean energy sources (i.e. wind, solar).
- Restoration and creation of national parks, wilderness areas and national monuments with free access to all.
- Establish regulations for organic farming and the elimination of harmful pesticides.

Breaking the long chokehold of militarism would enable everyone to thrive and enjoy the benefits of a much more humane society.

Are you ready to start?

If not now, when?