

THE CASE AGAINST WAR: WHAT AMERICANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY

By Rich Whitney, Illinois Green Party

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Our country has been in a constant state of war since 2001. We have now had about 16 uninterrupted years in which our government has been involved in attacking, invading and/or militarily occupying territories in other sovereign nations. Including drone and missile strikes, we have attacked seven largely Muslim countries:

- Afghanistan,
- Iraq,
- Libya,
- Pakistan,
- Somalia,
- Syria, and
- Yemen – all without any Congressional declaration of war, as required by our Constitution.

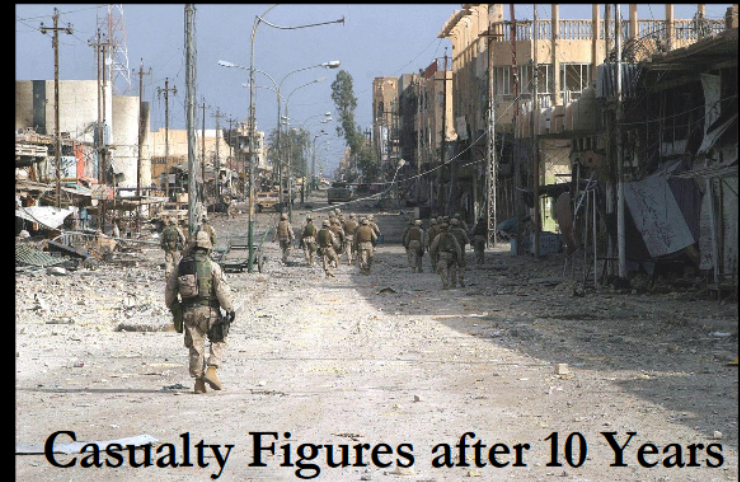
The death toll?

We don't really know; we only know that it is monstrous.

In March 2015, the Washington DC-based Physicians for Social Responsibility (PRS) released a landmark study concluding that the death toll from 10 years of the “War on Terror” since the 9/11 attacks is at least 1.3 million, and could be as high as 2 million. But that was focused only on Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, for the period 2001 – 2013. There are additional deaths in other countries, and about four more years of war, not accounted for.



Body Count



of the “War on Terror”

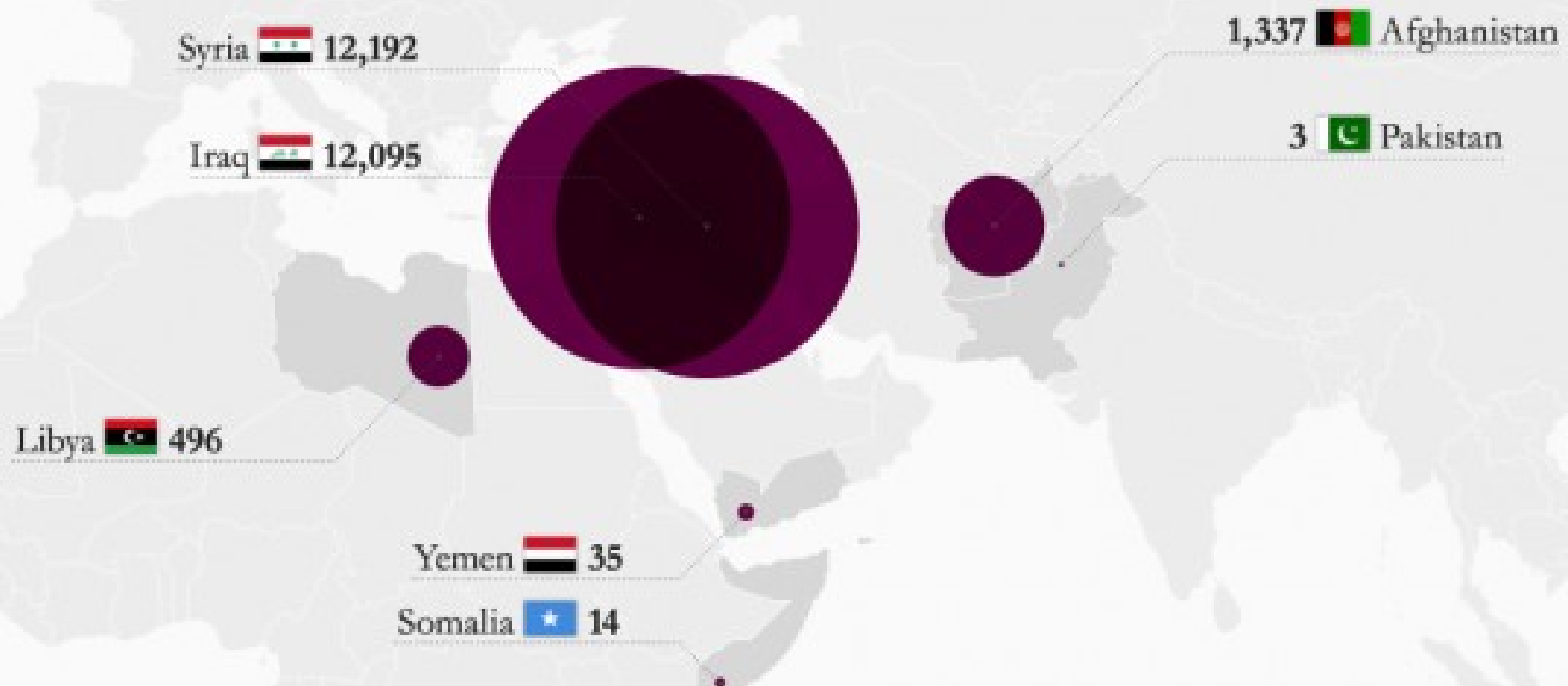
Iraq Afghanistan Pakistan



First international edition (March 2015)

The U.S. dropped 26,171 bombs in 2016

Number of U.S. bombs dropped in countries in 2016 (all weapons platforms)



Of course, this is part of a longer pattern.



USA BOMBING LIST: The Democracy World Tour
Since the end of the Second World War.

Korea and China 1950-53 (Korean War)	Panama 1989
Guatemala 1954	Iraq 1991 (Persian Gulf War)
Indonesia 1958	Kuwait 1991
Cuba 1959-1961	Somalia 1993
Guatemala 1960	Bosnia 1994, 1995
Congo 1964	Sudan 1998
Laos 1964-73	Afghanistan 1998
Vietnam 1961-73	Yugoslavia 1999
Cambodia 1969-70	Yemen 2002
Guatemala 1967-69	Iraq 1991-2003 (US/UK on regular basis)
Grenada 1983	Iraq 2003-2015
Lebanon 1983, 1984 (both Lebanese and Syrian targets)	Afghanistan 2001-2015
Libya 1986	Pakistan 2007-2015
El Salvador 1980s	Somalia 2007-8, 2011
Nicaragua 1980s	Yemen 2009, 2011
Iran 1987	Libya 2011, 2015
	Syria 2014-2015

Note that these countries represent roughly **one-third** of the people on earth.

LET'S TRY DEMOCRACY

Writings, video, audio by David Swanson

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U.S. WARS AND HOSTILE ACTIONS: A LIST

There is a reason that most countries polled in December 2013 by Gallup called the United States the greatest threat to peace in the world, and why Pew found that viewpoint increased in 2017.

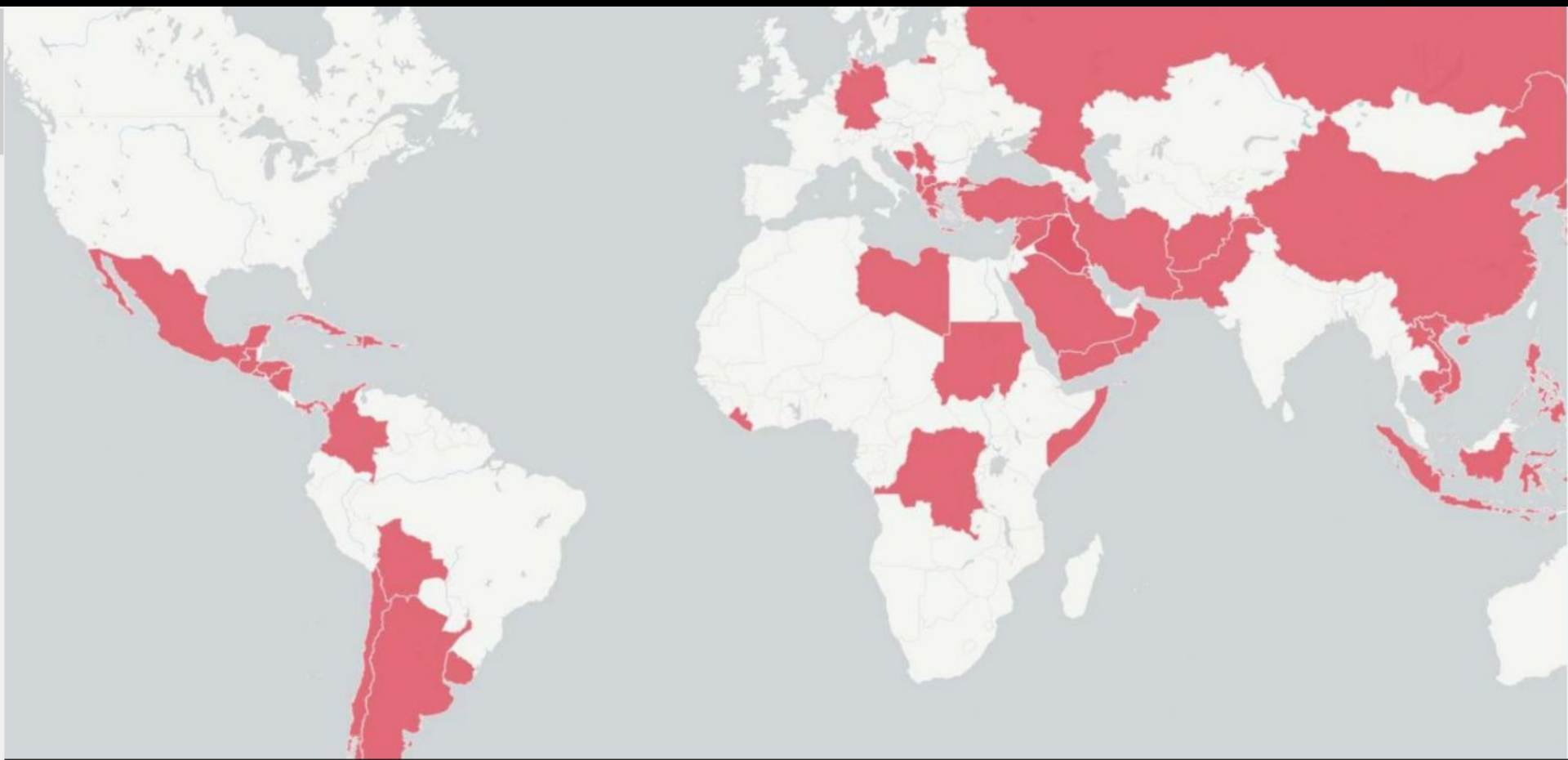
But it is a reason that eludes that strain of U.S. academia that first defines war as something that nations and groups other than the United States do, and then concludes that war has nearly vanished from the earth.

Since World War II, during a supposed golden age of peace, the United States military has killed some 20 million people, overthrown at least 36 governments, interfered in at least 82 foreign elections, attempted to assassinate over 50 foreign leaders, and dropped bombs on people in over 30 countries. The United States is responsible for the deaths of 5 million people in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and over 1 million just since 2003 in Iraq.

For the past almost 16 years, the United States has been systematically destroying a region of the globe, bombing Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, and Syria, not to mention the Philippines. The United States has “special forces” operating in two-thirds of the world’s countries and non-special forces in three-quarters of them.

These are all the countries the USA has invaded, in one map

Using data on US military interventions published by Evergreen State College, indy100 has created this map (below). The data was compiled by Dr Zoltan Grossman, a professor of Geography and Native Studies.



[illegible]

Data: US Defense Department, Google Maps, News reports

THESIS: THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE BECOME DANGEROUSLY INDIFFERENT TO A STATE OF CONSTANT WARFARE.

Congress keeps funding these wars with almost no opposition.

Although there are signs that it is now waking up, the peace movement in this country has not been able to mobilize mass protests like those that occurred in 2003 and 2005, since the election of President Obama in 2008.

There are several possible explanations for this. Obama promised to end the Iraq War, and, for a time, it appeared that he had done so. American casualties have declined under Obama, and he repeatedly promised, when new attacks were launched in Libya, Iraq and Syria, that there will be no American “boots on the ground.” He didn’t entirely keep that promise, but the implication is that acts of war may be more justifiable if American lives are not (much) at risk.

FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BE OUTRAGED BY THE 16-YEAR WAR

1. Our government is daily raining death, destruction, terror, assassination, and sheer misery on the peoples of other sovereign nations. War is hell, and we are the ones inflicting it.
2. Every one of these acts of war are illegal under international law and the Nuremberg principles that our country once championed. Most, if not all violate our own Constitution.
3. Our government is lying to us about the reasons for these wars:
 - A. Stopping terrorism.
 - B. They are in the “national security interest.”
 - C. Supporting freedom and democracy.
 - D. Protecting people from tyrants and dictators; “humanitarian intervention.”
4. The real motives for war: Control of oil and other resources, and pipelines to transport oil and gas to the West. Control of markets and sources of cheap labor for U.S. corporations. Feed the military-industrial complex and war profiteering.
5. While the war machine employs many workers, the tremendous costs of war borne by U.S. taxpayers, current and future, deprives us of the ability to meet many of our needs at home and employ far more workers in projects and services that would enhance life, not destroy it. War is a losing proposition for the American worker.

1. Our government is daily raining death, destruction, terror, assassination, and sheer misery on the peoples of other sovereign nations.

















And then there's Syria. Here's a U.S. airstrike in Kobane.



And the aftermath:





A food queue in Damascus.



A refugee camp in Jordan.



2. Every one of these acts of war are illegal under international law and the Nuremberg principles that our country once championed. They also violate our own Constitution.

Article VI, paragraph 2 of our Constitution makes treaties to which the United States is a signatory a part of the “Supreme law of the land,” and that includes the United Nations Charter. But even before the UN Charter was the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which made war illegal, and to which the United States was, and still is, a party.

KELLOGG-BRIAND PACT OF 1928

Treaty between the United States and other Powers providing for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy. Signed at Paris, August 27, 1928; ratification advised by the Senate, January 16, 1929; ratified by the President, January 17, 1929.

ARTICLE I

The High Contracting Parties solemnly declare in the names of their respective peoples that they condemn recourse to war for the solution of international controversies, and renounce it, as an instrument of national policy in their relations with one another.

ARTICLE II

The High Contracting Parties agree that the settlement or solution of all disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them, shall never be sought except by pacific means.

ARTICLE III

The present Treaty shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties named in the Preamble in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements, and shall take effect as between them as soon as all their several instruments of ratification shall have been deposited at Washington. . . .

When this Treaty became effective on July 24, 1929, the instruments of ratification of all of the signatory powers having been deposited at Washington, the following countries, having deposited instruments of definitive adherence, became parties to it:

Afghanistan	Finland	Peru
Albania	Guatemala	Portugal
Austria	Hungary	Rumania
Bulgaria	Iceland	Russia
China	Latvia	Kingdom of the Serbs
Cuba	Liberia	Croats and Slovenes
Denmark	Lithuania	Siam
Dominican Republic	Netherlands	Spain
Egypt	Nicaragua	Sweden
Estonia	Norway	Turkey
Ethiopia	Panama	

Additional adhesions deposited subsequent to July 24, 1929. Persia, July 2, 1929; Greece, August 3, 1929; Honduras, August 6, 1929; Chile, August 12, 1929; Luxemburg August 14, 1929; Danzig, September 11, 1929; Costa Rica, October 1, 1929; Venezuela, October 24, 1929.

Source:
United States Statutes at Large
Vol 46 Part 2 Page 2343

THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER ALSO FORBIDS AGGRESSIVE OR “PRE-EMPTIVE” WAR:

Article 2 of the U.N. Charter forbids member states from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other state. Article 51 allows for nations to use self-defense but only if actually attacked and only if the self-defense is aimed against a state responsible for the attack -- not non-state actors.

Afghanistan never attacked the United States. It even offered to turn over Osama Bin Laden to the United States if the U.S. produced evidence that he was responsible for the 9/11 attacks. Therefore, the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan was, and remains, illegal.

Saddam Hussein never attacked the United States. Therefore, the invasion and occupation of Iraq was illegal.

Pakistan never attacked the United States. Yemen, Somalia, Libya and Syria never attacked the United States. Therefore, the drone attacks in these nations and the aerial bombardments in Libya and Syria were all illegal.

See, e.g., O'Connell, Mary Ellen (2012), *Adhering to Law and Values Against Terrorism*, Notre Dame Journal of International & Comparative Law; Vol. 2, Iss. 2, Article 6;

http://www.academia.edu/576116/The_Libya_Humanitarian_Intervention_Is_it_Lawful_in_International_Law; Marjorie Cohn, *Trump's Syria Attack Trampled Many Laws*, Consortium News, April 11, 2017; <https://consortiumnews.com/2017/04/11/trumps-syria-attack-trampled-many-laws/>

Our nation is guilty of what we condemned at Nuremberg:

“Preventive war is unequivocally illegal. In 1946, the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg rejected Germany’s argument that it had been compelled to attack Norway and Denmark in self-defense to prevent a future Allied invasion. . . . As the Tribunal stated: “To initiate a war of aggression, therefore, is not only an international crime; it is *the supreme international crime* differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole.”

“We must make it clear to the Germans that the wrong for which their fallen leaders are on trial is not that they lost the war, but that they started it. And we must not allow ourselves to be drawn into a trial of the causes of the war, *for our position is that no grievances or policies will justify resort to an aggressive war.* It is utterly renounced and condemned as an instrument of policy.”

-- U.S. Chief Supreme Court Justice and Chief Nuremberg Prosecutor Robert H. Jackson

The 2001 "Authorization for the Use of Military Force" or 2003 vote to authorize the attack on Iraq did not make our actions legal under international law. The second of the Nuremberg Principles specifically states that "the fact that internal law does not impose a penalty for an act which constitutes a crime under international law does not relieve the person who committed the act from responsibility under international law."

These wars are in flagrant violation of our Constitution, yet Congress does nothing.

Article I, section 8 of our Constitution gives Congress the exclusive authority to declare war. The president has no authority to order any branch of the U.S. military to commit acts of aggression against other nations in the absence of a congressional declaration of war. Congress's 2001 vote approving the Authorization for the Use of Military Force and 2003 vote authorizing the invasion of Iraq were themselves unconstitutional abdications of congressional authority to the president. But even if one were to broadly interpret these votes as "declarations," they would still not legitimize the brazenly unconstitutional uses of military force by the Obama administration against Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, Libya and Syria -- yet Congress did nothing, not even withhold funding for these attacks.

Congress has not declared war since 1942 – the last time we were actually attacked by another nation.

In 2011, Dennis Kucinich had a brief moment of clarity, though without the requisite courage to follow through.

Kucinich calls Obama's attack on Libya 'an impeachable offense'

Sahil Kapur, 21 Mar 2011, Raw Story

WASHINGTON – In an exclusive interview with Raw Story on Monday, Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) tore into President Barack Obama's decision to order U.S. air strikes against Libya, opening the door for impeachment while emphatically declaring that Obama violated the Constitution.

"President Obama moved forward without Congress approving. He didn't have Congressional authorization, he has gone against the Constitution, and that's got to be said," Kucinich told Raw Story.

"And I'm raising the question as to whether or not it's an impeachable offense. It would appear on its face to be an impeachable offense," Kucinich said. . . .

The anti-war Democrat pointed to this quote from candidate Obama in 2007: "The President does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation."

"So what the president did is, by his own words, outside the Constitution," Kucinich said. "This isn't a case of him not knowing. He knows clearly that he has not complied with the Constitution."

3. Our government is lying to us about the reasons for these wars:

- A. Stopping terrorism.
- B. They are in the “national security interest.”
- C. Supporting freedom and democracy.
- D. Protecting people from tyrants and dictators; “humanitarian intervention.”

4. The real motives for war: Control of oil and other resources, and pipelines to transport oil and gas to the West. Control of markets and sources of cheap labor for U.S. corporations. Feed the military-industrial complex and war profiteering.

Here are three examples that will illustrate how the official reasons for U.S. acts of war are false.

Example 1: Libya: There was never any threat of a “bloodbath” by Qaddafi.

The conventional account of Libya's conflict and NATO's intervention is misleading. . . . Qaddafi did not initiate Libya's violence by targeting peaceful protesters. The United Nations and Amnesty International have documented that in all four Libyan cities initially consumed by civil conflict in mid-February 2011—Benghazi, Al Bayda, Tripoli, and Misurata—violence was actually initiated by the protesters. The government responded to the rebels militarily but never intentionally targeted civilians or resorted to “indiscriminate” force, as Western media claimed. Early press accounts exaggerated the death toll by a factor of ten, citing “more than 2,000 deaths” in Benghazi during the initial days of the uprising, whereas Human Rights Watch (HRW) later documented only 233 deaths across all of Libya in that period. . . .

Moreover, Qaddafi did not perpetrate a “bloodbath” in any of the cities that his forces recaptured from rebels prior to NATO intervention—including Ajdabiya, Bani Walid, Brega, Ras Lanuf, Zawiya, and much of Misurata—so there was virtually no risk of such an outcome if he had been permitted to recapture the last rebel stronghold of Benghazi.

-- Alan Kuperman, *Lessons from Libya: How Not to Intervene*, Policy Brief, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, September 2013.

It also didn't end well.

“Radical Islamist groups, suppressed under Qaddafi, emerged as the fiercest rebels during the war and refused to disarm or submit to government authority afterward. . . .

“Among neighboring countries, Mali, which previously had been the region's exceptional example of peace and democracy, has suffered the worst consequences from the intervention. . . . By December 2012, the northern half of Mali had become "the largest territory controlled by Islamic extremists in the world," according to the chairman of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Africa. This chaos also spurred massive displacement of hundreds of thousands of Malian civilians, which Amnesty International characterized as "Mali's worst human rights situation in 50 years."

“Sophisticated weapons from Qaddafi's arsenal—including up to 15,000 man-portable, surface-to-air missiles unaccounted for as of 2012—leaked to radical Islamists throughout the region. NATO's intervention on behalf of Libya's rebels also encouraged Syria's formerly peaceful protesters to switch to violence in mid-2011, in hopes of attracting a similar intervention. The resulting escalation in Syria magnified that country's killing rate by tenfold.”

The real motives?

11 November 2011

Gadhafi's Gold-money Plan Would Have Devastated Dollar

by Alex Newman

It remains unclear exactly why or how the Gadhafi regime went from “a model” and an “important ally” to the next target for regime change in a period of just a few years. But after claims of “genocide” as the justification for NATO intervention were disputed by experts, several other theories have been floated.

Oil, of course, has been mentioned frequently — Libya is Africa's largest oil producer. But one possible reason for Gadhafi's fall from grace has gained significant traction among analysts and segments of the non-Western media: central banking and the global monetary system.

According to more than a few observers, Gadhafi's plan to quit selling Libyan oil in U.S. dollars — demanding payment instead in gold-backed “dinars” (a single African currency made from gold) — was the real cause. The regime, sitting on massive amounts of gold, estimated at close to 150 tons, was also pushing other African and Middle Eastern governments to follow suit. . . .

Gadhafi's plan would have strengthened the whole continent of Africa in the eyes of economists backing sound money — not to mention investors. But it would have been especially devastating for the U.S. economy, the American dollar, and particularly the elite in charge of the system.

Hillary Emails Reveal True Motive for Libya Intervention

By Brad Hoff | Jan 6, 2016 | [Africa](#), [Editor's Picks](#), [News & Analysis](#), [US](#) | 364 ● | ★★★★★

The email [sent from Clinton adviser Sidney Blumenthal to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in April 2011] identifies French President Nicholas Sarkozy as leading the attack on Libya with five specific purposes in mind: to obtain Libyan oil, ensure French influence in the region, increase Sarkozy's reputation domestically, assert French military power, and to prevent Gaddafi's influence in what is considered "Francophone Africa."

Most astounding is the lengthy section delineating the huge threat that Gaddafi's gold and silver reserves, estimated at "143 tons of gold, and a similar amount in silver," posed to the French franc (CFA) circulating as a prime African currency. In place of the noble sounding "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) doctrine fed to the public, there is this "confidential" explanation of what was really driving the war [emphasis mine]:

This gold was accumulated prior to the current rebellion and was intended to be used to establish a pan-African currency based on the Libyan golden Dinar. This plan was designed to provide the Francophone African Countries with an alternative to the French franc (CFA).

(Source Comment: According to knowledgeable individuals this quantity of gold and silver is valued at more than \$7 billion. French intelligence officers discovered this plan shortly after the current rebellion began, and *this was one of the factors that influenced President Nicolas Sarkozy's decision to commit France to the attack on Libya.*)

Example 2: Syria

“While the compliant American press parrots the narrative that our military support for the Syrian insurgency is purely humanitarian, many Arabs see the present crisis as just another proxy war over pipelines and geopolitics. . . .

“In their view, our war against Bashar Assad did not begin with the peaceful civil protests of the Arab Spring in 2011. Instead it began in 2000, when Qatar proposed to construct a \$10 billion, 1,500 kilometer pipeline through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Turkey. Qatar shares with Iran the South Pars/North Dome gas field, the world’s richest natural gas repository. The international trade embargo until recently prohibited Iran from selling gas abroad. Meanwhile, Qatar’s gas can reach European markets only if it is liquefied and shipped by sea, a route that restricts volume and dramatically raises costs. The proposed pipeline would have linked Qatar directly to European energy markets via distribution terminals in Turkey, which would pocket rich transit fees. The Qatar/Turkey pipeline would give the Sunni kingdoms of the Persian Gulf decisive domination of world natural gas markets and strengthen Qatar, America’s closest ally in the Arab world.”

-- Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., *Why the Arabs don't want us in Syria*, Politico 2/23/16

“Assad further enraged the Gulf’s Sunni monarchs by endorsing a Russian-approved “Islamic pipeline” running from Iran’s side of the gas field through Syria and to the ports of Lebanon. The Islamic pipeline would make Shiite Iran, not Sunni Qatar, the principal supplier to the European energy market and dramatically increase Tehran’s influence in the Middle East and the world. . . .

“Secret cables and reports by the U.S., Saudi and Israeli intelligence agencies indicate that the moment Assad rejected the Qatari pipeline, military and intelligence planners quickly arrived at the consensus that fomenting a Sunni uprising in Syria to overthrow the uncooperative Bashar Assad was a feasible path to achieving the shared objective of completing the Qatar/Turkey gas link. In 2009, according to WikiLeaks, soon after Bashar Assad rejected the Qatar pipeline, the CIA began funding opposition groups in Syria. It is important to note that this was well before the Arab Spring-engendered uprising against Assad.”

The U.S. government supported armed insurrection from the outset:

The “mainstream media . . . portray the conflict as a ‘civil war’ which began with peaceful democratic loving Syrian revolutionaries beaten by a brutal regime. In reality there was a violent faction from the start. In the first protests in Deraa seven police were killed. Two weeks later there was a massacre of 60 security forces in Deraa. In Homs, an eye-witness recounted the situation: ‘From the start, the protest movements were not purely peaceful. From the start I saw armed demonstrators marching along in the protests, who began to shoot at the police first. Very often the violence of the security forces has been a reaction to the brutal violence of the armed rebels.’ In the first two months, hundreds of police and security forces were killed.”

-- Rick Sterling, *Socialists Supporting NATO and US Empire: a Response to Ashley Smith*, Counterpunch, September 6, 2016

The part of the story on Benghazi that is rarely told:

“In January, the Senate Intelligence Committee released a report on the assault . . . which resulted in the death of the US ambassador, Christopher Stevens, and three others. . . . A highly classified annex to the report, not made public, described a secret agreement reached in early 2012 between the Obama and Erdoğan administrations. It pertained to the rat line. By the terms of the agreement, funding came from Turkey, as well as Saudi Arabia and Qatar; the CIA, with the support of MI6, was responsible for getting arms from Gaddafi’s arsenals into Syria. A number of front companies were set up in Libya, some under the cover of Australian entities. Retired American soldiers, who didn’t always know who was really employing them, were hired to manage procurement and shipping. The operation was run by David Petraeus, the CIA director who would soon resign.”

-- Seymour Hersh, *The Red Line and the Rat Line*, Vol. 36 No. 8 · 17 April 2014

“Retired Lt. General William Boykin said in January that Stevens was in Benghazi as part of an effort to arm the Syrian opposition. . . . Boykin said Stevens was ‘given a directive to support the Syrian rebels’ and the State Department’s Special Mission Compound in Benghazi ‘would be the hub of that activity.’” -- *It’s Dishonest to Talk about Benghazi Without Talking About the Syrian War*; May 8, 2013, WashingtonsBlog

Al-Nusra: “Moderate” Rebels?





Rich Whitney

Rich Whitney is an attorney, actor, disk jockey, environmental and peace activist, and former Green Party c...

Jul 20 · 9 min read

U.S. Intervention in Syria is Illegal, Immoral and Indefensible— But to Understand Why, You Have to Dig Past the Mainstream Media Consensus

In May of this year, U.S. and allied forces dropped or fired over 4,300 bombs and missiles in Syria and Iraq. At least 350 and maybe as many as 1,327 civilians were killed. Our nation has been bombing Syria for nearly three years and we now have “military advisers” setting up bases inside the country. The number of strikes and civilian casualties has been steadily growing.

The official story and the mainstream media consensus is that our government’s intervention in that country is justified because it is in support of Syrian people trying to overthrow another monstrous dictator who uses chemical weapons on his own people—you know, like Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Muammar Qaddafi in Libya had to be overthrown, which we all know turned out so well—and because we are also fighting ISIS there.

The mainstream media’s narrative is wrong in every respect, but so tight is its stranglehold on the story that even Pulitzer prize-winning journalist

Additional resources on Syria may be found at my blog: <https://medium.com/@richwhitney/>

Example 3: The U.S. does not oppose dictatorships or repressive governments. It supports them. Lots of them. Let's see how many.

[https://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world-2016/table-scores](#)Search☆📁↓🏠💬📧☰

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Freedom in the World 2016

Table of Country Scores

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PR = Political Rights

CL=Civil Liberties

CL, PR, and Freedom Rating Score Explanation: (1 = *most free* and 7 = *least free*)

Aggregate Score Explanation: (0=*WORST*, 100=*BEST*)

Show entries

	Freedom Status	PR	CL	Freedom Rating	Aggregate Score	Trend Arrow
Abkhazia *	Partly Free	4	5	4.5	42	
Afghanistan	Not Free	6	6	6.0	24	
Albania	Partly Free	3	3	3.0	67	
Algeria	Not Free	6	5	5.5	35	
Andorra	Free	1	1	1.0	96	

Freedom in the World 2016

REPORT MATERIALS

- Download FIW 2016 PDF Report
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- Methodology
- Maps + Graphics
- Table of Scores
- Download FIW 2016 Data

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Foreign Military Training

Fiscal Years
2015 and 2016

Joint Report to Congress

Volume I



The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$60,000 in Fiscal Years 2015 - 2016. This includes \$40,000 in expenses and \$20,000 in DoD labor. Generated on 2014OCT30 RefID: E-82EF7FF

Fiscal Year Series



As of September 30, 2015

I generated a chart showing all the world's dictatorships and all countries receiving U.S. military aid or weapons sales, and compared them.

U.S. Support for the World's Dictatorships, Fiscal Year 2015
Dictatorships Receiving U.S. Military Training and/or Military Weapons and/or Services, FY 2015

<u>Nation Run by</u> <u>Dictatorship</u>	<u>Received U.S.</u> <u>Military Training?</u> (FY 2015)	<u>Military Sales</u> <u>Agreements</u> (FY 2015)	<u>Military Sales</u> <u>Deliveries</u> (FY 2015)
Afghanistan	Yes	\$119 million	\$83 million
Algeria	Yes	\$125,000	\$1.1 million
Angola	Yes		
Azerbaijan	Yes	\$434,000	\$1.617 million
Bahrain	Yes	\$5.5 million	\$39.76 million
Belarus			
Brunei	Yes	\$19.2 million	\$107,000
Burundi	Yes	\$230,000	\$192,000
Cambodia	Yes		\$1.18 million
Cameroon	Yes		\$596,000
Central African Republic			
Chad	Yes		\$1.1 million
China			
Congo, Democratic Republic of (Kinshasa)	Yes		

The result:

There were 49 nation-states in the world that can be fairly categorized as dictatorships.

Of those 49 dictatorships, 36 of them – over 73 percent – were receiving U.S. military training assistance and/or authorized weapons sales.

Your tax dollars are supporting nearly three-fourths of the world's dictatorships!

US Provides Military Assistance to 73 Percent of World's Dictatorships

Saturday, September 23, 2017

By Rich Whitney, Truthout | News Analysis



Tweet



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font size



Print



Dictatorships receiving U.S. Military assistance in FY 2015:

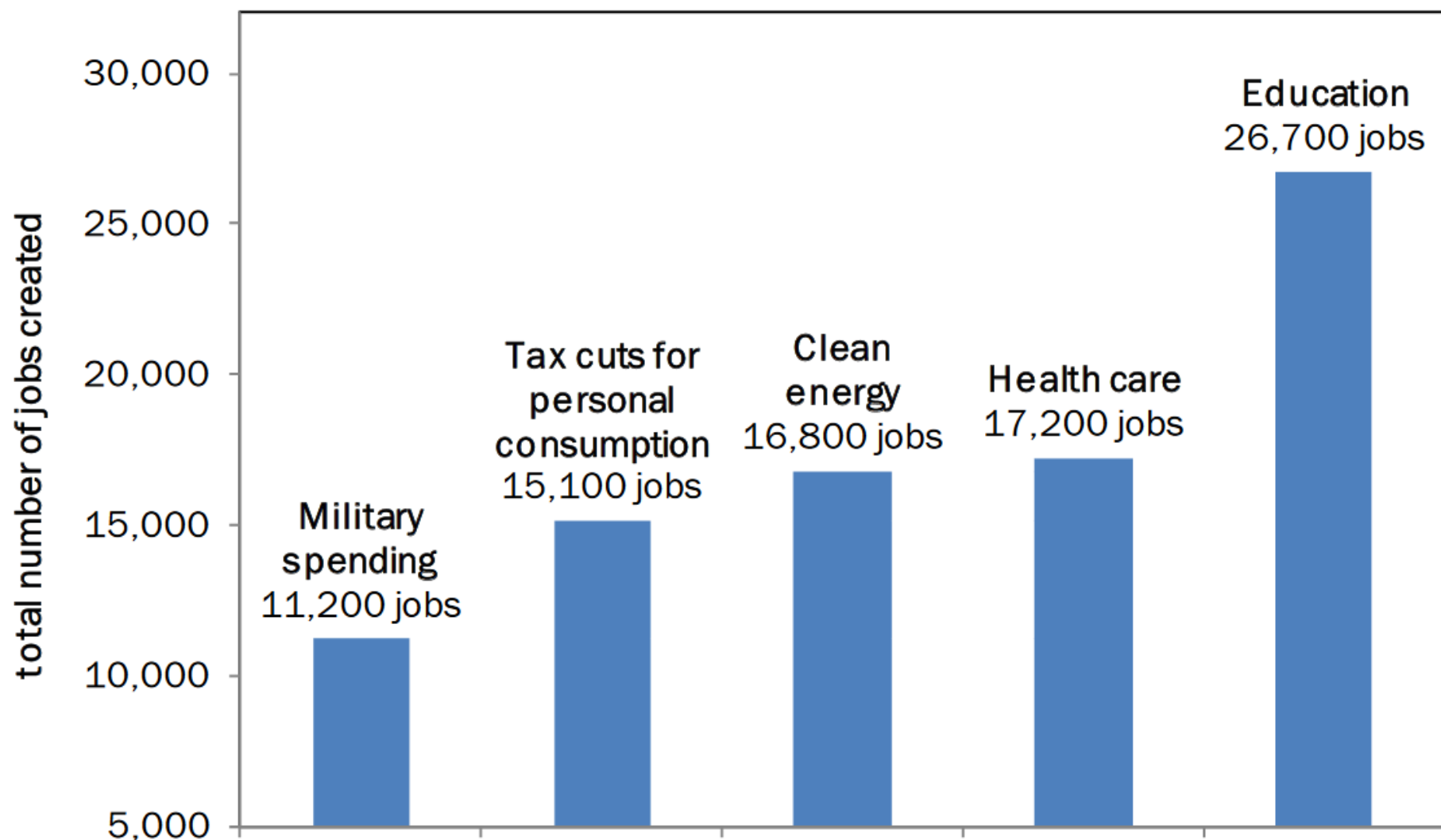
Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa), Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen.

5. War is a losing economic proposition for the American worker.

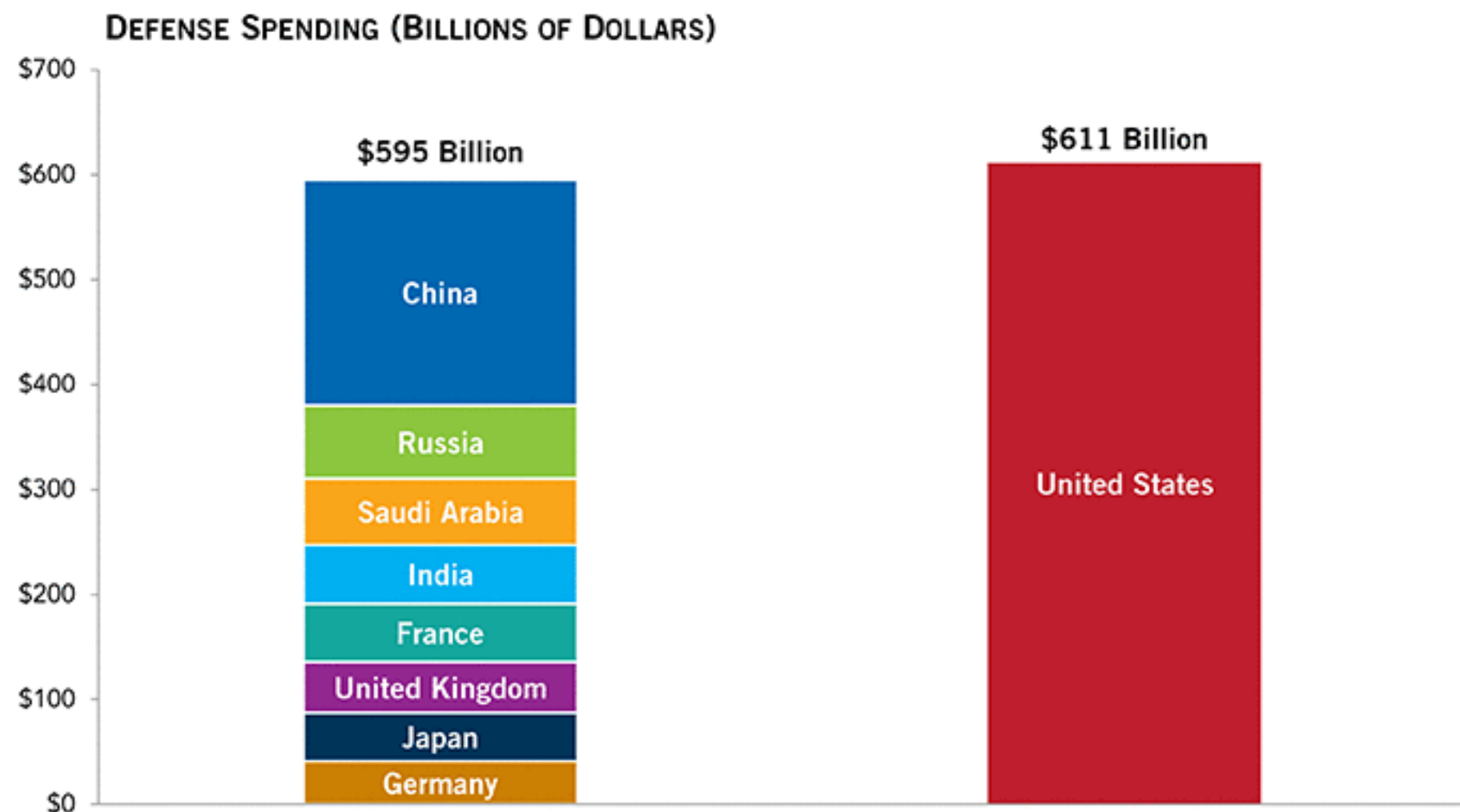
On April 16, 1953, years before he warned us of the dangers of the military-industrial complex, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower declaimed:

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

FIGURE 1. JOB CREATION IN THE U.S. THROUGH \$1 BILLION IN SPENDING



The United States spends more on defense than the next eight countries combined



SOURCE: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, *SIPRI Military Expenditure Database*, April 2017. Data are for 2016. Compiled by PGPF.

NOTE: Figures are in U.S. dollars, converted from local currencies using market exchange rates.

What counts as national security depends on your perspective.
Some people consider wars overseas to be national security.

Cost of Military Action Against ISIS

Every hour, taxpayers in the United States are paying
\$615,482 for Cost of Military Action Against ISIS.

\$16,173,601,725

[about](#) | [embed](#) | [notes & sources](#)

Cost of Pentagon Slush Fund

Every hour, taxpayers in the United States are paying
\$3.42 million for Cost of Pentagon Slush Fund.

\$156,187,293,804

[about](#) | [embed](#) | [notes & sources](#)

Cost of War in Afghanistan

Every hour, taxpayers in the United States are paying
\$4 million for Cost of War in Afghanistan.

\$779,427,266,506

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Cost of War in Iraq

Every hour, taxpayers in the United States are paying
\$117,035 for Cost of War in Iraq.

\$820,711,788,482

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Total Cost of Wars Since 2001

Every hour, taxpayers in the United States are paying
\$8.36 million for Total Cost of Wars Since 2001.

\$1,777,509,213,160

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TRADE-OFFS: WHAT ELSE COULD THESE DOLLARS BUY?

TRADE-OFFS: YOUR MONEY, YOUR CHOICES

Our federal budget represents a series of choices. Those choices should reflect our priorities as a nation. But do they?
Our interactive tool helps you explore and answer that question.

* Change Location

United States

* Change Program

10% of Department of Defense



*For **10% of Department of Defense**,
taxpayers in **the United States** are paying
\$52.85 billion, not including the cost of war.
Here's what those tax dollars could have paid
for instead:*

Trade-Offs

Combine Trade-Offs



[+ edit](#) → **653,893** Elementary School Teachers for **1 Year**, or

[+ edit](#) → **713,461** Clean Energy Jobs Created for **1 Year**, or

[+ edit](#) → **951,281** Infrastructure Jobs Created for **1 Year**, or

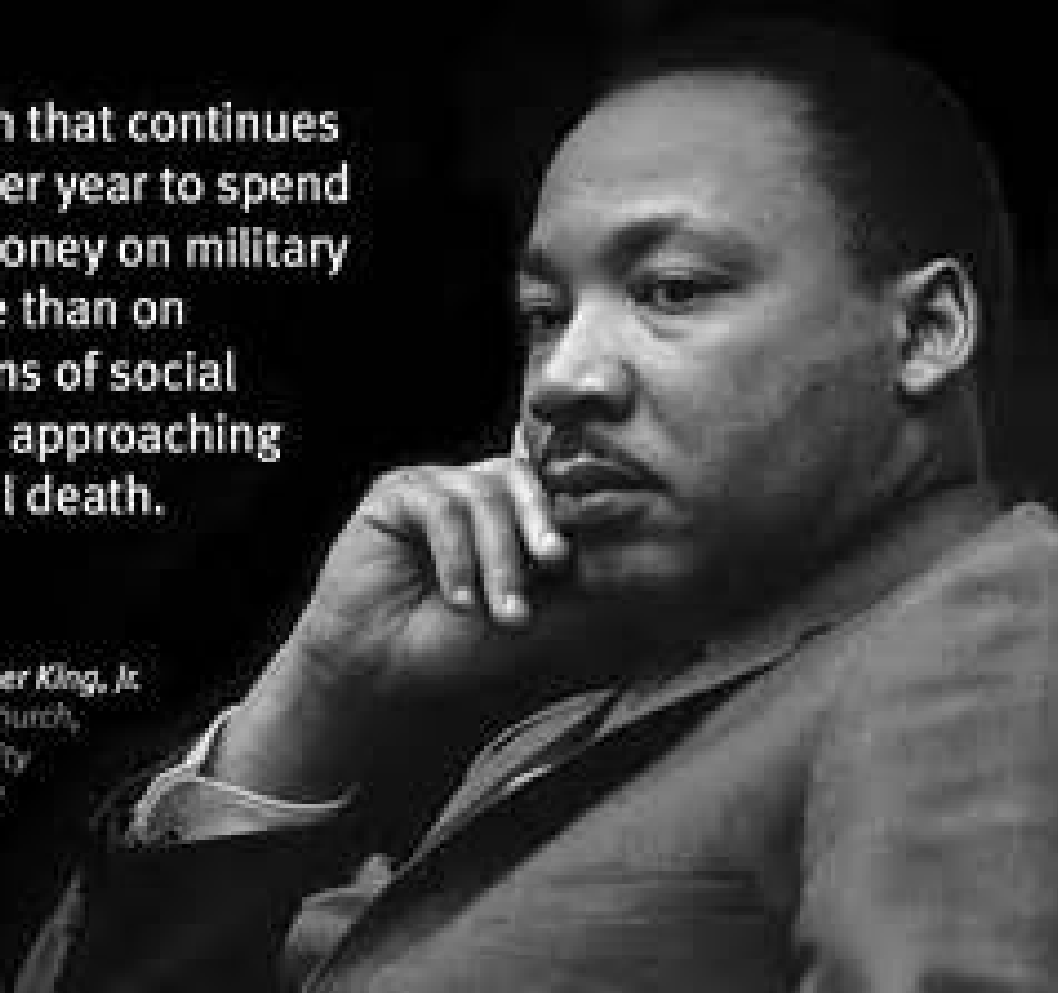
[+ edit](#) → **528,490** Jobs with Supports Created in High Poverty Communities for **1 Year**, or

[+ edit](#) → **5.93 million** Head Start Slots for Children for **1 Year**, or

[+ edit](#) → **5.12 million** Military Veterans Receiving VA Medical Care for **1 Year**, or

A nation that continues
year after year to spend
more money on military
defense than on
programs of social
uplift is approaching
spiritual death.

*Martin Luther King, Jr.
Riverside Church,
New York City
4 April 1967*



THE GREEN PARTY



**is the
PEACE PARTY**

SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS LEADING THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE:

- Green Party of the United States: gp.org
- United National Antiwar Coalition: unacpeace.org
- World Beyond War: worldbeyondwar.org

Also check: davidswanson.org; antiwar.com;
consortiumnews.com

Locally:

- Peace Coalition of Southern Illinois
 - Shawnee Green Party (and Illinois Green Party)
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