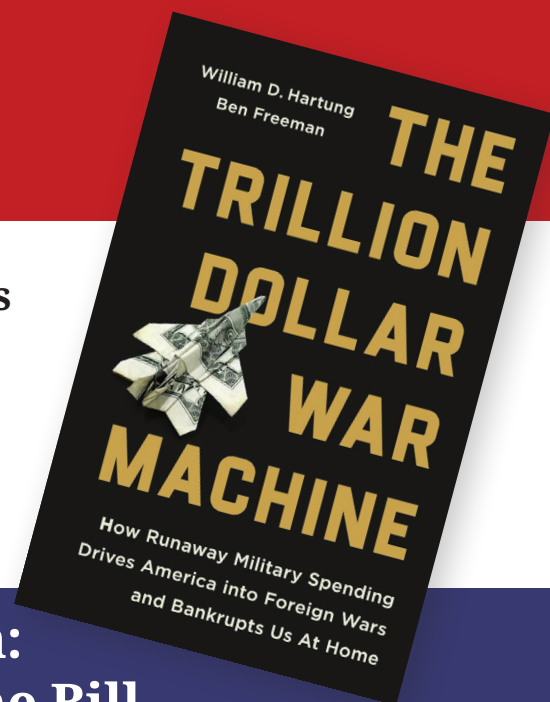




QUINCY INSTITUTE
FOR RESPONSIBLE
STATECRAFT



“This is it: the definitive account of America’s wasteful, corrupt, and astonishingly ineffective military industrial complex.”

— ANDREW BACEVICH, COFOUNDER
OF THE QUINCY INSTITUTE

The Rising Costs of U.S. Militarism: Americans Are Tired of Footing the Bill

“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.” —PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, CROSS OF IRON SPEECH, APRIL 16, 1953

Over seventy years ago, President Eisenhower warned of the costs to the American people of nuclear buildups and excessive military spending. The severe tradeoffs Eisenhower cited in 1953 are even more pronounced today. **Congress must confront these tradeoffs before even considering another trillion-dollar Pentagon budget.**

COSTS IN 1953



30 new schools
or
= **2** fully equipped hospitals
or
2 electric power plants



= **500,000** bushels
of wheat



= **8,000** people housed in
new homes

COSTS IN 2026



B-2

= **28,500** teacher’s salaries
or
= **2.5 million** children fed
school lunch for a year



6 F-35

= **3,000** affordable housing
units built
or
= **399,000** households’
electric bills paid
for a year



Arleigh Burke Destroyer

= **27,800** nurses’ salaries
or
= **340** at-risk rural hospitals
protected from closure

How the War Economy Hurts the United States

Each year, billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars are spent on weapons and war — over half of which are funneled into the hands of military contractors. Politicians and weapons companies often try to sell this lopsided budget to the American people by saying it creates jobs — but in reality, the United States' war economy is hurting our communities. It limits economic opportunity, creates fewer jobs than other industries, and siphons taxpayer dollars away from other national priorities.

WHETHER YOU CARE ABOUT
reducing U.S. debt

OR

investing in communities

THE BLOATED PENTAGON BUDGET
IS AN OBSTACLE.



War spending is often financed through borrowing, which increases the national debt.



Almost half of the federal discretionary spending goes to the Pentagon — more than public education, job training, housing, and public health combined.

Arms sales export war — and jobs

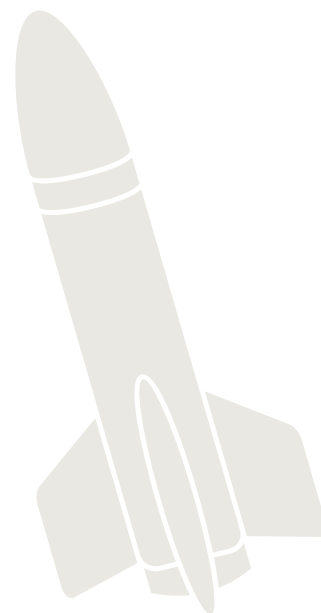
When the United States sells weapons to other countries, we are not only adding fuel to the fire of many conflicts — the contracts also often promise economic perks to the purchasing countries. These perks include manufacturing jobs and technology transfers. These are called “offsets,” and mean that many of the jobs that weapons companies create are actually overseas.

The myth of Pentagon spending as a path to prosperity

Companies and politicians often claim that having weapons companies and military contractors in their district — and funneling federal money their way — is good for the local economy. However, an analysis of some of the most defense-dependent counties in the country showed that about half of these counties had higher than average poverty rates. While a few people may benefit from these defense contracts, the benefits aren't necessarily community-wide.

Community dependence and corporate influence

When a community is economically dependent on big companies like Lockheed Martin, it gives the company a lot of political power. Over half of Pentagon spending is funneled to contractors, and that money is often used to lobby Congress to give them more money the next year. It's a vicious cycle — the more taxpayer dollars that these companies receive, the more they are able to spend lobbying Congress for more money the next year.



QUINCY INSTITUTE
FOR RESPONSIBLE
STATECRAFT

www.quincyinst.org



@QuincyInst



www.facebook.com/QuincyInst