

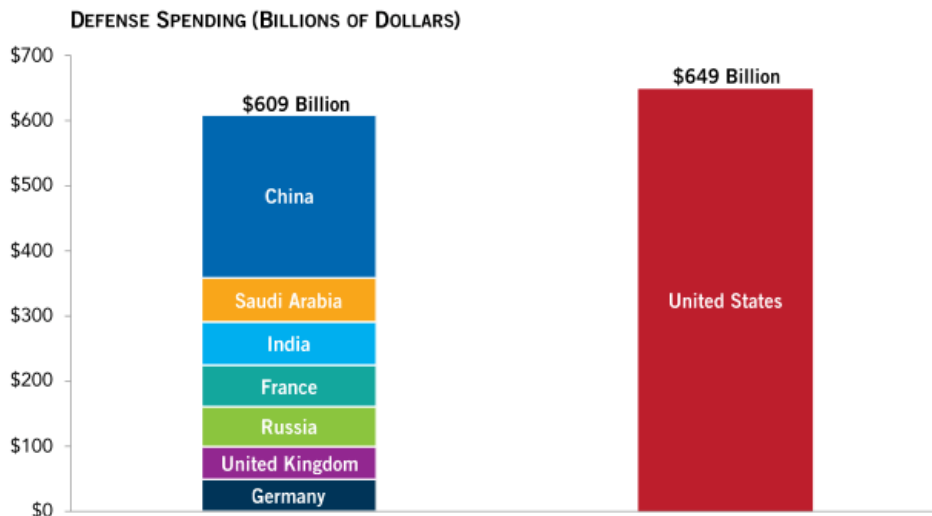
Pentagon Bloat Threatens Community Needs

The Pentagon Budget

The U.S. spends more on its military than the next seven countries combined. Over half of the U.S. Discretionary Budget goes to the military. These numbers don't include the budgets for the C.I.A., N.S.A., and Department of Homeland Security.



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

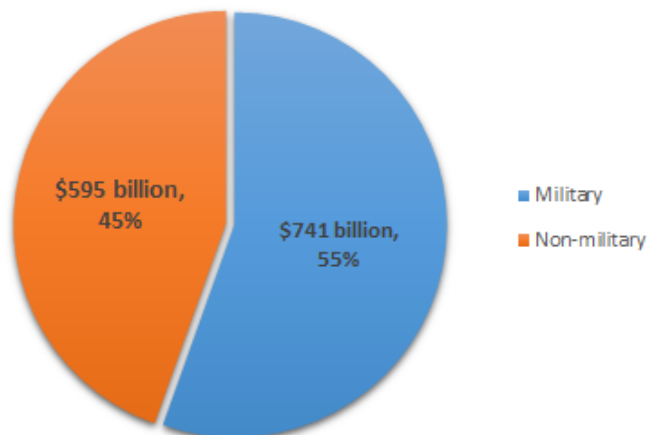


SOURCE: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, April 2019.
 NOTES: Figures are in U.S. dollars, converted from local currencies using market exchange rates. Data for the United States are for fiscal year 2018, which ran from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. Data for the other countries are for calendar year 2018.

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Trump FY 2021 Discretionary Budget Request, \$1.3 Trillion



Skewed Spending Priorities

The discretionary budget, a portion of the total budget that Congress decides how to allocate on a yearly basis, shows you how skewed our government's priorities are. It also helps explain why there never seems to be enough money for education, healthcare, science, and other critical programs. Even a small reduction to the Pentagon budget would amount to a major boost for these other programs.



nationalpriorities.org



Source: OMB, National Priorities Project

Robbing Peter to Pay the Military Industrial Complex



In order to pay for his massive increase to the Pentagon budget, President Trump's 2021 budget proposal siphons funds from other essential programs. These cuts include:

- **A whopping 23% cut to the State Department:** This cuts critical programs, namely diplomacy and humanitarian aid, that offer more effective approaches to conflicts than the use of military force.
- **A huge 27% cut to the Environmental Protection Agency:** Keeping those in the U.S. secure needs to be redefined to address the most urgent threats facing humans and our environment. Climate change is leading to extreme weather events that endanger vulnerable communities.
- **A 9% cut to the Department of Health and Human Services, including a 16% cut to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention:** The U.S. ranks 39th in the world in child wellbeing, and cutting health programs will further harm the future generations. Additionally, the handling of the coronavirus pandemic has shown massive underfunding among critical CDC and HHS programs.



Get Involved

- **Contact your Senators and your Representative** and let them know your thoughts.
 - Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 to get connected with their offices.
 - To find your member of Congress, go to www.govtrack.us/congress/members.
- **Write and submit letters to the editor** in response to articles on Pentagon spending
 - Letters to the editor can be a powerful way to educate the public and influence public opinion. Keep your letter short and to the point and critique or add to a published article.
- **Attend meetings, rallies, protests,** and any gathering designed to raise public awareness and scrutiny of militarism and Pentagon spending.