

We Are Called to Action

The call of God to all Americans in this time of crisis is to take up civic responsibility and involvement, so that our citizenry may challenge the empowerment of wealth and the culture of militarization. Become acquainted with your local political clubs; attend school board and town council meetings; run for office; reproduce this insert – mail to legislators and pass on to friends.

To still our fears we need to continue to work unceasingly for the coming Kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed. That Kingdom will have no war or huge military budgets. Just imagine what other blessings will follow from Jesus' dream if we have faith in it!

“We do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.”
(II Corinthians 10:3)

By Rev. Finley Schaef and Rev. Dr. Douglas Grote. Your comments about this brochure are welcome. Please e-mail them to Rev Schaef at schaef@hvc.rr.com.

For further information about the effects of an escalating military budget, see: *The Permanent War Economy: Real Security or False Promise?* and *Military Spending and Jobs: A Quiz*, both available from the National Jobs for All Coalition, % CIPA, 777 UN Plaza, Ste 3C, New York, N.Y. 10017, <http://www.njfac.org>.

See also Sheila D. Collins, “War without End: The Domestic Economic Fallout of Empire,” *New Political Science* (September 2004); and Chalmers Johnson, *The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic* (New York: Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt, 2004).

The Permanent War Economy

Real Security or False Promise?

“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.”

— Former President & 4-Star General
Dwight D. Eisenhower

IN THE WAKE OF THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS, our government announced a new “National Security Strategy” of preemptive war and an escalating military budget. The vision that drives those who promote a permanent war economy is one that assumes that if we dominate the world’s land, sea, air and outer space, we will be safe to pursue the lifestyle to which we have become accustomed. It is a false promise.

Every American has been understandably frightened by the 9/11 attacks. Yet our faith teaches us to face fear with love – love of enemy as well as love of the oppressed such as those cited by President Eisenhower above. In the words of John, “Perfect love casts out fear...” (1 John 4:18).

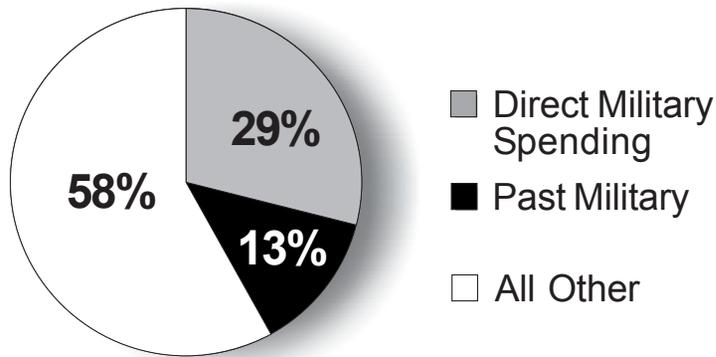
How a nation uses its resources reveals its priorities. The \$500 billion national security budget of the United States is over half the world’s total military spending. This doesn’t even include the cost of the Iraq war or reconstruction. Nor is the budget designed for the kind of terrorist threats we face. In an arms build-up that is skyrocketing the shares of military contractors (Lockheed Martin shares have tripled since 2000), the Pentagon will spend \$144 billion for 77 new weapons systems. At the same

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time that it spends vast sums preparing for future wars, the Pentagon doesn't have enough money to cover the basic needs of today's soldiers—like refurbishing and maintaining equipment. Further, much military spending is subject to waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement. (The Pentagon's inspector general recently conceded that 25% of the funds it spends cannot be accounted for.)

The military budget already crowds out vital domestic needs — including the protection of our ports, airlines, chemical and nuclear plants. We are weakening our internal security, and by waging war we are contributing to the very terrorism we seek to destroy. We can only conclude that our nation, with its bloated military budget, fears more than it loves.

Where Do Your Income Tax Dollars Go?



More than 4 out of 10 of your income tax dollars go for military, military-related uses (e.g., NASA, foreign military aid, DoE nuclear weapons), and past military (veterans' benefits and the military's share of interest on the debt). The breakdown of the individual income tax dollar refers to the Federal Funds budget outlays, and does not include Social Security payments and some Medicare, which are funded from the payroll tax. Data for Fiscal Year 2003. <http://www.nationalpriorities.org/TaxDay2004/pdf/us.pdf>

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

(from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:21)

An economy that promotes peace is woven throughout Jesus' message. His teachings tell us that an economy like ours, a permanent war economy, will usher in strife and misery, not the Kingdom of God.

Military Spending and Jobs

For the unemployed and for those who work full time but earn too little to escape poverty, life is constant struggle. Our economy needs more, not fewer, jobs, but military spending actually generates fewer jobs for the dollar than equivalent spending to meet human needs. A billion dollars spent on domestic programs like school lunches, health, child & elder care, urban transportation, environmental protection & restoration, education, or housing, generates more jobs than a billion dollars of military spending.

“God has called us to live in peace.”
(1 Corinthians 7:15)

Defense expenditures not only create fewer jobs for the dollar than other government spending, but they are concentrated in higher skilled and higher paying occupations requiring at least a college education. Thus, an expansion of the military budget will tend to widen the rising wage gap between more highly educated and less educated workers. And low-wage workers, who also suffer the highest unemployment rates, will be low on the list of job winners, except, perhaps, as enlistees who join the armed services because it is the best opportunity available to them.

Even well-paid blue collar workers will not gain as much from the military budget as in the past. Many trade union leaders point out that military spending once created good jobs for organized labor, but today military contractors send jobs overseas. With traditional middle-class jobs vanishing along with factories, the nation's labor force is stratifying into a skilled, well-paid elite and a mass of lesser-skilled workers struggling to hold on to their standard of living. One of four working families in the United States has difficulty meeting their basic needs.