

How American Military Dominance Makes Us Less Safe, Less Prosperous, and Less Free

The United States spends more on its military than any other country in the world. In 2023, the U.S. is projected to spend \$801 billion on its military, which is more than the next 10 countries combined. This spending is a major driver of the U.S. budget deficit, and it has a number of negative consequences for the country's security, economy, and civil liberties.



The Power Problem: How American Military Dominance Makes Us Less Safe, Less Prosperous, and Less Free (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs) by Christopher A. Preble

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled
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National Security

One of the main arguments for high military spending is that it is necessary to protect the United States from its enemies. However, there is little evidence to support this claim. In fact, a number of studies have shown that high military spending actually makes the United States less safe.

For example, a study by the Center for International Policy found that countries with high military spending are more likely to be involved in armed conflict. The study also found that high military spending is associated with a higher risk of terrorism.

Another study, by the Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs at Brown University, found that high military spending is associated with a higher risk of nuclear war.

These studies suggest that high military spending does not make the United States safer. In fact, it may actually make the country less safe.

Economy

High military spending also has a negative impact on the U.S. economy. The money that is spent on the military could be used to invest in other areas, such as education, healthcare, or infrastructure. These investments would lead to a stronger economy and a higher standard of living for all Americans.

For example, a study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that if the United States reduced its military spending by 10%, it could save \$85 billion per year. This money could be used to fund a number of important programs, such as expanding access to healthcare, increasing funding for education, or reducing the budget deficit.

High military spending also leads to a more unequal distribution of wealth. The money that is spent on the military goes to a relatively small number of people, such as defense contractors and military personnel. This leaves

less money for the rest of the population, which can lead to poverty and inequality.

Civil Liberties

High military spending also has a negative impact on civil liberties. The government uses the military to spy on its own citizens, suppress dissent, and undermine the rule of law.

For example, the National Security Agency (NSA) has been collecting data on the phone calls, emails, and internet activity of millions of Americans. This data collection is illegal and unconstitutional, and it has led to a loss of trust in the government.

The military has also been used to suppress dissent. For example, the military was used to quell the Occupy Wall Street protests in 2011. The military's use of force against peaceful protesters was a clear violation of the First Amendment.

High military spending also leads to a more militarized society. The military's presence in our schools, communities, and workplaces is a constant reminder of the power of the state. This militarization of society can lead to a loss of freedom and a decrease in civil liberties.

High military spending is a major problem for the United States. It makes us less safe, less prosperous, and less free. It is time for the United States to reduce its military spending and invest in a more just and equitable future.

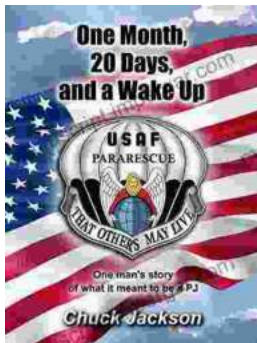
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