

Biden's Budget Cements Turn Towards War, Police

By [Nicholas Stender](#)

Global Research, April 08, 2022

[Liberation News](#) 30 March 2022

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the "Translate Website" drop down menu on the top banner of our home page (Desktop version).

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Visit and follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

On Monday, President Joe Biden unveiled his 2023 budget, calling for dramatically increased funding for war and the police while allocating all-too-little funding for social services. Out of the total \$1.58 trillion of spending outlined in the budget, \$813 billion is allocated to the military while \$769 billion is allocated for non-military spending. This is a \$31 billion increase in funding for the war machine.

There is nothing "defensive" about this spending. The United States has over 1,000 open and secret military bases across the globe. Despite labeling China and Russia the main threats to U.S. "security," the United States spends close to three times as much on its armed forces than China and Russia combined. In fact, the United States accounts for nearly half of all military spending worldwide.

This threatens to set off a dangerous arms race around the globe. Other nations cannot allow the United States to increase its military spending without a reaction. The working class of the United States would be better served by a policy of peace based on cooperation and respect for the right of nations to self-determination.

Domestically, Biden's budget promises major increases for the repressive agencies of the government. Federal law enforcement will see an 11% increase in funding to \$17.4 billion. The brutal and unaccountable police forces unleashed against the anti-racist protest movement in 2020 will feel emboldened to commit greater repression against social justice movements. Funding for Customs and Border Protection (border patrol) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement will rise to \$15.3 and \$8.1 billion respectively. This represents a massive slap in the face to voters who supported Biden out of opposition to Trump's racist anti-immigrant policies. Both capitalist parties are united behind an anti-immigrant agenda.

The pro-war, anti-working class budget represents a total retreat from the social spending proposals outlined in Biden's 2021 "Build Back Better" plan. Pressure from Republicans and

right-wing members of Biden's own party caused the crucial social spending bill to crash and burn late last year. Biden, unwilling to continue (or really even begin) the fight, has abandoned the Build Back Better plan by choosing to not include the proposals in his budget recommendation.

The vast majority of Biden's climate change proposals, included in the Build Back Better plan, will be left to gather dust. There is no way that \$48.2 billion for the Department of Energy and \$11.9 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency will make a substantial impact in the struggle against climate change. These numbers make a mockery of the scale of the crisis facing humanity and illustrate clearly how the capitalist system's logic of quarterly profit above all else threatens billions of people with catastrophe.

The budget plan is essentially a political statement of the Biden administration's priorities going into the midterm elections in November. It is not legally binding and will be modified by Congress – if history is any guide in the direction of even more funding for the cops and the Pentagon. But with the midterm election in mind, Biden has included a proposal to impose a 20 percent minimum tax rate on the ultra-rich. Of course, it is obscene that billionaires pay little to nothing in taxes, and any policy to address this should be welcomed. But how effective enforcement of this tax would be if it is in fact enacted remains an open question. And at 20 percent, the policy would still leave many workers paying a bigger portion of their income in taxes than billionaires.

The tax proposal aside, Biden's budget overall represents a hard tack to the right. Ironically, the Republicans may stand the most to gain since bowing to the pressure of the war-hawks, racists, and fossil fuel industry will not strengthen the Democrats' prospect of electoral victory – a lesson they consistently refuse to learn. Biden's disgusting concessions to the right wing need to be met by an alternative vision of peace, climate justice, and working class power.

*

Note to readers: Please click the share buttons above or below. Follow us on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

The original source of this article is [Liberation News](#)
Copyright © [Nicholas Stender](#), [Liberation News](#), 2022

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Nicholas Stender](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca