

“War is Good for Business”: Military Spending Is Destroying the US Economy, Boosting the Production of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Passage of Budget Bill Is not a Victory for the American People ... Only for the Military-Industrial Complex

By [Washington's Blog](#)

Global Research, December 27, 2013

[Washington's Blog](#)

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Global Economy](#), [Militarization and WMD](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

D.C. and the mainstream media are trumpeting the passage of a budget bill as a victory for bipartisanship and the American people. But the truth is very different.

We've repeatedly documented that [military waste and fraud are the core problems](#) with the U.S. economy.

For example, we've noted that we [wouldn't be in a budget crisis](#) in the first place if we hadn't spent so much money on unnecessary wars ... which are [killing our economy](#).

But it goes far beyond actual *fighting*. We could [easily slash the military and security budget without reducing our national security](#).

For example, homeland security agencies wasted money on seminars like [“Did Jesus Die for Klings Too?” and training for a “zombie apocalypse”](#) instead of actually focusing on anti-terror efforts.

Republican Senator Tom Coburn notes that the Department of Defense can reduce \$67.9 billion over 10 years by eliminating the [non-defense programs that have found their way into the budget for the Department of Defense](#).

BusinessWeek and Bloomberg point out that we could slash military spending without harming our national security. Indeed, we could [slash boondoggles that even the generals don't want](#).

BusinessWeek provides a list of cost-cutting measures which will not undermine national security. American Conservative [does the same](#).

Moreover, we've shown that the military wastes and “loses” (cough) trillions of dollars. See [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#).

Reuters [notes](#):

\$8.5 trillion in taxpayer money doled out by Congress to the Pentagon since 1996, the first year it was supposed to be audited, has never been accounted

for. That sum exceeds the value of China's economic output last year.

The People Want Peace, But D.C. Wants War

For the first time, a majority of Americans think that we should never have started the war in Afghanistan. As the Washington Post [reports](#):

Americans express near-record discontent and regret over the 13-year war in Afghanistan, during which 2,289 U.S. troops have died and more than 19,000 have been wounded, according to a [new Washington Post-ABC News poll](#). Fully 66 percent of Americans say the battle, which began with nearly unanimous support, has not been worth fighting

In a separate [Associated Press-GfK poll](#) released Wednesday, 57 percent of Americans said the United States did "the wrong thing" in going to war with Afghanistan, with mixed feelings toward keeping troops in the country past 2014.

The same is true in [Iraq](#).

And the American people don't want to go to war against [Syria](#), [Iran](#) or [anywhere else](#).

But D.C. politicians do a *lot* of [fundraising](#) from defense contractors and make a *lot* of money from [inside trading related to military spending](#).

And [war helps distract people](#) from the economic mess that the politicians are largely responsible for (the old [distraction trick](#).)

And so – as the [L.A. Times](#), [Mother Jones](#) and [Counterpunch](#) report – Washington has just [passed a budget](#) which will strip away the so-called "sequester defense cuts", and gear up for a new series of wars.

As usual, government [policy will make the rich richer and everyone else poorer](#).

It will keep the bloated defense industry fat and happy ... while making everyone else poorer, and gutting the civilian economy.

The original source of this article is [Washington's Blog](#)

Copyright © [Washington's Blog](#), [Washington's Blog](#), 2013

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

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Washington's Blog](#)

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