



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

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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.

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