

# WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2023 FISCAL YEAR PROJECTIONS

**TOTAL OUTLAYS**  
(FY 2023 FEDERAL FUNDS)

**\$4,546 BILLION**

**MILITARY: 37% AT \$1,665 BILLION**

**\$687 BILLION**

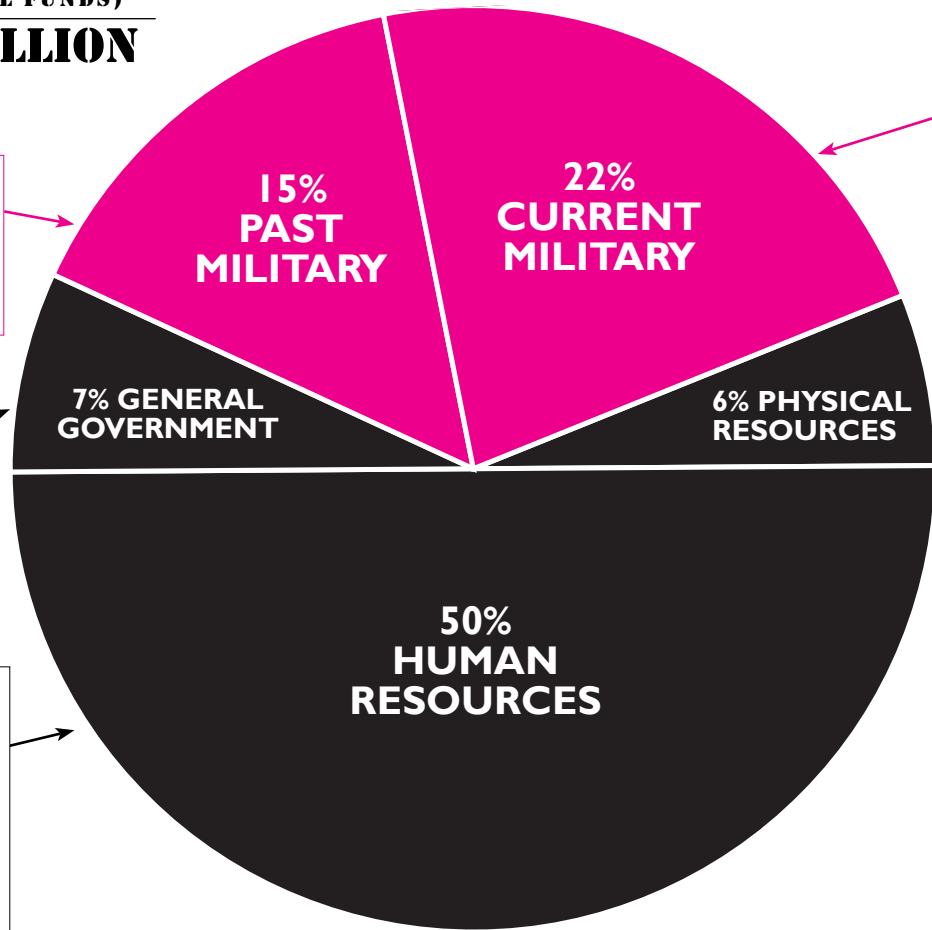
- Veterans' Benefits \$291 B
- Interest on national debt \$396 B (80% est. to be created by military)

**\$298 BILLION**

- Treasury, incl. 20% interest on debt (\$99 B)
- Govt. personnel
- Justice Dept.
- State Dept. (partial)
- Homeland Sec. (partial)
- Int. Sec. Asst. (partial)
- Judicial
- Legislative

**\$2,286 BILLION**

- Health & Human Ser.
- Soc. Sec. Admin.
- Education
- Food/Nutrition progs
- HUD
- Labor Dept.
- Earned Inc/Child Credits
- Health Insurance Credits
- Covid pandemic relief



**\$978 BILLION**

**Total DoD \$730 B:**

- Personnel \$182 B
- Op. & Maint. \$294 B
- Procurement \$131 B
- Research & Dev. \$115 B
- Construction \$11 B
- Family Housing \$1.5 B
- adjustments -\$4 B

**Non-DoD Military:\***

- Army Corp. (mil.) \$108 B
- DoE nuke weapons \$32 B
- NASA (50%) \$12 B
- Internl. Security Asst. \$15 B
- Homeland Sec. (mil.) \$54 B
- State Dept. (partial) \$7 B
- Justice/FBI military \$13 B
- Treas/Sec Serv/other \$5.5 B

\*based on coding and the military nature of activities, such as armed border control, DoD space flights

**\$297 BILLION**

- Agriculture
- Interior
- Transportation
- Homeland Sec. (partial)
- HUD (partial)
- Commerce
- Energy (non-military)
- NASA (50%)
- Environmental Protection
- Nat. Science Fdn.
- Army Corps Eng. (civil)
- FCC and other

**NON-MILITARY: 63% AT \$2,881 BILLION**

## With Billions More for the Pentagon, Why Has the Military Percentage Decreased?

**The Biden budget proposes a trillion dollars more than previous budgets, with dramatic increases in every department including pandemic-related tax credits and financial aid.**

These figures are from the FY 2023 column in the *Analytical Perspectives* book of the *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2022* — President Biden's first budget issued in late spring 2021. They are Federal funds outlays and do not include Trust funds — such as Social Security — which are raised and spent separately from income taxes. What you pay (or don't pay) by April 18, 2022, goes to the Federal funds portion of the budget.

Because the federal budgeting process is falling further behind and mired in Congressional in-fighting, what is in a proposed budget is more a policy statement than likely to become reality, with one exception: *military spending*.

## THE UNTOUCHABLE PENTAGON

**Percentages don't tell the full story.** "Current military" (above) includes Dept. of Defense (\$730 billion) plus the military portion (\$248 billion) from non-DoD departments.

When Congress finally passed a DoD budget for the current year (FY 2022), a bipartisan majority — *with few "no" votes* — gave the Pentagon more than Biden or the Pentagon itself requested. The \$978 billion total is \$13 billion higher than in last year's pie chart.

In addition, "Past Military" represents veterans' benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt. With interest rates low, the past military portion is smaller this year. *For further explanation, please go to warresisters.org.*

We want to celebrate the high percentage of money going to human resources. A goal of WRL has always been to shrink the military slice of the pie and move the money to more pressing needs. **BUT** it must be coupled with drastically slashing the grotesquely bloated Pentagon budget. Turn over for a reality check.

# U.S. WAR ON THE WORLD

## Who are the victims of the massive U.S. military spending?

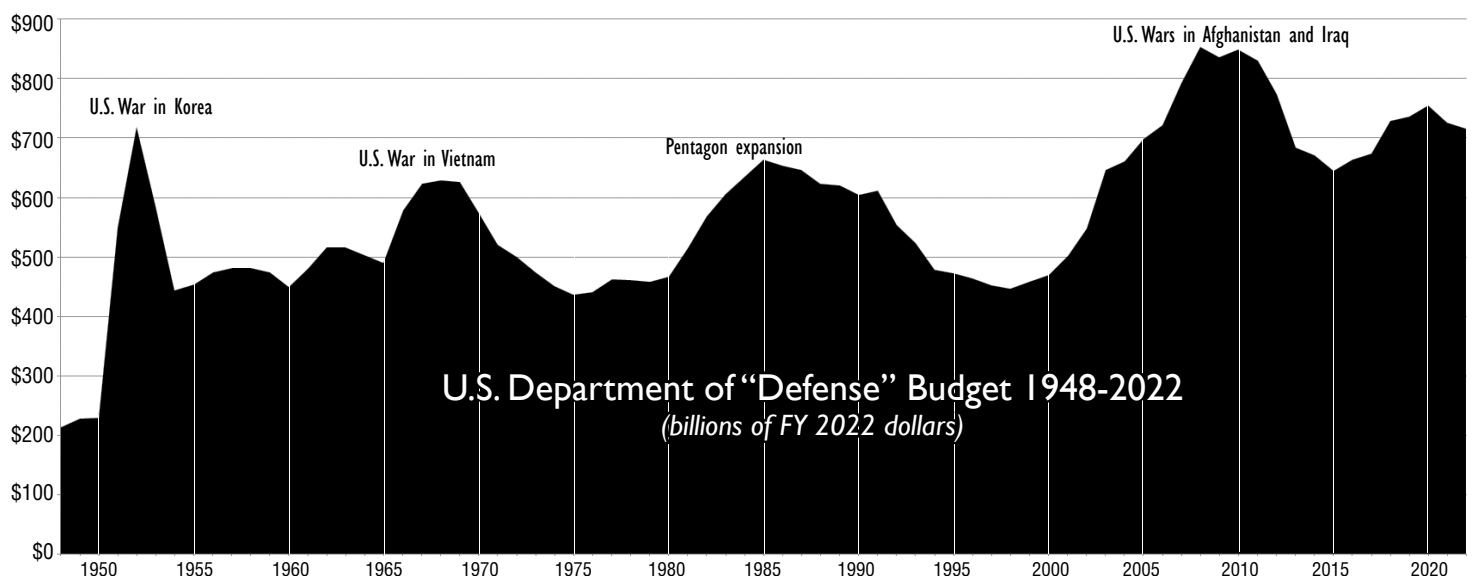
- People living in U.S. battlefield countries of **Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria, Libya**, and the people of **Yemen** who are suffering from U.S.-armed Saudi Arabia
- The more than **38 million people displaced** by post-9/11 wars in the Middle East, Africa, and the Philippines
- People in **Latin America** suffering under the misguided **U.S. drug war** and facing walls as they migrate to safety
- The people in the United States struggling with **poverty, hunger, disease, and homelessness**; and **cities and states** lacking the funds to repair crumbling infrastructure, clean toxic sites, and shift to green energy
- **Earth**, because the Pentagon is the #1 polluter and burner of fossil fuels

## Who are the winners?

- Pentagon contractors, such as **Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman**, other merchants of death who have reaped as much as half of the \$14 trillion spent by the Pentagon since 2001 (William Hartung, *The Prophets of War*; watson.brown.edu/costsofwar)
- Recipients of U.S. arms exports, such as **Saudi Arabia, Australia, UAE, South Korea, Japan, Qatar, Israel, Iraq, Britain, Italy, Netherlands, NATO, Norway, Ukraine**, among 80 other countries
- **Mercenaries** and contractors who outnumbered soldiers in Afghanistan 3 to 1 — many still in the region — who find an easy supply of weapons to fuel conflicts around the world
- **Politicians** in both parties who receive “donations” from military contractors in exchange for big Pentagon budgets

“At a time when poverty is increasing in the U.S., Ukraine, and Russia, when the world collectively faces the existential threat of climate change, a pandemic that has taken 5.8 million lives and caused rising ‘deaths of despair,’ declining life expectancy and extreme inequality, **isn't it time to think anew?**”

*Letter to the World by American and Russian women prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Feb. 2022*



data from DoD “National Defense Budget Estimates for FY 2022,” August 2021, table 6.3

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

• **Leaflet** with this flyer year-round and on Tax Day, **April 18, 2022**, and throughout the The War Industry Resisters Network, **Tax Day Week of Action, April 17-24**, <https://bit.ly/war-industry-resisters-network>; also see [demilitarize.org](http://demilitarize.org).

• **Write elected officials, letters-to-the-editor, and posts online.** Send and share copies of this flyer. Explain your budget priorities for a better world.

• **Divest from war!** Refuse to pay all or part of your federal income tax. Though illegal, thousands of people openly participate in this form of protest. Whatever you choose to refuse—\$1, \$10, 37% or 100%—send a letter to elected officials and tell them why. Contact us for information or referral to a counselor

near you. Contribute resisted tax money to groups that work for the common good.

• For more about **refusing to pay for war**, brochures, and other resources, contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, (800) 269-7464 or see [nwtrcc.org](http://nwtrcc.org). Support the Peace Tax Fund legislation: [peacetaxfund.org](http://peacetaxfund.org).

### RESOURCES

• Additional copies of this leaflet are available for 15¢ each (1-199), 12¢ each (200 - 499), 10¢ each (500+) plus 20% postage. Order online at [warresisters.org/store](http://warresisters.org/store), or mail orders to the WRL address on this flyer.

• *War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military*, 144-page handbook

with history, methods and resources. \$5 plus 20% postage at [warresisters.org/store](http://warresisters.org/store).

### LOCAL CONTACT

If no group is listed, check for a WRL chapter on the website below, or start your own. Contact WRL for more information.

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