

How much should be
spend on the
military?



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Topic: “ Evaluate the idea that governments should spend less money on war and their military, and more on other areas such as health care and education”

In recent years, developing a comprehensive nation must rely on many areas such as environmental protection, health and education. Military can be defined as one of the areas that need attention. Some suggested that the military must be kept as strong as possible because the world is a dangerous place. There have been two major wars in the past which include World War 1 and World War 2 where heavy losses was experienced, but in the end the results showed that the government with the highest power of military could lead to victory.

History has proven that war could happen again anytime and with the world getting more dangerous every year, especially now that the world is experiencing economic turmoil. There can be no doubt that the next major war will happen within a few years. In particular, China is now considered as a number one threat to the U. S. economy and the safety of the sea in the Asian area. This stems from national interests with China’s ambition to become the number one position in the world. A recent report shows that China is increasing their military budget, which should be alarming and be monitored closely.

On the other hand, many believe that the government should spend more on other areas such as educational welfare and the health system instead of investing in going to war and pouring money into another country. Even though a country may be considered as having one of the best health and

educational systems in the world, there are always areas where improvement is needed. Every country should be obligated to make every effort to do that. Health and education really matter for the future of the country and its people.

This essay seeks to address the following question: Should the government cut some of the Department of Defence's budget and dedicate more funding to education and health care. This paper has been divided into three parts. The first part deals with consequences of investing too much budget on the military and war. Secondly, why do the government need to pay more attention to health issues? Finally, the achievement of educational development will be clarified.

First of all, using a large amount of the government's money for development of military and wars could lead to a shortage of the budget leading to an economic crisis. Consequently, the more they spend, the more they will be in debt. In fact, people believe that crime can not be excluded by only spending too much money on the military instead of education or health care. For example, in 2011 America had a \$553 billion military budget which couldn't even stop the prevention of the twin towers bombing attack. Even though America had spent billions of dollars on military weapons and security it had little impact. Many people questioned how come a county with such a high military budget could not stop a couple of hijackers from attacking one of the most populated cities in the country. " *Of all the enemies to public liberty war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes ... known instruments for*

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bringing the many under the domination of the few.... No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare ."- James Madison , Political Observations, 1975.

Furthermore, another example includes the consequences of the war in Iraq. With all the funds injected into this primary focus America is gradually losing their economic power position in the world and gradually increasing their debt. At the start of the Iraq war, the Bush administration predicted that it would cost the country around \$50-60 billion in total. Evidently, they were wrong by more than a factor of ten, sending the U. S.' debt soaring, a condition that has yet to be rectified. According to a recent study, the war is set to have cost the U. S \$2. 2 trillion, though that number may reach up to \$4 trillion due to the interest payments on the loans taken out to finance the conflict. Of that staggering amount, at least \$10 billion of it was completely spent in rebuilding efforts (<http://thinkprogress.org/security/2013/03/18/1732841/us-iraq-war-10-years/>) .

With the consequences of spending more money from investment budget into the military and war, it is time for the government to balance the budget for the development of other sectors such as health care and education.

Debate continues about the best strategies for the management of government's budget in health care of citizens. Health care is an index based on the evaluation criteria on the number of people per doctor, number of hospitals in each region, the rate of child mortality and life expectancy of the population. Some speculators believe creating a health care for the people will result in higher taxes with the government having to pay a ton of money buying medicines. In fact, every citizen at one time or another has

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contributed to society in one way or another. Every year, they have paid a very large amount of tax for the country's development, therefore, they also expect to have access to the best medical services. Investment budget for health care services brought tremendous efficiency.

Firstly, saving dollars, making sense, a research of U. S. suggests that improving nutrition programs for children and low-income mothers could save the health care system between \$1. 77 and \$3. 13 for every dollar spent. Secondly, this creates a better future for children, because they are the new generation of the country as they need to be trained and nurtured in a healthy society. Research leads us to believe that if children are exposed to good health services, they can avoid suffering from cardiovascular diseases, obesity or depression. (<https://www.ecmap.ca/Early-Childhood-Development/Pages/Benefits-of-Healthy-Development.aspx>). Also the average longevity of the population increases the satisfaction and happiness of the people with social services. According to the World Health Organization France has the number one health care system in the world where the increase life expectancy now averages 85 years for women and 78 years for men. (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/internationallivingcom/best-countries-for-health-care_b_4773837.html)

Another area of government spending can be the investment in the development of education so every country can benefit from having a good educational system. How to organize such a system and what the optimal level of resources to allocate to it is of course a difficult question. Moreover, education can really shape the future of the country, whether that country has developed strengths in education or not. For this reason, education can

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make people wiser, therefore leading to good citizens who make better life choices which create a better country.

With many countries, innovating education is often required, if not want to be left behind in the development race, which takes place increasingly fierce.

Since a few decades ago, history has proven a rule, no country can be separated prosperity

with success in the field of education of this country . Which countries disregard education or have not enough knowledge and ability necessary to develop education as an effective way, countries that may suffer worse consequences than bankruptcy.

A great experience of the world has been drawn and is also summarizing the rule such as if a country fully invested in education, the country will progress faster in its development, otherwise, developmental delays or setbacks are inevitable. Alvin Toffler, futurist American said: " The illiterate of the 21st century are not those who can not read and write, but those who do throw away the old knowledge to further study " He also said that " The World War III will take place on the field of education. It will change the basic direction of development of human civilization, which will develop strong human curiosity. Whoever slows in this direction, does not catch up with the general progress of humanity"

Japan is admired as a country with miraculous phenomenon. From a country of poverty and backwardness, natural resources are almost nothing significantly, the population density east, lost the battle, have been

devastated by the World War II, but they have become economic power and technology to make the world to admire and marvel. What makes Japan go up so fast? Education is a great motivation to promote the development of Japanese society. The Japanese soon realized this when they would understand the secret behind that of the European powers, the United States is so well run education, training people qualified and creative energy in industrial society. Japan also influenced by Confucianism but they escape profound influence of confucian education receptive to Europe, America, and they took the country into one of the boom.

In conclusion, the consequences of investing too much on the military budget and the wars, why should we go to war if we can not develop new technologies with smarter people, and there is no way that cutting any education budget will make that better. In a modern world, where the military is not the only weapon, the governments should concentrate on funding other more important things like public healthcare and proper education, or maybe even free university or paying of the debt.

Reference list:

(<http://thinkprogress.org/security/2013/03/18/1732841/us-iraq-war-10-years/>)

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