

DOWNLOAD PDF HISTORY'S MOST POWERFUL WAR MACHINE : THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

Chapter 1 : Military-Industrial Complex – Eyes on the Ties

World War II and the ensuing Cold War resulted in the development of a large and powerful defense establishment. this new military-industrial complex could weaken or destroy the very.

Soviet ski troops advancing the front line during the siege of Leningrad. The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of August established a non-aggression treaty between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union with a secret protocol describing how Poland and the Baltic countries would be divided between them. In the invasion of Poland of the two powers invaded and partitioned Poland, and in June the Soviet Union also occupied Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Red Army had little time to correct its numerous deficiencies before Nazi Germany and other Axis countries allied with it swept across the newly relocated Soviet border on June 22, , in the opening stages of Operation Barbarossa. During the initial stages of the war, Soviet forces were often ordered to stand their ground despite limited defensive capabilities, resulting in numerous encirclements and correspondingly high numbers of casualties. The United States program of lend-lease was extended to Soviet Union in September , supplying planes, tanks, trucks and other war materials. The Red Army launched a powerful winter counteroffensive which pushed the Germans back from the outskirts of Moscow. At the start of , the weakened Axis armies abandoned their march on Moscow and advanced south towards the Caucasus and Volga river. This offensive, in turn, ran out of steam in autumn , allowing the Soviet forces to stage a devastating counteroffensive on the overextended enemy. The Red Army encircled and destroyed significant German forces at the Battle of Stalingrad , which ended in February and reversed the tide of the war in Europe. In the summer of , following the Battle of Kursk , the Red Army seized the strategic initiative for the remainder of the war. All Soviet territory was liberated from Axis occupation by Much of Eastern Europe and great parts of the Soviet Union were devastated by Red Army troops as a result of an aggressive policy of " scorched earth ". The Red Army emerged from the war as one of the most powerful land armies in history[citation needed] with five million soldiers, and more tanks and artillery than all other countries combined. This is believed to be the highest human death toll from any military conflict. It is based on the AK assault rifle, which would ultimately effect change in both future rifle design and in the methods of modern warfare. During and right after the war, the Red Army was by far the most powerful land army in the world. Also important was the introduction of the BMP-1 , The first mass-used infantry fighting vehicles commissioned by any armed force in the world. These innovations would help direct the course of Soviet military operations throughout the Cold War. Stalin used this military occupation to establish satellite states, creating a buffer zone between Germany and the Soviet Union. The Soviets quickly became an enormous political and economic influence in the region and the Soviet Union actively assisted local communist parties in coming to power. By , seven eastern European countries had communist governments. In this setting, the Cold War emerged from a conflict between Stalin and U. Truman over the future of Eastern Europe during the Potsdam Conference in Truman charged that Stalin had betrayed the agreement made at the Yalta Conference. Conventional military power showed its continued influence when the Soviet Union used its troops to invade Hungary in and Czechoslovakia in to suppress the democratic aspirations of their peoples and keep these countries within the Soviet regime. The Soviet Union and the western forces, led by the US, faced a number of standoffs that threatened to turn into live conflicts, such as the Berlin Blockade of 1949 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of , which saw "hawks" on both sides push the respective rivals closer towards war due to policies of brinkmanship. Additional conflicts along the Sino-Soviet border followed in The Soviets had ensured the loyalty of Vietnam and Laos through an aggressive campaign of political, economic and military aid – the same tactic which allowed the Soviet Union to compete with the United States in a race to establish themselves as neocolonial rulers of newly independent states in Africa and the Middle East. Extensive arms sales made weapons like the AK and the T tank icons of the contemporary wars between Israel and its Arab neighbors. This doctrine was used to justify the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in Battling an opposition that

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relied on guerrilla tactics and asymmetric warfare, the massive Soviet war machine proved incapable of achieving decisive victories and the entire campaign quickly devolved into a quagmire not unlike that which the U. After ten years of fighting at the cost of approximately 20 billion dollars a year in United States dollars [16] and 15, Soviet casualties, Gorbachev surrendered to public opinion and ordered troops to withdraw in early The Cold War and nuclear weapons[edit] Main article: It soon came out that the Soviet atomic bomb project had received a considerable amount of espionage information about the wartime Manhattan Project, and that its first bomb was largely a purposeful copy of the U. More important from the perspective of the speed of the Soviet program, the Soviets had developed more uranium reserves than specialists in the American military had thought possible. From the late s, the Soviet armed forces focused on adapting to the Cold War in the era of nuclear arms by achieving parity with the United States in strategic nuclear weapons. Though the Soviet Union had proposed various nuclear disarmament plans after the U. It would not be until the s that the United States and the Soviet Union finally agreed to ban weapon buildups in Antarctica and nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater. By the late s, the Soviet Union had reached a rough parity with the United States in some categories of strategic weaponry, and at that time offered to negotiate limits on strategic nuclear weapons deployments. The Soviet Union wished to constrain U. The interim agreement signed in Moscow in May froze existing levels of deployment of intercontinental ballistic missiles ICBMs and regulated the growth of submarine-launched ballistic missiles SLBMs. According to estimates by the Natural Resources Defense Council, the peak of approximately 45, warheads was reached in The remainder approximately 25, were strategic ICBMs. These weapons were considered both offensive and defensive in nature. The production of these weapons is one of the factors that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Military-industrial complex and the economy[edit] With the notable exception of Khrushchev and possibly Gorbachev, Soviet leaders from the late s onwards emphasized military production over investment in the civilian economy. The high priority given to military production traditionally enabled military-industrial enterprises to commandeer the best managers, labor, and materials from civilian plants. In the late s, however, Gorbachev transferred some leading defense-industry officials to the civilian sector of the economy in an effort to make it as efficient as its military counterpart. The integration of the party, government, and military in the Soviet Union became most evident in the area of defense-related industrial production. The Soviet Defense Council made decisions on the development and production of major weapons-systems. The Defense Industry Department of the Central Committee supervised all military industries as the executive agent of the Defense Council. Within the government, a Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers headed the Military Industrial Commission, which coordinated the activities of many industrial ministries, state committees, research-and-development organizations, and factories and enterprises that designed and produced arms and equipment for the armed forces. In, one-fourth of the entire Soviet population was engaged in military activities, whether active duty, military production, or civilian military training. Collapse of the Soviet Union and the military[edit] The political and economic chaos of the late s and early s soon erupted into the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact and the collapse of the Soviet Union. The political chaos and rapid economic liberalization, the infamous IMF shock therapy, had an enormously negative impact on the strength and funding of the military. In, the Soviet military had about 5. At the time the Soviet Union dissolved, the residual forces belonging to the Russian Federation were 2. Almost all of this drop occurred in a three-year period between and The first contribution to this was a large unilateral reduction which began with an announcement by Gorbachev in December; these reductions continued as a result of the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and in accordance with Conventional Forces in Europe CFE treaties. The second reason for the decline was the widespread resistance to conscription which developed as the policy of glasnost revealed to the public the true conditions inside the Soviet army and the widespread abuse of conscript soldiers. As the Soviet Union moved towards disintegration in, the huge Soviet military played a surprisingly feeble and ineffective role in propping up the dying Soviet system. The military got involved in trying to suppress conflicts and unrest in the Caucasus and central Asia, but it often proved incapable of restoring peace

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and order. The next major crisis occurred in Azerbaijan , when the Soviet army forcibly entered Baku on January 19, 1990, , resulting in the death of people. On January 13, Soviet forces stormed the State Radio and Television Building and the television retransmission tower in Vilnius , Lithuania , both under opposition control, killing 14 people and injuring . This action was perceived by many as heavy-handed and achieved little. At the crucial moments of the August Coup , arguably the last attempt by the Soviet hardliners to prevent the breakup of the state, some military units did enter Moscow to act against Boris Yeltsin but ultimately refused to crush the protesters surrounding the Russian parliament building. In effect, the leadership of the Soviet military decided to side with Gorbachev and Yeltsin, and thus finally doomed the old order. As the Soviet Union officially dissolved on December 31, 1991, , the Soviet military was left in limbo. For the next year and a half various attempts to keep its unity and transform it into the military of the Commonwealth of Independent States CIS failed. In mid-March , Yeltsin appointed himself as the new Russian minister of defence, marking a crucial step in the creation of the new Russian armed forces , comprising the bulk of what was still left of the military. The last vestiges of the old Soviet command structure were finally dissolved in June . In the next few years, Russian forces withdrew from central and eastern Europe, as well as from some newly independent post-Soviet republics. While in most places the withdrawal took place without any problems, the Russian army remained in some disputed areas such as the Sevastopol naval base in the Crimea as well as in Abkhazia and Transnistria. The loss of recruits and industrial capacity in breakaway republics, as well as the breakdown of the Russian economy, caused a devastating decline in the capacity of post-Soviet Russian armed forces in the decade following . Most of the nuclear stockpile was inherited by Russia. Additional weapons were acquired by Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Amid fears of nuclear proliferation , these were all certified as transferred to Russia by . Uzbekistan is another former Soviet republic where nuclear weapons may once have been stationed, but they are now signers of the Nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

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Chapter 2 : What Is the Military-Industrial Complex? | History News Network

President Dwight D. Eisenhower gave his most powerful speech as he left office in He warned the American people about an emerging military-industrial complex, a complex that was already beginning to erode democratic rule in America. Originally, Ike had Congress as a collaborator with and.

Ellen Brown is an attorney, Founder of the Public Banking Institute, and author of twelve books including the best-selling *Web of Debt*. *The Military as a Jobs Program*: If we are going to double exports in the next five years, as President Obama has pledged, we will need to divert some of the resources poured down the black hole of war to productive civilian industry. We pay for a single fighter plane with a half million bushels of wheat. We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8, people. Experience shows that the most cost-effective form of temporary fiscal stimulus is direct government spending. The most obvious way to achieve that in was to repair and replace the military equipment used in Iraq and Afghanistan that would otherwise have to be done in the future. But the Obama stimulus had nothing for the Defense Department. The most obvious way to stimulate the economy is to replace military equipment? And the Obama stimulus had nothing for the Defense Department? If military spending is such a cost-effective stimulus, why have the trillions poured into it in the last decade left the economy reeling? Our enemies if any are now "terrorists," not countries; and what is needed to contain them if anything is local policing, not global warfare. Much of our military hardware is just good for "shock and awe," not needed for any "real and present danger. The military is not subject to ordinary market principles but works on a "cost-plus" basis, with producers reimbursed for whatever they have spent plus a guaranteed profit. Gone are the usual competitive restraints that keep capitalist corporations "lean and mean. Yet legislators looking to slash wasteful "entitlements" persist in overlooking this obvious elephant in the room. The reason massive military spending is considered the most "obvious" way to produce a fiscal stimulus is simply that it is the only form of direct government spending that gets a pass from the deficit hawks. The economy is desperate to get money flowing through it, and today only the government is in a position to turn on the spigots; but there is a tourniquet on government spending. That is true for everything but the military, the only program on which the government is allowed to spend seemingly without limit, often even without oversight. The black budget is so top secret that Congress itself is not allowed to peer in and haggle over the price. Democratic control of the military has broken down. The military is being used for purposes that even Congress is not allowed to know, much less vote on. Foreign policy is determined behind closed doors by powerful private interests that use our military presence abroad to secure their access to cheap labor, markets and resources. At least, we assume that is what is going on. A declared objective of U. Wasteful and unnecessary military programs get a pass from legislators because the military is also our largest and most secure jobs program, one that has penetrated into the nooks and crannies of Every Town U. If it were disbanded, the economy would be crippled by soaring unemployment, plant closures, and bankruptcies. They know that major industrial job creation is largely coming from the Pentagon. Thus most politicians, from both parties, want to continue to support the military industrial complex gravy train for their communities. That explains why the country seems to be permanently at war. If we had peace, the war machine would be out of a job. We have a military empire of over bases around the world. What is to become of them when the lion lies down with the lamb and peace reigns everywhere? Military Conversion Fortunately, there is a way to solve these problems without maintaining a perpetual state of war: Military conversion is a well thought-out program that could provide real economic stimulus and national security for people here and abroad. Existing military bases, laboratories, and production facilities can be converted to civilian uses. Bases can become industrial parks, schools, airports, hospitals, recreation facilities, and so forth. Converted factories can produce consumer and capital goods: It has been done before. At the end of World War II,. Some 30 percent of U. This experience made it clear that it is possible to redirect enormous amounts of productive resources from military to civilian activity without

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intolerable economic disruption. In the early 19th century, when we had no major wars to fight, the U. Generally associated with dams, canals and flood protection in the United States, USACE is involved in a wide range of public works both here and abroad. The late Seymour Melman, a professor at Columbia University, wrote extensively for fifty years on "economic conversion", the ordered transition from military to civilian production by military industries and facilities. He showed that a carefully designed conversion program could create more jobs than the war machine sustains now. The military actually destroys jobs in the civilian economy. The higher profits from cost-plus military manufacturing cause manufacturers to abandon more competitive civilian endeavors; and the permanent war economy takes engineers, capital and resources away from civilian production. Across the nation colleges and universities are turning to the Pentagon for greater research funding as Congress and successive administrations have cut back on scientific research and development investment. As this trend worsens we find growing evidence that engineering, computer science, astronomy, mathematics, and other departments are becoming "militarized" in order to maintain funding levels. This research and production is not easily transferable to civilian use, since it has been designed for tasks that are radically different from civilian needs. And because we have put so many resources into military production, we have fallen behind industrially. A study by Robert Pollin and Heidi Garrett-Peltier of the University of Massachusetts found that government investment in education creates twice as many jobs as investment in the military. Clearly, the half of the budget now going to military pursuits could be better spent.

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Chapter 3 : Vannevar Bush | American engineer | blog.quintoapp.com

For the military-industrial complex, however, the race for the White House is not the whole story—and in the ways that matter most, this year's elections mean business as usual.

Twitter It was , and the American War on Vietnam seemed unending. Hundreds of thousands of people had begun to resist the war. The fall of saw the historic Moratorium protests, the largest protests in US history. But while the passion and determination of the antiwar movement was strong, some felt that hard knowledge about the power behind the war machine was lacking. Who was manufacturing and profiting off of the bombs, planes, and chemicals used in Vietnam? Where did the war machine — its factories, its research labs — exist in the US? In what states, and in what towns? Who were the companies benefiting from and fueling the war? If organizers and the booming antiwar movement could get hold of this information — a wider and deeper knowledge of the the money and corporate power behind the war — the movement could become even stronger, able to strategically target the different components of the war machine across the country. NARMIC wanted to research the power and money behind the defense industry and get this research into the hands of peace activists who were resisting the Vietnam War so they could fight more effectively. They worked closely with local organizers. They took requests from activists to look into companies to target. They trained movement people to do their own research. And they compiled a big library of documents for anyone to use, along with a collection of pamphlets, reports, slideshows, and other tools for organizers. Its early staffers were mostly recent graduates from small liberal arts colleges like Swarthmore, outside Philadelphia, and Earlham, in Indiana. This research resulted in two early publications that had a huge impact within the antiwar movement. The first was a list of the top defense contractors in the US. The top defense contractors list was revised over time so that organizers would have up-to-date information — here , for example, is the list from It also identified the manufacturers and weapons producers behind them. In , NARMIC turned the research into a slideshow and filmstrip with a script and images — images of corporate logos, of politicians, of weapons, and of injuries inflicted on the Vietnamese by the weapons being discussed. At the time, this was a cutting-edge way to engage and educate people on the topic of the war and the weapons and defense contractors behind it. Through this, NARMIC disseminated the results of its power research all over the country and contributed to a more informed antiwar movement that could develop a keener sense of strategy about its targets. It subscribed to industry journals and directories that few people knew about but which contained valuable information. The group lived out this mission in different ways. NARMIC had an advisory committee made of representatives of different antiwar organizations that it met up with every few months to discuss what kind of research might be useful for the movement. It also took constant requests for help with research from antiwar groups that contacted them. What can you tell me about Boeing and its plant outside of Philadelphia? We were also teaching them how to do the research. GE manufactured parts for antipersonnel weapons that were being used against Vietnam. NARMIC helped organizers to learn more about how napalm was developed, who was profiting off it, and how it was being used in Vietnam. Throughout the late s and into the s, it released major projects on different facets of US militarism. All the while, the group continued to work closely with organizers involved in protest movements around these topics. These were years — the late s and early s — where a mass movement against nuclear proliferation was taking hold in the US. Working in collaboration with different organizations, NARMIC put out vital materials on the risks of nuclear weapons and the power and profiteering behind them. It featured nuclear experts as well as testimony from survivors of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, and it was accompanied by copious documentation. By the mids, according to one of its researchers, NARMIC fell apart due to a combination of factors that included funding shortfalls, the exiting of its founding leadership, and a withering of organizational focus since so many new issues and campaigns were arising. But NARMIC left an important historical legacy, as well as an inspiring example for power researchers today who seek to advance organizing efforts for peace, equality, and justice. It also helped

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educate the public about the war “ about the corporate power profiting off of it, and about the complicated weapons systems the US was using against the Vietnamese people. Indeed, NARMIC made a broader contribution to highlighting the military-industrial complex and making it a wider target for dissent. The NARMIC project was an invaluable resource from the early days of serious activist engagement with the intricate and threatening military system in the US and around the world. It was also a major stimulus for the broad popular movements to constrain the terrifying threat of nuclear weapons and violent intervention. The project demonstrated, very effectively, the crucial importance of careful research and analysis for activist efforts to address the severe problems that must be at the forefront of our concerns. But maybe most of all, the story of NARMIC is another story about the possibilities of movement research “ how it can work hand in hand with organizing efforts to shed light on how power works and help identify targets for action. What they called slide shows, we might call webinars. Interested in learning more about how power research and organizing can work together today? Register here to join up with Map the Power: Research for the Resistance. The AFSC also continues to look into corporate complicity with human rights abuses. Check out their Investigate website.

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Chapter 4 : Military-Industrial Election | The American Conservative

The third era of the Military Industrial Complex has seen the most change as defense contractors either consolidated or shifted their focus to civilian innovation. From to there was a total of \$55 Billion worth of mergers in the defense industry.

October 9, President Dwight D. Eisenhower gave his most powerful speech as he left office in He warned the American people about an emerging military-industrial complex , a complex that was already beginning to erode democratic rule in America. The military-industrial complex, the Complex for short, has only grown in power over the last half-century. Today, more than half of Federal discretionary funding goes to it. Trump has promised to rebuild an allegedly shattered military; Clinton, meanwhile, is a steadfast supporter of the military as well as neo-con principles of aggressive foreign interventionism. This is not only because of its size and power. This moral, indeed metaphysical, elevation of the US military serves to silence legitimate criticism of its failings as well as its corrosive effect on democratic principles and values. The article Forte wrote is on Bernie Sanders and his limitations, but what struck me most was his reference to C. Wright Mills and his analysis of the nexus of interests and power between US capitalism and militarism. These approaches endure today “ because the problem they describe and analyze continues “ as shown in the work of anthropologists such as Wedel on Shadow Elite: Contrary to Bernie Sanders, Mills emphasizes the decisive influence of the military in the corporate oligarchic state as Kapferer later called it: The high military have gained decisive political and economic relevance. The seemingly permanent military threat places a premium upon them and virtually all political and economic actions are now judged in terms of military definitions of reality: The influence of private lobbies dates back deep into US political history, when the influence of railway tycoons, banana magnates, and tobacco barons was considerable at different times. But nowadays, much of what was called the old lobby, visible or invisible, is part of the quite visible government. The executive bureaucracy becomes not only the centre of decision but also the arena within which major conflicts of power are resolved or denied resolution. As I argued elsewhere, this shift also registers in US anthropology, which moved from research at home, on domestic social problems, to fieldwork abroad as the dominant norm. Rather than challenge the arms industry, whose growing size and power stunned Eisenhower, Sanders would simply tax them more. It is open to debate whether Sanders is offering even half of a solution, and whether he sees even half of the bigger picture. While he is not even half of anti-imperialist, some might argue that it is also too generous to see him as half of a socialist“either way, we need to do better than beat each other up with half-answers. My guess is that Sanders refused to take on the Complex precisely because of its financial, its political, and finally its cultural and societal clout. There are only so many windmills you can tilt at, Sanders may have decided. Yet, notwithstanding his willingness to appease the Complex, Sanders has been relegated to the sidelines by a corrupt Democratic establishment that did everything it could to ensure that one of its own, Complex-abettor Hillary Clinton, won the party nomination. The fundamental problem for the US today is as obvious as it appears insoluble. The Complex has co-opted both political parties, Republican and Democratic. It has at the same time redefined patriotism in militaristic terms, and loyalty in terms of unquestioning support of, even reverence for, American military adventurism and interventionism. Candidates who have rival ideas, such as Libertarian Gary Johnson or Green Party candidate Jill Stein, are simply not allowed on the stage. Their voices of dissent are suppressed. They are never heard within the mainstream. Such suggestions, of course, are never seriously discussed in mainstream America. We have a new reality in US government and society today: Back in the s, Ike had the military and political authority to constrain it. There are no restraints. And America calls this democracy? Democracy in America is dying. Not just material, not just political, but mental and emotional resources as well. The greed-war nexus as represented and nurtured by the Complex and its power elite is both narrowing and coloring the horizons of America. Tortured by mindless fear and overwrought concerns about weakness and decline, Americans embrace the Complex ever tighter. America builds and sells more weapons, supports higher military spending, and wages more war.

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Trump or Clinton, the war song remains the same. The sad part is that Martin Luther King said it far better than I can fifty years ago in this speech on Vietnam. Even earlier, General Smedley Butler, twice awarded the Medal of Honor, argued in the 1930s that war is a racket and that it would end only when the profit motive was eliminated from it. So, if I had one question for Hillary and Trump, this would be it: When it comes to your decision to enlarge the military-industrial complex, to feed it ever more money and resources, what makes your decision right and the warnings of Ike, MLK, and General Butler wrong? Astore is a retired lieutenant colonel USAF. He taught history for fifteen years at military and civilian schools and blogs at Bracing Views. He can be reached at wastore.pct. Read more by William J.

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Chapter 5 : The Military Industrial Complex Is Undermining US National Security

With a budget that is about one-tenth that of the US, but with the need to keep pace with the world's most powerful war machine (at least in terms of quantity; we can discuss quality at another time), Moscow has had to optimize costs to get the greatest possible benefits from its weapon systems.

Donate The ongoing problems with the F and other military programs, stemming from virtually unlimited budgets, underline the inefficiency of the American military-industrial complex MIC. In contrast, Moscow develops armaments capable of counteracting the latest technological advances of the US at minimal cost. The unhealthy composition of this power conglomerate often employs a revolving door involving politicians and board members from large arms-producing companies. This situation raises questions about corruption as well as a number of obvious conflicts of interest. Buy Silver at Discounted Prices It is no surprise, therefore, that Congress is increasingly willing to grant what almost amount to blank checks to finance military budgets, numbering in the hundreds of billions of dollars. The second factor that impacts negatively on the efficiency of the MIC is the propaganda to which the entire American system is subjected. Looking at the example of think-tanks, they are all practically funded, directly or indirectly, by the military-related industries or foreign governments especially Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The role of think-tanks is to influence policymakers, creating a common view between components of the deep state. A problem arises when almost all experts and politicians participating in these Washington based think tanks come from federal agencies or industries tied to the military through contracts worth billions of dollars. They offer no criticism, no change of policy, only echo chambers of lies and propaganda. In addition to the think-tanks and the revolving doors involving board members of MIC companies and Congress and Senate members, a major problem concerns the timing of projects and the contemporary technological advancements of geopolitical opponents. Despite the fact that US spending is unmatched in the world, amounting to about half of that of all countries combined, the weapons systems of competitors often cost less and are more efficient. The survival of the MIC is inextricably tied to the US dollar and its role in the world as a reserve currency. The only way to sustain this kind of debt is due to the credibility of the dollar itself. The dollar, being the main global reserve currency, continues to be purchased by foreign countries to pay for commodities as well as for trade between each other. Just as the MIC warns breathlessly of all the dangers and threats through propaganda, resulting in enormous investments in unnecessary and obsolete weapon systems, the dollar is also printed by the Fed without any fear of devaluation or inflation risk, providing Washington with virtually unlimited funds for defense budgets and the ability to carry out massive wars. It is an almost incomprehensible figure that is at the same emblematic of how the global economic system is at the service of American warfare imperialism. In response to this dysfunctional system, we find a diametrically opposite situation in Russia. This has led to a much more logical management of the Russian military apparatus. By carefully observing the most important American technological advances fifth-generation aircraft like the F, new ICBMs and aircraft carriers , it is easy to discern two asymmetric strategies by Moscow, one defensive and other offensive. With the defensive one, for each American action there is a corresponding Russian response. It is thought that the overall power of a single Sarmat missile armed with up to 24 MIRVs is likely to reduce to ashes an area as large as Texas or France. It is the ultimate deterrent weapon. Such choices can only be made through a military-industrial system that favors the strategies of the nation and not that enrichment of individuals, corrupt shareholders or politicians. Finally, an operating mix capable of providing defense or attack performance certainly involves cyberspace and, more generally, electronic warfare EW. Of these systems we know little to nothing; they are secrets jealousy guarded by the Russian defense ministry. It is no exaggeration to say that the technological gap between Russia and the United States is being overcome by the need for Moscow to efficiently optimize its key weapons systems. The main problem for the United States concerns its maintenance of the status of military superpower. The continued issuance of dollar-denominated bonds, the use of the dollar as the main

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reserve currency, provokes a dangerous sequence that allows the US to print unlimited amounts of money, therefore being able to invest incredible amounts of money in old and vulnerable weapons systems. Dozens of failed projects costing tens of billions of dollars have ended up allowing competitors to close the gap enjoyed by US military superiority. A new era is opening up, one where the United States will no longer possess military and technical superiority over its geopolitical opponents in all domains.

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Chapter 6 : Global War Economy: The Empire of the US Military Industrial Complex | NEWS JUNKIE POS

Big money behind war: the military-industrial complex. More than 50 years after President Eisenhower's warning, Americans find themselves in perpetual war.

Following a sequence of teaching and electronics jobs, he returned to graduate studies and, in 1916, received a doctorate in electrical engineering that was awarded jointly by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT, then located in Boston, and Harvard University, in nearby Cambridge. Bush returned to Tufts as an instructor in the fall of 1916 and soon became involved in antisubmarine research. A submarine-detection device that he invented during World War I was not adopted by the U.S. Navy. Analog computers represent data with some physical quantity, such as voltage, that is allowed to vary continuously. In contrast, digital computers only allow a discrete set of values for data, typically by using two voltage levels, off and on, to represent the binary numbers, 0 and 1. By his most successful machine, known as the Differential Analyzer, was operational. Utilizing a complicated arrangement of gears and cams driven by steel shafts, the Differential Analyzer could obtain practical albeit approximate solutions to problems which up to that point had been prohibitively difficult. The Differential Analyzer was a great success; it and various copies located at other laboratories were soon employed in solving diverse engineering and physics problems. An even more successful machine, the so-called Rockefeller Differential Analyzer funded in part by the Rockefeller Foundation, was built in 1929 and proved the most powerful computer available before the arrival of digital computers about 1945. It was enlisted by the military in World War II to produce ballistics tables. Bush, like other electrical engineers of his generation, was thus helping to move his profession from a focus on the creation and delivery of electric power toward the problem of designing electronic devices for an industrial and electricity-based society. In 1929 he was among the founders of what would become the Raytheon Company, a manufacturer of electronic parts. Over the span of his life, Bush held 49 electronics patents. Compton, Bush became the first dean of engineering. It was a position he used as a bully pulpit to shape the role of the engineer in society. For both Bush and Compton it was important to defend engineers from the widespread charge that science and technology, or rather technocrats, were responsible for the Great Depression. With the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, Bush approached Roosevelt about forming an organization, the National Defense Research Committee NDRC, to organize research of interest to the military and to inform the armed services about new technologies. Bush had begun the work for which he would become most famous—organizing research by American scientists and engineers for the war with Germany. Building upon his wide academic, industrial, and government contacts, Bush played a seminal role in directing the marriage of government funding and scientific research. Subsequently, this system of funding and directing scientific research through the military became known as the Pentagon system, or the military-industrial complex. Through the establishment of the Microwave Committee and the Radiation Laboratory at MIT, Bush created institutions to shepherd the development of microwave-based radar systems—a vast improvement on the long-wave radar systems developed by the U.S. Navy during the 1920s. In turn, these institutions drew upon his MIT connections. Dissatisfied with the pace of the committee, Bush added new members, and, when the committee produced a report claiming that an atomic bomb might not be possible, he quickly convened another committee, armed it with different information, and received the report he wanted—one which stated that a bomb was possible and that Germany was most likely ahead of the United States in its development. All of this he accomplished before the United States was attacked by Japan; in doing so, he set in motion the activities that would culminate in the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Disillusionment The success of scientists and engineers in solving problems and developing new weapons for the military transformed the armed services into the most powerful friends of scientific research and development. In November 1945 he engineered a request from Roosevelt to prepare a report outlining how science, which had helped the nation in war, could assist the country in the postwar era. Written for Roosevelt but delivered to President Harry S. Truman in July 1946, Science: This proposed independence

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proved naive. Truman would not approve an organization whose director he could not hire and fire; nor did Truman or his budget secretary believe that such a position was constitutionally sound. Fearful of military control of scientific research, Bush published a work of both practical politics and political theory, *Modern Arms and Free Men*, in 1948. Bush realized that the problem of building an accurate ballistic missile guidance system would someday be solved, but he wondered at what fiscal and political cost. His book ended with a lament for politicians to reassert their control of the military for the sake of both American science and democracy. Legacy In a career that extended from the era of electrification to computers and electronic devices, Bush played a seminal role in transforming American science. By the time he died in 1973, consumer electronic devices and computers were ubiquitous, and the U.S. Today Bush is also remembered as a prophet in another field, computer science. For Bush, this article was an extension of his work in analog computing and microfilm technology. To the modern reader it portends the creation of hypertext and the World Wide Web.

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Chapter 7 : The Wasteful War Machine - Roosevelt Institute

The Ancient Military-Industrial Complex Spurred Innovation Around bc we find the first historical evidence for the use of catapults in war. The place was Sicily, strategic crossroads of the Mediterranean world, where the thriving Greek city of Syracuse was locked in a century-long struggle with Carthage, an aggressive North African trading.

The term military-industrial complex is used at 8: Eisenhower used the term in his Farewell Address to the Nation on January 17, A vital element in keeping the peace is our military establishment. Our arms must be mighty, ready for instant action, so that no potential aggressor may be tempted to risk his own destruction This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence-economic, political, even spiritual-is felt in every city, every statehouse, every office of the federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society. In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists, and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals so that security and liberty may prosper together. Williams and Malcolm Moos. Ledbetter finds the precise term used in in close to its later meaning in an article in Foreign Affairs by Winfield W. Wright Mills had claimed in his book *The Power Elite* that a class of military, business, and political leaders, driven by mutual interests, were the real leaders of the state, and were effectively beyond democratic control. Friedrich Hayek mentions in his book *The Road to Serfdom* the danger of a support of monopolistic organization of industry from World War II political remnants: Another element which after this war is likely to strengthen the tendencies in this direction will be some of the men who during the war have tasted the powers of coercive control and will find it difficult to reconcile themselves with the humbler roles they will then have to play [in peaceful times]. Anything else would be an unacceptable shock to the American economy. As of [update] , the United States still had many bases and troops stationed globally. In the late s James Kurth asserted, "By the mids The term is also used to describe comparable collusion in other political entities such as the German Empire prior to and through the first world war , Britain, France, and post-Soviet Russia. Pentagon contractor-funded American think tanks such as the Lexington Institute and the Atlantic Council have also demanded increased spending in view of the perceived Russian threat. The government owned their own shipyards and weapons manufacturing facilities which they relied on through World War I. Roosevelt established the War Production Board to coordinate civilian industries and shift them into wartime production. After the end of the war the American government did not dismantle the war machine that they had built. Various American companies, such as Boeing and General Motors , maintained and expanded their defense divisions [30]. These companies have gone on to develop various technologies that have improved civilian life as well such as night-vision goggles , GPS , and the Internet. This era marked the end of the Warsaw Pact and the collapse of the Soviet Union. In the Pentagon urged defense contractors to consolidate due to the collapse of communism and shrinking defense budget. Major defense companies purchased smaller defense companies and became the major companies that know today. The lack of a large budget from the Pentagon has made defense contractors anxious to invest their own profits into research and development as it is unclear whether or not the Pentagon will be able to match their contributions to create intuitive new products.

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Chapter 8 : Greed-War: The Power and Danger of the Military-Industrial Complex – Bracing Views

This was the context in which National Action/Research on the Military-Industrial Complex – or NARMIC, as it became known – was born. NARMIC wanted to research the power and money behind the defense industry and get this research into the hands of peace activists who were resisting the Vietnam War so they could fight more effectively.

In contrast, Moscow develops armaments capable of counteracting the latest technological advances of the US at minimal cost. The unhealthy composition of this power conglomerate often employs a revolving door involving politicians and board members from large arms-producing companies. This situation raises questions about corruption as well as a number of obvious conflicts of interest. It is no surprise, therefore, that Congress is increasingly willing to grant what almost amount to blank checks to finance military budgets, numbering in the hundreds of billions of dollars. The second factor that impacts negatively on the efficiency of the MIC is the propaganda to which the entire American system is subjected. Looking at the example of think-tanks, they are all practically funded, directly or indirectly, by the military-related industries or foreign governments especially Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The role of think-tanks is to influence policymakers, creating a common view between components of the deep state. A problem arises when almost all experts and politicians participating in these Washington based think tanks come from federal agencies or industries tied to the military through contracts worth billions of dollars. They offer no criticism, no change of policy, only echo chambers of lies and propaganda. In addition to the think-tanks and the revolving doors involving board members of MIC companies and Congress and Senate members, a major problem concerns the timing of projects and the contemporary technological advancements of geopolitical opponents. Despite the fact that US spending is unmatched in the world, amounting to about half of that of all countries combined, the weapons systems of competitors often cost less and are more efficient. The survival of the MIC is inextricably tied to the US dollar and its role in the world as a reserve currency. The only way to sustain this kind of debt is due to the credibility of the dollar itself. The dollar, being the main global reserve currency, continues to be purchased by foreign countries to pay for commodities as well as for trade between each other. Just as the MIC warns breathlessly of all the dangers and threats through propaganda, resulting in enormous investments in unnecessary and obsolete weapon systems, the dollar is also printed by the Fed without any fear of devaluation or inflation risk, providing Washington with virtually unlimited funds for defense budgets and the ability to carry out massive wars. It is an almost incomprehensible figure that is at the same emblematic of how the global economic system is at the service of American warfare imperialism. In response to this dysfunctional system, we find a diametrically opposite situation in Russia. This has led to a much more logical management of the Russian military apparatus. By carefully observing the most important American technological advances fifth-generation aircraft like the F, new ICBMs and aircraft carriers , it is easy to discern two asymmetric strategies by Moscow, one defensive and other offensive. With the defensive one, for each American action there is a corresponding Russian response. It is thought that the overall power of a single Sarmat missile armed with up to 24 MIRVs is likely to reduce to ashes an area as large as Texas or France. It is the ultimate deterrent weapon. Such choices can only be made through an military-industrial system that favors the strategies of the nation and not that enrichment of individuals, corrupt shareholders or politicians. Finally, an operating mix capable of providing defense or attack performance certainly involves cyberspace and, more generally, electronic warfare EW. Of these systems we know little to nothing; they are secrets jealousy guarded by the Russian defense ministry. It is no exaggeration to say that the technological gap between Russia and the United States is being overcome by the need for Moscow to efficiently optimize its key weapons systems. The main problem for the United States concerns its maintenance of the status of military superpower. The continued issuance of dollar-denominated bonds, the use of the dollar as the main reserve currency, provokes a dangerous sequence that allows the US to print unlimited amounts of money, therefore being able to invest incredible amounts of money in old and vulnerable weapons systems. Dozens of

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failed projects costing tens of billions of dollars have ended up allowing competitors to close the gap enjoyed by US military superiority. A new era is opening up, one where the United States will no longer possess military and technical superiority over its geopolitical opponents in all domains.

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Chapter 9 : NPR Choice page

The Military Industrial Complex (MIC) continues to make grand strides in technology, spending billions on new air craft and naval vessels, cyber warfare tools and sensors, while we downsize the combat soldiers to stand in the job line or wait for admission to veterans' hospitals.

Defense contractors took a keen interest in the Republican and Democratic primaries, backing candidates for reasons both ideological and commercial. How they will divide their dollars between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton in the general election remains to be seen, though there are reasons to think one of the major-party nominees will be especially receptive to industry support. Among all the hopefuls, Ted Cruz was the recipient of the most defense-industry dollars, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. The overall picture of how defense dollars shape politics is shadowyâ€”but what we can see is telling. In recent cycles, Republican nominees have received more contributions from the sector than Democrats have. That might change this year, both because Trump has been slow to build a fundraising base among special interestsâ€”whose money he turned down during the primary seasonâ€”and because Clinton has a candidate profile that seems like an especially good fit for military industries. She led the charge into Libyaâ€”now a roiling mess of dysfunction and a waystation for many Islamic fighters in the region. Obama chose not to take her advice. Nor did he take it when she had recommended a year earlier that he approve Gen. She has always been portrayed as a sympathetic partner, an enabler-in-waiting. So she naturally ranks high with the military-industrial complex too. Not only does she represent the status quoâ€”or something more than the status quoâ€”with respect to military spending and operations, she has been favored by the political class to win from the beginning. Trump, on the other hand, is an unknown quantity who until recently eschewed special-interest funding, and his take from the defense industry during the primaries was correspondingly paltry. But that may change. After all, with billions at stake, defense companies have incentives to hedge their bets. Lockheed Martin was the largest single contractor for the U. Hillary Clinton is far more reliant on resources from the securities and investment industry. By putting their cash into Congress, defense industries can elect and influence legislators who will remain in Washington far longer than any president. Congress is where the action is: The split is pretty unevenâ€”63 percent of the cash goes to Republicans, 36 percent to Democratsâ€”largely because the Republicans are in charge of both the House and Senate. The top of the list? The next Republican after him is a top F proponent, Rep. They may not all be household names, but to the defense sector they are veritable golden geese. Cohen says the defense sector sprinkles plenty of green on members who sit on the joint House-Senate conference committee, too. Such friends of the industry, she contends, demand gold-plated programs that actually divert money away from less expensive and more capable alternatives. Jobs in those districts are leverage for Lockheed Martin. And the corruption is getting worse. Kelley Beaucar Vlahos is a Washington, D.