

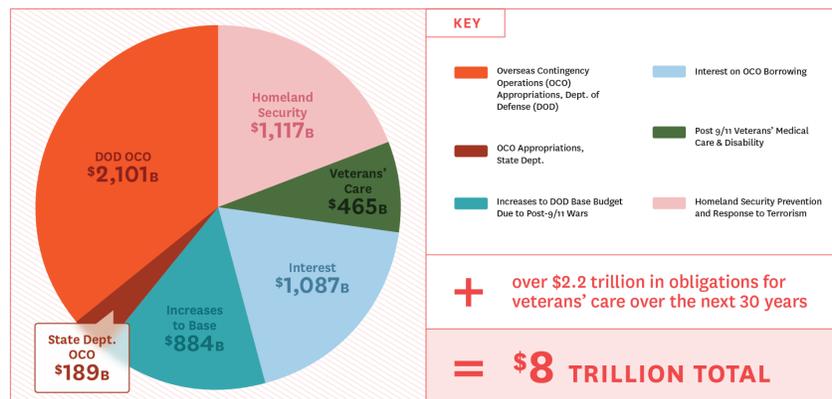
# COSTS OF WAR

## Fact Sheet: The True Costs of the Post-9/11 Wars

The Costs of War Project has created this resource drawn from our scholarly research as an overview of the true costs of U.S. post-9/11 wars. The “post-9/11 wars” refers to United States-led military operations and other government programs around the world that have grown out of President George W. Bush's "Global War on Terror" and the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

### The Budgetary Cost

Estimate of U.S. Post-9/11 War Spending, in \$ Billions FY2001–FY2022



COSTS OF WAR

**Post-9/11 wars have been extremely costly.** Through 2021, the U.S. federal government has spent or been obligated to spend more than \$8 trillion on the post-9/11 wars. These are “credit card wars” that have largely been financed through borrowing.

**The opportunity costs are staggering.** Many of these funds could have been spent on public health or in sectors that create far more jobs than the defense sector, like education or green energy.

# The Human Cost

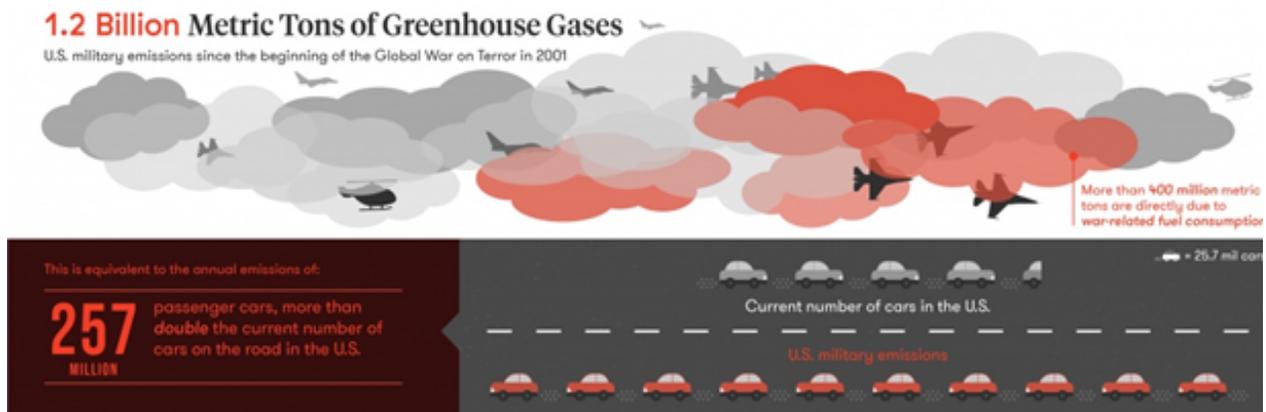
	Afghanistan <sup>3</sup>	Pakistan	Iraq	Syria/ISIS <sup>4</sup>	Yemen <sup>5</sup>	Other <sup>6</sup>	Total
U.S. Military <sup>7</sup>	2,312 <sup>8</sup>	- <sup>9</sup>	4,598 <sup>10</sup>	- <sup>11</sup>	-	130	7,040
U.S. DOD Civilian <sup>12</sup>	6	-	15		-	-	21
U.S. Contractors <sup>13</sup>	3,917	90	3,650	19 <sup>14</sup>	2 <sup>15</sup>	511 <sup>16</sup>	8,189
National Military and Police <sup>17</sup>	69,095 <sup>18</sup>	9,431 <sup>19</sup>	45,519- 48,719 <sup>20</sup>	80,600 <sup>21</sup>	- <sup>22</sup>	N/A	204,645- 207,845
Other Allied Troops <sup>23</sup>	1,144	-	323	13,407 <sup>24</sup>		-	14,874
Civilians	46,319 <sup>25</sup>	24,099 <sup>26</sup>	185,831- 208,964 <sup>27</sup>	95,000 <sup>28</sup>	12,690 <sup>29</sup>	N/A <sup>30</sup>	363,939- 387,072
Opposition Fighters	52,893 <sup>31</sup>	32,838 <sup>32</sup>	34,806- 39,881 <sup>33</sup>	77,000 <sup>34</sup>	99,321 <sup>35</sup>	N/A <sup>36</sup>	296,858- 301,933
Journalists/ Media Workers <sup>37</sup>	74	87	282	75	33	129 <sup>38</sup>	680
Humanitarian/NGO Workers <sup>39</sup>	446	105	63	224	46	8 <sup>40</sup>	892
TOTAL	176,206	66,650	275,087- 306,495	266,325	112,092	778	897,138- 928,546
TOTAL (Rounded to Nearest 1,000)	176,000	67,000	275,000- 306,000	266,000	112,000	1,000 <sup>41</sup>	897,000- 929,000

**The body count continues to grow.** An estimated 897,000 - 929,000 people – including U.S. soldiers, allied security forces, civilians, and militants – have died due to war violence in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria (in the fight against the Islamic State), Yemen, and elsewhere. At least 363,939 - 387,933 of those who have died were civilians.

**Many other people have died indirectly as a result of the wars.** Because of war-related consequences including displacement and disease, many more people have died as a result of U.S. post-9/11 military activities.

# The Environmental Cost

**The Pentagon is the largest institutional consumer of fossil fuels in the world.** It emits more greenhouse gases than whole countries, like Morocco and Switzerland. The post 9/11 wars are thus key contributors to climate change.



# The Expanding Scope

The United States has post-9/11 military operations and programs run out of civilian departments for military purposes in at least 85 countries. Under the auspices of counterterrorism, U.S. operations stretch not only to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, but also to Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia, Mali, and many more countries than most Americans realize.



## About Us

The [Costs of War](http://www.costsofwar.org) Project, housed at Brown University's Watson Institute and Boston University's Pardee Center, was launched by a group of scholars and experts to document the unacknowledged costs of the post-9/11 wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. Please see [www.costsofwar.org](http://www.costsofwar.org) and don't hesitate to reach out to us at [costsofwar@brown.edu](mailto:costsofwar@brown.edu).