

Costs of War Project

Overview

The [Costs of War](http://www.costsofwar.org) Project, housed at Brown University, was launched by a large group of scholars and other experts in order to document the hidden or unacknowledged costs of the post-9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and related violence elsewhere in the “war on terror.” The project has issued, among other reports, the most comprehensive recent estimates of the human toll and US budgetary costs of these wars.

Human Toll

- **Direct Violence:** Over **480,000 people** – including US soldiers, allied security forces, civilians, and militants – have died due to war violence in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.
- **Indirect Violence:** Several times as many people have died indirectly because of the wars and war-related displacement — because, for example, of water loss, sewage and other infrastructural problems, and war-related disease.

Budgetary Costs

- **Direct Costs:** Through 2019, the US federal government has spent or been obligated to spend **\$5.9 trillion** on the post-9/11 wars, including care for veterans over the next forty years.
- **Massive Debt:** This spending has largely been financed by borrowing. Unless the US changes the way it pays for the wars, future interest will **exceed \$8 trillion** by the 2050s.

Additional Costs

There are many other unacknowledged consequences of the choice for war, including **environmental damage**, fueling **sectarianism** across the Middle East, **strengthening authoritarian forces** and leading to **historically high levels of corruption** in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Syria. Find this information and more at www.costsofwar.org.

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