

Costs of War Project

Overview

The *Costs of War* Project, housed at Brown University, was launched by a group of scholars and experts to document the unacknowledged costs of the post-9/11 wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and related violence elsewhere in the U.S. war on terrorism.

Human Toll

- **Direct Violence:** At least **801,000 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.
- **Indirect Violence:** Several times as many people have died indirectly as a result of the wars and related displacement — because, for example, of war-related disease.

Budgetary Costs

- **Direct Costs:** Through 2019, the U.S. federal government has spent or been obligated to spend **\$6.4 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 U.S. changes the way it pays for the wars, future interest will **exceed \$8 trillion** by the 2050s.

Additional Costs

There are many other consequences of the choice for war, including the **displacement** of over 21 million people in the Middle East, **environmental damage**, and the **violation of human rights and civil liberties** in the U.S. and abroad. U.S. counterterrorism operations are taking place in at least 80 countries. See www.costsofwar.org.

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In a collaboration between the Watson Institute and Boston University's Pardee Center, Costs of War has launched a new research series, "20 Years of War," to comprehensively document the consequences of the post-9/11 wars as they approach their 20th year.