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. counterterror 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.