



COSTS OF WAR

The Costs Of War Project Aims:

- “To foster democratic discussion of these wars by providing the fullest possible account of their human, economic, and political costs, and to foster better informed public policies”
- Costs of War: Refers to congressional and Pentagon war appropriations as well as the additional economic, human, social, environmental, and political impacts of post-9/11 wars.
- How might you broaden or narrow this definition of the costs of war?

Direct Costs

- Direct Death & Injuries: Refers specifically to military and civilian casualties due to direct interaction with military weaponry such as gunfire, bombs, improvised-explosive devices (IEDs), and more.
- 370,000 people killed by direct violence
- 970,000 veterans of these wars are living with an officially recognized disability
- How do the costs of war affect veterans and active duty military members?
What are some of the costs to nations targeted by U.S. military action?

Indirect Costs

- Indirect Death & Injuries: Refers to casualties caused by the destruction of infrastructure, lack of access to basic services, and displacement
- 800,000 civilians have died due as a result of indirect violence
- 10.1 million refugees and people displaced from their homes
- Are these costs something we should be considering when we think about military action?

Economic Costs

- \$5.6 trillion spent on post-9/11 wars
- Because the war has been funded almost entirely through debt, interest costs could be at least \$7.9 trillion by 2053
- \$5.6 trillion is a large, abstract number. How might we better conceptualize the economic costs of war? How might \$5.6 trillion be used across other sectors?

Social and Political Costs

- The War on Terror has involved major human rights and civil liberties violations, including detention without trial, torture, expanded U.S. government surveillance, and racial profiling
- Activities such as burning waste from military bases have released dangerous levels of pollutants
- How might U.S. military activities contribute to global climate change?

What now?

- Are you concerned about the costs of the post-9/11 wars? If so, why?
- Now that we are aware of these high costs, do we have a responsibility to act? If so, to whom?
- What creative actions might we take to address the high costs of war?

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