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?


