



**BESTMUN'19**  
**GA1:DISEC**  
**STUDY GUIDE**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. Letter from the Secretary-General.....3

2. Letter from the Under-Secretary General..... 4

3. United Nations..... 5

4. GA-1 Committee.....5

5. Introduction .....6

6. Real Terms and Percentage of GDP.....7

7. Increased Spending Before and During Global Economic Crisis.....9

8. Relevance of Natural Resources.....10

9. History of Disarmament ..... 12

10. Past Actions ..... 16

11. Military Expenditure’s Effects on Development.....17

12. The Importance of Military Budget Reduction..... .21

13. Current Situation ..... 22

14. Guiding Questions..... 24

15. Points a Resolution Should Cover..... 25



## Letter from the Secretary-General

Esteemed Participants,

My name is Asmin Nupel AKINCI and I am more than honored to serve as the Secretary-General for the inaugural session of Beştepe Schools Model United Nations 2019. I would like to welcome you to our family on behalf of our Director-General İl Deniz Ezgi Bayca and every member of the Academic and Organization teams.

Throughout the making of BESTMUN, our aim was to provide all participants with an exceptional, high-class experience and give them a different perspective on the current issues of the world around them. We envision our participants to become future diplomats in virtue of the knowledge and negotiation skills BESTMUN will contribute to them. I can assure you that both our organization and academic teams are working tirelessly in order for you to have an excellent conference.

The First Committee of the General Assembly will discuss *the Reduction of Military Expenses* as it is a crucial topic in our world today. The contents of this study guide have been prepared by the Under-Secretary General for DISEC, Onat Yarkin Dikkatli. I would like to express my utmost gratitude for the amazing work he has done for our conference thus far.

I advise all the participants to be well-prepared for the conference and study their guides very well. Do not forget that our academic and organization teams are always ready to assist you before, during and after the conference. Should you have any questions, please do not refrain from asking. I cannot wait to meet all of you at the conference. We will most certainly make sure that you experience the best. I wish you all luck and success.

Asmin Nupel AKINCI  
Secretary-General of BESTMUN'19

## Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Dear Delegates of GA1: Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC),

On behalf of the Secretariat of Beştepe College Model United Nations (BESTMUN), it is my sincerest honor to welcome you all to this prestigious conference. Before I begin with the committee topics, I would like to introduce myself.

I am currently a freshman at Başkent University and studying Law. Since 2013 I have participated in more than forty Model United Nations (MUN) conferences. These gatherings contributed towards improving my level of English and aided me in getting acknowledged with people all around the world. From my first conference to the latest one, I have never yielded my passion for being a MUN participant for a single moment, and now I have the honor of serving you as the Under-Secretary General of the GA-1 DISEC. In BESTMUN 2019, the GA-1 Committee will debate on the topic namely; The Global Reduction of Military Expenditures. This item selection presents you the opportunity to discuss upon world's current political issues. Being prepared for this conference will provide you with a vast knowledge regarding DISEC and its operations.

I hope that all of you will have an unforgettable and intellectually satisfying experience during the four days we will devote together. If you have any inquiries regarding the committee you can contact me via [onatdikkatli@gmail.com](mailto:onatdikkatli@gmail.com). I am looking forward to meeting you all.

**Best Regards,**

**Onat Yarkın Dikkatli**

**Under-Secretary General of DISEC**

## **UNITED NATIONS**

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.

Due to the powers vested in its Charter and its unique international character, the United Nations can take action on the issues confronting humanity in the 21st century, such as peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, humanitarian and health emergencies, gender equality, governance, food production, and more.

The UN also provides a forum for its members to express their views in the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and other bodies and committees. By enabling dialogue between its members, and by hosting negotiations, the Organization has become a mechanism for governments to find areas of agreement and solve problems together.

### **GA-1 COMMITTEE**

DISEC aims to create a world peace while reducing the number of weapons around the world. The committee centers its talks to secure a long-lasting peace. It also identifies threats to peace and finds solutions to international security. United Nations and its bodies hope that our world can be stabilized through international cooperation. Member states can protect their people and also international peace if they can work their way towards peace with one united aim.

For instance, this committee can discuss on how states can keep away military weapons from terrorist organizations. Beside that the countries might also choose to discuss how can world be protected with the usage of less weapons. GA-1 Committee works closely with United Nations Disarmament Commission and Conference on Disarmament. Throughout the years the committee passed resolutions on ammunition, military spending and missiles.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Starting from the ancient times, weaponry was one of the essential parts of human life whether it was used for protection or supremacy. However, through the ages, the usage of weaponry changed along with the varied needs and requirements. Weaponry started as a tool for the purpose of human survival against nature and as humans grew more and more politicized, by the rise of nations, the aim of obtaining and making weaponry changed. Through the historical eras until the 19th century, nations have fought upon for various causes, land and resources and etc., which resulted with different levels of armament as technology advanced. However, as the race of armament continued, the concept of disarmament was born with The Hague Peace Conference in 1899. However, the actual evolution of the concept could not be achieved until the late 1900s. Historically, states had resolved their issues through armed conflicts. The concept of armament was of utmost importance since it was an indicator of dominance and power.

As the world faced the horrors of two world wars within a century, in addition to the advancement of the high technology warfare, the idea of disarmament gained momentum in the international political arena; especially the development of nuclear warfare and the usage of the atomic bomb triggered this movement.

United Nations, being the center of the post-World War II order, placed great emphasis on the disarmament concept which is defined by it as "balanced reduction of armed forces and of conventional weapons, based on the standard of undiminished security parties with a view to promoting or enhancing stability at a lower military level, taking to the account the need of all States to protect their security". In addition to the dangers and the political tensions rapid global armament and the maintenance of vast armies create, they also create a burden on a states' economy.

In this consideration different ideas regarding armament have emerged such as the concept of Smart Defense Systems which is more likely to be focusing on defensive pacts of nations against aggressions.

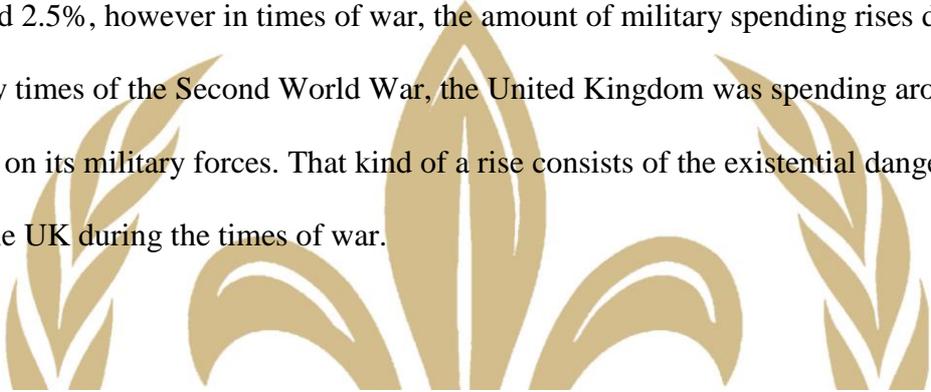
### **Real Terms and Percentage of GDP**

Military expenses are directly related to war. During the times of peace, only 10-15 countries spend more than 5% of their GDP on their military actions, instead they choose to maintain their capabilities and make use of their armies in many other ways.

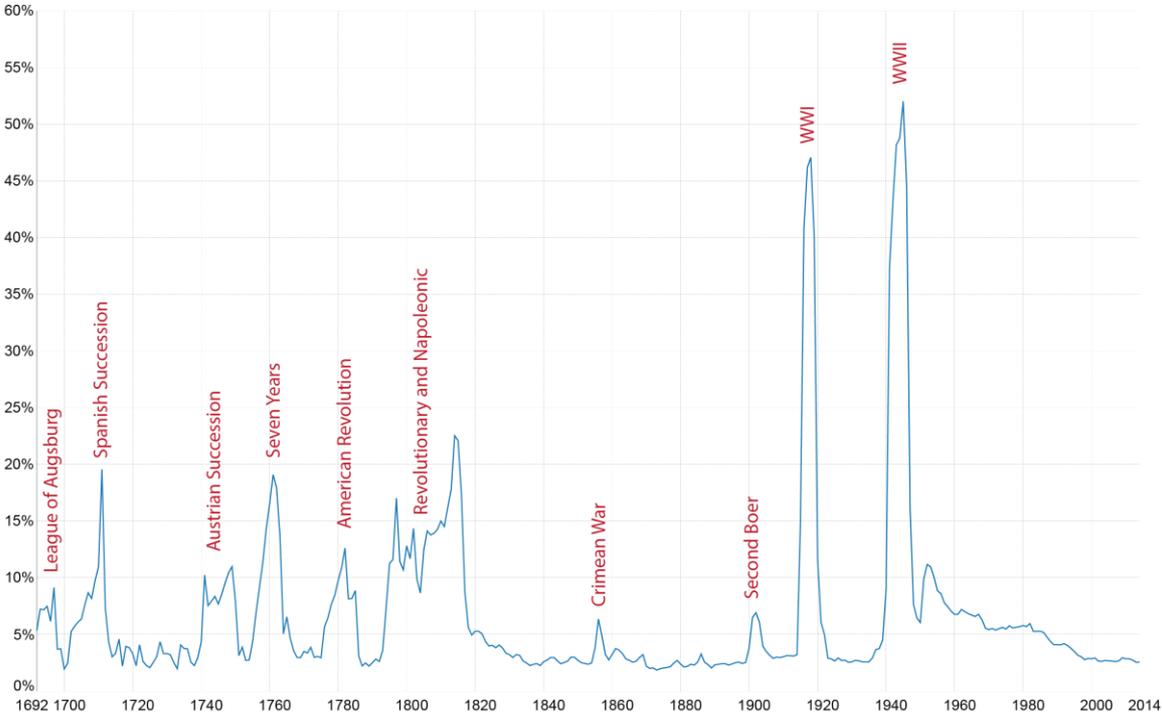
We can measure the spendings in two different ways for countries. The first way is to take a look at the real numbers and the second way is as a percentage of GDP. Analyzing military expenditure in real terms is very crucial because the absolute level of expenditure differs for the result of a war. A developed country spending 10-15% of its GDP during a war is likely to defeat a low-income undeveloped country spending 80% or more of its GDP. Still, military expenditure as a percentage of GDP allows us to understand the priorities and ambitions of a country.

The military spendings of a country is majorly determined by whether a country is at a war or not. Besides wartime, countries still spend considerable amount of money on maintaining their military capabilities. On 1944, United States have spent almost 720 billion dollars for its military, but only 5 years later during 1949, the expenses dropped down majorly, and the country only spent 81 billion dollars for military expenses that year. Same principle goes for any country that have joined Second World War as well.

The United Kingdom's military spending as a percentage of GDP during peacetime fluctuates only around 2.5%, however in times of war, the amount of military spending rises drastically. At the fiery times of the Second World War, the United Kingdom was spending around 50% of its GDP on its military forces. That kind of a rise consists of the existential danger that was faced by the UK during the times of war.



### UK defence spending as a percentage of GDP, 1692-2014



Data obtained from: UK Public Spending ([ukpublicspending.co.uk](http://ukpublicspending.co.uk))  
The interactive data visualization is available at [OurWorldinData.org](http://OurWorldinData.org). There you find the raw data and more visualizations on this topic. Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

## **Increased Spending Before and During Global Economic Crisis**

The worldwide financial and economic crisis resulted in many nations reducing all sorts of public spending but still, military spending continued to rise day by day. Only in 2012 was a reduction in worldwide military expenditure noted and it was a small fall. What may be the reasons for a continued spending in military expenditures?

Before the economic crisis happen, many countries were having either higher economic growth or they were able to access easier loans and credits without any doubt of paying them back.

A mixture of factors explained about increased military spending in recent years before an economic downfall had also noted, for instance:

- Foreign policy objectives
- Real or perceived threats
- Armed conflict and policies to contribute to multilateral peacekeeping operations
- Availability of economic resources

The last clause refers to rapidly developing economies like China and India that we have seen their economies boom in last decades or so. Also, high and rising world market prices for minerals and fossil fuels have also enabled some nations to spend more on their military operations. China, for the first time in the history, ranked number 2 in military spending in 2008. India also climbed up the rankings fast in recent years.

But even in the aftermath of the economic crisis amidst cries for government cut backs, military spending seemed to never have been spared. United States is a great example for that.

“The USA led the rise (in military spending), but it was not alone. Of those countries for which data available, 65% increased their military spending in real terms in 2009.

The increase was particularly pronounced among larger economies, both developing and developed: 16 of 19 states in the G20 saw real-terms increases in military spending in 2009.

-*Sam Perlo-Freeman, Olawale Ismail and Carina Solmirano, Military Expenditure-*

For many in Western Europe or USA at the height of the financial crisis, it may have been easy to forget the global financial crisis, was primarily a Western financial crisis (albeit with global reverberations). So this helps explain partly why military spending did not fall as immediately as one might otherwise think. As *SIPRI* explains:

- Some nations like China and India have not experienced a downturn, but instead enjoyed economic growth
- Most developed (and some larger developing) countries have boosted public spending to tackle the recession using large economic stimulus packages. Military spending, though not a large part of it, has been part of that general public expenditure attention (some also call this Military Keynesianism)
- Geopolitics and strategic interests are still factors to project or maintain power: rising military spending for the USA, as the only superpower, and for other major or intermediate powers, such as Brazil, China, Russia and India, appears to represent a strategic choice in their long-term quest for global and regional influence; one that they may be loath to go without, even in hard economic times, *SIPRI* adds.

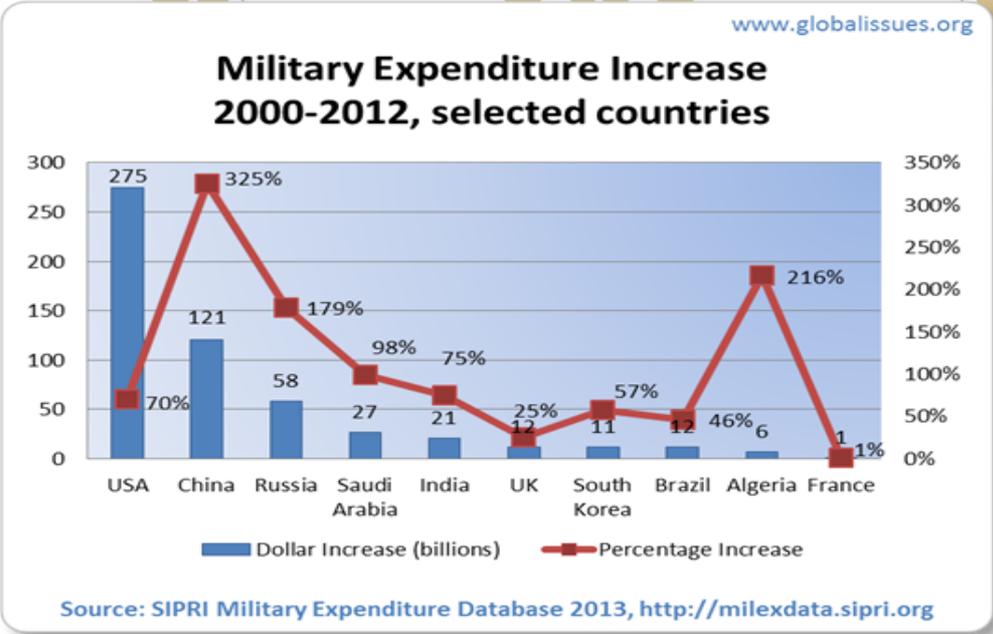
### **Relevance of Natural Resources**

Natural resources have also driven military spending and arms imports in the developing world. The increase in oil prices means more for oil exporting nations.

The natural resource curse has long been recognized as a phenomenon whereby nations, despite abundant rich resources, find themselves in conflict and tension due to the power struggles that those resources bring (internal and external influences are all part of this).

In their earlier 2006 report SIPRI noted that, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Russia and Saudi Arabia have been able to increase spending because of increased oil and gas revenues, while Chile and Peru's increases are resource-driven, because their military spending is linked by law to profits from the exploitation of key natural resources.

Also, China and India, the world's two emerging economic powers, are demonstrating a sustained increase in their military expenditure and contribute to the growth in world military spending. In absolute terms their current spending is only a fraction of the USA's. Their increases are largely commensurate with their economic growth.



The military expenditure database from SIPRI also shows that while *percentage* increases over the previous decade may be large for some nations, their overall spending amounts may be varied.

## **HISTORY OF DISARMAMENT**

The Industrial Revolution was one of the most noteworthy events in world history. It changed modern day life and paved the way for an age of scientific revolutions that would follow. It presented the world to mass manufacturing and mass communication. One of the initial consequences of the Industrial Revolution was the armament race. Weapons evolved to be more progressive, easily manufactured by factories and mass produced. The rivalry for armament of a nation in military converted into one of the top urgencies. After the Industrial Revolution, the need for more raw materials has started a new age on a global scale with an exclusive focus of European countries; the age of European Colonialism and Imperialism. To be able to access more resources, European countries sought more territories to provide necessary requirements of their industrial capacity.

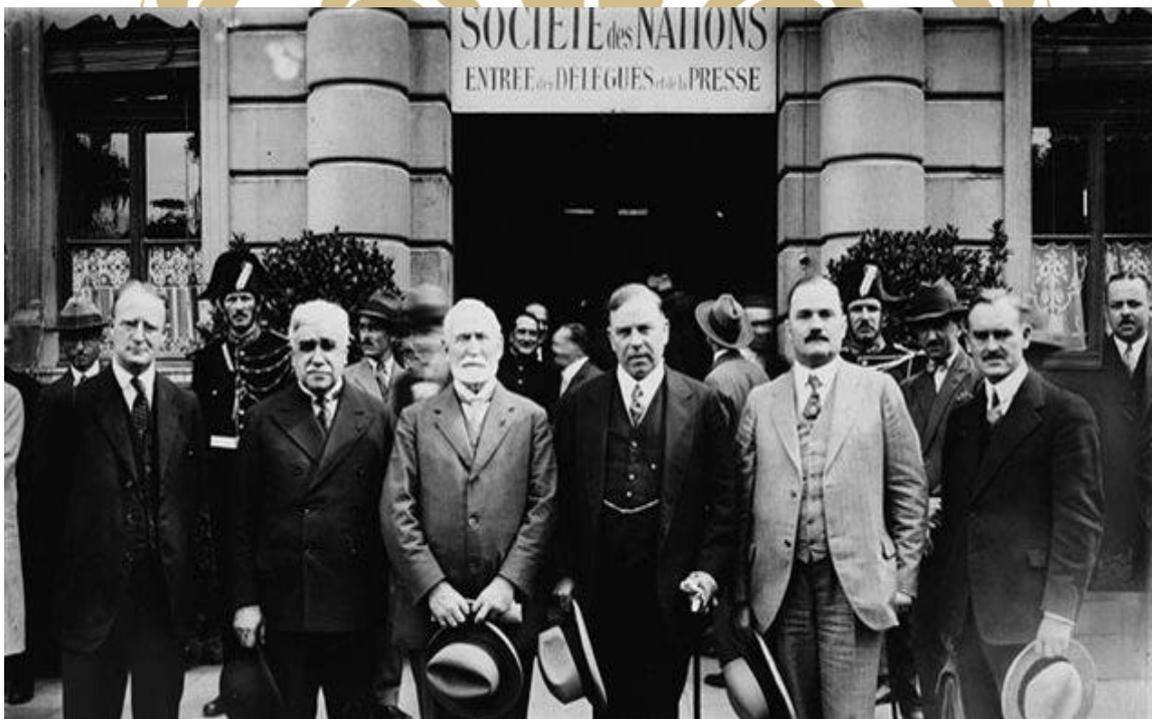
Thus, the race of armament was further triggered in order to be more capable in the international area. Following the timeline after the European Colonialism and the Imperialism, in times of Napoleonic Era, and Victorian Era tensions among the European 'super powers' have risen, and the armament race have escalated in late Victorian Era. However, it was not until the early 1990s armament race have reached its peak of its time until that point.

Before World War I, at The Hague Peace Conferences in 1899 and 1907 delegates who have attended have debated upon disarmament on a global scale and also construction of a court with enforcement power to solve inter-state clashes of interest before they escalate into armed conflicts.

The idea of a court was seemed necessary in order to achieve disarmament on a global scale since states would not be willing to take what is essential to reach the goal of disarmament.

After the end of the First World War, the destructive effect the war had on the economies of states, even the ones who won the war, proved the international community that the race of armament brought destruction, political tensions and strained economies. It was generally accepted that the origin of the war had been the accelerating accumulation of armaments in the preceding half era amongst the great powers.

While the Treaty of Versailles efficiently disarmed Germany, an article that was entitled to all the great powers similarly to disarm gradually over a particular period of time was implanted. The recently formed League of Nations made this an explicit goal in the covenant of the League, which dedicated its signatories to diminish weapons ‘to the lowest point consistent with national safety and the implementation by common action of international responsibilities’.



Canadian delegation to the League of Nations, Geneva 3 Sept, 1928. Prime Minister W L Mackenzie-King third from right © Library archives Canada MIKAN 31931

One of the initial and effective accomplishments in disarmament was acquired by the Washington Naval Treaty that is signed by the United Kingdom, the United States of

America, Japan, France, and Italy. It prohibited the persistent assembly of capital ships and restricted vessels of supplementary classification to under 10,000 tons displacement.

The League of Nations has started the Temporary Mixed Commission on Armament in order to ignite a successful wave of disarmament on a global scale in 1921.

The proposals made by the Commission varied from prohibition of the usage of chemical weapons and strategic bombings to limitation of the conventional arms.

The draft treaty of the assembly was made in 1923 which declares aggressive war as illegal and bound member states of the League of Nations to protect the sufferer of aggression by using force. Since the obligation of accountability would, most likely to be on the great powers of the League of Nations, the British Empire have vetoed the decision.

A second commission was assembled in 1926 in order to come up with new possibilities for the decrease in army size; however, the second meeting had similar complications to the first one. With the pressure of the United States Secretary of State Frank Kellogg and the French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand, the commission drafted an accord acknowledged as the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which condemned war of aggression.

Although there were 65 signatories have signed the pact, it did not achieve any progress, as it does not set out any rules for acts in the incidents of a war.

A final attempt was made prior to the Second World War at the Geneva Disarmament Conference from 1932–37, which was directed by former British Foreign Secretary Arthur Henderson. Germany demanded the modification of the Versailles Treaty and the permitting of martial equivalence with the other powers while France was resolute to preserve Germany demilitarized for its safety.



Disarmament Conference, Geneva, 1933

Temporarily, the British and Americans were not eager to offer France safety pledges in exchange for reconciliation with Germany. The talks in Geneva Disarmament Conference broke down in 1933, when Adolf Hitler called back German delegation from the conference.

**Read about the Hague Conventions, The Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments, The Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament and the Conference on Disarmament for further information on the history of the disarmament.**

## PAST ACTIONS

US President Dwight Eisenhower once said: “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed.” More than fifty years later the budgets of militaries around the world keep going up. In 1973 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R) suggested the permanent members of the Security Council should all reduce their military budgets by 10%. The idea was to use the money saved to help developing countries. Most of the countries agreed this was a good idea. They created a committee to help countries using the money saved. This plan did not work out. Seven years later, countries at the UN thought it would be a good idea if states reported how much they spent on the military every year. Every year, states can report to the Secretary-General how much they spend. The Secretary-General then reports on the situation. 126 states reported how much they spent. Some states report every year and some states report every few years. Some states have only reported once. Other states do not report at all. It is a choice to share this information.

There are many reasons that states spend money on the military. States want to be able to protect their people from attack. Companies make money from selling military equipment. However, what is the right balance between spending on the military and spending on other projects? Every year in mid-April there is a Global Day of Action on Military Spending. It is estimated US\$1,7 trillion is spent a year on the military around the world. The Cold War occurred between 1947 and 1991. This was not a ‘real’ war but a time when countries were preparing for war. Western and Communist countries were scared of each other.

They both spent billions of dollars on creating weapons. After the break-up of the Soviet Union there was less of a reason to spend money on the military.

Countries felt the threat of war had passed. From 1991-2000 most states spent less on the military. In 2001, terrorists attacked the United States. These were the September 11th attacks. The United States began a War on Terror. Many other countries joined the U.S. in fighting terrorism. However, this meant more money was being spent on the military.

Since 2001, many countries have been spending more money on the military. In 2018 the worldwide total reached US1,700 billion. This is equal to the UN's budget for 700 years.

### **Military Expenditure's Effects on Development**

Developing countries often struggle on equally subsidizing the social-economic existence of the state and the military expenditure. This situation is clearly observable when the past financial crises are investigated. Therefore, the adverse consequences of military expenditure for development is more costly for low income countries. The military expenditure stalls developments and the main reason behind this is the diversion of government resources which might be put to better use such as lowering the taxes, paying the external debts and public services. According to the joint research on the relation between the growth and the level of income made by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund(IMF), for an average country doubling of the military expenditure results on reduced growth and eventually reduction in the level of income of 20 percent. On the other hand, this situation is different in developed countries. In developed countries the military spending subsidizes the domestic private companies and the military-industrial complexes. In the less developed countries, the military equipment's are important rather than being produced internally. Thus, the acquisition of the technical progress is not gained by the countries who import the military assets. In addition to these there is always a risk of war when there is a high level of military expenditure. The most important type of war which is often triggered by the high level of

military expenditure and also the one lasts longer is the civil wars. In average a civil war lasts for 7 years and it is also estimated that in the occurrence of a civil war, the growth rate is typically decreased by 2 percent. This is because of many reasons such as growing domestic tensions, not habitable working places, people actually participating in war and massive decrease in population due to the losses. Of course, there are not only these glaring in sight reasons of the reduced growth. During and even after the war people may move their wealth out of the country due to the ongoing conflict or the perceived high risk of further conflict.

Developing countries have significant other social problems, but their governments insist on consigning a consequential amount of their resources to military spending which retards the growth. There are main reasons why they do so;

1. Internal rebellion or civil war
2. Peacetime military budget inertia
3. Active international warfare
4. Neighborhood arms race
5. Beneficiaries

If a country is at international war it spends around an additional 2.5 percent of GDP on the military. If it has a civil war, it spends around an additional 1.8 percent. Countries that have a history of international war spend 1.3 percent more of GDP than those that do not.

It is also expected that the level of military expenditure chosen by a government would, to an extent, be influenced by the level chosen by its neighbors. This is indeed what we find. That is, the average level of spending of neighboring countries significantly influences the level chosen by a government. This can be interpreted in various ways, the most obvious of which is that of a neighborhood arms race. For most countries the most serious external threat comes from their neighbors and so the appropriate level of deterrence is set by the behavior of neighbors.

In addition, while the threat of international war is clearly a reason to increase the military spending, for most developing countries internal rebellion is far more likely to occur. A government of a country with say a 30 percent risk of civil war during the coming five years would raise its spending by around 1.2 percent of GDP relative to an otherwise identical country without such a risk. But the real hardship here is to investigate whether the high level of military spending reduces the risk of civil war. The answer to this is the increased military spending will spuriously appear to increase the risk of war even if in fact the direction of causation is the opposite. Once due allowance is made for this problem, we find that military expenditure has no effect on the risk that a civil war will be initiated: high spending does not appear to deter rebellion. This is surprising, but it may indicate that a conventional military presence, such as soldiers in barracks, is largely ineffective in arresting the incipient stages of a rebellion. Good rural policing, or simply a good rural administration, may be more effective than an army. This is not to imply that military force has no role in conflict prevention, but rather that expansion of forces beyond those conventional in peacetime may be neither necessary nor even effective.

From these points it is understood that the military expenditure has adverse conclusions for development, which is unsurprising but very important. All countries are advised to challenge themselves into reducing the spending. Of course, it is expected from all governments that substantial components of military expenditure could be reduced without jeopardizing security interests. Military expenditure does not appear to be an effective deterrent of rebellion, and, if it is reduced in a coordinated manner across a region then external security interests would be unaffected. The resources released by reduced military expenditure could be used to increase growth rates, and this in turn would gradually but effectively reduce the risk of internal conflict.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY BUDGET REDUCTION**

GENEVA (14 April 2014) – On the occasion of the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, the United Nations Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Alfred de Zayas, calls upon all Governments to proactively inform the public about military expenditures and to justify them:

“Every democracy must involve civil society in the process of establishing budgets, and all sectors of society must be consulted to determine what the real priorities of the population are.

Lobbies, including military contractors and other representatives of the military-industrial complex, must not be allowed to hijack these priorities to the detriment of the population’s real needs.

On the basis of representative opinion polling, parliaments should implement the will of the people and significantly reduce military expenditures, whether in the field of arms production, military research, military bases abroad, surveillance of private citizens, ‘intelligence’-gathering, or overt and covert military operations. Tax revenue must be reoriented toward the promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, for research into sustainable sources of energy and for the promotion of sustainable development.”

Through history several reasons such as the strained ties between countries, the ongoing wars in conflicted regions and the search for power have given birth to the need of a strong military, weaponry and a defense system. While the need of a defense army is still true in today’s society, people have opened their eyes to the destructive effects of arms and war. That’s why people like Alfred de Zayas aren’t just proposing but insisting on the idea of using the military budget for developing social, economic and political conditions of the world. Although the reduction of military budget is a big step, using this disabled amount of money can contribute to the world peace in tremendous ways.

## CURRENT SITUATION OF EXPENDITURE

Total world military expenditure rose to \$1739 billion in 2017, a marginal increase of 1.1 per cent in real terms from 2016, according to new figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). China's military expenditure rose again in 2017, continuing an upward trend in spending that has lasted for more than two decades. Russia's military spending fell for the first time since 1998, while spending by the United States remained constant for the second successive year. The comprehensive annual update of the SIPRI Military Expenditure Database is accessible from today at [www.sipri.org](http://www.sipri.org).

'Continuing high world military expenditure is a cause for serious concern,' said Ambassador Jan Eliasson, Chair of the SIPRI Governing Board. 'It undermines the search for peaceful solutions to conflicts around the world.'

After 13 consecutive years of increases from 1999 to 2011 and relatively unchanged spending from 2012 to 2016, total global military expenditure rose again in 2017. Military spending in 2017 represented 2.2 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) or \$230 per person.

'The increases in world military expenditure in recent years have been largely due to the substantial growth in spending by countries in Asia and Oceania and the Middle East, such as China, India and Saudi Arabia,' said Dr. Nan Tian, Researcher with the SIPRI Arms and Military Expenditure (AMEX) programme. 'At the global level, the weight of military spending is clearly shifting away from the Euro-Atlantic region.'

Military expenditure in Asia and Oceania rose for the 29th successive year. China, the second largest spender globally, increased its military spending by 5.6 per cent to \$228 billion in 2017. China's spending as a share of world military expenditure has risen from 5.8 per cent in 2008 to 13 per cent in 2017. India spent \$63.9 billion on its military in 2017, an increase of 5.5 per cent compared with 2016, while South Korea's spending, at \$39.2 billion, rose by 1.7

per cent between 2016 and 2017. ‘Tensions between China and many of its neighbors continue to drive the growth in military spending in Asia,’ said Siemon Wezeman, Senior Researcher with the SIPRI AMEX programme.

At \$66.3 billion, Russia’s military spending in 2017 was 20 per cent lower than in 2016, the first annual decrease since 1998. ‘Military modernization remains a priority in Russia, but the military budget has been restricted by economic problems that the country has experienced since 2014,’ said Siemon Wezeman.

Driven, in part, by the perception of a growing threat from Russia, military spending in both Central and Western Europe increased in 2017, by 12 and 1.7 per cent, respectively. Many European states are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and, within that framework, have agreed to increase their military spending.

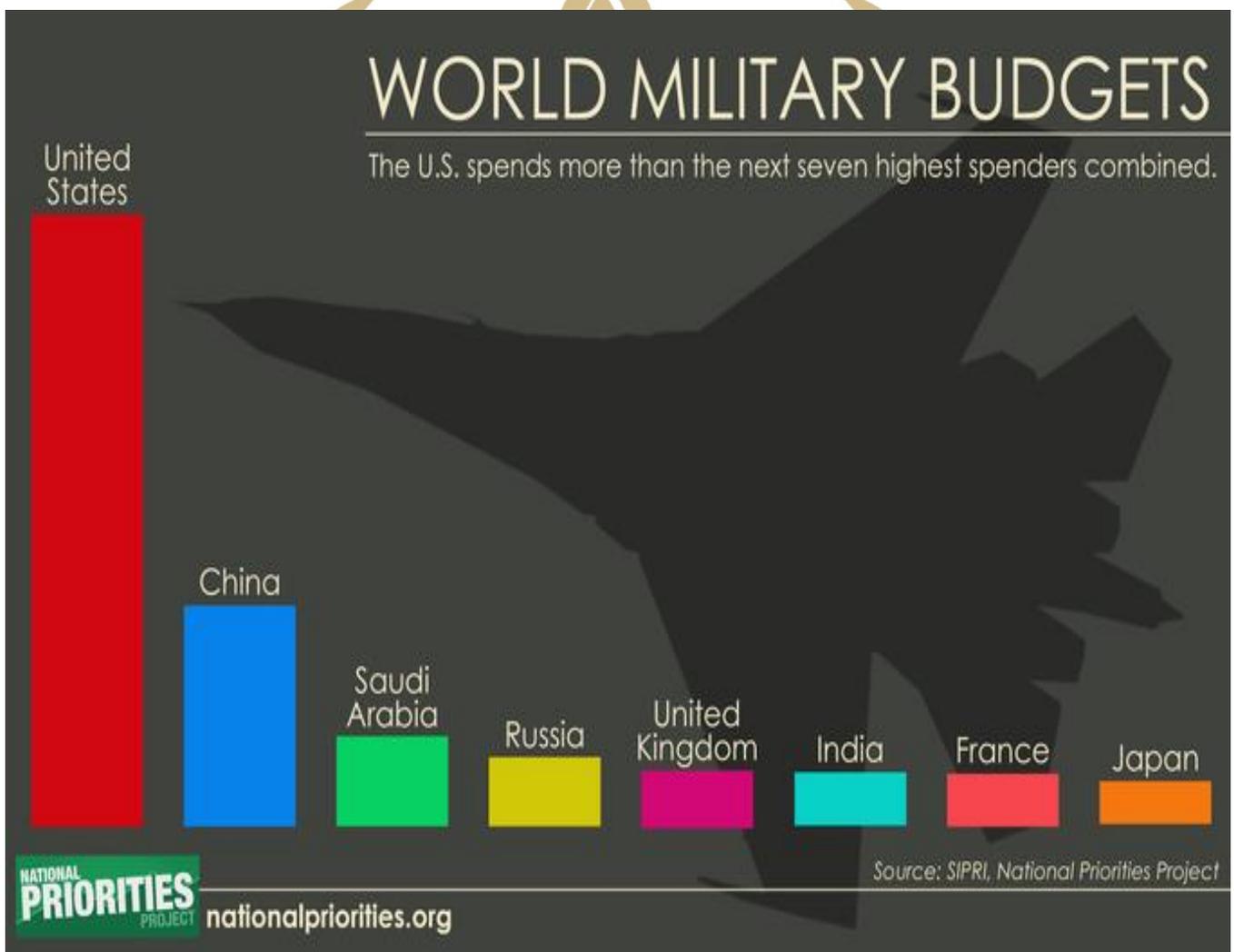
Total military spending by all 29 NATO members was \$900 billion in 2017, accounting for 52 per cent of world spending.

Military expenditure in the Middle East rose by 6.2 per cent in 2017. Spending by Saudi Arabia increased by 9.2 per cent in 2017 following a fall in 2016. With spending of \$69.4 billion, Saudi Arabia had the third highest military expenditure in the world in 2017. Iran (19 per cent) and Iraq (22 per cent) also recorded significant increases in military spending in 2017.

‘Despite low oil prices, armed conflict and rivalries throughout the Middle East are driving the rise in military spending in the region,’ said Pieter Wezeman, Senior Researcher with the SIPRI AMEX programme.

In 2017 military expenditure as a share of GDP (known as the ‘military burden’) was highest in the Middle East, at 5.2 per cent. No other region in the world allocated more than 1.8 per cent of GDP to military spending.

The United States continues to have the highest military expenditure in the world. In 2017 the USA spent more on its military than the next seven highest-spending countries combined. At \$610 billion, US military spending was unchanged between 2016 and 2017. ‘The downward trend in US military spending that started in 2010 has come to an end,’ said Dr Aude Fleurant, Director of the SIPRI AMEX programme. ‘US military spending in 2018 is set to rise significantly to support increases in military personnel and the modernization of conventional and nuclear weapons.’



## GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How much does your country spend on the military every year?
- What does your country spend most of its money on?
- Does your country report how much they spend on the military to the UN?
- Why might a country want to share this information?
- Why might a country not want to share this information?
- Do your neighbors report on how much they spend on the military?
- How would how much they spend influence you? Why?
- More money is spent on the military during times of economic difficulty.
- Poverty often causes violence and then more money is spent on the military – money that could have been used to reduce poverty. How can this cycle be changed?
- What are some positive outcomes of investing in the military?
- Fifteen countries pay for 81% of the world's total military expenditures. Why might this be seen as a problem by the other 180 countries?
- What would need to happen to encourage all countries in the world to reduce the amount they spend on the military?
- Does the problem exist in your community?
- Who is working on it? NGOs, not for profits, other groups or individuals?
- Knowing about this problem, how does it impact your world view?
- How could you make an impact on this issue through your life choices?

## **POINTS A RESOLUTION SHOULD COVER**

- Are the global military expenditures beneficial for states, if so, in which way it should be done in order to achieve sustainable relations within states?
  - How could global military expenditures be reduced?
  - How can confidence building measures be applicable on a global scale?
  - How can confidence amongst nations be established? v) In which ways the security dilemma amongst states can be dealt?
  - How can reduction in global military expenditures be observed?
  - How is it possible to achieve transparency regarding military expenditures among states can be achieved?
  - How can economic effects of military expenditures be reduced?
  - How can environmental effects of militarization be reduced?
  - How the transnational crime can be prevented in conjunction with reduction of military expenditures?
- 