

Why I Believe War Is Not the Answer
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When we were kids, we always wanted the last slice of cake. We always wanted to choose the TV channel, and we always wanted to sit in the front seat. Rarely did these disputes end without a tussle or an unplanned wrestling match. But hey...we were kids.

War is competition, it's simple. Or is it? The militaries of countries world wide and the militant groups within them go to war for different reasons, but are always defending something they value, or attacking to take something of value from others. The dispute between the valued items is important, it drives politics, and it needs to be solved. But war is not an answer.

Fighting is a child's instinct. Fighting is an action of animals. Fighting is a savage way to solve a nonviolent issue. And not only are these wars wasting time and people, but they drain over half of the money set aside for the government's discretionary spending, which causes more important areas like education and ingrastructure to be forgotten about. This seems pretty simple to understand, right? So let's look at some numbers to make this even easier. Only 5 percent of the world's population lives in America, but America makes up over 50 percent of the world's military spending. In 2008, the U.S. military would spend more money in five seconds than the average American would earn in a year. In the past 30 years, the U.S. has spent over \$14 trillion on the military. And with the recent budget proposals, that number will likely skyrocket over the next four years. Now the question is: If those wars hadn't wasted so much of the U.S.'s budget, what could hve been done with the money?

Building up the infrastructure of foreign countries and distributing the money evenly would have allowed struggling countries worldwide, and specifically in the Middle East, to regain steady government control, and would eliminate most issues with terrorist groups rising from the area. The science industry could have men on Mars, could have powered America with only renewable energy. Charities could have used the money to feed every homeless person in America for years, decades even.

And perhaps most importantly, education could have been improved.

I am a senior at Dodgeville High School, and am currently learning and studying in a construction zone. Is this bad? Not at all, because next year the school will have been redesigned and streamlined for modern learning. The library will encourage student collaboration and the gym and weight room will encourage fitness. All of these and so much more will be added, but not soon enough for me to benefit from them. If only the military budget had been reduced and redirected to education 30 years ago. Then every student in the U.S. would grow up learning in the best facilities, from the best faculty, and overall receiving a much more thorough education.

Improving schooling, fewer homeless and unemployed, a better national infrastructure and so much more could have been achieved easily for a lot less than \$14 trillion. But instead, the population of Arlington Cemetery grows with the military's budget.