



Setting Foreign and Military Policy



Approaches to International Relations

- Realism – A theory of international relations that focuses on the tendency of nations to operate from self-interest.
- Idealism – A theory of international relations that focuses on the hope the nations will act together to solve international problems and promote peace.
- Isolationism – The desire to avoid international entanglement altogether.
- Internationalism – The belief that nations must engage in international problem solving.
- Unilateralism – A philosophy that encourages individual nations to act on their own when facing threats from other nations.
- Multilateralism – A philosophy that encourages individual nations tacked together to solve international problems.



Approaches to Foreign Policy

- Early into an issue a country may use Soft power. This is the reliance on diplomacy and negotiation to solve international problems
 - **Economic sanctions** – Denial of export, import, or financial relations with the target country in an effort to change that nation's policies
 - Negotiations in the United Nations is one of the main ways soft power is used
- Some countries will rely on Hard Power. In this sense they will use economic and military strength to solve international problems
 - **Theory of deterrence** – A theory that is based on creating enough military strength to convince other nations not to attack first
 - Countries can build up military forces or alliances
 - Wars are the most extreme uses of Hard power to enforce policy issues



Supporting and Opposing Policy

- Backing the president
 - Public tends to support the president in crisis “rally around the flag” effect
 - Presidential foreign policy initiatives enjoy strong public support
 - Military casualties and costs often lead to increase divide in public opinion
 - Ex. Support for Bush after 9/11 and then decline as war dragged on
- Tradition of opposition
 - 20% of Americans opposed invading Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq
 - Opposition generally highest among Democrats, African Americans, and people with a postgraduate degree





Patterns of US Foreign Policy

- **Monroe Doctrine (1823)**
 - Intervention by external powers in the politics of the Americas is a potentially hostile act against the US
- **Roosevelt Corollary (1904)**
 - The United States has the right to protect its economic interests in South And Central America by using military force
- **Good Neighbor Policy (1933)**
 - The United States emphasized cooperation and trade rather than military force to maintain stability in the hemisphere
- **Containment (1947)**
 - A long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies
- **Bushism (2003)**
 - Stance of attacking anti-American terroristic cells before they can attack us



Examples of Foreign Policy Actions

- 1801: Thomas Jefferson sends the navy to deal w/ the Barbary pirates.
- 1845: James K. Polk sends troops into Mexico to defend newly-acquired Texas.
- 1861: Abraham Lincoln blockaded Southern ports and declared martial law.
- 1940: Franklin D. Roosevelt sent 50 destroyers to Britain to use against Germany, even though the U.S. was technically at peace.
- 1950: Harry S. Truman sent troops to South Korea to repulse North Korea.
- 1960s: John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson send troops to Vietnam w/o declaring war.
- 1989-90: George Bush sends troops to depose Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega and into Saudi Arabia to defend Kuwait against invading Iraq.



Mass vs. Elite Opinion

- Mass opinion
 - Generally poorly informed about foreign
 - But since WWII, public has generally felt the U.S. should play an important international role
- Elite opinion
 - Well informed but opinions are likely to change
 - Leaders are more liberal and internationalist than the public
 - Cleavage between mass and elite opinion even wider if elite is restricted only to those involved in making foreign policy





Tools of Foreign Policy

- The president is commander in chief of the armed forces, appoints ambassadors, and negotiates treaties, but Congress authorizes and appropriates money for armed forces, approves ambassadors, and ratifies treaties. Government has a number of tools they can use
 - Disinvestment
 - Sanctions
 - Tariffs
 - War
 - Embargos
 - Foreign aid
 - Treaties and Congressional Agreements



Checks on Formation of Foreign Policy

- Traditionally Supreme Court does not intervene in policy issues
 - Ex. Japanese Internment
- Congress does have some checks on the development of policy
 - Can receive a lot of criticism for going against president
 - War Powers Act of 1973
 - President must report to Congress within 48 hours the sending of troops into hostilities, that Congress must approve of a continuation of hostility within 60 days after troops are sent and that the president must withdraw troops if Congress does not continue to allow troops being placed there
 - The House and Senate Intelligence Committees must be kept known of all covert activities



Bureaucracy of Foreign Policy

- President works with numerous agencies in directing Foreign Policy
 - The Defense Department, CIA, and Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor have mission abroad and interests in policy development
 - The president thus hires a staff (part of the National Security Council) to coordinate foreign policy for him and give him balanced accounts of matters.
 - Controversial matters will almost always become public, though.
- Each side of a group that participates in foreign policy often works for their own goals
 - Can lead to conflicts between departments



Military Policy

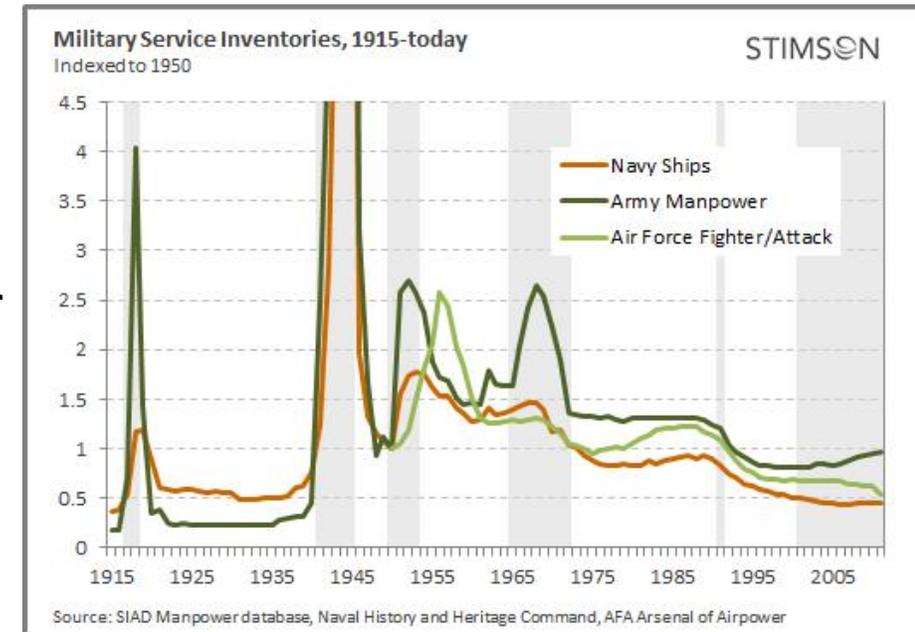
- National Security Act of 1947
 - Created Department of Defense
 - Mandated that the Secretary of Defense should be a civilian to allow oversight
 - Oversees Secretaries of Navy, Army, and Airforce
 - Who control Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, and strategic services
 - Handles bureaucratic “housekeeping”
 - purchasing, Auditing, Congressional Relations, and Public Affairs
- President works as Commander in Chief
 - Operating within a Chain of Command





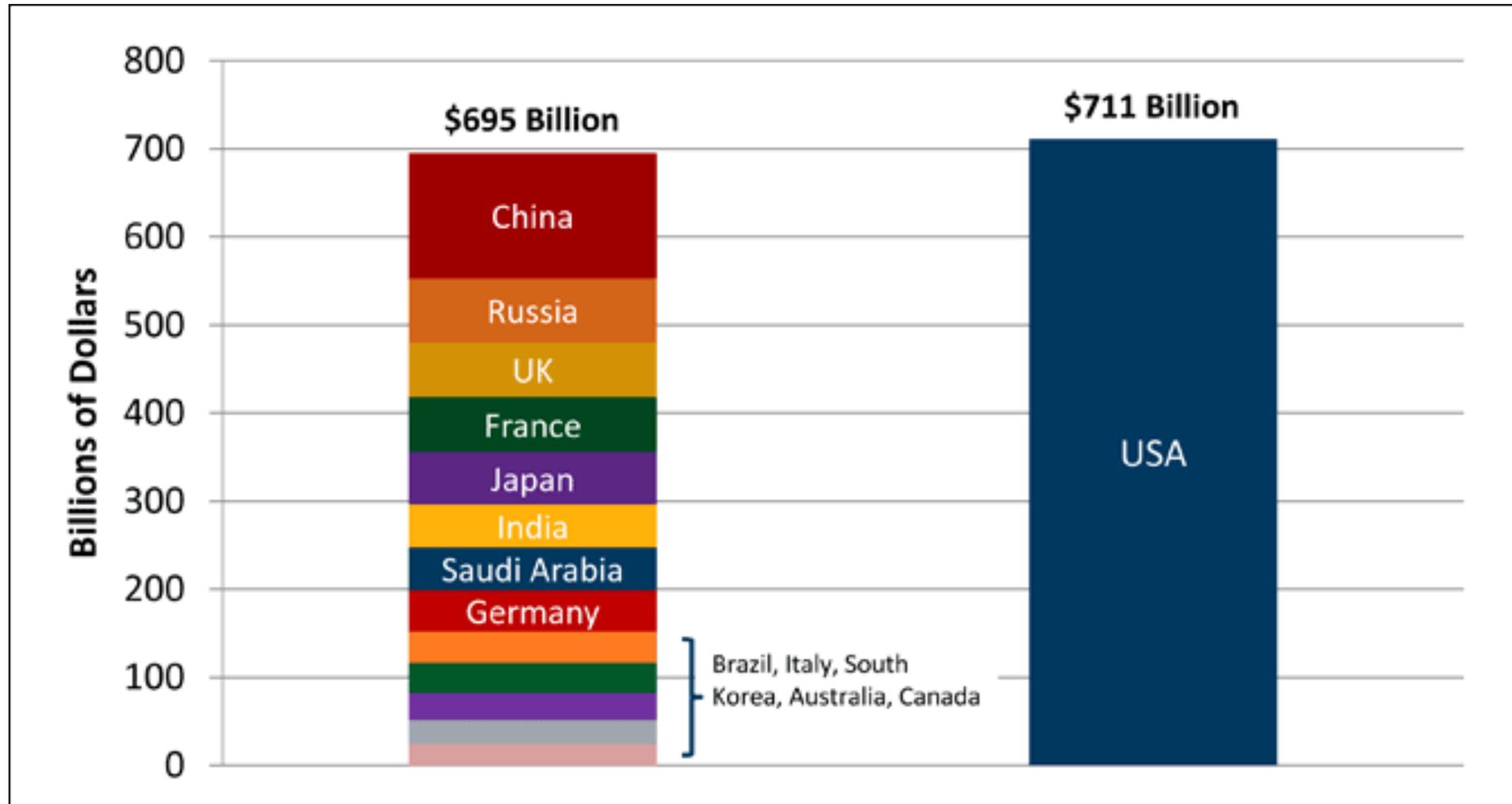
Military Spending

- Defense budget reflects majoritarian politics; how it is divided reflects client politics.
- Before WWII, America did not maintain large armed forces during peacetime
 - After WWII the US took on role of superpower
- Budget maintains military forces
 - Pays soldiers
 - Buys hardware (bombers to hammers)
 - Maintains “readiness” (training, supply, munitions, fuel, and food)





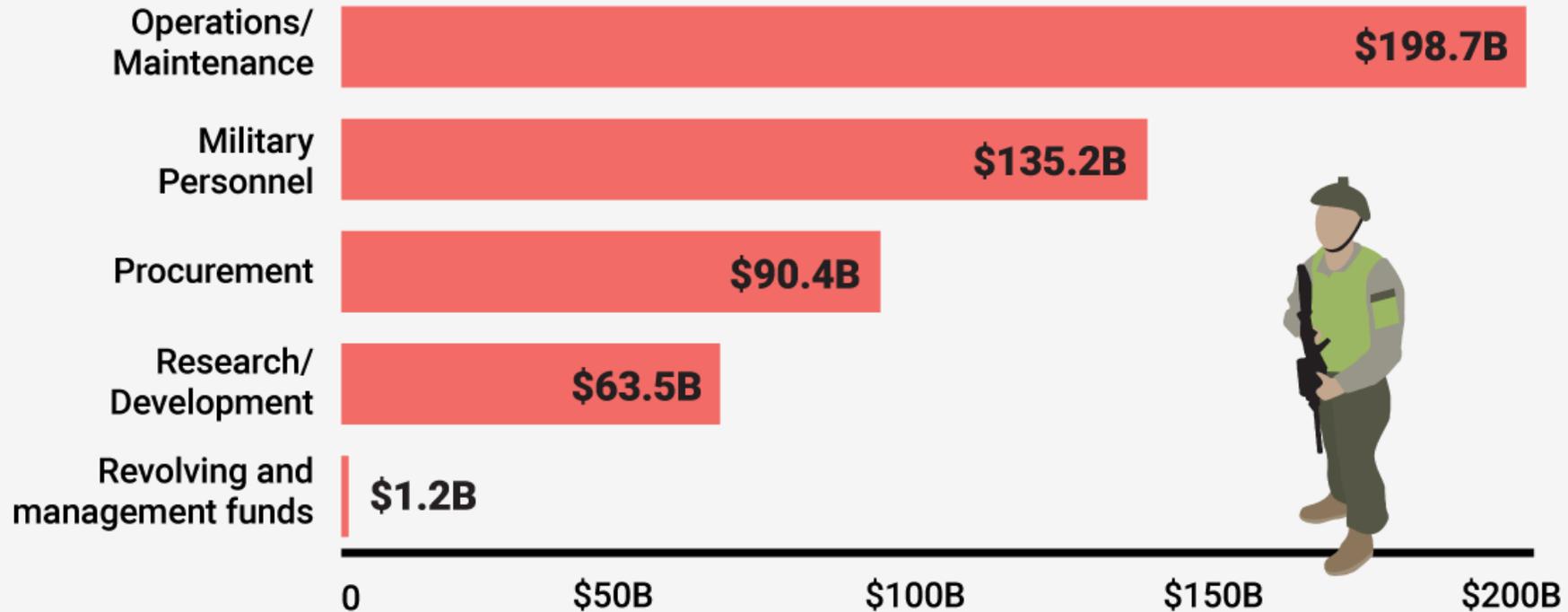
Military Spending Comparison





Usage of Funds

2015 US MILITARY BUDGET, BY APPROPRIATIONS TITLE



SOURCE: Comptroller.defense.gov; AmericanProgress.org

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