

# Visual of Global Military Expenditures: US Comprises Half of Global Military Spending

By [Robert Barsocchini](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#), [US NATO](#)

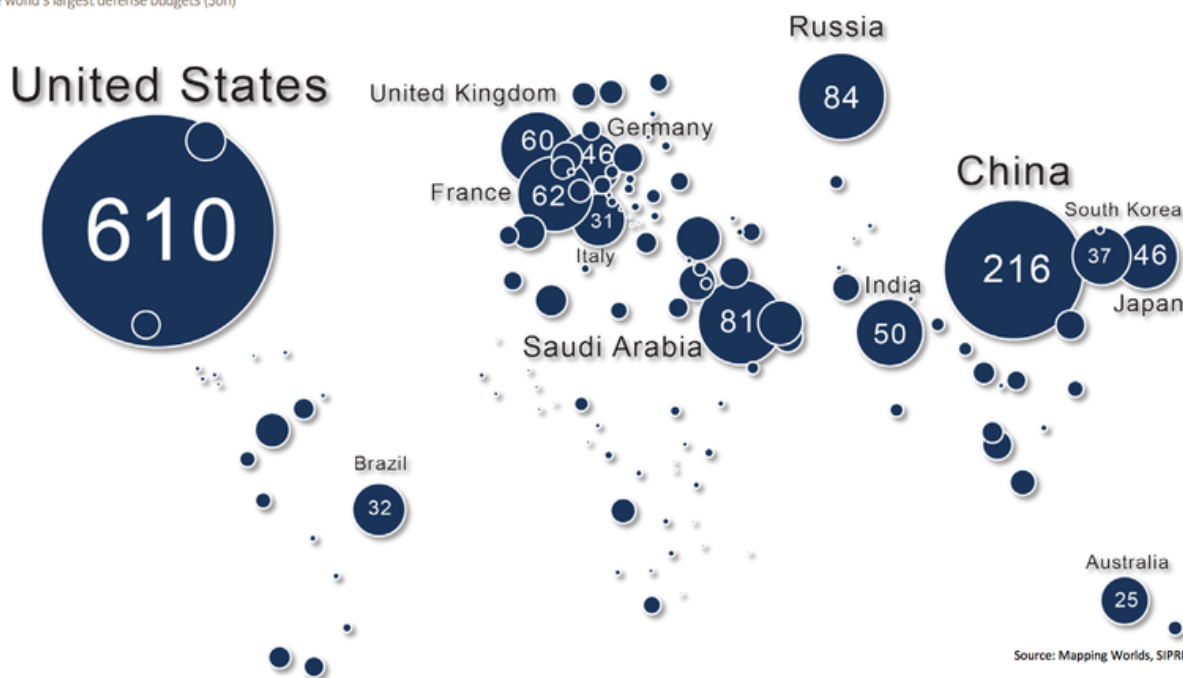
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How did the US [propel](#) itself so far ahead, to the point that it could, alone, comprise about half of global military spending?

[Professor of history](#) at Cornell University: "The idea that the commodification and suffering and forced labor of African-Americans is what made the United States powerful and rich is not an idea that people necessarily are happy to hear. Yet it is the truth."

Even divided in half, the two halves of the US would still be tied for the lead in global military spending, 89 billion dollars each ahead of the number two spender, China.

**America as Superpower**  
The world's largest defense budgets (\$bn)



Also notice how North Korea's spending is represented by a pin-prick dot above South Korea, and that Iran's budget is not high enough even to be given a number on the chart (it was under 10 billion in 2009).

It would [take](#) 16 billion dollars to clean up the un-exploded bombs the US left in Laos, which continue to kill thousands of people, mostly children. But the US won't pay it.

**Robert Barsocchini** can be found on Twitter: [@DirtyTruths](#)

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