WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES
U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2021 FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL OUTLAYS
(FY 2021 FEDERAL FUNDS)
$3,485 BILLION

MILITARY: 47% AND $1,644 BILLION

20% PAST MILITARY

27% CURRENT MILITARY

5% GENERAL GOVERNMENT

4% PHYSICAL RESOURCES

44% HUMAN RESOURCES

NON-MILITARY: 53% AND $1,841 BILLION

HOW THESE FIGURES WERE DETERMINED

“Current military” includes Dept. of Defense ($728 billion) and the military portion ($220 billion) from other departments as noted in current military box above. “Past military” represents veterans’ benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt.* For further explanation, please go to warresisters.org.

These figures are from an analysis of detailed tables in the Analytical Perspectives book of the Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2021. The figures are Federal funds, which do not include Trust funds — such as Social Security — that are raised and spent separately from income taxes.

What you pay (or don’t pay) by April 15, 2020, goes to the Federal funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining Trust and Federal funds began during the Vietnam War, thus making the human needs portion of the budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

*Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending, most of the national debt would have been eliminated.

Government Deception

The pie chart (right) is the government view of the budget. This is a distortion of how our income tax dollars are spent because it includes Trust Funds (e.g., Social Security), and most of the past military spending is not distinguished from nonmilitary spending. For a more accurate representation of how your Federal income tax dollar is really spent, see the large graph.

Non-DoD Military Spending*

• Retiree Pay/Healthcare $95 billion
• DoE nuke weapons/clean-up $28 billion
• NASA (50%) $12 billion
• Internl. Security Asst. $13 billion
• Homeland Secur. (military) $41 billion
• State Dept. (partial) $8 billion
• FBI military $12 billion
• TreaSec Serv/other $11 billion

*Based on coding and the military nature of activities, such as armed border control, DoD space flights, etc.

Source: 1040 Instructions 2019
Federal Outlays for FY 2018
I n 1945 the United States launched the nuclear arms race by obliterating Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands instantly, and, over time, thousands more from radiation poisoning. Despite cries of “Never Again!” today nine countries possess 14,000 nuclear weapons. A single bomb can destroy a city and kill millions. Two-thirds of the world’s countries recognize the danger and want a nuclear weapons-free world.

The United States is a pariah: increasing its nuclear weapons funding under Presidents Obama and Trump; renewing the arms race with the creation of diabolical new warheads; refusing to participate in the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

**Even if a bomb were never detonated**

**NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**GENERATE FEAR**, sow distrust, threaten rivals, and are prone to catastrophic miscalculation

**DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT** through mining on indigenous lands; releasing poisons during production, testing, transportation, storage, and using depleted uranium bullets in today’s wars

**POISON** workers, soldiers, civilians for the reason listed above

**ARE OBSOLETE** — They didn’t prevent dozens of wars since World War II or stop terrorism; instead, nukes are a source of terror

**ARE COSTLY** — $50 billion a year for the next 10 years unless we say no! Fund health care, schools, homes, infrastructure, etc.

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**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- **Leaflet** with this flyer year-round and on Tax Day, April 15, 2020, and throughout the Global Days of Action on Military Spending, April 13–May 9, demilitarize.org.
- **Get involved** in WRL’s organizing and education work: our Resisting Airwars network, nonviolent direct action training, counter military recruitment, internationalism, and more. Visit WRL’s membership handbook at warresisters.org/joinwrl. Find resources to challenge militarism, curb police and border patrol power, strengthen nonviolent action and lift up community resilience!
- **Write elected officials**, letters-to-the-editor, and posts online. Send and share copies of this flyer. Explain your budget priorities for a better world.
- **Divest** from war! Refuse to pay all or part of your federal income tax. Though illegal, thousands of people openly participate in this form of protest. Sign up at wartaxdivestment.org. Whatever you choose to refuse—$1, $10, 48% or 100%—send a letter to elected officials and tell them why. Contact us for information or referral to a counselor near you. Contribute resisted tax money to groups that work for the common good.
- **For more** about refusing to pay for war, brochures, and other resources, contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, (800) 269-7464 or see nwtrcc.org. Support the Peace Tax Fund bill: peacetaxfund.org.
- **War Tax Resistance**: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military, 144-page handbook with history, methods and resources. $5 plus 20% postage at warresisters.org/store.
- **Local Contact**
  - If no group is listed, check for a WRL chapter on the website below, or start your own. Contact WRL for more information.

**RESOURCES**

- **Additional copies of this leaflet** are available for 15¢ each (1-199), 12¢ each (200 - 499), 10¢ each (500+) plus 20% postage. Order online at warresisters.org/store, or mail orders to the WRL address on this flyer.

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**136 countries support the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

**21 countries undecided about the treaty**

**31 nuclear-weapons-complicit countries**

**9 nuclear weapons countries**

- China
- France
- India
- Israel
- N. Korea
- Pakistan
- Russia
- U.K.
- U.S.

**Albania**

**Austria**

**Australia**

**Belarus**

**Belgium**

**Bulgaria**

**Canada**

**Croatia**

**Czechia**

**Denmark**

**Estonia**

**Germany**

**Greece**

**Hungary**

**Iceland**

**Italy**

**Japan**

**Latvia**

**Lithuania**

**Luxembourg**

**Montenegro**

**Netherlands**

**Norway**

**Poland**

**Portugal**

**Romania**

**Russia**

**Spain**

**Sweden**

**Turkey**

**U.K.**

**U.S.**

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**FOR MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS INFORMATION**

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, icanw.org

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, thebulletin.org

Don’t Bank on the Bomb, donbankonthebomb.com

Nukewatch, nukewatchinfo.org

The Nuclear Resister, nukeresister.org

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