

United States Invasion of Afghanistan

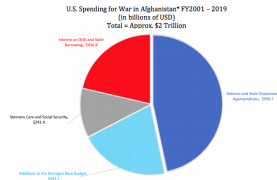
Total U.S. Military Spending in Afghanistan

\$2 trillion

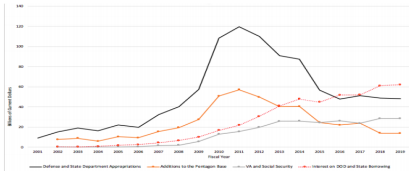
The U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 started the longest war in modern U.S. history. Hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost on all sides in the post-9/11 wars, and hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars spent. For what?

Eighteen years ago, on October 7th 2001, Congress approved the invasion of Afghanistan.

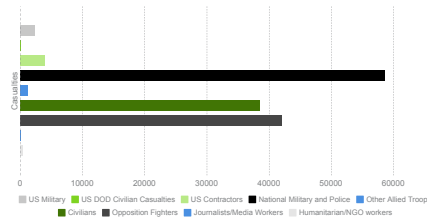
As U.S. military spending continues to soar, the 18th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan provides an opportunity to assess the economic and human costs of this seemingly endless war.



The United States has spent an estimated \$5.9 trillion and counting on post-9/11 endless wars, with the war in Afghanistan costing an estimated \$45 billion each year.



Total estimated number of people killed since the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan: **147,000**

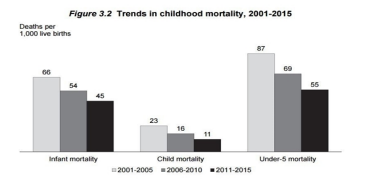


Between 2006 and 2018, 31.9% of active-duty military deaths were the result of accidents.

The war, which is just one part of a four-decade long conflict, has impacted the Afghan people in almost every capacity, and has had dire consequences on the quality of life for Afghans.

- 2 million people in Afghanistan suffer from depressive and anxiety disorders.
- 8.5 million Afghans have been displaced during the last 4 decades.
- 3,000 Afghans attempt suicide every year—and women make 80 percent of those attempts.
- 1.9 to 3.3 million people are in need of humanitarian health services & emergency service support.
- 87% of Afghan women have been victims of at least one form of physical, sexual or psychological violence.
- 2.9 to 3.6 million people in Afghanistan are users of drugs like opium and heroin.
- An estimated 3.7 million children are out-of-school in Afghanistan – 80% of them are girls.
- 2 in 5 children cannot reach full mental or physical development.

A decade ago, UNICEF rated Afghanistan as the most dangerous place to be born. In 2019, it still has the highest percentage of infant mortality.



Instead of waging war for nearly two decades, what could we have spent these billions of dollars on?

