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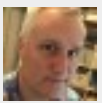
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The Military Industrial Complex

by Joe Escobar – Friday, May 20, 2016, 9:17 PM

This thread is for discussions on The Military Industrial Complex topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT – SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Military Industrial Complex

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Military build up in peace and for peace

by Robert Edwards – Saturday, May 21, 2016, 3:20 PM



Just wanted to put that up there for the general idea.

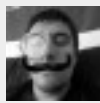
The cold war was, as we should know by now, a volatile era where neither side was willing to tolerate the other yet was afraid to attack due to the nuclear bomb. During this time both sides increased their military strength to keep the other in check. To sum this strategy up: peace through superior firepower. If a country is to expect a war in their future, it is only logical that they would begin to prepare for that coming war, while hoping to avoid it.

Though Eisenhower lead during peace time, it was a shaky peace. There was legitimate reason for the United States to feel threatened, in this case by communism. Today, the world is threatened by terrorists and renewed diplomatic tensions between Russia, with their fly-bys of US aircraft and territorial borders and China with its disputes over the south china sea, make some of us wonder if the situation will escalate to the point of someone pulling the trigger. There's also North Korea, but few actually consider them a legitimate threat, despite the nuclear testing. Whether we come to regret that later is still up for debate.

To protect our country, both Eisenhower and future presidents knew it would need the means to defend itself during war time, and the means of displaying their power to discourage would-be aggressors. This is how it was during the Cold War, and how it has been since the "Iron Curtain" fell and the current times.

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Build up for the future

by [Joe Paredes](#) – Sunday, May 22, 2016, 8:16 AM

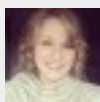
In Eisenhower's Farwell speech, we listen to him talk about "The Military Industrial Complex " and from what I do understand about it is that a's the nation's leader and a former Commander-in-Chief , he understands that anyone who has power has the chance to abuse it. After 4 wars and not having the resupply or even a build up of military sources, President Eisenhower talks not in detail about what exactly it is, but what we do know now is that America today , we are the world's most powerful nation with a military to back it up. As the global leader in militarization and power, we don't have to talk or try and show force .

Eisenhower and knowing that the build-up what's going to happen in the peacetime was probably one of the better steps he took as a leader to allowing our military to grow for any kind of future problems we may have with other countries and to this day we continue to have a surplus of military forces.

On the side note, I do enjoy how Russia shows off their newest technology in there parade they had..

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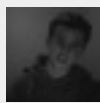
Re: Build up for the future

by [Rebekah Galick](#) – Saturday, May 28, 2016, 10:18 PM

I believe that you missed the main point of his speech. It wasn't to let the people know that "he understands that anyone who has power has the chance to abuse it" and he especially wasn't saying that "we are the world's most powerful nation with a military to back it up" in fact, he told the audience in essence we aren't prepared and continually have to improvise in defense of our country. Eisenhower's Farewell speech was to inform the people of what needed to happen during a time of peace so that we would be ready at the time of war. He was informing the public that we need to build-up the military and every support system which enables it to grow so that by the time the enemy strikes, we will be prepared to defend our way of life and livelihood. He was proposing a way that would provide companies an opportunity to contribute on the home front and a way to ensure that the U.S. would never be too weak as to incite an attack from any enemy. His speech was more about preparing Americans for the buildup and the complexity of system which would support it, with a warning about abuses and the possibility of those abuses affecting the democratic system of government such as influence, money and power within the structure of our government and not necessarily just the abuse of military power. I would agree it was a great outgoing speech and movement toward ensuring our country remains secure from every enemy.

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"Complex" is correct

by [Shane Cooney](#) – Monday, May 23, 2016, 7:32 PM

In my philosophy class, we learned how to find and assess loaded language--we would then try to replace it with neutral language. The issue here is, I think the term "lobby" makes it almost too neutral--it seems like a political ploy to make it not seem like what it really is. "Complex" seems to fit, even with its negative connotations. The

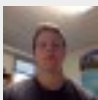
definition of complex is: consisting of many different and connected parts. The other definition of complex is: not easy to analyze or understand; complicated or intricate. I personally believe that using these two definitions together, is the best way to describe the United States' military continued buildup and growth. The fact that Eisenhower began a peacetime military build-up during the Cold War only goes to support the claim that it's a complex filled with complexity.

The issue, I believe, resides with those who have a vested interest in the military industrial complex, and there are many people--politicians included--who look to and do profit from increased militarization. Perhaps Eisenhower never intended for it to become such a political circus. But when weapons manufacturers and arms companies are donating millions to political campaigns, it's clear they have a very specific political agenda. Weapons manufacturers wouldn't make nearly as much money as they do if they couldn't rely on the good ol' United States to keep on buttressing its military.

I understand how perceived threats during the Cold War encouraged a military build-up by Eisenhower, although there was no real war being fought at that time. But today, I guess I don't see the point of continuing to build up our military. We have more than enough national defense--shouldn't that be our first concern?. Common sense and statistics say that if you carry a gun, you're much more likely to be involved in a shooting. The United States carries a whole lot of guns--enough to wage a war with. I feel like the military industrial complex puts us *more* at a risk of being attacked. And just carrying a lot of guns, and shooting a lot of bullets, doesn't guarantee victory or adequate defense. I'm worried that in spite of all this "military power," one day, the United States may lose.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: "Complex" is correct
by [Jake Cleary](#) - Saturday, May 28, 2016, 10:05 PM

I believe that the big U.S. military helps us have allies. We give a lending hand to many countries in need that have and are being attacked. People want to be on our side because of that. The countries, such as Russia and North Korea will not decrease their military but try and increase it even more if the U.S. decreased numbers. They could try and take us down, if we let our guard down. And with such a big military it makes the other countries that are out for the U.S. pause and think about the consequence of going to war with the country with the biggest military. So far that military had kept our country from being attacked and I would like to keep it that way.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: "Complex" is correct
by [Rebekah Galick](#) - Saturday, May 28, 2016, 10:34 PM

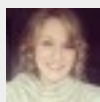
I completely agree with your first paragraph! In my previous post I stated that I believe the term “lobby” does not begin to explain the integral parts of the whole involved in the build up of the defense for this country. With all the different parts to make this plan work and what each of those parts perform to uphold their part of the bargain makes this a “complex” system of defense in our military buildup and the system which supports it in government with assistant from the civilian industries.

Your second paragraph speaks to the exact issue Eisenhower addressed in his speech pertaining to the warning about abuses with such a system. He warned future leaders to watch for and avoid the abuses of power and influence with government and industry to feed on the frenzy of making money on the government and civilian industrial side and gaining more military strength on the military end. The industrial military complex should be a buildup that employs the wisdom from every component of the system so no one entity abuses its role for personal gain.

In regards to your final paragraph I do not agree with you. I also feel that you aren't staying consistent with your response. I would like to see where you got the information that states "that if you carry a gun, you're much more likely to be involved in a shooting". I believe that is a completely false statement. Also your comment "just carrying a lot of guns, and shooting a lot of bullets, doesn't guarantee victory or adequate defense", what do you expect the leaders of our country to do? Military power restrained by America's military protects our interest and that of our allies. You are right that it doesn't guarantee victory, but our buildup does deter our enemies from attacking us and so is a very adequate defense strategy to avoid war.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Truly integral
by [Rebekah Galick](#) – Monday, May 23, 2016, 10:02 PM

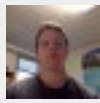
I disagree with the commentator about the misuse of the vocabulary; complex vs. lobby. I believe that the use of the term "lobby" does not begin to explain the integral parts of the whole involved in the build up of the defense for this country. I think his description gives one the idea that the convergence of the 3.5 million service men and women, the full time industry needed to build armaments to use in defense of our country and democracy, and the need for carefully planned funding and support from all branches of government in working with civilian contractors in this endeavor shows the complexity of the phrase "military industrial complex."

The commentator's idea of dumbing down the phrase and using "lobby" only sells the idea better to the public so they see the idea as less intrusive and easier to swallow as a nation. Part of his speech includes the warning of undue influence within this system which could adversely affect the democratic system of government because of the power and influence of money and contracts that would come to bear on those leading this country. I believe what the commentator says about the public's view could in fact happen: The public would see this discussion as less invasive and potentially less harmful to the U.S. system that is in place.

The fact that Eisenhower's oversaw a military buildup in a time of peace (rather than wartime) shows me he believed building up the military into strong military made for a strong country. Also, as the commentator pointed out, Eisenhower wanted to ensure that the U.S. was never too weak as to incite an attack from an enemy. With that being said, I do believe Eisenhower's initial use of the term "complex" is the most correct. Eisenhower was presenting an idea that would cause many companies to contribute more to the military by creating more tasks making it more of a "complex" proposal. I do believe that this subject is still applicable today because our system in place continues to become more complex as the U.S. advances technologically. In addition to the conventional weapon and personnel build up America must also invest in computer technology, training, and personnel to combat foreign enemies.

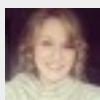
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Re: The Different Meaning
by [Jake Cleary](#) – Monday, May 23, 2016, 11:39 PM

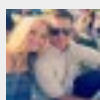
I agree with the commentator about the misuse of vocabulary word complex and lobbying, but I don't think it impacted as much as people think. Yes complex shows a big need of military arms during peace times, which scared some people, but many people I think knew what was needed in case of an attack. I think lobbying sounds better because of the peacetime, but no way would the misuse of word affect me from why Eisenhower has created the industry. He wanted to protect the American people from future attacks and if in need to go to war. He took on the position to make Americans realize that something will be done to keep them safe in case of an emergency. This is similar to Obama and his technology still being a major part of the military side of the government to help keep people safe. Even though he got rid of torture and Guantanamo Bay, there are still many military technologies that help in keeping war out of America and in a place such as Afghanistan, due to some lobbying, but also safety.



Re: The Different Meaning

by [Rebekah Galick](#) – Saturday, May 28, 2016, 10:41 PM

I disagree with you. I believe that the original term “complex” used by Eisenhower in his farewell speech is in fact the correct term. If you look at the proposal as a whole, it is very complex. Eisenhower is asking for the development of private industry to help take part in building up the military so we (U.S.) can be better equipped and prepared for war if and when it draws us in again: He uses our past mechanization of current industry during wartime as the reason for changing the way we prepare to defend our way of government and life. This meant that businesses would need to hire more people, expand their businesses by buying the needed merchandise to complete government contracts for armaments, and front more money to get it started. Lobby gives a false sense of what he is asking of the country in this endeavor. This proposal was meant to ensure the U.S. was never too weak as to incite an attack from an enemy, which meant the people needed to be completely on board to do whatever was necessary, and allow government along with the military to proceed as planned in order to maintain and protect our interests in American and abroad.

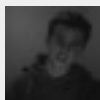


Military spending.

by [Benjamin Glaeser](#) – Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 5:58 PM

I think no matter what people say it is important to have a very strong military. Not necessarily to win wars or keep people in check around the world but to prevent wars and getting attacked. A country would be much less likely to start a war with another country that is most likely going to beat them. What doesn't make sense to me is how we manage to spend so much money on the military and yet the Air Force just recently is looking for used parts? I don't know the exact details of the story but to me it seems like somewhere along the line there is a lot of money being wasted.

I also agree with what the comentator said about complex vs. lobby. I think complex have the Eisenhower speech a wrong kind of feeling. And what he really meant was that there was going to be a lot of lobbying for these military contracts to make weapons and war machines. I think what Eisenhower said about a buildup during peace time is smart. An excess is better than a shortage ecspecially when trying to win a war.



Re: Military spending.

by [Shane Cooney](#) – Thursday, May 26, 2016, 6:04 PM

You seem to be approaching this issue from a realist point of view, which I do applaud because I think realism is an effective way of managing international relations and foreign policy.

I understand that having a large and powerful military is important, to some degree. But will there be a limit? Don't you think that the United States has a large enough military? According to statistics from Elite Daily (<http://elitedaily.com/news/world/top-10-military-powers-world/>), the United States ranks first in military power. Our annual "defense" budget = \$515,000,000,000
Military Personnel = 1,385,000
Fighter Jets = 22,700
Navy Ships = 1,600
Purchasing power = \$13,780,000,000,000

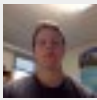
Now, I realize these are just statistics, and we don't need numbers to remind us that we have a strong military. But does the size of our military *actually* makes us safer from attack? I personally believe that when you hold the biggest stick, other people with slightly smaller sticks might team together so you won't be able to wield that stick anymore (forgive the simplistic analogy).

To me, I think if we stopped investing so much money into our military and directed it elsewhere, our nation would really prosper from it. Take a few billions and invest it into public education, take a few billion and put it towards improving infrastructure, or towards helping the impoverished at home and abroad. Maybe invest some into research towards sustainable and renewable energy. The list of possible investments is almost

endless. I feel like we have enough guns, ammo, bombs, personnel, etc. to last us for awhile. I'm not saying we need to stop funding our military, that's a ludicrous idea. But I do think that money has the potential to be better spent elsewhere.

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Re: Military spending.

by [Jake Cleary](#) – Saturday, May 28, 2016, 9:53 PM

I see your point with spending, but the U.S. puts a lot into the military to help not only our country, but for countries that are being attacked by others. Without out help, other countries would break out even more, and war could potentially come to the U.S. which we do not want to happen. If the U.S. decreases their military the smaller countries might, like you said, team up together and try and hurt us while we are at a low point of security. Besides it being a necessity for security reasons, it provides jobs for thousands of people. Without the jobs, so many people would be out of work and would have difficulty finding jobs after being apart of something for so long. Yes the money we spend is a lot, but it keeps out country and others safe, while also giving people jobs to put food on the table for their families.

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Re: The Military Industrial Complex

by [Michael Ehrenfelt](#) – Friday, May 27, 2016, 7:51 PM

These kind of situations involving religion and law can be super tricky. These issues can be solved through education, legislation, and prosecution. In the past problems with religion have come down to the supreme courts’ decision. I believe through education a lot can be solved or even diverted. If our kids grow up with the knowledge and facts on what is affecting the earth and what helps solve this problem then it won’t have to go to court. Thus helping avoid taking legal action to get to a solution. Which just leaves legislation, which will be solved when are kids grow up knowledgeable and are able to vote for those bills or acts. That can always be done peacefully, I am a true believer that violence doesn’t help solve most problems. I don’t think this article is accurate at describing being “green” as a religion. For me religion isn’t a huge part of my life so I think the lack there of would impact on my view of what a religion really is. I still believe I understand what a religion is but being “green” isn’t one.

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The connection between government and military industries

by [Long Chen](#) – Saturday, May 28, 2016, 5:52 PM

I think he did not misuse the word complex. I think this word equals to the word of company. In current situation, the military industries and government are like business partners. US is the county that spends the most money on military force. The reason that military industries convince government to spend money on weapons and military supplies because of the profits are unmeasurable. Eisenhower does not think the peace is the solution for wars. He sees the threats to America. He wants to build America’s military to be strong enough to deal every possible threats. He did this in the middle of Cold War because nobody knows when the war will gets start. He did his best to prevent other countries’ attack on America. Today, America has the strongest military force, but the main reason to keep spending money on the military industries is making profits. If the government stops spending money on military, there are so many workers will lose their jobs.

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The problem of only selling to allies

by [Long Chen](#) – Saturday, May 28, 2016, 6:20 PM

In this article, I see how America does not sell weapons to some countries such as China, Iraq,Iran and North America. I think it is because US does not want those countries to have the weapons to fight against America. America does not want to sell the weapons to the enemies. But US sells its weapons and technology to the allies to make profits. This can cause the problem, it is possible that those allies resell the weapons to the countries

that America does not want to. It is difficult to control this situation. However, I am not understand why US does not sell weapons to China, but China gives debt to United States. Another concern is America spends most of the money on military instead of healthcare and educations.

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the way to make money

by *Long Chen* – Saturday, May 28, 2016, 6:27 PM

inthink this picture explains why the military industry complex is so happy that government keeps spending money on them. The peace is not going to work for them because war and army is a great opportunity to make money

THE MORE YOU MARCH



THE MORE WE MAKE

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