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**Military Industrial Complex**

by Joe Escobar - Friday, May 22, 2015, 10:57 AM

This forum thread is for Military Industrial Complex posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. 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. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Military Industrial Complex

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[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Complex vs Lobby**

by Tamara Berge - Monday, May 25, 2015, 11:30 PM

After reading through the material provided it seems as though the commentator was on the right track by proposing the substitution of the word lobby in place of complex, while referring to Eisenhower's speech. According to Wikipedia "Lobbying is often spoken of with contempt, when the implication is that people with inordinate socioeconomic power are corrupting the law (twisting it away from fairness) in order to serve their own interests. When people who have a duty to act on behalf of others, such as elected officials with a duty to serve their constituents' interests or more broadly the public good, stand to benefit by shaping the law to serve the interests of some private parties a conflict of interest exists."

The military industry resembles a business like any other, with the exception that it is also tied into our country's security which gives it even more strength. To be prepared for any situation that may arise, our need for military is essential; but where is the line drawn in military spending? It seems that those with the privilege of making that decision are also benefitting from said spending.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lobbying>

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by Emily Johnson - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 5:01 PM

I enjoyed this forum more than I initially expected to primarily due to the connections made by the podcast commentator about Eisenhower's use of the phrase "the military industrial complex".

Eisenhower's use of the phrase "the military industrial complex" is examined here and I found it interesting that according to Ike's 1965 memoir, Waging Peace, he states he wanted to include a "challenging message" in his speech. I think it's an

interesting way to keep the people talking after you've left office. Additionally, Ike was responsible for the first time ever U.S. peacetime military buildup. I agree with the other post in this forum that the commentator was right on the money by suggesting he should have really called it "military industrial lobby" because that would be more accurate and less sinister sounding. I wasn't aware of all the lobbying going on between the pentagon and congress and businesses. It seems America has built it's repetitional on everybody seeking military spending which is, in and of itself a growing business that will never go into recession. Ike was right- unnecessary military spending is a waste of national resources. I think if we listened to this sound advice. I'll echo what Tamara says in the earlier post, where do we draw the line with military spending?

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History Repeats Itself

by [Jordan Bertak](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 10:24 PM

I really do think they should be compared. We are supposed to respect our constitution and protect our rights yet throughout the history of the United States you can see these abuses occurring. It happened with red scares and communism, where you have people outing their neighbors and friends for suspected communism and the creation of groups such as the House of Un-American Activities. And now today you have the patriot act and the NSA mass collecting American citizens data in the name of "freedom" and keeping the terrorists away.

History really does repeat itself and theres a famous quote by Benjamin Frankling which I agree with.

"Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety"

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It is 'complex.'

by [Kai Seltman](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 11:21 PM

Although the podcaster proposed to substitute the word 'complex' with 'lobby' as to soften the phrase 'military industrial complex', I think 'complex' is quite accurate. Although I have no idea what Eisenhower's intention was as I have not read said memoir, the military industrial complex has had far-reaching effects, as evidenced by the article on Obama that was one of the sources.

"Lobbying" is too specific a term. Eisenhower stated in his farewell address that "the total influence -- economic, political, even spiritual -- is felt in every city, every state house, every office of the federal government." Is this not true even today? When I first came to America, I was surprised by the immense pride that many citizens have of their military, and reading the article, I am blown away by the military spending numbers. I believe the extent of how much the United States is intertwined with its military and its history is very much 'complex.'

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