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## Forum 4

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**Military Industrial Complex**

by Joe Escobar - Friday, May 22, 2015, 10:56 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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**Military Industrial Complex**

by Connie LaMorte - Friday, May 22, 2015, 2:50 PM

In response to Eisenhower's speech on the military industrial complex in 1961, Bob Dylan wrote a song about the topic, which he said was directly inspired by the speech (Wikipedia). The song was one of the most famous anti-war songs ever written and representative of the culture that was forming during that period. I thought I would share some of the lyrics to that song with all of you. It's called Masters of War and it sums about my feelings about this topic.

Come you masters of war  
 You that build the big guns  
 You that build the death planes  
 You that build all the bombs  
 You that hide behind walls  
 You that hide behind desks  
 I just want you to know  
 I can see through your masks

You that never done nothin'  
 But build to destroy  
 You play with my world  
 Like it's your little toy  
 You put a gun in my hand  
 And you hide from my eyes  
 And you turn and run farther  
 When the fast bullets fly

You fasten all the triggers  
 For the others to fire

Then you sit back and watch  
 When the death count gets higher  
 You hide in your mansion  
 While the young people's blood  
 Flows out of their bodies  
 And is buried in the mud

Let me ask you one question  
 Is your money that good?  
 Will it buy you forgiveness  
 Do you think that it could?  
 I think you will find  
 When your death takes its toll  
 All the money you made  
 Will never buy back your soul

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### The song does sum up a lot

by [Katherine Potter](#) - Monday, May 25, 2015, 9:45 PM

I agree the song does sum up how I feel but I also feel that there is a need for a lot of military industrial because it supply's a lot of jobs and war is something in the human nature and over time all we have done is refine the techniques and the gadgets we have also fixed and made great advances on. So we truly are a master of war.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### Re: Military Industrial Complex

by [Chaofan Huang](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 6:52 PM

I agree with the poem "Masters of War and it sums " US President Eisenhower that " : Strong Large military organization and huge arms industry of marriage is American history in the process of a new phenomenon ,In every city , in every state of deliberative bodies , every office of the federal government can feel it.The overall impact - economic , political , even spiritual .

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### Military and informed citizenry

by [Jose Camarillo](#) - Monday, May 25, 2015, 8:21 PM

I agree with the commentator that you could call the military-industrial complex the military-industrial lobbying because I agree with the what he was saying that military companies will lobby the pentagon who in turn will lobby congress. I'm not sure that Eisenhower overseeing a military buildup during peace time, rather than war, as a way to affect my understanding the situation. He addresses that he contributed to the military-industrial lobbying. Eisenhower says toward the end of the video, "Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together." Instead of a contrary stand I think he was trying tell the public they need to stay informed in order for the military-industrial complex to work. The hot and cold wars showed the transition of our country from having manufacturers like ford and gmc make armaments having companies dedicated to that. The lesson to learn from the wars on terror is the grasped the military-industrial complex took when the citizenry wasn't informed. Our citizenry not being informed directly correlates to our nation's leaders having connections to corporate interests. Because those government officials were voted in an chose to be swayed to maybe vote for things that give the NSA to do fishy things. After some of these things came to light like Edward Snowden and accusations of spying on US citizen's phones president Obama has reacted by trying to make the NSA more

transparent.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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### Re: Military and informed citizenry

by [Nils Hagberg](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 2:14 PM

I really like what you are saying here Jose, especially with your thoughts in regards to that Eisenhower's statements on the military-industrial complex. And that we no need to be aware of what is going on between our lobbyist and the actions our politicians then do take. It is scary in my eyes that we have created a market that is centered around war first off, but even more so that we can cause this tragedy whenever. With this we have created a very violent society that over spends on its military, and become reliant on the concept of war to fuel our economy.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### Military Industrial Complex

by [Yanchun Deng](#) - Monday, May 25, 2015, 8:39 PM

Military-industrial complex development the profound influence of the U.S. government decision-making and social. On the one hand, it is the idea has penetrated into common People's Daily life, on the other hand, the military-industrial complex rapid development, has made the national defense economy operation is very difficult to leave the private enterprises. Practice has proved that in the United States in recent years in the large contractors of the US department of defense, the top three in turn for Lockheed - Martin, Boeing and Northrop Grumman. Among them, the Lockheed - Martin company mainly produces military aircraft, missiles, is the so-called "pure" defense contractors, Northrop - Northrop Grumman also belong to the "pure" defense contractors in the United States, mainly in the production of various types of missiles. The Boeing aircraft company, in fact, belong to "half" defense contractors, the company mainly produces civilian aircraft, but also take the department of defense orders. According to statistics, in 2007, the three defense contractors and respectively from the defense department received a \$27.8 billion, \$22.5 billion and \$14.6 billion contract.

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### Re: Military Industrial Complex

by [Chaofan Huang](#) - Monday, May 25, 2015, 10:03 PM

Military Industrial Complex in World War II, the United States became the arsenal of democracy, a large mobilization of production of military supplies, provide allies to fight the Axis powers. After World War II, the United States greatly reduced defense spending, from \$91 billion in 1944, dropped to \$11 billion in 1948, the US military enterprises into the Great Depression. Reduce the defense budget, making the budget more intense competition for the services, but the military regime must also be downsized, including plans to gradually reduce the recruitment of volunteer military, reducing the number of servicemen, civilians have not been replacing, but also close military units, such as base, state-owned military factories, shipyards and so on; this impact on the local economy, also affect the interests of the constituency.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### Re: Military Industrial Complex

by [Daniel Schulman](#) - Monday, May 25, 2015, 11:52 PM

When I hear Eisenhower warn us of the military industrial complex, I immediately start thinking about what the results of imperialism has done for us economically. As we all know since we studied in the previous chapter, America went through an economic boom as a result of war, production, demands and services it requested. Economically, war has been proven to boost an economy (in the case you win) as well as acquisition of additional territory of course. Today, some of America's richest men are defense contractors, making hundreds of millions, some billions in sales as a result of war profiteering. In some countries, these contractors are actually needed, in others it's often of sending someone else in to do your dirty work

without any traces. So when we are accused of starting, or being war profiteers, is this what others are referring to? Is this Eisenhower's military industrial complex?

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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### Re: Military Industrial Complex

by [Norman Stolba](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 4:20 PM

Yep, like I had said previously America was pretty much built on war. And without it we wouldn't have been the #1 superpower, at least economically. You could say that United States influence to this day are attempting micro imperialistic moves throughout the globe but not invasion wise, just ideology wise. Maybe I am overthinking it. But I do see a connection with Imperialism somewhere. It's just difficult to pinpoint it.

Good post

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### Re: Military Industrial Complex

by [Daniel Schulman](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 11:11 PM

I do not disagree with your theory of the U.S. making imperialistic moves on a micro level continually throughout the world. Had the war in Iraq not looked so bad domestically, imagine the possible outcomes? I can't see a annexing of the country, I feel that would start diplomatic issues, but a control of a sector of a nations economy is realistic scenario in my opinion. It's difficult to pinpoint because: let's be real, we don't know about 95% of the things that actually happen within and as a result of government. A lot of things the public can't know, but are necessary to sustain unfortunately.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### IKE

by [Mirna Becerra](#) - Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 2:10 PM

I do agree with term lobby rather than complex. I agree with the fact that there would be more constant business. Companies would lobby the pentagon, then the pentagon would lobby congress for this build up. "Everyone is seeking military spending". It was a complex subject but i agree that the term lobby as the commentator said. I think Ike's idea set new standards for peace time and war. He didn't want to be weak again so he did set up military spending and we still have a lot of military spending to this very day.

Ike sums it up : "So that security and liberty may prosper together." and that is what it's all about.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### A never ending story

by [Nils Hagberg](#) - Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 6:33 PM

War is now something that has become invested into our political culture. In a way we have allowed the war industry to become a planted seed that has grown to be more. Looking back to the article the war industry finances and is helped financed by many of our political faces. For example the article states that back in 2006 \$195.5 million was invested in defense companies by our own members of congress. Like wise it goes the other way with companies donating millions so specific individuals can possibly make into office. Seeing that lobbying has become imbedded within our culture we need to do something about it. Either establish laws that simply abolish, limit, or establish ways that allows to be more aware of who is receiving what from where.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Military Industrial Complex and Imperialism**by [Connie LaMorte](#) - Friday, May 29, 2015, 2:05 PM

Regarding the military industrial complex, we have to remember that war for profit is not exclusive to modern times. For many decades in Europe it drove the empires of France, Spain and Britain. It was the driving force in outdoing a potential enemy and forcing counter movements of the potential enemy. We talked about this in class when we discussed the book written by Alfred Thayer Mahan called the "Influence of Sea Power" which argued that past empires beginning with Rome relied on their capacity to rule the seas and this was one of the driving forces behind early imperialism (text p. 746). What Eisenhower seemed to be warning us about is the modern way the military industrial complex is used to further global interests for profit not democracy.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**War Ingrained In Society**by [Kylee O'Connor](#) - Friday, May 29, 2015, 7:49 PM

War has become something that our society is accustomed to. The United States has been through many wars and spent billions of dollars on those wars. War has become ingrained into our society and I do not see that ever changing. Just as it stated in the article, "151 members of congress in 2006 had up to \$195.5 million of their personal assets invested in defense companies" and it also mentions that major defense companies donated large sums of money to different people throughout the 2008 elections. Every part of the government, especially the congress in this case, in somehow connected to war.

Although war is most always considered a bad thing, there is an upside. War creates a plethora of jobs, here in the United States. All of the soldiers need uniforms, equipment, artillery, and lots of other materials to be able to be successful. All of those materials can be made here, in the homeland. Although many are not physically oversees "in war," the majority of people are somehow indirectly involved in war.

I believe that America should learn from its past wars. The U.S. can see what they did wrong in some circumstances, and learn from what they did right in other cases. In regards to whether or not wars should be compared, I believe that they *can* be compared, but only to a certain extent. Every war is so different and has so many factors contributing to it; there is no way to really compare.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**the iron triangle**by [Connie LaMorte](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 9:42 AM

I found an interesting term that refers to the military industrial complex as the **iron triangle** which refers to the alignment of special interest groups and actions among three key actors in public policy making in the United States:

1. Special interest groups donate money to Congressional leaders to legislate for particular programs;
2. Federal agencies use lobbyists and connections to influence legislation; and
3. Congressional leaders receive agency support for the continuation or implementation of certain bureaucratic policies.

"An **iron triangle** can result in the passing of very narrow, pork-barrel policies that benefit a small segment of the population. The interests of the agency's constituency (the interest groups) are met, while the needs of consumers (which may be the general public) are passed over" (Wikipedia). I like the term **iron triangle** to explain how things really work within our political system and it is somewhat depressing to realize how little control we the people, have over decisions to spend taxpayers money.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Military Industrial Complex**by [Norman Stolba](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 4:13 PM

I guess you could compare the wars, but many of these wars realistically were very different in comparison to actual full scare war like WW2 and Vietnam. You look at the war on terror and compare it to WW2 and the Cold War, and maybe even Vietnam and the benefit to risk ratio may be quite different in other peoples opinions.

I think this reveals that our nations leaders simply cannot let go of the past. I believe we should still spend some money on national defense and war armaments, and still spread our influence throughout the globe, but to a much more smaller and lesser degree. Like one of the articles stated we have spent over 700 billion in war/national defensive spending, spending more money on national defense/warfare production then the whole world combined, making us the highest war tax payers in the world. That is just outrageous on so many levels.

I think the biggest lesson we can learn from this is to recognize that not all wars are the same, and we really need to buckle down and relax, but like I said to an extent. I think this goes hand and hand with how the United States has been developed over time, we place such a big emphasis on violence and war. And when you look at what president Theodore Roosevelt said, ""speak softly, and carry a big stick." Roosevelt described his style of foreign policy as "the exercise of intelligent forethought and of decisive action sufficiently far in advance of any likely crisis" (wiki). You also look at sports like football which is the most watched and popular sport in the United States. Why is it so popular? That's a tough one. Now that is pretty interesting to think about. You could easily agree and understand that that may work (the whole big stick quote) and could be necessary still to this day, although that still doesn't take away from the fact that we are going overboard with the military spending/national defense to this day.

With the whole corporations question. Corporations are becoming more and more powerful and at this point in time. They almost have just as much, if not more power than our federal government. They will most likely find a way or have found a way to benefit from all of this national defense/ war production; since the federal government needs money for all of this spending, taxes are limited and will only take government spending so far, and we know that. I think it also may reveal that our government still and may always have close ties with giant powerful corporations, and that people in power may be obsessed with this ideology or whatever you may call it not only domestically, but also foreign: and that their responses/reactions have been way over the top to real and perceived foreign threats.

It's like post war PTSD for some individuals.

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### Ike Looking Out for His Country

by [Kendra Helgeson](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 6:57 PM

The fact that Eisenhower did oversee the military buildup in a time of peace really helped me understand this topic a lot better. I think he took the position he did because generals were starting to take advantage of the power we were gaining as a country. Eisenhower said in his farewell address that "the potential for misplaced power exists and will persist... we should take nothing for granted." Sometimes when a person or a group of people are given an unimaginable amount of power they abuse it and take it too far, leading to back lash in the future. As the commentator said in the audio clip, it wasn't an extremely dark vision of America that Eisenhower had. He just wanted to make sure that the future for our military was bright and not heading in a bad direction.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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### Re: Ike Looking Out for His Country

by [Daniel Schulman](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 11:16 PM

Even more intriguing was how upfront Eisenhower was about it, although he was guilty of the act himself. Had I been living in the era when Eisenhower made the speech, I can't say I'd have a good idea of what the future held, but a glimpse. It's seldom we have president's willing to honest, and even more rare for a president to set aside his ego and image, and embrace the hypocrisy about to be held. Although his vision was dark, I feel Eisenhower was putting on a pessimistic front to get people thinking, which was his objective.

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