

HST 203: U.S. History Sp18 (Escobar Meta 41002 43590)

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Forum 4 The Military-Industrial Complex

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The Military-Industrial Complex

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, May 25, 2018, 7:13 AM

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 one of the questions you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Military-Industrial Complex

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Every Product requires a Market



by [William Perdomo](#) - Friday, May 25, 2018, 1:00 PM

Eisenhower, being an educated military man with a historical mind, I'm sure was thinking back to our greatest example of a republic that went bad due to the overwhelming political presence of the army: the Roman Empire. After the assassination of Commodus, a Syrian Roman general bested his rivals and seized the throne for himself and, subsequently, for his sons. The general, Septimius Severus, on his death bed said to his heirs, "be harmonious, enrich the soldiers, scorn everybody else." Up until the Second World War, America was merely a tough that was called in either for self preservation or by the pretense of allegiance to settle someone else's war; or to conduct a limited war for out own safety only to retreat back to our home shores to continue our life on our little lily pad hoping that other frogs wouldn't get any ideas about hopping on to ours. We didn't care to dominate the pond because we had a big and comfortable lily pad of our own. However, when the other frogs couldn't seem to get along we had to bring peace and harmony to the pond then stick around to enforce it. This was a radical change from our previous position as sleeping isolationist giant to world policeman. In short, we went from a policy of security of our borders being the only objective for security to extending our influence all over the planet in order to accomplish the same goal. I think Eisenhower was noting that sea change and growing frightened that a new industry would spring up and demand, for its own survival, a war economy rather than American firms being civilian first and ironmongers in times of crisis second. In the case of companies like Ford who made cars in peacetime then tanks when called upon to do so when the country was in extremis, they did not depend on war for survival but merely reconfigured to meet the demands such a conflict would put on industry; but a company made for the business of war is going to do all in their power to search out, or open up, markets to peddle their wares. As the radio host was saying, such an industry would create a "side effect" of lobbying for the extension of military aid to other nations such as we have with Saudi Arabian and for the State and Defense Departments to get involved in conflicts such as Vietnam so that taxpayers could subsidize an industry immune to the market forces of peace. Once that happens then Septimius Severus' words become ever more prescient and congress ends up "enriching the soldiers" and scorning the people; the citizens being the ones who are scorned since it is they who have to bear the burden in both material and human costs.

Sum of ratings: [3 \(1\)](#)

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The Military Industrial Complex we cannot escape..

by [Hayley Allen](#) - Friday, May 25, 2018, 5:55 PM

I agree with the commentator from the podcast when he describes the misuse of the word "complex" that President Eisenhower discusses in his farewell speech. The term

word, "complex" that President Eisenhower discusses in his farewell speech. The term, "military-industrial complex" is confusing to grasp because the book states, "This term signified an informal relationship among military, political, and economic elites committed to expanding national security capabilities" (Murrin 919). This relationship is still very complicated to understand without explaining as the podcast commentator says that Eisenhower really meant was "lobbying" that was done by the war industries that came to be after WWII. These companies needed the pentagon and congress to support and create their demand for the products they were supplying. By choosing to say complex rather than lobby, means that he may have been trying to disguise the government's direct involvement in creating this military-industrial complex. As it has been stated in the book and the podcast, Eisenhower was the first to create this war industry as a "peacetime military buildup" (Podcast) which required some form of demand for those goods being produced.

The impact of the terminology means that this idea of 'military-industrial complex' is not easily understood by the majority of American citizens who heard Eisenhower say it and the following presidents. That term really means nothing to someone unless they knew that it is the "lobbying" by war-industries and the pentagon to congress. If that was understood then maybe people would be much more weary of that term rather than seeing it as a security policy or defense policy. As the article of the Obama administration acknowledges, "The US military industrial complex is deeply embedded inside the Washington beltway. According to the most recent reports from OpenSecrets.org, 151 members of Congress in 2006 had up to \$195.5 million of their personal assets invested in defense companies" (Philips). As well as the enormous financial support for both democratic and republican parties for election campaigns which clearly has some strings attached if those candidates win. The military budget in the U.S. is huge as "The US now spends as much on war/defense as the rest of the world combined, making Americans the highest war-tax payers in the world" (Philips). The idea of 'military Keynesianism' (Murrin 919) describes the relationship of war industries supplying goods that the U.S. military will purchase or demand based on the idea of protecting the American people. By using American's tax-payer money on this 'complex' is why Eisenhower would rather not call it lobbying or possibly hide his own faults in creating this relationship of dependency on one another.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Re: The Military Industrial Complex we cannot escape..

by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 11:25 PM

Hi Hayley, I liked your response a lot because it stood out to me and I think you

have a lot of interesting ideas. I agree that the term complex honestly fits our country much better based on how imbedded our military is in America and american companies like Ford and General motors. I believe that even if Eisenhower was not referring to the current military-Industrial complex in America that he was at least heavily warning the country about the path it was on. He envisioned an America that is today and I think you described it very well by saying that our country and many companies are almost dependant on war at this point in time. I think this is precisely what Eisenhower sought to prevent that we do not continue building up military forces in peacetimes and becoming a nation reliant on war.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Although lobbying may play a role, the issue is complex

by [Shane McClintock](#) - Sunday, May 27, 2018, 2:42 PM

I agree with Eisenhower's use of vocabulary when naming the military industrial complex, even though lobbying is clearly relevant to the issue. In Bruce Carlson's podcast he discussed how companies lobby to the Pentagon, the Pentagon to congress, and Congress then lobbies itself. President Eisenhower discussed a broader spectrum relating to the issue. In his farewell address Eisenhower stated, "The total influence, economic, political, even spiritual, is felt in every City, every State house, every office of the federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend it's grave implications."(1:11) I think that Ike was recognizing the side effects of the situation as complex. Furthermore, when considering the privatization not only of weapons and vehicle manufactures, but the use of private contractor's in foreign affairs, I think complex is the perfect term to use.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Complex vs. Lobby

by [Sam Reposa](#) - Sunday, May 27, 2018, 2:34 PM

When one is in a position of power, I believe it is important to be transparent—that means proper usage of vocabulary. What Eisenhower was referring to was essentially a chain of lobbyism “So the companies would lobby the pentagon and congress, the pentagon would also lobby congress, and congress would lobby the administration” (Video, 2:34). Using the term “complex” certainly dramatizes and sensationalizes the

situation, and I believe this to be a misleading incorrect usage of the word. This is somewhat analogous to the oxymoronic term "radical conservative" that was discussed in one of the first lectures.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Complex vs. Lobby

by [Shane McClintock](#) - Monday, May 28, 2018, 9:23 PM

I think that although lobbying plays a role, the issue is extremely complex. Other organizations lobby and are doing so for financial purposes. I think that lobbying is apart of the machine like nature of organizations. I believe that Eisenhower viewed the broad array of side effects pertaining to the issue as complex.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1)

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Re: Complex vs. Lobby

by [James Croxton](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 8:46 PM

"This is somewhat analogous to the oxymoronic term
"radical conservative" that was discussed in one of
the first lectures."

I really appreciate this connection being made, thank you.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1)

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Re: The Military-Industrial Complex

by [James Croxton](#) - Sunday, May 27, 2018, 4:34 PM

Firstly, I agree with the commentator when he suggests that the term "military industrial complex" conjures an image of "a sinister bunch of people."

In response to the question at hand, I would say that the proper terminology would've been "catastrophic" in terms of the public opinion of the government. By using the term "complex," they (Eisenhower/the U.S. government) have distanced themselves from the very "complex" that they are a part of whether they want to admit it

or not.

--

Eisenhower took this contrary position because he was free to do so as he was outgoing. This being so, he was free to say what he wanted to a certain extent. They obviously can't just say anything.

I honestly wouldn't have been so understanding of this had I not seen what happened when President Trump came into office and started seeing our most two recent former President's , George W. Bush and Barack Obama respectively, criticize the current administration.

--

One, it has become apparent to me that the importance of terminology being used accurately is at an all-time high. Certainly, the podcast helped stress that, but most certainly it was all the emphasis on this in class that has it ingrained in my head. We often use terminology in the wrong way and this in a way negates your entire point.

Second, and of the utmost importance is the fact that so many of our current politicians and companies are financially entangled in this "complex." The article states that "151 members of Congress in 2006 had up to \$195.5 million of their personal assets invested in defense companies." How can this not alarm anyone?! This is a conflict of interest among other things. These people are literally profiting off the decisions they make on "behalf" of the taxpayers who rarely reap those same benefits.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: The Military-Industrial Complex

by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 8:31 PM

Hi James, I chose to respond to your post because you took the opposite stance on the topic that I did. I thought it was interesting reading about the other side of the argument. I agree about the importance of terminology however I think Eisenhower

meant what he said and it was probably premeditated. I really enjoyed your point about how this is a conflict of interests more than anything. I agree with this and hate that war has become a part of our economy and is partially why I agree with Eisenhower that this is indeed a complex. I think both of us could have done a better job of recognizing the opposition to us because your right about how terminology can completely change the meaning of a statement. Also I am curious what you meant when you referred to the situation as a military-industrial catastrophe.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: The Military-Industrial Complex

by [James Croxton](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 8:37 PM

I think much like when Orson Welles' *War of the Worlds* was broadcast for the first time, the "maturity" (or sophistication, if that makes more sense) of our society just wasn't where it needed it to be for what was taking place. It caused pandemonium.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: The Military-Industrial Complex

by [Shane McClintock](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 12:20 PM

The idea of privatization to me made since during Eisenhower's time. However, it seems to have snowballed since then. It is troublesome to me that individuals in congress are benefiting from the issue. Privatization seems to be becoming a large aspect of many divisions of our government. I think the long term effects of it are extremely detrimental and are going to out weigh the short term financial benefits.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: The Military-Industrial Complex

by [James Croxton](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 5:28 PM

Most certainly! And I hope it's not going off on too much of a tangent, but it's the same with the prison system here in the United States. People are literally profiting off of the

backs or minorities who are being thrown in on D.S. non-violent drug charges. It's disgusting to say the least.

I have no idea what it'll take to fix such an issue because like the military-industrial complex, it's too **complex**. However needs to be done at some point or it'll just keep getting worse and worse (and I can't even imagine what "rock bottom" would look like..

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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To Gear or Not To Gear, That Is The Question!!!

by [Larry Warner](#) - Sunday, May 27, 2018, 7:30 PM

Do you agree with the commentator about the use or misuse of the vocabulary (complex vs. lobby)?

Yes, I would agree with his interpretation. He did say during the podcast that he had seen the journal of the president to which he explained his use of the terms.

in his biography of Eisenhower, author Geoffrey Perret, claims that, in one draft of the speech, the phrase was "military-industrial-congressional complex", indicating the essential role that the United States Congress plays in the propagation of the military industry.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military-industrial_complex

What impact would the use of proper, truthful, descriptive, or clearly defined terminology have on the discussion?

the word "congressional" was dropped from the final version to appease the then-

currently elected officials.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military-industrial_complex

Does the fact that Eisenhower oversaw a military buildup in a time of peace, rather than war, affect your understanding of the situation? Why would Eisenhower, a former general, and outgoing commander-in-chief, take this seemingly contrary position in the middle of the Cold War?

Not really, but I think the reason he used the term was because he could see the “Iron Triangle” taking advantage of the American people to line the pockets of politicians and corporations making military supplies.

How are the concerns of this subject still applicable today, years after the conclusion of the Cold War in 1989?

The fact that corporations make a higher compensation when the military buys products is one issue, but with current issues like the fact that our plains are out dated and the fact the there are soldiers out there that don’t even have Kevlar is a big issue.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-05-02/has-the-american-military-fallen-behind>

Quote: “Thanks largely to the effects of waging simultaneous wars for over a decade, the American military is not at peak readiness. Even so, it remains the premier fighting force in the world.”

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Words and meanings



by [Casandra Fountain](#) - Sunday, May 27, 2018, 11:28 PM

To a degree I see where the commentator is coming from with word usage. He comments in the last forty-five seconds of his podcast that if he would have “changed the word from complex to lobby and it wouldn’t seem like such a crazy term. It reflects the complexity of it, there so many interlocking pieces it was hard to fight and it sound a little worse than it is. Make no mistake, Eisenhower was a supporter of military spending and basically created the peacetime military.” I believe word meaning has a huge impact on how one understands and takes away from a discussion. If words are used incorrectly or someone creates a different meaning in their head, the whole point of that speech has diminished. Because Eisenhower was in a time of peace rather than a war, it does sway my opinion of the situation. In my lifetime, I have seen nothing but military industrial complex, so to one understand without it is all hindsight. Secondly, he had no immediate threat at hand. Vietnam was still being “advised” and it wouldn’t be another two years until we sent combat troops in. It’s quite eery to me his last few sentences, “We should take nothing for granted. 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.” (2:05) According to the article, “The US military industrial complex is deeply embedded inside the Washington beltway. According to the most recent reports from OpenSecrets.org, 151 members of Congress in 2006 had up to \$195.5 million of their personal assets invested in defense companies.” (paragraph 5) Just goes to show how much we learn from our past.

Sum of ratings: [3 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Words and meanings

by [Hayley Allen](#) - Monday, May 28, 2018, 11:02 AM

I agree with everything except the point that using lobbying rather than complex would diminish the strength of the term. As you discussed, Eisenhower was the president who initiated the 'complex' between military industries and our government. That entanglement is complex however by not calling it what it is (lobbying) means the American people were left to figure that out on their own. You also mention how we didn't learn from our past because of the current congress has millions invested in these 'defense companies' which I agree is unethical on many levels although I argue that the majority of the American citizens were not aware that 'military-industrial complex' would turn into something of this degree. If Eisenhower would have properly explained or 'warned' of this complex to the people in his speech, then I do not think the outcomes would have been the same. I also ask, as you said that you have lived your entire life and seen nothing but military industrial complex does that mean you understood that it meant lobbying of the pentagon

complex, does that mean you understood that it meant lobbying of the pentagon and congress as well as the continued investment of our government in these war industries? I only ask because I have also heard this term for many years now in high school and college and have never been explained the actual meaning or historical context of where it originates. Once I learned what it meant and how it has been manipulated into policy, I wonder what I would have thought if it had been called military industrial lobbying or military industrial congressional complex. By exempting the government's role from the term leaves me and probably others to not question how this industry is so powerful or what makes it a complex.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)

2

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Re: The MIC A vicious cycle. military today is here to stay

by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Monday, May 28, 2018, 7:11 PM

Do you agree with the commentator about the use or misuse of the vocabulary (complex vs. lobby)? Eisenhower urged economy and honesty in government. I believe he chose to choose the term “complex” which in turn helps to grab the interests of the American people he could have choose Lobby. I think he saw the complexity of what could happen and wanted to get attention to a serious issue that could affect future generations. Even today this subject is talked about and so in ending obviously that word he chooses was powerful enough to get the attention it deserves in today’s times.

What impact would the use of proper, truthful, descriptive, or clearly defined terminology have on the discussion? If I am understanding this question correctly this is my example: February 28th 2017^{by Glenn Kesler} from the Washington post

Fact: \$6trillion spent in the middle East”

“America spent approximately six trillion dollars in the Middle East, during this time our infrastructure at home is crumbling and has been for some time now. With these six trillion dollars we could have rebuilt our country — twice.”

Fact: The president uses it in a misleading way, as the \$6 trillion-figure adds in estimates of future spending, ex. interest on the debt and veterans care for the next three decades. Yet Trump says that this money (not yet spent) could have rebuilt the U.S. economy. The wars in Iraq (in the Middle East) and Afghanistan (in South Asia) together cost about \$1.6 trillion from 2001 to 2014.

Does the fact that Eisenhower oversaw a military buildup in a time of peace,

rather than war, affect your understanding of the situation

My understanding of the situation has improved thus reading information on subject. I think he saw it at that time as a problem because of his understanding of War and the price that comes with it. And what it would take for it to happen and the potential of what it could do at home.

Why would Eisenhower, a former general, and outgoing commander-in-chief, take this seemingly contrary position in the middle of the Cold War?

Eisenhower presided over a period of growth and prosperity. It was not easy, and it wasn't without cost. As a former general, Ike's belief in utilizing the capacity of government stimulus to benefit the lives of the nation's citizens. Consider the dealings of Khrushchev exchange, and the U2 incident (and Ike's honesty, which is refreshing considering today's politicians). As President, he was advised twice to use atomic weapons - once as the French were losing Dien Bien Phu and then again during the Formosa Strait crisis.

He became so dead set against the reliance on conventional forces as an assertion of power. And because of this, we had all kinds of issues in Central America, Asia, the Middle East and other places. During that time; fell into an arms race that pushed the world to the brink of disaster. His parting speech about the dangers of a military industrial complex was surreal, and still has direct meaning today. Nobody but Eisenhower had the unique set of skills, experience, and personal qualities to lead the allied powers to victory and guide the United States into the age of atomic weaponry. Even though professionally he was a man of war, nobody loved peace more than him.

How are the concerns of this subject still applicable today, years after the conclusion of the Cold War in 1989?

The military, industrial, congressional, and administrative elite profit from defense spending, both financially and ideologically. Congress in 2006 had up to \$195.5 million of their personal assets invested in defense companies. Insider profit taking from pentagon spending is widespread in Washington. But perhaps more important is the belief that this global military machine is seen as necessary for the protection of US corporate interests and the American upper classes in an increasingly destabilized

world. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. Eisenhower cautioned that the federal government's collaboration with an alliance of military and industrial leaders, though necessary, was vulnerable to abuse of power.

This below is from: Capital from Carnage: An Analysis of the Military Industrial Complex

"Defense contractors "serving" the armed forces continue to line their pockets with taxpayer money today, with the military buyers continuing to spend billions on flawed weapons, planes, and weapon systems that will never even see combat. The military-industrial complex encompasses much more than squandered tax dollars on useless weapons programs. It has falsely justified the waging of pointless, impossible wars, and it has sent more and more of our soldiers to die in the name of profiteering.

Lockheed Martin, the nation's largest military contractor for war planes, raked in net sales of \$45.4 billion in 2013 by selling planes to the military to use in combat. The problem is that many of these planes are defective and never even make it to the war zone. Yet, Lockheed pockets the profits anyway and comes out with another complex machine that will guarantee our victory. Other corporations have since followed suit, giving rise to the military-industrial complex and a vicious cycle America cannot escape.

The elimination of the MIC would eliminate the abundance of profits that contractors and politicians receive from war. It has turned war into a business. Defense contractors and manufacturers make the Pentagon spend big bucks for the development and sale of their latest military product. Unfortunately, in their effort to cut production costs, the products sold to the Pentagon are flawed and often are never utilized in a war. Many projects are scrapped before they even go on the market, but not before the Pentagon invests billions of dollars into them in the hopes that all the bugs will be fixed.

The continuation of the MIC in the U.S. has ultimately made war more politically appealing. After all, wartime brings in far more profits than peacetime does. The reliance of the U.S. economy on weapons production and exportation has led big business to profit from war

If weapons are needed for use in wars overseas, the profits will keep rolling in. Although they are pocketed by manufacturers first, these profits eventually are funneled into the campaigns of politicians that support the defense contractors and ultimately the MIC. However, despite the financial and political gains, wars demand the price of bodies to fight in them."

-----This vicious cycle America cannot escape; military today is here to stay....

This was a part of Trump's first proposed budget plan we he entered office. ***The Key Spending Cuts and Increases in Trump's Budget***

Spending cuts: \$4.3 trillion over 10 years

Nondefense discretionary spending: \$1.4 trillion As outlined in March's "skinny budget, "the proposal includes significant cuts to most nondefense government agencies. The Environmental Protection Agency would be cut by 31 percent for 2018 and the State Department and related programs by 29 percent, with additional 2 percent cuts each year after. Law enforcement and homeland security spending are exceptions — the budget includes \$1.6 billion for a border wall.

Spending increases: \$717 billion over 10 years

Discretionary defense spending: \$469 billion Mr. Trump is proposing a roughly 10 percent increase to the Pentagon's base budget, with some of the money going toward new jets for the Air Force and ships for the Navy. The increase goes hand in hand with Mr. Trump's proposal to cut foreign aid, including programs that military officials say contribute to global stability and are important in avoiding future conflicts

To describe Left-wingers who crossed the floor, neocons are on the authoritarian right, rather than traditionally conservative libertarian right. They tend to be very pro-war and adopt the mentality of "Were better than you and we know it."

"Neoconservatives" believe that the United States should not be ashamed to use its unrivaled power – forcefully is necessary to promote its values around the world. Some also speak of the need to cultivate a US empire. They believe modern threats facing the US can no longer be reliably contained and therefore must be prevented, sometimes through preemptive military action. Most believe that the US has allowed dangers to gather by nit spending enough on defense and not confronting threats aggressively enough.

World's Largest Exporters of Arms List off internet

Rank	Country	Share of Arms Exports (%), 2011-2015
1	United States	33.00
2	Russia	25.00

2	Russia	20.00
3	China	5.90
4	France	5.60

Five Companies Profiting Most from War

February 28, 2012 [This list is off the internet](#)

5. General Dynamics (NYSE: GD)

- > Arms sales 2010: \$23.94 billion
- > Total sales 2010: \$32.47 billion
- > Arms sales as pct. of total sales: 74%
- > Total profit: \$2.62 billion
- > Total employment: 90,000
- > Sector: Artillery, Electronics, Military vehicles, Small arms/ammunition, Ships

General Dynamics is an American defense company that deals in aerospace, combat systems, information systems and technology, and marine systems. Although the company has been around since 1952, it has enjoyed a resurgence beginning in the 1990s, thanks largely to several mergers. Since 1997 General Dynamics says it has acquired more than 50 companies. Over this same period, its revenue increased from \$4 billion to more than \$32 billion. It also added more than 60,000 employees to its workforce. Currently, 74% of the company's sales are arms sales. General Dynamics owns Electric Boat and Bath Iron Works, two of the largest naval vessel builders in the world. General Dynamics is notable known for its Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine, the Sea wolf-class submarine, the M1 Abrams tank and the Arleigh-Burke-class destroyer.

4. Northrop Grumman (NYSE: NOC)

- > Arms sales 2010: \$28.15 billion
- > Total sales 2010: \$34.76 billion
- > Arms sales as pct. of total sales: 81%
- > Total profit: \$2.05 billion
- > Total employment: 117,100
- > Sector: Aircraft, Electronics, Missiles, Ships, Space

Northrop Grumman is the fourth-largest weapons contractor in the U.S. The company, which is based in Falls Church, Va., is one of the leaders in aerospace technology and the leading producer of naval vessels in the world. The company manufactures Nimitz-class carriers that are the current flagships of the U.S. Navy. And over the next few

years it is also set to build the new, \$9.7 billion Gerald R. Ford-class supercarriers. Northrop Grumman also develops radar systems for aircraft and ground defense, sensor systems for a variety of vehicles and several unmanned aircraft and drones. Weapons systems sales accounted for 81% of company revenue in 2010. Arms sales grew by approximately \$3.5 billion between 2007 and 2010.

3. Boeing (NYSE: BA)

- > Arms sales 2010: \$31.36 billion
- > Total sales 2010: \$64.31 billion
- > Arms sales as pct. of total sales: 49%
- > Total profit: \$3.31 billion
- > Total employment: 160,500
- > Sector: Aircraft, Electronics, Missiles, Space

As recently as 2007, Boeing was the largest arms producer in the world. By 2008, it had fallen behind Lockheed Martin and U.K.-based BAE Systems. The aerospace and defense company remain one of the largest in the world, however. Boeing is the second-largest aircraft producer in the world by deliveries, behind only Airbus. It is also the second-largest U.S. government contractor, procuring just under \$19.5 billion in contracts in 2010. Major products produced by the company include the KC-767, an aerial refueling tanker, and the F-15 fighter jet. Boeing made less in arms sales in 2010 than it did in 2009, although arms sales made up a larger amount of total sales — two percentage points, to be exact — in 2010 compared to 2009. Even in 2010, however, only 49% of revenue came from arms sales, which is among the lowest rates among companies on this list.

2. BAE Systems

- > Arms sales 2010: \$32.88 billion
- > Total sales 2010: \$34.61 billion
- > Arms sales as pct. of total sales: 95%
- > Total profit: \$1.67 billion
- > Total employment: 98,200
- > Sector: Aircraft, Artillery, Electronics, Missiles, Military vehicles, Small arms/ammunition, Ships

BAE Systems is an aerospace and defense contractor based in the UK. The company has a major U.S. subsidiary, BAE Systems, Inc., which by itself would be the seventh-largest weapons manufacturer in the world. The British company was formed in 1999 through the merger of Marconi Electronics (which was at the time a subsidiary of GE) and British Aerospace. BAE produces weapons systems in nearly every major military category, including aircraft, defense electronics, vehicles, naval vessels and small arms. Among the company's notable contributions are the M2/M3 Bradley fighting

vehicle, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the Type 45 destroyer and the Astute-class nuclear submarine. In 2010, 95% of its revenue came from arms sales, \$32.88 billion in all.

1. **1. Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT)**

- > Arms sales 2010: \$35.73 billion
- > Total sales 2010: \$45.80 billion
- > Arms sales as pct. of total sales: 78%
- > Total profit: \$2.93 billion
- > Total employment: 132,000
- > Sector: Aircraft, Electronics, Missiles, Space

2. **2.** Lockheed Martin is the largest arms-producing and military services company in the world, with nearly \$3 billion more in arms sales than second place BAE Systems. Although military sales make up most of its revenue, it is significantly less than many other major arms-producers, including BAE's 95% share. In addition, being the world's largest arms-seller, Lockheed is also the largest federal contractor in the U.S. by a large margin. In 2010, the company's government contracts totaled nearly \$36 billion. Lockheed produces several major products, including the Trident missile and the F-16 and F-22 fighter jets. Despite being the largest military service company on this list, Lockheed is only the fourth-largest company by overall sales among the companies featured on this list. In 2007, the Lockheed was the third-largest arms producer.

Defense contractors "serving" the armed forces continue to line their pockets with taxpayer money today, with the military buyers continuing to spend billions on flawed weapons, planes, and weapon systems that will never even see combat. The military-industrial complex encompasses much more than squandered tax dollars on useless weapons programs. It has falsely justified the waging of pointless, impossible wars, and it has sent more and more of our soldiers to die in the name of profiteering.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: The MIC A vicious cycle. military today is here to stay

by [Larry Warner](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 4:42 PM

Price gouging the military has long been a tradition. In today's terminology it is called war profiteering. I do agree that politicians should not be allowed to invest in companies that profit from the military, that is a back door way for them to receive kickbacks for the voting they may or may not do.

This article from July 1986 still rings true today:

a \$295 crowd-driver, a \$7,600 coffee maker, a \$287 flat washer, a \$460 wrecker, a

a \$263 screwdriver, a \$7,022 coffee maker, a \$507 flat washer, a \$409 wrench, a \$214 flashlight, a \$437 tape measure, a \$2,228 monkey wrench, a \$748 pair of duckbill pliers, a \$74,165 aluminum ladder, a \$659 ashtray

http://articles.latimes.com/1986-07-30/news/vw-18804_1_nut

a 2017 article:

TransDigm raised the rotor's price ninefold, from \$654 to \$5,474. Similarly, a vibration panel from Aerosonic rose from \$67 to \$271. A cable assembly from Harco jumped from \$1,737 to \$7.863.

<https://theintercept.com/2017/04/13/contractor-whose-business-model-is-price-gouging-the-pentagon-has-powerful-wall-st-backers/>

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1

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Re: The MIC A vicious cycle. Military today is here to stay

by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Monday, May 28, 2018, 8:32 PM

Congress in 2006 had up to \$195.5 million of their personal assets invested in defense companies. Insider profit taking from pentagon spending is widespread in Washington.

The statement above I posted in my first post on the issue and I forget to mention my thoughts on congress having personal assets invested in defense. In my opinion This is so wrong politicians and government person being able to invest in such a way. Let the "MIC" cycle never end and let make war happen, so that we can make money, its a good enterprise for making profit. But I suppose since they have been investing for years I guess it is legal. I guess it has its advantages.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1

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Re: The MIC A vicious cycle. Military today is here to stay

by [Shane McClintock](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 12:14 PM

I agree. It is concerning to me because, why would individuals want to stop something that they are benefiting from? It seems like a conflict of interest.

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Sum of ratings:0 (1) 0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Military-Industrial Complex**by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 5:54 PM

When speaking about the united states' military spending it is a very different situation than when Eisenhower spoke on this topic in his farewell speech. Perhaps his farewell speech could have been mostly pleasantries and an actual farewell and not just a warning. I am not arguing that Eisenhower was not light hearted in his speech. His warning to the public was not of the seriousness of the nations current spending, rather a warning for future generations if we continued on the warpath that the country was currently on. With this in mind I disagree with the commentator in this particular audio clip saying that Eisenhower misspoke. I think he meant to say that the country indeed had a military-industrial complex. However at the time this was not a serious issue considering the country had recently entered the largest and most violent war in world history. Not only was the massive increase in military spending necessary for bringing World War Two to a conclusion but, in the following years it remained necessary for maintaining national security during the cold war. For these reasons I believe that Eisenhower meant what he said that the United States has a serious military complex however necessary it may have been. Eisenhower even admitted some guilt to this being a five star general before his presidency. He also stated "Unjustified military spending is a waste of national resources." (Podcast 3:00) Believing that in his case he was absolutely justified but, if we continued this military complex into peace times could create major faults to our national well being. Hence his warning to the nation that may not have seemed serious at the time had very relevant undertones that we are dealing with the consequences of today. It seems clear that America did not heed his warnings. Today we deal with constantly increasing homeland security and a need to act as the world's police force. During Bush's presidency military spending increased greatly to help meet international demand for troops in theater wars. "This military global dominance agenda required forward deployment of US forces worldwide and increasing defense/war spending well into the 21st century. The result was a doubling of the US military budget to over \$700 billion in the last eight years." (Article Paragraph 3) Eisenhower's words still have much relevance today and the war machine that was referred to has not been stopped for years allowing the United States to focus its efforts in many proxy wars even after the cold war and making America the country with the highest military tax in the world.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**terminology**by [Cam Burnett](#) - Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 8:23 PM

by [Cam Barnett](#) - Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 8:20 PM

I do agree with the commentator that the vocabulary could have been used better and help it be understood easier, I think this could help people understand just exactly what Eisenhower meant with his statement as the commentator had said it with it being more of lobbying and making sure that all businesses get their money and the business they need. I don't think that the time of peace affected my understanding because while we were not at war necessarily the cold war was in play and so military build up had the foot pushed all the way down on the gas pedal and while it was peaceful it was a time of paranoia so it is understandable on how he handled it. And while he wasn't exactly taking the direction that you would think he would I think that the commentator put it well that he challenged the problem of the nation. We still see this today with military spending and how we try to have the best military build up and the amount of spending we do and while its said to be cut or try and cut nothing major ever really happens to it.

Sum of ratings: **1 (1)**

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Re: terminology

by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 11:33 PM

Hi Cam, I agree that Eisenhower's public address could have been altered to be more easily understandable. He was talking to the entire country and could have made his message more directed at the masses. I also agree that while Eisenhower is partially responsible for the massive military spending today it is very hard to place blame on him. Mostly because any president would have reacted similarly in his situation and also because he was a general and did what he thought was best for the country. However he knew that the way the military was at the time was unsustainable and warned the country against this. Sadly you are right though that nothing major has been done to prevent military spending since World War 2 even now that the paranoia is gone America still acts as if we are at war.

Sum of ratings: **1 (1)**

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Hello and Fairwell

by [Vanessa Heilmann](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 11:49 PM

First off, Eisenhower's speech sounds very ominous to me, even down to the music playing in the background. It was like he was warning us something is coming and that we need to be prepared. It's interesting to me that before he was president he had said military and politics don't belong together, right before he ended up running for office. Then as he exits office in his farewell speech he is now stressing that we need to

“recognize the need for this development.” (Eisenhower's 1961 Farewell Address) It's almost like once he was in office and learned the importance of both sides “meshing” he wanted to get his last word out to the public to stress the importance. In Bruce Carlson's podcast he says, “I don't think it was an extremely dark vision about America.” I agree that Eisenhower's intentions weren't to scare Americans into what's ahead, but I do believe he wanted us to be prepared.

I do disagree with Carlson that Eisenhower was meaning lobby rather than complex. According to www.collinsdictionary.com, military industrial complex, in the U.S is “the combined interests of the military establishment and industries involved in producing military material considered as exerting influence on US foreign and economic policy.” Lobby is “to seek to influence (a politician or public official) on an issue.” (wikipedia) To me that sounds more like Eisenhower was using the complex as the entrenched military industry and machines and stressing the importance rather than a last chance to promote a cause. Since Eisenhower had been a general he was familiar with the full particulars. Like he said, “After Korea, I wanted to make sure we were never so weak as to provoke an attack. (podcast) The importance he felt with this issue was really portrayed in his speech. “The potential for the national rise of mislead power exists and will persist, we must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes.” (Eisenhower's 1961 Farewell Address) The threat of communism and evil leaders was a common threat after WWII and Korea, so to be aware and prepared of another leader to come to power like that doesn't seem too “mysterious” to be paying attention too. Rather, a great tactical defense to be prepared as a country of what could happen.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Picking apart every word

by [Jordan Lopez](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 11:09 AM

When we take a look at speeches made by political leaders and people in position of power every word and sentence seems to be picked apart. Not saying this is a bad thing at all, its just whatever side of the spectrum one falls on politically or in any matter our perspective of the wording changes. I personally didn't pay attention to the word complex but to what he was discussing in the terms of what they what to do with our military. The attempt to increase the power and spending of the military during the cold war but not during a war isn't such a bad strategy. Eisenhower mentions being prepared and not having to improvise during wartime. The issue was with spending how companies want to turn a profit so they look to the Pentagon and the Pentagon looks to Congress and the Congress looks to the Administration. I feel like we are in a era of a new cold war today and not so much about spending since the \$700 billion

military budget dwarfs that of any nation. I feel like the U.S wants to maintain a healthy gap between the power of our nation and other nations especially with countries like North Korea, Russia, and China. The U.S wants to be the dominant power and what makes us powerful is our huge economy and highly budgeted military. I can picture seeing political leaders sweating at the idea of the gap between power diminishing especially with communist countries. You can even see foreign policies such as the Truman Doctrine and the cold war foreign policy in order to stop the spread of communism. I notice in Eisenhower's farewell address he talks about expanding the power of our military but says with our "peaceful methods and goals" and seeing how in the article written by Peter Phillips and how he mention how there was \$195.5 million invested in defense companies from 151 members of Congress and how defense companies like Boeing and Northrop Grumman donate money to influence Congress and during political campaigns. I can't see all these deals being made without any form of corruption existing which brings me back to the "peaceful methods and goals" quote said by Eisenhower.

Sum of ratings: **3 (1)**

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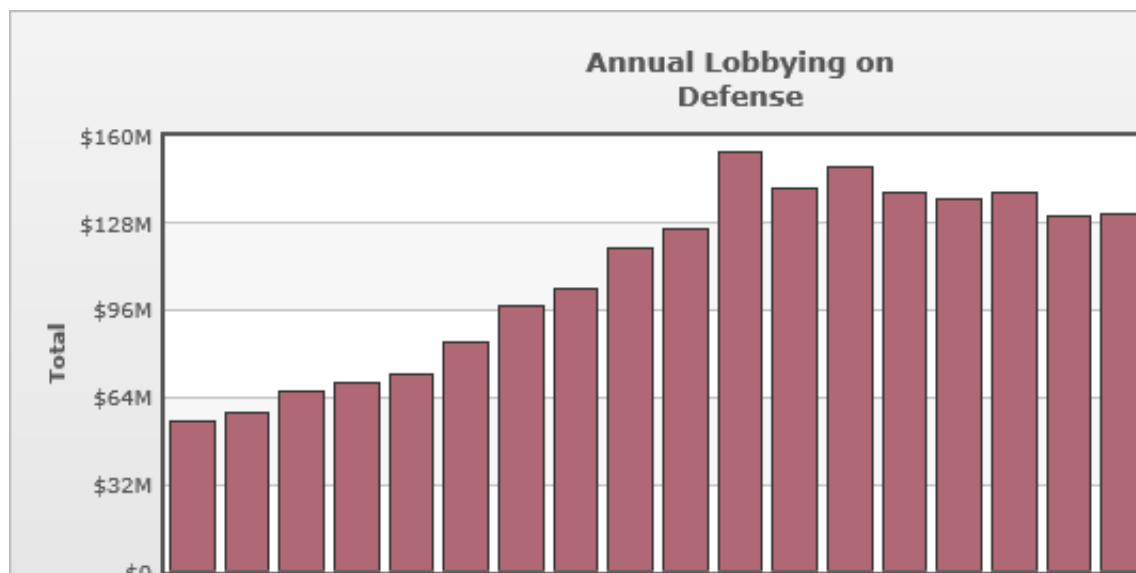


Re: Picking apart every word

by [Larry Warner](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 5:03 PM

I agree, language is open to the interpretation of the listener, whether it is legal or not the military has a long standing tradition of over paying for the item, gear, or vehicles that they buy from civilian companies, add to that the ability for politicians to invest in these companies. I am in no way saying that there is no corruption. Below is just the lobbyist spending not the campaign contributions.

<https://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/indus.php?id=D>



'98 '99 '00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15

Total for Defense: \$127,401,961**Total Number of Clients Reported: 222****Total Number of Lobbyists Reported: 786****Total Number of Revolvers: 558 (71.0%)***Campaign Contributions from this sector*

Industry	Total spending
Defense Aerospace	\$69,12
Defense Electronics	\$35,9
Misc Defense	\$22,36

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Financial Incentive**by [Shane McClintock](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 12:12 PM

The concerns of the military industrial complex are an issue that persist to this day. Mr. Escobar often mentions in class, "Follow the money." I think that it is important to consider some statistics that were given to us for this forum. "According to the most recent reports from OpenSecrets.org, 151 members of Congress in 2006 had up to \$195.5 million of their personal assets invested in defense companies." Major defense contractors such as: Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and General Dynamics made tremendous political campaign donations. These corporations often donated a large amount of money to both Republicans and Democrats to insure continuing support from either party. A scary topic of consideration related to the military industrial complex is the idea of a revolving door appointment, "Obama nominated Raytheon's senior vice president for government operations and strategy, William Lynn, for the number two position in the Pentagon. Lynn was formally the Defense Department's comptroller during the Clinton administration." A statement that I found to provide somewhat of an explanation of this phenomenon to me was that, "The military, industrial, congressional, and administrative elite profit from defense spending, both financially and ideologically. Insider profit taking from pentagon spending is widespread

in Washington. But perhaps more important is the belief that this global military machine is seen as necessary for the protection of US corporate interests and the American upper classes in an increasingly destabilized world.” I agree with Eisenhower that the issue is complex. There are numerous side effects with the privatization that has been occurring. One issue at the heart of the military industrial complex is lobbying. People are making an extraordinary profit and they are not going to want to give the opportunity up. It is troubling to me that congressional elite are profiting from defense spending. Why would they want to stop something that has become beneficial to themselves?

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Financial Incentive

by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 12:39 PM

Hi Shane, one of the things I really like about the class we are currently in is how Escobar doesn't gloss over the unsavory parts of history. The fact that even today there is an almost obvious paper trail as to why our military spending is so high. In the past it was due to companies like General Motors and Ford and now this pattern has continued with companies like Boeing which you mentioned. I actually didn't know this and thought it was interesting which is mainly why I wanted to respond to your post. I agree with your point that as long as military build up is profitable to our country people will not stop producing weapons and defense. This is kind of the nature of capitalism but I still thought it was cool that you noticed the "follow the money" trend and it is definitely applicable here and I think this is a large part of what Eisenhower spoke of in his address.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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How are the concerns of this subject still applicable today, years after the conclusion of the Cold War in 1989?

by [Chris Castro](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 1:29 PM

How are the concerns of this subject still applicable today, years after the conclusion of the Cold War in 1989?

The concern of the military industrial complex is very interesting to me because i can see both sides. On the one hand I do like the idea of america being a very prepared nation in which i can assuredly assume im safe. On the other hand where does our military spending stop? Does the military have to much power? These are things that i think about a lot. In the video clip of Obamas speech I liked how he went over the fact

that his administration has looked into the amount of power the military has. He even says there is no evidence that the military/ intelligence community is abusing these powers. If that truly is the case then i can put my fears aside, because the government is just using its power to keep me safe. Also the general public makes a huge deal about the NSA and what side of the argument is right and what's wrong. For me i don't really mind what the NSA is doing. Yes there are close to breaching my right to privacy, however they're doing it in a responsible way. If you have nothing to hide then i don't see what the issue is. They are trying to keep us safe by monitoring what's going on in the country. Also as stated in Obama's speech they aren't just wiretapping and listening to everyone's phone calls and invading your privacy. They are simply watching for dangerous warning signs, and if they find something odd they look into it. I have absolutely no problem with that. The bottom line comes down to the two sides of thinking. One side wants a strong government that watches over us and keeps us safe, and the other wants a strong government as well but they don't want that same strong government to watch over them too closely. It's a hard balance in my opinion because the government either has to do what it's doing now to keep us safe, which is upsetting a lot of Americans. Or it has to try and keep us safe from a distance almost. This debate will most likely never end in our country's history because there are so many different opinions on the issue, and the government will always make a choice that some people don't agree with.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: How are the concerns of this subject still applicable today, years after the conclusion of the Cold War in 1989?

by [Larry Warner](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 5:09 PM

The problem isn't so much that we have an over abundance of supplies (which I disagree to and extent, there have been reports of military personnel not being properly geared due to supply shortages), the problem comes in overpaying for the supplies the military buys. For example you and I bought a coffee maker for \$15.00 where the military is charged \$7,622 for the same coffee maker. This has been a long tradition with over charging the military.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: How are the concerns of this subject still applicable today, years after the conclusion of the Cold War in 1989?

by [Hayley Allen](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 7:38 PM

I thought your perspective was interesting comparing it to wanting a protective

military but also not an invasive one. I had the same contradiction when thinking about our military spending. Although I disagree with the size and extent of our military and it's power, I also agree that we do need to be prepared and protected from any attack. It can be used as diversion to avoid actual conflict because the U.S. weapons and military is so threatening. It will be interesting to see how this plays out with North Korea and future relations with difficult leaders. As much as people want to criticize the military industrial complex, it does do a good job at protecting me. But does it need to be that powerful? That part can be debatable.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2

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lobby or complex

by [Easton McVeigh-Walker](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 4:10 PM

I don't think the wording of this really matters, whether it is lobby or complex, either way it is going to be inaccurate and intimidate those who don't understand it. I think that Eisenhower was justified in his actions to beef up our defense during that time of peace in the Cold War because how many times have we seen in history when a country with no real defense or standing military is living in their little bubble of safety and a bigger and badder country with a real military comes "blitzkrieging" through your towns. Yes, I can understand the argument of it raising taxes too much and what seems like unnecessary military spending, however, I would rather have and not need, then need and not have.

On the other hand, unfortunately in this day and age of technology and cowardly terrorists, government seems to find its way into our personal lives where it seems they have no business. The average American is not some angry jihadist; however, they still need to keep tabs on individuals and in order to do this they must carry out these invasive surveillance operations. This goes with the concerns of today which is this digital frontier that connects us all more than we know. It is all a money game, between the corporations and the politicians involved. As long as those "experts" are keeping us safe from all enemies foreign and domestic I say keep it up.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2

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Lobbying vs Complex

by [Marissa Luther](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 11:07 PM

The podcast was very interesting to me. I fully agree that choosing the term "lobby(ing)" would be much less intimidating than "complex." As we frequently mention in class, using proper language is very important; or you could use improper language

and many people will go along with you, and “get” what you’re saying. I do not believe that the complexes are very different today than when Eisenhower was president though; many people were pressured into supporting the military based on history and social pressure and the backlash of people who didn’t support the military in WW2. The dictionary defines complex as “a group or system of different things that are linked in a close or complicated way,” which makes sense in the aftermath of industrializing the US arsenal. If we stop making weapons, many will lose jobs, and we could be at risk of attacks because our military is weak. These are connected issues. The complex of today is very similar with those who support our military. Those that support the military tend to do so wholeheartedly. The main difference is that we don’t lawfully punish those who don’t support the military anymore.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Eisenhower Position

by [Alexander Thompson](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 11:12 PM

I think Eisenhower took this seemingly overwhelming position on American Militarism because he was able to take a step back and look at the big picture, rather than tunnel visioning onto current problems. Yes, we were at odds with Russia and we didn't want them to be more powerful than us, But what will other countries start to think of the US as we grow more in power. As he mentioned this military growth was something we had never done before, imagine giving a 10 year old the keys to a semi truck. Would you trust them to use the truck responsibly? This is still a problem today, the US, Russia, China, North Korea (well probably) are all continuously expanding their militaries. We didn't stop after the cold war ended. The US's Military is growing, and political tensions with it.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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