Global Wars, Warming, Inequality

Three Interconnected Crises Threaten Our Planet

How Militarism and Wars Promote Climate Change

The climate crisis can only be halted if we confront the neglected role of the U.S. military in driving global warming.
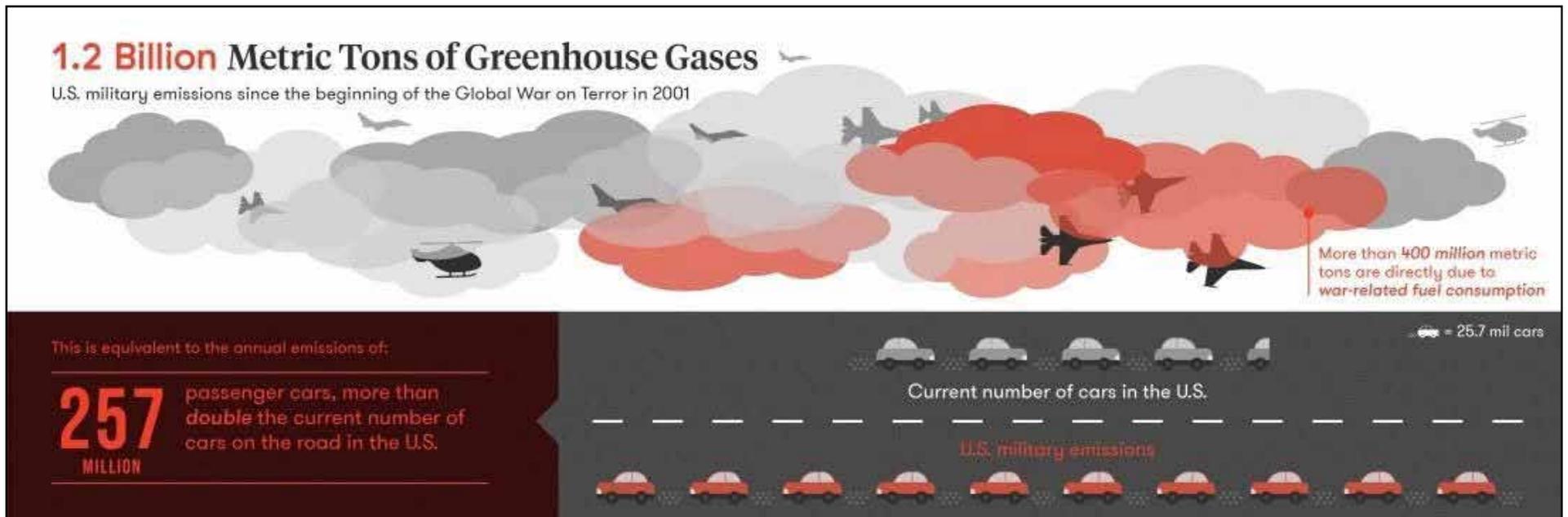
U.S. military actions warm the planet, and its gigantic budget drains funding that is needed for developing and implementing NEW GREEN TECHNOLOGIES AND JOBS.

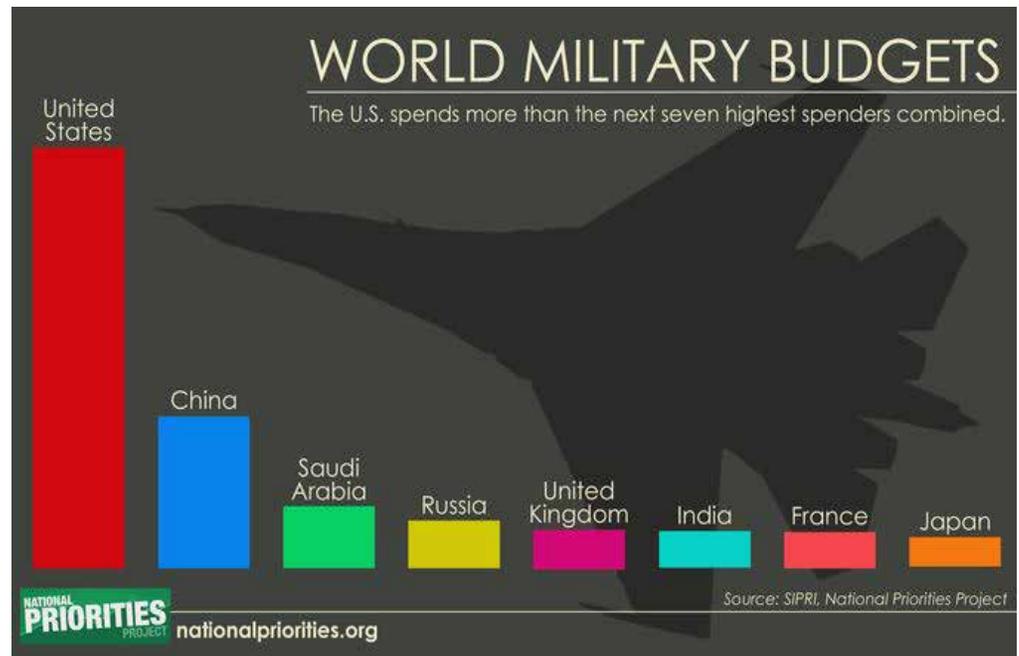# Who is the world's largest institutional consumer of fossil fuels and producer of greenhouse gas?

None other than THE U.S. MILITARY

1.2 Billion Metric Tons of Greenhouse Gases

U.S. military emissions since the beginning of the Global War on Terror in 2001

More than 400 million metric tons are directly due to war-related fuel consumption

This is equivalent to the annual emissions of:

257 MILLION passenger cars, more than double the current number of cars on the road in the U.S.

= 25.7 mil cars

Current number of cars in the U.S.

U.S. military emissions

In 2019 the U.S. spent $741 billion on its military,
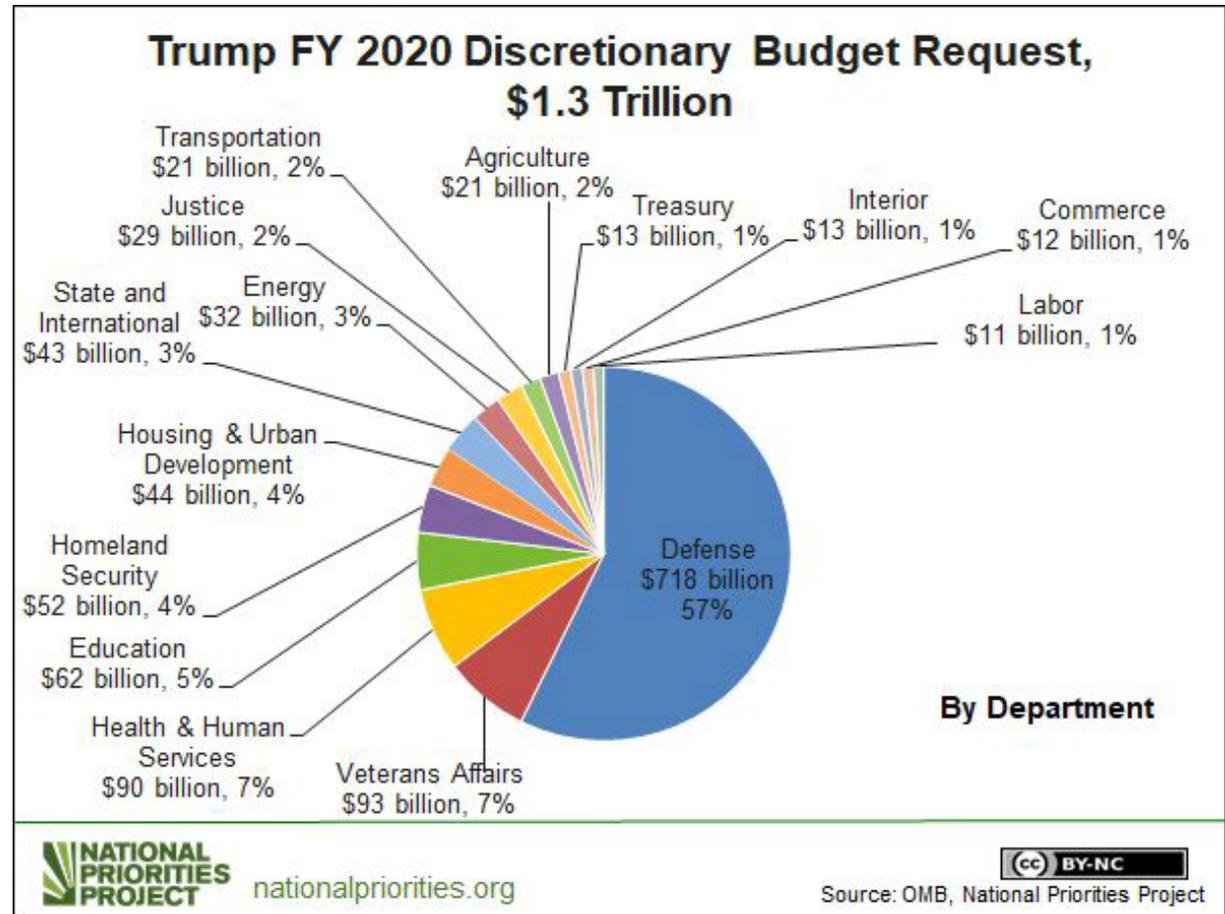# More than the next seven countries
COMBINED

- The U.S. has the world's largest air force and navy.

- The U.S. maintains 800+ bases with 200,000 soldiers in 170 countries.

- For decades the U.S. has fought wars and occupied countries to assure access to oil.

WORLD MILITARY BUDGETS
The U.S. spends more than the next seven highest spenders combined.

United States

China

Saudi Arabia

Russia

United Kingdom

India

France

Japan

Source: SIPRI, National Priorities Project

NATIONAL PRIORITIES PROJECT nationalpriorities.org

We say: We've got the money
We're just spending it on the WRONG THINGS

60% of federal discretionary spending goes to the military, leaving just **40%** for everything else.

Trump FY 2020 Discretionary Budget Request, $1.3 Trillion

Transportation $21 billion, 2%

Justice $29 billion, 2%

State and International $43 billion, 3%

Energy $32 billion, 3%

Agriculture $21 billion, 2%

Treasury $13 billion, 1%

Interior $13 billion, 1%

Commerce $12 billion, 1%

Labor $11 billion, 1%

Housing & Urban Development $44 billion, 4%

Homeland Security $52 billion, 4%

Education $62 billion, 5%

Health & Human Services $90 billion, 7%

Veterans Affairs $93 billion, 7%

Defense $718 billion 57%

By Department

NATIONAL PRIORITIES PROJECT

nationalpriorities.org

(cc) BY-NC

Source: OMB, National Priorities Project

The coronavirus pandemic has shown with shocking clarity how desperately the U.S. needs

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

and a well-functioning public health system.

and

We need much more money for

EDUCATION, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION

and for new green technologies and new good-paying green jobs that will

REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING.

Here's one way to LOOK at it:

If the military budget were cut by 10% for one year, that would save New York State taxpayers $6.24 billion that could then pay for:

15.14 Million Households with Solar Electricity for 1 Year, or

16.25 Million Households with Wind Power for 1 Year, or

84,240 Clean Energy Jobs Created for 1 Year, or

61,115 Elementary School Teachers for 1 Year, or

2.07 Million Kids from Low-Income Families Receive Healthcare for 1 Year, or

1.13 Million Adults from Low-Income Families Receive Healthcare for 1 Year

https://www.nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/trade-offs/?state=36&program=47

It's not only the money

U.S. WARS
leave toxic waste, deforestation, and desertification in their wake

Wind and solar farms, recycling, composting, and electric cars can't prevent this environmental degradation

ONLY A CHANGE IN US FOREIGN POLICY CAN REVERSE THE DAMAGE FROM U.S. WARS.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROMOTES WAR

Climate change is a "threat multiplier" because it:

- leads to food and water shortages.

- raises energy prices.

- disrupts global supply chains.

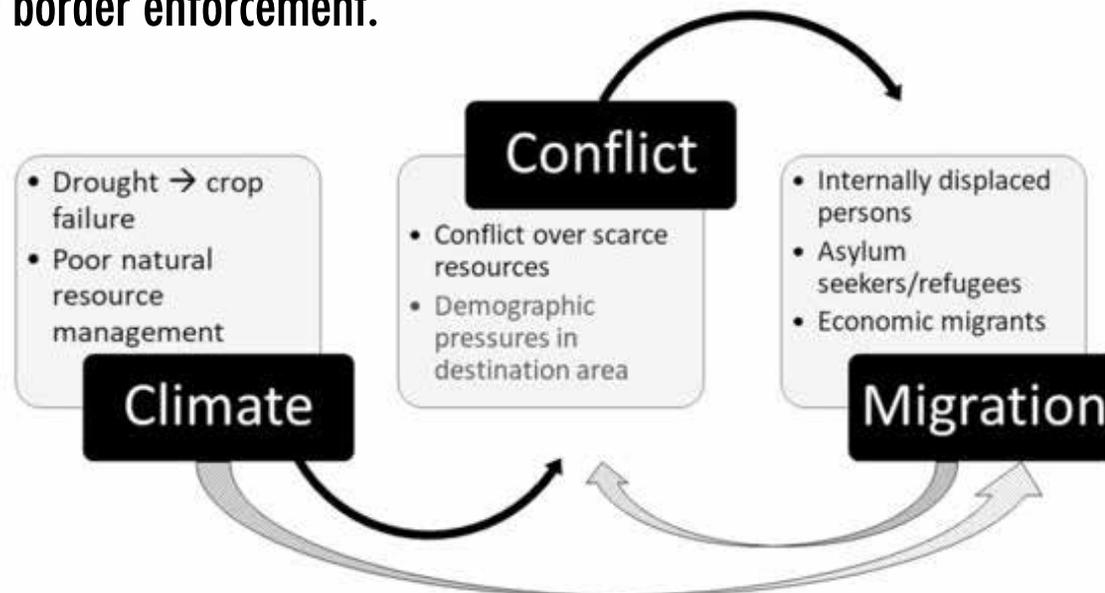- contributes significantly to political instability and civil conflict, as in Syria & Mali.

THE DEFENSE DEPT. SEES CLIMATE CHANGE AS A THREAT TO U.S. SECURITY

- Rising sea levels, hurricanes, and wildfires threaten U.S. military bases at home and abroad just as they threaten coastal cities around the globe.

- As the number of extreme weather events increases, the U.S. military must engage in more disaster relief -- stretching combat-readiness thin in the view of military leaders.

- Even the Department of Defense recognizes that climate change is real and is a threat to US security.

Base thoughts

Military sites reporting climate-related* problems September 2015

Source: United States Department of Defence

*Flooding, extreme temperatures, wind, drought, wildfire

CLIMATE CRISIS AND MILITARISM INCREASE INEQUALITY AND ERODE THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET

- Across the world heat waves and droughts impact the poorest the hardest.

- In 2018, war and climate change created 25.9 million refugees.
  According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, "climate, environmental degradation and natural disasters increasingly interact with the drivers of refugee movements."

- The response to migration from the U.S. and some other nations is to militarize border enforcement.

Climate
- Drought → crop failure
- Poor natural resource management

Conflict
- Conflict over scarce resources
- Demographic pressures in destination area

Migration
- Internally displaced persons
- Asylum seekers/refugees
- Economic migrants

POOR PEOPLE SUFFER THE MOST FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

- Extracting and burning oil, natural gas and coal devastates the surrounding land, air and water.

- Nearby communities have much higher rates of respiratory problems like asthma. They are disproportionately communities of color.

- Across the global South people living in low-lying areas are hit hardest by super storms and rising sea levels. But the global north is not spared. Think New Orleans, NYC, Puerto Rico.

What We Need

PASSAGE OF A GREEN NEW DEAL

- Cut greenhouse gas emissions 40-60% by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

- 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

- Create millions of good, high-wage jobs.

- Invest in the infrastructure and industry of the United States.

- Secure for all people of the United States clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, access to nature; and a sustainable environment.

- Promote justice and equity for all peoples and all communities.

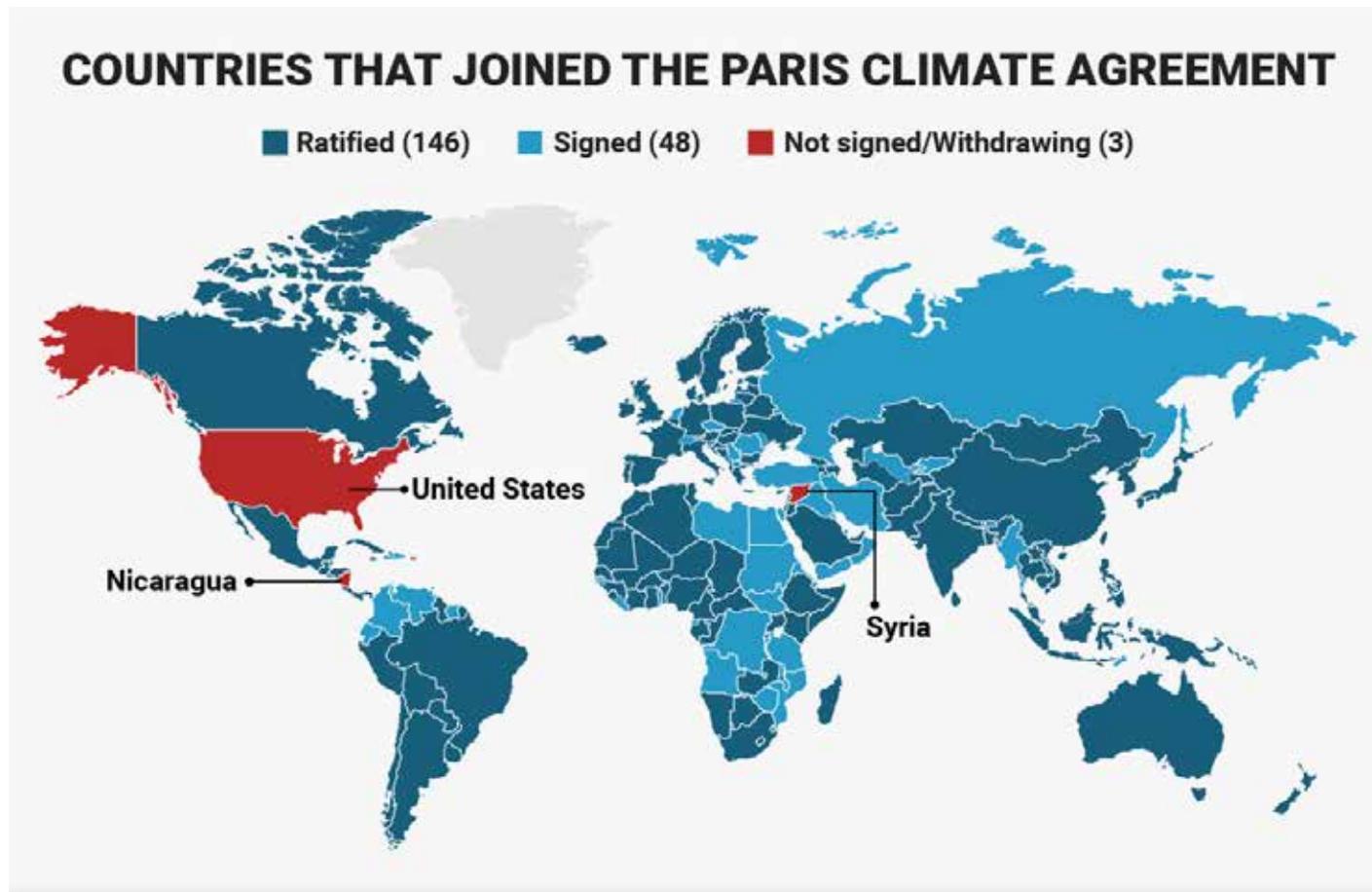- Reduce the activities and funding of the military.

THE MONEY IS THERE IF WE SHIFT OUR PRIORITIES

Critics say the GND costs too much. But the costs of inaction are greater.

- Climate change has decreased biodiversity, destroyed many natural habitats and forced wild animals and humans into close contact, contributing to outbreaks of diseases like Zika, Ebola and COVID-19.

- Without a GND, the US real national income could drop 10.5% between now and 2090.

- If global emissions continue at the current rate, global economic output would drop 7.2% by 2099. If the Paris Accord goals are met, the drop would be only 1.1%.

- WHO estimates that if climate changed is not tackled, there could be 250,000 excess deaths globally per year between 2030-2050.

https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/climate-change-costs-inaction-green-new-deal/16

THE US MUST REJOIN THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic may have given us a preview of the world-wide havoc that the increasingly common "natural" disasters can cause. But eventually the spread of this disease will be contained, many will recover from infection, and vaccines will prevent this contagion. Not so our planet. Climate change, which has been going on for decades, is about to reach the point where it cannot be reversed. WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO ACT.

COUNTRIES THAT JOINED THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Ratified (146) Signed (48) Not signed/Withdrawing (3)

United States

Nicaragua

Syria

WHAT WE CAN DO

- Rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Cut military spending.
- Pass a Green New Deal.
- Join a peace, environmental, or social justice organization.
- Acknowledge that peace, equality and climate are part of the same struggle.

GET ACTIVE WITH US!

Since 1984, BROOKLYN FOR PEACE has been organizing for peace with social justice, united in our concern for future generations.

BROOKLYN FOR PEACE

bfp@brooklynpeace.org   718-624-5921   brooklynpeace.org

Find us on   **f** brooklyn4peace   **○** brooklyn4peace   **🐦** brooklyn4peace