

GUNS OR BUTTER?

Between the war-oriented and people-oriented, and between the poorer and richer, parts of the world, the gulfs are wider than ever. A poverty of resources for human needs contrasts with the affluence under which military programs operate. The threats that touch people in their daily lives—joblessness, crime, illness, hunger—rank lower in the scale of government priorities than preparations for war. Throughout the world, the poor, the ill-fed, ill-housed, and ill-educated steadily increase in numbers. The Danger and the size of the social deficit grow with neglect.

- The United States and Soviet Union, first in military power, rank 18th and 33rd among all nations in their infant mortality rates.
- Through public budgets, the world community carries more insurance against deliberate military attack than against illness, disease, and all natural disasters.
- At present levels of military spending, the average person can expect over his lifetime to give up three to four years income to the arms race.
- The world's budget for military research is more than six times the size of its budget for energy research.
- The developed nations spend 20 times more for their military programs than for economic assistance to the poorer countries.
- In the developing world, 1,400,000,000 people have no safe drinking water, 520,000,000 suffer from malnutrition.
- The cost of one Trident submarine equals the cost of a year's schooling for 16,000,000 children in developing countries.

From Ruth Leger Sivard, *World Military and Social Expenditures 1977*
(Leesburg, VA : WMSE Publications, 1977.)

Most Important Problem Trend: Public's Top Concerns, 1935-2011

1935: Unemployment	1978: High cost of living/energy problems
1936: Unemployment	1979: High cost of living/energy problem
1937: Unemployment	1980: High cost of living/unemployment
1938: Keeping out of war	1981: High cost of living/unemployment
1939: Keeping out of war	1982: Unemployment/inflation/economy
1940: Keeping out of war	1983: Unemployment/fear of war/ inflation
1941: Keeping out of war/winning war	1984: Unemployment/fear of war/ International tensions/ inflation/ deficit
1942: Winning war	1985: Fear of war/International tensions/ Unemployment/inflation/deficit
1943: Winning war	1986: Unemployment/fear of war/ international tensions
1944: Winning war	1987: Economy/deficit/fear of war/ international tensions
1945: Winning war	1988: Economy/deficit/unemployment/ drugs/drug abuse
1946: High cost of living	1989: Drugs/drug abuse/poverty/ homelessness/ economy/deficit
1947: High cost of living/labor unrest	1990: Drugs/drug abuse/deficit/economy/ poverty/ homelessness
1948: Keeping Peace	1991: Gulf War/economy/poverty/ homelessness/ drugs/drug abuse
1949: Labor unrest	1992: Health care/economy/ unemployment/deficit
1950: Labor unrest	1993: Health care/economy/ unemployment/ crime/ violence/deficit
1951: Korean War	1994: Crime/violence/health care/ economy
1952: Korean War	1995: Crime/economy/unemployment/deficit
1953: Keeping peace	1996: Economy/unemployment/crime/deficit
1954: Keeping peace	1997: Crime/economy/unemployment/drugs
1955: Keeping peace	1998: Crime/drugs/economy/unemployment
1956: Keeping peace	1999: Crime/healthcare/drugs/economy/ unemployment
1957: Race relations/keeping peace	2000: Crime/healthcare/drugs
1958: Unemployment/keeping peace	2001: Ethics/family decline/education
1959: Keeping peace	2002: Terrorism/Economy
1960: Keeping peace	2003: Fear of war/international tensions/economy
1961: Keeping peace	2004: Fear of war/international tensions/economy
1962: Keeping peace	2005: Situation in Iraq/war/dissatisfaction with government
1963: Keeping peace/race relations	2006: Fear of war/international tensions/economy
1964: Vietnam/race relations	2007: Fear of war/international tensions/economy
1965: Vietnam/race relations	2008: High cost of living/ Fear of war /economy
1966: Vietnam	2009: Unemployment/health care/economy
1967: Vietnam/high cost of living	2010: Unemployment/deficit/health care/economy
1968: Vietnam	2011: Unemployment/ economy/deficit/ health care
1969: Vietnam	
1970: Vietnam	
1971: Vietnam/high cost of living	
1972: Vietnam	
1973: High cost of living/Watergate	
1974: High cost of living/Watergate/energy crisis	
1975: High cost of living/unemployment	
1976: High cost of living/unemployment	
1977: High cost of living/unemployment	

Source: The Gallup Report, No. 198 (March 1982) p.13 update year by year since 1982 (same source)

Source: <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t212006.pdf> (2001-2004)

Source: <http://www.gallupoll.com/content/?ci=14338> (2005)