

Military Weapons Could Not Save Us from Coronavirus

by Glen Anderson June 14, 2020

The U.S. has the biggest, most powerful inventory of military weapons in the world. We have spent trillions of dollars to build thousands of nuclear weapons and many other kinds of bombs, artillery, jet fighters, aircraft carriers, submarines, and other “Weapons of Mass Destruction,” along with hand-held guns for land troops.

None of those protected us from the Coronavirus pandemic. Indeed, for many decades the U.S.’s Presidents and Congresses have made military spending their top priority in the federal budget. They have seriously failed to fund health care, education, the environment, infrastructure, and efforts to fight poverty. All of those were sacrificed in order to spend more and more on military weapons and many endless wars.

The government claimed that recklessly huge spending for military weapons was necessary for “national security.” But those horribly distorted budget priorities left our nation HORRIBLY INSECURE because so many of our people had already been suffering from inadequate health care and from poverty and homelessness. The recklessly huge amount of military spending was unable to protect us from a tiny virus. No amount of nuclear weapons could protect us from Coronavirus.

Defining “national security” in terms of militarism distracts us from what we actually need in order to be “secure.” Our nation is NOT “secure” when tens of millions of Americans lack health care (and Trump and the Republicans keep trying to take health care away from millions more of us). Our nation is NOT “secure” when many millions are poor and half a million are homeless. Our nation is NOT “secure” when Trump and Republicans abolish environmental protections for our air and water. The list goes on and on.

Trump and the current batch of deliberately cruel Republicans are not the first elected officials to cause these problems. More than half a century of Presidents

and Congresses of BOTH political parties stupidly distorted our federal budget priorities and made the U.S. – in Martin Luther King’s words – “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today.” BOTH of the big political parties have built U.S. foreign policy upon a cruel foundation of military violence and have antagonized the rest of the world with arrogance, exploitation and cruelty.

Militarism does not solve problems. More than a century ago the supporters of World War I marketed it as “the war to end all wars.” How well did that work?

Trump and BOTH political parties in Congress are recklessly escalating military spending – especially for expensive new weapons (including some that are far over budget and still do not work). The giant business corporations that fund Congressional candidates in BOTH political parties keep their campaign contributions flowing in order to reap bigger and bigger profits. Meanwhile, Trump is destroying treaties that have been reducing the dangers of wars for decades.

This article’s headline (above) states, “Military Weapons Could Not Save Us from Coronavirus.” No, militarism did not prevent the pandemic. Militarism left us horribly insecure. And BOTH of the big, corrupt political parties are making us LESS secure. Neither of the big-party presidential nominees wants to seriously cut military spending, and neither do the vast majority of Congressional incumbents or candidates.

If we are to solve the problems, the solutions must come from ordinary people at the grassroots. People need to inform themselves and organize bold nonviolent movements from the grassroots. If we inform the public raise public consciousness, and change our nation’s political culture away from “American Exceptionalism” to a demand for peace and social justice, then we can “throw the rascals out,” save America from its serious systemic problems, and create a bold, humane future.