



THE COST OF INVADING IRAQ

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The Bush Administration currently proposes to wage war on Iraq. Below are a few considerations about the cost of that action to the American people.

A war on Iraq is likely to cost \$100 billion.

Experts, including Senator Joseph Biden, Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, indicate that the war may cost as much as \$80-\$100 billion. The 1990-91 Gulf War cost \$61 billion, according to the Department of Defense. That's almost \$80 billion in today's dollars. In this case, the administration policy is for a change of regime, suggesting the possibility of a longer, more involved and more costly war.

How Much is \$100 billion?

- Three times what the federal government spends on K-12 education.
- Enough to provide health care to all uninsured children in the U.S. for 5 years.
- More than four times the total international affairs budget.

Rebuilding Iraq is likely to cost at least \$50 billion.

Different experts weighed in on reconstruction efforts during the recent Senate hearings on Iraq. According to Samuel Berger, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor during the Clinton Administration, estimates for re-building the Iraqi economy range from \$50-\$150 billion. Scott R. Feil, retired colonel and expert on post-conflict reconstruction, argued that significant material and personnel resources would be required for reconstruction. Just the security forces alone would entail 75,000 personnel in the first year, amounting to \$16.5 billion. At least 5,000 troops would have to remain in place for 5-10 years, costing over \$1 billion a year. Beyond security, the U.S. would be expected to make a significant contribution for humanitarian and emergency aid, a transitional administration, civil service and other components of reconstruction. Feil estimated that these non-security costs would amount to \$15-\$25 billion over the next decade.

United States citizens would have to pay for the vast majority of the war.

The U.S. had much international support during the Gulf War. Allies picked up almost 90% of its cost. However, this war does not have international support. Many allies have made it clear that they are not in favor of a preemptive strike. Germany and Saudi Arabia, among the largest cash and in-kind contributors to the Gulf War, have indicated their complete opposition to an invasion. The U.S. people should expect to pay for most of the war as well as reconstruction.

The **National Priorities Project** offers citizens and community groups tools and resources to shape federal budget and policy priorities which promote social and economic justice. For more information, contact us at:

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WHAT WOULD THE WAR ON IRAQ COST YOUR STATE?

The table below presents the estimated cost to your state for a war against Iraq. The cost is based on each state's portion of individual income taxes and assumes that the U.S. will bear the entire cost of a \$100 billion war. The total does not equal \$100 billion because only individual income taxes are included; corporate and other taxes that would pay for the cost of the war are not included.

| STATE | COST OF WAR | STATE | COST OF WAR |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| United States (Total) | \$100,000,000,000 | Missouri | \$1,349,000,000 |
| United States (Ind'l Income Taxes) | 81,282,000,000 | Montana | 154,000,000 |
| Alabama | 879,000,000 | Nebraska | 412,000,000 |
| Alaska | 188,000,000 | Nevada | 648,000,000 |
| Arizona | 1,199,000,000 | New Hampshire | 425,000,000 |
| Arkansas | 451,000,000 | New Jersey | 3,609,000,000 |
| California | 10,159,000,000 | New Mexico | 315,000,000 |
| Colorado | 1,367,000,000 | New York | 6,780,000,000 |
| Connecticut | 1,843,000,000 | North Carolina | 1,853,000,000 |
| Delaware | 239,000,000 | North Dakota | 122,000,000 |
| D.C. | 229,000,000 | Ohio | 2,944,000,000 |
| Florida | 4,805,000,000 | Oklahoma | 631,000,000 |
| Georgia | 2,094,000,000 | Oregon | 810,000,000 |
| Hawaii | 265,000,000 | Pennsylvania | 3,465,000,000 |
| Idaho | 230,000,000 | Rhode Island | 276,000,000 |
| Illinois | 4,322,000,000 | South Carolina | 804,000,000 |
| Indiana | 1,542,000,000 | South Dakota | 158,000,000 |
| Iowa | 638,000,000 | Tennessee | 1,347,000,000 |
| Kansas | 670,000,000 | Texas | 5,648,000,000 |
| Kentucky | 782,000,000 | Utah | 426,000,000 |
| Louisiana | 885,000,000 | Vermont | 143,000,000 |
| Maine | 267,000,000 | Virginia | 2,168,000,000 |
| Maryland | 1,740,000,000 | Washington | 2,065,000,000 |
| Massachusetts | 2,580,000,000 | West Virginia | 289,000,000 |
| Michigan | 2,949,000,000 | Wisconsin | 1,432,000,000 |
| Minnesota | 1,493,000,000 | Wyoming | 147,000,000 |
| Mississippi | 438,000,000 | Outside US and DC | 606,000,000 |

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