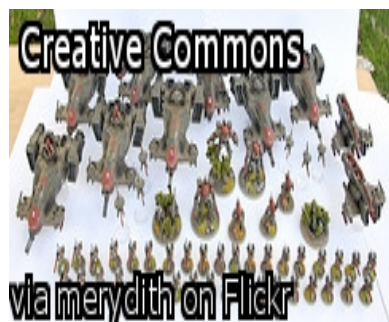


Global military spending falls

16th April, 2013



The amount the world spent on arms has fallen for the first time since 1998. This is according to the annual review of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). It said

global military spending in 2012 fell to \$1.75 trillion, a drop of half a per cent from 2011. That figure is roughly 2.5 per cent of the world's GDP, or about \$250 for every person on Earth. The USA was the biggest spender, although its share fell below 40 per cent for the first time. The USA and its NATO allies spent one trillion dollars last year on their militaries. SIPRI said the decline is largely due to a decrease in the amount spent on fighting wars, particularly with military action in Afghanistan winding down.

SIPRI noted that while spending is falling in America and Europe, it is on the rise elsewhere. SIPRI spokesman Sam Perlo-Freeman said: "We are seeing what may be the beginning of a shift in the balance of world military spending from the rich Western countries to emerging regions." He said budgets in China, Russia, the Middle East and North Africa were on the rise. China is now the world's second-biggest spender after its budget rose by 7.8 per cent last year. However, this expenditure does not mean China is second in terms of world military power. SIPRI said: "China in some respects is still well behind Europe, even though it now spends as much as Britain, France and Germany combined."

Sources: *Bloomberg.com* / *NationalDefenseMagazine.com*

Writing

Global military spending should be zero. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

spending on arms / peace / world GDP / biggest spender / militaries / fighting wars / shift / balance / rich Western countries / emerging regions / budgets / military power

True / False

- The United Nations said global spending on arms had decreased. T / F
- The world spent over \$1.5 trillion on arms last year. T / F
- \$250 is spent on weapons for each person on the planet. T / F
- The fall in spending is mainly because of economic austerity measures. T / F
- Spending on arms by European countries increased in 2012. T / F
- There is a change in how world regions are spending on arms. T / F
- China has the world's second largest military budget. T / F
- China spends more on arms than the whole of Europe combined. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. amount | a. yearly |
| 2. fallen | b. mainly |
| 3. annual | c. outlay |
| 4. largely | d. sum |
| 5. winding down | e. up-and-coming |
| 6. noted | f. very much |
| 7. shift | g. observed |
| 8. emerging | h. dropped |
| 9. expenditure | i. movement |
| 10. well | j. ending |

Discussion – Student A

- How good is it that military spending has gone down?
- Are you happy with the amount your country spends on arms?
- What would happen if all countries disarmed?
- What do you think of \$250 being spent on arms for everyone alive?
- Will the world change if other powers spend more than the USA?
- Will there ever be a Third World War?
- Should countries spend more money on peaceful cooperation and less on arms?
- Why do countries have to fight each other? Why can't they talk?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. annual | a. elsewhere |
| 2. roughly 2.5 per cent | b. biggest spender |
| 3. its share fell | c. spent on fighting wars |
| 4. a decrease in the amount | d. behind Europe |
| 5. military action in Afghanistan | e. regions |
| 6. it is on the rise | f. of the world's GDP |
| 7. a shift | g. review |
| 8. emerging | h. winding down |
| 9. the world's second- | i. in the balance |
| 10. still well | j. below 40 per cent |

Discussion – Student B

- Is it immoral to spend 2.5% of GDP on arms?
- Why are other regions increasing their military spending?
- Are there countries that should not be allowed to have any weapons?
- Would world politics change if China were the strongest military power?
- What is the world's most dangerous country?
- Will every country be armed enough to destroy the world one day?
- Do you think the fall in military spending is temporary?
- What questions would you like to ask an arms dealer?

Spelling

- This is airdognc to the annual review
- research iteistutn
- ouhglry 2.5%
- its erahs fell
- one tiinollr dollars
- aplcluryarit with military action
- it is on the rise esheewr
- gneimerg regions
- its getubd rose by 7.8 per cent
- this epuerxniedt
- in some ptsserce
- Britain, France and Germany nmidcboe

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. a	4. b	5. j
6. g	7. i	8. e	9. c	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Arms maker

You think all countries need the very latest arms. Tell the others three reasons why. You think people who say there should be no arms in the world are crazy. You believe any country that has no arms will be taken over by its neighbours. Countries will always have arms.

Role B – Peace activist

You think it is time for peace in the world and that countries should destroy their arms. Tell the others three reasons why. A world without arms would mean more money to benefit the lives of billions. No arms means no wars. You believe arms makers are evil.

Role C – Soldier

You have fought in several wars. You have seen enough to believe fighting and weapons are bad. The whole world must disarm. Tell the others three reasons why. You hate the arms industry and believe it is pulling strings to get governments to buy lots of weapons.

Role D – Government leader

You need your government to be heavily armed to be strong. Tell the others three reasons why. You know that if your military isn't strong, other world powers will attack you. Having a strong military is a great deterrent to keep your nation and people safe.

Speaking - Arms

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most dangerous at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- knives
- fighter jets
- chemical weapons
- hand grenades
- missiles
- handguns
- tanks
- land mines

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.