

Selling Democracy

Economic, Democratic, and Military
Structures that support Empire

The History of Empire in America

Colonized by the empires of Spain, France and England. The European culture of imperialism was transplanted in the Americas.

Within a few years of settlement, the corporate empire builders began conquering the native tribes.

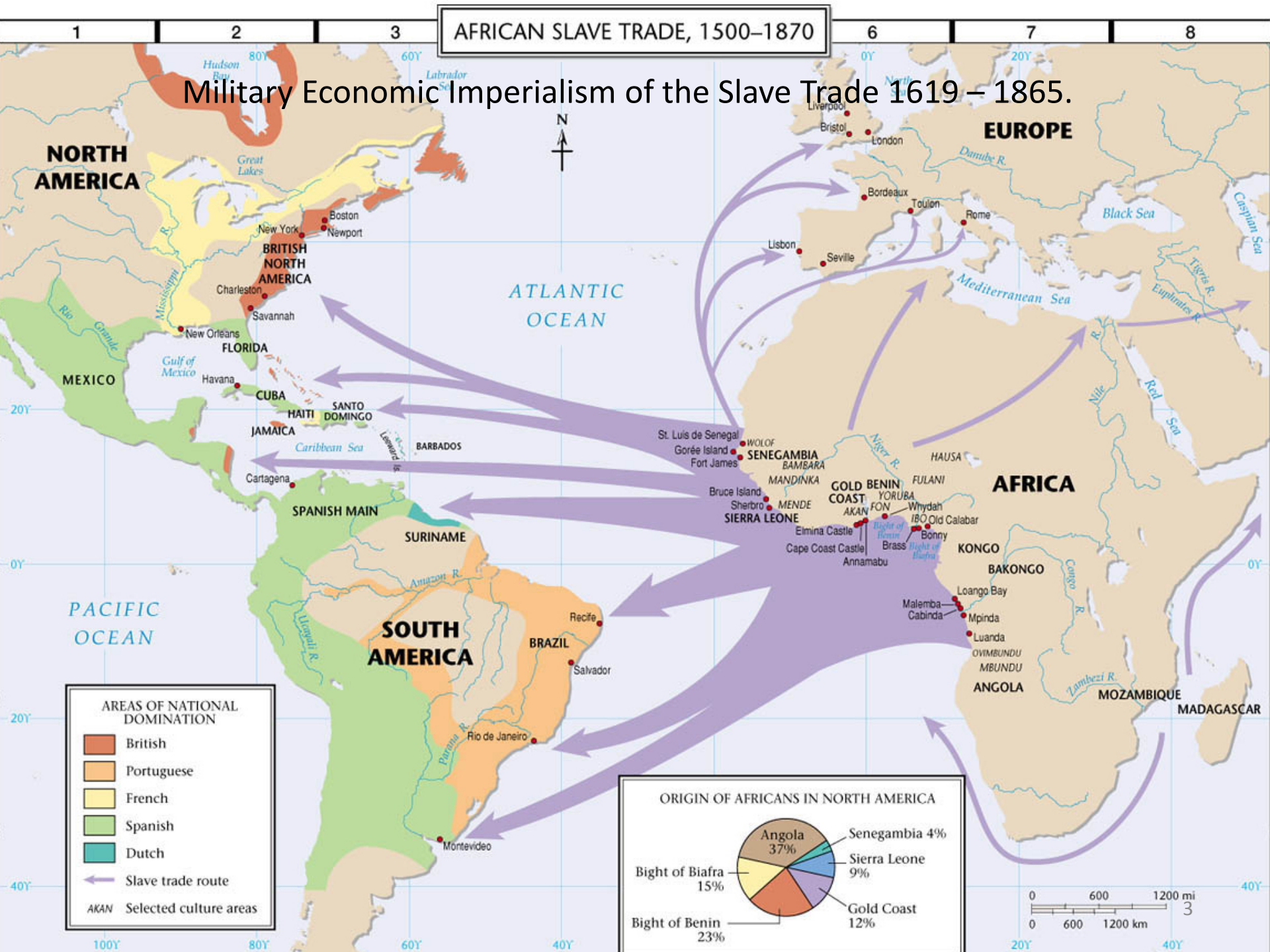
The Indian Wars
1609 – (1975?)



Manifest Destiny pictured as "American Progress" ²

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE, 1500–1870

Military Economic Imperialism of the Slave Trade 1619 – 1865.

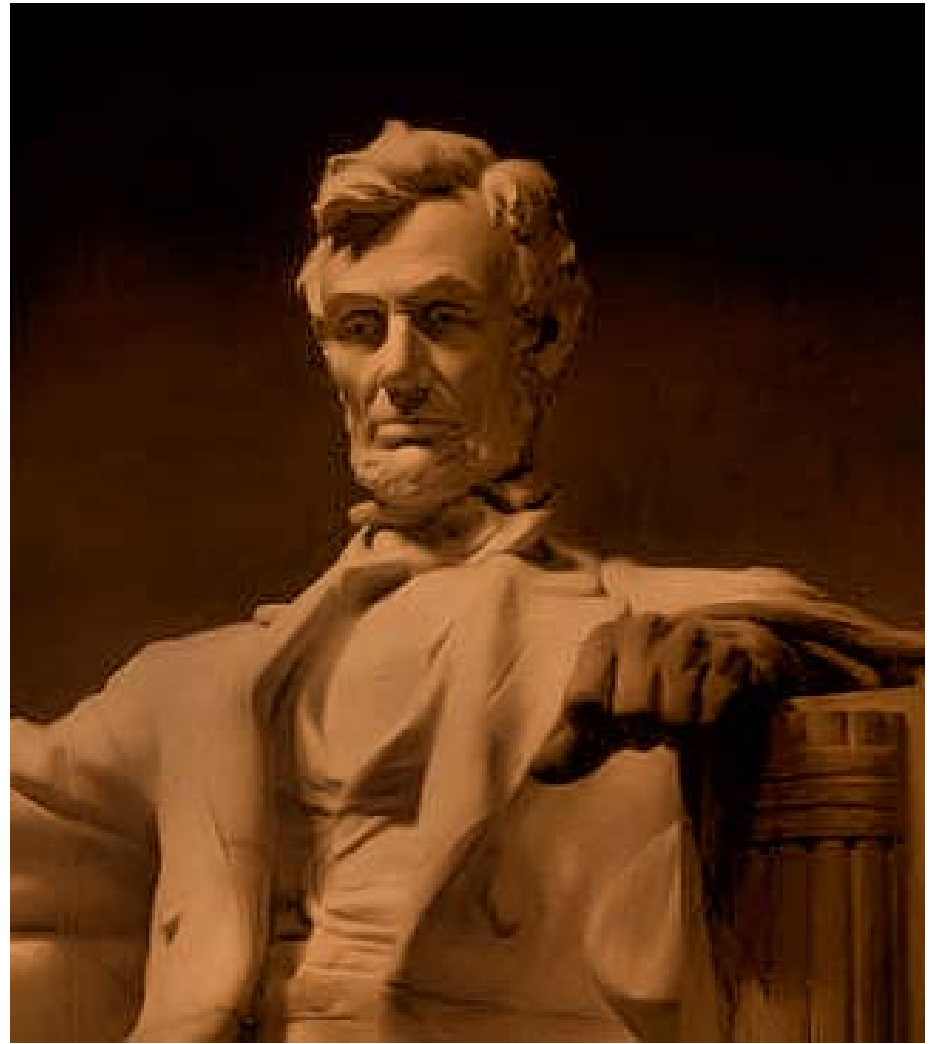


"I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our moneyed corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength and bid defiance to the laws of our country."



**Thomas Jefferson,
3rd President 1801 - 1809**

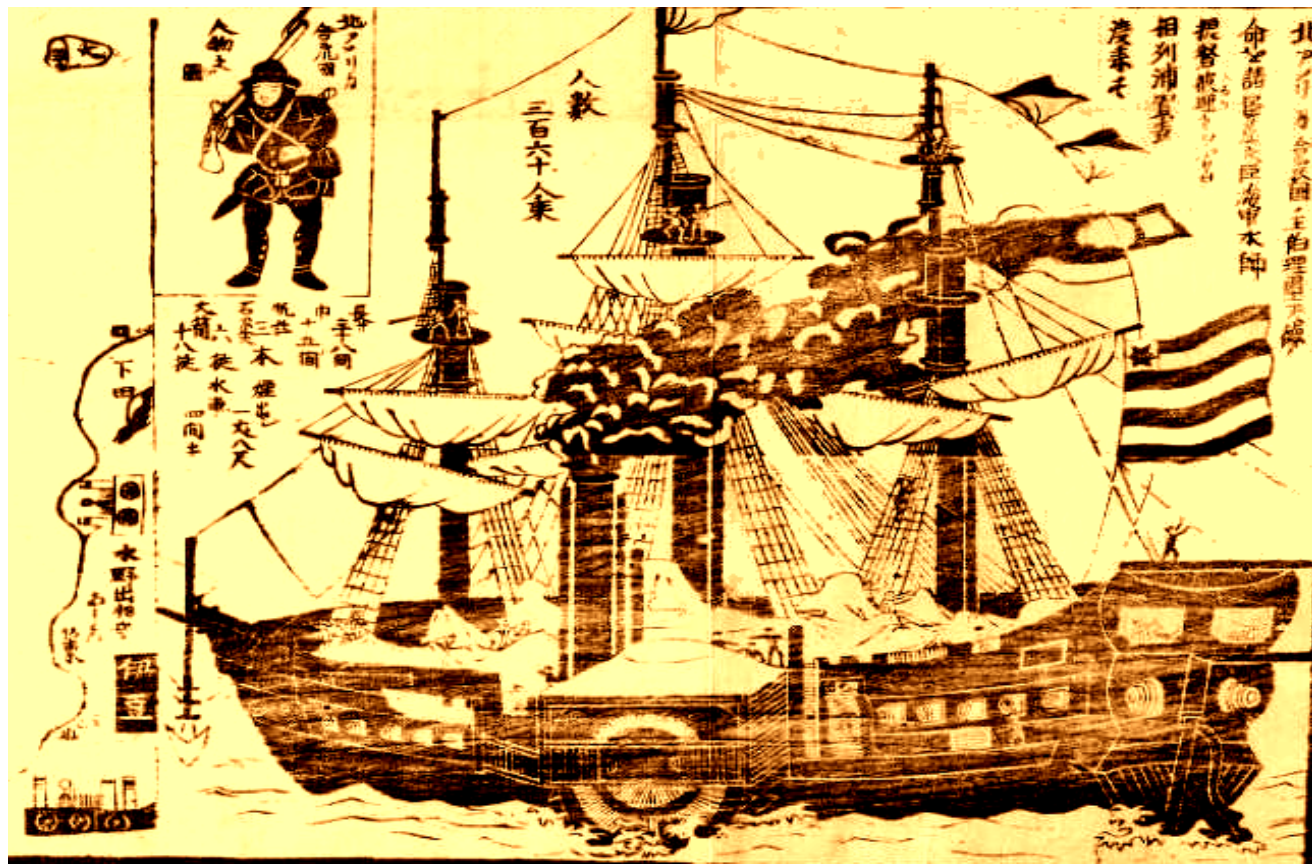
"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country ... corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war."



Abraham Lincoln
16th President 1860 - 1865

Military support for Opening Corporate Markets - Japan

As he arrived in 1853, Commodore Perry ordered his ships to steam past Japanese lines towards the capital of Edo, and position their guns towards the town of Uraga. Perry refused to abide to demands to leave. He then demanded permission to present a letter from President Millard Fillmore, and threatened to use force if the Japanese boats around the American squadron did not disperse.



Military Protection of Corporate Interests - Nicaragua

The Accessory Transit Company owned by “Commodore” Vanderbilt provided the cheapest route to California from the east coast during the Gold Rush. The city of San Juan del Norte wished to charge taxes and duties on the ships that were using it as a port. In 1854 the US Navy bombarded the city in response to demands that the company leave.



War is a Racket

Few Profit, Many Pay

“I spent most of my time (in the Marine Corp) being a high class muscle-man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.”

From 1900 – 1927

- Mexico - American oil interests
- Haiti and Cuba - National City Bank
- Nicaragua - Brown Brothers Banking
- Dominican Republic - American sugar interests
- Honduras - American fruit companies
- China - Standard Oil



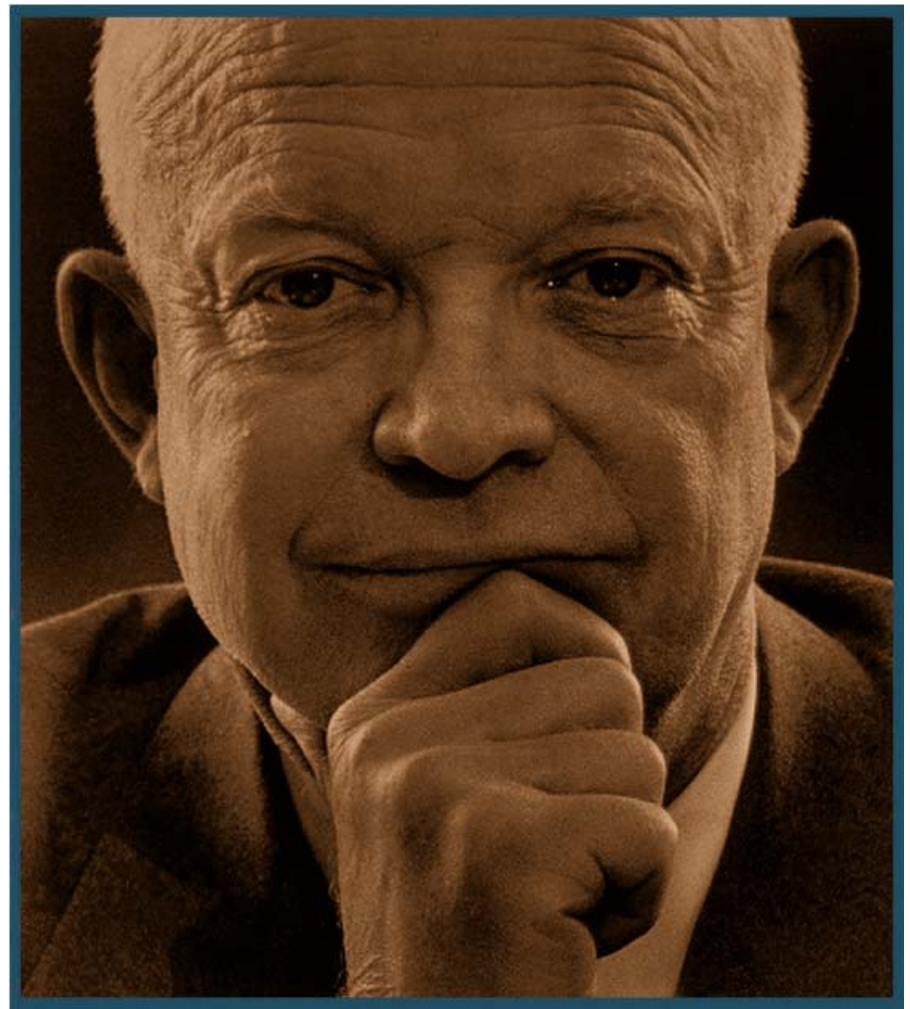
Major General Smedley Butler



Military Industrial Complex

Nuclear weapons and Communism require that we create a permanent armaments industry and maintain a conjunction between it and the military establishment.

In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this dangerous combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes.



Dwight D. Eisenhower
33rd President 1953 - 1961

[Military Industrial Speech](#)

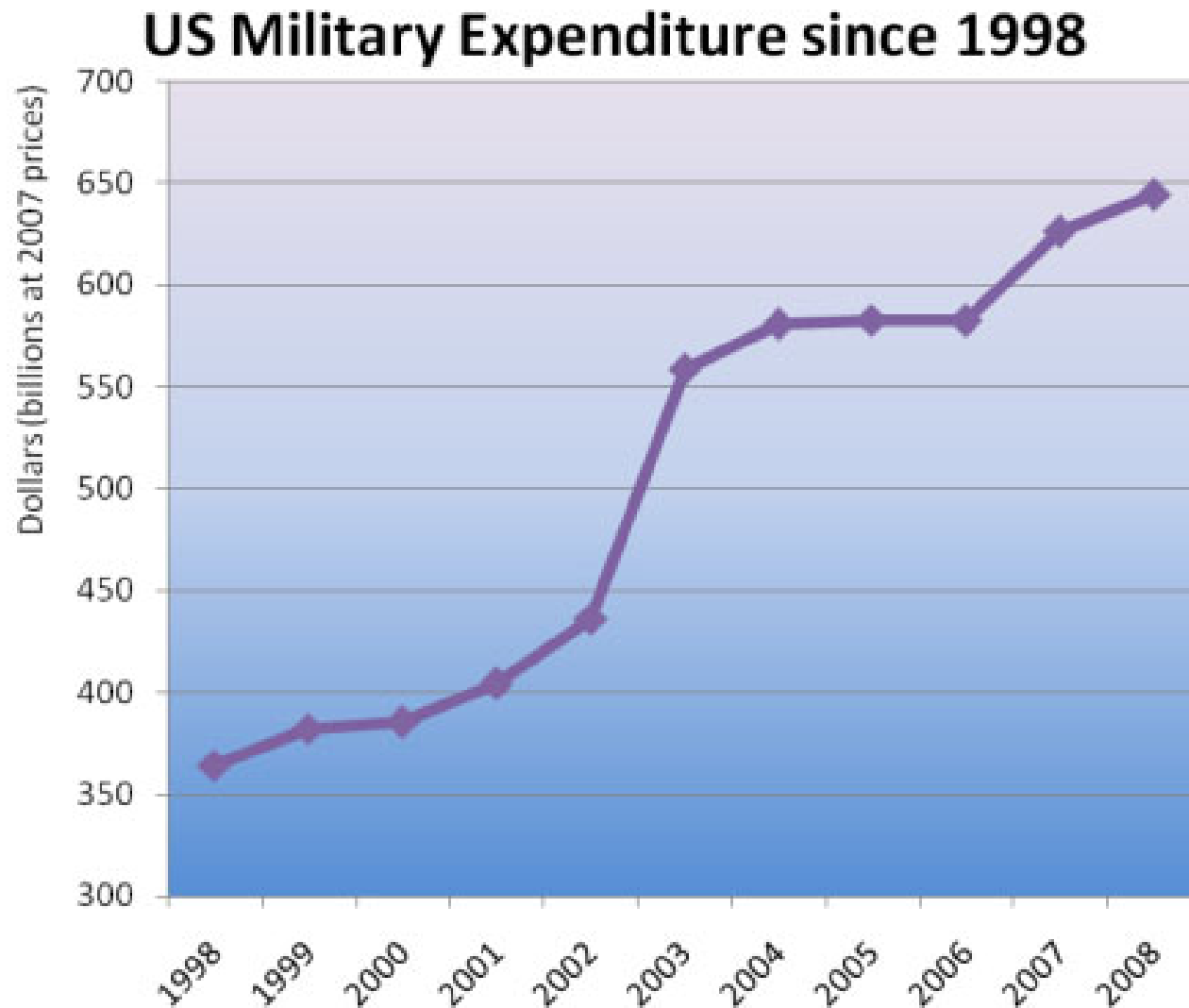
Aggravated Political Violence by USA after WWII and before 2000

Between the end of WW II and 2000 **13-17 million killed** in overt actions by the Pentagon and covert actions by the CIA with open and covert support from US allies to keep the world safe for our economy.

<i>Violence</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>
* Interventions	67
* Bombings	25
* Attempted assassination of foreign leaders	35
* Assistance with torture	11
* Intervention in and prevention of elections	23

From Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower By: William Blum
For more details see [A Brief History of U.S. Interventions](#) by William Blum

Addicted to War



Sources: Friends Committee on National Legislation, Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, 2006, 2007.

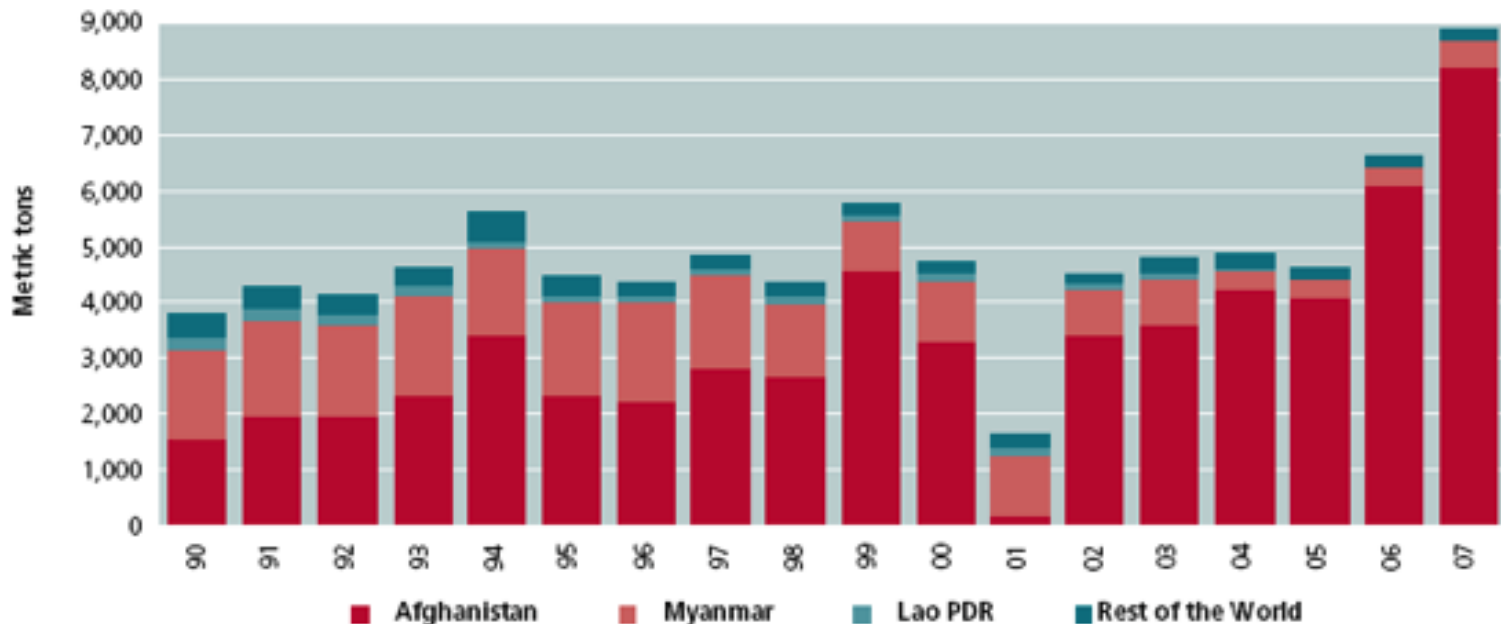
Selling Democracy as an Excuse for War

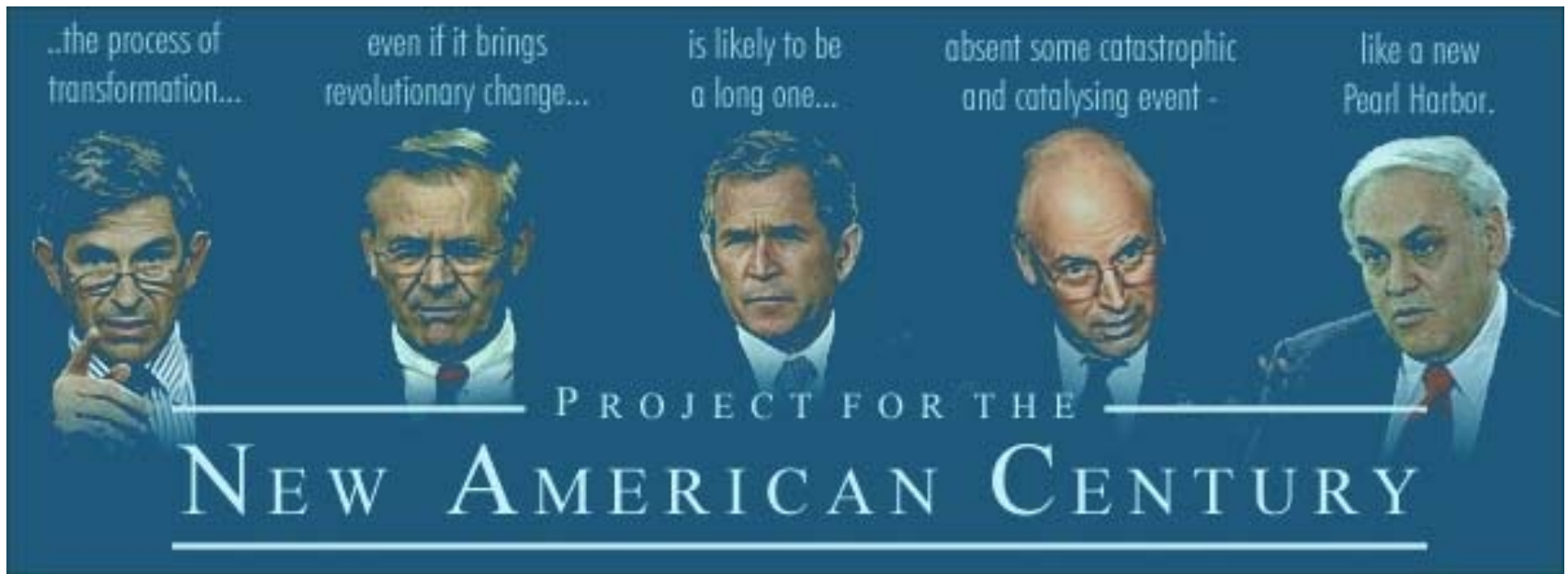
Capitalism Fighting Communism – win markets, foreign labor, and resources

Democracy Fighting Dictatorships – [Our dictators](#) are cheaper than legislatures

The West fighting Terrorists (Islam) - Oil, poppies

Global illicit opium production, by region: 1990 - 2007





Everywhere we wage war, exploit economically, or dominate culturally people will fight back and we will call them “terrorists” because they fight our troops, our Capitalist prosperity, and our successful culture. This is a recipe for a never-ending war. War is state sponsored terrorism. You cannot eliminate terrorism with terrorism. The real goal is to create more terrorists and thereby perpetuate war.

Imperialists Plans

[Confessions of an Economic Hit Man](#) by John Perkins

Economic

Control of natural resources – Land, oil, ...

Financial profits for friends and campaign funders – Cheap labor

Opening up consumer markets – unequal distribution

Economic & Political

Electoral calculations – Spread out the contractors

Intimidation of other countries – United Nations

Domination of geographic regions – military bases

Economic, Political & Military

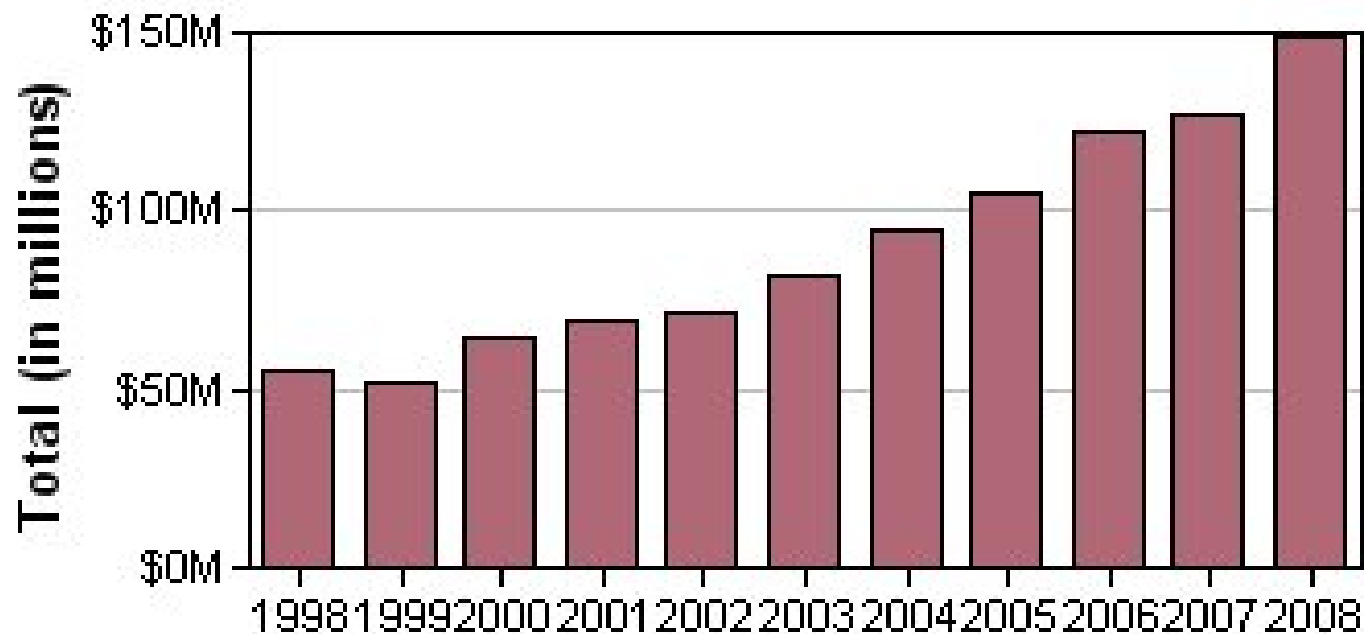
Prospects for testing new weapons - Arms manufactures

Democracy for Sale

Seller: Congress and the President

Buyer: Campaign Contributors

Defense: Lobbying

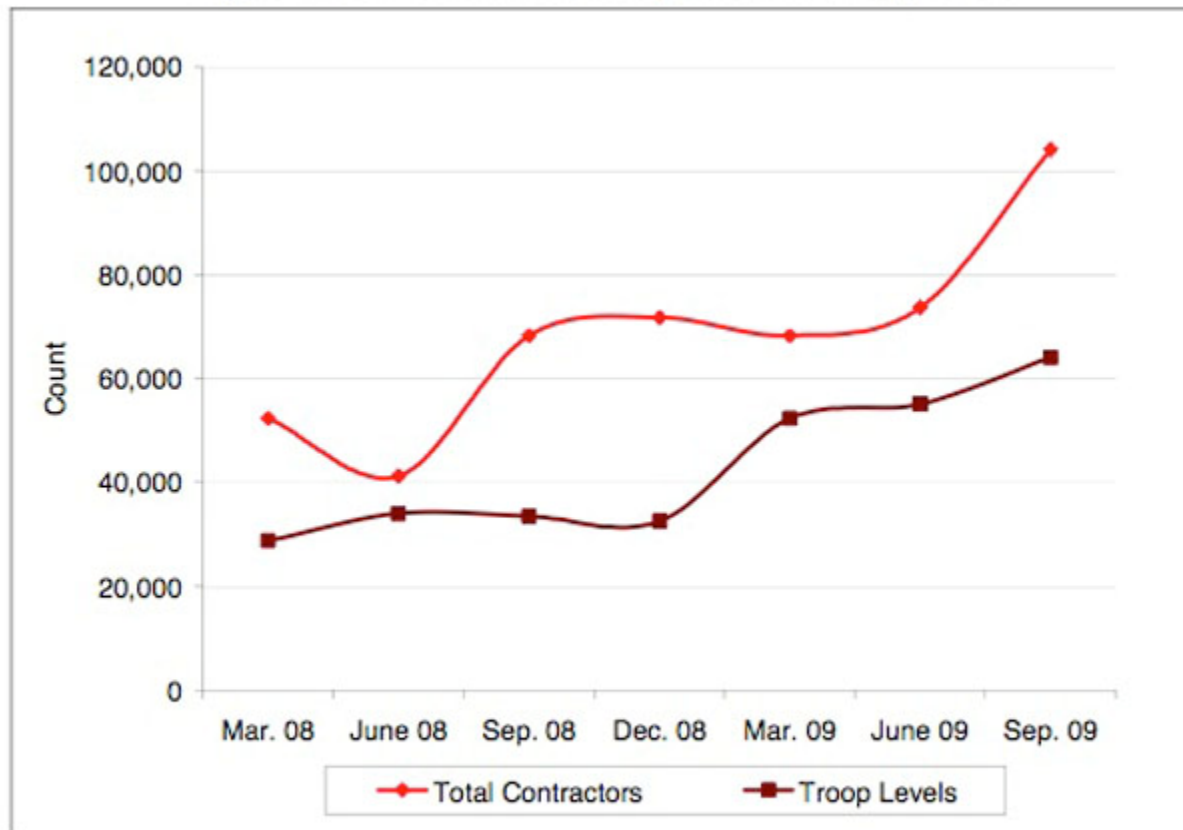


Graph courtesy of Center for Responsive Politics

Government for Sale

Military functions – private contractors, e.g. Blackwater (Xe)

Figure 7. DOD Contractors in Afghanistan vs. Troop Levels

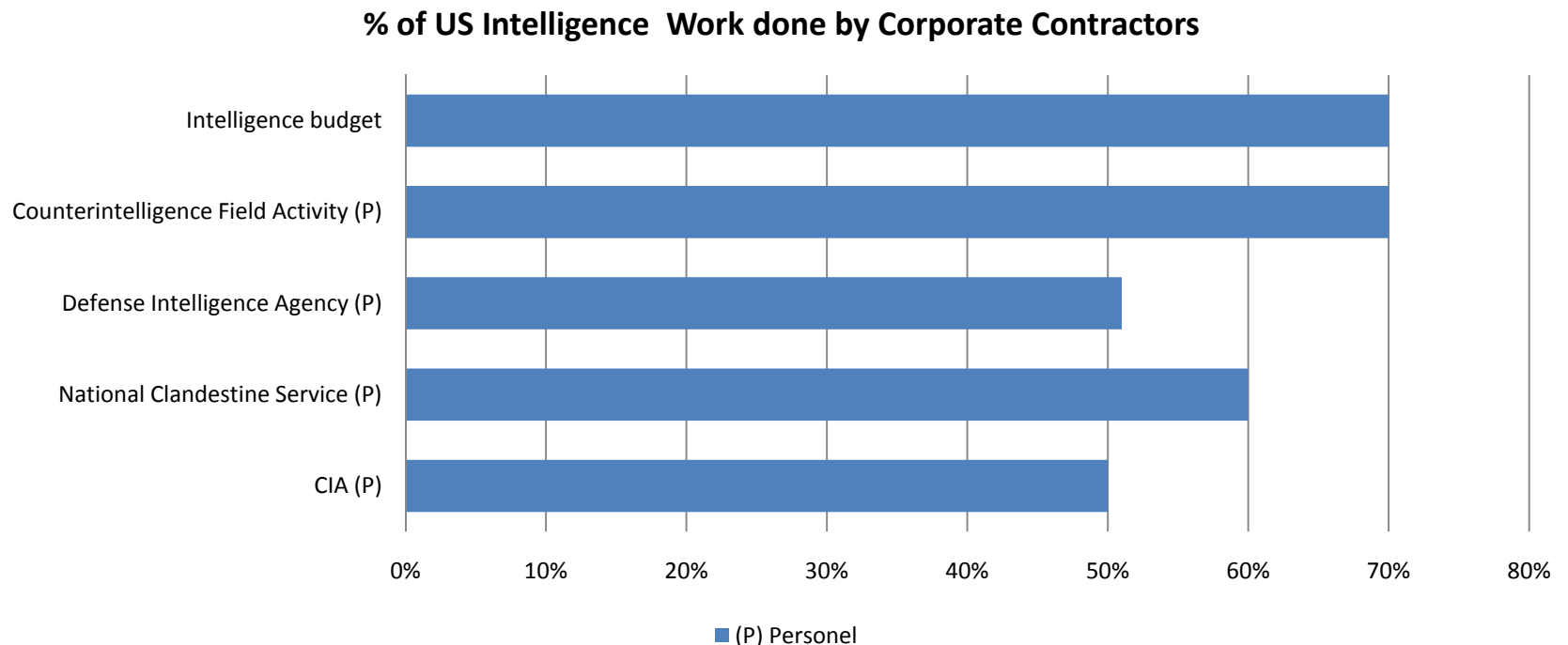


Source: CENTCOM Quarterly Census Reports; *Troop Levels in the Afghan and Iraq Wars, FY2001-FY2012: Cost and Other Potential Issues*, by Amy Belasco; Joint Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff, "Boots on the Ground" monthly reports to Congress; CRS estimate of troops in Afghanistan for September, 2009.

Government for Sale

Intelligence functions – Private contractors

(Between 2001-2007) a quiet revolution has occurred in the intelligence community toward wide-scale outsourcing to corporations. Key functions of intelligence agencies are now run by private corporations. For all practical purposes, effective control of the National Security Agency is with private corporations.



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America

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