

The International Affairs Budget Strengthens the U.S.

The International Affairs Budget Bolsters the U.S. Economy

- **Bill Gates:** “The investments we make today in the developing world will help create the jobs of tomorrow here in America.”
- **1 out of 5 U.S. jobs is export-related** and nearly 50 percent of our exports go to the developing world.
- **For every \$1 the U.S. spends to promote exports overseas, \$40 comes back home.** Over the past 40 years, trade has tripled as a share of our economy, 97 percent of the U.S. businesses that benefit from exports are small and medium sized enterprises.
- **State and USAID help U.S. companies to compete** for foreign government and private contracts and navigate foreign regulations and settling disputes, and State and USAID negotiate international agreements to open new markets for U.S. goods and services.
- Our development programs **stabilize communities and open export opportunities for U.S. businesses in the world’s fastest growing market.** Support for the “green revolution” in agriculture helped accelerate South Korea’s agricultural development, setting it on a path to becoming the strong U.S. ally and trading partner it is today.
- **Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Nov. 2010:** “The primary purpose of the United States government’s international involvement is to, in fact, make the world better for America...it’s important to your neighborhood, it’s important to your children and grandchildren, it’s important to your job that we have a world market.”

Thomas J. Donohue, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Jan. 2011

“We have no choice but to stay engaged in the world. 95 percent of the people we want to sell something to live somewhere else, and America’s access to and leadership in foreign markets is critical. We’re the largest exporters in the world by a significant factor, and we need to capitalize on that.”

The International Affairs Budget Reinforces American Security

Defense Secretary Robert Gates

“Development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers.”

“[T]he work performed by diplomatic and development professionals helps build the foundation for more stable, democratic and prosperous societies. These are places where the potential for conflict can be minimized, if not completely avoided, by State and USAID programs – thereby lowering the likely need for deployment of U.S. military assets.”

- **Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC):** “Stay ahead of them, not with 100,000 troops all the time, but by partnering with people who will live in peace with us. The worst nightmare for al Qaeda is to come into a community that feels supported and has hope.”ⁱ
- **Former Secretary of State Colin Powell:** “We live in a dangerous world and a world of opportunity. Increasing our diplomatic and development resources is absolutely critical and money well spent to deal with the dangers and seize the opportunities.”
- **9/11 commission report:** “The first phase of our post-9/11 efforts rightly included military action to topple the Taliban and pursue al Qaeda. This work continues. But long-term success demands the use of all elements of national power: diplomacy, intelligence, covert action, law enforcement, economic policy, foreign aid, public diplomacy, and homeland defense. If we favor one tool while neglecting others, we leave ourselves vulnerable and weaken our national effort.”ⁱⁱ
- **USAID’s efforts are irreplaceable to ensuring that the work of our military and diplomats** in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, and

Yemen leads to strong economic and social development, stability, democracy, and good governance.

- **Preventing conflict:** Across society, every year of schooling decreases a male's chance of engaging in violent conflict by 20 percent.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **Long-term stability in fragile states:** "A close look at the many problems facing Yemen reveals that Yemen's notoriously inadequate education system should be a primary point of focus for the United States....The Middle East is already vulnerable to extremist ideology, and its large, young, and uneducated population magnifies these vulnerabilities. The United States must create a long-term strategy that results in a capable, educated Arab population. This approach will require more than building schools and sending textbooks. Yemen, and the region, is in need of an education overhaul that must begin with training well-educated teachers."^{iv}

The International Affairs Budget Helps Your State

- **Foreign aid positively impacts employment, trade, and education in every state** in the country.^v Check out the facts about your state^{vi}.
 - Almost one-quarter (23.1 percent) of all manufacturing workers in **Ohio** depended on exports for their jobs.
 - In 2007, 5,058 companies exported goods from **Virginia**. Of these, 84 percent were small- and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.
 - **California** exported \$144.8 billion in merchandise to 222 foreign markets in 2008.

President Ronald Reagan

(Statement on Signing International Security and Foreign Assistance Legislation, December 29, 1981)

"Foreign aid suffers from a lack of domestic constituency, in large part because the results of the programs are often not immediately visible and self-evident. Properly conceived and efficiently administered, however, security assistance programs, an essential complement to our defense effort, directly enhance the security of the United States. Development assistance also contributes to this effort by supplementing the indigenous efforts of recipients to achieve economic growth and meet the basic needs of their peoples. Progress in both of these areas will contribute to regional stability and to a more peaceful world, both of which are central U.S. policy objectives."

"The ultimate importance to the United States of our security and development assistance programs cannot be exaggerated. The programs and activities provided for in these bills will enable the United States to continue its contribution to the achievement of a secure and stable international environment."

Americans think we spend 25 percent or more of our federal budget on foreign assistance. America **actually** only spends **less than 1 percent** of the federal budget on foreign assistance.¹

ⁱ Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Foreign Policy Magazine "The Cable" Blog, February 1, 2011:

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/02/01/lindsey_graham_to_the_rescue_for_state_and_usaid

ⁱⁱ "The 9/11 Commission Report", July 22, 2004: <http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Save the Children. September 2009. <http://www.savethechildren.org/newsroom/2009/rtf-threeyears.html>

^{iv} The Center for American Progress. Schools Not Bombs: Long-Term Stability in Yemen Begins with Fixing Education. 25 February 2010. http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/02/yemen_education.html. Accessed June 17, 2010.

^v USGLC. <http://www.usglc.org/state-network/>

^{vi} State facts: <http://www.usglc.org/state-network/>