

America's Incredible, Shrinking, Aging, Less Ready, More Expensive Armed Forces

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The talent, judgment, and insight collected in this book are phenomenal. Over the last generation, the authors have been more right, more often, about more issues of crucial importance to American security than any other group I can think of. It is a tremendous benefit to have their views collected in one place and concentrated on the next big choices facing a new administration. This really is a book that every serious-minded citizen should read.

James Fallows, National Correspondent, *The Atlantic Monthly*

Mr. President, you know the national economy is in a shambles. But you probably don't know the national defense is, too, according to a must read book, "America's Defense Meltdown."

George C. Wilson, former chief military correspondent, *The Washington Post*

The next big American implosion, comparable to the meltdown of our financial system, is likely to occur in the Pentagon and the military-industrial complex. For decades we have been going deeply into debt buying weapons that we don't need and don't work. Winslow Wheeler and his uniformed and civilian defense experts are the best informed analysts of military preparedness and procurement we have. They paint a picture of totally broken and dysfunctional military institutions that are simply waiting for the slightest push to send them over the edge. This book should be indispensable reading for the next president and his defense advisers.

Chalmers Johnson, author of *Blowback* (2000), *The Sorrows of Empire* (2004), and *Nemesis: The Last Days of the American Republic* (2006)

These authors have been forcing defense analysts to rethink their positions for years. While you may not agree with all they say, I can guarantee they will force you to reconsider how America will insure its future.

Col. Thomas X. Hammes (U.S. Marine Corps, ret.),
author of *The Sling and The Stone*

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AMERICA'S DEFENSE MELTDOWN



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Pentagon Reform for President Obama and the New Congress



Thirteen non-partisan Pentagon insiders, retired military officers
and defense specialists speak out

Edited by Winslow T. Wheeler

Mis-Measuring the “Defense” Budget

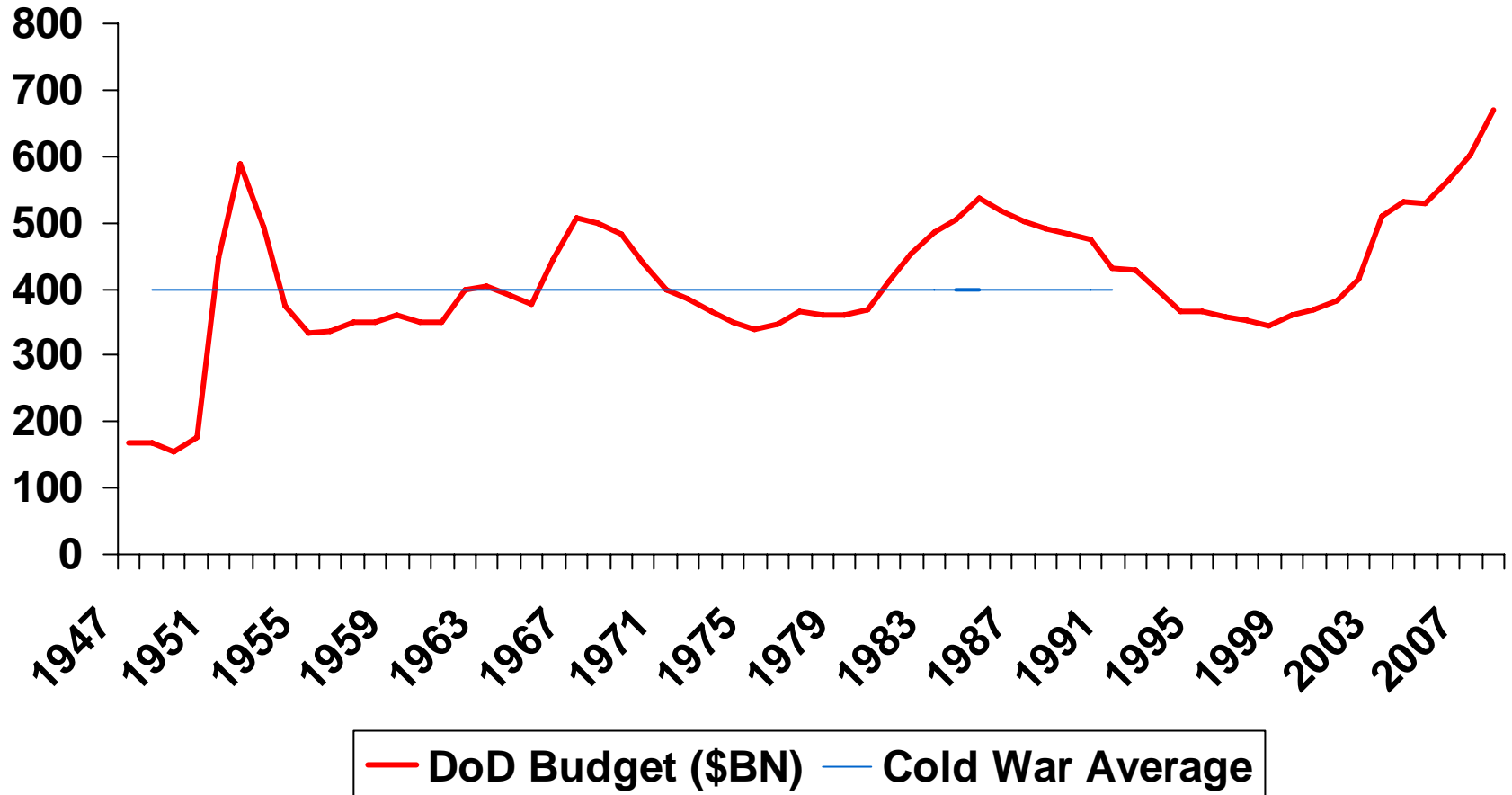
What Is the “Defense” Budget?

Category	FY 2009 (Request)
DOD (“Base”)	518
DOD War Funding	70 + 87
“Atomic Energy Defense Activities” (DOE)	17
“Defense Related Activities” (GSA, etc.)	3
Total “National Defense”	698
Homeland Security (DHS)	40
Veterans Affairs (DVA)	91
International Affairs	38
Non-DOD Military Retirement	12
21% of Interest on the Debt	54
Grand Total	934

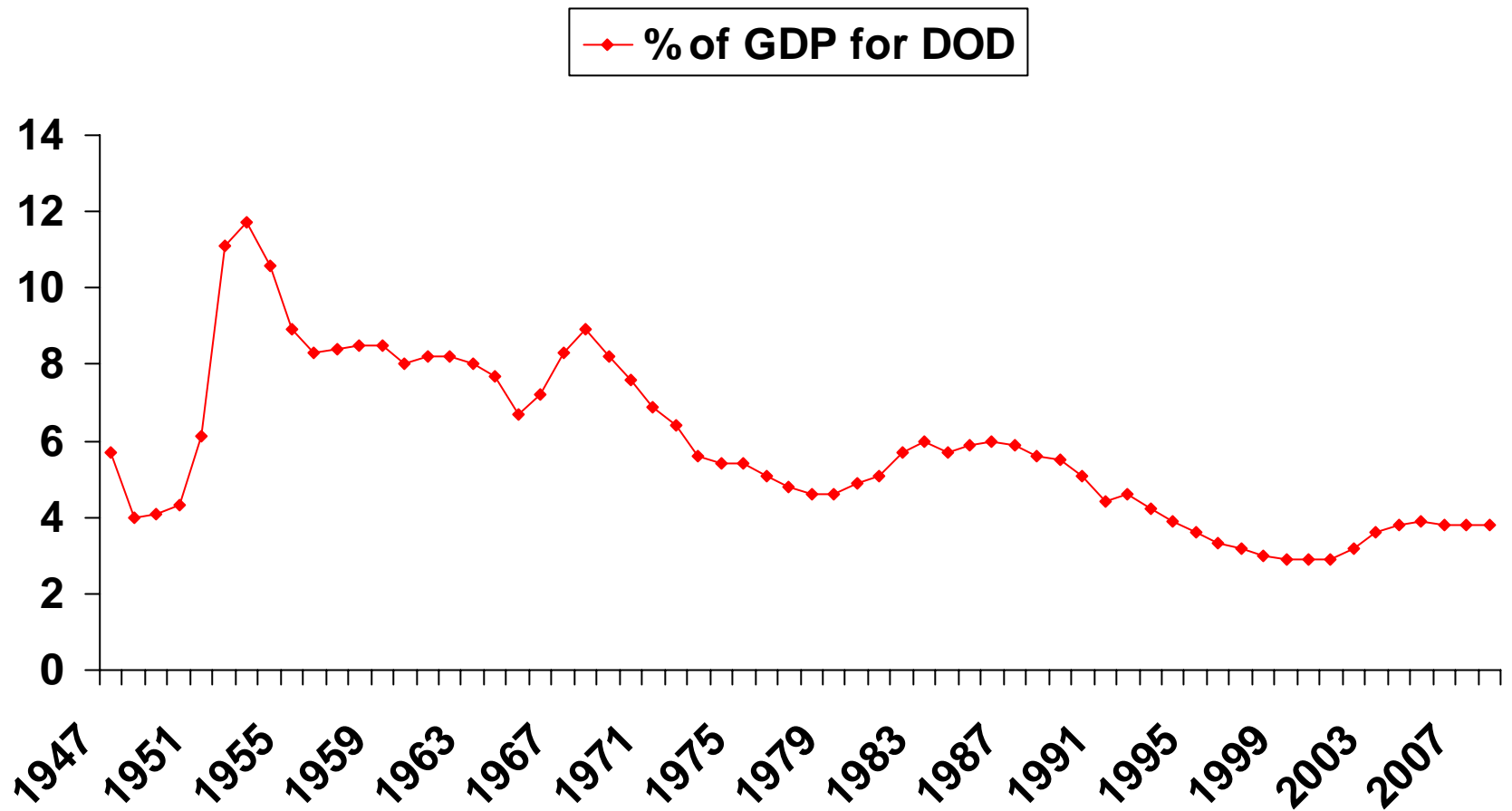
DOD Budget 1947-2008

(\$Billions, 2008\$)

Source: National Defense Budget Estimates for FY 2009, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) March 2008

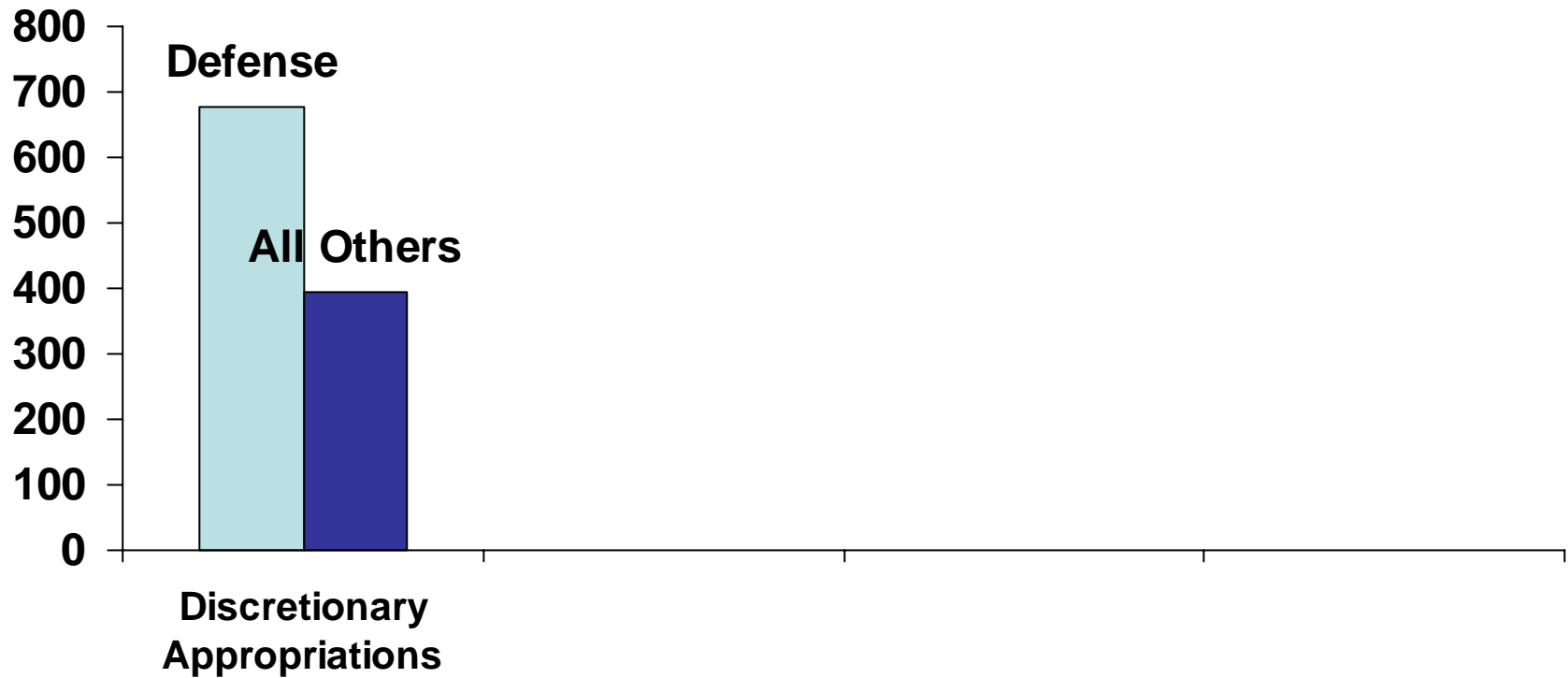


Mis-Measurement a la Conservatives



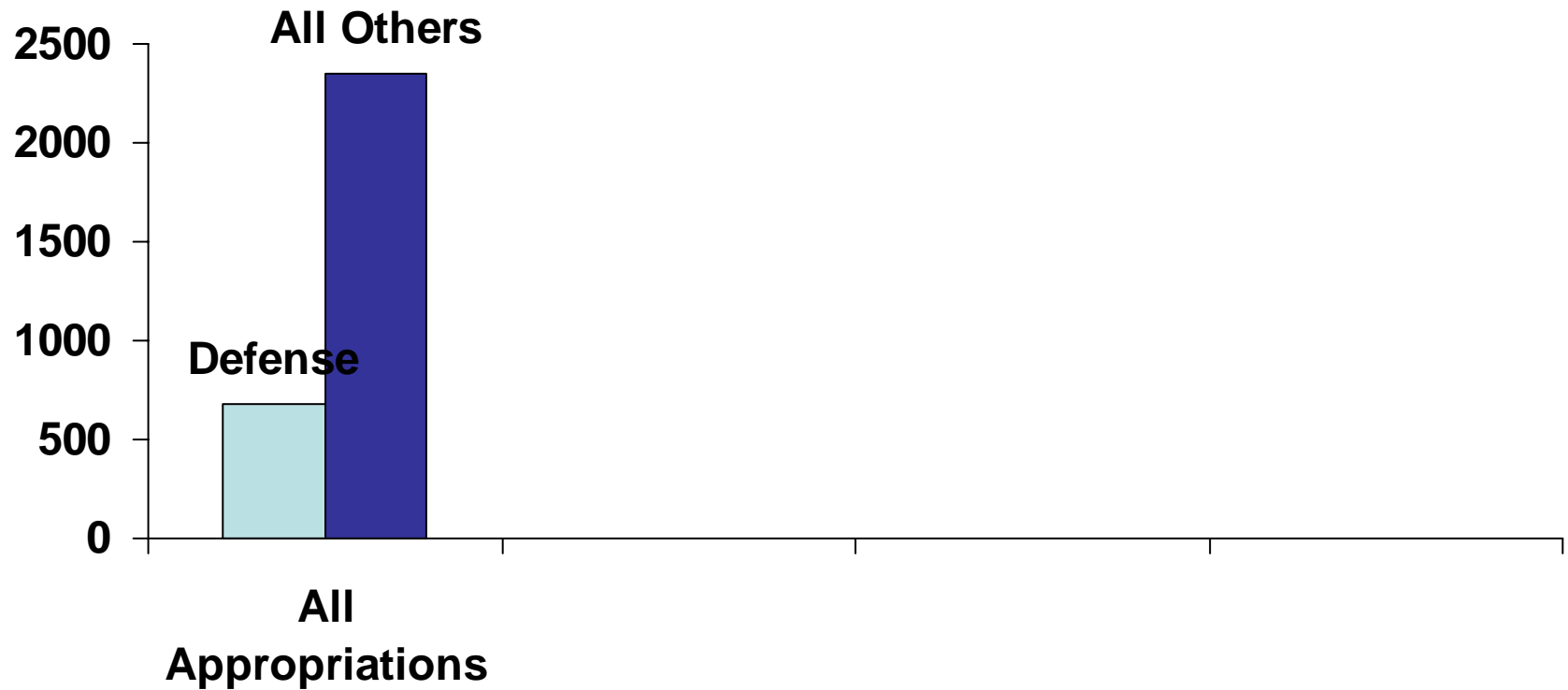
Mis-Measurement a la Liberals

Defense Spending v. Others



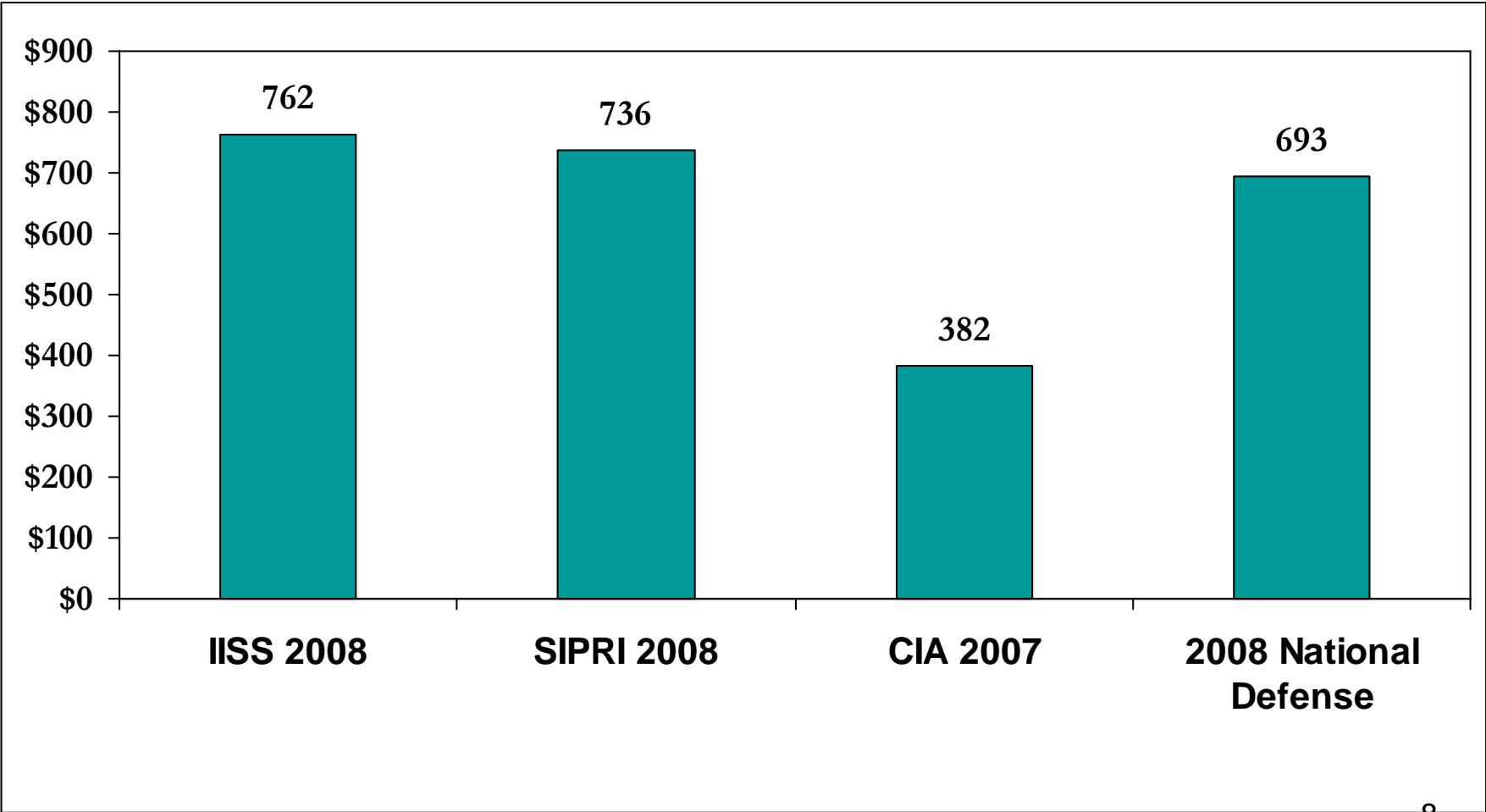
Mis-Measurement a la Liberals

Defense Spending v. Others



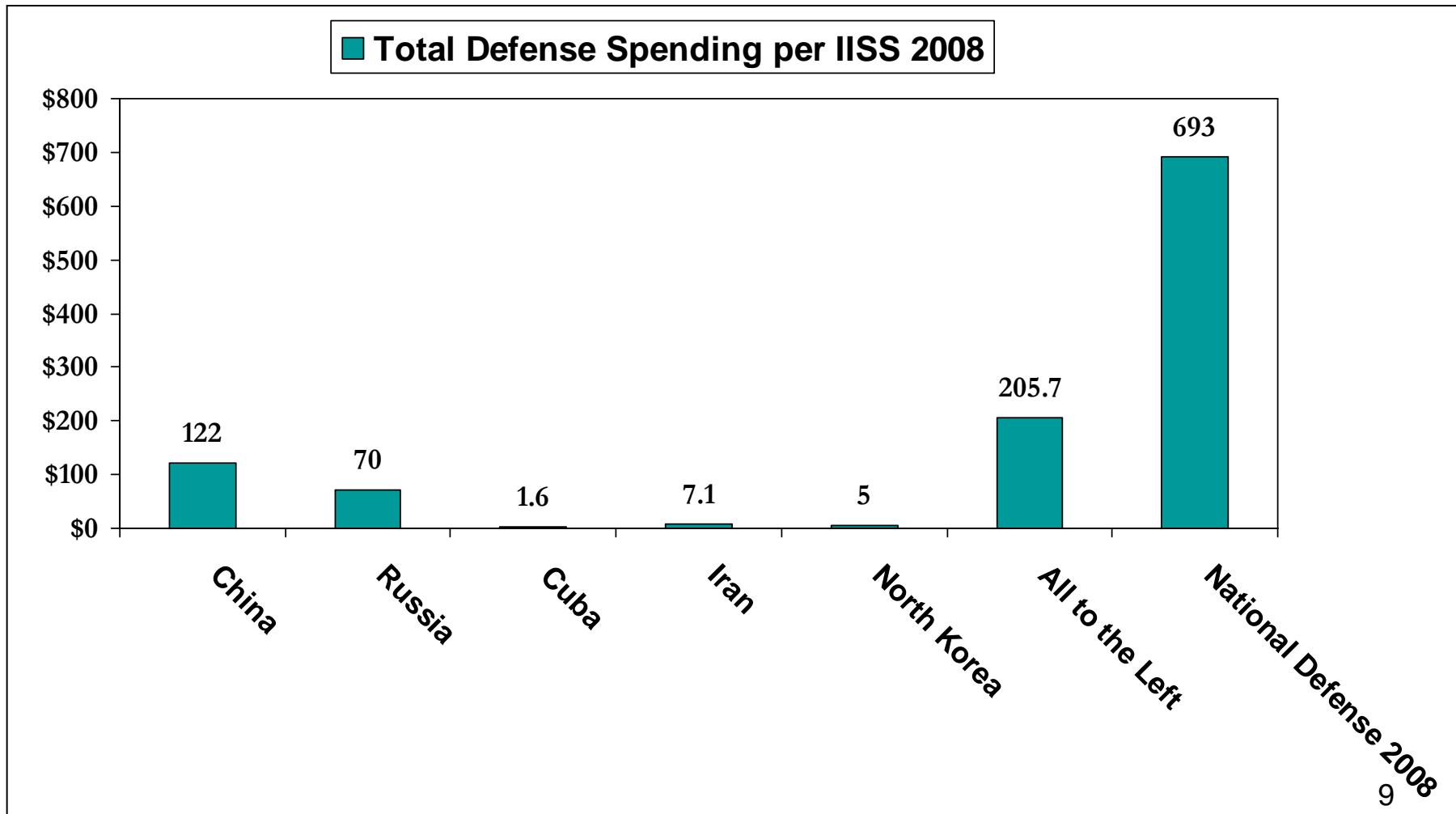
United States vs. the World

(\$ Billions)



US vs. China, Russia, Cuba, Iran, North Korea

(\$ Billions, 2009 Dollars)

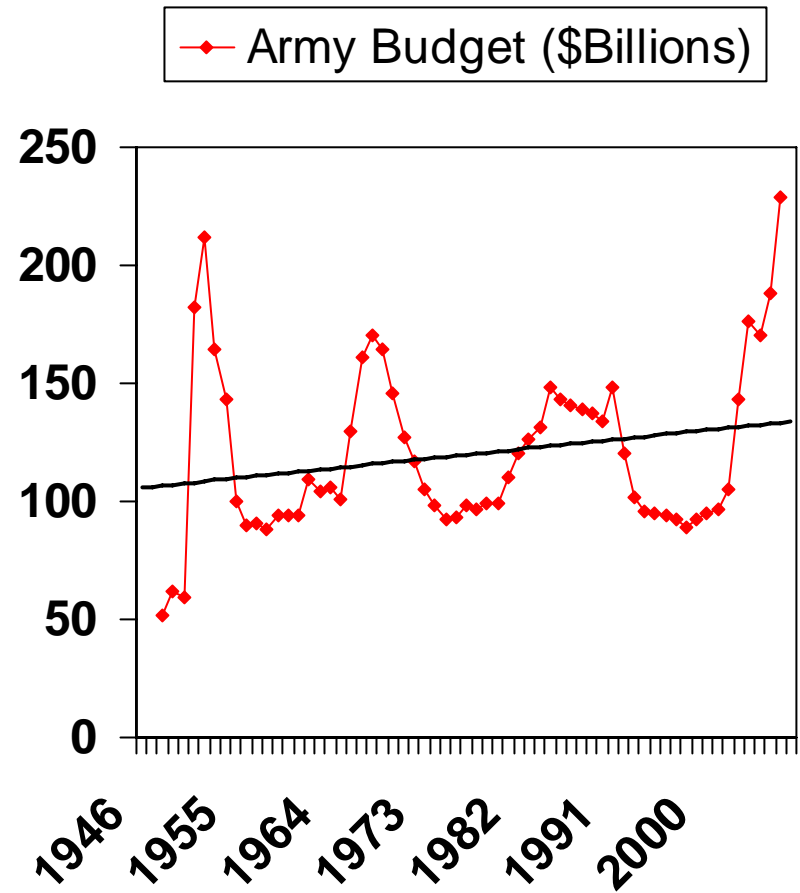
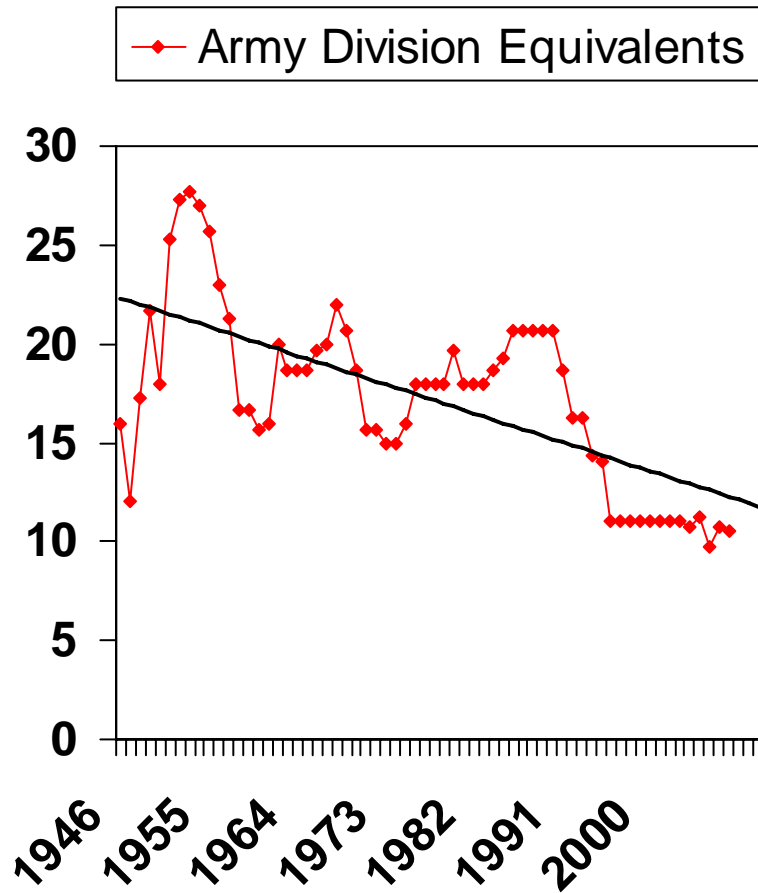


More Money Buys a Smaller Force

Army Division Equivalents and Budget

(\$Billions, FY 2009 Dollars)

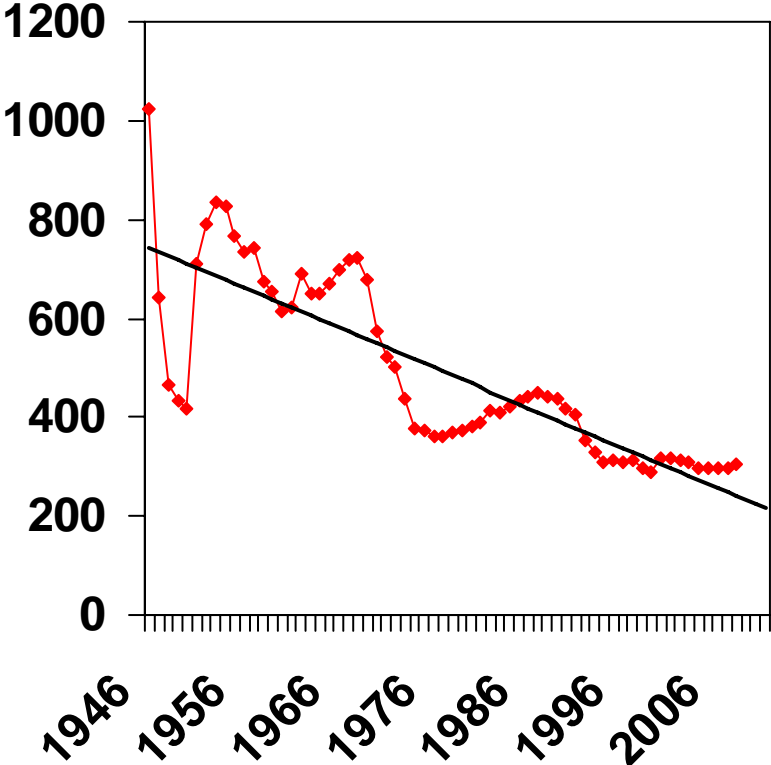
Sources: National Defense Budget Estimates for FY 2009, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) March 2008, Center of Military History, Historical Perspective on Force Structure Reductions 1946-1988, Washington, D.C. 1989, Department of Defense Annual Reports, and Department of Defense Appropriations Bill Reports from the House Committee on Appropriations.



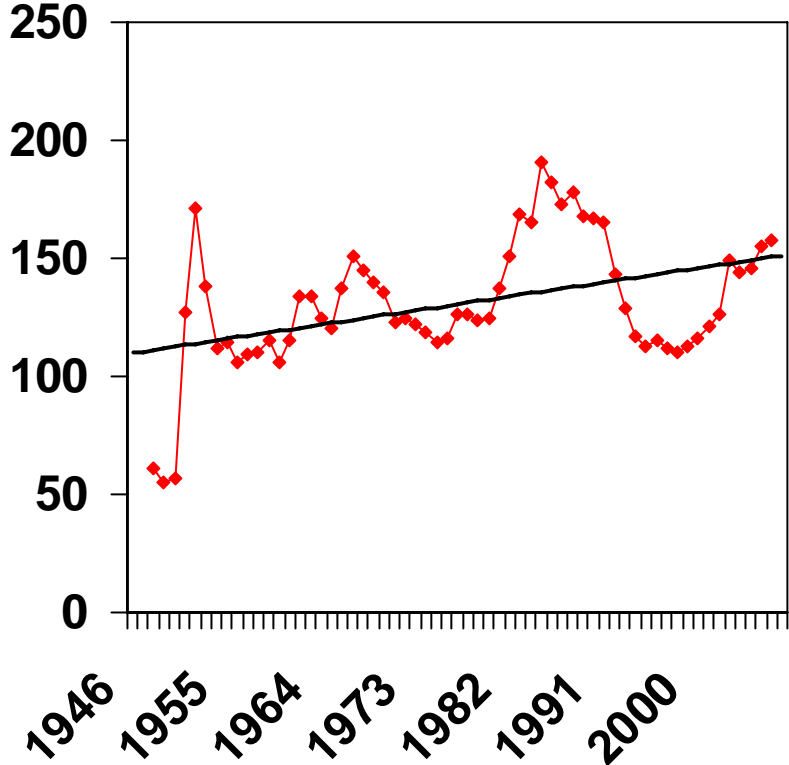
Navy Combat Ships and Budget

(\$Billions, FY 2009 Dollars)

Sources: National Defense Budget Estimates for FY 2009, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) March 2008



Active Navy Combat Ships

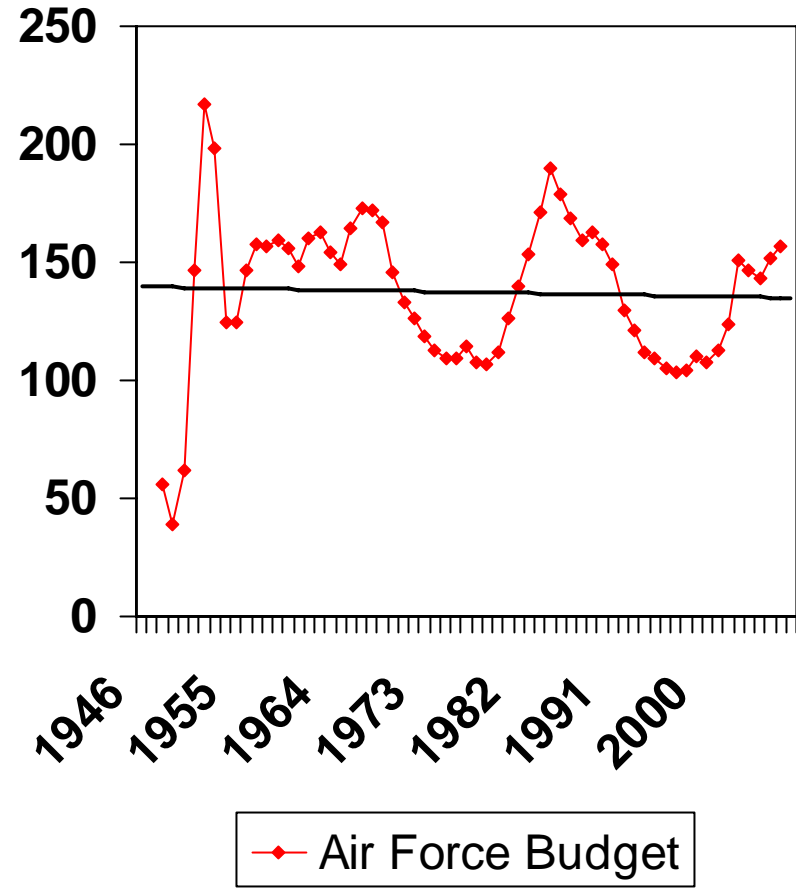
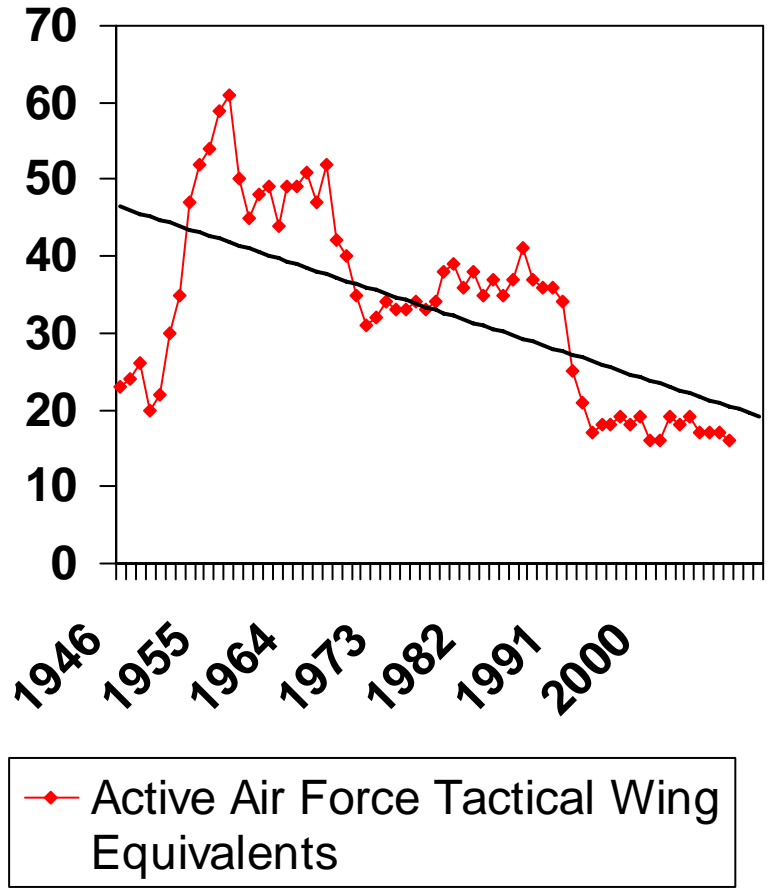


Navy Budget

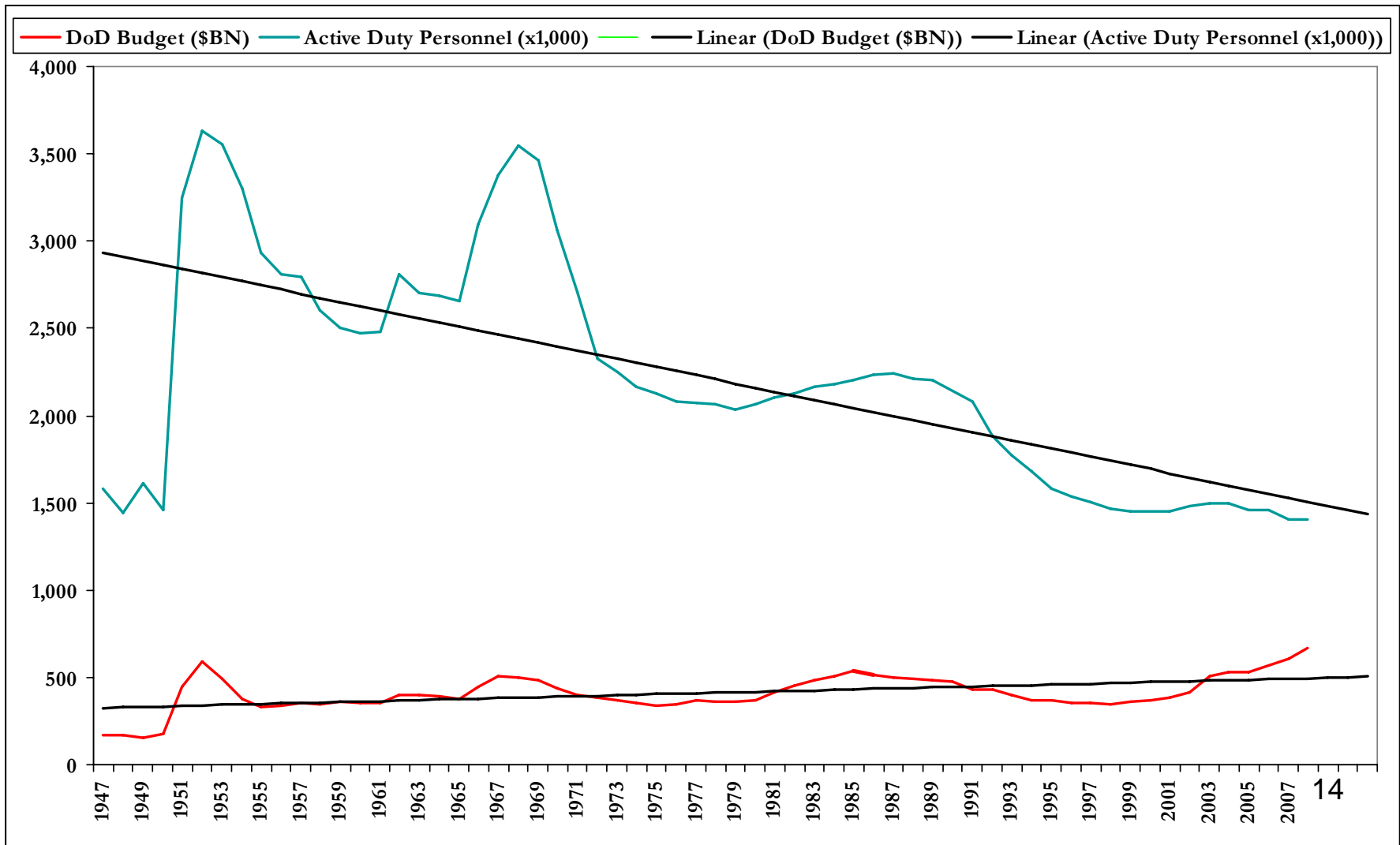
Air Force Tactical Wings and Budget

(Billions, FY 2009 Dollars)

Sources: National Defense Budget Estimates for FY 2009, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) March 2008 and Air Force Historical Research Agency (Maxwell AFB) analysis, "Force Structure, United States Army Air Forces and United States Air Force."



DOD Budget & Active Duty Personnel (1947-2008) (\$Billions, 2008 Dollars)



More Money Buys an Older Force

Figure 3-5 Updated

Age and Inventory of Army Ground Combat Vehicles

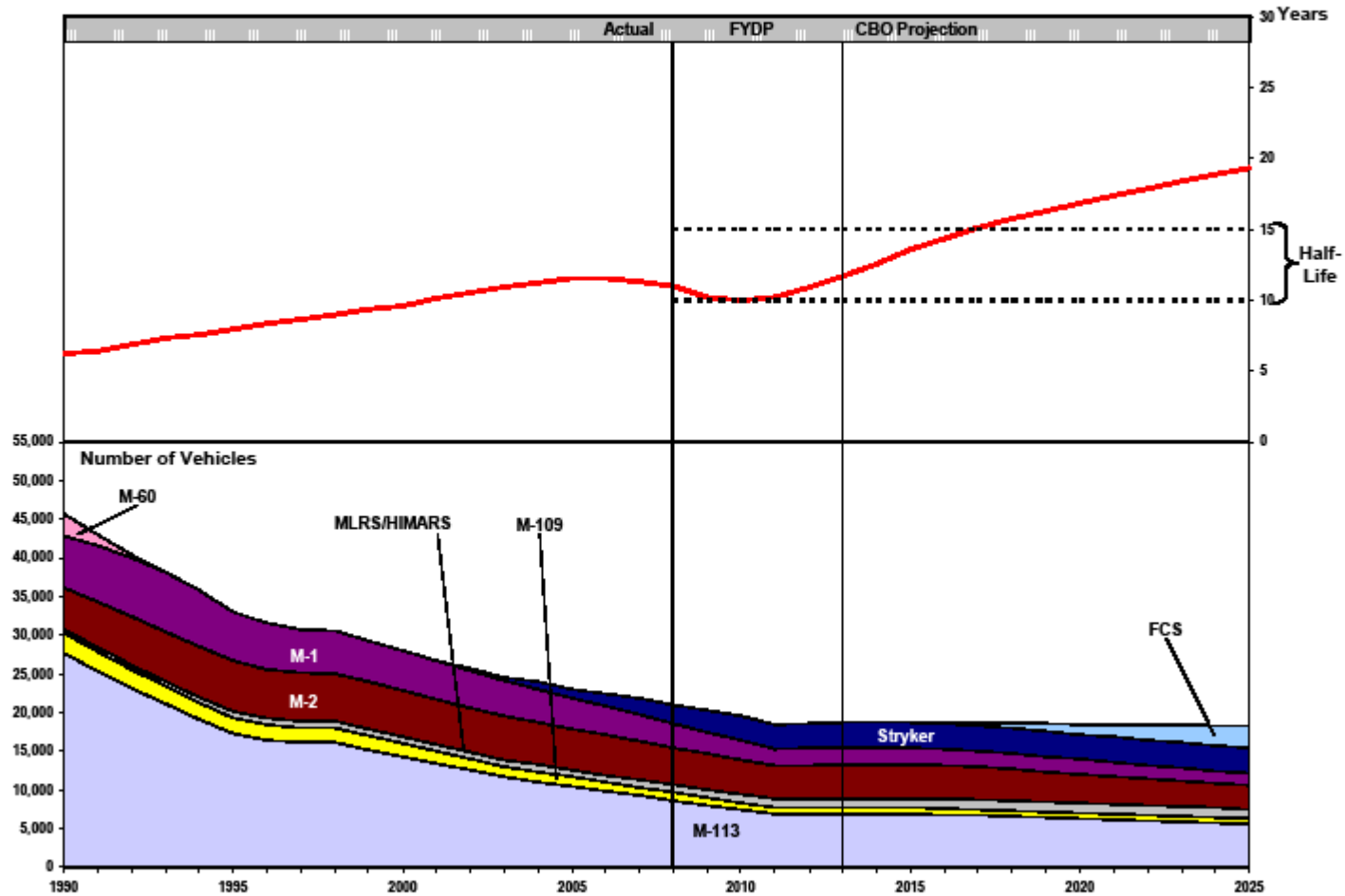


Figure 3-11 Updated

Age and Inventory of Battle Force Ships

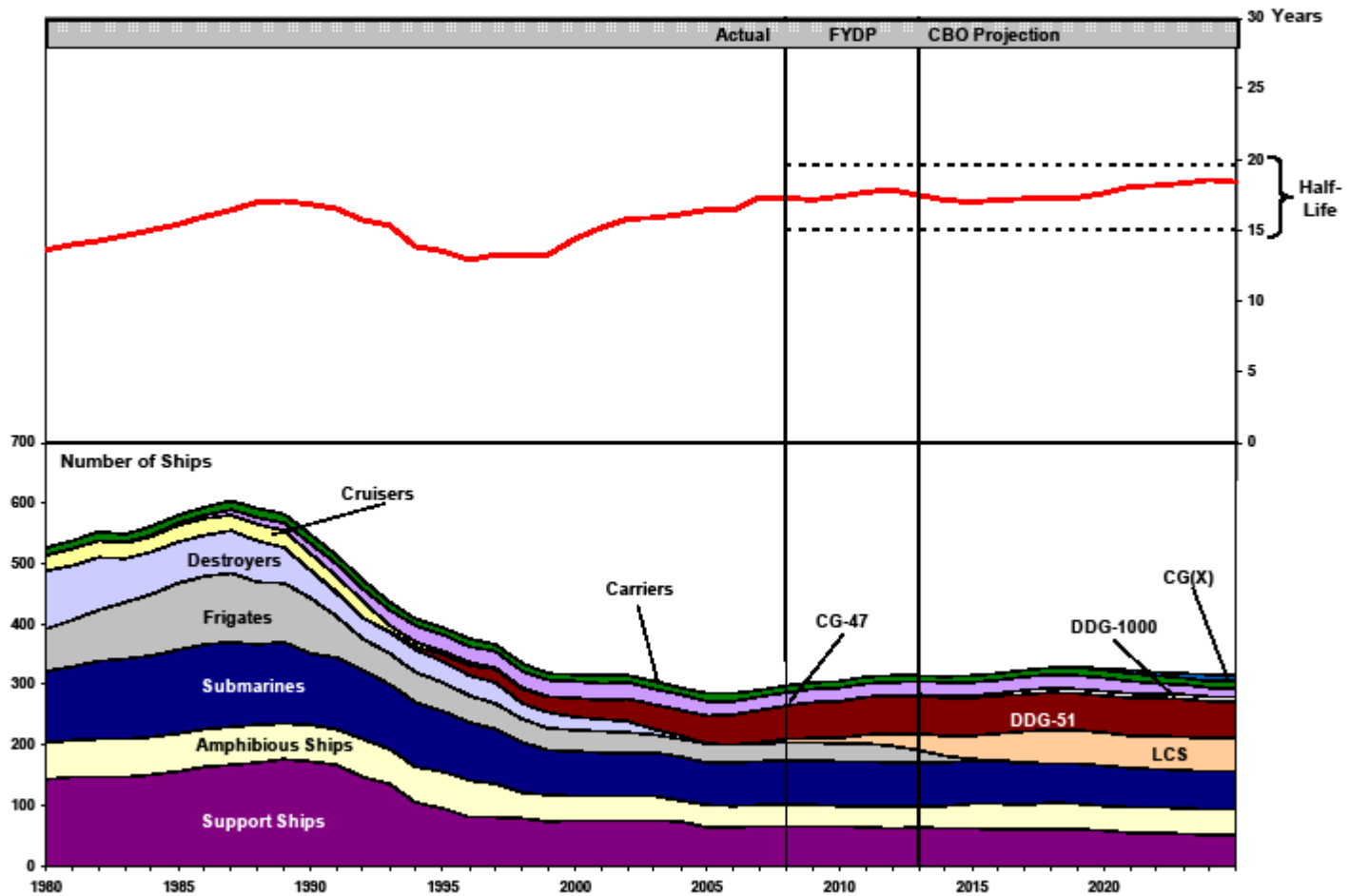
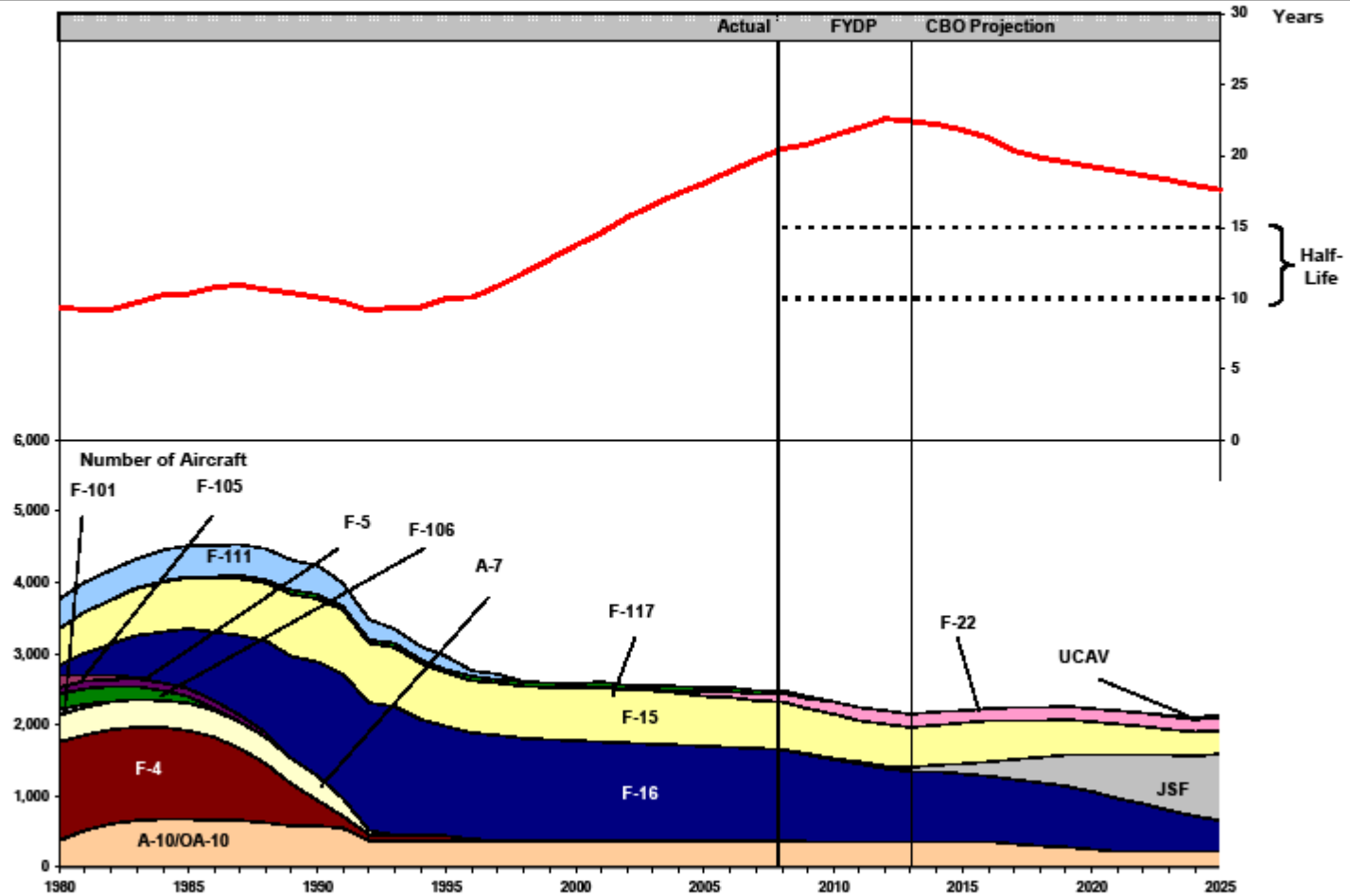


Figure 3-21 Updated

Age and Inventory of Air Force Fighter and Attack Aircraft



And, Less Ready

Readiness

- Army Tank Miles: Down from 1,000 to 459
- Are units going to Iraq “ready?”
- Naval aviators getting 17 hours/month.
- Air Force is worse.

More Capability?

- F-22 Example
 - Puny Force
 - Fewer Resources for Pilot Skill
 - Aerodynamic Disappointment
 - How much “Stealth” & “Supercruise”?
 - Unproven BVR Hypothesis
- Performance in Iraq & Afghanistan

Two Questions

Where Did the \$772 Billion Go?

- \$60+ billion for pork.
- \$295 billion for hardware overruns.
 - More for irrelevant systems.
- Now paying \$28 billion more for 4,000 fewer people.

More Money Won't Solve It; What Will?

- Non-phony reform of Pork rules.
- Budget Pause:
 - Independent assessment of all weapons & personnel programs.
 - Clean the financial management stables.
- Discriminate in favor of modern veterans.