



The Season of Nonviolence

Week 9

Nonviolence and Foreign Policy

“In a Cairo slum, a mother cradles a whimpering infant in her arms. The child has diarrhea – the result of impure water – and is severely dehydrated. She will probably die within hours, since the parents have no money for medical care. Three older children, pale and thin, huddle together in a corner of their small shack. Several kilometers away, at the seaport, a new shipment of military transport trucks is being unloaded onto the docks.”

The Ploughshares Monitor

“A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

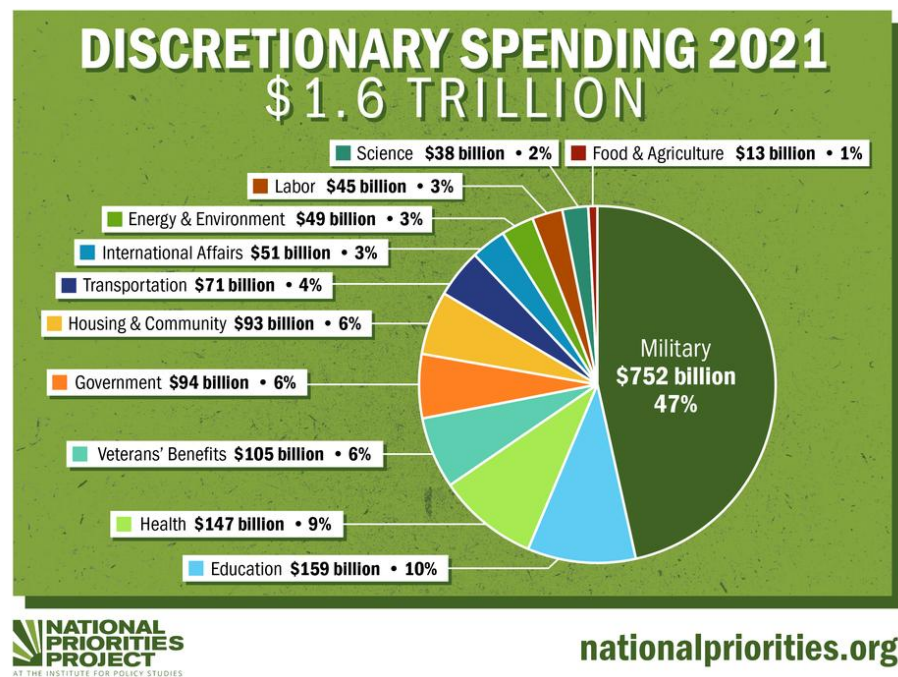
To our Friends on the Journey of the Nonviolent Jesus,

As citizens of the United States, how do we make sense of our nation’s foreign policy and military spending in light of our faith? Is there a connection between the United States’ budget priorities and nonviolence? Every dollar spent is an ethical choice.

Recently, [President Trump ordered that the United States Agency of International Aid \(USAID\) be shut down](#). Commenting on this decision, Allistar Dutton, head of Caritas Internationalis, an international Catholic aid organization said, “Turning away from the world’s most vulnerable is not just strategically reckless—endangering peace, stability and human life—it is morally indefensible.”

In the Know

As of 2023, the United States military budget was \$916 billion making it more than the combined military spending of the next nine nations. In 2021, US military spending made up 47% of discretionary spending, and nearly 11% of all federal spending. In contrast, USAID was established in 1961 and has helped the poorest of the poor throughout the world. 10,000 contracts USAID had with aid agencies throughout the world, such as Catholic Relief Services, were just ended. These USAID contracts represented about \$60 billion dollars in spending. In 2024, USAID spending accounted for 0.3% of all federal spending.



[Chart from National Priorities Project \(NPP\)](#)

What does Scripture say?

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks;
One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.

Isaiah 2:4

Take a quiz!

[U.S. Military Spending Quiz](#)

Local Connects

[United Nations Association of Greater Milwaukee](#) is a group working to educate people in the Milwaukee area about the United Nations (UN) and the U.N.'s work as “an instrumental force in creating a peaceful world.”

[Peace Action of Wisconsin](#) is an organization with its roots in opposition to the nuclear arms race, that advocates for peace and justice in our community, state, nation, and world.

Action Steps



[Photo from Wikimedia Commons](#)

1. **Easy:** [Read about the impact of USAID](#) around the world.
2. **A Bit More:** Explore US nuclear policy and/or US foreign policy in more depth.
 - a. [The Risk of the Cross: Living Gospel Nonviolence in the Nuclear Age](#) by Arthur Laffin explores US nuclear policy through the lens of the Gospel of Mark.
 - b. [Lazarus, Come Forth!](#) by John Dear calls us “to walk out of the tombs of death—the culture of violence and war—and into the new life of resurrection peace.”
 - c. [Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq](#) by Stephen Kinzer is an overview of just over 100 years of US efforts to change governments throughout the world.

3. **All In:** Attend one of the weekly [Stands For Peace sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin](#) from 12-1 pm each Saturday, at various intersections around the Milwaukee area.

Mark your calendar!

Join us for the concluding event of the Season For Nonviolence on Friday, April 4, 2025, from 6:15-8:15 pm in the hall at OLOL. We will view a short film and discuss the various issues raised through our exploration of the Season For Nonviolence.

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.**

Amen