



# THE COST OF INVADING IRAQ

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*The Bush Administration currently proposes to wage war on Iraq. Below are a few considerations about the cost of that action to the American people.*

## **A war on Iraq is likely to cost \$100 billion.**

Experts, including Senator Joseph Biden, Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, indicate that the war may cost as much as \$80-\$100 billion. The 1990-91 Gulf War cost \$61 billion, according to the Department of Defense. That's almost \$80 billion in today's dollars. In this case, the administration policy is for a change of regime, suggesting the possibility of a longer, more involved and more costly war.

### **How Much is \$100 billion?**

- Three times what the federal government spends on K-12 education.
- Enough to provide health care to all uninsured children in the U.S. for 5 years.
- More than four times the total international affairs budget.

## **Rebuilding Iraq is likely to cost at least \$50 billion.**

Different experts weighed in on reconstruction efforts during the recent Senate hearings on Iraq. According to Samuel Berger, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor during the Clinton Administration, estimates for re-building the Iraqi economy range from \$50-\$150 billion. Scott R. Feil, retired colonel and expert on post-conflict reconstruction, argued that significant material and personnel resources would be required for reconstruction. Just the security forces alone would entail 75,000 personnel in the first year, amounting to \$16.5 billion. At least 5,000 troops would have to remain in place for 5-10 years, costing over \$1 billion a year. Beyond security, the U.S. would be expected to make a significant contribution for humanitarian and emergency aid, a transitional administration, civil service and other components of reconstruction. Feil estimated that these non-security costs would amount to \$15-\$25 billion over the next decade.

## **United States citizens would have to pay for the vast majority of the war.**

The U.S. had much international support during the Gulf War. Allies picked up almost 90% of its cost. However, this war does not have international support. Many allies have made it clear that they are not in favor of a preemptive strike. Germany and Saudi Arabia, among the largest cash and in-kind contributors to the Gulf War, have indicated their complete opposition to an invasion. The U.S. people should expect to pay for most of the war as well as reconstruction.

The **National Priorities Project** offers citizens and community groups tools and resources to shape federal budget and policy priorities which promote social and economic justice. For more information, contact us at:

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# WHAT WOULD THE WAR ON IRAQ COST YOUR STATE?

*The table below presents the estimated cost to your state for a war against Iraq. The cost is based on each state's portion of individual income taxes and assumes that the U.S. will bear the entire cost of a \$100 billion war. The total does not equal \$100 billion because only individual income taxes are included; corporate and other taxes that would pay for the cost of the war are not included.*

STATE	COST OF WAR	STATE	COST OF WAR
United States (Total)	\$100,000,000,000	Missouri	\$1,349,000,000
United States (Ind'l Income Taxes)	81,282,000,000	Montana	154,000,000
Alabama	879,000,000	Nebraska	412,000,000
Alaska	188,000,000	Nevada	648,000,000
Arizona	1,199,000,000	New Hampshire	425,000,000
Arkansas	451,000,000	New Jersey	3,609,000,000
California	10,159,000,000	New Mexico	315,000,000
Colorado	1,367,000,000	New York	6,780,000,000
Connecticut	1,843,000,000	North Carolina	1,853,000,000
Delaware	239,000,000	North Dakota	122,000,000
D.C.	229,000,000	Ohio	2,944,000,000
Florida	4,805,000,000	Oklahoma	631,000,000
Georgia	2,094,000,000	Oregon	810,000,000
Hawaii	265,000,000	Pennsylvania	3,465,000,000
Idaho	230,000,000	Rhode Island	276,000,000
Illinois	4,322,000,000	South Carolina	804,000,000
Indiana	1,542,000,000	South Dakota	158,000,000
Iowa	638,000,000	Tennessee	1,347,000,000
Kansas	670,000,000	Texas	5,648,000,000
Kentucky	782,000,000	Utah	426,000,000
Louisiana	885,000,000	Vermont	143,000,000
Maine	267,000,000	Virginia	2,168,000,000
Maryland	1,740,000,000	Washington	2,065,000,000
Massachusetts	2,580,000,000	West Virginia	289,000,000
Michigan	2,949,000,000	Wisconsin	1,432,000,000
Minnesota	1,493,000,000	Wyoming	147,000,000
Mississippi	438,000,000	Outside US and DC	606,000,000

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For information on the cost of war with Iraq to cities, go to: <http://www.nationalpriorities.org/issues/military/iraq/costofiraqwar.html>.  
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