<http://www.truthdig.com/report/page2/the_costs_of_violence_masters_of_mankind_part_2_20160512>

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/176137/>

I. American Empire

A. U.S. is an empire: dominates peoples and territories of the world.

1. Means of domination: military

a. most powerful military in history

b. global “force projection”

i. bases all over the world

ii. sea dominance

iii. space dominance

iv. Special Forces

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/01/map-startling-size-us-special%20forces>

c. client states

2. Goal

a. world domination

b. eliminate threats (real, possible, potential, hypothetical) to domination

c. remake world in its own image

d. serve complex arrangement of economic and political interest s

3. Ideology of Empire: Militarism

a. military is dominant institution in American society

i. military-industrial-intelligence complex

ii. military (including “militarists”) controls political system

iii. military values and norms are dominant norms in society

b. problems and solutions defined by military

c. no institutional constraints on use of military power

i. Congress/imperial presidency

ii. UN/International law

B. Structure: Military-Industrial-Intelligence Complex

1. Military

a. civilian command and administration

b. military command

c. armed forces

i. Active duty 1.3 million

ii. 1.1 million members of the National Guard/Reserves

iii. branches of military

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176048/tomgram%3A_nick_turse,_a_secret_war_in_135_countries/>

d. bases

i. 6,000 +

ii. 800+ in 160+ countries

e. military intelligence agencies

f. military academies, schools for strategic studies, ROTC

g. costs/comparisons

2. weapons contractors

a. contractors

b. weapons systems

i. annually: billions in contracts (2005 $265 billion)

ii. cost +

iii. current overruns $300 billion

c. weapons dealers

i. sell to over 140 countries,

ii. Defense Export Loan

Guarantee Fund $15 billion

iii. DOD has 6500

d. Clinton :"promote peaceful conflict resolution, and arms control, human rights, and democratization”

3. Private Military Contractors (PMCs)

a. security

b. support

c. special forces

4. trade groups: Aerospace Industry Association

5. think tanks: Center for Strategic and International Studies

6. Congress

a. own stock in defense contractors

b. “reelection” and weapons contractors

c. Pork: + $8 billion

7. Universities

a. funding for “basic research”: 2005 $7 billion

b. Professors work for think tanks funded by Corporations

8. Intelligence

C. History: Rise of American Empire

1. American Exceptionalism

a. The City on the Hill

b. Early Pre-Revolutionary Puritans

i. new Chosen People

ii. new “Promised Land”

c. unlimited natural resources

d. no class or caste system

e. infinite opportunity

f. benevolent and moral country ( a “good” country)

g. a unique and special people

2. America: Manifest Destiny

a. white race is ordained by God

b. conquer North America

c. justified “expansion”

i. Native Americans

ii. Mexican American War

d. Wilson: a “global destiny”

3. Overthrow

a. Hawaii

b. Spanish American War

i. Cuba/Platt Amendment

ii. Philippines

iii. Puerto Rico

c. Panama and the Canal

d. Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine

i. Nicaragua

ii. Honduras

e. Wilson: Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Mexico

4. WWII: Post –Colonialism and American Empire

a. Grand Strategy

b. “friendly dictators”

c. “unfriendly dictators” :Cuba and Castro, Congo and Lumumba, Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh

d. Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chile, Argentina, Brazil,

e. Vietnam and Grand Strategy

5. Cold War and Military Industrial Complex

a. “Containment”

b. MI Complex

i. permanent war economy

ii. military/mic in government

iii. military preparedness

c. 56 cents of every dollar to defense

d. arms race

7. “exorcizing Vietnam”: Saddam Hussein and Iraq I

8. 9-11 and the “war on terror”

**National Security Strategy 2002**

1. US is in a unique position

a. single dominate power .

b. largest economy

c. most powerful military

2. US model: free market capitalism and democracy

3. Needs to maintain position, enhance interests, and

eliminate threats

a. Middle East is extremely important: economically

and strategically

b. third world countries into line

c. counter threats to global hegemony

4. rejection of doctrines of deterrence and containment

a. MAD

b. 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

c. Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

d. 1967 Outer Space Treaty

5. The standard of imminent threat is redefined

to “possible or potential” threat

**Doctrine of Preemptive War**

1. Basic Principle: the US has the right to use force

against any nation

a. whose leaders have hostile intentions

b. have alleged connection with terrorists

c. have alleged potential connection with terrorists

d. have alleged plans and projects regarding wmd

e.anticipation of possible future dangers

2. Between 50 and 60 countries could be targets

**Nuclear Posture Review**

1. Use against non-nuclear country if conventional weapons fail to achieve military goals.

2. If specific targets withstand non nuclear attack

3."in the event of a surprising military development"

4. in retaliation for attack with wmd

5. will begin developing new types of nuclear weapons

6. Under Obama

a.“Nuclear Employment Strategy.” . . . the U.S. government considers itself free to initiate a nuclear attack on other nations.

b. counterforce strategy. Designed to employ U.S. nuclear weapons to destroy an enemy nation’s nuclear weapons, delivery systems, and associated installations. . .

c**.`** launch under attack.’

. d. New START

i.. **eliminate 1 to 517 of them.**

ii.[**7,700 nuclear weapons**](http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/nuclearweapons/nukestatus.html)**.**

[**http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/nuclearweapons/nukestatus.html**](http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/nuclearweapons/nukestatus.html)

e. 9 percent increase in federal funding for the Energy Department’s U.S. nuclear weapons activities, including upgrading nuclear warheads (like the B61 gravity bomb, slated for a $10 billion makeover) and modernizing nuclear weapons production facilities.

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOUtZOqgSG8**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOUtZOqgSG8)

**Global War on Terror**

1. earth as the battlefield and as such U.S. can do any thing, any where, any time they want

2. high technology warfare: drones

3. JSOC (Joint Special Operations Command)

a. created in 1980s, 10x larger now

b. reports only to president

c. operates beyond any legal accountability

d. operations are secret

e. operations are in many countries and in countries we

have not even claimed are tied to terrorism

f. sabotage, assassinate, “kill lists”

4. War at Home:

a. Patriot Act

b. Bush/Obama and Telecoms

c. Bush/Obama and National Security Agency

d. Imperial Presidency and Secrecy

e. Bush/Obama State Secrecy

f. Bush/Obama Sovereign Immunity

h. National Defense Appropriations Act 2012

i. Secret laws and secret interpretations

j. Supreme Court rulings

<http://www.truthdig.com/eartotheground/item/senate_cedes_more_power_to_the_nsa_by_passing_cisa_20151028>

II. Sorrows of Empire

A. Global War on Terror

1. Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria: failed states

2. Destabilized Middle East

3. Increase in global terrorism

4. Increase in state terrorism

B. Four Sorrows

1. perpetual war and normalization of war

2. loss of democracy and constitutional rights

3. “lying world”

a. propaganda and disinformation

1. glorification of war, power and military

c. patriots vs internal enemies

4. financial ruin

“Nemesis, the goddess of retribution and vengeance, the punisher of pride and hubris, waits impatiently for her meeting with us.”

<http://www.globalfirepower.com/country-military-strength-detail.asp?country_id=united-states-of-america>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xC-PXLS4BQ4>