

## DO FEWER RESOURCES MEAN LESS INFLUENCE? A COMPARATIVE HISTORICAL CASE STUDY OF MILITARY INFLUENCE IN A TIME OF AUSTERITY

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It is common in post-conflict situations for a societal conversation about defense cutbacks to take place. Regardless of the time period or country in which such conversations occur, some universal themes can be identified:

1. A claim (which appears in the media and in the legislature) that cost savings will be realized, and that these savings are collective property “owed” to citizens as a reward for supporting the effort.

2. A redefinition of the utility of traditional military tools in a changed, post-conflict society, accompanied sometimes by a larger conversation about the utility of the hegemon’s leading position in the international system.

3. A tendency for new presidential doctrines to emerge that drive defense policy, including defense cuts.

4. A search for new, “cheaper” military technologies developed during wartime to be used in place of conventional military forces.

5. A sense that the military, which grew powerful during wartime, should now take a backseat in society while problems like social welfare are tackled by policymakers.

6. A tendency for threats to be redefined in both the short and long term.

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