

# WHY PROTEST NATO IN 2012?

**NATO** — the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — was formed in 1949 to make the world safe from communism and safe for capitalism. Today, **NATO** includes 28 nations, including many in the east previously within the political orbit of the former Soviet Union.

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**NATO** countries account for two-thirds of the \$1.5 trillion a year the world spends on militaries (not including huge “indirect” costs like caring for injured soldiers or paying interest on the government debt that bankrolls these expenditures). US expenditures (again, NOT counting ‘indirect’ costs) account for 70% of NATO expenditures, or roughly half of total global military expenditures.

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**NATO** is NOT a defensive group. It is a (selective) global intervention power.

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The over \$700 million/year U.S. taxpayers fork out for NATO could bankroll living wages for tens of millions of teachers, health care workers, firefighters, and other vital service providers—or \$25,000/year in unemployment for almost 30 million out-of-work people, or tuition at state colleges for more than 60 million college students.

If we can spend \$750 billion to bail out big banks, we can shift hundreds of millions of dollars in NATO funding each year to human needs at home, instead.

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**NATO** is responsible for 70% of world military expenditures—and the U.S. is responsible for 50% of world military expenditures, \$711 billion in 2011 alone. And that’s just the part of the military budget that’s not secret or buried in other parts of the budget.

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**U.S./NATO** wars have been accompanied by an explosion in the ‘privatization’ of these wars to the economic benefit of the arms industry and its corporate ‘service’ providers—and those contracts are often awarded and ‘managed’ with virtually no public oversight.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** <http://natoprotest.org/why/>