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17/SMS10/005

PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

PCS 312 : MILITARY AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

TEST ASSIGNMENT

Question

Write an essay of not less than 1000 words on the military industrial complex and its impact on military technologies and warfare since the end of WWII. The essay should highlight the following points:

1.What is the military industrial complex? Discuss its origin and manifestation worldwide.

2.Discuss the fear of Dwight Eisenhower and the reality of his fear in the industrialisation of warfare in the 20th and 21st centuries.

3.Highlight the growing influence of the military industrial complex globally, from advanced countries to less-developed ones

4.Get data/information on the yearly defence spending of at least ten (ten) countries over five (5) years to highlight the rate of increase or decrease in defence spending.

5.Show the implication of the growing influence of the military industrial complex on warfare in the 21st century. By extension, discuss the implication of Biochemical warfare using the coronavirus pandemic as a case study.

ANSWER

QUESTION 1.

The term is most often used in reference to the system behind the military of the United States, where it is most prevalent due to close links between defense contractors, the Pentagon and politicians and gained popularity after a warning on its detrimental effects in the farewell address of President Dwight D Eisenhower.
The military industrial complex (MIC) is an informal alliance between a nation's military and the defense industry that supplies it, seen together as a vital interest which influences public policy. A major reason for this establishment between the government and defense corporations is that both sides benefit one side from obtaining war weapons, and the other from being paid to supply them.
The term is most often used in reference to the system behind the military of the United States, due to close links between defense contractors, the Pentagon and politicians and gained popularity after a warning on its detrimental effects in the farewell address of President Dwight D. Eisenhower on January 17, 1961.
In the context of the United States, the appellation is sometimes extended to military–industrial congressional complex (MICC), adding the U.S. Congress to form a three-sided relationship termed an “iron triangle”. These relationships include political contributions, political approval for military spending, lobbying to support bureaucracies, and oversight of the industry; or more broadly to include the entire network of contracts and flows of money and resources among individuals as well as corporations and institutions of the defense contractors, private military contractors, The Pentagon, the Congress and executive branch.
Benefits of the Military Industrial Complex of the United States include the advancement of the civilian technology market as civilian companies benefit from innovations from the MIC and vice versa.

QUESTION 2.

The military industrial complex (MIC) is an informal alliance between a nation's military and the defense industry that supplies it, seen together as a vested interest which influences public policy. The term is most often used in reference to the system behind the military of the United States, where it is most prevalent due to close links between defense contractors, the Pentagon and politicians and gained popularity after a warning on its detrimental effects in the farewell address of President Dwight D. Eisenhower on January 17, 1961. Despite his military background and being the only general to be elected president in the 20th century, he warned the nation regarding the corrupting influence of what he describes as the "military-industrial complex". Until the latest of our world conflicts, the United States had no armaments industry. He also expressed his concomitant concern for corruption of the scientific process as part of this centralization of funding in the Federal government, and vice-versa: His remarks, issued during a televised farewell address to the American people, were particularly significant since Ike had famously served the nation as military commander of the Allied forces during WWII. Eisenhower urged his successors to strike a balance between a strong national defense and diplomacy in dealing with the Soviet Union. He did not suggest arms reduction and in fact acknowledged that the bomb was an effective deterrent to nuclear war. However, knowing that America’s peacetime defense policy had changed drastically since his military career, Eisenhower expressed concerns about the growing influence of what he termed the military-industrial complex. Before and during the Second World War, American industries had successfully converted to defense production as the crisis demanded, but out of the war, what Eisenhower called a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions emerged. This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience Eisenhower warned, "[while] we recognize the imperative need for this development...We must not fail to comprehend its grave implications we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence…The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist." Eisenhower cautioned that the federal government’s collaboration with an alliance of military and industrial leaders, though necessary, was vulnerable to abuse of power. Ike then counseled American citizens to be vigilant in monitoring the military-industrial complex. Ike also recommended restraint in consumer habits, particularly regarding the environment. "As we peer into society’s future, we–you and I, and our government–must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering, for our own ease and convenience, the precious resources of tomorrow," he said. "We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without asking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage.
In Eisenhower’s speech he expressed concerns about planning for the future and the dangers of massive spending, especially deficit spending, the prospect of the domination of science through Federal funding and, conversely, the domination of science-based public policy by what he called a "scientific-technological elite" as the dangers of the military industrial complex.

QUESTION 3

Modern MICs rose out of the industrial revolution in Britain, France, and Germany in the 1880s and 1890s. The revolution in transportation (steamships and railroads) made it possible for these nations to make long-distance mobilizations, facilitating the “Age of Imperialism”. Arguably, the industrialization of war also fueled tensions. The military potential that was unleashed had horrible consequences in Europe with the beginning of the World War I (WWI), which was a war of attrition fought in trenches, at great humanitarian and economic cost.
At the end of WWI, the majority of countries did not completely demobilized; instead there was a shift toward faster integration of technology into military usage. This resulted in strengthening relationships between the military and private companies, and the establishment of MICs in other nations, including Japan and the United States (US). The period between 1930 and 1939 military spending doubled.
In Africa there have never been large scale wars, due to the economic resources and structure needed to develop the military industrial complex, many other countries in Asia as well have been unable to create a working military complex, Due to the lack of defense industries in Africa, there have only been minor technological advancements, many of them insignificant in the face of the overwhelmingly industrialized militaries of Europe and America.
globally the impact of the relationship between government in corporation has led to more policies and meetings on arms control and counter terrorism, it has also funded wars such as the Korean conflict that exist to this day and so on.

Question4

FROM 2015 TO 2019

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| USAdollar | BRITAINPOUNDS | FRANCEeuro | GERMANYEURO | SPAIN | CHINAYUAN  | INDIAdollar | JAPANdollar | ITALYEURO | CANADAdollar |
| $736.4B | 36.6B | 32B | 35,898 B | 10,000  | 200.77B | 40.4 B | 40b | 17,642B  | 23,900 B |
| $767.6B | 36.7B | 32.7B | 37,598 B | 9,014  | 214.09 B | 57B | 44B | 20,226 B | 23,474 B |
| $818.9B | 37.1B | 33.3B | 40,447 B | 10,528  | 216.03B | 57B | 45B | 21,166B  | 30,761 B |
| $890.8B | 38.7B | 34B | 41,913 B | 11,171  | 227.83B | 61.573B | 51B | 21,183 B | 28,595 B |
| $904.3B | 40.2 B | 34.7B | 47,320B | 11,505 | 1.19T | 65.86B | 52B | 21,408B | 28,810B |