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August 21, 2010

Graph of the Day for August 21, 2010

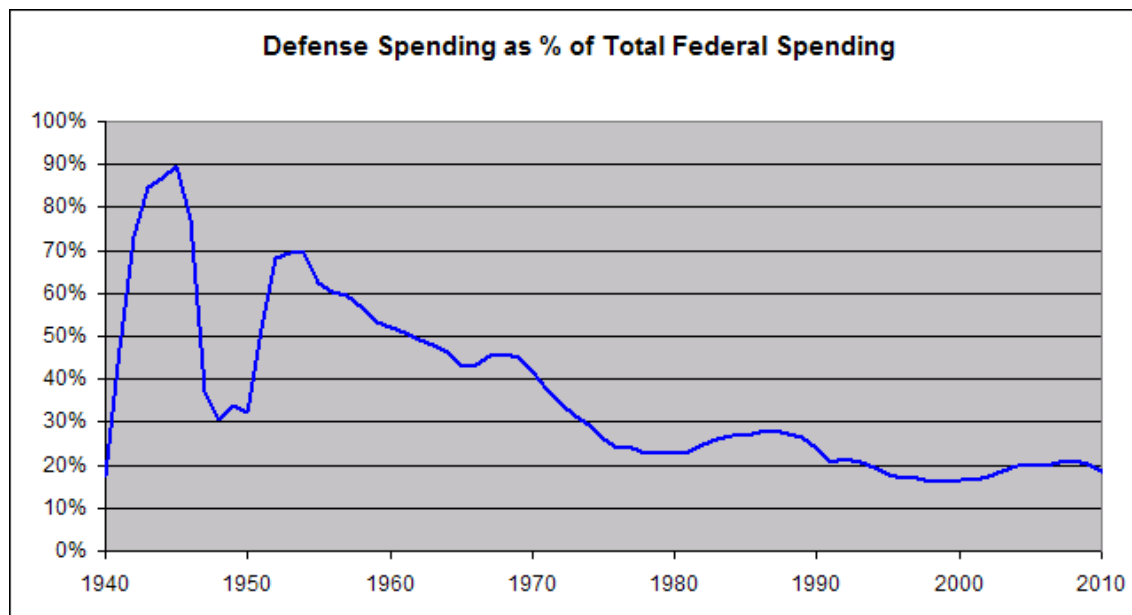
Randall Hoven

"With the fixation on shrinking the budget deficit, why is over \$700 billion in annual defense spending almost always off-limits for discussion? The mainstream media rarely explore possible cuts in the nation's largest discretionary spending item, and most politicians refuse to even consider the issue." Katrina vanden Huevel, [The Washington Post](#), June 22, 2010.

"Cut Defense Spending." Lawrence Korb and Christopher Preble, [The National Interest](#), June 16, 2010.

"My Advice for Obama - We could defend ourselves with a military budget half the current size." George McGovern, [The Wall Street Journal](#), June 2009.

"Barney Frank to Obama: Cut Military Spending." [Mother Jones](#), February 2009.



Data source: [US Statistical Abstract](#), Table 459.

Hoven's Index for August 21, 2010

National defense spending as a percentage of total federal spending:

1940-49 average: 57.8%

1950-59 average: 58.3%

1960-69 average: 46.8%

1970-79 average: 29.4%

1980-89 average: 26.0%

1990-99 average: 19.0%

2000-09 average: 19.0%

Payments to individuals as a percentage of total federal spending in 2010: 63.9%

Data source: [US Statistical Abstract](#), Table 459.

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