High military spending: making a case for the alternatives (update)

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http://www.sgr.org.uk/

Update to a presentation given at St John’s Church, Hereford, 17 April 2012. An event to mark the Global Day of Action on Military Spending
Global military spending

- 2011 total: $1,740,000,000,000
- 42% increase since 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Military spending in 2011 (billion US$)</th>
<th>% of global total</th>
<th>Increase since 2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. USA</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. China</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>170%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Russia</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. UK</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. France</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Key points
- Global military spending only rose with inflation from 2010, i.e. in real terms, it levelled off – the first time since before 9/11 attacks.
- US remains dominant with massive spending increases since 9/11 attacks.
- China and Russia have used their growing economies to try to close the gap, especially including modernising aging equipment. In 2011, Russian spending overtook UK and France.
- UK has had more modest increase but is now falling back.
- Regional arms races are developing – especially in Asia – as effects of US spending increase ripples out.

Reference:
http://www.sipri.org/