MILITARY BASES

Will Griffin
williambgriffin@gmail.com
www.thepacereport.com/GN2018workshop
BOOK SOURCES

THE SORROWS OF EMPIRE
MILITARISM, Secrecy, AND THE ENd OF THE REPUBLIC
CHALMERS JOHNSON
UNABRIDGED • READ BY TOM WEINER

The Bases of Empire
The Global Struggle Against U.S. Military Posts
edited by Catherine Lutz

BASE NATION
HOW U.S. MILITARY BASES ABROAD HARM AMERICA AND THE WORLD
DAVID VINE
EAST OR WEST GERMANY?
I'M A PRODUCT OF THE SYSTEM
I WAS BORN TO DESTROY

-LOWKEY
WHAT DOES A MILITARY BASE LOOK LIKE?
WHAT DOES A MILITARY BASE LOOK LIKE?

GUANTANAMO BAY
WHAT DOES A MILITARY BASE LOOK LIKE?

VICENZA, ITALY
WHAT DOES A MILITARY BASE LOOK LIKE?

CAMP HUMPREYS, SOUTH KOREA
WHAT DOES A MILITARY BASE LOOK LIKE?

CAMP LEMMONNIER, DJIBOUTI
WHAT DOES A MILITARY BASE LOOK LIKE?

USMC AIR STATION FUTENMA, OKINAWA
WHAT DOES A MILITARY BASE LOOK LIKE?

PINE GAP, AUSTRALIA
WHAT DOES A MILITARY BASE LOOK LIKE?

BAGRAM, AFGHANISTAN
WHAT DOES A MILITARY BASE LOOK LIKE?

USS CARL VINSON

EA-18G Growler
E-2C Hawkeye
F/A18 Super Hornets
WHAT DOES A MILITARY BASE LOOK LIKE?

RAF CROYDON, U.K.
WHAT IS A MILITARY BASE?

Base: any place, facility, or installation used regularly for military purposes of any kind.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinds of Military Bases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>small radar facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ports and airfields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>training areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>missile test sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arsenals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warehouses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barracks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>military schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>communication posts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drone bases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>military hospitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>military prisons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rehab facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>para-military bases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intelligence facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>military resort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>military recreational facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nuclear weapons installations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and golf courses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW MANY MILITARY BASES?

HOW MANY OVERSEAS BASES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES?
800 U.S. MILITARY BASES OVERSEAS

40-60 MILITARY BASES OVERSEAS TOTAL!

Everyone Else
THE TRILLION DOLLAR NATIONAL SECURITY BUDGET

$7 BILLION — MILITARY AID
$8 BILLION — OTHER DEFENSE
$20 BILLION — NUCLEAR WARHEADS
$50 BILLION — HOMELAND SECURITY
$64 BILLION — WAR BUDGET OCO
$70 BILLION — INTELLIGENCE
$80 BILLION — MILITARY RETIREMENT
$100 BILLION — DEFENSE SHARE OF INTEREST ON DEBT
$186 BILLION — SUPPORTING VETERANS

PENTAGON BUDGET
$700 BILLION

TOTAL: $1,285,000,000,000
WHY NOT HAVE EMPIRE?

DOUGLAS LUMMIS
HOW DID WE GET HERE?
HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Since the days of ancient Egypt, Rome, and China, military bases have been a key foundation for imperial control over lands and people.
ROMAN EMPIRE MILITARY BASES
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS IN HISPANIOLA

La Navidad Fort
THE BIRTH OF BASE NATION
Sept 02, 1940 President Roosevelt began the transformation of America from a major power to a superpower of unparalleled military might.

Agreement: Provide Britain with 50 WW1-era destroyers in exchange for U.S. control over air and naval bases. Known as “Destroyers-for-Bases” agreement.

U.S. acquired 99-year leases and near sovereign powers over bases in Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Thomas, Antigua, Aruba-Curacao, Trinidad, and British Guiana.

Most important action since...
NATIVE LANDS AND EARLY U.S. MILITARY BASES ABROAD

[Map showing Native American lands and military bases abroad]
U.S. MILITARY BASES ABROAD, 1945

U.S. MILITARY BASES ABROAD, 1989

At the end of the Cold War, the United States controlled around 1,000 bases overseas. This map reflects their relative number and positioning. For easy comparison, if base maps over time, locations are contemporary. Key sources: Robert S. McNamara, Strategic bombing and the Great Powers (1987); Department of Defense, Over Seas Base Report (1988); Robert L. Scott, A Time to Remember: The U.S. Army in the Cold War (1990); Out of the Shadows: John W. McConnell Jr. and Diane S. Gadziala, U.S. Bases Overseas; news reports.

THE GLOBAL PROLIFERATION OF LILY PAD BASES


Small Lily pad bases (formerly “cooperative security locations”) built for various military purposes since the end of the twentieth century. By design, Lily pad bases are secretive in nature and difficult to distinguish from host nation facilities, making an authoritative list nearly impossible. This map reflects the best available information as of early 2016. Key sources: Lauren Pracht, Congressional Research Service reports; Nick Turse, TomDispatch.com; Craig Whitney, Washington Post; John Lindsey-Poland, Fellowship of Reconciliation blog; Michael J. Leventi et al., "Overseas Basing of U.S. Military Forces": Alexander Cockley, Base Politics: Cheyenne Johnson, The Sumter of Empire and Americas: GlobalSecurity news report.
Local social movements and national governments have forced the closure or blocked the received of U.S. bases worldwide. There are surely additional cases. The anti-base protests here represent particularly large and prominent contemporary examples. Campbells, protests, and opposition appear at virtually every U.S. base overseas.


*Movement by displaced people demanding the right of return but not necessarily taken seriously.

MILITARY BASES REPRESENT AMERICAN SYMBOLS
MILITARISM KEEPS US SAFE, SO DO MILITARY BASES!

Do Americans even know about military bases?
MILITARISM KEEPS US SAFE, SO DO MILITARY BASES!

What do Americans think of overseas military bases?

- A FORM OF SPREADING DEMOCRACY
- ACCEPTED UNQUESTIONLY, TREATED AS AN OBVIOUS GOOD
- ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY
- ESSENTIAL TO GLOBAL PEACE
MILITARISM KEEPS US SAFE, SO DO MILITARY BASES!
Do Americans even know about military bases?

INCONCEIVABLE!
MILITARISM/FORWARD STRATEGY: BELIEF

What do Americans think of overseas military bases?

MILITARISM: THE PRINCIPLE OR POLICY OF MAINTAINING A LARGE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT

FORWARD STRATEGY: BELIEF THAT U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY REQUIRES ACCESS TO OVERSEAS MILITARY BASES
JUSTIFICATION FOR BASES?

IDK?
COLD WAR ERA

4 MISSIONS TO JUSTIFY OVERSEAS BASES:
1. PROJECT MILITARY POWER INTO AREAS OF CONCERN
2. PREPARE FOR NUCLEAR WAR
3. "TRIPWIRES", GUARANTEEING AN AMERICAN RESPONSE TO AN ATTACK
4. SYMBOLS OF AMERICAN POWER

POST-COLD WAR ERA

4 missions to justify overseas bases:
1. MAINTAINING ABSOLUTE MILITARY PREPONDERANCE
2. EAVESDROPPING ON THE COMMUNICATIONS OF CITIZENS, ALLIES, AND ENEMIES ALIKE
3. ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL AS MANY SOURCES OF PETROLEUM AS POSSIBLE
4. PROVIDING WORK AND INCOME FOR THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX (MOST PROFITABLE DEFENSE COMPANIES ARE AMERICAN)
5. ENSURING MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES LIVE COMFORTABLY AND WELL ENTERTAINED WHILE ABROAD.

The unit of empire in the classic European empires was the colony. The unit for the American empire is not the colony, it's the military base.

Chalmers Johnson
WHY QUESTION CLOSING BASES?

- Save $100-200 billion every year
- Bases contribute to already high rates of sexual violence
- Environmental damage, unaccountability and lack of transparency
- Bases have displaced entire villages
- Families suffer from separation
- Disproportionate presence on U.S. colonies, perpetuates 21st century colonialism, going against democracy
- Provocative, heightens tensions, discourages diplomacy
- Turns host country into a target
- The goal of protecting from threats may provoke threats
- Preference for bases in undemocratic/despotic states
YONGSAN GARRISON, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

- CLOSING DOWN
- DETECTED 150 TIMES LEGAL LIMIT OF CONTAMINATION:
  - BENZENE
  - TOTAL PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS
  - TOLUENE
  - ETHYLBENZENE
  - XYLENE
  - NO ACCOUNTABILITY
OKINAWA ISLAND, JAPAN (BUT REALLY OKINAWA)

- Agent Orange found on Okinawa Island more than 40 years after Vietnam War
- Currently in dispute, most likely no accountability from America
- 2 veterans win Agent Orange exposure cases, stationed at Okinawa Island
OKINAWA ISLAND, JAPAN (BUT REALLY OKINAWA)

- 1995 OKINAWA RAPE INCIDENT
- 12 YEAR OLD GIRL RAPE BY 3 AMERICAN SERVICEMEMBERS
- ALL RELEASED IN 2003
- 1 COMMITED RAPE AND MURDER LATER, THEN SUICIDE AFTER
HAVING 800 MILITARY BASES TO MAINTAIN DOESN’T HELP
10 STEPS TOWARDS LIQUIDATING THE EMPIRE

1. HALT ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE. STOP ‘SOFA’S THAT LEAVE AMERICA UNACCOUNTABLE
2. CLOSE AS MANY BASES AS POSSIBLE, USE RESOURCES ELSEWHERE (CLEAN UP?)
3. END THE USE OF TORTURE (ENABLED BY FOREIGN BASES)
4. CUT OUT EXTRAS (FOLLOWERS, DEPENDENTS, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES)
5. DISCREDIT MYTH THAT THE ‘MIC’ CREATES JOBS AND INCOME
6. STOP BEING THE WORLD’S LARGEST ARMS/MUNITIONS EXPORTER
7. ABOLISH RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) (END MILITARISM)
8. SCALE BACK RELIANCE ON CONTRACTORS AND PRIVATE COMPANIES
9. REDUCE SIZE OF STANDING ARMY
10. GIVE UP OUR INAPPROPRIATE RELIANCE ON MILITARY FORCE AS THE CHIEF MEANS OF ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES
Dismantle Empire!