

The Cost of... **BIDEN'S WEAK NATIONAL SECURITY POLICIES**

***The Cost Of...* breaks down the budgetary impact of what's driving our political discourse, giving context and analysis of its impact on our exploding \$35.6 trillion in national debt.**

This week, we'll be examining *The Cost Of...* President Biden's Weak National Security Policies. We will analyze the Administration's unforced blunders in Afghanistan, Ukraine, and along our southern border. These are three different national security concerns, on three different continents, with three different sets of problems, all tied together by their erosion of America's standing in the world. The policies and direct actions of President Biden throughout these three conflicts total a half-trillion dollars – possibly even more.

PRESENTING THE PROBLEM

President Biden's weak national security policies have directly contributed to [the world's most violent period in the post-World War II era](#). Ranging from the disastrous withdrawal of Afghanistan, refusing to stand up to Vladimir Putin on Ukraine, to fabricating its own border crisis, this Administration has led us down a path of endangering our own citizens, emboldening our adversaries, and jeopardizing our leadership in the world.

In this week's *The Cost Of...*, we will break down the Biden Administration's disturbing trend of failing to prioritize the national security of the United States and the American people.

COUNTING THE COST

The Cost of President Biden's Retreat from Afghanistan

The war in Afghanistan spanned 20 years, four U.S. Presidents, seven Secretaries of State, eight Secretaries of Defense, ten ambassadors, [and \\$2.3 trillion of American tax dollars](#). President Biden's catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan was one of the [biggest strategic failures](#) in the history of our country. The only people who benefited from our withdrawal were the Taliban.

The Department of Defense (DOD) estimates that [\\$7.12 billion of U.S. defense equipment remained in Afghanistan after the hasty and ill-planned withdrawal](#). Even President Biden's National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan confirmed, "We don't have a complete picture, obviously, of where every article of defense materials has gone, but certainly a fair amount of it has fallen into the hands of the Taliban."



By most measures, \$7.12 billion is a little more than a “fair amount.” Vital military equipment and munitions – paid for by American taxpayers and intended to keep Americans and our allies safe – *were handed over to the Taliban*, including:

- **\$4.13 billion** in military vehicles, including 12,000 military Hunvees.
- **\$923.3 million** worth of aircraft, including nearly 80 vehicles abandoned at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul.
- **\$294.8 million** in over 180,000 air-to-ground missiles and 50,150 practice munitions.
- **\$47.2 million** in 9,200 guidance, control, assemblies, fuses, or launchers.
- “Nearly all” of the communications equipment, including base-station, mobile, man-portable, and hand-held commercial and military radio systems, and associated transmitters and encryption devices.
- More than 300,000 of the total 427,300 weapons supplied by the U.S. for Afghan forces.
- "Nearly all" night vision, surveillance, "biometric and positioning equipment" totaling approximately 42,000 pieces of specialized equipment.
- “Nearly all,” of the explosive ordinance disposal and demining equipment, including 17,500 “pieces of explosive detection, electronic countermeasure, disposal and personal protective equipment”.

The Taliban now has state-of-the-art U.S. military equipment to impose its authoritarian rule over Afghan citizens, sell weapons to our enemies, and perpetuate an unstable Middle East. In one desperate and impulsive policy decision, the Biden Administration reversed 20 years of progress made in Afghanistan that included an investment of \$2.3 trillion U.S. taxpayer dollars and the lives of thousands of patriots.

The Biden Administration abdicated its duty to the memory of our warriors and gave the Taliban—those who we came to fight against 20 years ago—an advanced western military arsenal.

The Cost of President Biden’s Soft-on-Putin Approach to Ukraine

Vladimir Putin was clearly watching the Biden Administration as the U.S. abruptly withdrew from Afghanistan. Months before Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Putin sent over 100,000 troops to the border to see how the United States and its allies would react. [When asked what the U.S. response would be if Russia invaded Ukraine](#), President Biden said, “it depends on what [Russia] does... It’s one thing if it’s a minor incursion, and then we end up having to fight about what to do and not do etc.” The stance from the Biden Administration was that the level of U.S. response would depend on the size and scope of the incoming invasion.

One month later, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, marking the first large-scale land war on the European continent since World War II.

President Biden lagged in U.S. support until after Russia invaded, and only then pushed for serious funding to Ukraine, but then blocked the transfer of the necessary military equipment to effectively fight Russia out of fear of further aggravating Vladimir Putin. [President Biden continues to think this is a conflict that can be settled with words and economic sanctions](#) – but this isn’t a war of moral contest — it’s a war of military strength.



The Biden Administration refuses to commit to the military strategy necessary to win, and as a result, Ukraine's military capabilities are limited to a defensive posture.

Now over 20 months into the conflict, [Congress has provided \\$114 billion in supplemental appropriations](#) — not including potentially billions in additional repurposed, transferred, and reprogramed funds — and yet we are no closer to getting a clear picture of the Biden Administration's strategy to win the war in Ukraine. What we do know is that [Vladimir Putin is settling in for a war of attrition](#), the stage is set for yet another several hundred billion — potentially trillion — dollar conflict, and the Biden Administration has no plan to counter one of the world's most powerful militaries.

The Cost of President Biden's Self-Inflicted Border Crisis

Since taking office, President Biden has systematically dismantled effective border enforcement strategies — which has caused a surge of illegal alien encounters, weapons, and drugs at our border, and created vulnerabilities that cartels and criminals exploit to the detriment of Americans.

The Biden Administration's border policies have increased the monthly average of illegal crossings by 368 percent (September 2020 vs September 2023). This massive increase is a direct result of President Biden's executive actions to:

- Stop border wall construction, including projects that were already funded;
- Implement lax immigration enforcement policies;
- Implement “catch and release” policies allowing migrants to flow into American communities during a pandemic;
- Eliminate the “remain in Mexico” policy; and
- Cancel asylum cooperative agreements with our Central American partners.

As a result of these immigration policies, southwest border encounters have grown out of control — regularly setting new records for illegal crossings — and the American people continue to pay the price. The most recent [Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\) data](#) on our border situation is truly staggering:

- Since President Biden took office, there have been over 7.5 million encounters nationwide and 6.2 million encounters at the Southwest border, in addition to nearly 1.7 million known gotaways who evaded U.S. Border Patrol.
- Last month, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recorded 269,735 encounters at the Southwest border—an 18.5% increase compared to last September, and a 15.8% increase from August.
- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 alone, CBP, including Air and Marine Operations, has seized 27,000 pounds of fentanyl, coming across the border — enough to kill over 6 billion people.
- In FY 2023 alone, CBP has apprehended 169 individuals on the terrorist watchlist trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border.
- On top of all that, CBP just [released a memo](#) warning that Hamas terrorist fighters could be attempting to cross the border in order to attack the United States.

Not only have our sovereign borders been breached, but the cost of this unprecedented level of illegal immigration on the American taxpayer is massive, with estimates ranging from [\\$151 billion](#) to nearly [\\$200 billion](#) annually. The cost of these open-border policies is completely unsustainable and illustrates the recklessness and lack of seriousness of the Biden Administration.

