

2025–2026

Workshops in Economics



Should the EU nations increase their military spending?

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★ Introduction

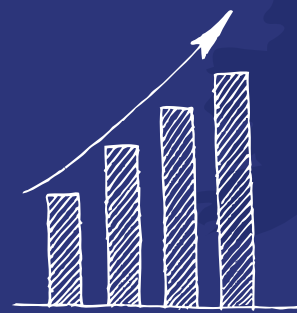
“Europe is disarming in a world that is rearming”, Admiral Guillaud

Should EU nations increase their military spending, even at the cost of other economic or social priorities?



- I – Current economic military context
- II – Why increasing military spending
- III – Arguments against increasing military spending

★ I – Current economic military context



**\$2.718
trillion**

2024

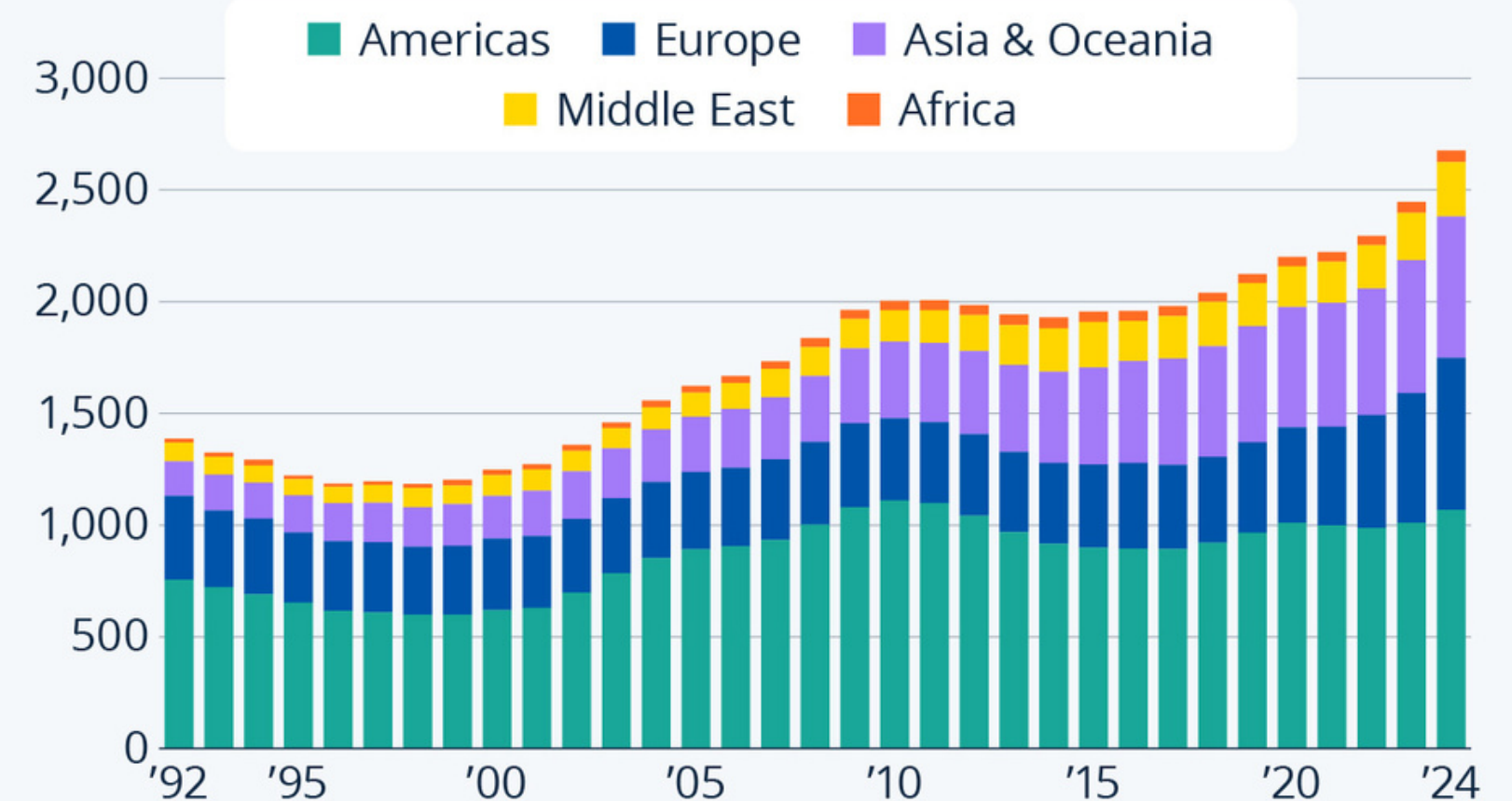
+ 9.4%

2023

This increase, reflects the intensification of conflicts and geopolitical tensions around the world

Global Military Spending Surges to \$2.7 Trillion

Global military expenditure by region (in billion U.S. dollars)*



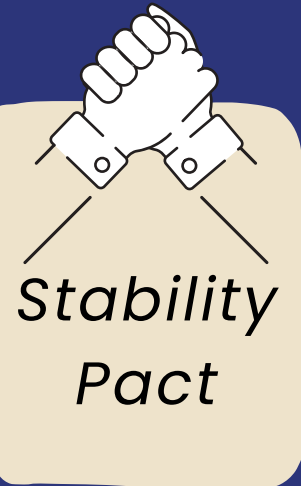
* in constant 2023 prices and exchange rates. Expenditure for the Middle East, Asia & Oceania includes estimates due to missing data for more than 10 percent of countries.

Source: SIPRI



★ I – Current economic military context

**€150
billion**



**€200–400
billion**



2035

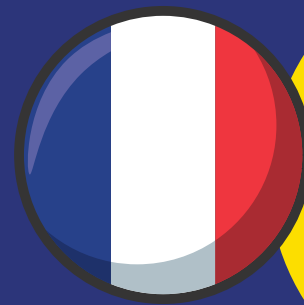
**€343 billion
(1.9% of
GDP)**

2024



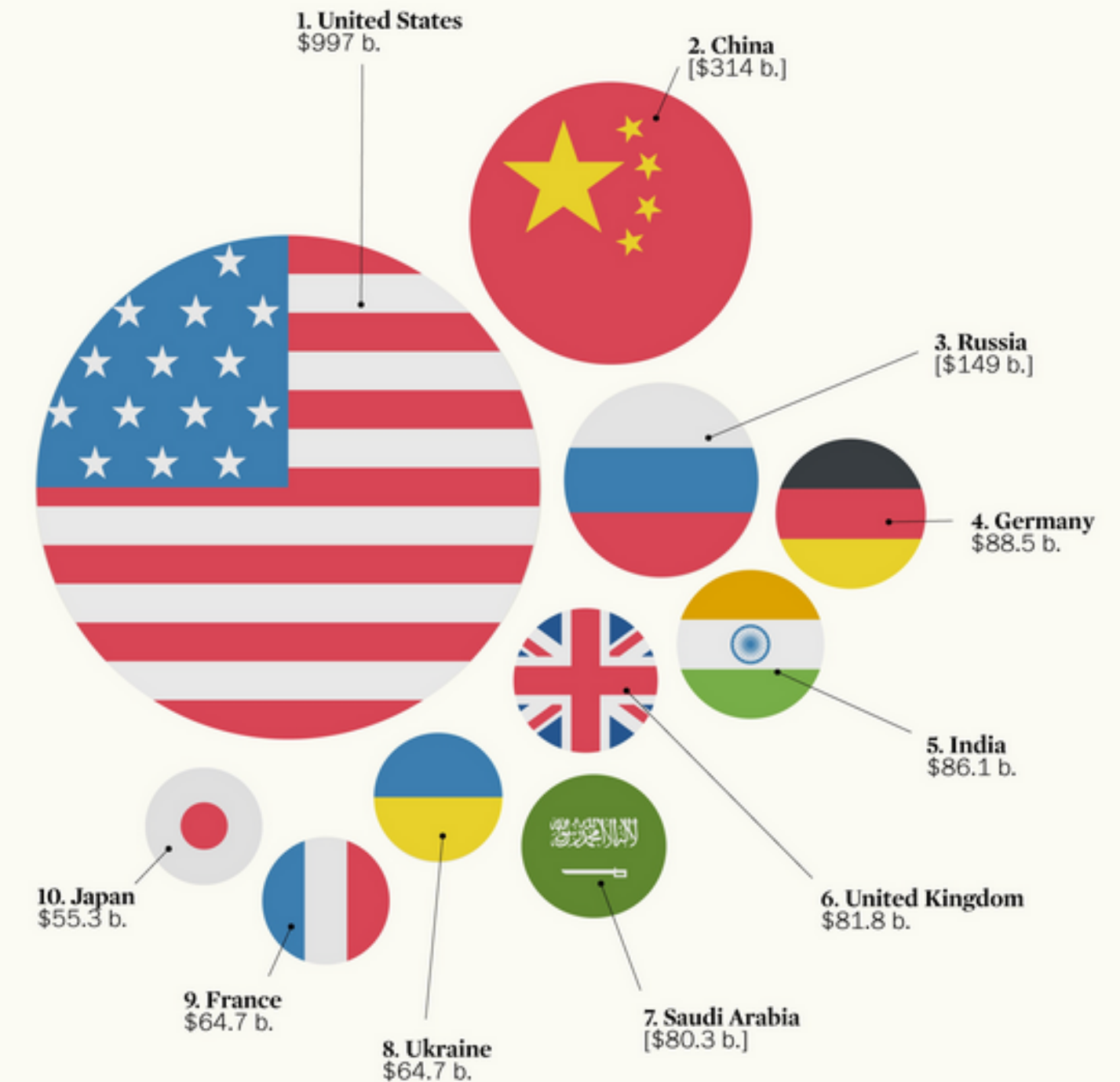
**€60 billion
(2% of
GDP)**

2024



**More than 100 countries increased their
defense budgets last year.**

The 10 largest military spenders in 2024



[] = estimated figure.

Note: Spending figures are in billions of US dollars, at current (2024) prices and exchange rates.

Source: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, Apr. 2025.

★ II – Why increasing military spending ?



1. Strengthening security against external threats

2. Preserving sovereignty and strategic autonomy



3. Boosting innovation and the economy

4. Strengthening European cohesion

★ III – Arguments against increasing military spending

1. Economic and social costs
2. Risk of militarization and escalation
3. Dependence and lack of coordination
4. Ethical and political considerations



★ Question

Should EU nations increase their military spending, even at the cost of other economic or social priorities?

★ Conclusion

Increasing military spending in Europe presents a dilemma between security and social prosperity.

“How much of our prosperity do we want to invest in deterring, and how much in building?”



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I – Current economic military context

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III – Arguments against increasing military spending

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