# Americans Have Backed Heavy Military Outlays for Six Decades...

**Question**: Do you think the amount of money we are now spending on the Army and Navy is too much, too little, or about right?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, May 12-17, 1937.

**Question**: Do you think federal government spending for national defense should be increased or decreased?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, January 12-18, 1940.

**Question**: Do you think we should keep on spending as much as we do now for our defense programs, or should we cut down on the amount we spend for defense?



**Source**: Survey by the Gallup Organization, September 15-20, 1955.

**Question**: There is much discussion as to the amount of money the government in Washington should spend for national defense and military purposes. How do you feel about this: Do you think we are spending too little, too much, or about the right amount?



**Source**: Survey by the Gallup Organization, November 12-17, 1969.

**Question**: Do you think government spending should be increased or decreased on the following...national defense?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, January 9-14, 1939.

**Question**: Do you think US government spending should be increased, decreased, or remain about the same on the following: national defense?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 26-31, 1950.

**Question**: There is much discussion as to the amount this country should spend for national defense. How do you feel about this—Do you think we are spending too little, too much, or about the right amount?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 2-7, 1960.

**Question**: There is much discussion as to the amount of money the government in Washington should spend for national defense and military purposes. How do you feel about this: Do you think we are spending too little, too much, or about the right amount?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 11-14, 1971.

18 THE PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE, AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1997

# ...Rarely Has a Plurality Called Current Expenditures Too High

**Question**: We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. Are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on...the military, armaments, and defense?



Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center-General Social Survey (GSS), latest that of February 1-May 26, 1996.

### National Defense: Consistently High Support

## **Americans Have Backed NATO Strongly**

#### 1949

**Question:** Do you think the US and such countries as Canada, England, France, Norway, Holland and other North Atlantic countries, should join together in a mutual defense pact—that is, agree to come to each other's defense immediately if any of them is attacked?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 20-25, 1949.

**Question:** What is your opinion of the North Atlantic Security Pact—do you approve or disapprove of it?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, April 10-15, 1949.

**Question:** Under this "North Atlantic" treaty the counties of western Europe, Canada and the United States would agree to defend each other against any attack. Now it's up to the United States Senate to vote for or against the treaty. How do you feel about it—are you in favor of the North Atlantic treaty, or against it?



**Source:** Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, April 1949.

**Question:** The United States and various North Atlantic countries, such as Canada, England, France, Norway, and Holland, have signed a mutual defense pact—that is,each country has agreed to come to the defense of any of the other countries if it is attacked. Do you think the US Senate should or should not ratify (give its approval to) the North Atlantic Security Pact?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, June 12-17, 1949.

#### 1976

**Question:** In the area of foreign policy, do you favor or oppose...The US strengthening military security arrangements with our allies, such as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) in western Europe?



**Source**: Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, August 27-30, 1976.

## **NATO Today**

**Question:** Do you think the North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance should be maintained or is the alliance not necessary anymore?

Don't know

1989	75%	10% 15%	
1991	62%	17%	21%
1995	64%	22%	14%
1997	61%	21%	18%

Maintained 📕 Not necessary

**Source**: Survey by the Gallup Organization, July 18-21, 1989, May 30-June 2, 1991; the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, April 21-24, 1995; and by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Pew Research Center, January 9-12, 1997.

#### 1956

**Question:** How about the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, sometimes called NATO. Under this treaty, the United States and the countries of western Europe have agreed to defend each other against any attack. Do you think this agreement is a good idea, or a bad idea?



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, April 21-

30, 1956.