

GREAT DECISIONS

1918 • FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

2018 EDITION

U.S. global engagement and the military

Acronyms and abbreviations

AIB—Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

EU—European Union

NATO—North Atlantic Treaty Organization

SCO—Shanghai Cooperation Organization

USAID—United States Agency for International Development

Glossary

al-Qaeda: An international network of militant Sunni Islamists, co-founded by Osama bin Laden in 1988. Al-Qaeda was responsible for the 1988 embassy bombings, the 9/11 attacks, and the 2002 Bali bombings. The organization is designated a terrorist group by the UNSC, NATO, the EU, the U.S., Russia, India, and many other countries, and was the target of the U.S.-led “War on Terror” after the 9/11 attacks.

American Enterprise Institute (AEI): A conservative Washington think tank founded in 1938. AEI covers government, politics, economics and social welfare.

“America First”: The official foreign policy of the Trump administration, which prioritizes American interests and American national security.

Arab Spring: A series of revolutionary protests across the Arab world from 2010–12, the Arab Spring began with the Tunisian Revolution and spread to Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Bahrain, among other countries. Many protests were violently suppressed by authorities or state-backed militias, and led to armed conflicts, including civil wars in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, and a coup in Egypt.

Brexit: The term used to refer to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union in June 2016 (the UK is on course to leave the EU in 2019).

Crimean Peninsula: A peninsula in the Black Sea that became a territory of the Russian Empire in 1783, was gifted to Soviet Ukraine in 1954 and remained a semi-autonomous region of Ukraine until March 2014, when the Russian military, sparked by the Euromaidan protests, invaded and held a disputed referendum that returned Crimea to Russian jurisdiction.

Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm) (1990–91): A war waged by a U.S.-led 35-country coalition against Iraq after Iraq invaded and annexed Kuwait.

Hezbollah: Based in Lebanon, a Shi’a Islamist political party and militant group. Hezbollah was once considered a resistance movement, but now widely seen as a terrorist organization promoting jihadist, anti-Zionist and anti-West values. Since 2012, Hezbollah has aided the Syrian government in the Syrian Civil War and trained local forces in Syria and Iraq to fight ISIS.

Muammar Qaddafi: Former Libyan socialist leader (1969–2011). Qaddafi was internationally denounced as a dictator who violated the human rights and financed of global terrorism. In 2011, then-U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton persuaded the Obama administration to bomb Qaddafi’s forces during the Arab Spring.

Neo-conservatism: An American political movement that originated in the 1960s among hawkish liberals, dissatisfied with the American left’s foreign policy. Members of the movement—including former Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, former Vice President Dick Cheney, and former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld—gained political clout while serving Republican presidential administrations from Nixon to George W. Bush.

Pentagon: The headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense, often employed as a metonym for the Department of Defense.

Saddam Hussein: Former president of Iraq (1979–2003). Hussein was a brutal dictator under whose leadership Iraq invaded Iran and Kuwait. In 2003, a U.S.-British alliance invaded Iraq to unseat Hussein because of his alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction and ties to al-Qaeda (neither accusation could be confirmed). In 2006, Hussein was convicted by an Iraqi court for carrying out crimes against humanity and was executed.

soft power: A concept coined in 1990 by Harvard professor Joseph Nye to describe one actor’s capacity to influence another without hard power tactics (i.e., coercion, force or capital).

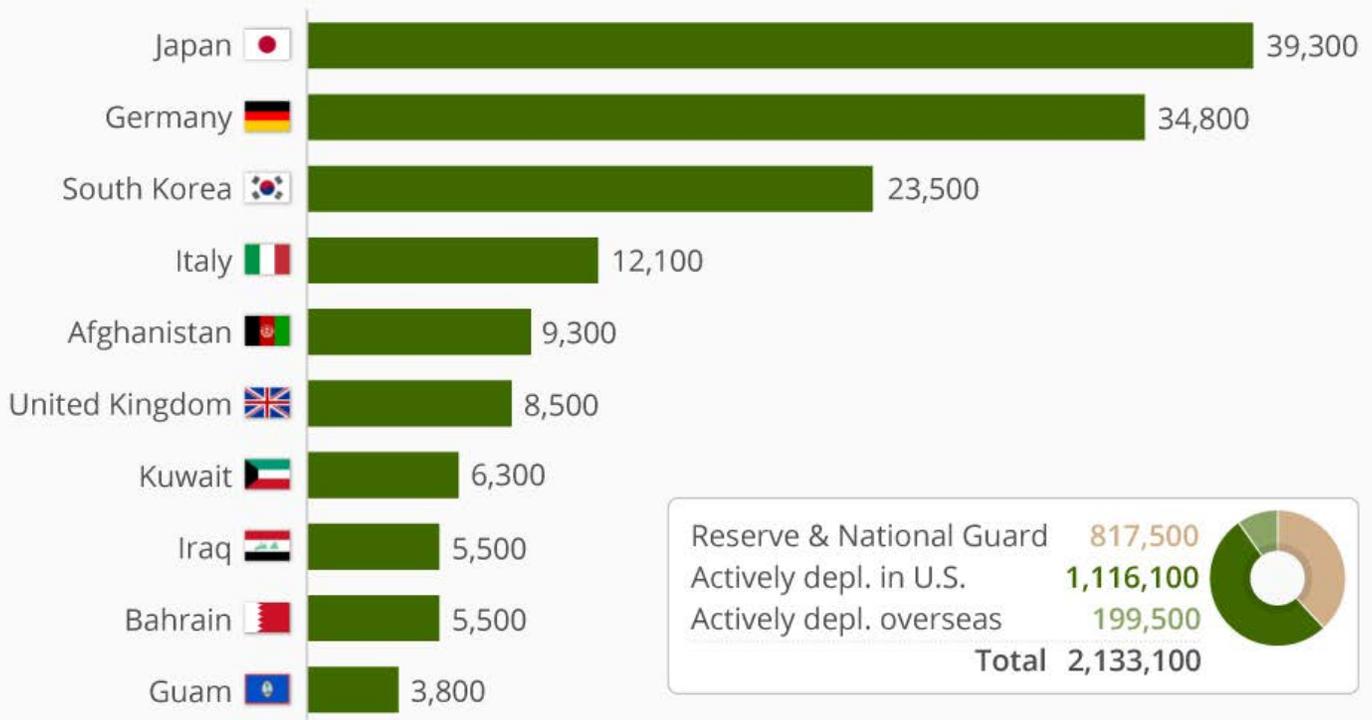
Syrian Civil War: An ongoing armed conflict in Syria fought primarily between the Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad and various opposition forces, both of which are supported by a wide set of allies. The conflict began in 2011 during the Arab Spring when protests against the Assad government were violently suppressed.

U.S. Department of State: A U.S. federal executive department responsible for foreign policy issues.

U.S. National Intelligence Council (NIC): Formed in 1979, it leads the U.S. intelligence community to brief policymakers, academics and the private sector on issues of national security.

Where U.S. Military Personnel is Stationed Abroad

Top ten countries in which personnel of the United States military is based*



* all branches, no civilian employees, figures rounded, as of December 2016

Source: Department of Defense, Visual Capitalist



Source: <https://www.statista.com/chart/8598/where-us-military-personnel-is-stationed-abroad/>