

Regional Case Studies

The main body of this report is a series of brief case studies that seek to demonstrate how the available quantitative data can be used in specific regional contexts to help identify states that are potentially devoting excessive resources to security expenditures. The six regions and sub-regions that have been selected are Central and South America, East, Southern and Central Africa, and Southeast Asia. Although it would be desirable to do case studies of all regions in a more comprehensive analysis, the utility of the approach can be demonstrated from these six, and can perhaps serve as the foundation for more comprehensive analyses. Likewise, it would have been desirable to include a "developed world" region (such as Central Europe), but three considerations precluded it. First, the transition from command economies has resulted in large drops in military spending, and an ongoing restructuring of armed forces that makes comparisons difficult. In fact, about 80 percent in the drop in world military spending that has occurred since 1987 has taken place in Eastern Europe, although it has also been accompanied by a huge drop in the regions' economic output. Second, many newly-independent states do not have a long enough experience of independence to make regional comparisons (such as in Central Asia) useful. Finally, it is in the less-developed regions of the world in which the greatest concerns have been raised about the tradeoffs between international lending/foreign aid and security expenditures, or between military and social expenditures, and hence states in these regions provide a better starting point for the discussion.

In each regional case study, the goal is to show how such an analysis could be a useful tool in policy formulation. It is *not* intended to create "targets" against which inducements or coercive policies should be directed, but rather to provide a means to stimulate a regional policy dialogue (with extra-regional participation by donor states) about the most appropriate means to reduce the regional and national burden of military expenditures. In some case, the result could be external security assurances, in others, assistance with preventive diplomacy or post-conflict peace building, in still others, coercive policies designed to isolate extremely recalcitrant states may be appropriate. In no case can the appropriate policy be determined *a priori*.

The most important objective of the analysis would be to advance dialogue simultaneously on both the "development" and "security" sides of the conflict-security-development nexus, as suggested by the Canadian strategy document on "Reduction of Military Expenditures in Developing Countries." Within the development side, such an analysis can contribute towards a "methodology for defining 'good performers' and 'excessive military expenditures'" and can help to "integrat[e] the military spending issue