

### *Cost of War*

*It is well that war is so terrible; else we would grow too fond of it.  
(Robert E. Lee)*

An article appeared in the April 1988 edition of Plain Truth Magazine quoting a Dutch professor who calculated the cost of an enemy soldier's death at different epochs in history. He estimated that during the reign of Julius Caesar it cost less than one dollar to kill a rival soldier. At the time of Napoleon, it had considerably inflated—to more than \$2,000 per death. At the end of the First World War, it had multiplied and reached \$17,000. During the Second World War, about \$40,000 was spent to kill just one soldier. In 1970 during the Vietnam War it cost the United States \$200,000 to kill an adversary.”

In April of 2006, a Congressional Research Service inquiry reported that \$261 billion dollars had been spent on the Iraq War. This report also indicated that before it ends, the Iraq war will likely cost more than the \$549 billion spent (adjusted for inflation) in the Vietnam War. The shocking truth, according to Linda Bilmes, a leading Harvard budgetary expert, and Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, that if one applies the Congressional Budget Office's basic assumptions about the duration of the conflict; it will cost the United States nearly \$1.27 trillion dollars to finance the war in Iraq. This number defies human comprehension. A trillion is what you get if you spend a million dollars a day ... for a million days. That is 2,737 years—a million a day “*every day*” until the Year of Our Lord 4743. Given the human stakes, it may seem crass to worry about the dollar cost of a military conflict, but what will it cost us if we fail in the war against terrorism and injustice everywhere? The Holocaust of World War II may only be a small example of what will follow if we do not succeed in our fight.

The most tragic of modern man's decadent blunders has been the worth ascribed to life. Our value can only be determined by the creator of life; He is the only one capable of placing a price on the soul. To God people are everything and this is how much He loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. Today we have sacrificed love and sentiment for the religion of science which has pushed us to the brink of possible extinction. Without faith we can only conclude that we came from nothing and are going nowhere. O God, please save us from ourselves. The true value of a human being can be found in the degree to which he or she has obtained liberation from self. I conceive that the great part of mankind's miseries are brought upon them by false estimates they have made of the value of things (Benjamin Franklin).

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