POLARIS
NATIONAL SECURITY

The Dividends of Deterrence

How Trump's Foreign Policy Generates a nearly 3-to-1 Return for American Taxpayers

July 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2024, POLARIS National Security documented the enormous costs imposed on American taxpayers by the Biden-Harris Administration's deterrence failures. From the Southern Border to Ukraine and the Middle East, the United States was repeatedly forced to spend billions managing crises that stronger policies could have prevented. Building on that analysis, this report quantifies the dividends generated by the second Trump Administration's foreign policy.

Our analysis finds that the Trump Administration's policies have prevented approximately $542 billion in additional costs that would likely have been imposed on American taxpayers under four more years of Biden-Harris policies. After investing approximately $195.5 billion to restore deterrence, the Trump Administration has generated an estimated $346.5 billion in net taxpayer savings projected over the President's four year term—a nearly three-to-one return on investment for the American people.

The largest quantified dividends include:

- **$268 Billion – Shifting the Ukraine Burden**: The Trump Administration is saving taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars by shifting the funding burden to European allies, who are now taking the lead on Ukraine's aid.
- **$169 Billion – Securing the Western Hemisphere**: By curbing illegal immigration, restoring control of the Southern Border, and taking forceful action against narco-terrorists, the Trump Administration is achieving major taxpayer savings across the Americas.
- **$46 Billion – Foreign Assistance Reforms:** The Trump Administration is saving tens of billions of dollars by tackling USAID's unaccountable bureaucracy, eliminating wasteful programs, and working with Congress to preserving funding for core security, humanitarian, and health priorities.
- **$27 Billion – Advancing Peace in the Middle East:** By brokering the Gaza Accords, halting Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, and decimating Iran's capabilities, the Administration is saving taxpayers upwards of $27 billion.

Beyond these direct fiscal benefits, the Trump Administration has generated substantial strategic dividends by forestalling a nuclear Iran, deterring conflict over Taiwan, reducing opioid deaths, expanding foreign military sales, and weakening America's adversaries. Taken together, these additional dividends total trillions of dollars.

The bottom line is clear: **The Trump Administration's Peace Through Strength policies have generated nearly $350 billion in net taxpayer savings—roughly $2,650 per American household—**while helping forestall contingencies that could have imposed trillions more in costs on the American people.

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How Trump's Foreign Policy Generated a Nearly 3-to-1 Return for Taxpayers

TOPLINE FIGURES

The second Trump Administration's Peace Through Strength foreign policy has delivered substantial taxpayer savings by restoring deterrence, forging peace, and shifting burdens to allies.

APPROXIMATELY		APPROXIMATELY		APPROXIMATELY
$542B	–	**$195.5B**	=	**$346.5B**
IN AVOIDED COSTS that would likely have been incurred under four more years of Biden-Harris policies.		**INVESTED TO RESTORE DETERRENCE** Real investments in military power to reestablish deterrence.		**IN NET TAXPAYER SAVINGS OVER FOUR YEARS** A nearly three-to-one return on investment for the American people.

THE LARGEST QUANTIFIED DIVIDENDS INCLUDE:

EUROPEAN THEATER

$268B

SHIFTING THE UKRAINE BURDEN

in averted appropriations with Europe funding Ukraine's defense by purchasing U.S.-made weapons.

49% OF TOTAL AVOIDED COSTS

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

$169B

SECURING THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

in projected costs foreclosed through reduced illegal crossings, fewer getaways, and action against narco-terrorists.

31% OF TOTAL AVOIDED COSTS

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

$46B

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REFORMS

in taxpayer savings from tackling USAID waste, bureaucracy, and mission drift while preserving core priorities.

13% OF TOTAL NET SAVINGS

MIDDLE EAST

$27B

ADVANCING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

in net savings from the Gaza Accords, halting Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, and decimating Iran's capabilities.

8% OF TOTAL NET SAVINGS

$346.5B

IN NET TAXPAYER SAVINGS OVER FOUR YEARS

ROUGHLY

$2,650

PER AMERICAN HOUSEHOLD

while helping forestall contingencies that could have imposed trillions more in costs on the American people.

STRATEGIC DIVIDENDS BEYOND THE BUDGET

- FORESTALLING A NUCLEAR IRAN
- PREVENTING CONFLICT OVER TAIWAN
- REDUCING OPIOID DEATHS
- EXPANDING FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
- WEAKENING AMERICA'S ADVERSARIES

Beyond these direct fiscal benefits, the Trump Administration has generated substantial strategic dividends.

TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE BENEFITS ARE MEASURED IN TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS.