# NATIONAL SECURITY



Bottom Line Up Front:

- The interpretation of 'National Security,' particularly the priorities associated with it, can differ significantly from one country to another. In certain nations, fundamental needs such as food, shelter, and water constitute the primary security concerns, while in more technologically advanced countries, the emphasis might shift towards warding off sophisticated cyber threats.

- Within the US, National Security goals are set in the National Security Strategy (NSS), which is an annual report by the President to Congress outlining the executive branch's national security vision, detailing things like US international interests, commitments, objectives, policies, and required defense capabilities.

- With regards to defense spending (a critical component of National Security), the US spent more on defense than the next 10 countries combined ($877B compared to $849B in Fiscal Year 2022), not accounting for spending on National Intelligence Programs (e.g., CIA, NSA).

- Today's National Security environment (specifically from the US and its allies' perspective) is at a significant inflection point, given the tectonic shift from countering ideologically based extreme violence in relatively isolated regions of the world, to strategically competing with nation-state powers at a global scale.

# INFORMATION



A view of the information space related to the topic of the week, based on headline frequency.

National Secruity defined: National security is a wide-reaching topic, but can be distilled down to the measures taken to protect a nation's citizens, sovereignty, territories, and economic stability from both internal as well as external threats. The domains of particular importance to national security include (but are not limited to) military/defense, border control, economic security, and cyber protection, while also expanding into the energy and environmental domains given the connection they can have with potential disasters and health crises. National security involves a coordinated effort from various government sectors(e.g. Executive, Legislative) to identify threats, develop counter measures, and ultimately implement its strategies.

Why this topic is important right now: Over the past few years the US has been in a significant national security shift from Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) to Great Power Competition (GPC). The former was born out of an effort to prevent all forms of ideologically based extreme violence (e.g., preventing successful recruitment of terrorists), while the latter is meant to address the contest between the US and its adversaries to shape security architectures, trade/investment regimes, and technologies. The nature of today's global dynamics combined with state of the US' largest adversaries has brought the national security environment to a unique place in history. This is in part due to how quickly the 'environment' is evolving, and how large the surface area of national security domains have grown (e.g., outer space, cyberspace, and AI). The shift from focusing on a relatively singular target and limited geography, to a multi-front war at a global scale is testing the US' ability to adapt and maintain its Strategic Competition.

# TECHNOLOGY



*"In a landscape of shifting alliances and emergent threats, our eyes must not only see the world as it is, but as it could be. As we look to the horizon, let technology illuminate the path, driving us forward into an era where security evolves as rapidly as the threats we face. Through innovation, we not only adapt, but shape the future of national security."*

*- ChatGPT 2023*

AI Generated Image

In the 21st century, 'national security' transcends conventional boundaries, fusing with economic, infrastructural, and digital realms. Technology lies at the heart of this expansion, catalyzing growth but also spawning threats such as cyber warfare and disinformation campaigns, thus reshaping the security landscape.
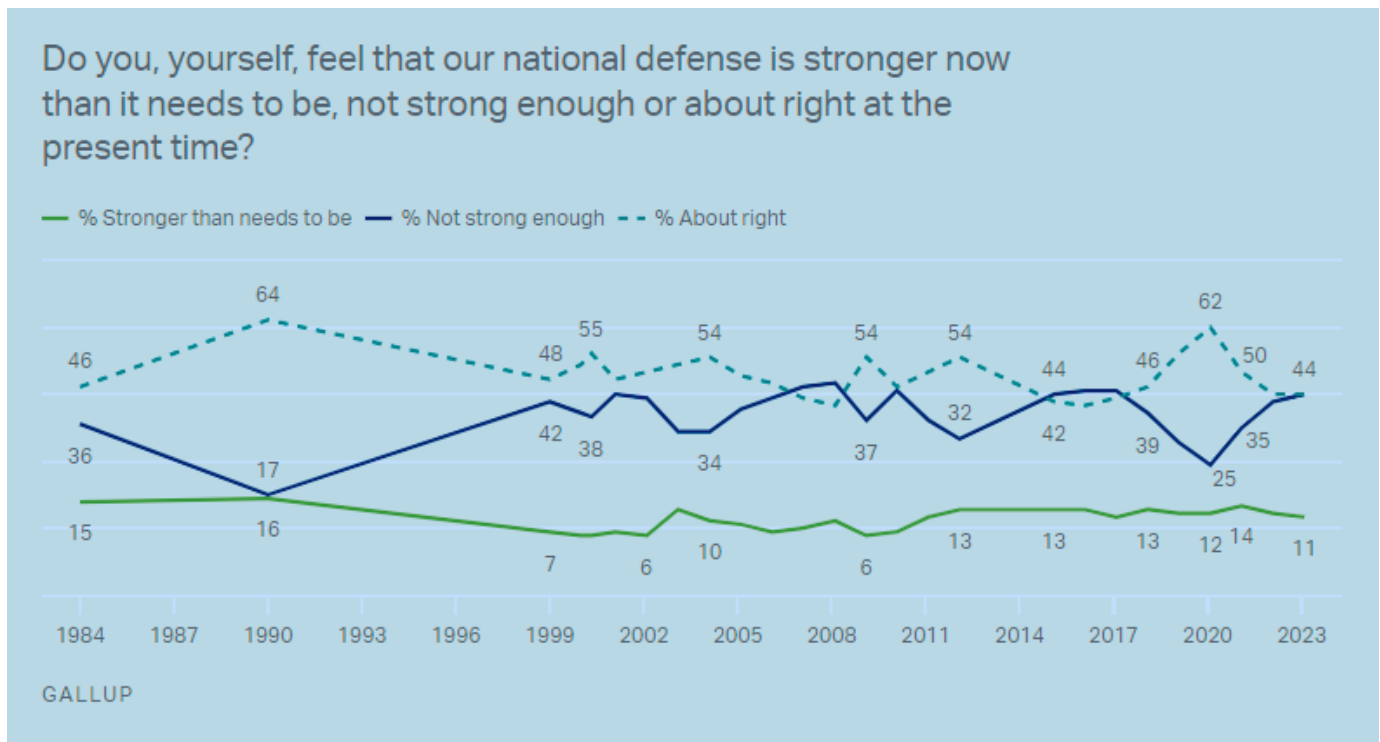
As the world pivots from Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) to Great Power Competition (GPC), the United States confronts stiff technological rivalry from adversaries such as China and Russia. This new landscape necessitates a clear plan that encapsulates a robust strategy and translates it into actionable steps.

Striking balance across all dimensions of national security is the keystone to this challenge. Economic stability must be nurtured without stifling innovation. Supply chains need fortification without inhibiting global trade. Fiscal health should be reinforced without sacrificing necessary security investments. Achieving resilience against potential economic disruptions demands fostering domestic innovation and reducing overreliance on international markets.

For infrastructure resilience, the utilization of advanced technology like AI and predictive analytics is crucial. In the face of potential conflict, substantial defense capabilities are essential. Yet, unchecked defense spending could undermine economic stability. Balancing fiscal health, economic growth, and social security investments requires a nuanced strategy and judicious execution.

In conclusion, as we grapple with complex challenges, we must prepare to cooperate where feasible, compete where necessary, and be ready for conflict when provoked. Remember, in this age of Great Power Competition, no single entity, nation, or alliance holds the master key to all these locks. An integrated approach that intertwines economic, infrastructural, and technological facets of national power is our greatest ally in this intricate game of national security.

# SENTIMENT

When we look a sentiment the attitudes about national security vary considerably among younger and older citizens due to generational differences, life experiences and perspectives. Here are some sentiment trends based on age:

Younger Citizens

**Emphasis on Civil Liberties:** Younger citizens place greater value on individual privacy and civil liberties; they are concerned about potential erosions due to extensive national security measures like mass surveillance.

**Global Connectivity:** Younger citizens gain more exposure to diverse cultures and ideas through global connectivity and the internet, so they prefer international cooperation and diplomacy over military solutions when approaching security challenges.

Older Citizens

**Personal Experiences:** Older citizens have witnessed war or other major security incidents first-hand, which may shape their perspective of national security and lead them towards measures they deem effective.

**Patriotism and National Pride:** Elder citizens who have seen significant national achievements or challenges possess a deep-seated sense of patriotism and national pride, likely being more willing to support robust security measures in order to safeguard their country.

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