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## ***Russia's Military Spending Declines; US Now a Third of Global Spending***

With US military spending continuing to rise, mostly on claims of the “threat” posed by Russia, many would be surprised to learn that Russia’s military spending actually dropped 20% in the last year. [As a Reuters article details](#), Russia’s military spending looks to be on a general decline going forward.

Worldwide military spending was slightly up over the last year, with the US amounting to more than a third (35%) of global military spending. Russia’s decline actually brings them down to the fourth highest spending military worldwide, passed by Saudi Arabia.



In [March, Russia announced that over the next five years](#) they plan to cut their overall military spending to less than 3% of their national GDP. That means substantial further cuts in the next few years, and will likely mean multiple additional nations will pass them in military spending.

Russia remains a substantial military power even with the cuts, of course. The general trend toward cuts shows that they aren’t envisioning large overseas entanglements, or the sort of World War 3 type of invasions that some NATO military figures have claimed. Russia is clearly moving toward a more defensive footing, and pocketing the savings.