



# What the World Needs Now

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With roughly 200,000 soldiers serving on 700 military [bases](#) in 80 countries throughout the world as well as on the high seas, the United States sure has its hands full.

While many Americans protest our government's world policeman job, here we are, where we've been for decades . . . addressing commitments to militarily [defend 67](#) countries.

What with the new Iran War, Israel's actions in Lebanon, and the ongoing Ukraine War — not to mention continued Yemeni attacks on Red Sea shipping and bloody conflicts raging throughout Africa — it almost seems like World War III has started unannounced.

And all this before we even consider Asia, where, as

*The Economist* bluntly [puts it](#), “China has been bullying America’s allies.” China’s increasing harassment and invasion threats against [Taiwan](#), its [claim](#) to 90 percent of the entire South China Sea, its regular attacks on [Philippine](#) and [Vietnamese](#) fishermen, deadly [clashes](#) with India, and less than peaceful behavior toward [Australia](#) and [Japan](#) has put the entire region on edge.

For my six decades, the United States has been the dominant military power in the world. Yet, with China’s massive military [buildup](#) that is now an open question in Asia. Which is why failure to help Taiwan defeat a Chinese attack would destroy U.S. credibility there . . . and likely far beyond.

So, how do we ever relinquish the badge of world’s policeman? One word: Allies.

As much as the USA has been the indispensable nation leading the free world, that does not mean we can go it alone against authoritarians globally. We need strong allies, so we don’t have to.

We know that a NATO-type alliance in Asia [scares](#) the daylight out of the Chinese Communist Party.

Surely that would be a better deterrent than just the singular U.S. cop.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.