

# US Secretary of War Admits Preparing for War



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Likening our situation to that of pre-World War II, the Secretary of War admits the US is “not preparing for a period of peace.”

Details. Speaking at a high-level meeting in Quantico, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth declared that the United States is “not preparing for a period of peace.”

- ▶ He described the current moment as critical, likening it to the wartime build-up of 1939, and stated that they “are preparing every day” and that the US “has to be prepared for war, not for defence.”
- ▶ Hegseth outlined military-industrial reforms, noting their similarity to those “before World War II,” including empowering smaller firms to compete, streamlining acquisition chains, reducing oversight layers, and establishing new “portfolio executives” to move from merely buying systems to rapidly deploying capability.
- ▶ He acknowledged that the US faces “peer competitors” advancing rapidly in military technologies, and argued that the procurement process must move from decades-long cycles to “months or even weeks.”

Context. As global conflicts reach levels not seen since the Second World War, imperialist powers increasingly recognise the inevitability of confrontation – reflected openly both in their rhetoric and in massive military spending.

- ▶ Global military spending has surged to Cold War-era levels, with all major powers adopting new “rapid response” doctrines and increasing “combat readiness.”
- ▶ One notable reflection of this is the renewed development and posturing of nuclear weapons. During its 2025 military parade, China displayed its nuclear triad – land-, sea-, and air-launched weapons – while the Pentagon estimates its stockpile at about 600 warheads, expected to surpass 1,000 by 2030.
- ▶ Russia recently tested both its nuclear-powered underwater drone Poseidon and the Burevestnik missile, both capable of delivering a nuclear warhead.
- ▶ US President Donald Trump recently announced that the United States would resume nuclear-weapons testing “on an equal basis” with its adversaries – and is developing a new nuclear-capable ICBM called Sentinel.