

Rethinking America's Army: A Personal and National Plea for Survival

Lev Neymotin, PhD
N5Digital, Inc.

Introduction: My Struggle With This Question

This essay is both personal and national. It comes from late-night arguments with a close friend, from my disgust at inaction in our cities, and from my fear that America is walking the path of imploding empires of history. I write not as a partisan, but as a citizen watching his country bleed from within.

Why does the U.S. need a massive standing army? Surrounded by oceans and neighbors that pose no invasion threat, we are unlike nations forced to live under constant threat of land invasion. Navy — yes. Air Force and Space Force — absolutely. Rocket forces — essential. But hundreds of thousands of troops standing on call for foreign deployments? That logic belongs to the 20th century, not the 21st.

1. History Warns Us: Standing Armies and the Risk of Decay

This section recalls America's founding fears of a standing army and the history of empires collapsing from within, not from outside attack.

The Founders feared standing armies. James Madison warned that “*a standing military force, with an overgrown Executive, will not long be safe companions to liberty.*” For much of our history, we relied on state militias and volunteers, building armies only when wars erupted.

History itself repeats this warning: empires crumble not because of external conquest, but because they rot from within. Rome exhausted itself maintaining distant legions. The British Empire collapsed under the cost of global policing. The Soviet Union bankrupted itself with an army too large to sustain.

The lesson is simple: **societies implode from the inside**. And I fear America shows those same signs — decadence, moral exhaustion, and rising inner violence. Just read the headlines in newspapers, visit social or only mildly censored, so far, public media...

2. Trump's Vision: Use Our Reserves for America, Not for Empire

This section introduces Trump's radical shift: redirecting forces inward, to save American lives instead of exporting democracy abroad.

Donald Trump understood something our leaders have ignored for decades: exporting democracy through military force has never worked. Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan — trillions spent, thousands of Americans killed, foreign societies unchanged.

Instead, Trump suggested: why not use our **reserves at home**? Not to conquer, but to **save**. To support local police in cities where killings spiral beyond control. To protect American families, not corrupt regimes abroad. This is not authoritarianism — it is self-preservation. It is the fight for our survival as a nation.

3. My Argument With a Friend

This section makes it personal — my painful exchange with a liberal friend who refused to see this as a national crisis.

I argued with my friend about this — a dear liberal friend. He insisted Chicago’s killings were “local issues,” that states and cities must handle them, that the federal government must stay out. I could not contain myself. I wrote back:

“Of course cities and states have a role, but when they fail to act, the federal government cannot just watch from the sidelines. Chicago’s violence has become a national crisis. How many weeks of losing 11 people per week do you think justifies waiting for Chicago and its governor to ‘take care of it’? What disgusts me most is that Democrats scream about racism nonstop, yet show by their inaction that they do not value the lives of Black, Hispanic, and other people — who by God have different skin color, which is utterly irrelevant — being lost every single week. I am totally disgusted.”

He was furious with me. I told him: “Cross the party line already!” It didn’t go well. But my conviction only deepened. Because this is not about partisanship. It is about whether we act to stop death in our own streets.

4. The Numbers That Demand Action

This section grounds the emotion in hard numbers, showing the scale of the crisis.

Between April 2023 and April 2024 in Chicago:

- Black residents were **20 times more likely** than Whites to be homicide victims.
- Hispanic residents were **nearly 5 times more likely**.
- Black and Hispanic people made up **95% of homicide victims**.

That is 600+ homicides in one year — about **11 funerals every week**. Think of it: a mass shooting’s worth of death, repeated weekly, while politicians shrug. If this were happening from foreign attack, the nation would mobilize instantly. But because it is internal, excuses abound.

5. Federal Responsibility vs. the 10th Amendment

This section addresses the constitutional question: when states fail, does the federal government have not only the right, but the duty, to intervene?

The 10th Amendment reserves powers to the states. But the Constitution does not require the federal government to stand idle while Americans die. Rights reserved to the states were never meant as a shield for failure.

When local leadership cannot stop the killings, when states shrug, when lives are lost weekly in numbers that would horrify us if caused by terrorism — **the federal government must step in**. This is not tyranny. This is democracy acting through elected leaders. This is our government protecting its citizens.

6. Signs of Implosion: America’s Inner Decay

This section ties crime to larger cultural decline and the pattern of collapsing societies.

I see these killings as more than crime statistics. They are **harbingers**. They point to America’s slow unraveling, the way great societies implode: not by invasion, but by internal decay.

We see growing lawlessness. Erosion of shared values. The elevation of ideology over common sense. And above all, a refusal to face our problems directly. When we allow weekly killings of young men and women — mostly Black and Hispanic — and accept it as “normal,” we signal not strength, but decline.

Empires fall this way. And unless we act, so will we.

7. A Call Beyond Party Lines

This final section is both personal and national: my plea for unity to stop this decline before it is too late.

This is not about Trump vs. Biden. It is not about Left vs. Right. It is about survival. It is about whether America still has the courage to save itself.

Our reserves are not outsiders. They are us. Fathers, mothers, neighbors. Using them temporarily to restore order in collapsing cities is not martial law. It is compassion. It is democracy defending itself.

I told my friend — and I tell you: this is not a Soviet-style action. This is America acting for America. We must stop pretending this is someone else's problem. It is ours. It is now.

If we cannot cross party lines to save lives, then what are we? If we cannot summon federal leadership to stop our cities from bleeding, then perhaps we are already imploding.

But I refuse to accept that. I still believe in America. And I believe we must act — together, beyond parties, beyond ideology — to stop the killings, save our cities, and reclaim our future.

Before it is too late.