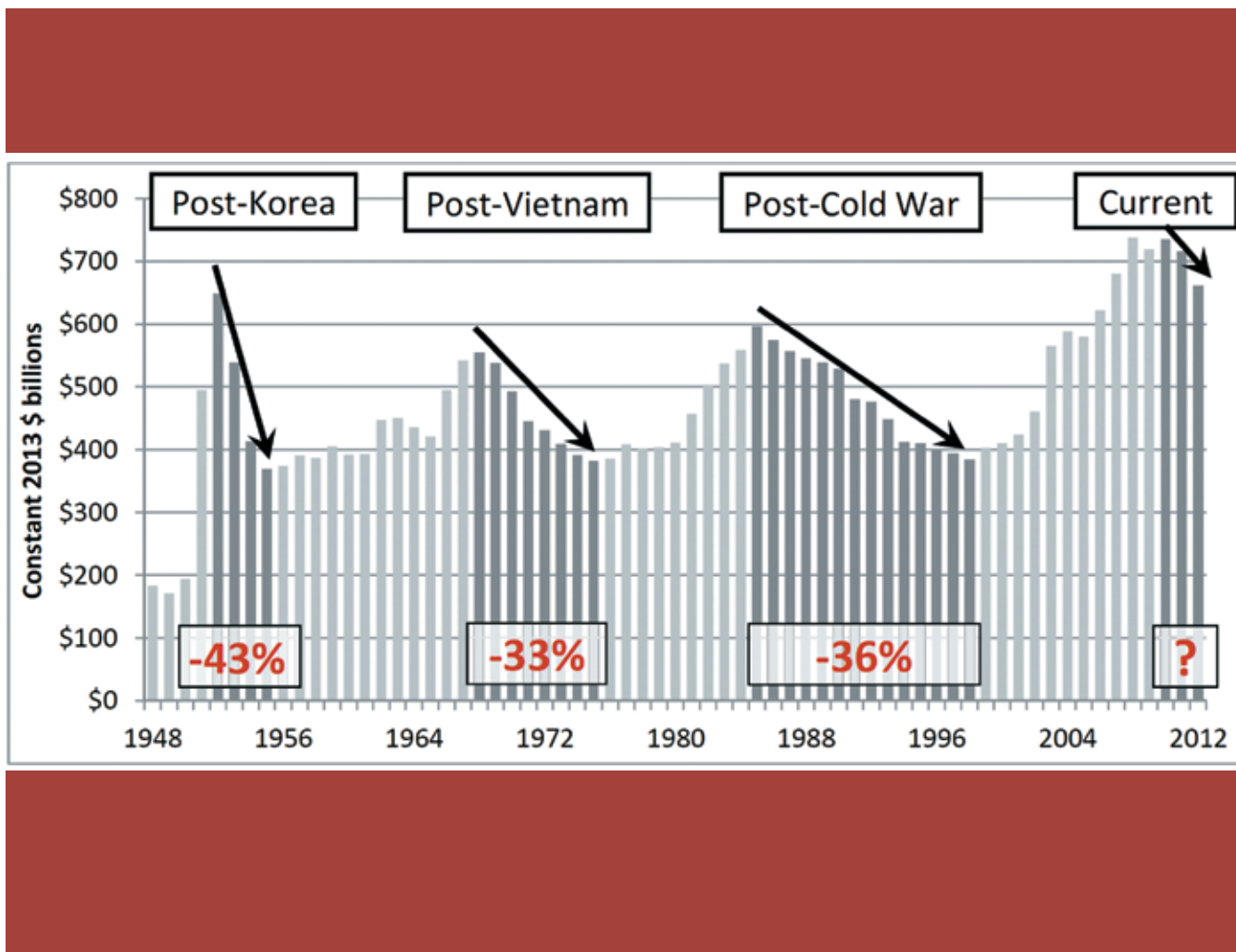


Three Down and One To Go

Since World War II, the US defense establishment has lived through three major military budget drawdowns—post-Korea (43 percent), post-Vietnam (33 percent), and post-Cold War (36 percent). Each brought force cuts and reduced investment in new weapons. A fourth drawdown—call it “post Iraq-Afghanistan”—is under way. How deep it will go, nobody

knows. However, it doesn't have to go as deep as the others to have a comparable impact on US capabilities, according to a new study by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. CSIS says cost inflation in certain defense sectors means that a nominal 20 percent cut today could “feel” like a 30-to-35 percent cut of bygone years.

Defense Budget Drawdowns Since World War II



Source: “Planning for a Deep Defense Drawdown—Part I,” Clark A. Murdock, author, and Ryan Crotty and Kelley Saylor, contributing authors. Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C., May 2012. Based on “National Defense Budget Estimates for 2013,” Department of Defense, March 2012.