How did debt double in a decade?

Margolis & Cox / Courtesy of Cagle.com

1. What do these cartoons say about the U.S. national debt, which has doubled to $40 trillion since 2016?
2. The debt soared after what global event in 2020?
3. It now costs us more than $1 trillion a year just to pay the interest on our debt. Do you know how that affects your family?
4. When was the last time the federal government had a budget surplus, taking in more money than it spent?
5. What wiped out that surplus?
6. How have wars increased our national debt?
7. What are the biggest expenses in the federal budget, adding the most to the national debt?

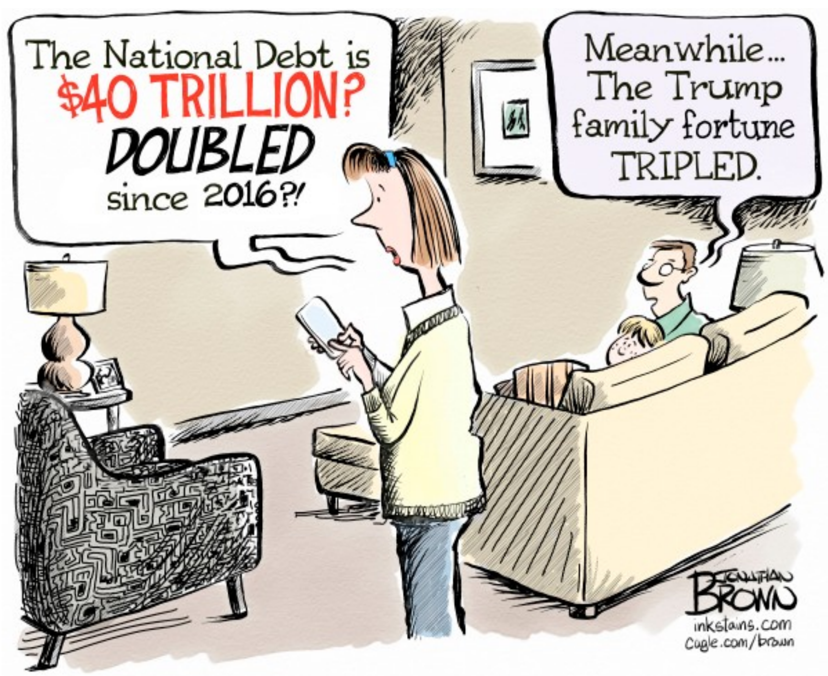
Between the lines

“It’s immoral to, year after year, trillion after trillion, just keep borrowing the money, not paying your bills for immediate consumption and deferring not only the principal balance but the interest costs onto our kids and grandkids .” — Michael Peterson.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2026/08/18/us-debt-set-hit-40-trillion-months-earlier-than-expected/

Additional resources

- More by Magolis & Cox
  https://cagle.com/cartoonist/margolis-cox/
- More by Jonathon Brown
  https://cagle.com/cartoonist/jonathan-brown/
- Editorial Cartoonists
  http://editorialcartoonists.com/
- Cagle Cartoons
  https://cagle.com/



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