

# Trump Orders MASSIVE Iran Strike, Iran HITS F-35s | Patrick Henningsen

Analyst Patrick Henningsen joins the show to discuss Iran's devastating retaliation to Trump massive strike order which is set to escalate further as the US rapidly moves to catastrophic war. We break down the latest developments and what they mean for you economically and geopolitically. SUPPORT PATRICK'S WORK: [https://www.youtube.com/@UCY\\_sGiAswJNo8HQBOKme01g](https://www.youtube.com/@UCY_sGiAswJNo8HQBOKme01g) <https://patrickhenningsen.substack.com/> FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: [chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com](https://chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com) Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #iranwar #trump

## #Danny

Hosted by our guest, Patrick Henningsen, returning friend of the show, and he is the host of 21st Century Wire. Patrick, good to see you again.

## #Guest

Good to see you too. Great to be with you, Danny.

## #Danny

Yes, great to be with you. Now, I wanted to update everyone on the latest developments and get your reaction to them. So it's been a very busy last 24 hours or so since this program was last on. We had the United States begin another round of war with Iran. The war has not really ended, especially according to Iran's perspective, but the strikes have come raining down. This time, the justification is the supposedly downed Apache helicopter that was blamed on Iran over the Strait of Hormuz. And CENTCOM, the United States Central Command in the region, launched a wave of strikes. They hit Sirik, which is not too far from the Manab school, I believe just dozens of kilometers away.

Jaz, Keshim, and Bandar Abbas. Iran did answer back in Manab. I believe it was in Sirik. There were reservoir tanks that were hit. The Financial Times says that these strikes caused 20,000 people to be left without water and Iran was forced to take emergency measures. In all intents and purposes, this is a massive war crime. Trump said that overall the strikes were about 20 by the United States, while Iran has said they targeted at least 21 sites overnight in retaliation. And here is some of what they

had to say: 21 targets hit across the region, including an airbase in Jordan, the Al-Azraq Air Base, which Iran says successfully hit an F-35 hangar base, which the United States has denied.

And I'm just going to show some images of other things that happened, including the downing of an MQ-9 Reaper drone. The Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, the U.S. Naval Fifth Fleet, was also hit. I can show images of that. But Patrick, it seems like we're in another round of war. Trump is promising strikes tonight. B-52s are on their way. What's going on here? Why now? And what do you make of the overall situation? Iran says the strikes are only going to get harder. They're going to start targeting oil infrastructure if their oil infrastructure is hit. This is what Trump is promising — bridges, oil wells — they are now fair game again. What's going on?

## **#Guest**

Firstly, I don't believe, or I'm not clear or confident about the provenance of the claim that Iran shot down this U.S. Black Hawk helicopter or Apache helicopter. I'm not convinced. I don't have any clear confirmation from the Iranians. Normally, they're quite forthcoming with things that they shoot down in their trophy case of U.S. aircraft, which is just getting bigger by the day. So the question is, was it a crash? We've heard the Iranian foreign minister say this is a crash, these things happen. But the claim by CNN initially was that this Apache helicopter was brought down by an Iranian Shahed drone. Shahed drones don't travel very fast. I doubt that it could even keep up with an Apache helicopter. So that's kind of strange. Doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

There's a number of other things that could shoot down an Apache helicopter, and maybe not a Shahed drone. So it's not, at the moment, very credible. There's no confirmation. So that means if the U.S. reaction, which was completely disproportionate, then that's a false flag. The U.S. is using it as a false flag. Did the Israelis shoot at this Apache? Was it a malfunction? They say that two pilots were rescued. How do we know this? Is there any confirmation of this, any footage of it? No, nothing. There's nothing from the United States. There's only statements and claims. Nothing. So that's the first thing. So if that's the case, I mean, I really think it's important, because if this escalates, and who knows where it's going to lead, wouldn't you want to know how it started?

I know that nobody in America cares. That's not how their brains operate, but sensible people would want to know. So that's the other thing. So if this does escalate and it does go a lot further, certainly, then you could say this is by design, this is a provocation. Then, you know, is the United States trying to, in a way, you could say they're trying to recapture the escalation dominance? In other words, what Iran did this week was massive. They basically, during a lull in hostilities that's been pretty much for a month, over a month, they then drew a red line regarding Lebanon and Israel, and then Israel stepped over that red line and Iran attacked. So that means at that point, Iran now controls the pace of action and reaction. That's where you want to be in any conflict.

And they're very patient, they bided their time, and they seized the opportunity. And that means that everyone else has to conform to their pace because they – and that includes the diplomatic side as

well as the military side. So it's a massive advantage for Iran. So I would read this false flag personally as a way of the U.S. – very deceptively and underhandedly, as expected, because you're dealing with America here – is trying to regain control of the pace of action, or what some people might call escalation dominance, or the escalation ladder, and so forth. Because who knows where this would lead with Iran. I mean, they were able to basically pull Lebanon into the package of negotiations and enforce it. So that means the next step is pretty clear. They can pull Gaza into the negotiations package.

## **#Danny**

And I feel like Iran has said that they want to do that. They are doing that.

## **#Guest**

Yeah, this is the game changer. So that means you're in a totally different situation now in the region. And did you see there's a lot of infighting between Israeli operatives, some of these sort of blathering, talentless operatives in the U.S. media like Mark Levin, just absolutely breathing fire and slinging mud at the U.S. for even bringing up the possibility of not, quote, finishing the job. The Israelis, the politicians, are smearing the United States, saying this is totally unacceptable. We're not going to listen to America. We need to do what's in our interests and don't listen to Trump. These are people that were erecting golden statues in honor of Donald Trump just a few weeks ago.

And now all of a sudden he's out of favor. Why? Because Trump. There seems to be some friction between the U.S. and Israel, not fundamentally, but in terms of how this situation is being managed. So if you think about that and then you look at this magical incident with the Apache helicopter, to me it looks very suspicious. So that's the way I'm looking at it. But the point I'm making, the fundamental point, is Iran has pulled a blinder. This is equal to the blinder they pulled by hitting the Gulf Arab states initially three months ago when the hostilities began, because that pulled the region into the conflict. It made them co-belligerents.

It created all kinds of pressure and friction politically between the Gulf allies and the U.S. and Israel, and also globalized the conflict when energy was throttled. And then the closure of the Strait of Hormuz was the sort of final act in that move. So that changed. That allowed Iran to punch way above its weight geopolitically. This latest exchange, or the drawing of the red line with Lebanon, allows Iran to punch above its weight in the region—but not really punching above its weight. I mean, it kind of established them as a bona fide superpower in the region, higher than a mid-tier superpower, and just on the cusp of being a global superpower, if you consider the resource and economic ramifications of the Persian Gulf as it is in the global economy.

So that's a major thing. And the other thing is, the U.S. and Israel have tried so hard to compartmentalize all these different conflicts—like Gaza separate from Lebanon, and separate from Iran and Yemen. They're dealing with them, except they want to do that, and they need to do that.

And Iran's saying, no, no, no, no, this isn't how it's going. We're now putting the source of the hostilities against us and Lebanon and the Palestinians as from the same source—it's Israel. So you're part of the negotiations now. You're part of any ceasefire agreement; it's going to be all-encompassing. And so the important thing here, Danny, is this: a mid-tier power could never draw a red line on a moral basis. They can't. Only a superpower can. So Iran is attempting a bold move.

This isn't out of character for them in terms of their statements, their constitution, the value set of the Islamic Republic. They've always championed the Palestinian cause. But now it's in practice. And that is, to me, extraordinary. So we'll see if they're able to maintain this upper hand, as it were, militarily and diplomatically. When I say diplomatically, I'm not talking about real diplomacy here. And in that sense, the statements from the Iranian government, the foreign minister, and Ghalibaf about how they are now pursuing their military aims concurrently with their political aims—so they've clicked into Clausewitzian mode, basically, that the military activity is an extension of politics by other means.

So, again, only a powerful geopolitical actor could take these positions—only a normative power in the international system. So they're really distinguishing themselves from a lot of other countries, either stooges and lapdogs of the U.S. or rogue states that act outside of the international system and norms, like the U.S. and Israel. So Iran's firmly in that China-Russia camp now geopolitically, and hence they will be recognized by other powers. And this is what I'll say too, Danny: if they stick to their guns and don't fold on these hard principles they've set, and don't back off or give any concessions to the U.S. or Israel, the European countries will begin to recognize Iran as not the problem.

They'll then blame Israel for everything—Lebanon, the Middle East, and the war in the Persian Gulf. And the U.S., of course, is going to be blamed anyway, because they started this with Israel. But more and more, this reticence to blame Israel and to... Because if you look at, for instance, just look at the UN. They tried to—Germany, France, and these whistling governments in Europe, and Brussels—tried to push a new sanctions package against Iran through the UN Security Council today. And the permanent representative for the Russian Federation, Nebenzia, basically, and China, basically said, no, you're not going to do that. There's no basis in law. Forget it. It's not happening.

And so that's how maniacal and how subservient the Europeans are to the U.S.—that they would pull a move like that while Israel is carrying out genocide on three different fronts: Gaza, the West Bank, and South Lebanon. I mean, who are these people? And on the back end, they're trying to ramp up a war with Russia and militarize the continent. I mean, it's just insane. So some of them are going to peel off, Danny, if Iran sticks to its guns. And Italy and Spain are a good example. They've opened diplomatic relations with Tehran. So we'll see, we'll see. Because if Europe can't stay together on this, then that's big problems for the U.S., big problems for Israel, and big problems for Britain, Germany, and France as well. They've been very staunch supporters of these war crimes that Israel and the U.S. are carrying out.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I think that's a great masterclass there on the huge implications of this escalation. And in many ways, Europe will indeed be forced to get closer to Iran. And they've flirted with that over the years, in large part because of how energy-dependent they are, and their obsession with destroying themselves over Russia—and destroying their relations with Russia definitely has huge consequences. So one thing I wanted to play you, though, Patrick, you know, as we head into potentially another round of strikes—and I'm going to get to all that—Donald Trump and the U.S. administration are saying there's a mood that's, I think, dampening the support for this kind of pretext that you outlined there around the Apache helicopter. I'm going to play you a Fox News report on this.

And I think now, as time goes on, Iran is saying 70% of all their targets were hit, which is a large number. They at least fired 21, if not more, missiles than that at these targets. That means F-35s are likely destroyed. And we've seen—there's proof of this now from prior missile strikes by Iran—that Iran generally, you know, like it or not, you don't have to like Iran, but they generally tell the truth. And then satellite imagery eventually confirms it. But here's Fox News talking about this Apache helicopter. And the narrative is becoming, well, Iran is still hitting us back. And that is almost now becoming a reason to escalate war even further, believe it or not, which seems counterintuitive. But here is what Fox News had to say.

## **#Speaker 03**

Obviously. But if their military is destroyed, how are they continuing to hit us? I mean, an Apache helicopter, what, costs about \$46 million—not to speak of the potential injury or loss of life.

## **#Speaker 04**

Yeah, Iran feels emboldened. They're hitting us because they've used the ceasefire to rebuild their armed forces and to deploy their armed forces in a way that they can use them to hit us. And this is the real problem here. When the United States engages in diplomacy, we're most effective when we negotiate from a position of strength with a credible threat of military force. And what the Iranians have seen over the past couple of months is, as you said, patience, which they misinterpret as weakness. So when CENTCOM says we're going to hit you in a proportional way, I worry that that sends the wrong message. That doesn't send a message that we're going to dominate you and destroy you. It says, well, we'll engage in onesies and twosies and tit for tat. That's not going to restore deterrence. That's not going to restore the escalation dominance we need to bring this war to a successful conclusion.

## **#Danny**

Nathan Sales, by the way—I know you're familiar with him, Patrick—I mean, he's literally a salesman for the military.

## **#Guest**

Yeah, great name.

## **#Danny**

He works for the Atlantic Council. I don't know what he's ambassador of. I don't know what that even means. But that narrative, I think, is so much where the U.S. regime is at right now with Iran. And it does demonstrate that they are very concerned about how Iran has essentially, by saying they need escalation dominance, they're admitting that Iran has escalation dominance. And look, people don't have to believe this latest round of strikes hit F-35 hangars or hit their targets—they can believe CENTCOM.

## **#Speaker 03**

But the proof is in the pudding.

## **#Danny**

The U.S. has sustained almost \$4 billion in losses in aircraft alone since this war began. This is just a massive number. And I think Iran can certainly hit a stationed F-35. So it only gets worse from here. Iran is saying they will hit energy infrastructure again if the U.S. goes for its oil and gas infrastructure. So your thoughts, though, on that comment by Nathan Sales before we get to the Trump preparations for a further war?

## **#Guest**

So if that's who's in the ear of the White House, and the Atlantic Council do play a big role in war hawkery in Washington—I mean, that's where they kept Mike Pompeo fed and watered while he was going around Fox canvassing for a vice presidential role in 2024—and it just fell flat. Yeah. It's a place where people like that, war hawks, Israeli operatives, can get paid and sort of keep their career moving along while they wait for, you know, Trump to come into office or whatever. But when he said that, it just shows you that these people are delusional.

And if they're delusional and they're advising the White House, then you really need to entertain the possibility that the White House is delusional as well from a military point of view. And he said that this ceasefire has allowed Iran to rebuild its military or its armed forces. Can you rebuild a military in four weeks? I mean, what planet is this person on? They're supposed to be an expert. But this is what passes for punditry in the United States. They get paid a lot of money, by the way, for this

great, bold advice that they're dealing out here on national TV. No, Iran's military wasn't wiped out to begin with.

That's the sort of, you know, intelligent, basic, common-sense assessment. But that goes against the propaganda line of the White House. We've wiped out their military. We've wiped out their Navy, wiped out their—frankly, they don't have any missiles left, and there are no leaders either. The country is a mess. It's falling apart. So Trump has had this tired old shtick he's been pushing. He's still pushing it. Yesterday he said the exact same thing. I mean, this lethargy of the president with his sort of Dean Martin celebrity roast-style takes on the war is just beyond a joke at this point. The reality is this: the U.S. has depleted its military.

The U.S. has depleted its armaments, its ammunition, its missile defense, and so has Israel. The U.S. has had to steal its own stocks from the Pacific front and move them over and rob Ukraine to sort of bolster Israel and itself, and move them from other theaters because it's going to take the U.S. years to restock. That's the reality. The reality is the U.S. has lost more fixed-wing aircraft. If you add up all of the lost fixed-wing aircraft—we're talking about planes and drones and so forth—you add that up, and AWACS planes, add that up with Iran and also with Yemen, because you have to consider this is all part of the same conflict. By my count, upwards of 80—8-0—fixed-wing aircraft. And by the end of the week, Danny, it might be 90. Who knows, with the amount of MQ Reaper drones that are falling from the sky as we speak.

Those aren't cheap, by the way. The price of them might be the same as two Airbuses. That's what those aircraft cost. So in the post-Vietnam era, that's the most. To give you an example of how devastating that is: in the first Gulf War in 1991 and the Iraq War in 2003, and ten years of that fighting, the U.S. lost 75 fixed-wing aircraft—75 during that entire 12-year stretch in the two different wars with Iraq—and not as advanced aircraft, by the way. So this is a disaster. Oh, and by the way, 17 bases rendered inoperable or not in use, not able to stage any military operations from 17 bases and facilities in the region, including Iraqi Kurdistan, by the way, which is getting pounded by the Iranians. Oh, all of our covert bases there. Oh, we didn't know about those, did we?

But Iran knows about them and the Israeli bases. So from a U.S. military point of view, post-Vietnam, this is the worst defeat strategically for America in the last 50 years. That's a fact. The numbers don't lie. Pete Hegseth is the biggest failure as a defense secretary or a war secretary. Beyond a failure, it's a disaster. It's a disaster how these people are still in their jobs, how the president is still in office at this point. That in itself is quite a miracle. And it kind of says a lot about where the U.S. is politically, that this situation is allowed to stand. And you know, the country's practically defenseless on a certain level, and the economy is a disaster. So, I mean, 4.2% inflation CPI in the month of—what was that, the month of May?—up from 3.8%. The real figure will be triple that, which is, I mean—and Trump loves it.

**#Danny**

He loves it, but continues.

## **#Guest**

Yeah, they're doing great. Yeah, let's devalue the dollar and that will make it cheaper to pay down all that \$40 trillion in national debt, right? Just devalue the dollar, right? That's what Scott Bassett and all of them were probably telling Trump a year ago. So on every single front, it's a defeat. Every single front, this is a massive defeat, and they're still carrying on like they've got escalation dominance. And Trump is still touting this blockade. This is a blockade. And I'm telling you, the Iranians regard this not as a blockade. They're regarding it as a nuisance. It's a nuisance. And all the U.S. is doing is creating casus belli situations where their Apache helicopters or planes or whatever, or drones, will get shot down. It gives them an excuse to escalate. But I don't really believe, Danny, that they can sustain any kind of protracted exchange with Iran. They can't. Not to mention, Iran's retaliation is going to compound the problems for the U.S. and Israel. It's really hard to see where this is going.

## **#Danny**

Well, Patrick, I think the conclusion from everything you just said, the only way to go is to do it anyway. That is the mindset of the U.S. regime, of the Trump administration. Of course, its Israeli handlers, backers, partners, what have you. That's the direction. But as you said, it only gets worse from here. It doesn't get better. And we've heard before all this started up again that the United States and Israel were planning at most two weeks more of strikes straight, that they can't sustain anything more than that. So whatever happens, those limitations are very real, and they are going to arise in the field of battle. And then, of course, in the economic field of battle.

But here is what Donald Trump is saying today, because there are going to be more strikes, it seems. It seems like maybe right after we jump off of here, B-52s will be attempting to hit Iran or hitting Iran. He said on Truth Social this morning that Iran's military is a complete and total mess. Much of it, like their Navy and Air Force, doesn't exist anymore. They have been completely defeated. It's all talk and no action. "The bully of the Middle East is dead," says Trump. They've taken too long to negotiate a deal that would have been great for them. Now they will have to pay the price. And he was asked to clarify these comments today by the media as he was, it looks like, signing some executive order in his Oval Office chair. Here is Donald Trump's answer to that question.

## **#Speaker 06**

When we get to a deal, and I want to make sure I quote you correctly, you said that now they will have to pay the price. What did you mean by that, specifically?

## **#Speaker 07**

Well, we're going to be attacking them, attacking them very hard.

## **#Speaker 06**

Resuming bombings?

## **#Speaker 07**

Yeah, well, we are basing it on the helicopter.

## **#Speaker 07**

Very incredible, actually an incredible machine. At first they said they didn't do it, then they admitted they did.

## **#Danny**

So it was an incredible machine. And now we already have air defenses being activated in the city of Qom as B-2 bombers are making their way, according to MintPress, heading toward the region. There's the flight radar. They could be within minutes to hours in the Gulf region, ready to launch toward or stand off, you know, around Iranian airspace. So, Patrick, this is the situation. Do it anyway. I mean, they're obviously not listening to you, they're not watching this program. Not that we want to advise them on war anyway. They need to stop their war criminality. That's the whole point of this. But your thoughts on this continuation, regardless of the consequences?

## **#Guest**

One thing I'll say is when the action is happening over there, okay, in Iran, watch what Israel does. Watch what Israel does. Israel also needed this distraction so they can get back to work massacring Palestinians, people in South Lebanon. And I think that's the Israeli gambit. And they've always—this follows their pattern of behavior. It's always like that. So they've always looked forward to and benefited from some other conflict or global focus, media focus on this. And there will be, if there's retaliation and responses of missiles hitting Israel, they'll continue to try to milk the sympathy card globally on that. When, in fact, Israel clearly violated—well, they violated the ceasefire with Hezbollah 15,000 times. Okay.

And it's only until recently that Hezbollah responded. And then now they're calling this—you know, what's interesting about Israel, the Northern Command, what they call the Home Front, the Home Front Command—they just announced in the northern territories, in the Galilee, that they're going to open the schools. They want the children to go back to school today, yeah? And we'll make sure they're near the bomb shelters. So how do you read that? As hostilities reach an all-time high again, that's not the sort of announcement you'd want to make unless you're willing to what? Use your

children as human shields, or worse, sacrifice your children for some kind of sympathy benefit if you can tout those images across the global media of dead Israeli children somehow.

I mean, why on earth would you announce such a thing? But it shows you what you're dealing with here. And then Netanyahu goes on TV today and says Hezbollah have plans to send thousands of terrorists over the border to invade the Galilee. Thousands of crazy Hezbollah terrorists running over the hills. That's what the Prime Minister of Israel said today at the press conference. So they're increasingly unhinged because Israel itself has created a massive security dilemma for themselves as well, like the U.S. has. So that means Iran is being very effective in what they're doing—being extremely effective. They've managed to create a dynamic of pressure between the U.S. and Israel, between Western countries and the U.S. and Israel, and also between Lebanon and the U.S. and Israel.

Because if you look at the president, Joseph Aoun, the Lebanese president, who's Christian, that's how their government is divided—into confessional, sectarian positions: president, prime minister, and speaker of the parliament, which is Shiite. The prime minister's Sunni, Nawaf Salam, and Joseph Aoun is the president. So he came out swinging in a CNN interview a couple of days ago and basically just told off Hezbollah and blamed Hezbollah and Iran for everything that's gone wrong in Lebanon. Not a word of condemnation against Israel. He's wanting to have good relations with Israel. And so the backlash from that, and also just the backlash within Lebanon, and I think globally as well, from his statements.

He came off looking like an absolute stooge of Washington and Saudi Arabia and Tel Aviv, and also promoting sectarian division in Lebanon, you know, really himself doing a lot to push Lebanon towards a civil war. I mean, doing the bidding of Tom Barrack, basically, because that's what the U.S. and Israel want to see. And Morgan Ortagus and all these others, who's another Atlantic Council operative, trying to push for a violent civil war in Lebanon by ordering the Lebanese army and Joseph Aoun to disarm Hezbollah. Well, that's the recipe for civil war, basically. But it's not going to happen there, it's not realistic, but it's creating a lot of tension in the country. Two days later now, Joseph Aoun, after the exchanges that have ensued, he's now pivoting.

He's now saying, no, no, Israel can't have total security. War can't be the answer, Israel. So what that says, Danny, is that pressure from Iran's general strategy and behavior has created more additional pressure. That was a staunch U.S. puppet who's now veering off the reservation. Why? Because of Iran. It's not because of Hezbollah. Hezbollah has been consistent the whole time. They're a given. They're resisting Israeli aggression, occupation.

They're standing up for the people of Gaza. But Iran's changed the tack of everything by doing what they've done. And that's a game changer. A lot of geopolitical analysts and pundits who come on podcasts like to talk about military things, like everything's going to be settled on the battlefield with tactics. It's not – that's not true. It's important. But politics also matters because politics can change the course of the whole game. Just like politics and political outcomes is what changed – what

created the – is a good example, Ukraine. There's a lot of political maneuvering that got it to the point of civil war that led to this massive standoff between NATO and now Russia, with Ukraine as a proxy.

Politics brought you to that point, and to defuse it could also be political as well. It could be the collapse of a political actor involved, like a Netanyahu regime, like a Trump regime, could create a situation where it could change the course of events. Even temporarily, it might be enough of an impasse. So that and the economics, because ultimately these conflicts are going to be decided through economic outcomes as much or more than they are military outcomes. And so on all of those different fronts, Iran has wielded incredible leverage, incredible leverage for a country their size, for being really on their back heels against the U.S. for most of this.

I mean, they're not in the league of the United States in terms of military power and their capabilities, and they've suffered a great deal as a result of this. However, they have a lot of geography and a lot of other things in their favor, and they're absolutely maximizing everything, including their diplomatic strategies as well. Dealing with a country like the U.S. doesn't have any – there's no real diplomatic component to anything Washington does, this administration. They're anti-diplomacy. They don't know what a ceasefire is. When someone says, "Do you think there's going to be a ceasefire?" I'm saying, first of all, does anybody in the White House understand what that means?

Do they know what a ceasefire means? Because I just hear, oh, a deal. We're going to get a deal. There's going to be a deal. Oh, they want a deal. We want a deal. There's a deal around the corner. What is a deal? How do you define a deal? A deal is not a ceasefire. A deal is not a treaty. It's not. And so this is like Trump is the fascist right-wing equivalent of Pol Pot. Basically, he's rolled in and said, everything that happened before I'm here doesn't count. It's the beginning. It's year zero. Year zero. It's going to be a beautiful year zero. So beautiful. So beautiful. And so he doesn't believe that any of the international relations scholarship or diplomatic precedent, none of it matters.

He's got his own way of doing things, like the Trump Organization is going to do this, and all his supporters are saying, isn't he great? He's so unpredictable. That's what's great about Donald. That's what I love about Donald Jr. That's what I – my father, my father. That's why my father is so great. Nobody knows what he's going to do. Neither does Trump. So this is a – listen, it's a disaster. People need to realize that it is a total, unmitigated disaster for the United States because they're so incompetent and so arrogant. And they've got people like Sebastian Gorka, who is like a retread off Newsmax or something. People like that in the White House. You know, just absolute grifters, right-wing talk radio grifters. And people like this, Stephen Miller.

These are the people advising the president. They're just delusional hacks. And it's a disaster. It's a disaster militarily, an unprecedented disaster for the U.S. militarily. And that's why they're struggling with the escalation ladder, because they have very limited options in terms of escalation, because they've blown it. They lost everything. They've got nothing in the Persian Gulf. Nothing. And they

won't be able to rely on their Navy to project geopolitical power anymore, geostrategic dominance in the Persian Gulf. Forget it. It's finished. It's so pathetic where the U.S. is. They're having to beg the Israelis to use a civilian airport, the only civilian international airport in Israel, Ben Gurion Airport, to house all of the U.S. air-to-air refueling tankers and C-130s.

And so much so that they don't have room on the tarmac for passenger airlines. They have to cancel hundreds of flights in and out of Tel Aviv. That's just pathetic. But that's all the U.S. is left with. I mean, do people realize how bad this is for America? Politically, it's a disaster domestically for Trump. He's got a noose around his neck running into the midterms. It's only getting tighter. That's why there's a lot of indecisiveness, panic. You see him visibly upset. He's throwing tantrums, you know, just throwing girly tantrums during interviews with the media. That's it. I've had enough. I'm walking out. He's getting kicked around by women interviewers, and he can't handle it. What do you mean I said no more wars, Patrick?

## **#Speaker 07**

What do you mean?

## **#Danny**

I never said that. I said Iran is very dangerous. It's just ridiculous.

## **#Guest**

This isn't a serious president. He's winging it. He's making it up as he goes along. They don't really know what they're doing. They don't have any strategy other than we need to support Israel. That's our national strategy. I could reissue the national security. I'll do the next one. I'll save you guys a lot of money. I'll do the next one for November, for 2026. And it's that we need to support our best friend and ally, Israel. So one-page report. I'll mail that in. Done. You don't need working groups because that's the extent of the U.S. vision and strategy. You know, the entire, Danny, if you step back, you look at the Middle East, look at everything from Diego Garcia right up to Incirlik Air Base to Cyprus to Europe to Germany.

These bombers that are moving into position to bomb Iran, where are they coming from? They're coming from Germany and the UK. So that's the European-U.S. military footprint. And everything in the Persian Gulf and everything in Israel—all of the aid, all of the support, all of that—it's to do one thing, and it has been proven since October 7th. It's to provide protection and to insulate Israel so that it can act with impunity in the region. That is the *raison d'état* of the United States government and its military. That is the totality of the U.S. strategy: to allow Israel to act with impunity in the region. That's it. That's it. Where is the benefit besides the military-industrial companies?

Where is the actual benefit for the United States traditionally, in terms of national interests? No, but he's extracting benefit by shorting oil and running the S&P 500. They're extracting their—so that's the national interest: it's Trump and his inner circle profiting off all these stupid tweets that he puts out every 12 hours on his own website, not official State Department-issued positions or whatever. This is a joke. It's not a serious government in Washington. And they've run the economy into the ground. They're running the global economy into the ground. They're running the United States into the ground—economically, politically, and militarily. It's breathtaking, quite frankly.

I would be more conciliatory, Danny, if the U.S. had cut their losses this month and realized it's a good time to pull the plug. It's a good time to cut the losses. Let's do some real diplomacy. Shore up your party ahead of the midterms and cross your fingers and hope that you don't get trounced by the dummies in the House and the Senate, and that Trump's not going to be impaled on the iron maiden of impeachment for the next two years. Because that's what's coming. That's what's coming. But that's not going to save the rest of the world. That's the problem. You know, we've baked in this disaster economically. And honestly, to see him waffling around, it's so pathetic, this old dotard.

## **#Danny**

He has a right, Patrick. The U.S. has a right to bomb Iran because of some downed helicopter that was flying inside of, or trying to fly inside of, Iranian airspace, if not flying very low going toward Iran.

## **#Guest**

It's with no dead pilots, or maybe there are dead pilots and privately he's pissed off. But publicly, they can't say that the U.S. has lost an airman. I mean, it's very suspicious, that helicopter.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. The helicopter goes, it's hit by a drone, catches on fire, goes into the water. But it's all in one piece and everyone is fine. I mean, it's hypothetical, Danny.

## **#Guest**

To me, there's as much of a chance with this White House, with the amount of lying that they've done and been caught lying. The Isfahan raid is a perfect example. That was his Jimmy Carter moment, right? A disaster. All the special forces—who knows how many died in that or what the real losses were. But with this president, that copter could have had a malfunction and crashed and lost two pilots. Maybe they recovered the bodies or whatever. Maybe not. Who knows? But they would lie about it and say it was shot down, and then say that the pilots were still alive and not issue any names. That's how bad this government is. They're capable of doing anything like this and then

using it as a pretext for escalation. That's what you're dealing with. These are criminals. Trump is running it like a gangster administration, doesn't know what he's doing half the time. He thinks it's a street fight. So, I mean, I know that might sound extreme, but I don't put anything past these people at this point. No, they're incredibly desperate.

## **#Danny**

And, you know, I'm sure there are some who, you know, it's always funny to see the more enlightened elements, or they pretend to be, of the elite who surround—maybe pretend to oppose Trump, or maybe are actually right there with him. They don't say anything. They don't oppose anything. And I think some of them do believe, which is hilarious—and you've talked about this point too—about some of these goals. They do believe that if they can empower Israel to the maximum degree, then they can disrupt all of the possibilities for China and Russia and Iran to build and integrate and connect the region further. So Israel then becomes a so-called ally, a so-called partner.

Some people call it a proxy, but it becomes one with leverage, with incredible leverage, because you have just anointed it one of the most important geopolitical goals that you have. So even the alliance, they don't say anything, and they came from—because there are those who believe this nonsense. They believe that could be true, and so they just go along with it anyway. And then you had—you said Trump every other day is posting, he did it again today, posting to manipulate the markets, manipulate the oil markets, the S&P 500, Wall Street. Look at this. This is what he said today, literally right after he said he's going to attack Iran. It's such a shocker. Nobody should be shocked by this, but it is truly almost parody at this point. He comes out with this announcement that...

The United States Navy, the military, has executed a secret mission to support oil tankers and other commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz and announced that this effort has resulted in more than 100 million barrels of oil making its way through the Strait. More than 200 commercial ships have safely traveled through the Strait. It's a wildly successful effort because the USA controls the Strait of Hormuz, not Iran. Their military is defeated. Their economy is lost. It's over for Iran. Thanks for your attention to this matter. It's almost coincidental, I guess, right, Patrick, that somehow this wildly successful operation, which is absolutely secret—secret but now public—has totally just flooded the market with oil just as he announces he's about to bomb Iran.

## **#Guest**

That's pretty convenient. Oh, let's just take a look at all the call options and put options right across the board on Wall Street. And it's a joke. It's ridiculous. You control the Strait of Hormuz. Great. So let's call it a day. How about that? No, but you don't. That's the problem. And so you can't call it a day. They're not serious. These people are not serious. So the U.S. cannot—there's no way around, there's no way out. The United States as a superpower cannot enforce norms because they themselves have violated all the norms. They brought the situation to this point by violating all

international law and norms. So they can't—there's no universe in which the U.S. can come out as the good guy in this. They can't declare victory.

That's why he keeps—he's such a coward, this guy—and the people around him are so cowardly. That's why they keep tweeting out and repeating, "We've devastated their Navy, we've devastated their Air Force, there's nothing left, it's a great victory." How many times do you have to announce this? A hundred times? That means you haven't achieved a great victory, and you haven't wiped out all these things and wiped out all their missiles. You haven't. You haven't. If you did, you wouldn't have to repeat it like every day for the last month or whatever, two months. This is ridiculous. So that means the U.S. doesn't actually have, as a superpower, they don't really have any real leverage. And they can't bring other allies onto the bandwagon. They tried, remember, with the international—the British, the French.

### **#Speaker 06**

They're sending frigates to support our great operation.

### **#Danny**

What happened to that? I thought they were supposed to have their whole big—yeah, they were supposed to send all of that.

### **#Guest**

Armada. Yeah, the coalition of the willing armada was supposed to show up.

### **#Danny**

Reopen that thing.

### **#Guest**

Where are they? What happened to them? I was hoping the French and Macron and the British—you know, they're sitting there.

### **#Danny**

They're at the coffee shop.

### **#Guest**

They only have six operable ships in their whole navy, you know. So, yeah, I guess maybe they could spare a couple. So, I mean, that's where they're at. So the mechanism—the other thing is that

Saudi Arabia, it looks like they allowed the U.S. to use their airspace to refuel in Israel. I don't know if you saw those reports—Israeli F-35s refueling over Saudi airspace with, I would guess, a U.S. air-to-air refueling tanker. That means Saudi Arabia goes back on the target bank list. But what does that mean? Where did that tanker come from? Did it come from Saudi Arabia, or did it come from Ben-Gurion? Because if it came from Ben-Gurion, then Ben-Gurion's on the target list.

And what's Israel going to do if that happens? That's a bona fide crisis for the state of Israel because that is the escape hatch for Israelis who have passports from every other country in the world, which they all do, and they all reserve the right to basically skedaddle if things get too hot—but not if Ben-Gurion Airport is completely flattened, because that could happen. It's an incredible risk. I mean, if you're advising these people, you know, you think, do you really know what you're doing here? Is this wise to reignite the escalation back and forth on this? What's your fallback position? I suppose Israel has so much strategic depth, you know. They've got RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus.

Maybe, I don't know, if they move quick, maybe they can build an air base on Sazan Island in Albania. If Kushner can move quick. Another fallback position for Israel. They have so much strategic depth. I mean, aren't they the size of New Jersey? It's massive. I'm sure they can manage all this. Five-front war. It's great. Yeah. And the Yemenis announced no more trade through the Red Sea. Not for them and soon not for anyone. Where's Pete Hegseth? Are you going to go spank the Ansar Allah of the Houthis now? With what? Remember how that went. Well, you know, they had a U.S. carrier strike group in the Red Sea, and what did they do? I think it was the USS Gerald Ford, if I'm not mistaken. They turned around and left.

## **#Danny**

Didn't they dump a few F-18s along the way?

## **#Guest**

That was in the first round. But so, you know, go ahead. Are you going to go pound the Yemenis now? Okay, well, that's okay.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I mean, goodbye Bab al-Mandeb.

## **#Guest**

Yeah, but that's interesting, Danny, because the Axis of Resistance and Iran's allies can coordinate in northern Israel. And just in terms of timing and the strategic move by Yemen, this is the thing that they didn't do before. There wasn't really clear coordination, but now Hezbollah and Iran are in sync regarding northern Israel and southern Lebanon. So this is hugely difficult for Israel to manage, and

the U.S. by extension. Add the Yemeni factor in there, it's even worse. The only thing that I think is terrible about all this is that Iraq has allowed its airspace to be used by Israel. And I think they've just got Iraq over a barrel—literally over a barrel, millions of barrels—with their banks in New York that hold all the dollars of Iraq's sovereign wealth fund. That's a problem.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, there's some, I guess, resistance to be had. There's a resistance movement there, but certainly the government has not followed suit. Patrick, before I let you go, I know it's about time for you to go, and I'll close up here in the last five minutes, but I just want to show, as I said before—what did I say earlier? That satellite imagery will eventually confirm that Iran is likely telling far more truth than the United States CENTCOM ever could. And now the U.S. F-35 hangars in Jordan are shown by satellite imagery to have been hit. And it looks like hit very hard.

Satellite images are not always the easiest thing to look at, but that looks like a big crater where the hangars were. So I don't know how many F-35s were in that thing or stationed in that thing, but it doesn't look good. And then Ramat David Airbase—it's been confirmed by satellite imagery, Israel's Ramat David Airbase—that it was also hit very hard. This one's a little harder to see, but this is being confirmed by a screengrab from Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellite imagery. So, that's not a good idea. Oops, sorry. Not a good idea, Patrick. You said, is it a good idea to keep going?

## **#Guest**

The Kingdom of Jordan—an Israeli air defense battery with a country attached to it. That's what Jordan effectively is. It's a missile defense base for Israel that happens to have a country and people living there. Well, there you are. There you are. Iran's increasing its targeting. It has plenty of targets, has great intelligence, and it's death by a thousand cuts for Israel and the U.S. That would be interesting to know what the extent of the F-35 fleet damage would be, because that's significant. And also, you know, where is Israel keeping its F-35 fleet, by the way, these days? I think they've got it spread out. Yeah.

## **#Danny**

Well, Patrick, I know I've got to let you go. I'll close up the last five minutes here because I know you have another engagement. I appreciate you coming on. Everyone, after the show, I'll let everyone know that your Substack and 21st Century Wire are there for people to subscribe to, follow, and support. Patrick, I'll talk to you again soon.

## **#Guest**

Thank you, Danny. All the best. Take care. I'll see you again soon. All right.

## #Danny

All right, everybody. We've got a few minutes left here, and I'll get some announcements and put forth some final remarks here. Okay. So, I just want to talk to you all about reasons to hope. I'm working on a piece right now on why there is reason to hope in this current geopolitical situation that we find ourselves in, the world situation more broadly. And I will say this about that—why there is reason for hope. Because I have some realist elements to me, some dialectical materialist elements. I take from everything to give you a full analysis on how to approach hope. And right now, I believe there are actually a lot of reasons to hope, including what we've been covering here daily, which is this Iran war. While Israel, of course, is committing genocide on many different fronts, while the United States cannot seem to stop itself because it is built on and rests upon the foundations of endless war.

And because that endless war is fueling Wall Street, it's fueling the military-industrial complex, it's fueling the lust for full-spectrum dominance that is consistently and constantly and rapidly waning around the world. Despite all of this, Iran has made such a leap in its world position, its global position, that now people are calling it a superpower. And I don't even know if that's the most accurate way of describing what Iran is right now, because at this point, what we can call Iran, I believe, is a victorious nation — a nation that has won the war against U.S. and Israeli aggression and imperialism and is now set on a path to build the foundations for that to spread further. Because there is no victory on one front that does not reverberate across all of them. So Iran has defeated the sanctions.

It has been able to maintain a level of economic development that has kept its military production going, has kept its civilians living at the very least a life that they can tolerate, that they can meet their needs around. And now they have been able to build up such advances that they can go toe-to-toe with the United States. Essentially, I believe that this could turn into a war where the United States and Israel don't give up, but Iran just doesn't fall, and that creates big problems because nothing is neutral, nothing stands still. Eventually, the limitations that we talk about here for the U.S. empire, for Israel, will catch up to them and force them to either make concessions, stop their behavior—which I don't believe they can do—or they face the massive consequences.

They face domestic unrest because of an economic crisis. They face the ongoing and rapid acceleration of a more integrated world among the Global South. And they will not be able to stop it because they wasted it all on a war that they were never going to win anyway. They'll try to destroy the global economy, as some are arguing. And even that won't get them what they want, because then you have a China, you have a Russia, you have even bigger economic engines in the world, especially China, ready and willing to be the focal point of this movement toward global integration, sovereignty, multipolarity, and, truthfully, the most important thing, self-determination. And this is happening across the board. It's not even just in these areas.

We are seeing, for example, all across the world, from the DPRK to Zimbabwe, the United States in its attempt to destroy any alternative to its rule, because that is really the point. The point for the empire, for the ruling classes, for those on Wall Street, you know, sipping their champagne and watching people suffer at home and abroad—their whole agenda is to get rid of any alternatives so those countries can just become subsumed into their wheel of endless exploitation of people's resources, of their labor, and of course, of their entire existence, so long as it serves their fat profits. I'm just going to show you a few examples of this. The Wall Street Journal wrote that smartphones, EVs, and brick oven pizza...

North Korea is the world's unlikely economic growth story. The title of the article was "The world's most surprising economic success story is North Korea." And it's heavily paywalled. And actually, a lot of the capacity to get through paywalls has been diminished of late. But one critical statistic that they bring up in this is that the DPRK, North Korea, a country that is under painstaking economic sanctions by the United States under a so-called U.N. mandate—despite the impact of that—they have been able to build more new homes than Los Angeles or Chicago combined in the DPRK. This person said people are witnessing electric vehicle booms, technology booms in terms of cell phone technology, being able to scan QR codes, being able to have rideshare apps—that they're building all this on their own with China's help.

Their military arsenal is being enhanced with Russia's help. And the DPRK is becoming more and more a modern society, despite being forced into what the Western mainstream media calls the hermit kingdom, right? That it's so isolated. Well, the United States and the West have tried to force isolation on the DPRK, but it is not working. And this is the DPRK, a country that the U.S. is afraid to try to destroy and go back to a kinetic war with because of the consequences of that. But nonetheless, we are seeing the DPRK be able to survive despite this onslaught and thrive eventually, in a moment where the United States and Israel and all the rest of their hangers-on are trying to destroy the planet. Zimbabwe—this is The Economist.

It has a bizarre economic boom. They love in the West to try to demonize and denigrate any country that they don't like that is doing something very well. In this article, they talk about how a gold rush has combined with a power grab because the state is heavily involved in the economy there by force because of, again, sanctions. The gold rush has caused a huge boom for them because, you know, gold has become very important with the dollar and the oil markets and all of this becoming more and more fragile because of U.S. aggression. Now their economy has grown 7 percent in the last year, plus we're talking about now years of positive economic growth despite sanctions. So countries and people—Zimbabwe now has a really horrific history.

It used to be Rhodesia. It was colonized. It was impoverished. When they gained liberation from the British, what happened? Well, the British scoffed and were angry with the United States around land reform. They didn't like that people in Zimbabwe, the ZANU-PF, the leading party, they didn't like that they tried to redistribute land from those who had taken it in prior generations. And that,

peacefully, mind you, but that led to a huge sanctions regime and the demonization of that government in an attempt to overthrow it through essentially economic bankruptcy. Didn't work. And now we're seeing that this country has been able to fight back in a continent that still remains very mired and terrorized by U.S. and Western financial debt.

So, again, there's reason to hope China's rise is not being mitigated. It's not being mitigated by anything the U.S. does at the moment. Russia—there's no sign in sight that Russia is in trouble for having to fight now what looks like a long war against NATO-backed forces and essentially NATO itself—that it's able to continue to build onward toward a modern military strategy, as well as just a modern power in its own right, leading the charge to de-dollarization. Iran, we talked about. And now the rest of the world is going to have to adjust to this reality. And I think there's reason to hope for that because Iran—what we're seeing with the United States, the desperation, the U.S. having to, Trump literally manipulate the markets just to feign stability as people suffer.

Remember, the war is at home, too. It's a war on the working class. It's a war on oppressed people. There are people becoming more and more impoverished as we speak. Debt levels are rising—the trillions of dollars in debt that people face now with car loans, with mortgages, with credit cards, on and on and on. All of this is going to come to a head. The fact that at any moment the U.S. could, you know, utilize its police forces to put down unrest, to put down even peaceful protests, to conduct even harsher surveillance. The World Cup is coming to the United States, and it's going to be an absolute shit show because the security regime here is no different from the national security regime that's imposed on people abroad.

So we are living in a boiling-over moment of this cauldron in the United States that will only serve to bolster what is the reality in front of us, which is a world that's rapidly changing and a world that does have hope embedded in it by the real resistance of actual people—millions upon billions now of people—who are actively resisting, charting a different course forward. So this is through all the destruction, through all the dismemberment, the genocide, the horrors that the collective West, led by the United States, conducts all around the world. Israel, of course—throw it in there, throw that thing in there. There's reason, of course, to be very discouraged by that.

But there's also reason to see that the arc of history has had that for centuries when it comes to empires, but it's also had resistance, and successful resistance leads to some very positive outcomes. So just remember all that. People, are you watching the Knicks tonight? If you're gonna watch that as the U.S. bombs Iran and Iran retaliates, I'll be back tomorrow, okay? Tomorrow I will be back at 10—not 10 a.m. Eastern, 12 p.m. Eastern time—with Larry Johnson and Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson. We will go over all of the overnight debacle that occurs, as usually what happens is the Trump administration conducts—the U.S. military conducts—its strikes overnight, and then Iran retaliates because of the time zone differences and whatnot. So with all that said, everyone, I want to thank everyone who gave super chats. I want to know what an attack helicopter was doing in the Strait. It can be assumed it was going to attack.

Thanks, Danny and Patrick. Thank you, Sky Raider. And then Jolly Lollipop1 says, the little hats whack Charlie Kirk. Yes, Charlie Kirk. And then Jolly Lollipop1 says you could just pick some junkie from a homeless encampment and he or she would be a better president than Donald Trump. You know, I would say that, you know, for me, I've, you know, in my lifetime, worked with and met a lot of people who have to sleep outside, who are homeless because of economic reasons, addiction, mental health—all of them put together.

And I will say that when they have their stability to them, when they are able to actually function in a way that they and the rest of us, or at least the rest of us with any humanity to us, are wanting to see—yeah, I would say that they would make far better. Actually, it's that kind of struggle that can bring you a lot of clarity and a lot of empathy towards those who also struggle, which is what we need in the United States, because we don't have a lot of it, and we definitely don't have any of it in Washington. In the halls of power, the anti-empathy, the narcissism, the mentality of just domination, dominance, and destruction, and anything goes for the maximization of profit—and this is what's killing.

This is what's killing literally a lot of the planet, you know. And so this is what happens. The resistance that I just outlined very briefly—and honestly, probably not even fair to outline it, everybody—that's what is being fought against, and that's what I hope all of you can, in your own way, become a part of. And I believe that's what this channel is really all about. Everybody, hit the like button before you go. In the video description, all the places to support my channel—Patreon, Substack, and much more. As I said before, I'll be back at 12 p.m. Eastern time with Larry Johnson and Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson to update on all of the developments that happened overnight.

And of course, Patrick was our guest today, and he was phenomenal as usual. So do support him on Substack and YouTube. Do check out his work. And he will be back again probably very soon as we continue to follow these developments. But for free, hit the like button—that boosts the show. I want to thank all of those who gave a super chat again. I want to thank all the members who were in this chat, all the Patreon members, anybody who was in the chat. But I want to thank everyone who viewed today and, of course, the great moderators who make this channel a place that people want to be. So without further ado, everyone, see you tomorrow, 12 p.m. Eastern time. Until next time.