

Russia Missiles HAMMER Kiev, Iran HITS US Ships | L. Wilkerson

Col. Lawrence Wilkerson discusses a stunning turn of events as North Korea enters the Ukraine war again overnight with its ballistic missiles raining on Kiev and massive numbers of troops deployed. Plus, a secret Israeli cable has leaked out devastating new information about a daily humiliation for the US Navy that no one is talking about. This stream does. LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis Join DD Geopolitics after you're done here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/vaxTATdGrTs> Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritho> #Ukraine #Northkorea #Iran #Trump

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. It's Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I'm joined by Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson to go over the latest developments. So we begin actually in Ukraine this time. So Russia struck Zaporizhzhia, the Ukrainian-controlled Zaporizhzhia, as well as Kyiv yesterday with missile and drone strikes, over 100 drones at least and missiles in the dozens, Zircon missiles, hypersonic missiles. But the big report is that North Korea, according to Vladimir Zelensky and Ukrainian intelligence, North Korea has supplied ballistic missiles to Russia as well and has fired them in yesterday's strikes.

Now, this comes as Ukraine has actually stopped reporting the amount of missiles that are hitting Ukraine, hitting Kyiv and other areas, because air defenses are incredibly short. Now, this all follows reports that the DPRK, North Korea, may be sending 50,000 troops to Russia very soon, according to Vladimir Zelensky. Now, back in 2024, Colonel Wilkerson, you may remember we talked a lot about the Kursk offensive and the DPRK sending troops during that time. We believed it wasn't true until it was. And so these reports may have something to them.

To the Middle East now, in West Asia, Israeli media came out with something that nobody else was reporting on: that Iran is actually firing at U.S. ships every single night in and around the Strait of Hormuz, and that these launches are being covered up badly by Washington itself. And also, in the Middle East, every single day, including in the last 24 hours, Ansar Allah, Yemen, has targeted Saudi commercial shipping in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, hitting one earlier today. So, Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, thank you for coming back. Your reaction to these developments, in particular the state of the Ukraine conflict and these reports about DPRK involvement. Are we in World War III? Well,

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, let me take the last one, not necessarily the least in consequences, though I think probably that too, first, and tell you that this morning I learned that the Saudis had deployed ambulances into Yemen, trying to pick up and treat and bring back to Saudi Arabian soil soldiers that have been wounded badly and those who have been killed. So the kingdom, as it were, is doing something that I didn't think they would do. They love flying jets and dropping bombs from altitude. They don't like fighting on the ground and aren't very good at it, but are nonetheless doing that. And apparently, from the reports, they're getting their rear end handed to them.

As to your points about the Ukraine situation, I take my guidance from Sergei Lavrov, who about 72 hours ago said, "Our patience with the West is done. Our patience with the West is done. Period." Now, Lavrov would not have said that if he didn't absolutely 100% mean it, and mean it throughout the entire structure of Russia's national security complex, to include the Duma and, of course, Putin. What is happening now, after they have pretty much decimated whatever targets are left of Ukrainian origin, they're hitting NATO targets inside Ukraine. This is step two, if you will. Before, they were hitting Ukrainian targets inside Ukraine. Now they're hitting NATO targets inside Ukraine, and there aren't too many left, really, of viable targets.

And they're hitting NATO targets. They have killed Americans. They have killed British, they have killed Germans, probably killed French and others. They're going to continue to do this. The war is with NATO now. Putin has said he is at war with NATO, and he means it. So start inside Ukraine's borders, see if they get the message, and then if they don't, expand out. The significant difficulty with that is Trump doesn't get messages. He doesn't understand what's going on. He doesn't understand how deeply he's getting embedded in two different theaters of war. One, a total war-of-choice theater, and the other, a war of, "I said I'd get out, but I didn't, and I'm lingering, and the Russians are winning."

Winning dramatically, finally, in terms of both cutting off Odessa and the ports next to Odessa, and in terms of giving Ukraine nothing really but the ability for Zelensky to scream bloody murder for a ceasefire. Now, he can fly drones all day long and attack Russian assets. Not going to do any good. They've lost the war. And it's about time someone admitted this before Sergei Lavrov's statement is expanded beyond Ukraine's borders. And it's about time we stopped the one in Southwest Asia too, but that's even more impossible to stop because Trump has his entire personality, his entire character, his entire relationship with Bibi Netanyahu, which is still strange to me, how much influence Bibi has on him.

Look what he's doing right now. Bibi is calling Trump every night, virtually, and telling him, "I'm going to say this, I'm going to say this, I'm going to say this. I'm going to say that I'm not supportive of the Gaza arrangement. I'm not supportive of stopping what's happening in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem. I'm not supportive of the things that we've talked about and I seem to

have agreed to in Lebanon. I am not supportive of any of this. I'm only saying these things because if I don't say them, I won't be reelected. I will not do them. I promise you, I will not do them. But I've got to say them. I've got to tell them to the Jewish population of Israel."

Now, your guess, my guess as to whether maybe Netanyahu means any of that in terms of not doing them—I don't think he does. I think he will do them. But we're wrapped up now in his desperate—and it is becoming increasingly desperate—attempt to make sure, by hook or crook, that he is reelected and he can finish this war, which is the ultimate aim of his life, with Iran. We can talk about that later because that has its own possibilities tied to it. But that's where we are in terms of Trump's ability to control either one of these theaters, which are rapidly both spinning out of control. And the latest example is this entente, because that's all it is, between Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia.

Who else is in it? It is not—you know, I had to explain this this morning—Article 5, even in the NATO treaty, does not mean that an attack on one is an attack on all, responded to immediately. What it means is, in all the countries' cases, that they consult their processes for making these kinds of decisions. In our case, it's the Congress, supposedly. Donald Trump seems to have obviated that, but Biden before him, too. And once those constitutional processes determine that they okay war, then you can honor your commitment to NATO. Well, this entente is even more convoluted than that. So not a lot is going on with regard to that, except the Saudis are getting their ass kicked.

Ansar Allah is kicking their butt, and kicking their butt on the ground now. I never thought I would see—I've trained a lot of Saudis, most of them pilots—I never thought I would see the Saudis, National Guard or National Force, either one, ever go to war on the ground, because they're not very good at it. But apparently they have decided to at least try their luck at the Houthis on the ground. Their luck's not holding very well. And, of course, you've probably heard the Houthis hit another ship in the Red Sea. And so things are looking bad in both theaters, Danny, really bad. And I don't see how this president—I just do not see how he's going to get out of either one, Ukraine or Southwest Asia.

#Danny

Well, before we get deeper into Southwest Asia, Colonel Wilkerson, I wanted to ask you, you know, the last time we heard about DPRK slash North Korea in the Ukraine conflict, it was during the Kursk offensive. And we know how that turned out for Ukraine and NATO: very, very badly. And then we got confirmation that North Korea actually was participating in operations there in a very important way. So I'm wondering if these latest reports, while they are coming from Ukraine and they are coming from Zelensky, and they lie like the day is long, I'm wondering what you believe about this, what your thoughts are about this. And do you think North Korea is using this conflict now, given Russia in the driver's seat, as more opportunities to get some battlefield experience in modern warfare, since the last time they fought was the United States, as you know.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

That plus, they've never fired their ballistic missiles in anger, not as far as I know, anyway. They've tested them and things like that, but I don't think they've ever fired them in anger. They're doing that here, if they're doing it. And I'm with you. I don't trust a lot of this stuff because it does get filtered through Z. But if they are there doing that, I would clearly understand that. They don't have an opportunity to try their ballistic missiles on a real battlefield, so here they are trying them. And I don't blame Putin for accepting their assistance, because he's closing in for the kill now. It may take a while still, but he's closing in for the kill.

There is almost no ability of Kyiv now, Ukraine, to shoot down anything Russia sends in. They can send little efforts up, like drones and things like that, that are designed maybe to go after this or go after that in a sort of singular way. But in terms of having air superiority, air supremacy even, they are pretty much there in Russia. They can fly with impunity. They can shoot missiles with impunity. It's sort of like Israel. Israel's much in the same boat now. Iron Dome is virtually gone. And, of course, we have no FADs or Patriots to spare to give to them. And HIMARS and other things like that, too, are being gradually used up.

So I don't think either place, Israel or Ukraine, anymore. And the former, we can talk about further because this, I think, is a clear route to a very disastrous happening with regard to Israel. And Netanyahu, once again, in his inner circle, is talking about this. He's talking about the big surprise. Very dangerous situation developing there. But in terms of North Korea, your original question, they're getting battlefield experience if they are participating. And I clearly understand why their missiles would be there, because this is the first time they ever had an opportunity to shoot them in anger and see if they get to their target on time and on mark, and if they explode. And that is a question when you're in the game that North Korea is in and you've never done it.

#Danny

Right. And technically, there is no peace agreement right now with the United States. I guess you could say the U.S. is NATO. So, you know, DPRK, North Korea, they're always preparing for war, given it's just an armistice right now. Here in the Kyiv Independent, this was the initial report on this. I'm wondering if you could help us understand what these missiles are, Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, and for the audience who may not know, they're talking about Ukraine reporting, the Air Force, that they saw KN-23 ballistic missiles of North Korean origin, as well as Iskander and Zircon, which are Russian origin. What makes these missiles particularly challenging, particularly devastating, especially given the fact that now all the reports are that Ukraine has virtually no air defenses, very, very small, and those that they have are really only good for drones, not necessarily for these kinds of missiles? So help us understand what these missiles are.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, the North Korean ones, as far as I know—and I'm not an expert on North Korean ballistic missiles, but, well, I shouldn't say that—the one that they most likely would put a nuclear warhead on, I know a little bit about. But others are sort of what I would call knockoffs of Russian or Chinese missiles, or in one or two cases, North Korean originals. Those are the ones that I would expect them to be testing, right? They know the Russian ones because they're just knockoffs. And the Chinese knockoffs, they know they work because they work for the provider or for the designer in the first case. They don't know the ones that they've built work, or they've tested them in some cases. With the tactical missiles, it's less than it is even with the strategic missiles, which they shoot periodically.

And now we know the one that I'm most familiar with will reach Washington, D.C., for example, certainly the West Coast of the United States, but pretty much cover the United States with a nuclear warhead. And it's fairly accurate, as far as we can tell from the tests that they've conducted. It adds to the arsenal that Russia has. It gives North Korea experience with missile categories that they have not had anything but test experience with. And normally for them, their test range is out into the ocean, which makes it not too much more difficult, but a little more complex when you're doing the telemetry checks and you're doing the actual strike pattern, and you want to see where the—if it happens to be a conventional warhead, for example, which most of these are, if not all—then you want to see what the pattern looks like and so forth.

It's easier to do that, or more accurate doing that, if you're shooting it on land. And if you're shooting at a target, a specific target, it's, of course, easier to check the accuracy and easier to check what your spread of the munition is and so forth. So I could see that, as I said before, North Korea would want to use this not only to help an ally, which Russia is now, but also to check their own weaponry. And let me go back to that: Russia is an ally now. There's some tension between Beijing and Moscow. One of the few points where I do read about and hear about some tension between Xi Jinping and Putin, between Russia and China, with regard to the, well, to quote Mao Zedong, the close-as-lips-and-teeth relationship of Russia with Pyongyang.

China has always managed to maintain a certain circumspection and distance from Pyongyang. Not to say that they didn't consider North Korea an entity worth supporting from time to time on different issues. But their concern about North Korea is much more poignant, if you will, than Russia's is apparently now, in particular. And so they don't particularly care for the relationship growing closer between Putin and Kim Jong Un, between Moscow and Pyongyang. And that, I'm told, that's not a disruptor of the alliance that's formed out there, now including Iran. But it is a subject of tension that I would have thought would be there, because China always has had a different relationship with them, having a much longer border with them too is part of the situation.

And also having a situation now where I'm told that on the river in particular, where women on both sides, for example, used to go down and wash their clothes. I mean, you know, it's a river and it's on each side. You can go in and you can wash your clothes and do other things you do with water. Now they're not doing that because they'll get shot. On both sides, they'll get shot. So that's not the

kind of relaxed attitude that I was used to in observing the Yalu in particular when I was in the State Department. They're killing people going down there now. They don't want anybody near there.

And it's because of this tension between North Korea and China, and the tension is exacerbated by the fact that now North Koreans who used to try to get out would try to get out that way. They had a very circuitous route. They went into China first. They were sort of fed and watered there and kept intact, and they met up with a party that took them down and around, and sometimes through Thailand, sometimes other places, and they would wind up on the South Korean peninsula as defectors. That's created some tension too. At any rate, this relationship between North Korea and Russia is not making China that much a happy camper about it.

#Danny

Well, what do you then make of the report, Colonel Wilkerson, in the Wall Street Journal that happened earlier in July about the Center for Strategic and International Studies piggybacked off it, that North Korea is having a very surprising economic boom right now? And a lot of it has to do, actually, with economic growth ties to China that have been growing, including in the areas of tech and electric vehicles, which is what was noted in the Wall Street Journal: that they saw, it seems, that the streets are full of Chinese cars, and that North Korea has seemed to mirror China's technological advancements, especially in the realm of these apps that are everywhere, especially for payments and all the kinds of things like that.

So what do you make of that? Because there seems to be a contradiction that there, of course, are disagreements between China and North Korea, but it seems like both China, North Korea... China and North Korea. China and Russia. Right, China and Russia, yeah. But all three of them seem to be getting close to each other. There are even reports, too, that Russia has supplied a greater amount of oil to China in recent weeks, in large part because China has been...

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I didn't mean to imply that the greater alliance was being impacted by it. All alliances have little imperfections in them, little problems with them. You want to watch it closely, though, because it might grow. North Korea is a puzzle right now. I've been going to webinar after webinar that Stimson holds because some of the best Korea experts in the United States are at Stimson. One or two in particular, really good women, both of them. North Korean, one South Korean, I think one North Korean. And their webinars are quite good. They have a cell phone deal going in North Korea now. You can have a cell phone. You can own a cell phone. You can talk to people. You can get on the network.

You can do all manner of things with them. Some people are saying that that's because the South is giving them the cell phones. I don't think so. There might be some coming that way, but I think most of them are coming the way you said, they're coming from China. And that includes other

things coming from China, because China never met a country that it was mad enough at not to trade with, except maybe us now with Donald Trump. But China wants to trade, and it wants to ship things like electric cars and such all over the world. And North Korea, DPRK, is no exception in that regard. But some of the webinars I've been attending and listening to very closely indicate that Kim is trying some new things.

And some of the things he's trying, they resonate with me because I remember the economic package that, in 2001 and 2002, we developed at State in conjunction with Ken Dam, I think, at the Treasury Department. Ken was a real Korea expert. I think he was even a Hong Kong and China expert, too. Good guy. You rarely get those kind of people at Treasury for that kind of regional and geographic experience. But we put together a package that, strangely enough, seems to be included in what China is doing for DPRK and what the DPRK, not to be outdone or anything, is doing for itself. So they're creating these economic zones. They're creating little places where they can experiment, if you will, with more market-oriented experiences.

We did this, you may recall, as a part of the Bush administration. Really, the South Koreans were doing it. We created this zone where North Korean workers could come in and be trained. South Koreans provided management in the beginning. Then the North Koreans moved management in when they got the skills and such. And that product was distributed to both countries for profit on both sides. And Kim Jong, I guess it was Kim Jong-un when he first came in, he brutally shut it all down. And it just stopped. And the Sunshine Policy went out of South Korea and such. But I think that is happening again, but it's now happening, oddly enough, with Kim's initiative, with Pyongyang's initiative.

They're trying to do things not to liberalize, but to make life a little bit better for the average North Korean citizen. We're hearing that also from people like Catholic Relief Services and others who've been in North Korea all along and worked there all the time. So it is changing. It is changing. And maybe some of this is Russia and China's influence on it. I think it probably is. The Chinese were a part of all these talks. The Six-Party Talks included the Chinese and the Russians. And we talked about these economic packages. And I remember, in particular, China talking about what it would like to do for North Korea if Pyongyang would just allow it. So apparently some of this is happening now, which I think is positive.

#Danny

Yeah, definitely. Definitely. I mean, decades and decades of sanctions. It seems like DPRK did nothing. Yeah, did nothing. And they're looking for ways to not only survive and be resilient from them. Well, it didn't do nothing.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

It created a nuclear weapon. That's true. That's true.

#Danny

That's true. Colonel Wilkerson, you know, all of these wars are connected, as you noted in the beginning. And so I'm curious on, you know, you said there's two theaters: the Ukraine theater that is hot and the Iran theater that is still hot, even though there is an active firing between the U.S. and Iran right now. But what do you make of what's happening with Iran and the United States? Donald Trump literally, I mean, these words coming out of his mouth, that he is now blaming Iran, maybe in jest and maybe in seriousness, for all of the deaths that have occurred in Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen. But you also have the fact that Iran has just released a new missile, or at least a new missile upgrade. And the United States seems to be out of a lot of what they need to continue this war. So what's going on? Where are things at? Iran says they are willing to wait out the United States now until Trump is gone. Your assessment of the situation?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I just received and looked over carefully, after Nima and I had talked about it earlier this morning on Dialogue Works, the list of people who are now in the IRGC principally, but security and leadership positions in Iran in general. It reads like a list of resolute, experienced, dedicated, 100% qualified, totally competent leaders across the board. I mean, I don't know them all, but I know enough of them to know that they are tough men, very, very dedicated to Iran, and in some ways more dedicated than previous people in similar positions because of this reason. They're all IRGC. They're almost all veterans. One of them was a 22-year-old or something like that when he was involved in the war, just like the former guy he just replaced, grew up in the IRGC. If you read the reports put out in the mid-2000s—well, they were put out in 2007, 8, 9, that timeframe.

And they came from people like the Carnegie Foundation and others. And these reports, very categorically and with metrics and data and everything, told you how much money Iran was making annually from its oil sales, oil and natural gas sales. And as you might imagine, they were making trillions of dollars, which is one of the reasons Dick Cheney and Halliburton wanted to get in there big time. Of those trillions of dollars, the estimates didn't vary very much on a fiscal year basis. The IRGC was taking well over a trillion dollars. Well, think about that for a few minutes. This is a group of very dedicated people, mostly men, and they have had, in many cases, the experience, the brutal experience of war. They are what you might call the crème de la crème of Iran's very, very good, as we're finding out now, military structure.

And they are the most highly remunerated, paid people in Iran. Rafsanjani, Ahmadinejad, all those others notwithstanding, these people know where the money is, and they get a lion's share of it. All to say, when you are that, when you are dedicated to the state, and when you are very competent in terms of military experience and competence, and you are so well entrenched in the hugely remunerative revenues Iran takes in from its oil and gas industry, you will defend that state to the death forever. This is a formidable, formidable group of people we're up against. And when they say

they're prepared to wait until Donald Trump is gone, until there's a new president, until the United States has completely evacuated the region, until Israel disappears, they mean it.

So I wish we were paying attention to this. I wish we understood whom we are up against and what we're up against. I don't for a moment think Donald Trump has the capacity to do that. But someone in the administration has, I'm sure, like J.D. Vance or maybe even Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Dan Caine. Certainly some of the service chiefs and others ought to have the wherewithal to think this through and go to the president and say, "Mr. President, this is a totally losing proposition. They aren't going to give up. Nothing we do to them can make them give up. They are sitting on the high ground, and we are on the very, very low ground. And you are running out of things." Now think about that for a moment.

When you say you're running out of critical munitions, Alexis Grynkeiwich, the SHAPE commander, is looking at Sergei Lavrov having declared, "Our patience is gone with the West." Putin now targeting NATO facilities, known NATO facilities inside Ukraine, killing Germans, killing French, killing Americans inside Ukraine. The next step is outside Ukraine to hit NATO. And Grynkeiwich is responsible for defending NATO, ultimately. He's the SHAPE commander, the SACEUR. And he's watching us spend all these munitions that will not be available to him. I'd be having a cat fit if I were he. I'd be apoplectic. I'd be in Trump's face. I'd be resigning my position if Trump didn't change the disposition of the U.S. military.

#Danny

Well, let's talk about a number of these crises for now that, as you've mentioned on this show many times, Colonel Wilkerson, the U.S. is so dependent upon using what is now becoming a more abundant military apparatus to enforce its empire. Now, what you just said is kind of apt right now because European establishment media like Politico said that Europe is also running out of Patriot missiles as Ukraine braces for Russia's winter attacks. Yeah. So, you know, Russia has shown itself to have an incredible air defense system.

And for whatever people want to say about Russia, what they've done against these drone attacks by Ukraine is just—you know, we've never, I don't know if we've seen something like this, where, you know, 500 will be shot at them and 99 percent of those will be shot out of the sky. Yeah. Europe, the U.S. doesn't have this anymore. So, in the Iran theater, no more air defenses. In the European theater, if Russia needed to escalate against Europe, they're also fish out of water. Your thoughts on this? And then we get into the naval crisis, which has also been reported on recently. Your thoughts, though?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

You know, I just read a paper last night. This might not sound relevant until I make it so. But the paper was about how Stalin put his scientists to work and within six months was beating the best

that the Wehrmacht had after they moved into Russia and tried to take Russia. And it didn't look like it at the time because they weren't being very demonstrative about it until they were absolutely sure that their organization, their equipment in that organization, the people in that organization, and everything were very competent at doing what they were doing. All to say that the Russians are pretty good. They're darn good.

And I could say, though there hasn't been as much experience or an experience factor associated with it, and their little excursion in '79, I think it was, into Vietnam was not a testimony to this. But there is evidence now from exercises and from things that we've learned about those exercises from observers whom the Chinese did allow that China's getting pretty good at it too, both in the technical realm in terms of producing military equipment that works and works well, but also in the experiential realm of using it. They have pretty large exercises, just as the Russians did back in the early 2000s.

The Russians were having corps-size and even one army-size exercises. We haven't had an exercise like that since Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and that really was not that big of an exercise compared to the ones the Russians and the Chinese have. So all to say, they're pretty damn good. They're pretty damn good, and Russia is pretty damn good with real battlefield experience now being demonstrated more and more on the actual battlefield. So all to say, I wouldn't be very anxious if I were Donald Trump or General Grinkovich in Europe to take them on. I just wouldn't. I don't think that Putin wants to take the entire apparatus of NATO on.

But I don't agree with some of these U.S. generals that would say he would be absolutely stupid to do that because he'd get the hell beat out of him. I don't think so. I have seen alliances try to fight. I've read about alliances for a thousand years trying to fight. They don't do it very well. And the United States, in particular, does not do it very well. So this is a dangerous world. I keep saying that, a very dangerous world and incompetent—let me say that a little harsher—an utterly insane commander-in-chief, president of the United States, is what we're dealing with. And I don't see a whole lot of brainpower and competence in the collection of sycophants, mostly.

I accept Vance in that regard. I accept General Caine in that regard, maybe one or two others. But I don't see a lot of help for this president. And I certainly don't see any help in the Congress because they are a fully owned subsidiary of Israel. And this, in Southwest Asia at least, is all about Israel. And I'm not sure that some of it in Ukraine is not about Israel too, because Israel's got its fingers in there in the drone production business and such. Israel will always have its fingers in every war and conflict it can get its fingers in. So we're tying these things together, these theaters of war, this complex situation we have in Europe and Southwest Asia, with a rapidity that really alarms me. We could produce a regional conflict certainly very swiftly, and we might even be able to produce a global conflict if we try hard.

One of the things that might precipitate this sort of conflict is what's going to happen if Iran feels like it needs to go deeper and further into its target list and begin to really take out some

substantially important economic targets that heretofore it has not taken out. And I'm pointing decidedly at those in Saudi Arabia that encompass almost 20% of various and sundry parts of what we call the oil industry. It's different things, but it's what we call the oil industry. It's not all crude. There are other things that come out of there too. And I'm not even talking about the urea and the helium and the other things that come out of there that are essential to other processes in the world, like fertilizer and so forth. And helium, of course, the computer chips. So this could get really deep and dangerous and bad, especially for the empire, very quickly.

And I say that latter because China and Russia and Iran, to a certain extent, run by the exigencies of conflict and what they've done to tighten their economy. But Russia, partly because of that, but also because Putin has been very smart about the way he has used U.S. sanctions, in particular, to diversify very effectively and very healthfully the Russian economy. And China, we don't even need to talk about, is the number one economy in the world. So we are up against this monstrous, huge, largest country in the world, big population country, second only to India, third big country with lots of natural resources and lots of people and lots of land mass in Iran, all fused together. I didn't even include North Korea. We're looking at all of them against us. That's not good.

#Danny

Yeah, well, now if you could comment on, you know, there is a burgeoning naval crisis for the United States, not just the air defenses, because, you know, I pulled up this report earlier about Israeli media supposedly sounding the alarm, saying that every night Iran, they claim, is attacking U.S. ships or at the very least deterring them from entering the space. Of course, we have had the United States claim that they are escorting and doing all of this around the Persian Gulf. Iran says there are no naval carriers that will get anywhere close to the Persian Gulf because they're afraid. But we also heard that the USS Lincoln has a major crisis on board where, you know, the sailors there are just without—you know, they're on to now close to a year of being out that way.

And they are absolutely miserable. They have nothing on board that they need, whether it's quality food, toothpaste, these kinds of things. And the ship seems to be breaking down as well, where there are reports of holes in the ship that are being identified and hidden and not fixed, as well as other issues with the functioning of the ship for their own purposes, which many parents now of these sailors are saying this could be a disaster in the making, where people end up dead, not for, you know, just for the fact that there are so many issues on board this. Can you talk about the crisis for this part of the U.S. Navy, which is supposed to be the enforcer of freedom of navigation and as well as the launch pad for a lot of the U.S.'s air power too? Your thoughts on what's going on here?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

You know, I've been paying attention to some of the parents who have been reported in the various press, and their comments really go to the heart of things, I think. The Navy, the U.S. Navy, has never been taking its lesson, if you will, from the British Navy, because they were the same way,

much concerned with its enlisted ranks. A little more concerned with the petty officers, their non-commissioned officers, and of course with the officers climbing with rank. Officers on naval ships do things, for example, that soldiers would never do. They eat simultaneously or before, and eat better than the crew. They drink before the crew. They often have much better accommodations than the crew.

I mean, let's face it, soldiers and generally Marines sleep in the same sleeping bag and on the same ground their soldiers do. Eat the same food and eat it last. A principle in the Army is if you're standing in a line for food on a combat field, you eat last. And if there's no food when you get to the tray, you don't eat. That's a rule in the Army. It's a rule in the Marine Corps. Not so with the Navy. You eat all the time, and you eat much better if you're an officer. And you eat in much better quarters than the crew does. Much better in terms of the size and the atmosphere, and much better in terms of what might be around you, like rats running around or whatever.

This is a heritage from the British Navy. The British Navy was the same way, treated the tars like they were crap. The officers were treated fairly well. So that's the first thing. Second thing, these ships—think about this for a minute now. These ships have not seen land in quite a while. Not only that, they are a thousand miles, I'm told, out into the Indian Ocean, not in the North Arabian Sea or in the Sea of Oman, let alone in the Strait of Hormuz area. They're out in the Indian Ocean, a tumultuous body of water, and they haven't seen anything but water for quite an extended period of time, as my calculations are.

Some of them for as long as six months, five, six months. This war has been going on since 28 February. I haven't checked the actual deployment figures to see who's got 600 days and who's got 400 days or whatever, but it's a long period for most of them. And I'm not including the CGs and the DDGs and the DDs, the destroyers, the missile destroyers, the cruisers, and, like, Ticonderoga Aegis-class cruisers and such. These crews are on an even tighter ship, if you will, in terms of space and room and in terms of being a dot in a vast ocean. And if they're getting shot at, these other ships, not the carriers, they can't be shot at really because they're too far out.

Now, a drone could go out there probably and do something, but shooting a drone down with regard to a carrier and its defenses is probably not that difficult. So you've got a variety of things happening, but they're all bad. They're all bad on morale. They're all bad on the wear on the ships. They're all bad for the complexity of operations. For example, if you're going to use carrier air power, sorry, you're not going to tank all the way into Iran to use your munitions. And we've sort of run out of the munitions that you shoot from a distance. So how do you get that carrier air power in there if you can't bring the platform launching it in closer? And you can't because they'll sink it.

5,000 souls in the water at one time. Very difficult situation. And what it's doing is demonstrating to the world, I think, and most demonstratively to the Chinese and the Russians, that we're a paper tiger when it comes to the capital ship of the United States Navy, the carrier. It is obsolete. It costs \$16 billion. It has a huge complement of men and women on it, but it is obsolete. And all it's going

to take is a single missile to prove it's obsolete. We don't want that event to occur, of course, because this is too expensive. We have two of them right now. One is about to be launched, I think, and the other is due out in about four or five years, both of which will be overpriced. They'll be \$16 to \$20 billion.

The second one might be as high as \$22, \$23 billion. And they will be not that much more capable than the ones that are out there right now, which are, I will repeat for people who are deaf, obsolete. And we're just waiting to prove that. And we're waiting to prove it with the resolute enemy that confronts us on the other side of the Strait of Hormuz, Iran. So this is a very bad situation, not just for Donald Trump and not just for the American military. My heart goes out to them, especially the soldiers and Marines who might be used in a land operation. But that also goes out to the sailors who are under people like Bradley Cooper, a surface warfare guy. But, you know, I know all about him.

I taught him at Newport at the War College. I couldn't stand most of them because they were a different kind of military people. They had no concern for their soldiers, their troops. They had no concern for anything but themselves and their ship. Now, that's not all of them. There are some very good captains, some very good commanders and lieutenant commanders. But they are, in my view, in the minority when it comes to taking care of the troops. And one of the ways that demonstrated that, Danny, in a way that was spectacular, was when they left Bahrain. Many of them were sailors or belonged to the Navy complement, civilians, whatever.

When they left Bahrain after Iran initially destroyed virtually everything there, they, 2,000-plus of them, went home to Norfolk. And when they got there, there was nothing, nothing for them. No berth space, no sleeping, no food, no water. So what the citizens of Chesapeake, Norfolk, and other places in that area had to do was band together and give them places to stay and places to hang their hat. And by the way, they didn't bring anything home but what they could put in a kit bag. So they had to leave everything else there that was their worldly possessions at sea or in a foreign country. You know, you can't make this stuff up.

It's terrible what they're doing. And they're doing it because there was no planning. There was no forward-looking. Marco Rubio didn't even think about noncombatant evacuation operations, or if he did, he was way late in doing it. So you had to fly these people out on whatever craft you could find, commercial airliners, things like that. It's a disaster, and we made it a disaster because we were not prepared. We went to war unprepared, and we went to war in a stupid, idiotic way, thinking air power would do everything it needed to do. And even General Caine, before the Congress of the United States, gave testimony that air power has never been a decider of war.

#Danny

I mean, I think that's just really \$1.5 trillion that Hegseth is always boasting about to the U.S. military. Where did it go? Exactly. That's what I'm saying. The fact that these people that you sent

out to the Indian Ocean for this Iran war—and that's, I mean, this is a longstanding pattern, though—they're just treated more like fodder than anything else. And now I'm just wondering what's going through their heads, because in general—and I can't imagine this doesn't affect sentiment on something like the USS Lincoln. Now, how people broadly—this is Semafor, so this is, you know, as you know, Colonel Wilkerson, connected to intelligence—but how Americans view the U.S. military campaign in Iran has only gotten worse every single month since April.

So now only 12% of Americans believe that the U.S. military has achieved its goals, as opposed to 88% saying, nope, they haven't. So people are really catching on to how bad this is. And now U.S. military officials, Colonel Wilkerson, have also informed Trump, according to NBC, that any operation to try to take the Strait, although he says it's already taken and controlled by the U.S., would be lengthy, costly, and deadly, with no guarantee of winning. None of this spells good things for at least the babbling Trump administration on the future of this war. What are your thoughts on these numbers and these reports?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I don't think it'll take long before Trump's ratings as president of the United States reflect those polls you just showed. I mean, he's headed down to about 12%, I think. And that's going to be devastating in more ways than one. I hate to contemplate how the Republican Party might deal with that, Alan, and how Trump might help them deal with that. That could be some real domestic turmoil. But I think that's reflective of where he's going to go, ultimately. I heard yesterday from competent authority that he is seriously thinking about pardoning Ghislaine Maxwell. Think about that for a minute. He's already moved her out of a fairly high-security prison to a plush prison for whatever reason.

Why would he be contemplating that unless she has something on him and is threatening to reveal it? I mean, I wouldn't even be thinking about it. This isn't like letting, what was his name, Hernandez, the president of Honduras, who was a drug dealer and was convicted in a U.S. court. It's not like giving him a pardon. Oh, by the way, you know, he's down on the coast of Honduras right now, running an organization that I understand is turning over a lot of money for people like the CIA and like Jared and Steve and others who are gaining money. So it is perplexing to me. And then you come to Bibi and what Bibi is doing. And Bibi is setting up Israel.

We talk about Ukraine being devoid of air defenses. Israel is pretty much in the same boat. We don't have a lot to give them, certainly not THAAD, Patriot, and not a lot of other things like HIMARS and so forth, which we've been expending at an alarming rate as well, all the categories of HIMARS. So what is Bibi thinking about if he's really seriously thinking of putting an end to the most heinous regime, in his estimation, in the region, Iran? And that's been his dream for a long time. What is he thinking about doing? Because he doesn't have the capacity to do it now. I don't even think he has the capacity, joined with the United States, to do it. I think we've demonstrated that.

But even if we were to concentrate around-the-clock aerial campaign, Israel and the U.S. together against Iran, I'm not even sure Israel could fly because it doesn't have the refined product to fly. It's JP-4, JP-5, JP-8, you know, jet fuel. I don't think it has the product to fly, not anything more than maybe one mission. And we're lined up on Ben Gurion Airport like we were at Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. We could be taken out probably with three or four Reshnik-type missiles with submunitions in probably 35, 40 minutes. We wouldn't have a tanker left because they're so jammed up wingtip to wingtip on Ben Gurion Airport. I'm waiting for us to move them.

You know, the defense minister or someone, Katz or someone, said we should move them. And Netanyahu intervened and said, no, don't talk to the United States that way. They don't have to move them. Does he want them to be there so they're part of the carnage when Iran launches an attack on Israel? And then he responds to that attack with the only weapon he has left: a nuclear weapon. This is not a good situation that Bibi and Donald have allowed Israel to slip into. Mostly Bibi, because I don't think Donald understands any of this. But Bibi has allowed Israel to slip into what could very well be an existential situation. And the only thing he has to defend against that in any way really effective is nuclear weapons.

#Danny

Well, you know, we've had many conversations, Colonel Wilkerson, now of eventually these global conflicts that the U.S. is in the lead, Israel is in the lead in many ways, being involved with, especially in West Asia, in Eurasia proper, is eventually going nuclear. As of today, do you see that still as the overall momentum? That's where we're going? Because what I see is the United States militarily is just, you know, you said paper tiger. Yeah, it doesn't really have the capabilities of militarily defeating China, Russia, and Iran.

Now we know. And that means these countries are going to keep doing what they're doing, which the United States doesn't like, even if it is maybe a far more peaceful future if they keep doing what they're doing than what we have now. But to the masters of war, they're not loving this. So where do you see things headed now? Maybe in the last five minutes or so, we can talk about that. I think it's a very dangerous world. I think we're in trouble. The empire, I think our power is receding rapidly.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I think China, Russia, and Iran are a triumvirate, and throw North Korea in there too, if you'd like. But you also got to throw a lot of the BRICS in there eventually. I think probably even ultimately you have to throw India in there. And then you've got probably 60% of the world's population, probably the same percent of its GDP, and certainly the dynamic portion of the world—that is to say, the part of the world that's growing economically powerful, going to be even more economically powerful—all

lined up against the empire, the United States of America. And for that matter, against Europe too, who are showing both in the EU and in their individual governments almost as much hard-headedness and stupidity as the U.S. is showing.

It's the end of a reign of a long period of time with regard to the West. But it doesn't have to be the end of everything. I mean, we're at 340—some people say 350 million. I think it's more like 340 or lower because Trump has deported so many people and is fully intent on deporting hundreds of thousands more. But we're still a fairly sizable nation. We could fall apart at any minute and are showing signs of that. But we're still a fairly powerful nation. And there are other countries in the region too. I cite Brazil as one, and of course Canada and Mexico. But we are decidedly on the decreasing end of the power scale, while the rest of the world, minus Europe, which is on the same scale as us, is on the increasing power side of the scale.

Whether or not that side that's losing—and that's not really the right word if you come at it with the right attitude and you recognize this is happening and it has to be accommodated, not fought. But the only thing that is going to save this side that's losing, as it were, is the nuclear weapons, right? And that's not a victory. That's not a victory at all. So we need a leadership that begins to understand this dynamic and begins to move to accommodate it. And there's a clear path to moving to accommodate it in a way that would be collaborative, cooperative, and work.

And that's for everybody to put their heads together, so to speak, and to work on corralling this treaty-less world together for nuclear weapons, work on making the Non-Proliferation Treaty a little more viable, getting rid of at least a couple of the countries that already have the weapons. I'd include in that Israel, for sure, and limiting any future acquirers with the treaty regime, plus protecting those that are already possessed of the weapons. And then we need to work desperately on what is burning down France, burning down much of Canada, burning down a lot of the United States, drowning people, and doing other things. And that's the climate crisis, which Trump calls a hoax. He's as stupid and as ignorant with regard to that crisis as he is the war in Southwest Asia or the war in Ukraine.

We need to deal with both of these things or we are going to be in deep, deep trouble, the way the French firefighters are around the wine region just short of Paris right now. We are in desperate straits. They are long-term in some sense, but not that long-term. We've already had the hottest years on record. We aren't going to have any cooler ones. We need to work on these problems and we need to work together on them, all eight, nine billion people of us. Ain't going to happen probably, but it's being held up right now not by China, not by Russia, not by India, not by any of the other countries in the world, in the dynamic region of the world. It's being held up by the empire and by its lackeys. And that's a sad commentary.

#Danny

Yeah, well, I think this is a good place to end on that very alarming but necessary message. I want to make sure everybody knows to hit the like button, because that will boost the show after we are done here. And that continues to allow people casually searching YouTube to see Colonel Wilkerson's much-needed analysis and our conversation. Thank you so much for becoming new members, to both of you here. Appreciate it. Thanks to all the moderators. Thanks to everyone who viewed.

In the video description below, you can find all the places to support this channel: Patreon, Substack, and much more. Tomorrow, I'll be back with our mutual friend and oftentimes our mutual guest, Larry Johnson, at 4 p.m. Eastern Time, August 12th. And, you know, hopefully I'll see you all there. Also today at 4 p.m. Eastern Time, Good Friends Video Geopolitics are live. That link is below as well, today, August 11th. All right, everybody, we are out of here. Thank Colonel Wilkerson with a smash of that like button. And I'll see you tomorrow, August 12th, 4 p.m. Eastern. Bye-bye. Take care, Danny.