

USS Lincoln in FATAL Mutiny | Larry Johnson

Former CIA analyst Larry Johnson discusses Iran exposing a massive revolt on the USS Lincoln and Iran's involvement as the war takes an unexpected turn. <https://sonar21.com/> <https://www.youtube.com/@UCewRbK22LRnNi6N3EcGjbow> PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai...> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #usslincoln #usnavy #trump

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, former CIA analyst, geopolitical commentator Larry Johnson is here with me to break down the latest developments. First, we begin with a shocking Iranian report. This comes from a military source close to Iran that says seven terrorists are now dead on the USS Abraham Lincoln after a brawl occurred amongst crew members and their superiors. It broke out after the carrier spent months in the region, nearly one year and 200-plus days without port. Now, U.S. sources are saying something different.

The Military Times are saying that multiple crew members on the USS Abraham Lincoln have tried to go overboard, indicating a severe mental health crisis that families have made superiors in the U.S. Navy aware of, but has received zero attention from the Trump administration. Now, in other news, the United States and Iran are reportedly, supposedly through Pakistani mediators, agreeing to extend a so-called 60-day ceasefire brokered by Pakistan, with the current agreement supposedly ending August 17th. But Iran has actually rejected these reports outright, saying no such ceasefire exists because the MOU is not being abided by at this time and is essentially dead.

Donald Trump today, instead of addressing the naval crisis or this, he has taken to Truth Social, saying that the United States controls the Strait of Hormuz and will keep it, saying that Iran is completely defeated, has no money, has no troops, has no military. Larry, let's begin with what's happening aboard the USS Lincoln. What do you make of these reports? Oftentimes in this war, there's always been two conflicting truths. Now, a lot of families are saying it's hard to get information off board the USS Lincoln right now. What's your understanding of what's going on, and what do you make of these two reports that have come out from the Iranian side and from the U.S. side?

#Larry Johnson

There is a crisis going on in the U.S. military, but particularly in the U.S. Navy. I heard from a friend of mine, a recently retired officer, and he sent me the following today. He was just—he was sort of livid. He said, he says, with respect to this reported incident, he said, "And finally, the truth. This is making the rounds. If the Lincoln has 5,000 people on it and it hasn't seen land in 38 weeks, they are starving, no packages, rationing coffee, waiting to die from a fucking Iranian hypersonic. They say the number is six attempts. Nearly a year at sea, no land, etc. The real number of attempts is likely five-fold or ten-fold. In other words, 30 to 60. You have more attempts at suicide on a normal carrier operation. It's just normal."

A factor of statistics. That's before being sent to your death on a purely political mission from someone who openly hates military members and thinks they are pussies for getting hurt or dying. Six attempts sounds like a lot, but that number is way, way too small. As an officer like them, I've had to do a number of Army Regulation 15-6 command investigations on soldiers committing suicide. All officers have. It's a normal function. Suicide is a very real and stable number too. And that's why you're still in. They have no clue what's waiting for them the first night they return home, or whenever they have time to spend alone thinking about it, alone with nothing to distract you except your only friends, Jim and Jack.

You know, Jim being Jack Daniels, referring to whiskey. Did you know they do roving patrols on all Navy ships called fire guard? That term has become blanket use for all services. It means a rotating schedule to monitor the perimeter to make sure there are no, quote, fires. Wrong. The guard is to prevent people from trying to kill themselves on the spot. Not dissimilar to phone factories in China. Fire guard still happens today. In Army basic training, when you go to the field, when you go on an exercise or deployment, etc., it has nothing to do with preventing a fire. Suicide is a part of daily life in the military. Here's another example.

In the big units, such as the 82nd Airborne, the 101st Airborne, if the unit makes 82 or 101 days without a DUI, everybody gets a four-day weekend. Well, they never got over three weeks without one, regularly. So they had to increase the denominator to suicides. Everyone gets a long weekend if we make it to 82 days without a suicide in our own unit. Guess how many days off there were? None. So we had to change the denominator again. Honestly, I think it was actually drugs. We may have made it to 82 days without someone caught and charged with using drugs in the barracks or whatever. Couldn't make it to 82 days without a DUI or a suicide, though.

And then he goes on to describe, mentions his age, when he was born. And he says, "I've had 24 years of PTSD from actually killing people, Wild West in those days, of divorces, a few close suicide attempts, mostly big-wave surfing in Hawaii where you don't really expect to come back. Granted, I was enlisted in the invasion of Iraq then, but then I attended West Point, and that started an entire successful officer career after that, including more combat deployments." As I've mentioned before, I'm the class president of my West Point class and have been for several years. And so I have the numbers from day one of West Point until now. Committing suicide at West Point is very regular.

The preferred method, since everyone is in pretty good shape and runs a lot, is a run to Bear Mountain Bridge and then jumping. We had at least five commit suicide, I think, while I was there. And keep in mind, you can't just quit and go home for the most part. And then we lost some in combat, particularly in 2009, 2012, when everything heated up again post-surge, etc. But we've lost many more due to suicide as officers, with families. You know what one more of the fun decisions I get to make as the class president? Where do we place their names? How do they get binned or placed on the board? We have three demographics of dead classmates: combat, suicide, or non-combat injuries.

I get to listen to and deal with every single one of my dead classmates' families argue about whether their names should be on the list of fallen in combat, if they either killed themselves while deployed in combat, killed themselves shortly after coming home from combat, or many years later. You can imagine how emotional those conversations are. So, six suicide attempts of 5,000 in a tinderbox of rage called the Abraham Lincoln, frustration and waiting for death for an orange asshole. Multiply by five, minimum. Then they end up just telling direct line supervisors, if your sailor or soldier kills himself, it's on you.

#Danny

Wow.

#Larry Johnson

How's that for—how's that?

#Danny

Wow. Now that is indicative of a major crisis. And Larry, the United States, the Trump administration, they made this a naval war. They said the Trump administration has relied so deeply, not just in the Iran war, but every single theater, Cuba, Venezuela, so deeply on the U.S. Navy. Now, with Iran, there's absolutely no—I mean, the oil markets are reflecting this. What Iran is saying is reflecting this. There's no end to this war right now in sight. So what does this mean then moving forward, given that these problems that are arising on the USS Lincoln, they have consequences even beyond the horrific personal consequences for those on board? Yeah.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah. Yeah. No, it is. Well, it's a failure of leadership from the top. Failure by Donald Trump. Failure by Pete Hegseth. Failure by Admiral Brad Cooper. Failure by the Chief of Naval Operations. Failure by the Secretary of the Navy. Like I said, failure across the board.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah. Definitely. Total failure. You know, what do you make of Iran's report that they say? Do you believe that there could also be, of course, the anguish that these sailors are going through that leads to self-harm and self-injury, certainly verified now, but do you believe that there could be some kind of also confrontations and clashes happening on the ship as things get incredibly dire and dangerous in this manner?

#Larry Johnson

Absolutely. You know, it's not out there. I mean, you're dealing with 5,000 people. It's not one big happy family. You know, there are going to be—there's, you know, I'm sure you've been in situations where a group of people, and there may be some people you just don't get along with. And then when you get under this kind of pressure, you know, both the physical shortages, lack of food, lack of sleep, yeah, I wouldn't be surprised if they actually had some outbreaks of violence. This is bad. Yeah.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah, that's what Iran is saying. Nobody else is reporting it. Nobody else wants to pick up the story. But Iran is saying that they have been informed that there were violent clashes on the ship this past week. But, Larry, what are some of the other consequences, too? Because USS Lincoln is supposed to be one of, of course, the few aircraft carriers that the U.S. has in its possession that make up the real heavyweight strength of the U.S. Navy. But being out in the Indian Ocean area that long also has some military effects and also technical effects on a ship like that, doesn't it? Like, what do you believe the condition of the actual ship is? And is it even able to—hell, if you don't have crew ready to fight, then that's a whole big issue. But what about the ship itself?

#Larry Johnson

Well, it's not so much the ship. I mean, the physical plant on the ship, you know, is going to require more maintenance. It's like anything that's mechanical, where you get a lot of use, the maintenance is going to be critical. Then you've got the aircraft on board the carrier. And the F-35 is a hangar queen to start with, you know, a plane that needs lots of extra special care and can, you know, frankly, not, you know, be readily operational. So, you know, they've got that to deal with. But it's not just the aircraft carrier.

So, you know, as I've mentioned in other broadcasts, I was contacted by the mother of one sailor now three weeks ago. And he was on the USS Tripoli. And she was furious. And she's a former enlisted person in the Navy, I think, as well. She said her son lost 30 pounds. He came home gaunt. When you've got a normal 21-, 22-year-old kid who's not a fat body, they don't necessarily have 30 pounds to lose. But that's what he did. I can show you a picture of me back when I was 22, going on 23. No, actually I was 23. And I got amoebic dysentery in Honduras.

#Larry Johnson

And I lost like 25 pounds. You know, I was never even that skinny in high school. So that's what the—you know, the food was awful. But it wasn't just the food. And she said, you know, I had photographs, I had text messages, email messages between mother and son. So this wasn't just a fabrication. This was—she was reporting real life. Well, then last Saturday in Chattanooga at Robert Barnes' conference, which I was privileged to participate in, I met the mother of a Marine there. And she began talking about her son had just come off deployment.

And I mentioned, was food an issue? And she said, "Oh my God, was it an issue?" And she launched into a tirade about how bad the conditions were on board. I think it was the Boxer. So you've now got the parents of the Abraham Lincoln carrier who had a meeting last Thursday, I believe, in San Diego with the Secretary of the Navy. And boy, they lit him up like a Christmas tree. They were so angry. So, you know, what we're looking at here is a complete breakdown in the leadership, the logistics, the support for these sailors and Marines that are on board these ships.

#Danny

Now, what do you—I'm sure—I mean, I was hearing in some of these reports, like in Stars and Stripes and Military Times, that it's actually quite hard to get information about what's happening on the ship unless they're getting it directly, even from some who had to save some of these sailors from actually jumping overboard. What do you make, then, of how people, especially families of these sailors and crew members, are feeling about the reports that there are consistently, across the board, there's no continuity in the message about what's happening with the war.

Iran is saying absolutely no ceasefire. The war is going to continue. Iran is saying they're going to continue going until 2029. They haven't even met all their objectives yet, while the Trump administration, through Pakistan, is trying to say that there's a ceasefire that's going to last 60 days. But what does this even mean to those who are responsible now for delegating this war and for conducting it under the current conditions of it, which are quite ambiguous, to say the least? What are your thoughts on this?

#Larry Johnson

Well, I mean, if you're going to fight a war, you've got to have an objective. What's the objective? That's what Trump has failed to define. And so now they've got these people stuck in a hole. What is their mission? Okay, so they're running a blockade. Well, they don't have enough ships to actually fully blockade the Indian Ocean. They can stop an occasional ship, but even if they stop that ship, are they going to take control of it? If they have to take control of it, you have to detail a ship to sail with it. We don't have an unlimited fleet by any stretch. We're extremely constrained. So, and it's haphazard.

You know, they're stopping some and not stopping the others. So this is—and then you get Trump's declaration, like his Truth Social today, to say, "Oh, you know, we got full control of the Strait of Hormuz." Really? Well then—and so the shutdown, the global shutdown, happened—of liquid natural gas, helium, urea, and sulfur, and oil. That's the fault of Donald Trump? Okay, that's what he's admitting. He shut it down. But then, in another breath, he'll claim, "Oh, no, no, it's open. The Strait of Hormuz is open. We control it." Really? Then why aren't there any ships coming out? So it's just one lie upon another. That's the problem.

#Danny

Yeah, maybe you can help explain what it means. All the ships that are actually coming out of the Strait of Hormuz are going through the Iranian controls, or what's being called the Iranian-delegated corridor, none through that so-called Omani corridor. What does that effectively mean? And how does it contradict the statements that Trump made today, which appear, according to Iranian sources, they're saying that it's just simply market manipulation and there's no reality to it? But what does it mean for the only ships that come out to be coming through Iranian-controlled areas?

#Larry Johnson

Well, Iran made it very clear back then. I guess it was end of April or first of May when they introduced the Persian Gulf Strait Authority Protocols. And they said they created a website. They created an online form that you fill out. So if you're a ship contemplating going through the Strait of Hormuz, you've got to provide the Iranians with the name of the ship, country that flags the ship, name of the captain, destination of the ship, the cargo on board the ship, and the sixth and last thing is the nationalities of the sailors on board the ship. And essentially, what Iran is doing is to make sure that no ship aligned with Israel is coming through the strait. It's a form of a blockade. But they're also wanting to use that as a way to raise money for Iran.

They're going to charge a fee in order to enter the strait. Now, it remains to be seen. The negotiations with Oman, they'll say, okay, we'll put a toll or tax on every ship that comes in, and then what you do with them leaving, that's your choice. You can charge them, you cannot charge them, but we're going to collect our money up front. So that'll put Oman in a fairly unique position to either let them all go without a charge or to get in on the money. He said, hey, there's a, you know, you're going to have to pay a user's fee here. So, you know, a lot of that is still up in the air as far as what Oman's official role is going to be. Reports are that Iran and Oman have had positive talks, but we've seen no firm agreement and no final announcement.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah, it's been taking quite a while. It feels like it's been a while since we heard those initial reports. It's very close, the Iran-Oman technical talks. Nothing yet, and it doesn't look like it's going to happen today, tomorrow. Larry, help interpret what this means then, because this was reported yesterday: the lowest in 40 years, the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserves are currently sitting.

#Larry Johnson

Mm-hmm. What does it mean for this war?

#Danny

Because Donald Trump has said he's going to be relying now, low-key, relying on economic pressure on Iran. But what kind of economic pressure does this place on the U.S. and the world economy, given that this situation isn't set to get better so long as everything about the war, other than the strikes, remains in place?

#Larry Johnson

We're on the edge of catastrophe. So let's understand that. I guess now the number is down to around 290 million barrels. Is that the number you're seeing?

#Danny

Yeah, let me pull it back up, actually. Here it is. Boom. Yep. I think this was at about 300. It's got to be less than 300 now. It was 300 a few weeks ago.

#Larry Johnson

So of that 290—

#Larry Johnson

You've got to keep 145 million barrels minimum in the caverns, in the salt caverns total. Each salt cavern is going to have a different level depending upon its volume, what it's capable of holding. But the reason you've got to keep roughly now 50% of what's left in storage is, if you pump it out, the only way you can pump it out is you have to pump water in, and oil's lighter than water, so the oil rides on the water to the top, and then the oil's sucked out. But the problem is, with all that water, and if you're basically draining the last drop, you're going to create a crisis, a structural crisis for the salt cavern.

The water mixes with the salt, weakens the wall, the salt cavern collapses in on itself, and then you no longer have a salt cavern to store that in. That's number one. Number two, of that oil that's being

drawn out, I'm not sure what the mixture is between sweet crude and sour crude. The U.S. refineries, particularly in the Gulf, 70% of the U.S. refineries across the country are set up to deal with sour crude, heavy crude. That means it's high in sulfur content. And these refineries, they're built to handle particular types of oil. All oil is not created equal. It differs. So depending upon what percent of that oil, the 145 million barrels that they can draw out, what percent of that goes to diesel and aviation fuel?

So you now have a global shortage of diesel and aviation fuel because previously, when the oil was flowing from the Persian Gulf at the rate of about 20 million barrels per day, about 2 million of those barrels would make their way to the United States to be processed. Now, 2 million barrels may not sound like a lot, but it's still almost 10%, so it's not inconsequential. But then the other refineries that were getting that oil out of the Persian Gulf were ones in India, or an area in India, the others in China. And the last, the fourth one, you know, after U.S., India, China, was Japan and South Korea. They get 90% of theirs out of there. So there now is a genuine shortage of diesel and aviation fuel, which means the price of it's climbing and going to continue to climb. So we're on the cusp of a genuine world economic crisis.

#Danny

Yeah, it definitely seems like where things are going, and yet the United States, Donald Trump, seems, as I've been saying for weeks now, whistling past this graveyard. This is what Iran is reporting: the Persian Gulf Strait Authority denies U.S. claims that the Strait of Hormuz is open, will not be reopened until conditions are accepted. And here are the numbers of what they are saying is occurring in terms of number of ships. But all of these ships are being approved by Iran through their channel. And so, Larry, what does it mean to be approved through their channel? Is Iran taking fees right now? Iran reported that they've lost quite a lot of money from the blockade in many respects. Are they recouping this from the Strait of Hormuz? What's going on there?

#Larry Johnson

To my knowledge, not yet. When it comes time to collect funds, the money is going to be collected in Chinese renminbi, or the yuan. So it'll be Chinese currency going into banks connected to China, out of the reach of the United States. So the United States can no longer seize Iranian assets or take—steal Iranian money.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. Well, I mean, that's a game changer. I'm wondering, Larry, maybe talk about, because they put up the blockade in the Bab el-Mandab Strait there as well, any updates on the situation now with Yemen? A surprise attack happened in the last 24 hours on Saudi forces. Yemen has been pounding Saudi positions inside of Yemen, supporting the so-called southern government. And I'm wondering if you could give an update on what's happening there and why is that situation

escalating despite the fact that the Trump administration is trying to at least put the Iran war on some kind of ambiguous pause, as it is, or as they're trying to do now?

#Larry Johnson

You know, there are some fundamental truths in life. You know, you hear about, like, if you're in a hole, first rule of crisis management: if you're in a hole, stop digging. And the Saudis forgot sort of a corollary to that. It's like, if you live in a glass house, don't get in a rock fight with a guy that lives in a quarry and has a brick house, okay? Because they've got plenty of rocks to throw. And that's the mistake that the Saudis have made in going after the Houthis. You know, Saudi has a rich number of targets that are sensitive economically and that, if hit or destroyed, can make Saudi life very, very difficult, really hurt the economy. But the Houthis, by contrast, they don't have a lot of infrastructure. So just dropping bombs on Houthi land isn't going to get you anywhere. So this is a case where the Saudis decided to pick a fight that they can't win. And like I said, if you're in a glass house, don't go throwing rocks. You're just setting yourself up.

#Danny

How would you consider, in terms of this regional war, how would you see this going if it continues on in this manner? What is the fate, then, of Saudi Arabia? The UAE—I saw reports from certain geopolitical analysts saying the UAE and Israel now are in some kind of alliance, so to speak. We have the new pact in the Middle East between Turkey, Pakistan, as well as Saudi Arabia. What do you make of all this shuffling, and what does it portend for the regional situation as Iran, Yemen, and the various flashpoints begin to take shape in their outcomes?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah. Meg Ryan and her, quote, partner, they've been in a relationship for, good God, 45 years, 40 years. Never been married. Well, I draw that as a parallel to Israel and the UAE. They're just announcing their relationship. For God's sake, it's been in place for, what, 20 years or more? So, it's laughable. Oh, they've got an alliance. Well, no kidding. Sun rises in the east. You got any more news flashes for me? My sarcasm is not directed at you, Danny, but it's just directed at the cluelessness of these news organizations that write stupid stuff like this, because it has been the case for quite a while that UAE was seen as a tool of Israel openly. And I forget, I did the wrong cultural reference.

It was Goldie Hawn, not Meg Ryan. But, you know, still the point is, you take something that's publicly known, it's visible to the public, everything, and then you come out and report it as news? It doesn't make sense. Where do the Saudis go? The Saudis got one out here: negotiate, settle, surrender. Because otherwise, the Houthis are going to keep breaking them up all day. They're

going to keep knocking out ships that try to come through Bab el-Mandab. They're going to force the Saudis to use the Suez Canal. And, you know, you're not going to see the Egyptians bitching about that.

Because every Saudi ship that comes through the Suez Canal pays a fee. In fact, you know, you could maybe make the case that actually the real alliance here could be between the Houthis and the guys in Cairo that control the Suez Canal, that you've got a backdoor deal. Yeah, we'll give you 10% of everything that comes through. So the Saudis militarily cannot defeat the Houthis. They've tried that. They've tried various methods. They certainly don't have an army of sufficient size to do it. And whatever they have in terms of air power is offset by the Houthis' enormous stockpile of missiles.

#Danny

Now, Iran has reported, Larry, that their missile capabilities are only growing. They've updated their missiles, essentially all of them, to have the capability of evading air defenses, changing, I think, almost toward the end of their trajectory to evade air defenses. But also that they are producing missiles at such a high rate that they are highly confident that they can go until that 2029 period and beyond, should they need to use them. I'm wondering about Yemen, though, and Ansar Allah. What are their capabilities? Are they just getting started? The Bab al-Mandab Strait is partially closed to Saudi shipping and commercial shipping, but there is activity going through it. Is this phase one? Is this step one? Do they have the capabilities of closing it altogether? What do you know about that?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, no, I think they do have the capability to close it altogether, but they're not going to. They're going to allow ships, particularly ships related to China and Russia, to pass. But, you know, they've already proven that they can't be beat. Or, to beat them, it's going to require a level of military investment and risk that, you know, the United States certainly wasn't willing to pay or risk. You know, we had two carrier strike groups at one point in the Red Sea trying to shut down the Houthis, and they failed. You know, it was over a seven-week period, and they absolutely failed to shake the Houthis. So, you know, the Houthis—I mean, these battles, look, they've been fighting these battles for centuries, and, you know, they don't give up. So it is, you know, this is one of the cases where the Saudis have picked a fight with the wrong critter.

#Danny

Yeah, well, that's for sure. I don't believe I've had you on since Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan signed this defense pact. And I'm wondering your opinion on it. Some aren't taking it so seriously. Some are believing Iran made statements to the effect that they view any kind of act of sovereign defense as a positive development. Others are questioning whether it's sovereign at all, given the very contradictory situations that all of these countries find themselves in. So what are your

thoughts on it? And what kind of impact does it make on the regional situation, especially in regards to Iran and Yemen and the regional wars that have been absolutely escalating?

#Larry Johnson

I've come up with a name for it. It's the Middle East Treaty Organization. The shorthand for that is Me Too. So this is the Me Too movement. I would call it performance art. That's about it. You know, it's not going to, in any foreseeable future, convert itself into some sort of entity capable of acting militarily with any kind of force. You know, number one, the Saudis bring nothing to the table militarily. Saudis are useless. Yeah, they've got a 250,000-man army, supposedly, but they can't even beat the damn Houthis. And they tried for 10, 12 years. So you've got that. You have the Turks, who have a large army, but they're not real good at projecting force, sending those troops outside of their country.

And then you've got Pakistan, which provides, at least in theory, a ballistic umbrella over Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Now, the fact that they signed it in Mecca, I think that's important. That was symbolic, making a declaration about the Islamic nature of this accord. Because if it was really secular, they would have signed it in Riyadh. But they made a point that Erdogan and Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, were on hand to sign it in Mecca. So it was basically saying to the world, this is a Muslim thing. That said, they also reportedly pledged, hey, an attack on one is an attack on all. Okay, let's walk through what has happened.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had already made that agreement back in September of 2025. And since then, Saudi has been attacked by Yemen. And what are the Pakistanis saying? Do nothing. They said, "Oh, not our problem." So now, in the wake of the signing of this MeToo agreement at Mecca last week, within hours of that being signed, there was an attack in Saudi Arabia by Yemen. So right off the bat, that should have triggered, "Hey, we've been attacked. Come on, they're attacking me, they're attacking you." And the Saudis would have been calling on Pakistan and Turkey. "Come on, guys, let's go." What happened? Nothing. Nothing. It is, you know, words, no action.

So the question about what does this agreement mean, it's up in the air, as you rightly noted about the reaction of Iranian authorities. And then we had Hakan Fidan, the foreign minister of Turkey, explicitly say, "Hey, we're not going to be attacking the Houthis or the Iranians." Now, it does raise the question of, in the last few days, Turkey has made some threats directed at Russia, at the Russians, right? So do you believe that if Russia and Turkey come to blows, that the Saudis and the Pakistanis are going to rise up and join Turkey in a fight against Russia? I don't think so. So it was, like I said, this is more like a performance in an art studio without any real substance.

#Danny

Hello. Sorry, I was muted. One comment before moving on to finish the program on the Ukraine situation. I believe Saudi Arabia and Pakistan also have supposedly a mutual defense pact.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, that was signed last September. I referenced that.

#Danny

But throughout the Iran war, throughout the war in Iran, I mean, Saudi Arabia was a party to the war, was struck by Iran many times. And then Pakistan ended up being a mediator around these negotiations, and Iran having, at this point, taken advantage of this and built even closer ties to Pakistan. So, yeah, nothing is set in stone, it looks like, with this defense pact expanding beyond bilateral ties. But, Larry, what do you make of the reports now that Russian strikes are getting more numerous, more consistent, all over Ukrainian positions, military positions, Kiev, Zaporozhye—these aerial strikes, these missile strikes?

Now there are reports that DPRK, North Korea, is more deeply involved, according to Ukrainian sources, mostly Volodymyr Zelensky, but Ukrainian intelligence. And then today, I believe there were reports coming out of Japan that DPRK did test a ballistic missile as well. I believe there were some missiles being tested by China that the United States was very concerned, unhappy about, saying that they wanted warning next time that China tests their advanced missiles out at sea. Larry, what do you make of what's going on? What does this actually say about where the world is going? It seems like this indicates that these countries are very much not only coordinating and collaborating, but that the world is changing quite dramatically. Your thoughts on it?

#Larry Johnson

Well, yeah, no, you're absolutely correct that there is coordination, collaboration—China, Russia, Iran. Why is North Korea employing troops and equipment in the war zone? What better way to find out if your stuff actually works? And, you know, they're not under the kind of political pressures you'd face, say, in the United States if Trump tried to deploy U.S. troops to Ukraine to get combat experience. But for the North Koreans, getting combat experience is a good thing. Their attitude is these soldiers got to be trained anyway, so might as well put them into the real deal where they get to find out how it works.

So you've got that going on as a dynamic in this entire process. Let's not forget that apparently yesterday, when Putin was attending some ceremony with the Russian Pacific Fleet, he gave them permission, gave them the green light to go after European ships, commercial vessels that are sailing in the Sea of Japan, Sea of China, in the Pacific, that Russia was now going to retaliate against the European ships for the very thing that they've been trying to punish Russian ships for. So this throws up a whole new dimension here.

#Danny

Yeah, definitely, definitely. And, you know, what does it say, too, about where the U.S. is at in this major—what is a major conflict between the growing coordination of these countries, China, Russia, North Korea, DPRK, Iran, and U.S. unipolarity, especially on the military front? Because in many respects, what we're talking about is coordination that doesn't exist for the United States and their so-called allies, as well as the fact that Russia, China, Iran, even the U.K., are moving ahead technologically in Europe in the realm of the military, which is supposed to be the U.S.'s really last remaining advantage it's supposed to have in the world to keep unipolarity. So what do you make of this?

#Larry Johnson

Well, I put up an article last night that highlights the contradictions, inherent contradictions, in U.S. military planning and execution. So the Pentagon has moved very rapidly to get money out there, to send it to Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics. Hey, come on, man. We need to quintuple, really dramatically expand, the production of PAC-3 missiles. Here you go. Here's the money. So they got the money. The only one little problem to produce those PAC-3 missiles is you need two types of specialty magnets made out of rare earth minerals that are controlled by China.

#Danny

And the Chinese have told the United States, "Yeah, you want these rare earth minerals? You want these parts?"

#Larry Johnson

Forget about it. You know, we're not going to arm you so you can turn around and use those weapons on us. We're not going to do that. And that's exactly—you know, the United States now finds itself in a situation that we're out of missiles. We need to build more missiles, but we can't build more missiles because China controls the supply chain.

#Danny

Great points, Larry. Now, I wanted to close the program with some audience questions. There's one here: Why is the U.S. sending B-52s to train with Chile and Argentina? Is it a message to the left-wing government in Brazil or something worse? Yesterday, the U.S. said they would make clear they are in control of all of the Americas. Yeah, this is coming with a lot of developments, Larry, in this part of the world, in the Western Hemisphere. But what do you make of that? I haven't even heard that before.

#Larry Johnson

I think it's just looking for an excuse to send these guys on training missions where it will buy them some goodwill but won't put them at risk. So, yeah, we're not going to attack Brazil. Hell, like I said, we can't even handle the Houthis.

#Danny

Yeah, well, there's certainly something afoot all over Latin America. Venezuela is restoring some ties now with Israel. And, of course, there's lots of talk even of attempting to manipulate elections in Brazil coming up, similar to what happened in Colombia earlier this summer.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, I mean, look, the appeal of making a turn to the right, currying favor with Washington—you know, that's been done for years. And then it ultimately leads to a backlash in those countries. It's just a matter of how long to wait.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. I would say I put it as like seasons right now. It's their season, the return of the right and the U.S.-backed forces. And then, you know, the next period, however long that is, tends—it usually isn't favorable to the United States. Usually, as you said, it's a backlash, and that's coming. Well, Larry, in the last five or so minutes or so that we have together, maybe you can talk about what is actually happening for the Ukraine conflict right now. There are reports that Ukraine supposedly hit critical shipping for Russia in the Black Sea. There's, of course, almost daily attempts to lob drones at Russia, into Russian territory. And then there were the strikes we said earlier. And of course, the battlefield, which gets less attention these days by the Western mainstream media. So what's happening there, and where is it heading?

#Larry Johnson

It's heading for the complete, utter defeat of Ukraine, potentially as soon as the end of this year. The destruction—the shutdown of trade coming out of, through the Black Sea, by vessels entering or exiting Odessa or Nikolaev—that's closed off. That's no longer an activity that Russia is going to allow. Russia continues to destroy critical infrastructure in Kiev and other major cities, including Lvov. And this is having a cumulative effect on reducing Ukraine's readiness. So it is—it's a situation that, when you compile the closure of the economic gateway to the south, basically choking off Ukraine, then the ground operations are such that you're attacking on at least seven axes of attack.

In previous years, the most the Russians would do were two axes of attack. But now they're doing at least seven. So it's up in Chernigov, Sumy, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk, and Odessa. So that would be seven. So, yeah, this is, you know, it's a level of activity that Ukraine can't

stop. And so they're losing through the air war, they're losing through the naval war, they're losing through the ground war. It's a matter of time before they're fully cooked.

#Danny

And is it a matter of time before the narrative war turns? Because the narrative war right now, I mean, in large part because the Western mainstream media has so much dominance over the information that comes out of this conflict for viewers who watch this program and people who live in our part of the world, in the West. But nevertheless, how long until the narrative war ends up turning, given that facts are facts?

#Larry Johnson

The narrative world doesn't care about facts. So we're going to see this continue for, you know, the narrative war will continue, I think, even weeks or months. I just saw an example today. Some friend sent me something from a Ukrainian source talking about how Russia still failed to take Pokrovsk. And I wrote back, "They took the damn thing four months ago. What are you talking about? Jesus."

#Danny

All right. Yeah, yeah. I mean, you just do a general search on the internet about what's happened in Ukraine, and it's almost wall to wall. It's, wow, Ukraine is pounding Russia in the Black Sea. Ukraine is hitting Russia with all these drones. And that's really the extent of what you get coming out of this conflict at this point. There really is no attention to the battlefield, as well as to the effectiveness of what Ukraine is doing on Russia. Well, any final words, Larry, before we close out at the top of this hour on the current situation worldwide?

#Larry Johnson

Nope. I think we covered it. I need to jump anyway. So thanks, Danny.

#Danny

All right. Well, Larry, thanks so much for joining me today. Everybody hit the like button. Yeah, Larry, I'll talk to you soon. Everybody hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show in YouTube's algorithm. Be sure to check out Larry's work in the video description, to his blog as well as the YouTube channel. Transition Protocol is there. You can subscribe to that. All the places to support this channel are in the video description below as well, where you can support me on Patreon, Substack, and so much more. I want to thank Christiza for becoming a new member.

Thank you, Frachmatak, for that. Thank you. I asked your question to the member here, Soberano Brazil 9370. Thank you so much also for the super chat. Thank you, DJ369 Miami. With the clown in chief, nothing is surprising. Thank you so much. And Regina Perez DeSantos, thanks so much for your super sticker. All right, everybody, that's it. Tomorrow at—what am I doing tomorrow, actually, for a program? So it is Thursday, 2 p.m. Eastern time. How could I forget? Scott Ritter is coming on the program. We're going to continue our daily updates of the geopolitical situation, so be sure to tune into that. Then Friday at 10 a.m. Eastern, I have Alistair Crooke coming on the show. So two great shows coming up in the next two days. Everyone hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show in YouTube's algorithm. And until next time, everybody, I will see you tomorrow.