

Scott Ritter: ALL IN: The World Is Headed for Devastating Wars on Every Front

#M3

Hi, everybody. It is Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, and our friend Scott Rader is back with us. Welcome back, Scott.

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Thanks for having me.

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Please subscribe and hit the like button to help us reach more people. Scott, when it comes to the Middle East, I think we never thought that Israel would attack Qatar, because Qatar is so special in the region. One of the most important U.S. bases is located in Qatar, and the country is one of the main and major allies of the United States in the Middle East. It seems that, with the attack, the Israelis thought they could hit or assassinate the leaders of Hamas. Here is what the Israeli ambassador to the United States said on Fox News.

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Mr. Ambassador, I understand that and the history. Obviously, Israel is under attack constantly. In this case, Qatari officials and Hamas leadership are saying that you did not get the targets you were seeking. They are obviously condemning this attack as an attack inside a country allied to the US. The US, here at the White House, is expressing concern that it did not advance the goals of the US or Israel. And you have the Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, issuing very pointed statements of condemnation. So, did you get the targets you were seeking?

#US

If we didn't get them this time, we'll get them the next time. Israel, under Prime Minister Netanyahu, is changing the face of the Middle East. We have degraded Hezbollah, we've degraded Hamas, the Houthis, and Iran—the head of the snake that's leading these proxies in an effort to destroy Israel. When we defeat these proxies of Iran, when we defeat Islamic extremism, that will actually benefit our neighbors in the region who are moderate and want to live in a state of peace with us. So right

now, we may be subject to a little bit of criticism. They'll get over it. Israel is being changed for the better. The region is being changed for the better as we remove these enemies of peace and these enemies of Western civilization from their ability to implement terrorism.

#M3

I'm sure that Israel is changing the face of the Middle East, but I'm not sure that they're changing it in a way that benefits from what's going on in the region.

#M1

No, I mean, this is a statement by a war criminal who's speaking out in defense of a war crime. There's no other way to articulate what Israel did other than as a war crime. It's a violation of international law. It's an assault on a sovereign nation. It's in violation of the United Nations Charter. In a real world, Qatar would go to the Security Council and seek to implement the international community's obligation to come to the assistance of a nation under attack and get the Security Council to pass a Chapter 7 resolution authorizing sanctions or a military response to constrain a rogue nation. That's what Israel is in every way, shape, or form—a rogue nation. We can't just view what happened here as a one-off or in isolation.

Understand that it's part and parcel of a pattern of behavior alluded to by the ambassador himself, which has Israel not just carrying out a surprise attack—again, in violation of international law—against Iran, but also assassinating the leadership of Hezbollah in Beirut, a sovereign nation; killing the leadership of Yemen, a sovereign nation; assassinations; and carrying out unprovoked attacks against other nations like, for instance, Syria. And it is also taking place in the context of the overall Gaza conflict, where Israel is committing what everybody acknowledges—except maybe the Israelis themselves—are acts of genocide and war crimes on a daily basis, of a magnitude that hasn't been seen since the Second World War.

I mean, it's shocking that this man believes he can get away with this, but apparently Israel's going to get away with it because their mentor, their protector, their guardian—the United States—is going to do nothing. And if the United States does nothing, I can guarantee you that none of the Arab world will do anything. I mean, my God, these are the people who remain silent in the face of ongoing genocide against their fellow Arabs, the Palestinian people. You think they're going to jump to the defense of Qatar, a nation that, you know, doesn't have great relations with the Gulf Arab states to begin with. So, you know, yeah, Israel is going to get away with it. But the idea that this somehow advances Israel's cause—no, this just digs a deeper hole for Israel.

Israel will get away with it right now. But what's happened is Israel is degrading not Hamas, but itself. Israel is just committing yet another act that cements in the minds of the rest of the world the illegal reality of the Israeli state. And one day, it'll all catch up with Israel. I don't know where Mr. Leiter will be when that happens. I don't know if he'll be alive when that happens, but one day the

state of Israel will cease to exist. And what they just did against Hamas and Qatar will be one of the many bricks that will be built into the monument that will be placed celebrating the demise, the defeat of this illegal entity known as the State of Israel.

#M3

There are some rumors that Turkish intelligence somehow informed the Hamas leaders about the coming attack from Israel. What Israeli Channel 12 reported was that Israel's attack on the Hamas negotiations room in Doha failed because the leaders had left to pray, leaving their phones behind. So it seems that, in their mind, the only failure—the main reason—was that they left the room because they wanted to pray. But after all, Scott, looking at the way Hamas is negotiating, they're in the process of negotiations.

And I don't know how Donald Trump and the administration in the United States want themselves to be seen in the Middle East. After all, you negotiate with Iranians and you send Israelis to assassinate them. You're talking about being in the process of negotiations because of the hostages, and Donald Trump is putting tremendous pressure on the negotiations, and you let Israel attack them. They said that they knew Israel wanted to attack and bomb Hamas leaders. How do you see the repercussions of what's going on in the Middle East?

#M1

It just further undermines and degrades the legitimacy, the authority, the credibility of the United States. I mean, who will ever trust us? Nobody in their right mind would trust the United States, not under Donald Trump's leadership, because there's already the precedent of Iran well-established, but now we see this president. I'll just tell you right now, the story put out by the Trump administration is just a bald-faced lie, a straight-up lie. They knew, and they colluded with Israel.

There's no way, literally no way, Israel could have had 15 aircraft take off from Israeli bases, transit Syrian airspace, then Iraqi airspace, and then travel down the Persian Gulf toward Qatar, where the biggest U.S. military installation in the Middle East is located. This is an air base that has strategic assets deployed there on occasion. It's well defended, not just by point defense capabilities, but we have various resources in play—in space and airborne—that track incoming threats.

The idea that Israeli aircraft approached in a stealthy manner and released six missiles—at least six—that impacted targets inside Doha, close to the American holiday base, and America didn't know about it? No. I mean, the whole purpose of our defense there is to prevent this very sort of thing from happening. And, you know, to believe Donald Trump is to believe that America is defenseless. No, Israel cannot fly over Syrian and Iraqi airspace without America detecting it. Not only that, but if Israel doesn't coordinate the strike, any aircraft entering these air defense zones that are guarded by American air power would be detected.

Remember, we have aircraft constantly flying through Iraqi airspace to carry out missions inside Iraq and inside Syria. We use IFF—Identify Friend or Foe—to deconflict. Israel can't enter this airspace, or else they will be identified as hostile targets and engaged by the United States automatically. Automatically. So the idea that Israel was able to sneak through Syria, sneak through Iraqi airspace, and approach Qatar without America knowing about it until the last minute, and then we go, "Oh, dear," and then they fire six missiles that, according to the Qatari defense minister or prime minister, foreign minister, were not detected—it's absurd. Maybe the Qataris didn't detect it. We detected it. This is what we do.

The story just falls apart, especially when you see that the admiral in command of US Central Command visited Israel in the days leading up to this attack. I'm just here to tell you that they discussed this attack. They discussed it because the visit coincided with Donald Trump's ceasefire offer to Hamas. You know, many in the Hamas leadership were in Turkey, and they flew from Turkey to Qatar at the invitation of the Qatari leadership, the crown prince. And then Israel launches this attack. You're saying that America didn't know about this and Donald Trump didn't find out about it until his military said, "Oops, we've got Israeli aircraft on the radar. What do we do?" No, it's a lie. Straight up lie.

Why? Because Trump got caught out. You remember with Iran how he was bragging. When the attack first took place, he said, "I was the one that did this. I'm the one that told them 60 days. And it's now the 61st day. And, oh, their leadership is gone. And I'm the one who helped plan this." And then, oops, their leadership isn't gone. They're still alive and they're resisting. Suddenly, he says, "I didn't have anything to do with this. No, no, no. It's all a big mistake. No, I didn't want this to happen." Of course, I mean, he just covered himself with, you know, with crap on that one. And so this time they've coordinated. I mean, look how Israel never takes credit for anything, ever.

And suddenly the Israeli prime minister is saying, "I did it. I carried out this massive war crime. I alone am responsible for every aspect of this. And America had nothing to do with it. Nothing whatsoever. Right, Donald? I didn't have anything to do with this. No, no, no, not me. No, no way. I'm mad at you. I'm mad at you, Bibi. I'm really angry at you. You know, attacking an ally of America is bad. Oh, but killing Hamas is good." So, come on, the stupidity of this. Anybody who believes anything coming out of the Trump administration right now—I've got a bridge in Brooklyn I'd like to sell you at a steep discount.

#M3

I think the negative aspect of what the Israeli ambassador said is that they're not going to put a stop to these sorts of activities—they're going to bomb again. It seems that they want to bomb again, Qatar again, because nobody's offering that this was the final attack and that they couldn't achieve their goal. That's why he said, "We failed, but we're going to continue on the same path—to get them, to hit them, to assassinate them." How is the United States going to convince the government in Qatar? And, you know, every time Israel decides to attack, it's not just about Syria,

it's not about Lebanon—they're attacking every day. It's about Qatar. I don't know if they can do this to Qatar, or if they can do this to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, all these countries in the region.

#M1

Yeah. How about Turkey? I mean, I'd love to see Erdoğan step up to the plate right now and say, "Yeah, we're hosting the Hamas delegations right here in Ankara, right next to my presidential palace. I dare you to bomb me, Israel. I dare you." I mean, step up and do that. You know, take control of the situation. Qatar clearly has no guts. None. They're outraged, but they're not outraged because I believe that they... they were tipped off that this was going to happen as well. There's no way Qatar didn't know about this, because their response is so— I was going to say something that was going to get us both in trouble, so I won't say it.

But so lacking in testosterone. These aren't real men. These are the opposite of that, because this isn't how real men behave. Their sovereignty was attacked. Literally, I mean, there is no sovereignty. What Israel basically says is, "We can attack you anytime we want to." Now, the idea that Israel said that to the United States is absurd in the extreme. Israel would never have launched this attack without American permission, without American knowledge. That's an absolute. I mean, just look how angry Donald Trump gets at the slightest political slight from Benjamin Netanyahu.

His massive ego wouldn't put up with this. So you're telling me that the man with the biggest ego in the world, the biggest narcissist in the world, is going to sit back and let Benjamin Netanyahu shame him like this? No. Not at all. Not at all. But Qatar is finished. It's finished as a sovereign state. And so is the rest of the Arab world, to be honest. Because what Israel just did is say, "I can get anybody. I can get Saudi Arabia. I can get Kuwait. I can get anybody I want, anytime I want. I'll strike them. There's not a damn thing any of you can do about it." Which is where Turkey needs to take control.

Already, Hamas has, you know, a... a safe haven, so to speak, in Turkey. And Turkey needs to take over control of the negotiations. They need to tell Qatar, "You're done, you're finished, you can't be trusted," and that Hamas has a safe place here in Turkey, and we will provide, you know, a safe zone, and we dare Israel to attack. And Erdogan should say it straight up: if Israeli aircraft attack Turkey, it's a state of war immediately. Turkey will immediately respond with the full force available to it. And Israel can't take on Turkey. They just can't do it. So, but who else is going to step up to do anything? I don't even know if Erdogan is going to do that, because it's all fake.

You know, we're cutting off economic relations with Turkey or with Israel, except for the oil that will continue to be sold through a variety of means. We're shutting down all air traffic between Israel and Turkey, except for the airplanes that we need to fly there because it's inconvenient to cut off all air transport. I mean, Erdogan says one thing and does another. But it's interesting what you say about the Turkish intelligence reports. Let me give you some insight into what I used to know about Israeli operations. To carry out an attack of this nature, with all the political risk that is entailed, Israel's not going to take chances. So there were assets on the ground in Doha.

Look, Israel's had 24 hours to get him out of there, so I can talk about this now. There were assets on the ground in Doha that had positive identification of the targets and positive knowledge of the location of the targets—that the targets were positively located in the impact zone when the order was given to fire the missiles. This wasn't guesswork on the part of Israel. So it sounds to me like there was knowledge about how Israel was tracking these targets through the use of telephones, and that the Turks gave them a heads up: "Get out of there, leave your phones, and get the hell out of there." And it was done quickly, because family members died.

I mean, they didn't get everybody out. This was a rapid evacuation. Qatari security personnel were killed—my understanding is at least one. So this was something done at the last minute. I believe that Turkey has a rather large military presence in Qatar, that there's a Turkish military installation with a Turkish military unit and Turkish intelligence as well. And that Turkey does have a responsibility for Hamas. It's an unspoken responsibility. But I believe that Turkey probably deployed some counterintelligence assets to safeguard Hamas because they were leaving Turkish territory. And I think that the Turks were able to provide some sort of tip-off to them. And so, hooray for the Turks.

But again, it's an act of war, what happened here. We can't trivialize it. Israel has no inherent right to assassinate Hamas leadership—none whatsoever—especially when the United States, working with the Qatari government, offers up what's the equivalent of a flag of truce for negotiations. It becomes an act of perfidy, which is a war crime, by the way. You're not allowed to ride out with the white flag and lure people in and then kill them. And that's what was attempted here. But again, I just reiterate the point that's been made over and over again: Israel is an illegal entity that carries out war crimes on a daily basis, and nothing they do of a criminal nature should ever shock anybody.

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I think most of us, when we talk about Erdogan, say that he's phony, that he's not doing anything. But the situation that is happening in Syria is much more serious, Scott. Israelis are attacking regions that are somehow connected to Turkey and the Turkish government, the Turkish military. This is not something—we don't hear much about it, but it's something happening that could explode at any moment. You know, something big could happen between the two, and Israelis have been afraid of Turkey so far. The Israeli media has been talking about Turkey as the main enemy, even a greater enemy than Iran. They see the threat. They see the confrontation they're facing with Turkey. How do you see that front? How do you see the way that Turkey is trying to deal with the situation, with the problem they're facing in Syria?

#M1

Well, I mean, Turkey helped create this problem. They were working hand in glove with the United States, with Qatar and others, to bring down the regime of Bashar al-Assad. And they succeeded.

But sometimes, you know, you have to be careful what you wish for, because sometimes you get it. And I don't think anybody expected Assad to fall as rapidly as he did. There was no plan for success, and, you know, to have Jolani suddenly emerge as the president—you know, the Turks had a whole Syrian government in exile that was supposed to take control, but they lost control of the narrative, and Jolani is now the guy. So Turkey's been playing catch-up ever since. You know, Turkey has the issue of the Kurds that it has to deal with.

They're working with the United States on how to manage that issue. They continue to work on managing their own Jolani problem. I mean, Idlib province is by all measures a Turkish province. It was meant to be a temporary holding ground for these Islamists, but now these Islamists have become empowered. They've taken over parts of Syria. Now Turkey has to deal with this reality.

How does Turkey deal with the millions of Syrian refugees that are a huge political problem for Erdogan? How do you return those refugees to Syria in the face of the atrocities that are currently taking place? You know, they still have to manage the Russia issue—Russia still has bases in Syria—and it's still being sorted out what role, if any, Russia will have in the future of Syria. The United States has to be consulted in all of this. And then you have Israel, and Israel is basically doing whatever it wants to do right now in Syria. They're writing their own playbook, and nobody is able or willing to stand up to them. You know, the danger comes when there's no longer a buffer between Israel and Turkey.

The danger comes when there is direct connectivity between the Turkish military and the Israeli military, because now you will have force-on-force contact and both sides will escalate to defend. You could very well see a major war break out between Israel and Turkey. I think right now the Turkish goal is to prevent that. Keep in mind that Turkey has a larger strategic plan that involves turning Turkey into a regional energy hub, and a key aspect of their planning for this was incorporating the massive gas fields that exist off the coast of Israel—to capture this gas, bring it to the hub, and use it as a vehicle of empowerment for Turkey, to help Turkey set the price and become the source of energy for not just southern Europe but all of the region. Having a decisive split with Israel would be very disruptive to that.

Having a war with Israel would be disastrous to that. And so, I think what we see with Turkey is that Israel knows and understands it can get away with a lot because it recognizes that Turkey's long-term ambitions aren't centered on Syria, per se, but centered on the region. And that right now, Israel has significant latitude to do just about what it wants in southern Syria without fear of any major Turkish attacks or Turkish involvement. Erdogan will just have to sit there and, you know, eat his tie, because there's nothing he can do about it—nothing he's willing to do about it. Because even though Turkey does have the ability to stand up to Israel, the price Turkey would pay in the long term, in terms of the disruption and perhaps termination of their goals of being a regional energy hub, would be devastating to Turkey's long-term political, economic, and geopolitical posturing.

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Do you see any sort of alternative movement in Israel to change the course? Here is what Naftali Bennett says, Scott.

#US

When the U.S. president tells the Emir of Qatar, or attempts to reassure him that this kind of thing won't happen again, are you saying he's in fact lying?

#US

No, that's what you're saying. I'm not saying that.

#US

No, he's told the Emir of Qatar this is not going to happen again. You're saying, "Wherever Hamas is, we're going to go after them." So, would you attack Qatar again?

#US

I'm not going to say what we're going to do or not going to do. I will tell every terrorist on earth that— You've said that to me in the last few minutes.

#US

You said we would do it again.

#US

Let me be clear. Any terrorist on earth who is planning to murder Israelis, planning to murder Jews, will be killed if necessary. Nowhere will be a safe haven for terrorists who want to murder my people.

#US

And that is the position of the Israeli government, regardless of what the U.S. president is saying—that this won't happen?

#M3

Scott, how do you see the situation in Israel? What can we make of these opposition groups, those people who are not happy with the Netanyahu administration? I would say Naftali Bennett was seen as some sort of alternative to what's going on, but he has the same sort of mindset, the same line.

#M1

How can he be an alternative? Naftali Bennett is a former Israeli commando who operated in Lebanon back in the nineties. He was carrying out a reconnaissance mission, trying to locate Hezbollah Katyusha rockets, when his team was detected and he panicked. He called in artillery support that ended up striking a United Nations base, hitting a bunker that had a large number of civilians and killing these civilians. Then Israel tried to cover it up. But the bottom line is, Naftali Bennett is knee-deep in war crimes. He is a war criminal. Tigers don't change their stripes.

He has advocated for direct action and violence against anybody he or Israel labels a terrorist. So, no, you're not going to get any changes. The fact of the matter is, while there are differences of opinion in Israel about how to handle the hostage situation and such, the majority of Israelis support aggressive policies on the part of the Israeli government to defend the Israeli people from what they perceive to be terrorist forces, as Naftali Bennett said, are out to kill my people, kill Jews. And so, no, there's no alternative to Netanyahu. He's a criminal right now. There are many people frustrated with aspects of domestic policy.

But the bottom line is, let's say Netanyahu dropped dead of a heart attack today. The Israeli government that took his place would continue these policies. They'd behave the same way because this is Israel we're talking about. Netanyahu is not an aberration. Netanyahu is the norm. He is the standard. Israel is a criminal enterprise ruled by a criminal people who have a sense of criminal entitlement. And when I call it criminal entitlement, it means that they are willing to commit crimes to maintain their status as the region's exceptional nation. No, there's no alternative to Netanyahu. There's no alternative to Israel except the total demise of Israel.

Israel is a poison pill for the region. Israel is a cancerous tumor. Israel is a parasite. There's no way you can put lipstick on this pig. I mean, Israel is just a criminal enterprise with or without Netanyahu. And Naftali Bennett is just typical of the genre, typical of the breed. All he wants to do is kill. He doesn't know peace. The Israelis don't want peace. What the Israelis want is supremacy. They call that peace. But in order to get there, they have to kill everybody, and they will kill everybody. They have no qualms about this. There's no humanity in Israel.

They don't shed tears about the children that they kill every day. They don't shed tears for the innocents that are starving to death. The Israelis shed tears for, you know, Jews who were killed, for Israelis who were killed. But there's no sense of humanity here. They have no empathy towards, you know, the other people of the region. And, you know... At the end of the Second World War, during the Nuremberg trials, there was an American psychologist who was observing the Germans. I guess the Americans got upset that one of the Nazis committed suicide before he could be brought to justice, and so they brought this guy in.

His job was to calm the nerves of these guys by talking with them and all this. And afterwards, he was asked to define evil. He said, you know, it's a lack of empathy. The Germans on the surface

seemed like normal people—they loved dogs, they loved their families, they could laugh, they could joke—but when it came to their fellow human beings, there was a total lack of empathy. Total lack of empathy. And that's Israel today: a total lack of empathy for the Palestinian people, for the Syrian people, for the Iranian people, for the Lebanese people, for the Qatari people, for anybody who's not a Jew.

#M3

It seems that what is happening in Doha would somehow strengthen the position of Hezbollah in Lebanon, because they're trying to disarm Hezbollah. With the negotiations and pressure going on there, how do you see the government in Lebanon and their position on disarming and putting pressure on Hezbollah? If there is no Hezbollah in Lebanon, who's going to defend Lebanon? Do they have any army, any replacement for Hezbollah? Or, let's assume we remove Hezbollah from the scene in Lebanon and Israel goes in—who's going to defend Lebanon?

#M1

Not the Lebanese army. The Lebanese army has long been considered a faction of Christian and Sunni elites. Hezbollah exists because the Shia population of southern Lebanon has been neglected for so long by the Christian and Sunni elites who have controlled Lebanon politically and economically for decades. It was only after the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon in the 1980s that the Shia were able to transform into a resistance movement. Initially, Amal was a major resistance group—the Amal militia—but then the Party of God, Hezbollah, was created with significant Iranian support. And Hezbollah was able to actually defeat Israel.

I mean, people tend to forget that, but Hezbollah drove Israel out of southern Lebanon, except for the Shebaa Farms. The thing that gives Hezbollah legitimacy isn't some notion that Hezbollah wants to destroy Israel or occupy Israel. All Hezbollah wants is for Israel to leave Lebanon. That's why there's a resistance. But the moment Israel leaves Lebanon, then Hezbollah, I think, could begin to talk about disarming. But rather than being a full disarmament, it would be the integration of Hezbollah into the armed forces of Lebanon, because Hezbollah is recognized as being the only entity capable of defending Lebanon against Israeli acts of violence.

Even in this most recent conflict, while Israel was able to drop bombs on Hezbollah leadership and on Hezbollah storage facilities—maybe ballistic missile launch capabilities, etc.—on the ground, whenever Israeli forces closed with Hezbollah ground forces, Hezbollah won, beat them back every time. The Israelis didn't win. Eventually, the Hezbollah leadership said, "Stand down and withdraw." But Israel didn't defeat Hezbollah on the ground. And this is the reality: the only people who are going to defend southern Lebanon against Israel are Hezbollah. They'll either do it as a resistance movement or they'll do it as part of a Lebanese armed forces structure. As a resistance movement, they'll exist until such time as Israel leaves Lebanese soil.

I think we just saw that both Hezbollah and Amal withdrew from the Lebanese government, at least during the consideration of the American-proposed disarmament talks. They won't be a party to that. And I think we're starting to see the reality that Hezbollah isn't going to disarm while Israel is on Lebanese soil. And there's not a damn thing the Lebanese government can do about it. Because, push comes to shove, Hezbollah could take down the Lebanese government tomorrow if they wanted to. They don't want to. They want to be part of this government. But the idea that Hezbollah is going to go away and just disappear because Israel wants them to is ludicrous. Has Hezbollah suffered setbacks? Absolutely. They have. I mean, this is not the Hezbollah of, you know, two years ago or three years ago.

But Hezbollah still has the ability to defend Lebanese territory against the Israeli invader. And as history has shown, it wasn't the long-range missiles of Hezbollah that prompted Israel to leave southern Lebanon in defeat in 2000. It was Hezbollah's ground troops who relentlessly attacked the Israelis, never let up, showed superior tactics, and showed courage in the face of fire. That's what defeated Israel. And that's what will defeat Israel again. Maybe Hezbollah won't be able to repeat what happened in 2006 with all of the rockets or launch long-range strikes. But when it comes to on-the-ground resistance, Israel can never match them. And as Hamas has proven, a determined fighter operating on ground that they have prepared for battle is unbeatable. Israel can't defeat Hamas in Gaza, and Israel damn sure can't defeat Hezbollah in Lebanon.

#M3

Today I talked with Alistair Crooke. He said that the policy of the United States in the Middle East is the total capitulation of the countries who are opposing their policies in the region. But in the case of Donald Trump and his administration, somehow the Israeli government, or the Netanyahu administration, managed to convince him that before attacking Iran, they're going to do something big. And before attacking Qatar, they said that they're going to remove the leadership of Hamas. So it's a gamble for Donald Trump.

This gamble was somehow managed by the Israelis, and they convinced him that they could do something. How many more times do they need to realize that they cannot form their policy based on what Netanyahu is doing in Israel? They need to have something beyond that. They need to have a strategic plan for the Middle East, not just total capitulation. Maybe a better relationship with the countries in the Middle East. Maybe look at what Russia and China are doing in the Middle East—buying partnership, buying friendship, not going in and fighting and bombing countries.

#M1

Logically, you're right. I mean, there is a better way, logically speaking, but that's never going to happen in the Trump administration. First of all, we're dealing with an anti-establishment administration in every way, shape, and form. There are no institutions lining up in support of this presidency, other than those institutions managed or controlled by pro-Israeli lobbies—AIPAC and

others. The president has stacked his team with Israeli loyalists, absolute Israeli loyalists. And the irrationality of these loyalists is beyond belief. I mean, take a look at Mike Huckabee. This is literally a character out of a horror movie—the apocalyptic, Armageddon-laced nonsense that he spews should scare everybody.

But no, he's the American ambassador to Israel, so he gets to say whatever he wants to say. You know, because normally you'd have to worry about what the mainstream media says. Public opinion is shaped by this. But we live in a day and age now where mainstream media, especially in the Trump era, isn't trusted by anybody that supports Donald Trump. So it's irrelevant what they say. I mean, they're literally singing to the choir, reinforcing positions held by a political opposition that isn't viable anymore. The Democratic Party hasn't shown an ability to rally any significant anti-Trump political movement.

Instead, you have people like Laura Loomer—who the hell is she? Nobody, except she's got the ear of Donald Trump, and so she can "loomer" people. She'll put out, "I think this person's an Islamist, I think this person's this, I think..." and she'll destroy people. And nobody wants to get loomed. So everybody's just playing the game. And the game is to do whatever Donald Trump wants to do at that moment. There was a time—and again, back when I was an intelligence officer—when I came in, I was told from day one: your job isn't to tell your boss what he or she wants to hear. Your job is to tell them the truth, the unvarnished truth, and it's their job to deal with the truth.

And you were judged on this. I mean, I was fired several times during the Gulf War by General Schwarzkopf. Hell, he arrested me once because I told him the truth. But at the end of the day, when it was recognized that what I was saying was the truth, they always did the right thing. They gave me my job back and they let me out of arrest. They even gave me a medal. They said, "Good boy, leave." But the point is, you were rewarded for telling the truth. But now look at what happened at the Defense Intelligence Agency. When you have career intelligence officers behave the way I was trained to behave—to tell the uncomfortable truth to the president—they're fired.

Dissent is not allowed. You know, there's nobody around this president who's allowed to stand up and go, "Nah, wrong, bad, ain't going to happen. No." Instead, they have to sit around and put hands on the president, like some sort of Christian cult movement where they all sit there and the most pious man in the world sits in the middle, exuding his Christlike energy to everybody whose hands are on him. I mean, it's a cult. It's literally a cult. It's sickening, to be honest, because that's not what American democracy should be about. But nobody's able to stand up to this president and tell the president what the reality is, what the truth is.

I mean, when Tulsi Gabbard tries to do so, he dismisses her. She's wrong. The intelligence is wrong. You know, he's keeping her because she's kicking ass on the Russagate thing. But other than that, I don't think she'd last long in this administration. But you don't get to tell this president no. Nobody's

there to tell him no. They just all say yes. They don't just say yes—they say, "Oh my God, what he's doing is the greatest thing in the world. I mean, this man is a genius. I've never seen somebody with such political acumen as Donald J. Trump. My God, the man knows everything."

He knows nothing—nothing. He literally thinks he's the best negotiator, but he's the worst negotiator in the world. This isn't negotiation that's taking place; it's bullying—bullying tactics. You're not a negotiator if you threaten somebody that you're going to crush them just because you have the ability to crush them. Because one day you're going to wake up and not have that ability, which is what Trump's finding out, for instance, with Russia and China. Now, I'll tell you what: if you're a good negotiator—I'm not going to brag or anything, but I think I know the Russians well enough—that if somebody ever empowered me to, say, repair relations with Russia, I could sit down with the Russians and hammer out a negotiation that was to the benefit of both parties. Both parties.

But you just have to be a rational individual with knowledge. The same thing with China. I can't claim the same thing with China because I don't know enough about China to do that. But I'm sure we have people out there who know China inside and out. With Iran, the Iranians want to negotiate. They're not saying, "No, we're not going to negotiate." They want to negotiate. And if we had a competent negotiator who was capable of doing things to the mutual benefit of the United States and Iran, we could have a deal with Iran. We could have a deal with Russia. We could have a deal with anybody. I mean, the world right now is looking for a real dealmaker. Donald Trump's not a dealmaker. He's a deal breaker. He doesn't make deals. It's not a deal when you intimidate somebody. That's just bullying.

And that's what America is today. We're a bully. The problem is, we're a bully with a bulging belly and bad knees. We've got our, you know, torn rotator cuff. We've got arthritis. I'm describing all of my symptoms. But, you know, you're not much of a bully when you have this many ailments. We get away with it because we're fat and we can lie down on top of you and crush you. But we know Donald Trump is not a dealmaker. He's not a genius. He's not a tactical genius. He's not an operational genius, not a strategic genius. He's dumber than dirt. He gets away with what he gets away with because everybody says yes. And America still has inherent powers that lend themselves to bullying, but not much longer. And, you know, this man is throwing away opportunities because we are a nation on the decline right now.

And what we need to be working on is limiting the rate of decline and trying to bottom out sooner rather than later, meaning that we don't have to go all the way to rock bottom—that we can actually find a leveling-out spot that makes us competitive in the world, relevant in the world. To do that, we have to sit down with the world and talk with the world. We have to integrate ourselves into the world. We have to care. We have to have empathy. Donald Trump doesn't have empathy for anybody. I mean, the lies he tells about caring about Ukrainian soldiers—he doesn't care about Ukrainian soldiers, because if he did, this war would be over right now. All Donald Trump is doing is extending the conflict and guaranteeing that the Ukrainians continue to die at a rate of 90,000 a month. Enough said. Sorry.

#M3

Polish airspace was invaded by drones, and they're saying these drones came from Russia. I think the best question would be: cui bono? Who's going to benefit from what's going on? Why does Russia need to go there? What is the benefit of invading Polish airspace? What's your take on that? Al-Sukrut today said he feels that it's all a false flag operation.

#M1

They want to somehow... Well, it's a complicated false flag operation. What I mean by this is that, look, Russia has been firing or flying these Shahed-136 clones—the Geran-2s, different variations of them—into Ukraine for some time now. Last night, they launched over 400 of them, and these are striking targets throughout Ukraine. The Ukrainians are working overtime to come up with a solution to this. People need to understand that nothing happens in a vacuum. Newton's third law applies to everything in life, and for war, it's the same thing: for every action, there's an equal and opposite reaction. Ukraine has been looking for an electronic warfare solution to the Shahed-136/Geran-2 drones for some time now. Last year, they began fielding a system called Pokrova.

Pokrova isn't just one sensor or two sensors; it's thousands of sensors that are basically scattered throughout the depth of Ukraine. What Pokrova is designed to do is not just disrupt the signal, but to take control of the drone. Initially, what you did with Pokrova was capture the drone and crash it. That way, you destroy it. So you'd see the Russian drones coming in and just—boom—go down. But the problem was those drones would go down and hit civilian buildings or unintended targets. So what they needed to do next was take control of the drone and soft-land it, to divert the drone to an area where they could land it safely. And they had success in doing this. What the Ukrainians have been doing recently is taking control of the drone, turning it around, and flying it back into Russia.

And over the last few months, they've done this over 100 times. What I believe happened is that the Ukrainians took control of Russian drones using Pokrova and flew them into Poland. It's a red flag, a false flag attack, but they used Russian drones—they took control of the Russian drones and flew those Russian drones into Poland. All of the circumstantial evidence supports this. First of all, the drones entered Poland through Belarusian airspace. Russia doesn't fly drones over Belarusian airspace. If you take a look at the launch points of all Russia's drones, they're outside of Belarus. And, you know, Russia has specific aim points and plans its flight trajectories in a way that avoids the potential for accidents of this nature.

But if Ukraine actually takes control of a drone and then flies it through Belarusian airspace into Poland, it makes it look like a Russian attack. The Belarusian authorities notified the Poles and said, "Hey, there are drones flying over our territory. We don't know—are they yours? Are they Russian? Are they Ukrainian? We don't know. But they're headed towards you, and we're just giving you a heads up that these things are inbound. You might want to do something about it." That's not how

you attack a nation. If Russia was going to attack Poland, they wouldn't sit there and go, "Well, we're going to fly our drones over Belarusian airspace and not tell the Belarusians about it so they can notify the Poles so the Poles can shoot them down." No.

Ukrainians did this 100%. And I will also tell you this: without getting into specific capabilities, we know everything. Okay? Whenever Pokrova is activated, we collect that signal. When Pokrova takes control of a Russian drone, we collect that signal. We are cognizant of everything. And we know damn well what Ukraine did here. So now the question is, as Ukraine does this Article 4 gathering, or Poland convenes this Article 4 gathering to talk about how to respond to this, who's going to step up and tell the truth? It's the same thing—if you remember when Poland started screaming about the missile that hit the Polish farm: "Oh, the Russians attacked us."

No, everybody knew that it was a Ukrainian missile that was deliberately guided into Poland by the Ukrainians. Everybody knew that because they saw the missile take off. They saw the radar aim point shift, the missile fly to the aim point, and impact there. Everybody knew that Ukraine attacked Poland. It wasn't accidental. It was done on purpose. And that's why it hasn't happened again—because Ukraine was put on notice: don't do that again. Is that going to happen now? Because I'm telling you right now, we know damn well what the Ukrainians did. We know. It's just that we have collection platforms operating in the area that, you know... a phone doesn't fart without us knowing about it. All right.

Um, and when something is powerful—because understand the power we're talking about here, the power necessary to take control of a Shahed-136—it's not a single sensor that does this. You have to overwhelm the system by concentrating dozens of Pokrova systems simultaneously to isolate, take control, seize control, and then manipulate. That's detectable. I'm not going to tell you how; I'm just going to tell you that's detectable. And we have it all recorded digitally. We know everything that happened. We know the operators who did it. We know the names of the operators because we trained them. See, Ukraine didn't just come up with this on its own. There are a lot of people helping Ukrainians do this.

Think Flex Industries. You know, the one that the Russians just blew up? Yeah, okay. So these are the kinds of industries, the kinds of things that are happening—so that Ukraine produces these systems. But these aren't low-power systems. Low-power systems don't hijack Shahed-136s that have inherent, you know, shielding built into their systems. This is high-power, high-energy, done on a broad spectrum—easily detected. And we know that the Ukrainians did this, and they directed these drones into Polish airspace. That's my take on it. How this plays out, I don't know. But I don't think the United States, knowing what happened, is going to sit here and play this game much longer. I think we'll shut down this Article 4 thing very quickly. And we'll tell the Ukrainians, knock this stuff off. We're not going to put up with it.

#M3

Here is what the NATO Secretary General said, Scott.

#F2

Numerous drones from Russia violated Polish airspace. Our air defenses were activated and successfully ensured the defense of NATO territory, as they are designed to do. Several Allies were involved, alongside Poland. This included Polish F-16s, Dutch F-35s, Italian AWACS, NATO military tanker transport, and German Patriots. I commend the pilots and all who contributed to this quick and skillful response. The North Atlantic Council met this morning and discussed the situation in light of Poland's request for consultations under Article 4 of the Washington Treaty. Allies expressed solidarity with Poland and denounced Russia's reckless behavior. A full assessment of the incident is ongoing.

#M3

Scott, we had the French fighter jet, Rafale, flying over the Black Sea. And they're capable of carrying nuclear bombs, by the way. That's why they're important when they're in that region. Do you think that, with two fronts of what's going on, Europe is in a dire situation? They're feeling a lot of heat from the Trump administration because of the sanctions and the tariffs they're talking about putting on Russia. The main goal, the main target of those tariffs, is not Russia. It's going to be, after all, eventually Europe. One of the main importers of Russian oil right now is Europe, and they're getting a lot of oil from India and Turkey as well—the other two main importers of Russian oil. So what do they do? Are they going to kill themselves with the tariffs, or are they going to escalate the situation in a way that may bring the United States in, may change the whole situation considering the case of Ukraine? How do you see that?

#M1

Well, I mean, I was just listening to Mark Rutte's words. They're meaningless words, just considering what I just told you, which I'll go to the bank on. He knows that what he's talking about is theater. No one gives a rat's ass if Polish F-16s, Dutch F-35s, and Italian AWACS were flying over Poland in a scripted event. I mean, this isn't what he's trying to portray as an act of NATO strength. Look at NATO. Look at the unity. Look at the solidarity. We've got Polish F-16s, Dutch F-35s, Italian AWACS. We've got German tankers. We've got the whole thing, baby. It all works. Look how strong we are, when the reality is this is a stupid scripted event prompted by Ukrainian false flag activity. And NATO was put on notice for this so they could do the song and dance.

This isn't NATO strength. There is no such thing as NATO strength. It's a joke, an absolute joke. While this is happening, just so everybody keeps things in proper perspective, the French government has collapsed. They're done. Finished. They're not going to recover. They've taken Lecornu, the Minister of Defense, and made him the Prime Minister. But he's not allowed to even form a government until he gets parliamentary agreement on a budget, which is not going to

happen. They're not going to agree to a budget. So he's doomed to fail, doomed to collapse. You have Marine Le Pen calling for snap elections, but Macron can't afford to have snap elections because if he does have snap elections...

Marine Le Pen's party wins. And if they take control of the parliament, it's over for Macron. He can't govern. He'll have to announce new elections and resign. So France is out of the game. Gone. That's the reality of it. Germany's on the verge of being gone from the game. I mean, you've got the AfD now in control, so much so that the Germans are panicking and talking about outlawing them altogether. Will that be taken lying down by Germany? I don't think so. I think we're looking at a period of extreme disruption for Germany. They're off the table. Great Britain—Starmer, you know, just had his Deputy Prime Minister resign. Now there's a big battle on the inside to come up with a replacement.

They're all blaming Starmer. Nigel Farage's Reform Party is surging in the polls. Starmer's off the table. Who's left? Wow. They don't have 14 days' worth of ammunition. There's nothing here. Nothing. And unless the United States is willing to step up to the plate and take control—which Trump isn't willing to do—this is all just grand theory. It's dangerous. As you said, the Rafale fighter carries a nuclear bomb. You know, the Dutch F-35 is a nuclear-capable aircraft. People tend to forget that. Every time a Dutch F-35 takes off, the Russians are thinking it could be armed with a nuclear bomb. So when a Dutch F-35 is in Polish airspace, the Russians aren't sitting there going, "Oh, well."

The Russians are going, "OK, track it. Get our response up, bring everything up. Let's track it as it comes closer, get things up." This is how dangerous this situation is. This is the stupidity of Mark Rutte, of Donald Tusk, the Polish president, of Zelensky, and Syrskyi, and every Ukrainian idiot who thought it was a good idea to hijack a Russian drone and fly it into Poland, believing that NATO would somehow fall for this nonsense. But no, there's no... What we're seeing is Europe collapsing out of its own volition, its own inadequacies, its own inherent weaknesses, its own collective failures. I think Russia's job right now is to safely manage that collapse and not allow things to spin out of control.

#M3

Do you think that, with the changes happening in Europe, that would somehow help the situation in Ukraine, or are we going to see new leaders come in? As with Meloni—Scott, let's be honest—in the case of Europe, we had Meloni coming to power and everybody was so optimistic about what changes she could bring to Italy, but in the end, we didn't get anything from her administration. How about that? Do you see anything positive happening toward Russia and the conflict in Ukraine, or is this tremendous, endless hatred going to continue in Europe?

#M1

I don't care about Europe. They don't matter. I mean, the fact is, Europe has opted out. Russia doesn't care about Europe. They'll monitor Europe. But do you think the Russians are losing sleep, going, "Oh, damn, France is going under. We were really looking forward to that Paris vacation next summer"? No, Russia wrote Europe off a long time ago because Europe wrote Russia off. Remember, this was all initiated by Europe. Russia's economy is not dependent on Europe. Yes, they sell oil to them, but it's done indirectly. It's not part of an integrated economy. It's the exception, not the rule. Russia is going to do what Russia needs to do to win this conflict on terms acceptable to Russia. This will be to the detriment of Ukraine. You have Viktor Orban speaking about, you know, there's going to be a Russia zone.

There's going to be a demilitarized zone controlled by Russia. Then there's going to be a Western zone. But what is that Western zone going to be comprised of? Well, we have a hint. Naryshkin, the head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, earlier this last summer held a conference where they talked about the future, and it made it clear that, you know, Russia—when the head of the SVR is saying, "Well, I can see Western Ukraine being Polish, and I can see the Hungarians taking control of the Carpathian region, the Romanians..."—that's the Western part they're talking about. There's not going to be a Western Ukraine controlled by the West, a pro-Western Ukraine. The demilitarized zone, given the reality, is going to be everything else. And it will be controlled by Russia, monitored by pro-Russian Ukrainian forces.

There won't be a European occupation force in place. And then you're going to see an enlarged Russia. We have a hint of what that's going to look like from the map that was displayed by the Russian General Staff. It appears that Odessa and Mykolaiv are going to be Russian, which means that Russia can now link up with Transnistria and guarantee that the pro-Russian enclave will now be part of Russia. And then you're going to be looking at significant demilitarization. If you extend 150 kilometers from that border, it's the rest of Ukraine. And that's going to be the buffer zone—150 kilometers minimum. So this is what is going to happen, and it's happening as we speak. There's nothing Ukraine can do to prevent it.

You see acts of desperation. The reality is, Ukraine probably just committed mass murder a couple of days ago when they dropped one of their own weapons on, you know, Donetsk pensioners and blamed it on a Russian FAB. The Russians came back and said, "That ain't our bomb. This is what our bomb looks like when it goes off. That's a Ukrainian weapon." The Ukrainians murdered their own people and tried to pin it on the Russians. The Russians have been saying for some time that this is going to happen. Now you have Ukraine hijacking Russian drones, flying them into Poland. This will continue to happen. We're in the final act of the collapse of the Ukrainian government. Kuleba ran away.

The bug-eyed foreign minister—you know, Mr. "I'm so tough and Ukraine is tough and we're going to kill the Russians." He ran away like the coward he is because it's time to kill Russians and he can't do it. Neither can anybody else in Ukraine. Nobody wants to die for this corrupt, Nazi-ridden government anymore except the Nazis. And unfortunately for Russia and the world, there seem to

be enough Ukrainian nationalists out there who are willing to continue this resistance. And so Ukraine will fight until the last Ukrainian who's willing to fight. And that could be a lot. I think when this is done, we're looking at over 2.5 million dead Ukrainians. That's just the harsh reality of this situation.

#M3

I think with the case of the new pipeline between Russia and China—the Siberia 2 pipeline—the energy that was supposed to go to Europe is now going to China. And if you look at the future of Europe and the energy prices they're going to face, it's huge, Scott. It's going to devastate everything in Europe. Do you think the people who are running the show in Europe are going to take responsibility for what's going to happen in the future? Are they going to be asked, "Why did you do that?"

#M1

I hope so. I mean, they may not take responsibility, but responsibility might be thrust upon them. I don't advocate for this, but I think... You know, when you saw the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and what happened to Nicolae Ceaușescu, the frustration that had built up inside Romania led to his summary execution. I'm afraid that there are governments in Europe that are going to finish this way because the level of frustration is going to be so high—they're going to hold onto power for too long.

Emmanuel Macron needs to understand that he could be a dead man walking right now, because if he continues to hold on to power—even at a point where the majority of the French people say, "We're done with you"—and he holds on to power and it results in societal collapse, there's a better than even chance that his last days will be spent, you know, a prisoner in his little presidential palace. A summary court martial in one of his rooms, he'll be taken out into the back and shot. Germany could easily go this route too. The Germans are civilized people, but not for long—I mean, civilization is a thin veneer. The reality is, everybody needs to understand that society is... you deny people meals for three days and you have a total breakdown in society. People are hungry for three days and the rule of law just doesn't matter anymore.

They're going to get food. They're going to find food where they need to find food. They'll steal, they'll rob, they'll murder. That's it. All this grand thing we call society—a civilized society right now—doesn't exist unless the government delivers the goods to the people. And if you get a significant number of people who are hungry, who are thirsty, who are unemployed, who are desperate, they will do desperate things. And these political elites, these economic elites, need to understand that these light poles they see up there can easily become lynching poles, and it'll be them hanging by their heels being spat upon. Europe is falling apart—literally falling apart—as we speak.

There are right-wing parties that are coming into prevalence now because they are reacting to the failed leadership that has gripped Europe for decades, and it's manifested itself in the final act. This isn't a joke. I don't wish this on anybody. I love Europe. I lived in Europe. I traveled throughout Europe. I thought Europe was great. But that Europe no longer exists. I was just in Switzerland, talking to the Swiss—Switzerland is sort of the last bastion of, you know, sovereign purity—and even Switzerland is being diluted with immigration. But they talk, they speak about what's happening in Germany, they speak about what's happening in France, and they don't recognize these countries anymore because of immigration, etc.

And when you have this kind of unconstrained demographic transformation that's unplanned, it just leads to chaos—absolute chaos. And it fractures society, dangerously so. Hell, it's happening here in America. So, you know, we just have to be really careful right now. We're on our high horses. We sit here and we just look around. I mean, I look at my little enclave of Del Mar, and it's peaceful. Everybody here has a house. Houses are well kept. Yards are neat. Kids are going to school. The school district functions. But what happens when it doesn't? I don't want to foretell the future, but if suddenly there's no gasoline, and the shopping center doesn't have food, and everybody who lives in suburbia wakes up one day and the electricity is intermittent, the refrigerator's out, all the food you stocked is spoiled, and now you're hungry—what do you do?

We're a civilized society—at that point in time, you can last for a day. You go out and say hi to your neighbor: "Hey, I'm hungry." Two days, third day: "You got any food? Share it, because I'm starving. My kids are starving." You don't want to share it? "I'll kill you, because I have to feed my kids." Now you start gathering together in little groups of people who say, "We need to be better and stronger than that group. This neighborhood society needs to dominate the next neighborhood society." That's the end of it. That's the end of civilization. And we're only a few days away from that happening—a few days of no food, no energy, no nothing. Civilization is a thin veneer. And what we're seeing in Europe right now is that veneer is being swept away. We're looking at collapsed governments, collapsed societies. And this is what we think is going to stand up to Russia?

Is this Europe going to stand up to Russia? Have you been to Russia? Have you looked at Russia? You think that's happening in Russia right now? No, the opposite is happening in Russia. So I just get tired of the Europeans posturing as if they're somehow a superior form of life. Actually, Europe sucks right now. Across the board, it sucks. And it's just that we have this legacy psychology of, you know, European civilization being the center of the universe—everything is defined from the Eurocentric point of view: civilization, the expansion of European colonialism, European empires conquering the world. So we think that European civilization is the end-all. But it's not. Actually, if you dig deeper into the history of Europe, you realize that this civilization was built on conquest, murder, theft, robbery, genocide.

Maybe we shouldn't embrace it as if it's everything that's wonderful in this world. I'm not saying that what the Chinese did was any better, or what any other empire did around the world. I'm just saying

that the idea of European exceptionalism is a fundamentally flawed notion, especially given the fact that the Europeans are unable to sustain this. Look at Europe today—it's a disaster. NATO is a European alliance. You take away America, and NATO is nothing. That statement by Mark Rutte proves it, because he can sit there and talk about Polish F-16s, Dutch F-35s, Italian AWACS—none of that means anything in reality, because it's all posturing. It's not real. It's not a real muscle flex; it's just posturing. Just like Europe is a posture—fake. "Look how civilized we are," but they're not civilized.

#M3

Donald Trump said that he's trying to communicate in a better way with India. Two days ago, we had the Secretary of Trade, Lutnik, talking about India, saying that if India wants a better relationship with the United States, they can have it if they leave BRICS. And, you know, it's the same policy—capitulation. How can you ask a country, a great country with a large economy and the importance that India has, and force them to leave BRICS? India is the foundation of BRICS; it's not just something to build on. How do you feel that Donald Trump would understand the reality of India in this sort of communication that he's going to have with them?

#M1

No, just like Donald Trump doesn't understand the reality of anything. He sort of surrounds himself with idiots. I mean, his Secretary of Commerce, right? Lutnik?

#M3

Commerce, yeah.

#M1

He should be fired on the spot. I mean, if I were the President of the United States and Lutnik spoke, I'd call him and say, "Who approved your statements? Because, you see, I'm the President of the United States, and I'm the guy that sits around in the policy chambers. And last time I checked, we didn't say that the policy of the United States was to strip India away from BRICS. Are you making this up, or maybe that is Donald Trump's policy, and then he has to live with the consequences of that." You know, we see this with every aspect of this. Scott Besant—"We're going to collapse the Russian economy." Really, Scott? Is this official U.S. policy? So when Donald Trump picks up the phone and talks to Vladimir Putin, should he be saying, "Oh, by the way, we're out to collapse your economy"?

This is what we're about. We're going to do it just because—what the hell? Why not? We're American. We can do anything we want. The arrogance, the ignorance of these people—and these are truly ignorant people. You know, they've been on the—it's not—I've got to be careful here. When

you live in a corrupt capitalist system—and that is America, come on, man. Let's just talk about the stock market, talk about Congress and tip-offs, and how money works in America. If you have money, you make money. If you don't have money, you're a sucker thinking you're going to make money. But all people do is make money off the money you're trying to make money with, you know? So when you have the Lutniks and the Besants—you know, Besant, I was golden.

I beat Goldman Sachs. You beat Goldman Sachs because you're a corrupt asshole. All right? You're not a smart guy. You know, being corrupt does not show brainpower. It just means you're corrupt. You're not gaming the system. Donald Trump gamed the system—that's how he made money: tax loopholes, bankruptcy, seven bankruptcies. But the way bankruptcy laws are written, you can recover from it and make money. This isn't success; it's failure. It's corrupt failure. These guys are so corrupt—they are literally economic criminals who have learned how to game the system. The system is fundamentally unfair, fundamentally corrupt.

Um, and yet these are the guys that benefit from it. So now we see them promoted to a position of power. And, you know, it used to be that we just had corrupt people who pretended they weren't corrupt—you know, Nancy Pelosi. Oh, stock tips? Insider trading? No, I'm just the beneficiary of some sound financial advice. No, Nancy, you're an insider trader, and that's the whole harm. At least now we have senators who are willing to admit that if they cut back the ability to do insider trading, nobody will want to become a politician. Because the only thing that makes it attractive to become a politician is the ability to make millions of dollars in a few years so you can retire a rich person.

At least he's honest enough to say that. I think Johnson was his name. But that's the reality. This is corruption. Corruption. So now you have these corrupt people standing there, and they're dealing with other nations like India. They don't know how to deal with India, so they do the corrupt thing: we're just going to strip them away, and we're going to bully them, and we're going to use our monopoly powers. That may work here in the United States—it has worked here in the United States—but it isn't going to work abroad, because now we're talking about sovereignty. And unless I've misread India, I don't see the Indians going, "Oh yeah, that's what we're going to do. We're going to drop out of BRICS and do everything you want so we can just become a nation of IT handlers."

Because that's how you see it. I mean, isn't that what he said? I mean, we're going to strip away the ability of India to phone. Because he envisions India as just being that voice at the end of the phone—you know, when your credit card's not working or when your phone is not working and, "Hi, yeah, Verizon. Hello, I am from... yes, I'm here to help you." I'm sorry, that's my horrible Indian accent, but everybody knows what I'm talking about. You get the Indian handler on the phone because India has these big banks of people who are trained to walk you through this problem. That's not all India is. I mean, the racism—God, I'm going to yell. "Scott, you're calling him racist. You just did a horrible Indian accent." OK, I'm not racist. I'm just trying to make a point.

But the racism that's inherent in what Nick is talking about—"we're going to shut it down"—as if that's what India is about. You know, India has nuclear reactors, advanced nuclear reactors, thorium nuclear reactors. People, look it up. India is this massive country that they feed. The logistics of running India are different than America, but the logistics are sophisticated. It's not pretty, but it works. They have industries. They produce things. They're integrated in ways that Lutnick doesn't even begin to comprehend. We don't... The fact that India... I mean, I'd like to attend a conference and talk to people about this, because I always laugh at energy security specialists who are the "experts" in everything.

And I read their stuff. And they're like, you know, this is happening, this is happening, this is happening. Well, how many of them predicted India going from, what, 3% Russian oil consumption to 42%? I'm going through the reports trying to find the people that predicted that one. They didn't, because they don't understand the dynamic, the reality. They take these Western modes of thinking and try to apply them to things they don't understand. And then they sit there and scratch their heads, going, how did that happen? How does that work? The shadow fleet—"We're going to shut down the Russian shadow fleet." No, you didn't.

Not even close, because you don't understand the Russian shadow fleet. You don't understand the Russian economy. You don't understand the world economy. You don't understand anything. And this is Lutnick. He thinks that by targeting certain sectors of the Indian economy, we're going to break India. He doesn't understand that India is working with Russia, China, Brazil, the Global South to create an alternative economic reality that's not dependent upon the United States. And the only one to blame for that is the United States. Again, the arrogance of these economic advisors to Trump. I don't know a damn thing about tariffs. I'm not going to pretend I do. But I can just tell you that, you know, it appears that the money that Trump's making off tariffs isn't coming from foreign governments writing them big checks.

It's coming from the American consumer who's paying the higher prices. I mean, we were just out shopping Monday—so that would be two days ago—trying to buy gifts. My daughter's getting married and there's a bridal shower coming up, so you've got to have a little gift bag that you hand out. It's an American thing. So we went to this nice little Asian store in the mall. We've been going there for years. And I was just talking to the owner about prices. He was like, because of the sanctions, you know, they acquire this stuff from China, from Turkey, from India. He said, "The prices—we just had to jack them up." I mean, it's crazy. Well, you know, he said the prices have increased, and I said, "So are you transferring that to the customer?" He said, "Not necessarily." He said, "We know how to make money."

We've been doing this for a long time, and so we will stay in business. But not every business can do that. Not every business has the latitude to absorb the costs without going bankrupt. And then, in order to stay in business, they will have to transfer the cost to the consumer. And that's what's happening here. I mean, here his company is eating the cost, so they're paying it in. But it's not as

though the Indians are writing the check on his behalf, or the Chinese are writing the check on his behalf. No. The American consumer, the American businessman, is writing this check. And it's just fake. Everything about what Trump is doing is fake. It's a lie. And we're falling for it.

I'm not saying that the alternative is better. I'm not saying that Joe Biden wasn't lying. I'm not saying that Kamala Harris wasn't lying. It was a different kind of lie, a different level of sophistication. It was a more sophisticated lie. It was a lie that had been sugarcoated to the American people for so long that we stopped thinking it was a lie. Donald Trump has come in and has given us a whole new lie. It's supposed to be something different. But at the end of the day, it's just a lie. It's all a lie. It's all about corrupt people trying to make money off the average American citizen. That's what it is at the end of the day. It's corruption. Just different kinds of people making money off the sweat and labor of the average American.

#M3

Congratulations on the case of your daughter, Scott. But it's not just America—we do the same thing here in Brazil.

#M1

Yeah, well. My job is just to go and nod my head and agree with everything and not get in the way, and then buy it when the time comes to buy it. I thought early on that I would have artistic license to make my opinion known, but no. My job isn't to make my opinion known. My job is to yield to the inherent genius of those planning this. And they're right—the fewer moving parts, the better. Too many chefs spoil the stew. But it's fun to be an observer on this. It's sort of fun to just watch it all happen because it's such a big act of theater. Everything about it is theatrical. At the end of the day, you know, this could be done with \$10 and a justice of the peace. Just go there, say you're married, sign the damn document, take the envelope of cash, and go on a honeymoon. But no, we've got to take that envelope of cash and give it to everybody to create a grand act of theater. Oh, well, it's the price of having daughters.

#M3

Yeah. It's the future for me. Scott, before wrapping up, with the case of Nepal—many people are talking about how the case of Nepal is somehow connected with India, and I would argue with China as well, because of its location. It's at the doorstep of these two countries, and they're having some sort of color revolution there. And it's not just about Nepal. Look at what has happened in Pakistan with Imran Khan. Look at what has happened in Bangladesh. And then comes Nepal. It seems that there are some activities to put pressure on India—not just India, but also China as well.

#M1

I am not going to answer this question in detail, and I'm going to tell you why: because I have only superficial knowledge right now. I've been working on a paper on Russia, and my wife this morning said, "Scott, you're going to be asked a question about Nepal. You better read up on it." And I did some superficial scanning. I could fake you out—I really could. I could sit here and throw out names, say things like, "Oh, the wife was burned to death in the building," and all this and all that. But that would be wrong of me, because normally when I want to answer a question, I'm going to answer a question. At least my answer may seem to be just superficial, but I like to have a foundation of knowledge to draw upon so that at least I'm comfortable with what I'm saying.

With Nepal right now, I have a hell of a lot of reading I have to do to get caught up so that I can give a responsible answer to it. I've been watching and monitoring it, but I can't sit here and pretend to tell you what the exact root causes are, or what the links are, because it's complicated. No matter what, it's going to be complicated. It's not going to be a simple answer, not a simple solution. It's going to require me spending a whole bunch of time digging deep into this to get to the bottom of it. Because was Nepal on your geopolitical radar? I mean, on your bingo card, were you sitting there going, "Well, the things I need to be worried about this week are..." You know, I was proud that I was able to give you an answer about Pokrova and the electronic warfare system.

And I mean, I did the deep dive into that. But I'm sorry, on Nepal—my wife warned me this morning. She said straight up, "Read up on Nepal because someone's going to ask you a question." And I was hoping we were going to get out of this interview without you asking about Nepal. But you did. And I have to be honest, I'm not prepared to answer that question responsibly. I think when people watch me speak, people can disagree with me, and I totally get it. And I can be wrong, and I totally get that. But I will never lie to you. I'll never pretend to be something I'm not. I will never pretend to have knowledge that I don't have. And on Nepal right now, I'm just not prepared to answer that question.

#M3

Thank you so much, Scott, for being with us today. It's a great pleasure, as always.

#M1

Okay, well, thanks for having me. Now I have to go read up on Nepal.

#M3

Thank you, Scott.