

Iran Downs AWACS!? US Military UNRAVELS, China Crushes Sanctions Plea!

Danny Haiphong analyzes whether Iran just shot down another US aircraft and how it exposes the US military's defeat as well as Trump's whiplash shift toward economic war. What's China got to do with it? Click and watch in full to find out. SUPPORT THE SHOW BY BECOMING A YOUTUBE MEMBER: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOxLhz6B_elvLfntSEfnzA/join PATREON.COM /DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #usairforce #trump #china #iransanctions

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Breaking news update, everyone. Did Iran just shoot down another U.S. aircraft? Well, according to reports, an E-3G Sentry of the U.S. Air Force transmitted an emergency code 7700 and then went dark over the Strait of Hormuz overnight on August 20th. They cost \$270 million U.S. dollars, and the United States Air Force only has 16 of these active, with Iran already having destroyed one of them. Now, the U.S. Air Force early warning aircraft diverted near the Strait of Hormuz on August 20th. This is the WANA Iranian News Agency report saying that this E-3G Sentry Airborne Early Warning and Control System, the AWACS, declared an in-flight emergency while operating over the Arabian Peninsula near the Persian Gulf in the Strait of Hormuz, according to U.S. flight tracking data.

We don't exactly know what happened to it. There has been no confirmation from the Iranian government that they indeed struck this aircraft. And the United States CENTCOM, of course, has been very quiet. Now, the Council on Foreign Relations—and I wanted to bring this up because it reflects an overall military crisis for the U.S. hegemon. This is the CIA's—I call it the CIA's Council on Foreign Relations—where this expert take on the U.S. munitions crisis outlines exactly why the United States is now focusing on economic warfare. It says,

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may overwhelm quality, which is hilarious because the U.S. doesn't have a single hypersonic missile to date. But I wanted to go down to the data here. All right, so according to the CFR, the munition shortage is real, but it's just limited to high-tech defensive interceptors and standoff weapons. The U.S. military maintains expansive stockpiles of what might be called ordinary conventional weapons, like mortars, artillery shells, gravity bombs, and the like. The war with Tehran did not deplete these

inventories, but when you look at interceptors and standoff munitions, the numbers are eye-opening. Of course, those vaunted air defense Patriot systems have been fired at a rate of 1,500 in the 40-day war, and now the United States possesses 830 remaining.

40% of the THAAD interceptors have been depleted as well, with just 280 in the U.S.'s arsenal. Now, a third of the Tomahawk cruise missiles' offensive weapons have been depleted, just 2,000 left today. Now, this is where it gets even more dicey: stockpiles for the ATACMS, as well as precision strike missiles, have been nearly exhausted entirely, and 25% of MQ-9 Reaper drones have been shot down or lost. I believe Iran has fired and struck and taken down over 40 of these since the war began. Now, I want to bring up what the Center for a New American Security talked to NPR. And Stacey Pettyjohn, who is a fellow there, who worked in the Defense Department under Joe Biden, she had something very interesting to say about these reports that the United States administration and Donald Trump has said are not credible.

She says, no, they are credible for particular types of weapons. But she goes over a detail that the CFR failed to note, which is that you can say holistically the U.S. military still has deep stockpiles of precision-guided weapons, but they tend to be short-range ones that you have to get close to the target to attack and drop a bomb. Something like the JDAM. We've heard a lot about that. It's a dumb bomb that has a tail kit attached that allows it to be guided by GPS and to precisely hit targets. But you need to be nearby. The U.S. has lots of these. They have a lot of glide bombs. They have a lot of shorter-range missiles and rockets. So that is a key detail because.

The reason why the United States is scared, the U.S. empire is scared to continue a shooting war with Iran is because it will either, one, deplete all of its long-range munitions completely and entirely in one war that has so far lasted less than two months, or has lasted far longer than two months. I mean, it began February 28th, but in terms of the 40 days of fighting and then the several skirmishes that occurred after this since April, well, the United States risks, in less than a year's time, depleting every single one of its munitions down to close to zero. That is a major problem. But even a bigger problem for the United States, an even bigger problem for the United States, is that the U. S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy now have to travel closer and closer to Iranian shores, if not penetrate Iranian airspace, in order to hit their targets.

And that means Iran's air defense interceptors themselves and air defense missiles can hit their targets and hit U.S. fighter jets, F-18s, F-35s, and then, of course, the vaunted U.S. naval ships, which have gone through major crisis in recent weeks, with the USS Lincoln having to port, the USS George Washington, which is suffering from internal mechanical issues itself, not least horrific plumbing and food issues. And, of course, now the South China Sea and the Asia Pacific have zero aircraft carriers located there, despite that being the number one theater of the United States military, according to most military officials. So those are the damning numbers.

Iran has depleted and, in large part, defeated the U.S. military. And that might be hard to believe, but J.D. Vance has essentially confirmed this. He spoke on the air to Western mainstream media and

said, "We're in a new phase of the war where the most effective tool we have is the economic pressure we can apply to them, being Iran. And this is a delicate dance because we apply economic pressure to them, and they're going to apply economic pressure to us. But what has been true over the last couple of weeks is that they felt a lot more pressure than we have. We're going to keep that going because we think that's the best way." And here is that report there.

So, again, the U.S. has now shifted to economic war because it cannot fight Iran in the long term militarily. This doesn't mean that the United States won't diminish more of its standoff munitions in the future. But it does mean that we can expect any one of these ongoing and potential attacks by the United States to be short in duration and to be heavily affected by the depleted munitions of the U.S. military. And that is something we have been saying here with all of our guests on this show since the war began and since the war started to take shape and affect the U.S.'s military stockpiles. So many analysts have been on this show to break this development over the course of these several months since February 28th.

And now the U.S. mainstream media, the defense establishment, the military establishment are beginning to catch up. That's the Center for a New American Security's Stacie Pettyjohn, a former fellow, a former advisor in a Defense Department committee, now at the Center for a New American Security, which is funded by both the State Department of the United States and the U.S. Defense Department, and by the Council on Foreign Relations, which is essentially a CIA and military establishment revolving-door think tank, which has been since the days of Alan Dulles and the Dulles brothers, the CIA operatives, so legendary now in the lore of U.S. regime change operations.

Since the 1950s, this has operated as one of the principal think tanks for the U.S. imperial elite. So that, my friends in the audience, is a huge and damning admission that only is starting to be made after we have spent months on this program breaking that development. Now, this is really interesting because economic warfare is said to be the most effective means for breaking Iran now. But it is not clear that the United States will have full participation from the world. Actually, it's quite clear that it won't. Because you have Scott Bessent, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, saying that Beijing needs to get with the program and support Washington's campaign to isolate Iran economically. What does that say?

It means China is not with the program, and China won't ever be with the program because already it has rejected Washington's harshest-ever sanctions on Iran. According to The Cradle, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on August 21st that sanctions and pressure will not resolve the U.S. war in Iran, after Washington threatened governments, including Beijing, with severe repercussions if they did not join in asphyxiating the Iranian economy. China always believes military action, sanctions, and pressure do not help solve any problems.

"It only builds up tensions in the current situation," said Lin, adding that Beijing opposes any illegal unilateral sanctions without authorization of the United Nations, and they do not fit the interests of any party. Now, Iran and China are incredibly close. Incredibly close. These two countries are not

only strategic partners. They're not only major trading partners, with China buying upwards of 90% of all Iranian oil. They're not only strategic partners because they do have a comprehensive strategic partnership that's worth over 200 billion U.S. dollars. But they also believe themselves to be engaged in a civilizational process and dialogue for over 55 years of their ties.

And this is from the Institute of Silk Road Strategic Studies, Ma Lirong, who says that this relationship has major implications for both China and Iran, with projects such as the Tehran-Hamedan and Sanandaj railway expansion, the electrification upgrade of the Tehran-Mashhad railway, and other railway cooperation initiatives, have not only contributed to Iran's transportation development, but also strengthened connectivity among the modern Silk Road, the Belt and Road Initiative, which is about building a new Silk Road across the old Silk Road from China to Europe. And now the Yiwu-Qom Europe-China freight train route is another example of this. Since its launch in 2016, the route linking Yiwu in East China's Zhejiang Province and Qom in Iran has continued to expand cooperation.

In July 2024, the Qom-Yiwu China-Europe freight train route achieved full railway-based two-way operation, bringing a new dimension to the corridor that echoes the ancient Silk Road. And of course, there have been reports that Pakistan and Iran and China have created major corridors through Pakistan into Iran, which allows Iran to both export and import goods without having to rely on getting around that exhausted U.S. naval blockade, which, however ineffective it is, still does stymie oil shipments out of Iran. Now, Iran is causing panic with its relationship with China and Russia, as Fox News has reported that Iran is tapping a financial lifeline, Russian arms, as Trump escalates the so-called crushing economic warfare.

According to sources, Iran is deepening its financial and military ties with Beijing and Moscow, forging a crucial lifeline as it seeks to circumvent U.S. sanctions and weather Washington's renewed maximum pressure campaign, say regional security analysts. As the U.S. continues to ramp up economic pressure on Iran, Operation Economic Fury, they say Iran has turned to non-Western blocs and alliances to align further with Russia and China, repositioning itself as a linchpin in a network that directly challenges American influence. The warning comes as Donald Trump announced that he is conducting the most crushing economic operation ever against any country. This will be economic warfare and isolation on an unprecedented scale. So that is what the United States is doing now, and it's because the U.S. has been completely defeated and depleted militarily.

This was shown by Abbas Araghchi, who perfectly responded to this economic warfare by the United States by citing history. This is something that Iran does. This is something that the multipolar world does, something the United States never does. Actually, Donald Trump and the United States administration mainly just harken to the Biden administration for any problems that currently exist, and then, of course, don't look any further back than that. According to Abbas Araghchi, he retweeted a tweet by Barack Obama when he was president in October of 2012. His vice president

was Joe Biden then. And this is what happened: there were sanctions put on Iran, and Biden said, quote, "These are the most crippling sanctions in the history of sanctions, period." So 14 years ago, most crippling sanctions in history failed.

Iran is still standing. Eight years ago, maximum pressure failed. Five months ago, unconditional surrender also failed. And then today, the most crushing economic operation ever, Abbas Araghchi said, the foreign minister of Iran, bound to fail. We've seen this movie before. Same bull, different bullies. So the United States is in a major crisis, a catastrophe, because the U.S. invested nearly its entire military arsenal in trying to complete what has been arguably one of the most important objectives of the U.S. empire and the U.S. hegemony in modern history, which has been the destruction of Iran. The entire war on terror, the entire military policy of the United States in West Asia has been geared toward this in large part. Now, of course, it had other targets, right?

Syria. And we can go on and on on Palestine, Lebanon, Hezbollah, the resistance in Lebanon. But truthfully, most neocons view all of these flashpoints as a way to isolate, dismember, and contain Iran. Now, none of it has worked, even when there have been setbacks for the axis of resistance, for example, like the downfall of Syria's Bashar al-Assad government in 2024, or the ceasefire that Hezbollah engaged in and the resistance engaged in also in 2024. Actually, what we've seen is a resurgence of the axis of resistance in Yemen, now pounding Saudi territory, targets all across the Red Sea area of the region, the country of Yemen, and killing over 150 Saudi forces during its renewed fighting with Saudi Arabia.

We've also seen, of course, Hezbollah rejoin the fight during the Iran war and fight back against Israel to a standstill on the southern border of Lebanon. But even more importantly, we've seen Iran stand up to the United States military, defeat it on every single front, control the Strait of Hormuz, which is one of the most important international waterways, now redefined, rightfully so, as the territorial waters of Iran and Oman. And now Iran is sitting in a position where it can choose to go on the offensive if it likes. And that is what it is contemplating. According to reports, Iran is contemplating potential offensive attacks against U.S. economic assets in the region in retaliation to the sanctions that have now been not only resumed but intensified.

The U.S. tore up another so-called deal. The Trump administration has said that it is all about deals. Donald Trump has said this for two different administrations. But of course, the U.S. empire doesn't really do deals. And any deal with it is really a deal with the devil because the U.S. empire favors and only pursues hegemony, meaning it is dominant and you are not, depending on which country is in question. But this pursuit of dominance, this pursuit of hegemony, has now led to its opposite. China and Russia are sitting very much in the driver's seat. Russia is able to control the escalation of the Ukraine conflict toward its own ends and in a way that favors its stability and global strength, especially on the military front. Despite tens of thousands of sanctions on it, Russia's economy is stable.

China has now not only built one of the most extensive, if not the most historically extensive, infrastructure and trade networks with the Belt and Road Initiative. Not only is it, with Russia, one of the pillars of a multipolar world of regional and global integration, but China itself has reached technological and economic advances in magnitudes that are historically unprecedented, to the point where China is coming out with innovations in technology, in AI, and in the realm of infrastructure that are unseen in the entirety of the combined West, especially the United States. So as China builds robotics and high-speed rail networks, alleviates poverty, as Russia moves forward with its successful management of a conflict that has only increased its international prestige, not least because its military might has been demonstrated hundreds of times over.

And Iran now showing that it is a regional superpower in West Asia, as well as the third pillar of a multipolar world, with a military arsenal that cannot be defeated by the United States and a level of sovereignty that is respected, if not admired, worldwide, especially in the Global South. Well, the United States empire has many problems on its hands. What comes next will be exactly what we're seeing, which is economic warfare.

But make no mistake: the depleted munitions, the exhaustion of the U.S. military, the crisis in the U. S. Navy, the fact that we aren't getting any good information coming out of Washington when it comes to what the actual state of the military is, and the fact that we also have people that were once maybe friends of ours talking about how U.S. hegemony is not defeated, that there's no decline actually happening, without providing any evidence to the contrary other than examples like Venezuela, pursuing the war on Iran, conducting blockades, all of which are ubiquitous to U.S. empire and all of which don't necessarily equal, quote unquote, success.

On all measures, from the size of the U.S. imperial economy globally shrinking, nearly cut in half since the end of World War II, and only stagnating in terms of economic growth, from the cost-of-living, standard-of-living crisis, the \$40 trillion of debt that the United States possesses, and all the debt that 350 million, nearly all of them outside of the very rich, possess in the United States. Not least the fact that we are sitting on a manipulated economy of fiat and global finance driven by Wall Street. All of this leads to crisis, and all of it will lead to ultimate disaster. And it will continue to lead to a shrinking economic role of the United States in the world, and a growing role for the multipolar world.

That doesn't look like victory. And so, with the military now depleted, and the military really only having threats and shorter, both in volume and in length, attacks at its disposal, you know, we could be looking at a nuclear war, nuclear catastrophe coming up if we continue to focus on whether the U. S.'s empire is powerful or not powerful and not look at the opportunities that arise for peace and self-determination in regional and global integration with a depleted U.S. empire on the back foot. However, a depleted and declining empire is a dangerous one, and it will continue on its path of violence and endless war. And the question remains: what will we do about it? What will we do about this endless war regime?

It seems like it's the United States and the combined West that need true regime change, that these countries require a change in governance that directs its focus on the needs and the interests of the vast majority of people, and away from those interests, special interests, those for-profit interests, those monopolies, those oligopolies, the oligarchs and the lieutenants of capital who sit on the riches of the vast majority of the world's resources and hoard them and accumulate them for themselves. That seems to be where the regime change needs to be directed at. And it's my hope that we can continue to inform and liberate our minds toward the end of this injustice. That's the breaking news update for today, everybody. Until next time, hit that like button before you go, and I'll see you tomorrow—no, tomorrow, August 22nd, 1 p.m. Eastern Time—with Elijah Magnier for another report.