

Iran's Retaliation BEGINS, Trump's 'D-Day' Attack Sparks WW3 | Col. Lawrence Wilkerson

Col. Lawrence Wilkerson discusses Iran's stunning response to Trump's 'D-Day' attack as the march to World War 3 accelerates. Trump's economic and military operation is backfiring badly already, and China & Russia are giving Iran a boost to its devastating retaliation underway. Join us as we analyze all of this and more in geopolitics! LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis. Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritho> #iran #trump #china #ww3

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I am joined by Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson to go over the latest developments. Well, Iran promised that it was going to retaliate against countries that cooperate with the sanctions that were declared on so-called Operation—or I should say, just D-Day—the sanctions operation of the United States against Iran. Last night, Iran choked the Strait of Hormuz to an incredible degree, striking an oil tanker off the coast of Oman in the U.S. so-called escorted corridor. And only one ship made its way through over the last 24 hours.

Well, as Trump was calling for a D-Day economic attack on Iran, it was also sending messages to Pakistan saying that it wanted to settle with Iran, saying it was going to lift the blockade and sanctions in exchange for a reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. It already seems like, Colonel Wilkerson, I know this is something very much on your radar, that the United States is expanding this war to global proportions. It was already a global war, and China has taken a whiff of these sanctions targeting it. It said that it is not going to abide by Trump's sanctions, and it is very much aware that it is being targeted here.

It said it is ready to retaliate, China did, against these sanctions should the U.S. drop the hammer, which Colonel Wilkerson actually says the United States hasn't just yet done. But I wanted your comment on the global implications of this, because it appears Iran is very much ready to retaliate if countries do abide by this sanctions regime. Qatar said that these are unilateral, and it seems like it

doesn't have any interest in following this. There's been a lot of silence in the Gulf. China has rejected them. What do you make of the United States, especially Bessent, declaring almost a world war using the dollar as a weapon?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, Scott Bessent basically made a total ass of himself, as well as showing that he's not very smart. And I've known that all along, ever since he started prognosticating about economic affairs and made some of the idiotic, stupid, even insane statements that he's made. He just followed up with one that is probably as insane as it could be, and he threatened—he said—that it could possibly mean, these sanctions as it were, that anyone not adhering to them would be forced out of the dollar-based international order. Hey, Scott, woken up lately? Gotten up 5 a.m. in the morning maybe and read the papers or something, or even looked into the intelligence data banks that that idiot over at Langley is supposed to be providing you?

China is taking over the global monetary system. Two-thirds of the world has already agreed to that takeover and is moving to all of the commodity exchanges that it does, either using a basket of currencies that they've all agreed upon. And you're going to see Modi and BRICS talking about this at the summit in India in September. And China is moving very, very slowly because it wants to be careful about the way it does this, to completely replace the dollar. And their ultimate motivation—I should say, one of their ultimate motivations, according to Xi Jinping, who has published all of this, unlike us—one of their motivations is to do away with U.S. sanctions because they read the report.

I read the report. Lots of people have read the report. Apparently, my senator here from Virginia read the report that says since 1972, the sanctions that OFAC has blessed and put on other nations of the world and people of the world have killed 38 million people. Think about that for a minute. We knew about 500,000 children dying in Iraq in the 10 years of sanctions to the UN Oil-for-Food Program. Madeleine Albright dismissed them and said it was worth killing all those children in order to get rid of Saddam Hussein. But we didn't know about 38 million casualties. That rivals Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution.

It rivals and surpasses Stalin and his purges. It even gets up there with Adolf Hitler in World War II. So thank you, United States. Your sanctions have killed that many people in the world. And by the way, the report also, very accurately in my view, because half the world is women, says that half of those people were women, and many of them were children. In Iraq, as I said, it was almost all children that died from those draconian sanctions, about which Saddam Hussein cared nothing. And that's what sanctions do. Sanctions don't go after the people you are after, the leadership and others with whom you're angry.

It kills the people, the basic, fundamental people in the society. We should be taken before the criminal court and hung by our necks, as it were, until we're dead. This is unconscionable, what we have done. We have rivaled the worst tyrants in the world in terms of people killed since 1972. And I

suspect that the report is light on its details rather than heavy. In other words, I think we probably killed even more than that when you look at the spinoffs and the indirect effects of these sanctions. All to say that this is not anything other than a weapon of war.

It is economic warfare that we're declaring. It is a part of the warp and woof of Trump's inability to do anything with the normal instruments of war. Read: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, et cetera, et cetera. And he can't, and I could go into the detail as to why he can't, because ever since George W. Bush, and to a certain extent Bill Clinton before him, we have been messing with the American military in a way that does three really dramatic things. One, it makes it extremely difficult to recruit, especially to recruit good people, and extremely costly, which the Gates Commission, which set up for Richard Nixon the dismissal of the draft, pointed out, if anybody would care to read it closely, that it might become exorbitantly expensive over time to have an all-volunteer force.

And second, the money that they have spent that has not gone to people, which is a huge portion of the budget, going every day. The money that they have spent, they have spent primarily 51% to 52% on contractors. Just think about that for a minute. Lockheed Martin, RTX, Boeing, Grumman, all these guys have gotten 52% of what amounts to now a trillion dollars-plus. And then the third reason is because no one knows what they're doing at the Pentagon. And that includes General Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and it includes all the service chiefs, all of them, including the CNO, who, of course, is the man who is responsible in some ways for Brad Cooper, the surface warfare officer idiot who's in the Gulf in charge of Central Command. So we have a totally broken Pentagon about which Hegseth said he knew.

And I took him at his word when he first arrived, assumed the position, even though I thought his testimony and his hearings and everything should have resulted in the decision not approving him to be the secretary. And it was a close vote, I'm told, in committee and in the full body. But he did get approved. And he did say some things that I thought were pretty smart. And I was watching very closely to see if he moved out to do them. He has not done a single one of them. About the only thing he has really done is get rid of the diversity initiatives, which include now probably, or at least it looks like, a hatred for Black people. Taking Dorie Miller off the carrier that's coming off the ways in a few years is the latest case in point. Taking Colin Powell and Chappie James and other people's pictures down in the Pentagon are other cases in point.

I think he's a racist. I think he and his wife both are closet racists. But all to say, there has been no improvement. And, Danny, I can start back with the first reductions under Chairman Powell, H.W. Bush directing a 25% cut in the U.S. military, then Les Aspin coming in with Bill Clinton in his first year of his first term and cutting another 3%. And I can show you not only how we did what we did to give the American people, as H.W. Bush said, a peace dividend after the end of the Cold War. But what we did was we murdered the defense industrial base by reducing the contractors that did a billion dollars or so business with the Pentagon in the course of a fiscal year down to about six.

And when you got told by one of those defense contractors who was left, Lockheed Martin, you know what you're going to do? You're going to create a monopoly group. You're going to have one of them the prime, two or three of the others as the subprimes, and you're going to create what is the result of this kind of monopoly: exorbitant price, cheaply made product that won't work, and a whole bunch of people cheating all over the place to take the money out of the Pentagon. And that's what we've got today. But the biggest thing we've got today that's a problem is this all-voluntary force, which couldn't fight its way out of a wet paper bag, which we started to prove in Afghanistan and Iraq, and we're proving in spades everywhere else, because what?

We won't use it. We can't use it because it's not capable of being used, not against the real enemy, not in a real fight. So that's where we are today. And that's why Trump and Caine and Hegseth cannot do anything that would constitute some sort of military victory over Iran, because Iran is not burdened with any of this. And they are further motivated by the fact, as Caine himself told the Congress, no bombing campaign all by itself has ever proven capable of persuading a state to change its ways the way you want them to. No bombing campaign has ever done that. That's all we're doing. So Trump is caught. He's caught in a fight he can't get out.

And now he's talking. He's talking again. He has no diplomats involved in it. He doesn't have any diplomats, but he has people talking. And some of the people that are third parties and fourth parties in this are, in fact, diplomats. So he's trying desperately, I think, behind the scenes to effect some kind of diplomatic solution. And what you talked about in your opening is a part of that. The real ingredients, I'm being told, are the talks that are going on between the Omanis, the Pakistanis, the Iranians, and others who are interested in, first and foremost, the Strait of Hormuz not being so prohibited to traffic. And it is prohibited right now.

If you want the truth, the Strait of Hormuz is controlled for the moment that a particular ship attempts to make passage, and that ship is known to one of the warring parties, and that ship is protected by that warring party or, conversely, attacked by the other party. That's the only way the Strait is operating right now. And it isn't open to anyone, really. But if it's open to any two states, it's open to Oman and Iran more than it is the United States, because again, we do not have the military. We do not have the naval, Marine, Army. Air Force is a little bit better off because we haven't trimmed them so much, and they still have a lot of aircraft and a lot of residual munitions.

But it's not as good as it was, and it will never be as good as it was again until we change the entire approach we take to the military. We have a defunct military. We're proving it. We cannot beat Iran. We couldn't beat Iran if we put the entire military into it with all the trillion dollars behind it. We couldn't beat them. So we've got to do something else. And that's what we're trying to do now. And Trump is getting rather desperate to do it. And let me add footnote one: Bibi Netanyahu is doing everything he possibly can to screw the pooch on anything we do, because he sees it as a surrender.

No matter what it is—a diplomatic solution, even a military solution that's half-assed and blessed anyway—unless that regime falls in Iran, Netanyahu's not going to accept whatever happens. He'll commit suicide first.

#Danny

Yeah, well, it seems like the United States military, despite all of its problems, is still organized, or at least wielded, in a way to exactly try to ram through that ultimate, quote-unquote, objective of destroying Iran. But that seems no longer possible. It was never possible, Danny.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

The only way you could do it is use a whole bunch of those weapons that are called nuclear.

#Danny

Right, and even then, I don't think nuclear weapons are going to persuade Iranian people that somehow they should come under the dominion of the United States. I wanted to ask you, Colonel Wilkerson, about the global connectivity of Iran and how it fits into its overall approach of retaliating against this. The so-called D-Day, Operation Economic Outcast, I think Bessent is calling it, because this is Saudi media here, and they outline all of these alternative routes, especially to China, where 90-plus percent of its oil exports go. Of note, China was not directly targeted in the 60-plus sanctions package that was leveled on Iran initially.

But there are some who say that this Friday, that institution he was talking about, Bessent, that will be sanctioned might be a Chinese bank. What do you make of this? I know you've talked a lot about the dimensions of World War III, how it is constantly being sparked and the fuel is constantly being poured—the lighter fluid is constantly being poured over it. What do you make of the situation now, especially what Iran has at its disposal to retaliate against these sanctions, which seek to do exactly as you said, but it cannot happen, which is to destroy Iran?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, that map showed why this is impossible. And if Mark Carney is able to say what he's saying and doing what he's doing, which is monumental in my estimation, Mark Carney is proving that Canada does not need the United States. And it's proving that that eastward power, that power that is inexorably moving west, is in fact going to be, is in process right now of being globally triumphant. And as long as you've got that power behind you and beside you—and I use those two words guardedly, or descriptively, because they're not just behind them—that is the railroad coming into Tehran directly.

They are also beside them. They're with them. And these exercises that China has conducted—they're Air Force only right now—with Egypt, and may conduct with the UAE and other countries, are another indication that China is slowly but surely—and they will be very circumspect about doing this—taking off the gloves. They don't want an open conflict with the United States, but like Carney and what Canada is doing, they will fight us tooth and nail economically. And I got news for you: they're going to beat the hell out of us, because they are the number one economic power in the world. No question about it.

The only thing, as I said, that they haven't done yet, and that Xi Jinping has declared that they're in the process of doing, is replacing SWIFT, replacing the global-based order based on the United States and the petrodollar, getting rid of all of that because they see it not only as being inimical to their Belt and Road Initiative policies, development mostly, they also see it as being punishing of the world's populations. And if you want to talk about an altruistic public diplomacy, China's got it because it is gathering the nations of the world to its breast, as it were, with the idea that it will get rid of this heinous, punishing, brutal empire that's been screwing everyone now for the past 20-plus years, either by going to war with them or sanctioning them or both.

And China has many people out there who are just waiting to say, "I'm in." And that's going to be the leaf that turns for the empire. The Sith Lord is going to be kicked out of his seat, and Darth Vader too. You can't continue to oppose two-thirds of the world and two-thirds of the world's GDP, which now constitutes what is China's realm. And we forced a lot of it. There's no question about that. We forced it to be done with alacrity rather than over time, over time where we might have developed some sense and began to develop a collaborative, cooperative, go-along-to-get-along, if you will, policy with China's inexorable power move. Now it's going to be dramatic and quick.

And incidentally, it's going to coincide, I think, very dangerously with the domestic situation in the empire, in the United States, essentially collapsing too. And how that's going to transpire and how it's going to unfold is anybody's guess. Steve Bannon is even talking about it again. You may recall that Steve Bannon was the one who talked about the first coup, and everybody better get ready for the coup, the one on January the 6th in the first term. Well, and now he's talking about, "You've got to do something. You've got to do something to make sure these elections are somehow controlled."

Well, that's dangerous language, in my view, because what he's talking about, in my view, I don't know this, but I suspect he's talking about somehow deploying Trump's powers and Republican powers in particular in order to prevent the inevitable loss of power, at least in one house, if not both houses, and certainly the possibility of impeachment proceedings against Trump. So we're looking at a domestic situation that Trump is exacerbating majorly by his inattention, except where it hurts to pay attention. And we're looking at an international situation where he's really screwing his own future by what he's doing in Iran and, to a certain extent, by what he's allowing to happen in Ukraine.

We're looking at a situation now where, you know, the British prime minister's offering billions of euros to start Storm Shadow production, taking the tech data package for Storm Shadow to Ukraine. That can only be to strike deep into Russia. Now, I don't think it's going to develop in time because the Russians' patience is pretty much what it always is. And they're grinding, grinding away, and they're going to get what they want, which is the Donbas primarily. And they've closed the port of Odessa and its accompanying port. So I think the Ukraine conflict is just going to be a torturous bloodbath until the Europeans and Donald Trump and the others wake up and do something to put a stanchion in the wounds there.

So we're looking at two conflicts that are being so maladroitly handled by the empire, indirectly in Ukraine, directly in Southwest Asia, that what we were talking about in earlier shows could transpire. We might wind up with a region-wide conflict and even a global conflict if we're not careful, and we're not watching the domestic scene as well as the international scene, because you may recall that when the last big conflict broke out on the globe that killed about 100 million people in the course of the years that it was pursued by a number of countries, from Japan to Germany, we had a massive depression, and we could have that same thing again. Only this time, it is not going to lead to the most powerful country in the world at the end of the war that follows that depression. It's going to lead to the collapse of that country.

#Danny

Yeah. I mean, all the data and facts back that up, Colonel Wilkerson. And here are the reports about China that you were referencing. China has threatened to retaliate against the U.S. and signaled it won't back away from its cooperation with Iran after the Trump administration's latest sanctions targeted businesses in China and Hong Kong, which is China, by the way. This was an interesting report.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

By the way, Danny, that's like biting your own hand. I mean, we get so much that we absolutely have to have.

#Danny

from China. Yep. Exactly, exactly. And this is why, too, Colonel Wilkerson, as you know, even yesterday, Scott Bessent had a really hard time answering any questions about China, in large part because it's very difficult to try to cut off the most important economy in the world, especially from the dollar system, which does rely on China's commodity circulation to a large degree.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I don't think Scott Bessent has a clue about China. I really don't. I don't think he's done any study. I don't think he's put his mind to it. I just don't think he knows anything about China.

#Danny

Well, it seems that he, like a lot of, I guess, talking heads who are anointed to positions like he's in, they have the view, similar to Iran, that it's weaker than the United States. It must be ready to fall. It's not like the United States. It's not a friend, so that means it must be bad. That means it must be ready. And they view China with hostility in large part because of this notion that it's not a system that they can tolerate. And so this is interesting.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And yet, ever since Deng Xiaoping—and that was my first trip to China in 1984, that was my earliest trip to China—ever since Deng Xiaoping, they have been better capitalists than we. That's the real kicker here. And they have been better capitalists than we in two dimensions: one, profit-making and what it takes to do that; and two, having oversight. We have no oversight anymore. Our capitalists are predatory. They can take anything they want. They can do anything they want. Bill Clinton started the process. I think Clinton said—this is almost a direct quote—"The era of big government is over." He was right.

The era of the government overseeing capitalism was over. And when he got rid of Glass-Steagall, that was his final act. So we are the worst capitalists in the world. We are predatory, predatory on our people, predatory on the system, producing lousy products at maximum price for everything. China has oversight. China actually punishes predatory bosses. In fact, sometimes draconianly so, it punishes them. The princes, you know. So their capitalism is far more efficient and far more effective than ours. That's what really irritates us. If you really scratch it, that's what really irritates us. They're beating us at our own game.

#Danny

Yeah, and that's because they have their own game as well. Unlike the United States, which, as you said, has this predatory system that is really dictated by these incredibly corrupt and super-exploitative oligarchs at the top of these monopolies that you labeled in the military-industrial complex, but they're everywhere: energy, etc. China has a government and a system and a political party that is willing to, you know, ensure that these forces are not able to run roughshod over society. And that is why also I pulled up this article, Colonel Wilkerson, because during this Iran war, everyone was saying, and it was true, that a large part of trying to destroy Iran was to get to China. And a big part of it was trying to cut off China's energy imports from Iran. But not only has that not really even been cut, but this article from a professor at Oxford University in the New York Times today said this.

He said, "In response to this war, Beijing responded with a wide-ranging strategy to reduce exposure, diversify supply sources to limit the share of oil coming from the Middle East, and began to build up what are now estimated to be the world's largest crude stockpiles of oil, roughly equal to those of the U.S. and Japan combined. China has pushed aggressively to shift passenger cars from fossil fuels to electric power, making it by far the world's largest market of EV vehicles today, and is extending that to trucks. Electricity generation relies almost entirely on domestic energy sources such as coal, nuclear, hydrogen, and increasingly wind and solar. That long-term strategy has been put through a real-world stress test by the Iran war, and it has..." And arguably, this is coming very late to the game, Colonel Wilkerson.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

The only thing I would change there is, I would say it has passed with flying colors.

#Danny

Yeah, passed with flying colors. And maybe it was never even viewed as a test at all because when I was there, people were saying that this was always the case. This is what we do. China doesn't want to be dependent upon outside energy because that would make it very vulnerable to the Iran war.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Deng Xiaoping liked to use the expression, "capitalism with Chinese characteristics." And other people would say, nodding in the back of the room, they would say, "capitalism with communist characteristics." That didn't make any sense. Contradiction in terms. But what I would say is capitalism with Confucian characteristics, because that's their version of capitalism. I'm not going to say that it's kind and gentle, but I am going to say that it ain't like ours. It's very different. And any Chinese person who is telling you the truth, who's come in from the cold, so to speak, and living in Shanghai or someplace like that, is going to tell you, "Yeah, I like it. I'm happy. I'm content." How many Americans are you going to find that do that these days?

#Danny

Well, the situation is absolutely horrific in the United States now. You know, 24.9%, I think, real unemployment, or adjusted unemployment for those who are living on poverty wages.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I left a Giant grocery store yesterday in sticker shock. I buy the same groceries pretty much every two weeks or so. They're usually around \$260, \$265. Yesterday they were \$327. Same groceries. And it's just been creeping up all along that I've been doing it. And this is hitting all Americans.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. So, Colonel Wilkerson, I guess the question is, you know, you mentioned Benjamin Netanyahu. I mean, this is a global—you said this is a regional war. This seems to be an attempt by the Trump administration to try to shift away focus from the military side of this. But at the same time, there's a lot of, for lack of a better term, landmines everywhere, including, as you said, Israel. Does the Trump administration, even if it wanted to, which I'm not so sure it does, want to get out of the war with Iran? Even if it wanted to, could it, given that it's laid all of the traps for itself almost so conveniently that those forces in the military-industrial complex can only drool at the mouth over them? Your thoughts on the situation.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I think we're looking at a truly draconian situation in Israel right now. And I mean that from a number of perspectives. First, I don't necessarily have a whole lot of love for the Jewish citizens of the state of Israel, but I think we're seeing the cracks in that society begin to widen into crevices. We've got an egress from Israel now that is almost panic-stricken. We've got all kinds of problems within the IDF. We've got enormous problems developing in Lebanon with the IDF. We've got problems developing with the orders that are being given to them now to move further north than they currently are and to continue killing—not Hezbollah necessarily. Oh, they'll say that there was some Hezbollah agent or something involved in the 12 or 13 people they killed, but they're mostly Lebanese citizens.

They've got a government in Beirut, as feckless as it is, that is awakening rather late to this going on south of them. And they've got a Bibi Netanyahu who is not only taunting the Beirut complex, or essentially challenging it, he's also challenging Erdogan, and he's challenging him in his face in Syria now with the Al-Qaeda dude, Shara, running it, and caught in between Israel with their threats on one side and Erdogan with his threats on the other, and with Israel even attacking Turkish assets inside Syria. And, you know, what the hell? I'm going to continue doing this when Erdogan complains. And then on top of all that, he's got what's happening in Kurdistan with Barzani and his boys. I don't know how much Erdogan is involved in that. I know that they had a pretty good relationship with the Kurds up there.

A lot of money going back and forth and a lot of profit being made. And Kurdistan, of course, was probably the only place in Iraq where citizens of Baghdad liked to go on vacation because it was fairly peaceful and it was pretty and the weather wasn't so bad and everything. Well, now I understand it's gone to hell. And part of the reason it's gone to hell is because they allowed Barzani, and maybe through complicity, they allowed so much to go in there that Iran now sees as inimical to its interests. So it's destroyed a lot of it. So you got a possibility here, all of this to say that you look at the three—actually four—different groups of Kurds: the ones in Iran, the ones in Iraq, the ones in Syria. And then you look at the ones in southeast Turkey and you say, Erdogan's got to be really concerned now about us and what we've been trying to do with these Kurdish groups.

So far, we've been singularly unsuccessful because I think they learned their lesson. Burn once, burn twice, burn three times. You can't get me for the fourth time. But nonetheless, Erdogan does have a problem with that. And now he's having a growing problem with Netanyahu, and not just in Syria, but in Lebanon too, because he doesn't like what's going on in Lebanon either. So we're looking at, as I said before, we're looking at Netanyahu, while Donald Trump is sleeping on the switch, we're looking at him creating the possibilities of a much wider war involving a whole lot of different contestants and involving some pretty significant powers like Turkey, a bastion of NATO, if you will.

If you look at their military, I don't think they're a bastion in terms of their ideological affinity for NATO. But they are a pretty powerful military. So you've got, again, Netanyahu, while Trump is sleeping on the switch, and while Jared Kushner comes back from the fixer, Tony Blair, one of the most corrupt men that's ever lived on the earth and been a prime minister of Great Britain, you've got them working, telling Netanyahu's forces in Gaza, go ahead and kill all you want to. Please, go ahead and kill. Do whatever you need to do. And we'll just sit here and protect you from our position as not yet forming the humanitarian organization we're supposed to form, not yet having the stabilization forces to use.

Go ahead, do whatever you want to do. So Netanyahu is killing about 20, 30 today. Add the 20 or 30 a day he's killing in the West Bank and dispossessing of their homes and farms, olive groves and everything else, and what he's doing with regard to settlers, and you've got a man off his rocker. But he's off his rocker in a very politically astute way because he knows the Jewish citizens of Israel aren't going to vote for him unless he does all this. So look at the mess that we are supporting, that we're allowing to go on so Jared Kushner can make a few more billion dollars. This is, you know, it's unconscionable. If there's a case against Israel in the International Criminal Court, we should be in the dock with them.

#Danny

Right. Yeah. And Jared Kushner, from my understanding, he has no appointed position.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

No, no security clearance, no position. At least I was told yesterday, I think that Witkoff at least got a perfunctory clearance, and he's been made special envoy or something like that. But Kushner's just, what is he, grandson-in-chief? Daddy-in-chief? I don't know what he is, but he's kind of like this—well, I won't say anything. I was going to say something about Hegseth's wife. You know, I think both of them—I think his wife is a real influence on him, and I think they both are—they have to be closet. They can't be out with it. They're both racist, particularly with respect to blacks.

#Danny

Yeah, that wouldn't be a shock to me, Colonel Wilkerson. Well, back to the sanctions on Iran, circling back to them, and economic warfare supposedly supplanting military intervention. Do the sanctions work this time, Colonel Wilkerson? Some note that secondary sanctions can be quote-unquote effective in terms of starving an economy. But Iran says it's ready, not only with retaliation against anyone who participates in this, but also in terms of its own domestic internal needs and issues. What's your thoughts about this? Will it work this time?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, as long as that Belt and Road Initiative railroad comes in from the eastern border and comes into Tehran, as it does, and as long as the Caspian Sea is—most of the ports are only about 120, 130 kilometers north of Tehran—and the Russians are using that sea for whatever supplies Iran needs, China's using it as well, and China is using the railroad, I don't see how sanctions— And let's back up a minute. Let's look at the JCPOA. Remember the team that came together to do the JCPOA? It included Russia and China, and included Russia and China fully supporting. This is why Obama got the leverage, and why Moniz, the nuclear scientist, was so good at talking to his counterpart in Iran and the pressure that he could bring on that talk.

The reason was because all these people were together, and they were all, for the first time, consolidated and, in their view, doing what was in their interest—that is, enforcing the sanctions on Iran until the JCPOA could be effected. So you've got all these parties doing what they did then. Now look what they're doing. And I'll ask you the question: who made them change? The empire. I mean, you know, now we've got total disintegration of that unity that forced the Iranians into a deal that was a good deal. And who got rid of that deal? Iran? Donald Trump. And who's trying to effect a deal that'll top that one because he hates that black man having been in the White House, and he abominates the fact that he had a diplomatic triumph while he was in the White House, and that was it. And now he's screwed it all. I mean, you know, this guy just is his own worst enemy. There's no question. He's his own worst enemy.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. I mean, that's why you see so many in the establishment, as you've noted, they go up in arms about the destruction of the JCPOA and the terms now that the U.S. is operating on, because the JCPOA was less favorable to Iran, far more favorable to the United States. And now the tables have turned completely. And Iran is now the one saying it will be dictating terms. And the United States under Trump, of course, Trump is trying to, I think, push out the image that the U.S. is dictating terms, even going so far as to claim that the Strait is America's territory now and that they've cleared all the mines. You probably saw that today. All the mines are cleared. The U.S. Navy hasn't even taken a, you know, hasn't even set foot into the Strait of Hormuz since February 28th, the last time I checked.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Not only that, Danny, we probably have, you know, going back to my assessment of the military, we pretty much passed mine-clearing operations to other NATO partners that have minesweepers and crews and people who know how to do it. We have very little minesweeping capability. We have a few helicopters. We have a few boats. The boats are not ideal for doing it because they haven't got the right kind of bottoms, or the bottoms that they do have, if they are the right kind, are deteriorating majorly. So we would have to call—and this is one reason I think Hegseth and Caine and Trump actually said something about it. He didn't use minesweepers as an example, but he could have. This is why they're angry with NATO not providing help for the Persian Gulf, because that's where a lot of this esoteric capability is.

When we cut forces in NATO, when we cut them to the bone, we started this business of, okay, we don't need minesweepers. We don't need icebreakers. We don't need this or that aspect of what we are maintaining at great cost to ourselves in Europe because the Finns will do it. The Swedes will do it. The Norwegians will do it. The French will do it. The British will do it, although that latter is not much of a "will do it," because the British couldn't fight a flea and win today. But that's what we did. We spread all these esoteric duties out to other allied partners in the idea that if we had to fight the big one, they would do those functions. Well, that means you won't be able to do that function when you go off and do something on your own. That's where we are.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah, that is indeed where we are. You know, Colonel Wilkerson, the conversation about the dollar has become very prominent now that Scott Bessent, on numerous occasions during his declaration of economic independence on Liberation Day, CNBC published this about China hedging against Washington sanctions and talked about China having its own cross-border interbank payment system, CIPS, which actually allows for a lot of, you know, currency swaps and other kinds of arrangements between bilateral and multilateral, you know, partnerships to flourish.

Yeah. How ineffective, then, will these sanctions be if the biggest countries—because we can throw Russia in there too, because Russia participates in a lot of this—if the biggest countries that do ally and see Iran as a major partner have no interest, not only have no interest, but are actively interested in building an alternative to them? It seems like the U.S. can't really do much about this short of doing what Scott Bessent said he doesn't want to do, which is blow up the world economy.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

He can protest all day long. As I said earlier, he doesn't understand what China is doing. He doesn't understand the world financial system. That's what worries me. And let me give you a good case in point. The Bank of International Settlements, which we fought for a long time to get a member on, and do have a member on, put out a paper not too long ago, if memory serves. It was about a year ago or so. And they said, there's somewhere around—I may get this a little bit wrong in terms of the

exactitude of the figures, but I'm not far off—there's about \$60 trillion in the world that is utterly unsupported by any physical asset that we can put our fingers on. Think about that for a minute. There's about \$60 trillion awash in the world that is unsupported by any asset that's physical.

Now, that goes from gold to real estate to that building, that highway, that farm. I mean, nothing supports this money. They have now put out a new report, which is sort of clandestine because it's hard to get your hands on it. The new report says that has doubled. The new report says not only has that doubled, what they can look at—this is the so-called white economy. In the black economy, which Misha Glenny wrote quite well about in his book *McMafia*, and said was at any given time when he wrote that book, which is about 20 years ago or further, about \$5 trillion. That's the black money. That's the black economy. That's everything from trading in people to trading in organs to drugs, you name it. Well, now that's up to about \$12 trillion. And it's being laundered in places like, yes, Tel Aviv.

It's one of the leading money laundering points. Yes, New York City. I doubt Doha anymore because I think they blew it up in Doha. But these are the places where these things are happening. So when you look at the debt that Americans have, credit card debt, other kinds of debt, when you look at the debt the nation has, when you look at the entitlement programs, when you look at things like Social Security and so forth, when you look at the defense budget, when you look at \$2 trillion a year going to be the interest payments on our debt, probably within the next two to three years, if not sooner, and when you look at the fact that Japan and China and other countries are dumping our bonds as fast as they can and not make it difficult for themselves, although Japan has made it a little difficult for itself because it barked at China.

A really astute Asian scholar put it this way recently. He said, "Japan barked at China, and look what happened. The yen is collapsing. Ukraine barked at Russia. Look what's happening. And who trained both dogs to bark? The Empire." He's right. He's right. We are killing our allies with our system and our failures as fast as we are—or maybe not as fast as we're killing our enemies, because we ain't killing our enemies, except women and children. Like, man, schools and hospitals and other things we're bombing in Iran, which is just unconscionable. Danny, this whole war from the air is a war crime. It's a war crime. Indiscriminate bombing, and they can call it discriminate all they want to. It isn't. It's hitting everything in the world. Some of it by accident, probably, but some of it by intent. The whole war is a war crime.

#Danny

As it usually is, or almost always is, Colonel Wilkerson. And I think one of the byproducts, too, of what's going on, and even this shift to economic warfare, seems to exacerbate a reality that these labeled adversaries of the United States—Iran, China—they are only gaining, actually, in prestige around the world, in large part because economic warfare isolates not just the country targeted, but secondary sanctions are meant to punish everybody.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And you're right. It hurts children. It hurts families. It hurts the people who have no grudge against you. As a matter of fact, one of the dynamics of this that just pains my heart, because the only Iranians I've ever met, and the only time I spent amongst Iranians, I was stunned at how they still had faith in the United States of America. They still loved America, if you will, the average Iranian, because they went back to the history and they saw us as having replaced those bloody-minded British and not been so bloody-minded ourselves. That's gone. That's completely gone. They hate our guts now.

I dare say there isn't an Iranian inside Iran that doesn't hate our guts, and probably quite a few of them in America too, Iranian Americans, whom I met quite a few of when I was with Trita Parsi and we went all over California and other places raising money when he was at NIAC, you know, when he was the head of NIAC. Good people, dentists, doctors, obstetricians, all kinds of people all over California. I bet they hate us now too, because most of them didn't want kinetic solutions. You know, a few of them were Pahlavi fans. A few of them were, you know, okay, that regime's got to go down, but we don't want a war. Almost unanimously, don't want a war, don't want a war. So we probably got them hating us too.

#Danny

Yeah, well, one of the consequences, it seems, of the U.S.'s wars in the era of great power, so-called great power competition, as some have called it, is that these wars continue to diminish any kind of legitimacy of the U.S. empire to the point where these—whether they're proxies or whether they're just like a political opposition that would rather see a more U.S.- and Western-friendly style of governance in the world, especially in their countries, like in Iran—they're becoming muted, if not turned in the opposite direction, because the U.S. is the actor that is actually doing the attacking rather than the governments that are so maligned and beleaguered by U.S. and Western propaganda.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I had a Norwegian say to me recently, "I always thought that the majority of the American people were sort of exemplified by some of your heroes, like Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Madison, George Washington, and so forth. What MAGA has done has changed my mind. You're heathens." That's the image we're putting out there in the world now. No matter how many good people that might be left in America, and I continue to insist that at least 60% of us are halfway decent people, it's the other 40% that are, man, they're running us into the ground.

#Danny

Yeah, and maybe in the last five or ten minutes that we have, Colonel Wilkerson, you can ponder on this question. There are some who have been debating about the state of the U.S. empire, which direction it's going in, whether it is declining or collapsing, or whether the opposite is true. How does this—you know, it can be propaganda. It could have been propaganda decades and decades ago. I believe it was. But even lies can hold legitimacy if the empire has something to offer that maybe other places cannot—for example, a higher standard of living, whatever. Even just the prospect of a higher standard of living can be attractive enough to embrace an empire. And all of that appears to be gone, but there are some who still believe that because the U.S. has the capacity for violence, has the capacity for war, has the capacity to try to isolate, choke off, and attempt to destroy other countries, that this signifies power. I'm wondering where you fall on this debate here.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I fall on the side of the coin that David McCullough's book portrays really well in John Adams. I just reread that book. I noted there were no marginalia of consequence in it and no highlighting. So I said, "You didn't read this book very well. Go back and read it again." So I reread it. And throughout, you're listening to people like Benjamin Rush and Franklin, and you're listening to people like John Adams himself and James Madison and Thomas Jefferson and Samuel Adams and John Hancock and George Washington, and even that ass, Alexander Hamilton. I have a new distaste for Alexander Hamilton after reading McCullough's book. Always didn't like him very much.

But what they talked about was the promise that this country showed to the world as a result of what we had done to the British Empire. And I can't tell you how much that was reflected without saying the British Empire was not looked upon very favorably. And it was a lot of things. It was India, eventually, and how badly they treated the Indians, the racism. It was the slave trade, in which the British, of course, were paramount until they finally got a prime minister who decided to turn it around. Britain was, I would say, throughout its Commonwealth, if you will, despised far more than Winston Churchill and others who were exponents of it would let on.

And they were despised because they had done such heinous things, like what they did in Iran, for example. At one particular point, they were taking about 95% of the profits out of Iran that oil produced, which were astronomical for that time period, about \$40 billion U.S., immediately following the war, that went straight into the British Exchequer, which explains Mossadegh's attempts to nationalize the oil more than anything else. So they were reviled. They were hated. They were despised. Niall Ferguson can write his books all day long about how Britain was such a wonderful place. They were hated. They were despised. That's where we are now.

#Danny

Yeah, well, Colonel Wilkerson, I think that's a very apt way of putting it. That's indeed where the United States is now. Your final thoughts, Colonel Wilkerson, before we head out, on the state of the

Iran war. Do you see kinetic action starting up again, despite all of these attempts of the U.S. to scramble towards some kind of new normal of economic warfare and maybe kicking the can down the road to the next administration, or at least until November? It seems maybe that's the—

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Yeah, there are two bodies of thought that I'm encountering right now on that. I'm not sure where I fall on it, or have a third body of thought. One is that Trump is going to quiet down, pretend he's doing diplomacy, and get through the elections, and then start the war up again, however he would do that. God forbid, nuclear weapons on the other side of Christmas, let's say, or on the other side of the elections. The other body of thought is that he is so desperate that he is going to press and press and press, and maybe turn Netanyahu loose in order to make the pressing even more existential.

And that is the side that I would probably come down on, but I'm not sure yet because I've got to see a little bit more develop with regard to the elections in Israel, which are looking really panic-stricken right now from the point of view of Netanyahu and Likud in general. Although, those who might win, if it is basically Likud or the kind of coalition that Netanyahu has now with some of the same people, like Bezael Smotrich and Ben-Gvir, in it, then we're not changing anything at all. We're making it worse. So I think the more important election right now to watch is the one coming up in Israel. I'm not discounting what might happen in this country because things are not looking good for the prospects. But both elections are important. Let me put it that way.

#Danny

All right, everybody. Well, I just want to thank all the new members here. Thank you so much, Air 4806. Thanks to Auntie Anne, who gave the super chat. The outcome is the intent. The U.S. powers that shouldn't be are collapsing our economy to usher in a global Epstein-class CBDC agenda.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And Kushner's building a new island right off Albania.

#Danny

Right. My take on this is generally, yes, true. Not so sure the outcome is the intent, though. I think the outcome may just be the only one that is possible. It may be the only one that, if we call them the Epstein class, these oligarchs, that's the only one that they're willing to, and maybe not, can pursue, lest we call it something different.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Isn't it amazing how this stupid, insane war has put Epstein not just on the back burner, but in the oven? And maybe that was part of Trump's intent.

#Danny

Everybody, hit the like button before you go. That helps thank Colonel Wilkerson for his time by boosting the show and YouTube's algorithm so more people see our conversation after we're done. All the places to support this channel are in the video description below: Substack, Patreon, and so much more. Tomorrow I'll be on at 4 p.m. Eastern time with Larry Johnson, our mutual friend, off and on together. Any final words, Colonel Wilkerson, before I hit end stream here? No, keep up the good work. All right. Take care, everybody. See you tomorrow, August 26th, 4 p.m. Eastern.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Bye-bye.

#Danny

Take care.