

# NATO's Crazy Long Term Planning for Proxy Wars | Stas Krapivnik

What if the craziness in NATO's proxy wars has a hidden strategy? What if they just fool us to believe they are headless chicken but in fact things are based on hard calculated realities? Stas Krapivnik, a former US Army officer joins me to discuss the new US pressure on Iran, why sanctions fail, and China's economic leverage. We also examine US political messaging, leadership and long-term planning, the Ukraine war, and fears of a wider conflict involving Iran. Links: Stanislav Krapivnik on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@MrSlavikman> Stanislav Krapivnik on X: <https://x.com/STANISKRAPIVNIK> Stas Was There...In English on Telegram: <https://t.me/staswasthereenglish2> Стас Туда и Обратно on Telegram: <https://t.me/stastydaibratno> Rise of the Imperial Eagle on Substack: <https://zmeigarinich.substack.com> Neutrality Studies substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Merch: <https://neutralitystudies.com/shop> Donation: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Introduction and US sanctions on Iran 00:02:52 Can sanctions against Iran still work? 00:08:47 Russia, China, and support for Iran 00:18:52 US rhetoric and political messaging 00:27:03 Master plan or institutional failure? 00:33:19 Leadership, insecurity, and power 00:41:04 Ukraine, Iran, and nuclear risks 00:48:02 Closing remarks

**#Pascal**

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies, today with an update by Stas Krapivnik. Stas, welcome back.

**#Stas Krapivnik**

Thank you. Always a pleasure.

**#Pascal**

Stas, I want to pick your brain a little bit, since you also worked a lot in the private sector and also the energy sector. Since we now hear that the United States just unveiled—Scott Bessent just unveiled—it's the grand sanctions game, you know, D-Day, sanctions D-Day against Iran. You know, regime change is finally just around the corner because now the United States talks about Iran the way it talks about, you know, the Second World War, D-Day. As if though, you know, Iran so far had been like an integrally integrated part of the Western economic system, right? And this is going to really hurt them. What is your take on this newest approach of the U.S. toward Iran?

**#Stas Krapivnik**

You know, if you notice one thing, Trump goes in cycles. Lunar cycles, maybe biological cycles. I'm not sure, but Trump runs in cycles. And he does that not just for Iran, he does it with Ukraine too. If you just step back and look at the way he works, I don't know if it's pre-planned calendar days or it's just a hormonal imbalance that then becomes, you know, feeds into the cycle. You know, we're going to destroy them. We're going to obliterate them. That's it. Oh, they're begging us. They're begging us right now for some kind of... Oh, yes, we're in the middle of talks. One of the best talks that ever happened. We're getting everything we want. Oh, they betrayed us. They're evil. You can't trust them. We're going to destroy them. Oh, okay, we're not going to destroy them because they're now begging us.

## **#Pascal**

And it's just... you know, it's...

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Seeing this on a short cycle with Iran, as opposed to the Russian longer cycle where we're neutral, we're really neutral. We're neutral. You know, the Russians, we're making great, great strides. This war is going to be over in like... 10 minutes, 15 minutes, after lunch, after lunch. Well, maybe after dinner. Okay, they're not agreeing with each other. You know, Vladimir's evil. He's moronic. He's stupid. I can't say—oh, he's my best friend. Oh, we've just gotten a truce. We're neutral again, you know. And it's just these cycles that you just notice. They go around in circles. It's part of the one million-D chess that Trump plays. It is my opinion Trump is a ten-dimensional entity that's projecting himself into our four-dimensional world in the form of Donald Trump. So we can never understand his logic. It's too high for us. So at this point, yes, they're now going into the D-Day of all sanctions for the country that's been sanctioned for 47 years.

## **#Pascal**

Doesn't it seem like that we are reaching—I mean, I think you're absolutely right. The cyclic thing is definitely there, but it seems that they are getting more and more desperate, and they've been throwing everything they had at the wall, hoping that something would stick. And then it seems that we are now getting back to the economic part and, you know, the economic sanctions or economic pressure has been put on bit by bit. And let's remember, beginning of this year in January, Scott Bessent was really proud that he collapsed the Iranian economy. That then led to the uprising or the demonstrations at which then so many people died. By now, we also know that that is BS as well because, yes, there was protest.

But then Mossad and CIA really managed to push a lot of assets into the streets, their darling satellite dishes that they had distributed. And they kind of—they targeted. This was a targeted approach, which I must say, in retrospect, was actually probably the most clever thing they did so far in order to achieve this goal of regime change. But everything after that, once that failed, I

mean, there's just failure after failure after failure, including all the kinetic war. And now back to economics. Can any of that even succeed? I mean, because at this point, the U.S. has to beg other countries to buy into these sanctions, right? Especially China.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Oh, yeah. Well, and the begging doesn't work. First of all, again, Iran has been sanctioned for 47 years. Iran grew a lot of industry, including automobile industry, during those 47 years on its own because Iran has a population of 94 million people, which is not a small population, so a relatively large country. Physically, it is a relatively large country. It's about the size of Germany and France combined, and it's resource-rich. So, yes, did they have problems? Absolutely, they had problems. Much bigger problems than if they were in a trade bloc. Well, guess what? They're now in a trade bloc. It's the same thing as what happened with Korea.

The only way this works is when you get China and Russia involved to carry on these kinds of blockades. And they were involved. In '23, I was on a Russian television show, and they asked me, you know, what else can we do to stand up against the U.S.? I said, well, you know, we could stop supporting these stupid sanctions against Iran and North Korea that do nothing for us, nothing for Russia. The only reason it's important is because the U.S. demanded it or asked for it. And it was silent. So, like, you know, you hit a nerve. But a year later, the sanctions were off, thankfully.

## **#Pascal**

And those are U.N. sanctions, right? Those are the U.N. sanctions that Russia and the Security Council cannot veto.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Right, right. And additional sanctions at the U.S.'s push. For example, Iran had bought S-400s from Russia, and Russia never delivered them at that point. Russia has delivered them since. And again, why are we supporting sanctions that do nothing for Russia? Quite the opposite. Now, North Korea's economy, the latest reports are, is growing gangbusters. Well, it's not growing gangbusters. It's growing around 2%, which is actually considered, under nonstop sanctions for the last 70 years, that's pretty good, whichever way you look at it. And it started growing partially because, yes, North Korea is part of the industrial base supporting Russia, besides Russia's own industrial base. I mean Iran—I'm sorry, North Korea. But the main part in this conflict, you've got 50 countries on one side, and you've got North Korea and Russia on the other side.

Belarus, to a degree. The other reason is because it now has a larger trading bloc. Basically, the Eurasian Union in those areas, North Korea, has now opened up a very large area for itself to work with. Iran has the same thing. So it's very hard to destroy. By the way, Russia, while we're at it, Russia's been under sanctions for only a short period of time, about 180 years. Yeah, World War—

nothing major. Russia is the most sanctioned nation in the world, probably in length of time too. And yet we have yet to collapse. You know, Russia went into World War I still trading with the Germans for, like, the next year and a half under sanctions from the British and the French. Just from that information, you wonder whose side Russia was on in World War I.

**#Pascal**

I mean, like, the Tsar was the cousin of the Kaiser, right, who was the cousin of the King in Britain.

**#Stas Krapivnik**

It's worse than that. They were all first cousins.

**#Pascal**

Yeah, first cousins, exactly. All three of them. They were all grandchildren of Victoria.

**#Stas Krapivnik**

Yep, yep. In fact, Victoria basically died in the hands of Wilhelm II from old age. But, so sanctions are not going to work. Look, the four Caspian ports in Iran are working overtime. They're trading with Russia, and Russia's supporting Iran with grain on top of everything else, particularly with grain and diesel, and a lot of medical aid to make sure the Iranian economy doesn't fall. There's also military assistance and such, but we're not going down that road just yet.

**#Pascal**

Hey, just a very quick note. The best way to support this channel is by signing up for my free Substack. You can also help with a paid subscription there, or you can get some of our new merch on [neutralitystudies.com](https://neutralitystudies.com). Links below. See you there.

**#Stas Krapivnik**

I was asked, by the way, by the Iranian—I was on this Iranian television show—if Russia's going to get involved militarily in Iran. Like, well, Russia's already supporting Iran militarily, but Russia has no need. Iran has never asked. There's absolutely no need for Russia to get involved because, A, you know, what are Russian ground troops on the— In truth, I'm not going to say who's flying some of those Iranian airplanes and who's sitting at the S-400s, but we'll just say it takes a long time to prepare pilots and crews for modern anti-aircraft systems, radar systems, and launchers. A lot more than the six months or so that was there between last July's war and the start of this conflict. But I'm not saying who's there. It could be Smurfs, for all I know. Mountain Smurfs.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, but I mean, even if there is that kind of involvement, I mean, it's not systemic. It's not this kind of type thingy, right? It's more punctual. It's like we've seen also what Russia was able to—or tried to do—with Syria, right? Tried to support, but then if Syria—once Syria started collapsing—it was, I mean, even Russian help collapsed, didn't do anything anymore, right? So it's punctual at best.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Syria collapsed not because Syria couldn't be held up. Syria collapsed because Assad decided he wanted to be liked by the West. So he cozied up to the Gulf state Arabs. Whether they played him or not, I don't know, but they might have been getting played themselves by the Americans to get Assad in the right position. If it was his brother, his brother survived, or his father was still alive, none of this would have ever happened because those two men were much wiser when it came to who they dealt with.

## **#Pascal**

I just wanted to put that there as an example to say, I mean, punctual help. There's no type of integration in the way that's with the proper alliances, right? So Iran is basically still using this self-reliance strategy with punctual help from a few others, right?

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Well, economically, it has a deep rear, because it's now part of an economic bloc, even if unofficially. And the Chinese, while Russia's been there from day one, China, I think, took more of a hands-off approach because they thought, okay, fine, this is going to be the big one, and more than likely, they're not going to win. They're not going to survive. And then when they saw that not only, A, they were surviving, and B, they've gone past surviving to actually winning, the concept changed. You know, victory breeds victory, as they say. So success breeds success. And the Chinese have now said, you know, yeah, thank you, Mr. Trump. Basically, what Trump and Bessent are saying is, China, stay out of this so we can eat you later.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, and let's not forget, China also has quite an interest in having a good relationship with the Gulf states. So it kind of has an interest to deal with both, but it wants to deal with both. And it will certainly—I mean, it already said, the Chinese Foreign Ministry already announced—it will not participate in any kind of sanctions against Iran, no matter what. And the Chinese already proved during the whole tariff game last year that they do have black cards to play. If the United States gets the idea of sanctioning China over something, well, they will counter-sanction. The era of unilateral dominance is just over, isn't it?

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Oh, absolutely. And America was in shock. How dare they? How dare they do unto me what thou dost unto you? You're the jungle. You're the semi-humans. We are the garden. You cannot sanction the garden. The garden can sanction other parts of the garden, but definitely the jungle can't sanction the garden. How dare you?

## **#Pascal**

There are sanctions that the Chinese are able to do—the rare earths—that then seriously hurt. I mean, they're not going to sink your economy. They're not going to lead to regime change, but you're not going to make much more of these little aircraft toys of yours and stuff. Yeah.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Well, you can still make older versions of radar systems. They're just not as efficient. But I guess with a Patriot, it probably wouldn't matter because the Patriot can't hit the broad side of a barn. It does hit some broad sides of buildings, for whatever reason. I call it the Raytheon roulette because, if you watch the missiles fly, which are going to be bursts of fire against the incoming ballistics, and then miss most of the time—the vast majority of the time—some of those Patriot missiles just decide to change sides and fly in different directions, find a building they are going to fall in love with, and go kiss it. It's interesting to watch. About one in six to one in eight missiles just goes flying off in whichever direction.

There was a prime example when Russia took out the first battery of Patriots. For whatever reason, these idiots had placed everything really close together. They can be placed decently far apart. They run off of thick communication cables. But they had placed everything close together as a Russian Kinzhal missile, you know, hypersonic, coming in, and they fired off all 36 missiles that they had, which, by the way, comes out to \$180 million. They fired off all 36 missiles they had, and about six, seven of the missiles just went in absolutely different directions. Right. Everything was going this way, so the Kinzhal just flew right past all of them, and things were just going in random directions.

## **#Pascal**

Is there any punishment in the military for deserting missiles? Do they get court-martialed?

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

They get executed, but since they're already blowing up buildings, they've committed, I guess it's a harakiri, or actually a banzai charge. They just got disoriented in which direction they were heading. So these, at this point, you know, what can they do? I mean, look, the Chinese have a hell of a lot more pressure they can apply to the U.S. than just that. And they have. First of all, when you

consider 40% of American agricultural products are grown for export to China, that's a lot of leverage. The U.S. can no longer feed itself. It has to import because a very large chunk of its industry has been reoriented to mass export to China.

And when China says no and switches to, say, Russian pork, Russian soybeans, which are not that big of an amount, but there are Russian soybeans, and then to Brazilian soybeans, and then to other countries, they can do that. They can do that in maybe not as much... Well, Brazil can cover a very large chunk of what the U.S. sells. Everything else it can cover between Brazil, Argentina, between Russia and a few other countries, it can cover that and more. The last time Trump started a trade war in his first term with China, China said the same thing: "Fine, okay, we're no longer buying any of your agricultural products."

Russia popped up two private Russian companies, pig farms right on the Chinese border. Pigs have a very big bonus: they breed like crazy. They breed about as fast as rabbits breed. They might eat the rabbits too, but they breed as fast as rabbits breed. You know, and it's not one or two offspring a season. It's 10, 15 piglets, and then twice a year. So you can really get a population of pigs up pretty quickly. And exporting pork to China across the Amur River is a little more efficient than shipping it across the Pacific Ocean. So Russia goes, yeah, this is great. And we're planting soybeans next year too. Yeah, Russia was the big winner out of that one.

China came back and they started buying again from the U.S., so they already had this other supplier on their border that was more than happy to supply them. So that was already a hit against U.S. agriculture, and they've done it again this time around. So that's just two ways that China can already put a lot of pressure on the U.S. And let's not forget, right now the U.S. is losing its small farming economy. That's just dying on the vine before everybody's eyes. The big holdings like Monsanto, yeah, they get these giant handouts called the farm bill, which is now up to a trillion dollars. And that's just a back way of getting money into these big holdings.

But for the small farmer, I think the average was, right now the U.S. is losing between 50 and 55 farming families per day. Per day. That's insane. That's a genocide of small farms. I mean, that's how the system's rigged. By the way, Rome had the same thing as it was collapsing. The big—I mean, farmers were selling themselves into slavery because they couldn't compete with these giant holdings that had government largesse upon them. That's a collapse of society. When you have small farming, when a small farming industry collapses, that collapses a lot of society where we're at. So, you know, that's what we're seeing in the U.S. right now. The U.S. is very limited in what it can do.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, so we are in this strange moment, this, you know, this Gramsci's time of monsters, right? In-between times, between two kinds of systems that we would recognize as somewhat stable. And in the current moment, the United States has already lost its capacity to basically be the infrastructure

provider of the world and thereby use that leverage, use that as leverage in order to pressure others short of physical force, which they also do, and even that physical force is not enough anymore. At the same time, it still talks like that.

Although I must say, the way that things are being phrased at the moment is also utterly dumb. Like, the rhetoric is not the rhetoric of a self-confident kind of diplomatic actor at all, if you compare it even to the 1990s. It's the rhetoric of its kids, basically. I really wonder where this urge then comes from to, on the world stage, behave and use language that we are used to hear either in kindergarten or schools or in boardroom presentations. You know, Scott Bessent's announcements remind me very much of how Apple would present its newest products. Can you make sense of that? It's weird to me.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

There's several effects in play. First of all, by the way, when it comes to economics, Bessent is ignorant. He's good at finance and crashing financial systems. He's Soros' right-hand man, which, by the way, was always an interesting point about MAGA. Now, I'll just qualify this in that the majority of MAGA left MAGA because those people that actually wanted to end the wars, they were hoping for something different instead of just a more insane version of the same. But the people that are left in MAGA, it's basically religious fanatics. You have the religion of Trump, the God King. He cannot be wrong. He's an entity above us. He's playing one-trillion-D chess instead of, like, one-D checkers or one-D tic-tac-toe.

And whatever Bessent says, they'll take that up and lap it up. But if you listen to what Bessent says, he shows his own ignorance as well. He's good at finance. He's not good at economics. Those are not the same things. In fact, I would tell you, having worked with lots of finance people, most finance people have absolutely no concept how the corporations they work for actually make money. And they have no concept of how economics actually works. But they're very good with spreadsheets, you know, derivatives, and everything else, and all these other exotic words that they use to crash currencies or overextend investments that shouldn't have ever been made. So, having said that, that's part of it.

That's out of his league. He was brought in to crash the Iranian economy through the financial system. Second of all, look, let's be realistic. By the last statistics from last year, 21% of Americans, of adult Americans—not immigrants, but actual American citizens—are suffering from total illiteracy. 32% more are suffering from partial illiteracy. In other words, they read the comics at the end of the newspaper. They don't read the newspaper articles. So when you're talking to these people, you know, the bad thing about 24-hour news cycles is it's all basically yellow journalism, you know, and people get used to that. People get used to having that Fox, CNN type in-your-face exploding news, you know.

The expert has said the grand plans are horrible because they basically have nothing but loud-sounding fluff without having any body behind it. And the unfortunate part is a lot of people are used to accepting information that way. They've been trained that way. So, yeah, that's it. It's D-Day. That's D-Day. Somebody somewhere may still remember what D-Day was. Believe me, the majority of the population in the U.S., unfortunately, doesn't. But maybe they've seen a Hollywood movie like Saving Private Ryan, so they remember something. D-Day was something important. We did something big there. It's D-Day, so it must be something very important. There's no entering into details because there are no details you can share.

One, most of the, unfortunate to say, half the population wouldn't even understand what the hell you're talking about. Two, they wouldn't care. So you've got to have the big flash, the yellow journalism flash of that headline, and that's enough. So that's what we get. And one more thing, one more thing. One last thing. And then you have the Trump effect. Look, dementia is setting in, ladies and gentlemen, MAGA cultists of the world. That's not genius. That's dementia. Just look at the way Trump talked in '16 to the way he talks right now. I mean, it's obvious, the degradation. He was witty. I mean, he was witty. He had good timing. He doesn't have that anymore. He's lost all of that. He talks like a 10-, 12-year-old, and he uses the verbiage of a 10-year-old.

## **#Pascal**

It's the bestestest, greatestest war I've ever seen.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

It's the war to end all wars because we bombed this, the biggestest, the mostestest. Just sit there. You're looking at this like, you know, if you didn't know that that was an 80-year-old man talking, you'd think it's a 10-year-old or an 11-year-old trying to tell you about the last movie you saw. Because it's getting away from him, and it's becoming more and more obvious. I mean, Biden was comatose with limited mobility until he started talking, the American administration, and then there were actual people trying to decipher what the hell he just said. You have the Rosetta Stone of Bidenism. We're heading in the same direction with Trump. So, gentlemen, cognitive ability, it's an issue.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, you're totally right about that. It's just, you know, at this point, you know, having one or two like these is one thing, but basically having now an entire communication apparatus of the U.S. executive built around this garbage is another. And not just one administration, as you just said, Biden too. And they use that language, and let's not forget the Minister of War, Hegseth, was a news anchor. They even bring these people in. The entire homepage of the White House was just, from one day to the other, wiped out and overwritten with a Trumpian one, and communication

happens via that Truth Social thing. It's—the entire apparatus of state communication is basically now dumbed down to this kind of sloganeering. And it seems to me that that's not just—it's not just kind of a bug. It's an integral feature of now how the system works.

And that's, again, it's just highly worrisome, because that also probably means that there is no plan. There can't be a proper kind of approach like, you know, China. I had a Chinese expert here who said, like, you know, we are not worried because our game is development. We just want to develop, and we're going to do everything in order to make that happen. And everything else, we're just going to treat as secondary and to work for that goal. And that's a long-term strategic plan. Russia, long-term strategic plans of how to now, you know, reorient toward the East and so on. And the United States is just in absolute chaos at the moment, in all directions, in tiny mini intervals, unless—and I want to ask you that—because Berletik and so on say that's just theater. That's not true. There is long-term planning, and they're just putting on a facade in order to deceive simpletons like us.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Well, he has points that are good here and there. I don't agree with his overall—just like I don't agree that Israel is absolutely a vassal of America and just does what it says. Look, anybody that can snap its fingers and half of the U.S. Congress runs over there for group photos under the flag, anybody that can actually have its lobby groups force popular congressmen out of races because they can just dump that much money into somebody else's race, is obviously not just a vassal. They may have started out as a vassal. With Israel, it's more of a dual parasitic relationship. They're both feeding off each other.

It's just a matter of which parasite is in whose brain the most. And true, the U.S. has multiple plans. I'm not going to say they don't. They're good at that. The problem with Russia is Russia has been reacting. It hasn't been leading in any way. It's been reacting to the West for way too long instead of forcing the West to react to Russia. So I'll say, yes, they have multiple plans. They have Plan A. Plan A gets a certain distance, it gets a roadblock. Plan B is already moving, and Plan C and Plan D. Okay, Plan B gets further. Maybe Plan D gets even further. And then you go back to Plan A that things change. Can we move Plan A? True, that's there.

But to say that this is some kind of overwhelming master plan, no, because there's so many failures that the U.S. has had over and over again. The difference is, the plans don't necessarily come from the same people. They want mastery over the world, but that's pretty hard to get. Let's try impossible. Secondly, there are other people's plans. Like, how do we make just as much money as we can? And to hell if we win any wars. Look, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Iraq, for that matter, where we're at now. Syria is going to be on that list sooner or later. You know, Ukraine's master plan hasn't come to fruition. They're still trying.

I'm not saying that they won't try. Yeah, one, it's easier for people to accept that they're ruled by evil geniuses, and that's why their lives have been ruined or are being ruined, whole societies have been ruined, because there's an evil genius plan that's overwhelming, overarching. It's easier to psychologically accept that than, my life has been ruined because I'm run by a bunch of idiots that really don't have a concrete plan, and they're just screwing their way around. And, you know, I'm probably smarter than they are, but they're destroying my life because they're the ones in power. Reality is somewhere in between. But psychologically, it's easier for people to accept that, you know, they're just a pawn in this massively genius evil plan. There's not much they can do then.

Oh, yeah. Well, actually, most of the people above us are absolute cretins that shouldn't be allowed to have square sheets of paper because they'll cut themselves. You know, the unfortunate part is, but that's the reality. I mean, look at the leadership in a lot of countries, even the leaders in a lot of industry. Believe me, I worked 15 years in industry—more than that. I'm not going to talk about, you know, after the military. I'm not going to talk about when I was just a consultant. I mean, straight in industry, part of management. And I saw the stupidest people. And this is American and Italian corporations, mostly American, not Italian corporations. I've seen other companies that worked with us, and you're looking at a lot of these people and they're morons.

But they're in positions of power. Why? Because a lot of it's just because human nature works the way human nature works. Hey, move me up and I'll support you. You know, you scratch my back, I scratch your back. I mean, you look at these boards of directors that pay out to CEOs gigantic money, but those CEOs sit on other boards of directors where the members of the board of directors from his board of directors are CEOs of these other companies. It's basically, it's almost like an orgy, I mean, of these executives. They're just feeding each other, right? And you look at a lot of these people, they're absolutely dumb, and you wonder, how do they get moved up to the positions they get moved up to? But that's the way it works.

## **#Pascal**

I mean, that's why I agree. It's just that's why we need to look at the systems, right? This is what's so depressing about the point we came to in the West, in Europe too. I mean, the kakistocracy, the rule of the dumbest in Europe, is maybe even worse. They're just a little bit better at dressing it up, a little bit more adult language, but the rest is even worse because they are so downstream of Washington. So the question then is the systems that create those, that put these people in those places, the fact that this is even possible, because it all happens through the institutions, right? And again, you don't have to be a genius in order to land on top.

You just have to be completely ruthless at the right moments in time, right? Yeah. So you have to be strategic, not a genius, and ruthless in order to get there. And we can see, like, Donald Trump is a prime example of that, right? The way that he's able then to do 180s and turn around and lie about anything under the sun. That's quite conducive to getting to these kinds of positions. But it also, it

does then beg the question if the system itself can keep itself alive, especially when compared to systems like Russia and China that, for obvious reasons— not for obvious reasons— that obviously manage to produce leadership that behaves differently and that has a different outlook on the world.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Well, there's a slight issue here. There's an issue of alpha and beta males, and alpha males that are competent and alpha males that are bluster. When you have a competent alpha male that's intelligent, first of all, as a leader, somebody that has some experience in leadership, honestly, I don't know everything. I don't even pretend to know everything. My brain can't hold enough information on every issue I need to hold. I need to know enough to know I don't know certain issues, and I need to have the right people in place that when I need that information, I go, "Hey, John, what's the statistics on this? What's the law say on this?"

I know enough to ask the right question. He fills me in with information. I'm confident enough in my abilities and leadership. I'm not intimidated by the fact that he's smarter than me in this area. I'm not. I pull the guys in. So a leader that's smart and competent and is an alpha male, he is going to pull up other people similar, and he's not intimidated by them because he knows he's in charge. He's largely in charge, but he's smart enough that he's not also intimidated by their intelligence. So he can afford to build a team of competent people because their competency doesn't overshadow his competency.

When you have an alpha male that is dumb, he's largely in charge, and you know he's in charge, but he won't promote a lot of smart people because they intimidate him in that they're smarter than him. He's afraid they may try to take his position. But the worst case, when you get a beta male—and Trump is a beta male—who's trying to act like an alpha male, so he overdoes things, because it's obvious to everybody around him it's bravado. He won't say a lot of things to people in their faces, but Joe Kent's a prime example. They left on good terms, and the moment Joe Kent was out the door, Trump was throwing daggers at his back. He does that. That's a typical beta male leadership position.

He's afraid to face off with somebody. But man, the moment he can shoot them in the back, he'll do that. But on top of that, he knows he's overcompensating because he's insecure. And insecure people definitely are not going to bring anybody competent around them because they're insecure. That's the biggest problem. They know they're barely holding on to power. They probably are over their heads somewhere. They may not admit it to themselves, but somewhere in their psyche, they understand that they've gone way past their capability levels at this point. But bringing in people that can go, "Dude, you're way past your capability levels," isn't what they want because their ego is fragile.

Everybody's ego gets hurt when somebody says something about them. It's how you deal with that. Yeah, that's a mean comment. Oh, screw it. We'll go forward. Or, oh, that's a mean comment. I'm

going to defend it. I'm going to destroy them. How dare they say something bad about me? Oh my God. And they start to fixate on that. That's Trump. I mean, we've seen that, obviously. That's that type of beta male trying to be an alpha male, overcompensating, incompetent, and, "I will never allow anybody with competency higher than mine anywhere near me." So he comes in with a good team because he knows he needs that team to get in, and then he kills them off. You know, it's the butler with the wrench in the dining room, except it's in every single room and the butler's just whacked everybody.

And we saw that in Trump 1. He did the exact same thing. But everybody's like, "Oh, you know, he was not a competent politician because he doesn't have experience. He was being manipulated." No, this is Trump. And we've seen this in Trump, too, very, very quickly. He gets rid of everybody that's competent. And then we get the hacks. They understand what they need to do. First of all, they're incompetent themselves. They're way over their capability limits. And they know it back in the back of their psyche. And two, they know that if they say the wrong thing, the master then expels them or destroys them politically. Or maybe he has them killed. Who knows? So they beat their forehead on the floor and they build up the master's ego. It doesn't make them more competent.

## **#Pascal**

The interesting thing is, of course, that they are that good at manipulation, including manipulating the masses. I mean, I was hopeful for Trump too, because back then he said all the good things, including ending the war in Ukraine, no more foreign wars, you know, fix the U.S. economy. I mean, these are all legitimate. These are all good goals. Fixing the U.S. economy would be great. Great. I mean, because there's a lot of fixing that needs to happen to, you know, help the around 20 million people in the United States under the poverty line. Right.

And, but sure enough, the second you're in, the problem with the current version of this kind of, you know, oligarchic democracy that is being run over there is that then you're handed over the reins, and then you just do for four years however you please, or at least for two until Congress maybe gets back. But let's face it, it is a uniparty. They're never going to oppose something like a proper war with Iran, never ever, especially with the Israel factor in there. But it is fascinating that he is able to also have this kind of public perception, isn't it?

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Yeah, he's a good salesman. I'll give him that. I mean, he'd sell ice to the Eskimos, and the Eskimos would be shocked how they ever lived without such great ice. He is that, and that is his main skill set. By the way, the American poverty level is a hell of a lot higher than 20 million. If I had to place it in reality, I mean, on statistics, the way the government forms those statistics, which is based off of the economy back in the 1950s, where basically a third of your salary went to housing and everything else was relatively cheap, including real food back in the 50s and 60s. Because if you look at the photos of Americans on the beach in the 50s, most of them are in decently good shape.

Now it's obesity all around. Several economists have come out and said, look, we need to reassess the way we do this model, because the basis that one-third, one-third, one-third model was built on is no longer reality. Things like normal food have skyrocketed in cost. It's no longer a third to feed the family, a third for everything else. The reality is there's more... If one had to make an educated guess, I'd probably say about 40 to 50 percent of the population is at or below the poverty level, including a very large chunk of the so-called middle class. The so-called middle class.

Originally, middle class was a word used for the people living in towns that were the new rich and the merchants, because they weren't nobility and they weren't peasants. It had to be something. So the towns became the middle class, because they're not here, they're not there, in a mostly agricultural feudal economy or semi-feudal economy. But most of the people in the U.S. are quite literally, they're poverty-stricken. They may have a lot of things, but at the end of the day, if you've got a medical emergency or you need to feed your family, having 100 TVs isn't going to feed your family unless you can sell them or something. And they accumulate a lot of stuff, but they're not wealthy. No.

## **#Pascal**

And okay, that's, of course, a societal problem. But for the last three or four minutes, let's just go one more time into the international realm. What do you think are the most—the flashpoints at the moment? We wanted to kind of go to Korea, but didn't really have time for that. But there's also, of course, still the Ukraine war. But at the moment, it seems we are kind of in a limbo everywhere. What's your feeling?

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Well, it's a limbo because the Western media doesn't want to talk about it. Look, Ukraine—Russia's advancing. In fact, about four or five days ago, between Dobropillia and Druzhkivka, which is part of that three-city final fortress agglomeration, Russian forces broke through in a 10-kilometer-deep wedge. Not a word from the Western media, of course, about this, because you can't square that circle any which way you can. Ukraine's winning, Ukraine's before. In fact, there's absolutely no updates from the battlefields. The road of death coming into Kramatorsk from the west, you know, it's the latest road of death.

I've seen a couple of videos that came out of that from Russian drones flying in the area. And it's just destroyed machines and people up and down that road. So they're already having a massively difficult time even feeding or bringing in supplies to the troops in those three cities. So, of course, there's no good news. So it's, "Wow, we blew up another Wildberries. That will definitely crash the Russian economy." Well, not really. But you've expanded the war into a purely economic war, and Russia escalated and is winning that too, because Ukraine is burning in every direction.

It's just a matter of how long before something snaps and finally at least some of the NATO European Union countries get their comeuppance, which, with elections coming up on September 20th, should be worrying the Europeans, because the two main parties that are climbing up and are probably going to take the supermajority away from United Russia—you know, Russia will still have the majority; they won't have a supermajority—are the Liberal Democrats, who aren't liberal, they're right-of-center conservatives, and the Communists.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

who are leftists in economics, but are actually socially very conservative.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

And they're both demanding stronger strikes and maybe expanding into the Baltics and into Finland, because those are actively using their territory as well, not as a proxy, but as a direct participant in this conflict. By international law, if you allow one of the two sides in a conflict to use your territory, you are now a participant in that conflict. That's international law. They're welcome to go read it. I looked it up the other day just to double-check again. And it says, still black and white, if you allow your territory. Now, if somebody's flying over your territory and you said no, it's your duty to do everything you can to stop them, not to go, "Oh, well, you know, well, we're supporting," let alone right off from that.

But my biggest concern is the threat of nuclear war on Iran. Now, there won't be an Israel left from the first strike. Let's just begin with that, because I think Iran will just wipe out Israel with conventional weapons, including the Dimona nuclear power plant south of Jerusalem. Now, having said that, the U.S. probably wouldn't drop one nuke, and it's pointless to drop nukes on the Iranian nuclear facilities, the main ones, because they're underground. They're 500 meters underground. You're not going to nuke them, nor is the radiation going to penetrate that deep. I mean, basic physics: in an explosion, the released energy goes in the direction of least resistance.

What's least resistance? Every direction except down into the mountain. So the explosion is going to go up. Even if you hit the ground and explode, sure, you'll do damage to the mountain, some amount of it anyway. You'll shake the guys 500 meters underneath it. I mean, I've been underground when explosions have happened. I've been in mines. Oh, yeah, yeah. I did consultancy work. I was in an active mine. I was 1,400 meters under the mountain. So, you know, 14th elevation, 100 meters every elevation. And they were blasting a chamber somewhere deeper in the mountain when I was in there, and, oh, yeah, the whole mountain swims.

It's an interesting experience, you know. Granite mountain, and that explosive wave goes through—yeah, you feel it. But nothing fell off the shelves. I mean, it wasn't anything. Again, I was deeper under that mountain. No, no, I'm sorry. It wasn't 100 meters. It's 10 meters every level. So it was

140 meters underground. Now, 500 meters—my mistake. So you're still in the middle of a mountain. But again, that was explosive inside the mountain, in a chamber they were clearing out to then excavate out. You blow something up on the top of a mountain, yeah, you'll shake that mountain, but it's not going to collapse, and everything's reinforced.

So what's Trump going to do? Pickaxe Mountain, which, by the way, in Iranian Farsi is also called Pickaxe Mountain. I was kind of—I just thought it was an American thing that they came up with. Jim Joshua and I were like, well, let's look that up. What's the real name of the mountain? He reads out the name in Farsi. It's like, well, why does that translate Pickaxe Mountain? Like, oh, okay, wow. You know, because that sounds like something some American general would come up with. What do we call this damn thing? We can't pronounce the Iranian name. Oh, let's call it Pickaxe Mountain. That just sounds like something some American general would come up with. But I'm more afraid that it would actually go into multiple nuclear strikes on Iranian cities, which I don't put past Trump.

**#Pascal**

That would be the ultimate proof to the world that the United States is basically a savage nation, number one. I still hope that that is a step too far, even for that leadership. But I also couldn't—

**#Stas Krapivnik**

Yeah.

**#Pascal**

But.

**#Stas Krapivnik**

Same here. Same here. That would be, I mean, that's—well, I mean, look, they're feeding genocide in Israel. That's just a slower version of the same thing. So unfortunately, I don't know if that would be a step too far for them.

**#Pascal**

Until now it has been, and fingers crossed that it remains. That's the one transgression they haven't committed yet. Stas, we are reaching the end of the time, as we said, because we've got to be mindful of the next program we do. You can be reached under Stas Kropivnyk, the Slavic man. Yes.

**#Stas Krapivnik**

Mr. Slavic Man, all one word, Slavic with a K. And Stanis Kropivnyk at X. Couldn't fit the whole name in, too damn long. And Stas Todaibratna is the Russian Telegram channel. Stas was there as the English-language Telegram channel. And Zmigarimich is the Substack.

## **#Pascal**

You can be found on YouTube, Telegram, Substack, and X. Everybody, I will try to put the links in the description box below, and we'll talk to you again soon. Stas Krapivnyk, thank you so much for your time today.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Thank you.