

Iran STRIKES Ships in Hormuz as US Navy WATCHES, Trump HUMILIATED | Mohammad Marandi

Prof Seyed Mohammad Marandi discusses Iran's fatal blow to the US naval blockade in renewed strikes on commercial shipping & Trump's Strait of Hormuz narrative collapsing as crises mount that are accelerating massive global change. 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 #iranwar #trump

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Mohammad Marandi, Seyed Mohammad Marandi, to go over the latest developments. We begin with Iran taking decisive control over the Strait of Hormuz. That is what Iran is saying, and they are showing this with actions every single day for the last three days. There have been tankers targeted trying to take the so-called Omani corridor with so-called U.S. escort. Anti-ship missiles were fired last night, and it took just an hour before the show for us to be confirmed by UKMTO that an oil tanker was struck last night while trying to sail through this corridor.

Now, Iran is doing this supposedly in the face of the U.S. Navy, which claimed it was escorting this vessel and several others attempting to go through the Strait of Hormuz. Now, the U.S. naval blockade is also struggling. It's a bit leaky, according to Iran itself. Oil revenues nearly met budget projections over the last year, including during the war, of a total of \$7.5 billion in oil revenue. This was confirmed by Masoud Pezeshkian, the president himself, in an interview with RT that revealed that 90 million barrels of oil have gone through Iranian export channels. Now, Professor Marandi, the war is getting very dire for the United States, so much so that military leaders are warning Pete Hegseth and Donald Trump against extending operations further.

This is coming from every single central command structure of the United States military outside of CENTCOM itself. Military leaders are saying that if they continue on this path, well, there will just be nothing left for the U.S. military to utilize for other wars and other needs, like, for example, the Asia-Pacific conflict. First of all, Marandi, what do you make of developments now, particularly with regard to this ongoing naval blockade and the fact that Trump has a string now of announcements

that the Strait of Hormuz is open, telling Axios that “the sucker is open,” CENTCOM saying, you know, hundreds of millions of barrels are being pushed through the Strait of Hormuz by the U.S. Navy itself, and essentially all the data is showing otherwise? What's going on here?

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, first of all, you're mismanaging your show. I mean, you're not asking people to press the like button or smash the like button. I don't know what it's called. And you're harming the show with regards to algorithms. I think I may have to take over the show and put it under new management. I'm sure if I run the show, the Iranian takeover is here. I'll control it like we control this radio. Anyway, you know, Danny Haiphong, I don't know the exact numbers. I really don't follow some events as closely as others do, and perhaps as I should, but the amount of oil that goes through the Strait of Hormuz is not what the Americans are claiming or what the Western media likes to pretend. Oil is getting through, and disproportionately.

What do I mean by disproportionately? Uh, at the expense of other commodities. So the focus is on oil, much less focus on fertilizer, helium, and other petrochemical products, sulfur, and so on. And the reason is because of the short-term needs of the United States and the short-term needs of governments across the world. So the crisis, the economic crisis, is growing rapidly. And also with regards to oil, it's growing, but less rapidly because some oil is coming out. Yet it's not because of U.S. helicopters or U.S. assistance to these ships. It's largely because Iran allows it. Ships that are linked to China, they get through. Ships that are linked to Iraq, they get through.

Because Iraq did not participate in the war against Iran. In fact, the resistance in Iraq played a positive role, a very positive role, in confronting the United States and confronting the Israeli regime, and in confronting the terrorist groups that were targeting Iran on behalf of the United States and the Israeli regime—the Kurdish groups in the north of Iraq. So countries that are friendly to Iran do get oil out of the Persian Gulf. Iranian oil is going through the Strait of Hormuz. And then you have a reality that while Iran and the countries on the other side of the Persian Gulf, which have assisted the United States in the war, are at odds with one another, you do have arrangements that exist between these countries.

And so Iran, we know that there's an Emirati company, or I think two companies, that have these small ships that shuttle oil from inside the Persian Gulf to the other side of the Strait of Hormuz. And they take it from tankers and go through the Strait and transport it to other tankers, which is a very expensive and time-consuming process. But it's happening, and those ships go—they hug the coastline of Oman. Iran tolerates them, for the most part. And that's because Iran and the Emirates, despite the role that the Emirates play, the two countries have economic relations with one another, and both countries don't want this relationship to just fall apart.

So there are these many, many deals that exist that are provisional, that may fall apart or they may evolve after a week or after a few weeks or after a few days or after a few months. They may fall

apart. They may evolve into something bigger or smaller or something different, but they exist. So the oil, which I'm just guessing, it's definitely less than half the norm, but maybe five, six million barrels a day, something like that. And then you have the Red Sea, where its numbers have also decreased because of the conflict that the Saudis started with Yemen. So the shortage of oil is growing, but also because of

#Mohammad Marandi

The fact that refineries in the Persian Gulf are not exporting, you see diesel prices going through the roof. It's partially because of the strikes on Russian refineries. It's partially because of the Persian Gulf, and other reasons, I'm sure, are involved too. But in any case, there's a huge shortage of diesel. And so, as oil prices have been elevated, as LNG shortages—I forgot to mention LNG—they are all growing. The global economy is heading towards what we've been discussing for now six months, that the world is heading towards crisis.

Now, you can have immediate collapse by an all-out war and trying to take Iran back to the Stone Age, and then Iran destroys all the infrastructure of the countries on the other side of the Persian Gulf. You can go to a swift economic collapse, or you can take this, the current route, where it's a slower decline to recession—or I think we are in recession—but in deep recession and then depression. And again, we also could possibly have war because the Iranians are preparing for war. They are producing large numbers of missiles, more advanced and large numbers of drones. They are more prepared today for war than they have ever been before.

And Bessent, by trying to strangle the Iranian economy, if he actually has any success—and I don't know what sort of success he may have—but if he does have any real success, then the Iranians are going to—they've said that they're going to strike at American assets in the Persian Gulf, and they're going to shut down the Strait of Hormuz, so that the shipping, the oil that goes through, now will decrease, and ultimately it'll end—the oil that passes through the Strait of Hormuz. So we could be heading towards a more dangerous situation much more rapidly, depending on what—depending on the economic warfare that the United States engages in. But also, if the Israelis push into Lebanon, Iran has warned that they will strike. So we have a very, very, very complicated situation.

There could be multiple ways in which we go back to a hot war. Netanyahu, he's not doing well in the polls. And his rivals are all genocidal, but apparently they're—I mean, some are trying to put forward this other genocidal monster to replace him and then say that, you know, pretend that he's something different and he's more sane. But in any case, he's not doing well in the polls, Netanyahu, and that could lead to war because that's what the whole—the last almost three years have been about for Netanyahu: a constant crisis so that he could stay out of jail. So it may be because of the Israeli elections. It may be because of Bessent trying to strangle Iran. And there are multiple potential routes to all-out war as we speak.

#Danny

Yeah, well, lots of reports coming out that Netanyahu believes that his party is going to lose in the upcoming elections unless something changes. And this comes as, even just in the last 24 hours, Israel is saying that they will strike Iran even if there was a U.S. deal, which, of course, the Trump administration has completely abandoned—not just the MOU, but even the very notion that any deal could come about. So there is no change in that, at least in the immediate horizon. But there are some very huge—I think there's a lot of humiliating facts coming out.

And these facts are very inconvenient for the United States, even as Trump tries to thump his chest about this—the recent deal with Venezuela, for example. But a country under siege like Iran, two kinds of sieges, sanctions and a blockade, a naval blockade, has already said that it has doubled its weapons production over the course of this war and has many battlefield surprises in its wake. And this comes for a variety of reasons. The Navy itself, the United States Navy, is literally garnishing, taking from the payroll of sailors and other naval personnel to pay for this blockade and to pay for the operational management of it.

#Danny

And of course, as I said before, there are—and we've talked about—this ridiculous notion of defending the U.S. homeland that U.S. defense officials often bring up when talking about the strains on the U.S. military. But nevertheless, every single command structure in the United States right now is saying that they need to tamp down operations against Iran, lest they and every single other element of the U.S. military and their plans for the world be completely disrupted. So no matter how we square this, Ronnie, this does not look good. But just because things don't look good doesn't mean that a desperate empire doesn't do something desperate. So what's your reaction to this contrast here?

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, first I wanted to go to Venezuela, and what the United States has announced is that reminds us of those stories that you would read online about some person kidnapped, and then the kidnappers empty his or her bank account. So the president of Venezuela has been taken hostage along with his wife. The acting government and the president and the government, they are hostages of the United States, and they're basically emptying the Venezuelan country of its assets under, you know, these circumstances. It's not legitimate. And I don't think it's going to happen. I think ultimately this whole process is going to fall apart.

Hopefully, with the defeat against Iran, the empire's hold over a lot of its assets will become untenable, but we'll see. I think it's pretty clear that the United States does not make decisions based on the assessments of generals or officers or those in the know. They've waged war against Iran, the 12-day war, based on the needs of the Israeli regime and the Zionist lobby. They have restarted the war, this ongoing war, based on the needs and the demands of the Zionist lobby and

the Israeli regime. That's what Joe Kent has said quite openly. So I don't think anyone in Tehran thinks that this is over.

And in any case, Netanyahu, as you pointed out, is in a very difficult situation. And he may, in order to stay in power, provoke another war. And if he—there are certain things that if he does, the Iranians will definitely strike out, strike at him and strike at the Israeli regime. In fact, the night before last, the new chair of the Supreme National Security Council, Major General Mohsen Rezaei, said in an interview on Al-Manar TV, which is a TV channel affiliated to the resistance in Lebanon, to Hezbollah. He said that Netanyahu, sooner or later, he'll be sent to hell.

That's basically saying that we're going to have a war with the Israeli regime, because there's only one way that the Iranians can send him to hell that I can think of that is practical, and that is through missiles and drones. So I don't believe that this war is over. It may play out in many different ways. It may—I mean, it's very difficult to imagine what's going to happen in the days, weeks, and months ahead. But what I'm saying is that there's so many things happening that each one of them could push us in the direction towards greater escalation, towards military confrontation, towards different levels of military confrontation. We're right now in a situation where we're moving towards escalation, but we don't see it yet.

#Danny

President Rodney, is there concern that Iran is supposedly losing its leverage with the Strait of Hormuz? This is a report that is now becoming commonplace in U.S. corporate media, and I've seen it circulating across social media. But is there concern inside of Iran of this? Because the argument goes that U.S. strikes have decimated radar systems that Iran possesses to track shipping. Strikes on shipping have become fewer and farther between, although that has changed quite dramatically in the last several days. And of course, there are all these reports, CENTCOM itself, talking about all this oil going through. But is there concern about this particular part of the war inside of Iran?

#Mohammad Marandi

No. I mean, ordinary people may be concerned because they read the reports coming from Western media, which are immediately translated into Persian and published in Iranian websites and Telegram channels and so on. So people read about this all the time, but those who are involved in policymaking and decision-making, they don't have any concerns. They say very clearly that the Strait is not open, and that this is— and again, a lot of that oil that goes through, most of the oil that goes through, goes with the consent of Iran. Iran does not want to shut down the oil trade to China when China has been a friend to Iran.

And China is a major consumer. So obviously you're going to have, I'm just guessing, two, three million, four million barrels of oil going to China a day from the Persian Gulf region. And then there's Iraq. Iraq is a country which did not participate in this war. It was the only country in the region that

condemned the war. The resistance in Iraq played a key role. So why would Iran punish Iraq? So Iraqi oil is also going through. Of course, it's more limited because the war situation, the situation that we saw, it forced oil companies and governments to shut oil production, and restarting oil production is difficult. And there are security concerns.

And at some points, shipping was blocked altogether. Things were happening. So Iraqi oil is not being exported in the numbers, in the quantities that they were seven, eight months ago, but they're still exporting oil. So that consists of a lot of the oil. And as I said, there's Iranian oil, and there are these many agreements that exist. So maybe some oil does go through. I'm sure some does without Iran's consent, but that would be a fraction of the amount that goes a day. What is the real number? I don't know, but I think it's probably between 5 and 6 million barrels a day. But then the Red Sea is not like it was a couple of months ago.

The oil that goes from—first of all, the oil that goes through the Strait of Hormuz, some of it is, since it goes through that process that I explained, it's much more expensive. And then the Red Sea is more expensive because some of the oil has to go around the African continent. And Saudi assets are being hit with missiles and drones, and mostly drones, I think. But the tankers have been hit with missiles. So the shortages are growing. There's no doubt about that. And as I said, the shortages of other products are growing even faster. But Iran's objective was never to strangle the global economy. If Iran wanted to do that, all you have to do is bomb those ports where the oil is loaded onto tankers.

That's not difficult. Let's say Iran loses control over the Strait of Hormuz. And as you pointed out, just a few hours ago, they struck a tanker. But let's say, hypothetically, that Iran, one month from now, it lost control. If they want to stop the export of oil, what would they do? They'd just fire their drones and missiles. We saw them do that during the 40-day war. We saw them do it again in the 13-day war. Thirteen days of strikes, and then the Iranian strikes on Jordan. It's not difficult for Iran to take out. They don't have to destroy the whole oil and gas facilities. All they have to do is hit the areas in the ports where the oil and gas is loaded—or the oil, let's say in particular, is loaded onto ships.

#Danny

Those are great points for us, Marandi. And I wanted your thoughts about, especially from an Iran slash Iranian perspective, there's all this talk about, as I brought up before, the crises that the war on Iran is causing to the United States military, to the empire as a whole. And when I read something like this, right, Trump's Iran excursion risks igniting crises far beyond the Middle East, talks about how the U.S. military is essentially drained and is very unprepared, if not completely decimated to the point where it cannot fight the Ukraine conflict much longer. It can't build up a new war with China, on and on and on. And to me, that's a gift, I guess, from Iran to the world. But I'm

wondering how Iranians see this in terms of their own objectives, because this is a narrative which depends, you know, there could be many ways of looking at this in terms of its seriousness. But I'm curious what the perspective is from your part of the world.

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, you know, in Iran, we still have nightly gatherings across the country where people come to the streets to defend the armed forces and to express their support for the resistance. And in their slogans, you see that. They say, you know, we're doing this for our own liberation. We're doing it for Palestine, but we're doing it for Cuba. We're doing it for Venezuela. We're doing it for the Global South. So that idealism does exist in the public sphere. And of course, it has a lot to do with Iran's religious ideology and its cultural background.

But I think that the Iranians also, throughout this period, they've been trying their best, despite their very limited capabilities, to rally the Global South. And the one reason why the Iranians—and we've discussed this before—why the Iranians negotiated with the United States before the 12-day war, it was pretty clear that there was going to be war. But they carried out those negotiations both so segments of Iranian society who may have later on said, "Why, maybe if we negotiated, we could have prevented the war," make sure that that segment of society feels that Iran tried its best to prevent war, but also so that the Global South would see that Iran is the victim and that Iran's resistance is legitimate.

Because people across the world have only been hearing highly negative things about Iran, you know, in the news and the books written about Iran, the think tanks that produce material about Iran, the Western media. I mean, much of the news that people across the Global South get, even from their local media outlets, it's often just translations from Reuters, or it's still like that, unfortunately, from Reuters or from— even though they don't have people in these countries, and it's increasingly like AI, and there are just fewer and fewer people involved. But traditionally, they would get their information from these outlets, from The Washington Post and New York Times, Sky News, and so on. And so, um, people have always been ignorant about Iran.

That's why I've said on so many different shows people should read books on Iran, such as *Going to Tehran* by the Leveretts, and you should read that book too, I think, or Alastair Crooke's book, *Resistance*, among others, because there's very little out there that's worth reading, so these help. So Iran has been, before this war, they negotiated so that the Global South would see and the global majority would see that Iran's the victim, and people in the West. So part of this is, and it has been, you know, the way in which Iran has conducted itself has been to convince those in Iran who are susceptible to Western propaganda, especially the liberal class, and I think it's been very effective. The M.O., for example.

I mean, many in Iran are very critical of the MOU. Some people hate me because I have not spoken out against the MOU. You have Iranians online, you know, saying that I'm a traitor and so on, even

though I'm not. I'm not a negotiator, and I'm not in government, because, you know, because they have more harsh— they take a harsher position towards the United States than perhaps the negotiators did. Actually, I did advocate for the Iranian government to delay an agreement on the MOU for a couple of extra— you know, to wait a couple of extra weeks to put more pressure on Trump. But in any case, that was just my view.

But in any case, the point, what I'm saying is that you have very different views in Iran and the government, the state. And when I mean this government, I mean the entire state. I don't mean just the Pezeshkian administration. But the state has been trying both to convince its own people and people across the world that we tried, and that we've signed an agreement, and look at the other side that's violating the deal. Even though this is all true, you see Western media still saying Iran violated the MOU when Iran struck those three tankers, but they erase the context because, obviously, it wasn't Iran; it was the United States that was violating the deal.

And Iran ultimately struck the tankers after warning the Americans and the Saudis and the Emiratis and the Qataris and the Kuwaitis for many days that you're violating the deal through these passages, through this corridor that you've created in the Strait of Hormuz that violate Article 5. But in any case, the point I'm making is that Iran has been trying to gather support from the Global South, but also in the streets, in the gatherings, public speakers have been saying, "We're doing this for the Global South, we're doing this for the oppressed across the world, where it's not just about us." So that mentality does exist.

And obviously, it is going to have an impact because, as the United States—as you know, you show examples of this—as the U.S. economy continues to flounder, as the U.S. military continues to lurch towards crisis, that benefits the entire Global South. And that helps Iran ultimately as well, when there are other partners that look to Iran and then decide to be more steadfast. I mean, when we compare what—I mean, I don't want to blame anyone in Venezuela—but when we compare what happened to Venezuela to what happened in Iran, obviously, if there was a leadership in Venezuela that was more steadfast and more willing to sacrifice, then I think that many people in Venezuela would have stood up to what the Americans are doing. And ultimately, I think what we're seeing in Venezuela, this won't last forever. But anyway, sort of, I digress.

#Danny

I agree with that. I mean, I 100 percent agree with that. There's already people in the streets not happy with this deal in Venezuela. And this is, I think, there's a reason why this political process itself could not, despite the setbacks that came after the illegal kidnapping and war crimes committed by the Trump administration on Venezuela, I think there's a reason why they couldn't get rid of the ruling party there. And so I think there's a lot left still to come. But nevertheless, Professor Morandi, I wanted to ask your opinion on—there's some really interesting developments around this on the economic war front.

Because, of course, many view—and you've talked about this too, and many have commented on the fact—that the Trump administration is very much in the business of market manipulation, especially around oil, given how volatile oil prices have been and what the war has done to oil markets. But one interesting thing about Trump is that he literally said today that what he's doing to Venezuela is going to fill up the Strategic National Reserves of the United States that have been depleted by the war on Iran. And even readers have had to add context in a community note on this, saying that these reports are very inaccurate because there's a difference.

And I'm not an expert on this, but there's a difference in the types of crude that this entails between what Venezuela can provide and what goes into strategic petroleum reserves in the United States: medium-gravity crudes. It doesn't store heavy crude due to operational issues, and that is what Venezuela has. Not to mention, what I do know is that it's going to take years for Venezuela to develop the infrastructure to pump that oil out because of sanctions and the like. But Mohammad Ghalibaf, the top negotiator, top parliamentarian, and envoy to China, has been going after Scott Bessent in particular, who said that the U.S. has guided 130 million barrels of oil out of the Strait of Hormuz in the last 14 days, while zero has come from Iran.

He's called him a liar, liar, pants on fire. Tell your staff that 130 million barrels is being shown by Moody and Vortexa. And ask how much Jane Street burned, north of \$130 million, shorting oil for you in just one futures roll. Yields are on fire. Liar, liar. So, I mean, Mohammad Ghalibaf, I have to say, he's quite a talented economist in many ways. He knows what he's talking about on this kind of thing. So your comments on this economic war, how it's actually all going, how it's looking, and your comments on this kind of—it seems like desperation. There's a narrative of desperation, I think, is a big part of it.

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, Dr. Ghalibaf's tweets are insightful and pretty good, but that's "liar, liar, pants on fire." A little, as the kids say, a little cringe.

#Danny

He's going a little cringe lately. He's starting to use language, actually, I've noticed. It's almost like he's trying to speak to the U.S. youth or something.

#Mohammad Marandi

If anyone linked to him is watching, please don't do that. Anyway, this is nonsense. We have...

#Mohammad Marandi

Mutual friends, or people who your viewers know, who have said that this is one big conspiracy by the United States, actually. They want to destroy the sources of global energy so that the United States can have its own monopoly. But, you know, they cannot replace the Persian Gulf. And the demand destruction that comes about as a result of the lack of supplies from the Persian Gulf, if Iran was to shut down the trade, which it could do tonight, all Iran has to do is just hit all the ships and, more importantly, hit the ports or hit the oil and gas facilities, and it's over. Then there's no oil, whether from the Red Sea or the Persian Gulf, because the Red Sea pipeline, it comes from the Persian Gulf. The oil fields—all you have to do is strike the oil fields. Who cares about the pipelines?

Some people say, well, they're going to build these new pipelines. Iran doesn't care. All you have to do is destroy the oil fields. So the billions of dollars that you put into the pipelines, they go to waste. The same is true with Fujairah. All Iran has to do is destroy the oil and gas facilities, and there's no oil and gas for years. How can Venezuela or the United States ever make up for that loss? It's just impossible. It would take many years and money which they don't have. And the demand destruction and the depression that we'd have would be imminent. It's just nonsense. I've been to Venezuela multiple times. I have good friends there. I know a thing or two about their oil production from friends. Their production is very limited. It's never going to replace, under these circumstances, anytime soon, many years in the years to come.

It's not going to necessarily—it's not going to be able to replace any of this stuff. And the United States can't do it either. So this is just talk. And when the prices go up, U.S. consumers are hit just as everyone else is, just as Brazilians are, just as Europeans are, just as Africans are, just as Asians are. Americans, North Americans, are hit too. And that's what really counts. I mean, yes, the oil companies and billionaires may, may, may be making huge amounts of money, but that's not going to keep society stable and the economy functioning for new people. So this is just not realistic. And again, Venezuela is a hostage. And every time Trump says this sort of thing, people across the world are just disgusted, because the United States is literally a hostage state, and Venezuela is the hostage.

And they're just emptying the bank account. It's like using the person to force that person to empty her own bank account. No different. I don't think this is good for the United States. The image of the United States is, you know, has been destroyed. But it's just—these acts just make it worse than before. So the crisis is growing. It is going to get worse. Venezuela is not going to change anything at all. And I think that Trump is—I think Iran is looking towards the midterm elections in the United States. And they're playing with Trump. And they want to make him sweat and suffer.

But again, that doesn't mean that we won't have escalation, because Netanyahu is desperate, because Trump may do something really stupid, or he may be trying and he's incapable. But let's say he does succeed in hurting Iran. Iran has said very clearly that it's going to strike back. And the appointment of the new chair of the Supreme National Security Council, as we discussed before, sends a message that the plan is to be more assertive. And when he goes and says that Netanyahu,

sooner or later, we're sending him to hell, that shows that there's a new mentality in the Supreme National Security Council. That's the course of action that's going to be taken.

And the person who chairs it is a very powerful figure. He's more powerful than the previous chair, personality-wise. He has much deeper connections with the senior people in the military and the non-military. But also, he has a mandate. It's clear that the leader, Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, wants to be more assertive. So the United States is making a foolish decision by escalating now. But again, as I said earlier, because of all these different variables and all these events happening simultaneously, it's impossible for me to predict what will happen in the weeks ahead. What I can say is that Iran is going to be tougher. Iran is not going to wait for the United States to start a war.

We saw that in, well, we're at war, but to restart the fighting. We saw in Jordan, as you and I discussed before, how Iran took the initiative. And we don't have a ceasefire, by the way. There is no ceasefire. And the countries on the other side of the Persian Gulf, they are in the U.S. camp. So if Iran wants to strike them, there's nothing stopping Iran from doing so. No one can say, well, why are you carrying out aggression? These countries are hosting U.S. forces. The satellite images that I've seen in the last few days show U.S. planes, refueling planes, in their airports because they just don't have the space in Israel and the Israeli regime, or elsewhere, to keep those planes.

Or in Jordan, they don't have suitable conditions. And there are huge numbers of troops in the Persian Gulf. The United States has assets across the Persian Gulf region. A lot of them are no longer in their bases, but they are in hotels. They're in buildings that they've rented. Well, they don't rent them. These governments give them for free. So these governments are considered to be hostile towards Iran. And we have no ceasefire. So if Bessent does something foolish, then Iran can take out AI facilities in the Emirates. They can take out banks. They can do much more damage than what the Americans can. And remember, these countries in the Persian Gulf are completely dependent on oil and gas. They can easily crumble. And by the way, this situation is also hurting the United States in a different way as well.

And that is that we see that the Japanese can no longer buy U.S. bonds, and they probably have to sell them. And we know that China wants out, and they've already sold most of their bonds. They've slowed down recently, from what I've seen, but they're not inclined to purchase bonds, definitely. They'll probably sell more. But one of the parts of the world that the United States needs is the Persian Gulf. These regimes, after they purchase their goods, all that extra money that they earn from oil and gas, the oil and gas sector, goes to the United States. It goes to buying bonds. It goes to buying stocks. It goes to buying assets in the United States. Well, for the last six months, they haven't been doing any of that anymore. They don't have the money, and they're going to have to start selling their bonds in large quantities.

And it's unclear how long they can last. And it's unclear if the United States will allow them to sell their bonds. I personally don't think many of these countries will ever see their money again if these countries survive. So the United States is being hurt in this respect as well. So the more damage

that's done to these Persian Gulf regimes, the more damage that's being done to the U.S. economy. And if U.S. assets in the Persian Gulf, like banks and AI facilities and so on, if these are also destroyed, that will have enormous consequences. So Iran has many options lying in front of it, all of it right across the Persian Gulf, very easy to strike and destroy. And there's nothing that the Americans can do about it. So the smart thing would be for Bessent not to behave so much like the Secretary of War. But these two people are just as abnormal as is Trump.

#Danny

Yeah, that might be an understatement for us. Let's bypass a little bit more cringe from Gottlieb Boff. First, let's look at what Scott Bessent is saying. And Scott Bessent is not taking your word, Chris Morandi. He is acting like a—some have even said that he's almost acting like the person who has now taken over at least the main public relations engine for the war. But as he said, "The Iranian people struggle to afford basic necessities. The corrupt regime continues to squander enormous sums abroad instead of funneling billions of dollars to its terrorist proxies. The regime should spend that money for its people." Oh, wait, no, this is the wrong one. Sorry. No, no, this is the right one. This is the right one.

#Mohammad Marandi

Yeah, yeah. I just wanted to say that, you know, first of all, what he is attempting to do is a crime against humanity. He's trying to strangle a nation, just like with Cuba and elsewhere. I mean, and I was on Channel 4 News a few days ago, and the report in the UK, and the report before my interview, which was longer than my interview, I think, the introduction basically went like, "The United States is imposing these sanctions, and the situation is getting worse in Iran, and now people are beginning to find their voice." And I said to him, I said that this is shameful, and I told him later on in a podcast—the host, he had me on a podcast that belongs to Channel 4, but they don't show it on television.

I said to him, it's sort of like—it's a crude example, but it's like a gang threatening to assault a woman because she refuses to do what it is they want. And then they gang— and then they assault her, and then she submits. That's how Channel 4—how it seems to me. When you're saying, yeah, instead of saying what Trump is doing is criminal, targeting children, targeting families, targeting people and trying to make people go hungry and people to die in hospitals and die of shortages and die because equipment in hospitals breaks down or their cars break down. Instead of saying that, they say, well, the sanctions—people are finding their voice. What does it mean, people are finding their voice? In other words, people are rising up to overthrow the system.

So it makes it sound very much like what Trump is doing is legitimate, regardless of whether the whole people finding their voice. I said millions of people were on the streets for the funeral. Who are they? They don't count, I suppose. But the point is that the mentality of Western media, of Western elites, is like that of the Zionists. They have no humanity. And I think probably it's because

after three years of genocide, it's just become normalized. So whatever, you know, whatever brutality they show, they take it. You know, Bessent wants to show his—you know, he wants to be like Hegseth, you know, show himself to be this powerful man. You know, I would say testosterone, but it's Bessent. But the point is that it's criminal.

But they pretend that this is legitimate and that it's achieving results or it's getting results. Now, again, I'm sure there will be people who are having a difficult time, and I'm sure they're going to do their best—the Western intelligence agencies, the Europeans and the Americans and the British and Israelis—to create some sort of insurgency again or violent riots. I'm sure they'll try for that. But the point is that making this act, these war crimes, look legitimate is exactly what Western media is trying to do. They're utterly illegitimate, utterly immoral. And it shows the West—the elites—to be morally inferior to the rest of the world because of the way in which they're prepared, the degree to which they're prepared, to destroy lives and kill people.

#Danny

And Mohammad Ghalibaf, his X post here is very good: “Instead of funneling billions to a terrorist state, Israel, and 750 bases, this failing empire could spend that cash on its own people. But nah, that would make too much sense for this regime. Scotty, man, your credibility is on the line. Do something.” I mean, there's a little bit of cringe here with the “nah” and the “Scotty, man,” but I don't want to... But the point is very good, in the sense that, I mean, if they would just get rid of the “nah” and the Scotty, then this would be really good. Well, the United States is in big trouble right now. I mean, lowest share of national income going to wages since the Great Depression. Corporate profits are soaring, but prices, cost of living is soaring as well. Debt is soaring, \$40 trillion national debt, but the debt of households is absolutely out of control.

And there are also many other major issues that are not just coming from this war, but I think an overall orientation that Ghalibaf speaks to here, which is, even though there's \$1.5 trillion supposedly slated for the U.S. military, the Navy somehow finds it necessary to take salaries of people who are literally told they have to go and deploy to the Middle East to wage this economic war, and maybe even a hotter war against Iran, that they have to take pay cuts just to do it. I mean, that seems to me the pinnacle of corruption in a system that is only showing its true face and true colors more and more. Your thoughts on this? Because the U.S. situation—these are things you don't hear about coming out of Iran. These are things you don't hear about actually coming out of all of the countries that we're told are the evil regimes that are so undemocratic, dictatorial, blah, blah, blah. So your thoughts on this?

#Mohammad Marandi

Yeah, well, speaking from the height of evil here in Tehran, the root of all evil, the original axis of evil. I mean, sometimes when people say Iran, Russia, and China, they say Russia, China, Iran. I say, no, it's Iran, Russia, China. We were here first. We were the axis of evil when they weren't. You

can't relegate us to second or third. It's not like in sports. We were here first. We demand to be the most evil of them all and to remain the head of the evil alliance against humanity. But yeah, I think it's—I think people are seeing through all this propaganda. I mean, whether they believe the propaganda about how many barrels of oil are going through the Strait of Hormuz, I think they know. People know that something is deeply wrong and that this is a crisis.

I mean, when the president of the United States has to every day say, "I'm winning and the trade is open," and then Hegseth says it's open, and then the Treasury Secretary has to impose all these new sanctions and the siege, it doesn't inspire confidence. If a company came out every day, a corporation came out every day, and said, "Our finances are great," the next day, "Our finances are great," the head of the CEOs, "Our finances are great," and then everyone else running the company goes in front of cameras every day saying things are great, then you can be pretty sure things are pretty bad. It's the exact opposite. If things were okay, you wouldn't have to say it all the time. I think people sort of recognize that. And then you have the debt, you have the bond market, you have the yen, you also have the AI bubble.

All of these things are hitting the U.S. and global economy, and the U.S. economy in particular, simultaneously. And this is not sustainable. And what the war against Iran has done is move this forward much faster. And I think we're going to see a huge impact on the U.S. economy in the not-so-distant future. I'm not an economist. I don't speak as an expert, but from what I'm hearing from experts, if this goes on for a couple more months, things are going to get very bad. And I have no doubt that the Iranians will maintain their control over the Strait of Hormuz, and that they will not normalize trade in the Strait of Hormuz until the genocide in Gaza stops, and, of course, the occupation in Lebanon and the rights of the Iranians are restored in accordance with MOU. We're not going to have a deal, come what may.

#Danny

Yeah, well, speaking of Gaza, I believe the tally now is up to, at least in terms of, I guess, out-and-out deaths from the genocide, is now over 71,000. But every day... They're in the hundreds of thousands. In the hundreds of thousands, yes, in terms of the, you know, Lancet reports, all of the combined deaths, I think, yes, definitely hundreds of thousands. But there are daily...

#Mohammad Marandi

They're not letting people, they're not letting them bring in medicine, oxygen. And this has been going on for three years. They prevented hospitals from functioning. They prevented people who have special needs to get treatment. These are all done on purpose. They do it so the kids die. They do it so that their parents die. They do it so that the adults die. That's objective. And so they're in the hundreds of thousands, no doubt.

#Danny

Yeah, and you combine that with Lebanon and the fact that Israel continues on, whatever—even if people want to call it more quote-unquote limited—it cannot be divorced from the context of this overall multi-year genocide.

#Mohammad Marandi

Yeah, just the day before yesterday in Lebanon, they murdered a young woman the day after her wedding.

#Danny

Yeah, I saw that. Yep. And then that poses the question then, Professor Morandi, I mean, I don't think anyone, even in the Western mainstream media, the think tank world, I don't think anyone is looking at the situation in the region as having a peaceful, immediate future on the horizon, just given, as we pulled up earlier, that even just when it comes to U.S. and Iran, there are lots of worries about ongoing deployments, Navy, military personnel, not least also the fact that the Strait of Hormuz question is not resolved in their perspective. So, and this isn't even counting Yemen and then Gaza and Lebanon, which Iran has said is going to be part of any deal if a deal should exist. And if not, then the war continues.

#Mohammad Marandi

They already are a part of the deal. Remember, the MOU, in Article 1, it says Lebanon and the other fronts. So obviously it's not just about Lebanon. At that time, the fighting in Lebanon—the Israelis were bombing Lebanon day and night, and they were doing to Lebanon what they were doing to Gaza during the first couple of years. It was the height of the genocide in southern Lebanon. So Lebanon was named, but the other fronts meant Palestine, Yemen, and Iraq. Later on, the Iranians, the Supreme National Security Council, said repeatedly, and also the chair mentioned this again two nights ago in his interview with Al-Manar, that all these are included. Gaza, from day one, was a part of the MOU, and it is a part of the MOU now. So there will be no agreement with the United States if there's a genocide ongoing.

#Danny

And then that poses the final question for us before I let you go: can Iran outlast the United States, then, in this, what is right now just an ongoing war that is becoming a long war? And it seems only the U.S. side, at least in terms of media, think tanks, the foreign policy establishment, they're the only ones really right now sounding a public alarm of concern. Iran has to.

#Mohammad Marandi

It's a fight for its survival. So, of course, they're targeting Iran. Of course, they're going to make life more difficult when they bomb the country, when they bomb factories, and when they impose a siege and use maximum pressure sanctions and have a huge coalition that includes the whole entire West and their regional proxies. Of course, it's going to have an impact. But the Iranians are steadfast, and they expected Iran to lose the war. They expected Iran to lose the 12-day war. They expected Iran to lose very swiftly during the 40 days of fighting this ongoing war. They expected Iran to collapse in siege warfare. None of that worked. They had to sign the MOU. Life is difficult for Iranians, no doubt.

And it may continue to get more difficult in the weeks ahead. And the West may try to instigate unrest or riots or armed insurrection here and there, but it's going to fail. The Iranians will remain firm until they get what they demanded, until they get what Trump signed on that piece of paper. He has to carry out his obligations. There's no way out of it. And the Iranians don't trust the United States for good reason. We were negotiating; they launched the 12-day war. We were negotiating; they launched this war. We signed an MOU; they did not implement the MOU at all. And so the Iranians are saying, not only do you have to implement it, but some elements of the implementation are preconditions, because we have to see you carry out your obligations for us to believe that you have any intention to fulfill your obligations in full.

#Danny

Well, Professor Morandi, it was a great show as always. I want to make sure that everybody knows to hit the like button before you head out. I'm actually going to let Professor Morandi go and stay on because I do owe YouTube members a private chat session. We will have a casual chat. We will talk about my take on various matters geopolitically and otherwise. So if you're interested, you can join and become a member right after I let Professor Morandi go here. But of course, you will be back for us around the... and I very much look forward to our next conversation. Any final words to the audience before you head out of here?

#Mohammad Marandi

No, no. Thank you very much for always having me. People should always keep talking about Gaza and Palestine.

#Danny

Yes, indeed. All right, everybody. Thanks so much to those who viewed the show today. Hit the like button before you go. Thank you, Professor Morandi. I'll let you go now. I'm going to stay here on the stage as I transition to the member show. Take care.

#Mohammad Marandi

Bye for now.

#Danny

All right, everybody, make sure that you not only hit the like button, but all the places to support this channel are in the video description below: Patreon, Substack, and much more. Yes, I am doing more content for members. I'm going to hit the... I'm going to move to the control room here and put members-only livestream. So, yes, this will be a casual chat. There's no content gatekeeping here. The public channel, the public show remains the same, a daily live program. And then I'll be doing weekly, several times a month, members-only live shows, bonus takes. But I do owe members this one. So, everybody, I will see you in one minute. Here we go. It's coming. So we're going to go members-only in one minute here.

When that happens, you can definitely join the show as it comes on. It was a great program with Professor Morandi. Tomorrow, Pepe Escobar, August 31st, 1 p.m. Eastern time, same time. All right, so hit the like button before you go. Join the show Monday, August 31st, with our good friend Pepe Escobar here. And I will see you all then. I'll know when this goes just for members when the waiting area declines. So, yeah, 22 seconds. All right, so you got 20 seconds. Of course, you can become a member of this great YouTube membership community whenever you want. You can do so now to be in this private chat. That would be incredible as well. So I think it's five dollars a month, so about a cup of coffee in most U.S. cities. And if you do that, yes, you get access to these private chats as well as