

Abby Martin BROKE INTO the US Military — Iran War WORSE Than You Think | Lowkey

BREAKING: US is attacking Iran as war spirals out of control. Journalist and filmmaker Abby Martin joins the show for the first time to tell us how her new film investigating the inner workings of the US military and its impact on the planet relates to the restart of the Iran war. She is joined by rapper and journalist Lowkey for a massive discussion on why Trump and the US empire's war is going worse than you think. Follow Abby Martin: <https://earthsgreatestenemy.com/> (watch the film) <https://www.youtube.com/EmpireFiles> <https://empirefiles.tv/> Follow Lowkey: <https://x.com/Lowkey0nline> SUPPORT THE SHOW BY BECOMING A YOUTUBE MEMBER: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOxLhz6B_elvLfntSEfnzA/join PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong>

#Danny

Welcome to the show, everyone. Danny Haiphong here. As you can see, I am joined by the one and only Abby Martin, independent journalist and documentary filmmaker, and so much more, as well as low-key rapper, independent journalist, activist, and more, to break down the latest developments. Before we get started, just to brief on what is happening now in the United States. And I think this is a really apt conversation to talk about Abby's new film, The Earth's Greatest Enemy, because the Earth's greatest enemy, the U.S. military, is now bombing Iran as we speak, targeting the following cities, provinces, and towns in Iran, especially along the Strait of Hormuz. This began at 12 p.m. Eastern time today. Part of these strikes hit a wedding today, injuring 50 people, killing four people, including children.

And as we speak, Iran is defending itself, retaliating against these strikes with especially missile attacks and drone attacks on Jordan. Now, Abby, I want to begin with you. You got really inside the military. You visited the RIMPAC exercises, these vast military exercises in the Asia-Pacific. You spoke to so many industry heads, military personnel, etc. Now that we are in this Iran war moment, and this is another seemingly endless war that has just restarted in a very hot way in the last few days, what can your movie tell us about this moment? And a lot of this has to do with oil. A lot of this has to do with the Strait of Hormuz, which is also a central point of your film in terms of planetary destruction and the U.S. military's impact on our environment. So I'll just kick it to you on what your film can tell us about what's going on right now.

#Abby Martin

Right. I mean, Earth's Greatest Enemy, it's a film about kind of the totality of U.S. military pollution. It started off as a journey just about calculating the actual number of climate emissions that are being obfuscated from us in these global climate treaties. Of course, in all mainstream political discourse and also basically media discourse about climate change, militarism is always excluded. And it's gargantuan. It equates, just on paper, of what we know, to more than half the world's countries combined. And then, of course, it just goes on and on and on: the maintenance of the arsenal, the dumping of toxic chemicals, just to keep an air force that's bigger than the next six countries combined.

But of course, you know, it's explicitly laid bare now under Trump 2.0. It's about oil. It's about plundering and pillaging the world's largest oil reserves, Venezuela being the first, Iran being the third. There's no hiding what this is. This is for oil corporations, and the U.S. military is simply the enforcement mechanism to uphold a system of savage capitalism at the barrel of a gun. And that's what we're seeing around the world, employed by Trump. I mean, the good thing about this moment, as dangerous and unpredictable as it is, is that there's no hiding, right? So this rehabilitation effort by neoliberalism for the last 40 years, it's just completely hollowed out and bankrupt.

And we see everything for what it is. But honestly, after finishing this film two years ago and going on this global tour, I never could have imagined how quickly all of this would ratchet up, how horrific it would all get, to a point where Trump would essentially be this chaos president that all of these ultra-loyalists are just ramming their destructive agendas through. Cuba, Venezuela—not even a goddamn nuclear strike is off the table with these maniacs, who are basically apocalyptic in their vision. And with Iran, I mean, first of all, the ecocide in Gaza, there's so much we could say about that.

But Iran, they're intentionally targeting oil depots, oil infrastructure, civilian infrastructure on the daily. We saw black rain falling from Tehran, impacting tens of millions of people. None of that's going to be contained. That's the madness that's driving this collective suicide for the planet. None of this is going to be contained in Lebanon or Gaza or Iran. It's global. It's generational. It's killing every single thing on this planet. And I just can't wrap my mind around how horrific this has gotten and how all of this has been normalized and essentially just put in the backdrop now because of just the rapidity and scale of all of these war crimes happening at us. It's a daily assault on our senses.

#Danny

Yeah, and low-key, I wanted to ask you, you know, given what Abby said, I mean, there is oil dredging up on the shores of Iran because of this absolute necessity of needing to enforce the Strait of Hormuz control, but also the fact that the United States has not ended this war and is actually restarting it. So what do you make of what's happening right now? And where would you like to begin? Anywhere you'd like to begin on what's going on? And you can unmute yourself, yeah.

#Lowkey

Well, let's be clear. According to one of the founders of the Project for a New American Century, Bob Kagan, the United States has been defeated by Iran. Now, that's not just his view. That's the view of millions of people across the globe. That's the view of figures within the U.S. military establishment, in which you have seen some form of rebellion against directives given to them by these insider traitors like Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth. That's the opinion of those who have studied the stockpiles that the United States has left of Patriot and THAAD missiles, the moving of air defenses from South Korea to the region in order to try and face off what Iran has achieved when you look at the fact that they operate on 1% of the U.S. military budget by establishing what they call the Mosaic Defense System, which is 31 military bases, underground cities, which are operational and have been very difficult for the United States to face off.

Even when you look at the way that those underground missile cities are structured, you're talking about 400 to 600 meters of granite covering up these structures. Even within them, there are tunnels that work on absorbing the shock from the bombing of the entrances of these cities, which have meant that they are still operational even after all of this time. This is not the way the wars are supposed to go when it comes to the United States. But in a way, it's the meeting of the military-industrial complex, which Abby and others have done so much to expose as essentially being about washing money out of the public purse and moving it into transnational corporations, because it's about the creation of cost based on threat inflation.

Whereas you look at the Iranian model in terms of building their defenses from figures like Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam and Amir Ali Hajizadeh and Mohammad Ali Jafari, these are specific figures in Iran's history who worked on systematizing the rocket production, the ballistic missile system, and then also this mosaic defense system. It's the understanding of a saying in Arabic, which: necessity is the mother of innovation, and the way in which they studied previous U.S. wars from Korea to Vietnam to Afghanistan to Iraq, worked out what were the existing vulnerabilities. And it's never before been the case that you've seen F-35s shot down out of the sky.

You've seen over 50 U.S. Reaper drones shot down when you consider the Yemeni armed forces, as well as the Iranian push. So what you have now is a situation where the United States has a circle which it cannot square. And that is the setting up of an infrastructure based on resisting it in a war of attrition. And so the U.S. will continue, really, to apply what looks like the Israeli model in Gaza. But Israeli wars are based on essentially the culling of the target population, particularly the Palestinians, maybe less so in Lebanon. It's about killing as many Palestinians as possible.

The Americans cannot wage wars on that basis because they have a financial system. They have taxes. They have companies that essentially, they want to dominate that country and that society. So if they are to apply the Israeli model in Iran, there are large groups of people that the United States have been appealing to in Iran to try and push out this government. They are losing potential allies with these bombing campaigns that have targeted over 100 medical sites across Iran. And so

that's not to say that they are morally superior to the Israelis. It's not to say that there is an inherent aversion to the killing of people on a massive scale. Of course, U.S. imperialism has killed more people than Zionism has.

However, when it comes to these types of carpet-bombing-style campaigns, the United States, it can kill, but it cannot win. And the longer this situation continues as it is, more people are being driven away from the petrodollar. Also, more interestingly, when you think about it this way, recently, Bessent, the U.S. overlord of finance, is trying to give directives to countries around the world not to trade with Iran. Ninety percent of Iran's oil is still going to China. Russia has told the United States, absolutely, we will not do what you want us to do when it comes to Iran. In addition to that, the UAE, of all people, while it has been really at the forefront of this war with Iran in some ways, it's still—one of its top trading partners is Iran.

Iran has missile superiority in the region, whatever the United States says. And according to The Washington Post, the UAE is not going along with the diktats of the United States in terms of trade with Iran at this stage. Turkey, Pakistan, they will also not go along with these diktats when it comes to trading with Iran. So this attempt to economically isolate Iran is going to be harder and harder the longer this goes on. And Trump is acting against not only large sections of the U.S. military, but also he's acting against large sections of his support base. So really, the United States is fighting a losing battle against Iran.

#Danny

And, you know, great points, Lowkey. And Abby, I wanted your thoughts on this, given all of the investigation you did on the U.S. military. Oftentimes Trump is viewed as, like, an aberration, somebody who is a particular—like, it's almost like a special kind of chaos—speaks his mind. You get what he says and what he thinks is out there. But how accurately, given all those that you spoke to, the people that you visited, the exercises that you got press passes for, how much does Donald Trump actually reflect what the U.S. military really is, especially in the case of Iran? Because here you have him just out there saying, "We're bombing Iran. They're very large and powerful. We're going to continue to do this. If Iran hits back, we're going to hit back even harder, and whatever's left of Iran will be gone." I mean, how much of this reflects the thinking and the actual inner workings of the U.S. military, Abby?

#Abby Martin

I mean, it encompasses the entirety. It's a supremacist superiority complex. I mean, we think that we have the ordained right to dictate other people's futures and dominate the globe under our boot. And that's exactly what Donald Trump says, the quiet part out loud. That's why everyone is so shocked by the lack of, quote-unquote, decorum and respectability politics. But every commander, every general that I talked to basically said the same thing. Once they realized I was adversarial, it started getting very like, "Oh, honey, okay, you're so naive. Like, we're never going to get off oil,

kid." But also just, "Yes, we have the right. We have the right to protect America's interests around the world, consequences be damned." And that's really clear. And it's very easy to get those answers quickly because it's not hidden at all.

But of course, they like to mask and obscure all this behind, you know, really colorful language that pretends it's about something else. But that's why they're so outraged about Donald Trump. It's just naked colonialism. But one thing that's really interesting to me about the corporate media coverage of this is just everyone has already ceded to the inevitability and notion that this is ours to take—that kidnapping, black-bagging a sovereign leader, putting him in a maximum-security prison, and then stealing all of the oil from Venezuela and transferring it to oil corporations. I mean, in what world, first of all, are MAGA supporters really that dumb that they think that this is going to be directly transferred into their pockets and make gas prices lower here?

No, it's all a complete scam. It really is like insider trading and just lining the coffers of these people. So none of this makes any sense. But yeah, I mean, this is really laid bare, right? This is exactly what they do every single day. War crimes are war crimes, war crimes. And, you know, Loki, I totally agree with you. There's one thing that I think the U.S. really loves about Israel, is flattening the moral threshold of war crimes and basically setting the stage higher than ever before, right? And so now, because we're so used to atrocities being so normalized, the U.S. now can just be in this war of attrition, this quote-unquote forever war, and it is just in the backdrop because of how many other crimes are happening on a daily basis.

#Danny

Abby, before we get back to Lowkey, I wanted to follow up with you, actually, on what you were saying there, because you've also visited Israel in the past, and you've spoken to Israelis, and they have been very forthright about how they feel and what they want on all of these issues, especially with regard to the Palestinian people. Maybe you could talk more about that flattening of the moral kind of compass, because, you know, under Trump, we've heard, you know, "No nuclear bombs for Iran, no nuclear weapons for Iran." We've heard everything from, "Iran is a terrorist regime that's been attacking the United States for 47 years." Before him, Biden was talking about rules-based order. There's different ways of justifying all of this, but how does the United States military, in particular, flatten this kind of moral code and compass more and more over the years, especially now? And why would it do it now? Why is it becoming so much more open now, do you think?

#Abby Martin

I mean, I think social media obviously changed the world alongside just the Gaza genocide, having to watch and bear witness to the most horrific bloodletting and wholesale slaughter of children on a daily basis that still continues. And now it's just mowing the lawn, a slow-drip genocide that every couple of days, they'll slaughter six children, and it just completely doesn't even make the news. So, yes, the threshold has been flattened so much. I think if we had that kind of social media exposure

during the Iraq War, we would be in a different situation today. But as we know, with past atrocities, these stories come out much later via whistleblowers, victims who survive.

I mean, that's why it's so insane to see this genocide be livestreamed and have it be normalized by the world, have this lack of action and the complete collapse of any sort of international norms, quote-unquote rules-based order, because they're willing to just give it all up, give everything up, this morality that they've basically masked themselves with to try to rehabilitate the true nature of U. S. imperialism for decades. They're willing to give that all up just to self-preserve, just because they want to attach themselves to empire, even if it's going to cost them their children's lives or the planet.

So this is the state of the world right now. It's completely insane. And Donald Trump is basically the chaos president. And because he's so unpredictable and so malleable at the same time, everything's on the table. And I never imagined that this is where we'd be, that Cuba, Venezuela, and Iran are all essentially up for grabs, and no one's doing a goddamn thing about it. And everyone's just saying, "Well, how's he going to do it?" It's so interesting. We're just sitting back and seeing, how exactly is he going to do these things that we know he will, and no one will stop him.

#Danny

Well, low-key, you know, to follow up on that too, you know, Trump said yesterday that, or I think it was last night, where he said something to the effect of, "Why would I use nuclear weapons against Iran? Because Iran is defeated." But the true reality of the situation is that's not the case. And there have been reports that the United States has been contemplating using nuclear weapons. This is incredibly alarming. But I'm curious whether you believe everything that you said earlier and everything that Abby's been saying, if that's really the trajectory here, given that self-preservation is really kind of the name of the game for the U.S. empire and the military behind it.

#Lowkey

Well, also, you have to take into account that the U.S. Secretary of the Army, Dan Driscoll, resigned literally in the last 24 to 48 hours. Before that, you had the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General Randy George, also in a state of forced retirement, thanks to Pete Hegseth. Now, these changes are significant because there are voices within the U.S. military who have been against this escalation with Iran because they know it's actually against their own interests. When you look at Trump and his own career, this is a short-termist. This is somebody who, if you look at the way that he ran his casinos, would run up insane levels of debt and then move all of the liability from that debt onto his employees and contractors before running out.

This is someone, historically, it has to be remembered, that Donald Trump had deep connections with what they call the mob, the five families in New York. But a little-known fact is that Donald Trump was an informant for the FBI. His handler at the FBI was Walt Stowe. He was somebody that

worked against what they called the mob by working with the FBI. So Trump has always been about self-preservation, but he's always been a short-termist. And I think that goes against some of the, I would say, more informed positions about what are U.S. specific interests in this when it comes to Iran. You have to look at it this way.

Iran has achieved what are, relatively speaking, miracles in the history of U.S. imperialism. You are talking about at least 15 bases in the Middle East basically vacated by the U.S. And even the big ones like Al Udeid in Qatar, which is the hub of CENTCOM, has basically been left with only what they call essential personnel. Even look at the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet. It's been reduced to less than 100 U.S. personnel in Bahrain. Why is that? That's because they know that rather than being essential signs of power in the Middle East, those are actual vulnerabilities for states that host those bases. You also have to look at Iraq.

You know, you have by the 30th of September 2026, a total withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq scheduled to take place. Why is that? That is because they are a vulnerability, and U.S. soldiers cannot defend those bases. Also, what Iran was able to do was, when U.S. soldiers went to civilian locations like hotels, thus endangering the civilian population in the places that they were, Iran was able to access information and intelligence from the phones of U.S. soldiers and target them within the rooms that they were staying in. This has never before happened when the United States has faced an adversary. But also, what the U.S. is trying to do is wage war on China through these wars.

Because when you look at the percentage of China's oil consumption that comes from either Venezuela, Russia, or Iran, you really have the lion's share, meaning that if the United States can, through the targeting of oil refineries in Russia through the Ukrainian forces, it can harm Russia's ability to export oil to China. If it can try and besiege Iran to the point where it can no longer export oil to China, if it can control Venezuela in the way that it clearly has with the collaboration, it seems, of Delcy Rodriguez exchanging selfies with Marco Rubio on WhatsApp, if that's the new status quo that the United States is setting up, then it's trying to shape the supply chains which essentially control power in the world today and really paving the way for a new status quo.

Whereas the U.S. military bases around the world and the U.S. Navy were essentially the guarantor of the capitalist system, whereby global trade could sail freely around the world, with the United States as guardians of it. So what the United States is now doing is weaponizing that system and saying, "We will enforce where trade flows around the world, and we will prevent particular competitors or enemies, official enemies, from being able to sustain themselves," in a way, with this new system we are setting up with Iran. But what is absolutely clear for the entire world to see is that Iran has not gone the way that the United States hoped it would.

And the personal corruption of Donald Trump is also something that I think is going to come back to really bite him in a major way. You know, this is someone who has set up, for a hundred thousand dollars a month, essentially insider trading via his Truth Social account. Truth Social is a company that he partly owns, by the way. And so he's having major corporations in the United States pay for

access to U.S. government policy early. When you look at the fact that his own son, Donald Trump Jr., joined 1789 Capital before, and that's the power really behind Polymarket, that Trump's policies vis-a-vis Polymarket and the dropping of a federal investigation into it led to a massive windfall for Donald Trump's son.

He is the only president that I know of that has had an active personal brokerage account while he's sitting in the Oval Office. He's making 3,600 trades a day, basically. So, 60 trades a day he made in the first quarter of 2026, around 4,000 trades. So this is somebody who is essentially using the position of president for personal enrichment. You know, he forced TikTok into the position it was in, where it was bought out in the United States by several main corporations. One of those corporations was Dell. Trump is now a major shareholder in Dell. So you're seeing the way that he's shaping all of this infrastructure around him. And ultimately, these things in the long term will not play well with his own support base.

And I think when people look at Hegseth, for example, this is someone that the Financial Times revealed, in the run-up to the war with Iran, was attempting to buy shares in major arms companies because, of course, there was going to be a payday for them. So these really are, you know, this is what they call a kakistocracy. It is ruled by the worst. They are the dregs of humanity. They are the worst of society, and they have risen to the top and been able to benefit from this horrific situation. And like I say, ultimately, Iran is teaching a major lesson to the United States and to Trump himself. He hasn't got that many more goes on this rodeo. And I don't think that people are going to sit by and allow him to keep doing this. You're going to have a backlash.

#Abby Martin

Can I just jump in there and just say, you know, a lot of Trump supporters actually support the Iran war. So I feel like there's this kind of overinflation about Trump supporters being anti-war and the MAGA base being anti-war. Because where is the anti-war base within MAGA? Polling shows the complete opposite, which is they all just support him. Because really, when you look at it, it is genuinely a cult. Like, I've never seen such cult-like groupthink around an individual before that I have Trump supporters. So I don't want to give too much credit to them, saying this is unpopular for them. They seem to just love whatever he does. But surely, I mean, look at the detachment from the ruling class and the constituency around Gaza. There are seismic shifts happening, which speaks to this political repression that we're seeing as a consequence, and the hysteria around individuals like Hasan Piker.

Meanwhile, just blatant authoritarian moves are happening every single day to crush dissent. I mean, what's happening with the Haitian population being dragged out in literal chains. And this is what the media is choosing to focus on. So, you know, we're about to see—there's a pressure cooker happening in the States. And, you know, it remains to be seen how that's all going to manifest. But yeah, not enough people are angry. We're not angry enough.

#Lowkey

I agree with that for sure. I mean, it has been reported in the last 24 hours or so that his approval rating has fallen to the lowest of his political career. Now, I guess the question is, how much of that is about these wars? How much of this is about Iran specifically? How much of it is about domestic issues? How much of it is about people's quality of life? You know, there's a direct correlation, I guess, with the escalation of war abroad, and specifically when it comes to Iran, because of the economic ramifications in people's daily life, literally the price of the things that they need on a day-to-day basis. So I'm sure that there's a relationship between the approval rating being at its lowest level and at least the reverberations of this war. I guess the question is also how many of those are people that, you know, support him ordinarily.

Perhaps from the English perspective, we maybe make more of someone like Tucker Carlson sort of being critical of him than is reflective of reality. But from our side, we don't have anything like the intellectual curiosity on the right side over the war in Gaza. I mean, we have a really solidly pro-Israel right in this country. The entire political spectrum, from what is the mainstream left to the right, is essentially solidly pro-Israel, solidly in support of Israel. To me, it seems like, and I think you're both positioned to be more informed on this than me, but from our perspective, it seems like there's been a little bit of an uprising on the issue of Gaza on the right to some extent. Would that be a fair assessment?

#Danny

Abby

#Abby Martin

A rift happening. Can you hear me? Certainly, there's a rift happening within right-wing spheres, obviously, over Gaza. And that's wonderful. I mean, let them all fight about it and let them splinter off into oblivion about this issue. And any support that wanes about this horrific genocidal apartheid colony is welcomed, of course. And any tactic that requires collaboration on a strategic level, I don't see the problem with. I think that there is a huge overinflated thing to be said about people like Marjorie Taylor Greene and Tucker Carlson. And I think there's something else going on there where it kind of all folds back into this conservative ideology that eventually pushes war, pushes Zionism and colonialism.

And I don't know, maybe there's something to be said about the U.S. eventually knowing that it needs to strip Israel as its ally and to self-preserve the mechanism of empire, because we know Tucker certainly doesn't dissent from imperialism. He hasn't said shit about Venezuela. Where is he on Cuba? So there's something strategic going on with kind of coaxing people into another fold. Unfortunately, that fold does not buck the institutions that essentially manufacture war in the first place. So I don't think that this is going to get too far, but it is fascinating to see it unfold.

#Danny

Yeah, definitely. And I wonder if some of it too is, as Loki, you were saying, the war is not going well. And it seems like Gaza and then Iran and what's happened in West Asia is a huge turn away. There's so many people in the combined West, in the United States, that are disgusted by this and are tired of it. So I'm wondering if some of that is also just kind of like reading the tea leaves kind of thing and moving accordingly politically, just as, Abby, you put it, self-preservation. Because if you stand for genocide now in the United States, if you stand for the Iran war, well, you end up being with a very unsavory and highly unpopular group of people. But, Loki, to you.

#Lowkey

Did you hear me? Okay, any comments? But I think, yeah, it is fascinating. But I think there's a—Sheldon Wolin called it inverted totalitarianism—a system of inverted totalitarianism whereby the political spectrum is so narrow that there are certain permanent interests that simply cannot be voted against. And really, it's interesting for me to see how all of that now is becoming—the sort of implicit unfreedoms which existed previously are now becoming explicit unfreedoms. So people that spent decades—well, at least the better part of a decade—going on about cancel culture and presenting themselves as advocates for free speech are actually revealing themselves to be the most censorious among us, those who are pushing for shutting down people over Palestine.

We all knew that Palestine was a red line when it came to free speech. But these charlatans were simply pretending that Palestine didn't exist in the same way. And now you see it coming out. And of course, within the Democrats, if you examine historically where the Israel lobby has directed funding to, and you look at how that's been allocated, they've almost given double the money to the Democrats as they have to the Republican Party. Now, why that could be, it's an open question. You know, you saw Ronald Reagan historically condemn Israel during the war in Lebanon, of course, while providing key support to them during that time. You even saw George Bush's father stand up to the Israelis in a very mild manner, mild-mannered and modest and moderate way.

But generally, it does seem like the next presidential elections, both sides of that spectrum within the United States are actually going to have to play down their servility to the Israelis. And perhaps that explains why you have seen this push to integrate the U.S. and Israeli militaries, where essentially what you will have is Israel not just being a recipient of military aid the same way it has been for our entire lifetimes; it's now actually going to have part of the most opaque budget in the history of the world. It cannot be audited, the U.S. military budget. And now Israel is going to have a role in the allocation of all of that resource.

So this is a way in which, I guess, pro-Israel policy is now going to be part of that inverted totalitarianism. We had the illusion of it being up for grabs within our political systems, as it being potentially something you might conceivably be able to vote against. But now the structure is closing

in to establish itself as something that simply cannot be in any way, shape, or form questioned and will go on as part of the infrastructure. So while we see the odd political character popping out, paying lip service to the Palestinian cause, unfortunately, what we see as time moves on, they are unable to really withstand that pressure.

And when it comes to actual policy, rather than statements on the side, so you could have someone like Zohran Mamdani, who takes interesting positions and indicates that he has interesting intentions. But then you have Jessica Tisch, who is the head of the NYPD, who comes from an Israel lobby family, a family that has contributed to the Israeli military materially, in charge of suppressing pro-Palestinian protests within New York City. You have Mamdani backing up key Israel lobby-backed Democrat figures. And then, in the case of others in the Democrats, you cannot produce out of either of these political parties a coherent form of anti-Zionism, a coherent form of pro-Palestinianism. What do you two make of that?

#Abby Martin

Around the world with this movie, I'm so shocked that the bar is so low here, as opposed to places in Europe with actual proportional representation, that you can advance people like Zach Polanski and other Green Party members across Australia. It's a similar thing everywhere. I went with the film. I was assisted by government officials, senators, parliamentarians. Here, the bar is so low for even so-called progressive members of Congress that you'll never see a wholesale endorsement of decommissioning the military empire, even talking about these things honestly like you are, Loki. Let's actually talk about what is happening right here, because we are systematizing, institutionalizing the partnership between a genocidal apartheid regime. How can we possibly advocate for BDS if this is all integrated together?

And of course, that's the intent, right? But where's the conversation about this? Where's the conversation about U.S. imperialism in the way that it needs to be, right? The military being the enforcement mechanism for it to uphold this unsustainable fossil fuel nightmare that we're witnessing. Where is the call to close bases? Where's the call to basically decry the U.S. as a global military empire that's subjugating the planet? All of these things are just baked in as part of the mythology of the U.S., and no one questions that foundation. So the integration with the Israeli military is just one case study of this wider problem of the lack of attention to what is really in front of our face and what really needs to be done to address the problem.

#Danny

Hmm. Yeah, and I've noticed too that even as we are now in a period where, whether it's Gaza and especially now with Iran, there's a lot of sentiment in the United States in particular against these things. But everything that you just said, Abby, in terms of questioning kind of the very basis for why the U.S. military does these things—why would the U.S. military and the Israeli military get together in this way, as Loki described it?—that's all almost normalized, even with what Iran has

done to defend itself and almost done the U.S. job for it in terms of closing these bases with its actual self-defense strikes. The questioning of whether the U.S. should be there or not, it's being framed by the establishment as maybe it's just not in our interest, rather than, why the hell is the United States there? For what reason is it actually there for? But maybe, Abby, if you want to follow up on that before giving it to us.

#Abby Martin

No, I mean, just the fact that there's no questioning about why Maduro is sitting in a maximum-security prison and having been kidnapped, having his resources been pillaged—a complete destruction of this incredible Bolivarian project. Meanwhile, the sitting president, the CEO of the empire, is, like, flagrantly breaking the law every goddamn day. I mean, I've lost track of the amount of—like Loki just said, just the Truth Social thing, just that insider trading to charge people for inside access so then they can do insider trading. What the hell? How come we're not holding this man to account? It's all what you realize, you know, as a poli-sci major. You realize checks and balances, it's really just whoever wants to do them.

Nothing really stops these people from becoming fascists or tyrants or authoritarians, because the law only just means a bunch of paperwork stacked up that you don't have to really do anything about. No one's going to stop you. You've stacked the courts. Congress is a bunch of complicit cowards, Zionists, imperialists who are totally detached from what people are suffering on a day-to-day basis in this country. So yeah, everyone's sitting back and saying, "How the hell did this happen?" Well, this is American democracy. Trump is the perfect representative of it, just like Netanyahu is. He's not an aberration. He's the perfect encapsulation of what this country really represents.

#Danny

Yeah. And it's been rich, low-key, to watch, as you said earlier in the program, people like Robert Kagan sound the alarm about Iran, and a lot of the establishment now talking about the quagmire of the Middle East, when the United States bipartisan consensus, along with the UK and the combined West, have created this problem. And for very good reasons, in their estimation. They're just reasons that are not working out so well anymore. But, Lowkey, to you— oops, sorry, hold on. I muted you by accident. Start again.

#Lowkey

Well, of course, you have, in the case of the UK, really, essentially, what is said by the government is PR. It's a way to manage the infrastructure. So throughout Israel's genocide in Gaza, you had the British government saying one thing, but then at the same time, the spy flights for the R1 Shadow plane were going across the top of Gaza and assisting the Israelis. Even in the case where three former British soldiers were bombed and killed by the Israelis, on that very day there was the R1

Shadow spy plane of the British Royal Air Force in the sky assisting Israel's campaign. And so with Andy Burnham, he can say what he's saying, the new prime minister.

But there seems to be some pushback from the Israel lobby groups here because he's talking about a small number of sanctions on Israeli settlers. But there's so much infrastructure that exists independently of what happens in the political sphere and what is publicly available. And it's how do you go about breaking that infrastructure, and whether the will does or doesn't exist? Also, when you look back at the Robert Maxwell PROMIS software scandal, where this software was sold to the United States, which had a backdoor for Israel to access, you look at the case of Jonathan Pollard, somebody who was a key spy for the Israelis within the U.S. military.

So much of what happened then and led to actual ramifications and was scandalized has basically been normalized and de facto legalized over the past few decades. So you get a company like Oracle. Now, Oracle's CEO, Safra Catz, went on record saying that they directly assisted Israel in Gaza. Oracle is now the key owner of TikTok. Oracle was also founded by Larry Ellison, who is, of course, the largest donor to the Friends of the IDF in the history of the charity, somebody who's also funded settlements in the West Bank. It's also someone who offered the directorship of Oracle to Benjamin Netanyahu. Now, what does Oracle handle in the United States?

Only all the most sensitive databases at the Pentagon and whatnot. What does Oracle handle in Britain? Only the Ministry of Defence data, only the Foreign Office data, only the National Health Service data. So Oracle was set up to service the CIA, but has an explicit pro-Israel agenda. Safra Catz has even gone on record and stated that if our employees do not like us putting Israel second to none, then they can find another company to work at. And so it is ostensibly a U.S. company. And as I say, it provides data cloud services to all the key national security infrastructure in the United States and also now in this country.

But literally, Netanyahu is only not the director of that company because he refused the job. And so this is the situation we are in now. Things which decades ago were scandalized and stigmatized and literally led to major headlines across the world. The PROMIS software scandal was seen as something, a real aberration. But unfortunately, since then, a lot of what was not possible then has basically become the norm now. So that sort of establishment of a trilateral security state has played out in an interesting way. And I guess the question of where Trump is in that relationship with Netanyahu—you know, around 2010, Netanyahu's political office leaked a note of people that Netanyahu considered to be funders of his political campaign.

They called them Netanyahu's millionaires. Now, there were some interesting names on there. One of the names was Donald Trump. This was at a point when Donald Trump was very far from political office. But not only was Donald Trump on there, people who now fund Trump were on there. Over at least ten of them that I investigated are also major funders of Trump, talking Isaac Perlmutter,

talking Ron Lauder. We're talking figures like that. So clearly there's a particular nexus of individuals who coalesce around these same figures, whether that be Netanyahu in Palestine or Donald Trump in the United States.

They have objectives, they are organized, and they seem to have achieved some pretty important achievements for themselves with this situation. You know, the war in Iran is the realization of several decades. You know, even back to Jimmy Carter, they had the Zagros Mountains strategy for the United States to somehow invade Iran through the mountains. Of course, that was a complete delusion on the part of the U.S. security establishment. And Trump seems to be the one that was stupid enough to finally try and take it over the line. But even he has clearly realized that they cannot invade Iran. And if they did try to invade Iran, it would be an act of desperation to try and disable what was happening in those missile cities. So, you know, when it comes to a war of attrition, Iran is not going to bow down.

#Danny

And speaking of history, Abby, you know, in your film—and everyone should watch the deleted scene that you posted on your YouTube, The Empire Files, because it talks—Lowkey said this is a product of decades of work by the empire. You talk about the U.S. military and all the wars that it has fought as being a byproduct of centuries, really, of history. Now, maybe, you know, we have about 10 minutes or so left. Wherever you want to go with what Lowkey said and this kind of historical context behind what is looking like a more chaotic, desperate, but still very dangerous period for U.S. military supremacy.

#Abby Martin

Right. I mean, clearly the state of violence, the extreme violence being propagated by the U.S., the extreme rhetoric and propaganda that seems self-defeating, but I think it's because it is an act of desperation, similarly to Zionism. I think, in a way, these people feel like this is the ultimate political capital that they will have, that this is their moment. You know, Trump's chaos presidency, again, being able to ram all of these extremist agendas through—Marco Rubio's dream, the coalescence of this domestic policy of this extreme anti-Cuba lobbying campaign. And now he's, you know, secretary of state. I mean, this is a dream come true. But everything is on the table, and that's what's so scary about it.

But as Lowkey mentions, this is the natural culmination of neoliberalism. This is the result that we get. Trump is the natural extension of a system that has institutionalized this madness and collective insanity. Go back to basically what the U.S. military was initially used for. We go back in this episode, and we released, as you mentioned, a 13-minute deleted scene from the movie. The movie was already two hours long, but this isn't Lord of the Rings, so we didn't want to put you through

that hell. So we released the 13-minute extra scene. Everyone should check it out. It really just traces the ecocidal nature of the U.S. military back to its origin. I mean, synonymous with Manifest Destiny.

It was always also known as a conquest of nature. Native and Indigenous people were always seen as the barbarians and the savages that could be destroyed alongside the land. This was the stated intent from even the first military general that said it was a boundless, hideous wilderness and it needed to be destroyed to please God. And so, you know, the first extraterritorial military bases, first military bases outside of the frontier territory, were to protect trappers, to basically just trap a slew of mammals for hats and scarves for Europeans. And then the first extraterritorial military bases outside of the United States were coaling stations to protect trade, coal, which later turned to oil.

And that became cemented as the national security priority. You know, obviously all the empires were fighting each other in World War I. The U.S. came out as supreme, and Roosevelt decided to, instead of nationalizing the defense industries as every other European country did, he privatized them. And so all of these benefactors from the war, you saw the rise of war merchants, and it was fused into a permanent war economy and it solidified itself as the supreme and dominant empire. And so from that point, the ruling class used to be very proud of its imperialist nature. They considered renaming the U.S. Imperial America because it was very proud of all its acquisitional territories in the turn of the 19th century.

But then, of course, we saw this stage of rehabilitation after the Cold War, the gross propaganda campaign. Of course, 9/11 followed after everyone pretty much knew the CIA was the most evil entity on the planet, responsible for tens of millions of deaths. Then 9/11 happens, and so here we are 20-plus years later with Trump really, again, laying it all bare with the Monroe Doctrine, or the Donroe Doctrine, to reestablish control over what he calls his backyard in Latin America. And it goes so far beyond this empire of bases and the sanctions regime, which we know dramatically escalated as a tactic of empire after 9/11 as well.

It's just the threats, right? It's the great power competition. It's the reaction from Russia and China at just the extreme belligerence of this country, the complete madness, and the response to that from all these countries as an act of self-preservation. You cannot look at any country in the world today without imagining what they could be like, what the world could be like, not under the confines and dictates of this global military dictatorship. So there's so much more to be said, but please check out the scene and check out Earth's Greatest Enemy. And it really is supposed to be a tool of intervention for the environmental movement as a whole.

We need to confront the enemy in the room—the elephant in the room—which is the enemy, the enemy, which is a system and machinery of imperialism that's destroying the planet and its habitability for all future generations. I brought two children on this planet. I'm not going to give up without a fight because these maniacs are robbing our future. They're robbing our planet. They're destroying so much. But you know what? There's so much that they haven't taken that's worth

fighting for. And so, you know, we shouldn't cede to the inevitability that they want to, you know, curate this artificial consensus in our faces to make it seem like it's too late, to make it seem like MAGA's won. And, you know, it's the end of history.

Like Francis Fukuyama said, there's a better future that's possible, and we need to fight for it. It is not too late. And so this is kind of my ode to that. It's my odyssey, Earth's Greatest Enemy. Six years to put this together. But I think it's a really necessary tool for consciousness and to kind of build upon this burgeoning movement that we see of people all around the world bound by international solidarity, using Gaza as the connective tissue to understand why ICE agents in the streets doing field executions is the same system, as Lowkey said, as the child in the rubble in Gaza, as the Congolese person mining rare earth minerals. We are all the same. And, you know, it's our privilege and our duty as Americans to speak out at the very least. And that's what I'm trying to do, as you all are.

#Danny

Yeah. Beautifully said, Abby. Well, Lowkey, I'll give you final words for both of you, Lowkey. And then, Abby, if you want to close it out, then I'll make sure that everybody knows to check out the film. But, Lowkey, to you.

#Lowkey

No, I would say thank you very much, Abby, for those words, and thank you for the film. I look forward to watching it, and I suggest everybody else does the same. And much respect for your decades of work, Abby, and long may it continue.

#Danny

Thank you. Yeah, Abby, anything you want to say other than that was a great ode? But I'll give you the final word.

#Abby Martin

Well, thank you. I'm going to close it there. Mic drop from Lowkey. Everyone watch the movie. No, Lowkey, I jumped at the chance of doing this with you because you know how much I respect you. Brilliant, and you're amazing, and you're an inspiration to us all. Not only are you an intellectual, you're also an incredible artist, and you really speak truth to power in every possible way. And thank you, Danny, for doing incredible critiques of the empire, for being, you know, just really steadfast in your work and commitment to make the world a better place. So thank you guys so much for hosting me. It was really great.

#Danny

Yeah, no, this was incredible. You're two of my favorite people. I'm so happy that we were able to do this. I want to make sure everybody knows, in the video description below, you can find the link directly to the film, where it is playing, where it is streaming. Definitely watch it. We had somebody here in the audience already say that *The Earth's Greatest Enemy* is brilliant and a must-watch. So definitely check out the film. Definitely support the film. Also, Empire Files is in the video description below, the website, YouTube channel. Lowkey's social media is there as well, his X account, so be sure to follow everything he's doing because Lowkey's doing incredible and important work as we all face down what seems to be the end times for this empire, which, you know, for all the resistance that is going on, the end times for the empire does bring quite desperate and critical conditions that you both outlined here that we need to confront.

So, without further ado, everybody, thank you so much for watching. Thanks to all the Super Chats, all of the audience, and, of course, to the moderators for helping out. We're going to head out of here. Hit the like button before you go, because that will boost the show in the algorithm after we are done. And, of course, check out all the places to support Abby and Lowkey's work in the video description below, as well as for this channel too. Alright, I'll see you tomorrow, September 2nd, 4 PM Eastern Time. I'll let you know what's happening soon. Take care. Peace out. Alright.