

Brian Berletic: Iran HITS US Navy HARD, Trump Readies MASSIVE Counter Strike!

Brian Berletic of the New Atlas discusses how Iran's successful retaliation has led to desperation for Trump & the US empire, and how China and Russia are preparing for an unthinkable war that's already underway yet no one's talking about it. The New Atlas: <https://www.youtube.com/@TheNewAtlas/> 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. As you can see, I am joined by Brian Berletic of The New Atlas, geopolitical analyst and commentator. Brian, good to see you again. I wanted to just get right to it and ask you about your analysis of the current situation. You have Iran right now having retaliated successfully against renewed U.S. strikes. Now, there are all kinds of contradictory reports about where the Trump administration is going to go with the war on Iran, with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting that occurred recently, and BRICS, the summit, is coming up in New Delhi very soon. We also have, of course, the conflict in Ukraine still raging, and they have not given up, the U.S. has, in militarizing and provoking China. So where are we right now, Brian? Could you talk to us about what's the current situation geopolitically and what should we really be paying attention to as we follow these changing and fast-paced developments?

#Brian Berletic

First of all, thank you so much for having me back on. And I think it's very important, the way you laid this all out. You laid it out looking at the big picture. You're not just focused on only Iran and how that conflict appears to be going, or the conflict in Ukraine, or what is happening in Asia. When you're trying to figure out what the U.S. is doing as a modern-day global empire, you need to look globally at what it is actually doing and try to connect all the conflicts together, because they are all connected together.

A single group of special interests in the United States driving its foreign and domestic policy for their own benefit, and they look at foreign policy as a means of doing that abroad. And so everything that they're doing abroad is all connected to their objective of pursuing greater power.

That is what drives the U.S. political and economic system. And so, that said, looking at the conflict in Iran, people are hyper-focused on the U.S. war of aggression, these attacks on Iran, the Iranian retaliation. Iran's ability to retaliate is a good sign. It means that Iran is surviving this conflict.

They maintain an ability to defend themselves, to raise the cost, at least raise the cost for the U.S. in this conflict, and push the U.S. to its limits, its military limits, in terms of what assets it needs to keep in theater in West Asia versus what it's able to allocate for all the other wars of aggression, very similar and linked wars of aggression it's waging elsewhere, including, you mentioned Ukraine. This is a U.S. proxy war of aggression against Russia. And yes, the U.S. is still militarizing the Asia-Pacific region. And everywhere in between, the U.S. continues to meddle politically through organizations like the National Endowment for Democracy, which is like the tentpole. And then you have all these adjacent organizations working alongside it to interfere and try to politically capture countries and tip the balance of power globally further in U.S. favor. I see you have something on the screen.

#Danny

Yeah, just as you continue, I'm just complimenting what you're saying in terms of pushing the U.S. to its limits. This is becoming far more acknowledged, even within sources in the Pentagon, even though officially the Pentagon says, absolutely not. The United States—what did Trump say recently? "We have all the weapons. We have all the weapons we need. We can do this forever." But behavior seems to say differently. But Brian, please continue.

#Brian Berletic

Absolutely. If you want to try to figure out what is going on geopolitically, start first by completely ignoring whatever U.S. President Donald Trump is saying. His role in all of this is not to decide anything. The Trump administration, just like the Biden administration, was in charge of absolutely nothing. They're not determining policy. They are continuing it. They are selling it to the public or trying to distract the public away from it. And so this is what President Donald Trump and his administration—that's what they are doing right now. But yes, U.S. stockpiles have been depleted. We've been talking about this for years. And this was actually a problem even before the 2022 escalation in Ukraine.

We remember talking about Patriot missile shortages because of the U.S. proxy war against Yemen through Saudi Arabia, and how Saudi Arabia was burning through Patriot missiles, how there was a global shortage even then before 2022. And so from '22 onward, it's only gotten worse. And then the U.S. launching this war of aggression against Iran has compounded it even further. And so what they're doing is—people have to remember—the U.S. is not going to run out of ammunition. They're constantly making more ammunition. The problem is they're incapable of stockpiling sufficient amounts of it for the type of large-scale shock-and-awe campaigns that they were so fond of doing all throughout this 21st century.

And so what's happening now is we see Washington playing these games, trying to cool things off for a couple of weeks, a month, two months. And what are they doing in this time? They're stockpiling weapons for the next round of all-out aggression against a targeted country, and in this case, Iran. They're trying to do different things to rectify this, but it is impossible for the U.S. to do so. They will and they are expanding military-industrial production. But relative to Russia and China, we don't know what Iran's military-industrial production is. We see them still firing missiles, but we don't know what it is precisely. But regarding Russia and China, at least, the U.S. will never catch up to either—just Russia, let alone China, let alone Russia and China combined.

They are working together, and they're also working together with Iran. This is a growing problem the U.S. has. This is something we've been talking about for many years: the terminal decline of the United States as a global empire, the rise of multipolarism, and America's ability to compete with the multipolar world—with just China alone, even. It is incapable. It cannot compete. It will never match or exceed what China is capable of doing across a growing number of metrics. So what it is doing instead—and this is very obvious, and many people are catching on to this now—it is trying to destroy everything. China is rising. How?

It's rising by being involved in the global economy, being the number one trade partner for the majority of people and nations on planet Earth, by importing raw materials and energy, exporting huge amounts of manufactured goods. This is how China is rising. So what is the U.S. planning to do? They can't match China in any shape, form, or way. They will disrupt everything. They will disrupt the global economy, they will disrupt the flow of energy and natural resources to China, and they will try to disrupt China's export of manufactured goods to other countries. They do this by politically capturing a country, changing its policy to exclude imports from China. The ban on Huawei is a good example of this.

The ban on Chinese electric vehicles is another example of this. So this is what the U.S. is doing. People always, for some reason, misunderstand my message. They say, "Brian, you act as if the U.S. is unstoppable. They have these plans and they just unfold, and there's nothing you can do about it." No, that's not true. And I've talked about the terminal decline of the U.S. for years and years, and the rise of multipolarism. What I'm warning about is the U.S. understands this. They have a strategy, and the strategy is to just destroy everything and hope, on the other end of it, they can come out and reassert themselves over China, Russia, Iran, the multipolar world that they're trying to destroy, that they are currently waging war against.

#Danny

Yeah, I think that's a really important point because there are some who say that's not a strategy at all, but it is the trajectory. It is the interests. And I think that's what's important here, is you are speaking to the interests of those powerful oligarchs, the special interests, you call them. They are the ones who do not pull back just because they are not in control. Actually, how long, Brian, have

we been dealing with this Iran war now? And just look at this. Just look at all of the Truth Social posts. This is all about the Strait of Hormuz. It's open. It's closed. It's open. It's closed. We're winning. We're hitting Iran. We're celebrating.

Everything is good. And yet, what has been continuous, no matter what Trump says on Truth Social, no matter what his administration is saying out of their mouths, is that there are obviously forces inside of the regime that want to continue the war and want to try and do what they set out to do in the beginning, that they failed to do in probably the most important moment in the beginning of the war, which was to destroy the government, overthrow the government, and turn Iran into a Syria or into an Iraq or into an Afghanistan. They failed to do that. Of course, Afghanistan, they eventually got kicked out anyway.

But my point is they failed to do the initial step of destroying the regime, the so-called regime change. And now, what we're seeing is not, oh, well, we give up and we're going to realize that the United States doesn't have the ability to enforce and police the world anymore. No, actually, it doubles down. And these forces double down. And they try harder. They try again. They try something different. But I think that's really important to note because I think this is a theme we've seen across even just recent history. Even just the second Trump administration has been a lesson in this, I think, that the empire is always looking for ways to expand, and we have to be aware of that.

#Brian Berletic

Yes. Well, again, President Trump, with these social media posts, is engaging in perception management. Yes, certainly. If the U.S. could overthrow the government of Iran, it would do so. I don't think they had any—I don't think they had any belief that there was a high percentage of them succeeding. They needed to start this war again. They needed to disrupt the flow of hydrocarbons from West Asia to the rest of Asia, especially to China. They needed to do these things. If they could topple the government of Iran in the process, of course, they would love to do that. That's been on their list of things to do for decades, decades and decades, not just the Trump administration. But what they do want to do is disrupt maritime shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. So they do this charade, this political circus, President Trump especially.

Oh, we're trying to open it. We need to keep it open. Because if he told the truth, the U.S. is deliberately disrupting the flow of energy from West Asia to create a global economic crisis. Well, then everyone would know what was going on. They would immediately turn against the United States. They would enact emergency policies within their respective countries to deal with this, to begin containing the United States, to react to what it is doing to disrupt and destroy the global economy. So instead, they just pretend we're trying to keep it open. It's Iran that's creating the problem. Ultimately, it was the U.S. who started this. And as I pointed out, if you look years before this whole round of aggression began against Iran, which began under the end of the Biden administration, I would point out continuity of agenda.

U.S. energy corporations were developing the capacity to export huge amounts of LNG to Asia. They've been working on this for years. It made no economic or business sense at the time. But I've pointed out presentations where they literally said this: this is to respond to maritime choke points, contested waterways. And at the time they were making these presentations, there were no contested waterways restricting the movement of energy from, say, West Asia to the rest of Asia. But now there is. So this is what they were preparing for years, and events under the Obama administration, the first Trump administration, the Biden administration, and now it has come full circle. This is where they're executing the plan. We have this LNG capacity. We can export it to Asia.

Not nearly enough for what Asia needs, which is part of it. You don't want Asia to have access to energy. You're trying to govern—restrict the economic power of Asia because you're trying to reassert yourself relative to the growing multipolar world. And so that was what they were doing. That's what they are still doing. The objective here is to create a global economic crisis, to target the energy flow from West Asia to the rest of Asia. And by playing this game in the Strait of Hormuz and across the rest of the region, they are succeeding in doing so. And so, yes, they are in terminal decline. Yes, they have these limits on their military power. But that aside, they are still pursuing their objectives and, to a certain degree, at least for now, achieving them.

#Danny

And a lot of that also is about the profits of these oil monopolies, which this whole—especially with the Iran war—we've seen much commentary about market manipulation. Even Mohammad Ghalibaf in Iran, the head of the parliament, top negotiator, envoy to China, makes comments about this all the time. Actually, just recently, commenting on Scott Bessent and the obvious trading that's going on, market manipulation of oil that's going on with each successive move the U.S. makes in this war. But I think behind all of this is oil profits.

I mean, to try to corner and destroy countries like Iran, Russia, and China, you are also trying to corner energy markets so that you have a monopoly over them. And I think that's what's happening. And we see that with Venezuela quite clearly. So I think there's a big part of that too, Brian, is that some of this is just pure competitive profiteering. They want Russia's oil kaput. They want Iran's energy capabilities gone because they want that market. Either they want that market or they want it gone, and they want to control the flow of energy. Not really rational, as you've said many times, but I think there is a big impetus here. Your thoughts?

#Brian Berletic

No, actually, I mean, this is the fundamental problem. So if you, again, you look at what is driving these U.S. interests, it is profit and power. And if you're pursuing profit and power, what is the number one thing on your list to do, other than getting profit and power? Eliminate the competition. I've referred to that 1992 New York Times article regarding the U.S. national security strategy,

basically to eliminate all rivals, to ensure no rivals rise to contest American unipolar power around the globe. That's what it was all throughout the Cold War. They wanted to get rid of the Soviet Union to be the single pole of power on planet Earth.

And then since the Cold War, they've been trying to stop the reemergence of Russia, stop the rise of China, stop the rise of any other nation or group of nations that would seek independent policies in terms of economics, international relations, independent of U.S. power and hegemony over the planet. And that's what they're doing. And so this is what is driving absolutely everything that they are now doing. Yeah, exactly, this one right here. If you read through the entire article and then you read through contemporary U.S. policy papers, policy papers produced by think tanks funded by the corporations that actually run the United States, not the politicians in Washington—corporations on Wall Street fund these think tanks—if you read their papers today, it's almost identical, except you just change a few words, whoever is president at the time. And it reads as the exact same process, the exact same mindset.

#Danny

Continue, Brian. Sorry. So, Brian, there is also, on the other side of this, there have been many who have said, even in the mainstream, we've seen arguments about Iran's power actually rising during this war. We've seen also, of course, commentary about Russia and China being able to, despite all of the attempts—the Ukraine proxy war to contain, isolate, and destroy the Russian government under Vladimir Putin, and, of course, the military encirclement campaign and the sanctions and, you know, the vast array of propaganda against China—to weaken China.

Many have made the argument that actually what's interesting is that despite all the damage—and it's legitimate damage—I mean, the United States did kill, you know, almost a dozen civilians at a wedding party just because. It's not like the U.S. can't cause damage. But there's also arguments about Iran and Russia and China having actually grown in stature, power, prestige during this period. What do you make of this, and what kind of problems does that, if true, present to the U.S. empire, which obviously is doing everything—everything it's doing is geared towards stopping that? So what do you think is going on here? Your thoughts.

#Brian Berletic

We have to be very careful about how we gauge a nation gaining or losing power. For example, Russia, in regards to the conflict in Ukraine, we're watching its military-industrial production ramp up. We're watching how resilient its economy is. We have to be very careful about which claims we believe and which ones we throw away. And we should always be aware that the truth is usually somewhere in between the extremes that people who are either pro-Russian or pro-Ukraine, pro-West, are going to say. The truth is usually somewhere in between. So if you listen to pro-Russian sources, everything is better than ever. That's probably not true.

If you listen to anti-Russians, I mean, we've been hearing this for years: Russia is going to collapse tomorrow. That's obviously not true because they've been saying that for years, and it hasn't collapsed. That's probably somewhere in the middle. This conflict that it's fighting in Ukraine is at a tremendous cost for Russia, channeling huge amounts of national resources, including human resources, into this conflict. It's not trivial. It is a huge cost. It is overextending them. And that is literally the title of a policy paper the U.S. put out in 2019, "Overextending Russia," from the RAND Corporation, where the goal was to tie Russia up in all of these different places and overextend it.

Now, will they overextend it to the point where it collapses? That's the question. We can't be sure. What we can say for sure is Russia had interests in Syria. They wanted to protect the sovereign government of Syria from U.S.-backed regime change. And Syria collapsed at the end of 2024. Iran had similar interests in protecting Syria. They were existential interests because the collapse of Syria meant eliminating the air defense network and creating an air corridor for U.S. and Israeli forces to then directly strike at Iran, which is what they immediately began doing. If you're paying attention to the conflict in Lebanon, it's not going all that well for Hezbollah.

If you look at their success in 2006 and now what is happening in 2026, in 2006, Israel spent about a month trying to reach the Litani River. This is a river that kind of creates what is southern Lebanon. They could not reach it. They definitely couldn't cross it. Today, Israel has about 20% of Lebanon's territory under their control. They have gone north of the Litani River. And do you know how they ended up doing that? The client regime the U.S. installed into power in Syria in 2024, led by Al-Qaeda, ISIS terrorists, they invited the Israelis in, and they just simply went up past the Litani River and then cut into Lebanon north of the Litani River.

And so that doesn't sound like, if Iran was becoming more and more powerful, something like that would not be possible. So there are aspects of development in Iran that are making it more resilient and more capable of raising the cost for the U.S. It's exhausting the U.S. It's overextending the U.S. to a certain degree. Russia is doing the same in Ukraine. But we cannot ignore all of these other factors, instances where we see Russian and Iranian interests suffering losses, suffering setbacks. We have to accept that. We have to add that into the equation if we truly want to know what is happening and where things are going.

#Danny

Well, the United States definitely—and obviously, it's what you just laid out—the U.S. is trying to, of course, with Israel in the region, I think this is true globally, it's trying to, what would be the—maybe this is an inappropriate term, but for lack of a better term—trying to consolidate over maybe low-hanging fruit, which is weaker elements. I mean, Syria, definitely. I mean, we've even heard Syria trying to offer the al-Qaeda regime a, I don't know if this is even possible, a land route alternative to the Strait of Hormuz. That's now coming out. As well, we see Shara Jolani playing basketball with CENTCOM's Bradley Cooper.

You know, that Syria is obviously, in terms of its regime, incredibly valuable to the United States. And I think we see this everywhere. The U.S. is trying to use what advantages it does have with puppets, vassals, proxies, whatever you want to call them. But that's still a reality, and that, of course, is always going to be a concern because it's what led to Russia having to fight this war against Ukraine. So it led to Iran having to do what it did, which is absolutely target all of these Gulf states' U.S. bases, and to this day is probably going to have to do that for quite some time, you know, over and over and over.

I mean, you know, and China, of course, having to contend with Russia. Its economic advantage is constantly attempting to be disrupted by political maneuvering by the United States to try to push countries in its periphery and around China to isolate themselves. And even in the case of the Philippines itself, they try to do very foolish acts of provocation that are really just meant to test the waters and provoke China and, you know, even just give the image of U.S. superiority in some cases, to test these proxies' ability to do this. So that's a reality. Brian, your thoughts on this?

#Brian Berletic

Well, then the other side of this is what the multipolar world has been doing and is doing right now in response to this. They understand what the United States has been doing and is doing. A lot of people hear what I'm trying to say, and they immediately dismiss it because they don't want to hear that. They want to hear that the U.S. is in decline. It's in retreat everywhere. It has lost. And all we have to do is sit back and enjoy the show. But in reality, that's not true. The U.S. is more dangerous now than it ever has been before, especially because of what you said, Danny. They understand the situation they're in. They're doing whatever they can now with the power that they have while they still have it. China, for decades, has been preparing for this. They understood the encirclement, the encroachment, the proxy wars, trying to sow internal division.

Everything that China is today as a modern nation-state is a reflection of what it had to do to avoid being disrupted, undermined, toppled, and politically captured by the U.S., as the U.S. has done to so many other nations around the globe, including all of Europe, by the way, including Canada, including nations in Latin America. The list can go on and on and on. China, we constantly hear about how they have gone on this renewable energy, nuclear energy drive, the largest, most expansive energy project on Earth in human history. This is what China has been doing for years and years. Why would they be trying to become energy independent? Why do you think they would do that? They're doing it because they knew for years and years the U.S. was going to try to cut the flow of energy going to China.

This is the last closing window the U.S. has to do this. This is why they're rushing to do it. Even if they don't have enough ships, even if they don't have enough missiles, even if it's coming at the cost of expending all of their proxies. Their proxies are expendable, but they would rather not if they didn't have to. But they will expend them if necessary. That's what we see in West Asia. All these client regimes the U.S. created and maintains in the region, suffering tremendously. Look at Europe.

U.S. proxies suffering tremendously. The U.S. is going to lean on them as hard as possible to try to achieve this as that window of opportunity closes.

Once it closes, I don't think a lot of people understand the scale at which China is growing, the size of its industrial base, what it is capable of doing, what it is doing not just within its borders, but the way it is expanding outward beyond its borders, the infrastructure projects spanning all of Eurasia. I'm here in Southeast Asia. I can see them building projects here as well, high-speed rail lines, just for example. Once all of this comes online, once all of this reaches critical mass, there will be literally nothing the United States can do to stop it. This is why they're trying so hard to disrupt it. They cannot match it. They know that, they accept that. They're going to try to disrupt and destroy it before it reaches that critical mass.

So those are where the battle lines are actually drawn. This is what we have to zoom out and see, rather than hyper-focusing on one battle. They haven't toppled the Iranian government. That's one of their objectives, but is it something they desperately need to do now, or is disrupting the flow of energy to Asia more important? Cutting countries like Thailand off from energy they receive from West Asia and forcing them to go to the U.S. and sign long-term LNG export contracts, thus giving the U.S. greater energy dominance over Asia surrounding China, that's more important to the U.S. than just toppling the Iranian government. People have to zoom out and see the big picture and think about what it is the U.S. is trying to do and specifically why.

#Danny

Yeah, and so it's almost a great race that you're describing, that's definitely easy if we are paying attention to all of these conflicts, developments in geopolitics. If we put them all in front of us, we can see that quite clearly, that there's this great race for the United States empire and all of its vassals to try to contain, isolate, and ensure that these rising countries in the multipolar world cannot compete and therefore are isolated and unable to trade. And that's why we see this emphasis on blockades and all of this. And then we have, on the other hand, I think one of the really interesting developments that we're going to have to watch out for is how countries like Russia, China, and Iran continue these independent corridors, trade routes, integration projects like the Belt and Road Initiative led by China, how fast they can. And they already are.

It seems like what's happening is that this race is actually very much going lopsided in their direction. But because it's going so lopsided, that's where all of these dangerous maneuvers to try to stop this buildup and buildup and buildup to the point where our friend KJ Noh is pretty confident that the United States will eventually look at tactical nuclear weapons and then maybe even strategic nuclear weapons to stop this. Because, yeah, there really is nothing the U.S. military can do about the Belt and Road Initiative. You can only bomb so much, and you can only proxy-war your way out of disrupting those—especially those land routes. Maritime is a little bit different, but land routes that

are rapidly building up. We even see it with Iran, Pakistan, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor really making it difficult for the U.S. to fully isolate a country like Iran. All of this, I think, is something to watch out for.

And we even heard Trump sources inside the Trump administration starting to flirt with nuclear war, starting to flirt with, hmm, what's next then? We have to complete and finish the job, not necessarily of destroying the Iranian government, which they would love to do, but as you said, to cut off Iran so it can cut off Russia, so it can cut off China, so it can cut off the multipolar world from these incredibly important—I mean, I think people may underestimate how important these three countries are to the future of the world, but here we are. They really, really are. But your reaction, Brian?

#Brian Berletic

Yes, absolutely. And I would agree with KJ Noh. He's a very good analyst, and he's warning about the use of nuclear weapons. And this is something that, if you follow even the think tanks and the policymakers, this is something that they're increasingly talking about because they have to face the futility with which they're trying to do all of this, again, just against China alone. And they're looking at the growing gap between themselves and Russian military-industrial production, Chinese military-industrial production. They understand that they cannot close this. So then what do you do? Do you just give up, people like this with this mindset?

Don't just give up. And because the decisions they make in terms of policy always come at the cost of other people, coming at the cost of Europe, all of their proxies in West Asia, all of their proxies in East Asia or Southeast Asia—the Philippines, Japan, South Korea—they're going to pay the cost long before these people driving this policy, these interests driving this policy, will ever pay the price. Even inside America, it will be the American people who pay the price long before these people do. So they have no incentive not to just give it a try. Even if it's a long shot, they'll just give it a try anyway.

#Danny

And you mentioned the American people. It will be people in the United States. I mean, this is, I think, a big focal point I try to emphasize when I can, which is it's people in the United States that are going to have to become assertive and have a role in changing this dynamic because, truthfully, China, Russia, Iran—I think they're all aware that whatever they do can't change the U.S.'s behavior. Not because they don't have powerful weapons or they don't have this very impressive capacity to develop their economies and defend their sovereignty. No, no, no. It's that the U.S. has a political and economic system that's built a certain way.

Iran, Russia, and China can't change that political system. They're always going to have to confront what that is. And so it really is—it behooves people in the United States and, of course, the West

and all these vassal states to—if they want to see a better world, well, it's their governments that are ruining it. And so I think that's a key point here, is that when we're looking at this, it's China, Russia, and Iran in the multipolar world. They're trying to build something. They're trying to build something better, and they're trying to do it within a system that they can't just get rid of because the United States is there. It's an empire.

It's built this for decades and decades and decades and decades, and it follows a process of hundreds of years of this Western uncivilization imperial model that still exists. And so these countries can't overthrow that. They've done their own business, which is to build a sovereign country, build a sovereign development system, and put it into practice. Now it's up to, I think, people in the United States and the West and the vassal states and all of it to begin the process of stopping what's happening on this side, the aggressor side. China builds, U.S. destroys. Well, the destroyer side, they have to be stopped. Right? So that's how I see it, Brian. How do you see it?

#Brian Berletic

Absolutely. Unfortunately, I don't really put much faith in people across the collective West organizing and rising up against this system. And it's not their fault. People are people everywhere you go. And the people across the collective West are the way they are because of the system that has shaped them from cradle to grave. It's just an unfortunate reality. I was a product of that. I literally joined the U.S. military to participate in all of this before I woke up, before I saw with my own eyes what was going on. And people had planted seeds in the back of my mind that eventually began growing and woke me up out of it. And I guess that's all that we can do, and we have to try to save as many people as possible.

But unfortunately, I think the vast majority are going to fall prey to the massive industrial scale at which the U.S. conducts propaganda, not just within its own borders, across its own population, but across the entire planet. Even in the multipolar world, you see the U.S. maintains tremendous information dominance. This is one of the things that multipolarism is going to have to confront and start working on and get right. There's signs that it might be beginning, but it has so much further to go. The other thing I will point out is that a lot of people are impatient, and they wonder, why isn't China doing more? Why aren't they intervening here or there or there to stop America? And I like your answer, Danny. If you're a Westerner, why are you demanding China do something that you yourself, as a Westerner—this is your country, your system, your part of the world that's doing this.

Why don't you stop them? But that said, the multipolar world is doing exactly what you said. They're building an alternative system, a better system, a fairer system with a better balance of power between nations, rather than one nation exercising hegemony over all other nations. They're building that up. They're trying to protect it. They see the U.S. is in decline. They're trying to manage that decline, to make this transition from a U.S.-led unipolar world to a multipolar world as peaceful, as stable, as well as they possibly can, without triggering a gigantic war that will kill millions of people. People might argue there's already these wars taking place. These wars can all be

much bigger and more widespread. People should always keep that in mind. And nuclear. Yes, and nuclear.

#Danny

They will be.

#Brian Berletic

They will be. Yes, possibly. So this is what China, Russia—everything they do, when people say President Putin's a coward, President Xi Jinping's just sitting there watching all of this unfold comfortably, and all they care about is making money—they're trying to avoid this transition from being as smooth as possible to becoming a catastrophic conflict that destroys civilization on Earth, which is, as we've discussed, actually the objective of the U.S. at this point: destroy everything, and out of the ashes emerge the strongest player. And you have to listen to these people, people like Eric Schmidt, who's tied very closely to the centers of power and policymaking in the United States, talking about how AI is going to do this.

They've honestly lost their minds, and they believe this, that they have a chance at doing this. And they become more and more apocalyptic when you hear them talk from month to month, year to year. And again, so this is what Russia, China, Iran—this is what they're trying to avoid. This is why they're not trying to antagonize or provoke. People say, "Why don't they shoot missiles into the U. S.?" This is the last thing you want to do. You want this transition to be as smooth as possible. You do not want to provoke a wider war. Even if it's a war you think you can win, what is the cost of that war? People have to think more than one or two steps ahead of the decisions they think should be made.

#Danny

What's so interesting about what you just said too, Brian, is even just strategically, what you just said, even that scenario of Russia and China wasting their missiles, very good missiles, wasting their missiles, flying them thousands upon thousands of kilometers across the ocean, across the world to hit the United States. People forget the U.S. military is not—it's not there to defend the United States. The U.S. military is everywhere else. It's everywhere. There's 800-plus military bases. We just saw 15 of them get wrecked by Iranian missiles. But they are everywhere else. There's 100-plus in Japan alone. So the idea that Russia and China will ever be fighting, or Iran for that matter, a war with the United States full frontal is, I think, just not in line with reality.

But also, it's obvious that Russia and China, given that they are nuclear powers, and the U.S. is a nuclear power that's used nuclear weapons, and Israel has literally said every single—it seems like every single month of every single year for how long now?—they have hinted and said, well, our nuclear program, our nuclear weapons, we don't really have them, but we have a Samson option in

case we need it, right? They will obviously be—and there are many people who are talking about this now—if the U.S. wants to go into a full frontal confrontation in West Asia, like the end game, it's obvious that they're going to use Israel to fire a nuclear weapon.

And that is, I think, the United States and Israel as these, you know, I guess the two powers that are—or the United States as the power and Israel as the attachment—they're the ones who... Everyone knows that they will use nuclear weapons, and that is a disaster. And I think ultimately there's no reason to get into a full frontal confrontation that's going to challenge the irrationality of a desperate oligarchy ruling elite. They are that desperate. So if they do have to... I don't ever believe we're going to see U.S. and China in a shooting war. I don't actually believe that we're going to see the U.S. and Russia in a shooting war directly because of the nuclear option. That's the reason why nuclear weapons have proliferated across the world and concentrated in these three countries in particular.

So I think people should be careful about where this is actually going and maybe appreciate and highlight how important it is to actually build this new infrastructure, to give countries around the world a different option so they can wrestle away from being pawns or under the thumb of an empire. I think it's a really good thing what has happened in that regard. And we see more and more countries that have been under Washington's dominion wanting to seek that. And then we see Washington get really angry about this and try to squeeze harder on these countries. And I think that's the dynamic that we have to really watch out for. But Brian, your final comments on this and anything else you want to bring in?

#Brian Berletic

Well, the point about proxies is very important to remember. And Israel is—you have cornerstone proxies in each region of the world, and Israel is the U.S.'s cornerstone proxy in West Asia. And yes, they most likely have nuclear weapons. And so the U.S. could wage nuclear war against another country and never have to fire one of its own nuclear weapons because they will just have their proxy Israel do it on their behalf. This is how they've been running this entire war of aggression against Iran. They used Israel to provoke it and then waded their way in, just like their policy papers said they would. And at every juncture, they've been using Israel, but also Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar.

All of these are U.S. proxies that the U.S. is using in the region to advance its policies to its benefit, at the expense of all of these proxies. Same goes for all of Europe, especially Ukraine. Europe has nuclear weapons, and the U.S. is positioning all of Europe for a direct conflict with Russia. And so, if the U.S. wants to use nuclear weapons against Russia, they'll just have Europe do it. And if Russia obliterates all of Europe, guess what? The U.S. is still on the other side of the ocean. We didn't do it. It was Europe. It was France. It was the U.K. They're the ones with the nuclear weapons. They did it, not us. This is where all of this is going. This is why you hear so much talk about Japan acquiring nuclear weapons and East Asia vis-à-vis China.

This is very obvious what they're doing. So, Danny, your warning about this, I think people should take it seriously. Understand that the multipolar world is building something up that the U.S. cannot compete with. What they need to do is protect it, continue growing it out, and time out the clock. There's a window closing. Keep everything going until that window closes and the U.S. is no longer able to threaten the multipolar world. Reach critical mass, and do it with as little conflict, with as little death and destruction as humanly possible. Although we know the U.S. will do everything within its power to reintroduce that death and destruction at every opportunity.

This is why we have to be so careful about how the U.S. manages public perception, based primarily on emotions, not logic and reason. So we have to keep all of that in mind. Every time President Trump posts something, every time you see something in a Western media article, think about this. This has no relation to reality. This is meant to achieve something, to manipulate our perception, distract us away from something. That's what you have to work out. Not take that at face value and say, well, what does that mean in terms of geopolitics? No, what does that mean in the political circus meant to distract us from what is happening in geopolitics?

#Danny

Yeah, very well said. And I think it behooves—look, I'm not ever going to tell Iran, Russia, China, or anyone else how to run their governments and their countries. But I think it is quite smart and correct to force the United—you said, run out the clock—force the United States, force the empire into a position where, under conditions of peace, it has to take more and more desperate measures. Because if you go on a so-called offensive, which really wouldn't be offensive at all, because truthfully, you know, the U.S. empire would love to give the world a reason to condemn Russia, China, Iran, et cetera. Love to do that. They would love to be able to organize the entire world against them, which, you know, we have to be careful. A lot of governments in the world are not sovereign, and a lot of governments in the world may be.

Ukraine was literally used in a proxy war against Russia. You don't think that a lot of these governments are going... Look at what's happened to the UAE. That country has always worked with the U.S. closely on some of these horrible terrorist endless war interventions. But they're even further and further and further now in the U.S. camp. People are calling them like a little Israel because they behave in this way. So those things are also possible. So I think Russia, China, and Iran building global relationships and world relationships that are built on mutual trust, cooperation, solidarity, trust—that is, I think, far more powerful than provoking and getting into a full-on conflict with the United States. Because now you're forcing the U.S. to do kind of what it's doing. But when the time runs out, China is eventually the biggest economy in the world.

China, Russia, maybe Iran will be there too, where it's almost, like, impossible to destroy them. Well, then the U.S. empire has a big problem on its hands because now it has to wonder, hmm, well, if I can't choke them off, can't just—can't, you know, cut them off, can't do all of these things to them

and succeed, then what? You want them to be in that position, not being able to say, "Well, China, Russia, and Iran are attacking us, and now we need to consolidate." No, you want countries around the world to have to make a choice. And I think Russia, China, and Iran, especially China with the economic development, and all three of them in terms of how they stand up, I think they're already providing that example of a different choice. But Brian, it was great to talk to you. Any final words for the audience before we head out of here?

#Brian Berletic

No, just thank you again for having me on.

#Danny

Yeah, it was great. Everyone, make sure you follow The New Atlas. That's in the video description. It is a great program. Brian has been doing this for years, and you should all be listening to his work. Everywhere to support this channel is in the video description as well: Patreon, Substack, and much more. Thank you to all the people who viewed today, all the moderators, etc. I'll be back again tomorrow. Until next time.