Jeffrey Sachs: Trump's Iran War LIES Just POPPED the Financial Bubble

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs discusses how the unipolar world order under Trump was built on lies, blinding its rulers to the financial bubble fueling its collapse as Yemen takes Bab el-Mandeb and Iran consolidates control over the Strait of Hormuz. Follow Jeffrey Sachs' YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVNlbld-oFN1O1yjcAzyheg SUPPORT THE SHOW BY BECOMING A YOUTUBE MEMBER: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOxLhz6B_elvLflntSEfnzA/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 #iran #jeffreysachs #oilshock

#Danny

Welcome, everyone. As you can see, I am joined by Professor and Economist Jeffrey Sachs. Once again, thank you, Professor Sachs, for coming on the show. I just want to get right to it. First question to you: Can you react to right now Yemen, Ansar Allah, has taken the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Iran has very firm control over the Strait of Hormuz. And now we're seeing an economic crisis happening, explode. Diesel gas prices in some areas of California are $10 a gallon. It's over $6 a gallon as an average for the country, a record. Ground beef is over $7 a pound. It seems like a financial bubble is popping right now. And maybe you can help us understand and break down some of the myths versus reality that we are seeing coming out of Trump's mouth, because he says everything's fine. Iran war is going to end after the midterms, and that America is stronger than ever on this economic D-Day, he declared. Your reaction to the myths and realities that we're seeing transpire here, both geopolitically and economically?

#Guest

With Trump, where does one start in terms of the myths? Clearly, this Iran war was an utter, total debacle, a crisis made out of nowhere for no reason at all. And it's not going to go well, and it will end soon, whether before or after Election Day, when the United States withdraws from the region. That's all. As long as we are fighting Iran, the crisis will continue and it will intensify. Oil prices, as you note, are back above $100 a barrel now. And we should understand that what has held back oil prices has been the running down of the reserves in the United States and in other countries of the world. And you can do that for a bit to cover up the sharp decline of new exports from the Middle East, but you can't do it forever.

And we've reached the end of the reserve drawdown. And as you point out, we're in an intensifying shutdown of trade because it's not only the Strait of Hormuz, but now also the Red Sea, the Suez Canal. This is a colossal mess. Trump is the master of making messes, and he's made yet another one, with all the added irony, of course, that his campaign in 2024 was precisely, and I will underscore precisely, on avoiding this kind of disaster. But he's an incompetent, weak president, and the American deep state is strong, the Israel lobby is strong, and so here we are in this disaster. More generally, the U.S. economy is in an increasingly distorted environment, and one that is distorted mostly by weakness.

There is a real economic development of AI. It's not a small thing. It's a very major point. It is the source of the soaring stock market, but it is deeply problematic in a couple of ways. One is that it's deeply problematic as a technology in and of itself, with all of the dangers that everybody is suddenly acknowledging, like the X percent chance that all humanity is wiped out. It's almost an insanity, the way people are dealing with this. Oh yes, maybe it's only 5%. Maybe it's only 10%. We have a technology in the hands of a very small group that has tremendous potential danger. And of course, we have an utterly corrupt and incompetent American government at the same time.

So this is one point. And I would say with the technology, there are countless concerns, not only the runaway AI, the autonomous weapons, the kind of breakouts that we hear about now on almost a daily basis. Oh yes, there was another OpenAI breakout and so forth. The derangement of jobs and income distribution, the data centers and the electricity. Okay, there's all of that mess. And then there is the reality that the U.S. is being outcompeted by China in practice. And so the valuations of U.S. companies are completely predicated on U.S. dominance of these technologies. They'd be unrealistic even without China, but with China and its open-weight strategy, they also make no sense. So we have one area of dynamism, but a highly dangerous and disruptive area that has fed into exaggerated market valuations.

And then we have everything else in the U.S. economy, which is huge and long-term and continuing rising inequalities, a continuing shift of income in the U.S. economy from labor income, what people earn as workers, to capital income, which has been underway for about 40 years. And it continues to the point where half of national income now only is wage income, and it used to be 65 percent or so. And this is a long-term pattern that feeds into the glaring inequalities in our society. And we have a fiscal crisis, without question, with a budget deficit as measured of around six to seven percent of GDP. A president who is so ghastly and irresponsible and incompetent that one doesn't even know where to start, but who just wants to give away another one and a half trillion dollars a year by mailing checks to every American adult.

In technical economics, what Trump promised with his five-thousand-dollar checks is technically called bullshit. And so this is another aspect of what we're facing, which is not only large budget deficits, but complete bullshit in Washington about everything, led by the president, but with the brain-dead Congress and with the absolutely ridiculous things said daily by the Treasury Secretary and so forth. But even beyond that, Danny, is longer-term significant fiscal strains that come from an aging society and that come from still-rising health care costs. So projections of the insolvency of Social Security or the Medicare programs are real.

But you have to take a longer view than a 15-minute Trump social post, a Truth Social post. So all in all, it's hard to look with any kind of equanimity on the broad, long-term U.S. political economy because we have huge disruptions to our lives and nobody in charge, just grifters in Washington. And then we have the short-term crisis, which is completely self-imposed, that started with Bibi and Donald's little war in Iran on February 28th, and that's not getting better. That's getting worse. And we're just treated to a cast of clowns every day, like Bessent and others, who give their threats, their manipulations, their declarations: "I am the House," or "economic D-Day." It's unspeakably dangerous, amateurish grifter hour, and nothing good coming of it other than that everything's fine, and I hope you're having a nice day too.

#Danny

Yeah, great first exercise. No, I mean, I think that was so well put. And, you know, we have Bessent. He was talking to Steve Bannon, calling Iran a bunch of losers right now, saying they just control the Strait of Hormuz, but absolutely not backing that up one bit and saying that the scorecard is far on the U.S. side.

Meanwhile, the United States and Saudi Arabia just lost the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is seven ships in one day, which they don't tell you, though, these tracking monitors, whether those ships were through the Iranian Strait mechanism or the so-called U.S.-escorted mechanism. So again, these lies are just building up. Can you talk about the geopolitical impact then of Trump's constant, incessant—I mean, it's just lying and BS, as you called it? What is the geopolitical impact now? Xi Jinping is coming, BRICS summit is happening, there's major shifts happening in the world, and the Trump administration appears to be, you know, just mounting crises every, it seems like, by the month.

#Guest

One could say at the beginning of the Trump administration that there wasn't a coherent economic idea among this gang, and that the tariff route that they were proposing, the trade war route, and all the rest, was no answer to any real structural problems that America faces, to our infrastructure challenges, to an emerging world where AI will play a very significant role. So one could say, and I did say it from the beginning, that it's sad to say this will be a failed administration. The specific ways of failure have exceeded my imagination, I have to say, because this war with Iran is the biggest self-goal imaginable.

And Trump brags that he did it while the previous eight presidents did not. And, of course, we can understand that statement in exactly the other way. The other eight presidents, while they were mediocrities in general, were not as stupid as our current president. So this is a starting point. Nothing that Trump did, putting on the trade war, the tariffs which were then struck down by the Supreme Court, made any sense. Nor did his one big beautiful bill of giving tax cuts to the richest Americans. Of course, we knew there was a large budget deficit, so that's not the time that you give another round of big tax cuts.

Nor was canceling all of the renewable energy projects underway at a huge expense, tens of billions of dollars to stop wind power and solar power that were actually being developed, and then paying a fortune for stopping projects midway. Nor was the determination to hand over to China the complete leadership for probably the next 20 to 25 years in electric vehicles by Trump and the American auto industry saying, "We're not even going to do that anymore." And so our big companies taking, again, tens of billions of dollars of write-offs of their partially completed electric vehicle programs.

So there was nothing from the start, to my mind as an economist, that said, yes, that is addressing the competitiveness challenge. That's addressing the skills challenge. That's addressing the technology challenge. That's addressing anything that America needs. Everything else, in a way, is details. We're just not on a track yet, in an adult way, to face any of the structural issues in society. Trump is out to enrich his family. He's so ignorant, and Bessent is so ignorant. These are just not people who know anything about the world. They may know how to make a buck by cheating someone else. Bessent may know something about shorting a currency, but that's about the far limit of it all.

#Danny

Hmm. Donald Trump has taken to Truth Social and said that his investments, which are doing quite lucratively, are for the American people and show that the U.S. economy is doing quite well. But Professor Sachs, is the United States and the world right now, is it being dragged into a global recession because of this oil shock that we're seeing and all of the massive inflationary outcomes that have come from it? Are we headed there? Are we already there? And what geopolitical impact is this already having and will have?

#Guest

You know, I should have given a more complete answer to the question before, just to point out that while the U.S. is spinning in circles and while Europe is going down because Europe cut itself off from its energy supply, which was Russia, and turned to the United States to pay six times more for liquefied natural gas from the United States than the natural gas that it was getting by pipeline from Russia, the rest of the world, which is what we call the emerging markets and developing economies, 85 percent of the world population in Asia and in Africa and in Latin America—much of that Latin America, the least of it, but especially in Asia and in parts of Africa—are doing very well. China continues to grow rapidly, and it will.

India is growing even more rapidly because it's a little bit farther behind and it has more headroom for rapid growth. Many parts of Africa are growing quite rapidly. And I think that that growth will be further consolidated continent-wide, I should say, in Africa in coming years. So I think there's a big difference in the world between the U.S. and Europe, the so-called advanced economies—but I can't say advanced thinking about anything—and the emerging and developing economies, which are, on the whole, growing much faster. Though, of course, some places, especially in Latin America, aren't achieving any of those gains, most of the places in Asia, other than West Asia, which is in this U.S. war, are achieving rapid gains.

So the mood in the U.S. is rather different from the mood in China and India and places that I travel to all the time, also Southeast Asia, the ASEAN countries. They're growing. They're advancing. That's what they want to do. Now, even their success, of course, could be thrown off course by a global crisis. So if we continue in this incredibly stupid and brainless way in Iran—and Trump, you know, because he, for his own incredibly narrow personal, and also for our deep state obsessions, we continue to throw our good money after their bad mistakes—well, this can turn into a global disaster.

But even if it turns into a global economic crisis, I would say that the U.S. and Europe will face the brunt of it, not actually, contrary to what is sometimes said, the emerging economies, because they are becoming more integrated. And interest rates in the United States are 5%, say, almost 5% on 10-year bonds, and in China, under 2%. And China's lending to other countries as well. So there's two systems. One is the U.S.-led part, which we pretend is the whole thing, and then there is the rest of the world, which is by far the world's majority: the group that's meeting in India now, the BRICS, and that met two weeks ago in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The perspective from their side is completely different, which is, yes, the United States is a pain in the neck. It is delusional. It thinks it runs the world. But, by the way, we continue despite the instabilities that the U.S. is causing. And I think that that's likely to continue. Of course, you can have a global disaster if we continue to double down on the disaster we already have. My advice to the U.S. government, which has been consistent since early March, recognizing the complete debacle of this completely unnecessary war of aggression that the U.S. started, is: go home. And don't wait for a treaty. Don't negotiate anything. Just leave. You shouldn't be there in the first place. We're not solving any problem at all in this world. Go home.

#Danny

Yeah. And what we've seen from the Trump administration with quote-unquote negotiating. And of course, the situation in the region seems to support that posture, Professor Sachs, in a big way.

#Guest

And just to say, Danny, if I might, you know, the U.S. problem—it's again a Trump personal problem, and it's a U.S. government problem—is you can't admit weakness. So if you can't admit weakness, you absolutely commit the fallacy of sunk costs, which means that you continue to sink money into a failed venture because to not do so is to admit that the venture was wrong. The damn thing is, they're sinking my money and your money in this. This is what I'm disgusted about. If it was Trump family money, let them do what they want to do—not to bomb other places—but let them waste their own money. But stop wasting our money. This is the point.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah, really, really good point. Well, you know, and you mentioned weakness. I'm thinking of, you know, Xi Jinping is coming to Washington. He's going to meet with Donald Trump at the end of this month. And I can't imagine a time in history, Professor Sachs, especially since the fall of the Soviet Union, where the United States has... Thank you so much for having me.

#Guest

Let me give you a short but a 2,000-year answer, because I think perspective actually helps on this. China has been a unified society with about 20 percent of the world's population and about 20 percent of world GDP for nearly 2,000 years. And there was one exception to that, and that's the period from around 1840 to the period around 1990 or 2000. What happened was that Western imperialism and then Japanese imperialism led to what the Chinese call the century of humiliation. So China was a unified society, and unified and successful longer than any other place on the whole planet. But then, with European industrialization and imperialism in the 19th century, Britain launched the wars against China, the so-called Opium Wars, in 1839 and then again in 1856, and Japan invaded China in 1894 and then again in the 20th century.

And it was only with China's recovery of sovereignty and its economic development, especially starting after 1980, that China came back to its usual place in the world, not as the boss of the world, not as the dominant power of the world, but as the single largest integrated society and economy in the world. And number two in history, though more fragmented at more times, has been India. And India today is a unified nation, is also catching up. It's about 15 years behind China in that catching-up process. So there's a very broad, long historical perspective that one could have, which is that the dominance of the Western world over the whole world was a short-term phenomenon of around 200 years.

You can quibble with the starting point and the endpoint, but say 1800 to 2000. And the United States emerged in that period, in the last quarter of Western dominance from 1945 onward, with the idea that now we're going to run the world forever. And when the Soviet Union ended in December 1991, the geniuses in Washington said, "Now we're completely alone. We're the sole superpower. It's the end of history, and we'll rule forever onward." And, of course, it was a delusion then, but it became completely and obviously delusional with the rise of China. China's rise, again, is a recovery. It's not a unique event. It's a return to a kind of normalcy.

I want to underscore once more, China's not the new hegemon running the world. China never ran the world, but China was always successful and a major power, and it is again. And it's a bigger country by a factor of four in population and economically by a factor of 1.3 than the United States. And the United States still has the idea, "We run the world," which it doesn't. It can't defeat Iran, much less take on China, much less through the proxy war in Ukraine defeat Russia. That's another great power that's not going away, despite what the United States imagines. So when the U.S. confronts the reality of the world right now, our Washington politicians in general don't understand the broad change in the world that has returned the world to a more normal situation where the West, which is only about 12 percent of the world population, had dominated global politics.

But that was an aberrational period in history. And what we have is something more normal. And specifically, when Trump meets President Xi later this month, President Trump is going to be speaking with the leader of a country with a larger economy, a much larger industrial base, technologically America's peer, if not more advanced in a number of areas, and certainly more competitive in a lot of the advanced digital and green stack of technologies needed for the future, like electric vehicles, like renewable energy, and so forth. And so Trump doesn't have the upper hand. We already saw that in the meeting that took place in Beijing a few months ago.

The main reality to Donald Trump, including the reality that the United States has to stop meddling in Taiwan because that's an internal Chinese matter. And Trump actually said as much when he left that meeting in Beijing. He had been lectured to for two days, and he said basically that maybe sending arms to Taiwan wasn't such a good idea. The U.S. doesn't have any dominance over China, any leverage over China. Of course, China can't defeat the U.S., and the U.S. can't defeat China. And so we should behave, calm down, stop these unilateral wars, and end this delusion of unipolar power, which was never true, but is completely off base now.

#Danny

Professor Sachs, I know we're out of time. I really appreciate you coming on. Thanks so much for your contributions today. I look forward to our next conversation. I do too. Thanks.

#Guest

Great to be with you.

#Danny

Take care. Bye-bye. All right, everyone, that was a great show with Professor Sachs. I'm going to stay on for another 10, 15 minutes to just summarize what we have just heard. Professor Sachs just did a master class on the overall situation that is confronting the U.S. empire right now. And I want to begin with a particular case here, where we have not only had seven ships, as opposed to 130 ships, through the Strait of Hormuz prior to February 28th, crossed the Strait of Hormuz yesterday— just seven yesterday, 128 to 135 before February 28th, 2026. But now, of course, Ansarallah has taken the Bab al-Mandab Strait geographically, which is big.

Param Island has fallen to Yemen, to Ansarallah, and that now means that a three-kilometer radius on either side of the island in the Red Sea, in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, is now visible to the Yemenis, meaning that they can use the lowest of technology that they have, the lowest of weaponry, you know, missiles, drones, whatever. And they can see it. They don't even need radar. They don't need any of this to be able to hit ships coming through the Bab al-Mandab Strait if they want to enforce a tougher blockade. Well, Saudi Arabia is begging, begging Donald Trump to intervene in this war, and Donald Trump has refused as of right now.

But there are 100 U.S. military advisors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia right now discussing what— there are some rumors that there are military preparations being made by Saudi Arabia for some kind of ground offensive. That will go very badly now that Yemenis and Ansar Allah have the geographic advantage after taking 2,000 kilometers-plus, some say 4,000 kilometers. Somewhere between 2,000 and 4,000 kilometers have been taken away from Saudi-backed forces, and they've retreated. So if they put the Saudi military in there, well, it's going to be a bloody and nasty battle. But this underscores the Iran war failures, the lies that we've been told.

Donald Trump's told us that we are going to see this war end by the midterm elections. And now it seems like nothing further could be from the truth. Not only this, but to claim that this war is going to go on until the midterm elections is a very curious stance to take already, given the fact that the United States and the world is facing a massive economic crisis. This financial bubble has indeed— it is popping, and it's going to be a long and cruel and very grueling economic disaster for the vast majority of people on this planet because of what this oil shock is going to do to the rest of the global economic supply chain.

We are talking now about beef in the United States, $7.16 a pound. $7.16 a pound for ground beef on average in the United States, because there are fluctuations depending on where you live. So this is going to compound the crisis that we're seeing. The oil shock is happening. Many people were predicting what's going to happen last week, two weeks ago, three weeks, four weeks ago. Well, now it is happening. And it was always hard to predict because the U.S. was pumping, as Jeffrey said, the SPR into the global market. That seems to have lost its impact, just as Donald Trump's attempts and his administration's attempt to manipulate the market has essentially failed.

Nothing Donald Trump, nothing Scott Bessent, nothing that they can say now is impacting the fact that they've just lost an entire choke point to Yemen, to Ansar Allah, which represents about 68% of all global oil trade, and in terms of overall trade, represents a significant amount. So much so that you could have Yemenis cutting off shipping in general to the Suez Canal from Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

And that means you have a total economic crisis not seen since World War II because of the slowdown of distribution. And all of this could be ended very quickly. It all could end very quickly. But if the United States, as Jeffrey says, is an important point, a critical point, the U.S. empire cannot admit defeat.

And therefore, the U.S. empire, and especially Donald Trump, whose ego is incredibly large, they double down. The rulers of this empire, Trump himself, they double down. They triple down on stupid. They do this because they would much rather look strong than actually admit defeat. That is a huge part of this because, when we talk about empire, we're talking about hubris. We're talking about hegemony that is completely laden and covered with the stained fabric of American exceptionalism. So if the U.S. has to admit defeat, if the U.S. has to retreat and has to admit it is doing so, then that is a huge loss. Remember Afghanistan, 2021. That was an incredible embarrassment for the Biden administration.

It was very, it was very soon after the Biden administration was sworn in. It was 2021. And it was a big stain on what was all going to become a humiliating presidency from the get-go anyway, not least because Joe Biden himself was in terrible shape. So again, this is the dilemma that we find ourselves in. And humanity right now is being strung along based on egos, hubris, and vested interests of the financial class, the warmongering class, the war profiteers, all of these forces that represent, as Professor Sank said, a very tiny segment of the population. They are stringing us along down to an abyss that is going to change the world forever.

And it's going to make the lives of so many people not only incredibly difficult and harder than they already are now, but ultimately it's going to lead to an even more disastrous loss of life. And of course, we're going to see, especially in the United States, a crash in the standard of living that I don't think people are really ready for. And I don't even believe that the crash in the standard of living that's happened over the last several decades has even hit for a lot of people because of the way that debt ballooned everything, and people's reliance on debt kind of numbed some of those effects.

But that's not going to save anybody now. That's not going to save the people and their livelihoods from this economic collapse, crash. And to think that we are witnessing right now maybe the first time in history, in the U.S. empire's history, that a war—the war on Iran—is going to singularly be the cause of an economic calamity that's historic in nature. Of course, wars have always played a big role in global economic downturns or upturns. The U.S. empire literally became the empire because of an upturn after World War II. The United States began its decline in large part because of its defeat in Vietnam. Not solely, though. There are a lot of other factors.

And of course, there are a lot of other factors here at play. But the Iran war is a trigger that is harsher and more violent than the U.S. empire, I think, could have ever predicted. I don't believe some people believe this is all by design. Everything is by design here. The crash in the economy, it's all because they want to run away with a lot of money. And I've already factored in, in prior episodes, why that is plausible and likely happening in the subjective mentality of a lot of these greedy, corrupt, and absolutely malign forces, these anti-human forces that rule over this oligarchy and empire.

But to say that this is all being done by pulling strings, that all the outcomes of these policies are based on pulling strings and actually desired, well, I think that is a miscalculation of the reality of the situation. I believe there's a lot of panic. We are seeing it on the military front, but we're also seeing it in the halls of Washington. A lot of panic about what this war on Iran has already done to the U.S.'s position in the world and what it's going to do to the global economy in the short, medium, and long term, which is going to be incredibly negative for the very vested interests that jumped into this war and cheered on Donald Trump when he struck Iran in the first place.

I think when you see people like Robert Kagan, top arch-neocon and banker's darling, when you have the CIA front group, the Council on Foreign Relations, sounding an alarm, those are not fake words. Those aren't words that should be 100% taken as truth. But when they sound the alarm about something that they originally supported or would have supported in the past, and they're not doing so now, it's likely because there have been outcomes that weren't intended, and now they are causing massive damage to the U.S. And that's just the fact of the matter. One can quibble and say, well, you know, I've seen arguments that, well, you know, there have been setbacks in the Middle East for the resistance, for the multipolar world.

In the world, there have been setbacks in other areas. We can look at Hezbollah in Lebanon. We can look at Palestine in some respects. We can look in various areas: Latin America, Venezuela, Syria, and the Middle East. And sure, we can see that there have been setbacks. But to claim that then the loss of the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the loss of the Strait of Hormuz, the loss of a war to Iran, the loss of a war to Russia, the inability to confront China—I made the argument yesterday with Ben Norton that I believe that the U.S. war on China right now is at a low point in terms of not just its feasibility.

But just in terms of the balance of power and the balance of forces, is there anyone right now that can say with a straight face? There are—don't try to search that, because you can find a lot of quacks and absolute idiots and warmongering, bloodthirsty, racist, anti-China, all of this. You can find that. Neocons who are still like, "Yeah, of course, let's just go to war." Hell, one of them, Elbridge Colby, is in Washington as the Undersecretary of Defense. But does anyone really believe that has any kind of sane mind, working mind, that isn't tied to the military-industrial complex?

Believe that the United States is in a better position now to fight China, to contain China, than it was prior to February 28th? So what does that equal? That equals a massive defeat. Does anyone believe now that the United States and NATO are in a better position to defeat Russia and contain Russia, and for their proxy war to work now, than in February of 2022? I would hope not, because despite all of the, "Oh, Ukraine drone kamikaze, blah, blah, blah. Look, they're hitting wild berries, and everything is going so badly for Russia," Russia's economy is still stable. Russia is still standing. Putin still enjoys 75-plus percent approval rating.

And Ukraine is the one that is going through an economic, demographic, and political crisis unseen maybe in that country's history. And that country is no stranger to massive crises, especially on the demographic front with what happened during World War II. So let's be quite real here, you know, in the final minutes that we have together, that we are witnessing, right? I truly believe this. We're witnessing not just the pop of the financial bubble, but I believe the empire's bubble is being popped, in the sense that its hegemony is not just in question anymore. It is actually, quite truthfully, in major crash mode now. There's not going to be a revival. Trump was not that. Some people thought Trump was the revival.

Some people thought the fall of Syria was some kind of revival for the empire. Some people counted all the dead bodies, the genocided bodies in Lebanon and Gaza, and said, "Oh, that means the U.S. empire is still not only in control, but able to wield violence." And that just misconstrues the capacity to do violence with the capacity to assert power. And in no way are those two things the same. Right now, the U.S. represents about 14% of the world economy in purchasing power terms, China a full 20-plus percent. So you do the math here. The United States, its economy, even in the world's GDP nominal terms, has been declining significantly for years and years and years. It's about 20% now. Some people give it as high as 25%.

That's far below the 40% to 50% it was after World War II. And it's only going to get smaller the bigger China gets. And it's only going to get smaller the more that the U.S. Empire, with no other choice, continues its wars of aggression and tries to expand them, pours more trillions into them, and indebts itself to the point where its economy is stagnant, if not completely in a race to the bottom of a crash. This is the reality. I mean, a financialized economy dependent upon war is not one that is going to stand the test of history.

The test of history right now is resolving the crises that humanity faces, resolving poverty, ensuring that people have a planet to live on where their environment isn't overflowing with oil in their oceans and air that people can't breathe, and all of this, right? These environmental crises. And then, of course, you have the need to foster actual cooperative relations between nations rather than war. I mean, that could lead to nuclear war if it isn't—if we don't have a more robust international system where countries work together rather than wage war against each other, well, we're in the nuclear age, and that is fast becoming a potential nuclear catastrophe with the United States at the center. So that's the reality here.

Those are the crises confronting humanity. The U.S. is trying to accelerate them in order to satisfy the interests of a tiny few people, while the rest of the world, or at least the rest of the world that's trying to build something different, the multipolar world, they're trying to address those three things as best they can under conditions of great duress, of course. But that is where we stand right now. So everybody, it was a pleasure to be with you today. And of course, Professor Science is always a pleasure to be with in terms of our time together. I appreciate every 30-minute segment he can give me because he is such an important voice and a critical voice in highlighting all of this and bringing it to a big audience.

So everybody, hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show in YouTube's algorithm. Tomorrow I'll be on live at 2 p.m. Eastern time, September 12th, with Mark Sloboda. So catch me then. Go to the video description below and be sure to support this channel at Patreon, Substack, and so much more. Thank you, Jolly Lollipop, for the super chat. Candace Owens, Jeffrey Sachs, 2028. I like the Jeffrey Sachs part. I'm not so trusting of Candace, but that's a whole conversation for another day. Hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show in YouTube's algorithm. And I'll see you next time tomorrow, September 12th, 2 p.m. Eastern time with Mark Sloboda, a good friend of the show. We will dive deeper into things. Take care.