

Iran TAKES OUT \$40 Million US Aircraft, HITS UAE Tanker in Two-Front Strike!

Danny Haiphong discusses the Iran war spreading on two-fronts as the US Navy and the Trump administration dive deeper into strategic defeat. Subscribe to <https://nuclearinsanity.substack.com/> 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 #iranwar #trump

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone, to a breaking news update. Hit the like button as we get started. Early this morning, Iran has taken out another American MQ-1 drone over the skies of the Strait of Hormuz. Now, this drone costs upwards of between \$30 to \$50 million, upwards of \$100 million, depending on the production costs. This brings the official number of U.S. aircraft, these unmanned aerial drones—this is the Predator drone—lost up to 45 now. That's right, 45 U.S. reconnaissance Predator or MQ-9 Reaper drones have been taken out by Iran since this war began. That's about a quarter of the fleet. And the Strait of Hormuz was very active last night.

These were the scenes of the imagery of the anti-ship missiles and other missiles being fired from Iran last night, as on another front Yemen was making even more advances against Saudi Arabia. Iran has struck a UAE tanker with these anti-ship ballistic missiles in the southern so-called Omani corridor—more on the status of this later—while transiting under U.S. naval escort. According to the IRIB, Iranian media, this vessel is now drifting in the strait, leaking oil out of it. So CNBC also reported on this, saying that the prospects for U.S.-Iranian diplomacy are very dim indeed. That is an understatement. There's also talk that the United States may strike Iran tonight along the southern coast in retaliation to this.

You know, Iran has hit multiple tankers. There was another Panama-flagged tanker hit earlier yesterday in the Strait of Hormuz by Iran. This all comes in retaliation to a strike on an Iranian tanker off of Qeshm Island, which led actually to one Iranian being killed and two Pakistani crew members being injured. Now, one big part of this is why I call it a two-front strike, because not only is Iran targeting U.S. naval vessels—a lot of these anti-ship missiles are targeting naval vessels, vessels hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of kilometers away—ensuring that they cannot get any closer and making that blockade even harder to enforce. But also, Iran did these strikes last night in conjunction with the opening of the oil and the general markets.

And that represents, I believe, a new pattern for Iran to, as the United States tries to manipulate the oil markets and manipulate the overall economic crisis that is brewing, bubbling, and exploding because of this war, Iran has conducted these strikes in conjunction with the opening of the markets, leading to what we have now: a continuing surge in diesel gas prices in the United States to six dollars and twenty-three cents a gallon, up from that six-dollar mark for the first time this past week, as global oil prices continue to rise. Brent crude, after news of these strikes and Yemen's advances, rose 3% this weekend to \$107.6 per barrel. And West Texas Intermediate gained 2.8%, as Donald Trump says that these rising prices are linked to preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.

Well, how is that going exactly? I like this map a lot. I found this map interesting. Of the United States, Donald Trump's pet project, the so-called Abraham Alliance, along with Israel, to create a so-called new Middle East. Well, that Middle East is indeed new, but it is new and unimproved for the United States. Just look at the fire that's just erupted across the region because of the U.S. war on Iran, the Saudi-U.S. war on Yemen. And we also have Syria up here and parts of Iraq, in reaction to a massive rise in the price of oil and gas. There are protests that are sweeping across the country and sweeping across both countries. But here you have Saudi Arabia absolutely on fire.

That's the East-West Pipeline that's been taken out. This is the Jizan area, where the oil there has also been hit very hard by Yemeni missiles. And the Strait of Hormuz is closed. The Bab al-Mandeb is closed. And this part of Yemen is being routed by the Yemeni armed forces there, taking out all of the U.S.- and Saudi-backed installations. And more bad news for Donald Trump on this front when it comes to the Strait of Hormuz. Every single day, Donald Trump says the Strait of Hormuz is open, that more and more leverage is being lost by Iran. But the IEA, the International Energy Agency, just said that the Strait of Hormuz is going to be closed for the rest of 2026. What does that mean?

Well, it means that Trump is not only lying to our faces, but it also means that this war is not only not going to end anytime soon, but the oil crisis is not going to get better anytime soon. Now, there's been a flurry of reports following these strikes and the fact that there is an explosion of conflict in the region. There's been a lot of talk about the Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia, UAE, along with Oman, among others, now going to actually meet with Iran. So the story is that Iran and Oman are supposedly very close to a deal on the mechanism for the Strait of Hormuz and how to regulate traffic there. The problem with this is that now you have Gulf countries trying to intervene and become part of the process.

Some at first saw this as an understanding from a lot of Gulf countries that they cannot rely on the United States for protection and need to work directly with Iran around this. But it seems like there have been issues now. This meeting was supposed to happen today. It has been postponed. Oman cites the need for consensus, as Iran says countries will coordinate a future date for a planned Monday meeting. Trump again predicts war will end around the midterms. His Middle East diplomacy

appeared to falter heading into Monday with the postponement of a meeting between Iran and other Persian Gulf powers—they call them. That's interesting—while fresh attacks around the region's two most important oil transit routes deepened concern over energy supplies.

So oil markets jumped again following developments that threatened supplies of the world's biggest exporter, Saudi Arabia, which kept a key 1,200-kilometer east-west pipeline closed throughout the weekend. Yeah, it's closed. It's closed for over a month, everybody. Just mind you, there's no east-west pipeline going to Yanbu in Saudi Arabia for over the next month. Iran's foreign ministry said there would be a meeting hosted by Oman where the future of the Strait of Hormuz, vital for global oil and gas flows, would be negotiated. Tehran said Iraq and Gulf countries would take part without specifying which states, but no country in the region had confirmed its participation, while Bahrain ruled out its attendance.

Now, as Oman said that there needs to be consensus, there have been reports that the big reason why this meeting was actually postponed was that Saudi Arabia had issues with a meeting in this manner without further concessions from Iran. And that is incredibly rich. Here's another report on this: the meeting between Iran and Arab states is postponed as Middle East diplomacy stalls. Talks between the United States and Iran hit a dead end, leaving Arab countries struggling to manage their ties to Tehran amid ongoing attacks. Well, yeah, there are major struggles here, in large part because now you have Saudi Arabia attempting to overplay its hand in this matter. Saudi Arabia has absolutely no say about how the Strait of Hormuz is going to be governed.

But nevertheless, this is a big problem for these Gulf countries. They do not have sovereignty, and their lack of sovereignty means that at any moment they can be pushed and pulled out of control, out of talks, out of negotiations, out of actions that would actually benefit them. It would highly benefit them to come to the table with Iran and begin to talk about the process of how Iran, and in part Oman, are going to ensure that trade can flow under conditions of real peace. But of course, Iran makes clear that they are not going to have these talks without guarantees from the United States that not only is this war ended, but that its demands, a lot of which are in the MOU, some of which have even deepened and become stronger in their language and in their content.

None of this is going to happen without that. So these are just preliminary talks. These are attempts to ensure that there's some good-faith negotiations and talks happening around the future of this. But the future is in Iran's hands. It's in nobody else's. So the fact that Saudi Arabia is trying to scuttle this shows that there's obviously U.S. interference here, because the United States has been the one making it incredibly difficult for this war to end. Nevertheless, Iran has answered in a big way, not only with these strikes on tankers, not only with firing at U.S. Navy vessels, not only with the fact that the United States has hesitated in striking back, but also the Navy political deputy of Iran said that in response to Trump saying he controls the Strait of Hormuz, the U.S. does, "If that's the case, bring it on."

Move your warships closer to within 100 kilometers, because that would be the logic, right? The logic would be that if you control the Strait of Hormuz, then your naval vessels should have free rein to travel both in and out of the strait and not have to enforce a blockade line hundreds of kilometers away in the Arabian Sea, close to the Indian Ocean. Nevertheless, the embarrassments keep coming. The issues keep coming in terms of propaganda as well. So the United States has had to go on a propaganda blitz on how it has been doing in this war, because, as you can tell, there's been a massive pause in U.S. aggression kinetically. And that's because, for one, the U.S. now has to contend with Yemen's advance, since J.D. Vance said today that the U.S. is taking note of this.

And they're obviously trying to supply Saudi Arabia and ensure that Saudi Arabia has what it needs to commit war crimes on the Yemeni armed forces and the Yemeni people in response to its massive advance. But not only this, we have now a propaganda blitz about what happened back in April of 2026 in this war, when an F-15E was downed over Iran and crashed, and there was a huge story about the rescue mission of that pilot, that one of them was immediately rescued, the other had to stay for a couple days. Iran says it was actually a raid that failed, part of a raid that failed, which included far more than just one F-15E flying over. It included that being downed, including several Black Hawk helicopters. But nevertheless, we'll get to the Iranian narrative in a second.

The point here is that there is now a massive—I'm not going to play this because actually 60 Minutes, CBS, is some of the biggest culprits of censoring anyone, even on X, from sharing their content audio. So I'm not going to let that disrupt this program. But nevertheless, 60 Minutes yesterday interviewed one of the pilots, the rescued pilot. They call him Bravo, to supposedly protect him. And the narrative is very interesting. They say, after ejecting from the fighter jet shot down over Iran back in April, U.S. Air Force Officer Bravo broke his back, arm, and shoulder upon impact with the ground. Badly injured and stranded in a valley surrounded by cliffs, he mustered the strength to climb a 7,000-foot ridgeline in order to evade capture. That is the story that they are promoting right now. Here is the NBC News report: Air Force officer recalls free-falling after a jet was shot down over Iran.

And you know what's so funny about that quote, "free falling," it's actually—the interviewer, it was such a canned interview, it was obviously so staged. But the interviewer actually put those words in his mouth. "Was it like free-falling?" she says, and then he says, "Yeah, it's a great word to describe it." It was unbelievable in the level. I mean, some people call it DPRK, North Korea-like propaganda, but to me, it's a lot worse. The U.S. service member publicly recounted his ordeal in an interview at 60 Minutes.

He said the Defense Department has not identified the Air Force colonel's name. 60 Minutes correspondent Norah O'Donnell said the show agreed to refer to him as Bravo, which was his mission call sign. In the interview, Bravo said he felt like he had been hit by a freight train when a shoulder-fired missile rammed into his F-15E fighter jet on April 2nd. The other Air Force officer hit the eject button. "I will be thankful to my dying day for my pilot and crewmate Alpha for saving our

lives and ejecting us." Bravo said he started free-falling toward the rugged mountains. He looked up and saw that his parachute had been damaged in the missile attack, a realization he called "the most terrifying thing I've ever seen."

Military professionals estimate that he hit the Iranian desert between 70 to 100 miles per hour, adding that his survival was a modern-day miracle. Oh, it's indeed a modern-day miracle because it likely didn't happen like this. I mean, let's be honest. I mean, there are, of course, many scenarios we could go over. We don't have to go over them all. Maybe he wasn't as injured as they said. We see there's classified video that shows him literally walking out, with two people holding him, but being able to walk and run, I should say, to the rescue aircraft. But nevertheless, this is a story that turned out to be a miracle. I mean, so much about God, and God saved him. And look, we can't underestimate adrenaline in these things. But nevertheless, this is all propaganda.

And the reason why I say this is that, for one, Pete Hegseth—Pete Hegseth was caught pressuring these airmen to do this interview. So this interview was done under duress. One person, this Bravo guy, the one who was stranded in the Iranian desert for two days after that April 2nd downing, he agreed to do it. The other pilot did not agree to do it. So only one of the two did. And so Hegseth has been accused of pressuring these two rescued airmen to do this interview. And here it says U.S. Defense Department secretary reportedly pressured the two crew members of the F-15E shot down over Iran to appear on Bari Weiss's 60 Minutes. And mind you, Bari Weiss is a Zionist journalist. You know, what's the right word? A shill, someone who literally took over CBS to run cover for Israel and the U.S. empire.

Hegseth and others in his department reportedly pressured the two airmen who were shot down in April to appear on the show, citing multiple anonymous sources familiar with the situation. The airmen were reportedly hesitant to participate. The sources said that Hegseth visited with them in private and asked them if they were interested in telling their stories. One of the airmen, Bravo, agreed to do the interview, while Alpha declined. According to the report, neither of the crew members have been identified by the Pentagon. Um, oh, that's interesting. Neither of the crewmen has been identified by the Pentagon. Ooh, that's interesting. So that means we don't even know if this is the person.

That would be a very interesting story indeed. It was also noted that CNN and other military officials were concerned that putting the airmen on 60 Minutes would result in unintentional leaking of classified information. But that concern was reportedly ignored by Hegseth. CBS News was only one of major media organizations seeking a means of contacting the pilots and securing these interviews. Weiss reportedly told her reporters that securing the interview was top priority and lobbied not only her contacts in the Trump administration, but Hegseth himself, according to anonymous sources. The sources claim that Hegseth and his staff were excited to use CBS News to deliver a dramatic retelling of the rescue.

The Pentagon denied reporting in CNN. "This entire story is a complete lie," said Sean Parnell, spokesperson of the Pentagon, adding that the decision to participate in the interview was each pilot's alone because it's their story. Oh, really? That's very convincing. Very convincing. Parnell also stressed that the department took great care to ensure operational security, sources, and methods were protected. To suggest otherwise, it would denigrate every member of our military who participated in and supported the interview. During the interview, the crew member called Bravo revealed that after they were shot down, they and their pilots spent a day evading capture by Iranian forces.

The airmen were ultimately saved by American special forces who used, mind you, 155 aircraft supposedly to rescue two pilots. I think it was actually 155 for one pilot. So no one left behind, right? But actually a colossal waste, and shows just how bad of a situation this actually was for them. According to the sources, General Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was among those concerned that the interview could reveal classified information. When asked for comment, Caine's office said he would not comment on agenda-driven sources and anonymous sources. Okay, so that's the story.

The story is that these guys could have been very much indeed bullied into participating in this interview. Bullied. Um, the United States needs this propaganda war. I mean, I just showed you why they would need this. Oh, they claimed air superiority in this interview, which I would love to play for you, but CBS—I've seen it—I would just have to delete it anyway. This is what they do. They copyright the heck out of their stuff, especially after Bari Weiss has taken over. It's gotten even worse. So they copyright it even when it's not copyrightable, and YouTube just goes along with it. So that's why I'm not playing it. But in it—and I did watch some of it, I did watch a good chunk of it, as much as I could stomach—the pilot tells this harrowing story of climbing 7,000 feet up a mountain with a broken back and a broken shoulder and a broken leg.

So we're supposed to believe that this person was seriously injured. I mean, that's severe injuries. Now, of course, we could quibble, and they didn't give any more detail, and they didn't ask hard questions. CBS didn't say, "Hey, how broken was your back then?" Because many back fractures are—either, even if they're minor, climbing 7,000 feet up a mountain very well could risk your ability to walk again. It could severely worsen the injury, even if it was a minor injury. And others have said that if it was truly 100 miles per hour, falling straight down to the ground, that you're just 20 miles per hour away, in terms of Newtonian physics, from being obliterated altogether, like you exploding with the ground, meaning there's nothing left of you. So you're just 20 miles away from that. You come out with a broken back, shoulder, leg, I think it was. I forget what else it was.

It might have been just an arm. I forget. But yeah, arm, shoulder, and back, not leg. Sorry, let me scratch that. But to climb up 7,000 feet, that is like mountain-climbing-like work with a serious injury that could get severely worse. It's truly hard to believe. And it's obvious that the United States needs a propaganda win here because the U.S. isn't striking Iran hard right now. They can't get closer.

Iran has said, "Come closer, come closer, come closer to us," and the United States is not doing it. The U.S. is standing off. The U.S. is not sending aircraft closer. Actually, on July 31st of this year, Iran has already denoted and accounted for.

I'm not going to play it because it is AI, and I didn't love the presentation of it. But Iran claims, and I have reported on this, and we have the squawking information that I've played on this show many times, but Iran claims that every time even the U.S. Air Force tries to get closer to the Strait of Hormuz, meaning they're trying to run these escorts, they're refueling across the Middle East, they're getting to the Strait of Hormuz, they are then, you know, whichever tanker they want to try to escort through the Strait of Hormuz, they're trying to fly above, overhead.

They're trying to fire munitions that can neutralize missiles that are coming at the tanker, perhaps. That's the story, right? We don't actually have footage of this. It's heavily surveilled and censored, but that's the story that we get coming out of CENTCOM. Nevertheless, Iran says that multiple times, including on July 31st, they were able to lock on to this stealth F-35 and force it to evade, to take evasive maneuvers and get out of there, go back to Saudi or go back to Jordan or wherever the hell that jet flew out from. So the U.S. needs a win, but it's a very curious time, given that this F-15 being downed was such a critical point in the war.

It led to what would be the ceasefire that came not too long after that, and of course the June MOU after that. So this downing of the aircraft was a big revelation there, and a big wake-up call because it showed that indeed the United States does not only not have total air superiority, but that it exhausted whatever superiority it thought it had by just blowing through standoff munitions and having to get closer and closer to conduct operations. Now, Iran had a completely different narrative about this from what this pilot, or supposed pilot, because none of their identities have actually been confirmed.

Because of all this classified information and all of the ways in which they're trying to keep tight-lipped while also, um, doing this interview, it leads to a lot more questions than it does answers. And that's just coming from somebody who's trying to think critically. We don't actually know what happened. We have some declassified video of these, um, these troops, these rescuers coming in, taking him, et cetera, out of the area. But we don't really know what actually happened. And the story is looking very, very—how should I say?—very suspicious, to say the least. The downing of an American F-15, Iran's ability to respond to attacks amid Western media hype. This is how IRNA, the Iranian news agency, reported on it.

It said, "Donald Trump is inevitably presenting the rescue of the second crew member of the downed F-15 fighter jet as a propaganda victory, although this 48-hour affair is a reminder that Iran is capable of confronting the U.S. and incurring costs for it. Meanwhile, that jet is \$40 million. Yes, this event should also serve as a warning to the White House, which is still considering launching a ground operation." This was back in April, so that's not actually being considered to the same level. I'm not saying it isn't at all, but definitely not. The Guardian further notes that the bombing of Iran

by the U.S. and Israel benefited invaders to such an extent that the downing of even one plane five weeks into the war immediately became a major problem for Americans because such an event is extremely rare.

The last time a U.S. warplane was downed by a hostile force dates back to 2002 in the Iraq War. While it's not clear how the F-15 was shot down, the very fact that it happened shows that air superiority achieved by the U.S. and Israeli forces is not entirely absolute. The publication notes that the F-15 is about \$31 million, not \$40 or up to \$100 million in costs for a replacement. But the rescue operation, which was a far more dangerous mission than the fighter was on, is where the difficulties clearly begin. The decision to use an abandoned Iranian airstrip south of Isfahan as a temporary base of operations ran into trouble when two C-130 transport aircraft, probably modified for search and rescue, got stuck on the ground. According to American sources, the planes were destroyed by the U.S. itself to prevent them from falling into the hands of Iran.

And that led to \$230 million, \$150 million each, being obliterated. A Pave Hawk helicopter, a Black Hawk, involved in the rescue operation was also damaged by gunfire, and it's safe to assume that the cost of the loss and damage of aerial equipment exceeds \$250 million. Now, here and here was the scene afterward. This is what was taken by Iran afterward at the scene. They don't like to show this imagery anymore, but it was quite an embarrassing loss. And the fact that the United States is now trying to use this incident as some kind of major win to say, "Oh, well, no, no, no one's left behind." That's what they're trying to tell us.

No one's left behind. And this shows the absolute might and will of God and all of this right there. They're getting very religious, and they're trying—it's almost like televangelism. They're trying to, you know, use people's affiliation to whatever—Christianity, Catholicism, whatever it may be, evangelism, wherever it may be. They're trying to use that as a way to convince people that this was indeed not only heroism, but a victory in the eyes of enormous odds. But it's very strange that the United States has to do this now. And I think we know why the United States has to do this now. It's because there is a major crisis afoot.

To have to claim that now, months and months after—I mean, we're talking about how long ago? April 2nd. So, April 2nd, it is September 14th. We're talking about over five months ago this happened. And now they're coming out with this whole story about how this pilot, who was there to commit war crimes, by the way—he was there. They even admit that. They say he said that his mission was not a raid on the nuclear plant facility, which Iran claims was probably part of the mission, that it was a botched raid. They wanted to go into Isfahan, they wanted to take the uranium, and they wanted to hightail it out of there.

That's why they had these mobile—these mobile units where the planes would land. They would go, their team would go rob Iran of the nuclear facility. But what happened, what Iran says happened, is they landed, they were ambushed, and they had to hightail it out of there. And the F-15 was downed, and he had to hide in all of this. That's what Iran says. The U.S. says that they were just

there to conduct missile strikes on Iranian missile facilities. But nevertheless, what the United States had been doing up until that point was committing war crimes. They had hit tens of thousands of targets. Many of them, most of them, if not entirely all of them, were civilian. Given that, what do we know right now about this war?

Iran's missile arsenal—its overall military capabilities—have not been diminished. I mean, I just showed that they're firing anti-ship missiles. I've been covering for weeks now how this successful firing onto the Strait of Hormuz has also included striking at U.S. naval vessels hundreds of kilometers away, actually forcing the George Washington to take evasive maneuvers. So Iranian military capabilities are still very much intact. And according to Iran itself, they have produced almost double the amount of missiles they had before the war began, and now that's in their arsenal. So ultimately, what I'm saying here is that the whole narrative about what the United States has been doing here was botched to begin with. This operation was botched.

And this pilot falling from the sky at 100 miles per hour, potentially 70 to 100 miles, going up a mountain and saying, "Wow," you know, the whole thing. "I was praying in the air. I was praying on the ground. God, a miracle," all of this. It's all to play at sentiments of U.S. troops, U.S. militarism, being attached to God and heroism. When in fact, this whole operation up until this day, February 28th, has been botched, has been the opposite of heroism, has been in many ways cowardly. I often say that the U.S. empire fights wars in a cowardly manner. And once its so-called adversaries, its targets, end up either with an arsenal or a strategy or a fighting strategy, method that can confront it—well, or all three in the case of Iran—well, the United States cannot even play at heroism because its entire operational approach to this war becomes cowardly.

It becomes firing standoff munitions. It becomes striking a wedding with standoff munitions, blowing through those, killing civilians, but absolutely doing nothing on the ground to change the circumstances that the United States finds itself in to assert some kind of even maintained hegemony, because the hegemony is going away. I don't know how much I share this, somewhat in jest, but truthfully, there's a couple of schools of thought of how people look at something like this and look at the U.S.'s position in the region and how it's going. One school of thought is that this chaos is by design, and that the ruling elite are trying to actually crash everything, crash the economy, crash the dollar, run away with massive amounts of money and profits.

And as they do this, they maintain hegemony anyway because the world is in such crisis that an alternative cannot be born. Well, sure, right. That's going to isolate China. It's going to contain Russia and China. It's not going to allow them and Iran to strengthen because they have to always deal with fires along their own borders. You could say that even some Saudi media were saying that Yemen's a trap. Fine. You know, you make that argument if you want. It's not like there's zero truth to it because there are people at the top in this empire who do have, how should I say, psychopathic tendencies and sociopathic tendencies. You could say all of them do. And so I don't put it past them to have these kinds of inclinations.

But inclinations, desires, hopes, and dreams, that's different from what actually happens and what actually the U.S. empire is responding to right now. It's not responding to some kind of advance that they're making. Some friends of mine have made this argument that, no, actually, the U.S. is advancing its interests. Look at how much it can control blockades and oil shipping, and it is manipulating the markets and blah, blah, blah, blah. Okay, sure. Some of that is true. The blockades are very porous against Iran. They're very costly. And truthfully, no matter how much profit these oil companies are making off of rising oil prices, the fact of the matter is that they are walking on a tightrope toward recession. And that tightrope gets ever more thin as this situation that I'm putting up right here on the map—I'll zoom into it—this is volatile. All right.

And here's the Abraham Accords, all these Gulf countries. And here you have Mr. Al-Qaeda in Syria, right? They are—they look all so happy, right? Well, this map is not so happy. It's not so happy. I mean, you have the Strait of Hormuz is closed. Single-digit numbers of ships go through the Strait of Hormuz, many of which are from the Iranian corridor. We don't even get reports from the U.S. mainstream media about this anymore, other than blatant lies about how hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of ships are coming out. No evidence or proof. It's not coming out of any tracking data, Kpler or anything like that. Single digits at the most. That's what's coming out of the Strait of Hormuz. It's a dire situation. And here is Yemen. Look at Bab al-Mandab. That's in control of Ansar Allah and the Yemeni armed forces. That is a complete disaster for the United States, for Israel, for Saudi Arabia, to say the least.

Now, in Perim Island, which has been seized by the Houthis, a.k.a. Ansar Allah—actually known as Ansar Allah, Houthis to the Western mainstream slanderous media. But on Perim Island, everything is visible within 100 kilometers by the naked eye. So Ansar Allah, which has claimed upwards of somewhere between \$30 billion and \$100 billion worth of U.S. weaponry and Saudi weaponry from the forces that abandoned them, the proxies—they don't need that equipment. They don't need those radars. They just need their eyes and some low-cost rocket launcher, MANPAD, whatever it is. Something that costs a very low amount of money. They can see those ships and they can just hit them. So they have full control now of Bab el-Mandeb.

So it gets worse and worse and worse. And there you have Yanbu Port here and the East-West Pipeline. You have the East-West Pipeline running through Saudi Arabia right here, and that is off. That's off by Iraqi resistance strikes, supposedly, according to Saudi Arabia. We don't actually know who did it. There are many who suspect a quote-unquote false flag or sabotage by perhaps forces internally in Iraq that work for the CIA, United States, Mossad, what have you, to create an even further threat, further havoc for the Israeli and U.S. regimes. I don't know. We don't know. Iraqi resistance has denied that they did this. They say that they are honored to be associated with it, but they didn't do it. And then you have up here Syria and Iraq, especially Syria.

Okay. Syria is on fire right now. There are massive protests due to the rise in oil costs. And that is going to threaten the Jolani regime. That's going to threaten the Jolani regime, no doubt about it. Okay, it was always very tenuous. This regime was always very tenuous. You know, I said it from

the beginning, that while Syria was a major blow to lose, nevertheless, it was not going to be a strong victory in the sense that it would lead to huge strategic gains for the U.S. empire, even for Israel. It would lead to temporary gains at a tactical level that would certainly disrupt the axis of resistance for a time, but would not be powerful enough to stop what already is the tide of reality.

All right. The tidal reality, which is that the United States does not have the ability to not just defeat Iran. Can they try to isolate Iran in full? I mean, Iran was technically, with the fall of Syria, other than Ansar Allah in Yemen, it was basically surrounded. And now look at what happened. It's blown these bases to hell. According to the U.S. Naval Secretary, he said the Bahrain Fifth Fleet is blown to hell. All these bases are essentially blown to hell. One of the big reasons the United States doesn't want to continue striking Iran is because it does not want to continue these bases being blown to hell, because they need to move these assets out of there.

If they're thinking about leaving permanently, or at least in a massive way, keeping just a very small operational level of control over these bases, well, they need time to do that, and they certainly can't do that while under Iranian fire. I mean, it's a disaster. It's a disaster. And Iran was fully isolated by the map. The maps would go around for years saying, "Wow, look at Iran placing its country in the middle of all those military bases," 15 of them running up and down the Gulf, up and down the Gulf, and, of course, in Saudi Arabia. But it's gone. The CIA base station in Saudi Arabia, gone. The air bases in Jordan, severely damaged. So, nevertheless, we are seeing a massive miscalculation play out.

We are seeing the United States trying to take a breather, but the region is not giving them a breather. The region is not giving them a breather. Let's take a look at a few things here. Let's take a look at J.D. Vance, his reaction to the Yemeni advance, which again is part of this massive defeat faced by both the U.S., Saudi Arabia, the Gulf countries—but let's just call it the empire in general—facing huge losses in this region. They have to be counted. They have to be acknowledged. Some people don't want to acknowledge this. You have to acknowledge these losses, because if you don't, then you're not just looking at the truth here. Some people want to say the bases don't matter. Some people want to say, well, it's all about controlling the global markets and oil and money, and chaos is serving us.

Sure, but the losses matter. You can think whatever you want—you know, the Pentagon, the deep state, the foreign policy blob, the military-industrial complex. They can think whatever they want in their minds, right, and the executive boardrooms, et cetera. It wouldn't be a surprise if they have such hubris that they can't see this, or they look away from it and they only care about their short-term profits. But this regional situation is getting really bad. It starts from Iran and the victories that Iran is dealing, or the losses, the blows Iran is dealing to the U.S., and the victories that they're incurring. And then, of course, it goes to Yemen. Here's J.D. Vance on Yemen.

#Speaker 1

Concerned at all about the Houthi seizure of Perim Island in the Red Sea, and how is the U.S. going to respond to that?

#JD Vance

You know, like, concerns, certainly. It's something that we're keeping pretty close tabs on. We've been in constant contact with the Emiratis, the Saudis, and others who are affected in the region. So it's something the United States administration is very much on top of. We've also been engaged in direct conversations with the Houthis themselves. So we actually feel like we are on top of the situation. It's a very fluid and dynamic thing, but we're going to keep on monitoring it, making sure that Americans' best interests are represented.

#Danny

Yeah, so they're in touch with Ansar Allah itself, you know, because they need to be. They need to be on that phone because they're worried about Bab el-Mandeb being completely choked off to all U.S. shipping interests and U.S. trade interests. Yeah, that's probably a good idea. But do I believe them? No. Because Ansar Allah has said from the very beginning that its struggle against Saudi Arabia is in large part a struggle against the United States. It isn't as if Yemen and the Yemeni armed forces weren't at war with the United States back in March of 2025. You all remember how that war started. It went, uh, it went very badly, including for Mr. Peter Thiel, J.D. Vance over here, who, you know, was part of that whole Signal scandal. But this is Saudi Arabia. It's Al-Qaeda-led, like Saudi Arabia. This is Syria right now. Protests have erupted all across the Jolani regime in response to these oil prices.

That's what Syria looks like right now in many parts of the country because oil costs have risen 40, 50, some upwards of more percent over the last several days, especially since crude has ballooned. This is going to be a lot of the world, mind you, because the shortages are getting bad. I don't know if you saw, even in the United States, you have Costco severing its capacity to give unlimited motor fuel to its customers, saying that one unit per week or something like that can be purchased and no more. So that's bad. That's really bad. And I just want to show you, to top it off, before we get into some higher-level analysis, this is what Iran is saying about July 31st. It's an AI video here, but what it says is that on July 31st, Iran met the United States' F-35 with a locked-on radar infrared air defense missile.

And that F-35 had to leave the area. They also downed an MQ-9 Reaper drone on that date, which was, you know, part and parcel of this now 40-plus, 45, 46 now, Reaper drones, Predator drones, all downed by Iran. But nevertheless, Iran is saying that this is very much a byproduct of this lack of air superiority. And they released this video to demonstrate that not only was that F-15 debacle a byproduct of the fact that Iran was ready for the U.S. Air Force to penetrate Iranian airspace in this

way, but that they've done this several times. And while they haven't necessarily downed several aircraft, they've forced these aircraft to leave the area on many occasions. So it is not a case where the U.S. Air Force can just go in.

Because how many times has the Trump administration said, "We have all these weapons still, do whatever we want. We're ready whenever we want to be ready. We'll come in and we will take care of things whenever we want. But we're just not doing it now." Why? Because Iran is begging us to talk. They don't want it. It'll be over by the midterms. All of this sounds very desperate. And then that interview with Bravo, with the so-called pilot—we don't even know if he's the pilot. I don't want to fuel massive skepticism here of that fact, but the Pentagon won't confirm that he is. It's a nightmare, right? It's a real propaganda nightmare. But nevertheless, the stories that are coming out, people don't believe it. Look at social media.

Everyone is very suspicious of this narrative, especially why they have to promote this now in a period where the oil prices are absolutely going through the roof, where morale about the war in the United States and the world, for that matter, is at an all-time low. BRICS countries all just came together and said, "This war is trash. We don't want to deal with it anymore." So you have the entire world, you have the United States, people in the United States sick of this. And, you know, it leads to a very difficult quandary for the U.S. empire right now, because not only do they have to think about, as J.D. Vance said, what's happening with Yemen. Fluid situation. Yeah, fluid going in a bad direction for one of its top vassals, which, mind you, this is not insignificant.

Some people will say, yes, the United States will happily sacrifice its vassals. I think we have to understand that using terms like happily and willingly, I think, can misconstrue the fact that the U.S. needs these vassals to be robust and to have—maybe not staying power in terms of leadership, but they don't need, like, a Netanyahu figure everywhere that can just command politics inside of these, you know, monstrous regimes. Not necessarily. There can be a level of instability and the U.S. doesn't care. But they need to be durable in the sense that they can't lose ground. Losing ground is bad for the vassals, right? It's bad. They need their proxies to be durable and to be able to sustain what the U.S. wants to do, which is to shift burden and responsibility onto them when it is necessary.

And that's obviously what's happening right now when it comes to Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The United States is not going to get involved. Trump has already rejected Saudi pleas. Now we're hearing that Saudi Arabia is begging Israel to come into this. And of course, Israel is like, "Yeah, yeah, right. No, no, no, no, no. We're happy with the U.S.'s vassals getting weakened because we want Greater Israel anyway. So the weaker you are, the more likely you are to capitulate to us. And look, you're groveling to us." We don't know if it actually happened, but Israeli media is saying that Saudi Arabia has been groveling to them to get involved in the war. Nevertheless, if Saudi Arabia falls, Israel is in a worse position. The U.S. is in a by far worse position.

And Saudi Arabia has never been closer to internal collapse now. Because the worse that this gets, the worse the oil crisis gets, the worse the economy gets. This is already a country that is basically,

you know, they call Iran, they call Russia, a gas station masquerading as a country. Saudi Arabia is basically an oil terminal that is masquerading as a country. It was created that way by Western empire, and of course the U.S. empire making it the focal point of the petrodollar. So that's what Saudi Arabia is. It doesn't have a government that's well-liked. It has a huge migrant labor force. And it has a development model that's basically non-existent except for wasteful spending and, you know, on, like, tourism and service.

But most of it is oil revenue, oil for weapons. That's basically much of the Saudi economy. And so when oil goes away and there's nothing coming in, and you have conditions like what is happening in Syria reaching Saudi, it's bad. And then you have the fact that Yemen is so key to Saudi Arabia's ability to maintain its overall legitimacy. Well, if Saudi Arabia falls into an even deeper crisis over the coming days and weeks, then the U.S. does and Israel does. Because no matter how much hubris and how arrogant the Israeli regime is about the Gulf states and basically slapping them around and using them as punching bags for their own interests, they need them to be these punching bags.

They cannot fall into a crisis where they become useless to them. But that is fast what is happening. Ansar Allah is obviously not done. They are still making, I believe they're making their way all across Yemeni territory. I believe that they are now routing, according to some maps, they're routing these Saudi forces away. And they are taking a pounding while doing it. Saudi Arabia has fired hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of sorties and strikes onto Ansar Allah. There have been some reports that they successfully dispersed them away from territory they seized. But you have to understand that just because people are hiding from airstrikes, it doesn't mean that they've lost the territory.

Once the strikes stop, they still have it. And so that is a big problem for Saudi Arabia. They don't have a ground force, and they certainly don't even have the ability to keep this up because eventually the ammunition will dry up. The United States will not have the capacity to replace what they have. We know that Yemen's hitting their air bases as well. So with the oil gone, the U.S. being unable to resupply Saudi Arabia, it's only a matter of time before they have to come either to the table and say, okay, we concede, and try to put some lipstick on that pig, or they face a massive crisis and calamity.

And that's what confronts the United States and Israel too in the region, as Iran consolidates its position. So now Iran is in an even stronger position because it has, as another flank, Ansar Allah making massive gains. And I'm hearing—don't quote me on this, because I do not know if it's 100% true—but that in the coming weeks and months, Hezbollah will have a surprise for Israel. I'm seeing those reports surface that this whole Al-Tayyar compound that was struck hard by Israel wasn't actually a massive, significant tactical victory; that they actually faced not only huge resistance from the fighters that were there, but that Israel now has to withdraw because it was basically a political stunt, but also because Hezbollah is waiting for them.

So the reports of a surprise waiting for Israel on the Hezbollah front. And we can never count out Palestinian resistance despite the horrific attacks that still continue on Gaza. I believe yesterday a

pregnant woman, as well as several civilians, were killed in what continued to be limited, quote-unquote, in-number strikes, but nevertheless a complete and utter violation of the so-called ceasefire terms, which Trump has touted as a major victory for peace. But we can never count them out because they're still around. They're still getting into clashes. The U.S. and Israel still supporting these proxies there.

And Palestinian resistance continue to confront them. But of course, with Gaza being the concentration camp it already was, definitely really difficult to rebuild. Then we have to watch the Syria front. As I said before, Syria is now erupting in protests. People are not happy. If anybody thinks that the Syrian people, in the majority, are celebrating and dancing around the Jolani regime, well, I have a bridge to sell you, because that's definitely not the case. People are now facing the economic pain of the Jolani regime. Not only the fact that these forces, when they took power, these Al Qaeda forces, they went on a rampage against Alawites.

Druze and others to try to fuel sectarian and ethnic conflict. So it's not a good situation in Syria, and it's likely to devolve into another crisis for the empire. So there's the landscape. And later on, I have Pepe Escobar at 5 p.m. Eastern, who will go much deeper into especially the Yemeni front and the multipolar world front, about the BRICS summit, which happened, because all of this is connected. There are lots of reports about how the major BRICS leaders, Russia and China, have become intimately involved in these advances that Iran and Yemen are making. He will comment on those. He will talk about the BRICS summit later at 5 p.m.

Eastern Time today. And you'll want to catch that show because Pepe will be coming—I believe he's in Moscow right now—and he will comment on the massive losses that the United States has incurred because of the Yemeni advance and the humiliation that it is incurring. Here is the stream page. All right, so you want to go over there after the show ends here. I'll put it in the chat. It's also just on the livestream page that you can save the time. 5 p.m. Eastern Time today, September 14th. That's 11 p.m. Central European Time. That's 2 p.m. Pacific Time. That's 10 p.m. London time. And for Pepe out in Moscow, he's coming to us at midnight.

So be generous to him. Give him love. Be sure to save the day because Pepe Escobar is coming in five hours or so from now, okay? So thank you so much, Zanadim, for the super sticker. Thank you so much, Regina Pyres, for the super chat. That's essentially all I have today. I want to thank, of course, all the moderators who were here today. Who was here today? Yeah, if I can check it out, or you can say who you are, you know, in the chat as well. Usually Pilgrim is here. I don't see them here today. Anyone else? If any moderators are here. Oh yeah, I see Where Where. Thank you so much. I don't know if moderators can make other people moderators.

Is that a thing? But, you know, we could always probably use more help out here in the chat. That probably would be nice. So thanks, Where Where. I appreciate you. You're always—I appreciate your loyal support all over all these years. Thanks to everyone who watched today. Great to have you. Thanks to, of course, all the members who I see in the chat as well. You can become a

YouTube member. It's a great way to support the show, so do that. It's in the video description below as well. And you can also subscribe on Patreon, Substack, and much more. I have someone who wants to be a mod here, Patty Barnett. All right, Patty, if you're here, enough.

And I appreciate your support. I can make you—oops. Jeez, chat's moving really fast here. Here we go. Here we go. Add as a moderator. You'll be a standard moderator. All right, there we go. Yeah, thanks so much. I see Jutavos as a member. Thanks so much, as a newcomer too. Thank you so much. I appreciate that you say I have cool mods. All right, so I have another one who wants to be a moderator. Here we go. Standard moderator to Hercowen. Yeah, because we need more help out. Definitely would help out Where Where, who's here often and frequently, probably the most frequent moderator that we've got. But in any event, everybody, hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show.

That's the best way to boost the show. And as I said before, Pepe Escobar in just five hours from now. So yeah, I've been trying out new things, trying to give you updates earlier, you know, trying to mix it up a bit. Well, and yeah, I hope that you've enjoyed—here we go. We have another person. Yeah, we just got to have a lot of moderators here. It's really good. Beware of rogue mods. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, let me know anybody who starts to not act great. But nevertheless, I trust a lot of the people who I just made mod. All right, everybody, hit the like button before you go. This is a great show. I'll see you in exactly five hours from now with Pepe Escobar. See you then. Bye-bye.