

GAME OVER, Trump: Iran & Venezuela

BREAK US-Israel's War Machine

Israel & Trump are preparing for war with Iran and Venezuela in 2026, but as Prof. Mohammad Marandi notes, this will end in a WW3 disaster of epic proportions. Watch the video until the end to find out how the plans for the warmongers in Washington & Tel Aviv are already falling apart, and why they'll fail if they ever get off the ground. SUPPORT THE SHOW: PATREON.COM /DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai...> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> #iran #venezuela #israel #trump

#Danny

So it's a new year coming up. Could a U.S.–Venezuela war and another Israel–Iran war overlap in 2026? This is a senior contributor to Forbes talking about how Trump and Israel are both separately ratcheting up war against these respective countries—of course, the U.S. taking the lead on Venezuela and Israel supposedly taking the lead against Iran. I guess I'm curious, Professor Mohammad Marandi, what you think about this possibility and also the prospects for 2026, because there's so much happening all around the world right now.

#Mohammad Marandi

Since the ceasefire, Danny—on, I think, October 8th, right?—so about two and a half months or so, the Israeli regime has murdered over 400 people in Gaza. Yeah, yeah, so that's like every day a number of Palestinians—kids playing by their tents, murdered; kids going out to find wood, murdered—and the West says nothing. And they do the same in Lebanon. Just yesterday they murdered a Lebanese journalist, a Lebanese soldier, and a third person. Nothing in the Western media. Because the Western media, you know—I don't know if you saw the American comedian who just came out a couple of days ago and talked about the 240 or so... oh, Dave Chappelle.

#Danny

Yeah, Dave Chappelle came out.

#Mohammad Marandi

Western so-called journalists don't care about Palestinian journalists or Lebanese journalists. They don't care about American citizens—the American citizens in Gaza who were murdered, the American citizen in the West Bank who was murdered, the three kids in Lebanon and their father, American

citizens who were murdered by the Israelis just a few weeks ago. Did the U.S. Embassy say anything? Did the U.S. State Department say anything? Did the White House say anything? Of course not. They don't care. They don't care. It's not important to them. So... this is the state of affairs. There is no ceasefire anywhere. The regime can do whatever it wants, and the Western media looks the other way.

Intentionally, they don't want us to be. And of course, with social media—there's a takeover: TikTok, CBS, and so on—and it's probably going to get worse and worse. So this is how things are. It's still not going to end well, because young Americans are seeing that their rights are being taken away from them because of what's happening in Gaza, because of what this ethno-supremacist regime is doing. But there's a possibility of war, as I said. I think it will end very poorly for the Israeli regime, and it will be one big step—another step—toward its demise, because it's already seen, it's already hated across the world. And the 12-day war showed that it's very vulnerable.

If they carry out another attack on Iran, it's going to create further global outrage, and the Iranians are going to hit much harder. And in Venezuela, it's possible too. But again, what I know about Venezuela—and I know a bit about Venezuela—I have Venezuelan friends I'm in contact with literally every day. It won't end well for the United States. It will create mass misery for people in Latin America and so on. But the Americans won't win. I mean, Trump won't win. The American people are against it. So when I say "the Americans," I'm talking about the regime, not the people. So, you know, both can happen, and both may happen. One may happen, but it's not going to end well for the United States.

#Danny

I don't know if the United States—whether it's Trump or anyone else—can handle a full-scale war anymore. I mean, they've tried so hard since the war on terror, since Afghanistan and Iraq, to find other ways, even papering over full-scale wars like Libya, for example—making them into dirty wars with bombing campaigns that supported all of this. But a full-scale war, which is required for Iran and arguably required for Venezuela—because, uh, you were around during those days, I was very young, but I've seen the footage—when Hugo Chávez was taken out by the CIA, literally kidnapped. What happened? This was back in, what, 2002? Masses of people went into the streets, and they got him back.

All they did was demand he come back. It was such a popular crisis that he was brought back. That sentiment, I don't believe, is gone. And so it seems like something much larger would be required for the United States to invest in warmongering in both of these arenas. That makes it hard for me to believe that the Trump administration, especially, could handle such a thing. It would immediately spark a crisis. You mentioned Gaza. Gaza lays this foundation of anger. People are not going to be happy after Gaza, seeing potentially another kind of Gaza happen in Venezuela, because you would need a mass slaughter in Venezuela to really control the situation. The United States does not have that capability.

#Mohammad Marandi

They've spent—no country has infinite resources. The most expensive thing in this world is war, and the United States has been waging war since the beginning of this century. It just can't continue. We're seeing the effects on how things are in the United States—it's clear. And Europe is in a terrible state compared to 20 years ago. This is a different world we're living in, so it can't continue. Already, people are saying the U.S. economy is on the verge of a major, major problem. Some compare it to 1929, and some say it's going to be even worse. I don't know—I'm not an economist—but the people saying these things are very knowledgeable and credible. So this won't end well. This is a regime that's out of control.

And the people who are pushing it are the Zionists, who have their own vested interests. They don't care about the American people. They're the neocons. They don't care about the American people. These people and others have been making a lot of money from these devastating and criminal wars, and they don't care about the American people. They don't care about anyone. But as I said, this can't continue. Venezuela—I don't think they can win in Venezuela. I'm sure they can create great destruction, but they won't win. And it will just push the United States further toward crisis. It strengthens China, it strengthens Iran, it strengthens Russia. Everyone sees it when they compare the behavior of the United States to everyone else—everyone else looks good. Everyone looks good.

It doesn't matter who they are. Everyone looks good because the United States is seen as dangerous, murderous, out of control, barbaric, inhumane, ruthless, genocidal—and its allies, the Israeli regime, the Europeans who are supporting the Israeli regime—all of this is the absolute end. And then arresting activists on the streets for holding placards against genocide or posting something online—arresting them, then re-arresting them, then arresting them a third time, putting them in... Or the former military people being sanctioned by the European Union for speaking about the stupidity of the dirty war in Ukraine, or the proxy war in Ukraine, stealing their assets—it's just extraordinary. They seem blind to how this is impacting their image across the world. When you think it can't get worse, it gets worse.

#Danny

Yeah, and people don't come to this channel for doom and gloom, because I take a different orientation. But there's a lot of doom and gloom out there—and in some respects, there are good reasons for that. What has happened and continues to happen to the Palestinian people, and to people across the region from Lebanon to Syria and beyond... Venezuela—we just mentioned and talked about Venezuelan suffering at the hands of sanctions. We can go on and on. But I think one thing I'm taking note of here is that even when we look at the case of Palestine, when we look at the case of Gaza—despite what people I respect, like Norman Finkelstein, say, "Gaza is gone, Gaza

is gone”—there are a lot of people saying everything is ruined. And I don’t agree. Yeah, in some respects, if you look at the buildings, the infrastructure, how many people’s lives have been destroyed—but the U.S. and Israel can’t capture the political situation.

They cannot govern the Palestinian people. Why? Because the Palestinian people don’t want to be governed by an outside force like the Israelis or the U.S. And that, to me, is a huge sign of hope. I think we’re seeing this all across the world. It reflects what’s happening in much of the world, where there’s a huge push to stop the U.S. and its so-called—well, we should call them vassals or junior partners—from governing, controlling, dominating, and destroying them. I think that’s a big movement that, by 2026, will only accelerate.

#Mohammad Marandi

I agree completely. I mean, look, I have no view of Mamdani, and I don’t want to say he’s another Obama. I don’t want to say something good about him—I don’t know him. And if I say anything good about him, it’ll probably end up poorly for him. But I have no opinion of him. The very fact that so many people voted for him, including young Jews, shows the degree of human decency despite all the propaganda, despite the brainwashing. It shows how young people across the United States—from different walks of life, different ethnic groups, different religions, different backgrounds—see through the propaganda, this great wall of censorship and propaganda in the United States.

They see through it, and they take a stand. The same is true elsewhere in the world, and I think that’s the most important thing of all. The reason I always say the Israeli regime has been defeated is not just because it had no real military success in Lebanon or Yemen. The only place where it succeeded—thanks to Erdogan, Qatar, and Biden—was in Syria. But even that isn’t ending well for anyone. Right now, Erdogan wants to come to Iran to get Iran’s help because he created this catastrophe that’s working to the benefit of the Israeli regime in Syria. And he has a losing hand. Through his monstrous behavior and foolish policies, he built a wall between Turkey and the Israeli regime.

And he’s broken down that wall, hoping he could create this mini Ottoman Empire. What’s happening now is that he’s become vulnerable, and his country has become vulnerable because of this—because of that monstrous behavior. In any case, even that, we have to see how it plays out. The Israeli regime hasn’t had real success. The economy isn’t doing well, and then the Iranians hammered it. But the real defeat is that the world has turned against it. People despise the regime, and people are making the distinction—thanks to young Jews—that Judaism is one thing and the Israeli regime is another. People are seeing through the propaganda.

Now a lot more people know that the real anti-Semite is this Polish prime minister of the Israeli regime, who carries out a genocide and does it in the name of Judaism. The Semites, of course, are the Palestinians—Palestinian Muslims, Christians, and Jews. And those who’ve come from Iran, they’re not Semites. He’s Polish. But that aside, people are seeing that Judaism is one thing and the

Israeli regime is another. So people are waking up. I'm not saying everyone is waking up. I'm not saying that tomorrow things are going to get better. It will probably get worse before it gets better. But these are signs of hope. These are signs that there is light, as I keep saying, at the end of the tunnel. And so I'm not pessimistic at all.

It's very painful to see the daily slaughter in Palestine. What's even more disgusting is how Western journalists are indifferent to it. You see these famous people in Europe and the United States—if they're not going to write articles, they could at least retweet something. But they don't do anything because they're cowardly. I mean, there are people who are courageous, but not these people—none of them. So yeah, I don't see the world in that pessimistic way. I'm optimistic about the future. Christmas is ahead. Christ—if he were among us today, walking the streets—he would be with the Palestinians. He would be at the forefront of the resistance. And that's what we have to do, regardless of how things look.

That's where we have to stand. And if we're standing in the right place, if we're doing the right thing, that's the best thing. That should make us optimistic, because the most important thing at the end of the day is what you do—what stance you take. Are you going to be quiet? Are you going to be complicit? Or are you going to take a stance? The stronger your position, the more steadfast you are, the happier you should be with yourself. And I think that's the most important thing of all. People have been exposed. The Christian Zionists were not Christian. The Jewish Zionists were not Jewish. They've been exposed to the world, and they've been exposed to the youth.

And I think it's going to get worse for them. People are seeing that the issue is not race, it's not religion. The issue is hegemony and the powerful few—the ruling class—who are willing to sacrifice everyone for domination. Whether they are Zionists, neocons (which are basically one and the same), or oligarchs in the United States, they don't care about the rest of humanity. They'll try to divide us; they'll turn Muslim against Christian. Right now, you see this new big wave of anti-Muslim sentiment being promoted in the West. The West has been supporting ISIS, the West has been supporting Al-Qaeda, and the West has been supporting Takfiri ideology—Wahhabism and Salafism.

And the big evil force is Iran, you know, from there. Iran has churches. Iran has synagogues. Just recently, Max Blumenthal, when he came to Iran—I haven't seen the documentary, I just saw a few minutes of it, I should watch it—he did a documentary on synagogues in Iran. There are synagogues in Tehran. There are kosher restaurants in Isfahan. There are synagogues and kosher restaurants probably elsewhere too; I know these two cities. And you have churches across Tehran and other cities. Christmas is mostly celebrated on the 6th of January because most Christians in Iran are Armenian, some Orthodox. There are some who celebrate tomorrow, a small minority.

So, you know, they demonize Iran when in reality—yes, that's, yeah, that's—Ayatollah Khamenei here is visiting the family of a Christian martyr who was killed during Saddam Hussein's war against the country. He went to their home; he's done this many times before. This is an Armenian family, so I guess he went in early January because their Christmas is on the 6th. This young man was

martyred fighting against the Western-backed Saddam Hussein aggression. And here's another Armenian family he visited for Christmas—he spoke with family members, ate with them, and, you know, as people do during celebrations in Iran, they gave sweets and fruit.

And so he had tea with them and sat with them. So this is the man of evil, the one supposedly standing up against genocide and leading the so-called axis of evil. He's the monster. And then there's another clip I sent you where he visits an Assyrian Christian family, and the Assyrians in Iran celebrate Christmas on the 25th of January. So he goes there too. And that's, you know, he's the bad guy, the force of evil. Meanwhile, those who've been supporting ISIS and Al-Qaeda, those who are killing and murdering Catholics in the Caribbean—whom the Iranians are supposedly supporting—those are the good guys. This is the upside-down world we're living in today. But like I said, that's not a reason for pessimism.

#Danny

Yeah, I mean, you know...

#Mohammad Marandi

It just shows we all have a lot of work to do.

#Danny

Definitely, yeah, in 2026. Especially because I think the situation for the U.S. Empire and Israel is getting very desperate. You know, when we look at even the example of Syria—I was probably never more depressed in the last several years than when Syria fell, because I had been involved since, like, 2013 or 2014 in fighting against that regime-change war, both through activism and work like this. But when I felt those things and started to think about it, I looked at the situation and what you had just described with Syria. It's a mess. Of course, it really is.

#Mohammad Marandi

But it's also waking people up when you see Jolani going to the White House through the back door, and Trump spraying perfume on him. And when you see him having this love fest with Petraeus, the former head of the CIA and the guy in charge of Iraq—people wake up. I mean, except for the most cynical or sectarian people who are blind to reality and drowning in their inhumanity, everyone else is seeing what the reality is. They're seeing who these people are and who they're affiliated with. We just saw, a couple of days ago this year, I think the Foreign Ministry published a picture of Syria without the Golan Heights. Yeah. So what, the Golan Heights no longer belongs to Syria? That's what this was all about—Timber Sycamore. And Erdogan, he's part of it, just like now he's sending oil to the Israelis.

Qatar, you know, what these people do is they give scholarships to some Palestinians and then show themselves off. But in reality, they're in the American camp. And what they do for the Palestinians is with the consent of the Americans, because the Americans want people to lean toward these countries—the same countries that are transporting oil to Israel, the same countries whose money goes into the United States. But people are seeing through it now. People see reality. And those who don't see the reality—they don't want to see it. It doesn't matter if Christ comes tomorrow; these people are not going to change. They'll wage war against Christ, the very same Christian Zionists or whoever. So, you know, those who are determined to keep their eyes closed, their eyes will remain closed. But the rest of the world—they're waking up, and that's a good thing.

#Danny

Yeah, definitely. And, you know, we can get your final comment on this, Professor Marandi. The United States, you can see under Trump, is really trying to rev up, even in the most crass and almost illegitimate way possible, American exceptionalism—trying to make it seem like everything is working out, that the U.S. is all-powerful. But I think what people miss, especially in the case of Syria, is that if we look at Latin America, for example, how many times have things shifted over the last several decades? You see a more anti-imperialist, more sovereign situation in Latin America versus the opposite.

There are constant swings and shifts. But ultimately, I think what we're seeing overall—if we assess the entire situation—is the U.S. empire becoming more and more violent, more and more illegitimate. It's almost like a kid who's tired of playing whack-a-mole: he wants to keep playing, but he can't do it as well anymore. He's getting tired, he's about to collapse. That's kind of where we are right now when it comes to the U.S. empire. And while that's already leading to a lot of pain, it also creates many opportunities. I think the biggest one is that you have two...

And I want to put Iran in there because I do believe that Iran is in this category of almost like the untouchables—where the U.S. is having such a hard time figuring out how it's going to get its way with Russia, with China, with Iran—that it basically has to try to destroy the rest of the chessboard in order to get to them. And it's not working out very well. Even when the U.S. installs client governments, those governments often end up going to China and Russia on their hands and knees, saying, "We still need your help." So that doesn't bode very well, I feel, for the U.S. empire. And I think it leads to opportunities for progress in the world in 2026. What say you? We can end on this.

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, we're already seeing integration across Asia, partially because of U.S. policy. You see the Belt and Road Initiative becoming more serious because of the threat of the United States on the high seas and U.S. piracy. You see the north-south corridor between Iran and Russia because of the war in Ukraine. So thanks to the Europeans and Americans, you see integration growing across the Global South. But also, you see people turning—the globe turning—against the empire. And I think,

again, I saw it on your show. I think Professor Wolf, on your show once, said—if I'm not mistaken—one of those brave people who are truth tellers. I think it was him, though I'm not sure who said it. They said that things slowly get worse and worse for the empire, for the U.S. economy, until suddenly they get bad very fast.

And when things begin to go downhill, they go downhill—gradually, and then suddenly it goes very fast. And I think we're nearing that point. The empire has overextended itself for far too long. And instead of, as I was saying earlier, rethinking the empire—I mean, the empire is evil—but instead of rethinking it and making it more realistic, they're just, you know, even this new national security document, it's not a rethink. It's not a real rethink. And I don't even think it's going to be implemented, but that's another issue. So instead of rethinking, they're just doubling down, as I said earlier. And that's going to make the fall nearer rather than further away.