

Trump Declares TOTAL WAR at UN! Iran HITS BACK with Anti-Ship Missiles

Danny Haiphong reacts to the shocking declaration of total war made by Trump at the UN General Assembly and Iran's furious response as the war enters a new and dangerous phase. Check out Folkware: <http://folkwaretech.coop/> Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis! Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> #iranwar #trump #yemen #usmilitary

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Welcome back to the show, everyone, for the latest news and analysis. We begin at the UN General Assembly, where Donald Trump officially and essentially declared total war on Iran with incredibly veiled threats that weren't so veiled at all. Here is what Donald Trump said during his UN General Assembly speech, which has shocked even mainstream media observers.

#Danny Haiphong

Will a deal be made with Iran that lets them rebuild and create a far greater country than it ever was before, maybe one of the greatest in the Middle East or even the world? Or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and destroy people and countries again? Do I drive them into hell with no chance of survival and no hope of future greatness or generations?

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So Donald Trump essentially said, does he prevent Iran from having future generations, which many have interpreted as a potential threat toward world war or nuclear war in a lot of respects. Now, how did Iran respond to this declaration by Trump that he is on the cusp of a decision to go to total war with the country? Well, Iran fired five cruise missiles toward targets in the Strait of Hormuz overnight after the speech. This is the U.K. tracking agency for tankers reporting on the incident. This cargo vessel was struck on the Omani side of the Strait of Hormuz.

The vessel caught fire and is now drifting, with two casualties reported, two injuries. The vessel was attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz outside of Iranian jurisdiction. Now, Iran has plans, and I

believe that this was a big message to Donald Trump earlier to tell the United States that it is not messing around, that it is not capitulating just because Trump decided to use what should be a forum for international cooperation and coming together of the world's nations to talk about and resolve common problems. But he decided to use that platform to provoke, stoke, and threaten a total war.

The Iranian government is responding in a big way, not just with firing those anti-ship missiles and cruise missiles at tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, but also announcing a new policy which has not gotten hardly any coverage at all by mainstream or independent media either. Iran is now declaring the imposition of a 20% cargo value fine on vessels such as the one it fired upon in the Strait of Hormuz, meaning that a tanker carrying around \$200 million of oil could face a \$40 million fine, per Fars News. Now, Iran's Parliament National Security Commission approved the provisions, and ships violating these rules could be temporarily seized until the fine is paid, with specialized maritime courts set to enforce these rules.

So Iran is not only firing at tankers in the Strait of Hormuz now to send a message that they cannot violate the mechanism that was agreed upon earlier in the memorandum of understanding, of all places, but they've also now instituted a law that says that they can seize these tankers and fine 20% of their cargo, or impose fines of 20% of their cargo value. So \$20.8 billion a year would be more than the entire annual revenue of some major technology companies, though it's only a hypothetical figure based on the maximum value fines. So this is how Iran responded to Donald Trump's threats. But nevertheless, it has caused shockwaves across the world in reaction to this platform, the United Nations General Assembly, being used by Donald Trump to invoke genocidal rhetoric.

Now, mind you, as Ryan Grim said, who I shared the initial report of, Congress has actually declared an end to this war. Congress has actually said that this war should be ended. So if Donald Trump was to make good on these threats of wiping away generations of Iranian people, well, that would be illegal by U.S. law. But of course, this has not stopped Donald Trump before in any respect at all, because Donald Trump, by literally saying what he said at the U.N. General Assembly, was violating international law. I mean, it's a war crime to declare that you are going to possibly, maybe, and are contemplating the complete destruction of entire generations of a country's people. Well, what did Mossad—Massoud, sorry. I got a lot of commentary on my pronunciation. I'm a New Englander, so my accent comes out, especially with words that I am not familiar with.

But Masoud Pezeshkian, the president of Iran, addressed the United Nations just a short time ago, and this is how he responded to Donald Trump's threats. He said, Iran's president, according to the Associated Press, in a wartime address at the U.N., “We have been the victims of terrorism.” Iran's president said on Wednesday that his people have been victims of terrorism by the United States. Don't you love how they put that in quotes as if it's a question, as if the United States didn't kill thousands of Iranians from February 28th onward? Delivering a rare wartime speech at the U.N. General Assembly a day after Donald Trump said he could annihilate the Islamic Republic, Masoud

Pezeshkian held up photos of the late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and more than 150 schoolchildren that were killed in the first days of the war, the Manab schoolchildren. He said, "Yes, they did hit us, but we did not bend the knee."

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Pezeshkian, who within Iran's political landscape is considered a moderate politician, addressed the world leaders a day after Donald Trump used the same stage, suggesting he may annihilate the Islamic Republic if a deal isn't reached soon. So again, the mainstream media is also normalizing this kind of rhetoric. There's no criticism. There's no condemnation. There's no bringing up how just making those remarks at the United Nations is not just incredibly dangerous for the security situation worldwide, but also against international law on the very platform that it is supposed to uphold at the U.N. General Assembly.

Here's Press TV's summary of the Iranian president's speech. He said he addressed the U.S. bombing Iranian children using cluster bombs. They accused Iran of terrorism while committing even worse crimes. Now, who is happy about Donald Trump's declaration of renewed war? Because, of course, the U.S. is already at war with Iran. But declaring the possibility of total war has made Israel very happy. The Jerusalem Post says Trump denounces Iran as a, quote, terror regime behaving badly. Yeah. And, of course, highlighting that Secretary Guterres opened the UNGA condemning Hamas in the October 7th attacks.

So Israel is very happy about this. They highlighted all of Donald Trump's remarks at this speech that made Israel happy. "There's no better example of a danger that was allowed to gather strength and threaten the world than the number one sponsor of terror, the Islamic Republic." This is, of course, something we've heard over and over and over again from Donald Trump, that somehow Iran is the one that is the terrorist entity in the world, the biggest terrorist actor in the world, when in fact, the Iranian president, Massoud Pezeshkian, is completely correct that the United States is the one that committed the act of terror.

You can go farther and say it's the United States that has been the biggest actor when it comes to terrorism in the region, especially given the fact that the United States has backed Israel, has given Israel, I believe, \$2.8 billion more worth of, you know, munitions, which have the ability to cause massive civilian devastation in places like Gaza and Lebanon. And the U.S. has, of course, funded and armed Israel to the teeth to facilitate the genocide in Gaza, to facilitate all of the wars, the decimation of southern Lebanon, and everything that Israel has done. I mean, Pezeshkian is completely correct to cite that this is a complete travesty and an act of hypocrisy by Donald Trump.

But nevertheless, Donald Trump is saying that he's contemplating, which you have to read as declaring the possibility of total war coming to be against Iran, that this is 150 percent something that not only could happen but will be devastating, because when you think about the combination of threatening to wipe out generations of Iranians and the fact that the United States is in big

trouble when it comes to its munitions, I'll just pull up this example here. Here is—I won't play the video exactly—but this is the losses of the United States of their critical aircraft, of U.S. aircraft. And this does not even cover what we've extensively analyzed here on this channel, which is the fact that 50-plus percent of air defenses and critical munitions in the way of standoff strike munitions are gone.

So here you have a total of 47 Reaper drones destroyed, two KC-135 Stratotankers, an E-3 Sentry, four F-15s. You have so many U.S. aircraft destroyed in this war. You have the diminishment of U.S. munitions, the ability to stand off and strike, meaning that these aircraft are now more vulnerable when they do engage in attacks. So this threat of total war against Iran must be read as a possibility of moving up a so-called escalation ladder by the United States, which many believe could be, and indeed might be, the entrance of nuclear weapons into this war.

Because the United States empire—not the people, but the empire, the elites, not ordinary people, who absolutely oppose this war to almost the top degree—they have rejected this war. They have said that this war is not what they want. And Congress itself has said that this war needs to end. So ultimately, it's the elites who are now moving toward both the rhetoric that Donald Trump displayed here and also backing themselves into a corner to use possibly even more dangerous means to attack Iran in the future. Now, Iran is 100% aware of this. They have been preparing. Their military right now is on high alert for the possibility of another strike coming soon.

And one thing that has to be considered is that that strike could indeed be a testing of the unthinkable, of a so-called tactical nuclear weapon, which, you know, for all intents and purposes, is the threat of nuclear weapons, right? I mean, ultimately, we are getting close to breaking the so-called taboo of the post-World War II order, which is that nuclear weapons could never be used. The United States has backed itself into a corner. It doesn't really have many options to continue escalating against Iran. The oil situation is getting incredibly bad. The munitions situation is bad. So I'm laying out the context for you to understand exactly how dangerous these comments actually are.

Dropsite News reported on how expensive even just shipping oil—even the oil that gets out of the Strait of Hormuz—for those ships that run through the Iranian mechanism or try to violate Iran's diktats in the Strait of Hormuz, how costly it is. Freight rates have gone parabolic, according to the Financial Times. Tanker rates ranged from \$20,000 to \$50,000 a day in the last year. Gulf cargoes reached a high of \$120,000 a day in February. Now, the cost of hiring a supertanker—which, they've been hit, you remember, not too long ago. Actually, this past month, a UAE supertanker was hit in the Strait of Hormuz and disabled.

That has passed. The cost has surpassed \$1.2 million a day for the first time on routes between the Middle East and Asia. These large supertankers are being forced to travel much longer distances due to the war. The shipping costs have forced refineries to cut production, even as refined fuel prices surge to historic highs. Oil prices fell to down below \$100 a barrel. Disruption at sea is increasingly feeding directly into the delivered price of oil. So again, this is what it looks like. The global

supertanker rates are now up more than 40-fold this past year. The spot market rates from the Middle East to China—I mean, this is how expensive it is getting for any oil to come out of the region.

And that is the cost that Iran has been imposing upon the United States and the global economy as a whole, as it attempts to force the United States to listen and to actually abide by the terms of that memorandum of understanding. And what Iran has said is the inevitable and actual victory of Iran in this war. So the United States right now has backed itself into a corner, the empire has, where the United Nations General Assembly has been taken hostage by what some have called the deranged commander-in-chief to forward an aggressive posture while having very few options to actually achieve that posture.

I believe that the next steps in this war are going to be just that much more dangerous because the pursuit of U.S. objectives, how much of a folly you may believe them to be, no matter how unachievable you may believe them to be, they are still on the table. If they weren't on the table, the United States would have found some form of exit ramp and would have changed course. But of course, that's not where we are one bit. And don't be fooled at all by the oil market manipulation and everything that's going on right now on the periphery of Donald Trump's remarks. Because some may say, well, this is just Trump talking.

It's just a lot of bluster and narcissism, and they wouldn't be wrong. But yesterday, there were reports that the Iranian delegation met with Steve Witkoff. And Steve Witkoff publicly discussed how well everything went during this. So Steve Witkoff met with the Iranian delegation, supposedly for three hours. And the Iranian media did not deny that this happened. But ultimately, the only thing that occurred during this meeting—and I'm going to pull up what Steve Witkoff said—the only thing that occurred during this meeting, according to Iranian media, was the deliberations and the reinforcement of Iranian terms.

So today, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, we engaged in lengthy talks with the Iranian delegation through mediators who shuttled between the two sides throughout the day. They successfully completed a round of discussions we hope will prove constructive and promising. The mediators will continue their work. I mean, an absolute nothing statement. And Iran's position was that the conversations were simply a matter of reinforcing what Iran is demanding from the United States in those MOUs. So ultimately, that was a market manipulation ploy to give hope to the markets that this would end sometime soon. But we cannot be fooled by it, especially given the fact that in Donald Trump's speech himself, he admitted that—but in Donald Trump's framing—that the United States was engaging in diplomacy with Iran all the way back in 2025 before Israel, with the United States' blessing and technical support and logistical support, struck Iran in June of 2025 during the 12-day war.

So the Jerusalem Post, as I said, highlighted parts of the speech, talking about how for 51 years, the fanatical Iranian regime was ruled by bloodshed and mass murder, spreading death and carnage and chaos across the Middle East and beyond. They were the bully of the Middle East, but they're the

bully no more. From the day I entered the political arena, I've been unwavering. I will never allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon. Upon taking office, I immediately opened negotiations with Iran and offered them full economic cooperation in exchange for their nuclear program, but they refused. That was a mistake. Then, in Midnight Hammer, they obliterated it. The United States did.

Completely washing over the fact that he just admitted that the administration was engaged in negotiations and then went to war. But skipping over the 12 days that had passed during that war, where Iran was attacked by Israel, and then Iran retaliated, brought Israel to its knees, begged for a ceasefire, and then the Trump administration came in, did their B-2 bomber theatrical show, said they obliterated the nuclear program, which, as we all know, has not been actually obliterated. But again, this just sows more distrust in Trump's remarks at the UN General Assembly because what it essentially does is it tells us that—and it tells people that—Donald Trump's word is worthless, that there is absolutely no reason to believe anything Donald Trump says.

And not only that, that we should almost assume that whenever Donald Trump presents an ultimatum, a choice, whether he has a difficult decision to make, coming to a deal or not coming to a deal, you better believe that there is no deal coming, because the empire has been unmasked. The United States is pursuing and looking for any opportunity to wage total war. It is contemplating nuclear weapons. It wants to—in front of the GCC, Donald Trump, what did he do? He said that he may blow up Pickaxe Mountain, which every single expert has said is a nod toward the potential of nuclear war. So that's essentially where we are headed in this conflict.

And it is becoming absolutely an unquestionable fact that Iran is, you know, under the gun and having to continue on despite the regional situation, despite the global situation looking so unfavorably toward the United States. They have to continue to be on high alert, maximum alert, even against the potential for renewed kinetic action, which could be, because of the U.S.'s critical shortages and issues militarily, even more dangerous and even more deadly because of, you know, an empire cornered means it has to draw deeper into what it believes are the wonder weapons that could ultimately bring subordination to Iran.

Iran is saying they'll never subordinate themselves to the United States, not even with nuclear weapons used. But we cannot rule out the fact that the United States—Donald Trump—just used the nuclear weapons, in some respects, to look tough and look strong, look like the victor, but in other respects to communicate a veiled threat that is not so veiled and indicates something very dangerous could be afoot in the very near future.

So don't be fooled by the negotiations that they say that they're having through the back channels, that the war—Donald Trump even said the war is going to be over in the midterm election, after the midterm elections, because they just want to see how we're doing during the midterms. We can't believe any of that, because we've heard over and over again, how many times did Donald Trump say during the Ukraine conflict, "Two weeks, a couple weeks, three weeks"? Now, the administration's words are essentially worth very little. They certainly are not worth the paper

they're written on, if they ever are actually written. Because we know that the only written deal we have, the memorandum of understanding, is completely torn up by the United States government. So before we move on, though, I wanted to show you something from friends of mine.

Okay, so I don't generally take sponsors on this channel, but I had a few friends of mine actually reach out to me so they can show you a small project that you will find interesting. They are two people who were once involved in alternative media before entering the software industry, Debujit and Anindya, and they founded something called Folkware. And here is Folkware: software for the people, by the people. From design to support, we craft technology with care because great software starts with people, built in collaboration, guided by trust, and delivering solutions that grow with you. So they began asking, these two developers, why those in the Global South should remain a low-cost technical layer for Western companies instead of working directly with the people who need technology.

So they started Folkware, a small worker-run technology cooperative. They've already helped build Worker Academy for working-class education in Britain, which I'll show you, publishing infrastructure for Takadoom, a progressive magazine in Kuwait, and commercial products, including DOTRA, an AI sports analytics platform, and ZUS GPT, an AI writing suite. They're now looking to work directly with more people and organizations. So I'll show you some of their projects here. Here is ZUS GPT, Gero Insights.

They have many, but I'll just pull up Worker Academy here. They designed this website. Okay, here's Workers Academy, creating opportunities and futures for the future working classes. This is based in the UK, rebuilding working-class power from the ground up. So this is the kind of software that they can help you out with, from small projects to big projects. They're experienced designers, they're experienced developers, so definitely do check them out. You could be an author, you could be an academic who needs a website, an independent publication, a union, cooperative, small business that needs e-commerce, or just someone with an idea for a custom web app or AI workflow. So if that sounds useful to you, you can go to the video description after the show and check it out. The link is below. You can speak directly to the people who build it. Okay.

So I just wanted to show you that, and do check it out, because if you need any assistance with any kind of software development, if you're trying to help out an organization or trying to form one, get your message out there, they can be of assistance to you. And I want to work with more people, not just in the Global South but also in the combined West, okay? So thanks so much for that to the Folkware people, and I'll continue to promote their stuff over the course of my shows. All right, everybody, let's continue onward, okay? So Donald Trump's genocidal speech led to the... And let me just... led to some shock, because what is so interesting is we had Donald Trump make this declaration of total war, holding the option on the table to wipe out entire generations, and you had most mainstream media, not that I... just report on it very neutrally, saying that he did this, and that's it, right?

No shock, no awe, no troubling words, no words of condemnation. There was just one that I found, actually, in The Guardian that says, "Trump's threat to annihilate Iran to the UN General Assembly is stunning even for him. The US president may have upstaged the ghost of Soviet leader Khrushchev by musing destruction of a fellow member state." So, not since Khrushchev, he says, the late Soviet leader brandished his shoe and allegedly banged on the desk in 1960 in protest of a fellow delegate's speech, has the annual gathering witnessed such a display of bellicosity from a superpower leader?

But this seemed more shocking. The world may have become inured to Trump's dire threats to send Iran to the Stone Age or end its civilization. So often they have been issued, only to sometimes be followed by ceasefire negotiations. But hearing the voice in a forum created in the aftermath of the Second World War with the explicit aim of preventing future conflicts was disconcerting. Iran was a focal point of his speech, which began with a catalogue of familiar boasts of achievements, supposed achievements that seemed better fitted for a domestic audience. So this is the key point here, though: they were voiced in a forum created in the aftermath of the Second World War with the explicit aim of preventing future conflicts.

But what we have to remember about this speech and about this threat is that he not only made these threats in this declaration of total war, in this speech toward Iran, but he literally cited actual aggressive moves by the United States, acts of war by the United States that he's conducted, our administration, as further evidence of the U.S.'s glowing achievements, meaning that he was boasting at the United Nations General Assembly, a forum ostensibly created to promote peace. He used the forum to boast about war. And that's incredible. Here you have him. I won't play the whole thing. I'll just read the main point here, shared by Aaron Rupar. "In January, at my direction, the United States military conducted a massive military operation penetrating deep into the Venezuelan capital." It was a war.

To the victor belongs the spoils. Meanwhile, Venezuela's delegation, including their acting president, is there. She's there. I don't know if in this video they show her. Yes, they do. Look, there she is. I'm assuming there she is. I mean, many people have a lot of issues with Delcy Rodriguez, for those who watch my program, believing her to have sold out the country. But nevertheless, this particular segment is not about hashing that out. I think there's still a lot more information that still has to come out, and a lot more developments that still—we still have to wait and see how they turn out. But nevertheless, Venezuela's situation is dire, and certainly spoils from them—their resources, oil, and now gold. I don't know if you've heard, but now the four million—is it four million or is it four billion?

I think it might be four billion dollars of their gold, which was stored in the United Kingdom. The four billion dollars of gold that was robbed and looted by the United Kingdom is now being transferred to New York. But nevertheless, this is another indication that we have to take these threats seriously,

not because Trump is a serious person, but because the United States conducted a military action against Venezuela in the weeks prior, before the Iran war was started. And now Trump is using the same platform, the UN General Assembly, to cite it as an accomplishment.

Meaning that, for whatever one thinks about Donald Trump and his administration—incompetent actions, a failure, massive defeats on all fronts—all those things would be true, and are true. But we cannot negate the fact that Trump is also threatening total war, threatening an escalation of the Iran war, a war that has very little room to escalate beyond nuclear proliferation and beyond the use of nuclear weapons. There really isn't that much left. I mean, yes, the United States could restart standoff strikes and use up whatever they have, which Anthony Aguilar said on this program. That could happen. You could just use up everything, use up everything against Yemen, use up the rest. Then, you know, you have to use the JDAMs. You could use up all of those.

That is a possibility, but likely not a possibility because of the ineffective use character of those moves. So Donald Trump also said this at the UN General Assembly about Cuba, once again reinforcing—I'm trying to reinforce to you—that his whole speech was essentially a declaration of war. And if we put it all together, and the fact that the U.S. right now is actively engaged in war, we have to take these threats seriously. "My administration is also seeking a fundamental change in the situation in Cuba, where the communist regime is under great pressure, biggest pressure they've ever been under. It's an absolutely failed state." So Donald Trump essentially declared there that they're seeking a fundamental change in Cuba, a.k.a. regime change. So, and that's what the pressure that he's talking about, the blockade, is all about. So again, we have to put all of this together, that words, while they don't matter necessarily, they don't always reflect actions.

Words do matter. And if you use the UN General Assembly to promote a message of war, then you better believe that that entity has not only war on the brain, but likely war in their plans. And again, what is the next step in this war scenario? It's not just firing random JDAMs and small-diameter bombs and whatever it is at Iran, getting close and having all these F-15s, F-16s, F-35s be shot down from the sky in Iranian airspace. No, it's likely the deployment and use of what they call tactical nuclear weapons, which are really just nuclear weapons.

And many observers have told me, many people have told me that we should not get into the business of, um, you know, using the language of the Pentagon, the empire, and act like the use of tactical nuclear weapons is somehow not a hair trigger for nuclear war, which it would be. So ultimately, this is where we find ourselves at right now, everybody. It's, you know, we're coming to a moment, and I just want to emphasize this greatly. Donald Trump tomorrow will meet with President Xi Jinping of China in D.C., at the Oval Office, in the very resting place of the commander in chief. And it is happening in the context of what is probably one of the most crisis-ridden moments in the U.S. empire's modern history, maybe ever. Yeah.

Of course, the 2008-2009 economic crisis was probably the biggest economic crisis since that period. And there have also been the Vietnam War moment. There have been moments of complete and

utter disaster for the U.S. empire on the foreign policy front. It's hard to cite another example where both the economic and the military situation for the United States could be any worse, and also the political situation in reference to the legitimacy of the U.S. empire. These three domains are seriously in the tank. And now Donald Trump is going to give the red carpet treatment to Chinese President Xi Jinping in an attempt to mitigate some of these crises. But nevertheless, this is a historical moment in the sense that we are very close to what I did not believe.

I've been saying this for quite a long time on this program, in my writing, that the United States is not only the most dangerous empire in human history, given just the weaponry, the way it has waged war, the crises in the modern era that it has proliferated, the massive displacement, the massive deaths, and we have so much evidence of all of this. But even I was not convinced that we would get to the point of breaking the nuclear taboo, of having a situation where the United States militarily would be challenged to such a degree that it would be pursuing—and have at the helm—a president that, you know, is so untrustworthy in their words and deeds that, you know, you could plausibly believe that a nuclear scenario is coming up. But we are actually here now. And so the United States, Donald Trump goes into this meeting with that kind of pressure.

He talks about pressure in Iran. He talks about pressure on Cuba. He talks about how the United States is back and how everything is going just amazingly. And the U.S. is flexing its power, and it's the most powerful country in the world, that it, you know, it's put peace into action, right? Peace—what was it? Peace through strength is the motto that used to be what Pete Hegseth repeated over and over again. But you could literally insert the United States. What does KJ Noh say here on this show? Every, um, you know, every projection is a confession. Every, uh, admission is a confession. Like, that is essentially what's happening here. And you could plug in the U.S. into any of those projections onto Iran, onto Cuba, onto Venezuela, and say, yeah, the U.S. is under enormous pressure. It's the U.S. with \$6.50 diesel prices.

It's the president of the United States that has an approval rating of 32%, and with just single digits believing that the United States is winning the war and the United States is doing enough to end it against Iran. It's the United States that has found itself militarily depleted and diminished. It's the U.S. that has had to admit that its base in Bahrain has been blown to hell, that its 15 military bases may not be usable in the future. And it's the United States that is now consulting with its military intelligence, its CENTCOM area of operations advisors and people, and Bradley Cooper, that warmonger, and military officials across the departments to decide whether these bases will be used again or be opened up, or will there need to be a drastic reduction in U.S. presence in the

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According to Iran and according to anybody who's paying attention, we know that the United States mainly is spread out now. It's spread out in this naval war it's trying to wage on Iran. It's hundreds of kilometers away in the Arabian Sea, attempting to enforce a blockade line while avoiding Iranian anti-ship missiles, which, as I said, were fired yesterday and are fired nearly every day as a way to

keep the pressure on the United States in the Strait of Hormuz. It's spread out on these military bases where you have, as I reported yesterday, you do have 25 KC-135 Stratotankers, which are refueling aircraft, sitting in Qatar.

But a lot of military assets are actually pushed further afar to Jordan, Muwaffaq Salti Air Base, King Hussein Air Base. So most of those military bases are not operable. And it's highly likely that what's happening in Qatar is preparations for some kind of renewed strike. And that's why Iran has warned about this and has made reference to it. But nevertheless, the U.S. military is now more spread out, and it does not have the same kind of capacity to launch major operations across all of them. The ATACMS, the HIMARS, these things, they're gone, right? They're gone in the region. Kuwait blew through all of them, and also Iran destroyed many of them.

So this is the ultimate situation that the United States finds itself in: militarily depleted, politically illegitimate, and economically in crisis. And all of those things are set to worsen here. And China is coming into this meeting with Xi Jinping in a very stable position. China's coming in with a growing economy. It's coming in with a massively and rapidly developing tech sector that has essentially surpassed the United States and the rest of the world in most of the key domains, from robotics, renewable energy, and so much more. Artificial intelligence, patents, all of these things.

China's coming in as the leader of the world. China's coming in as the primary refiner and distributor of rare earth minerals, which is the leverage that China has over the United States, which, you know, the United States needs these rare earth minerals for so many things, including, of course, the development and production of its military arsenal. So, but not just that, it's also the technology and the other things that the U.S., like Apple, produces, right? The U.S. corporations like Apple produce. They need those rare earth minerals to be able to build the chips and the software needed for this technology. So China has that going for it. China is not at any war. China is not losing a war on Iran.

Its military is not being depleted. It is the top ship producer in the world, and its military is fast modernizing. It is working with Iran. It's working with Russia around that as well, and providing the technical components and the necessary logistics to advance itself and to also provide whatever components are needed to solidify their defenses. So ultimately, China's coming in with immense confidence. It doesn't need to expect anything from the United States.

It's the U.S., which for all purposes would never, ever in the past agree to such a meeting with someone like Xi Jinping under these conditions, all right? Because the U.S. empire never expects itself to be in this situation. So that's why things are so dangerous, because there's so many different takes out there, right? You have some—and all these people, all these people who have these things, they're all friends of mine, and they're all people, for the most part at least, they're all friends or people that, for the most part, I agree with—but there are various takes that, you know, I

probably would never subscribe 100 percent to, right? There's a take that, you know, everything is in alignment, there's a complete continuity of agenda, and that, you know, the U.S. empire remains dangerous and that's succeeding, at least in part, in thwarting the multipolar world.

I would say that there are truths to that. The United States, just by its existence, just by the way that it's behaving like it did at the United Nations with the Trump regime, Donald Trump himself talking in this way and preparing for more strikes on Iran and continuing this war on Iran—yes, by virtue of just this, the U.S. is an impediment to the multipolar world. But if we look at the overall arc of history right now since the fall of the Soviet Union, what would you say is the position of the U.S. empire now versus 1991? You might say that the U.S. empire, and this would be factual, is in a much worse position than it was in 1991. The U.S. empire was a bigger economy in 1991. The U.S. empire was far more militarily fortified and capable at that time. The U.S. empire was far more politically legitimate.

Its presidents were, for whatever you may think of H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Bush II, Obama, Trump, Biden—whatever you might think about those presidents, especially the former half—they did command, by virtue of propaganda, American exceptionalism, and also the U.S.'s status as the top superpower, they did command maybe an undeserving respect, in the sense that the threat of violence, the dominance in the economic realm, and the lack of an alternative to U.S. hegemony all presupposed that a lot of countries would, yes, bend the knee to the United States and be subordinate or capitulate or at least conciliatory. So what I'm saying here is that the United States is in a far worse position: smaller economy, less politically stable, less militarily capable. Those are just facts.

And then I would say to those who talk about the dangers of the U.S. empire, then yes, those facts on the ground present graver dangers that, while on the one hand, won't be effective in restoring some kind of U.S. imperial supremacy, what they'll be effective at is disrupting and destroying, wreaking havoc, and potentially moving toward unthinkable scenarios like nuclear war, right? Because we're closer, and everyone says we're closer. Everyone says, you know, the doomsday clock is closer to midnight than it ever has been, according to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. So nevertheless, for me, that is the truth of the matter of where we're at. And then you can look on the other side, not just with China, with Iran, with Russia, that all these countries are stronger. Doesn't mean there haven't been setbacks. There have been some of them quite brutal, like Venezuela and Syria. I mean, those are brutal setbacks.

And you could count—and I would, because I don't want to diminish it—the plight of the Palestinian people or the Lebanese people, you could count those as setbacks. But it's hard to frame them as setbacks when the U.S. and Israel are designed and built to do this. They would do things like this in any circumstance. So it's hard to view them as setbacks because that's what they're doing. And, you know, it's hard to measure actually the current strength of Hezbollah, for example, versus Israel. It's hard to measure. But overall, if we take the Axis of Resistance as a whole, you know, was it stronger pre-October 7th, 2023, or is it stronger now?

Those are questions we're going to have to really dive deep into. Because on the one hand, you have a strength in Iran, a strength in Ansar Allah, and you have a diminished U.S. posture in the region. But on the other hand, you do have setbacks when it comes to the fall of Syria and, of course, the horrors that Lebanese people and Palestinian people have had to go through. So again, that is an objective assessment. You have to come to your own conclusions. My conclusions are that overall, regardless of how we come out of the situation in West Asia and what we conclude there, because I'm actually not certain myself.

I don't claim to have all the answers. I can't say one way or the other. The fact that Iran is stronger and the fact that Russia and China have grown stronger, in my estimation, means that the multipolar world is indeed stronger. Because the pillars of multipolarity, the pillars of independent, sovereign economic development that these three countries represent, open up opportunities in the future for countries all around the world to, once they wrestle hold of their own political processes, once they make gains there, then they have far more opportunities to be prosperous and to actually achieve their objectives than in the past.

So again, the landscape is a lot more complex, and I think that ultimately it is difficult, if we look at all these facts I just laid out, to not acknowledge or to fail to acknowledge the fact that the U.S. empire is both desperate, dangerous, and in marked decline. I mean, those are the three Ds. Those are the three Ds: desperate, dangerous, and in marked decline. We want to add a fourth: in a state of disaster, right? It is in a state of disaster. But being the empire that it is, it's going to blow that disaster, impose the cost of that disaster onto the people, onto the people who are the initial victims, right? What did Iranian President Massoud—Massoud Pezeshkian, not Mossad. Sorry about that, everyone. Massoud Pezeshkian.

#Danny

Said, he said, you know, that the Iranian people were the victims of terrorism, 100% true. And now the people of the world could be said to be in the same arena. They, they are—we are the victims of that terrorism to some degree. It's not all equal, you know. We can't compare, like, never compare the plight of my history or, you know, so many people I know to, let's say, the people of Gaza, right? That would be insulting and incredibly wrong, incorrect. But at the same time, it is the same system of U.S.-led empire, with Zionism as now a core feature for many, many decades. It is that system which is wreaking havoc on people everywhere, and the vast majority are victims of that terrorism.

The vast majority. And so China's coming into this meeting with Trump, this Trump-Xi summit, with not only an incredible level of confidence, but, you know, there's something that Xi Jinping said, and I'm going to probably end it here on these words. Xi Jinping, in March 2023, when he was in Moscow, he said—we are witnessing, this is a paraphrase—we are witnessing changes not seen in a

century, and we are driving these changes together. He said that to Vladimir Putin on the way to his motorcade, in a very historic, video-photo-worthy moment that went viral for a long time after that and is still cited.

I certainly still cite it. And essentially, those changes that he's referring to are the shift to a world order that is less dependent upon and less oriented toward U.S. unipolarity and U.S. dominance, U.S. hegemony. And again, since March 2023, just have to throw this out there: would we say that the U.S. empire is in a better position or in a worse position? And no matter how much destruction it has caused, which it has caused a lot, and we cannot diminish that. And I've never, ever, you know, if I have diminished that through my analysis at any point since I've started this kind of work, then that's on me.

But nevertheless, it shouldn't be diminished and it shouldn't be minimized. But overall, empires can kill: the British Empire, French Empire, Spanish Empire. Empires have killed millions, hundreds of millions. The U.S. as well. Millions upon millions upon millions of graves, both directly and indirectly, are due to its expansionism and the objectives it seeks to gain through that expansionism, notably the massive accumulation of profits for what many people are calling the Epstein class now. But again, that does not equal a better position anymore. This is the tide of history that is turning. Sure, the U.S. empire can maim, kill, it can genocide, as we've seen.

But does that lead to a more favorable position for it? That's the question we've got to ask because ultimately, what I've written about in my Substack, and I can pull it up really quickly, is that we have to be against geopolitical despair, meaning seeing the world through an all-black lens, seeing the pain and the horror from... Look at that picture that I pulled up from him. So you can find this on my Substack in the video description. You can support me on there too. I do write articles, and I'm writing one right now on what the Xi-Trump summit means. So, yeah, ultimately, we've got to avoid this at all costs: geopolitical despair.

Because despair is a natural—I say natural—despair is an understandable feeling, right? When things are going badly in any domain of human existence, right, we can fall victim to despair. We can dive deep into it, and it wouldn't—you know, there's been Edgar Allan Poe and poets and historians and philosophers, and some of them made entire careers off of despair. But what I'm saying here is that geopolitical despair, despair in matters of human agency, struggle, liberation, change of any kind—global, social, political, economic—despair is poison because it never can encompass the full picture of what is happening and therefore acts more as a tool of paralysis than it does a tool of fear, empowerment, or a greater understanding, and therefore greater capacity to address and change the situations and conditions in front of us.

So what I'm saying here is that we have to be against that. We have to oppose that. We have to acknowledge these horrors and these pains, and then we have to look at the entire picture so that, you know, we do not fall victim to that paralysis and end up doing what I see actually a lot of people doing, which I don't like at all. I hate it. I actually hate it. A lot of people just going after people's

takes and saying, "This person's take on, you know, this person says this, and now they love Russia. They're too—" I get this all the time. "They're too—you're too optimistic," and all of this and blah, blah, blah. It's like, actually, I've only been spending years of my life protesting, demonstrating, writing, and now making analysis videos about horrible crimes, right?

Saudi war crimes on Yemen, U.S. war crimes against Iranians, war crimes against Lebanese people by the U.S. and Israel, Palestinian people, Venezuelan people with the kidnapping, blah, blah, blah. I've only been doing that. And even before that, before I started writing about the war crimes against the Syrian people, the Libyan people—no stranger to that, no stranger. I've met so many people that have directly experienced them. Certainly, my whole existence is the product of a war crime. My Vietnamese side of the family would not be in the United States were it not for the war crimes of the United States. So, what I'm saying here, though, is that there's a lot of people out there that are trying to bludgeon any kind of understanding of the full picture and start to shift, in a sneaky way, to shift blame onto Russia, China, Iran, any force that's doing anything.

Actually, any force that has some kind of power to determine their own destinies, they are being lambasted. I see it with Venezuela too, because Venezuela is in a very bad situation, and I just see a lot of people directing all their ire at the Venezuelan government when, in fact, the Venezuelan government is sanctioned, under attack, was literally the victim of an act of war. The regional situation is really, really, really bad. Economic situation in Venezuela is really, really bad. Conditions, yes, have gone bad, but most of that is because of the United States. So why don't you talk about that more than Delcy Rodríguez being a traitor, right? Like, that's how I see things often. But nevertheless, geopolitical despair actually fuels this kind of victim blaming.

And it fuels vulnerabilities, actually, to U.S. imperial propaganda in very sneaky, subtle ways, covert ways of shifting blame onto Iranians, shifting blame onto China, Russia, et cetera. Just be careful. We've got to be against that because ultimately, we know that the Epstein class in the empire is the number one enemy here. So, everyone, thanks so much for coming to this show. 4 p.m. Eastern Time. Thank you, Kirk, for your super chat. Thank you for actually reporting. Cheers. Thank you so much. I'm out of here. I have to get out. I have a 1 p.m. with Al Arabiya, the Saudi media outlet. I'm going to be on their show debating some—I don't know, I don't even know.

It's going to be interesting on the Xi-Trump summit. So I got to get out of here. But 4 p.m. Eastern time, check me out with Ray McGovern and Garland Nixon. We're going to continue the conversation today. Again, Folkware is in the video description below. Those folks deserve to get your recognition. And I will keep promoting them in future shows. Give me a like. That helps boost the show and YouTube's algorithm. In the video description, I'll have a place to support this channel. You can be a YouTube member, but Patreon, Substack, and so much more. All right, until 4 p.m. Eastern time. See you again soon.