

US Bomber Attack FOILED? Iran HAMMERS US Warship | Escobar

Pepe Escobar discusses breaking developments including Iran's role in the US RAF Base attack that targeted US B-1 bombers and the bombshell report that US marines suffered massive casualties in a recent strike plus what it all means for the multipolar world. Pepe on Telegram: <https://t.me/rocknrollgeopolitics> Pepe on X: <https://x.com/RealPepeEscobar> Transition Protocol: <https://www.youtube.com/@UCewRbK22LRnNi6N3EcGjbow> / 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>

#Danny

Back to the show, everyone. With me is Pepe Escobar, independent journalist and geopolitical analyst, to break down the latest news. So, Pepe, we're talking about just a false flag. Counterterror police are now investigating in the UK an Iran link to the so-called RAF-based bomb plot, the U.S. Air Force base at RAF Fairford, which was supposedly targeted by five men in a van that were supposedly, I mean, this is the story, looking to target their B-52 bombers there. Now, there are five nationals now, it has been found out, UK nationals that were arrested, have now been released on bail. And I wanted your reaction to this in conjunction with, and in addition to, the fact that we just heard that the U.S. Pentagon has released numbers that eight Marines have been injured by an Iranian strike earlier this month.

This comes as we are finding out that Iran is on a blitz in the last several days in the Strait of Hormuz, firing anti-ship missiles every single day, disabling dozens of tankers. And the UKMTO has been silent about this. Pepe, what's your reaction to these developments? You have a new column coming out about all hell breaking loose. Iran said it's prepared for doomsday war. It has shown that it can hit U.S. forces when it wants. And, of course, we have this plot, this bomb plot that appears to be justifying another round of war, or attempting to, maybe not effectively. What's your thoughts on all of this?

#Pepe Escobar

Okay, Danny, if you allow me, this is one of possibly many false flags to come. So I don't waste my time with this kind of thing. Seriously, I was worried about much more important stuff in terms of

what's happening in the background, not only between Iran, Pakistan, and China, how they are coordinating the next moves, but of course the repercussions of the refusal by the President of the United States, which became official on a Saturday, of the proposition that was put to him by the President of China face-to-face in the Oval Office. This is the real, real thing. So I want to go back to, you know, this is what really matters. First of all, to explain to our audience the significance of this refusal in terms of Chinese culture and in terms of Asian culture in general.

It's what we call loss of face, but in unimaginable proportions. You have the president of China as an official guest to the president of the United States, going to a one-to-one meeting in the Oval Office that lasted three hours. And when it comes to the Iranian dossier, he makes a direct suggestion, a recommendation, practically on a friend-to-friend basis. Xi Jinping says, essentially, look, you have a way out and an off-ramp right in front of you. It's called the Memorandum of Understanding that you, President of the United States, signed. And of course, we all know that he later blew it up. So Xi told Trump, if you go back to the Memorandum of Understanding, China will support you.

Absolutely. Will support the whole process. And, of course, we want not only a free flow of trade in the Strait of Hormuz, but a resolution of the whole crisis, drama, tragedy, whichever way we want to put it, leading to a resolution of the nuclear dossier as well. What happens then officially two days afterwards, after the guest had already left the United States back to China? The president of the United States not only publicly refuses and rejects the Chinese offer, but he says that this is now the Trump Strait, or some bullshit that he published on Truth Social with a map. This is Trump's Strait, Strait of Trump, whatever. So, what does that mean? It means that the Chinese are extremely angry.

Not only Xi Jinping, but his main articulator, Wang Yi. Because this is not only a Chinese position. This is the Chinese-Iranian position. Because the details of the plan that Araghchi announced in New York, step by step, several stages that would lead to both parties coming back to the negotiating table, this was negotiated between Araghchi and Wang Yi, first at the BRICS in New Delhi, and then after Araghchi flew to Beijing to talk to Wang Yi. So this is the China-Iran position. Trump rejected everything. And Trump rejected everything that happened in New York, with Araghchi explaining to everybody the Iranian position. So it was public since he arrived in New York, Pezeshkian explaining the Iranian position at the podium of the UN in detail.

Pezeshkian talking to heads of think tanks and major newspapers and analysts, including some of our friends like Judge Nap and Jeffrey Sachs, at a hotel room in New York, explaining the Iranian position and winning the media war in New York City. So it takes a lot of balls to do something like this. This is exactly what Pezeshkian did. So Trump obviously rejected everything. And not only that, he telegraphed, like the Bismarckian genius that he is, that he's considering returning to bombing Iran after the midterms. So this is our headline, you know. And the great thing is that the Iranians maneuvered in a way that they made the sociopath confess that he doesn't give a damn about a solution to the war that he started, and he doesn't give a damn about the repercussions for the global economy, which are directly linked to the war that he started and he cannot finish, even though he begs for an off-ramp all the time.

Until a few days ago, he was begging Asim Munir, let's say, his favorite field marshal in Pakistan. Then he dropped the Pakistanis. He said, no, maybe Qatar is going to help me. And then Xi Jinping gives him, in the White House, his off-ramp again, and he rejects everything. So now it's more... I would say this is beyond obvious to anybody, that he has less than zero interest in ending this war. And yes, he will go back to bombing Iran after the midterms, and we all know this is going to be a major disaster. Why? Because his handler, the leader of the death cults in West Asia, told him that we need a land, air, and sea offensive against Iran, preferably before the midterms.

Okay, if you cannot do it before, afterwards is also okay. So this is what you're going to get. Instead of an October surprise, which is not an October surprise anymore because this was supposed to happen in October, the offensive, we're going to have a November surprise. That's the only difference. So the Chinese were—Danny and all of you—the Chinese were seriously angry with the whole thing. And, of course, the Chinese response is going to be vicious, in terms of protracted, very sophisticated, and venomous. They're going to support Iran much more than they are already supporting. And this means at every level, including military, intel, satellite, you name it. That's it.

This is what Trump bought for himself: even more support by China. Even though, and this is something that we confirmed yesterday, there was a meeting, a sort of secret meeting that leaked a little bit after that, between Wang Yi and Ishaq Dar, the Pakistani foreign minister. And basically, Wang Yi told the whole of the Pakistani government, "Okay, it's back to you. You were the mediator before, so you're going to be the mediator again. And us, China, we give you total power. Go back to Trump and talk to MBS as well to at least prevent this escalation ladder," which—the crucial week is this week, starting today, Monday, with deadlines on Wednesday—to try to defuse...

#Danny

Oh, it looks like we've lost you, Pepe. Pepe, if you can hear me, you might want to go onto your phone device, and we can continue the conversation from there because we've lost you. So Pepe is gone. It worked for a while. He was having some problems on other programs with this. But I just want to follow up with what Pepe was saying in terms of China being furious. Nothing was in the Trump summit, really. There was no resolution. There were no deals, nothing like that. I don't think China came in in the weeks and months before the meeting looking to settle anything except for extending the trade truce agreement, maybe, which was extended, but not for very long, just a couple of months.

Nevertheless, how insulting it is when China and the rest of the world is in the majority wanting the United States to go back to the memorandum of understanding, a deal that the United States signed, and begin the process of settling this war, and the Trump administration rejects a seven-day proposal by Iran that was meant to do just that. So, indeed, a very insulting proposition, and we are just waiting for Pepe to come back on with—you know, I think he's coming back on now on his phone because I think it failed. Uh, yeah, I think we had a failure on the laptop, so we're back. I was

expecting—hello, Danny. Yes, I'm back on my phone. It's working on my phone, but not on my laptop, so that's all right. I'm sorry about that. Yeah, no, no, no, continue your point, please.

#Pepe Escobar

Yes. Where was I? Ah, the Chinese are pissed to death. We already know that. So the Pakistanis, once again, they are reinstated as mediators. I'm not so sure they're going to have any success talking to Trump, not to mention MBS. What we also know is that the Pakistani government already made a decision that they are not, and I repeat, not going to enter the Saudi Arabian war against Yemen. They obviously did the math, and there's absolutely nothing for Pakistan to gain. They may help with maybe some intel, et cetera.

They have, of course, as we know, soldiers—8,000 soldiers at least—in Riyadh, but I'm not sure the Pakistanis will allow these soldiers to enter the fray against Yemen. And they have a bunch of Chinese fighter jets as well. So it remains to be seen what kind of help Pakistan will offer to Saudi Arabia. Basically, Saudi Arabia, they are on their own. And the Yemenis are—wow—they are beyond motivated after the Saudis bombed, with intel and ISR certainly coming from NATO, a street market in Taiz, the big southern city in Yemen, which is already encircled by Ansar Allah and Yemeni armed forces, and it will fall to Ansar Allah sooner rather than later.

So expect, I would say, the great Yemeni onslaught sooner rather than later. So the Saudis are on their own. Nobody's crying for them, Danny. Nobody's crying for those former camel herders, turned bling-bling manipulators of, "We are the protectors of the two holy cities, Mecca and Medina." No, they're not. They treat Mecca and Medina like shit. And the Arab street knows it. And everybody's itching to have revenge against the House of Saud, starting with 100 tribes inside Saudi Arabia, which sooner or later will stop being Saudi. It will be back to Arabia. And this is what I would say the whole Arab street wants.

#Danny

Yeah, well, a great rundown, Pepe, of what's going on. And so I want—you know, the landscape is, as you said, hinting toward and pushing toward all hell breaking loose, as you're writing in a future article. You know, from the so-called false flag RAF incident, which I agree with you looks like now, with them being released, it looks like a false flag, the Marines getting hit—these news stories—the Marines getting hit by Iran on a commercial vessel, likely a contracted vessel. The U.S. Navy is now putting Marines and possible military personnel on commercial ships.

But we have all of this optimism at the same time, Pepe, coming out from all channels, from the Trump administration to various sectors of the oil market, saying everything's back to normal. But yet oil prices are up to 107 for crude, and Qatar just said that their shipments of LNG to Asia and

Europe are going to be on hold for another several months. What do you make of the actual situation versus what we are being told right now and, you know, how it relates to why the Trump administration cannot seem to stop this war that it began, what, seven, eight months ago now?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, what we know for sure by now is something fascinating. There are all sorts of smuggling schemes going on in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. It's impossible to keep track of everything. And everybody is involved. Iran is involved because they are receiving petro-yuan for it. Saudi petro-tankers, UAE petro-tankers, Iraqi petro-tankers, navigating with the transponders off, doing ship-to-ship oil transfers once they're out of the Strait of Hormuz. Everything is—it's absolutely fascinating. This means that the so-called American blockade is leaking all across the spectrum. To start with, there are no American vessels in the Strait of Hormuz or in the Persian Gulf.

They are in the southern Indian Ocean. They are between 800 and 1,000 kilometers away from the Persian Gulf, so they cannot do surveillance on anything. So if they are lucky, sometimes they may intercept a ship or two, assuming they do a run upwards or they try to approach the Gulf of Oman, for instance. But a lot of petro-tankers are going back and forth with no problem, and everybody is more or less profiting from it. And, of course, this is ultra-underground. But in terms of dribbling sanctions, 47 years of experience. You don't mess with the Persians. They know all the schemes that you know and you don't know, that nobody knows, to dribble them. Just like with the aerial blockade.

We thought that in the beginning it would be absolute hell. No, on the contrary, because only a few vassals are implementing the aerial blockade. The big powers are not—Russia and China, to start with. And this is what really matters. When I was in Guangzhou on Thursday, for instance, there was a Mahan Air flight from Tehran that landed at Guangzhou Airport in front of everybody. No problem. Iraq—the case of Iraq is absolutely extraordinary. From the beginning, the Iraqi resistance said, "Ah, yeah, we cannot have flights from Iran anymore. Excellent. So we're going to lay siege to GCC airports." So everybody started paying attention. Then we had protests, street protests in Najaf and Karbala.

Very, very important, because these are the cities that receive Iranian pilgrims every day, thousands every day, day after day. And then we had street protests in Basra. Why is Basra so important? Oil capital of Iraq, oil wealth capital of Iraq. So you have these ultra-badass sheikhs in Basra, weaponized to kingdom come, coming out on the streets. They're saying, "Look, if we cannot have Iranian flights here, we're going to Baghdad and explain a few facts of life to the Baghdad government." Guess what happens? The Iraqis managed to extract, I would say, an exception. So flights to Najaf, at least starting today, it's okay. We're going to see for other airports in Iraq. So pressure works. Pressure. Oh my God. So now I have my computer reproducing our conversation.

#Danny

I don't hear anything, luckily.

#Pepe Escobar

We cannot hear anything, and we won't hear anything because I'm turning the volume off on the laptop.

#Danny

Exactly.

#Pepe Escobar

So, yes, I told you, Danny, my friends at the gigantic American embassy just across the pond from where I am, they know that every night there's some action. Okay, let's fuck them up. No, you can't, unless they interfere with my iPhone. Anyway, the way the Iranians are dribbling this economic stranglehold applied by the U.S.—maximum pressure on their economy—it's something to watch. And the same thing overland. All the overland channels continue to work via the Caspian Sea to Russia, or even across or bordering the Caspian Sea. Via railways across Turkmenistan to Central Asia, all the way to Xinjiang, continues to work. All the six overland corridors between Iran and Pakistan continue to work. The port of Gwadar in Pakistan, and then connecting to the hinterland of Iran, continues to work.

So we are dealing, in fact, with the absolutely ghastly Soros asset, Bessent, which is an absolute idiot in terms of history and geography. He has no idea who he's dealing with. These people have 47 years of experience in dribbling all sorts of sanctions with all sorts of ingenious schemes. And they have partners all across Eurasia because Iran is the crossroads of trade in Eurasia, period. Something that those bloody idiots in Washington cannot even begin to comprehend. So they will continue to dribble it. Of course, there is suffocation. Of course, it's difficult. Of course, inflation rages. Of course, the rial is always collapsing. Since I started going to Iran in the '90s, every time you go to Iran, you see how the rial is collapsing.

It will continue to collapse, but people still manage. They know how to manage. They can live with an inflation of 1,000%. They find ways: barter, trade, community spirit, exchanges, everything. So the problem is not an economic disintegration inside Iran. This is not going to happen. The problem is how long Iran will be running the clock. In their calculations, the key clock for Iran is from this Wednesday, September 30th, because this is when, according to originally, they imposed the condition that if the Americans would not finish with the naval blockade in 45 days—this is the decision they took on August 16th, expires on September 30th, on Wednesday—they would go on the offensive.

So how are they going to go on the offensive this Wednesday? Only two days from now. There are several possibilities. One of them is that they will send a message just to remind the Americans what they're dealing with. If they detect American preparations for a strike against Iran, then they will go really on the offensive. And they already announced this over and over again. So for them, the key clock is September 30th to October 3rd, the midterms. And the idea is to turn the Trump administration's life from this Wednesday to October 3rd into a living hell. They can do it. They have all the means to do it.

An extra tactic that they could use, and it's listed already, and it has already been discussed, is to coordinate with Ansar Allah a blockade of the Bab al-Mandab, also to American ships. For the moment, we have Saudi petrotankers blocked in the Bab al-Mandab, free to everybody else. They can block the Bab al-Mandab to the Americans as well. And we know that the U.S. Navy was already humiliated by Ansar Allah and the Yemeni armed forces in the past. So we're going to have people in the Pentagon with an IQ over 12 thinking twice about doing anything about Ansar Allah. And, of course, taking the initiative, which is something that the Iranians only do once when they know that, well, it's a do-or-die situation.

So they may not take the initiative in the next few days. They will wait for the Americans, or they will wait for a sign that the U.S. is preparing something. Then they will take the initiative. Add to all that the political capital they accumulated last week in New York City. They accumulated the political capital inside the UN, outside the UN, in the bilaterals, in the discussions that Araghchi had with zillions of people in New York, mostly diplomatic, but also non-diplomatic. In the Pezeshkian interview that he had with the heads of think tanks and newspapers, et cetera, where he won the media war in New York, the lair of the enemy. Wow, this is absolutely outstanding.

And, of course, with the whole Global South, extra political capital accumulated by Iran. And, of course, the fact that they have oil still transiting in the Strait of Hormuz, following the IRGC Navy prescriptions and the PGS body paying the fees, et cetera, accumulates extra political capital with the Asian clients, with China, with the Southeast Asian nations, Indonesia, Thailand, et cetera, and with South Korea as well. Major client. So, in terms of political capital across the planet, Iran last week, they went, you know, upwards, up, up, up and away. Totally. So they don't want to squander that. And on top of it, they managed to prove indirectly, but basically, how they organized the response.

They already knew that Trump would reject anything, so they made it happen. And when we have the President of the United States, in his own words, rejecting a peace offering offered by the Iranian foreign minister in New York City and offered by the President of China in the Oval Office, we can call it the China-Iran position. The whole Global South interprets it for what it is. He doesn't give a damn about ending this war. He doesn't give a damn about the effects on the global economy, period. He wants his war. And he wants to say, "I won this war, and I am the owner of the Trump Strait." So we are back, always, to stupidity right then. It's crazy.

We do all these circumlocutions where we turn the world upside down, and we go back to this stupidity of the ego of a four-year-old. It's crazy, but that's what it is. But at least last week, I would say things became very, very clear for people who still hadn't done the math yet. Now everybody knows. Okay, so what next? What next is, you know, the war of the clocks. And still, Iran controls the clock, and that's it. They still have one month to provoke the Americans, seduce the Americans into committing mistakes, driving Trump absolutely crazy. That's the plan. And, of course, we run this very serious risk that after the midterms, we're going to have the return to kinetic war.

#Danny

Well, Pepe, the optics of it all look very bad. I mean, especially for the U.S. side, because you mentioned Scott Bessent, Donald Trump himself, the entirety of the administration, in league also with the mainstream media, the oil markets. They seem to all be in on a conspiracy to whitewash what the reality is. But they're having a lot of trouble with that. When you need potential false flags that really just don't do anything, when you need to try to hide casualty numbers, which are now coming out more and more, like what happened to the Marines this month, and when you have the global economy, no matter, you know, we had Saudi Arabia announce that Yanbu is back up and running.

You have a lot of analysts saying we're up to 90% of where we were before February 28th in terms of oil shipments. Oil prices not only are not going down, but you have still the U.S. so-called Air Force—and they say it's the Navy, but as you said, no ships in the Strait of Hormuz are close to it. So it's more like the U.S. Air Force conducting these very expensive and ineffective escorts, which just leads to strikes by Iran, which today, as we're speaking, they're sending missiles into the Strait of Hormuz. Ships are being hit. There are people saying that they have contacts within the oil markets and the Wall Street funds. They have people telling them that these ships are being hit, but they're not being reported on anymore.

So there's obviously a big effort to cover up this ticking time bomb that you say is a clock running down. I mean, Pepe, your comments on this, because Iran said it's ready for doomsday war. You said Iran is ready to expand this to the Indian Ocean, which means that those warships out there are not safe. I heard that the Theodore Roosevelt is now coming to the Middle East as well. Is that the last aircraft carrier? Certainly there aren't that many left for the U.S. to send out there. There are not many left. Your thoughts on this doomsday war? Iran, you said, had scored a huge public relations victory at the UNGA. Iran just doesn't look intimidated. Maybe that's just optics on their part. But at the same time, the U.S. should be also the one, if they're so confident in their position, flaunting their stuff. Not really, though. What's your thoughts on all of this?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, what we know for sure is that Iran is far from intimidated. On the contrary, they are just itching for the Americans to commit a major mistake or a blunder so they can start implementing their new offensive doctrine. The previous decentralized mosaic defensive doctrine is over for good. They are already preparing for the next stage of the war, which they are convinced is going to happen. It could have been the October surprise. It's more likely that it's going to be November, no surprise. But after the midterms, they're going to have kinetic war again, and they're already preparing for that.

And if they have to start experimenting, let's put it this way, with their new offensive strategy in the next few days, perfect, because everything is in place for it. And when we hear this more or less directly, but even with images or metaphors, by Mohsen Rezaei, the number two, the second most powerful man in Iran after the Supreme Leader, of which he is the personal representative on top of it. So when he speaks, he speaks with absolute green light from Mojtaba Khamenei. And in fact, he came up with this four- to five-day deadline that should theoretically expire today, Monday, for the naval blockade to end.

#Danny

So that's it.

#Pepe Escobar

Because when they say that, it's because they're ready. They're absolutely ready. And they know, which is something—it's on an extra level of seriousness. There's no other way to solve this existential crisis apart from a military victory. And what do the Iranians qualify as a military victory? Basically eliminating all the U.S. bases all across West Asia and immobilizing the Americans to the extent that the only solution left for the U.S. is the unthinkable. The problem is, the unthinkable has already been pronounced by the President of the United States at the U.N. podium when he threatened what amounts to a nuclear genocide against the whole Iranian nation, in his own words.

The Iranians are also ready for that, Danny, and all of you. This proves to you how serious the situation is and how they understand the stakes very, very well. And it's another way to interpret one of the things that Pezeshkian said in the U.S., in New York: "We are ready to die fighting," literally. And that means, okay, you want to nuke our nation? Okay, we are ready to die fighting. But you're going to pay a very heavy price if you try that. So you don't intimidate. First of all, if you don't understand the Shiite mindset, if you don't study the history of Shiite theology and Shiite culture, you won't understand who you're dealing with.

That applies to the whole of the Trump administration, which is a bunch of intergalactic idiots. They have no idea who they are dealing with to start with. So they aren't ready for anything. And they know that this is an existential war. Because what the Epstein syndicate really, really wants, it's what

was vociferated by the president live, uncritically, obviously, because he doesn't have a critical thinking spirit, of course. He's a crude, cruel, and crass, very vulgar character. But at least now it's in the open. This is the real agenda in the end. And after you nuke Persia, why not get rid of the GCC petro-sheikhs as well?

Why not nuke both sides of the Persian Gulf? And you get rid of all of those Persians, Arabs, those horrible people, those barbarians. And then the coast is clear for the Epstein syndicate to predominate everywhere. This is their real agenda. And now it's becoming more and more obvious. And, you know, the Persians, because they have, once again, at least 2,500 years of very, very rich history, including very sophisticated diplomacy, they know everything about ups and downs of history, about being conquered, about conquering the people who conquered them. They were very, very good. They did this with Islam, for instance.

They Persianized Islam, among other things. So, you know, a bunch of barbarians from North America, they're not going to intimidate them at all. So if it's a war of wills, that's it. And they know that the empire essentially doesn't have a will. The empire is only about materialistic gain. You know, it's something very, very shallow. You know how neoliberalism works, how turbo-capitalism works, how speculation works. It's very, very shallow. They have no vision for the future. The only vision that they have is destructive. And the Persians fought destruction all over their history. They know how to fight against destruction and then prevail later on.

#Danny

So that's why they're not intimidated at all.

#Pepe Escobar

So is there a solution for all that? I am very sorry to be realistic. I don't see any solution. I don't see any solution. It's a do-or-die. It's a do-or-die war.

#Danny

Yeah, it's a fight to the end. I mean, that's what all of this ultimately will lead to if the United States is rabidly war-addicted, hegemony-seeking, and, as you said, a very narrow-minded, profiteering entity. If that's what it is, if that's what the regime is, then that's, I think, what the months of this war going so badly for it, and yet it continues, I think, proves that point pretty well, Pepe. What do you make of the fact that Donald Trump has had successive so-called diplomatic ventures? Back during the early days, he had the so-called Anchorage meeting with Vladimir Putin, and nothing came out of that. They didn't even bring anything to that, really.

#Pepe Escobar

No, I heard this in Russia again this past week, Danny. The Anchorage spirit is dead and buried.

#Danny

And the Trump-Xi summit as well. You know, in both cases, I think Donald Trump really wanted to present to both of these leaders some points of leverage. I think when Trump went to China the first time, he also wanted to say, "Hey, look what we've done. Look how great things are going, how great things are going. Now, what are you going to do for us?" But especially on the topic of Iran and the question of Iran, nothing could be further from the truth now. I mean, it seems like the United States and Donald Trump actively ignore these questions when it comes to dealings with Xi Jinping and Trump's relationship with Vladimir Putin. It's not like they haven't talked on the phone multiple times in the last three to six months, but they avoid these topics. So what's your thoughts on what this tells you about where the, I guess, Trump-led empire of chaos is right now?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, the Russians are, once again, they are being extremely patient. They basically don't even care what comes out of the Trump administration. They keep the business dialogues on because this is in the interest of both oligarchies. The American oligarchs want to do business with the Russian oligarchs, and vice versa. This has nothing to do with geopolitics. This is business. And the Kremlin doesn't interfere in that. So we have these business channels working, usually via Kirill Dmitriev. In terms of the spirit of Anchorage, once again, when we have the number one diplomat on the planet, Sergei Lavrov, saying that the spirit of Anchorage is dead, then you start paying attention.

So these rituals of, you know, these meetings here and there, the odd phone call and all that will continue, but the Russians don't care. The Russians are concentrating on how they're going to end the SMO on their own terms, preferably by 2027. This is something that I heard in Moscow, the two weeks that I just spent in Moscow, over and over again in all sorts of conversations with everybody—people very well informed, people close to the Kremlin, commanders. Like when Larry and I interviewed General Apti Alaudinov. The interview has not been published yet. I hope it's published in the next few days.

Apti told us straight up, "We are already preparing for the war against Europe. The Europeans want a war against us, and we're ready." Wow. This guy is the most decorated veteran in the Donbas war. He knows war in front of him. He's an incredibly gifted and very, very smart and very, very well-educated warrior. And he reflects the thinking, I would say, the overall thinking among people who acquired war experience this past four and a half years during the SMO. And they know that this is just a preamble and that the Europeans will come after Russia again. And once again, they are prepared, just like the Iranians were prepared before February 28th.

And Ayatollah Khamenei had already organized the resistance and the decentralized mosaic and all the pre-planning months before because he knew that this war was inevitable. The Russians know

that. Once again, history repeating is a bitch, isn't it? The Europeans still have not learned for the past three centuries that, as Bismarck said, do anything but don't mess with Russia. They continue to do it. And the Russians are ready, once again. So there are no illusions about it. They are studying the war in West Asia carefully. They are learning a few lessons from Iran, in fact, and they admire the spirit of resistance in Iran. The collaboration and the discussions are at the highest level, and of course, Russian military

#Pepe Escobar

So, the similarities...

#Danny

Pepe, we lost your image right now, and it seems like there were some audio issues, but they might have corrected themselves. But we have lost your image.

#Pepe Escobar

Oh, sorry. But now, apparently, it's normal again, isn't it?

#Danny

Your audio is normal.

#Pepe Escobar

Your image is still black, but—oh, shit, because I can see myself here, but that's so odd. But you only see black? Is black.

#Danny

Yeah, I don't know what's going on. But I don't know if there's any—I don't know what could be done about this if you wanted to try.

#Pepe Escobar

Okay, let's wrap it up. Do you have a final question, maybe, Danny? Okay.

#Danny

Well, yeah, sure. I mean, Pepe, I think you outlined the overall situation quite well. I guess maybe you can talk about how the multipolar world as a whole is now moving, given that the Iran war is looking like not just a long war, but perhaps a war that will last far longer than maybe many had

anticipated, especially those who have been following this channel. What's your—how does the multipolar world move from here?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, I had a lot of multipolar-linked discussions in Moscow. One of them was a roundtable that we had in one of the forums. And Professor Dugin started it, and I came right after Alexander, and I seized on something that he said, and I more or less turned it into a sort of mini-headline of where we are and where we're going, and something that should be developed in a more complex and longer essay with details. Alexander came up with the concept of what we're living now is Pax Multipolaris, to go back to Latin, multipolar peace, essentially fighting directly against the dark enlightenment, which is something that is directly borrowed from the techno-feudalist mantra, especially by Peter Thiel, Alex Karp, and the Palantir gang. But more, I would say, more precise than dark enlightenment is a cosmovision—to quote German, it sounds much, much better in German, of course—Weltanschauung.

Weltanschauung in German is vision of the world. It's conception of the world, or cosmovision, infused with darkness—and darkness in Joseph Conrad's sense of Heart of Darkness. So this is where we are at the moment. This Pax Multipolaris, at the same time, it's not something fixed or rigid. A Malaysian colleague of ours, a wonderful guy, he's a member of parliament in Kuala Lumpur, in Malaysia. He came up with the idea of a mandala. So the way we can configure this emerging multipolarity is like a mandala, where all the figures and all the symbols in a mandala, they are interconnected in an organic way. And everything is important, and everything is interconnected. And, of course, on the other side, we have this supposed nihilist darkness, in fact, which is the collapse of the West as a whole.

The West is collapsing because the West became extra-nihilist. You know, this is way, way beyond what Nietzsche was theorizing by the end of the 19th century. So, how to connect these different organic nodes of the mandala, respecting their specificities, respecting their original characteristics, and to make them interact, and, of course, to fight darkness as an organic body together. This is, for instance, this is the number one challenge for BRICS, for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, for the Organization of the Global South, for different multilateral organizations, for all these nations who want to reform the UN. This is the challenge. And, of course, all these Global South nations who want to reform the international financial system and the system of international relations as a whole. So we are right at the beginning.

This long and winding road is only starting now. So we had a few instances in some summits, you know, conversations, different forums, conversations that we usually have in Russia, in Iran, in China, sometimes in Brazil, sometimes even in some small congregations around Europe. We can have this conversation over dinner in France, over dinner in Italy, for instance, but not openly, of course. So this is the challenge: how to fight darkness as an organic whole and how, for instance, to translate this into practical stuff, such as, okay, we need to do more trade using our local currencies

and multilateral currencies, which is a BRICS mantra. How do you operate that? How do you fight secondary sanctions? How can we elaborate a policy of fighting secondary sanctions applied to every nation in the Global South?

You know, a very small example. The Americans blackmail every airport on the planet: if you accept Iranian flights in your land, we're going to expel you from the dollar system. If you create parallel systems, you can tell the Americans the famous, you know, you can give them the finger directly, which is something, for the moment, that only big powers can do. Russia and China can do that because they are independent, they are sovereign, and they don't give a damn about secondary sanctions. And they are already sanctioned to start with. But small nations, for instance, Iraq, Tajikistan, Malaysia, you need balls to do something like this. But if you do something like this and you have a backup system, you have a different system of international relations bypassing the U.S. dollar, it's a completely different story.

And we're not there yet. The preferred channel to get there is via BRICS, but BRICS is very slow. We hope, for instance, that because the BRICS summit next year is going to be in China and is going to be a Chinese agenda, then we're going to have a qualitative leap in terms of, okay, let's go for broke in terms of alternative payment systems and bypassing the U.S. dollar any way we can with everything that we are testing inside BRICS, et cetera. But for the moment, once again, it's only starting now. But at least it has started, you know, not to finish on a nihilist tone, Danny. At least it has already started, and we have a set of new multilateral organizations deeply implicated in making it happen.

#Danny

Yeah, very well said. I mean, even though it has just started, there's a lot happening in that direction, which explains a lot of the Empire of Chaos's behavior, especially vis-à-vis Iran, but not just Iran. I think one of the striking contrasts right now is the Trump administration's tripling down on Iran while having to— truthfully, I mean, no matter what, people, you don't have to trust this, you don't have to think it's true, you don't even have to believe that the United States is going to make any changes in its policy toward China. But the fact that the United States had to, or the Trump administration felt compelled to, treat China like it did, and Xi Jinping like it did, this past summit, I think says a lot about where things are going and the concerns about it. Pepe, any final words as we head out here from the show?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, pay attention to what's going to happen this week. This week more or less is going to set the tone for the month of October, all the way to the midterms on November 3. And Iran is—they are on a roll in terms of, okay, you want to decide this thing now, we are ready. You want to launch a war

after the midterms, we're also ready. It's up to you. Anything we do, we already have planned, pre-planned, counter-planned, post-planned, everything. So it's, wow. It's something to be admired. And we're not even talking about the real badasses, our Yemeni friends.

#Danny

No.

#Pepe Escobar

So we can imagine something that until a few days ago would seem completely far-fetched. We can have, maybe in a matter of a few weeks, a Yemeni onslaught recapturing Yemeni lands in southern Saudi Arabia.

#Danny

Right.

#Pepe Escobar

This is as absolutely crazy as it gets, but now it's a very, very possible scenario. And nobody is—don't cry for me, Saudi Arabia. Don't cry for Saudi Arabia. Nobody will be crying for Saudi Arabia.

#Danny

Nobody. No, no, that's for sure. Yeah, I mean, looking at the prospects of Iran and Yemen, under the Yemeni armed forces, being the two biggest stewards and leaders of an independent West Asia, I don't think was in the bingo card for the United States and even Israel—no, and Saudi Arabia, for that matter. Well, Pepe, it was great. We're going to head out of here together. I want to make sure everybody hits the like button before you go. I want to thank all the moderators. I see Sam Garcia, Herc Owen, 8820, and I saw Wero Pilgrim as well. Sorry if I missed anybody else. Thanks for moderating the chat.

I appreciate it. Thank you for the Patricia super chat. Oppositionally defiant is the U.S. because of its malignant ego. Well, very well said there. Everyone hit the like button, and you can find Pepe's work on his Telegram and his X account, as well as on Transition Protocol on YouTube, all in the video description below. So check those out after hitting the like button. Also, all the places to support this show are there as well: Patreon, Substack, and more. Tomorrow, I will be back with Alexander Mercouris, 1 p.m. Eastern Time, September 29th. Until next time, everybody, take care. Bye-bye.