

Larry Johnson: Europe-Russia War is now "Inevitable"

Larry Johnson is a former CIA intelligence analyst who also worked at the U.S. State Department's Office of Counterterrorism. Read Larry Johnson's Sonar21: <https://sonar21.com/> Follow Prof. Glenn Diesen: Substack: <https://glennndiesen.substack.com/> X/Twitter: https://x.com/Glenn_Diesen Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/glennndiesen> Support the research by Prof. Glenn Diesen: PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/glennndiesen> Buy me a Coffee: buymeacoffee.com/gdieseng Go Fund Me: <https://gofund.me/09ea012f> Buy Diesen merchandise: <https://diesen-shop.fourthwall.com/en-nok> Books by Prof. Glenn Diesen: <https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09FPQ4MDL>

#Glenn

Welcome back, everyone. We are joined today by Larry Johnson, a former analyst at the CIA. The topic of today, though, is the crisis that continues to develop in Europe. And, well, more specifically, I would argue that in history, we will still, even though Germany is in decline now, it's still the central gravitational point in Western Europe. And if we're going to have a war between Europe and Russia, it would likely, or quite likely, be triggered by a German-Russian war. That is yet another German-Russian war.

But this one probably would be much more violent than the previous ones. Anyways, I want to ask how you see the development there, because it seems like it's going two ways at the same time. On one hand, we see the war rhetoric, especially on the German side, is off the charts. And on the other side, you see now for the first time the German foreign minister sat down and talked to the Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, at the United Nations. So where is this going? Is this a negotiation tactic, this war rhetoric, as well as talking at the same time?

#Larry Johnson

Well, I think a war with Europe is inevitable. Inevitable. Yeah. Pepe Escobar and I, two weeks ago tomorrow, we got to sit down and talk to General Ahti Karanvala. Karanvala, he's a Hero of Russia, led a massive and incredible military operation against the Ukrainian occupiers of Kursk. And he just said, look, he doesn't think that Russia is going to launch preemptive strikes on Europe and that Russia is not sitting there saying, "Oh my God, we want to take control of Poland and Romania and Germany." None of that. But he's just saying that the combination of the European rhetoric and the European actions is making it inevitable that there's going to be a war, and that he's ready for that. So, you know, Pepe and I both did this... Did you just hear what I heard?

Yeah. So, and then, you know, I had subsequent conversations with people like General Evgeny Buzhinsky, General Gurulev—and retired Colonel, General Gurulev is retired—and then retired Colonel Edward Basurin. And all were basically saying the same thing. They fully expect that Russia is going to be—will have to use military force against the Europeans, particularly against the Germans, because of Germans—not just what they're saying, but their actions and what they're proposing to do. So, you know, I think people in the West need to better wake the hell up, because Russia ain't playing. And they're not—I think the West has mistaken Russian patience in some areas for weakness. And I think that's a fatal error.

#Glenn

But do you see a similar change of mood at the top tier, though—that is, from President Putin himself—in terms of his optimism, if you will, for negotiations or just a negotiated settlement? Because it seems to have darkened a bit over the past two weeks or so. Yeah, absolutely.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, since September 20th, since the failed negotiations, drone missile attack on Moscow during the last day of voting for the Duma, for their legislature, Putin has been speaking. He did a presentation, a press conference up in St. Petersburg, maybe it was last Tuesday, Wednesday, but he was uncompromising in his language. And the same has been reflected in Lavrov's statements at the UN General Assembly. He basically said, "Okay, you've played us like you're Lucy with the football and we're Charlie Brown, and you're going to want us to kick it. And every time we try to kick it, you pull the ball away." And basically he said, every time you've offered negotiations and we've negotiated negotiations, you end up blowing them up or violating it.

And he was referring, like, to Minsk II as an example, and what Trump agreed to do at Anchorage and didn't fulfill. And he was very insistent on that. When, you know, we had dinner with him three weeks ago today, myself, John Mearsheimer, Alastair Crooke, and Judge Napolitano—and Alastair's wife, Aisling, was with us as well—you know, Lavrov was very direct about the disappointment on the Russian side and sort of the feeling of betrayal that Trump had agreed to do certain things, and it was a handshake with Putin, and then didn't comply. And, man, the Russians take that seriously. So they realize you can no longer trust the United States. And so that's, you know, Lavrov has not been shy about saying in public that, unfortunately, Washington is agreement-incapable.

He's made that as a public statement. His meeting with that German foreign minister, that lasted 15 minutes. So Lavrov gets in there. This clown from Germany starts, you know, basically reading out a list of demands, telling Russia to, you know, get the hell out of Ukraine and do X, Y, and Z. And Lavrov says, "Yeah, heard enough. Have a nice day," and walked out, because he said there was nothing serious in what the Germans were saying. It was just repeating old rhetoric. And they're not listening to the Russians and what their position is. So I think you're seeing the hardening of both

Putin and Lavrov in terms of their public statements regarding really not a likely outcome for diplomacy. And then what we're hearing from the military side, I think this is headed towards a collision. They would prefer to avoid it, but I don't see how.

#Glenn

Yeah, no, I would like to see just diplomacy normalized again, because in Europe we're largely criminalized. People, you know, they have to excuse themselves, make apologies if they would ever think about talking to the Russians. And, you know, this could have also, you know, shaped how the German foreign minister did his diplomacy. And again, from what I heard, he was quite rude as well. Lavrov made a statement about it, though. He kind of made the point that, you know, he came in, he just said, you know, "We want this, we want that," and he wanted pretty much concessions from Russia because for Germany, it was a concession merely to talk to them. So they should be rewarded through some concessions.

And, you know, it kind of shows kind of where we are, that, you know, we finally now have a foreign minister willing to talk to the Russian foreign minister. But again, not one word about what Russia needs, Russia's security concerns. It is quite remarkable after four and a half years of fighting. They still demand unilateral concessions and not even discuss the Russian security concerns. I was wondering how you see their pathway to peace, though, because for the Germans, they said, you know, we need an immediate ceasefire. We won't really talk to Russia and negotiate before there's a ceasefire. While the Russians are saying, no, we're going to fight. We'll talk. We'll have to talk. But we're not going to stop our fighting just because you want to talk. Indeed, because they assume the talks will be very deceptive if that was the case.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, yeah. No, well, that's been their experience. And as I say, this will be, I think, the political leadership, including Putin, has resigned himself to the fact that the only way this is going to end is with a military victory. And it will be through crushing the Ukrainian military and indirectly crushing NATO. You know, this... Have you interviewed Professor Pape? Robert Pape out of, I think he's also out of the University of Chicago. He made this argument with Mearsheimer on The Fall a couple of weeks back that basically Putin's in what he calls an escalation trap, because he's now facing a confrontation with Europe, and Europe's so much bigger, that Russia's going to be at a disadvantage.

And it's like, okay, time out, okay? We've now got very clear empirical evidence. Let's take artillery shells as the simplest example. Go back to April 2022. At that point, Russia was producing about 452,000 artillery shells, 152-millimeter. And I think NATO as a whole was producing something on that order. So they were about equal. That's April of 2022. Jump ahead now to June 2026, four years later, more than four years later. Russia now is producing 4.2 million 152-millimeter artillery

shells. NATO, according to Mark Rutte—not according to Larry Johnson, but according to Rutte—Russia is producing more artillery shells in three months than NATO is, the entirety of NATO and the United States, in one year.

So what NATO, the NATO countries, principally Germany and London and the United Kingdom, have demonstrated, and the United States, they're de-industrializing. They don't have the industrial capability to just flip a switch and start producing in volumes the kind of material that you're going to need for a modern war with Russia. And Russia, they understand that. I think they're somewhat—the military guys in particular, I think—were somewhat shocked by that, that the United States particularly is this bad. We learned in the second week of August that the General Dynamics plant that was set up outside of Dallas, Texas, to produce artillery shells, it was closed after being open for two and a half years.

Why? After \$530 million, they failed to produce one damn artillery shell. They couldn't even produce one. And, you know, the Russians are aware of that. They say, oh, you know, they take it into account. So they know what they're—this is not like World War II when, at the outset of that war, when Russia was on its heels, the United States, through Lend-Lease, was providing tanks, Sherman tanks, and providing Jeeps and trucks and Thompson submachine guns. I was in a private museum set up by a man named Dmitry Pershiev, and, man, it's got everything. And I got to hold one of those Thompson submachine guns. They all still work. I mean, they had a Sherman tank there and a T-34 tank.

Again, Russia went through a period in the first, you know, 1941 into the middle of 1942. It was moving factories that had been in the Donbas, moving those to the east of the Ural Mountains. But once they got them set up, by 1942 their output was matching that of the United States in industry. But again, back then, man, the United States could produce tons of weapons, whether we're talking tanks, planes, ships, artillery, artillery rounds, ammunition. We could do it all at incredible levels. We can't do that today, and Germany certainly can't do that today. But the Russians can and have. They've demonstrated it now over the last four years.

#Glenn

And that's one of these lingering issues.

#Larry Johnson

Gross miscalculation about Russian capability and Russian commitment to defend itself.

#Glenn

It seems like a common theme, though, in the competition or fight against all of the political West's adversaries, be it China, their inability to innovate, they just copy, or soon they will fall apart, or

Russia, the gas station masquerading as a country, or Iran, which is just a bunch of crazy mullahs. You know, it's always this need to denigrate the opponent, which ends up fooling ourselves, though. But I was—I'm trying to think where, because if they say the war is inevitable, and part of the reasons, of course, is not just the very hawkish war rhetoric, which is dangerous in itself, even if it is for mounting pressure. You know, one can get trapped in rhetoric, but it's actions being taken, you know, weapons supplied, all of this.

But I was more curious what your thoughts were on the idea of seizing Russian ships. Because, again, in the West, we tend to often fool ourselves. We come and we label it, you know, a shadow fleet, make it sound all criminal-like. And suddenly now it's legitimate to essentially seize them. And we seem to be going down that path. And as long as everyone, you know, the EU Parliament agrees that this is legitimate, then they seem to assume that's the case outside as well. I don't know. How do you see this? Because I keep thinking, in world history, you know, competition over sea lanes, shutting down the maritime traffic of other powers—this is usually what we fight wars about. It's starting to look like a war, is what I'm trying to say. Yeah.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, yeah, no, I agree with you. If there are any further steps by Europe to try to seize any Russian ship whatsoever, Russia is going to treat that as an act of war and is going to retaliate. And they'll retaliate by going back and taking back the ship and/or sinking foreign ships that are involved with any kind of military operations against Russian ships. It is, I think—in fact, Putin made that clear about four weeks ago during a speech out in the east. I think it was at Valdai, Vladivostok. But he gave basically the Russian Navy on the Sea of Japan and such carte blanche: you get any interference, you take out those ships. European, take them out. And so that's already a standing order. And that's why I say this is the rational mind that should be present among the Europeans to say, okay, we can remember the Great Patriotic War.

We can remember what it cost us, and we don't want to go down that path again. Let's find a solution with the Russians. Let's talk. It would be one thing if modern Russia was still driven by this Marxist-Leninist ideology of world conquest and global revolution and overthrowing all governments, bringing all governments under the control of the Communist Party. At least that's how the narrative was spun during the Cold War. That's not Russia. Russia is a conservative Christian Orthodox country, and they are very committed to that Christianity. And they're not bent upon conquering the rest of the world. Again, Russia is not out building 750 military bases or maintaining bases around the world. That's the United States. So the United States is engaged in a lot of psychological projection when it comes to Russia. We keep accusing Russia of the things that we're doing.

#Glenn

I want to be hopeful, though, when I look to Germany, that there's some positive developments. That is, on one hand, you see when the Germans can vote, they vote for AfD. And, you know, this is

quite remarkable. And they're rejecting BlackRock Merz, you know, in pretty much most of these elections. And at the same time, now that they're pushing for this, you know, reintroducing conscription and the general militarism, remilitarization of Germany, you do see that there are students, especially young people in Germany, taking to the streets, mass protests and, you know, holding up signs that Russia is not our enemy. So it doesn't look like the population is on board with this war, which is, you know, at least one little glimpse of hope. I'm not sure if you see it the same way, or if this would just—or if it matters at all.

#Larry Johnson

Well, no, I think it does matter. And this is, you know, I've asked a couple of people. I said, I've never seen a time where we've had such a disconnect between the political leadership and the public. You know, let's go back to even when George W. Bush decided to invade Iraq. He went to great lengths with his entire administration to gaslight the American public. It's a lie, you know, propaganda is a lie. But he succeeded in building public support for this invasion of Iraq. What you're seeing right now is there's no public support for any of these military operations, including against Iran. And there are increasing signs in the United States with respect to the war on Iran and the upcoming midterm elections that that war on Iran is going to be a killer for the Trump administration and for all Republicans.

Because people, they're sick of the war and they're getting savaged with inflation. And the inflation is producing a recessionary effect on the U.S. economy. So despite Trump's insistence that prices are better than ever and gas and oil have never been cheaper, it's all a lie. It's one lie after another. And yet he persists in pursuing policies that the facts don't support and the public doesn't support. But it's almost like he doesn't care. And that is not unique to Trump. We're seeing that with Starmer in the United Kingdom and, you know, BlackRock Merz. I love that nickname, with him and Macron. We're seeing it across the board, this disconnect from reality.

#Glenn

But the push, though, for getting the population on board, this is something that concerns me. I'm not sure what your take is on this Leipzig incident, because when the German foreign minister went to talk to Lavrov, he brought it up because he said, you know, "Don't underestimate this. If this happens, we are prepared to fight." But that being said, I have my doubts—well, more than doubts. It seems ridiculous to me. But again, I was just... What are your thoughts around this incident? Because at least it looks strange to me.

#Larry Johnson

No, no. I think it was Western-inspired intelligence operations to create a casus belli. It's like Adolf Hitler launching attacks on German border posts on September 1st, 1939, on the border with Poland, to claim that it was the Poles that attacked the Germans, to justify starting the war at that

point. I think that's exactly what this was. I mean, the Russians—that particular kind of drone by itself doesn't have the legs to fly from Russian front lines all the way into Germany, to Leipzig. Sorry, it doesn't. And frankly, the explosive it's carrying—enough explosive on it just to irritate the hell out of the Germans. That's it. That has no strategic impact whatsoever. So yeah, this was, in my view, a deliberate false flag trying to rally support to attack Russia. And, you know, Lavrov had none of it. He wouldn't even continue to sit there and listen to these kinds of accusations. He pushed back hard.

#Glenn

What I find so reckless about this continuous talk about war, though, is none of these leaders appear to have had the decency to at least explain to the public what such a war might look like. That is, are we launching missiles into Moscow now? Are we sending our troops? Are we going to take some Russian territory? Exactly, exactly. How would such a war be won? Also, how do you defeat the world's largest nuclear power, which sees itself as fighting for its existence? I mean, how do you see this? What would be likely if the Europeans do want to fight the Russians? What do you think they're talking about? What is the vision, you think, in their heads? I know this is speculation, but for me, this makes no sense at all.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, well, no. Honestly, Glenn, I don't think they've thought it through that far. In their minds, they've got what I call a fantasy narrative. But...

#Larry Johnson

They haven't actually put, you know, thought through what it means to actually put boots on the ground to take and have to take and occupy Russian territory and defeat Russian military units. Now, the West continues to deride the Russian military capability, saying, well, after four years, they failed to defeat the Ukrainians. Well, they are steadily advancing. Are they advancing, you know, miles in a day? Usually not. But in the course of those advances, they're killing and wounding a lot of Ukrainian soldiers. And what we are not seeing is Ukraine pushing back and sustaining an offensive operation where they force the Russians not only to stop in place, but to retreat.

Now, there was the Institute for the Study of War made a big deal about a Ukrainian offensive in and around Lyman. And, yeah, the Russians fell back initially. They absorbed the blow. They defeated the offensive. And then they began recapturing territory that they had ceded. This is not a recipe for Ukrainian success. What you'd expect to see is them make these advances, the Russians fail to stop them, and they continue to make the advance. What we're seeing is the ones who are doing the advancing, maybe pausing, but continuing the advance. That is Russia. Ukraine ain't doing that.

And we've got, you know, frankly, this recent military exercise conducted by NATO in which Ukraine participated, where the Ukrainian forces defeated the NATO forces using just drones alone, showed how ill-prepared the West is to really put any kind of force on the ground. And so that leaves, what are they going to use? Tomahawk missiles that they're short of? JASSMs that they're short of? So the West has come up short, not just with the U.S., but Germany and the U.K. as well. They don't have an unlimited supply of these missiles. And in many cases, like the United States, they're dependent upon supply chains out of China that China's not willing to supply anymore because they don't want these rare earth minerals being used for military purposes.

#Glenn

It goes back to what you said before, though, that they misinterpret Russia's restraint as weakness. But I think there should be enough, if they do recognize that Russia has been restrained, which they can't, but if they did, they would have to start to contemplate why Russia has been restrained, because they do want to deter. They don't want to see the West attack with impunity. However, the reason why they were restrained, I think, is because they didn't want a direct war between Russia and NATO, because no one would be able to control that escalation ladder. But that being said, if the Europeans then throw away all pretense of this simply being a proxy war by attacking directly, because there's nothing else to do now to turn the tide, why would Russia be restrained? What exactly would be the reasoning? Now there's already a war. You know, they built a lot of Oreshniks. You know, they did this for, I think, designed for us, to be honest, in Europe.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, no, this goes to the miscalculation on the part of the West. And look, Russia... The other thing, Professor Pape was arguing that Russia's got itself into this trap, this escalatory trap. But when you look back at Russia's actions since 2022, once it realized that its initial strategy of using limited military pressure—and what I mean by limited, they only deployed about 150,000 troops throughout Ukraine—their objective was to secure negotiations, which they did. But it was primarily the Brits, with American support, that convinced Zelensky to walk away from the negotiations, continue the war. That's when Russia realized, basically, we've got to change our strategy. It wasn't until really September of 2022 that they instituted the mobilization of reservists, stepped up recruitment efforts and draft. And so from 2023, 2024, 2025, and now into 2026, Russia has been steadily recruiting through both draft and

#Larry Johnson

And contracts, new soldiers, and they've added—now the army is up to 1.55 million soldiers, active duty. That's not the sign of a, if you will, an escalatory trap. That's a sign where they turn around

and say, okay, we're going to need more troops. Let's get those troops out. Then on top of it, you know, if you're squaring off against Europe, who's got the resource base where they have plenty of oil and diesel and gas, natural gas?

#Glenn

That's Russia.

#Larry Johnson

That's not Europe. Europe's short on that. Who's got the industry that can produce hypersonic missiles? That's Russia. That's not Europe. Who's got the advantage producing drones, artillery pieces, both the artillery units themselves and the shells? That's Russia, not Europe. You know, so on every measure that you can come up with, Europe's at a disadvantage. Even though they can put on paper, oh, the GDP of all of the European countries combined is X amount. That's so much bigger than Russia. Screw it. The fourth-largest economy in the world is measured by purchasing power parity, and that's the measure that really counts. So that's number one. And they say, oh, well, we've got all these soldiers. Well, soldiers that are really trained to different standards, with different equipment, that really are not, despite joint exercises, haven't really excelled in working together as a unified whole.

So what we're seeing is this movement by these European leaders without thinking through the practicalities of logistics and military capabilities, natural resource base, and industrial capabilities. They're not thinking about that, and yet they're willing to provoke a fight with Russia. And as you said at the outset, we've seen in Russia, both on the political level and now on the military level, a decisive change in their outlook towards Europe. And it's one of more hostility, with, you know, Lavrov and Putin have emphasized they're not going to initiate, they're not going to attack Europe to take territory. But by God, if they have to defend themselves by attacking sites in Europe, they will do so.

#Glenn

Not only is Russia the fourth-largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power parity, but one also has to take into account how financialized the economy is in the West and the contrast. And, you know, this is not a thesis anymore. This is kind of proven. We've seen that. They have a physical economy in Russia. They produce stuff.

And we see the fact that they can outproduce now the entire collective West in, for example, artillery shells. That, you know, it does matter, the physical economy. But yeah, I just had a comment on what you said before about the, you know, Institute for the Study of War, because this is actually the most cited source in all of Western media, and it sounds so official, you know, like some research center at a university. People don't know that this is a think tank, though, and it's run by

the Kagan family, which Victoria Nuland married into. And, you know, the main financing, if I'm not mistaken, comes from the arms industry, which has the interest to, you know, prolong this war. So, you know, you also have to put that into the propaganda perspective: the fact that Victoria Nuland, the one who had a key role in setting off the coup in Ukraine, who then thereafter had a key role in managing the proxy war, is now also part of this institute, which her family manages, that now informs the entire Western world about what's happening in Ukraine.

That's propaganda for you, though. I mean, it's amazing. And I just say it because every day I get some comments on social media saying, "Oh, you're so wrong. Haven't you read the Institute for the Study of War?" Blah, blah, blah. It's just, it's so, it's so ridiculous. I mean, if the Russians did something like this, we would mock them. But nobody mentions it, and all the information is available. It's quite extraordinary. Yeah.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, no, and if you do any search with AI engines, again, their algorithm is plugged in to take, like, ISW stuff as gospel. Oh, it must be true because ISW said it. ISW is a joke. I mean, the people writing for it, really, they have no military experience whatsoever, and really, no one are experienced intelligence officers. They're just, I call them political hacks.

#Glenn

Well, the last question was, well, on the topic of an inevitable war. Kaliningrad always stands out to me as a major concern, not just because, well, the precedent of this, but also how it's kind of cut off from the rest of the Russian Federation. But how do Europeans and Americans, for that matter, talk about Kaliningrad? The fact that, oh, this is a region we can put pressure on. I mean, this is—yes, it's landlocked, but it has a million people living there, and it's armed with nuclear weapons. Yes, this is seen as the vulnerability we can go after. This is where we're going to put pressure on Russia. Again, we don't suggest what we're going to do with that pressure. Are they going to capitulate? But I don't know. I heard some people say that this is very unlikely. They will be deterred by the nuclear weapons. But again, it assumes rationality, I guess. I just wanted to get your views on Kaliningrad. It's a very divisive topic.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, it's one of those things that right now, you know, Russia has to go through both Belarus and Lithuania to get... Well, actually, they have to go through Lithuania, but they access it through Belarus. I could see, at some point, with, you know, they could end up taking on both Latvia and Lithuania and taking control of it. I mean, they're tiny, tiny countries to start with. I think Latvia is like 1.3 million. Hell, that's the entire population. Russia's army is bigger than Latvia. So these countries have been like angry little Chihuahua dogs, snapping and snarling at Russia.

Russia has left them alone up to this point, but they played an important role in these past strikes on St. Petersburg during the June International Economic Forum. And some of those drones were believed to have originated in either Estonia or Latvia and came across Russian territory in that regard. So, yeah, I think this is where the West, again, could miscalculate, thinking that they could somehow... Whatever initial gains they might make in Kaliningrad, they won't stand. Russia will take it back. And at that point, you will see the use of the Russian arsenal. And if necessary, they'd use tactical nukes. If they reached a position where they thought they had no option, they'd use tactical nukes in a heartbeat.

#Glenn

They seem to have toned down a little bit on the Baltics. I think they would know that they would bear the brunt of whatever might happen. By the way, Latvia is bigger. They're 1.8 million. Estonia is 1.3. So these are not the size of a Chinese post office, essentially. These are not big countries. But it is interesting, I think, how much influence they've gotten. And I think that's part of the reason why, after 2022, you know, the Europeans all kind of fell under the line that, oh, this was unprovoked. You know, they want to restore the Soviet Union.

And, you know, the Baltic states had always tried to ramp up the hatred and anti-Russian sentiment within the EU. So their conclusion was essentially, oh, they were right all along, you know, these wise Baltic people. And, you know, let's hand them over the car keys and they should chart a path forward. That's why we have Kallas from Estonia, why we're led by the former disgraced leader of a country with 1.3 million. It is quite ridiculous, this kind of situation we are in. But she did promise us about two, three months ago that she was planning to read some books and become very smart. So maybe it's fair to give her time. But yes, Larry, any final thoughts before we finish up?

#Larry Johnson

I don't mean to be such a Debbie Downer on this, but, you know, unfortunately, you know, I think we're headed for a broader war, and I think it's more likely to happen in the Ukraine theater than it is in the Persian Gulf theater.

#Glenn

Because the Europeans say, "We're going to arm ourselves." They set even dates when they want to have this war with Russia. And it has some parallels to the Iranian war, because the Americans and Israelis are doing the same. "Oh, we're going to annihilate them. We're going to do this and that. We're going to wait until the midterms, though," and kind of assume that the Iranians will just sit there and wait until the opponent decides when they should get attacked. And we're kind of telling the Russians the same thing: you know, okay, by 2029, there's going to be a war. We're going to arm ourselves now and just sit there, you know, wait, wait, and just wait for us to arm, and then we'll come for you. At some point, you know, preemptive or preventive war would certainly enter the

minds of both the Iranians and the Russians. But here we are. So yes, being a downer seems appropriate these days. So hopefully not inevitable, but it's starting to look like it. Larry, always a pleasure.

#Larry Johnson

Yes, my friend. Enjoy our conversations, and enjoy your time at your current location.

#Glenn

Will do.

#Larry Johnson

Thanks. All right, my friend. Take care.