

Trump Chooses WAR! Iran BLOWS OPEN Israeli Airport | Johnson & Wilkerson

Fmr CIA analyst Larry Johnson and Col Lawrence Wilkerson discuss the Israeli hoax that is setting the pretext for renewed strikes as Trump signals a return to full-scale military action is coming and fast. Iran has blown open the plot and the region is on maximum alert for another round of war.
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#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I am joined by former CIA analyst and geopolitical commentator Larry Johnson and Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, former U.S. Army colonel and chief of staff, to go over the latest developments. Well, gentlemen, it seems like Donald Trump is choosing war. According to a recent interview he gave yesterday, or in the last 24 hours, with Time magazine, he said that intensified airstrikes are not only possible, but that we will have peace in the world by destroying Iran.

This comes as he told the media that he's going to decide very soon, possibly after the midterms, maybe before, whether to blow up. And now this comes after a strange series of developments where we had the RAF incident, which I haven't been able to talk to either of you about, as well as what happened yesterday with the Flydubai flight, where there seems to be a serious consideration amongst both Trump and Israel about Iran's involvement in incidents. Now, Iran has seemed to be ahead of the game. They said that they have identified a Mossad plot to use aviation attacks to blame Iran, essentially engineering these attacks and then blaming Iran for them in what would amount to false flags, and one big hoax for war. Maybe, Larry, I haven't seen you in a while, so how about you begin? How close to war are we? Is Trump really giving a stamp of approval for war? And what do you make of these, what some are saying, false flag incidents of the last several days?

#Larry Johnson

I think Trump is intent on going back to war with Iran. And it'll be crazy if he does. They've ordered the Theodore Roosevelt now to head out, so they're going to have three carriers on station. That may just be a replacement for one of them, as you've still got two active aircraft carriers in the area. I actually think he might do it before the election. And so let's come back to these incidents. Okay, the Five Guys—you know, I call it the hamburger stand issue. You know, so the guys at RAF

Fairford, I maintain, they were just trying to set up a Five Guys hamburger franchise, serve high cholesterol to the U.S. airmen in hopes of causing heart attacks.

That was their dastardly plan. I mean, this thing, this has got so many holes in it that, you know, they have explosives. Well, they don't have explosives. Well, they're supposedly stealing diesel fuel. They get released. But yet the United States is insisting, oh yeah, Iran's involved. How about doing a perp walk? How about bringing out and identifying the guys by name and showing their social media accounts, how they've been in touch with Iranian agents? They haven't done any of that. And the same with this so-called attempted hijacking. My God, there have been more stories about that than there have been different movies about Spider-Man.

I mean, Jesus. First we hear, well, it was a Russian pilot and a Ukrainian pilot. They got into a fight. Oh, no, no, no, no, that's not it. It was an Emirati pilot getting into a battle with an Omani pilot. No, no, no, no, that wasn't it. It was an Indian pilot getting into a battle with an Omani pilot. I mean, for God's sake, can we come up with just one story? And then somehow the pilot gets stabbed and is able to get out of his seat before, I guess, the plane starts plunging into oblivion, and gets the door open, at which point all the passengers, particularly there's a—we've either heard it was a plumber.

#Danny

A plumber, Super Mario, I call it.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, Super Mario or an Israeli pilot that happened to be on board. Anyway, they jump into action and storm the cockpit, manage to somehow—this is what I'm not understanding—that the plane is diving down, they're claiming it dropped 14,000 feet in seconds. The G-force on that would be forcing people back. So... anyway, the thing stinks. And what's interesting about it is, like 12 hours before this happened, you got Bibi saying, "Oh yeah, those Iranians, man, they're going to do something," and the United States coming in said, "Yeah, Bibi's right." And then you have Israeli intelligence going, "What the hell are you guys talking about? This is crazy. No, there's nothing going to happen." So, confusion. Confusion.

#Danny

Yeah. Colonel Wilkerson, to you: we have Trump saying war is imminent, and then all of these very strange events, which Iran seemed to be ahead of. Iran has released multiple statements talking about specifically attacks on airports by Mossad to blame Iran in order to justify war. What do you make of this?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I make of it that Trump is as insane as he's ever been, deepening his insanity hourly. We've been at war since 28 February, period. I don't think anyone would contest that who had a mind. And we have been at various stages in that war since 28 February, most of which have been, if not all, losing on our part. We are now at a point where Donald Trump has made so many categorical assertions about this conflict. His vice president has even declared it not a conflict. I imagine all the people standing under the bombs that have been dropped would disagree with him wholeheartedly. Nonetheless, we have had these vicissitudes and changes of mind and changes of direction throughout this.

A war that was going to be over in a week or two, according to David Barnea and Bibi Netanyahu and the people that Trump really listened to, in lieu of his own advisors, including his vice president, are all dead wrong. Dead wrong. And Trump has not admitted any of that. He's not said anything about that. He just keeps on barging ahead with the stupidity, the insanity that he has become accustomed to. So how one is supposed to sort out American, not just strategy, but the policy above that strategy and the operations and tactics underneath that strategy, is ridiculous. Bewildering to me. And then you've got generals like Keith Kellogg, asshole, idiot, airborne piece of crap that he is.

He landed on his head far too many times, coming on mainstream media and talking as if he's some kind of expert about the Iranians. He doesn't know an Iranian from a totem pole. Reminds me of most of the airborne generals, like that stupid fool Donovan who went to Kaliningrad and said we could take it in 40 hours, or whatever the hell it was he said. So there's no continuity. There's no genius, certainly, coming out of this administration. There's only absurdity, insanity, and more and more pain for Americans coming out of it. India just had a very large refinery, I think one of the largest in their country, is run by the MRPL, the major facility for this sort of thing in India, state-owned, just had a major problem there.

Don't know whether it's terrorism. I'm sure the world will make it out to be terrorism. Certainly the British prime minister will. Don't know what did it. But anyway, India just stopped all of its trades in diesel. All the tenders were canceled. So there you have a major input to the diesel that was supposedly coming forward that isn't going to come forward. And you've got other things like that happening now. You've got two United States governors—Atlanta, Georgia, the governor of Georgia—having suspended the tax on fuel, which is a major portion of the cost of a gallon of fuel, because he doesn't want his state to be so oppressed by this incredible rise in fuel prices.

The governor of Louisiana has allowed his people to use dirty diesel against all the regulations of air control and so forth, pollution control, because he said he won't have any harvest unless he does. I suspect this is just the first two of many that are going to make changes. This is all because of Donald Trump. It's all because of this war. It's all because of his volition to do what he's doing, and he hasn't done it. So how do you comment on that, Danny? How do you make a cogent comment on the insanity of Donald Trump?

#Danny

Hmm. Well, Larry, maybe you wanted to jump in here, because I can show exactly what Trump said in the interview. And I wanted to ask you, Larry, well, how the hell does this actually materialize? Here, he talks about—this is a Time magazine interview—and he says, where is it? I had it highlighted. Here we go. "How can the president be calling for annihilation of entire people?" he was asked. "Because by annihilating Iran, we've created peace in the world. With Iran, I don't think you could ever have peace." So this is something we're hearing over and over again, Larry. What's your thoughts about the plan for Trump to do this? There still are military assets in the region, but I'm curious if you can assess what actually is happening there and if this is just blowing hot air. Oh, sorry, you're muted. Hold on. Restart, sorry.

#Larry Johnson

Okay, can you hear me now?

#Danny

Yes, I can.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, I share Brother Wilkerson's disdain, disgust, anger at what we're witnessing with Donald Trump. He is dangerous.

#Larry Johnson

His words are not just intemperate. They represent the intent to commit a war crime, and he should be removed from office as soon as possible. I think he has completely disqualified himself to have any kind of executive position where he can—you know, he already is in a position to start a war. You know, the lies that are coming out, it's not just Trump. He's been enabled by his so-called cabinet. That, you know, for example, the other day when Scott Bessent insisted they got 22 million barrels of oil coming out of the Strait of Hormuz. Even during optimal times, the Strait of Hormuz was producing actually 15 million barrels of oil per day.

And then another five million barrels of, let's call it, petrochemical products. So not oil. Some of it could have been diesel and other things. But just the fact that you get Bessent lying like that and claiming that the ships are moving freely, at the time that the Secretary of Energy makes, you know, basically gives permission to withdraw another 40 million barrels of oil, crude, high-sulfur crude, from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Now, you go on to sort of the spin that comes with that as, well, this is just a loan because the ones getting that got to pay it back. Yeah, that's like giving Wimpy a hamburger, okay? I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today.

I mean, this is—we are in a global diesel crisis. It's a shortage, and it started with the cutoff of oil, the high-sulfur crude that was coming out of the Persian Gulf, right? It has been exacerbated now by the fact that this shortage has been in place since April 10th of this year. So you got May, June, July, August, September—five and a half months. And you don't get five and a half months of shortage when your demand, let's assume the demand remains somewhat steady, and then all of a sudden kick back into prosperity and surplus. And then on top of that, as the good colonel noted, this refinery that goes out in India, that's a big deal because India is one of the major refiners of diesel.

I don't think most people realize that the daily global consumption of diesel, last numbers I saw, was 29 million barrels per day. The total global export—and this was back before 28 February—the total global export of diesel fuel: 8 million barrels per day. Can anybody do the math on that? That's 27%. Only 27% of the global supply comes from these exports, which goes back to Donald Trump's false, specious, ridiculous claim that it's the war in Ukraine that's causing this shortage. No, it's the damn war he started in the Persian Gulf that's created this.

#Danny

Yeah, great points. And Colonel Wilkerson, the return to kinetic action is only going to exacerbate this problem. Now, and we have Iran already preparing. Iran says the next attack will lead to ships in the Indian Ocean, which is where the aircraft carriers are now located, being targeted. And this time they say they're going to hit them. What do you make of what Larry just said and how renewed kinetic action would impact it?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

It's an interesting situation to contemplate as a military professional, especially one that's spent probably a third of his career with the Navy and the Marine Corps. I know that one carrier can't do much at all. Twenty-four hours, that's it. Two carriers can run 48 to 96 hours. Three carriers can run what the Navy likes to call continuous air operations around the clock. And it has to do with resupply of fuel, resupply of munitions, aircraft maintenance, all the kinds of things that you've got to take into consideration. But when we used to do the war games, we always wanted at least three carriers. That's why Colin Powell sent four carriers to the Gulf for the first Gulf War. And when he was asked why he sent four, he simply said to the cocksure press guy who was asking him the question, "Because they didn't have five."

Meaning, he was good. If we're sending three carriers there, then the tactical indication is that we're going to conduct round-the-clock airstrikes against Iran off these carriers. Bullshit. Absolute bullshit. First of all, if we get three carriers, they're functioning all at the same time, roughly equivalent to a battle group that could do what I just described. They're going to take them out, at least one of them, and they're going to impair that ability really quickly. And that's going to be a significant blow

to Donald Trump because it's going to be hard. You know, I just saw The Intercept. I trust The Intercept to a certain extent. I just saw their count of casualties. Do you see that?

I mean, the casualties are way beyond what the government's reporting, both killed and wounded. And these are U.S. casualties. These aren't Jordanians. These aren't Kuwaitis. These aren't Bahrainis. These are U.S. casualties. If that's true, then Landstuhl is completely overwhelmed right now with these casualties. Is anybody talking about that? Is anybody like Hegseth or anybody else telling the American people or the Congress about that? No, apparently they're not. And now they're talking about getting even deeper, if this is indeed what their plan is, and getting to the point where Iran is going to take one of these babies out. And then we're going to be sitting there with 5,000 people in the water, maybe 2,000 in the water, the others dead almost instantly.

No escorts to pick them up. All kinds of things that we're gonna depend on the Iranians to send some of their destroyed Navy boats out there maybe to rescue these people. This is a recipe for disaster, an absolute recipe for disaster. And no one is in charge in the Pentagon, no one who has any maritime skills whatsoever, because he's got rid of them all. And especially gotten rid of the people in the Navy who were pushing back. Three-star, two-star, and a four-star. They were pushing back at him. Got rid of them. So who's guiding this? And who's setting all this up? And what is the purpose?

Because you're not going to change what the ultimate result of this war is going to be, come hell or high water. And that is, Iran has the high ground, owns the escalation ladder. And by God, if you want to go there, we'll go there with you. We don't want to, but we will. Bibi, quit talking about using a nuclear weapon. You're not deterring us at all. We will strike you with full force. We will take out Haifa and Tel Aviv, and we will take out much in between if you do what you say you're going to do. You're using that as a desire to preempt us. I think Bibi is of a mind now, and I don't blame him for being of a mind, that Iran has a nuclear weapon or two.

And I think that's a real dampener on his plans. What does that mean? Does it mean that Trump has given him, as I have heard, permission to use a nuclear weapon should he feel it a necessity to do so? Well, what does that mean? Is that a message you're trying to send to the Iranians? Because I know they probably know that it's gone from Trump to Bibi. Or is it real? And what is Bibi going to do with it? This whole thing is turning into a first-class disaster. And the frightful thing is Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth and Dan Caine have no idea how to get out of it.

#Danny

Yeah. And there, I definitely want to go back in a second to the major propaganda blitz on the Strait of Hormuz we've been seeing. But I wanted first your assessment of and your reaction to the role of Israel here, with all of this talk about the fall yesterday being a seemingly botched false flag, if people were calling it a false flag. But we have an Israeli election coming. We know that Israel is looking for a reason to have the Iran war restart kinetically, even if they don't have to participate in

it. What are your thoughts on the role of Israel here? Iran is already saying that they are watching Mossad's movements, and they don't look good.

#Larry Johnson

The Trump administration appears to have gone all in in trying to help Bibi in his reelection campaign. I mean, you shouldn't be surprised. Susie Wiles was the campaign director of one of his previous presidential runs. So, you know, and what do I base that on? Well, when we get the report out of Fairford, England, about the five guys, um, you know, and again, I can't help but my mind just goes to the hamburger joint. Good hamburgers, great hamburgers. I like the analogy, but, you know, and I said, yeah, they're gonna, you know, put up some really greasy French fries and that cripple all those U.S. airmen. You know, the United States immediately comes out and, yeah, this was Iran trying to attack our base. And it's like, yeah, let's see some evidence, guys.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Araghchi's, you know, just having the time of his life trolling the United States and the Brits on this. Then the same thing happened with, you know, as we talked about, with the whatever this cockpit incident was, of a crazed pilot of uncertain national origin attacking another pilot of uncertain national origin. And then the United States piles on that too, at the same time that Israeli intelligence is coming back, "No, no, no, no, no, this doesn't pass the sniff test." So clearly Israeli intelligence is trying to separate itself from the political process and not get involved with the domestic election beyond saying they're not going to be used as a campaign tool for Bibi, while the United States is just sort of thrown in. So Bibi, you know, the 27th, so 26 days from now, Bibi loses.

There will be a new ball game in the sense of who the United States deals with. Whoever comes in is not going to be as effective as Bibi. Bibi was a master at manipulating the United States. Second, it's not going to change substantively Israel's policy towards Gaza, towards the West Bank, towards Iran, towards Lebanon. It's not going to change. It's going to be sort of more, you know, more cowbell. So that gets down to what's Trump going to do with respect to Iran? Iran's been willing to make a deal. The deal is on the table. Trump walked away from it twice. But Iran's prepared to defend itself. Now, the narrative that's circulating not just in Washington, D.C., but also in the media: oh boy, Iran's only got a week or two left. Their economy can't go on. Any minute now, they're going to collapse.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And they really believe this.

#Larry Johnson

And it's like, guys, you know, I'm not saying that it's economic paradise in Tehran, but Tehran has got open trade relations with Russia, China, and Pakistan, something they did not have four years

ago. So under previous sanctioned regimes, they had far fewer options. They got a lot of options right now. And we're not certain exactly how much oil, what's going in, what's going out of the Strait of Hormuz, of the Persian Gulf, because there's so much lying going on on the part of the United States. And I don't see Iran out trying to brag about, oh, we're doing this and that, as the world knows. I think, you know, when Bessent said, when he said the other day, boy, Iran's going to really be in trouble when that last tanker full of oil from Iran gets delivered to China. And I'm going, tanker full of oil? How the hell did that get out of our ironclad blockade in the Persian Gulf? Right.

#Danny

Well, let me just say one thing.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Larry's so right. There is no lie that we won't tell. You know, you can look at all the sides, neutral, partisan, in this conflict, and indeed Ukraine too. And the lies that are coming out of us are just incredible. It's not propaganda. It's not psychological warfare. I'm sure CIA is thinking it is. It's a joke. And all Iran has to do, all Russia has to do, is just—Lavrov, of course, blew them away yesterday. He just totally blew them away when they talked about the drones and everything. Let me see if I've got you right now. These drones are to come in and attack Russia, or somehow Russia's fault. Yeah. I mean, but when he speaks with sanity, and when Araghchi or whomever speaks with sanity from Iran, no one listens, of course. But the big bugaboo in all this is the freaking lies that we're telling, from Bessent to Trump to Hegseth to you name it.

#Danny

Yeah, well, Larry, I think that's a perfect time. Can you break down maybe even further the lies? I think it was beautifully done earlier, talking about the realities of the diesel crisis and the energy that's actually flowing through versus what we're able to consume. But also, even just the tracking data, I'm hearing things that Kpler, K-P-L-E-R, which people were relying on for reliable data out of the Strait of Hormuz, has been compromised now, where they are essentially—some people are calling them the Axios of tracking data now.

And I'm curious what you make of this. People are saying—everyone, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, CNN—I mean, we can go across the board, and social media, all the hangers-on: Iran has lost leverage over the Strait of Hormuz. Trump is saying, right, they overplayed their hand. What's actually happening there? Some days I'm hearing Iranian reports that three ships, four ships, in a single—I don't even know if you can call it a day—12-hour period, are getting hit and disabled. What's going on in the Strait of Hormuz, actually?

#Larry Johnson

Well, let's deal first with if all this oil is coming out, why the hell is Chris Wright, Secretary of Energy, tapping into another 40 million barrels of oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve? I mean, if all that oil is coming out, we got a surplus, guys. Happy days are here again. Then you get Donald Trump with this repeated nonsense saying that, well, this diesel shortage, this is Ukraine's fault because it's blowing up all the Russian refineries. Okay, I just spent three weeks in Russia. I was there for the September 16th massive drone attack. Yes, 1,600 drones reportedly tried to enter into Moscow airspace. And, you know what, 98%, 99% of them were shot down. A couple got through.

They hit a refinery that's in southern Moscow. Now, Moscow is—people need to understand—it is a big-ass piece of land. It is three times the size of New York City, and I'm talking all five boroughs, okay? Put all five boroughs out there, and then multiply that by three, you get Moscow. Moscow's got 17 million people. I was staying in a hotel about six miles north of Red Square, in a part of Moscow called Moscow City. This is futuristic high-rises. You know, it's really quite a place. So when I got up, I got up that morning about 9 a.m., and I looked out my window and I could see a little bit of some, you know, haze. I'll call it haze. It wasn't clouds of dark smoke. It was just, you know, not a clear blue sky.

That lasted for about an hour and a half, and that dissipated. Then no more smoke the rest of the day. So whatever refinery was on fire in the southern part of Moscow, they got put out. And that's number one. Number two, that the attacks on these refineries are affecting the global supply of diesel. Excuse me. Let's deal with the facts. Global daily consumption of diesel is about 20 million barrels per day. Total global exports of diesel—all countries, U.S., Russia, everybody that was exporting diesel, including the Gulf states—prior to February 28th, per day, 8 million barrels per day. Okay? So, in other words, the vast majority of the world is not dependent upon daily exports of diesel.

Russia's amount of that 8 million, Russia accounted for about 12% in December of 2025. Okay? However, over the last three months, as a result of some of these attacks, that number has gone down to 155,000. However, Russia's export of crude, heavy crude, to India and other places—that's what's used to make diesel—that's gone on. That hasn't been interrupted. So this notion that the attacks in Russia have disrupted the global economy and market, no, that's just bullshit. It's a lie. One more lie that Colonel Wilkerson can put into his collection. And look, while I was there, they said, "Well, this is crippling the Russian economy." No, it's not.

You know, I saw, like, on that Sunday after this attack, I went by four different gas stations, and there were between, like, 15 cars lined up, and the worst was, like, 40 cars lined up waiting to get gas. Okay, it created some lines, but the lines weren't any bigger than what I see at my BJ's, which is like Costco, where they have discount gas, cars lined up to get that. The rest of the roads were jammed with cars. So, again, this notion that these attacks are crippling the Russian economy, creating such a shortage of fuel that the people are getting all riled up—no, they're not. And the West just needs to stop lying to itself about what damage they think they're inflicting on Russia.

#Danny

Yeah, great points. Well, the desperation seems to be coming on the U.S. side, Colonel Wilkerson. The United States is telling France and Germany to release its diesel stocks or face a U.S. export ban, which, to both of you, we've heard this now, it seems like, for the better part of a week. The United States is going to institute—some were saying—a global export ban. That seems to be a little tamped down now, given the consequences of that, what that could be. But, Carl, what was your reaction to this? It does seem like the desperation is on the U.S. side, despite all this bluster, all the strange events, and everything that Larry was just saying about the energy situation.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, Danny, I don't think that you can take the insanity of Donald Trump and, to a certain extent now, Pete Hegseth, a primary cabinet officer too, and not associate it with people like Bessent and others. I don't think any of them know what they're talking about. And I don't think they care what they're talking about other than the message that they're told they have to deliver. And whether that's coming from Stephen Miller or what's his name at OMB, Russ Vought, or someone else, I don't know. It's not coming from Trump, I'm sure. But they're making their political message in accordance with their desires to make everything okay, to make it look like it's good. And it ain't working. It's not working. You've seen the polls. The Republican leadership right now is talking about how fast they're going to abandon Trump.

They got people in southern Alabama who are putting signs up against MAGA, against Trump. The latest thing in southern Alabama is these two Floridians who are trying to run, one of them for governor, I think, and one of them for senator or something like that. And they got signs up. I've seen the signs. They are horrible signs for Trump. They are the end of MAGA. And where? Where? Alabama. You know, the bastion of Trumpism. So it's not working. The lies they're telling, the propaganda they're weaving, it's not working. Just as Larry said, it's not working with regard to the conflict, Russia, Iran, wherever. And it's not working with the American people. This is going to be a disaster for the Republicans in November. Going to be a disaster.

#Danny

Yeah, and I want to pull this up, Larry, and you both can react to it. You basically explained this, but now even the Washington Post is getting a whiff of reality: Why a rebound of oil shipments isn't bringing a big drop in prices. They keep on promoting this idea that pre-war levels are being approached in terms of crude oil shipments, but analysts expect fuel prices to remain high, and we've also heard reports that diesel prices will remain high for the duration of the war and upwards of a year. So, Larry, your reaction?

#Larry Johnson

Well, again, what these knuckleheads don't understand: one, there's been enormous damage done to the oil petroleum infrastructure in the Persian Gulf and in Iran. So Iraq, Iran, all the Gulf Arab countries have suffered significant damage. To repair those systems requires two things. One, knowledgeable technicians that know how to repair them, and there's a short supply of that, which means that when someone gets hired to go in and do that, they're not available to the others, right? Number two, the actual parts.

The warehouses that had been stocked with replacement parts, et cetera, those have been destroyed. They're not available anymore. So getting that repaired—Carl Miller, who has become a friend, he reached out to me several months ago, offering to, you know, help mentor me on the intricacies of this oil market there because he's on the ground and he's working with some of these countries. He knows exactly everything: what's damaged, what isn't damaged, what's available, what's not available. If everything opens up overnight, you know, they just go, "Hey, the blockade's lifted, everybody's good."

#Lawrence Wilkerson

They barely can get 50% of what they were getting out before.

#Larry Johnson

And Carl's estimate is it's going to take up to five years to repair the damage that's been done, to get the whole area back operating at the level it was on February 27th, the day before the war started. So this is where... And then the other thing that compounds this are the ships that haul the oil. They're not in plentiful supply. And then those ships have to sail farther to get to their delivery point, particularly with the Red Sea basically closed and Bab-el-Mandab becoming another choke point. So there are a number of structural issues. It's not just how much oil is getting pumped out. I mean, there's less oil being pumped out, no matter what. God, but these journalists, they just repeat this nonsense over and over and over. And this Trump administration, it's like Goebbels said: you repeat a lie often enough, it becomes the truth.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Let me just amplify that, Danny, for one country. Having had experience with this country for a long, long time, and having known the two people who were responsible for the oil in this country for almost a total of 12 years, I know a little bit about it. And one of the reasons al-Sudani wanted us out, and forcefully this time, he's wanted us out ever since he took over the reins in Baghdad. And the people before him have wanted us out too. There's not been a single Iraqi leader who didn't want us out of Iraq. Twenty-three years we were there, and we finally started to leave. Well, al-Sudani was really pissed off because Iraq has more proven oil reserves than Saudi Arabia. And they

were finally getting to the point where the corruption and the facilities management and all the things that have to go into an elaborate oil production program, like at Basra, for example, were coming to fruition.

And the corruption was at a minimum, and things were looking good. Iraq was going to be the producer in the Gulf area, replacing Saudi Arabia in that regard. And their reserves are not much more than Saudi Arabia's. And on top of all of that, out in the Western Desert, ExxonMobil, Chevron, Royal Dutch Shell, Total, and others think there is more oil than there is in Iraq's discovered oil. So Iraq is the giant. That's one reason they want us out. And now they really want us out, and have prevailed, because we caused what Larry just described. Set them back majorly, I'm told, fairly significantly, especially in Basra. So this all comes, you know, what comes around goes around. Get your ass out of my country. You have just caused what happened by your stupid wars.

#Danny

Yeah, and Larry, Iran says that the United States and Israel—particular emphasis on the United States, though—their time is running out in the region, that it will be forced backwards, and that situation will only get worse as time goes on, as this war goes on. Do you agree with that?

#Larry Johnson

Oh, yeah. Well, look, they talk about, well, the U.S. could lose its position. What the hell do you think's happened over the last six months? I mean, we're not in Bahrain anymore. That was a major naval base. I mean, and our actions there go back, God, almost 50 years.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And the CNO said, "We ain't going back."

#Larry Johnson

Right. I mean, you go back, say, like 39 years ago, 40 years ago, when we were conducting oil escort operations in the Persian Gulf, Bahrain was the main base. I mean, we had aircraft carriers sailing up through the Strait of Hormuz, going all the way up to Bahrain, unmolested. They didn't have to worry about a thing. Well, that's not the case today. It's a whole different ballgame. Same with Al Udeid. Combined Air Operations Center, the CAOC, man, that was—even though on paper, AFCENT headquarters was at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina—the reality was, the de facto headquarters was right there in Al Udeid, in Qatar. So, you know, we're not going back to that. And Camp Buehring—and let's get the name of the other camp in Kuwait—the personnel drawdown there has been significant. So the United States doesn't have the kind of military presence it had, you know, seven months ago, not at all. And as Colonel Wilkerson just noted, we ain't going back.

#Danny

Well, Colonel Wilkerson, I don't know if you've heard this phrase that people younger than I use now: the math is not mathing here. That's—I often say that. And, you know, Iran is definitely preparing for—two and two don't make four. Yeah, yeah, they're preparing for something. Even the Israeli-backed Iran International is saying that there are exercises being held in Iran to prepare for possible strikes across civilian infrastructure and the nuclear site locations—Fordow, Natanz, Isfahan, etc. Also, there were images being shared around of Iranian troops being issued protection kits from possible chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear attacks.

But as Larry just said, again, the U.S.'s position is weaker now in the region. But yet I'm hearing, too, that given the Israeli elections are coming up, that we're going to have more potential, especially these kind of false flag, you know, pretexts being built up for another strike. So how do you assess this equation right now, this balance of forces, so to speak? Not for me. Yeah, that's for you.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Oh, well, the superficial answer would be, of course, that when your conventional means begin to wear out, when you don't have the kinds of things that you started with, then you turn to non-conventional means, whether they be biological, chemical, or ultimately nuclear. I think a lot of this is a game of words right now. I think Trump let it be known that he had given Bibi Netanyahu permission to use a nuclear weapon. I think that's clearly known in Tehran, and I think that was on purpose. Now, whether it's a meaningful permission or just something to use against what you were just describing, or to create what you're describing—you know, the preparation for a nuclear attack or a chemical attack or whatever—is anybody's guess.

But it scares me with Bibi Netanyahu being given that kind of a go-ahead, even if it's under guise, you know, even if it's a subterfuge, because Bibi's the kind of guy that would act on it. At the same time, you have to look at this election. And let me back up for a moment. I have some pretty good friends in Israel. One of them's been on the ground there throughout this whole deal, and he tells me—and he's not really got a dog in the fight, except he's sympathetic to the Palestinian situation—but he says Israel is in such turmoil right now, domestically, that it's like you could walk out in the street with a straight pin and prick the bubble of their sanity.

They could fall apart at any minute because they are just in a mess, right? And different Israelis, for different reasons—Jews, Arabs, Christians, whatever—have different interpretations of that mess, as he has said, because he's interviewed a lot of them in the street. But nonetheless, they all know that Israel is in a domestic mess right now, the worst it's probably been in since '48. And they don't know how this is going to turn out. The election fever, if you will, is feeding this mess and making it deeper and more profound. So what are we doing? And you just said something that makes me think that we're trying to use at least a part of this aspect to frighten Iran. And in the middle of all of

this, too, is a discussion going on in the IDF about how easy it would be to take Damascus. Look at that highway.

And look at how short a distance it is. And these are Israel's—arguably, I don't know anymore after 20 years of occupation duty—but these are Israel's premier forces, the armored forces. So you could put an armored division on that highway and be in Damascus in an hour and a half. Netanyahu wants to do that. He wants to take Syria, and he wants to tell Erdogan, after he's done it, "Up yours." So this is a very confused and convoluted situation that lots of people who have other motives than you and I might know want to take advantage of. Plus, it's chaos. I mean, according to this guy, in the streets of Israel right now, it doesn't matter where you are. You could go to Nazareth, even where it's predominantly Christian, and it's chaos. So what does all that mean? If I were Iran, I'd be gearing up for almost any possibility.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah, well, you know, in the five or six minutes or so that we have here, maybe both of you—to start with, Larry—overall, how is the U.S.'s position right now vis-à-vis Iran also a reflection of what's happening more broadly in the world right now? Because it seems like Trump has a one-track mind on the Middle East, and the U.S. administration has a one-track mind on the Middle East. But the world is certainly moving and humming along, and even in the region, the situation is looking quite dire. Still, people are not paying attention to the Yemen situation as much anymore, but even in the last day, Saudi Arabia took a pretty big beating after committing war crimes in Taiz and elsewhere. So, Larry, to you first about the global situation.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, it's been the Wizard of Oz moment, and it's not confined to the Persian Gulf. It's global. And what do I mean by the Wizard of Oz moment? If people are familiar with that movie, at the end, when Dorothy, with her three traveling companions—the Cowardly Lion, the Scarecrow, and the Tin Man—when they show up in this great hall, and there's this big booming voice up front, "The great and powerful Oz." Man, it's very daunting, and it's intimidating. And then Toto, the dog, runs over, pulls back the curtain, and there's an old man back there just manipulating it, because you realize this is all a facade.

Well, what has happened over the course—and it's not just confined to the war with Iran, it also goes to our support for Ukraine in the war against Russia—is that the assumption, and let's not forget the failure of the United States in the Red Sea against the Houthis, all of this has combined now to create—to have exposed as a fraud—the belief that the United States military is some

invincible, powerful force that couldn't be stopped. Man, don't take on the United States. Boy, they're bad. They're bad. And it turns out, yeah, they're bad, but more in the conventional sense of bad, as in terrible. You should have seen the reaction of these various Russian military personnel, you know, like General Apti Alaudinov, retired General Evgeny Buzhinsky, retired General Alexei Gurulev.

When I told him about the U.S. effort to build a plant to produce new artillery shells, and two and a half years ago, three years ago, outside of Dallas, Texas, we built this plant. We gave General Dynamics \$530 million, and at the end of that, they produced nothing. Zero. It was so bad that Pete Hegseth, the Department of War, shut down the contract with General Dynamics. They decided, after spending \$530 million, not getting one artillery shell, that maybe it was time to do something else. That is simply an example, a symptom of the sickness that afflicts the United States in its military operations and endeavors.

I mean, we saw another example of that with the failure to properly supply all of the Navy ships that were off the coast of Iran, or the failure of Lockheed to deliver F-35s with the radar on the nose cone. Instead, they have to go to Gold's Gym, buy some weight plates to put them in the nose cone so at least the plane's not off balance. I mean, we're not just talking one area. We're talking planes, area after area after area of deficit, screw-up, inadequacy. And so the rest of the world is now starting to look and go, you know what? We thought they were a badass. No, they're just bad, and bad in the conventional sense.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And Danny, before you ask me a question, let me put a coda on that. And Pete Hegseth is trying to fix what Larry just described with more testosterone in the men, with fewer women, with no gays, transsexuals, or anything like that, and all Christians. You can't make this up.

#Danny

Yeah, well, yeah, I mean, there's a video going around, surfacing, of him botching his rah-rah speech to the troops about just that. Well, Carl Wilkerson, the question was going to be the same to you: the global implications here, how does this reach and extend beyond the Persian Gulf, West Asia?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I think the huge global implication is what I've been saying all along: China is victorious. The United States is defeated. And we better wake up to that and accommodate it in a way that the defeat is not so profound that we don't wake up for 30 or 40 years. And that's what's happening. That's the bigger picture. That's the huge picture. And we've accelerated this and expedited it in many ways, much, in some cases, I think, to Xi Jinping's chagrin, because he didn't want to move this fast. He

did not want to have to do some of the things that I think he's now contemplating having to do, and even some of them he's already doing, like majorly supporting Iran. He wanted an inexorable march, an ultimate victory, but he didn't want to destroy the United States, nor did Putin want to destroy the United States. They want to work with us. They want to accommodate us. We accommodate them.

We have a world that can get along and prosper and defeat the challenge that confronts us all. Have you seen what the Europeans are now talking about? The heat problems they have? They're killing multiple dozens of people every year with these heat problems. They've destroyed their wine industry in France for all intents and purposes. These heat problems aren't going to get better. They're going to get a lot, lot worse. And these are challenges that we can't confront alone. None of us can. China can. Russia can. We've got to confront them together. And we've got to do better, much better than we're doing right now. And then you've got the nuclear weapons problem. Huge problem that now we've got people like Jonathan Pollard in Tel Aviv and Elbridge Colby here in Washington saying, "Why don't we use these things? We got them. We paid for them. We've had them. Why can't we use them?"

#Danny

Yeah, we're certainly heading in that direction. Well, one question somebody has: please give your honest opinion, Larry Johnson, on the fate of the U.S. I think you all did that, but if you had 30 to 60 seconds each on that question, go, Larry, first to you.

#Larry Johnson

Well, actually, I'll defer to Colonel Wilkerson. His time is more limited than mine.

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, 30 to 60 seconds.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I've got a quick answer. Larry can probably do it a lot better. I've got a quick answer. We need to wake up.

#Danny

Yeah. Well, Colonel Wilkerson, I appreciate your time. I'll see you in a little less than a week. Take care. Okay. Bye-bye. Bye.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Welcome back from Ruski. Bye.

#Larry Johnson

Thank you.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Thank you.

#Danny

All right, Larry, you can conclude on this.

#Larry Johnson

We don't have a bright future if current trends continue. But, you know, the lesson I always take out of Russia is—and it's applicable to the United States—is Russia, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, went through one of the darkest times in a country's history. I mean, their system collapsed. The death rates went up. People were committing suicide. Alcoholism was rampant. The average age of death dropped from like 63 down to 57. I mean, crime was rampant. Prostitution was going up. People—I mean, it appeared hopeless. And yet, out of that, they restored themselves. Part of the restoration came because of their, if you will, their recommitment to their Orthodox Christianity.

Christianity became much, much more important. So let's call it a restoration of values. That's number one. But when you visit Russia today, you wouldn't know that they had been through a horror show 30 years ago. They are now prosperous. The cities are spectacular. They're clean. They're safe. Women can walk at night from their job to their home at like 1 o'clock in the morning. They don't have to worry that they're going to get accosted. Try that in Los Angeles and New York during broad daylight. It's not easy. So, however dark it looks for the United States, I say there's always a path to recovery. It's just a matter of us deciding whether or not we want to take that path.

#Danny

Yeah, very well said. Yeah, and it will certainly be about people taking that path. We can't be hanging our hats on Trump, GOP, Democrats. I don't think they're going to be leading us toward a more prosperous, stable, and productive future, especially in relation to humanity. Larry, it was great to be back with you. Of course, it was great to be back with the Colonel as well, but it's been a little bit, so I can't wait till the next one. Everybody, hit the like button before you go. Helps boost the show. Sonar 21 and Transition Protocol are both in the video description below, so you should check those out because Larry does some great work for both.

Sonar 21 being his blog. Everybody, hit the like button before you go. Please support the show in the video description. Thanks to all the moderators and viewers. Tomorrow, Alistair Kirk, our mutual friend, 11 a.m. Eastern Time, October 7th—what am I saying? I got October 7th on the brain, obviously. I'm already looking toward October 7th because all this false flag business everyone keeps talking about. I'm like, well, that would be a perfect time, wouldn't it? All right, everybody. Hit the like button before you go. I'll see you tomorrow.

#Larry Johnson

Bye-bye. Thanks, Danny.