

The REAL Reason USA Freaks-Out Over Iran

| S. M. Marandi

The USA is preparing the next phase of the Iran War. But it won't help. The defense of the country has only increased over the past 8 months and now the USA is running out of time and options in a disaster of their own making. Professor Mohammad Marandi warns that renewed war against Iran is highly likely, though not inevitable. Speaking with Pascal after visiting Russia, he discusses sanctions, medical supplies, shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, and Iran's preparations for escalation. Marandi argues that attacks on Iranian infrastructure could trigger devastating retaliation across the Gulf and a global economic crisis. They also examine American military limitations, Yemen and Iraq, China's exposure to an energy shock, Israeli politics, and the importance of understanding Iran.

Mohammad's Links: X: https://x.com/s_m_marandi Going to Tehran, by Flynt Leverett and Hillary Mann Leverett: <https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781429973342/goingtotehran/> Resistance, by Alastair Crooke: <https://www.plutobooks.com/product/resistance/> Neutrality Studies Links: Neutrality Studies Substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Support Neutrality Studies: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Neutrality Studies shop: <https://neutralitystudies.com/shop>

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#Pascal

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies today for an update with Professor Mohammad Saeed Marandi. Saeed, welcome back to the channel.

#Marandi

Thank you very much for inviting me. It's always a great pleasure being with you.

#Pascal

It's great having you here. And actually, you just returned from Russia. Before we go into the Iran topic, can you give us a little bit of your impressions about Valdai? How was that? And you actually talked to the Russian president, didn't you?

#Marandi

Yes, briefly, I did ask a question. But along with the question, I did make a couple of statements as well. And he gave a four- or five-minute response. It was a very interesting conference. The Valdai Club is very well known. It's, I think, the most important international conference that they have every year. They have an international conference, but they also have regional conferences throughout the year. In my meetings with other guests, Russian and non-Russian, from across the world, it was very clear that they were all sympathetic and supportive of Iran, collectively and individually. But also, from my conversations, it was clear that the people in the different countries that they came from were also sympathetic, siding with Iran.

And for the first time in over 47 years, the anti-Iranian narrative that Western media and think tanks and governments have been able to create with the help of, of course, these regional regimes that are in the U.S. camp and their media, which is funded by oil and gas wealth, that has collapsed, and people are seeing through the propaganda, and they stand with Iran. And in fact, I was discussing with people the fact that the United States is targeting ordinary Iranians by strengthening the sanctions. And, for example, as I was telling you before the program, the Americans are trying to prevent planes from flying to and from Iran.

And it's not to hurt the economy, because Iranian imports and exports go by land. And tourists and pilgrims, they usually take money away from Iran. They take money to spend abroad, because there are more Iranian tourists who go abroad than who come to Iran, especially in these circumstances. The real target is the medical situation in Iran. They want to create a medical crisis because a lot of medicine comes into Iran through flights. Because you can't ship them, you can't, you know, they can't go by truck for weeks to get to the country. They have to be sent swiftly. They have to be kept in certain conditions. The dates in which they expire, the amount of time that you can use them, is limited.

And in some conditions, you have to use them very quickly. In some cases, there's a shortage of medicine. They swiftly bring in medicine from abroad. So what the Americans are trying to do is create this crisis in Iran. And when I explained this, no one was shocked. No one was surprised. They're all expecting this. It's as if, for everyone, it's clear that the United States regime, the Trump regime, is just utterly sinister and totally evil. And the fact that Western media will not call out the regime, the fact that Trump can call for the annihilation of the Iranian people time and time again, and there's no outrage in the West, there's no outrage.

I mean, the public obviously is anti-war. They're anti-genocide. We've seen the polls. But the fact that journalists, Western media, from the Independent in the UK or the Guardian in the UK to Breitbart and Fox News in the United States, they're all silent and they all look away as these threats to carry out a Holocaust, the most horrific Holocaust in human history, against the Iranian people. Amidst all these threats, you have silence. But again, no one was surprised.

It was as if everyone at the conference—and this is a major conference, and the people there are, except for me, intellectuals and public figures and people of great knowledge and influence—no one

was at all shocked or surprised. It's as if there's a global consensus that the United States is indeed, as the first leader of the revolution in Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini, said, that America is the Great Satan. That's the consensus now. But ultimately, people across all the different groups of people I met in Moscow, they all were confident that Iran will win this war, and I share that confidence.

#Pascal

I mean, we are talking about the people who are literally bragging. They were bragging in January about the fact that they managed to create the economic upheaval that then led to mass protests, which then, according to their own narrative, would have led to 10,000 dead people. I mean, apart from the fact that those numbers are insane, that they are proud of the fact that they created the conditions in which this then happened. And then they get to swing themselves on the high horse and point the finger at, "Oh my God, you evil people, you did what we forced you to do." Like, apart from the fact that that never happened.

But that's the level of, well, just satanic, actually, behavior, as you said it. And now interrupting the flights, which, as you said, it's not as if Iran was a huge tourist destination before, as if, though, that would make any kind of change to the government positions. But obviously, it's going to kill a couple of hundred, if not a thousand more people a month who are already on dialysis or on cancer medication and so on. And all that not coming in is going to kill, again, the poorest of the poor and those who are already in vulnerable situations. And that's what the entire collective West is proud of. And just as the only thing I would correct, it's not just the Americans.

It's the Europeans, too, who do that. And then you've probably heard Mark Rutte about five, six days ago bragging that, you know, in 10 years, it's going to be the Europeans who are going to be able to do that to Iran. It shouldn't be the Americans who have to do this. We have to take care of our own doorsteps. I mean, these people are insane. And I'm sorry, I shouldn't talk like that. But it's outrageous to me as well that this is the discourse coming. And I can only imagine how that hits you at home in Iran. Do you have, though, any kind of, you know, reply or response to this kind of utter European nonsense from somebody as low a life as Mark Rutte saying something like that?

#Marandi

Hey, just a very quick note.

#Pascal

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#Marandi

Well, he is obviously going to mimic Daddy, and so we don't expect anything different from him. But again, when he says this sort of thing, which is basically saying that we too should violate international law, we should destroy civilian targets. I mean, they know very well that the Iranian nuclear program is peaceful. They know that the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has carried out intrusive inspections in Iran for years, that they've been in all of those buildings many, many times. And they know that there's no deviation from the civilian program. Yet they endorsed the bombing of it because of their hatred for Iran.

And because they support the Israeli regime, they support the genocide in Gaza. It's clear as day what this is all about. I mean, in that question that I asked President Putin, I said that the same people who support the genocide in Gaza and who want to exterminate the Palestinians, now they want to exterminate the people who oppose the extermination of the Palestinian people too. Yeah. And that's how outrageous it has become. Of course, keeping in mind the fact that the majority of people across the United States—and I haven't seen polls in Europe, but I would assume it's the same—the strong majority oppose war, the strong majority oppose the genocide in Gaza.

So we're basically speaking about these elites who are living in their bubble. But that bubble is about to burst. They are pushing our region towards a situation where there will be global economic meltdown. And then at the same time, they're pushing the war in Ukraine towards a critical point, because especially after they encouraged Zelensky to start targeting Russian infrastructure, civilian infrastructure, the Russians have begun hitting back very hard. And we know that the Russians have much more power and much more military capability than does Zelensky. So the situation in Ukraine is getting worse, and the Europeans are emptying their pockets to have this war continue.

I personally don't think that the European Union will last for—how long was it? Did he say 10 years? I don't think it's going to last that long. I really don't believe that this is sustainable. I think that things are falling apart. Now, whether the European Union was a good idea or a bad idea in the first place, that aside, but it has led to catastrophe for Europeans because of the way in which it has been imposed upon the people, the policies that have been imposed on the continent by Brussels and by the United States. So I don't think that his threats are going to bear fruit. But I do think that Western elites are going to continue to create misery for people across the world.

Because the next few months will probably be quite catastrophic. I think that the chances for war, for another assault on Iran, are high. And that will be the straw that breaks the camel's back. It will bring about catastrophe for the global economy and probably lead to the collapse of these regimes in the Persian Gulf that are in the U.S. camp. Especially if the United States starts targeting Iran's infrastructure, I think they're finished. And then simultaneously, you're going to see the Russians press their advantage in the months ahead. The months ahead will be catastrophic.

#Pascal

That's exactly what we now need to talk about. Just like one more side note on the European Union: I was in a conference in Istanbul just a week ago, and we all agree with you. We're just not quite as optimistic as you. I don't think we will be blessed enough to get rid of the EU within 10 years. I think it will probably take a little bit more than that. But I hope that it's rather your vision that will be the case. But however that is, when it comes to Iran and the way that this—whatever it is right now, a phony war or a quiet part of the war—I mean, everybody kind of agrees this is not the end of it.

This is at maximum kind of a quiet moment. But there have been news, and not just in mainstream media, but also in the blogosphere, that actually over the last month, a surprising amount of traffic seems to be back again through the Strait of Hormuz, and especially oil exports. What can you tell us about that? Because the numbers I have heard are that between 70 to 80 percent of pre-war oil exports are back online. Is that real? Is that fake? Do you know anything about it?

#Marandi

Yeah, that's fake. The amount of oil that goes through, depending on the day, can be right now between 8 to 10 million barrels a day. The other numbers are basically inflated. One or two days it was probably up to 12. Sometimes it goes down to 7.5 or so.

#Pascal

And pre-war, it was how much?

#Marandi

Well, it depends. I mean, let's say 15 to 20 million barrels, if you include the Red Sea.

#Pascal

A day.

#Marandi

But Saudi—so right now the Saudis are being bombed by Yemen. Their oil exports have been affected. And the oil that does go through the Strait of Hormuz does go through mostly with Iranian consent, because Iran does not want the Strait of Hormuz closed. Iran's friends use oil that comes from the Strait of Hormuz—China, countries in the subcontinent, BRICS nations. Iran doesn't want to create some catastrophe for friendly countries. So it wants to just keep the pressure up and make things difficult for Trump and his allies, and at the same time manageable for Iran's friends. And we have to keep in mind that the amount of oil that goes through, largely—not completely, but largely—with Iranian consent is very expensive, because a lot of the oil goes through these small tankers that shuttle from inside the Persian Gulf to outside.

And they take oil from supertankers and then transfer it to other supertankers. That's very costly. The U.S. attempts to take tankers through is very costly because some of those tankers are struck. Some of those tankers actually go with Iranian consent, and Iran gets something in return. And so it's not at all the way—things are not like what the Americans say they are. And if so much oil was getting through, the price of oil would not be—paper oil would not be above \$100 a barrel. And there are two reasons why it's not much higher. One is, of course, the fact that there is market manipulation. But the second is that refineries—there are not enough refineries because of the fact that the refineries in the Persian Gulf are not exporting. And the second is that the Russian refineries are being attacked. So the demand for oil is less than it normally is because of these facts.

So if that was not the case, the price of even paper oil would be significantly higher than what it is now. And of course, it's not just refineries; it's petrochemical plants. The petrochemicals that were being produced in the Persian Gulf, the helium, the sulfur, the fertilizer, the fertilizers, also LNG. There are so many things that were coming from the Persian Gulf that are not leaving anymore. So the crisis is growing, and the shortages continue to grow, and the price of oil remains high. So this is not going to—you know, no matter how much Trump tries to convince everyone that all is fine and Western media tries to pretend everything is back to normal, they're not. And Iran has struck a number of tankers during the last—I think six tankers in the last five days—and probably more tonight will be struck.

So it's not going the way the Americans want. And I think that we're going to have escalation anyway, either before or after the elections in Netanyahu's elections or the midterms in the United States. And if that happens, that will end the flow of oil completely. And if the war is actually expanded in a way in which the United States starts targeting Iran's infrastructure, then all bets are off. Iran will go after the infrastructure of the countries that have assisted the United States, meaning the Saudis, the Emiratis, the Kuwaitis, the Bahrainis, the Qataris, because they're part of this war. And if the Iranians this time around destroy their infrastructure, that means there will be nothing going from the Strait of Hormuz for a very, very long time.

And that will lead to a global economic meltdown. It will lead to a Great Depression worse than the 1930s. So, you know, either Trump can escalate and start targeting Iranian infrastructure, which will lead to the destruction of these Arab regimes, or he can escalate and just expand the war, which will lead to oil not leaving the Persian Gulf and making the situation worse. Or he can continue with what we have now, and that will just gradually make things worse and worse. So all roads lead to hell. There's just different lines or lanes in this highway, and the different speeds at which the world will descend into this hellish economic situation. Or he could accept MOU, which we don't see any sign of him doing.

#Pascal

And I mean, like, one of the hopes would, of course, be that the whole thing will be—that the Americans at some point will walk away, or that it will be wound down. At the moment, it just doesn't seem like it. How is the blockade actually affecting Iran at the moment? Because the American strategy now is, if they cannot be close up in the Strait of Hormuz and control it, they do this extended kind of blockade, and they try to intercept ships on the way and so on.

But the problem that they're running into is that a lot of the ships transporting Iranian oil are actually, like, of Chinese provenance or, like, flying under other flags. And then you would get into trouble with third countries eventually. And secondly, is my observation correct that actually Iran's strategy at this point is still to threaten reciprocity? Iran wouldn't strike first, but if struck at, it would continue with what it did before, which is, like, strike at something of equal value and just keep the reciprocity up. Is that still the name of the game for the Iranian side?

#Marandi

I think that the Iranians have said that we reserve the right—I mean, they have said that we reserve the right to carry out a first strike if we see that we are under threat. The Iranians have said that their responses will be disproportionate from now on, and that's what we did see after the U.S. tore up the MOU. We saw the Iranian strikes much heavier than U.S. strikes, and I think it's going to get worse. And again, if this war is expanded, then I think Iran will just destroy these Persian Gulf countries. They'll just bring an end to them, because they are a part of this war, and so everything that the United States does, they bear responsibility. Right now, inflation is high, but if you go to any supermarket or any shop, they're, like, normal. They're just like if you go to any city in Japan or in Moscow or in China.

But, of course, wages are, for many people, low. I mean, they're, like, working class or middle class or government employees who have to bear the brunt of the inflation. And, of course, the objective is to make ordinary people suffer. I was on a debate on Piers Morgan's show, in this pro-Trumpian debate. A genocidal maniac was saying that, yes, we have to sort of starve the Iranian people so that they can, you know, have some—and then Piers Morgan said, "This indigenous, this authentic revolution," something like that. And I said, "When you starve people, how is that revolution authentic?" So the objective is to starve people, to kill people, so that they rise up. This is the objective, and it just shows how barbaric this all is. But they're going to fail.

And the Iranians will tolerate the pain, but they will... They're determined to defeat the United States. And I think that probably we will see heavy fighting in the weeks ahead, either before the midterms or right after the midterms. I mean, Trump is moving in that direction. The U.S. troops are ready. He just wants to carry it out after the midterms so that it will not affect voting patterns in the United States. That's why he says after the midterms, this war will end. So he's very concerned

about the midterms. Otherwise, he wouldn't say this. But after the midterms, the belief is that he will carry out a major assault, and that this assault will lead to global economic consequences far more devastating than what we've seen so far.

#Pascal

What is your assessment of what the remaining capabilities of the United States are? Because what we've seen is that their abilities are not limitless, but, and our Chinese colleagues keep reminding us about that, the United States is still the largest and most powerful military force in the world. If somebody is not to underestimate them, then of course it's Iran. What is your assessment of how much damage they can still actually do with the assets they have in the region? And they are deploying a new aircraft carrier actually to the region, aren't they?

#Marandi

Well, I think, I mean, they don't have the ability to defeat Iran. And now we see the situation in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, which is making it far more complicated for the Americans. And then this time around, the Iraqi resistance will be involved, probably for the first time, in a much different way than before. Iran has been preparing itself for this war. It is far more prepared for war than it was seven months ago. So the advantage is with Iran. But most importantly, the Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf are becoming more vulnerable. And I think that this time around, the Iranians are not going to pull any punches. I think that if the United States carries out strikes on Iran's infrastructure, I think that that will probably bring an end to these regimes. And if that happens, then I think the global economy will collapse, and I think that the U.S. economy will go into depression.

And after that, I don't think war is sustainable in this sense because I don't think Americans will have the money to continue with this. I mean, the world will enter a crisis that will be very painful. You'll have millions of people on the move in Latin America and Africa. And they'll be moving to the places that they used to go before, but those places will also be collapsing. I mean, what Trump is doing is, he's destroying the global economy. But either he's completely compromised, or he is living in a bubble, or he is just—I mean, I don't know the language of gamblers, but it's like he's rolling the dice or something, like whatever they say, desperately hoping to have some sort of win that I don't see happening. I don't see him being able to pull a rabbit out of the hat. All I see is genocide.

#Pascal

There is one interpretation out there which is gaining a bit of currency, or let's say it's being discussed by people like Brian Berletic, but also by Chinese colleagues, which is actually that the real target of the Iran war is not so much Iran as China, and that comparatively, the hurt that this oil crunch is causing causes comparatively more hurt on China than on the United States. What do you make of that argument?

#Marandi

No, I don't think the real target is China. I think this is all for the sake of Israel. I think the hold that the Zionists have over the United States is much greater than what this interpretation presents. This is, you know, Zionism is a genocidal ideology. It's a supremacist ideology. And those who are in this camp are very emotional about their supremacist ideas. And so they are not thinking rationally. Even the false flag operations that we're seeing show this irrational and decadent empire collapsing. Everything that the empire does now is poorly managed, but they still won't let go. They continue to press forward.

So I think, of course, they would like this to be a step to undermine China, but I think the hatred for Iran is largely because of Iran's opposition to the genocide in Palestine more than anything else, and Iran's independence. But also, it would be good to have control over the oil and gas in the Persian Gulf region to strangle China. That is also a part of it. But Zionism is much more important than people estimate. But I don't believe that it hurts China more than the United States. It hurts everyone. The collapsing global economy will collapse the U.S. economy too. I mean, there are oil barons in the United States that will make their billions, but the consumer is going to suffer the consequences too. They're going to face the same sort of shortages as everyone else is.

There's no benefactor among the oil barons in the United States that will come to the rescue of ordinary Americans. It's going to shut down the economy at a time when the U.S. economy is already in very bad shape. I think the Japanese will be forced to, as things get worse, they will be forced to increasingly sell bonds to save their own currency. The Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf, they just don't have the money anymore to buy bonds, and they're going to be seeking to sell their bonds to sustain themselves. And I'm not sure the Americans are going to let them do that. So I think that the United States is vulnerable in ways in which China is not, even though, yes, of course, China will be hurt by an oil shock or an energy shock, but badly hurt like everyone else.

But I don't see the United States as escaping. And then the price politically for the United States is—I mean, how do you even begin to calculate that? Across the world, the United States is now despised as being both a genocidal regime, but also for wrecking the global economy and for threatening countries across the world to be obedient to it. It takes from Japan its defense capabilities without the consent of the Japanese government. It orders the Koreans to join them to fight Iran and takes away their defense capabilities without their consent. It disregards the needs of regimes in the Persian Gulf and their security because it prioritizes Israel. I mean, this is not going to end well for the United States in any way or form.

#Pascal

No, especially if it doesn't win. The thing is that what we know about the neoconservative movement in the United States is, as Alex Christoforou says, they don't have a reverse gear. They only double down. What do you make of the argument, though, that Leif Marouf made on my channel, that the

Saudi resumption of the war with Yemen is actually very much the United States that basically ordered them to do that? Because we have this narrative that, you know, the Saudis were starting something stupid, and then they begged the Americans to help them. And the Americans are like, "Ah, no, we can't."

Leif Marouf says that's all just BS. This was ordered from the top down, and the Saudis are implementing that because the Americans need another front. Second question, choose which one you want to go for first. The timing of the United States, after 20 years, to withdraw from Iraq. This is funny. This is funny timing. It's just funny timing because for the longest time they said, like, no, we're not leaving. We're staying here. Whatever your Iraqi parliament is saying, we stay. And now they're out. Like, last week Sunday, the message comes: last soldier left. It's like, why?

#Marandi

Well, the Iraqi resistance said that they will no longer tolerate the Americans. And, Pascal, the Iraqi resistance is very large. It's a huge force, and they are very well armed. They're better armed than Yemen, for obvious reasons. They're not surrounded. So if they go after the Americans in Iraq, what are the Americans going to do? And of course, if the war resumes and the Iraqi resistance decides to go into Saudi Arabia or Kuwait, what are the Americans going to do?

#Pascal

So is this a ripple-on effect, actually, from the Americans, like, losing in Iran, that now the Iraqi resistance got motivated to actually start threats against the Americans, and the Americans are saying, like, "We cannot hold this position. We got to leave."

#Marandi

Well, during the war, during the 40 days of fighting, the first part of this war seven months ago, the Iraqi resistance was striking American targets in Iraq. They were striking the Israeli regime too, and they were striking the Kurdish groups that were basically proxies of the Israeli regime and the Americans. But the Iraqis were... so far, they've been far less active than Yemen. But if this war resumes, if the fighting resumes, this time around it's going to be very different. But with regards to Yemen, I think both scenarios make sense. Why? Because Mohammed bin Salman and Trump are very similar. The Trump regime is very unintelligent, ill-informed, ignorant, and arrogant.

I mean, there are meetings where you have Hegseth and Trump and Bessent and Kushner and Witkoff sitting together making decisions. I mean, this is like buffoonery. These are the least intelligent people that you could have to make key decisions in the United States. They started this catastrophic war, which has failed. And then if you look at what's happened in Yemen, it was just as foolish. So whether it was Mohammed bin Salman or Trump, it's still the same because Mohammed bin Salman is just as much a fool as is Trump. He is surrounded by yes-men. His history does not

show any signs of sane decision-making or wise decision-making. He kidnapped the Lebanese prime minister, the then Lebanese prime minister, beat him up.

He held a major international conference for investors in the Ritz. And then weeks later, he took his extended family there and beat them up and took their money. I mean, imagine what the investors who were in the country just a few weeks earlier thought about that. He killed Jamal Khashoggi in a way in which even we wouldn't see in The Godfather. He didn't even kill him in an ordinary way. It was so utterly disgusting. Then he launched that genocidal war against Yemen, wasting hundreds of billions of dollars. He failed. Then he imposed a siege on Qatar, which was his ally in the siege on Yemen and the genocidal war in Yemen, thus turning Qatar and Turkey away from them.

#Pascal

They were with him before, then they turned against him.

#Marandi

That failed too. And of course, the megaprojects, which were, you know, stupid and basically for stealing money through commissions and bribes and whatever. Tens of billions, at least, were spent on them. None of them bore fruit. So that sort of leader, it is understandable if he goes and launches a war against Yemen, which he did. He had bombed Yemen's international airport, the capital's international airport. So whether Trump, the fool, told him to do it, or the fool in Riyadh did it on his own initiative, either way works.

Either way makes sense, because these are not rational thinkers. Saudi Arabia is already in deep trouble because of its assistance in the war against Iran. And to add this to the troubles that already exist is a sign of sheer foolishness. And for Trump to make him put Saudi Arabia at risk in this way. I mean, right now, Yemen is bombing Saudi oil installations. They've been doing so over the past few weeks. And that's obviously not going to be good for the markets. And it may ultimately, as things stand, if the war with Iran continues, it may more easily bring down Saudi Arabia.

#Pascal

What we are currently seeing is just, like, more and more warfare and violence on the Arabian Peninsula, right? I mean, things are blowing up left and right, and it's not going well. And we've seen how during every single round that the U.S.-Israeli coalition fought against Iran, Iran was able to degrade more and more of the infrastructure of the U.S.-Israeli coalition on the Arabian Peninsula, all the way into Jordan, actually, and degrade the bases there, which is part and parcel of the layered defense system of the Israelis. I mean, Yemen is just a military outpost.

What about Israel, though, now that these elections are coming up? Netanyahu doesn't seem to be in good shape. But it doesn't even matter that much because there's nobody else on the political

horizon in that very insane country that would turn things around. And it was you—it was you—when I asked you, like, about a month and a half ago why Iran is not striking directly at Israel. You told me that: do not disturb an enemy while they are in internal troubles, right? Is that assessment still the case? Or where do you see Israel actually heading at the moment, also in relation to now probably the resuming of the war?

#Marandi

Yeah, I don't think Iran wants to strike the regime before the elections unless the regime strikes first. And if it does, Iran will hit back much harder than it did during the 40 days of war that we had seven months ago. I think the Iranians want to see how things play out inside the regime. The tensions there are very high, the hatred and animosity. Iran does not want to give Netanyahu the opportunity for a rally-around-the-flag effect or to make him look like some sort of victim. Not that his opponents are any less genocidal. We know what the poll numbers are in the Israeli regime. And it is quite possible that there are elements within the Zionist lobby that would like to see Netanyahu lose so that they could bring another one of these genocidal preachers to power to whitewash. They'll do interviews with him, with his little cat, and say what a nice person he is.

He has a cat, and then he may speak about having bought, I don't know, sandwiches or falafel from an Arab-Israeli person on the streets, or, you know, they'll do whatever they can to say that, you know, the genocide was Netanyahu's fault, and the next person, he's a decent guy. There may be that attempt, you know, as well. There may be that scenario that plays out. But in any case, Iran does not want this tension that is building up in Israel to decrease, because these divisions are good for the region. There's the belief that many Israelis are thinking of leaving, among the educated class, some of them, not because they're anti-genocide, for the most part at least, but because they don't see a future there, and because the more extreme elements of the Zionists are intolerant towards them too. So I don't think right now Iran wants to disturb this.

#Pascal

Political powder keg.

#Marandi

Yes, this powder keg. But we'll have to see. But ultimately, by weakening the United States, the Iranians are weakening the Israeli regime. I know that people like Tucker Carlson believe that the Israelis want the U.S. out of the region, and they want the regimes in the Persian Gulf to collapse, and that's to their benefit. I think it's the exact opposite. The Israeli regime has nothing if there is no outside support. The regimes in the Persian Gulf are U.S. proxies. They're U.S. tools. Their wealth goes to the U.S. bond market and the stock market, not just the wealth of the state, but also the

wealth of the princes. They buy and sell from China, but at the end of the day, all their excess wealth goes to buy U.S. weapons and into U.S. stocks and bonds, which these countries will probably never see again.

And on the other hand, without the United States, what is the Israeli regime? Without U.S. support, without, I mean, U.S. direct and indirect support—tens of billions of dollars a year—and Europeans? So I don't see it this way. But in any case, the Iranians will continue to push the United States back. And if the United States restarts the war, the Iranians will hit them back very hard. And I think that the regimes in the Persian Gulf will increasingly become— And of course, if the United States does carry out its genocidal threats, then these regimes will collapse. And I think that the world will blame the Israeli regime. Everyone will blame the Israeli regime for the catastrophe because everyone knows that it was Netanyahu and Trump who did this with the support of the Zionist lobby and the Israeli regime.

#Pascal

Yeah, at least 75% of the world, the ones not living in Europe or North America, but even there, that kind of conclusion is gaining more and more currency. But let me ask you one thing. Now that the war, which the United States, I mean, started already last year during the 10 days, but then really, really flamed up with all of the horrible bombing of Tehran starting on 28th of February this year, and now we are seven, eight months into that.

Do you think that there—did you notice any kind of adjustment from the other side, not in their rhetoric, but in the way that they're implementing the kinetic and also the economic side of the war? Because sometimes these wars then create this kind of reciprocity—not reciprocity, but this dynamic where one side learns from the other, and where you, even without talking, suddenly create a new status quo, right? What you attack, what you don't attack. Did you notice anything? What is now different from how it was in the beginning, and how these two sides, through the war, communicate with each other?

#Marandi

I think the United States is becoming more desperate. And that's why it's becoming more ruthless and brutal towards women and children and trying to starve ordinary Iranians as much as possible. We see Bessent behaving like Hegseth. And he's trying to show his masculinity and how brutal and barbaric he is. So the United States has erased all red lines. And we see Trump constantly speaking about annihilating the Iranian people, again, amidst complete silence in the West, which shows that the elites in the West are complicit in these threats. So I think that desperation is because they know they're going to lose. And they just want to find a way to draw victory out of the jaws of defeat.

And the Iranians are determined to make sure that does not happen. And Iran is going to mobilize everything that it has, and its allies are going to mobilize everything. And I think the next war, which

is quite possible, will be within the next couple of weeks, quite possibly. Again, I'm not saying war is inevitable, but I think the chances are very high, either before or after the midterms. I think that that will be the decisive war. It will be the decisive, let's say, chapter of the war. And the United States is showing its brutality, so I think the chances are that in this war it will be very barbaric. And the Iranians will have to retaliate. There's no other way.

And so if it plays out this way, I think that before the end of the year, we're going to have a global economic depression unless Trump is, as they say, TACO, or refrains from carrying out the sort of assault that he claims to do. Because if he goes after Iranian oil and gas installations or Iran's electrical power plants or Iran's critical infrastructure, then Iran will do the same in the Persian Gulf. And these regimes in the Persian Gulf are very vulnerable, very vulnerable. They only have oil and gas. And so everyone will have to leave. These tiny countries, they're not even countries, they're not real countries, but everyone will have to leave. And that will mean oil and gas production and everything will be zero, and for a very, very long time. And I think you know better than I what consequences that will have for the entire world.

#Pascal

Yeah, no, I do hope it doesn't come to that. And I think your argument that the United States is getting more desperate is not wrong at all. I mean, we've seen what they did to Afghanistan right after withdrawing. They plunged it into famine, right, on purpose because of spite, because just like, we can, and now we want a few hundred thousand people over there dead now that we are out, and we can pin it all on you. It's just a modus operandi, actually, of the system, that it then tries to do collective punishment on everybody as far as it can. But it is a sign of having failed in the actual military campaigns. Is there anything you would like to add at this point that you thought we didn't touch upon, but especially in what's currently going on, also in the relationship maybe with China and with Russia, that you think is important that you're keeping an eye on, just in closing?

#Marandi

Well, simultaneous to what's going on in our region, the war is intensifying in Ukraine, and it will get worse. And that, I think, will be an increased burden for Trump and for his European proxies or allies or whatever they're called. It's just—things are just going to get worse and worse. But it also makes it more difficult for Trump in West Asia. But we have to remember that all of this is because of Iran's independence and because Iran and its allies are opposed to genocide in Palestine. This is all about Palestine. It's all about Gaza. They don't want to hinder the Israeli regime in finishing off the Palestinian people.

And the Iranians, along with public opinion across the world, are outraged. And so Iran must be crushed because it believes that Palestinians are human beings. And also, I'd like, again, I've said this on other occasions, I advise people to read more about Iran. The book *Going to Tehran* by Flynt and Hillary Leverett. These are books that need to be read because the propaganda against Iran is

going to intensify. Resistance by Alastair Crooke, also another good book. Greater awareness should be created because I'm sure that these false flag operations that we saw, these ridiculous false flag operations that we've seen in the last couple of days, I think they will probably be repeated.

I'm pretty sure about that. And although I don't believe they will have the results that they want, even if they succeed in killing a couple of hundred people or so in some outrage in Europe or North America, God forbid, I don't think people will be easily fooled. This is no 9/11. The world has changed. But in any case, creating greater awareness about Iran and the people of our region is important in order to counter the propaganda coming from Western legacy media, Western think tanks, Western regime-affiliated elites, and the ruling class.

#Pascal

Yes, this is very much necessary. And I will, of course, then again put the links to your account, especially your X account, on which you do publish quite a lot of useful information, into the description box. The other places to find you are on the other shows that you go on, right?

#Marandi

Yes, I've been removed from Instagram and Facebook a long, long time ago. And so, yes, I only have X, and I appear on very excellent shows like yours.

#Pascal

And you are really fighting the good fight when you are on Piers Morgan's show, who always pairs you with that Israeli horror show over there. But you are always holding out and actually winning over them. So continue doing that. And thank you very much for the analysis, Saeed Mohammad Marandi. Thank you for your time today.

#Marandi

Thank you very much for having me.