

Escobar: Iran UNLEASHED Russia & China's WW3 Strategy

Trump has messed up MIGHTILY says Pepe Escobar as Iran's deterrence power unlocks Russia & China's global war strategy and shows the Global South how to beat back the US empire. In this video, Pepe Escobar explains the lessons from Trump's war push and the blow back waiting for Trump if he goes through with his imminent threat of war in West Asia. SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #trump #russia #china

#Danny

It's happening with Russia, and now we're seeing it with Iran—when you have countries that are confident enough and have developed the means to say no to demands.

#Escobar

You know, the armada and all this buildup—it's not that big. Larry Johnson, our president, said it's not that big.

#Danny

It's not that big. It's similar to what we saw with Yemen, similar to what we saw after October 7th. Iran is saying they're not scared—like Russia, they're saying, no, we're not backing down to threats. So what does someone like Trump and the administration actually do here?

#Escobar

It's a brick wall when that brick wall spells out sovereignty. There aren't many, Danny Haiphong—we all know that—around the world who can actually exercise sovereignty. Apart from the big guys, Russia and China, Iran is among the very few. Yemen—tiny Yemen, the part controlled by the Houthis—yeah, is another player. And Cuba, under zillions of sanctions since the beginning.

#Danny

Starving now—being starved.

#Escobar

It's still sovereign, and it's still resisting. But you have big, big powers. And let's go straight to the point: countries like Brazil and India—they're not sovereign. They'll never have the courage to face the U.S. frontally like Iran has. So, you know, I think many of us are hoping, in a kind of Chinese auspicious way, that the whole Global South is paying attention. That, you know, if you're not sovereign, you won't be respected by the hegemon—number one. And two, if you are sovereign, you stand a chance of staring the hegemon down. So I think everybody's paying attention to these two lessons. And it's great that Iran is teaching the Global South these lessons on the go, literally. And, you know, maybe—let's say a few weeks ago—many of us were thinking, is this regime change thing going to work? Because in the beginning, it seemed like it was working.

It was a matter of only a few days for the whole thing to collapse. Why? Because they had good intel from their top partners, because they understood what they were up against, because they compared what was happening this time in Iran with previous attempts at color revolutions elsewhere, and because they cracked down big, big time. There's no other way. There's no other way. You cannot control a regime change operation without cracking down. That's it. And, okay, the European Union is saying that you killed thousands of people—bullshit. They published a list of people who died during the protests, and most of them were part of the police forces, part of government structures, etc. So the lesson for the Global South was, once again, Iran showing the Global South how you do it. But why can they do that?

First of all, because they are completely sidelined from the Western financial system. Second, because they have two very important powers behind them, and if they need anything specific, they can get it from both Russia and China. Very, very few nations are in this situation—even big nations inside BRICS. And that brings us to something I wanted to talk to you about, and to our audience: what the number one guy for BRICS in Russia, Sergei Ryabkov, who's number two at the foreign ministry, has been saying. Let me see if I can recall his example of what he said. Yeah, because he's said many things about START, about Russia-U.S. relations. But what he said about BRICS—don't forget, this guy is the number one Russian Sherpa for BRICS—so everything happening inside BRICS that's important is coordinated in Russia by Ryabkov.

He said it very diplomatically, because he's a first-class diplomat: BRICS is expected to make progress this year on payment mechanisms and the use of national currencies. So this is the Russian foreign minister diplomatically saying that this high-speed train has already left the station and is going to pick up a lot of speed leading up to the summit in India in November. Collaboration inside BRICS—the door to BRICS remains open. This is what the Russians have been saying since Kazan, October 2024. But the group is currently focused on integrating new members—there are now ten—and strengthening cooperation with partners. Don't forget, there are also ten partners. So you have this ten plus ten, twenty, who need to agree on the most important issues.

Huge task. So he talks about the BRICS Sherpas meeting. This is very, very important. He puts it in a way that may sound almost casual, but it's immensely important, because if they do this, then Trump 2.0 is going to be big, big, big, big shit. The BRICS Sherpas meeting discussed the need to speak with one voice on pressing international issues. So this means that for every important international issue—let's say throughout this year already, leading up to the summit in India—there's got to be a unified BRICS position. Immensely important. This includes everything from the kidnapping of Maduro to the threats to destroy Lebanon, to threats against Iran, Colombia, Mexico, Greenland, whatever.

Well, and the final one—very, very important. BRICS needs further progress in creating financial and payment mechanisms resistant to outside pressure. And that connects to the decision by the Reserve Bank of India a few weeks ago. In fact, I think we already talked about that with your other guests as well—that there's going to be news on the BRICS Pay front before or even during the summit in India later this year. The deadline for BRICS Pay was 2027; now it's 2026, and they want a consensus this year, possibly to present it in India later this year. This is their groundbreaking thing. I think Trump is going to have to invade twenty countries the next day.

#Danny

We see China's banks talking about dumping more U.S. Treasury bonds.

#Escobar

Absolutely. They are dumping en masse, in fact. And this order comes straight from the top, Danny: get rid, by all means necessary, of everything you have—and now accelerate it. It used to be little by little, you know, like a Chinese trader calling his contact on Wall Street to say, "Can I sell?" No, no. Now it's an avalanche.

#Danny

Sergey Lavrov was on BRICS TV. That was a killer. Oh yeah, he had some choice words for the Trump administration, especially for Donald Trump. He called—let me just pull it up—what Donald Trump is doing "Bidenism." He used the exact phrase, "pure Bidenism," which Trump and his team supposedly reject. Nevertheless, the law was extended. He's talking about the sanctions law. Sanctions against Russia continue, and sanctions were imposed on Lukoil and Rosneft. He was talking about the whole Anchorage meeting—the spirit of Anchorage being soiled by the Trump administration's own policies.

#Escobar

Lavrov is usually very polite, very circumspect. This one is Lavrov unplugged—really, really hardcore. I had selected another one of his formulations, and this one is an absolute killer, because basically what he's saying is that the spirit of Anchorage is dead, in a Lavrovian, very diplomatic way. But then he says this: "The United States seeks to bring all processes in the areas I mentioned"—he was talking about START, about Ukraine, about U.S.–Russia relations, etc.—"under its strict control and demands unilateral concessions." Well, we all know this is how the Americans negotiate with anybody, right? Back to Lavrov: "Without giving up contacts with them," which is a very polite way of saying, look, we keep trying to talk.

It's up to them if they want to talk or not. The Russians are not going to abandon the contacts, to the extent that they're willing to engage on a mutually beneficial basis. This is very, very important. "Okay, we'll talk to them, but we hope that they want to have a mutually beneficial basis. If it's only for their own profit, obviously we're not interested." And then he says, "We are interested if it goes on like this." But the most important part he saves for the ending: "Together with our BRICS partners, we want to create an architecture that will not be subject to the illegal actions of one or another player from the Western flank." How should we read that?

This is a manifesto for the BRICS, for the SCO, for the Russia–China strategic partnership, and for the top nations that form the Global South—and how they're going to deal with the U.S. from now on. It's all there. It's basically two sentences strung together. So this is very, very serious. This tells us, on one hand, that Lavrov is losing his Taoist patience with so much bullshit, and at the same time, he's being very assertive—in even more assertive terms—about what they agreed in Kazan in October 2024, what they agreed again in Rio in July this year, what they agreed at the SCO summit in Tianjin, and, of course, how they're preparing the terrain for the BRICS summit in India later this year—with the Indians, very important, with the Indians on board.

The Indians seem to be on board because they're handling the preparations for the summit in India. Guess who the number one helpers are? The Russians. The Russians are explaining to India how to pull off a very complex summit like this. So that's great, because now we can see—it's not speculative anymore—we're seeing serious signs that the original RIC, Russia, India, China, which could become the RIIC with Iran added, are acting organically. They see the threats right now from Trump 2.0. They see that they have to come up with something big during this year and during the summit in India later this year. And that's it. You know, as the croupiers in Monaco say, **les jeux sont faits.** That's it. It's time to play now. It's getting very, very serious.

#Danny

You know, despite all the war pressures, Pepe, we have, for example, China increasing its oil trade with Iran over this period. And of course, Reuters is painting this as replacing the loss of Venezuelan oil, but the Venezuelan oil trade to China was significant—just not a game changer for China.

#Escobar

Bullshit, because they don't have the real numbers. Right—Reuters is bullshit. They don't have the real numbers.

#Danny

Exactly, exactly. So they always want to paint it as one against the other, but really what we see here is just increasing trade. And then this is the big one, in my opinion, too: we have Russian exports of crude to China reaching a record, outpacing Saudi Arabia. And now, you know, this is huge, because Saudi Arabia really, really wants to export to China at massive levels. But Russia is taking over in that regard. I think energy is such a huge part of this. Russia and Iran are major energy powers. So how does this play out when it comes to this escalating war that the United States—under Trump or whoever—wages against the multipolar world? Because this is a big part of everything you just mentioned too: the de-dollarization, the independent financial architecture.

#Escobar

Of course. And from the point of view of the Trump administration, the number one obsession is the control of power—of oil, the control of energy everywhere, and the control of who sells oil to whom. And it has to be paid in U.S. dollars. This is the number one, beyond-zero obsession and paranoia if anybody is trading energy bypassing the U.S. dollar—which is the case, of course, with Russia and China. We have Power of Siberia, you know, going full speed, pulling out all the stops, going beyond and beyond. We're going to have Power of Siberia 2 through Mongolia in the next, what, three or four years maximum. They're buying everything they used to buy from Venezuela; they're buying from Iran now. And the Chinese are not worried. The Chinese know where all their key energy sources are.

They're there, they're protected, and some of them want to sell even more to us—which is the case with Saudi Arabia. But that's where the Petro-Yuan comes in, Danny, and that's what's becoming very complicated. Because MBS has to convince Trump that he's still selling oil to China in dollars. That's not the case. The Chinese already—I would say they read their own riot act to MBS: "Listen, from now on, it's only Petro-Yuan." How is he going to sell this to Washington, to Mar-a-Lago? Practically impossible, right? Another reason for MBS to interfere with the Americans. They're saying, "Don't attack Iran, because it's going to be the destruction of all of us in the Persian Gulf." Of course, Saudi Arabia would lose a lot. And if American bases in Saudi Arabia are attacked—you name it. Blocking of the Strait of Hormuz, if it happens—you name it.

All of that. So the Saudi position is very, very tricky. But they're leaning toward a diplomatic solution, which is a great thing. And don't forget that the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran started in Russia, then they passed the ball to China, and it was clinched by Beijing. So obviously, the Saudis look around—they understand that when you become an enemy of China, you're an

enemy of China forever. If China looks at you and says you're a friend of China, you have a friend in the Chinese also forever. So, you know, all these calculations come into play—very, very important. And it shows that the chessboard is moving in real time, really. And the Americans can no longer count on vassals just abiding by their master's will. That's definitely over. Yeah. So can you imagine? Well, this guy cannot sleep at night.

#Danny

If the Strait of Hormuz is closed by Iran, would it be the case that China—you know, there's a lot of oil activity that comes through this strait—would China do what it's doing now, which is increasing oil and energy trade with Russia? Would that be how they adapt? Because a lot of people, especially in the Western mainstream media—the Iranian International, you know, the Tel Aviv-backed so-called Iranian outlet—they're all making the case that if the Strait of Hormuz were closed, it would be a disaster for China, and partly for Russia. But I'm wondering if there's a way around this, because the panic seems to be mainly on the side of the Gulf countries that rely on the Strait of Hormuz, and the United States as well.

#Escobar

Iran would only close the Strait of Hormuz as a last resort. This, in fact, is their ace of spades—the final possible measure. They would do it only if they were directly attacked and believed it could change the game. And, of course, that would come after consultations with Russia and China, especially China. The Chinese might say, "Look, you can close it for a few days, why not?" That's a possible scenario. They'd check what they have in terms of reserves—yeah, we could live ten days, two weeks with our reserves—and then it's reopened. Obviously, the Chinese would be pointing toward a lightning-strike war, something like what the Iranians could mount as a quick counter-war if they were attacked.

So this thing could end in a week. The thing is, a prolonged attack by the Americans, which would force the Iranians to close the Strait of Hormuz, would mean a certified collapse of the international financial system. One of my latest columns was explicitly about that, based on all the simulations that Goldman Sachs derivatives experts were doing in the previous decade. I remember writing a lot about it around 2016, 2017, 2018, and so on. And now the numbers are even worse. The overall prediction, which lines up when you talk to Persian Gulf traders, is that if this goes on for more than a week, a barrel of oil could reach \$700—not \$100 or \$200 like those stupid Bloomberg articles coming out these past few days.

No, it gets to \$700—and then comes the collapse of that gigantic, intergalactic pile of derivatives. Everybody knows that. People in the international financial system know it. Wall Street knows it. The Americans—well, I assume somebody in the Trump administration knows it. The Iranians know it. And everybody in the Persian Gulf, the traders, everyone knows it. But that would be an extreme measure. So the Americans—those with an IQ over 10—know that if Trump wanted to destroy the

global economy, not just the American economy, he could do something to force the Iranians to close Hormuz. So that's another thing to consider. Once again, because he's not a strategist, he'll never think about the consequences, right?

If he's desperate and needs the greatest armada in the history of humankind to do something—but realistically, that's not going to happen. The Chinese aren't worried because they're guaranteed supplies; they're guaranteed by Russia. They have lateral supplies from Southeast Asia, they have Kazakhstan as well, and especially gas that comes from Turkmenistan through that pipeline they built in the previous decade. So they're cool. And the Russians—same thing. The Russians are cool because, first of all, they have all the energy they need, and even extras. If the Chinese want more, they can pump it through Power of Siberia. Not a big deal. So once again, the ball is in Neo Caligula's court. Does he want to talk, or does he want to destroy the global economy? It's his decision.