

Trump SENDS NAVY as Yemen SMASHES Saudi Airport, Iran Blitzes Hormuz | Pepe Escobar

Pepe Escobar breaks down Trump secretly deploying US Navy Seals to region as Iran blitzes the Strait of Hormus and Yemen's fierce resistance to US-Saudi aggression has led to major strikes on Riyadh's airports. Trump is now seriously considering a US intervention into the Yemen front, even as his administration struggles to stop Iran from shutting down the Strait of Hormuz. Join us for a multipolar world centered discussion and where these fronts of geopolitical warfare are taking us. Pepe on Telegram: <https://t.me/rocknrollgeopolitics> Pepe on X: <https://x.com/RealPepeEscobar> Transition Protocol: <https://www.youtube.com/@UCewRbK22LRnNi6N3EcGjbow> / Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis! Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho>

#Danny

Welcome back to this show, everyone. As you can see, I am joined by geopolitical analyst and independent journalist Pepe Escobar to go over the latest developments. Well, Pepe, I want to get started right away with this. So there are reports in the Wall Street Journal that Mohammed bin Salman is basically moving from heavily guarded bunkers with hand-picked security as Yemeni armed forces, the Ansar Allah, have hit multiple airports, including the main international airport in Riyadh, shut it down. And I know you reported on Telegram, Pepe, that Donald Trump has said that he is thinking about joining into the war. Here's what he said here.

#Donald Trump

Have you decided whether to join the Saudi strikes? We may. We're going to look at it. We just found out about the recent attack, so we'll make a decision. We move very quickly.

#Danny

I know you reported on Telegram that there are possibly U.S. Navy SEAL reservists heading over to the region right now to help out Saudi Arabia.

#Pepe Escobar

We got this information from a source straight from San Diego.

#Danny

Maybe talk about the situation now. I mean, this also comes as Iran is on an absolute blitz in the Strait of Hormuz, and the United States has yet to make a decision to strike back just yet. But they've hit about four tankers in the last two days, and that doesn't include all the other tankers that have been hit almost every single day over the last week or so. Your analysis on—maybe you can break down that report and what's going on with the Saudi version right now.

#Pepe Escobar

It's really hardcore because we are, I think, we have several escalation ladders running in parallel, some of them relatively obvious and some of them deep underground. And these ones deep underground are the really worrying ones. For instance, these alerts that they're going to get Navy SEAL reservists. In fact, they have already been told, "Pack up everything and go to Riyadh immediately." This is very, very serious because obviously this means that there is going to—we don't know. In fact, nobody knows. Something will happen. And when you have the sociopath-in-chief more or less admitting that something is going to happen, this is the escalation ladder for the next three weeks.

It's not after the midterms. And this means that the desperation of MBS—I wonder what he's been promising Trump that we don't know, that nobody knows, in fact. It could be something that the president of the United States can say, "Well, we'll halt," right? Is this going to change the configuration of the battlefield? Definitely not. First of all, the only way to subdue Ansar Allah and the Yemeni armed forces would be a mega-invasion. We know land invasion. We know this is not going to happen. And even if there was a land invasion, it would be completely decimated. We're talking about people who have 2,500 years of fighting behind them. These are natural-born fighters, just like our Pashtun friends in the Hindu Kush.

It's the same thing. And the terrain as well—formidable. If they go to the mountains in the north around Saada, it's absolutely impossible to dislodge them. So it's absolutely pointless. Can they bomb? Yemen has been bombed literally nearly to oblivion since 2015. When I was there last year, they took us to several sites, not only around Sana'a, but around Saada as well, in the northwest, bombed by the Saudis since 2015. Some of them were rebuilt, and some they kept like it is to show to the new generations—not to show to foreigners, because foreigners have not been visiting Yemen for years. Last year, we were the first small group of foreigners who actually visited, in fact.

And they were telling us all the time, and we were deeply embarrassed, "You broke the blockade because we were the first small group of foreigners who actually visited Yemen since 2015." And, of

course, when we know how the political council makes their decisions, everything is very, very careful. It's always great to explain to all of you how it works, the system of government. Okay, straight-to-the-point explanation. There is Abdul Malik al-Houthi at the top as the leader. Right underneath is the political council, 11 members. And there is a parliament as well. So the decisions are discussed between the political council and the parliament. Then they go to Abdul Malik al-Houthi.

So it's a very democratic thing and grassroots. And the political council leaders, they said, "No, we discuss this the tribal way, everywhere." You know, they can go to a main square in a village and submit a proposition, and everybody talks about it. It's very similar to the Loya Jirga system in Afghanistan, very, very similar. So there is a consensus among all of them, not only Houthis as a clan, as a tribe, but other tribes that are pledging their allegiance to the Houthis because they see that they are in a process of unifying Yemen. Why, for instance, we are seeing Taiz. Taiz is this big city in the southwest. It's probably over 2 million people.

It's one of the biggest cities in Yemen. And the governorate, they took over the governorate, and now they are about to take over the city as well. And very, very little bloodshed. Why? Because they're talking all the time. Same thing in Marib, more to the center west, which is the next objective. Marib is going to be conquered or reconquered with talks with the tribes. You know, you keep your weapons, you do everything, you keep your autonomy and all that, and we oversee management. So once they have all these areas, which account for 90% of the population of Yemen, integrated, for all practical purposes, they will be integrating Yemen again.

Because to the east, all the way to the east, in the direction of Oman, it's desert. There's nothing there. Of course, there are very dangerous tribes, of course, but it's practically nobody, and it's the middle of the desert. And they explained to us, look, they don't even interfere with government. They don't even know who is in power in the western part of Yemen. It's too far away. So once this unification of Yemen, let's put it that way, is in place, that's it. We're going to have—of course, then there's Aden. Aden is complicated because it's the seat of that internationally recognized bullshit. Because the guy who runs the so-called puppet government lives in a hotel in Riyadh.

Nobody respects it. And some of the best intellectuals in Aden, for instance, they left a long time ago. They are all in Sanaa. So to take over Aden is not very complicated. And this is something they can do anytime because they already control the key highway that goes from Taiz to Aden. So anytime they can decide to keep going, and then it falls like Kabul fell in one morning. Very, very easy, not complicated. Well, what's going to happen afterwards? Because this is a long campaign which started only a few weeks ago, as you remember, with a flag when they took over the western part, the southwestern part of the Yemeni border in the Red Sea, in a matter of 48 hours, 72 hours maximum.

Then, in the next stage, which is something that could be a few months from now—but if the House of Saud starts collapsing very, very fast, which is something that's already in progress, could be in

the next few weeks, or one month or two—the three southern provinces stolen by the Brits in 1934 and given to the House of Saud. Yemeni lands, cousins both sides of the border, speaking the same dialect. Very, very important. They say, "How do you know?" Very simple, because they are cousins and they speak—we, we speak the same dialect. And if you open your mouth in northern Yemen, they can tell exactly where you're from. And that explains why you cannot have local intel. Absolutely impenetrable. Impenetrable. Same thing with the Pashtuns in Afghanistan. No wonder those idiots who were in Helmand Province during the Afghan war, they couldn't do anything.

#Donald Trump

They had to live in bunkers because they didn't have local intel.

#Pepe Escobar

Same thing in north, northwest Yemen. So then we're going to have a completely different story because Yemen did not forget what the Saudis have been doing to them since 2015: the blockade, the strikes, at least 60,000 people dead, at least—you know, there are no definitive figures—basically imposing a famine to great parts of Yemen. Man, if you do this to a bunch of fighters with 2,000 years behind them, man, you're gonna—certainly you're gonna pay. And we are watching blowback now. It's what's already happening now. And of course, these people, they are heavily political as well. So if you talk to anybody from the political council, who said, "Yes, if they sit down and we try to find a diplomatic solution, no problem."

As long as they stop attacking Yemen, they will have to pay reparations for what they did, and they don't interfere with us anymore. It's fine with us. We don't want to conquer Saudi Arabia. But if MBS and some of the people around them insist on what they continue to do—they are still bombing civilian sites in Yemen—man, the price to pay for that is... And if they have the chance, they'll go all the way to Riyadh, which is not too complicated, considering that those stupid camel Bedouins up north, they don't have an army. They have a bunch of obese eaters of McDonald's. That's not an army, and everybody knows that. So they depend already on a mercenary army in southern Yemen, which has been completely decimated, in fact.

So, you know, there's no way out. Try to explain this to MBS, Danny. In fact, nobody can. It's the same thing of trying to explain the facts of life to the sociopath in Mar-a-Lago. It's the same thing. It's the same process. And this is even worse because he's younger, hubristic, thinks that he's the master of the universe, never worked in his life, he doesn't have any idea about anything, surrounded by sycophant advisors. What does he know about the facts of life? Shit. So, but the Yemenis are not vengeful. They just want what is theirs. This means their land and the lands that were stolen. That's it. So, why now? First of all, because they have been planning this for a long time.

Second, their own intelligence, three months ago—they have very good intel in the Arabian Peninsula, including their own cells inside Saudi Arabia, plus what they exchange with the other members of the Axis of Resistance, especially the Iranians—they came to the conclusion that the Americans were going to launch a mega-offensive against the Axis of Resistance as a whole. So they went preemptive. It was not supposed to be so fast. But once they put that in motion, because they already had everything planned in place for, let's say, the near future, all the elements were there and they could start. And that's why this campaign in the southwest, in the Red Sea, was so fast and worked so well.

Because they had everything. They had very good intel. They have the weapons, and they've concentrated their forces on, okay, first we have to reconquer the southwest. And it worked perfectly. Obviously, it helps that they are underestimated by everybody, especially by the Saudis. The Saudis consider the Yemenis a bunch of barbarians with sandals. Stop it. Stop it. This is pure Islam. And these people, they have over 2,000 years of experience. That's another story. And it is, in many aspects, a civilization state. Their navigators transported Islam from the Arabian Peninsula to Eastern Africa and to Southeast Asia, here where I am. You know, they arrived in the Malaysian archipelago, in Indonesia.

They were the first ones who brought Islam to Southeast Asia. So, you know, they are merchants, they are navigators, they are cultured, you name it, everything. But of course, because they are so powerful, they were always kept under total harassment by those camel herders from Najd in the middle of the desert, which obviously were the perfect vassals for the British Empire and later for the Americans. So we are maybe nearing the end of this cycle. Okay, this is a bigger reading of the whole thing, but I think this is the beginning of the end for the House of Saud. It may take a long time. It could collapse just like that puppet government in Afghanistan that collapsed in 10 days. Same thing. And everything in between. But this is it. And, of course, don't expect MBS to go for a diplomatic solution.

He's so desperate, Danny. He even asked the Chinese to intervene. We had that confirmed yesterday. The Chinese are not saying anything, and if you read Chinese media, no word about it. But he asked the Chinese to intervene. So it will be, obviously, Chinese-Iran sort of mediation. They already asked the Pakistanis. And interesting, because Ansar Allah, they also sent a letter to the prime minister of Pakistan saying that they are open if Pakistan is interested in a mediation. And the Pakistanis are taking this very, very seriously because this will be a way for Pakistan to extricate themselves from this absolutely terrifying possibility of having to fight a war side by side with Saudi Arabia against Yemen, which they knew was going to be a disaster, a total disaster.

And, of course, internal pressure in Pakistan is enormous. Everybody's against this war, literally. The whole country's against the war. Just like in Turkey, I would say most of Turkey is also against this war. And we have Ankara and Islamabad trying to, ah, no, because we signed that thing. It's defensive. We're not going to attack anybody and all that. But you know how wars develop. They

have their inner logic, and anything may happen. So, in a nutshell, how volatile the whole thing is. So another thing which is very, very troubling: we got confirmation yesterday that there is at least an Israeli general in the middle of the mix. So now we have Israeli intel, CENTCOM, and Saudi Arabia side by side. This means what?

Something could happen within the next three weeks before the midterms. And considering the sociopaths, more or less, okay, we'll see. When he says that, it's because the decision is near. Very, very worrying. Is this going to alter anything in the terrain? No. And Yemenis are ready. So what's it going to be? They're going to destroy Sanaa, bomb Sanaa to oblivion? They are not impressed, to say the least. Is it going to solve anything? No. Will the Chinese solve something if the Chinese decide to step in? Oh, yes, because both sides listen to China, and China has enough clout to tell both sides, okay, sit down here, and, you know, the Iranians will coordinate the whole thing. But we are behind, and we support everything possible. But we're very far away from that. Danny, please.

#Danny

Yeah, no, well, that's a great overview, Pepe. And yeah, I guess the one, you know, wrench that could be thrown in all of that is, as you said, Saudi Arabia does not look like it is pursuing any kind of diplomatic solution, and therefore the Yemenis, the Yemeni Armed Forces, Ansar Allah, not either. But could you maybe talk about the U.S.'s position here now? Because all the reports in the Strait of Hormuz are disastrous. We just came off days of reports, and still to this day, of the United States sending in air defense systems, possibly to Israel, you know, basically trying to rearm and reload with whatever they have left, I guess, to restart attacks on Iran.

And then now suddenly there's U.S. movement toward the Yemeni front, toward Ansar Allah, for what, for a long time, has been, in the weeks that this war has been going on. The United States has tried to at least look the other way, even though, as you said, we know that the U.S. is deeply embedded in the, whatever we could call, the Saudi military regime. So your thoughts on the U.S.'s position now, and what would be the consequences of the United States deciding to actually make good on the recent movements in the region in directing them toward Yemen? What would be the consequences of that?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, they will be running the risk of a catastrophic humiliation, Danny, very similar to the previous one where Ansar Allah and Yemeni armed forces, they expelled the U.S. Navy from the Red Sea. It could be 2.0, something similar. They are not going to be intimidated by anything. Come on, they were bombed by the so-called coalition, Saudi Arabia, when the UAE was part of the coalition, from 2015 to 2019. It was practically nonstop.

#Pepe Escobar

So, you know, bombing for them—they don't care. They didn't even notice. So it's not going to change anything. There are two factors that are extremely worrying. One, what is MBS giving to Trump for a direct American intervention? Nobody knows. And obviously, the Arab media, they won't talk about this. And number two, how is Israel pushing Trump to get inside this war? This is much more complicated. I think this is the key one, considering that one of the spokespeople of Riyadh—I'm not sure he's the official spokesman; he's one of the official spokesmen—he actually went on record saying that one of the key reasons that we are involved in this is because the port of Eilat is being completely isolated.

Can you believe this shit? We have officially Saudi Arabia telling the whole world, ummah, the lands of Islam, look, we are at war against a Muslim nation because you need to liberate an Israeli port. That's what it is, for a practical matter. So it cannot get crazier than this. But that's it. It's on the record. And, you know, his post is on X everywhere. So what is Israel offering Trump that could seduce him into mounting some sort of a bombing operation or whatever? But three weeks or two weeks before the midterms, and no guarantee of any success whatsoever. On the contrary.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Pepe Escobar

It still doesn't make sense, Danny. Still doesn't make sense. It's too risky. If Iran was risky, Yemen is ten times riskier.

#Danny

Yeah, what's kind of incredible about what—I'm glad you brought up the Israel and the Eilat port situation, because when this war began, and as you said, Ansar Allah was so ready that, what was it, a matter of days that they had essentially taken all of the Yemeni territory around the Bab al-Mandeb Strait. Immediately, the mayor of the city of Eilat said, "Oh, this port's in trouble. We have to suspend a lot of service already." So I'm really glad you brought that up because nobody reported on that, that Israel and Israeli officials have been on record calling Yemen a mini-Iran with capabilities that are just as troublesome, if not, in some cases, more troublesome than Iran, given the way that they use them.

So it's Israel. The Israeli factor is really important here because Israel also, obviously, they have an election, what, in less than two weeks. And that in and of itself has been rumored that Israel wants some kind of something to happen militarily to throw them off. Even the IDF defense chief has said, "Oh, well, the elections will probably get postponed if something happens." But it's not like, "Oh, don't let that happen." It's like they're telegraphing something that probably a lot of the establishment in the Israeli regime is okay with. What do you make of that? I mean, it does feel like

we're in a powder keg situation, despite the fact that there already is pretty heavy military action and war happening still in the region.

#Pepe Escobar

Well, first of all, they have no idea about Ansar Allah's capabilities, military capabilities, and how swiftly they can respond to anything. They still have no idea that it's absolutely impossible to break them, bribe them, whatever. It's not going to work. They don't understand that this, from Ansar Allah's point of view, is a very, very important war to reconquer what is theirs inside Yemen and teach a lesson to Saudi Arabia. Don't mess with us again, or else. And of course, we are still right at the beginning. They can, you know, up the ante anytime they want. And you can see that they are calculating with extreme detail what they're doing. For instance, when they say officially, this is a blockade against a blockade.

That's correct. This is an airport against an airport. You bomb Sanaa Airport, they bomb Riyadh Airport. Absolutely. But they can up the ante any time. And if the so-called new coalition, Israel, CENTCOM, and Saudi, up the ante in the next few days, the response is going to be, once again, East-West Pipeline, Abqaiq, and Yanbu, but completely. It's already paralyzed, but it will be paralyzed for many more weeks after that, perhaps even a month or two. The ability of Saudi to export oil at the moment, forget it. That's it. They can't export anything. They are running out of money. They're going to have to try to unblock a lot of that money, which is in London and New York.

And it's going to be very, very tricky. On top of it, those Omega projects, NEOM, all that crap, forget it. No way. Tourism, forget it. Even pilgrimage tourism to Mecca and Medina, dead. Nobody in their right mind wants to take a flight to go to Riyadh's airport. Forget it as well. So they are already paralyzed. And then it gets... What we don't see is even more frightening from their point of view. The internal infighting, basically MBS against Khalid, the Ministry of Defense. The marginalized princes, who are looking at the whole picture and saying, okay, maybe this is our time. The tribes that are completely marginalized, over 100 tribes, who are also thinking, okay, maybe sooner or later it's going to be our time.

So all the elements for a complete conflagration, a civil war, tribal civil war, are almost in place, with a complete paralysis at the top. So you think that one Israeli intel general and a few CENTCOM advisors and 110 American advisors are going to save the day? I don't think so. It's not enough. Not to mention that you look all over, nobody is really interested in saving the House of Saud. In terms of popularity, I would say that they are even more unpopular than that toxic Medusa in Brussels, in regional and international terms. They're going down. Who cares? Excellent. What's going to happen next? It's another story. And then there are far-fetched... I love the possibility of the far-fetched scenarios because they look plausible and realistic.

A tribal war, like, wow, all over the place to see which... Okay, who's going to take over power in Riyadh? Or another one, but that would imply a lot of American commandos to make it happen: Prince Nayef becomes the new ruler. After all, he's the CIA's man. But to take him out of house arrest and to put him in place, this implies a serious American operation, a lot of higher-class commandos to put it in place. But obviously, I'm sure CENTCOM is looking at it and saying, why not? At least we have one of our guys over there. So anything is possible. What is not possible is this situation as it stands nowadays to continue. And obviously, MBS's grip on power is slipping by the day.

#Danny

Yeah, well, hiding in bunkers is not a good sign. Handpicked security means you don't trust many people. That's what that means when you're picking your own security. But yeah, well, there's also the fact, too, that I think it's been successive administrations too, Pepe. There are reports that Donald Trump is not so fond of MBS. They have very similar, as you said, kind of problems internally in terms of their narcissism and their belief that they are the kings of the planet. So, friction there. And before that, we know that Biden and MBS did not get along. There was the famous scene of the fist bump. It's been a while now that MBS hasn't necessarily been the favorite, what they believe should be a puppet of theirs in Riyadh. This comes as reports, Pepe. There are reports that Saudi Arabia is, according to Wall Street Journal, not only are they running out of air defenses, if they had any left, but their whole economic program, all their Vision 2030, all of this is essentially on pause. It's dead. It's dead.

#Pepe Escobar

It's dead in the water.

#Danny

Absolutely. How sustainable is this, given the fact that also the Strait of Hormuz is very much in a state of crisis, given that the United States boasted about it being open and open? So everything is coming out. And Iran has essentially said, well, we can show you how it's not coming out. And they have been.

#Pepe Escobar

It's open when we say it's open.

#Danny

Yeah, the tankers are getting... they're getting slammed every single day. Three in the last two days. Four, I believe, now it is. I think this might be just hours outdated. But Iran has been publishing these videos and images for us to see. How does that affect things, Pepe? This doesn't seem sustainable. And as you said, all hell could break loose at any moment. Well, the United States, Saudi—none of them are interested in stopping the root causes of why this is all going on, a.k.a. their wars. But that only leaves one option, right, which is escalation. Your thoughts? Yeah.

#Pepe Escobar

Exactly. This is one of the visible escalation ladders. You have to be completely blind if you own a petrol tanker to think that you can fool the IRGC Navy crossing the Strait of Hormuz. No wonder these petrol tankers are here. No wonder. It is a suicidal mission. And Iran, they say, you know, every day there's only one channel. It's through our navigational waters near the island of Qeshm. And you have to pay the toll. And you get an authorization, then you cross. Everything else is forbidden. And we're going to go after you. And we still have petrol tankers trying to... the so-called Oman channel, or so-called protected by the U.S. Obviously, they're not protected by anybody, et cetera. So this will continue.

At the same time, that's the most interesting thing. There are a lot of leaks. There's a lot of stuff crossing, or moves—smuggling, essentially, then the ship-to-ship transfers, whatever. So money is changing hands and oil is changing hands. It depends, of course, on how you organize your smuggling operation. And for that, Danny, not only the Iranians, but Persian Gulf traders, the guys know everything there is to know about smuggling. So, you know, the giant smuggling operation continues. And from an Iranian point of view, even though they are exporting much, much less than before, you know what they are doing with diesel? They are sending their diesel to Russia via the Caspian.

It's very, very simple. They have a lot of mid-sized ships, you know, from Bandar Anzali to Astrakhan. It's not too much. I would say it's like eight hours, not more than that. Easy. And the best part: part of this diesel is going to be sold to Europe via the United States. You cannot beat that. It's better than any SNL or Monty Python sketch. It's absolutely outstanding. And those Euro-morons are now allowed by the President of the United States to buy Russian diesel. But you have to buy from the United States. Priceless. Absolutely priceless. But from Iran's point of view, yes, if Russia doesn't have enough diesel, no problem. They can use Iranian diesel.

And, of course, they organize a payment system. It can be rubles, or it can be even yuan. It can be barter. You name it. No problem. So, you know, the Iranians are masters of dribbling sanctions. This is what they have been doing. This was 47 years ago. They know all there is to know. So their economy is not strangled. It's very difficult, no question. It's very, very hard. Nobody knows the

exchange rate for the rial anymore, and it's pointless to try to keep track of it. Inflation is high. But apparently, you go to any supermarket in the big city, they have everything because they are self-sufficient. They're self-sufficient in agriculture. They are self-sufficient in manufactured goods.

So, you know, you go to the bazaars, everything is there. So this myth that you can strangle the Iranian economy—bullshit. And, of course, all the channels, the connectivity channels for trade with the neighbors continue to work. Caspian to Russia, for example. With Iraq, same thing. With China via Central Asia, same thing. With Pakistan via the overland corridors, same thing. With China via Pakistan, same thing. So they continue to trade with all the neighbors, and no way the U.S. can stop that. And they were already outside of SWIFT and the U.S. dollar system in the first place. There's a lot of barter involved, Islamic banking, crypto, you name it, you know. Cash economy, you name it.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I've seen videos out of Iran too. The prices are, you know, in real terms, very, very out of control. But the government—the government has done a lot to stabilize incomes and prices together. There are subsidies, exactly.

#Pepe Escobar

And increased subsidies. Yes, yes.

#Danny

So you don't see the kind of mass desperate hunger or deprivation that, you know, you would generally expect. And I think, you know, I'm wondering, Pepe, is one of the dilemmas for the United States here is they have this one-track mind. Of course, you know, Bessent with the two weeks, and they'll just keep counting two weeks until the economy falls. Trump, Israel, they'll continue to prepare. Okay, we'll strike now, in a week, in a day, who knows? But those are the options that they're putting out there. But it seems like a dilemma for them is that they don't have what Turkey, the Gulf countries, in part Israel and the United States unleashed on Syria, which is a mercenary group or many groups of mercenaries that can wreak havoc inside of the country and actually take political power.

There's not even any distant vision of something like that. So I'm wondering how much that factors into how stuck the U.S. appears to be here. Because it mirrors Yemen in a lot of ways too, because, yeah, there's no alternative to Yemen. You just said the government of Yemen. People in Yemen don't recognize the government of Yemen, even though, of course, the U.S. and their vassals in the U.N. do. It's a very similar situation. There's no opposition to what exists in Iran. So how does the U.S. actually, quote unquote, succeed there? It seems pretty hopeless, but at the same time, they don't give up.

#Pepe Escobar

No, and everything they have been doing is only strengthening the Axis of Resistance. This is not the same scenario as before the war, starting on February 28. There was a lot of discussion at the time, okay, late last year, early this year, that the Axis of Resistance was paralyzed. No, the Axis of Resistance was reorganizing itself. It's a completely different story. And when we had the 40-day war and everything after that, the long process of the possibility of finding a diplomatic channel, the Axis of Resistance started to strengthen itself even more.

For Hezbollah, for instance, they are still reorganizing. When Hezbollah is back in the picture, it's gonna be much, much stronger than before. The Iraqi resistance is very, very strong, and they are measuring when they need to intervene in the future. And Yemenis, as we saw it, they were ready. And they were ready for quite a while, in fact. And in terms of Iran, of course, they managed to survive the 40-day war. It was horrible. They paid a terrible price for it. But they are reorganized. They changed their military doctrine. And now they are, they say it every day, finger on the trigger.

If we detect minimal movement that they're going to attack us, we're going to be preemptive. We're going to attack you first. That was not the previous defensive doctrine. But the problem is this stalemate could go on for quite a while. For the Iranian economy, it's terrible. And in fact, for Iranian interests, it's terrible because nothing will be solved. And, of course, the empire, okay, let's keep it forever war style. No resolution. But that's it. What Mohsen Rezaei himself has already said many times: no, we're not in this for the long run. We're going to force a definition, or not a conclusion, but at least the next step.

#Danny

Right.

#Pepe Escobar

And this is what's probably going to happen after the midterms. If there is this threatened U.S.-Israeli renewed attack against Iran, they will go preemptive as soon as they identify it's coming. And then we'll reach the next stage, which is going to be really heavy, because this means a direct attack against U.S. naval assets in the southern Indian Ocean. They have the missiles to do that. Can you imagine? The sociopaths will go completely berserk if that happens. And then all bets are off. It's a possible scenario. Yeah.

#Danny

Yeah, well, we don't know what the Theodore Roosevelt is actually going to do—the aircraft carrier, some say.

#Pepe Escobar

Exactly.

#Danny

Others say replace. And also, many have made remarks about the H.W. Bush, USS H.W. Bush, now in Thailand.

#Pepe Escobar

Not exactly in Thailand.

#Danny

But that may not be forever. That could very well change. They could just be getting a little vacation, like the USS Lincoln, and be right back on the blockade line. I can't imagine just one aircraft carrier servicing that level of distance for too long. Yeah. And that begs the question too, Pepe: the longer this goes on as well, I'm sure Iran knows that it's important to be vigilant, given that the United States always is probably working behind the scenes to try to build up forces, whether surrounding Iran, whether inside Iran, although I don't think they have much there. But nevertheless, the U.S. is always looking to wreak havoc indirectly. And that means, I mean, it's why Iran has been striking Iraqi so-called Kurdish militant forces that are aligned with the U.S. basically up until this month.

#Pepe Escobar

If anything comes from the Persian Gulf petro-sheikhs, now this is on the table already: we're going to destroy everything you have. And now they will do it. They're already saying it over and over again. And the petro-sheikhs know it. But because now the previous New York channel is dead, because the Americans basically, they blocked it, possible diplomatic channel. What actually was discussed in New York, what Xi offered Trump at the Oval Office. And then in these past few days, the famous seven points, which are all—the seven points come from the Memorandum of Understanding. And yesterday, the Iranians are saying, yes, the Americans offered a few things, but, you know, very vaguely.

It's not enough for us. So they are essentially, every possible off-ramp, they say no. Do they have a Plan B? Nobody knows. But the only possible Plan B: yes, okay, we're going to go back to war. Is this going to solve the problem? Obviously not, because it would make it a wider war with even more hardcore consequences. So this is the visible escalation ladder, right? The invisible, which is

the backstage negotiations, at the moment, nothing is happening. Via Pakistan, via Qatar, for the moment, everything is, you know, in a coma again. Because, exactly, Saudi Arabia and Yemen now is on the forefront.

#Danny

Yeah, and Iran has the capacity not to—they would never directly intervene on behalf of Ansar Allah without their permission.

#Donald Trump

No, no, no, no.

#Danny

But they certainly have, if the United States restarts strikes, they certainly have the capacity to settle that indirectly, in large part because they can and likely will target a very vulnerable Saudi energy infrastructure as well if strikes restart. I mean, it would be very logical. It would be pretty easy, since Saudi Arabia also is now the most, or at least now the latest, most depleted GCC entity in that region. Your thoughts on this? I mean, I'm sure all these equations are going on in the heads of everybody, for different reasons, all of the various parties involved in all of this.

#Pepe Escobar

What is, I would say, graphically obvious for now is that, as obtuse as he is, MBS needs to find a way out. But once again, because of ego, it will have to be something mediated from outside that he will be able to sell inside Saudi Arabia as not a defeat. That's going to be very, very hard. The only possibility, which we're still very, very far away from, would be a Chinese mediation. Not directly, because the Chinese don't do this directly. So probably the Chinese, once again, they will subcontract the mediation to, let's say, Iran and Pakistan together, because of good relations between both.

And Iran and Pakistan will organize Saudi Arabia and Ansar Allah sitting at the same table. This is, I would say, the ultra-optimistic scenario. Very hard to happen, but there's no other one, Danny. It's the only optimistic, minimally realistic scenario, but we're so, so far away from it. That's the only one. Obviously, we cannot expect the United States to mediate anything, for obvious reasons. And obviously, we cannot expect MBS to have a road to Damascus moment and say, "Oh, sorry, sorry, I made a huge mistake." No, it's not going to happen.

#Danny

In all of this, it feels like a clock that's ticking. The United States, as you said at the beginning of the show, very seriously, not just considering, but now secretly deploying forces to help out Saudi Arabia. But I'm looking at the clock, Pepe, and you use the clock for the Iran war, the war against Iran, how there's a clock there that Iran is winding down. But with the Saudi Arabia situation, that clock seems to be going a lot faster. So it's like, how long can you wait?

The longer that the United States, the longer that Saudi Arabia, the longer that they wait to try to mitigate the situation, the worse the landscape is going to look for them. The better it's going to look for Yemen, of course, but the worse it will look for them in terms of, you know, once history kind of gets out of the bag, it's hard to put it back in. The U.S. has certainly experienced this. The U.S. has a very, very good experience with this, especially in the 20th century. Your thoughts on this, Pepe, as we get down to the last five or so minutes here? Well,

#Pepe Escobar

I think a lot of people who follow West Asia closely, if they're looking at the bigger picture for the past 100 years or so, they start to consider the possibility that this could be the beginning of the end of a system that was put in place after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, in fact. And they were slicing up West Asia with false promises to Arabs on one side, that typical British, of course. And of course, the two most important outcomes were in the '30s, Saudi Arabia, and then the creation of Israel. And it's not an accident that both are in deep trouble now, because the whole system, the whole setup, is in trouble. Of course, this does not imply that, okay, they're coming down. No, no, no.

External forces are bringing them down. No, that's not it. But the setup in itself, it's too fragile. It cannot hold anymore. To quote Yeats, but misquote Yeats, in fact, the center cannot hold. This center in West Asia, centered on Saudi Arabia, petrodollar, all that shit, and Israel, cannot hold anymore. But okay, well, what comes next? And this will be the result of the U.S. against Iran war and the Saudi against Yemen war. And they come as a package. I had this thing a few weeks ago, a very simple formulation: Iran and Yemen come as a package. And it's right in front of all of us now. Yes, it is a huge package. So depending on how this package will be repackaged or unraveled, then we're going to have the next setup. It cannot go on like it is now. That's for sure.

#Danny

Yeah, and I never bought it, Pepe. There was a lot of speculation when Yemen was making this incredible headway—still are, but at a much different stage now. But when it began, there was a lot of speculation about why is the United States so seemingly hands-off? Why is the U.S. not really making any comments, or there's not a lot of fire behind the U.S. when it comes to what's going on? Because one would assume that the petrodollar sheikdom in Riyadh would be very valuable to the United States. But some were like, well, is the U.S. letting this happen? Does the U.S. want this to happen? And I always didn't buy that because we know that the United States has tried several

times through Saudi, through UAE, and now both of them together. And now, you know, last year with their own direct war on Yemen, that they tried to destroy.

In many ways, it seemed like the U.S. just doesn't have the ability to control this situation the way that they would like. And now, and I've probably been engaged through this whole period in some—I think I've heard—we've heard five proposals, divided maybe in half between Iran and Yemen, to Donald Trump upon his request. And he has not—supposedly he has not approved any of them. That doesn't necessarily signal to me a lot of confidence or a real firm stance on what to do next. But, so I guess what I'm trying to—maybe you could close on this, Pepe. What does that tell us then about where things are? Because I think people sometimes assume that the U.S. hegemon has always some kind of nefarious scheme in the background. Here, I don't see the scheme really panning out, especially with regards to Yemen.

#Pepe Escobar

No, because there was never any strategy behind it, and there was never any planning. The only strategy, which is not even—there was weakened tactics, let's put it this way. Okay, we go to Iran, we kill everybody, we provoke regime change, and we solve our problem. That was it. There was never any strategic decision of what that meant. So everything that is happening now is a direct and indirect consequence of what did not happen after February 28th. So it's no wonder that they are paralyzed everywhere. The petro-sheikhs are paralyzed. MBS is paralyzed. The White House is paralyzed. CENTCOM is paralyzed, of course, because they never—there was not even, I would say, a midget Bismarck to explain the facts of life to all of them.

It's no wonder. It's no wonder. And that leads all of us to... Basically, we are considering possible scenarios. That's it. They're probably considering the same scenarios because they're lost, because they're totally lost. And it's very different when you are doing this with extremely fragile entities all across the Global South. Another thing when you are facing a civilization state like Iran, which is also weaponized, and a civilization state like Yemen, which happens also to be heavily weaponized. Then all your plans, or known plans, they melt right in front of you, which is where we are now.

#Danny

Yeah, well, this is a great place to close, Pepe. I want to make sure everybody knows that in the video description below, they can find your Telegram, your X, and Geopolitical Economy Report, which you help lead on YouTube. So be sure to subscribe there. Be sure to follow Pepe and support his work on Telegram and X, where you can find all of his reports. Everybody hit the like button before you go. I'll be back tomorrow, 2 p.m. Eastern Time. I'll let you know what's going on soon. Hit the like button. That helps boost the show on YouTube's algorithm. Thanks to everyone who became members. Donna, thank you. Thank you for the super chats here, Clay, DJ369. And thanks

to all the moderators, of course, and all of you for viewing today. Hit the like button. Check out Pepe's work in the video description. And I will see you tomorrow, 2 p.m. Eastern Time, October 13th. Bye-bye.

#Pepe Escobar

Thanks, everybody. Thanks, Danny.