

Yemen LEVELS Riyadh, Iran Hits SIX Ships Then Trump DID THIS | Patrick Henningsen & Daniel Davis

Patrick Henningsen and Daniel Davis break down the stunning developments in the Saudi-Yemen war that have the US AND Israel moving toward all out war. Meanwhile, Yemen and Iran have both stepped up their strike targets dramatically as Riyadh burns overnight and a record number of tankers get taken out in the Strait of Hormuz. What does all of this mean from both a military and geopolitical perspective? We traverse the biggest flashpoints in the ongoing war between US-led unipolarity and the rising multipolar world now finding big momentum in West Asia. <https://www.youtube.com/@UCWDN5zr5ttctoIAhZwW6tcQ> <https://www.youtube.com/@21stCenturyWireTV> Patrick's YouTube <https://patrickhenningsen.substack.com/> 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> #yemen #trump #israel

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I'm joined by Patrick Henningsen of 21st Century Wire and Daniel Davis of Deep Dive with Daniel Davis to go over the latest developments. Well, gentlemen, I wanted to begin with Yemen. Riyadh has absolutely been getting leveled, not just its airports, but across the country of Saudi Arabia as a whole. This was King Khalid Airport last night, despite claims of Saudi interceptions of Yemeni ballistic missile strikes. Saudi infrastructure continues to take a beating. Here are more images of what's going on. Saudi Arabia, though, has been trying to hide this information from the world.

It has actually detained U.S. citizens for taking video of Yemeni drone and missile strikes now, in retaliation response, I should say, because this is Saudi aggression. Warplanes have started to hit Yemeni oil infrastructure, which Ansar Allah has said will come with a heavy price in response. We may be getting—Donald Trump made a comment earlier today—but Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel seem to be really pushing to try to enter this war. They are in talks with MBS to do just that. Strange enough, because they didn't really need permission last time they conducted strikes.

Ansar Allah is saying that the United States should be very careful of a swift and painful response if it should get involved, as Trump has warned that he is thinking about getting involved. And of

course, six tankers in the last 48 hours have been hit in the Strait of Hormuz by Iran. As the Trump administration is on right now, it seems like a campaign trail. But nevertheless, Patrick, how about we start with you? What's your reaction in response to what's going on right now? This war keeps on getting bigger, and it seems like it's about to expand even further as Saudi Arabia shows no signs of tapping out.

#Patrick Henningsen

No, it looks like, Danny, that Saudi has got their finger on the trigger, but holding a gun to their own head. They're in the process of committing suicide if they do. And you have to take Ansar Allah's warning seriously at this point. I mean, they don't mince words. They don't bluff. They're not false threats. They will hit the most sensitive Aramco oil facilities. It's guaranteed. So if paralyzing your air travel at your country's largest airport isn't enough, you want to go on to the biggest and most sensitive Aramco facilities, they will hit them. And probably, based on their previous successes in targeting, it's going to do significant damage.

And, you know, as many experts pointed out, and I've looked into this over the years as well, very sophisticated, these pipelines and the array of systems, how the networks in terms of oil distribution, refineries—it's very meticulously and well put together in Saudi Arabia, but it can be very expensive, time-consuming to repair. You're talking about pipelines, pump stations that go across some of the most hostile terrain in that country. Yemen, the Yemenis are very well aware of this. So it's not a question of getting them back up online in a few hours. In some cases, it could take weeks or months. So, you know, it's an existential moment for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They've chosen unwisely from the very beginning of this, and I don't see any improvement in their decision-making, quite frankly. So I'd be very, very concerned right now for anybody in Saudi Arabia or who is allied with Saudi Arabia as to how this is going to come out.

#Danny

Yeah. And Danny, this is Donald Trump's response. This is how he's responding to everything. He said the Houthis are behaving very badly. "I thought they learned their lesson a year ago. We'll beat the hell out of them." He said somebody should explain to them that I'm not running in the elections. I've already won a massive landslide, so there's no after the election, and I will never forget, referring to the Houthis. But he said they're behaving very badly. Danny, what have you made of the U.S. response? There are serious talks, supposedly, of the U.S. getting involved. But maybe you can correct the record here about what Donald Trump is saying and any reactions you have to what Patrick said.

#Daniel Davis

Well, look, you talk about learning lessons. I think they did learn the lessons. They kicked our ass. I mean, let's just be blunt about it. First, they smoked us during the Biden administration when they

tried to shut down the Houthis and keep the Red Sea traffic open in support of Israel during the first part of that war. And what did we get for our efforts? We spent, I don't even remember, some number of billions of dollars, all kinds of missiles that we shot, the interceptors we got rid of, lost a bunch of Reaper drones, I think seven of them during the Biden administration portion. A couple of airplanes got knocked off the decks. A couple of F-18s literally lost into the sea off the deck because we were avoiding missiles that were being shot at some of our aircraft carriers.

So, yeah, I think they did learn the lesson. The lesson is that we can handle you. When you're trying to project power into the region with the kind of power you've got, we can hit it. And you talked about a narrow strait there in the Red Sea, in a narrow pass, et cetera, or they're showing that they can hit anything that is in the Middle East. As Patrick was alluding to, as you showed on the opening segment here, is that with all of the air defense capabilities that Saudi Arabia has, all the stuff they bought from us, all the stuff they've got from other forces, and the centrality of the King Khalid Airport, for crying out loud—I mean, that is a central target, and they can't protect it. I don't know how much was actually shot down, but it doesn't matter.

It only matters what gets through, and it matters that they can't stop more. So, to Patrick's point, when he said he doesn't think that the Houthis bluff, what they say they have done and what they have attempted to do, they have succeeded at. So if you want to keep going down this path, whether it's the United States or whether it's Saudi Arabia, and saying, "I'm not going to deal with these guys," then what you're saying is, "I'm going to endure more punishment on our oil facilities," because that's the central fulcrum for pressuring Saudi Arabia. Because if you can't stop the main airport, if you can't stop hitting Aramco facilities, it's literally the lifeblood of your country.

And I think the Ansar Allah can soak up however many missiles you want to shoot. I mean, they did for, what, seven, eight years, I think, from 2015 up to 2022, when they had a ceasefire. And who knows how many thousands of airstrikes there were. Never brought them to their knees. They're certainly not going to do it now with a number of other airstrikes. It'll kill some people. It'll blow some stuff up. But these people show they are resilient, and they know how to endure this kind of stuff. And there's a cost to doing that, too. I think they've already lost a couple of aircraft, if I'm not mistaken. They could lose some more, but it's never going to be enough. You can't bomb your way to victory, just like the U.S. can't bomb their way to victory in Iran. Neither can Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is desperately trying to get anybody they can to join them on the ground, whether that's the U.S., Pakistan, Turkey.

Apparently, at least publicly, Israel wanted to help, but Mohammed bin Salman this morning, at least publicly again, said, "We told them no," because he is concerned about the impact on his people, and that might be legitimate. They may not want that kind of help, but the problem is that if you can't do this militarily and you can't stop the attacks on your infrastructure, then you're either going to have to say, "We're going to be defeated," or we're going to have to make a deal with Ansar Allah, which is not out of character for the Middle East. They can do this. People have done it for centuries. It's not out of character. They just don't want to. But the question is, how much pain do

they have to have heaped on them before they finally do something? Because I don't see any other way out that's going to have them on the top.

#Danny

Yeah, you know, Patrick, there's something very familiar about what's happening in this, I guess you could say, Yemen-Saudi war, the Saudi aggression on Yemen. And, you know, we have this by the Los Angeles Times saying that there's a grim choice, as Danny just put out there, as Ansar Allah intensifies attacks. And the grim choice is either they give up or surrender, [or] they continue fighting, both of which will have consequences. And also, I remember during strikes on Israel by Iran, very similar reports of people getting arrested.

And this is also true across the Gulf, where any footage that was attempted to be taken was heavily sought after, pursued by authorities in places like Bahrain and, of course, Tel Aviv. And, of course, this also runs parallel to what Iran is doing, where they continue to hit ships in the Strait of Hormuz. And the United States, kind of like Saudi Arabia, seems to have no answer to it. So what do you make of how this conflict right now, this war, is shaping up in the larger regional context and geopolitical context?

#Patrick Henningsen

Well, I think we've outlined the military theater pretty well in your previous programs, Danny, as well as on Daniel Davis's program with all his amazing guests. That's pretty clear. What's different about this one, though, is the information war. The information war for this is trying to take shape, and it's hugely problematic because the West don't have command and control over the facts and over the narrative and the framing on this. And it's, to me, an extraordinary thing.

If you look across social media just to kind of gauge public opinion globally, who would have thought that the world community would be applauding this? Ansar Allah, after they attacked King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, because that's kind of what's happening. In other words, nobody's shedding a tear for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The world has worked out that they're in the wrong. They're the aggressor. It's the theocratic dictatorship, okay, for starters. But a lot of people have jumped to the defense of—and politicians, many of whom have interests, have said—"We stand with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against this Yemeni aggression." I mean, what world are we on here? Saudi started this war.

It's the same type of thing of the United States decrying Iranian aggression against U.S. troops in the region. Donald Trump and Rubio, they're putting our servicemen in harm's way, you know, at risk in the region. We have to defend our servicemen. Who started the war in the first place? It was Israel and the U.S. The same thing here. So you can't really make the argument that Saudi—or, sorry, that Ansar Allah, a.k.a. the Houthis, the Yemenis—are in the wrong for attacking Riyadh International Airport because Saudi Arabia have attacked Sana'a Airport 227 times over the last, give

or take, 11 years. So it's not an argument, and it's not a civilian target, because the international airport in Riyadh is very much involved in a lot of logistics operations.

It's like for like. Saudi Arabia have hit, without any compunction, civilian targets. They've been running a starvation siege. So any Western commentators that are saying that, oh, Ansar Allah shouldn't be escalating this war, this is not a serious argument. And I would argue a lot of these people are propagandists because they're trying to reframe this for a Western audience. The Americans and Saudis and the UAE have starved the Yemeni people. Do people in the West realize that this has killed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis? It is one of the worst war crimes.

But because the Western media didn't anoint this as an official tragedy, most people don't even know about it. And the United States has done well to sort of have no accountability whatsoever in their role. Saudi Arabia, forget it. So that's really important. The other thing you've got to realize is Saudi Arabia have the most incredible online bot army. I don't know if people have paid attention to this over the years, but they're in there like a shot. Even if you have a small account and a comment thread comes in commenting on this or criticizing the kingdom, they have AI detection, and they're in there with their bot accounts. So they've been swarming my comments, and I'm already throttled on X, but I'm still besieged by Saudi bots. But within the country, there's no criticism of the government of Mohammed bin Salman.

It is totally not allowed, totally forbidden. So when you're talking about, Danny, how they've masked over the coverage of especially what's happened with these attacks at the airport, or any other sign of weakness, or sign of negligence, or just incompetence by the regime, you won't see it if you're in the Gulf or in Saudi Arabia. You watch their news coverage, everything's going great. They've got the Houthis on the run. It's like, it's incredible. So they've got their own sort of Baghdad Bob kind of media coverage there in Saudi Arabia. It is incredible, the amount of censorship there. But it's all leaked out globally through independent media, through international media, and they can't bottle it this time. So that's the thing I think is extraordinary.

#Danny

Yeah, what else is extraordinary, too, that's not being mentioned is with that airport attack at the international airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia had actually for two weeks just stopped their early warning system of any missile strikes and did not evacuate the airport despite evacuation warnings by Ansar Allah. So now those early warning systems are back on because Reuters started to report on it two weeks late. But nevertheless, Danny, you know, the Trump administration, Netanyahu, and the Saudi regime, they're all saying the same thing now. It's Ansar Allah that's aggressive. They're the problem. They're the ones who are committing terror attacks. What does that tell you?

#Daniel Davis

Well, it tells me they're stuck in a single playbook. I mean, they use that for literally every conflict they have. They just cut and paste which country we're talking about today. The rest of it is virtually identical. The problem is, kind of also alluding to what Patrick said, it's just not playing anymore. Because for a while, people would believe a lot of that stuff. But now that they're seeing it with their own eyes, they're saying, hang on. You can't stop these attacks on your most important facilities, the East-West Pipeline or Aramco facilities themselves, the main airport, your capital city. And then we also see down there that you have hit some of the Saudi—I'm sorry, some of the Yemeni areas, Ansar Allah, Houthis.

And people are going, "Wait a minute. These guys are just the Houthi rebels, as we always called them. How is it that your modern military, with the modern American fighter jets and help from Great Britain with some of the refueling, et cetera, and all these bombs you have, why can you not win any of this stuff?" So people just aren't paying attention to what those claims are anymore. They just don't matter. But then you also look at some of the bigger issues, more on the political realm, and you're saying, "Why is it also that nobody's coming to Saudi Arabia's help? Why is the U.S. not coming to help them out? Why is Pakistan not?"

After this Mecca Accords, why is Turkey not? Why is nobody coming to their help? And now then that is also being seen domestically inside the House of Saud and inside the, I guess, space politically within Saudi Arabia itself. And I think Patrick even mentioned on my show here recently, there's a lot of sore feelings from within the power structures in Saudi Arabia from what bin Salman did to them. I think it was in 2020, if I'm not mistaken, where he locked a bunch of them into a hotel in Riyadh, basically tortured a lot of them to get them to do what he wanted. A lot of them didn't forget about all of that. And so now then they see, okay, you can't bring anybody to our help. You can't defeat the Houthis here. Why did you start this war?

You can't win. And if this keeps going on and we get more of our facilities hit, destroying our ability to even make revenue, pushing it back years to get corrected, maybe we need new leadership here in Saudi Arabia. Maybe bin Salman needs to be shown the exit, or some other exit door, whatever. So I think that the actual House of Saud is in real trouble right now. And, you know, this is something that is going on in part of the region as well, and it has ramifications and reverberations even into the Iran war and what may be coming next, because Iran has also said, if we're attacked again—and they said, I think this was just yesterday by a general—as I, I... He said, "Yeah, Saudi Arabia may also be a target."

So they may be getting it from a couple of different sides, and they can't stop any of it. So they're in a real, real serious problem here. You mentioned this earlier when you showed that one headline, that they're in a real pickle, because if they give in to Ansar Allah, they're in one trouble. If they don't, they're in separate. But listen, you've got to say one here is an existential crisis. If you don't make a deal, which, again, can be done effectively within Arab countries' traditions, if you don't make that kind of a deal here, you're going to suffer loss, and you may literally be defeated from

both without and within. So I think that he better start reading the tea leaves pretty quickly if he wants to stay in power and make some kind of a deal with the Ansar Allah.

#Danny

Danny, staying on you for just a second, do you see the United States getting involved more directly? We know, of course, CENTCOM is all over Saudi Arabia and Riyadh and helping the regime in some ways, but do you believe that they'll get more involved? The Trump administration has essentially done what it usually does, which is bluff a lot and talk a lot, but so far no action. What do you think?

#Daniel Davis

Yeah, I hope that continues on. They talk a lot, but no do. And bluff, I'm rarely for it, but in this particular case, if it's between bluff or actually making good on your promises, let's don't. But he's also been very careful about not even making any real promises, only that we're thinking about it, we're looking into it, we might do it. They behave very badly, you know, stuff like that, which is not even really implying anything. And my instinct would normally tell me we're not going to do this because it would be foolhardy, especially because we may be on the verge of doing something that's really foolhardy, like restarting the war against Iran.

And if you're thinking about doing that, the last thing you want to do is further disperse your power on the eve of doing something stupid over there by doing something stupid over here. And then you're splitting your forces, which means you're most likely going to fail in both places. So I would imagine that Trump would not do that for that reason. But unfortunately, with this administration, with this man being in the White House right now, he's done a lot of things that were irrational and counterproductive and clearly self-evidently bad decisions. Yet they were actually done. And it's been done a number of times, not the least of which was after the Memorandum of Understanding was signed last June.

I mean, he had a golden ticket to get out. He had a golden ticket back in mid-February or the latter part of February before this war started, with the Omani mediation, that he could have had a tremendous deal that would have given him a great political victory without war. But he threw that in the trash, and then he threw the one in the trash in the MOU, which, after discovering you got into a war you couldn't win, then here's this great way to get out where you at least get to save some face. And he didn't take that either, and so now here we are again. And he shouldn't do this, but, I mean, he's made some really bad decisions. So unfortunately, I can't rule anything out.

#Danny

Yeah, well, Patrick, to you, your thoughts on anything Danny Haiphong said and this idea that we can't rule anything out when it comes to the Trump administration. But this war has gotten bigger,

and this one that we're talking about right now on the Yemen front is going to get bigger. But the United States and Iran just said that they are preparing for a bigger war. They might even go on the ground. They have about 400,000 troops ready to attack, do ground incursions if the U.S. restarts. So obviously there is alarm and alert in Iran about war starting again. So when I look at the region, that sounds like a powder keg, a mess, and it all seems to be pointing to huge consequences for the United States and the Trump administration in particular, two and a half weeks away from an election. Yeah.

#Patrick Henningsen

When Danny was rightly pointing out just the erraticism and the seemingly indecisive nature of the president and the constant bluffing and head fakes that we've become used to with the president, the thing to remember here—and it's easy to forget this, even I forget this sometimes, as does the media, I think they're programmed to forget it—is that we are not talking about Donald Trump anymore. And the United States is not the sole decision-making party. Israel is there, totally joined at the hip with the United States. So I think when we're trying to look at the indecisiveness and the erraticism of Donald Trump, you have to understand that—we have to realize—that that's Israel in the background.

And that's kind of—he is a marionette of Netanyahu and the very powerful Israeli lobby, of which his son-in-law, who is right behind him at all times, is a major operator in that whole setup. So that's one of the problems, is we're not dealing with one country. It's not a war between the U.S. and Iran. It's a war between the U.S. and Israel versus Israel and their allies, whoever they are, and Iran. That's the difficult part of this. And that makes it really hard to analyze, really hard to kind of troubleshoot and predict. And it means you have to kind of be doing a bifurcated analysis all the time, but still running in parallel.

And then trying to do that is, from a diplomatic point of view, it's of course a recipe for total failure all the time. And I think the track record's pretty clear on that. And that's, I think, because of that. So that's the number one problem. So the other problem is, and Danny touched on this as well, about the internal power dispute in Saudi Arabia. This is very important. In fact, the whole war with Yemen, this whole situation actually stems from that. It was the death in January 2015 of King Abdullah, the previous monarch, and he passed away. Mohammed bin Salman was a ripe 28-year-old defense minister.

That was the position he was gifted as a 27-year-old, which is unbelievable. So the king dies, and all of a sudden, so King Salman, the current monarch, is de jure, but the de facto head of Saudi Arabia is MBS, Mohammed bin Salman. But there—and as Daniel and you, Danny, as well pointed out—the power struggle and the whole Ritz-Carlton lockdown of all of the potential adversaries within the family and the royal family and so forth. And Mohammed bin Nayef is regarded by many as the heir apparent. He was locked up in 2020 during that whole MBS night of the long knives.

But there are many people that would regard him as the heir apparent, as well as a few other suitors in waiting there. So don't think the United States and the Israelis and the British and everybody else have already—they already have plans for all this, okay? Should things go one way or the other, they have fallback plans, and those fallback plans are a military coup, another royal to come in, to parachute in, to take over, if things sort of fall apart in a horrific way. So, but the war against Yemen was launched in the wake of that, just two months after the death of King Abdullah in 2015. So that's when Saudi was at its weakest and most disorganized. And the Obama administration and our deep state, our intelligence services, took advantage of that and roped Saudi Arabia into a 10-year disastrous losing war, the net result of which was that it made Ansar Allah so strong militarily and so resilient.

Everything they've done to them—to kill them, to starve them, to induce famine, to bomb them, to murder as many Yemenis as they could—all it's done is made Ansar Allah not just more resilient, not just better militarily, not just able to take on the United States, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, but they've made them popular in the Arab world, in the Muslim world. They've increased the brand cachet of the, quote, Houthis, or Ansar Allah. And that's, to me, where the real currency is. That's what Iran has benefited so greatly from, from standing up. So both Yemen and Iran have been victims of wars of aggression by the U.S., by Saudi Arabia, by Israel.

They didn't start any of these wars. And I can tell you right now, if this war spills into the three contested provinces of Najran, Asir, and Jizan, bordering Yemen on the road to Jeddah, Saudi will not be able to defend those territories with ground forces. They would totally rely on Pakistani security or something they could buy and bring in to stabilize those areas because they don't have and have never had total dominion over them in terms of their religious or tribal affiliations. That's previously the Kingdom of Yemen. But the big difference is, the last thing I'll say: we've had this type of major paradigm shifts in the region before.

For instance, when the British pulled out of Yemen in 1967, or in 1971 when the UAE became a country and that's when the modern borders of Oman and the UAE were formed, the British were able to manage that and be probably the most influential power broker as they exited. But obviously, the British still have bases in Oman and three GCHQ, allegedly, listening stations, by the way, including right on the Strait of Hormuz. Just a footnote there. But you don't have the Western powers anymore in the region, and then the local powers are not strong. They don't have infantry. They can't fight on the ground. Saudi Arabia can't. Neither can the UAE. They're relying on mercenaries. They're relying on help from the air or from the West.

So all of this, this is a totally new reality for the region, whereby the former tribal hill tribes of Yemen have now emerged as a military force in this region by the Bab al-Mandab Straits. And Iran as well is now a formidable military power in the region. So it's totally flipped the dynamics. We're past post-colonial now. And this is where the West is really struggling because they're still, in some ways, still kind of in the past. And the idea that you can outsource everything to these Gulf countries and provide them with high-tech weapons and you can win by the air, this has proven to be not the case

in this new phase and with all the new technology, missiles and drones as well. That's a revolution in military affairs that the Gulf states have not been able to cope with either. So that's one thing I think people should pay attention to.

#Danny

Yeah, we have some breaking news too, Daniel. It seems Yemen has already—Ansar Allah has already responded by hitting Aramco headquarters in Riyadh. And this is already spiraling. Your reaction to this, and anything that Patrick would comment on?

#Daniel Davis

Yeah, I would just kind of piggyback off of it, talking about high-tech stuff and the weapons that people have or whatever. That still comes face-to-face with ground realities. And geography still matters. The training and the level of capabilities of troops still matters. Your motivation still matters. And when you have something close to a monolithic environment, body of troops, and the, like the—the, what's the word I'm looking for? The material from which you draw forces.

If they're all of the same mind, and the Houthis are pretty much, at least, of one mind, they are, and they're fighting on their home soil. And their home soil is mostly rocks, mostly from a lot of these mountains that they have. And so they have this perfect defensive capability. All the advantages go to those guys. And when you're talking about what Saudi Arabia said, like, a week or ten days ago, in an arrogant moment to sound tough, I guess, I don't know, but they said they were going to retake Sana'a. They were going to have their forces, their Yemen forces, and along with their air power and everything they can bring, and dadgummit, they're going to take them out this time.

They're going all the way to Sana'a. And I'm like, dude, have you looked at a map lately? Have you looked at the force ratios very well lately? Have you noticed the fact that the Houthis aren't just getting weapons and ammunition from Iran, like is claimed in the West all the time, but they have their own production capacity? Not a lot in the West are really aware of the reality here because they don't want to be, because of the memes that the West is putting in the war of Goebbels or Baghdad Bob, which says that they're rebels.

You know, they're just like rebels. Well, it turns out that they had captured, especially around Sana'a, a lot of the military-industrial complex intact. So they have the capacity, they have the intelligence, they have the wherewithal, the human capital, to build high-tech weapons of their own. They're not as big as Iran is, and so they don't have as much as they do, but they have a pretty good, solid inventory of domestic capabilities to produce both weapons, high-tech missiles, and long-range drones, and a lot of them in some of the medium size. So they have a pretty robust drone capability, certainly enough to maintain and sustain attacks across a long ways.

Then when you add just standard rifles, when you have artillery, mortars, et cetera, in that mountain terrain, it's just near to impossible for a ground force that's not motivated, that's not highly trained, and is not homogeneous, and is not going to literally just throw away tens of thousands of their lives and just keep on going up those mountains against the Houthis. So if you're talking about a contest of wills and a contest of geology and geography, then great. Saudi Arabia has airplanes, and they've got a lot of them, and they are doing damage. There's no doubt about that. But that's not enough to win a war. And if you're putting all your hopes on that, you're almost, in my view, you're almost like paying a lot to lose, because there's just no way.

I don't see any military path for the forces that Saudi Arabia has and its logistical capabilities at its disposal anymore, that they're going to be able to go into mountains and survive long enough to take out the Houthis, who have—I think it's like, Patrick, you can correct me if I'm wrong, you know this better than I do—but I think they have around 350,000 active troops, but they could mobilize almost double that number. And if it ever started getting to an existential issue, it wouldn't be hard to do that. And I just don't see any military path for Saudi Arabia to do anything except keep paying more to lose until they come to a diplomatic outcome and make a deal.

#Patrick Henningsen

I just have to quickly add to that. So, Daniel, what you're saying is, even with the total power and combined arms of the United States and NATO in Afghanistan, who had a crack at it for over 20 years—very similar in terms of geography, geology, terrain—the same types of problems, right? I mean, Saudi is nothing in that league of the United States and NATO. Definitely not. Certainly not in terms of infantry, ground operations, combined operations, logistics, supply lines. The U.S. is far superior with their NATO partners, and still they could not subdue or ultimately defeat the Taliban. And I would ask you, Daniel, in this case, the longer you're fighting them, is it a case where the Taliban would be able to adapt? So, the longer you engage with them, the better the enemy, the more skillful they become.

#Daniel Davis

Oh, man, 100%. And, in fact, I spent a lot of time in the Kunar Province along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, where those mountains are very similar to some of the ones that you see in Yemen right there. And we definitely saw that. The longer we went in there—my first combat deployment there was 2005—and from 2005 to 2010, when I came back in '10-'11 for my last combat deployment there, the Taliban had advanced considerably as they learned lessons. They figured out how we operate, and then they make counters to that, and they kept on growing. No matter how many of them we killed, they kept getting more of them. And so now then, here you have a situation very similar because the Ansar Allah are from there, just like the Taliban was from there.

And you had all this high-tech stuff, but to your point especially, you had the U.S. Army, you had British, you had German troops, and a lot of them, to include all the domestic ones from the Afghan forces. So you're talking about hundreds of thousands of troops, and we could never subdue a much smaller number, but much more motivated Taliban troops. And you have a similar situation here, except it's a lot worse because here there are the Yemen forces that are loyal to Saudi Arabia. So that's kind of analogous to the Afghan forces that we were allied with, except you don't have actual well-trained ground forces from a number of Western countries. So you don't even have that going for you. So, wow, this is crazy to me, to keep going down this path.

#Danny

And Daniel, I know you have a hard stop, so I definitely want your reaction to one more thing before you go. But with what you're saying too, Ansar Allah, I'm guessing, is a lot more difficult of an opponent in many ways even than the Taliban. Nothing on the Taliban—they did something really historic in kicking the U.S. out after all those years. But Ansar Allah, with the weapons that they have and what they've been able to demonstrate, is quite something else in particular. But look at this, Daniel, as you were talking about the Saudis and what they can bring to bear, and what does the Wall Street Journal look at? This is the editorial board, mind you. So they're talking straight from the mouthpiece of the Wall Street Journal: "If the Saudis will fight, the U.S. can help, but how about a regional anti-Houthi alliance with Israel and the UAE?" I mean, your final reaction to this? I know you only got a couple minutes.

#Daniel Davis

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Listen, I fought in coalition warfare. I did it in Desert Storm way back in the 1990s. I did it here in 2011, [unclear] in Afghanistan. And this is a very complex environment here. You've got to have a lot of moving pieces. You've got to have a lot of training. You've got a lot of forethought. And you have to have motivated and trained troops. It would take months, months to get that kind of a force up. And then you still, even after all that difficulty, once you've mastered all that—and that can be done—you can go through the process of getting all those things logistically taken care of. It'll take a while, but you can get it done there. You still have the geography. You still have the damn mountains there. Just like with us, just like Patrick, I'm glad you brought that up, Patrick.

It was the same thing when you had all these very well-trained NATO forces and we came in there. You still have the same issues of those mountains. And I've been there, I've fought in it myself, and I know how hard it is for us, and I know how easy it is for the defender. All those mountains give incredible, much more than I think is commonly understood, benefits to the defenders. It is so much harder for an offensive force to go in there. Look back in World War II. When the Allies went up the Italian boot, all the way up through there, it was just insane fighting with massive, massive casualties. You had air power, you had naval power, naval gunfire, and of course all the ground

troops. You're talking millions of people here, and it was a horrible, long, slow, bloody grind that went all the way up there. Nobody has the stomach to do that.

There are no millions of troops to go and take care of a situation like this. I mean, Israel and the UAE, seriously, you think the IDF and the UAE is going to put a bunch of ground forces on the ground in Yemen, and that's going to help move up, and you can help with air power or whatever? You're going to have to have boots on the ground, and I don't think that either one of those sides has it. You're wearing out the IDF as it is with what they're doing in Lebanon and in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank right now, and you think that they're going to let some of those guys go and go fight down here? Hell no, that's not going to happen, whatever the Wall Street Journal says. At least that's my view.

#Danny

Yeah. Well, Daniel, thanks so much for taking the time. I know you have a hard stop now, so I definitely want to have you back on soon. Everyone should follow Daniel Davis Deep Dive, and they can follow that in the video description below after the show. All right. You have a good time. All right. Take care. Take care. Bye. All right, Patrick. Well, one thing I wanted to—I know that you mentioned this to me before the show, and so I wanted to—we can dive right into it. I don't know if you saw when you mentioned the firing squad that's going to happen December 3rd.

Soldiers, U.S. troops are already looking for a way out. They're trying to file religious exemptions for this. They say hundreds are already doing that. But maybe you can outline exactly what's going on here. This is like the internal rot, I feel like, because you have the U.S., Israel, and Saudi Arabia. They're all engaged in wars of aggression of some kind—many, actually. But they are all also experiencing an internal rot. And I don't think there's a story bigger than this one that demonstrates that. So, to you.

#Patrick Henningsen

I think, you know, looking at this story, thanks for bringing this up, Danny. It would have been great to have this conversation with Daniel Davis, of course, because it is a military execution. But we can have that conversation with Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Davis at another moment. But it's unprecedented. This isn't like another public execution. By the way, the United States did away with public executions a long time ago. The last one was in 1937. And the one that sealed the fate of public executions was in 1936. Okay. What's interesting is nobody cites the 1937 execution because it was a white man. His name was Roscoe Red Jackson. He was a serial killer-type character, Natural Born Killers type, would hitchhike and then kill, you know, brutally murder people.

But, you know, what's interesting, as a white man in 1937, the audience of his public execution—this was before television broadcasting, obviously—the audience was 500 people, okay? The one that people cite as the last public execution is Rainey Bethea. That was in 1936. He was a black man, and

he was convicted of a brutal rape and murder of a 70-year-old white woman who was his employer, apparently, as the story goes. But there were 20,000 people at that public execution. So there was absolutely a racial element to it. This is unavoidable, okay? And the reason it was a disaster is because they turned it into a circus, carnival-like atmosphere. It was a huge embarrassment to the local government. It became chaotic.

And the Roosevelt administration obviously was not happy because it painted the U.S. in a very bad light internationally. It was just bread and circuses on crack, basically. A total mess. So you have the same thing here. If Nidal Hasan was a white Christian and he had just blown a fuse and on the military base did a mass shooting, would Pete Hegseth want to livestream the execution? Let's be honest, okay? The answer is absolutely not. Hasan was convicted in 2013. He's been appealing his death sentence, okay, by firing squad. Military doesn't do public executions. There's never been a time when it's been public. It's only to assembled ranks of officers. And it's usually for desertion, treason, disciplinary-type things. That would be the normal state. So this is different, okay?

If it's livestreamed, it's not to an audience of 20,000. It's not to a U.S. audience. It's global. It's global. So—and Hegseth, the unhinged, tattoo-laden Christian soldier, Pete Hegseth, who really has Crusader iconography tattooed all over his body, okay? He made a point to say this is a war on Islam when he announced the livestreaming of this execution. I mean, where is this coming from? Are the people of America demanding a livestreaming of a military execution? And then the guy who's calling for it, the self-styled Secretary of War, is saying this is radical Islamic terror and so forth, basically painting Nidal Hasan as a combatant. Well, if he's a combatant, then consider it an act of war. But do you publicly execute combatants on livestreaming? Does the U.S. government do that?

No. Who does that? ISIS does that. ISIS does it. Other sort of terrorist organizations like to do that. We decry Saudi Arabia, but they don't even do public executions in Saudi Arabia. They cut off a lot of heads, and we say that's barbaric. So what is going on here? I'll tell you what's going on. And he named the date, December 3rd. This is an incitement. This is attempted incitement. Pete Hegseth, where is this coming from? You know where this is coming from. Listen to the speech of Benjamin Netanyahu at the UN General Assembly. He's basically telling America, he's telling the world, he tells Europe in all the speeches when he gives speeches in Europe that Israel is engaged in the clash of civilizations and that they are a Western proxy holding the gates of Vienna against these Muslim hordes and the Arab hordes.

That is absolutely the Netanyahu line. That is the Smotrich-Ben-Gvir far-right Israeli line. So the Israel lobby... We have to assume that this is not coming from Pete Hegseth alone. He'll willingly go forward with this, but to what end? Behind him, I believe, are Zionist and Israeli forces that are egging this on. And also that Trump, of course, is game for any bread and circuses, as we know. So think about what will happen, Daniel. Do you remember The Innocence of Muslims, the YouTube film in 2012? So that sparked off some Muslim riots around the world. I was blamed for the sacking of the U.S. CIA station in Benghazi at the time and the death of Christopher Stevens and burning of the U.S. embassy.

It turns out that that wasn't the sole reason for the destruction of the U.S. embassy in Benghazi at the time. Hillary Clinton used that as an excuse at the beginning, said it was a YouTube video. The guy who made that film was very shady, posed as an Israeli, claimed he had Israeli funding to make the film. He was a convicted felon. Why on earth was he making this weird film that got released? Clearly this was an op. We don't know for sure what kind of an op it was, but we can be sure it was an op. So if the date's been set, Danny, for December 3rd, and you know what's going to happen. It's going to be brushfire when this goes on YouTube. All the racists, Elon Musk will put this to the top, all of the Islamophobic stuff. It'll be vile. It'll be chaotic.

It'll be like the execution of Rainey Bethea in 1936, but extrapolated over the global internet. Race-driven clash of civilizations, fueling sectarian division, hate, all of that. It shouldn't happen. There's no reason for it to happen. So I'm left to conclude, and other smart commentators have picked this up, that it is happening for a reason, and that this will be—the U.S. could very easily spark a riot in a country like Iraq, for instance. Right, right. Arab nationalist country where the U.S. doesn't like the government. This could be used to spark unrest and some kind of chaotic series of events in a lot of European cities. This is the race war. This is the religious war that the far right have been begging for. And Pete Hegseth is going to deliver it.

He himself is an end-times dispensationalist. He's a Christian Zionist fanatic. He believes in rebuilding the Third Temple on top of Al-Aqsa. So Pete Hegseth believes they need to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque, third most holy site in Islam, to build the Third Temple and make the prophecy, the Zionist prophecy, materialize. He is a member of that cult. He was selected to be defense minister, secretary of war, by the Israeli lobby, and they lobbied heavily to senators to confirm him because of that. That's what I am concluding from this. This is a moment, right, that's coming. This is a moment. This is now a train that is heading down the tracks. They've set the date.

And, you know, if you wanted to create some kind of a major religious conflagration, or to rev up both sides, or to make an excuse for a false flag Islamic terror event in the West, this would be it. This is that moment. And then that would be a nuclear retaliation by the U.S. and Israel against Iran or whatever. You can kind of just imagine—this is insane. And so, if this is insane, what is being proposed here, then you have to believe that everything that comes after that is going to be even more insane. So I'm saying this could be a disaster. I hope I'm wrong. I hope they call it off. I hope no soldiers show up with their rifles to want to do this exhibitionism, the most grotesque exhibitionism, with the ringleader being a massive exhibitionist himself.

Pete Hegseth, literally. He is an exhibitionist. He's always got his sleeves rolled up so he'd show his tattoos. You notice this? Totally insecure. He's always projecting this image. He's got "infidel" tattooed on the inside of his right bicep in Arabic to project that he is fighting the Muslims, basically. That's what that is, that he's the devil and he thinks he's projecting fear into the eyes and minds of

Muslims by having "infidel" tattooed in Arabic right on his right bicep. This is sick, okay? This is a deranged individual. He's been put in a very powerful position, and now he's about to press the button of something extremely volatile.

And the president is backing him. The Israeli lobby are gleefully giddy, wringing their hands behind the scenes, I'm telling you right now. So what have they got planned after around December 3rd? What have they got planned? Because this is not happening by coincidence. And I'm just saying this, and people can believe me or not, but this is extraordinary. The fact that this is going to happen, or people are even talking about it, to me is extraordinary. It's such a departure from the decorum and normal kind of integrity and avoiding these kind of, you know, grotesque public executions. I mean, what the F? This is a moment in history for America.

If you can't find your moral compass right now, Americans, then I wouldn't have a lot of confidence that you can hold the country together in the future. I'm sorry, but that's, you know, this is not the America that I was educated and raised to understand and to respect. And these do not reflect American values at all, for I think the majority of Americans would agree with me. But a lot of people are just either too, I don't know, intoxicated, you know, desensitized, Stockholm syndrome, despondent, who knows? I don't know, but this is a moment. This is a moment. The Democrats better pull their damn finger out if they want to do something about it. This could easily be derailed, by the way.

#Danny

Oh, yeah, especially after the midterms too, and before the midterms.

#Patrick Henningsen

So, Daniel, this is just something that... I just cited a very, very important point of history for people in a pre-internet, pre-television. This is why we got rid of these things. But we've never had a military one. This is unprecedented. This is a break from protocol, and I believe it's way outside of the bounds of the U.S. military, way outside. This was a crime. That means, why is he doing it, Danny? This is a political stunt. There is no other reason. There's no legal reason. There's no deterrent reason, because how often does that happen on a U.S. base? Once? Once in 300 years? So there's no deterrent value to it whatsoever. This is incitement. This is incitement. I'm 100% certain of this. And people should not give this—they should not let this go easily and allow these people to steamroll our values, our morals, potentially world peace as a result. And you're empowering some of the darkest forces, I'm telling you, by going down this road. It's not a road you want to go down, America, I can tell you.

#Danny

Yeah, very well said, Patrick. And it also builds this interesting chain of events, which, as you said, will have global ramifications. We had the RAF incidents in the UK. Then we had the Fly Dubai. And many people would say that those incidents, you know, relatively small, didn't pan out to really anything. But it builds an atmosphere for something bigger and bigger. Should this go through, it certainly would be bigger and really, as you said, stir the pot, incite, and give the United States and Israel, at least the regimes, the elites, a big terrain to, you know, plausibly deny whatever reaction.

#Patrick Henningsen

Look how far behind the eight ball Israel is in terms of its public polling, approval, support. It's cratered, it's tanked, so they're really in a hole, I think. And so imagine if they—then some, you know, as if by magic, some kind of Islamic false flag attack happens in America or Europe or something. And then there's some vicious response from the U.S. against Iran, probably. Most likely it would be Iran. They'd be blamed. An Iranian terror attack or something.

It would completely reverse the fortunes of Israel, and it would bury everything else under another heap of ash and move on, business as usual, let the wars continue. So that's kind of what you're risking here, and we're troubleshooting these potential possibilities. But you can be sure that somebody is calculating very carefully what they might be able to get away with under the, you know, the cloud, the mayhem of that kind of a global event. So that's what I'm telling people to really bear in mind here.

#Danny

Yeah, and it's really important, too, that the Israeli regime has seen its stock crater around the world. And, you know, the United States—its regime—both domestically and abroad, also having huge legitimacy problems. So there is incentive on Israel—every side here. And we know that it's all aligning with the fact that you have this whole region now of the world that is such a focal point for the U.S. empire and for Israel. And they both are demonstrating that they have no interest in pulling back and doing what the Trump administration, Donald Trump himself, was campaigning on for so long, which is to stop the wars and the waste and all this. No, no, it's now—we can now, you know, this is all mask-off moment, Patrick. And we know we're at the last couple of minutes here. Do you have any final comments before we start closing out the show?

#Patrick Henningsen

No, I mean, there's a lot of things that we could extrapolate on and analyze—some crazy comments by the president. I mean, the one that comes to mind that's just completely, patently insane is him saying that, well, you know, we might have to sacrifice Los Angeles or San Diego. He's talking about a nuclear attack from Iran. But what the hell is he talking about? Like, he's confabulating different things in his head. But he makes these statements to the press. What exactly is he talking about?

Well, would U.S. long-range bombers be launched from San Diego or Los Angeles? Or long-range nuclear bombers, if they did bomb Iran, is that what he's referring to? Because these comments, they don't make any sense. He's not really pulled up on them properly, but there's all sorts of messaging going on. It's a very strange comment that he made. And people say, well, because they're liberal cities, and not necessarily. There's a lot of conservatives in San Diego. I can tell you right now, Orange County, San Diego, that's a conservative hotbed of California, by the way. So I don't think you could make a partisan analysis to somehow frame Trump's statement there.

But nonetheless, it's a kind of reckless, nihilistic statement—comment by a U.S. president during a war situation where people are bandying about the use of nuclear weapons, and the threshold has been considerably lowered on all sides. It's disturbing, to say the least. So I hope people don't get too ensconced in the upcoming election to forget about the other things that we really should also be paying attention to in addition to that. So, and this is one of them. It's never—the nuclear alarm, in terms of the risk of something happening, has never, I think, been higher than it is right now, save for maybe the Cuban Missile Crisis historically. So people should bear that in mind, especially people in Washington, and Republicans and Democrats equally.

#Danny

Yeah, this was a great show, Patrick. It was great to have Daniel Davis on the show with us. We'll have to do that again. We'll have to have you both back on very soon. I want to make sure everybody knows that both Daniel Davis Deep Dive, but also your show, Patrick, 21st Century Wire, are in the video description below, as well as your Substack. So everyone should check that out after the show. Make sure you support Patrick's work, as well as Daniel's. Thanks to Zanadine for the super chat. Thanks to all the moderators. There are quite a few of you here today, so I appreciate all of your help in the chat. Be sure to hit the like button before you go. I'll be back tomorrow with Alastair Crooke at 10 a.m. Eastern, so a bit earlier tomorrow. So catch me in the morning, 10 a.m. Eastern, with Alastair Crooke. All right, everybody, Patrick and I are going to be out of here, but Patrick will be back on soon to continue the conversation. Everybody hit the like button, and I'll see you all again tomorrow. Bye-bye.