

Scott Ritter: Iran OBLITERATE Tel Aviv, Khamenei's Death BACKFIRES on Trump

Scott Ritter reacts to Iran's Operation True Promise 4 escalating overnight in heavy retaliation to US-Israeli strikes. Tel Aviv and a host of US bases in region came under heavy fire, and the former UN Weapons Inspector joins to break down what happened and what it means for the future of the war, Trump and much more. Scott Ritter: <https://scottritter.com> , <https://donate.stripe.com/dRm3cw2AeeY06slfeld7q00> FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #trump #israel

#Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I'm joined by former UN weapons inspector, U.S. Marine Corps intelligence officer, and current geopolitical analyst and author, Scott Ritter. Scott, thanks so much for joining me again. Thanks for having me. Yeah, it's been too long, Scott—unfortunately, in these times—because we've had an absolutely historic crisis erupt. The U.S. and Israel have launched a war of aggression on Iran, and Iran has launched its retaliation. There are reports that Iran has been gradually escalating its response to include the Fattah, I believe—two older hypersonic missiles now. A lot of the focus has been on both U.S. bases and Israel. I'm just going to pull up some of the footage from Israel lately, because there have been a lot of strikes there overnight. Here's some of the footage coming out of Tel Aviv and also Beit Shemesh, which I believe is militarily significant.

#Speaker 1

Here we go.

#Danny

So there's a missile hitting there, and then here's one in Beit Shemesh.

#Speaker 1

Oh, shit. It's a motherf***ing rocket. Oh, my.

#Danny

So a lot of this has been going on, Scott, and it's actually led to significant casualties. Of course, Israel has a long history of underreporting, but I believe 12 have died in Beit Shemesh and Tel Aviv. The numbers are a little muddled. Iran is also saying that in strikes on Kuwait—on the military bases there—there have been U.S. casualties. The U.S. has denied this. How about you take us through where we are now in this war, now that we've entered day two?

#Scott Ritter

Well, first of all—and I don't mean this as a swipe at you—but the war porn of watching things blow up and counting bodies is totally irrelevant to what's happening here. This is a regime change operation, and that's what people should be focused on, because everything else is simply a distraction. You can easily match the missile strikes on Israel and on Gulf Arab states with the complete devastation of downtown Tehran that's taking place as we speak, and in other Iranian cities as well. The reality is, this conflict has unleashed weapons of extraordinary lethality, and each side is going to keep trading blows.

And so we're just going to get more of this, and more of this, and more of this. And, uh, you know, it's viscerally pleasing, I guess, in a sort of sickening way to watch this, depending on which side of the aisle you're on. I'm sure the anti-Islamic regime people are just thrilled every time they see a giant cloud of smoke rising from Tehran or other Iranian cities. Yeah. Tragically, one of those clouds of smoke hit a children's school, and over a hundred little girls are dead. But, you know, the bloodthirsty warmongers don't seem to care about that. And, of course, those who believe that the U. S. and Israeli aggression against Iran is illegal, unjustified, uncalled for, silently cheer every time Iran strikes a blow against Israel.

They're attackers. But this isn't what this is about. This isn't about body counts or the accumulation of destroyed facilities. This is about regime change. This is a regime change operation. And it began with a decapitation strike against Iran—the most predictable decapitation strike in the history of decapitation strikes. I mean, even an analyst as misguided as me, according to many in your chat, called it accurately. I said the first thing that would happen is they'd kill Ali Khamenei. It's an absolutely essential part of their plan because they want to create the impression of a weakened Islamic Republic, and then they'll suppress.

And that's what's happening today—the ongoing bombardment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard command and Basij and police facilities in and around Tehran and other cities—so that the Iranian people can do the bidding of Donald Trump, who, in his eight-minute statement announcing this conflict on his social media platform, Truth Social, said, you know, America will do its job. We will blow these people up, kill these people. But then it's up to you, the Iranian people, to rise up and take matters into your own hands. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. You must do this. So we know what's at stake here: regime change. But we also see the fatal flaw in the American plan. The

first six bombs that struck Iran killed Ali Khamenei and a number of Iranian officials who were around him.

The first six bombs—those first six bombs spelled the doom of the American effort. We lost the war at that moment because we don't understand anything. To all the ignorant people in your chat, in other people's chats, and around the world: if you want to discredit Ali Khamenei, you keep him alive. You have him running from bunker to bunker to bunker while Iran is destroyed. You show his impotence as a leader, and then you openly mock that impotence on social media abroad, promoting the strength of those you want to replace him with. For instance, the Shah's son, Reza Pahlavi, could go on the air over and over again and say, "Where is Ali Khamenei? Where is your Supreme Leader, hiding in a bunker while you pay the price for his sins?"

That's how you destroy Ali Khamenei. Do people know anything about the Shia faith? All you haters in the chats out there—do you know jack squat about it? Do you know what the Battle of Karbala is? October 10th, I think, 680 or so. Do you know who Hussein is? You know, Hussein led the faithful in the Battle of Karbala and was martyred at the hands of the unbelievers. Do you know who Ali is? Do you know the significance of the last post on Ali Khamenei's X account, where they invoke Ali? You just made a martyr of one of the most important religious figures in the Shia faith, second only to Sistani out of Najaf—the Twelver. Do you guys even know what Twelvers are?

If I say "Twelver," the ignorant people out there promoting this conflict—do you even know what I'm talking about? If you don't, that's why we lost. See, the Twelver faith is the largest branch of the Shia faith, and it deals with the succession of the caliphate, etc. You guys can Google it, look it up, do your own research. But the fact is, you don't know about it. Donald Trump doesn't know about it. Pete Hegseth certainly doesn't know about it. And anybody who planned this attack doesn't know about it. If the goal was to empower the Iranian people who are opposed to the regime of the Islamic Republic to rise up in the streets and take matters into their own hands—look at the streets of Iran today.

#Danny

I have video, Scott. I have video—I can show you.

#Scott Ritter

Show the streets of Iran today.

#Danny

Here's one video. I believe there's another—let me see if I have it. Here we go, there's another one. All of this is in reaction to the confirmed killing, the assassination, of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Continue, Scott.

#Scott Ritter

Well, my point is, you just made it impossible for regime change to take place. You've just given more legitimacy to the Islamic Republic than you could possibly imagine. And for all the morons out there—and I don't mean to be too insulting, Danny—but I'm in an insulting mood. I was up all day, talking about this, reading about this, writing about this, and I've basically had it up to here with stupidity. So you know what I'm going to do? I'm going to turn off your comments, because otherwise I'm just going to go apeshit at some of the stupidity that's there.

#Danny

It's a large crowd today, Scott. It's a large crowd, so we're going to get a lot of—

#Scott Ritter

Sure, there are smart people in there too, but my God, I've never seen such ignorance in my entire life. And it's not just here—it's everywhere. Judge Napolitano has a very large and active audience, many of whom are just stupid and ignorant, like many people in this audience. You don't know what you're talking about. You literally don't know what you're talking about. Iran is a constitutional republic—an Islamic republic, but a constitutional republic. And therefore, does anybody realize what just happened? Because constitutionally, when the Supreme Leader, the **Velayat-e Faqih**—the guardian of the supreme jurisprudence—dies... do you even know what this is, you stupid people? Donald Trump, the leader of the stupid people—do you know what this is? And do you know what happens when he dies? They form a special committee: the president, the head of the judiciary, and someone appointed by the Assembly of Experts.

Do you guys know what that is? No, you don't, do you? No, you guys are just so stupid. The Assembly of Experts will designate the next Supreme Leader in consultation, but they will appoint somebody on this three-person committee to continue the government of Iran. Now, the person they have appointed—again, how stupid can people be? If the purpose of this strike was to create conditions in which Iran could not have a nuclear bomb, you just killed the one man who stopped Iran from having a nuclear bomb. Have any of you brilliant chatmeisters studied the buildup to the 12-day war in June and what was going on there—the internal discussions and debates taking place in Iran about whether or not they should, in fact, build a nuclear bomb to deter the very kind of action that's taking place today?

And at the end of the day—and I got this personally from the Iranian president, who is still alive—he told me, in response to a question I asked him in September, "We don't want a nuclear bomb." He said there are two reasons. One, secularly speaking, they view the path to a nuclear bomb as suicidal, that it would only invite their own destruction. But he said, as importantly or even more importantly, from a religious standpoint, the Supreme Leader has issued not one but two fatwas, or religious edicts, saying that the pursuit of a nuclear bomb is incompatible with Islam. And therefore,

Iran is not pursuing a nuclear bomb. Do you guys know the guy they just appointed to be the new Supreme Leader-designate?

#Danny

He thinks differently.

#Scott Ritter

You see, he actually is part of the Shia faithful who believe that even though the original fatwa was put out by Ayatollah Khomeini—not Khamenei, but Khomeini—again, idiots, look it up. He said, no, we're not going to pursue this; it's incompatible with Islam. Ali Khamenei continued this, saying this is the desire. But theologians—when you look at the Shia faith—you know, you have the ability... First of all, the thing about the Shia faith, I'm just going to give these ignorant people a quick little class here. You know how you become an Ayatollah in the Shia faith? You spend about 30 to 40 years studying the Quran, studying the Hadith. But you have a final test you have to pass, you see, because the Shia faith is very democratic.

If you want to become a Grand Ayatollah, you have to form what's known as a marja. A marja, or you have to become a marja through a hawza. You basically have to rally people to your cause and show yourself to be worthy of the faithful. So you pick an element of Islamic jurisprudence and write your interpretation of it, because you are, after all, a great religious scholar. Say you pick something like music on the radio—how is it compatible with Islam? You write this up, put it out there, and people read it and say, "Wow, I like the way this guy thinks. I like the approach this guy's taking." And then they come to your marja, and you develop a flock.

And if you show that you can develop a flock—a self-sustaining flock, because they rely on donations and all that—then you've passed that hurdle and you can move up. But what happens if you publish your little thesis and people read it and go, "Nah, not buying this one," and you've got nothing? You failed the test. Now, Ali Khamenei has said that the fatwa is no nuclear weapons. But the point is, in the Shia faith, the role of Islam in society isn't dictated by what happened during the time of Muhammad or Ali or Hussein. It's dictated by modern realities. And so the Shia understand that you can say one thing in, say, 1700, and it no longer applies today because society has changed. Times have changed.

And in that debate leading up to the 12-day war, and the reaffirmation by Ali Khamenei and the president that they do not seek a nuclear bomb, there were many theological scholars advising Khamenei that he could change his fatwa if the conditions surrounding the original ruling were no longer in play. For instance, if Iran were threatened by Israel, which has nuclear weapons, Iran could reconsider the fatwa and, under extraordinary circumstances, determine that it could have a nuclear weapon. The guy who was making that argument is now the senior Islamic cleric in Iran. You stupid idiots.

The man who believes that Iran has a right to have a nuclear bomb is now the one who interprets the Islamic faith for the Islamic Republic. And the people of Iran are in the streets saying, "This is what we want." How stupid can you be? Well, the answer is: extraordinarily stupid. And so now we see the reality. This Islamic Republic is not built on the back of one man; it's built on the back of a constitution that's being applied as we speak—no deviation from the constitution whatsoever. Things are going exactly the way the constitution says they must, and on the backs of the faithful. And you've just empowered the faithful to say, "We need nuclear weapons."

Now, we're in a very dangerous position, but let's continue down the path of regime change for a second. You see, regime change is a double-edged sword. Donald Trump unsheathed it, along with Israel, and sought to wield it against the Iranians. But it cuts both ways. Donald Trump lost the war on day one—the first six bombs that fell on Iran. He lost the war, which means there will be regime change in the United States before there's regime change in Iran. Donald Trump's cult of personality will not survive the midterm elections, because in order to win those elections, he needed to deliver a very quick, relatively bloodless war to the American people.

One that accomplished what no other American president in 47 years has been able to do. But instead, he's going to go down the path of yet another failed president who's gotten the United States involved in a long, drawn-out war that we won't win. We will lose. We don't know how many lives we will lose, but it'll be devastating. The Iranians will not buckle. There will be no popular uprising in Iran to overthrow the regime. Ali Khamenei is a martyr now—a martyr, a martyr of the significance of Hussein himself, a martyr who, in the eyes of the Shia faithful, is the equal of Ali. That's why the last posting on his X account invoked Ali, a symbol of defiance.

And so the Shia faithful were rallying around a man who was, what, 88 years old at his death? Eighty-six, but close. Eighty-six, and he had a disease. His biggest fear was to die a fragile old man. He said he wanted to go out as a martyr. People keep saying, why did he stay in his residence knowing what was going to happen? Why did Hussein lead the charge against the unfaithful in the Battle of Karbala? Because he chose martyrdom. He chose martyrdom as a way of exposing the lack of Islamic adherence on the part of the Umayyad Caliphs. He chose martyrdom to protect his followers who were seeking to flee from the battle. Ali Khamenei, this frail old man, didn't want to die hiding in a bunker, allowing his legacy to be tarnished by those who would diminish him through that action.

Ali Khamenei sat down with a circle of fellow martyrs. Everybody at that meeting knew what was going to happen, and they knew that through their sacrifice, they would elevate the cause of the Islamic Republic back into the heart and soul of the Iranian people. And that is manifest today. Ali Khamenei chose martyrdom. We gave it to him because we are truly the stupidest people on the planet. We don't know anything about the people we seek to engage in combat with. We disrespect their faith. We disrespect everything about them, and what's going to happen has actually been preordained by American admirals.

You know, Trump fired the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for having the temerity to say, "We don't have enough ammunition to finish this job. We're going to start something we can't finish. If we don't get this quick revolution in the streets and the Iranians decide to resist, then we'll run out of ammunition before they run out of resistance—and then we lose this war." And when we lose this war, the American people will wake up to the reality that Donald Trump is not a president of peace, but a pro-Israeli warmonger who put Israel above American interests, sacrificed the lives of Americans, and slaughtered innocent Iranians.

These dead schoolchildren will become the poster children for the perfidy of the United States, which once again used diplomacy as a means of setting up a surprise attack. We will never be trusted by anybody again, nor should we. But this is the end of Donald Trump. His regime will collapse in the midterm elections, and he will spend the last two years of his presidency being impeached. And if this war goes badly enough, maybe he'll be convicted and hauled out of the White House in an orange jumpsuit and handcuffs, because that is his fate—regime change. This is going to be one of the most successful regime change operations in the history of regime change operations, but it is literally a self-inflicted wound by Donald Trump on his own political legacy.

#Danny

Yeah, no, I really appreciate all that, Scott. I think it's really important, especially for American audiences, to hear exactly what you just said. And I just want to pull up and emphasize a point you made. Ali Larijani said directly to the media that he insisted on living his life normally, without any exceptional measures like hiding in bunkers. And when I saw that, Scott, I said, this was a calculated move to unite the Iranian people—and it's working. And, you know, what did Ali Khamenei say just, what was it, a few weeks ago, when there were all kinds of rumors about strikes? He publicly said there was a succession plan, a strategy already put into place very rapidly. And, Scott, we see the response. Iran is hitting back. Their operations haven't been disrupted. At least, that's what I'm seeing. What are you seeing?

#Scott Ritter

No, it's the same thing. I mean, you say their operations aren't being disrupted—of course they are. Iran is being pounded by the most technologically advanced militaries in the world: the Israeli military, which achieved its technological prominence because of American weaponry, and the United States, which, of course, when you pour in nearly a trillion dollars a year—or 1.5 trillion if this budget goes through—you'd better have advanced weapons. And so we are inflicting death and destruction on Iran as we speak. But Iran is a very large nation, four times the size of Iraq, with a population of 90 million. Threatening to bomb people to death in a nation that reveres martyrdom is really the dumbest path to take. As you said, Ali Khamenei opted to stay at home and do his business from home, together with people who believe the same thing, because they are leaders.

They're going to lead by example. And the example for Iran to set right now is their willingness to absorb the damage inflicted by, you know, the "evil modern-day Umayyads," Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, because they believe that in the end they'll emerge victorious. So, we're blowing things up—but the Iranians are responding, and they're responding in a way that took everybody off guard. I think most people thought Iran would respond directly to Israel, and then there'd be a kind of escalation ladder, striking one American base and then another, in an effort to get the United States and Israel to the negotiating table. But Iran literally just went out and hit everything. And even the Trump administration didn't expect this to happen.

They've hit us in a way nobody's ever hit us before—and they're sustaining it. You know, yes, we're blowing things up. But if we don't understand that, for the last 20 years, Iran has been preparing for this very scenario—that Iran understands better than we do what we do—then, you know, they'll take losses, but they'll keep launching, as we're seeing now. They've built stockpiles that are successfully hidden, sequestered, spread out, and they'll be able to draw on them for months. We, on the other hand, will run out of ammunition in weeks. And again, we look at regime change just from a targeting perspective—for the ignorant masses in your chat and everybody else's chat.

I used to do this for a living, so shut up and listen. When we prepare a strategic air campaign of this nature, we have objectives we want to reach. We say that by a certain period of time, we should achieve these results. Then we move from this to that. It's a campaign of sequential events that build on one another. You get to the culminating moment, which is the collapse of the enemy you're targeting. We have a finite amount of resources, so we take those resources and allocate them accordingly. We put them, for instance, into the first phase—the first goal or objective—to achieve that, and then we take those resources and reapply them as part of a planned process to achieve the next, and the next, and the next.

But what happens—and it happened in the Gulf War—is that, for instance, we had resources: two F-15E Strike Eagle squadrons assigned to one of the primary Phase One objectives, which was suppressing Iraq's ballistic missile launch capability in western Iraq. We sent them out to strike fixed launchers and hit mobile launch sites. According to the plan, we were supposed to have achieved all this by the second day—first day of primary strikes, second day of restrikes. Then, once that target deck was wiped out, we'd move those squadrons over to their next mission assignments, waiting for them outside Basra and outside Baghdad.

But we didn't destroy anything. The missiles kept launching, so we had to keep those F-15E squadrons on target and reinforce them, diverting resources away from the other target decks to go down this route. It degraded the strategic air campaign. At that time, though, we had sufficient resources—we had a lot of airplanes, a lot of bombs—so we just lengthened the strategic air campaign and rode out that problem set. Here, we have a strategic air campaign that's crippled from

the start by insufficient resources. The admiral who was fired said, "We don't have enough airplanes, and we don't have enough bombs, so we can't do what you want us to do." But the others came in and said, "No, no, we've planned this very carefully."

We're going to kill a bunch of people. The first six bombs are going to kill, call it, 40 people. And that will trigger the collapse of the regime. Then we move to suppression of the security forces, and then we achieve regime change. And we win. And Trump can do his stupid little Trump YMCA moronic dance. So they fired a whole bunch of missiles—just a whole bunch—to achieve regime change. If you heard what we just said, I hope the audience is listening. The regime has not collapsed. It has fallen back on the Constitution, and the president of Iran sits at the head of a three-person succession committee until they elect a new supreme leader. There's the Assembly of Experts, which, by the way, is democratically elected.

I want to remind all you haters out there that Iran is probably the most successfully functioning democracy in the Middle East. They elect the Assembly of Experts, who then, through the will of the people, monitor the supreme leader and select the new supreme leader. And the regime continues. It's there. It's viable. It's functioning. We failed in regime change. So all those resources we used up on day one are gone. Now we have to reallocate resources to keep hunting down the regime. We've already put ourselves behind the eight ball, chasing something we'll never catch up to because we don't have time. We don't have time because we don't have the resources.

We don't have the ammunition. We're burning through it at rates we'll never be able to replenish. And it's not just what we're doing against Iran—it's what Iran is doing against us. By continuing to fly these attacks, they're sucking up resources. Over a thousand Iranian missiles were launched on day one. The average expenditure rate for air defense is three to four interceptors per missile. That means we've burned through three to four thousand interceptor missiles—and the missiles are still flying. The Iranians have planned a campaign that will last months. We can probably sustain this for maybe another week, and then we run out of missiles. We've got nothing left. Nothing. And just again, for all you genius geopolitical analysts out there—when I say nothing, that means we have nothing in the Pacific.

What would happen if China decided they wanted to take Taiwan right now? We've got nothing. All our cruise missiles are being chewed up. All our interceptor missiles are gone. What would happen? I mean, Russia's not going to do it, but if Russia wanted to make a move on Europe, we've got nothing—nothing. This is the stupidity of it. We gambled everything to achieve what? To make Israel happy. The Iranians had agreed to—there's a wonderful post on X written by one of the diplomatic advisors to the ruler of Oman, who was managing this negotiation—and he talks about what had been accomplished. He said the deal agreed to by the Iranians got rid of their nuclear enrichment program in everything but name only, meaning that if you wanted to ensure Iran would never have a nuclear weapon, this was the deal.

This would have been Donald Trump's great peacemaking diplomatic victory—peace through strength. Threaten an attack, get the Iranians to the table, and put them under enough pressure to agree to something so fundamental that you could legitimately say there will never be an Iranian nuclear war, because there are no sunset clauses in this—unlike the JCPOA, which aged out. This one was permanent, forever. And the Iranians had agreed to it. It was in writing. They were moving toward a signing ceremony. This guy talks about how he ordered twelve Montblanc Meisterstück pens for the signing ceremony at \$620 each. But we weren't serious about the nuclear program.

We're using it as a subterfuge to carry out the Israel-pleasing regime change operation, which has now failed. But it not only failed to get rid of the regime—it also means that nuclear program could very well become active. I want to ask all the morons in your chat: what is the status of the 60% enriched uranium that we failed to destroy in Donald Trump's first attack against Iran? We didn't know where it was. We still don't know where it is. Do you think we're getting it today? And if we don't get it, do you think Iran may have, over time, sequestered away enough final manufacturing capacity to convert that into at least five or ten nuclear bombs the size of Hiroshima?

But you don't know, do you? Because you're stupid. You're as stupid as the president is. I'm sorry, Danny, I shouldn't be insulting your audience or any audience, but I'm so fed up. It's because of the ignorance of people like this that the president believes he has legitimacy to do what he's doing. We have stupid people out there who don't think through the problem, who are ignorant of the problem. And, you know, I'm just fed up with them because, you know, we are looking at a world that's going to hell. The defeat of America, as pleasing as it may be to the pro-Iranian community out there—if you're an American patriot, you can't want this. You cannot be seeking this.

If you're somebody like me who actually took the oath, swore allegiance, put on the uniform, and went to war for my country, you can't celebrate anything that results in the death of the men and women who put on that uniform. And yet they're dying—the Defense Department, I call it. Legally, that's what it is. It's not a War Department; that title doesn't exist under law. But the Defense Department has acknowledged the deaths of at least three American servicemen, they said, in combat operations against Iran. We don't know if they died on the ground in Iran, because there are ongoing raids taking place outside the scope of what most people are talking about. Special Operations Forces are on the ground.

I think there was an attempt to raid one of those underground missile cities that didn't go well, and we had to withdraw. You know, so there's this activity. You know, we can say, like I do, that I don't want the Iranian regime to collapse, but I will never cheerlead in favor of the death of any American—at all, ever. And yet that's the situation we're in right now, where Americans are dying. And then again, how can you cheerlead for what America is doing? Because one of the first missiles that struck Iran hit a secondary school, and over a hundred children—schoolgirls, ages between six

and twelve—are dead. Imagine being a mother who sent her children to school that morning because she believed there would be peace, because the United States was engaged in a legitimate negotiation.

Marco Rubio announced he was traveling to Israel on Monday, and therefore, of course, there can't be a war if Marco Rubio is traveling. So, in good conscience, he said, "I'm sending my children to school so they can become educated, become part of something, have a brighter future." And you send them to school only to have an Israeli missile hit that school and kill virtually everybody inside. You can't celebrate this. You can't celebrate any aspect of this. And yet here we are, because of the stupidity of a president who is guided by the stupidity of his political faithful, who are as ignorant as the day is long about the world we live in.

#Danny

Yeah, I mean, anyone—the United States, the Donald Trump administration, of course—all the warmongers, the hawks, they've put, you know, regardless of what you think about the U.S. bases there, whether they should be there or not, they've now put the U.S., you know, everyone who's there, under heavy fire. I mean, this is what's happening.

And maybe you can also comment on this air defense question, Scott, because there are videos everywhere coming out. Where does this factor in? I'll just show one—this is Bahrain—and we know that Iran has taken particular interest in the naval facility there. Here's just the image of it, and I want to play this. I believe it's footage of interceptors failing to stop Iranian missiles, because this is being shown all over the internet and social media. I know you've talked a lot about air defense systems in the past, but this is supposedly what's meant to protect those who've been put in harm's way by the Trump administration. And it doesn't look like, if Iran were to escalate even further, these are working very well.

#Scott Ritter

Well, again, I think on the first day, about 33% of the Iranian missiles fired against Israel hit their targets. Now, I'm not too good at math, but the implication is that 67% did not, and they were intercepted. So we are intercepting missiles. We intercepted missiles during the 12-day war. We intercept missiles all the time. But the thing is, when you fire a missile that costs Iran, I don't know, \$500,000 to make, and we have to fire three or four interceptor missiles that cost us \$3 million to \$4 million each—that's a mathematical equation we're not going to win. Also, when Iran has a very large number of these relatively inexpensive missiles, and we have a finite number of these very expensive interceptors, you know, when you look at these attacks, you see explosions taking place in the air.

Now, some of these explosions are from the safety mechanisms of the warheads after they've missed their targets, but others show that the missiles are being intercepted. Some of the footage

you've seen of burning, fully fueled missile bodies coming down and exploding reflects the fact that they were successfully hit by an interceptor missile. Those are the debris falling. So we shouldn't give the impression that these interceptor missiles don't work. They do work. They're successful—but they're not 100% successful.

And the Iranians have developed tactics and procedures that basically allow them to overwhelm these defenses and successfully strike. So when they plan an attack, it's just the same as what the Russians do with their drone and missile attacks against Ukraine—you flood the zone with capability. You lead with your cheaper stuff to absorb most of the interceptors, then you overload and confuse the radars, and finally you penetrate and destroy the targets you want in the last phase of the attack. That's what the Iranians are doing against the Israelis: flooding the zone, launching, confusing radars, and then penetrating and hitting.

You know, so we're getting—now, if we were to weigh the value of the targets intercepted, if there were a way I could find out exactly what the Iranians launched and at what stage, then you could weigh it. Meaning, let's say they have five targets they actually want to hit. But to guarantee that those five penetrate the defenses, they fire forty older missiles and send in a bunch of drones and stuff. Do you give the same weight and value to the missile aimed at a real target as you do to a decoy missile? No, you don't. So if we did a kind of mathematical balancing act here, we'd see that we can talk about 33% intercepts overall. But when it comes to the interception of the missiles that really count, it's 0% or close to 0%, which means the Iranians have basically nullified the Israeli-American missile defense system.

#Danny

Yeah. And Scott, how long can the U.S. and Israel go on with this war of aggression? Because Israel is talking about "as long as it takes." I believe the Trump administration told Western mainstream media that at least through the week they're going to continue fighting. And I just want to pull up what Lindsey Graham said, basically reiterating Donald Trump's promise that, yeah, U.S. troops are going to die, but it's noble, Scott. And I think that's what's particularly concerning.

#Speaker 02

And if we lose anyone in this operation, they will have died a noble death because they risked and sacrificed their lives to make us safer here at home.

#Danny

So that's— that's the messaging, Scott, which is astounding, too, because this war was very unpopular before it even started. And the Trump administration—Donald Trump himself—promised

that. He said Americans will likely die in this. And, of course, Lindsey Graham, unsurprisingly, is parroting the same line. But what's your read? How long can they go on like this with this war of aggression? And what do you make of these kinds of statements?

#Scott Ritter

First of all, I just find it grotesquely amusing that this fat, perfumed princess named Lindsey Graham is talking about the nobility of sacrifice. He was a lawyer. The biggest risk he ever faced while serving was dying of an infected paper cut. He wouldn't know personal courage or individual courage because he would never allow himself to be in a situation where he'd have to develop it. This man is a disgusting pig of a human being. I just hope he gets the fate he deserves. You know, in the old days, we'd tar and feather him, lead him out of town, and throw him into a bee's nest. Who knows what will happen? But this man does not deserve to die a peaceful death after living a long and fulfilling life.

He deserves to rot in hell. He's a horrible, horrible American—horrible, horrible human being. You know, but the... again, the nobility of death. First of all, the nobility of death is a notion that exists in theory only. Ask me why I joined the military. Why did you join the military, Scott? Oh, I'm glad you asked. I joined to serve my country. I joined because my father put in twenty-six years of service as a United States Air Force officer. I lived during the Cold War. I grew up believing that the communist threat from the Soviet Union and China was real, and that there was a necessity for American patriots like myself to volunteer, put on the uniform, and defend my country—defend my Constitution, defend my way of life—from these people.

And I trained. I trained very hard, and the training was very realistic. But while you're training, what you're developing is muscle memory, so that if you're under stress, you'll perform to an adequate standard—you won't freeze, you won't yield. But you're training in an environment where, if you make a mistake, it's like, "Oops, okay, I'll learn from that." But when you experience war—when you understand the consequences of war, the consequences of actions—that people die, people don't come home, places are destroyed... You know, I played a very heavy role in targeting Iraq during the first Gulf War.

Now, I could have done what most people did—view it from a long distance, then go home to America, pat myself on the back, and say I did a hell of a great job. But, you know, I went on to serve for seven years as a chief weapons inspector in Iraq. I led inspection teams, and in the first two years of my time, I spent most of it inspecting destroyed facilities, trying to figure out, you know, did we get what we were trying to get when we bombed this facility? Did the Iraqis recover anything? One of the places we struck was the Ministry of Information. And I remember, you know, we struck it as a command-and-control target and all that good stuff.

I remember going to that site and inspecting it, and we had asked that the people who worked there be present to answer any questions. There was a young woman, a journalist in her late twenties,

standing there, and she was literally shaking in fear—crying, sobbing, trembling. She was inconsolable. She was afraid of me. Afraid of me. When I tried to have a conversation with her, she just couldn't look at me. She was shaking, terrified. And I said, "My God, what have we done? What have we done? We didn't just blow up a building—we destroyed a human being. We didn't kill her, but we ruined her. We've broken her. Is this what we fought for? Is this what we were trying to accomplish?"

And it's moments like that that repeated over and over again. I remember, you know, sort of a famous incident—F-15Es blew up seven targets that General Schwarzkopf and General Glosson, the head of the Air Force, briefed to the world as Scuds. And I remember I said they weren't, and I got into a famous pissing contest with Schwarzkopf that got me fired. It went up to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell, who eventually sided with me, and I got my job back. But the point is, you know, this was a big deal—the lies that were told. And I remember in December of 1991, leading an inspection element into that area, and we came upon this very site.

And I remember looking at the oil tankers on the ground and realizing it wasn't just oil tankers—this was right next to a truck rest stop. We blew up the oil tankers, incinerating the drivers, men who had families, who were simply hauling oil to make money to feed their families. And we killed the people in the rest stop. We burned them to death because the oil tanks ruptured and the fire consumed the whole facility. And you just have to sit there and ask, why did we do this? What was the purpose of it all? War is not the answer. This is the one thing people like Lindsey Graham will never understand, because they've never experienced it. They don't understand it.

They don't understand the cost. They glorify death. There's nothing glorified about death. For all you Americans out there who think you're supporting this war—look, we fought a 20-year war against al-Qaeda, the global war on terror. How many of you have gone to the VA to see the men and women who lost their limbs, people who have to poop into a colostomy bag? Will you change that bag for them? Will you take them out? Will you give them a quality of life? Because their families have abandoned them. Men who once had a fiancée, but she couldn't put up with what that man had become and left him. He's now alone—an alcoholic, a drug addict. Are you going there to comfort him?

Are you going there to talk to them, get them out of their room, and give them a quality of life? Or have you forgotten them? And the answer is, you've forgotten them. You don't even think about them. You don't wake up every morning thinking one thought about these people. I do, every morning. You know, to me, the yellow ribbon on the back of the car—which I took off a long time ago because I realized the emptiness of the sentiment—"We support our troops." No, we don't. We support our troops only when they're alive and represent something glorious. But we never support the troops when they come home in body bags, or worse, when they come home broken psychologically and physically. We abandon them. We look away from them.

We pretend they don't exist. And yet Lindsey Graham wants to encourage a war that kills even more Americans. Lindsey Graham is a despicable human being. And anybody who supports that sentiment—you know what I think of you. I'm trying to control my language, Danny, but you know what I think of you. We've now put ourselves in that same population set. We're not the good guys, people. We're the bad guys. And we will go down in history as the equivalent of the Nazi Germans, as the samurai Bushido-embracing Japanese. We are the MAGA cult—the people who threw away our Constitution and embraced this cult of personality that has led us down this path of death and destruction.

#Danny

Yeah, well, I've watched the movie, Scott—*Dead to Rights*—which is a Chinese film about the Japanese war of aggression against China. And I've got to say, what they did in China, what they did in Nanjing...

#Scott Ritter

The Rape of Nanjing, yeah. I mean, my God. Oh, my God. But what the Germans did—I mean, I was just in Belarus in November. I went to Khatyn, the village. You know, yes, the village was burned. Yes, a couple hundred people burned to death. But it was part of an overall plan—Plan Ost, right?—by the Germans to literally depopulate Belarus. When I say depopulate, I don't mean deport, I mean slaughter. The systemic murder of millions of Slavs so they could make room—*Lebensraum*—for the German soldiers and officers who would come back from conquering the Slavs, and they'd have a place to take their families, with a lot of living room and the beauty and the grace of the fields.

What the Japanese did to the Chinese, what the Germans did to the Slavs, what the Germans did to the Gypsies, what they did to the Jews, what they did to everybody—I mean, this is the same mindset we have in anyone promoting conflict against Iran. Iran is a nation of 90 million people. Unlike half of the morons in your chat, I've been to Iran. I've met them. What a wonderful people they are. And people—if you don't know anything about Islam, shut up about Islam. If you want to sit here and talk about Osama bin Laden and the cult of Wahhabism, feel free to do so. But do not conflate Shiism or the rest of Islam with this cult of death. Islam is a peace-loving religion. I've dealt with these people. Some of the most peaceful people I've met are imams of both the Shia and Sunni faiths.

I've been to Chechnya, and I've been in the Grand Mosque, and I've spoken to the imam there about the role Islam played in creating peace between Chechnya and Russia. It wasn't this cult of death. It was only called a cult of death because the CIA was exporting Wahhabism into Chechnya, perverting the minds of select clans. But the mainstream Chechen Muslim is a person of peace who believes in peaceful coexistence. And when you take a look—right behind me, that flag right there—

the signature on that flag is Abdi Al-Adinov, Lieutenant General of the Russian Army, a Chechen. That flag, the flag of the Akhmat Special Forces, has the Orthodox Christian cross and the Islamic moon and star together on one flag, one banner. That shows how they are united to support the cause of Russia.

Don't tell me you know anything. If I hear another stupid Sarah Adams remark about the evil nature of Islam—Laura Loomer, these are people who are ignorant. They don't understand Islam. They don't understand anything. If you want to talk about a religion of hate, just look at Christianity. Lindsey Graham is not a Christian. Again, I... I'm sorry, I just saw something in the chat. I just wish I could reach in, pull some people out, and let them say it to my face. None of you have the courage to say it to my face. None of you have the courage to say it to my face. That's who you are—keyboard warriors. I'm sorry. I was up all night talking about this issue. This issue has me pissed off like you wouldn't believe. I shouldn't be taking it out on you, because you're kind enough to give me...

#Danny

I really appreciate it. We've got to get it out. I understand—I was up all night as well, every night since this war began. But go ahead, continue. You asked me a question: how long is it going to continue?

#Scott Ritter

It'll continue until we run out of ammunition. According to some people, the original war plan was 96 hours—four days of sustained, nonstop fighting. Yeah, that's what Israel said. The goal here, just so people understand—I was quite clear before this war began that the United States has tremendous military power. And if you think we're out of it, that the war is already lost... When we speak of military force, let's say Iran is an engineering problem—a cube of reinforcing angles and such. We bomb the cube on day one. The cube is still intact, but we've weakened a joist here, weakened a joist there. We bomb them on day two, and the cube is still intact, but now internal collapse has taken place on some of the supporting beams.

We bomb on day three, and now the thing is shaking. We bomb on day four, and it collapses. So the fact that we're entering day two and you're looking at Iran, saying it's a cube—don't be misguided. There is significant harm being done right now to the Iranian people, to the Iranian military, and to Iran in general. This harm is pre-programmed into an air campaign designed to last a minimum of 96 hours, and we have additional phases planned. This first 96 hours is designed to achieve a result. One of those results is decapitation—which, unless they miraculously kill everybody between now and the 96-hour window, they've failed to do, because Iran has reconstituted.

Not only that, the streets are filled with people who aren't shouting "Death to Khamenei." They're shouting "Khamenei is dead." Two different things—and one is glorifying the death of somebody you hate, the other is rallying around the cause of a martyr you worship. So, you know, we've totally

screwed the pooch on that one. But at the end of 96 hours, I think the planners will come together. I don't know how much of a pause they're going to give, but the idea is to give a pause for the Iranian government to surrender and turn over power. Then they'll seek to continue to the next phase. I think we probably have three to four phases—96-hour phases—built into the system before we run out of ammunition.

Um, and so, you know, that's four days with a pause—five. So we're looking at, you know, again, basic Marine math, a 15- to 20-day campaign. That's their plan. The Iranians, on the other hand, are preparing for a campaign that will last months. They've planned this thing out to last months. So, unless we get what we want to get—and again, I believe that we have—I'll say it again: we lost the war with the first six bombs we dropped on Iran, because we don't have a clue what we're doing. We turned a man who—if I were advising the president, I would have said, keep Khamenei alive, kill his family. I know you guys are going to say, "What is Scott talking about?"

I'm saying, if I were advising the president—which assumes I believe in what the president's doing, and I don't—then I'm putting on my "evil hat." My evil hat would've said, kill his family so he's exposed as a hypocrite, a man willing to let his daughter and daughter-in-law die, to let his granddaughter die. You know, we killed a grandson or granddaughter—we killed somebody. That's what we do. We just kill kids. We don't care. But you expose him as this hypocrite who's willing to hide while letting others die for him. And then you start putting out all the evil propaganda you want. I would even sit there and literally come up with CGI crap—AI-driven imagery—to show him as a pedophile, to show him as a drunkard, and to show him as a hypocrite.

And I would flood the airwaves with this stuff—secret images from when Khamenei supposedly made a visit to Berlin and went to a whorehouse back in 1982. And people would say, "Well, he never did that." Well, there's a picture here. It's so long ago, you cloud it up, you do this, and you destroy the image of the man. You destroy what he stands for. I would have flooded the airwaves with imams coming in, talking about the evil nature of the theocracy, pointing out every mistake every Iranian theocrat has ever made. There are films out there of religious figures in Qom going to bed with hookers, because there's this thing where you can have a marriage for a day or something—I don't know.

But they do it, and you film it, and you put that out there, and you destroy the viability of this by attacking human frailty, hoping people transfer their faith over to human frailty and abandon their beliefs. This is what you do. This is how it works. And then you destroy the security mechanisms, and so on. But you have to destroy people's confidence and belief and faith. We didn't do that. We made a martyr on day one. We made a martyr. We allowed this man, through his death, to exit as a hero—literally a man equivalent to Ali. We've elevated him to the equivalent of Ali, which is at the heart of the Twelver Shia faith concept. We lost. We're stupid.

But there's going to be a lot of death and destruction between now and then. We have a lot of ammunition, and that ammunition is capable of doing extraordinarily horrific damage—because,

again, we don't care. If our intelligence was so bad that we mistook a children's secondary school for a target of relevance on day one, imagine how bad our intelligence is going to be near the end of this campaign when we still haven't achieved our objectives. Guys, I've been there. I've done that. I'm telling you about the desperation that existed at the end of the Gulf War, when Iraq kept firing missiles at Israel and we weren't interdicting them. We got so desperate that we basically threw away all the rules.

We were blowing up school buses because they were long enough to carry a Scud missile. We blew up Bedouin camps because the heat signature of the goats they put inside during those freezing nights created a long oval shape that could have been—or, you know, was thought to be—a Scud missile. And we blew it up. We slaughtered people. We blew up truckers. We blew up families. We killed everybody in the name of trying to interdict Scuds. Do you understand how desperate we're going to be at the end of this campaign, when we're running out of bombs and the Iranians haven't run out of missiles, and they're still firing missiles at Israel—which has now absorbed well over the 700 missiles that Netanyahu said was the maximum capacity of absorption?

#Danny

And it's only been 24 hours, mind you. We have to keep that in perspective—it's only been a day.

#Scott Ritter

Yeah, in a day. And so, you know, the fact is, we're going to start—we'll drop our standards, if we ever had any, in this conflict. The destruction of a children's school suggests that we don't. And we'll be killing everything. Everything. We'll be slaughtering Iranian civilians because we're so desperate and unwilling to accept failure, defeat, that we'll go down wielding a sword that lays innocent lives low till the last bomb is dropped. I only have to say "Gaza" for you to understand the lack of moral compass that exists in these military planners' minds—Israel and America.

This is not going to end well for the United States. In addition to Donald Trump losing his political credibility—and hopefully his political legacy collapsing in a midterm election that sees him and his party routed to the extent that he can not only be impeached but convicted—for all the people out there who basically don't like Donald Trump, stop shouting at me and make sure you vote enough Democrats in November to convict him. Pick weak Republican senators and topple them. Because the goal here isn't to say we support the Democrats; the goal is to say we want to punish Donald Trump. We want to break Donald Trump.

You need to break the sickness of American society that elected Donald Trump. And you can only do that—remember what I said about Ali Khamenei? Don't make a martyr out of him. Don't shoot him in Butler, Pennsylvania. That was stupid. What you want to do is expose him as the pedophile that he is, the Epstein supporter that he is, and the horrific man that he is. You want him to be impeached by Congress, and you want him to be convicted by Congress. You want his legacy not to

be that of a man who won two elections, but of a man who's the only president to serve time in prison because he's a traitor to his fucking country.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah, well said, Scott. Well, perhaps you could help the audience understand now, because what you're portending—what you're forecasting—I believe is very much, of course, within the realm of possibility. Even if we don't have a crystal ball, this desperation could reach a fever pitch. If Iran is saying it's prepared to fight for years, that means Iran is at least confident in what it has in its stockpiles, in its capabilities to fight for as long as you predicted, Scott. This could go on—the bombing could go on.

So my question to you, Scott, is this: could you maybe assess and help the audience understand what Iran's response has been, and what it could be, given that Iran is also saying, "Yeah, you're going to continue to hit us, and we're going to continue to escalate and show weapons you haven't seen before"? I don't even know what these weapons are. I guess I'd like you to help the audience understand what the U.S. is confronting as it goes down this very perilous path.

#Scott Ritter

Well, first of all, we don't know what weapons the Iranians have. That's the beauty of them saying, "We're going to unveil weapons you don't know anything about." It leads to speculation, and I believe we're reading far too much into that than reality suggests. When they say "weapons you don't believe we have," I think the Iranians have developed an Avangard analog—basically a medium-range hypersonic missile that can deliver the same kind of Avangard-type kinetic warheads. And I'm fairly confident it's not the Avangard itself. They don't have the Avangard; they have the Iranian analog to the Avangard.

And I think that's one of the missiles that will be revealed. We'll see it in all its glory one night, because half of the arithmetic is the psychological value of watching these projectiles scream down at speeds that create this horrific roar and impact on the ground. It's psychologically devastating. Imagine the Iranians delivering a dozen of these three weeks into the war, when we're running out of ammunition and they've just unveiled a new weapon. So I think this is probably what we're looking at as they unveil new missiles. They might even unveil a few with significant range that can strike targets in Europe.

I would imagine that if the Iranians could, they would take out—you know—the bases in Europe: Lakenheath, maybe some bases in Germany, even Sofia Airport in Bulgaria. Sorry, Bulgarians, you shouldn't have allowed American airplanes to land on your runways. But they'd strike European targets as well, make Europe pay a price for the sin of supporting this illegal war of aggression. I

also think you're going to see them unveil new weapons—hypersonic weapons with great accuracy. But there are other things at play here. You know, yes, the United States provided Israel with the targeting of Ali Khamenei. But let's think about that for a second.

If Ali Khamenei wanted to be a martyr, wouldn't he make targeting easy? I mean, how much easier does it get? It wasn't the greatest intelligence coup in the world to have Ali Khamenei at home in his residence with other people, having advertised that they were meeting. This isn't the greatest intelligence coup in the world. It doesn't mean the CIA and Mossad have a spy on the inside or anything like that. It means Ali Khamenei played the game and said, "Kill me and lose the war." And we took the bait. But now look at what happened in Israel—Beit She'an, I think, is the name of the place. I'm not an expert on pronouncing Hebrew names.

But the building that was struck was apparently hosting a very high-level Israeli military conference, held in great secrecy—a conference so sensitive that the participants probably didn't even know the location until that morning. So imagine: you pick the location, and that information gets transmitted to the Iranians, who are then able to launch a weapon system in time to hit that building, with everyone still inside, and with great accuracy. If you're an Israeli and you're not scared to death by that, then you're not very smart. The Iranians have been hitting targets in Israel, and these strikes are clearly designed to send a message.

They don't just hit targets of relevance—they hit them in a way that shows the Israelis the Iranians know everything. Everybody talks about the Mossad penetrating the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Command, but the Israelis have been penetrated by the Iranians. I don't know how they're doing it—through technical means, human intelligence, or a combination of both—but the bottom line is that Israel is being taken apart piece by piece by piece, and it's being done deliberately. The Iranians are some of the smartest people on the planet when it comes to understanding the world they live in. Just to give you an example, in 2006, during that short war fought between Israel and Hezbollah, Israel sent some of their best special forces into Lebanon to fight Hezbollah.

And they're fighting for this one particular village. I believe it was Sayeret Matkal getting ready to launch an attack to take out certain positions. But Matkal uses advanced frequency-hopping tactical radios that are encrypted in real time. So right off the bat, let's say it's a single channel—me talking to you, Danny. The signal is going to be encrypted, which means whoever intercepts it is just going to get digital garbage. Normally, you'd have to capture that signal, the handshakes and everything, take it back, and have a computer process it. Then, a couple of days or weeks later, depending on the effectiveness of the decryption program, you could listen to what happened.

But now we can complicate that, because we have frequency hopping—five to twelve different channels. So if we're intercepting, we have to know which channel it is. And if we get on one, it instantly switches again. These are happening, you know, multiple times per second, which makes real-time interception and exploitation literally impossible—except that the Iranians were intercepting and decrypting these signals in real time, then hacking into the signal and having a Hebrew-speaking

voice operator who exactly mimicked the voices of the Israeli commanders, using the code names and call signs that were supposed to be known only to a handful of people.

And they triggered an ambush by breaking into the signal, using the commander's call sign and giving the order for execution. And Sayeret Matkal—the Delta Force of Israel—stepped off into an ambush. They got the crap knocked out of them. That's who we're dealing with here. The Iranians are that good. They hijacked the Beast of Kandahar—again, hacking into a satellite signal from Nellis Air Force Base to the drone, encrypted, breaking into it, stealing that drone. So these Iranians are very, very good. They're working with Hezbollah, who, as I said, have great capabilities.

And the Iranians apparently are inside the Israeli decision-making cycle. This attack on that building proves it. So now the Israelis are scared to death. You can have them out there saying, "We're doing this, we're going to build a bridge to Iran, our airplanes are going to go there and come back, go there and come back," and there's no—yeah, go change your diapers while you're saying that, because you know the Iranians are on to you. And at some point, the next missile is going to hit your damn building, and you're going to die. Your bloated corpse is going to be pulled from the rubble.

And that's the fate many Israelis recognize as their future if they can't win this war. This is why Israel stopped Donald Trump from pulling the trigger back in January. They said, "Don't do it, because we can't win this thing." And they also said, "Don't start this thing unless you can guarantee victory." And this is where we come to the last phase of regime change. Because the advice I just mentioned was from Israelis who may not be friendly to Iran—they may promote Greater Israel—but they're realistic. Benjamin Netanyahu, when he came to the United States... and I said it at the time, I mean, it's on record, so I'll say it again.

He came to the United States to tell Donald Trump—to work with Donald Trump—on how to use diplomacy as a means of setting up the next attack. It wasn't about setting the conditions for a nuclear negotiation or anything like that. It was about how to use diplomacy to set it up, because immediately Donald Trump said, "We're entering into negotiations," and they began that process. They had already decided they were going to attack and when they were going to attack, and that decision was made back then. Benjamin Netanyahu did this against the advice of his senior military commanders. They said, "We can't pull the trigger until we have guarantees." And he came back and said, "I have the guarantees. The United States is going to do this."

Now, one of the things that happened is, after he told his people that and they began preparing for this war—which they would initiate—the Joint Chiefs of Staff started saying, "Well, maybe we don't have a plan. Maybe we don't have enough ammunition." And that created problems. But Netanyahu overrode these people and said, "No, we're going forward." So now, when the air campaign starts to peter out and Israel's run out of ammunition, run out of interceptor missiles, Israel's getting

pounded to death, and the United States can't finish the job because we're out of ammunition—what do you think the political future of Benjamin Netanyahu is going to be? Do you think he's going to emerge as the modern-day David Ben-Gurion, a hero?

Or is he going to be reviled as a despicable, cowardly liar who led Israel down the path of destruction? So, in addition to Donald Trump being toppled, Benjamin Netanyahu could very well be toppled too. This may be one of the greatest regime change operations in the history of regime change operations—but not the way those who envisioned it. And we can go on and on. For instance, Bahrain. I bring Bahrain up because I've traveled extensively through the Middle East, but I spent an awful lot of time in Bahrain. That was where the UN weapons inspectors would go to train up before we deployed to Iraq for our missions. And I'm very familiar with the Shia of Bahrain and the Khalifa family that governs Bahrain.

A good friend of mine was my deputy commander, and we had a unique kind of team—a bunch of alpha males doing some alpha male stuff. When they came back to Bahrain, they liked to let off steam the way only alpha males can. They befriended the Gulf Air Stewardess Academy—they knew the head of the academy—so these guys would all get dates with the Gulf Air stewards. They'd go out and have the time of their lives. I mean, they were living it up. But you could also sit down with these Gulf Air stewards and have meaningful conversations with them.

And you realize just how despicable the Bahraini government is. These girls are brought in not just to be flight attendants—they're brought in to be prostitutes. The Khalifas are the epitome of the elite Arab ruling class—sick people of the worst kind. There's nothing redeeming about any aspect of them. They're just too rich to understand the reality of life. And they're replicated in Saudi Arabia, in Kuwait, in the United Arab Emirates, and elsewhere. There might be some people who are noble, the exceptions to the rule, but the bottom line is these royal families are all the same. They're all the same.

People who claim to be pious Muslims, and yet they fly to London—and halfway there, they take off all their clothes—then they come back and pretend they're all pious. If you come across the causeway from Bahrain to Saudi Arabia, as you enter Saudi Arabia you'll see a plethora of small mosques. These mosques are built by pious Saudi men who, coming back across, realize the sins they've committed, and so they absolve themselves by building these small mosques and saying, "I have now repented. I am clean. I am pure." Until the next trip to Bahrain. Bahrain is a den of excessiveness. But the population is majority Shia, and they hate the Khalifa family.

They hate the Khalifa family. As Iran is bombing the Muharraq facility, the Fifth Fleet, and starting to hit targets in Manama, the Shia are in the streets cheering. We may get regime change in Bahrain. The Saudis are worried about what's going to happen in the eastern provinces, because that's where most of their oil production is—but those provinces are also dominated by a Shia majority. Israel

dropped six bombs on Tehran, killing Ali Khamenei. Do you think the Shia of Saudi Arabia are just going to sit there and say, "That's okay"? Do you think the Catholics of the world would say, "That's all right, you killed the Pope, no problem, we'll vote for another one"?

We'll vote for the smoke to emerge from the chimney. No, there'll be outrage—people rising up. So there may be more regime change. These Gulf Arab states encouraged this war as a way to get rid of the Iranian government, the Islamic government, so they could betray their people by fully embracing the Abraham Accords, which would elevate Israel into the supreme economic power of the Middle East. If they lose—and they're going to lose—they may face a backlash from their people that could mean the end of these disgusting regimes. So, you know, who knows? We may get lucky here and, six months from now, see these corrupt, disgusting Gulf Arab sheikdoms and royals—

#Danny

Scott, I think I lost your connection. Are you still there?

#Scott Ritter

I think the sound just jammed our signal, so I need to stop talking for a second.

#Danny

You were just saying the Saudi oil sheikdoms continue—I think we lost the last part of that.

#Scott Ritter

No, I'm just saying that this regime change surge cuts both ways, and I think you're seeing a lot of fear now everywhere. I mean, I was being interviewed yesterday on X by this Israeli apologist of the worst sort. He was sitting there doing his Israeli apologist thing when I reminded him that Dubai was a target. He said, "They would never attack Dubai." I said, "Yeah, they would. They're going to attack Dubai." And as we spoke, Dubai was being attacked. You could suddenly see the look on his face—he went, "This shit just got real." Yeah. And that's the same look that's on the faces of the various sheikhs. This shit just got real.

And they're sitting there looking around, going, "They're attacking us." And the people on the streets are—well, these sheikhs are not well-loved at all. They live these excessive lifestyles. They're elitists. They abuse their power and authority. And now people are looking out, realizing how fallible they are, because they're not all-powerful, they're not all strong. And the Iranians are taking them down. There are significant Shia populations. Again, I don't know how they're going to respond, but I'd imagine that when you kill the second most important person in the Shia faith, you shouldn't expect people to rise up in the streets and pop corks of champagne.

#Danny

Now, maybe just to close with your final thoughts, I want to show people exactly the kind of things you're talking about. You know, we're talking about just one day, Scott, and I want people to understand that Israel has absolutely taken hits—because there are a lot of people out there, Scott, who don't believe anything is going on, that Israel hasn't taken any damage. This is one day for a country that says it can fight for years, and it's already experiencing this kind of destruction. Here's the damage done to Beit Shemesh, which I think you were talking about earlier, Scott—and there are body bags. And this is going to keep getting worse, it seems, because Iran has promised they have years of this in them. And then we have this horrific moment—I don't know if you saw it—the Israeli FM spokesperson went, I believe, to Tel Aviv to show and say that Iranians are targeting children and elders. And this is the response he got from the media, which, to the credit of whoever asked this, here we go.

#Speaker 06

So, schoolgirls in Iran are being killed in a strike.

#Danny

And this must stop. This must be stopped. And this is what we're trying to do. Yes—next question, please. Just completely— I mean, literally, somebody standing in front of a building that's been blown out by Iranian fire asked the question. This is who the U.S. is, who the Trump administration is—people like Lindsey Graham. This is who they're supporting. They're one and the same here. Gaza, Gaza, Gaza.

#Scott Ritter

Why are we surprised? Why do we even think there's an iota of humanness in the Israeli government? These are despicable, genocidal maniacs. And if you're not Jewish, they view you as goyim. They say it. I'm not out here spouting anti-Semitic tropes—they say it. "You are inferior to us. We are the chosen ones. God has given us the right to Greater Israel." Hell, Mike Huckabee said that. He agrees with it. Tucker Carlson's interview with him the other day—why do we expect anything different from these people? No. These are horrible human beings. These are people who slaughtered tens of thousands of Palestinian children. Hind Rajab—never forget her name—but she's just one of thousands the Israelis mowed down, massacred. Israeli snipers would print T-shirts bragging about how they shot a pregnant Palestinian woman because "you got two for the price of one."

They would wound a Palestinian mother so the child would come out to try to rescue her, and then they'd kill the child in front of the mother. The child bled out in front of the mother, who was also bleeding out. So the last thought in the mother's mind was her dying child. That's the sickness of

these people. And we're supposed to pretend that somehow this poor Israeli spokesperson was confronted with something very different? No. He's a murderous sack of crap. They all are. They all are. There are no innocents in Israel at this point in time. If you didn't believe in this, you would have left. But if you stay in Israel and plant your flag there, you're buying into Greater Israel, which means you're buying into the concept of Zionist supremacy—an excuse for a whole host of sins, including the murder of Palestinians and the ongoing murder of Iranians.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah, very well said, Scott. We've got a lot of questions from the audience. How about I just ask you one, and you can answer it quickly—or two if you want.

#Scott Ritter

I can answer as many as you want. I'm in a competitive mood, so bring it on.

#Danny

Well, here's an interesting question, Scott, given everything we've talked about. What needs to happen for the pro-Pahlavi Iranians to overthrow the current government? What do you have to say to that, Scott?

#Scott Ritter

Well, understand that when you say pro-Pahlavi, you're basically talking about the son of Reza Shah Pahlavi, the last Shah of Iran—Reza Pahlavi. First of all, he can't overthrow anything. What he's reliant upon is the United States and Israel to create conditions in which a sufficient number of people within Iran rise up and take matters into their own hands. This is the plan. Right now, Pahlavi, through the Israelis, has been able to infiltrate certain opposition cells throughout Iran so that at any given demonstration, there's a handful of people who suddenly unveil the Iranian monarchist flag—the flag of Iran with the lion and the sword—and shout things like “Long live the Shah,” and all that stuff.

And then they quickly put those away and run off, because they can't stay there for too long—the Iranian security services will come in, knock them on the head, and pull them away. But they do this, they film it, and then they broadcast it so idiots in the West can say, “Oh, look, the Shah is very popular in Iran.” He's not. There's no chance whatsoever. There's a reason why Donald Trump won't meet with Reza Pahlavi—he doesn't want to breathe life into something that has no chance. There is no viable constituency inside Iran. You know, when the embassy was taken over in 1979, the students who took it over got hold of the CIA vault. The CIA had been frantically shredding documents, and they were using, I think, one-eighth-inch shredders—not crosscut, just single straight-line shredders.

They put them in these bags. They didn't have a chance to burn them, so the students got hold of them. Then they had the greatest student project in the history of student projects. They all sat down, pulled the strips out one by one, lined them up, taped them together, and reconstituted the documents. Then they published these books. It's a condemnation of the role played by the CIA in empowering Reza Shah Pahlavi—the Shah—the complicity between the CIA and the excesses of SAVAK, and the torture of the Iranian people. Every Iranian has read this book; they all know the truth. And you really think, for a moment, that the Iranian people living in Iran want to return to that?

Reza Pahlavi has a constituency in the Iranian diaspora here in the United States—people whose parents fled the Islamic Revolution because they were complicit in the crimes of Reza Pahlavi. They came to the United States, established themselves as businesspeople here, and they live this fantasy. First of all, they've glorified and whitewashed the time of the Shah. I mean, you know, their defense of the Shah is to show us pictures of women in Iran in the mid-1970s. Iranian women are good-looking, no doubt about that. You put them in a miniskirt and boots with Western-style hair, and you're like, wow, they're all like Raquel Welch running around—Persian Raquel Welch. And they say this is the glory of Iran.

#Danny

Scott, we lost you at "this is the glory of Iran." Sorry—are you still there?

#Scott Ritter

Now I've pissed off the Iranian women in the diaspora, so they're jamming us too. But my point is the simplicity of the argument here—to sit there and defend the horrific, criminal excesses of Reza Shah Pahlavi by showing a bunch of attractive Iranian women in miniskirts. It just shows how stupid people are. The Iranian people know the truth about this. There will never be a moment when the monarchy has any chance. If Reza Pahlavi—let's say, hypothetically, the Islamic Republic fell and there was chaos, and people were in the streets demanding an alternative—if he showed up, he'd be killed. He has zero life expectancy. Nobody supports him, nobody believes he's viable. They just need him to serve as a motivating point for people willing to commit violence in his name, because that's all he's good for: to have a bunch of Iranians in Iran believing in him, murdering other Iranians to create the perception of a society out of control.

#Danny

Yeah, and what you were describing—that tactic of using beautiful women to sell this sort of thing—it's very Israeli, too. This is what Israel does all the time, which again is just a further insult to the Iranian people. So here's another question, and I think it's a good one. We've seen multiple regime changes in the Arabic-speaking world, with Iran being the latest target. What's the endgame here? I don't understand the reason for all this death and destruction.

#Scott Ritter

The endgame is Greater Israel. That's the why. That's it—Greater Israel. The goal is to collapse any notion of sovereignty, any notion of Arab self-governance, any notion of Arab respect, and replace it with a region totally subordinated to Greater Israel. There's your goal, there's your objective. Iran was the thing standing in the way—ninety million people who believed that Iran is the only nation. It's amazing. The Persians of Iran, in their constitution, are required to support a free and independent Palestinian state. It's part of the constitution. Persians, non-Arabs. And the Arab world is governed by leaders who have abandoned the Palestinians and sold out to Israel. The king of Jordan, if there were any justice, would be dragged through the streets of Amman and hung upside down like Mussolini so the collective population could spit on his corpse.

I mean, he's sold out. He's betrayed the cause of his people—you know, this last of the Hashemites. He's betrayed the cause of his people, he's betrayed himself. He stands for nothing. He is literally the definition of a sellout. The Saudis are the same way—talking big one moment, meeting with the Iranians, shaking hands, saying, "No, we're friends and brothers," and then telling Donald Trump in the background, "Kill them, kill them, kill them." It's the same thing with the United Arab Emirates. I love the umbrage—"Why are you attacking us?" Because you've encouraged the United States to kill them, kill them, kill them. You are complicit in the crimes of the Israelis because you are secretly allies of Israel. You believe in the Abraham Accords. You believe in the empowerment of Greater Israel.

#Danny

That's what's going on here. Yeah, great point, Scott. Here's a member for 14 months—thank you, Kevin. Please advise what's going on with the Iranian missile defense provided by Russia and China. Are they working or not? Are they being used? Scott, any insight into this?

#Scott Ritter

Again, I don't know enough to be definitive about this, but I'd just say the following: missile defenses are not standalone systems—they have to be integrated. You know, if Iran started receiving advanced Chinese and Russian missile defenses, they're not integrated at this point in time. There isn't an integrated air defense network. You might have nodes of protection. First of all, Iran is a very big country. Question: why do Ukrainian drones roam freely in the interior of Russia? Because Russia is a big-ass country, and you can't have layers of air defense everywhere. Once you break through that initial screen, there are nodes you can maneuver around and then hit your target.

Iran is a very big country. They have screens, they have places where they've put air defense, you know, but there's a lot of it you just can't defend. And again, please have some respect. I know the "I hate America" spirit is out there, but at least put your thinking cap on. What do you think we've

been doing with the trillion dollars we spend on defense every year? I know we line the pockets of defense industrialists and congressmen, but some of that money actually gets spent building weapons that are pretty damn good. And we put them in the hands of men and women who are highly trained to use them.

And they train in a realistic fashion. The U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy train extensively on what's known as suppression of enemy air defenses. We train for it 24/7, and the U.S. intelligence community is very good at collecting this information. You don't think for a second that when the Russians provided S-400s to Turkey and S-400s to India, the CIA didn't get the complete package of information about how that system works, bring it back, replicate it, and train against it? You don't think that's been happening—with the S-300 too? You don't think that's been happening?

You don't think that when Iran provided some of the most advanced air defense systems to Syria as part of the agreement with Bashar al-Assad, when Syria fell, the CIA didn't run in there with technical exploitation teams, grab that stuff, and bring it out? What the hell do you think I did for a living for a while, guys? Okay, I know what I'm talking about when I say this stuff. We're pretty damn good. It doesn't mean the cause we're fighting for is good or supportable, but we're pretty damn good. All the people out there saying America can't fight—you don't know anything about America. We have the most capable military in the world, the most capable military in the world, carrying out one of the most unsupportable, evil plans.

You know, it's not the military's fault that the idiots thought it was a good idea to put six bombs on Ali Khamenei's residence. They just obeyed their orders, you know. They had the munitions and the capability to do it, and they did it. So, you know, why aren't the Iranian air defenses working? Because we're better than Iran in this case. But the Iranians don't need their air defense to work. I remind people, we blew away the Iraqi integrated air defense network on day one of the Gulf War—blew it away—and we were running around dropping bombs all over. And yet, we didn't destroy anything, because the Iraqis were better at moving stuff out of buildings than we were at blowing up the buildings.

#Danny

I'm sorry, I don't mean to interrupt, but I've heard that part of Iran's strategy with their mobile systems is to move them faster than they can be hit.

#Scott Ritter

Yeah, and they use decoys. When you look at the images coming out—I mean, I remember during the Gulf War, I went to RR, and that's where Delta Force and Task Force 160 were. The Night Stalkers were based there, doing the counter-Scud operations. I'd seen a strike video put out by the Night Stalkers of them strafing what looked like a Scud launcher. And I'm watching the video and I go, "No, no, no, no, no. This is off to the side. This is a decoy." But I told the guys, "You've got to

be careful, because if that had been an actual Scud—loaded up, fueled—and you were that close shooting, if it had blown up, you'd be dead. You wouldn't be here today. The secondary would've engulfed you in flames." And you just saw their eyes go, "Oh... yeah, you're right."

Maybe we'll do this differently next time. But my point is, you look at some of the strike videos the Israelis are putting out—they're destroying things that look like missiles. And many of those are decoys. I'm here to tell you right now, if it's daytime and there's a missile sitting there all by itself in the open, lined up, and you don't see any indications of an immediate launch, it's a decoy. And if I'm a targeter and I see a missile lined up like that, I don't bother sending an aircraft there unless it can get there within five minutes. Because if it's a real missile, it'll fire and be gone by then. That's the standard—five to seven minutes to show up, five to seven minutes to launch and get out of there. That was the standard in the Gulf War, and it's the standard today.

It's a good standard. If you can raise that missile and launch it in five minutes, you'll probably live. So if we're detecting a raised missile and we don't have an asset that can hit it in five minutes, we're not going to kill it—don't waste the asset. Because if we get there in fifteen minutes and it's still raised, it's a decoy. And therefore, they've tickled the system. So a lot of the targets being hit are decoy targets. Some, I bet, based on the secondary explosion and the immediate proximity of people who looked like they were preparing for a launch, were probably the real thing—which implies that we have an ongoing sweep taking place over the launch areas. But none of this is taking the Iranians by surprise. There will be casualties. I mean, that's just war.

But the Iranians are playing the odds. They're betting that by using enough decoys—let's say I want to run a launch operation, just like the Iraqis used to do—they can pull it off. They'll set up fixed decoys, then run mobile decoy operations designed to divert resources. And while we're chasing those down here, over there two real missiles come out and fire at Iraq. By the time we get there, they're gone. That's just how this game is played. And what the Iranians are doing, in my opinion, is they already know where they want to launch.

And what they do is set up conditions. Some of these may be sacrificial. They might tell guys, "Go out there. Your job is to get attention. Be obvious. Raise the missile. Pretend to have a malfunction. Hang around, because we need them to divert to you so these guys can fire the two missiles against Israel." And we're talking about a nation of people who embrace martyrdom. Because, you know, if I told two Marines, "All right, guys, here's your job. You're going to get in this decoy, drive into the middle of the desert, raise the decoy, run around, do jumping jacks and push-ups until they bomb you and kill you."

They look at me and go, "What? No. That's not a good plan, boss. We don't want to do that." But the Iranians are like, "You mean we get to join Ali and Hussein in heaven as martyrs? Oh, hell yeah. How can I sign up for that mission?" So, you know, they're very effective. I think, again, we're not as good as we think we are. We're very good in terms of the weapons we have, et cetera. But you target based on a fundamental understanding of the enemy. We lack any fundamental

understanding. We've allowed ourselves to be infected by the stupidity of Adams and Laura—God, I can't remember.

#Danny

You keep manifesting her into the show.

#Scott Ritter

Well, because she's just stupid. And I want people to recognize how stupid she is. But the point is, we've allowed ourselves to be infected with this psychosis. And as a result, we don't respect the enemy. And the moment you stop respecting your enemy is the moment you've lost the war. Even in Vietnam, the people who fought the Viet Cong—they may have used derogatory terms: Charlie, you know, Kong, zippers, whatever—but they never stopped respecting them. Because the moment they disrespected Charlie, Charlie kicked their ass. I had a colonel who fought the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong. There was no love lost between him and them, because they killed a lot of his Marines and he killed a lot of them. But never once did he have anything but the utmost respect for his opponent—his enemy—as a fighting force.

He respected professionalism, which meant he had to work double time, triple time, to make sure that what he was asking his Marines to do could actually defeat the enemy in front of them. But the moment you disrespect them—"they're nothing, they're this, they're that"—you walk right into the ambush. Have you seen that movie **Kingdom of Heaven**? Where the Crusaders march out to fight Saladin—"God is with us"—and they march into that famous battle where the Saracen army basically sucked them in: no water, nothing, the heat in their armor, and then they were annihilated. Because the Crusaders lost respect for their enemy. They didn't understand what was going on. And I think that's what's happening here. We have a military that's being ill-advised by intelligence.

They don't respect their enemy. They're denigrating their enemy. And as a result, we go off and do things, and we end up falling into traps, right? I think a lot of the counter-missile campaign that's being run today is one giant trap set by the Iranians, who know us better than we know them. And one of the proofs that this is the case is the fact that they continue to launch missiles. They're launching missiles, they're hitting targets, and they're not going to quit. And until we recognize that—until we change—I mean, my whole thing during the Gulf War was to try to get us to change what we were doing, because I was saying what we were doing was wrong. What we were doing wasn't killing scouts; what we were doing was exactly what the Iraqis wanted us to do. And they will continue to launch missiles.

If we want to interdict the Iraqis, we have to change things. And I was arrested for that—General Schwarzkopf arrested me for daring to speak out like that, because I was trying to create my own war and do all this kind of stuff. But I was right. We never stopped the Iraqi Scud launches because we had bought into our own simplistic analysis of who the Iraqis were and what they were doing.

We never once gave them credit for doing innovative things. And I think that right now Donald Trump is out there—how, you know, when you have Pete Hicks benching 315 pounds, standing up and spitting out testosterone, saying, “Oh, we can do this. God wills it.” And everybody goes out there saying, “God wills it, we can do it,” without somebody sitting there going, “Hey, what about this, that, and the other thing?” No!

#Speaker 1

Can you bench-press 315?

#Scott Ritter

No, I'm too busy doing analytical work.

#Speaker 1

You thin-armed, skinny-necked geek, get out of my way.

#Scott Ritter

I only want real men who can bench 315 pounds out here doing real manly stuff—and then they get sucked into a trap and they all die.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. I mean, you mentioned earlier, Scott—somebody wanted to ask if there's any news, because there's been talk about Iran now targeting the USS Abraham Lincoln. Yeah. We don't really know anything. You're not going to sneak up on the Lincoln right now. No, no.

#Scott Ritter

Way the hell out there—so, the Iranians.

#Danny

Isn't it, like, all the way out—like a thousand kilometers or something?

#Scott Ritter

So far, their air wing is not really a factor in this war yet. I mean, they've taken themselves out of the fight, literally, because they're scared. But what the Iranians are doing is probing. They're sending out drones, trying to collect intelligence—see if they can get a visual or at least identify the various elements out there. Because, again, the Chinese are photographing the fleet in real time and

providing that real-time linkage. So it's not like the Iranians have to ask, "Where's the fleet?" But they need to know where the fleet is right now, because if you're going to launch this attack, it has to go through layers of defense. So what you do is send a drone out there that gets detected by radars.

And as it's being detected by radars, it's capturing that signal and sending it back to either the Chinese or the Iranians—showing what kinds of radars are out there, their frequencies, where they're located, and so on. You start building this map of the layered defenses around the Abraham Lincoln. Once you get enough of that data, you find the seam, fire the missiles into that seam, and hope for the best. But we're talking about firing at long range. One of the things that's happened, though, is that one of the key elements of our missile defense shield in the region—this advanced radar that was part of a billion-dollar early-warning system to detect missile launches—doesn't exist anymore, because Iran took it out. That system was primarily geared toward detecting launches against Israel. If the Iranians are going to fire on the Abraham Lincoln, they're going to be...

#Danny

Uh-oh. Scott, it sounds like you said, "If they're going to fire on the Abraham Lincoln," and that was the last thing we heard.

#Scott Ritter

I guess we're going to have a tactical discussion, because the U.S. Guard will take over. But the point is, if the Iranians are going to fire on the Abraham Lincoln, they'll do it from a location in southern Iran, closer to where the Abraham Lincoln is. So yes, they've put drones out there, but those drones are reconnaissance drones—they're not really attacking. If they attack the Abraham Lincoln, they'd use hypersonic missiles with maneuvering warheads, programmed to hit the seam in the radars, and they'd have better than an even chance of striking the Abraham Lincoln.

#Danny

Thanks. Yeah, Scott, I know your time is limited, and you've been very generous. There was a question about your thoughts on China's response to this conflict—you did go over that a bit. I'm also going to pull up some nice comments as you're talking in the last 30 seconds or so, because a lot of audience members came out. I see them, and I appreciate them.

#Scott Ritter

And thank you. China and Russia, I think, are going to be looking for diplomatic off-ramps to try to avoid the escalation of this conflict into economic devastation. They want to keep the Strait of Hormuz open. They want to prevent the targeting of oil fields, because that's it. And they also want to keep—well, I had this discussion with someone else, too—Russia's goal is not to see the United

States weakened or collapsed. Russia doesn't want that. Russia wants a strong America. The Russian goal is consistency and predictability, and they want to be able to project that out. A collapsing America is not consistent; it's chaotic and unpredictable, and it's a very dangerous situation. So Russia is not looking for America to be defeated here. What they're looking for is a viable diplomatic off-ramp that can preserve Iran as a sovereign state, a member of BRICS, with a functioning economy that can be plugged into a Eurasian economic union and...

#Danny

We lost you at "Eurasian Economic Union."

#Scott Ritter

I can't say "Eurasian Economic Union." Apparently that irritates the—well, it's haram. It's haram. But I think China right now has done what it can to strengthen Iran's defenses. Their goal, together with Russia, is stability, stability, stability. And the key to that is not just the survival of Iran, but the continued viability of the global, energy-based economy. To do that, you need to make sure that a part of the world producing 22–25% of the world's oil and gas resources isn't destroyed in the process. So I believe China and Russia are making phone calls behind the scenes like crazy, especially to the Iranians, cautioning them, saying, "Look, we will provide you intelligence."

We'll do what we need to do to keep targeting the objectives you're going after—and I hope that's not a sign of having an on-air stroke, but okay. It was just an eye acting up on me. That'd be interesting. But the, the—you know, the Iranians and the Chinese are in a posture, along with the Russians, to make Iran as strong as possible, but not to create the conditions for a war that would be devastating on a global scale from an economic standpoint. So I think the Chinese are playing that role. It's a frustrating role for those who support Iran, but understand this: China needs Iran to survive. Iran is part of BRICS, a very important part of BRICS. And if the United States succeeds in removing Iran from BRICS, that would be a fatal blow to BRICS.

#Danny

Yeah. And Iran, as you said—Russia and China—Iran also doesn't want those things. So they don't want that either. Correct.

#Scott Ritter

And that's important in their view. Although, as our good friend Professor Mohammad Marandi has said, a world without Iran is not a world worth living in—meaning Iran isn't just going to sit by and let the United States and Israel destroy it. If Iran's going down, everybody's going down with them.

#Danny

Yeah, I mean, they're already closing it. The Strait of Hormuz isn't officially closed, but we're talking about how Iran is showing it won't hesitate if it needs to do that.

#Scott Ritter

Yeah, it's the goal of China and Russia to ensure that Iran's not pushed into that corner. And as this war continues to go south, there are rumors that Trump has already been confronted with the reality that we're not achieving the objectives we wanted, and that he went through the Italians to reach out to the Iranians for a ceasefire. I can't say I know this to be 100 percent the case, but that's the rumor out there if it's true.

These are the windows of opportunity that Russia and China are looking for, because once you get that initial outreach, they're going to take it and run with it—keep that as a possibility, keep pushing the Iranians and working with them to achieve an outcome that doesn't create the conditions for a resumption of this conflict. But also an outcome that doesn't humiliate the United States to the point where we have to see this thing through to its horrific end just to find a face-saving mechanism for Donald Trump. I think that's the goal right now—the Russians and the Chinese are trying to find a face-saving off-ramp for the United States and Israel.

#Danny

Well, Scott, we've got to get you out of here. I want to say this was one of my favorite conversations. We've got to have you on more to cover this horrific war that the U.S. and Israel are waging right now. I want to make sure everybody knows to check the video description and support your work—your website and Substack, as well as the links to support you financially, are all there.

#Scott Ritter

Yeah, if I could just make an appeal—sure. I'm going to Russia next month, if the United States government lets me. It's a very ambitious program. I can't give away too much of it in advance, but part of it will deal with the role that Islam plays in the world today. It's a very important project. If people want to support this, you can go to my Substack, Scott Ritter, at scottritter.com. There's a donation page, and I can promise you any donations you make will be used to pursue this. It's become more important today than ever before, because when I first conceived it, we didn't have the reality of this existential conflict in Iran—a conflict that, in large part, is based on a misunderstanding and a perversion of the Islamic faith.

And so now I've spoken to the people I'm working with, and they agree that this project we had—which could have been a minor, peripheral effort—actually has the potential to become a mainstream discussion about the reality of Islam and its compatibility with the rest of the world. And, you know, this is the kind of healing approach we need, because one day this war with Iran will end. And when it ends, how do we—how do we live with the Iranians? How do we begin the process

of healing the wounds we've inflicted? I don't claim to have the answers. What I'm saying is, I'm on a journey to find them.

And anything you can do to help me on this journey, we'd greatly appreciate. I'm an independent journalist. I don't allow anybody to pay for anything while I'm in Russia—at all—even though legally I'm allowed to. I mean, there's an open license that says, as a journalist, I can have people pay for my airfare, my hotel, and my expenses. So I could go over there easily. And believe me, I have a whole bunch of people over there who would love to pay for all these things. But I only survive as an independent journalist by saying I'm under the control of nobody but myself. I have to work with them and all that, but these are my ideas.

These are my standards, my messages, and I pay for them. I'm in control of the product. Nothing gets published that hasn't been approved by me and done by me. But this can only happen because, unfortunately, I'm not an independently wealthy person. I'm not Tucker Carlson with his multimillion-dollar—uh, you know—I'm a middle-class American who's basically punching above my weight, so to speak, financially. And I can only do these things with the support of the people out there who think this work is worth supporting. So, for the people who don't like me, I don't care.

But for the people who do like me, if you'd like to see this project go forward—and it is going forward—we've already met the initial threshold. But as you know, Danny, there are enhancements that can be brought to bear: things you can do production-wise, or in terms of expanding the scope of collection on the ground, that can only happen if you have money. So we're going to make this happen. But if you want to help me enhance it, go to the donation page and donate. I'd really appreciate it, and I think you're going to appreciate it too when we come back with what I think is going to be a very impressive program.

#Danny

Yeah, everyone, definitely check out Scott's website. I also put the donation link up before the show started, so you can help out directly. You don't even need two clicks—just one. Without further ado, everybody, we're going to head out of here. Scott's got a busy schedule today, this Sunday. I just reviewed it, so let me say...

#Scott Ritter

I was like, oh God, you have a 12-hour break? I'm going straight from here to something else.

#Danny

Oh my God, definitely get a stretch. Okay, hit the like button, everyone. I'll be back tomorrow morning, same time. I'll let you know who's on for these daily updates. Check the video description to find Scott's links, to support Scott and to support this channel—Patreon, Substack, and more.

Thank you, everyone—Super Chats, members, everything. I really appreciate it, but we're out of here for today. See you tomorrow at 10 a.m.