

# War NOT About Change: Fundamentalists Overtook US Military

There are various reports of US military commanders telling their soldiers that the purpose of the Iran War is to bring about armageddon and the Second Coming of Christ. Pete Hegseth is himself an evangelical nut with two Christian fundamentalist tattoos, and there is a "White House Faith Office" run by an evangelist war-nut. Zionism (Jewish and Christian) is all about this stuff. So what if the Iran War is not actually a "rational-secular" war of the neocons for the purpose of projecting US power, but if it's an irrational war of religious fanatics who want the war for war's sake because that is part of god's divine plan? This would change the calculations about the nature of this travesty fundamentally.... and it might put Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque in direct danger. Neutrality Studies substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> (Opt in for Academic Section from your profile settings: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com/s/academic>) Merch & Donations: <https://neutralitystudies-shop.fourthwall.com>

## #Pascal

Hello everybody, Pascal Lottaz here from Neutrality Studies, and we need to talk about maybe an even bigger problem with the war in Iran than we initially thought. While we were all discussing the reasons for this war—whether it's for regime change, to curb the nuclear program, or if the nuclear program is just a pretext for regime change—most of us now think regime change is the actual goal of this travesty. But it's actually possible that even that is a ruse to conceal an even more disturbing picture: that the people implementing this war on the U.S. side are religious theologians, fanatics—basically the Western Christian version of the Taliban—who are looking at this as a holy war. And not in a rhetorical, metaphorical, or figurative way, not just because they killed Ayatollah Khamenei, who is, of course, the leader of Shia Islam.

So it's not just a metaphor for what's happening there—they actually, genuinely believe they're doing God's work. Tucker Carlson, in a video that came out less than ten hours ago, is ringing the alarm bell on this. But I think he's missed a couple of points I'd like to bring into the discussion. One of the things he explores in that video is how the Zionists, and also the Christian Zionists, openly and clearly profess that their goal is the establishment of the Third Temple.

And Tucker Carlson warns that if these people are serious, then what they're aiming for is, of course, the destruction of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem—the second most holy place, as far as I understand, in the Muslim faith—and that on its ruins they would then build the Third Temple, since the Al-Aqsa Mosque stands on what's believed to be the ruins of the Second Temple of the Jews. The people who support this—the Zionists and the Christian Zionists—do it in order to bring about Armageddon, the end of days, Judgment Day, and the Second Coming of Christ. Now, please listen

to this short extract from Tucker Carlson's monologue, where he cuts over to Pete Hegseth, the Secretary of War back in 2018. Just have a listen to how he talks about him and how he's surprised to find out that Hegseth is actually such a devout Christian Zionist.

## **#Speaker 1**

But here's Pete Hegseth, a football player from Princeton, talking about it in a way that suggests he's thought a lot about it. This was in 2018.

## **#Speaker 2**

Today, Jennifer and I had a chance to go see the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, the Western Wall tunnels, and so much of the Old City. As you stand there, you can't help but behold the miracle before you. And it got me thinking about another miracle that I hope all of you don't see as too far away. Because 1917 was a miracle. 1948 was a miracle. 1967 was a miracle. 2017—the declaration of Jerusalem as the capital—was a miracle. And there's no reason why the miracle of the reestablishment of the Temple on the Temple Mount isn't possible. I don't know how it would happen. You don't know how it would happen. But I know that it could happen.

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And this is the sad part—fast forward eight years, and it seems they've found a way to implement this. I mean, just as an illustration: this is Tehran, yesterday or maybe two days ago. The amount of bombing on Iran that's being unleashed is on a massive scale. And as you can see, it's in the middle of the city—obviously not only accepting that there are civilian casualties, but actually aiming for civilian casualties. And the Secretary of Defense—sorry, the Secretary of War—actually defends all of this in the following words. I'm showing you this just to underscore the mindset of these people. Then we'll go back to the religious aspect of it once more. But just listen to how he defends this, this morning.

## **#Speaker. 3**

Ending and fixing their leaders and their military leaders. Flying over Tehran, flying over Iran, flying over their capital, flying over the IRGC—Iranian leaders looking up and seeing only U.S. and Israeli air power every minute of every day until we decide it's over. And Iran will be able to do nothing about it. B-2s, B-52s, B-1s, Predator drones, fighters controlling the skies, picking targets—death and destruction from the sky all day long. We're playing for keeps. Our warfighters have maximum authority, granted personally by the president and yours truly. Our rules of engagement are bold, precise, and designed to unleash American power, not shackle it. This was never meant to be a fair fight, and it is not a fair fight. We are punching them while they're down, which is exactly how it should be.

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And, you know, this flows into the way some of the religious fanatics, again in the U.S., are now looking at this and arguing about it. I mean, listen to this. So, this one is Paula White. If you're not familiar with Paula White, go to the White House homepage and look her up. There's an announcement there: President Trump announces appointments to the White House Faith Office back in February last year. Pastor Paula White will return to the White House as a special government employee and senior advisor to the newly created White House Faith Office. I wasn't aware there was a White House Faith Office, but there is now. And Pastor White-Cain is this lady here, and she talks about Iran and the death and destruction wrought upon it in the following terms.

## **#Speaker 1**

Strike and strike until you have victory. For every enemy that is aligned against you, let there be that we would strike the ground, for you will give us victory, God. I hear the sound of an abundance of rain. I hear the sound of victory. I hear the sound of shouting and singing. I hear the sound of victory. I hear the sound of an abundance of rain. I hear the sound of victory. I hear the sound of an abundance of...

## **#Pascal**

So, I mean, this person is leading the Faith Office, and if that wasn't bad enough—just a total nut, right?—I mean, the Secretary of War doesn't really talk in these terms, does he? Or does he? If you listen to the speech he gave right before, then we learn something even more disturbing: it's not just the actual political leaders who are this close to religious fanatics. There was this report published on the homepage of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, a foundation created to help the U.S. military remain a secular institution.

And the person who made this report—actually, the president, Mike Weinstein—himself a Jewish man who served in the armed forces of the United States, is very concerned about keeping religion out of national service. They report that their Military Religious Freedom Foundation was inundated with complaints from gleeful commanders—plural, commanders—telling troops that the Iran war is part of God's divine plan to usher in the return of Jesus Christ. And if we then look at what they're reporting, they include one of the emails Mr. Weinstein received from worried service members—an active-duty military NCO whom they do not identify.

So, I mean, we just have to take Mr. Weinstein at his word that this email is genuine. But if we believe it is—that he's actually not lying, that he really does receive these emails and complaints—then let's read what the email to him actually says. "Dear Mr. Weinstein, thank you for taking my calls and the calls of some of my colleagues about what happened earlier this morning with our combat unit. This was March 2nd, so just a couple of days ago, right after the invasion of Iran. Please protect my identity and the identities of those speaking for us regarding what we discussed."

Our unit is not currently in the combat zone AOR regarding the Iranian attacks, but we're in a ready-support function, where we could be deployed at any moment to join and augment the combat operations as participants. I am a—rank withheld—in our unit. This morning, our commander opened the combat readiness status briefing by urging us not to be afraid of what's happening with our combat operations in Iran right now. He told us to remind our troops that this was all part of God's divine plan, and he specifically referenced numerous citations from the Book of Revelation, referring to Armageddon and the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

He said that President Trump has been anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire in Iran, to bring about Armageddon and mark his return to Earth. He had a big grin on his face when he said all of this, which made his message seem even more extreme. Our commander would probably be described as a "Christian first" supporter. He's been this way for a very long time and makes it clear that he wants everyone under him to become just like him—a Christian. But what he did this morning was so toxic and over the line that it shocked many of us in attendance at the ops readiness briefing. Besides myself, I'm reaching out to MRFF on behalf of fifteen fellow troops.

I know you asked me about the religious views of our group that requested help from MRFF. I can only tell you that I'm a Christian, and at least ten of the others are also Christians. One of the others is Jewish, and one is Muslim. I don't know the religious or non-religious status of the other three at this time. My fellow troops and I know it's completely wrong to have to endure what our commander said today. It's not just about the separation of church and state, as we discussed, Mr. Weinstein. It's the fact that our commander feels he's fully supported and justified by the entire chain of command to impose his Armageddon views on our attack on Iran—and on those of us beneath him in the chain of command.

So this person, if authentic, is clearly worried about the craziness of these announcements and about these religious beliefs being imposed on the unit. It's interesting that he doesn't put this into a larger context and actually ask, well, if those are the religious beliefs, then what are we doing in Iran? I mean, this should obviously be a huge red flag. He interprets it as a problem concerning the religious freedoms of the unit members. But let's put that aside. The important thing here is that it seems there are lunatics in the White House, including Mr. Hegseth.

And it gets even worse with Mr. Hegseth, because it's not just his speech acts. It's the fact that the guy even has at least two very fundamentalist Christian tattoos—one being the Jerusalem cross that you can see here in this picture. It's a symbol of the Crusaders. And the other one is—I actually had to ask Google if this was true. I mean, it sounds a little crazy, but it seems it is real. So, asking Google if it's true that he has these tattoos, Google says yes, Pete Hegseth has tattoos associated with the Crusades, including a prominent Jerusalem cross on his chest and the Latin phrase \*Deus Vult\*, meaning "God wills it," on his arm.

So, I mean, if this doesn't strike you as problematic—together with what we've heard him say just earlier and what we heard him say in 2018—then I don't know what is worrisome. Plus, these religious beliefs and views have obviously already penetrated the actual armed services and the White House. So even though Donald Trump is clearly not a man of faith, he is implementing these religious beliefs and this very belligerent, like, not just crusading, but holy war—bringing about Armageddon. The Crusades would be one thing; the Crusades are about conquering Jerusalem. But the holy war to bring about the second coming of Christ, to bring the end times—that's another game entirely, right?

And under that framework, if that's actually the mindset of the people implementing this war, then the entire question of whether the war is rational—if it's about regime change, if it's about nukes—is utterly irrelevant. I mean, all of these are then just pretexts or deceptions, distractions from the actual reason, which is that the war is the reason itself. They want this war because they need the war. They need the fight. It's a biblical pronouncement, a biblical reference to how the end days come about—by the clash of good versus evil. And so you need the clash. You need to have the war. The war itself is the goal, not just a rationalist kind of approach.

You see why I'm a little bit worried here, because if this is in fact true—if this is really the case—then we can't approach this war in rational terms anymore. I mean, in that case, we really have a Christian version of the Taliban sitting in the White House, plotting how to bring about the end times and how to use the Jewish state as a kind of evidence or a way to implement that. And this, of course, squares with what we know about Christian Zionism, right? Christian Zionists are just like that—they don't want the Jewish state for the sake of the Jewish state.

They want the Jewish state in order to build the Third Temple, to bring about Armageddon—where the Christians go to heaven and the Jews go to hell, right? That's the whole idea. I mean, they just need this implementation partner. They need the Jews in order to do this, so they can have the end days coming. So if that is the rationale under which they operate—if that's how the decisions are made in the highest circles that then decide on implementation and can completely circumvent Congress, which has war-making powers—this is exactly why the U.S. Constitution gives those powers to Congress: so that it's a joint decision of a large group, not of a small one.

But now Congress—actually, just 24 hours ago—voted not to constrain Donald Trump's powers to use U.S. military force against Iran. So this is going to continue as long as the Democrats are a minority in Congress. The Democrats voted to constrain those powers, but the Republicans didn't, and they won. They have the upper hand. So at least until the end of the year, this kind of power constellation will continue. And it's a constellation in which a small circle will use Donald Trump as the man who will order this fight, while they themselves are these Christian fundamentalists.

And I wouldn't be surprised if Marco Rubio was also part of this gang. It's extremely worrisome because, again, it means that all of our rationalist, realist approaches actually don't even apply,

right? It doesn't even make sense to think about what is good for the United States and what is not, because it's not about the United States. It's about Christianity. It's about religious beliefs. It's about the Bible. And that means we need to completely rethink what a possible endgame can be if the war itself—as a war—is the goal. So we thereby leave the realm of Clausewitzian realism, right? In which war is just a continuation of politics by other means, right?

We're not in that paradigm anymore. We're in the paradigm where good fights evil—literally—and it's done for the cause of bringing about the end days. Yeah. So it's a necessary war. Under that framing, it's not a useless war, it's not an endless war, it's not a quagmire. It's the actual tool to reach the final objective, which has nothing to do anymore with the nation. So, very, very worrisome to me. I'm not saying that everybody is buying this, but I'm saying there are very good reasons to be worried. And I must say, I think the warning that Tucker Carlson is giving here in this episode is very much on point when he says, "Look, maybe they are after Al-Aqsa. Maybe they want to blow up Al-Aqsa."

And he's saying—he's actually cautioning us here—that maybe they're going to, maybe there's going to be a false flag. Because what would be better, and he's making that point in the video, than pretending that a missile from Iran accidentally—oopsie-daisy—blew up Al-Aqsa? And this is the big chance, right? You then just assert that it was the Iranians and try to foment even more unrest in the Middle East to bring everybody up in arms against Iran. And although Iran will, of course, say they never did that, Western propaganda will automatically start framing all of it as just a lame excuse: they blew up Al-Aqsa, Al-Aqsa is gone, what to do, yada, yada, yada. I mean, this is, in fact, more or less the chance for the Zionist—Jewish Zionist and Christian Zionist—lunatics to implement that.

Because if Israel actually blows up—openly blows up—Al-Aqsa, then they would have even more war against them. But if they can blame Iran for it, well, that's just about perfect, isn't it? Is this a conspiracy theory? I don't know. But we've seen so many times how, in war, false flags are used to achieve some kind of political goal—or, in this case, a religious aim. So would it surprise us? I mean, I wouldn't know. This is absolutely, to me, thinkable. And while we talk about the different aspects of the war, what's happening on the ground, the big picture and the big game might just be about fulfilling religious fantasies—which are, clearly, obviously fantasies. But if they're believed, then these people, these actors, are going to act based on those beliefs.

At the same time, we're also hearing that the CIA is working to arm Kurdish forces to spark uprisings in Iran. And in Azerbaijan, troops are apparently being deployed to the border with Iran. Today, an Iranian drone struck an airport—or an airfield—in Azerbaijan for the first time. So it really seems like this war is spreading and growing. And just to end again on the Europeans—sorry, I keep coming back to them because they're so pathetic—Kaja Kallas is again blaming Iran for the war spreading. Kallas had a meeting today, and she was saying that Iran is exporting the war, trying to expand it to as many countries as they can to sow chaos, while they're calling for stability and looking at what they can do together.

In the Middle East, we're actually seeing the same drones that are attacking Kyiv every day now also attacking targets there, she said, referring to Iran's Shahed drones that have been supplied to Russia to attack Ukraine. The EU is concerned that the Middle East conflict will weaken Ukraine's ability to defend itself against Russia, partly because rising oil prices help Moscow fund its war effort and because of tighter supplies of drones and intercepted technology. Kaja Kallas was quoted again, saying, "When it comes to drones and drone interceptors, Ukraine has really been able to produce a lot and can also share its knowledge with the Gulf countries to boost production. So, of course, we are looking into this, but I'm worried that the capabilities are limited, and that's why it will also have an impact on other wars."

So, Kaja Kallas again—like, trying to... And the Europeans are now blaming Iran for spreading the war, not blaming the United States for starting it, not blaming the United States for using Qatari territory, Bahrain, Dubai, the Gulf states, and Saudi Arabia as launching pads to strike Iran. No, no, no. She criticizes Iran for hitting those targets and thereby spreading the war. So it's this absolutely duplicitous game and this stupid framing of the entire situation—but it's an incredibly self-serving one, which is just grotesque. But all of this, my friends, all of this—I must say, I look at it differently now, since watching this and since actually reading and learning, especially about this one. This is the one that really struck me the most.

Because if it's just one or two lunatics in the White House, then that's one thing. But if they actually have the military services—if commanders and a good part of the U.S. military are infiltrated with religious fanatics who then brief individual soldiers on the ground about the religious motivation of the war—well, then you have an integrated system, right? From top to bottom, you have lunatics, you have fanatics conducting war, not rational people with a clear political and secular understanding of it. If it's a religious understanding of the war, then we're talking about a completely different animal here. I think that's what I wanted to get across. I hope from the bottom of my heart that nothing bad will happen to Al-Aqsa Mosque, especially in the month of Ramadan.

But also, beyond that, the only point where I agree with Kaja Kallas is that the spreading of the war is a very bad thing—that the increasing violence is a very bad thing, that calm should return. But that calm should return first and foremost also to Iran, and the attacks on Iran must stop, and this religious folly and fanaticism must end. So in the end, isn't it actually ironic that we might be in a situation where the United States keeps calling Iran theocratic lunatics and extremists, when in fact they are the ones following a Christian fundamentalist creed that wants to conquer Jerusalem, destroy Al-Aqsa Mosque, establish the Third Temple, and then get to Armageddon? But what would still surprise us at this stage? Thank you for your attention.