

Iran War: Oil Shock & Boots on the Ground

| Stanislav Krapivnik

The US-Israeli Axis is unleashing hell over Tehran. But Iran seems far from giving up. On the contrary, as they absorb the attacks, they are drawing in the aggressor regime. And as crazy as it may seem, the US is giving us all the indications that it is preparing for a suicidal ground offensive. Links: Stanislav Krapivnik on X: <https://x.com/StasKrapivnik> Stanislav Krapivnik on YouTube (Mr Slavic Man): <https://www.youtube.com/@mrslavikman> 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> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Introduction and war snapshot 00:00:39 Oil war and strategic aims 00:03:15 Unconditional surrender and civilian toll 00:08:08 Desalination targets and water crisis 00:14:14 Iran endgame and invasion reality 00:16:16 Boots on ground routes and logistics 00:25:04 End times ideology and Pentagon influence 00:49:52 Iran strategy blinds US and drains missiles 01:01:37 Closing warning and final takeaway

#Pascal

Welcome everybody back to Neutrality Studies. I'm Pascal Lottaz, and with me today again is Stanislav Krapivnik, our colleague in Moscow who always has fantastic insights because he also served in the U.S. Marines—right? No, no, Army, Army. The Army, sorry, sorry—the U.S. Army.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Not a jarhead. I was a track head, and I never was a grunt—but not a jarhead.

#Pascal

Well, you've been analyzing international situations for decades now. After one week and two days of slaughter in Iran and this new, insane war, what's your assessment now?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, we're about to enter a much worse phase for two reasons. Obviously, now it's become an oil war. We're watching it evolve step by step, and it keeps getting worse for two reasons. One—the Americans have no plan. They never had a plan. Trump was convinced it would take four days and that's it. We're on day nine. And the oil markets have panicked. They're finally starting to realize that, oh, this is long term. So oil hit 110. It's not stopping, obviously. It was going up very slowly at first. The first day it was like 2.5%. You'd think there'd be a big spike, but everybody believed

America's little BS about, "Oh, it'll be four days, four days." Well, now I think it's starting to price in that, no, it's not. So that's from one side.

And the Americans have made it very clear over the last couple of days because, I mean, their story and position just keep changing, buddy. You have no idea. Why are they there? Well, they finally started coming out: they're there because of the oil. I know—it's a shock. Everybody's shocked. They want oil. They want "what's ours is ours, and what's yours is also ours." You know, it's the best commercial in the world for any nation to nuke up—look at North Korea. So I've been saying, plenty of resources will never be touched by America because, you know, they can reach out and touch America. And that's it. That's the lesson for every single nation that has anything worth taking: arm up. I'm not talking conventionally—arm up with nukes. The unfortunate thing, caused by American stupidity, is that every nation that can is going to nuke up.

The other thing is, you're dealing with the Israelis who are—well, first of all, we know this whole storm is because of the Israelis. We heard that big word salad from Marco Rubio and then Johnson, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and they went blah, blah, blah—lots and lots and lots of words—and when you boil it all down, it's basically, "Well, we weren't planning on doing this, but the Israelis are going in, and we had no choice." Sure you had a choice. You could've said, "Iran, we're not in this. Have fun with the Israelis. Don't touch us, we're not touching you." That would've worked real well. But then the donor class would be very, very upset with you, wouldn't they? And Marco Rubio's chances of being president would be zero.

#Pascal

That's the big difference from the 12-day war last year in June, right? That's when Israel attacked and the United States said, "We're not part of this," until the very end. I mean, we know they were part of it. We know they prepared. But this time it's a completely different game, right? They said, "We attack first—both of us together." And Trump came out with this insane statement about what the war aims are, and he keeps repeating it at the moment: Iran must unconditionally surrender, or else we continue. That's the same language they used with Japan at the end of the Second World War, before they dropped the nuclear bombs on them.

And, you know, that was the war aim—and it was achieved by completely bombing and killing the civilian population. It seems to me that this is very much what they're after at the moment with what they're doing here. I mean, the Red Crescent actually published a letter saying, "Look, in the first week we've had 6,680 structures bombed—5,500 residential units, 1,000 commercial units, 14 medical centers, 65 schools, and so on." Seven Red Crescent relief workers have been killed in this. And the pictures that reach us from the bombing of the oil drilling or refining stations are apocalyptic.

We can see in Iran, in Tehran, the ditches burning. I mean, the ecological disaster that the U.S. is now wreaking upon Tehran—and actually the entire region—because this stuff is going to spread rapidly all over the place, is in any way, shape, or form just horrendous. "Apocalyptic" is the word to

use. So, in a sense, the Iranians were not as lucky as the Ukrainians, dealing with a civilized army on the other end. But here we have people who wreak havoc on a massive scale in their city centers. What do you make of the way the U.S. is implementing the war?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

This isn't the U.S., this part. Let's be honest about this. The U.S. wants resources. This isn't getting resources. The U.S. wants the infrastructure intact. The problem here with the U.S.—why is Trump saying “unconditional surrender”? He wants anything to end this war at this point because he's, pardon my French, he's fucked. I don't have any other words. That's the best word. Sometimes you've got to use words like that to describe just how good Trump is. His presidency is over—possibly a lot of other people's chances of ever becoming president are over.

#Pascal

He's ruining the chances for the others as well. Yeah, especially for Vance. But let's talk about that later. Who do you think? Is there anyone who could do this?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, the Iranians have already said—he's using any excuse—okay, they've surrendered to the Arabs, it's over. And the Iranians go, “No, no, we're going to keep doing this until we feel we're done.” But this is the Israelis. The Israelis struck this, because they're running a bit of a different scheme here. They're doing a scheme of extermination of everybody who lives there who isn't Israeli and isn't—I mean, they're flat out, look, they're genociding Lebanon right now. The Israelis are posting articles saying, “Look, the UAE has entered this war.” They took out an Iranian desalination plant on Kharg Island, which is mostly oil infrastructure for loading ships.

It has like 30 villages. I'm assuming they're pretty tiny villages. They have that many villages on that island—it's probably just people working in that area. But they had a desalination plant. And the UAE is like, “No, no, no, no, no, no, no. We didn't do this. We're not in this. It's the Israelis that did it.” And there's a reason the Israelis are doing it—because they want to exterminate the population. Think about what's going to happen right now. You want to talk about mass die-offs of humanity. And Iran has actually struck back—or maybe Iran has struck back. The Bahraini desalination plant has been hit. Just to understand, the Iranians say, “No, no, we're going to go after the Israeli desalination plants since they're hidden.”

#Pascal

Hey, very brief intermission because I was recently banned from YouTube. And although I'm back, this could happen again at any time. So please consider subscribing not only here, but also to my mailing list on Substack. That's pascallottaz.substack.com. The link's going to be in the description below. And now, back to the video.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

But here's the kicker. Iran—and really the whole region—has been dry for the last decade, decade and a half, due to climatic cycles. So Iran doesn't have enough water, mostly for agriculture and industry. They have enough drinking water. Iran uses desalination plants for less than 5% of its population, mostly on that island. On the other hand, the Gulf Arab states rely 80% to 100% on desalination plants, because these are artificial countries, if you think about it. They exist and have grown because of oil and gas. A lot of these countries can't grow their own food—it's almost fully, or absolutely fully, imported. The water comes from desalination, which they can afford because they have the hydrocarbons. Thank you.

They have the hydrocarbon resources to run these desalination plants, and they have the money from selling them to keep those plants running. They have an artificially inflated population—whether it's their own people multiplying or imported labor. But realistically, if you look historically, these places were almost empty. I remember when I went to Dubai. I was working at Halliburton; we had an airport there. Before flying out, I wanted to look up historic Dubai, because I like historic places—I like history. Couldn't find anything, unfortunately. I thought, what the hell? Then I started talking to locals, and they said, "That is historic Dubai." Dubai, before it started growing because of oil and gas, was just one clay-walled fort and a tiny village.

That was historic Dubai. It doesn't exist anymore—it got paved over, rebuilt, built up. So all these cities are there only because they're mostly one-trick ponies, one-trick-pony economies. They're oil and gas—hydrocarbons, that's it. Just like Azerbaijan is a one-trick economy. Well, it has some agriculture—at least they can feed themselves. These countries can't feed themselves. Now we have the problem with Israel, which is, by the way, 75% dependent on desalination. So if they're starting to play this game—because they've hit the depots and refineries—Iran has hit the Haifa refinery; it's burning. They've hit an electric plant; it's also burning. I mean, Iran is officially Iran, you know—officially from the Americans.

We only saw, like, five missiles yesterday. Really? I mean, who are you going to trust? The pictures coming out show massive damage—lots of it—in Israel. And while Iran isn't doing mass fire attacks like it did in 2012, when you had waves of 200 or 300 missiles and drones coming in, they're going for the long run this time. This is a war of attrition. They understood the war wasn't going to be short, so they gave it a good hit at the start. Now it's steady—every single day, 50, maybe 100. And

they're saying, "We've looked at the satellite images; we're going to increase our missile volume by about 50% and our drones by about 100%." This is the long run, and they're going to wear down the Israelis.

#Pascal

The Israelis and the Americans can do the same, right? I mean, by now Iran is basically defenseless in the air, as far as I can see. And the United States still— even if something happened to the fleet— can at any time use its bombers the way it did a year ago, just fly from the continental United States and drop whatever they want over the cities of Iran. And apparently, it's not only that they don't have any moral scruples about hitting civilian targets—it seems they're actually aiming for civilian targets, like little schoolgirls and so on, to terrorize everybody. I mean, what do you see here as the way this is unfolding? It's become a very horrible war, with intense war crimes basically from day one.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, you know, by the way, Japan didn't surrender because of an American air bomb. It didn't surrender because of a nuclear bomb. It surrendered two weeks after the second atomic bomb, and it did that because the Kwantung Army was exterminated by the Red Army. That was the last field army—a million-man army. By the way, if you add up all the islands the U.S. took, including the Philippines, that still didn't come close to the size of the Kwantung Army. The Red Army just cut through them because these were Western Front veterans coming in. And the Kuril Islands were taken by storm—outnumbered three to one, the Russian marines landed in the middle of the fog. And while the Japanese were still eating their rice, they suddenly had submachine guns pointed at them. "Surprise, we're here."

We didn't fight like the "civilized" Americans who bombed you for a week and let you know they were coming. They just showed up in the middle of the fog and took those islands. That scared the crap out of the Japanese, knowing the northern home islands were going to be next. And the Red Army was massing to take those northern home islands. That's why they surrendered in the end. That million-man army was supposed to be ferried over to defend the home islands from the Americans. And the Americans—well, to say they were in a tizzy about that—were looking at projections of two million dead American soldiers to take the home islands. So they were begging, pleading, doing everything they could to get Stalin into that fight as fast as possible, because they couldn't do it alone.

#Pascal

I also think that the entry of the Soviet Union into the war had much more weight on the political decision to surrender. But what's the game for Iran now? Do you think there are people in Washington who believe they can do that again—like pull off a Japan-style unconditional surrender?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

You know, America does this every single time. It's never worked. Don't get me wrong—I mean, the Americans burned to death five million German civilians during World War II. They burned to death about a hundred thousand French, for whatever reason. I mean, they were taking out villages that didn't even have any German soldiers in them, to the point where Churchill had to intervene because we were going to turn France into a perpetual enemy if we continued that. Luckily, De Gaulle just buried it all, and anybody who had issues with that historically was shut the hell up by the French government because they didn't want to ruffle anybody's feathers. But it never works. Sure, if you can do mass destruction, mass murder—they do that all the time—but no country's ever surrendered from that. You want to conquer a country, you normally have to put somebody on the ground with a flag that says, "I'm here. I've taken your ground." And that means troops.

#Pascal

And a lot of them. Otherwise, it ends up like Vietnam, where at some point you just get tired of it and leave. And that's it. So is that the best Iran can hope for—a Vietnam-style victory after three and a half million dead?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

It may be, but even Vietnam—America, look, America can't repeat Vietnam without a massive draft. Vietnam was during the Cold War, and the U.S. at its height had 550,000 troops there. That's the entire U.S. Army and Marine Corps right now. You'd have to pull them from every single side, pull all the reserves in, and throw them all into one spot—that's 550,000. The U.S. military is really much smaller than most people think, the modern U.S. one. But, you know, they're talking about maybe four locations where they could send in the U.S. military. It looks like the 82nd Airborne is going to go in, so probably the 101st Airborne will be behind.

#Pascal

I didn't hear about that yet. So, according to your information, the plan is that they'll put boots on the ground if they need to? Yes, it looks like it.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

They've canceled maneuvers that were planned. These things get scheduled a year, a year and a half, sometimes two years in advance. You have these war games where you assign people, and the planning usually starts about a year out. By six months, you're definitely consolidating the plans and so on. I used to do this. So when they cancel a big annual war game, that means a lot. And when they start telling people, "That's it, everybody's off leave, everybody back on post," that means a lot

too. Now, which way are they going to go? I don't know. In my last video, I mentioned three locations, but now there's a fourth.

It's Qandil, which is even more insane than the other locations. So they could go into Kurdistan. But, A, the Kurds aren't exactly too eager to trust Americans—I wonder why. Erdogan attacked them after Trump, just recently—what, three months ago?—said, "Eh, have at them." Oh, wait, wait, do we need them now? Amazingly, the Kurds remember that. That's one. Plus, Turkey's not going to allow an independent Kurdistan on its border, with its own Kurds that it really does repress the hell out of on the other side of that border. There's no way it's going to allow that. Alternatively, they could go through Azerbaijan.

That's probably the sanest place they could go. Now, the logistics are insane. I mean, if you think about where the U.S. military would have to feed—considering it's right between Russia and Iran. Oh, and Russia will probably supply Iran and give out satellite data and sell to China. Oh, shocker, I know. But Russia's been warned by the U.S. that it will have consequences. Okay—four years of proxy war, and Russia will have consequences? Keep dreaming. At this point, that's how much anybody cares. So that's probably the sanest place to go in. And the thing is, though, you can't really rile up the Iranian Azerbaijanis, because they're co-rulers of the country.

Not only has one of the previous presidents been Azerbaijani—Khamenei was Azerbaijani, and so is his son, who's going to be the new supreme leader. You can't get these people to revolt against what? They're in power. Their ethnos is in power. It's pretty damn hard to get them up and revolting. Now, whether Azerbaijan will be left after the end of this war, and whether its one-trick economy is going to be left intact—that's a big question. But it seems that would be the most logical, I mean, probably the safest option. There's no logic here. Do we have any actual on-the-ground indication that the Azerbaijanis are preparing to receive the Americans like that—that this is where the troops will start? Not yet.

There is an Israeli base in Azerbaijan. There's an American presence there. Plus, about a month and a half ago, Georgia allowed American planes to go through its airspace, and they were landing C-130s in Georgia right after that. So maybe that's where the drones came from—the mystery drones they needed to start a war with. And from what I've been told, there are Israeli agitators trying to get Georgia into a fighting mood, I guess, against Russia. Iran is a little bit far away from them, but that's still the sanest place. Okay, if you have to retreat out, you can retreat back out.

#Pascal

For that to happen, you'd need the okay from Erdoğan, because Azerbaijan won't act without his thumbs-up.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

I mean, they'd have to pass through Turkey, obviously. And once they get through Turkey, they'd go through Georgian airspace and into Azerbaijan. I could see that. Azerbaijan—Erdoğan plays every side for as much as he can. Right, right. Now, I thought the most insane place would be the Straits of Hormuz, because you couldn't land airborne troops by dropping a lot of parachutes. It would be a massacre. Even if you're jumping at 900 meters, in a drone-rich—FPV drone-rich—environment, you're going to lose a bunch of people just coming down. Never mind, it's probably not the best location.

Consider the mountains—the climate. If it's mountainous, the air currents are likely to make it very difficult. But you could drop them into the UAE, use the Marines to grab a beachhead, and try to take the entire beachhead to, quote, "make it safe." Of course, it's not going to make it safe from drones coming down. It would just be a larger repeat of Krynky. If you remember Krynky, that was a proof of concept where Zelensky dropped a company of Ukrainian Marines across the Dnieper River to take this small tourist village of Krynky, which, if you look across from Kherson to the Russian side and go just a bit north, it's up there.

Krynky was—well, there is no Krynky anymore—it was three parallel streets running down along the Dnieper River. Behind it, there was one road coming in perpendicular, and it was swampy behind that. So the Russian forces couldn't get in, but the Ukrainian forces couldn't get out. The place was useless; it was a bottleneck. And Russia said, "Okay, fine, you've taken Krynky," and they started shelling it nonstop, day and night. The Ukrainians, though, took it as a proof of concept. The Americans said, "Okay, now you've done it—now expand, put more troops in there." And Zelensky had his back to the wall and couldn't back out.

And in the end, after about four months, they had two of their Marine battalions wiped out in Krynky because they just kept sending people in, and they kept getting killed. About two thousand guys died. I mean, there is no Krynky—it's been leveled to the basement and below by Russian artillery. Russia finally cleared it out when the Ukrainians stopped sending reinforcements. They just cleared out what was left. Those guys were abandoned over there. So this would be pretty big if they tried that, because again, now you have to supply them. Even though it's not a very wide waterway, you'd have to supply them across water—with water at their backs, mountains in front of them, and about a million angry Iranian soldiers.

#Pascal

I read this morning that the Gerald Ford is actually on its way there. Yeah, I don't know why.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Honestly, I have no idea why they would do that. But now they've come out with an even worse plan I couldn't have imagined—to grab Qeshm Island. The desalination plant there has been bombed, so you're not going to get any water. And they want to grab and occupy it because that's where the oil terminals are. Look at the distance they'd have to go—across the entire Persian Gulf at

basically its widest point—to supply those guys. They're not that far from Iran's mainland, so it's going to be a drone-happy environment. It's suicide. I mean, these guys are going to have drones coming in—FPV drones day and night—in a wide-open area, plus whatever missiles, heavier drones, and everything else. It's suicide. But they'll drop people in there because you're dealing with idiots and with yes-man generals who are never going to say no.

#Pascal

That's why it's so hard for me to believe they actually contemplate putting U.S. boots on the ground. I mean, that they're thinking about having the Kurds go in from Iraq, or having the Azerbaijanis send their armies—a couple thousand men—just to draw in Iranian forces so they can bomb them from the sky. I mean, I see why they'd do that. But actually putting in U.S. troops? I mean, isn't that the surest way to lose the last bit of support they still have inside the U.S.? I mean, why?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Okay, so Hexworth wants a crusade.

#Pascal

Yeah, I mean, the man wants to be—

#Stanislav Krapivnik

A man wants to be a holy crusader for the heritage. I mean, he's part of a Christian heresy—that's what it is. This dispensationalism, this Christian Zionism, came around in the 1830s by a guy, if I remember correctly, named John Darby, who was a British evangelical preacher. I'm not sure he moved to the U.S. So that mentality— I mean, Hexworth actually said once, before he was confirmed, that he wants his sons to fight for Israel. Yeah, and you want to be defense minister of whose country?

#Pascal

And I did a whole video about that last week—about Hexworth having two of these tattoos, the Jerusalem Cross and "Deus Vult." You know, really the worst of the worst kind of Christian fundamentalist crusader stuff. And not only that, we also have people in the army who think like that. You actually wrote me and told me you've met people like this who are within the ranks of the army and think in terms of holy war. Can you tell me a little bit about those?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Yeah, I mean, I grew up around a lot of these types of people. You know, not all evangelicals are Christian Zionists. And from what I've been hearing, especially among the youth, they've been moving away from that. The Christian Zionist thing is an absolute heresy. In Christianity, the understanding from day one of the Church—what they're now calling a heresy—the Christian Zionists are calling that a heresy. It's just... good Lord. I was up too late last night working. Substitution—that's the substitution heresy, which the heretics are now calling the mainstream 2,000 years of Christian theology a heresy.

What they're calling "substitution" is what the Church has accepted from day one. Okay, so the old Church is the Orthodox Church. All the Catholics consider it the Catholic Church. But anyway, it was a unified Church until it split in 1054 A.D. And you can argue who split from whom, but the point is, up to then and now, the worldview is that the Jews—the modern Jews—are those who follow Christ, whether they're Hebrew or Gentile. The Jews of old, who refused Christ, are no longer the chosen people. The chosen people are those who follow God. And when Christ said, "I am the way, I am the temple," he is the temple.

There's no third temple. He is the third temple, basically. As he said, the temple will be destroyed, and I'll raise it back up in three days. That was the resurrection. He is the temple. He is the way. The Jerusalem people are talking about is the spiritual Jerusalem—God's Jerusalem, heaven—not a physical city. It's a holy land only because Christ was there, and the predecessors, the prophets, were there. But that's it. That's the concept in Christianity, in mainline Christianity. These guys don't believe that. They take the line "he who blesses Israel will be blessed by God" and push it to an extreme.

This is from the Old Testament. They had what was called the Scofield Bible—which, I think, I need to look up the exact date it came out. I believe it was in the 1880s, somewhere around there. This was the first time a Christian Bible—a study-type Bible—had notes in it on how you were supposed to interpret everything. The problem is, when you have an organized church, you have an organized theology, and it's not secret. It's there. The priests are there to guide the people and to explain that theology, and everybody's on the same page.

When you get to the evangelicals—like what we had at my university—we had what was called a Brickyard preacher. These are guys who basically read the Bible once or twice, probably didn't understand half of what they read because they'd never read anything else, and then they go out there and start preaching to you. And they're usually... I mean, these are the most ignorant, moronic people you've ever seen in your life. I, just for a while—just for fun—used to twist them around, because you start asking questions and pointing out the obvious logical fallacies. But one of them, just as an example—we had one Brickyard preacher who came out there.

NC State allowed it on the Brickyard. They could say what they wanted to—it was kind of a free speech area. And there were a couple of guys walking by with long hair. He's like, "You're going to

hell. You've got long hair. It's like a woman. You're going to hell." Like, wait a minute—how many icons of Christ have I seen with a crew cut? Oh, none! This is a level of pure ignorance and judgmentalism. You know, in Orthodoxy, it's "hate the sin but love the sinner." There is no love in this place. It's just strictly, "We hate you, you're going to hell because you don't look like I look," you know, and so on—or my interpretation of it.

#Pascal

And we know now that these people are even in the White House. What's her name—the spiritual faith advisor or something? I mean, this lady is clearly crazy. I did my show last week—clearly crazy—and she says, "I hear a dream, I hear a dream. I want more death and destruction on Israel." That's the whole point. And then they had a prayer on Saturday or so in the Oval Office, everybody touching Donald Trump, and Trump in deep prayer.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

He's being anointed—he's being anointed.

#Pascal

So, I mean, are we still dealing with this kind of rationalist approach—war as the continuation of diplomacy by other means? We're outside that realm if those are the ones calling the shots.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Look, these people—they want the Second Coming because they want to teleport to heaven. They want to meet Jesus without having to die. That's their aim. I mean, this is how they believe, in their rewritten concept of theology: Christ is going to come twice, instead of the Second Coming being it for Christians—or the first coming, as a Jew would see it, you know? Yeah, okay. But to them, it's going to be a second and a third. The second being, they say, comes out of one small text from the Old Testament: when God comes, He will call His saints to Him, into the clouds. When God comes in the sky, He calls the saints to Him—I'm paraphrasing. The whole concept is that they all get to teleport away, whether with clothes or without clothes—that's also a debate.

But they all get to teleport away, and then all you damned sinners go to hell—including all the other Christians I never recognized as Christians, particularly the Orthodox and the Catholics. We're all pagans to them. Don't ask them where the Bible came from or anything else; they have no real clue once you start getting into details. And then, depending on who you ask—some say seven years, some I've heard say a thousand years later—Christ will come again to judge all the damned people on earth, the ones eating each other and murdering each other off because, you know, that's it. All goodness is gone when they teleport away. I mean, they would form support groups, right? Where they'd go ask their damned neighbor—because he's not like me, so he's damned.

They'd ask their damned neighbor and give them a key to the house—if they trust them enough—to let their pets out once they teleport away. They don't want their pets to die in the house, so they let them out. There are kind of support groups like that. They really believe this. As much as the Seventh-day Adventists keep predicting the end of the world—even though Christ said specifically that only the Father knows the day and the hour, that it will come upon you like a thief in the night—they keep trying to predict it. But they say they believe the Bible, every word of it. Yeah, no, no.

#Pascal

There was a Hollywood movie about this called—I think it was *Left Behind*.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

I think—well, it was a Hollywood movie. No, actually, it wasn't Hollywood; it was made by some evangelical group. I watched like five minutes of it. I mean, it's pretty...

#Pascal

Yeah, but they portray it exactly the same. There's actually a group of millions of people in the United States who have this kind of vision of the world.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

They write books about this—sci-fi novels about the damned who are left behind, how they'll suffer, and how they'll barely survive in this post-apocalyptic, or post-rapture, world. Rapture as in—not rapture—rapture. For those who beam up, so they don't have to die. They just beam up. But to get there, you need Armageddon.

#Pascal

And if you look at it... it's just hard for me to wrap my head around, because this entire narrative has actually not been part of the official script. I mean, we've seen a lot in the official script. We've seen "you cannot have nukes" in the script. We've seen "you have to give up missiles." We've seen "you cannot threaten Israel," or "because you chant 'death to America.'" All of those things we've seen up and down the media stream. What we haven't seen up and down is this kind of "we need to bring about Armageddon in order to go to heaven." That has been—although it's clearly there, it's clearly there. But how far is that evangelical ideology now actually influencing the Pentagon? I mean, isn't there going to be a moment when the people, the generals, just say, "Stop it. No, we're not going to do that. That's insane."

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, some of those generals are evangelicals, and apparently quite a few brigade commanders are evangelicals. I had sergeants like that. I had some sergeants like that, and they'd start this up. Because, see, there's a war—rumors of war, the end of times. It's like, you know... As an Orthodox Christian, I tell them, keep it to yourself. Keep it to your off-hours. If you guys want to get together and talk about it, I can't stop you—it's your freedom of speech. But keep it out right now, because you're just pissing other people off—the Catholics, the Lutherans, what have you—that serve. They get annoyed by this. These guys, they're like... I mean, they're fanatics. And fanatics tend to, you know, get excited constantly, at every drop of a dime, over anything.

And it was just, you know, keep those evangelical, end-times concepts to yourself and do your job. That was my position on it. But apparently, that's now a promotable position. You want to be a brigade commander? Be an end-times evangelical. I guess under Big Texas, that's what gets people going. Because apparently there are a lot of complaints from other Christians, by the way—not even Muslims or Jews in these units, which don't have that many people of either Islam or Judaism in the military. I've got to be honest about it: it's mostly Christians. The vast majority are Christians or atheists. But they get pissed off because, apparently, when your brigade commander says, "Trump's the anointed one. Don't worry if we all get killed—we're going to get killed for Armageddon and for Israel," that's a problem.

#Pascal

Wait a minute.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

What did I sign up to do? Who am I supposed to be defending? Yeah, it just starts things turning in people's heads—especially when your brigade commander is the one telling you this.

#Pascal

That's the whole point of having an organized army, right? It's under central command, under hierarchical control. And whoever has the keys—whoever tells the army what to do—well, it seems those keys have been handed over to someone very close to Iran. And now those keys are being very skillfully used to deploy the U.S. Army against the enemies of Israel. Which means the entire decision-making isn't really in the hands of the White House. So the actual people who need to be convinced that this slaughter has to stop are the Israelis.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, you know, Donald Trump is not a religious man. Let's be honest about it—he never was. He's definitely not any kind of practicing Christian of any denomination.

#Pascal

You're the anointed one, the second coming—or the man who brings about the second coming of Christ. You're a holy person. He'll love these people if you tell him that.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

He's an egotistical person—about as egotistical as it gets. He's a narcissist. But if he practices any religion, it's the worship of Jupiter. Not in the sense that he has a statue of Jupiter—he's worshipping what Jupiter represents. In the pagan mythos, Jupiter was the state: the power, the organization. He worships the state. So he may not worship Jupiter as a statue or an entity, but he worships the concept. That's because he worships the state—the holy state, the state above everything. "I'm the head of the state. I am the state." That's exactly what he's telling you.

When he says, "The only morality—I have high morality. The only brake on what I do is my morality and my mind." And he meant that. "My morality, yeah." There was a second interview with a different journalist who asked him the same question: "But internally, what are your brakes?" And he's like, "My morality. My very high morality. I have a high morality. I'm a very moral person." And the guy says, "Well, I thought you'd say the Constitution and the courts." "Well, yeah, there's that too. But we never get to that, because everything I do is the right thing to do for the country." It's like—wow. You're talking narcissism. All the brakes are off.

All the brakes are off on the narcissism. Plus, you get some form of dementia that's obviously already kicking in—and lots of energy. Biden was a psychodementia patient, but at least he was the dementia patient. Biden is evil. I'm not defending Biden either—Biden is a very evil person. But at least his version of dementia didn't have hyperactivity added to it, you know? And as bad as Blinken is, and these other guys, at least they didn't want nuclear war. You could count on that. I don't know about these guys. And Trump's version of dementia seems to be hyperactive dementia. You know, he just won't shut up and sit down.

#Pascal

If we're talking about people—and a significant number of people—in these different layers of the war-making apparatus who actually believe in the end days, I mean, it wouldn't surprise me if they thought the end days could be brought about with nuclear weapons. Right? I mean, nuclear weapon use is the goal. Or do you have any information on how these people think on that level?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, I don't think nuclear weapons are the goal. If you listen to their theology, they see the grand war of Gog and Magog as something that's going to come down. I mean, you can watch these videos—these end-time ministries, that's what they call themselves. They do trips to northern Israel,

where they go, "Well, here's where Armageddon is going to happen," because Armageddon is a location. And the Russian and Chinese armies—just imagine—the Russian and Chinese armies are going to be coming down from here at this point, and we and the Israelis will come down here, and God will fight all of them. Just watch this.

I mean, this is barely paraphrased—almost word for word what one of these ministers was saying. And he's got everything behind the people in front of him. Yeah, they have whole tours now. They do group tours to go see where Armageddon is going to be. The idea is that Armageddon is where God's, or Christ's, second coming is going to happen. And, well, we don't know when that is, but they think we can force it by getting Armageddon started. But to get Armageddon, we have to have the Third Temple. To get the Third Temple, we have to have an ethnically, religiously pure Israel. And before that, we just had to have an Israel to begin with.

So you have this chain of support. But the Jews are all damned anyway because, you know, they're not really worshipers and are all burning in hell. But we need them right now. And the Israeli Zionists—I sent you a video on Netanyahu and the rabbi—this rabbi said that Yahweh was the anointed one, and that this whole sect, a very large sect of Judaism, this fanatical, Messianic Judaism, believed that one of their chief rabbis had decided Netanyahu was the anointed one, and he was going to be the last great leader until the first coming of God. He was going to hand the flag off to God and rule over all of humanity, or at least all of the Middle East, as a great empire.

So he's now anointed. So you may be looking at another set of fanatics, just slightly in a different direction. And, you know, I've talked to Israelis before—it's like, "You know, the Americans set you up for this because they want you to do this. That's why they're feeding you." And it's like, "Of course we do. But we need them so we can go do this." You're looking at two groups of psychopaths coexisting for different reasons, with different goals. But both of those goals kind of go down the same route, right? And yes, these types of people are in power. You're looking at very, very dangerous people, because they're not rational.

#Pascal

A, how did we miss this? I mean, how do people and analysts like me miss the fact that these people are that important in the decision-making process? B, what's your assessment of the overall decision-making capacity? How much—what percentage—would you say they account for? Because there are others, the neoconservatives, maybe the Rubio types, and so on, who'll do this for their own reasons, right? But how much is it? Like, do evangelicals have about 30% of the say? Or how high would you put the structural importance of these people in the decision-making process of the war implementers?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Okay, so the first question—how did we miss this? I've been talking about it for the last three years on Russian television. And people are watching, and still, I sometimes get these looks—probably half the time—that I'm insane when I say that. At first, I was really getting looks like, "You're insane, this is insane." But there were always a couple of people who went, "Oh."

#Pascal

I mean, I have no problem believing there are people who think like this, but I would naturally assume they're sidelined—somewhere on the margins of society. But the mistake is not realizing they're at the core of goddamn society.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, for a very long time, they were on the sidelines of society. But like any worm, they kept worming their way deeper and deeper into the heartwood, and now they're infested in the heartwood of the tree. They're in that society. So what do you do? Yeah, there's a problem. You know, it's not a matter of how many, or what percentage they are—it's what positions they hold. Look, the Nazis in Germany—only about 10% of the population held Nazi Party cards. But 90%, maybe 99%, probably fought for Hitler, or for Germany, or for "greater Germany," whatever that concept was. So it doesn't—revolutions, civil wars, all that—get started by a very small minority at any given time. You rarely ever see the majority of the population rise up and go for it. No, it's always a very small minority that gets everything going.

The majority of people will just go along. They're like sheep. Like it or not, most people are like sheep. It's much easier to just go along than to stand up and say, "No, this isn't right," and be ostracized by society. That's just how it is. Humans individually may be very intelligent, very passionate, very compassionate—but humans in a group become a separate entity, and that individual compassion gets absorbed into the mob mentality. Unfortunate, but that's how we run. The point is, if they're in key positions—like the Ministry of War and a few other crucial posts—and they have enough backing because the Israeli lobby, which is the main donor class, supports them since it's useful for them, then you've got a lot of big problems. And we have a lot of big problems.

I think Marco Rubio is a neocon. The neocons want power. I mean, they don't want the end of the world; they're not into any kind of crusades. They're Trotskyites. They want their version of how they define power—but they want power. They want to rule. It's kind of hard to rule if everything goes to hell in a handbasket and nuclear weapons are used and everything. There's not much to rule from a bunker. So I think Marco Rubio is starting to panic because he's starting to realize just how deep this hole has gone. He's trying to talk the U.S. out of it. And Trump, I mean... they're appealing, you know, they're strictly appealing to his narcissism.

#Pascal

All these preachers standing there, saying, "I feel the power of the anointed Christ—by Christ, Trump, and all evil leaders."

#Stanislav Krapivnik

I mean, they're manipulating him very effectively. They know he's a narcissist—that's how you do it to get your ends. And I think they're very effective at it, it seems like. He doesn't know what the hell is going on half the time; he just babbles out crazy things. I don't know how much briefing he actually gets. I mean, look, Tulsi Gabbard was supposed to be the saving grace. He slapped her upside the head when she said Iran isn't producing nuclear weapons. She's become a wallflower. I guess she's figured out she's no longer with the Democrats, but she's messed it up with the Republicans too. She has no political career, so she's basically faded into the background, sold out. But there was a key, interesting moment when it was all starting up. She gave an interview and said, "We're reforming the format of how we're going to do these daily security briefs into a Fox News-type format—just blips."

Because what wasn't read, but what was mentioned by a lot of people, is that Trump doesn't like reading. Let's not give him these numbers and letters on a page—let's give him a five-minute breakdown. You know, that's what he wants. He wants a five-minute breakdown, a blurb for the pedestrians, not what the president is supposed to be reading in detail. I already told you, that man is not going to know the details of anything. He's not interested in the details of anything. I mean, okay, with Reagan, they might have taken it to him in bed sometimes. With Nixon, in bed—or, well, he was in bed—they'd gather around him. They'd go over it, maybe not necessarily at a table, whatever. But he read everything, and so did Reagan. Reagan read everything. He listened to his—he had competent people around him. He listened to competent opinion. We are not dealing with that kind of human being right now.

#Pascal

So these are the kind of people making these decisions, and the weight of the evangelical view of the world—or of the end days—is much, much stronger than we thought. Do you think Iran actually understands that this is the game, that this is what they're up against in terms of decision-making? Because to me, it seems that what they're now aiming to do is attrition on the U.S. side—wear down their equipment and blind them with their radars and so on. But I mean, how would they convince the Americans militarily to stop this?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, first, they've really blinded the Americans and done an extremely good job. As a matter of fact, I think Raytheon was the developer of the big radar that was looking into southern Russia. They're talking about a billion dollars and eight to nine years to replace it. At least that system was built up over time. Even the smaller radar in Qatar is looking at 12 to 24 months and half a billion dollars.

But that's only if they can get enough of the high-end refined rare earth magnets. All the rare earths are magnetic, so if you refine them, they automatically become magnets—they always hold a magnetic charge. But China's cut them off, so they have to set up their own supply. So it all depends on how long and how expensive it gets. It could become much, much more expensive.

So basically, they're blind at this point. That's why, when they said, "Oh, there are only five drones flying in a day," I don't believe that for a second. The reaction time has dropped from 30 or 40 minutes—when you could actually detect the launch, or sometimes even the prep for the launch—down to three minutes, when it's already basically incoming, very close to hitting. So that reaction time has really fallen off. They've already basically blinded the U.S. What Iran wants is boots on the ground. They very much want boots on the ground because it's mission suicide. Iran is 70% mountains—and these aren't Appalachian mountains, these aren't European mountains. These are Himalayan mountains: desert, mountains, strong points. You name it—it's a fortress. Iran historically has always been a fortress.

There are very few people who managed to invade Iran effectively. The Soviet Union and the British did it in World War II. At the beginning of the war, they split Iran up. One, Iran was siding with Hitler, and two, they wanted a supply route to the Soviet Union that the Germans couldn't torpedo. But that was one of those moments when Iran was relatively weak and disorganized—or Persia, if you want to call it that. I mean, Persia was conquered mostly by whom? The Arabs conquered Persia, and then the Persians adapted the Arabic version of Islam to fit their cultural needs. And the Mongols conquered that area. But there are very few other instances when that region was conquered, because it's a fortress.

It's a mountainous fortress. You go in there, it's pretty damn hard. And modern Persia is very—if not absolutely—first world; it's pretty close to it. Scientifically, it's there, and it has beaten the West in certain fields. So they're not some primitive tribesmen running around, though I think in the West a lot of people, or at least in America, think they are. It's like a bunch of guys on camels running around in the desert—because they can't find Iran on a map. I mean, let's be realistic. I'd be surprised—you'd probably be surprised—at the percentage of Americans who probably can't find America on a map. It's a sad fact of being, but it is. So, you know, Iran wants—and they flat-out said this—"We're waiting for you to come get us."

#Pascal

"Come get us, please." That's true. Abbas Araghchi actually said, "Yeah, we're waiting."

#Stanislav Krapivnik

So this would be, I mean, when you're being told—and they're not saying it like, "Oh, don't throw us in the briar bush, don't throw me in the briar bush," like the rabbit to the wolf—no, they're actually saying, "This is your only warning of our sanity. We're waiting for you." Just like the Yugoslav army

was waiting. Yugoslavia surrendered not because of the air bombing, but because Yeltsin betrayed Yugoslavia and cut aid and support. That was the final blow. Russian troops and Chinese ships were bringing in supplies to Yugoslavia as neutral ships. And, as we remember, General Clark said, "Oh, we're going to bomb them too," before he got pulled off the stage—off the NATO reunion tour. So that's what we're waiting for.

#Pascal

From what you're seeing, you think the Iranians are basically saying, "Go ahead, come on, do it—send your troops—and then we'll show you," instead of just an unending aerial campaign.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

So you think the aerial campaign... Well, the thing is, the aerial campaign on the American side is going to come down to cluster munitions and glide bombs. It already has. Look, the estimate came out that in the first 36 hours of this war, the U.S. used up 3,000 missiles—that's both defensive and offensive missiles, 3,000. That runs out in about a week. At most, if they keep working at that rate, you maybe have a few more days to a week of Patriot missiles than SA-4s, and your Tomahawks are starting to run out. The U.S. just disarmed itself. It's killed a lot of civilians—it always does that. The U.S. always kills civilians.

No matter how much they want to deny it, we all do that. You do it every single time. I mean, you'd have to have a fifty-minute memory—or a fifty-second memory—not to know they do this every single time. Every single conflict, they start targeting. I mean, I was serving; we were targeting. You know, when I was a cadet—just to understand this too—we did infantry tactics once a week for about three hours, every single week, for several years. I consider myself very competent at commanding infantry. We had a Special Forces sergeant as our instructor. And you know what he taught us? Double-tap everyone.

#Pascal

No, really.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

If you don't need a tongue while the battle is going on, you can kill the enemy no matter what. Of course, if he surrenders, you're not allowed to shoot him under the Geneva Convention, which is the law of the land in America because it's a treaty ratified by Congress. You're not allowed to shoot prisoners of war. But yeah, we were taught, you know, unless you need a tongue—well, "tongue" is the Russian term, meaning you need somebody to speak, somebody to interrogate—you double-tap everyone.

#Pascal

And one of my professors... that's what they did with the school on the first day, right? A hundred and sixty dead children. And we know they sent in a second missile to exactly the same place forty minutes later, just to kill the rescue workers.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Just what Israel does with Gaza. Yeah, the same thing Ukraine does. I mean, they're taught—it's all coming from the same fountain, those poisonous waters. You know, the U.S. is using terrorist tactics. You're right, they're using bait, and the bait is to kill off the emergency services and to kill additional people. And it's inhumane. It's a war crime. But when does the U.S. care about war?

#Pascal

That's how they fight it. I mean, Pete Hegseth even told us he's proud of that, right? This is not a fair fight. We punch them while they're down. He uses all these metaphors to say, like, no, we're going to break all and any kinds of, you know, ways of fighting war cleanly. Right? That's not what they want to do. They told us they're not targeting only military installations—they show us they're not targeting only those. They show us they're targeting the entire population. But then the idea here is to terrorize the entire state into submission, right? And on the other hand, Iran is trying to resist by saying, like, okay, fine, then come and get us all. Um, well...

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, Iran's doing a lot more than just that. It's striking back at the U.S. and degrading U.S. capabilities quite a bit. Like I said, the Gerald Ford, if anything, was probably much more useful sitting between Cyprus and Israel, because it could at least provide additional air defense coverage. By launching air-to-air missiles, you get aircraft up in the air to patrol, and they can shoot down incoming cruise missiles. That's a very competent defensive setup, plus you have your own radar systems. Moving it into the Gulf—where's the Lincoln? Oh yeah, it's about 2,000 kilometers away. Why? Because bringing it any closer for combat makes it ineffective. The Lincoln is absolutely combat ineffective. It's too far out to be combat effective.

To be combat effective with planes that have a range of about 700 kilometers, you have to be refueled, and then refueled again, and refueled coming back. Otherwise, they go bingo and crash when they run out of fuel. It takes a minimum of two refuelings. And long sorties mean long-distance flights. That means the pilots are tired, the equipment is worn, so you're down to maybe one or two sorties a day. And you're a big target—because of missiles, cruise missiles, hypersonic missiles. Never mind, somewhere out there, there are still about 18 submarines floating around—18, 19 Iranian submarines. Oh yeah, they had about 20 diesel submarines. The Americans are claiming they sunk one of them. So, I don't know, maybe.

Well, we'll say they did sink it. There are still about 18 submarines floating around, looking for targets. I mean, the Indian Ocean is a big place. Subs aren't getting constant updates from satellites, obviously, for obvious reasons. And diesel subs are relatively loud compared to nuclear subs, so they can be detected more easily. But that's the point, though. If you bring in the Gerald Ford and its contingent—another 14 ships—and they're talking about a third, the Papa Bush, coming in with its contingent, you'll have three aircraft carriers. You've got an extremely target-rich environment, and if they come in there to be combat effective, you have a very target-rich environment that the Iranians are, of course, going to react to—plus the Iranian submarines.

So why would you do that? I have no idea. I mean, this is ridiculous. If anything, you'd think they're running out of air defense over Israel and U.S. facilities there—you'd think they'd keep them in the eastern Mediterranean to keep providing air cover and air defense. But, you know, I was just a junior officer compared to these generals who are the geniuses of war and humanity. They make these decisions, and you go, "Aye, but okay." Just to wrap up— is there something you haven't mentioned yet that you think is important to understand about the war after one week? Or did we cover most of the important parts? You know, I had this girl in one of my classes in high school...

She was like a little sister to me. It was debate class. She was younger than me, and we didn't talk for about twenty years after high school. Then she found me on Facebook, and we've been talking. She's evangelical, and she wrote to me at one point—this was about a year and a half ago, when tensions were really high and everyone was talking about possible nuclear war. Biden was, you know, Mr. Comatose, and Blinken was—well, it looked like everything was heading straight toward nuclear war. And she writes to me, "I'm really happy that we're going to see each other soon. Are you and your husband planning on coming to Russia to visit?" "No, no—in heaven. It's going to be over soon."

#Pascal

That's the mentality we're dealing with.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Let that sink in, and let people think about it. That's the mentality we're dealing with.

#Pascal

That doesn't make it any better. Stas, thank you very much for ruining the beginning of my week. And to everybody else—well, I'm very glad for Frank's talk. People should find you at Slavic Man—Slavic with a K. Mr. Slavic Man.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Mr. Slavic Man. There's also Slavic Man out there, but not Mr. Slavic Man. And Stanislaw Skripnik on X—I couldn't get the whole name; it was too long.

#Pascal

Google him. Find his YouTube channel—he provides very, very valuable insights and updates. Stanislaw Skripnik, thank you very much for your time today.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Thank you. Thank you very much.