Seyed M. Marandi: Iran Rejects Ceasefire - Demands New Status Quo

Seyed Mohammad Marandi is a professor at Tehran University and a former advisor to Iran's Nuclear Negotiation Team. Prof. Marandi argues that a return to the former status quo is not possible and that Iran will demand that the permanent threat to its existence come to an end. Follow Prof. Glenn Diesen: Substack: https://glenndiesen.substack.com/ X/Twitter: https://x.com/Glenn_Diesen Patreon: https://www.patreon.com/glenndiesen Support the research by Prof. Glenn Diesen: PayPal: https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/glenndiesen Buy me a Coffee: buymeacoffee.com/gdieseng Go Fund Me: https://gofund.me/09ea012f Books by Prof. Glenn Diesen: https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09FPQ4MDL

#Glenn

Welcome back. We're joined by Saeed Mohammed Marandi, a professor at Tehran University and former advisor to Iran's nuclear negotiation team, to discuss the latest updates on the war being launched against Iran. Thank you for coming back on.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Thank you, Glenn. It's always a pleasure.

#Glenn

So what we see now is Trump arguing that the war could end soon. According to the Wall Street Journal, his advisors are recommending that he put a quick end to it. It's still unclear what the U.S. demands are, but what do we know about Iran's demands? Because it's been attacked twice now in surprise strikes during negotiations—just within the last year—and seemingly with the intention of regime change and the destruction of Iran. I don't think that's changed, which begs the question: what is it that Iran wants? What are its war objectives now that, again, this war is ongoing?

#Seyed M. Marandi

I think by now it's becoming clear that the things we've been saying for well over a year have all turned out to be true, and that the assessments made by Western think tanks, pundits, media, and regimes have all turned out to be false. This has been the story of the last 47 years. And it's not just Iran—remember, Hezbollah was said to be destroyed, but now we see Hezbollah hitting Israel very

hard. So their assessments are based on wishful thinking. Now, after almost two weeks of war, where the United States has brought its firepower to the region alongside the Israeli regime, and by using its assets in the Persian Gulf, Turkey, and Jordan, it's waging an all-out war on Iran.

They failed. I think we already see clear signs that the United States is heading for defeat. The Iranians are not going to accept a ceasefire—it's not an option. This war will continue until Iran's demands are met. Iran will no longer accept a situation in the region where the United States can threaten it again. That's over. Iran will no longer allow regimes in the Persian Gulf to act as bases for the United States to threaten Iran. And Iran will demand, and it will get, full compensation for the slaughter and the destruction. The longer this lasts, the more compensation Iran will take from the regimes in the Persian Gulf or anyone else. What Iran will receive is compensation—that is inevitable.

We've seen how the Iranians have emerged stronger. Yes, they've destroyed our civil infrastructure, bombed many apartment buildings, massacred schoolchildren, and destroyed hospitals. They do what they always do. I mean, this is not new for the regime in Washington, nor for the genocidal regime in Tel Aviv. We've seen it in Afghanistan, in Iraq, in Libya, in Syria, in Cuba, and of course in Gaza. But the Iranians are emerging stronger—there's no doubt about that. And we've seen people in huge numbers come to the streets every night, and sometimes during the day, from the beginning of the war, in support of the leader, in defiance of Trump and the Trump regime, and under fire—under missile fire, under the threat of being murdered.

Yesterday, at the gathering in Tehran that I participated in, they bombed the city while huge crowds were in central Tehran. But no one budged. No one moved. There was no panic. So, I think that when we take all this into account—the fact that Iran's missiles and drones are striking U.S. assets across the Persian Gulf region, the fact that the Israeli regime is being pounded day and night, the fact that the resistance in Lebanon and Iraq is actively hurting that regime, and the fact that Yemen is prepared to carry out its offensive actions against this aggression of the so-called coalition—it just indicates that it's only going to get worse for the United States and worse for its proxies in the region.

#Glenn

This sounds a bit like the idea that a ceasefire isn't acceptable because, well, they'll only come back again—that there's a need for a different status quo or a political settlement. It also sounds a bit like the war in Ukraine, with the Russians not wanting NATO to simply regroup Ukraine, replenish, and then have another go at it. But I wanted to ask what's happening on the ground there in Iran, because what we've seen over the past few days are attacks on its fuel depots, which have caused this toxic rain that apparently burns the skin and destroys lungs. It's a bit of an ecological disaster, if I'm not mistaken, as it could produce cancer and other diseases for decades to come. We've also seen the destruction of the desalination plant—the one that cleans the water—which is considered yet another war crime, and oil tankers being attacked. So how are you assessing this? Is this the U.

S. and Israel not able to defeat Iran on the battlefield, so they go after the population? And also, how would Iran retaliate? Because this is an escalation once the civilian population becomes the target.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Yes, I think it's pretty clear by now that the United States has failed on the battlefield. It has failed to stop our missiles and drones. Since they cannot destroy Iran's underground facilities and the factories that produce missiles and drones, they're taking it out on ordinary people. They're trying to slaughter people to create panic and fear in society. They're destroying key infrastructure to make Iranians worry about the days and weeks ahead. And of course, the airstrikes on the refinery and the massive fires that were caused—which burned quite a few people alive—spread across Tehran and beyond. If you look at my car, it's covered in oil, it's oily. If you drive across Tehran, you'll see many automobiles, especially those parked outside in the open, facing the same situation.

When you go out and touch something, your hand becomes dark. It becomes oily, it becomes dirty. And of course, our children are inhaling this. Our grandchildren are inhaling this. Men and women are inhaling this. Elderly people are inhaling this. People like myself, who were victims of chemical attacks by the West through Saddam Hussein—especially the German regime, which was key in providing those chemical weapons—we are at risk. Messages were sent to all those who were victims of gas attacks to take extra precautions. But how can you take extra precautions? There are things you have to do. So, this, I think, is clearly an act of desperation. And it does seem that Trump is desperate. It does seem that he is not doing well. Over the past few hours, he's been saying all sorts of crazy things.

At one moment, he talks about the war coming to an end. Then he talks about destroying the Iranian nation. And you don't see any outrage in the West. You don't see European leaders outraged when he talks about destroying the Iranian nation. You don't see CNN, the BBC, Fox News, or The Guardian outraged when he says he will attempt to destroy the nation. This is extraordinary, and it shows how morally bankrupt the elites in the West are—from any of these major political parties and entities controlled by the oligarchs and their class. But even those threats and those constantly changing statements coming from Trump are not going to affect Iran. Iran is going to keep the Strait of Hormuz closed. He can try his best to talk the markets down.

It will work for a couple of days. But the fact is, there's going to be an energy shortage every day. Twenty million barrels of oil are disappearing, and it could get worse if Iran punishes the regime in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, or if the Yemenis strike the Saudi oil pipeline that goes through the Red Sea, and so on. But for now, twenty million barrels of oil a day are disappearing from the marketplace, and every day an extra twenty million is added to that. So he can talk down the market for a couple of days, and Western media and Western governments can help him do that. Then they can release their reserves. As far as I know, the G7 reserves can only last two months—they can only compensate for two months—but they do have about two months' worth of reserves.

I don't think Iran plans to open the Strait of Hormuz anytime soon, so we're heading for a global economic crisis. This is something we've discussed—you and I have talked about it multiple times, and I'm sure you and your other guests have too. The fact is, the West is ignorant. They could have listened to your show, Western elites, and they would have realized six months ago what was coming under the current circumstances. They brought this upon themselves. And again, I keep thinking about what Trump said early on—he said they didn't expect Iran to attack its assets in the Persian Gulf.

#Seyed M. Marandi

The amount of ignorance in the West is just staggering. They keep acting surprised every time something happens, even though all the signs were there. It's like they refuse to learn from their own mistakes.

#Seyed M. Marandi

The level of ignorance that exists in Washington is just beyond belief. Why would they not have expected it? It was 100% certain that would happen. It shows that Washington is blind to reality, and I don't see any reason why that blindness has suddenly been cured. I don't believe they're going to make realistic decisions now either. In any case, whether Trump's aides want him to succeed in looking for an offer or not, Iran is not going to accept a ceasefire—that's out of the question. Conditions will have to be met, and those conditions will be met. These Arab family dictatorships in the Persian Gulf, first and foremost, are the ones that will have to obey and accept Iran's conditions. Iran is now talking about controlling the Strait of Hormuz from now on and receiving money for allowing ships to pass through.

This is what these Arab regimes have brought upon themselves—these dictatorships. They thought they could have their cake and eat it too: that they could host U.S. bases, threaten Iran, have Iran bombed, and then Qatar, the Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the Saudis could all say, "We're neutral," and get away with it. That's not happening. Right now, they're paying a price. But even when the war ends, they'll continue to pay a price. They have to compensate for all the things they've done against Iraq. We're living in a new reality, Glenn. Iran is much more confident now. Great harm has been done to its people by its adversaries, and Iran sees its strength. The people see their strength—the people on the streets recognize it—and this is a reality the Americans are going to have to deal with for now.

#Glenn

I think what you alluded to is one of the key weaknesses we see in the West now, and it's something I've definitely warned about a lot. We've been captured by our own narratives, as you said. The people I've spoken to on this program—there's almost always been a complete consensus

that if the U.S. were to attack, the first thing Iran would do would be to knock out all of its bases in the region. So it should have been predictable. I think the reason it wasn't is because the governments and their lapdogs in the media organize around these narratives, which means they all have to explain why one side is good and the other is evil.

So the kind of narrative they land on is, "Well, this is all about liberating Iranians. We want to liberate the women of Iran from an oppressive regime." And if you buy into this premise, then, you know, it's possible to escalate the costs on Iran, and then it will make concessions. It's a little bit like the Afghanistan thing—we apparently, NATO, occupied Afghanistan for 20 years so girls could go to school. This is, you know, it's not okay for grown adults to believe this, but that's essentially the consensus. But this is a problem, because if you don't accept the world as it is, then you end up with these very silly expectations. And it's not that different from how we trapped ourselves in narratives with the Russians as well.

This is something I talked a lot about with the former CIA director for Russia analysis, George Beebe. He made the same point—that we got captured by our own narratives. Because if you argue that the Russians invaded unprovoked, then all we have to do is send some weapons, raise the costs, and they'll see it's not worth it and back down. But again, we're not allowed to say that NATO started it, that it's an existential threat, which means any escalation will be met on the Russian side. And I think, as I always say, it's the same with Iran: poor analysis leads to poor politics. The fact that this wasn't predictable is, honestly, frightening. But we see the narratives continue.

Trump gave a speech where he said that Witkoff had told him the Iranians told Witkoff they would keep developing nuclear weapons no matter what. I mean, this is just really wild. Even the hardcore MAGA people can't buy into this—it's just really, really too much. But you mentioned the Strait of Hormuz, and now we're hearing from France that they might send an aircraft carrier and some warships on a defensive mission to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, Trump says that if Iran doesn't permit it, they're going to hit Iran twenty times harder, which is oddly specific. How do you assess the possible entry of France into this war?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, I think from what we've seen in Ukraine, it's quite clear how powerful the French armed forces are. The entire European Union has been spending everything it has—and doesn't have—to defeat the Russians, and they failed. And it's going to get a lot worse now because a lot of their resources have been sent to the Persian Gulf region and have been wasted and lost, since they've been firing off anti-missile systems day and night. So the situation in Ukraine is going to deteriorate. That's going to be even more painful for the EU and the British in the days, weeks, and months ahead. And I think the Russians are obviously going to be very much empowered. They're selling oil at a much higher price, they no longer have to give discounts, and their enemy in Ukraine is being severely weakened.

So I think that will lead the Russians to take advantage of this situation, to push their advantage. I have no doubt the French have no capabilities that would impress Iran. And the United States is already doing whatever it can against the Iranian people, slaughtering people. Just a couple of hours ago, they carried out airstrikes in Tehran and bombed highways and civilian targets, killing more people, just like they did last night. Last night, they carried out multiple massacres in Tehran. So what more can they do? If they want to destroy Iran's key infrastructure, that's a possibility. But then Iran will destroy all key infrastructure in this region—everything. All the oil and gas installations in the Persian Gulf region and in the Caucasus will be gone. Finished.

They won't be damaged—they'll be destroyed. And that will mean the key infrastructure of the United States will collapse. The world will collapse because we'll enter a severe global economic depression. If that's what the United States wants, that's what it will get. But the world will know it was the United States that did this. It will know the Zionists did this. It will know Netanyahu did this. Because Iran does not want war. Iran does not want to expand the war. We want to live in peace. We want the rights of the Palestinians, the Lebanese, and the people of Syria to be restored. That's a very normal expectation. But if war is imposed on us, we will respond with countermeasures. We will punish accordingly. And now the United States has lost everything in the Persian Gulf region.

And the damage that's been done to the United States is far greater so far than to Iran. Because the Persian Gulf region—these are all American assets. The oil that's sold—think about this, Glenn, and I'm sure you have, but I'm also sure your audience knows this because they're very politically aware. But let's think about it. This oil isn't being sold. And when it is, what is it sold in? It's sold in dollars. That's one. Two, a lot of this money goes to the U.S. stock market. And for bonds—there's no money, so it's not going there. And there's huge damage that's been done to these regimes. It's not just the drone or the missile that hits; it's the entire confidence that used to exist in these regimes, where huge amounts of money from across the world would go to the Emirates, for example—just as one example.

That's disappeared. So these are all U.S. assets, and they're huge consumers. The amount of consumption that these Arab family dictatorships in the Persian Gulf have is equivalent to maybe the African continent or the Latin American continent. I can't say with specifics, but they are huge consumers—huge consumers. Well, they're not consuming anymore. So they're not selling oil. The price of oil is going to go up. There are no dollars from those exports going to the U.S. stock market. And fewer dollars—far fewer dollars—are circulating. That makes the U.S. dollar less important as a global currency. None of this is, and of course, the worth of the entire western or southwestern side of the Persian Gulf has collapsed.

It's no longer a place where, in the future, you can invest or have confidence in. And as I said, this area is controlled by the United States. So the damage done to the United States and the West through their own aggression against Iran—and, of course, the Israeli regime, which is being hammered day and night—well, what fool is going to invest in the Israeli regime in the future? This is the second time Iran has been pounding it in the last eight or nine months. So all of these are

huge. We're the country that's sanctioned; we don't have foreign investors. Any investment is carried out by individuals in Iran and by the government. That will continue to be the case. But I think for the United States, this is a sea change.

#Glenn

Yeah, well, it kind of points to how much is at stake here, because if the United States were successful in, well, as they keep saying on Fox News, seizing control over Iran and its oil, then essentially China would be cut off from Iranian energy, and the U.S. would have a strategic advantage over its main peer rival. However, if it's unsuccessful and the petrodollar is essentially under threat, that would then impact things like the funding of China's AI bubble in the U.S., which would end the race for dominance in high-tech industries—artificial intelligence, robotics. So there's a lot at stake here. And as you can see, Iran is, of course, bearing the brunt of this.

But given all that's at stake, and knowing that the U.S. will likely intensify pressure on Iran—that is, to escalate—what is possible for Iran to do if it also wants to move up the escalation ladder? The Iranian government has said they have some surprises coming up. I know they're not whispering in your ear, but what kind of surprises do you think these could be in terms of the next step on the escalation ladder? It's not just the U.S. bases that are vulnerable. As you mentioned before, all these Gulf nations' energy infrastructures are also very exposed and vulnerable. Is that the kind of thing the Iranians would go after, or not?

#Seyed M. Marandi

I think it depends on the pace of escalation and the type of escalation. And of course, it's not only about the capabilities that Iran has—Yemen hasn't yet entered the war, and it's preparing itself, upgrading its capabilities. The resistance in Iraq, while it's been active and has done a lot of damage to U.S. interests, can expand much further. But as you know, Glenn, every day that goes by, about 20 million barrels of oil don't reach the market, and that number just keeps increasing. So over, let's say, the last 10 days—if no oil has left—that's 200 million barrels missing. The entire stock of the G7, they say, is about 1.2 billion barrels. So if this continues for just a few more weeks, imagine where the prices will go.

So already, Iran is escalating just by keeping the Strait of Hormuz shut. But as you know, Iran has not yet used its most advanced technology. Over the last couple of days, it has used fewer drones than before. For almost the entire first week and a bit after, Iran was exclusively using old drones and old missiles. And as we speak, the Iranians have still refrained from using their newer technologies. So there's a lot that Iran can do. If damage is done to Iran's infrastructure—if the United States takes a further step to destroy more of Iran's oil, gas, or energy installations—then the same will happen in areas controlled by the United States: in Kuwait, the Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.

If they strike our desalination plants, we don’t need them the way they do. If we destroy the desalination plants in the Persian Gulf region, everyone will have to leave. They’ll have to drive across the Arabian Peninsula to Syria, Jordan, Iraq. It’ll be over, because these are desert countries. Iran has—well, you’ve been to Tehran. The mountains above Tehran right now are full of snow. And no, it hasn’t been an extraordinarily good year. We’ve had droughts, but large parts of the country have had good rain this year. Tehran is a bit of an exception, but we still have snow, we have water. Today it rained, as I was telling you before the show. It’s raining, I think, as we speak.

So we're not like these Arab regimes. We have our own. We have 15 neighbors we can trade with. We have agriculture, we have our own indigenous industries. But they have oil and gas. And if there are no desalination plants, they won’t be able to stay, even with those assets intact. Everything can be destroyed. And as I said, these are American assets, not Qatari assets. Qatar is a country of about 400,000. The ruling family is stealing a lot of money, giving handouts to its own people—not the indentured servants and the slaves and so on who live there. And the rest goes to Western companies and corporations. For the World Cup, they spent—some say—almost $200 billion.

They paid to build the hotels and the stadiums that are now all empty—empty even before the war. So these are not real countries. They're completely dependent on oil and gas, but they're American assets, Western assets. Their destruction means the destruction of American assets; their weakness means American wealth is diminished. They can hurt us, but we can hurt them far more than they can hurt us, especially since the West is so financialized and no longer has a production base. High fuel prices would be enormously destructive, but the wealth and assets they've accumulated in this region would all be gone as well.

#Glenn

I did want to ask about—well, one thing I should add.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Sorry—one thing I should add. Americans don't export anything anymore, but they do export very expensive weapons. And these Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf, they always buy weapons. They don't even have the pilots to fly the planes. They just buy the weapons to give the Americans money, give the Europeans money, and to give kickbacks to Western senators and their own princes. That's basically how it works. But that's gone. There won't be money anymore. There won't be money to buy American jets and American missiles that end up sitting in some bunker because they don't have anyone to use them. So the United States is losing in all respects. This is a huge weapons market for the United States—but when they don't have money, what are they going to buy? Sorry for interrupting.

#Glenn

No. Well, I want to ask about what's been referred to—or suggested could be—false flag attacks. We've seen Iran take credit for all the retaliatory attacks, with some exceptions. They said the attacks on the oil facilities in Saudi Arabia weren't them, if I'm not mistaken. Same with the attack on Azerbaijan—they said that wasn't Iran either. And of course, there was one ballistic missile heading toward Turkey that was brought down, and Iran said, "That's not us" as well. What I found interesting is that Azerbaijan didn't retaliate; instead, it announced it would be sending humanitarian aid to Iran. What's happening here? Has Iran cleared the air with some of these countries, or is it possible they might enter the war too?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, the ballistic missile over Turkey—I don't know the details. If you remind me later to ask, I'll get back to you on that. I think it was probably heading for Israel and was shot down, and maybe it strayed over parts of Turkey. But Turkey is helping Israel. I mean, the radar base in Turkey is being used to feed information to the Israeli regime. Erdogan is clearly helping Israel—there's no doubt about that. But that aside, I don't think Iran targeted anything inside Turkey. I think they just shot down the missile that was probably heading for Israel.

But I'll look into this and get back to you later on that if you remind me, because I'm very forgetful. But with regard to Azerbaijan—I mean, no one takes the drone strike in Azerbaijan seriously. If Iran wanted to hit Azerbaijan, it wouldn't be with a little drone. Iran would destroy its oil and gas infrastructure if it wanted to, especially after what Azerbaijan has done to Iran—what the regime has done. And you know, Glenn, many Iranians believe that Azerbaijan belongs to Iran. Most Azeris in Iran believe that too. And as you know, this is not the policy of the state by any means. But if Azerbaijan keeps helping the Israeli regime against Iran, together with the United States, the regime won't last. Iran won't tolerate this. Iran has many supporters in Azerbaijan. All their leaders are in jail—they've been in jail for years now. But if they keep pushing, the regime will be destroyed, and a new government friendly to Iran will come to power very swiftly.

#Glenn

It'll take just a few days at most.

#Seyed M. Marandi

So, Azerbaijan, you know, started making a lot of threats. Aliyev, the regime's leader, made some statements, and then he spoke again. I guess he got the message from Iran that, you know, "Watch out, we're not in the mood." So he's changed too. And the same is true with the Kurdish groups in northern Iraq. If they attack Iran, Iran has told Arabia that they will destroy them—they will destroy the regional government in the north of Iraq, and so will the Iraqi resistance. That can be done very

easily. And then Iran and Iraq will no longer tolerate an autonomous regime in the north of Iraq. These groups are just exposing themselves, because these Kurdish groups are exposing themselves to ordinary Kurds. They work with the CIA and Mossad.

And I don't think the Kurds in Iraq—and definitely not the Kurds in Iran, although the Kurds in Iran aren't very large in number—are the sort to cooperate with the CIA. But everyone has exposed themselves. I mean, Erdoğan has exposed himself as being an asset of Trump and the United States over the past two years. And this is important, Glenn, because the Islamic world and beyond—people in Latin America and Africa—are seeing who is standing up for the Palestinians and who is colluding with the enemies of the Palestinians. And this is having an enormous effect. There's a sea change in attitudes taking place toward Iran across the region, on the streets, and beyond—not just in the Islamic world, not just among Sunnis, but among people everywhere.

Because they see and recognize that after 47 years of antagonistic narratives toward Iran, they're now questioning everything. They see Iran as heroic. This is something I feel when I'm in contact with intellectuals, thinkers, and activists abroad. When I'm active online and see the responses, it's clear there's been a very substantial change in how people view the world they live in. And these regimes that have been pretending to support the Palestinian people, pretending to be critical of the Israeli regime—they've all been exposed. They're now naked in front of everyone. And I think that's going to facilitate even greater change in the coming months and years.

#Glenn

I remember when I was a student back in 2003, when the Americans invaded Iraq. It was almost common sense at the universities in Australia that after we were done with Iraq, if Iran could be taken out, that would essentially be what would bring peace. I mean, this division—the presentation of Iran, the very demonized version of it—it was accepted by all, I think. And, uh, yeah, I think after the 12-day war back in June, the narratives began to shift dramatically. I haven't seen anything that could even be interpreted as empathy for Iran, unless it's about regime change—you know, people saying they want to help its people be free from the government. But empathy for Iran's position? I've never seen that before, really, until 2025. So something definitely has changed. But, yeah, my last question was about the involvement of China and Russia, because, as you know, there are a lot of comments now about satellite photos coming out that originate from China.

And, of course, the American media, as well as the European, is full of claims that Russia could be assisting Iran with intelligence, possibly for targeting. Again, there's no reflection at all that this is exactly what Americans and Europeans are doing to Russia in Ukraine. But be that as it may, what do we actually know about China and Russia being involved? Because, well, the Kremlin doesn't want to comment on any of this. I guess it's common sense they're involved in some regard, but it's very unclear to what extent.

#Seyed M. Marandi

I don't know the details, but what I do know is that the Chinese, the Russians, and the Iranians have moved closer to each other. This has been ongoing for years, but after the 12-day war, they moved even closer. As I said earlier, Iran has fifteen neighbors. It's a large country—I think it's a bit larger than the UK, Germany, and France combined. It's not a small country, and it has many neighbors, and it's a crossroads. That's why all the key transit routes really have to go through Iran in Asia—routes that connect West Asia and East Asia, and the Persian Gulf to Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. So the ability for Iran to receive weapons or anything that would help with the war is there. It can be done through its eastern borders, it can be done through its northern borders, and there would be nothing the United States could do about it. The Chinese and the Russians can easily use these routes to trade with Iran, or for Iran to send what...

#Glenn

Iran purchases.

#Seyed M. Marandi

You hear about certain weapons—air defense systems and so on—that Iran has purchased. Again, I don't know the details, but I think it's clear as day that the Russians do not want the United States to succeed in West Asia. The Chinese obviously don't want that either, because aside from Zionist expansionism, what the U.S. ambassador to the Israeli regime said was basically that if they take West Asia, if they take the region, that's fine. And of course, he also said they're the most moral army in the world. So they can probably slaughter everyone—hundreds of millions of people across the region—and take the land, and that's fine with the United States.

And of course, the ambassador has never been rebuked. He hasn't been removed. He hasn't been punished. So we can assume that this is unofficial U.S. policy—and it always has been, and European policy as well. I think it's fair to say it's just like the West Bank: they always talked about a two-state solution, but they always facilitated the colonization of the West Bank. So the unofficial policy was to support Israeli expansionism, while the official policy was to say, "No, no, we have to have a two-state solution." Obviously, this is a threat to China, because Zionist expansionism would basically mean further empowerment for the Trump regime in the United States.

And they would have control over all the oil that's no longer leaving the Persian Gulf as we speak. They would have control over everything, and that would put China in a very, very dangerous situation—more than dangerous. So I think it's only natural to assume that the Chinese and the Russians are going to cooperate with Iran more. But also... I mean, its cooperation with Russia and China—well, that aside. What the United States has done is cemented the relationship between Russia, Iran, and China for the years to come. They've cemented it. That small minority that supported the riots in Iran—they're a small minority. They were. Many of them have changed.

#Glenn

I don't know if I mentioned this before, but three students from my faculty have contacted me.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Each of them, separately, said they were involved in the riots. I assume not as the ones with guns who were killing police officers and burning hospitals or clinics, and destroying ambulances. I don't ask.

#Glenn

I don't want to know.

#Seyed M. Marandi

But I assume they were on the streets and probably burned, let's say, a few things. Yeah, I don't know. They hung out with these people. For whatever reason, they wanted to make up for what they did, and they asked me, "How can we help? What can we do to defend the country?" A couple of them were quite emotional. So, the United States has destroyed itself—it's destroyed its image across the world. It has shown itself to be brutal and ruthless, and so has the entire Western political elite, and so have their proxies across our region. But they've also, you know, united Iranians in a way that even during the 12-day war I hadn't seen.

But in addition to that, the self-confidence of Iranians is extraordinary. It's quite fascinating to see. And again, a lot of this goes back to the fact that it's a civilizational state, but even more importantly, it's the religious culture and the impact of the grandson of the Prophet in Karbala, and the stance he took against oppressors and in support of the oppressed. His courage was there. I mean, if Western analysts were smart, they would just read up on Shia Islam in particular. And if they really did that, they would have recognized that, you know, Iran is a bridge too far.

#Glenn

Well, yeah, it looks like the war planning wasn't done very well—nor the study on what Iran actually is. I always make the point that this is the problem with relentless war propaganda: you end up believing your own nonsense, and, well, we end up in these situations. So thank you, as always, for taking the time, and I hope your new family stays safe.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Thank you, Glenn Diesen, and thank you for all the extraordinarily important work that you do. It's quite heroic.