Jeffrey Sachs: We're in the Early Stages of World War III, Trump FAILS in Iran

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs argues that World War III has already begun in Iran as the US's war blows up the world order. Trump's initial strike has failed in its objective, and despite this an off-ramp appears increasingly untenable. What began as a regional conflict has already spilled over globally and Prof. Sachs discusses what the first stages of World War III look like amid escalating conflict. Follow Jeffrey Sachs: https://www.jeffsachs.org/ https://www.youtube.com/@UCVNlbld-oFN1O1yjcAzyheg FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: https://t.me/dannyhaiphong SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: https://www.patreon.com /dannyhaiphong Support the channel in other ways: https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: $Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: https://paypal.me/spiritofho Follow me on Telegram: https://t.me/dannyhaiphong #ww3 #trump #iran #israel

#Danny

Greetings, everyone. This is your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Jeffrey Sachs. Professor, it’s great to be back with you. Thanks so much for joining me again.

#Jeffrey Sachs

Thank you. Thanks for all you’re doing.

#Danny

Yeah, I really appreciate you coming on, Professor Sachs. I wanted to begin by asking you a question and just get right to it. Has Donald Trump, through this war on Iran, brought us into the earliest stages of World War III? He’s talking now about taking over the Strait of Hormuz, saying that while the war is almost over, there’s still a need to pressure Gulf countries into it. And there’s been, of course, a lot of volatility—not only on the military side but on the economic side as well—with oil prices doing jumping jacks because of all the mixed messaging from Donald Trump and his administration. So, how serious is the situation as you see it now that we’re about to enter the end of week two of this war?

#Jeffrey Sachs

I think we are in the early stages of World War III. I don't think this war is about to end. It could, but what Donald Trump says is so inconsistent—minute to minute. He doesn't explain anything; he

just exposes his mental instability. So when he says that it's almost over but then says, "Let's escalate," this is par for the course. This isn't tactical. This isn't the madman theory. It's just a madman. We should understand that. It means the world situation is extremely dangerous because the United States government, for the moment, is in the hands of a malignant narcissist who is losing control over any remaining inhibitions at all.

#Jeffrey Sachs

You're on mute, Danny. Sorry about that.

#Danny

No, no problem. Thank you so much. Professor Sachs, Donald Trump has—in the U.S. and in Israel, of course—they had their objectives as the elimination of the Iranian government. It seems like those objectives have failed. How do you see the course of this war, given that now there are immediate global implications to all of this? And it seems like, despite advisors privately telling Donald Trump to seek an off-ramp, that seems more and more difficult, especially with these objectives nowhere close to being met.

#Jeffrey Sachs

I think there are two critical time dimensions involved. One, which the military analysts rightly point to, is whether the anti-missile defenses will run out before Iran's missiles do—and that's likely. As the days go on, Iran's capacity to inflict grievous damage on Israel and the Gulf region will probably grow, from all that the analysts say. The second time horizon is the global economic crisis. Trump got spooked yesterday when oil prices soared to $120, so he immediately made something up, saying, "Oh, the war is almost over," and that caused the prices to drop. It still amazes me how people listen to the words of that man.

But clearly he was spooked—and he should have been spooked. We're on the way to a global economic catastrophe. Give it another few weeks: the production of gas and oil will be shut down, the facilities for transporting that gas and oil will be destroyed, the port facilities will be destroyed, and the Strait of Hormuz will still be closed. That's the underlying logic of the path we're on right now, and it will lead to a massive global economic crisis. So this is all about timing. If Trump were a sane man, what he said yesterday—"well, the war is almost over"—would be his excuse for just stopping, which is the right policy for the United States and Israel, by the way. But he's not a mentally stable person.

And the U.S. system is so broken that it's like Rome being in the hands of Nero or Caligula. You know, we're in the hands of instability. We're not an institutionalized constitutional system; we're actually in the hands of a kind of madness right now. So this is the real point. I'm hoping, of course, that somebody is able to prevail—maybe his chief of staff, maybe somebody inside—to say, "Mr.

President, why don’t you sit down, take a rest, have a cup of tea, everything’s fine. You’ve won, everything’s great. Now stop the shooting and you’ll be a hero.” If someone would say these things, maybe that could happen, and that would save many lives, a lot of damage, and the world economy all wrapped into one. But it’s not happening yet.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. And, you know, I'm wondering, Professor Sachs, given the importance of the Strait of Hormuz in all of this—how does this play out? Iran hasn’t actually formally closed it yet. Iran has definitely threatened to close it, and the war has essentially brought it to a close. But Iran has said that if the U.S. Navy does what Trump is promising—escorting commercial ships with the U.S. Navy—it will be ready for those ships. How catastrophic would that be? Because the Strait of Hormuz, you know, I think about 20 percent of the world’s oil flows through there. And we already know that Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait—all these countries—have reduced their oil production significantly because of the war.

#Jeffrey Sachs

Clearly, this would be a worldwide economic shock of enormous proportions. We've been through shocks like this before, especially in the 1970s—both in 1973–74 and in 1979–80. The first was around the 1973 war between Israel and its Arab neighbors, principally Egypt, and the second, in 1979–80, around the Iranian Revolution and all the turmoil that surrounded it. In both cases, the world went into an economic contraction. We had what was called stagflation—soaring prices, falling living standards, falling employment, falling output. This would happen again with any kind of prolonged continuation of this war.

I don't think it's feasible, in the real time needed to save the world economy, for the United States—even if it were wise to do so—to militarily defend the open seaways of the Strait of Hormuz. It's not feasible in the next weeks, probably not in the next months, perhaps not really feasible in the long term. It's a narrow strait; shooting at the ships passing through is not difficult. The Iranians have said they're not letting ships through, and they won't. In my view, the whole military adventure was premised, it seems, on the Iranians’ delusional idea that a decapitation strike would change the regime.

And this is par for the course with Trump's impulsivity and the lying of Israel, because Israel's strategy was to entice the United States into this action. It was Netanyahu's dream for forty years, as he's told us. So I'm sure that whatever Mossad told Trump was only good news—“one-day operation, everything will be easy.” Trump’s a fool, we have to understand. He’s an idiot. So he’s heavily influenced by what he hears. He knows nothing in particular. And probably he was played by Netanyahu and by Mossad, and perhaps by his own CIA. We don’t really know the inside story of this, but I don’t think they have a military plan that’s feasible and realistic within the time horizon of saving the world economy from a catastrophe.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. And Professor Sachs, Donald Trump recently said that he was told by Jared Kushner that Iran was going to attack the United States first, and he's even suggested that Iran had Tomahawk missiles to strike the school that killed, I think, over 150 young schoolgirls in Iran. Now, the war crimes are all out there for everyone to see. Even the New York Times and mainstream media are talking about this quite frequently now. How does this affect—given that you said we're in the early stages of World War III—how does this affect the world situation, and how the U.S. has behaved here? Because over and over again, the Trump administration has essentially said the U.N. and any kind of international law just do not apply. And they're being very open about it, both in their behavior and their words.

#Jeffrey Sachs

Trump seems to be in a state of delusion right now, thinking he controls the world. Perhaps what he perceives as a great success—having kidnapped the president of Venezuela—has convinced him of this. It's very hard to fathom what goes on in that man's head. And if he's listening to Kushner for his intelligence, well, it's even worse than I thought. I didn't know that was the supposed source of the intelligence on this. Oh my God. We're basically out of control, and there are no grown-ups anywhere in sight in the U.S. scene. Hegseth, Rubio—it's a mix of sycophants and incompetence that is absolutely stunning.

Our constitutional system has collapsed. The Senate's basic stance is, "Don't ask us. We don't want to get involved in any of this. We don't really need to know." We've heard a lot of rumors that the military told Trump it wouldn't work. Of course, we don't know what was really said, but it's quite believable. If that's actually the case, it shows how utterly, profoundly degraded the American situation is right now. There doesn't seem to be a process—just a son-in-law, a business partner, a bunch of grifters, a few sycophants, and a mentally unstable leader. This is not a great thing.

#Danny

Yeah, no, it's not a great thing. Maybe we can talk a bit about that, given that the military situation in this conflict appears very fluid, and Iran is showing a kind of—well, I think—a position where it's really demanding not only a cessation of hostilities, but that it be respected. I think the position of the IRGC right now is "security for all," not "security for one." How do you feel the rest of the world is looking at this? You know, Russia, China, Iran—this multipolar world we've talked about—they've expressed opposition to it, of course. But how does this reverberate at a deeper level, in this larger shift we're seeing in the world?

#Jeffrey Sachs

I doubt there's a single country in the world, outside of Israel and the United States, that views this either positively or with complacency. My guess is that every country—even the ones supposedly most allied with the United States—is looking at this with a mix of horror and amazement. It's so brazen, so ill thought out, so dangerous, so provocative. It's hard to see how anybody could be taking solace from it or actually rooting it on in any way. Now, I wouldn't put it past a few world leaders who are the ultimate sycophants, or completely dependent on Trump, to root for the United States in this brazen destruction of the world system.

But most countries in the world want this war to stop now. And I think it can stop quickly if the collective action problem—let's put it that way—that faces the rest of the world is overcome. Nobody really wants to be the first one out of the gate to tell Trump, "You're crazy." Pedro Sánchez of Spain has done so, bravely and rightly, and that's good. Others will be encouraged to follow. We've yet to hear from India, for example, which is rather shocking. But India is highly dependent on Middle East oil. It holds the presidency of the BRICS. Sadly, Prime Minister Modi was in Israel just days before this attack. That's a little sad, frankly, from many points of view.

But I think that if India properly leads the BRICS countries—Russia, China, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and, oddly enough, the Emirates, which is now part of BRICS—along with Indonesia, and says, "This has to stop now. This is madness," it would matter. It's nothing more than madness. Of course, it's extraordinarily ruthless and violent, but it's madness in terms of any kind of tactical or strategic calculation. This, I think, would have quite a significant effect, actually. It's not just words. If the world stands up and says out loud the truth—that this is a brazen U.S. and Israeli attack on the whole world, because it will bring down the world economy, because it was completely unnecessary, completely unjustified, completely illegal—it would have, I believe, a significant effect.

Maybe we'll see that happening in the coming days. Trump tried, with some success in the past 24 hours, to talk down the reality by saying whatever he wanted—that the war is almost over. The behavior is quite different. Today was a dramatic escalation of bombing and killing. And I think that even as Trump said he's not going to do anything without consulting Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Netanyahu is not going to say, "Why don't we just go home?" So this war is going to continue. Oil prices will spike again. Stock markets will crumble again. The question is whether there's any ability for collective action by the rest of the world, which is the victim of this U.S. aggression.

#Danny

Yeah, well, Professor Sachs, if this war is going to continue for a significant period of time, is this the beginning of the end for the U.S. in West Asia, in the Middle East? Is the U.S. self-evicting? Because many have argued that one of Iran's goals is for the U.S. to no longer be a presence capable of waging this kind of war—not only on Iran, but on the rest of the region. But is the U.S. also doing this to itself by engaging in such a reckless war?

#Jeffrey Sachs

A war that is so dangerous, so brazen, and so ill thought out as this could end quickly because the whole thing is atrocious. Or, if it continues, it could escalate into World War Three—which is where I think we're more likely than not heading right now. In other words, the dynamics, in my view, are still dynamics of escalation—extremely dangerous dynamics of escalation. That's another reason, in addition to the coming economic crisis, why this needs to stop immediately. Of course, stopping the murdering and the mass killing by the U.S. and Israel is yet another reason—but the essential reason.

#Danny

Professor Sachs, are you still there? I think I might have lost you. Here I am. Okay, sorry—I don't know.

#Jeffrey Sachs

But I was saying that the risk of this escalating...

#Danny

There's some breaking up happening. Okay.

#Danny

Sorry about that.

#Danny

No, no, no. You know, in the remaining six minutes, do you want to reload and come back? Just refresh the page—is that possible? Because I noticed... okay, yeah. And then we can close out the last several minutes. Okay, Professor Sachs will be right back as we deal with these connection issues. But I must say, I do agree with Professor Sachs on his position that this is such a dangerous and catastrophic war, that the global implications aren't even fully felt yet, even though they already have begun. Professor Sachs, you're back—please finish your point.

#Jeffrey Sachs

Yes, I was making the basic point that we're still on an escalatory path, and therefore we're still on a path where this could expand into a world war. Many countries support Iran—they'll come in more to support Iran. The United States will call on its vassal states to do more. The destruction of oil

facilities in the Middle East will continue. Iran will get more missiles through what is an increasingly porous Iron Dome in Israel. In other words, the dangers of an expanding conflict are manifold, and the dynamics, in my view, are still moving that way. Sad to say. Yeah.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. And then lastly, Professor Sachs, how do you see, particularly, Russia and China's view on this? Because many made the comment before the war started that Russia and China were firmly in support of Iran. Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump spoke recently, and there were rumors that Steve Witkoff had been trying to reach out to Iran, but with absolutely no success. How do you see Russia and China's approach and viewpoint on this war and its significance as the conflict unfolds?

#Jeffrey Sachs

Russia and China understand that this is a war of American global hegemony. And that, in particular, from the American point of view—I mean, the deep state and the Trumpian point of view—this is a war to control Middle East energy supplies and to run Iran, or run it into the ground. In any event, it's about controlling the Strait of Hormuz and the oil in the Middle East. Neither country would remotely find that acceptable in any way, shape, or form. It's a direct threat to the national security of both Russia and China. So they are no doubt supporting Iran in many ways—with intelligence, with supplies, financially—and they will continue to do so. It's the most basic logical point, especially since this is not, from a U.S. point of view, principally aimed at Iran.

This is principally aimed at the global grand strategy of the United States, which is hegemony in every part of the world. And the U.S., in Trump's delusional mind, thinks, "Well, we already own the Western Hemisphere. We've already shown we'll beat the crap out of anyone who objects to us. We'll get Cuba to fall into our laps any moment. Now we're doing it with the Middle East. Europe is too pathetic to matter—they're already in our pocket." So this is the U.S. calculation. It's part of the puzzle of U.S. dominance, like the old game of Risk. You know, the U.S. has its pieces on most parts of the board. From China and Russia's point of view, this is a very important part of the global chessboard.

#Danny

Yes. Well, Professor Sachs, it was great to have you on today. I look forward to the next time we're able to connect. Yes, and I hope to see you again soon. I'll be in touch. Very good. Thanks a lot. Take care. Thanks so much. All right, everybody, we're going to continue the coverage. However, I want to make sure you hit the like button because we have a lot to update on this day—which is, I guess, technically day 11 of the U.S.-Israeli war of aggression on Iran. So stick around. We have a lot more show to get to, so I want to begin the rest of this program with how Iran has responded to Donald Trump's transgressions, as the United States gives incredibly mixed messages to the world about the future of this war. So let's get right to that, okay?

The breaking news right now is that Iran has absolutely rejected the U.S.'s—or any—talk of a ceasefire. Now, there are rumors, this is from Al Jazeera, that the United States had actually reached out to the Iranian government, to Iranian leadership, and that Iran has now rejected this. This was reported by the Quds Network, saying that contact was being sought by Steve Witkoff, according to the Al Jazeera bureau chief in Tehran, about a ceasefire. But according to sources, there's no Iranian interest in engaging in any such talks. Now, that is critically important, everyone, because there are increasing signs that this war not only has not gone as intended for the United States and Israel, but that they are on the losing side. Yes, a lot of people may find this hard to believe in the collective West.

If you listen to Donald Trump's rhetoric, and you listen to Pete Hegseth today talking about how there are going to be the most massive strikes on Iran that we've seen since this war began, privately Trump aides are urging him to articulate a war exit plan. But the White House is denying these reports—just like they denied the reports before the war. Everyone, you remember this, right? They denied the reports that Dan Raising, the chief of staff at the Pentagon, told Donald Trump that this war wasn't necessarily going to go as planned, that there was no way to predict how it would unfold. Well, the White House also rejected those reports, and now they're rejecting these too. But nonetheless, they're being reported by The Wall Street Journal, which has no interest in protecting the Iranian government—but it does have an interest in preventing war.

What has been an absolute catastrophe on all ends is the de facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Now, everyone, that's playing a huge role in the massive volatility of oil prices around the world. Trump, according to Dropside News, is very confused—claiming that ship traffic is increasing and telling Iran not to stop the flow of oil. If Iran does anything, Trump says, to stop the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz, they will be hit by the United States of America twenty times harder than they have been hit thus far. And here you have the results of this comment, everybody. When Donald Trump said he was going to end the war—that the war was going to be "very complete"—at a press conference on March 9th, oil prices actually went down.

But then, when he made this comment, you can see prices jumping all the way back to $90 a barrel, which is still about $20 or so less than the peak they reached—I believe that was in the waning hours of March 8th. But nonetheless, this is an absolute catastrophe, and the elites know it. But it gets worse, everyone, because right now, on the military front—it's not just the economic front—it's not just that Donald Trump is already signaling that this war may have to come to an end very soon. There are even worse indications that the military situation is going quite poorly for the United States and for Israel. So let me show you what I mean by that, okay?

So we have a situation where we're getting massive censorship of what's happening in the Gulf region. Just take a look at this. According to the STRATCOM Bureau of the U.S. government, the American satellite imagery company Planet Labs, after consultations with the government, has announced an unprecedented 14-day delay in the release of imagery in the Middle East. And here is

that notice: because of genuine concerns about the use of Planet data over Iran, as well as the extended window of risk for recent imagery, there's now going to be a delay—from four to fourteen days—before any new imagery from Planet data is released. So essentially, this is censorship of satellite imagery showing the damage that has happened in the Gulf.

So when the IRGC says things like this, everyone—when Iran says they've destroyed U.S. military infrastructure in the region—it's these satellite images they don't want you to see, okay? It's not that Iran is putting out propaganda; it's that the United States is actively trying to suppress this data. Just look at the imagery here of the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, where satellites and radar equipment have been hit. And as you all know from this program, we've covered that the United States has hit Al Udeid, has hit all of these bases—the bases in Kuwait, the bases all over the UAE—has hit them, has hit their radars, and now the air defense systems remaining for the U.S. and Israel are flying absolutely blind.

So the crisis is just getting out of control for the U.S. and Israel, but they're trying to persist as long as they can and destroy as much as they can before they end up pulling out. But let me show you the exact approach that Iran is now taking. Iran announced in the last 24 hours that it has set its sights on the Israeli regime—that the Israeli regime is going to be the primary target of its missile campaign. There have been wave after wave after wave of Operation Truth Promise 4 coming down over Israeli skies and causing significant damage.

I'm going to play some of that for you right here. In the early hours, you can see just how hard Israeli interceptors are working—about six of them, a half dozen or more, for one Iranian missile going up over the airspace. Now, it's much more difficult this time around than during the 12-day war to get actual imagery of what's been happening in Tel Aviv and central Israel as Iran pummels them with ballistic missile fire. But nonetheless, Chinese workers who are there—likely to build infrastructure or do repairs through contracts between Chinese companies and Israel—have actually been recording what's been going on.

And I want to show you what Douyin, Chinese social media, is able to show us—what the U.S. mainstream media and, of course, Israeli media won't allow to be shown. Here's just one video showing the absolute catastrophe that Iran is raining over Tel Aviv as we speak. I'm going to turn off the volume because it can be quite loud and distracting. But this is the imagery coming out of Tel Aviv, and we're not able to see it because there's so much censorship in Israel. You can be imprisoned or heavily fined for putting out images. Many have noted that the reason Chinese workers are able to do this is because they're stationed far away from government buildings and secure infrastructure, since they're not fully trusted by Israel.

And that is a big part of the actual China-Israel relationship—there's a lot of mistrust on the Israeli side because they understand, I think they know, that their relationship with China is contingent upon China leveraging its own interests in the region, far from, quote-unquote, supporting Israel. That has always been part of the China-Israel relationship. It's never been one of friendship or

allyship, so to speak. It’s always been about China balancing the fact that the U.S. is dominant in the region, and China is not about to let one of the biggest spy networks in the world, which exists in Israel, operate without at least some Chinese oversight.

But here is Al Jazeera reporting on a strike in central Israel as well. You can see the moment when the Iranian missile hit—there were casualties from this strike. I believe two people were killed and others were injured. But now we’re hearing that these injuries, these casualties, are ranging in the hundreds in Israel. They’re keeping a very tight censor over all this imagery. And this doesn’t even get to the fact that it’s not just Iran hitting Israel now—it’s Hezbollah. They’re actually working in coordination, in tandem, launching joint attacks. Hezbollah has missiles and drones, and they’re firing them at Merkava tanks trying to invade Lebanon.

And they're also launching them at northern Israel, causing quite a significant amount of pandemonium in the Israeli security establishment, which has admitted they didn’t expect Hezbollah to be able to do what it’s doing. These are just the images coming out of Israel, the ones that are leaking out—and they’re very hard to get. But this is the strategy now. This is Iran’s strategy. They’re coming out and saying they’re going to strategically direct their attrition, their missile strikes on Israel, in order to send a message to the Gulf that you can actually be more secure if you refuse to allow your country to be used as a base for operations. But of course, these countries continue...

#Danny

As fodder for the United States. And so these operations have also included drone strikes on Bahrain and other surrounding Gulf countries that are participating in this conflict and continue to be targeted. They’re hitting oil infrastructure. They’ve hit oil infrastructure in Kuwait. They’ve hit everything in Manama, in Bahrain, where the U.S. Navy’s Fifth Fleet base is located. These are the images coming out of the destruction. And we’ve seen and heard already that the Gulf countries have really rolled back their oil production because of Iranian missile fire. So this is becoming more and more of a crisis for the Gulf and for Israel, which will run out of interceptors in the coming days.

Nothing has changed since the 12-day war of June 2025. The only possibility for Israel and the United States to continue this war is if they decide they don’t want to stop—that they want to wage it without any air defense systems, which is a huge risk and a huge gamble. Because either, as Israel has said, 95% of all of Iran’s missiles have been destroyed or launched—you can believe that, but it’s a big risk, since Iran has said those numbers are absolutely not accurate. But I want to make a second point, a better point, I think—a more important point about where we actually are in this war, okay? So the war right now is not just about the military.

People think it’s just about military superiority—who has more, who has bigger weapons, who can last longer. But it’s also about what comes next: the position of the people, the strength of the people to keep waging this war. So, are Israelis, are people in the Gulf, in these Gulf countries, are the American people more willing to stomach the kind of losses they’ll face, and to do so with

greater strength than the Iranian people? We have to ask that question because it's a really important one. And let's focus on Israel now, since it's become a focal point of Iran's attacks.

No matter how many attacks there are, Israel keeps saying only eight missiles are being launched at a time each evening over the last three days. I don't believe that one bit. Iran announces wave after wave after wave. They don't give numbers—they're not going to share details with anyone in the West—but they do say these waves happen sometimes within less than half a day. So we're talking about wave after wave coming into Israel. But let me show you how Israelis are responding to this war versus the Iranian people, because I think it's a really important point that shows exactly where this conflict is headed. Here is the reaction to Iranian missile fire by Israelis.

#Danny

So that is the Israeli response to Iranian missile fire.

#Danny

There are also other images—Ben Gurion Airport, lots of panic. Israelis are refusing to go on flights for fear of what might happen to their planes, and of course, there's pandemonium in the streets of Tel Aviv when these missiles come down. Here's how Iranian media is covering the rallies happening all across the country in opposition to the U.S.-Israeli war of aggression. And with the election and selection of the new Supreme Leader of Iran, here's one image that really gets you thinking. I mean, this is a mass of Iranian people hearing bombs—Israeli and U.S. bombs—going off very close in the background.

#Danny

Just watch their reaction.

#Danny

So I'm going to turn off the volume here, but you could hear exactly what was going on. And the Iranian people—if this were the U.S., if this were the West, if this were Israel—you would see people absolutely panicking, running for their lives. But not here, not here. And I think this is a really important point that needs to be emphasized, because it shows exactly where the desperation and the panic lie. So, I just wanted to show that because I think it's a really important point about where this war actually is. Now, about the censorship—why censor? Why do you need to censor the satellite imagery coming out of the Gulf now? We've already seen the images of the Patriot systems, of the radars. We've seen those, we've covered those here. They have been destroyed. They have been targeted, and they have been destroyed.

And now Iran is making a very—well, Iran was not firing at Israel in the first days of this war as dramatically as it was at the Gulf countries. Now that has reversed strategically, because the eyes of the air defense systems have been completely blown out, and they're not going to get replaced. You can't replace those; it takes years to replace them. If you don't believe me about Iran's missile strategy—Dropsite News, actually, here we go—Dropsite News has reported on this as well. They're signaling a shift in the new waves of Operation True Promise 4, and that they're going to send heavier ballistic missiles toward Tel Aviv and, of course, the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet base, as a strategic message that the Gulf is still not safe if they continue to use their bases against Iran.

And there was a HIMARS, I believe, found in the region that showed Bahrain was using those against Iran. That's why the Fifth Fleet continues to take a pummeling, a pounding. And Tel Aviv—of course, the Israeli regime—is a major player in this conflict. It's one of the biggest reasons, if not the reason, why this war is happening now. Not necessarily the reason it's happening at all—we know the United States wants to wage this war too—but it's a big reason why it's happening right now, at this time. Because Israel was pressuring, putting the persuasion on the Trump administration. And of course, the Trump administration said, "Absolutely, let's go." So that's the situation right now.

That's not going to stop. But it's not as if there aren't even more problems with all of this. In the lead-up to this change in strategy, Iran has expanded its target base. Scott Ritter was on the Sanchez Report—friend of the show—and he talked about this expansion of the target base to even include Iran. These are unconfirmed reports, but they even include targeting the brother of Benjamin Netanyahu. There are confirmed reports that the son of Smotrich—the finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich—has said there are reports that Hezbollah, the Lebanese resistance, has targeted his son. So here's what Scott Ritter had to say about Iranian intel, even perhaps moving toward a decapitation of its own.

#Speaker 01

You know, the Iranians are showing an ability to get intelligence inputs in the morning and strike in the afternoon with deadly effect. And they're also starting to expand their target deck. Remember, they didn't invent the concept of regime change—that was Israel on day one, killing Ali Khamenei. Last night, the Iranians struck the home of Benjamin Netanyahu; they killed his brother. They hit the home of Ben-Gvir—he's seriously wounded and may not survive. Iran is going to start taking out the totality of Israel's leadership. This is the reality of the conflict. Israel played the regime change game, and it's going to be the Israelis who pay the highest price. The Iranians are no longer wearing kid gloves—they've taken them off and they're coming in bare-knuckled.

#Danny

They're reporting it. This is interesting. So that's the reality. Of course, we haven't confirmed yet about the brother of Benjamin Netanyahu and Ben-Gvir. There's a lot of censorship going on around

that. But here's what has been confirmed, everybody: it's been confirmed by Al Jazeera that the finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich—shrapnel tore through his son's liver during an attack near the Lebanese border that wounded eight Israeli soldiers. That was done by the Lebanese resistance, Hezbollah, which has, of course, been coordinating and entered the war because Israel tried to, and is trying to, level Lebanon as the U.S. ties up Iran and Iraq.

So that has gone very poorly, and it's gone very poorly for Smotrich, who is, of course, known as one of the most rabid champions of the Greater Israel project within Israel's cabinet. And I'll just show you exactly what I mean. This was during the Gaza conflict. Smotrich said that within a few months in 2023, they would be able to declare victory and that Gaza would be totally destroyed, predicting that the people of Gaza would be despairing and fleeing permanently. It didn't quite work out like that. Of course, a lot of damage—a lot of genocide—was done in Gaza, but people were not fleeing in despair. They've just been kind of moved around in that genocidal war.

But Smotrich—this is what he believes in. He's a genocidaire. And now he's getting quite a bit of blowback for that, and his son has become a target. This is war. This is war. This is what the Israelis and the U.S. government have asked for, and what the Trump administration has asked for. So now we have to talk about the Trump administration when it comes to the military and, you know, military conflict and political crisis, right? When it comes to these two mounting crises for the U.S.—a shortage of interceptors, Iran being able to dictate terms at this point, rejecting ceasefires—all of this is a reflection of the chaos that's reigning right now in the Trump administration over what they want to do with this war.

I think it's important to note that part of this chaos is being driven by the fact that the Trump administration has committed war crimes very openly, and the world has seen it. Especially when it comes to the school that was bombed in Tehran, which killed over 150 young schoolgirls—one of the first strikes in this war. Now that this has come out and caused a stir, it's made the war less popular all around the world, even in the United States. So now there's a lot of chaos over how to justify it going forward. And Trump is being questioned. Here's his response to the New York Times White House correspondent when asked about the inconsistencies in the administration's messaging around the war.

#Speaker 02

You just suggested that Iran somehow got its hands on a Tomahawk and bombed its own elementary school on the first day of the war. But you're the only person in your government saying this. Even your defense secretary wouldn't say that when he was asked, standing over your shoulder on your plane on Saturday. Why are you the only person saying this?

#Donald Trump

Because I just don't know enough about it. I think it's something that I was told is under investigation. But Tomahawks are used by others, as you know. Numerous other nations have Tomahawks—they buy them from us. But I will certainly, whatever the report shows, I'm willing to live with that report.

#Danny

I mean, that's bad. And there are many reasons why that's bad. The biggest reason, everyone, is because not only did he suggest that the disagreements within the Trump administration—or at least the mixed messaging—are real, he confirmed it's real. And the reason it's real is that he doesn't really know much about what's going on in this war. He's playing ignorant, of course—let's be honest. This is all a way to try to deceive people. But then he goes on to say other countries have Tomahawks, they buy them from us. Well, who buys them from you?

Oh, it's those so-called allies all across the world—not just in the Gulf, but in the region. But these countries don't have the capacity, without U.S. support, to fire these weapons. Nonetheless, just as when this war began, everybody in the Gulf countries was very unhappy—at least rhetorically—about how the Trump administration didn't inform them that the strike was going to happen. He's now throwing all these countries, all the allies, under the bus. But he's targeting Gulf countries here, claiming that they don't have the capacity to do this, by the way. You saw what happened to the F-15s.

In Kuwait, the three that were falling out of the sky—they fell out of the sky—and it was deemed to be friendly fire: the F-15s, the American fighter jets. You saw what happened. These are not—if we want to just say, you know, that's a complete and utter lie—I would believe you. Me, not being an expert on how these things work, I'd say Iran likely took down some of those F-15s. But nonetheless, we know that Kuwait shouldered the burden of that incompetence that was laid upon them. And none of these countries have any experience or technical capacity to operate U.S. weapons without support from the United States. So he's throwing them under the bus.

He's saying that they did it, maybe. And that is, I think, one of the important indicators here—that this war is not going as planned, that the Trump administration cannot get a hold of a single narrative to not only justify this war, but to justify the crimes that have come out of it. There's just deflection, there's just outright deception. And that's why this war has not, even as it's gone on—and as the Trump administration has constantly talked about how well they're doing in the war, how the war is going better and better—Americans across the board, in all the polls, are showing and saying that they don't agree with this, that they do not support it, that they think it's gone on for too long, and that they're not clear about its goals.

So this is a crisis for the Trump administration. This is a crisis for the U.S. empire as a whole. Iran is showing us what they're going to do, and they're carrying out their plan. They have a plan not to

accept a ceasefire—they don't want that. They want what they said they want, which is security for all, including themselves. They don't want any more attacks from Israel or the United States. They want to eliminate that threat from here on out, to the best of their ability. And they want to ensure that they have security for themselves and their people.

Everyone else, because they've made it clear that these attacks on Gulf countries are attacks on U.S. military assets—which they have been since the beginning. This is what happens. There's that meme, you know, you've probably seen it, about Iran—how Iran is supposedly such a threat, yet somehow it parked its country right in the middle of all these U.S. military bases. Well, that's coming back now to bite the empire. And this is what we're seeing across the world. All we have at this point are delusions coming out of the political leadership in Washington. And look, this is another delusion: everything's fine.

#Donald Trump

Our country is doing really well—stronger—and our country is doing really well. I mean, at a level that nobody thought possible. We took a little excursion because we felt we had to do that to get rid of some evil, and I think you'll see it's going to be a short-term excursion. How good?

#Danny

It'll be a short-term excursion. Everything is going well. Well, you make the judgment for yourself, everybody, because everything I've shown so far actually indicates the opposite of "going well." The Iranian people aren't even flinching when those bombs come down. They're committed to their sovereignty and independence. Their military is showing that they have a strategy, that they're going to move forward with it, and that they'll pursue it by any means necessary, for as long as it takes. The U.S. has a lot of rhetoric, a lot of chest-thumping—a lot of "we're going to hit Iran harder than we've ever hit them before." We get a lot of this coming out of Washington.

Pete Hegseth said it's going to be the most intense day of strikes, with the biggest deployment of fighter jets—rah, rah, rah. Well, we've already been at this for 11 days, and the U.S. is rapidly running out of ammunition. It's a big, major problem that the U.S. faces—and Israel as well—so this can't go on forever and ever. Now the U.S. is pulling stockpiles, pulling air defenses, or at least they say they're pulling them from Asia. That doesn't happen in a day; it's going to take a while for those things to come in. But that will mean a period of time without air defenses. It will mean a period of time without what you've depleted. And so it's a risk—and that risk will only grow when the oil shock hits, when the Strait of Hormuz situation, when all of that begins to cascade into an economic crisis.

Because remember, there are rumors that Saudi Arabia is going to increase production in the coming days and try to move it through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait. Well, Yemen's Ansar Allah is waiting in the wings to stop that—mark my words on that. Once the Strait of Hormuz economic crisis hits, if the U. S. and Israel do not stop and do not concede to Iran, Yemen will be right there, ready and willing to

close the Red Sea again. And what do you think that will do to the global economy if you have two major transit lanes of commerce—especially oil—closed for the foreseeable future? Well, I think we're going to see the panic we're seeing right now go up drastically, to proportions that are historic in nature. So, without further ado, everybody, that is today's show.

I want to thank all the new members here. I want to thank, first of all, Professor Jeffrey Sachs for joining me today. I also want to thank all the new members who joined—it's really very much appreciated. I appreciate all of you. There was a question for Jeffrey Sachs we weren't able to get to because he had limited time: what would be the repercussions if Trump dies? I don't want to speculate on that because, of course, we have Ali Larrajani, who made comments about this. He said that Trump may not want to be eliminated. We don't know what he means by that—of course, he could mean electorally defeated. You know, they always say that Iran is trying to assassinate Donald Trump. Hard to verify those claims. But yeah, we have other questions.

But yeah, it would be catastrophic. I mean, in my estimation, it could lead to major issues in the war—maybe even nuclear issues—because the U.S. cannot be trusted, with its political brass and ruling elites, to do something rational here. So, here we go. Yep, Professor Sachs actually got that. India's role in the conflict—how they didn't condemn Israel or the U.S., but they did condemn Russia in 2022. I lost all respect for them. Yep, Professor Sachs wanted to be asked: what do you believe Condoleezza Rice's presence at the White House means? She was spotted at the White House last week. Interesting. A lot of people have questions for Professor Sachs.

We don't have a lot of time today, but maybe next time. Where does he see the EU and NATO five years from now? Thank you so much to all the new members, and thank you to Sean—I really appreciate that. And of course, thanks to everyone in the membership here. All right, everybody, tomorrow at 12 noon Eastern Time I'll be back with Pepe Escobar, okay? We'll be talking about updates on the war, and I'll be providing those for you with Pepe Escobar—12 noon Eastern Time, March 11th. We've got a full slate of shows for the rest of the week, and I'll make sure to get those to you. All right, everybody, hit the like button before you go.

Be sure to check out Jeffrey Sachs' work in the video description—his website and the YouTube channel where he shares all of these shows. And also, be sure to go to the video description to support this channel—Patreon, Substack, and so much more, everybody. Without further ado, I'll be back tomorrow at 12 noon Eastern. Hit the like button as you leave. Thank you to all the supporters, and thank you to all the moderators today. I see Ware out there, and whoever else is in there—I don't know if I caught anyone else. Thanks to all the members and everybody for joining me today on this show. I'll be back again at 12 noon Eastern Time tomorrow with Pepe Escobar. See you then.