

# Trump's war in Iran crushes US working class, enriches cronies

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate discuss how Trump's cronies are exploiting the Strait of Hormuz crisis he instigated to manipulate markets while US consumers feel the pain. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

## #Max

Well, I think Iran is attacking the two main vulnerabilities of the U.S. empire. And we'll cover this—we'll sort of break it down and go through it in a series of segments. First, it's attacking the forward-positioned U.S. military bases, the ones that have encircled it. It's a kind of strategic jujitsu. Those bases are running out of interceptors, and they're being hit day after day with drone and ballistic missile strikes. They're causing U.S. casualties and forcing evacuations. U.S. diplomatic personnel are being pulled out. Iran is hitting residential towers. They have the intelligence and reconnaissance to determine where U.S. personnel—diplomats, CIA operatives, and soldiers—are staying, and they're hitting them with relative precision. They said they would do this, but the U.S. launched the war anyway.

And now the U.S. is in retreat, which is why a third aircraft carrier is being introduced into the theater of conflict—because it's difficult to launch planes from airstrips that are under attack. The U.S. 5th Fleet Naval Base in Bahrain is getting hammered day after day. And then the second vulnerability is the U.S. economy—the global economy—which is the basis for U.S. hegemony. The Strait of Hormuz is the choke point that could cause an economic catastrophe globally, and the Trump administration has no answer for this at all. No answer. Here's Donald Trump being asked about the Strait of Hormuz. If I can load this—you should pay attention to his comments about Hormuz and the comments by his energy secretary, Chris Wright, because they're delusional, riding free range over that country. And now we're going to look very strongly at the straits—the straits are...

## #Donald Trump

In great shape. We've knocked out all of their boats. They have some missiles, but not very many. I think we're in very good shape. The main thing is we have to win this thing—win it quickly, but win it. And there are many people—I'm just watching some of the news—most people say it's already been won. It's just a question of when. When do we stop? We don't want to let it regrow. And

ideally, we'd like to see somebody in there who knows what they're doing—in other words, someone who can build a country.

**#Max**

I mean, it's absolutely delusional. We have control over the straits, and he's still talking about a Venezuela scenario. He's falling back on the original talking points and the mentality he went in with, which have already dissolved. And here's the reality in the Strait of Hormuz: this was a U.S. tanker yesterday—boom, up in flames. “Oh, we took out Iran’s navy.” Trump was joking about blowing up an Iranian frigate that was coming back from naval exercises in India with no weapons, killing over a hundred sailors and refusing to pick them up as they drowned. He thinks taking out naval ships is the answer to the Strait of Hormuz, when Iran has drone boats, drones, torpedoes of its own, and up to 5,000 naval mines—including limpet mines and smart mines that can actually be moved.

**#Max**

Yeah.

**#Max**

That are impossible to clear.

**#Max**

And mobile rocket launchers that it can fire from its shores—because it's right there—which are impossible to counter.

**#Max**

They can deploy mines—they can launch them into the Strait of Hormuz.

**#Max**

So Trump is bragging because he blew up some unarmed Iranian Navy ship off the coast of India, as if that's going to impact Iran's ability to control the Strait of Hormuz. It's completely clueless. I also have to say, there's that last comment where he talks about someone who can help rebuild the country as he's destroying it—he and Israel have targeted more than 17,000 civilian sites so far, at least according to the Financial Times.

**#Max**

Well, it's really the economy that will decide this. Fertilizer prices are going up by something like 30%, which means U.S. producers are getting hammered. Just producing farm goods to bring to

market is that much more expensive. In Los Angeles, there's one gas station now selling regular gas for over \$8 a gallon. Gas prices nationally are starting to go up over 50%. The average gas price in Los Angeles County is over \$5. Oil is now \$100 a barrel—it could go to \$200 a barrel if this continues for another month, and there's no reason to believe it won't.

## **#Max**

This can cause inflation. The affordability crisis is already hurting Trump, and I think he's already lost the war politically. He has no solution to this. Chris Wright, his energy secretary—who is a scam artist, as I'll explain in a moment—has said they'll open up the Strait of Hormuz and ships will start moving in two to three weeks. In two to three weeks, what will oil prices be? And that's not even true. The talking points have gone out to all of Trump's lackeys. He's lost Tucker Carlson. He's lost Megyn Kelly.

Laura Ingraham on Fox News is now moving away from Trump and starting to criticize the war. Ann Coulter is slamming the war. Anyone who's even remotely independent within the Republican or right-wing commentariat is moving away from Trump and from this war. Everybody else is just a paid puppet. So the paid puppets, the tools, and the Trump administration flacks have new talking points. This is what they're telling the bootlicking MAGA base that's following Trump around the country to see Jake Paul on a national short bus tour.

## **#Fox News 1**

This is a short-term disruption for a long-term gain.

## **#Max**

Short-term pain for long-term gain.

## **#Fox News 1**

Short-term pain for long-term gain.

## **#Fox News 2**

We're going to have some short-term pain for long-term gain. Short-term pain for long-term gain.

## **#Fox News 3**

Short-term pain, yes, but we've got some long-term gain. A short-term spike for long-term gain.

## **#Fox News 1**

Some short-term pain for American consumers. We may have to deal with that in the short term—short-term and temporary. Temporary short-term pain. It's going to suck in the short term. Some short-term pain. Short-term pain. We have to focus on the short term. Short-term. Short-term. Short-term. Short-term and long-term.

## **#Fox News 4**

Short-term. Hopefully this is short-term pain. The short-term pain is far outweighed by the long-term benefits. Some short-term pain for the long-term gain.

## **#Fox News 5**

Short-term sacrifice for long-term gain.

## **#Max**

It kind of reminds me of "flatten the curve" from the COVID era, or like "stop the spread."

## **#Fox News 1**

We'll flatten the curve.

## **#Max**

We need only two more weeks. I'm Anthony Fauci. But what's the long-term gain?

## **#Max**

Exactly. What's the long-term gain? Israel gets to steal more Middle Eastern land with less resistance. I mean, they can't even explain that, because they couldn't even explain why they went to war before. They've offered up the most ridiculous set of excuses I've ever seen, all of which contradict each other. Trump said Iran was two weeks away from a nuclear weapon. His White House press secretary, Kayleigh McEnany, said that Trump felt Iran was going to attack U.S. troops, and that was based on a conversation with Jared Kushner—his son-in-law, who didn't even have a government position.

And then Marco Rubio tried out this thing—well, Israel was going to attack, so we had to attack. Then he walked that back. And then he said, well, because Iran was building a missile shield to protect itself so it could build a nuclear weapon in the future, which doesn't even make sense. Because, A, Iran doesn't have a nuclear weapons program, and B, if they tried to have one, the U.S. and Israel would just nuke them anyway. So a missile shield wouldn't even protect them. It's so incoherent. And now they're trying to put forward a long-term gain that they can't even articulate, because it's all just so transparently for the gain of Israel.

## #Max

The long-term game was supposed to be, oh, we come in and assassinate the Ayatollah, the Iranian people rise up—another neocon fantasy. And then they get the Persian Delcy Rodríguez to negotiate all these deals. That's how stupid they are. Of course, the Likudniks surrounding Trump are much more devious and understood that that would never happen. They just wanted to drag the U.S. into Netanyahu's 40-year plan. But Trump—he clearly believed that. He's that stupid. Netanyahu finally found someone stupid enough to do it. He's unbelievably stupid, possibly stupider than George W. Bush. He's just a lot more amusing. He'd be a great guy to... well, Bush was pretty amusing. I'd probably—if Bush had never been president, he probably would've been more fun to hang out with than Al Gore, when Bush was drinking or something.

But these are deeply stupid people. And not just that—the Trump administration is the most corrupt. There's nothing to compare it to. The Trump administration is the most corrupt administration in American history. It's like... it makes Hunter Biden look like Ralph Nader. Oh, for sure. It's not even close. A lot of people don't see the subtext here, but this is the energy secretary, Chris Wright, who—of course—he's just an industry guy. He ran some oil services company before he came in, so he's going to go back into the oil industry. And he's milking this war. A post by U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright saying that the U.S. Navy had escorted an oil tanker through the Strait of Hormuz was deleted on Tuesday, minutes after his account had posted it. Why did he do that?

And why does he keep saying the Strait of Hormuz would open? Because he brought oil prices down to \$80 a barrel—again, Brent crude—and then once he deleted his post, it went back up to \$100. So we have to assume that Chris Wright and a bunch of administration insiders had placed a put on Brent crude and were actually profiting from his public messaging, that they're moving markets through their false, mendacious public messaging to profit from the crisis—the oil crisis, the kind of new Suez crisis that Trump created with his war for Israel. And Trump came out today and confirmed this. It's wild. He said, "The United States is the largest oil producer in the world, by far. So when oil prices go up, we make a lot of money." Okay—who's "we"?

## #Max

Who's "we" here?

## #Max

Yeah, exactly. It's like how he said he didn't want to make homes more affordable to own because it would hurt homeowners. So "we" is the Epstein class. "We" is the elite, crony, world-class group of Scrooge McDuck billionaires who insulate their homes with bulk-bought books by Donald Trump Jr. "We" are the people who own Polymarket. "We" is this cretinous class of 0.1 percenters. And Americans are getting hurt by what I'd call the Trump War for Israel Tax—or TWIT. You're paying it

at the pump because Trump waged a war for Israel, and he was paid and bribed to do it by Miriam Adelson.

## **#Max**

It's like when Joe Biden launched the proxy war in Ukraine and then energy prices skyrocketed because he was cutting off Russian energy. He started calling it "Putin's price hike." It didn't land—it didn't land because it was Biden's price hike. And TWIT—that's great, Trump's War for Israel Tax. That's exactly right. People will have to pay the price because Trump decided to do Netanyahu's bidding. It's not even a question.