

Scott Ritter: Iran UNLEASHES Missiles on Tel Aviv & US Bases

#Nima

And it's before 12. Hi, everybody. Today's Wednesday, March 18, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother, Scott Ritter, is here with us. Welcome back, Scott.

#Scott

Thanks for having me.

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Scott, let's start with the breaking news — the Israeli attack on South Pars. This is a refinery they call the Asaluyeh Refinery, and they've hit several phases — the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th. Reports say they coordinated the attack with the United States beforehand. Where are we heading with this conflict, with the war that's escalating beyond just that? Because it's not only about oil refineries — we're seeing desalination plants and other critical infrastructure, things essential for human survival, not just for daily living. How do you see the war escalating?

#Scott

The Iranians — first of all, we have to understand that they've been very open about what the consequences of actions will be, and so far they haven't bluffed. This is a death sentence for Saudi Arabian oil, for United Arab Emirati oil, Kuwaiti oil, Bahraini oil — any nation that played a role in this. You can say it was an Israeli attack, but it was, as you said, coordinated with the United States. The United States is at a minimum culpable and complicit. So all the Gulf Arab nations that took part in this are going to pay an extraordinary price. Now, maybe the Iranians will make an example of one and then tell the rest, "You guys have to get this to stop, or else we're taking everything out. The next attack, we take everything out."

But this one — Saudi Arabia — I'm sorry, you lied to us. You let American airplanes in here. They need to erase Saudi Arabian energy manufacturing. If they don't, then their energy is going to be erased. And that's the goal of Israel. Because, you know, what's happened — the reason this decision was made — is that it's proof positive that both Israel and the United States now know regime change is impossible, that the Iranian government is going to outlast this conflict. So what

they're doing right now is ensuring that the Iranian government, and what it governs, will be poverty-stricken. They're seeking to do permanent, long-lasting damage to Iran's ability to produce gas, oil, and energy, and to earn income from it.

And Iran has said that we're not going to be the only nation that goes down this way. So I think this is the beginning of one of the biggest mistakes. But again, what we've seen now is that Israel is creating the conditions for a global catastrophe. When is the world going to realize that the biggest single threat to the entire world is Israel? Israel just did something because they're such a pathetic nation. They did something that's going to have global ramifications. China will be impacted by this. India will be impacted by this. Because it's not just Iranian energy that's being attacked — it's regional energy. It's all connected. So this is a very bad, very dangerous, very disturbing development.

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You know, Iran has issued an urgent warning to Saudi Arabia and the UAE — various points, you know, like the Jubail Complex, the Samref Refinery, and in the UAE, the Al-Hassan Gas Field. And together with Qatar — in Qatar there's the Maasai Complex, which they say is affiliated with Chevron. So, two places in Qatar, two in Saudi Arabia, and one in the UAE. And they said they're going to hit them, and anybody living nearby should leave the region.

#Scott

They should. I mean, this is consequences — a cause-and-effect relationship. And I'm actually glad Iran is going to do this. I hope they hit them hard. I hope that when they finish, this isn't just a token — we're blowing up a few things so we get nice photographs of flames. They need to terminate the energy production capacity at all these facilities, because then what they need to say is, "This is what we're going to do to everything if this happens again." This isn't, you know, tit for tat — you don't get to take out one of our fields and we take out one of yours. We're taking the whole damn system down. And they need to prove that now.

Maximum damage done to these facilities — take them off the face of the earth. Because that's the only way you're going to wake people up. That's the only way. My gas went from \$3.11 two Mondays ago to \$3.79 today, and I bet it'll be \$3.85 before the day is over. I remember last time I went through one of these, I'd go in and watch the gas station change the price throughout the day, because that's just the way it is. This is the only way you're going to wake the American people up — European people, people around the world — by hitting their pocketbook. Because they don't care about Iranians.

Nobody cares about the fact that, to kill Ali Larzani and his son, they took out an entire city block. That's a war crime — the literal definition of a war crime. This is what the Nazis did. And yet they did it, and we're bragging about it, saying, "Yeah, it's a good thing." Nobody cares. So you're not going

to impress anyone — hell, we bombed a school, double-tapped a school, killed 175 girls. Nobody cares. That's how disgusting we are as human beings. We only care about ourselves. Okay, Iran, now it's time to hit the buttons to make us care about ourselves. Bring the pain home. You clearly didn't get to our hearts, because we have hearts of stone.

Um, you know, no tears shed for those girls, no tears shed for the hundred people that died. So you can say you killed Ali Larzani, not recognizing that killing him doesn't change a damn thing — the institution still exists. There are people to replace him, and he just goes down as a martyr, motivating the people who replace him. Take out the oil fields. It's time for Iran to put the pedal to the metal and take the damn oil fields out. The other thing I would do if I were Iran is tell the nations that are getting tankers through the Strait of Hormuz: no more tankers. A complete shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz. We're bringing the pain, and it's time to bring the pain. And if India goes, "We didn't do anything," — well, too bad.

Yes, India, you did. You didn't do a damn thing. You didn't do anything to stop this. You still have good relations. You're still talking to Israel like they're your brothers. They're not. They're the people murdering us every day of the week, and you want us to do business with you? It's time for Iran to play that card. And they need to tell the Russians and the Chinese it's time for the Russians and Chinese to step up their game too, because this is going to have a dire impact, especially on China. China's looking at its future right now. There's going to be a big hiccup, because even if they start buying energy from Russia, they don't have the throughput capacity to get all that energy there.

And Iran has to say, sorry, brother. I know we're sort of hurting you, but hey, Pete Hegseth says there are a thousand places in Iran that go boom a day. What are you doing to stop that? Nothing. So you need to do more. Otherwise, as we go down, so do you. But they need to bring the pain. The other thing about shutting the Strait of Hormuz is that it ends, once and for all, the notion that the United States is responsible. Right now, with the limited traffic, you have the United States claiming it's because of them — "We did this. We're the ones that made the Iranians say, huh, we might as well let some traffic through because America's right there threatening us."

#Nima

No. No.

#Scott

What Iran did was prove that they're in control. Only Iran decides what gets through the Strait of Hormuz. And right now, the Iranians need to decide that nothing gets through the Strait of Hormuz. Nothing.

#Nima

Scott, Saudi Arabia and all these Arab states are in some sort of panic. Saudi Arabia, you know, is hosting a foreign ministers' meeting in Riyadh today. A Turkish diplomat reported that they're bringing together Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Qatar, Syria, and Turkey — all meeting in Saudi Arabia along with the UAE. We know that Azerbaijan is very important for Israel. I don't know if Iran would do something in that direction, or if all these countries coming together would make some sort of move that way. How do you see the capabilities of these countries?

#Scott

To do what? I mean, you know, the thing is, as Saudi Arabia hosts this meeting, they're going to lose an oil field. How's that feel, Saudi Arabia? And as the UAE sends their representative, they're going to lose an oil field. Qatar's going to lose a natural gas field. You know, this is the reality. So what are they going to do—come together and say, what, we're going to threaten Iran? Hey, dude, they're already losing a thousand points on the map a day, getting blown up by America. You're going to bring in your pathetically small military and make it a thousand and twenty? You think the additional twenty targets you can hit a day are going to change what's going on? I mean, this is the pathetic reality of these Arab nations. They've sold their souls to the devil.

They've sold their souls to the devil — the United States and Israel calling the shots. And now they're going to come together and do what? If they don't come together and say the one thing that has to be said — "America, get out of our neighborhood. Get out. You're done. We're done with you. You lied to us. You betrayed us. You set us up. All this is because of you and Israel. Stop, or see everybody here. Count the bodies. Count the airplanes. We'll come in and erase you from the planet." It's time for nations to step up and just tell Israel, remind them how small they are, how pathetic they are, and how inconsequential they are. You know, Israel right now is shooting its load into Iran — they're blowing up some places on the ground, but they're not changing anything.

The missiles still come in and hit Israel on a daily basis. Hezbollah is slaughtering Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. I mean, go ahead, Israel—mobilize 450,000. They'll all die too. Hezbollah is better at this business than you are. You're on their turf, and they will slaughter you. And you don't want to fight. That's the other thing—the Israelis don't believe in this mission anymore. They only believe in it when it's pain-free. It ain't pain-free anymore. There's a lot of pain attached to this. So they need to put the pressure on the right places. They need to put the pressure on the United States and on Israel. If they try to put any pressure on Iran, what does Iran care?

I mean, what are you going to do? Kill the next Larijani? Kill the president? I'm sure the president cares—I don't think he wants to die. But Iran could care less. They have institutions. That's what this is about. You're fighting a nation, not individuals. And as opposed to the majority of those people gathering—those are families, those are monarchies. They're not nations. Most of the people gathering there are the heads of families that run countries, but they're not part of the nation. The

nation didn't vote for them. These are corrupt individuals who have robbed their own people blind to enrich themselves. So when they come together to speak, they're not speaking on behalf of the people.

They're speaking on behalf of their own selfish interests. There are only a few nations where you could actually say the leader speaks for the people. I mean, Erdogan, I think, speaks for the Turkish nation. But Jolani—who does he speak for? Who's he going to send, another head chopper? None of the Gulf Arab states are democratic. None of them. They're all autocratic, corrupt—morally and economically corrupt—individuals. The world would be better off if they didn't exist. And maybe one of the consequences of this war will be the erasure of these corrupt families that were put in place by the British. None of them earned this.

They didn't come in and say, you know, "Hello, we've discovered this great country, and we're going to lead by being intellectually sound and morally correct, and we're going to build things." They came in and chopped heads off. And one day a camel went out and pissed in the desert, and some oil came up. They went, "Oh, that's not very good tasting. Why don't we hire a foreigner who's smart?" And in come the British and Americans, who say, "That's oil." "What do we need to do?" "Not a damn thing. You just sit back there on your camel in your tent, smoke your pipe, and we'll bring the oil out of the ground, throw some money your way, and then we'll take it."

And that's how it got developed. These guys didn't do anything—nothing except chop off some heads. Other people developed the industry. Now they've inherited it, and they've got this structure in place where they make all the money. Ask the UAE, though—what's the percentage of Emirati people in their military? Eighty-five percent of the UAE military are mercenaries, mainly Pakistani. They don't know how to fight. When they build a building, are Emirati men out there rolling up their sleeves, getting sunburned, doing the construction? Hell no. They're in an air-conditioned office, fat, smoking dope, and spending oil money. Other people come in and do the work for them.

These aren't good people. These aren't good nations. They don't stand for anything worthwhile. They hide behind a façade of intellectualism. "We've built the new Louvre in the Middle East." You know, the UAE built that Louvre lookalike. What's going to happen when all your oil fields are blown up, you've got no more money, and nobody's coming to your stupid patch of desert? You'll have no water because the desalination plants will be blown up, and that building will be empty. Nobody's going to visit. The one Tom Cruise jumped off or climbed—that'll be empty forever. You know, making those little palm islands so you can see them from the sky, look down on them.

That will be eroded away because nobody will be maintaining it. And that will happen to all these little fake desert countries, because when they lose their energy, they lose everything. They've got nothing. Nothing. Dubai had a banking industry—that's gone. You think the expatriates are going to hang out in Dubai now that it's been exposed the way it is? No. They need stability—long-term stability. And these Gulf Arab nations can no longer guarantee that. So it's over for them. This is a panicked meeting you're seeing in Riyadh right now—a panicked meeting.

#Nima

Scott, you mentioned desalination. Do you think we're headed toward attacks on desalination plants? Because that could be a huge catastrophe for the whole region. Iran doesn't rely on desalination if the escalation goes in that direction. But we know the Arab states, together with Israel—Israel depends on desalination for more than 75% of its water.

#Scott

That's one of the last steps, because now you're talking about the erasure of a nation. Without water, you've got nothing. And there is no plan B for water. There is no plan B for water. And so... that's the next step. And I believe, at the end of the day, if these nations don't stop doing what they're doing to Iran, Iran will erase them as civilized nations by destroying their desalination plants. If I were the Iranians, I would actually take out Israeli desalination plants now—right now. End Israel right now. Just end it. Just take it out. End it. Israel might have a plan B. They might be able to ship in water, because no one's going to let the Jews die. So they're going to ship in water and all that. Fine. But that'll be their life from now on.

Foreign sources of water—tankers pulling up for Israeli people, you know, lining up to get, like, Gazans, to pump water into their pots to take home and all that. Good. Make that Israel's future. No more running water in pipes. Blow up the desalination plants and eliminate it. And Hezbollah, go ahead and take Shebaa Farms and shut off the Jordan River source. Cut it out. End it. Make the Dead Sea dead. Make Israel over. You know, Israel needs to cease to exist. It is literally the cancer on the planet. And Iran could do that by blowing up desalination plants. I think they might want to give the Gulf Arab states another shot, but at some point, you at least pick one. I'd pick the UAE, because I just hate them. Erase them.

Blow up all their desalination plants and make the country disappear. All the expatriates will leave. All the foreigners will leave. And then those UAE Bedouins—they'll have to sit there and do what? Do what? Drink oil. Good luck. You know, they deserve it. And hopefully what they're talking about in Riyadh is, "We're screwed. We're screwed. We're heading toward the apocalypse." And again, when they say apocalypse, they don't care about their people. They only care about themselves, their family, the monarchy. I really enjoyed reading about what happened to the Hashemites in Iraq. I'll let people Google that to figure out what I mean. But I don't really mean that, because nobody wants to see families hacked up and dragged through the streets.

But, you know, when you take these families that have no legitimacy whatsoever and you put them in charge, and they're this corrupt, maybe they need the Hashemite solution—Baghdad version—which could become the Hashemite solution, Amman version. That would be nice. It could be the solution in Bahrain. You really want Khalifa to stay there? This fat nobody? I mean, he's so corrupt, so despicable. The family's been despicable. They were a joke when we were there as weapons

inspectors. I could tell you stories that would make your hair curl. Go talk to the Gulf Air stewards—all the Gulf Air stewards out there who spent time on the Sheikh's beach and got recruited to go in and do his little things.

You know what I'm talking about, Gulf Air stewards, because you were there. Why don't you start telling people what really happened—how despicable these people are. Despicable. And yet they govern, and we treat them like they're some sort of, you know, somebody. They're nobody. They're stupid, they're ignorant, they're corrupt, and they're morally deficient human beings. And yet they sit there, live, and make all this money, and everybody comes rolling up to them, treating them like they're gods because they make money. Well, they're not going to make money anymore if Iran wipes out their energy, and then the world will see these people for what they are—pathetic losers. I'm fed up, because it's them to blame.

People are like, "Scott, what do you have against the Gulf Arab nations?" Everything. I've got everything against you because you're to blame. You caused this. You allowed the United States to come in and create a Sunni-Shia split. This isn't Iran's fault. This is your fault. You all bought into it, and you played the game where you let the U.S. military come in. And then you enriched the American defense industry. I mean, look at this—straight-up bribery. Remember during Donald Trump's first term, when he went over and did that stupid sword dance with the Saudis? Straight-up bribery. He said, "We're going to buy more American weapons," as if that's what makes a relationship good.

Well, Saudi, how are those weapons working right now? How secure are you with all those weapons you bought? UAE, how's that missile defense stuff working? I mean, you can put that on all your bogus numbers—"We fired 400 missiles, and we shot down 297 of them." Yeah? How many of your interceptors did you use up to shoot those down, and how many do you have left? What's going to happen tomorrow when you can't defend your nation because the United States refuses to give you more interceptors—because we sent all the ones we pulled out of South Korea to Israel? It's the role played by the Gulf Arab nations in making this possible. They're the ones responsible. That's why I shed no tears for them.

I will never cry for Israel. As Israel gets erased off the planet, I will cheer, because Israel is a cancer. But joining the Israelis as cancerous entities are every single royal family in the Gulf Arab region. None of them got there legitimately. They were all put there by the British and then sustained by the Americans. They live off the money they get out of the ground. They didn't earn it—it's a gift given to them. And there aren't too many of them who spend that money wisely. And, you know, again, unfortunately for the well-meaning people out there, you pay the price for the corruption of your bosses. Everybody treats MBS as if he's some sort of good guy. You do know he's a disgusting pig of a human being.

There's nothing good about this man. He represents the worst of Saudi Arabian society. The excesses of Saudi Arabia are embodied in him. There's no moral compass in him—just ask the family

of Khashoggi. MBS had him cut up, cut up. That's what he does. And yet we went around to shake his hand. We crawled to him. Joe Biden literally crawled to him. Joe, you should have bombed Saudi Arabia. That's the nation worth bombing, not Iran. You should have turned our guns on Saudi Arabia and eliminated this corrupt regime, replacing it with a democratically elected society that represents the true will of the people—except, man, the Shia might get a vote then. Anyway, I've gone on long enough about these guys.

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But when it comes to this—our common friend Larry Johnson reported the other day that the Israelis are running out of interceptors for the THAAD system and the Patriot system. And we see how Hezbollah is able to hit targets inside Israel. At the same time, they're talking about a ground invasion of Lebanon and using 540,000 soldiers. But when it comes to the defensive capabilities of Israel, is that part of the calculation? Is that in Donald Trump's equation together with the Israelis? And how is that going to work for Israel?

#Scott

Well, one of the reasons Israel felt confident striking out against Iran at this time is that they'd convinced themselves they'd taken Hezbollah off the table. There was always an understanding from the Israelis that Hezbollah was a loaded pistol to Israel's head—and that if you went after Iran, boom, the pistol goes off. So they targeted the mid-level Hezbollah leadership, blew off a lot of hands, blinded people. They killed Hassan Nasrallah, and they worked with the United States to get the Lebanese government to tone down Hezbollah. They got rid of Syria, which made the lifeline between Hezbollah and Iran problematic.

And so Hezbollah went into a quiet mode, like a sleep mode. But don't be lulled. I mean, it's like me looking at this computer—I'm giving a horrible analogy, but I'm making it up as I go along, so it may work in the end. I've got this computer screen. The screen doesn't do anything; I look at it, move my mouse around, and think it's the computer. But it's not—it's just a screen. The computer's right here next to it; it does all the thinking. And what happened here is we got everybody to put the screen into sleep mode. There you go—"There, we solved the Hezbollah problem."

Look at the screen—blank, nothing there. No mouse moving, no cursor, can't click anything. But the computer's right here. And if you shake the computer, the screen comes back on. Israel believed they had suppressed Hezbollah, that Hezbollah was weakened, that they could use the Lebanese government and the Lebanese army as a way of containing it. I mean, look at what happened when the Lebanese government—the prime minister and the president—told the Lebanese army to disarm Hezbollah. What was the response of the Lebanese army? "Hell no, we're not touching that." Because they know the truth: the screen may be off...

But the computer still works. And when it turns on, it turns on with a vengeance. Hezbollah would wipe the Lebanese army off the face of the earth. The Lebanese army is incapable of any meaningful fighting because they're not trained for it. They all look good in their uniforms. I'm sure they do a lot of pushups, because, you know, when they roll up those sleeves, they've got some impressive biceps. And they've got that little chest-torso thing going, tapers down. The Lebanese soldiers look really good in uniform—they really do. They're handsome dudes, with those berets and the haircut.

Hezbollah would kill all of them, because Hezbollah are damn good fighters, and they're still there. Hezbollah, you know, had to do some—what's the word I'm looking for—cosmetic, there you go, cosmetic alterations, you know, withdraw a little bit from the south. But all the tunnels are still there. Israel blew up a couple of missile depots, and they took over a missile production facility in Syria and blew it up. And wow, the Israelis are really good. But Hezbollah is not stupid. Again, Hezbollah is like Iran—they don't put all their eggs in one basket. And they have significant resources that have been saved. Israel fooled themselves into believing that Hezbollah was off the map. And now Hezbollah is back.

And Iran has eliminated the bulk of Israel's ability to defend itself. So now Hezbollah is blowing up Haifa. Hezbollah is blowing up Tel Aviv. That's an amazing thing. And now the Israelis are going to send in 500,000 soldiers into southern Lebanon. I just want people to think about this for a second, because maybe you're not familiar with the military. One of the things we always did in the military before doing anything—training, war—you do what's called the intelligence preparation of the battlefield, or IPB. And one thing you do is look at the terrain and see what it tells you, because the terrain is going to tell you a couple of things: where you can go and where you can't go. So we do overlays of go and no-go areas.

And suddenly you constrict yourselves to very limited corridors. Now, you also have to look at what terrain features could dominate these corridors, because as you have the corridors going in, whoever controls this terrain here can stop the corridor—not just blocking it here, but up here. So the battle starts defining itself. You can tell right off the bat what the key terrain is, what the key lines of communication are, and already you can shape the battle—what we're going to need, what the enemy's going to have to do, and all that kind of stuff. If you try to squeeze 500,000 Israeli troops into the battlefield that is southern Lebanon, you're just going to get backed-up tanks. Or you're going to get guys on a hillside just providing more targets.

A hillside should probably only take a platoon spread out as they sweep it. That way, if Hezbollah opens fire, they might take out a fire team, but the rest of the guys can suppress, bring in artillery, reinforce with another platoon, and move in. But if you come in and put a company online, you're going to lose the company right away. All you're doing is creating more targets—more tanks, more concentration of troops. Where are these 500,000 troops going to go as they get caught up in a

traffic jam? Because that's what's going to happen. They're going to start snaking their way up to some unnamed southern Lebanese hilltop village, and Hezbollah's going to jump up—bam!—and hit them.

And now they're in a firefight. They've got wounded Israelis—you've got to get them out. But you can't get them out because there's a traffic jam. The traffic jam's going to get hit—rockets, burning tanks, everything. They're stuck. All those troops are going to be in concentration areas, and Hezbollah's got rockets. They're going to hit those areas and kill these guys. Please, Israel, don't make it 500,000—make it a million. Mobilize every man, put them all in uniform, and send them to Lebanon so they can all die, because that's what's going to happen. Hezbollah's going to kick their ass. Hezbollah's in an existential struggle right now.

You know, Hezbollah before never really went into a fight-to-the-finish mode because they were also linked to the Lebanese government. The Lebanese government's proven itself to be nothing more than a Mossad front. The president and the prime minister work for Mossad. I'll say it again: the president of Lebanon and the prime minister work for Mossad. Now, it could be directly or indirectly—maybe Tom Barak, the American ambassador to Turkey who's now the Lebanese special envoy, is a front for them. But the bottom line is, they don't work for the Lebanese people. Because if they did, they'd have declared war on Israel already for all the bombing that took place in Beirut and elsewhere.

No, they work for Mossad. And so now Hezbollah knows what has to be done. They have to defeat Israel, and they have to defeat the Mossad government in Beirut. And they will, because this is a life-and-death struggle for people who, as we've talked about, embrace martyrdom—not suicidally, but they're not afraid. You know, all those little Israeli boys out there getting ready to go into Lebanon—they're scared. They're scared little boys. You see, they're mama's boys. They're the new generation of Israelis. They grew up with mama, and they're, oh, they're so nice. They know IT. They're very good.

They want to create—see, their big thing in life isn't to work on a kibbutz under the sun, getting sweaty and building muscles. They want to sit in an air-conditioned office and do an IT startup. That's all they want to do. "I want to do an IT startup, a startup," because what that means is you do nothing and get all the money. That's what the Israelis are today—they don't work, they're lazy. So all these little mama's boys now are going to be moving toward Lebanon. But when they take off their helmets, there's going to be little Mishva, or whatever the hell their girlfriend's name is, and they're going to look at it and go, "Oh, mama and my girlfriend."

#Nima

Oh, I miss them.

#Scott

They're thinking the wrong thing. Hezbollah, meanwhile, is down there, you know—pooping in a bag, burying it, peeing in a cup, burying it—because they're ready. They're not moving. And here they come, and Hezbollah's going to close in and kill them. Hezbollah's going to sit there and go, "Oh no, you know, Fatima? Forget Fatima." Hezbollah's in the business of killing Israelis, and business is good right now. And the Israelis are going to come in, these little mama's boys, and they're going up against real men who are in killing mode because they have no choice. Israel and the United States have made this existential. If they defeat Iran, that's the end of Hezbollah. So Hezbollah is fighting literally for their existence.

And the Israelis don't know what they're fighting for. They just know that when they go into Lebanon, they get chewed up and start to hesitate. And when you hesitate in combat, you're dead. Mobilize every Israeli in Lebanon, and then we won't have to worry about Israel anymore. Hezbollah is doing God's work right now because they're excising the cancer. You know, Hezbollah wasn't defeated. Everybody says, "Oh, they're defeated." They just went dormant. Their screen went into, you know, silent mode—went black. But the computer's still there, with a hard drive and a CPU and all that kind of stuff. And now they've shaken it, the screen's up and running, and the computer's working like a champ.

And the Israelis are just getting slaughtered. They're not very good. They have some special forces guys who are good, but the Israelis are really good at flying airplanes, dropping bombs, and blowing things up. But as Iran showed, you've got to blow up things of significance. In Beirut, what's happened is they've run out of significant things to blow up, so now they're back to the Dahiya doctrine—holding the population collectively accountable. It's war criminal stuff. Of course, that's what the United States is doing. Pete Hegseth hasn't quite formally announced it that way, but we're in the mode right now of killing Iranian civilians.

We're literally shifting over to civilian targets because our goal now is to punish the Iranian people for not rising up and taking down the regime. That's war criminal activity. So the United States and Israel have defined themselves as the worst possible nations in the world today. We're the leading practitioners of war crimes in the world right now. And Hezbollah is doing God's work. I know, as an American, I'm not supposed to say that, but since Hezbollah isn't formally at war with the United States, I feel comfortable saying it. I want Hezbollah to defeat Israel. I want them to defeat Israel in the most comprehensive way possible, so that Israel is lethally damaged. And I want Iran to help them. I want Israel gone. Israel got us into this war. The American people don't understand that. This is not an American war.

Donald Trump sold us out for Israel. Pete Hegseth sold us out for Israel. Marco Rubio sold us out for Israel. Everybody in the White House, everybody associated with the Trump administration, sold America down the road on behalf of Israel. Ted Cruz did that. Mike Huckabee did that. Every one of them. And we need to know that. We need to know that when we pay the higher gas prices because of Israel. Everything is because of Israel. This isn't anti-Semitic. I'm not saying it's because of the

Jews; I'm saying it's because of Israel—the Zionist entity called Israel, this parasitic entity that has attached itself to the United States and is sucking the lifeblood out of the United States and the world. Israel. Israel needs to be erased. And hopefully Iran has the eraser to do it. I know Hezbollah does.

#Nima

Scott, what do you make of Joe Kent's resignation? Donald Trump can't call him a leftist or an enemy. This is a guy who supported Trump, who really believes in America, who wants the country to be stronger. But he doesn't see that happening under the current policies of the Trump administration.

#Scott

Joe Kent—no one questions his courage. He's served in some of the world's worst places, under the worst conditions, and he prevailed. You know, Joe Kent is part of a large body of veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but especially the war in Afghanistan, which made maximum use of special operations personnel—special forces personnel. We actually expanded their ranks considerably. These are very intelligent people, very physically fit people, and people with a moral conscience. But their moral conscience is defined by a warrior's ethos, not so much by what it should be defined as, which is constitutional principles.

I hear these special forces vet bros out there giving lip service to the Constitution. But when it comes down to it, as you dig deeper into what they're articulating, they're going for military efficiency. I hate to break it to people, but the Constitution is not efficient. The American form of constitutional government is not efficient. It's ugly, inefficient—whatever—but it's ours. It has checks and balances. The moment you say "checks and balances," you imply inefficiency, because you're checking and balancing. The military is not about checks and balances; the military is about accomplishing the mission. And Joe Kent is one of those guys who accomplishes the mission. He's given a mission, and he accomplishes it.

And he's surrounded by people with a similar mindset. But they've fooled themselves into believing this is constitutional because they took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution. They think that by accomplishing the mission, they're fulfilling that oath. What they don't understand is that sometimes the mission operates in opposition to constitutional norms and values. Joe Kent—and I saw this when he was running, because I had hope for Joe Kent—but then I'd read statements he made about the Middle East, and, you know, he's somebody who, like most of the people who fought in these wars, will admit that we were doing the wrong thing.

We shouldn't have been there, you know—especially Iraq. We shouldn't have been there. In Afghanistan, we did it the wrong way, all that stuff. But then, you know, you're like, "Okay, okay, okay." But then you throw in Iran, because they don't know anything about Iran. "Iran is evil, it's an

evil Islamic regime, the worst terrorist organization in the world.” And you’re like, “Wait a minute, where did you get that?” You know? And Joe Kent was part of that crowd. And the other thing is, as you define yourself as an American, you now—unfortunately—you become factionalized, because again, these people stopped being Americans and started being Republicans.

They started to be in opposition to the Democratic Party because many people in the Democratic Party were against what they were doing in Afghanistan or Iraq. They began supporting the Republican Party out of this mistaken belief that the Republicans actually cared about them. But Joe Kent knows this. Joe—Joe, you’ve got—I’m assuming, because Joe Kent’s a stand-up kind of guy. He lost his wife, Shannon. She was a hero, a heroine. In Syria, she was killed by an ISIS bomb. But if you look at her chest, I mean, the awards on her chest—she was a woman who had been there, done that, and she had the T-shirt. She wasn’t just a war tourist.

And she died, tragically. And now Joe is raising the kids, so he knows the reality of war. But, you know, Joe doesn’t know—Joe allowed himself to be captured by the MAGA movement. The MAGA movement is not an American movement; the MAGA movement is a faction. People, please read Federalist 10. I’m sorry, I’m just one of those constitutionalist kind of guys. James Madison wrote Federalist 10 to warn us about the danger of factionalism and the creation of factions. And MAGA is a faction. It’s not an American movement—it’s a faction. An American movement actually believes that everybody should exist.

It understands checks and balances—the need for balance. Factions want everything to go their way. And the MAGA faction is controlled by a group of Zionists who hijacked the MAGA movement to put Israel first, literally. Joe Kent went along with that, along with others. They thought they were serving America—America First, MAGA. No, you were serving Israel first, the parasite that had taken over the American body. He ran for office, and now he’s in. And that’s the other thing, too—it’s easy, and Joe knows this, along with everybody else. They know what the burden of leadership is. Joe knows it better than anybody.

He’s been in combat. There’s no bullshit in combat—none. You have a mission to do, and bullshit gets you killed. When you start sitting there spouting nonsense, you get distracted, and next thing you know, a bullet enters your brain housing group and your brain gets splattered on a wall. Joe knows this because he’s seen the consequences of that. But when you get into politics, it’s all bullshit—every single thing. So he bought into a load of crap. And now he comes into office, and now he’s at the counterterrorism center. He’s seen the truth because he’s trying to deal with these terrorist threats that are manifesting.

And he realizes that we’re not hitting the right targets. We’re not focused on the real issue. To sell this war with Iran, we actually had to label a nation that isn’t terrorist in nature—the Iranian nation, the Iranian people—as terrorists, and spend a lot of time explaining why everything they do is supposedly tied to terrorism, while the real terrorists are out there not getting the attention they deserve. And then we get pulled into a war that Israel dragged us into. Joe’s smart—he knows

exactly what happened. He knows Netanyahu told Trump to initiate it, and Trump said okay. Kent knows that the Joint Chiefs of Staff said it was a bad idea.

Kent knows that Tulsi Gabbard put out an intelligence report saying the regime wouldn't fall—that nothing they wanted to accomplish would be accomplished. And he knows that Donald Trump went ahead and did it anyway. You know, I think he finally reached the point where he said, "I can't do this anymore. I can't live the lie." Because Joe Kent, for all his faults—and when I say faults, I mean being sucked into the MAGA movement—hell, we all were. You're talking to a guy who thought Donald Trump was going to be a peacemaker, okay? We all got conned one way or another. But like any honest person, when you wake up in the morning and realize you were conned, he didn't delude himself. He acknowledged it. He wrote a letter, and that was it. He resigned.

This could be—should be—the beginning of a cascade of resignations, resignations of conscience, of moral consciousness. I don't know if it will be, because again, I've lost a lot of faith in humans, especially Americans, over time. I'd like to believe that when most Americans are empowered with knowledge and information, they'll do the right thing. Sadly, I don't believe that anymore. I think Americans have become addicted to comfort, and therefore they'll do whatever is necessary to sustain that comfort, even if it's the wrong thing to do. But this could be—this could lead to additional resignations. I mean, Tulsi Gabbard needs to resign and start telling the truth about what happened. She wrote this awful post where she basically said she defended the president by sort of trying to tell the truth, but not really telling the truth.

You know, the president was briefed on all this, that, and the other thing, and the president made a decision. Yes, but Tulsi, what was he briefed on? Did his decision match the conclusion? Because your job as an intelligence officer is to give recommended courses of action. Listen, I've been an intelligence officer for a long time—I know what you're supposed to do. So, did the president take one of your courses of action? Did he listen to it, or did he just do whatever the hell he wanted to do and say what he said before? I don't believe you. I don't trust you. Well, at that point, you have to resign. If the president doesn't trust you, then you're not doing your job, and you must resign for the good of the people. Find someone in there the president does trust.

And then you have a duty and an obligation to go to Congress and explain this. You don't have to go to the American people, because a lot of what you'd be explaining is, you know, classified. But Congress has closed sessions. And since the president long ago self-identified as a man who doesn't believe in the Constitution, doesn't believe in the office of the presidency, believes in a cult of personality, believes in a dictatorship—called himself a dictator—you're not beholden to any confidentiality of conversation with him, because he's not a president. He's a dictator. You need to go to Congress and talk about the dictator named Trump and how he's disregarding all the evidence and got us into this war on behalf of Israel.

Now, half of Congress will try to suppress you because they work for Israel. But the other half might actually start, you know, asking follow-on questions, and that could lead to this president ultimately

being held accountable—either at the election, at the voting booth on election day, or maybe the ultimate accountability, where his cabinet finally wakes up to the fact that this man is awful for America, harming America and harming them, and they invoke the 25th Amendment to remove him. But, you know, Donald Trump is—after Israel—he’s the greatest threat to the United States. Remember, because he stopped believing in America; he only believes in Donald Trump. Scott, before wrapping up the—

#Nima

We had an interview with the Iranian foreign minister. He said that Iran is designing a new mechanism for the Strait of Hormuz. There’s also an article in the Financial Times arguing that Iran’s actions in the Strait of Hormuz show the reality of multipolar economic warfare. For decades, the United States dominated sanctions and used financial pressure as a strategic weapon. Now other powers, including Iran and China, can use similar tools to respond to the escalation. How do you see the whole situation in the Strait of Hormuz? Donald Trump is begging the Europeans to help him.

I don't know in what way they can help Donald Trump in the Strait of Hormuz, but it seems like it's going to become one of the most strategic points—or strategic outcomes, you know. This trade route is so important, not just for Iran, but for all these Arab states, along with Japan, South Korea, China—everybody depends on it. That really shows how important it is. How do you see the way Iran is talking about this, and how, as an outcome of this war, something is reshaping in the Middle East?

#Scott

Well, first of all, there's a disconnect between what Iran is saying—which is reality-based—and what other nations are saying. For instance, and not just saying but doing, I think there’s a growing recognition that Iran right now controls the Strait of Hormuz. You don’t get through the Strait of Hormuz right now without Iran saying yes. Now, the United States is carrying out a military campaign designed to degrade Iran’s ability to interdict the Strait. Again, it’s about intelligence preparation of the battlefield. I look at a map, I look at the Strait. And the other interesting thing is, the way the Strait operates is you have traffic going in.

And you have traffic coming out, and there are two lanes. The traffic going out takes you through a channel that runs between two Iranian islands—Qeshm Island and Larak, I think it is. And it's very narrow. Yeah, you're never going to force that if Iran doesn't want you to. Iran hasn't even begun the business of mining the Strait. The other thing Iran hasn't done is sink a ship in the middle of that channel, because that would be the end of it. I mean, all Iran has to do is put some tankers out there, sink them, bring them down, and they can do the same again. Iran controls the Strait. It will always control the Strait.

We're trying to run a campaign designed to hit Iran's missile forces—the Aref Missile Brigade, I think I'm saying that right. Aref was the one with the compound that used to belong to them, the one bombed by the United States that killed the girls. RSEF, RF—something like that. It's organized into four battalions. The first battalion has short-range anti-ship missiles, about 15 to 20 kilometers in range. Did you catch what I said there? Fifteen to twenty kilometers—that means they can be set back a bit and still reach their targets; they don't have to be right on the coastline. Then the second brigade handles the medium-range missiles.

That means they can strike deeper into the Gulf, or they can stay standoff. What you've done now is, when you look at the terrain of the Strait of Hormuz, what I'm defining isn't just how they can reach into the strait, but how far back they can relocate and still have the ability to impact it through direct or indirect fire. And then there's the long range. So you have three battalions that provide a layered closure capability. The United States right now is focused on bombing the ridges and mountains along the coastline, as if blowing those things up would save anything. It shows, again, a fundamental lack of understanding.

The Iranians have been preparing for this war for a long time. They know how we operate. Oh, the 4th Battalion, by the way, handles all the unconventional stuff—lays the mines, runs the fast boats, the whole thing. So it's a broad-spectrum approach to closing the strait. We're never going to interdict that. The only way to fully open the strait is to physically control the territory I just described. And that doesn't just mean landing on the shore—you've got to go in-depth, a couple hundred kilometers. Do we have the 900,000 troops that would take? No. So we're never going to close the strait. And even with shipping going through, imagine you're an insurance company or a ship owner. What insurance company is going to insure that?

No insurance company is going to sit there and say, "Yeah, we'll give you the same rate." No—insurance rates are going to go up. The cost of shipping is going to go up. And some people are just going to abandon that route and say, "We're not doing it." It's just not going to happen. Europe right now is saying, "We're going to talk to Iran to try and get our tankers through." But the Iranians are basically saying, "You're not doing it the right way. This isn't about negotiating with us to get your oil through—it's about negotiating with the United States to stop doing what they're doing, to stop the war." Iran isn't going to do Europe any favors. Europe has to save itself, and it does that by identifying as someone sympathetic to the Iranian plight, the Iranian cause.

Those nations that have shown sympathy are the ones getting favorable treatment. The ones still paying lip service to the United States—just saying, "We're not going to send naval forces in"—well, Iran couldn't care less about the navies of Europe. The only thing more pathetic than an Israeli infantry platoon is the Navy of Europe. Sending an Israeli infantry platoon into southern Lebanon means they're all going to die. The Navy of Europe comes in, tries to open the strait—they're all

going to die. I mean, it's stupid to even have this discussion. You know, Trump is playing a political card here. But the fact of the matter is, it's not that. Iran's not going to reward Europe for that. What Iran wants is for Europe to tell the United States to stop this war.

Stop it. But now you have Finland saying, "We'll exchange support for the United States in the Middle East for American support in Ukraine." You see how the Europeans are thinking? So Iran's not going to play that game. I think what we're seeing here is a permanent redefining of energy security parameters. Whatever calculations or algorithms were used before this war are going to be permanently changed. There are going to be new algorithms. The price of oil is going to be higher no matter what. Because, you know, for instance, if you're Kuwait—let's say Kuwait's oil production survives this conflict—

Strategically speaking, you know, all these nations are going to take a hit. They may not survive it. Let's say they do. Let's say the Kuwaiti royal family survives. Now, are they going to sit there and say, "Well, we're just going to double down on stupid and do what we did again so it can happen again, because now Iran can shut the strait anytime they want"? Or are they going to start negotiating with the Saudis to build a new pipeline that connects Kuwaiti oil to the Red Sea? But what they have to understand is that the pipeline begins somewhere—and that'll just be a target for the Iranians.

This changes everything. Now that the world has gone stupid—now that the Israelis have gone stupid, the Americans have gone stupid—striking Iranian energy, this means that from now on these energy fields are targets. That changes the whole approach. You know, it's the same thing that's happening in Russia. When the Ukrainians started going after Russian oil—strategic oil manufacturing and processing facilities—the Russians realized they had these giant facilities with no protection. So now the Russians are in the business of hardening these facilities, physically putting in air defense, the whole works.

There's, you know, the role being played now by Russian industry in counter-drone technology. It's not just the Ministry of Defense anymore—these oil companies are now responsible for protecting their own assets, so they're developing counter-drone technology. Well, this is going to be the new reality. You can't talk about building an oil field in the Middle East anymore without talking about how to defend it, which means your expenses go up. So everything's going to cost more—everything's going to cost more. And the other thing this shows is the vulnerability of all sea lanes of communication. Look at the Strait of Malacca in Indonesia.

That's another one—a critical one. Everything goes through there. Easiest place in the world to shut down after the Strait of Hormuz. Bab al-Mandeb—you know, Yemen can shut that down. Suez Canal. We saw what happens if you get a tanker turned the wrong way and it gets stuck—it's shut. Well, maybe it's time for Iran to start sinking shipping in the Suez Canal and shut it down too. You want to

play stupid games? The Iranians are fully capable of playing that game as well—making you pay for your stupidity by paying the ultimate price. Short-term pain for long-term gain? This is going to be long-term pain for no gain whatsoever. That's what's going on in the world today.

#Nima

Yeah, thank you so much, Scott, for being with us today. Always a great pleasure.

#Scott

Thank you. It was a pleasure talking to you. Okay, see you soon. Bye-bye.

#Nima

Thank you.