Trump GREENLIGHTS Israeli Strike on Iran, War IMMINENT | Johnson & Wilkerson

Fmr CIA analyst Larry Johnson and Col. Lawrence Wilkerson discuss the massive build up to all-out war by the US & Israel, and why Iran's mosaic defense doctrine carries many surprises that will not only wreak devastation on the aggressors but also change the world order forever. Follow Larry Johnson: https://sonar21.com/ https://www.youtube.com/@UCewRbK22LRnNi6N3EcGjbow PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai... Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: $Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: https://paypal.me/spiritofho Follow me on Telegram: https://t.me/dannyhaiphong #iran #iranwar #israel

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I'm joined by former CIA analyst Larry Johnson and former Chief of Staff and retired Army Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson to go over the latest developments. So, gentlemen, all of the news in the last 24 hours is of what appears to be, and what seems to be almost guaranteed, that the United States, under Donald Trump, has greenlit another major combat operation against Iran. There are reports in The New York Times saying that this is going to have to happen after the midterms.

Donald Trump reportedly is saying that's not necessarily true. And there are evacuations going on from the embassies around the region, many of which are focused on Saudi Arabia. Now, Israel has been conducting what they are calling power projection operations. In the last two or three days, there have been Israeli fighter jets that have sailed over the airspace of Syria and Iraq, conducting sortie operations in what many see as an attempt to provoke Iran back into a strike. Here's what Donald Trump said when asked by the media about the state of the war right now.

#Speaker 1

We'll see what happens. Are you over it? Are you over negotiating with the Iranians at this point?

#Donald Trump

No, I think we're not negotiating with them. We are going to have something one way or the other that will happen fairly soon. Most people seem to think it's after the election. We're going to see what happens. But I will say this: what we've done with Iran is amazing.

#Danny

So, gentlemen, Iran has activated what they call its mosaic defense doctrine, and they seem ready for this. How about, Larry, we start with you. What's happening right now? Are we in the midst of an imminent round of war? And what would that mean?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, I think the biggest tell on this, and Colonel Wilkerson will be interested, I think he'll agree, is when an order goes out from the State Department to start evacuating, quote, non-essential personnel and all families, that's a sign that the shit is going to hit the fan. You know, I was around in the early days right after the downing of Pan Am 103, when the whole issue of what warnings does the State Department give? Because there was the belief, the false belief, that the State Department had inside information that the bombing of that plane was going to take place, and so we only warned State Department and military and intelligence personnel and left the regular civilians on their own. Well, that wasn't true.

But as a result of that, we instituted a policy, and the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism took the lead on this, which was, in the future, if you had intelligence that there was going to be an attack and you could not prevent it, you had to go out with a full warning. Now, if you had intelligence, but you thought you could act on that intelligence and prevent it, you wouldn't go out with a full warning. You know, last week we got sort of what I call the cover-your-ass, you know, Hill Street Blues, "You people be careful out there." But it wasn't really tied to pack your bags, get on the plane, and get the hell out, which is what came out yesterday. So that tells me we should expect kinetic activity. You know, it could be as soon as the next 48 hours, but it's not going to be two weeks away. I think it's going to happen much, much sooner.

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, to you, what are your impressions and reactions to what's going on?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, I agree with Larry with regard to NEOs. And let me just say that with regard to this administration and NEOs, Marco Rubio screwed up majorly previously because we had in Bahrain, for example, hundreds of people picking up their bags, stuffing their toothbrushes in, and departing, and getting to Norfolk with nothing: no place to live, no billets, no food, no nothing. These were mostly Navy personnel, but there were others too. So I'm happy that they've done this, but I don't know that it is the precursor for war that one would expect it to be in the case of such a, I think, fairly broad NEO order.

That said, I think Larry's right about his other postulation, too, and that is that Trump is intent on doing one more round, and this round is going to be just as unsuccessful as the others. But I fear what's going to happen because yesterday it came out from the Security Council, the Majlis, the

foreign minister, the deputy foreign minister, the president, three or four luminaries in the IRGC itself, all saying what I've been saying all along about Iran's target list. They've got other echelons on that list, and they fully intend, if what they're hearing becomes reality, to move up that list rapidly. Now, yesterday Brent crude was at 112.35, I think. I remember that exercise.

I've talked to you about it before, I believe, in 2009 in Beijing, when it went to 150 over just such activities as this. But it went to 150 instantly over a terrorist attack, which we postulated Al-Qaeda conducting on Ras Tanura, which was then about six to eight million barrels per day, something like that, pumping out of about six or seven different portals. Really huge operation. It went to 150. This was 2009. It went to 150. I suspect that if Iran hits the rest of these targets and does so even with a modicum of the accuracy and devastation they did before, and let's say the Houthis join in too, as they have shown an incredible aptitude and competence in doing, we're going to look at $150, $160, $170 a barrel, not just for diesel, but for the basic stuff coming out, if it can even get out.

Not only that, they all said they were going to go full bore on sinking ships. And I've seen some evidence of what they've done. I've seen some good intelligence, I think, in terms of their mines, in terms of their rocketry and ballistic missiles and drones and such. I think they could wreak havoc that we have heretofore not seen to the degree they will wreak it in the Strait and in its environs. And perhaps the Houthis will do the same thing over the Bab el-Mandeb. Who knows? But I think we're in for a tremendous shock if we go ahead before, during October 27, that election, November 3, that election, or after these things.

And I think the psychological warfare campaign is in full swing right now, with Netanyahu saying one thing, Trump saying another, Hegseth saying something even different, each of them putting dates on things, and Netanyahu giving every indication he's going to cancel the election in Israel. I feel he will certainly cancel it if he gets last-minute evidence that says he's not going to be able to form a coalition and may not even be the leader of whatever is formed. So we've got a lot of variables here. But one variable we do not need to throw aside or consider speculative: Iran will devastate the region.

#Speaker 1

Hmm.

#Danny

Yeah, those are great points, Colonel Wilkerson. On the Israel point, too, the activity that Israel has been engaging in seems to suggest that the United States is going to maybe back up Israel in a future strike. I don't know if you agree with this, Larry, because Israel seems to be very desperate, Netanyahu in particular, the way he's talking and what Colonel Wilkerson has suggested. What do you think about this and the role of Israel here? Because unlike February 28th, it seems like Israel is very much out in front of this, at least in terms of how they're talking about it and preparing for it.

#Larry Johnson

Well, the news reports that are coming out now say that when Pete Hegseth went to Israel on Monday—now, he was supposed to have an all-hands meeting with the generals and admirals on Tuesday at Quantico. I don't know if that came off or not. We haven't heard anything about it. But on Monday, Hegseth was meeting with Bibi Netanyahu. No idea what they talked about, but according to news reports, Hegseth came back saying, "Oh man, we got this great intelligence from the Israelis, and we got to act now," and that Trump therefore has reversed his position about waiting until after the midterms to attack, that the intelligence from Israel. And so once again, Donald Trump gets bamboozled by Bibi Netanyahu. And I think what we've seen is they've been ratcheting up the pressure, the Israelis and the United States.

The U.S. reportedly hit two missile launchers in Sirik Island last night, and Iran did not respond. I think this was, again, a deliberate attempt to try to provoke an Iranian attack, so that then Netanyahu and Trump can both say, "Oh, we were minding our own business, and these guys attacked us, so therefore we've got to go destroy them." They still believe the lies that Iran is weak, it's crumbling from the inside, that they've got major political disagreements, that the economy's on the ropes, and therefore just one more little push and they're going to collapse. It's all lies, but apparently the Trump folks believe it. And if they do this, it will seal the deal in terms of the end of the Trump administration, the effective end of it on November 3rd.

#Danny

Yeah. Well, yesterday, Colonel Wilkerson, Netanyahu was clamoring on about finishing the job and regime change in Iran being the final goal. A lot of this feels like déjà vu in many respects, taking pieces from the June 2025 12-day war and the February 28th buildup. Your comments?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, I think Larry's right. This is another attempt by Netanyahu. This time he doesn't have David Barnea to help him. I assume the head of Mossad is helping him, though. This is another attempt to convince Trump that all the rest of the people—and I'm hearing it's quite a few people now, especially people wearing uniforms—who are counseling Trump that it's not wise to continue this, that there needs to be some exit ramp found somewhere. Whether it's a diplomatic one or whatever is irrelevant. There needs to be some exit ramp found, and we need to ascend it and descend it fairly swiftly. This is coming from a lot of people.

And so here we are again, with Trump apparently getting some good counsel from those who count in this business, the uniforms, and disregarding it for Bibi. That he would let himself get burned not once—actually more than once—but twice now, majorly burned because of counsel from Bibi Netanyahu strikes me as being dramatically indicative of his ineptitude and incompetence, and maybe even losing his grip on things. Unless, of course, I'm mistaken about the blackmail that's

being used on him in both Moscow and Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, and it's so powerful that he has no other choice. I don't think it's money anymore. I don't think it's the billionaires who are putting the pressure. They're putting pressure on, I'm sure, the Zionist ones like Ellison and others.

But I don't think that's enough to make him make such a really tantamount-to-defeating-the-country-he's-president-of mistake. And yet he seems, as Larry indicated, and all the news reports—Financial Times, New York Times, everybody else—seem to be indicating, he's fully intent on doing it again. The only question is when. And it's not going to make any difference, really, when. Maybe to Netanyahu. Maybe Netanyahu will be able to cancel his election instead of being defeated, or having a coalition he can't handle, or form a government for him. Maybe he'll get that out of it, but he's not going to get a victory out of it. What he's going to get ultimately, if the Iranians want to do it, is the destruction of his state.

#Danny

Well, Larry, maybe I can get your comments on what this means in terms of how Iran has responded. According to Fars News, Iranian officials not only believe that a U.S.-Israeli attack is coming very soon, but they have activated their decentralized mosaic defense doctrine with an extensive list for local commanders of political and economic targets. Maybe both of your comments, but first, Larry, what does that mean exactly?

#Larry Johnson

Well, they also call it sort of the dead man's switch. So it's going on the assumption that all the top leadership, that maybe all the command and control in Tehran is knocked out, and therefore each of the regional commanders—they've got like 31 regional commanders—each one of them gets to make the decision about what to hit, where to fire, when to fire. So, in other words, just trying to decapitate Iranian leadership becomes a meaningless operation because then Iran is—you're going to be left with this, let's call it an unpredictable algorithm, as these 31 different commanders on their own will decide what to launch, where to launch, how to launch.

This will be, I believe, the Iranian response to a new attack, will be so devastating, especially for Israel, that it will raise serious questions about whether Israel can survive as a country. When you knock out the major refineries and power plants and port facilities and key infrastructure in Israel, which is far easier to do for Iran than it is for Israel and the United States to do to Iran. Simply, the small size of Israel makes it a very, if you will, easy place to target for Iran. Whereas Ukraine—it's one big-ass country—it's three times the size of Ukraine. So Iran is a formidable place, with mountains and other places that are facilities built underground and spread out across the country.

You're not just going to decapitate their military capability and waltz in. And this has been the myth that Bibi Netanyahu has perpetuated. And, you know, Trump's bought into it. So they did this decentralization move before February 28th as well. And if you recall, during the 12-Day War, that

was, again, a surprise attack by Israel. It took the Iranians about 12 hours before they were able to mount a response because they had not decentralized the command-and-control structure. And so they had to sort of put it back together and then get different systems up and operating and initiate the commands. Twelve hours later, they responded. On February 28th, after they were hit, Iran was responding within an hour and a half. So that's the difference.

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, your comments.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, I think those are very important points. And I think he's right. And I think Bibi Netanyahu has not gone to work on his brain. I think he's still operating off the same sheet of music he's been operating on fundamentally for about 20 years, which is decapitation, assassination, taking out the leadership, getting everybody that might push buttons or order buttons to be pushed, is the best strategy in the world. And you do that by having a fifth column in the country, and you do it by dropping bombs and so forth. I think he's dead wrong, just as Larry just pointed out. They have figured that out, and they have done things to compensate for that. And what Larry just described is the major thing they've done.

And on top of that, you aren't even talking about—you haven't asked the question about, nor has anybody commented on, and I will now—Hezbollah. You've got a massive flank attack, if you will, that's potential and would probably go to the extent of being described as suicidal. They are going to go whole hog when they are, in any way, fashion, or form, it's indicated to them that Iran is being pummeled. They are going to go full force against Israel. And that little picayunish outfit he's got in Lebanon right now is not going to stop that. Now, they might have a pretty good combat on the ground, but I suggest that Hezbollah will be expecting that and may be able to handle it even, or at least keep them at bay while they're pounding Israel, in addition to Iran doing it.

So we're not just talking about one axis of attack. We're talking about two decided axes of attack. And I haven't even talked about what the Houthis might do, indirect or even direct. They have sent missiles to Israel before, for example. And their range is increasing, I'm told, on a weekly basis. I don't know how this is happening. I suspect they're getting more help than I first thought from China. I think that's an indication of Xi's meeting with Trump. I think Xi made a decision after that meeting with Trump. And I won't say it's all or nothing, but I will say that Iran is not going to lose. They are not going to lose. And China is going to ensure they don't lose. So bring it on, Bibi. You're bringing on your own suicide, probably.

#Larry Johnson

Well, and just to add on to what Colonel Wilkerson said, let's also recall Monday, Lavrov was in town and held an extensive meeting with Araghchi, the foreign minister, basically reaffirmed Russia's firm support for Iran based upon these agreements. First, the bilateral agreement they signed in January of 2025, then the trilateral agreement that Russia, China, and Iran signed on January 27th, I believe it was. So, you know, Lavrov is there to talk about the Western attack on Iran, as well as the war with Yemen and the war in Ukraine. But at the end of the day, he reaffirmed very clearly, we've got Iran's back. Iran is not in this by itself.

#Danny

Yeah, really good points. I wanted to now get your comments on, you know, Iran has, in the last few days, especially yesterday in particular, been showing off its drone arsenal. Some say that it's been showing off its Arash-3 drone, but the military has done a run-through with Iranian media of an army factory of these drones. And as this is playing, Colonel Wilkerson said, I just wanted to get your comments on, you know, is there a fundamental underestimation still of Iran's capabilities, even when Iran shows the world what it has and how much damage that it could do if it uses it?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, if you look at the history of warfare, particularly the history of America's warfare, you will see again and again that we have underestimated our enemies. And one of the reasons we do that, I'm convinced it may be the primary reason at times, is because we don't necessarily think they're subhuman, but we don't think they can. And I'd even say a couple of our enemies we've thought were subhuman, like the Vietnamese. I was there. And so they can't do the things that they actually can do. And when they do those things, we don't even act surprised. We just go double down or deepen the strategy or send more troops or go at it in a different way. But we do not respect the other side's ability to do things, technological or otherwise.

And in this case, I think we're still looking at the Iranians as if they were the people who attacked our embassy and took over the embassy for a short period of time, put a president out of office, and so forth. So there's that hatred involved, and that hatred has not gone away. That is still very much resonant with a lot of people that are still alive from those days, and the lack of ability to estimate what your enemy is capable of, underestimating what your enemy is capable of, treating him like you believe that they are, in fact, inferior to you, when every indication is that they are not only not inferior to you, they have a history much deeper and broader and longer than yours.

When they call upon that history and they call upon their people within the concept of that history, they're very hard to defeat. Now, I could compare and contrast the Taliban and the Afghans who fought us with the Iranians, but I'd still have to come to the conclusion, ultimately, that not only did we underestimate them, we thought, because of that underestimation, that we could make Afghanistan an economy-of-force theater. That is to say, minimum troops, and hold on or even win

with them, while we put the maximum amount of our troops, which weren't too many in the total anyway, into Iraq. We lost both wars. We still continue to seem like we think we won the war in 2003. We didn't. We didn't.

And we're paying for that right now because they've been trying to get us out for 23 years, and they finally were successful. But it's all part of the warp and woof of the character of imperial doings, if you will. And it's augmented, it's deepened and made far more profound by the character of Donald Trump and the people he has selected to make his advisors. And then, of course, the people behind him, like Thiel and Musk and so forth, who are predetermined to be right there with him as he does at least part of what they want done. This is all a horrible concoction, but it's occurred in the world many times before, whether it was the Rothschilds or the J.P. Morgans, or, you know, go all the way back to the first beginnings of the Chinese Empire. I was reading a short history of the Chinese people the other day, rereading, and it's astonishing to me.

I was putting Rubio's remarks in Athens alongside the remarks of this very good historian, who summarizes Chinese history in less than 300 pages, which is pretty hard to do. Everywhere, he made a remark about the Chinese leading the Greeks and the Romans by sometimes 750 years. And Rubio made something in his speech about how, you know, Athens and Rome and all that was such a great product to look back at for historical innovation, for governance, for democracy. Athens sitting on top of slaves, the Helots, of course. Aristocrats sitting on top of massive numbers of slaves. The Chinese weren't doing that. The Chinese actually had real democracy, if you will, at that time. Actually, a thousand years before that. We just don't see that. The world was born, Danny, in 1776. Right.

#Danny

Yeah, everything centers around the United States. Larry, your comments on Iran's capabilities and anything you'd want to follow up with, what Colonel Walker's had to say.

#Larry Johnson

Well, the perception of the United States is this unstoppable military force. That image has been damaged. I've described it before as the Wizard of Oz phenomenon, because, you know, at the end of the movie, the Wizard of Oz, and Dorothy, and the little dog Toto, and the Cowardly Lion, the Scarecrow, and the Tin Man, they're all standing before this giant orb with this impressive voice, and very intimidating, and they're fearful. Then the dog pulls back the curtain, and it turns out some little old drunk guy, an itinerant preacher from Kansas, was pulling the levers. And so it was exposed that, you know, there was what looked on the outside to be this very formidable force that was unstoppable. Turns out to be not so tough. And that message was first communicated to the world.

Well, actually, it started with a special military operation in U.S. support. We pumped in the HIMARS with the ATACMS missiles, pumped in 155, the M777 howitzer with 155-millimeter shells that we

couldn't supply, M1 Abrams tanks that kept getting stuck and blown up. It was one thing after another. And then comes the Houthis, and they fight us to a standstill in the Red Sea to the point that Trump declares victory and pulls out. And to this day, even the artificial intelligence accounts, oh, they claim, oh yeah, the United States really kicked ass there. Those Houthis, man, they were stopped. It's like... are you kidding me? I mean, you know, this underscores that artificial intelligence really is artificial and not very intelligent because they can't even get the damn story correct.

But then comes Iran, and the United States unleashes its full air power on Iran. We decapitate it. It's out. It's done. It's over. Yeah, here we are eight months later. Iran's still standing. Iran's still closed the Strait of Hormuz, despite our repeated claims that it's open and more oil than ever is flowing out, which is complete horseshit. It's just one damn lie after another, that we have to keep our advanced aircraft carriers well offshore, because if they get too close, they're going to catch a missile up the tailpipe, and then all of a sudden we've got a crisis out at sea with our Navy. So the message that's now come out is, you know what? Not only is the United States no longer invincible, it's actually quite vincible. Very much so.

So, you know, we're in a situation now that the United States, I think, we're on the cusp of really finishing off our reputation, whatever reputation we had, to really expose ourselves to the world as like some great athlete. I got to play golf once with a former NFL great player by the name of Night Train Lane. I think he was a defensive back with the Detroit Lions. Detroit Lions, yep. I mean, in his heyday, he was a phenomenal athlete. Well, I caught him when he was 70 years old, 100 pounds overweight, and basically had to ride around in a handicapped golf cart. He was no longer that formidable Hall of Fame figure that he once was. And that's, I would say, an apt metaphor for what the U.S. military has become.

#Danny

Yeah, great points.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Just to deepen that, I agree with that assessment completely. Just to deepen it, and it hurts me to have to say this, but we are getting so much from the troop levels below, say, the officers, colonels, some colonels, and in the enlisted ranks in particular, and across the board, dominated by the Army, but mostly because the Army, I think, is the force getting it in their face more often than the other services, just by the way the services operate. We're getting more and more information about the demoralized and really angry at all ranks, like I was saying, with regard to Hegseth, because more and more they are attributing the things that are happening to them, whether it's J.D. Vance going out and saying that you're not going to get anything for the family of those dead people, which really rankled.

I mean, it rankled all across the military, but particularly in the Army. And the other business of his Christian nationalism, where they don't give a good, you know, GD what he believes—this is not the purpose of the military. This is not the military that they joined. It's not the military they want to stay in. And at the same time, they're having to listen to him, like the other day at his press conference, where he just says recruiting is off the charts, reenlistment is off the charts. We're doing so well. We've got a tremendous military. He's lying. Not doing so well. Good order and discipline and morale in the Army in particular is falling apart. And he doesn't want to say that, or maybe it's even more dangerous than that: he doesn't know it.

#Danny

Donald Trump said this, Larry, today after Iran actually announced that in the last 24 hours it's hit seven ships in the Strait of Hormuz. And Donald Trump is accusing Iran of doing everything they can to drive up the price of oil before the U.S. midterm elections. They're even making up fake hits, he says, with mines and everything else, because more oil is coming through the Hormuz Strait than it did at the beginning of the conflict. And then he goes back to the protester accusation: 75,000 protesters lie dead now in less than seven months. And I know you remember this, Larry. That was one of the big justifications for the buildup to war last time around. Your thoughts on that? This latest temper tantrum—we're about, what, 27, 28 hours from markets closing. It seems like there's a pattern here. What's your thoughts on this?

#Larry Johnson

Man, we've got all this oil coming out. What's the problem? I mean, hey, happy days are here again. We've got all the oil flowing. So why is the price of Brent so high? Why is the shortage of diesel so widespread? Because Donald Trump is a goddamn liar. That's why. I apologize for using the GD word, but you know what? The rage I feel towards this kind of deception and misrepresentation, it is grotesque. Because it's being used as a justification to kill human beings, to kill civilians, which is what the United States is getting ready to do, all justifying it.

And notice, I mean, there's the real irony. He's now claiming that the Iranian government has killed 75,000 protesters. Go chart. You know, we need to do sort of a month-by-month of how many were dead in March, how many were dead in April, how many were dead in May, how many were dead in June and July. I mean, the number keeps going up. The next number that's going to come out, it's going to be 100,000. You know, just a real massacre. And that becomes a justification for what?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

For killing more civilians. See, you know, it's the old, "We've got to destroy the village in order to save it."

#Larry Johnson

You know, that meme that came out in the Vietnam War. But there, we're lucky if we're getting 50% of the oil out. Number one, we claim we've completely shut down Iran. So whatever oil was coming out from Iran, that's off. The infrastructure in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, Bahrain to a lesser extent, those are the big oil producers. Qatar was a big LNG producer. All of that infrastructure—not according to Larry Johnson, according to the head of Aramco, for God's sake—who's saying they're looking at two years before this is repaired and they're anywhere back to normal, which means what they could produce and send out of the Gulf on the 27th of February. So Trump is just lying his ass off, and shame on the American public and anybody else in the world that believes his nonsense.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

You know, Danny, the sad thing about those figures is, if anyone is killing that number of people or has killed that number of people multiple times over, it's Bibi Netanyahu.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah, this is very true, and with no break on it either. No break. So, yeah, well, Colonel Wilkerson, your reaction to Trump's statements? You know, one of the things that always gets me, too, is that whenever he comes out with a statement, it's very long, and there's about 90 percent of it which is absolutely worthless to read. So that's just frustrating from the sense of even trying to follow it. It's almost like an intentional misdirection, almost like he's saying something but doesn't really want you to parse through it. But your thoughts on what he said here? And, you know, some are even saying that perhaps Donald Trump has another taco left in him. I know there are some U. S. officials who aren't 100 percent convinced of him restarting this war in a big way. What are your thoughts? I think when we look at things like you just displayed on the screen.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And I look at them on YouTube generally every morning. I hate reading them, but I do read them because I want to see where he's going next. I'm not really finding out a whole lot because I think people like Laura Loomer and other luminaries like her are the ones crafting these things. I don't think Donald Trump is doing it. Now, does he actually look at them and give a thumbs up or a thumbs down or whatever? I don't know. I suspect a lot of these things escape because he's got this apparatus set up that's operating on automatic pilot. You might say it's operating on AI, bad AI, because these things come built to the purpose that he wants them to be built to, but they come out many times like that one. They're just totally absurd.

And you wonder if there's anyone fact-checking them in terms of not just, is this true, but does this actually add to his power, his capability to do what he wants to do, his position within the Republican Party and their position within his orbit? I mean, we forget sometimes the Republican Party right now, win or lose, live or die, is Donald Trump's creation. From that Armageddon-seeking Speaker of the House, Johnson, to the senator in charge of the Senate, who doesn't seem to know where to go about half the time, to the committee chairmen who've been doing things to keep the Democrats from doing things that might investigate some of this crime and unconstitutional behavior and so forth. He owns them.

He made them just like he went to a factory and put the ingredients in and manufactured them, along with guys like, you know, Charlie Kirk and MAGA in general. They made themselves. They made the Republican Party. Now they are going to die with that instrument in their throat, in their heart, in their gut. And he doesn't care. I do not think he cares. That's one legitimate thing that they could put up on that machine that would say, "The Republican Party is going to lose both houses. They're going to go down in ignominy, and it's my fault, and I don't care." He could write that, and I would believe that. I would take that to heart and say, "Yep, you destroyed the Republican Party. Was that your purpose?" I don't know, but that's what he's doing.

#Danny

Yeah, well, there's certainly everything about that.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

How do you think those guys like Johnson and others feel when they read something like that? They go back in their hidey-hole and they say, "Goddamn, what's he trying to do?"

#Danny

Well, yeah, certainly his performances, too, at these campaign stops are something very, very, very lacking as well.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

People tell him, "Don't come to my state."

#Donald Trump

Well, I know you said weeks ago that's what was happening.

#Danny

And every video that comes out from these campaign speeches are just—on his stump—for the midterms.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And this war with Iran is a big part of that, I think, with the American people. If anything has awakened a lot of the American people, besides Israel and the accommodating approach we have to allowing them to guide us everywhere we go, it's this war. This war is just proof of that.

#Danny

Yeah, I mean, Larry, once this thing restarts, maybe you could outline the consequences, one of which seems to be that, yeah, especially if it starts before the Israeli elections and the midterm elections, that will essentially seal the fate of the GOP in the midterms, if it already hasn't been. Your thoughts on the consequences of what's about to happen?

#Larry Johnson

Well, the biggest and the most worrisome will be the economic consequences. Now, we draw the false conclusion from the first attack that started on the 28th of February, because there were dire predictions. I was among those that thought, "Oh my God, the oil is cut off." I didn't understand enough about the oil industry at that point to realize that there were already tankers full of oil that were at sea that were still going to deliver their products. So, in effect, it's like if you think the water supply has been cut off, but you've still got water in the hose from the source to the tap, and as that drains out, you know, it gives the illusion that you've still got water.

But it was only after the 10th of April that, at least in the United States, Secretary of Edelman... And so the way to mitigate that problem was everybody started drawing down their oil reserves. Japan, the United States, China—everybody that had a petroleum reserve, they were drawing it down. That oil, and it was a mixture of—some of it was sour crude, high in sulfur, that's needed. That is what the majority of refineries use. And some of it was the sweet crude, which is used by a smaller number of refineries. So again, we kept this illusion up that, oh, we're okay, we're fine. Well, now we're not fine. Now we are facing a genuine global shortage of diesel. And it's not a matter of just, hey, we want somebody to just up their production. There's no upping production to deal with this.

It is, and the refineries in the United States, they're working full—they're going full blast, 100%, to produce as much diesel as they can. But the demand is so great that they can't keep up with the demand, which is one of the reasons why the price keeps going up. Then you add to this: already, we've seen over the last four weeks, Iran has repeatedly struck some very large crude carriers, the VLCCs. Those are now offline. So even if we had an abundance of oil coming out of the ground, we

don't have the ships to transport the damn oil. That's a problem. So if this war renews, the damage that has been done in Saudi Arabia by Yemen, of all people, through Ansar Allah, has further exacerbated the damage that Iran did in the first 40 days of this war.

And so a renewal of this conflict is basically going to take Saudi Arabia offline, that there won't be another drop of oil coming out of there for a good long while. And so the potential for further massive disruption of the energy market—and it's not just oil, it's liquid natural gas, and then it's the byproducts that come out of the processing and refining of oil and liquid natural gas, which includes sulfur, urea, and helium. All of this ends up impacting not just one sector of the world economy, multiple sectors of the world economy. The production of food, for example, is just one. The production of computer chips, just another. And so, this cascading effect. So, yeah, they go forward with this. You know, Trump is really signing a death sentence for the Republican Party.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And just to add to that, Danny, I read a report yesterday which just fell in my way serendipitously. I picked it up and looked at it, and then I started reading it. I think it's fairly accurate. It comes from some people who know what they're talking about. The fact that we have, unlike China, who's done the opposite, more or less discouraged the development of EVs almost across the board now—I wasn't aware of just how much our major automobile makers and others in the country have done this. And China has gone full bore on it. China now has almost a lock, like they do on some other critical materials, on batteries.

And batteries—this report went through all the places, not only in the civilian economy but also in DOD, that these batteries are essential. I'm talking about almost every weapon system that we think is technologically sophisticated and fits in this current panorama of warfare requires some sort of battery or batteries. Drones, for example. And we are way behind, and China has now cornered the market on sophisticated batteries because that market was generated by their emphasis on, and production of, and continuing to develop technologically, EVs—essentially automobiles, trucks, other things. Now we're trying to get back in the game again, but we're way behind right now. So that just adds to our vulnerability.

#Danny

Yeah, and Larry, last night there was an Ansar Allah strike, I believe, on King Fahd International Airport again, and two people were killed. And that just proves the point, too.

#Donald Trump

Where were those French troops?

#Danny

Yeah, the French. Aren't the British supposed to be sending their jets? Typhoons.

#Larry Johnson

They sent some Typhoons, too. That was effective. Then also, Ansar Allah hit Saudi Arabia's defense headquarters. They hit the equivalent of the Pentagon today. No telling how many people were killed in that strike. Yeah, those... You know, Mohammed bin Salman really made a real smart decision that, you know, here is Ansar Allah, who since the attack on Iran in February, had really been pretty quiet. They hadn't been attacking ships at sea. They hadn't been doing much proactive measures to curtail movement of oil and other products through the Red Sea. And then Ansar Allah decides on July 13th—I mean, MBS decides—yeah, let's attack them. Let's attack Sana'a Airport. Let's try to kill the Ansar Allah delegation returning from the funeral of the Ayatollah Khamenei. That was not well received by the Houthis. And so they said, "You want to fight? We'll fight."

And since then, they have just been kicking the living hell out of Saudi Arabia, inflicting damage on oil fields, on oil terminals, on pipelines, on pumping stations, on airfields, on refineries, and on military headquarters. And they've shown really remarkable sophistication with their intelligence. You know, the other day they targeted the palace in Aden, where there was a meeting being held of senior Saudi military officials with the Saudi-backed military, the PLC. And man, they got blasted, killed several of them. So the Houthis, I am told by someone who works in the area over there, he's been proven in his predictions so far, that this is going to ultimately lead to the destruction of the House of Saud. And we're going to wind up with a new political situation in Saudi Arabia, one that may not be under the control of the West at all.

#Danny

Well, I know at the top of the hour, Colonel Wilkerson, you have another commitment. So, your final comments on anything that you'd like to add?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, I think just to follow up on that, I think Larry and his contact in Yemen is absolutely right about that. And my chief worry—and my worry was the same worry during the so-called Arab Spring—when Hosni Mubarak went down like, you know, a dead rock, and all of a sudden Bahrain was in the same condition. And the only thing that saved Bahrain was the Fifth Fleet people moving in and bolstering the government because they knew they wanted that place for a headquarters. And so we sort of saved the royals in Bahrain. It wasn't that difficult. There weren't that many people in Bahrain, not that many royals and not that many protesters. But there was enough to overthrow them. And they were armed, and they were ready to go, and they were in the streets. And we sort of pushed that back.

When I saw that happen, I got to thinking with others in the policy planning staff in the State, for example. What happens when this comes again? Because it will. Totalitarian governments collapse routinely, even those supported by the empire. In fact, they seem to collapse quicker than ones not supported by the empire. What happens then? Do they have any legacy of self-government? Do they have any history of institutions of government? Do they have any record that could be consulted in, say, the last 400 or 500 years of governing themselves? And the questions we asked were answered by the Arabists and other experts in the region: no. No. So then the question was, what happens then? And the answer came back almost in unison: chaos. Chaos probably for decades and decades, into which, of course, powers in the world will wade and try to take care of it, or maybe not.

Maybe they will just suffer it and let it happen. One of the individuals said at the time, "Not as long as that oil is there and we still need that oil. Someone's going to go down there and mess around again." I'm probably right, but all to say, it's going to be real trouble in that region for years to come if we do, in fact, have this collapse take place. Now, I may be wrong. Maybe the Houthis or some of the other people in the region have plans and have significant ways of dealing with the crisis and coming out of it in fairly good shape. I don't know. I don't see that, but I'm not an expert on the region. I take that previous conversation I had several years ago and the policy planning staff as being indicative of the chaos that may come following these governments collapsing.

#Danny

Well, Colonel Wilkerson, you're free. Larry, if you have time for one more question.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, I can do one more. I've got to go about 2 o'clock as well. All right, no problem. It's always good to see my buddy.

#Danny

Take care.

#Larry Johnson

All right, Colonel. For our next one. Bye-bye.

#Danny

Well, the last one, Larry, and it's quite a simple one, is: what was the United States thinking, given that there were reports early on in the war, when Saudi Arabia initially struck the airport in Sana'a, that it was the U.S. that encouraged and gave blessing, at least the Trump administration? So I'm wondering, what were they thinking then if this was going to be the outcome?

#Larry Johnson

They were assuming that there was a greater connection between Ansar Allah and Iran, and that getting Ansar Allah embroiled in a war with Saudi Arabia, that they thought they were confident the Saudis could prevail, would weaken Iran. Boy, were they wrong. You know, Iran has... They have a relationship with Ansar Allah. I don't know how Ansar Allah is getting, let's call it, the satellite data for targeting their missiles. I don't know if it's coming direct from Russia, direct from China, or indirectly from Russia, China to Iran, and then from Iran to them.

But what's clear is Ansar Allah is getting it, and the decision to encourage MBS to start this war without thinking it through and realizing the limited capability of the Saudis, and really the high cost that would be incurred by anybody else that came in from the outside to help—that this is another, sort of, if you will, Achilles heel for the West. It's a vulnerability they never anticipated, but boy, it's one that's biting them in the behind right now.

#Danny

Yeah, and I can imagine if this war on Iran heats up kinetically, there will also be some interesting issues that arise because Saudi Arabia is tied up with Ansar Allah as well. There are many various scenarios that could just absolutely derail both operations. So I want everyone to know, Larry, that Transition Protocol and Sonar 21 are both in the video description below. So everyone should, after the show, check those out. Be sure to follow all of Larry's work for those two sources. Hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show in the algorithm. I'll be back tomorrow, 2 p.m. Eastern. I'll let you know what's happening very soon. Video description below, all the places you can support this channel. And I'll see you all again next time. Bye-bye.

#Larry Johnson

Thanks so much, man.