# Trump REARMS for Wider War, Iran UNLEASHES 'Zero Hour' Retaliation | Mohammad Marandi

Prof. Seyed Mohammad Marandi discusses the major push by Trump & Israel back to war with Iran. From a third carrier strike group now promised to region in just a few days, plus reports of massive transfers of weapons to the theater, Prof. Marandi will break down the geopolitical dynamics and consequences of the US-Israeli global war now targeting Iran. LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis  Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel:  Patreon: https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE:  Rumble: https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: https://twitter.com /DannyHaiphong Telegram: https://t.me/DannyHaiphong Support the channel in other ways: https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: $Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: https://paypal.me/spiritho #iran #iranwar #trump #israel

## #Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. Hit the like button as you come on. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Saeed Mohamed Morandi to go over the latest developments. Well, the latest development really, Professor Morandi, is that the United States—the Pentagon—has drafted plans for an attack against Iran and is just awaiting orders from the Trump administration, as the USS Washington has now been rearmed with bunker busters, Tomahawks, and the like. Iran has said that they are going to unleash a zero-hour retaliation and response. But what do you know about what the United States is up to, and what has been the mood in Iran around this upcoming restart of the war?

## #Mohammad Marandi

Well, thank you, Danny, for inviting me. It's always a great pleasure. The delay is because my connection's not ideal. As I told Danny, I'm in Beijing. I've been here for a day and a half or a couple of days, and I return to Tehran tomorrow night. So I'm having difficulty with the VPNs and so on. I apologize for the connection and the delay. Well, obviously, the Iranians have been expecting this all along, and it's quite normal for American leaders just to decide to bomb countries whenever they like, without any outrage in the United States or in the West. They decide one day to get up and start terrorizing a country, and they can just make up whatever excuses they want.

And since they've spent decades in the media, Hollywood, schools, schoolbooks, and history books demonizing Iran and other parts of the world, it sort of legitimizes any lawlessness and death and destruction in the eyes of the public. Because even if the wars kill kids and are illegal, most people will say, "Well, they probably deserve this. They're bad people. They're bad news." And of course, Iran has been demonized more than any other country in the United States for almost half a century now, much more so than even Russia and China. China and Russia have become increasingly demonized in recent years. But for quite a while, it was basically Iran that was the focus. You know, it was the axis of evil and so on.

So this is something that's completely abnormal: for reporters to ask the president, "When are you going to bomb Iran?" But they don't ask, "What right do you have to bomb Iran? Based on what authority? You know, you've killed kids before. You're going to kill kids again." Or, "You've lied about your motives. You said you destroyed the nuclear program, yet you want to bomb the country again for a nuclear program that you said you destroyed." Or there's the fact that the nuclear program itself was never a military program, according to your own intelligence chiefs. These are not the debates that go on in mainstream media in the United States or in the West—in the UK, the Guardian, the BBC, those who are supposedly more liberal.

All of them toe the line. Their differences are about how things should be done, not about the morality or the authority or the legitimacy of carrying out these acts. So this is just something I wanted to raise at the beginning, because we are in a very bizarre period where it's just as if the U. S. president has the right to do this. And the only counterargument provided by Obama the other day was not, "You've killed, you've murdered people. You're a criminal. You're a child killer." It was that the price of gasoline has gone up for Americans. That is the issue. The price of goods has gone up. It's not that 168 kids and their schoolteachers were slaughtered on day one—intentionally, in my opinion and in the opinion of everyone I know.

These are not the questions. And of course, by extension, the same is true about Lebanon. By extension, the same is true about the dirty war in Syria, the rise of ISIS and Al-Qaeda, and the support that the West gave them and continues to give them. And these Wahhabi, Takfiri-producing regimes like Qatar and Saudi Arabia are helping to carry out these operations—the genocidal war in Yemen and, of course, Palestine, where we've been seeing more than three years of genocide. I tweeted, I think an hour or two ago, about a little girl who was shot and whose whole family was murdered. I didn't read the whole story, but her whole family was murdered, and she was shot a couple of days ago, and she died today.

And that's the end of her story. But it doesn't make the news, does it? It's not even important. So, yeah, I thought I'd begin with that. So, taking into account that we live in this world, this sort of upside-down universe where good is evil and evil is good, if you oppose a genocide, you're demonized, whether by the West or their proxies in the region or the Takfiri groups promoted by those proxies. And if you're genocidal, you are normal. And it's also, you know, quite extraordinary

that now the savior for so many people is someone like Obama, who has played an equally evil role as Trump.

The only difference between Trump and Obama is that Trump is crude and that he's openly sinister. He doesn't have that capability to be hypocritical like his predecessors. So when Trump says, you know, "To the victor go the spoils," that's what the 19th-century, 18th-century, and 17th-century rulers would say. But it's not something that, in the late 20th century and early 21st century, the politically correct leaders of the so-called Western world would say. But it's what they would do. So, for example, the genocide in Yemen was carried out with the support of Obama. Mohammed bin Salman was able to carry out this war only when Obama gave him that permission.

And he wanted to launch this war to show his strength in order to enhance his position so that he could be the future king. And hundreds of thousands of people died as a result. And with the help of the Americans, the Europeans, the British, the Australians, these Arab regimes, and the Turkish government, among others, they helped starve kids and deprive them of medicine for a decade. And now all of them are again gathering to prop up Mohammed bin Salman, who, you know, has carried out all sorts of bizarre crimes, such as the murder of Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul. So, in any case, in this world that we live in, the Iranians know that the only way they can stand steadfast is to be independent and to be strong.

And so the Iranians have prepared themselves for war again. After the 40-day war, the world recognized that Iran won. And after the initial siege, again, Iran emerged victorious. And after the MOU, it was acknowledged that Trump had failed. But now, during the past couple of months, ever since D-Day and the attempt to strangle the Iranian people collectively, you'd think, again, that if people in the West had a minimal amount of humanity, there would be moral outrage. Yet there's nothing. Just like when he says he's going to obliterate Iran or wipe out a civilization, you'd think that people would be pulling their hair out, but nothing.

So the Iranians at that time knew that we were still going to have war. And so they immediately began preparing themselves for the next phase. So during this period, when the New York Times and the Washington Post and Western media and think tanks and pundits or talking heads were saying that Iran is weakening, Iran is losing—we've been seeing that narrative that Iran is in a weakened position—Iran has been quietly building up its military capabilities, its drones, its missiles. Just a couple of days ago, I don't know if you saw, the army revealed an underground drone factory.

And they were Arash drones. And those Arash drones have been used to devastating effect. So obviously, the army has been producing them in large numbers, now with a bigger payload and more advanced technology. The same is true with the missiles. So Iran is ready. I would say that compared to the beginning of the war, Iran is probably far more prepared today militarily, whereas the Americans are less prepared for war. But then again, since Trump is desperate, he may go for a major escalation. And if that happens, then what we were discussing at the beginning of the war, during the first 40 days of fighting, becomes relevant. You recall, on more than one occasion—two

or three times at least—I said the people in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates should leave, because we were reaching a point where they were threatening to strike Iran and destroy Iran's critical infrastructure.

And they started that by hitting Iran's gas field, which is a very important gas field. And then Iran retaliated by striking Qatar. The U.S. backed off, and the Israelis backed off, and Trump put out a social media post saying it won't happen again. Well, this time around, since the war didn't work—they failed on the battlefield last time—the belief is that there is a chance that Trump will go after critical infrastructure in a bigger way, or that Netanyahu and Trump would both do so. And by the way, if there's a war this time around, Iran has said they will not differentiate. In other words, if the Israelis attack, Iran will attack the Americans too.

If the Americans attack, they'll attack the Israeli regime too. So the Iranians are preparing a much larger list of targets to strike. And instead of focusing primarily on U.S. bases, which have been destroyed or half-destroyed, I think Iran's targeting will focus more on U.S. economic interests. And that's because of D-Day. That's because Bessent is waging a new war against Iran. So this would be Iran's retaliation and response. Also, I think that, as you've noticed—and we'll have to wait and see what the markets do in an hour or two—the Iranians are tightening the noose. And the amount of oil that gets through has decreased significantly.

And that is going to be a big problem for Trump. And obviously, the Iranians are doing it now because they want to put pressure on Trump. If he wants to spare himself a lot of pain during the midterms, he has to agree to go back to the deal. If not, it's going to be very difficult for him in the midterms. Iran's policy, of course, is not to defeat him in the midterms. Iran couldn't care less at one level. What's important to them is the implementation of the MOU. So they want to put pressure on Trump to force him to carry out what he signed up to. But then again, if he refrains from doing so, he's going to suffer on Election Day, November 3rd. And so, right now, we are where we are.

## #Danny

Yeah, well, Professor Morandi, there have been reports going around in some Iranian media channels that hotels might be a major target for Iran. And I'm wondering if that has anything to do with the fact that during the 40-day war, a lot of U.S. personnel were actually housed in hotels when they were fleeing the bases that were being hit. What do you make of this? Because you said U.S. economic interests, and I know there is a wide range of U.S. economic interests. Heck, oil infrastructure could certainly count as a U.S. economic interest. But what do you make of hotels all across the Gulf being targeted as part of the zero-hour retaliation? Even Oman, I believe, was listed. Your thoughts?

## #Mohammad Marandi

Well, I haven't seen anything from the Iranian side about hotels in particular. Maybe you saw something that I haven't. I've been busy here in China at the conference, and I've been a bit ill as well. But during the 40-day war, Iran did strike hotels that were hosting U.S. forces. And Iran warned those countries not to hide American soldiers in hotels or in private buildings, which they did. So when U.S. bases were being destroyed, a lot of the U.S. forces were taken to private buildings. So it may be that the Iranians are saying, "We will not allow the Americans to use hotels or any private buildings. Those will be considered military targets." It's ironic that Western media and Western governments, when the Israelis wipe out children in Gaza, say that the Palestinian resistance is hiding among civilians, even though there's no place to go in Gaza.

It's so small, and there are so many people. How can they separate themselves from the population when the place is literally so small and so densely crowded that, even before the genocide began, people were effectively living in an open-air concentration camp, as it was often called by human rights activists? Not the fake ones, like the Western-funded ones. I mean the real human rights activists. I don't mean Amnesty or Human Rights Watch or any of these other organizations that are deeply problematic. Sometimes they do good things, but they're deeply problematic. But, I mean, the real people who are sincere about human rights were back then calling it an open-air prison. So they would bomb homes and slaughter families, and entire apartment blocks would be wiped out.

And then the Western media, Western think tanks, Western elites or congressmen would justify it by saying that the Palestinian resistance is hiding behind the civilian population. But the Americans were hiding in five-star hotels and four-star hotels and in private buildings, not just in Kuwait, but in Bahrain, the Emirates, and probably Qatar. I don't know. But in any case, they were in civilian buildings. So when it's the superpower, whatever it does, again, there's no question of morality. No one in the West says, "Why are private citizens in these countries being put at risk by stationing our soldiers in private buildings?"

## #Mohammad Marandi

Hmm.

## #Danny

Yeah, well, that's a good question. It almost mirrors the human shield narrative that Israel and the United States have used, of course, against resistance in the region, particularly in Palestine. But, I mean, Israel has literally done this, of course, with the Hannibal Directive, and so has the United States.

## #Mohammad Marandi

And the Saudis, too. And the Saudis, too. The Saudis say there are tunnels under the hospitals. They use the same narrative as the Israelis. They use the same tactics as the Israelis. And, of course, they get away with it because the West won't critique that. But the human shields in Kuwait and so on, that's not even a thing. No one would even look at it from that angle because, I mean, the Americans are in hotels. What's wrong with that?

## #Danny

Professor Morandi, breaking news today: Donald Trump, literally as we've been speaking, told the media that he doesn't know why he told them yesterday they were going to attack today, because there's not going to be any attack on Iran today. Yeah. Your reaction to this? It feels like a game of chicken. And it's abhorrent and just disgusting that war is a game of chicken for the Trump administration and, of course, the Israelis. But both of them appear to be conducting some kind of—I don't even know if I can call it ineffective, but maybe a haphazard psychological operation. Every day, they're talking about a strike, maybe, maybe not a strike. The Wall Street Journal has their embedded plant inside the USS Washington, showing off the bunker busters, all kinds of preparations for war, and then they say, nope, they're not going to strike. What do you make of this kind of behavior?

## #Mohammad Marandi

Well, obviously, the media is playing its role in trying to create terror among ordinary Iranians. But, Danny, it doesn't work. Iranians are not terrorized. I mean, I haven't been in Iran for the last two or three days, but since the war began, except for my three- or four-day visit to Moscow, I've never left the city of Tehran. I've never felt at any point that Iranians felt intimidated or that they felt fearful of defeat. They get saddened when they see infrastructure destroyed or people murdered by the Americans and their Zionist allies, but they're not intimidated, and they're prepared for war. I'm just hoping that I can get back before they attack. That's the only thing I've been thinking of. When I was leaving Iran, I called and asked, “Do you think I should go?”

And people were encouraging me to go on this trip. And it's like that for others too. When the war began months ago, Turkish journalists went to the border of Iran and Turkey in the hope of getting footage of Iranians fleeing the country. And when they went to the border, they saw that the traffic was the other way around. Everyone was trying to get into Iran. Iranians who were working abroad, and some living abroad, wanted to go home. So, contrary to what often happens when there's war and people flee, the traffic at the Turkish border was people trying to get in, not people getting out. And that's my experience, just like that of so many others. If that's Trump's objective, I don't think it's going to work.

It may be his objective, but again, he's just a person who opens his mouth and says things. So you can't really say that he has some sophisticated idea behind what he says. That's not who Trump is.

I'm not saying he's dumb. I think he's actually intelligent, but with a very twisted mind. And because of his narcissistic character, he's blind to much of reality. And that makes him seem very stupid. I don't know if that makes sense to you. But in any case, he talks a lot of nonsense. And so I don't think there's a method in the madness that we see. I don't see it that way. But I do believe that Western media does try to create fear among Iranians by going on the aircraft carriers and showing the bombs. And why would they do that? It would be to intimidate Iranians—women and children, the Iranian population.

## #Mohammad Marandi

But it doesn't work.

## #Mohammad Marandi

The Iranians were steadfast throughout this war, and people thought Iran would lose. I mean, here in China, I've been speaking to friends, and except for one or two, they all believed that Iran would fall. And the same was true in Russia. But to me and to many Iranians, it was clear as day that Iran would persevere. We knew that. And we've discussed the reasons why: Iran's culture of resistance, the culture of resistance across the resistance. I mean, look at Lebanon. Despite all the hardship that the families of the resistance are going through right now, with the government of Lebanon, Western powers, al-Qaeda, and ISIS all hostile to them, they remain steadfast. This is something that you rarely see.

Or in Yemen, of course. Yemen is the talk of the town, the way in which they have performed against the empire and against the Saudi regime, which is despised. Here in China, the Saudi regime is despised in private conversations. No one likes them. And the international guests that I spoke to all hate the Saudis. The Pakistanis hate the Saudis. The Turks hate the Saudis. The Nigerians hate the Saudis. Whoever you speak with, they hate the Saudis. But in any case, I mean the Saudi regime, not the ordinary people. The ordinary people are just ordinary people. But at the very beginning, when Ayatollah Khamenei was murdered, when they were bombing us day and night with everything that they had, we didn't see the Iranians budge. And so nothing that they can do now can intimidate the Iranians. Nothing that I can think of.

## #Danny

I can imagine, you know, in China, the Saudi regime might remind them a little too much of what it was like to live through a century of humiliation under warlords and semi-feudal landlords, which I'm sure, to them, the Saudi royal family kind of represents in, I guess you could say, modern form—although they're quite the relic. But, Professor Morandi, I had a question about the dead-hand mosaic defense doctrine. What is that? I mean, we've been hearing about this for the last couple of days in various reports, and now Israeli media is very much sounding the alarm. But what happens when 31 commanders across Iran, in various provinces, you know, retaliate in their own way? What

is it, and why is it so frightening, do you think, to the Israelis, and maybe even to the United States, although the U.S. is far better at hiding its panic?

## #Mohammad Marandi

Well, you know, the genius behind this whole defense capability was Ayatollah Khamenei himself, along with a number of senior officials who helped design it. But he was behind it for decades. And the Americans did whatever they could to destroy those missile bases and drone bases, and they failed. And during the war, I'm sure you and I discussed this. I said that they couldn't destroy them. But Western media was constantly saying how they were destroying them and demolishing them. And then after the war, I think the New York Times did a piece where they said that most of the bases were intact.

They're all intact. They're all fine. Only some of the entrances were damaged. And within a couple of days—three or four days—everything was fine. They couldn't do anything. But since then, the Iranians have been building more underground bases, expanding current bases, and moving around their missile capabilities, using huge numbers of decoys across the country. The Americans and the Israelis spent billions of dollars just destroying decoys that are really just balloons, like decoys of air defenses, jets, or missiles, and so on. They were just constantly bombing them. Sometimes they'd even publish images of them.

CENTCOM would post them online, and if you looked carefully, you could see that they were actually decoys. Like, they showed a helicopter being bombed, and after it was bombed and destroyed, the blades were untouched. They were still in place because it was painted on the ground. They went and bombed a painting of a helicopter. And they posted it on the Internet because these American military officers are so brilliant. And they failed to recognize, even after posting it, that these were obviously decoys. So the Iranians have been preparing themselves, and they've learned from the war.

So these underground bases are across the country, and they can function autonomously. They have everything they need to wage their war. And so if, for whatever reason, they, let's say, lose contact with the central command, the Khatam al-Anbiya headquarters, they can wage their war on the United States and the Israeli regime. They know what their targets are. They know what they're supposed to do. They know how to find those targets. And, of course, the key targets have yet to be touched. And look at the oil and gas infrastructure. It's largely untouched. Some damage has been done, as I mentioned—for example, in the case of Qatar and its LNG program.

## #Mohammad Marandi

But for the most part...

## #Danny

Professor Morandi, are you still there? I don't know if I've lost you. You're frozen. I hope you're able to come back soon. I know we were having some connection problems earlier, but maybe communicate with me on Telegram if you can. I'll message you right now, actually, just quickly. Sorry about that, everyone. All right, everybody. First of all, are you still there? Can you hear me? No? Back? Not back? All right. Well, while we try to figure it out, we'll just continue onward, talking about the dead hand mosaic defense doctrine. I mean, Professor Morandi was saying—can you hear me, Professor Morandi, at all?

## #Mohammad Marandi

No? No?

## #Danny

He was saying that a lot of energy infrastructure still remains intact. This is indeed the case, but I believe that Iran and Ansar Allah, too, have been particularly calculating about exactly when they will hit such targets and how much pain they want to inflict, of course balancing that with the rest of the global economy. So Professor Morandi hopefully will return. Anyway, I want to pull up what has been reported. This is Channel 14 News in Israel.

Iran says it's on “dead hand” with human commanders. Iran has reportedly given regional IRGC commanders expanded authority to strike pre-listed targets in the Middle East if the central command breaks down. This is an activation of Iran's mosaic defense doctrine, mirroring the Soviet Union's “dead hand” concept, using delegated human command to ensure retaliation if leadership is struck. So, a massive decentralization of its retaliation capabilities. Let me see if I can actually try something here.

## #Danny

Okay, so we're waiting for Professor Morandi to see if he can come back. I have not heard back from him since he lost connection. But in any event, that is what we can expect. And I wanted to pull this up. This was being shared around in various Iranian sources about zero-hour targeting in the various hotels. I mean, I'm going to guess that Iran is not going to hit hotels that just have people in them. Iran has been very circumspect. Okay, so he's trying, I think, Google Meet. And if he does enter Google Meet, I'm going to share that screen. Hopefully it works.

But nevertheless, this is the zero-hour targeting list of all the hotels that could be hit, which, as Professor Morandi noted, could host U.S. personnel. No doubt about it. U.S. personnel could very well be in these hotels during the strikes because last time, during the 40-day war, that's where they were. I remember the UAE getting hit. Their hotels were getting hit by drones because U.S.

personnel were hiding there to escape the bases, which were being absolutely obliterated. So here is the large list of hotels where these U.S. forces could be stationed during the war. This is an absolutely devastating reality for the United States.

And I want to make a comment on why the United States, despite trying to rearm with whatever they've got, you know—I want to be very clear that when The Wall Street Journal had a reporter go around and show off the bunker busters, she was being paraded around by someone called the "gun boss." Yeah, this is the parody that the U.S. military really is. So the gun boss was showing her around. He showed her the bunker busters, and he showed her some long-range missiles and said, "Oh, these are the preparations. This is what we're going to deploy when the order is given. We're just waiting, I guess."

So that's to say that not only is this a parody, but it's quite clear that the United States, despite all of these preparations, knows quite well. The military knows, CENTCOM knows, the Trump administration knows—no matter how boneheaded or lacking in actual acumen they may be, or how driven they are by these visceral, guttural, parasitic interests to destroy and overthrow the Iranian government and, of course, to reap all the benefits that they deem will come from that. In my estimation, the reason why they're hesitating is because they know that this attack will not bring the results that they are hoping for at all. And I don't know if we're going to be able to get the professor back. He doesn't seem like he's logging back on.

So I'll send him the link. Let's see what he says here. Okay, he says two minutes. All right, so sorry about that, everybody. We're dealing with some connection problems on the live stream. Yeah, I also want to address this: the United States—the U.S. empire, I'm talking about the warmongers—appears to know its own limitations. If they didn't know their own limitations, they would be attacking right now. They know. They know. Oh, I think I hear him. Let me see if I can get Professor Morandi in on the Google Meet, and then we can try to share that. And you can tell me if you can hear me. Here we go. Where is he?

## #Mohammad Marandi

Where is he? One guest waiting. Admit.

## #Danny

Okay, so let's see if we can get Professor Seyed Mohammad Marandi back on the program. Here we go. I can see you. Can you hear me? Okay, here we go. I'm going to put this in full screen. Can you all hear this? Everybody, please give a thumbs up. Professor Marandi, maybe you can give a quick hello to the audience.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Can you hear me?

## #Danny

I can hear you. Can you hear me, audience? Can you hear me, Professor Marandi?

## #Mohammad Marandi

Yes. Sorry, my internet credit ran out, so I've connected to the hotel's internet.

## #Danny

Well, everyone can hear you now, and we've still got plenty of time for the show. I mean, I know you've got another appointment in about an hour and 20 minutes or so, but we can still go for it.

## #Mohammad Marandi

By the way, what time is it right now? It's almost 2 a.m.

## #Danny

It's almost 2 a.m., so everybody should hit a like storm for Professor Marandi's effort for this show. He's really going all out to provide you with this analysis. Professor Marandi, all right, how about we continue on? I was just talking about how I believe that the United States and Israel do know their own limitations right now. It's just that, as we've seen for many years now, even just in recent years, they can't stop themselves from pursuing these kinds of genocidal wars, like the one they're trying to build up towards with Iran.

But I was just telling the audience, if the U.S. wanted to strike, they would be striking. You know, if the U.S. had the ability to do something that would be effective against Iran, they would be doing it differently right now. But there seem to be a lot of calculations. Not to say that nothing will happen, but obviously there are wheels turning. I don't know if they're turning in the ways that humanity would like them to turn, but there are wheels turning. Your thoughts? I agree completely. The only problem, of course, is that the more desperate they become, the more vicious they are as well.

## #Mohammad Marandi

And so right now, for example, in Gaza, we're seeing them creating an environment for starvation again, even though they've destroyed so much of the population. I read somewhere that aid for 1.5 or 1.6 million people a day is supposed to go into Gaza. And I was wondering, why 1.5 or 1.6 million? It's supposed to be two-point-something million. And maybe it's because hundreds of thousands of people have died due to illness and disease. But in any case, the food that's required is not getting in. And of course, they've shut down all the real aid agencies and installed the aid

agencies that are approved by the Zionists. And so those aid agencies are going to side with the Israeli regime in any dispute.

But in any case, the point is that even though they've slaughtered so many Palestinians and every day they gun down little girls and boys, they still starve people as well, along with everything else. So these regimes, it's not as if they will stop or just continue doing the same thing. They'll find some more vicious way of dealing with the designated enemy. So it is quite possible that they will start targeting critical infrastructure or that they will start targeting more residential or civilian targets, even though they've done a lot. I didn't know that, and maybe you could look this up right now, but if I'm not mistaken, they bombed like 41 universities in Iran. Forty-one universities. Is this reported anywhere in the West? Is there any outrage? Because when it comes to Iran, it's all legitimate, because everything is "the regime." But in Iran...

## #Mohammad Marandi

But in any case, the Iranians are prepared for the worst-case scenario, and they know that. They know that if they strike, then Iran will strike back, and Iran will bring down the U.S. economy. That's effectively what will happen. The reason why Trump is seemingly going to lose the midterm elections is that Iran is dragging down the U.S. economy. Why is Iran doing so? Because the United States is trying to strangle the Iranian people. Bessent, in his tweets, says it quite openly. He uses the language of Hegseth, you know, brutal and barbaric and, you know, showing his masculinity, whatever that is. And when they fail, after making people suffer, they're going to have to accept the consequences. And the consequences are that the resistance strikes back. The Iranians strike back. They won't bow to the emperor or the empire. They won't kneel.

## #Mohammad Marandi

And so you're right.

## #Mohammad Marandi

If they could attack, they would attack now. But ultimately, they will attack. There will be a point where they say, "Well, we'll have to do something." And then, if they recognize that they're going to fail again, more women and children will be targeted, along with more infrastructure. Because, after all, if they destroy, let's say, the electrical power plants and so on, many thousands will die because hospitals will cease to function, and factories that produce medicine will cease to function. You know, you get what I'm saying.

So these are all crimes against humanity, but they won't be reflected in the Western media. Western media will never have the integrity to raise these issues. So the Iranians know that the only response will be to retaliate. And Iran will retaliate by taking out U.S. proxies in the region. And when those proxies who are part of this are gone, that further damages the U.S. economy. So again,

the more war we have, the worse it's going to get for everyone. It's not going to be just Iranians. The whole world is going to suffer because of Trump, Netanyahu, MAGA, and the Zionists.

## #Danny

Professor Marandi, you know, we've heard and we've seen—actually, we saw last month as well—that when Iran gets a whiff of a U.S. operation underway, it begins its defense beforehand. Some people call it preemptive, but as we've talked about on the show, it's kind of ridiculous, in a war of aggression, to call any action by the party being attacked—the target of the war—preemptive in any way. But nevertheless, a lot of people have been asking me, "Danny, as there is a whiff—a big whiff—of another strike coming, why hasn't Iran just preempted that and begun its retaliation before it incurs damage that might be coming anyway?" What do you have to say about that? What's your reaction to this? I'm sure you've heard it as well.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Well, you know, this is something that is discussed in Iran, and they have every right to strike whenever they like because we're at war. They've imposed war upon us, and the war is ongoing. They're trying to strangle our economy. They're trying to shut down all flights. Why do they want to shut down flights? Flights are used to transport medicine. A lot of medicine goes back and forth on planes because many of the things we need can't just be sent by ship. I mean, some of the supplies for factories go by ship. But sometimes there's a shortage of medicine, or certain medicines can only be kept under special conditions. So planes are very important for moving these things around. And Bessent was targeting the Iranian medical sector by trying to prevent planes from flying. He wants to create a medical crisis.

But of course, I mean, I was in Moscow a few weeks ago, as you know, and I went by plane. I'm here in Beijing, and I came by plane. Hopefully, tomorrow night I'll return on another plane. So the target is to crush the Iranian people. So this is war. We are at war. But that's not how Iran usually works. I mean, your audience knows my views, but in the West, they would like to think that they are moral and the Iranians are immoral. But Iran doesn't function that way. I doubt they'll start it. If they see the planes taking off and moving towards Iran, they may immediately prepare to carry out a counterstrike. But I don't see it happening. Then again, I may be wrong. If they do it, they have the legitimate right to do so. My experience in Iran is that they've always tried not to throw the first stones in any battle.

## #Danny

Right. Yeah, yeah. Well, that definitely seems to be what's going on now. I think in the next few days, the USS Theodore Roosevelt will enter the so-called theater of CENTCOM operations. Many believed that it was going to be relieving the USS Washington. But now there are some who believe that the USS Theodore Roosevelt is actually there to support some kind of operation. It will be there

maybe temporarily. It may not be permanent. But, you know, the talk of this operation has always been about something short—three days, they say. But we never know, and I think this is where the fog of war comes in. Yeah, that's where the fog of war comes in. How could it be, if Iran gets a vote too? I mean, Iran not only has every right to respond, but they almost have an obligation to respond, as they have been demonstrating since the beginning of this war. Yeah, you know, Danny.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Again, my understanding is based on open-source outlets or open-source material. I don't think the Iranians are going to allow for a ceasefire this time. The war will continue until Iran achieves its objectives. And so, if the Americans think that after two or three weeks, or after four weeks, they can come and say, "Okay, let's finish this," I don't think so. It's not going to be like the 40-day war. That's not how it's going to end. The Iranians want this to bring about change. So I think the Americans are going to have to suffer immensely as a result.

And Danny, I don't like saying this. This is not good for anyone, but if the global economy goes down—if, let's say, there are no exports from this region, or if the oil and gas installations are destroyed and the Strait of Hormuz becomes irrelevant, at least for a year or two—we will have an economic depression. And I don't think the US would be able to maintain forces in this region. They'll have to go, because they won't be able to maintain 850 military bases and all these aircraft carriers. It's not doable. And when the economy goes down, you're going to have people on the streets. You're going to have a social upheaval. You won't have money to fund the projects that you have today or to pay your government employees. It's going to be a very different world, not just for the United States.

It's going to be a global issue. Everyone is going to be affected. Maybe the Cubans or the North Koreans will be less affected, but everyone will be affected. And every country that imports or exports will be affected. China will be affected. China's economy depends on exports and imports. Well, you know, if people don't have money to buy, then there are no more exports. So I think that this could be a decisive phase where, if Trump carries out his threats and goes for a big strike and attacks Iran in that way, then I think that probably the global economy will suffer immensely. So, in any case, my understanding is that the Iranians are not going to end this war like last time around, like the 40-day battle.

It wasn't a separate war, but it's going to be different. There are a number of things that are different. One is that there won't be a ceasefire. Two, if the Americans attack, that means the Israelis have attacked. If the Israelis attack, that means the Americans have attacked. Three, the Iranians have warned the countries in the Persian Gulf region—and they've been very open about it—that "you are fully complicit, and you will pay the price for further war against Iran." They're more vocal about it than before. And so, when you put all these things together, I think it's going to be very intense. It won't be pretty.

## #Danny

Well, Professor Rondi, as we head into the last couple of minutes here, just a comment on what you said about the United States. I think what we're seeing in France, in Europe, is only a taste of what is to come should the scenario play out as you just outlined it. In the United States right now, you have people who once were considered well-off, who thought they were comfortable, who are not comfortable anymore. And that's not even to speak of the vast majority, who live very much at subsistence level, as anybody who knows U.S. economics and economic realities knows.

I mean, we're talking about living paycheck to paycheck, no money for emergencies, no wealth to their name, and, you know, on and on. So an economic depression in those conditions could very well spark exactly what we're seeing in places like France—that kind of protest and unrest. And the United States has a long history, of course, of coming down very hard on those kinds of things and needing to make them a political and military priority, which would then, as you say, make it very difficult to fight a larger-scale war with Iran, especially given the fact that Iran, as you just outlined and as we've covered so much on this show, will respond, has the capability to respond, and could probably continue that response for a lot longer.

And I think this might be the calculation that has been made by Iran as well: they can do it for a lot longer than the U.S. can, just because that's how they've prepared. So it could get very dicey in Iran, to be quite honest, from what I've looked at in terms of all the various targets and discussions that have been bouncing around. When I look at the landscape, I think Iran doesn't have to do that much. It will retaliate hard, but it doesn't have to, you know, set everything ablaze. It just has to hit harder than it did before, and that will cause a major economic calamity. But any final thoughts? And I'm going to put up some super chats, and we'll head out of here.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Yeah, sure. A couple of things. One is, imagine the global economy goes south. What do people think will happen in Latin America? If people worry about illegal immigrants or immigration or whatever one wants to call it, I think the numbers will increase tenfold, twentyfold under those circumstances. Because if things in the United States become desperate, things everywhere else are going to be desperate too. And when things are desperate, people move. And the traditional place to go would be the United States or Europe, even though you could argue that things are not much better there either. But that's where people traditionally would go. They're looking to go somewhere else where things may be better, you know? So you'll have millions of people on the move.

So you have a broken economy. You'll have millions, many millions on the move. And you would probably have unrest in countries across the world, possibly civil wars, regional wars. It can get pretty dystopian, you know? So it's not something that I would like to see. But again, the point that I'm making is that ultimately, all of that unrest and instability and poverty and pain is going to increase pressure on the United States because you're going to see people coming from the south to

North America, going from Africa to Europe, going from Asia to Europe. And even if the Europeans say, "Look, we are broke," people who are desperate are still going to go. They're not going to listen to some EU official or some American official. So it can get pretty bad.

## #Danny

It can get very bad.

## #Mohammad Marandi

But I think the chances of us moving in that general direction are pretty high. Hopefully, the Iranian response will be so decisive that Trump will quickly find an excuse to leave and declare some sort of fake victory and implement the MOU. But that sounds pretty far-fetched to me. So, in any case, we're moving into very dark territory, which is very dangerous for people across the world.

But the point that I want to make is that regardless of what happens, the United States is not going to defeat Iran, and the Iranians are not going to forsake Gaza. They're not going to forsake Lebanon. They're not going to ignore the siege on Yemen, nor are they going to forsake their own rights. In order for the situation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz to normalize, the United States has to fulfill its obligations—the obligations that Trump signed on to. No matter how far-fetched it sounds, that is the only way out of this crisis.

## #Danny

Everyone, you've been listening to Professor Saeed Mohammed Morandi, who put in painstaking effort, not only staying up at this hour but also navigating the technical issues with me from where he is right now in Beijing. Professor Morandi, we'll head out of here together. Everyone, hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show in YouTube's algorithm long after we're gone. All the ways to support this program, from Patreon to Substack and much more, are in the video description. Do join me tomorrow at 12 noon Eastern time with our mutual friend Pepe Escobar as we continue the conversation and follow the developments. These dark times that we are talking about are very real, but we have to talk about them if we're going to be informed and, of course, act accordingly. All right, everybody, hit the like button before you go. I'll see you tomorrow at 12 noon Eastern, October 26th. Until next time, bye-bye.