

# Iran Downs F-18, PUMMELS Gulf States & Israel as US Ground War Looms

Iran has downed yet another US fighter jet, answering Trump's ceasefire with a bold warning: "let the US negotiate with missiles." Waves 79, 80 and 81 have hit Israel and Gulf states hard as US assets continue to take a pummeling now admitted by the New York Times. Danny Haiphong breaks it down. FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: [chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com](https://chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com) Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #trump #israel

## #Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. Hit the like button as you come on—it helps boost the program. Well, let's get started on the latest updates, okay? So we are on waves 79, 80, 81, and 82 of Iran's Operation True Promise 4. And we have to begin, of course, with what happened during wave number 80, which was the downing of the F-18 over Iran. This contradicts, of course, the constant statements and assertions by the United States administration, by CENTCOM, and by Donald Trump, that Iranian air defenses are completely obliterated. The F-18 was downed over the port city of Chabahar, in Iran's southeastern region.

And I just want to pull up a map of where Chabahar is. Okay, this is where Chabahar is—off the Arabian Sea, in Iran's southeasternmost province. And as you can see, Chabahar is right on the coastline, which means the United States does not have air superiority as it claims. It doesn't have the capacity to bring its fighter jets deep into Iranian territory. This actually shows that the longer this war goes on—the longer the United States fires off its Tomahawk missiles and other long-range missiles—the more they run out of these missiles and have to creep closer and closer into Iranian airspace to hit their so-called targets.

But, of course, we know that it's mainly civilians who have been hit the most by the U.S. bombing campaign. Now, in other strikes during these waves, we saw that in Jordan, the Al-Azraq base was hit. U.S. forces and aircraft stationed there were actually targeted—F-15s, A-10s, C-130s. And in Bahrain, the Sheikh Isa Air Base was targeted. In Kuwait—which we'll get to in a minute, because the New York Times just had a major revelation about how devastating Iran's missile strikes have been during this war—the Al-Salam Air Base was also targeted, along with aircraft stationed there.

And the Camp Arifjan in Kuwait was also targeted. Now, a big part of this war has been Iran's coordination with other resistance factions in the region, including Hezbollah and the Iraqi resistance forces. That continued into these waves. Not only was the F-18 downed during these waves, but we saw a massive number of coordinated operations with the resistance factions. The Axis of Resistance conducted over 230 operations between Iran, Hezbollah, and the Iraqi resistance. Hezbollah carried out 87 operations alone, and the Iraqi resistance 23. This is all according to Iranian and Lebanese sources. They coordinated together to hit major targets across Israel, especially Tel Aviv and central Israel.

Operation True Promise 4 continues unabated. The downing of the F-18 indicates that Iran does have air defenses deployed. This was at least the 16th aircraft—though I've seen estimates of up to 20, if we include MQ-9 Reaper drones and other jets, refueling tankers like the KC-135s, and so on. So, about 16 to 20 aircraft have been lost so far in this conflict, along with other targets that were hit. During these waves, targets also included a Patriot Air Defense System in the Sheikh Isa area, a base with a P-8 reconnaissance aircraft, a field depot supporting U.S. operations, MQ-9 Reaper drone airfields, and a satellite communication station in the Al-Salam area. Again, Kuwait ended up being a major target during these latest waves, and this has been a pattern.

Okay, so... the United States is now admitting, through the mainstream media, that there have been major problems dealing with Iran's missile attacks during these waves. I'm just going to pull this up. It's not just the F-18s and F-35s that were targeted by Iranian forces just several days ago, among others. The main bulk of these operations has really been missile and drone attacks on Israel and the Gulf states. These attacks have actually forced U.S. troops—the 30,000 to 50,000 we've heard about—yeah, they're not operational. These troops are working from home, or, shall we say, working in hotels all across the region because the bases have been completely destroyed. This is from the New York Times.

Okay, and I'm going to pull up this quote from the New York Times, which said: Iran has bombed U.S. bases across the Middle East in retaliation for the U.S.-Israeli war, forcing many American troops to relocate to hotels and office spaces throughout the region. This is according to military personnel and American officials. So now much of the land-based military is, in essence, fighting the war while working remotely, with the exception of fighter pilots and crews operating and maintaining warplanes and conducting airstrikes. Now, that activity can also come, of course, from the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln, which, according to Iran, they continue almost daily to target with anti-ship missiles, drones, and other missile firepower, causing it to retreat almost daily.

And there are some estimates—it's hard to know, because sometimes it turns off its transponders and radars. But there are those who believe, and Iran often says, that the Abraham Lincoln is actually, you know, about 700, 800, if not 1,000 kilometers away from the Iranian coastline. That makes it far enough that it can't be directly hit by these missiles, but it also makes its operations increasingly difficult. So if one of these F-18 fighter jets, like the one we saw shot down over

Chabahar, has to travel that far, Iran is definitely aware of this and is able to coordinate its air defense systems with increasing effectiveness. Many of the 13 military bases in the region, according to the New York Times, used by American troops, are uninhabitable. This is directly from the article.

Uninhabitable, with the ones in Kuwait especially suffering perhaps the most damage. They cite that six U.S. personnel were actually killed in a strike at Port Shuaiba that destroyed an Army Tactical Operations Center. Iranian drones and missiles also targeted—and continue to target, according to the latest reports—Ali Al-Salem Air Base, damaging aircraft structures and injuring personnel, and Camp Buehring, damaging maintenance and fuel facilities. We've seen imagery of this over the last 24 hours, these fueling centers being targeted. So the New York Times is admitting what we've been covering here every single day: the F-18 being shot down by Iranian air defense systems ultimately demonstrates that there's no air superiority.

And there are also no air defenses to protect these bases, U.S. assets, and Israel from the constant bombardments coming in successive waves. This is being reported more and more now by the mainstream media. According to officials and sources close to the U.S. military, the Pentagon is actually reconsidering—or considering—diverting Ukrainian military aid to the Middle East. It would be a shift, according to The Washington Post, that highlights the growing trade-offs required to sustain its war with Iran as the conflict depletes the military's critical munitions.

And in this article, and in what I've seen in the Jerusalem Post and others, it's going to take upwards of four to eight years—some say even more—to replenish what's been used in this war. Because early on in the conflict, and even in recent days, we've seen Israeli air defenses and U.S. air defenses working overtime in the Gulf states, for example, trying to knock down one, two, three drone or missile attacks. So it's becoming very untenable for the United States to continue this war. You have U.S. troops huddling inside hotels in places like Bahrain and the UAE. And mind you, this really amounts to the United States using these countries as human shields.

I mean, they're forcing Iran now to target civilian areas when they abandon these bases and move into commercial zones, into these hotels, in order to continue their operations. Again, this is what I mean—what does this signify? It signifies that the United States will do anything it can to maintain this war, even when they're literally forced into retreat. So, the F-18 was downed. The Gulf states and Israel were continuously pummeled. There were blackouts reported in Tel Aviv. There are also reports that Iran was able to successfully strike a facility in the Negev Desert area that produces white phosphorus, which is this horrific chemical weapon that's been used in Palestine and in Lebanon. It's been used by Israel all across the region.

And it has the effect of essentially burning the skin when the munitions release it, and it's been used to terrorize civilian populations for a very long time. So now we're in a situation where Iran, Hezbollah, and the Iraqi resistance are working together to target U.S. and Israeli assets all across the region. That's essentially the summary of what's happening in Operation True Promise 4. Now, how is the United States responding to something like the F-18 being downed and, of course, Iran's

missile and drone attacks continuing? Well, CENTCOM has denied that the F-18 was hit by Iranian air defenses, but they're also denying that any aircraft has been hit or forced to land—downed, as we should really call it. Regardless of whether it crashed or was forced to land, it's been downed.

They've denied all of this. And as they've denied it, of course, we have this continuous ultimatum from Donald Trump. It was pushed from 48 hours to now five days as of yesterday. Over the Strait of Hormuz, Iran has to reopen the strait or it's going to face a massive military attack by the Trump administration, by CENTCOM. According to reports, the United States is seeking a so-called "final blow," with four options for Donald Trump to choose from, as U.S. forces in this looming ground war begin their approach to the Middle East. They're now, I believe, just a day away from reaching the region—from Okinawa, which is in Japan, and from San Diego.

They're going to reach, I think, about 4,400 Marines. They're also talking about a couple thousand more paratroopers. So there's going to be a significant number—though not a huge number—of U.S. troops, at least not huge for what's needed in this kind of war, arriving there by Friday. These are the four options that Donald Trump was given by those close to the Pentagon. Trump could choose to invade or blockade Kharg Island, which exports about 90 percent of Iran's oil, or to invade Abu Musa Island, which helps Iran solidify its control of the Strait of Hormuz. This strategic outpost hosts Iranian bunkers, attack craft that can blow up cargo ships, and radars that monitor movements in the Strait.

He could choose to seize the strategic island of Abu Musa and two smaller islands near the western entrance of the Strait, which are controlled by Iran but also claimed by the UAE. Or he could choose to block and seize ships exporting Iranian oil on the eastern side of the Strait. These are the options that Donald Trump and the U.S. administration are being given by the Pentagon and by U.S. military strategists. Overall, the reaction now is that, despite unfavorable conditions across the region, they're unable to defend themselves from Iran's missile and drone attacks, and unable to defend Israel from those same drone attacks.

The Gulf state's taking a beating. The economy—Brent crude—is up to \$107 per barrel. The conditions are unfavorable. Only about 36% of Americans support this. So yes, perfect conditions for a ground operation and a ground escalation. Well, how would this work out? OK, because when we take the totality of what's going on, we see that now the mainstream media is coming to the conclusion that it's not going to work out well. And this is from CNN: Iran is building up defenses on Kharg Island to protect against a potential U.S. ground attack. So essentially, what CNN reported here is that there are shoulder-fired drones and short-range ballistic missiles.

There are mines laid across the coastline and into the territorial waters that border Kharg Island. There are so many things Iran is potentially doing—they're saying Iran is already doing them—in order to ensure that a maximum level of pain is inflicted on the United States should it decide to try to occupy and invade Iranian land. Now, it gets even worse, okay, because the Speaker of the Parliament in Iran said that Iranian intelligence has information that a country in the region is going

to operate as a potential forward base to launch this ground operation. And many are speculating that it's the UAE, because the UAE has been talking a lot lately.

We've had the ambassador to the UAE write a whole opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal, essentially arguing exactly what the United States, the Pentagon, and Israel have been saying about Iran at this very late stage in the war—nearly a month in. And in this article, of course, it's all the same talking points, right? Iran is this big threat. We need to get rid of its nuclear capabilities, its missiles. We need to end its support for regional players that resist the United States and Israel, while affirming that the UAE is a strong partner of the United States. The UAE also has several islands off its coast and off the Iranian coast. Mind you, these two countries are very close together and essentially make up a key part of the waterway of the Strait of Hormuz.

There are islands that the UAE and Iran have disputed claims over, which could potentially be the area from which the United States launches this disastrous—or attempted disastrous—ground war. And what the Speaker of the Parliament said is that if this were to happen, Iran would respond with ceaseless attacks on this country and essentially make it impossible for the UAE to function, or for any country that participates in this, to function as a state economically, militarily, and of course, politically. And it gets even worse, because an analyst on Iranian TV said that Iran would take the UAE and Bahrain should the U.S. invade, and that they have knowledge of the Iranian military actually training for this scenario.

So the Iranian military is training for a scenario of invading Bahrain and the UAE coastlines, essentially changing the entire calculus of the region. I mean, this would be a complete and utter disaster for the United States. It would force the U.S. into an impossible situation where it would have to decide whether to continue fighting a long war at an escalatory level that just isn't sustainable—especially when you have Donald Trump, on the one hand, deciding between these very bad options, which even Israel has said are not good options for the United States. They're deciding between them, and all of them lead to some kind of major confrontation with Iran.

At the same time, Donald Trump is saying he wants to end this war quickly. According to Axios, Trump has told his advisors privately that he wants the war wrapped up within two weeks from March 25th—so sometime in early to mid-April. These options, however, could ultimately lead to military and political scenarios that make that goal impossible. If massive U.S. forces are killed or injured during even low-level retaliatory responses by Iran—shoulder-fired drones, those kinds of things—that creates both a political and a military crisis. And if the United States tries to bombard Iran by moving closer and closer to Iranian airspace, you could see even more aircraft downed in a single day by Iranian air defense systems.

Now, this is something I said from the very beginning of this war would become a crisis. If Iran can retaliate in a way that makes it difficult for the U.S. military to maintain its asserted superiority, that alone is enough to make the United States—and Israel—it's not even about thinking twice. They're continuing to go, go, go forward in terms of escalation. But it will make them very desperate. It will

make them do things that actually hurt them in the long run. And that's what we've seen. With the so-called closure of the Strait of Hormuz—which isn't really a closure, but with what Iran has done there—it has placed so much economic pressure on the United States that it's now seeking a swift end to the conflict, where there really isn't one.

Unless—and this is the only off-ramp the United States actually has, which shows this war isn't going in favor of the United States or Israel—there's only one way to get a swift end to it: meeting these conditions. And even these conditions don't really bring a swift end to the war. So this is what Iran is saying. Its five-point plan to end the conflict would look something like this: a complete halt to the aggression by the enemy; the establishment of concrete mechanisms to ensure the war is not imposed on Iran again; guaranteed and clearly defined payment of war damages and reparations; the conclusion of the war across all fronts and for all resistance groups throughout the region; and international recognition and guarantees regarding Iran's sovereign right to exercise authority over the Strait of Hormuz.

These are not conditions that have pleased the United States. Even Donald Trump himself went on Truth Social and said, "Oh, Iran is begging us for a deal," but they're not putting out terms that would lead to one from the U.S. side. It's because Iran has demands that are ultimately within its right to assert, but ones the United States is just not willing to meet—especially when it comes to that notion. It's not just about the Strait of Hormuz, right? Because Donald Trump has said maybe he would concede some control over the Strait of Hormuz, since the United States didn't really control it before this, right?

It's just that they have such a stranglehold over the global petro economy—especially when it comes to the petrodollar, Saudi oil, Qatari gas, all of that. They have a stranglehold on it and dictate the terms. And of course, the United States has its own domestic production capacity, which also gives it leverage in the oil and gas markets. But it never really controlled the straits. So when Iran asserted control over the Strait of Hormuz, the United States could do nothing about it. And now we see that Iran is imposing tolls.

There are reports from the Strait of Hormuz that not only is Iran imposing tolls on those using the strait, but they're also asking for very detailed information about who's sailing on these vessels—what they're carrying, who they're connected to. It's all part of a strategy to ensure that U.S.- and Israeli-linked tankers and ships can't pass through the Strait of Hormuz. And that's exactly what's happening. This is what Donald Trump called a "gift." He went to the media and said, this is a gift to the United States.

Iran is making such good progress with us in talks by allowing, they said, tankers to go through. He didn't mention that these aren't U.S.- or Israeli-affiliated tankers. And this was always the plan, right? The plan was to strangle the U.S. economy while giving Iran more leverage internationally and globally—to show that it's not only an authoritative player over the strait and the global economy, but also that it's not an enemy to the rest of the world, that it's simply defending itself. And

ultimately, this strategy is working very well, right? Iran is shipping out and exporting record amounts of oil.

The U.S. even had to lift sanctions temporarily in order to manipulate the markets. You have the United States doing everything it can to manipulate oil markets, while Iran just keeps exporting oil. So again, this is why the mainstream media is now saying Iran has the advantage. Just check The Economist—go Google it. The Economist says Iran has the advantage. These aren't my words. This isn't me promoting Iranian propaganda; these are simply the facts. So this is where we are in the war. It's becoming increasingly clear that the United States is seeking an off-ramp as quickly as it can, while doing something very dangerous.

And this is the dangerous part about what's about to happen, especially as we go into this coming weekend. The United States is seeking an off-ramp, but the Donald Trump administration needs to make it look like a win. So what does that mean? Well, it's going to have to fire off as much power as it can. It's going to have to launch as much firepower as it can at Iran and try some kind of operation that makes it look like the United States has taken the upper hand—when it really hasn't at all. And now the question is, what happens next? Because Iran is certainly going to respond in kind.

It is promising to respond in kind to any attacks on its territory, to any escalation of strikes on the state, on the government, and of course on the people who are paying the ultimate price for this war. We have to remember there are Iranian civilians dying by the thousands in order to defend their sovereignty from this criminal war of aggression. So Iran's going to respond. They're going to retaliate against the regional countries helping the United States conduct any kind of escalatory operation, especially a ground operation. And if it gets to the point where Iran finds it necessary to occupy parts of the UAE or parts of Bahrain, they're going to do it.

You can no longer say, over the course of this war, that Iran is bluffing, because what have we seen? Every time Iran says something, it does it. When it said that if its energy facilities were attacked, it was going to strike regional oil and gas facilities—it did. It cut out 20 percent of Qatar's gas capacity, and Qatar at this moment isn't even producing or able to export gas at all. So it has always followed up with a response. These are just the facts. This is what we can glean from the course of this war, the shape of this war, and how it has gone. So we have a situation now where the United States and Israel are finding themselves increasingly cornered. You have mayors across the Israeli colony crying, tearful, and in panic over what's happening to Israel. There are thousands upon thousands—sometimes thousands in a single day—being reported as injured in these missile attacks.

Iran has targeted, especially with its most powerful missiles—its hypersonic missiles—the Israeli colony, and for good reason from Iran's perspective. Israel has made it known that it is a principal actor, side by side with the United States from the very beginning, from February 28th, when U.S. and Israeli fighter jets conducted massive numbers of standoff strikes to decapitate the leadership of

Iran. Iran has said the Israeli colony is going to bear the brunt of the damage from these attacks all across central Israel, even in the West Bank and the occupied territories of Palestine.

It has fired off and is hitting very precise targets. It's hitting military intelligence, it's hitting military facilities. It's also, of course, hitting very close—two days in a row it has struck the Dimona town, where the nuclear research facility is located. There are reports that it's unclear which facilities were actually hit there, because there were definitely institutions connected to the research and development that occurs at the Dimona nuclear site that are not being reported. And of course, censorship is at an all-time high. Here on YouTube, you can't even publish.

That's why I didn't publish the video of the downing of the F-18. I haven't published any missile strikes or anything like that here, because lately I've seen the suppression go up. There are more penalties being leveled against videos showing these things. And we see that Planet Labs has censored its satellite imagery. Even in articles like the one I showed you from The New York Times, they're not publishing the imagery of this. It's very few and far between—they publish old satellite imagery that's already been making the rounds for many weeks now. But new imagery of these attacks isn't coming out. Israeli and Gulf state media are playing their part.

And of course, U.S. media is playing their part to hide it—even Fox News and other outlets, MSNBC, etc.—on the ground in places like Tel Aviv, they haven't been able to hide it. Sometimes the missiles go off right behind them; they're falling, and no air defense interceptors are able to take them down. So what does all this mean, everybody? What does all this mean? The entirety of the landscape—what does the full picture of this war really mean for the future of the world? Because we can start getting into this kind of analysis as we see the shape of it become very, very clear. Okay, well, what it means is that the United States is essentially gambling everything on Iran right now.

Forget China. Forget Russia. You see, Russia is going to have to move weaponry, munitions, and air defense systems, etc., away from the Ukraine front. That's only going to make things harder for Ukraine, as if they weren't already hard enough. That conflict is all but sewn up—it's really just a matter of time until Russia completes its war of attrition in the direction of victory. And China—forget about it. Donald Trump has had to postpone his visit to China until May now because China isn't going to host. They say it's because the United States can't—well, Donald Trump is too distracted by the war in Iran.

That, of course, is a factor. But China is not going to host Donald Trump when it's in an active war with Iran. We'll have to see what happens in May, because it all depends on how this war concludes. If this war concludes with the United States—or at least if this iteration of the war concludes with the United States simply saying it's going to do a ceasefire, it's going to stop hitting Iran—well, there's no guarantee that it won't happen again. It's really about whether Iran can actually achieve its objectives, especially the international guarantees and the mechanisms that could make that possible, i.e., the U.S. leaving the Middle East in a significant, if not full, way after this kinetic phase of the war is concluded. Then we might see China consider a meeting.

But if it's just a pause, it's hard to see that meeting actually taking place, even in May. And I think another big factor we have to watch out for here is that even if the United States does what it says it's going to do—it's looking at the losses, it's looking at the damages, it's looking at the future of the global economy in a complete shipwreck situation. And even if it does what it's going to do—the big bang, the final blow, conducting as many airstrikes, as many strikes from the air as it can while the U.S. Marines and paratroopers, etc., carry out some limited operation on Iranian territory—even if that occurs, and that leads to the Trump administration saying, “Well, we're going to stop firing. We're going to stop.”

We won. There's no guarantee that Iran is going to stop. Actually, there's no guarantee that Israel is going to stop. And I think that's a really big element to watch here, because Benjamin Netanyahu has just given instructions to his defense ministry, which then passed those instructions to the Israeli occupation forces to ensure that Iran's weapons and missile capabilities are destroyed within the next 48 hours—because Donald Trump could abruptly stop. It's hard to know whether there's anything to these kinds of reports, whether they come from Netanyahu or from sources within the Israeli regime itself. Regardless of where they come from, it's hard to ever trust anything the Israeli regime says.

But it indicates that these reports are getting out—this kind of messaging that Israel wants the general public around the world to hear. It's obvious there's panic and concern there, and that's very real. It's been that way since Hezbollah entered the war, because when Hezbollah entered, it showed this wasn't going to be a two-to-four-day operation like they thought it would be. And Israel has very limited everything, right? It has limited military capabilities to strike Iran for many weeks, and it also has limited capabilities to defend itself from the air.

So with these air defenses—you know, Arrow 3, Iron Dome, all of these Patriot systems, THAAD—they're all running out. So Israel is very desperate to keep hitting as much as it can, because that's its overall goal. At this point, none of them—Israel, the United States—they're not looking at regime change anymore. That's over. You have Iranians surrounding their energy facilities in rallies to protect their energy, to protect their infrastructure, which means—what does that mean, everybody? That means the Iranian people are not just out on the streets saying, “Stop bombing us,” but they're putting their bodies on the line. We see long lines, you know, queues of Iranian men waiting to join the military.

And you have the Iranian military itself, through Tasnim News. They published an image—which I won't show here because of censorship—but it showed the Iranian coast and a barrel of oil on the Strait of Hormuz. There was also a cartoon of an American soldier's coffin blocking the oil. And the caption basically said, “Come closer.” So this is Iran speaking to the U.S. military: come closer. That's the level of confidence Iran is operating with right now. And there's no guarantee—Iran has said this isn't going to stop just because the United States stops firing. And there's no guarantee Israel will stop either.

So that's something we have to watch out for in the coming days and weeks, because Iran has objectives now. Iran has said it's no longer on the defensive—it's on the offensive. And really, this is the broader picture of the world right now: the United States is actually in retreat and on the defensive. How many years have I been saying on this show that the U.S. empire is in a state of crisis, contraction, and decline? It's not about this myth or image people have in their heads when they think of collapse. They imagine an explosion, everything falling down, Rome crashing in a day. But that's not what happens. That's not what happens.

What we see are all the signs that the U.S. empire is in a state of collapse, and that it's actually in the final stage of its life. That's why it's taking the actions it's taking now—to buy itself more time, to maintain its hegemony, and potentially expand it so that this decline doesn't happen, or at least doesn't happen so rapidly. And it's in such a fashion that leads to the rise of alternatives, right? If you can't win, then you destroy the whole board. I've been saying this on this program, with friends like Brian Berletic, from the very beginning: this is about destroying the whole board. It's not about chess, it's not about checkers, it's not about any kind of strategy. No—it's about destroying the board so the U.S. is the only one left on it. And that's becoming increasingly, if not entirely, impossible, because China and Russia are never going to disappear.

## **#Danny**

But it might actually become stronger out of this. And that's the mainstream media—again, don't persecute me here, for those watching. This is the mainstream media saying it. Go look it up; actually type those words into Google, or whatever search engine you use. You know, that's what many are saying in the mainstream: that Iran is becoming stronger out of this. So this war has actually strengthened the multipolar world. It's strengthened China, for sure. This energy market business—Donald Trump keeps saying, "Oh, China's energy markets rely on the Strait of Hormuz." China's been trading with Iran. China's fine.

China is strong—it's not really going to experience the disruptions. And China has a good negotiating position with Iran as a friend, to the point where if it needs gas or other resources from other countries, it can ask Iran to help it out. Now, it's also going to understand and not fight with Iran if, for example, Qatari gas and other things can't pass through the Strait of Hormuz. It will rely on its reserves for a period of time until things get back to a stable rate. But it's not just about dipping into those reserves, because this is what a lot of people don't pay attention to when talking about energy and the global situation.

It's not just that China has oil reserves they've been stocking up for years and can now rely on for quite a long time—six months, a year or more—if everything were to collapse, which it really hasn't. But if it all did collapse and the trade strait actually had to be closed in a wartime situation, China could go six months to a year using those reserves just for its own oil production needs. But China is also the world leader in renewable energy consumption, production, and export. So what that means is those markets are going to boom—solar energy, wind energy, hydrogen energy, and of course

electric vehicles and high-speed trains. All of that is going to boom in China, as it already has for many, many years.

And they're just going to keep shifting in that direction. They'll also provide it to the world at a higher rate for those countries that want to move that way and lessen their reliance on oil and crude and that kind of thing. So China is not in a major crisis over this war. And whether it's the Atlantic Council or other inside sources saying that Russia and China are becoming stronger from this—well, they are. All the attention is off the Ukraine conflict. Russia can move in that war in a way that lets it focus on itself, bide its time, and develop its own strengths.

China is in a very unique position where the entire world is watching the United States essentially commit economic suicide—and even homicide—on itself and on the world. It's destroying everything. It's risking the entire global economy, the entire foundation of its own economic hegemony—the dollar—for a war of aggression on Iran and, of course, for short-term profits for the gas and oil companies. That demonstrates to the world that China is a more reliable partner. So everything China has been doing with the Global South, with all countries of the world—these integration projects and all of it—expect that to accelerate.

And also expect China and Russia to be even more ready for a conflict with the United States, should the U.S. go down this disastrous path in the years to come. Expect that China, through providing these satellite radars and so on to Iran, now understands the U.S. way of war even more than it ever has before. Expect the same from Russia, because Russia's been developing similar technology, as well as reports that it's now shipping drones, food aid, and other supplies to Iran. You better believe that Russia has deep knowledge now of how the United States fights a war—in 2026, in its current condition.

And they're likely not impressed by what they've seen, because whatever Iran is doing to fight back and push against the U.S. and Israeli war machine, a similar kind of conflict against Russia and China would be far more disastrous. China and Russia have much more than Iran in terms of air defenses and ballistic missiles, but they also have air power and naval power to a significant degree—especially China with naval power and Russia with air power. These two countries have far greater capabilities and are geographically positioned to threaten U.S. assets in this part of the world—in Eastern Europe, on the Eurasian flank of Russia, and in the Asia-Pacific with China. It would be even worse, right?

Forget Taiwan—forget about it. China knows now what it needs to do to ensure that Taiwan is not the subject of some kind of military operation by the United States. The United States has shown all of its cards, and in the coming days it might show even more—what it can do in an amphibious assault, what it can do in a ground operation. And it's likely we're going to see that it's limited, right? That this is going to be a very ugly part of the war. It's going to lead to higher single-digit casualties than we've seen, or at least that we've seen reported by CENTCOM. This is the direction, and China and Russia are taking deep note of it.

Another big implication of this—and it's not going to change, just mark it down—is that we are never going to say the resistance in the region is weak, that the resistance in the region isn't moving forward in achieving its objectives: sovereignty, expelling the Israeli colony, and so on. You don't see Hezbollah, you don't see the Iraqi resistance, you don't see Yemen, you don't see any of these forces crying or panicking—none of that. On the Israeli side, you do. Whether that's because their mental health is going completely out of control due to the crisis they're facing, or whether we should take their word for it and say, well, this is very real.

This is very real. The Israeli colony's future is not long for this world. But regardless of that, we can see that if the Iraqi resistance is conducting, on average, nearly an operation an hour; if Hezbollah is sometimes carrying out over a hundred operations in a single day—firing rockets and ballistic missiles that many believed they didn't even have into Israel—if they're conducting ground operations, hitting Merkava tank after Merkava tank, destroying Israeli military assets, trying to invade Lebanon, then that means the resistance is not weak. These are some of the lessons we're going to continue to learn from this war: the resistance is not weak.

The multipolar world is actually moving forward, and it's likely to be strengthened by this war. The United States is on the back foot. Economically, the level of contraction that's possible from this war is astronomical. And even if it doesn't lead—right—even if in the next three or four weeks we see high oil prices continue and then maybe drop off a bit due to market manipulation, that doesn't tell the whole story economically. Because we know what has happened to the United States over the decades, and that is economic contraction.

Its share of the global economy is much less than during World War II. I believe it makes up less than a fourth of the world economy now, when it was nearly half after World War II. So the share of the U.S. economy in the world, in terms of its predominance over the markets, has shrunk—and that's going to continue. If that continues, it means the U.S. dollar, regardless of its world reserve currency status, is going to keep declining. Trust in the United States economy is going to be at an all-time low. And even countries that have been severely hit by Iran's response in the Gulf—all countries now, regardless of their allegiance, whether they lean more toward China or Russia, or whether they are completely under the dominion of the United States as puppet states—are feeling that shift.

Now they're all going to have to think twice about whether U.S. protection—quote unquote, we should really say U.S. occupation and U.S. dominance—is actually beneficial for them. We might see those states singing a very different tune in the coming days and weeks, after the full scope of the damage is assessed truthfully. Right now, what's happening is that the Gulf states have a gun to their head—their leaders do. Look at the way the UAE is acting: literally given a script. The ambassador to the U.S. from the UAE was handed a script, and he had to read it verbatim to the Wall Street Journal. Then they typed up a little article for him saying, "Iran bad, Iran bad, Iran bad," because the UAE has to do what the master says.

And this is true for all the Gulf states. Saudi Arabia said, "We want to join the war." You heard that a couple of days ago, or maybe just yesterday. You don't hear that so much now. What are they going to do? They're literally just following U.S. orders. Even though they've seen what happened to the Prince Sultan Air Base, they know that both Iran and Yemen have the capability to completely obliterate their entire oil industry—not just through the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, but also through what's coming. Iran has just promised this: the closure of the Bab al-Mandeb Strait. They've said it will be closed if there's an invasion or an attack.

And Ansar Allah is going to come to their aid to help them do this, because they already did it. For over a year—from November 2023 onward—they closed it. And they shut down the Eilat port in Israel. It's closed because of that activity alone. So that could happen again. Factor that in with the assertion of dominance over the Strait of Hormuz, and you have a complete stranglehold by the axis of resistance over the economic waterways that are so critical and crucial not just to energy trade, but to the entire global economy.

So these are the lessons, and these are the developments that we're going to have to watch out for. They can only be gleaned from actual analysis rather than simply reading the headlines and trying to understand what's happening on the battlefield. I begin with this and end with this because this is how we put together the pieces of history. And ultimately, the biggest lesson out of all of this—the biggest one that no other channel will tell you, no other geopolitics channel will really tell you this—I have to say, none.

But the real big lesson here is that you have a worldwide struggle continuing—the struggle against U.S. empire, U.S. imperialism—versus the forces of resistance seeking self-determination, independence, true independence, and of course economic independence and development projects suited to their way of life, to their material conditions on the ground. That is the shape of the global struggle. It always has been, but now we're seeing it take a form we've never really seen before, because Iran has been forced not only to build capabilities but to demonstrate them on the world stage, which hasn't really been... um, you know, uh, I don't think we've seen a country develop these kinds of capabilities from the position it's in, right?

Uh, call Iran an oppressed country—a proud country—but one that has been sanctioned to an attempted death. It has been, you know, kept in a state of relative underdevelopment, while impressively developing its economy in a very self-reliant way, making advances in education, technology, and of course the military field. But nonetheless, we haven't seen a country under this amount of pressure that's considered a weaker state. It doesn't have economic predominance. It doesn't have a currency with world reserve status. It doesn't have a massive air force or any of that. But we haven't seen a country have to build and demonstrate capabilities against the empire.

Really, in history—because remember, the Soviet Union never actually fought a direct war or confrontation with the United States. It was always a Cold War, and it went immediately nuclear. That's why the United States did what it always does: it tried to destroy any country that would build

a type of society likely to ally with the Soviet Union directly, to develop itself, right? So that's all across Asia, Latin America, Africa. That's what the U.S. empire did during the Cold War, when it had far more power in the world and was, you know, a more stable hegemon, so to speak. And that's ultimately why we didn't see the Soviet Union have to demonstrate its capabilities after World War II, right?

It did during World War II. It liberated the world from fascism, but we didn't have to see it use those weapons to the degree that we now see Russia actually using on the battlefield. And unfortunately, even Ukraine didn't have to do it to a huge degree. So, um, we're seeing Iran being forced to do it, and now we're learning what that looks like. And it looks like, yeah, Iran had to take hits—like all countries that have to face down what the U.S. empire has left at its disposal—which is a massively bloated military budget that's been used to produce limited munitions, but with a heavy emphasis on aerial power and really what I call the cowardly way of war: air power that can strike at long distances. And that leads to heavy losses—heavy losses in terms of civilian casualties.

But in terms of the military side, it doesn't really do very much. And Iran and the Iranian people have said—just like the people of Palestine and Gaza said during Al-Aqsa Flood, just like the people of Lebanon when Hezbollah got into this war again after many iterations over the decades, just like Yemen, right? They all took a risk. They said, we're going to put our bodies on the line to defend people, to defend sovereignty, and that means we're going to take hits, right? The Yemeni people had to suffer from the March 2025 bombing campaign. They've had to suffer for more than a decade from the Saudi-U.S.-UAE terror campaign and war, which was a huge humanitarian catastrophe.

The people of Gaza, of course—we all know how much they've suffered for the sacrifice of the resistance, to elevate that struggle to a new level during Al-Aqsa Flood. And, of course, the people of Lebanon—we cannot forget the people who have had to suffer to such a huge degree in order to continue trying to assert their sovereignty against this attempt by the United States to establish a puppet regime there for the Israeli colony. That was the calculation. And Iran made a similar calculation, just with far greater resources than any of those others. They said, yes, we are going to ensure that our sovereignty is protected and that we do not submit to threats or aggression.

And that will be an enduring lesson for the entire world—of what the global situation looks like when countries are facing subordination or being attacked. This will be a huge lesson. People are going to take note, and they're going to attempt to build a similar model. Now, others might say, well, any people shouldn't emulate Iran because of the nuclear question. And indeed, many who watch this program say that states under fire should develop nuclear weapons to ensure that invasions like this do not happen. That's not always going to be possible, first of all, for a lot of countries in the world—especially those that might not have the economic, technical, or developmental capacity to do that at this time.

And you have Russia and China, who want to see the world not move in a nuclear proliferation direction. Ultimately, most of the world does not want nuclear weapons in the hands of everyone

because—well, when you have nuclear-armed states like the U.S. and Israel willing to use them, that means you have to be willing to use them as well. So, I think the ultimate lesson we're going to take away from this is that we need a world situation that's far more favorable, united, and connected on a common basis of solving humanity's problems—which will then create the impetus, right? The impetus for a stronger level of defense.

But that means countries, systems, and states around the world are going to have to either, one—if they're, let's say, on the oligarch or elite side—see their self-interest as being greater than, let's say, the interest of their masters, right? More likely, what we're going to see are revolutions all around the world that create governance structures allowing for this level of cooperation. That's a more long-term project, and it's one that's going to continue, right? Because I've had analysts like Scott Ritter and others on this show say, yeah, regime change may come in the Gulf. Regime change may come in countries that bow at the feet of the United States and pay the ultimate price for it—and ultimately create conditions for their own demise, which is possible, right?

Because we know that the people in Bahrain—especially ethnic minorities in countries like that, in the UAE—we know the level of catastrophe that people in these countries have to live through even when there's no war. And we know that in places like Jordan and Bahrain, we've seen people cheering and clapping when Iran is striking targets in those countries. So, you know, I've had people close to me ask, "Danny, if Iran has to go occupy the coast of Bahrain or the UAE, cut their lights, hit their water desalination plants, all that stuff—doesn't that just mean the citizens have to pay the price?" It could indeed mean that.

Civilians—yeah, it could mean that. But ultimately, what it means is that we all have a responsibility, especially Americans and Westerners, to bring this war to a just end so that doesn't have to happen, and so that something as cataclysmic and catastrophic as this war has been to the world situation—economically in particular, but also to people's lives—can finally stop. Ultimately, what matters most is the Iranians and others—Lebanese, etc.—who have had to die needlessly and ceaselessly, inhumanely, through war crimes, in a genocidal, war-criminal fashion. That's what really matters: stopping that. Because only when that stops can we actually build a new world. This is the weight and the burden, right?

This isn't the white man's burden anymore in the U.S. This is the imperial burden that every person in the United States really has to cope with—whether they ignore it, don't know anything about it, or, like many of you who watch this show, are actively considering it. So that's where we're at. That's the burden—the actual burden—that Americans and Westerners face. I just want to thank all of you for tuning in today. I know we're doing daily updates. I want to thank everyone who gave memberships, and thank all of you who became members. Thank you to Zacchaeus for that, Maria for your membership, Reg for your membership. Thank you, Sparky, and thank you, Keir Brown. Thanks for all your hard work, Danny Haiphong.

You've been a valuable resource to independence. This entire saga—well done. I appreciate that, I really do. I do my best to make sure you not only get daily updates, but that we're not just getting the information we need—truthfully, that we're getting the analysis we need, that we're getting an understanding of the whole picture so we can come out of this ready to build something different. That's really the ultimate goal here. So if you appreciate this work, hit the like button—all 9,000 of you, if you haven't yet, please do. Just go and hit the like button. It's completely free, and it helps boost the show once it's over. It tells YouTube, "Wow, people really want to see this."

They really like it, so let's show it to more new people. And that actually plays a role. If you really care about the information that comes out of a program like this, hitting the like button just tells these very stringent YouTube algorithms, "We really like that show. People like that show, so we should like it too—and we'll make more money out of it," is essentially what they say. But ultimately, if we can get more people watching, that's what really counts. And then, of course, you can go to the description—Patreon, Substack, and so much more—where you can find ways to support this show. You can become a paid member, which really helps out, or you can become a free member. All of you can become free members if you can't become paid members, because you'll still get all the updates.

And of course, with censorship, you never know what's going to happen. In the description below, you can also subscribe on Rumble, in case I have to go over there more often because of censorship. I don't know—I don't know what this is going to do. And especially if there's a ground war, you never know. So, without further ado, everybody, thank you for all your support. I'll be back tomorrow. I believe Pepe Escobar is going to come on with me at the same time tomorrow for my last day traveling. I'll be back in my usual location at different times—not at this ungodly hour that I'm streaming from now—but more around the general times I usually stream, in the middle of the afternoon Eastern Time. Without further ado, tomorrow, same time, March 27th, 11 a.m.—I almost said 8 a.m., but it's 11 a.m. Eastern Time, 4 p.m. Central European Time. Pepe Escobar.