

Pepe Escobar: Trump & Israel STRIKE Iran? This War BOMBSHELL Changes EVERYTHING

Pepe Escobar discusses how Iran and the multipolar world have dropped immense bombshells on US-Israeli efforts to destroy them as reports of new strikes on Tehran are intensifying. In the Western Hemisphere, Brazil has shocked the world to re-elect Lula da Silva and the empire is raging. Pepe on Telegram: <https://t.me/rocknrollgeopolitics> Pepe on X: <https://x.com/RealPepeEscobar> Transition Protocol: <https://www.youtube.com/@UCewRbK22LRnNi6N3EcGjbow> / Pepe's latest article: <https://geopoliticsprime.substack.com/p/brazilians-defeat-the-mother-of-all> 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/spiritofho> #iran #iranwar #trump #israel

#Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. Danny Haiphong here. As you can see, I am joined by geopolitical analyst and independent journalist Pepe Escobar to go over the latest developments. So, Pepe, we often talk about how all hell is breaking loose. Well, I feel like right now we are in the middle of a psyop when it comes to the Middle East. Yeah, an incredibly tense time. There have been multiple reports, including yesterday—none of these have been confirmed yet—that a U.S. Air Force jet struck a missile launcher in Iran and Syria. But the real news, Pepe, in the Middle East right now is that CENTCOM says it can get ready to strike within 96 hours of an order from Trump. And this comes as, like we were talking about before the show, the Mecca Alliance, the Mecca Pact—Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan—have all made their way to Tehran to speak to Iran on a variety of different matters, including Yemen.

And of course, although it wasn't stated, the war itself against Iran. Israel is having a lot of trouble right now deciding whether to strike before tomorrow's elections. It seems like the internal conflict in Israel is preventing Netanyahu from doing so just yet, as Donald Trump has issued a second statement begging Israelis to vote for his coalition and to bring Netanyahu back. But yesterday, in another part of the world very dear to you, Pepe, Lula da Silva won the runoff election in a manner that was surprising to most, given the results of the first round. But Lula, as a champion of BRICS

and the multipolar world, and of course as a very important figure in Brazil itself, is now re-elected. So, Pepe, it's a whirlwind in the multipolar world. Wherever you'd like to begin, what are your reactions to these developments?

#Pepe Escobar

Brazil, Brazil. Hi, everybody. Yes, it's before midnight in Thailand, so I'm still in today. I'm not in tomorrow yet. I didn't sleep last night, for obvious reasons, because I was waiting. It was early morning in Asia during the vote count in Brazil, and until the last minute, this was nail-biting stuff. Many of us had a really bad feeling that, well, the Americans already knew the results. DARPA favorite Polymarket was giving Bolsonaro an 82% chance of winning, and they got it right in the first round. So obviously they know this because, after all, they are deep into everything in terms of electronic interference. But then, of course, we had the mother of all comebacks. Danny, do you have my column? I sent it to you. It was published a few minutes ago.

#Danny

Sure, yeah. Let me pull that up. Do you have it? Yeah, I can pull it up.

#Pepe Escobar

Thank you. If you go to my X account, the link is there. If you go to my Telegram account, the link is there as well.

#Danny

I'll put it in the description.

#Pepe Escobar

It's something you won't read anywhere else because it's from the point of view of a global nomad—you know who I am—but I also happen to be a Brazilian. So you get stuff that these so-called Brazilianists, or people who pose as experts on Brazil, will never have. So I think this can be very, very helpful for all of you, wherever you are, to understand the mechanics, to understand how this was something really—wow—off the charts, including how the Brazilians managed to beat Meta at their own game. This is something that hasn't happened yet anywhere in the world. And you're going to see how a very, very simple guy...

He was elected as a congressman from the Workers' Party in these elections. He's the son of a domestic worker and a disabled father, from a lower-middle-class family. He paid for his law degree by working on a bus. And this guy, obviously, knows social networks very, very well. So in this three-week interval between the first round and the second round, he devised something that he called

Lula's Army, which was essentially a digital infantry. And this WhatsApp channel, which in the beginning had 50,000 subscribers—which is relatively normal everywhere—reached 10 million in less than three weeks. This is one of the key factors that won Lula the election.

Because these very, very young, internet-savvy people were convincing people who had abstained in the first round and people who had cast invalid votes in the first round to go to the polling stations in the second round: "Do everything in your power to go there and vote." So that, to a large extent, helps explain why Lula had 10 million more votes in the second round compared to the first one. So it was a mix of popular mobilization and, of course, this digital infantry led by this "general," now a congressman. Lula started calling this guy "my general." And this is something that has not happened anywhere on the planet. Quite amazing.

And, of course, in terms of comeback kid—or actually, comeback grandpa—stories, Lula's is very, very hard to beat. Everybody thought that after the first round he was dead. And until the last minute, I was talking to my friends in São Paulo. That's my previous hometown. That's where I was born. So I still have good connections in São Paulo. And the angst was all over the place. But some of them were saying, "Look, don't believe what the Americans are telling you. You should see what's happening in the streets here." And it's true, because there was total popular mobilization in the big, big urban centers like São Paulo and Rio. And São Paulo used to vote against Lula. Rio always votes against Lula.

There was popular mobilization in the two biggest cities of Brazil, but also all over the country, including people who would take day-long boat trips in the Amazon so they could get to their polling station in their assigned city to vote. This was incredible. And it happened in only three weeks. So this explains, of course, a lot of what happened. And at the last minute, we had extra drama on top of it. This was the last-minute cliffhanger. Bolsonaro-linked mayors, or outright Bolsonarists, were basically making buses disappear, especially in the big cities and on the peripheries of big cities. And obviously, people who depend on public transportation couldn't even get to their polling stations.

So obviously, Lula's campaign said, "Look, we have to do something about this. We need an extension of the voting hours." Voting was supposed to finish at 5 p.m. Brazilian time. A two-hour extension, until 7 p.m., would be quite normal. And the Bolsonarists also, for different reasons, requested an extension of the voting hours. So who should approve that, technically and legally? The supreme electoral body in Brazil. But, of course, nothing happened. They were dragging their feet. And the guy who should authorize that, the president of the Supreme Electoral Court, is also one of the Supreme Court justices appointed by Bolsonaro. He was dragging his feet. So another Supreme Court justice, this one appointed by Lula, took it upon himself to do something.

So at the last minute—in fact, around 5 p.m., or one minute past 5 p.m.—the Supreme Court in Brazil ordered two more hours of polling, which in the end didn't affect the result, because now we have the numbers. We had only 35,000 people voting during these two extra hours, and the difference between Lula and Bolsonaro is over 4 million votes. And this explains why, as early as last

night, Brazilian time, this Bolsonaro-appointed Supreme Court justice recognized that there were no grounds to invalidate the election. Everything was legal, and that's it. Even though—and this is also very, very predictable—the Bolsonaro gang, through Flávio Bolsonaro himself, were calling for the annulment of the elections last night in an absolutely stupid speech: a mix of resentment, anger, and impotence.

And this idiot didn't even check with his own campaign, because his own campaign had also requested two extra hours of polling. So, as things stand now, this is only the beginning. Once again, all hell will continue to break loose in Brazil before Lula comes to power in January. It's going to be very difficult for him to govern. The Senate is totally controlled by the extreme right. And in Congress, the extreme right has a majority. And if they unite with the center-leaning parties, they have an even larger majority. So it's going to be very hard.

But, of course, this means that the Bolsonaroist gang and the governors they managed to elect all over Brazil, plus, of course, the most important part—the Trump administration and the full force of the American government, united with the techno-feudalists—will never give up. They won't give up. They lost this battle, but this is very, very long-term. And they will do everything to make Brazil ungovernable for Lula. So, you know, the whole thing hasn't even started yet. But, of course, Lula has now learned a lot from these elections. Can you believe that, for the first time in his life, he started carrying a smartphone? An iPhone, in fact, and obviously with WhatsApp on it, right? Because the new generation explained to him the power of social networks.

And to a great extent, the power of social networks, the way they used them, helped to elect him. And of course, it was fascinating to see Meta beaten at their own game by young Brazilians, in fact. Meta was deeply involved in basically blocking every possibility for Lula to increase his voter base. So techno-feudalism was deeply implicated in these elections. So you can imagine what this means. Brazil is one of the founding members of BRICS. Lula is one of the founding members of BRICS and one of the most respected Global South leaders anywhere on the planet—not only in the Global South, but in the Global North as well. The Europeans, you know, when Lula arrives in Europe, everybody respects him. So, everywhere, of course, apart from the Trump universe.

The Democrats in the US, obviously, they fall apart when they see Lula. So this alliance between MAGA and the techno-feudalists will continue to be extremely powerful because, for them, it's inadmissible. They just lost the icing on the cake. So they'll do anything in their power. The CIA and all the deep state's ramifications in Brazil are very, very powerful. The Zionist lobby is immensely powerful in Brazil as well. Then there's transnational capital. Lula managed to win against all this, which is what I call the mother of all hybrid wars. So this was the mother of all hybrid wars because they deployed everything to make sure they would get Brazil.

And it escaped them. So they got Venezuela because it was too easy. It was a matter of bribing a few people. They lost Iran. So, you know, what was plan C? If we get Brazil, we get everything, because Brazil has everything we need, including the second-largest reserves of rare earths on the

whole planet. It's all there: water, oil, gas, markets. It's a big agricultural power. Brazil, as an agricultural power, will surpass the United States this year. By the end of this year, Brazil will be the number one agricultural power on the planet. So they have everything that the empire, needing Lebensraum—to quote a few guys from a few decades ago—needs.

So, you know, they will never give up. And, of course, the clan, the dynasty, the Bolsonarista criminal gang survives—badly bruised, but it survives. It's still very, very strong in the Senate and Congress. So this is just the beginning. This was just the first battle. It's going to be very complicated. So, for the moment, the majority of the Brazilian population is celebrating like this was the Battle of Stalingrad, one of the greatest comebacks in modern history. But wow, get ready for what's ahead. But the lesson from Brazil for the Global South as a whole is that it's possible.

If you have popular mobilization, if you have people thinking about sovereignty, and if you have people actually in the streets week after week after week, like in this picture that you're showing of Avenida Paulista, which is the São Paulo equivalent of Fifth Avenue, then it's possible. And Lula supporters are already calling for an enormous demonstration this coming Saturday to keep the ball rolling, so people don't forget that they have to be mobilized 24/7 from now on, because there will be attacks coming from all over the place, especially from the empire. But Brazil proved to the whole planet that it's possible, against all odds.

Really, until the last minute, you know, the best-informed people I was in touch with in São Paulo were saying, "Look, it's going to be very tough, but you should see how people are mobilized. We've never seen anything like this before." And it's true. You know, Paulista Avenue had one million people in the streets virtually every three or four days. And last Saturday in Copacabana, there were two million people on Copacabana Beach. Wow. You know, that kind of stuff. When you see that, and when you see how people were breaking their backs to travel all over a continent-sized country so they would be able to be there and actually vote, you see that this is possible. So this is the great example for the whole Global South. You know, it's possible.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. And you said, you know, they did it against all odds. That seems to be a theme right now globally, Pepe. You know, I know you wanted to also talk about the Mecca pact. We'll get there in the second half. But I feel like that's a theme right now. I feel like the empire definitely thought they had this one in the bag, especially after the first round. I think they thought it could be done electorally, but that doesn't seem to be the case. And also, this is a big win for China, too, because Brazil's largest trading partner is China. And as you said, this rare earth minerals question is a big one. The United States really wants them because they do not want to be reliant upon China or for China to have that kind of leverage politically and economically when it comes to the U.S.'s own needs for them. But yeah, any other thoughts that you have in reaction to this, especially in terms of the implications for the multipolar world?

#Pepe Escobar

To add to what you were saying, I was checking articles by my friends at Guancha in Shanghai. I'll be meeting with them next week. I'm going to Shanghai later this week, in fact. And one of the articles was essentially emphasizing that Lula is an old friend of China. And this, in China, means the world. When they say that you are an old friend of China, trust is total, and they will support you to death. They'll be loyal in their support for you. And apart from everything else, the personal chemistry between Lula and President Xi Jinping is excellent. And, of course, this is very, very important: next year, the BRICS summit is going to be in China.

And Lula will go. He's going to be one of the stars of the BRICS summit next year. And, of course, Brazil and China together will keep working towards, you know, the key point of everything that BRICS is doing: increasing trade in bilateral currencies and bypassing the U.S. dollar. That's the way to go. So China is obviously very, very important. China is Brazil's number one trading partner, and this trade will only tend to keep growing. So the Chinese look at Brazil, and Chinese investments in Brazil are absolutely crucial, even if they are not formally part of the Belt and Road Initiative, the New Silk Road. They're crucial in the long term.

And that will include the famous bi-oceanic railway, which will link the eastern coast of Brazil with the Mato Grosso Pantanal region and the western part of South America, all the way to the port of Chancay in Peru, where everything goes via the Southern Pacific Maritime Silk Road all the way to Shanghai and other Chinese ports. So this symbiosis between China and Brazil will be closer and closer because it starts already at the top. Very, very important. So, you know, with these multiple defeats for the Trump administration, for MAGA, and for the Donroe Doctrine, expect the other side to be really, really pissed. They already are. By the way, no word from the White House so far. And, of course, no word from the Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires, the Argentine vassal. Nothing. So it's going to be tough.

There are already rumblings from Donald Trump Jr., El Gusano, Marco Rubio, etc., that this is going to be tough. And they're coming after Brazil when Lula is back in power in January. But it's okay. Now, not only are Lula and the people around him aware and prepared, but the Brazilian population knows the stakes as well. So it's going to be very, very tough. And, of course, on a more personal note, the last time I actually saw Lula was during BRICS last year in Rio. He was not at the peak of his powers. And now it's a completely different story. It's like he has, you know, that spark that he used to have when he was still a trade union leader and a young politician.

Wow, the guy at 80—he's going to be 81 in a few days—got the spark back. And the great thing is that this was helped by the young generation. A lot of people around him who started to get very close to him, especially during those three weeks between the first and second rounds, are in their 20s or 30s. So this is it, the future. And they see that, okay, we need to take care of grandpa. And if

grandpa needs us, we have to explain to him how the whole thing works now, on the ground, in the streets. And it made an enormous difference compared to the non-campaign of the Workers' Party before the first round.

They took it for granted that Lula would win because he is the government. No, it doesn't work like that. And he was talking about the past. Then he started to talk about the future. He started to talk about the present—all the enormous problems in Brazil, the cost of living, salaries, etc.—and propose stuff for the future. He started to get this kind of input from the younger generations, not from the older generations enthroned in the machinery of the Workers' Party. So the fact that all that happened in the space of only three weeks and generated 10 million votes is, in itself, something that's going to be studied in every political science course for generations.

#Danny

Yeah, well, Pepe, also with regard to this victory, under Lula, despite big challenges inside the government, there were improvements made within society. And now, Donald Trump was talking about Cuba in the last week or so, talking about a stopover after Iran. The United States empire right now, the empire of chaos, is literally telling us its agenda here. I think they really did believe that this election would just go their way so that they would have an easier time picking off the last of what's left. Do you think that this victory has any possibility of engendering a resurgence toward a more multipolar world orientation in the region? Because I think this region has maybe taken the most hits in recent months and years.

#Pepe Escobar

Well, if we read the national security strategy, for them, this is the icing on the cake: even if we lose everything else, we still control the Western Hemisphere. But for that to really happen, they need Brazil, which is something that they won't have. So they will try everything possible—not by the book, but off the books—to try to get Brazil in the next four years and beyond. We don't know what's going to happen, of course, after Lula. This is Lula's last election. But the problem is that this toxic alliance, which was defeated this weekend, is still there and will continue to be very, very strong. So we are talking about the full force of the Trump administration while they're still in power, the full force of the deep state, and the fact that the CIA is very, very powerful and CIA cells are all over the place in Brazil.

The techno-feudalists, who align completely with the Trump administration in terms of “We need to get Brazil.” The old elites—I know them very, very well. I grew up with them. I went to their schools. I wrote for their newspapers. So I know these people from the inside. One of the worst elites on the planet, on a level with the Argentines, if that is possible. The new elites, the bling-bling elites, basically became rich because of agribusiness. Congress basically is controlled by these

people, by politicians paid by these people. Wall Street, of course. Wall Street was counting on Brazil: "Okay, this is our big, big prey." And, of course, all the fifth-column indigenous peripheral capitalist elites linked to Wall Street. These are absolutely disgusting as well.

All of them, if not totally Bolsonaristas, support the Bolsonaro gang because the Bolsonaro gang's number one plan was to destroy what's left of the welfare state in Brazil and basically turn Brazil into an extractivist neo-colony, totally subordinated to transnational capital and, fundamentally, American interests. Then there's big media in Brazil, which is among the most nefarious in the Global South—and in the Global North as well. And, of course, the evangelical mess all over the country. Literally, mess and mass. Both. All over the nation. That work started via the CIA back in the '70s. How are we going to turn a traditional, Catholic, Lusophone, mestizo, mixed-race society into a neo-Pentecostal, Anglo-American, deeply reactionary society linked to Christian Zionist values—or lack thereof?

#Pepe Escobar

In the space of a few decades. So the fruits of this investment, which started in the '70s, were already visible when Bolsonaro was elected in the past decade. And this is an army. There are no exact numbers, but for sure, they make up over 30% of the Brazilian population, if not 40% already. So what used to be the number one Roman Catholic nation on the planet is slowly becoming one of the biggest evangelical nations on the planet. And, of course, Bolsonarismo used them and brainwashed them to a degree that there is no return. So all the elements of this toxic coalition will continue to be there. It doesn't matter if we get into 2027 with Lula in his fourth mandate. It doesn't change anything. You still have to fight them all. That's why it's going to be so difficult. And, of course, they have institutional help from this enormously powerful machine of the U.S. government. So, well, "tough" doesn't even begin to describe it, you know.

#Danny

Yeah. Great points, Pepe. Well, now we can get to a very related development, since it's all part of an empire of chaos agenda. Yes, it is. Different part of the world. The United States and Israel are very much building up toward another war, another round of war, trying to unleash hell on Iran. But there's been a lot of sputtering and a lot of difficulties, it seems, in getting this thing going. And now I'll pull up the image again. Iran has dealt a big blow to the United States and Israel's attempt to isolate Iran, with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey sending a delegation. They're meeting, I believe. I don't know if it's as we speak, but they were meeting today. They're meeting as we speak, by the way.

#Pepe Escobar

As we speak.

#Danny

Yeah, you bet. So what the hell is going on, Pepe? I thought we were going to have strikes this week. That didn't happen. Now we're here, and Israel's having trouble. The U.S. is obviously not being clear, but Iran seems to be moving very clearly. Your thoughts?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, of course, because they are actually meeting, we still don't have the intel. We're going to have the intel tomorrow. Just to give an example to all of you, Sunday night here in Asia, I taped a show for our channel, Transition Protocol, where Larry and I are partners. And basically, our sources were saying, "Look, this is going to happen, but please don't talk about it because it's not confirmed yet." So this means that on Sunday night, West Asia time, it was still not confirmed that this would take place. So the decision came very late at night on Sunday, West Asia time, and was ratified on Monday morning, when we had an announcement today by an official Iranian spokesman.

And, of course, they met today, Monday, in the late afternoon, West Asia time. Okay, who proposed that? That gets very, very interesting. This idea came directly from Asim Munir, Field Marshal of Pakistan, during his visit last week, when he met with, in fact, everybody who is important. He met with President Pezeshkian, he met with Ghalibaf, and he met with Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, the second most important man in Iran and personal representative of leader Mojtaba Khamenei. So Asim Munir suggested to them, "Okay, what if we come here, the three of us, the whole Mecca Defense Alliance, and we start talking about the next steps?"

The Iranians, you know, they said a little bit about that. Why not? When we look at these images that you're showing, for instance, on Press TV on X, the optics are outstanding. What we are seeing is the neo-Ottoman Turks, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and nuclear power Pakistan basically paying tribute to the Persians in Tehran. That's it. Look at it. It's right in front of us in this image. And Mohsen Rezaei, he's like an incarnation of one of those Achaemenid Empire potentates, you know, very magnanimous, with the beard, barely moving, hieratic. And that's it, because these three—the Mecca Defense Alliance—are basically asking the Persians, "Could you please give us a hand?"

"Can you help with that little problem that we're having with the Yemenis over there on the peninsula?" This is what it is. It's absolutely fascinating. Okay, we're going to have the details, you know, if we get leaks about the substance of the talks. But the optics in themselves are already extraordinary. So this was a Pakistani idea because Asim Munir found a way to get Pakistan out from between a rock and a hard place. They didn't want to jeopardize their relationship with Iran because, after all, until literally yesterday, they were the mediators between Iran and the U.S. And at the same time, obviously, they did not read the fine print. The Mecca Defense Alliance includes a commitment by Pakistan to defend Saudi Arabia.

And the Saudis obviously were trying to drag both the Turks and the Pakistanis into their pre-existing war against Yemen. So this was a very clever move by Asim Munir. And obviously the Persians, who are even more clever, got the picture because they understood not only the optics, but also the fact that we have the Mecca Defense Alliance coming to Tehran to ask something of the Persians, which is essentially, "Please give us a hand. Pick up the phone, call Sana'a, and tell Ansarallah to, you know, play it cool." That's what it is, number one. But the Persian agenda goes much further. Of course, big empires—old empires—still think in terms of the big picture.

They are, on several different levels, convincing the members of the Mecca Defense Alliance that the only possible future for West Asia and beyond—for the region as a whole—is to enter into a new security arrangement, which by definition will exclude the United States. Are they going to talk about this in detail between today and tomorrow? We still don't know. But this is what is on the minds of the Iranians, of course. And it has to do with something that, once again, was not discussed by accident last week by Grand Master Sergei Lavrov when he visited Tehran and met with the principals once again. And guess what one of the key issues they were discussing was? Indivisibility of security. So we have another one of those beautiful, historical, poetic licenses, if we can put it this way.

I'm sure many of you remember December 2021, when Putin sent two letters to Washington and to NATO talking about indivisibility of security. We should sit down, all of us—Western Europe, Eastern Europe, the post-Soviet space, et cetera, and beyond—and talk about how security for one is security for all. You all remember what happened at the time: a non-response response from the United States during the Autopen administration. Less than three months later, we had the beginning of the special military operation, when Russia saw that the real game NATO was playing was to force Russia to do something because they were planning a blitzkrieg against Donbass. So now we are in an environment of indivisibility of security once again, but in West Asia.

And the Russians shared their experience with the Iranians. But at the same time, Lavrov was telling the Iranians, "You should try the same thing here in the region. Let's see, because now the dialogue is not directly with the Americans. It's with the American vassals, or crypto-vassals, or ersatz vassals, or disguised vassals." And obviously, the Turks have their own ideas in terms of indivisibility of security: "As long as we get something for ourselves, why not?" And the Pakistanis can try to find a way to at least, you know, avoid being between a rock and a hard place and have some leeway. And of course, the most complicated role is Saudi Arabia's. Saudi Arabia remains and will continue to remain a U.S. vassal, now under threat of being dismantled from within by Ansar Allah.

The threat is real. The survival of the House of Saud itself is in play. So they need something, but they still don't know what it is. So it suits everybody at the moment to have a dialogue, maybe the first step towards a future, more comprehensive dialogue about indivisibility of security in this whole West Asian space. That's why this meeting today is so important. And it was unexpected. Once

again, we only learned yesterday, on Sunday, that this was proposed by Simonnier during his trip last week. This had not been leaked before. And even yesterday, on Sunday, when we were recording our show, I wanted to know, "Okay, what else?"

And the "what else" was still there, but there was a request: "Okay, don't talk about it because it's still not confirmed." So, in the few hours between Sunday night and Monday morning in West Asia, this meeting was confirmed. Because obviously, it required Saudi Arabia to do something enormous: to get their minister of defense to visit Tehran. This in itself is huge. The Turks going to Tehran or the Pakistanis going to Tehran—absolutely normal. But for the Saudis to do that, this proves that they were absolutely desperate. And at the same time, this had to be framed within a sort of diplomatic arrangement, even though we're talking about the minister of defense of Saudi Arabia, the head of intelligence in Turkey, and the field marshal of Pakistan.

It's a military group, not a diplomatic group at all. So obviously the Iranians, especially the IRGC, and especially a guy as smart as Mohsen Rezaei, former head of the IRGC, now the number two in the government, could see the possibilities. Okay, to have a face-to-face talk with the three at the same time is fantastic, because finally, the four of us can talk about what really matters. Is there going to be indivisibility of security if and when this war ends? Or Mohsen Rezaei—he's very keen on studying people's character—could detect signs from one of these three, or maybe two of them, of something more nefarious vis-à-vis Iran.

They cannot afford that. Well, the Turks and the Pakistanis know that. The Saudis, not so much. But the fact that we have, let's say, three relatively realist players at the table—Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran—means they can teach something to Prince Khalid, the Minister of Defense of Saudi Arabia. So it is absolutely fascinating, but once again, it's a different chapter of the same problem for Eurasia and for other parts of Eurasia. If you don't move toward an arrangement based on the indivisibility of security between the main players, you will all continue to be subjected to the whims and the folly of the Empire. That's what it is in a nutshell.

#Danny

Yeah, now how likely is it, Pepe, that Saudi Arabia is hoping Iran will spare it? I mean, they have compounding problems. They have not only what definitely was discussed, which is Yemen, and, as you said, potential help in bringing the Ansar Allah megaforce to heel a bit, maybe. Not likely, but they're definitely there for that. But there's also the fact that, you know, the United States and Israel, of course, are having trouble figuring out when to strike. CNN just reported that Israel is now waiting for the green light from the United States after taking back the idea that they were going to strike unilaterally. But once it happens, Pepe, Saudi Arabia is also a target for Iran. It's a target. Do you think Saudi Arabia, in private—maybe not, of course, in the meeting between all four parties, but in private—is hoping that Iran will spare Saudi Arabia?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, they can try to bribe them, Danny. I don't know with what, because they're running out of funds. But they can always try to bribe Iran. Qatar, in a sense, is already bribing Iran with promises of that famous \$12 billion, split into two lots of \$6 billion. And there's still no movement on these funds, which are in Qatari banks. What can Saudi Arabia offer? Saudi Arabia has nothing to offer Iran, in fact. And Moshe Reza is the first one to know it. So they are in an ascendant position vis-à-vis Saudi Arabia. You know, they're like magnanimous Persian emperors. They're just listening: "Okay, spill the beans. Let's see what you've got." And, of course, Saudi Arabia is flanked by Pakistan and Turkey, which are probably doing most of the talking.

And, of course, they're trying to impress upon Mohsen Rezaei, especially, that this alliance is far from being anti-Iran. This would not be so hard if they knew how to organize their thinking and make it very, very clear to the Iranians that, in fact, the enemy is the death cult, where we're going to have elections tomorrow. This is the real enemy of all of them. For Saudi Arabia, it's different because Saudi Arabia is being forced by the United States to normalize its relations with the death cult. So what Turkey and Pakistan want is not necessarily what Saudi Arabia wants in terms of foreign policy. So the internal contradictions of the Mecca Defense Alliance also play a part.

And Iran, very shrewdly, will exploit these internal divisions. And, of course, they will reframe the debate around the most important point: "Okay, let's start talking about the post-war regional security arrangement, which all of us will have to be part of." Is this going to be accepted by the House of Saud? No guarantees whatsoever. We don't even know if the House of Saud will survive. And, of course, if the Mecca Defense Alliance is expecting that Mohsen Rezaei is going to pick up the phone and call Abdul-Malik al-Houthi or General Yahya Saree and say, "Guys, please lie low," it's not going to happen, because it doesn't work like this.

This is a sovereign Yemeni decision. They already said on the record many times that they don't have any designs. They want an end to the blockade by Saudi Arabia, all Saudi and ersatz crypto-Saudi forces out of Yemen, an end to the harassment of Yemen everywhere, and reparations for what they've done since 2015. This is the new clause, which obviously already has the House of Saud petrified. But that's it. They said that they would welcome an internal coup against the House of Saud, which was a very Yemeni way of putting it. Fascinating.

#Danny

Just give it a look.

#Pepe Escobar

If it happens, we'll not be dissatisfied with it, because they know that the conditions are practically in place: internal fights in the palace, fights between the palace and other palaces, fights between the princes, fights among the tribes to see who's going to get the upper hand. The tribes are wringing their hands because they see that when the House of Saud collapses, the tribes are going to go

there, smash the place, and start something new. So the disintegration process is already on, provoked by the Ansar Allah counterpunch. So we don't even know what kind of House of Saud we're going to have in a matter of a few weeks or months. And once again, the fact that you have the Minister of Defense going to Tehran, basically begging the Iranians to do something—that in itself is the story. That's it.

#Danny

Yeah. Pepe, what is the Empire of Chaos doing? Like, what is it doing? Because I genuinely think what we're witnessing is really a psyop. They're obviously preparing for war, but the preparations do seem haphazard. But they're obviously being made. So what exactly are they doing? Because this is obviously influencing how this Mecca pact is behaving vis-à-vis Iran. The regional countries—you mentioned Qatar and the UAE in recent weeks—also all seem to be trying to massage Iran, hoping that the next round does not end with them devastated even further. Your thoughts on what's going on?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, as you said correctly, they are doing their best to try to explain to Iran, "Please don't do anything against us. We are being forced by the sociopath-in-chief to collaborate with him when he attacks you again. But we don't want to." And Iran's message to all the petromonarchies is the same. It's very simple: "If we detect that any attack against us came from your territory or was based in your territory, you're going to pay a price." So, for the moment, none of the petromonarchies is saying, "We will refuse to obey American orders." You don't do that. Vassals don't do that kind of shit. But obviously, they are absolutely desperate.

That explains the proliferation of diplomatic back-and-forth involving literally everybody. And even those who are outside it—the Turks—are also wringing their hands, because they know that a lot of stuff can fall into their laps out of nowhere. They are in a very comfortable position as NATO members, you know? No American attacks against them, theoretically. They wouldn't necessarily have to be part of an American offensive against Iran. They can say no. They have the leeway to say no, unlike, for instance, Italy. If stuff is leaving from the Sigonella base in Sicily, the bloody Italians will say, "That's it." They have to do it.

And, of course, everybody in a position of power in West Asia knows who they're dealing with: the sociopath-in-chief, especially before the midterms, especially with the shellacking coming in the midterms. So, obviously, everybody's like, "Oh, my God, he's going to freak out completely, and he's just going to start bombing everything, including himself." So, okay, where do we hide? Nowhere to run, baby. Nowhere to hide. Once again, Motown—they knew everything in the '60s. That's amazing. They even did songs about it. So that's where we are at the moment. Everybody's expecting war after the midterms. They don't know how, they don't know exactly when, but they know it's going to come.

They don't know if it's going to be only the US or if it's going to be a joint operation, but they know it's going to come. So everybody's trying to protect what's left. And, of course, they cannot extricate themselves. If there is an attack against Iran, their territory is going to be used. And they know the price that all of them will have to pay is going to be absolutely horrendous. So they're trying to negotiate that. And, by the way, this is also being discussed today in Tehran: "Okay, guys, if you were attacked, is there any way we could pay you not to launch a missile at, you know, a base here, a refinery there?" All of that can be discussed, of course.

#Danny

Yeah. I mean, I was seeing some graphics being shared around about Iranian security officials and members of parliament talking about zero-hour retaliation. Basically, everyone is on the block if they end up participating in this attack. And Iran has said they will extend the retaliation to economic interests, not just energy. But energy alone...

#Pepe Escobar

Four hundred targets, Danny. Their target list is like a Bible already.

#Danny

I said to our friend, Professor Mohamed Morandi, "Iran doesn't even have to do that much, though, to devastate the already overheating global economy."

#Pepe Escobar

They don't. In fact, even 20 targets on the list would be more than enough. But they have 400.

#Danny

Yeah, we are certainly on the edge of, as you often say, Pepe, all hell breaking loose. We're in the last couple of minutes, Pepe. Your final thoughts on what's happening and what it tells us about the bigger picture?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, I'm very curious to get the intel about the meeting in Tehran. We're going to get this tomorrow, certainly. And after we get the intel and have at least an idea of what they actually discussed, we're going to have a pretty good idea, I would say, of what could happen in the next few days and weeks. And, of course, all eyes are on the midterms next week. What's going to

happen immediately after the midterms? How severe is the shellacking of the Trump criminal gang going to be? All these are key factors that will influence the dementia that is going to happen afterwards, which is inevitable, right?

#Danny

Yeah, totally. And I'm looking forward to the announcement, perhaps, that either Laura Loomer or Nicki Minaj will be the next press secretary of the Trump administration. That will be hilarious. Oh, this is good. I mean, this is where the empire of chaos is, honestly, in terms of its PR. Not looking good. Pepe, we did have one question, though. I don't know what this means, but Hussein has been a member for a long time. I think they're from Brazil. "Pepe, will Lula be able to remove the veto power from the UNSC?"

#Pepe Escobar

I'm not sure what that means, but what are your thoughts on that? Well, the veto power is that the Europeans plus the U.S. don't want new members in the U.N. Security Council. This is the actual veto power. Russia and China are totally in favor of Brazil and one or two African representatives as well, not only Brazil. So as long as the U.N. is in New York, and as long as we have two low-class European powers as members of the Security Council, this veto power stays, unfortunately. By the way, Lula already talked about reform of the U.N. again yesterday, which is one extra point of contention with the United States. And that's it. Everybody is in favor of reform of the U.N. Security Council. But the number one veto power is the U.S., of course. We have three veto powers: the U. S., France, and Britain.

#Danny

Well, everyone, Pepe has given us his time at this late hour, so everyone should thank him.

#Pepe Escobar

A pleasure. Thank you, guys.

#Danny

Hitting the like button helps boost the show after we are both gone from here. And also, check out the video description below. You have Pepe's X, his Telegram, and the latest article that he has written, all linked in the video description. I also believe—is it? Yes, it is. Transition Protocol is also linked.

#Pepe Escobar

Transition Protocol, yeah. Tomorrow we're going to be talking about what happened to the internet, yeah.

#Danny

Yeah, so definitely subscribe and get the notifications as well. So we're out of here. Hit that like button. I'll be back tomorrow at 2 p.m. Eastern time. I'll let you know what's going on very soon. Until next time, bye-bye. See you October 27th.

#Pepe Escobar

Thanks, Danny. Thanks, everybody.