

# Andrei Martyanov: Why America Can't Win This War?

This interview argues that a reported fighter jet loss highlights the danger of Iran's air defenses, especially portable missile systems, and claims any wider U.S. or Israeli military escalation would be costly and unsustainable. It portrays American air, naval, and ground options as ineffective against a large, prepared opponent, while linking the conflict to wider economic fallout, rising energy prices, and the weakening of dollar-based oil trade. Overall, it presents the war as a strategic disaster with global consequences.

## #Nima

One of the latest pieces of news is about a new fighter jet being shot down by the Iranian air defense system — it was an F-18. And here's the footage of that.

## #Nima

It seems, Andrei, that later on, somewhere over the ocean, he just crashed. The fighter went down in the water. I don't know what happened. But what we've learned from the Iranian media is that the hit was made by one of those shoulder-launched air defense systems — yeah, manpads.

## #Andrei

Most likely, it's an older version of the Strela. But again, you have to understand that they don't usually go for a kinetic kill. They have a warhead, and the guidance itself is homing — infrared. You basically get a burst of shrapnel that guides itself toward the hottest part of the aircraft, which, of course, is the engine exhaust nozzles. That's where you see the shrapnel hits. So it might look as if nothing happened, but in reality, it creates a lot of holes — let's put it that way — in the fuselage, and it can obviously damage critical systems.

So the F-18 isn't the kind of aircraft that can take, you know, that kind of punishment and still keep flying. The A-10 Warthog, for example — it's slow, but it's very survivable. It can take a lot of punishment, let me tell you. The same goes for the Russian Su-25, which NATO calls the Frogfoot. But with the newer missiles — I think this one was an older model — the newer ones, especially the Igla and, of course, the Verba, which is the newest, can take down pretty much anything, okay? So I don't know what's going on with the MANPADS situation, but I'm absolutely sure Iran has plenty of them — enough to last for years, maybe.

And we don't know what Russia and China provide, but today Mr. Bezishkan, the president, expressed gratitude to Russia for standing behind Iran. And this is like, oh, okay. So who knows? But yeah, anybody who thinks the United States can operate close air support in Iran — in Iran or near Iran — well, MANPADS are there, and they'll be taking down pretty much most of the aircraft that try to do this. And that's what we see. This is not the first, and it's not going to be the last. Especially if they decide they want to do the boost on the ground. Although, after today's article in The New York Times — I already posted it on my blog — the U.S. Army fights now remotely, works remotely. Never heard anything like this, okay?

## **#Nima**

What does that mean, Andrei? I don't know.

## **#Andrei**

I said that it's beyond—it defies. As Karl Marx stated, you know, history repeats itself first as tragedy and then as farce. We are beyond farce. We're in a state of—I don't even know what it is. It's basically a complete panopticon. Working remotely, yeah, redeploying a cavalry battalion from the cellar or the basement of the UAE Hilton to the Kuwait Sheraton. I don't know. I mean, there are some things that defy any kind of common sense—let alone military common sense, let alone the professional military view of war. But that's actually an indication of how badly the United States and Israel are losing it—and they're losing it catastrophically, actually.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, in the last two or three days, we've had Donald Trump talking several times about how the situation is. But instead of playing those clips of Donald Trump mentioning how great he's winning, I have a special video that shows how Donald Trump is drastically winning everything. Here's the video.

## **#Speaker 03**

We're going to win so much, you might even get tired of winning. You'll say, "Please, please, it's too much winning. We can't take it anymore, Mr. President, it's too much." And I'll say, "No, it isn't. We have to keep winning."

## **#Nima**

Yeah, he's literally saying the same thing right now about the war.

## **#Andrei**

Yeah, I mean, he is—I don't know what mental state he's in. It's definitely not healthy, definitely not healthy. And when you look especially at his minister of war, Secretary of War Pete Hapsett, the guy really needs serious treatment, with all kinds of, you know, serious pills, to probably get him in shape. Because they do know it's a catastrophe for the United States. Some people call it a "Suez moment," but a Suez moment doesn't even convey the scale of the historic catastrophe. And it didn't just start now—Iran is basically reading the last rites for globalism as it existed before.

Yeah, we can already say the most terrifying thing for Washington has happened: the end of the petrodollar era. It's over. Not like, "Oh yeah, it's coming." We knew it was coming, but this is it—here it is, de facto. And now the jury's out, essentially, because everybody's trying to buy oil with yuan, some with rubles, and others with their own national currencies. The latest one I heard was Spain, which was allowed to go through the Strait of Hormuz. So obviously we knew the Chinese and Russians were absolutely sailing there, and they're huge supporters of Iran, as we all know. Then suddenly India—whatever happened between India and Iran—and now Spain joined them.

So Spain is a rich guy in Europe, you know—oil and whatever. But yeah, it's a catastrophic situation for Trump, and the only thing he can do now is manipulate—and not even the real markets. They don't understand. Trump and those people in Washington, they don't understand the real economy. They operate from the point of view of making money through speculation on Wall Street—you know, those fictitious paper things: paper gold, paper oil, paper gas, what have you. It's useless. I mean, the reality is, from what I read today, that actual physical oil is still being sold for up to \$170 per barrel. And yeah, he tried to manipulate it yesterday. He lies all the time. He needs his buddies from Wall Street to make some money and somehow keep the market going. But he can't.

Even today, it still went up and will keep going up. And you can't explain this to people there who grew up thinking Wall Street is the real economy, that making money is somehow detached from the actual product. So here we are—and Iran proved it. That's it. People aren't going to be buying oil in dollars anymore. You know, the biggest vassal of the United States in Southeast Asia—the Philippines, who basically lick American boots—well, the Philippines are now talking to Russia. They need energy from Russia. So guess what? The Russians will say, "Okay, if you can pay in dollars, sure. But there are rubles, there are yuan. We take yuan, it's fine. Rubles, fine." So the whole world—Trump's world—is collapsing on him. And he's definitely not in a healthy mental state.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, the whole agenda on the part of the Trump administration when they started this war was basically air power and the Navy. So far, from what we've seen, various fighter jets were hit by the Iranian air defense system, which is costly for the United States. And the Navy is just far from the Iranian coast. The Gerald Ford is not working anymore, and the Abraham Lincoln is far away from the Iranian coast. How do you see the situation with these two fronts, these two tools in the hands of the American military against Iran?

## #Andrei

I wrote four books about this—the fact that the United States doesn't know what real war is. I'm not even talking about the American public, which is absolutely oblivious to what real war means, because the U.S. lives separated from the world by two oceans and has never experienced it. And I'm not talking about that ridiculous argument, "Oh yeah, we had a civil war." It's nothing compared to what's happening in the world outside. The same goes for the U.S. military. You can't explain this to a military whose cultural and doctrinal DNA is that of an expeditionary force. They don't understand real ground operations—combined operations on a massive scale against a capable enemy.

The United States hasn't fought a capable enemy since Vietnam. I mean, beating the, you know, semi-literate, utterly corrupt Saddam's army, or the mighty air forces of the Taliban—together with their mighty air defense—come on. So yeah, they got high on their own supply. But the reality is that all these ideas, which were instilled in the United States Armed Forces on the ground side by the Blitzkrieg generals who essentially wrote the doctrines for NATO—all those Nazi and Wehrmacht generals, from Erich von Manstein to Hauser and others—were officially employed by the U.S. Army. And that's the doctrine. You know what?

Every five or so years, the United States Navy—which is a glorious navy with an incredible history, a real demonstration of courage and professionalism—has every reason to be proud of itself. But the problem is, again, life has changed so much. Those doctrines were all kinds of modifications of that Blitzkrieg and air power experience they got in the European theater of war, and even in Vietnam, you know, about air power—which isn't really a real experience in the sense that it doesn't reflect fighting a nation that's capable, large, and ready to fight back.

And it's, you know, air-land battle, air-sea battle, and then, of course, from the sea concepts—it's all these amphibious operations. It's all good for, pardon my French, third-world crap holes, which have populations and armed forces that can't shoot back straight. Iran is not third world, actually. That's what many people don't understand. It has massive industrial capacity, and it has its own military-industrial complex. It has a fairly competent military. And apart from that, if you take a look at the majority of the Iranian leadership—and I'm not talking about the IRGC, I'm talking about even regular people—many of them are combat veterans.

They went through, obviously, the Iran-Iraq War, and Iraq was supported by the whole world—from the Soviet Union to the United States and Europe. And Iran still endured. So, what can I say? I mean, these are people of a completely different intellectual level, a different spiritual view of war. You look at this, you know, clowns like Kellogg or whatever—those American generals who lost every war they participated in—they don't learn, they don't understand what's actually going on. They don't have, evidently, what is called a moral, spiritual, and intellectual organ, a toolkit, as you correctly stated, which allows them to see through.

Because obviously the United States Army has brave, courageous, and competent people. But anybody will tell you—and you can ask Danny Davis, you can ask Doug McGregor—that once you get to the level of colonel and then to the generalship level, the only thing you need to know is how to be political, how to, you know, kiss ass. And that's what you do. You're not progressing as a military professional or combat leader, because nobody needs it. In Washington, D.C., they know that nobody really wants to attack them, okay? So it's a relaxed atmosphere in many respects. And as a result, whatever competence the United States had in terms of its military technology and especially its fighting doctrines—it's all obsolete.

And again, I wrote nine years ago the first book, which is called *\*Losing Military Supremacy\**, where I already stated that. Nine years ago, I said it's all fake, basically. It was grossly overestimated, grossly overrepresented. You have Hollywood—essentially Hollywood is the propaganda machine for the U.S. military. But in reality, the table of organization and equipment, the TOE of the U.S. Armed Forces, is simply not designed to fight a real war. Simple as that. It's obsolete. It's stuck in the late 1980s, early 1990s. And now, when you see everything that's happening, including what's happening in Israel, which is being pummeled—blown up to smithereens—I just showed the interview there.

The Israeli TV showed the mayor of Margoliot, which was essentially wiped out by Iranian and Hezbollah forces. He was basically crying on live TV, saying, "Bibi, send us help." Well, there is no help—that's the problem. They don't understand that that's it. The United States, together with NATO, has been demilitarized over the last four years during the special military operation. And suddenly, here we are—they can't sustain anything. They can't sustain operations. They can't gather the required force, let's say, to fight Iran, to really invade Iran and achieve some kind of political objective on the scale of regime change—to remove the Ayatollah and things like that. Well, you would need about two million people. Can the United States furnish that army? No, it can't. And it would be an absolute mess anyway.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Actually, on Channel 13 in Hebrew, they mentioned that the chief of staff warned last night in the cabinet that the Israeli army is on the verge of collapsing from within Israel. Because, he said, you know, the army cannot sustain it. It's not—Andrei, what is happening right now? Israelis literally are not fighting Iranians anymore.

## **#Andrei**

The United States is somehow... yeah, they got what they wanted.

## **#Nima**

They're using the United States as a mercenary force against Iran.

## **#Andrei**

It's unbelievable. Yeah, the United States doesn't have sovereignty in its foreign policy; it's controlled from Tel Aviv. Basically, we can sit here and speculate about whatever it is. Obviously, it could be the Epstein files being used to, well, basically kill Trump politically. He's a political corpse now, and this is the stage of decomposition. So we can probably observe the catastrophe for the GOP—and for good reasons, you know. This two-party system is garbage, actually. It doesn't work, and it's utterly corrupt. So when you look at those fanatics from the GOP, the majority of whom support Israel, what can I say? Well, we'll see what the midterms bring, but J.D. Vance may as well forget about his presidency, you know, and his chance at the presidency. And, um, yeah, it's called the American political machine—it's simply seized up, you know, and that's it.

And, um, what can I say? Uh, it's over. The United States was, well, first, a self-proclaimed hegemon, you know, so obviously it had a very good run, starting from 1941, when the consequences of the Great Depression had essentially been overcome. The United States went, within 1941—within four months, I believe—from more than 25% unemployment to full employment. Can you imagine that? Well, that's why many of those people love war. They think it's still World War II. It's not. It's 2026. And things have changed dramatically, especially technologically. And now, when they get pummeled by this, it's just... Again, I read today this New York Times piece—it's like, the U.S. Army, now ground forces working remotely. This is... I don't know, I have no words to describe it, okay?

## **#Nima**

These are military experts writing these articles? Because they seem to have a lot of insight. We have to accept that—they really know what's going on within the system.

## **#Andrei**

I don't know. I mean, whoever wrote it—I can look it up. Not on this computer, but on my other one, the one with the subscription. So, yeah, I can check who wrote those pieces. But, yeah, you can go and take a look actually at—let me— It defies belief, you know? It just leaves you speechless. But, yeah, Trump is winning tremendously.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, Axios reported that the Pentagon is preparing for a massive final blow in the Iran war. They're talking about ground forces combined with a large-scale bombing campaign. And we know that the United States has so far tried using fighter jets and Marines together. Now they're putting in 12,000—maybe even 20,000—soldiers in the Persian Gulf. How is that going to help the United States?

## #Andrei

No, it's not going to help the United States. It's going to kill a lot of American military personnel. A lot. Again, if you read any Army doctrinal publication of the United States—field manuals, especially Operations, FM 3-0—everything in there is about, “Yeah, overwhelm the enemy, bring on our long-range fires.” Now you have to explain to those people that long-range fires, as written and presented, don't work like that anymore, because the enemy also has long-range fires, and very often theirs reach farther. And the United States doesn't have real, viable air defense. Period. Simple as that. What do they have?

I mean, you look carefully at what's short-range air defense. Oh, you get a Stryker or a Humvee, stick some Stingers on it—yeah, we have SHORAD. It's not going to work against anything, okay? It might work against a helicopter, maybe, you know. But drones produce a very small infrared signature. So then what do you have? Oh, the next thing is NASAMS. What is NASAMS? It's basically a Frankenstein of air defense. You take the AIM-120 AMRAAM, which is basically an air-to-air missile, turn it into a Frankenstein, stick it on some platform, add some sensors to that platform, and declare it a viable air defense complex.

It's not. I mean, it fails most of the time. And again, it's just one of them. Patriot? Patriot is not— we can't even talk seriously about that. But we know that now the United States is demanding that Ukraine return whatever is left of the Patriots. That tells you everything you need to know. How are they going to defend their assembly areas? How are they going to defend their strongpoints? How— what? Are they thinking they can build up their battalion or company columns and attack in the terrain of Iran? I mean, really, I have a bridge to sell to those people. They don't know what they're going to do.

They don't have experience. They don't understand how you can command a force that requires assembly, as I already said. It would take at least one and a half to two million people to go into a country like Iran and achieve any kind of political objective there. What would the casualties be? They'd be horrendous. Vietnam would look like a stroll in the park compared to this. And somebody finally said, “Oh yeah, all those things may look like Gallipoli rather than...” And Gallipoli, let me tell you—within ten months, there were 56,000 killed in action and about 130,000 to 180,000 wounded among the Allied forces.

Almost 8,000 have been taken prisoner by the Turks. So if they want that result, I don't know what's going to happen in the United States. Do they want to reconstitute the draft? There would be a revolution in this country. OK, so that's the whole thing—there are no good options. Trump never understood that the Russians were giving him, for about half a year, some off-ramps in Ukraine. He didn't understand, he didn't take them, and he failed miserably there. Now he's in the position of, what are you going to do? You're being left behind. And we know who he is, we know who controls

him. Israel controls him. They need escalation. Escalation with what? The first question is—with what? Does the United States have the required force? Any normal person, any military professional with an operational mind, would say, we don't.

We don't have enough. So you'd need to mobilize the whole country—good luck with that, you know. And what do they do then? Do they want to commit a war crime against their own troops, send the guys to Qeshm Island or Kharg, and think they can hold on to some piece of land? They'd be dying every day in large numbers. And what are you going to do? I don't know if it's the Trump administration—well, it's not Trump, it's the Netanyahu administration, essentially. And as I've said many times, I'll repeat it again: the United States doesn't have a U.S. Congress; it has Knesset 2.0, period. So it's basically already written—not in the sand, it's written on the wall now. We can see the writing on the wall.