

# Larry C. Johnson: Yemen Joins, Hezbollah Crushes Tanks, US–Iran on Brink

**#Nima**

Hi, everybody. Today is Monday, March 30th, 2026, and our dear friend and brother, Larry C. Johnson, is here with us with his new, beautiful, shiny...

**#Larry**

Yeah. Hey, one of the supporters sent me a whole box—six of these. You're so lucky. Yeah, well, and the shirts are great. I don't deserve it, but okay, I'll wear it. I did catch—I was in Calgary—and I wore all black. I went full Johnny Cash black. But that was because it was 25 degrees Fahrenheit, minus two Celsius, and snowing, and Florida shirts don't play in that. But I think we're onto something, you know? In the future, instead of people killing each other, let's just have a shirt competition. You know, 'cause you're rocking a good shirt today—you're looking, looking, styling big time. Yeah.

**#Nima**

Yeah, but I think your suggestion is amazing if people decide to go in that direction. Larry, let's start with what Donald Trump said—the way he's starting his week. In one of his latest posts on Truth Social, he said that the United States of America is in serious discussions with a new and more reasonable regime to end our military operation in Iran. Who is he talking to?

**#Larry**

Well, pull up sonar21.com and look at the cartoon at the top of my article. Show that. They say one picture is worth a thousand words, and this one really sums it up.

**#Speaker 03**

Yeah.

**#Nima**

Yeah. You know, this time around, the market isn't really reacting to what Donald Trump is saying.

**#Larry**

Oh, it did. It did. Oh, it did react. It did react. Oh yeah, no, it's up 300. Well, it started off up 400 points—400 or 500 points. Now it's only up 213. So, are you going to show the cartoon?

## **#Nima**

Can you post it now? Let me pull it up.

## **#Larry**

I think if people haven't seen this, they should, because it really captures what's going on. Donald Trump is talking to himself. The cartoon shows Trump—a fat, disheveled guy—lying on a psychiatrist's couch. And the psychiatrist says something like, "So these Iranians you're talking to, are they in the room with us now?" Yeah, there we go. "The Iranians you've been talking to for two days—are they in the room with us now?" He's delusional. He's not talking to Iran. Nobody on his team is talking to any Iranian. If they're sending messages to Pakistan, and Pakistan is passing them on to Iran, sometimes Iran accepts the message.

They go, "Oh, okay." And then other times they say, "We're not even interested in the damn thing they have to say." So that's the state of the negotiations. And Trump is trying to pretend that this is—you know, it's like negotiating to buy a piece of property or a car. You say, "Okay, you've got this really nice home. I'd like to buy it, but I'll pay you \$900,000. Or the listed price is \$900,000—I'll give you \$700,000." And they go, "No, no, no." So maybe they'll come back and agree on \$800,000. That's not the kind of negotiation at all between Iran and the United States. Iran's position is very clear, and it's spelled out.

At a minimum, get all U.S. bases and all U.S. military presence out of the Persian Gulf, lift all the sanctions, and pay reparations. I'd say those are the core three. But Iran's not looking to make a deal; Iran is looking to make those conditions permanent. And they're not going to stop. That's where Trump—and the world—the world is starting to scream in great pain from what's happening economically. They want it to stop. And even if it stops now, the damage that's already been done to the economies of these, you know, I'll call them false countries—the Gulf states—well, let's face it, the Gulf Arabs are like a political version of Disneyland, something completely artificial, created out of nothing.

And, you know, the royal Saudi family is, you know, a bunch of Bedouin tribesmen, for God's sake, okay? They're a couple of generations removed from riding camels around the desert and flying hawks. And just because they've got a lot of money, they get treated as if they're something special. They're not special. And then you go to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates—those are completely artificial. I didn't realize this until recently. You've got all these big high-rises, these magnificent buildings like in Dubai, but they don't have a sewage system. I mean, every day, trucks pull up and are loaded with human waste, which they haul off and dump somewhere in the desert.

You know, they're pretending to be sophisticated and modern, but really, they've just got glorified outhouses everywhere. The people get to poop in their golden toilets, then it gets flushed down to the bottom, and they've got all these slave laborers from Asia there to clean up all the Westerners' mess. Sorry to be so crude, but that's what it is. And now here's the UAE and Saudi Arabia—five, six weeks ago they were basically at war, calling each other names and making threats. Now they're together, united against Iran. "Oh, we're going to attack."

We're going to declare war on you, and you'll be sorry, Iran. Oh, please. You know, the UAE isn't even a speed bump on the highway—they'd get rolled over by Iran. And Iran... Iran's starting to take them apart. I seriously believe that the United Arab Emirates is not going to survive intact as a country, as a nation, whatever it is. It no longer has an economic foundation right now. Its economy—effectively 83% of it—has been turned off. It's not operating. Their oil exports, about 25%, that's not going out. International trade at Jebel Ali, this free trade port—nothing going on there. Tourism? Only the sadomasochists are showing up.

You know, the ones who want to risk being in a war and getting blown up. Everybody else is getting the hell out. The construction industry is dead. The financial industry is dead. So we're living—well, I think this is really going to be a watershed week, in the sense that the worsening global economic crisis is going to come into focus. Up to this point, you know, Trump's been able to play these games: "Oh, things are great, man. We're in negotiations. This is going to be over." And a lot of the traders on Wall Street and in London were saying, "Oh yeah, this can't last forever. Iran—yeah, they're destroying so much of Iran. Yeah, the end is near." And it's not. It's not.

## **#Nima**

Larry, I think your understanding of these Arab states is so accurate, because you see that the way they see themselves isn't really based on the reality of who they are.

## **#Larry**

Yeah.

## **#Nima**

Because you have to understand your capabilities and your limits, right? It doesn't seem like they understand that. That's why they're talking about going against Iran. And what would be the benefit for these countries—the UAE, Saudi Arabia—to go against Iran in the long run? These people, you know, I don't know what's going on in the minds of the decision-makers in these countries, but they're so disconnected from the reality of what's happening.

## **#Larry**

Well, anybody that's ever been around them—let me be clear here—I'm not anti-homosexual. But if you've ever been around these Gulf Arabs, I mean, here are these guys walking around wearing white sandals with gold on them. It really gives off a very, I'll call it, effeminate vibe. So they're not really what I'd call a masculine group of people. It's weird. And the reason I raise that is because within Islamic culture, it's very much against homosexuality and that kind of practice. Sorry—my dogs. Somebody came to the door. Now they both decide to start hollering. Wait, hang on. Let me tell the show.

**#Larry**

Okay.

**#Nima**

That was strong. Say what? Hang on a second.

**#Larry**

What?

**#Larry**

Oh, 8707. Yeah, sorry about this—all the distractions. But no, they give off, in their national policies, a very anti-homosexual stance, while in their own conduct they're very, let's say, gay-friendly. And you also see this contradiction, or the difference between what they claim—a strictly religious society—and then, man, when they get to London, they're chasing women, they're drinking alcohol, and it's party all the time. And that's actually what happened in Dubai. You know, Iran has even joked that, as a result of the war, they've gotten rid of all the prostitutes. Hang on for a second.

**#Nima**

Okay, 5957.

**#Larry**

Sorry.

**#Nima**

Larry, the other point Donald Trump mentioned in his post today was about the Strait of Hormuz. He said that if they don't open it up immediately, we're going to hit all these electric generating plants, oil wells, and oil facilities, along with Clark Island. We're going to go after that as well. But here's what the response was from the Iranians—they actually responded positively. They said they're

opening up the Strait of Hormuz. Iran responded positively to Trump's threat and reopened the Strait of Hormuz, but only for two Chinese tankers.

## **#Larry**

So, you know, look, let's recognize the lack of logic and consistency on the part of Donald Trump. I mean, he really is all over the board. Call him two-faced. We can call him Janus—you know, the Roman god that had two faces looking in opposite directions. That's Donald Trump. Because two weeks ago, three weeks ago, they lifted all the sanctions on Iran, right? So why? Well, we needed to get more oil out there. We didn't want to have any sanctions preventing oil from getting onto the international market. So... then here he is now saying we're going to destroy your oil. So remember that oil we, three weeks ago, said was unsanctioned—you could deliver it—now we're going to destroy it. We're going to remove that from the market. And you're doing that at the very time when, in the last two days, the price of oil has gone up. You know, both Brent and West Texas Intermediate futures have gone up \$2, \$3, \$4. So one's up to like \$115, I think, and the other's up to \$102. Wow.

## **#Larry**

Sorry, that's going in the opposite direction. So what is it you're trying to accomplish? I mean, seriously—it's, you know, just checking the rent. So West Texas Intermediate is at \$102, Brent Crude is at \$114, and Murban Crude is at \$119. So, yeah.

## **#Larry**

So this is an inflation punch in the gut to the world economy. And that doesn't even begin to capture the cost of diesel.

## **#Nima**

Here's Scott Best and Larry C. Johnson talking about this trade for most.

## **#Speaker 04**

Well supplied, and we're seeing more and more ships go through on a daily basis as individual countries cut deals with the Iranian regime for the time being. But over time, the U.S. is going to retake control of the straits, and there will be freedom of navigation—whether through U.S. escorts or a multinational escort.

## **#Nima**

You know, it's amazing, Larry, when you look at the way Donald Trump is talking about negotiations, and Scott Beston talking about the United States being in charge of this, kind of controlling everything. It seems to me that we're living in different, you know, sort of universes. They're different from us. In what universe do they live, in your opinion?

## **#Larry**

How accurate is that? That's the right expression. They live in an alternate universe, and it's not reality. The United States already tried to do freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, to open that up. How did that turn out? The United States failed. They got beat by the Houthis. Well, Iran is much more formidable, much more powerful now, and has many more options in its arsenal of weapons and ways to pressure states in the Gulf and to control traffic through the Strait of Hormuz than the Houthis ever did.

So the United States failed to open the Red Sea, and the Houthis are now threatening to shut it down again as well. So you've got two critical waterways, and I guess the last one, sort of globally, would be the Strait of Malacca, which is over in Asia. This is really disrupting global supply chains across the board. It's raising shipping costs, insurance costs are going through the roof, and the effect of that on consumers is that it's going to mean much higher prices—or the goods you need or want just aren't there because they haven't been able to be put on a ship and sent forward.

## **#Larry**

I think you muted me.

## **#Nima**

The New York Times, Larry, reported that the United States has sent more than 50,000 soldiers to the Middle East to fight. So, let's assume Donald Trump finally decides to invade these islands. With 50,000 soldiers, how is that going to play out for him? And how is that going to benefit Donald Trump? Because, you know, we have to look at the capabilities of these forces on that island—or on some of the islands in the Persian Gulf—and what the political and military outcome would be for Donald Trump.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, this opens a whole can of worms in terms of exposing the fact that the United States doesn't even have a plan, doesn't even have a clear objective. Let me take you back—well before you were born—to World War II. The Pacific War started after the Japanese attacked on December 7th, 1941. By the middle of '42, the United States had put together a group of Marines who were sent to Guadalcanal to take control of that island. Why? What was the objective? The objective was to gain

control of that airfield and stop the Japanese from using it. Because if the Japanese had control of that airfield, they'd be able to control a lot of the maritime traffic that would be vulnerable to attack. So it was a clear military objective on the part of the United States.

Seize that island, get control of the airfield, and then you're able to patrol and limit the movement of the Japanese fleet in that area. You don't have that kind of objective here. So, okay, what's the objective? Well, open the Strait of Hormuz—except they're talking about attacking Karg Island. But Karg Island is well north of the Strait of Hormuz. So if you attack Karg, then you have to ask a second question: how are you going to get your troops there? If the Marines are going to be used, that means they'll have to sail through the Strait of Hormuz. And if they try that, they'll be sunk. Those ships carrying the Marines will never make it to Karg Island.

So I guess the other option is to fly them in—fly 5,000 Marines into Saudi Arabia or Kuwait—and then put them on amphibious boats and have them try to go across the Persian Gulf to land. Except then they're going to be vulnerable to attack by drones and missiles from Iran, right? So the third option is, well, you drop them in by parachute—except that's not the Marines, that's the 82nd Airborne. And once you seize the island, then what? They're not going to have enough troops to actually take full control of it, because there are several thousand Iranian citizens there, and they're going to fight back. And once they get into a fight with civilians and start killing civilians, that's going to create further international problems for the United States. And then there's the whole question of resupply—how do you resupply?

Because any resupply by air is going to be dicey—they'll be facing the risk of being shot down. So then you go, let's say, okay, they're going to try to open Qeshm—or take Qeshm. Qeshm's got about 150,000 people on it; it's not a small territory. And as I understand it, it's actually connected to the mainland, so it's not a complete island. But okay, let's say you get your troops on that island—then what? That doesn't eliminate Iranian drones, Iranian missiles, Iranian mini-submarines, or Iranian maritime drones. Those four things right there—and not to mention the speedboats, the Boghammers the Iranians have that can be used to attack ships—just putting troops on that island doesn't eliminate those threats that Iran can still use to keep the Strait of Hormuz shut.

Or let's say they go in and try to take Bandar Abbas. All you've done now is create a concentration of U.S. military forces that can be easily and readily attacked. None of this makes any sense militarily. You know, at least you could argue that in World War II in the Pacific, the United States hit Guadalcanal and then began the island-hopping campaign. They decided they could take different islands to secure control of different parts of the Pacific. And in some instances, they realized, hey, all we've got to do is just bypass the Japanese, right? Now, just one interesting fact about World War II in the Pacific.

The United States started its operations in New Guinea at the end of 1942, I believe. That fighting in New Guinea continued until after the dropping of the atomic bombs on Nagasaki. So that was an island the United States actually never took. And I would argue that this kind of inserting ground

forces could be sort of the new New Guinea for the United States Marine Corps—where they spent years fighting and not really making any progress to, quote, bring about the defeat of Japan. That was one of the most, if you will, meaningless military engagements of World War II. It went on for, you know, three and a half years and accomplished nothing other than getting people killed on both sides.

## **#Nima**

More recent experience is what happened at Snake Island. You know, the Ukrainians tried to invade Snake Island, and then Russia hit them and almost slaughtered them.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, and then the same thing happened to Russia. I mean, you've got this chunk of rock sitting out in the middle of the Black Sea, near the coast of Romania, and whoever gets on top of it—okay, you've got control of it, but so what? What can you do from there? Because then you're exposed to being hit by missiles, air-dropped bombs, or drones.

## **#Nima**

Yeah, I think, Larry, there are some lessons to be learned, as you mentioned, from the history of these kinds of moves if they try to do that. But nobody in the Trump administration would care about what had happened before. You remember when Donald Trump was elected in the United States, they decided to do the same thing against the Yemenis in the Red Sea. He did the same thing the Biden administration tried to do before, and he said, this time around it's going to be different—we're going to crush them, we're going to destroy them.

You don't see people understanding the reality of their own situation. They think they're different, that they're more powerful, that their decision-making system is working better than before. But tell me, Larry, as we talk today, do you see any military expert in the Trump administration—someone capable, whether military or intelligence—who really understands what's going on, who can push back against the rhetoric in Washington, against what Donald Trump is suggesting?

## **#Larry**

None have been speaking in public to that effect at all. Maybe they're saying it behind closed doors. But so far, all the commentary about putting in ground forces and moving forward with this crazy plan—it's all, you know, delusional about how great our Marines are and how effective they're going to be, etc. You know, I got a note yesterday from a retired U.S. officer who was in Special Operations Forces. He had been in charge of the hunt for Scuds and other things back in 2003 in Iraq.

And he noticed that—he said there’s a real disconnect. If you go and search online about the 2003 Special Operations Forces hunt for Scuds and WMDs, you get these great stories about what was done by the 5th Special Forces Group and by this outfit and that outfit. And he said—and I’m quoting him—it’s all complete bullshit. It’s all a lie. That’s not what happened. He shared with me, he said, “You know, we received all these WMD target folders that listed every site where they thought WMDs were and what targets we needed to hit.” And then he said, “You know what?”

Every one of those targets—and he said there were dozens, excuse me, hundreds—quoting him, hundreds of target folders were prepared by the U.S. Central Command, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the CIA. And he said not one operational Scud was found from those target folders. Not one. And that’s the point: a lot of times the U.S. military claims it’s acting on the best intelligence, but it’s not the best intelligence. It’s wrong—completely wrong. So they think, “Oh yeah, all we’ve got to do is attack Kharg Island and that’ll shut off Iran’s oil and Iran will collapse,” or, “All we’ve got to do is take Qeshm Island and that’ll open up the Strait.” No. They’re acting on bad, bad intelligence.

## **#Nima**

The war, Larry, is—because of Israel. Because Israel wants it. And why? Because so far, from what we've learned from the IDF, if the invasion happens, they're not going to be part of the operation. So is anybody asking Donald Trump if the whole operation is because of Israel—because of Israel’s security? Why are we the ones on the front line to fight? We’ve been part of this—not all of it, but part of this operation. If they want to fight the Iranians, that’s the whole point.

## **#Larry**

But, I mean, look, Israel can’t fight Iran. With what? All it can do is launch these aerial attacks with bombs and missiles. The reality is that Israel is suffering tremendous losses right now at the hands of Hezbollah. When the history of this war is written—particularly with respect to the defeat of Israel, because that’s what we’re going to be looking at, a decisive defeat—they’re going to point to the fact that Israel completely underestimated Hezbollah’s capabilities, and that the coordinated effort by Hezbollah and Iran was more than Israel could handle. In one day alone, just two or three days ago, Hezbollah destroyed 21 Merkava tanks.

I mean, these are the biggest, baddest tanks around—wiped out. So if you're destroying 21 tanks, let's just, you know, I think they have a crew of four. But let's be generous and say just two members per tank were killed or wounded. That’s still significant, and the odds are the casualties are much higher. Israel’s not talking about those. Israel doesn’t have the manpower in its army to load up and dispatch to, quote, participate in a ground invasion of Iran. They’re already talking about trying to call up 400,000 new reservists. They’ve already got 300,000 activated—and they want another 400,000?

## **#Larry**

That takes people out of the economy. It's going to further contract and depress the economy. And they're already getting pushback. People are saying, "Hell no, I'm not going. I'm not doing that." Yeah.

## **#Nima**

I think the problem is really serious when the head of the IDF, or the commander of the IDF, says they're on the verge of collapse. That means something. It's like ten red flags. Let's assume that in a short period of time—what can they do to...

## **#Nima**

To repair that, to somehow fix it—is that possible for Israel today? Because they're fighting. As we talk today, Larry, let's assume they're sending some fighter jets over Iran to hit targets. Oh, yes—but nothing more than that.

## **#Larry**

Yeah. It looks like the scapegoating process has started in Israel. They're blaming the head of Mossad, a guy named David Barnea, saying this is all his fault. He told us it was going to be a piece of cake. He said the Iranian government was fragile, that it could be easily replaced. And now they're caught. Just before we came on air, I was on with the judge, and at the end of the show they were picking up news that Iran and Hezbollah together had just hit the Haifa oil refinery, and the whole thing was on fire. If that refinery is out, that's a key source of fuel and oil for Israel—on top of the fact that the price per barrel of oil is now going through the roof.

## **#Nima**

And not only the oil—it seems that Iran is hitting targets inside Israel, which could cause a lot of problems for the air force to take off, by destroying the facilities they use for that. And that could be hugely problematic when it comes to operations in Iran or against Lebanon.

## **#Larry**

Well, and then also you have Hezbollah with its missiles and rockets hitting key military facilities. And now the Houthis have joined in. The Houthis are apparently bombing or sending missile strikes into the Negev—places like Dimona and Nevatim. So Israel has some important military assets there. Yeah, Israel's getting hit now from three sides. And the goal in war is you never want to be fighting a two-front war if you can avoid it, because if you fight a two-front war, you have to start allocating resources, making decisions about who gets what, since you don't have unlimited resources. So now

Israel is actually in a four-front war. They're fighting Iran, they're fighting Hamas, they're fighting Hezbollah, and now they're fighting the Houthis.

## **#Nima**

And just imagine that—seeing what Ben-Gurion is trying to do. I don't know if you saw his video yesterday. He said we have to assassinate al-Jolani in Syria. This guy is just, you know, they're going crazy. Naftali Bennett wants to go after Turkey. He wants to assassinate—each of them somehow is making a lot of noise. You know, when you're fighting this way, it seems like you don't have any strategy except destroying yourself.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, well, the only thing they know is killing. I would describe Israel as like a satanic death cult. They dress themselves up in the words of religion, claiming there's somehow a fulfillment of prophecy from ancient prophets and that they are the chosen people of God. No, this is the spawn of Satan. Because there was this guy named Jesus, and he said something—"by their fruits you will know them." You look at what they do; that tells you who they are. What Israel is, is a nation seized with killing women and children, taking the land of others. There's no generosity, no humanity in any of that.

## **#Nima**

But the Israeli people, Larry, are experiencing something right now that's so different from anything they've experienced before.

## **#Larry**

Oh, yeah. Well, they've never experienced this—never. Not even during the wars back in 1948, at the Nakba. They didn't experience anything on this scale, not even in '67 or '73. Yeah, no, it's new, uncharted territory.

## **#Nima**

Netanyahu is in a bunker. His family—they're in Florida.

## **#Larry**

Yeah. Well, you saw Tucker Carlson is staying on the attack against Netanyahu. He hosted Alex Gibney the other day—Gibney made a documentary about Netanyahu's corruption. So that's starting

to get more attention. And I think what you're starting to see in the United States is a real shift in opinion. Previously, most Americans were very favorably disposed toward Israel, wanted to support Israel. Not now. It's moving in the opposite direction.

## **#Nima**

The decision for Donald Trump is whether to stay with Netanyahu or leave him. I don't see Trump leaving Netanyahu, because he wants to do everything to go down with him.

## **#Larry**

Netanyahu and Trump are a lot alike in a couple of ways.

## **#Larry**

Netanyahu was once considered politically dead. His career was over with the corruption charges and everything else. But man, he came back. Winning that election gave him a sense of invincibility—"I can do anything, you can't stop me." And Donald Trump has the same attitude. The failed assassination attempts convinced him that he's the instrument of God, that he gets to decide what God wants and what God doesn't want. So, you know, they're both narcissists—malevolent narcissists at that, unfortunately. Yeah.

## **#Nima**

Larry, the other part of the war, as you've mentioned, has to do with what the Houthis or Yemenis are trying to do. Right now, they're talking about the Strait of Hormuz and the situation everyone knows is going on there. And if Yemen decides to close the Bab al-Mandab Strait in the Red Sea—well, I don't know, the combination of the two—how is that going to affect the global economy? Do you think they're going to do that anytime soon?

## **#Larry**

I doubt it, actually, because right now my understanding is that the Red Sea is effectively closed to commercial shipping. Going back to when the Houthis first started, in December 2023, shutting down traffic—especially traffic going to Israel—well, it's still not open to any ship that's Israeli-owned, U.S.-owned, or headed to Israel. As a result of that, and some of the attacks they've carried out, insurance companies basically stopped insuring ships. They said, "If you're going to sail through there, you're doing it on your own."

We're not going to back you. So instead, the ships are now taking the longer trip around Africa. That's why I say the Houthis have already sort of closed it in a de facto way. They haven't made it official, but for all practical purposes, it's closed. The only thing coming out of there right now is

Saudi oil that's being piped across the country from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea, but that's a limited volume. If the Houthis decide to start attacking that—and they very well might—that would further disrupt the world oil supply.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. It seems, Larry, that if Donald Trump decides to invade Iran, it's not only going to be from the Persian Gulf. They're talking about Balochistan and Kurdistan all coming together. And we're seeing something, I think, since the end of the Iran-Iraq war—something developing between the Iranian and Iraqi people that we haven't seen before. You know, the whole concept of having a war for eight years created hatred, made enemies. But it seems that all that animosity has passed, and the way they're feeling about each other now—Iraqis about Iranians, Iranians about Iraqis—shows a kind of strength. Even with the Kurdish groups in Iraqi Kurdistan, they're not going to come in putting pressure, because they have Iraqis going against them. They don't even need Iranians to fight them. This is something new to me.

## **#Larry**

Well, yeah, again, this is an area that the average American just has no knowledge of, unfortunately. When the United States invaded Iraq and deposed, dethroned Saddam Hussein—a Ba'athist, a Sunni—but he wasn't a religious guy. He was very non-sectarian in that regard. The power immediately fell to the Shia groups in Iraq, you know, Shia Arabs, who had had protection and support from Iran for the previous, you know, 20 years. And then all of a sudden the United States started trying to—well, they worked with the Dawa, and I forget the name of the other group. But opposing them was the Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, a.k.a. Muki. His name is Muqtada al-Sadr, yeah. Muqtada al-Sadr, okay. And, you know, he fought against U.S. troops. And again, the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq was illegal.

It was a violation of international law, but, you know, we justified it. That was where, I think, the healing of the damage—the wounds that had been inflicted as a result of the war in the 1980s—began. Again, a war inspired, supported, encouraged, and funded by the United States. Those wounds started to heal, and cooperation between Iran and the Shia Arabs started expanding and increasing. And so now Iraq is in the position of expelling, forcing out these American invaders after 23 years—almost a quarter of a century. The United States should never have been there in the first place, and now they're being forced out. So, yeah, I think the alliance between Iran and Iraq is strong. And I could see Iran backing Iraq—"Hey, go ahead and take over Kuwait"—because, again, Kuwait is another artificial creation.

## **#Nima**

I think, in the short run, we'd see some sort of turmoil in Kuwait and basically in Bahrain.

**#Larry**

You're already seeing that in Bahrain, right?

**#Nima**

Yeah, yeah.

**#Larry**

Yeah.

**#Nima**

And Kuwait is really feeling it now, you know, because the escalation is reaching Kuwait. Yesterday, the United States, together with the Israelis, attacked not only steel factories but also water facilities in a province called Khuzestan. I know this province, and in the city called Ahvaz, they hit a water facility. It had nothing to do, Larry, with anything military or the nuclear program—nothing. It was just to bring suffering to the people. Then Iran hit back at a desalination plant in Kuwait. This is the new phase of the escalation, and people need to understand how devastating it could be if it continues, because the whole region basically depends on these desalination plants.

**#Larry**

Yeah, no, so Iran can survive without desalination plants.

**#Nima**

Iran is about 2% dependent on them. It's nothing—almost nothing.

**#Larry**

But Kuwait can't, Saudi Arabia can't, Bahrain can't, Qatar can't. So this is—and Iran, you know, it warned the West and Israel—if you attack these sites in our country, we will come back and attack them in the others. It's going to be tit for tat. It'll be an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. And the reality is, the Gulf Arabs are going to wind up blind and toothless before this is over. As I said, now, taking out the water, you're going to create a humanitarian crisis, and people are going to have to start abandoning. They can't continue living there.

**#Nima**

Does it feel to you like Donald Trump is deliberately doing this because they want Iran to destroy these Arab states?

## **#Larry**

No. The reason I say no is that you're presupposing Donald Trump has some sort of master plan he's working from. You know, he's just like a jazz musician riffing on notes. He wakes up, says one thing one day, the exact opposite the next. Again, what's the strategy? What's the goal? Is it regime change? Is it reducing ballistic missiles? Is it stopping the nuclear program? Marco Rubio was on television earlier today talking about the danger of Iran on the nuclear side.

It's like, wait a second—he was presenting Iran as if it were a rogue nation. Except Iran, unlike Israel, is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. There are now moves in the Iranian legislature to say, you know, hell, we're going to withdraw from that, we're not going to continue to abide by it. And I don't blame them. But it's Iran, not Israel, that allows IAEA inspectors into its facilities. So we're in an upside-down world where Iran is constantly accused of terrorism and other acts that are actually carried out by the West, not by Iran.

## **#Nima**

As you mentioned, they're seriously talking about the NPT, and many people are in favor of leaving or withdrawing from it. Right. Because, after all, we have to understand there has to be some sort of balance in the region. If Israel has nuclear weapons, nuclear bombs, who's going to deter that? Who's going to be—these are huge, big issues right now in Iran. They're talking about it; everybody's talking about it. Decision-makers are talking about it. I think, finally, Larry, what we'll see is Iran leaving the NPT because they don't see anything good coming out of it. Even the head of the IAEA suggested somehow that the only way to destroy the Iranian nuclear program is to use nuclear bombs. This is so crazy, you know—the way he's not even condemning the United States and Israel for their attacks, for their aggression against Iran.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, well, again, the West has grossly underestimated Iran. It wants this cheap, easy takeover of Iran in order to take control of its resources. But we're seeing that Iran has fought back very smartly, with a plan. By methodically taking out all those ground-based radars, it left the United States in a position where it had to rely on AWACS—the airborne radar system. And, you know, the destruction of one of those planes the other day significantly limits what the United States and Israel can detect in terms of threats, like someone firing a missile.

## **#Nima**

Not only that, they hit those refueling tankers too—you know, the airplanes in Saudi Arabia. And it seems they have good intelligence coming from satellites. They're receiving solid information. So, how do you see, Larry, the way Russia and China are helping or cooperating with the Iranians so far?

## **#Larry**

Yeah, they seem to be providing a lot of assistance. Now, I saw there's this Ukrainian—or maybe anti-Ukrainian—site called Borzykman that puts out videos. It used to focus almost exclusively on the Russian-Ukrainian war, but now it's been covering the war in Iran. He put one out yesterday claiming that the Chinese had not denounced the American attack on Iran. And I'm thinking, no, that's not true—they did, at the United Nations, right after it happened. Then he claimed that Iran was preventing items from being shipped out on Chinese vessels. Well, then we get this other information. So, just because there's a lot of disinformation out there, you've got to watch carefully and look at who's doing what. But I think what's clear is that both China and Russia recognize they've got a vested interest in making sure Iran survives and that the West is contained. Because both Russia and China know they're next on the chopping block if the West has its way.

## **#Nima**

Zelensky went to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. He's trying to help those two countries defend themselves against Iranian drones. And what is he going to provide to them that the United States hasn't already provided?

## **#Larry**

Provide? He's not going there to provide anything. He's going there to try to make some more money because he believes these guys have money they can give him. You know, that's what's going on here. I can't emphasize enough that these are not real countries in terms of—look at the population of Saudi Arabia. It's listed as having about 36 million people. Great. Except around 14 million of that 36 million are not citizens. They're people who've come from places like the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Cambodia to work as slave laborers. And when they get into the country, their passports are taken away. So they're not really citizens of that country. Think about that—over 40%, maybe closer to 50%, of the population aren't really patriots of that land or invested in it. They're just there to get a paycheck. You know, those kinds of countries don't survive long.

## **#Nima**

Larry, how do you see the way Europe is trying to respond to Donald Trump's pressure on them? Because Trump is saying that NATO without the United States is nothing, but at the same time he's asking them to come to the Strait of Hormuz to help him. So far, one of the most important stances, in my opinion, from the Europeans is through NATO. The way Spain is showing some independence—it's a bold move on their part, saying, "No, we're not going to be part of it." It doesn't matter how much pressure, sanctions, or tariffs the United States tries to use on them. It's something new.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, the Spaniards today, I think, just announced that they're denying U.S. use of their airspace. So no U.S. military aircraft involved in fighting in or around Iran will be allowed through Spanish airspace. So, you know, they're speaking out. Starmer, interestingly enough, was pretty firm the other day, saying that Great Britain's not going to get involved in this war. So, you know, the U.S. is stuck. It doesn't have a way out other than to surrender. It would be a tacit surrender, but essentially it would mean admitting that Iran won—and Trump's not ready to do that. I think he eventually will have to, but right now he's not ready to.

**#Nima**

Yeah. Thank you, Larry, as always. You're back.

**#Larry**

I'm back. I'll be around. We'll see you on Friday with Colonel Wilkerson.

**#Nima**

Exactly.

**#Larry**

This is going to be a pretty consequential, eventful week. We may be talking before that. That could be. You behave yourself. All right, my friend. Bye-bye.

**#Nima**

Thank you.