

Nima R. Alkhorshid: Iran's Long War

Strategy: The Battle Iran Is Winning

Iran conflict analysis: psychological warfare, military strategy & regional dynamics. Covers failed regime change efforts, attacks on civilian infrastructure, and Iran's focus on radar/logistics targets. Explores Iran's domestic missile/nuclear capabilities, long-war readiness, and growing national unity. Examines shifting Gulf alliances, US intelligence challenges, and Strait of Hormuz implications. Argues escalation strengthens Iranian resolve while complicating US positioning. No political solutions viable as confrontation extends.

#Nima

What's going on on the battlefield in Iran, both psychologically and militarily, is that we have two fronts running right now. On one side, you see how the United States, together with Israel, is trying to control everything when it comes to the mainstream media in the West. Because part of this war—actually, I'd say the most important part—is the psychological one. When this war started, they said everything in Iran was on the verge of collapse, that they were going to go in, defeat and assassinate the Supreme Leader of Iran along with his commanders, and then everything would fall apart. But that didn't happen.

And then they started talking about some political figures within the Iranian government who were, behind the scenes, talking with Donald Trump, with the Trump administration, with the Israelis. It all started, I think you remember, with General Ghani, who was the successor to General Soleimani. He's the head of the Quds branch of the IRGC. So there were a lot of rumors, and those rumors are still running the show. They say he's somehow cooperating with the Israelis behind the scenes. And, you know, this is the type of war that Iranians are facing today. It's not just about Ghani. Then, after the assassination, the war started.

Nothing went in the direction the United States wanted it to. Then they said Qalibaf was negotiating with Donald Trump behind the scenes—that he was the right guy to negotiate with, that he was the leader of Iran. They wanted to stir up some kind of turmoil, some kind of problem inside Iran—within the administration, within Iranian society. And yesterday we heard about Hassan Rouhani, the former president of Iran—some photos of him in Switzerland, people saying he's there cashing his money, that he wants to go somewhere. But this is a psychological war, what's happening right now.

And people may—well, you may want to understand that what's happening in Iran is totally disconnected from public opinion in the West. Because whatever the Trump administration and the Israelis are trying to do is to manipulate the Western hemisphere. I'm talking not just about North America, but Latin America, Europe, and some parts of West Asia. But the people in Iran aren't really

connected to what's happening in the mainstream media in the West, because most people just aren't connected. The internet connection isn't working anymore, so they're using a domestic network.

Then whatever they're doing outside of Iran is not going to influence the unity that's happening, growing, and getting stronger inside Iran. So I think on that front, we can see it was a total collapse. They're not going to achieve anything by trying to create some sort of turmoil or political problems for certain figures within the government, because all of them are together right now. They're calling them out—talking about Qalibaf, Rouhani, other figures, General Ghaani—to find where they are and hit them, to kill them, to assassinate them. This is the main problem.

You know, the agenda when it comes to the way the United States and the Israelis are trying to fight this war—on the other hand, when you look at the targets today in Iran, unfortunately, they're hitting schools, and it's spreading to universities. From yesterday to today, we've learned that three universities—two of them in Tehran and one in Isfahan—were hit by American and Israeli forces. So the question is, what's the main objective of that? Are they connected to the military-industrial complex of the country? No, there's no connection. If they're connected, it's only through their professors and the people who studied in those universities.

It's not about those universities doing research for the military-industrial complex. That's totally wrong, and it's false if they argue that. They're hitting the lower levels in the process of destroying Iran's infrastructure—education, health, everything. They want to destroy it all because Donald Trump is so obsessed with how the Iranian government is reacting, responding, firing back at targets in the region. So what can they do? Do they have updated intelligence, trustworthy information coming out of Iran? No, they don't.

That's why they're hitting universities, schools, hospitals, and killing civilians. Even in the case of Larijani, they destroyed an entire neighborhood just to assassinate him. You see how fragile, how weak their intelligence is when it comes to Iran. Everyone was talking about it—Mossad is everywhere in Iran, they said. They're manipulated. But what's happened in the aftermath of the 12-day war is that Iran has rooted out most of these agents, most of these networks in the country that were somehow connected with Israeli intelligence. So today, as we speak, I think we can say that the government's intelligence and counterintelligence have managed to deal with the Mossad agents inside Iran.

And the United States and Israel—they're running out of targets in Iran. They're hitting civilians. Donald Trump issued a 48-hour ultimatum for Iran, then five days, then ten days. What was the main objective of that? "We are not going to hit, we are not going to attack your energy facilities." But what did they do? They attacked them. They hit the steel factories—two or three of them in Iran—and they hit two nuclear sites: one in Bushehr, in the southern part of Iran, and the other in the central part, in the city of Arak. Arak is a city in the central province of Iran; it was responsible for producing heavy water. So they hit these two facilities along with the steel factories.

And the other thing that's happened in the last three days was the attack on the water facilities. They hit targets in a city called Haftkel, in the province of Khuzestan. It's a small city; it doesn't have much importance when it comes to the military-industrial complex. It has nothing to do with anything military or strategic. But they hit those targets because the city—and the province of Khuzestan—are in the western part of the country, close to the Iraqi border, so they have access to hit them. So what else can they do? They hit water facilities to create problems with the water network, to disrupt the supply of water to people.

This is the problem they're dealing with in Iran right now. The United States is moving to the next level because they don't know where the targets are—military or strategic targets in Iran. They haven't been able to achieve what they wanted, because when you go inside a country—just remember what happened in Ukraine—you try to defeat your enemy strategically before using all these military tactics. But that's not happening. As time goes by, I can confirm that everything is coming under the control of the Iranian government. When the war started, there was some chaos because society didn't know how to deal with the consequences of the war.

But as time goes by, you see not only the military—the IRGC together with the army—figuring out how to deal with things, how to manage everything. You see the Iranian people coming together. This is new. It's getting better as time goes by. That's why the United States is attacking civilians. They don't care anymore about regime change and all that. You know, J.D. Vance and the others—we've learned that J.D. Vance had a phone call with Benjamin Netanyahu, telling him that some of the information Mossad provided to the United States and to Donald Trump's office was somehow stolen or not accurate. So what does that mean? It means they don't know what the main targets are right now.

What can they do to change the dynamic of the war? On the Iranian side, you see something else. They haven't targeted any desalination plants in the West or in the Persian Gulf, including those connected with Israel, because right now they don't need to go that far. What would be the main objective in doing that? If you have targets—radars, logistics—to hit, they're totally focused on what the United States is trying to do, since it's bringing new forces into the region. I think sooner or later we're going to see a confrontation on the ground in the southern part of Iran or on some of the islands in the Persian Gulf near the Strait of Hormuz.

That would bring a lot of changes to the way Donald Trump is trying to frame the whole concept of war in the United States. And as Iran becomes more unified, Trump is trying to make the case at home to get more support. You see J.D. Vance coming out, even talking about what they've achieved in Venezuela. What J.D. Vance is arguing—though I don't think he shares exactly the same objectives as Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu—is still part of the broader movement you see around Trump. He still believes they can grab Iranian oil and do something similar to what they did in Venezuela. That's totally delusional. It's not going to happen.

And nobody's sure, as time goes by, how much information J.D. Vance is actually getting from U.S. intelligence. Because when you see him somehow talking with Benjamin Netanyahu and putting the blame on Netanyahu, it suggests he doesn't have valid information from the CIA or other U.S. intelligence sources. That's why he ends up calling Netanyahu to place the blame on him. What's happening right now in terms of the Iranian response to the attack on the oil and steel factories is that they're hitting targets. The giant aluminum producer in the UAE was hit by Iranian missiles. But the main focus at the moment is on the region—how to counter the United States and manage the current phase of the war—because it's going to move to the ground. So Iran has to focus on the radars. That's why they hit the AWACS aircraft in Saudi Arabia.

This is the first time one of these airplanes has been hit by Iranian missiles, and it inflicted casualties on Americans. That's one of the other objectives right now for the Iranian army. I'd say what's happening in terms of Iranian strategy toward the Arab states in the region is to keep them in the fight, because they're part of the fight. I mean, they're hitting some facilities in those countries to make them understand that Iran considers them enemies. So they're hitting them. On the other hand, you can see there's been a drastic change when it comes to Qatar. Iran didn't hit any targets in Qatar. It's been, I think, six days since Iran decided not to attack Qatar—or, basically, not to hit important or crucial facilities there.

So you have Qatar and Oman with a different sort of mindset as time goes by. You have Saudi Arabia together with the UAE and Kuwait. I would say public opinion in Kuwait is drastically changing. But still, the core, the foundation of Kuwait's hostility toward Iran—the Iranian government, the Iranian people, and Iran as a country in West Asia—is right now Saudi Arabia and the UAE, basically the UAE. Saudi Arabia was—well, you know, yesterday Donald Trump said that the king of Saudi Arabia, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, you know, he must kiss his rear end. So his rear—and this, you know, when you say something like that to a crown prince who's going to be the king of Saudi Arabia, it's huge.

You can't imagine how important that is in Arabian culture. When you say something like that, it's like you've nuked Saudi Arabia. Donald Trump basically nuked Saudi Arabia by saying that, by the way he talked about the crown prince. I'd say that's going to cause a lot of turmoil in Saudi Arabia and affect how it sees the conflict as time goes by. And the other concept of what's happening in West Asia—if you look at the mainstream media, they're mostly talking about how oil prices are going up and how the market is changing. Donald Trump isn't capable anymore of manipulating the market, because he did that once, twice, and now the market understands how he's trying to do it.

So I think he used his opportunity, and twice—so he lost that opportunity. He's lost the ability to do it again. On the other hand, if the escalations continue, the next thing would be attacks on the desalination plants. Water is much more important than oil in the region. Water is everything. To understand that, you have to look at what Israel is doing in the southern part of Syria and the southern part of Lebanon. These regions are crucial when it comes to fresh water. So Israel is

grabbing some land to secure that, because basically 75% of the water comes from desalination plants. Iran hasn't attacked these desalination plants so far. Iran is keeping an eye on them.

They hit a chemical factory in Israel that's connected to the military-industrial complex of the Israeli army. Looking at what's happening on the battlefield right now, I think the reality is that Iran feels pretty comfortable with the situation because they've managed to stay focused on their objectives. Their objective isn't civilians in Arab states or in Israel. The Iranian objective is radars and logistics—those are the main priorities for the Iranian government. But the suffering the whole region is experiencing because of what's going on—you can see it. You see Saudi Arabia, together with Pakistan and Turkey, gathering in Pakistan to make some sort of political move, to find some kind of solution for what's happening.

But the problem with Iran cannot be solved politically, in my opinion, at this point. Iran sets objectives. Let's remember what the objectives were before the war started—basically, the Iranian nuclear program and the ballistic missile program. So, are they still on the table to negotiate? Nobody in Iran is talking about it. Nobody says they're willing to negotiate with the United States. What's going on right now in Iran is about how and when they can withdraw from the NPT. Sooner or later, Iran will withdraw from the NPT. I think that's a huge warning—a huge message for the United States to understand where this war is going and how the escalation is changing Iranian policy and strategy.

The worst thing that could have happened to Iran is this war—a war that's killing civilians, students, you know, people in schools, universities, hospitals, oil facilities. What else can they do? What else can happen to Iran? So the leadership has to, they have to come to some sort of understanding. And they're coming to that understanding—that there's no point in negotiating with the United States, no political solution to what's going on. Everything is going to be decided on the battlefield. And the United States has no capability. They started with the Iranian nuclear program, the Iranian ballistic missile program.

The main objective right now is how to open up the Strait of Hormuz. And Donald Trump is desperately doing everything—he's trying to put pressure on the Europeans, trying to talk with countries in the region, talking with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, all these countries, about how to manage it. But nobody's coming up with a plan. Nobody wants to, you know, get involved militarily in the region. Even, I would say, the United Kingdom is behind the scenes playing an important role, while somehow saying they're not part of the war. They're doing everything—all the Europeans are—doing everything to protect the United States and the Israelis.

So you can't say they're not part of the war. They are part of it, but on the defensive side. When it comes to the offensive, they're involved in terms of intelligence and military equipment. They're trying to provide the United States with everything it needs. That's why they're sending their ships—

their military ships—to help the United States. But Donald Trump was making fun of the British equipment. The guy is, somehow, making fun of the Europeans at the same time he wants them to help him. And he says, “I have the most powerful military on this planet.”

The Navy is doing great. Just remember what happened to the Gerald Ford—what happened to that aircraft carrier, the biggest one the United States has. They’re not talking about it, but it was hit by Iranian missiles and drones. It wasn’t some kind of fire in the laundry room or anything like that. It’s just stupid to assume that whatever the United States tells us about the problems they’re facing with this carrier has anything to do with reality. There is no reality.

The United States is militarily defeated—militarily and strategically defeated—in the Persian Gulf. As time goes by, it doesn’t matter how you hit the target, even civilian targets, to bring suffering to the Iranian people in order to put pressure on the government. This is their strategy right now: they want to hit civilians to pressure the Iranian government. But they don’t realize this strategy is going to backfire on them. The more you hit civilians, the closer they’ll get to the Iranian government and its policies. And people in Iran are furious.

You know, many of these Iranians in the diaspora—well, not many of them, I would say—unfortunately, a lot of those who are outside, the majority of Iranians in the diaspora, are either silent or just trying to understand what’s going on. They’re so isolated by the mainstream media in the West that they don’t really know what’s happening in Iran. I experienced that when I was in Iran. The government was being accused of using chemical weapons against its own people, of killing Iranians in the streets. I was somehow shocked by how they could brainwash people that way. These Iranians in the diaspora really believed everything was falling apart in Iran—that the government was killing everyone and destroying everything.

You know, it had nothing to do with reality. I assume those people—Iranians who’ve been living outside of Iran for such a long time—they don’t know what Iranian society is like today, how people feel when the United States talks about attacking Iran. They say, “Let the United States attack Iran, let’s destroy everything, we’ll rebuild it.” But the guy’s been living outside of Iran for more than twenty years. He can’t even manage his own life, and he’s talking about going back to Iran and making things better. We have to understand what’s going on when we talk with some of these Iranian people.

I would say these are minorities outside of Iran who are talking this way. It shows how disconnected the Iranians inside and outside the country are. They don’t really understand what’s happening. You know, some of them even make fun of people who are being hit by American missiles in Iran. When the United States attacked that primary school in Iran on the first day of the war, most of these people outside of Iran—the ones on the streets—were actually supporting it. I’m not saying they’re the majority, but many of those who came out were in favor of the war, supporting the American and Israeli attacks on Iran.

They said that school was targeted by the Iranian government. They're trying to manipulate people, trying to manipulate the whole country. You know, their friends in the West—that doesn't change anything in Iran. Because Iranian people right now are mostly united. They know how to fight, and they want to fight. The Strait of Hormuz will remain Iranian, and whoever wants to use it will have to get some sort of permission from the Iranian government or the Iranian army, which would be the main authority over the Strait of Hormuz.