

Col. Larry Wilkerson: Will War Crash the Global Economy?

Deep dive into escalating US-Iran tensions: questioning evidence transparency in recent high-profile cases, analyzing military strategy risks, and exploring potential global economic consequences. Discussion covers regional instability, humanitarian impacts of prolonged conflict, and challenges to official narratives. Experts warn of recession risks from expanded warfare, examine Middle East dynamics including Israel's domestic challenges and Arab state positions, and assess the viability of proposed ground operations. The conversation also addresses misinformation concerns, the role of media in shaping public perception, and calls for greater accountability in foreign policy decisions affecting global stability. A critical look at the human cost of empire and the urgent need for diplomatic solutions over military escalation.

#Nima

Something that we were talking about—it's related to the war happening right now between Iran and the United States. Something that happened before the war started was the case of Charlie Kirk. You and I have talked about it many times—what happened, what the reality of the shooting was, the evidence, everything. But today we've learned from the Daily Mail that the bullet used to kill Charlie Kirk didn't match the rifle they say was used by Tyler Robinson. And that's, you know, pretty amazing. Kash Patel has been asked several times if he's sure Tyler Robinson did it, and he said they're sure, that there was a lot of evidence. What do you make of what's going on with the case of Charlie Kirk? We know Charlie Kirk was against the war with Iran. He did everything he could before this disaster—the so-called war on Iran—happened. And he's not living on this planet right now; he's passed away. What do you make of what's going on?

#Larry

As you know from talking with Larry Johnson and probably others too—and I know from talking with both Larry and Ray McGovern and others—we never thought this was properly presented. That is to say, we didn't think the shooter was the shooter, we didn't think the rifle was the rifle, and we didn't think the bullet was the bullet. I don't know if these new allegations are bringing this to the surface again, and whether they're doing it legitimately and accurately or not. But I won't change my view, having heard the experts and knowing something about rifles myself. There's no way this guy shot Charlie Kirk. And he certainly didn't shoot him from the position they're claiming he did. The rifle, in all its configurations, if you will, could not have been the weapon that fired the round that killed him. So the question is, what are they hiding? And who are they hiding?

#Nima

Yeah. And do you think this administration would ever reveal what really happened? Because so far, they've been so—well, they haven't informed the public. They haven't told the media what happened behind the scenes, what the evidence was. Kash Patel, for example, said this guy killed Charlie Kirk because all the evidence was against him. But what was that evidence? What were those documents against him? So far, we haven't seen any. Have you seen any kind of document against this guy?

#Larry

No, I've seen nothing that proves to me that he was the shooter. And I think we're looking at a similar set of circumstances to those that existed around a much more—if you will—important killing: John Kennedy in Dallas in 1963. That took a long time and a commission—badly flawed as it was, ultimately flawed in reality and impact—but it took a lot of effort and a lot of people to finally determine the nature of the lie that was going to be told to the nation. I should say lies, plural, that were going to be told to the nation, and the people who would participate in that lying—from Earl Warren, the former chief justice who was the head of the commission, all the way down to individuals whose stories, not with their acknowledgment or complicity, were reversed, such as the team that did the first autopsy in Dallas.

All to say, that was a very, very closely scrutinized process—not closely enough, as it turns out—but it was public, and it was done in front of the Klieg lights, if you will. Even though it was a falsification of the evidence, they went to some effort to do that. They've done nothing with this. Now, you could say, well, Charlie Kirk wasn't a very important character. I'd say he was pretty important. I think some of the things he said were absolutely vile—I didn't like him at all—but when he began to shift, it was clear he got a lot of people irritated, a lot of people very, very mad, particularly Jewish American billionaires. He got them especially mad. So, you know, the next conclusion is, just as you went and figured out who probably shot John Kennedy—CIA, military, disgruntled Cubans, mafia—you take your pick.

It probably was a conspiracy among them all. But this is a little different because it's not that public and it's not that scrutinized. It's simply Kash Patel, and maybe some other people with the FBI. I don't even know how many people are in on the investigation. So why is it taking so long to produce evidence that people could believe? Are we going to have a commission? Are we going to have to get Kash Patel out and beat the truth out of him? Does Kash Patel even know? Does he have a clue? I suspect he has the vaguest idea of who killed Charlie Kirk—no, not the vaguest idea. Now, they don't want to tell Trump that either. They don't want to tell the American people that because it shows their incompetence. But I don't think they have a clue who killed him. I do have some clues as to who I think might have killed him, that's for sure. And it ain't that guy with the rifle.

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

It's Epstein in a small capsule, right? It doesn't impact Trump. It doesn't impact any of Congress. It doesn't impact any of these important, posh people. It's just Charlie Kirk. If it were more people, they'd probably be hiding it a little more adroitly, and they'd probably be manufacturing more evidence and so forth. But since it's just Charlie Kirk out there, who cares? So why go speedily? Why go accurately? Why even try to do anything other than railroad someone? But it's going to be increasingly difficult to railroad this guy because there are so many people out there, like Larry Johnson and others, who know it's a lie.

#Nima

Many things have happened since the assassination of Charlie Kirk, which was so strange. One of them was the way Donald Trump was asked—if you remember—he was asked, “How do you feel about Charlie Kirk?” He said, you know, about the assassination of Charlie, “Hey, it’s good. Look at that building, this beautiful building that we are, you know...”

#Larry

Well, look at the way he's treating it. Have you heard what he says?

#Nima

It's the whole tone, yeah.

#Larry

About the head of the National Counterterrorism Center—the number two guy, I guess, in the hierarchy at the ODNI—he didn't know him. I didn't know him. I gave him a job. Well, I thought he was a pretty good guy. I gave him a job, but he's left now. I think he's wrong. Well, you listen to him talk—listen to the guy talk and tell about the telephone conversation he had with Donald Trump, telling him he was going to leave, and the conversation Trump had with him in response to that. Totally opposite. Trump wants you to think that he didn't even know this guy, and that it's just inconsequential that he left. And he's wrong about the Iran war. He should have left if he felt that way. And this guy is saying, “Well, I had a long telephone call with the president, and I talked to him about what I was feeling and everything, and we went back and forth for a while.” Who's telling the truth? I'd put my money on the other guy, not the president, because he's a proverbial liar.

#Nima

Today, Larry, we had the briefing with Pete Hackett and General Cain, and both of them mentioned...

#Larry

Wait a minute, just one second. I have a new analogy for you. We've been searching at Eisenhower Media Network for, you know, analogies—historical analogies. Is it Hitler? Is it Caligula? Is it Nero? No. Those are all false. The analogy is clear. You may not remember this—I'll test you. I see a few gray hairs; maybe you do remember. This is the Sith Lord and Darth Vader. Trump is the Sith Lord, and Hegseth is Darth Vader. He's Darth Vader without the redeeming feature of once being a Jedi Knight, which you may recall if you know the movie—you know that he turns out to be halfway decent in the end because the Jedi Knight in him comes out.

But Pete Hegseth doesn't have that redemptive feature. He's Darth Vader, and Trump is the Sith Lord—and we're the Empire. All the rest of the people in the world are Han Solo's rebel force, and they're going to attack and kill us. That's the analogy—straight out of Hollywood. I'm serious. And these kids look at me like they don't even know who Han Solo is, or who Darth Vader is, or who the Sith Lord is. "What are you talking about? Star Wars? What's Star Wars? Are you talking about Game of Thrones?"

#Nima

Larry, one of the arguments from Pete Hegseth and General Keane was that they've hit Iran's military-industrial complex in a way that prevents them from producing more weapons—more missiles, more drones. That's why, they say, the number of missiles and drones is dropping drastically over time. Here's the information—the IRGC graph. It shows data from March 11th to March 29th. The blue line shows the number of drones, and the red line shows the number of missiles. You can see that even the number of missiles, yes, the day before yesterday, was around 60 or 40. And, you know, that was about the highest number of missiles we've seen—the day before yesterday.

And the number of drones is going up and down, but they're following the same sort of trajectory. Do they really have any solid information? Are they trying to manipulate without providing robust data—numbers—to the public? Because when you say something, you have to put something out to show it. But they're creating something that doesn't reflect the reality of what's going on. This administration has given a new name to lying and deceit—there's no question about it—led by the chief man. He's the biggest liar of them all. Um, you know, I...

#Larry

I've got a list—a partial list, at least—and I think it's pretty valid, of what I'd call second-tier targeting. The first tier they've already struck, and rather devastatingly. Extraordinary accuracy,

extraordinary devastation. Bahrain, for example, has no refining capacity left. That was the oldest, largest refinery in the Gulf. It's destroyed now. I was talking to some people yesterday about what that means. Do they have to go in and snake out the actual piping and everything now? And they were saying, yeah, they've got to start from ground zero and do all the construction over again. It's going to cost them a huge fortune if they want to rebuild it.

So they were devastatingly accurate, and they were devastating in terms of their array of targets—what I call the first tier of extracurricular missiles. In other words, not at Iran, not at Israel. Missiles not shot at Israel, but at Erbil, at Prince Sultan, at other targets. So much effectiveness in Iran—or in Iraq, for example—that we've gone down to emergency personnel only at our embassy in Baghdad. So I've got to look at this second tier, which I think is probably pretty accurate. This is what they're going to hit if the states that have U.S. facilities there continue to host those facilities, and those facilities continue to be used in attacks on Iran. A reasonable proposition.

If they hit this second tier of targets with the same devastation they used on the first tier, we'll go into a global recession for sure—and potentially a global depression—because it's going to wreck the world economy. Not just Southwest Asia, but the entire world economy. The one country that might be somewhat insulated from this, and might even benefit, is of course Russia, because of the price of oil and such. But even they're going to be affected by other shortages. The rest of the world—including the Western Hemisphere, big time—will be heavily impacted by those shortages, as will some of our allies in the East, like Taiwan, who won't be able to work through this without real help. That's because of the helium shortage, other materials needed for chip making, and ultimately, the lack of oil.

So, I mean, if Iran is saying, "Okay, China, your ships can get through, but Taiwan, your ships can't," that's it. And then if the Houthis are really going to try to seal off the Red Sea again—and it wouldn't take much effort to do that, because we saw the first time around all it takes is frightening the insurers and the shipping companies—we're in for trouble. We're in for big trouble. And I don't see any recognition of this looming disaster on the part of the administration. Not a single one of them seems to be seized with what they're doing to the world economy. Now, I may be wrong, and they may back up at any moment here and stop what they're doing—maybe even call off this ground operation, whatever it's going to be.

But I don't see any sign of that. And therefore, I don't see any sign that they recognize the perilous ground they're walking on. And this idea of B-52s going in and carpet bombing—well, what do you think is going to happen when the first B-52 falls to Earth in flames? This is not good, Nima. It's not good for anybody. It's not good for Iran to keep being pummeled like this, but it's not good for the world. I won't even count the empire led by Donald Trump, but it's not good for the world, what we're about to do. We're going to plunge it into economic distress that might take years to mend.

#Nima

I don't blame the Iranians.

#Larry

If they execute that second tier of targets, I don't blame them. I don't blame them. You know, they had hit Erbil two or three times before. They had sent drones, they had sent a missile or two, or whatever, just to let the Israelis and the Brits know that they knew they were there—an underground intelligence facility. Well, this time they gave them more than just a warning that they were there. They knew they were there. I mean, they wiped them out, virtually. Do that to everything else they have on this second list of targets—it's Saudi Arabia, it's the pipelines, it's the Ras Tanura-type facilities that deliver 8 to 12 million barrels a day of oil. I mean, don't even talk about getting ships out of the Strait of Hormuz. You won't have any oil to put on the ships, nor any infrastructure to generate any more oil. We're talking about a real disaster if we move forward with this and the Iranians are forced to execute that second set of targets.

#Nima

We know that Friday is a holiday, and you've got Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. If they want to invade Iran—capture one of those islands in the Persian Gulf, close to the Strait of Hormuz—it's going to be this Friday. Good Friday. Yeah.

#Larry

He takes this Good Friday—like a Jedi Knight, Darth Vader—saying, "I'm going to attack him on my best holiday. God's going to help me."

#Nima

He just got back from CENTCOM, and he said they're telling us the only thing they're asking for is more bombs. You know, he said that during this briefing. But Larry, here's what Erik Prince, the founder of Blackwater—one of the contractors—said about invading Iran.

#Larry

The Wagner Group equivalent in the Empire.

#Speaker 03

Karg Island is going to be mighty thin. You have to cycle, and that's assuming you don't have any losses for maintenance. So yeah, your initial assault on Karg Island is going to be mighty thin, because those aircraft have to cycle—and that's assuming you don't have any losses for maintenance or for missiles. Do you do a mass drop of the 82nd on Karg Island? Again, that's pretty

sporty. And an airborne invasion in a place that has thousands and thousands of missiles—not to mention the Iranians have been learning.

They've definitely been paying attention to modern drone warfare and have implemented FPVs down to the squad level. I mean, you see videos of the Israelis in southern Lebanon losing tanks, losing armored personnel carriers to the same FPVs the Russians have been using with great effect in Ukraine. So it is, again, a fight against Iran. They're not Arabs—they're Aryans. They're highly intelligent, highly skilled warfighters, and it would not be the pushover, by comparison, that you saw with the Iraqi army that collapsed.

#Larry

Yeah, the truth hurts. The truth hurts. He's right, he's right. I don't know that they're planning that, because I have to give—you know, I think I told you what I told Colin Powell one time when I walked into his office. I was in a bit of a pique, and I said, "Let's never make an Air Force officer chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff again." And he knew what I was saying, because they don't know anything about ground warfare. They know nothing about ground warfare. And so Kane, of course, is that. But he's got to have some Army generals who aren't just chicken-shit cowards. They've got to be telling him—airborne operation on Karg Island?

Are you kidding me? You want to get 3,000 people killed before they even hit the ground? You want to have them plummeting to the earth with their parachutes burning? No. I'm sorry, this isn't going to work. And as he was suggesting there with the Osprey—you know what the Marines call the Osprey? The flying death trap. One Marine said to me, "Would I be within my rights, Colonel, if I were embarking on an Osprey for a training mission and I refused to get on it?" I didn't know how to answer him. Now, I have to say, it doesn't have any worse record than a couple of other aircraft over the past 50 years in terms of killing people.

Bad record, in other words. But it does have a consistent and particular problem with the rotation from forward flight to hovering flight and back again with that clutch that I think everybody knows about. And so I think every Marine who gets on an Osprey takes a moment and says to Jesus—or whatever, Mohammed—please let me live through this flight. This is not an aircraft I'd want to go into combat in, where it's so crucial that everything be perfectly timed, everything be exactly the right altitude, the right airspeed, the exact right landing profile, and so forth, because you're going to be interdicted majorly, if by nothing else than drones.

But certainly, you probably have some pretty powerful missiles, too. So you're saying Trump is asking to kill a lot of Americans for no reason—no reason whatsoever. As one Air Force sergeant said to me recently in an email, "Why are we doing this, Colonel? They present no threat to us. So why are we doing this?" That question is probably making its way through a lot of the ranks, too, in

addition to the religious business and everything. There are probably a lot of people just sitting there asking themselves, why are we doing this? Not the pilots who are dropping the bombs and everything.

That's one thing I don't like about Air Force officers being chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They don't understand the ground. They only understand the technology that releases the bomb, the pictures, and the happy videos that show them the bomb hitting. They don't understand what happens after the bomb hits. They don't understand ground warfare. They don't understand what it is to be under that bomb. And that's bad. That's bad. Look at the IDF Air Force—bloodthirstiest people on the face of the earth. Look at what they're doing in Lebanon: bombing hotels, bombing restaurants, bombing dry cleaners, bombing old women, bombing old men, bombing babies in their carriages. That's what the IDF is good at. That's what they do.

That's what air forces do—bloodthirsty air forces. Soldiers know better. Marines know better. And it's terrible to hurl them into this conflict. It's just terrible. I feel for all of them, not to mention the Iranians under the bombs. I mean, did you hear Arachi in front of the UN emergency panel on Manab School? He told it like it was. He said, "We are evil. We are evil. We torpedoed diplomacy not once but twice." He used that English word—"torpedo." We torpedoed diplomacy twice. In the middle of diplomacy, we bombed people. "Palestine started it all," he said. "Palestine is the issue. It started it all." And he's right. And Bibi's still in there. Naftali Bennett is angry with Bibi because he's not killing the Palestinians fast enough.

#Nima

Larry, the reality is that Donald Trump, Pete Hegseth, and many others around him are making money off these wars. Yes. You know, the Financial Times reported that Pete Hegseth's broker looked to buy a defense fund before the attack on Iran. These guys are making a lot of money.

#Larry

Look at Markwayne Mullin. Markwayne Mullin didn't wait to be a senator to make a million-plus. He made it as he waltzed into Congress. He was already making money because he was already plugged into the Pelosi—you know, the insider trading. I mean, you sometimes have a hard time defending America anymore. And then that report that's coming out—have you heard about the report that's been very carefully put together by, I guess, Brown University and some others? Since 2000, we've killed 38 million people with our sanctions.

Thirty-eight million people—half of them children and women. Thirty-eight million people. Add to that Libya, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia—I'd bet our toll is higher than Joseph Stalin's, higher than Mao Zedong's, and probably higher than Hitler's, in terms of people the empire has killed. This

is unconscionable. And Arachi was absolutely right in his damnation of this empire. I don't care what anybody thinks about Iran. You can think it's the most evil Islamic bureaucracy on the face of the earth—it doesn't hold a candle to the American empire.

#Nima

Yeah. Actually, Pete Exit was bragging today about how precise the attacks on Iran are, saying we're hitting strategic points and strategic locations there. But the reality is, Larry, they're attacking pharmaceutical companies—mostly ones producing cancer medicine for the people. He listed it. Same thing they're doing in Cuba.

#Larry

I saw what's happened to Cuba yesterday, in aggregate. It's horrible. One of the best healthcare systems on the face of the earth. I know—I toured their hospitals. I toured their Hermanos Brigada. I toured what John Bolton called a chemical facility. It was a bio-level three facility that actually made really good medicines. They wiped out Japanese encephalitis completely—wiped it out on the island. They did it all by themselves. Maybe they were helped a little by the Brazilians, but mostly they did it on their own.

#Nima

We have a lot of Cuban doctors here in Brazil. They're amazing.

#Larry

And they're just broken now. They're broken. Now, this Russian tanker may give them a little bit of life—I hope so—because it's carrying a lot of energy, if you will. They were doing things like taking babies off respirators to conserve power, then hoping that when the power came back for an hour or two, the baby wouldn't be dead.