

# Andrei Martyanov: The Power Shift: Middle East Breaks Free from U.S. Control

A discussion on escalating U.S.–Iran tensions highlights claims that recent threats and strikes reflect desperation rather than strategy. The interview argues that targeting infrastructure and civilians signals a failing approach, while underestimating Iran’s military capabilities and public mobilization could lead to heavy losses. It also suggests global power dynamics are shifting, with Middle Eastern and global alliances changing rapidly, weakening Western influence and the existing international order. The conversation concludes that miscalculations and outdated military assumptions risk deepening the conflict with unpredictable consequences.

## #Nima

Donald Trump yesterday talked about, you know, finally addressing the war in Iran. Nothing new, I don't know what else. But he said something that was really important for many people in Iran and outside of Iran — he was talking about sending strikes, hitting Iran, you know.

## #Guest

Into the Stone Age, yeah.

## #Nima

And here’s what he literally said.

## #Guest

Tonight, we are on track to complete all of America's military objectives very shortly. We're going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks. We're going to bring them back to the Stone Age, where they belong. In the meantime, discussions are ongoing. Regime change was not our goal. We never said regime change, but regime change has occurred because all of their original leaders are dead. The new group is less radical and much more reasonable.

## #Nima

Yeah. What he's doing right now, Andrei, is this: this is the new footage he posted on social media. One of the biggest bridges in Iran — it's between Tehran and Karaj, two big cities — and he's somehow bragging, saying that you have to accept, you have to make a deal with the United States, or else we’re attacking and destroying everything in Iran. Andrei, from a military or strategic point of

view, what is this all about? You know, when you fight an army, you're talking about missiles, drones, capabilities — the army's capabilities. It seems like he's attacking civilians. He's just focused — he said it yesterday — he's going to focus on civilians, right? What is this? What do you make of it?

## **#Andrei**

First, it's desperation. The United States lost the war, both on the operational and strategic levels, and it doesn't matter what kind of legitimate spin he puts on it. He's desperate. He's also demented, and he's starting to sound like a war criminal. You have to understand that once we drop all the pretense, he's a narcissist who can't take no, and he's cornered. He doesn't have enough integrity or humanity in him to actually stop this atrocity. So yeah, they'll keep doing what the U.S. military has been known for. Vietnam—can I remind anybody of Vietnam?

So that was essentially—they killed three million civilians there. So, okay, that's what they do, you know. And I don't know how else to explain it, because he's desperate. There's no off-ramp for him. He's a political corpse. The midterms are probably over for the GOP, which in itself is an Israeli party. And he's controlled by Netanyahu and all these Zionist groups in his administration. And even the rumors circulating now about Tulsi Gabbard being removed from her position—because obviously somebody from the intelligence community, not that there's a lot of intelligence there to start with—tried to persuade him not to do it.

So Tulsi would be well advised, if she has any integrity and honor left, to resign immediately—to submit her resignation before she's thrown out in the most humiliating way. So Trump is basically on, you know, I mean, like that old song says, "on the highway to hell." And that's where they are. The next thing is, they'll probably end up killing a lot of American military personnel, and of course they're already hiding the real numbers, which are very dramatic in terms of losses. So yeah, I don't know what's going to happen. And some people are now beginning to float the idea of the 25th Amendment, and the possibility that he might actually resign.

But for him, it's a life-and-death struggle, because obviously, once certain files are unsealed—whatever's happening there, I don't know—make no mistake, you can't, well, don't quote me on that. But clearly there are all kinds of very nasty surprises waiting for him on the judicial side of things, and he might actually end up behind bars. At this stage, he's totally an Israeli asset. He's surrounded by people who are nut jobs and incompetent, and he'll keep going until he's completely destroyed. Maybe he already is—he's kind of destroying the country. And the world, as we know it, is no more.

## **#Nima**

We've seen footage from the UAE. There are American troops there. What's the plan, Andrei? If we assume that, you know, he's considering something like—I don't know if a ground invasion is still on

his mind. He didn't mention it yesterday, by the way. He didn't mention any kind of invasion. If they're going to go underground, if they're going to find, you know, those 400-plus enriched uranium sites—yeah, yeah—what's the number? How do you see the numbers militarily?

## **#Andrei**

Well, I mean, make no mistake. There are plenty of people in the U.S. military who will keep thumping their chests, saying, "Oh yeah, we're going to send some special forces." Yeah, they might send some special forces, but again, this is not a real war. I mean, evidently, those guys—well, as is always the case with them, let's be honest—with the U.S., especially the ground troops, they draw the wrong lessons from everything. They learned nothing in Vietnam. They learned absolutely nothing from the Gulf War, which was a real war. And so they'll keep talking about, "Yeah, let's insert some, you know, World Tower Rangers," and that kind of stuff, you know.

So they might kill some people there. But the problem is, this is war. This is different, okay? The U.S. Army has never experienced anything like this—sustained fire impact—which I've written four books about. There's basically no field manual in the U.S. Army that prepares them for that. You can insert whatever special forces you want, and there are all kinds of bizarre ideas being thrown around. But if you can't even get into the assembly area, which will be immediately hit by serious missile and drone strikes, what are you going to do?

You're going to kill more U.S. personnel who aren't even supposed to be there. This is idiocy—sheer idiocy—promoted by a bunch of fanboys who went through Afghanistan and said, "Oh yeah, we saw death." No, you didn't. When you have a battalion in the assembly area and you lose about 20 to 25 percent of your personnel killed or wounded because a couple of ballistic missiles flew in—and the United States has no viable air defense at all, it's all garbage—what are you going to do? Well, they don't know. They've never experienced anything like this. Listen, even from the Vietnam War—Hamburger Hill, Khe Sanh, and all that.

Well, the United States was sustaining casualties there—killed, and even senior officers. Like in Khe Sanh, the Marines lost their base commander to enemy fire. But it's nothing compared to what's coming your way when you're fighting a real war. They learned nothing from Ukraine. Nothing. Zilch. Because they live in an alternative universe—they don't look at the data, they can't verify it, and they're high on their own supply. And that's the result now: we basically have a president who is absolutely inadequate for governance.

You have, essentially, Israel controlling everything in Washington, D.C.—granted, the IDF is now having its ass handed to it by Hezbollah. I mean, they've burned through a catastrophic number of those armored IDF forces. You have this mythology about how good you are, which you're not. And then suddenly you face a real war, a war with forces that are ready to die and ready to fight—unlike

what we saw in Iraq. It's a totally different culture. And as a result, it's already a catastrophe. If he wants to make it worse by killing more American personnel—again, I don't even know what they'd be dying for.

But evidently, even right now, we can hear from different quarters, including American officers, who say the troops pretty much know what they're there for—to die for Israel. So this is the most corrupt and, well, I mean, not the most, but he's definitely one of the worst presidents in U.S. history. And what he's doing here is essentially incomprehensible. And Iran—yeah, Iran is ready. I mean, the day before yesterday, I believe, when there was a celebration of the Islamic Republic in Iran, there were Mr. Pezeshkian and Abbas Araghchi just mingling with people on the streets.

Five million volunteers already. Do they even understand what that means? There are people in the Pentagon who still can't grasp it. They're high on their own supply. They watch too much Hollywood, too many movie patterns. They believe they can fight a real ground campaign. They can't. They never could, actually. And so here we are. The only horror I feel—because, listen, I am, for all intents and purposes, a Russian-American, okay? I live in the United States; it's my country—and seeing the fact that these poor kids are basically being bombarded into that... you saw yourself what's happening.

They're hiding in these bunkers or wherever while the Iranian missile strikes happen, which is, you know... I don't know what this president is doing with his administration. We know it serves Israel. Well, Israel itself has had its, pardon my French, ass handed to it. I just saw recent videos from Petah Tikva—there's no air defense there. They have nothing. Missiles just fly at will and destroy everything. And so... these are the incompetent morons who did all of this to the United States. They did it to Iran, to the people of Iran. And if they think Iranians will forget them—171 little kids, and now a bunch of civilians—and they blow up pharmacies... I mean, this is a war crime, a crime against humanity.

## **#Nima**

Yesterday, Lindsey Graham was happy because many people were speculating that Donald Trump would declare victory—like, "He's going to get away, we've achieved it." But he didn't do that. He wants to continue. I think, Andrei, we have to consider politically, militarily, and economically what he's trying to achieve. And who's giving him advice? Who's helping him along these paths? Is it Pete Hegseth? Is there someone who actually understands the reality of what's going on?

## **#Andrei**

Not immediately. Well, I mean, he probably senses it. He's not very bright, make no mistake. But like any covert sociopath, he actually understands the grief, so to speak—the feeling of it. And as I already said, he's a political corpse now. And Pete Hegseth is an incompetent moron with zero seriousness. First, anybody who goes through ROTC cannot be considered real cadre military,

because there's a lot that goes into becoming a cadre officer and understanding things on the fundamental—what's called the physical-mathematical—level. This is how staffs operate. The United States military lacks that dramatically. And so Pete Hegseth—he was in Afghanistan. Oh yeah, he knows what the real war is.

You know, the maximum threat he's ever been under is an RPG. That's about it. We're talking about something different. When you have 500 kilograms of high explosives landing even 100 meters from you, you're done. You'll suffer a concussion of such magnitude that you'll be taken out of normal life for the rest of your life. But these are the kind of people who are high on their own supply. They got their butts handed to them by the Taliban in Afghanistan, and they still think they're good. And you have these people—especially guys like Charles Q. Brown, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff now—who are maneuvering, doing the CYA, covering your ass, because they understand the implications.

And there are a lot of things happening there that the United States has never encountered, and that's a whole other can of worms. This is for serious strategists to discuss. This is about judicial responsibility for what's been done, and we're talking about war crimes. So you have this bunch of people—it's total chaos. Most of them have no clue. Most of them don't have the background to even figure it out. Mr. Kane, for example, who is the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is a pilot. I don't think they really teach serious tactics and ground operations at the U.S. Air Force Academy, you know. They teach them how to fly the plane, but that's about it.

And so, when you look at those people, they're living in this alternative universe where America defeated everybody—from, you know, the Kaiser to Hitler to aliens from the planet Zoltar who invaded Earth. And you have this triumphalist, sheer idiocy installed in much—though not all, make no mistake—but much of the officer corps, which still cannot understand why they lose wars. Well, because you're no good, okay? Simple as that. And they don't even understand what it means when you have 93 million people, as one, ready to die for their country. They have no clue, because none of them have ever experienced real war.

There isn't a single serviceman in the United States military who's ever fought for their home, for their wives, for their children, for their property, for their land to be free. None. Doesn't exist. They don't actually have the emotional or intellectual capacity to understand that. That's why they believe their own, you know, their own mythology. And as a result, we have totally incompetent military people who go out there and try to support political decisions that are completely insane. You have Israel, which is being—well, I mean, beaten into a bloody pulp. It's destroyed, essentially.

It's going to be destroyed even more, until they're essentially dissolved as a country, because you won't be able to live there. Iran is just absolutely pummeling it into utter submission. And now those idiots went into southern Lebanon, and they're losing—I don't know how many tanks a day and APCs—but it's basically, you know, Hezbollah beating the crap out of them. And here we are. That will continue until Trump simply runs out of it, or he makes a decision that turns the United States

into a pariah state. And it will disintegrate eventually, because nobody will want to live in a terrorist state.

Simple as that, because the only thing he has—the United States military has no resources or ability to do anything serious in terms of a ground combined-arms operation. So, the nuclear option—well, they might. You have the fanatics, the religious fanatics surrounding them. There's the Christian Zionists. They're not Christian; they have nothing to do with Christianity. These are Scofield Bible-brainwashed fanatics who are ready to die. Well, they should send their children. Let them send those, you know, haji, all those prosperity-gospel fanatics, all those people obsessed with dispensationalism and Israel being the center of the universe. Let them send their children there—their sons, their daughters. Let them die there.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, the United States, after the destruction of the radars in the Persian Gulf, started using these AWACS to send signals to Israel. Two of them have already been hit in Saudi Arabia. And now they're talking about a new base in Israel, because it seems they're not going to get back into these Arab states. How is that even going to be possible—to make a new base in Israel? It just doesn't make sense, because the way Iran destroyed those radars, it's going to destroy those too.

## **#Andrei**

You can't explain it—again, you can't tell the average bureaucrat from the Pentagon that the Pentagon doesn't have a viable air defense. It doesn't have an anti-missile defense either. And so, the United States—I mean, listen, you know me. For 12 years I've been writing about this on my blog. I've written four books. The United States isn't even in the same generation as modern air defense systems. For example, just to give you an example, India—after Operation Sindur, which was, of course, that serious skirmish between India and Pakistan—the performance of the S-400 was so outstanding that Modi wants more.

Well, guess what? They signed for more—five batteries of S-400s going to India—and India also wants the S-500. The United States has nothing even remotely close to that capability. Nothing. The PAC-3, the Patriot PAC-3, it's just, you know, a joke. And the same goes for the whole class of weaponry the United States simply doesn't have. It can't develop it, it can't build it. I'm talking about short- to medium-range air defense systems, which not only defend the airspace but also protect the high-level S-400s, S-300s, and S-500s from all kinds of other threats.

And those are, as you probably already know, the TOR-M2 and M3 systems, the Pantsir-S1 with all those constant upgrades, and especially the Buk—Buk-M1, M2, and now M3. The Buk-M3 is a state-of-the-art system capable of intercepting ballistic and operational-tactical ballistic missiles. The United States simply has no idea about this type of weaponry. There's no class of this weaponry—it doesn't exist. To develop it, you need decades. You need tactical and operational data, and where

would the United States get that? For years they were getting this BS from, you know, the clique in Ukraine, which was lying to their faces. But they bought it.

So now they sit like this. It doesn't matter if they move anything to Israel—it makes no difference whatsoever, because what they have now are intermediate-range missiles, which Iran possesses in huge numbers. It has even larger numbers of long-range drones that can fly thousands of kilometers, you know. So it doesn't matter. It's like trying to treat metastasized cancer or even first-stage cancer with a Band-Aid or antibiotics. I don't know how they think, but that's the whole point, which I wrote about openly in my first book. It came out in early 2018, though it was written in 2017—that the whole military doctrine is essentially junk.

They may do some things the United States has always been good at—for example, sensors, whether air-based or space-based. Yes, the United States is really good at that. It has a very well-developed orbital grouping, the best in the world, actually. But other than that—yeah, AWACS, big deal. I mean, you still have to land that AWACS somewhere, right? The E-3 Sentry—where do you land it? You won't land it on airstrips in Israel. It wouldn't make any difference; they'd be blown up, as already happened, either in Saudi Arabia or in Israel.

No difference whatsoever. We live in the reality of 2026, when you have extremely good inertial navigation systems—laser-based gyroscopes and things of that nature—with good processing power that allows you, even by dead reckoning, to operate effectively. Forget about the additional reconnaissance, guidance, and targeting obtained through, for example, some sensors—we don't even know what kind of sensors are on those Iranian warheads. Evidently, they have an optronic channel there, you know, because they can maneuver now. So, what can I say? Good luck.