

Israeli media holds countdown clock for destroying Iran

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate discuss the Israeli role in pushing Trump into war on Iran, and Israel's excitement about his pledge to destroy Iran's "entire civilization." ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

#Aaron Mate

This is from Israel's Channel 13. They set up a countdown clock for Trump's threat to wipe out Iranian civilization, and, you know, it's like a celebratory clock—they're excited, they can't wait. I didn't even see this. It's insane. They can't wait for Trump to—oh my God, yeah. Yeah, everything I see out of Israel is like...

#Max

It's like—it feels like an AI recruitment video for the American Nazi Party.

#Aaron Mate

Yeah.

#Max

Yeah, that's Channel 13. Channel 14 is the pro-Netanyahu, Likud, fascist channel. Thirteen is sort of mainstream.

#Aaron Mate

Yeah.

#Max

They look so indigenous, don't they?

#Aaron Mate

And you have that—you see it in the top right corner—the Israeli and American flags sort of... yeah, merged.

#Max

With the Israeli flag over the American flag.

#Aaron Mate

Honestly, there's more of a distinction in that graphic than there is on Fox News. If you watch Fox News, the Israeli and American flags have basically been merged into one. So even Israel draws more of a distinction with the U.S. flag than American state TV—Fox News—does right now. But that's what's happening in Israel: a countdown clock to the threatened extinction of a civilization in Iran.

#Max

A bunch of demons.

#Aaron Mate

But sorry—you wanted to show an NPR report.

#Max

These demons have inhabited the empty caverns of Trump's enfeebled mind. Yeah. Well, I can show that later.

#Max

Let's go back to some more of what the U.S. has already said—the U.S.-Israeli coalition has already done. I mean, this is considered one of the dual-use universities, one of the main technical universities in Iran: Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran. The Laser and Plasma Research Institute, which has been involved in anti-cancer innovation, was bombed along with the female dormitory. And now schools across Iran have been forced to go to remote learning—they've been closed because they're being bombed. Another technical university was bombed 48 hours ago in Tehran—the Sharif University of Technology.

The Pasteur Institute in Tehran, a 100-year-old medical institute that's made innovations in vaccination and basic medical services—representing hundreds of years of scientific learning in partnership with France—was bombed. They tried to claim it was producing dual-use vaccines, though it's not clear what the "dual use" would even be. The Bushehr nuclear plant, the only active nuclear plant in Iran, is a civilian facility that provides energy to the country. It's been evacuated by Russia, which had been partnering with Iran to maintain it, because it's been hit so many times by

Israel. The Khazaron power plant in Iran—a combined-cycle power plant—is also in the target bank of the U.S.-Israeli terrorist coalition. And Iranians have acted in defense of humanity, in defense of civilization, against this war of barbarism.

#Max

And, you know, I find that inspiring, because it's not a defense of any political party. It's not a defense of the Islamic Republic. It's a defense of the Iranian nation. And it's a nation that's made enormous achievements under sanctions. We mentioned the bombing of the Rafina Synagogue. While Israel is bombing universities in Tehran, and the U.S. is bombing power plants and threatening to bomb more bridges, it's multitasking. Israel wiped two entire villages off the map in southern Lebanon—Naqoura and Taybeh—and then publicized the footage. It was proud to do this to these villages, which predate Israel by hundreds and hundreds of years. These are historic villages that have been wiped off the map. I mean, it's Israel that's always wiping people off the map.

#Max

Bookmark that for when the same thing happens to Israel. And when so few are crying... I could go through these terrorist attacks for the next hour, but the point is that even before the eight-hour deadline—which we saw in that Channel 13 demo studio for Trump, enacting what he calls the death of a civilization—they were already carrying out attacks on power plants and bridges. And it's already leading to retaliation, which is triggering a global economic crisis. They can't wait. Israel is the one driving the timeline, and they're also taking measures to prevent negotiations by, for example, assassinating Kamal Kharazi—or attempting to assassinate him in his home. They killed his wife and badly injured him.

And here's a post that's important because it explains how he was Iran's lead negotiator, working with Pakistan to arrange a back-channel meeting between Iranian officials and J.D. Vance. That was the only diplomatic channel. So Israel bombed his house. His wife is dead. He's in the hospital. Pay attention to the timing. Israel killed Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, remember, with a remote-controlled machine gun. He was Iran's top nuclear scientist—the Oppenheimer of Iran—the man considered most essential to any future nuclear negotiations, in November 2020. The nuclear talks were set back by years. In 2012, Israel killed Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, who was a senior figure at the Natanz enrichment facility—killed him in a targeted car bombing in Tehran.

The pattern holds every time. Every time Iran and the U.S. get close to talking, someone removes the people doing the talking. Trump said two to three weeks. Someone in Iran was actively building the exit ramp from that window, and today the man building that exit is in the hospital, and his wife is in the ground. And we can consider what took place, for example, during the assault on Gaza. Israel killed every single negotiator, starting with Salah al-Aroui, who was killed in his office in Beirut. They killed Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in order to bring Iran into this war, triggering the True Promise operations. Haniyeh was the negotiator. So Israel's driving this entire thing.

#Aaron Mate

And there's a new article in the New York Times by Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan. The main point of the article is that what essentially pushed Trump to approve all this was a meeting in February where Benjamin Netanyahu was invited into the White House Situation Room—which is very rare. You don't usually have foreign leaders come to the Situation Room. And Trump sat there while Benjamin Netanyahu basically led the meeting, with some Israeli officials next to him, and gave a presentation saying they could achieve regime change very quickly and that it would all go great. Jared Kushner was there, even though he doesn't have an official White House role. And they scheduled the meeting right when J.D. Vance happened to be traveling out of the country in Azerbaijan.

And he couldn't make it back in time. So just to make sure that anyone who might be a skeptic or have questions—like J.D. Vance is said to have—wasn't there. And Netanyahu's presentation, this article says, is what ultimately sealed the deal. It's just amazing. So yeah, Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, who are supposedly Trump's top negotiators with Iran, are at a meeting where Benjamin Netanyahu is convincing Trump to go to war. And then they go off and still pretend to engage in negotiations with Iran. And again, Jared Kushner doesn't even have an official government position, yet he's at the most sensitive meeting possible. And yeah, that's apparently what they did, according to this article, at least.

#Max

I was in D.C. when Netanyahu arrived. It was obvious what he was driving at—and he got his wishes. Lindsey Graham was basically trading places with Netanyahu. He'd go over to Tel Aviv, meet with Netanyahu and the Israelis, and tell them how to negotiate with Trump. He was advising Israel, a foreign country, on how to manipulate the president. And now that they've got him in it, they're not going to let him out. Israel will not let Trump out of this war.