

# Max Blumenthal: 'Israel First' in Iran War Sparks MAGA Civil War

Max Blumenthal discusses why the consensus over the US-Israel partnership is unravelling as the intrusive influence of Israel is widely seen to undermine US interests. The disastrous Iran War has intensified the MAGA Civil War. Blumenthal is the editor-in-chief of The Grayzone, an award-winning journalist and the author of several books, including best-selling Republican Gomorrah, Goliath, The Fifty One Day War, and The Management of Savagery. He has produced print articles for an array of publications, many video reports, and several documentaries, including Killing Gaza. Follow Prof. Glenn Diesen: Substack: <https://glennDiesen.substack.com/> X/Twitter: [https://x.com/Glenn\\_Diesen](https://x.com/Glenn_Diesen) Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/glennDiesen> Support the research by Prof. Glenn Diesen: PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/glennDiesen> Buy me a Coffee: [buymeacoffee.com/gdiesen](https://www.buymeacoffee.com/gdiesen) Go Fund Me: <https://gofund.me/09ea012f> Books by Prof. Glenn Diesen: <https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09FPQ4MDL>

## #Glenn

Welcome back. We are joined today by Max Blumenthal, journalist, author, and editor-in-chief at the media outlet The Grey Zone. I'll make sure to leave a link to it in the description. Thank you again for coming back on the program. Thanks a lot, Glenn. Great to be back. So, according to the New York Times, part of the problem—or one of the reasons—for Trump engaging in this disastrous war was that the Israelis apparently had a key role in convincing him. You've made a very strong argument in the past that Israeli influence in the U.S. is quite powerful, to the extent that you essentially have Israeli agents in the White House. I was wondering, how intrusive is this influence?

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Well, it's all-encompassing, and it defines Donald Trump's entire career. Even if you go back to Fred Trump gifting land to the Chabad Lubavitch cult—which has a very pronounced presence in Donald Trump's inner circle—it goes back to his father's time. Donald Trump's entire world is surrounded, I mean, his world, his political world, is defined by pro-Israel billionaires who were his counterparts coming up in New York. Charles Kushner, for example, who is also a very corrupt real estate baron. Howard Lutnick was someone who was in Trump's world as the CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald and was also closely connected to Jeffrey Epstein.

Steve Witkoff was Trump's longtime golfing buddy, a major real estate baron, very much a part—along with his sons—of the Zionist political world and the Zionist movement. So when Donald Trump was running for president, he wasn't yet fully locked and loaded with the Likud mindset. You can see that in his first speech, which I always come back to, to the Republican Jewish Coalition—effectively

run by the Adelsons. They hold their annual convention at the Sands Casino, owned by the late casino baron Sheldon Adelson. Donald Trump appeared there, I think it was 2015 or 2016, and he made some comments that were considered unacceptable. He said, "You guys are all in real estate. I know you guys."

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We need to make a deal. We need to make a deal between the Israelis and the Palestinians. He was already thinking, "I'm going to get a Nobel Peace Prize, and I'm going to solve the world's most intractable conflict because I know all the people on Israel's side, and it should be easy to move them." And they called him an anti-Semite for saying that. They said, "You know, he's playing on stereotypes—that Jews are all involved in real estate and we're all slumlords." But the real problem was that Donald Trump said, "You're going to make a deal. We will have a Palestinian state." That was the problem, because that's what the Adelsons had been working against.

That's what the RJC was working against. So the next thing you know, Donald Trump appears on Capitol Hill. It was the first time I'd ever seen him in person. It was an anti-Iran deal rally—a rally to cancel Obama's signature JCPOA. Ted Cruz was there—Tel Aviv Ted. He's always been a huge recipient of AIPAC money. His office is basically run by Israelis. I'm not being glib when I say that—an Israeli operative is his main legislative aide. But no one cared that Ted Cruz was there. You could see who was going to win, who was going to be president, by being at this rally, which was clearly sponsored by Adelson or some Israel lobby forces that wanted to cancel the Iran deal.

It was Donald Trump—as soon as he got there, people just converged on the field in front of the U. S. Capitol. And Donald Trump was, like, far and away the front-runner. You had all these mainstream pundits saying, "Trump will never become president. He's never going to win this primary." You know, the Clintons had this Pied Piper strategy to elevate Trump because they thought he'd be the easiest to defeat. But it was at that point, when he made this bargain to shatter the Iran deal—the JCPOA—that it suggested there was a deeper bargain to actually go to war with Iran. But first, he had to set the stage for that war. That's when Donald Trump became the front-runner.

He was going to get hundreds of millions of dollars from the Adelsons, and then other, what I'd call "Israel-first" billionaires, would supplement that support. And in the American system, that counts for a whole lot, pretty much. I mean, the presidential campaign is really a campaign about who can raise more money. Paul Singer started donating to Donald Trump. Remember, Paul Singer was the original donor behind the Steele dossier, which was created to discredit Trump and paint him as a Russian asset. Paul Singer was actually originally a Never Trumper. He was a neoconservative who sponsored candidates like Marco Rubio, partly because Paul Singer has a gay son.

And so he believed in the right of men to marry other men in the United States. Donald Trump was seen as too conservative and too close to the Christian right. Paul Singer eventually came around

and said, you know, what matters more is that we have a war with Iran, and Donald Trump will do what I want. So Trump brought all of these figures on board by 2016. And while he was promising this war on the deep state, he was bringing in figures like John Bolton into his cabinet because he'd see him every night on Fox News. Mike Pompeo, an arch Christian Zionist—um, Steve Bannon was quickly sidelined, someone who believed in the America First agenda.

There are still voices in Trump's ear, like Tucker Carlson during the first term, who were influential and may have actually stopped a war with Iran. But you could clearly see Donald Trump moving toward the ultimate goal, suggesting there had always been this bargain behind the scenes to wage war with Iran. That's why he assassinated Qasem Soleimani, the Iranian major general who was the second most important figure in Iran—something guaranteed to set the stage for retaliation and bring the United States into an endless escalation trap with Iran.

That assassination was the result of pressure from Benjamin Netanyahu, who was working through then-CIA Director Mike Pompeo to push Trump to retaliate for a series of skirmishes in Iraq with the Popular Mobilization Units and the, you know, the axis of resistance—specifically around the U.S. embassy in Baghdad—and then killing Soleimani. When Trump came back into office, the relationship with the Adelsons was even more pronounced, more intense. I think many people were so angry, including myself, at Biden, Blinken, and the Democrats for enabling and supporting the Gaza genocide, which opened the door for the ultimate prize for the Israel lobby: the war on Iran.

And the personnel surrounding Trump as he came back into office for his second term were even more pro-Israel than during the first. There was no Steve Bannon or anyone to offset the influence of these Israel-first, Likudnik elements. You had Mike Waltz, who was initially supposed to be the national security chief. Mike Waltz is one of the Israel lobby's favorite pet projects on the Republican side—his entire career has been funded by the Israel lobby. You can look at someone like Mike Lawler in Congress as following in Mike Waltz's footsteps, and you can see the same kind of rhetoric there. They never stray from the Likudnik-Netanyahu line. You had Rubio, of course, whom Trump attacked in 2015 for being too close to Adelson.

There's actually a Trump tweet slamming Rubio as a tool of Sheldon Adelson, before Trump became that himself. Rubio also, as I mentioned before, was a major recipient of Paul Singer's money. Then you have Susie Wiles, the chief of staff, filling the shoes of Steve Bannon, who's now on the outside slamming Trump for being too close to Israel. Susie Wiles worked on Benjamin Netanyahu's 2020 campaign. This wasn't known to the American public when Trump brought her in—it was just known that she was this super-lobbyist. Pam Bondi, the attorney general, was actually Qatar's main lobbyist in the United States. She was getting over \$100,000 a month from Qatar, but she's proven to be completely malleable and holds secret meetings with Miriam Adelson all the time, who tells her, "We have to criminalize speech on behalf of Israel."

Who am I missing? Department of Defense—Pete Hegseth—went to Israel on a very public tour with a settlement organization, one that actually physically displaces Palestinians from their homes in East

Jerusalem, called Ateret Kohanim, as well as Arutz Sheva, which is the main pro-settler online TV network. He gave a speech endorsing the concept of the Third Temple, which means the destruction of the Al-Aqsa compound. Pete Hegseth took the most extreme line possible in order to advance through the ranks—the most extreme line possible on Israel. I'm probably missing someone, but you can clearly see, just to wrap up my survey of Trump's personnel and his funders, how this played out in the Situation Room when Trump decided to go to war with Iran.

I'm not talking about the February 11th meeting you mentioned, Glenn, in your question. But just because this is something we can see—anyone watching this can look up the photos of the Situation Room and how it was divided. Donald Trump was at Mar-a-Lago when he went to war with Iran, and he was surrounded by Susie Wiles, Marco Rubio, Pete Hegseth, and I think there was one other figure I might be forgetting. That was the pro-Israel A-team—all the people who had basically been installed by Israel. And then Team B was actually at the White House without Trump: J.D. Vance, Tulsi Gabbard, and one other.

Those who were more likely to dissent from attacking Iran had no influence whatsoever on the policy. And these were figures—oh, John Ratcliffe, that's the other one who was on the A-Team. John Ratcliffe is another figure who was in Congress, supported by AIPAC throughout his entire career, and identified in leaked audio that I obtained from a private, off-the-record AIPAC session back in 2024—sorry, 2025—as one of the helpers for AIPAC on the inside of Donald Trump's national security team, according to AIPAC CEO Elliot Brand. So, Ratcliffe was there. And then you have the secret February 11th meeting, Glenn, that you mentioned, which the New York Times revealed.

We all knew something like this was happening because Netanyahu was in town at the time. Highways were being shut down, and he was given presidential-level security. Then he storms into a Situation Room meeting, which is highly unusual for any foreign leader. He sits at the head of the table while Trump sits off to the side, and he dictates to Trump—starts fear-mongering, saying Iran will have a nuclear weapon within a week, that it has a delivery mechanism to attack Europe, and will soon be able to attack the United States. "You must strike Iran now." And behind him, on a live-stream telecast, is the Mossad director, David Barnea, who had been constantly briefing John Ratcliffe.

And Trump fell into line. He knew what to do. And all of his team—the A-Team that had been cultivated by Israel, including CENTCOM chief Dan Cain from the Pentagon brass, who was never a fan of this war—they all started murmuring to themselves, "This war is insane. What Netanyahu is saying is bogus." Even Ratcliffe said, "This is ridiculous." Marco Rubio called it B.S. But what did none of them dare to do? Tell Trump how they felt. They were all a bunch of yes-men, and they knew that if they expressed real reservations about this war and got in the way, they could be in serious trouble. They might not continue to rise through the ranks.

Marco Rubio wants to run for president, so they just got out of the way and let it happen. But what the New York Times isn't telling you is what I've been explaining for the last five or ten minutes. I

don't know how long I've been going, but that meeting was the product of years and years of cultivation, manipulation, grooming, threats, rewards—carrots and sticks—from Israel and its cutouts in the United States, aimed at the very figures surrounding Trump, and at grooming Donald Trump himself by this foreign apartheid entity. It was essentially a coup. And this war is the result of that coup.

## **#Glenn**

I spoke to Joe Kent, and he was making the point that it wasn't like regular lobbying—that it was quite intrusive, that you'd have Israeli citizens in the room when they were talking about highly sensitive issues. And the way they just kind of blended in with the Americans—it was quite extraordinary. You never have foreign leaders intervening to this extent. And I find it interesting how you refer to Russiagate, essentially, because I know you coined the term "Israelgate."

I mean, this is the real influence, isn't it? How they influenced the election. I mean, of course, while Russiagate was bogus, this seems to have some actual evidence behind it. And it's interesting how you argue that this explains why the first Trump administration was very different from the second in terms of his appetite for war. But how do you see Israel's role now in the ceasefire? Because I found it a bit—well, let's say—suspicious that the most violent attack on Lebanon happened on the very first day of the ceasefire.

## **#Max Blumenthal**

Yeah, and when I first mentioned "Israelgate," it was because I think one of the opening shots of Russiagate was that the NSA had taped a call between Sergey Kislyak and—I think it was Jared Kushner. No, no, it was Michael Flynn. Michael Flynn and Sergey Kislyak. You remember that? So Michael Flynn was supposed to be the National Security Council chief for Donald Trump, which would have been—I mean, if you look at Michael Flynn's activity now, it's kind of wild to consider that. And the national security establishment in the U.S. wanted to get Flynn out.

So someone in the NSA leaked the contents of this call, and they said, "Oh, Flynn was stupid. He was overseas, so it was easy for him to be spied on. He has a back channel—a secret back channel—with the Russian ambassador. They're colluding." But what were they actually talking about? That's what was never told to the American public. Jared Kushner, who was one of the key Israeli moles in Trump's inner circle—he's married to Trump's daughter Ivanka, as we all know, and is the son of Charles Kushner—had been asked, or rather instructed, by Netanyahu to pressure Trump to not veto... Trump—

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A U.N. resolution—sorry, yeah, he wanted the U.S. to veto a U.N. resolution condemning Israel for settlement activity when they came in. And Obama actually abstained on that. So it was all about

Israel. The call between the Russian ambassador and Michael Flynn was being held on behalf of Netanyahu, in order to protect Israel's annexation of the West Bank. And the U.S. public was never told that. So the real scandal was "Israelgate." And by the way, the Russian ambassador refused to do that. And if you look at a lot of the billionaires who are said to be Russian billionaires, who were involved with Trump in some business capacity or another, many of them are dual Russian-Israeli citizens.

Haaretz, the Israeli liberal paper, actually did an exposé about this. So in many ways, Russiagate was Israelgate. But to your question—Israel will not allow Donald Trump to end this war. And Israel decided that Donald Trump would begin this war. Marco Rubio, after his first briefing with the Senate Gang of Eight—the main sort of power brokers in the Senate, bipartisan power brokers—told them that Israel was going to attack Iran whether we liked it or not, and so we had to follow them in there. He came out to the press and made this very revealing disclosure, which should have been a much larger scandal, but U.S. media consistently covers up the scandal of Israeli control.

It was still enough to upset a lot of people, including Tony Blinken, the former Secretary of State—someone very close to Israel himself. You know, the man who raised him, his stepfather, was effectively an Israel lobbyist in France. His grandfather was an Israel lobbyist too. Blinken was on the national security team under Obama, and he said the Israelis tried the same exact thing. They said, "We are going to attack Iran. You must follow us." And we actually said, "No, you are not going to do that," because we still had the power to stop them. Trump didn't have the power to stop them, apparently. So Rubio effectively admitted that this war was launched for Israel.

And now we can clearly see that the ceasefire was a hoax, and it's being sabotaged by Israel. Again, we have very clear evidence—it's all happening in broad daylight. I believe it was the State Department that delivered a draft statement to the Pakistani Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, which he was supposed to post on his X account, outlining the terms of agreement for negotiations in Islamabad between the U.S. and Iran. And those terms clearly stated—well, the way he posted this draft, he posted it without removing the header that said "to be posted by Shehbaz Sharif." Then he edited it, and in doing so, he revealed that the U.S. had provided it to him.

The terms clearly stated that the ceasefire would involve Lebanon—that Lebanon was part of this process. And that meant the war on Lebanon that Israel had launched, including the ground invasion, would at least be paused. So what does Israel do? The biggest massacre we can remember since the 1990s in Lebanon—over 250 killed—attacking areas of Beirut that I'd call anti-Hezbollah strongholds, like Ain Mreisseh and the area around the American University of Beirut, bombing the Corniche. These are wealthier, mostly Sunni areas. They attacked all over Lebanon, just slaughtering the civilian population today, even hitting the government center in Nabatieh. And that's their way.

That was their way of trying to provoke Iran into attacking Israel—Netanyahu using his own population again as pawns and human shields in order to blow up the ceasefire. Iran hasn't fallen for the provocation, but it was also a way to test the U.S. and make sure the United States was put on

the spot to declare that they don't see Lebanon as part of the ceasefire deal. And of course, they fell right into line. J.D. Vance was caught on the tarmac—I think it was in Budapest. He was put out there to kind of keep him away from the whole process. And he said, "Well, I think all of these terms that everyone's talking about, the agreement on the ceasefire, are actually AI." He actually said that. Lebanon was never included.

J.D. Vance just lied. So once again, Israel is determining what the U.S. can and can't do with this war, and it demonstrates the coup that's taken place in the White House—where, effectively, Donald Trump is the first Israeli president. Not that other presidents haven't done Israel's bidding, but when I say Donald Trump is the first Israeli president, I mean he talks like an Israeli leader when he calls for bombing Iran back to the Stone Age. That's what Israeli leadership has said about Gaza and Lebanon for decades. You can just Google "Israeli Stone Age Lebanon," and many statements will come up. Remember, there was the Israeli defense minister calling the population of Gaza "human animals."

What did Trump say in front of the White House on Easter? That he can threaten them—he can threaten to bomb them back to the Stone Age because they're animals. And then he threatens the death of a civilization. Again, it's Israeli language. What is Donald Trump's strategy? In Iran, he has no strategy. He's letting Israel determine the strategy. What are his objectives? Well, his main objective now is to open the Strait of Hormuz, which was open before the war. But beyond that, the strategy is regime change, because that's the Israeli strategy—regime change and state destruction. So effectively, Donald Trump is inhabiting the role of an Israeli leader. And when the Israeli leader comes to Washington, he sits at the head of the table in the Situation Room.

## **#Glenn**

Well, I thought it was also shocking that once Israel began bombing in this manner and they claimed, "Well, Lebanon was not a part of it," I thought this was really the moment for Trump to push the Israelis aside a bit, because this war has been an unmitigated disaster for the United States. I thought when key national security interests are at stake, this would be the breaking point—when he'd push the Israeli side. But again, instead, they said, "Well, Lebanon's not part of it," essentially canceling the ceasefire, which the U.S. needed so badly. But do you see any of this having any impact in terms of fracturing the relationship between the U.S. and Israel? Because the kind of, you know, the Tucker Carlson, if you will—and I guess Joe Kent—you know, I've never seen this before. This is quite new.

## **#Max Blumenthal**

Yeah, I mean, what Joe Kent did was astounding and obviously extremely brave. He's the highest-ranking U.S. official to resign from any government over a war since Vietnam. And that says something about where MAGA is, where Donald Trump's base is, and where the American public is. First of all, Benjamin Netanyahu has destroyed one presidency after another, or at least attempted

to destroy them. He destroyed Joe Biden with the Gaza genocide because Biden couldn't extricate himself from his bear hug with Netanyahu. He kept thinking, "I'm a Zionist, I must do what Israel wants." And he didn't understand that the Democratic Party base is sick of seeing children being slaughtered day after day after day. And then Kamala Harris, who is also very much a creation of the Israel lobby and relied heavily on Silicon Valley money, couldn't pull away either.

So people walked away from the Democrats, and now the same dynamic is happening with Donald Trump, in an even more extraordinary way. So one of two things happens: either one of these parties—the Democrats or the Republicans—gains executive power and completely reorients the Israel-U.S. relationship so it's no longer this unshakable bond, and Israel feels real pressure and is sanctioned for its behavior; or their presidency will be destroyed because they'll face a massive revolt from their base and from the key faces and voices of their influencer class. That's what we're seeing now—an open revolt within Donald Trump's base. Trump has now taken the, I would say, unprecedented step of personally attacking three or four of his most loyal supporters—Tucker Carlson, Candace Owens, Alex Jones, and maybe one other.

I mean, Alex Jones took a lot of hits for January 6th, while Donald Trump kind of walked away. Candace Owens was very influential in creating TPUSA and also being the face of Black Republicans turning away from the Democratic Party. Tucker Carlson was one of the most loyal figures and the most popular American broadcaster—his show on Fox was one of the only cable news shows anyone watched—and he was constantly defending Trump and shaping the America First agenda. And he's attacked them all, to the point where he said that Brigitte Macron, the former high school teacher of Emmanuel Macron, is more attractive than Candace Owens. I mean, he went that low. This statement was a product of pressure from Laura Loomer, the fanatical anti-Muslim, Israel-first influencer who has very little popularity herself but has managed to get more private time with Donald Trump than Trump's own wife, Melania Trump.

And she basically took credit for this, saying she played a series of clips of Tucker Carlson, Candace Owens, and Alex Jones denouncing Trump to get that statement. And now others are joining the fray. Benny Johnson—this is highly significant—was basically the most corporatized, choreographed, scripted MAGA bot. If Benny Johnson did anything, it was always to follow instructions from the top, to support Donald Trump through talking points handed to him. He was also very close to Charlie Kirk's TPUSA. He is now denouncing Netanyahu, saying that Netanyahu should not be allowed in the White House. This is hugely significant. It suggests there's going to be an even greater mutiny.

Donald Trump's approval rating is in the toilet for a president at this point in his second term. Israel's approval rating among Democrats is 20 percent—80 percent of Democrats see Israel in a negative light. The number is obviously much lower for Republicans. You have that class of Fox News baby boomers who are racist toward Muslims—they're just addicted to bombing brown people. They don't know right from wrong, so they look at Trump as a kind of moral locus, a moral guide. But even the numbers among Republicans are collapsing. Republicans under 40 do not support Israel anymore. So the writing's on the wall. And Donald Trump is preparing to escalate this war

with Iran, a war he has already lost. And the global economy... is something Americans generally don't think about.

But in a week or two, they're really going to start feeling the burn from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and it's going to get even worse for Donald Trump. So he's now in the middle of this circular firing squad. And who supports Trump? I think one of the most important things for people to understand, for the purpose of this conversation, is who among the MAGA podcast and commentariat world actually supports Donald Trump. It's not fully appreciated and it's not discussed. You're not allowed to talk about this in U.S. mainstream media—that these figures are effectively unregistered Israeli foreign agents. I'll just read off some names. If you're not American and you're not in our media world, you might not recognize them all, but these are some of the most visible figures in the MAGA podcast world.

Josh Hammer, Israel Firster, has very little popular appeal, but you see him everywhere because he's astroturfed. Dennis Prager from PragerU, which is this major propaganda mechanism, has actually been affecting educational curricula in Florida under the watch of the Israel-first governor, Ron DeSantis, where they're basically propagandizing children in favor of Israel. Prager, I think, is a Jewish convert to evangelical Christianity. Larry Elder is one of the major Black Republican influencers. Radio host Hugh Hewitt, who was out there supporting the Iraq War, is a very mainstream Republican AM radio voice. Dinesh D'Souza. Sebastian Gorka, who was on Trump's NSC team and has a nationally broadcast radio show.

Brandon Tatum, Todd Starnes, and then Lara Trump and Don Jr. Okay, what do they all have in common? They're all broadcast through something called Salem Media. Salem Media is an Israeli foreign agent. It's listed in a Foreign Agent Registration Act filing with the Department of Justice as the delivery mechanism for a major contract between Israel's foreign ministry and Clock Tower Strategies, through a German firm called Havas, to propagandize the American public agenda. We're talking about \$10 million in direct payments to podcasters and influencers, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars to cover the deliverables. And the Salem Media Group chief strategy officer is a federally registered Israeli foreign agent named Brad Parscale, who heads Clock Tower Strategies.

Lara Trump, who is Trump's daughter-in-law, and Donald Trump Jr., who is Donald Trump's son, now own a 30% stake in Salem Media. So they've effectively merged, through this foreign agent business deal, with the Israeli foreign ministry. The Trump family has merged with the Israeli foreign ministry. You have an Israeli foreign ministry official whose name is on the contract. And who is Brad Parscale, the main foreign agent registered here, presiding over this huge contract? He's the former campaign manager for Donald Trump's 2020 campaign, the one who created Trump's digital media strategy. However, in October 2020, Parscale was arrested at his home—tackled by police—after reports that he was beating his wife, abusing alcohol, and had ten high-powered firearms.

So he basically got Baker Acted—was tackled on camera. You can go online and see the video. He's a huge guy, about six foot six. That meant he could no longer work on the Trump campaign. So

Israel moves in and says, "We're going to give this guy the opportunity of a lifetime, and we'll infiltrate Trump world through Brad Parscale and gain all the data he used to effectively move the American public to support Donald Trump." And then, "We're going to take over the whole world of influencers who are willing to be paid and bought off." There are other figures I can't prove are part of this contract, but I see them reading off the same talking points.

Glenn Beck, this washed-up fitness influencer Jillian Michaels, who's been attacking us at The Grayzone, and Joe Kent, and Laura Loomer herself. So basically, you have a war between MAGA voices—or America First people—who are not paid by Israel and are just sick of being dominated by a foreign government. And many of them are also sick of seeing children slaughtered and wars started that are destroying our economy. And then everyone else, almost everyone else, seems to be part of this foreign agent racket. And we're not allowed to talk about that in U.S. media because you'll be accused of being an anti-Semite. But it's one of the biggest scandals, along with this entire coup that has taken over the White House and taken us to war, that I've seen in my lifetime.

## **#Glenn**

It's incredible. I was going to ask if this was really ideological or institutional, but I think you answered that very thoroughly.

## **#Max Blumenthal**

Well, yeah, I mean, that's a great question. And just really quickly, I think the ideology can be institutionalized, but the people directing this campaign—who are ideologically zealous about this war, whether they're behind the curtain as operatives, like Israel lobbyists whose names we don't know, or more prominent figures like Josh Hammer or Mark Levin, who's the key voice of Netanyahu's coterie in the U.S. at Fox News pushing Trump—they don't have a lot of popular appeal within MAGA. So they rely on institutionalizing their views by basically buying off the very transactional, easily corrupted class of people who rode on Donald Trump's pirate ship into power.

So, I mean, there's a blend of ideological zealotry and institutionalization. But I highly doubt that if somebody came in from, um, I don't know, like Abu Obaida from Hamas, was allowed to come to the U.S. with suitcases full of cash and give it to MAGA influencers, some of them wouldn't be delivering the exact opposite message tomorrow. And the reality is that MAGA itself is done. America First, as a brand, has moved beyond Trump and is looking for another vehicle because they don't believe in any of this stuff.

And they are in the wilderness now, just as those of us who came more from the left went out into the wilderness earlier. After Democratic president after president—I mean, not just Biden, but Obama and Clinton—did Israel's bidding. And I think you're going to see a major clash when both the Republican and Democratic conventions convene and both have to select a—well, you're not going to have an incumbent president. So there's going to be a major civil war in both parties over

this issue. And I don't see how it can be avoided that there has to be a change in policy after all this. I think the clock is running out on Israel, and all it can do at this point is bomb its way out of problems.

**#Glenn**

Well, Max, thank you so much for taking the time. It's a fascinating topic, and also a bit frightening—but at least within this MAGA civil war, some truth might come out eventually.

**#Max Blumenthal**

Yeah, I mean, through your interviews, a lot of truth is coming out. So thanks for what you're doing, and thanks for giving me the time to talk about this.

**#Glenn**

Thank you.