

Andrei Martyanov: This Is How Iran OUTSMARTED the US on the Battlefield

The discussion analyzes rising tensions in the Middle East, arguing that battlefield realities forced a shift from military escalation to ceasefire talks. It highlights operational failures, internal divisions, and resource limitations within Western forces, while emphasizing Iran's strategic positioning and control over key energy routes. The conversation also explores political instability, leadership challenges, and growing public skepticism toward foreign interventions. Ultimately, it suggests the conflict has exposed deeper geopolitical weaknesses, with uncertain prospects for lasting peace and significant global economic consequences.

#Nima

What has happened so far in the Middle East with the war between the United States and Iran? I don't consider Israel to be part of it because they weren't fighting the war. I think the decision to go to war against Iran was a military decision. The people who had some sort of influence—I'm talking about Pete Hegseth and people like him—they thought they could defeat Iran militarily. And the decision now to go for a ceasefire or somehow negotiate, it's because of the reality on the battlefield. We had some sort of raid recently, in the last four days, that happened in Iran. Then we had the briefing with Donald Trump. What is your understanding? What has happened on the battlefield that brought them to negotiations or a possible ceasefire?

#Andrei

I just read the news that—well, I have this sticker, you know, it comes with this stupid Windows thing, Windows 10 and Windows 11 too. It pops up this MSN feed, and I read it. Yeah, whatever it was—MSN News or something like that—there are critics in the Pentagon now, critics of Mr. Hegseth. And then, of course, there's a new scandal developing. Essentially, the Pentagon says he threatened Pope, who is the first American pope, by the way. So yeah, we have to understand who Hegseth is. He has no real military education. ROTC is not real military education. He never graduated beyond the mentality and level of knowledge of, at best, a platoon commander—maybe. I don't know.

And even that is just... his altitude guy—he was an anchor. He studied politics, for crying out loud. I don't even know what it means, studying politics in university. So you have this guy who'd been in Afghanistan. He saw somebody shot from a distance, you know, a 5.45 or 5.56 caliber bullet hit him, maybe somebody launched an RPG or whatever. So he comes in and thinks he can understand and

grasp the complexity of a real war—when they shoot at you not with small arms, but when you have all kinds of rounds, from 100 to 1,000 pounds of high explosives, flying at you pretty much every day. What do you think is going to happen to people? They die. They get shell-shocked.

They will be absolutely demoralized. And that's not the kind of war the Pentagon knows. They have no clue about it. There isn't a single American officer who understands what it is—except maybe those guys who went there into the special military operation undercover and pretended to be, "Oh yeah, we're volunteers." Many of them are dead. Actually, the Russians have identified them now, even at Arlington Cemetery—all those so-called American volunteers who were essentially soldiers, cadre officers, and NCOs killed by Russians in the special military operation. They got into the same thing, but now you don't have the cannon fodder, like the Ukrainians, to hide behind. You have to go out and perform.

And you're performing against something that's not Iraq. Iraq's military is, you know, pathetic compared to present Iranian capabilities. As a result, there's now disarray in the Pentagon. Again, I was able to stand reading that somebody actually threatened the Pope. The Pentagon says, "No, that's not really what happened. We still welcome him." But the Vatican essentially canceled the Pope's visit to the Pentagon. So now we have somebody in the Pentagon criticizing and actually, you know, calling for Texas to be removed. Yeah, what did you expect? You've basically got a guy with no real military background. The fact that he went to Afghanistan—well, many people went to Afghanistan, okay? We saw those American generals in Afghanistan.

They lost it, you know, basically from the start, because they're just not good. And so... this is the separator in the war. And I understand—it's a more political position. The problem is, because of this thing about him, you know, they always sell this: "Oh, I'm a veteran of Afghanistan," or "I'm a veteran of Iraq." And they are veterans—people who went there and experienced those nasty things any kind of war or high-intensity police operation can impose on you. But he has absolutely no background at the operational or strategic level. He wouldn't understand this. He knows one-liners, he rubs shoulders with some generals. But what you see now—especially when even the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* seem to be preparing to move and blame everything on Hefset—obviously, he's being thrown under the bus.

What do you expect from Trump, who himself is a coward and a political animal, behaving now like a spoiled, you know, middle school girl—calling names. And we look at this, and it's just... I can't wrap my head around it. This is the supposedly superpower? It's a third world—well, the worst of the third world. There are some third world countries whose political elites behave with more honor and integrity, you know? And as a result, it's all because Iran basically hammered the final nail into the coffin of the American empire, and the West in general. They have to live with this. And yes, frankly, the United States was paraded as a military paper tiger. And we're not even talking about Israel.

Well, Israel drives it all. Israel owns Trump. It owns Congress. And so the United States is in a catch-22. It's a conundrum, okay? It cannot continue, but it cannot go... so it's just stuck. And

Israel—what can I say? I mean, it doesn't matter now what they do. They are absolutely defenseless, and that will continue. And I think—there are many people, I speak about it in today's video, which is going to be up fairly soon after we're done here. Tehran calculated strategically very well, all of that. It's a really nicely designed strategy, not without its flaws. Obviously, you can never—you know, as Mike Tyson said—your plan is good until you get hit the first time in the teeth, and then suddenly things go very wrong.

But no, Iran basically nailed it in general strategic terms. And operationally, we now know what's going on. So the United States—their so-called ceasefire—won't last, I think. And once it's resumed, it doesn't matter. We saw it ourselves today: even when Iran stated that it would reopen the Strait of Hormuz for fifteen vessels per day, it didn't do much for oil, because the catastrophic damage to what used to be called the global economy has already been done. And you begin to see those manifestations of panic, you know, disarray in the combined West. And Trump—that's his accomplishment. Well, that's what you get when you're a puppet of Israel, basically a fascist government that dreams about, you know, Greater Israel. They failed, and they can't take it now.

#Nima

Andrei, looking at the operation—this so-called pilot rescue operation—what was that? I mean, look at the level of it. If I'm not mistaken, they had 12 or 14 people, you know, aircraft. We had a C-130, we had Black Hawks, we had Little Birds—four Little Birds.

#Andrei

Yeah, there were two C-130Js, which are specifically designed for Special Forces insertion. No, I mean, I don't know how else you can call it a success. First, we don't know—they were under fire. The only photo I needed to see, not even the burned-down C-130s and all that, was the wreck of one of the Little Bird AH-6 helicopters. It was lying some distance from the place where those C-130s had burned, for whatever reason. They were probably struck by something. But you could see this wreck, and it was completely riddled with holes from small-arms fire and, you know, large-caliber machine guns, most likely.

So that tells you everything you need to know, essentially, because they did pull out those Little Birds. They probably tried to use them. Whatever happened after that, they were either shot down or, once they landed, they were immediately under very serious fire. Did they have losses there? Did they have KIAs in the Special Forces? Likely. They probably took, obviously, the bodies of their comrades with them—whatever was extracting them after that. But yeah, it's a catastrophe. It's a complete cluster coitus, you know. And when you look at this, it's like, oh God, if you tell me this was a successful operation, then I'm a Chinese choreographer, okay?

So, again, we don't know about this lady who is allegedly CIA. Iran is holding her, as far as we know so far. We'll have to wait and see if there's going to be some kind of trade or whatever. These things

are usually done behind closed doors. But yeah, I wouldn't call it a success, honestly. I just feel for the guys from the Green Berets and the Rangers who were inserted there, basically sent to die. Now, we can sit and speculate whether it was, in the end, an attempt at whatever—the extraction of uranium. But anyone who planned it would have considered that, you know, this was an extraction of uranium.

Are you freaking kidding me? They still think what they're facing is some kind of Iraqi bought-out force or something like that. You had the Basij immediately jump into the fight. You can see there's a video of them—they've got their kids running with them, you know, and they're carrying rifles. So that tells you everything you need to know about the Iranians. I don't know who planned that. It was probably under some political pressure, and they had to sacrifice their guys—the elite commanders, basically, with balls of steel—and they still sent them into this. I don't know. It just absolutely defies imagination.

#Nima

I think when the reality comes out, it's going to be mind-boggling.

#Andrei

Well, I mean, the Russians, given their due—professional due—to those guys, the American special forces who essentially had to sacrifice themselves. Again, you know, they probably tried to repeat the Gostomel assault, which the Russian Pskov Paratrooper Division and Special Forces carried out. That was very successful—they held their airfield for a long time, and then, of course, a political decision came and they withdrew. But these guys thought, "Oh yeah, we can do Gostomel, you know, with helicopters and aircraft." No, no, no—this is different. Different circumstances, different conditions on the ground and elsewhere.

And so, when you look at that, it's just like—if somebody thought they could pull off an extraction of 450 kilograms from this nuclear facility, which was itself many kilometers away—it just doesn't make sense. Really? So yeah, the Iranians have this facility in Isfahan, and supposedly there's a door with a sign saying, "Here are 450 kilograms of uranium," and no special forces or guards protecting it—just some regular guys. That defies imagination in any common military sense.

#Nima

Andrei, part of what's happened on the battlefield is the case of ammunition interceptors—not only the interceptors, but also the cruise missiles the United States is using against Iran. One of the pictures we saw just two days ago shows one of the interceptors Israel is using—David's Sling—and the photo shows it was produced in 2026, this year. They're using production from this year.

#Andrei

What does that tell us? That's it—they've run out of everything. As simple as that. You can see Iranian missiles flying at will. Apart from the fact that, obviously, yeah, they're scraping the bottom of the barrel, both the United States and Israel. Israel itself is just... once you strip away the propaganda pushed by Israeli media in the U.S.—most of which are essentially Israeli- or AIPAC-controlled—it's a third-rate military power. The only thing they really have is air defense. Their infantry is a joke. You saw what Hezbollah did to them in southern Lebanon. Now Netanyahu comes out and says, "Oh yeah, we're ready to negotiate, but Hezbollah has to disarm." Really?

I mean, yeah, no go, you know, so they can keep doing whatever they do until they completely run out of it. The Israeli economy is pathetic. Do you know how much steel they produce on their own? Three hundred thousand tons a year. Do you know what that means? Just to give you an example, Russia produces 236 times more steel—around seventy-five million tons now. This is basically a third-world country, you know? The only thing they have is nuclear weapons, which were essentially stolen from the United States. And what else do they have? They have their ideas. The late Colonel Lang—he served in the Defense Intelligence Agency and was a veteran of the Gulf War—he communicated with the IDF consulate.

He wasn't very impressed for his age—a gendarme burdened with heavy equipment. And you saw yourself how Merkavas are burning in southern Lebanon, and they're stuck. The only thing they can do—and that's what they always do, just like the United States—is feed off each other. They were high on oil supply. You know, "You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours," basically praising each other as great powers. But in reality, the only thing they can really do is wage war, use standoff weapons. Without the United States, Israel is nothing, really. It's a third-world country with nukes. That's pretty much it—militarily, industrially, and otherwise. And so, as a result, the bluff has been called. And again, we see a complete implosion of all that.

So will they continue? Well, the United States has to. It can't do anything about it. It's literally stuck, because we have to understand what's going on. Twenty percent—one-fifth—of the world's energy supply is controlled by Iran today. Period. Read my lips: it's controlled by them, and there's nothing, not even nuclear weapons, that will unlock it. And there's another thing many people forget. As was already said, we're with Iran—we're going to fight it. There's the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the Red Sea—look up how much trade goes through there. And then, of course, just yesterday Iran struck one of the pump stations on the east-west pipeline in Saudi Arabia, which goes to the Red Sea. So you can see this scenario unfolding, which is a nightmare for Israel, obviously.

Israel is done, actually—in general. And for the Trump administration, for the United States, and for Europe, it's over. I mean, what are you going to do? Poland sent three corvettes there. Well, yeah, that'll make a great change. And here's the issue nobody pays attention to, and it has to be brought up. I'll have to make a special presentation on that. Where is the U.S. Navy? Oh, I can tell you where it is—nowhere to be found, except for maybe some SEALs or what have you. And obviously

there are nuclear-powered submarines which, by virtue of being submarines, aren't detectable by Iranian forces. And then there's still the launch capability—whatever is left in terms of Tomahawk missiles in the American arsenal.

That's it. You cannot move any asset into the range of Iranian anti-shipping missiles, period. That's what happened to the USS Tripoli, which is now in the South Indian Ocean, because you can't move this Marine Expeditionary Unit—the probability is extremely high that it would be struck. And then what are you going to do when you have, essentially, two and a half thousand Marines there and the crew on this LHD? It's horrible. It could be absolutely disastrous. And we still don't know how they fought that 30-hour-long fire in the Gerald Ford aircraft carrier's laundry room. So there you go. What we have now—you saw it yourself, everybody sees it—those vessels are stuck, and there's nothing you can do about it.

#Nima

Andrei, part of the operation the United States was running in the Middle East was, you know, when it came to the Strait of Hormuz, Donald Trump was trying to convince the Europeans to get involved there. Today we've learned again that Trump is trying to push them—he's talking about this two-week ceasefire, but at the same time he's putting pressure on NATO Secretary General Rutte and on NATO countries to do something about the Strait of Hormuz. So what is Europe—what can Europe bring to the theater in the Strait of Hormuz that the United States can't? Because we need to understand, what exactly does Donald Trump want from them?

#Andrei

Listen, if you read his posts—even yesterday—about Marjorie Taylor Greene, this is like a middle-school, spoiled-girl wuss, you know, essentially hysterical, lashing out and misbehaving. He is mentally unstable, and we have to admit this now. So he can try whatever he wants. The problem is, as always, the United States wants somebody to get hit by the anti-shipping missiles because they can't afford—well, again, it's pathetic. Okay, let's say, for instance, it's the Charles de Gaulle, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, with a couple of those destroyers or frigates—see what's going to happen. That's the only thing. The rest of it, they can move only their very limited number of surface assets.

Most of them are designed and utilized in such a way that they carry MK-41 vertical launch systems, which are loaded with the same Tomahawks. They have some anti-shipping missiles—most of them are subsonic. Well, actually, all of them are subsonic. So let's do it, you know, and see what happens. I'm pretty sure Iranian forces are just salivating at the thought of having some kind of destroyer or whatever appear in their sights, so to speak. And for Trump, he's basically trying to hide behind the backs of NATO—so-called allies in those vessels. But those vessels, they don't want to die either, you know? So each of them is essentially a bunch of criminals, and I'll talk about that at some point too.

I mean, I mention it all the time—when you look at the elites, the military and political elites, they're a bunch of incompetent hacks. The only thing they know is how to stay elected and how to stay appointed to their posts. I read today a statement by the French army chief, Mamdon. He's a child; he doesn't understand what he's talking about. They don't have resources, they don't understand how it all works. The only thing they do understand is that once they get into range, they'll be sunk. They'll be hit, and the consequences will be catastrophic—especially for people as sensitive as the French. The British, you know, don't have much at all. They prefer to keep whatever aircraft carrier they have now hanging out in the relative safety of Southeast Asia.

#Nima

Andrei, the way Donald Trump was talking about the war—he said he's going to put an end to a civilization, meaning Iran, that he's going to end it. When someone like Donald Trump posts something like that, what's going on in his mind? Does he really think that even using nuclear weapons can destroy a civilization?

#Andrei

First, we have to understand the ceasefire that the United States was begging for. The United States has been begging Iran since March 16. This is for those people who have the attention span of a fish in an aquarium. The United States wasn't just saying, "Oh yeah, let's do this, it's fine." No, they were begging since the 16th of March. And that's actually the title of my video today, which will pop up after this—it's called *Peremptory*. Iran issued ten points for the negotiations for a simple reason: for them to be rejected. They're pretty good strategies. It's very similar to Russia's statement in December 2021, which was peremptory too—take it or leave it. Not "we'll go in," you know, "we'll continue." Iran is ready. And that's the whole thing. Iran can take it; they can keep going.

They know their own arsenals. They know how many weapons they have. They've refined their tactics and operations. And the United States doesn't have time—it doesn't have the arsenals to keep going like this. So what's left? I don't know. Do they want boots on the ground? Yeah, they can put boots on the ground and see what happens. It's going to be a slaughter. Here we are, with Trump desperate and completely out of control. He can't control his outbursts. He's a narcissist, a self-centered, egotistical maniac. Now we're seeing the open onset of dementia. Put that together and you've got a deadly mix—a person who isn't normal, who can't concentrate on anything, who doesn't understand what he wants.

And he is controlled by Israel, because we have to understand—all these explosions, tactics, operations—they kind of, you know, for now, obscure the main fact. He's mentioned five and a half thousand times in the Epstein files. We can't accuse him yet, because of the presumption of innocence, but everybody understands what this is about. Everybody who isn't a complete moron, who worships this, you know, golem—essentially a puppet of the Israeli government, Mossad. He's

totally embroiled in, essentially, being controlled by his sycophants, who are Christian Zionists. They're not Christians; these are people whose loyalty is to Israel. And so, when you look at this—yeah, yeah—he'll probably, at some point, go bananas.

I mean, he will explode because he's a ticking time bomb. And what will he do? The only thing—probably the saving grace here—is that he's also a coward. We know now this is an established fact. So when he threatens to destroy a civilization that's more than twenty times older than the United States as a country, he doesn't know what he's talking about. This is his pathetic, woozy, middle-aged, spoiled-brat lashing out. And as Michael Brenner said today—wonderful Michael Brenner, one of the few truly deep thinkers in the U.S. academy—he wrote that the United States has debased itself morally, completely. It's completely debased. It has no morality left, no moral authority on anything. It participated in the atrocity and genocide in Gaza. It participated in the war crimes in Ukraine.

And it's now debased itself to the point that you have the president of the United States behaving like this—it's incredible. The rest of the world took note. It's a national embarrassment, a national humiliation. And he can say whatever he wants. For him, this ceasefire is somehow a way to get himself out of the verbal-diarrhea corner he created when he said, "Yeah, we'll bomb Iran back to the Stone Age, we'll kill civilization." And guess what? You forget another thing—he called the Iranians animals. The office of the President of the United States has been humiliated and debased. It's a freaking zoo. And it's painful for me to say this, because I lived in the United States for more than thirty years, and seeing what the country has become is unbelievable.