

# Andrei Martyanov: How Iran Exposed Trump's Military & Strategic Failure

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## #Nima

Hi everybody, today is Thursday, April 16, 2026, and we're going to have Andrei joining us. He was here, but somehow he got out of here. Let me—he's coming in.

## #Andrei

For some reason, the IQ of the Windows, okay.

## #Nima

Welcome back, Andrei.

## #Andrei

Oh yeah, my pleasure.

## #Nima

Yeah. Let me start, Andrei, with what Pete Hegseth said today, his message to Iran. Here is what he said.

## #Speaker 03

To Iran's military leadership, to the Quds Force leadership and IRGC leadership, we're watching you. Our capabilities are not the same, our military and yours. Remember, this is not a fair fight. And we know what military assets you are moving and where you are moving them to. While you are digging out, which is exactly what you're doing—digging out of bombed-out and devastated facilities—we are only getting stronger. You are digging out your remaining launchers and missiles with no ability to replace them. You have no defense industry, no ability to replenish your offensive or defensive capabilities. You only have what you have.

You know that, and we know that. You can move things around, but you can't actually rebuild. You can dig out for now, but you can't reconstitute. But we can. We are reloading with more power than ever before and better intelligence— even more importantly, better intelligence than ever before— as you expose yourself with your movement to our watchful eye. We are locked and loaded on your critical dual-use infrastructure, on your remaining power generation, and on your energy industry. We'd rather not have to do it, but we're ready to go at the command of our president and at the push of a button. Yeah.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, what is your understanding? What is he trying to send to the Iranian army, the Iranian IRGC? Because what we've learned, you know, at least they're not talking that much about the production of missiles and weapons. But what we've learned from the Iranian army executive deputy, Brigadier General Sheikh, he said that the army's destructive drone production increased by ten times. What is he talking about? Because this sort of message doesn't resonate with Iranians. They know these sorts of allegations from people in the West.

## **#Andrei**

Pete Hegseth, is there actually—he is the guy with the NCO mentality. He learned a couple of buzzwords. He has absolutely no serious military background. He has no military education. He has been in this theater of operations where there's not really war—the police operation of medium intensity in Afghanistan, which was controlled by the Taliban since 2005, essentially, you know, so... So when this guy comes up with all those, it's all spin and PR to basically put lipstick on the pig, you know, of the catastrophic military humiliation. And whatever he says is just a bunch of, you know, verbiage about something. Locked and loaded with what? Iranians are not idiots.

They know how many Tomahawks and JASSMs the United States has. And if they want to go and do what the United States usually does—bomb—it doesn't have many standoff weapons left. And yeah, whatever. So the guy is in PR. He is not the Secretary of War. So operationally, he's an amateur. He doesn't understand real things. The only thing that the American generals, who are really not good operationally, also come to him and brief him with—we're looking at the decomposition of the... especially when you consider who is the boss, who himself is a completely unhinged and insane man. So yeah, it's the composition of the administration, which has been defeated militarily.

Now we have the situation with the ceasefire in Lebanon, which, of course, yeah, that's the United States again submitting to the demands of Iran. So they have to put on a brave face and, you know, project the thing about how everybody loves that now that the United States military has been exposed for what it is. And it was always like that, you know, except that there was this, you know, I want to remind everybody that the whole notion of American strategy, if you can call it that way, and especially when you consider how the political system evolved, was all about show. It's all about showing off, you know, the chest-thumping and things like that. It was Mr. Michael Ledeen.

He was National Security Advisor for Mr. Dick Cheney. And he is a neocon's neocon. He is just absolutely, I mean, a fanatical dude. He said, and I quote, once every 10 years, we have to take a crappy country, smack it against the wall, and show everybody that we mean business. And of course, they're talking about crappy countries. Iran is not a crappy country. They actually know how to fight. And we see this result. And this strategy was always to hide behind proxies, with the backs of proxies. And then once you are exposed to the real enemy, to the real war, there you go — you have the tactical, technological realities dictating operational, strategic ones. And the United States doesn't have the resources to fight.

So the United States moves now, what, another 10,000 personnel to the theater? You need to have about, I don't know, again, listen, it's very inaccurate, but I would say that if you look at the order of things, you need to have a million-plus troops — combat troops, not support troops. That means what? You probably will have about two million of the, uh, you know, the force somewhere in the deserts of Kuwait and Iraq or what have you, in order for you to even exercise real, realistic expectations on invading Iran and achieving some kind of, whatever the political aim will be. All political aims which the United States tried to pursue, whatever that is — but we know it was fighting on behalf of Israel — they failed. And that's the result.

## **#Nima**

Actually, they're asking — here is the Wall Street Journal reporting that they're asking car manufacturers to produce missiles and, I don't know, munitions. Is that going to help them?

## **#Andrei**

Well, they have never tried it before. I don't know how the automakers can make missiles. Theoretically, you can—well, first, missiles are flying objects, okay? And they're basically assemblies of the missiles and delivering tactical, technical parameters, which are required, is an order of magnitude more complex than it is for a car, okay? It is a combat system, and it involves all kinds of different things, which, of course, include testing, okay, which is serious testing and quality management, which differs dramatically from whatever they can have in their auto plants.

You theoretically can retool things, but it is more organic, if you wish, for the automakers to get involved in the production of some things like materials, APCs, you know, armored personnel carriers or infantry fighting vehicles, you know, things of this nature, because at least it is within the same parameters or technological capabilities, which are transportation means of movement. How can you retool the automobile factory unless you build something totally adjacent to it, which initially already, you know, from the outset, is designed as a missile factory? Then yeah, maybe, yes. But again, do not forget also that this is the Wall Street Journal. It's staffed as any American or Western media, or for that matter, even most of Russian media.

They're staffed with morons who won't understand the first thing about anything real in life. And they will report to you any kind of garbage. But yeah, theoretically, you can employ your automakers and make them, if you can do that in the United States, do some transportation things. And, you know, again, APCs, infantry fighting vehicles with missiles and automakers—it's the same as if you go and Boeing comes out and finds some people in Ford Motors and says, hey, you're going to be making now this flying thing. And they say, what? So you have engineers, people who have no clue about the actual issues which relate to the production of the—well, a missile is effectively an aircraft. That's what it is.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Andrei, we had this report confirmed by Washington that they have lost a drone, an MQ-4C, which is so expensive—more than twice the cost of an F-35. It's huge. What is that, Andrei? What does it do that makes it so expensive? Why is that? Well...

## **#Andrei**

Well, it's signal intelligence and optical intelligence. From what I—I don't remember all the parameters of that thing, you know. I don't keep them in mind because it's same old, same old. You have the radar there, which is—you can see this kind of, you know, hump on the front of it. It contains the optical electronic systems. It basically scans. It collects signals, all kinds of the electromagnetic spectrum, including optical. Optical is part of the electromagnetic spectrum, too. And, yeah, basically, that's what it is. It's a recon, very expensive recon platform. And, yeah, they shot it down. So, yeah, what can I say? It was shot down. It's an easy target. It's not very fast.

And... yeah, there are all kinds of things, and many people still don't understand, but yesterday there were massive amounts of videos of the Iranian Air Force actually being in the air, flying MiG-29s and even Air Force Phantoms, you know, old things. And yeah, Mi-28s actually patrolling the skies over Tehran, and they evidently are very good in terms of shooting down drones and relatively slow-flying targets. And, yeah, what can I say? Mr. Pete Hefset lives in an alternative universe, but he always has. He is a Zionist fanatic. He's not Christian. And so the guy, what can I say? He's simply not adequate for the job. But who were, or who was, for the last so many years in the United States, in terms of developing the military appropriate for the specific political targets? The United States is just a mental extension of Israel, and it's quite like Israel, bombing.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, do you see a military solution for the United States in the Middle East? Or do you see that—how do you see the current situation with the Trump administration? Somehow you hear, as you've mentioned, they're talking about a ground invasion of it. On the other hand, they're talking about talks and negotiations, and there's so much confusion happening right now.

## **#Andrei**

Well, I mean, confusion in Washington, D.C. People who deal with the operational planning on the Iranian side, which has been demonstrated actually beautifully, and the other people who help Iran, so to speak, you know, not announcing it, but yeah, they do what any military operational strategic planner would do. They deliberately put themselves in a disadvantageous position. And when looking at the contingency planning, they start from the worst-case scenario. What is the worst-case scenario? Okay, we have the situation that the United States reinstates the draft. Somehow it tries to train this, whatever, you know, crowd of people, and then throw them—somehow they put them into the assembly areas, I mean, an assembly which will require, well, many months to put it mildly, if not years.

And so they begin to invade Iran, you know, for some reason. I'm absolutely positive that they have their contingency plan for that. They are prepared for that. And then after that, they develop all kinds of other scenarios, which are lighter in terms of their, you know, what, so to speak, operational strategic strain on the resources of the country. And... that's about it. The United States simply doesn't have resources. Again, you cannot fight a war with stock options and hedge funds. This is what many people still don't understand. All this, again, I'm not even looking today in modern times. And any kind of numbers of GDP, it's all fake. You know, Wall Street is fake. It's essentially nothing more than a collection of psychopaths who basically make money out of thin air, trading some things which are not there.

And it goes across the board because this is the systemic crisis of financial capitalism. It's a system which is eating itself up, basically eating itself. And now add here those aggravating factors such as the United States being controlled by Israel and Mr. Trump being an unhinged, insane person who is obviously blackmailed. And you look at that, it's a complete decomposition. And as Michael Brenner correctly stated about a couple of weeks ago, he wrote this wonderful article after Gaza, after everything that was happening with the special military operation in Ukraine, and now with this, the United States, as painful as it is for me to admit it, the United States debased itself.

It's just, it's not a moral beacon. It's basically the aggressor state, an imperialist state, which is in the, you know, throat—well, convulsing, actually—before its departure completely from the self-proclaimed, you know, greatness, you know, greatest thing ever. So, and yeah, this is exactly what is happening right now. And it's not good for the United States, and it's not good for the world. But again, as I already stated, I wrote books on that. I spoke about it on so many occasions and wrote about it. The moment the United States decided to step out, due to the incompetence of people in Washington, behind the backs of its proxies, that was the moment. They, as always, miscalculated because they don't have skills.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, one of the greatest problems of the United States right now in the Middle East, to protect Israel or any of these GCC countries, is, you know, what has happened to their radars in the region, because they're not there anymore to protect them, to send signals. And here is one of the solutions that the U.S. embassy in Baghdad came up with. They made a cage for, you know, for the radar. I don't know how—is that gonna save—let's assume they're gonna install new radars. Is that gonna help them?

## **#Andrei**

Well, I mean, it might help against a single drone, which still, depending on the type of warhead, actually—and you have to understand there could be a cumulative warhead, what is called, you know, a tandem charge and things of this nature—so it can still break through, you know. And especially, you need a specially designed—it's one thing to put things around a tank, okay, which is, of course, from the onset designed as essentially an armored fortress on tracks. That's what it is. And then, of course, in this case, the cage can essentially initiate the first of the charges of, you know, if you think about it, the tandem charge.

And the second one will just simply hit the armor plating, which can withstand it, you know. Theoretically, it didn't help much with Western tanks, but here it's just ridiculous, you know. So yeah, this one could get hit with the cumulative tandem charge, and even if it explodes at the—what's the name of it—at this net, this cage, basically the shrapnel and the fragments can still propagate through the gaps in this and damage the radar, effectively annihilating it. So this is ridiculous, you know. But again, they saw videos, Ukrainians told them, they basically filled their ears with BS about how effective all that is. So, and again, yeah, it's pathetic, honestly.

But yeah, sure. Whatever floats their boat, because they are desperate. They need to have... And again, keep in mind, most likely this radar—I didn't see exactly what it is. It could be anything. I didn't see the antenna itself. But, uh, it's difficult for me to see. Actually, it might be, from what I see, not even the radar itself. It could be a satellite comms antenna or something like that. I don't see it clearly here anyway, but it doesn't matter. Yeah, I mean, comms antenna—yeah, it's important, they're critical. It's not radar. At least I don't really see that from this. I'll have to take a look after that, but yeah, it's not going to help much.

## **#Nima**

So what will be the solution for the United States? We know that they want to protect Israel, but they're not going to have the radars back in the GCC countries, in my opinion, because you're on GCC countries.

## **#Andrei**

They are done. They are done as such. It's, uh, as I already stated, and again, I would be lying—I have to confess—that if I said I don't feel the Schadenfreude of seeing how Dubai basically implodes on itself, which it will, because there are so many issues with the infrastructure and you cannot maintain it now. They have their occupancy rates, even with tremendous discounts, down to something like about 20–25%. So nobody wants to go there anymore. Yeah, you have to be a complete moron to start with. It's fake luxury. You know, it's completely fake. Luxury is not gold-plated garbage, which they put there. And, you know, it's like the imbeciles eat this steak covered with gold or whatever that thing is. It's complete decomposition of morality, taste, you know, things like that.

And yeah, essentially, Dubai was a playground for old perverts and new variations, riffraff, people without culture who went there and investors. Now it is completely destroyed. It's not going to recover. There is no means to maintain whatever the infrastructure was there. And it's all gone. It's already rusting, actually. Because of the climate, you saw yourself what they did with these World Islands, which, I mean, it's a catastrophe. And I am really happy seeing this because obviously it was understood by anybody, any normal person, even 15 years ago when they were building this, that it's all crap. You know, eventually it will dissolve itself because you need to constantly reproduce this fake feeling, which there are many morons who believe made money on the stock market and what have you.

And so now it came all to fruition, and it's gone. It's not going to be anymore, this, you know, what this fake luxury in the middle of the Gulf is. And they don't have economic infrastructure to maintain this, only with the exception of the oil. And so it doesn't matter what they do there. They cannot put radar there anymore. Again, complete bankruptcy of the strategic vision of the U.S. military with all those, "Oh, we have 800 bases around the world." Yeah, you have 800 fat, prestigious, defenseless targets. That's what it is. And that has been demonstrated to a devastating effect. And again, it was exposed so much. The United States doesn't have air defense in a functional sense.

What is called air defense can barely intercept something like on the order of 25, maybe 30% of their targets. The rest of it just flies through. I don't know if they knew it. I mean, it wasn't a military which was designed to fight modern war. Again, it got lucky by choosing an enemy who was as dumb, as stupid as the Iraqi army, you know, if you can call it an army, you know, the army. And that's the result. Again, we see this collapse of this whole number of myths, including the myth of the Gulf States' wealth and what have you. But it's over. And no matter what they do, if they try to put any kind of radar there, it will be annihilated the moment anything flares up again. And that's it. Okay.

**#Nima**

Andrei, how do you see the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, which is the blockade of the blockade?

**#Andrei**

Yeah, it's a freak show, okay? That's the only words I have for it. And first, it's definitely difficult to do the proper blockade if you have to be really removed from there, far away from the shores, due to their missile threat. And you have, well, relatively limited naval resources there. And again, we don't even know what the hell is going on with those aircraft carriers. Only one of them is relatively in the area somewhere, you know, south of Pakistan, essentially. So, they are trying to blockade whatever they try to blockade, but then again, there is a horrendously powerful choke point, another one, which is the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea. So we have to wait and see how far it develops.

United States Navy certainly can have some resources, and they do, especially with the helicopters they carry on the destroyers of the Arleigh Burke class and things of this nature. They can enforce some of it, but the reality is that you cannot enforce, you cannot create a total blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. And then again, you have the dynamics, economic dynamics with them. Oil, all those so-called markets, it's nothing. They have nothing to do with the real physical oil. All those futures, all this garbage of derivatives they sell to each other and pretend that they sell real oil — it's paper oil. Real oil is, I mean, yesterday I looked up Urals, \$121 per barrel. So that's what it is. So it cannot continue forever. And because of this, obviously Europe is now basically on the verge of hysteria.

Well, they are the ones who are getting hit hard. And yeah, Trump, he made an admission yesterday that, oh yeah, high prices, high gas, gasoline prices will still be there during the, you know, basically, they will last through the midterms. GOP and his administration will probably be thrashed at the election polls, and midterms are a huge factor. And nothing they can do. I mean, I am repeating it nonstop. United States doesn't have resources. It doesn't. And even the fact that they, oh yeah, they produce, let's say, more missiles, let's say, whatever they're going to be producing, JASSMs or air defense missiles for, let's say, PAC-3. And if they are not effective, you just manually multiply the ineffectiveness of the same technology, which is stuck in the early 90s. That's what it is, all of it. The military concepts are from there. But this is 2026.

## **#Nima**

We had, they're sending this second, it's going to be the third, but after, you know, managing the aircraft carrier Gerald Ford to get out of the region. Right now, they're sending George H.W. Bush to the region, and it's not going through the Red Sea. Of course it's not. It's going the other way in order to avoid confronting the Yemenis. What is that, Andrei? How is that going to be useful for them in the region? So far, we haven't seen much of Gerald Ford together with Abraham Lincoln. I don't know what else they can bring to the region.

## **#Andrei**

Well, I mean, I've warned for two decades: an aircraft carrier against a missile exchange is not a good weapon system. It's good, for example, if you go and try to attack some kind of Polynesian

tribe or whatever, you know, which has spears and bows and arrows and things of this nature, or maybe machine guns. This is completely different. And again, nobody knows the exact number and exact tactical-technical parameters of Iranian anti-ship cruise missiles. But even if you consider whatever the name of it is—I don't remember this Persian name—this cruise missile, anti-ship cruise missile, is still subsonic, but it has a range in excess of 1,000 kilometers. There you go.

It is one thing when you can shoot and be lucky, shoot one, two, but what if you have a salvo flying in? And considering the fact that probably before the salvo there will be, what, drones flying in? Well, then you're depleting your stores of air defense missiles. And after that, yeah, you're going to have leakers. You're going to have strikes on both the destroyers of the carrier battle group and the aircraft carrier itself. And as a result, you have to understand—aircraft carriers are reputation-heavy weapon systems. They are symbols of American imperialism, of the projection of power against, again, all kinds of whatever countries.

They became obsolete, actually, already in the 1970s and 1980s, once the Soviet Union developed those types of anti-ship missiles, like the P-700 Granit, which is known as the SSM-19 Shipwreck in the United States. Six-hundred-kilometer range, supersonic, with artificial intelligence abilities in salvo. So it was already in the 1980s. And basically, all analysis and mathematical modeling were already saying that you cannot intercept them all. You can intercept some, maybe, but most of them will break through, and they will just devastate basically whatever they hit. So the same situation now replicates itself here. But this time we have the addition of those drones, which can go before the attack. Then, of course, the salvo flies in, and then maybe more drones come in to kind of finish the job, if you know what I mean.

And when you have a weapon system which is extremely fragile—not in the sense that, no, in order for you to sink an aircraft carrier you would have to have a lot of explosives—but the point is, once the... as you saw yourself, and you know, if we even look at the Forrestal fire, okay? And especially, it takes one drone, a lucky drone, to blow up one of the F-18s with the stores under its wings. And that's it. It's going to spread all over the deck, and that's it. You cannot launch anything. And suddenly... but again, Forrestal was severely damaged, even with the penetration of the fire through the armored deck. Enterprise was damaged, you know. And again, the crews fought, you know, valiantly, heroically for the ship, and they obviously remained afloat. But this is different. This is, as I already stated, how many leakers can they take? What is gonna be the effect of this?

And because of that, they cannot risk this reputation-heavy thing. Can you imagine when somebody tells you, oh my God, we've been hit, we have, you know, a bunch of the aircraft destroyed, the deck is completely damaged, and things of this nature? And the aircraft is suddenly out of commission, you have to take it or even tow it back to whatever facility. And we know now that, for example, Gerald Ford will be out of commission for, what, at least 14 months or something like that. It's just... 30-hour fire in London. What the hell is going on there? I don't know. But we can only

speculate, essentially. But that's a very tough proposition for the U.S. Navy because this is the only asset that can provide some kind of sustainment or operational tempo, because you can launch 36 of those F-18s.

You know, they can fly, do some actual missions, what have you. But again, if you look attentively, JASSMs and JSMs, these are standoff weapons, and the United States is running very low on them. Other than that, what's left? You have to move deep into Iranian airspace to use those JDAMs, Hellfires, what have you. And this is a close and dirty fight. And then suddenly, you are exposed to the air defense, which is still there and doing its job, especially in the electro-optical way. And they have early warning, the Iranians. They have their own satellite, actually, which was launched by—I don't remember—Russia launched it. So you have all the tools to sustain the defense.

And the United States, here comes the most important part. The United States is extremely sensitive to its own casualties. That's why they constantly lie. They're not keeping silent; they lie, forestalling things by obviously covering up the majority of the losses. And so, what can I say? What's left? A diminishing number of Tomahawks they can launch from the MK-41 vertical launch systems on the Arleigh Burke class. That's it. Some submarines, obviously. The U.S. submarine force is very impressive and all that. But still, the Virginia class carries, what, 32 Tomahawks? Once you launch them, you have to go back to base to reload, you know, if you have those Tomahawks available. So that's the issue.

## **#Nima**

I don't know if you saw the video. They're talking about the life of those forces on these aircraft carriers. It's so much, it's so difficult, Andrei. It's like a prison.

## **#Andrei**

No, it is. I mean, that's what navies are. You live in confined spaces. And you didn't see, and again, you have this floating thing, it's a huge thing, whose only task is to launch and receive aircraft. It doesn't have any strike power on its own. It has a couple of the close-incoming air defense systems like RAM or whatever, and that's it. It's essentially defenseless. It has the radar, it has the things which are needed for essentially air traffic control. And, you know, all those modern gizmos—well, they're not modern. They've had them since the '60s: satellite comms and things of this nature. But in reality, it's a defenseless pile of metal, 105,000 tons of displacement.

Once the air wing gets there, it grows from 2,800, the actual crew of the aircraft carrier itself, to almost 5,500, because the air wing comes with its own personnel who work primarily on the aircraft and provide their equipment operations. And there you go—some people serve there sometimes not seeing the light of day for weeks because it's very confined. But it's nothing compared to, for example, the pretty cramped spaces of the otherwise excellent boats such as the Arleigh Burke class, you know. So it's a tough life. Yeah, there's a lot of stress and pressure on those personnel.

And now, when you are in, for the first time since 1945, US aircraft carriers operate, or at least try to operate, in a threatening environment. They are actually in harm's way. They can be hit. They can be bombed. They can be whatever. And that is a totally different moral outlook for the personnel there because it's a serious stress, absolutely serious stress on anybody. And so, yeah, life is not sweet there. And then you obviously never have enough sleep. The naval service, or any military service, is all about sleep deprivation. You live between meals, and that's about it. It's tough. It's very tough.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, one of the desperate attempts on the part of Donald Trump is to force Europeans to be part of the operation in the Middle East. CNN just reported that the decision on the part of Europeans not to join the military operation in the Middle East is not a political decision. It's because their military is not capable of adding anything substantial to what the United States already has in the region.

## **#Andrei**

They are paupers. Again, if you remove the indigenous nuclear deterrent of France—they have their own submarines, they have their own missiles, so they have their own nuclear program, essentially—the rest of it, even the French Army, is a joke, you know. So is their air force. And you look at the rest of them: the Bundeswehr is a joke. The German military, it's a joke. The UK, they cannot put together a single brigade unless it's probably going to happen sometime in 2028. Yeah, the whole brigade, can you imagine? Oh, 5,000 people, you know, just... And so it's all pathetic. And Europe also, we have to keep in mind what many people still do not understand: Europe, despite the fact that they buy gas and oil from Russia through intermediaries, that tells you how two-faced they are.

They're just, you know, hypocritical in the extreme. They have no honor, no integrity, nothing. That does not exist there. But the point is, they are going to be buying it, and already buying it, for premiums. And as I already stated, they could buy it for \$60 a barrel, theoretically, probably slightly higher, even three months ago. Now they have to pay 120. And now there's LNG and things of this nature, all of it through the roof. You cannot get much done. You probably will be able to maintain, to a degree, parts of your basic infrastructure and provide some kind of services. But when you look at the societies in Europe as a whole, they are becoming poor. They will be much poorer. They will be—I'm not saying they will be famine-level poor, no—but they already are. It's already happening.

And considering the fact that essentially fertilizers and other things which are related, obviously, to oil, energy, and things like that are also basically blockaded, if you wish. And that is a domino effect. It's so much more spread, if you wish. And there will be shortages of necessary foods. There will be shortages of many things. And they are already happening. And so it will get much, much worse. After that, they have to completely stop buying anything made in Russia, in 2027, I believe. And

they will be left with the United States, which successfully substituted Russia, removed Russia from the European energy market, and the United States will decide if it has enough for them or not, because Asia will outbid them at any given time.

And so there you go. If they want to build, they will build, yeah, okay, military, you know, military mode, so to speak, war economy. Yeah, Rheinmetall probably will build three tanks next year, maybe five. That sure is helpful, you know, impress Russians. So that's who they are. They are paupers. They always were. And I want to again quote Mr. Borrell. Before he was this, what should—Annalena Baerbock was a complete idiot—and whoever was in charge of the European Commission diplomacy. But before Borrell, he stated, and I quote, "Our prosperity was based on the cheap energy from the Soviet Union and Russia. It's over." So they will now go back to probably the standard of living from the 1960s.

And they will be, of course, corralled into their, well, even more high-pitched hatred of Russians, in Russia, because obviously it will be blamed on Russia, and they will be convinced that they need to go on another drunk binge, you know, to kill those dirty Slavs who, for some reason, have access to more than 30 percent of the world's riches. And that's what it is. This is Europe, always the same. But this time, however, it's not going to last very long, and after a few days, it will be all over for them. But that's going to happen, you know, because these elites, all those perverts, you know, pedophiles, all those insane, unhinged people, pretty much very much along the lines of Trump—it's just two different types of madness. This is what they will need to do to stay in power and not end up behind bars. But the problem for Europe is that it has been so emasculated. It has, you know, it's just—yeah, it's over for them.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, we have seen some sort of difference in the behavior of the government in Spain—not only reopening the embassy in Iran, going to China, receiving, you know... El País in Spain reported that Russia sent Spain its largest gas shipment in history during the first month of the war in the Middle East. Are we going to see some sort of difference in Europe? Because it seems that Spain somehow is trying to even... Donald Trump tried to put a lot of pressure, to be honest, on Spain. Yeah, I mean... but they tried to resist that. Do you see anything of that sort happening on a larger scale in Europe?

## **#Andrei**

No. No. I mean, listen, until they are hungry—and I'm sorry for being blunt—until they are hungry, and until the rapes and violence spread even more, something like on the Dijon level, if you might remember, a few years back, the city of Dijon, a mustard-related city in France. It had been hit by the violence between Chechens and Arabs, well, distributors of drugs, and it was warfare on the

streets, you know. So, until that hits this level, which is coming, they will not wake up. France, or pardon me, Spain—Spain is too insignificant in this respect. And yeah, they probably understood that they might end up really badly. But I think the cancer of the European values also spread in there.

And no matter what kind of their rationale, you know, what steps they try to take, the societies themselves, as I already stated... That's the tragedy of Europe, because the real men, they were emasculated. Women are essentially, yeah, you... Let's not go there, okay? It has been completely woke. Europe is complete. Their societies believe in this garbage of those European values. It's not going to change any attitudes of those societies, for example, towards Russia. They will continue to hate Russians. They will continue to view Russians as subhumans, for example. But obviously, at some point in time, they will be forced to do one or two rational steps, because at least some rudimentary survival instincts may manifest themselves.

And I do not forget, at least theoretically, the Spaniards are Catholics or what have you, you know. So, obviously, there is probably a lot of consternation related to this situation with the Catholic Church and Trump and, you know, all kinds of things of this nature. I mean, important, but not the main drivers, you know. So, they will be trying to get as much energy as they can. And now, again, Trump is not, you know, immortal, and probably next year, hopefully, he will face the 25th and be removed from power. I certainly hope so. But the point is that Europe is decomposing. I believe it's past the point of no return, and now only a violent and horrendous economic event may give them some kind of push towards a more sane realization of who they have become. Because, as I already stated, their societies, for now, still have a little bit of bread and circuses. For now. But it's already going down. It's not like, oh yeah, it will sometime in the future. No, it's already.

And that's what you just stated about Spain buying Russian LNG and things of this nature. Yeah, that's one of the indicators. Hello, Spain was one of those, you know, they hate Russians, they want Ukrainians to succeed, you know, Russia's the aggressor, that Nazi regime in Kiev, doesn't matter, you know. So that's what it is, it's one of those indications, because they have no other option, period. And once they don't have any other option, they either have to continue on the road to complete suicide of their civilization, which already is happening, or they have to stop at the edge of their abyss and say, good Lord, what did we do? But it will never, it never is coming back to what it used to be, because for the first time in, my gosh, I would say 75 years, after all that, you know, Russians, the majority of Russians, view Europe as the enemy. They view Europeans as the enemies, and they view them with contempt. And it's absolutely justified.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, since the war started in Ukraine, we've talked about the future of NATO multiple times, various times. I think the war in the Middle East has exposed what we've been talking about during the war in Ukraine and the future of NATO. Where is NATO today? Dead man.

## **#Andrei**

It doesn't exist in reality. The fact is, it doesn't exist anymore. And the juror, you know, you don't have to do something with the jury, you know, you cannot come in and say, okay, here's the treaty or articles of unconditional surrender, sign it. You don't have to do it. You can allow the system to rot, which is what happened. And the question now is, what is it going to be? That's what many people do not understand. Actually, those who needed to know, they did. In Europe, there's a message that the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation published the addresses of the manufacturing plant which produces their equipment, primarily drones for Ukraine, and it's given with the addresses, precise addresses, and obviously physical coordinates. And when Mr. Medvedev stated that, yeah, it's potential targets, the message had been received. In the UK, there is hysteria right now.

But yeah, the proxy war will be increasingly removed, and Russia will continue to confront. For starters, again, we can only speculate right now. I'm not privy to any kind of political or military decisions, obviously. But it's unprecedented, actually, what has happened. Many people still do not understand the significance of what it is. Many people read all kinds of propaganda garbage from the Western media. But the truth is, for the first time, Russia essentially came out and said, these are the targets. And we'll wait and see the reaction of the Finns and Baltic states who allowed their, not only airspace—that could have been understood, you know.

No, evidently, the launches of the drones are happening from their territory, so I think Russians will see what will be the effect, the reaction to this, and after that, who knows. Yeah, I think some stones need to be rearranged in those, you know, chihuahuas in the Baltic states, or maybe in Finland. After that, we'll see the reaction. But yes, this is the first time united Russia said, we know who you are. It's coming if your behavior doesn't change. If it doesn't change, then yeah, I think we are looking at the direct possibility of Russia striking those sites. Russia is not going to be changing their governments. But yeah, what can I say? That's Europe. There's nothing normal there. Left, I don't know. Yeah, it's a whole can of worms. Let's not go there.

## **#Nima**

Andrei, before wrapping up, Scott Besson yesterday said that he's going to put the sanctions back on Russia and Iran in a few days.

## **#Andrei**

Russia is about to surrender. I mean, yeah, it's a freaking sucker. It's a freak show, okay? Again, you cannot explain to the average economist who graduated from the Ivy League with a degree in economics, you know, what the real economy is. None of them ever worked a day on the factory floor. They don't understand what energy is. The only thing they understand is the return on investment, you know, whatever—ROE, AI, or something like that. What is the stock option? What is the capitalization? Dudes, nobody cares about your capitalization of Apple, which is all made in

China, you know. Nobody cares about your capitalization of any garbage you sell, like this artificial intelligence, which, of course, is a bubble that already deflated, you know. So it's all crap, okay? It's all trading. It's like the famous Russian anecdote: one guy needed a whole train of fertilizer for a million dollars.

So two guys come together and say, oh yeah, let's do it. Let's strike the deal. And so they strike the deal. And then another guy goes and tries to find the train of fertilizer, and the other goes and tries to find \$1 million. This is what it is. This is the Western economy. The United States retains, to a degree, their competencies—engineering competencies—in some aerospace, obviously, especially commercial. Still, no matter what we say about Boeing, it still produces excellent aircraft, and it still, you know, retains some other things, you know, like automobiles, obviously. But overall, if you look attentively in terms of autarky—autarky meaning what? Almost completely self-reliant.

It is actually primarily the United States and Russia. That's it. And the rest of the world is completely dependent on how these two guys move. If anybody says that China is autarkic—no, China cannot be autarkic. They have no sufficient resources to maintain themselves. That is why what is happening right now, and rerouting in progress as we speak, this very moment, of the major energy streams, so to speak, towards China, is because China cannot supply itself. And that is why it is so worried about the Strait of Hormuz and Iranian oil and shipping lines of communication through the Indian Ocean. So take a look at it like, okay, so good luck trying to sanction Russia. They tried. How did it work out? We know how.

## **#Nima**

I think the outcome of what has happened so far will be a new era of partnership between Russia, China, and Iran—a better future for BRICS. It doesn't matter. I don't know if India is going to be there.

## **#Andrei**

India, yeah. India made the wrong bets, big time. But yes, Vladimir Putin flies to China soon—it has been confirmed. And again, we have to understand, this is all about the Eurasian landmass. And the United States has been essentially, effectively evicted from the Middle East. And the petrodollar is dead—like dead, dead. You cannot resurrect it because the most important thing on which the whole damn structure was based was the flimsy foundation of the American mythology of military power—that, oh yeah, you're not going to use this dollar, you know, we come for you. Yeah, and now these Gulfists, they saw for themselves how the United States can defend them. So yeah, let them learn. Maybe some of them will learn, because they constantly are calling Russia, going to the Russian Foreign Ministry, you know, those ambassadors and things like that. They talk to Mr. Novak, who is their great cardinal of their, essentially, energy marketing globally, you know. So it's a complex game.

And again, we do not see all of it. We can see only manifestations here and there. But yeah, the petrodollar is dead with it. The United States has been reduced to just a major power with nuclear weapons, obviously. Still some impressive Navy in the sense that, although obsolete for the most part, it's still large, it's impressive. The only thing that is state-of-the-art and world-class is, of course, the American nuclear-powered submarine fleet, which is good, despite the fact that in terms of weapons, it is nowhere near Russian submarines. But still, you know, they're good, excellent submarines, excellent crews, excellent training, you know, so... The rest of it, yeah, we saw everything we needed to see.

## **#Nima**

You've mentioned China is dependent on energy. India is hugely dependent too.

## **#Andrei**

Oh, yeah. Already today, I believe they were told that all those sanctions which had been removed for a while are going back. Okay, it's India's choice. Listen, it's Modi's choice. He shot himself in the foot by essentially expressing his love and undying support for Israel and Bibi Netanyahu literally a few days before the whole thing started and exploded. That is the worst, I mean, the wrong place at the wrong time, and that had immediate ramifications for India at large. And many programs in India now have been essentially closed. And now, if they don't want to buy Russian oil, it's fine, you know, or energy. If they want to go with, you know, Mr. Trump, then that's India's choice. Nobody can do anything about it. And Russia is always open to any kind of cooperation. But yeah, in terms of foreign policy for the last several months, it was one failure after another.

## **#Nima**

It's just amazing what is happening. It is. Thank you so much, Andrei, for being with us today.

## **#Andrei**

Great pleasure, as always. Bye bye.

## **#Nima**

Bye-bye.