

# Iran HIT US Navy HARD in Strait of Hormuz, Trump STUNNED | Marandi

Prof. Mohammad Marandi joins to discuss the massive turn that the war on Iran has taken as the Strait of Hormuz becomes the flashpoint for major escalation between the IRGC and the US Navy. [https://x.com/s\\_m\\_marandi](https://x.com/s_m_marandi) LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis! Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: [chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com](https://chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com) Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritho> #iran #trump #straitofhormuz

## #Mohammad Marandi

It's always a pleasure, and I hope you enjoy yourself in China. Let us know what's going on over there.

## #Danny

Yeah, yeah, we can definitely get into that. Everybody, hit the like button as you come on, because that helps boost the stream in YouTube's algorithm. So, okay, Professor Marty, let's get started. A lot has been happening. Over the last 24 hours, Iran clarified through concerted action in the Strait of Hormuz—turning back ships and stating very publicly, directly to the United States—that the ongoing naval blockade is a violation of the ceasefire. And therefore, the control Iran has over the Strait of Hormuz wasn't really questioned or challenged this time. But Iran essentially said it's not going to open it up further for additional oil tankers.

We are going to keep strict control and turn back every single ship that we believe is hostile or important for gaining leverage over the United States. Trump has responded, saying that if Iran doesn't stop this and doesn't come to the table, he's going to start threatening airstrikes again—on Iran's infrastructure, its oil facilities, all of its power plants. He's going to wipe them all out. So here we are again, back at square one. Iran has answered the U.S. naval blockade with a pretty hard hit, because there were a lot of hopes that the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened now that there's a ceasefire in Lebanon. That's not happening—the exact opposite is happening.

## #Danny

And the Trump administration—Donald Trump himself—

## **#Danny**

Seems to be in a panic, going back to the old threats of wiping out this infrastructure—which is what led to the major increase in energy prices in the first place. So, Professor Morandi, where are we right now? What's your reaction to these developments, especially over the last 24 to 36 hours, which have been, I think, a shock to the Trump administration and the U.S. power elites at large?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, we have to go back a bit, just to remind everyone what happened and what's happening. There was a genocide going on in Gaza, and Iran supports the Palestinian people. It's the only country that supports them as a state, as a government. Otherwise, the entire world now supports the Palestinian people—everyone has woken up to the truth, in the West and even in India.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

There too, the mood is shifting away from this genocidal and illegitimate regime. The United States wants—and has always wanted—to help the Israeli regime take control of the region. We saw that from the U.S. ambassador's interview with Tucker Carlson, when he said that if Israel takes the entire region, that's fine with the United States. So we're facing an expansionist regime that's genocidal, ethno-supremacist, that considers itself a master race, a chosen people, and everyone else subhuman. And the United States, the West, and the Europeans fully support this—the Australians, New Zealand, and so on. So we fast-forward, and we have a 12-day war where the United States under Trump and the Israeli regime conspire and carry out an aggression against Iran—a war of aggression.

The collective West supports it. The German chancellor says, "The Israeli regime does our dirty work for us." They condemn Iran—the Europeans. The Israelis and Americans launched the war, and they condemn Iran for the war. But Iran doesn't strike back at these Arab dictatorships, except once at Qatar, because Qatar was symbolic of CENTCOM—it's where CENTCOM is. So after the Americans bombed Iran, Iran bombed the American base in Qatar. These Arab dictatorships have been complicit in conspiring against Iran for decades. I mean, in 1980, when the West pushed Saddam Hussein to invade Iran and gave him chemical weapons, these family dictatorships in the Persian Gulf funded Saddam Hussein. And ironically, when the Americans wanted to invade Iraq, they all helped the Americans invade Iraq.

And they hosted U.S. forces, whereas the Iranians, who hated Saddam Hussein, were opposed to the invasion and condemned it—and so did Hezbollah. Then these regimes, after the Arab Spring, worked with the CIA to overthrow the only governments that were opposed to the West: Libya and Syria. In the Persian Gulf, there was no Arab Spring. They spent money to destroy Syria and Libya, two countries that were highly critical of the Western empire. And, of course, al-Qaeda was used in

both—first in Libya, then in Syria—the same al-Qaeda that, a decade earlier, we were told carried out 9/11. So the 12-day war was supposed to finish in one or two days, and Iran was supposed to collapse. It didn't happen.

Iran won the war. And we fast-forward to this war. Again, like the 12-day war, Iran is negotiating with the United States while the United States is conspiring to attack Iran—the same model over and over again, meant to finish in a couple of days. They begin by slaughtering 168 little girls, Americans, and a couple dozen teachers and school staff in Minam, and carry out atrocities across the country for 40 days with their Zionist allies. So again, they started the war. Iran did not start the war. They escalated—started targeting critical infrastructure. They began by bombing hospitals and schools, and then they started bombing...

**#Danny**

Unfortunately, Professor Morandi, we're having some lag issues. Can you hear me? ... Installation?

**#Mohammad Marandi**

And then Iran escalated. So every step of the way, they escalated. And every step of the way, these Arab family dictatorships were with America. Professor Morandi, can you hear me okay? Because their territory was used. Without them, this war could not happen. Without them, right now, the United States can't attack Iran again.

**#Danny**

Professor Morandi, can you hear me okay?

**#Mohammad Marandi**

There's a lot of—uh, is it me, or is it...

**#Danny**

I'm hearing you, Professor Morandi. I think we're having some audio issues—it's slowed down quite a bit. Yeah, it might be on your end. You might want to leave and come back in; that could help, and then we can restart. I can wait here if you want to reload, and I'll be right here when you come back. But yeah, you've completely frozen. Can you—okay. So, Professor Morandi, if you can, just reload, and I'll bring you back in. So yeah, we're dealing with some connection issues, everybody. Please hit that like button.

Professor Morandi will be back. Yeah, so what Professor Morandi is saying is that there's a huge context to what's going on now. What's happening just feels like full circle again. We're back where we were not too long ago, when Trump and the United States were threatening to destroy all of Iran'

s power plants and bridges—Iran’s bridges—which, you know, let’s be honest, is probably not even possible in the short term. That would have to be a major, long war. And we know what happened last time the Trump administration threatened this: there was a massive spike in oil prices and a huge problem for the global economy as a whole.

And I know Professor Morandi and I have been talking about what the global ramifications of this are—the potential for a worldwide economic recession, which would only make it even harder for the United States to supposedly accomplish whatever objectives it sees in its head as worthwhile pursuing in this war, mainly the destruction of the Iranian government and the Iranian state. So that’s kind of where we are now. And, you know, Professor Morandi hasn’t come back just yet, so I’m just going to check something real quick. Here we go—he’s coming back now. Hopefully we can get started again. Thanks so much for your patience. Yeah, but in any event, this is all being spurred by that fact. All right, here we go—I see Professor Morandi in the backstage. Let’s bring him back in. Professor, welcome back.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Sorry, Danny. Well, thank you. I think the closer we get to war, the worse the internet connection becomes. Right. Yeah, so I was saying that—throughout, you know, these Arab family dictatorships, I don’t know where I got cut off—but in the 1980s, these Arab family dictatorships supported Saddam Hussein against Iran alongside the West. And then they helped the West overthrow Libya and Syria during the so-called Arab Spring. And all these dictatorships that were pro-West remained in place, using Al-Qaeda literally a decade after 9/11. Then, of course, when the Americans struck Iran—the Israelis and the Americans—Iran only struck Qatar, and only the American base, during the 12-day war.

But in this war, the Americans have been using their territory, their airspace, their bases—not just American bases, but their own bases—their civilian infrastructure, their ports, all against Iran. So they’re waging war against Iran. Iran was striking the Israeli regime 24 hours a day, day and night, for 40 days. Then the Americans’ assets, and gradually, when they started striking Iranian civilian infrastructure repeatedly—like critical infrastructure—Iran began to retaliate against critical infrastructure where the Americans and the Europeans had shares in these countries. So now, without these family dictatorships, this war is not possible. It’s just not doable.

They need their airspace. They need their air bases. They need their land to wage war. So what’s going to happen? As soon as the Americans strike, Iran is going to strike back. It’ll strike back—and strike back hard. And from Iran, where I’m viewing things, I think we’re finally going to reach the point where the world moves toward a global depression. Because I don’t see, at all, even the slightest chance that Iran will accept U.S. demands. And I have no doubt that the United States won’t be able to defeat Iran. But what the United States will probably do is try to devastate the country, which just shows how genocidal the United States is.

It just shows how genocidal the collective West is, because Trump has been making genocidal statements about Iran for many days now—weeks, actually. It wasn't just about wiping out the civilization of the Iranian people. He spoke about obliterating Iran, about taking Iran back to the Stone Age. We never saw any outrage in the Western media. None of these mainstream Western journalists were outraged by those calls or those threats to wipe out the country. We never saw anything—not from The Guardian, not from The Times, not from The New York Times, not from Breitbart, from none of them.

What we did see, Danny—and I don't know if you saw this—was that when the Iranian delegation was going to Pakistan, The Washington Post put up an editorial saying the negotiators should be murdered. They put up an opinion piece, The Washington Post. So the media, the journalists in the West, are competing with the state to promote crimes against humanity—war crimes. Just like in Lebanon, you see Western journalists in Beirut who are a bunch of criminals. They talk about Hezbollah strongholds and Hezbollah bases, when everyone knows they're bombing towns. Right now, as we speak, they're blowing up villages in the south and the areas they've occupied—the Israeli regime.

So just homes—people's homes. They're flattening them to make it look like Gaza. This is how monstrous they are, and this is how monstrous Western journalists in Beirut are. I spoke to two of them. They contacted me to get, I don't know, an opinion—like a sentence or two, not a soundbite, but maybe something written. It may have been a soundbite, I don't know. But in any case, I told both of them, "Why do you write 'strongholds'? Why do you write 'Hezbollah targets'?" Both of them separately said more or less the same thing—that it wasn't them, it was their editor. I told them both, "You're complicit." I told both of them, "You're complicit. It's in your name. So you're a war criminal, just like your editors, just like the owners of your media outlets, and just like Netanyahu."

There's no real difference between any of you, because you're part of the apparatus that enables these crimes. The Washington Post was calling for the assassination of the negotiators while they were in Pakistan. And on the flight back to Iran, we all felt there was a very good chance our plane would be shot down. So we are where we are now, and it's unclear what will happen. I don't know what the Iranian decision will be about sending a negotiating team, but I think the chances for a major war are high. And if that happens, the infrastructure of the Persian Gulf will be destroyed. We're heading into the hot season—in other words, people will have to evacuate all these countries: the Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and many parts of Saudi Arabia—because they will no longer have refuge.

If they start targeting our critical infrastructure, like power plants, Iran will have no choice but to retaliate, because these countries are part of the war. And the United States uses these countries. So Iran will destroy their electrical power plants, which is much easier for the Iranians, because Iran's power plants are spread out all over the country. Theirs are few and large, and when they're destroyed, the Persian Gulf region becomes very hot and very humid. It starts getting very hot and humid about a month from now, so it's not going to be a place where people can live. The countries

will collapse. I think oil, gas, petrochemicals, helium—all of that—we should just forget they exist in this part of the world for the next few years. And the world economy will crash.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, no, that's a very, you know, dark picture you paint—but one that now, Professor Morandi, we have. At one point we could say, well, this is, quote-unquote, hypothetical, but we've already been at war. I mean, the United States and Iran have already been at war, and we saw Iran's response. It was very measured, but it was severe, and it had an escalation ladder to it. So what you're saying should be—people shouldn't doubt your predictions anymore, given everything that has happened. And so, you know, Professor Morandi, all of this has come, or at least the latest round of, I think, a break from this movement toward so-called negotiations—it's all come from the United States. The United States still, right as Iran intervened, made a goodwill gesture around the Lebanon ceasefire, saying it would begin the process of giving permission to more tankers to come through the Strait of Hormuz, easing some of the pressure.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Let me explain that. What happened was that Iran and the United States ultimately, through messages and then indirect talks, negotiated the ceasefire. They didn't actually negotiate face-to-face. The only time Iran and the United States negotiated was the day Dr. Qalibaf, the head of parliament, met Vance. Before and after that, there have been no negotiations. No one should be mistaken—all of this has been done through messages. Now, what happened was that there was a ceasefire. Why was there a ceasefire? Initially, the Americans—Trump—were saying "unconditional surrender." Then that didn't work out. Then they said Iranian missiles and drones were running out.

That didn't happen. Iranian firepower increased. Ultimately, the United States put forward—I think on day 34, maybe 36, I don't remember—a 15-point plan. Iran rejected it. Then Iran put out its own 10-point plan, and Trump accepted it. He agreed to negotiate; that had to be the focus of the talks. And of course, Trump didn't follow through because he's dishonest, and that's something the Iranians expected. But in any case, that's what led to the ceasefire—the Americans had to evolve their position to accept the Iranian 10-point plan, which was a very reasonable basis for negotiations.

Then, in the ceasefire, there was supposed to be an end to the fighting, especially in Lebanon, because the fighting was very heavy there. The prime minister of Pakistan said Lebanon was part of the ceasefire. And then Netanyahu went and carpet-bombed Lebanon—he carpet-bombed it, slaughtering hundreds of people in ten minutes. Just women and children, ordinary people in all neighborhoods, even pro-Zionist neighborhoods where you have the Lebanese Forces and other sinister groups funded by the West. Why? Because Netanyahu did not want the ceasefire. So Iran was supposed to open up the Strait of Hormuz to unfriendly ships. Why unfriendly ships? Because these five regimes are part of the war. So Iran allowed...

## **#Danny**

Professor Morandi, unfortunately, the audio is cutting out again. If you can hear me— I can hear you. Okay, good, good, good. I just wanted to see if I could— Okay, so... I might have interrupted a bit, but it's restabilized. Yes, I think it has.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Okay, so... Iran said it would allow more ships to exit the Strait of Hormuz, including ships from unfriendly countries. Who are the unfriendly countries? The ones that host U.S. bases—Qatar, the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain. So these extra ships were about to go, and then the Israelis basically tore up the ceasefire by slaughtering the Lebanese. So Iran stopped. For ten days, Iran said, "We're not allowing these ships to go until there's a ceasefire, because that's part of the deal." So the Strait of Hormuz was never closed; it was only ships hostile to Iran that couldn't go.

So Chinese ships, Iranian ships, Iraqi ships, Russian ships—they could go back and forth. But those five countries that were complicit, and still are complicit, in aggression couldn't. Still, they agreed to let some of them go. But Netanyahu wrecked the ceasefire. So for ten days, Iran kept the Strait of Hormuz restricted until finally the Israeli regime was forced to accept the ceasefire. Ten days of keeping the Strait of Hormuz that way put a lot of pressure on the United States. Then Netanyahu was being forced to accept it. He refused at first, so Iran made a further threat that it would strike Israel. The next day, Netanyahu accepted.

As soon as Netanyahu accepted the ceasefire—even though he's destroying buildings across southern Lebanon right now, in violation of that ceasefire, and he killed someone soon after it with a drone—Iran allowed the Strait of Hormuz to open. But three or four days earlier, during that ten-day period when Netanyahu was violating the ceasefire, the Americans imposed a siege on Iranian ports. So the Iranians opened up the port then, but Trump said, "I'm preserving the siege." Right. So Iran said, "Well, if you're going to keep the siege in place, that's a violation of the agreement, a violation of the ceasefire. So we're going to go back to restricting ships from leaving the Strait of Hormuz."

So the ceasefire was first violated by the Israeli regime, and then it was violated by the Trump regime. That's why the global energy crisis is getting worse and worse by the minute—because of their actions. Trump could have, yesterday—well, after Netanyahu accepted the ceasefire, the day before yesterday when Iran said, "Okay, now these ships can go through the Strait of Hormuz"—he could have lifted the siege on the ports, and that would have been a good off-ramp. But he chose to do the opposite. He chose to escalate. And that means we're heading toward war. And of course, today he's been making genocidal threats again. So we are where we are.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Well, according to Tasnim, Iranian media, Professor Morandi, there are reports that Iran is indeed refusing or rejecting talks while the U.S. naval blockade continues and until it's lifted—at least, those are their initial reports. It's not going to happen. Of course, things are subject to change in the coming hours and days. But the ceasefire—the so-called ceasefire—deadline for Iran is coming up soon, too. So that's another element here: the U.S. has only escalated during this time and has treated talks much like it's treated talks with Iran for quite a long time now, using them as another tool to build up and eventually engage in war.

But the Iranian military and the IRGC are saying—and we talked about this before we came on—that they're producing, building, and developing missiles and drones at a faster rate than they were before February 28th, before the war started. So, talk about what kind of preparations are being made, and how... how is it that Donald Trump, in his Truth Social post, is reacting to this development—this allegation that Iran fired on an Indian tanker—as the basis for increasing the level of threats, despite all the consequences that would come if strikes occur, if the U.S. makes good on its threats? Why do this? I mean, why do this now? What are your thoughts on all of this?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, the plan was escalation. After all, we wouldn't be here. First of all, if Netanyahu had accepted the ceasefire instead of slaughtering Lebanese citizens, and when he was finally forced to stop, if Trump had lifted the siege after Iran had opened the Strait of Hormuz to hostile shipping, then we wouldn't be here at all. There would be no reason to force ships to go back. But when Iran saw that he was imposing an embargo—a siege—and maintaining it, Iran told ships to stay in the Strait of Hormuz. A couple of ships tried to ignore Iranian demands, and they were met with force.

Iran fired at them, but they weren't seriously damaged. They didn't fire missiles or anything at them, and they quickly went back into the Persian Gulf. But you're right—the Iranians have been preparing for war since the ceasefire. I posted footage of the commander of Iran's missile force visiting a factory. And I've said this before—we've been saying it for years—and analysts in the West like to ignore what we say, and therefore they always miscalculate. We've been saying that Iran's underground missile bases are untouchable. They can't be hit by the Americans or the Israeli regime, and the same is true for its drone bases.

And Iran's factories that produce key weapons are all underground too. The footage I posted is from an underground base, and it also shows a place where they're assembling missiles. Iran has no shortage of missiles and drones. And the reason, as we've discussed multiple times, is that Iran has been preparing for a war against it by the Americans ever since 9/11—ever since the United States invaded Iraq and Afghanistan. Remember what Wesley Clark said, that a general told him they wanted to invade seven countries. You hear me?

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I can hear you. You're cutting out—and at such a convenient time, just as you're about to explain "seven countries in five years." What was I saying? You were talking about how... Yeah, go on.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Yeah, so Wesley Clark said that a general told him they were going to take seven countries in five years. And a lot of people assisted the Americans and Israelis in doing that. They helped undermine Libya, they undermined Syria, and they were all playing useful idiots for the empire. I mean, if we don't see them as assets, then they were useful idiots. So all those six countries are gone—not in five years, but in twenty-five. Now the last country remains, and that's Iran, the crown jewel. But Iran has been preparing itself since then, and even before, but especially since then, because the threats became more direct. The United States surrounded Iran—they took Iraq and Afghanistan.

They had bases across the Persian Gulf. Turkey is part of NATO. The Republic of Azerbaijan is a client regime. So the Iranians developed these missile systems, but they've also prepared themselves for a land war. And just as the Americans miscalculated Iran's missile and drone capabilities, they're going to miscalculate again when they launch a land offensive. The Iranians will probably let them take some land, maybe some islands, and then they'll start hitting back. And they'll keep striking—again and again—for days, weeks, even months. Then Hegseth will go on TV and say they're running out of missiles, they're running out of drones, it's almost over, it's all finished.

And CNN, you know, even the opposing media—like during the 40-day war and the 12-day war—they'll say, "Yes, we're winning." They'll show footage of all the destruction. It'll probably be like during the 48-day war—mostly decoys—because Iran deployed at least tens of thousands of decoys in the months before this war. The Americans and Israelis have destroyed many thousands of decoys: airplanes, helicopters, launchers, air defenses—all fake. And they're really good; they even give off heat. Most of them, I think, are Chinese, but some are Iranian. I don't know how much of it is Iranian and how much is Chinese, but they're quite good. In any case, just as Iran has prepared itself with missiles and drones, it has also prepared for the land war.

The geography of Iran is mountainous, rugged terrain. Iran has underground bases across the south of the country. Its navy is largely untouched. The few naval ships that were in port and damaged will be repaired, but those are for patrolling the seas—they're not for war. They destroyed one ship that was unarmed. It was an international maneuver, which was a crime, what they did. But the real naval assets that will be used for war are untouched. Iran's air force is in underground tunnels. Iran's air defenses are in underground tunnels. I've posted images and footage of all of these before so that people would know. But again, they ignore it in the West.

So when this ground attack begins, Iran will be ready. And we'll hear propaganda about how fantastic the U.S. is doing. But after a week or two, it'll become clear that it's not going to go well. Then there's the issue of striking Iranian infrastructure. If they strike Iranian infrastructure, Iran has

no choice but to strike back. Iran will strike back at the Israeli regime and American assets. And those regimes that are complicit—they can't escape retaliation. They can't pretend to be neutral when they're killing Iranians. They're full partners in this. They are full partners. And a month from now, as I said, it's going to start getting very hot in the Arabian Peninsula.

So people are going to have to leave. They're going to have to drive to Iraq or to Jordan. These countries—especially the tiny ones—won't last. What Trump is doing is pushing an economic crisis. Fast forward, he's making this economic crisis worse by the hour. And I think in the coming days, we're going to see a catastrophe unfold unless Trump backs down. But he's not the sort of person who, so far, has shown himself capable of taking an off-ramp. He could have done that when the Iranians, as we discussed earlier, eased the passage and allowed more ships to go through the Persian Gulf. He could have done that then.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and this blockade, which, as many on this show have noted, has a huge farcical nature to it, given the range of the area of operation the U.S. Navy is conducting it in. All of that is to say there's a lot of room to just stop this—to go back to what was already a pretty disastrous status quo: having fought over a month of war and come out of it only with a global economy in tatters, a military apparatus that's overspent, and an Iranian government and society that are much more united than before. And an element to this, Professor Moradi, is that two things are kind of happening at the same time.

I feel like there's this high morale in Iran right now—both among the people and, of course, from what I'm hearing. You can confirm this for me, but I'm hearing that millions of people are signing up to volunteer should there be any kind of ground operations, should there be any need for additional forces beyond those operating the air defenses and missile systems, etc. And then there's the other side of this: the Trump administration is also saying that in the coming days, as they talk about negotiations in Pakistan, the United States Navy is going to start boarding Iranian vessels—vessels sailing not only through the Strait of Hormuz, but out of it and back into it. They're going to be boarded, which is a major escalation, especially with a country you're already at war with, or had been in active war with before the ceasefire.

And you have this element—if you could comment on it—the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, where Yemen, for a few days now, has said they're waiting for the right time and are ready, whenever that time comes, to close it. That would be a major blow to an already burned-out and overheated global economy from this war. So, your reactions to these things—because these are additional elements to what already is, I think, a catastrophic situation confronting, especially, the U.S. side of things, the U.S. empire side of things. It's very... I guess it's very damning, to say the least. Your thoughts?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, if the United States starts boarding ships, Iran has all sorts of ships in the Persian Gulf that it can board too. And remember, these ships hold material, energy, or assets that largely belong to the five countries complicit in the war—without them, this war wouldn't have been possible. So Iran will retaliate. This is not going to end well for anyone, and it's definitely not going to end well for the empire. They can board a few ships here and there and steal Iranian grain or assets belonging to the Iranian people, but the Iranians will be forced to retaliate. The Persian Gulf is packed with ships right now—full. I mean, if you look at the images, they're just lined up, one after another. And of course, if the war restarts and attacks are launched on infrastructure, those ships will all be destroyed too, just like the other infrastructure—oil, gas, and everything else.

It's just, you know, madness. It's like the United States is run by madmen who are either utterly compromised, or it's just the Zionist-first people who are in full control and don't care about the United States, the global economy, the Indian economy, the German economy, the Argentinian economy—any of that. They just care about the Zionist regime, its expansionist policies, its genocidal policies. And so it's willing to sacrifice everyone. There's just no good scenario here. The only thing we see, if we look ahead at the way things are going now, is utter destruction. And this is all just to help the Israeli regime. It's all about the Israeli regime. It's all about Zionism. The collapse of the global economy seems to be coming about. Why? Because of Israel.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Yeah. I mean, that appears to be the case. And, you know, Professor Marandi, there is a deep, I think, contradiction occurring. Recent polls are showing that only about 20% of Americans support how Donald Trump has handled the Iran situation. And yet you have the Trump administration continuing with this. You have, of course, Israel—Israel, interestingly enough, because of the cessation of direct strikes on Iran, since that has stopped, is trying to fade into the background and, of course, focus a lot of its attention on Lebanon and Hezbollah. But nonetheless, it does appear that Israel, despite not having the ability to fight any of this on its own, is placing a lot of pressure on the United States to continue.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

So, yeah. They're killing people in Gaza every day. They're sniping kids. Just a couple of days ago, a girl in class—I think they just sniped her as she was sitting among her classmates. This is the Israeli regime. And in the West Bank, they continue to batter, beat, and kill Palestinians. I mean, it's not just Lebanon. In Lebanon right now, they're blowing up village after village. And, of course, we had the slaughter that Iran forced them to stop. But, you know, what they're doing in Lebanon is ongoing. What they're doing in Gaza is ongoing. And what they're doing in the West Bank is ongoing.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and all of that is ongoing. We're now on the precipice of another round of—you know, it's just so... it's just so blatantly obvious that we're coming back full circle to where we were on February 28th, after the initial strikes. We're coming back to threats, which then led to strikes, which then led to Iran's response—its self-defense—which caused a huge amount of damage to the region, to the regional actors involved in all of this, and to the United States itself. So a repeat of this, I imagine, would have a cumulative effect. You said that you believe a Great Depression is coming. How does that square with a kinetic war, though? In the past, there was only one time, I believe, when there was a real depression occurring at the same time as a major confrontation between nations, and that was World War II. There was a depression happening, and it wasn't over when World War II started.

And it had a major impact on the outcome of that war. So, your thoughts on how the infusion of an economic disaster that's still building—and will be pushed to the edge if the U.S. starts again—how that will affect the outcome, because economic depressions affect everybody. But Iran has been in the position of being mostly iced out and kept out of a large part of the global economy, and has had to— even mainstream media, think tanks, all of them have had to acknowledge this—has essentially developed a pretty self-sufficient economy, potentially prepared to take the blows that the global economy faces. Likely, the U.S. is not in that position. So, your thoughts on this?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, there's no doubt that the war has caused significant damage to Iran. But Iran is a huge country, too, and a future war would create even more damage. But the damage being done to the global economy isn't something that happens within seconds, like when a missile strikes a building and the building comes down. Right now, we're seeing just the tip of the iceberg—and that tip is the rising energy costs and rising food costs we're seeing here and there. In some places, it's worse.

Some places, it's not as bad for a host of reasons—because of supply chains, because some countries don't have reserves, and because different countries have different needs. But in any case, it's getting worse. We're going to reach a point where, some say—and again, I can't be certain of this—but it's said that within the next two weeks, the crisis is going to reach a new level. And then within four weeks, it's going to become a full-blown crisis. So, as I said, right now we're witnessing just the tip of the iceberg, but when it hits, it's like an atomic bomb.

It's like multiple atomic bombs, because factories will shut down. A missile isn't going to hit the factories, but those factories will no longer be functioning. Economies will be shutting down, and again, agriculture will be badly affected. We'll probably have global hunger. We'll probably have tens of millions of people, if not more, on the move. I mean, imagine if countries begin to face food crises—people will move, and they'll go to the traditional places they used to go. And even though those places will be on the verge of collapse too, I mean, the way the world is going to be impacted by what the Israeli regime and Trump are doing is...

## **#Danny**

Professor Morandi, I'm just going to interrupt because I think you're back. I think when I interrupt, you actually come back, so that's a good thing. You were saying that the impact of this—and then you kept going.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Yeah, so the impact of this is going to be beyond anyone's imagination—hunger, factories shut down, businesses shut down, unemployment across the world. In the West and the global majority, people will be on the move, probably in the tens of millions. It's just mind-boggling. And all of this is being carried out because a genocidal regime is ordering the United States—forcing the United States—to launch war. This genocidal regime, with U.S. support, launched a war against Iran and lost in 12 days, even though it carried out a blitzkrieg attack and had full U.S. backing. It lost that war in 12 days. It's just not capable of fighting a war against Iran. So now the United States has to come in. They fought for 40 days, they failed, and now they're saying, "No, we have to go and wipe out the civilization, obliterate the country, send them back to the Stone Age." And again, instead of being outraged, outlets like the *\*Wall Street Journal\**—sorry, the *\*Washington Post\**—say, "Assassinate the negotiators." This is what we're dealing with today in the West.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and, you know, personally, I'm in China, and I talked to—I think he's a mutual contact of yours too—Zhang Weiwei. And he was very clear, and, you know, usually what Zhang Weiwei says comes with a very informed kind of clarity. He was very clear that a lot has been made of China and Iran. Recently there have been rumors that China was a major player in pushing Iran to the ceasefire table and to agree to the ceasefire. He said no, he does not believe that happened at all. Actually, China's position is that, of course, it doesn't want to see instability, but at the same time it's not afraid of the consequences of what's going on here and won't interfere with that—which is a general principle of China for every kind of conflict and every war that occurs in the world.

But with that, it seems like that's also angered the United States. Because what has Trump always done during his tenure this time around? He's looked at both China and Russia and said, "You need to help me solve things." You know, "Russia, you need to help me solve the Ukraine conflict," which—you know, the U.S. is the major party to, the reason why it's even happening. And of course, he always looks to China: "China, you help solve Ukraine, you help solve this and that problem for us, or we're going to tear a few—" or that kind of thing. And now it seems like the target is, "Okay, we need to hit Iran, we need to wage war on Iran." And, oh yeah, we'll reveal what the real motive here is too, which is to try to cut off the entirety of the multipolar world—with, of course, China being one of, if not the most important, economic pillars of this.

So, your thoughts on the global ramifications of where we are now—especially outside the region—how this is set to impact China, the multipolar world, and Iran with its biggest friends, China and Russia? Where does all of this stand to fall within the multipolar world? Some say it benefits, some say it hurts, but I think the picture is pretty nuanced and complex. So, your thoughts on this?

**#Danny**

Oh, you were muted. Hold on one second, Professor Marandi.

**#Mohammad Marandi**

Sorry, that was me. I did it on purpose—I thought it would help the connection. I think it's going to be devastating for the global economy, for the majority, and for the West. No one is going to be spared from this catastrophe. But I do think it's going to bring an end to the empire. Already, I think this is a turning point, and the United States has succeeded in destroying its image over the past two and a half years—its credibility. It's shown itself to be militarily incapable, and people are shocked across the world that Iran was able to stand up to the United States in this way, including in China.

Many of my Chinese friends and colleagues, and people who are experts in the field in China, have been telling me over the past few weeks that their views of Tehran have completely changed. People around the world were influenced by Western narratives on Iran. They believed the nonsense that the so-called "regime," as they like to say in the West, is unpopular, that it's imploding, that it's corrupt, that its leaders are hated, and so on—all the usual narratives we've been hearing for decades: it's anti-woman, it beats kids. I don't know, what was it that Trump said? That they cut kids in half or something like that—exactly the kind of thing the Israelis do. He was saying they cut kids in half or something like that.

**#Danny**

I know, it's just this, uh, psychopathic barbarism. Yeah.

**#Mohammad Marandi**

Yeah. So anyway, a lot of people influenced by Western think tanks, Western media, and Western officials thought that Iran would fall. And when it didn't, everyone was shocked and surprised. People across the world have been contacting me—I've been overwhelmed, speaking with people everywhere, with media. I'm just, you know, I'm running right now. But the point is that people are fascinated by Iran. They want to know more about it. That's why, on all these shows I've been on, I

say there's not much material out there for people to read. I said on your show and on others to read *\*Going to Tehran\**, the book by the Leveretts. People are interested in Imam Hussain, in Ayatollah Khamenei, in Ashura, in Iran's history and civilization—there's growing interest toward Iran.

Hezbollah, the axis of resistance, has grown. And contempt—contempt for Zionism, for Israel, for Trump, and sadly for the United States—is growing, even though most Americans are opposed to this madness. That is not good news. None of that is good news for an empire. And ultimately, when the global economy collapses, people are going to remember who brought it about. It is the Israeli regime and the United States. Just like they were the ones, along with the West, who brought about the genocide in Gaza, enabled the genocidal acts in Lebanon, caused the destruction of Syria, and the rise of Al-Qaeda and all that—they will remember that their own lifestyles were deeply impacted by a Zionist regime that was willing to destroy the global economy just to wipe out people and take their land.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, in our last couple of minutes here, Professor Morandi, it's very clear in this very large country that I'm in—the largest, really, the largest country in the world, especially economically—that nobody thinks the U.S. is winning. Nobody. And everyone I've spoken to is very much... there's no antipathy toward Iran. There's a lot of surprise, but also, I think, a lot of awe over how Iran has done this. And, you know, I think Iran did something that's very difficult to do in this day and age, which is to—well, in China, Deng Xiaoping said, "Hide your strength and bide your time." And Iran has done that to a shocking level.

In a time period where it's very hard—especially when you have entire entities, colonial entities like Israel and the United States, as imperial albatrosses—investing so much money in intelligence, so much money on spying, so much money in infiltration, so much money and time on all of that, and still Iran... they admit it, they were surprised. They didn't know this was going to happen. Hell, even Hezbollah, which is right next door to Israel—what did Israel say when Hezbollah entered the war? "Oops, we were so surprised that they could hit so hard. We had no idea they had this kind of artillery, that they had this kind of missile systems." No idea. And now they do. But this is the resilience behind that, which is the real thing—the...

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

The resistance—the resilience—of the axis of resistance, I think, is the most extraordinary thing. I mean, the weapons still don't compare to what the empire has. But even if you have better weapons, if you don't have the resilience, the resistance, the motivation, the faith, then they'll all fail you. Yep.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and that's seemingly where we are now. Your final thoughts, because, yeah, this is a real inflection moment. We'll probably talk again soon, depending on what happens in the coming days. It seems like the United States is in a really bad—well, it's a really bad situation. In terms of a direct war where the U.S. can't help but be very directly involved and climb an escalation ladder like this, because Iran has been able to defend itself and stand up to every single blow that's been tried against it, it seems like an unprecedented moment. And as you said before the show, the world will change—any thoughts? The world will change incredibly. So, your final thoughts as we close out here.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, I don't know what will happen in the days ahead. The United States may strike tonight—that's just how they do things, like the Israelis. And we may not have electricity, or I may have problems with the internet or other issues. So what I'd basically like people to remember is that we're all responsible, and we all have to be active and stand up against this evil empire and Zionism. I think that while it looks very bad right now for the world, we all have to keep pushing.

And it's not just the Axis of Resistance that has to resist. It's the broader resistance that exists across the globe—whether it's boycotts of goods, protests, putting pressure on local governments to halt cooperation or purchasing, or distancing themselves from the empire. We're all responsible for doing whatever we can, but we have to remain optimistic, and no one should feel guilty for what their government does as long as they're doing the right thing.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I think that's a great note to end on. We're in a moment where the mask is off the United States as the empire—who controls it, you know, the Epstein class, the oligarchs, the elites, this kind of transnational Zionist, imperial warmongering group. They're in desperate straits. And yeah, we really don't have control, especially those of us in the West, over what they do. What we do have control over is how we try to change that fact. And that's going to be a huge point of contention, something we'll have to reckon with in the days and weeks to come. So, everybody, Professor Morandi, join.

We did really well here, despite me not having a VPN right now, because the VPN companies are in complete crisis. I have a suspicion, Professor Morandi, that it's the war—the economic consequences of this war—that are affecting these companies. The timing is very suspicious. Around April 8th, it seems like a lot of these companies made major cutbacks and reported outages everywhere. That's my hunch. But nevertheless, I think we're going to see a major impact on all industries if this continues. So, Professor Morandi, thanks so much for joining. We're going to head out now, and I want to thank everyone who gave a super chat.

They were very generous, especially thanking Professor Morandi, who we want to see safe at home. So do your part, everybody. Look, he's at home right now—he doesn't have to be in hiding because the U.S. is bombing his country. So be sure not only to hit the like button and support this show, you know, in the video description, but also, of course, keep coming back. And keep fighting the good fight, keep raising your voices, and doing what you can to put pressure to make this all stop one way or another. All right, everybody, hit the like button before you go. First of all, he's still here, I believe, but his camera just went circle, circle, circle. So that's our cue. Bye-bye. Peace out. See you again soon.