

# Alex Krainer: Trump Trapped Himself in the Persian Gulf – Iran's Comeback

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## #Nima

Hi everybody, today is Thursday, April 23rd, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother Alex Krainer is here with us. Welcome back, Alex.

## #Alex

Thank you for the invite, Nima. Good to join you, and warm greetings to everyone watching.

## #Nima

Please hit the like button, helping us reach more people, and follow Alex on his Substack, [trendcompass.substack.com](https://trendcompass.substack.com). Right below his name, you can find it. And Alex, let me start with the current situation with the war. We had a ceasefire, two weeks of ceasefire. Donald Trump, at the very end of the ceasefire and the deadline, extended the ceasefire because the Iranian part, the Iranian delegation, refused to go to Islamabad. And he said, in his unilateral way, that the ceasefire is going to be indefinite. It means that there is no end to the ceasefire. What are the signs for you when it comes to the current phase of the war?

## #Alex

Well, it seems to me that Trump finally understood and accepted that there is no military solution for him to this conflict. You know, it started with the idea that the only way the conflict ends is by an unconditional surrender of Iran. By now, he's trying to find any face-saving exit from the situation, but there is no face-saving exit. There's no denying that this has been a fiasco, that it has been a massive, massive blunder. But he can't get out in any way resembling some kind of a victory. So I think that he can't decide what to do next. And so the indefinite ceasefire is just basically him clicking a pause button on the situation and not deciding anything really.

At the same time, the United States is not drawing down its forces from the region. To the contrary, with time they're only increasing, as though a new escalation is being planned, or at least he wants

to give himself an option of escalating again. But, you know, what's going to happen if he does that? It's going to be a catastrophe. And then at the same time, you know, it's very clear that Iran is in control of the situation. And Iran is in control of the Gate of Hormuz, the Strait of Hormuz. And, you know, this is debatable. People say, like, no, no, no, it's not. Trump has a blockade, so he's really in control. But it's enough for you to look at the map of trajectories of commercial vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz today.

Before the war, they were all traveling kind of exactly down the middle of the strait. But Iran has imposed the requirement that they pass by Qeshm Island. And so if you look at those trajectories today, you see that they all pass by Qeshm Island. And then, you know, Iran is still capable of mobilizing its non-existent navy to board and seize vessels that, you know, fail to comply with their requirements. And with regards to Trump's blockade, as we discussed the last time, this is not a video game. This is not something where you just say, we're going to have a blockade, and voila, the blockade is there. First of all, the Gulf of Oman is much, much wider than the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran can control the Strait of Hormuz from the shore. They can observe the passage of ships, and then they can quickly intervene. The Gulf of Oman is much wider, and the United States has to police it from their naval vessels. That's, like, operationally a very demanding task that has to be maintained 24/7, nonstop. So we learned that when the US Navy boarded and seized the Iranian cargo vessel on Monday, it took them six hours to run that operation. And meanwhile, many, many ships are passing by. They are, you know, I think that—what did I hear—that in the last 48 hours, something like thirty-some cargo ships passed by through this blockade. So it's, you know, it's as solid as a chunk of Swiss cheese. It's full of holes.

And then probably, you know, you have to take into account that these are human beings that are being asked to perform this task. And it's a lot of hard work. And, you know, like, they have to fly helicopters and run the boats and board these vessels. And, you know, it's all very exhausting, very draining work. It's risky. You know, people might get hurt doing it. And the troops are exhausted. And then if your mission is meaningless, if your mission is pointless, you're not exactly motivated to be, you know, all rah-rah about it. And so it seems very, very silly to even have that blockade imposed. It practically ruined the chances of peace between the United States and Iran, you know, on any sustainable basis.

And it serves no other purpose than saving Trump's face so he could claim that he's in control of the situation. Clearly, he's not. But, you know, it's a narrative device. You know, he can say that he is, at a huge cost. And it's probably causing—well, no, it's almost certainly causing—a lot of strife, a lot of displeasure in the Navy, in the hierarchy all the way down to the ordinary sailor. And we saw yesterday that the Secretary of the Navy resigned effective immediately. So I would assume that this has something to do with it.

**#Nima**

Alex, Donald Trump was asked—there are reports that he asked General Cain or some of the people who are responsible for the nuclear bombs in the United States—for the codes, because the situation, as you've mentioned, is so desperate, is a trap. You look at the situation Donald Trump is in, and he made this trap for himself. No one else did that. And I think for those of us who are arguing that Benjamin Netanyahu is finally behind the scene, the decision was Trump's decision after all.

## **#Alex**

Yes. Yeah, yeah, it's his decision. He's the commander-in-chief. The buck stops with him. He owns every single outcome of this war, including the 170—however many, I forget the number exactly—176 schoolgirls that were killed on the first day of bombing in a triple or quadruple tap operation, the killing of 40 or 50 senior Iranian leaders, including the spiritual leader, the Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the economic collapse of the Gulf kingdoms, the continuing political instability and the risk that they will actually collapse completely if the situation continues like this, loss of his military bases, loss of the radars on those military bases.

I think the 13 military bases that were surrounding Iran have been either badly damaged or completely destroyed. So this is not a victory. He has set the Western hegemony in the region back catastrophically. You know, there's a silver lining for the rest of us in all this, but in the meantime, there's going to be a very, very heavy price to pay for all this, you know, because, I don't know, you know, like already, when I go to the gas pump, filling up my tank is costing me about 35% more than it did before the war. So everybody's paying, everybody's suffering. There's going to be more suffering.

There's a risk of famine afflicting a huge chunk of humanity around the world. Europe has taken a bad hit in terms of their energy security. And so the consequences are going to cascade for a long time before anything is resolved. And Trump is no longer leading. He is making it up as he's going along, and he's now reacting to what is happening on the ground. He's also made himself impeachable. And I had some comments, I had some feedback from people who asked me, like, well, what are you talking about? How did he make himself impeachable? As though that's a great mystery. Well, he's committed war crimes. He has committed the United States to a war without a congressional declaration of war.

So if somebody wanted to impeach him, they could, and if the political climate in the United States warrants it, he will be impeached. And this time around, it's almost like a slam dunk that he will be found guilty, that he will be impeached. So therefore, he has put himself kind of in a position like Benjamin Netanyahu, where he has to craft the whole nation's foreign policy around not being impeached and around winning the midterm elections in November, which now means that he's not, you know, like his ultimate political objectives are defining his foreign policy rather than immediate strategy or immediate objectives or goals.

And as far as I know, nobody can really discern what the immediate strategy is because it's actually Israel's strategy, not the United States' strategy. So he's now tangled up in all of this very complicated juggling act that I think is overwhelming him, and as a secondary result, he's getting rid of the most competent people around him who are willing to tell him the truth because he doesn't want to admit defeat. He doesn't want to accept the humiliation of what he has done. And so as a result, he's surrounded by, I don't know who, but it seems to me, certifiable lunatics. I mean, you know, just yesterday—so today is 23 April, right?—yesterday, he was crowing about saving eight invented Iranian women from execution.

Women that were AI, their portraits were AI-generated. And then they contrived this whole story about how the evil Iranians were going to execute them, these pretty young girls who almost all look exactly the same. And then he intervened, and then the Iranians, you know, because he's Donald Trump, said like, okay, okay, don't hurt us, we're gonna spare these girls. And then he reports on Truth Social that thanks to me, these women are not going to be executed. I mean, this may seem like a small thing, but it's very indicative of what's going on inside the Trump administration—that there's nobody there to tell him, Mr. President, this is a hoax.

Don't discredit yourself over a silly hoax. So he goes and discredits himself. And everybody's watching. The whole world is watching. Nobody missed this story. And then they ask themselves, who's running the show? Who is telling Trump what's going on in the world? And then it turns out that maybe it's Laura Loomer, it's Susie Wiles, you know, his chief of staff who used to run Benjamin Netanyahu's election campaign. It's this young woman who's in the Department of Homeland Security, counterterror department. Her name is Julia Varvaro, who looks like she's something of a prostitute as a sidekick. This is insane, and the whole world can see it.

## **#Nima**

You know, just having all of this madness and hearing that it seems that Tulsi Gabbard—they're forcing Tulsi Gabbard to resign before the midterm election—and this is a huge chaos in Washington. And is this the outcome of Trump's policy of yes-men? All the people around him are all about just hearing, not criticizing the strategy of the United States. We've seen that before with Joe Kent, who obviously came out and said, since the first moment he resigned, that he is against the war, and he was so vocal. That's why I would assume that there are a lot of people in the administration that we don't know about, because they don't want to reduce or somehow diminish the dominance of Trump's presidency within the Republican Party.

But Alex, considering the war and what is going on, you've mentioned how this war is—many people are comparing the war with Iran to what happened in Vietnam. Looking at the two wars, I would assume they're not even comparable economically or militarily. The consequences of the war—we know that many people were killed, which was tragic after many years—but the consequences for the global economy were not even comparable to what's going on right now. And that shows how important that location, the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf, is for the global economy.

## #Alex

Yes, well, you know, the Vietnam War started before I was born. But, you know, obviously things changed to the point where it's not even comparable. War itself, you know, Vietnam didn't have anything near the weaponry and ability to defend itself as Iran does. So they had to, you know, fight as an insurgency. Maybe that could be compared to Afghanistan, to the Taliban. But they lost in Vietnam against the insurgency, and they lost in Afghanistan against the insurgency, because it's not an easy thing to be fighting a war 10,000 miles away from your home base. It's difficult. Obviously, you have to ship everything in—food, water, material, ammunition, soldiers. You have to rotate them. You have to rest them. And that's always the Achilles' heel of any empire.

And then they always have to resort to proxy armies, to proxy forces, which today—what are we talking about? We're talking about the jihadi militias. They tried to get the Kurds to fight this war for them against Iran. The Kurds were saying, no, thank you, we're not interested. The Gulf kingdoms are not militarily strong enough to even challenge Iran in any meaningful way. Israel is up to their eyeballs in their seven or eight conflicts that they're losing—all of them. Again, people will disagree, but after two years of trying to suppress Hamas, they haven't. After a long time of trying to suppress Hezbollah, they haven't. And Iran's axis of resistance is very much alive and well, and we don't know yet what's going to take place.

Because remember, about 14 months ago, the regime of Bashar al-Assad fell, and part of his Syrian Arab Army went to Lebanon, and a part of them went to Iraq. Whole divisions went to Iraq. They didn't vaporize. They're still there somewhere. And I think that possibly, when the situation matures, they might emerge again, become visible again, and there might be a march on Syria. And after that, there might be a march on Iran—sorry, on Israel. So this is not going to go away anytime soon. Trump started something that he cannot control, and the sequence of events that's ahead of us is not something that anybody can predict accurately.

But I think that from Iran's point of view, this is an opportunity to redress a situation that they've been grappling with for more than a hundred years—meaning constant, nonstop attacks in one way or another by Western colonial powers—which resulted in Iran being surrounded by British and American military bases, and which resulted in Iran's economy and development being suffocated. I mean, they've done admirably well in spite of all this, but imagine, for a country that's the fifth richest in terms of natural resources, with a 92 million population that are among the best-educated people in the world, what that nation's potential would be.

And then, as you said, they are very strategically positioned at the crossroads between East and West. Russia's very strategic International North-South Transport Corridor traverses Iran. China's Belt and Road Initiative traverses Iran. Both Russia and China have designated Iran as the anchor of

the future security architecture. So Iran is in the perfect place to take advantage of all this and to blossom, as it hasn't done in centuries, if they can be rid of Western colonialist ideas, sabotage, attacks, regime change, and assassinations.

So Iran has every incentive to see this conflict all the way through to the capitulation of the West. And I think that Russia and China likewise have an interest in seeing this completed successfully as well. So I think that maybe in a slow and gradual way, this conflict will continue, but it will probably have its escalation episodes as well before, you know, before Israel is forced to change. And by that, I mean it's going to have to change from being a Jewish state into being like a normal country of three constituent peoples with equal rights. Without that, we're never going to be rid of this.

## **#Nima**

Alex, I think what you've just mentioned about the case of Iran, I'm going to get back to that. But before going there, the case of Israel right now—whatever happens in the region, I would say if they decide to get back to the war, they start the war—which we know yesterday CNN reported how the United States is short of offensive and defensive capabilities. That's the problem right now for the Biden administration. If they decide to start a new round of war, they're basically running short by 60%. They have depleted 60% of air defense system capabilities. I'm talking about interceptors. What does that mean? That means directly hitting at the situation in Israel.

Israel is somehow naked, not only because of interceptors but because of the radars. They're short of radars, they're short of interceptors, and the United States is not—they're not going to be able to improve that anytime soon. That's the reality. That's why we're witnessing something so strange between Lebanon and Israel, between Hezbollah and Israel. You remember since 2024, Israel, after the ceasefire, was attacking Lebanon, and Hezbollah was saying nothing—literally nothing. No attack from Hezbollah. They were defending themselves, but no attack on Israeli soil, and even no attack in the southern part of Lebanon, where they had some forces.

And right now it's totally different. You see, Hezbollah is fighting back. They're sending rockets into Israel. They're attacking this gathering of Israeli soldiers. This is the new phase because Hezbollah recognizes that Israel is short of interceptors. They cannot go that far to defend themselves, while, you know, the cost on the part of Hezbollah to send these sorts of rockets is a fraction of what Israel should spend. This is the reality. I think Hezbollah is totally capable of defending itself against Israel right now. How do you see—you've mentioned the Axis—how do you see that?

## **#Alex**

I think it's a force whose time will come yet. I think that the United States and Western powers are trying to get rid of that force by getting the Lebanese government, the Lebanese army, to disarm

Hezbollah. And so they're having these discussions. They want to have these negotiations between the government of Lebanon and Israel, some kind of normalization conditioned on the disarmament of Hezbollah.

But I think that, you know, the Lebanese people have seen what Israel has in stock for them, you know, that if they surrender, they might become the next Gaza or the next West Bank, that they will be treated exactly in this way, and that maybe the Lebanese government and the Lebanese army might be put in the position of acting exactly as the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank—to be the willing enforcer of Israeli desires and to repress and brutalize their own people in Lebanon. And so now the Lebanese army, whose majority of soldiers—not Hezbollah, but the Lebanese army—are still Shia men, and they understand all this. And so they have no desire, no motivation to disarm Hezbollah.

And the Lebanese government knows that if they attempted to disarm Hezbollah, this could lead to a very bloody civil war in Lebanon. The Western powers and Israel might not care. In effect, they might prefer to trigger a civil war in Lebanon. But the Lebanese people themselves don't want this. They will do everything they can to prevent it. And any political faction that's going to put themselves on the side of the West and Israel is probably going to end up losing—I mean, probably, certainly going to end up losing. So they cannot even talk about this openly. I think it's a lost cause. I think Israel is a lost cause. And this is something that was discernible a long time ago. It's just that today it's kind of hit that inflection point where the collapse is accelerating. And so, you know, what is Israel?

Israel is the Western Empire's beachhead in the Middle East, right? And every empire in history ultimately collapsed because the cost of maintaining the empire, the cost of defending hegemony over different parts of the world, ends up being much, much higher than any benefit of the empire to the, you know, to the host nation, which is, you know, today it's the United States. But it happened to every empire, you know, since Greek antiquity and Roman times, and the Spanish Empire and French Empire and Belgian Empire and British Empire—they all ultimately collapsed. So we can almost take it as a certainty that this empire will collapse as well. We just can't be sure how exactly this is going to happen, how soon, what battles are going to be fought, which presidents are going to be in charge. You know, Trump was meant to change the course of American policy.

Last December, they had that national security strategy document, which pretty much was talking about pulling back into their own hemisphere and minding their own business, improving their country. And then, for some reason, somehow, on 28 February, Trump just goes off the rails, attacks Iran, which I think... This is a mystery to me. I don't even understand why, but maybe we'll learn more in time. At the moment, most people think that Israel is in charge, that Benjamin Netanyahu is in charge. We can't dismiss that either. I mean, that's the most likely explanation at the moment. But it is what it is now, and it's going nowhere. And I think that the fact that Trump has found himself practically paralyzed in his own mess is an indication that this is exactly what's going on.

## **#Nima**

I think we have a report from the New York Times. Basically, the New York Times reported that on the day the United States decided to go to war with Iran, Benjamin Netanyahu came into the room with a plan. He convinced everybody that this plan was going to work. They were going to diminish Iran, you know, do regime change, grab the Iranian oil, Iranian resources. And there could be some sort of chaos in Iran, but they didn't care about that. And Donald Trump, at the end, as the New York Times reported, said, "I'm OK with that."

## **#Alex**

Yes, correct. But, you know, there were allegedly people there who... Okay, so first of all, I'd like to start by saying that I don't really believe anything the New York Times writes. There's going to be some truth in it, and there's going to be a lot of untruths or, you know, allegations, according to three officials familiar with the matter, as they usually do. But according to this story, there were people there who were calling Benjamin Netanyahu's BS on this. One of them was Marco Rubio, right? And so there wasn't a consensus like, yeah, you know, Netanyahu is giving us true information, so we should just go with this.

It was apparently Trump's call against the consensus of the American officials present. And so, yeah, it's on him. But I don't know, you might remember, Nima, before the 28th of February, we discussed this. And one of the reasons that I expected that Trump would never do this is because obviously this is Israel's ambition. And obviously Israel has powerful backers everywhere in the West. And some of those backers would like to see Donald Trump eliminated and his whole MAGA political faction destroyed. So for the same low price of attacking Iran, they would also be able to destroy Trump or, you know, whatever we thought he stood for.

And, you know, what he stood for, you know, what he promised to his voters, was taken seriously enough by his enemies that, you know, we know that, for example, the whole British establishment was very nervous about Donald Trump, and they pretty much expected that the special relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States would break down if Trump was elected for another four years. So this wasn't, you know, this wasn't like a facile deception on everybody, because his enemies believed that too. And so, I thought that even though Trump is definitely a very flawed man with certain vulgar tendencies, with maybe a superficial look at things, I thought that the street smarts in him would realize that this would be a political trap for him, that he would make himself very, very vulnerable politically.

So the fact that he engaged in this gamble, because it was a gamble, because, you know, there was no certainty that it would succeed. You know, Benjamin Netanyahu is telling him one thing, other officials, Marco Rubio and Joe Kent and others, are telling him something completely different, that he would say like, okay, whatever, I'll make this gamble and then maybe I'll emerge a winner, like a

spectacular win over this great rival, Iran. That was a gamble, nothing more. And so the fact that he pulled the trigger on the gamble is just simply incomprehensible.

## **#Nima**

It wasn't just a gamble, in my opinion. He gambled on everything—on his base in the United States, on the people who supported him—because they were all against this decision. And he risked it all. He risked everything with the war against Iran.

## **#Alex**

Yes, exactly, exactly. He risked everything. He risked his political future, his presidency, and he risked his legacy, which is insane. And, you know, like we see the results now because, you know, for all I know, a lot of these narratives, these anti-Trump narratives, could simply be the realization of that—okay, he failed, now we can get rid of him. So now we see a lot of stories coming out in The New York Times, in The Wall Street Journal, in Newsweek magazine, on social media, that put Trump in a horribly, horribly negative light. You know, some of that's going to be true, but some of that might just simply be psyops. You know... I can't tell, really. I mean, I still think, could it be possible that somebody is this dumb?

So people say, like, well, apparently he's in the early stages of dementia, so he doesn't really reason as sharply as he might have once. Okay, yeah, maybe that's possible. But, you know, like, all of these are little tidbits to the narrative of maybe we should try the 25th Amendment. Definitely he shouldn't win the midterms. Definitely, whoever comes after him—look, J.D. Vance is just as bad. So all of these things are now piling up. And, you know, Trump is on a downhill slope with regards to his political career. And now, please excuse me, Nima and viewers, but I have somebody at the door, and they're not going to go away. They're going to keep on ringing.

## **#Nima**

Okay, okay, okay, okay. And I think what's important right now with the case of Donald Trump is, is there any way out for him with the case of Iran?

## **#Alex**

Well, I think not, Nima. And I said that from the start of the war, the only remedy to this would be radical truth therapy. And then, you know, maybe a political expedient of having a few senior heads roll, meaning, you know, you say, I was badly advised by XYZ, so they're out, I'm firing them, and I apologize to Iran and I apologize to the American people. I didn't mean to betray them. This was simply a very catastrophic blunder. We're going to try to do right by the people. Of course, that's not going to happen. That's a fantasy. Politics doesn't work this way. So he's going to continue improvising, trying to somehow snatch a victory out of the jaws of this defeat. But I think that the

only light at the end of the tunnel for him is a speeding train. I think it's a lost game. I can't even conceive of any way for him to save face, find some kind of a victorious way out of this mess. And so I think it's the end of his legacy, unfortunately.

## **#Nima**

Alex, the United States has forced Russia in Ukraine to start a special military operation in Ukraine. They forced Russia. Russia didn't want it. And I remember every time I think of what has happened during the war in Ukraine, I see what was Russia militarily and what is Russia today militarily — not only militarily, but geopolitically — and how Russia has grown stronger so far. And I see the same is happening in the Middle East with the case of Iran. Iran was just under tremendous sanctions for such a long time. The economy was hit by these sanctions, and they have diminished Iranian power, Iranian dominance in the region by these sanctions, by the... it was all a blockade, to be honest, for such a long time. They couldn't communicate with other nations because of the U.S. sanctions, because of the dollar dominance.

We know that. And right now, Iran is breaking all these chains and coming out. I think this is something that even Iranians — I would say even the leadership — weren't aware of in the proper way. But right now, they're finding something new. They're seeing something new — that if you want to be free, you better do something to be free. That's what's going on in the mind of the leadership right now. How do you see the way that both the Biden administration and the Trump administration forced these two countries to come out of those chains that, you know, for such a long time were created around them, limited them, restricted them? And right now they're not there anymore. They're coming out.

## **#Alex**

Well, I think not just for Russia and for Iran, it's a really interesting case for the whole rest of the world. And I think it's very encouraging for any sovereigntist independence movement to simply take control of their own country's sovereignty and to reject the diktat of the West. Since World War II, the United States has been able to simply intimidate the whole rest of the world with their carrier strike groups and to project power in a way that would intimidate anybody from trying to declare their independence, to affirm their independence, and to simply say no to the Western empire. I think that today everybody is saying that the West is exhausted, that it can no longer force other countries to submit and to prostrate themselves. And so now they realize that they could live a lot better, they could be a lot wealthier, a lot more prosperous, and that they can dictate their own terms.

They can push back. So I think that in smaller and bigger ways, the pushback from all sorts of places is going to be gathering like a tsunami. It's only a matter of time, and I think it's already happening. Well, you know, we saw that France practically got evicted from its African colonies in the last few years, all of them, and that people like Ibrahim Traoré are now, you know, folk heroes

for practically the whole Global South — not just for the whole Global South, for everybody. And they're seeing what is being done to Cuba, so that the means and ways that this free world is imposing their diktat are extremely cruel and brutal. And so... either we stand up and affirm our independence and fight for our freedom, or we end up like the Palestinians. That's the reality. And I think that that reality is now becoming increasingly obvious to everybody.

The problem is that in many countries, you still have the ruling establishment, you know, which have their bank balances and their villas and their yachts, you know, in Florida, in the south of France, in Marbella, in Switzerland, in London, and so forth. And so they will continue to fight to defend those privileges, and they will use their state apparatus to try to suppress people, their own people. But in the past, they could always count on the empire, on the United States, on France, on Great Britain to come to their aid if things got really difficult. And that was basically what would happen. But today, I think that the Western colonial powers — maybe I need to say neocolonial powers, but same difference — are increasingly spread thin.

They can no longer provide protection to their vassals. And the first really obvious episode of this was the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. And then we saw the president of the country, you know, escape on a helicopter with duffel bags full of cash, and the governor of the central bank also escaped with duffel bags full of cash. And I think that this is the moment when a lot of these, even Middle Eastern kingdoms, realized that they need to switch gears, they need to make nice with their people, they need to make nice with Russia and China. And slowly that transition was already happening, but now this war on Iran has put them in a position where they risk losing everything.

And so rather than challenging the empire, they thought it would be safer to submit to the empire and to carry water for them. But it was obviously a bad gamble. It was a bad gamble, and now, you know, some of them are trying to evict the United States from their territory. And I think that those pressures are going to be building and that ultimately the United States, Great Britain, France, NATO, whoever, are all going to have to pack their bags. And if they want to come back, they're going to have to come back as genuine partners, to do constructive talks, to explore opportunities for cooperation — not for dominance, not for hegemony, not for imposing “this is how you're going to do things or else.” It's going to have to be a mutually beneficial relationship.

## **#Nima**

I think we're heading toward a new era. Alex, you've mentioned the U.S. national security strategy. The latest version of the security strategy was mentioning Iran and Russia as non-existential threats to the United States, if you remember — both Iran and Russia. And I was somehow amazed how they put it this way and then go the other way. And the war against Russia is happening. Iran is coming, the war against Iran came, and we see what is happening. Alex, after 20 years in Afghanistan, they have created some sort of foundation there — you know, educated, tried to educate people — which wasn't the case after all.

But when the United States left Afghanistan, what happened to Ghani, the president of Afghanistan? He just left the country. It was like he was American. He was in love with Americans living in Afghanistan. This is the reality. You have to recognize the political systems in Russia, in China, in Iran. It's time to put an end to this sort of rhetoric that they're mentioning in their security strategies — autocracy, democracy, autocracy. This doesn't make sense anymore. Even in Europe, as our friend of this podcast, Karl Jacques Beau, always says, even comparing Switzerland to France, France looks like a dictatorship.

You don't have to go that far to judge the political systems of other countries. You have to understand their capabilities. I think China is the best example of that — how China was capable. You have the communist system there. The members of the Communist Party are like the Iranian population — it's 100 million people. To recognize this huge legacy of the Chinese people, you have to understand it. But there is no, you know, attempt, there is no way of thinking this way in Washington. That's the total failure of Washington, in my opinion.

### **#Alex**

Yes, fully agreed, Nima. Well, look, I think that China is a communist system only on the cover of their brochure. It's only the facade. It's just the label. Clearly, the Chinese system is very much capitalist.

### **#Nima**

It's some sort of hybrid. It's a hybrid. I think it's amazing what they've created. Go ahead.

### **#Alex**

Yes, because the Chinese designed and engineered the development of their society around real concerns. They asked themselves, what do we need to do to improve life in China? What do we need to do to make China a successful economy and a successful society? And then they, you know, Chinese economists, sociologists, scientists went around the world and looked for ways, things to learn from other countries and to apply in their home country. And the result has been nothing short of spectacular. They have lifted more than 800 million of their citizens out of poverty. They have radically improved life in China for everybody, for ordinary people. And they also have their billionaires and their oligarchs and people who are enormously powerful.

The country has its own problems, but by and large, the Chinese people are orders of magnitude better off today than they were 40 years ago, when China was basically the poorest country in the world. So, you know, people can call them communist all they want. They are a very successful society and a very successful economy. And they are a role model for many people around the world. You know, so that's just the reality. And then, you know, we in the West, we like to think that we are, you know, the successful economies, the democracies, the rule of human rights and

everything, all these things. But it's, again, it's just labels. What's inside is very, very different. You know, we call them, you know, like here in Europe, we pretend that we are democratic societies, but, you know, the European Union, there's nothing democratic about it.

It's a lot more similar to the Soviet Union than it is to any kind of normal democracy. And so, obviously, I'll give you the example of property rights. You know, because just a few days ago, I saw a little video by Nick Fuentes. Nick Fuentes had almost half a million dollars from his bank account seized by the Department of Justice in the United States because he's under some kind of investigation. He wasn't accused of any crimes, let alone convicted of any crimes, but the government simply took his half a million dollars from his bank and left zero dollars in his bank account. And he practically has no recourse to return that money. His lawyer told him, "Consider it gone."

There's practically nothing you can do about this. That's not respect for property rights. And he's not, you know, Nick Fuentes is not the only one. And people might think like, oh, Nick Fuentes is a terrible person, so he deserved that. Well, yeah, he's not the only one. Rudy Giuliani had the same happen to him, and Roger Stone had the same thing happen to him, and many, many other people. In Europe, it's, you know, Colonel Jacques Baud has the same experience, as do another 2,000-plus people that the Council of Europe sanctioned. They simply freeze your bank account, and from one day to the next, you can no longer pay bills.

You can no longer receive any money. You can no longer pay your rent or buy food. That's a very, very harsh punishment because it doesn't just punish the individual; it punishes everybody who's dependent on that individual — their children, their relatives, their elderly parents. That's a very clear, very blatant violation of people's rights, their property rights. Going back to the Chinese system, which people say, like, oh, it's terrible, it's communist — I grew up in the communist world. We had private property. People had cars, houses, apartments, businesses, all kinds of everything.

We never felt like our property rights were in jeopardy in any way. I've never heard of anybody having their property seized by the government. So, you know, this, "Oh, we are democratic capitalist countries with human rights, and China is a terrible communist country," it's just ideology. It's just ideology. It's very deeply entrenched in people's mindsets, but it doesn't correspond to reality. You know, the reality of things is we have problems in the West. Chinese people have other problems, but it's not what we think. It's nothing to do with communism. We have problems with communism, even though we don't call it that.

## **#Nima**

Alex, the president of Brazil, Lula da Silva, said that we are so tired of going to bed every night and waking up every day looking for something on social networks, checking if Donald Trump is tweeting something, posting something, attacking a new country, or starting a new war or conflict. We are tired of this situation. And Brazil is trying to have some sort of military cooperation with South Africa

because, Lula said, we have drones, but most of the drones we have are commercial drones, agricultural drones. It's nothing like what Iran has. And we have to be able to defend ourselves.

This is the outcome of what has happened so far in the minds of the people here in Latin America, for example, in Brazil. Brazil is a big country, you know that. And they're afraid of the United States. Who's going to be the next target? How are they going to respond? I think what is happening with the case of Russia, Iran, and China, this is the basis to make a new sort of order. Because it seems that the UN Security—he mentioned the UN Security Council—but I think, look at the structure of the UN Security Council. It's useless. You cannot do anything with this council. You always have someone vetoing the situation, the resolutions.

What else can be an alternative for the current situation that the people here in Latin America, for example, in Brazil, the people we call the Global South right now? We have Brazil together with Iran, Russia, and China. I don't know about India. What is the position of India? India is so tricky these days to think about. But after all, even India would benefit from that. Pakistan would benefit from that. Turkey, all these kinds of European countries would benefit from the new sort of order, in my opinion. What is your understanding of the opportunity that these wars, despite the tragedy of what has happened so far, are creating?

## **#Alex**

Well, the silver lining is that they are revealing the nature of the predatory Western neocolonialist imperialistic system, that it's absolutely predatory and that everybody's at risk. If you have oil, if you have gas, if you have lithium, whatever, if you have a low-debt economy that they can take over and load up with debt, they will do it. They will attack. They will prey. Of course, obviously, it never starts with a war. It starts with sanctions. It starts with other forms of intimidation. But it builds up because the Western system of governance is basically defined by our banking cartels. And our banking cartels are the source of the predatory mindset, of the predatory instinct of the West, because other people's wealth can be turned into their collateral.

And that allows them to siphon off the wealth of everywhere in the world, of everyone in the world, to themselves. And that's so much wealth that it allows them to buy up the political class and to buy up the media and to form the narrative, to form the culture, and to fund a massive military-industrial complex that can actually go to war. You know, like Madeleine Albright says, we have this great military, we ought to use it. You know, that's the temptation. You can achieve your goals by force. And the goals are never, you know, like they never communicate their true goals to the people. They always say, oh, you know, Iranian mullahs are terrible. Bashar al-Assad is a horrible person. Muammar Gaddafi is a madman. The Chinese are communists. Vladimir Putin is a dictator.

It's always something. And then we go out and we spread freedom and democracy. We're the good guys. In times past, it was we were spreading Christianity, and then we were spreading civilization. Now we're spreading freedom and democracy with some, you know, GMO seeds and LGBT ideology

and all of these things. But we always try to portray ourselves as the bearers of light, you know, not just to the world, to ourselves as well. That's why they own the media, so that they can convince us that if we go to war, it's because we must destroy evil. We must slay all these dragons that are everywhere. So I think that these wars now are revealing the true nature of this Western empire, that it's not interested in democracy anymore, human rights, women's rights, you know.

You know, Donald Trump takes credit for saving eight fictitious women in Iran at the same time as his BFF, Benjamin Netanyahu, is slaughtering women in Lebanon by their hundreds and women in Gaza by their thousands. That doesn't matter. The eight women in Iran are all that count, even though they're fictitious, they're generated by AI. So I think that, as they say, wars are great revealers. And now we understand better, and people who are in denial, it's much more difficult to be in denial now. And then also people around the world, they realize, because, you know, so long as even a segment of some society believes the Western narrative, maybe because they send their children to Oxford and Harvard and MIT and wherever, and then they come back and they say like, yeah, yeah, yeah, everything in the West is great.

And we should really, you know, we should really have the West rescue us from ourselves. It's much, much harder to defend those arguments now, whereas people who say, no, we should be free, we should be sovereign, we should define our path of development ourselves, they are now gaining credibility. This is a process that takes a long time. It might span years, it might span decades, generations, whatever, but I think that it's irrepressible at this point. And it has, unlike the last 500 or 600 years, it has very credible forces defending it, which are China, Russia, and Iran now. And they are now the bearers of real light, of true light.

**#Nima**

Thank you so much, Alex, for being with us today.

**#Alex**

Great pleasure. Thank you. Until next time.

**#Nima**

See you soon. Bye bye.

**#Alex**

Take care, you.