

# Berletic: What Iran did SHOCKS Trump, US Empire Collapsing

Brian Berletic of The New Atlas reacts to Trump's chaotic war footing on Iran and discusses why the US is on the offensive despite showing deep signs of defeat and collapse. Brian argues that World War 3 with China is coming and Iran is just the prelude. Find out why and what the US mainstream media is hiding in this far ranging interview! 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 #china #ww3

## #Danny

Welcome back. As you can see, I'm joined by Brian Berletic of The New Atlas, a longtime friend of the show. Brian, good to see you again.

## #Brian Berletic

Good to see you. Thank you for having me back on. It's been a while, but I'm very happy to be back.

## #Danny

Yes, happy to have you here, Brian. Let's get started right away with what's happening in Iran and the Iran war. There are ceasefire talks or a diplomatic kabuki theater. The United States said that Iran was going to join them in Islamabad. Abbas Araghchi, the foreign minister of Iran, has said that Iran is simply conducting diplomatic talks across friendly countries, with Pakistan and Russia on the agenda, and denied that there were any plans for talks with the United States. Iran is also saying that they are very much aware the U.S. is preparing a surprise attack or another attack on Iran and have been preparing accordingly in this ceasefire interim. The USS George W. Bush is now docked in the region after the Gerald Ford went out of commission. Brian, where are we at right now in this war? And do you see hostilities restarting? And what does that portend given everything that we've seen all the way up until this point?

## #Brian Berletic

One thing for sure is the U.S. is not going to negotiate any sort of peace with Iran. Everyone should be aware of that by now. And you touched on a very important point. The United States is continuously moving military assets into the region. So what needs to happen is people need to stop listening to what politicians are saying and look at what the United States is actually doing. And they need to ask themselves, why is the United States waging this war against Iran, this war of aggression, unprovoked, against Iran in the first place? And what has it achieved while waging this war against Iran? The government is still in place. Iran's military is still functioning, no matter what President Donald Trump says, no matter how many times he repeats that he's annihilated everything in Iran. But what has the United States achieved?

They have, number one, reduced the amount of energy total from the entire Middle East going out to the rest of the world, including and especially Asia, and specifically China. And they are blockading Iran's ports, even though it's not a complete blockade. Again, no matter how many times President Trump says that it's completely under U.S. control, it is not. But it is at least partially blocking Iranian exports. Again, almost all of their energy goes to China. And so, I mean, I've been talking about this—you know, I haven't been back on the show for a long time—but even when I was, I talked about how all of these wars are ultimately aimed at destroying multipolarism and specifically stopping the rise of China. And that is exactly why the U.S. is fighting this war against Iran, which is why they will never make peace with Iran again.

We know the United States cannot negotiate in good faith with anyone at all. There were high hopes that the U.S. would negotiate, say, with Russia over Ukraine, and we could see how that was. As you say, it is all theater, and what it's meant to do is misdirect, buy time, allow the United States to put its pieces in place, and then launch hostilities when it suits the United States. And often, the conditions that a lot of countries—Russia, Iran—the conditions the U.S. expects them to agree to, thankfully they haven't. It's meant to tie the hands of these nations the U.S. is targeting. So the U.S. is not looking for a way out of this. They're looking for the best possible position to place themselves in before hostilities continue. And then it's only a matter of how those hostilities take shape.

## **#Danny**

Okay. Yeah, well, a source close to the parliamentary leader in Iran says that the United States and Israeli forces have concentrated to their greatest degree yet around Iran, and that there's a warning that the U.S. will launch an intensive surprise attack. And this is what they believe will happen: that the strategic bombers, the B-2 bombers, and aircraft carriers will start targeting energy facilities, but that Iran is ready to respond immediately and with excessive force. So it almost sounds like, Brian, that we are going to go back maybe to where we were prior to this ceasefire, and that it might be even more catastrophic than that period, which I think—that period of time shocked the world—that five or so weeks when both the United States and Israel and Iran were trading attacks, and of course, the impact on the economy and on the world was huge and still huge, yet to be felt. So what's your reaction to this?

## **#Brian Berletic**

Again, there's this misconception that the United States is deeply concerned about its Persian Gulf Arab allies or even Israel, that they desperately want the Strait of Hormuz open, and that somehow...

## **#Brian Berletic**

The cutting of energy flowing from the entire region—somehow this is to the detriment of the United States. But I warned before the war even started, or at least this part of the U.S. war of aggression against Iran, the whole point of this is to shut off energy coming from the region, especially to China, but also to its allies. Now, let me explain, because a lot of people have been saying that Israel tricked the U.S. into fighting this war, that the U.S. is at war everywhere else in the world, and this place in the world where all of these hydrocarbons are coming from, for some reason, the U.S. just isn't interested on its own in this region.

I was listening to a Senate hearing just earlier this month, April 21st, actually, and it was about the Indo-Pacific region and the U.S. posture in that region. They spent two, almost three hours talking about China. They began by talking about the war against Russia in Ukraine and the U.S. war against Iran. They weren't against it; they said that all of these wars are happening ultimately because China is hovering behind Russia, Iran, and all of these other U.S. adversaries. They talked about China's geography and straits and how the U.S. can impose costs by closing them. And they were talking about China, obviously.

And there was a senator from Alaska talking about this huge LNG project that they are building right now, and that should be done around 2030, 2031, to export American LNG to Asia—to Japan, to the island province of Taiwan, to Thailand here where I am based. And you have to ask yourself, how would that be viable? How can the U.S. compete? It's just like the U.S. saying they will send energy to Europe. How can they compete if there is an existing source of energy that is established and cheaper without disrupting it or destroying it? So for Europe, the U.S. literally blew up the Nord Stream pipelines. They started a war with Russia, and they forced Europe to put sanctions on Russia.

They're completely cut off from cheap energy. That's how it now makes sense for the U.S. to export energy to Europe. And now it's going to make sense to export energy to Asia in the same way they've achieved control over Europe. They are now doing this to Asia, and instead of blowing up the Nord Stream pipeline, they have attacked the entire Middle East, and they're imploding it right now. And Danny, you talked about if this cycle of violence starts, Iran is ready to trade blow for blow against the United States and Israel. But what is that going to achieve? It's going to further damage energy production across the entire region, which is ultimately the U.S. goal here.

And then I was interested, what is the company behind this Alaskan LNG project? And it's a company called Glenfarne, which I'm sure almost nobody has ever heard of. And the CEO was, every

time he mentioned contested waterways and how that made his project make sense, he literally laughed every time he said it. There was a little chuckle every time he said "contested waterways." So this is part of it. It's not just the U.S. establishing an energy monopoly. It is the amount of geopolitical control the U.S. gets by imposing dependence—servile dependence—on these countries to U.S. energy exports, because energy, as we all know, is the lifeblood of modern civilization.

So this is why I desperately plead with people to please zoom out and look at the big picture. Before the Strait was closed by Iran itself, if you look at the energy flowing to China, how it was constricted under the Iranian blockade and the violence that was degrading energy production in places like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. And now, with the U.S. blockade put in place, you can see it's a steady decline. It's not zero yet, but you can see the trend is going down. And that is the whole point. And so this is what I think people should keep a close eye on and try to look through the sensational headlines and look at the fundamentals of what the U.S. is trying to achieve here.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and what's interesting about this, Brian, is I think the key word at the end that we just said there is "trying," because what's interesting is to try to create this energy monopoly inherently increases prices. And of course, the companies love increased prices because they can make a whole lot of profit. But the problem with increasing prices over time and monopolizing energy is that the U. S., I believe, has huge energy limitations in terms of what it can actually export out. And a country like China—that the United States will demand from the United States, or at least not at any point in the distant future, but in the immediate future, no. So what's so interesting about this is it does feel like the U.S. is accelerating dramatically into this kind of endgame scenario in the way that you just outlined.

But the limitations are so large, including the fact that it's really hard to actually stop Iran's energy production and distribution via the means that they are attempting—the blockade. The blockade, as you said, can only be partially effective. And I'm hearing that Iran is also pursuing land routes, which will make the United States and the Belt and Road Initiative in China—and all of this is so important—is that if they pursue land routes for distributing their energy, now you include the whole world in this, and this becomes a world war scenario if you try to start bombing energy in that way. So what do you think about this? Because it seems like a real deep acceleration that we've been witnessing, and yet it almost feels like putting the cart before the horse, almost.

## **#Brian Berletic**

A lot of people react very negatively to the conclusions that I'm drawing, and it's mainly because they think that I'm saying the United States had all of these long-laid plans and they're putting them into motion, and the U.S. is somehow unstoppable and there's nothing that can be done. But as you said, Danny, the U.S. is in a rush. They are in a rush specifically because they are out of time. They really wouldn't want to do it this way, this quickly, this recklessly—except now. They're out of time.

Now, why are they moving now and not five years from now or three years from now? Because China has always known this day was coming.

And a lot of people who are questioning my conclusion here, they need to look at what China has done for decades to prepare for this. You mentioned the Belt and Road Initiative. That is the specific purpose for the Belt and Road Initiative—to circumvent the maritime choke points the U.S. was identifying and physically preparing its military to choke off. And they've been preparing that for years and years, no matter who was president, no matter who controlled Congress. China saw that, and they prepared for it with the Belt and Road Initiative. They have a massive 100-day oil reserve. You're in China, Danny. You see how big China is.

So how big must a 100-day oil reserve be for a nation the size of China? Massive. That is a huge investment. And they didn't do it just to be safe. They knew this day was coming. They prepared for it. They're also transitioning to energy independence, and that is expected to unfold in about five to ten years—ten years at the most, but most likely somewhere closer to five. And so this is why the U. S. is doing it now rather than later, because they simply don't have any time and they are being reckless. And the mask has come off because they don't have time, they don't have the energy, they don't have the ability to sell this as anything else other than what it is.

And it is a last-ditch effort to try to reimpose American hegemony over a world that is rapidly evolving into a multipolar world, with a balance of global power between nations rather than one single nation dominating over all other nations. And so we have to think about all of that. Yes, the U. S. is rushing. China is prepared. There is a possibility, a very good possibility, that China could weather this. But I would not underestimate the amount of damage the U.S. is prepared to cause in order to achieve this. So you were talking about Iranian energy production, which continues, and they continue to export energy to China, even if it's been reduced by the U.S. blockade.

Even 20, 30, up to 50% perhaps. What if the U.S., during this round of hostility, starts striking at energy production? They already struck at the gas fields in Iran. They've threatened to strike Kharg Island. This is the primary area they export their energy out of. And they have other facilities on the other side of the Strait of Hormuz—not as big, not as capable, but still capable of exporting energy. What if the U.S. starts attacking these? And if you look at U.S. actions since this all began, it has been a very incremental escalation toward all of this. And they're kind of priming the public for this.

I mean, they just endlessly talked about Kharg Island and invading it, taking it. But what if they then just bomb it? It would be anticlimactic, but they would achieve what they're actually trying to do, and that is to physically cut China off from this very important source of energy exports. And then again, zooming out, looking at how the U.S. has politically captured Venezuela, has redirected energy that was going to China to the United States, and look at the U.S. war on Russia and the CIA and the U.S. military, according to The New York Times, striking at energy production, storage, and export facilities all across Russia. And it has been steadily expanding.

And you can look at how—and if you remember this, Danny, because I mentioned it a million times—the division of labor that the U.S. publicly announced in the beginning of 2025. U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth talked about how Europe's going to deal with Russia for us while we deal with China. That is exactly where we are right now. And so you see Europe taking an active role in precipitating this escalation with Russia, but it's not Europe doing it. It is the United States doing it through Europe, just like they have been doing it through Ukraine. So we have to keep all of these factors in mind as all of this reignites against Iran and the developments that take place around the world that are affected by this.

## **#Danny**

Good points, Brian. With the scenario being outlined, the facts back up the scenario that's developing, for sure. And what's so interesting about what's going on is that if—and I think this is Iran's calculation—that if the United States goes this route, which is likely to come either now or sometime in the future, Iran, by striking back, ensures that, especially on the global economic front, there could be a rapid deterioration very quickly. And this is the kind of pressure I believe Iran is asserting, which in many respects worked in this first go-around, because it was the United States that had to ceasefire with all the energy and economic fallout that was coming out of this.

But it appears that something worse is on the way. And that means we're likely to see a huge global economic fallout prior to the U.S. even getting close to what it presumes it wants, which, Brian, that is something. I think this is one of those moments in history where the rubber is meeting the road. There is a huge and rapid shift and deterioration in the U.S.'s world order, and they are not happy about it. What's your reaction to the possibility of a global economic fallout from this scenario that is building up?

## **#Brian Berletic**

I've long warned that the U.S. is incapable of fighting the multipolar world head to head. It is incapable. The U.S. is in terminal decline. Multipolarism is on the rise. China is inevitably, and right now as we speak, surpassing the U.S. just from one metric to the next to the next. So what could the United States do then? If it can't compete head to head, what could it do? And what it could do is just try to burn down the global economy. And they were talking about decoupling or de-risking from China and becoming energy independent themselves in the United States. You look at the U.S. on a map, it has two oceans on either side of it.

It's relatively isolated from the rest of the world. And if its goal is to just burn everything down, yes, that is going to boomerang back and affect the United States. But from their point of view, and of course, the billionaires heading these multinational, multibillion-dollar corporations, they're not going to be affected. It will be the American people, and they surely don't care about them. And so they

see it as an opportunity to just, we can't win, so we're just going to flip the table over, throw all the game pieces on the floor, and we will come out stronger on the other side because we have two oceans between us.

And they're thinking about World War II and how that went, and how all of these European colonial powers with their global-spanning empires at that time, how they all got burned almost to the ground. And in the ashes, the U.S. was able to come out on top as one of two superpowers, the Soviet Union being the other. And then we can see how that has all progressed since then. And we can also see how not just Western hegemony, but then specifically American hegemony after World War II, how it has been in constant decline anyway, even with all the advantages that they've had. And so they're looking at this in desperation. They are in a rush.

Again, Danny, as you said yourself, they're rushing forward with all of this, and they're doing it recklessly. And they're doing it without any real concern about the consequences because they're pretty sure it's going to be a consequence for everyone else except for themselves. They will be the last ones to pay for this, which is why we should be worried about them going for this, no matter how ill-conceived it is and how unlikely it is to succeed. The damage that they are already doing is real. It is being felt everywhere. And I do believe that with this next round of violence, it will get even worse.

## **#Danny**

Maybe you can comment. You know, there's a recent State Department memo on this war, and it explicitly said—and this is so interesting because I know that we talk a lot about this—that the United States entered this war against Iran for the collective defense and strength of Israel, alluding to the idea that this war was for Israel. But of course, we've talked a lot about the United States having deep interests in this war. So maybe if you wanted to talk about what's the nuance here and why the United States would want to label this war as being almost entirely about Israel?

## **#Brian Berletic**

Of course, why does the United States have proxies? Why is the U.S. using Ukraine to fight Russia? Why is the U.S. using the rest of Europe to fight Russia? To the point where the official narrative is that the U.S. is just some impartial mediator and they just want peace between Ukraine and Russia. Yet it is America's war from the beginning, engineered from the ground up as an American war on Russia, with policy papers spanning years talking about this specific scenario. And they have the exact same base of policy and step-by-step action that they have gone through for this war against Iran.

And Israel is to Iran what Ukraine is to Russia, and you can see how Ukraine is to Russia, and then there's the rest of Europe. These are all U.S. proxies as well. And you can see the Arab states in the Persian Gulf—they are all U.S., they're politically captured by the U.S. and essentially extensions of U.

S. policy in the region. The U.S. essentially created Israel as it exists today; it props it up. There are times in the middle of Israeli aggression, genocide against Gaza, wars of aggression against Lebanon, where Israel has to pause and wait for the U.S. to deliver more bombs because they are completely dependent on constant support from the United States.

And without that support, there is no Israel as we know it today. It would not exist. They depend on political, military, monetary, economic support of every conceivable kind to do what they are doing. And yes, there is definitely this desire to create the same sort of proxy and scapegoating with Israel that the U.S. has already achieved with Ukraine. There are literally people out there who think the U.S. is just trying to make peace between Ukraine and Russia. And so this is the same game being played, except in a different part of the globe, with two different countries, but it's the exact same game and it's the exact same objectives the U.S. is pursuing.

Now, the U.S. has sought control over the Middle East. It inherited the British Empire's obsession with controlling the Middle East. And it was actually the British Empire that began the creation of Israel. And then it was the United States that took it up and continued it, along with controlling the whole rest of the region. And so this has been going on before Israel even existed. And so... this is what I don't understand—people that subscribe to this notion that somehow Israel controls the U.S. The U.S. has been at war with everywhere else on planet Earth since its inception as a nation.

And it itself was a creation of British global ambitions before that. But this one—Iran and the Middle East—is the one place on Earth the U.S. just isn't interested in at all. And they had to have their arm twisted by Israeli influence to go to war in the Middle East. It's absurd. It's utterly absurd. Now, again, I was talking about the Senate hearing that went on for two, three hours. And for a U.S. government completely under Israeli control and with an Israeli handler hiding under every single desk in Washington, they didn't talk about Israel even one time. They were obviously and completely obsessed with China. And the only time they mentioned Iran was to link it to American attempts to encircle and contain China and Israel.

Again, the senator from Alaska was talking about how this project in Alaska is only viable because of these contested waterways. And they're talking about the Strait of Hormuz and all the other waterways the U.S. is creating crises around. We remember at the beginning of the Trump administration, the Panama Canal—there were problems brewing there. And, of course, the U.S. military is constantly talking about the Strait of Malacca here in Asia. And so that is what is going on. They don't want you to know that. They don't want you to talk about that. And people say, you know who really runs the show, because they're the people you're not allowed to talk about. Well, everyone's talking about Israel. Everyone everywhere is talking about Israel and how organized Jewry is controlling the entire West.

Nobody's talking about Glenn Farn and their project in Alaska, and how it's just miraculously taking shape right at this point where the Strait of Hormuz is closed and Asia is screaming for energy that only the United States will be able to export to them once this project is done. The project is not



viable without this disruption, without these fires the U.S. is lighting all around the globe, just like U.S. exports of energy to Europe were not viable until they blew up the Nord Stream pipelines and started this war with Russia in Ukraine. So again, people need to zoom out, and they need to wonder, like, why is the U.S. government saying this? Is this the one thing they're telling us the truth about? Or is this just more misdirection? Because misdirection fits in as a central component to everything the U.S. does geopolitically.

## **#Danny**

And maybe on that note, you can talk about, because in many ways, the ceasefire that we are in, or that we have been in, has to do a lot with U.S. military capacity and has to do a lot with Israel's military capacity supplied by the United States. Right before the war ended, right before the active part of the war ended with the ceasefire, it was already noted that Israel had basically run out of interceptors and was only intercepting about 20% of everything that was coming at them. And the United States basically reversed the plausible deniability and said that it needed to go into a ceasefire. But for all intents and purposes, across the board, both the U.S. and Israel were running short on a lot of things.

And even now, there are reports coming out from Pentagon sources saying that, yeah, the United States has run through half of a lot of what they have altogether — whether it's THAAD interceptors, whether it's Patriots, whether it's on the offensive side too, these Tomahawks and JASSMs, all of this. Maybe you could talk about this as influencing the speed, because we have a desire to push, and we have moves made to push that really fast by the United States to achieve the objectives that you have outlined here. But then you also have this contradiction of military limitations that are very real and do seem to create a dynamic now. What have we gone through now? June 2025, that lasted 12 days, needed a break. Now, February 28th, after five or so weeks, needed another break. So how do you think this will influence what the U.S. is doing?

## **#Brian Berletic**

Yes, absolutely. I believe that the ceasefire had more to do with the U.S. needing to reorganize and rearm and move around its assets from around the globe. People have to understand, too, that the U.S. doesn't make nearly enough of everything — interceptors, long-range precision strike weapons — they don't make nearly enough of everything, but they are constantly making it. And so when there's a ceasefire and they have this time, that gives them time to build up stockpiles. Even if they're small stockpiles, it's better than the nothing that they had before the ceasefire was announced. And so this is primarily what they're doing. And if they are doing this specifically as a kind of controlled demolition of the global economy, then they also need to take a break and just kind of let it cool off a little before they start pulling other pieces apart of the global economy.

And so I think it's a little bit of both, but you're talking about military limitations. This is very real. I've talked about this for years. Many other of your guests have come on and talked about this. And

it is real. And the United States desperately, you know, this Senate hearing — and you could listen to any Senate or House hearing — this is all they talk about: we need more weapons, we're at war everywhere, we need to be at war everywhere, and we need more weapons to do it because we just simply don't have enough. And the problem is, as I've pointed out many times, the U.S., the entire system, the whole impetus behind global empire — it's just this constant desire for continued profit and power.

And they are not willing to make the investments that you don't get a return on for your investment, not willing to do that in the same way Russia and China have, which is what gives them an edge in terms of military-industrial production. And because they're not willing to do that, it's like an inherently built-in defect. I was going to say, yeah, it's a defect, and it is inhibiting them. And I think it has inhibited empire all throughout human history. It's just unbridled greed that ends up becoming unsustainable. And just the nature of the greed makes it unsustainable. And so this is why they're not able to make enough. And they're looking at what they're trying to do and what they have available, what they think they might have available in the near future.

And that's what's guiding their actions. When I talked about a distant blockade on China, I often talked about it being in Asia, in the Asia-Pacific region. The U.S. has tried to build up the capability to do this. But I think by now the Chinese military, and the Navy specifically, is so powerful that it would be possible for China to contest it. It's much less likely that they can physically contest it all the way in the Middle East. And so this is why they're doing it there instead of in the Asia-Pacific region. And they're trying to do as much as possible with the little they have left. So I'm not suggesting that the U.S. is an unstoppable global empire taking over the world.

I'm saying they are an empire in decline, and they're using their remaining power and strength to do as much damage as possible, to tear everything down as much as possible, in the hopes that they could reassert themselves over what is left. And I believe the Russian government Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergei Lavrov, has also said something very similar. And he has warned about this all culminating in a sort of World War III. And some people have argued, and I really can't argue against them, saying that we might already be in the opening phases of a World War III. So this is all very concerning. And again, as we've always said, a desperate, declining empire is the most dangerous empire.

## **#Danny**

And I think with your assertions and your analysis, Brian, it's really about not being complacent about all of this, because regardless of what is going to happen 5, 10, 15, 20 years into the future, we don't want to be living in a world of rubble and a world of nuclear catastrophe and a world where masses of people, a massive number of people, are going to be killed or die prematurely, and where instability reigns because the U.S. empire is going to be doing this. This is why China moves very fast. Russia moves pretty fast in a lot of ways on its own development. Iran—look what Iran has done. They're moving pretty fast to do everything they can to prevent such a scenario.

But ultimately, Brian, I think it comes down to people in the West, especially the United States, moving fast as well to stop this, because they are really the only ones who can. No one in China or Russia or Iran or anywhere else can ultimately dictate what kind of political order, what kind of ruling system dictates U.S. foreign policy. And so, you know, maybe we could conclude on this question: do you find that, given that the U.S. empire is desperate and in decline and is obviously rushing toward this endgame scenario via Iran, we are looking at the end stage of the U.S. empire?

No one can predict how long it will last, what's going to happen in the interim, because a lot of disaster can obviously happen in the interim. But do you find that what we are actually witnessing is the U.S. empire basically having to go into a long attrition mode with every single one of the last remaining countries that are sovereign and independent, and this leading to these contradictions accumulating to the end here? And then what happens then? Because I don't think the U.S. empire is going to go out quietly into the good night.

## **#Brian Berletic**

Exactly. That is the problem. And America has tremendous economic, military, and political power all around the globe. And it is willing to do things that Russia and China simply won't do. The United States is desperate, blowing up Russian energy production facilities across Russia, inside Russian territory, while the United States is building this LNG project in Alaska. But Russia and China aren't targeting that. They're not trying to impede it or stop it in any shape, form, or way. And so this is what has given the United States this advantage. And unfortunately, they continue enhancing their power. You know, the multipolar world is going up faster, but that doesn't mean the United States is going down.

They're just relative to the multipolar world. They have slowed down. In certain instances, their power is in decline because of multipolarism. You have to understand that the source of U.S. power is its corporations, its industry, these corporations, industry goods and services that they have had a monopoly over for decades and decades. And now you have a multipolar world system where there are alternative financial systems. You can do your transactions without ever having to go through the United States. You have goods and services produced by China especially that are completely displacing U.S. market dominance all around the globe, to the point where, again, in this hearing, there was a senator screaming.

She didn't even ask a question. She was just screaming about how Chinese cars need to be 100% banned from the United States. And she's citing security concerns. But the real concern is BYD, which only makes electric vehicles, is selling more electric vehicles than Ford is selling all kinds of cars total. BYD is selling more electric cars than Tesla is selling around the world. And so this is what they're worried about. They're worried about their monopolies being displaced. And again, if you

look at the foundation of American power, it is one of constant expansion. It's not purpose-driven, it is profit- and power-driven. It is like a virus; it needs to constantly replicate and expand or it collapses and dies.

And so when you're in that state of mind and there's a momentum, an institutional momentum of all of this that just steamrolls over one presidential administration to the next, that's why there is continuity of agenda. And then there's a multipolar system displacing it and inhibiting it from its constant expansion that is existential from its point of view. And it doesn't have to be that way, but from their point of view, that's the only way they know and understand. And so... that's where we are right now. I can't say that this is the end of American empire. American empire is in decline. It is weaker relative to the multipolar world. But one thing that it does have on its side is that it has complete control over its allies. Its allies are politically captured countries.

They are proxies. They are extensions of American geopolitical power. They're not going to stand up and say no. Just like Ukraine is going into the wood chipper of proxy war to the last Ukrainian. They will never say no. They will never stop. You see Europe preparing for war with Russia themselves. And they're not going to say it because the governments themselves in Europe have been politically captured by the US. They work for Washington at the expense of their own countries. And there's a similar arrangement here in Asia — in Japan, South Korea, the island province of Taiwan. Its administration is politically captured by the US. Australia and the US constantly work through the National Endowment for Democracy to politically capture other countries like here in Thailand or Malaysia or Myanmar.

There's actually a US-backed war right now in Myanmar, with US-backed militants trying to take over Myanmar. And so this game continues, and there's huge power and momentum behind it. And so this is why I warn people: please do not underestimate the ability of the United States to create death, destruction, and instability around the globe. That's what they want to do. They are well-positioned to do it. It requires a multipolar world, coordinated organization against it. It is happening, it is accelerating, but I don't think that it's at the point it needs to be quite yet. And I think we are going to, unfortunately, see a lot more death, destruction, and instability. And people say, why doesn't China intervene and aid Iran? They can't. They don't have the ability to do that yet.

Their military cannot project military power into that region. And they're also surrounded by tens of thousands of U.S. troops right along their own shores, literally inside their border. There are U.S. troops on Taiwan. Taiwan is part of China, and there are U.S. troops there. And so this is a huge problem for China. Russia is faced with a similar problem. And this is how empire has always ruled: divide and conquer. Create dilemmas for all of your opponents. Keep them divided and weak, and keep your own vassals divided and weak. And this is what we see the U.S. doing. And they're still doing it. And until we see progress in the opposite direction, I would say we should be prepared for this continuing crisis in the long term, unfortunately. You're muted, Danny.

**#Danny**

Well, we're definitely looking toward a long war ahead, that's for sure. And everything you just said there, it doesn't conform with how, especially, China wants to do things. China does not want to get involved and be an aggressor party, even if it is in self-defense of Iran. To do that, even if you have this huge navy, all of its defenses, all of its military, is essentially for defense purposes. It's very powerful, and they can provide assistance where they believe it matters the most, but not to other countries.

But at the end of the day, Iran and China both kind of operate similarly. They are looking to build a different world, and they have trust in themselves to fight back. But it is going to be a long process, because ultimately, what does getting into a massive confrontation with the United States actually do? It gets you into a scenario that the U.S. is definitely not rational enough, and definitely not forthright and stable enough, to prevent—which is a massive event that speeds up the disaster. It's a very difficult position to be in, but I think it's a very understandable one from China, Iran, even Russia's perspective, of why a direct confrontation with the U.S. empire is a bad idea.

It's not because the U.S. empire will defeat them or wallop them. It's because the U.S. empire is absolutely batshit nuts and will do anything to preserve its empire. While China, Russia, and Iran will not do anything to win, because doing anything is not strategic and it doesn't conform with existing reality, which is, you do anything and then you provoke the United States into doing anything. And this doesn't build the road that they want to build. So it makes a lot of sense why we're in this position—a long road ahead, a long war. Any final comments you have, Brian, before we head out of here?

## **#Brian Berletic**

I think you just actually made the most important point of all. Russia, China, the rest of the multipolar world—they want a peaceful, relatively peaceful, stable transition from U.S.-controlled unipolarism to this multipolar world that they're investing in. And K.J. Noh has this great analogy where he compares it to an unruly drunk in a bar. You know he's going to start a fight, he's going to tear half the place apart, he's going to hurt people possibly. And even though you want to just knock him right off that stool and drag him out and throw him out onto the sidewalk, you know that the best way to do it is to kind of calm him down, talk him down, and try to get him out as peacefully and as quietly as possible for the collective good of everybody else.

And in a way, it's for their own good also. And I think that's the perfect analogy because you can see that that's what Russia and China are doing. And you're absolutely right. China especially wants to avoid a cataclysmic conflict with the U.S. The U.S., desperately—and in their policy papers, they say—we need to do a conflict now, sooner rather than later, because every moment that is later, China is stronger and stronger. And in some cases, they're already stronger than us, and they will be

that much stronger if we continue to wait. So the U.S. is rushing. And the best thing China can do to derail this plan is to try to build faster than the U.S. can destroy and to avoid the conflict the U.S. wants to fight sooner rather than later.

And I think that's what Russia is doing. China is doing that. Iran is in a difficult position because they just happen to be the next one in the sights. And their goal is to survive. And Russia and China are helping them survive. There's really no way Iran would have made it this long if they weren't receiving all kinds of help from Russia and China, whatever form that help comes in. And people constantly say China has abandoned Iran. It's China that has been buying almost all of Iran's oil all of this time, sustaining them economically for years and years and years. And that's not nothing. I understand how emotional people become. We all have emotions. We all feel angry about this. You want to do the best that you can.

You need to face the truth to understand the problem fully in order for us to start thinking about solutions to that problem. I think multipolarism is the solution. And I think all of us as individuals should look for the many, many ways we can all invest in multipolarism, even if it's just a little bit. You taking your energy, time, money away from the U.S.-controlled corporate monopolies and investing it elsewhere into the multipolar world—every little bit helps, because that's how this problem was created in the first place. Many little bits over generations paid into Western hegemony. And this is one of the ways we can help dismantle it. And again, as always, Danny, thank you so much for having me on.

## **#Danny**

Of course, Brian Berletic, everyone, of The New Atlas. Be sure to follow him. And until next time, see you again.