

Paul Craig Roberts: Iran Turns the Tables, Trump's Retreat in DISARRAY

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Monday, April 27th, 2026, and our dear friend, Paul Craig Roberts, is here with us. Welcome back, Paul.

#Paul

Thank you, Nima.

#Nima

Paul, let me start with what happened yesterday, last night, and the attack on Donald Trump. It's not the first time; it's the third time someone has tried to attack him, and there are many rumors about this latest attack. But looking at what has happened so far with Donald Trump, because he's the sitting president of the United States, and they were attacking him before, you know, as president-elect, and right now as the president of the United States, we've seen in Butler, they attacked him. Then on his golf course, someone attacked him.

And right now, with this White House Correspondents' Dinner, they attacked him in Washington. Why is that so much, you know, not only with the case of Donald Trump but with the case of Charlie Kirk? One of the most important points that Joe Kent brought up when he resigned, he said they were trying to find who is behind these sorts of assassination attempts, but someone in the Trump administration didn't let them do that. For someone understanding the Trump administration, how do you understand that?

#Paul

I don't. I don't understand it. You know, Nima, there's been so much introduction of hatred into American politics in recent decades. There've been many examples of it. For example, Hillary Clinton declared Trump supporters to be the deplorables.

#Paul

Well, that was half the population she wrote off.

#Paul

And it's now become commonplace for Trump supporters, media people, to imply Trump should be assassinated. Various people have called for it. So it could just be a consequence—these attempts could just be a consequence of filling the political world with hatred, in which you no longer debate with your opponent, you try to exterminate them. You know, this was what Lenin brought to politics. He said the point is to strike the opponent, not to convince him. Well, maybe that's what's happening. I still think Charlie Kirk was assassinated by the Israelis because he had turned on Israel, and they had invested heavily in him.

These assassins on Trump, I don't know what to make of them. We never got a good explanation for the attempt in Pennsylvania. And this recent attempt, guys from California. And it's not clear, looking at the people California elects, that it's any longer part of the United States. That's about all I can say about it. I can't speculate about some possible conspiracy at work. But you see, Nima, recently there was a poll that showed that 21% of Trump's voters now supported his impeachment. So if 21% of people who voted for him now want him impeached, he's lost a lot of support. And he's done a lot to alarm a lot of people.

And this latest executive order he's trying to get through or turn into legislation, I'm not sure which, says you can't vote in the United States unless you have a new passport with some kind of special digitization of your face in a digital presentation, and then that becomes your identity for everything. You can't vote because you've got a birth certificate or driver's license or anything such that's always been evidence of citizenship. We've got to have this new thing which completes the surveillance state. Well, why is Trump doing this to Americans? The excuse is undocumented immigrants don't have a right to a bank account. Well, but that's nonsense. They're permitted to work, they get paid checks through the banking system, and they're not permitted to have a bank account.

#Paul

Why are they permitted to work?

#Paul

You know, some localities and Democrat hands let them vote in local elections. California passed or tried to pass a law that undocumented immigrants could serve as police officers. We found some of them are serving as officials in state and local governments. They've been granted protection of the U.S. Constitution, just like American citizens. They have rights to medical care, housing, food, education. What's this talk that they can't have a bank account, and to stop immigrant invaders from

having a bank account, all Americans have to have a new form of digital passport in order to vote? Well, they're using immigrants as an excuse to put Americans in a digital prison. Well, this will cause a lot of people animosity toward Trump. He's manufacturing assassins every day he exists by what he does. I think that's an easy enough answer. We don't have to look for some secret organization at work. It's the consequence of Trump himself.

#Nima

I don't know what's happening. It seems that we might have this issue of echo right now. Please, if you hear some sort of echo, let us know in the comments section. Paul, right now I can hear myself through your mic. Paul, can you check your speaker, your mic, your microphone?

#Paul

You want me to get my microphone?

#Nima

No, it seems that your microphone is not connected. You're using your... Just check in the settings if your proper mic is connected to the system.

#Paul

You mean you're not hearing me?

#Nima

No, I can hear you, but there's an echo happening.

#Paul

Well, the only microphone I'm using is the computer's one.

#Nima

Yeah, okay. Okay.

#Paul

And now I have a microphone I could set up. It would take a few minutes. Maybe I'll start using it. Maybe next time we do an interview, I won't hear it. And I don't hear an echo.

#Nima

Okay. Okay. Good. Paul, when it comes to the situation between Iran and the United States, we've seen what has happened with the foreign minister of Iran. He went to Islamabad and Moscow, and right now in Moscow, he was talking with Vladimir Putin. He said they are supporting Iran, and they recognize what Iran did, what Iran is doing in terms of their sovereignty and the way that they're fighting. But when it comes to the Strait of Hormuz, it seems that they're not anymore. The new points that they don't put on the table are about two things, basically. One of them is the Strait of Hormuz, because the United States is willing to talk about the Strait of Hormuz, and they said it's going to continue under the control of the Iranian government. And the second one is the situation between Lebanon and Israel. And here is what Marco Rubio said in his latest interview today.

#Paul

Opening the straits is, yes, the straits are open as long as you coordinate with Iran, get our permission, or we'll blow you up and you pay us. That's not opening the straits. Those are international waterways. They cannot normalize, nor can we tolerate them trying to normalize a system in which the Iranians decide who gets to use an international waterway and how much you have to pay them to use it.

#Nima

Yeah. The latest news is that the Iranian foreign minister said he has received a new sort of request from the United States. They want to negotiate again. What's your understanding of what is happening right now?

#Paul

Nima, it looks to me that Iran may piss away their chance at victory and kick the can down the road. There's no negotiation they can have with the United States and Israel that will mean anything. And the longer a ceasefire exists, the more prepared Israel and the United States will be to renew the conflict. And Iran thus loses the advantage it had gained by destroying the radars of the US and Israel, by forcing the United States and Israel to use up their supply of interceptor missiles against incoming Iranians. And so Iran is basically abandoning its chance, a good chance, for victory. And by kicking the can down the road, which means, okay, we won't deal with it now.

We'll do some sort of make-believe delay and kick the can down the road, and then we'll catch up with it later and kick it again. And I think that's what's going on. When Rubio says Iran hasn't any right to control the strait, I don't know what that's based on. For example, Egypt controls the Suez Canal. That's an international waterway. It's a man-made one, but I think the Turks control the entrance from the Black Sea into the Mediterranean. I think you have the right to use it, but I think it's some sort of blanket permission they give. I'm not certain, but that's not really what the issue is. You know, we've talked before — what the issue is, is the aggressive Zionist policy of Greater Israel.

And nothing in any of the negotiations deals with this problem. And until that problem becomes part of the negotiations, it's pointless for Iran to have negotiations because there's nothing that can come out of the negotiations that works for Iran. So I think that the Iranians just don't want to have to take the risk of winning a war, and they're going to avoid it if they can, and that this was a mistake and they're going to pay a heavy price for it. There's no conceivable negotiation that would work for Iran as long as the Zionist agenda of Greater Israel is the agenda of the Israeli government. And we know for a fact that the United States supports that agenda. That's what all of America's wars in the Middle East in the 21st century were about.

And it's the reason that Trump attacked Iran for Israel. You may have seen that the legal officer at the United States Department of State has published a report. He's trying to justify the American attack on Iran. But he says — these are the words of the official Justice Department legal report — that the United States attacked Iran because Israel requested it. Well, so the United States makes an agreement with Iran, and Israel requests the United States to break it. So, look, we watched all the years of Ukrainian-Russian-American negotiations. What's come out of it? Nothing. Nothing. And all that will come out of Iran negotiating will be time for Israel and the U.S. to build up their forces.

#Paul

Oh, you've gone silent.

#Nima

Yeah, Paul, what does winning mean for you when it comes to Iran winning the war? I want to know, what are the conditions under which you see Iran winning or losing? What are those conditions?

#Paul

Well, I think Iran was poised to win because it had plenty of ammunition left and the Israelis and Americans didn't. And moreover, the ammunition it had left was far better than the missiles it had already used. So it should have simply driven the United States out of the Persian Gulf by closing down all those oil sheikdoms. And it should have destroyed Israel, or so much of it that Israel was forced to give up the agenda of Greater Israel. You know, there's an election coming up in Israel this fall, just like in the United States. And several former Israeli prime ministers have organized against the Zionists, and Bennett is one of them. And they've got about as much support at the moment as Netanyahu's far-right coalition has.

But this is an effort on the part of former prime ministers of Israel to disavow the Zionist agenda. They say, we're not including any Zionists in our coalition. So if Israel was suffering under attack, the consequences of having this agenda of Greater Israel, the chances are great that this coalition rising against Netanyahu would win. And they are prepared, apparently, to disavow the Greater

Israel agenda. So I think Iran is losing that opportunity. It's losing the opportunity to show the Israeli people the cost of the Greater Israel agenda. If the people are suffering that cost and nothing can protect them, then the vote is gonna go against Netanyahu's coalition.

That's the Zionist coalition. And this coalition of former prime ministers, whose parties they say will exclude Zionists, would allow for a change in policy. And that is the only thing that will bring peace to the Middle East. I don't think the Iranians have ever understood, nor the entire Arab world, the Israeli agenda—the Zionist agenda of Greater Israel. And so I think Iran is making a fundamental mistake, and they're going to pay heavily for this mistake. They should press their military advantage. It will lead to the overthrow of Netanyahu and the Zionist agenda.

#Nima

And this is what they're pissing away.

#Paul

You see, the United States has, I think, been very active in convincing Pakistan and Russia and China to pressure Iran—pressure them and to keep saying, you know, peace, peace, negotiate. And the Iranians are giving in. And this is a fundamental error.

#Nima

Do you think that if Iran attacks Israel and escalates the situation, is that going to bring peace to the region? Or how is that going to help the region?

#Paul

Well, look, Iran didn't start the war. And when they have the upper hand and a chance to win, you don't want to stop. Now, I just explained how it brings peace. The Zionist agenda of Greater Israel is Zionist, and it's represented in Israeli politics by Netanyahu and his far-right-wing coalition. But now I just read—I think I posted it, I can't remember—that there is another coalition that's had enough of this. Bennett, who was prime minister in 2022, I think.

#Nima

Yeah.

#Paul

Yeah. He and some others have said we need a different approach. And we're coming in opposition to the Zionists, and there'll be no Zionists in our coalition. Well, what will aid Bennett's success? If the Israeli people are suffering the bombings, the missiles that are the consequence of Netanyahu's

war policy, they're going to vote for Bennett. It's going to be the end of the Zionist regime there. And then you can get rid of the Zionist agenda. And that's the only thing that can bring peace. You see, how else can you get rid of the Zionist agenda? If Netanyahu wins, then the agenda is in place.

If he loses, the agenda can be thrown out, denounced, abandoned. And so the Iranians should be figuring out how to put the most punishment on Israel for attacking Iran. And then it becomes clear to the Israeli population that the cost of the Zionist agenda of Greater Israel is we get blown up and destroyed. So we gotta get rid of this dangerous agenda. So that's, to me, what's missing in the Iranians' thinking. They don't understand that any negotiation or settlement they make with Trump means nothing. The Israelis have already proved it. Look, what happened to the ceasefire in Lebanon?

#Nima

There is no cease-fire.

#Paul

There's no ceasefire. So whatever, as long as the Zionists are ruling Israel, no agreement means anything. Look, what's happened to Trump's ceasefire in Gaza? The killings, the torture, the murders—it's rising. There's no ceasefire in Gaza. So all of these things are made up. And for reasons I don't understand, the Russians fall for them and the Iranians fall for them. And so...

#Nima

I think, Paul, the outcome of this war is disastrous for Israel so far because they're basically naked right now. And they're struggling to fight against Hezbollah in the southern part of Lebanon. And Hezbollah has been capable of hitting Israelis in the southern and even in the northern part of Israel. It doesn't matter. It seems they want to occupy the southern part of Lebanon, but Hezbollah can put pressure on them with the case of the northern part of Israel.

#Paul

Well, just think what Israel's situation would be if they were still under attack from Iran. And think as well, it was the fact that Iran stopped attacking Israel that let Israel attack Lebanon.

#Paul

So it's not working for Iran; it's only working for Israel.

#Paul

Plus, it's given us time to move one of those new radar systems into Israel. We took it from somewhere else in the world. And so we are increasing, again, Israel's ability to defend itself. I read where we had taken one of those very expensive radar systems that lets them have all kinds of control over the skies, to replace the ones that were destroyed. So Israel has used the ceasefire to build up its defenses, and it's madness for Iran to do this. It's madness. They've given away their advantage. They had worn down the enemy's forces.

I mean, the United States couldn't do anything. And so now Iran's giving it all back to them. It's not sensible. It's kind of like the Iranians don't understand they're at war. They think there's some kind of a non-war conflict. It's just not going to work for the Iranians. And as I said, I think they're losing the opportunity now to drive Netanyahu out of office in a few months, in the fall, after the summer is over. I think they're losing that opportunity by their behavior. And they'll have nothing for it. It's not like they're going to get anything. What can they possibly get out of a peace deal?

#Nima

I think the problem that you've mentioned is the foundation of these basic problems in the Middle East, which is Israel. Israel in Palestine, Israel in Lebanon, Israel in Syria, Israel right now with the war on Iran. And you look at this, one side of all these problems is Israel. And the only country that has some sort of, I don't know if we can call it some sort of leverage—I don't know if Donald Trump has any sort of leverage on Benjamin Netanyahu. And Benjamin Netanyahu basically told—the problem basically is that the United States is a nuclear superpower. Everybody understands that. And if the United States is supporting Israel the way it is right now, this is hugely problematic for the region. And Iran understands that. Iran can fight its war against Israel and the United States. And on the other hand, Iran is insisting on the case of Lebanon. They are not going to let the case of Lebanon go away from the agreement.

#Paul

Well, they are. They're apparently willing to negotiate now, despite the Israelis breaking the ceasefire with Lebanon. So the Iranian position is already eroded. First, they vowed no negotiation. And then they said, well, they would negotiate, but only if the ceasefire applied to all parties, including Lebanon. Well, everything that they said, they've had to abandon to get a negotiation.

#Nima

But they're not negotiating, Paul. The latest news is that the United States is asking for negotiations. With the foreign minister of Iran going to Islamabad, Donald Trump was trying to put them in a position just to convince them to negotiate with Steve Whitcomb. But he said no. So far, we haven't heard any positive answer from Iran.

#Paul

Well, you never know what you can trust in the reports, but the ones I read, Nima, said that from Pakistan, the Iranian prime minister—President—what?

#Nima

Iranian president, you mean.

#Paul

President was then, yeah. Or the foreign minister, whoever the guy is, starts with an A. What's his name?

#Nima

He's the foreign minister of Iran.

#Paul

Okay, yeah. He was in Pakistan and told the Pakistanis that he was willing to negotiate about opening the Strait if the Americans would stop blockading it. They would open it as well, and they would talk about the enrichment problem later. So he did say he would negotiate. He wants the negotiation first to be that the United States withdraws its interception of ships far away from the Strait of Hormuz, outside the range, I guess, of missiles. And then Iran, in turn, will not put any blockade from its point of view. And so both parties cease to blockade the Strait. So he is willing, according to the news reports from Pakistan.

#Nima

That's one of the points. The report is right. I heard that. But that's one of the points mentioned by the Iranians as preconditions for negotiations. It's not all of them.

#Paul

No, well, but this report implied that that's what they want to do, and they don't want to talk about anything else. They just want to agree that the Strait is open, that both parties, both the U.S. and Iran, agree to open the Strait. And then once the Strait's open, they will talk about other things. I don't know why Iran wants the Strait open. Why do they want it open? It seems to me Iran ought to be happy and say, yes, the Americans are blocking it. If you can't get any oil or you can't get any fertilizer, it's Washington.

It's Washington driving up your energy prices, causing your inflation. Not us. We're prepared to be open. It's Washington blocking it. It's Washington blocking it. That's what Iran should be doing. Just let it be blocked, and the oil price goes up and up and up, and the hurt everywhere, including the United States, goes up and up and up. And finally, Trump is blown up. It's just that he causes too much trouble for everybody. And here are the Iranians trying to save him. Why? Let him block the Strait. The Iranians don't need to sell the oil to continue the war.

#Paul

They don't need the oil revenues to continue the war. It's not quite clear what they can do with the oil revenues because of all the economic sanctions. So I just see it as the Iranian government not understanding the situation, not seeing the opportunity. And if they saw it, I think they'd be unwilling to take the initiative. They don't want the initiative. Having the initiative is too much responsibility. But they have a chance, or had — it may be too late, I don't know — they had a chance to put so much hurt on Israel and on the Gulf oil sheikdoms that now you would lose the election, you'd have a new group who aren't Zionists, and then there could be a real deal. Iranians can say, okay, we call it all off and you denounce Greater Israel. And then we can have peace in the Middle East.

So I think that's the opportunity that's being missed. And I think Pakistan and China and Russia are partly responsible for it, because I believe Washington has been lobbying them, pressuring them to put pressure on Iran to continue the ceasefire and negotiate. Well, that takes all the pressure off Netanyahu. The Israelis aren't suffering from the war that Netanyahu started, so they don't have to get rid of him. And in the meantime, the United States can build back up their defenses. So there's no way Iran wins from this, no way. And I think by missing an opportunity like that, you know, there's that famous line in one of Shakespeare's plays, in Julius Caesar — you know, you either take the tide on its crest or you're stuck forever in the backwater somewhere.

I forget how it actually goes. It's quite powerful, the way it's expressed by Shakespeare. And I think that's what's happening to Iran. They're not seizing the opportunity to bring this to an end forever in the Middle East. And so this war will go on forever. It'll stop and start and stop and start. And Israel will concoct something and claim Iran did it and attack again. We've witnessed this with Israel for so long, so many times. And we know the United States is not able to get out from under the Israeli influence. So that's my take on it. I'd prefer to see the Iranians use the opportunity because that's the only hope for stopping this.

#Nima

Yeah. Paul, we know before this war started, the Chancellor of Germany, Merz, was totally saying that this regime, we have to do regime change in Iran. He was part of the rhetoric before this war started, and he wanted to do regime change in Iran. And right now, since then, they're changing

their rhetoric. And you see that happening not only in Germany but in other European countries. Here is what Merz said. Here's the assessment of the current situation with the war against Iran.

#Speaker 04

The Americans clearly have no strategy. And the problem with conflicts like this is always that you don't just have to go in, you also have to get out again. We saw that all too painfully in Afghanistan for 20 years. We saw it in Iraq. So this whole affair is, as I said, ill-considered, to say the least. At the moment, I cannot see what strategic exit the Americans are now opting for, especially as the Iranians are obviously negotiating very skillfully, or rather, very skillfully not negotiating, and letting the Americans travel to Islamabad only to leave again without any results. An entire nation is being humiliated. The Iranian leadership, particularly through these so-called Revolutionary Guards. We offered, as Europeans, and said that we were willing, after the end of negotiations, to help get the Strait of Hormuz open again.

We offered to send in mine-seeker boats from Germany to help free the passage from mines, as it has clearly been, at least partially, mined. We can help there, but first the negotiations need to be completed. And at the moment, I do not see how this can be realized in the near future, because the Iranians are clearly stronger than one thought, and the Americans clearly don't seem to have a convincing negotiating strategy. I am sorry to have to say it, but at the moment it is a pretty tricky situation. And it is costing us a lot of money. It is costing us a lot of tax money and taxing our economy. This conflict, this war against Iran, is having a direct negative effect on our economy and needs to be ended as soon as possible.

#Nima

Yeah, Paul, that's why I really think there will be no agreement between Iran and the United States. This war is going to continue somehow in another shape or form, if not militarily by direct attacks. But it seems that a long-term sort of conflict is going to happen.

#Paul

Well, that's what I said, Nima. That's what I said is going to happen. The Iranians have pissed away their chance to kick the can down the road. That's what kicking the can down the road means. Now, that was a political speech that Merz made, and his true motive was, as he emphasized at the end of what you showed, it's hurting Germany. It's costing us money. It's costing us money. It's costing us money. Right. And he's quite concerned that this thing is going to have a bad effect long term on the oil price. And that means a lot for German industry. So, but it's a political speech, and I don't think it means anything other than he's saying he's going to be sure that he's not blamed for the rising price of energy in Germany.

I don't think that what the Europeans say or do means anything. They don't have any unity. The EU is trying to finish the subversion of national sovereignty so that all of the countries, nations—once nations—just become pieces of the European Union run by unelected people. I just don't think that we have to pay attention to what anybody in Europe says. And Trump is going to say whatever Israel wants him to say. And it looks like Russia and China are going to be agents for Trump in pressuring Iran to stop the conflict, which means some kind of surrender of Iran's position, if only its military position.

You have to remember, when the war stopped, Iran was on the verge of a victory. The American bases in the Persian Gulf were gone. The troops were gone. They were staying in hotels and cities. The American fleet couldn't get close to the Strait or to Iran. Israel was defenseless. Tel Aviv was getting blown up day by day. Why did Iran stop? It gained nothing from stopping. It was one of the worst strategic blunders in history. That's the way I see it. It's kind of like Napoleon at Austerlitz. As soon as he's on the verge of winning, he calls his army back.

#Nima

I think there are a lot of considerations on the part of Iranians and Americans, Lebanese—I'm talking about Hezbollah. There is a lot that we don't know, basically, because since the ceasefire started, I can confirm that Iran's defense system has improved significantly since the ceasefire started. Okay. And right now, the air defense system is getting to the next level, basically. And that's why I think this pause—this is some sort of pause, what's happening right now. I think both sides are trying to get whatever they can, to get benefit from this, but it's going to be on both sides. It's not going to be just on the part of the United States and Israel. And that's the calculation. Iranians see it the way that they know better than you and me what's going on with their case. I don't think they do.

#Paul

No, I disagree with that. I don't think they understand that the Zionist agenda of Greater Israel means the extermination of Iran, just like it meant the extermination of Iraq, Libya, and Syria. I'm sure about that.

#Nima

You're totally right about that point.

#Paul

I don't think they understand that. And so they think things are negotiable that aren't. And it's a mistake for them to be negotiating with America because America is just Israel's agent. They ought to say, we'll negotiate with the Israelis, all of them, not just Netanyahu, but the opposition. We want

Bennett and his group there too. We'll negotiate. And we begin with dirty Israel, that this is the cause of the problem. If you want to stick with Greater Israel, it means we can't exist any more than Syria could or any more than the Israelis intend for Lebanon to exist. And so if you have that agenda, there's no room for any negotiation about anything. We have to fight for our existence.

And so let's get that straight at the beginning. And then if he's got the other Israeli parties there, then it becomes an internal issue in Israel, subject to elections. Now, that's the only way Iran could handle this that makes any sense. Anything else they do is a stupid blunder. It's mindless, absolutely mindless. It's the only alternative they have. And if every time they get the upper hand and Washington says, "Ceasefire, ceasefire," they give a ceasefire, they'll never win. Iran will never win. And the longer it goes on and the more frustrated Washington gets, the more likely the nukes come out. So, you know, if Iran doesn't want to fight, it's going to have to surrender. They'll have to be regime-changed.

#Nima

They'll never surrender, Paul.

#Paul

Well, I don't know. I don't know that they will.

#Nima

These people cannot be defeated. Nobody can defeat them.

#Paul

I really believe that.

#Speaker 04

Well, maybe...

#Paul

I think that you're a bit more patriotic on this point than you are realistic.

#Nima

It could be. It could be. But Iran is, you know, what is important about Iran, Paul, it's multidimensional. It's not just one-dimensional sort of thinking. The society is multidimensional in each and every aspect. I'm not talking about militarily, economically, politically — they're multidimensional.

#Paul

That's why... But what does that mean? I mean, how does that... What does that mean? I mean, nothing means...

#Nima

It means that, what I'm trying to say—sorry for interrupting you—what I'm trying to say is that they know exactly what their response would be to any sort of aggression in any part, economically or militarily, and they have their plan prepared, yes, for the United States and Israel. They know what their strategy would be. They have their strategy well established. That's why I really think that they know what they're doing.

#Paul

Well, I don't think they know what they're doing.

#Paul

I hope you're right. I hope you're right. I have no objection to you being right. But I don't think they know what they're doing, because I don't think they understand what the agenda of Greater Israel means for them. And they don't realize that they're in a fight to the death. And it's not a fight they can win as long as the United States is under the Zionist thumb and the Zionist government is in charge of Israel. But if the Iranians can punish the Zionist government in Israel, and the Israelis realize this is because the Zionists started a war that they are losing, and the Israelis are paying a huge price — the civilians.

And they vote for Bennett and his coalition, and the Zionists are out of office. And then you can negotiate the end of the war. We stop attacking you, and you disavow Greater Israel. And that's what Iran should be doing. That's what they should be working on. They should be explaining that to the Pakistanis, explaining it to the Russians, explaining it to the Chinese, to the Indians, to their own people. This is what they should be doing. There's no end to this as long as Israel claims us along with the entirety of the Middle East. What are you going to do, Saudi Arabia, if they get us? You're next. Turkey, you're next.

#Nima

They're basically telling us that Turkey is next, and then Pakistan.

#Paul

Yeah, so it's not like Iran is making any of this up. It's the Israelis themselves declaring it. And that's the only way they can approach it. We can't simply think that the Iranian government is prepared for any eventuality when it doesn't even understand the basic problem. And there's no sign of any understanding of the basic problem because it never comes up in any negotiation. And it's of tremendous propaganda value for Iran. They haven't even told their own people, "Look, they intend to annihilate us. That's what Greater Israel means. We have no right to exist. That's what Greater Israel means. They have no right to exist." So how do you negotiate? It's so obvious.

#Nima

I think your point is so important. It's so important, your point. And I hope that the Iranian government understands that, because this is the basic point. This is the foundation of everything in the Middle East. Without understanding that, you cannot seek peace in the Middle East.

#Paul

As far as I can tell, there's no understanding of it whatsoever in the American foreign policy community. If you read the articles and the commentary by the so-called foreign experts, you'll never see any fact like this—nothing. You don't ever see anything intelligent or even accurate. You just see, "Iran's evil, we have to get them." This is an expert's opinion.

#Paul

That's what the expert—I mean, you know, it's sad.

#Nima

No, no, it is. Thank you, Paul. Great pleasure as always.

#Paul

Okay, Nima. Thank you. I wish you would press your other guests on this point. We need more voices than mine. One voice isn't enough. Yeah, yeah. And just say, what does this doctrine mean? Now, initially, they probably never thought of it. So initially, you probably won't get very good answers, but you might cause them to start thinking. And the people you have, for the most part, they're capable of thought. And so if they start thinking about this and then the voices get louder

and broader, there's more of them and more people hear it more often. And it takes a long time to create an issue. It really does. It doesn't happen quickly. Yeah. And we need to create this issue before the big bombs go off. Yeah.

#Nima

Yeah.

#Paul

Thank you, Paul. See you soon. Thank you. So long.

#Nima

Bye-bye.

#Paul

Send me the URL. Sure, sure. Okay, bye-bye.