IT'S STARTED: US BOMBS Iranian Port, Iran ATTACKS US Warship! | Seyed M. Marandi

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#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Saeed Mohamed Morandi on this November 8th to go over the latest developments. Everybody hit the like button because Professor Morandi demands it. Let's begin, Professor Morandi, with this. All right, we have recent reports. The last 24 hours have been quite active, but the United States is calling it limited action. However, overnight, the United States struck Jask in southern Iran. This was the imagery that came out afterward.

And following this, let me just present the next report. We also had Iran firing at U.S. naval vessels in the Arabian Sea area yesterday in response to this attack. And so I wanted to ask you, Professor Morandi, right away: where exactly are we in this war? Because there are all kinds of conflicting reports. It seems that at least some form of this re-escalation has started. But I'm wondering, what exactly do you believe the United States is hitting, if anything at all? And what explains why we are seeing this kind of escalation amid talk of a much bigger one coming up?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, for a few weeks, the United States was doing nothing. And Iran was hitting a lot of ships, as we know—tankers and cargo ships. This intensified after President Pezeshkian returned from New York and President Xi returned from Washington, because Iran had wanted to keep things calm during that period, and the two trips overlapped. Then the Iranians began to hit very hard, and they wanted to put pressure on Trump, especially before the midterms, to force him to go back to implementing the MOU. Ultimately, the pressure helped contribute to Trump's defeat. I mean, the war itself, throughout these eight months, was a major reason, as we could see from Vance's post.

But I think the last few weeks were particularly damaging, or they made things even worse for Trump. But Iran's objective was to pressure him to go back to the MOU. Now, more recently, the Americans have struck back a few times. So Iran would strike ships, and the Americans would engage. More often than not, they didn't hit anything, or they hit decoys. Iran has lots of decoys,

and they're everywhere. And they don't just plant them. They're very sophisticated in how they use decoys. They move them around just as if they were the real thing. The decoys are very good. We were discussing this before the show. The Chinese companies are all sold out because Iran has bought all their decoys. And there are all sorts of different types of decoys, and they're very sophisticated.

They're not just balloons or anything. And then, of course, the Iranians would fire at American drones and American planes if they approached, and, as you saw last night, at American ships. They've been downing a lot of drones. But the damage that the Iranians are doing far outweighs anything that the Americans are doing. The price of oil, as we know, has gone up. After the election, it went down for psychological reasons. But Iran just today has hit multiple ships. And the reason why they're hitting ships—and we've discussed this before, just as a reminder—is that these regimes, the Saudis and the Emiratis, have to get permission from Iran to ship their oil. And if they don't, they're going to get hit. And these are countries that participate in the war against Iran.

These drones that we're discussing, American drones, fly from these countries. When the Americans do strike, the refueling planes take off from the Israeli regime, fly over Saudi Arabia, fly over the Emirates, and refuel jets that fly over the same countries. So all of these countries are fully involved in the war. They continue to be involved in the war, and they've been involved in the war throughout. So these are not just ordinary tankers belonging to countries that have nothing to do with the current situation. So the Iranians are doing a tremendous amount of damage, and they will continue to do so. As long as the United States is engaging in warfare, as long as it does not implement the MOU, as long as it imposes a siege, then this is what we're going to have.

Now, there's a debate, as you know, going on in the United States about the future, but the Iranians are not going to wait for someone to make some sort of decision in Washington. They're going to continue to put pressure on the Americans. Right now, the damage that they're doing to the United States far, far outweighs anything that the Americans are doing to Iran. But there could come a point where, if the Americans strike something important or the Iranians, for whatever reason, feel that they have to hit back hard, they may retaliate in a different way. And they may start targeting other assets in the region. As I said, these countries in the Persian Gulf region are completely involved in all of this. So it's a situation that can evolve very easily.

#Danny

I wanted to ask you about the anti-ship missiles that are being fired—just if you have any knowledge, any conversations you've heard, or anything you've come across that helps us understand exactly what's happening there. There are reports, of course, and you said that there have been attacks. I believe there have been about five commercial vessels targeted in two days for violating Iran's authority over the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf.

#Seyed M. Marandi

I think it's six now, but I'm not sure.

#Danny

Oh, yeah, yeah. Well, sure. I mean, I wouldn't be surprised if it was six. It seems like it's happening two or three times a day at this point. But in terms of the U.S. naval vessels, they're far away. They're 600 kilometers, sometimes more, away from the Persian Gulf itself and the Arabian Sea. Is Iran firing anti-ship missiles at them to keep them at bay, or is it something even more drastic in terms of what Iran is seeing as the future of this conflict? What are your thoughts on this? Because we hear almost every time a flare-up like this happens that that is one of the things Iran does.

#Seyed M. Marandi

I don't know exactly what the objective was, especially last night. But in general, the Iranians want to keep them far away because it makes any operation against Iran far more expensive. Now, the Americans' assets that they use to bomb Iran are outside the Persian Gulf. They have troops in the region. They have other assets in the Persian Gulf region. But for their airstrikes, they have gone further west. They've left Jordan. They've gone to the Israeli regime. Their assets are in Europe as well. Their naval vessels are very far away from Iran. So when they want to attack Iran, it becomes very expensive. They have to refuel the jets to approach Iran. Then they have to refuel them again to get back. That decreases the number of airstrikes.

That makes them more expensive. That gives Iran more time to prepare. There are many, many reasons. Logistically, it's very difficult for the Americans to constantly refuel the jets. The planes become worn down more quickly. I mean, they need overhauls more often when they're constantly flying long distances. So there are many disadvantages for the Americans. I'm sure one of the reasons why they fire these missiles every now and then is to keep them further away from Iran's shores. The Iranians have hit American naval vessels during those first skirmishes. I'm sure you recall, but after the ceasefire and after the siege, there was a series of skirmishes. I forgot what the Americans called it. It was like an operation to open the Strait of Hormuz, which failed.

Iran struck naval ships, but they struck them with drones, not with missiles. Why? Because they didn't want to sink them. They didn't want to have a mass casualty event because there's an escalation ladder, and Iran was managing the war. And if there was a mass casualty event, then Trump could have possibly mobilized the American public and done something, and then escalated, which would have led to devastation across the region that was not necessary. So my understanding right now is that Iran can hit American ships, and if there comes a point when the Americans go after Iranian infrastructure, then Iran will treat those ships differently. Everything depends on where we are on the escalation ladder. But I don't know the details.

Yet, at the moment, the Americans aren't doing anything really important. They aren't doing a lot of damage. Obviously, it's aggression. But the Iranians are striking ships in very large numbers, and

they're hitting these ships very hard. In the past, the Iranians would often strike these ships with drones, just like the naval vessels, to cause slight damage and warn them off. Now they don't do that. They hit them hard with missiles, with heavy drones, with mines. I've even heard of a ship going and putting a bomb on one of these ships and detonating it. There's only a limited number of tankers and cargo ships in the world, and when they're heavily damaged, it takes a long time to repair them. And they have to take them somewhere to be repaired.

So the longer this continues, the closer we get to another type of crisis. In addition to the crises that are developing because of all the different shortages—LNG, sulfur, helium, fertilizers, gasoline, and so on—another crisis is emerging: a shortage of tankers, a shortage of ships. And the countries in the Persian Gulf are in very bad shape, especially the Saudis. Now that they've restarted their foolish and genocidal war against Yemen, they're losing badly. And I just spoke to two people over the past couple of days who know what's going on in Saudi Arabia and Yemen pretty well. And they say that the Saudis are in trouble. And the Saudis have asked the Iranians to intervene.

Iran has basically said, "You have to talk with Yemen and speak to them directly." The Saudis are now approaching Oman to begin talking with Yemen. This is something that Mohammed bin Salman could have resolved many years ago. They had an agreement with Yemen. All Yemen wanted was the implementation of that agreement. And in his arrogance, just like Trump, he made things far worse for himself. And now, if he doesn't seek a solution, the situation in Saudi Arabia will get worse and worse. And it will lead, ultimately, to instability. So they seem to be beginning something in Oman, but we'll have to see how serious the Saudis are. But that, combined with what the Iranians are doing in the Strait of Hormuz, is making things very, very difficult for these American proxies in the Persian Gulf region.

#Danny

Yeah, reports today say that Ansarallah has targeted the King Abdullah Financial District in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, that's because they carried out atrocities and bombed civilian targets.

#Danny

Yep.

#Seyed M. Marandi

So they've carried out heavy retaliation.

#Danny

At a commercial center, I believe, in Taiz, right? They killed children there.

#Seyed M. Marandi

And they've also bombed Sana'a, the capital.

#Danny

Yes, so Saudi Arabia is in trouble, and yet they don't seem to be backing down. And to your point earlier about the disabling of these commercial vessels, it was reported recently that Iran's navy—that vaunted navy at the bottom of the sea, completely gone, according to the Trump administration—has been using speedboats with limpet mines. These are essentially explosive devices that they just slap right on the hull of a ship, disabling it entirely, and they escape before the mine detonates. And they're doing this several times a day now. Some of these ships are supertankers with quite a lot of LNG on them. So it is a major crisis.

You know, Professor Morandi, the Theodore Roosevelt is also coming into operation probably this time next week, I think. I think it's a week away or so. And that will leave three aircraft carriers in position. At the same time, Iran just lifted its 2,000-kilometer limit on how far it would launch its missiles. I didn't know that Iran had this, but they say that limit has been completely lifted now. There are no limitations on distance. Talk about what all this means, because it seems like these two things go together. Maybe I'm wrong, but what are your thoughts on what lifting this missile range limitation means for the war?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, Iran has had this long-standing policy of, I think, limiting the range of its missiles to 2,000 kilometers, something like that. And Ayatollah Khamenei once spoke about this. The reason was obvious, in my opinion, although he didn't explain it. I think it was because Iran wanted to create goodwill, to show that Iran is not a threat. But now, of course, now that war has been waged upon the country, Ayatollah Khamenei, the new leader, is saying that the war is not going to be limited to the geography of West Asia. And so the Iranians have lifted the limitations on the missiles that they produce. Is it easy for Iran to do that? Yes. Why? First of all, Iran has a very, very effective military missile capability.

Iran is probably producing some of the best missiles in the world, alongside the Chinese and the Russians, and new missiles are being developed very rapidly. As we speak, new missiles are being developed. But also, Iran has a space program, and so it's been sending satellites into orbit, and it has the capability. It's not something difficult for Iran. So for Iran to design new missiles with a range far beyond 2,000 kilometers is quite easy. And if there's a soft military target that's far off—

because some of these bases are not well protected—let's say Diego Garcia, just as an example, then Iran can strike those targets at Diego Garcia and really create a lot of grief and misery for the United States, because as things stand, things are very difficult for the Americans.

Bringing all these ships to the region and keeping them there is very costly. And the logistics are really problematic and very costly too. So if Iran destroys or damages their logistical capability far away, then the United States faces even more difficult times. And as I said, Iran has already done that to a large degree. All the bases in the Persian Gulf region have been destroyed. The US presence in Iraq has come to an end. Then they started hammering them in Jordan. They had to leave there too. So the Americans are moving further away, which makes waging war much more costly and the logistics much more difficult. So if Iran hits further away with its missiles, then it makes it even more difficult for the Americans.

#Danny

Before we get into another CENTCOM special that it has reportedly rolled out against Iran in terms of economic warfare, one last question on this particular topic of what happened in the last 24 hours. What's the significance of Jask in southern Iran? It's a port city. That was what was struck last night. We don't really know what was struck last night, actually, if anything at all. But why target this city now? You know, it seems like it was Qeshm the nights before. What are your thoughts on why the United States is interested in this city?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, the Iranian Navy, the Iranian Army, and the Iranian IRGC—its navy and its army—have bases all along the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, and, of course, along the Strait of Hormuz. There are bases on the islands and bases on the mainland. So sometimes the army hits ships, and sometimes the IRGC hits ships. The IRGC's territory is basically the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. The Iranian Navy, the regular navy, operates outside the Strait of Hormuz. So they strike some of the ships outside the Strait of Hormuz, and then the IRGC hits them in the Strait of Hormuz or in the Persian Gulf. So you have all the military bases, missile bases, and drone bases along the coast. Of course, the underground bases that we saw launch strikes deep inside Jordan and Israel and against the U.S. bases are deeper inside Iran.

These bases are designed to protect the shores. They're designed to strike on the other side of the Persian Gulf with shorter-range missiles and drones. But the Iranians have prepared the entire shore and the entire coast. And the reason why it's called the Persian Gulf is because one whole side of the Persian Gulf is Iran. And then, of course, you have the Strait of Hormuz and the area outside the Strait of Hormuz. So Iran has a very long coastline and numerous islands, and therefore, they have many places along the coast to strike the Americans from. Then, on the mainland, there are mountain ranges. And those mountain ranges make it very difficult for the United States to deal with Iranian military capabilities.

#Danny

Well, that's very helpful information for us, Marandi. And, you know, it makes me think about this. There are some analysts who are still wondering whether U.S. Marines and amphibious groups, et cetera, will be making their way to Kharg Island or somewhere to try to occupy it. But what you just said about the mountainous region makes me think of this narrative going around, too, that there could be almost like a tripwire there because the U.S. doesn't have the forces, and it doesn't have the ability to really fight on that terrain.

And, of course, Iran has all these capabilities that would make it very difficult to even just stay there. But nevertheless, some believe—you mentioned not wanting to have a mass casualty event on a U. S. warship because, you know, even in the case of a limited ground operation, a mass casualty event would lead to a furious U.S. propaganda campaign, which, under the Trump administration—or really any administration—could lead to disastrous consequences, given the gravity.

#Seyed M. Marandi

But if the United States does carry out a ground operation, that would move things up the escalation ladder. Then Iran starts striking in a very different manner. And it could start striking ships. I mean, if the Americans strike Iranian infrastructure, the Iranians will strike those ships. But if the Americans carry out land operations, that could change things. I mean, the Iranians have gone through all the different scenarios, and they plan for each and every scenario. But if the Americans carry out a land attack, it would fail, right, for obvious reasons. Let's say they take an island. Well, the Iranians will start hitting that island with drones and missiles, and there's nothing that the Americans can do about it. They won't be able to protect themselves. And then what would be the point anyway? Because if they want to take it and control the Strait of Hormuz, well, all the Iranians have to do if the Americans escalate is destroy the ports and where the…

#Seyed M. Marandi

The places where the fuel, crude oil, LNG, helium, fertilizers, sulfur, gasoline—whatever is produced—are loaded. Or they could strike the ships, because Iran can strike them. Iran doesn't strike just any ship. They strike ships that break Iran's regulations. Otherwise, there are large numbers of tankers and cargo ships throughout the Persian Gulf. If Iran decides to sink them all, then there will be no more ships. The only ships that Iran strikes are the ones that are violating Iran's regulations. So there isn't a solution for Trump. There's no winning solution. If he wants to pull a rabbit out of the hat, it's not going to work, because the Iranians are determined to make sure he loses, just as he's lost already.

I mean, the defeat in the midterms is a regime change of sorts imposed by the Iranians. I think it's pretty clear. And the situation in Israel also makes things more difficult for Trump. So the American

people have spoken. They're obviously anti-war. And therefore, if Trump tries to escalate, he's going to outrage ordinary Americans, and Iran is going to hit back very hard, making the economic situation much worse than it is now. We already have instability in Europe. We have unrest, we have riots and protests. And so, after the midterms, people will become even more outraged that he ignores the will of the American people. So restarting the war or escalating is going to be much more costly for Trump now than it would have been if there were no midterm elections.

But that doesn't mean he's not going to do something stupid, because he's Trump. General Soleimani once said that Trump is a gambler, and he knew him quite well because he was fighting against Trump in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. So he understood the American leadership mentality quite well. And that's, of course, why they murdered him. So Trump is a gambler. He may be saying to himself, "Look, things look bad. I've been defeated. But maybe, just maybe, if I do something stupid, or I escalate, or I restart the war and do this operation in Iran, maybe I can pull that rabbit out of the hat." But that's not going to happen. Iran is far too prepared for any escalation, far more prepared than they were at the beginning of this war, during the 12-day war. It's just that this is a different country altogether right now.

#Danny

I wanted to ask you about that. Speaking of rabbits out of the hat, I thought that the United States' blockade of Iran was so ironclad and so impactful that the scorecard was zero for Iran on everything. It can't get anything out of its ports. It can't export. It's completely cut off from the world. And this is the narrative from Scott Bessent, the Secretary of the Treasury: hundreds of millions—millions upon millions upon millions—of everything are coming out of the Persian Gulf now because of the U.S. Navy.

But yet, yesterday they had to announce that CENTCOM Admiral Bradley Cooper has established a task force called Iron Gate, a team of around 20 civilian and military personnel based in Tampa, Florida, tasked with preventing Iran from using land routes and the Caspian Sea—very interesting there—to transport advanced weapons, dual-use technology, and sanctioned material. So this gives us a little bit of a reference for what this is, from CENTCOM. First of all, the Caspian Sea—that targets Russia as well, because the Caspian Sea is critical not only to Russia-Iran ties, but also to Russia's ties to the region in general. Talk about this effort. What is this? Why is it being announced now? And what does it say about the U.S.'s economic war efforts at this point?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, first of all, just looking at the map, let me point something out. At the bottom right-hand side of the map, that's Pakistan. Above Pakistan, on the right-hand side of the map, is Afghanistan. So, to Iran's east, there are two countries with very long borders with Iran. Then, at the top right-hand side of the map, to the east of the Caspian, that's Turkmenistan. That's a third country with a very long border with Iran and multiple points of entry. Then you have the Caspian Sea, which links Iran

to Turkmenistan, of course, to Kazakhstan, to the north of Turkmenistan, and then to Russia, to the north.

And to the west, Russia again, and then the Republic of Azerbaijan. Iran has a land border with Azerbaijan on the left-hand side of the Caspian Sea, to the west of the Caspian Sea. Then there's Armenia. Then there's another small part of Azerbaijan. Then we have Turkey on the left-hand side of the screen, to the west of Iran, near the top of the map. And then below Turkey, you have Iraq, which has a very long border with Iran—1,250 kilometers. So you've got all these countries and all these borders with many, many land routes.

How is the United States going to block all that? And then, I don't know if you can go to my Twitter account. I did tweet about this, and what it does show very clearly is the failure of the U.S. war. Because Bessent has his own operation. I forgot what it was called—something like isolating Iran. I forgot the name. I wrote it in the tweet. It's just that there are too many operations being carried out. Operation Epstein Fury, the whole thing. What was it? I keep calling it Epstein Fury. I don't even remember what the U.S. operation on Iran was called in the first place. Epic Fury, right? So you had Epic Fury.

Which we call Epstein Fury. And then you had Bessent's operation. Well, if Bessent was doing so well, there was no need for this new operation against Iran. Nothing is working, obviously. Yes, there's a siege on Iranian ports in the Persian Gulf region, but it was supposed to bring about the collapse of Iranian society and the collapse of the Iranian people. That's what Bessent was lusting for. But what we saw was the collapse of the Trump regime, his utter defeat in the midterm elections. So, yes, it's hurting Iran, but it's hurting the United States.

The U.S. economy is hurting, and it's going to continue to hurt because Iran is going to continue to put pressure on the United States until it gets the results that it needs. So obviously, Bessent has failed. And with the ships that do leave the Persian Gulf, there's no doubt that Iran is getting fees. And there's no doubt that some of the oil that's getting through is Iranian oil. Now, what are the mechanisms through which Iran is selling its oil and all that? That's a different thing altogether. It may not be nearly as much as it was before, but we are in a wartime economy.

Iran's consumption has also gone down in the hope that, ultimately, when Iran wins this war, things will go back to normal, and they will be better than before because Iran will now be controlling the Strait of Hormuz, and all the threats against Iran will have melted away—the threats that we've been experiencing for almost half a century. So, yeah, I think that this new initiative is just an acknowledgement of the failure of previous initiatives. And it's not going to work. It's not going to have any impact. Iran is a huge country, a mountainous country. It has a determined people. It has a network of allies across West Asia. And we are already seeing the results of the war in the midterms in the United States. The wipeout of Trump's allies is obviously directly related to the war.

Again, all four reasons that Vance cited for Trump's defeat are linked to Iran. Whether it's "America First"—well, it's not America First because it's Israel First—or the war and the others, all of them are directly or indirectly related to the war. And I don't think that it's going to get any better in the days and weeks and months ahead. If Trump continues down this road, it's just going to make things worse for him and the United States. And things are deteriorating. Things are getting progressively worse because supplies of all these key commodities are being depleted across the world.

#Danny

Professor Morandi, to your point about this, I'm pulling up a tweet that kind of summarizes some of the data that backs up everything you've said about what CENTCOM just announced. Iran has 3,600 miles of land borders and 1,500 miles of sea borders. Of that sea border, 1,100 miles are along the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman, and 400 miles are along the Caspian Sea. And look at some of this data here: of the 3,600 miles of land border, 1,000 are shared with Iraq, 500 to 600 with Afghanistan, 500 to 600 with Pakistan, and 700 with Turkmenistan, as you said. And again, the map doesn't show any of those borders. You were listing the countries, but CENTCOM refused to acknowledge that these countries existed at all.

So that just, I think, demonstrates exactly what you said, as well as the cost of just even thinking about this. Like, 20 guys—what, 15, 20 guys in Tampa, Florida—are going to come up with the logistical measures necessary to essentially wage war on all of Iran's neighbors, economic war and maybe even military war? I don't think so. So it really does expose just how desperate things are. And then this is on top of—I don't know if you saw the reports—the Washington Post is saying that Scott Bessent is calling China. I don't know who they're calling in China because I don't know who would pick up such a call.

But calling their Chinese counterparts and saying, "Hey, could you pressure Iran to come to the table and negotiate with us?" What do you think of that? Because I am 100% on board with the idea that that's a made-up thing. But according to The Washington Post, it's likely that Scott Bessent tried to do this. And some are even saying that China passed the message along to Iran, which feels very unlikely. But your thoughts on this? Because, I don't know, it all seems to be demonstrating something contrary to how Scott Bessent and U.S. officialdom are talking about things.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, China and Russia want Iran to win the war for obvious reasons. Iran's victory is their victory. And any success by the United States anywhere, whether it's in Europe against Russia or in West Asia, is not good for China. The Chinese and the Iranians are closely coordinated, just like the Iranians and the Russians. Iran has helped the Russians in Ukraine. The Russians have helped the Iranians in this war. And the Chinese and the Iranians are cooperating. When President Xi was going to go to Washington for the summit—you and I discussed this before—the Iranian and Russian

foreign ministers met extensively three times. It wasn't just for this; they discussed other issues too, but they coordinated.

So at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit and the BRICS summit, they met on the sidelines. Then the Iranian foreign minister went to Beijing, and then President Xi traveled to the United States. And during his trip to the United States, the Iranians lessened their strikes in the Strait of Hormuz so as not to rock the boat. And the Chinese repeated the Iranian position that, okay, you signed the MOU, and the Iranians are willing to implement it. So the Chinese position is clear. The Iranians are prepared to sit at the negotiating table if the United States carries out the obligations it has already agreed to fulfill under the MOU, something that Trump personally signed.

So the Americans are not able to put much pressure on China because the Iranian position is logical, it's reasonable, and the Americans don't have any leverage anyway. And it's possible that Bessent said this because Bessent is not very smart. He's not very bright. No one in the Trump camp is very bright, from my understanding. I don't mean it just to insult them, although I like insulting them. But it's not just that. This Trump team is not very smart. I mean, Trump had sinister people around him in his first term, but some of them were smart people. Some of them weren't, like the head of the CIA who then went to the State Department. What's his name?

#Danny

You know, "We lie, we cheat." Oh, my gosh. Mike Pompeo.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Yeah, Pompeo, not very smart. But there were people around him who were intelligent, who were smart. Now there are no such people. They're just a bunch of yes-men and pathetic people who will just try to keep him happy and say stupid things. I mean, you've seen at the cabinet table how they would speak about Trump and praise him like this great, you know, dictator in these comedy movies. A serious person, an intelligent person, a person with dignity, with honor, with self-respect would never talk like that to anyone. So it is possible that he would try to do something, but it's not going to have any impact on Iran. Time is on Iran's side. This is Iran's home.

This is Iran's turf. So for Iran, it's not very costly to build defenses, build missile cities, and develop missiles that are going to be based on its own territory. The Americans, every day, have to spend huge amounts of money, and the indirect cost is far greater than the direct cost. And then the economic cost—the cost of fuel, the cost of the economic decline that accompanies it—is in the trillions. I have no doubt that the damage already done to the United States is in the trillions. But even the direct cost of the war for the Americans is much, much greater than it is for the Iranians, because we're not projecting power in North America, and we're not taking anything to the Caribbean.

It's right here. It's in our own country. All you have to do is move things around on a truck or on trains or in a van. But for the Americans, everything they need, they have to bring all the way across the Atlantic, fly over Europe, and bring it to the region. They can't put it in their bases in the Persian Gulf. They probably have to set up all these new bases, you know, like in Israel, and set up shop there or whatever. It's a huge headache, but it's very costly for the American people as well.

#Danny

That's for sure. Yeah, you're 100% right on that, Professor Maradi. We actually have a lot of questions. A lot of super chats have come in. Some of them are very good ones that may raise some interesting points about what we've just been talking about. Here's one from Peace Lover Forever asking you: At what point do you believe that Iran might need to take on, or will need to take on, Turkey and Pakistan, since they are American satellites? Yeah, your thoughts on this—the regional situation and complications.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, first of all, the Turkish people and the Pakistani people are culturally very close to Iran. The Saudis and the Qataris and these regimes in the Persian Gulf have been trying to spread Wahhabism and Takfiri Salafism for the last 50 years under the protection of the United States, for the sake of Western imperial interests. And they've caused a lot of harm. And this extremist ideology has helped the Americans do great harm to the region. But other than these extremist groups and their extremist ideology—which is a clear deviation from Islam, but that's for another day—I mean, they say that they're like the Salaf.

They go back to the roots and the people at the beginning of Islam. They don't. That's not where their roots lie. But anyway, culturally speaking, Pakistan and Turkey are much closer to Iran than Saudi Arabia and Qatar and these backward Wahhabi regimes. But unfortunately, there's the influence of countries like Qatar in Turkey, and Erdogan's support for ISIS and Al-Qaeda, again, under the protection and guidance of the United States. This was American policy. And Saudi Arabia has been doing it since before the Iranian Revolution, when the Americans began to support this extremist ideology to fight the Soviet Union. And the Saudis paid for it.

So their influence, unfortunately—the influence of extremism—has grown in these countries. But in general, the people in these two countries are very similar to Iranians in many ways. Pakistan, of course, has a lot of poverty, but really fantastic people. Both of these countries do not want to cooperate with the United States, but they are in the American camp. They're under a lot of pressure from the United States. So, you know, it's sort of half and half. They have obeyed the United States to a degree, but they've also put up resistance. Not the sort of resistance that you'd expect from Iran or those who support Iran, like Yemen and Hezbollah.

You expect something very different. But in any case, they put up some mild resistance. So it's not as if the borders are shut. And the same is true, by the way, with the Iraqi government. They too are under a lot of pressure from the United States. The Iraqi government is particularly vulnerable because, ever since Saddam invaded Kuwait and we had those UN resolutions, the money from Iraqi oil exports has gone to a US bank. And so the United States basically decides when to give Iraqis money or not. So they have a stranglehold over the Iraqi people. And the United States is barbaric. They'll strangle them if they feel the need to do so. So Iraq is under a lot of pressure.

Turkey is under a lot of pressure. Pakistan is under a lot of pressure. And in some respects, they obey the United States. In some respects, they disobey. In some respects, they allow things to happen, and they just pretend that they are implementing the orders from Washington. But they sort of look in the other direction and say, "We're implementing the orders coming from Washington," while they're not looking very carefully at what's actually happening on the ground. So Pakistan has a lot of internal difficulties, of course, and so does Turkey. And the Americans have leverage. But it's not as if they're actively working against Iran.

That's not true. And, of course, it's in their own economic interest. By shutting their borders, they lose a lot of money. They need Iranian exports more than Iran ordinarily needs their imports. But also, there's the issue of terrorism in Pakistan. That's not, as far as I know, linked to the Pakistani government. It's the Saudis, the Americans, and the Israelis that fund these Wahhabi, Takfiri groups in Pakistan's Balochistan. Pakistan does not have great control over that area because of the economic problems it has and because its armed forces are directed at India and, sadly, Afghanistan. Afghanistan and Pakistan are constantly shooting at each other.

It's ironic because Pakistan and the Americans helped create the Taliban, and then they became enemies. Now, the Taliban that they created is very different from the Taliban today. And that Taliban was quite genocidal. But the Taliban today has evolved. Still, there are many things about it that we don't approve of, like its policies regarding women, education, and this sort of thing. But this is not that Taliban. And this Taliban helped Iran during the war. They prevented the Americans from using ISIS and other extremist groups because the Americans, the Israelis, and others were trying to use Iran's eastern borders to create instability in Iran.

And the Taliban worked very hard to keep the borders safe. So they countered U.S. efforts against Iran. And they were very sincere in bringing about stability. And it even went beyond Afghanistan's borders with Iran, which I don't want to go into detail about. So the Pakistani government is not, as far as I know, involved in these attempts to destabilize Iran's borders. But there is trade going on between Pakistan and Iran. We hope that with the decline of the United States, these countries will become more independent of the United States and tilt away from the West. But we'll see.

#Danny

We will see. Well, let's get to a few more questions for Marandi. Oops, that's the same one. Here's one from St. Brazil, a longtime member. He said, "Explain the shift at the Mecca Defense Treaty meeting toward Iran becoming a member. Did the Saudis realize that the real threat is the Epstein regime?" This is an interesting question. To clarify it, though, maybe they mean that the Mecca Defense Treaty meeting offered Iran membership. I don't know if that actually happened. But what are your thoughts on this question? Any response you have to it?

#Seyed M. Marandi

I don't think there was any discussion of Iranian membership. And I don't think Iran is, at this stage, interested in any such agreement. This agreement was not created for Israel. I've heard some very respectable and respected people say that. It wasn't. It was due to the war in Yemen and Saudi Arabia's vulnerabilities. This was not created when the Americans invaded Iran. No one came forward to say, "Let's create an alliance to help Iran against the United States." No one created an alliance to help Gaza or Lebanon or even Syria.

When the Israelis have taken so much Syrian territory, Al-Qaeda and ISIS in Syria are apparently sending troops to Saudi Arabia to help against Yemen. They don't care about their own territory, it seems. So this was not about Syria. It was not about the West Bank. It was not about anything else. It was about Saudi Arabia, which had restarted its genocide and war against Yemen, and it was not going well. And I don't know what went on in these meetings. I really don't. I'm not interested in knowing many things.

#Danny

Oh, Professor Marandi, are you still there? Oh, I think he might have dropped from the call. I'll message him really quickly so we can get him back in and finish this show. Hi, Professor Marandi. Maybe you dropped. There he is. I was like, whoa, suddenly I was by myself. I was like, wow, that was quick. Google Meet. When did I get cut off? You were saying that there are some things you're not interested in.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Okay, yeah. Maybe the regime cut off my internet.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Seyed M. Marandi

So there are some things that I don't know. Sorry about my internet.

#Danny

No, no, no.

#Seyed M. Marandi

But anyway, for some reason, I'm having trouble with StreamYard, so we have to use this. Anyway, there are some things I don't want to know, obviously, because I'm in media and that sort of thing. But what I do know, what I can say, is that one of the things that was discussed during that trip to Tehran was Yemen. Yemen. So obviously, one of the priorities of the discussion about this alliance was Yemen. And the Turks and the Pakistanis recognize this. They know that Saudi Arabia is the aggressor. They know that the Saudis have been committing crimes in Yemen. In the case of Pakistan, they have financial issues. In the case of Turkey, it's the same.

But neither of them has gotten directly involved in the war in Yemen so far, as far as I know. I haven't asked recently, but I don't think anything significant has changed. So basically, their troops are near Riyadh and other places. I think mostly Riyadh, and maybe some other places too. I don't remember. But they're there to protect Mohammed bin Salman's government, which is not, I think, the right thing to do. I mean, to protect it if the Saudis rise up, because the situation in Saudi Arabia, if this continues, will become more and more fragile. And when that happens, at some point, there's going to be unrest.

And these are not regimes that can stand up to unrest because they're fragile. They're family regimes. You can have unrest in France. You can have unrest in Iran. You can have unrest in Brazil. But in countries where you have family rule, I think they won't be able to manage unrest. The regimes are too fragile and too rigid to have the flexibility to manage such situations. So one of the key issues that was discussed was Yemen. And of course, the Iranians told the Saudis, the Pakistanis, and Turkey that, look, Yemen did not get involved in the war, even though you helped Americans kill our kids.

When you were allowing the Americans to use your territory to bomb our country, when you were helping the Israelis bomb our country by helping the Americans help the Israelis, Yemen did not attack you. During the 12-day war, Yemen did not get involved. During this war, Yemen did not get involved. When did Yemen get involved? When a commercial plane took people from Yemen to Iran for Ayatollah Khamenei's funeral. It also carried people who were sick and whose medical needs couldn't be met in Yemen. So the plane had a delegation, plus injured or sick people. After the funeral, they were flying back to Sana'a on an Iranian passenger plane operated by Mahan Airlines, the same airline I took just a few weeks ago to go to Moscow.

And then again, two or three weeks ago, I went to Beijing. And this is an ordinary airline, you know, with the trolleys and the men and women handing out lunch. An ordinary airline. It was taking the delegation back to Sana'a with those who had received their medication or whatever. They were

going back with them. And then, as the plane was about to land, the Saudis bombed the airport. That's what restarted this war. So Yemen didn't start the war. And now the Yemenis are retaliating, and the Saudis are paying a heavy price. And they're bombing cities. They bombed Sana'a and Taiz. And the West, of course, has no problem with it because they had no problem with the Israelis slaughtering for the last three years and two months. But Yemen can strike back.

And it has a massive missile and drone arsenal because they produce their own missiles and drones. True, I have no doubt that the Iranians helped them, but they have their own young engineers. They have their own resources. They are smart people. They defeated the Americans at war. They defeated the Saudis at war. They must be pretty smart. So now the Saudis are in trouble. They came to Tehran hoping that Iran would do something. Well, basically, what the Iranians have been saying is, "Go deal with Yemen." The Iranians have been saying this for years. They say, "All you have to do is just stop the war. And if, instead of wasting hundreds of billions of dollars on this genocidal war, which will be forever remembered in history, you had just invested a fraction of that in Yemen—not as aid, just investment—your relationship with Yemen would have been fantastic today." But Mohammed bin Salman is like Trump, not a reasonable person.

#Danny

No, and in the final minutes that we have, President Raoult, we have one more question. To be fair to this person, I12, who's been a member for eight months, thank you so much. These are good questions. Yesterday, I was driving, and I saw a sticker on the back of a cab. There are a lot of Pakistani cab drivers in New York City, and on the back of the cab was a "Free Imran Khan" sticker. "Why did Pakistan imprison their prime minister?" That was the question from I12.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Yeah, well, I think that's something known. But, you know, unlike the United States, unlike the others, Iran has never tried to undermine any of its neighbors. The Saudis and the Emiratis can all pretend that it's otherwise. But three wars have been waged against Iran since 1970. Three wars. Saddam Hussein—all these Arab regimes assisted him, gave him hundreds of billions of dollars. And then the West gave him chemical weapons, planes. The Soviets also helped. They all assisted. And of course, through Pakistan, the Saudis and the Americans created Al-Qaeda and all these Wahhabi groups that have created nothing but misery, and the Salafi, Takfiri groups, which have created nothing but death and destruction.

And they've always, you know, by coincidence, they're always doing what the Americans want them to do and what the Israelis want them to do. They're always destroying places that the Americans and the Israelis want to destroy. But it's all revolution, you know. But Iran has never done the same to its neighboring countries. Then there was the 12-day war. So Iran has been demonized. That's

why I've said this multiple times: now it's the holiday season, people should go and buy Going to Tehran. Buy it for their family and friends. Read it. Learn a bit more about Iran. Alastair Crooke's book, Resistance, is also good. But Going to Tehran, I think, is something everyone should read.

#Danny

And they'll see that all those narratives about Iran are fake.

#Seyed M. Marandi

So the Iranians don't interfere in Pakistan's internal affairs because it will only make things worse. Let's say Iran sides with some political player in Pakistan. What purpose is served? If Iran supports one side, then the other side will say he's being assisted or she's being assisted by foreign powers. So the best thing Iran can do is just try to have good ties with these countries and have a positive influence on them. Iran has tried to help Pakistan. Iran wanted to export gas to Pakistan, which would have made electricity and energy much cheaper. The Americans blocked it. The Americans won't allow Pakistan to have a gas pipeline across the Iran-Pakistan border. The Americans want to keep everyone backward and impoverished.

Now, of course, you know that the Iranians and the Russians have a deal where Russian oil or natural gas is going to come through Iran and then be exported to regional countries. Well, it's to everyone's benefit, including Iran's. So, yeah, Pakistan is a country with its own problems. I think your listeners and viewers know the problems that exist, but I don't think it does any good for Iran to take sides in internal matters in Pakistan. The only things that the Iranians oppose in Pakistan are illegitimate American influence and the funding of Takfiri groups, which serve the interests of the United States and the Israeli regime. And that's how the Saudis and the regimes in the Persian Gulf keep the troubles away.

They export misery to Sudan, to Libya, to Boko Haram, ISIS, and Al-Qaeda. But at home, everything is quiet. You don't see any of those terrorists blowing up buildings in Saudi Arabia or in Qatar. You see them blowing up places in Syria or in Iraq or in Nigeria or in Pakistan or in Afghanistan or elsewhere, or in Russia. That's just how it works. And the only time there was a major attack on the United States by these groups, it turns out that someone was selling shares in the airlines whose planes were involved right before the strike. Other people were dancing on the rooftop of a building, and another building went down without being struck. And it was announced that it went down before it actually collapsed. So, you know, there may be something more to it than meets the eye.

#Danny

Oh, yes. The age-old reality that we must live with and continue to speak out about. But unfortunately, under our regime here, first of all, we have to be careful depending on where we're doing it and how we're doing it. But indeed, you're a hundred percent right. There's a lot, a lot of

suspicion, a lot of need to tell that truth because it's been the catalyst, I should say, of so much pain and horror and U.S. imperial interventionism. Thanks so much, Sarcastic, to you too, for such a generous super chat. Thanks so much to MysticMac555. I can't read your comments because we are out of time. Thanks to Hussein. Again, all your comments here—Question Authority, appreciate it. I don't think I forgot anybody.

#Seyed M. Marandi

And buy the book. Buy the book, Going to Tehran.

#Danny

Yeah, buy the book.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Read the book. More importantly, read the book.

#Danny

It's a good Christmas gift if any of you in the audience celebrate Christmas.

#Seyed M. Marandi

I think it's a good idea for Christmas.

#Danny

Everybody, hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show in YouTube's algorithm. Definitely do a like storm for Professor Morandi here, because that will get his voice even further into YouTube's algorithm. Another thing I want to let you all know is that around this time of year, YouTube's AI detectors, bot detectors, all of this—they start to scrub subscribers in larger numbers. So you might want to check if you're subscribed. If you're not subscribed, definitely subscribe to this channel, because that also helps. Leave a comment. All those things are very useful, with the like button being, I believe, the most important one. In the video description, all the places you can support this channel, if you would like, are there too. Tomorrow, I'm with Scott Ritter, 2 p.m. Eastern Time, November 9th. Until next time, Professor Morandi, any words to the audience before I hit end stream here?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Just keep Palestine and the atrocities that are being carried out every day in view. If you have accounts online, post pictures, remind people what's going on. Right now, the weather is horrible in

Gaza. People are suffering badly. The Israelis are starving them. They're hurting them. They're killing them. And they're trying to make them suffer as much as possible. If there's nothing else that we can do, we can just continue creating awareness. The catastrophe for the Zionist lobby in the United States is because people have woken up. We have to keep waking people up to the reality of what's going on in Gaza and in Palestine.

#Danny

Yeah, for sure. And yeah, I think those are really important words, in particular because we are also seeing this get pushed to the side, especially amid these Israeli elections. There's just nothing going on there that's going to give any relief to the Palestinians. And also, Jill Stein, who has run independently in the United States for the Green Party for many years now, is facing charges just for going to a protest and being attacked there.

#Seyed M. Marandi

I hear.

#Danny

Yes, so everyone should be aware that there are still consequences for speaking out about Gaza, Palestine, and really all of it—the entire situation, the warmongering, and the genocide, all of it together. So people should support her, you know? I know there's a petition out there, so people should find that on X. It's easy. Go find Jill Stein and sign it. But yeah, definitely keep Palestine in your minds and hearts. Keep the resistance, of course, in your hearts and minds, and we will keep going each day out here. So, Professor Rodney, great to be with you. We'll head out together. Hit the like button before you go. Subscribe, of course. Leave a comment if you'd like. And I'll see you all tomorrow, 2 p.m. Eastern Time, about 24 hours from now. See you then. Bye-bye.