

Seyed M. Marandi: Return to All-Out War - What Happens Now

Seyed Mohammad Marandi discusses the likely return to all-out war. The US announced it would reopen the Strait of Hormuz on May 4, which ended in failure and several attacks. While Trump may attempt to walk it back, it is more likely that there will be a return to all-out war as the window of opportunity is closing for the US. (Recorded May 5, 2026). Follow Prof. Glenn Diesen: Substack: <https://glennDiesen.substack.com/> X/Twitter: https://x.com/Glenn_Diesen Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/glennDiesen> Support the research by Prof. Glenn Diesen: PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/glennDiesen> Buy me a Coffee: buymeacoffee.com/gdiesen Go Fund Me: <https://gofund.me/09ea012f> Books by Prof. Glenn Diesen: <https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09FPQ4MDL>

#Glenn

Welcome back. Today is Tuesday, the 5th of May, 2026, and we are joined by Seyed M. Marandi, a professor at Tehran University and former advisor to the Iranian Nuclear Negotiation Team. Thank you for coming back on. We see that...

#Glenn

Seyed, a lot of things have happened over the past 24 hours. Yesterday, the United States had already announced in advance that it would break open the Strait of Hormuz. And throughout the day, we got many conflicting reports about what was actually happening. So I'm hoping now that things are settling, we have a clearer overview of what actually has been happening. Are we returning to an all-out war, or how are you reading the situation?

#Seyed M. Marandi

I think that as things stand, we are moving towards all-out war. What happened basically was that the Americans, for whatever reason, initiated a new stage in this war by attempting to carry out an operation to take ships out of the Strait of Hormuz, or through the Strait of Hormuz, and it didn't work. What they did do was destroy civilian boats. They claimed that they destroyed military boats, but there were no military boats. Iran is not using its military boats under these circumstances. Right now, Iran only uses—excuse me—Iran only uses its missile systems, and older missile systems for now, against the United States. The missiles that the Iranians have fired at the U.S. ships for the time being are warning shots. It doesn't want to initiate a war.

So it fires warning shots so that the Americans on these naval vessels get nervous, and they see that Iran is serious and pull back. What the Americans did, though, was bomb the boats that were carrying goods. I think five people were killed, all civilians, from the news reports that are coming out. But, of course, Western media is not going to go with that. They'll always go with the official narrative. Just like whenever they bomb Beirut, they call them Hezbollah targets or Hezbollah strongholds. Here they'll go with whatever the American government says. But the Iranians put out a statement with regards to the Emirates, blaming it on the Americans. Now, you could read it both ways — that somehow the Americans did it, or that it's the Americans' fault that the Emirati targets were struck. But in any case, I don't think that the Americans did it.

So I think that basically yesterday didn't turn out well for the United States. The Emirates, which is the representative of the Israeli regime in the Persian Gulf, is an ally of the regime. It is even distancing itself from other Arab countries. And if people go and look on social media, which is not very representative, because pro-Arab regime social media is very active—a lot of money is spent by Arab regimes on social media—and people can go to jail for social media as well. In Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, they pay a lot of money for social media. But even despite all that, in social media society, and on the streets from what I'm hearing, people are supporting Iran when it strikes these countries, except for the Wahhabis and the Salafis, which were always funded by intelligence agencies, ISIS, Al-Qaeda.

These were all tools of the United States and its regional proxies. Those quarters always attack Iran and support whoever is on the other side. But a strong majority of people on the streets throughout the world, they're with Iran against these regimes. And among these regimes, the most despised of them all is the United Arab Emirates because it is openly aligned to the Israeli regime. We hear that Israeli troops are in the country assisting the Emirates. And also the Emirates have been even distancing itself. They've left OPEC. They've left the Organization of Arab Oil Producing Countries. So I think by hitting Emirati targets, that's basically being seen as hitting Israeli targets in today's environment.

So I think this was all a failure. The Americans failed to get ships through. They murdered a handful of ordinary Iranians who were moving cargo on a boat or a couple of boats. Not quite sure—I think two boats. And we are... The only difference is that the global economic crisis is growing. The belief is that within a week or two, the crisis is going to reach new proportions. Until now, it's like a cancer patient or someone who's severely ill and only shows signs of illness, like a fever. So the high oil prices and the high energy prices in general, and the rise in the cost of food and this sort of thing which people are seeing, this is the fever.

But what we are going to start seeing in the days ahead is the supply chains beginning to collapse, and then the global economy is going to be severely disrupted, especially since in today's world they are so interlinked. Unlike the Iranian economy, which has been under siege for decades and is a sort of resistance economy in itself, the global economy is extremely vulnerable because in those supply

chains, if one piece of the supply chain is broken, then the whole supply chain basically becomes useless. So nothing has changed. We're on the verge of war. The Americans have brought in large numbers of troops and equipment for those troops.

Most of those planes, from my understanding, that we've seen go back and forth in the region are from the United States or from U.S. bases in Europe and elsewhere. The focus was on bringing equipment for land offensives. And their troops are, from my understanding, mostly those land troops, based in Kuwait, Bahrain, and the Emirates. That's where they prepared. But of course, the Air Force, U.S. planes and refueling planes, Saudi Arabia, the Israeli regime, and of course Qatar—all of them are involved. But apparently, from what I'm hearing, the ground troops are focused, and most of them are in these countries.

#Glenn

Yeah, I was planning to ask why Iran was hitting the United Arab Emirates, well, let's say disproportionately compared to the other Gulf states, but I guess they have been at the forefront against Iran. That is a bit perplexing to me, though—why the United Arab Emirates is seemingly so gung-ho on war with Iran as opposed to, well, Qatar or Saudi Arabia or others. I did want to ask, though, how you expect the war to go this time around, because last time, when the 40-day war began, there was a big surprise that Iran decided to go quickly up that escalation ladder with the United States—that is, shut down the Strait of Hormuz and go after the U.S. bases. Do you think this escalation this time around will be even, I guess, more intense, or do you think the U.S. will try to keep it, will manage it, because it appears that Americans have a hard time doing this high-intensity warfare over a longer period of time simply by lack of ammunition?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, first of all, there was no... I mean, there shouldn't have been surprise, and I know that you weren't surprised, but I, for one, have been saying that Iran will knock out oil and gas production for around a decade, I suppose. In fact, I remember the first time I said this, it went quite viral. Well, one of the first times that I said it went quite viral, it was on Press TV. It went viral in the Arab countries and the Persian Gulf. And a lot of the people—friends of mine in these countries, or at least acquaintances, friends and acquaintances—contacted me and said, why did you say this? And I said, well, it's a fact. The bases are there, and you'll be complicit, and that's what Iran will do.

So, Iran has been talking about the Strait of Hormuz. I mean, it's not as if I have some, you know, brilliant military mind or I... The Iranians have been saying this. If they just listened to what Iranian senior military officials have been saying over the years, they would have known this would happen. It doesn't take any special mental capabilities or access to intelligence. But the Americans, in that exceptionalist perspective, that exceptionalist worldview, that is their biggest problem, I think,

because they underestimate everyone else. Everyone else is inferior, less intelligent, less sophisticated, less capable. I remember for years, Western media would ridicule Iranian missiles, and they would say, you know, they would make fun of them.

And that's basically not because they had any knowledge that these were inferior missiles, but because they had to be inferior because they were Iranian. You know, they're the mad mullahs, you know, and the medieval Iranians and that sort of nonsense that they've been saying, you know, for decades now. So I think they probably knew what the Iranians were saying, but they just ignored it and said, well, that's just rhetoric coming from Tehran. As soon as we fire a shot, they'll fold. I think that it's difficult to say what will happen because you're right, the Americans are short of ammunition. But also, we are not far from the complete—how should I put it—you know, the complete annihilation of the oil and energy supplies from the Persian Gulf region. During the last war, a lot of damage was done.

You know, the Americans like to say—you know, you heard the Americans say how Iranian oil wells are about to blow up, or Trump said that—which is nonsense. I mean, the Iranians have been used to the sanctions being imposed, the maximum pressure sanctions, and having to cut exports and increase them again. So Iran knows how to play with its oil production, especially since most of Iran's oil production is consumed at home. So it can maneuver. It can decrease production from one well, increase it at another. But the other countries in the Persian Gulf don't have that experience. They've just been, because they're part of the U.S.-led global economic order, they've just been producing oil for decades, and, you know, it's never occurred to them that they could have such problems.

Their oil production has in many cases been almost completely shut down, and gas production has almost been completely shut down. And that does enormous damage. So you have enormous damage to the installations. You have enormous damage to many of their oil and gas wells. And then, of course, you have all these ships that are stuck, and some of them are increasingly being hit. Every few days, a couple of ships are hit. I mean, the more ships that are damaged or destroyed, the worse it becomes when the Strait is finally opened. So if another war starts, then I think we won't have any more oil and gas exported to the world for a very long time. And that means global economic depression.

But even if, let's say, it's a short war—even if it's, let's say, a short war—because you're right, the Americans don't have the sort of ammunition that they need. And there's also another element here too, Glenn, and we've discussed this before. I'm not a military expert—I fought as a volunteer during the war—but you and I both have friends in the military, and we've been on their shows online or with them online. And they agree with what I say. And I mean former American military. And that is that we are in the month of May, and by the end of the month of May, it's going to get very hot and humid in the Arabian Peninsula. And so it's going to be much harder for American troops to be able to function easily under such an environment.

But also, if there is war, and then Trump does go after Iranian infrastructure—again, yesterday he spoke about wiping out the Iranian nation—I mean, it's mind-boggling what Americans and Europeans can say, and no one in the media will be outraged. Not a single journalist will tweet in outrage or anything like that. It's like the daily slaughter that we see in Lebanon. It's just not even mentioned in the Western media—the daily killings in Gaza—and no one even talks about it. It's, you know, we're living in very, uh, very disturbing times, at least when one looks at the Western elites. But, um, if there is war and then they start striking Iranian critical infrastructure, Iran will definitely strike back at the Israeli regime, but also at these regimes.

And the weather in these countries would become intolerable. People would not be able to survive there. They'd have to leave immediately. And then it would not be much different for U.S. troops. So just like in Russia or the Soviet Union back in the day, winter was a general of its own to help the Russians fight their wars, the summer would be very helpful to the Iranian side. So the window of opportunity for the Americans has become smaller, and they do have a shortage of ammunition. So I find it a bit difficult to imagine that the Americans are going to go for a long war. And so it will probably be short and intense, and the Iranians have said they're going to be very intense.

And you know, one thing that the Americans should appreciate, and that is that whenever the Iranians say that we're more prepared than before, they don't lie. The Iranians don't lie about these things. True Promise 2 was very different from True Promise 1. Both were sort of trial runs. They were practice runs. Then True Promise 3, we saw during the 12-day war that Iran was—they won that war, despite the fact that they were hit hard on day one. But they won. And then the 39 days of fighting, they won. Hands down. No doubt about it. And then the siege. I mean, if the siege was so effective, the Americans wouldn't be provoking Iran right now. All they'd have to do is... I mean, right now the Americans are carrying out siege warfare. So there's still war.

This is not peace. This is an act of war. But if they're really succeeding, then all they have to do is just stop talking, lay back, and wait. But the reality is that time is on Iran's side, and they know it. The global economy is collapsing, or it's moving towards collapse very swiftly, and the Iranians will tolerate this. If that wasn't the case, we wouldn't have this new operation. Trump wouldn't have begun a new stage in the conflict. The only reason he's doing that is because siege warfare is not working. And so I think that's another sign of desperation. But the problem is that the more the Americans wait, the closer we get to the cliff, and whether he carries out an operation or not, it makes it even worse because we're so much closer to the cliff.

So I would imagine that if he starts a war because of the heat, because of the shortage of ammunition, and because of the harsh Iranian response, it may not last that long. But it's not going to solve any problems because ultimately the crisis is because of the Strait of Hormuz. And we saw that in his operation, he failed. Nothing changed in the Strait of Hormuz. It just showed that Iran is in full control. And the Emirates were badly damaged. I mean, the damage done to the Emirati, the

remainder of the Emirati oil exports under these circumstances, where there's such a huge shortage, was enormous. And also it tells us what could easily happen to Saudi, the remainder of Saudi oil exports which go to the Red Sea, if there's a new conflict.

#Glenn

Now, on that topic, though, the way the media has been talking down the Iranian military capabilities, this is such a common theme, this self-delusion, if you will. And there's a book I would recommend to viewers by a Holocaust survivor, Viktor Klemperer. He wrote a book on the language of the Third Reich, and he was making the point that when you have one side seeing itself as being superior, it often manifests itself in this duality where they had complete contempt for the Jews as being inferior, but at the same time they would be threatening civilization itself. And you see with Iran this superiority-inferiority reference.

It's always the backwardness which is always assumed — that they can't make a drone that works or missiles. At the same time, Iran is an overwhelming threat to the entire world, and you know, so we have to fight, and it's only a lack of will. If one fights, the whole thing will fall apart. And they do the same with Russia, by the way. It's a gas station masquerading as a country, but it's also a threat to all of civilization. But we have to fight, and if we do, it will fall over fairly quickly because, again, they're weak. And same with China. The only reason why they have good technology is because they stole it from us, but they're a massive threat. So if we just tighten the screws in terms of economic war, then surely they will fall apart.

And then, time and time again, they're always surprised when, oh, well, I guess it's not like this. And this is, I think, something inherited from not just the past 30 years of unipolarity, but five centuries of Western dominance, that it can't help but fuel some self-delusion. And they often end up with these two views, both duty and superiority — that it's both weak but also a massive threat. So it's an interesting thing to look into. You mentioned something interesting, though — that is, you know, the Americans were saying that the blockade on Iran was working. That's what politicians and journalists were reassuring everyone every day. But yet, even though they said it was working, it was suffocating Iran.

The U.S. decided to return to war, which it doesn't really have a good plan for. It seems to be an indication that perhaps this was not true, that the blockade was working. But what do you think the purpose is? Because they know that they can't break it open, I guess. Was it to probe Iran, see if Iran would stand down? It's just hard to see, because also the U.S. was the one who really wanted the negotiations to get the ceasefire in place. We know this because they agreed to Iran's 10-point plan. So how do you make sense of this? Because they finally got their ceasefire, they learned that if they start fighting, they might not be able to choose how the war ends or when it gets to end, and yet they decide to go back into this.

#Seyed M. Marandi

You know, Glenn, I think it goes back again to what you just said — that these narrative buildings are not just about the last 30 years. They're the result of 500 years of empire. So even when their actions lead to results that are unexpected, because their predictions are based on that sense of superiority and this alleged backwardness, stupidity, ignorance, and inferiority of the other — or the Iranians in particular, and probably the Iranians more than anyone else — even when that happens, it doesn't change their mentality. So, for example, their expectation was that Iran would collapse in the 12-day war, and Western embassies in Tehran reacted in such a manner. It was clear that they were expecting collapse, like in two days.

And when Iran came out on top, that didn't change the mentality. So they were surprised. But then when the new war, the Ramadan War, the 39 days of fighting began, they again expected Iran to collapse. And even friends of mine in different parts of the world who I've been in communication with, they all say how surprised they are and how surprised others were that Iran performed so well, and Hezbollah also — how extraordinarily well they both performed. So you would think that, okay, well then these are going to bring about new realistic calculations, but they don't. So when the ceasefire began, then the Americans said, well, now the Iranians, you know, they're broken and they're on the ropes.

And so all we have to do is just keep threatening them with renewed conflict, as if they were not the ones who were seeking the ceasefire in the first place. Because after a few days, they were constantly sending messages. Apparently, after three or four days, Wyckoff was sending messages. But after 10 days, I know they were officially sending messages. And the Iranians ignored them until like day 30, 34, 35, or something like that, when the Americans sent that 15-point plan and Iran rejected it. And then Iran gave its own plan, a 10-point plan, and Trump accepted it as a framework for negotiations, as you alluded to earlier. And so they were the ones who wanted the ceasefire.

They were the ones who had to accept Iran's terms for the framework, and Trump was attacked because of that. But then again, they go back into that old mentality that, you know, they're on the ropes. I saw this clip from this so-called Iran expert. I don't want to name him — he's not even worthy of naming — but he was saying, like, the Iranians are desperate, they're trying to train dolphins to attack American ships. I think you tweeted it too, but I did as well. I don't know if I saw yours and then did it, I don't recall. But it's like, you know, completely — these are utterly unserious people. But these are the people they listen to in Washington.

And not just the Trump regime, the Obama regime, the Biden regime, the Bush regime. You know, these are like the experts. Like, OK, I mean, this is a Soviet thing, by the way. You know this better than I do, that, you know, the training dolphins aspire to do whatever. I remember when I was young, I heard that, you know, I heard about the Soviets training dolphins to do whatever. But, you know, it's a complete joke. But he's trying to imply that Iran is desperate. And because there's a

vested interest in this as well, not only because of this Orientalist mindset and this supremacist mindset or the Zionist mindset, you know, where they're the master race and the rest of us are subhuman, but also because they're so deeply invested in this.

All these people who are funded to talk about Iran, that's what they've been saying all their lives. They're not going to suddenly reverse course and say, oh, actually, the Iranians are very smart, they're very good, they're very sophisticated, their state, their constitution works so well, their leader is murdered in a time of war by the superpower. They're not going to say that. They're going to continue to somehow repeat the same narrative, but justify it with evidence from here and there. So nothing has really changed. Again, this is all speculation on my behalf to get to the answer to your question. So I think during the ceasefire period and after, the United States did this — brilliant, because they were saying how brilliant it is — the siege on the Iranian ports.

Well, first it was a siege on the whole Persian Gulf. And then they thought, well, that's not smart. So they went and said this is on Iranian ports. So it just shows how brilliant they are. And then, well, they said, oh, this is great, this is brilliant. I mean, you know, first of all, it's utterly stupid because if you wanted to do this, you should have done it when you started the war on day one, not now. So the Strait of Hormuz was closed basically to everyone but Iran for years — 50 days or so. And remember, they were saying that they removed sanctions from Iranian oil. And they said, look, we are smart, this is actually to the detriment of Iran. And so Iran was selling its oil for 50 days at a very high price, and before they struck Iranian petrochemicals and all that.

So Iran was the only side making a lot of money. Well, you should have done that on day one. Because right now Iran has a lot of money. And they've also sold all their oil that was on the seas. And some of the Russians, by the way. But Iran had a lot more. And that's another indication of how bad the situation is. Because Iran no longer has any... Iran had almost 200 million barrels on the sea. And the Russians had a substantial amount, not as much, but I don't know how much it was, but all that's gone. It's finished. So the markets are tightening and tightening. But in any case, if they wanted to be... I mean, and the Iranians were prepared for that.

The Iranians thought that the Americans were going to impose a siege on the Persian Gulf from day one. So they already had plans to start doing trade with Pakistan and trade with these other countries, trying to find markets in neighboring countries for their oil and so on and so forth. But the Americans did the opposite. So in any case, finally, after 50-some days, they began their brilliant siege. They weren't thinking that the global economy is heading for the... It's already rushing to... They're already pushing the global economy towards a cliff, and now all they're going to do is push it faster.

And... so I think they thought that, well, we'll impose a siege, and the Iranians, they're desperate, and they need a way out, and they're not like us, and they can't continue. Again, the same narrative, the same mentality. So the war, Iran's abilities during the 39 days, all of that will go. They'll start listening to their Iran experts saying they're desperate at home, the economic situation is horrible. I

don't know, maybe if, let's say, next week or somewhere, 50 people gather somewhere saying we need jobs, they'll focus on that and say, look, the regime is about to collapse, you know, that sort of thing. And then they will just continue down the same path.

So I think what Trump did was that he was—this is my guess, sorry for that long rambling introduction—I think he wanted to see if the Iranians would react, or whether the Iranians would be intimidated and allow them to do this. Because it doesn't make sense for me to view it in any other way. I mean, nothing has changed to make it possible for the Americans just to go in and have these ships leave. The Iranian military is prepared. Since the ceasefire, they've been working day and night to rebuild their assets and also to develop new capabilities. So the only thing that comes to my mind is that he and his people thought that Iran is scared, that Iran doesn't want war.

So maybe if we go and say we're taking out these ships, the mere Iranians would calculate and say that it's not a good idea to stand in their way and to hit back and prevent them from doing this. And, of course, the opposite happened. This is how I see it. Now, maybe in a few days you're going to get some report from some American newspaper saying that this was just some other unused stupid idea by Hegseth or something like that, and there will be a different explanation. But that's the only thing I can think of—that they were hoping that, oh, Iran is tired and Iran is worn out and Iran is scared and they're desperate to have this over. So now we'll just move in, have those ships come out, and they won't dare hit us. Something like that.

#Glenn

You might probably—well, you're probably correct on this—that this was just Trump trying to do some probing to see if Iran would let it pass. Because once the hostilities broke out, it seemed that Trump was careful about calling it a breach of the ceasefire, and he tried to minimize, you know, to talk down how severe what actually happened was. You know, this is what you would expect from someone who's probing and then trying to walk it back, as opposed to Lindsey Graham and the Israelis, who are now yelling at the top of their lungs that, you know, this is a breach, you know, now we will have to go back to war.

So it could be, but again, I try not to listen too much to what Trump is actually saying, but you might be onto something there. It is, yeah, the expert class you refer to. It is interesting because, you know, I always told my students—I was teaching at this Department of Policing, Intelligence, and Counterterrorism—that you should never hate your enemies or your opponents, because you can't have any serious analysis once you hate them. And the problem, I think, is often a common theme I've noticed in the West now is that it's obligatory to hate opponents, whether it's the Iranians, the Russians, or the Chinese. And I think this is how the expert class is formed.

They're loyal to narratives, and that's why they're brought back as experts, because they help to maintain and manage the narrative. But again, it is obligatory to hate the opponent, though. This is a very important part of the narrative, that they are evil and weak. But yeah, again, I think this is a

reason why all the analysis and thus the policies deriving from it are so horrible. Just my last question, though, is if you would make any predictions—I know most people do not care for it—but if we do return now to an all-out war, what do you expect to happen this time around? Do you think the Red Sea will be closed off quickly? Would the UAE get more involved? I mean, what do you expect to, what might happen if we go down that path?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, the UAE is not important. There's not much it can do. There's nothing it can contribute to the U.S. war effort. It's hard to say. It depends on how long the war lasts and how much the Americans will escalate. So, for example, Iran has—from my understanding—Iran has the capability to sink U.S. naval ships at a pretty long range. That's what I heard from someone who is pretty credible a couple of weeks ago. But the Iranians never did that because they have this plan.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Which is linked to the escalation ladder. So it depends on how high up the escalation ladder the Americans go. The Red Sea—its closure has a lot to do, again, with how far up the escalation ladder the Americans go, or even an assault from Yemen into Saudi Arabia. The same is true in Iraq. The Iraqi capabilities go far further than Iraq, what they did, even though they were very active during the war, the Iraqi resistance. But the amount of the increase in their offensive actions depends on the escalation. And so I think a lot will depend on what the Americans do—how intense the strikes will be, how long-lasting they will be, and what the targets are. If the Americans, because it's possible, and I'm just, again, speculating, if the Americans go for like a two-, three-day attack or a short attack, and then they want to say, okay, now we've won.

We finished them off and we really hit them hard. And if they don't hit anything like critical infrastructure, then that will cause further damage. Iran will strike back, hit back hard, bomb Iran, strike missiles, fire a lot of missiles at Israel and the Israeli regime and U.S. targets and targets inside these countries. But that's one that would be more limited. If the United States, though, starts striking Iran's electrical power plants as they've threatened, and bridges, then I think... I think that's the end of the countries in the Persian Gulf region. I've been saying this since the beginning of the war, that that would be the end. And I've been telling people in these countries, as a citizen, that they should be prepared to leave if that's what's going to happen.

But one thing I'd like to add, Glenn, is that Iran has been very careful about civilian targets. We had 3,400 or so people murdered by the Americans and Israelis, and with the complicity of these Arab regimes, including Jordan. If you look at the numbers in the Persian Gulf, the number of people who died as a result of Iran's strikes—and we saw how much damage they did from Kuwait to the Emirates—like 20 people died, or less than 20 people. So Iran has always been very careful not to target civilians. But the only way to prevent the Americans, to make them refrain from trying to wipe us out or take us back to the Stone Age or make our civilization disappear, is the threat of retaliation.

And I'm sure you definitely recall that when they struck Iran's South Pars gas field, the Iranians hit back very hard at Qatar and the Emirates. And then Trump put out that Truth Social post saying, "I didn't know about this. Netanyahu is not going to do this anymore." Why? Because Iran said, if you escalate, we're going to escalate too. We're going to respond, and we're going to hit even harder. And so if they go after Iran's critical infrastructure, then Iran is going to go after critical infrastructure in Israel, but also in these regimes at a time when it's winter and when the world is very dependent and hoping for all this to end so that they can have energy from the Persian Gulf region. So if their electrical power plants are hit, and they have just a few...

Iran's electrical power plants are spread out across the country. They have like 80, 90 power plants. There are only a handful in the Persian Gulf, and they're very large. So all Iran has to do is hit them—there's no electricity. Now, gas and oil installations, they can strike those, and with one blow, they can take Qatar back 20 years. But if they take out the electrical power plants, then everyone will leave. It will be very, very hot and humid, and American soldiers will have to leave. So that would be a different scenario. And that would mean that we are definitely going to head for a global depression—not a recession, a global depression—for years. But if it's short, it's still going to make things worse because negotiations and a real ceasefire, that is only going to be set back further.

And time is not on the side of the Americans. If it was, as we discussed earlier, they wouldn't have started this. Trump wouldn't have started this new operation. He would just have said, okay, let's sit back and wait till the Iranians fall apart, as they were supposed to do at the beginning of the 12-day war and at the beginning of this war. And then we'll just move on to something else and then go and kill the Cubans and slaughter the Cuban people, which is next on the list. Hopefully, and this is the hope in Iran, this is what Iranians are saying, that we'll be able to weaken the Americans so badly that they'll no longer be able to go after the Cubans and that the Venezuelans will get their country back. In any case, I think it all depends on the scale of escalation, the length of escalation.

And for me, that's impossible to assess because Trump is just Trump. He's, you know, Netanyahu and the Zionists want a long and brutal war. I think probably he does not want more war. So it may be that he goes down their road. It may be that he goes somewhere in the middle, some short-term war, especially, as I said, because of the heat and all that. But then it depends. Is it going to be intense or not intense? And the fact that Trump said that this wasn't a breach of the ceasefire, even though it was a breach—and it was, it was he that breached the ceasefire—but the very fact that he played this down, I don't want to read too much into it, but for whatever reason he said that, it does show that he is worried.

#Glenn

Well, I have a bit different expectations about Cuba, though. I think that after a humiliating defeat against Iran, the U.S., or Trump especially, then would have to score a victory. So I don't think Iran's victory necessarily would be good for Cuba. I think, yeah, that the U.S. would not be more

measured. I think they would only have to, I guess, yeah, find another victory. Anyways, thank you very much for taking the time so early in the day to speak with me. And yeah, please stay safe over there. And I hope this war won't spin out of control.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, thank you, Glenn. It's always a pleasure, always an honor. And hopefully, whether it's in our region, in the Caribbean, or elsewhere, people see better days ahead.