

# Iran DESTROYS MQ-9 Drone Over Hormuz, Gulf States HUMILIATE Trump | Marandi

Mohammad Marandi joins the show to discuss the latest developments in Iran's retaliation to the war as Trump shows major signs of desperation for a deal on US terms. We review the latest news and analysis on not only the war, but the regional situation in West Asia and the state of the empire in day 69 of US Israeli aggression. Going to Tehran: <https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250043535/goingtotehran/> LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis! Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> #iran #trump #iranwar

## #Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Mohammad Marandi, joining from Tehran. Professor Marandi, good to see you again.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Hi, Danny. Very glad to see you too, and thank you very much for inviting me.

## #Danny

Of course, everyone, hit the like button as you come on. That helps boost the show in YouTube's algorithm. So personally, how about we start with this? There's been a flare-up in the last 48 to 72 hours, of course. You know, we haven't spoken in about a week or so. In the last 48 to 72 hours, there's been a lot of activity in the Strait of Hormuz. Just in the last 24 hours, there was footage going around—here's The Cradle sharing it from Fars News—of an MQ-9 Reaper drone which was shot down over the Strait of Hormuz. And this comes for us, Marandi, as there are reports about this Project Freedom. Trump said that he was going to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz as a humanitarian mission, and then it was canceled very abruptly.

Now, reports coming out of NBC say that Saudi Arabia, Oman, and many other Gulf countries had actually shut down U.S. access—or the U.S.'s access—to military bases and their assets in the region, which prevented Trump and the United States from engaging in Project Freedom. So, Professor Marandi, what is your impression of the situation right now when it comes to the war? And

what do you mean? It seems like there's kind of a cascading number of humiliations that the Trump administration is incurring as they drag on this period of no peace, but also a bit of hesitation in restarting the war, despite all the clamor about it.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Yes, I mean, if we just go back during the last year, during the 12-day war, Trump demanded unconditional surrender after a couple of days, I suppose. I don't remember exactly when he said that. And that war didn't end well. And it was clear that when it came to a one-on-one confrontation with the Israeli regime, even though the United States was involved, they were refueling Israeli regime jets, and Jordan was helping with the radar systems in the Persian Gulf. All of them were assisting the Americans and the Israeli regime. And Turkey's airspace and the U.S. bases in Turkey were assisting with the war against Iran.

And yet, despite all that, the Iranians won the war, even though it was a blitzkrieg attack, when the United States came in with a much larger force than anything the Israeli regime could muster. Of course, the Americans did take part in the 12-day war with one strike on Iran's nuclear installations. But when the United States prepared for the Ramadan War, which began with the assault on the schoolchildren and the leader, and other political and military figures, again, Trump, when that started, demanded unconditional surrender. It's as if in the West they can't get over this notion that Iran is a sophisticated society. It has a high degree of public legitimacy, the Islamic Republic, and Iran's people are resilient, resistant.

Its armed forces are competent and capable. They just can't seem to comprehend this. It just doesn't fit with that Orientalist narrative of theirs. And of course, Trump has had successes across the world in bullying countries over tariffs and a host of other issues, except for China. But he's bullied India, he's bullied the Europeans, he's bullied the Latin Americans, and so on. So in the 39 days of fighting, we went from unconditional surrender to a one-point plan as a framework for negotiations. That was humiliating. And Trump was attacked for it, left and right, in the United States. He was ridiculed. And then his spokeswoman, she said, no, no, we are, you know, we threw it in the bin, but he accepted this.

That's the only reason why Iran halted the fighting. Otherwise, Iran was more than prepared to continue. But it was a symbolic defeat for the United States, for Trump in particular. And I mean, whenever I say the United States, I mean the Trump regime and the elites. Otherwise, the American people are against war, they're against this war, and they're victims like everyone else. So then we had the ceasefire negotiations. And during this period, especially with the siege that the United States imposed, again, they were claiming that they'd starve the Iranian people. They were gloating, thinking that they'd starve the Iranian people. That hasn't worked.

It shows their inhumanity, that they tried to starve ordinary people, but it failed. And what happened since was that the entire world, its suffering became worse thanks to Trump. So Trump and

Netanyahu and the Zionists have imposed an economic crisis on the world. And then after the ceasefire, they made it worse and worse by violating the ceasefire and then imposing a siege on the Strait of Hormuz. And it obviously wasn't going well. Otherwise, we wouldn't have had this operation or Project Freedom if all they had to do was just sit back and wait for Iran to collapse if things were going well. So obviously, they weren't going well. This also failed. And it was clear from the beginning that it would fail.

I think it was a sign of desperation. And so regardless of what the reasons were behind it, whether the Saudis did prevent Trump from using their airspace or whether that was not the case, it wouldn't have made a difference. They would have failed as they were failing when they started, because their hope was that the Iranians would be intimidated into not responding. And that was not the case. And we saw, regardless of who struck the Emirates—some say the Iranians did it, some say the Saudis did it, some say the Americans did it—but regardless of that, a number of ships were hit and nothing came out of this. So another defeat for Trump. And as I was telling you before the show, the belief is that there's a— I mean, this has been the belief for a couple of weeks now— that an attack could be imminent.

And they are on full alert in Iran. It could be tonight. It could be tomorrow. It could be over the weekend. No one knows. It may not happen. I mean, the belief is that it shouldn't happen because we're approaching the meeting between President Xi of China and Trump, the president of the United States. But then again, we're talking about Trump, and he's not sane. I was telling you before the show that you have to put yourself into the head of an insane person if you want to try to analyze Trump. And for you and I and your entire audience, except for maybe one or two who may be listening on behalf of the Trump regime, I don't think we have any insane people among us. I'm pretty sure we don't. So it's failure after failure. And if the United States attacks again, they will fail.

They will only make the world economic crisis worse and probably make a global depression inevitable. Right now, we are definitely heading for a major recession. And if this continues for much longer, it will be a depression. But if we get into a war, even if it's a short-term war, I think the depression would be— it would be pretty— I think we can say with confidence that there will be a depression. And even if it's a short war, it could lead to a major depression, depending on if the United States starts targeting, and Netanyahu starts targeting Iran's vital infrastructure. Then Iran will strike the Israeli regime's vital infrastructure and the vital infrastructure, bases, and regimes across the Persian Gulf that were part of this.

Remember, without these five Arab regimes and Jordan, the United States can't engage in war against Iran. It's just not possible. Logistically speaking, it's not possible. So we are where we are. It's failure after failure for Trump. But there are those in Iran who believe that Trump is gambling and he's desperate, but he thinks that maybe this time around, if he bets the house and the car and everything—if that's what you say in English—then he has a chance to win back everything and

leave this victorious. But in my opinion, it's inevitable that this is going to be a catastrophic failure for the United States, thanks to Trump and Netanyahu in particular. Because at the end of the day, the driving force behind this catastrophe is Zionism.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, that begs the question. You said, you know, you made, I think, a really interesting comment when you said that regardless of who has been responsible for the strikes that are happening in and around the Strait of Hormuz in the last few days. You know, some people have been pointing out, could there be some kind of Israeli involvement, sabotage? You had the UAE saying that they were activating their air defenses. Well, then against who? And then Iran says that actually the U.S. was causing all kinds of chaos through friendly fire and this, uh, haphazard Project Freedom, which, um, you know, uh, killed, uh, Iranian civilians. I believe two boats were hit, but overall Iran is pointing the finger right back at the U.S. for every single strike.

It seems like that happened in the last 48 to 72 hours, involving the United States, including the South Korean vessel, which, uh, was hit in the Strait of Hormuz. They're saying that, uh, they had no part in that either. So, uh, all in all, it seems like the results are the same—that this is not making the situation better. And Trump had to go out with his tail between his legs and stop this, regardless of the reasons. But now it seems like the Gulf countries are either being thrown under the bus or they are smartening up maybe to the fact that if this escalates, if Project Freedom would have escalated into a full shooting war, well, we know who would be paying the price for that. It would not necessarily be Israel. It would be the Gulf states in particular. But what are your thoughts on this?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

You're right. I mean, there are no casualties among the Iranian military. No Iranian military boats or ships or speedboats were attacked. And so it just shows how incompetent the military of the United States is. And they've been hitting—they hit civilian boats. The people who were on those boats, they're civilians. They've been named. The survivors were interviewed, and the boat and the damage were seen. It's evident for all. But that's just how the Trump regime works. When they bomb schools, they don't take responsibility. In that case, I think it was intentional. And here it may have been intentional too. I mean, they may have struck these civilian targets intentionally.

Who knows what goes on in the minds of these Epstein-class employees. But the important thing is that every day that goes by, we're heading closer towards a global catastrophe. And right now the world is like a patient who has a fever. And all we see is the fever, but we don't see what's going on inside. So all we see now are high prices—high oil prices, energy prices, food prices. But we don't see that all those products that were coming from the Persian Gulf—petrochemicals and fertilizers

and different forms of energy and refined goods—all of those are used in all sorts of different factories and production lines and businesses. And each one of these that's cut off is going to cause disruption.

And so you're going to have disruption across the world in the coming days and weeks grow and grow, because now finally the shortages—the real shortages—are beginning to emerge. So each day that goes by without Trump trying to find a reasonable solution, a peaceful solution, is only going to make things a lot worse. But the United States does not have the will to do so. The Zionist lobby does not seem interested in allowing for the ceasefire agreement to be implemented. The Zionists and Netanyahu are hell-bent on keeping up the flames and continuing the slaughter in Lebanon, continuing to push for confrontation in the Persian Gulf region. And so, this escalation—it doesn't seem as if there's anyone in the White House who has the ability to discontinue the escalation.

## **#Danny**

Well, in the beginning of the program, I showed what seemed to be the refueling engine of the MQ-9 Reaper drone that was shot down. And there have just been many reports now from us and from Broad and Deep that are showing what you're saying—that things are getting worse. And it's not necessarily getting worse for the Iranian side. Not only are there reports that seemingly every time any kind of U.S. military aircraft gets close to Iran, it is targeted, but there's also the fact that Iran has been rebuilding the bridges and the homes that were partially or fully destroyed during the war.

There's also the announcement of the Persian Gulf Authority, the Persian Strait Authority, that Iran has announced, which by itself sent oil prices rising again because it showed that Iran is not capitulating. Maybe you can go into some detail about these things—like, what about Iran's trajectory right now is making it so hard for the United States and, of course, its Israeli backers to make a concerted decision about what it's going to do? It feels very much like they're kind of trapped—damned if you do, damned if you don't kind of situation.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Yes, I think what, for example, Axios did yesterday was clearly an attempt to manage the markets and to manipulate the markets. And it worked with some success, at least on, you know, as they say. But on the spot market, it's a very different situation altogether. So I'm sure that lots of money was made yesterday thanks to the fake Axios report on this one-page agreement between Iran and the United States, which was fabricated. There was no such thing at all. It was a fabrication from beginning to end. And I would imagine because here the belief is that Axios is controlled by Wykoff for psychological warfare and for market manipulation.

So the belief here is that some people must have made a lot of money yesterday with the Axios report. And Axios does that regularly. No one should take Axios seriously. It is just a tool for psychological warfare, but more importantly now, increasingly, just for market manipulation. These

people have become so greedy, and they've been making so much money by manipulating the market that they just seem to have forgotten the original reason why Axios was being used as a tool. So they can bring down the prices on paper, but that's not going to change the reality, because every day that goes by, the deficit in oil is going to increase.

The deficit in LNG and natural gas and all the pharmaceutical products, helium, and the fertilizers, all these things are just going to increase. And of course, these Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf, they're not making any money. So they're probably going to have to withdraw cash from their assets in the West, from the stock market, the bond market. And they're obviously not contributing anymore to the bond market and the stock market. So there are so many ways in which, you know, as we move forward, things are getting worse. And, you know, we discussed earlier that the supply chains across the world are being affected.

And we're going to kind of say that we're going to be seeing this more clearly during this month, the month of May. So it's not good. It's all bad. Every day that goes by, it just gets worse for Trump. It gets worse for Netanyahu. The world sees who's behind all this misery. It is Netanyahu. It is Zionism. Two and a half years of genocide, and now this. Even countries like India or the Europeans or the Australians or New Zealand and Canada, who supported genocide and the genocidal regime during the genocide, even they are not spared. Or the British, they're not being spared by the Israeli regime and Netanyahu and his sidekick, Trump.

## **#Danny**

Mm-hmm. Yes, very true, Professor Moradi. One question I really wanted to ask you — you know, RT did a report where they asked Iranians on the streets about their gas prices, and everyone said that the price of gas to refuel their vehicles has actually not gone up and that it's remained steady throughout this whole crisis. And they're referencing things I had no idea about — you know, fuel cards, this kind of thing. I mean, Iranian society, even for someone like me who tries to understand, I don't. So can you help us? Right now in the United States, because of this war, as far as California, you have prices nearly \$7 a gallon.

Here on the East Coast, it's somewhere between \$4 to \$5 a gallon — \$4.50, \$4.60 on average. And it's only getting worse. What's going on here? Why? It seems like what the U.S. has done and what Israel has done is, as you said, attempted to starve and destroy the world economy to achieve objectives they truly can't achieve. So maybe you can help us understand this contrast. Is it true? Is it true that Iran is able to keep things very steady for the people there while the rest of the world is kind of at the whims of the U.S., at least much of the rest of the world, maybe not the whole world?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, the price of gasoline in Iran in American gallons would be \$0.04 to \$0.10 a gallon. I hope none of your viewers have...

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Have collapsed or fainted.

## **#Danny**

Everyone's going to move. Now we're going to have droves of, you know, we had TikTok refugees on Xiaohongshu. Soon we're going to have little mini boats showing up on the shores of Iran.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Yeah, so it's something around, I think, four to ten cents a gallon, depending on the rate. There are three different rates for gasoline at the pump. And yeah, also, to make it worse, Iranian electricity is subsidized, as all energy in Iran is heavily subsidized, which is not really a good thing either. I mean, it increases consumption and waste, and obviously, it does not create an incentive for investment and so on. But in any case, that is a reality. I mean, cheap energy is a good thing, but the government is heavily subsidizing Iranian gasoline and energy for ordinary Iranians. There have been some small moves to rectify this, limited moves. But we are where we are right now, especially when it comes to gasoline.

## **#Danny**

Hmm, yeah.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

At least for now, we have no shortage.

## **#Danny**

Wow. Yeah, well, I think this kind of proves we didn't need a U.S.—I don't know if you saw, there's a U.S. intelligence report from Iran that just came out. That was the Washington Post reporting on it, saying that Iran has the ability to outlast Trump's blockade for months, they say. And they threw in another little bone there, saying Iran's missile and drone arsenal is still very formidable. But I think, just from what you said there, it seems like there's a big commitment to ensure that, yeah, any blockade will be thwarted even at home. But there's also this reality that U.S. intelligence is sounding the alarm that it doesn't matter how long the United States—can the United States go months trying to use its Navy to chase around tankers, you know, outside of the Persian Gulf? I don't know. But what's your reaction to this? It seems like there's some linkage with what you're saying in this report.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, you know, it's also about water. Remember when Netanyahu used to say that we don't have any water? Well, we still do. We haven't run out of water either. So I just drank it for the sake of netting out. Yeah, I wasn't thirsty, but I couldn't refrain from doing that. Anyway, yeah, so we have water. We have gasoline. Look, I mean, the economy is hurting. They bombed a lot of factories. They bombed hospitals. They bombed pharmaceutical factories. They bombed the Iranian steel industry. They bombed petrochemical plants. They bombed the Iranian gas fields. They've done a lot of damage. They've murdered many people. They've bombed colleagues at universities. They bombed many universities, many universities and many university buildings, engineering buildings mostly.

And they've bombed, they've murdered, they've assassinated professors, Americans and Israelis. And what they would do is wait for them to go see their families. And so when they go to see their families, then they would kill them, their families, and their neighbors together. They bombed—I mean, I think I told you this before on the show—that a friend of mine, a very close friend of mine, who I speak to at least three, four times a week, his brother-in-law, he's a businessman, a small businessman, he hired two truck drivers to take goods from his city to another city or vice versa, I don't know. And the Americans—and it was in the South—the Americans bombed both trucks and murdered the truck drivers and, of course, all the goods. So this is Trump. This is the United States. These are U.S. pilots. These are Zionist pilots there.

They have no sense of morality. They've encompassed evil, but this is what we face. So there is hardship, and of course the siege, without a doubt, has an impact. And it's not as if it's just a joke—it does impact. If we have inflation, and you have inflation, you have people who've lost jobs. And of course, the government is not the most—I mean, previous governments too. I'm not blaming this administration, but different administrations in Iran, they've had their own incompetence and corruption and shortcomings. And then when you have a crisis like this, obviously it gets worse, significantly worse.

But the thing is that Iranians know why they are suffering. They know that it's war. It's an unjust war. They were minding their own business, and then twice in less than a year they were assaulted. Forget the maximum pressure sanctions that the Collective West imposes. Forget all the other crimes that they carried out—the armed insurrection that we saw a few months ago, and support for terrorist groups in Iraqi Kurdistan and across Pakistan, alongside the Pakistani border with Iran. All that, you know. But people see that they're waging war against them, so it makes them more resilient, more patient.

And of course, the government has to do more to deal with these problems that we have in society as a result of all these crimes. So that is true. But as I was saying earlier, if the United States is winning this siege warfare, this attempt—as many American senators were gloating on Fox News, saying, "We're starving Iranians, they don't have any food to eat," obviously taking pleasure in this idea—but that's not happening. And if it was happening, then why would Trump go and carry out

this Project Freedom, or attempt to carry out Project Freedom? He would show patience. So there's a reason why he was impatient. And that failed too. So we are where we are.

It may be that the United States will launch an attack tonight, tomorrow, the day after, or over the weekend. But that won't work either. It'll only make things much, much, much worse. There may be a land attack. These are things that, therefore, they are foreseeing. I mean, it's not for sure that any of this will happen, but the belief is that that's what the Americans were prepared for. They didn't bring all this equipment for nothing. A lot of the equipment they brought into the region during the ceasefire—to the Emirates, Kuwait, and Bahrain, apparently in particular—there are lots of ground troops and a lot of equipment that they brought in. Much of the air force is in Qatar.

## **#Danny**

And Saudi Arabia and the Emirates too.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

So the Iranians recognize that they believe the chances for another assault by Trump and Netanyahu are high, but it's not going to make it any better for them. It's only going to make the global economic situation far worse. And it is not going to cause Iran to change its position on the Strait of Hormuz. The Iranians have prepared themselves for a ground defense. They'll probably allow the Americans to take an island, whatever it is they want to take—like an island or two, a few islands, or the main area on the mainland—and then they'll start bombing them. And as you know, we discussed this before, summer is approaching. The month of May is a transition month.

It is for you, just like we have—just like the Russians have General Winter, we have General Summer—and the Arabian Peninsula is going to be extremely hot. And if there is war and the Americans do indeed carry out their threats to destroy Iran's critical infrastructure, then Iran will do the same to the Israeli regime and the U.S. proxies in the Persian Gulf region, which would mean that those countries will become empty of their population because it will just not be possible for people to live there anymore. The same would be true for American troops. So, you know, again, it goes back to what you and I—what I was saying before the show. You would think that the United States under Trump would say, okay, enough is enough. Let's go for a solution.

But you and I and your audience, we don't have the ability to go into the head of an insane psychopath, or at least, you know, not completely sane, but definitely a psychopath—the mind of a not completely sane person, but who is a psychopath. We don't have that ability, thank God. And hopefully none of us will ever have that capability. So it's impossible to predict what will happen in the days ahead. You, again, as I said earlier, you think that because of the heat and because of the visit to China, the United States would not take this course of action. But the Iranians are fully

prepared. They believe that Trump is not a person who is sane and rational, and he doesn't care about his country. Netanyahu doesn't care about the United States. Zionists don't care about the United States. So everything is possible.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, you might have seen President Trump's latest comments. I'll just read them: that there will be no deal with Iran except unconditional surrender. And then after that, the selection of a great and acceptable leader, apostrophe S. We and many of our wonderful and very brave allies and partners will work tirelessly to bring Iran back from the brink of destruction, making it economically better, bigger, and stronger than before. Iran will have a great future. Make Iran great again. I mean, this almost is beyond parody at this point. We even had Jesse Watters on Fox News. I don't know if you saw this.

When Project Freedom was called off, he said that this is an attempt by the Trump administration to give Iran the ability to save face. And then Politico said that there were Gulf sources telling them that actually Trump is trying to save face with these measures, to keep the war at this very low level and to keep the blockade going while also not restarting strikes. There's a lot of contradictions here, but I think all of them point to a bit of confusion on the part of the U.S. administration on what to do from here. Because as you said, strikes could happen. I'm sure there are many on the side of the Pentagon.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

This tweet is from, like, minutes ago, I suppose.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, this is from minutes ago.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

It would indicate that he wants to carry out attacks, probably, and murder Iranian leaders. And this is the law of the jungle that the West has created for the world. Murder Iranian leaders, slaughter Iranians, probably kill a few more hundred kids. And Western media will pretend that, because Western media is as morally bankrupt as the regime itself. You know, we look at what's happening in Lebanon. Every day they're carrying out slaughter, but Western media is looking away. It's not like in Gaza, where Western media pretended that we have no one there. Beirut is full of Western journalists and journalists linked to Western media. But it's no different than the coverage in Gaza that we had for two and a half years.

No difference at all. They will try to look away, or they will try to justify the atrocities. They will, you know, just like when they would say the Hamas-led police, whatever, just to justify the slaughter of police officers and people who are protecting the aid and the aid workers. In Lebanon, whenever they bomb a building, they'll say, you know, Hezbollah strongholds, Hezbollah targets. And, you know, it justifies the slaughter. I mean, all those mainstream Western journalists in Beirut, almost all of them, I would guess all of them, are just a bunch of criminals. And they are committing genocide. They're genocidal because they're trying to, you know, hide the genocidal attacks, and they're despicable people. But in any case, it's going to fail.

Just like in Lebanon, they'll fail. And Trump will destroy the global economy. He's hell-bent. If he goes down this road, then I think everyone should brace themselves for impact. Because if we do have that sort of war where he targets Iranian leaders, I've heard senior Iranian officials say that they will target these Arab family dictatorships. They said that because they will be complicit in this war, then the palaces in Doha and in the Emirates and their leadership, they will be targeted too because this is unacceptable to Iran. So we're entering potentially the final phase. And we will be living in a very different world after that. But we'll see. Maybe Trump is just talking nonsense, but they are prepared for a major assault.

## **#Danny**

And speaking of Israel there, as the United States is kind of playing footsie with renewing war on Iran, Israel is committing these horrific atrocities, targeting rescue workers just like they did in Gaza, desecrating even Christians.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Have you heard outrage coming out of London or Paris or Brussels? Any sanctions for all the atrocities?

## **#Danny**

Nothing.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Because they are, you know, they're a bunch of criminals. They're a bunch of genocidal monsters bound to the Epstein class, just like their journalists, just like their media. This is a class of people who rule over the entire West. And journalists, the diplomats, they're all tools of this powerful oligarchy, this powerful Epstein-class Zionist oligarchy. And so that explains everything. There's no other way to look at it when you see families being wiped out every day in Lebanon, entire families being wiped out every day in different parts of the country. And no one in the West, even the

Guardian, none of them really care. Some may give some little limited coverage and others will ignore it completely. But that's just, you know, they're just tools. It's just how it is.

## **#Danny**

And these are the same people who continue to debate and reject Iran's notion that Lebanon should be included in any agreement that is made to end the war or even the ceasefire. The ceasefire itself, Iran said that Lebanon and all fronts should be included. And the media, the Western media, they balk at it.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

They will balk at it. They will be included. And these Western journalists and diplomats, through their silence, are only enabling the United States to push them over the cliff — them and their families and their communities and their countries and the entire world over the cliff. Because that's where the world is going. That's where the world economy is going. It's going over a cliff.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and, you know, Iran said, you know, in response to Trump's, you know, unconditional surrender, this whole Axios playing the markets, it seems like, with this memorandum of understanding, a report on peace. Iran said that the United States is not going to get out of this war without paying reparations. So the question then is, Professor Moradi, who blinks first? Because the United States, for all of — I know that there's a lot of people out there who believe that the U.S. can just go this path and this route forever, you know, with Trump's irrationality as well as, you know, the U.S.'s lust for war and its obsession with blockades and oil and all of this.

They can just go on like this forever. That is actually not the case. I don't believe that the U.S. could go on and on and on forever and ever and ever. A great depression actually causes a lot of calamity, even for the rich. They tend to shrink in number when great depressions happen. Always, there's fewer of them after a great depression. So there will be powerful, powerful people wanting to prevent this. But nonetheless, who blinks first, Professor Moradi? Because Iran is saying, nope, we are not going to let the U.S. off the hook without reparations and, of course, without all these other terms that they have yet to budge on.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, first of all, you're right. The very wealthy, their numbers will decrease. But even those who remain very wealthy and powerful—will life be easier for them? Or will they feel less safe? Will people who are outraged by the fact that their lives have been destroyed by these elites, by the Epstein class—will that lead to these people feeling more safe or less safe? The remainder of those wealthy. So that's something that they should be contemplating. But I think we all know the answer.

The Iranians have already shown extraordinary resilience, just like in Lebanon, just like in Gaza, just like in Iraq. So that results in the war. This is before Iran's culture, its heritage, its civilization, its religious heritage.

It makes it extraordinarily unique in its resilience and resistance. And we've seen that. It defeated a superpower, along with all its proxies and the collective West, which backed it up. A single country with a couple of regional allies with the same ideology and the same worldview—that ethnosupremacism is immoral and the Palestinian people should not be exterminated. That's the sin of the axis of resistance. It's quite simple. And no one will join it in this region, although the countries are selling oil to the Israeli regime, transporting oil, buying gas, doing trade and business. In the case of the UAE, they're full allies of the Israeli regime. But that is the sin. But in any case, I think it's clear that the Iranians will be resilient. They'll resist.

No matter what harm comes their way, if there's war, there will be more harm, there will be more deaths, there will be more children massacred by the Epstein coalition. But the world economy will collapse, and the world will blame Trump and Netanyahu and the Zionists for it. The world sees who brought this upon them. People across the world, people in the West, people in the United States, people across Europe see that Trump and Netanyahu have brought this calamity upon them. We know that from Joe Kent, his resignation letter—who's behind this war? It's the Zionists, it's the Zionist lobbyists, it's the Israeli regime. So, you know, there's no hiding that. And after two and a half years of genocide, and then you add this to that, I don't think this is good for the Israeli regime either.

## **#Danny**

You know, Professor Rondi, I would say actually that... you know, just one thing, Danny.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

I've met a number of Indian journalists in the last few days separately. Two—they came separately to Iran. One group of Indian journalists came as a group, and another journalist came separately. And I had interviews with each of them separately. And what I've been told by journalists is that the mood in India has changed. So initially, there was a lot of support, of course, by Modi for this genocide. And many Indians, for whatever reasons, were siding with Israel. Many Indians were opposed to genocide—and not at all just Muslims. Many of my Indian friends from day one have been saying that. But the numbers are changing. And in India, the mood has changed. That's what the consensus is from the people I've spoken to. So when the Israelis have lost India, then what's left?

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, you know, I wanted to ask you what you believe. You know, Abbas Araqchi, he was in Beijing and he met with Wang Yi, and he said that, you know, China now sees that Iran after the war is different than before the war, and alluding to Iran having transformed and essentially being in a better position after the war than before the war. I'm curious what you believe he's talking about in particular, and if you could outline maybe the thinking here, because, you know, all we hear in the United States and the West is Iran has been obliterated—its navy, its air force, its military, its society is in tatters, its economy is collapsing, you know, the whole nine yards. So what is Abbas Araqchi then talking about when he says this?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, Abbas Araqchi, the Iranian foreign minister, before that he went and saw President Putin a few days ago. And President Putin spoke about, you know, he was obviously impressed by the resilience of the Iranian people in the face of this. And the Chinese officials who've been speaking with the foreign minister and his delegation, they've been saying the same thing. Everyone is impressed that Iran was able to withstand this barbaric assault where really the collective West was fully behind the United States.

There were those who directly supported them, and there were those who indirectly supported them, but everyone was on the side of the United States—the same people who support the extermination of the Palestinian people: Canada, the EU, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, and so on. All of those who support the extermination of Palestinian children and who support the extermination of Lebanese children also support the extermination of Iranian children. That's why we don't have any outrage. Whenever Trump says he's going to obliterate Iran or send it back to the Stone Age or wipe out Iran—he's been saying it in different ways and forms for weeks—have you seen a single Western government condemn this?

Have you seen a single major, powerful Western journalist who has hundreds of thousands or tens of thousands or millions of followers tweet about this, how he or she is outraged? Have you seen Western outlets like The Guardian or The New York Times say this—this mass murder he wants to commit, a holocaust, an unequalled holocaust in human history? No, because they're utterly, you know, they're utterly bankrupt. They're morally bankrupt. So, the day before yesterday, I was on Piers Morgan's show once again, and he was saying that he brought so-and-so on his show—I don't remember the name—and he said that Iran has been utterly defeated and it's only for political reasons that the United States has not taken the Strait of Hormuz.

And Morgan was saying that he believed it. And I said, well, then just take it over. Let's move in. And then I said, why don't you just take it over, and then you can make us refugees like the Palestinians and take on that. And so Trump may want to do that. And, you know, even though he'll never be able to do that, that's just what happened to Palestine. And actually, there was a conversation before I was on air between these people on Palestine, and one of them, you know,

this old man who pretends to be some knowledgeable person, like a really disgusting person, was saying how Israel is the only democracy.

I mean, these genocidal maniacs stole the land of the people of Palestine, sent them into concentration camps, and then wiped them out, you know, doing this genocide. I mean, October 7th, isn't it? It's not the beginning of the story. It's one of the later chapters of this whole episode of history. But that's, you know, that's the Western political line. So now they can say all they want that Iran has been defeated in the West, but outside of the West—and I think many ordinary people in the West—they recognize that this was a major defeat for Trump and for the empire. And he can try his luck again tonight. I mean, with this tweet, perhaps that's what he's going to do tonight or tomorrow. But it's not going to improve his position. Again, it'll be a gamble, but he'll lose the house.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, in the last 10 minutes or so that we have here, can you talk about the gamble—speaking of gambles—that the UAE in particular is making here? Because even in the reports about Project Freedom and the Gulf states like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia rejecting use of their assets, of the U.S. assets in their country to keep Project Freedom going, the UAE has been cited still as the loyal partner of the Trump administration. And we saw in the events of the last week how the UAE was playing along, it seems, with a kind of escalation narrative, claiming that Iran was striking them and that they were going to make Iran pay. And of course, the days have passed and they have done absolutely nothing. But nonetheless, it seems like the UAE has made a huge roll of the dice for the Israeli and U.S. side here. What do you make of this? And why is it happening now? Why is the UAE, with this Strait of Hormuz crisis that the region is going through, that Iran has essentially taken full control of—why would they do this now?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, first of all, I wouldn't be too optimistic about Saudi Arabia or anyone else. And we don't know. I mean, obviously, it failed, the operation. And Trump tried to pretend that it was the Pakistanis who contacted him, and I'm sure it had nothing to do with Pakistan. This was just a failure, and it doesn't matter who said what or did what. But I wouldn't be too sure about the Saudis. And I know that the Iranians are carefully watching U.S. forces in the region. And if there is an assault, then, you know, the Saudis and the others, they're all complicit, just like they were last time around. So we'll have to wait and see about that. Some report in some newspapers—not enough for us to make an assessment about the future or even whether that was true at all.

Even if it was, it doesn't mean that it's going to change the course of events in the days ahead. So we'll have to see about that. But the UAE is, you know, it is a close ally of the Israeli regime. It has been pursuing policies to the benefit of the Israeli regime in Yemen, in Sudan. It has helped with the genocide there and the genocidal war in Yemen, where back then it was allied with the Saudis and, of course, Qatar and Turkey and others. At the beginning, they were all in it together, but then

when there was a fallout between them and there was a siege on Qatar, then Turkey and Qatar sort of distanced themselves from the genocide in Yemen. But in the Horn of Africa, throughout Somalia, the UAE has been a close ally of the Israeli regime.

I think Mohammed bin Zayed is, you know, just like Saddam Hussein. When these people are surrounded by yes-men and people who won't tell them the truth, and they have enormous wealth and whatever they want happens, they become delusional. And Saddam Hussein, it was because of his own stupidity and arrogance, delusional behavior, that he brought the destruction upon Iraq, you know, as we saw. And I think that Mohammed bin Zayed is probably being—his advisors are giving him, feeding him the sort of information that Trump's advisors are feeding him, and both are detached from reality as far as I can understand. You're asking me a question; I'm speculating here.

I can't say for certain. But I think that Trump is, to a degree, detached from reality. And I think Mohammed bin Zayed is definitely—he and his, the gang surrounding him and his people—they're definitely detached from reality. There's no doubt that people, even in the Emirates, I mean, when the war was happening across the Arab world, people were supporting Iran. If you looked online, people were supporting Iran. The only people who opposed Iran were the Wahhabis and the Salafists, the same people who've been funded by the Qataris and the Saudis and the others for decades and who are pursuing the imperial agenda.

They've been doing that for decades, whether Libya or Syria or Iraq or anywhere in the world, or across Africa—Boko Haram and all these other criminal organizations. So except for them, people were supporting Iran and the axis of resistance. Why? Because they know these Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf are not doing anything for the Arab people or for the region, and they're agents and proxies. And the Emirates is the worst of the worst. And I doubt that Emiratis themselves—because it is a police state. I mean, Piers Morgan likes to pretend that Iran is a police state. He's clueless.

## **#Danny**

I know you invite him. I know you often say, hey, come here, you can check it out.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Many times he can go to my class. He can go, or he can take a taxi, and he'll hear all sorts of things. But whatever. But the Emirates is a police state where they check everything. No one says anything. People don't talk politics. These, you know, anyway. So I think that he's delusional, and that's probably going to, if this continues, bring an end to the United Arab Emirates, or it's going to bring an end to the reign of the ruling family.

## **#Danny**

And I mean, I have a few people who travel to and/or live for periods of time in the UAE that contacted me, and there were reports that during the shooting war, when the United States and Israel were attacking Iran and Iran was retaliating, Israel had sent troops, for whatever that's worth, and the so-called Iron Dome system to the UAE. But I've heard for years that the UAE is just full of Israelis, Israeli spies.

### **#Mohammad Marandi**

They have multiple flights every day. Multiple flights every day. Assad has offices there. Yeah, the UAE is...

### **#Danny**

Yeah. Yeah. And I mean, look at the track record. A lot of people were surprised. Oh, the UAE left OPEC. Wow. The UAE is really diving headfirst.

### **#Mohammad Marandi**

It also got the Arab Organization of Oil Producing. I mean, they won't even sit with the other U.S. proxies in the Persian Gulf.

### **#Danny**

Oh, yeah. Yeah. So it's really, you know, what the UAE did to Yemen. You mentioned support for the Wahhabis and all these, you know, jihadist proxies.

### **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, that's what they all do, yeah.

### **#Danny**

The UAE is involved in that too. Yeah, so they're all, you know... Sudan, Libya, Somalia. Yeah, so... And now it seems like the rubber is really meeting the road, Professor Morandi, you know, when it comes to their future. Because continuing to go down this path when the U.S. is on kind of a suicide mission for them, the United States can, at any time, if it had a need to, just like they did in Afghanistan, pack up and get the hell out. But the Gulf people who live in the Gulf states, they can't really do that. I mean, they may be forced to do that, but nonetheless, that region is—they drive Trump so much, and Trump milked, as he would say himself, he milked them so much. He did. And from Trump, Netanyahu brought about their destruction. Yeah, Professor Morandi, any final words before I conclude here?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

No, no. I just hope that everyone tries to be as active as possible online, offline, supporting. We shouldn't forget the children of Gaza, the children of Lebanon. They're killing thousands every day. Western media is trying to hide it from people. We have to be on the streets. We have to protest. We have to be more active online. We have to bring awareness. Revive that momentum that existed last year before these regional regimes helped Trump whitewash his genocide and imposed that fake ceasefire when the leaders of the region went to Egypt for that, uh, monkey show with Trump. That helped end the momentum. You remember all the people on the streets from Sydney to Madrid to, you know, everywhere—it was amazing. We have to work, everyone has to work, to revive that. And hopefully, the Iranian people, their resistance will bear fruit, and that will help the people of our sisters and brothers in Cuba and Venezuela, which will hopefully ease the pressure on them so that they can breathe more easily.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, yeah. I mean, there is a concerted effort. Iran, you know, worldwide—we know Russia, China—they've been helping Cuba as well. It's not like there isn't any... There are forces in the world that are on the right side. And we do have to continue to speak up, especially, you know, didn't even get to talk too much about this in the last several days to a week, but there was another flotilla that tried to sail.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Yes, yes, and we have to... we have to keep reminding people because they've been keeping it out of the news in the West. The Western media has been very silent about this. They boycotted this flotilla. The previous flotilla had more coverage. Ever since the regional leaders went to Egypt—you know, Erdogan, Sisi, Abdullah, you know, these despots in the Persian Gulf—they all gathered there, among others. They whitewashed Trump's genocide. Trump imposed this fake ceasefire. Every day they've been murdering Palestinians since.

And that has caused the momentum on the streets across the world to die down, and that has allowed Western media to ignore what's going on. So we have to push to revive that. The heroes who were on the flotilla did that to remind us about what was happening in Gaza. So it is our responsibility to remind ourselves and to remind everyone else about what's going on, and that there are starving Palestinian children. Palestinian children with special needs are in really, really bad shape, and hopefully we can all do our own bit to help.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and Israel has detained and imprisoned two of the leaders of the most recent flotilla. They are still being held, tortured supposedly. Saif Abu Kashek and Tiago Avila are still in Israeli custody, and that might last for quite a while, so everyone should definitely be paying attention to that.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

And Western governments don't care. And they were kidnapped in international waters, not in Palestine. Not in Palestine.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, so everyone, as Professor Morandi said, that's why it's important to be active and continue to spread the word about these things. We'll be back here tomorrow at 1 p.m. Eastern time. I'll let you know what I have cooking then. But everyone, thank Professor Morandi as we go. It is my birthday, so if you appreciate this show, go hit the like button.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Oh, congratulations!

## **#Danny**

Yeah, because that's a big gift for everyone.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

It's not a gift, but you're under sanctions, so there's nothing I can do.

## **#Danny**

I know, it's like me wishing I could get a Huawei phone. Oops, can't do that because it's sanctioned here. But everyone, hit the like button. That's a great gift—not really for me, actually. Do hit the button.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

I mean, spread the word today. Give Danny Haiphong a special gift—extra likes.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, make sure this is heard all around.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Subscribe and do whatever it is that you're supposed to do, Danny.

## **#Danny**

All right. Well, appreciate it, everybody. Thanks to those who gave super chats. I'll just put you up real quick as we head out of here. We're going to say goodbye. I'll be back tomorrow, and I'll see you then—1 p.m. Eastern time, May 8th. Until next time, bye-bye.