

Iran HITS US Navy HARD with 8 Missiles & 24 Drones | Stanislav Krapivnik

Former US Army Officer and geopolitical commentator Stanis Krapivnik joins to discuss Iran's response to the US naval blockade that has Trump in panic about the consequences of his long war, plus much more in geopolitics. Subscribe to Stanislav: <https://www.youtube.com/@UCNFLdCSk3KxhahxQwjvQLbQ> FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #Iran #israel #trump #middleeast

#Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by Stanislav Kropivnik, former U.S. Army officer, geopolitical commentator, and analyst. Everyone, hit the like button as you come on. Stas, good to see you again.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Thank you. Good to be here. It's been a while. You were on vacation in China? Yeah. I gotta get you on my show to talk about China with you.

#Danny

Yeah, let's do it. Let's definitely do it. Everyone hit the like button. We've got a lot to cover. So first thoughts, I wanted your reactions to this. According to the Iranian military now, we are getting more information about what has happened in these clashes over the last few days in the Strait of Hormuz between the U.S. Navy and Iran. According to the Iranian military, Iranian naval forces actually targeted, contrary to what the United States CENTCOM is saying, U.S. Navy vessels that were attempting to move three of its destroyers out of the Strait of Hormuz. They said it was a coordinated attack that involved eight U.S. cruise missiles and 24 one-way attack drones.

And they say that one cruise missile and three of these drones actually struck the destroyer, causing fires on board. Now, overnight too, there have been more U.S. attacks on Iranian oil tankers. That seems to be the move now by the United States, as they still claim, Stas, that there is going to be a response by Iran to their peace proposal and that the ceasefire is still very much in place. We're also hearing reports that Trump is bored of the war in Iran and really, really, really, really wants it to end

but can't seem to get that done. But Stas, what do you make of these reports about these clashes that are happening in the Strait of Hormuz and happening outside of Hormuz as Iran confronts the U.S. blockade?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, you know, President Win Bigly, otherwise known as Donnie the Pirate, because we're kind of like pirates. We took over the vessel and took it away. I'll get to that question in a minute. But, you know, he wins bigly. I mean, he's told us he's destroyed Iran every single day. I mean, how much destruction can you do? You finally get bored of it. I've been winning so much, it's getting boring. For some reason, the Iranians won't surrender. We don't quite understand why that happens. Yeah. And it's a mess. I mean, the best thing he could do... Sorry, I was commentating on a parade today for RT, so I was talking all morning, so my voice is a little sore.

The best thing he could do is just let this blockade go and let it fade away. Unfortunately, he and his backers don't seem to understand how to just walk away from this. The actual amount of ships on this blockade is somewhere between six to twelve ships. That's it. That's all the U.S. has on it. And that's if they strip basically everything that's covering those aircraft carriers as far as escort ships. So already they don't have enough ships to really cover that Gulf short of just shooting at everything that moves. And even then. So, second of all, they're well within range of being struck. And I do believe they have been struck. At least one of them has been struck.

There are reports that two of them were on fire. Obviously, we're not going to find out. The only way we'll find out is if somebody takes photos at port or passes damaged ships. The U.S. force is going to hide any of these damages, just like they had the Lincoln being hit by the Houthis. Though everybody acknowledged that, you know, yeah, they got hit—at least something landed on there—but they denied it. But they had to return to port really, really quickly. Unfortunately, the port that they returned to no longer exists because that was in the Persian Gulf. So that's one thing. Two, they can't hold these operations for very long because there's no place to refit.

The closest port to refit is Diego Garcia. That's three days steaming one way, three days steaming back. Or maybe India, if India is still willing to. Modi sold out BRICS for a while, but that didn't age well. So if Modi's still willing to take American ships, that's probably a big question because Modi came under massive internal fire from his opponents in India for what he did. So at best, it's Diego Garcia. It's three days out. It's pretty hard to hold a blockade where, if you run out of jet fuel—because that's, by the way, what they're working off of, and jet fuel is expensive and right now worldwide in relatively short supply—you've got problems.

So already we've got issues. Second of all, it's questionable. Supposedly they were trying to get into the Persian Gulf, which I don't understand why they would do that. Because if they go into the Persian Gulf, they're not going to leave the Persian Gulf. There's no place for them to run. I mean, the Gulf is not that big, and there's no area in the Gulf that Iranian drones cannot cover. Never

mind, you know, mysterious space satellites. We only know it's only America that has satellites up in space to coordinate, but for some reason, some of these other mysterious space satellites seem to be getting coordinates out to Iran on what's located where.

So the shock of American senators and other politicians—there's no place for them to run. I mean, look, what happened when combat operations started is the U.S. Navy ran flat out. The U.S. Navy ran, and they were doing big circles in the Indian Ocean to keep from being targeted, and they were usually out almost 1,000 kilometers away, so about 600-plus miles. If they were in the Gulf, they'd all be sunk. I mean, it's that flat, simple. So I don't know. I mean, I don't know what they were thinking if they were actually trying to break into the Gulf. And I guess, I mean, you could call it a ceasefire.

I guess an active ceasefire where everybody's shooting at each other. Uh, but this is part of what we get from Washington these days. You know, there's what Washington says, and then there's reality, and they tend to separate out very, very far, and they continue to separate out. Now, here's the other question: the oil tankers that they did grab—where do they go, and what happens to the money? I mean, we know they're going to sell them, right? We know that Trump, from Trump's own words, when he stole Venezuelan oil, it went into a special offshore account that has zero, zero transparency to the United States government. So let's translate this to other words.

It went into a Trump slush fund, an offshore Trump slush fund. Let that sink in for a second. Yeah, he really is a pirate. He's stealing other people's property, using the U.S. military, selling it off, and putting it in a slush fund that the U.S. government—Congress particularly, that's supposed to have oversight committee powers—has no access to. So I'm assuming the oil that they grabbed before, when they did grab a couple of tankers, that money goes into the Trump slush fund too? I mean, we're talking criminality that makes the Bidens look like Girl Scouts or Webelos. This is incredible. I mean, the fact that it's not making the news, that nobody's even asking these questions, is mind-boggling.

#Danny

Right. Yeah. And, you know, Stas, I wanted to ask you, you know, given this scenario where, as you said, U.S. warships that attempt to enter the Persian Gulf and get deep into the Strait of Hormuz are going to have a hard time, you know, turning around and getting out of there once they're in. My question to you is then, what is the play here for the United States when it comes to, you know, before we came on, there are reports that the U.S. is literally striking Iranian tankers, hitting them as they attempt to either return to port or to leave, you know, to leave the strait and into the market. Why would the United States continue to do this? What about this is effective or meeting some kind of objective here?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

You've got to figure out what the hell the objective is. If the objective is to drive up oil prices on the market, yeah, you're doing pretty well. The problem for the U.S., no matter what Trump says, the U.S. does export oil. The U.S. also imports daily 8.3 million barrels of oil and oil products. So yeah, that's why prices at the pump go up. And a lot of people will say, oh yeah, we're self-sufficient. Yeah? Why? Why are your prices going up? Yeah. Yeah. If you're self-sufficient, you know, Russian prices haven't gone up. They've gone up like three, four rubles, like 12 cents since all this started. Why? Because Russia is actually self-sufficient. The U.S. is not self-sufficient. It is a major oil—it's probably the biggest oil, uh, oil pumper. I'm short on words today. I'm sorry.

But it's not self-sufficient. It still has to import. So yes, it's still affected by world prices. Even if Trump were to put a price cap on that—and he won't, because his buddies are making money off this—the American public is paying for this. This is a whole different reality. The U.S. government has put export restrictions before on oil. The U.S. government can put a ceiling on the price of oil, but it doesn't, and there are reasons for that. One of the biggest reasons is that they're making money, and they're selling their strategic oil reserves that were already at 50% of what they were historically after COVID. They sold them off during COVID, and they never refilled them. And what they're selling right now, they're actually selling to the Europeans.

They're not going on the American market, interestingly enough. They're going to foreign countries. So the American Strategic Oil Reserve is feeding the U.S. government, but it's not making life easier for the average American. Go figure on that one. So what the strategy is, if it's to limit Iran, well, Iran also limits everybody else. But here's the little problem for the U.S.: Iran has other ways of getting oil out. There are three other ways to get oil out, and they're all being actively used. First of all, there's this thing called the Caspian Sea, which is actually the world's biggest inland saltwater lake. And guess who sits on the other end of the Caspian Sea? Yeah, Russia. Russia is feeding Iran with grain, spare parts, ammunition, everything else, and diesel, which Iran doesn't have enough of.

And Iran is sending its oil up into Russia that then gets pumped into Russian pipelines and gets sold to China or whomever. That's one. Two, there's a railway that amazingly goes from Iran to Pakistan and then on to China. So, yes, that's another way you can export oil. A lot of countries do that. So Iran's doing it too. You fill up a bunch of tankers and you send the trains off. And three, there's the more entrepreneurial but small-scale approach where there are now convoys of trucks and pickups with literally barrels of oil on them at the Pakistani border, selling it off to Pakistan, which, by the way, is what the Turks were doing when America and Turkey were stealing Syria's oil. Under Trump, and then under Biden, they were actively called convoys, until Russia got involved in Syria and those convoys turned into flaming lines of destroyed material.

And it all stopped. But this is actually, legally, they're selling their oil through people just buying barrels of oil and driving them off to Pakistan. So there's still oil going out from Iran. And they can't stop that. Quite literally, they can't stop that. If they start bombing Russian ships going up and down the Caspian, it's war with Russia. To get up to the rail lines—rail lines, for sure, can be replaced and repaired relatively easily. Second of all, that's deep inside Iran, and U.S. fighters, fighter-bombers,

Israelis will not fly in that far, and they can't reach with Tomahawks that far. And then the small car convoys, even if you blow them up, you're still very limited in what you're doing. So, yeah, they've got these little problems.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah, these are indeed problems, Stas. And, you know, I guess the question is then, because Fareed Zakaria just said on CNN today on his program that Iran is currently making twice as much on its oil exports as it was before the war. And that, you know, there's plenty of data. I played it on my show yesterday with our friend Andre, and I showed that the data shows that even if there's a slight reduction in exports, it's still well above the five-year average for Iran. And it's the region, actually, that has suffered the most out of this and is due to suffer even more if the United States continues to provoke and provoke and provoke. So the question is, you know, there are some who believe that this is by design.

I've seen this argument. People submit this argument to me every day—that this is by design, that the United States wants this. They want the oil monopoly. You said their friends are getting rich. But even more so, there are many who believe that the U.S. wants the Strait of Hormuz closed. What do you say to this? I don't necessarily buy this. I do actually believe that the United States is engaging in this blockade because they want to try to starve Iran, and they know that they can't wrest control of Iran's control of the Strait of Hormuz otherwise. But what's your take on this? What's your take on this argument that this is by design? The oligarchs—they want the Strait closed. They want to control the trade routes, and that things are going according to plan right now.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, first of all, by the way, one of the reasons Iran is making more money is simply because oil is a hell of a lot more expensive. And don't look at the price of oil on the stock exchange, because you're really looking at futures, and futures is la-la land. Look at the spot rate. That's, by the way, where Europe is buying most of its oil right now—at the spot rate. And the spot rate is well over \$200 a barrel. So that's almost a three-and-a-half-fold increase from where it was before. So Iran doesn't have to sell as much to make as much. And yes, Iran, by the way, the first month of this conflict, was actually selling even more oil.

And the U.S. was magnanimously taking sanctions off of Russian and Iranian oil, like anybody was asking the U.S. about it. And the reason there was a lot of oil that was on ships everywhere for most countries is because if you look at the price of oil three months before the 28th of February, oil prices had dropped a lot. They were down in the lower 60s. So a lot of countries—Russia, Iran, including Saudi Arabia and all these other countries—had placed a lot of oil on tankers waiting for prices to go up and then to ship them to markets fast. So they were just, you know, biding their time with oil already loaded. So, yes, it happened to be that a lot of oil tankers were at sea at that point. I don't buy into a lot of this conspiracy of grand design.

You know, people would rather believe that they are ruled by evil geniuses—that they may suffer from these evil geniuses, but they're evil geniuses—than to look at the fact that they are ruled by incompetent morons. But I think in this case, we're heading straight for incompetent morons. They blundered into this because they believed the Israelis, and because the donor class was really, really powerful, and maybe because Trump's name is all over the Epstein files, and many other reasons. And now they don't know what to do because they planned on a four-day war. They literally believed this. They talked about this. Just like, by the way, the so-called only Israeli strike in July—Trump was telling everybody, oh, this is going to be great.

#Danny

This is going to be over. We're going to change everything.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Oh, we didn't. Yeah, we killed a bunch of people, but the Iranian government didn't collapse. Oh, whoops. Now what do we do? And then they did this little showcase: we bomb you, a couple bombs on empty buildings; you bomb us, a couple bombs on empty buildings, and we call it peace—which was a good move to end all that back in July. That was a good move. Everybody saved face, did a little whatever. But then they came back and they started 2.0. And now they really have no idea. The same thing, by the way, that happened in Yugoslavia. The Yugoslavs under Clinton's bombing were supposed to collapse instantly, and they didn't. In 78 days, they kept bombing them. And by the way, when they couldn't find the Yugoslav army, what did they do? They started bombing maternity hospitals.

The U.S. started bombing markets, churches, 1940s trains on bridges that they were screaming are speeding along, like this is a steam train—and they don't speed along, they can't physically speed along, and so on and so on—because they didn't know what to do. So when you don't know what to do, go kill a bunch of civilians, because that'll break the morale—which never happened. And then they started doing the same thing with Iran, because, you know, half the military's underground, the other half of the military's moving around. A lot of everything that the U.S. struck were either old equipment repainted or dummies from China that, by the way, had heat sinks in there so they looked like engines running, or painted-on-the-ground images, which amazed me.

That was a first. I never thought that you could actually fool the recon systems with just painted images on tarmacs of planes. That's—wow, you can do that. That's interesting. And then the U.S. just had mission creep because they don't know what to do. So they just start hitting everything in sight. I think they hit—of course, on the other hand, they also hit the school right off the bat. And I think that was to prevent negotiations, to allow them to do the big fight. But the big fight went very

badly very quickly. So now they're floundering around. Look, like the Iranians said, we weren't asking for a ceasefire. The Americans were asking for a ceasefire. And the U.S. is pulling resources in from all over the place, but they're limited on resources. They can't do a land invasion.

I'm sure they can grab an island and continue taking casualties every single day they're holding that island. And if Trump was smart, even if he grabbed an island, he'd say, see, we grabbed an island. Now they want to surrender. We've signed some document yet—it doesn't really matter. They signed any document. The megabase would—what's left of the megabase would—their groupies, they would believe anything he said, and he'd leave. I mean, these are the people that, by the way, bought Trump coins. They paid \$30 apiece. Have you seen what the Trump coin is worth over a year? This is a classic pump and dump.

If it was you or me, you'd have the feds breathing down your neck and you'd be going to jail. The pump-and-dump Trump coin has lost 93% of its value. I mean, yeah. The people that have a hard time paying their rent are giving Trump their money, just literally. And they use that as leverage to get actual real money and sell it off. So... I mean, at this point, on the one hand, you're dealing with criminals, again, that make Biden look like he was a Boy Scout. On the other hand, you're dealing with people whose plan A is we kill Khamenei. Step two, we don't know, but step three, we win.

It's like the underpants gnomes in South Park. Step one, we steal the underpants. Step two, well, and then step three, we get rich. You know, and this is the same thing. They have no idea what to do now because they never thought anything past four days. And then they started winging it. And they're still winging it. The problem for Trump, though, is as much as he wants to go away from this, he's going to answer to the AIPAC donor class that own his soul in this case. So now what do you do? Hopefully not get a lot of people killed, but it seems like we're probably heading in that direction again.

#Danny

Right. Yeah, well, I think a problem, too, because you mentioned all these examples, stats of U.S. imperial depravity. I truly believe that the ruling elite that presides over the U.S. war machine can be both incompetent and evil as well. And I think what frustrates me about arguments of, "Well, this is all going according to plan," is the notion that a country like Iran is playing into this. Because if Iran is asserting control of the Strait of Hormuz based on what it is calculating as both a strategic military and economic maneuver based on what's happening in this war, then the U.S. reacting to this with its own blockade, you could say, well, Iran is just playing into the hands of the United States, and that therefore there really is nothing you can do to resist the empire.

But it seems like much of the world's stars view this far differently. I don't know if you caught when Abbas Araqchi went to China — he said right after his meetings with Wang Yi that China views Iran far differently than before the war, and that Iran has transformed. So I think that maybe there's a bit too much faith put into the mastery of the so-called masterminds of this, and a lot less — maybe

too little — on the fact that sometimes reports, like Israel really just wants to go and bomb all of Iran's energy infrastructure because they have no other options with regard to Iran, that maybe those things do have a grain of truth to them, especially in light of the recent history since February 28th. But anyway, your reactions to any of this? Well, first of all, it's not recent history — look who was the star witness in the U.S. Congress to the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

No, Colin Powell was, you know, with the little baggie that—okay, that's—who was the star civilian witness? Drum roll. At that point, civilian, Mr. Netanyahu, because he's between prime ministerships. Yeah, so Netanyahu was the guy that goes in front of Congress and goes, "Yeah, but Iraq is about to have nuclear weapons and chemical weapons, and you got to go after them." So, and then the U. S. blunders into that—seven trillion dollars in debt later. And, you know, Iraq, by the way, is now shooting at America. So that was a great accomplishment, wasn't it?

I mean, they basically made Iraq the ally of Iran, which, of course, didn't serve American interests in any kind of form. But, you know, this is what happens when somebody else's foreign policy rules over your interests. And Israel, yeah, it's great for Israel — it just gets rid of one more competitor in the region. And by the way, the Israelis are flat-out talking about Turkey's next, which, by the way, is going to raise really interesting points because the U.S. has no alliance documents with Israel. It just has ownership by AIPAC, the majority of Congress. But the U.S. has actual signed alliance documents with Turkey.

So if Israel attacks Turkey or demands the U.S. attack Turkey, that can get into some real interesting territory. But the Israelis are making no hide about the fact that Turkey's next and Egypt will be next because they want everybody destroyed around them. They want death and destruction so then they can murder off the local population. I think that's called genocide. Yeah, I think that's the word. Or at best, ethnically cleansed, which means you either get out, we shoot you, and then they blow up everything and destroy everything. I think that's also a war crime, if I remember correctly. And look, the knock-on effect.

Trump was trying to do a cheap trick of resetting the 60 days in the War Powers Act, even though, honestly speaking, his 60 days never started because the War Powers Act addresses a defensive war, not a war of choice or aggression. So already the U.S. Congress should have been doing something, but luckily for Trump, U.S. Congress is a mindless array of sponges. They absorb funds, but they don't do anything else worthwhile. You know, the sponge, when it's in its embryonic form, it actually has a basic nervous system, and it floats around. It can actually move and maneuver. Then it finds a spot that it's going to be for the rest of its life. It roots to that spot and it absorbs its nervous system — you know, basically like the average congressman.

They don't need the brain anymore. They're just there to sponge money. So, yeah, that's lucky for Trump for that. But, you know, Operation Freedom and what happened, I mean, they were literally

getting ready to start the war. I was talking with Larry Johnson, a friend of mine. Johnson, through his contacts, already said that in the UAE they were giving a date of when they were supposed to go. And it was supposed to go basically last Friday. They were supposed to start the shooting war with missile attacks. And what happened? Saudi Arabia and Kuwait said, hell no, we're done with this, and you're not using our airspace. And that just torpedoed Operation Freedom — you know, let's bomb Iran again.

Because now what are you going to do? Well, you can't fly from Israel to the war zone unless you fly around Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. That means you also have to fly through Iraq, and Iraq is actively shooting at U.S. planes. So you start having little issues like that. Sure, the UAE is insane in the brain, as the rap song goes. They're ready to go all out, even though they'll probably cease to exist. But then again, the president of the UAE, Mohammed bin Zayed, is well placed on the Epstein client list, talking about enjoying torture videos of children, presumably. So, yeah, that may have something to do with it. But other than that, the U.S., this whole Operation Freedom failed. It's hard to launch.

The U.S. doesn't have enough standoff missiles, the Tomahawks. So you'd have to go into JDAMs. And for that, you have to get close. And if you can't fly through Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace, you're screwed. So, yeah, that operation went downhill fast because, look, the Saudis got off the ledge and they said, no, no, no, we're not interested in this anymore. So that means the U.S. is basically being kicked out of the Persian Gulf. And there was a report that came in — 288 structures destroyed or heavily damaged on the 13 U.S. bases. By the way, the radar dishes are all destroyed at the radar stations. So, you know, the fuel depots, the headquarters buildings — I mean, it's mass destruction. It's about \$200 billion worth of damages.

#Danny

It's all going according to plan, Stas. Yeah. No, I mean... You know, there are reports now too that Iran is thinking about these underwater sea cables that control a lot of connectivity — both electrical, telecommunications, things like this — that could cause a lot of problems for the region. And Iran does intend to exercise its right to self-defense, tampering with these things. But also there are reports now, just as we're talking, that there are 130 IRGC speedboats now visible in large formations in the Strait of Hormuz, and many are surmising that it's probably another mining operation to fortify the defenses around its borders.

So... I don't know, Stas. It doesn't feel like it's going according to plan. This feels like, in many cases, what the United States is really trying to do — what the empire always tries to do — is to reap as many benefits as it can from defeat. That generally is how things go. And some would say, well, defeat is OK for the U.S. ruling elite, for the Epstein class. But I don't know if that's the case. What do you think?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, no, there are certain sections of it that don't care if it wins or loses. They just need it to keep going because the military-industrial sector, by the way, is making huge money. Except they're running into certain other issues — no rare earth purified magnets, because the Chinese said, that's it, you're cut off. So there's that little problem, and Trump really can't get on with the Chinese until he goes to visit them, because if the Chinese say, nope, thanks, the gates are closed, you're not coming in, it's going to look really bad for Trump because he's made such a big deal about going to China. So, yeah, there is no plan. I mean, you've got to look at the Trump team.

I mean, let's realistically look at the Trump team. The people that had any sense have been, pardon the French, bitch-slapped into silence, you know, gagged or have left. Who's left? Anybody with any sense has either shut up or become a wallflower. Actually, the guy with the most sense that's still somewhat active has turned out to be Rubio, who is, by the way, very careful with the words he uses. He's calling it a special military operation. Trump had started saying that, but now he's screaming war, war, war. First of all, the Trump assistant that's actually putting out these posts verbatim from Trump, she's a Trump groupie. I think she's got daddy issues. She's like 40 years younger than Trump.

She should have been the filter on some of this stuff, or at least a few lawyers. She's just putting out verbatim whatever Trump is saying. And Trump has buried himself in criminal cases over criminal cases. Because what he's saying on this is, you know, it's terrorism. It's, I mean, it's impeachable if the U.S. Congress ever grows a spine. And it may after the next elections. Basically, he's destroying himself because he can't keep his mouth shut. You know, when you say, I'm going to destroy their water, I'm going to destroy their electricity, I'm going to wipe their civilization out, I'm going to murder all their women and children, blah, blah, blah — that's called a war crime, actually.

That's already implied war crimes. And who else? You got Hegseth. I mean, Hegseth actually tried to be reasonable at first, at the beginning of last year. People forget that. He got smacked around real quick, and he had to sacrifice a bunch of the people close to him. So that ended, and Hegseth is now a warmongering sociopath. And I've talked to people that knew Hegseth, know Hegseth personally, and they said, you know, he'd been a neocon. He changed, said it was all wrong. And now he's reminding them of an alcoholic that fell off the wagon. And now he's just climbed down under the bottle, and he's just drunk with alcohol. Well, he may be actually drunk anyways, 'cause he doesn't—he's been known to be drunk a lot. Uh, and he's just, uh, a psychopathic warmonger. Who else have we got?

Besset. I mean, the only thing Besset knows about an economy is how to crash your currency. And, which by the way, Besset was a Soros man. Think about that one. Besset was one of Soros's right-hand men. That's where he built his career. He crashed the pound sterling. Yeah, he's responsible for that. They brought in Besset, by the way, because he did crash Iran's currency. But they didn't kill Iran. So as far as economics, Besset is a sophomore at best. And you just go down the list, and you're looking at a team of absolutely incompetent human beings. But the important thing, by the

way, the very important thing, is now that—what was his name—Duchesne is the new Attorney General, now that Bondi's out. Tom Boucher?

#Danny

Blanche? Blanche, I'm sorry, Blanche.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

What am I thinking? Blanche. Tom Blanche. Yeah, so while Trump is posing as Jesus and is attacking the pontiff and everybody's screaming blasphemy—which he is—but here's the point: you're supposed to be looking at that. Look at the birdie. Don't look at what's going on to the side. And what did Blanche say in a quiet interview? "We've released all the files," which is bullcrap. There are still several million files they never released. "And we don't see any criminal activity, so there won't be any prosecution. It's done." And that flew under everybody's radar because everybody's screaming, "Trump's a blasphemous bastard." He is, but he did it on purpose, because look what's going on to the side. So the Epstein elite, at least in America, is scot-free.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

At least for now.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah. I mean, I think you're speaking to the web of how power actually works, you know, in the United States. And my last question on Iran, because I did want to get into the Victory Day hubbub and the larger world order situation. But, you know, according to Ebrahim Azizi, an Iranian official, he said, we warn governments, including microstates like Bahrain, that siding with the U.S.-backed resolution will bring severe consequences. The Strait of Hormuz is a vital lifeline. Don't risk closing it on yourselves forever. Yeah. Which then gets back to the point of, you know, Iran is exercising quite a large piece of leverage here, Stas. And I still cannot buy that this is playing into the U.S.'s hands or Israel's hands at all.

It seems that actually a lot of U.S. moves, including what we talked about earlier in the program, Project Freedom, which you brought up—I don't know if you saw the reports—it was Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Gulf states that rejected the use of their assets for this operation. Then there was a claim that they took it back, and then there was a correction saying that Saudi Arabia rejects the claims that they eased up on this. So Project Freedom is not underway officially still. And to me, I

just can't see how these actions and these developments mark up some kind of a grand plan when Iran continues to tighten its regulation and control over the Strait of Hormuz territory. If it were playing into the U.S.'s hands, I would think that they would want to loosen it. But your thoughts?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Oh, and by the way, there's one other issue. The strike on the UAE, on one of their energy stations—I think it was a pumping station that was hit—so their oil output went down real hard. And the Iranians said, you know, yep, we didn't do that. It looks like the Saudis did, because the UAE, by the way, left OPEC. So they wanted to outperform the Saudis by just mass pumping. And they're willing to keep it closed because they do have an outlet outside of the Strait of Hormuz to pump oil. So I think the Saudis smacked them upside the head just to let them know that, you know, you're dealing with basically mafia statelets, these mafia families. It's mafia corporate structures masquerading as nation-states.

It could play into the longer-term Israeli hands, though, because Israel wants pipelines running through Israel into the Mediterranean, which is—there's several problems with that. First of all, of course, that would take a couple of years to set up. And second of all, at least for now, most of that oil was actually going to Southeast Asia and other Asian markets, not so much the European markets. And if the Houthis close the southern straits and the Red Sea, then, yeah, it's not going that direction either. But, I mean, it could, of course, eventually get rerouted toward Europe because Europe's desperate—or the EU, let me rephrase it. Russia's 42% of the European subcontinent. But that's longer term.

And Israel finding that its ambitions—what's the term?—its ass can't cash the checks its mouth keeps writing. As we see, Hezbollah's smacking them around on a daily basis. And by the way, Hezbollah drones are now destroying Israeli equipment inside of Israel. So yes, the government in Beirut are a bunch of traitors. The Israelis previously would play the Christians off against the Shia and wouldn't touch the Sunni to keep this balance, because Lebanon is divided into absolutely three different organizations, or by religious lines. But even the Christians are self-divided between the Orthodox and the Catholics. But the Israelis have gone after everybody this time. They've hit rich Sunni districts. They've mass-murdered Christians.

And we see the daily sacrileges that they run again in Christian churches, turning them into toilets at the altar, you know, the smoking Marys, destroying Christ figures on the cross, and so on and so on and so on—never mind the mass murder of Christians in general. So, the Christian militias that may have stayed neutral, I think, are more or less allying themselves with Hezbollah at this point because they've been hit just as hard. And the Israelis are going for annexation, but the Israelis can't do it—not because they don't want to, but because they've hit a brick wall. I mean, yes, they can destroy some of the villages that they've occupied in the very south of Lebanon. They're doing that.

They're wiping them off the face of the earth by mass demolition. And they can still drop American-made weapons—2,000-pound bombs—and take out apartment blocks. Yes, they can do that from the air. But on the ground, I mean, they've lost about 50 destroyed Merkavas and about another 100 or so damaged Merkavas. They can't swallow those kinds of losses. Their last big call-up, a third of the reservists said, "Hell no." The demonstrations are growing, and Israelis are fleeing in every direction, including, by the way, into Egypt to get the hell out of Israel. I mean, if you look at some of the videos that are coming out, there are kilometer-long lines of people on foot trying to get across into Egypt so then they can go fly somewhere else.

Because guess what? The majority—well, about half the Israelis—have a second passport. And they suddenly remembered, oh, I got a second passport. Let's see where we're flying today. You know, U. S., back to the U.K., back to Poland maybe, and so on. So Israel's got a lot of problems. They could, in the long run, prosper from the Gulf being closed, but that's only if the Gulf stays closed. But if there's too much damage to the oil infrastructure, they're not going to get anything from pipelines because there's not going to be any oil coming out for possibly years. I mean, Qatar with gas is down for the next five to seven years, and so is that fertilizer and everything else. So, you know, there's that. The good thing about Israel to the American list...

#Danny

The good thing about Israel...

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Yeah. Yeah. There's no sarcasm, really. No, not to the American listeners. Israel has a backstop that's going to rebuild everything and make it nice and sparkling new. It's called you—the American tax money, right? Enjoy not having medical care. Enjoy collapsing infrastructure. Enjoy massive debts because you've got to rebuild Israel. I'm sorry, but that's your mission in life. That's what you live for.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, I hope that pisses people off, because if it doesn't, then it should.

#Danny

It should. I mean, this whole entirety of the war machine that goes so heavily into, whether it's directly or indirectly, ensuring Israel's so-called security should definitely infuriate anyone listening

that has an ounce of humanity. But Stas—it's Victory Day. You are in Russia. There's been a lot of hubbub about the fact that Russia has not been able to bring out tanks and missiles and other advanced weaponry for the parade because of the threat. And I guess what I want to ask you first is, what do you make of this? You're there in the state of the war. I know you were just in Donbass. And then I have one final question for you before we head out, but maybe you can react to this first.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Yeah, I mean, I spent all morning overlooking Red Square, this park that's right beside Red Square Park, Zaryadye Park, like recharge your soul. It's a nice little park, especially if you look at the pictures from the 90s or what used to be there. They were basically hobo camps and ruins and garbage. And it's a very nice park. Everything's been cleaned up and rebuilt. We're standing on a balcony in this hotel that's under construction. I spent an hour on stage in the wind doing commentary on the parade. Yes, there were no tanks. It didn't have... well, it really didn't have anything to do with any missile strikes from Ukraine.

There was a full parade in '23. It came under a lot of internal criticism that, you know, we're at war, we shouldn't be spending that much money on the big parades. So the parade in '24 was very conservative. The parade in '25 was big, but that was because it was the 80th anniversary. And this is the 81st anniversary, so they went back to being a conservative parade. Me personally, I think they should have gone all out just to snub—and screw it, you know, show that you can do it. That's my opinion. Now, I think the vast majority of people were really, really, really hoping that Zelensky would do something. I was praying he would do something, because I'd really like to see the center of Kiev taken out.

#Danny

Right, because that was the warning.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

People around. Yeah, just burned a little bit. I mean, look, you've got Russian recon drones flying over the center of Kiev. The people in Kiev were videotaping it. They can't take them down. They're watching this criminal regime's human scum just getting in and out of their cars. They can be destroyed. I mean, they're there. So most people were like, yes, please do something so we can finally get rid of you. But they didn't. And one of the reasons they didn't, by the way, is because the Europeans did listen to the warnings, and all the Europeans that normally pop up to go stand by Zelensky on Europe Day—because it's no longer Victory Day, it's Europe Day.

#Danny

What the hell?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Yeah. And their line is, Europe is united. Yeah, well, Russia's 42% of Europe, just so we understand that. So the rest of Europe is supposedly united. They didn't come. And Zelensky was hoping that if they'd come, he could have used them as human shields. I think they figured that out. He was going to do that, and everybody said no. So I guess Zelensky chickened out. Most people I know were all hoping, do it, do it, man, do it, do it, so we can finally do this. But so far, I guess not. But the unilateral ceasefire that the Ukrainians supposedly are now signed up to—yeah, they've broken it a little bit, like 8,000 times so far for the day. That's including FPV drone attacks, artillery attacks, mortars, etc.

I mean, honestly speaking, I don't see the point in all of this. I don't see the point. Even giving them two days to regroup, because that's what they're doing, is pointless. Just keep hammering them until Kiev falls. That's the only way. It may make good PR, but as a military man, it doesn't make any damn sense whatsoever. You've got an enemy. He's made it obvious enough. Whether or not the military wants to fight to the very last Ukrainian man, woman, and child is irrelevant because the political class does. They're making money off it. And since the people want to overthrow the political class, well, what can you do? And by the way, just to understand what's going on.

Not only are they grabbing people like Younger, not only are they grabbing priests from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church—the official one that's now banned because it's an autonomous church of the Moscow Patriarchate—they're literally grabbing priests and nuns, or monks in this case, and throwing them on the front lines. These guys have vows of pacifism, so they're throwing them out to get them killed as fast as possible. The number of women in the Ukrainian military overall is now 13 and a half percent. But the key number is the percentage of women between 2005 and 2006 on the front lines. It's gone from 5% to seven and a half percent. Yeah, they're getting killed just like the men, just at the front.

And if you look at the photos of, particularly, Kupiansk, those kinds of areas, if you look at the photos of the POWs, they look like they came out of concentration camps. They're going to POW camps so they can fatten themselves back up. These guys are skin and bones. They're not being fed. They're tossed to the front lines to stay and fight till you die. The only way you get off the battlefield is to become—if you're lucky—you're wounded, then you might get evacuated. More likely, the only way you get off the battlefield is in a body bag in an exchange. And, you know, I've got a friend of mine who—uh, two different people in this case—uh, one of them, he used to be assault infantry until he got injured.

Uh, so he got moved to battlefield cleanup, and they were south of Kupiansk, and that battlefield moved. He said, you know, it was a pretty stalemated battlefield for a while. Battlefield cleanup is when you go pick up the corpses, you know, nasty, dirty work. You gotta figure nature's nature, and bodies have been laying there for months, if not longer. And he said he was shocked. He figured, you know, it should be close to one-to-one maybe, particularly because Russia then was assaulting

and Russia pushed the Ukrainians outside. Ten to one. There's just mountains of Ukrainian corpses everywhere. And this other guy, he was in Army Group North.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

And they came into the northern portion of Kharkov. They took the high ground, set up their defensive positions, and he said, you know, in front of his fighting position was a two-kilometer-wide field, right, open field. He said they'd bring Ukrainians, and Ukrainians would go body-waving. And we were talking about how they were moving, so it was obvious that these Ukrainians were not trained at all, these Ukrainian soldiers. They're just press-ganged off the—when they press-gang people off the street, they filter them. The younger guys that are fit, they'll get taken off by the assault brigades that are actually the more elite units, and they'll get some training and they'll get proper equipment.

People over 30 or people with medical conditions, they go into the suicide squads, the body waves. At best, if they're lucky, they'll get tossed to hold some line after the assault brigades have gone through and then pulled back out. At worst, they get tossed as the first waves to try to soften up the Russian positions. And these guys, they get the basics of "the bullet comes out at this end of the assault rifle." Okay, you're ready to go. He said, you know, you'd watch them. They'd just unload a couple dozen of them, and they'd go charge across the fields. Like, we never even really fired on them, because the artillery would rip them to pieces before they ever got close enough. And this is day after day after day after day after day after day. That's the reality on the battlefield.

#Danny

Yeah. Wow. Yeah. It's really, yeah. I was about to say, it's quite ugly.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Um, well, so that's my final question. One quick comment on that. Sure. So while Mearsheimer is talking about gathering up Ukrainian men and sending them off to help Ukraine become meat, according to the Ukrainian government, the French already handed over 40,000 men. And for the Europeans that may be listening to this, they're getting practice on what to do with you when the big war starts. Your governments are learning how to press-gang like the Ukrainians. It's the Ukrainianization of the EU in general.

#Danny

Well, Stas, my final question to you, because I know not only are you experienced in military affairs but also in economic affairs as well. My final question to you is this: you know, we have the Trump meeting coming up. We have, of course, a lot of the U.S.'s warmongering now with Iran centering on the Strait of Hormuz, oil markets, trade routes, etc. My question to you is this: the U.S. appears,

of course, to be trying to starve the world, especially starve Iran and the multipolar world from being able to develop. But the problem I see is that oil is low value-added, meaning that oil is simply something under the economic system that we have which is supposed to be meant for something. You need oil for energy, for production. Without it, of course, production comes to a screeching halt.

The United States doesn't really do that very much anymore. So are we seeing the United States simply trying to starve the multipolar world, starve Iran, starve China, starve Russia of this? And a big problem I see is that none of these countries are dependent upon U.S. oil. None of them are going to submit and say, well, we're just going to buy U.S. LNG because you're cutting off all the trade routes. It seems to me that China and Russia and Iran are building quite robust trade routes. I was just in China. Everyone was telling me, we're going to be fine because we are 80-plus percent self-sufficient in energy anyway. And everything else that we get is very little from the U.S., so we'll be fine. But what's your take on this in terms of the world economic reality that the U.S. is trying to manipulate?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

You know, like I was saying before, I don't know if I said it on your show or not. We have three factions in this conflict from the Zionist coalition. Two are American factions, one is an Israeli faction. So on the one hand, the first faction you have is the neocons. And you can understand the neocons — they're just greedy bastards who want to control everything, hegemony. They don't want to destroy Iran, and they don't want to destroy Iran's infrastructure. They want to overthrow Iran, put a dictator of one sort or another, somebody that will be beholden. The king wouldn't be a king — I mean, a real king is a nationalist. That's just the nature of things. A republican government tends to be a nationalist government as well.

And those kind of governments, they tend to look at their resources and go, you know, those belong to us and our people. Those aren't what the U.S. wants. The U.S. wants a tin pot dictator, whatever they call them — a president, a king, a sultan, whatever, it doesn't matter. He's a tin pot dictator who knows he's only in power because the praetorian guard is the U.S., and he's going to give everything away. That's what the neocons want, and you can understand that there's a logic behind it. Then you get the second faction, and that's the Israelis. They want to destroy Iran. They want to destroy everybody that has any strength in the Middle East that could be a competitor to them — using the U.S., of course, to do it first and foremost.

Then the third faction, and it should never be underestimated because a lot of them are in power, and that's the Christian Zionists — those heretics that want the end of the frigging world. They want to destroy everything. They want nuclear weapons going off. They want Armageddon. You're looking at these people and figuring out the neocons are the most rational people you're dealing with. There are knock-on effects. I mean, again, it's obvious the neocon plan to try to grab Iran and put a tin pot

dictator in and grab all the oil and get rich has failed. The Iranian government did not collapse like a house of cards. Whoops. Now what do we do? But there are knock-on effects that actually do benefit them. One of those effects is, physically, there's a lot less oil.

There's about 20% of the world's oil gone off the market. In a long enough time span, there will be new oil fields opened up or production expanded in other oil fields. True. We're talking half a year, a year, two years down the road. To bring a brand-new oil field to economic production is between two to five years. That's from your first wildcat well to your pipelines pumping oil or gas out. That's the reality of it. You can't really get around that. You can speed it up a little bit, but it's pretty hard. But the knock-on effect that's good for the U.S. is, look, yes, U.S. farmers are dying out — I mean, 50, 55 families a day. Fertilizer's doubled in price. It's horrible inside the U.S. economy. But the U.S. isn't about to revolt.

#Danny

I don't know what's going on, but your connection suddenly has slowed, so it's hard to understand right now. But if you're still there, I will wait and see if we can get you to be able to finish the thought without this interruption. So, yeah, I mean, indeed, there's going to be some benefits reaped from this. Stas, are you there? Can you hear? I think we might have lost him for now. Well, I'll just say thank you first to those who gave super chats, super stickers. Thank you. Who is Farzan Adim, RDS Sparrow, thank you for the super chat. And Miss Andrea, thank you so much. Hit the like button. It seems like Stas actually has left the meeting, so let's see if he comes back. You get the truth from experts in too many places. Non-cable knowledge is power. Yes.

Well, I asked Stas, and I'm going to keep a lookout for him here in the participants bar just so I can see him when he comes back. But yeah, I've been asking Stas about this because I've been getting a lot of messages from viewers wanting me to address the possible fallout from all of this in terms of energy markets, in terms of the United States actually benefiting quite dramatically from these cut-off trade routes. Because the point is to contain China, to isolate Russia, to weaken Iran. And even if it has to take a military hit here and there, even if it's overheating its own economy and the world economy as a whole, all of that is worth it for the control. But here is Stas. Hey, he popped back up. Great. All right, finish your thought. You were talking about how the U.S. could benefit from this.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Yeah, the knockout effect is for the U.S. Look, it's Southeast Asia — lack of oil, lack of gas — which, no matter what you want to pay for it, if it isn't there, you just physically can't buy it. They've already been hit hard. Fertilizer issues, they're going to have bad harvests. There's going to be people starving, lots of people starving. So when those refugees, for one reason or another, get on the move, where are they going to go? Southeast Asia is going to go in one direction — north to China. And China is going to have problems on its border with a lot of refugees coming up. And that's what I think some of these neocons are counting on.

It won't kill China, but it will create a lot of problems for China. So, hey, you know, there's a silver lining on this horrible cloud. Never mind the U.S. — our people are starving and they're in pain. But at least the Chinese get some of that pain, too. I think that's what they're looking at. You know, at least if our bowl of cereal is spilled, well, we can knock yours over, too. And that's — I mean, these people, they're always looking for that little silver lining. They don't really give a damn about how many Americans there are. Americans to them are crazy; they're still serfs to be used at the end of the day. I mean, yeah, the billionaire class is the billionaire class.

#Danny

Yeah, they're making money off of it. I mean, this is the thing. Sometimes it can be easily viewed as, oh, this is a world phenomenon that, you know, the Epstein class, these oligarchs, that they're making money simply off of robbing the world. Well, it's time for Americans, people in the United States, to understand that they are the world. Yeah. And they are indeed getting shorted and robbed, you know, just by simply existing under this arrangement. And so, but I cannot see a pathway where every U.S. move starts just to close here.

It seems that all of these moves end up just fortifying and strengthening what is going to be an increasingly attractive movement, venture which is cooperating more with China, more with Russia, and building these alternative routes by land. If the U.S. wants to exhaust their Navy at sea and cause more laundry fires and all sorts of things on their naval warships to try to catch them in blockades, then so be it, because China and Russia and now Iran have more prestige in Asia and really the rest of the Global South than anything the U.S. can presume. So this is what I see as the big push that will make all of this backfire. But any closing words before we head out of here, Stas?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Yeah, one thing. Don't forget there's a new front that's been going on for the last two weeks. It's called Mali and it's called Niger. And as little attention as Mali is getting, Niger is getting zero attention. The Sahel that rebelled with Russian help from the neo-colonial empire, the French, that never really went away. So you've got Americans, French, and Ukrainian Nazi proxies who are training up Islamic jihadists that invaded both Niger and Mali. And they really struck into Mali hard. But they've been pushed back. The Russian African Corps that's there, that was the backbone of rebuilding the Mali forces. It was a backbone that held. They didn't fall, and now they've pretty much crushed the Islamic jihadists. And look, the problem isn't just that the French have lost easy access to buying really cheap resources and stealing Mali gold, basically free.

The problem for the French, too, is Russia. Just in Mali alone, Russia is in the process of starting to build three nuclear power reactors. Most of Mali is without electricity or has very limited electricity. It's a very resource-rich country that can't do anything with those resources but sell them at dirt-low prices. They get three nuclear power plants running there, and they get an abundance of electricity,

cheap energy. They go up that value chain really, really quickly. And that's a big problem for Europe because they can't get there. In the West, they can't get those cheap resources. They're now having to buy processed goods that cost more. And the people that own those resources actually get the benefit from those resources. So there's a new front right now. It's Western Africa.

#Danny

Yeah. No, the United States, the West, as they flail and fail and decline, they're going to try to undercut and undermine development everywhere, especially by those they see as their quote-unquote adversaries. But Stas, this was a great program. I want to make sure that everybody knows that your YouTube channel is in the video description below, so everyone who's watching here should go there after the show and subscribe. I want to make sure that everyone hits the like button before you head out. That helps boost the show and gets more people listening to this conversation after we are done. And then, of course, all the places to support this channel are in the video description below. Tomorrow, I'll be on with economist Richard Wolff, 1 p.m. Eastern time, to go more into this economic aspect of the war and the world situation. But without further ado, everyone thank Stas again by hitting the like button, and we're going to head out of here. Bye bye.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Cheers.