USS Bush in CRISIS: Iran Fires TEN Missiles, US & Israel Move to War | Larry Johnson

Former CIA analyst Larry Johnson discusses the major crisis aboard the USS Bush aircraft carrier as the US Navy prepares for a long deployment joined with USS Roosevelt and Washington in a new operation against Iran. Iran has struck back, preemptively attacking US warships and Israel is moving closer to war. Don't miss this must watch show covering all this and more! Follow Larry Johnson: https://sonar21.com/ https://www.youtube.com/@UCewRbK22LRnNi6N3EcGjbow PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai... Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: $Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: https://paypal.me/spiritofho Follow me on Telegram: https://t.me/dannyhaiphong #iran #iranwar #israel

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone, on this Friday the 13th. It's Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by former CIA analyst, geopolitical commentator, and independent media creator, if I can call you that, Larry. How are you? Good to see you.

#Larry Johnson

Just call me the formerly fat guy with an opinion. Yeah, that too. You know, I went on a program to lose weight. And now I've had people write to me asking, “Do you have cancer? Do you have AIDS?” And I go, “No, no, I'm fine.” What I did was stop doing the, you know, arm curls where you put food in your hand and put it into your mouth. I cut back on that.

#Danny

Amazing. Well, you're looking really good, Larry. But you know who's not looking really good? It's the USS George H.W. Bush. I wanted to actually open up with this because we had a great segment about the Abraham Lincoln not too long ago. But now the George H.W. Bush, Larry, has been told by the Navy secretary, Mr. Tso, that they are going to be out at sea for at least another year, with no port calls during the holidays. They've gone 187 days without a port call. There is an exploding mental health crisis on this aircraft carrier as well, along with squalid living conditions, including inadequate plumbing facilities. Families have pushed back in a meeting with the U.S. Navy, saying that they believe this is just yet another forever war. And, Larry, I wanted to ask you, you know, because the third aircraft carrier, Theodore Roosevelt, is coming, I think, in a couple of days.

#Larry Johnson

Four days.

#Danny

And we know that the Mossad chief is in Washington right now. There's a lot of talk about renewed strikes on Iran, much bigger than what occurred in the last 24 hours between the U.S. and Iran, which we'll get to in a bit. But first, your thoughts on this burgeoning crisis for the George H.W. Bush, as there seems to be this looming war planned by the U.S. and Israel.

#Larry Johnson

Well, I think it's highly likely—I'd give it an 80% chance—that within five to six days, we will be preparing or carrying out new attacks on Iran, launching a new phase in this war. Let's see, today's the 13th, so by November 18th or November 19th. And, you know, it's a combination of factors. Yesterday, the news broke that they're extending the tour of the H.W. Bush, because previously the expectation was that the Roosevelt was coming to replace it and give those sailors and Marines a break, you know, a chance to go back and refit, recoup. But no, they're going to keep them on the line.

So the fact that they're keeping all three combat ships in that area of operations is one signal. The other signal is that yesterday, after a seven-day silence, Donald Trump finally cut the legs out from under J.D. Vance. The day after the disastrous midterm elections for the Republicans, Vance had explained it: "Look, we got beat because of our policy of going to war with Iran and because we are basically the bitches of Israel. The Zionists tell us what to do, and we do it. And most Americans are sick and tired of that. They don't want any part of that." Well, you know, the Israeli lobby erupted. The neocons went crazy.

But Trump didn't say one word to dispute J.D. Vance until yesterday. And yesterday he said, "No, J. D. Vance is not going to talk to the Iranians anymore. No more negotiations. And I want him to focus on corruption, Democratic corruption." Bad, bad, bad sign. So I think that, you know, for right now, that indicates Trump fully expects to go back to full-scale war with Iran. And if he does so, it will be an unmitigated disaster for the United States. And it likely will lead to the loss of one or more of the U.S. ships that are currently offshore, and probably the deaths of many U.S. soldiers and Marines. So this could really be a disaster.

#Danny

Right. And the potential for disaster also seems very evident in the condition of the U.S. Navy, as the H.W. Bush continues to enforce this blockade and will be part of these operations that you're talking

about, which are likely imminent. Yesterday, Larry, we saw Iran also fire a salvo of missiles at U.S. naval warships. There wasn't any clear explanation reported as to why they did this. It was 10 missiles in total. But there were reports that it was likely because the accompanying destroyers and the aircraft carriers were getting too close.

And so I'm wondering, Larry, what does this all mean? We have three aircraft carriers about to be in the CENTCOM area of operations, and we already know that at least two of the three are facing internal crises of morale, deteriorating conditions, and all the things that we've talked about the Abraham Lincoln suffering through before it had to hightail its way to Thailand. And I can't imagine the USS George Washington is in any better condition.

#Larry Johnson

Well, it depends on how close these ships get to the Iranian shore. Iran previously did not make an effort to launch, let's call it, a drone and missile swarm against a particular ship or ships. It sent in waves of attacks, but nothing that the air defense systems on the ships could not handle. I think this next go-round, that will change, and they will, in fact, be swarmed, and swarmed in a way that the ships cannot defend themselves and will be hit. Now, whether they'll be hit to the extent that it will cause some to sink, I don't know. Aircraft carriers are difficult to sink. Not impossible, but difficult.

But, you know, we'll see. I think that's going to be a primary target for Iran, particularly given that it doesn't look like the United States is going to be able to use positions in Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia like it did in previous operations, you know, at the start of Epic Fury last February. So with that limitation, the United States is going to try to come at it, I think, from some different approaches, and I think primarily from the sea in the south. Iran's made it very clear it's got some new weapons, and it's prepared to use them. I think some of those weapons are untested, so maybe some will fail.

But you can't rule out that they've received tested weapons from, say, China and/or Russia. We already know that the Iranians possess weapons capable of reaching every airfield in the U.K. and Europe where U.S. aircraft are based and launched from. So General Rezaei has threatened that if Iran is attacked again from any of those bases, those bases will be targeted in return. And then, you know, while all this is going on, Ansar Allah continues its assault on Saudi Arabia, and Saudi Arabia can't stop it. And if a new attack on Iran comes to pass, I expect to see Hezbollah awaken and get into the fray. So this is fraught with peril.

#Danny

Yeah. And before we get to Israel and its role, I wanted to actually ask you, you know, I don't have any insiders in the U.S. Navy who know what's going on aboard the ship. But I must say, I'm wondering, given all that you've said with regard to Iran's arsenal. I mean, I just saw a report that said Iran has more missiles now than Russia and China combined, in terms of quantity. And, of

course, Mossad said yesterday that they're not going to give up any of their nuclear enrichment to any third country because they need it for their nuclear submarines and ships, which are, you know, in development.

Larry, how much of the deteriorating morale and the crisis on board these U.S. aircraft carriers has to do with fear? I know that soldiers, Marines, and other U.S. military personnel are supposed to be trained not to be afraid of anything. But truthfully, the ways in which Iran has been able to target U. S. assets so directly throughout this war are unprecedented. Do you think fear has anything to do with why conditions on these aircraft carriers just seem to go into crisis mode as time goes by?

#Larry Johnson

Well, yeah, I mean, it's a failure of leadership. I'm sure Edwin Starr's videos from the past are playing. You know, Starr was known for singing the song, "War, what is it good for?"

#Danny

Absolutely nothing. Say it again.

#Larry Johnson

War. So they're asking themselves, “Why the hell are we doing this? I mean, what's the threat to us? What's the threat to America?” And that's where Trump has failed. And, you know, right now they're making a very weak, lame effort to try to create a casus belli, a reason for going to war. “Oh, those Iranians, they're trying to assassinate Scott Bessent.” And the average American's going, “Who? Scott who?” And Pete Hegseth and Marco Rubio and Stephen Miller. And when they get to Stephen Miller, they go, “Who?”

#Danny

But, you know,

#Larry Johnson

They're supposedly holed up on U.S. military bases. They're either at Bolling Air Force Base in Maryland or at Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia. Those are the two closest. I mean, those are right there in D.C. But this is a lame effort to try to create a narrative that Iran represents a threat to the United States so that we can justify another act in our illegal war against Iran. And, you know, they're trying to whip that up. They've also got the cooperation of the UK and Europe, the French in particular. They're claiming, “Oh my God, the Iranians launched a cyberattack on us. They turned off

our freezers. Oh my God, the pâté is thawing. Oh, we've got thawed pâté. Please, everybody, get out your crackers. We need to eat." It's just ridiculous. Or my favorite was, "Well, Belgium, there's a division. There's a lack of unity." Yeah, no kidding.

You've got three different languages with three different sort of ethnic groups. You've got the Flemish, a.k.a. the Dutch. You've got the French. And you've got the Germans. Oh, English is also spoken. Yeah, but they can't agree amongst themselves. Was it Iran or was it not Iran? Hey, maybe it was Russia. Yeah. And then we've evacuated our bases in the UK at Mildenhall and Fairford because Iran is going to conduct terrorist attacks against them. So all of this is what I call narrative construction, so that when Trump pulls the trigger without going to Congress, without seeking congressional authorization, he'll be able to say, "Hey, I'm doing it just to protect America. Because you know what? If we don't stop Iran now, they may turn off the freezer in your kitchen. They're a real danger. I mean, you can't afford to have your frozen chicken unfrozen."

#Danny

Yeah, well, there are a lot of theories, and all of us have talked about the role of Europe in these wars and why Europe behaves the way it does. But sometimes you just have to sit back and laugh at how absurd it becomes—the yeoman's work that Europe puts in to slavishly serve U.S. ends, no matter how bad it is for Europe itself.

#Larry Johnson

I want to get the Europeans a T-shirt that says, "I'm Donald Trump's bitch." Okay?

#Danny

Well, Mark Rutte wasn't too far from that.

#Larry Johnson

We do what we're told. We do what we're told.

#Danny

Mark Rutte wasn't too far from that when he called Trump "Daddy." Now, who's your daddy? Ridiculous. Well, Larry, let's talk about the strikes that have occurred in the last day or so. We saw Iran fire those missiles at U.S. naval warships, and then the U.S. hit Iraq and Lengeh. Then Iran says it hit a U.S. Army early warning radar in Bahrain. There are all kinds of disputes about this, but I'm curious what your thoughts are about these strikes. Do you think they're some kind of probing or priming? What is the point of these strikes, in your opinion, from the U.S. side?

#Larry Johnson

They've been going on for at least two weeks. I mean, just go back and do a daily search. We've been hitting Sirik or some other site in that vicinity every day for the last two weeks, and Iran hasn't really reacted. Three days ago, Iran did carry out an attack on an island off the coast of Oman that reportedly housed another radar system, a communications system of some sort, that was being used by the United States to try to guide ships through the Strait of Hormuz. So that's been destroyed. And then they reportedly took out this other radar in Bahrain. But at this point, Iran has not expanded the attacks. You know, back in July, there was sort of this tit-for-tat.

The U.S. would hit targets, and then Iran would retaliate and hit, like, Muwaffaq al-Salti and U.S. bases in Kuwait. Right. But they haven't done anything like that right now. So it's just telling me that these are not significant attacks yet. These are, if you will, attempted provocations to try to elicit a bigger response from Iran in order to justify a joint U.S.-Israel strike. But, you know, again, the situation has dramatically changed from what it was back on the 27th of February, before this war started. You have a much stronger military intelligence-sharing relationship between Iran and Russia, and between Iran and China, than you had back on the 27th of February.

Iran has expanded its underground missile cities and storage facilities. Iran has stepped up its use of dummy and decoy targets above ground. A lot of that comes courtesy of the Chinese military. You know, in overhead photography, it can look like you've got a complete radar system. And then you blow it up and find out it's just plastic and wood. You know, it's just a fake site. But it appears that Trump is hell-bent on doing this. So, by pulling the rug out from under J.D. Vance and shutting down the negotiations, I think we're headed for some real trouble.

#Danny

Yeah, well, now we can get to Israel, Larry. What is going on here? Netanyahu is calling Trump every single day. At least those have been the reports of late. One of the recent calls, I believe it was a couple of days ago, was very heated. I think we've heard this before in various other phases of both wars—the 40-day war and the 12-day war last year. But now you have the Mossad chief in Washington. J.D. Vance, I believe, is going to be at Camp David this weekend. Trump has canceled everything to have these discussions with the Israelis. What the hell is going on, Larry, especially with Israel and the timing of all of this? I find it very curious, but at the same time, it is Israel. So, your thoughts on what's going on?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, well, it's Bibi Netanyahu's last desperate play. Saying that the head of Mossad is here for meetings carries with it the false implication that all of Mossad backs this. But that's not the case. In fact, several senior Mossad officers have come out and spoken in opposition to the Mossad chief, who was specifically placed in that position by Netanyahu. But it is Netanyahu's last effort to try to,

you know, launch what he thinks can be a devastating attack. The Israelis just aren't taking into account what is likely to happen if such an attack is launched—what Iran is going to do in retaliation against Israel.

It really could threaten the very existence of Israel. I think Iran has that capability. Will they exercise it this time? I don't know. But it has to be taken into account. You know, when we're looking at the timing, Trump is supposed to travel to China, I think, this weekend. You know, what's today, the 15th? Oh, today's the 13th. So, next week—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday—you've got the Economic Leaders' Meeting on the 18th and 19th in Shenzhen. So I don't think you'll see any military action against Iran until after Trump meets with Putin and Xi, assuming that meeting comes off.

But it's at that meeting that they could, you know, have some private conversations with Trump and basically warn him, "If you're thinking about attacking Iran, don't, because if you do, you're going to have trouble with us." There are things they could say to him behind closed doors that they don't say in public that might dissuade Trump from doing anything. So we'll have to wait and see. And so that's why I say what Israel's saying right now is a little irrelevant. They can beg, plead, cajole, but the effort by Eisenkot to create an alternative government goes forward. And so until that's derailed, there are some handcuffs on Bibi.

#Danny

You mentioned Mossad, you know, and of course, many people associate Mossad with horrific actions—for example, what happened in Lebanon with the pager attacks and these kinds of absolutely disgusting operations. But at the same time, I'm wondering, Larry, since I'm sure you've been around people like this, do you believe that one of the reasons why there are divisions inside Mossad about restarting heavy military operations against Iran is because they find themselves maybe a lot weaker in this area than they were in the past? Because it wasn't so long ago, Larry, that Mossad boasted about its influence inside Iran, the 12-day war, and all of that that happened in 2025. But a lot has changed since then. Do you feel like that's one of the reasons they oppose it?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, I think there are still some honest professionals in Mossad who can sit down and do an accurate assessment of what the situation is and realize this is not a good position for Israel to be in. Instead of weakening Iran, they've strengthened Iran. Instead of dissuading Iran from pursuing a nuclear weapon, they've increased public support in Iran for a nuclear weapon. So they've moved Iran in the exact opposite direction from what they wanted. Instead of minimizing Iran as a threat to them, they've expanded Iran's capabilities to threaten Israel and, at the same time, weakened support in the Persian Gulf that Israel previously thought it had in its back pocket.

#Danny

And as for this planning that's going on, I'm sure there are conversations between Trump and Netanyahu, and between the United States and Israel through various channels. They're not just twiddling their thumbs. What exactly could they be planning? Because, as you've noted on this show before, the U.S. and Israel are hampered by some pretty obvious military limitations, which you can, of course, help review for the audience. But what exactly could they be planning, given that there's been a lot of damage done already to the U.S.'s capacity to project its will on Iran?

#Larry Johnson

Well, do you mean what is Iran planning or what is the U.S. planning?

#Danny

Well, what are the U.S. and Israel planning? I mean, we can talk about Iran after that.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, no. Well, I think one of the crazy plans that's been offered is putting troops onto Kharg Island and/or Qeshm Island to conduct a raid to try to destroy certain equipment on the ground. That's a terribly risky kind of mission because they're not going to insert enough troops to be able to fight against an organized force, number one. Number two, getting those troops inserted and then exfiltrated would be very problematic as well, making it a very, very risky operation. And then, even if they, quote, destroy sites there, whatever PR win it gives them could rapidly be destroyed if they are taken prisoner or killed in the field and their bodies put on display in Tehran, as an example. And then there's what Iran can do in retaliation: taking out airfields, power stations in Israel, refineries in Israel, ports in Israel. So Iran is capable of doing a significant amount of damage to Israel that, frankly, I think would be difficult for Israel to recover from.

#Danny

Yeah, well, maybe we can talk a little bit about that meeting that could happen between Putin, Xi, and Trump in no less than five or so days at the APEC summit. There's been a lot going on on all of these fronts, of course. We saw, I believe, Putin and Raisi recently meet for several hours.

#Larry Johnson

Three hours, yeah. Three hours on Wednesday and an hour and a half on the phone a week ago Monday.

#Danny

Right. So those are significant developments. And then, of course, we've had this talk about a trilateral summit. But I don't believe there's been any official confirmation that it's definitely going to happen. But it has been talked about so much that it seems like it's likely. What exactly could be accomplished at such a meeting, given both of these wars? There have also just been these talks in Abu Dhabi about the Ukraine conflict. What exactly could this accomplish, if anything?

#Larry Johnson

You mean the meeting in Shenzhen?

#Danny

Yeah, the meeting in Shenzhen, the trilateral summit.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, that'll be on November 18th and 19th if it happens. There's not been any public confirmation that such a meeting will take place yet. And one of the underlying themes behind whether that meeting will take place was what Vladimir Putin said to Witkoff and Kushner the day before yesterday, when they went to Moscow to meet him and brief him on what happened at the trilateral meeting in Abu Dhabi that took place, I guess, on Tuesday. Putin had a very, let's call it frosty, icy conversation with Witkoff and Kushner—one that didn't leave them smiling and happy. It left them with concerned looks on their faces, if you look at the photographs taken during that meeting.

So Russia is showing no signs whatsoever of bending to U.S. pressure to negotiate with the Europeans. Putin made his position very clear: Europeans need to decide if they want to move towards peace or war. They can't do both. If they want to move towards peace, they have to agree on a negotiator and bring him or her forward, and we'll talk. But until then, we've got to assume that they're going to war with us, and we'll prepare accordingly. So with that as a backdrop, I don't see it as a warm, inviting session. And then there's this attack on Jensen Huang. If this was not a joint Mossad-CIA operation, that may, in fact, be why the Mossad chief is in D.C., talking about how this effort to take out Jensen Huang of NVIDIA has failed or has blown up.

Yeah, they got him out of the job. But the blowback has started because now even the CIA is coming out and saying, well, we didn't have any evidence that the lady he was allegedly banging on the side was a Chinese spy. And then, you know, when they try to make such a big deal about marital infidelity, hell, they didn't have a meltdown over all of the baby mamas that Elon Musk has got scattered around. And ditto for all the young girls that Bill Gates was with on Epstein Island. So, you know, you've got to step back and say, okay, what's going on here? So these are actions by the United States, both vis-à-vis Russia and China, that are not going to make for a happy meeting environment in Shenzhen if it comes off.

#Danny

Yeah, no doubt. And it seems like there's a concerted attack on NVIDIA around this chip issue. Maybe you can talk about that, Larry, because, you know, I've listened to Jensen Huang, and I would not call him someone who defends China's honor or its government or anything like that. He was somebody who was pretty adamant about trying to keep the market open, especially for these second-tier chips, which were supposed to actually arrest China's AI chip development. But nevertheless, it seems like there are hawks who want to go further than that.

#Larry Johnson

I mean, is NVIDIA a publicly traded company? Yes. So, as a publicly traded company, who is Jensen Huang responsible for pleasing: Donald Trump or the shareholders? The answer, under normal capitalist conditions, is the shareholders. Okay, great. So, for NVIDIA, what is your growth plan? Do you want to take the second-largest country in the world in terms of population and cut it out of your market? Or do you want to have it as part of your market, where you can grow? Well, you want the latter.

And so anything you do to try to achieve that goal then becomes identified as a criminal activity by the United States. And again, this is what this is going to set up for China. If they do have a trilateral meeting, the message from both Russia and China to Trump is, "Hey, you need to butt the hell out of our internal affairs and stop interfering with commercial activities and stop threatening us." And, you know, if confronted that way in private, I think Trump will cave. But, you know, if they did it in public, he would put on this bravado: "I'm a tough guy, and they can't tell me what to do." Nonsense.

#Danny

And people may not remember, but in the first Trump administration, he was actually the one who started the so-called chip wars with China by trying to do exactly what you said, Larry, which is to politicize the chip sector and try to cut off China's access to the chips developed by various companies. Yeah.

#Larry Johnson

But remember what this has done, and the guy who does the best job of explaining this is Kevin Wamsley of Inside China Business. Everyone can find him on YouTube. Inside China Business, Kevin Wamsley. And, you know, he's laid out how, in response to these efforts to shut out Huawei and cut off Chinese access to Western chips, China has just gone, "Okay, then we'll build our own." Now, have they used espionage and other techniques to acquire access to some of the technology? Probably the same kind of thing that we, the United States, would do if we were in a similar position. So, you know, that's the other thing that sort of gets my goat.

We're so selective in our moral outrage. We get outraged when people do the same shit that we do. It's like, well, if what we're doing is outrageous, then maybe we shouldn't be doing it. You know, that's a whole other issue. But, you know, this is just a setup for a confrontation between China and Russia on one side and the United States on the other. That's not going to be in Trump's favor. Plus, Trump shows up at that meeting, you know, very, very weakened politically. He can't say, "Oh, I've got the country behind me." You know, Putin and Xi are going to say, "Most of your country voted against you."

#Danny

Yep, this is true. In any poll they take, 66-plus percent choose disapproval over approval, which is a very bad sign. But, you know, it's so curious, Larry, because when it comes to condemning China—and I also wholeheartedly co-sign your recommendation of Inside China Business. He's a great analyst on all economic matters related to China. But I wanted to get your reaction to the fact that the United States—Washington, I should say, the hawks—make such a huge deal about accusations and claims against China, which are difficult to prove, even if some of them are plausible.

And then when Israel's Mossad goes on 60 Minutes and says, "We have access to all kinds of supply chains where we can implant explosives into pagers and kill thousands of people," they say this to your face on your own media, and there's not a peep about it. Gold Apollo in Taiwan—there's been a peep about how, "Ooh, maybe that is punishable. That is a deplorable kind of business." But I guess this exposes something, Larry. Your thoughts on it?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, no, it is. The United States can't figure out what it wants to do, what kind of relationship it wants with China. On the one hand, it's like, "Okay, we want to continue to have a commercial relationship with China." The Chinese are going, "Okay." But then we turn around and say, "However, we're going to restrict Chinese companies from doing X, Y, Z. We're going to put these tariffs in place. We're going to put these trade barriers in place. We're going to put these sanctions in place. We're going to prevent Chinese students from coming to American universities."

We're going to prohibit Chinese people from buying land or having any kind of physical investment in the United States. And then when China turns around and retaliates accordingly, we act all outraged. You know, we're like the guy who throws a punch at somebody, and then when that guy punches back, we holler, "Hey, I've been attacked!" Well, you started the damn fight. You shouldn't have thrown the first punch. And the Chinese are at a point where they're not going to take any more punches like that.

#Danny

And Larry, how does this all relate to the way that U.S. foreign policy is shaping up now? Because Washington can't seem to resolve anything. And indeed, I think some people believe that, of course, forever war is very profitable. But there are also the costs, not just the financial cost of war, but also the cost to the U.S.'s standing, its reputation. Ukraine and Iran, these two different arenas of war, have done a lot of damage in that regard. What is the cost-benefit analysis of all this? And is there something driving U.S. foreign policy that is making it not only so irrational, as many have pointed out, but also maybe so inconclusive in terms of what happens when the United States does start new wars or tries to engage in forever wars, however people look at it?

#Larry Johnson

I'd say there's no strategic vision guiding what the United States is doing, because if there were, we wouldn't be doing what we're doing. So there have been some concerns expressed that the war in Ukraine is going to bleed over and bring in the war with Iran. Well, in fact, that war has bled over, and the two wars have been joined economically. What do I mean by that? The attack on the Persian Gulf, on Iran, on the 28th of February basically started a process in which 20 to 25% of the world's supply of crude oil was cut off, disrupted. Despite Donald Trump's claim that we're now exporting more oil out of the Persian Gulf than ever before, that's just a damn lie, an absolute falsehood.

Absolutely not true. There is some oil coming out, but under the most optimistic scenario, it's probably about 25%, maybe up to 50% of what was coming out before. And according to the head of Aramco in Saudi Arabia, it's going to take at least two years to get back to 100% because of the damage that's been done to the oil platforms, pumping stations, refineries, and pipelines. The infrastructure has been so damaged that it's going to take significant time to repair it. We're looking at a minimum of two years. Other analysts say it could be as long as seven to ten years. So that's number one.

So what this did was create a shortage of crude oil, the crude oil that goes to refineries around the world and is converted into gasoline for automobiles, diesel, or, you know, aviation fuel—the three principal ones—or other things. Then you've got the shortage of sulfur and urea, which come from processing both petroleum—the raw crude oil—and liquefied natural gas. And then you've got the helium, which comes out of the liquefied natural gas. Well, the main gas field pipelines and harvesting facilities are in Qatar, and they've been severely damaged there, to the point that the Qatari authorities say it could be four to five years before they're back to normal.

So all of this has created global shortages, particularly of gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuel. And so this has spiked global inflation. I'd say 98% of the countries in the world are now paying much more for gasoline, diesel fuel, or jet fuel than they were nine or ten months ago. And when you get that kind of price inflation, you get a depression or suppression of economic activity, which is, in fact, happening. And so it's just now a matter of how far some of these economies will decline. Will it be

5%, 10%, or worse? But we're going to see more and more situations in which there will be crises in the housing market. And inflation, as it works its way through the system, not only affects the price of food but the price of everything that people consume.

And it's also increased the cost of getting loans to buy houses and automobiles. So the drop in that activity further contracts economies. And this is happening globally, particularly in Europe. And this is where Europe, in trying to aggravate and keep this conflict going, has put itself in a position where it's now dependent upon the United States for oil and gas. Now, from the U.S. standpoint, this is great because we've got the Europeans over a barrel. They've got to buy our stuff, and they're going to have to pay whatever price we charge them, whereas previously they were able to get oil and natural gas at a much cheaper price from Russia. That's off the table. And then you're looking at the riots and protests in France and Spain and Italy. Across Europe, they're spiking, they're cropping up, and they're going to be happening with more frequency.

#Danny

And some have noted, Larry—I'm sure a lot of people in the U.S. and the combined West feel this way already, economically and materially—that we are in, it seems, a kind of low-bubbling recession that's maybe getting little attention. And that could and will get worse as these dynamics go on. Maybe you could help people understand what that looks like already and what it could look like in the near future, given that, as you just said, Europe and the U.S. regarding Ukraine, the U.S. regarding Iran—these don't seem like issues that are going to look different overnight.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, well, it's the boiling frog phenomenon. You know, you can put a frog in a pan of water with no fire under it. Then you turn the fire on. Well, the water starts heating up. And initially, well, you know, the water's getting a little warmer, but there comes a point when, all of a sudden, it goes from warm to hot to boiling. And all of a sudden, what you thought was gradual warming turns out to be catastrophic warming, or in this case, catastrophic debt, catastrophic contraction of the economy. And so right now, they keep whistling past the graveyard.

They keep saying, "Oh, things are pretty good. We're not in danger. There's no crisis. Nothing to see here. Move along." But that's not going to last. As the head of Aramco said, you're looking at a minimum of two years to fix the damage that's been done—at least two years. But then, when you step back and start looking at what's actually happening militarily on the ground in the Persian Gulf, what's happening in Saudi Arabia with Ansar Allah, what's happening in Ukraine with Russia, there's no sign that war is abating or backing off anywhere. It's just the opposite.

#Danny

Yeah. Well, Larry, maybe in your last, let's say, five to ten minutes here, you can talk about a recent piece that you wrote in Sonar 21 called "Not Even a Glass of Water," where you talk about these Abu Dhabi talks that have just taken place. You talked a little bit about the optics, what it looked like, and what kind of message Russia was sending. Maybe you can help us understand not just the relevance, but the overall geopolitical significance of this.

#Larry Johnson

Well, it's not only that a picture's worth a thousand words, but, man, you've also got to listen to the words sometimes. We've had—I don't know the exact count. I'm going to say, off the top of my head, at least five separate meetings with Steve Witkoff, with or without Jared Kushner. I think there was one meeting Kushner didn't go to because he was sick. So we've had five or six of those. And this meeting that took place on Wednesday was the first time ever. In those previous contacts, in those previous meetings, there'd be photographs of Putin shaking hands: "Hey, how are you?"

#Danny

"Welcome to Russia. Good to see you. Let's go talk."

#Larry Johnson

And then they'd go talk, and the media was shut out. They didn't get to film it. They didn't get to record it. Yesterday, on Wednesday, they got to film and record every word. And the Kremlin was pretty keen on releasing photographs from the event. And there's not a single photograph of Kushner or Witkoff going, "Hey, buddy," with a big smile, "Let's see the teeth." No, none of that. They looked like they'd been kicked in the balls. You know, they've got this expression on their faces—pretty serious. And the Russians, and Putin for his part, you know, when you watch the video—do you speak any other language, Danny?

#Danny

I'm at level two in Chinese, HSK 2, but that's still very beginner-level, though.

#Larry Johnson

Okay. So you've been in situations where there's somebody translating. You know a little bit of Chinese, but you'll speak in English, and then you've got your Chinese translator telling the Chinese people you're talking to what you said. And normally, when you're having a conversation, you'll speak a bit, then the translator comes in, then you continue. And in a situation like that, where you don't really understand the Chinese language, you have to look at the translator, and he'll nod or give you some signal: "Okay, go on." And then you go on. Well, when you watch that choreography

between Putin and his translator yesterday, as soon as the translator finished translating what Putin had said in Russian, Putin would then start again in Russian.

There was no signal, no communication, because Putin understands English. He knew exactly when the translator finished saying what Putin had said. Putin then launched into the next segment. And basically, what he told the United States was—even though Kushner came out later and said, "Oh, the Russians have agreed to allow the Europeans to sit in on the next round of negotiations"—"Hell no, that's not happening." He made it very clear that Europe has to make a decision whether it wants peace or war. And he said, "Until they figure that out, we're not going to talk to them." He says, "If they figure out they want peace, then they're going to identify a chief negotiator, and they're going to talk to us, and then we'll set the terms for the negotiation."

"But if they don't do that, we're assuming they want war, and we're prepared to go that route." That was exactly what he said. And that left Witkoff and Kushner wide-eyed. And then, on top of that, Putin said, "Hey, there's this one city, a small town, Konstantinovka, that the Ukrainians claim they control." He said, "So here's what we do. Let's take the international press corps in there. Let's have a truce over it, and let's see who's actually occupying the city." And when the Ukrainians heard that, they went, "Oh, but no, hey," you know? They're doing the Michael Jackson moonwalk backwards. Well, that's because they don't control it. And when Putin put that out there, Witkoff and Kushner didn't say, "Oh, that's a great idea."

#Danny

"Yeah, let's do it." They went, "Oh, well, we don't know." They're hesitant.

#Larry Johnson

So this was the follow-up to the tripartite talks in Abu Dhabi. And, you know, Russia basically kicked Trump in the balls and said no.

#Danny

Well, Larry, in the last couple of minutes, your final thoughts on what to look out for as we head into, of course, the markets closing and the weekend coming. And I know I'll see you next week, but what about the week ahead?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah. First, is Trump going to meet in Shenzhen with Putin and Xi? That's still up in the air. If he doesn't go to that meeting, then I think the odds of an attack on Iran sooner rather than later go up. If he goes to that meeting, then whether or not the attack on Iran comes off will depend partly on what happens inside that meeting and what China and Russia say to Trump about the consequences

of any further military action against Iran. Because under their Operation Iron Gate, Bessent is threatening China and Russia because they are trading partners with Iran. And China and Russia are going to tell them, basically, "Fuck off. You're not going to tell us who we can trade with and who we can't." So that's what I keep my eye on.

#Danny

Great. Well, I want to make sure everybody knows they should follow you on sonar21.com. That's in the video description below, as well as Transition Protocol, which is the YouTube channel you help contribute to and lead. Everyone should subscribe there too after the program is over. Well, Larry, I'll see you next week, and I look forward to our next conversation. I know you have to head out, but it's really good to be with you again.

#Larry Johnson

Hey, my friend. Always good to be with you. And I guess next week we'll be with the good colonel.

#Danny

Yeah, we'll be with the colonel. Yes, I'll announce that next week. All right, everybody. Larry will leave us, and I will end with some announcements. All right. Bye, Larry. All right. We are at the end here, and I want to just do some announcements. Tomorrow at 1 p.m. Eastern time, same time as today, Mark Sloboda and Stanislav Krupivnik will come on together to join me for the program and give the latest developments. So that's 1 p.m. Eastern, November 14th, Saturday. You want to join the program. You want to also hit the like button as you leave today. I want to thank C3bert92 for your very generous membership. I want to thank every member who is here. I want to thank Sam and, I believe, Ware Pilgrim.

Who else was here as a moderator? Every moderator who is in the back, thanks so much. And all of the members—yes, I see Ware here. Aubrey, I see you. Thanks so much for coming today. Really appreciate it. So tomorrow, yeah, we will keep abreast of these developments, especially the fact that the U.S. and Israel are meeting very closely as we speak. And we're likely going to see the results of this in the coming days, perhaps the coming weeks. One thing I will leave you with is that if there's anything to take away from this moment, it's that the motives and the agenda have not changed. The U.S. and Israel, the U.S. empire—imperium, as we may call it—does not change its motives just because it's in crisis and mired in crises.

It continues onward—the hawks, the neocons, and, of course, the corporate and militarist interests that back them. They continue forward and always double down, even if they find themselves having difficulty expressing that at the moment. But it is definitely coming. And if the last year or two has taught us anything, it's to expect that to come. So that's why this program seeks to keep everyone aware not only of what's happening daily, but also of how to understand it. So hit the like button,

everyone. We will end here. I'll leave you with , which means “All the best, everyone.” Wishing you all the best. Hit the like button. That's HSK 2 level right there.

Chinese, as I said to Larry. Still very much practicing that technique. Hit the like button, everyone. In the video description below, you can also support this channel through Patreon, Substack, and so much more. That helps boost this show. On Substack, I have been posting the transcripts of these interviews as well, for those who like to read the interviews because they prefer that method, or to get some of the details as you watch or after you watch. Do that, all right? All right, everybody, hit the like button. I will see you all tomorrow, November 14th, at 1 p.m. Eastern Time, with Mark Sloboda and Stanislav Kropivnik. Until next time, everybody. Bye-bye.