

Iran MOCKS Trump as US Navy & Israel Prepare NUCLEAR Strike | Johnson

Former CIA Analyst Larry Johnson joins the show to discuss Iran's defiant response to Trump as the US Navy and Israel coordinate a massive strike that is set to backfire badly in the coming weeks. <https://sonar21.com/> Larry's blog LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis! Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> #iran #trump #israel Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritho> #iran #trump #iranwar

#Danny

Hey, everyone. Welcome, welcome, welcome. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by former CIA analyst, geopolitical analyst, and commentator Larry Johnson. Larry, good to see you again.

#Larry Johnson

Hey, man. I'm happy to be here, I think.

#Danny

Bless the algorithm, depending on what we talk about today. Everyone hit the like button as we get started. That helps boost the show. So, Larry, let's get started with the threats by both Trump and the state of Israel, if we can call it that, of resuming military hostilities. Israeli media has been repeating over and over in the last 24 hours that the Trump administration has decided, at some point soon, that they will resume military strikes on Iran. And I wanted your comments on this development that's not getting a lot of attention, but some have been sharing it around — that the USS Alaska, a nuclear submarine, was just sent to the Strait of Gibraltar by the U.S. Navy.

And it was actually reported on, which is not common, according to many analysts. Of course, this nuclear submarine is nuclear-capable. And some are saying that this is a strategic signal to Iran to leverage negotiations. But first, your initial reaction to this? With the clamor of renewed strikes and now with the movement of the nuclear submarine, there does seem to be movements despite Trump going to China in about 24 hours or so. What's your take on what's going on right now?

#Larry Johnson

Well, yeah, Trump actually is getting ready to depart the White House. He's out doing a press conference right now at the White House before he climbs on the helicopter. So there'll be wheels up probably in an hour from Andrews. And then they've got a 16-hour flight. So that means they'll get into Beijing roughly around 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. Wednesday night, Beijing time, which means the talks will be held Thursday. Okay. These are—I don't want to call them idle threats—these are threats of desperation. Because as we saw with the article that was in *The Atlantic* by Robert Kagan, the shocker stipulating that the United States has been defeated, Iran has defeated the United States. It's an ignominious defeat, and the United States doesn't have any good options.

You know, so it's going to come back and start bombing, you know, airstrikes against Iran. All right, Iran's prepared for it. They've recognized that that's the most likely outcome, and they're going to be firing back with bigger, more powerful weapons than they used in the first five weeks of this conflict. So we've actually now had four weeks—four going on five weeks—of a ceasefire. So that, you know, we're looking at, yeah, I guess we're 10 weeks in. Yeah, so we're now five weeks plus into the ceasefire since the heavy missile barrages. Iran was carrying out two to three, sometimes four barrages a day on targets in the Gulf Arab states, as well as in Jordan and in Israel. So if we go back to that, the United States is going to be taking another beating.

Yeah, they're going to destroy infrastructure. They'll kill Iranian civilians. But it's not going to break Iran. And if anything, it's going to further deplete what are already limited arsenals or limited supplies of critical weapons systems — Tomahawk, the JASSM, the Patriot Interceptor, the PAC-3, and the THAAD Interceptor. And, you know, the United States, in order to build new versions of these, they need rare earth minerals that China supplies. And China's going to cut them off. And so here's Trump, and he's going to go to China and tell Xi, yeah, we need to get those rare earth minerals so we can build weapons that we're going to use against you in two years. Yeah, that makes sense. And I'm sure Xi will say, oh, gee, such a deal.

I can't wait to get on board with that. So Trump and the United States are actually caught in a pickle because there is an economic crisis coming now. And I keep repeating this, and people think I'm just, you know, a false prophet or a hysterical drama queen. But never in the history of the modern world, of the modern industrial world, have we experienced a period when critical commodities—in this case, oil, liquid natural gas, urea, sulfur, and helium—when between 20 to 35% of these supplies were cut off, suddenly disappeared. No more supplies. And never have we experienced that.

So we don't have, we can't go back and say, okay, here's the likely fallout from that. All we do have to note is that back in 2020, when the COVID emergency started and there was the shutdown of normal business, then the price of oil rose to well over \$120 a barrel and sustained that for a little bit. And there was never, never a cutoff in the supply. Never. Never. And yet it rose to that, and now we've had an absolute destruction of 32% of the world oil supply. Not coming back anytime

soon. And they maintain that, oh, yeah, we've got the futures price at only \$104. I mean, that's total bullshit. It's a lie.

It's market manipulation. So when this hits in full, the world is going to be faced with a crushing global economic disaster, most likely to produce what is known as a depression—something worse than what happened in 1929 to the world when you had this liquidity collapse. People, you know, it's coming. There's no way to avoid it, even if they, quote, get a deal soon. So Trump still labors under the delusion—and part of this is he's being fed false information about the vulnerability of the Iranian economy. He was just commenting as he was getting ready to get on the plane about, "Oh, Iran, they're barely hanging on."

They're on fumes. No, they're not. They have access to Russia, to imports and exports via the Caspian Sea. That's not being interdicted or interfered with by the United States. They have the railroad line that stretches from China and runs through Tashkent into Iran. That's not being interfered with. Imports and exports continue to flow out on that rail line. And then the road networks that come in from Pakistan—seven different overland transport routes that are then tied into the ports of Pakistan. So it's a complete lie that this blockade has got Iran under any kind of economic pressure. Just absolute nonsense.

#Danny

And it appears Iran's response to the United States' and Donald Trump's ongoing aggressive posture toward Iran, even during this so-called period of a ceasefire—it appears Iran is not only not worried, but in some ways is mocking the United States to a degree. Here we have one Iranian MP saying that Iran could consider enriching its uranium to 90% in the event of another attack, contradicting all of the reports by Donald Trump that Iran is ready to give up its nuclear dust. And then you have the top negotiator and spokesperson for the parliament, Mr. Golobov, who says our armed forces are ready to deliver a well-deserved response to any aggression.

Mistaken strategy and mistaken decisions will always lead to mistaken results. The whole world has figured this out already. We are prepared for all options, and they exist. You will be surprised. He also went on to say, Larry, that American taxpayers will be the ones who pay for any resumption of attacks and hostilities against Iran. And that's already happening. We had the reports of, what, almost 4% inflation—3.8% from month to month here. So your reaction to these developments—it appears, yeah, Iran is not, they're not caving despite all of Trump's intimations that they're about to fold.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, well, let me just share with you. I got an email from a friend. So let's see. The Mosaic Mining Company said they also mine gypsum. They're actually about 20 miles north of me where I live, and they just put out a call on fertilizers because they're involved with fertilizer production, and that's

based upon using urea and nitrogen that come from Russia. They said, to put it simply, there's not going to be enough phosphate to meet global demand. The company has built up inventory and plans working capital release, so that means we're going to be selling at elevated prices.

But the Mosaic Company reported a \$373 million operating loss in the first quarter of 2026, driven by this surge in sulfur prices as a result of the cutoff of sulfur coming out of the Persian Gulf. You know, that's number one. Another one, Toyota has just released a service bulletin stating that you can temporarily use for oil changes what they call 0W-20, in lieu of 0W-8 and 0W-16, because the Shell Pearl GTL facility that was located at Ras Laffan, Qatar, is completely offline—in other words, destroyed—and we're going to run out of 0W-20 soon. They also just got that Mobil and Shell have informed Costco and Walmart that they have no packaged product to send them.

You know, you go to the automotive lane, and they've got packages of oil for those do-it-yourselfers on the oil chain. That's coming off. Those shelves aren't there. So it started. The shortages that are going to start showing up are significant, and they're going to affect every facet of life, not only in the United States but around the world. Up to this point, the assumption has been that the United States could weather this storm because we're the reserve currency. Everybody needs the dollar. That's no longer the case. In fact, China and Russia and Iran, they are taking concrete steps to shift people from using the dollar to buy oil to using the yuan to buy oil.

And that's one of the things that makes Iran's, you know, control of the Strait of Hormuz so critical. Iran, at the same time, is moving diplomatically with Oman. They sat down and they're hammering out terms with Oman that Oman is going to share in the profits of the fees that are being paid by ships wanting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. So the United States, part of its strategy on the blockade, was to think it's going to blockade oil destined for China, and that China is going to be hurting, and that they can force China to cave. Again, false—gross misunderstanding of China's capabilities. China has actually been preparing for this.

That's why, through the Belt and Road Initiative, it has ended up establishing the yuan, creating markets outside of the normal U.S. market. It's actually reduced its sales of goods and services to the United States. And now it's importing more oil from Russia and more oil from Brazil, of all places. Actually, Brazil and Iran produce roughly the same amount per day. And then China is still getting oil out of Iran. So the United States has grossly misunderstood China's ability to replace oil lost from shipments from, say, Saudi Arabia and Qatar and/or the United Arab Emirates. So this is—Trump walks into this, he thinks he's walking into these negotiations with China holding a strong hand. And the reality is he has no cards to play, none.

#Danny

I feel like he's bringing this, I feel like the delegation he's bringing too—you know, you have the Apple executive, you have Elon Musk, and, you know, major investors in China. I feel like they're going there to kind of hold his hand and to hope that he doesn't do anything stupid, because what

they're interested in is business. And, uh, you know, Trump, of course, you never really know what you're going to get, especially these days where he has taken a liking to trying to thump his chest and bully, despite not really having any basis for doing so.

But I had a two-part question for you, Larry. So, in your analysis of where Iran is right now, there have been reports that Iran now defines the Strait of Hormuz as a far larger zone. And this is despite what Marco Rubio said earlier today, where he said the goal of the war now is to get where we were before the war, which ostensibly is, you know, a Strait of Hormuz that is not controlled by Iran. But Iran is answering and saying, no, we are actually going to expand what it means to control the Strait of Hormuz, and that it's no longer a limited area of Hormuz and Hengam. But now that has changed.

They won't say how or what has changed about it, but we can assume that this is just a move to reassert even further control and to tell the United States that this isn't going to change. But I want to ask you then, what is the point of deploying a nuclear submarine to the Strait of Gibraltar? And why have that come out publicly? This is reported by CBS. What does it have to do with Iran, if anything? Because there are those who are saying that this is not very common for the United States to say, well, we are making public and we're putting to port a nuclear submarine that's, while not necessarily close in distance from Iran, close enough for a strike. But what's your take on this?

#Larry Johnson

No, it's an attempt at saber-rattling and threatening to use a nuke against Iran. That's what it is. So it's trying to back up Trump's threats with something that seems tangible and possible. But, you know, I think one of the messages China will deliver to Trump when he sits down with Xi is, in no uncertain terms, that China will not tolerate for a minute any kind of further attack like that on Iran, or else there will be a risk of engagement with China. I think it's that serious. If you look, one of the other people I talked to today—I've got a friend, Marcelo. He's a Brazilian that lives in Italy.

But one of his friends is in Beijing and was driving from the airport to downtown Beijing. And all along the road, on the light poles, they had the Chinese flag and the Iranian flag. So the Iranian flag is still up, I guess, after Araqchi's visit more than a week ago. They haven't replaced it yet with the U. S. flag. If they're going to do that, they've got 16, 17 hours to do it, because the reality is Trump's on his way. It would be quite a statement if Trump lands, and as he's driving into town, the Iranian flags are still lining the route. That would be China sending a very strong message to Trump.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah. I mean, it appears from China's foreign ministry, too, that they have already kind of outlined the red lines of what they are. You know, China is not like the United States. What it says publicly is generally what it means. And it's saying that they're very firm on their position on Iran, that they are not going anywhere to back down on that. And, uh, I don't assume that there's actually going to be any leaning. I mean, maybe privately, but, uh, there's etiquette and there's a

decorum to these things. I highly doubt that Trump, that Donald Trump himself, will be leaning on Xi Jinping to do anything about Iran, knowing that it won't bear any fruit at all. So, uh, yeah, this is an incredibly weak position, Larry, it seems, that the United States is in. And I wanted to play actually something from Fox News, if you can stomach it. Oh, my God.

#Larry Johnson

What have I done? It's very odd. Jesus.

#Danny

As you said, you were happy to be here. Well, okay, I withdraw that remark. Well, I wanted to play this. It's only 40 seconds, okay? Because it basically outlines what the Trump— you know, as you know, there's just no single narrative that comes out of the Trump administration about what it hopes to do, what its plans are, none of this. I mean, it's one of the least transparent administrations around its policies in a long time and very breakneck about it, not even skilled in the deceit. But here is Donald Trump, what Fox believes is what he will do. Here we go.

#Fox News

He is now considering renewing Project Freedom, but he says this time around, the U.S. guiding ships through the Strait of Hormuz would be just one small piece of what would be a larger military operation. When it comes to peace negotiations, the president tells Fox the regime is, quote, going to fold. Joining us now is senior correspondent Benjamin Hall. He's host of the new Fox Nation special *Hope Starts Here* at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Interestingly, Benjamin, the president also just told John that the U.S. would have to dig out what he calls the nuclear dust at its facilities because it's buried so deep that Iran wouldn't even be able to access it. So...

#Danny

Huh? I mean, all of this, the whole statement there on what Trump wants to do, and even just that final—it's just a big, huh? And I think this is kind of demonstrative of where things are.

#Larry Johnson

Well, there's no logic to it. So let's see. Let's follow the logic. Okay, we obliterated Iran's nuclear capability. But we've got to make sure that Iran can't get the nuke. So we have to get the so-called nuclear dust. We have to recover the enriched uranium. They've got to turn that over. But it's buried so deep they can't get access to it. Okay? So if they can't get access to it, how are they supposed to turn it over? This is just... Trump's insane. I mean, he really... If you looked at his Truth Social posts yesterday... My God, there were like 20 straight posts earlier in the day about "I'm the greatest president ever. Nobody better than me. Nobody's ever done it better."

George Washington, Abraham Lincoln suck compared to me. I mean, there's on and on this narcissistic indulgence where, you know, he's reflecting such anger, gross insecurity. And it's like clinical-level nuttiness. And so now he heads off for talks with Xi, and at the same time making these wild claims about Iran. Hey, Iran's in great shape. The United States has not done the damage that they claim. And now we got Robert Kagan coming out saying the United States got its ass kicked. You know, one of the king neoconservatives around, he's admitting that the United States has lost. Huh. That's interesting. He's apparently really off the reservation.

#Danny

Well, speaking of this, Larry, it seems like the neocons are actually very fractured on this question of Iran now, because just a day after Kagan published that piece—and Kagan could be considered the top neocon given his role in the founding of the Project for a New American Century and the key role he and his wife, Victoria “Cookie” Nuland, played in all of the wars of aggression that the U.S. has conducted in the last 25-plus years—but then you have John Bolton, the day after, publishing a piece about how Trump is stuck in Iran, a trap of his own making. But he has two options, and unlike Kagan, his assessment is different in the sense that he says, fine, let's get on with it—“it” being the ceasefire being over, resuming destruction of Iran's instruments of state power.

And then he says if he can't bring himself to this step—this is John Bolton, by the way, so take it for what you will—Trump's other option is the smaller opening up militarily of the Strait of Hormuz with the Gulf nations. And I just want to remind people that John Bolton published many articles like this one during the Obama administration to stop Iran's bomb—bomb Iran. I mean, he's been one of the top advocates of a military intervention in Iran, arguably since the war on terror was declared. Larry, what do you—what explains this division, this, what seems to be a very chaotic and haphazard divide amongst the top war makers, those who generally are at the helm of these things?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, you know, Bolton has no qualifications whatsoever to speak about military tactics and strategy. He demonstrates his ignorance by what he just said. We already know, published, that if the war stops tomorrow, it will take the United States six months to clear the Strait of Hormuz of mines, okay? So you're not going to get any ships just sailing through there for six months until those mines are removed. But then Bolton pretends that it's just a matter of a destroyer sailing through and firing its guns and missiles at fixed positions on shore, that it was those fixed positions that represent the greatest threat, ignoring that Iran has miniature submarines that sit on the bottom that fire torpedoes that can sink ships.

They have underwater drones. They have drones that are on the surface. They also have manned fast boats, Boghammers. They carry missiles that can be fired. They have what are called coastal

defense cruise missiles that are in caves all along the coast of the Strait of Hormuz, you know, about 50, 60 miles' worth, that can be fired and are very difficult, if not impossible, to destroy. Then you have regular airborne drones that are fired, you know, from, say, 50 to 100 miles inshore.

Then you also have short-range and intermediate-range ballistic missiles that can be fired. So the only way you can, quote, militarily open the strait, is you have to eliminate all of those systems. Is it in the world theoretically possible? Yeah, I guess. At what cost? Well, there's enormous cost. And in what time frame? Certainly not going to be a week or two. And can you do it without ground troops? I would argue no. So the fact of the matter is, in terms of practical military capability, it's not possible. But, you know, people like Bolton continue to indulge these fantasies.

#Fox News

Hmm.

#Danny

Yeah, well, I think the alarm amongst the neocons is really loud right now. You had Kagan, then you had Bolton, what seems to be almost like a reply without a direct reply to Kagan—more aggression—which is interesting because Bolton, uh, for a while now, you know, he's had the feds raid his place and all of this, uh, so he has tried to make a career out of being a crusader against Donald Trump, but still trying to egg on aggression. And then there's this—did you see this?—Max Boot, another massive neocon, someone who actually made the switch from Republican, I believe, to Democrat in order to push neocon wars that Trump, during his campaign, for example, against Russia, would not champion.

But he talked to John Culver, a former CIA analyst himself, and he had this to say about China and China's military because it mentions Iran here. I'll just read it very quickly. In response to how China's military has changed over the last 40-plus years, it's hard not to be hyperbolic when you talk about the transformation from the force that I first saw, which was equipped largely with Korean and some Vietnam-era war gear. Today, it's hard to point to an area other than submarines and undersea warfare and say the United States still has an advantage. I don't think we have an advantage in missile, space, cyber, reconnaissance, etc. I think they are leading us in some categories too, such as air-to-air missiles, surface-to-air missiles, counter-space capabilities, and electronic warfare.

The thing that should jump off the page at you is how many advanced munitions they're building—magnitudes greater than our industrial base could produce. The Chinese have one shipyard that builds more than all of our shipyards combined. They deploy enough ships every year to replicate the entire French Navy. If the reports are true and we expended a huge portion of our long-range strike and theater missile defense capacity against Iran, then we don't have anywhere near the inventory we would need to fight China. Very interesting timing of this piece, too, given the visit that

Trump is about to make to China, as well as the fact of where we are with Iran. What do you say about this, Larry?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, well, and if Trump restarts the bombing of Iran, it's going to be with Tomahawk missiles, JASMs that are in limited supply. So what are the possibilities? How long can the United States sustain such an operation without completely depleting its entire supply? So this just underscores the point the analyst is making, which I agree with, that if the United States is to rebuild or replenish those stocks, it's going to have to use rare earth minerals that the United States doesn't have, that China has, and that China is restricting.

So it means that the United States is actually not in a position to rebuild what it depletes. So many of you, the analysts at the Council on Foreign Relations and the think tanks that populate Washington, D.C., pander for money from the Department of Defense and the CIA to write papers about how much China sucks and how great the United States is. The fact of the matter is, China now has a complete military advantage over the United States. The United States is not in a position to confront China at all.

#Fox News

Hmm.

#Danny

And another key point is that the United States has been building up, or at least has been speaking for many, many years now about doing exactly that, despite these developments. And now, Larry, it seems that what the Iran war, what the war of aggression on Iran has done, too, is it's made the United States so depleted and vulnerable—and I think this should be taken seriously—that there are even Senate Republicans warning Trump against a Cuba attack, because there have been talks about a possible military operation against Cuba. We know Marco Rubio is drooling over the prospect. Trump has made these comments about the USS Abraham Lincoln making a stop after it leaves the Iran theater to take care of things.

But now you have Senate Majority Leader John Thune saying that Iran must be the top national security priority and that he and others are urging Trump not to even consider an attack on Cuba, and that they should focus on trying to get the Strait of Hormuz opened up. There have been reports of U.S. Navy and Air Force assets increasing their intelligence-gathering flights off the coast of Cuba before the war in Iran began. And now Thune, who says he would love to see Cuba's government fall, expressed a preference for that to happen organically. "I'd love to see regime change—we all would—in Cuba. Maybe that happens just by force of events." Essentially saying, don't make any rash moves here, don't upset the status quo. I mean, coming from Republicans who

are supposed to be on Trump's side, that's a pretty big statement coming out today regarding where we are—not just where the United States is, not just with Iran, but in a larger sense.

#Larry Johnson

Well, again, you've got to pin it down to what's your military objective, how's that going to be executed, and what do you achieve at the end? Okay, let's say we launch an attack on Cuba. It's going, at a minimum, to set off at least short- to mid-term guerrilla warfare, and U.S. troops will, you know, suffer casualties. They won't be mass casualties, but it'll be enough that they'll be attacked and subject to terrorist attacks, or so-called terrorist attacks, that are actually, you know, legitimate attacks against an invading force. But, you know, we like to characterize it as terrorism. And then to what end? To install somebody who's going to be, quote, our puppet, and then try to pay them off enough? Except the United States is not sitting on a boatload of spare cash. Our debt-to-GDP ratio is well over 120%. It's really probably closer to 130%.

#Larry Johnson

And the U.S. currency is suffering as more and more countries start dumping Treasuries. We've seen that from Japan in the last week. They've dumped a significant amount, and the trend continues with other countries. You know, the United States' financial position in the world, which translates into its military position, rests on what I call false or tenuous assumptions. Number one, that the petrodollar remains the only option for people if they want to buy oil. Well, we're seeing that's not the case. China is rapidly beginning to supplant the U.S. petrodollar as a means of purchase. Secondly, that the United States' financial system provides the greatest protection.

Again, the exposure of U.S. banks to the leverage they face in the financial markets overseas is significant. There's something called the derivatives market. And so basically, in this derivatives market, the banks place bets on a succeeding group of positions. Let's imagine you're playing blackjack at a casino. You place your bet that you're going to beat the dealer. Then somebody standing behind you says, "You know what? I'll bet you that Danny's wrong. I bet you the dealer's going to kick his ass." And somebody else says, "I'll take that bet." So they make it a bet. That's now a derivative of the bet you made.

And then somebody else is standing behind those two guys who are talking and says, "Well, hey, I'm going to bet that the guy who thinks that Danny's going to get his ass kicked is wrong. I'm going to bet against him." And so as these derivatives go out, they pile up, you know, increasing, if you call it, debt obligations. Right now, that market is estimated at between \$600 and \$700 trillion. It is extremely overleveraged. And if that happens, like in 2008, if that derivatives market starts to implode—and it will—then you're going to see a financial catastrophe that dwarfs anything that happened in 2008, which then ends up directly affecting and limiting what the United States can do and how it can fight back.

#Danny

Yeah, in all signs, I mean, there are a few economists, there are a few who are saying that it seems like the entirety of, you know, Wall Street, the global financial system led by the United States, is whistling, trying to whistle past a graveyard, but it is sleepwalking into what will be a massive economic disaster and a massive economic crisis, as you said, perhaps worse than the Great Depression, certainly worse than 2007, 2008. And I've heard some say that it will be largely U.S.-facilitated. It'll be far worse. It'll have international ramifications, but everyone will be able to point to the origins of it, starting with the U.S. economy.

But Trump, Larry, doesn't seem to care. I mean, this is how absolutely callous, and maybe even just tone-deaf, the Trump administration, Donald Trump, can be—where he says he doesn't think about Americans' financial situation, not even a little bit, when it comes to making a deal with Iran. I would have played the audio, but it's right as he's about to head off to China, and it's absolutely unlistenable. But anyway, your reaction to this, because it does seem like the Trump administration is not concerned about the economic implications of its ongoing, you know, I guess we could call it hybrid war on Iran right now, that is threatening to make it even larger.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, no, it's going to destroy his presidency. Yeah. So I think we spoke earlier, and forgive me if I—I've done so many of these today, I keep forgetting. If I start repeating myself, say, hey, we've already talked about that. But the shortages that are being reported, as I mentioned with Mosaic, it's an inability to process fertilizer—coupled with the shortages that are going to show up at Costco and Price Club, you know, in the automotive section, the oil that's supposed to be there for an oil change isn't going to be there.

So as shortages begin to crop up across the economy, coupled with, you know, the price of gas is going to continue to escalate. It's going to continue to go up. It's not coming down. That is affecting the voters. Trump is a fool if he thinks that he can just ignore that and not pay attention. So if he does, you know, it's just, it's like saying, you know, you're playing baseball in the middle of the freeway, and someone says, hey, there's a truck coming. Oh, don't worry about it, it's not going to hit us. And the truck runs you over. The United States is going to get run over, and there's not a thing it can do.

#Danny

And I wanted your impression. Did you see the reports that are coming out now? At first, I was like, wait, is it the UAE, Saudi Arabia now? Are they launching strikes on Iran at this moment, quote-unquote, the "strikes"? But then you read into these reports and you find that, in fact, what is being

said is that during the period of active hostilities, you had the UAE. And now here you have a report from Reuters saying that Saudi Arabia launched numerous unpublicized military strikes on Iran. And I'm just not sure, Larry, what the point is now of reporting on this.

Is it a way to—because, I mean, these countries, they did—for whatever damage Iran incurred during the period of active hostilities, the Gulf countries and Aramco, the oil company, they're saying just how badly the energy industry, the oil industry, has suffered because of Iran's retaliatory strikes. But now it seems like there are all these reports that the UAE, now Saudi Arabia, struck Iran during this period. What's the point of talking about this? Because in my estimation, it seemed like the United States was using these countries during this period of hostilities to try to launch the war. That's what Iran was saying, at least.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah. Actually, the Saudis appear to be shifting to a position that's going to be less cooperative with the United States going forward. We saw that a bit this last week, where they denied the United States the ability to use Prince Saud Air Base for air operations against Iran. And despite intervention by Trump with MBS, Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudis didn't relent. So, you know, I confirmed that with somebody who was directly involved. Then I spoke with a gentleman who's connected to Pakistani intelligence, senior, you know, Pakistan ISI, a senior officer in there. And when we're talking senior, we're talking like a three-star general.

That three-star general told this acquaintance of mine that the Saudis and Qataris were going to actually be distancing themselves from the United States because there is a new security architecture coming into place that's backed by China and Russia. And Russia and China both used that phrase, "new security architecture," when they met with Arachi, Putin two weeks ago yesterday, and Wang Yi a week ago. So I think they're serious about that, that there is an actual new system, a new architecture, a new arrangement that will exclude the United States. The United States has already sort of been de facto eliminated because it lost the attacks on all the military bases. So we're going to see increasingly that the United States is isolated from within the Persian Gulf.

#Danny

Yeah, and uh, Larry, maybe we can talk about the wider theater right now geopolitically. You know, we just had Victory Day, and there were all kinds of reports about how, you know, Russia is looking really weak because they're not having a big parade, since Ukrainian drone strikes could hit the center of Moscow and take these weapons out. So they're worried, and they're all on the battlefield anyway, all of this kind of thing. And of course, we have the situation with Iran, and now we have Trump going to China. It seems that the U.S.'s position in all of these theaters is diminishing, to say the least. But what does it tell you about the current situation now that these developments are all kind of happening in parallel to each other?

#Larry Johnson

Well, one, the Russians, now we've learned, took control of the Iranian drones that were trying to attack inside Russia because they had hacked into the Starlink system. And they caused those drones to crash in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. And I forget the – I think it was the defense minister of Latvia that got fired because those drones landed there. Russia has indicated that it's now going to significantly accelerate its attacks on Ukraine, and it's going to upgrade – the offensive is going to expand, and expand dramatically. So I think that within that, Russia's making no bones about the potential threat caused by the Europeans, and that they will be rebuffed. They will elicit a retaliation. So actually, I think we're going to be coming to the end stage of this war because the corruption scandals surrounding Zelensky are heating up. They're not cooling off. And I don't think that's just a coincidence. So this is one more, let's say, a warning sign of the collapse of Ukraine.

#Fox News

Mm-hmm.

#Danny

The U.S. still doesn't quit, though. This is, I think, one thing that's notable — that with Iran, it seems like no matter how bad the situation gets, the United States does not pull back. It kind of just recontorts into a different position now with this blockade and everything — ceasefire fiasco, threats, et cetera. With China, it's had to maybe turn the other cheek and say, we are going to talk to you, but we don't really have the time or energy to fight you, but we're still very much seeing you as a threat. And then with Russia, this is the thing that gets me — that Russia was supposed to be this big success for the Trump administration.

And it seems like after Alaska, after that meeting, there's been very little in the way of any change in U.S. policy. Actually, it seems like the U.S. has just abandoned doing anything about it other than keeping the status quo and where it's been. So it's a very... It seems like for all of the chaos of the Trump administration, there does seem to be a lot of consistency on these planes, in the sense that the U.S. seems to be picking and choosing where to escalate, but not really seeing much success. Or maybe they have, I don't know. Some have been arguing there has been success on some fronts by picking and choosing, or sequencing, as some of the military analysts and strategists call it.

#Larry Johnson

Well, actually, I think we have to congratulate the Trump administration on being very consistent in its foreign policy. Russia, through Vladimir Putin, laid out its positions very clearly about what it would take to end the war in Ukraine. They did that on June 14th, 2024, and they have not deviated from that or gone softer on that. And similarly, Iran presented Donald Trump with a 10-point paper back on April 15th, so now almost a month ago. And in that, Iran laid out what their conditions

were: you know, stop the war in Lebanon and in Gaza against the Palestinians — that's number one. Number two, release our frozen funds. Number three, lift all sanctions. Number four, accept the fact that we're now running the Strait of Hormuz — that's now part of our government, our sovereignty.

So, you know, those are the critical points, conditions, and they haven't changed on that. So, you know, Russia keeps saying the same thing, Iran keeps saying the same thing, and Trump keeps pretending like he doesn't hear them, hasn't read it, doesn't understand, you know, what they're saying. And so that can only go on for so long before you ultimately get, you know, a situation where the reality will intrude, and intrude in such a way that they can't pretend that it doesn't exist anymore. It just, you know... Oh yeah, the other thing that Iran is insistent on — I forgot to mention this — pay reparations for the damages and losses resulting from the war. Now, that goes in tandem with keeping control of the Strait of Hormuz, because they're going to use the fees, the fines on the Strait of Hormuz to pay for those reparations.

#Fox News

Hmm.

#Danny

Yeah, and this has been said in reports that this has frustrated the United States, that they cannot get Iran to budge from this point.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, they're not budging. It's like, hey, newsflash, guys — this is their position. They made it very clear. Understand that. Deal with it.

#Danny

Yeah. I've even seen, you know, back to that, as you said, with the nuclear submarine, that's like a threat, even if it is an odd one, to park the nuclear submarine in the Strait of Gibraltar to threaten Iran with nuclear weapons. I've even seen reports that Iranian officials have said, oh, well, we have a plan as well if the U.S. uses nuclear weapons. So it seems like there is no kind of stone left unturned for Iran, and they're really using this period of, I guess, inactive hostilities or less active hostilities to not just become more firm in their position, but to take care of other matters.

But I'm curious, Larry, in the last eight or so minutes that we have, are these reports about the UAE and Saudi Arabia having attacked Iran during the war very late to report on these things, if they are true? And the other side of this being the UK and France, they have this cockamamie Strait of Hormuz project that they are also undertaking, that Iran has warned them about. You know, if you send whatever you have toward us, we will hit you too. Is this a way for the Trump administration to

try to deploy this war, lay this war at the feet of its proxies? And is this even possible? Is it even possible for it to dissolve its participation in this war as it often likes to do?

#Larry Johnson

What do you mean by dissolve its participation?

#Danny

Or like to try to lay it or make it appear that its proxies are now at the forefront of it, so it can kind of wipe its hands of it while, of course, being very much actively involved nonetheless.

#Larry Johnson

I don't think that holds at all. Look, portraying the UAE as having helped carry out some strikes inside Iran — they were not decisive in any sense of the word. But what it does ensure is that it further justifies Iran's attacks on the UAE. The fact that the United States used bases in Saudi Arabia, used bases in Qatar, used bases in the UAE — Al Dhafra, Al Dhafra Air Base — to carry out attacks inside Iran. So I don't think it matters whether it's the U.S. directly or indirectly, whether it's Iran or if it's Oman, Qatar, or the Saudis doing it directly or indirectly. You know, the geographic location is what Iran has to take out.

And they've already shown that they've attacked it and created significant damage — damage to the extent that the United States is so upset with the Chinese for showing satellite photographs of it that they're sanctioning that company. You know, again, why go to that extent if you said, oh, they didn't lay a glove on us? Man, show the satellite, show how everything's intact. And everything's not intact at all. So if Trump is foolish enough to restart air operations, then the return to the exchange of missiles and such is going to be to the disadvantage of Israel and of the United States themselves.

#Danny

It's my understanding too, Larry, that if the U.S. resumes air operations, because of the state of their missile arsenal, they will have to get closer to Iran and will likely lose, or at least have their aircraft put in even further danger than what was already happening. Toward the end, before the ceasefire, you had, of course, F-15s and F-35s being hit. But here's a report actually just given by U. S. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower, Jules Hurst, talking about how many aircraft exactly have been lost during this war — at least what they are willing to report.

#Speaker 1

Lost about 39 aircraft, according to a report, in the war zone, and that's an old one — almost a month old. Do you have a replacement cost on all those aircraft? Now, understanding that an aircraft is not replaceable, but presumably you would have to replace it with some kind of capacity.

#Speaker 2

There are costs there, sir, but I want to get back to you in writing on what they specifically are because, as you can imagine, repair of aircraft is something that's very hard to calculate. We want to do a full diagnosis of the aircraft before we estimate that cost.

#Danny

So, I mean, that's a lot of aircraft, Larry. And this wasn't that long of a conflict. I mean, we're talking about...

#Larry Johnson

It's probably at least \$2 billion, \$3 billion worth, at least. You know, I calculated the cost of the aircraft that were lost on the recovery of the colonel who was riding backseat in that F-15 that got shot down outside of Isfahan. And the total cost of that aircraft, four Little Birds, two C-130Js, the F-15 — I think there was a KC-135 that went down — anyway, all of that came close to half a billion dollars, just five or six aircraft.

#Danny

And what do you estimate then the real cost of this war having been? Because now the Pentagon, or sources close to the Pentagon, are estimating it now above the—what was it—the \$25, \$26 million, \$29 billion. Many are saying it's way higher. What would you say the U.S. has actually spent? Or maybe there are costs that are not even being counted. We know that the Pentagon has a hard time with counting, given their audit situation today—every single year losing trillions in unaccounted dollars. But your thoughts on this?

#Larry Johnson

No, I think it's closer. It's approaching the trillion-dollar level. You know, let's say a good \$600, \$700 billion. Well, actually, take it back, not a trillion, a billion. No, actually... Yeah, I would say it's at least well in excess of \$200 billion to \$300 billion. So it's en route to at least half a trillion dollars at a minimum. Now, this war is going to, unless Trump agrees to the demands released by Iran, the war will continue. And as the war continues, the costs for the United States continue to climb. So, no way. It is just the cost spiral.

And then when you add into that the economic impact from the shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz and the loss of these five major commodities, I can't emphasize enough for people watching and listening. We don't have any remote market experience in the history of the modern world that you can point to that's like this. You've had a complete disruption of critical commodities—oil, liquid natural gas, urea, helium, and sulfur. All of them are not just confined to one industry; they're across the board. And the cutoff of those and the shortages of those are going to precipitate shortages of secondary products they produce, which is then going to cascade through the system. No, we're in for some very rocky times ahead.

#Danny

Yeah, no doubt about that. And we will discuss them, of course, in further programs. Larry, it was great. I want to make sure everyone knows that your blog, Sonar21, is in the video description below so people can check that out and support you. I want to thank everyone who gave super chats, who I'm putting up on the screen now. Thank you so much. I want to thank everyone who moderated and everyone who viewed, of course. Without further ado, everyone hit the like button before you go, because that helps push the show even further in YouTube's algorithm. And you can go to the description to support this show in many different ways. I want to say that tomorrow I'm actually going to be on very late, 9:30 p.m. Eastern, because the guests will be coming from China. I'll announce that soon because we are going to be covering the visit both Wednesday and Thursday. So without further ado, I'll see you tomorrow, May 13th, 9:30 p.m. Eastern. Until next time, Larry and I are out of here. Larry, any final words to the audience?

#Larry Johnson

No, my friend. Thanks. We're not out of the woods yet. No, we're not. More trouble to come. All right, my friend. Later. Bye.

#Danny

Bye. Bye, everybody.