

Alex Krainer: It's Starting: Massive Shifts Hit the Middle East & Europe

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Thursday, May 14, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother, Alex Krainer, is here with us. Welcome back, Alex.

#Alex

Good to join you again, Nima, and greetings to your listeners and viewers.

#Nima

Let me start, Alex, with Donald Trump's visit to China. I think it's so important in many ways—when it comes to the economy, when it comes to what's going on in the Middle East, in Ukraine—and the big picture: the two basic superpowers coming together, talking, and making decisions about what the future would be. Are they going to cooperate? Are they going to confront? This is the main question right now in the minds of the Chinese—if the United States is going to, you know, make some sort of move toward having some sort of partnership or some sort of different relationship. Because what we've seen so far was some sort of confrontation in Ukraine, in the Middle East, in Venezuela. And here is what she said about what has happened so far.

#Speaker 03

Today, President Trump and I had in-depth exchanges on China-U.S. relations and international and regional dynamics. We both believe that the China-U.S. relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world. We must make it work and never mess it up. Both China and the United States stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation. Our two countries should be partners rather than rivals. President Trump and I also agreed to build a constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability to promote the steady, sound, and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations and bring more peace, prosperity, and progress to the world.

#Nima

And here is Donald Trump.

#Speaker 04

And President Xi, thank you for this beautiful welcome. And tonight, it is my honor to extend an invitation to you and Madam Peng to visit us at the White House this September 24th. We look forward to it. I'd now like to raise a glass and propose a toast to the rich and enduring ties between the American and Chinese people. It's a very special relationship, and I want to thank you again. This has been an amazing period of time.

#Nima

I think, Alex, when it comes to this, we have an official statement by the White House about the Trump-Xi talks so far. And it says the White House called it a good meeting between the two presidents. Talks covered expanded economic cooperation and U.S. market access in China, with China to increase purchases of American agricultural products. Both sides agreed the Strait of Hormuz must stay open for global energy, and Xi opposed militarization of the Strait of Hormuz. Xi also signaled interest in buying more U.S. oil. And in a joint position on Iran, the United States and China agreed that Iran must not obtain a nuclear weapon. And basically, what Donald Trump, in the case of Iran, wanted to achieve—well, you know, when it comes to that, I think nobody's having any sort of disagreement with this statement.

Everybody wants to open up the Strait of Hormuz. And when it comes to the militarization of the Strait of Hormuz, basically we have the blockade—the American blockade or the Iranian blockade. What is your understanding so far when it comes to the conflict in the Middle East? Because Donald Trump, we know what's happening in the Strait of Hormuz and what Donald Trump wants. You know, he doesn't want this situation because he's getting so desperate in the Strait of Hormuz, in my opinion. And Xi knows that, Donald Trump knows that, Japan knows that, South Korea—everybody knows what's going on there. What do you make of it?

#Alex

I think, well, first of all, I think all of this is very encouraging. And I think that this meeting really is probably the most important meeting of the year until September, I guess. And then my understanding is that when Trump leaves China very soon, Vladimir Putin is going to visit China. So I think that this is diplomatic footwork to transition the world to the new system of governance, to a multipolar architecture. And I think that for the United States, it makes every sense in the world. Exactly as Xi Jinping put it, you know, both sides stand to gain from cooperation and both sides stand to lose from confrontation. I think that's clear to everybody.

But, you know, Nima, I was basically saying the same thing regarding Iran—that if the United States should take the side of Israel and attack Iran, there's only downside, there's no upside to the whole

boondoggle. Whereas having constructive cooperation with Iran, there's plenty of upside for both sides. So I thought, of course, nobody reasonable would go to war on the side of Israel. Israel is nothing but a burden on the United States and pretty much the rest of the world, whereas constructive cooperation lifts everybody up. But you see, I was wrong, because Trump did go to war against Iran on the side of Israel. So whatever the conclusions of these talks will be, we'll have to see whether Trump is even capable of honoring any commitments.

And I genuinely don't know what to think about this because, you know, again, Trump surprised everybody by attacking Iran—even people very close to him who thought they knew him, who thought that they, you know, like Tucker Carlson, who thought that he personally understood perfectly well how idiotic it would be to attack Iran and what the risks were, and that the people who were pushing him to do it were actually his enemies. But he did it anyway. So I have to then go back to the question: who is in charge? Who is deciding things at the end of the day? And then, you know, just yesterday we had Fox News report that the CIA raided the offices of Tulsi Gabbard.

Tulsi Gabbard is the Director of National Intelligence, so she's their superior. She's the boss of the CIA chief, Radcliffe. How does the CIA raid the DNI's offices? And then apparently they confiscated files that have to do with MKUltra and the assassination of JFK. Now, okay, this is what Fox News reported. It's not necessarily an accurate account, but something did happen, and the CIA did take a bunch of documents from the DNI, and apparently this was not what Tulsi Gabbard wanted, so it was done against her will, which indicates that there's something very, very strange going on in the United States where the legitimate structures of power aren't really in control.

And we can see that also in the congressional election of Thomas Massey, that he's very popular with his constituents. They want him reelected, but he's opposed by three Zionist billionaires. And then, you know, according to the last poll, we had again that situation where, you know, support for Massey is here, support for his opponent is here. And then all of a sudden, just days before the election, boom, you have an inversion all of a sudden. As somebody who has spent his professional career in research on trends, primarily market trends, but, you know, markets... markets are just one manifestation of social trends.

This does not happen. This is impossible. Trends, you know, for that kind of a large event to happen, you need a lot of time, and you would have—okay, just not to get into the weeds of social trends—but basically, an inversion on that scale would have to span months, not just overnight. So it's obviously a fraud. It's obviously contrived somehow. I don't know how, and I don't know what he's doing, who's behind it, but we see that it's Zionist interests. And we see also that, going back to China, China has taken a pretty categorical adversarial position with regard to Israel. And I think that the consensus understanding is that Israel and Israeli interests have dragged Trump into war against Iran.

So, this is, I think, what's contaminating all the works. So everything that was said between Trump and Xi Jinping makes complete and total sense. And it's even consistent with what we heard from

the administration in the beginning when they were elected, when they were saying the post-World War II global order is obsolete. It's been weaponized against the United States. The new reality is a multipolar global order, and we intend to embrace that global order. So that means having constructive relationships with other global partners like China, like Russia, like Iran, and so forth. But that's not what's happening. That's not what is happening in reality.

And I think that these same interests that are fighting Thomas Massie, that may have broken into, you know, raided Tulsi Gabbard's office, that have coerced Trump into attacking Iran, might also derail constructive relationships between the USA and China. I think that we will have to give it a lot of time to see what happens with this. I think that business interests, commercial interests, economic interests, political interests—everything is leaning in one direction, and it's obvious. But I could have told you exactly the same thing with regard to interests between the United States and Iran. And instead, we saw war. And so, you know, for Iran, there's Israel. For China, there's Taiwan.

And, you know, we might see at some point in the future that the United States will somehow try to destabilize China through Taiwan. But I think that time is running out for these schemes. I think that this imperial, neocolonial system of governance is getting weaker and weaker, and that the sensible approach, the stuff that's being overtly said now, is gaining credibility, it's gaining power, and I hope that in the end it will prevail. How the situation with Iran is going to be resolved, I don't know. But I do think that between Russia and China, they could engineer a face-saving exit for Trump. And I hope that they will.

#Nima

You know, the most important issue for China is the situation with Taiwan, which was not mentioned in this statement by the United States. And that is not a good sign, in my opinion, as time goes by, because there has to be something about Taiwan mentioned in this statement, which wasn't. And the problem is, Alex, I don't know, because the war in Ukraine and then the war in the Middle East show that the United States is not going to be able to do anything in Taiwan. Taiwan is an island, and they're not going to be that much able, because in the case of Iran, they had a lot of bases in GCC countries, a lot of leverage. They have Israel in the region. They have the UAE in the region. They had all these bases. But Taiwan is nothing, it's not even comparable. I literally don't believe that South Korea or Japan would be that suicidal to go against China and help the United States as GCC countries did during the conflict, during the war between Iran and the United States.

#Alex

Well, you are right. Sorry. You're right, and nobody has any enthusiasm for going to war against China. Well, nobody had much enthusiasm for going to war in Ukraine, and nobody had much enthusiasm for going to war against Iran, but the war still happened. That is, you know, not nobody, but, you know, maybe Israel did. Maybe a loony fringe extreme right wing of the Ukrainian political class wanted to go to war against Russia, and so forth. But somehow, you know, these interests that

are keeping us in forever wars, in a given moment, they end up prevailing. How they end up prevailing, we have to understand that.

And I genuinely don't understand it, and I don't think that very many people do understand it. But I think that the way the current political crisis is advancing, I think that they're revealing themselves. And already now we can see that, oh, it has something to do with Israel, but it has something to do also with the British Foreign Office, and it has something to do with the neocons and something to do with these Zionist billionaires in the United States. And we see that they obviously have disproportionate power over policy. And I think that it's extremely important to push back against them. And they also have disproportionate power in who gets elected to Congress and who doesn't.

You know, the situation around Taiwan has been war-gamed to death. And the Americans know that they have no chance. But they also knew that they stood no chance against Iran, and they went for it anyway. And I think that the reason is that for these neo-colonialist interests in the West, they don't care about winning the war. They will exhaust their nation, their host nation, to death just for the chance to destabilize their rival, because they don't need to defeat China militarily. They try to destabilize target nations, to make their leadership look bad, to make them unpopular, and to try to mobilize the people in their country to topple the regime.

You know, color revolution scenarios that we've seen everywhere. And I think that they have perfected this approach to social engineering to the extent that they are very confident. And so for that reason, they will not hesitate to use the United States and Japan and Singapore and the Philippines and Indonesia and Australia, whoever they can corral into this conflict, to use them to start this process. And then they will work, you know, secret diplomacy, secret intelligence, NGOs, media pressure, narrative pressure, to try to overthrow the regime. And I think this is why they are always willing and unhesitant to go into wars that they know are unwinnable.

It's, you know, they don't care about whether they win or not. And they absolutely, actually are correct. I used to think that they don't care how many people end up dead. I think now that they do care how many people end up dead, but not in the way that you would expect. You know, they want a lot of people to end up dead because that also diminishes social pressures at home. If you extinguish a large percentage of military-age males from your society, then you have reduced the risk of a revolution or a civil war at home. So I think that for that reason, they actually do want a lot of casualties on their own side.

#Nima

When it comes to the Iranian position, Alex, I think there was nothing problematic with his statement. One of them is that the militarization of the Strait of Hormuz should be ended, and Iran has no problem with that. And the war, you know, the main reason that we have this militarization of this strait is because of the American-Israeli attack on Iran. It's not about Iran deciding to militarize the region. But on the other hand, the United States is there; it's part of this militarization

with the blockade that they're putting on Iranian ports. And the second point, in my opinion, which is so important, is there was no mention of this new mechanism of the Strait of Hormuz that Iran has defined — the toll system — and the way that nothing of that sort was mentioned in these statements. They said they have to open up the Strait of Hormuz.

I think everybody agrees with that. And the other point, Alex, when it comes to Taiwan, we've seen the head or the CEO of NVIDIA being part of the American delegation. These are not good signs, in my opinion. You don't need to bring him as part of the United States, because when you do this, it means that Taiwan is part of the United States. It's going to be close to China — it's part of China — but politically, economically, it's more part of the United States, not part of China. These are not good signs, by the way, in my opinion. We had that with, you know, I remember the Alaska and Anchorage meeting between the two presidents — nothing of that sort. After 24 hours, everybody just forgot what had happened. Do you see, when it comes to Iran, when it comes to Taiwan, what are the signs, in your opinion?

#Alex

To my mind, this may not go down without a fight. What you say is the composition of Trump delegations doesn't inspire a lot of confidence. You're right about that. And that indicates that there are interests in U.S. society with strong political influence who still want to impose their arrangement on China, kind of force it to submit to them. And I think that they will not give this up easily. You can talk sense to Trump, and I don't know. For all I know, Trump might understand that sense, and there may be people in his administration still who see that sense. But again, there are these other interests that see it in a different light. And, you know, these are imperial interests which are, you know, foreign to the United States.

They are, you know, they may have satellites and agents in the United States, and a lot of these CEOs are, you know, they know which side their toast is buttered on. But it doesn't follow that this is in the interest of the American people. Who prevails, we can see from the elections. But the other side is not naive anymore. They now understand that Trump can make his commitments, but they still have to keep their finger on the trigger, as the Iranians put it. And I think that with regard to Taiwan, I think that the Chinese have learned very, very valuable lessons from the Iranians about how to fight and how to oppose this imperial hegemon. So I don't see the American side, the Western side, saying like, all right, we have seen the light.

We will just pack up, shut down our military bases, go back home, focus on maybe, I don't know, fixing up the Baltimore Bridge, which collapsed two years ago, and fixing up our infrastructure and doing all this. They will keep all their assets in place because they will try still, you know, their overarching imperative—and this has been restated explicitly as late as 2019 under Trump's first administration—is to maintain and defend American dominance of the Eurasian continent. Who

formulated this? Who formulated this foreign policy? It sure wasn't the American people. I think those interests are still predominant in American foreign policy. They will not let go, and they will not give up on those priorities.

So packing up and leaving China to China, and the South China Sea to China, and leaving the Middle East to Iran and other nations is out of the question. They will continue doing everything they can to maintain the status quo as it is. But I think that they are on an accelerated path to defeat, and I don't see this ending until they have been completely defeated. Now, they lost Ukraine, they lost Iran. I mean, these conflicts are ongoing, but I think that there is no way to militarily reverse these defeats. And I think that maybe that's part of the reason why we're now getting a new pandemic, as it looks, because things are going to start to unravel very quickly.

#Nima

Alex, I think there is a fundamental issue with the United States. You know, we thought that the Trump administration, before coming to power, would change some of it, but it hasn't happened so far. And the fundamental issue, in my opinion, is what was the outcome of the British Empire and what finally led to the demise of the British Empire, which is expanding yourself in a way that you cannot manage anymore. The policy on the part of the British Empire was to divide and conquer. Somehow you see the Middle East—what has happened in the case of the Middle East. You have little states; none of them would be able to defend themselves. So they're basically making money for the empire, for the system of empire, and they're not able to use that or defend themselves.

Just remember, the defense budget of Saudi Arabia is something like ten times the defense budget of Iran. It's not even comparable, and they cannot defend themselves. We've seen what has happened in Doha and Qatar, how Israel went and bombed Doha and got back. Nobody was able to hit any of those fighter jets. And what has happened with the United States, I think it's in Wolfowitz's Doctrine. The Wolfowitz Doctrine is basically the essence or the outcome of the British Empire. In this doctrine, they said no superpower, no regional power. We have to fight everything of that sort. So it means what has happened so far in Ukraine and in the United States.

#Alex

Exactly. And, you know, the mystery of it all is that the American people don't want this. They always vote against it. You know, the American people, for as long as I have been paying attention to American politics, with the exception of the second Bush 43 election, they always vote for the anti-war candidate. So always the guy who promises them to end the foreign wars wins the election. And then they always get more wars. So that's a, you know, that's a mystery. So clearly that formulation of policy, the Wolfowitz Doctrine, and, you know, we shouldn't forget Michael Ledeen, who said that every few years the United States should pick up some shitty little country and throw it against the wall so that everybody understands that we mean business.

These people formulate foreign policy. And then you have to ask yourself, why are these people so popular? Because they are a relatively small cabal. They are unpopular among the American people. They represent a tiny sliver of the American political class, yet they appear to have absolutely enormous, disproportionate power and complete control over U.S. foreign policy. And you are right that it did look for many months, pretty much until 28 February, that Trump did intend to implement a fairly radical course correction of U.S. foreign policy. And, you know, it was practically in every statement. Venezuela was a bit of a problem. And I must say, I was a little bit confused about bailing out Javier Milei in Argentina with \$40 billion.

I didn't quite understand what that was about, but it was, let's say, two suspicious moments. But the attack on Iran shows you conclusively that the forces that will use American military, financial, diplomatic, political power to the detriment of the American people, of the American economy, of the American society, are still dominant. And Trump's course correction was pretty much 360 degrees. And now we get the same, I think. I don't know if Trump's policies are any worse than George W. Bush's 20 years ago. It's about the same, only a bit more vulgar still. And how did this happen? That's the big mystery that I think the American people have to resolve. And then at that point, you know, you have to understand that you're not going to fix things by voting.

And you're not going to fix things through the legitimate structures of institutions because they've all been rigged so that you can't do it that way. It's going to have to be some kind of an authoritarian approach, like Abraham Lincoln, you know. That was a very long time ago. But in the course of the U.S. Civil War, I think Abraham Lincoln had something like 10 to 20,000 people rounded up and imprisoned or shot or executed. And I'm talking about, you know, politicians, academics, judges, military generals, and so forth. Everybody who was loyal to the British Empire was eliminated. And I wonder if a repeat of something like that will be necessary to restore the American Republic.

#Nima

I think the reason for Milley, because he was so close to Israel, Milikovsky, and Netanyahu, is the same. Exactly.

#Alex

Exactly. I didn't want to say it, but since you did.

#Nima

Because Donald Trump loves everything Netanyahu says. Alex, Netanyahu said in his recent interview on 60 Minutes that we are months away from the war against Iran being ended. And how do you see the situation with the war and the influence that the situation has had so far on the

economy, on the global economy? Because we have to face it, the war was not something like Iraq, Afghanistan, or even, I would say, Vietnam, because these were not influencing the global economy. And with the case of Vietnam, we know the casualties.

And with the case of Iraq and Afghanistan, it was a political defeat for the United States. They stayed there. They couldn't. But this is the first time, in my opinion, that the United States is physically losing the war. It's not just about a political decision on the part of the Trump administration. Basically, they don't have the bombs. They don't have the interceptors. They don't have the radars. They didn't replace the radars that Iran destroyed so far. But Iran has replaced its arsenal, you know, 120 percent more than what they had before this war started. This is the reality of what's going on.

#Alex

Well, yeah, exactly. But none of this is surprising, Nima. That's the, you know, that's the advantage of the home turf. That's what it means to have escalatory dominance in the region. You know, for people who think that war is like a video game, waging war 10,000 miles away from your home turf is very difficult. You have to supply everything by ship. You have to rely on your allies and partners. They themselves are getting beat up and exhausted, and their economies are being destabilized, and their own governments could be toppled in the near future. So, you know, it only could have worked in the very short term. You know, what they were planning, what they were wishing for, you know, like three or four days and boom, we change the regime, we install a new regime, the Shah or whoever, and we declare victory and we dominate, you know, now the country is ours. But it didn't go that way.

And so obviously everything that follows is a slow process of the attacker growing weaker and weaker and the defender growing stronger and stronger. And not only that, the attacker is getting less and less confident while the defender is getting more and more confident. And you can see it in how the Iranians are negotiating. Their position is getting harder and harder. And the longer this goes, the more costly it's going to be for the United States, for the Trump administration to withdraw from this, unless maybe through Chinese or Russian mediation they get some kind of face-saving way out. But it's going to cost them still. I think that they're going to have to offer concessions to Russia and China in that case. So whatever happens, I think that this is the beginning of the end of Western dominance in Western Asia, but also across the Eurasian continent.

#Nima

Here is just what Scott Balson said moments ago, Alex, considering the situation with Iran.

#Speaker 05

It's very much in their interest to get the Strait reopened, and I think they will be working with Iran behind the scenes, to the extent anyone has any say over the Iranian leadership. And the real problem here, Joe, is, as you're aware, we didn't change the regime, but the regime changed. And it was several layers of leadership that were decapitated. And it's very tough there just to communicate anything to anyone who is able to either act or speak, get an overall agreement, and speak on behalf of the Iranian leadership.

#Nima

What do you make of this sort of regime change? Because the case of regime change is so much in the rhetoric of the United States and the U.S. government. Because when you talk about regime change, you have to have something, some sort of basis, a foundation for what you're arguing. But I don't see any of what they're talking about. They're basically making the case for the face-saving of Donald Trump.

#Alex

Yeah, I think that's exactly right. I think that they're creating an alternate reality in their narrative, and they're doing it, I think, for the domestic public to retain some political support at home. Everybody else sees it for what it is. I mean, it's just complete nonsense. But, you know, one thing I would say about Scott Balson is, and also about Netanyahu, the interview on 60 Minutes last week — they're maintaining their narrative, and they know how to talk their talk. But, you know, my gut feeling is that they are looking, just based on the body language, they don't look very confident at all. And, you know, if you're used to listening to Benjamin Netanyahu, he's always very arrogant, confident, and smug.

He wasn't like that at all on the 60 Minutes interview. And then, you know, he was talking about these fantasies of, you know, like, well, you go into Iran and you take the uranium. Okay, how? Who's going to do it? They tried, didn't they? It didn't go so well. So I think that they all understand that it's over, that the battle has been lost. But, you know, what do they do? They have to push it out as far as they can and hope for a miracle to bail them out. And Trump himself, he needs to try to win the midterm elections. And I have to say, I must wonder whether, you know, now looking at Thomas Massie's elections again, somehow the system rigs elections on the regular, and they are apparently really good at it.

And I wonder if Trump wasn't—if they didn't win over Trump to attack Iran by telling him, look, you do this for us, and we're going to fix the midterm elections for you. We're going to make sure all your candidates win. I wonder if that wasn't the horse trade. Who knows? But I've kind of followed Thomas Massie's re-election, and I think there's a lot to unpack there because I guarantee you this

inversion of a popular candidate suddenly becoming unpopular and the unpopular one suddenly becoming popular—that just doesn't happen. That doesn't exist in a society. This is 100% engineered.

#Nima

It's not just about Massie, Alex.

#Alex

No, Massie is just the litmus test of how the system worked. And that litmus test says absolutely positive for rigging.

#Nima

Gorka, the guy that is in Hungary.

#Alex

He's a British agent.

#Nima

Exactly. He's going after Tucker Carlson.

#Alex

Yes, I saw it.

#Nima

Right now he says, Tucker Carlson, we have to reevaluate, reassess Tucker Carlson and his sort of policies that he's trying to manipulate in the United States. And basically, the outcome or the essence of what he's talking about is that he's a foreign agent on American soil doing something because they see him as the enemy—not only in the case of Iran, but in the case of Russia. They literally see him as an enemy to the system.

#Speaker 03

Yeah, and...

#Nima

I don't know how suicidal Donald Trump, how suicidal this administration is going to get in the coming months. But if they go this way, that's going to be the end—the end of everything.

#Alex

Yeah, it's a very, very dangerous moment, you know, and I think that things could get really ugly because we have to always keep in mind that Israel is not just a homeland for the Jewish people. Israel is the product of the Zionist project, and the Zionist project is much, much bigger than Israel. And it's infected most of the Western nations. And everybody is beginning to implement hate speech laws. They're not targeted against anybody else than, you know, anti-Semites. And they've expanded the definition of anti-Semitism to... If you criticize Benjamin Netanyahu, you're an anti-Semite. If you criticize genocide, you're—Netanyahu—sorry, you're an anti-Semite. If you say, please stop killing children, you're an anti-Semite. So then they say like, oh my God, look, the anti-Semitic incidents are going through the roof. We need to censor more.

And then if people are still willing to speak their mind about all this, well, then they declare them anti-Semites and domestic terrorists and enemies of the state and so on. And so we're, you know, this whole process is slowly pushing us towards totalitarianism. And I think that, I don't know, in Europe it's very obvious. In the United States, I think it's a little bit different because the American democracy, whatever is left of it, is a lot more robust because you have the federal level, then you have a state level. You know, people vote for their state representatives and senators, and they actually vote for their sheriffs, for law enforcement. They have the Second Amendment. They have the First Amendment. Those things are very clear, they're on paper, and people are willing to defend them, and they're willing to defy any authority that tries to restrict their rights.

So, the more the imperial cabal pushes, like Sebastian Gorka and Larry Ellison and all of these people, the more the American people push back. And so you can win a number of—how do you call it? You can win a number of battles. But you can't win against the people. No structure of power can completely subdue the people, particularly if they're armed. That's not irrelevant, which is probably why they've been very desperate to do away with the Second Amendment and to disarm the American people, as they've done with the British people, as they've done with the Australian people, and so forth. But I don't see that succeeding in the United States. And so if this conflict continues to escalate and nobody's willing to back down, at some point it could turn into a civil war.

#Nima

Alex, we know what's going on with the case of Iran and the UAE. Basically, there are a lot of tensions between the two. And just imagine what Israel announced yesterday — that the Israeli prime minister, during the war, secretly went to the UAE and had a meeting with MBZ. They announced it. I don't know what the necessity of that was, because it seems to me that they're trying to throw the UAE under the bus. They want to make the situation, the chaos, bigger for the region. And the UAE later on officially denied the claim of the Israeli prime minister.

And I don't know how that's going to play out for the two countries, but it seems that Israel is prepared to sacrifice everything to make this chaos bigger and bigger in the region, because they don't want the region to come to some sort of sanity, some sort of negotiation, some sort of thought. So you have to make these sorts of cycles of chaos in the region, and we know Iran knew about it. That's why the UAE was hit more than any other country in the region. They got hit more than Israel got hit by Iranian missiles.

#Alex

Yeah, correct. It seems to me that the UAE has become the staunchest ally of Israel in the region. And, you know, the UAE has not just been attacking Iran. The UAE, even before the war against Iran started, has been on a collision course against Saudi Arabia, basically on behalf of Israel. Because they've been supporting South Yemen, they've been supporting Somaliland, they've been very active in Sudan in a way that's just an absolute atrocity. And they've been doing all this in cooperation with Israel and mostly for the benefit of Israel. So, I think that the UAE is very important to Israel at the moment as a cat's paw in the neighborhood of Saudi Arabia and Iran and Oman and so forth.

And so this is why Israel, even as it's engaged in wars on six fronts or seven fronts, still sent their air defense specialists and Israeli troops to the UAE to defend them. And they even sent some of their Iron Dome and, I think, David's Sling batteries for air defense in the UAE, along with crews to man those systems. But apparently, it didn't help very much. But it tells you that the alliance is real. And the fact that the UAE is denying this now tells you how horribly unpopular and controversial it is, because nobody was meant to know about this. And so I think that the UAE is probably past its expiration date, and so is Israel. And I think that the UAE is very probably going to be reabsorbed by Oman, and Israel is going to have to be completely changed, including maybe the name.

And it's not going to be an ethno-supremacist Jewish state. It's probably going to have to be a normal country with three constituent peoples who are completely equal before the law—Jews, Christians, and Muslims. How soon this could happen, I have no idea, but I think that 28 February was the inflection point from which everything accelerates. And I think that even, you know, like, it might seem right now that this conflict between the United States and Russia and Iran is at a stalemate, that nobody wants to pull back. But we have to remember that Iran is at home, and they have been hardened to sanctions and to economic crises. That's not true for the United States. And so the pressure on the Trump administration keeps rising, even if there's no fighting going on, because the oil price is going up.

Today, the West Texas Intermediate benchmark is trading at \$100 a barrel. A week ago, it was trading at \$92. Prices of food are starting to skyrocket. Yesterday, wheat opened limit up, meaning they had to halt trading because of how sharp the rise in wheat was. Prices of rice are going up, soybeans, corn—everything is going up. Gold and silver are going up. Copper just shot through its all-

time historic high this week. So, you know, this is putting inflationary pressures into Western economies, including the United States. And you know, Trump—this is all on Trump. He's going to be blamed for this as we're getting closer and closer to the midterm elections. So this stalemate isn't a stalemate. This is the United States getting absolutely pummeled. They're going to have to do something about this.

#Nima

The situation in Japan is so dire that the prime minister of Japan called and talked with the Iranian president to let one of these tankers pass through the Strait of Hormuz. I think with the case of Japan and South Korea, we know Japan is the ally of the United States in Asia. And when they need to communicate directly with Iranians, that shows the path forward, in my opinion, for many other nations. They have to communicate with Iran if they want to pass through this state of turmoil.

#Alex

Exactly. This is the beginning of the collapse of these alliances. You know, because nobody can withstand this. This is such enormous political and economic pressure, not just on the United States but on all of these nations in the Western alliance, that I think one by one, they're going to have to blink. They're going to have to find their own way forward. And we're even seeing similar developments in Europe, you know, where suddenly you have some of the leading Russophobes in Europe saying, we're going to have to negotiate with Russia.

#Speaker 05

Yeah.

#Nima

I think that's the future, Alex, for Europe. There is no way for Europe to survive without Russia.

#Alex

That is true, Nima. But again, you know, we're not dealing with rational people. And we're not dealing with leaders who are concerned with the welfare of their constituents. Otherwise, Germans wouldn't dismantle all their nuclear power plants. They wouldn't be shutting down all their coal power plants. They would investigate who destroyed their pipelines to Russia because they're about to lose about half a million manufacturing jobs. They've been in a recession for two years solid. It's terrible. I mean, you know, to destroy one of the leading economies in the world in such a close, that's not even easy to do. You know, like if you put a lunatic asylum in charge of a country and told them to destroy everything, it wouldn't be easy.

You know, like these systems are robust. They have a certain resistance to change. The achievements of the Merkel, Scholz, and Friedrich Merz governments are just astonishing. It's cataclysmic. And it's only going in the same direction again. Well, it's no wonder that AfD is now the number one most popular party in Germany. And that means that either we get a regime change or, you know, a government change in Germany, or we get a civil war. Same thing in Britain. Same thing in France. And so things are really hotting up. And again, I don't think it's a coincidence that all of a sudden we have this new virus scare. All of a sudden, from a virus that is extremely unlikely to spread, but suddenly it's spreading everywhere.

#Nima

Yeah. I'm just so tired of it, you know. I don't want to go back to 2019.

#Alex

Oh, nobody does. They desperately need that. They very desperately need that. But we'll see, you know. In 2019, nobody was prepared. Nobody was prepared. Nobody was ready to consider the possibility that their media, their governments, their public health officials, and the whole state bureaucracy would actually participate in such a massive hoax. But that happened. And I think that the result is that a lot of people started thinking and a lot of people stopped believing. And now you can see, you know, if you look at the mainstream media, they're dead serious about this hantavirus.

They're dead serious. They're like, oh, so many cases and this and masks and oh, is it going to be scary? It's terrible. What do we do? But if you look on social media, the commentary of ordinary people, it's very hard to find anybody who believes it. So how are you going to, you know, all these systems really depend on people complying. If people don't comply, how are you going to make it happen? I don't know. But, you know, the fact that they're trying shows that they're very, very desperate.

#Nima

Yeah, exactly. Thank you so much, Alex, for being with us today. A great pleasure, as always.

#Alex

Always a pleasure for me, Nima, and until next time. See you soon. Bye-bye. Take care.