Iran HAMMERS US Base, Naval Carriers RETREAT as Trump Strikes | Seyed M. Marandi

Seyed Mohammad Marandi is a Professor of the University of Tehran and former advisor to the nation's nuclear negotiations team. He discusses Iran's latest retaliation strike against a US base in Bahrain, why US carriers were forced to retreat last and the importance of Trump's strikes on Iran. SUPPORT THE SHOW BY BECOMING A YOUTUBE MEMBER: https://www.youtube.com/channel /UCOxLhz6B_elvLflntSEfnzA/join PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack. com Cashapp: $Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: https://paypal.me/spiritofho Follow me on Telegram: https://t.me/dannyhaiphong #iran #israel #trump

#Danny

Welcome back, everyone. Welcome back to the show. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Seyed Mohammad Marandi for the latest developments with regard to the Iran war. Everybody, hit the like button as you come on. It helps boost the show. Professor Marandi, let's begin with the latest on this November 15th. The U.S. has been striking southern Iran almost daily. There were reports yesterday—they haven't been confirmed by CENTCOM—that Bandar Lengeh on Qeshm Island was being targeted by U.S. fighter jets. This came as we saw U.S. carriers actually being targeted first.

And I think one thing that should be noted about these strikes by the United States is that they frame them as defensive strikes as Iran targets not just tankers. There are also reports that the aircraft carriers Washington and Bush came within 300 kilometers, and Iran fired a missile salvo to push them back. But the big news today, Professor Marandi, is that Iran launched six drones at Bahrain. A U.S. military radar was reportedly struck by Iran. CENTCOM has already denied this. But, Professor Marandi, the escalation seems to be increasing now. The Iranian military says that they have struck Bahrain due to the ongoing strikes by the United States on Sirik and other areas of southern Iran. Where are we right now? Are fears of an escalation in the war rising? And what do you make of where things are at the moment?

#Seyed M. Marandi

The Iranians, as you know, are striking larger numbers of tankers and cargo ships than before. And they are not using their radar systems all that much because we're no longer in the hot season, so there's very little, if any, mist in the Strait of Hormuz. So they can see what is moving through the

strait or near the strait far more easily than before. And they can more easily use drones to detect where ships are and whether they are violating Iran's regulations. And that's why the Iranians are striking more ships, and the Americans can't do much about it. And even when the Americans do strike, the Iranians move around.

They turn on their radar system for a very short period of time, I guess. They launch the missile, then they move it. They're all mobile. And, of course, there are decoys everywhere. So it's not as if the Americans are having a very easy time. The number of tankers and cargo ships being hit, I think, is like four or five or six a day now. And this is not sustainable forever. And the Iranians are hitting them very hard. I think a couple sank today—a supertanker sank today, or two tankers. I think one was a supertanker. I'm not quite sure. I don't follow these things that carefully, so I may not be completely accurate.

And when the Americans do strike, whether their strikes have any success or not, it doesn't matter to the Iranians. They are going to counterstrike. So first they struck Oman a few days ago, destroying a U.S. radar installation. And now they've struck Bahrain twice, destroying U.S. assets and radar installations there too. And of course, CENTCOM is always going to say the Iranians failed. And that's what we saw, you know? That's what they were saying throughout the war. And then after the war, we discovered that all U.S. bases had been either half-destroyed or completely destroyed. So we should take that with a couple of kilos of salt.

#Danny

Definitely, yeah. I think it was an IRGC report, actually, on the sinking tankers. I think I can pull that up. According to open-source intelligence, this is what Iran is reporting: Fars News says that a tanker loaded with over 2 million barrels of crude sank after hitting a mine in the Strait of Hormuz. A second tanker also exploded, and both were on the unauthorized route. It seems like a lot of the escalation right now, Professor Rondi, has to do with this. It has to do with Iran. And from what I see, it's almost daily. At least a few tankers a day are being hit either with these mines—the limpet mines that they're able to put onto these tankers using speedboats and then sail away before the explosion happens—or with the anti-ship missiles, which Iran is firing every single day as well.

It seems like the United States is responding to this, but of course the situation is of their own making, of the U.S.'s own making. So, given that the Mossad chief was just here, given that Israeli media is reporting that the Mossad chief and his team essentially gave Trump an ultimatum: "We want you to strike. If you don't strike, we'll strike on our own. But please give us intelligence and support if we strike on our own." These were the conversations that were happening and are happening. So what do you make, then, of this war re-escalating? Now, there are some doubters that the United States can and will actually go back to full war, especially with reports that Trump is telling his advisers that he may be heeding the begging of the so-called Gulf allies and Gulf regimes.

#Seyed M. Marandi

I wouldn't take anything that Trump says seriously. And I think that we all know how Trump says one thing today and says something else tomorrow. He often thinks he's clever by trying to be deceptive, but when he lies so much, no one even listens to his deceptions because you don't know when he's telling the truth and when he's being deceptive. He's ignored in Iran. Anything that he says is just ignored. It's not even in the news. It used to be that he was in the news during the first couple of months of war, even though he was saying a lot of nonsense back then. But that's when Iranians were listening to see what was going on, and they'd follow Trump to see if they could figure out what U.S. policy was through his speeches. Then, gradually, Iranians began to recognize that this guy is just talking nonsense and flip-flopping and saying one thing today and something else tomorrow.

And he's constantly lying. So I wouldn't take anything that he says seriously. What's important for Iran is what the Americans have on the ground here and how prepared they are to carry out an assault. And they are prepared. The Americans have brought a lot, and it's very costly. They're spending a lot of money just having all these assets in place. So the working assumption is that he's not here just to spend billions of dollars every day to do nothing. So the working assumption is that there will be war. Now, no one knows for certain if there will be war, but that's the working assumption. And no one knows when there will be war. But based on previous experiences, Trump likes to launch wars suddenly.

He likes to be deceptive, make people think that he's seeking peace, and then he'll launch an attack. That's how the 12-day war started. That's how this current war, the Ramadan war, the ongoing war, started. And so Iran is on full alert. The Iranian armed forces are on full alert. The belief is that he'll try to carry out assassinations. And if we're to believe Richard Murphy's interpretation, the U.S. plan is to destroy Iran's electrical power plants and energy supplies so that they can kill tens or hundreds of thousands of Iranians during the winter and make women and children suffer, like in Gaza—to try to make Iran like Gaza. Which, of course, is not surprising because the United States is a genocidal regime.

Democrats and Republicans—the regime is genocidal. So that is the expectation. However, as you know, and as your audience knows, because your audience is very politically aware, the Iranians have their own plans. They have prepared for war, and they have promised to destroy everything on the other side of the Persian Gulf, as well as Israeli regime infrastructure, if Iran is targeted. The difference is that Iran will be able to survive, without a doubt. It has survived for thousands of years, and its religious ideology makes it very resilient and resistant. But the regimes on the other side of the Persian Gulf will just be swept away.

And that will lead to a global economic catastrophe. And I think that is what is making Trump worried, or at least the people around Trump. Because for Netanyahu, this is not an issue. And it's not because this is in the interest of the Israeli regime. I don't believe it is. If the U.S. economy crashes, if the global economy crashes, people across the world who already hate Israel are going to

hate it a lot more because their own miseries will be linked to the Israeli regime, Zionism, Netanyahu, and Trump. And if the U.S. economy and European economies crash, which they will, then the regime won't have any support anymore because it's not an inherently powerful country.

It runs on foreign money. It runs on U.S., British, and German support in particular, but Western support in general. So if things collapse, then the Israeli regime's economy collapses just like everywhere else. But I don't think that's important for Netanyahu. This is all about his own personal survival, just like the war in Lebanon was about his personal survival, just like the ongoing genocide in Gaza is about his personal survival, and just like his helping to bring ISIS and Al Qaeda to power alongside Erdogan, Trump, Biden, Obama, and, of course, the Qatari and Saudi regimes and NATO regimes.

That was for his own personal interest. Well, in the case of Syria, it's in the interest of the Israeli regime. But these wars in general that we've seen over the last three years and a month or two are basically for Netanyahu's own personal gain. So we'll have to see. No one knows what will happen, but if the United States begins an assault, I think we swiftly go into a global economic depression. The implications are really beyond one's imagination, because the lifestyles of people across the world will change dramatically.

#Danny

Professor Rondi, are the United States and Israel underestimating Iran's capabilities, or is their hesitancy to launch a major operation in recent months an indication that they are aware? Because Mohammad Ghalibaf, the Speaker of Parliament, top envoy to China, and, of course, top negotiator, said that they've been given orders by the Supreme Leader to end the "neither peace nor war" stalemate, I guess you would call it. Or maybe we should call it a stagnation in the war, but still war nonetheless.

And there were announcements as well that not only have Iran's missile range limits been eliminated by the Iranian government, but also that Iran has more missiles than Russia and China combined, which is pretty, pretty striking, at least in quantity. Of course, quality and technology and all of that are comparable, but perhaps there are areas where Russia and China have some advantages. But Professor Moradi, do you believe that the United States and Israel are moving in a certain kind of way because they are aware of this? Or are there other considerations that are perhaps making the United States and Israel a little, I guess, confused and muddled up in terms of how they act right now?

#Seyed M. Marandi

I'm assuming that the Americans know of Iran's capabilities. Now, at the beginning of the war, they were probably clueless. And I really believe that the 12-day war and the ongoing war prove that Israeli regime intelligence and U.S. intelligence aren't as great as they pretended to be. Even now,

when they strike the islands, their success rate is very low. So their capabilities are not nearly as good as they had imagined them to be, nor is their intelligence. And yet I think that now it's dawning on some of them, at least, because, if you recall, the U.S. Secretary of State gave a speech a while back.

I saw a clip of it online where he said that Iran is an abnormal country. He said that if we do not meet their demands, they're going to destroy everything. Which, of course, is a lie. Iran is not an abnormal country. It's the most normal country on this planet because it's against apartheid and it's against genocide, whereas everyone else is either silent or complicit, except for Yemen and the resistance, of course. And Iran has not said that if it doesn't get everything that it wants, it's going to destroy the entire region. But if the United States does attack and go after Iran's infrastructure, then yes, Iran will destroy the infrastructure of the entire Persian Gulf region. And so he knows that, even though he distorts it.

I don't recall the exact wording of what he said, but the fact that he says that Iran has made that threat and that this is not normal implies that he understands that Iran has the capability to do such a thing. Now, I don't know if Trump recognizes this. You hear all sorts of different things about the people around Trump trying to please him and trying to prevent him from hearing bad news. I don't know. I have no idea. I obviously have less information than some of your good guests who are in the United States and who used to work for the U.S. government. They have, after all, old connections, and they have friends with connections, and they may know some things that I obviously would not be able to know.

But my understanding, based on what they say, what I hear from others, and my own general understanding, is that Trump probably does know. But Trump is either completely compromised or feels completely indebted to the Zionists for bringing him back to power. For whatever reason, he has so far worked against the interests of the American people and the United States. And that's why he had to confront a spectacular defeat on the battlefield against Iran, but also a spectacular defeat in the midterm elections. So you would think that he would know. But I don't know for certain.

#Danny

Well, tomorrow, first of all, the USS Theodore Roosevelt enters the so-called CENTCOM area of operations. It will join the H. W. Bush and the George Washington aircraft carriers. And this will be, according to some reports and what I've seen, the biggest overall naval presence in the region since the Iraq War, since 2003. I believe it was 2007 when there were this many carriers in the region. You know, Iran has done some pretty impressive work—you have to look at it objectively—keeping these carriers very far from the Persian Gulf area.

But what do you make of the United States deciding to do this? There were rumors in the beginning that the Theodore Roosevelt was just going to replace the George Washington. It seems like those rumors have since been discredited, as CENTCOM has made no mention of bringing the George

Washington into port. That was the initial report months ago. Now it seems like the Theodore Roosevelt is indeed just going to join the other carriers, which means it will have a role in some kind of operation against Iran. Your reaction to this?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Yes, well, it's going to be more difficult than before because the Americans are going to have to, as you pointed out, carry out their operations from very far from Iranian shores. And U.S. bases across the region have been destroyed. Iran has a lot of experience from the war, and they're building new underground bases with missiles and drones, as well as more advanced missiles and drones. So the U.S. is going to have difficulty because they'll have to refuel all of their planes. That will limit the number of airstrikes. Iran has also been developing its own air defenses. So we'll have to see how that plays out when the war begins—if we have a war, of course.

The Iranians have lots of things that they don't talk about. Iran no longer tells the public about its military achievements, its new technology, or its new weapon systems. They've said, "From now on, when we use them, we'll tell the Iranian people." And I'm sure that the Iranians are working 24 hours a day to upgrade all their systems. Obviously, the Russians and the Chinese have a good relationship with Iran. They need a strong Iran. And I think after the defeat of the United States in this war, the Russians and the Chinese were very impressed. I mean, I think almost everyone thought that Iran would lose the war within a few days.

Not many of us in Iran thought that, but I think outside Iran's borders, these countries, these governments—not just Russia and China, but across the world—were much more worried about Iran's future. And now they see that Iran is performing so well under a siege—a siege where Bessent and Trump and CENTCOM and the Secretary of War, Hegseth, are all trying to starve the Iranian people. They gloat about it. They lust for starvation in Iran. It's utterly barbaric, but that's the Western elites for you. It's both Democratic and Republican, because in the Western media, there's no outrage. Just as when Trump threatens to obliterate Iran or wipe out a civilization, there's never any outrage.

So the whole political class is devoid of any morality. And the Democrats aren't much better, as I said. So they are very impressed with Iran's capabilities. And while it's all secret, I'm sure that the cooperation between the three countries helps strengthen Iran. And the fact that Iran has this elaborate indigenous military industry makes it much easier for the Iranians to use new technologies. They just integrate them into existing military hardware or military systems, and they upgrade them. So, of course, it's a very complicated and difficult thing to do, I'm sure.

But the fact that they have a very sophisticated military industry makes it a lot easier for them. Personally, I don't think we're going to have war in the next few days. And again, this is just me. I have no idea. But I don't think that Trump will carry out an attack before he meets President Xi and President Putin. It doesn't make sense, although one could say that nothing that Trump does makes

sense. But I have a feeling that he probably wouldn't wreck the meeting by carrying out crimes against humanity the day before or a couple of days before. So we probably won't have an assault before the markets close on Friday or until after the meeting. But then after that, who knows?

#Danny

Well, what do you make of this meeting that you're mentioning between Putin, Xi, and Trump that's supposed to happen on the sidelines of the APEC summit, which takes place, I believe, November 18th to the 19th in Shenzhen? I think you're exactly right. I could very easily see Xi and Putin finding reasons not to meet with Donald Trump should something like a major operation against Iran occur. But what do you make of Trump's treatment of Putin here? You know, he's been very eager throughout his administration to make overtures toward him, even as he...

There were some who believed, during the period from January 3rd up until February 28th, that Donald Trump had hoped that, for example, when Xi and Putin met with Trump, there would be, like, heads on the table that he could present to them and say, "Look, look at where the United States is. We're back. We're the hottest country in the world," as he said. "And we have the power and might to prove it." What do you make of his posture and approach now, his position now vis-à-vis these two countries? And what makes Iran relevant to these discussions, if at all, when they meet? Trump is a lot weaker than he was before.

#Seyed M. Marandi

He lost the war against Iran. He's failed to do anything through the siege. He's wrecking the global economy and his own economy. He's lost the midterm elections in a spectacular way. That weakens him significantly. President Putin is winning the war in Ukraine, and Trump has contributed to this catastrophic situation in Ukraine. If you recall, Trump gave the green light—I think it was at the NATO summit in Turkey—where he also agreed to Ukraine striking deep inside Russia. And ever since then, we've had a very, very severe Russian response, and they've been destroying Ukraine. And of course, the Ukrainians, with US help, are striking Russian infrastructure. And also, what's going on shows that Trump really isn't very powerful, because he said that he demanded that Ukraine no longer target Russian refineries, but they still do.

And so that just shows that Trump is either weak or that Trump's decisions can be easily reversed. And so he's not someone you can trust, as the Iranians know quite well. He's always lying to the Iranians. He signs a piece of paper and then just throws it away, or he negotiates and wages war the next day. So the Iranians know that, but this just confirms that nothing he says or promises or demands is necessarily carried out. So Russia is in a stronger position. China, of course, is in a much stronger position than the United States. They're busy building their country while Trump is busy destroying his. And then, after Iran and the midterm elections, you also have Brazil. I think the elections in Brazil are very important. They are a massive defeat for Trump and the United States.

And it's partially Trump's doing because he invested in the opposition. And I think the global economic crisis that Trump has created with Netanyahu is going to hurt those other countries in Latin America that have tilted toward the United States for whatever reason. These governments are under a lot of pressure because the shortages and the high prices of commodities are creating great anger. That's true across the region. So I don't see Trump having any strong cards to play, whereas the Russians and the Chinese do. And Iran has very good relations with Russia and China. And both Russia and China want the United States to fail in West Asia, just like Iran and China want the United States to fail in Ukraine.

#Danny

Yeah, great points, Professor Morandi. Now, I had a question for you regarding the Israeli regime, because you said something to the effect that these genocidal wars, these expansionist wars, over the last three-plus years—three years and one month, I guess, if we look at October 7th—have a huge basis in Benjamin Netanyahu's political survival. He needs them to survive politically and avoid prosecution by the regime. But at the same time, I'm wondering, too, if you believe that these wars, whether it's the genocidal war on Gaza or the genocidal war they've attempted on Iran, also implicate the entirety of the Israeli regime, meaning that its survival is actually dependent upon this. Because I've been thinking for a while now about how we've seen this regional explosion because of what happened on October 7th.

And now we are seeing the Israeli regime being the most vocal about needing wars to continue—not just as they are now with Iran, for example, but they need to escalate. They talk about it with Lebanon as well. They talk about it even with Syria. They talk about it even with Turkey. So on and on and on, there's always a need for greater escalation, even when the United States says we need a breather because of all kinds of limitations and issues that we've covered on this channel. But what do you make of that in terms of the Israeli regime's survival? Because some people believe that Israel is in a very strong position, at least in the sense that it is able to wield this kind of terror without accountability. But your thoughts on this?

#Seyed M. Marandi

I think the Israeli regime is very weak. I think it's in a terrible situation. The world has turned against it. Americans voted against Israel. Even Vice President Vance admitted that. And he didn't just say it. They have internal polling that's more extensive than other polling. They know exactly what happened. And the four reasons that he gave are all linked to Iran and Palestine and the Israeli regime. So the American people dislike Israel. And young Jews also dislike Israel. The vast majority of Americans voted for the Democrats, and I don't think people voted for the Democrats out of love for the Democratic Party. I don't trust a single person in the U.S. Senate or the House, and I don't think Americans should either.

But even though at least three men who've been elected to become senators have spoken about Gaza as a genocide, I just don't trust anyone in the U.S. political establishment. But the people have voted, and Jews, including young Jews, have overwhelmingly voted against Trump. People from all walks of life and ethnic groups and backgrounds have turned against Trump for these reasons. That should be terrifying to this sinister regime because everything they have comes from the United States. I mean, even before the election, hours before the election, Trump went out and said, "Well, we're not going to be sending any more aid to the regime after this." Why? I mean, it's not because he has the intention of ending support for the regime.

The United States and the Israelis are planning to integrate their military and intelligence organizations. That's worth far more than $4 billion a year. But he said it because he knew that people voted against the regime. And he said that afterwards in an interview. So all this should be very terrifying to Zionists, along with the fact that the region is falling apart. The American proxies in the region are all weakening. People are sick and tired of them. They're all in bed with the Israelis. Even Turkey, after all these three years and one and a half months, Erdogan continues to export or transport oil to Netanyahu. I mean, it's just unbelievable how this is possible after all this time. He preserves political ties. Jordan, Egypt, the Emirates, all the regimes in the Persian Gulf—they're assisting or cooperating with the Israeli regime. It was the Israelis who wanted Qatar to host Hamas.

It's not that Qatar is a fan of the resistance. If the Americans told Qatar to shut down Al Jazeera tonight, Qatar would shut it down before midnight. It's 10:07 in Tehran. I don't know what time it is in Doha, but if Trump right now called the dictator in Doha and told him to shut down Al Jazeera, I'm pretty sure it'd be done before midnight Doha time. So people know this. Everyone has been exposed. And this is not good for the Israeli regime because the United States has been weakened. Its proxies are being weakened. And look at Yemen—the Yemeni armed forces. I mean the real Yemeni armed forces, not the fake Yemeni government that we hear about in the Western media and so on. I mean the ones who are really in power.

You know, the Houthi rebels are in control of almost the whole country, yet they're still called the Houthi rebels by the media, governments, and the U.N. But they're scoring victories every day. Today they've been scoring huge victories across southern Yemen. And they're striking the Saudis day and night after Mohammed bin Salman foolishly restarted his genocidal war. So none of this is good for the Israeli regime. I know that some in the United States say that Israel wants the Americans to leave the region and the region to collapse. But I don't see that. They need a strong America because without a strong America, they're nothing. So nothing is going well for the regime.

And if it thinks that it's winning in Gaza by sniping kids every day, which they're doing, or by freezing infants to death every day, which they're doing, or by assassinating men, women, and children every day, which they're doing, no, it's not helping them. It's entrenching the hatred for the Israeli regime. The older generation, many of whom support the regime for whatever ridiculous reason, are fading away. And then the 16-, 17-, and 18-year-olds who are learning about politics—the first thing that

they're learning is that the Israeli regime is sniping kids every day. It's using drones to massacre children and hungry people every day. They're preventing food and facilities from getting into Gaza to make people die of cold and illness and disease. That's what young people are growing up learning.

So when they enter the political arena, they're already anti-Israel. So every day that this genocide continues, every day the horrors of southern Lebanon continue, every day the threats against Iran continue, it's only going to make things worse for the regime. And the proxies of the United States—the Saudis, the Qataris, the Emiratis, the Kuwaitis, the Bahrainis—they're all increasingly fragile. And once they begin to wobble, I don't think they'll survive. The difference between Iran and these regimes is that when the United States and the Israeli regime assaulted Iran and murdered Ayatollah Khamenei and some senior officials and slaughtered the 168 schoolchildren in Minab—which was intentional because many of them were the children of naval officers, and they wanted to demoralize the navy...

These people are utterly sinister. There was no fog of war. This was the first hour of war, and they did a triple strike on the school, on the elementary school. These are utterly evil people. These are the people who are saying, "We're going to starve the Iranian people." So no one should have any illusions about the nature of politicians in the United States or across Europe or Canada or Australia or New Zealand. They're all Epstein-class material. On the same day, the first day of war, they used an experimental missile on the sports complex in a small city called Lamerd, wiping out teenage girls who were playing volleyball and boys who were playing football nearby. They used this experimental missile, which is full of shrapnel, just to tear apart anyone nearby.

They wanted to terrorize the nation. So they murdered Ayatollah Khamenei, and then some people who believed the propaganda that he was hiding or that he had fled the country—I mean, a percentage of these liberal Iranians, they'll believe any nonsense—they woke up to the reality that he refused to move because ordinary people had nowhere to go. And that crushed that segment of Iranian society that was pro-American. Most of them joined the revolutionary forces. There's still a small segment—I don't know, six, seven, ten percent, I don't know—of Iranian society that still clings to the West.

But the other liberals, or former liberals, have just walked away from them. But the point is that when they martyred Ayatollah Khamenei and other leaders and terrorized the nation, what did the people do? They went to the streets on day one, and they stayed on the streets throughout the night, every night since then. And the government didn't ask them to do so. The government was just trying to regroup. It took a couple of weeks. The armed forces were firing back relentlessly, but we had no leader, and many of the commanders were martyred. And yet the people were on the streets, holding the country together. That's the difference.

You have family dictatorships across the region, and you have a people who believe in their cause, who believe in resistance and resilience. They're influenced by, as I said, the events on Ashura in the

land of Karbala—the resistance of the grandson and granddaughter of the Holy Prophet there, which is deeply embedded in Iranian culture and society. So they stood their ground, and they pushed back against the superpower and its coalition of evil. But these regimes in the Persian Gulf—many of their families have already gone to the West, and they're taking all their billions to the West. And, you know, some of the leaders who are still there, I'm sure they're prepared to go when the time comes.

They have their private jets to take them out whenever these regimes begin to collapse. So none of this is good for the United States, and none of this, by extension, is good for the Israeli regime. So no, Israel is not stronger. Israel is growing weaker by the day. It's despised across the world. It's going to be more despised in the future. And if there's a global depression, the world will see it as the reason for that depression. And the American people don't want the American government to continue with this support. And things in Europe are changing as well. So why would anyone believe that the regime is stronger today?

#Danny

Well, Professor Morandi, maybe we can close today's show, in the last 15 minutes or so we have, with the situation in Yemen, which you mentioned earlier. I just want to show this as you're talking about it, because there have just been some recent gains. Ansar Allah, the Yemeni armed forces, just forced the so-called Saudi-backed PLC forces to retreat to Aden. I'll show this video as you're talking. What's your reaction to what's going on?

#Seyed M. Marandi

From my understanding, in many areas, they let them leave. They could have massacred them, but they let them leave. And many say, "Well, why did they do that? Why would they do such a thing?" But their response has been, "We want to live with these people. They're our countrymen. We don't want to massacre them." So that's the difference between Yemen and the United States. That's the difference between Yemen and Israel. Yemen stood up for the Palestinian people, and as the Saudi-backed mercenaries are running away, they choose not to massacre them.

#Danny

Yeah, and here you can see just how extensive those gains have been for Ansar Allah. Let me bring it back here.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Let me just point something out. Most of Yemen is empty land. It's desert to the right-hand side of the picture. So effectively, Ansar Allah now controls over 90% of the population. So if someone looks at the map and sees the green areas as Ansar Allah, the Yemeni government, and the Yemeni armed

forces, that's where the people live. So it's like Iran. Iran has a large desert in the southeast of the country, right? Not a lot of people live there. So the same is true here. Or in the United States, there's a large desert. Very few people live there. So effectively, Ansar Allah controls the country.

#Danny

Yep. Yeah, that would make them the legitimate ruling government, Professor Rani, which Ansar Allah would argue has been the case for over a decade now, 12 or so years. So what's the geopolitical significance of this for the region? Because you said the Israeli regime is getting weaker, and you listed all kinds of good reasons why that's the case. And despite the United States' ongoing attempt to continue the war against Iran and maybe escalate it into a more major operation, the overall effect of this war has been to weaken the U.S. presence in the region as well.

So this will obviously have reverberations too. And what might those be? Because I think people forget how significant this war is, especially given the fact that Saudi Arabia won't stop. It almost reminds me a bit of the U.S. situation, where the United States probably should have, and probably could have, stopped this war a couple of times, done what it signed up for in the MOU, and then maybe things would look different now. Saudi Arabia is not even entertaining the idea of any kind of settlement with Ansar Allah. So what's significant about this?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, Mohammed bin Salman is very similar to Trump. He's not normal, and he's surrounded by yes-men, and he's a fool. And he's destroying Saudi Arabia. And this will not continue forever. And Trump, if you recall, just a while back said he doesn't plan to attack Iran or Yemen as long as the U. S. is not provoked, something like that. So he mentioned Yemen too. And the reason is that Yemen is becoming increasingly important. It is able to defeat Saudi Arabia, and it's becoming stronger, while Saudi Arabia is becoming weaker. And Yemen has missiles and drones, and it controls the Red Sea. And as the Saudis are losing on the battlefield, their oil infrastructure is being decimated.

So, Yemen on the rise is not good for the Israeli regime. And the decline of Saudi Arabia and these tiny regimes in the Persian Gulf is not good for the Israeli regime either, nor for the Americans. Right now, as I said, Yemen controls almost the entire country. Roughly 90% of the population lives in areas controlled by the Yemeni government based in Sana'a, the capital. That's the country, more or less. And the Saudi mercenaries, despite the huge amount of money that's spent on them, are ineffective. Why? No one wants to die for Mohammed bin Salman, who's an ally of the United States and Trump.

No one wants to die fighting against Ansarullah and the Yemeni armed forces, who were, alongside Hezbollah and Iran, the only forces trying to stop the genocide in Gaza. They're the heroes of the region, the heroes whom the Americans waged war against and failed to defeat, just like with Iran. So the rise of Yemen is terrible news for the empire. And it's good news for China and Russia, even

though the Chinese and the Russians did not do the right thing in the UN Security Council. But it's good news for them. And they are in contact with the Yemeni government and Ansarullah. They are in regular contact with them. At the UN Security Council, they should have taken a different stance.

But I wasn't surprised. Still, they know where things are going. And by now, Mohammed bin Salman should have understood it too. The longer this war lasts, the more dangerous it becomes for Saudi Arabia. And if there is a US assault on Iran, it will make the collapse of Saudi Arabia all the swifter. And then, if Saudi Arabia collapses, you can imagine Yemeni armed forces moving into Saudi Arabia. We're moving into spring, so it's not going to be the summer heat. They can move quickly into Saudi Arabia and take over. The Iraqi resistance can move from the north. And then the tribes across the Arabian Peninsula, who've been marginalized since God knows when, will take over. The borders may change. And some of these regimes may no longer exist.

So the map could change, but it's not something that the Americans can control, because the Americans don't have the authority that they had 50 years ago or 30 years ago. It's not like the 19th century, when the British and the French had such enormous influence. The empire is declining, and it's declining very fast, especially with the war against Iran. It's collapsing literally before our eyes. Things that would take decades—and in the distant past, centuries—to happen are now happening within months. So I think that Mohammed bin Salman made a fateful mistake by attacking Yemen. It's just unbelievable how he could have done such a foolish thing, restarting the war. And then Al-Qaeda and ISIS in Syria are being sent to fight. Despite the denials, they have sent their troops to fight against the Yemeni armed forces.

The Israelis are literally on the outskirts of Damascus. They are literally on the outskirts of Damascus. And instead of sending their Al-Qaeda and ISIS terrorists to fight the Israelis, to do their so-called jihad, they send them to go and fight for Saudi Arabia and the Americans, and indirectly the Israelis, in Yemen. But they're still losing. So the empire just doesn't have the sort of power that it had, and its proxies are all exposed. And I know from Syrian contacts of different sorts that the regime in Damascus is very unpopular. And people are very upset about the situation. And it's not even in control. Yet it sends troops to kill the people of Yemen, despite the fact that Saudi Arabia launched this genocidal war, killed hundreds of thousands of people, and restarted it this time around, too.

#Danny

Maybe one last question for you before we end here. You mentioned the empire declining rapidly. You did give many examples of that. But there are some who say—and I've seen this, especially from friends on the left, or let's say the independent left, those outside of the Democratic Party—"Not so fast. The United States still has this deep capacity to cause harm, damage, suffering, oppression, mass murder, genocide, these kinds of things." And so that is perhaps evidence of the U.

S. empire not being in decline in this key area. What do you make of that? I mean, you know, I have my opinions on it. We may share an opinion on this, but what do you make of that analysis and conclusion?

#Seyed M. Marandi

You know, there are certain things I try to steer clear of, but people should learn from Iran. People should learn from the axis of resistance. Their resilience is unique, and their morale is very high. This was an unprecedented war waged against Iran and against Yemen and against Hezbollah. And they didn't have any real support from anyone else. I mean, the Russians and the Chinese had good relations, but they didn't think Iran or the resistance would last, nor did many other people across the world. It's not just them. Now they think differently. But it's because of the resilience of the ordinary people and the beliefs that make them steadfast. So, yes, Americans can bomb our country and slaughter our kids, and they quite possibly will.

I may not have electricity or gas in the days or weeks ahead. Tens of thousands of people may die because of the winter. The Americans want to turn Iran into Gaza. You can see it in their language. You can see it in Bessent's language. You can see it in Hegseth's language. You can see it in Trump's language. It's clear what they're out to do. These are criminals of the worst sort, and they have large numbers of supporters. I'm not talking about the MAGA cult, which is a sinister and evil cult. I'm talking about the elites. The elites back them in their genocidal aspirations against the Iranian people, because we don't see any outrage at all when the Secretary of State says the Iranian people will need to eat. What a disgusting monster he is.

We don't see that in the New York Times or the Washington Post or MSNBC or the BBC or the Guardian. But the Iranians are not intimidated. Nor is Yemen. Nor is Hezbollah. Nor is the resistance in Iraq. And the people of Gaza remain, despite the misery that's being imposed upon them every single minute of every single day. So yes, they can impose great harm, but they will not be victorious. Trump will be defeated. If he launches this war, I think the chances that he will be removed from office are quite high. But in any case, the United States will fail. And that will be a failure greater than the failure of the 12-day war, greater than the failure in the first 40 days of this war, and greater than the failure that led to the signing of the MOU. But time will tell.

#Danny

Yeah, very well said. I must say that I can never really agree with an argument that an empire like the United States doing empire things like genocide, war, etc., can be a sign that somehow it is ascendant or stable. I would conclude, and I hope others see it this way too, that the more violent it gets, the more that indicates desperation. And the sacrifices and the resistance—the valiant resistance put up by Iran, the Yemenis, Palestinians, we can go on and on and on—should be a

lesson that just because a desperate empire gets more violent, it doesn't mean that we just conclude that it's all-powerful. In fact, the very opposite could be true. We may be missing many opportunities to make some headway toward better outcomes for humanity.

And, you know, I also want to say that this, I hope, will resonate with those who are about to experience immense frustration with what we are about to get when the Democrats assume majorities in Congress and begin the process of collaboration. We're already seeing it, even among the so-called most progressive elements of those who support Democrats. We're told we're going to get something different, and really, we just get a different package of the same. So we should be learning from those who are not participating in such political betrayal, but are actually putting serious skin in the game for a better world. Any final words before we head out of here, as I put up some super chats to show my appreciation?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Not really. Just as usual, we have to keep reminding people about what's going on in Gaza, about the daily killings, about the targeting of children, about the suffering of people in the cold and the rain, and how this is intentional and how the Israeli regime is trying to intensify it. We have a responsibility to create more awareness. And, of course, to support resistance in other areas too: supporting the people of Lebanon, of course, being anti-war, anti-Zionist. But I think the key cause today, of course, is Palestine. The key focus should be on Gaza, so that Zionism and the Zionists and these genocidal monsters are increasingly exposed at the broader level, and the elites who support them should also be increasingly exposed through this.

You will have new leadership in the Senate and the House. Hakeem Jeffries is a total Zionist tool, a supporter of genocide. So how can anyone consider that real change? And then you see that the so-called progressives are supporting him. How can they support a supporter of genocide? So that means there's still a lot of work to do. I think this is a positive event. I think the midterms were a big show of force by the American people. But they had no choice but to vote for either red or blue. And they voted blue to undermine Trump, the greater evil. But there's still a lot of work.

#Danny

Well, Professor Morandi, it was, of course, great to be with you. We'll head out together. Everybody, hit the like button before you go to help satisfy Professor Morandi's requirement, but also to help boost the show in YouTube's algorithm, because doing so will help get this show and this conversation seen by many more eyes after it's done. Tomorrow, our mutual friend Alastair Crooke comes on at 10 a.m. Eastern Time—a bit of an earlier show—4 p.m. Central European Time.

#Seyed M. Marandi

People should buy his book, Resistance, and the book Going to Tehran, as I keep saying, and read them.

#Danny

Yeah, definitely read them. And Alastair, he's been imparting his wisdom for so many years. We're going to be very happy to see him here tomorrow, Monday, November 16th, at 10 a.m. Eastern Time. So save the date. Everybody, hit the like button before you go. Professor Morandi and I are out of here. Thanks to everyone who gave a Super Chat. Thanks to all the moderators, of course, as always, and to everyone who viewed, members, et cetera. All right. Take good care. See you tomorrow, November 16th, with Alastair Crooke, 10 a.m. Eastern. Bye-bye.