

Iran's 'Finger on the Trigger'; War Enters Most DANGEROUS Phase | Marandi

Mohammad Marandi joins to discuss breaking news of imminent war ahead as Trump meets today to determine the US's next strike move and Iran prepares an unthinkable response that will accelerate the massive global changes rocking the US-led unipolar order. https://x.com/s_m_marandi 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 #iranwar

#Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Mohammad Marandi, joining from Tehran. Professor Marandi, thanks for coming back on the show.

#Mohammad Marandi

Hi, Danny. Thank you very much for inviting me. If it's still your birthday, we can ask everyone to like the program because it's your birthday. A couple of weeks ago was your birthday, so if it's still your birthday, we can do it again.

#Danny

No, there's a funny joke actually from a college friend. My ID at the time, when I turned 21, said May 17th, which is today, and they would laugh and say it was wrong. The driver's license, the DMV, didn't do it right. But anyway, long story short, a lot of friends from college claim that my birthday is May 17th, today. So it kind of works. You want to use the driver's license to get people to like the show.

#Mohammad Marandi

Okay. Well, people, if they'll accept your driver's license on the show, then...

#Danny

If the viewers have no problem with that, they'll like it. Well, the least everyone can do is hit the like button. It's totally free. Well, let's get started. How about this, Professor Marandi? We are in what could be called the most dangerous phase of this war because we see deteriorating conditions globally in terms of the economic situation — negatives across the board for the Gulf countries in

terms of oil output. The U.S. is burning through its reserves, yet the United States is contemplating with Israel. Supposedly, Trump and Netanyahu are going to talk at any moment now to brief on what U.S. advisors and, of course, the Israelis have been cooking up for a renewed round of strikes. Iran has consistently said their finger is on the trigger when it comes to any restarting of this war. Professor Marandi, what's your assessment of where things are right now, given that it seems like the United States, after this visit to China by Donald Trump, is seeking some kind of resumption?

#Mohammad Marandi

Yes. I, uh, I risk being the boy who cried wolf. Uh, although I'm not a boy, I'm an old man now, but, uh, I've been saying, I think now for maybe three weeks, I don't know how long it's been, that we're very close to war. And, uh, I think that it was pushed back a bit, probably because of China, even though we were never sure here, but because it would have been foolish for Trump to attack Iran right before the trip to China. But then again, since it's Trump, we were always waiting for an attack. But now that the China trip is over and it ended more or less as expected, without any success, and in my opinion, on the whole, a failure for Trump.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Mohammad Marandi

Uh, because, uh, all we saw on this trip was President Xi being the world leader and Trump looking like the number two. So the only positive thing for Trump on this trip, as I said somewhere else, is that he did not make a fool of himself or did not insult the Chinese during the two days. He was able to control himself for the period when he was in Beijing. But other than that, he gained nothing. And that was to be expected.

I mean, if anyone had been following the Iranian foreign minister's trip to China a week before his, a week or so before the trip, maybe a bit more, they would have seen that through the body language, through the statements made by the two sides, through the social media reaction, the semi-official, the official Chinese media reaction, it was clear that the Chinese were not going to side with the United States. And the fact that Trump seemed to think that he might be able to get something, I think, shows how clueless his State Department and his national security apparatus are about China. We've heard in the past that he's removed all the Iran experts, the China experts, the Russia experts, which I'm pretty sure were mostly pretty awful people and very hostile towards all three of these countries.

But at least they had some sense of, you know, what was going on, even if it was in a warped way. They could have, for example, told him that, you know, right now going to Beijing, you're not going to get any concessions on Iran, or you're not going, you know, they could have told him that at

least. They would have said China is evil and they're horrible people, but this won't work or that won't work. So he went in blind and he came out. He came back with nothing. So now we're back to where we were. And that is, as I said, I'm crying wolf. We're on the verge of war. And I think that it could happen tonight. It could happen over the next few days. It could happen next week.

But I think it's, I can't say it's for certain, but here they're working based on this assumption. Now, it could manifest itself in different ways. But again, the working assumption here is that it will be a massive attack where the Israelis and the American regime bomb Iranian critical infrastructure, targeting ordinary people, electrical power plants, and they try to take territory in the Persian Gulf region— islands, the mainland areas there—and that they use their Wahhabi, Salafi, Takfiri terrorists alongside the border of Pakistan to carry out assassinations and infiltration from there.

And they use their terrorists in northern Iraq and the Kurdish areas. There are about 5,000 or 6,000 of them there to attack Iran from the northern Iraqi border. That is the working assumption right now in Iran, that the response will be, and also operations inside Iran, like the failed operation near Isfahan, which was not about any pilots or anything like that. It was about extracting Iran's uranium. So this is the working assumption, that there will be a massive attack and an attempt to take out Iran's uranium, to occupy parts of Iran.

And I should add, the assumption is also that the armed insurrectionists that on January the 8th and 9th were killing police officers—hundreds of police officers on the streets—and a couple of thousand Iranian citizens, the ones that Trump keeps alluding to, that they, their remnants, and perhaps new people who have been recruited online, that they will, or others who infiltrate from Iran's borders, that they will attempt some sort of armed insurrection in different Iranian cities. And you have to keep in mind, by the way, just to remind your viewers—we've gone over this multiple times—but the whole “30, 40, 50,000 people being murdered, peaceful protesters on the streets,” of course, was always a lie.

But the 3,117 people who were murdered, it is clear now that Western intelligence agencies were behind it—the Israelis, the Americans, MI6—and they were responsible for those deaths. And every time Trump speaks, he says, “nuclear weapon, they killed 40,000 people. Nuclear weapon, they killed 40,000 people.” This assault on the Iranian people back then, which the Western media ran with, this was the agenda from the beginning. It was to prepare the grounds for an assault on the country. And this is something that people should keep in mind because now we're hearing that, I don't know, that Iran gave, or who gave, Cuba hundreds of drones. I don't think Iran did.

#Danny

I didn't know that, because all of the headlines in the early reports were just that Cuba had acquired these drones. I didn't see any source, but you're saying that the report is that Iran did?

#Mohammad Marandi

Maybe I'm wrong, but you know, it's always us, especially when it comes to drones, because Iran—you guys, Iranians—are the drone kings, I guess. But continue. So Cuba is going to destroy the United States with a few hundred drones, and it's going to wipe out Florida. So all of these are all just, you know, just like the drugs and the drug boats, these are all tools, these are all fabrications, these are all means through which the empire can fool its own people and people across the West long enough for them to do what it is that they want to do. And then afterwards, a few years later, you get documentaries, you get leaks—yes, it wasn't exactly like that, there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, you know, and all that.

Well, after it's too late, uh, that was a mistake or whatever. But, uh, so right now people should, you know, have their eyes open about Cuba. And then tomorrow there may be some protests in Cuba, and a couple of people may get killed, or a couple of tens of people will get killed, and then they'll have to save the Cuban people. And they have drones, and they're going to invade the United States, and you're going to hear all sorts of nonsense, quite possibly, if they have the energy to go to Cuba, to take Cuba. But hopefully, hopefully, the axis of resistance in this war will deal Trump such a blow, God willing, that the people of Cuba will be spared.

#Danny

Yeah, and it seems—so I just looked at the Axios report, or should I say the CIA's report on this—but Axios was reporting that, indeed, they are blaming both Iran and Russia. So there are still some Russia hawks in Washington trying to focus on Russia. You know, their brains aren't all on Iran or Cuba, but they say they blame Russia and Iran for giving these, what, some odd hundred drones. And it seems to me that, especially in the Cuba situation, that might be in response to the fact that there are actually prominent Republicans in the Senate and the House that don't want to see an escalation right now with Cuba for the simple fact that they want to see their polling numbers improve before the November elections, because it's their careers when we talk about the House and the Senate. It's their careers. So they want their seats. It's nothing about Cuba, no benevolence for Cuba. But nonetheless, when it comes to Iran, personally, Randy, one of the major reports—just like the Democrats who are now against the war on Iran—it's not that they are humane or that they're decent people.

#Mohammad Marandi

No, if they were in power, they would have started the war.

#Danny

Yeah, and they too can read some tea leaves.

#Mohammad Marandi

Now it's going downhill.

#Danny

Yep, yep. You froze a little bit. But you were saying, Professor Randy—sorry, you froze a little bit.

#Mohammad Marandi

Yeah, I'm saying now that it's going downhill so fast, they're the first ones to jump off the ship.

#Danny

Of course, and it's always easier, Professor Randy, when you don't have the power to stop it, which the Democrats have shown that they don't have, both for their unwillingness to and also just for the structural reasons that they can't seem to win any elections. So, yeah, but when it comes to Iran, one of the major reports that has come out, Professor Randy, is the UAE. It seems like the UAE is being—it's like the bait on the fishing line. It's like on the fisherman's line. The U.S. just keeps throwing it out there and saying, this is our piece to restart aggression with Iran. Now there are reports—did you see it?—that the UAE is being told by the Trump administration to go seize a disputed island between the UAE and Iran. What do you make of this? And is the UAE really going to be the launching pad for this renewed war of aggression?

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, the U.S. has brought in, as you know, lots of troops today. And most of those planes that we saw constantly coming to the region for weeks after the ceasefire began were bringing equipment. Apparently, most of those planes were bringing in equipment for a ground assault. A lot of them were, of course, ammunition and spare parts for the planes so that they could slaughter more kids in schools and things like that. But most of them were for ground assault. A lot of those troops, from my understanding, a lot of those troops are in the Emirates. A lot of them are in Bahrain, and a lot of them are in Kuwait, if I'm not mistaken. I should have checked on this before coming on your show.

And then a lot of the planes are in Qatar, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the Emirates too. So if there is an assault, yes, the Emirates will be a foothold, or it will be one of the places from where the assault begins. The Emirates doesn't have a strong force. It's a country of 1.2 million people, and it doesn't have real armed forces. It has lots of weaponry, weapons and jets and so on, but those are basically for corruption. They buy the weapons to bribe the United States. The kickbacks or the commissions go to American senators, they go to the princes, they go to the royal family, and then they go buy palaces and mansions and apartment buildings.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Mohammad Marandi

Manhattan and that sort of thing. But they're not capable on their own of carrying out any war. We recall that during the seven years of genocide in Yemen, when the whole Arabian Peninsula, all these countries—Qatar, the Saudis, the Emirates, Turkey—unfortunately, all of them were helping Saudi Arabia and the Emirates and supporting them. But so was NATO, to massacre children in Yemen and to starve them. The Americans were part of the siege in the Red Sea. I know a former American official who told me himself that he was on one of the naval ships, and he saw himself that they stopped a boat, they checked the boat, and they saw it was full of medicine.

The boat was taking medicine to Yemen, and they dumped it all in the sea. So that's the sort of siege that they were imposing on Yemen. And, of course, Qatar and Erdogan, they moved away from this, not because they cared about the people of Yemen, but because of the siege that they then imposed on Qatar that caused a split. But the point is that the Saudis and the Emiratis, with all the global support and all the U.S. and British advisors and bombing Yemen day and night and imposing a siege, they failed to win the war in Yemen. So, like, what is the Emirates going to do against Iran? Iran can destroy the Emirates.

The Emirates would lose all of its critical infrastructure within a day or two. So they can't do anything on their own, but they are worse than the other countries in the Persian Gulf region in their obedience to the United States and their pushing for violence and war. And of course, their alliance with the Israeli regime has been exposed by the Israelis in a way that even they are now embarrassed because they've been trying to deny it. When Netanyahu and the head of the Mossad and the head of the military and everyone came to the Emirates during the war, now the Emiratis are saying, no, no, no, no, no, no one came.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. That was very embarrassing. That was incredibly humiliating. And I think you're exactly right. It seems like the Trump administration was trying to feel out where things were with their Gulf vassals. And a lot of them, I think, are very afraid of what will happen should the war resume. And it's the UAE, which I guess has volunteered and gambled whatever is left of its credibility on, by any means necessary, continuing this war. It's quite something. And that's shocking because everything that you just said, the UAE did play one of the most, if not the most, sinister roles in the war on Yemen.

And some of the horrific stories about the torture regime that they carried out are just, you know, it's absolutely... You know, they were basically using mercenaries. They don't fight themselves. Well, what military do they have, really? What the... Yeah, it's continued. Well, one thing I wanted to ask for us from Rondi, actually. The Levant Island, that's the disputed island here, quote unquote, that

the UAE is being urged to take over. Talk about that if you know anything about it, because there are these so-called disputes between the UAE and Iran around certain islands in this region. And it's not really talked about why and what would be, what to any benefit would it be for the UAE to be the launching pad for the U.S. to do some kind of operation on this island? Like, what's the point?

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, it's not that the Levant Island is a disputed island. And of course, for Iran, there are no disputed islands. The Emirates was created in like 1971. Iran was around for a few thousand years, so there's nothing to dispute. But the three islands that the Emiratis pretend they have some sort of claim to—this country which was born five years after I was born—are, I think, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa. These three islands. But Levant Island is an island that the Americans, from what I've heard, were pushing them to take because they think the defenses are weaker there. Why? Because it's very close to the Iranian shore. But that doesn't change anything, because the important thing is the counteroffenses.

The Iranians are going to, if the Americans or anyone carries out an assault, the Iranians are not going to protect every square meter at whatever cost. They are going to withdraw easily in some areas, allow the Americans to come in, and then start pounding them, or the Emiratis, or whoever it is. It could be the Bolivians, whoever. But then they'll just start striking them with drones and missiles and shelling them and attacking them until they are forced to leave. And if you right now just check the weather in Dubai—I don't know what the weather is like right now—but the humidity is very high. It should be through the roof.

And we're moving towards summer, and so it's going to be June in less than two weeks. So this is not the time of year that you want to go and send ground troops to go fighting in these areas. It's sort of like with the Russians, that winter was a general in their army for the Second World War, the Napoleonic Wars, and so on. For Iran, the weather in the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf region is a huge asset for confronting any force of aggression. It's not good for their equipment, it's not good for the Americans at any level, and it's not, obviously, good for their soldiers.

#Danny

Yeah, right now it's saying 87 Fahrenheit in the middle of the night in Dubai. Humidity, of course, is very, very high as well. So, yeah, those are not ideal conditions to carry out.

#Mohammad Marandi

And it's going to get worse. Every day it's getting hotter.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah, well... Professor Randi, we'll talk about the consequences already, because we are seeing the New York Times published an article about the oil shock that the war against Iran has already caused, where you see countries—I mean, the United States' LNG companies and gas companies—they've made profits out of this period. Russia and then a few other states have as well. But much of the Gulf has been seeing negatives. And I guess if you could walk us through, then, Iran has said consistently that it has a response prepared and that that response will be quite devastating. So walk us through what kind of impact we are going to see from here if the United States decides to do this, because the U.S. has already admitted it's probably going to be a short operation—a week, two weeks at the most, I think they said. It seems like the consequences of just that could be incredibly dire.

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, first I wanted to say something else, but I'll get to your question shortly. I just want to say that something happened today in Iran, which I think is pretty significant. During the President Rouhani period, when he was in charge, that was the time when we signed the JCPOA, the nuclear deal in 2015. The Iranian government made a terrible policy decision to sort of ignore China and to tilt—I mean, the administration. Ayatollah Khamenei, the marja, was not in favor of this. But the administration—but he always, you know, he always gave different administrations a lot of leeway to go where they wanted.

So Rouhani made the catastrophic mistake of tilting towards the West, whereas it was clear that he was not going to get anything. But anyway, he was heading towards a mirage, and so our relations with the Chinese suffered. And when President Xi came to Iran, the negotiations with President Rouhani weren't ideal, and not much was achieved. And President Xi went home probably quite, or at least somewhat, unhappy. So after a year or so, Dr. Velayati wanted to go to China. He was the leader's foreign policy advisor. The leader had two foreign policy advisors at that time.

One was him and one was Dr. Kharazi, whom the Americans and Israelis murdered. Dr. Velayati wanted to go to China to help mend the relationship or improve it. And for a host of reasons, it was not possible. Then someone proposed to Dr. Larijani, who at that time was the Speaker of Parliament. And then during this war, he was martyred. He was the chair of the Supreme National Security Council, and the Americans and Israelis murdered him. Very, very good man. And that person was me. So I proposed to him to go to China and to mend the relationship. And long story short, he got permission from Marja Ayatollah Khamenei, and he went as the leader's and on behalf of the president too.

And he helped improve the relationship. His meeting with President Xi went very well, and that turned things around to a degree. And then when President Raisi came, he continued down that road. The point is that this was an important moment. And I did help Dr. Larijani. I mean, I was never in government, as I said. But after he came back from China, I did go with him, and he asked me to take charge of the China file on his behalf because he was in charge of that file. So on a

volunteer basis, I did that until he was no longer Speaker of Parliament. And then I went back to just focusing on my own work. Today, the President sent a letter to the leader.

Well, this was discussed beforehand, but in any case, the president and the leader have chosen Dr. Qalibaf, the current Speaker of Parliament—back then Dr. Larijani was the Speaker of Parliament—Dr. Qalibaf, who is also the chief negotiator, to be in charge of the Iran-China file. And I think this is a big move because he's a competent person, but also, when there's someone in charge like Dr. Larijani was back then, because the president doesn't have time to put much focus on anything. He's running the entire country, and there are many difficulties—wages, all sorts of things that have to be dealt with. So for him to be in charge of this file sends a very important message.

And I think it's going to have a significant impact, just like with Dr. Larijani. It's going to have a significant impact on the Iran-China relationship, which is already good. Back then, it was done to repair the relationship. Now it is being done to improve the relationship further, to help with investment, Chinese investors, Iranian university cooperation with Chinese universities, high-tech cooperation, and so on. So I think the news that came out today was very important. And I think it's going to have a big impact. And coming right after Trump's visit to China, his failed visit to China, I think that it has extra significance.

Now, going back to the question that you raised, we've discussed this before. As I've said, the Iranians—you and I have been talking for years now—and anyone can go back a few years, and all the things that we were saying back then actually did happen. In the West, they thought it would be a walk in the park, and it turned out that what we said was correct. After the war and during the war, we also had these discussions, and I said that Iran's missile capabilities, their drone capabilities—they're intact. And they were constantly saying that. Now we're seeing again that they're coming closer to realistic conclusions, even though the New York Times and others—their numbers are not accurate.

I can say with confidence that Iran's missile and drone capabilities today are greater than they were on the first day of the war. Iran's economy—yes, damaged, hurt, inflation high—that's a different thing. But when it comes to Iran's capabilities to strike, they are stronger today than they were back then. And the Americans—we know that the Americans and the Israeli regime—their capabilities are depleted. So Iran definitely will be hitting much harder this time. And Iran has said that if our critical infrastructure is attacked, we will retaliate decisively. And that means that the Israeli regime's critical infrastructure will be destroyed, and the critical infrastructure of these regimes in the Persian Gulf will be destroyed.

And that will mean no more oil and gas for perhaps years to come. So Iran will be decisive this time around. Iran does not start wars because Iran is moral. We've been on the receiving end of three wars from the United States since 1980—Saddam Hussein, their proxy, back then, then last year, and this year. Iran never escalates. Iran responds to escalation. But we should remember that when the Israeli regime bombed Iran's South Pars gas field, the Iranians hit back very hard at Qatar and

the Emirates. And then Trump put out a Truth Social where he was literally begging Iran not to, like he said, I didn't know about this. Netanyahu will not do it again. This time, there will be no more Qatari.

And I'm just saying this so our Qatari neighbors would know, there will be no more Qatari facilities. They'll be done with. And the Emirates will be finished. And all these regimes, if our critical infrastructure is struck, in this weather, all these regimes will be empty. People will have to go to Iraq or to Oman, because these places will be unlivable for American soldiers, diplomats, and for the ruling families and so on. It'll just be... So Iran is not going to start anything. Iran cares a lot about human life. We know this because in the last war, 3,400 or so, 450 or so people were murdered—murdered Iranians—but at most 20 people in all these five countries were killed.

#Danny

Why? Because Iran was careful not to hit ordinary people.

#Mohammad Marandi

That is the truth. That's the same thing with the Israeli regime. Iran never targeted synagogues or schools. The Israelis targeted a synagogue in Tehran. They targeted schools. They carried out many double-tap attacks. They bombed many apartment blocks, one 20-minute, 15-minute walk from here, from where I am right now. Many, I'm sure. I mean, there are others too. I don't know them. But the point is that if they launch a war and they go after critical infrastructure, the only deterrence is for Iran to hit back very hard, just like it did when they struck the South Pars gas field. And that will bring down the global economy. So the global economy is heading towards a great recession already.

And if this continues for, I don't know, three, four months, it will be a depression, I think. But if they go after our critical infrastructure and our oil and gas facilities and that sort of thing, we will take out everything. We will take out everything. And there will be nothing. There will be nothing to leave the Persian Gulf for years. And that will lead to a global depression like nothing ever seen before in human history. So Trump and Netanyahu had better choose wisely. And their proxies in the Persian Gulf have to be very careful about their future, because once their countries collapse, they're not coming back. No one is going to allow them to be in charge of some future government in Doha or in Abu Dhabi or wherever.

No one is going to accept that anymore. So they should be very careful. And Iran is going to be relentless. So hopefully these regimes will push back. And they could, by the way, stop this war. They could sign a joint declaration right now of the five countries and say, we will not allow the United States to use our airspace, our land, our sea. We are opposed to war. But they're too cowardly or too compromised. After all, a lot of them are in the Epstein files. Don't think that the Epstein people are just Americans. You have people in the Emirates. You have this woman in the

Emirates who introduced her 12-year-old sister to one of the senior officials in the Emirates. I don't remember her name.

#Danny

She introduced her little sister to Epstein.

#Mohammad Marandi

These people are as corrupt as the people in the Epstein files in the United States. The billionaires there, their billionaire buddies here, are no different.

#Danny

Yeah, I mean, there's a reason why they exist in the way that they do, and it's certainly not of... They wouldn't exist if they were simply doing all of this independently.

#Mohammad Marandi

And one thing I should add again—sorry, Danny, for forgetting. I'm growing old. This time around, escalation will be very swift, yeah, and the Iraqi resistance will be very different from what we saw last time. Even though they were pretty active, it was only 10% of their capabilities. If there's going to be escalation, then this side will go up very swiftly. So the Iraqi resistance will be nothing like what they saw last time. And Yemen, from what I've been told over the past few days, is fully prepared. They are rested. They are prepared.

And if there's escalation, they will shut down the Red Sea, and there will be no more oil or trade going through the Red Sea. So the Europeans, these family dictatorships, they should all think very carefully about what Trump is going to do to them. And the American people should understand that what Trump is about to do to them—whether he's compromised, whether they have, I don't know, footage of him doing something to little girls—I have no idea why he's so determined to destroy the United States. But I mean, he said himself that he doesn't care about the economic situation of the American people. And remember, he repeats two lies.

One is that Iran is developing a nuclear weapon. We know that the anti-terrorism chief that he installed, that Joe Kent, he installed him, said that Iran is not pursuing a nuclear weapon, that Iran is not a threat to the United States. This is all about the Zionist lobby and the Israeli mission. And we know that Tulsi Gabbard, under oath, said the same thing. We know that the International Atomic Energy Agency has been saying that it has never shown evidence that Iran at any point has been trying to produce a nuclear weapon, even though the United States says since 2003. But the IAEA has never provided evidence of anything before that.

And so there are two lies that he repeats. One's about a nuclear weapon, and he says they're going to make a nuclear weapon and then bomb all the cities in the world, like we're just out there to bomb with nuclear weapons. And you saw him say that to the kids in the White House. And, you know, these Iranians, kill us all, kill you all. And then the second is, of course, the lie about 40,000 people. And all those people, those journalists and others who pushed that lie, they assisted the United States in carrying out these atrocities. They assisted Netanyahu in carrying out these atrocities. And they helped bring the world economy to where it is today.

#Danny

Yeah, definitely true. I want to just actually make a comment on what you said earlier about Mohammad Ghalibaf, who seems to be obtaining many high roles in the Iranian, you know, within the administration. And in large part, I mean, China will love this. He's incredibly confident. I mean, how many times have people shared just on X, from his X account, his economic analyses of the world situation? I mean, he understands that part especially well. He's demonstrated it. And now he will be maybe, to Iran's most important economic partner, be able to... People should follow him.

#Mohammad Marandi

I mean, if they want to follow his account, they can find it on my X account. They can find his name.

#Danny

But they should follow him.

#Mohammad Marandi

He is important. The China file isn't an extraordinarily complicated file.

#Danny

But it's just too much for the president, because the president has too many things to do.

#Mohammad Marandi

The bureaucracy, you know, and also he's running a country under war circumstances. So the negotiations file, the China file, they're not like something that would consume an entire day for Dr. Ghalibaf. But definitely they're too much for the president to be able to just pursue this particular file. And it has to be someone who has the stature to get things done, to make a phone call to the president and say, well, the Chinese, you know, we're doing this with the Chinese. There's this problem. It has to be someone who has to be able to make those phone calls and get things done. So it is an important move. And he is a very competent person. He's known to be competent.

#Danny

Yeah, well, his – and this is so interesting. His last post was, “The world stands at the cusp of a new order. As President Xi said, the transformation unseen in a century is accelerating across the globe,” end quote. And I emphasize that the Iranian nation's 70-day resistance has accelerated this transformation. The future belongs to the Global South. So I think a very wise choice for Iran to put him in this position. And he's also head of the negotiations, which have also gone very well on the Iranian side, in the sense that while the U.S.—I'm sure you saw their ridiculous maximalist demands: Iran hand over uranium, no ceasefire anywhere else in the region unless Iran talks to them, no reparations. And then, you know, someone like Ghalibaf, there's no caving here. It's just, well, here are our terms, and let's see which country, which side will last longer in this. And it's quite—I think it's quite something to witness. It is a very critical moment.

#Mohammad Marandi

Iran is a lesson for the world. And what Iran is doing today is doing the greatest favor for people across the world, even the American people, though they probably don't see it that way. But Iran is bringing down this empire. And it's not acting aggressively. It is basically determined to protect its sovereignty, and it is determined to protect the people of Palestine. I mean, at the end of the day, this is all about Palestine. This is all about Iran opposing genocide, whereas everyone else, you know, all Western governments support genocide, and all the countries in the region are complicit in genocide. And the dirty war in Syria was to break Syria away from the axis of resistance, to put them on the same page with those regimes that are complicit in genocide.

And all those people who, you know, who were active activists and helping shape public opinion to bring down the Syrian government, they were basically working for Israel. All those Wahhabis and Salafis and all those, you know, seculars, they were all doing the same thing. These extremists, ISIS and al-Qaeda, they were tools of empire. And those people in the United States who are lobbying, and in Europe who are lobbying on behalf of them, funded by Qatar, funded by Erdogan, funded by others, funded by Western governments, they were all doing it knowingly, wittingly or unwittingly. They were strengthening the empire.

And right now, look at Syria. Look at what Hezbollah is doing in southern Lebanon. It's amazing. Amazing, their steadfastness. It's unbelievable. It's just, I've never seen anything like this before in my life. And yet, look at Syria, completely quiet. Right now is the best time for Syria to push back at the Israeli regime and take back its territory. As Hezbollah is fighting to the west, they could, with their much larger population—they have Turkey, who's supporting this al-Qaeda regime—but they'll never do that because they were never supposed to do that. There was never the intention in the first place.

This is a proxy regime. The ISIS al-Qaeda guy went to the White House, got his perfume, came back, and that's it. And so the Israelis have continued to occupy huge territories in Syria. And the regime, instead of using this opportunity to push back and to force the Israeli regime to pay a price for its occupation, is trying to strangle the resistance in Lebanon by shutting down the border with Syria. This is, you know, and all those people who are talking about jihad and all those people who are supporting these crazy ISIS and al-Qaeda, Wahhabi, Salafi, crazy killers, where are they now?

Where are those people now who are talking about, you know, jihad, and those people who are talking about freeing Syria and supporting armed resistance? Where are they now? You know, they supported them killing poor people on the coast or Druze people in the south. But now that Hezbollah is hammering this, right, and the Israeli regime becomes so outraged in their rage, they go and bomb women and children in Lebanon. Every day they're slaughtering families, which doesn't get reported in the West. They're specifically targeting medics across Lebanon.

But you won't hear this in the Western media because their journalists in Lebanon are a bunch of criminals. It's very interesting, in the West, the Western media, whenever back then we complained about why they were quiet on Gaza, they said, well, we don't have a presence in Gaza. That was their excuse. Like, we all knew there was a genocide ongoing, but they said, well, we cannot confirm anything because we're not there. And that was their excuse to basically help the Israelis. But in Lebanon, there are more Western news agencies and reporters with offices and fixers and drivers and producers than anywhere in the Arab world compared to the population.

But you're not getting the news about the atrocities being carried out. And when you do, you hear things like "Hezbollah strongholds," like they mean apartment buildings or hospitals or clinics. But they'll say "Hezbollah strongholds," "Hezbollah targets," in order to hide them. So whether they're Western journalists—and of course I'm talking about mainstream legacy media, those who are somehow attached to these regimes or the Epstein class—whether they're present or not doesn't make a difference. Whether they're in Gaza or they're not in Gaza or they're in Lebanon, it does nothing for the reporting. They support the Israeli regime, they support the child killers.

#Danny

And they are, of course, part of the genocide.

#Mohammad Marandi

They all are, just like all the Western diplomats in Beirut. They are all supporters of genocide. Every one of them has blood on their hands. And if they had the slightest amount of decency, Western diplomats would now defect, or at least they'd resign, wherever they are in the world. But since they have no decency, and they have no self-respect, and they have no humanity, they will continue to get their paychecks, just like Western journalists will do the same. So I'm really, even though it's

very sad to see what goes on in Lebanon, I'm really glad that people can now see that the presence of journalists in Lebanon does not change anything. And their absence in Gaza was just an excuse. If they were in Gaza, their reporting would have been no different.

#Danny

Yeah, those are great points, Professor Morandi. And for the last 10 minutes or so here, I did have a question for you that I think helps reinforce and maybe expand upon this broader analysis that you put out there on the situation in the region. You know, one question that came up from the audience.

#Mohammad Marandi

Just one thing before you say that. Sure, sure, sure. If the Syrian regime, if this corrupt al-Qaeda regime, which is just a proxy, if they chose to defend Syria against Israel, do you know who would be the first to send them support? Iran. Despite everything, Iran would be the first to send them support. Resistance in Iraq, Hezbollah, everyone. I mean, Erdogan wouldn't do anything for them, but Iran would give them all that they need to take back their territory. And while Hezbollah is fighting right now, this is the best time because the Israeli regime is overstretched. But they won't. They have no intention of doing that. That was never the intention, and those people who helped bring about this situation.

They helped the Israeli regime, and they hurt the Palestinian cause. And they will try to pretend otherwise, and they'll try to distract attention and say, you know, Assad was this. For Iran, the issue was never about Assad or his ethnicity or his race or his religion. It was all about the resistance. But these people were great assets to the Israeli regime.

#Danny

Yeah, sorry for the jump. No, no, no. I think that's another important point. Well, you know, given this larger situation that you outlined, and I think the Syria point is a really good one, given how the so-called Shara — I forget what his al-Qaeda name was now, completely slips my mind — yeah, Jolani, the Jolani regime, just how disastrous it is now in this critical moment in history. But one thing I want to ask you is, we got a question from the audience saying, have you seen the leak from Dimitri Lascaris about the conference in Athens? Israel apparently has an interest in keeping the Strait of Hormuz closed. What do we think about that?

Now, this goes in line with an argument I've been hearing a lot about the Strait of Hormuz, which is that there are some friends of ours who are saying that the Strait of Hormuz being closed, in this current situation of an Iran–U.S. Navy standoff, is beneficial to the United States and Israel. And I'm curious what your thoughts are about that, especially in light of the news that Iran has really come out with an insurance system now, really consolidating control over the Strait of Hormuz. It is very adamant that actually the Strait isn't closed, but indeed there is still this blockade thing, I guess you

would call it a blockade happening, and ships are being terrorized by the U.S. Navy. What are your thoughts on this question?

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, first of all, we should always keep in mind that Iran has never closed the Strait of Hormuz.

#Danny

Never.

#Mohammad Marandi

It was never closed. Before the war, it was just business as usual, and Iran didn't take control of it at all. And it is not international waters, by the way. It is not wide enough to be international waters. These are Iranian and Omani waters. But then after the war, what the restrictions were for those five countries that were part of the war—Kuwait, Bahrain, the Emirates, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia—they were murdering Iranians. They were not only hosting the Americans there on bases, they were hosting American forces off bases, and they were funding the war. Americans were not renting these places. All American costs in all of these bases—and they're not like five or six, there are large numbers of bases—all the costs were paid for, everything.

Every year, many billions of dollars were paid by these regimes to the Americans during the war. So they were very much a part of it. They killed our kids. They helped bomb our hospitals. So these five regimes—there were restrictions on their ships for obvious reasons. Were Chinese ships blocked? No. Were Russian ships blocked? No. Did ships go to Pakistan, to India? Yes, after negotiations. Ships that were coming from Iranian ports obviously had no problem. Those coming from Iraq had no problem. Those coming from these five countries had problems, but in some cases, after negotiations, they would allow some of them to go through if they were very important for countries that had not done harm to the Iranian people.

So the Iranians had never closed the Strait of Hormuz. After the U.S. siege, which was a violation of the ceasefire—because the U.S. imposed the siege after the ceasefire—after the ceasefire agreement, remember, at the beginning of the war, Trump said, “Unconditional surrender.” By day 39, it got so bad that he accepted the Iranian 10-point plan as a framework for negotiations. And then everyone attacked Trump and ridiculed him. And then his spokeswoman said, “No, no, we threw it in the bin.” But he accepted it. He posted it. So in the ceasefire agreement, they were supposed to end the killing in Gaza and Lebanon—especially Lebanon, because there was heavy fighting.

And then there was no siege at that time—U.S. siege. And then the Iranians would allow more of those ships, more ships from those five countries, to go through the Strait of Hormuz to ease the

global crisis. This was a month ago—more than a month ago now, well over a month ago now. Right? Like after 42, 43 days, I guess. I don't know. But then Netanyahu wrecked the ceasefire. He began carpet bombing Lebanon to undermine the ceasefire. And so the Iranians said, until he accepts the ceasefire, we're not going to let those extra ships go out—those extra ships. So the strait was open. Then ultimately, Netanyahu was forced to accept the ceasefire, although he began the slaughter after a day or two again.

And then Iran said, okay, we'll let those ships through that were agreed upon. But Trump, who had just imposed a siege on Iranian ports—first he said all the Persian Gulf, then he said Iranian ports—he said, great, but I'm going to keep the siege, which is a violation of the ceasefire, it's an act of war. So the Iranians said, well, if that's the case, then we're not letting those ships out. So this was done by Trump and Netanyahu. Now, so we are where we are. I can't say for certain. I don't speak on behalf of anyone, obviously. But if Trump were to force Netanyahu to end the slaughter in Gaza and Lebanon, and to end the wars and to end the siege, then those ships would begin leaving the Persian Gulf and go through the Strait of Hormuz.

So Trump is the one who's destroying the global economy—Trump and Netanyahu. Now, whether this is good for Israel, I don't think so. I think it's good for Netanyahu because he wants war. Netanyahu wants a siege on Iran to weaken the Iranians. He wants war. He wants death and destruction because he needs this to stay in power. But do I believe that this is good for Israel? No. Why? Because it's not good for the United States. It's not good for the global economy. Why is that not good for the Israeli regime? Because just as the two and a half years of genocide have made the world despise the Israeli regime, this global economic crisis is being done in the name of Zionism. We saw Trump just say that—I did this for Israel. Then he added, oh, well, these other countries too.

Saudi Arabia and the Emirates and Qatar. And then he, as an afterthought, included Kuwait and Bahrain. The reason why it was those three countries after Israel was because those are the countries that pay him. These are countries that really, they pay Kushner and Witkoff and the other Zionists a lot of money. So in my opinion, Trump definitely wants out. But from what we're hearing from Tucker Carlson, who met him, he said that he understood that this is not good news, but he went and did it anyway. And when you look at Joe Biden, his resignation letter and his subsequent interviews, you get the same conclusion. So I think that the Israeli regime, the Zionists in charge, they want war, so you're going to have war because they're the boss.

They're the guys who own the United States. But is this good for Zionism? I don't think so. Because the world is going to say, look at India. India did its best to have—you know, Modi was very pro-genocide. And look what the Israelis have done to the Indian economy. People are going to remember what they did to them. They're destroying the Indian economy. They're wrecking the global economy. So is this going to be good for the Israeli regime in the long term when ordinary Americans say this war, which was about Israel, wrecked our lifestyles, wrecked and destroyed our jobs, drove inflation through the roof? Is that going to be good for Israel in the long run? I don't think so. Yeah, I don't think it's good for Israel at all. Is it good for Netanyahu?

Yes, because Netanyahu needs crises. That's what these two and a half years of war and genocide and death and destruction have been all about—to keep him out of prison, to keep him in charge. He has an election coming up. Why did his office expose the fact that he visited the UAE? And then when the U.S. denied it, they went and said, not only did he go, but Mossad went, they had, you know, everyone went. Why was that the case? Because he was doing it, in my opinion—this is just my, I don't have information—he was doing it for the Israeli, you know, the Israeli public. He wanted to say, look, I mean, he hasn't succeeded in Gaza. He hasn't, he's failed in Lebanon. Look at what Hezbollah is doing to him. So the only place where he succeeded, thanks to Qatar and Erdogan and others, was in Syria, partially.

But Syria is going to be a problem. But that's for another day. But in any case, this is a success of sorts to say that, look, I've made inroads into the Emirates. They're now a key ally of mine. They are the front line in my fight against Iran and so on. But that is also damaging to Israel. Why? Because you've humiliated your ally. You've destroyed their reputation. It's hard for me to say, but it's like a man or a woman having a secret and illicit relationship with someone who has a horrible reputation. And if it comes out, that person is just destroyed. You know what I mean? And then that person says, yes, I have relations with, you know, so-and-so. So this hurts the Israeli regime because now Qatar and the others are going to be extra cautious about their betrayals.

I mean, we know they all have relations. Turkey transports Baku oil. Egypt buys gas. Jordan facilitates trade. They're all in it together. But the Emirates took this to a whole new level. And the region, they hate these regimes. When Iran was bombing these countries in retaliation, people across the region were cheering, except for the Wahhabis and the Salafis and the people on the payroll. But everyone else was cheering because they know who these people are and what these regimes are. But the point is that Netanyahu was doing it for the sake of Netanyahu. He exposed the relationship for the sake of Netanyahu, in my opinion. And so I don't believe that a lot of what's happening is in the long-term interests of the Israeli regime.

The war in Gaza, I don't think, is at all—the genocide in Gaza, the Holocaust in Gaza itself—is of long-term interest to the Israeli regime. It's destroyed. It's destroyed the Israeli regime. It's despised across the world now. I don't think that the ongoing genocide and ethnic cleansing of southern Lebanon, especially with the heroic resistance of Hezbollah that we see today, the unbelievably heroic resistance of Hezbollah that we're seeing today, is going well for the Israeli regime. None of this is, but it's kept Netanyahu in power for two and a half years. So I think that this is tragic, what's going on in the Strait of Hormuz. I have an Indian colleague who's very knowledgeable, and he tells me that this can lead to starvation in India.

And if it's going to lead to starvation in India, you can imagine that it's going to lead to starvation in other parts of the world. So it is catastrophic for the world. But the world will not forget that this war was done by the Zionists, and it was imposed on the world by Trump and Netanyahu. Yeah, the Indian economy has already—and also, I mean, Danny, something that you and I discussed earlier—

look at those Democrats who are now saying, "This is terrible, this is awful." Are they, like, are they—I mean, many ordinary supporters of the Democrats are anti-Israel now, but I'm talking about those who are in power. Are they anti-Israel? No. No, the senators, no. But they see where things are going. They see where even the Republicans—I'm sure many of them know where this is going—but they can't get off the ship now.

#Danny

No, and the Democrats, as you said, if pushed in the same way as obviously Trump was, they don't necessarily have a different track mind on Iran than Trump anyway. So it's, you know, when the empire comes calling.

#Mohammad Marandi

I remember when Biden was president; that's when the genocide began.

#Danny

Yeah, that's true. And that was the precursor to all of this. Yeah. Yeah. A few points, and then we can come to a close, Bruce Arandi. In this talk about the UAE, I completely forgot about these so-called drones that have hit the UAE. At least that's from the reports of some backup power generator. And this—I don't have evidence of this, but this is my assumption—is that all of these strange attacks, especially on the UAE, I have a feeling that some Israeli assets somewhere in the region are firing these drones. That's my assessment. Because I know Iran—I mean, come on, we've been talking for years. We've been following the 12-day war, the Epstein, whatever it is now, 70-day war, plus-day war ongoing. We know Iran is going to announce when they attack someone. We know that they take pretty strict measures when they attack.

And are usually doing it in self-defense. And they follow the laws of war. I mean, let's just follow how Iran has behaved throughout this war, and it's very much to the T. This random, like, okay, there's a strike here and there. The UAE now is not even trying to blame Iran. It's very suspicious in my book. And I think it all goes into what we've been talking about, in the sense that I think some people are putting far too much into short-term gain, quote-unquote, even the profits, for example, for gas, LNG, oil. For someone who believes that capitalism and imperialism are the roots of the problem, I think there are definitely moments in history, especially one like this, where there's a huge crisis and a huge fade happening, especially for the U.S. empire.

There are times when politics take command, and I just don't believe that somehow, some way, just the short-term riches that, let's say, Chevron, ExxonMobil, these companies are making, somehow will equate to the success of the empire in this way, especially given all of the other changes that are happening and how you said on this program. And I 100 percent believe it. I'm in the United States and I can see it and I can feel it. The economic crisis is huge right now. And while U.S.

monopolies make a lot of money off of economic crises too, they also lose a lot in economic crises, always. They get smaller. They shrink in the U.S. The global stature economically diminishes. And that's just the facts. I mean, look at any graph of the U.S. economy from 1945 and the U.S. economy now. It's diminished. It's smaller. It is not as dominant. And that's going to continue. And I believe that's what we need.

#Mohammad Marandi

And when the middle class collapses and when most people become poorer and poorer, does that create stability for those oligarchs? Or does it make it more unstable for them? It's not a good... These people are not as brilliant as some people would like to say. I mean, I believe very much in God. I have no doubt in the existence of God. But some people are insistent that, you know, how can there be a God? But then they give God-like qualities to these... these people. They're so sophisticated, everything is under control, everything is managed. Well, if they're so good at it, why is the United States in such bad shape? And why is, you know, why is the Global South on the rise? Why is, you know, why are there so many whys there? It's just, that's not... you know, the fact is that this is an empire on the decline. When it was on the rise, it had the luxury of carrying out many atrocities, and people would look away.

In Vietnam, for example, initially ordinary Americans supported the Vietnam War. But then gradually people turned against it, or at least a significant segment of society—enough to make the government move away, to leave Vietnam. But still, the United States was a wealthy country. It was still the wealthiest country in the world by far at that time. So, you know, the stability of the country was never in doubt. But now, you know, the country is a very different country. You've been to China. I've been to China. I've been to Moscow.

I mean, Tehran—if you compare the Tehran underground, ask anyone who's been to Iran—compare the Tehran underground to New York. There's just zero comparison. Iran is infinitely better. Despite all the sanctions, despite the wars, despite the armed insurrections that Western intelligence agencies, of course... no, these people are—they're wrecking the empire. They're lashing out increasingly as things go downhill, and it's only making things worse. They're committing crimes, of course, beyond belief. But I don't see any method in this madness. I just see mad.

#Danny

Yes. Yes, indeed. There was one final question, but I think we can answer it kind of briefly here. Does the rumored Saudi–Middle East countries' terrorism against Mali and AES states impact the potential non-aggression pact with Iran and Saudi? Well, I don't know how—I think I don't even know how to answer that one because it's—but you're Mali. You have any thoughts? Yeah, I guess there have been some attacks on the...

#Mohammad Marandi

But how would that impact a non-aggression? I don't know. Let me just get to it. Saudi Arabia has to go a long way to address issues that are related to Iran. They've helped kill a lot of Iranians. And American planes were based in Saudi Arabia and using Saudi air bases. A lot of the, you know, and remember, a lot of the things that the Iranians were saying and they were denying during the war, like planes being destroyed and all that—now we know that tens of planes were damaged and destroyed. Where were many of these planes? They were in Saudi Arabia. They were based in Saudi Arabia. So Saudi Arabia has a long way to go. I mean, they may be rethinking, but they have to do a lot. But in any case, hopefully, I mean, the days ahead will be probably bloody.

There'll be lots of innocent people murdered by Trump and Netanyahu and the Trump regime. And the killing in Lebanon is ongoing. Every day they're killing women and children. They're bombing medics. And Western journalists are shamelessly looking away. And every day they're slaughtering people in Gaza. It's just becoming outrageous. The genocide is ongoing. And this is Zionism. Those who defend the Israeli regime, an ethno... I don't know if you saw my interview with—what's his name—Piers Morgan. Not the last one, but the one before. Three times I asked him, do you consider an ethno-supremacist regime legitimate or not? And he wouldn't answer the question. You'd think that this is something where the answer would be clear as day, but he would not answer the question.

It's like saying, do you believe—it's the same thing as saying, do you believe a white supremacist regime in South Africa is legitimate or not? And if someone would say, well, I'm opposed to many of the policies of the South African government, and I've said it before, I don't think that these people should be—that basically means that you refuse to say that a white supremacist regime is illicit. And this is the same thing. And so all of this has been recorded in history. All of it is recorded by God, way above history. But those who support this, those who are quiet, they are guilty. Those who are against it, and those who are vocally against it, and those who stand up against it—they're all heroes.

#Danny

They're all heroes.

#Mohammad Marandi

Wherever they're from—young American Jews, Christians, Muslims, European, Asian, African—those who take a stand, they're all heroes. They have nothing to be ashamed about. As I said before, sometimes people say, "I'm ashamed to be an American. I'm ashamed." No. No one should be ashamed if they are taking a stand. Those people should be ashamed who are complicit or quiet, whether they're in Beirut, or whether they're in Cairo, or whether they're in Washington, or wherever they are on this planet. Anyone who's quiet, anyone who's supportive of this horrific regime and these regimes—they are complicit.

But everyone else, I wish them the best, and they have a lot of work to do ahead. They have a lot of work to do, and hopefully everyone will be doing their duty, and the Iranians will defeat this evil empire, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of humanity, on behalf of the children of Cuba under siege, on behalf of the kids in Gaza who've been murdered, on behalf of the mothers in Lebanon who are mourning their children, and on behalf of the children of Minab School. They will resist, and their resilience will be remembered.

#Danny

I think it's a great place to end this program, everyone. So everyone, make sure to hit the like button before you go. Thanks to everyone who gave a super chat. This was a great program. I want to make sure that you all know that you can support this channel in the video description below. All the options are there. You can follow Professor Morandi—I'll put that in now—on X. He is a frequent poster there. You can find all of his commentary. He also shares his interviews where he has been, so do follow him on X. I want to thank everyone for watching, all the moderators who are moderating.

Professor Morandi, any word before we head out of here? Like, uh, Danny's program today—it's his birthday, and according to his driver's license, according to my driver's license, when I turned 21, actually, it was a really funny thing. You know, everyone's like, "Oh, you're gonna drink legally now." It's like, no, actually I'm not, because it was 10 days off. But that was a funny moment, and I still don't live it down with them. So anyway, without further ado, everyone, you heard Professor Morandi. Hit the like button before you go. In the video description, you can find his X account now, as well as all the places to support this channel. I'll be back tomorrow with KJ, 1 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday, May 18th. See you then. Bye-bye.