

Seyed M. Marandi: Why Diplomacy Can't Stop the Next Middle East War

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The meeting between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping. And we had the Iranian foreign minister going to China, talking with China. I'm sure that he said something about the Iranian position. And with the case of the Strait of Hormuz and the ongoing war between Iran and the United States, it was coordinated before between the two foreign ministers, the Iranian foreign minister and Wang Yi, the Chinese foreign minister. And then we have Donald Trump going to China.

From what we've heard so far, the announcement was basically about two points in that White House statement regarding the Strait of Hormuz. One of them was that we have to open up the Strait of Hormuz. The second one was the demilitarization of the Strait of Hormuz. I don't know if you heard, because they were talking about the toll system that Iran is trying to define in the Strait of Hormuz, or has defined in the Strait of Hormuz. Yeah. And what is your understanding of the achievements of Donald Trump in China, considering the ongoing conflict and war between Iran and the United States?

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Well, if your guest was Pepe, he would be more emphatic about the failure, but it was a complete failure. And I think it was clear from the Iranian foreign minister's trip — anyone who followed that trip closely, and the body language and the social media accounts of the meeting in China, and how the Iranian presence was viewed. The Iranians were presented as heroic in their resistance against the United States, and the Chinese officials said that Iran's global status has been enhanced significantly and it will have implications for future economic progress in Iran and so on. It was clear that the two countries, when the foreign ministers met and compared notes, were coordinating.

And also the 30 ships that left the Strait of Hormuz on the same day as the negotiations — that was something these two countries had negotiated over days. And it was not by coincidence that it happened on the day of the negotiations. And of course, there was no joint statement by the two sides. Nothing really came out of it. Even the Boeing planes — it's not clear if that's really a real deal or just some general comments made at the negotiating table.

And we saw later on that in one of his interviews, Trump basically admitted that the Chinese said nothing about the Iranian nuclear program. Trump said that the Iranians are crazy and that they shouldn't have a nuclear weapon, and President Xi didn't respond — he just went quiet and the conversation continued. So I think it's fair to say that the American spin on the entire trip is detached from reality, and the part on Iran is even more detached from reality. But then that does mean that we reach a new phase of the crisis, because now it's more than two and a half months since the war began. We are at war. This is siege warfare. The United States has blocked the Strait of Hormuz, and the global economy is heading towards crisis. Iran is heading towards greater difficulty at home too.

But I personally think the world is going to be more damaged than Iran in the long run, because Iran has been under siege for decades and it will cope. And it will be difficult, especially since damage has been done. But I think the United States knows that this siege warfare is not going to succeed, and that's why we had that military — but pretty pathetic — military attack on the Strait, a naval attack on the Strait of Hormuz a couple of weeks ago, which failed, and they couldn't get a single ship out of the Strait. And so I think that there's a very good chance that we will have a military assault, a major military assault, because at the end of the day, if the Israeli regime wants it, if the Zionist lobby wants it, then they'll probably get it.

I don't see any dramatic shift in the United States away from Zionism, at least not yet. And so I think there will be a military offensive. I think that's the assessment here — that there will probably be another assault against Iran. It could be somewhat different than before. The Israeli and U.S. regimes may begin targeting Iranian critical infrastructure. That would mean that Iran will target critical infrastructure, whether in Palestine or in the Persian Gulf region. But in the Persian Gulf region, because of the extreme heat of summer, it will bring an end to those regimes.

I mean, imagine the United Arab Emirates without electricity in the summer, with the humidity and the heat. I mean, no one will be able to stay — or in Kuwait, or even in Saudi. The former head of Saudi intelligence, when he wrote that article in an outlet close to the Saudi regime, was saying that Saudi Arabia was trying to distance itself from the war. But in that article, he basically said that Saudi Arabia could be destroyed if its vital infrastructure, which is all along the Persian Gulf, were destroyed. So if they go after Iran's critical infrastructure, it will be a defeat for the United States because its proxies will be crushed. And it's not a war that we want. We didn't start this war. We don't want war.

And remember, even though Iran was able to destroy so much in the Persian Gulf region, less than 20 people died in all these five countries. Iran was careful not to kill innocent people. Yet 3,400, 3,450 — I don't know the exact number — Iranians were massacred, slaughtered. So we are in a dangerous place right now. And I think that every day that goes by — you've heard this from others, you know this better than I, and I've been saying it — that we're heading towards a global, major global recession. If this continues, it'll be a global depression. But if there is war, and that war does

become vicious, and they start striking Iranian critical infrastructure, then I think a great economic depression, a global economic depression, is inevitable. And that will change everyone's lives. That is something that the world should really fear.

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What is your understanding of this new concept that they're talking about in the GCC countries — the non-aggression pact? And how is that related? Was that communicated with the Iranians? What is the basis, the foundation of that sort of concept? Is that related to the security architecture of the region? How does Iran view that?

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Well, it's vague. It's very vague, and it's... These countries, if they had said no to the Americans from the beginning, we wouldn't have had this war. Logistically speaking, the Americans cannot wage a war without the support of Jordan, the full support of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and... There would have been no war. And now to say this is a positive step, but it's by no means enough. The Americans have to leave. Iran will no longer accept the U.S. threat on the Arabian Peninsula. And we've suffered enough as it is. We've suffered far too much. So it is a good, I would assume, a good step in the right direction, but I think there's a long way to go.

I mean, non-aggression — Iran didn't launch this war. Just like, you know, when they supported Saddam Hussein, when the United States pushed Saddam Hussein to invade Iran, these countries also funded that war too. They helped kill, I think, if you include the Kurdish areas where Saddam funded the terrorists and the West funded the terrorists, up to almost 200,000 people died in that war on the Iranian side. So then they began funding ISIS and Al-Qaeda in the last couple of decades in Syria and Iraq and elsewhere. And of course, they've been a destructive force elsewhere. In the Arab Spring, they destroyed Libya and Syria. They destroyed so much of Yemen. They carried out a genocidal war there.

Of course, all under the U.S. and Israeli umbrella, under the umbrella within the framework of U.S. and Israeli interests. They helped destroy Iraq. And it's interesting, they supported Saddam Hussein, gave him hundreds of billions of dollars. Then when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, after that they turned against Saddam. And when the United States invaded, Iran never allowed U.S. troops into Iran, even when they wanted to take back Kuwait. And then later on, after 9/11, when the United States lied about chemical weapons — the same chemical weapons that they and the Germans and the Europeans gave to him — when they lied about chemical weapons, which Saddam no longer possessed, these countries assisted the United States in invading Iraq.

And Iran was opposed to the war. Iran did not assist the United States. It was utterly opposed to the war. So these regimes have no principles. They have nothing. They are proxies of the United States. And they've destroyed country after country after country. Their destructive policies have helped

create misery in Palestine, in Lebanon, in Syria, in Iraq, in Iran, in Yemen, in Sudan, in Somalia, in Libya. I mean, it's just unbelievable how destructive these five regimes are. And yet the arrogance of their leaders knows no bounds. So in future years, they're going to have to behave differently.

The Iranians are not going to allow them to be proxies for the United States against Iran or Iran's allies anymore. But still, this is a good step in the right direction. But I think there's a long way to go before we can get to where we need to get. Iran has no imperial ambitions, and anyone who says so is talking nonsense. Iran does not have a military base anywhere — anywhere in the region. There's no Iranian flag, and never has been, in Iraq except at the embassy, in Syria except at the embassy, in Lebanon, in Yemen, in Afghanistan — nowhere. Nowhere did Iran have bases. Look at Turkey. Look at the Americans. Look at all of these regimes.

Have bases across — support. Iran has none. Iran has allies that it supports, and they have popular support, because without popular support, how would Yemen survive? How would Hezbollah survive? How would Iran's friends in Palestine and allies in Palestine survive? They're supporting liberation movements against empire. But Iran doesn't have it. When Iraq collapsed, did Iran take control over any Iraqi territory as compensation for the war? Did Iran, you know, when in the chaos, could have taken parts of Iraq and said, this is the new Iran? The same is true with Afghanistan. What could, let's say, the Taliban do about it? Nothing. But Iran has no imperial ambitions. You know, right now people don't know this, but Iraq owes Iran many billions of dollars.

Because Iran provides it with electricity, with natural gas and electricity. And the Iraqis don't pay for it because the United States will not allow them to. But Iran won't cut off the gas right now, even though Iran, because of the war and the strikes on Iranian gas and gas facilities, has a shortage. But Iran continues to provide them with energy so that they can have electricity for their cities. So Iran is spending money in Iraq and providing Iraq energy resources and not being paid for it because they don't want the Iraqi people to go without electricity. And Iran is sanctioned under war. So Iran doesn't have imperial ambitions, but these countries have done infinite harm to our country.

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When it comes to war, a new round of war, two days ago I was listening to one of the commanders in Iran. He said that they expect the United States is going to attack. But the way they're going to attack is a question for them. Is it going to be assassination? Is it going to be invasion? Is it going to be attacks on power grids or oil facilities? This is the question on their part. They're assessing or reassessing the new attacks. But how prepared is Iran when it comes to the Iranian arsenal, when it comes to the ballistic missiles and drones? We have two assessments in the West. One of them was CBS News, if I'm not mistaken, together with the New York Times, predicting that 70% of the Iranian arsenal is still there, compared to what they had before the war started. And the new assessment on CNN says that it's 90%. What is that number? And what do we know about how prepared Iran is for the new round of war?

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Iran is, militarily speaking, not economically speaking. Economically speaking, Iran is in a tough place. But militarily speaking, Iran is stronger today than before the war—significantly stronger. Iran's missile arsenal is stronger than it was before the war. Iran's drone capabilities are stronger. And Iran is prepared for a ground war. The belief is that Iran is preparing for a maximum assault, and that is using thousands of Kurdish terrorists from Kurdish Iraq. But if that happens, by the way, that will be the end of Kurdish Iraq. Iran will make sure that it is, after the war, dismantled and fully controlled by the central government in Iraq.

So, you know, Arabia had better be very careful about its future, because if it cooperates, if it allows these terrorists into Iran, when the war is over, Iran will make sure that there is no local—there is no autonomous government in the north of Iraq. It will be controlled by Baghdad. So it's for them to decide their future. Then there are the terrorists, the Wahhabi-Salafi terrorists that have always been tools of the West throughout the region and throughout the world, alongside the Pakistani border, inside Pakistan, that they are also going to carry out an assault. They're being prepared for an assault inside Iran. Also, the remnants of those militias that carried out the armed uprising a few months ago, on January the 8th and 9th, if I'm not mistaken—you know, our calendar is different.

So I'm, I know the Persian dates better than the English dates, but the so-called peaceful protesters—remember the, you know, the, and all that nonsense that we hear from the Western media—they too are being prepared, from what we're hearing here in Iran, for an assault and terrorist attacks in major cities like Tehran. And then a joint Zionist-Israeli-American assault on Iranian critical infrastructure, and perhaps U.S. assaults on islands, the mainland, and inside Iran, deep inside, like the failed operation near Isfahan, where they tried to locate and extract Iran's enriched uranium. So this is the maximum, and this is what the Iranians are preparing for—an all-out assault to see if they can turn the tide and win the war. They will fail. But the Iranian response, Nima, will be devastating to the Israeli regime.

Devastating. Far worse than the 39-day war. And for the regimes in the Persian Gulf, I think it will be an end to their regimes. It will bring them to an end, most probably, because in this weather, in the summer, with the humidity and heat that we see in the Persian Gulf, if Iran's critical infrastructure is targeted, Iran will target their critical infrastructure in retaliation. And that will mean the end of these regimes. No one can live in the Emirates without electricity and water. They'll all have to get in their cars and cross the desert and go to Oman to talk and stay there. That will be the end of these regimes. You can't live there. And the American troops will also have to leave these regimes too.

The heat will be unbearable. So the Americans are really, in their obedience to the Zionist lobby and the Zionist regime, they're going to wreck these countries, but also they're going to wreck the global economy. Because if this happens, then we should all rest assured, a great global economic depression is 100%. It will happen 100%, and it will change the lives of everyone. And the world will

be a very different place. And we're already heading for dark times because of what's already happened. But if that happens, then I think what we can see ahead will be far worse than the trajectory that we're now taking.

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In the statement from the White House, they're basically talking about opening up the Strait of Hormuz and demilitarization. I see no problem with the Iranian position on these two points. They want to open up the Strait of Hormuz, and actually, the main problem that Iran has today is the militarization of the Strait of Hormuz and what the United States is doing with the case of the blockade. Is there any sort of disagreement with those two points in the statement from the White House, you know, somehow summing up the meeting between Donald Trump and Xi?

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Well, again, there's no joint statement. So I think opening the Strait of Hormuz is what Iran and China want. And that's how we make money. That's how business is done. Demilitarization — Iran didn't start the war, and destroying those U.S. bases is a step towards demilitarization of the Persian Gulf. And the reason why Iran is going to control the Strait of Hormuz is not just for compensation for what these Arab regimes helped do to Iran, but also to make sure that the United States does not make the Persian Gulf once again a military foothold for assaulting Iran. So I think the way in which the United States sees demilitarization, what they mean is that Iran must raise its hands, raise the white flag, and submit to the United States and the Israeli regime.

And opening the Strait of Hormuz for the United States means preserving a siege on Iranian ports and allowing U.S. proxies to export oil. That's not going to happen. And an assault on Iran is not going to change that. An assault on Iran is going to lead to the destruction of the remaining oil and gas infrastructure and critical infrastructure in the Arab regimes and probably bring an end to those regimes. And it will lead to the destruction of many of the ships, if not all of the ships, in the Persian Gulf. It will lead to an economic crisis far worse than what we're experiencing now, and what we will probably be experiencing.

This is not a situation where the Americans can win, but this is a war that the Israeli regime wants. It's a war that the Israeli regime demands. It is a war that Zionists demand. And so, Zionists want to destroy the global economy, destroy the American economy for the sake of the Israeli regime. In my opinion, this is suicidal for Zionism, because Zionism has already discredited itself and exposed itself to the world for being genocidal. But now it is telling the world that we will destroy your lifestyle, the lifestyle of everyone across the world too. And that is something that I think will have an even greater impact on perceptions of Zionism across the world and in the United States.