

# Alex Krainer: The Middle East and Europe Just Shifted Overnight

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## #Nima

Hi everybody, today is Thursday, May 21st, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother Alex Krainer is here with us. Welcome, Alex.

## #Guest

Thank you for the invite, Nima. Greetings to everyone out there.

## #Nima

We're right now, Alex, in the Middle East in a situation where nobody knows what's going on. It seems that the two sides are negotiating about the framework of some sort of deal or agreement. There was a report yesterday on Axios. It says that Donald Trump talked to Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday. The outcome of that call was not that positive for Benjamin Netanyahu because he wants to continue the war in the Middle East. After all, the only reason he can survive in Israel would be the continuation of the war. And we know if something happens in terms of some sort of agreement or deal between Iran and the United States, they have to put an end to the war on all fronts, at least some sort of, you know, ceasefire.

We know that there is no ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon as we talk, but they're trying to do as much as possible through negotiations. And on the other hand, the Iranian assessment is that the war is coming. The intelligence, everything shows that the movement covers over everything. They say that the war is coming because the United States and Israel are preparing for that. And on the other hand, I think when it comes to the numbers, which matter the most, the United States doesn't have it. And if they start this new round of war, how long can they continue the war?

It's going to be a week, more than that, it's going to be 10 days. And what would be the outcome of that for the United States, for what Donald Trump is trying to get from the Middle East? And to my understanding, he doesn't want to get—he went to China, he saw what's happening in China. He saw a superpower coming and welcoming him. It wasn't just, I would say, it's not even comparable

to what China was before the war in Ukraine started. This is the new reality of what the United States is facing. What is your understanding, and how do you see the situation in the Middle East as time goes by?

## **#Guest**

I think that maybe Trump is looking for a way out. And I think that he engineered the way out by speaking for many days, almost every day, several times a day, and repeating that Iran cannot have a nuclear bomb, pretending that that's the issue. That never was the issue, because the collective American intelligence community since 2007 reached a unanimous, high-confidence assessment that the Iranians stopped working on a nuclear bomb in 2003 and that they never restarted. And then this assessment was repeated several times, and again in 2025 by his own DNI, Nima Alkhorshid. So there's no inventing a new situation that, oh, Iran is pursuing a nuclear bomb. You don't get to just invent your own fact. But that's what he's doing. And so it seems to me that he's doing two things. He's pretending that it's all about the nuclear bomb.

And he's pretending that if his allies—Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE—find an acceptable settlement with Iran, that means it's good enough for him as well. And he can declare victory and say, OK, our help in the region is no longer needed. But as you noticed, as you mentioned, that doesn't work for Benjamin Netanyahu. That doesn't work for Israel, because the Israelis are so keen on continuing the war. Not only because Benjamin Netanyahu's own political life depends on it, but because they feel that they have to eliminate Iran. And it's now or never. They feel that this moment here is like their unique opportunity in time, where they have, you know, certain influence in the White House, dominance of Israeli interests, Zionist interests in the United States, and so forth, and that they have to push this all the way to the end now.

So I think that Trump is torn between his own political interests and Israel's interests. And I think that there's the danger that Trump will try to extricate himself, but that the Israelis themselves will restart the war. And I believe that Trump probably would intend to end the war until November, because that's when he has the midterm elections, right? And then maybe in November, okay, let's go, let's go to war again. And maybe he's trying to have that deal with the Israelis to say, like, let's just pause everything until November. Once I'm done with the midterm elections, then we can get back to business with Iran. But I don't think that Israel or Netanyahu have that kind of time.

And I think that the danger is that if Israel starts the war, then the view is that they will drag the United States back into war with them, because Trump is not going to be able to sit on the side and say, you're on your own, I'm not doing this anymore. You know, the pressure on him will be irresistible, and he'll have to go back to war against Iran. Having said all that, there's nothing to win. They can't win. You know, even if they go nuclear on Iran, I don't think it's a certainty that they could win. And I think that there are indications that the Israelis are considering going nuclear.

And I suspect that because of that big explosion we saw a few days ago near Jerusalem, which apparently was at the rocket booster testing facility for solid fuel. And if they were testing that, maybe they're preparing to launch big missiles at Iran. But then it gets even more complicated than that. The Chinese warned the Israelis, if you restart the war, we will intervene against you. They didn't say what or how, but something. The Pakistanis said, if you use nuclear missiles against Iran, we will use a nuclear missile against you. Now, you would think that dealing with rational people, that would put an end to the march to war. But we're not dealing with rational people.

In Israel, they've gone completely insane. It's like the whole nation has gone psychotic, led by psychotic, fanatical leaders. So it's very difficult to predict what's going to happen, but I think that what we can predict is that neither Israel nor the United States, nor the two together, can defeat Iran. And I think that the Iranian leadership has taken the nuclear possibility into account. And so, therefore, all the important assets, all the strategic facilities, are deep underground. They will probably withstand a nuclear strike. And that's why I think that the Iranian command and control has been decentralized into 31 different units.

So I think even if you flatten Tehran, they would go on fighting, and it would be a similar situation like against the Taliban in Afghanistan, where you took Kabul, you established the government in Kabul, but you still lost the war because the Taliban continued their war of resistance. And then there's no predicting how such an event could galvanize other countries and peoples in the region, in the neighborhood. And it would definitely energize them all against Israel. And there will be nothing that the United States can do to protect them. So I think that Israel will probably end up swept into the sea.

## **#Nima**

The case of nuclear weapons and if the Israelis try to use them was asked to one of the Iranian commanders. And he said, I don't see that much panic in Iran about Israel considering the use of nuclear weapons against Iran. And he said this: we have weapons, we have things that would make Israel's nuclear weapons look like fireworks to us. We're going to do something to Israel that can put an end to Israel.

And I don't know what that is, but he said that we have all of it, we know, we can go, we can escalate till the end. And this is the mindset on the part of Iran, and they don't feel, they're not panicked that Israel may use a nuclear weapon or ten nuclear weapons, and that's gonna be the surrender of Iran, that's gonna be the end of civilization, as Donald Trump wants to put it. I think that the Trump administration or the intelligence community understand that. They know that Iran didn't use—Alex, Iran didn't use—they used less than 5% of their arsenal during the war, less than 5%.

## **#Guest**

Yes, also, Sergei Shoigu, the former defense minister of Russia, said that Iranians have weapons that we have not yet seen, that are far more powerful than what we've seen so far. And so I think that's probably real. And then, you know, with respect to nuclear weapons, we have precedents. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were nuked. Hiroshima is still there. Nagasaki is still there. Japan is still there. Japanese people are still there. So, you know, you inflict horrific damage and loss of life, but Iran is a massively enormous country with 92 million people.

You could maybe destroy a city or a few cities. You could maybe kill a few million people, but you cannot end civilization. So I'm not surprised that the IRGC people are not panicked. I mean, they probably understand fully well what could happen, but they also know that most people will survive, and probably the most powerful part of the Iranian arsenal will definitely survive, because this is something that they have prepared for. And so it would definitely be a suicide blow on Israel's part. They would fire off their biggest weapon, and then very soon there would be no more Israel.

It would be finished. And then it's not just what the Iranians would fire into Israel. It's that probably the Jordanian government would fall. Probably the Egyptian military would start pouring into Israel physically. Probably Hezbollah would start physically marching into Israel. Who knows what would happen to Assad's government in Damascus, but it would very probably quickly fall. And then whatever remainder of the Syrian Arab Army is present in Iraq now would probably also lead the charge back. And it would really be an Armageddon-type assault on Israel that they would not be able to survive.

## **#Nima**

Alex, how do you compare the two summits, one of them between Donald Trump and Xi, the other one between Putin and Xi? And it seems that Donald Trump's main concern was the Strait of Hormuz. He was talking about it, he was mentioning it during the summit. But China's main concern is Taiwan. They want to put an end to this sort of ambiguity of the United States with the case of Taiwan. They don't want this sort of, you know, problem. They consider Taiwan as, you know, part of China, and nobody can change that reality, by the way. The United States officially accepts that. But when it comes to the, you know, to the details...

## **#Guest**

But unofficially, they still have troops there. They're still selling them weapons. And the whole juggernaut is set into motion with a view to a future war against China. And American military commanders on the ground are speaking in those terms. It's not a question of maybe, you know, if China doesn't reform their democratic system, maybe we'll have to—if they try to take—maybe we'll have to intervene if they try to take. No, they're preparing for war. And they're even comparing the situation in Taiwan with the situation in Ukraine. They were saying, like, we're preparing the theater in the same way that we've done in Ukraine.

So I don't know that that even has anything much to do with Trump. You know, this is a continuity of policy that goes back to Biden and to Obama and to Bush and so forth. It's the empire's imperative of ruling the Eurasian landmass and eliminating all rivals, meaning Iran and Russia and China and anybody else who might get too uppity for them. The two summits, it's very clear that we're talking about a different class of political leadership. Trump came there with a group of billionaires. He came—well, according to some analysts who were citing contacts in Chinese diplomatic circles and the Chinese government, Trump's delegation came unprepared.

So they didn't come with a long-term agenda to discuss certain things; they came more like on a rapport-building mission. You know, let's all be friends, help us with Hormuz, we'll maybe help you with other things—buy planes and soybeans from us and beef, open your markets to our technology companies—you know, transactional. Whereas, you know, Vladimir Putin's delegation went there with an army of negotiators, analysts, strategists, technicians, administrators, with documents and treaties and contracts that were finalized and signed. But these documents were developed and negotiated for months and years before that.

So they came with a completely different level of preparation, with a view toward very long-term development that included strategic questions, energy, infrastructure, new security architecture, and so forth. Trump was like, help us with Hormuz and buy our stuff, you know, more like a sales mission. So this doesn't even compare. But I think that both the Russians and the Chinese still are cultivating the Trump administration in order to, you know, as Sergei Karaganov said, try to help the United States transition from being a global hegemon to being a normal global power. And I think that with the Trump administration, they still have that opening. If it was an administration similar to the Biden administration, they wouldn't even talk.

## **#Nima**

Here is what Xi said during the meeting he had with Vladimir Putin.

## **#Speaker 03**

The world today is far from peaceful, with unilateralism and hegemonism posing profound dangers. The world faces the risk of regressing to the law of the jungle. My proposal to build a community with a shared future for mankind and the four global initiatives has received widespread support from the international community, including Russia.

## **#Nima**

He's talking about the jungle. I remember Josep Borrell. But the law of the jungle comes out of hegemony and the hegemonic sort of mindset. And those days are over, in my opinion. What has happened in Ukraine, what is happening right now in the Middle East, these are huge signs of what's going on. And in this new world, Alex, how do you see Donald Trump or the United States as a

country redefining itself? Because they have to redefine themselves. There is no way out of this. Or you go, as we talk, we are right now in an active sort of conflict in the Middle East. Donald Trump is talking about Cuba.

I would assume in less than five days or in a week, we're going to have something big happening in Cuba. I don't know what the outcome of that would be for the United States. And I don't see Cuban people being like Venezuelan people, or that they have some sort of fifth column in Venezuela to go and participate with or collaborate with them. I don't see that happening the way it was in Venezuela. It's going to be different because Cuba is different. People are different. Culture is somehow different. And Donald Trump, instead of understanding the reality, he's trying to do more in the Western Hemisphere, in my opinion, to gain more, to have some sort of propaganda in the United States.

## **#Guest**

Yes, Nima, I agree with you. But I think that we should be careful not to focus too much on Trump and his administration because these are plans and agendas that have been in place for decades now, and they precede Trump and might continue after Trump. And Trump himself, on many occasions, was talking about ending this system, and he was talking about embracing the multipolar global order. And now, you know, on 28 February, he completely switched and seemingly went into a complete neocolonialist, pro-empire rampage. And it's not just Iran, you know, because Iran has kind of overshadowed everything else. It seems to me that the empire—and again, I'm not just talking about Trump, and I'm not even talking about just the United States—I'm talking about the vested interests that define the Western empire.

So it's not just the United States, it's the occult banking oligarchy that's in the City of London and on Wall Street who are now panicked because they're losing on all sides, and they went on a rampage. So Trump took control of Venezuela for the time being—it's not certain. He wants to take control of Cuba. He wants to take control of Canada. He wants to take control of Greenland. But the battles that we are not seeing are that there's also a fight for political control of Bolivia, of Ecuador, of Peru, of Somalia, and Sudan. AFRICOM is bombing Somalia practically every day this year. Nobody's talking about this. Then we see that France has mobilized tens of thousands of jihadi terrorist forces to try to get back control of the Sahel and their Western African former colonies. And we see also that the British, for 10 years now, have been trying to re-establish a colonial relationship with their former colonies, from Egypt down to South Africa, with some success.

And they also had a plan explicitly to recolonize east of Suez, you know, Western Asia. So Trump is part of this, but he's not at the head of the pyramid. So, um, again, as I tried to explain in the past, I think that the reason why they're doing this is ultimately collateral, because they want to control the resources of all these resource-rich regions, because that collateral then gives a massive credit impulse to Western money center banks, City of London banks, Wall Street banks, Paris banks, and so forth. And the reason why they need this is because their own financial systems are imploding.

And so the mystery of why Trump pivoted from talking about the post-World War II global order is obsolete, we're going to embrace the multipolar global order, to going, boom, we're attacking and regime-changing Iran, which is one of the biggest prizes in all this neocolonialist rampage—it's a very strange thing that's hard to explain. And I know people will say, like, well, that's because you're stupid. But there's a lot of stupid people out there. You know, like Tucker Carlson, who personally dealt with Trump on many occasions, talked about all these things, and was certain that Trump was on the same page with him. Tucker Carlson himself was shocked by the February 28th attack. So something happened. That's... that's clear that something happened, but what happened is not clear. At any rate, it seems that at this time, the United States is back in the imperialist camp, pursuing its own neocolonial formula.

But at the same time, there's no denying that there's a conflict with the old colonists. Okay, because he may be in cahoots with Israel, but he's in this fight, which is getting very real. It's again overshadowed by Iran and the Middle East and everything. There's a very real fight in relation to Donald Trump, Mark Carney, the British Crown. And a few days ago, there was a secret meeting that Mark Carney hosted in Canada, and Barack Obama was there. Practically the whole DNC establishment, the top people—John Podesta, Neera Tanden—all of these Clintonites and Obama DNC were in Canada cahooting with Trump, with Mark Carney and other stewards of the old British Empire. So that's a real fight. And it seems that the conflict is so complex that it's very, very difficult to interpret what exactly is going on.

## **#Nima**

How do you interpret what has happened to Thomas Massie in the United States? Because we know that this is the first time. We know how the support for Israel is diminishing—it's reducing in the United States. It's less than, right now, 30% or something like that, the support for Israel, which shows a huge shift in public opinion in the United States. On the other hand, they're trying to buy, or they're trying to support, their pro-Israeli candidates, which were supposed to use \$2 million, something like that, or \$1 million. They used to invest in these sorts of elections in the United States, and right now they have to spend more than \$30 million in a primary in the United States, in Kentucky, to go against Thomas Massie, to put the guy.

And not only that, they had to bring the President of the United States, all the officials, the head of the Pentagon—everybody was supporting the guy who was the rival of Thomas Massie. And that shows how difficult things are getting for Israel in the United States, in my opinion. And for the time being, they have the leverage because they can buy, they can influence Congress. I don't see that happening in, I would say, 10 years. Where are they going to be in 10 years or in more than 10 years? That's the main problem.

## **#Guest**

In history books, that's where they'll be in 10 years. I think they'll be in the history books. But joking aside, Nima, I think that the question of Thomas Massie's primary election in Kentucky two days ago, that is a very, very important question and extremely relevant to everything else that is going on. I think it's a litmus test of what's going on. You see, I've spent practically my whole professional life researching and analyzing trends. And usually, we focus on trends in markets. But trends in markets are just a manifestation of social trends in general. What happened in Kentucky is extremely unlikely because for the last six months, the support for Thomas Massie has fluctuated between 65 and 80%.

Whereas support for Ed Galrein has fluctuated between 20 and 35%, right? And it's been a very, very stable relationship. And then just a few days before the elections, the two curves sharply invert. And then suddenly, from one day to the next—exactly from one day to the next—Ed Galrein is in the lead and Thomas Massie is behind. I can tell you with 100% certainty that that doesn't happen ever. It's impossible. People may change their minds, but people change their minds in their own time, one by one. And what you would normally see is a trend of some sort where Thomas Massie's support gradually decreases for whatever reason, and Ed Galrein's support gradually increases.

And then maybe those two curves could invert, but not overnight—100%, not overnight—which suggests that there's election engineering and rigging going on. And there are all kinds of anomalies that would suggest that the election was rigged. Trump's endorsement for Galrein, Secretary of War Crimes' endorsement and support for Galrein—all of these things may be done just to be able to say, well, this is why he won. You see, that's why he won. Not because we rigged the election, but because of all the money he got and all the support he got. And so that finally pushed, I don't know, the baby boomer generation to say, like, okay, well, I guess Thomas Massie is pretty good, but maybe this unknown guy that we've never heard of, maybe he's going to be even better.

It's done to justify it. Okay, but here's why I think this is extremely interesting. Because I've been, you know, ever since the 28th of February, Nima, I've been wondering what happened, what on earth happened. Why did Trump go and do what he promised he wouldn't do, what he himself explicitly criticized on many occasions, right? What everybody else was telling him was a dumb idea. What he himself understood was a dumb idea, and so forth. So I thought, okay, there's a few possibilities. Either Donald Trump has been a closeted fanatical Zionist all these decades, but hid it really well from everybody, including people very close to him.

So I think that's probably unlikely. Then, you know, the common theme that's going around is that he is compromised through the Epstein files, which is possible, but I think it's also unlikely because if that were the case, first, the DNC would have used it against him to take him out, because they spent eight years trying to take him out, and they came up with nothing, basically. So if that was, you know, somebody will say, well, yeah, yeah, they didn't want to open that one because then that would be damaging to them too. Well, no, not really, because if they had control of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the White House, then they could just use the Trump file and leave everything classified.

Okay, so, and then the second reason why I don't think that's the case is because if Trump were very seriously compromised with the Epstein files, they wouldn't fight him. They would roll out a red carpet for him in order to have a very highly compromised president in the White House that they could manipulate and blackmail with those files. So I think that's possible but not likely. The third possibility is that they got to him and then they said, you will do as we tell you or we'll start killing the members of your family, or we're going to assassinate you. That's possible, but I think it's also unlikely because his son-in-law is Jared Kushner.

And I think that Jared Kushner is exactly in these circles that are pushing for war on Iran. And so it wouldn't make sense that they go, okay, we're going to start killing the members of our own family. I don't know, I think it's unlikely. And then the fourth possibility was that there was some kind of a deal. And the deal might have been, okay, you go kill Iran for us, and there's a chance that you emerge victorious and a great champion. You get this enormous leverage over China and Russia by controlling the government in Tehran. And if you do that, we will make sure that you dominate in the midterm elections in November. We can control elections, we can make sure that your guys win.

So I think that the loss of Thomas Massie and the win of Ed Gellerin in Kentucky's Fourth District is evidence that they can control elections, because we see who was against Thomas Massie. It's the Zionist billionaires—John Paulson, Paul Singer, Miriam Adelson, AIPAC—and a whole bunch of these people, all on the pro-Zionist side. And so they beat an overwhelmingly popular candidate by throwing money at him, political backing, and election rigging. Because again, that inversion from one day to the next, that doesn't happen. To my mind, that should be able to stand up in court as prima facie evidence of election rigging.

If that's the case, that might be an indicator that there is a deal of this sort that was struck — that you do our dirty work against Iran, we'll do the dirty work for you in rigging elections in your favor. And then, you know, I discussed this yesterday with my friend Tom Longo, who is paying much closer attention to American politics. We don't see eye to eye on this issue, but he did tell me that all of the candidates endorsed by Donald Trump won. And I asked him, how many is that? How many candidates are we talking about? He said 37. So the result is 37 to zero in favor of Trump — Trump's nominees and people he endorsed. So that's another piece of evidence in favor of the explanation that some kind of a dirty deal was done: you kill Iran for us, we get you the midterm elections.

## **#Nima**

Alex, the Power of Siberia, the project between Russia and China—the oil, gas, and energy that were supposed to go to Europe are going to China, and new projects are emerging between the two countries. And they're getting, I would say, the relationship is getting deeper and more strategic between Russia and China. They have the Middle East right now with Iran, in my opinion. They have the Middle East. And all of them together—Donald Trump was seeking, we have to admit, that he

wanted to dominate the energy market, one of the main objectives. It didn't go well for him. And right now, Russia, Iran, and China, I think their coalition is dominating the energy market. Iran can, I would say, decide about the price of energy by the use of the Strait of Hormuz.

They can increase or lower the passage of these tankers through the Strait of Hormuz and control the price of oil in the market. This is, I would say, in the long run, we're going to see that sort of thing, because OPEC Plus and OPEC were supposed to do that. But right now, the UAE is out of OPEC, and they can do whatever they want. But Iran is still in charge of that region. They can decide who's going to sell and how much they're going to sell. The traffic of these tankers is going to be somehow managed by the Iranians. Today, we've learned from the PGSA, which is the Persian Gulf Strait Authority. They said 30 ships contacted the organization and they paid, and so they signed the documents. Then they can pass through the Strait of Hormuz. This is the new reality for the United States.

And you look at the Arab states, GCC countries, which are of such particular importance for the United States in terms of controlling the energy market. They're so dependent right now on Iran, and they have to come to some sort of understanding regionally. And that's why I would say they're more dependent on Iran than Israel right now, because they were supposed to be on the side of Israel and closer to Israel. Right now, that reality is totally different from what it was before October 7th. Just remember what Hamas did so far. Many people are trying to diminish what Hamas did because of the casualties, because of the genocide. But we have a lot to talk about in that case. But putting that aside, how do you see the big picture as somehow appearing on the scene?

## **#Guest**

Well, I think that the big picture is that the global center of economic gravity is shifting to the East, shifting away from Eurocentric dominance to a multipolar architecture, but with the main center of gravity being East Asia and China in particular. And so that's very clear now. And so for Russia, it makes all the sense in the world to redirect their oil and gas pipelines towards China. And that also makes sense because the energy that goes to Europe now is going to get predominantly absorbed into Europe's nascent military-industrial complex, because the Europeans are earnestly preparing to go to war against Russia by 2030. And they're building new alliances, and they're building their navies, and they're investing in the military-industrial complex, in the development of drones and long-range missiles.

And they're trying to recruit men into military service. They're preparing the draft and conscription. And so, Russia—why should Russia sell their gas and their oil to a user that is using it to go to war against them, when they have excellent relations with China, with India, with Iran, and there's so much more that they could gain out of that, out of developing China economically, socially, culturally, in every way by engaging with those nations? So it's a great big loss for the West, but probably a very well-deserved loss.

And then Iran has a very important role to play here because they have suddenly emerged perhaps even more powerful than the Iranians themselves expected. And they now dominate, they now absolutely dominate the region. And that gives them the opportunity to deal with Western colonialist powers in a much more powerful way than we anticipated. And that is that they can completely condition, they can make peace. Iranians can now—they're in a position to make peace with Saudi Arabia, with Bahrain, with the UAE, with Qatar, and Kuwait. And they can say, right, we open the Strait of Hormuz. You can pass through.

We won't even impose tolls on you, or maybe we'll make them minimal. But this only stands for cargoes paid for in Chinese yuan or Russian ruble or Indian rupee or whatever, not in US dollars, because, you know, to deliver a devastating strategic blow to the Western imperialist system, you need to kill the petrodollar. You need to end it, because the petrodollar is what is feeding this colonial monster. And now Iran is in a position to really put the last nail in its coffin. And I think that while Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and Bahrain and Qatar and the UAE would never be able to defy the West in this way, they might have to, they might be forced to.

And it would be a very reasonable, you know, it would be a very reasonable thing for Iranians to ask, because they're not saying you have to pay tribute to us. They're not saying we're going to overthrow your governments and install our own puppets to rule over your government. They're just saying, this is our enemy. If you trade in their money, you're feeding them. And we need you to trade in Chinese yuan. And at the same time, that's kind of even attractive longer term for these Gulf kingdoms, because everybody now understands that whatever balance you have in China, whatever balance you have in Western financial institutions, can be taken away from you like that.

If they were able to do that to Russia, a nuclear superpower, then what is Qatar? What is the UAE? They can be squashed very easily. And there's a lot of money for the Western oligarchy to steal from Russia in this way under whatever pretext. So that's coming anyway. So I think that this will be a very, very heavy blow to Western powers, including the United States, but it will, in a very powerful way, strengthen the Belt and Road Initiative, the multipolar world, the BRICS initiative, and so forth. And so net-net, for the rest of humanity, I think it's a very, very positive thing.

## **#Nima**

Alex, do you see the situation in Ukraine moving toward some sort of escalation? Latvia is asking the United States to put nukes on their territory. They want to let Ukraine use their territory to attack Russia. Are we going to see the Oreshnik moment in one of these little countries, these little states?

## **#Guest**

I would expect not, Nima. And I know that there are many people in Russia who are so exasperated with this situation that they would like to see, you know, teach them a lesson—blow up some of their drone-producing facilities or decision-making centers and teach them a lesson. But, you know,

usually the way Western European leaders are trying to orchestrate a war against Russia is by telling them that Russia is a threat, which nobody really believes. But one attack of this nature would provide so much fuel for the media frenzy, for fomenting fear and psychosis.

So this is just the beginning. Look, we told you Russia is a threat. And so that would help their recruitment drive, that would help them pass military conscription laws, that would help them allocate more billions of euros into the military-industrial complex and then prepare for a real war. And so I think that Vladimir Putin is very much aware of this. And he can see that European political leadership is losing popularity very rapidly. They have no public support. So this would be a wonderful gift for them. So I think that this is the reason why they're encouraging Latvia and Estonia to engage in these acts of provocation.

And I'm 100% certain that ultimately it's the British ruling class that is behind this, because let's not forget the British also created a new alliance against Russia, which is called the Joint Expeditionary Force, which basically is headquartered in London, but it pools the assets of 10 northwestern European nations and puts their navies under British command explicitly and overtly with the view of provoking Russia. And they say that they should be ready for action by 2030. And then we've also seen just yesterday an incident where a Royal Air Force jet was flying 20 miles from the Russian border, 1,000 miles from the British mainland, and got intercepted by a Russian fighter jet.

And the British came out hysterical about how this was an unacceptable, provocative act by the Russians, the evil Russians, you know. So it's very clear that they are trying to keep the war going, that they're trying to keep it alive, that they're trying to foment fear of Russia in the minds of the public. And I think that Vladimir Putin understands that any act of aggression, any hostile act against any country in Europe—Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, whoever—would probably pour a lot of fuel onto that fire. And he knows not to do that. And so I think that his point of call is going to be Donald Trump. And it's obvious that Trump has that influence because he was able to talk Zelensky out of attacking the Victory Day parade in Moscow. And Vladimir Putin gave him credit for that.

So I think that the Russians will continue to cultivate the relationship with the Trump administration, that they will try to leverage Trump's influence in Europe with their allies to desist from these provocations, and that he will probably be able to help Vladimir Putin bring the war in Ukraine to a victorious close, meaning a total defeat of the Kiev regime. And if that happens before 2029, before the Europeans are ready for war, then I think it's game over, because if they can kind of graft their new war onto Ukraine's war, then the war can continue. If they have to restart a brand new war from scratch, that would be much more difficult. So this is why the Europeans are so absolutely desperate to keep Ukraine fighting until 2030. But I think that if a positive relationship between Russia and the United States is cultivated and preserved, then I think that Russia wins, that all these provocations are going to have to be paid for, meaning the Russians will say, okay, part of this armistice is going to be reparations.

So all these attacks that you paid for, that you orchestrated, that you facilitated, you're going to have to reimburse us. And, you know, the fact that they're very, very serious is now, you know, what just came from Russia is that they are suing the Belgians, I think, Euroclear, for \$200 billion—not the \$200 billion of their money that is frozen there, but \$200 additional billion in damages. And the Russians are going to pursue this. You want to buy gas? First, you have to pay us reparations. You want to buy oil? Reparations first. And so I think that's coming.

**#Nima**

You know, just amazing to see these days of NATO. NATO is done. You know, we've been talking about NATO and looking at the situation with NATO, and nobody's hearing anything about Mark Rutte, you know. I remember for four years I was talking about, you know, the former Secretary General of NATO. He was, you know, I forgot his name, but it's all about NATO. And today nobody's hearing anything from NATO.

**#Guest**

Oh, you're talking about Stoltenberg.

**#Nima**

Yeah, Stoltenberg, yeah.

**#Guest**

Stoltenberg, yeah, yeah, yeah. Another genius. I mean, he must have gone to the same school as Kaja Kallas. Yeah, exactly.

**#Nima**

Thank you. Thank you so much, Alex, for being with us today. My pleasure.

**#Guest**

Enjoy the conversation, and until next week.

**#Nima**

Yeah, see you soon.

**#Guest**

Bye-bye. Take care.

**#Nima**

Thank you.