

The Sick Plan to use Mass-Migration for more War | Patrick Henningsen

NATO is causing the very mass-migration its members then claim to be solving through more violence at home and overseas. It's a sick game in which the powerful once again pit the poorest and most abused people abroad against the poorest and most abused people at home to feed the West's system of violent domination. But cracks are now more than visible. Patrick Henningsen, journalist, writer, and founder of 21st Century Wire, joins Pascal to link NATO wars, sanctions, and regime change to migration into Europe and the UK. The talk covers the small boats debate, the rise of the new right, Christian Zionism, falling birth rates, labor demand, asylum policy, and the colonial logic behind modern politics. Links: 21st Century Wire: <https://21stcenturywire.com> 21st Century Wire YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@21stCenturyWireTV> Patrick Henningsen on Substack: <https://patrickhenningsen.substack.com> Neutrality Studies substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> (Opt in for Academic Section from your profile settings: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com/s/academic>) Merch: <https://neutralitystudies-shop.fourthwall.com> Donation: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Introduction 00:00:35 NATO wars and migration waves 00:05:43 Israel and the right wing loop 00:09:01 Anti war right and Christian nationalism 00:14:38 Great replacement and demographic fear 00:20:20 Welfare state labor and immigration 00:26:56 Libya asylum policy and migration abuse 00:38:32 Small boats and political diversion 00:43:59 Colonial methods genocide and empire

#Pascal

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies, today again with the American journalist and writer Patrick Henningsen. Patrick, welcome back.

#Patrick Henningsen

It's great to be with you, Pascal.

#Pascal

Great to have you again. Before we start, where can people go to find your work?

#Patrick Henningsen

Our main website is 21stcenturywire.com. If you could visit our YouTube channel, that would be helpful. We're very suppressed algorithmically, and also on Substack, patrickhenningsen.substack.com. It's another outlet. You can see some of my work there.

#Pascal

I will put it in the description below, but now let's dive right into your recent work. Actually, you went after the question of what drives migration, and you looked a little bit also at the rallies on the right and the left. Can you give us an overview of what you've been working on in the migration issue?

#Patrick Henningsen

Yeah, this is a really important issue. I think it's driving a lot. It's reshaping politics. I can speak about Europe, of course, the UK, the United States also to a degree, but very different there. But really, it's become kind of a crisis right now politically in Europe and in the UK. And so the question was, you know, and we've been looking at this for a long time, and now you can kind of see that the whole story is coming together. What are the real causes of migration? So what's causing the angst, what's being used by, you know, right-wing parties and the emergence of Reform in the UK, for instance, which is like a single-issue party? It's about the small boats coming across the Channel and nothing else.

No economic policies, no foreign policies, nothing. Just stop the boats, stop the immigrants, and very anti-Islam. That's the basic platform. The same, and you find this in Germany as well. You'll find this in other right-wing parties in Europe. And so that seems to be the collective mass. But you really drill down and you find we're asking the question, what are the causes of the migrant waves into Europe? And it doesn't take long when you start to analyze the various migrant waves. I've been on the ground covering this in the United States on the U.S.-Mexico border, specifically the migrant crisis in the summer of 2014 and 2015 during Obama's second term. That was a huge story.

So I've learned a lot about that, plus being on the ground in the Middle East, Lebanon specifically, seeing the fallout from the Syrian war and how the various migrant waves are coming out of war zones, what path they take in order to get to Europe. Lesbos in Greece, flashpoints like this, entryways into Europe, the Hungarian-Serbian border is another flashpoint. So I've been studying this for a while, and it doesn't take long to come to the obvious conclusion that if you look at all of the major migrant waves and you study the statistics, which we've laid out in this article for The Column Quarterly, a new UK magazine which has just been launched in 2026, you can almost identify all of the major migrant waves that correspond with NATO interventions.

Right. And quite obviously, the big ones are Afghanistan. And then you have the dirty war on Syria, which a lot of people won't class as a NATO intervention, but it absolutely was. This was Turkey, the United States, the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, France, among many other countries, just actively involved in the destabilization of Syria and the arming of what they called moderate rebels at the time. But the end game, of course, was to destabilize the country, to overthrow the government. It took them over 10 years to do it, but they eventually have done it. But in the meantime, it created a

forced displacement of people from Syria through Turkey. And we'll get into the interesting aspects of this in a minute, which we discovered.

But Libya is also very consequential because Libya was the safety valve for migration from sub-Saharan Africa into Europe. And Qaddafi said as much before his demise. He said, you get rid of me, you're creating a whole world of problems for Europe. And of course, the bombing and the decapitation of the Libyan state and effectively turning it into a failed state has been basically a thoroughfare of migration into Europe from Africa. And so you have these convergences of these various migrant waves coming into Europe, and tertiary waves that are based on, like, say, Afghanistan — a lot of Uzbeks, Tajiks, people from the Stans, as they would call it in Central Asia — would come into Europe as a result of either the war, the economic destabilization, or sanctions as well.

And the same with these other flashpoints that we've talked about there. So there's a direct correlation there. So you'll find that in many ways. And the Israeli issue is also driving this too, because NATO foreign policy, to a large degree, and U.S. foreign policy from Iraq, was a big driver of migration into Europe as well at the time, as was the Yugoslavia War, the breakup of Yugoslavia. And so this is a huge driver. Israel also plays a huge role in the architecture of U.S. foreign policy. And U.S. foreign policy is NATO interventionist policy.

#Pascal

And if I remember correctly, in your article, you're also making the point that this creates kind of a self-reinforcing feedback loop, doesn't it? The more wars you have, the more migrants; the more migrants you have, especially in Europe, the stronger the right. The stronger the right, the more support you can get for Israel. And, you know, can you speak to that a little bit?

#Patrick Henningsen

Well, that's an interesting feedback loop because you'll find Israel on both sides of that feedback loop. You'll actually find them on three sides. It's an interesting issue. So Israel embarked on a very bold initiative. Probably we can trace it back at least 20, 25 years ago, which was to create an alliance with the European right. And this has been a sort of, I think, probably a very long-term project, but to de-radicalize the right in Europe, in the West, to go from being where anti-Semitism or anti-Jewish sentiments were sort of at the core of that extreme right, to then flip that to make them Zionist, basically.

And I would tell you that the most shocking and perhaps the biggest watershed moment of this, in my opinion, was the Breivik mass shooting, the massacre in Norway in 2010. He was an ardent Zionist, and the target of his attack were young laborers in Norway who were very pro-Palestinian, and that created a kind of political chilling effect on that issue for a while, even in a country like Norway, and a lot of fear that sunk into that issue. And Breivik was also talking to, associated with,

the EDL, the English Defence League. At the time, Tommy Robinson was the head of that organization, right before he carried out the shooting. There's no evidence that he had communicated with Tommy Robinson, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, by the way.

Tommy Robinson is a stage name. But the fact that Breivik was in association at the time before the shooting with the EDL—he identified as a Templar, very much Christian crusader iconography. He's adorned with it in a lot of his personal photos and effects. So you can see this idea of this convergence with Israel's very... I think probably pretty happy to see the re-emergence of this new crusaderism and Christian nationalism in Europe because it does suit and it justifies their position as well, because Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders have kind of seized on this. When they're talking to the European right, they say, we're fighting them over here so they won't come over there. We're defending the gates of Vienna, effectively.

#Pascal

Yeah. Hey, very brief intermission because I was recently banned from YouTube. And although I'm back, this can happen anytime again. So please consider subscribing not only here, but to my mailing list on Substack. That's pascallottaz.substack.com. The link's going to be in the description below. And now, back to the video.

#Patrick Henningsen

Yeah, I think he literally said something to that effect.

#Pascal

And the people you're talking about are, of course, the Christian Zionists, of which you have different flavors. And the ones in the United States are, of course, the Pete Hegseth types. And they all go back to their iconography with the tattoos. They all go to the Knights Templars and so on. It's like the crusader-style spirit, actually, although, you know, whatever they understand as that. Now, in Europe, though, the thing is, you have these two strains on the right. You have the right that actually goes along with all of this, and they are Christian Zionists.

And then you have the right that doesn't like it, that actually says, like, you know, we shouldn't do wars in West Asia, because if we don't bomb their houses, they don't come. Which, there's a good part of the AfD, actually, the party in Germany, you know, this new right-wing party that is actually pro-peace. And they are mainly pro-peace to a good extent because they are anti-immigration. But they have, I think, the correct analysis. It's like, the more we destroy these people's homes, the more they will come over here. Can you speak to that a little bit, where we are on this end of the split? And, you know, Tucker Carlson, I would say, also belongs to that kind of right conservative—let's say conservative—tradition. Where are we there in the United States and in the UK, which you've looked at so deeply? Yeah.

#Patrick Henningsen

I would call that the intelligent end of the right wing, or what we call ostensibly the far right, which is the anti-interventionist or, let's say, the anti-war wing of that. Certainly, someone like Tucker Carlson, even though he's from America, echoes and articulates those sentiments and gives the reasons why. So this is sort of a more critical analysis. It's more logic-based, more historically based, less emotional, and much more pragmatic—much more along the lines of Ron Paul conservatism, libertarian, sort of Scott Horton-type foreign policy in America.

So, I mean, the problem is they're getting sort of forced out of that conversation, or even that movement. I think they're in the extreme minority because what's happened is there's been a massive infusion of money into this movement in Europe and the U.K. That money is coming directly from people like Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, the people who have founded, run, and who are behind companies like Palantir. It's kind of a new kind of technocrat right wing. And it's hard to avoid the conclusion of the sort of fascist trajectory of that whole equation. But it's interesting that the money is coming from America.

And then the speakers at the rallies will be the flying people from America, or they'll pipe in Elon Musk, who's really driving home sort of ethno-nationalist themes. And also they're playing the Christian card. I mean, Tommy Robinson, his recent rally in London, it was all about Christianity. They had piles of giant crosses that people could then put over their shoulder. I mean, it was people carrying these giant crucifixes, dressed in chain mail with, you know, the cross of Jerusalem apron over the top. I mean, it's just kind of insane when you think about it. Where did you see that? That was in central London this Saturday. So you can go on social media.

So they're really harnessing the Cross of St. George, the Templars, the Jerusalem Cross. This is a holy war. So that reflects what we see in the trends in the U.S. military. This is one of the reasons why Pete Hegseth was chosen to be the Defense Secretary. The Israeli lobby really liked him for that reason. But beside the point, they're really injecting this Christian nationalism. England is a Christian nation. Germany is a Christian nation. And these people haven't assimilated, i.e., the Muslims. Therefore, they need to go. Or we need to, at the very least, stop any new Muslims from coming in because it's destroying the Christian character of the country. So they're really moving aggressively.

And the money is backing them. This ethno-nationalist, Christian nationalist sort of new shape of the far right. And so they view what Israel is doing as kind of God's work, sort of holy work there, in terms of the genocide of Palestinians, even though you have a large percentage of Christian Palestinians. But this basically doesn't register at all with right-wing people. I personally, having many conversations about this, they're completely ignorant of the fact that there are Arab Christians in the Levant, in Lebanon, in Iraq, even in Iran, Armenian Christians. It just doesn't register with them. And that's a different conversation we could have about the character of, you know, the U.S. as a colonial settler state, and in Europe as well—their mentality, you know, and how they view the Orient, you could say.

#Pascal

But it all mixes, it all comes together or mixes together, because one of the most bizarre things about Elon Musk is, of course, that he, on Twitter, rallies basically against African immigration to Europe, right? Being himself an African immigrant. But they obviously don't perceive themselves as such, or that doesn't register within that group. I mean, how important do you think the really stupid old racism issue is in order to kind of wrap our minds around this part of the political spectrum?

#Patrick Henningsen

Well, we have to come to grips with this issue, and we have to be able to, to some degree, deconstruct it to find out exactly what we're looking at, okay? And what you're looking at with the anger—so there are a couple of conspiracy theories that have infused themselves into the discourse here. One of them is the Great Replacement theory. You've probably heard of this. And so the sort of current usage of Great Replacement theory, i.e., and this is what the likes of Tommy Robinson will say—he said this on stage on Saturday—he said, they're trying to replace us, the white Christian, you know, original people of these lands, these Christian lands, okay? They're trying to replace us. So this is Great Replacement theory.

And there's a French author who, I think, had a book called **The Great Replacement** in 2011, Renaud Camus, okay? And this has been seized as a kind of argument or thesis. And a lot of times they're just repurposing. That's probably not the exact argument that was made in the book, but this always happens. And they're running with this. And the other one is there's a white genocide. Elon Musk is very aggressively pushing this. So it's kind of, if you want, on an intellectual level, it's laughable, because a genocide would be one group trying to, you know, wipe out another. But who is wiping out the white population of Europe? Obviously, nobody's killing—the Muslims aren't killing white Europeans. It's a demographic issue.

#Pascal

Yeah. Especially for people on the left, and I am on the left, it's just hard to hear that because really the only race that ever managed to completely eradicate the races of three other continents and replace them with their skin color is really the white Europeans that did that to the other continents. And they have a name for that. It's called Manifest Destiny and so on, right? And that's the great replacement. But then thinking that this will be done to them in reverse, I mean, it just seems to me that these people are afraid of what, deep down, they know their grandfathers and their forefathers did to these others. Do you think that something like that plays into that, or am I over-psychologizing?

#Patrick Henningsen

There could be something like that on a deep psychological level, and what you're seeing, this expression, is a type of cognitive dissonance reaction to it. But I don't even think you need to go that deep into the psychology. Where the angst is coming from is the change in demographics. And there's a great book by two Canadian authors, Daryl Bricker and John Ibbotson, and it's called *The Empty Planet*. And that was published in 2018 or 2019. It really just shows you the long, irreversible, in some cases, trends in demographics around the world. And, you know, the birth rate in white Europe, and that includes the UK, and I'll say this also includes white North America, it's fallen off a cliff. It's fallen off a cliff.

They do not have replacement. It's just going to get terminally smaller and smaller. And then you have to then, and I tried to do this just in a very short way in the article I published, as to why—give some of the reasons for that. There's lots of different reasons. One of them is just modern success in terms of a post-World War II modern economy, the atomization of society, the victory of capitalism in terms of the corporate economy, the victory of individualizing society and atomizing society, the birth control pill, fourth, fifth-wave feminism—all of these things that have basically taken the family from being the core unit of the modern state to now individuals. So it's just, it's reflected in the demographics.

#Pascal

There is just not a single case, to my knowledge, where you have a country that breaks into the class of developed nations that doesn't also have a decline in birth rate. It's like as soon as countries get wealthy, they also automatically have fewer children. And that's not only true for Europe and North America. It's also true for Japan.

#Patrick Henningsen

It's also true for China. They had a one-child policy for about 30 years because they thought the biggest problem they had was overpopulation.

#Pascal

Turns out, oh no, now you have a problem that because you've gotten so wealthy and people don't have children anymore, you have the opposite problem. We are really, historically, so bad at actually guessing population problems. And I have other examples for that one. But there's not a single case, to my knowledge, where a country got rich and did not also have a decline in birth rate. So wealth is the main reason for societies not having that many children anymore. But what are these people now making out of that politically, who work with this great replacement theory and so on?

#Patrick Henningsen

Well, look, the West is a victim of its own success. In post–World War II, it allowed for a massive expansion of the social security net, all its social programs. The government was then in a position to incentivize single mothers through various benefit schemes. And this has been proven out in a lot of work and studies in the United States from the 1960s forward. And this also had a very disastrous effect on the African American community as well, as one of the backlashes of Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society. It's an example, but we could go case by case in Europe, and you can kind of trace some of these things right to the present day. And you can see some of these stereotypes were reinforced in media, television, movies—these themes of what the future is like, this is the new culture separating adolescents from their parents, the young from the old, and all these different compartmentalization projects, social engineering. Effectively, this is the result.

And we can get into the reasons why that's more beneficial for the corporate state in terms of managing and profiting, and the interests of certain oligarchs, certainly. We can have a discussion about that. It may be a different discussion, but the net result is, who is going to fill... um, like Britain's a good example—the expansion of the NHS. So what did—and this is where it gets interesting—this whole immigration right-wing conversation, to expand the National Health Service after the Second World War, it required a massive infusion of cheap labor, as well as the expansion of the London transport system, the London Underground, the Post Office service, all of these things.

Britain drew on its colonial subjects in order to do that. Even during the post-colonial period, they still had that network. And they brought them into the country to staff and to man the expansion of bureaucracy, the NHS, et cetera—civil service, parts of the civil service dominated by local government, expansion of local government, dominated by certain people from certain countries, depending on what region of Britain you're looking at. So I call that concept the colonial dividend. That's the colonial dividend. And Britain was able to do that in a very organized and deliberate, methodical way.

And it was able to then grow the state and, in effect, grow its GDP as well during that period, during its post-colonial period, helped in their transition from colonialism to post-colonialism. But the net result of that is you have a total transformation of the color and the demographics, the tapestry of modern Britain. And that's coinciding with the “victim of your own success,” meaning that the sort of native white population, if you will, the British population, a lot of people were just able to go on social benefits for large parts of their adult life—between jobs or unemployed, single mothers, et cetera—and that goes into those trends that we see reinforced by government policy, which I mentioned previously.

But the net result is a decline in families, a decline in birth rate, a decline in two-parent homes in white Britain, and ultimately a birth rate that's just fallen off a cliff and can never be recovered. So how do you fill seats in schools? How do you fill the care industry looking after a growing aging population? They're coming from Africa. They're coming from the Afro-Caribbean, from Jamaica, from Barbados, from former British colonies, coming to man those jobs—from Nigeria, from various

African countries. I mean, it's pretty clear. So those people are servicing the transformation of the demographics of Britain.

And so at some point, you realize that if institutions are funded, like schools, hospitals, these massive institutions, or even the Postal Service, it's funded really per head. If the classroom is full, there's funding there for the institution. And this goes for lots of different sectors of society— which train stations will remain open, which will be closed, what bus routes will remain viable, which will be closed, who is going to drive the buses, et cetera. So if you don't have an entry-level workforce to fill those positions, then those parts of society will ultimately collapse.

So you need immigration at that point to maintain that modern state structure that was erected after World War II. And corporations also need cheap, entry-level employment. So they're big advocates. Corporations tend to be very pro-immigration. And even some of the same people that would be right-wing corporations, they're very lax, actually, when you drill down to it, on immigration policy. They like the immigration issue. And so there's a major contradiction in terms of what I think is a lot of it—people at the very top with the money are very manipulative. They're playing both sides of the issue.

#Pascal

And, you know, to me, like some parts of that discussion and debate are organic in the sense that the changing demographics are the most normal thing on earth, right? It happens in every generation that looks back and says, like, oh, it was different when I was a kid, right? And then you try to grapple with these changes. And, you know, some of these discussions must be had, right? How are we staffing our positions? What are the policies? And you can see how the Japanese have similar issues. They take other approaches. They give five-year visas and then try to send people back home and bring in new ones to make sure that they don't settle, da-da-da, and so on and so forth. And you could debate whether that's good or not.

But I mean, part of that is organic just because of the needs of the time. But parts of it, when we look at what you researched with the connection between war and migration, seem maybe not deliberate in the sense that you want to cause this, but you do need to ask yourself, are the people who do this aware of what they're actually then causing? Because again, Gaddafi, this was clear. I mean, Gaddafi said, as you pointed out, we are making sure that you are not being flooded, right, with immigration. And then they took Gaddafi out. And very predictably, then you had the crisis with all of the boat people, right, that came, and then you have this large debate inside Europe. Can we drill down a little bit more into this one? Is there something that you found out that we haven't mentioned yet?

#Patrick Henningsen

Well, there's a couple of interesting things. One of them, and this is where the similarity with the United States immigration issue comes into play. But with Libya, after the fall of Libya, it became a failed state, and traffickers were trafficking people from countries like Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea. They were coming up through that corridor, through Libya. And the EU had the bright idea of, you know, paying groups in Sudan to help manage and stop the migration flows into Europe. Of course, a lot of that money ended up through the Khartoum Process, they called it.

It was a massive slush fund, 400 million euros. A lot of the money ended up in the hands of the RSF, the Rapid Support Forces, the former Janjaweed, who were basically involved in the trafficking. So the EU was effectively paying to traffic more Africans into Europe through EU funding because they thought, well, this is a great idea for the bureaucrats in Brussels. We've done our bit. We've allocated the money. Job done. And we're working with our partners in Africa, et cetera, until the opposite was the case. So I covered that in my article as well. Pretty shocking.

#Pascal

There are people who, when you tell them about corruption, they'll ask you, "How do you spell that?"

#Patrick Henningsen

It's like, what?

#Pascal

Excuse me? It is one of these things that doesn't register in bureaucratic minds, right? That there might be people who will be allocating money that they're given to something different than what it's given for. But let's put that aside. So... that's happening. And the way that the Europeans then tried to solve that, I mean, the brilliant idea they had was to just defund their humanitarian border patrols, basically, that are supposed to make sure that people don't die. And then they basically said, like, no, let them drown, right? And a good part of the right actually was cheering that on. I mean, the more that end up down in the ocean, the fewer make it to shore, right? It's actually quite horrible when you think about the cycle that this is and the violence then done to the people who are already the subject of violence.

#Patrick Henningsen

Yeah, and I'll talk about the boat issue because that's the main sort of poster issue that's driving the politics around this in Europe and the UK. But just as an aside, in the United States, the Democrats did have a replacement policy, which is they wanted to turn Texas Democrat. So the open border policy of Joe Biden and Obama, to a degree—although Obama did a lot late in his second term to stem the tide of migration, did a lot of deportations, maybe not so much closing the border, but a lot

more deportations. So this was an important issue. But during Trump's first term, they took in an unprecedented number of Venezuelan migrants, okay? And so the Democrats do have this. Joe Biden said publicly, we want to turn Texas blue. So they looked at all these immigrants coming from Guatemala, Central America, Colombia, et cetera, as potential Democrat voters.

#Pascal

Which backfired big time, actually. Yeah.

#Patrick Henningsen

There's that one. But Trump—Trump, John Bolton himself is on record, as well as Trump's State Department official in charge of immigration—that they wanted outflows of migration from Venezuela, that sanctions against Venezuela were designed to create economic deprivation so that they would have those outflows, especially of the working class and the intelligentsia, the educated class, to come to America. So this was a policy under Trump, and then Trump turns around in his second term and says, oh, these are all terrorists, Tren de Aragua gangs, and we need to force deport. But he is the one who was driving the immigration. They wanted anti-Maduro people in America. This is another concept.

#Pascal

Why would you want anti-Maduro people in America rather than in Venezuela, where they could be useful to overthrow the government?

#Patrick Henningsen

Well, that's an interesting question. And I think that Venezuelan political reality in Venezuela is much more resilient than a lot of Americans realize, in terms of ideology and the Chavista movement. It's very deeply embedded, multi-generational, in fact, in Venezuelan society. But what this is called is a fifth column in exile, that the West has always had a strategy of absorbing a fifth column in exile. And this is the problem. This led to the weaponization of the asylum seeker. So this is when we have this split in the last 20 years between refugees and asylum seekers. So then everybody becomes an asylum seeker. And this is hugely abused, and this is another, I believe, unintended consequence—people showing up at the border undocumented.

They say, where are you from? They'll say, if the U.S. is keen on regime change in Venezuela, if you say "Maduro must go," immediate asylum application, fast-tracked. So you're no longer an economic migrant. And so in Europe, this was used—I'll give you an example—the Eritrean, the socialist coup in Eritrea and the independence of Eritrea, that there was a policy in Europe: if people from Eritrea come, fast-track them for asylum. They want to absorb them into Europe, make them pro-European, pro-Western, pro-capitalist. They'll give them a lot of opportunities in academia. They did the same

with Syrian refugees. You show up at Lesbos, at the gates of Europe, you say "Assad must go, we're fleeing Assad." Immediate asylum application. Same with Afghanistan.

Anti-Taliban, straight in. Undocumented, you could be Uzbek. You just say, I'm from Afghanistan and we're fleeing the Taliban. You could be from Tunisia. And many Tunisians and people from North Africa, in Belgium, in France, in the Netherlands, showed up in Greece saying that they are Syrian, because they speak Arabic. So this has been abused to no end. And another example would be Afghanistan—it's a great example for this. Syria is a great example for this. So you can claim asylum from a war zone, a war zone that is a direct result of NATO or Western foreign policy or Israeli aggression. But if you can identify yourself as being what the host nation wants politically, you will get automatic asylum. People from Eritrea are coming through to Europe.

Well, you can go on Telegram forums or Facebook groups in those native languages, and they'll tell you exactly what to say, when to go, what the conditions will be like at the crossing, what documents you should have or not have with you. And so, if you say you're from Somalia or you're from Ethiopia and you want to get into Europe, you just show up and say, I'm from Eritrea. You might be undocumented, and you'll get fast-tracked asylum. And this is a documented problem. And this is the same with Syria. A lot of people came from Albania. A lot of the flow of Albanians into Europe after the establishment of Kosovo, who basically said they were Kosovan Albanians, but they weren't. They were just from Albania. Immediate asylum status in the UK and in Europe. And so this has been abused to no end.

#Pascal

Yeah, and you know, you cannot hold it against these people, right? What they do when they're on the move and so on is you try to figure out how you get to an end where you are not in that kind of danger anymore, right? So the issue then is the policy on the other side. And of course, the policies that in the first place generate those mass people's movements, right? And the movement of massive numbers of people. And we've actually, you know, there are debates about that. I mean, right when the war against Iran kicked off in February this year, right, March this year, there were these discussions, oh, if Iran becomes a failed state like Libya, the millions of Iranians that will start moving toward Europe. I mean, this is a well-understood phenomenon. And yet, yet, they do it all the time.

#Patrick Henningsen

The first phase of Iranian immigration was after 1979, right? And so they absorbed all of the pro-royalists who fled. And they're being used as the fifth column in exile right now. You can see it with all the influencers. And if you go to the Tommy Robinson far-right UK Christian nationalist rallies, the big addition to this we saw this weekend was all of these Iranian royalist flags next to the Israeli flags. Just a sea of Iranian royalist flags, and Tommy Robinson going up and basically saying we need to install Reza Pahlavi as the legitimate leader on stage Saturday, as the legitimate leader of

Iran. So these geopolitical— and you could argue whether he is controlled opposition or a tool of the state. But certainly, if you follow the money, you'll see he is pushing— basically, Tommy Robinson backs every single military policy that the UK government backs, which is uncanny.

#Pascal

Just a tiny little question, which is kind of a sideshow. We don't have to go into it, but I just wonder about this because I genuinely do not understand why it is that the people who are rallying for a democratic Iran use Reza Pahlavi, the son of the Shah, saying that we need to install the son of the monarch in order to get the monarchy back, which is then a democracy. I mean, why does this not— why do the alarm bells of people not go off in that quarter? I mean, this obviously, even as a narrative, is so poor. And he's such a joke as a figure. I don't understand this one.

#Patrick Henningsen

Yeah, he's not popular. He has no base at all in Iran. I always tell people jokingly, if there was an election next month, I could probably get more votes than Reza Pahlavi in an Iranian election, if there was such a thing. Why do you want an election?

#Pascal

They just want him installed.

#Patrick Henningsen

There won't be an election. It's not going to happen. It is a joke, and it's just become a real sideshow. But it kind of exposes the shallowness and just a completely delusional political conversation that's going on. But on the small boat issue, so just break this down by the numbers. In 2024, there were a total of 948,000 immigrants into the UK. Out of that, 37,000 were from the small boats — a relatively very small percentage. But 517,000 emigrated out of the UK that year. That means the net immigration rate for the UK for 2024 was approximately 430,000. So let's break down that 37,000. Seventy percent of the people on the small boats come from five different locations.

And what are they? Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, and there are a few others... I think Albania is one of the other ones there. So basically, every single one is a place that got hit in some way or is related to a war that was initiated by NATO or is under sanctions. Okay, because you can't ignore sanctions — the economic warfare aspect of sanctions — as a driver of economic collapse and so forth. Iraq was the fifth country in there, Iraq. So that's 70% of the people on the small boats. So you have to, at some point, make that connection. There's a direct, I would say, beyond correlation. I think it's causation. I think you can make a very strong argument on a lot of different levels.

So the conversation with the right should be, we need to look at foreign policy. But when you look at Nigel Farage and the Reform Party, they've got nothing to say about foreign policy other than we need to support Israel and we need to, you know, destroy Iran. And so that's, to me, a massive—there's an opportunity for an intelligent wing of the right wing, which is there, which is, as you said, Pascal, the Tucker Carlson-type thought process of looking at the causes of immigration and then having that as the main driver of the conversation and policy. But you don't see that with a lot of the new kind of, I would call them more boutique or meme parties. They're single-issue parties, and Reform in the UK. There's also Restore.

They've got all these spinoffs now. They hate Muslims and they're anti-immigration. That's pretty much all they're running on. But you're not going to get any change in the net result. And just beyond that, Pascal, that 948,000 total immigrants — that's mostly, overwhelmingly, over 90% legal immigrants — they're coming through normal ports of entry, normal government processes. So the small boat issue is being used as the main driver of this entire far-right movement in the UK. It's absolutely extraordinary how they managed to take that but then not apply context to it, which to me is a missed opportunity. But there's a lot of people who don't want that conversation to happen.

#Pascal

No, but we've seen that also in the United States, right? The first term of Donald Trump, how he was riding on that single issue and he was beating it like a dead horse, right? The wall, he wanted his wall. The wall would solve everything. The wall, the wall, the wall, no more immigration, the wall. Now we have a wall for what, like what, eight years? And of course, because already at the time, we knew that the majority of that immigration is actually legal immigration that comes through the airports. The wall — the people who run across the border — is a minor issue in terms of the impact of the entire migration to the United States. Certainly in Texas or somewhere, it might be a little bit more than in other places relatively. So this is the normal use and abuse of the migration issue. The much more disturbing thing is, of course, as you now pointed out several times, the manufactured aspect of it and how it is being used as a feedback loop.

#Patrick Henningsen

And worse than that, worse than that, though, it's this issue traditionally. And this isn't just recently — this is throughout history. It's always been used to divert public attention, to channel angst away from system-level perturbations like an economic collapse. And it's being used to create... You had a great guest on your program, Matthias Desmet, recently. The immigration issue is used as one of the key mass formation triggers. So we — this is the source of your problems and your fears.

And we're going to deal with that. So everyone, focus on the boats, focus on the Muslims, focus on the immigrants. And they've created a mass formation, definitely in the UK. It's real, and it's growing, and it's on the move. And it's under the guise of patriotism as well as Christianity. This is how it's being packaged. And to me, it's just completely astroturfed. It's a billionaire-funded

movement from America, quite obviously. And the whole thing, I think, is just completely artificial. It's total social engineering.

#Pascal

Yeah, and subliminally, you actually create even the argumentation you need for people to swallow things as horrible as genocide. Because if the link is that, look, you don't want these brown people here. We poor Israelis, we're stuck with them over here. You don't want them. So we need kind of a final solution. And we kind of have one here. You might not like it, but let's just do it and pretend that's not what's happening. And then in 10 years, the problem is solved because these people are just going to have left. Nobody knows where they went. It's that sick, but it's this kind of association that's being done. And Israel, Netanyahu keeps saying, like, nobody wants the Palestinians, right? Nobody wants the Palestinians.

#Patrick Henningsen

It's a very old framework, though. That's a colonial, that is absolutely an archetypal colonial framework. And that framework exists even though we are supposedly post-colonial in the West. The framework is still there. You can just pour the new politics in there, and it flows perfectly. And then you have your recreation of something that you thought was extinct politically.

#Pascal

That's the joke, or that's the big trick, right? We are still deeply colonial, and actually colonialism—and I had two guests who made that point on my podcast before—colonialism is rooted in the crusader spirit. It's the crusading that started the whole thing. And, you know, they bumped against the wall in the East, so they actually went West. That's where it succeeded, and where genocide as an instrument of colonialism succeeded in doing what it did and what it could do over there. And now you just try again over there. It's kind of like second, third try lucky, right? It's quite sick. And it works on a societal level. And the people do go along because you don't have a unified narrative about it.

#Patrick Henningsen

That is one of the key mechanisms, and that is shaping today's politics. It's actually coming full circle. So what you're talking about, the Crusades—you had a brilliant guest on to break this down recently. I forgot his name.

#Pascal

Adnan Hussain made that point. Adnan Hussain, yes. Both of them independently made that point, yeah.

#Patrick Henningsen

Yeah, and so it's come full circle now with the revival of Christian nationalism. But it's a superficial revival because the reality is all these people, they're not going to church on Sundays. They identify as Christian. They identify with the crusader iconography. Their religious experience is going to that rally every six months in central London. I mean, that's where they'll get their sort of—it's like a twice-a-year Catholic going to Christmas and Easter. It's the equivalent for this Christian nationalist. They don't actually sit in church and read the scriptures, don't study the Bible. They're nominally Christian. They're not practicing. Yeah.

#Pascal

And you can see how the big Christian denominations that are actually organized religions, especially the two biggest ones, the Catholics and the Orthodox, they're not on board with that. They have completely different theology about the entire thing. It's the evangelicals, the new, the small churches, the relatively unrooted churches that go down that route. It's quite fascinating.

#Patrick Henningsen

Yeah, and Israel has really—the Israelis are great students of Western culture and politics. They know our politics better than we do.

#Pascal

Because they are Western, right? They are part of us. They're not separate. They're not Middle Easterners. They're Western colonial—Polish, Ukrainian, Russian.

#Patrick Henningsen

They are a Western colonial outpost, and they look at these trends, and they're able to capitalize on and actually help drive these trends. And as you said before, the connection with genocide, and you have the cognitive dissonance in the West and the lack of opposition against it, that is tapping into a deep sort of colonial DNA type of mentality of extermination of the threat to make it safe for settlers. And so this is why people support—deep down, subconsciously—they actually support Israel committing genocide in Gaza. It reflects Western values, unfortunately, historically. We can't deny that.

Even though the great and the good in Europe will proselytize for human rights and all these great institutions, in terms of actually following them in a real sense, there's a disconnect that's going on right now. We're seeing it. This is happening right in front of our eyes. To me, it's the most extraordinary thing. And a lot of my colleagues and people are confounded by this. How is this disconnect happening? And Israel and Gaza have become the real touchstone. And it's the revelation

of the method in many ways. But it took this horrible tragedy to really reveal this deep, deep, deep-seated disconnect, this hypocrisy, and these old mindsets that are still there—they're still there, latent, clearly have always been there under the surface.

#Pascal

Yeah. And as a methodology, they have been implemented for, by now, hundreds of years. You know, yesterday I tried to find out, you know, is there somebody to speak to from the, you know, the actual native people of the United States? And I was looking up the homepages of, you know, the Navajo people, the Cherokees, and the Apaches. The level of problems that they deal with on their homepages, what they talk about, what they are proud of—I think it's the Cherokees that are proud of the fact that last year they managed to expand water supply to 500 households.

That's the level of things that are going on in the reservations that is, to me, in a developed nation. That's something that I didn't think I would read about as an achievement. But those are the things that are going on. Those are the people who have already been successfully genocided, and the last remnants of it, right? Yeah. And it's mind-boggling to me. And those are the things that, of course, the great replacement theory and so on never, ever spends even a second contemplating. And this is only 250 years old. The United States as a project is 250 years old. It's nothing. It's like, yeah, it's just quite mind-boggling.

#Patrick Henningsen

Yeah, you can learn a lot from studying the issues of Native American tribes before and today as well. I've spent a little bit of time, I've done a little bit of documentary work on reservations in the U.S., enough to understand what the core issues are day to day. And what's interesting is they are a post-genocide population. They were given reservations that are effectively sovereign territory within the United States. However, they are dependent on external supplies, energy, and things like this.

And so, the same techniques that the U.S. government and the European governments use in funding sectarian groups in Syria or Lebanon or all these target states—they'll fund some and they won't fund others. And that creates tension between the two, and that allows for potential destabilization and ultimately regime change. The U.S. has done this in Lebanon. You've seen the results of this now, on the brink of a civil war in Lebanon, because USAID has been funding Christian families and their businesses for decades, and not Shiite and some Sunni, and not others, to get pro-U.S. factions, pro-Israeli factions within Lebanese society. The U.S. taxpayer is funding that.

The same thing with Indian tribes in America. The federal government will go and give money to certain parts of the tribe and not others. They'll fund certain things and not others. They're very specific and strategic in how they've been doing this to divide the Indians. In some cases, whole reservations will split over the gambling issue, the casino issue as well. This was a cause of a sort of ideological traditional versus modernity split among certain Native American tribes—whether to take

that money from the white man or not, preserve Indian traditions and values, or bring in this new sort of Las Vegas component to modern Indian life.

And there's a big debate on both sides of that. But the net result has been, in some major tribes like the Lakota Sioux, for instance, a major split, a major split as a result of that. Plus, you have the issues of alcoholism, the fact that banks won't put branches on the reservations because there's no lending base. And so they have to cash their checks off the reservation, spend the money off the reservation. And that's how a lot of foreign countries are engineered, you know, with sanctions, with U.S. trade agreements. These strategies were perfected in the United States before they were even exported as foreign policy in the 20th century. Yeah.

#Pascal

No, this is absolutely the case. That's why it's much, much older than just Palestine and Gaza. It's hundreds of years now of this methodology, you know, of implementing it and actually, as you said, perfecting it.

#Patrick Henningsen

But the best lab is the British Empire on this. And Britain's oldest colony is Ireland. Right. Okay. So you could say Scotland, but let's just say Ireland. So there was an absolute policy of depopulating Ireland, and also to depopulate it of a certain educated class—for instance, the middle class, the upwardly mobile class. They were, in the young American country at the time, American oligarchs were very happy to take that influx of cheap labor, of fairly educated immigrants from Ireland, as well as indentured servants in the first wave during the 19th century. But they were very happy to do that. And so that suited the British and its former colony and the elites in America at the time. And Ireland went from a population of 8 million down to 3 million.

It's devastating. That's not even to say anything about the famine and all of these other things that happened as well. So this is a strategy. This has been used around the world against other colonies and against other target nations, and now in the modern version through sanctions or through warfare or stoking sectarian internal civil wars and conflict. Same exact net result. And so it's a way of bleeding a country dry of its best and its brightest and then taking that expertise. And those doctors, those engineers are now in German universities working in German industries, and they will be very pro-German or pro-British or pro-American or Canadian, depending on where they've been repatriated.

This is a kind of reverse colonial strategy, and this is a type of weaponization of migration that's very much connected to geopolitics and specifically to foreign policy, and drilled down further into the refugee versus asylum seeker mechanism in terms of bringing them into the country. And so it's like this is the displacement or the moving of people. And if you go up to the NATO and the U.S. military planning level, if you look at full-spectrum dominance, for instance, and how the Pentagon will be

briefed on this by the major investment banks—a great author is Thomas Barnett, you've probably heard of him, from the United States.

So he really pioneered that full-spectrum dominance movement. And he would give presentations to the Pentagon from when he was working for Cantor Fitzgerald Investments. This was right around 9 /11. How are we going to move these people from Africa and move them over here? What is it going to take? And then bring in all of these different factors—war, environment, climate change, et cetera. But it's about taking them from the gap, what he calls the gap, to the core. The core is the advanced West. The gap is the developing world. It was all open, spoken of, done very openly. Mass social engineering. What are the drivers of this? NATO is a big driver of this. U.S. foreign policy. Israel has been a big driver of this.

So, you know, at some point we can very easily connect the dots to explain why these things are happening to Europe and to the UK, to the United States, to Canada, etc. But then you can exactly see how it's being leveraged to create political outcomes within the domestic setting of those Western countries, and specifically with driving this new far right. So I think once you can deconstruct this and look at this, and then look at history—it's a very important part of it. There's no better lab than the British Empire. Burma, Myanmar. You look at all these different ones—the Biafra Wars in Nigeria. I mentioned Eritrea and Ethiopia. You can just see how the geopolitics is working its way through all of these different flashpoints and how this is servicing the host country, the core of the empire after that.

#Pascal

No, you're absolutely right. The only question in my mind is how much of it is actually done on the planning board by people who had a bird's-eye view of what they wanted to do, and how much is, you know, an action-reaction pattern where one thing informs the other. But at the end of the day, it's the outcome of just what empire does, right? That's just the net outflow, the net effect once you've got empire. But that's going to be a discussion for another day. I think this was a very brilliant exposé of, like, also a journalist drilling down, digging down. Patrick, once again, if people want to follow your work, where should they go?

#Patrick Henningsen

I appreciate it. If you can, like and subscribe to our YouTube channel, 21st Century Wire. I'll drop the links to you as well—Substack, patrickhenningson.substack.com, and of course, 21stCenturyWire.com. That's our main hub, our main platform as an independent media outlet. We've been going since 2009.

#Pascal

I will try to make sure that all of the links are in the description box below. If we can, we can also publish this talk as a collaboration so people can click on your YouTube channel and subscribe there. Please remind me to do that in case I forget. But I'll try not to. Patrick Henningsen, thank you so much for your time today.

#Patrick Henningsen

Appreciate it. Thank you, Pascal Lottaz.