

# Paul Craig Roberts: Trump's 'Sedition Act' For Israel EXPOSED

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## #Nima

Hi, everybody. Today's Monday, May 25th, 2026, and our dear friend Paul Craig Roberts is here with us. Welcome back, Paul.

## #Paul

Thank you, Nima.

## #Nima

Paul, let's start with what's going on right now between Iran and the United States, the negotiations. It seems that today we had Iran, the head of the Iranian parliament, together with the foreign minister of Iran, Araghchi, and the head of the Central Bank of Iran. They went to Qatar because it seems that when it comes to the Iranian frozen assets, the United States said to Qatar, "You pay Iran," because I don't know what the problem is with the United States paying directly to Iran. They said to the government in Qatar to pay Iran instead of the United States.

And they're going to pay to the Qatari government. What does that mean? I don't know. You may know better what it means, this sort of, you know, twisting the whole process. But after all, looking at the situation, I don't see any sort of positive sign that we can reach any kind of agreement. There could be some sort of deal, some sort of fragile deal right now happening between the two sides. But how do you see the whole situation, and how do you find the way Donald Trump is talking about it?

## #Paul

Well, I've always thought these negotiations were pointless. You hear two different accounts from Trump and from the Iranians. The Iranians have said, their national security spokesman or whoever, that the purpose of the deal is to end the war. It has nothing to do with who controls the Strait. It has nothing to do with Iran's enrichment of nuclear material. It only has to do with ending the war.

Trump, on the other hand, says the deal is to open the Strait, deal with the Strait, and he still says if we don't get a good deal, there's no deal. Well, he doesn't define a good deal, but most people think it means what he says is a good deal. So I don't see much hope for this. You know, we've talked about it so many times.

The main problem is Israel. And until Israel announces Greater Israel, Iran will be under threat. And also, I think the way Trump frames the issue is extremely biased. Iran was the one attacked. They didn't attack. They received the aggression and responded to it. And yet the war is portrayed as being Iran's fault. So I just don't see any prospect of anything coming out of this. And I've thought it was a mistake for the Iranians to agree to these negotiations or to ever have a ceasefire. They should have finished the war. They were winning, and they should have finished it. And they didn't. So nothing has come out of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations, so why is something going to happen in Iran?

## **#Nima**

What's obvious so far is that Donald Trump doesn't want to stay in the Middle East. He wants to get out of there. And how do you see the way that he's trying to do that? Because we've seen Lindsey Graham together with Mark Levin. They were, you know, screaming, saying this is disastrous. The way that Donald Trump is talking with the Iranians, the outcome would be disastrous for Israel. And it's going to put Israel in a bad, you know, sort of situation and position. And how is that going to... Let's put it this way. In your opinion, what would be the best off-ramp for Donald Trump to get out of this war?

## **#Paul**

Well, I think he would have to say that he made a mistake and he was deceived by Netanyahu, and he should have been more careful. And that he was simply ceasing to participate in wars for Israel. That's what he should say. But of course, he can't because of all his Israeli multi-billionaire supporters, because of the influence and power in the United States of the Israel lobby. So he's sort of trapped, which is another reason I don't think this will go anywhere, because there's no real way for him to get out of the trap except to be honest. And then that will put Israel on his neck for the rest of his life, which won't be pleasant. So when you make a fundamental error like he made, the only real way out is to admit it. And he's not going to do that. And it's not just Lindsey Graham and Mark Levin. It's the Israeli press. They're saying, oh, Trump's going to sell us out.

## **#Paul**

It's kind of hard to see him sell Israel out because, you know, just the other day, he created a new Sedition Act. But it's to protect the Israeli government, not the American government. And now a

Jewish member of Congress and a Republican are proposing a new anti-Semitism bill that will censor online discussions and eliminate unfavorable reports about the Israelis. So he's sort of trapped. And the only way out is what I said.

## **#Nima**

Paul, I think from his point of view, he's getting to the midterm election in the United States. That's important for him, in my opinion, for the next two years. It's so important for the next two years of his presidency. The other point is the way the GCC countries are under tremendous pressure because of the war. They cannot, because of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, sell their energy, their oil and gas, fertilizer, all of these things. They cannot do that. That's why their economies are under tremendous pressure right now. That's why I think the basic point is that Qatar is paying Iran, not the United States. With these frozen assets, it shows how desperate the situation is for the GCC countries. That's why they have to do that in order to get rid of this war in the Middle East.

But the problem, I think, Paul, for Donald Trump himself is the moment he leaves the Middle East, Israel is going to be simply naked. They don't have it. They don't have the radars. They don't have the protection they had before. Their economy is not doing great, and they're very dependent on the United States. The United States cannot produce the interceptor missiles they need. As they're fighting right now, as we talked, they're fighting Hezbollah in Lebanon. And Smotrich today said, for each drone, we have to bring down 10 buildings in Beirut. It shows how they're suffering from these drones. These drones are hitting air defense systems. They're hitting communication systems. They're hitting Israeli soldiers gathering in the southern part of Lebanon. This is the problem Israel is facing right now. I don't know what Donald Trump can do for Israel before leaving the Middle East. That's why I don't see Donald Trump leaving anytime soon.

## **#Paul**

Well, why stay there when you can't do anything? What can he do? If he could do anything, he would do it. He wouldn't be losing face. So I think Trump and the military have concluded that they basically can't do anything. They can't invade Iran. They can't put the Navy in the Persian Gulf. It's purposely impossible. It makes no sense to renew aerial attacks on Iran because they will reply, and Israel will get the worst of it. So he can't do anything staying there, except tie up American forces somewhere out of range of the Iranian missiles. And, well, they do sit there for years. So I think if he finds a way to leave and does, then it means Israel has to stop being aggressive and has to make peace.

It has to admit that it's just another country. It's not special. It doesn't have rights that no other country has. It can't bomb and kill people, or the same thing is going to happen to it. So if the United States leaves, Israel will have to make reasonable settlements with the Iranians, with Hamas, the Palestinians. They'll have to get out of Gaza. They'll have to stop their terrible theft of what remains of the West Bank and become a peaceful nation. In other words, they would be forced to

give up the Greater Israel agenda, because if they, you know, continue with that agenda, they risk their own destruction. So that would be the outcome.

It's probably the best hope for the Americans just to get out. I don't know if you saw, but just within the last couple of days, the president of Israel — you know, it's mainly a ceremonial post, the Israeli president — but he came out very, very strong against the settlers and what they were doing, and the tiny bit that remains of the West Bank. He called them thugs and murderous fools, and said they were an embarrassment to Israel. And he said that the kind of violence they commit against Palestinians is becoming mainstream, and it will forever discredit Israel. So I suspect Trump will have to arrest him for violating the Israeli sedition pact. But as we've talked about before, there is some opposition in Israel itself, and that's a pretty strong statement for the president of Israel to publicly make. So...

## **#Paul**

What else can we say? We know Trump's trapped. He'd like to get out of it, but he won't take the obvious way out and admit he screwed up.

## **#Paul**

If he does leave, then Israel will be forced into peaceful behavior instead of, what, 70 years of aggression.

## **#Nima**

Paul, this new act that you mentioned, Trump's Sedition Act, is that going to end free speech in the United States? Because as you mentioned, it's all about Israel. It's all about what Israel is doing. It has nothing to do with the American people. And who's behind it? Is it Donald Trump himself or the administration, people like Steve Miller or those people? I don't know. Who's behind these sorts of moves on the part of the Trump administration?

## **#Paul**

Well, I don't know who put the idea in Trump's head, but he issued an edict that the United States will not permit anti-Semitism. And the acting Attorney General, you know, who is his personal defense attorney, issued a statement, I don't know, a couple of days ago, that he was implementing the President's order. I still don't know what the punishments are, but the definition of anti-Semitism is any criticism of Israel.

## **#Nima**

Any.

## **#Paul**

You can't criticize anything. So the Israeli president is in violation of that. And, you know, the United States has this tendency to think that its law has extraterritoriality, that it applies to the whole world. So the Israeli president better be careful. Trump may send in the special forces and kidnap him and take him back to Washington and put him in a dungeon with Maduro. It's all ridiculous, basically. But what Trump has done is say that United States citizens, none of them, can exercise the First Amendment if the speech pertains to Israel. So Trump is destroying the protection of the First Amendment for people who criticize Israel or call into question Israel's policies or motives or whatever.

So what we see here is that the power of Israel is greater than the power of the United States Constitution. They have effectively deep-sixed the First Amendment if the speech pertains to Israel. Well, this is extraordinary. You would think you would hear a massive uproar everywhere. You would think every bar association, every law school, every attorney, all the media, both parties. You would think they'd be screaming, what are you doing, President Trump? Why do you think you can set aside the U.S. Constitution because it might inconvenience Israel if somebody said something truthful about them? Well, there's silence. I think I'm the only one who's called attention to it. I hope I'm mistaken and that everybody is.

## **#Nima**

I think you are the only one. I haven't seen any news about that. Yeah, it's on your website. Yeah.

## **#Paul**

It's, uh, yeah. And you, and I, I posted the statement from the Attorney General. And you can read it, it's very clear that you're not allowed to say anything bad about Israel, or more generally, Jews in general. So, you know, if this actually goes into effect, as the Attorney General said—he says he's implementing it—then we've seen the power of the Israel lobby to cancel the American Constitution. You see, the First Amendment is the important one. If it's gone, the rest of them, they haven't got much force because you can't say anything. So it shows how far the United States has lost its sovereignty.

It's basically not a sovereign nation. And on top of Trump's Sedition Act for Israel, we now have this bill in Congress that they're going to control what can be said on the internet about Israel. And since any criticism is defined as anti-Semitism, it just stops there being any narrative other than Israel's. You and I wouldn't be able to talk about the Iranian-Israeli conflict. We'd be in violation. They'll send special forces to you and kidnap you and take you to Washington. So, you know, how do things get like this? It's the power of money over decades. They simply bought everything. They bought everybody.

## **#Nima**

Just moments ago, it seems that U.S. fighter jets hit two speedboats in the Persian Gulf, and four soldiers—yeah, four troops—were killed in this attack. The Iranian air defense system is activated right now, and the latest news is this. And that's why this is just ridiculous, and nobody...

## **#Paul**

So you say the Americans just attacked two Iranian boats and killed four Iranians? Yeah, speedboats, yeah.

## **#Nima**

They were targeted by American fighter jets in the Persian Gulf, and four sailors were killed in this operation.

## **#Paul**

Well, see, clearly Trump doesn't. I mean, why would you do that if at the same time you're telling everyone that you're on the verge of an agreement? Why would you do that if you were on the verge of an agreement? So, yeah. I suppose that will harden the Iranians and maybe wake them up again. They're wasting their time in negotiation. They should be winning a war. Yeah. If Iran had just finished the war and won it, it'd all be over, and the world would be an enormously different place. So they blew that. So I see nothing coming out of this negotiation unless the Americans, with all their money, have somehow purchased the Iranian government—which I don't think they can do. I think the Iranian government, I think it has a sense of itself. It's not for sale like so many other governments. So we're talking about something, or trying to talk about something, that doesn't make any sense.

## **#Nima**

Today, there were some drones in the city of Isfahan. That city, you remember, in the southern part of Isfahan, they had that ground operation which failed. This is the same city. Now, the air defense systems are activated in that city to hit the drones. It seems that in the city of Bandar Abbas, which is close to the Persian Gulf, the air defense system is activated right now. They're just hitting some targets. I don't know what that is. But we have the, you know, the Hajj in Saudi Arabia. All these Muslims around the world gathering in Saudi Arabia. That's why I don't see the war happening, you know, during the Hajj in Saudi Arabia. And maybe in the aftermath of that, we're gonna have some sort of new escalations between Iran and the United States, because right now they're basically fighting each other.

And the United States said, Paul, one of the 60 days of ceasefire they're talking about, the United States is not going to leave the region, because it was supposed to withdraw the forces from the region. It seems that the United States is going to stay there in the Persian Gulf. And in my opinion, we're going to have new confrontations between Iran and the United States, and Israel is going to be more than happy to have all of that. Because they're basically saying they don't care about, you know, they want to continue the fight against Lebanon, against Gazans. So if the United States starts these sorts of attacks, then the Iranian response to that is going to be in favor of what Israel wants.

## **#Paul**

Well, then if that is the outcome, it is evidence that I'm right, that Iran should never have agreed to a ceasefire. They should have finished, won the war. And maybe if the war is renewed by the United States, Iran will realize this time they have to finish it. It's strange to me how wars now just go on forever. Nobody will end one. Putin won't end the war in Ukraine. It's now into its fifth year. That's longer than World War II. Yeah. And it's a tiny little area that they're fighting about. Certainly not the world.

## **#Nima**

By the way, the Ukrainian war is getting, you know, so much. The new escalations are happening because Russia, you heard about Russia arresting missiles going to Kiev. And just before coming up to this live, we've learned that Lavrov informed the U.S. Secretary of State, you know, Marco Rubio. He informed Marco Rubio that they're going to attack Kiev, and the United States should withdraw its, you know, workers at the embassy, because they want to hit many places in Kiev, decision-making centers. And those people, they're talking about decision-making centers, but basically they're talking about mercenaries, those people who are helping the Ukrainian government. And it seems that they are somehow escalating. They're increasing the number of missiles and drones hitting the city of Kiev right now, as we talk about. That's why they informed the Secretary of State, Marco Rubio.

## **#Paul**

Well, why did Lavrov inform him? What's the point of it? Why give advance information that you're going to attack? I mean, that's treason. That's high treason. The Russian foreign minister just committed treason against his own country. I mean, this is a demonstration of utter, total weakness. Oh, we're going to attack you. You know, I just hope the Iranians aren't too much infected with this Russian attitude toward war, that it's somehow not real and we're not really doing it. You know, the attack the other day on Kiev, the big missile, the Iskander, was not used. It was used on a military

runway 40, 50 miles away. And the missiles they used against Kiev were highly precise, and the targets were not civilian residences. So I think that's when they were trying to hit the control centers. But it's still a very weak response.

And again, it was tit for tat. It wasn't part of a military strategy to end the war. It was in response to the Iranians' attack on the kids' dormitory, where they killed 21 kids—the Russian school that was hit by the Iranian drones. And so this attack on Kiev was a response. It's not part of winning the war. It's tit for tat. Oh, they attacked the children's school, so we'll do something to them. The Russians aren't really even fighting a war. And if you look at the Iranian behavior, it's sort of the same thing. It's tit for tat. We know you're going to hit us, but we're going to sit here and let you hit us. We're not going to take preemptive action and put you out before you can attack us. We're going to sit here and let you attack us, and then we'll do tit for tat. Well, that's not fighting either. So as far as I can tell, the Russians don't fight.

The Iranians don't fight. Neither of them fights. And the funny thing is that, unlike the Russians, the Iranians won without fighting. They simply respond, and then they stop. So I think this is what Trump finds encouraging. But he's not dealing with people who are actually going to bear down and stay on task. They'll stop and go negotiate. And the negotiation's pointless. They'll go nowhere. Nothing will change unless Trump just pulls out, or Israel suffers a major defeat and has to abandon the Greater Israel agenda. Nothing—there's no other solution. And if the Iranians won't use their military capability to defeat Israel, they'll live with this for another 50 years.

So it seems clear to me. I don't think it matters what Trump says or what Israel says or what the negotiations are. What Trump and the Iranians are saying at the moment have nothing in common. Trump's view of the deal is in no way compatible with what the Iranians just said—that this is only about ending the war, it's not about anything else. That's not what Trump said. So I don't understand how the Iranians can fool themselves that there's a ground for negotiation. If they had kept on and had the United States and Israel by the throat, yeah, they could have gotten a real negotiation, but they didn't. Why in the world would they trust Israel and Trump?

How can Iran trust the United States and Israel? There's no grounds for it. All the evidence is you're completely crazy if you trust either of those. If the Iranians trust them, how can you trust them? All the sneak attacks that you've had while you're negotiating, all the assassinations of leaders—how many of them? Gosh, who knows how many? The scientists assassinated. And you trust these people? You think you can actually negotiate with them? I can't. It makes no sense how the Iranians could possibly think that. If they can't get out of that mode, this will just go on forever. What will Trump do? I don't know.

## **#Nima**

Paul, your suggestion would be that Iran, you know, close the Strait of Hormuz and continue the war with Israel. What else can you suggest? Let's assume you want to give your assessment of the war

to the Iranian government. What would you say to them in the case of the Strait of Hormuz, the continuation of the war, and the way they should see the conflict?

## **#Paul**

Well, I would tell them they made a serious mistake agreeing to the ceasefire, because they had their enemies on the ropes and they let them off. They didn't deliver the knockout punch. So now they're faced with a situation that is gonna renew or be a threat for a long time and then renew, and that they should develop a war plan that defeats Israel and drives the Americans out of the Middle East. That should be their aim. And they should implement it without warnings—no “be careful, we're going to attack you, get your people out of here.” They've got to act like warriors who are facing a threat to their existence. They have to accept that it's the intent of Israel that Iran does not exist, and that Israel has shown tremendous power to influence the United States in its interest, in Israel's interest. And deal with that. That's the problem they face.

## **#Paul**

No one's saying, you know, realism. We've talked about it before—realism seems to be something people avoid at all costs. They don't want to see reality because they would have to do something besides respond. The Iranians should figure out: how do we get the initiative? How do we pull this war off? What can we do to win it quickly?

## **#Paul**

How do we sink every American ship in the area? If that was an operation, well, there would be real peace talks. And the outcome, I think, would be Iran—Israel would have to abandon the Greater Israel agenda. They would have to abandon it. And the United States would have to abandon its one-sided interference on behalf of Israel. So, you know, it sounds like I want war. No, but Iran didn't start this war. And I think Iran should have known for a long time that the war was coming to them. They might not have known what the Afghanistan thing was really about.

It was about staging troops so they could invade Iraq. But Iran has seen Iraq go, Libya go, Syria go. They've seen the repeated Israeli assaults on Lebanon. So they had to know it was coming to them. And apparently they did have some preparation. They accumulated missiles and that sort of thing, but they didn't seem to have a war plan. Normally, if you see you're going to be attacked, you strike. You don't wait and have your forces decimated before you reply. Now, well, the Iranians weren't decimated, but they lost, what, 25%, 30% of their capability. Well, that is an important amount. That's the margin of victory.

## **#Nima**

So what else can we say?

## **#Paul**

What is the realism? The realism is Israel has been expanding since 1947. The first target was Palestine. They emptied most of the Palestinian villages and turned it into Israel. There was a little bit left in the West Bank, and there was the open-air concentration camp in Gaza. Well, they decided to get the rest of it. So we know what they've done to Gaza. And we heard yesterday, I think it was, the president of Israel say what the settlers were doing in the West Bank.

He thought it was the most reprehensible thing he could imagine. And the Israelis used the Americans against Iraq, Libya, and Syria, and also the two states in North Africa, Sudan and Somalia. You know, we've been in there. We've been in there, too. These are Muslims. So Iran should have known. The Saudi Arabians should have known that they, as greasy as they are, can't slide between these pincers. And in the end, they're going to go. And so they should have overcome long ago their differences with other Muslims just in order to survive. And the fools didn't do it. So if Iran goes, I mean, what's Saudi Arabia's fate?

## **#Nima**

Paul, just breaking news here. Initial reports from Iran say the IRGC Navy launched anti-ship missiles at an American warship in the Gulf of Oman. And this is the escalation that's happening. I would say these GCC countries are very upset right now because they don't want this, but it's happening. Thanks.

## **#Paul**

Well, I hope they're using the missiles that can't be defended against, and it's not just a show, because apparently someone attacked them in Isfahan with drones today, you said earlier. So they've been attacked. So now it's just tit for tat, but they're not really gonna sink the ship. They'll use drones that can be intercepted. They should send one of those missiles that can't be defended against. And it shouldn't be some little ship. It should be the carrier.

## **#Nima**

Paul, what would be your solution for the GCC countries if you were supposed to give them your assessment, your understanding of the best way for them in West Asia or in the Middle East? I'm talking about the GCC countries.

## **#Paul**

Which countries?

## **#Nima**

GCC countries, the Arab states in the Persian Gulf, what would be... You're talking about the Persian Gulf oil kingdoms. Yeah, because somehow right now, to understand their position, they don't want this war, but they don't have that much leverage over Israel because, as you've mentioned, Donald Trump is totally influenced by Israel and the Israeli lobby, Israeli people, or whoever is in his administration advocating for Israel.

**#Paul**

But...

**#Nima**

On the other hand, they have the Iranian option. They can get closer to the Iranian government. What would you say to them, in your opinion?

**#Paul**

I think that the whole oil area in the Persian Gulf should be united. It should be one country or a federation. They should all be on the same side. They should be part of Iran, maybe only as a federation. But then there wouldn't be any conflicts, and all the oil would be in one hand. You know, they could have the organization. And that would be my advice to them. They sold out all the Arabs for American protection, and the Americans can't provide it. So if they were to go over to the Iranians, it would greatly limit the ability of the United States to meddle over there. All of those oil sheikhdoms, we have naval bases, air bases.

If those bases aren't there, and they're not there now—I mean, they've been seriously disabled—I don't think they're functioning very well, or if at all. And without those bases, then the whole threat subsides. It just shows how corrupt and stupid the leadership of those places is. And they've got no forward vision. Why anyone, any Muslim in the Middle East, thinks that they can coexist with a country whose agenda is greater than Israel—they're crazy. They're unrealistic. And it's the split, the inability of Muslims to unite, that's why they're impotent and why a tiny little country with 8 million Jews can destroy three countries and get America at work destroying a fourth. When do they learn? When do they learn?

**#Paul**

I don't see any learning curve in these GCC countries.

**#Nima**

I'm talking about the leadership, by the way. Because we know that public opinion is totally against Israel, but you don't see that being interpreted or translated into the leadership of those countries. That's why you see they're so divided among themselves. And Israel is enjoying this situation.

## **#Paul**

So Iran needs to realize the situation. If they hadn't quit and had won the war, that would have completely changed the mind of all those oil sheikhdoms.

## **#Nima**

Yeah.

## **#Paul**

Well, we don't know, you know, maybe Trump will finally decide that he wants to invade Cuba. And so he'll have to bring an aircraft carrier back, and he'll get focused on that. And the whole thing in the Middle East will just kind of die away. I mean, that's possible. That's entirely possible. He may decide the way he rescues himself is to get involved in another war. In fact, there are reports—I mean, you can't believe reports anymore—but there are reports that they're already talking about the plans on how they're going to invade Cuba. So then Trump is...

## **#Nima**

What is the importance of Cuba right now? What does he want from Cuba?

## **#Paul**

I don't know. I don't know. And why did they indict Castro's brother? What was that for? I mean, none of this makes any sense from a foreign policy standpoint or a legal standpoint. How can the United States indict a citizen of Cuba, a foreigner, a former president? I mean, he succeeded his brother for a while. He was the head. I don't know. I think it's because it's something he thinks he can grab easily. They don't even have any oil now. You know, he's got them cut off from oil. The Russians have abandoned them. I'm sure they don't have any fighter jets or missiles or any of that stuff. You know, they may have rifles. So I think the answer to your question is it's an easy target, or so Trump thinks it's an easy target.

And why does he want it? What's he going to do with it? Why does it benefit us? I don't know. I don't think naked aggression ever benefits anybody. But maybe it's Trump's way out of the Middle East. No, maybe they'll use insufficient forces so the war continues. And the longer it continues, the more people forget about the Middle East. Who knows? You know, I was in Washington 25 years, and though it was a very corrupt place, still, for the most part, or say for 60%, 70%, the decisions

had some sense to them, some logic. They don't have any now. It's almost impossible to talk about it because there's no logical structure to anything they're doing. You know what I mean? It's just sort of...

## **#Nima**

The guy's just sitting there and making things up. It doesn't make any sense.

## **#Paul**

It doesn't make any sense. Now, imagine if, say, the Reagan administration had behaved like this—so randomly and inexcusably. And what's it all about? The whole media, the Congress, everybody would have been down on him. But Trump's escaping.

## **#Paul**

It's not funny, but this is why you can't really assess the situation. You see, we're having trouble talking about things because there's no sense to it. It made no sense whatsoever for the United States to attack Iran. None. No sense. And we did it. And with no thought, there was no ability to stay in the fight. And Trump said, well, we don't need to plan, it only lasts three days. Well, how in the world? You know, I can't understand how the military would go along with that. I mean, the military can't be that stupid. They got to know, well, you know, we don't really know what their capability is. And if we only prepared for three days, it's not a good idea, right? Well, you see, exactly, there's no way to talk about nonsense. You can't make sense out of nonsense. And the Iranians probably were wondering about it too.

## **#Nima**

It's just amazing, the Trump administration. Nobody understands anything about any direction, any way of behaving—you know, the way the administration is behaving.

## **#Paul**

And it's not just Trump and his administration. It's the Congress. It's the media. It's the foreign policy experts. It's all of them.

## **#Nima**

And

## **#Paul**

You could, you know, a realistic assessment of the war against Iran today, if an American was making it, it would be catastrophic. We walked in there like this was going to the pub for a beer. It would be over in three days. We got defeated. They blew up all our Persian Gulf bases, and we can't put our ships anywhere close to the Strait of Hormuz, and we can't possibly invade. And everything we tried—we tried to go in and steal the enriched uranium—and that failed, and blah, blah, blah. And how in the world did we make these mistakes? How? We're supposed to be a superpower? And there's no sign we had any sense at all of what we were doing. You would think all hell would have broken loose. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee would be having all kinds of hearings, grilling people. What in the world were you thinking? Why did you put America's prestige at risk like this? But not a word.

## **#Paul**

And I don't even know how the American people see it, or if they even see it at all. Like I say, it's so outside all the experience of my professional life. It's difficult to make any sense of it. So I don't have any really good answers to any of these questions. Nobody has. Nobody has.

## **#Nima**

That's the point, Paul.

## **#Paul**

Yeah, that's the point. And, of course, it's full of dangers. See, it would be better for Iran to win the war and force Israel into surrender than to run the risk of letting this go on and on and on, and one day Israel uses its nukes.

## **#Paul**

I mean, you can defeat a nation and then make a very good deal with it.

## **#Paul**

You look at United States relations with Germany and Japan after World War II. So the Iranians could defeat Israel and say, okay, now let's go into business. We've got all these oil revenues. Let's see what we can do to develop the Middle East. We'll be partners. Well, but you have to get rid of these Zionists.

## **#Nima**

That's entirely possible.

## **#Paul**

It's not beyond imagination. Look at all this money we're wasting and the lives.

## **#Nima**

The problem is that Iran doesn't recognize Israel in its current form. It says that Israel is an apartheid state. They cannot accept it this way.

## **#Paul**

Well, they're right. They're right. But if Israel's defeated, it's different. You're going to be a different state now, and we're going into business together. We're not going to persecute you or occupy you.

## **#Nima**

We're going to be business partners.

## **#Paul**

So we've got to make a lot of money and therefore overlook all these historical animosities because they don't pay. I think this is the Chinese approach. What's this fighting all about? Fighting no good. Someone always gets hurt.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Yeah. Thank you.

## **#Paul**

Well, we'll see. Trump's government doesn't have any influence over him. I don't think Rubio or Haskett or any of them do.

## **#Nima**

I don't think they... Rubio is nobody, Paul. Rubio, that guy, is nobody.

## **#Paul**

They don't have influence. I can remember when, in presidencies, the people in the cabinet were more important and distinguished than the president. And so they had a presence and a voice, and the president didn't want to be going against these people. But that's not true anymore in the United States. You know, these people aren't really cabinet material, so they don't have a presence. So

there's no constraint. There's nobody that can argue with him. He'll just fire them. So that's a big difference, you know?

**#Nima**

Yeah. Thank you, Paul, for being with us today. Great pleasure, as always.

**#Paul**

Yeah. Well, we didn't solve anything.

**#Nima**

Yeah. We don't have, we don't occupy any position. That's why we—yeah.

**#Paul**

Okay, Nima.

**#Nima**

Thank you. See you soon, Paul.

**#Paul**

Thank you.

**#Nima**

Send you the link, by the way.

**#Paul**

Goodbye for now.

**#Nima**

Goodbye. Bye-bye.