Marjorie Taylor Greene: U.S. Congress Behind Closed Doors - Using Ukrainians to Weaken Russia

Marjorie Taylor Greene is an American Republican politician who served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing Georgia from 2021 to 2026. She was a close partner of Trump during the election campaign in support of 'America First', and then became a leading critic of Trump after he betrayed America First. Follow Prof. Glenn Diesen: Substack: https://glenndiesen.substack.com/ X/Twitter: https://x.com/Glenn_Diesen Patreon: https://www.patreon.com/glenndiesen Support the research by Prof. Glenn Diesen: PayPal: https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/glenndiesen Buy me a Coffee: buymeacoffee.com/gdieseng Go Fund Me: https://gofund.me/09ea012f Buy Diesen merchandise: https://diesen-shop.fourthwall.com/en-nok Books by Prof. Glenn Diesen: https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09FPQ4MDL 00:00 Introduction to America First 01:13 Defining America First 03:15 The Discrepancy in American Voting Patterns 04:18 Trump's Shift on Foreign Policy 06:42 Concerns Over Nuclear Escalation 09:21 The Israel-U.S. Relationship 12:03 The Ukraine Proxy War 15:58 Lobbying and Military Industrial Complex 18:58 The Role of Intelligence Agencies 25:29 The Future of America First

#Glenn

Welcome back, everyone. Today we have the great honor of being joined by former U.S. Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene. Thank you for coming on the program.

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

Thanks for having me today, Glenn.

#Glenn

So I wanted to discuss America First with you today, because you became a very big voice—and still are a big voice—for America First. And you and President Trump, of course, were very close. However, then we saw Trump beginning to walk back several of his campaign promises, everything from the Epstein files to the forever wars. And as you spoke up for, essentially, the principles that Trump had previously championed, we saw the relationship begin to sour. He even called you a traitor. And it seemed that you and Tucker Carlson had taken most of the abuse. I want to look at this issue of America First because, you know, for me, I was also quite taken by this idea. It seemed like a good policy, a good approach to adjust to new realities. But I wanted to ask you, though: what is America First for you? And why do you feel Trump walked away from it?

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

Well, America First means policies that are for the benefit of the American people and policies that are funded by the American people's hard-earned tax dollars. And as everyone in the world knows, the United States government, for decades now, no matter who is president, no matter which party is in control, basically has put forth America Last policies. It's the American people who always benefit last, as different administrations prioritize foreign wars, aid to foreign countries, funding for foreign countries, and big corporations' needs over the American people's needs. And so America First is the same type of policy that I would imagine every country on Earth would have, where their governments should have their policies directed toward their people and their tax dollars used for the benefit of their people. So it's not anything out of the ordinary.

And it's really what most Americans want. And arguably, that was shown in the 2024 election. That's what people thought they were voting for. They thought they were voting for America First. They didn't get it after two years of Donald Trump being president and Republicans being in control. So they swung the political pendulum to the left and actually voted on very much the same issues they voted on in 2024: end foreign wars, end funding for countries like Israel and for genocide, stop funding corporate needs over the needs of the American people, bring down the cost of living, bring down gas and diesel prices, and many other things directly affecting the American people. And so America First is very much alive and well. It's just that the two political parties aren't very good at getting the message from the American people.

#Glenn

There always seems to be some discrepancy. That is, Americans over the past 30 years have tended to vote, for example, for peace. And often during presidential campaigns, from Clinton to Bush, Obama, and Trump, everyone seems to sell themselves as, you know, we're going to restore normalcy and peace, end these regime-change wars and nation-building. But once they're in power, there seems to be a shift back again. But with Trump, though, I thought it was interesting because even during his campaign, he said very unpopular things among the Republican political class. I mean, he was against the Iraq War and all. And that's why I thought this seemed very genuine. But how do we explain where he ended up? Because this war with Iran, especially, is turning out to be, I would say, a predictable disaster. But given that he seemed genuine in his goal of ending the forever wars, how do you explain walking into this one?

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

Well, I agree with you. And that's what people believed. We believed Donald Trump. What drew me to support him was that he was against funding foreign wars, regime change in foreign countries, nation-building, basically meddling in the world's affairs. He was very much against it, or at least he said he was. And that's why so many of us supported Donald Trump. I've never been a true

Republican, but I supported Donald Trump and the Republican Party because we thought that was the change that was going to be made. How do I explain it? I can't explain it. I think he's the one who owes everyone an explanation as to why he started a war with Iran—a completely unnecessary war.

He owes an explanation, as does Secretary Pete Hegseth, as to why they killed all these children at a school in Iran, which is completely unacceptable. And I think many leaders in our government owe an explanation as to why our government and our tax dollars continue to be used to support Israel as they commit genocide in Gaza. And I've been very outspoken. I will always say things like October 7th was horrific and awful, but I will also say that what's happening in Gaza and what continues to happen is absolutely genocide, killing over, I think, something like 22,000 children. And it's black and white. It's very simple.

That's something that the world should never tolerate, and it should be stopped. But somehow our president, Donald Trump, continues to support Bibi Netanyahu and his government and continues to support our military being used for the benefit of theirs. And this is something that the American people have largely spoken out against. They are very much against it. They have tried voting to stop it. So the only person who can really explain this sudden change is Donald Trump himself. And it's really up to the rest of our country and our people to stop supporting him because he has betrayed his campaign promises. And people have stopped supporting him, and they made that loud and clear in the midterm elections.

#Glenn

I agree. I've spoken to Trump's former counterterrorism chief, Joe Kent, a few times, and he's expressed some concern that, given that there's no way of winning this and defeat would be too humiliating, it could start to look appealing to escalate. The natural endpoint would then possibly be using tactical nuclear weapons. And I heard Tucker Carlson and you make the same argument. I was wondering, how do you see this? Do you think that risk has receded a bit, or could we still be on the path to using nuclear weapons?

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

You know, that was a fear that many of us had recently. And a lot of it was coming from President Trump's own words, literally threatening to annihilate Iran, using the word “annihilate.” And that's talking about wiping out every single man, woman, and child in this country. And, you know, the posturing there and his nonstop threats were pointing directly toward him possibly using a nuclear weapon. And it was very disturbing to find out that they were having internal discussions to lower the threshold for the use of a nuclear bomb. And those are the kinds of actions that are taken when a country is considering taking such an extreme measure, a measure that should never be taken.

The entire world came out against nuclear bombs after World War II, and the entire world said, "Never again." But it has been a big concern and a worry and a fear for many of us that the president would do something. Now, since the midterm elections, the American people have made it so clear that they are against this war. I think that really took away the momentum for them to do such a thing. And then there were the election results in Israel, where Bibi Netanyahu could not form a government reaching 60 seats. So there seems to be pushback there. However, I don't think we're out of the woods. Our military has not been brought home. They have not moved away from the Strait of Hormuz. And I think we'll just have to see where this goes in the future.

#Glenn

Of course, one of the common theories—well, not so much a theory; I think it's done very much in the open—is that Israel has had a large influence over Trump on this decision to go to war. And as a consequence, it appears we've seen something we haven't really seen, at least in my lifetime: a massive wedge being driven between the United States and Israel. Maybe not yet among the political class, but among the public, you see more and more negative sentiment towards Israel. Part of it, of course, was the genocide, but it's also over the Iran war. I was wondering, how do you read the situation, the split between Israel and the United States? Because that seems to be, to some extent, the manifestation of "America First," as many people complain that it was often "Israel First."

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

Yeah, no, that's true. Many people are saying that it's Israel First and it's not America First. And this divide is really between Washington's political class and the public, but there's also a generational divide among Americans. Older Americans are more supportive of Israel and more supportive of war against Iran. However, younger generations—primarily those 60 and under, but especially the youngest Americans—are very much against it, and they do not support Israel at all. And I think it's very important to point out the accusations of antisemitism, which I fully reject. This isn't about being against people or being negative towards them because of their identity or their religion.

This is literally about being against a foreign country's government and its military action. And that's really what this is. The American people are fed up with our own government, our own elected officials, and our own tax dollars being used for the benefit of another country, a foreign country that's not our own. And the divide is huge. I don't know the percentage, but it's well over 50%. I'd say it's pushing up towards—I think it's like 60 or 64% of Americans who no longer support Israel and no longer support its wars and military actions. And this is a drastic change from the past. But again, I'll point out that the younger generations are making a big difference in this change.

#Glenn

Another one of the foreign wars, though, would be the war with Russia, or the proxy war in Ukraine. One of Trump's really big campaign promises was that he would put an end to the war. Twenty-four hours was, I guess, always a bit overly optimistic. But to his credit, he did actually open up dialogue and diplomacy again with the Russians, which I thought was important because the entire collective West had essentially boycotted diplomacy since the beginning of 2022. So it was important to talk to the adversary. That was a good thing. However, that being said, he seems to have reversed on many other things, and this war now appears to be his own war. And again, I know there can be two sides to that argument. But how do you see this? I mean, what explains Trump's decision, or his willingness, to keep the Ukraine war going? Or is it, I guess, a lack of control? This is a bit of a strange issue.

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

It really has to do with corporate lobbyists. And every president, every administration, as well as most members of Congress, are under great pressure from lobbyists in Washington, D.C., for the benefit of the companies they represent. And we can talk about how the military-industrial base in the United States benefits greatly when there's a war going on, when they can produce and sell their weapons. And I was one of the first Republicans—as a matter of fact, I think I was the first Republican—to vote completely against any funding for the Ukraine war. Then a small group joined me in voting against it.

And the reason why I did so is because we have no contractual obligation to Ukraine. They're not a member of NATO. And so there has never been a reason for the United States to fund that proxy war between Russia and Ukraine. And I also found it very disturbing when it first started, how Ukrainians were just being murdered every single day. And the Ukrainian government didn't care how many Ukrainian men died on the front lines. And they just demanded more money from America, and more weapons, and more money, and more weapons. And now we've seen a massive number of Russian soldiers die, too. I don't know if it's the same number, but a massive number.

It's been the same thing, and this has been a horrible, horrible war that has killed so many thousands and thousands from both countries. And I think America has its hands soaked in blood in this war, and it shouldn't be this way. And Donald Trump campaigned on ending this war on day one. And it was a big, big campaign promise that we made. See, I spoke at more Trump rallies than any other elected Republican during the 2024 campaign. I spoke for the president, campaigned for him all over the country. And one of our biggest campaign promises was no more funding for the war in Ukraine, and we would stop it.

And it really upset me to see that once he became president, he was appeasing the military-industrial base and their lobbyists, allowing them to continue to make weapons and sell weapons to Ukraine through Europe, even though it wasn't coming directly from the United States government like it was under the Biden administration. And so really, that's the pressure that falls on a president

of the United States—the immense pressure that comes from the lobbyists and these massive corporations that say, "We can't stay in business forever. We can't keep people employed unless we continue to have these government contracts to continue to make these weapons that they use in these foreign wars." And it's really horrific.

#Glenn

I think Mitch McConnell is probably the one who's spoken most openly about how great it is to rebuild the industrial base by fueling the war, essentially, because it's American weapons being bought, which is a bit dark. However, I did want to ask how genuine you think President Trump is about his preparedness to end the war. Because I remember on a podcast once—I think it was with Joe Rogan—he was making the point that in his first administration, he had surrounded himself with some people like Bolton who were pushing him into wars.

But this time around, he was going to do things differently. But again, on the Ukraine war, he sent in General Keith Kellogg as his envoy, despite the fact that General Kellogg had openly stated in press conferences what a great idea it was to use Ukrainians to knock out a rival because it wasn't American soldiers being lost. And also, if they could knock Russia out of the ranks of great powers, then the US could focus on China. So it seemed like that was essentially the Biden policy. So why did he choose these teams again? Or is this, again, beyond his control?

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

It wasn't the Biden policy. It was actually, unfortunately, the policy of most of the people that I served with in Congress in Washington, D.C., Republicans and Democrats alike. And they openly said it in our conference meetings, that basically this proxy war in Ukraine with Russia was a way to grind down the Russian military. Well, they're grinding down human lives by doing that. And they didn't care. They don't care. I don't have an explanation for that because I can't relate to that. I think it's evil, and I'm completely against it. I voted against all the funding for the Ukraine war.

I spoke openly about it. I even protested on the Capitol steps as a member of Congress. So I did everything in my power to oppose it. So I have no explanation as to why people like President Trump, his administration, Republicans and Democrats—all of them in Washington, D.C.—would continue to support it, other than that the true answer is power and money. And it's really the money that's made in wars that causes these wars to continue. And the people who are willing to make money off of killing people in war, well, that tells you exactly what kind of people they really are.

#Glenn

Well, we see something similar with the rhetoric in Europe, though. The political elites keep embracing the slogans of helping Ukrainians. But what it really means is that they ignore the fact

that the majority of Ukrainians want negotiations, so they continue to boycott diplomacy. And also, when Ukraine is running out of soldiers, they begin to lobby for Ukraine to conscript women or to start deporting Ukrainian refugees so they can fill the trenches at home. So again, it's a lot of dishonest rhetoric, I feel, all under this guise of helping Ukraine. But just regarding what you just said about conversations behind closed doors with members of Congress, are they more open about the more strategic objectives of simply using the Ukrainians as a proxy?

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

You know, they're very open about using Ukraine to defeat Russia. It was all about wearing down Russia's military, weakening Russia. And that's what they openly talked about in many of our meetings when I was in Congress. That's why they were supporting this war in Ukraine. However, it's very unpopular with the American people. The American people don't support the war. They don't. They would overwhelmingly say, "No U.S. troops, no more money to Ukraine," just as they're saying about Israel: "No more money to Israel, no troops on the ground in Iran, pull out of Iran." The American people are, over and over again, overwhelmingly and continually pressuring and voting to try to stop our own government officials. But I'm telling you, as a member of Congress, the lobbyists are so strong.

And that's where many of these members of Congress receive their campaign funding. They receive donations from different organizations, companies, CEOs, and many leaders in these big military-industrial companies. They hold fundraising events for them, and so they fill their campaigns with money. And when it's time for a funding vote, they show back up and remind them, you know, "Hey, I've supported you. I supported your campaign for you to get reelected. You know, we really need your help to keep this government contract going so that we can keep the good people employed in our manufacturing plant in your district." And that's how they speak to members of Congress to keep them on the hook for funding. And I'll tell you another story.

When I was in Congress, Zelensky's government would send over Ukrainian soldiers who had been injured in battle. They would walk the halls of Congress and come and meet with members of Congress. You talk about pressure. That's unbelievable pressure for members of Congress to meet with soldiers who were missing limbs and were walking on crutches in their Ukrainian military uniforms. And that's what we saw day in and day out. And then Zelensky would come, and they would allow him to address Congress, and he would come to the White House. He's been to the White House under Biden. He comes to the White House under Trump, continually asking for money and weapons. And so Washington is never reflective of what the American people really want.

#Glenn

Besides the arms industry—because obviously the arms industry does a lot of the lobbying, they pay a lot of money, and they have, I would think, an interest in keeping the war going. As Mitch McConnell has argued, the money keeps flowing in, especially now from the Europeans who are

buying American weapons. But again, at some point, one thinks that the Europeans are running out of money, and the Ukrainians are running out of men. So at some point, it seems like it would be in their interest to put an end to this thing. But is it also the intelligence agencies that operate more autonomously, or is it primarily the lobby here, the military-industrial complex?

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

It all works together. There are different arms of it. And I have to remind you, it's not just Mitch McConnell. Lindsey Graham, who died a few months back, was also President Trump's best friend. And he loved war, maybe even more than Mitch McConnell, and constantly pushed for war. And he was one of the biggest supporters of funding the Ukraine war. And yes, it's part of our intelligence. It' s part of the lobbying machine. It's the way they pressure our government to continue with government contracts, using taxpayer dollars to fund these companies to continue manufacturing and selling defense weapons. They're really all war weapons. You can't really call them defense weapons. They're weapons of war.

But the pressure point is that they continue to say, "This is how we make sure the American people have jobs. And if these government contracts don't keep coming through our funding bills, then all these good Americans who work at these manufacturing plants are going to lose their jobs." And that's a big pressure point for members of Congress. But no, it's definitely the intelligence agencies, too. They're very much engaged in it. The CIA has been engaged in the Ukraine war from the beginning. And again, I'm so against it. I can't explain why anybody would want to continue to do that. I think enough people have died, and it's been a horrific price to pay.

#Glenn

One very last brief question, as we're running out of time: Do you think the America First movement can revive itself or survive Donald Trump? How do you see America First after the Trump era?

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

America First is very much alive and well. It's just that the two political parties haven't gotten the message. So, yeah, there's going to be plenty to come after Donald Trump. This is definitely the end of MAGA, and this is the end of the Trump era. But it's just going to take a few more years for it to wind down and come to an end.

#Glenn

Thank you so much for taking the time. I really appreciate it.

#Marjorie Taylor Greene

Thank you, Glenn. It was nice to talk to you today.

#Glenn

Thanks.