

Alex Krainer: Iran AVOIDED US Tanker – Then DID THIS in the Strait of Hormuz

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#Nima

Good to be with you, Nima Alkhorshid.

#Nima

Again, thank you for the invitation.

#Nima

Alex, I want to start with what happened last night. Again, the United States and Iran attacking each other. We've learned that the United States has announced that they attacked one of the Iranian cities in the southern part of Iran, Bandar Abbas. And then what happened is that they hit some targets in that city. We don't know because the United States is not—obviously, they're not honestly reporting on what's going on there. But they're saying Iran attacked us, we responded to the Iranian attack. Then later on, we've learned from the Iranian media that it was an American oil tanker. It tried to pass through the Strait of Hormuz with its transponder switched off, and IRGC naval forces fired on the vessel, forcing it to stop and turn back. That was the whole situation.

Then the United States attacked an empty patch of land near the city of Bandar Abbas. No casualties or damage were reported. Then Iran—today we learned that Iran attacked an American base in Kuwait. They targeted Americans with missiles and drones. We don't know what has happened, if some of these drones or missiles hit the target. Yet there is no report on that. But we know that they fired missiles and drones at the American base in Kuwait. And here is what's going on with the Trump administration. It seems that they are talking with the Iranians. We have some sort of—as you know, we had the Iranian delegation going to Qatar about the frozen Iranian assets. There are some positive signs there. On the other hand, you see no serious negotiations between the two sides and these sorts of attacks. They're attacking each other. What do you make of what's going on in the Middle East?

#Alex

Well, I think that in the United States administration, there's a tug of war between people who want to continue and escalate the war and people who want to end it. And it seems to me that Trump is among those who want to end it, but he is obviously under tremendous pressure from people who want to continue the war, which I think is the Zionists, the Jewish Zionists around him and their servants. People like Stephen Miller, people like, you know, his donors. And then I would like to know about the American command and control hierarchy, because I sometimes wonder whether structures like CENTCOM and AFRICOM aren't compromised, because every so often it seems that they're on a rampage somewhere.

That's not even being reported. Bombardments of Somalia have gone on this year in huge volumes. So it seems to me that there's some kind of a strange internal conflict. And I would guess that the Iranians are largely aware of this and that they themselves are conducting their side of the war very cautiously in order to avoid their enemies closing ranks, in order to avoid uniting their enemies. So I think that these sporadic skirmishes that we see every so often are the result of that. Somebody will somehow encourage the master of a tanker to try to run the Strait of Hormuz so that, you know, if they're successful, they could say like, aha, you see, we were able to do it. So come on, everybody.

And then it goes badly. And now, you know, the military has to respond somehow, but maybe they're not quite comfortable escalating the war. So they bomb an empty field. And then why the Iranians bombed the Kuwaiti air base, I wouldn't know, but we also know that Iran has partly decentralized their command and control structure exactly because they don't want to be defeated in case the central government in Tehran falls. So there's a honeycomb of centers, 31 if I understood correctly, where IRGC commanders have a large degree of autonomy and will continue to fight even if the central government told them not to. So it could be some commander's autonomous decision for whatever reason. It could be a mistake. Who knows? Yeah.

#Nima

I think the problem that Donald Trump is facing, Alex, is that he has done everything for Israel so far. There are no actions on his part left to be implemented. I don't know what else Israel is asking for when it comes to the war in the Middle East and how, because Ben-Gvir just yesterday said that they cannot make a deal with Iran—he's talking about the United States—that would be some sort of bad deal for Israel. Every deal, I would say, there is no good deal for Israel right now. Everything that they're going to get out of these negotiations is going to be bad for Israel because they created this sort of chaos and situation for themselves. It's not Iran creating that. It's not Iran attacking Israel and the United States. It is the United States and Israel attacking Iran and changing Iranian attitude. The case of the Strait of Hormuz is one of the most obvious reasons for that.

#Alex

Yes, and not only that, but they have started to unite their allies against themselves as well. Because, I don't know, maybe before February 28, you could have pressured the Gulf, the Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia to sign up to the Abraham Accords. And remember Trump's speech to the Arab Gulf Council a few months ago? People were very happy to hear that. That sounded very inspirational: we're not going to interfere, we're going to leave your politics to you, you will determine your future, blah, blah, blah. So at that time, I think that Trump had enough political capital where he could have persuaded some of those nations into signing up to the Abraham Accords. Now it's not even possible. They have all rejected it. And Israel is really, truly isolated. And not only is it isolated, it's losing capability to wage war.

It's increasingly vulnerable. There are more desertions. There are more people who don't turn up for military duty. They're sustaining casualties every day, and they have not defeated one enemy on their long list of enemies—not a one. And now, you know, rather than destroying Iran, regime-changing it, weakening it, they have a much, much more powerful enemy, and they've also lost support in the United States—maybe not from the federal government in Washington, but among the people. So it can't go on much longer. But it seems to me that the Israeli political class no longer has the ability to regroup, to say, okay, this is not working, we're going to have to make nice with our neighbors, and we're going to have to plan our future on some other basis than ethno-supremacism and hegemony.

We're going to have to make Palestinians equal under our democracy. None of that is possible. So basically, all they have left is a path of self-destruction. And they're only becoming more determined to go down that route to the bitter end. You know, it's almost hard to believe that this is happening, but it is happening. And I don't know, it's like a deeply teachable moment in history that a leadership in a country can be so fanatically devoted to one set of principles and one set of goals that they're willing to pay every price for it. And then also, you know, it's a danger to the whole rest of the world because if you listen to some of these people, they're perfectly willing and capable of using nuclear weapons, not just against Iran, but against anybody.

You know, they're capable of launching one on Paris, on London, on Rome, Madrid. It doesn't matter. They're like, if we're going down, we're taking everybody with us. And this is who we're dealing with. But everybody is hysterical about Iran having nuclear weapons because Iran is such a great danger to the world. These Zionist fanatics, that's fine. They're the only democracy in the Middle East, so nothing to fear there. Look, if they're capable of killing children in their tens of thousands, what are they not capable of? And I think that that's ultimately one of those mythological situations where, you know, Icarus flies too close to the sun. And now it's, you know, it's the... in the Wile E. Coyote cartoon, the lessons in gravity. I think that Israel is already...

#Nima

Falling, but you know, when you fall, it's not the fall that kills you, it's when you come to a sudden stop at the end. Alex, in your opinion, from what's going on between Iran and ISIS, at best, what can they get out of these sorts of messages between the two sides? What is the best thing coming out of this sort of, I don't know if we can call it negotiation, these sorts of messages that are going back and forth between the two sides?

#Alex

The best, I would say, is a temporary truce — a delay in war — because the only reason why Iran has prevailed is that they were able to prevail by force, by the force of their military action. If Iran were weaker, they would be overrun. And you can see that... the Trump administration — but I don't want to just speak about the Trump administration, because this is a continuity in policy from one administration to the other. Whatever they talk about during the electoral cycle, the policy is always the same: if you're strong, if you can defend yourself, and if you can inflict harm on your enemy, then they don't attack you. But if you're weak, then they overrun you — Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, and so forth.

And so that is going to persist. The incentives that are behind this continuity of policy are not going to change until the whole monetary system is changed. Because the incentives for imperial wars always go back to the banking cartel. Taking political control of a region, of a nation, of a colony is how they extract wealth from those regions. And that's what it's all about. So that's not going to go away. These wars against Russia, against Iran, they're not going to stop until this whole system is defeated. And that system, you know, what we learned from the Trump administration is that this system still has the ultimate political power.

That even if the American people say no more wars, we vote for the candidate who promises us no more wars. And even if that candidate appears to have the intention to stop opening new wars, when push comes to shove, they prevail. They have their way. The Adelsons, the Larry Ellisons, the Bill Ackmans, and Paul Singers — these billionaire Jewish donors apparently have the ultimate sway over American foreign policy. And so we have to assume that that's going to stay the case. The only way Iran survives is by actually defending themselves by force, not by making a peace deal that the United States is then going to respect.

Oh, we signed the deal, so we have to honor our commitments — because they never do. They never honor their commitments. So let's say that right now the conflict ends. Maybe 10 years from now there's a government crisis, some kind of crisis where the government's a bit wobbly. There's maybe a chance to get in and orchestrate a color revolution. That would open the opportunity again. And this war machine from the West would ramp up immediately into action. They would not stop. And so Iran is permanently at risk. Russia is permanently at risk. Belarus is permanently at risk. China is permanently at risk.

Every country that defends its independence and sovereignty is perpetually at risk, with the exception maybe of countries that have no natural resources. There's nothing to steal there. So then, you know, maybe they're left alone for that reason. So what's the choice? Does the world divide into two blocs and then each bloc lives a separate existence? Or do the powers like Iran, China, and Russia take this war all the way to the end until they completely destroy this war machine from the West, which means that you have to disenfranchise the global banking cartel and you have to force a change of the monetary system.

#Nima

Does that mean they have to make the war unaffordable for the United States?

#Alex

Well, you know, countries can continue waging war even after they appear to be completely broke, because they will continue extracting wealth from their citizens. And there's always wealth. And, you know, like, I think that this is partly the reason why they're on the rampage in South America, for example. Because now they want to take control of Bolivia. They want to take control of Peru. They want to take control of Ecuador. They already kind of took control of Venezuela, although I think that that could slip away. They want to take control of Cuba. Greenland's in the crosshairs, Canada's in the crosshairs.

I think that's a frenzied march to extract as much wealth from wherever they can to continue to feed this war machine. And it doesn't matter if the American people suffer, British people, French people, German people suffer intolerable conditions. Ukraine went through more than 30 years of that. And then they pushed her into war against Russia. And they've been waging that for four years, even though the country is completely broke, right? They print money and give it to them. And so, you know, I wouldn't be optimistic that the wars will stop because somebody in the United States will reach the conclusion that they're unaffordable.

You know, they could have reached that conclusion 40 years ago. But the machine keeps on keeping on. And wherever it sees a weakness, wherever it sees an opening, it attacks. And so I think that you have two choices. Again, you can carve out two blocks, have a cold war between them again for two generations, or you can continue to wage that war until one side is completely defeated. And I don't mean that the war is necessarily going to continue by military means, but it could continue through diplomatic and legal and administrative means, and sanctions and trade measures, like you can't have rare earth minerals anymore.

So we're not out of the woods by a long shot, basically because the war dynamic that's coming from the West is completely relentless. This whole discussion about Iran's nuclear program—nobody really cares about that. It's just a way to exert pressure on the Iranians and to force them to make concessions. And you know what happens when countries make concessions? We move the

goalposts. Now you have to make more concessions, or else we're going to hurt you. Now you make more concessions, and then they move the goalposts even farther. The objective is regime change. Everything else is just fodder for public consumption, for the PR machinery to say, oh, Iranians are very, very bad.

We have to do something about it. They can't have a nuclear weapon. You know, we have to stop them. Oh, the Strait of Hormuz has to be open. All of these are side issues. The central issue is taking political control of Iran because it's a large country. It's a resource-rich country. And for as long as it's independent, for as long as it wants to chart its own course into the future, they're an obstacle to Western empire's hegemony. So that's the objective. If Iranians said tomorrow, okay, we're giving up the nuclear program completely—zero enrichment, not even the 0.3, 0.26, whatever the number is—then they would say, like, ah, yes, but we also want you to give up your ballistic missile program.

And then if the Iranians said, like, okay, fine, we're going to give up our ballistic missile program, then they would say, well, you also have to dismantle the universities where you teach nuclear physics, right? Then if Iran said, okay, fine, we're going to do that, then they would say, well, you have to, you know, become a member of the World Health Organization, and everybody in Iran has to be vaccinated with mRNA vaccines every six months. You know, now I'm taking it too far, but the goalposts would continue to move against Iran as far as they can take it, and then at a certain point they will say, we can no longer tolerate Iranian intransigence, now we have to go to war. So that dynamic is still the moving principle of the Western war machine. So all this talk about Hormuz and the nuclear program and the ballistic program and the veils, the women, and democracy, all of this is just kind of the garnish for the narrative.

#Nima

Actually, they said that, if you remember, Marco Rubio was talking about Iranian missiles and the capability of Iranian missiles—they can hit our bases in the region. That's a threat to the United States, so they have to do something about their missile program.

#Alex

Obviously, it's self-defense. There's no doubt. The United States is just defending itself.

#Nima

You surround Iran with your bases and say, how dare you? You want to defend yourself against us? No, that's not going to happen. It's just getting so ridiculous, in my opinion, what's going on with it.

#Alex

It's ridiculous exactly because that's not the point. The whole point is to continue to exert pressure until you get the war or a regime change, whichever. And I mean, this is not just Iran. This is always, I mean, if you go back to World War II and 1938, the crisis between Germany and Czechoslovakia. And we have to understand that these negotiations were basically stage-managed by Neville Chamberlain, Lord Halifax, Samuel Hoare, this whole little foreign policy cabal in London, who were telling, you know, you had a German minority in the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia.

And so, to start exerting pressure on Czechoslovakia, Hitler suddenly starts saying, oh, well, you know, the Czechs have to give the Germans in Czechoslovakia a lot more political autonomy. And so, you know, the Czechoslovakians already had very high standards of civil liberties and autonomy for their minorities and so forth. But the Germans were asking for more. And then, after these painful negotiations back and forth, and obviously at the time the press was going on about how intransigent the Czechs were and so forth, the Czechs said, like, okay, we're gonna give you what you ask. We're gonna give you everything you ask for.

And so they are ready to sign a deal, a treaty, right? And then Konrad Henlein, the representative of the Sudeten Germans, suddenly disappears. He doesn't want to sign the deal. He doesn't want to sign the concessions that he was pushing for. And the Czech side just gave it to him. So he runs away to Munich, right? He runs away to Hitler. And then Neville Chamberlain comes to meet with Hitler. And then they invent a whole new set of demands. So at the moment when the Czechs said, we're giving you all the concessions, everything you asked for, we're going to give it to you, they run away and they come back with a whole new set of demands, right?

The Godesberg ultimatum. And they make them impossible for the Czechs to accept, right? And then, you know, fast forward, Hitler overruns Czechoslovakia because that was the objective all along. And all the blah, blah, blah about this and that and the rights of Germans and no rights and autonomy, all of that was just garnish for the narrative, for public consumption at home, as though it was about some elevated goal of liberty and democracy or security or prevention of threats or something that people can say, okay, well, it would be better if Iranians didn't have a nuclear weapon, wouldn't it? So this pressure is at least somewhat justified. You know, like you had that young moron who had a debate with Glenn Greenwald the other day, and he says, well, it absolutely serves American interests to be bombing Iran. He has no idea what he's talking about.

But that narrative creates a justification that, at least in the minds of some people, says, no, what we're doing is just and right. But it's all invented just for that purpose. The real goal for Hitler was to overrun Czechoslovakia. The real goal for the Anglo-Zionist empire is to overrun Iran. So all these negotiations, truce, no truce, ceasefire deal, it's going nowhere. It's ultimately going to come to Iran making itself into this porcupine, like North Korea, that nobody will dare attack. For now, because North Korea as well, it can be destabilized. You know, Kim Jong-un can die, or somebody could challenge him, or something happen internally. And then you'll see immediately there's going to be an assault to try to take control of North Korea. Everybody is a target. For as long as this Anglo-Zionist system is viable, it will never stop. And it's a threat to everybody.

#Nima

Alex, GCC countries, their economy has been hit by the war, as we saw with the same case we had in Europe. The European economy was hit by the war in Ukraine. And in the same way, I would say even worse than what has happened in Europe is the GCC countries, because they're so much dependent on oil and energy and whatever they export from their countries. That's why, you know, on one hand, you see Israel attacking Qatar and Doha, and nobody's capable of responding or defending Qatar. And then you see the war happening again because of the Israeli policy in the region. And they're hitting their economy. And right now, it seems that the Trump administration is trying to force them into some sort of accord, the Abraham Accord with Israel. And here is what Lindsey Graham said.

#Nima

If he can get Saudi Arabia, the center of Islam, for the entire world to recognize the Jewish state, Israel, he'll have ended the Arab-Israeli conflict that's been going on for thousands of years. They should change the Nobel Prize to the Trump Prize. If he can do that, and I think he can, it's the biggest change in the history, in the modern history, and in the ancient history of the Mideast, where the Arabs and the Jews live together, where it becomes a center of power economically, not a powder keg. And once you put Iran in a box, and he's going to do that, we're going to have peace between Saudi Arabia and Israel. Nobody thought that was possible. I believe it's possible. And there's one guy who can do it — Donald Trump.

#Alex

Yeah. Nima, I just learned that the conflict between Israel and the Arabs has been going on for thousands of years. That's amazing. I didn't know that. But this only tells you that these people are just... I cannot even believe that Lindsey Graham is that ignorant. I mean, we all know he's a moron, but he's not that ignorant, which means that he knows that he's lying to everybody out there. He's just lying to the people. He's dangling this carrot of, oh, if only, you know, we could put Iran in a box and then get all these countries to sign peace, it's all going to be, you know, peaches and cream for the rest of the, you know, of the future, like nobody's ever seen before. And again, it's kind of engineering people's acquiescence, consent for these completely insane policies. There was no Arab-Israeli conflict before 1948.

#Alex

So that's just the most obvious lie of everything he said. But everything he said is like, there's more lies in that statement than there are words. And all it's designed to do is to get Americans, ordinary Americans, to say like, yeah, we should support our president, just get it over with, clean up the mess, and we're gonna have peace, and all of this is going to be behind us. Nobody should support

this. Anybody who understood with clarity the nature of this conflict couldn't do otherwise than to be on the side of Iran with their whole heart. Because if you're not on that side, then you're misunderstanding something. And, you know, that's normal because, you know, ordinary Americans, ordinary Europeans, they're mostly people who live, you know, like this, barely keeping their heads above water.

They don't have time to research history and geopolitics and stuff. And so irresponsible political hacks like Lindsey Graham are doing what politicians have been doing for decades—misleading the public and lying to them—which is why the United States has been able to be at war practically constantly since World War II. In fact, they haven't been at war only 15 years out of the United States' whole entire track record. So we have to ask ourselves, how is this even possible? And the American people, they always vote against war. They always vote for anti-war candidates, but they're always at war because morons like Lindsey Graham are always there to spew bovine excrement on them, to lie to them.

#Nima

The point is, Alex, that many people know, in my opinion, that most of the prophets, all of them, came from that land, you know, from West Asia. Basically, all of the prophets come from West Asia. And it's an ancient land. And we have all of these religions there, all of these people living side by side, you know, together for thousands of years. It's not separating people—Jewish people, Arab people, Muslim people, Christian people. They were living there for centuries. That's why this is so ridiculous, you know, to name the Jewish people like Israel is a representative of the Jewish people. And that's not the case.

#Alex

Israel is representative of the Jewish people, like Paula White is representative of Christians, and like Al-Qaeda is representative of Muslims. These are all completely compromised religions—fake versions of the original faith that were deliberately distorted in order to facilitate these agendas. We can see that playing out in real time. You know, like if you go to Ukraine, it had its Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and it had the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, and then the Orthodox Church of Ukraine got banned because it was too close to Russia. And then the Ukrainian Orthodox Church started, you know, they started closing down churches. They started throwing priests into prison, forbidding the masses.

Until they completely turn the religion into something that serves their power goals, their fascist Nazi agenda. And this has been going on forever. You know, we had the Bible, and then when it came time to colonize the world, they put together the King James Version of the Bible. And then when it came time to develop the Zionist project, well, they created the Scofield Bible. And we see that all the time. And the result is that we have distorted Islam, distorted Judaism, distorted Christianity on a rampage, all three. And unfortunately, you know, the genuine Jews, the genuine Muslims and

Christians, they're sitting back silently because, you know, this doesn't even compute. How do you fight against this? It's like having a family member in your home who is aggressive and drunk.

#Nima

Alex, looking at the big picture and what's going on, I think we have to talk about the big picture—the way that the United States sees the situation, the way that Russia sees it, the way China and Iran and Russia, I would say all of them together. We have Marco Rubio going to Armenia about a new deal, a memorandum of understanding. It seems that it's a new norm of the Trump administration—memorandum of understanding, MOU. And it's all about the rare earth minerals, the deal between the United States and Armenia.

On the other hand, we saw yesterday that Armenia bought a new air defense system from Iran, the same air defense system called Majid that Iran used to hit that F-35. I don't know what's going on with the case of Armenia and Azerbaijan. We know that both sides are trying to play their game in the South Caucasus, which is of particular importance, in my opinion, for the future of the world. That's why, because all of these projects—Russian projects, Chinese projects, the North-South Corridor from Russia to Iran and then to India—you see Belt and Road Initiatives and other projects are all dependent on the South Caucasus.

That's why you see the United States. I don't know what the meaning of Armenia is for the United States unless they want to make some sort of chaos in that region. And because the project failed against Iran, then you have to go to Armenia. You have to go to some other countries that are close to that region. That's why, in my opinion, the United States is trying to make it... We had the British government before the United States going there, making some sort of deal with Armenia. And these countries, these are little countries. The population is not significant. They can be destroyed in a matter of a week by Russia or Iran. And...

#Alex

Well, these countries are weak to the point that Russia doesn't even have to attack them militarily. They can just stop trade with them and their economies collapse. And I think that Pashinyan in Armenia has already been installed there by Western powers in order to be the destabilization agent. And he was, you know, he very quickly learned that he cannot do that, and he had to start to cooperate with the Russians and with the Iranians. And I think that the result is that they realized that they're being put into situations where they can see that they will be sacrificed in these imperial war games. And, you know, it's always the same thing.

It goes back to Mackinder again, you know, it's this arc of crisis, you know, that they are always trying to rig a war, a nation, its system, to become a crisis flashpoint for Russia or for whoever they want to attack and destabilize. In this case, it's going to be Iran. But this is everywhere, you know, like they're now rigging Finland to become that against Russia, and Sweden as well, and the Baltic

states, obviously. They tried with the Balkans. They're not going to give up. You know, Trump has actually put a stop to that. His administration defused that about six months ago. But it's all still there. They can reactivate all these things.

And then, obviously, you know, you have the situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and then you have Balochistan, which could be an element of destabilization both for Iran and for Pakistan. And then you have the Rohingya, who are a problem for Thailand and for Bangladesh. And so this is all the arc of crises that are deliberately set up so that you can always effect divide and rule, that you can always impose a war on any emerging power. If you want to weaken them, you want to destabilize them, you use separatist movements in those regions, you use terrorist networks in those regions, and you always have the option of running the opium wars, which they do, which they do. You know, when they took over Afghanistan, the first thing they do is they ramp up poppy seed production to make opium and heroin, right?

Then ship it to wherever they want to ship it—to Russia, to any country that they want to weaken. This is a long tradition. This has been going on for hundreds of years. And again, it's not going to stop, you know, even if you get a peace treaty between Iran and the United States, they're not going to stop. Even if you get a peace treaty between Ukraine and Russia, they're not going to stop. They're going to continue trying because the end game for them is hegemony over the whole Eurasian landmass. And not just that, you know, it's hegemony over the whole world. That's what they want. And they've created this system with incentives so that you always get people to try to wage war against other powers and to colonize them.

#Nima

Where do you see Europe in that calculation? If Europe, you know, was in the fight against Russia and they're still providing drones to the Ukrainian government, and they're using those drones to hit civilians in Russia, that's why Russia again used Iranian missiles against Ukraine.

#Alex

That's exactly part of the dynamic, Nima. And, you know, I think we spoke last time about the new expeditionary force that was created by the British, uniting ten northern European navies with the explicit purpose of confronting Russia. Now, how does that happen? I don't know. Why would Norway and Sweden and Denmark and the Netherlands and the Baltic states—why would they subordinate their navies to a command that's headquartered in London in order to go to war against Russia, which they are 100% certain to lose and have their countries look like Ukraine or worse? That's not the democratic will of the Swedish people or Estonian people or anybody else. But somehow that keeps happening. And so somehow hundreds of billions of dollars of European capital go to feed the military-industrial complex.

That's not what people want, but it still happens. It's because we have fake democracies. But we have to wise up to that because, you know, people are a little bit complacent, because they reckon nobody wants to fight a war against Russia. Nobody wants to go to war, so it's not going to happen, obviously. But we have to remember that in January of 2022, the vast majority of Ukrainians didn't want to fight a war against Russia. Even a defensive war, they didn't want to fight it. But in the end, one and a half million or more Ukrainians have been sacrificed in that war. And so we now see that all of Eastern Europe and North and East Europe, perhaps from Bulgaria all the way up to the Baltic States, they're all being rigged for war against Russia. So are we sure that that war is not going to happen?

Because it's just, you know, like that thing of slow boiling the frogs. We're not going to war tomorrow. Relax. But we're going to give a couple of billion dollars to Volkswagen to switch their production from cars to tanks. And we're going to give \$100 billion to Rheinmetall. And we're going to spread some billions to these companies making drones. And so it's just like little incremental moves, but they are all in the direction of war. And apparently there are no democratic mechanisms to reverse that, to say like, hey, wouldn't it be better if we were at peace with Russia? We imported their cheap oil and gas and we sold our exports to them. We have a large affluent market there. They have stuff to give to us and everybody could be better off. Wouldn't that be nice? Somehow we can't have that.

And I think that we have to understand how that is possible, what mechanisms are behind this war machine, and why it is completely resistant to the democratic will of the people. And what incentives are driving it forward, always in the same direction? Because if we don't, then the way we got World War I and the way we got World War II, we could get World War III. And then, you know where we're going to see our children? Like Ukrainians under the flags, you know, a great patriotic thing. But, you know, as the head of the French military said a few months ago, the French people have to prepare to sacrifice their children. Really? Why? It's not explained, really. But, you know, that's the march of time. And I think that we have to actively oppose this because otherwise that's the future of Europe, Nima.

#Nima

Alex, before the war between Russia and Ukraine, they were oversimplifying Russia, saying it's just a gas station or something like that. They don't have military power, their army is not that good, it's a defensive army. But we've seen how Russia has transformed during the war in Ukraine. The economy is stronger, the military is stronger. And in the same way, they were picturing the situation in the Middle East against Iran. They said the economy is crumbling, inflation is high, people are not happy with the regime, and they have to do regime change, they have to attack Iran. That has failed again. And when it comes to China right now, they have their puppets basically in the media saying that the only thing that matters for China is making money.

They don't have a strategy. They don't have anything, you know. They're with Russia and with Iran because these two guys are winning. There is no strategy behind that. And all China cares about, you know, is making money. You know, they're talking about a civilization. These are countries with huge roots. Basically, these are the meaning of civilizations—Russia, Iran, and China. You cannot diminish a country like China with a huge history and say that this country doesn't have a strategy. All they care about is making money. What is that? Do you think the meaning would be they're going to have a new war with China? Because they were selling these sorts of lies about Russia and Iran before attacking these two countries.

#Alex

Well, you know, these narratives serve a purpose, you know, because if you made a case that Russia cannot be defeated militarily, who would want to go and fight that war? Like, if the outcome of the war is the defeat of your own side, nobody will go and fight it. So you have to invent these narratives where the other side is weak, or it's all, "The Russian soldiers are incompetent, they drink, the morale is terrible, they're running out of missiles, they have to take people's washing machines and refrigerators to take chips out of them." You know, they ran all these stories, and they continue to run all these stories.

And, you know, I remember when the war started, and first the Russian ruble collapsed. Well, collapsed—you know, it fell very, very considerably. And then everybody was, you know, in the financial press like, "Oh, look how weak Russia is. This is a sure sign of weakness." But then the Russian ruble rapidly reversed and became one of the world's strongest performing currencies. And then the same people just turned around and said, like, "Well, this is also a sign of Russian weakness," right? They just create a new narrative, but the objective of the story doesn't change. It's always to show the opposite side as being very weak and vulnerable, and we can take them down.

And it's this kind of stupidity that encouraged Donald Trump to attack Iran. It's the same kind of stupidity that encourages people to plan a war against China. Because, you know, like they say that China doesn't have a strategy, that all they care about is making money. Excuse me. China went from being the poorest country in the world in the 1970s to now being a global superpower and a leader in innovation and new technologies. And that just happened how? How did that happen if they didn't have any kind of strategy? They had 16 consecutive five-year plans. Five-year plans—you're planning something, there must be a strategy because you're planning in some direction.

You want to achieve something. That's a manifestation of a strategy. So I think that this is just exactly the same stupidity, Nima, as we just heard from Lindsey Graham. It's exactly the same class of people who are either completely ignorant or who are completely cynical and who will look into the camera and lie, knowing that millions of people are watching, which is very sad because ultimately this is the kind of people that push society into these massive tragedies like World War I and World War II and all these wars that we keep having all over the world all the time.

#Nima

Exactly. Thank you so much, Alex, for being with us today. Always a pleasure. The talks are always productive. Thank you so much.

#Alex

Thank you, and warm greetings to everyone watching.

#Nima

See you soon, Alex.

#Alex

Take care.