# Iran ATTACKS US Blockade, Fake Israeli Intel Sparks Trump STRIKE | Mohammad Marandi & Larry Johnson

Prof. Seyed Mohammad Marandi and former CIA analyst Larry Johnson react to Israeli intel pushing Washington and Trump to a bigger war and the stunning new Iranian operation seeking break the naval blockade once and for all. PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai... Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: $Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: https://paypal.me/spiritofho Follow me on Telegram: https://t.me/dannyhaiphong #iran #iranwar #israel

### #Danny

All right, here we are. We're live. What's up, everyone? It's Danny Haiphong here. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Saeed Mohammad Marandi and someone I've seen recently, former CIA analyst Larry Johnson.

### #Larry Johnson

Some old guy with an opinion.

### #Danny

Yeah, exactly. Well, let's go over some of the latest developments. First, I haven't covered this yet.

### #Mohammad Marandi

I apologize. I'm not wearing the right shirt.

### #Danny

Yeah, neither am I. I've got to get Larry to send me one.

### #Mohammad Marandi

Everyone has to wear Larry's shirt.

### #Danny

Larry's going to send me one. I can't find them out where I am. All right, here we go. I'll get you one. All right, here we go. We'll start with you, Professor Marandi. You know, Israel has been feeding intel to Trump almost on a daily basis, including in a recent meeting that Mossad's intelligence chief had at the White House. They've been talking about Iran developing chemical and biological weapons to justify a coming attack that they've been pressing for now for days. This comes as Iran is beginning a new operation to break the naval blockade by getting its tankers ready, reportedly on Kharg Island and elsewhere, to sail.

And if they are hit by the United States, they will hit Gulf countries and their oil infrastructure. And there are reports from CBS—I know you have opinions about this—that a new assault by Israel and the U.S. is going to happen in the short term. But Professor Marandi, you were a target of chemical and biological attacks during the Iran-Iraq War that the United States sponsored. Talk about your reactions to this claim and whether it's effective in pushing the United States back into a bigger military operation.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Well, first, there's something I'd like to say, and maybe Larry could explain this for us later on, because it's really amazing to me. I mean, I've been hearing this for years, and we've been hearing it a lot during the last couple of years. But if this is really true—that the Israeli regime gives this intelligence to the White House and U.S. officials, and out of fear, these people, you know, like Trump in Istanbul, go into those food trolleys—what are they called, those things they have on planes?

## #Larry Johnson

Oh, yeah, the catering carts.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Yeah, the catering cart. Or he goes into hiding on some military base. I find that just unbelievable. It's like, for example, I don't know, Iraqi intelligence feeding Iran information every day, and then the Iranian government does everything in accordance with Iraqi intelligence. I mean, you'd think that the Iranians would say, well, let me check my own intelligence and see if that's worth pursuing or not. But I mean, if Larry could address that, because I'd really like to understand better how the dynamics of this work, if it's actually this bad in the first place. But with regard to chemical weapons, I just want to point out—and I know that you both know this, and your audience knows this very well. They're very politically aware.

But during the war when Saddam Hussein invaded Iran with the support of the United States—in other words, this is really the third world war the United States is waging against Iran right now—the West gave Saddam chemical weapons, and the Saudis and these countries in the Persian Gulf

gave him the money to wage the war. I was wounded in 1984 with a nerve agent, and in 1988, I was wounded with mustard gas. I was never badly wounded, but I was on the receiving end of these chemical weapons. And many, of course, died. Iraqis died, like the Kurds when Saddam Hussein bombed them. And then, as we all know, the armed forces and politicians went to Ayatollah Khomeini, the first leader of the revolution, and said, "Look, we need chemical weapons."

And he said, "No. These are barbaric, and you can't use them. Deal with what you have." And the interesting thing is that even back then, the West and the Soviet Union tried to block Iran from having gas masks. So Iran had great difficulty just procuring gas masks, let alone other means to defend itself against chemical weapons. So that's one issue. The second is, of course, that all of this fake news about Iran right now is coming out simultaneously. So now you have drones that are going to take out U.S. officials, you have chemical weapons, you have biological weapons. Trump says Iran is going to nuke San Diego and Los Angeles. He was ambivalent about whether it's a good idea or not, but that aside, Iran was supposed to do it.

And then the dirty bomb in Washington. Then, what's his name? Netanyahu spoke a couple of weeks ago about chemical weapons. Then we have all these ice cream machines in Paris going down because of Iran's supposed cyberattacks. I mean, you'd think Iran, if it was going to carry out a cyberattack, would have better things to do. But interestingly, none of these cyberattacks actually take place in Israel, which would be Iran's number one adversary. But nothing happens. Just like ISIS and al-Qaeda, which took down Syria and had the support of the West, these Arab regimes bound to the West, and Erdogan, a NATO member. They all worked together to bring down Syria. None of those ISIS or al-Qaeda people ever targeted Israel. So I think it's pretty clear what's happening.

Then you saw Fareed Zakaria, just three or four days ago, come out with a show saying, "Why has Iran been pursuing a nuclear weapon for decades?" All of a sudden, out of the blue, even though U. S. intelligence agencies are saying that Iran hasn't pursued a weapon since 2003. And the IAEA has produced no evidence that Iran has ever produced or been pursuing a nuclear weapon. Yet Zakaria, at this moment, comes out and speaks about why Iran has allegedly been pursuing a nuclear weapon for decades. Then there was a New York Times article about the dams that were built in Iran, and they're trying to create this nonexistent link to Iran's underground military bases. It was clear that the New York Times article was there to justify the bombing of Iranian water resources, which is one of the most criminal things possible on this planet.

So, all of a sudden, there's this barrage of anti-Iranian propaganda, much of it, if not almost all of it, coming from the liberal media. In other words, Trump's political opponents, which, in my opinion, shows that this is not a Trump problem. Just as before Trump, Biden supported the genocide in Gaza. Obama destroyed Libya. Obama green-lighted the genocidal war in Yemen. He was the one who started this dirty war in Syria, and so on. So, I mean, it's not a Trump thing, but I think the

reason why most of this fake information is coming from the liberal media is because they're targeting those who voted for the Democrats and trying to convince them to accept the threat of Iran: Iran is about to destroy the United States, and you have to be ready.

## #Danny

Yeah. Well, Larry, over to you.

## #Larry Johnson

Well, let me report. I'll break some news here. I think this chemical attack is legit, and it's called Operation Stachios. Now, here's how it's going to work. Iran is smuggling in 1,000-pound bags of lentils, and they're going to all of these kitchens where the lentils are cooked up for all the immigrants who have illegally flooded the United States. And once they eat the lentils, they're going to go out around the city and begin to flatulate. And that flatulence is going to be the chemical attack. Very politely put. That's a paralyzing one. Okay, so that's what I think of that. I agree with what my friend Syed Mohamed Marandi said.

What a ridiculous load of horse manure this is. And the ultimate irony is, the only country that's actually provided precursor chemicals to produce chemical weapons to attack the other country is the United States, not Iran. So we've got that. There is a fascinating article out by a fellow named Larry Romanoff, which was just released yesterday. It's called "The Downfall of Jensen Huang." And Mr. Romanoff basically points out how this was most likely a Mossad operation where the Israelis wanted to get control of NVIDIA. But we need to put his rundown in context. We've had all of these what I'd call cyberattacks over the course of the last week, starting last Friday.

I mean, the cyberattack that took place against the airline industry was followed by cyberattacks on the banking industry and some of the tech industry. And then the latest was going into the NSA and taking down the NSA net. Now, that's an inside job. That means some company, corporation, or contractor with access to that system planted the bug in it. This was not old hardware. This was not bad software because they hadn't updated it properly. I mean, this system is walled off from the internet. It's siloed. So you've got to step back and say, how the hell did it get in there? Well, Romanoff runs through it and says, well, look at what, if you want to call it that, is the Jewish infiltration of the tech industry. OpenAI's head, Sam Altman: Jewish. Dario and Daniela Amodei of Anthropic: Jewish. Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook, Meta: Jewish.

Steve Ballmer, Microsoft, Jewish. Larry Page, Google, Jewish. Sergey Brin, Google, Jewish. Elon Musk, AI, Jewish. Jeff Bezos and Andy Jassy of Amazon, both Jewish. Alex Karp, Palantir, Jewish. Now, are they overrepresented? Absolutely not. Now, does that mean that they absolutely did this? No, but the majority of those that I've listed are pro-Zionist and support what Israel has been doing. And when you go through what Larry Romanoff lays out in his article in great detail, this takedown of Jensen Huang had more to do with making sure that the Israeli defense industry basically had

control of NVIDIA. So we have to take all this into account when we're looking at these stories being leaked, because The New York Times has been a frequent outlet for pushing a pro-Zionist line, a propaganda line.

## #Danny

Yeah, great points. And it must be noted too, Professor Morandi—and maybe you could talk about this—that you've been a target of biological and chemical weapons attacks. You brought up Syria, and this reminds me of Syria: another attempt to create a hoax narrative even before the incident takes place. We all know what happened in Syria. Your thoughts on this?

## #Mohammad Marandi

Yes, in Syria, the—what was it—the OPCW? When they went to investigate the alleged chemical attack in Syria, the investigators, the experts who were on the ground, said that the evidence did not match the narrative. And then they sidelined these people and basically imposed a statement, a declaration on behalf of the organization, without these people involved. Again, it's like everything else. The institutions all work in accordance with the existing empire structure, whether it's the OPCW or the International Atomic Energy Agency. Right before the 12-day war, the head of the agency basically tried to create an environment to justify the strikes on Iran.

And they never condemned the strikes on nuclear infrastructure. And also, there was a WikiLeaks document that came out years ago showing how candidates who want to be the head of the IAEA may basically have to go to the Americans and say, "Look, we'll pursue whatever policies you want us to pursue. Tell us, and we'll pursue them. If you vote for me, I'll pursue those policies that you want." So these organizations are controlled, and therefore international bodies have little credibility. And, of course, U.S. government institutions, U.S. media—it's all controlled by the oligarchy. AI, as Larry has pointed out, is controlled by pro-Zionists.

And then immediately everyone's pointing fingers at Iran for everything. It just doesn't make sense. But I'm guessing—I'm sitting here in Tehran—that most young people in the United States already see through this propaganda. After Trump's dismal performance in the midterms, you know, suddenly you get this burst of anti-Iranian propaganda. But again, my question to Larry, if you can touch upon this a bit or explain: Do they really believe this nonsense, where they go into hiding in these military bases? Or is this just part of the plan? You go into these military bases to create fear of Iran.

## #Danny

Oh, sorry, you're muted, Larry. Did I do that? I don't think I did that.

## #Larry Johnson

No, you did that. Larry, sorry about that. I think it's part of a psychological operation. You know, I've been on both sides of the fence on whether the United States is going to attack Iran.

## #Danny

Is the United States not going to attack Iran?

## #Larry Johnson

On the “attack Iran” side of the fence is this psychological operation where they're declaring war: “Oh, Iran's going to assassinate Stephen Miller, Marco Rubio, Scott Bessent, Pete Hegseth.” You know, it's like, “You promise?” No, but, you know, they're going to put them at, quote, “the military bases.” Well, there are two military bases right there in D.C. You've got Bolling Air Force Base, which is where the Defense Intelligence Agency is located. That's directly across the river from Washington Reagan National Airport. And then you've got Fort Myer, which is attached to Arlington National Cemetery. So those are the two. So this creates this narrative: “Oh yeah, Iran's trying to carry out these assassinations.”

Again, this is a form of what I call projection, because when it comes to which country has been involved in assassinating people in the other country, it's the United States, not Iran. You know, the assassination of many nuclear scientists in conjunction with Mossad, going back to 2010, I believe, was when the first one took place. But all of this is an attempt to create a narrative, right? An intelligence narrative that will then justify, “We have no option, we have no alternative but to attack Iran.” Now, what I find really fascinating is watching the response of the Trump administration to the cyberattacks that started a week ago.

If they were really looking for an excuse to go to war with Iran, man, this was it. This was, you know, just made in heaven for that. And they've gone out of their way to say it's not a cyberattack. That tells me two things. They're not sure what's causing it, whether it's Israeli interests trying to create a false flag or rogue AI agents on the loose. But one thing is certain: they know it's not Iran. They know it's not Russia or China or North Korea. Because if they did, they would put it out there. But clearly, the Trump administration is frightened by this because they don't have control over it at all. And the reason I point out that this was an inside job with respect to NSA is that, literally, you know, NSA net is like my cup here.

Everything is inside this cup. The only way in is to pour something in from the top, but it's not connected to anything outside of it unless I make that connection. And the fact that it is that isolated means that one of the contractors who works with NSA had to have inserted the bug that is now disrupting that communication. It didn't come because somebody was sitting at their computer and got an email saying, "Hey, check out our class photos from 2003." You know, then you click on that

and go, "Oh, Jesus," and the bug is unleashed. So we're in some unusual territory here. The fact that what you might call the normal intel channels are being attacked—this is much more than just old software or somebody screwing up.

## #Danny

Wow. Fascinating, Larry. Well, maybe I can get both of your reactions first.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Maybe I can add something. I mean, I agree completely with Larry's logic. But I would also add—and again, I don't know—we spoke briefly before the show, and you gave some of your ideas on this issue. You could perhaps explain. I'm not saying there won't be war, but maybe Trump and his team are worried about war because maybe they do know who's behind these attacks. They know it's not Iran. I mean, if they wanted war, even if it wasn't Iran, they would still blame Iran. So I agree with what Larry said. The very fact that they're saying there's nothing here—either they know who's behind it or they don't—but the very fact that they say it's a nothingburger, nothing's going on, doesn't mean that they don't want to carry out the war. But it does at least show that they are concerned about…

## #Larry Johnson

where war will lead. Right now, the Trump administration is like that scene from the movie—it was a police story with Leslie Nielsen—where he's playing this bumbling police detective, and he's standing there, and behind him, the building is in flames, explosions are going off, missiles are shooting out, and he's saying, "Nothing to see here. Move along. Nothing to see here." You can't help but notice everything that's blowing up. And let me explain why I said I've been on both sides of the fence. I thought that, you know, one likely scenario was that they were denying all of these cyberattacks before the meeting with Putin and Xi. Because if they admitted that it was some foreign operation, Trump wouldn't be able to be at that meeting. He'd have to be managing the crisis and responding. So I was speculating, well, once the meeting's over, maybe they'll come out with a great reveal.

## #Mohammad Marandi

"Yes, it was Iran." Well, they didn't do that.

## #Larry Johnson

And then what was even more interesting is that, in the 24 hours leading up to that meeting, they held off on the attacks on Sirik and Qeshm Island that had been occurring the previous week. And then today we get reports that maybe there's been another attack on Qeshm. Of course, there are also reports that Iran shot down another MQ-9 Reaper, and that that's the noise, the explosion, and

the crash that they've heard. We then saw the withdrawal of the USS George Washington, the aircraft carrier—or at least it was reportedly being withdrawn from the area. Now, we had three on scene, and we were saying, "Sure looks like the United States is ramping up for an attack." But now they've pulled one of those out, and reportedly it's sailing away. So if that's true and it's vacating the area, that makes an attack less likely. And then there's the report from my favorite Unit 8200 reporter, Barak Ravid.

## #Danny

Barak.

## #Larry Johnson

Yeah. Where he claims that, you know, basically at the direction of Stephen Miller, chief of staff, the intelligence community has been asked to provide a written assessment of what's Iran likely to do if we follow these courses of action. Now, you know, Admiral Cooper, when he briefed Trump on things that they could do, probably laid out at least three, maybe four courses of action—different things we could do from a military standpoint. Well, hell, I could write that assessment in my sleep, and it would be a quick answer. They're going to be mad as hell, and they're going to blow the shit out of you. That's what they're going to do. You know? But this is sort of an interesting bureaucratic move on the part of Stephen Miller and Trump.

Because it now gets the intelligence community on the written record that, yeah, you can go punch them in the nose and they're not going to do anything. Or you punch them in the nose, and they're going to bring their whole family and beat you to death with wooden clubs. So that now puts everybody else on the defensive because they've now been warned: if you do this, it's going to be bad. And so the fact that they're doing that—it's going to take at least a week to produce that assessment, unless this was already precooked and they're ready to provide it. But, you know, having been involved in writing things like that, even back when I was there, you've got to go through what's called the coordination process.

You know, I write the draft, and I have to circulate it with other interested offices in the Directorate of Intelligence or within the different operations centers. And then, if we use material from the Defense Intelligence Agency or State Department cables, I have to talk to the DIA analysts and to the State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research analysts. So it ends up being like a big goat rope trying to get such a product out. But once it's out, then you've got a community assessment of what we think is going to happen. So I think that process alone is going to delay any attack, because a week from yesterday is Thanksgiving.

Trump's not going to be launching military operations during Thanksgiving. That would just, you know, that would be a real disturbance in the Force. So for right now, it looks like Trump is trying to find a way out. But then we have the reports that Iran is loading up a number of tankers.

Apparently, this is being done with the cooperation and even encouragement of China. They're going to load the oil tankers up, sail out of the Strait of Hormuz, and have issued the threat: "If we're attacked, we are retaliating against anybody that's attacking our ships." And all that oil is headed for China. So, you know, that appears to be a legitimate report. We'll see. So, sorry to give you so much of the background on the intel, how the sausage is actually made, but it ain't pretty.

## #Danny

No, it's not pretty, but it's important to know. It gives good context. Professor Morandi, your reaction to the blockade operation? When I heard this, I thought to myself, well, this seems like a reaction to the fact that while the United States is very hesitant to go into a full operation—as Larry just pointed out, with all the bureaucratic steps they're trying to take to maybe delay such a thing—they're still carrying out what people call "tit-for-tat" limited strikes. Iran obviously wants that to end because they have all these demands that they want met. Do you feel this operation to break the blockade is part of trying to change the calculus in U.S. thinking and put more intense pressure on the United States to actually meet commitments that Iran rightfully believes it deserves to have met? Your thoughts?

## #Mohammad Marandi

Well, before I respond, one thing about what Larry said makes it more difficult to carry out an attack. If they give Trump an assessment saying, "If you attack and strike Iranian targets, the Iranians will strike back and do this, this, and this, and it will be disastrous for the global economy," then when that happens and disaster does strike, people are going to use this later in hearings in the Senate and the House and say, "Look, they told you what was going to happen, but you still did it." So if this report is true, it does make it more difficult for Trump to carry out an attack. Of course, Trump is Trump. And we like thinking logically, you know, and saying, "Well, President Xi, based on this, this, and this, would do that." Or, "President Putin or Ayatollah Khamenei, based on this and that, would probably decide that."

That doesn't work for Trump because Trump lives in a different world altogether. The logic that we ordinarily use doesn't necessarily apply to him. But still, I think this has significance, if it's true. Right now, since Vance was removed from the foreign policy file, or the Iran file, or the negotiations, nothing has been happening for a while. Whether that will continue in the days ahead, I don't know. We'll have to see. But for a while, the United States hasn't been pursuing this file. So, yeah, interpret that as you may. There are different ways of interpreting it. But at least for now, up until this moment or a day or two ago, from my understanding, nothing much has been going on. I don't think that right now the Iranians have any intention of taking these ships out of the Persian Gulf and through the Strait of Hormuz.

This was an idea first put forward by Fars News Agency, which is a very important news agency in Iran. It's probably the most influential news agency in the country. I mean, the Americans have

taken their domain and done all sorts of things, but it's still the most important news agency in the country, as far as I know. Their material is widely read and widely discussed. This was first discussed there—that such a plan would be a good idea. Then it started being discussed online. But I don't think that anyone has yet decided to do that. It is an influential news agency. It doesn't belong to the Guards. I mean, in the West, they always say that it does, but it doesn't belong to the Guards. But Tasnim and Fars have very good access. So the fact that they did put this idea out there has significance.

I don't think they just decided to put this idea forward on their own. Probably people have spoken with them. But as far as I know, there hasn't been any decision to implement this. What I do know, based on what we're all seeing, is that Iran is escalating. The number of tankers that are being struck every day is increasing. The Iranians respond to U.S. strikes on the country by hitting Oman, by hitting Bahrain, by hitting Kuwait. In the past, that didn't happen. So now Iran is striking multiple tankers a day, and they're not just hitting them. They're hitting them very hard. In the past, they were often hit with drones, sometimes even smaller drones, sort of as a warning.

But now they're destroying them. Sometimes they hit them with multiple missiles, sometimes with heavy mines. But in any case, it's obvious that the intention is to destroy these ships. Some of these ships have sunk. So there has definitely been a shift in policy over the past few weeks. And I think that if this continues for much longer, there is going to be a crisis with tankers. As far as I know, it's not just tankers that they're hitting. It's also major cargo ships. But there are only around 1,000 tankers in the world, as far as I know. I may be wrong. Maybe someone should check with AI or something.

Whatever the number is, a lot are being destroyed or badly damaged, and you can't just fix them overnight. And there are only a limited number of places in the world where they can be repaired. There's going to be a huge queue to have them repaired, so if this continues for a few more weeks—or less than a few weeks—you're going to have a crisis in tankers. Of course, I know that Larry has been doing a lot of research over the last few months on oil and all this stuff, so, Larry, correct me if I'm wrong. But Iran is escalating in any case. Yeah, well, your comments on that, then?

## #Larry Johnson

Well, yeah, you know, I'm waiting to hear the results of Trump's press conference, which was supposed to start 45 minutes ago.

## #Danny

I think it's happening right now. Yeah, I think it's happening right now.

## #Larry Johnson

So if it's happening right now, what's he saying? Is he announcing that, hey, we're going back to war? Is he announcing, "Well, I just had the greatest summit ever with Putin and Xi, my great friends. And, you know, nothing to see here. Move along"? You know, I think Professor Morandi touches on it correctly in noting that Iran has, over the course of the last three years, but especially the last two years, exercised a lot of restraint. Let's go back to Operation Rough Rider, with respect to what was being carried out against the Houthis, followed by the 12-day war in June. Iran has exercised a lot of restraint, has avoided making bellicose threats, and has always sought to find a diplomatic exit, a diplomatic solution. But there comes a point at which that patience is exhausted.

And again, the Iranian news agency reported that Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei said, "We're either going to be at war or we're going to be at peace. We're not going to be caught in this, you know, middle ground." And, you know, what they call a cup of warm spit just is very unpalatable and doesn't serve any purpose. I think the West has a good track record of underestimating Iranian capabilities. We saw that with respect to their initial assumption that, "Oh, the Iranian missiles can't reach Diego Garcia." Then Iran turns around, launches two to Diego Garcia, and the West goes, "Holy smokes, we've got a problem." Or I remember, before the start of the war on the 28th of February, the intelligence community was assessing that Iran had no more than 3,000 ballistic missiles.

Well, when I heard that, I thought it was absurd, because my own estimates would have been in excess of 15,000. Because they're underground, we've got no way of counting them. Iran has been very careful to keep those production records quiet. They've moved a lot of the production underground, so you can't even see how many are being produced. I mean, the reality was that the West didn't have a good idea. And then I remember hearing from some of my friends still on active duty that, in the early days, "Oh man, we're wiping out the Iranian missile force." I told them, "Guys, I'd be cautious with that assessment because I think Iran's smart enough to use something called decoys, number one."

And number two, I don't think we've got a good handle on how many they have. And then, like six weeks into it, they came back and said, "Yeah, yeah, you're right. We don't have a clue. And they do appear to have more than we thought." So Iran is in a very, very strong position right now. And the West, while it refuses to admit it, is in a very weak position economically because of the shortage of crude oil coming out of the Persian Gulf. That shortage, along with the shortage of refining capacity, which has been damaged as well, means a lack of diesel and aviation fuel. The lack of diesel and aviation fuel has immediate, direct effects on global economic activity. So if you've got shrinkage in those areas, you're going to have a shrinkage in the global economy.

## #Danny

Yeah, great points. Professor Marty, any follow-up on that? Again, I'm wondering if the United States is trying to settle for and satisfy itself with the current status quo. I don't know whether it tried to establish that status quo or just ended up establishing it, given that it won't meet its commitment to

the MOU but obviously has a lot of concerns about what the retaliation and blowback from a larger operation will be.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Well, just as an example, one of the things that the Iranians did was build a factory above ground, which I think is not far from Tehran, where a lot of the missiles were being built and the fuel was being produced. And they did that on purpose. They wanted that factory to be seen because the Iranians know that the Americans are checking day and night, through satellites and other means, on what Iran is producing, how many missiles they're producing, what sort of fuel they have, and how much fuel they have. So the Americans bombed that factory immediately at the beginning of the war. And I think between the two wars, the 12-day war and this war, the Iranians started rebuilding it.

But that was also done on purpose because they had multiple factories underground. And they didn't want the Americans to focus their attention on those or to be able to speculate about Iran's true capabilities. So that factory really was there so that the Americans would think, "These are Iran's capabilities, and these are the numbers that are being produced. And of course, when war begins, we'll take this out from the very beginning, and then we'll deal with what's left." But from the very beginning, the Iranians were doing this to create deception. They were producing much larger numbers of missiles. Those factories were deep underground, and the fuel for them was being produced—and continues to be produced today.

And recently, I think you both have seen this, the Iranians showed one of those underground factories where they produce missiles. A few minutes of footage were shown on Iranian national television. And the decoys—I mean, the Iranians have huge numbers of decoys. Some of them are Iranian, a lot of them Chinese, and they're all over the place. And even during the war, when the U. S. military was showing footage of destroyed targets, sometimes they weren't careful about what they were publishing because you could tell they were decoys. Like, a helicopter would explode, and then the—what are they called? Sorry, my English is not perfect. The propellers? Yeah, the propellers wouldn't even move.

They would stay still. It was obviously a painting on the ground. I mean, I've heard that these factories in China just sold out of decoys. The Iranians were purchasing them. And on these islands right now, where the Iranians and the Americans are sometimes hitting each other, they have decoys all over the place, as well as on the mainland near the islands. They're constantly moving them around. And Iran's own assets are all movable. They're not fixed, like fixed radar installations. So everything is constantly in motion so that the Americans or the Israelis wouldn't know what to strike. From the very beginning, the intention behind the planning for this war was to make sure that the Americans or the Israelis would never figure out what Iran actually has and where it is.

## #Danny

Yeah, great points. Well, we have about five minutes left with you guys. Larry, you mentioned the press conference. He did not announce war, but it seems like it's a market manipulation conference. He did mention only one thing about Iran. He said, "Iran doesn't want to make a deal that's acceptable to me." That was his one comment about Iran. But it seems like a lot of it is about how great the Asia trip was.

## #Larry Johnson

That's probably true. Well, the deal that's acceptable to Trump is that Iran has to surrender everything and give up. And Iran's going, "We're not doing that." So, yeah, Iran's position is, "No, we're not going to negotiate away our sovereignty and our freedom."

## #Danny

Yeah, and he said at the conference—I'm sure you saw this, Professor Morandi—that the MOU was stupid and it was a mistake. He said that before the trilateral summit occurred, which is interesting given that he wasn't saying that back in June when it was signed, when he put his name on it. But now it's stupid and it was a mistake. So, yeah, I mean, how does that bode for the future? Because as much as there's all this hesitation and obvious concern about a strike, the United States doesn't seem at all interested in coming to a just deal. It wants a deal where, I guess, Iran is on its knees.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Well, I don't know. And again, Larry, please correct me if I'm wrong—or Danny, you too. A war could happen tonight. The Iranian armed forces are on full alert. The working assumption is that there will be war, and I think we all know why. They'd be foolish to think otherwise. I obviously have no idea what's going to happen. And like Larry, sometimes I think the chances of war are greater. Sometimes I think the chances of war are lower. But it's all just speculation on my part, based on my assessment or what I hear from others. Ultimately, the United States has assets in the region that are capable of carrying out an attack. Now, I have no doubt that the United States and the Israeli regime would fail, but that's a different thing altogether. But I do think that may cause problems. And I may be wrong, because right now, market manipulation by Trump may work, and things may move in a different direction for now.

But the markets right now in the United States are not doing well at all. And the only thing that was going well for Trump was the markets. And I have no doubt that if there is war, well, when those oil and gas installations, those petrochemical plants, refineries, and everything else in the region are destroyed, and LNG and all that's gone for good or for years, then I think what we've been seeing in the market over the last week will be like the good old days compared to what will be coming next.

But again, I don't know. I don't know much about markets. I've never been involved in stocks and bonds, so I don't know. But I'm guessing that this downward movement in the markets is also something that Trump has to think about.

## #Danny

Yeah, no, the markets are very much in the red. Larry, maybe the final word to you.

## #Larry Johnson

Let me just chime in real quick. Right now, the Dow Industrials are down about 8.5 or 9% this week. They went from over 52,000 down to 48,000, so it's headed toward a 10% loss. That is huge, significant. Same thing with the Standard & Poor's and with what's called the NASDAQ. So all of the economic signs are turning sour on Trump. And no amount of spin out of the White House is going to change that. You know, you can keep putting lipstick on a pig. It's still a pig. It may be a pig with lipstick, but it's still a pig. And that's where the Trump administration is now. I'm just fascinated. I've got Trump on in the background. What's interesting is that he's been reading his statement the entire time, which is pretty unusual. So, you know, the reason he's reading is that you want to make sure he doesn't say anything crazy or out of control. But anyway, I'll end with that. It's always a pleasure to be with my friend, Gran Profesor.

## #Danny

Yeah, no, it's great to be here. And I'm definitely going to see you both very soon. And yeah, take care. Take care. Stay well. Bye. All right, Professor Rondé, I have you maybe for a couple of minutes. Yeah, the markets are in the red. He's obviously trying to manage that situation. Maybe you have some final words or a message, and then I can close out the program. I know you and Larry saved me today from a scheduling snafu, and I'm going to see you very soon. But any final words that you have on the situation at hand here?

## #Mohammad Marandi

Just always keep the Palestinians in the conversation. Always remind people that the genocide in Gaza is ongoing. They're killing kids. They're killing women. They're killing innocent people. They're trying to prevent aid from getting in. They want people and children to suffer in the cold. That is just a part of the genocide itself. People get ill. They die. A lack of medicine increases the casualties. None of these deaths will be included in the death toll of the war, but the real numbers are in the hundreds of thousands. Because if this war had not happened, if this siege were not ongoing, if this genocide had not been planned and carried out, hundreds of thousands of people would be alive. And the number of children who have died is probably in the hundreds of thousands—a hundred or two hundred thousand.

So we just have to keep reminding people. Of course, it's Lebanon too. It's the siege on Yemen. The Saudis are bombing civilian infrastructure across the country, as they do. And sadly, Turkey and others have been siding with the genocidal regime and doing nothing for the Palestinians, as we've seen in the past. The whole facade of a ceasefire in Egypt, where all the heads of state went there with Trump and whitewashed Trump's crimes—they're all quiet now that the Zionist regime is carrying out further incursions into what's left of Gaza. So we just have to keep reminding people and create greater awareness. And that is what the people in Gaza need right now, alongside, of course, other forms of support. But one of our responsibilities is to keep Palestine and Gaza in the conversation always.

## #Danny

Yes, and Israel did launch a military operation, or a ground operation, in Gaza just this week. And, of course, there were casualties. Israel still, even without a stated military operation, as you said, continues almost every single day, if not every single day, committing atrocities and causing casualties. Also, the siege and what's happened after the so-called Board of Peace ceasefire, whatever that thing is, are still genocidal crimes. So, yes, everyone needs to pay attention. And it is really the focal point, as you often say, Professor Morandi, of why Iran is targeted as well, because there is a huge, huge need for the U.S. and Israel to eliminate any resistance in the region that can actually stand up to that expansionist agenda. I'll close up here. I'm going to see you in a couple of days, so I really appreciate your time here today, and I'll be in touch with you. I know you have to go, so thanks so much again. And I look forward to our conversation soon.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Thank you.

## #Danny

Bye.

## #Mohammad Marandi

All right.

## #Danny

Good night. All right, everybody. That was a great program. Those two definitely saved me from what was a last-minute scheduling change, and it was a great conversation. Nevertheless, I want to make just one comment before I go on some of the content that was talked about here, especially with regard to the reports about the possible start of an Iranian operation against the U.S. naval blockade, where they would send their tankers out to directly confront the blockade, from Kharg

Island all the way through the Strait of Hormuz, into the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, and out toward China, mostly because that's its biggest trading partner. But I want to make a comment about it: it would be, I think, a genius operation in the sense that it would really be calling the United States' bluff. They would have to hit a lot of tankers at one time. It would bring a lot of attention to the blockade, and it would give Iran, as has been stated in Fars News, a reason to retaliate further against the Gulf and break this so-called limited-strikes, tit-for-tat kind of status quo that the United States has been trying to settle on as it figures out what the hell it can do in this war, which is not much.

But Iran would not only be making a genius move here, but would also be doing something within its rights because this war continues. And I'll bring this up with President Rouhani the next time we have him on, but he was accused of justifying Iranian aggression on Piers Morgan recently. In that segment, Piers Morgan was equating Iranian retaliation with U.S. aggression. And I just have to say that it's not about being pro-Iran. It's not about being pro-Iranian government. The facts and the analysis of the actual situation say the U.S. and Israel launched a war. That war continues regardless of the form that it's in now, and Iran therefore reserves the right to take any action to stop the war fully and entirely and completely, whether it's under the terms of the MOU or some other terms that Iran eventually comes to because it either wants more or less or whatever.

It doesn't really matter what the terms are because, ultimately, the number one goal is to end the war, end the war on terms that Iran benefits from, and bring justice to the situation. Because oftentimes we forget about the question of justice when we look at military matters, because there's so much injustice on the side of the imperial regime, the Zionist regime—the U.S. and Israeli regimes. The injustices of what they do are often the focus, and we often don't talk about what would be just and what the actual outcome of Iran's retaliation and defense would be. What would be the just outcome of that? And what should be the just outcome, whether from Iran's perspective or from our perspective as human beings looking at an unjust war—a war that's killed thousands of civilians, that's killed untold numbers of children?

And if you connect what's happening to Iran, as Professor Morandi often does, to the situation in Palestine, Gaza, Yemen—we can go on and on and on—then we're talking about untold millions of people killed and displaced by the same forces behind the war on Iran and the roots of U.S. aggression and Zionist aggression in that region. So truthfully, what would be just is a stop to all of that. But again, we often don't get to talk about it, or it doesn't get brought up enough, because of the sheer weight of the fact that the injustices of the United States and the Israeli regime continue, whether they're declining or weakening or not.

They get worse because they're declining and weakening. Their legitimacy is at an all-time low. Their ability to move the needle militarily is diminishing, as is their capacity to gain international prestige and, more importantly, market share. People forget about this. They forget that the United States

empire is not a booming economic engine anymore. What China just proved in Shenzhen was that China is that economic engine, and China doesn't fire a bullet doing it, while the United States relies on a trillion-dollar military defense contractor slush fund to maintain this empire.

Ultimately, what we are looking at is a question of justice. Never forget that, because it matters to the United States as well. The questions of justice here involve the ways in which we have a police state, a profiteering state, and an economy that is trying to suck the lifeblood out of everyone for the benefit of a very tiny few rich and ultra-wealthy monopolists, corporatists, and capitalists. Ultimately, the questions of justice that we see in the war on Iran are questions of justice that affect our daily lives, whether it's directly because of the Iran war...

## #Danny

This affects people in the United States because of the war on Iran. But it's a lot bigger than that, actually, because what justifies and allows the war against Iran to happen is ultimately tied to the fact that you have politicians, their corporate owners, and their lobbyists pushing an entire policy agenda that is racing us to the bottom—the bottom of living standards, sometimes to the ground and beneath it—all for the sake of enriching these corporations and monopolists. And that, to me, is the fundamental contradiction that shapes geopolitics and makes it so important to talk about justice. Justice, justice, justice. It's not just an outcome, not just what one side or the other wants. What is just for us?

What is justice to us? What does it mean for these wars to come to a just end? And ultimately, these questions end up being quite controversial to the mainstream audience, the political and foreign policy establishment blob, Wall Street, the Pentagon, the military-industrial complex, the Zionist regime, on and on and on. It's controversial because ultimately they end up being on the wrong side. And people come to the conclusion that perhaps people around the world, even people that we are told not to like, like the Russians or the Iranians, maybe they have a point. And maybe that point needs to be heeded, and perhaps we need to butt out of their business and allow them to live the lives that they deserve to live, because we would want that for ourselves.

And we would want that for our neighbors. We would want that for the people who are struggling and suffering out here, sleeping on the streets, languishing in solitary confinement, whatever it is, whatever form of torture and suffering people go through here. People would want that to end here. If people want stuff like that to end here, then they should want an end to these wars as well. Everybody, hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show in YouTube's algorithm. I'm going to be back tomorrow early, at 10 a.m. Eastern time, with Pepe Escobar, our mutual friend.

He will be joining us from China, not only to talk about the developments in Shenzhen that just occurred between Putin, Xi, and Trump, but also about the aftermath and what the real situation is on the ground geopolitically, both when it comes to the Iran war and more broadly. All right, hit the like button, everyone, and see you tomorrow at 10 a.m. Eastern time, on a Saturday. So bring your

tea or coffee. I mean, if you are somewhere else, of course, and it's later or earlier than that, just bring yourself. But I'll see you all tomorrow, November 21st, at 10 a.m. Eastern time. Also, subscribe to the channel if you have not, because, as I've been reminding you every show, they are getting quite aggressive with the AI detection and all of that here on YouTube.

So resubscribe if you need to, or subscribe if you just haven't. Hitting the like button, going to the video description to support this channel wherever you can—Patreon, Substack, or wherever—or becoming a YouTube member is much appreciated. Oh, and thank you so much to the moderators today. I think I see Sam in here. I think I saw Patty in here as well. And I don't know if I see him, but he's almost always here as well. All right, so thanks to all the moderators. Yeah, I saw Patty. Okay. Thanks to all the moderators. Thanks to everyone who came to the show today. See you tomorrow, 10 a.m.