

Iran Just CRUSHED US Military, Hormuz Attacks BLOW | Larry Johnson

Former CIA Analyst Larry Johnson discusses Iran's successful retaliation to US military aggression in the Persian Gulf and why no one should trust the Trump administration's word as it manipulates markets with talks of the deal. Find out why Larry Johnson believes war is set to resume at any moment with even greater ferocity than prior rounds. 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 #trump

#Danny

We've had U.S. strikes, two in the last, in less than a week, against Iran. Both in the same city, bombed Bandar Abbas. There were strikes. The last one, Iran is saying that only a small patch of land was hit—no casualties, no damage. The U.S. is saying something completely different. They've hit launchers, they've hit drone launchers, missile launchers. They're claiming self-defense here, Larry. CENTCOM is... Iran has retaliated also in a kind of warning, but... Overall, Larry, what is the actual situation going on here? Because they're still going back and forth, the U.S. is, with this whole memorandum of understanding. Lots of misinformation about this.

#Larry Johnson

Basically, a U.S. tanker, or a tanker affiliated with the West, turned off its identification systems and tried to sneak through the Strait of Hormuz, and the Iranians shot it down. And then, in response to that, the United States launched attacks on whatever target they were trying to hit, which apparently they didn't hit. And then, in response to that, Iran fired a missile at the airfield in Kuwait where the U.S. planes had originated from. But it was fired more as a warning shot. It wasn't really trying to take out and destroy aircraft on the ground. That could have escalated, and it didn't. And so I think that's telling—that the United States is not really, it's finger-poking the Iranians in the chest.

But then when Iran, you know, comes back ready to punch, the U.S. is backing off. So we're right now in this, it's sort of in between war and peace. Everybody's locked and loaded and ready to respond. Now, the Chinese, I guess, have been talking to the Iranians about doing the extended 60-day ceasefire. My understanding is that there was no limit on the current ceasefire, so that seems sort of an odd request. The Iranians are willing to make a deal, but I still don't see the United States

willing to accept the Iranian terms. Iran's terms have been pretty clear. They've said they want their assets unfrozen. So at least the assets that have been frozen because of a presidential decree, they should be given back.

It's important to remember that the way the U.S. came into possession of these Iranian assets was when the Shah was still in power back in 1978. The Iranians paid up front billions of dollars for U.S. military equipment that, with the fall of the Shah, was never delivered. So interest has been accruing on that. So Iran wants those assets unfrozen, given back to them. They want the sanctions lifted immediately, at least the sanctions on oil. But again, against that backdrop, Scott Besson announced—the Secretary of the Treasury announced—new sanctions on Iranian aircraft, airlines, so that they couldn't ostensibly fly to other countries. So instead of the United States trying to send some gesture of conciliation, that's just doubling down.

The end of the war in Lebanon and the end of attacks on the Palestinians, that's another firm Iranian demand. And then last, they're going to keep control of the Strait of Hormuz, and Trump says no. So, you know, this MOU, I don't see how they get to it, because either the Iranians are going to have to back down, which I don't see them doing. They're in a strong position. So that means the United States is going to have to make the concessions, and I don't see Trump doing that, at least not yet. So that's why I said this is—I know Fox News is out reporting, oh, 60 days, they're getting ready to sign it, just awaits Trump's final approval. And I think Trump being Trump, he'll come back and say, no, no, I can't have this. They've got to do X, Y, and Z. So he'll blow the negotiations up one more time.

#Danny

Whether you believe that this war could now be transforming into what we've actually seen transpire over the last week, which is, they've been called pinprick strikes of a sort of kind where, exactly as you said, the U.S. strikes, Iran retaliates, but it doesn't go further than that because the U.S. backs off and does not escalate. Is this the future of the war for maybe, perhaps, the duration of Donald Trump's presidency? Because as you said, it's hard. These are sticking points. Iran is not backing down. These are sticking points that the Trump administration, Donald Trump himself, does not seem prepared for or capable of accepting.

#Larry Johnson

No, actually, I think what will cause it to come unhinged will be Israel's expansion of attacks in Lebanon. The ceasefire has been in place now since April 15th, but for all practical purposes, the ceasefire is now broken. It's a ceasefire in name only. So we'll see what transpires now, with Iran giving the United States sort of the benefit of the doubt up to this point. But frankly, I don't see how this doesn't go hot again.

#Danny

Yeah, well, what are the consequences of this then? Because we are, of course, witnessing, I believe, in a lot of respects, the Trump administration—the United States—trying to manipulate the markets and manage and navigate what is increasingly becoming an untenable global economic situation. Restarting this in full would essentially ensure, seal the fate of exactly that—the global economy.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, well, I think that's ultimately going to be the driving force that produces some sort of agreement, or an agreement for a ceasefire—that the economic turmoil, the combination of recession and inflation, so stagflation, is exactly what we're faced with. And as a result of that, the political pressure is going to mount not just on Trump, but all across the board politically. You know, people will be losing work, and they're going to be paying higher prices, and that's a deadly combination. But, you know, right now, what's taking place in the realm of computer chips hasn't caught a lot of public attention. But the cutoff of helium—you know, three months with 44% of the world's helium supply gone off the market.

Those chip manufacturers in Taiwan in particular, they need the helium, and they don't have it. China, by contrast, does. And Chinese chip production has accelerated, while the chip production out of Taiwan has fallen. And the prices for that are rising dramatically, which is going to increase the price of iPhones and computers of different types. So the consumer impact with these higher prices has yet to really hit. And when it does, it's going to be significant, and it's going to lead to loss of jobs. The economic chaos that's going to spring out of this from having the Persian Gulf shut is something that Trump and his advisers haven't really felt. But it's going to become an issue within a month.

#Danny

Then why are these pinprick strikes? Because it does feel like dancing on a very fine line, one in which balance could easily be lost. Why then do this—just to get Iran to look like it's violating the ceasefire? But overall, I mean, I guess CENTCOM can spin the narrative. They tried to with the recent strikes, saying that Iran was the one who initially fired drones at the United States' naval vessels first, and that's what led to the strikes on Bandar Abbas. But I think the record is pretty clear in this war and others prior that the United States is generally the one to start wars.

#Larry Johnson

Well, and we're seeing a disinformation campaign across the board. I guess in the Financial Times, yesterday or the day before yesterday, they had an article claiming that there's a big split between the political leaders of Iran and the IRGC. And, you know, the person sent this, I had to remind him, I said, look, remember that President Pezeshkian, he fought and was a medic for the IRGC. He

treated IRGC soldiers during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. Foreign Minister Araghchi, he too was a medic with the IRGC. The head of parliament, like an equivalent of our Speaker of the House, Ghalibaf, he was an IRGC cadre. He fought. Mojtaba Khamenei, he fought with the IRGC. So my point is, there's no split between these guys. They all come out of the same cloth. You know, they're all combat veterans, and they share that in common. That bridges a lot of gaps that otherwise might exist. So this is wishful thinking on the part of the Brits that there's this great division there.

#Danny

Speaking of Mohammad Ghalibaf, he is not only the top negotiator for Iran, but also he is now the envoy to Beijing, to China—the Iranian envoy to China. And you mentioned China earlier, and there have been reports that Iran may agree to have their enriched uranium stored in China. We've often heard Russia, but now we're hearing China. China may be a possible destination. Iran has rejected this outright when it comes to U.S. demands for its uranium to be stored by the United States, equating that to surrender. But what is the significance that it seems like every time there's a conversation about Iran making any maneuvers to negotiate in good faith around any of these issues, it usually has Russia and China at the center of it?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, well, Pakistan also was reported to be a possible destination for the enriched uranium. This enriched uranium, it's a distraction. It's just a red herring. It's not the real issue. That even if Iran didn't have a nuclear program, do you think that the United States and Israel would ignore Iran? That they'd be willing to coexist with Iran? Not in your life. There is, within some elements of U.S. society, and it's exemplified in the writings and conversations of Frank Gaffney, this mythical version that all Islam is about Sharia law and killing Christians. And of course, you know, it is that—the imposition of Muslim rule over the world.

No, you know, and you try to explain to the fool that, hey, you realize the Salafists, the Wahhabis, the Deobandis, they've been attacking Iran because they view Iran as an apostate. So, you know, he focuses on this very, very narrow sect of Islamic extremists as the justification for the U.S. trying to destroy Iran. And again, portray Iran as these fanatics that are completely driven by religious fervor. They have no reason, you know, and it's just not true. But that kind of lie is spread, and people come to believe it. And then the U.S. acts accordingly in a very hostile manner towards Iran.

So, you know, the U.S. refuses to recognize Iran, that it's just pissed off at the Iranians because they had the audacity to throw out a government that we had installed through force. And we had trouble putting up with that. We thought Iran was ours, and the Iranian people had the audacity to take it back. And ever since then, we've done everything in our power to try to destroy Iran, including what was fascinating as I was watching this debate between three baby boomers—Frank

Gaffney and these two other elderly souls like me—and three of the younger generation, Generation X, I guess they're called. And, boy, the boomers were insisting that, oh, Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

#Danny

We had to stop them.

#Larry Johnson

And finally, one of the Generation X people pointed out, it was us, the United States, that supplied those chemical weapons—mustard gas and a nerve agent. Gee, we supplied that, at least the precursors. We gave the Iraqis what they needed to make those weapons. And yet later we made it a whole issue of going to war with Iraq over weapons of mass destruction, which we essentially provided. What's wrong with this picture?

#Danny

Then, Larry, what's the real reason that the U.S. continues onward with this war alongside Israel? You know, it seems like a lot of the Gulf countries are essentially tapping out in many respects. Even the UAE has reportedly been in some kind of back-channel talks with Iran to try to settle tensions, although I'm sure that ship has already sailed. But nonetheless, what exactly keeps the United States and Israel going in this, given that the strikes began February 28th? We obviously haven't come to any resolution of this round of war, but this has been going on for quite a long time. So what's the real reason here?

#Larry Johnson

Well, no, it is the destruction of the Iranian Republic, the Islamic Republic. We can't have a nation that we've declared an enemy be allowed to exist. This is all about Israel's obsession with destroying Iran. Look, Iran does not recognize Israel as a legitimate nation. I used to think that that was an outrageous position. I've frankly come to the point that I agree with Iran. I think Israel is an apartheid state. I think it's a racist state. I think it's engaged in the kinds of conduct that we saw with Nazis, only instead of directing it at Jews, they direct it at Palestinians. But it's ethnic hatred. You know, there are very, very, very few in history—countries that basically pass racial purity laws. And they've been few and far between. I mean, we saw it with the Nazis, with the Nuremberg laws.

But we've seen really an extension of that now in Israel, that the whole concept of aliyah, being able to prove that you're Jewish so that you've got a right to come back, except it's not strictly tied to an ethnic, a biological characteristic. It's tied more to even if you're biologically born to a Jewish mother and by Jewish tradition you are Jewish, if you convert to Christianity, they won't let you into the country. And yet we like to pride ourselves on what's called Judeo-Christian values. And they align

Judaism with Christianity when Judaism rejects Jesus and labels his mother Mary as a whore, whereas in Islam they elevate Jesus as a prophet and respect Mary as a holy woman. So we need to start talking about Islamo-Christian values, not Judeo-Christian values, in my view.

#Danny

Yeah, and Israel in particular, Larry, finds itself still mired on many different fronts, including and especially the Lebanon front, where it is committing absolute atrocities and promising to commit more atrocities because it doesn't seem to be able to make much headway in its active war with Hezbollah, which started just a few days after the February 28th strikes. Yeah. So maybe we could talk about this in the context of this global shift that's occurring, because the longer that this goes on, you have much of mainstream media talking about it feels like the pole that is the United States, Israel, and I guess a big part of Europe that just kind of goes along with the U.S. or works hand in hand with the U.S. on this project of unipolarity. It seems like this is becoming more and more isolated and more and more delegitimized on the world stage.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, well, let me focus specifically on what's going on in Lebanon with the Israeli military. You know, the last time they made this kind of incursion, invasion into Lebanon was back in 2006. That lasted about 34 days, and over the course of that 34 days, they had about 121 soldiers killed and about 1,200 wounded.

#Larry Johnson

So far in this latest round, and I'm not confident that we're getting the accurate figures, they've had as many wounded now in this latest round as they did in 2006. They claim that they've only had 20 killed. I don't believe that at all. I think the number of dead is much, much higher because of Hezbollah's use of drones. So the situation we're facing is the limitations of Israel's power on the ground, while they still maintain a decided advantage with air power, but they're just routinely killing civilians, and nobody's putting a stop to it. Donald Trump could put a stop to it, but he won't. And so I think this aspect of the war, this is what's going to have to come to a conclusion before the conflict between the United States and Iran is settled.

#Danny

Yeah, and that feels incredibly far away. But you're right. Iran has made very clear that there can be no – and I believe this has come directly from Iran – there can really be no more fighting in the region if this war is to end. And I find that to be fascinating because how many times have we heard from, you know, the think tanks, the neocons, the Trump administration, warmongers all across the board, across the elite spectrum? We're being told that, you know, Iran's only in it for themselves, they're using proxies, they only care about proxies. Well, if they're proxies, why wouldn't they

protect themselves first and foremost? They're attaching the entirety of a cessation of hostilities to the rest of the resistance.

#Larry Johnson

Well, yeah, and they reject Israel. They do not recognize Israel as a legitimate nation in the same way that many in the world didn't recognize South Africa as a legitimate nation when it was an apartheid state. And so that's what we're faced with here. Iran's one of the few in the world to insist that the rights of the Palestinians must be protected. They must be upheld. And if not, then the war will continue. Israel's continuing acts of murder against civilians are intolerable. And yet so far the world goes along with it.

#Danny

In the last few minutes or so, Larry, maybe you can comment on the state of the other geopolitical fronts, because oftentimes we're hearing that the Trump administration is stuck with Iran and stuck in this Iran morass that the administration itself has gotten itself into, and that is delaying any kind of significant approach or addressing of other areas. For example, the delicate situation with Cuba. We've heard from Politico that the U.S. is ready to invade Cuba at any moment. And then we hear other reports that Iran has to be settled first and they'll try sanctions, harder sanctions, harsher sanctions. So there's Cuba. Then, of course, there's the Ukraine front, which seems to only be getting more and more disastrous for the U.S.-NATO sphere as this continues to go on, because now Russia is incredibly angry over the events of the last several weeks.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, well, it is, if nothing else, it imposes limitations on what the United States can do, particularly with respect to Ukraine and Russia. And also it handcuffs any plans for U.S. aggression against China, because the expenditure of Tomahawk missiles, JASSMs, and PAC-3s has dramatically eroded U.S. capabilities. So what this has exposed is the limitations of U.S. military power, something that I think most people never thought they'd see, because they always operated on the belief that, oh, the U.S. has unlimited military power.

We're discovering, no, they don't. So that is probably one of the most—this is the moment, like from the movie **The Wizard of Oz**, when Dorothy and her three traveling companions are standing before what appears to be the great and powerful Oz—and then the curtain's pulled back, and it turns out it's just some old guy, some old itinerant preacher hiding behind a curtain. He's not as powerful as they thought. So that's where we're at. We're at the U.S. Wizard of Oz moment. That is what we're living through.

#Danny

Do you find that for U.S. hegemony and its, I guess, number one partner in crime, Israel, it's going to be a very rough next several years to a decade? It does seem like, despite the relatively weakening position that now even Western mainstream media and prominent neocons are all acknowledging, both are still willing together to dive into further and further escalation and more unwinnable wars.

#Larry Johnson

Well, yeah, except the world's moving against them. You know, take some benchmarks. Are countries, foreign countries, are they lining up to buy U.S. treasuries, or are they lining up to sell U.S. treasuries? The answer is sell. They're not buying. They're selling. The number of countries that are using petrodollars to buy oil— increasing or decreasing? The answer is decreasing. Okay. So, you know, I'm in the camp that believes money makes the world go round. And so when the United States is showing the signs of losing its financial supremacy, both in terms of, instead of people buying treasury bills, they're dumping them, they're buying gold, and instead of countries saying, oh, we've absolutely got to buy oil with dollars, they're buying it with Chinese yuan. Those are signs that the world has changed, and it ain't going back to what it was.