

Larry Johnson: The Strait of Hormuz Is a Ticking Time Bomb

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today's Monday, June 1st, 2026.

#Larry

Good Lord. You know, when you get to be my age, man, time just starts dripping, flying by. I thought we were just celebrating New Year's Eve, and here we are six months later.

#Nima

Yeah, exactly.

#Larry

By the way, nice shirt. You're styling properly today.

#Nima

Yeah, just following you.

#Larry

I'm a bad influence.

#Nima

Yeah. Larry, I want to start with the breaking news of what's going on right now, because moments ago we've learned that Iran is holding indirect talks and message exchanges with the United States. So I think they're talking about Lebanon, and they said that as long as they have these sorts of attacks on Lebanon and Gaza, there will be no talks between Iran and the United States. And what would be their— Iran and the resistance front have also reported that if something goes on, and if

they— because Israel wants to attack the southern part of Beirut in Dahia, and there are many people there. Somehow it's impossible to evacuate all of those people in Dahia. And they said, here is what Iran said about how they're going to close all these choke points, the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab, all together, and everything is going to get back to what it was during the war. But the difference right now is going to be Bab al-Mandab joining, and it means that Yemenis are going to join the fight.

#Larry

Mm-hmm.

#Nima

Where are we headed, in your opinion, and what's going on in West Asia?

#Larry

We need to cue up the old musical. Again, this is before you were born—*The Music Man.* We got trouble. We got trouble right here in River City. Yeah, exactly, we got trouble. Well, the entire, you know, Israel has been violating the ceasefire now for two weeks, but it's like over the course of the last five days, it's gotten worse. You know, because remember going back to April—was it April 14th, 15th?—there was that initial ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran. So the basic U.S. initially stopped bombing Iran, and that was around April 7th, April 8th. And it took another three or four days before the Iranian position was, hey, you've got to include Lebanon and the attacks on Palestinians, that's got to stop. So that went into effect. I think that held for basically like five days, maybe a couple of weeks.

And there were some abuses, violations of that ceasefire. But now there's no ceasefire. Israel's back at full-blown war, full attacks on Hezbollah. And Hezbollah is firing back with missiles, rockets, and drones into northern Israel. So that war is back on full heat. And with Iran taking this position, linking the two, that is what's so new about this whole situation—the Iranians are now linking what goes on in Lebanon and in Israel to any kind of agreement with the United States. You can't separate it. You can't pretend that this is just about a conflict between the United States and Iran. No. The lives of the Palestinians are also at stake. At least Iran is the only country in the world standing up, trying to do something for those people. And now maybe the Houthis will join. We'll see.

#Nima

What do they have, Larry, in the Middle East if something happens between Iran and the United States? From the Iranian sources, we've learned that they have brought a lot of weapons to the

Middle East, even more than what they had before the war started on February 28th. And this is one part—the offensive part, the offensive part. We have to see the combination of the defensive capabilities and offensive capabilities. What do we have right now in the Middle East?

#Larry

Well, there are reports that—well, they're not public reports. Let me change that. I have been told by someone who has access—or let's call it a knowledgeable source with access—that China has provided Iran with, at a minimum, a supersonic anti-ship missile, but also apparently some other significant ballistic missiles that were not previously— you know, they're solid-fuel missiles, which makes them easier to, you know, load up and fire off. So yeah, Iran's in a position now with more weaponry than it had at the start of the war on February 28th. You know, let's think about it. So we had March, April—it's gone over more than three months now. Three months and two days.

And this is, you know, one of the things that Iran didn't do much of during that first, you know, really seven weeks of the war—five weeks—because the missile exchanges were over a course of about five, six weeks. And then they got into the ceasefire, but did not aggressively go after the Israeli military airfields where these various planes are based. I wouldn't be surprised now to see that in this new phase. Actually, it's going to restart. It's going to restart this week. The United States' attacks are going to step up on both shipping in the Persian Gulf. There will be attacks, I think, on U.S. naval vessels. And we're going to see, I think, more aggressive attacks by Iran on the airfields in Israel and in Jordan. So yeah, this is, I think, the lull that we've had now going back, you know, eight, nine weeks—that's over.

#Nima

The question is, why does Israel need to attack Doha right now if the situation is going well in the southern part of Lebanon?

#Larry

If they're in a good position?

#Nima

And we've learned, Larry, from Hezbollah—they said an underground base belonging to the Israeli regime's army, it says in this announcement by Hezbollah, in the occupied city of Tiberias, was targeted with rocket fire. And it seems that 137 officers and soldiers were injured in this attack, as reported by Hezbollah.

#Larry

So Hezbollah is saying that they hit and inflicted casualties on 137 Israelis? 137, but it counts all of them in the last two weeks. It says 137.

#Nima

It wasn't just one single attack, okay.

#Nima

And it says 100, yeah, that's the number for two weeks. And that's why, you know, many people are asking, why does Israel need to attack Dahiya if they're doing great in the southern part of Lebanon, if they're crossing the Litani River? What is your answer to that?

#Larry

Oh, no, I have no answer to that. It's just that their idea is to kill and destroy as much as they can, and they see Dahiya as a stronghold for Hezbollah. And therefore, you know, for them, killing women and children—there's no such thing as civilians as far as the Zionists are concerned. So, you know, they don't mind killing and flattening the area, just as they've done in Gaza. You know, what the government of Israel has been doing is a war crime of the highest order. It needs to be stopped. But, you know, the world is standing by doing nothing. Unfortunately, that has been typical throughout history. I mean, the Israelis, you know, talk about the Holocaust and that, oh my God, the Nazis tried to exterminate them.

And the world knew about it, stood by, and did nothing. The Houthis, they were attacked by the Tutsis in Rwanda. Again, a massive massacre—at least a million people. The world sort of complained a bit about it but didn't take any kind of action to stop it. And now we've got more than—going on two and a half years of Israel murdering Palestinian women and children, primarily. And, you know, killing doctors, killing journalists, killing aid workers. And, you know, they're allowed to show up in polite company at the United Nations. They should be thrown out. They shouldn't be allowed anywhere near it. They should be isolated. They should be treated like a plague. Instead, you know, they go along with it, and then they get to go make their speeches at the UN and pretend that they're the victim.

#Nima

Israeli media reported, Larry, that the United States has proposed an arrangement to Lebanon under which attacks on Beirut, Beirut's southern suburbs—they're talking about Dahiya—would cease in exchange for Hezbollah refraining from targeting Israeli military forces in southern Lebanon. It's just unbelievable what they're doing. They're occupying the southern part of Lebanon right now. They're

saying, we're gonna hit Beirut and the southern part of Beirut, but if you don't want us to attack you, to destroy the civilians, then you have to stop attacking us in the southern part of Lebanon, which they're occupying. How ridiculous is that? And Hezbollah rejected that. That's why.

#Larry

Yeah. Well, hey, look. There's a Yiddish word for this—C-H-U-T-Z-P-A-H. Chutzpah. Or as Michele Bachmann, a former congresswoman in the United States, she called it chutzpah. But, you know, that's what it is. It's pure chutzpah on the part of the Israelis, you know. That's along the lines of, you know, the kid that kills his parents and then pleads for mercy from the judge. "Judge, you can't prosecute me. I'm an orphan." Yeah, you're an orphan because you killed your parents, you bastard. So, you know, here's Israel looking for leniency in the course of when people are responding to their attacks. And, you know, it's quite understandable that, you know, I can understand why they'd ask that. Maybe their calculation was, hey, we ask, what's the worst that can happen? They'll say no.

#Nima

I think the situation is getting so serious, Larry, and we're going to have this war breaking out again. Here is what one of the senior Iranian officials said to Fars News in Iran: the blood of a Palestinian equals the blood of an Iranian, the blood of a Lebanese equals the blood of an Iranian, and the Muslim community is one joint column, side by side, in this battle.

#Larry

Exactly.

#Nima

They're not going to give up on what they're asking for from the United States. And I don't see Donald Trump having any sort of solution for what's going on because he has not shown us any sort of leverage on Benjamin Netanyahu.

#Larry

Well, I'm hoping that Iran was able to play the stock market on this, you know, do what Trump's been doing. So Trump, over the last—now we're going on 14 weeks, 13 weeks—what he would do is he would announce, hey, we got a peace agreement. Man, this should be signed any day now. We're close. We're so close. And as a result, what would happen? The price of oil would go down. The price in the stock market would go up. And so by shorting stocks or buying puts, you could profit off of these changes. So if I'm Iran, I'd start by, you know, I'd set up a company where you can, you know, invest billions and just come out and say, nope, hey, the negotiations are off.

In fact, we're getting ready to deploy a nuclear weapon. Oh, man, the stock market would go crazy. They could cash in on that, you know. Now, I don't think they're doing that, but that would be, you know, it's just a reminder of the other spillover effects of this conflict, that if you've been watching the U.S. stock market, it has been behaving as if there is an actual deal almost in the bag. It's close, so close. And, you know, there have been some of us who are saying, no, no, that ain't happening. It's not true.

Stop getting taken in by, you know, this is another version of Donald Trump. It's like Lucy from the Charles Schulz Charlie Brown cartoon. Lucy would hold out the football, "Come on, Charlie, kick it." Charlie would come running up and try to kick it, she'd pull the ball away, he'd fly up in the air and land on his ass. That's been Donald Trump now for 13 weeks. "Oh, we got a deal. It's almost, we're close, we're close." Now, as Ron said, we're not even talking to the United States now. There's nothing to talk about until the issues of the Palestinians and the Lebanese are addressed. Have a nice day. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

#Nima

Larry, I think there is no way to continue with the current situation in West Asia, in the Persian Gulf, because having this blockade on Iran, sooner or later they're gonna have some sort of confrontation and escalation, and that's gonna be the war, the real war between Iran and the United States. Coming back to the main question, the same question that I asked before—you forgot to mention that in your response—which is the defensive capabilities on the part of Israel. Let's assume the war starts again. How is the United States gonna be able to defend Israel?

#Larry

Well, defend it with what? Air defense systems, for example?

#Nima

With the Patriot system, we know that Iron Dome is failing, you know, each and every time. They cannot even intercept these rockets from Hezbollah.

#Larry

Now, the Iron Dome is designed to intercept, let's call them subsonic rockets. It is not designed to deal with supersonic or hypersonic ballistic missiles. The fact of the matter is, neither is the Patriot missile, the PAC-3. It's proven ineffective.

#Larry

But let's say it were effective.

#Larry

The United States doesn't have enough. They have effectively run out. All we can do is public accounting, and the total number of missiles in the U.S. inventory, under the most generous assumptions, would put it at over 6,000, about 6,400 at the end of 2025, so as of five months ago. Now, since then,

#Larry

They've probably added, again, to be generous, another 300—you know, 60 per month, five months, maybe. Because the other issue is China's cut off rare earth minerals, which are essential ingredients. You know, it's like trying to bake a cake without using any sugar or flour. You're not going to have a cake. So with that, you know, 6,400, and then when you do the math, you've got to fire two Patriots at a minimum to intercept an incoming threat. So that means that 6,400 is capable of defeating 3,200 missiles fired. That's assuming that all of that was retained by the United States, except we know for a fact that at least 1,500 to 2,000 of those PAC-3 missiles went to foreign governments—Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Japan, Australia.

So you subtract that. Well, now we're down to like, you know, 4,400, which means, okay, we can intercept 2,200 missiles. Okay, how many—and we gave 1,000 in addition to the, you know, the 2,000 sold to foreign governments. We gave another 1,000 to Ukraine. So 1,000 missiles, that means they could intercept up to 500 incoming targets by Russia. Well, hell, just last, you know, was it a week ago? Russia fired the equivalent of more than 500 missiles in one day. So, you see, the numbers just don't add up. So the reality is that Israel and the United States do not have an effective air defense system. They don't have it. It does not exist.

#Nima

Yeah. Here's what Donald Trump said, Larry, in his interview with Fox News.

#Speaker 04

A good deal looks like for you.

#Speaker 05

Well, first of all, there's no deal that's good enough because the media won't cover it. We're making a great deal. We're going to make a great deal. Or we'll just go back and finish it off militarily. But this would go faster. It's probably better from a humane standpoint. There's something nice about it also. It saves a lot of lives. Whether it's the other side or not, you save a lot of lives. But we're close to a very good deal. And if we can make it good, otherwise we just start up with the Department of War, as we call it. And it's been very successful. You saw Venezuela. It was a one-day win. And this

is really a win already. We've defeated their military—essentially defeated their military. I would rather get a deal because we can open this trade immediately upon signing. The one guarantee that I have to have is, and slowly but surely we're getting, I think, what we want. And if we don't get what we want, we're going to end it a different way.

#Nima

The question is, Larry, he said that we defeated Venezuela militarily. I haven't seen any sort of fight between us.

#Larry

Yeah, that was an inside job. Three individuals that were part of Maduro's security team—and, I mean, we're talking senior people—coordinated, conspired with the United States to disable Venezuelan air defense systems, to pave the way for U.S. Special Operations Forces to go in and grab him. Big difference from, you know, big, big difference from what's going on now with respect to Iran. You know, this isn't a one-day, this isn't a four-day operation. This is, you know, look at it—it's three months and two days. Started on the 28th, so you got all of March, all of April, all of May, and now the first day of June. So it is, you know, Trump's lost control of the narrative.

#Nima

But do you see the Iranian position getting harder or softer?

#Larry

Well, as of today, it's much harder. They said, "Negotiations—we're breaking off negotiations. We're not going to talk to the United States now until they come back with a serious deal and an agreement to stop the killing in Lebanon and in Palestine."

#Nima

He said something in the same interview, Larry. He said the problem he has is the Strait of Hormuz. And here's what he said about the Strait of Hormuz.

#Speaker 05

But that was very unpopular. As soon as I won, it became unbelievably popular. Well, we're winning Iran. It's a total win for us. I mean, we had to do it. Look, two things were there. Number one, the Strait has to be opened immediately and has to be free—no tolls, et cetera, et cetera. And number two is they can't have a nuclear weapon. That's all there is. It's very simple. And then we're going to get out of there. And we don't need the Strait. You know, we don't need it because we have more.

So we produce now—because of us, me—we produce more oil than Saudi Arabia and Russia combined, times two. Think of that. We double what they do. Add Saudi Arabia and Russia, multiply it times two, and we're going to be much higher. We're the oil superpower, far greater than even Saudi Arabia, even Russia.

#Larry

Yeah, that's a lie. That's flat-out not true. In terms of crude oil, Russia and China combined produce more than the United States in terms of crude oil. The United States, if you count in all—Russia and Venezuela—yeah. Well, yeah, but I mean Russia and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia, yeah. If you count in, so he gets to that number where if you look at all petroleum-related products, including liquid natural gas and et cetera, yes, the United States produces a little more total than Saudi and Russia combined. However, the United States oil that it produces is—you know, we'll put it in terms of alcohol. I liked how this fellow that Danny Davis interviewed, Art Berman, referred to it. You know, you got your light beer, you got your wine, and then you got your hard liquor—you know, your tequila and your whiskey. The oil that the United States produces is light.

It's like light beer. It's good for producing gasoline and maybe aviation fuel. But it is not good, and you really can't produce diesel with it. So as a result, it is true that the United States is a net exporter of this light oil. A lot of that goes to Europe. But it's a net importer of diesel. And where does it get that diesel from? Now Venezuela, Saudi Arabia coming out of the Persian Gulf, Russia. So the United States is still not energy independent, as Trump's claiming. It's, in fact, energy dependent on diesel, which is the most important fuel in the economy because it runs the trucks that haul the products from store to store to store. So that's where Trump is just—either he doesn't understand and he's being told a lie, or he does understand that and he's just lying himself. I don't know which it is.

#Nima

How serious is this rift or move for Donald Trump? On one side, he says we have to open it up with no tolls or any sort of fee, and on the other hand, he says we don't need this rift or move. So what is it? What's his main purpose? What's his main objective in these sorts of talks? You talk to both sides, and after all, you're trying to open up this rate of performance. It's not just about Donald Trump. Here is Marco Rubio somehow begging the UN to open up this rate of performance. Here is what Rubio said.

#Larry

For the UN, right? As a function, as something that functions, that can solve global problems. What is the purpose of the UN? The UN was supposed to be a place where you could peacefully resolve global conflict. Right now you have a country that is unlawfully, criminally, and illegally taking possession of an international waterway and blowing up commercial vessels and putting mines in the

water. I don't know if people appreciate how outrageous this is, how unacceptable it is that any country would fire on and try to sink commercial vessels or put mines in the water. Both of these things are illegal. And so we're going to take it to the UN.

#Larry

Is he talking about the United States? Yeah. Last I checked, it's the United States. It's firing on commercial vessels, firing missiles into engine rooms. That's not Iran. That's the United States. So, yeah, he's—boy, he should be outraged at what his own country is doing. You know, the whole economic phenomenon is not just the closing of the Strait of Hormuz, but it's the damage that's inflicted on the energy, and I'll call it the commodity infrastructure, in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar in particular, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia. We don't have any reference point in history to point to about what the full consequences or effects of this are. We have never, in the last, let's say, 150 years—or let's count the start of oil in the world economy—did it start becoming an issue like 1890? Let's go to 1900, so 126 years.

#Larry

We have never had a situation where 20% of the world's oil supply got cut off. So, you know, that's cut off. There's no more. It's not a matter of flipping a switch and producing more. We've gone from this level down, so 20% of that's gone. Ten percent of liquid natural gas, again, that's provided by Qatar—that was their principal export—that's no longer available. The production of helium, 44% of that is off the market. And when you consider helium as a critical ingredient for manufacturing computer chips, what we're witnessing now with the advent of AI and the so-called AI revolution is that that AI revolution is driven by having computers that are in these data centers. And those computers have to have computer chips.

And what's happened to the computer chip market? It's not... Instead, the prices on it are soaring now because there's a shortage of chips, because the price of helium is actually... it's off the market. It's not coming back anytime soon. Same thing then with... we're finding that with fertilizer, the combination of urea and sulfur, those two items which also came out of the Persian Gulf. So my point is, the world has never seen a disruption in the supply chain like this. In modern history, you know, in the last 126 years, we've never seen it. So we can't necessarily sit down and say, okay, this is how these effects are going to play out, because we have no record of that ever happening. We're going to discover how it's going to play out.

But you can make a prediction that I think is reasonable—that if you have now cut off that supply, then the other products that are made from those basic items, those are going to decrease in supply, and the prices of them are going to go up. So at a minimum, we're going to see a major inflationary spike globally—not just in one country, globally. And even though the United States is a net exporter of this light crude, we're having to pay a lot more for diesel, so that price is going up. And because there's a shortage of oil, even the light crude in some areas, there's more competition

from other countries wanting to buy that. So we're looking at a minimum of both an increase in inflation and a slowdown in the economy—ergo, what's known as stagflation.

#Nima

Does anybody in Israel care about what you just said?

#Larry

No, in Israel, you know, they're on. You know, they're like your teenage kid. You know, when your kids get old enough to go to college and you give them a credit card, okay, here. And then you don't yell at them about being mindful of their spending, you just let them spend whatever, and you pick up the bill. That's Israel with the United States. Israel can do whatever the hell it wants. The United States picks up the bill. Israel never has to pay.

#Nima

I think the message, Larry, for Lebanon and Hezbollah, from Lebanon and Hezbollah, is that as long as Israel is in the southern part of Lebanon, they're going to hit the northern part of Israel. That's the reality that is not going to change without Israel changing its behavior in the southern part of Lebanon. And I don't see Israel, you know, somehow changing its policies or withdrawing from the southern part of Lebanon anytime soon. And nobody seems to, in the analysis, do you see any sort of...

#Larry

Well, that's, that's again, that's what Iran now has done. And I just, I'm just, I'm seeing the headlines over my computer here. So they're closing the Bab al-Mandab. They are shutting down. Now they said they're going to stop all traffic coming out of the Strait of Hormuz. So up to this point, Iran was allowing ships to pass, and ships were, you know, paying the fee. But now, accordingly, if the news is accurate, Iran said nothing's going to get out. So they're going to really shut it down. So, you know, the combination of those two factors means the global effect on the world economy is, it's going to be real now.

They can't pretend that, oh, this is just temporary. It's not temporary. So this is going to force the United States to act, to put pressure. Well, what it ought to do, and I'm not sure it will, it ought to force Trump to call Netanyahu up and say, cut this shit out now. And you're going to end your attacks on Lebanon now. That's going to stop. We're cutting off all aid now. Okay, so that would be a move in the right direction. That would then provide an opening for the United States and Iran to get back to talks. But I don't see that happening, at least this week. And I think in the face of this challenge by Iran, the United States is going to ramp up.

So, yeah, we're seeing today that this situation now, it's going to get worse. We've had, you know, sort of, let's call it eight weeks of calmness, so to speak. At least, you know, Iranians have not been dying. So more Iranians are going to die. But this also means Saudi Arabia, Qatar, they're going to have a choice to make. They're going to either shut down U.S. military operations from their territory, or if they allow those military operations from their territory like Kuwait is, they're going to be attacked. They're going to suffer significant damage beyond what they've already suffered.

#Nima

Do you see the war starting as an Iranian attack on Israel because of the attacks in Lebanon? Israel wants to attack Dahiya, wants to destroy Dahiya right now. They issued an evacuation announcement, and how do you see the Iranian reaction to that? Are they going to hit Israel?

#Larry

Yeah, I could see, you know, up to this point, Iran has always waited to be attacked to attack. But I see in this situation that they would inform the United States and Israel that if Israel doesn't stop this within the next 12 hours, we are going to attack and destroy Israeli military targets that are involved with these operations that are killing Lebanese and Palestinians. So it would not surprise me if Iran decides to do that. It sounds like they're fed up now.

#Speaker 05

I think they have.

#Larry

They've decided, okay, this has gone on long enough. Because the original ceasefire was supposed to stop this. Instead, Israel's just basically going, hey, fuck you, we're going to do whatever we want. Okay, so now we'll see if they pay a price for that.

#Nima

Who's actively supporting the United States, facilitating American attacks on Iran? Over the weekend, we had American attacks and an Iranian response on Kuwait. Is that because they're using Kuwaiti territory as the base or the origin of these attacks?

#Larry

Yeah, yeah, no, that's why they went after Kuwait.

#Nima

What do they have in Kuwait, Larry, that is different? Or the other countries, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, they don't want to be part of it, or they're somehow cautious about getting involved in this active war?

#Larry

Yeah, my understanding is that the Saudis have limited U.S. ability to use Saudi airfields, Prince Sultan Air Base, the PSAB as they call it, in particular for military operations against Iran. You know, normal hauling troops in and out, you know, let's call it indirect stuff, yeah, they allow that. But they're not allowing the active combat support operations. Kuwait is, and now Kuwait's getting hit. And I think the intensity of those hits against Kuwait is going to increase. Same for the UAE. I don't see the UAE as showing any signs of wanting to back off or not create a provocation. So, yeah, this could be a bad week. The good news is you and I will have something to talk to Colonel Wilkerson about on Friday.

#Nima

Are these rumors about the UAE being involved in those attacks on Iran, is that just a rumor, or were they actively involved in those American-Israeli attacks on Iran?

#Larry

I'm not sure how, you know, again, I think they were more in the facilitation. They don't have a massive air force, you know, so whatever participation or role they played, it was more symbolic. It was more of a gesture than it was actual substance that made a difference. But substance or not, it made them a legitimate target as far as Iran is concerned. And I'm surprised more damage has not been done to the UAE. Like I said, if this now continues to heat up and expand, which I think it will, then you're going to see more damage in the UAE, particularly in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

#Nima

Larry, here's what Donald Trump said about the story and the war against Iran.

#Speaker 05

Yes, by the way, it shouldn't have been in Iran. But Iran has the capability. If we didn't hit them with the B-2 bombers nine months ago, they would have a nuclear weapon right now. And it would be a whole different story. Probably would have used it. You probably wouldn't have had them, you wouldn't have had Israel, and you probably wouldn't have had a Middle East. And then where do they go from there?

#Nima

Is there any sort of evidence to support what he just said?

#Larry

Oh, heavens no. I mean, you know, he just makes his stuff up. It's just part of his confabulation, you know, where he creates a story in his mind, believes it's true even though it's not, and then sells it as being true by repeating it over and over and over. Yeah, so, you know, but that is just baseless. No fact to that whatsoever, because Iran didn't have a nuclear weapons program. They were quite clear about that. But then the United States had to create this narrative that, oh yeah, we had launched these attacks to stop Iran from developing a nuke. Well, you know, we've seen this from the United States over and over and over again.

We create the problem, and then we claim that because that problem exists, we need to go solve it. We did that particularly with Saddam Hussein. Our invasion in 2003, we had to stop his weapons of mass destruction. Well, we knew he didn't have a nuclear program, so that left chemical and biological weapons. Well, where the hell did Iraq get those? They got those from the United States, provided courtesy of a CIA program, a joint CIA–Department of Defense program, over chemical weapons that included mustard gas and nerve agents, G and sarin. That was provided via precursor chemicals that the United States helped procure and send to Iraq.

So here, once again, the United States is creating a problem where we keep saying they've got a nuke and we have to attack them. And so finally, at some point, the Iranians come to the conclusion, you know what? If we had a nuke, they'd leave us alone, just like they leave Kim Jong-un and North Korea alone. So let's get a nuke. It could lead Iran to absolutely do that. And Trump, he was accurate in that regard. While Iran has the technological and scientific skill to build a nuclear device, the easier way for them to get it is to buy one from Pakistan or North Korea. That way you've already got it, it's proven, it's tested, and you get to tell the United States, hey, look at what we have.

#Nima

I think Donald Trump is forcing them to do that because there is no way. They don't want this war. They don't want this continuous war in West Asia, not only against Iran, but against Lebanon, against Gazans, against Palestinians. That's why there has to be a permanent solution to what's going on in West Asia. There is no way to negotiate or find some sort of temporary ceasefire or truce. So what would be the outcome for the Iranian people? Nothing.

#Larry

Right. Yeah, no, it is, as you know, by virtue of your religion, within Shia Islam, it is a real fundamental belief that you do not kill innocents, that if you're engaged in war, you don't kill noncombatants. And that has been one of the major reasons behind the fatwa initially issued by

Ayatollah Khamenei, that a nuclear weapon, by definition, is going to kill innocents. It's an indiscriminate weapon. So it's one that is going to kill noncombatants. And Iran has always chosen to avoid those weapons. They did the same with the nerve agents and the chemical agents that the United States was helping provide and equip Iraq with.

#Nima

Iraq with.

#Larry

I mean Iraq with, because Iran never retaliated by doing it itself. So I think that's one of those things where it is a fundamental principle. It's not just a theological concept confined to the clergy. It's something that is pervasive throughout. It is a fundamental belief within Islam, at least the Shia version. And you can correct me if I'm wrong.

#Nima

No, you're right, totally right, 100% spot on. But Larry, when it comes to the Strait of Hormuz, these Europeans are screaming, "This is against international law, this is hurting us." But they have never condemned the occupation of Lebanon. They have never condemned the attack on Iran. And who are these people, and what would be their policy? What is the sign of any sort of understanding on their part, or any sort of influence on the global economy, on international law, or the way that, you know, people all around the world are perceiving their policies? They're totally—somehow they say, "We're not happy with Venezuela," but when something happens, they're all in. "Let's do it."

#Larry

Yeah, don't you love how they trot out international law when it's convenient for them? When the United States, in contradiction of international law, invades Venezuela? Not a word. Quiet. When the United States and Israel launch an unprovoked war of aggression, the same kind of war that the Nazis unleashed on the world on September 1st, 1939, the world says nothing. Now all of a sudden, oh, this is an outrage, this is a violation of international law. That's why, look, that's why the United Nations no longer has any credibility, because it has become just—if it suits the interests of the United States or Europeans, it's not against the law, it's great. If it irritates the interests of the United States or the Europeans, all of a sudden, by God, it's an international issue that has to be addressed.

So this is... I think there will be another, I'm sure, emergency session of the United Nations. Now, Russia was in charge of the UN Security Council this last month, and their tenure ended on Sunday. So I don't know who has it for June. But whoever is chairing the UN Security Council, it's gonna be a busy, at least first week or so. It's gonna be very busy.

#Nima

Isn't that amazing that Rubio is asking the UN to open up the Straddle for Muslims?

#Larry

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, yeah.

#Nima

They have destroyed the UN, Larry. They have destroyed the UN. There is no UN there. Right. Just think about what they did with the case of Israel. Every time they vetoed anything against Israel. And right now they're talking about the UN helping us to open up the Strait of Hormuz.

#Larry

Yeah, the, the, uh, you could probably, you could create a song for the UN Security Council. You know, the Beach Boys had this song, "Help Me, Rhonda." You know, we need to come up with the lyrics for "Help Me, UN, Help Me." It'll help me get Israel out of my life. It should be one of the refrains. But yeah, look, we've talked in the past about this emergence of a new world order. We're witnessing the birth of a new world order, the so-called old world order, the one that's been in place for the last 80 years, 81 years, going back to World War II. And that includes the Bretton Woods financial system, the United Nations, sort of an international political system. And then we get into trade agreements and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and all these others—the World Court, the International Court of Justice.

All of this was an infrastructure created in the aftermath of World War II, the Geneva Convention. And that was all done because of the horror of what had been experienced in World War II, and that vow—okay, we don't want to have this happen again. What can we do to stop it? Well, now that whole system, it's coming unraveled. The United Nations is now about as relevant as the League of Nations was in 1939. The League of Nations had at that point existed for almost 20 years. But what was it doing to stop World War II? Nothing. And it continued to exist. I think its offices were in Geneva, Switzerland.

Continued to exist until the United Nations was created, and then the League of Nations disappeared. So now I think we're going to be coming to something, a new international order, that instead of having a UN Security Council that gives the United Kingdom and France veto power—you know, these are two nothing countries. They're irrelevant countries. They have good people that live in them. I'm not at all attacking the people, but let's be honest, France and the UK are completely, they're like toothless chihuahuas now—little tiny dogs that yap a lot, make a lot of noise, can be obnoxious, but they don't really carry much bite. And instead, replace them with India. India should have a seat at that table.

You can make a case that actually Brazil, you know, in terms of population, Brazil's in the top 10 of all nations in the world. So, you know, make it more fair. You know, Africa's not represented on the UN Security Council permanently. You know, different countries get a chance to do a rotation, but Africa itself as a continent is not represented. And, frankly, Latin America, Central and South America, not represented. So they need to come up with a new system. And I see that's where this whole movement with Russia and China and BRICS, that's where this is headed.

#Nima

The French Navy intercepted a tanker originating from Russia, and the operation was in the Atlantic together with the United Kingdom. It says that this movement of these tankers is against international sanctions.

#Larry

Mm-hmm.

#Nima

Is there any sort of definition in international law about international sanctions, which we know are imposed by the United States and its European allies?

#Larry

Yeah, yeah, yeah. No, this is a clear violation, so I expect to see Russia retaliate.

#Larry

And, you know, so that's going to add another dimension to all of this. But, hey, I forgot, I'm going to have to jump. I've got another—I've got an 11 o'clock in Turkey. Or actually, it's in Islamabad. So I don't want the Pakistanis mad at me. They have nuclear weapons, you know.

#Nima

Thank you. Thank you so much, Larry. All right, my friend, see you on Friday. All right.

#Larry

We'll see you Friday. Bye. Bye-bye.