Iran BOMBARDS US Fifth Fleet, REPELS Navy Convoy – War BLOWS UP | Seyed M. Marandi

Seyed Mohammad Marandi is a Professor of the University of Tehran and former advisor to the nation's nuclear negotiations team. He discusses Iran's blistering attack on US bases in Bahrain and a stunning operation against US naval incursion all within the last 24 hours. The war is escalating and we discuss both the inner workings of it and the broader geopolitical implications. SUPPORT THE SHOW BY BECOMING A YOUTUBE MEMBER: https://www.youtube.com/channel /UCOxLhz6B_elvLflntSEfnzA/join PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack. com Cashapp: $Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: https://paypal.me/spiritofho Follow me on Telegram: https://t.me/dannyhaiphong #iran #israel #trump

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Seyed Mohammad Marandi, a professor at Tehran University, as well as a former media specialist on the Iran nuclear negotiations team from back when. Professor Marandi, let's begin with the like button. Yeah, right, the like button. Everyone, hit the like button because that will get you in Professor Marandi's good graces and boost the show on the YouTube algorithm.

#Danny

I think we met a couple of days ago. Yeah, it's been a while. It's been a while. Well, I was your reserve guest. Yeah, I had a scheduling snafu, and you were so gracious. We poor Iranians, you know, we have to fill in for other people. Yep, yep. Now who's doing the oppressing and the terror? All right, Professor Marandi. So last night was pretty active. We had Iran reporting that they destroyed two Patriot air defense radars in Bahrain with a combined missile and drone attack. This was reported yesterday afternoon and into the evening. This came after we saw things like a Patriot missile interceptor malfunctioning, causing a huge fire, as they often do in the very countries that they are launched from. And there's also been a lot of naval activity. I know that you've probably been following the reports of Iran's reported operation to break the blockade.

There have been some reports that an Iranian tanker has been struck by the United States. Not confirmed yet. But what we do know is that last night, or the night before into the morning, Iran thwarted an operation by the United States to try to sneak warships into the Strait of Hormuz under air cover. Iran thwarted it with another combined attack and not only repelled this entire operation

but also caused an F-16 to squawk an emergency, and an F-35 last night to squawk an emergency and make an emergency landing as Iran fired its air defenses. So, Professor Marandi, what do you make of these escalations as the trilateral summit has ended? We're kind of back to the status quo. What do you make of Iran's actions and where things are going, as it seems Iran is taking the initiative here to affect outcomes?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, first of all, I think that it's pretty clear that the Iranians have been escalating for quite a while now. Ever since President Pezeshkian came back from New York, the Iranians have been increasing the number of ships that they've been hitting—tankers and cargo ships. Just tonight, they hit two more. Apparently, the Americans also hit an Iranian ship tonight. But as you said, we'll have to see if that's confirmed. I think that's probably true. But Iran is hitting ships very hard, and it's been doing so for weeks. Some of the ships have sunk. Some of them are badly damaged. And this is going to cause a crisis because there will be a shortage of tankers as this continues.

So Iran no longer hits ships with light drones. They hit them to wreck them, to destroy them, to badly damage them. The shortage of fuel and the shortage of commodities continue to get worse. The situation progressively gets worse across the world thanks to the war. But also, in recent nights, we've seen the Iranians bomb U.S. radar installations in Oman, in Bahrain on multiple occasions, and in Kuwait. So the Iranians are not only hitting ships, but they're also hitting U.S. bases and U.S. assets in multiple countries. And the Iranians have also said that the United States, too...

#Danny

President Ronda, you're breaking up quite a lot right now. Can you hear me okay? Yes, I can hear you. Sorry to interrupt. Please continue. You were talking about the shortages of goods. Yeah.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Okay, so the shortages of commodities are growing across the world thanks to the war. And in addition to that, we see that the Iranians, in the last couple of weeks, have been targeting U.S. bases and U.S. facilities in Oman, in Bahrain, and in Kuwait, and destroying radar installations and radar for surface-to-air missiles. So the Iranians are escalating. They're hitting both ships and U.S. bases, but they're also downing drones and hitting U.S. fighter jets—an F-16 and an F-35, both of which had to land quickly because of the damage.

They've also declared that from now on, any violation of Iranian airspace is enough for Iran to retaliate and strike U.S. assets in the Persian Gulf. So obviously, Iran has been escalating. And I think it's going to continue to do that, especially because the leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, has said that this situation of neither peace nor war has to come to an end. And today, the Speaker of Parliament also confirmed that. So I think that Iran is going to gradually make things more difficult

for Trump—or maybe suddenly, I don't know. But Iran will increase the pressure to force the United States to make a choice: either to engage in an all-out war or to back down.

#Danny

Professor Morandi, what is it about the U.S. naval base, the Fifth Fleet, which was the target of Iranian strikes overnight? What is it about that base now? Back in—what was it, September, I believe—the acting U.S. Navy secretary said that this base had already been blown to hell. So what might be going on in Bahrain right now? Because Bahrain, whether it's the Sheikh Isa Air Base or the Fifth Fleet, is getting the brunt of Iran's attacks. Is there something going on there that maybe people still aren't aware of, despite all the damage that's already been done to it?

#Seyed M. Marandi

I've never, of course, seen the base, but apparently it's like one-third of Bahrain. So the Americans have stolen one-third of the country. And I don't think the regime in Bahrain is going to last much longer. But the despot in Bahrain, in order to keep U.S. support, because the U.S. helped him, gave them one-third of the country. So the facilities in Bahrain are huge. And Iran fired thousands of drones and destroyed all sorts of equipment at the base. But what they struck this time around were radar installations, including radar for the Patriot missiles. And apparently, the reason why those Patriot missiles hit factories was that the radar was struck, and then control over the Patriot missiles was lost, and they struck the factories.

#Danny

Professor Morandi, Donald Trump has just told Fox News that any tankers Iran attempts to sail through or around the blockade will be sunk completely. Iran says its reaction to any attack on these tankers will be attacks on energy assets. So what do you make of this? How dangerous is this gambit that the Trump administration is now playing when it comes to responding to Iran's actions here?

#Seyed M. Marandi

It's very dangerous. Obviously, we are at a point where anything could lead to a global economic collapse. Because if the United States starts targeting Iranian infrastructure—and a tanker is linked to Iran's economy and its gas and oil industry—Iran will retaliate. And then we'd be going down the road of economic collapse, I think. We'd be moving more swiftly in that direction. So the Iranians are not going to be intimidated by Trump. This so-called operation that has been talked about over the last few days is not really happening. It's just fake news.

I don't know how this blew up and people have been talking about it everywhere. This was an article in Fars News. Fars News is the most important Iranian news agency. It's the most widely watched,

and it has close links with the armed forces. It doesn't belong to the armed forces, but they have people inside the armed forces who are close to them and sometimes give them information. So they put out an article saying that this would be a good idea: Iran would sail tankers and then tell the Americans, "If you touch them, we'll destroy your proxies' oil and gas installations in the region." And that was just an article.

Now, since this is Fars News and they have close links with the armed forces, the idea for that article could have been given to Fars News by the armed forces. That's possible. And so it could be more than just an article. They may be putting forward this idea to prepare the ground for something. But at least until a few hours ago—I don't know about now—there was no such operation. All this talk about 14 tankers or the tankers moving was just made-up stuff. But at the end of the day, Iran will have to break the siege in one way or another.

I don't know what the plan would be, obviously. I'm not privy to that sort of thing. But ultimately, if the United States starts striking tankers, I think the Iranians will escalate even further. And we are seeing that the Iranians have no problem with escalation. As I've just explained, we've already seen escalation. They're hitting more tankers. They're hitting them much harder. I mean, they're destroying these tankers. And that's going to lead to a huge shortage of tankers. It's not like you can take them to the local shop. These tankers have to be taken to, I don't know, South Korea or China for major repairs. And there's going to be a huge line or queue of tankers because of all the...

#Danny

We lost you. You said there would be a huge line of tankers. If you can still hear me, are you still there?

#Seyed M. Marandi

I'm here.

#Danny

You said there would be a huge line of tankers.

#Seyed M. Marandi

I was just saying that if Iran continues to destroy tankers at this pace, there's going to be a crisis because of a shortage of tankers. You can't just repair these tankers overnight. They are badly damaged, and there'll be a huge line of tankers that need to be repaired. So Iran is already escalating, and it's striking US bases. It's downing US drones. These are not ordinary drones. These are drones that cost the US $40 to $60 million each. So Iran is not afraid to escalate. That's the direction I think we'll ultimately be moving in. But Trump is in a lot of trouble.

And the Iranians know that. The defeat in the midterm elections was catastrophic. We discussed that, and I'm sure you've discussed it with your other guests repeatedly. But the stock market crash that we saw this week, NVIDIA, and all the issues surrounding that are making Trump more vulnerable than before as well. Main Street has been suffering, thus the catastrophic defeat in the midterms, and now High Street is suffering. So if he wants to start another hot war, imagine what sort of impact that will have.

#Danny

What do you hear right now about Israel? I mean, I guess I'm always curious about sentiments in the region and in your country around Israel. But Israeli media has reported almost every single day, including multiple times within the last 24 hours, that, one, the United States may strike Iran harder without Israeli involvement, or, two, that Israel may preemptively strike Iran because they've heard indications that Iran is going to attack them first. Definitely heard that before. But what are your thoughts on Israel right now in terms of how it factors into this? Right now, it's not really in the escalation zone, if we call it that, but it very much is clamoring for it and pushing toward it. What are your thoughts on this? Well, Iran is prepared for war. You saw two new underground missile bases inaugurated over the past few days, and so, obviously, Iran has no shortage of missiles.

#Seyed M. Marandi

And imagine how the firepower is increasing. Simultaneously, if Iran wants to strike, it can strike with far larger numbers of missiles than before. So they have more missiles. And, you know, one of the things, Danny, that I think may be interesting for your viewers is that before the war, Iran had factories for missiles, parts, and things like that. But one factory in particular for fuel, and a factory for missiles, were out in the open and visible to satellites. And the Iranians did that intentionally. They wanted the Americans and the Israelis to think that this is where they produce missiles and this is the production line.

And so they could calculate how many missiles Iran had. And if war started, they could end Iran's missile production by destroying this factory. Well, the fact was that that factory was one of multiple factories, and the other factories were all in underground bases. And so the production of missiles was far greater than the Americans ever thought, and those factories were not accessible for them to destroy. And even this factory was emptied as soon as the war started, as were many facilities. So in many cases, and we discussed this during the war, the buildings they struck were empty because they'd already emptied them and moved out everything valuable—not just military equipment, everything.

As you recall, I was at Iranian Radio and Television when they bombed it. You would think that Western journalists would be outraged, but of course no one was. And of course, you wouldn't think that, because we saw the slaughter of over 250 Palestinian journalists, and no mainstream journalists in the West shed a tear. And the same was true with journalists in Lebanon. So, of

course, they would target it. But targeting Iranian Radio and Television is like targeting CNN. It's like targeting Fox News. It's like targeting the BBC, because it is the key media outlet. So I was there when they bombed it, and they evacuated the buildings.

And they began taking out all the computers and everything. Why? Because if they struck the building again, or the other buildings, then a lot of the equipment would be destroyed. So that's what they were doing across the country. They were removing equipment from buildings. And of course, the military did it first and foremost. So the Americans and Israelis miscalculated Iran's production of missiles and drones. And they miscalculated the impact they would have on the production of missiles and drones as a result of the war. And just in one week, you saw two new missile bases inaugurated, and they are full of missiles. I mean, if your viewers have watched them, cool.

So these are bases that didn't exist during the war. Iran's firepower is quite impressive. And as we saw during the last couple of nights, two American planes were hit, and many drones are being downed. And these are not ordinary drones. These are not like the drones that you see the Russians fire into Ukraine or the Ukrainians fire into Russia, or the kamikaze drones that Iran fires. These are very, very expensive drones. As I said, they cost tens of millions of dollars. So Iran's air defense capabilities are improving. The Americans have been trying to prevent Iran from striking ships. Iran has been striking more ships than before and, as I said, with much more devastating consequences.

So obviously, Iranian firepower has increased. Iran has huge numbers of decoys, and they move them around. Their radar systems are mobile. So everything is constantly being moved around when they're on the surface. And when they're under the surface, they are, of course, well protected. During the war, you and I had this discussion. And I said that the Americans were saying from day one that Iran was running out of missiles and drones. And they were saying that the missile bases were being destroyed. And I said, "Not a single missile base has been destroyed." And after the war, gradually, they had to admit all that—that they did not do any damage.

So while Iran destroyed all those U.S. bases, including the one in Bahrain that you were speaking about—and I don't know what the Americans have there, but obviously they have something that they've installed—those radar installations and those Patriot batteries, there are not all that many of them left, are there? Iran is much more prepared than before. I don't follow these stories from Israel that much anymore because every day they're saying, "Well, you know, the Americans are going to attack. The bunkers have been opened in Israel. The Israelis may attack." Well, the Iranian armed forces are on full alert.

If that happens, they'll get their response very swiftly. Right now, the Iranians are prepared for a swift response. You know, let me tell you a story. I like telling stories. I have a colleague who, for a long time, has always been worried about war. Before these two latest wars that the Americans and Israelis imposed on us began, she would often ask me when she saw me, "Is there going to be war?" She's a very respected person. I won't name her. I think it was last Monday or Tuesday that I

saw her, and I said, “Possibly.” And she said, “Really? Are you serious?” And then there were three of us talking.

And then she said, “Really? Seriously?” And then, like one second later, she turned to the other colleague and asked him about some student or some exam paper or something. I don't remember what she was talking about, but it didn't bother her that much at all. I mean, it wasn't as if she kept asking me more and more questions. She just forgot the question. She just said, “Really? Seriously?” And then a second later, she turned to him and asked about something else, some other university business. I don't recall what it was, but the point is that the Iranians are ready for war. The Iranians aren't afraid. And if war comes, it comes. We will fight back.

#Danny

Now, Professor Morandi, I can actually pull up what you were referring to in terms of Iran showing off its missile city. Did I find it? Actually, yes, I did. Here is the video of that.

#Seyed M. Marandi

There are two that were inaugurated.

#Danny

This is one. I don't know which one. Let me see. Let me actually go back to the post. So this is just a visit. It doesn't say exactly which one it is. I guess they wouldn't give too many details anyway. But yeah, so this is one video that came out in response. It's not the best resolution, but nevertheless, I guess my question to you then is: Why do you think Iran has taken this particular approach to response, retaliation, and escalation? Because with this arsenal, certainly it has the capacity to do far more than what is being done right now.

And some of people's reactions to that story about breaking the blockade—I think it's really significant what happened in the last 36 hours, when you had Iran actually destroying assets in the region and also pushing back U.S. fighter jets and attempted convoys to take out Iranian shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, under Iran's nose. But nevertheless, there are people who are concerned that this status quo, as Moshe Abba Haimani talked about, this “no peace, no war,” is something that the United States is very much angling toward keeping around for some time. And so I'm wondering how you view Iran's response, given that it does have this capacity for escalation and has taken a gradual approach, it seems, to moving up its own retaliatory ladder. Your thoughts?

#Seyed M. Marandi

The Iranians are patient people, and they don't make emotional decisions. That's something that the Americans and their allies don't do. The Americans and the Europeans are very emotional. You see it

in their reaction to whatever is going on in Ukraine or anywhere else. They're arrogant, they're emotional, they're angry, but the Iranians have patience, and they're not going to make some sudden, abrupt decision and then follow through. They will think about all their moves. It's like a game of chess—a very deadly game of chess, thanks to Linus. But it is a pretty long game of chess, and it's very complicated. So...

#Danny

Professor Moran, you're breaking up. You've been talking about Iran playing a geopolitical game of chess.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Sorry about the connection. I apologize to your viewers. It's Danny's fault. It's Danny's fault. It seems that it wants me to interrupt you, because your connection always corrects itself when I butt in. But please continue. It's Danny. It's the Great Satan. It's on his side. Whatever. So, it's a game of chess for Iran—a deadly game of chess, thanks to the Israelis, the Zionists, and the Americans. I mean the U.S. government, the regime. But the Iranians calculate, and they don't make emotional decisions like European and North American leaders. And so they will ultimately make their moves. So remember, the Iranians prepared for this war for at least three decades.

I can't give a specific date. But all these underground missile bases and drone bases, and the drone industry—I mean, the first country that really began to work seriously on drones was Iran. And they were ridiculing Iran back then. And then, when the Russians and the Ukrainians went to war, Iran sent Iranian drones to Russia. They set up a factory there and began to develop more drones and different types of drones that were very important to Russia and continue to be important for Russia. So the Iranians began to develop drones and missiles and pursue their own indigenous technology. These underground bases were being prepared back then for today.

Most people didn't think we'd be in the position that we are now. But because of the planning back then and Iran's support for the resistance in Yemen, in Iraq, and elsewhere, we see today the fruits of that resistance. The Americans have been expelled. The Iranians helped the Taliban expel the Americans from Afghanistan, costing trillions of dollars. They helped the Iraqi resistance expel the Americans from Iraq. They helped liberate Yemen. They helped support the Palestinians through Lebanon. And, of course, the Americans and Israelis and their regional proxies brought down Syria. This was, of course, an American project. It was an Israeli project. And that weakened the resistance. And, of course, they convinced some.

#Danny

Professor Morana, you were talking about the weakened resistance. That's where you got cut off.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Do you want to switch to another connection, or do you want to just plod through?

#Danny

Let's see how it goes in the next few minutes. It works itself out quite quickly.

#Seyed M. Marandi

On all fronts, the resistance has become more powerful. The only place where the resistance has had trouble was on the northern front. That is because of Syria, because the Americans had success there, and because their regional proxies like Erdogan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and, of course, the Israeli regime all collaborated with NATO and others to undermine the country. That's what it was all about. Now, Qatar, Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya, and all these Wahhabi and Salafi entities funded by these regimes tried to make it sectarian, and they succeeded in deceiving lots of people. But it was not sectarian. It was basically an assault by the empire for the sake of the Israeli regime. And these sectarian people were useful idiots.

And they called Iran sectarian, whereas, no, they were sectarian. Because of their sectarianism, they weakened the resistance. But as I said before on your show, if Iran were sectarian, Iran wouldn't have helped the Taliban expel the United States. And some of the Persian speakers, the Tajiks, and the Shias in Afghanistan were very angry with Iran for this policy. But in any case, all of this planning was done over decades. So Iran is patient. These missile bases, the missile and drone technology, the surface-to-air missile capabilities—all of these were slowly built up. And I've told you before, the Russians and the Chinese—and I'm sure everyone else—were shocked that Iran defeated the United States. Both thought Iran would fail during the 12-day war.

And I could tell you—well, there are stories that could be told about this war. You saw President Putin on multiple occasions speak about Iran. When I was in Moscow, I asked him a question, and he spoke about the courage and bravery of the Iranian people and how impressed he was by their resilience. So was everyone else. So this was carried out because the Iranians had patience, and they prepared the ground for this resistance for decades. So the Iranians are not going to just make an emotional decision tonight in dealing with the Americans. They're going to plan. They're going to go over different ideas. And then, ultimately, they will pursue a course of action that takes advantage of Iran's strong points and the weak points of the empire.

#Seyed M. Marandi

But we'll see. We'll see. You're muted, I think.

#Danny

Yes, I was. Some say, Professor Marandi, that patience does have limits. And I'm curious about your thoughts on what happens now, given that the situation has definitely changed in recent weeks, months, and even just in recent days. What would those red lines be for Iran? The reports are, of course, that an attack on Iranian tankers would lead to major escalation. But are there other red lines? Because, well, it seems Iran definitely is moving toward breaking this status quo, while the U. S. is trying to, I think, catch a breather in this no-peace, no-war situation. There's also the possibility of escalation, and Israel talks about it every day. In the United States, you had—who was it? Was it the wife of Stephen Miller who wrote about eliminating Iran's civilization? Right, she tweeted that.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Yes, she tweeted Trump's post about obliterating Iran's civilization. And that's just how disgusting it is. It's not just her. I mean, she's obviously a disgusting creature, as is her husband, and as is the President of the United States. But have you seen any outrage in the U.S. media about this? Or in the British media, the Guardian, the so-called left? They're all the same. No one should be naive. And that's why no one should be naive about the Democratic Party either. The people who voted for them—you should have great optimism about what they achieved. But they only voted for the Democratic Party because they had no other options. That was the only way in which they could say no to Trump. So, yes. But let me put it this way, Danny.

And I understand that Iran has said that it is going to break this status quo. So something will ultimately happen. What will that be? I'm not privy to that. But let's go over the last few weeks. The U.S. midterm elections—regime change. Trump lost much of his authority and status during the midterm elections. He was humiliated. So that, I think, shows that Iranian patience had results, because you and I discussed this before the election. I said that Iran was never going to say, "We're going to try to defeat Trump again in the midterm elections." But I'm sure that's what they were trying to do, while also putting pressure on him to see if he would do a deal before the election, which he ultimately didn't.

He negotiated, but he didn't have the courage to go back to the MOU. He was too cowardly. But the Iranians increased the pressure. Now, with the stock market in the United States, it's due to multiple reasons. And I'm not an economist, and I don't pretend to be able to explain exactly what happened. But there's no doubt that the war on Iran had a part to play in this situation. No doubt. And although it was bound to fall ultimately—everyone has been talking about this—eight months of war, nine months of war, high energy costs, shortages of sulfur, shortages of helium, shortages of LNG, high prices everywhere: of course, it's ultimately going to quicken the fall and make it worse.

So again, this is just speculation. I have no idea. There was an expectation that the United States might attack during the last few days. But the stock market began to tank, and I believe that if they were thinking about attacking, they possibly decided not to do so because of the stock market. And

so basically what I'm saying, Danny, is that patience has paid off. And yes, Iranians are suffering. The economy is hurting. Inflation is high. When I go shopping, I can tell the difference. I go shopping this week and compare it to last week. Prices are up. And I'm a university professor.

And since I'm a full professor, my salary is higher than most of my colleagues' because I became an associate professor and then a full professor, and I've been around for over two decades. So my younger colleagues have a lower salary than I do. And working-class people have a significantly lower salary than I do. So obviously, for these people, it's going to be even more difficult than for me. There's no doubt that there's suffering in Iran. That's the intention. Bessent, when he talks about it, shows a great lust for creating suffering. It's obvious. Bessent, when he talks, takes great pleasure in the idea that he can make 90 million people suffer. These are sick people. These are evil people. I mean, just like Miller's wife. They're all the same.

And so are the journalists at the Guardian, Fox News, the New York Times, and the BBC. It's all the same. They are the employees of the Epstein class. So there is difficulty, but the Iranians have scored victories. The midterm is a victory for Iran. And the decline of the stock market in the United States is a defeat for Trump. Now, it's not that Iran wants ordinary people in the United States to suffer. But this war has been imposed on Iran. It's going to fight back in any way that it can. If Trump were to implement the MOU, then the price of oil would probably be down to $50 or $60 a barrel. And the prices of sulfur, helium, fertilizer, LNG, diesel, jet fuel, gasoline, and everything else would all go down. But Trump refuses to go down that road.

#Danny

What are Iran's red lines, then? You know, the economic pain that Iran has had to endure is decades old, but it has been exacerbated by both the blockade and the increase in sanctions over this period, even though Trump signed a paper saying the opposite was supposed to happen. Nevertheless, the economic pain seems to have been, both for the government and for the people, a price worth paying if it means not bending the knee and continuing to fight against U.S. and Israeli aggression. So what are the red lines for Iran today when it comes to, you know, this patience kind of running out? It seems like the blockade now is one of those targets. But, you know, Trump is talking about, "Oh, well, there are going to be strikes now in the new year. That's when we're going to hold off," alluding a little bit to what you were saying about these other factors, including the economic pain in the U.S. and around the world, which is influencing the U.S. side. So, your thoughts on this?

#Seyed M. Marandi

I think there are different red lines at different levels. One was the red line that we discussed at the beginning of the show. You said first that the Iranians are now saying that if you just enter our airspace, then we're going to retaliate. That wasn't policy before. But at a different level, if the Americans do carry out what Senator Murphy says is the plan—strikes on Iran's infrastructure—then

Iran has said that they will destroy these countries in the Persian Gulf and the infrastructure of the Israeli regime. And that will be the end of it. The only reason why Trump holds back is because he's scared. Otherwise, he'd do it. And he may do it, ultimately.

But he would have done it two months ago, three months ago. You recall that when they struck Iran's South Pars gas field, Iran hit Qatar's LNG program, and they did huge damage. And then, during the 40-day war, Trump put out a Truth Social post almost immediately when he woke up in the morning and said, "This won't happen again." So he knows what Iran can do. And then, a couple of weeks ago, the U.S. Secretary of State said something. I saw the tweet. I didn't listen to him. But he was saying that Iran is an abnormal country. They say, "If you don't abide by our demands, we're going to destroy everything," which is not what Iran said. That's not what Iran said.

But there is an acknowledgement there that Iran can destroy everything. And they know what Iran can do. And that's what scares them. So Iran has different sorts of red lines, and Iran responds when those red lines are crossed. But we'll have to see ultimately how things play out, because the leader has said that this "no peace, no war" situation that we're in right now with the blockade has to come to an end, one way or another. So I think, and I'm guessing, that the Iranians are going to increase the pressure on Trump. Now, it could be sudden. It could be gradual. I don't know. I don't pretend to know.

You know, I always try to be careful so that I don't mislead people into thinking I know things that I don't know. And I say it not out of humility—it's because I don't know. And I'm not in the military, so I don't know these things. Let me tell you this story. Before you and I met, before I was ever on your show years ago, I used to go on Al Jazeera, RT, and CGTN, and very rarely on CNN and BBC. But the first time I really went viral was actually on Press TV. And this was, I don't know, over a decade ago. Back then, there was also talk of an assault on Iran. And I said, "If there's an attack on Iran..."

And on Iran's infrastructure. I don't recall exactly what I said, but I said that Iran would destroy everything on the other side of the Persian Gulf. And that went viral, and people contacted me from places like Qatar and elsewhere. And what I said was not based on any statement made by a government official. It was based on what I was seeing, on my understanding of how Iranian society works. And ultimately, when the war started, that's exactly what happened. When they struck Iran, Iran would strike back. Iran began destroying the bases. Then, wherever Iranian infrastructure was struck, they struck back, and they shut the Strait of Hormuz. It's not because I had any insider knowledge. It's because I think I understand a thing or two about Iran. But the West, they understand very little about Iran.

They read their own garbage. They listen to their own propaganda, and they believe their own propaganda. There's very little in the West that's worth reading about Iran. I always say, read Going to Tehran by Flynt and Hillary Leverett. Buy it for Christmas for your friends and family. If people want to know more about Iran, that's one of the very few books worth reading. Alastair Crooke's

book is another. There's very little. So they don't understand Iran, but I live in Iran, and I try to be objective, and I try to be accurate. And my understanding is that when Ayatollah Khamenei says this "neither peace nor war" status has to come to an end—and Dr. Qalibaf, the Speaker of Parliament and the chief negotiator, said it again himself today—that means they're going to do something.

Now, does that mean it's going to happen tonight or tomorrow? I don't know, but whatever is going to happen is going to happen only after a lot of planning, because that's how Iran does things. It's not like someone just bangs on the table and says, "We're going to do this tomorrow." That's not how they make decisions at the top in Iran. So they have lots of patience, but I think you said something about having too much patience. I think that so far they've done pretty well defeating the empire, the Israeli regime, and this huge coalition. The collective West is behind the United States. You recall that the head of NATO said that during the first 40 days of the two months of fighting, 5,000 planes took off from bases across Europe.

So NATO was with them, as were the Arab regimes in the region. No one was with Iran. Russia and China supported Iran, but during the 40-day war, there wasn't even time for them to do anything. The Iranians were on their own. Their neighbors didn't do anything. I mean, maybe some things were getting through, but basically, they fought with what they had accumulated over the years, what they had produced over the years, what they had prepared themselves with over the years. Now, perhaps their interaction with other countries—and I'm speculating here—with Russia, with China, is boosting their capabilities. Perhaps they're doing things. I don't know to what degree, but Iran was on its own against this huge coalition. So I think that patience is not a bad thing in general.

#Danny

Well, let's talk about your impressions, then, in the final 10 or so minutes we have left. Your impressions of the trilateral summit—Putin, Xi, and Trump meeting—and its impact on the region you're in. What did it mean to you in terms of significance, if anything? And how has this war, in your opinion, influenced such a development? Did it play any role? And why has Donald Trump so enthusiastically tried to build a connection with, for example, Xi Jinping of China, meeting with him a record number of times? Your thoughts on this and that summit, because everyone's been talking about the optics of it. I'm wondering if you have any thoughts on the actual significance of it.

#Seyed M. Marandi

I think that the only thing you can say with certainty about the summit was that the Chinese and the Russians won. Why did China win? Because this summit, whether it was important or not, was held in Shenzhen, near Guangzhou. And this is the real Silicon Valley of the world. I've been there, and it's stunning. It is stunning. It is very stunning. They're way ahead of the United States. Whenever people say there's a race going on, please, if you have the money—I mean, I was invited—but if you have the money and you have the time, go there. Spend a week or two, and you'll know who's ahead, and way ahead. So the Chinese won because they put on a massive program, Hassan, and

they had this summit, and they were the hosts. The Russians won because, before, they were talking about the two great powers, China and the United States.

Well, at the table, there was a third country, and President Putin was sitting there. So now the United States has effectively accepted that there are two other powers alongside it. Until recently, they didn't even want to accept China. Now they have to accept China and Russia. So that's a win for China. That's a win for Russia. So obviously, that's a loss for the United States. It's not a win-win situation. And then there's the issue of Iran. What weakened Trump? The United States lost the war. And it wasn't like in Afghanistan or in Iraq, where Iran actually contributed to the defeat of the United States in both of those wars. Iran helped the Taliban, and Iran helped the resistance in Iraq defeat the United States, but it took 20 years of US occupation. Here, the United States failed to take Tehran, failed to take a village in the country.

It was a spectacular defeat. And again, there was this entire coalition with the United States and these Arab dictatorships. No one helped Iran in any big way. And then you had the midterm election. So Trump was cut down to size. You know, I don't gamble, and I don't advise anyone ever to gamble on anything. But what cards did Trump have to play with? He had nothing. So Trump didn't gain anything. Maybe it was a good opportunity for him to listen to two people who are much more sane than him. Perhaps that would have been useful for global peace and stability, because President Xi and President Putin are sane, and Trump is not normal. But without a doubt, the Russians and the Chinese won. And so did Iran. And Trump lost because they won.

#Danny

Right. Well, Professor Morandi, as we look at the last three or so minutes here, maybe we can talk about the larger regional situation. Israel has been militarily engaged, of course, genocidally, in Gaza recently. Yemen continues to break Saudi Arabia down, it seems, every single day, launching new attacks on Saudi Arabia to break that siege and end that war. But what are your thoughts on the larger situation and where that might all be headed geopolitically, given that this war the United States and Israel started against Iran seemingly still has some legs left to it?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, Yemen has shown that the balance of power has shifted across the region. It's not just Iran. We discussed this during the 40 days of fighting, when I said that if Yemen entered the war, it would be catastrophic for the Saudis. Well, Iran is not fighting. It is, of course, tightening its grip on the Strait of Hormuz, but it's not fighting. Yemen, though, is winning. The balance of power has shifted, and the Israeli regime is in serious trouble. Look at the midterm elections in the United States. I mean, Vance has said clearly that the four reasons he named for the defeat are all linked to Iran, Israel, and Palestine. Even “America First” is because of the war and because of Israel. So things are not at all good for the Israeli regime.

The balance of power has tilted away from Zionism and the Zionists. But again, we have to be patient. We have to be patient. And again, the shame. Sometimes in Iran, they ask me not to be so critical of some countries. And I try, and I forget, and sometimes I do. But, I mean, remember the ceasefire in Gaza. All these regional leaders and leaders from beyond went to Egypt for the signing of that ceasefire agreement, where they all praised Trump and whitewashed his crimes. Ever since then, they've been sniping kids and killing kids through a lack of medicine. For kids who have special needs, they don't let in the food or the medicine that those kids need, so that those kids will die. That's the plan. That's the objective: to cut down the population.

#Seyed M. Marandi

These are genocidal people, the Zionists.

#Seyed M. Marandi

But now we saw the incursion into Gaza. Where are these heads of state? Where are the presidents of Turkey and Egypt, the king of Jordan, and the others who were at the signing ceremony? Busy protecting and helping Saudi Arabia to restart its genocide in Yemen. Look at what Saudi Arabia is doing every day in Yemen: bombing factories, bombing homes, slaughtering tens of people every day, just like the Zionists. Yet instead of focusing on Gaza, they're focusing on Yemen. And they're trying to encourage their people to become sectarian, forget about Palestine, and focus on Yemen. We know what they're doing. We know what they're doing. And it just exposes them further. So instead of focusing on Palestine, they're focusing on Yemen. And remember, on one occasion, Yemen struck the airport where, I don't know, 10 or 11 people got killed, and they went on for days about it.

That airport—that was not the first time. First of all, Ansarullah, the Yemeni armed forces, and the Yemeni government said that the airports had to be shut down. Then that airport was first struck with a missile, I assume, or a drone. They struck the fuel depot. Then they struck the planes days later. Then they struck the main building. Why? Because they were saying, "Shut down the airport." But the Saudis refused to do so. And because of that, I don't know, 11 or 12 people were killed, sadly. And so Saudi supporters, these Wahhabis and these Salafis—who are not Salafis; they do not believe in this, they don't follow the Salaf—they're just Saudi and Qatari proxies and the proxies of others in the region, people in power like Erdogan. Where are they now that they're bombing Yemen and slaughtering kids and families every day? Every day. Every single day.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Where's the outrage? None. None whatsoever. They support it.

#Seyed M. Marandi

So this is where things stand. And if people do not see through the hypocrisy—and I'm speaking of the people who've been supporting the Saudis—then they're the problem. They're not naive. But in any case, the Israelis are losing. Yemen is winning. The resistance is winning. And the neocons and the Zionists are losing, whether in the United States or in our region or anywhere else in the world. And I'm optimistic about the future, but it's not going to be easy. It could get a lot worse, a lot worse, before it gets better. I don't want to pretend otherwise, but I believe that we're all doing the right thing. That's the important thing: defending the oppressed. That's our responsibility. Results are not important. If you are active and you have no impact, but you try, that's what's important.

If I, let's say, influence 100 million people and I change their views and make them support the resistance, and you impact no one but you do what you have to do, it's the same. It doesn't matter. The numbers are not important. It's trying to do the right thing that's important. It's not the results that are important. Our responsibility is to do the right thing, whether we achieve results or not. Thanks to the children of Gaza, the resilience of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank, and the people of Lebanon and Yemen and elsewhere, people are waking up. We are waking up. I am more sensitive to the Palestinian issue today than I was three and a half years ago. For me, it's like everything now. So we just have to continue and have patience. It will be a long, long journey, but we'll get there.

#Danny

Well, everyone, we are at the hour here. Everyone, thank Professor Morandi for his time by hitting the like button so more people can see this program through the algorithm once we end the stream here. I want to thank all the moderators. I saw David and Sam. I don't know if Ware's here, but thank you so much, everyone—all the members and, of course, all the viewers. Thanks for the super chats and for becoming new members. Everybody, I will be back tomorrow, November 23rd, at 1 p. m. Eastern Time with Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Aguilar. So until then, thank Professor Morandi again with a like, and I will see you again soon. Take care, and bye-bye.