

# Iran SMASHES US Bases in Kuwait & Bahrain, Trump's Bluff CALLED | Marandi

Mohammad Marandi joins the show to discuss Iran's massive retaliatory strikes on US bases in the Middle East as major economists panic that catastrophe looms just one week away, Iran called Trump's bluff but how did he react? What is the significance of this latest escalation? We answer these questions and much more. [https://x.com/s\\_m\\_marandi](https://x.com/s_m_marandi) LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis! Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> #iran #trump #iranwar

## #Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Mohammad Marandi, joining me from Iran. Professor Marandi, great to see you again.

## #Mohammad Marandi

Thank you, Danny. It's always a great pleasure to be on your show.

## #Danny

Everyone hit the like button as we get started here. Well, Professor Marandi, you called it, as you have often in this war. Iran has retaliated very hard after a number of developments just in the last 24 hours. What we had first was, of course, CENTCOM, the United States, striking Qeshm Island, striking an Iranian ship, as happened over the last few days. And then overnight, Iran retaliated very hard. They promised—the Iranian military did—that every response would be harsher and different, and that it should serve as a lesson.

I'm just going to review the damage, and I can put up some footage as you're reacting to it. According to reports, satellite images are coming out. Iran did fire quite a number of missiles, according to reports. In the satellite images, four warehouses in Kuwait were destroyed, a hangar in Kuwait as well. The Al-Salem Air Base, a hangar there was destroyed. The airport terminal—now, we don't know exactly what destroyed the airport terminal because there is footage of U.S. interceptors going completely awry—but Terminal 1 at Kuwait, the airport terminal in Kuwait, was destroyed.

And now there's confirmed—and I can pull that one up—satellite imagery that shows there's a fire in Bahrain, the other country that saw U.S. assets targeted there, a fire at the Sakhir Air Base. So now

we're hearing dozens of people were actually injured in these strikes. We don't know exactly who or how they were injured because U.S.-provided interceptors were going up, and some of them were coming right back down on people's heads. So, Berserati, your reaction to this retaliation by Iran? Why is it happening now? And we are seeing Donald Trump not saying very much about this other than CENTCOM's report that nothing got through and everything was intercepted.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

I think it shows that CENTCOM should never be trusted and that the things they've been saying in the past are probably just as untrue as what we're seeing now. The Kuwaiti airport—I don't know if Iran struck it or not—but it is used by the United States Air Force. And every day there are a number of planes that come and go which belong to the U.S. armed forces. So these countries, as we've discussed many times before, are part of this war. They're engaged in war with Iran. And as long as there are U.S. troops, as long as there are U.S. jets, as long as there are U.S. missiles, and as long as the United States uses their airspace, for Iran, they're legitimate targets and Iran will retaliate.

And this round began with the United States targeting an Iranian oil tanker, or an oil tanker that was associated with Iran or moving towards an Iranian port—a civilian target at a time of ceasefire. So the Iranians basically sent a harsh message that they're not going to tolerate this anymore. From now on, you strike, we strike much harder. And so you've seen huge damage in Kuwait on U.S. bases and in Bahrain. But the problem is, of course, that the United States and these regimes continue to engage in warfare against Iran, because bombing Iran or bombing civilian ships or bombing anyone in Iran is an act of war. But in addition to that, siege warfare is an extension of the hot war—it is an act of war. And again, these countries are cooperating with the United States, and for Iran, they consider them aggressors.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, here I was putting up some of the evidence contradicting CENTCOM statements that nothing hit at all. Even the strike that happened a few days ago, Farsarandi in Kuwait, again targeting the air base by Iran—Americans were injured in that, I think about almost nearly a handful. So this is getting, it seems like, hot again. Do you feel, Professor Morandi, that Iran is taking these strikes on, especially Qeshm Island? I think it's been twice now, maybe even more times that the U.S. has struck there. Are they taking this seriously in part because they know that the United States and Israel are—well, they may not feel like they can start the war fully because of, let's say, ammunition issues. They've been talking about invading an island, even a limited invasion. They've been talking about targeting islands such as these militarily in the medium-term, long-term plan for the war. What are Iran's calculations here in terms of how it responds to every U.S. ceasefire violation from here?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

The Iranians believe that the United States, if it has an opportunity to attack Iran, to bomb Iran and get away with it, will do it. And the only way to create deterrence is to make Trump and Netanyahu pay a very high price. And we've seen that throughout this war, that Iran does not escalate. It does not initiate war. It does not escalate. But in this war, what it did was that when there was escalation, it would hit back very hard. And we saw that, for example, when the Iranians retaliated and hit the gas field very hard and the Emirati installations very hard. And that caused Trump to put out a Truth Social saying that this won't happen again. So Iran believes that they have to respond with strength.

During the last couple of skirmishes, the U.S., again, they initiated the skirmishes. The Iranians responded, and this time the Iranians responded much harder, with a very significant strike to send Trump a message and the Trump regime a message that we are not intimidated and we're going to make you regret whatever you do against Iran. And I think the Iranians feel very confident about their position, militarily speaking. And we also saw that in Lebanon when the Netanyahu regime said that they were going to strike Beirut, the Iranians then said that they're going to start firing missiles at Northern Palestine. And then we saw the Trump-Netanyahu phone call, or two phone calls apparently, and Trump allegedly or supposedly used the F word when speaking to Netanyahu, and so on.

But regardless of what we think about that conversation and about the Axios report, because Axios is not an honest outlet and not a reliable one, let's assume that this conversation actually did take place, which is quite plausible in this particular case. That, I think, indicates that the Americans understand, and the Trump regime understands, Iran's strength, and it knows that Iran has to apprehend. So in the case of Lebanon, the Iranians say that enough is enough. You bomb Beirut or any part of Beirut, we're going to pound northern Israel. And Ansarullah in Yemen has also said that they will get involved. But simultaneously, the siege on the Strait of Hormuz, which is a double-edged sword for Trump, that siege is also wrecking the global economy.

So the Iranians know that the United States needs a deal. Trump needs a deal. Today, Trump said that he can wait till September, but I don't think that's really based on what experts on the energy market and economists are saying — he doesn't have that sort of time. So the Iranians, in addition to threatening to strike the Israelis, and they were prepared, they were going to strike the Israeli regime yesterday early in the morning. But then when they backed down, they decided to wait. But if they do strike Beirut, the Iranians will hit them. But in any case, alongside that, the Iranians said we're no longer going to send messages to the United States. In other words, the messages that went back and forth to see if they can strike a deal — the Iranians have said we're not interested right now until the situation in Lebanon changes.

Now, that, of course, is a message to Trump saying that if you don't do something about Lebanon and Gaza — because Iran has said clearly that Gaza, Iran has from the beginning said it's the entire region. But they also, a couple of days ago, named Gaza. They named Gaza instead of just saying the entire region. They said Lebanon and Gaza. So Trump knows that if there is another wave of

missile and airstrikes between the two sides, then this MOU or this potential agreement would go back weeks at least. And that would be catastrophic for the US economy. So I think that the Iranians feel that they are in a strong position. Of course, that doesn't mean that the United States will not strike. That doesn't mean the Israeli regime will not strike. But the Iranians do feel that they're in a strong position.

## **#Danny**

That seems to be your words, Professor Moradi. You seem to be backed up by the facts here. And, you know, Donald Trump himself told the New York Post, because the New York Post asked him directly — I would play the video, but we can't share audio through this platform — but basically, the gist of it was he confirmed he said those words to Netanyahu himself. However, he described his feelings about the situation as being perturbed. And, of course, the good old “we have a great relationship between each other” and all of that. But nonetheless, Professor Moradi, it also seemed like Israel flaunted Iran's threats.

The U.S. seemed to take them very, very, very seriously. And then Israel kept striking Lebanon anyway. And in some respects, it seems like yesterday's retaliation too, according to at least Iran and how they're talking, the military — it's a warning that Iran can still strike and strike very hard. Do you foresee then — it doesn't seem like Israel is wont for doing anything it can't do, like, for example, stop killing people in Lebanon and Palestine — do you foresee then that Iran will have to make good on its threats anyway, given that Israel is always unhinged and unable to control itself?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Yeah, I mean, it's not that it can't control itself. It takes pleasure in killing. And we see that in Lebanon. I mean, Western journalists in Lebanon — I mean, legacy media journalists, corporate media journalists — they are partners in this genocide. They're as sinister as the diplomats in Beirut, Western diplomats in Beirut, because they know what's going on but they refuse to tell the truth. The Israeli regime is not only bombing families and not only flattening towns and villages, not only carrying out carpet bombing in cities in southern and central Lebanon, but they're also targeting medics. They are seeking them out across the country and bombing ambulances and bombing medics. And something like 130 to 140 medics have been killed so far. So they seek them out.

It's quite stunning that this is not something in any of the Western media outlets, or none of the Western ones, because the West has all these NGOs — human rights NGOs, women's rights NGOs — well-funded, but they've all gone silent. They've disappeared for the last two and a half years. I'm sure they're still making a lot of money, but they're very quiet. So the Iranians know that the West supports all this. Western media, through its silence, is facilitating the genocide. And therefore, Iran — they threatened the Israeli regime. And ultimately, if Iran feels that things are going to go too far, it will extend those threats. It will go further. And Iran is not going to allow the Lebanese to be ethnically cleansed. And Iran is going to take reparations for Lebanon too. I have no doubt about it.

And all of those buildings will be rebuilt. Hezbollah is doing an extraordinary job. They are really humiliating this sinister regime. And in their rage, they go and bomb kids and families and hospitals and ambulances because they are losing on the battlefield. And again, this Hezbollah resistance is just amazing. They've been amazing since their inception. And it's very sad to see what the Americans and Europeans are doing in Lebanon right now, how sinister it is. Those NGOs that I was alluding to right now, and they're funded by the West, what they and these Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf are doing is they're funding their proxies in Lebanon, their agents, and telling them not to allow refugees in their neighborhoods.

So the West is telling it, it's coordinating with it and its NGOs and those people who they fund. They are refusing to allow refugees into neighborhoods that are controlled or influenced by these groups. And the Saudis and the Qataris and the Emiratis and others, they too are doing the same thing. They are telling people not to allow the refugees to come to their neighborhoods. And the Lebanese government is doing the same. The prime minister and the president, they're basically U.S. agents. They are also preventing the refugees from... So what the Israelis and the West and these Arab dictatorships are trying to do is to corner them, to make them desperate, to crush the resistance, their supporters.

Of course, there are people from all backgrounds, religious and so on, that ignore them and support the resistance. The resistance has support from all the different communities — Christian, Muslim, Druze, Shia, Sunni. Polls show that they have strong support, especially among the youth, especially among the youth. But I'm just trying to point out how sinister Western embassies and Qatar and Saudi Arabia and the Emirates are. They're all collaborating with Israel. It's the same thing as in Syria. They all collaborated against Syria, did a dirty war for the sake of Israel.

Right now, if the current regime, we knew Israel, that if Syria would fall, it would be a U.S. proxy. And al-Qaeda and ISIS are U.S. proxies. Right now is the best time for the Syrians to resist and take back their land because the Israeli regime is overextended. But these fanatical Wahhabis and al-Qaeda people, are they going to do anything against Israel? Of course not. That was never part of the plan. If they would, the Iranians would support them. The first people to support them would be Iran and the resistance. I mean, Turkey under Erdogan would never do anything like that. But Iran would immediately help. But it was obvious that this was not going to happen.

So Hezbollah is surrounded by al-Qaeda and ISIS, by U.S. proxies in Beirut and in Lebanon, and by Saudi, Qatari, and Emirati proxies, and the Israeli regime. But despite all that, despite all that, they're battering the Israeli regime on the battlefield. And that is something that history books will be talking about in the decades ahead. This, alongside the defeat of the United States on the battlefield against Iran, I think are the two most extraordinary moments of this region in decades. I even think it's greater than the 33-day war where Hezbollah defeated the Israeli regime, because this time around Hezbollah is truly surrounded.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and we are, I think, really witnessing for us, Arandi, for... maybe it's not... it's hard to say what the first time in a conclusion like this really is, but what we are witnessing in very clear view is that neither the U.S. nor Israel, if you take both of these—the U.S. with Iran and Israel with Hezbollah—has any capacity militarily to affect any kind of outcome. And that is certainly historic in many ways. And I just want to pull up because there are a few big problems that face the United States that are coming up, I think, with Iran's retaliation. I'm sure Iran would view what it did last night with striking Kuwait and Bahrain as a very limited operation.

But nonetheless, it exposes major difficulties for the U.S. The fact that half, according to CSIS, one of these warmongering think tanks funded by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Department of Defense, half of all U.S. Patriot air defense interceptors have been used before the ceasefire of President Rondi. And now there are videos like this coming out of last night's retaliation, where Kuwait is using what they have left, these Patriot interceptors, and they're not working well. So every successive retaliation here—this is the Patriot interceptor coming absolutely back down on Kuwait—every retaliation that Iran does, even if it is limited according to Iran's own standards, will continue to pose big problems for the United States.

And then there's the fact, Professor Moradi, that there are some economists who are saying that once, in a week's time, when these oil reserves that the U.S. has released out into the market in order to somewhat control at least what the perceived view—the public price of oil that we see coming out every day on the market—once that runs out in about a week's time, the real impact of the shortage in oil that has been facilitated by the U.S. and Israeli war of aggression will be felt, leading possibly to a recession. So you say Donald Trump said he could wait. Marco Rubio said the same thing—30, 60, 90 days. There are economists who are saying you don't even have a week. So these are two major problems for us around that seem to point to, yeah, the U.S. can strike. It can do what it did with Qeshm Island. Hell, maybe it could do an even bigger strike, but it won't last long and it won't have the intended effects. So your thoughts about this?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Oil experts and energy experts are saying between one week, three weeks, five weeks, that this is going to go downhill. And some say by mid-June, some say by early July. But even after that, if this continues, it's just going to get progressively worse. And even if we were to have a deal tonight, which is impossible, this crisis is going to hit, and it's going to hit hard. But if it continues, this situation is going to hit even harder and it's going to last longer. So Trump has already created a catastrophe that we're only seeing the tip of the iceberg, but gradually we're getting closer and closer. And so the Iranians don't—you know, I've seen this online before—some people say that Iran wants to sink the U.S. economy. That's not what Iran is seeking to do. What Iran wants is a deal. Iran didn't start the war. Iran didn't start the siege. Iran didn't escalate in the war.

Iran never began any war. This is the third time that the United States has launched a war against Iran. In 1980, they pushed Saddam Hussein to attack Iran. The West gave him chemical weapons. These Arab regimes that helped the United States against Iran gave Saddam Hussein hundreds of billions of dollars. And ultimately, what did he do in return? He invaded Kuwait. But that's a different story. And then, of course, last year's war—we're almost on the anniversary of last year's war—and this war that is ongoing. The war is not over. So the Iranians never initiated war. They never escalated.

They only respond to escalation, but sometimes they hit very hard to prevent the United States from continuing this, like they did last night. The Iranian response was much stronger, much more powerful than the American strike on a tanker. I mean, they bombed a tanker, and these are all civilian targets, and these are barbaric acts. But, you know, in Western media, no one is outraged. They weren't outraged. They're not outraged by the carpet bombing in Lebanon. And by the way, in the southern city of Tyre in Lebanon—I think in English it's Tyre, I'm not quite sure what they call it in English—but the Israelis are telling the Christians not to let the supporters of the resistance, meaning the refugees, the Shia, predominantly Shia families, into their neighborhoods.

Otherwise, they're going to bomb them. So they're sort of like the Nazis who are seeking out, who we see in all these movies, how they seek out Jews and so on. Our Nazis are seeking out the Muslims in Syria, in Christian neighborhoods or predominantly Sunni neighborhoods. And as I said, these Wahhabis and the Salafis that are basically proxies of the West, they are trying to prevent the people from allowing the refugees into their neighborhoods. But of course, as I said, many Christians and many Muslims—Sunni, Shia, Druze—they are ignoring them, but it is causing a lot of difficulty, especially since the proxy regime in Beirut is also collaborating to prevent the refugees from finding any place to go.

And if they had destroyed Dahiya, the south of Lebanon, it would have been a very desperate situation. But in any case, I think that right now we are at a point where Trump cannot wait much longer. And that doesn't mean he's going to sign a deal. I'm just saying that he cannot wait much longer because the effects of the energy shortage and the shortage of helium and the shortage of fertilizers and all other petrochemical products are going to begin hitting hard. And I think that the globe is going to become increasingly outraged at the U.S. and Netanyahu and Trump. And the American people are going to become increasingly angry towards Trump and Netanyahu and the Zionists and their lobby.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and as you were talking, I got some more information about some of the human costs of the U.S. provoking Iran's retaliation. Of course, again, we don't know exactly what led to these casualties, but over 60, about 63 people in Kuwait are said to have been injured, and at least one has died from the activity last night. And I'm also hearing that in Bahrain, the government—shocker here—arrested at least 12 people supposedly being blamed or associated with providing some kind

of information to Iran in order to affect these strikes. So panic all around across Bahrain, the Gulf. And Professor Rondi, I'm hearing too, you said that some have said that Iran wants to crash the U.S. economy. I've heard from many people, maybe who view the situation of the war closer to how we do, say that no, it's actually the United States and the Epstein class that has an interest in tanking the economy.

Now, I don't think that's across the board, because I do believe that there are some within the so-called capital markets who are very concerned about what happens in a recession to them. They tend to shrink. Some of them tend to lose their status as Epstein class members, lose their wealth, lose their money. But there are, of course, quite a few who love to cash in, especially on the government stimulus that comes in when a crash does happen. But what say you to this? There are many within the Epstein class gambling on an economic crash as an inevitable outcome that maybe they'll just benefit from anyway. And that's why they are reluctant to put any pressure on their lieutenant in the White House, Donald Trump, to stop this war.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

I think that's definitely the case for some, because if there is a crash, then these very extremely wealthy people will be able to pick up a lot of pieces for themselves, and they'll be able to purchase lots of assets at a very low price, especially if there is government financial assistance, which they'll all benefit from. But it will not benefit the United States. It will be catastrophic for the United States. But these people, they are in it for themselves. This is all for their own selfish interests. Personally, I'm of the opinion that there are many divides, divisions among the ruling class, let's say in the United States—the Epstein class, even the Zionists.

And I personally think, and this is just speculation and I may be wrong, but I think that Axios, which is completely dishonest and they've lied many, many times about differences between Biden and Netanyahu to make Biden look as if he's opposed to what's going on. And then Trump as well. I mean, we're at the anniversary of the 12-day war almost. And back then there was this Axios report that Trump wanted to wait and see if diplomacy could work, and then they attacked Iran. So it was all just a deceit. But this time around, it's a bit different because what Axios put out was very humiliating to Netanyahu.

It was not just, you know, it was not just like the two have differences. This, I think, was, I mean, very hurtful to Netanyahu. And you could see it in the Hebrew press. And people who want to follow what goes on, I mean, the Hebrew press is the real Israel. And that's where they show their racism and their ugliness and their ethno-supremacism and how they view themselves as a master people and all that. But it doesn't reflect much in the English. But Conflicts Forum, Alastair Crooke's think tank, does a very good job. His wife, Aisling, she does this. And I think people should follow her work on the Hebrew press.

And Netanyahu has been attacked severely after this exchange, even by his own political allies, let alone his opponents. So he's been weakened. And I'm of the belief that maybe those people who put out this piece of news in Axios—and it's not just Trump here, because he's, as you say, just a lieutenant—maybe they wanted to humiliate Netanyahu. Maybe some of the Zionists think that Netanyahu's continued presence is detrimental to their interests because the entire world has turned against the Israeli regime. The American people are turning and have turned against the Israeli regime. And many may think that this is dangerous because if the American people turn against Zionism, which we see happening already—we see on the right people like Candace Owens and Tucker Carlson hitting very hard now.

And, uh, and of course, uh, Thomas Massie. And, uh, I think actually his defeat was a bad thing for the Zionists because it sort of was, it was a wake-up call. If he had won, I think it would have been better for Zionism. But this way, it's sort of creating a greater awareness about how bad things are. And so I think maybe perhaps many Zionists and the Epstein class, the donor class, some of them may be worried that they have to perhaps have a new prime minister, the elections are close. And maybe if they have a new prime minister, they could put all the blame on Netanyahu. And even though it's a genocidal society and the opposition is just as genocidal, Netanyahu's members of the opposition are saying you should flatten Dahiya, you should flatten southern Beirut, right?

One of their criticisms of him is that he should ignore Trump and do it. So it's not as if they're any better, but maybe some of these Zionists think it's time to give the regime a facelift, and that's why they put out this very humiliating piece of news. Again, this is just sheer speculation on my part. But in any case, this was not good for the regime. This was humiliating for the regime. And also, maybe they wanted to spare Trump because Trump is increasingly just seen as a pawn of the Zionists. And by putting this out, maybe it could help him look more independent, which is, of course, nonsense. But I think that there was a purpose for this, and I think it has to do with the future of the Israeli elections. I may be wrong. I'm just guessing.

## **#Danny**

Well, certainly it was leaked out there for a reason. It almost doesn't really matter whether the conversation took place the way it did, the way it was reported or not. These kinds of things tend to get out there and spread like wildfire. Today, Netanyahu is saying that – and I think, Huber Media, what you were saying, it's very important that there are some, like Aisling, Alistair's wife, who actually does review these media outlets, because I think they show the real Israel. And oftentimes the real Israel, for many different reasons, tends to be panicking a lot. They tend to express deep anxieties and worries about how things are going.

They've been doing this, honestly, since October 7, 2023, in large part. And so one of the big anxieties that came out of this, which was very interesting, was Israel was saying, this isn't good. The United States is running Israel now. That's how they were framing it. Almost as if it should be

the opposite, right? It should be the opposite, or it shouldn't be like that. And then, of course, they always claim that Israel is actually sovereign and independent, which, of course, is nonsense since these two countries are basically, at least in terms of governance and intelligence and the like, militarily fusing—literally, actually trying to fuse.

There are senators and people trying to make that happen in the U.S. But yeah, personally, I mean, here we are now. It seems like we're on the cusp of an ongoing escalation, that these ceasefire violations are no longer going to be tolerated by Iran. They never really were. Israel is still bombing Lebanon, though. So we are in a situation that leaves us to wonder why. Are we just headed on a collision course toward what we've been talking about for days, weeks, and months, which is this economic crash coupled with a restart of war that's even greater than what we saw last night?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, if there isn't a restart of the hot war—because it would be a continuation—this is one war. It's never ended. We have regular clashes, and we have a siege. The Americans are basically trying to starve Iran. They're trying to prevent food from getting in, medicine from getting in, medical supplies from getting in. But simultaneously, they're starving the world too. But if there is a hot war, I think it's going to be far more intense than last time around. Last time, the Iranians were pulling their punches because they did not want to escalate. So the Iranians did not really target U.S. naval ships. The Iranians did not target—you know, they tried to manage the war.

Ansarullah in Yemen, they did not get involved. The resistance in Iraq did not come in with full force. As I said, Iran only escalated when the Americans and Israelis targeted Iran's critical infrastructure, like the South Pars gas field or Iran's petrochemical plants. But this time around, I think if there's war, it's going to be very, very intense, and it's going to escalate very fast. And I think that, um, I think the Red Sea will be shut down, and that will be another four, four and a half million barrels a day of oil gone. I think if Iran's critical infrastructure is targeted, Iran will immediately take out the critical infrastructure of all these countries in the Persian Gulf.

And, you know, something again, during the war, only 20 people in all these five countries were killed—in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain. Iran is very careful not to kill civilians. 3,500 Iranians died. And despite all the damage that Iran did to these regimes, so very few people were killed. Why? Because Iran is careful about these things. Even in Israel, Iranians do not target civilians. They even targeted a synagogue in Tehran.

Iran never targeted schools or synagogues. But right now it's the beginning of summer, and the heat in the Arabian Peninsula is intolerable. It's just, I mean, the humidity and the heat. It's like, and this is just the beginning. We're at the beginning of June. So June, July, August, and September—I don't know how much of it—will be very hot. And if there's war and Iran's critical infrastructure is struck, Iran is going to do the same, and all these regimes will collapse. And I said this before. And the reason I would say this is not because I wanted these countries to be destroyed.

I say people should leave because if the other side targets Iran's critical infrastructure, their critical infrastructure will go, and those countries will fall apart. But this time around, if that happens and Trump carries out his threats—because he said destroying Iran, he spoke about sending Iran back to the Stone Age—no one in the West cares, apparently, because none of the mainstream media says anything about it. But he'll destroy the civilization, or wipe out the civilization, or obliterate Iran. If he does that, then Iran will have to hit back hard.

And with this sort of heat and humidity, imagine what would happen in the Emirates or Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, because all of their critical assets literally are alongside the coast of the Persian Gulf. So this is not a good time for the United States. And as we speak, Danny, US forces stationed in the region, they're not in a good place either because their bases have been destroyed. They are there in large numbers—US planes, the temperatures, the humidity, the sailors in the ocean. It's very tough. And I'm sure it's not good at all for morale, and it's not good for US military hardware either. So this is not a smart time for the United States to engage in war. But who knows? Who knows?

## **#Danny**

Well, contrary to mainstream and direct CENTCOM reports about why the USS Gerald Ford is no longer pursuing the Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, you know, off the coast of Israel, Mediterranean area—you know, it was supposedly mechanical failures, laundry fires, but... they were out there for a year. A year they were out there. That spanned from the Caribbean to the areas surrounding Iran. I don't think they wanted to be there. Of course, we had some of the toilet clogging. Maybe some of that was intentional.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

We had drones that struck. They were attacked. CENTCOM said nothing happened in Kuwait or Bahrain, but the satellite footage is showing that major damage was done. So anything that CENTCOM has said during the last three months or so—three months and a few days—you should not really trust. The damage done to these naval ships, the Iranians have tried not to sink ships. And when they strike those ships, they strike them with drones. The missiles are fired as warning shots. But if this time around the war starts and it escalates quickly, then I think all bets are off, and Iran will remove the gloves and pull no punches.

It'll be intense and very bad. And then I think under those circumstances, a global economic depression, far worse than the 1930s, is what the world is going to be stuck with. As we speak, I think a global economic recession, a major recession, is inevitable. But I think if this stalemate continues, we're going to have a global economic depression anyway. If it continues for, I don't know, until September, let's say, I think a global economic depression is inevitable. And these Arab regimes may not last.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, the situation is only going to get more dire for them, especially if you have Trump taking this posture. It's so interesting watching Donald Trump just over the last month. Just a few weeks ago, Donald Trump could be heard saying things like, oh, we're going to finish the job. Oh, if Iran doesn't come to a deal—they really want a deal—but if they don't do it, we're going to have to come in. He even made a threat against Oman during that ridiculous cabinet session that he held, saying, oh, we might have to blow them up too. Now...

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

He may say this again. He may, you know, if it's Trump. He could. He could say it five minutes from now while I'm talking. Now he's not saying it again, right?

## **#Danny**

It's been a few days. Even during this retaliation, Donald Trump has not made any comments about it. He's simply relying on CENTCOM's couple-sentence statement about how nothing got hit. Everything was intercepted. We're on the lookout for Iranian aggression from here on out. That's a very different response. It's really akin to silence, and it's coming in league with this so-called row with Netanyahu. It definitely appears that, at least for now, the Trump administration is not looking for that escalation, or at least not looking to expand its escalation. It might have something to do with those economic problems you just outlined.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

You know, Danny, another thing is that one of the foolish things that the Trump regime has done is that they've been trying to talk down the oil markets. And, of course, they're using their strategic reserves like there's no tomorrow. And as we discussed earlier, those strategic reserves are going to be depleting during the months of June and October. Well, different people say different things, but at least some believe that sometime in the month of June there will be a turning point and things will begin to get very bad. Some say early July. But anyway, the point is that they've been using their strategic reserves and they've been talking down the market. And some say, you know, that was smart of him. But that would only be smart if this crisis was a short-term crisis where you could manage and then things get back to a degree of normality.

But basically what has happened is that the United States, for over three months, has been talking down the markets, and the West has been using its reserves. And that has caused consumption to remain pretty high and demand destruction. And so instead of gradually preparing for the crisis, the West is heading full speed ahead toward crisis because their consumption is not being managed. The price is down. People are complacent. And when things hit, when they hit the wall, they'll be almost completely unprepared. Even as we speak, the markets are—you know—and many people are not really talking about the shortages that are going to hit pretty soon. Some are beginning to

talk. Some senior oil market people are talking, but it's still not something that's being widely discussed. You'd think by now people would be much more worried and the mainstream media would be focusing on this issue day and night, but not yet.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and I want to highlight, you know, as we get into the last 10 minutes or so here, despite the grave costs of this war, even from the perspective of Iran, self-defense and sovereignty are still at great cost, or a great cost to continue forward throughout the military escalation by the United States, taking the damage. The blockade, which hasn't had the extreme effects that I think the U.S. would have liked it to have, is still having somewhat of an effect on the region and Iran too. Despite all of this, and despite the fact that Iran has had plenty of opportunities to probably just say, well, this may not be worth it, I've heard even some commentators, friends of ours, say things like, well, you know, maybe Iran is talking to Russia and China, and Russia and China would say, well, it's in everyone's interest for things to just get better.

So let's try to get the best deal possible. But still, throughout all of this, Iran—and I don't even know if that's true—but Iran has said that it will not back down forever from its position, especially in relation to the other fronts, to Lebanon, Palestine. Recently, I believe, right before these strikes on Kuwait and Bahrain, it outlined that a big reason why Iran remains firm is because Gaza, Palestine, Lebanon—they remain under attack from Israel, and that's a violation of the ceasefire terms, which the United States still refuses to show any true, credible, and realistic developments of what's been happening in these indirect talks. So I think that's a big deal. I think that's also a pretty historic thing for us, Maradi, that despite the fact that, yeah, the United States and Israel—they're tethered to war.

They require war. They're constantly wanting to wage war. It doesn't matter their limitations. It doesn't really matter the consequences for the world. Both of these entities are going to continue on that path. And yet Iran is still putting Lebanon, Palestine, and the rest of the region, in terms of resistance, at the forefront. I think that's a pretty big deal. We're going to be talking about that for a while. But your reaction to this?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Yes, absolutely. It's a moral stance that no other country is willing to take. Other countries are not willing to do anything. Other countries are complicit. The Egyptian regime is purchasing gas from the Israelis, helping their economy. Turkey and Aliyev in Azerbaijan, at a time of oil crisis, continue to send cheap oil to their business partner Netanyahu. And of course, the regimes in the Persian Gulf and the Jordanian regime, which is the most bound to the Israelis and Americans of all—all of them are fully complicit. And so Iran is basically alone with its allies, the Yemenis, Hezbollah, and the broader resistance, which includes people from the Christian and Muslim Druze communities.

And, of course, the resistance in Iraq. And, you know, some people have been saying, why hasn't Iran struck the Israelis over Lebanon? Well, first of all, we saw that the Iranians have drawn a very clear red line, and if it's crossed, they will strike. And also, Iran supports Hezbollah, even though al-Qaeda and ISIS are preventing any support, and the regime in Beirut is also preventing support. But Iran is doing what it can. The siege warfare against Iran was brought about when Iran refused to sign a deal after Netanyahu carpet-bombed Lebanon. So after the 39 days of hot war, a ceasefire agreement was agreed upon, a ceasefire deal was agreed upon, and that included Lebanon.

And then we all recall Netanyahu carpet-bombed cities, slaughtered hundreds of people within minutes from different communities, even areas that were hostile toward the resistance, just to wreck the ceasefire. And Iran said, no, they can't do that. And so the Iranians blocked those ships that were supposed to be allowed to leave the Persian Gulf. Because remember, the Persian Gulf—we should always remember this—Iran has never shut the Persian Gulf. It only shut the Persian Gulf to ships that belonged to countries that were complicit in the war.

Meaning Kuwait, the Saudis, not Iraq, not China, not Russia, not Oman or anyone else. So Iran was going to allow their ships to go too. And then the Israeli regime did that. And then when Iran said, okay, then we're not going to let those ships go until there's a ceasefire in Lebanon, the Americans imposed a siege on Iranian ports. So, uh, and Iran, instead of saying, okay, then we'll allow the ships to go, you lift the siege and forget Lebanon, Iran is dealing with a siege, and this is a siege that is supposed to crash the Iranian economy. So those people who are, you know, attacking Iran, you know, their expectations are not reasonable.

In fact, I think some of these are bots online who are just trying to, uh, they're trying to help the Israeli regime and create division, or they're from these regimes in the region that are fully complicit, or like Qatar's people on the Qatari payroll, Erdogan's payroll, Saudi or Emirati payroll, because they don't do anything. And so they want to, like, spread the sectarian disinformation that they've been giving for years. They do that, why? Because they don't do anything themselves for the Palestinians or the Lebanese, so they want to undermine Iran's credibility and so on.

So Iran will remain steadfast on Gaza, on Lebanon, and it will overcome the siege warfare. I think the United States will lose it. It's painful for Iran, there's no doubt about it. The economy is suffering as a result. But Iran knows that this is a fight for survival, and that the empire must be defeated at all costs. And then Iran's allies and the victims of the empire in the region, they have to be protected. So the road ahead is clear: either the United States accepts Iran's conditions for a ceasefire, or we continue to go down the road of global economic destruction, with a possible war or without a war.

**#Danny**

Well, final two questions for us. First, your brief reaction to, you know, I've been seeing our friend Larry Johnson, who has talked about sources telling him that Iran may already have a nuclear weapon. What's your view on this, just quickly? And then one audience question, and then we'll be out of here.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

I don't have any information on that. What I can say is that in the 1980s, when the West gave Saddam Hussein chemical weapons and the Arab regimes funded that project, he used them extensively against his own people and against Iranians, and the West even blocked us from purchasing gas masks. Back then, people went to Ayatollah Khomeini, the first leader of the revolution, the founder of the Islamic Revolution, and said, we need to produce chemical weapons. And he said no. He said it's inhumane. And he said, you have to just deal with what you have. Then Ayatollah Khamenei, the martyr, when it came to nuclear weapons, he also gave a fatwa against weapons of mass destruction.

## **#Danny**

Now, in Shia Islam,

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

The gate to jurisprudence is open. The gate to jurisprudence is open, unlike in Sunni Islam. So for Shia Islam, for jurisprudence, time and place are important. Today, circumstances are different from 100 years ago on all issues. They have an impact. Where you are—if you're in Brazil, Islamic law could be somewhat different from if you're in Japan or in Iran or somewhere else. So time and place are important. And the mujtahid, the jurist, the expert, the scholar—these factors can influence the way in which he or she approaches things. So Ayatollah Khamenei, his fatwa was against the weapons. However, back then, Dr. Harazi, who was martyred during this war, he was the Khatami foreign minister, and he was also later the foreign policy advisor to the leader.

And Dr. Larijani, who was also martyred in this war, who became the chair of the Supreme National Security Council, both of them said that Iran for years has been able to make nuclear weapons, but Iran chose not to do so. And they both said that only if—I think both of them said this—that if Iran faces an existential threat to its existence, Iran's nuclear posture would change. At the moment, I don't see that. I don't see an existential threat to Iran's existence. However, Ayatollah Khamenei, the martyr, his fatwa was what it was when he was alive, and his fatwa won't change now that he's passed away. But the next leader, the current leader, he could have a different fatwa. But I don't see any indication of a different fatwa.

I don't see an indication of an existential threat to Iran at the moment. And I don't see any move towards... Public opinion in Iran is pro-nuclear weapon. I mean, after the 12-day war last year, I saw a poll where, even though the state narrative has always been opposed to nuclear weapons, before the 12-day war it was sort of close, 50-50. After the war, the majority wanted a nuclear weapon. I have not seen recent polls. I would assume it's even higher. And when I sometimes meet people on the streets and at their gatherings at night, I sometimes go, people want a nuclear weapon. It's clear as day. But I have not seen any indication at all that that is where the leader, the Supreme National Security Council, or the state wants to go. I see no sign of that.

## **#Danny**

Well, in 60 seconds, Professor Morandi, we kind of hit on this a little bit, but an audience member said there's a theory that the blockade and the war are all part of a master plan to destroy energy trade in the Middle East and route the trade to the West. Your thoughts?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Well, I'm not an energy expert, but that really won't work because the type of oil, first of all, the oil that comes from the Middle East cannot be replaced. It's heavy oil, and the only country that has a large amount of heavy oil is Russia—that's outside the region. The light oil that many other producers make cannot replace heavy oil. You cannot make diesel with light crude, for example. And then, of course, there are the petrochemicals that come from this, there's the LNG. And of course, replacing this oil will take—I mean, forget the light and heavy—the different investment in the energy sector would cost huge amounts of money and take many years. And the best and the largest amount of oil is in this region. I'm sure there are some people who think that they'll benefit personally from this crisis, and you discussed that earlier in the program, but there's no doubt that this does not benefit the United States or the West today.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, master plan, you know, it's a big word because on the one hand, laws of capitalism still do apply. We know that the U.S. and Israel, they don't like laws—they're very lawless—but laws of capitalism do apply. So what you just said about the oil issue, production, and the various intricacies of the supply chain, that's a big part of it. There's also this whole notion—well, first, a lot of the destruction of energy markets, or attempted destruction of energy markets—Russia, Iran, you know, and the way that these wars have gone, the initial attempt was to starve those countries. And those countries actually are not starved or, you know, having issues with their supplies and trade.

It actually happens to be Europe and a lot of the rest of the world that's having big issues. And then what does the United States do, no matter the short-term profits and gains of these LNG companies? What do they do with a glut of oil? I mean, they don't produce anything. The only thing they can do

is sit on it, and that causes economic recession. Sure, some Epstein-class members will get rich. But any kind of glut, any kind of massive over-accumulation of one very low-value-added resource like oil will drag the U.S. economy down further and further. That's what's happened overall anyway, because the U.S. has very little value in the supply chain globally now.

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

Very little. In this huge shortage—I mean, oil companies in the U.S. may benefit in the short term, but the U.S. economy, the consumer businesses, they all lose.

## **#Danny**

It's oil. You're not building anything with that oil. It's oil. And that causes, you know, it's almost like the U.S. is going backwards in the supply chain just to meet geopolitical aims and ends that don't seem to be working out very well anyway. But first of all, I know you've got another venture, another appointment, so I want to respect your time. Everyone, hit the like button before you go. Professor Morandi's X account is in the video description. All the places to support this channel—Substack, Patreon, and much more—are there as well. Hit the like button; that boosts the show after we are done. Professor Morandi, any final words?

## **#Mohammad Marandi**

No, I just think we should all remain as active as possible. There's a genocide going on in Lebanon. They're ethnically cleansing Lebanon. They're trying to create a second Gaza. We should all be, especially because the people of southern Lebanon went into this war knowingly. They supported the people of Gaza. They drew away the Israeli armed forces right after October the 7th, when the genocide was beginning. They knew that the Israeli regime would take its revenge, yet they did it to spare the children of Gaza. Their heroism is unparalleled. And the people of Gaza were fighting for their survival, but these people were fighting for the survival of the Gazan children. And history will remember the role of Hezbollah and all those who supported in Lebanon from all the different communities. And we have a responsibility to support these people who are really at the height of humanity.

## **#Danny**

Very well said. All right, everyone, see you tomorrow, 4 p.m. Eastern Time, with Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson and Larry Johnson, friends of ours, June 4th. See you then. Bye-bye.