

Alex Krainer: Iran & US on Retaliatory Mode – War Imminent

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#Nima

Hi everybody. Today's Thursday, June 4th, 2026, and our dear friend Alex Krainer is here with us. We had some technical issues, that's why we're late. It was so funny. But Alex, welcome back.

#Alex

Thank you for having me, Nima. And the picture is a little bit different because I had to connect over my phone because my laptop was acting up and we couldn't hear each other. But anyway, we're on now. That's the important part.

#Nima

Yeah, yeah, exactly. Alex, let me start with what has happened in the last two or three days and the new confrontation between Iran and the United States. The attacks, you know, we had, you know, it was last night and then the night before. It is new because of the escalation, because of the blockade that is happening in the Persian Gulf. The United States was attacking the oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. Then Iran responded to that, to Kuwait and Bahrain, and finally the international airport in Kuwait was hit by something. They say it was an Iranian drone. Then some footage shows maybe one of these, you know, interceptors of the Patriot system failed to, you know, hit the target.

They got back and hit the airport. But after all, the airport was hit. And we know what they're doing with the international airport in Kuwait. They're sending a lot of weapons there to Kuwait and using the airport. They're sending weapons, everything there. And so there were some tankers in the Persian Gulf being hit by Iranian missiles and drones. This is the current phase of the war. What has happened recently, and it's so much bolder, in my opinion, is the attitude of the Iranian government. Because looking at, for example, General Keane, every time you open up, you know, you see some video on Fox News or YouTube, he's talking about the war, how the United States can continue this war.

He's trying—what they're trying to do is say the head of the IRGC is different from the head of parliament, for example, or the president of Iran, because they want to negotiate, but the IRGC doesn't want to negotiate. That's why they're attacking us in the Persian Gulf. This is totally—looking at what Iran is talking about, it's totally different from the Iranian scenario. They're telling us that the United States is attacking them, that's why they're responding. And how do you see the situation in the Middle East as time goes by? Donald Trump doesn't want this war. He knows that this is a losing war, and as time goes by, it's going to get worse. What is your understanding of that?

#Alex

Well, as I read the situation, you know, the side that has infinitely more credibility in this conflict is the Iranian side, because generally they do what they say they're going to do. Their positions don't change three times a day. And this idea that Iran is somehow torn between the really, really fanatical, intransigent IRGC side and the reasonable civil government which wants to negotiate with the United States—that's, I think, their own self-serving fantasy, which they invented just to say that, oh yeah, you know, we're negotiating, everything's going great, but, you know, there are these IRGC fanatics that need to be somehow sidelined.

I think that the truth is that there's a lot more divergence in approaches on the Western side because you have—and I don't know where Trump stands in this—but you have part of the government that understands that this is a losing war, which they should have understood before they ever started it. Everybody knew this. And then there's what I would say is the Anglo-Zionist conspiracy that wants to end Iran, that wants to regime-change the country and take political control, because it's the obstacle to the Western empire's hegemony in Western Asia.

And it's also an obstacle to them taking possession of Iranian wealth. Iran is the fifth wealthiest country in terms of natural resources. It has a very large population, a very highly educated population. And, you know, there's a lot to look at there. So the conflict is in the West. Iran is fighting an existential battle. There's no conflict there. There's unity. And so I think that as Iran has understood that it holds the dominant power in the region, they now want to end the past 120 years of harassment by Western colonialists.

And they want to evict Western military resources from the region and design a completely new security architecture, which is consistent with what their partners, Russia and China, want to achieve as well. And to start a new Eurasian century, you know, a multipolar global order where countries are going to be cooperating and trading together in peace rather than this constant, nonstop, never-ending wars that are generally instigated by Israel and by the American side. But, you know, we have to never forget the British side because they're always there in the equation. I don't know why they get a pass, that nobody looks at them, nobody talks about them, but they're very, very deeply involved.

And they're usually involved in more pernicious ways than the United States. The United States has a very visible role because they get into the action when it's time to apply brute force and start dropping bombs. But the British are in there usually years ahead through their secret diplomacy, intelligence networks, non-government organizations, charitable organizations, banking institutions, casinos, and so forth. So they're always there, and then the United States comes in, usually as a dumb giant with only limited understanding of the area when it's time to bring the aircraft carrier strike groups and start dropping bombs and launching missiles.

And I think that Iran has now seen the opportunity to completely end this regime. And this could be a generational opportunity, you know, a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create a completely new future for the region. I think that maybe many people outside of Iran in the region have understood this as well. So you're having wobbly cooperation even between the Gulf Cooperation Council members with the United States and NATO. Maybe the exception here is the UAE, but you know, what is the UAE? It's a feudal kingdom, a fiefdom without a real army, without a real force. Other than money, they have nothing. So they are very likely not to survive this conflict. And I think that Israel is also very likely not to survive this conflict.

#Nima

What has happened so far, Alex, militarily and economically in the United States—you remember before this war started, the United States, Donald Trump said, "We are independent. We don't need the oil coming from other countries." But that's not the reality in the United States, because the oil they have is some sort of light oil, which is not good to produce diesel, for example. The other point is, since the war started, Donald Trump had to release some of those reserves of oil that they had in the United States to balance the market. So he's using that while the war is going on. And one of the main reasons that he decided to lift the sanctions on Russian oil and Iranian oil was the same problem—that they need to receive oil from outside.

It's not that the United States is totally independent from the outside world. So they're dependent. They have to use that. They have to use the reserves. On the other hand, what has happened during the war with the intensity of these attacks on Iran? They have used a lot of the stockpile of the missiles, interceptors, all together. So they have to replace them. Donald Trump went to China to make a new deal, to talk with the Chinese. It seems that the outcome was not positive in the eyes of the Trump administration. That's why Marco Rubio said that we are 90% dependent on these rare earth minerals coming from China. We have to diversify the market.

He went to Armenia to make a new deal with the minerals, but Armenia is not capable of providing the United States the way China is. This is the problem that they're facing—on one hand, economically, militarily, and internally with the midterm elections. Donald Trump knows if he loses that, he's going to be impeached, maybe even removed from power. You see that desperation in the way that Iran tried to do something with Israel, because Israel announced that they wanted to attack Dahi in Lebanon. Then Iran put pressure on Donald Trump. Donald Trump called Benjamin

Netanyahu and said, "You don't do that." And just last night we learned that there is a new agreement between the government in Lebanon and Israel.

But before going there to the case of Hezbollah, Donald Trump right now, economically, militarily, if he decides to continue the war, he has shortages. How many days, how many weeks can he continue the war with the intensity we've seen during the 40 days of war? Oh, it's going to be two weeks, three weeks, four weeks. Then the day after that, are they prepared? Because the stockpile is going to be completely depleted. And the economy is not doing well. The global economy is under tremendous pressure because of this rate of warfare. How do you see all these factors coming together and putting pressure on Donald Trump himself?

#Alex

Well, starting with oil, Nima, it's not just a question of the quality of oil that the United States produces versus what they get from Venezuela, let's say. Because in the United States, you know, now the bulk of production is out of fracking wells, and that's very light oil. It's good for producing gasoline, but it gives you no diesel fuel and no jet fuel for aircraft. So that's a problem. But then at the same time, you know, there's also the issue of oil price. So if you, you know, right now, let's say ballpark, about 10% of global oil supply has been removed from the markets, which is the biggest disruption ever in the whole history of oil markets. And I don't think that it's been yet fully discounted in oil markets.

Because even, you know, even in 2022, oil price was \$120. And in 2008, oil price was \$140. So we're now hovering around 100 Brent crude oil. That's not particularly high. We might be looking at much higher prices in the oil markets. But then if the war escalates, we already know that one of the target areas that the United States and Israel have designated in Iran is Iran's energy infrastructure. And the Iranians have said that if they do that, Iran is going to destroy the energy infrastructure in the whole region. And that could remove an additional 20, 22 percent of crude oil from the global markets. Where does the crude oil price go then? It could go to \$200, \$300, \$500 a barrel. And I'm not necessarily pulling figures out of my hat.

It's already in 2012, the British Ministry of Defense was projecting that oil prices, due to global instabilities, could go to \$500 a barrel. That's their estimate. So let's say that that's possible. It may be unthinkable where we're standing now, but this could get very ugly in the coming months. And so this is a problem because if the United States economy suddenly finds itself with \$10 a gallon at the gas pumps, it's going to have very heavy political consequences for Trump to deal with. Who knows what might happen. So that's part of the problem. Another part of the problem, as you said, Nima, the logistics of these conflicts are not particularly favorable to the United States or to Israel.

They're running out of munitions. Their munitions cost a lot of money. Production of new bombs and missiles is very, very restricted. Whereas Iran is very effectively using their missiles and these very cheap drones that they produce by the thousands. So Iran has a very, very clear escalatory

dominance. And now there's a rumor that they might even have a nuclear bomb. So, you know, there's no good option for them. And I, you know, I said before this war ever even started, I said that the only winning move for Trump is to throw Israel under the bus and to make a deal, an arrangement with Iran, which apparently they were already discussing — future business deals, investment, trading, cooperation, all these things, you know, consistent with the multipolar global order, which at least before February 28th, the Trump administration was insisting that that's what they're embracing for the future of the United States.

Now, everything seems to have been turned on its head. And I don't understand where Trump is standing because he's just flip-flopping from one position to the next. But I can't help noticing that the American approach has radically changed in late 2025. And that coincides with Jared Kushner appearing on the scene again, coming out of nowhere with no official portfolio in the Trump cabinet, but suddenly he's in charge of the most delicate negotiations with the Russians, with the Iranians. And we have to remember who Jared Kushner is. Jared Kushner is a devout Zionist, very close family friends with Benjamin Netanyahu going back decades.

And Jared Kushner, as he himself revealed just the other day, is also a very close friend of Nat Rothschild, Nathan Rothschild, which kind of goes back to the idea that all roads lead back to London. Because, you know, the Rothschild banking family is the heart of the City of London. And they're involved in all these conspiracies that keep war—wherever human blood is running in rivers, the same family name always turns up. They were also the employers of, um, Jeffrey Epstein. So it all kind of starts to show the outlines of an ugly Zionist conspiracy that now seems to be in charge of events.

And I think, I don't see Trump as a—how do you call it—as an outsider to this conspiracy, because his son-in-law and his daughter are at the heart of it. They're important players in all this. And so this story about how Trump had this really tough call with Benjamin Netanyahu and then used expletives and yelled at him and so forth, I suspect that that's just theater for public consumption. I think that Netanyahu held off on his plan to attack Beirut because the Iranians immediately said, "We're going to attack northern Israel," and they warned all residents, all the settlers in the north of Israel, to evacuate because something really heavy was coming their way. I think that's why Benjamin Netanyahu relented, not because Trump yelled at him.

#Nima

Yeah. Alex, I think... where do you see Israel today? Because before this war started, many people in the United States, in the establishment, the neocons, were arguing that Israel is the strongest country in the Middle East. Before the war started, they thought that the axis of resistance was defeated. There is no Assad in Israel. Syria, Lebanon, they have, you know, decapitation of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and his commanders, decapitation of, you know, some leaders in Iran. So we had the case of the Red Sea somehow in some sort of deal between the United States and the Yemenis. Israel is the greatest and the most powerful country in the Middle East. What is Israel today as an

outcome of the war that Netanyahu wanted for such a long time? How do you see Israel today compared to what it was before?

#Alex

I think Israel is radically weak now. I mean, you know, they're fighting wars on five fronts or six fronts. I can't even keep count. But their pursuit—they have no strategy. There's no strategy to their wars. So the attack on Iran was, I believe, just a gamble because they developed resources on the ground in Iran. They counted on Iran being weak internally, that through bombing from the outside and an insurrection on the inside, they would be able to overthrow the regime. They already started cultivating the Shah, Reza Pahlavi, to again install the kingdom. But it was meant to be over in just a few days. The Iranian government was supposed to fall in just a few days. That didn't happen. Not only that, the nation kind of united around the government. And as far as I can see, most people in Iran support their government.

And they understand what they're up against, so they are determined to win. It's existential to them. Israel's society is falling apart. Their economy is falling apart. They are completely dependent on Western support, economically and militarily, but they are losing Western support rapidly, obviously because of their behavior. And so Israel doesn't have a future. And then their most fanatical segment of their political class is dead set on expanding the wars to fight Turkey and to fight Egypt. And then we've also heard how they plan to go against Pakistan as well. It seems to me that war has become part of Israel's DNA. They cannot exist—I mean, their whole function is to keep the region destabilized. And they depend on war. They cannot have peace. You know, it was not so long ago, in 2024, that the whole...

#Alex

Arab community in their neighborhood, supported by other Muslim countries around the world, collectively offered peace to Israel. They said, we will normalize with you. All you have to do is just allow Palestinians to have their own state, and we'll normalize with you. You will become a normal member of the community of nations around the world. We will guarantee your security ourselves. We will be partners, and we'll live in peace. The Israelis rejected that. So it seems to me that Israel is deathly afraid of peace. They can't have it. They have to have war. I don't think a nation that's constituted in this way has a future. And you know, I always like to remind people, Henry Kissinger himself in 2012 said that ten years from now, there will be no Israel anymore. So that would have been said in 2022, okay.

He got the timeline wrong, but he understood the dynamics in the region, and he understood that Israel, the Zionist project, is not sustainable, that it was going to fail. And maybe part of the reason why we are seeing this horrible security deterioration in the region is because Israel is desperate, because they themselves understand that they are failing, they are dying, and this is their... this is their dying agony that we're seeing now. I don't know how long it can go on for. These things don't

happen overnight, but I think they have no future. And then, you know, one thing I noted during this week, when the Iranians warned Israel that they were going to bomb their northern regions if Benjamin Netanyahu orders an attack on Beirut, part of the message was to the Palestinian people: it is now time to take your country back. So we have to take into account that there's always a possibility of an internal uprising.

#Nima

I think, Alex, looking at Israel today militarily, and the way that Hezbollah—you know, you have to ask yourself, why does Israel need to attack Beirut? If they're fighting in the southern part of Lebanon, if they're capturing land from Lebanon, why do they need to go to Beirut to attack Dahieh? So the answer is because they're not winning in the southern part of Lebanon, because the new reality of the war, the nature of the war, and the identity of the war have changed. And this is because of the drones, the rockets, and how Israel was somehow weakened during the war. They're not that capable of fighting back. On the ground, they're not that capable. Their forces on the ground cannot fight against Hezbollah. Hezbollah is so powerful on the ground. And when it comes to the air, they had air supremacy before with the use of fighter jets, and right now Hezbollah is dominating the air with these little FPV drones. This is the new reality of what's going on.

#Alex

Yes, correct. And I would say, Nima, that I think even Israelis don't have any illusions about being able to defeat Hezbollah on the ground. I think there are two sides. First of all, Israelis are quite comfortable with killing large numbers of people—civilians, children, women, it doesn't matter. Maybe they even prefer it that way. And their view of security is scorched earth: if they kill everybody around themselves, then maybe they feel secure. But another aspect of this is that rather than trying to defeat Hezbollah, their idea is to try to engineer a civil war in Lebanon, to try to turn other forces in Lebanon—like the Christians, the Druze, and so forth—against Hezbollah.

So that Hezbollah must turn and fight other Muslims and Christians, other Lebanese. And maybe in that way, Israel could defeat Hezbollah. So they're brutalizing Lebanese populations, hoping that they will draw the conclusion that this is being done to them because of Hezbollah, so that they have to turn against Hezbollah. But I don't think that that works anymore. I think that people have a different understanding of what is going on. And, you know, what would happen if, let's say, Hezbollah laid down their arms or if they were defeated and the civilian government took total control? That civilian government would become like Fatah.

They would become Israel's outsourced police against the Lebanese people. And they would probably treat them exactly as the Palestinians are being treated in the West Bank today. And I think a lot of people, not just in Lebanon but in the region generally, are starting to understand that. So,

at least at the moment, I don't know that there's enough force there opposing Hezbollah that it could materialize in a civil war. And if a civil war got triggered somehow, I wonder if large parts of the Lebanese army wouldn't defect and join Hezbollah.

#Nima

You know, the only victory I could mention is what has happened for Israel, what has happened in Syria. And just imagine, because they said that the fall of Bashar al-Assad is going to disconnect Iran from Hezbollah, and the new government in Syria is going to help us. And then you see, even with the fall of Bashar al-Assad, it wasn't Israel, it was Turkey and the forces in Idlib. They did that because they—but the United States, it was Israel and it was us. We won the conflict. It was, you know, the information is out. The intelligence, everything is out right now. We can say that 80%, 85% of what has happened in Syria was the Turkish sort of move against the Assad government. So the Assad government is gone, but the connection between Iran and Hezbollah is getting stronger.

You know, this is the reality of what's going on. And they cannot control it. They thought that they disconnected Iran from Hezbollah. But look at these drones. You know, this is clear evidence that there is a strong connection between Iran and Hezbollah. And they cannot do anything about it. That's why, you see, every time they go, they bomb Syria. That's why they're talking about fighting Iran, Turkey, and Egypt after, you know, the fight between—I don't know where that comes from, because you have to be totally delusional to think that you are in an active war against Iran that you're losing, and you have depleted everything in this war, and you're talking about the next round of war against Turkey and Egypt. These people are really—what is, in your opinion, how can we understand these people?

#Alex

It's, in fact, extremely difficult to understand, Nima. You have answered the question. It's delusional. You know, about a year ago, I spoke with a Muslim friend of mine who studies eschatology, including Jewish eschatology. And as it turns out, that's definitely part of the equation in this, because there's a powerful... there's a powerful group in Israel that has considerable political influence who believe that these are, you know, biblical times, that this is when, you know, the Messiah is going to reveal himself, and that whole scenario involves the so-called Jewish—sorry—the redemption of Israel. Now, I have to say, when I first heard this, I thought it was so insane that I thought, no, no, wait, it can't possibly be that.

But then I listened to many of these rabbis saying exactly the same thing. And what does redemption of Israel mean? Because I've heard other people talk about it, but I don't know that it's understood correctly. Basically, redemption of Israel means—it entails that the Israelis are going to misbehave to such an extent that they draw the wrath of the whole world against them. And they basically unite the world against themselves. And that then triggers Armageddon, like the war of the world united against Israel. And the Israelis suffer a terrible punishment, and it's only through this

punishment that they earn their redemption. And then once they earn that redemption, the Messiah can reveal himself. And this story is—the deeper you go into it, the more incoherent it becomes.

So it's even contradictory on its own. So to the extent that they had to invent—ah, yes, it's not just going to be one Messiah, it's going to be two Messiahs. There's going to be Messiah Ben Joseph, and then there's going to be Messiah Ben David, the real one. But Ben Joseph might come in as a precursor, as like the, you know, like the opening act, and then that Messiah Ben Joseph might not even be Jewish, you know. And so some of them talk about Donald Trump being Messiah Ben Joseph, but then I wonder if it couldn't be Jared Kushner or somebody like that. And so it seems to me that that part plays a role because a lot of these rabbis, particularly the Chabad Lubavitch people, they talk about this very openly.

And so part of the equation is misbehaving, behaving deliberately in such an atrocious way that the whole world unites against Israel. And, you know, when I look at Israeli tourists, how they behave everywhere around the world—Israeli football fans, practically wherever they go—they antagonize people, they riot, they cause damage, they really, really aggravate the local populations to the point where they don't even want to host them anymore. I think that may have something to do with it. And then part of that is obviously mindlessly going from war to war without any regard for whether you're capable of waging that war, let alone if you're capable of winning the war, because that's not the point.

The point is to usher in the Armageddon and the revelation of your Messiah, or two Messiahs, or whatever. And a lot of people in Israel actually believe this. And those people are very close to Benjamin Netanyahu and to his, let's say, the crazier side of his government. So they're like, yay, let's go. Let's take on Turkey. Let's take on Egypt. Let's take on Pakistan. Let's destroy Iran. Let's kill everybody around our borders. And so that's what they're doing. And it's very, very difficult to think up any rational, reasonable explanation for this behavior.

It's unique in human history. I don't know that I know of, you know, the history of colonization includes a lot of bloodshed, a lot of atrocities, famines, depopulation, holocausts, all of that. But usually, the idea is to get something out of it, like, you know, to enslave the people and extract the wealth from that land. So you can say, okay, this is wrong, it's completely ruthless, it's atrocious, but you can see why they're doing it. In the case of Israel, it's the same behavior, but no strategy and no discernible end goal other than the biblical stories.

#Nima

Alex, Donald Trump has two wars right now, two active wars — one in Ukraine and the other one in the Middle East. And his priority, it seems, is the one against Iran. Some people are arguing maybe the off-ramp for Donald Trump would be to start something against Cuba and withdraw all these aircraft carriers from the Persian Gulf or the Middle East, bring them back to the Western Hemisphere, close to Cuba, and start something with Cuba — doing something and declaring victory:

"We have defeated Iran, we attacked and destroyed everything in Iran, and now we're going to go to Cuba. We're going to have a great and new victory in Cuba."

But the problem, in my opinion, is that many people don't know Cuba and don't know these people. And looking at and comparing even Cuba with Venezuela, because this whole delusional sort of attack on Iran came, I think, from what happened in Venezuela, or Venezuela was part of the equation in the mind of Donald Trump himself, because he thought that it's going to be something like Venezuela, even harder, but he can achieve something like Venezuela. You remember those days, the initial attacks: "I'm going to choose the supreme leader of Iran. I'm going to choose the people who are running the country." He said that. I'm not just making things up about Donald Trump.

And then, coming back to Cuba, I think Cuba is a totally different political animal compared to Venezuela, and they're going to fight back. It's going to be bloody if they go to Cuba. And it's not going to be an off-ramp for the United States. It's going to be a new hole. It's going to be a new sort of trap for the Trump administration. And they're going to get out of one trap, not resolving anything and losing, with the case of Sato foremost, and getting back to Cuba and losing more and depleting more ammunition. These people are not going to surrender to them. They're going to fight back. How do you see that, the way that the people who are arguing maybe Cuba would be a good off-ramp for Donald Trump?

#Alex

I don't know if Cuba would count as an off-ramp, but there's obviously a large, powerful group of people in the United States. It goes from Wall Street to organized crime, to casino bosses, to Cuban immigrants who want to overthrow the Cuban government and turn Cuba into an American dependency, a colony. And they, I guess they feel that that would be an easy thing, that it could, you know, because it's right there, you don't have the logistical nightmare of moving troops and weaponry 12,000 miles away and so forth. But I don't know where Cuba is at the moment. You know, what is the political climate there? Cubans have been under severe sanctions by the United States for decades. They've been under a blockade, in fact.

Conditions of life are difficult. Cuba, like Iran, but probably worse, has not been allowed to develop economically, to breathe with full lungs, so to speak. And, you know, locally, on the ground, many people tend to blame their own governments for this. The outside forces, the outside factors are invisible to them. What they see is their government failing. That was partly a problem in Venezuela as well. And so, will people fight? Well, you know, when somebody attacks your country from the outside, then the inclination is to fight back and to defend your country. And we saw that with the invasion of the Bay of Pigs. I don't think that the Americans are dumb enough to try that again.

But they might try something like Venezuela — to infiltrate, use CIA assets, ship in pallets worth of US dollars to try to buy influence, particularly in the military and security forces, to help them

overthrow the government in a different way, you know, from the inside. So I think that's a possibility because a military assault could go badly. Particularly, you know, we've seen shipments of humanitarian aid and shipments of oil from Russia and from China. And who knows? Those shipments could have included also hypersonic anti-ship missiles, so that if the United States comes with aircraft carriers, the Cubans can fight back. And I tend to think that people in government are not that dumb.

I've been wrong in the past. But I don't see the United States trying a military invasion. I see them more trying to use these covert actions by their intelligence agencies like the CIA. They've been doing this in South America for a very long time. They're good at that game. But who knows, maybe the Russians and the Chinese are also not dumb. And if it comes down to shipping in pallets of U.S. dollars to spread around and buy influence, well, the Russians and the Chinese can do that too. They have access to pallets of U.S. dollars. So who knows? I have to say we'll have to wait and see, Nima, because I wouldn't know how to predict the outcome of that one. I think in the case of Iran, it was very clear that the United States would lose that war. It was even clear to the Americans.

That's why, you know, everybody says like Donald Trump was the only president brave enough to do something about Iran. But, you know, you can also use the word stupid rather than brave. Because, you know, his predecessors, going back to Clinton, they didn't dare attack Iran because they understood that it's most likely not going to work and it's going to blow back in their faces. Trump was dumb enough or desperate enough or, let's say, greedy enough to make the gamble. With Cuba, it's not so clear to me, you know, how committed the Cuban government and the Cuban people are to defending their government, and how solid their security forces are. Are they solid enough to stand in defense of their government against an outside invader, or are they open to bribery?

This is one of the ways that they took down Bashar al-Assad's regime. You know, they basically blockaded Syria. They made conditions of life absolutely miserable in Syria where, you know, even high-level generals made a miserable living. And then, of course, you know, they're very receptive if you turn up with \$10,000 under the table and say, like, well, you know, when the time comes, you're going to do this for us. And then they feel like, well, okay, cool. And then there's going to be more money for you, and we'll include you in the future government as well if you work with us. So I don't know how porous, let's say, the Cuban government is to this kind of influence.

#Nima

Alex, the only off-ramp I see for Donald Trump would be, you know, just remember what was the main, what was the foundation for those people who voted for Donald Trump? It was all about ending the endless wars. It was all about bringing back the jobs into the United States, production jobs back into the United States, improving the economy of the United States. So a new conflict, I

would say, against Cuba would not go that far to help Donald Trump. What he can do, he can somehow get out of the Middle East, telling Israel, you want to be the big guy in the Middle East? Go find your way.

You want to fight each and every country in the Middle East? Do it by yourself. I'm going to support you, but I'm not going to fight for you. The other option is the case of Ukraine, I think. He can withdraw from Iran and declare victory and say, I destroyed everything in Iran. But the case of Ukraine is so important because he was talking about it before coming to power. He said, I'm going to put an end to the war in Ukraine in 24 hours. He can do something about it immediately, just stopping everything to Ukraine, just putting pressure and saying, I'm going to make a deal with Russia. The war is over.

I'm going to say not de jure, but de facto these parts are de facto part of Russia. It's part of their constitution. I can do nothing to reverse that. This is the new reality. I'm going to get back to business with these countries. I don't want these wars. The only off-ramp I see for Donald Trump is not starting new conflicts, but withdrawing from all these conflicts and getting back to the United States. This is the only off-ramp. I don't know how you see that for Donald Trump. There is no good option if he continues with this sort of expanding the conflicts instead of withdrawing from this madness that is happening.

#Alex

I would agree with you, Nima, but I'm no longer convinced that Donald Trump is in control of his country's foreign policy, unfortunately. As I mentioned before, you know, something went off the rails since Jared Kushner reappeared on the scene. And then we see that this—I'm not necessarily talking about Israel itself or Benjamin Netanyahu—I would call it a Zionist conspiracy because we see that they have enormous influence in the United States. It's not just Benjamin Netanyahu. There are all these Zionist billionaires, the media, the banking cartel, and they're so influential that they've been able to slip a provision into the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, Section 224, that would practically merge the American military with the Israeli military.

This wasn't Trump. You know, Trump might sign off on it because, you know, he's under their influence as well. But this was slipped into the bill. I think the main guy was a congressman, because Benjamin Netanyahu just yesterday issued a letter thanking him—Congressman Soltzman or something like that. But again, you know, this guy wouldn't be doing it if there wasn't some kind of broad support telling him, "No, no, go ahead, slip that in there. Nobody will realize." And it's just going to go under the table. And from then on, it's operations. You know, we operationally take care of the continuity of that.

And before people realize what happened, the United States is, you know, like a big dumb bull with a ring through its nose, where we can lead them around to fight wars for us, give us all of their most advanced, most sensitive military technology, intelligence work, data, you know, targets, everything.

This can't be done by just Benjamin Netanyahu. It can't be done by Donald Trump or one congressman. This is a broader organization. And if Trump was ever sincere when he said no more wars, when he said that going to war against Iran would be really, really dumb, and he knew not to do it in 2019, and then suddenly he decided otherwise in 2020, then this same conspiracy is also targeting Russia.

#Alex

It's not like they have a good relationship with Russia, and then Trump is free to manage that side of the conflict in whichever way suits him best. Trump may be on talking terms with Russia in some kind of semi-friendly, constructive mode of conduct, not because Russia can now be a friend of the West, but because it's opportunistic. You know, you have to focus on one area and at least get the other side, get the Russians to maybe support you, or to not help the Iranians, or to just stand aside. But we see that still, Palantir is helping Ukrainians strike targets inside Russia. We see that those strikes rely on Starlink satellites.

Yeah, Starlink satellites. So, you know, these networks of power aren't giving up on their intention to destroy Russia and to regime change it. I think that they just want to blunt the edge of Russia's response. They don't want Russia to help with Iran. They want to maybe break the alliance between Russia and China and so forth. So they're making these overtures like, okay, we're gonna be nice now, we're gonna be friends, we're gonna trade together, we're gonna help you with sanctions and so forth. But I think that this is calculated and self-serving, and it's not genuine or sincere. Trump himself, I think, is subject to these powers. He's not above them. He doesn't control them.

And I think that this NDAA, National Defense Authorization Act, shows in plain sight that there's something bigger going on. And then, you know, when you look at a lot of these policies in South America, policy towards Ukraine, policy towards Iran, it predates Trump. So Trump has been maneuvered into continuing those exact same policies. And for that reason, I very much doubt that he has the leeway to independently say, we're going to completely withdraw from Ukraine, we're not going to support Ukraine anymore in any way, shape, or form, and we're going to help Russia defeat Ukraine and have a completely different security architecture in Eastern Europe.

And then, you know, let's remember, again, the family name that has been all over Russia for a very long time, gung-ho, hell-bent on destroying Russia, has been, again, that same unhappy Rothschild family. And as we know, Kushner, Jared Kushner, is friends with Nathan Rothschild, the son of Jacob Rothschild, who was the family patron until he died. And I think that now Nathan is in charge. And through their various organizations and banks and investment funds, they're pushing for the same outcomes. And Trump is—I think that even if he wanted to, he would be powerless to stop them or to somehow tame them, you know, the same way that Vladimir Putin has been able to tame his oligarchs. I don't think that Trump can tame the banking oligarchy.

#Nima

Yeah, good point. Thank you so much, Alex, for being with us today.

#Alex

Thank you for the invite, Nima. Always a pleasure to join you. And until next time.

#Nima

See you soon, Alex. See you next week. Take care. Bye-bye.