

Iran's Missile STRIKES US Destroyer | Larry Johnson & Lawrence Wilkerson

Former CIA Analyst Larry Johnson and Col. Lawrence Wilkerson join the show as Iran continues to retaliate against US aggression, this time launching missiles at a US Destroyer in the Gulf of Oman. Iran has said it isn't done yet, and Trump appears paralyzed. Two of the top analysts in geopolitics with a wealth of experience break down what's happening and where we are headed. Larry Johnson's blog: <https://sonar21.com/> 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 Danny Haiphong here. As you can see, I'm joined by former U.S. Army Colonel and Chief of Staff for Colin Powell, Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson. And we have former CIA analyst Larry Johnson. Gentlemen, thanks so much for joining me today.

#Larry Johnson

Hey, looking forward to it. A week without Haiphong is like a, I don't know... hmm... like a week without bread.

#Danny

Oh, well, I'm glad that this show gives you so much life, Larry, and to you too, Colonel Wilkerson. Well, all right, everybody, hit the like button because that will give the stream life, boost it in the algorithm. And let's get started with the latest developments. First, we have Iran, and I can begin with you, Larry. Iran has announced that, to follow up, they said they were not done with targeting those U.S. forces that had been responsible for these strikes on Qeshm Island in recent days. Iran says that they targeted and hit a U.S. destroyer in the Gulf of Oman, and they said this was a command and control center for these actions against commercial shipping. Yeah. Also, there is new satellite imagery that shows that the strikes Iran conducted on U.S. forces and U.S. assets in Kuwait and Bahrain had done a lot more damage than before.

CENTCOM won't even admit it. CENTCOM admits none of it. But here is a satellite image shared by the Tehran Times. Here is what they are showing to be a drone aircraft shelter at Ali Al-Salem Air Base in Kuwait. There's a big crater there where that shelter was once standing. Gone. Gone. Yeah. Absolutely gone. But gentlemen, so Larry, let me kick it to you. Trump has been pretty mum, pretty

silent about what's happened in recent days. He's even saying that there will be no strikes on Iran as long as U.S. troops are not injured or killed. What do you make of these developments, especially in light of Iran escalating its retaliation in order to essentially deter these ongoing U.S. attacks that, at least for now, have seemed to go silent? What are your thoughts on this?

#Larry Johnson

Trump believes that they now have a nuclear weapon and are prepared to demonstrate it, which will humiliate him. So this is the result of Pepe Escobar and I being presented with information last, well, a week ago today. And it was from a Pakistani source. We had enough description. We had an intermediary that was in direct contact with this source. But from the description, we had confidence that the individual providing this information was not just some nobody. You know, this would be somebody like a Colonel Wilkerson reporting on what was going on with Colin Powell, sort of with that kind of access.

And the message that was provided was that in the aftermath of those first strikes that the United States made last week on Iranian tankers, and then bombings on Qeshm Island and bombings in Bandar Abbas, and blowing up two small naval fast boats that killed four crewmen, the Iranians were pissed off. They met, made a decision, and sent President Pezeshkian off to communicate said decision to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, a fellow named Sharif. And Pezeshkian's message, you know, I guess he talked to Sharif for about an hour and 47 minutes. And I have subsequently learned or confirmed that that conversation took place over a non-secure line — in other words, an open line, one that could be listened into, and was.

And in the course of that conversation, Pezeshkian — and remember, this was last Thursday — said, “We, the Iranians, have made the decision we're going to cut off talks with the United States. We're not going to have any more talks, particularly on nuclear issues. We will not consider any kind of framework like JCPOA or other for a solution to this issue. And we're going to do a demonstration explosion with a nuclear device so that the West will know that we got one.” Now, this was communicated to Sharif. Sharif believed Pezeshkian and then got a hold of Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and said, “Hey, this is what you got to go tell Marco Rubio.” So now, I am... Can I prove this?

I haven't seen the intel, but I guarantee you that that conversation between Pezeshkian and Sharif was intercepted by the NSA. It might have been intercepted as well by the CIA. The CIA does have those capabilities. That information was put out in a pretty, I would say, flash cable — like, “Hey, we got some interesting intel here.” And they got confirmation of it when Dar, the foreign minister of Pakistan, made the phone call to Marco Rubio. So we notice, about the time that Rubio gets informed of this — that Iran may have, or the Pakistanis believe that Iran has, a nuke — notice a complete change in Donald Trump's demeanor in how he talks about Iran.

You know, before he was talking about Indian civilization, bombing them to hell, talking about the homosexual Ayatollah, and just scandalous, scathing comments. But then, you know, like on

Tuesday this week, you know, two days ago, when the United States hits an Iranian tanker with a Hellfire missile, then blows up a communications center on Qeshm, and then the Iranians immediately retaliate. They hit a U.S. ship with an anti-ship missile, and then they basically waxed the floor up in Kuwait with both the air base and the Army facility. And what does Trump say? Well, you know, ceasefire doesn't mean that there's no fire being exchanged, but it's small.

And you're going, okay, go find the aliens that kidnapped the real Donald Trump, because this is not Donald Trump. So he has been completely low-key since then. And today we picked up — Pepe and I — we just got off the phone a little bit ago and learned that what the Pakistanis now believe, let me emphasize, the Pakistanis believe, the ones who are involved with these negotiations, is that they are close to getting a deal between the United States and Iran in which Donald Trump will travel to Islamabad sometime in the next 30 days to sign what will be known as the Islamabad Accord.

Now, there's a whole bunch of problems with that, but I'm just pointing out this is what the Pakistanis believe, where the state of the situation lies. And it's contingent upon Donald Trump reining in Israel, which both Pepe and I go, well, yeah, I wouldn't put too much money on that, but go ahead if that's your hope. And that Iran will be able to start recovering money, not directly the frozen assets, but by charging it all. So with all of that as background, there's a lot going on, but Trump is definitely—I think they got a little bit of a wake-up call here from Iran vis-à-vis Pakistan, because how else do you explain Trump's complete reversal in his tone and comments about Iran?

#Danny

Well, Colonel Wilkerson, to you — your assessment and thoughts.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, let me say this. I kind of believe I agree with Larry because I've heard the same thing, and I'm sure it's probably coming from similar sources. Let me back up, though, and go back to your starting comments about Kuwait. I saw a video this morning that apparently demonstrated—it's very hard to tell because the videos are not clear—but that one of the things that did some damage in Kuwait was not a U.S. or an Iranian—well, was not an Iranian attack on Kuwait. I mean, that happened, there's no question about that, but it was a U.S.-supplied air defense system fired at the incoming Iranian missile.

And the video showed the missile going a very short distance, gyrating, and coming right back down and hitting a target in Kuwait, doing considerable damage from this video. So if it was a legitimate video, we did as much damage to facilities in Kuwait, apparently, as Iran did because of this air defense missile. Then the second thing, I saw a video of the—and it was an Iranian-provided video—then I saw what was purported to be a U.S.-provided video. I don't know how they did it because it was from about the same perspective, in other words, a land perspective, of the missile flying out to

the supposed U.S. combatant. Again, I couldn't see enough of the profile of the combatant to tell if she was a destroyer or what.

But I did see the missile appear to impact. And then I asked a friend at CENTCOM and got, "Nope, no hit. We've not taken a hit." Well, I trust that about as far as I trust my spit, but— And then coming to Larry's point, which is a far more important point, but I'll elaborate on that a little bit. I think he's right. I think at least the signs show he's right. And I think we've got a real problem right now with Netanyahu, because we've had a problem with Netanyahu all along, because Netanyahu's political dilemma right now, which looks like it's going to be fatal for him, is not because of something he's doing that's kind, generous, and humane.

It's because he's not doing enough in Lebanon, in Gaza, on the West Bank, and elsewhere to satisfy that 80% or so of the Jewish population that still wants to do what he's doing and do it even more. And he's killing people in Gaza every day. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation is actually helping. We've got UN reports on that. And so you've got this situation here now where Trump needs him to stop in Lebanon. And you've got reports that they've effected a stop. And then you've got commanders on the ground in the IDF saying, the hell we have. We're going ahead. We're going to the Litani, I think it is. It's the second river. We're going beyond the Litani. We're already beyond the Litani.

We're not going back to the Litani. We're not going any further back than we have to. And in all of these talks and the discordant voices that are coming out about them, the only people you have pronouncing are the Lebanese government and the U.S. government. Hezbollah has not said anything. In fact, Hezbollah's alleged leader right now has said, "Bullshit." So what's going on there? And I think that's putting real pressure on Donald Trump because one of the things he's got to do to get any kind of settlement with Iran is restrain Netanyahu. And Netanyahu can't be restrained because it's suicide for him—political suicide. So we're back to a dilemma in that sense.

#Larry Johnson

And just something to make a comment, too, about this agreement ostensibly reached yesterday between Lebanon and Israel. With no Hezbollah. Yeah, well, that's the point. Hezbollah is not at the table, so they're making all these agreements, and yet they're expecting Hezbollah to give up its weapons, which they're not going to, and to retreat to the north of the Litani River. That ain't going to happen.

But the fact that the Lebanese delegation sat with the Israeli delegation and they shook hands on something that's just so delusional is, I won't say it's shocking, but it's so typical of what has plagued this entire region for years—that they indulge such stupidity. I mean, really, this is Hezbollah right now. They are, I would argue, winning the tactical battle on the ground. Israel

prevails in the air, but on the ground, the Israeli troops are having a tough time of it, and Hezbollah is inflicting significant casualties on the Israelis, and there's not anything the Israelis can do about it, except they can complain and whine, but they're not letting up.

#Danny

Yeah, it's so interesting to see how things are playing out there because, in large part, this whole issue—Lebanon and the other fronts—but Lebanon being the most, I guess you could say, hot, even though Israel is striking Gaza and Palestine as well. But it does feel like a lot of the push here is because Iran is really dictating terms, but, of course, Israel doesn't want to come to any terms, and the United States either, that would satisfy the actual realities on the ground. And, you know, I wanted to just pull this up really quick before getting into Donald Trump's reactions. You know, I've seen things come out, Larry—this is a Kuwaiti government account, and it's sharing a video of what they presume to be, during Iran's retaliation, an Iranian drone striking Terminal 1 at the international airport.

Now, Iran has actually denied this. And some have been saying that this is, first of all, during the middle of the day. And it also is very suspicious that the drone is black and not the typical Shahed white. But nonetheless, you're not suggesting that this is generated, are you? Good Lord. But it's so interesting that even the attempts to make Iran look like an aggressor just kind of make Iran look stronger in its position. And many people don't even believe the—what I'm seeing is that a lot of people are very suspect of anything that comes out of CENTCOM-affiliated regimes, outlets, anything like this, because they've only been saying nothing has been happening for so long. And the only time they will admit to something happening is when they're trying to demonize Iran and make it look like an aggressor.

#Larry Johnson

Well, Colonel Wilkerson, I sent him—I think—did you have a chance to read that email I forwarded to you? I did. Yeah, I did. So I sent him—I got an email from a recently retired U.S. Army officer, a West Point grad who served at CENTCOM. Oh my God. Oh my God. Colonel, maybe you can give him your assessment of it, as having been an officer and responsible for troops.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

It sounded to me like a complete disaster in Tampa. Part of the complaint, I think, was the transition from Guerrilla to Guerrilla, to Bradley Cooper. The attitude, you know, Guerrilla Guerrilla was sort of like a pretend Patton. I don't think he had the genius of Patton, and I'm not even sure he had the savoir faire. Patton could be pretty cool when he needed to be. And then comes in Bradley Cooper. This guy, like, is dominating the staff briefings, dominating the table. You know, you can just see him, like, beating his fists on the table and saying, we got to get him, we got to get him, we got to get him, blah, blah, blah.

And then comes in Bradley Cooper, a naval surface warfare officer, whom I've known a lot of, and they populated my seminars at Newport for two and a half years. And he's milquetoast, really. You saw a little of that milquetoast when he started trying to answer the questions of Seth Moulton from Massachusetts and, I think, Jason Crow in the Congress when they were grilling him about what was going on. But the thing that really amazed me about this—and I didn't tell Larry this—but I have another individual who's telling me similar stories from Langley, the Tactical Intelligence Center at Langley. And then another individual who had been telling me stories about Special Operations Command.

And they sort of jibe in terms of morale and in terms of how they feel about what they're doing. And the Special Operations Command individual was talking about the fact that the black mark on the armed forces of the United States, and particularly on the special operating forces, which I think he convinced me these strikes at sea are exclusively SOF. There may be some naval surface assets, naval air assets involved in picking up intelligence and acting on the intelligence initially, you know, that sort of thing in the AOR. But basically, the SOF is doing most of this. The Special Operating Force is doing most of this.

And there's a lot of unrest at both the higher command, if you will, the Special Operations Command headquarters, as well as at the AOR owner, the Southern Command commander. So there's tension developing now, partly because you might call it the morality of it, you might call it the legality of it, or whatever. But not a lot of happy campers. One person said, how are we going to put this on our guidon? How are we going to put this up as a campaign flag? A dead person lying in a boat in the Pacific or the Caribbean. So there's a lot of unrest out there.

I was kind of surprised because I was hearing the other story from the other side of the equation, if you will, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, where a lot of people were talking about how Hegseth was packing the ranks and packing all the levels and packing it with Christian nationalists and so forth, who were all in accord with what's going on. It's not true from what I'm hearing on the other side of this, if you will. The morale is rock bottom. And you would expect that now that we're, what, two months plus into this so-called war of choice, and we haven't even articulated a mission, really.

The guys on the ground, the guys in the air, I mean, at sea and such, they don't—well, there were some ground pounders—they don't have a real clear mission. And so if you don't have a real clear mission, then you don't have a purpose. You know, mission is really two things: it's the task to be accomplished and the purpose for which you're accomplishing it. They don't have either, except in the case that they have a task of hitting this island. They have a task of dropping bombs and so forth. So it's confusing for them, and the morale is reflecting that. And I think this cable that Larry got, or email that Larry got, is reflective of that.

#Danny

Yeah, well, certainly in terms of mission, I mean, it does feel like just now Iran is saying that this has gone from a naked war of aggression to now a hybrid war. But that's a difficult concept for those who have to sit out in massively hot weather in the Persian Gulf and stay there for as long as, yeah.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

When you're under bombs, it doesn't make a whole lot of difference if bombs are dropping on you. And one person told me, well, our mission is to drop bombs. Yeah. Oh, okay. For what purpose? To kill people? Is that the purpose? No, to get them to relent. It isn't working.

#Danny

No, no. And Donald Trump, I just want to show your comments, the differing tone that he has been showing since then, almost as if he's in a kind of action paralysis. Yeah.

#Speaker 1

Warped, so to speak.

#Danny

This is directly after the Kuwait strikes, before Iran said that it also targeted the U.S. Navy. But this is when a reporter asked him about what he meant.

#Speaker 2

Mr. President, given Iran's attacks on Kuwait—its latest attack on Kuwait—is the ceasefire with Iran still on?

#Donald Trump

Well, you know, there's a reason for everything. And we hit them pretty hard the night before, and actually last night. And one always explained to me, I said, all right, so we'll do that. But we've been hitting them pretty hard a little bit. So there is a reason for certain things. And there's usually a reason for that.

#Danny

Oh, the video is terrible. I don't know what's going on with the video there.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Did you catch that? We've been hitting them really hard, a little bit.

#Danny

Yeah. So basically he said they were reciprocating. They were slightly provoked. I don't know what happened to that video. But here's another one where he was asked about what the definition of a ceasefire is now. After all this has happened, here's what he said.

#Speaker 1

How do you define ceasefire? How do you define ceasefire?

#Donald Trump

Pretty much the way it is. It's a different part of the world. You know, I'd say in that part of the world, a ceasefire is when you're shooting in a more moderate manner.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, I said that was his Wallace Shawn moment from *The Princess Bride* with Mandy Patinkin, where Shawn keeps saying, "Inconceivable!" And finally, Mandy Patinkin says, "I don't think that word means what you think it means." No, Mr. President, ceasefire means cease—don't do it anymore—firing. I mean, I'm a pistol instructor, and when I've got students on the firing line, when I say ceasefire, I don't want to hear someone say, "Oh, I'm just going to take one more shot." No, you stop shooting. That's what that means. But what's fascinating about those two clips—and, you know, I heard that Kverka Mastin says, "Oh, it's irresponsible for Larry and Pepe to say that Iran has a nuke." Hey, it's like, shut the fuck up, okay?

We're reporting what's being said. If you don't want to hear what's being said, go bury your head in the sand. But this is what is being said, and we're seeing a reaction from Donald Trump, who apparently believes that it's true. And I got confirmation of that from Robert Barnes, former Trump lawyer, and he does have sources in the White House, and he said, what you guys reported is exactly correct. Trump now believes that Iran has a nuke, because before he knew they didn't, but he was using that as, yeah, we're going to go rough them up. Now that they got one, it's like you're standing there, you have a club in your hand, you're threatening somebody, and then all of a sudden you realize they got a gun. Okay, you back off on the threatening.

And that's what we're seeing. Trump is backing off the threats because he now believes—and do I know whether Iran has a nuke? No, I don't. I don't claim that they do. I don't claim that they don't. What I do claim is a source that I consider very credible, with access, he believes it. So all you do, you know, and this is like, welcome to the world of intelligence, where it's not all black and white, and it's not all with flashy neon signs telling you what the truth is. It can be a hall of mirrors. All I

know, though, is what I'm observing. The Iranians claim that they got a nuke. The Pakistanis believe they have a nuke. And Donald Trump's acting like Iran now has a nuke and is treading very, very carefully.

#Danny

Yeah, well, we've seen even the limited strikes on Iran become even more limited over time since all of this has happened. And some may claim that that's simply military limitations from the United States, as well as the fact that Iran does have the ability to hit back harder and harder. Maybe that's not where the U.S. wants to go right now. But Colonel Wilkerson, I mean... what do you make of Trump's comments here and this broader point of, yeah, Iran does appear to be building quite an effective long term deterrent, because you can't really stop the U.S. and Israel in the short term from doing what the warmongers do best. But in the long term, it feels like Iran is really building up quite a deterrence package, so to speak. Yeah.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, if you really look at it logically and you ask yourself, who has 5,889 nuclear warheads arrayed all around the world, and who has maybe one or two? I mean, is this a real change in the balance of power, a significant change in the balance of power? And believe me, I've asked this same question about North Korea, although now they're up to something like 50, 55 bombs, I'm told. But still, they're vastly outnumbered. And I'm not just talking about deterrence in the traditional sense of deterrence, but I'm talking about if you've got one or two and I've got 5,000 plus, who's got the advantage? Have you got the advantage, militarily speaking, or do I? So I dare you to use that nuclear weapon.

Now, fast forward from that logic, though, and look at what a nuclear weapon in the hands of Iran, tested in the Dasht-e Kavir or wherever, and very visible, does to Israel. Not even used on Israel yet. That is the real equation here. And then the question becomes, what does that mean to Donald Trump, and what does it mean to Bibi and Donald Trump's relationship, and in particular with the relationship that is going to get him unelected here very shortly and probably present Trump with an even worse leadership and Bibi in jail? Where does Donald go then? I mean, I don't think Iran having a nuclear weapon, while I might in some ways revel at it, because that's what they should have done all along to prevent this war from even happening, I don't think it really changes the situation as much as we might think it does.

And I don't know how much it will change the situation, actually, until I see it happen and I see what Israel's political situation reveals, what that means to them, and what they do to change their course of action. Because we got—there's so much else here that is at stake. And maybe if you look at Saudi Arabia and their position, you can understand fundamentally what I mean. I think we have

soured MBS forever on any kind of relationship with Israel that is positive because they will not agree to his stipulation that there be a viable plan of some sort to change the situation and to make a home for the Palestinians in the region.

And it's gotta be a viable solution. Now, we forget that Iran is behind that too. They're very much behind that. The Houthis are very much behind that. So until we get out of this, you know, this context—Bibi, Trump, Trump, Bibi, the Iranians, the Pakistanis, and everything else—and really talk seriously about the real issues in this region, I don't know that a nuclear weapon changes the equation all that much. It certainly changes it for Israel, that's for sure. But I don't know that it changes it that much for us unless we're so locked with Israel we're going to go commit suicide with it. And there's a good counterpoint to it.

#Larry Johnson

My body is barking. God knows why.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I know, Danny, this sounds cold-hearted and everything, or bizarre, but after all, the balance of power is the balance of power. And the balance of power between Israel and Iran is what we're talking about. That's the critical balance of power. It isn't the balance of power between the United States and Iran. Just because we have a stupid president who started this war and a stupid military that's going along with it doesn't justify it.

#Danny

Well, Larry, Netanyahu said there was the whole row. We haven't talked about it yet. The so-called row, the phone call, that all fits in within, I think, this entire picture where Trump supposedly called Netanyahu effing crazy. Nobody likes you. Nobody's going to like you after all of this if you continue on this path. All of this kind of stuff. Yeah. I think nobody's going to like you.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Did you see Bibi's response? Yes. That's what I wanted to ask you about, Larry.

#Donald Trump

If you saw Bibi's response.

#Danny

What was his response? One of which, I believe, was in **Car Workers** or—you can fill in any gaps—you said, "We have tactical differences. Yeah, we love each other, really."

#Larry Johnson

We love each other, but we have tactical differences. Like family, he said, like family. Right. I mean, look, the reality is if we try to personalize this with Bibi Netanyahu, with, hey, man, if we just get rid of Netanyahu, all the problems go away—uh-uh. You know, the Israeli position vis-à-vis the Palestinians and Lebanese is not going to change. They want to get rid of them. They want to take that land. They want to control it. Now, some more than others—you know, the settler movement and the Mizrahi, that element, the Ben-Gvirs, the Smotriches, et cetera—yeah, boy, they're hard over.

But if the United States can exercise significant control over what Israel does by withholding aid, pulling back supplies—but so far, Trump, no, Trump hasn't shown a willingness to do that. And that is what he's being pressured to do right now in the course of these negotiations that Pakistan is engaged with—that, you know, we've got to rein in, um, Iran—I mean, Israel. And you saw Iran, you know, after April 7th, they signed the initial peace ceasefire deal with the United States, but then, you know, stopped short of implementing it, saying, uh-uh, you've got to get Israel to stop. And Israel, on April 15th, the United States ostensibly got them to stop—sort of.

But within another three or four weeks, Israel is back at it, bombing southern Lebanon and even bombing in Beirut. So on this latest one, the Iranians have made it very clear: you've got to stop Israel from bombing Beirut. If they attack Beirut, we're going to relaunch the missile war on them. So far, Israel has—you know, apparently Trump, that was part of the conversation with Bibi—and Bibi has issued the appropriate orders, and they're not bombing southern Lebanon. I don't know how long that will hold. But once Israel stops abiding by that, then, you know, Katie, bar the door, because Iran's made it very clear they're going to make the northern part of Israel uninhabitable.

#Danny

Hmm.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And people, according to Haaretz, the latest edition online, there are people in the IDF who said, "Bullshit." One of them actually said, "I'm on the Zahani River, and I'm not going an inch further south." Yeah. They did say they were going to surrender the castle. They were going to surrender one other strategic point—I forget which it was. But then, as they said that, the next article said, "The hell we will." So there's contention in the IDF on the ground in Lebanon as to whether or not they're going to correspond with this ceasefire. And if Israel's previous record is any guide...

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, I mean, look, the bottom line is that anybody, even like right now, the Pakistanis believe that they're on the verge of getting Putin and Trump to come to Islamabad to sign an accord. Okay, well, but an accord carries no legal weight with the United States. It's not an obligation. It's sort of a promise. And as we've already seen, Donald Trump blew up the JCPOA, which was an accord. It wasn't a treaty. If I'm Iran and I say, look, I'm serious. I want an end to this war with the United States. We can't be involved. We've got to have a treaty. And the treaty implies it's going to be ratified by the Senate, and that you've got political approval. So the public and the elected representatives, they support the deal. So now it's not just what Donald Trump feels at the moment. It's what the public feels and wants. They're not going to get that yet. So that means whatever accord is signed is still just very, very vulnerable to being blown up at a moment's notice.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

100% agree. 100% agree. And I can't imagine the Senate passing what the House just passed with regard to the War Powers Act. I can't imagine that happening in the Senate, even if it did, if you managed to get a few Republicans, Trump would do what he did with the one we got passed in both houses with regard to Yemen and the war there and our support for Saudi Arabia. He'd veto it.

#Larry Johnson

Mm-hmm.

#Danny

Yeah, well, let's look at something here. This is what Donald Trump said on Truth Social about that House vote on the War Powers Act. Now, this has gone through the chambers of Congress a few times and has been, you know, voted down a few times, now voted up by the House for bad Republicans. All the Democrats, says Donald Trump yesterday, in a meaningless vote to limit my war powers right in the middle of my final negotiations to end the war with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Why would you do such an unpatriotic thing? They know where the negotiations stand. The Democrats are fueled by Trump Derangement Syndrome.

They'd rather our country fail than give me another of many victories. The four Republicans, that's a whole other story. They're grandstanders. They should be ashamed of themselves. MAGA. Larry, I thought that the negotiations were—oh, I thought that Iran wasn't talking to the United States. And Iran said that they are actually in conversation with the United States. But Trump is claiming they're at the end. And you mentioned these accords. Is this anything that can lead to anything conclusive, Larry? I mean, it just seems—it seems still very far off. But your thoughts? What do you mean by conclusive? Like it will change the situation, like the U.S. will change its behavior.

#Larry Johnson

So let's separate it. Are we looking at something that's going to present a solid foundation for a long-lasting agreement that will ultimately lead to the creation of a Palestinian state and the end of the war between Israel and the Palestinians? And on that, I say no. Okay. Will they be able to, by creating a short-term excuse, allow the United States to declare victory and get out of the Middle East? Possibly. And Dubai said, hey, we've now guaranteed that Iran's not going to have a nuke. Now they said, well, you're saying that they got a nuke now. Well, they could actually have a nuke now. And as part of the agreement, they said, okay, we're giving those up. They're going to be given under supervision to Russia or China.

And, you know, until such time as we get a treaty in place, we're going to reserve the right that we can recall, get access to those if you attack us again. So, but, you know, within that, you're going to look at security guarantees that Iran's going to demand. Will the U.S. be willing to respect the reported demands of Qatar and Saudi Arabia for the U.S. to basically leave those countries, leave the bases, and no longer operate from those places? Right. And underlying all of this—this is what really puzzles the hell out of me—is the global economic impact of what's going on with the Persian Gulf. We do not have any time in history that we can point to when 20%, up to 20%, some say maybe a little less, of the world's oil supply has now been cut off.

It's not there. We've reduced 25% of the liquid natural gas supply—cut off, no longer there. Thirty-five percent of urea and sulfur for fertilizers principally, but also other industrial applications—cut off. And just north of me, about 15 miles, Mosaic Mining Company—they're big in Tampa, one of the biggest fertilizer producers in the United States. What did they do? They've cut their production in half. At a time when the price is through the roof and they could sell as much as they could produce, they're cutting their production in half because they don't have sulfur. And then, as a result, cutting their production in half means they're laying people off. And then last, helium. Who knew? You know, before February 28th, I had no clue.

#Speaker 1

I knew. I knew. I knew.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, we're not talking about sucking on balloons. Come on. But the role that helium plays in the production of computer chips—so, gee, what's the big push that Donald Trump's hoping will rescue the economy? AI. What does AI need? They need data centers. In addition to the electrical power to keep them fired up and going, inside those data centers are these things called computers. And inside those computers are things called data chips, computer chips. And the production of that now is falling off. So at a time when you've got growing demand for these chips, the supply is going down, and that gap right there creates a huge price impact. So we've got a recipe for global inflation, global recession. And I note that yesterday it was announced Canada is now in an official recession. They've had two straight quarters of negative growth.

#Donald Trump

Wow.

#Danny

Yeah, well, Colonel Wilkerson, to follow up on that, there are many people who believe that all of this, in large part, is for the United States to gobble up oil markets. But what Larry is outlining here is a disaster that comes out of this. And usually, in economic crises and recessions, too, we have, of course, negative growth. But we also have a lot of consolidation. And I'm just wondering if you believe that a lot of this is about the U.S. trying to, as an empire, corner and gobble up energy markets. But to what end? I mean, to what end? What does that really lead to, if that's the case?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I don't think so. There could be some people behind the scenes that think that might be a part of it, or are trying to make that a part of it, or trying to figure out a way to do that. I think we're tied together still in a way that makes it impossible to do. You might be able to do it in niches, but you're not going to be able to do it overall, as Larry just pointed out. You've got problems in Florida. You've got problems in Iowa. You've got problems in Southern California. You've got problems all over the country, I imagine. But those three places I know particularly we have problems. And farmers aren't putting their crops down. They aren't expecting to do anything. Insurance companies and insured farmers aren't getting the bids for the insurance.

Things aren't looking too good, and I think that would permeate the economy, generally speaking, if we got into the situation that Larry was just talking about. If we had a global recession, for example, even, let alone a global depression. And I want to come back to one thing that I think, you know, I'm not tooting my own horn here anyway, about a speech I gave at the National Press Club many, many moons ago, when I said very explicitly, having quoted from the Joint Staff report, the analysis done by the Joint Staff for General George Catlett Marshall on what it would mean if we did what we did in 1948, partition and then the rest of it. And that report reads like a description, change just a few terms, of what's happening today.

And the title of my remarks was, "Is Israel a strategic asset or a strategic liability?" My conclusion was the latter, profoundly. And I come to that point because no matter what we do with this volatile situation in Southwest Asia, the foreign minister of Oman's remarks echo and reverberate across the entire region. The real problem in the region is Israel. And until something is done about that, until Israel suddenly sees the light and becomes willing to accept a one-state solution, a democratic state that is truly democratic and recognizes all of its citizens in rough equality, or some other solution that's viable, we aren't going to settle this problem, and I think it's going to get worse, not better.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah. Your thoughts on that, Larry?

#Larry Johnson

No, no, I agree. Israel has become a rogue nation. You know, we've seen in our, you know, Colonel Wilkerson and I were much younger, you know, in 1960. Was there a time we were younger? Yeah, yeah. I barely remember. But, you know, I call it the Exodus generation, where we were introduced to the story of the birth of Israel via Paul Newman and Eva Marie Saint. I forget the actress.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Yeah, Eva Marie Saint or something like that.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah. And, you know, part of it was a piece of masterful propaganda, right? Because it was designed to shape a perception of Israel and to sear it into the memories of people. And one of the storylines is... It was remarkable in that, in the rewriting of the movie, they actually talked about the... I can't remember if it was Irgun or the Stern Gang, one of the terrorist groups in Israel. Irgun, I believe. Yeah, it was Irgun. So the brother of one of the protagonists was a terrorist held in prison. But at the end, he gets out. He gets free because he's not really a bad terrorist, because he's killing those Arabs and the Brits.

And they sort of asked for it. But you get this blonde, almost white-blonde girl named Karen. She's Danish, but she's a survivor of the Holocaust. She goes to Israel and gets into a kibbutz and falls in love with a guy who had been a Sonderkommando, the one picking bodies out of the gas chambers. And then at the end of the movie, she's murdered. Now, I'm going through all the detail of this. It shapes a story of little David, little Israel, fighting against these Goliath Arabs. And so a whole generation of people my age, older, a little younger, were painted with that propaganda and came to believe it.

But now, thanks to social media, which is one of the reasons they flipped out and tried to shut down TikTok, you're seeing the Israelis killing babies. They're not the David. They are the Goliath, and a monstrous Goliath at that. And they are in an unrecoverable public relations position. There's not enough lipstick in a million tubes to put on this pig and make it look attractive. They're beyond that. And that's one of the dilemmas that they're facing right now. This is generational. The next generation coming up is not lining up to say, hey man, we stand with Israel. No, it's going the opposite direction.

#Danny

Mm-hmm. Yeah.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

This will take a long time. It will work itself through the American public. We may destroy ourselves before it has full effect, but he's right. It is going to change the whole world. And Bibi knows that. That's the reason he's desperate to get this Section 294, I think it is, in the House bill for the National Defense Authorization Act, because he wants to get something in there to cement the relationship with little oversight while he can, because he knows it's going away.

#Danny

Yeah, I haven't looked into it too hard, but maybe both of you can help me understand better this idea people have been throwing around about the U.S. and Israel fusing their militaries. Now, I'm very critical of the U.S. military because of how it's used and wielded and all the criticisms that you both have brought on this show. Israel's military, though, it's more of a settler kind of mercenary force. It doesn't really fight wars beyond those that it's trying to—these genocidal campaigns to expand borders in its area, in its general settler area—Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, of course. So what is this all about, this whole idea of fusing the militaries together? Whoever wants to begin.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, I see it as an effort to do exactly what Bibi Netanyahu hinted he was going to do, but do it in a way that's beneficial to Israel. You remember he was talking about, we don't need you anymore, we don't need a new Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, is supposed to be renewed for 2027, and the last 10 years guarantee 3.8 billion or something like that per year for those 10 years. We go beyond that, well beyond that, when they get into unrest like they are right now. But what this would do is take that whole process, which at least has exposure—it has exposure under the Leahy Law and under other laws—restrictions on the use of U.S. military equipment and arms overseas against targets we don't prefer to have them used against, like women and children.

And even though Blinken and Sullivan and Biden—Biden and dementia, I think—but probably Joe Biden would have done this anyway, because Israel is so sacrosanct, they get away with everything. But at least there's visibility. Why did Josh Paul leave political-military affairs in the State Department? Because we weren't enforcing the laws. But at least there was that visibility of those laws. Now, Rumsfeld made an attempt to do this when he was Secretary of Defense. He tried to get Congress to approve taking appropriation authority that was State's to spend and giving it to DOD. IMET was a good example—International Military Education and Training. They wanted to determine who got IMET, not State. But when you do that, when you put the oversight for these functions at DOD, forget the oversight.

It's not going to happen because the SASC and the HASC are not going to provide the oversight. They don't want to provide the oversight. It's too much trouble, and they love Israel. So what you get is this relationship not only between the United States and Israel that's perfidious, insidious, pernicious, and deadly. You also throw Lockheed Martin, Grumman, RTX, Boeing, and a host of other people in there who will contaminate the whole process beautifully with things like proprietary maintenance and so forth. They'll make a fortune out of this, and so will the Israeli defense people. And there'll be no visibility that the American people will have. And that's what Netanyahu likes about it, because there will be none of this publicity about what happens between Israel and the United States.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, it's going to pass. It's probably going to pass.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I checked with the guys here, with Josh Paul's group a couple of days ago, and some others in the Pentagon budget campaign, a number of others. And it's probably going to pass in both houses.

#Danny

One of the problems that this could pose, Larry, because a lot of this seems to focus on technology, and that's the kind of fusion, especially with the way that the U.S. military now—and its boss, I guess you could say, Pete Hegseth—very obsessed with AI and high-tech kind of warfare. What kind of problems, though, does this pose, if any?

#Larry Johnson

Well, let me suggest it doesn't necessarily propose any solutions. So, to join U.S. and Israeli research and development testing evaluations of so-called advanced technologies—well, both countries have a track record, a proven track record, of producing very expensive military technology that doesn't work. Okay? So whether we're talking Patriot or THAAD or David's Sling, you know, they produce these systems that, frankly, they don't work. Or they're really expensive and they don't work against ballistic missiles. Then they're talking about co-production, licensing, industrial partnerships. You know, I don't see that as necessarily some, you know, tremendous change in what we already have. That's already actually happening.

And, again, I'm not sure it has—it'll be more to the benefit of Israel than it will be to the United States. I think the real concern comes down to what they're calling network integration and data fusion, where they allow shared military data networks. Now, that goes to intelligence. But in my experience, while the Israelis always want to know what we have—because they assume correctly, at least from the CIA side, that the CIA will hide and keep information from Israel—the reality is that

with respect to countries in the Middle East—with Syria, with Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, even Iran, Saudi Arabia—the Israelis have far more robust and accurate information, not necessarily accurate, but far more robust intelligence.

And if you look at who's using what, it's the United States that's using Israeli intelligence, not the opposite way around. I know, just to illustrate, when John Brennan was chief of station in Saudi Arabia back in 1995—I think that was the year that Khobar Towers was blown up, killing some U.S. servicemen and some Saudis—the chief of base, an old friend of mine, told me later that they had suspicions. While it was subsequently blamed on Iran, it wasn't Iran, it was al-Qaeda. The reason was that John Brennan had imposed restrictions on CIA officers being able to try to collect sources and intelligence on the bin Laden network.

Bottom line. So that's why I say that the United States has sort of hamstrung itself and made itself vulnerable, where Israel releases intelligence to us that is completely manipulated to drive us to a certain conclusion. So that's the real danger. But the other thing that Colonel Wilkerson correctly noted is that embedding it in this military aid package, the way they're talking about it, takes it out of where you're able to do any evaluation, any assessment, any follow-up in discovering corruption and other inefficiencies. So, again, this is one more sign that the U.S. government is a captive of the Zionist network. Yeah. Colonel Wilkerson, any final thoughts?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

No. I think we're in deep, deep trouble here with this war. And I think we're going to see just what kind of trouble we're in over the next six months or so. And I think it's going to be manifested most dramatically and dangerously, economically.

#Larry Johnson

Hmm.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Yeah, well, Michael... Trump needs to move, and he needs to get out of it, and he needs to put his foot down if it's possible. Yeah, get out of it.

#Danny

Michael Morandian⁴⁵¹³ said, is it possible to ask the Colonel what citizens can do about the U.S.-Israeli military cooperation bill, which we've just discussed quite extensively?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Just Google the... I forget the name of the PAC. It's an anti-AIPAC PAC that Josh Paul has started. I'll be glad to send it to you. But you can just Google Josh Paul and you'll get it because he's the guy running it. All right. They've got a full campaign going, a full campaign going, trying to counter this or at least give enough visibility to the American people so they understand what they're getting into.

#Danny

Yeah, that's great. Definitely do that. I can share. In the 90s, I worked for Boeing, says Empire. We were F-15 avionics. Boeing built 25 F-15s for Israel, the F-15I. It was identical in all capabilities, including nuclear, to the American F-15E. So that's all, folks. I want to thank Larry Johnson and Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson for joining me today. It's always a great show when they come on. Tomorrow I'll be back at 1 p.m. Eastern time with Andrei Martyanov, so be sure to check that out, June 5th, 1 p.m. Eastern time. Hit the like button before you go. Larry Johnson's blog, Sonar21, is in the video description below. Hit the like button — that helps boost the show — and all the places to support the show are in the video description as well. Larry, Colonel Wilkerson, any final words of goodbye? Hey, thank you.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Yep.

#Danny

Hang in there, Danny. Hanging in, hanging in. We're all in it together, everybody. All right. I'll see you tomorrow, 1 p.m. Eastern, June 5th. Andrei Martyanov. See you then. Bye-bye.