

Alex Krainer: From Tehran to Havana: Is America Trapped in Endless War?

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#Nima

What has happened in the last two or three days is the new confrontation between Iran and the United States — the attacks, you know, we had last night and the night before. It's 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 interceptors of the Patriot system failed to hit the target, and it came 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 Keene, every time you open up some video of Fox News on 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 that 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 different from 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's unity. And so I think that as Iran has understood that it holds the dominant power in the region, I think that 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 between even the Gulf Cooperation Council members with the United States and NATO. Maybe the exception here is the UAE, but 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 to not survive this conflict. And I think that Israel is also very likely not to survive this conflict.

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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 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. 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, 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 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% 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. 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 over 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 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 at the heart of the City of London. And they're involved in all these conspiracies that keep war... you know, wherever human blood is running in rivers... the same family name always turns up. They were also the employers of 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... 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

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. They thought that the Axis of Resistance was defeated. There is no Assad in 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. They have no strategy. There's no strategy to their wars. So the attack on Iran was... I believe it was 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 regime, 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, and 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 set it at 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.