

Larry Johnson: Iran Missiles Rain Down on Northern Israel – Massive Strikes!

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#Nima

Hi everybody, today is Monday, June 8th, 2026, and our dear friend, our dear, dear friend...

#Larry

Yeah, you're just saying that to butter me up, okay?

#Nima

Welcome back, Larry.

#Larry

Hey, I didn't go anywhere. Okay, yes, I am back with you. You know, you've been staying busy too. You're too busy these days. Too bad you can't get paid for it, right?

#Nima

Larry, I want to start with what happened yesterday. We had the attack in Dahia — finally, the Israeli attack. It was an empty building, as they mentioned after the attack. I don't know if they knew the building was empty, but the attack happened. They wanted to assassinate some Hezbollah commanders, but they managed to kill some ordinary people who were close to the building. Then... the Iranian response. Yesterday, when I did a podcast, a monologue, I didn't know if Iran would respond or Yemen would respond. I thought Yemen would respond to what happened because they literally didn't kill any of the Hezbollah commanders. So that's why I thought that the empty building — that was going to be a response from Yemen, maybe some missiles from Yemen. But Iran decided to respond directly, to send a message. What was the point? Before getting to what is going on between Iran and Israel, what was the point of attacking that empty building? Did they know the building was empty?

#Larry

No. Destroy the peace process. You know, what Pepe and I reported more than a week ago — so, a week ago Thursday — the information we received was that the Iranian Supreme Council issued a warning to Prime Minister Sharif of Pakistan that they were going to stop, they were withdrawing from all nuclear talks, they were not going to deal with any kind of nuclear framework like the JCPOA, and that they were prepared to detonate a nuke to show their seriousness. And that information was conveyed to the United States by Pakistan. Throughout this period, Pepe and I have been told through the source that Pakistan remains very optimistic about its prospects for securing a peace agreement — a peace deal that will be called the Islamabad Accords — that will be the United States and Iran signing off.

And I think what they'll sign off on is basically something that Trump will be able to present as, "I've prevented Iran from getting a nuclear weapon." That'll be the thing. And I'm surprised this narrative really hasn't picked up much. But, you know, there was the New York Times story that came out Saturday talking about how Israel has increased its spying on Trump administration officials because they're trying to figure out what the hell the Trump administration is doing with Pakistan. You know, what is this deal? What's the deal? Because Israel is scared to death that they're being cut out of the deal — which they are. That's true. Well, you know, that was a leak orchestrated by, I'm told, Elbridge Colby and another Defense Department or War Department official who are advocates for a settlement with Iran.

And so the fact that you had this intense—this was deliberately leaked in order to paint Israel in the worst possible light. Because, you know, when I first heard that, oh, Israel spying on the United States, it's like, yeah, no shit. And the sun comes up in the east. I mean, surprise, you know. What, gambling here in the casino? How could that be? Okay. So it was one of those—I'll call it a Casablanca moment with Claude Rains: "Oh, gambling at the casino! Let's arrest those people." But we've also got then the change in Trump's demeanor. I mean, he looks bad, but he has not been saying the outrageous things he was saying three, four weeks ago about Iran. In fact, he's almost, like, conciliatory.

So he's keen on getting a deal. So this was Bibi Netanyahu, and then the Iranians themselves had declared that any further attacks on Beirut, they would retaliate. And, you know, they warned the people in northern Israel, you know, get the hell out. You know, we're coming after you. So this was a deliberate effort by Bibi Netanyahu. I think he ordered the strike knowing that Iran would respond, that Israel would get hit, and then Israel would use that as a justification to bring the United States into it, and that would kill the deal. Didn't happen. Trump basically said, no, you stay out, and tried to talk him out of doing any kind of retaliation.

And then I guess the last thing he said was, well, if you do it, you're doing it without us. You're on your own. So here's, you know, the Israelis, I think, actually had never thought that Trump would leave them hanging. And Trump left them hanging. And so they responded with, you know, Iran

fired that first volley, five waves, four missiles per wave, so a total of 20 missiles hitting a variety of targets in Israel. But it wasn't, you know, it was more designed to say, hey, we told you not to do it. So here, you know, we're smacking you upside the head a little bit, but we're not really punishing you. And at that point, Israel, instead of listening to Trump and holding their fire, decided to retaliate.

And they lose, I think, about 11 missiles. They hit at least five different sites, several of them sites that they believe the missiles had been launched from. So what does Iran do, you know, an hour later or half an hour later? They fire more missiles at Israel from those very sites that Israel had hit with its missiles. They basically said, hey, fuck you, you didn't lay a glove on us, that kind of thing. And then I believe Israel responded after that. Iran has since responded again. And the really important development that people need to pay attention to is what Larijani—let me pull this up because it's... there it is.

#Nima

Larijani, the head of the Council of Experts?

#Larry

Yes, they call it the Expediency Discernment Council, Sadeq Larijani. I guess, was it his brother?

#Nima

Exactly. His brother was the head of the Security Council, the head of the National Security Council.

#Larry

Okay. So Sadeq Larijani said that, and let me quote, "Iran's intervention in support of Lebanon constitutes a formal declaration of a new strategic doctrine under which attacks on any component of the resistance axis will trigger a response that extends beyond geographic boundaries and reshapes regional equations." Now, Larijani said that Iran has entered a new phase in which it no longer waits for threats to emerge before acting to preserve its regional positions. So this is something really new. Iran is taking the initiative. He also warned, apparently, that any expansion of the conflict or attack on critical Iranian infrastructure would be met with a comprehensive and deterrent response.

So we're in new territory now. So basically, continued attacks on the Palestinians and Lebanese, Iran's going to continue to respond. They're going to continue to hit Israel with one missile after another. I think we're in—I'll liken this—this is sort of like the 12-day war, where by day 10, Israel was pleading with the United States, oh, get us out of this, help, help. But I think Israel's going to be pleading for help long before that. I think they'll be able to endure about six, seven days of this, and

then they'll be, you know, tapping out, saying, okay, please get us out of this. And I don't think there's any exit this time.

#Nima

There was a phone call, Larry, last night after the Iranian attack in response to what Israel did in Dahiyeh, in Lebanon. And the phone call was between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu. Donald Trump came out and said he told him not to attack Iran. Then we had Israeli media, for example, Channel 12, reporting that Israel was not going to respond after that. But we had the response from Israel — the attack on Iran. So, what was that phone call, and what do we know about that phone call? It seems that Donald Trump tried to convince him, but he couldn't do it after all. What is the picture coming out of this? Because when you come out as the President of the United States, as someone who's responsible for this war — this war of choice — you started this war, and you're trying to convince Benjamin Netanyahu, who convinced you to go to this war. He's the main reason for this disastrous war. And you're not able, you're not capable of convincing him not to attack or to calm down?

#Larry

Well, it's not a matter of convincing. It's a matter of Trump deciding to withhold aid and to cut off aid, and to cut off military cooperation and withdraw personnel. And so far, he's not been willing to do that. But this deal with Pakistan hangs in the balance. Trump really wants that deal. There is, and it's genuine. And the Pakistanis — the last information I had — the Pakistanis were optimistic that it was going to go through. Now, that said, I still think that there are some Iranian demands that the United States will be unwilling to meet, which will prevent this thing from being implemented. But it leaves the United States in a very difficult situation because Iran's got the strategic initiative right now.

#Nima

Israel says that they're not going to accept the new equation in the region. The new equation is what you've just mentioned with the case of Larijani, Sadeq Larijani, the head of Iran and the Council of Experts in Iran. And when he says that, to many people who don't know what the Council of Experts is, Larry, when there is a problem between the Guardian Council and the Iranian parliament, the Council of Experts comes in and somehow brings the two sides together or makes some sort of decision. It shows how important this council is when they're talking about the new strategy, the new equation of the region. If they're going to go preemptive, maybe if they feel that Israel is going to do something. The main point, I think, in this new message that you've just read for us is that they can go preemptive on Israel.

#Larry

That's exactly right. Again, let me read the key phrase. It said, "A formal declaration..." This is a new policy. This is something that Iran has not done in 47 years.

#Larry

And it is now tying its own security to that of the Lebanese people and the Palestinians. So this is, I see it as really a declaration of war against Israel.

#Nima

There are people in Israel like the head of the opposition, Yair Lapid. He said that this war, the continuation of this war, is not going to benefit the state of Israel. Is he trying to buy votes? What is that?

#Larry

Yeah, it's called no-shit analysis. Yeah. Hey, if you jump off a 50-foot building with no parachute, you're going to break your legs, if not worse. Yeah, it's in that same category. Yeah, no kidding. And that was what I found so powerful about the message yesterday by Iran — that within a half hour of Israel launching its attack on those specific sites in Iran, Iran turns around and launches missiles from those sites. Wait a second. I thought, you know, again, destroying the myth of Israeli invincibility.

#Nima

Israel said, Larry, that the United States didn't participate in the attack on Iran, but they helped to defend Israel. What did they do, and what were their capabilities to defend Israel?

#Larry

My understanding is the United States is essentially standing down. You know, there's a lot of confusion out there, too, about, you know, there was a bombing or a couple of bombs went off, allegedly, at Prince Saud Air Base, initially blaming that on Iran. Iran said, no, that wasn't us. Then they tried to blame it on the Houthis. Again, I don't think that was the Houthis. I think that came from someone, a group connected with Israel, to make it look like it was Iran or look like it was the Houthis, because the Saudis and the Qataris have made a decision to now move away from their reliance on the United States. They're going to enter into this new strategic — call it a strategic partnership — that has been crafted together, assembled with Pakistan in the lead. It will involve Turkey, Egypt, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. And behind it all, I don't want to call them puppeteers, but this is sort of the vision of the Chinese and the Russians.

#Nima

The other important point, Larry, in the new announcement by Sadegh Larijani, is that he mentions all of Lebanon, not just Beirut.

#Larry

Right, right, including southern, you know, especially southern Lebanon. So there's, you know, I know some have speculated that Iran will sell out Hezbollah — just the opposite. They've made it now clear: Hezbollah, we got your back, we're here.

#Nima

That's why we have Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel, which is, we know that there are people in Israel who are agreeing on the policies in Gaza and Lebanon, but they want to kill him. They just want to remove him from power because they know this guy is not going to leave his position while he's alive. He's going to stay there until the last moment. That's why the fight is important. What's happening in Israel is important as well to bring into the equation.

#Larry

Yeah, well, Bibi, in recent photos, he doesn't look good either. Trump looks terrible. He's got a flushed face. His face is the color of my coffee cup. And then, you know, yelling, and, you know, Netanyahu as well. He's got cancer, and, you know, that usually eats away at you. And, you know, who knows if he'll be alive by the end of this year. But if he goes, that doesn't change Israel's policy, because this policy about destroying the Palestinians and even taking territory in Lebanon, that remains. I think a majority of Israelis are still backing that.

#Nima

I think the outcome is basically forcing Israel to withdraw totally from Lebanon. Because if you're there, you have to attack. You have to fight. If you fight, it's going to be a new escalation. And these cycles of escalation are going to happen to Israel. I don't know how long the United States can stay in the region. Because we know Donald Trump, as you've mentioned, Donald Trump is not happy because of the global economy, because of the pressure that is coming from each and every state, you know, aspects of this war. And then, is that affordable for the United States to stay there? We know that Benjamin Netanyahu wants the United States to stay there. But after all, at the end, it's the United States that decides whether it's affordable for the United States to stay there or not.

#Larry

Well, what does it mean to stay there? Do you mean to maintain it?

#Nima

To maintain the blockade, to maintain some sort of military presence, or maybe send more weapons to these bases in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, or maybe try to improve the bases in order to help Israel.

#Larry

Well, yeah, so there's the problem. Number one, the U.S. has basically been driven out of many of the bases that they did have. And, you know, particularly like Al Udeid, the Combined Air Operations Center was an important command, and that reportedly is closed down now. Prince Saud Air Base, the U.S. presence there is under pressure to withdraw. So I guess we still have some presence in Kuwait. But, you know, Iran attacked that repeatedly this last week. Then you also see, you know, they went after Bahrain. The U.S. still had some very sensitive, critical facilities — I'll call them communications facilities — that were in Bahrain that were destroyed. And what I've heard is that the U.S. command, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and his people, believe that could only have been done with the assistance of either Russian or Chinese intelligence sharing with Iran.

So the U.S. ability to maintain the kind of presence it had before, that's gone. They're going to have to spend billions, billions of dollars to try to rebuild some of these sites. And it's not just a matter of not having the money. The Saudis and Qataris, according to the Pakistani source, have made the decision that they're not going to continue hosting the United States. They're going to tell the U.S. to get out. They're going to take their chances with Russia and China. And it'll all be part of this new security architecture that Pakistan is playing a leading role in trying to construct. So you get Egypt involved, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia. And then these military forces become like, you know, a NATO or the CSTO for the Russians. So a security organization for the Persian Gulf that excludes the United States.

#Nima

I thought that the reason Saudi Arabia is getting bombed by maybe Iran or the Yemenis is because they had some sort of information, intelligence coming out of Saudi Arabia — that they're using Saudi Arabia, or they're using the bases in Saudi Arabia, against Iran or Yemen. But that wasn't the case. Looking at the Iranian media today, there is no information, there is nothing there concerning the attacks on Saudi Arabia. And they said, firstly, they said it was Iran. Then they said, no, it wasn't Iran, it was Yemen attacking them. But after all, you see, Yemen is not talking about it, because Yemen — you know Yemen — when they attack somewhere, they say, we hit that target in Israel, in the northern part of Israel, in the southern part of Israel. They're so honest in the way they're behaving. There's no point of...

#Larry

Remember, this entire missile strike in the last 24 hours, all of this has been done for one reason: to destroy the peace process that Pakistan is working on. Pakistan believes it's close to having an agreement that will be called the Islamabad Accord. And now the Israelis, in particular Netanyahu, in

desperation, are trying to destroy that, derail that. And one way to derail it is to get the United States involved in a war and get the Saudis involved. Because remember, Saudi Arabia now has, they have like a defense treaty now with Pakistan, and Pakistan has deployed some of its military forces already to Saudi Arabia. So the shift is on. The Saudis, I think, have correctly made the calculation that, as Henry Kissinger said, being an enemy of the United States is dangerous. Being a friend of the United States is lethal. And the Saudis have basically said, we don't want to risk death anymore by association.

#Nima

But in Iran, the breaking news is that Iran has begun canceling all domestic flights in western Iran. It seems that their assessment is that an attack would happen, or there may be some sort of attacks on the part of the Israelis, and they have to respond to that. What do we know about the Israeli attacks on Iran? They were basically attacking the western cities in Iran.

#Larry

Right, right.

#Nima

And how many targets?

#Larry

Well, that means they're using standoff weapons. Yeah. I mean, they identified the targets. I don't have them on the tip of my tongue, but there are about five or six targets, including a petrochemical plant. And what we do know, though, is that about eight hours ago now, the Iranian IRGC announced that they were going to target specifically two critical Israeli air bases that are in southern Israel, in the Negev — Nevatim, and the other one I believe is called Tov. And so, I don't know what success Iran had in striking those bases, but if they did strike them and do significant damage, it would severely curtail Israel's ability to carry out strikes in Iran. So they need — if I'm calling the shots for Iran's missile force, I'm going to take out those bases. I'm going to turn them into smoking piles of rubble so that you will not get another F-35 or KC-135 flying out of those locations, that they will become unusable, uninhabitable.

#Nima

I think the second round — in the first round, as you mentioned, they had five waves of missiles, all of them something like 20 missiles. And in the second round, they were not just hitting the northern

part of Israel, but the northern, central, and southern parts of Israel. Right. And we still don't have any sort of information because we don't have anything — the footage is not coming out of Israel. We don't know what the targets were in the northern, central, and southern parts of Israel.

#Larry

Yeah, well, notice it appears to have been a coordinated strike between Iran, the Houthis, and Hezbollah. All three were firing at different targets, but almost in coordination. Now, this is a war that Israel can't win. Right now, this has a lot to do—I'll say it's reminiscent of the 12-day war in the sense that Israel is going to reach a point where it's going to plead for help to get out. They can't sustain this. And the difference is, back then, I think there was an argument among the Security Council in Iran whether to accept that deal or not. They accepted it, and I think they came to regret it.

They should have continued crushing Iran, because Iran cannot withstand this sustained ballistic missile assault. You know, I think, frankly, Iran should be going every hour and just concentrate, you know, pick one or two targets and hit them until they're gone. At some point, that is going to confront Israel with an existential crisis, that their very existence as a country will come into question. Now, then the risk is, would they use a nuke? But I think right now Iran is somewhat—they haven't gone full force. They're deferring to the negotiations, trying to respect the negotiations and the requests of the Pakistanis and, indirectly, the Chinese.

#Nima

Did you watch my interview with Professor Marandi? I asked him about your report and Pepe's report, and he said what he mentioned, that is, I think, is so serious—that Iran had the capabilities to build nuclear bombs for almost 16 years, more than 16 years.

#Larry

That's true. Yeah, I fully agree with him on that. As he said, you know, Pepe and I were just reporting what the Pakistani source said. Now, was the Pakistani source lying? Well, maybe, but then you add in, how has Donald Trump been acting since we got that information? Has he been acting with aggression towards Iran, or has he been more conciliatory towards Iran? He's been more conciliatory. Which, again, for me, reinforces that there's something to this about Trump thinking he's got an agreement that's close.

#Nima

You mean that he somehow knows that Iran maybe possesses, you know, Iran maybe has... No, that was the reaction in the White House, absolutely.

#Larry

Absolutely. Yeah, and that's not me saying that. That's Robert Barnes saying that, based on people he talked to in the White House. Remember, Barnes at one time was Trump's attorney. And he's got relationships with other people around Trump. So, you know, he's not just someone sitting on the sidelines offering an opinion. He definitely has access to information. The fact of the matter is, Trump is worried that Iran may actually have a nuke or be very, very close to deploying one, whether they built it themselves or received it from Pakistan or North Korea, something like that. He doesn't want to go down in history as the guy who basically allowed Iran to become a nuclear power.

And so to that extent, he has been fully engaged. You know, I think Witkoff has been given the lead on this, but fully engaged to work out a deal and a peace agreement. And so, like I said, the Pakistani sources are insistent, yeah, it's near. And Trump's actions, to me, are consistent with someone who thinks he's got a peace deal in hand, and that's why he's telling Bibi Netanyahu, don't attack Iran, stop this, stay out of this. Netanyahu's not listening, but at least that's Trump's message.

#Nima

If it's proven that last night Israel attacked Saudi Arabia, instead of what we've learned from the news—that it was Iran and Yemen—and you're telling us right now maybe Israel was behind it, that is a huge sort of sign, I think, for the region, because they're feeling that Saudi Arabia is getting away, somehow distancing itself from Israel and getting closer to Iran.

#Larry

Yeah, yeah. No, it is. The days of the Abraham Accords, the optimism that existed maybe five years ago about that, that's dead. The Abraham Accords are dead and gone. And, you know, Israel's attempt to gain control over Lebanon, that's failing. Again, they've been doing this—my God. So the Lebanese civil war started 51 years ago, all right? So well before you were born, and they've gone back and forth. I think Israel's invaded parts of Lebanon three or four times in that period. You know, the last major foray into Lebanon was in 2006. But the last time they actually reached Beirut, had Israeli troops on the ground in Beirut, was back in 1982. So, you know, this is a bit of *déjà vu* all over again, in terms of, you know, Groundhog Day. Israel keeps doing the same thing over and over and getting the same result. It keeps thinking that if we keep doing it, we're going to get a different result, which they're not.

#Nima

Just zooming out, Larry, a little bit and seeing what is happening. For such a long time, the two sides were building up against each other. On one side, the United States together with Israel, with GCC countries, with all those bases, radars, everything—forces, everything in the region. And then the axis of resistance: Yemen, Iran, Syria, and Lebanon. Syria—the fall of Bashar al-Assad—was a

huge loss, some sort of loss for the axis of resistance. Then they thought that they were going to bring everything down. They lost access or the connection between Iran and Hezbollah, but it seems that that connection still exists. The connection is there, but the problem with those, you know, the coalition of Israel and the United States and GCC countries and those bases—they have been diminished unbelievably, in my opinion. Well, yeah. There is no repair for that for Israel.

#Larry

Yeah, the de facto destruction or removal of the United States from the Gulf countries. And I say it's de facto because the bases that were hit—take Bahrain, the former headquarters of the Fifth Fleet of the U.S. Navy—even though some of the buildings are still intact, it is not a functional headquarters anymore. They've had to relocate. I don't know if they've relocated to Oman or to Florida, but they're certainly no longer in Bahrain, and they won't be going back to Bahrain. That's the other key thing. So with it showing that the United States can no longer provide protection to these Gulf leaders, that's when these leaders start looking around, going, you know, who's got the muscle? Who do we need to go to to find protection? And there they see Pakistan with the backing of Russia and China. They say that may be our future.

#Nima

Yeah. Here is the Israeli Army Radio, citing military sources, confirming that the IDF received direct orders from Israel's political leadership to continue operations in Lebanon. And so they're going to have the operation. In my understanding, sooner or later we're going to see some sort of attacks on Beirut. Is that going to be the case?

#Larry

From the Israelis, right?

#Nima

Yeah, from the Israelis. Are we going to see more Israeli attacks on Beirut or Dahiya? Basically, they want to hit Dahiya.

#Larry

Yes, yes. No, they haven't learned their lesson yet. And that's why I believe Iran... I'm not sure what the full extent of the pressure being exerted on Iran by Pakistan is. And China and Russia are just trying to say, hey, you know, don't overreact. You know, follow our strategy. This will end peacefully and without having to carry out more strikes. But at the same time, as we mentioned earlier with Sejid Larjani's statement, there's a new security doctrine, so that Iran is going to be responding to attacks on not just the Lebanese, but also the Palestinians.

#Nima

The Strait of Hormuz is closed again.

#Larry

And Iran said that they're not going to... Not only that, how about Bab al-Mandeb?

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

I mean, the Houthis announced they closed that, you know, eight hours ago. Nobody's talking about that.

#Nima

Yeah. What is the solution for Donald Trump right now with Yemen? Is there any sort of communication between the United States and Yemen, or is it going to be through Iran? And why these negotiations with Iran? There is no reason. Why these messages that they're sending to Iran via the government in Pakistan?

#Larry

Yeah, yeah. No, I think Iran is going to be the key. Yeah.

#Nima

Israel announced that any Iranian attempt to link Lebanon and Iran would be met with great force.

#Larry

So... yeah. I mean, you know, they haven't tried to hide this at all, you know. They've been very upfront. They've extended, you know, what we started this discussion off with — that declaration by Larijani. That should be the front-page headline news for everybody. We're in a new era now. This is new. Iran has never done this before. And Iran never in the past linked Israeli actions in Lebanon or Israeli actions in Gaza. Not even last year. Iran was not saying, well, if you continue those attacks in Gaza, we're going to come after you. Hell no. This is new. For God's sake, folks, recognize what's going on.

#Nima

Do you see the moment Donald Trump says to Benjamin Netanyahu, "I'm done with this. I'm going to get out of here"?

#Larry

Yeah, I think that barrier, that moment, could come. Trump's been pretty volatile anyway.

#Nima

That would be the end of Netanyahu in Israel. I don't know if Jared Kushner would accept that, because the guy is so connected to Benjamin Netanyahu. The guy is literally so much, so much—he's like some sort of son to Benjamin Netanyahu. This is the problem with the Trump administration, the people who are in power in Washington.

#Larry

Yeah. I mean, this... Netanyahu has reached the limits of his influence, and he has now, by his actions, burned bridges with the Trump administration. And we can't ignore the fact that there's going to be... If Iran is serious about this new declaration, then Israel is going to either have to stop its attacks, its offensives, both air attacks and ground attacks in southern Lebanon, or Israel itself is going to continue to be targeted. And then it's going to have to decide, is it going to retaliate, try to go tit for tat with Iran? I don't think they can. That was the lesson from the 12-day war last June. Israel does not have the capacity to go tit for tat with Iran in a ballistic missile war of attrition.

#Nima

The other dimension of the war is what the IAEA is trying to do. As we had a report on Press TV, they have obtained a copy of new anti-Iran documents—a draft resolution prepared for the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in June 2026, this month, they're going to meet. And the text harshly criticizes Iran's nuclear program, repeats claims of non-compliance, and demands greater access while threatening further escalation, including possible UN Security Council referrals. What do they want to do about it? I don't know. I don't see the IAEA and the Security Council—I know that in that security agreement between Iran and Russia, they're going to veto everything that comes to the Security Council against Iran. I don't know what they have there.

#Larry

Yeah, they're just—Iran's not going to put up with that. Again, the IAEA is living in a fantasy world. If they think that's going to compel Iran to submit or to cooperate, see, Iran will just tell them simply, hey, go pound sand.

#Nima

Because the IAEA, when you're talking about the Security Council, you have Russia and China—both of them are part of the Security Council.

#Larry

Right.

#Nima

And how is that going to be able—how are the United States going to be able to put pressure on Iran using the Security Council? There will be no sanctions coming out of the Security Council anymore. Iran knows that.

#Larry

Right.

#Nima

Europe, which was part of the snapback sanctions, they have their policy. Nobody seems to care. I talked with Miranda just on Saturday. He said Europe doesn't matter anymore for Iran. They don't have any respect for the foreign policy of Europe toward Iran.

#Larry

Well, look, Nima, there's a complete breakdown in this post-World War II international order. It's financial, it's political, and it's military. You know, the financial order—the Bretton Woods system—that's in trouble because China and Russia are setting up an alternative. Here's Iran selling oil in yuan, not selling it in petrodollars. The role of the petrodollar is in question in many countries. So you've got that. The Bretton Woods system is crumbling. The SWIFT system, that's based in Europe but has been the primary mechanism for wiring money between both businesses and persons—it's basically an interbank email system—that's being replaced now. China's got CIPS, the Cross-Border Interbank Payment System, which is a digital platform, unlike SWIFT, which is analog, basically. It's just conventional email.

It's not as bad as snail mail, but almost as bad. Militarily, you have here Pakistan trying to put together a military alliance that will be Muslim—it'll be a Muslim military alliance. So we'll call it MATO, Muslim Alliance Treaty Organization, you know. MATO sort of has a ring to it, because bringing together Sunni and Shia under one umbrella, and you bring together what are really the key military powers, they represent a real counterweight to Israel. And here's Israel stupidly having

threatened to, you know, once we eliminate Iran, we're going after Turkey. Okay, that's not going to work out too well for them. So you've got that, and then the efforts to sell oil with currency other than the petrodollar, that's underway. So this whole structure that the United States has been heading and controlling, it's coming apart at the seams.

#Nima

I wouldn't be surprised at all if Iran announces tomorrow, or in two hours, that they're going to leave the NPT. What is the point of being in the NPT? And many people are arguing that in Iran. Serious discussions are happening. And they know, they look at—I don't know if you saw the new report in the Wall Street Journal—it's saying that the Journal calls North Korea the world's most surprising economic success story.

#Larry

You know? Yeah. Yeah, I mean, you saw that headline, you go, "What? What?" I feel like Scooby-Doo.

#Nima

It's just... I think Iran is getting there. Because before all this madness happened, we had the argument that you can get something by negotiations. Even with what you've said, Larry, if they come to some sort of deal, it's going to be a deal. It's going to be some sort of deal between the two sides. It's not going to be something substantial. It's not going to be an agreement. It's not going to be something to make some sort of responsibility for both sides in the long run or short-run sort of policies. It seems that the United States wants to get out of the region. That's why they're negotiating with this sort of messaging, and they want to get out of it. That's all. They don't want to make any sort of commitment for themselves.

#Larry

Well, Trump's going for the legacy thing. So if he gets to declare another piece on his résumé, where he wants to get nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, that he secures an agreement with Iran that will guarantee Iran will not ever build a nuclear weapon, that would be his declaration. Everything else they'll try to sweep under the rug, even if it means largely conceding to every Iranian demand. Still, it will be that Iran surrendered its nuclear ambitions to the United States. That will be the headline. And, you know, as you've pointed out, Walt, and Professor Morandi as well, if this was based upon just the sentiment of the Iranian population, Iran would probably have a nuke now. But they have avoided it because of religious objections, religious concerns, and I don't think that is easily overturned.

So it's not that Iran sees having a nuke as essential for its future survival, that if they can get other appropriate guarantees and security guarantees from both Russia and China in particular, but also getting the United States tied down. Now, this is where it becomes troublesome. If this is just an accord signed between Trump and the Iranian government, it's not binding. Trump would have to, you know, get it treated as a treaty, submit it to the Senate, and get two-thirds of the Senate to ratify it. Short of that, this is the other—I'll call it the drawback or problem I see with Iran and these negotiations. If you get a promise from Donald Trump, that's as good as, you know, used toilet paper.

#Nima

It's not even comparable to what has happened between Iran and the Obama administration. The Obama administration was much more credible, in my opinion. Oh, yeah. Yeah.

#Larry

Well, no, and just look at the JCPOA. I mean, that was a detailed agreement.

#Nima

Serious, serious agreement.

#Larry

Very serious. And despite claims to the contrary that this was a bad deal, if you sit down and people simply sit down and read it, the only real fault you could suggest is it was just limited to 10 years, as I recall, instead of something a little more permanent. But still, it was something that Iran felt compelled to sign on to, that China and Russia were willing to back the United States and the West in applying pressure on Iran. And then Trump, what a bonehead, walks away from it. Instead of coming in with something better, instead of coming in at the time and saying, okay, let's improve it, let's upgrade this, and then I'll submit it to Congress so it will have some legal standing as far as the U.S. is concerned. But he didn't do that.

#Nima

Getting back to the Pakistani source, we had the rumors coming out of Pakistan that there is a huge difference between what Donald Trump is talking about and those letters that he's sending to the Iranians. Basically, he was talking about no release of Iranian frozen assets, no sanction relief when it comes to the energy sector, which is not related to Congress. He can do it by himself. He doesn't need Congress to do that. And what do we know about that? Do you think that there is any sort of difference as these rumors are coming out?

#Larry

Well, there's at least a difference between what Trump's telling, or Trump's negotiators are telling the Pakistanis, and what he's saying in public still. So we'll see. You know, it's not unheard of for Trump to do a complete reversal, so nobody's going to be surprised by that. But I'll know more here within the next hour because I'm going to be talking to someone who's in touch with our source to find out how Pakistan's viewing this after the last 24 hours. That'll be key.

#Nima

Larry, just stay on. I'm going to say something to you before wrapping up. Oh, okay. Thank you so much for being with us today, Larry.

#Larry

All right, my friend. Just keep up your hard work. I don't know how you manage to do your work at the university.

#Nima

I have to go to the university right now.

#Larry

Okay. Get to work, get to work.

#Nima

Well, stay on. All right.