

Paul Craig Roberts: They Sold Us Out: Trump & GOP Just Chose Israel Over America

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Monday, June 8th, 2026, and our dear friend Paul Craig Roberts is here with us. Welcome back, Paul.

#Paul

Thank you very much, Nima.

#Nima

Paul, I want to start with what's going on — the Israeli attack in Dahia, in the southern part of Beirut, and then the Iranian response. What we've learned from Israel Hayom, one of the mainstream outlets in Israel, is that Iran has succeeded in creating a very disturbing equation. What is that equation? Any attack on Beirut will be met with Iranian missiles toward Israel. Israel, before attacking — as they reported — thought that Iran would never respond to Beirut. But what was the main target? It's just amazing, Paul, what has happened in Dahia. They hit an empty building in Dahia. No one was there. They thought that the Hezbollah commanders were there.

They wanted to assassinate them. No one got killed. I'm talking about the Hezbollah forces. But some people, ordinary people who were close to that building, got hit, and one of them, it seems, got killed and four people were wounded. That was the outcome for Israel. Then Iran's attack hit the northern part of Israel. We had the Israeli attack on Iran, then the Iranian response — they hit targets in the northern part of Israel, in the central part of Israel, and in the southern part of Israel. And as we talk right now, there is some sort of firing back and forth between the Yemenis and Israel. So far, I haven't seen any sort of attack from Israel on Yemen, but Yemen is hitting Israel with drones.

They're sending a lot of drones toward Israel, and Israel is hitting some targets in the southern part of Lebanon. This is what's going on. On the other hand, what we've learned from Channel 12 — there was a phone call after the Israeli attack on Lebanon. There was a phone call, and in that call, as Donald Trump reported on Channel 12 of Israel, he said that he warned Netanyahu that if he escalates the situation into a war, he will be left alone against Iran. He said, "I tried to limit the size of the Israeli response to Iran after five countries asked me to pressure Netanyahu." And this is the situation we're in right now. How do you see the situation? What do you make of it?

#Paul

Well, I make of it, it supports my previous view that the Iranians are very slow to realize and haven't yet realized that they are in a fight for their right to exist. So they're wasting their time, their efforts playing tit for tat with the Americans and the Israelis, which is pointless. The Iranians have failed to understand they need a doctrine on how to win the war, and they need to put that doctrine into effect. It is clear that Israel would have zero chance of prevailing against Iran in a war. Now, people would say, oh, Israel has nukes. The Americans let them have nukes. They killed President Kennedy because he didn't want Israel to have nukes, so Israel killed him. Israel has nukes. They'll nuke Iran. Well, Iran can nuke Israel because the Dimona nuclear plant is in Israel. All Iran has to do is hit it.

So Iran can nuke Israel. In fact, they should have already done that. The war would be over. So I still don't see any realization on the part of the Iranians that they've got to fight for their lives, for their existence as a nation, as a sovereign nation, because the Israeli doctrine of Greater Israel does not permit the existence of Iran. So what are they gonna negotiate? They have nothing to negotiate. They can achieve zero from negotiating with Trump or Israel or whoever. They've got to fight, and they don't seem prepared to do that. So they strike back when they're struck, or their allies are struck, they strike back. But the strikes do not comprise a military agenda to win a war. They're irrelevant. What is the point of striking back? What do you achieve? Nothing. These strikes achieve nothing.

And that's what the Iranians are teaching the Americans and the Israelis. They're not prepared to fight for their existence. Instead, they issue threats like Putin. Well, what do Putin's threats mean? Nothing. They've never meant anything. They're totally dismissed. And now Iran's getting in this position. They make threats: you do this again, we'll... Threats? Words? They're meaningless. Only actions count. And we haven't seen any decisive actions from Iran since they stupidly agreed to the ceasefire. So as far as I can tell, the Iranian government is unaware that they are in a fight for their existence. They're sitting there, they go, oh, you strike us, we'll strike you back. This is playing. This is playing at war. What good does it do to strike back? It's not part of a strategic program to win a war. They're in a war for their existence.

#Paul

They don't realize it.

#Paul

Maybe they feel secure still. They should see the threat and say, okay, it's us or them. What's the point of tit for tat, tit for tat? This can go on forever. We could be talking in 2050 and it's still tit for tat. So that's my view of it. I think the Iranians, like the Russians, are deceiving themselves and setting themselves up for ultimate defeat, because they're incapable of understanding that their very existence is under threat. If you're under threat, you have to respond decisively. They're not. The other day, one of the Iranian leaders, an important person, said, well, we prefer to have negotiations, but we will fight. Well, no, he should say, we're not interested in negotiations. One more time, we're going to destroy you. No negotiations, no talk. Stop now or be destroyed. That's the only position Iran can take. There's no other position. There's nothing else that could work for Iran.

#Nima

Paul, here is what was reported on Axios. It seems one of the U.S. officials told Axios that Bibi needs the war to continue to stay politically alive in Israel, and Donald Trump needs the war to end to stay politically alive in the United States. What is your assessment of that? And do you think that Donald Trump is the one this U.S. official is talking about?

#Paul

Well, that could be true. I mean, it makes sense. The Americans don't support the war. And Trump is widely, or increasingly widely, understood as a two-bit punk puppet of Netanyahu. There are memes all over the internet with Netanyahu playing Trump as a doll—Netanyahu is playing with a doll, throwing him around, beating him up. So, there's a certain amount of truth in that, but on the other hand, Trump let himself be taken into this war by Netanyahu, and he has not renounced the war. He's not said, dear fellow Americans, I made a mistake. I trusted our Israeli ally, and I didn't realize they're not really an ally.

They're somebody who uses us for their purposes. And I've made a mistake. And so the only thing to do is for me to pull out. He hasn't the strength of character to do that. So Netanyahu has him. And this is the whole trouble. But you see, worse things are now happening. As we speak, the United States House Foreign Services Committee is busy at work integrating the Israeli military with the United States military. The Israelis are to have all of our weapons systems. They're to jointly own the patents, even though they don't contribute to the development. It won't be long before we'll have Israeli commanders giving orders to U.S. Marines.

And on top of this, we have the Trump program of preventing any criticism of Israel because it is going to be criminalized. If you criticize Israel, it means you're an enemy of the United States and

you'll be arrested. Well, then this shows that Donald Trump is incapable of representing the United States. He represents Israel. So he's at the moment frustrated because Netanyahu doesn't understand that Trump needs the war over so he can hold on to Congress in the midterms. You know, the midterm election's not about Trump, it's about the House and the Senate. But if the Democrats prevail because people are mad at Trump, then he really becomes a frustrated president who can't act.

He can't do anything. Well, Netanyahu feels the same way. He's frustrated that Trump won't help him finish this war because Netanyahu is up for election. Not just the parliament, but Netanyahu. And he started a war, and if the result is that Israel keeps getting missiles from Iran blowing up places, he might lose, because there is some opposition in Israel to this Zionist agenda of subduing the entire Middle East. So the two guys have short-term needs that don't coexist. They don't go together well. So that's a problem. But that's just a short-term tactical problem.

The long-term problem is the Israeli agenda of Greater Israel. And this is the agenda the Muslim community in the Middle East has succeeded in denying, avoiding for 75 years. And so the Israelis do not take any country in the Middle East seriously. The Israelis look at them and say, these people are so stupid, they don't even understand we're out to get them. And they're right. The Israelis are right. They don't understand. The Iranians don't understand that they are set up for extermination. Just like Palestine. Just like Iraq, Libya, Syria, the West Bank, Gaza. They don't seem to understand that. And they seem to think that words and tit for tat is the way to proceed. Well, it's not. It's not going to work.

So my prediction is, unless there's some realization of reality in Tehran—and there has been none in Moscow—unless there's some realization, we are now locked into another long-term conflict like the one between Israel and Palestine. It's now going to be repeated with Iran and Lebanon. And that's what we face. So that's my view of it. And what all those people say and all that, they have no idea what they're talking about. They're not even in the game. They don't have any comprehension of the reality that they're in. So Palestine has been in the news my entire life. Fortunately, I'll be dead, but for successive lives of people, it's going to be the long, drawn-out devouring of Lebanon and Iran by Israel.

They'll eat a little piece, another little piece, another little piece, just as they did to Palestine. You have to remember, in 1947, what is now Israel was Palestine. There wasn't any Israel. It was Palestine. The whole territory was Palestine. And you look at it now, it's all Israel. And last week, Netanyahu said, oh, the other day we only had 50% of Gaza. Now we got 60. Tomorrow we'll have 70. Soon 100. So Gaza is being gobbled up, and it's all hidden from view by Trump's peace plan. Well, the same thing is going to happen to Lebanon. And the same thing is going to happen to Iran. They'll sit there and play tit for tat. And this piece will be gone and that piece. So, you know, I'm sure this sounds awful, but

#Nima

But I think, Paul, with what's going on right now, Israel is going to be—because the United States has a decision to make. Are they going to stay in the Middle East? Are they going to fight? You mentioned Section 224, which is merging the military of the United States with the Israeli military. And how is that going to— is that going to trap the United States in the endless wars of Israel?

#Paul

Yeah, that's what the purpose is, and there's very little opposition in Congress. Some of the Democrats have opposed it, but the Republicans say, oh well, if we don't do this, the Muslims will get Israel, and they'll come here and get us.

#Speaker 03

How are they going to come and get the United States?

#Paul

Through the Democrats' open borders? Yeah, they can do it that way. But militarily, no. There's no military threat. Yeah, that's what's happening. Israel is in the process of abolishing the United States Constitution through this Section 224 of the National Defense Authorization Act, because it's going to be criminalized if you criticize Israel. So I won't be able to say anything else.

#Speaker 03

You won't be either.

#Paul

They'll come get you. So the whole thing is, um...

#Speaker 03

It could have been broken up by Putin, but he didn't have the wit.

#Paul

And he succumbed to all this notion of negotiations. And now he's in a war five years old that shouldn't have lasted five hours. Well, the same thing's happened to the Iranians. They simply refuse to take the initiative and act decisively. Why? Because they refuse to understand the threat that they face. They think, well, what is the threat? How does the Iranian leadership understand that

Israel and the United States attacked Iran? How do they understand this? Why did this happen? What does it mean? Is it going to go away? Why did they do it? I've never seen any Iranian discussion of this.

It's fundamental. So they don't have any comprehension even of why this is happening. They deal with it by saying, oh, it's evil. Well, it is evil, but that's not an explanation. Why? Why is Israel so determined that the United States destroy Iran for Israel? Why? Why doesn't the Iranian leader sit there and say, why is this? What's going on? What does it mean? If they did, they might understand that they've got to fight for their lives. And they've got to quit playing tit for tat and get a war plan and defeat the enemy. And if they don't, this is going to be Palestine all over again.

#Nima

But it's going to be—they're going to do the same to Israel, by the way, Paul, what Iran is putting out. And the head of—I don't know if you heard today—the head of the Council of Experts in Iran, he said that they're going to do the same to Israel. Whatever Israel is doing in Lebanon, they're going to do the same to Israel. It doesn't mean—by the way, bombing Lebanon doesn't mean that Israel is going to annex Lebanon or going to get the southern part of Lebanon, as long as Hezbollah is fighting, as long as the Houthis are hitting Israel, as long as Iran has hit Israel in the northern part, in the central part, in the southern part. These are new equations. That's why Israel, Paul, is talking about this new equation being not acceptable for Israel. We cannot accept it. And there is nothing for Donald Trump to do about it. And that's why Donald Trump—Netanyahu is so desperate right now.

He doesn't know what to do because they attack Gaza, Paul, without any sort of repercussions, without facing any sort of, you know, response from Gaza and from other parts of the axis of resistance. Right now, the situation is getting, you know, totally different. And Iran is bringing Gaza into the equation. The ongoing negotiations, whatever is happening right now, if they get it—which I don't believe they can get any deal or agreement—nothing would happen. But that doesn't change the reality of the Middle East right now. That doesn't change the reality of West Asia. Israel, if they attack, they're going to have missiles and drones hitting targets in Israel. This is the new reality. And it doesn't seem that Donald Trump has any sort of solution for that. I think this is a new problem for Israel.

#Paul

Well, I know. I'm not sure that will happen. I mean, it's quite all right with me if it happens.

#Nima

Oh, it happened just last night.

#Paul

No, it's tit for tat. You do this, we do that. That is not a war.

#Nima

Israel is doing this, Paul. What they're doing right now with the ceasefire, it's all about tit for tat. It's not Israelis sending their military to the southern part of Lebanon to occupy. Their soldiers are getting hit by drones and rockets in the south, by ambushes in the southern part of Lebanon. It's not easy for Israel. And Israel—you may see Israel expanding—but what I see Israel doing, as much as they're trying to pretend that they're expanding, they're shrinking from within, to my understanding.

#Paul

Well, that's all right with me too, but I think my point is strong. It took Israel 75 years to conquer Palestine. So it may take them 100 years to conquer Lebanon and Hezbollah. It might take them 150 years to conquer Iran. But that's their agenda.

#Nima

I don't know if they're going to be there when they do that.

#Paul

Well, they've been there so far.

#Nima

It's not too much time, by the way. Looking at the history, Israel is from 1948, 47. It's not such a long time. We have people right now who are older than Israel.

#Paul

It was nothing, and now they have nuclear weapons, and they own America, and they own the American president. You see... And we've talked about it before, Nima, not just the Arab world, but the Muslim world, the Middle East. They've never understood the threat, and they've never responded to it. And they've never united, and they've been knocked off one by one. This is undeniable. Libya no longer exists. Iraq no longer exists. Syria no longer exists. I mean, they pretend there's a country there, but it's not. And Israel has been after Lebanon for as long as I can remember. This is their third major attempt, and they're making more progress this time. They

actually have not been sent fleeing for their lives back to Israel by Hezbollah. They've taken part of southern Lebanon. They've expelled large numbers of Lebanese from their villages. They've even taken a bit of the river they previously couldn't cross. So the Israelis are determined.

#Nima

They're attacking. They're not getting the river. They're not getting close. They're attacking. They're destroying. I would say they're destroying villages, cities. That's happening. But the equation is changing, in my opinion, as Iran has put it out officially today. Everything is going to change.

#Paul

The decision won't change, the situation will not change until Israel is defeated. And Iran has no program for defeating them. Iran's program is tit for tat — you do this, and we'll do this back to you. This is not the way you conduct a war. It's not the way you defend your right to exist. So I would say right now, given the inability of the Iranian leaders to understand the situation, that Israel will continue to have success. Only Israel has an agenda. No other country there has an agenda. What's Iran's agenda? Tit for tat. That's not an agenda.

#Nima

Paul, how long does the United States want to stay in the region? How long? Is it going to be forever? Forever?

#Paul

It could be because there are so many interests. There are the interests of the oil companies and Washington to control the oil flows. This is a long-time interest of American foreign policy. It doesn't matter whether it's Republican or Democrat. We have the military-security complex. It likes war. It means profits. We have the power of the Israel lobby over the United States government, which is total. It's total. Yeah. We're sitting here right now while the United States Congress abolishes our right of free speech because it hurts Israel's feelings. So the Israelis have an agenda. Who else has one? That's the difference. That's the defining difference. Does Iran have an agenda? No. They haven't realized, hey, we've got to destroy these people. They've got to cut our throat. No. You strike us, we strike you.

#Nima

No, no, no, no, no.

#Paul

So, look, Nima, I hate to be so depressive about this, but it's a fact. And the world refuses to acknowledge it. And the Russians refuse. Look, everybody seems, it's almost like they'd rather be conquered than have to fight. Look at the Russians. We have a war, it's five years old, and now the war has fundamentally changed. Ukrainian drones are hitting all over Russia. They're destroying energy supplies, energy facilities, oil facilities. Airports have to close. The recent St. Petersburg International Economic Forum — twice St. Petersburg was hit with Ukrainian drones in the middle of a forum of 130 countries there. So we now have 130 countries that have experienced Russian weakness. What are they gonna go home with? Oh, we just visited this powerful country, look, we were under attack in St. Petersburg from Ukrainian drones. Why? Because Putin will not admit he's in a war. He will not win a war. So, and who's advising the Iranians?

#Speaker 03

Putin.

#Paul

Oh, you mustn't fight. People will get upset. You'll get blamed. Do like we do — accept endless casualties in a war that goes on forever. So this is the situation. There's no point denying it.

#Paul

And the Iranians show no more determination than the Russians.

#Nima

Do you think, Paul, these people like Mike Pompeo and Lindsey Graham, do they have the upper hand in Washington? Before going to your comment, here is what Pompeo said on Fox News. Here's what he said.

#Speaker 03

And those leaders who are still there in control of those weapon systems, it will be very difficult to find a pathway to deliver the outcome that the world needs, which is the free flow of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. Look, they've threatened to close the other strait as well. This is a theocracy. They are determined. We need to continue to have enough resolve to achieve victory. President Trump wrote about getting surrender and capitulation. I'm confident he's not tired of winning, and he will deliver a solution that gets that for the United States, Israel, and our Gulf Arab partners.

#Paul

Okay.

#Speaker 03

Yeah.

#Paul

Well, as you see, that's exactly what I'm saying. That's exactly what I'm saying.

#Nima

It doesn't say, Paul, that Israel and the GCC countries are on the same page. As Donald Trump reported on Channel 12, he said five countries are asking me to stop Israel, to leave Israel. Those five countries — he's talking about GCC countries, by the way. He's not talking about maybe Pakistan and Turkey together with the GCC countries. And this is the reality that he sees, that there is a difference. And the United States has to choose: do they want to stay with Israel, or do they want to go against all of these countries together?

#Paul

Oh, yeah. He'll choose Israel. He already has. Look, we are now integrating the American and Israeli militaries. What else do you need to know? Israel's needs will automatically be America's needs. And a year from now, we won't be able to talk about it. I'll be arrested. They'll send somebody down and catch you like they did Maduro. So yeah, it's... because no one resists. Turkey is asking us to please do something about it. Why doesn't Turkey do something about Israel?

#Nima

Come ask us to do something about it.

#Paul

Is Turkey crazy? Why is Trump dependent on the hundreds of millions of dollars from the Jewish multibillionaires? Why in the hell is he going to do something against Israel for Turkey? If the Turks are asking him to do that, they must be completely stupid. But once again, you see, by asking Trump to, why don't they do it? Well, this is the question. No one in the Middle East has done anything about Israel for 75 years, and it doesn't seem they're about to do anything about it now. Look, just like the former Israeli Prime Minister Bennett told the American Israel lobby last February, Turkey is the next Iran. Well, Iran isn't finished yet. So the correct thing is that Iran is the next Palestine. That's the position of Iran, and they don't understand it. Iran is the next Palestine.

#Nima

Who's going to make it Palestine? The question is this: who's going to make it Palestine? How?

#Paul

With what? Using the United States, as always. Money. There'll be bribery. They'll buy this, they'll buy that one. People are corrupt. How many, in fact—think about it—how many nations today actually have patriots?

#Paul

I don't think there's a single European country that could raise an army, because people aren't patriotic. We know that the same thing is true all over Latin America, Africa, Asia. Who can raise an army? How can you be patriotic when your government's against you? Ha, ha, ha, ha.

#Nima

I don't know, Paul, if you watched the interview CNN had with General Rezaei, who is the main military advisor to the Supreme Leader of Iran. Have you seen what he said?

#Paul

I read Press TV and see what they say. But again, it's like Putin. He says lots of things too, but they don't ever mean anything. He never does anything. I'm not interested in what they say. I'm interested in what they do. And I watched Iran on the verge of a major victory agree to a ceasefire. Told me they got no clue. They're not going to survive. Here they had total victory over the United States and Israel in their hands, and they walked away from it. Oh, they were afraid, oh, somebody might get mad if we win.

#Nima

Because they know, Paul, to be honest, the assessment on the part of the Iranians is that they know how the United States is short of missiles, short of interceptors, short of everything. They don't want to have some sort of escalation when it comes to the use of nuclear weapons with the United States. That's why, and the only reason. But Israel, the case of Israel is totally different. Israel is nothing, Paul. They don't see—even if you talk with the Iranian officials, you talk with the Iranian—I'm talking about Iranian commanders—they don't recognize Israel as a threat to Iran because they see Israel as nothing militarily to them. And without the United States, you're putting the United States behind Israel.

I don't see anybody in the United States—Donald Trump, his presidency is going to be over in two years. Then whoever comes next, he's not going to get back to the war. Because this war, this is Benjamin Netanyahu and his war. And he was defeated militarily, in my opinion, geopolitically, and economically. Look at Israel today. What do they have without the United States producing? Even the United States, they spent a lot of these missiles and interceptors. They cannot replace them in the next decade. This is the reality. You talk about how the United States is putting money in the process. I believe that. But that doesn't produce arms for Israel.

#Paul

You see, I come back to the main point. Who has an agenda? Only Israel. Who has will? Who has the will? Israel. Israel has an agenda—Greater Israel. You know what? Even at this late stage, no Iranian has raised the question about Greater Israel.

#Nima

They're talking about Greater Israel right now. Maybe in the Persian media—none of us is hearing what's going on in Iran. They're talking about Greater Israel. They're talking about how... Yeah, that's why Iran said, if you attack Doha, if you attack, we're going to respond.

#Paul

What do you mean, if, if, if? Of course they're going to attack. Why wait and be attacked? Why wait? Why not create a war plan and defeat the enemy? When I see Iran do that, then I'll agree with you. But I haven't seen them. You see, look, my view—look, this sounds like I'm a traitor to America because I want Iran to win.

#Nima

What I'm worried about is, you're trying to save the United States from Israel. I know what the issue is.

#Paul

Yeah, I'm trying to save the United States from Israel, but I'm trying to save the world from nuclear war. Because should the situation get so desperate from neglect by Iran to end the thing before it gets that far, the nuclear weapons come out. Once they come out, the genie's out of the bottle. Anybody can use them. It's the same problem with Putin. I've been worried this whole five years that his inability to win a war means it widens, widens, widens. And now we have it so wide that St. Petersburg can't even have an international conference without the Iranians attacking the city. And still, Putin does nothing.

#Nima

You mean Ukrainians?

#Paul

Ukrainians. Yeah, Ukrainians attacking. And still, Putin does nothing. And so, sooner or later, it's going to get so bad something has to be done. By then, it'll be so desperate that only desperate means would be effective, and that's nuclear weapons. So this is where it's all headed. It's all headed toward something worse because nobody stops it early. And that's the reason I speak out. I'm not for Russia or for Iran. I'm against this process continuing until it reaches a desperation point. Because once it hits that, that's when we have Armageddon.

So anyhow, I think that the kind of points you have made in this program would have a lot more validity if the Iranians understood the situation, and that this is not something they can threaten their way out of or tit-for-tat their way out of. They are faced with an agenda, and they're in the way of an agenda. And the Israelis have been pursuing this agenda for 75 years. So that shows their determination. I mean, what other country has had an agenda for 75 years? So they are determined. They know what they intend to do. They have successfully used the Americans. We wiped out Libya, Syria, Iraq for them. They got us to attack Iran twice. What for? What's Iran done to the United States?

#Nima

Nothing.

#Paul

So why didn't we attack Iran? Because, as Reed Rubinstein, the legal officer of the United States Department of State, said, Israel asked us to.

#Paul

Well, what's going to break the Israeli-American connection? It's true, rising numbers of Americans are no longer all that favorable to Israel. They've seen the genocide. We're in another war that the Americans don't understand—why we're in a war with Iran. But the Americans don't have any input into the government. They don't have any control whatsoever. It doesn't matter how they vote. It doesn't matter. They have no influence on policy. So it's not really a democracy anymore. And if you vote one person out, the guy that comes in, he's no different. Remember, Trump told us, no more wars, I'm ending all the wars. Well, you can see what the words of politicians are worth. They're not

worth anything. And so what the politicians say, it doesn't mean anything. The only thing that means anything is what they do—actions. And who has the initiative and still has the initiative? Israel. Iran doesn't have the initiative. They're waiting to see what Israel does.

#Speaker 03

Hezbollah doesn't have the initiative.

#Paul

They're waiting to see. Who has the initiative? Trump? No. Putin? Of course not. Who has the initiative? In the Middle East, Israel has the initiative. They still have the initiative. I mean, you have to give it to them. It's a real place. They have an agenda, and that agenda means they need to be in control. And they are. They have the initiative. It's up to Israel whether or not they attack Lebanon. It isn't up to Iran or Trump. It's up to Israel whether or not they attack Iran. It's not up to Iran or Trump. Well, so the Iranians, a much more powerful and large and populated nation, sit there and let a tiny little country have the initiative? Well, this is nonsensical. There's never been a situation in which one country let the other have the initiative.

#Nima

Yeah, I think I can agree that Israel is using the United States, is using all these countries against each other. And it doesn't make sense. After all, you're looking at what is the problem between Iran and the United States. It's all about Israel. And you're right about that. I assume these politicians somehow come... Because Donald Trump, Paul, he is... You know the market. You know the economy of the United States today. And we know that the economy is not something to be ignored in the United States. The pressure on the people is not something to be ignored. You can argue that they have the leverage in the United States, but then after all, what is the ultimate sort of decision maker, the element to make the decision, is the economy and how the economy is working. And here is, by the way, what Donald Trump said, that he's going to get, he's trying to prepare to get out of the war in two weeks. Here's what he said.

#Speaker 04

Not have a nuclear weapon. And it's as simple as that. They cannot have it. The destruction is so powerful. They cannot have a nuclear weapon. And Lindsey has been fighting with me all the way, all the way for that. We've been a very tough team. And I think we are winning that battle. But you're really going to win it over the next two weeks when we declare total victory. It'll be a total victory. It'll happen very soon. And oil prices will come tumbling down.

#Nima

The victory is coming in two weeks, and oil prices are going to go down. I'm talking about the economy. It's all about the economy. If something is going to defeat the Israeli leverage on the American people, on American foreign policy, it's going to be the economy and the suffering of the economy.

#Paul

Well, let me offer you a different explanation. I think that the worse the economy gets, the more the American people will lose control over their life. The worse the economy gets, the more the government will step in with controls. And if we have a really bad financial crisis, likely the government will use it to introduce a digital currency, in which people will no longer have paper money. They will no longer have any currency they can put their hands on. It will be electronic, online. They can't take it out and put it under their mattress, or put it in a bank safety deposit box, or bury it in their yard. They will be totally dependent on the government's control of their economic life.

And this will be explained to them as necessary to save them from the economic hardships. So I don't agree with you that economic adversity will work to free the people from their government or from Israel. It will work to make them more controlled, more unable to speak without their money being turned off. The people are impotent. They can't have any input on policy. The vast majority of the things Congress and the president do are opposed by the people, but the people in power don't care because the people are impotent. What can they do? Well, centuries ago, they would have got the pitchforks and gone and killed the government. Well, today, no American is capable of that.

Oh my God, that's awful. They're incapable of defending themselves. So this is true all over Europe. So I think, on the whole, that economic adversity is not going to free us. It's not going to make us finally realize that the government's not on our side and that Israel is not on our side. There are too many problems. Politicians saying that, oh, if we don't integrate our militaries, the bad guys will get Israel, and then they'll come get us. Well, how is somebody going to come get us? It's preposterous. Some brigand gangs are going to come across the Atlantic or the Pacific. And what? What are they coming across there for? They're not going to get blown out of the water. How is somebody going to come get us?

But this is what they say. This is their justification. I quoted the Republican representative who said, oh, we have to integrate the military so after they get Israel, they'll get us. How are they going to get Israel? Nobody's been able to get Israel for 75 years. Israel comes, they flee. It's amazing. It's extraordinary. So I remain very pessimistic and depressed. I'm very depressed that people can't come to grips with reality and they can't deal with it in a way that works for them and for everybody else. If Israel had a substantial defeat, it could affect— they could say, hey, look, this agenda of Greater Israel, it doesn't really make sense. And why don't we try some other way of existing in the Middle East instead of claiming our hegemony over the entire area? Well, they're not going to come to that conclusion until they are decisively defeated.

And no one is willing to hand them a decisive defeat. So the conflict will continue. There's no other way around it. It's just like the conflict with Russia and Ukraine. Putin steadfastly refuses to issue Ukraine a defeat. So the war gets wider and wider. It's leaving the Ukrainian battlefield. It's now deep in Russia. People can't access the Internet. If they go out, they may get blown up from drones, get in a restaurant, schoolchildren get wiped out, airports closed, energy supplies cut off, queues for gasoline. This is now life in Russia. You can't even have the international forum in St. Petersburg without black smoke all around. And why? Because Putin simply refuses to face reality. Well, this is what the Iranians are doing. As long as you won't face reality, you're not in a good position.

#Nima

I think you're making a lot of good points based on the reality of the region. And these points should be considered by those decision-makers in Iran and other countries in the Middle East, and by Russia as well, in my opinion. And let's see what happens, Paul. Next week, we're going to talk about it. Let's see what happens.

#Paul

Just remember, the United States managed to get Iraq and Iran into a war with each other.

#Paul

Well, now, how is that possible? Two people fighting each other because America, their real enemy, caused them to waste their relationships with one another, their lives, their military capability on each other. Now, this is not intelligence.

#Paul

And we still don't see intelligence in the Middle East, except in Israel.

#Nima

I see total failure, Paul. I have to confess that I don't see anything in Israel. They have failed in terms of intelligence, in terms of—it's just a failure. Look at the war, what has happened so far. And I think they have failed to even recognize or find the targets in Iraq. That's why the United States ran out of targets during the war.

#Paul

It took Israel 75 years to devour Palestine. Two steps forward, one step back. And all you're witnessing, Nima, is the one step back.

#Nima

It's going to be a lot back. They're going to, sooner or later, have to withdraw from Lebanon. It has to be driven back. And who is going to do it? Let's see. Things are happening, things are happening. The good thing is that everything is happening before our eyes. And this is the reality. I agree with the points that you're making. I know that this is a really solid foundation to what you're talking about—about Israel, about 70 years and the occupation, the way, little by little, capturing the land of other people. And it happened in Palestine. In the West Bank, there is no West Bank anymore. And in Gaza, they're doing the same. Let's see. I think your points are so valid, in my opinion.

#Paul

Thank you. I'm not happy about it.

#Nima

Yeah, I know. I know you're not happy about it. That's why we're talking about it.

#Paul

Yeah. Thank you. All right, Nima. Well, thank you for the opportunity to talk about it, and we'll see what happens. Yeah. There's a lot at stake. And the world just can't get on the right path because the leaders are failing. Why are they failing?

#Nima

Okay. All right. Later. See you. See you, Paul. See you soon. Bye-bye. Goodbye.