

US-Iran Deal OBLITERATED, Hormuz SHUT DOWN as Iran SILENCES Trump | Sleboda

International relations and military affairs expert Mark Sleboda joins the show to discuss the collapse of the US-Iran MoU and Iran's first phase of a six point war plan that begins with the now SHUT DOWN Strait of Hormuz as the world braces for the next phase of the nearly 4 month-long geopolitical catastrophe. LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritho> #iran #iranwar #trump

#Danny

Hello, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's Danny Haiphong. And as you can see, I'm joined by military affairs and international relations expert Mark Sloboda. Mark, great to be with you again.

#Mark Sleboda

Danny, thanks for having me. It's always an honor and a pleasure to be on the show.

#Danny

It's always great to have you on the show, Mark. Okay, so the breaking news today, Mark, is that after several days of Israeli and U.S.-backed, of course, onslaught on Lebanon, 47 were killed, according to Lebanese authorities. Yesterday, overnight, there were at least another dozen to two dozen people killed. Iran has just responded to this by shutting down the Strait of Hormuz.

Again, in reaction to this, here is the announcement, the full statement from the Iranian authorities, saying: due to the blatant breach and violation by the United States of the first clause of the ceasefire agreement, in response to the continuous and relentless violations of the ceasefire by the Zionist regime in southern Lebanon, the merciless killing and displacement of hundreds of thousands of oppressed people of this land, and also considering the failure of the Zionist occupying forces to withdraw from southern Lebanon, it is declared that the Strait of Hormuz will be closed to vessel traffic. It is noted that this is the first step in response to the enemy's breach of the covenant, and if the aggression continues, further steps will be taken to compel the enemy to fulfill its commitments.

Well, no one should ask CENTCOM about this because they say, according to their wisdom, the exact opposite — that commercial vessel traffic in the Strait of Hormuz has increased today, and U.S. forces continue to operate in the region to support freedom of navigation. Fifty-five merchant ships have passed, transporting at least 17 million barrels of oil to the global market, and U.S. forces remain alert. Mark, what have you made of this saga? Iran says they have a six-point plan. If the MOU is not enforced during what was supposed to be talks — there have not been any talks, they didn't happen yesterday — there's all kinds of misinformation and back and forth about whether Iran is even going to travel to Switzerland. What do you make of these developments and their broader context?

#Mark Sleboda

Okay, well, it's all pretty inevitable. In fact, it almost feels scripted, right? So... we all saw the Memorandum of Understanding, or at least I think most of us did, right? We know that the American version and the Iranian version had some subtle wordplay differences in four of the 14 articles. But, I mean, the first article was pretty clear about a cessation of hostilities that included Lebanon. And let's be frank, the Israelis were saying outright that they were not going to follow this, that they were not going to be bound by it. We had Ben Gvir, the national security minister of Israel, saying just outright, I mean, all of Lebanon must burn. We will continue demolishing all of the houses in southern Lebanon. I mean, you can't be much more explicit with your genocidal rhetoric than that. I mean, you can't deny it.

I mean, these are the ministers of the Iranian government. And all through this week, Israel has continued airstrikes in South Lebanon. Now, they have refrained from strikes on Beirut again for the last couple of days. But they've been pretty heavily striking, and they've been trying to expand their zone of occupation and control in South Lebanon as well. Hezbollah is fiercely resisting them and making them pay a price for it, right? But Israel is slowly expanding the territory they control. So Israel was clear they're not going to follow it. The U.S. certainly could not have not known that Israel was not going to follow this. In fact, we had it from the Washington Post that U.S. intelligence says that, duh, Iran is going to try to sabotage the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, as if anyone with a functioning brain cell didn't know that.

#Danny

Israel, I think you mean, right?

#Mark Sleboda

Yeah, Israel. Some really astute work by U.S. intelligence agencies that Israel is going to try to sabotage the, quote-unquote, you know, memorandum of understanding, the new ceasefire, the prenuptial, however you want to refer to this. And Iran had to know that Israel was not going to do this. So everyone knew this going into it. We heard from Abbas Araghchi saying that everything they

were doing was based on their distrust of the Americans and the Israelis with regard to this. So they expected it. They knew it was not going to be upheld, but they still went into it, which means they understand that the memorandum of understanding was going to collapse immediately, which it is, right?

I was saying very much last week, MOU, DOA, dead on arrival, you know, and it has not lasted, you know, since it officially went into—it was supposed to go into force with a formal signing in Geneva yesterday. That didn't happen. The negotiations between Vance and the Iranian representative were supposed to start, and of course, none of that happened. Iran said they're not going to go because, you know, quite obviously, Israel was continuing to attack in Lebanon. The U.S. was quietly saying that, you know, Israel has to stop, but they weren't doing anything to make Israel stop. And everyone knew that the U.S. was not going to do anything to make Israel stop.

When has the U.S. ever applied pressure to Israel? When are they going to stop the flow of arms and money? That's not politically possible in Washington. So everyone, including the Iranians, knew that that was not a possibility. So I think we have to assume that everyone went into this knowing it would immediately collapse. And this is some type of opaque, not clearly understandable political maneuvering on both sides. Now the Iranians have announced once again, after just a few days, that the Strait of Hormuz is going to be closed again. We can probably make a fair assumption that Donald Trump will respond by reinstating the blockade, such as it was, of Iranian ports.

And at least according to Sedkov's statements, perhaps try to force the opening of the Strait of Hormuz. Not that that has gone very well for them so far. And again, I wouldn't expect anything more than skirmishing, because it's quite obvious that the U.S. Navy is not stupid enough, no matter what Trump tells them to do, to walk into the death trap that would be the Strait of Hormuz with their, you know, relatively small and vulnerable flotilla there. They're not going to risk a carrier or significant destroyers, missile destroyers, by walking into that death trap. So, you know, some more airstrikes, you know, drone strikes, that sort of thing. But I'm not expecting some type of major naval incursion either.

#Danny

And which is going to put us all right back where we were,

#Mark Sleboda

Just over a week ago, a status quo that was not great for either side, but increasingly terrible for the U.S. side. Right. I referred to it, I think, including on your show, as a geoeconomic game of chicken. You know, with both sides hurtling towards the precipice or each other, depending on how you want to play the game and who was going to turn first. And the U.S. turned first, but it seems they kind of jimmied and are potentially going back into it. Trump did accomplish something. The price of oil went down pretty significantly for a few days, although it's already ticking back up again. And a

significant amount of oil did get out of the barn, right, both out of the Strait of Hormuz and Iranian oil, bound, we can assume, mostly for China, has been dispersed in the last few days.

And that might, shall we say, let off some pressure from the global economy. So maybe that was the U.S.'s whole intention going through this farce. And perhaps it was for Iran as well, at least part of it. I also understand that the Iranian Supreme Leader, the new Ayatollah Khomeini, Mojtaba Khamenei, put out a very interesting statement just recently with regard to the memorandum of understanding. And he made it very clear that he didn't like the thing, that that was not his vision, that this was something that the Iranian president, and we can assume that a certain number of people around him, Pezeshkian, pushed for. The Supreme Leader made clear that he was going along with it for now, but that Pezeshkian had ultimate responsibility for it, complete responsibility for it.

And he was basically saying, if and when things go south, I'm going to throw you under the bus with this, and you're responsible for it. And I mean, we are familiar with Pezeshkian. He ran for Iranian president on a reformist platform, and he made clear that what he wanted to do, quite naively, was try to find a modus vivendi, try to find a way of working with and improving relations with the West. And how has that gone for him? Of course, I'm really, frankly, amazed that he hasn't been removed from office thus far. And go figure that he's the one Iranian leader that the U.S. and Israelis didn't target. I wonder why. But it's pretty clear that it's not just the IRGC, the hardliners, as the Western media refers to them, that are opposed to this.

Memorandum of understanding to begin with, but also the Supreme Leader and perhaps even a majority of the Iranian political and clerical elite that are opposed to it. And that it is simply Pezeshkian, and we don't know, maybe the foreign ministry. I haven't seen any direct confirmation of that about Araghchi's position or the majority of the foreign ministry. But quite obviously, there is a divide on how to proceed forward within the Iranian political elite. And that, I mean, it was obvious. Every government, right, there are very few governments, you know, I mean, there are situations, but that are in lockstep on everything, right? I mean, that's kind of what governments are supposed to do, is manage political differences and come to acceptable outcomes under legal terms within the existing state.

And there were, when I suggested that there were divisions within the Iranian political elite a month or so ago, those in the alt-media community who jumped on me like it was some kind of traitorous blasphemy to suggest that the Iranians all weren't lockstep. It's just... it's asinine cheerleading. It has nothing to do with real analysis. I mean, if you want to be a political activist and a cheerleader, that's great. I mean, we need those, right, you know, in the alt-media community. But I mean, if you don't want to pretend that reality and human nature aren't what they are, then there are going to be divisions.

Well, now the divisions have come right out in the open, and no lesser a person than the new Supreme Leader has made it clear that there are divisions, that he does not agree with the Iranian

president on going through with this farce of a memorandum of understanding to begin with. Now we have to see. We've seen the Iranian response. They're going to close the Strait of Hormuz. They are now sending a team to Geneva, where they are willing to meet with the Americans, although they say that it is going to be basically to simply demand that they uphold their commitments, meaning putting a leash on Israel, which we know, and they know, the Americans are not going to do.

So this basically puts the ball back in Trump's court for now. How does he respond? Does he go kinetic? Does he reimpose sanctions, the U.S. blockade on Iran? Does he try to ignore it and pretend there is a ceasefire in Lebanon, as it must be said both sides have done for the last two months? And that may have been part of the U.S. strategy — that, well, Iran will just go back to pretending there is a ceasefire in Lebanon when there obviously wasn't, which is what they were doing for the last two months. Well, that hasn't led them anywhere. And they've seen their ally, you know, continue to be attacked and eroded during that time, and they decided that that status quo was unacceptable for them.

So it appears that they are taking a stand. They haven't resumed the attacks on Israel yet. We must presume that that is one of the six steps. Right. We only know the first one. One of them, you know, the first one is to close the Strait of Hormuz again. Well, one of the other five is to resume missile and drone strikes on Israel. But we don't know what step up the re-escalation ladder that is. But it would seem that with the almost inevitable and expected failure of the first article of the Memorandum of Understanding already, that the quote-unquote hardliners, meaning the Supreme Leader and the IRGC at a minimum, are once again in the driving seat of the Iranian government.

#Danny

Well, I wanted to pull up the Ben-Gvir post that you referenced, literally calling for all of Lebanon to burn. This is supposedly the national security—I don't know, what is his name, minister, advisor? I don't exactly know his title, but he is.

#Mark Sleboda

A national security minister, I think.

#Danny

With all due respect to Americans, Israel must make it clear to the entire world that the blood of our sons and the security of our citizens are not forfeit. All of Lebanon must burn. He says it multiple times.

#Mark Sleboda

All of Lebanon must burn.

#Danny

And every tear of an Israeli mother, for every tear of one Israeli mother, a thousand Lebanese mothers must weep. I mean, this is supposedly an official of a UN-recognized country.

#Mark Sleboda

Israel has been speaking like this fairly openly for a very long time now. It's actually nothing new, but it continues to shock people for some regard. This is fascist, genocidal rhetoric. It is ultimately racist, and it is expansionist. Right. Quite obviously, you know, we've heard plenty of other comments from Ben-Gvir and Katz and others, you know, talking about the greater Zionist state, right, that the greater Israel must extend through Lebanon and many other of the surrounding states as well. So they are still in the driver's seat. And unfortunately, even any political opposition within Israel is not opposed to this conflict and not opposed to the occupation and ethnic cleansing in Lebanon.

Their only complaint is that Netanyahu is going about it wrong. That is the only opposition. So the Israeli population, by and large, the majority of it, is clearly behind such actions. And that's extremely problematic because it's not just a bad government. It's not just Netanyahu, right? It is the government, the state, the Zionist state of Israel. And they're not going to back down from that or that position. Nothing is going to make them. And I don't think that the U.S., certainly not Trump—whom we all know is in hock to Adelson, right—has the political will or capital or maybe even the intention.

I mean, whether there is a divide between Trump and Netanyahu or not, they could simply be playing the time-honored good cop, bad cop routine. And it doesn't really make any difference because ultimately the U.S. and Israel are so symbiotically entwined institutionally and politically that even if there was a temporary marital spat between Trump and Netanyahu, it doesn't make any difference. Because the U.S. is incapable of separating its foreign and military policy in the region from Israel. They're not politically capable of it. They've never demonstrated that ability. So that leaves us with either a return to a geoeconomic game of chicken or a return to hot war. Or the third option, where Iran sucks it up and pretends there's a ceasefire in Lebanon when there isn't. And that does not seem to be the direction they're moving.

#Danny

Well, that would be political suicide, because I think it's important to acknowledge that it's not just that the Supreme Leader and certain factions of the leadership might disagree with the memorandum of understanding as a whole. But there's also, you know, a lot of, I think, given statements like what Ben-Gvir said, given the actions, which are more important than the racist,

genocidal statements, which are that they act on those statements with absolute brutality and genocide. Given this, I mean, there have been rallies almost every day chanting for Iran to come to the aid of Lebanon directly, and being a demand. And so, given how long this war has gone on, Mark, given all of what we know, what happened just in the last 48 hours, it's pretty reasonable to believe.

#Danny

That, uh, there is a lot of pressure for the Iranian government to, uh, make good on its words, because ultimately that's really all Iran at this point can control. Everything that the United States concedes is because of the U.S.'s own limitations. But Israel, I said this yesterday, doesn't seem to care about oil markets, doesn't care about the United States relationship to a degree where it feels like it's worried about it. So given these realities, Israel's behavior will obviously only change with action. So I can see why people would be demanding that.

#Mark Sleboda

Yeah, in fact, I assume there are literally protests in Iran against the Memorandum of Understanding, against the signing of it that has happened thus far to begin with. And certainly the Supreme Leader's statements are only going to encourage that sentiment within the country. It is a very interesting admission by the Iranian government, openly admitting this fracture. And it could very well be the Supreme Leader making statements, setting the board to get rid of Pozezshkin. That, I think, has to be considered a real possibility — him saddling full responsibility for this, you know, obviously failing and going-to-fail Memorandum of Understanding on him. I can't see how else to read that.

#Danny

Well, the news now is, according to Dropsite News, there's been a seventh time a ceasefire, quote-unquote, has been announced. I guess this is happening, Mark, as we're speaking. But the big issue is that despite all this talk of a ceasefire, Israel continues to stay in southern Lebanon and clash with Hezbollah because Hezbollah is actively trying to push them out. And then we get the same thing over and over again, which is airstrikes. They usually come at night, and that's coming this evening.

It's essentially there now, but usually it happens much later. So this also feels like a strange political dance by the Israeli and U.S. regimes, where the United States sees what Iran is doing and saying and demanding, goes to Israel — or at least this is how it looks to the general public — says, okay, stop doing this now. Israel says, okay, we'll stop firing as hard. They even said something — I'll pull it up if I can find it — where they say a ceasefire is not... it sounds like Donald Trump not too long ago. Yeah, he said, a full cessation of fire is just less fire.

#Mark Sleboda

Yeah, I mean, that's obviously the official position of what a ceasefire is in the Middle East, according to the U.S. president. So yesterday we had—on Friday—we had an anonymous U.S. official speaking to the U.S. media, announcing a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah. I don't think five minutes before that ceasefire was supposed to come into effect, Iran was already resuming airstrikes. I don't think it was even five minutes. And the Israeli military, the so-called Israeli Defense Force, quite clearly said that we have received no orders. To the contrary, there is no ceasefire. So, there we go. A ceasefire does not mean ceasing fire if it means not escalating the attacks. Well, we're not hitting Beirut today. I mean, that's the level. We haven't nuked Lebanon yet, so that's a ceasefire. That's the position.

#Danny

I like this one. A ceasefire does not mean ceasing fire if it means not signing a full-on ceasefire.

#Mark Sleboda

So, again, the Americans knew this was going to be the Israeli position. So I find their protestations—I mean, we did see, it almost seemed to be, and maybe from J.D. Vance, maybe it was an actually genuine sentiment when he made a statement earlier this week that, you know, Israel is a country of, what, 9 million people, you know, a small population, and they can't kill their way out of every foreign policy problem that they have. Although, you know, I'm sure that there are plenty of Israeli ministers within the current government that would disagree with that sentiment. But I find it very hard to believe that there's any sincerity coming from Trump on this. He continually, of course, refers to Hezbollah as terrorists.

And actually, at least three or four times in the past two weeks, he obviously has his own plan B for this. What he is, or almost certainly has been, trying to convince the Israelis of is to back off of Lebanon and let al-Qaeda deal with it. Because he has several times made direct comments that he wants Syria to take care of it, meaning al-Julani, al-Sharah, right? The Tahrir al-Sham al-Qaeda ruler of Syria now, or the Islamic State where Syria used to be. And actually, last weekend, I believe on the 14th, he invited al-Julani for a second state visit to the U.S. And he was almost certainly trying to push this idea on him: could you go take care of Hezbollah for us? Right. You know, we can pay you money, we can give you weapons. I'm sure that was the proposition.

And we know what else he gave him, because Trump gave him a refill of Trump brand cologne, because he had gifted that to him already. And evidently, al-Julani praised it and said, "Oh, what al-Qaeda leader has ever smelled so good? It makes me smell like gold, or at least gold lamé painting." And so Trump—I mean, this sounds surreal. It sounds like, I don't know, a Mel Brooks piece or something. But it's real. Trump publicly sent him a refill of Trump brand cologne. And that's his plan.

He actually said that he thinks that Syria, meaning al-Qaeda in this instance, could do a better job of taking care of Hezbollah than the Israelis could. And that would be perfect, because the U.S. could say, well, it's not Israel attacking. It has nothing to do with us.

I mean, and it's not like I was encouraging them to do, you know, other than outright saying I want Syria to take care of that. So that's his plan B. Now, I don't think that there is any indication yet that al-Julani or his Turkish masters are at all interested in this proposition. Certainly, I haven't seen any signs of troop movements or anything like that. Al-Julani's regime control of Syria is certainly not total over the entirety of the country and very fragile. And some of his troops were committing more atrocities against the Alawites in the Damascus area just this last week. And there are continual flare-ups there with the Kurds that Trump threw under the bus in the east of the country as well. So I don't think that al-Julani is probably going to be very interested in leading his forces, you know, up into Lebanon to deal with Hezbollah at such a time.

And I have to say, I very much doubt the Israelis are very hot on the idea either. They don't, they don't, certainly don't. I mean, obviously, al-Julani has done nothing against Israel. I mean, when has al-Qaeda ever attacked Israel? But that doesn't mean that the Israelis trust the jihadists either. And to be quite frank, they don't believe that Lebanon is greater Israel either. They don't want to see it turned over to al-Qaeda, even if al-Qaeda could deal with Hezbollah. So I don't think that this is a workable plan of Trump's. But my God, does he keep pushing it? I've lost track of how many times he's publicly talked about it thus far. So that seems to be at least part of the options he's considering here.

But right, I don't believe in any real split, right? Whether it's a dog and pony show or whether it's just something that will be papered over by the symbiosis between the U.S. and Israel. As usual, again, it doesn't really make any difference because ultimately the U.S. is not going to do anything and almost certainly has no real intention to do anything to force Israel to stop. I think what the U.S. is almost certainly hoping is that Iran, that the Iranian government, returns to doing what they did for the last two months — pretending there was a ceasefire, i.e. a ceasefire between the quisling government of Joseph Aoun in Beirut and Israel, but not at all with Hezbollah — and that they can thus continue, that Israel can essentially be bought off.

They can lick their wounds. The U.S. can lick its wounds and come back against Iran another day. And meanwhile, Israel can continue to dismember Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. That seems to be the U.S. plan. But it would seem that at least for the moment, the Iranians are saying that's not going to happen. That is not the plan. And again, they almost certainly knew — certainly the Supreme Leader knew — that this was all going to happen. Whether Pozeshkin still has naive delusions that anything else is possible, I don't know. But again, the Supreme Leader seems to be throwing him under the bus with all of this.

#Danny

Yeah, it's certainly a chaotic outline that you just put out there, Mark, because another big issue — I mean, a Likud Party minister just a couple of days ago said that war with Syria will come eventually too. And that's the Jolani Syria. So I think your point about Lebanon being a part of Greater Israel, which is why Syria could never, even if it was Al-Qaeda...

#Danny

Chaos could never be allowed to have any kind of assertion and control over that. It's also Syria. A big chunk of Syria is considered to be part of Greater Israel. And so any empowerment of Jolani and Al-Qaeda on that basis too is out of the question, especially if Israel wants Jolani to continue to be compliant. Giving Jolani any attempts or his whatever they are — I don't even know — we could say the Jolani regime, whatever that band of Al-Qaeda affiliates, they and Al-Qaeda itself. Yeah, I think that's a crazy Trump idea.

#Mark Sleboda

Yeah, it's crazy. Maybe some crazy nutter in the CIA who convinced them that it might work.

#Danny

Hey, these guys did it in other places.

#Mark Sleboda

Hey, remember back when we supported the Mujahideen in Afghanistan?

#Danny

But what's crazy about it too is that, well, of course, Hezbollah is in for a long fight. I mean, I don't even know if—look, Jolani and his people, they are committing horrific crimes against humanity inside Syria itself.

#Mark Sleboda

Of course, I mean, everyone—

#Danny

And the protests are getting worse, and there seem to be more and more clashes inside Syria. Hezbollah is a very organized force and obviously very big, considering their surprise return to fighting this past March. I don't know if... I don't know if they have the mettle.

#Mark Sleboda

I haven't seen Al-Jolani biting at that one, right? Al-Jolani or Erdogan, you know, who still obviously controls Jolani to a very significant degree. Neither of them seem very interested in this idea. They're like, nah, we're not ready for that.

#Danny

No, if ever. Right. Uh, well, Mark, you know, uh, now, perhaps we can also talk about, you know, in the last 20 minutes or so here, what's happening in the Ukraine conflict. I wanted your thoughts about this. The Western mainstream media is going crazy in glee about the Moscow oil refinery attacks, repeating this, bringing the war home, bringing Russia's war with Ukraine closer to home, repeating this over and over and over again. This happened a couple of days ago. I don't have the images up. I'll try to find some. But, you know, all kinds of images of black smoke filling the air.

There was even some, I don't know if they were fake videos or real videos, of MANPADS malfunctioning, trying to shoot down these drones. This is supposed to be a very empowering moment for Ukraine, but Russia has promised a pretty large-scale retaliation. I believe there might have been strikes happening right before we went on. Yes, yes. So what's actually going on here? Because it seems like the mainstream media, Western media, the collective West, and Ukraine are all using this opportunity, this oil refinery drone attack in Moscow or in the Moscow area, as a big sign that the tide is turning once again. But what's going on? What's the reality?

#Mark Sleboda

Okay, so the reality is that this is 90% a psychological PR Hollywood stunt, right? That has no strategic, economic, or significant effect on the Russian economy, on the special military operation, or anything. Everyone seems to forget that earlier this week there was a massive Russian long-range strike on Kiev—drones, missiles—doing far more damage. Right, far more damage than this stunt. And I'm in Moscow.

#Danny

And what's more, I'm in southern Moscow.

#Mark Sleboda

And this oil refinery is on the outskirts of Moscow, just in the southeast, so like directly across from me. And, you know, there's all kinds of Western mainstream media reports—oh, there's black oil, cancerous oil covering the skies and raining down on all the people of Moscow who are all hiding in their homes. And I'm like, all of this happened? And, you know, I didn't even know about it until I checked up on Telegram. And then I, you know, went outside and—huh.

#Danny

I don't see anything.

#Mark Sleboda

So this, first of all, Moscow is a pretty big city. It's pretty spread out. And this is a lot more localized than they're giving credit for. So this was the second attack on that oil refinery in that week. And ultimately, there ended up being four big Kiev regime slash European slash NATO drone attacks on Moscow, primarily towards Moscow. So the first day, which was two days before, they also attacked the same refinery, and one drone out of hundreds launched got through and hit the refinery and started a fire. Then two days later came this larger attack, and there were over 200 drones—550 drones in total launched that evening—and some 200 of them launched towards Moscow, which was the largest ever until that time directed at Moscow.

This was a combination of their standard, rather crude, loitering drones, which are like small airplanes, and also supposedly a new drone called—they're calling the Bars—which seems to be some kind of awkward drone, cheap cruise missile hybrid. Now, this attack was obviously well planned out and organized. You know, 100% NATO planned it out. They tried to map out Russian air defense. And the drones actually came in from multiple directions, right? Some went all the way around and then circled around again, trying to find weaknesses in the Russian air defense. And of those roughly 200 drones, there were also actually four of these Kiev regime British Flamingo cruise missiles, which are just absurd, slow-moving pieces of garbage.

They were all shot down. Of those 200 drones, six or seven of them got through. Six or seven. Now, think of the success rate of Russian air defense in that. And these are not magic numbers. These are numbers that have been reported by AMK Mapping and other sources. Russian air defense regularly takes a 95–96% success rate in bringing down the Kiev regime NATO drones. That's incredible. You can't ask for any more. Something always gets through, right? I mean, NATO is deliberately using their reconnaissance planes and satellites, always looking for holes and weak points.

If you've got anywhere above a 90 percent success rate, that's incredible. And to be quite honest, while I know a lot of people are seeing these big, pretty pillars of smoke that dominate the media headlines, if you have a 96, you know, anywhere above 90% success rate, that is heroic levels of air defense and electronic warfare, right? No other country can match that. Take a look at the Iranian missiles cutting through U.S. and Israeli air defense in Israel and the Gulf states, you know, like butter. So I take the exact opposite lesson from all of this, that Russian air defense is incredible and continues to perform at that level.

Now, what's more is that we found out in the past 24 hours, after some forensics was done, that this was even more of a stunt, because most of these drones didn't even have proper warheads. And the Ukrainian long-range drones already have relatively small warheads because they have to carry so much fuel to make such long-range attacks to be able to hit targets like Moscow. So in general, they

don't pack a very big punch—nothing like Russia's Gerans do, or certainly nothing like Russia's missiles do. But these drones, or at least some of them, if not the majority of them, were actually packed full of kerosene.

Now, the whole reason for that is visual, so that there is a big, quick explosion of fire and a pillar of smoke. But what it also means is there's really very little actual damage done, right? And on top of that, the targets were storage tanks once again, the same thing that happened outside St. Petersburg. You hit a storage tank and it creates a big, pretty pillar of smoke and fire that looks terrible, you know, on the news—perfect for the Western mainstream media. And you can say, oh, Moscow's on fire, Putin is losing, and, you know, all of this stuff. But packed with kerosene, that is even more interesting. As Simplicius the Thinker rightly called it, a Hollywood stunt, a special effect. So 90% of this is psychological. Now, ultimately, they hit a few storage tanks. They hit the facade of a residential building, an apartment building.

And some debris fell down on the roofs of two shopping centers in Moscow. That was the sum total of the damage they did. Negligible, right? This isn't any real damage. The real damage, and what was intended, was this was a PSYOP more than anything else. So there are three targets of this PSYOP. The first target is the Western political and media elite that were gathering right at that time for the G7 and the latest Ramstein meeting, right, where money and drones, you know, promises of military equipment, were showered on Zelenskyy. Um, largely, you know, this was timed exactly to facilitate that, right? To keep the arms and money flowing. In fact, there was even a Ukrainian official that said, uh, quite clearly, we hope that our Western, uh, uh, saw what we did and saw it was something along the lines of, and see that we followed what they want.

They—we did what they wanted, or we followed their instructions. Quite clear that this was exactly the intention, right? And it worked, right? I mean, maybe they could have gotten more, you could—The second target is Ukraine's own population, a morale boost, striking back at Moscow, that sort of thing. The third target is, of course, the Russian population. Once again, all along the contact line, Russia is advancing. The defenses and the critical defensive cities of Konstantinovka, the southern point of the Kiev regime's last defensive line in the Donbass, and Liman are crumbling. Russia took Raya Alexandrovka this week. They took a number of other settlements. They're rapidly advancing on the contact line. The regime is having such abysmal manpower woes.

They can't continue this war, so their only hope is psychological. Right. It's been the same, actually, from the beginning of this conflict—to terrorize the Russian people into stopping their support for the special military operation and the government, meaning, as far as the West is concerned, Putin in persona. That was the whole goal of the West's existential economic war of sanctions to begin with—to reduce the ruble to rubble, to crash the Russian economy, to immiserate the Russian people and make them turn against the government. Well, that didn't work out. And we've seen again and again and again that what the Kiev regime does is actually psychological operations.

So the real goal of this, this third target of the psychological operation, is to create panic in the Russian population. And it's just as effective as all previous such attempts have been, which means the Russians just say to the government, hit them harder. Let's hit them harder. There is no panic among the Russian population. In fact, I believe that there is actually more panic and outrage over this showy pillars of smoke in Moscow, this PSYOP attack, from many well-meaning commentators and fans in the alt-media community, where the threads are full of comments like, the liberal Zionist traitor Putin must go, and Russia needs to turn Kiev into a glass parking lot tomorrow, and they need to nuke my hometown the day after that, right?

Because they need to go to direct war with it. I mean, that's the kind of nonsense. It's panic, and I'm going to tell all of you out there, I am known for being a cynic, for being black-pilled, for calling the Russian military out when they're doing something wrong, right? You know, as I did in the beginning when I made clear that Russia didn't have enough people when they initially went into the SMO and so forth. I'm telling you, don't panic, that there is really nothing here. Ignore this drone dog-and-pony show that is being trotted out and the way it's being trotted out in the Western media. Russia's long-range strikes on a nightly basis are doing factorially greater damage to the Kiev regime.

It's just not rubbed in your face on social media because the Kiev regime, you know, imprisons anyone who posts videos and so forth. And all of that aside, even far more important than the drone war on both sides, the long-range strikes, the missiles, is what's happening along the contact line. And everything is still going according to the attrition box, the mathematical box. And Russia is grinding through the Kiev regime and NATO. And all of their noise to the contrary does nothing. It doesn't change the reality on the contact line. So don't be led astray by this psyop, because ultimately that's what it was. The real lesson you should have drawn from that attack is Russian air defense is amazing and is holding strong.

And actually, since that day, there have been two other large-scale attacks — uh, Kiev regime NATO drone attacks on Moscow — seeking to repeat it, even more drones fired, hundreds in the last two days. You didn't hear about that. Why? Because not one of those little bastards got through again. That's how good Russian air defense is. They popped a few through — you'll always get a few through — and again, this was done up with kerosene and everything else to try to make it a more showy, panicking display than it was. But Bloomberg just reported this week that Kiev pummels Russia's refineries, and Russia's oil sales outpace anything done in years. The net total effect of all these refinery attacks — hitting storage tanks and everything, hitting gas stations and so on and whatever — for the past two months has been jack all.

Russia's economy is doing even better, of course, particularly because of the crisis — the energy crisis, you know, with the war on Iran. But the Russian economy is doing just fine, right? And in energy sales, refined oil and everything. But, you know, even wider, the broader economy is just fine. The tourist season in Crimea is going to take a hit this year, but, you know, that's within the

acceptable realm of costs. And other than that, just understand that Russia is doing much, much more damage on a nightly basis with their own drone and missile attacks on Kiev, because they have no air defense — because Russia has destroyed it all, including all that the West has sent so far. And the West is completely out of air defense interceptors because they used the last that they had in a failed attempt to stop Iranian ballistic missiles from raining down on Tel Aviv and, you know, the Gulf states.

#Danny

Well, yeah, well, it seems like, especially for the United States — and I guess we can call it NATO, but really the United States — it seems like in the biggest fronts that it is engaged in, its full-spectrum dominance agenda and waging these endless wars, like we see with Iran, full-spectrum dominance of the narrative agenda, but very little dominance of facts on the ground in Iran or in Ukraine. Yeah, so it seems more like a kind of Hollywood script that is being pushed out in front. And, you know, with Ukraine, everything you outlined holds true to this. And then, you know, even I see a lot of adventurism coming out of even, like, alternative media outlets. Even on social media, you go to X and you see all kinds of independent thinkers and journalists, creators, analysts — and this adventurism of, okay, well, everything, Russia, Iran, they just need to go blitzkrieg and 150% end it all now.

#Mark Sleboda

End it now and then quit. End it tomorrow. Why don't you just end it tomorrow? Yeah.

#Danny

But it negates the fact that for both of these countries, the fact that they're in these very strong positions in and of itself is a pretty remarkable thing. And what you said — don't panic — I think is really important.

#Mark Sleboda

They're both in these very strong positions because they think and don't react half-cocked or do stupid things.

#Danny

Right. Exactly. Exactly. So, yeah, don't panic. Russia, Iran, they're obviously not thinking about just today, just the next minute. They're thinking about the longer-term vision of not just surviving, but, you know, moving forward, making real progress, understanding that, you know, human

development, political and economic development doesn't just—it's not made from waging thoughtless wars, even if it's for self-defense, right? Even waging a thoughtless reaction in self-defense to nuclear-powered adversaries.

It doesn't make any sense. So what we are seeing, I think, is a very careful and thought-out and calculated way of moving forward, even if that does include, as you said before, the Iranian side. In Russia, I mean, these are not governments that all think the same. Not everyone thinks the same in these governments. Yeah, it takes some deliberation. It takes some debate, maybe. And that's a healthy thing at the end of the day. But, you know, Mark, in the last two minutes, any final thoughts you have on current developments?

#Mark Sleboda

Yeah, sure. So, I feel emotional reactions out there when I see pillars of smoke over Moscow just, you know, a few miles away from me. You know, again, I didn't see it looking out my window, you know, my door. But I feel emotional reactions and the well-meaning of a lot of people out there, right? Their hearts are in the right place, they feel outraged because of this. That is perfectly understandable and a good thing. But my advice, as always with such things—and there's a repeated pattern of these types of provocations and psychological operations over the last five years, if you look back and remember—when you see something like this and you get outraged and start demanding all-out NATO-Russia war and nuclear missiles raining down on either side, sit back.

Pour yourself a good glass of bourbon or, you know, an old-fashioned or vodka, whatever you have. Chill. Turn off the news feed for a while. Watch a good historical movie or whatever, you know, sci-fi, whatever it is that's your poison. And come back to it in two weeks and see if it's all blown over then. Because I think you'll see again and again in this conflict that that is what has happened. And even again in the conflict in the Middle East. They are masters of—or they believe they are masters of—narrative and psychological war. They believe that they can fashion reality by saying it is so loudly enough and, you know, plastering their insane, unhinged, megalomaniac rants all over social media and insisting, you know, that the emperor is wearing clothes. He's not. Don't panic. Don't fall for it. And, you know, again, come back to it in two weeks and see where we are.

#Danny

Yes, Mark. I think that's a great way to end it. And for this member, for five months, we just want Iran and every other nation to be left alone. Yeah. And I think that's maybe also for those who are, you know, because I feel like a lot of times there's this knee-jerk reaction where the first thing that Western observers, American observers, think of is, what is Iran and Russia not doing, or not doing enough, or what's going on? Well, how about you put your focus on how to get to the point, or what kind of analysis we should be having to spread the message that yes, Iran and every other nation that's under attack should be left alone. I think that might be a better use of time as well.

Especially for those activist types out there who really want to, you know, usually they're coming out of these places. So yeah, that might be a good place to focus on too. So, Mark, I want to make sure everyone knows that your Boosty account is in the video description so people can support your work there. You can check that out after you leave here. You should hit the like button because that will help boost the show after we are done here. All the places to support this channel are also in the video description below. Tomorrow I should be back at the same time, 1 p.m. Eastern time, Sunday, June 21st. I will let you know who I'll be speaking with. But until next time, everyone, take care. Mark and I are heading out together. Bye-bye.