

# Drone Escalation: Russia Will Strike NATO

## | Stas Krapivnik

The Ukraine Proxy-War is not a Proxy-War anymore. The continuous drone strikes into Russia are changing everything. Ordinary Russian citizens are demanding a more forceful reply and the pressure on V. Putin is growing to escalate the war into NATO territory after they escalated it into Russia. LINKS: YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@MrSlavikman> X / Twitter: <https://x.com/STANISKRAPIVNIK> Telegram English: <https://t.me/staswasthereenglish2> Telegram Russian: <https://t.me/stastydaibratno> Support us: Substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Shop: <https://neutralitystudies-shop.fourthwall.com> Timestamps: 00:00 Russia's mood after attacks on Moscow 02:00 Drone warfare and the danger of escalation 06:50 Frontline updates: Donbass, Sumy, Zaporozhye 09:01 Civilian targets and Russia's response 17:00 Is Ukraine trying to provoke NATO-Russia war? 24:01 Europe's loss of realism about war 30:57 Targeting leaders and collapsing international norms 33:54 Israel, Iran, and US hegemony 40:40 The Gulf states, oil prices, and Trump's calculation

### #Pascal

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies today for an update with our friend and colleague Stanislav Krapivnik. Stas, welcome back. Thank you, always a pleasure. Great having you back, and we want to talk a little bit about the position of Russia today and also how maybe the most recent MOU between Iran and the United States is now impacting the logic or the thinking of Moscow. Stas, what are the updates from your end? I was also in Russia, I was also in Moscow, and actually my flight back to Switzerland was delayed because of drone attacks on Moscow. These drone attacks are getting more and more frequent, and we had a big one again last night. What is the mood at the moment?

### #Stas Krapivnik

Angry. Again, the mentality that... or the European mentality, the narrative that Putin just woke up one day and wanted to invade Ukraine just for, pardon my French, shits and giggles. That's an old American saying. And then, you know, just make it painful enough and Russia will back off because, you know, it's just not worth it, is, again, avoiding, of course, the absolute point that this is an existential crisis for Russia. NATO nuclear missiles on its borders. As Blinken flat out said to Lavrov before all this started, "We'll put whatever missiles we want on your border, whatever nuclear missiles, and there's nothing you can do about it." Well, yes, there is. And that's how all of this started.

That is, of course, being ignored by the Europeans and the Americans to a lesser degree. At one point, Marco Rubio did admit that this was a proxy war. The Europeans, of course, don't want to even admit that, but Europe has long since been a proxy war. Europe is an active military participant. And the pressure on Moscow is to strike Europe, and strike it fast and strike it hard. What, as I said before, with Europe going into mass production of these drones—I mean, these drones are not produced by Ukraine. Let's just put that myth to rest. They may be assembled in Ukraine, as the destruction of the warehouse—the movie film warehouse—proved by Ukraine's own stupidity when they were claiming that, you know, Russia just struck a warehouse full of old movies.

And as they're filming, as their camera is filming, there is a whole set of wings under the rubble for drones, which they then try to scrub off the videos. But, you know, the Internet never forgets. So, you know, the lesson is, you know, triple-check before you put something up on the Internet. But the Ukrainians make these kinds of mistakes constantly. So most of these drones are put together in Ukraine. They're produced in Europe, quite flat out in Europe. So what we're looking at is, as I said before, the Europeans have gone into overdrive to try to break Russia under Ukraine, I'm assuming under the assumption that they think this is just a war of expansion because Putin just decided it, ignoring the entire narrative.

If they're not ignoring the narrative, if they're just—I mean, if they're not buying into the narrative and they're just ignoring their own role in all this, then they're doubly stupid. So the Russians, as I've said before, you know, Russia at this point has a choice: either a conventional war with Europe or a nuclear war with the Northern Hemisphere. I'm not quite sure which one we're going to be going down, which route. Because, as I've said, the production of drones is increasing and the waves are getting bigger. And you can always make a big enough wave, sooner or later, to overpower any anti-aircraft systems. Which is what happened. The majority of the drones were destroyed, but when the missiles ran out on the Pantsir units and they had to be reloaded, that's when the next wave that got through came through. Sorry, go ahead.

## **#Pascal**

Are there any talks about the war in Ukraine, the military operation there, that once Lugansk and Donetsk and the Donbass entirely are consolidated, then it might be possible for Russia to somehow create a security perimeter or something? If you think that these drones are actually forcing a change in the calculation, right? I mean, winning the war on the battlefield is not going to be enough anymore in order to stop the drones.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Well, winning the war on the battlefield is what the government has now decided. Negotiations are pointless. They'll still listen to the Europeans once in a while when they call up with whatever inane remarks they have. But war... The question isn't whether the battlefield victory is no longer the aim,

because it actually wasn't the aim originally. It is, I think, now the aim. But the question is, what does that constitute? Consolidating Donetsk—Lugansk has already been freed—consolidating Donetsk and Zaporozhye is not enough, obviously. I think the realization is finally starting to hit that no matter what is left of Ukraine, it's just going to be used as a terrorist base.

What is not being told, when you were in Russia recently—maybe you saw it on the news—is the total switch toward terrorism, absolute abject terrorism by the West and their proxy in Ukraine. And I'm going to say the West, because the West is absolutely guilty of swimming in Russian blood. It's the West that's producing these drones. It's the West that's enabling the terrorism. And just a few incidents—just to run down a few incidents outside of the strike on Moscow—except for a couple of strikes on the Moscow oil refinery, which were strikes, if you look at it, again, they weren't strikes on the refinery, they were strikes on the storage facilities.

There's a picture of one of the lids flying off. These are relatively easy to replace. Refineries, like I've said many times, are very difficult to destroy. They're easy to damage, but they're equally easy to repair. And the problem is, you know, blasted pipes with no fire don't make a good picture for Western media. That's why they strike the storage facilities. They go boom really big, and it makes a big picture, which the West then spreads all over—to keep from having to talk about Konstantinovka falling from Druzhinka, which is the southern town of the Druzhinka-Kramatorsk region, the Slavyansk conglomeration being surrounded now from two sides.

Russia is breaking through north toward it from the DNR. They've broken away, started going north. They're coming up behind this conglomeration. And then there are Russian forces about six kilometers away from Kramatorsk itself and Slavyansk. And Krasny Liman is basically almost fully in Russian hands, which opens up strikes directly on Slavyansk from the north. So they keep talking that Orekhov is surrounded from three directions, or that while Russian forces are quite up to Orekhov itself—they're about five kilometers out—drone-wise, Orekhov is, and artillery-wise, it's in full tactical surround, or fully tactically surrounded.

Surrounded and cut off by drones and artillery on the N08 highway. So that's the last in Zaporozhye, in central Zaporozhye—that's the last big fortress, that fortified town. After that, it's just villages up to Zaporozhye city itself. Or that Russian forces are now within about five kilometers of Sumy. They keep talking that they've moved into total terrorism. I guess there are a few examples of terrorism. First of all, those flights—the majority of the drones that got through—they weren't striking oil refineries, they were striking apartment buildings. I don't know if I sent you one of the videos; you might have seen them.

I mean, these drones, they're not falling on apartment buildings. They're not clipping apartment buildings by mistake. They're targeted directly into the center of apartment buildings—large apartment buildings, occasionally single-family houses. Also, sorry about that. But a quick rundown on just a few terrorist incidents over the last two weeks. Well, we all know about Starobysk—except in the West, nobody knows about Starobysk. That's the dormitory: 21 children killed, 19 girls, 3

boys, 40-plus were injured, 16 drones. So when the West was finally trying to acknowledge that, well, yeah, it's something—the rocket went off course or something didn't go right.

## **#Pascal**

No, it was sixteen drones.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Plus, recon drones are reconning it for half a day before the strike. So, no, this isn't an accident, it went off, or the typical excuse now for the Nuremberg trials of, well, I was just following orders. That got a lot of Nazis hung. Unfortunately, the majority of Nazis just got recycled by America and Britain into power in West Germany, and we see the results of that now. The excuse was, I was just following orders. Now the excuse is, well, the AI told me to do it.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Yeah. Yeah, that's the...

## **#Pascal**

It's a very bad joke. It's not a joke. It's the same with Iran and the same with everything that's happening in Iran. I mean, the Western alliances keep killing civilians at massive scale and either blame the enemy for it, or blame AI, or blame a fallen rocket for it—anything but admitting that they are intentionally targeting civilians as part of a terrorist attrition campaign.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

And when they finally—if the few times they finally come to answer for their crimes—it's always, well, I didn't do it, I was just following orders, or the AI told me, or, you know, there was a loose—pardon my French—a loose hair up my arse and I just pushed the wrong button. That's anything but taking accountability for their murderous actions. That's what we see about modern Western civilization: anything but taking responsibility. They'll happily murder, pillage, and rape, but it's not our fault. It's always somebody else. It's PTSD. It's the weather. It's the flies. It's the AI. It's anything but us. Actually, this is our nature, and this is why we're murdering and pillaging.

## **#Pascal**

There was this other instance just last week that I think people don't get just how impactful it is. There were the Ukrainian drones then blowing up this big war memorial in Sevastopol. Yes, a piece of art, a piece of culture, a piece of Second World War memory, or Great Patriotic War memory.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

No, no, it's from the Crimean War.

## **#Pascal**

Sorry, sorry, the Crimean War, yeah.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

In World War II, actually, the Nazis also bombed it in 1941. Yeah, sorry, that was the previous Nazis.

## **#Pascal**

But it's, you know, it's hard. I think one of the things I understood after one week in Russia is how much value Russians attach to culture and to this kind of memory of the past. So blowing this thing up has zero, zero battlefield value. All it does is make Russia angry, right? And Russians angry. Is that about it? Right.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

And then other incidents to follow—for example, CCTV is everywhere these days, whether it's just private cameras on houses or traffic cameras and so on. So you see all these videos. You have to get pretty far away from a town or a village to be camera-free. So all of this gets caught. We've had attacks on one—they took out two buses. One bus, this was a week ago—thankfully, nobody was injured. And the second bus, eight people burned to death, 11 people injured out of 46. It was an overnight bus going through a town. And you see the drone, an FPV drone, one of the big ones with the big battery block on it.

They can go pretty far, going directly into the bus, into the side of the bus as the bus is driving down the street. Then there were attacks on children. There was one video where four teenagers in a car screeched to a halt in front of a house, and they all ran in, and the drone followed them in. Thankfully, they got the door closed when the drone hit the door, so nobody was injured. Then there was another one with a 12- and a 13-year-old who were killed on a bicycle because, you know, this is Ukraine, this is the West, this is Murder Incorporated. Like it or not, these are Western values. Why? Because this is what the values the West projects everywhere around the world.

Murder, mayhem, destruction of children—be it through various procedures, be it through direct murder, whatever. The West is, I mean, this is the Epstein class's values projected large. Two days ago, there was a Belarusian bus that was hit, with a kids' soccer team on it. They had just switched on the cartoons. I mean, to understand the age of these children—they had just switched on the cartoons as they were driving. The coach's wife was killed, two adults were heavily injured, and four

children. Lukashenko—I don't know what his reaction is. So far, it's just been a mean note to Ukraine. So I guess Lukashenko, for all his big talk, is not going to do anything about it.

And this was a specifically targeted bus. They'd just gone from Belarus into Russia, into Bryansk. They were heading to the south, toward the Black Sea. There have been attacks on, I mean, in Belgorod, there's a video of an FPV drone striking a truck at a red light, you know, at a traffic stop, killing the driver, just flying right into his front windshield. And so on and so on. I mean, these videos are all over the place. Ukraine has turned from partially being a terrorist outfit to being a full terrorist outfit under the control of, let's not mince words, the three supreme terrorist organizations on this planet: the CIA, MI6, and Mossad. Basically, they all work as one organization.

They're the ones that created the SBU, the modern SBU. They're the ones that... The original plan in the U.S. was to provoke Russia enough for it to grab Ukraine, grab all of Ukraine fast and hard, and then start a partisan guerrilla war that would bleed Russia for years. They didn't quite get that. What they got was a war of attrition, and basically everybody that could have been volunteered up for partisan duty is now dead. And the people that are alive, once this conflict is actually over, if they're still alive, they're going to be just very happy to still be alive, let alone to start something else up. So now they've turned to terrorism.

## **#Pascal**

What does this do? I mean, this type of warfare is, of course, the kind of warfare of the losing end, right? But it is something that extracts a very heavy toll on Russia, on Russian society, on the civil population, which increases the pressure on the government to do something and to go even further out. And in my view, what they're trying to do is to provoke Russia into a next big war, into an escalation. So attacking NATO territory, because, like, let's say, let's look at it realistically, the only thing that could hypothetically still turn things around is an all-out European NATO war against Russia, right? And this is what Zelensky and Ukraine wanted from the beginning. Two years ago, when a Ukrainian missile killed two Polish farmers, the first thing the guy said was that this is an Article 5, you all must come to war with us.

The Europeans very quickly shut him down, and NATO for the longest time shut this down, because the one thing that Russia and the Europeans seem to have agreed upon is that the war in Ukraine remains inside Ukraine and should not spill over. But Europe has now worked bit by bit on trying to salami-slice into, ah, no, no, no, we are expanding it into Russia, but not into Europe. And this is, of course, a game of fire with fire. As soon as Russia decides that, no, if we are bleeding and we get blown up, we will blow up you, well, then we will have an all-European war, and we are not that far away from it anymore, are we?

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

No, we're not. We're on the edge of it. And honestly speaking, you know, from day one, I was saying when Slovakia, under the previous government, gave weapons over, the first heavy weapons over to Ukraine, I said from the very beginning, you need to hit Slovakia, we need to hit Slovakia very, very hard. And this all would have been avoided. Why Slovakia? Because Slovakia is a small country, and NATO would have gone, oh, oh, that's not us. We were never for that. That's those idiot Slovaks. We told them not to do that. But they still did it. Okay, okay. But Russia didn't do that. And everybody went, okay, so they didn't hit Slovakia, so the gates of hell opened up.

And off we went on the escalation ladder. It's not even a ladder, it's an escalator—an escalation escalator that's going at full speed. Now, an interesting thing about Ukraine that you mentioned, that Ukraine killed two Poles. Ukraine's actually attacked NATO on continuous occasions. It's an interesting concept, how many civilians and how much infrastructure has been destroyed by NATO—in NATO, in the EU—by Ukraine, just to show you how pathetic these organizations are. They're quite willing to sacrifice their people en masse. Ukraine has hit oil refineries in Hungary, Slovakia, Romania. Ukraine's sabotage units have hit other infrastructure.

They've killed, they've hit multiple ships in the territorial waters of Turkey coming out of the Bosphorus Straits. They've hit a Turkish-flagged tanker. They've sunk a Turkish cutter, a military cutter. And the Turks, Erdogan—yes, they remember that one. Yeah, that was about a month ago. Luckily for them, Erdogan has removed his spine, separated the vertebrae, and put one vertebra in every chair he can sit on because his arse isn't big enough to cover all those chairs. Erdogan is a spineless profiteer. All the things he said about stopping the Israelis while sending 57 oil tankers to Israel, redirecting. You know, Erdogan is a good Muppet and nothing more. He's a great Sultan in Turkey. So even though the Ukrainians are carrying out direct attacks on Erdogan, Turks, on a NATO country, it's all okay.

Then again, they've struck a Greek tanker before that was coming in to get filled up with oil off of the Caspian Consortium, the Caspian Oil Authority, Caspian Oil Consortium, which, by the way, is majority owned by Chevron. Then they damaged that equipment, but the Greeks are just the same point. The Greek government is an occupation government that doesn't give a damn what the people want. So obviously, that's Western democracy. But the most interesting attempt at mass murder by Ukraine—and this would have been mass murder—was Romania. Remember those four drones that got away from Ukraine? You know, when the aviation drones are coming in, into areas like St. Petersburg, trying to come in from Finland and from Latvia and Lithuania.

And I'm saying from, not through. Definitely from Latvia. What the Russian electronic warfare does is it breaks their encryption and pumps in new coordinates and just turns them around. But that's right on the border, right? So they're not flying very far. Well, the Ukrainians are saying that these drones were supposed to go to Crimea, and they accidentally wound up in Constanța, Romania, several hundred kilometers away. Well, there's been a guy by the name of Mikhail Lutska, who is head of the PPR party in Romania, a former member of parliament. And he's not the only one, but

he's probably the loudest one who's flat-out said, we just avoided mass murder by Ukraine. The drones were aiming at two facilities in the Port of Constanța—the oil storage facility and the fertilizer facility, the nitrate storage. Remember the explosion in Beirut?

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, yeah.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

The only thing that stopped these drones was the spill buoys—these long buoys for any spilled oil, since oil is lighter than water and floats. They put these out, and they had been put out near the oil storage facility just in case, you know, as a precaution. And one of those drones got stuck in it. And luckily, before they could blow those drones, people showed up and started videotaping that. Because if those drones had exploded, you wouldn't have found any pieces of those drones to prove they were Ukrainian. This is another false flag that would have killed half the city of Constanța—a mass casualty event for the Romanians to try to get Romania into the war and NATO into the war. So Ukraine and the three terrorist organizations—CIA, MI6, Mossad—are out of control, totally out of control.

## **#Pascal**

But now, how do you think Russia will actually approach that? Because, you know, if Russia does nothing, then these terrorist tactics will succeed in grinding down Russia. And if Russia actually does attack NATO territory and these facilities where parts of these drones are being manufactured, then they also win, because then they get the big war. It really is kind of a very, very sick way of escalating or closing all doors to non-escalation, actually.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Right, right. Well, you know, I personally prefer the conventional war. We'll win the conventional war because the alternative is a nuclear war. And that's quite simple. That is the only two-state solution right there. State one is a conventional war. State two is a nuclear war. There is no other way out. But the Europeans are either too psychopathic, or the European population is clueless—except for the people that listen to your show and other shows like that.

## **#Pascal**

No, they're utterly clueless. And I just need to throw this in here. On the one hand, we have Mr. Karaganov on Glenn Diesen's show talking about the fact that his argument of doing a limited nuclear strike is now gaining popularity, gaining currency in Russia. And there was a very interesting debate actually also with John Mearsheimer recently. But on the one hand, we have that. On the

other hand, we have the Europeans who are utterly clueless. I was listening to a show on Swiss TV, because that's one of the things I can still listen to, and they were discussing the morals behind, you know, maybe exporting weapons to Ukraine.

The Swiss currently don't do it, but there was this discussion—should we, should we not—the morals of it. Not once within an hour did it cross their minds to go through the argument that if Switzerland sends weapons to Ukraine and these weapons are used to kill Russians, then, well, maybe the Russians are just going to come and arrest Switzerland, or at least the facilities where this is being done. That didn't even come up once. That's the level to which Europe at the moment, including Switzerland, has lost all kind of ability to think about war in a realist framework. And it makes zero sense to me, but that's just a piece of information on how far down a very sick rabbit hole we are in Europe.

### **#Stas Krapivnik**

And for that, Glenn got a mention by Minister of Defense Thore Sandvik, Minister of Defense of Norway, when he was asked about Russian influence and who was influencing Russian influence in Norway. He flat out said, well, Professor Glenn Diesen. So now Glenn has been mentioned as a direct threat to the Norwegian government by the Norwegian government for doing things like stating the obvious: we may be in a war. Do we really want to do this?

### **#Pascal**

We, on our side, with a megaphone, as many as we can find, we keep warning that we are walking, not sleepwalking. We are wide awake and walking straight into a pool of blood—our own blood, that's going to be. And these people, they think that this is Russian propaganda. So we, I mean, this is how far this psychosis has already twisted people and shut them off from the obvious. You could show them a knife; they would claim it's an ice cream, and the blade—it's insane.

### **#Stas Krapivnik**

The problem, again, with mass psychosis, which your guest didn't— I can't remember the professor's name. Not in the assessment. I need to talk to him sometime, too. What he didn't go into is, how do you break a mass psychosis? You cannot break a mass psychosis by itself. It will either wind down when the population ages out. If you look at the Iranian government, yes, there was a mass psychosis at the beginning of the Iranian government. The Iranian government has liberalized since then. I mean, when Americans say, we're going to come to free their women by blowing them up so they don't have to cover their heads—well, they already don't have to cover their heads.

It's liberalized. The Soviet Union went through the same thing. The Soviet Union was a radical state that used state terror and oppression to control the people. Post-World War II, that went down quite a bit, or during World War II and then post-World War II, and even Khrushchev's new campaign,

which Stalin, by the way, stopped all the campaigns against the church—quite the opposite. The young Komsomol movement, the young communist movement, was sent to rebuild churches, including the cathedrals of the patriarchy in Sergiyev Posad, that were rebuilt by the young communists in 1946, 1947. The drive on the church started again under Khrushchev, but it was a different drive.

It wasn't gulags. There weren't concentration camps. There were gulags, labor camps. It was a propaganda war. And when Khrushchev was removed by the Politburo, one of the points for his removal was excessive pressure on the church. So it started mellowing out at that point because that revolutionary generation was gone. The next generation said, well, no, we don't need it. So these mass formations—not in defense of the Nazis, but realistically speaking—if the Nazis had won World War II, in a generation or two, they would have started mellowing out too, because all radical organizations do. If they don't, they just burn themselves out into nothing.

However, the other way, if you don't want to wait a couple of generations or two generations for the mass psychosis to start passing—and God only knows how many victims there would have been before the Nazis would have mellowed out—or, you know, it would have been, you know, when they say Stalin killed as many, that's a lie. That is such a blatant lie. Stalin—no, I'm not saying Stalin was some angel—but the gulags were not concentration camps. They were labor camps. They varied extremely, from extreme brutality to university campuses. Solzhenitsyn, by the way, was on a university campus. MiG and Sukhoi were formed out of two gulags that were university campuses. So it was a very varied system.

But the overall purge is three, maybe five million people, which is not a small number. But when you compare that to what, just the concentration camps, Hitler was setting up 12 million people. Nobody remembers the other 6 million people in the camps. Only one particular demographic gets all the mention. Plus the mass murders in the Soviet Union, the mass murders and executions in Greece, in Yugoslavia, and so on. The death toll is gigantic. But the other way to break the mass psychosis is to break the government. Because if you look at all these adamant anti-Nazis in Germany, the older generation, they were all Hitlerjugend. They were all Hitlerjugend. And when the Nazi government was broken is when they woke up.

## **#Pascal**

Now, you know, the West did something extremely dangerous, which is set the precedent that, you know, if you don't like the head of state of another government, you can just go out and kill them. There's no more, I mean, that kind of quiet, tacit agreement that you don't attack each other's leaders—that is gone, right? And do you think that people in Russia now, in the Kremlin, are actually starting to talk about the pros and cons of doing decapitation strikes, like Western style? Of course.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Look, you know, why do people sign the Geneva Convention on POWs? It's not because they're humane. It's not because, oh, I want to take care of my enemy's POWs. It's because both sides get something out of it. Exactly. If you don't get that anymore, you're not going to live up to them. Exactly. Your aim is, it's not that I want to be humane to the POWs, or maybe I do. Russians have that tendency of being silly like that. We're not part of the garden culture. We're from the jungle. We actually don't shoot people that surrender. Right. But really, the reason most people sign it is so their POWs, their people that are taken POWs, aren't shot or sent off into minefields and things like that. So yes, absolutely, they get something out of it.

Why do you not murder foreign leaders? So you don't get murdered. It's a give and take. I won't kill you and I won't target your foreign leadership, so you don't target my leadership. And the West, in its absolute childlike ignorance, has actually gone and said, well, led by the Americans, of course. Because the last, I would say, probably the last two adults that ran America were Reagan and Papa Bush. As hard as that is, maybe for some people to swallow, but they were the last two adults in the room. Everybody since then has been ever more degrading, childlike actors. I mean, look, you know, Reagan—two things interesting about Reagan. The Israelis went into Lebanon, into Beirut.

There was no Hezbollah at that point, by the way, in the 1980s. Reagan was shown pictures of dead children, and he was so outraged he called the Israelis and said, "Get the hell out now." And the Israelis broke and left, because they knew that either they did it or their relationship with the U.S. was over. So Reagan made the Israelis get out of Beirut back in the 80s. And then Papa Bush, he cut them off because they continued their operations. And Papa Bush just, he cut them off from supply. Supplies got switched back on under Clinton. You know, Biden, quote, unquote, just to finish real quick, Biden, quote, unquote, cut them off. He kept one shipment away as a PR move, but he preloaded, front-loaded them so much that it didn't matter. And then everything went back on.

## **#Pascal**

Let's use this as a segue into talking a little bit about what we were witnessing with Iran and actually the fact that this morning, yesterday, you know, the Israelis are on a temper tantrum, like one that I haven't seen for a while, including saying that they're cutting off ties with Qatar because Qatar compared them to apartheid South Africa, which is actually unfair to apartheid South Africa because they never implemented a genocide on the scale of the Israelis. But the... Are we witnessing some kind of change in this relationship, or is it just the next phase of the great theater that is U.S. hegemonic foreign policy?

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

I'm tending toward the theater option. We just had a 15-minute break to get coffee and get a Chardonnay, and now we're back starting to watch the next act. On apartheid South Africa, whatever you want to say, but the blacks in apartheid South Africa were citizens. Sure, they were citizens of a second class. They didn't get the resources. A lot of them actually served in the military,

but they were citizens. And a few did break through the barriers. They're more the exception. They're the exception to the rule. But they were citizens. So they had a certain amount of rights under the Constitution of South Africa. And maybe even without pressure from outside, that would have mellowed out with time, too, as all systems tend. They tend to go to equilibrium sooner or later.

Every system, no matter how radical it is, will, over generations, go toward equilibrium because the radicalism is unsustainable in the long term, regardless of what government you have. But yeah, these people — the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria — they're not citizens. They have no rights. They're not treated as second-class or even third-class citizens, or even non-citizen residents. They're treated as — I mean, just listen to what the Israeli government people say — they're animals, they're to be destroyed, they're rats, they're subhumans. I mean, the language that the Nazis used against their victims, the new generation is using against their victims. I mean, there's about 30% of the Israeli population that are either traditional Jews — most of them were there long before Israel showed up — that look at Israel as an abomination in the traditional Jewish view.

Jews are punished by God and cannot have their own government until the Messiah returns, at which point they will get their government. Anything before that is considered blasphemy. So, as they say, we were here before the State of Israel, we'll be here after the State of Israel. And then there are progressive Israelis, which there aren't that many of, because most of the progressive Israelis turned into rabid psychopaths after the 7th of October. But there are progressive Israelis that have kept their head on their shoulders and said, you know, this is wrong, this is mass murder. It's about 30% of the population. The other 70% of the population are rabid psychopaths in one degree or another. Look, the main criticism of Netanyahu is he's not doing enough.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

So just to finish that thought, the opposition is more radical than Netanyahu, and Netanyahu is pretty damn radical. So what you get is a choice of, do you want the brown shirts in or the black shirts in?

## **#Pascal**

But again, Israel couldn't do all of this if it wasn't for the complete support of the United States with all this money and weapons and production and the supply lines. And of course, that includes Europe, with Germany and the UK and so on, and the intelligence sharing. I mean, everything that's being done couldn't happen if it wasn't for this kind of Western integration of genocide enabling and then genocide — pulling off genocide. And of course, also the war against Iran. Now, Iran found an answer. And Iran's answer was: A, be able to absorb; B, always be able to strike back at targets of

equal strength. These two pillars managed to force the Americans to sign a document which, to all intents and purposes, is just a declaration of surrender. Whether they will actually then go along with it is another question. But they signed that thing, which to me means something. But what do you read into it? And how do you think it's going to inform Russia's way of going forward?

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

It's informed Russia's way from day one when Iran started striking American bases. And as I've said before, the U.S. is not going to escalate to a nuclear war against Iran, which, by the way, may now have nuclear weapons, according to various sources. Larry Johnson, Pepe Escobar. Well, it's not that—they're just repeating what they got from a high... I'm friends with Larry. I was talking with him about it. They're just repeating what they were told by a high-placed Pakistani official who got the information directly from Iran to give to the Americans. Because, you know, the Pakistanis are in between. By the way, Vance, for, quote, logistics reasons, they haven't flown out to meet with the Iranians yet, as they were supposed to have already. Now, Russian...

## **#Pascal**

They announced this morning that it's off. They're not coming.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Well, you know, Russian intelligence passed on—and this was published in a couple of articles in Iran—Russian intelligence passed on to the Iranians that the Americans are just going to use this for stalling time to reposition and prepare for the next attack on Iran. Nobody's backed off. This is all theater. That's what I'm saying. The intermission is over. We're going back to the next act. Chug down what's left of the Chardonnay and get the popcorn out because this isn't over.

## **#Pascal**

But, you know, I have this very strong suspicion that at least part of this MOU, or the fact that the United States put its signature under it, under Donald Trump, might have to do with the Gulf states. The Gulf states, two times we know, said no to the United States doing further attacks on Iran—twice. And I have this suspicion that Saudi Arabia and Qatar and Bahrain might have told the United States, you need to... either this ends with some form of agreement, or we are going to cancel our base agreements with you and we're going to tell you to leave. And if that happened, it would be even worse than that agreement because it would make it physically impossible for the United States to still have military impact in the region. This is pure speculation, but I have a very strong suspicion about it.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

If they were rational actors, I would say yes, if they're rational actors. The unfortunate part about the Arabs in general, most of the Arab countries in general, is they're bought and paid for, and they're either spineless or they're very two-faced. Look, you know, the Saudis, they once said, we're not going to use our airspace. But everybody used their airspace. We're not going to participate. But they launched missiles. And so did the Kuwaitis, obviously, and so did the Bahrainis, and so did the Qataris. I'm not even going to talk about the UAE, where the president of the UAE, which is just seven separate sheikhdoms, grew up playing Call of Duty and thinks war is Call of Duty.

Sorry, there's no reset button. These guys have been duplicitous to the extreme. Plus, just look at what they do for Israel. All the big words, and yet they're allowing other Arabs to be murdered without any kind of restraint. Quite the opposite, if anything else. Quietly, they support the Israelis, even though, you know, if you listen to the Greater Israel Project, half of Saudi Arabia, about a third of Egypt, all of Jordan, all of Syria—basically almost all of Syria—Lebanon, all supposed to go to the Israelis, minus the people that live there right now, and a good chunk of Iraq.

The Iraqis are the only ones that have shown, and to a degree the Lebanese, but not their government, have shown any kind of spine and dedication to any kind of principles. Iranians, of course, are not Arabs, and as Persians they've shown quite a different mentality, a mentality shaped by a civilization that's 4,000 years old. So, you know, I think we're looking at the next round starting up with the Americans. Look, why would the Americans suddenly become trustworthy? The same Americans that, by the way, murdered and attacked the same people, the exact same people.

## **#Pascal**

No, no, I'm not saying that we should put any trust into this agreement, and the Iranians do exactly the right thing. They're saying, like, we have all the ability to verify, and if they don't live up to it, then we're going to go straight back. I mean, they're not blue-eyed about any of this. However, the fact remains that Donald Trump put his signature underneath that document, you know, and he even cited it in Versailles. I mean, it can't get much more... Don't worry, Trump had no idea what recitement was. You know how history has this thing about being... patterns, ironies, ironies wherever you look. I mean, littered with ironies. Still, I mean, they signed that thing, so they must be quite desperate in that case for a break. That's the minimum we can judge from it, right?

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Well, look, first of all, the U.S. is almost out of reserves. Yeah, which is an amazing thing for Americans. They should be.

## **#Pascal**

Okay, you're back. Yes, yes.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Yeah. Did you hear me? Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay, we're back.

## **#Pascal**

They are. They are.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

The difference between the American and Chinese approach. So, you know the story about the ant and the grasshopper.

## **#Pascal**

Yes.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Right? So the Chinese are the story about the ant and the grasshopper. When they've got huge reserves, all these other East Asian countries came running, knocking at the door, "Please give us some of your reserves." And the Chinese ant said, "I'm sorry, Mr. Grasshopper, you should have prepared better for winter. Go away now. Bye-bye. This is for China. Chinese reserves for China." America, on the other hand, is a very different type of ant that said, "Hey, who's got money? I'll sell you anything. Screw the rest of the ants on my anthill. I'm willing to give it away to anybody," because that is the American government approach. The American reserves are not for Americans; they're for anybody else. So American prices continue to rise to a degree.

But they did tamp down the stock market, which is the only thing that matters to Trump and his people around him for the most part. But there are elections on the horizon, and the driving season's in. And prices, by the way, when Trump signed, prices fell under \$4 — \$3.99 on average, but under \$4. And that actually, this off-price pricing, actually works on people, believe it or not. That's like where you have, you're under four dollars, \$3.99, \$3.97, and people's mentality goes, "Oh yeah, that's under four dollars, under five dollars, eight, five euro, what have you." And it actually works on the majority of people. If you take marketing courses, that's one of the things you get taught — human mentality.

They don't round up. Oh, it's under \$5. Yeah, it's like 2 cents under \$5. It's \$5, but it works. You know, unbelievably, human mentality actually works that way. So Trump gets that temporary victory. You know, people calm down. His approval ratings actually went up by two points. But

again, this is all temporary because I highly, I think, would be Israelis — this is absolute theater. The donor class hasn't gone away anywhere. They still hold Trump by, as they say in the South, by the short and curlies. And, you know, he's not going anywhere. Nothing's changed.

What's changed in the American government? Nothing's changed in the American government. These are the very same people that have attacked several times, people that they're in the middle of negotiations with, murdered their negotiators, murdered civilians en masse, or supported those that murdered civilians en masse, as in last summer. What has changed? Have the parties involved changed? No. None of them have changed. The same players. So suddenly these same players are now trustworthy? They've had a come-to-Jesus moment? No, they haven't.

## **#Pascal**

No, but what has changed is going from the 28th of February to like, we will obliterate you, you will either surrender or die, to signing a document that says, yeah, we respect each other's sovereignty and we will pay 300 billion US dollars in reparations. I mean, that's fantastic. That's a change. And that change came about by Iran being able to strike everything in the region that was somehow connected to the Americans. So, you know, I wonder if that has an impact, or again, if also this part is just part of the make-believe.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Pascal, I'm going to unfortunately lower your excitement a little bit—your enthusiasm. So, if you watched my last episode with Larry Johnson, we record one a week. And Larry was on a group chat with various American generals and colonels, retired and active duty. Apparently, a lot of them were itching for a big fight with Russia because “we can take the Russians.” And “we won against Iran.” A lot of them believe they won against Iran. These are people that should know or understand.

## **#Pascal**

But how would that be a win? I mean, are we living in a parallel universe?

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

What color is the sky? Take a look out the window. What color is the sky over your head? It's blue for me, but maybe it's actually green for them or yellow. I don't know. They are literally, you know, the reality that you understand, only you understand. That reality exists only for you. Each one of us has our own reality. Just like your view of yourself exists only in your head. Everybody has a different understanding of you or a view of you. That's just human reality. And the reality of who won and who lost apparently is a very different reality. People can convince themselves of anything. That's the power of humanity. We can rationalize and convince ourselves of anything. There are flat earthers, for God's sake.

## **#Pascal**

Stas, thank you very much. At the end of the interview, we are firmly now inside constructivism, and everything is relative and nothing really exists. And Rick and Morty were always right in what we needed to get done in order to get out of here. My friend, we have to wind it down, but thank you for the insights that you shared. If people want to follow you, give us your channels, please.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Okay, so Substack is Zmei Gorynich, which was a three-headed dragon in Slavic mythology. It's the only cool name I could find left on Substack that wasn't already taken. Um... The...

## **#Pascal**

Your reason for naming stuff? Okay. Yeah, I know.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

You should go with it. I want a cool name. Everything's taken. All right.

## **#Pascal**

Um...

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

X is Stanislav Skripivnik. Couldn't fit the full name, so, you know, we Russians like our names long. That's how we learn how to read and write early on. Um, then there's YouTube at MrSlavicMan, all one word, Slavic with a K, and Telegram — Stas Segodnya Obratno is the Russian-language channel, and Stas Was There is the English-language channel. And there is some difference in what I post on the two, because you don't get everything in translation from one to the other. Yeah.

## **#Pascal**

I will do my best to remember to put all of these links into the description box below. If I forget, I apologize in advance. Stas Skripivnik, thank you so much for your time today.

## **#Stas Krapivnik**

Thank you.