

# Max Blumenthal: 'Iran Deal' Divides the U.S. & Triggers Panic in Israel

Max Blumenthal discusses how the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Iran is impacting American politics and creating shocks throughout Israel. Blumenthal is the editor-in-chief of The Grayzone, an award-winning journalist and the author of several books, including best-selling Republican Gomorrah, Goliath, The Fifty One Day War, and The Management of Savagery. He has produced print articles for an array of publications, many video reports, and several documentaries, including Killing Gaza. The Grayzone: <https://thegrayzone.com/> Mysterious pay-for-play antisemitism attacks now targeting Canada. Who benefits? - <https://thegrayzone.com/2026/06/22/mysterious-antisemitism-attacks-targeting-canada/> Follow Prof. Glenn Diesen: Substack: <https://glennDiesen.substack.com/> X/Twitter: [https://x.com/Glenn\\_Diesen](https://x.com/Glenn_Diesen) Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/glenndiesen> Support the research by Prof. Glenn Diesen: PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/glenndiesen> Buy me a Coffee: [buymeacoffee.com/gdieseng](http://buymeacoffee.com/gdieseng) Go Fund Me: <https://gofund.me/09ea012f> Books by Prof. Glenn Diesen: <https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09FPQ4MDL>

## #Glenn

Welcome back. We are joined today by Max Blumenthal, the editor-in-chief at The Grayzone, to discuss the MOU and what is happening to the U.S.-Israeli relationship. So thank you for coming back on. Great to see you, Glenn. So I guess my first question was very specific. That is the Memorandum of Understanding, which I assume the U.S. had to sign quite reluctantly, given that it reads as a declaration of surrender almost. But again, I understand why it had to be signed. But at the same time, it's hard to imagine the U.S. being able to accept the terms of this. Again, the U.S. has its own complicated political system, even though Trump recognizes that it's necessary to put an end to this. You know, he doesn't necessarily have the final say or the only say in this matter. So I was wondering if you could speak to some of the domestic politics, how people in the...

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Well, this was also a major political defeat for Donald Trump, and he's heading toward catastrophe. And that's why Donald Trump is trying to sell a different deal — there actually is no deal, but a different MOU — to his base and to the American public than the one that Iran understands was agreed upon. Today, Donald Trump is declaring that there will be IAEA inspectors heading to Iran to inspect the nuclear sites. And that's something that Iran has rejected so far. And why would they accept that, given the assassinations of Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, the Oppenheimer of Iran, on down to lesser-known quantum physicists and scientists who were assassinated during the Twelve-Day War? And afterwards, how did Israel get these names and put them in its target bank?

Well, we know Israel hacked into the private accounts of Rafael Grossi, the general secretary of the IAEA, and it got these names through previous inspections where Iran had to hand over the names of scientists. So it doesn't seem like Donald Trump is putting forward the actual MOU to his own base that he has to sign, because the U.S. was dealt the worst, I think, strategic defeat possibly in its history — a military defeat. In many ways, a worse defeat than Vietnam, because the economic damage has not been contained and won't be contained even if the conflict ends right now. The situation going through the summer looks bleak, and I'm being told by people who are investors that oil is a really good bet right now because the prices will not stay down. So Donald Trump has to do this, and in some ways, he has...

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He's won back some of the support of his base. He's put J.D. Vance out as the salesman for the MOU. Vance was always sold to the public as one of the restrainers on Iran. He wasn't able to obviously do anything there when Benjamin Netanyahu came to town and basically gave Donald Trump his marching orders in February. But now J.D. Vance is kind of having a little bit of a comeback. He's earning a little bit of his credibility back. Marco Rubio is nowhere to be seen. Donald Trump is backing up J.D. Vance publicly. And Donald Trump is facing a rift within the Republican Party elite. The kind of George W. Bush, neocon-oriented Republicans are up in arms about the MOU. The Israel First Republicans like Ted Cruz, Roger Wicker on the Foreign Relations Committee, they're obviously up in arms.

And then you have the Zionist movement that supported Trump attacking him, including in Miriam Adelson's paper in Israel, Israel Hayom, the pro-Netanyahu propaganda sheet, which we can talk about next, is now going after Donald Trump. Donald Trump's unpopular in Israel suddenly. They're just so entitled that they would turn on him in a second. But I think one of the most cynical, insidious elements in American politics that is now attempting to turn the screws on Trump for signing this MOU and doing so in Versailles — the symbolism of signing basically a declaration of surrender in Versailles — are the Democrats. And the Democrats are doing so because the MOU is actually unpopular among the American public, not because they don't want peace with Iran. It's because they don't want Donald Trump to sign it. Because Donald Trump is unpopular. Donald Trump is a widely hated figure.

So anything associated with Trump is doomed to fail. This is like a new, I think it's a CNN poll. Sixty-four percent of Americans don't like the MOU. That's almost the same number of Americans that didn't like the Iran war. So why wouldn't they want there to be peace? Why wouldn't they want there to be an MOU? Because it's Trump doing it. Everything in the news right now is not—like the top story in the U.S. if you watch cable news is not the MOU. It's not the dynamics of the deal or whether Iran will actually give up its nuclear dust or submit to inspectors. It's about the reflecting pool on the National Mall and the fact that a former Olympian was arrested for dipping his hand into the reflecting pool because Trump has just overseen this absurd Mar-a-Lago-style renovation of the reflecting pool that cost like \$30 million. He gave the contract, a no-bid contract, to a crony.

And now the pool is filled with algae blooms. It's turned green. The blue sealant on it has cracked off, and National Guard are guarding the reflecting pool, and any American, anyone who approaches, can be arrested. And Trump is blaming vandals for the failure of this glitzy renovation project, and that's what everyone is focused on right now. It's become sort of a microcosm or a conduit for all of the public's contempt of Donald Trump. And that's flowing into opposition to the MOU simply because Trump is doing it. And that's a real problem. And then just behind all of this, the political spectacle, are figures like Jared Kushner, Steve Witkoff, Marco Rubio, Mike Waltz — all of these pro-Israel operatives whose careers have been fueled and instrumentalized by the Israel lobby or are just simply adherents of the Zionist movement.

Jared Kushner actually brought Nick Stewart from the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, which is the main Israeli cutout that devised this war in Washington. He brought him to Switzerland for the negotiations. So these figures are still honeycombed throughout the Trump administration and are poised to unravel any MOU or prevent a deal. But I think what they're doing right now is just buying time, and they see this as a form of strategic sequencing. So there are many factors working against the success of the MOU, even though the American public is just solidly against going back to war.

## **#Glenn**

Well, what you said about Trump speaking of a different MOU, I think it's quite evident — not just how he's arguing that the IAEA has to come in, but he's arguing the US doesn't have to pay ten cents. The MOU is quite specific. It argues he's threatened Hezbollah to stop, well, what he called disruptive behavior, I think. But it's the Israelis who are still occupying Lebanon. So all of these points in the MOU, and of course threatening Iran during the negotiation, this is also prohibited. He doesn't appear to want to live up to it.

Indeed, it does seem that he might be buying time, though, just to get some oil through stabilized markets. But it's hard to see this actually implemented in full. How do you see Israel, though? It seems to be in a difficult spot now. That is, it's been pushing for this war with Iran for decades. It finally got its man in the White House. Trump did it, and then obviously it did not go as planned. Iran has come out on top, you know, despite all the death and destruction. But where does that place Israel at this point? I mean, how bad is the panic, and what's plan B essentially?

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Israel reportedly proposed to destroy all of Iran's infrastructure in 48 hours to the U.S., and the U.S. rejected that because it's just simply something they can't do. I think even the Trump administration, as buffoonish as they are, recognized that this was just another ploy to drag the U.S. back into a war that it can't win, in which it achieved zero military objectives stated from the outset.

And it was none other than the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Dan Kane, who opposed the war before it even began and began leaking to the Washington Post and the New York Times that the U.S. would experience a munitions shortage, which it did.

Dan Kane then testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I think in an exchange with Senator Dick Durbin, that Iran's Navy had not been destroyed and that the U.S. could not militarily open the Strait of Hormuz. This was as Donald Trump was, he's even stating today, their military was decimated, the Navy's destroyed. It could be that that's what Donald Trump's being told in his echo chamber, but I think that's just the case Donald Trump wants to make to his base so he can continue to sell the MOU following this defeat.

So the U.S. can't go... There's no clear way for the U.S. to achieve military objectives that it did not before, unless it's willing to commit massive amounts of air power and lose scores of planes, possibly pilots, get pilots taken hostage, in order to destroy Iran's missile cities and deterrence, and it wasn't willing to do that. The war was fought with standoff munitions. Obviously, after losing F-15s and an F-35 nearly being downed, the U.S. was unwilling to send in a lot of the air power that would have been necessary. And Iran has a very wise military doctrine that is based around – I was actually watching Iran's World Cup performance versus Belgium, and there was a clear analog, a clear parallel between Iran's strategy in that match and Iran's military doctrine, which is just based around survival.

And that was such a wise doctrine against a U.S. empire that just doesn't have the political will to even erode Iran's deterrence. There isn't the political will at home. There weren't adequate munitions. And so this leaves Israel alone. And now Israel is left more exposed than it has been probably at any point since the Suez Crisis and the 1956 war. And that means the Zionist movement is also exposed. And everything they say comes crashing against the hard rocks of the reality that the 99% experiences in the United States and around the world — economic calamity brought on by their war — and more and more people are waking up to the fact that this was essentially a Zionist war.

Zionists don't understand this, though. They don't understand why everyone's mad at them. They actually see this as a form of persecution, as anti-Semitism. And they're not sharpening or honing their messaging. They're not able to cope with a popular mayor in New York City like Mahmood Mamdani actually campaigning openly against AIPAC. More and more candidates in the U.S. are campaigning against AIPAC. The level of opposition to Israel in Pew and Gallup polls is surging right now to record levels. It's like... I think over 80% of registered Democrats oppose sending aid to Israel at this point. The American public wants to cut Israel off.

And Israel's lobbying tentacles and the Zionist movement as a whole are not able to adjust their messaging or cope with this reality. Within Israeli intelligence, the Israeli military intelligence apparatus, for sure they are attempting to absorb some of the lessons of this war, but they won't have the firepower to confront Iran alone. And so the outgoing Mossad director, David Barnea, has

leaked details of what his Iran unit had been doing to generate regime change and actually predicted that the Mossad would continue to escalate its destabilization activities inside Iran and its subterfuge to spawn regime change riots, and that they will actually achieve regime change by the end of the year.

Again, I think this is another false prediction to justify their bureaucratic priorities and get their budget, and also to keep the U.S. mesmerized by the aura of Israeli intelligence. But again, they don't have a clear strategy there. I think Israel will press ahead, though, with destabilization activities. They may try to launch another war, perhaps after the World Cup, and assume that the U.S. will join them as they did during the 12-day war to rescue them. This war would increase the pressure on Donald Trump to do something, and it's unclear if he will rescue them this time, or as Nixon did in the '73 war.

But one thing that they have no strategy for, and that they're not prepared for, and which they cannot stomach at all, is the loss of support of the American public and growing elements within the U.S. political establishment. It's gotten so desperate that Israel's Channel 14, the pro-Netanyahu propaganda channel, hosted the Israeli magician, mentalist, and fraudster Uri Geller, who declared that Donald Trump's brain had been hacked by a sophisticated electronic transmission by Iran, and that's why he signed the MOU. That really gives you a window into the thinking in Israel right now, and I don't even know if we can call it thinking.

## **#Glenn**

I haven't seen that story. That's quite extraordinary. But again, we're within the United States. What is fascinating, though, with the Israel issue, there always seems to be a consensus there. Republican, Democrat, they will always fight for Israel till the end. But now, as you say, you have all these pro-Israeli groups up in arms because of the MOU being seen as this massive decoupling. But on the other side, you see the people—well, yeah, you can put J.D. Vance in that box—but essentially the Tucker Carlsons of America, those who argue for putting America first instead of Israel.

So you see this massive—Israel has become a polarized issue, it seems. But how does that work into the survival, though, of the MOU? Because there's, of course, many who would like to sabotage it within the U.S. I guess Israel would like to do the same. And I think the Iranians kind of caught up. Well, they know, I think, what Washington's planning to do, which is just drag them along and slowly water it down and fail to implement. This looks like what's going to happen. But they showed that they were willing to walk away as soon as Trump began to threaten them. So they seem to be preparing against this.

## **#Max Blumenthal**

Yeah, I mean, I think this is just a historical inflection point more than an actual signal of any concrete deal, and that the process of Israel's dissolution, or at least the dissolution of Israeli exceptionalism in American life, is accelerating rapidly. That's all we can say. But I agree with you, the MOU will eventually be watered down, and the key lever for Israel to unravel the MOU is in Lebanon, which is why they're consistently escalating in Lebanon. Our correspondent at The Grayzone, Wyatt Reed, was in the south interviewing people who are attempting to return to the rubble of their homes, and many of them had to turn back because Israel continued to escalate and was enacting new massacres, killing scores of people a day.

The action around the Ali al-Tahrir Hill, where it's said that Hezbollah has a base and Israel's been unable to reach it with its tank columns—there's a tank that reportedly is still stuck at the base of the hill with a commander inside and three other soldiers—has been extremely demoralizing for Israel. It prompted the Twitter/X tirade by Itamar Ben-Gvir, the security minister, calling for making thousands of Lebanese mothers weep for every one Israeli mother who weeps and declaring that all of Lebanon must burn. This really exposed the hideous face of Israel's governing coalition to everyone. And even the arch-Zionist CNN anchor Jake Tapper felt compelled to condemn this.

This is what's being brought out of Israel's demented soul through its failures in Lebanon. But it has to stay in Lebanon in order now to sabotage the MOU. AIPAC, the main arm of the Israel lobby in the U.S., attempted to portray those four invading Israeli soldiers who were attempting to attack Hezbollah inside Lebanese territory as victims of a Kristallnacht-like pogrom, declaring that Hezbollah just killed four Jews because it enjoys killing Jews. They're actually trying to elicit sympathy for invading Israeli soldiers. And every time they do so on X, those posts get ratioed with thousands of comments essentially mocking and taunting them. There is no sympathy for what Israel is doing there.

J.D. Vance was asked in Switzerland by an Arab reporter about Israel's genocidal rampage in Lebanon, actually using the term genocide, and J.D. Vance declared he didn't—you know, in the past you would have seen Joe Biden or Barack Obama or whoever their underlings were—denounce that reporter for using the term genocide. But J.D. Vance simply shrugged and said, no one is doing more than us to try to tamp down on the violence in Lebanon. And if the MOU is to be enforced, Israel is going to be restricted in Lebanon. And that will be a military failure that could actually be a more devastating military failure for Israel than Iran was.

Iran was a more catastrophic failure for the United States. But at this point, it looks like that's where they're heading, and that Lebanon will be the main lever here for unraveling the MOU. And to the extent that Hezbollah is going to continue to inflict losses with FPV drones, with Kornet missiles and other anti-tank weapons on the Israelis, the MOU survives. And just another quick point, because you brought up Tucker Carlson. Tucker Carlson, I think yesterday in an interview on a podcast, said

that he was done with the Republican Party. Tucker Carlson comes out of the real center of the Republican Party, the mainstream of the Republican Party. He was actually not considered an extremist or a far-right person or a populist until just a few years ago.

His father was a major Republican figure who served as an ambassador in Republican administrations and was close to the Reagan administration. This is like the Republican Party elite. And he's declaring that he can't be part of the Republican Party anymore because it doesn't serve the United States—it essentially serves Israel. Tucker Carlson could potentially form a third party that would include figures like Marjorie Taylor Greene, Matt Gaetz, and Thomas Massie, many of the figures who've been pushed out by the Israel lobby, who have a lot of cachet within the conservative grassroots and also have a lot of respect on what I would call the populist left, which Representative Ro Khanna of California is attempting to lead right now. And he'll probably run for—I think he'll run in the Democratic primary. So let's just say they do that.

They're going to kneecap the Republican candidate in 2028, unless that candidate is J.D. Vance, who Tucker Carlson has been close to. Tucker Carlson's son worked under J.D. Vance until he was forced out by the Israel lobby. But having that contingent—the Tucker contingent, you could call it—will force J.D. Vance to take a harder line against Israel. It's something that I wish would take place with the Democrats, but you only have the Green Party, which the Democrats have successfully kept off ballots nationally and in state races, most recently in the California governor's race, to prevent there being any lever of restraint on the Democratic Party's pro-Israel insanity. I think it's shaping up to be a fascinating 2028 primary in both parties because the base has dropped out on pro-Israel support, and the only thing left is legalized bribery.

## **#Glenn**

I think a third party would do much good, actually, because when you have this polarized two-party system, one would always... well, it's very hard for one side to drop off to the other one. But if there's a third party, it doesn't even have to win. It's enough that it forces the other parties to moderate themselves if they want to hold on to this electoral base. Just a last quick question, though. Given that so much is at stake for Israel—they might lose their unconditional American backing, the whole policy of peace through strength, if you will, that is based on this clean break approach, Greater Israel—I mean, all of this seems to be being risked at the moment. What do you think Israel could do in desperation? Do you think an actual use of a nuclear weapon to show its determination would be out of the question? I just have a hard time—I don't see them backing down or adjusting to new realities, which then begs the question: what remains for Israel?

## **#Max Blumenthal**

Yeah, that's a great question. And that's the question on everyone's mind right now, because anyone who's paying close attention to this, who still has their critical faculties, understands that Israel is an anachronistic state. It's a high-tech, nuclearized, colonial state that exists out of place in history and

outside the reality of normal international relations, and wants to just unravel international law as a matter of its own survival. It has no borders—I mean, it refuses to set borders—and is perpetually occupying millions of people who actually comprise a majority between the river and the sea. And so this lunatic rogue state, in order to maintain its ethno-supremacist character, is prone to some dastardly acts and is capable of anything. I don't think we've seen the worst of what Israel's capable of.

It's boasted of its ability to infiltrate common household communications equipment like pagers or cell phones and turn them into explosives. So what will it do when its back is against a wall? Will it engage in assassinations of leadership who are not members of non-state resistance groups like Hezbollah or Hamas? Has it already done so? Will it begin to get violent against members of the media? What is it capable of? I don't want to speculate. I just know that's where so many people's minds are going right now as Israel grows increasingly desperate. And we see, for example, a former IDF Persian-language spokesman declare that America needs a new Pearl Harbor to understand what the stakes are. That, you know, we should worry about what they're capable of.

But what they're doing right now is attempting to elicit sympathy through the conjuring of bogus anti-Semitism hoaxes, to the point where prominent Canadian Zionists have been hoping for the past 24 hours or so and wishing that this Montreal shooter, who's said to be sort of—I mean, it's a crude way of putting it—but like an incel who hated women or resented that women weren't available to men like him, that he were actually an anti-Semite who was out there shooting Jews. And they're doing everything they can, against all evidence, to convince the public that this shooter wanted to kill Jews, just as AIPAC was attempting to portray IDF invading soldiers in Lebanon as Kristallnacht victims who were killed just because they're Jewish.

And then you have this whole global phenomenon from Australia to the UK. I mean, it's mainly in the Commonwealth states—Australia, the UK, and now Canada—where there are these gun-for-hire anti-Semitism attacks in which mostly youth who are from poor backgrounds, mostly like lumpenproletariat types, are being paid in crypto through anonymous online foreign actors to carry out low-level property damage attacks outside Jewish communal sites, as well as the U.S. consulate in Toronto. And strange Telegram channels are claiming credit for these attacks under the name of something called Ashab Yamin al-Islamiyah, or like the right hand of Islam, and claiming that they're part of the Iran-sponsored resistance.

And it all looks very shady to me. It all looks very shady when we consider that in 2016 and 2017, a wave of thousands of anti-Semitic robocalls to Australian Jewish centers actually originated from Israel. And an Israeli teen was arrested after Australian intelligence fingered the culprit. But Iran is blamed for all of it. Iran's ambassador had been removed from Australia after being blamed for these strange pay-for-play anti-Semitism attacks. Iran was blamed by Keir Starmer for a stabbing in London by a mentally ill man who had stabbed two Jews after stabbing a Muslim flatmate. Iran's being blamed, but Iran doesn't gain anything from this. Iran gains nothing. There's only one state which gains from these strange pay-for-play anti-Semitism attacks.

And it's the one with a long history of false flag attacks. For example, bombing synagogues in Iraq to compel the Iraqi Jewish community to move to Israel in the early 1950s—crimes that were documented and confirmed by the Israeli revisionist historian Avi Shlaim—or the Lavon Affair in Egypt, which actually collapsed Egypt's Jewish community and set the stage for the 1956 war. It's Israel. And so we really have to be asking what they're capable of with their backs increasingly against the wall. And we have to be documenting it and pushing our leadership to do something to restrain this psychotic state. And I think one idea that I had, that I put forward in an interview I did earlier this week or last week—I'm losing track—is a United Against a Nuclear Israel campaign.

It was throughout the United States, United Against a Nuclear Iran, run by Israeli cutouts like Jason Brodsky. And there were big billboards in Times Square, but Iran didn't even have an active nuclear program. Israel has a secret nuclear program. Its Samson Option, in which it could directly use that nuclear program as blackmail against the West, has been well documented. And it's time to educate the public about the threat Israel poses. It's an apocalyptic threat, as we also explain how necessary it is to dismantle its apartheid system, which really is at the core of the global economic crisis that's afflicting almost everyone on the planet right now.

## **#Glenn**

Well, Max, thanks so much for taking time out of your very busy schedule. And I will leave a link to The Grayzone in the description. So thank you very much.

## **#Max Blumenthal**

Yeah, we've got a new piece up about these gun-for-hire attacks at The Grayzone. So thegrayzone.com is where you'll find it.

## **#Glenn**

I'll leave a link to that as well. Thank you. Thanks a lot.