

# Larry Johnson: Israel Just Triggered the NEXT WAR - Preparing for Yemen

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## #Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Thursday, June 24th, 2026, and our dear friend Larry Johnson is here with us. Welcome back, Larry.

## #Larry

Well, thank you. And let me just acknowledge for the group, for the people watching, that Nima has a shirt exemption today out of religious observance. So for Ashura, he is entitled to wear black. So he's not turning into Johnny Cash, but he is observing a religious principle. So I'm not going to make any comment, any insults about, "Where's the damn shirt?"

## #Nima

Yeah, Larry, I want to start with a tragedy that has happened in Gaza, in Khan Yunis. A 14-year-old boy was killed by Israelis, and there is a report by the UN on that. And here is what they said.

## #Speaker 03

Three questions today for Israeli people. A 14-year-old boy was shot by an Israeli military patrol as he was leaving his house. But at the time, there had been no fighting taking place. He was shot, badly injured, and was lying on the ground. He was surrounded by a company of Israeli soldiers who were chatting and probably some of them smoking. Over a period of 45 minutes, while this 14-year-old boy bled to death. As the mother sought to leave the house to go to the child to rescue him, she was shot at by the Israeli military patrol. What kind of people are your soldiers that allow a 14-year-old child to bleed to death over a 45-minute period? What kind of people are your military leaders that would inculcate a culture where soldiers feel free to do this? What kind of people are your leaders when they give orders, they make statements?

## #Speaker 04

The Commission's findings are that Israel targets children to weaken demographic vitality and deny the Palestinian people's rights. Based on all the evidence gathered, the report makes legal findings and concludes that the Israeli authorities and the Israeli security forces have deliberately targeted and killed Palestinian children and destroyed their childhood. Israeli authorities and the Israeli security forces are responsible for crimes against humanity, including persecution and war crimes in the Gaza Strip, and war crimes in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The report released today further substantiates our findings on genocide.

### **#Speaker 03**

I'm a lawyer, so I can only speak legally. There is no doubt whatsoever. There can be no doubt in anyone who reads today's report that every international legal norm has been violated by the actions of the Israeli authorities towards Palestinian children, and they need to be held accountable.

### **#Larry**

Yeah. Yeah. No, no, it's horrific. This is, you know, these are the kinds of atrocities that the Jews claim were visited upon them by the Nazis. And now, instead of, you know, they vowed never again, here they are engaged in doing it again, and doing it in the most brutal, inhumane fashion. And then they wonder why they're losing support in the United States. So there is that element of karma. But that kind of karma still doesn't replace the grief and the horror of a 14-year-old boy being murdered this way. They're shameful.

### **#Nima**

Yeah. We had the Israeli ambassador, Danny Danon. He says, I'm calling on the office of the Secretary-General to launch an official investigation into anti-Israeli bias among UN officials and in UN reports, an investigation into how anti-Semitism is normalized. You know, what's so amazing to me is that, you know, the way that Israel is behaving, I think as time goes by, many people are coming out and saying, who are these people? What is the main goal? Because they're hiding behind anti-Semitism. And most... every Jew I know is condemning Israel. Right. Basically every Jew that is my friend, that I know in my life. And these people are so unbelievably out of their minds.

### **#Larry**

Well, there's a prominent Jewish physician here in the United States who's an ardent Zionist, and he was condemning—this was in a private group chat—he was condemning Norman Finkelstein as an anti-Semite. Norman, who is Jewish, whose parents survived the Holocaust but nonetheless were incarcerated. And again, it's just typical when these Zionist extremists try to assert the right to declare who's Jewish, who's not Jewish, and then in the course of that justify these kinds of horrific attacks on children.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Larry, Channel 14 in Israel reported that the Israeli defense establishment is preparing for the possible resumption of military operations against the Houthis and Saleh in Yemen, and they're updating operational plans. What is happening? What is the reason to attack Yemen again?

## **#Larry**

Well, they have no reason right now. They could possibly gin up a reason if they said that the Houthis launched ballistic missiles into Israel, you know, which they potentially could do. But again, there's no justification for it right now.

## **#Nima**

It seems because of Lebanon, they're not, you know, because of the MOU and what's going on between Iran and the United States, they're not able to do any more attacks on Lebanon. Let's go after Yemen. Let's see how we can sabotage the whole thing, the whole talks, whatever it is.

## **#Larry**

But that would probably be foolish on their part to do so, simply because the Yemenis will fight back, and in the fight back, they will cause some significant damage to Israel. And, you know, again, it's a case of Israel biting off more than it can chew.

## **#Speaker 03**

Yeah.

## **#Nima**

Larry, finally, we had the Iranian president going to Pakistan, and what was mentioned there is important. And it's the same thing that we were talking about on this podcast, I think various times—many times we talked about it—about the new security structure of the region. And it was mentioned by the Iranian president in Pakistan. But when you look at the relationship between the two countries and the reaction, I don't know, from your sources—you talk with some Pakistani sources—how do they feel about the situation between Iran and Pakistan? And how is that gonna somehow help the whole security structure in the region?

## **#Larry**

Yeah, actually, the relations between Pakistan and Iran were not always great. There were always some tensions, sometimes over Pakistan's feeling that Iran was not acting aggressively enough

against some Baluchi terrorist threats, etc. But once the attack was launched on Iran on the 28th of February, Pakistan changed its attitude. And particularly after the assassination attempt on the then head of the parliament, Ali Larijani, Pakistan contacted both Iranian intelligence officials and political officials and said, look, we know how you're being targeted. We know what the Israelis are doing to locate your people and to kill them. So Iran accepted that help, and you'll notice that since then there have not been any of these high-profile assassinations. So Pakistan has played a prominent role in preventing that.

Their role in the talks back in Switzerland last Sunday also played a critical role. They intervened three times just to keep the Iranians from walking out in the face of insults from Donald Trump. At the same time, they convened a meeting of the other foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey for the express purpose of talking about constructing this new security architecture for the Gulf. So Pakistan, I think, the Iranians have come to recognize that Pakistan is an honest broker in this deal, and it is no longer willing to carry water for the United States, and that it is quite serious and sincere about both helping Iran survive, but in addition to surviving, creating a new security architecture that will protect not just Iran, but Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Egypt.

## **#Nima**

Axios reported today there was a meeting between the two sides, Lebanon and Israel. It says that it ended without progress. And I would be curious, what is the main goal of talks between the two sides when the government in Lebanon is not basically responsible for any sort of fight against Israel? So do you see the moment that they would bring maybe Hezbollah or some important players in Lebanon into the discussion, into sort of talks they have? And the other point is, Larry, that as we've seen, the president of Lebanon came out and said Israel has to withdraw totally from Lebanon, and this could have been done maybe because the United States is pushing for that, because the guy is not independent and we know that. How do you see the situation between the two, as Israel is denying maybe they're gonna get back to 2024, the sort of ceasefire they had, withdrawing from some regions, not totally from Lebanon?

## **#Larry**

Well, look, I think their initial goal was to see if they could make any progress with the Lebanese on going after Hezbollah. And I think the government of President Aoun was like, no, we're not going to do that. So after that, then Israel's got to figure out an accommodation, a way to withdraw its forces without appearing to withdraw, and then accept the new ceasefire arrangement with Hezbollah that will last forever—until the next desperate internal political disruption in Israel justifies an attack outside.

## **#Nima**

Because today it was reported that Benjamin Netanyahu held a security consultation with his cabinet about the situation between Syria and Lebanon, because they're afraid that the United States may bring Syrian forces into Lebanon to somehow force them out of Lebanon. I don't know what that means, but it seems that the Israelis are taking that seriously.

## **#Larry**

I don't see how Syria could do that. I know that Trump would talk openly about it, but it's absurd. The Syrian army doesn't have the logistical capability to support or sustain such an operation. These troops are not endowed with magical powers. They are, you know, they're up against having to, you know, having to get their own, you know, they just don't have the power. And Hezbollah has the infrastructure in place to defeat them. So, you know, I don't see any of that happening.

## **#Nima**

It could be an excuse for Donald Trump to use that argument. Everything is possible with Donald Trump. This is a problem.

## **#Larry**

Well, you know, again, Trump's got a problem. He's made a lot of promises and doesn't want to admit that the reality is that Iran still holds the keys here. Iran is still in control of the agenda, and by virtue of having Pakistan's support, that's the other element here.

## **#Nima**

Did they talk about Pakistan? Are they talking about Saudi Arabia as well? Or is it all about Iran?

## **#Larry**

Yeah, in fact, is it Friday that Sharif and Muneer are flying to Saudi Arabia? And to, you know, I think, seal the deal on providing, if you will, a nuclear umbrella to the Saudis. So this is, Pakistan is, you know, they're playing a major role right now in restructuring the whole regional security package.

## **#Nima**

Today, the head of the Iranian parliament was in Baku, Azerbaijan. He said that the security of one country cannot be at the expense of the insecurity of other countries. Basically, you know, this comes up because many people are arguing that Iran wants to dominate the region. They want to be, you know, a superpower. They want to, but that's not the case when it comes to the Iranian

government. You don't see any sort of sign that they want to do anything against any of these countries that were used against Iran during the war. Right. And the agenda, how is that going to be perceived by the Pakistani government, in your opinion? Do they understand the Iranian position?

**#Larry**

Which agenda?

**#Nima**

Agenda of dominating the region. That's not going to...

**#Larry**

Who? Iran dominating the region? Iran dominating the region? Because that's... that's the Western narrative. But that's not Iran's.

**#Nima**

Not only the Western narrative. You hear it in Kuwait, in the UAE, and maybe in Bahrain.

**#Larry**

Yeah, they're just parroting. They're repeating what they hear from the West. But Iran has demonstrated that it's not seeking to dominate any country there in the Persian Gulf. You know, it's looking for a partnership, in particular with Qatar. That would be the least likely of any of them to be ensnared in a, let's call it, a slave trap or become a lackey of Iran. That's not Iran. That's not how Iran operates.

**#Nima**

What is the mission of Rubio going to the UAE and Kuwait? It seems that during the talks or the negotiations, they were somehow kept in the dark. They don't know what's going on. That's why he's there, or is it something beyond that?

**#Larry**

No, no, I think that's why he's there.

**#Nima**

Did you hear Mark Rutte, Larry, today, talking about that?

## **#Larry**

No, I haven't heard that. I saw that he was on TV with Trump. I just saw it in the background. But what did he say?

## **#Nima**

Yeah, he said that. Five military bases, 500 U.S. military aircraft took off from bases in Italy to participate in attacks by the United States and Israel against Iran. And later on, Italy said, no, that's wrong, he's just lying. And when he's, I think they used it this way, he's giving us information that we didn't know about before. And Italy is somehow in some sort of panic because of that. Right now they need the Strait of Hormuz. And you see the Secretary General of NATO coming out and talking this way, that's a huge blow, that's a huge sort of problem for Italy.

## **#Larry**

Well, I'm just trying to see what the flight distance is. Okay, so 1,480 miles. If an F-35 took off from Italy, or an F-16 for that matter, the F-35's range is five, so trying to just fly home without combat loads, say maybe 600 miles. So they're going to have to be refueled at least twice if they took off from there and flew to Iran and then tried to fly back. So, you know, at least four total air refuelings each direction — you know, two going east, two going west, or vice versa. So, yeah, that makes sense.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. He also said that between 4,000 and 5,000 military flights were conducted from various European bases to support military operations against Iran. It seems that the whole of Europe was participating and helping attack Iran.

## **#Larry**

Well, I've heard that they're now starting to distance themselves from that, so we'll see.

## **#Nima**

The guy just destroyed. I think he came out and put out the information, and the countries are not happy with that. That's why you see Italy coming out saying, oh, we didn't do that. Because the war was not some sort of gain, some sort of victory to participate in. If it was a victory, that would make sense for him to come out and talk this way. But since the war was a loss for the United States and Israel, why do you need to put out this sort of information? Is that coming out of stupidity?

## **#Larry**

Yeah, more propaganda, trying to build yourself up to make you look like you're more important than you were. But that was, yeah, I didn't— that was what Ruto was saying today, huh?

## **#Nima**

No. I think the main reason that Europe is doing this is because of this raid foremost. They couldn't participate in it. They're being put under a lot of pressure by Fox News, those people who are backing Donald Trump, saying, "You, in this raid foremost, you didn't do anything." He said, "No, we did. They used our bases to attack Iran."

## **#Larry**

I mean, what were they supposed to do? They send some ships to get blown out of the water? You know, this is almost a... it's not an impossible military task. It's the kind of task that would require a lot of resources and risk potential significant losses—personnel, ships, and other things. And so you then have to step back and say, how important do we want this piece of property? Is this critical? We've got to take it over at any cost? All right, any cost can mean a lot of casualties on our part.

## **#Nima**

Are we going to learn about the casualties on the part of the United States during the war? Who's responsible for putting out the information on that data?

## **#Larry**

Yeah. Well, no, that's clearly either the Office of the President or the Office of the Secretary of War. They should put it out. And I think they've been covering up a lot of casualties. That's my impression.

## **#Nima**

The new report on CBS News said that several U.S. soldiers were wounded on March 1st. Now, in that attack, an Iranian drone struck the U.S. base at Kuwait—at the port of Shuaiba, something like that. We had the Defense Secretary, Pete Hegseth, say nearly 90% of the roughly 400 injured service members sustained minor injuries, which wasn't the case, as the new reports are coming out. And these people are going to come out.

## **#Larry**

They can't keep it covered up forever. And, you know, they may even have an incentive now to leak it to build more opposition to staying involved with the war, to basically sabotage Israel. One possibility, a little far-fetched.

## **#Nima**

Larry, two sides right now. One of them is the statement from Iran and Oman. The statement says that they have defined a new regime in the Strait of Hormuz. And the other side says that today there was a phone call between the Omani government and the Qatari government. It seems that during the call, they talked about the Strait of Hormuz, that Qatar rejected it and said, we're not going to accept that. In my opinion, one of the topics that Marco Rubio may have talked about with Kuwait and the UAE was the Strait of Hormuz. I don't know what the content was because he didn't mention any of that. And it seems that they're going to make some sort of opposition in the region against the new mechanism for the Strait of Hormuz. I don't know how far they can go and how influential that could be for the Strait of Hormuz because... What is your understanding of that?

## **#Larry**

So what's going on? Step back and look at the Strait of Hormuz in terms of the marine traffic right now. You go to a website called [marinetraffic.com](http://marinetraffic.com). Worth taking a look at for your viewers out there because—here, let me just show you.

There we go. So you look at it right now, the ships are going out. They're not coming in. And, you know, the *Jasa Mirni*, it's headed to Singapore. Then you got the *Boonan Miracle*. So that was listed, that may be the Philippines or something. Then you got the *Majestic*, TK Tanker *Majestic*, and it's going to Singapore. So I only see one ship that's inbound. It's a China-owned ship. It's called the *Yangji Li*. It's heading into the Strait of Hormuz. Everybody else is heading out. So that tells you right there that if the tankers thought they could get all this oil, man, they'd be rushing in there—fill us up, we get on the high seas, and go make some money. That's not happening. They've got reportedly too many mines in the region, and it has to be swept completely with a minesweeper and certified, you know, this area is safe to travel. And the ships have been sitting idle for four months.

They've got to be cleaned up. They may have so many barnacles encrusted on the shells of the ships that they'll have to, you know, just take those out and go get those cleaned. Then you've got, you know, are the oil tanks ready to be filled up? You know, it's just that there's too many obstacles. So what's taking place now is Iran is exporting oil. I don't know how many millions of barrels, but there's a rule of thumb: the very large crude carriers, what they call the VLCCs, carry upwards of about 2 million barrels, and then the Suez version of that carries about a million barrels. So if 19 million barrels got out, they didn't come to the United States. So that doesn't change the problem the U.S. has.

## **#Nima**

But the price of oil has been, you know, falling. It's 76-something.

## **#Larry**

Okay, wait, no, no. What price of oil? That's the question. Is that what you're actually paying at the dock when the ship arrives? No, no, they're paying a hundred and—uh, I just saw a stat, a figure from a database—\$106 right now. So that's a big difference between 70; that's a \$36 difference, yeah. And so all of the actual oil that's on the high seas is gonna be sold for much, much more than just \$70 a barrel.

## **#Nima**

Benjamin Netanyahu today said, "When I came to President Trump, I told him, 'We are going into Iran.' I didn't ask permission; I simply informed him of our plan."

## **#Larry**

And how did that work out? Not too well.

## **#Nima**

I think he's going to end up being removed from his position because right now the opposition—today the latest poll shows that out of 120 seats in the Knesset, the opposition is going to get something like 61. So they're going to have the majority of seats in the Knesset. Then it's going to be so easy to remove Benjamin Netanyahu. Let's see what would happen. I think the withdrawal from Lebanon would be a huge issue for Benjamin Netanyahu.

## **#Larry**

Of just not being tough enough. See, that's the thing people forget. They remove Benjamin Netanyahu. That doesn't fix the problem. That makes it worse because the people who are going to replace him are more hardline.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. But Naftali Bennett said that many people think that we want to annex Gaza, but we don't have that sort of agenda on our side. Netanyahu today said it's 70% of Gaza under the control of Israelis. So is there any sort of difference between the two? Maybe when it comes to domestic policy, but when it comes to foreign policy, they're basically the same.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, it's the same. There's no difference. I mean, that's the thing people need to recognize. They're looking for a great solution. Meanwhile, it's not just Donald Trump. It's the entire, let's call it, the Washington establishment and Fox News. They're basically telling the story that, oh, Iran got its ass kicked, Iran's lost, all this oil is flowing, happy days are here again. And it's not. They're going to be

shocked when they learn that this amount of oil that was flowing didn't come to the United States. It all went to China, Asia.

## **#Nima**

The estimation on the part of Israelis, Larry, in the southern part of Lebanon, is that 200,000 people were displaced from the southern part of Lebanon. And today, Israel's defense minister said, even if there is an American demand, we will not withdraw from Lebanon.

## **#Nima**

Do you think the demand is happening, as we talked about, from Donald Trump and his administration? And is that going to be supported by Republicans? He had a meeting today with Republicans.

## **#Larry**

And there was a, you know, somehow... Yeah, I mean, they should... Yeah. It is... There is confused messaging throughout. But the bottom line is the United States still has the leverage over Israel. Were that not the case, Israel would have been able to really shut down any further use of... you know, there wouldn't be an MOU signed. They'd be doing what they wanted to do. But in Lebanon, they've been stopped. They've been stopped for one reason — because the United States has the leverage.

## **#Nima**

Larry, the Financial Times reported that the Qatari minister said, you know, the Qatari prime minister stated that the regional countries are currently negotiating a new security agreement. It was reported by the Financial Times. And we had, in Russia, Medvedev today was talking about that. He mentioned again the same countries that were mentioned by the Iranian president. It seems that they have some sort of communication behind the scenes with the Russians, I think.

## **#Larry**

Not just behind the scenes.

## **#Nima**

Only what's going on in the region.

## **#Larry**

I'd say not just behind the scenes, but above, you know, above water. You know, they're not going to great lengths to hide this.

## **#Nima**

The focus right now is on the head of the Iranian parliament going to Azerbaijan, maybe Armenia. That's a priority for both the Iranians and the Russians.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, but their interests clash. The CIA wants to keep using its personnel to destroy Iran, dismantle it. And so even if there is a genuine desire by some state to try to get a peace agreement, they're going to work on it, it's going to be sabotaged.

## **#Nima**

The CIA basically is in Azerbaijan, if I'm not mistaken. Or in Armenia, they have their forces.

## **#Larry**

They're in both. I mean, they've got a station in both, I'm pretty sure.

## **#Nima**

We know that MI6 is there. The United Kingdom is there as well.

## **#Larry**

Spies stumbling all over each other.

## **#Nima**

Maybe the next fight is going to be in Armenia or Azerbaijan. I don't know how, because if the new security architecture is going to shape or reshape in the Middle East, then together, I would assume Russia would be part of that understanding. There's no way around it, because Russia is there, is part of the region, basically an ally of Iran, a partner with some sort of strategic partnership between the two. And Russia has a good relationship with Arab states, with GCC countries as well. So China—how China could come in is, they're not that vocal about what's going on in West Asia right now.

## **#Larry**

Well, yeah, but as I mentioned earlier, come Friday, China is reportedly going to be in Saudi Arabia signing some additional documents to secure the protection of Saudi Arabia. So, pretty, you know, pretty big deal.

## **#Nima**

Do you see, Larry, do you see the Trump administration somehow—today he said that General Motors is trying to produce more weapons. They're so willing to do that. Not only General Motors, they have other companies that want to produce more weapons. Are they going to produce any time soon to get back to war?

## **#Larry**

Well, how do you produce weapons that require rare earth minerals when you don't have rare earth minerals? Can you answer that for me?

## **#Nima**

They have a new contract with Armenia.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, but Armenia is not sitting there on a flood of rare earth minerals critical for military-industrial production, are they?

## **#Nima**

But refining, Larry, refining these minerals is so difficult. I don't know how Armenia has that technology. Do they have that technology, or are they going to send the crude material to the United States or somewhere else to refine them?

## **#Larry**

No, no, they have the capacity. You know, the United States put together a plan that Israel launched back in, yeah, man, was it 2014? And again, it was designed, you know, to provoke the Maidan, you know, provoke the riots. So, you know, this constant meddling by the United States in these internal affairs is, you know, they haven't backed away. And it's the same meddling whether you see it in Maidan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, or Iran. The United States intelligence community is very active in trying to undermine local authorities or get those authorities compromised so they have to cooperate with the United States.

## **#Nima**

Do you see any possibility for Le Pen to come to power in France?

### **#Larry**

Oh, Marine Le Pen, maybe. There may be another alternative to her. I don't see the folks claiming to run on Macron's coattails to be the ones who will be at the forefront. I think they've pretty much worn out their welcome, just like Keir Starmer. It's a contest between Starmer, Macron, and Merz in Germany. Who could be the most unpopular?

### **#Nima**

Here is her solution for Lebanon, Larry. She said, first, demand the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Second, prepare for the post-UNIFIL period and progressively disarm Hezbollah. Third, strengthen the Lebanese armed forces. It's somehow...

### **#Larry**

Wishful thinking. Yeah, I got that backwards. How do you strengthen the Lebanese armed forces after you've dismantled Hezbollah? Because what force are you going to use to dismantle Hezbollah? Hezbollah is not going to voluntarily lay down its weapons. Not at all. So, I mean, that's just, again, more delusional thinking by the West.

### **#Nima**

I think the whole political system, Larry, in Lebanon is the problem. Because when you say the president must be Christian, the head of parliament must be Muslim, or something like that, what is that?

### **#Larry**

This is not... That was the deal they concocted back in 1946. Try to, you know, this was a colonial territory then, still somewhat under the control of the French, but they had to create the illusion that this was an independent country and you had a democratic government. In fact, you did not. It was all a function of, you know, which group did you belong to? Did you have the right blood or the wrong blood? And ultimately, it was dealt with as, you know, this ultra-religious issue. But there you got the irony that some of the ones most strenuous about it, well, like Bibi Netanyahu, he's not religious, yet he fully buys into the, oh, God gave us this land, even though I don't believe in a God.

### **#Nima**

Yeah, that's... The European countries came together in support of Ukraine, and the Chancellor of Germany, Scholz, said that we're not going to back down. We're going to support Ukraine to the

end. I don't know what that means. The end is so important. The end, what does that mean for them? Starmer is out in the United Kingdom. I assume that he's going to be out soon in Germany, but I have no hope in Germany.

**#Larry**

You mean Merz will be out, not Starmer?

**#Nima**

Yeah, yeah, Merz. Starmer is just, he was supposed to resign. I suppose he resigned.

**#Larry**

Not until the end of August, first of September, somewhere in there. Yeah, I'm out, but until my party elects a new leader—Burnham is the rumored candidate—they'll continue in this sort of limbo state where Starmer is not really in charge of the government anymore and has been roundly rejected by many of his own people. So it's going to drift along. I think what we're going to see, even with this whole lash-up with Iran, is a drift over the next couple of weeks.

**#Nima**

Do you see Europe coming to, when it comes to the Strait of Hormuz, how do you see the move on the part of the Europeans politically? And what leverage do they have to move? Because they're talking about the Strait of Hormuz.

**#Larry**

Yeah, zero leverage.

**#Nima**

Without folds or fees.

**#Larry**

Yeah, zero leverage. You know, they got nothing. You know, the French aren't real happy with the zero leverage, you know, the zero guys. You know, Saudi Arabia is going to have its own issue. I mean, you know, everybody's going to be lining up to take a shot at the Americans because we're not that wildly popular.

**#Nima**

What is the solution, Larry, for Russians? Today I talked with Scott Ritter. He just came back from Russia. He said the main focus right now for Russia is how to deal with Starlink, because they're using all of these drones that Ukraine is using against Russia. Somehow they have to be linked to the internet connection. They have to be linked to Starlink to hit the targets. And do you see Russia somehow—actually, we saw yesterday, I saw one of the Starlink ground stations being hit by the Russians.

## **#Larry**

A satellite dish for uploading information.

## **#Nima**

A dish, yeah, something like that—a dish, something on the ground. It's not in space, no. And it seems the agenda is to go against Starlink in order to deal with Ukrainian drones.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, I mean, I understand that Russia actually deployed a new form of electronic warfare that's able to defeat what Ukraine is trying to bring to the battlefield. Plus, Russia's industry is so much bigger. They have more workers. Kyiv is just, you know, two cities and Jerusalem with a pile of dirt. That's what you, you know, that's what you get.

## **#Nima**

Do you feel that Vladimir Putin may decide on some sort of attack on these factories that are producing drones for Ukraine outside of Ukraine, maybe in some European countries?

## **#Larry**

Oh, yeah. No, I actually believe now, based upon what Putin said—he spoke today, the 24th—so, yeah, he spoke yesterday to the cadets graduating from military academies and other academies. And he was quite clear that, you know, basically the message was that Russia is ready. Russia is ready to respond. You know, we're not going to get caught—he basically said we're not going to get caught with our pants down like what happened in Barbarossa back in 1941. So he's...

He's pretty adamant about that. And he's put the West on notice. I think the West is on notice that they will be attacked, at a minimum, with Russian missiles at first. And if they try to retaliate, it'll escalate from there. So we've got the potential for an escalatory war.

## **#Nima**

In the mind of Donald Trump right now, everything is about the Middle East and the Strait of Hormuz. Every time he talks, he talks about the Strait of Hormuz and how beautifully he's getting everything out of the Strait of Hormuz and how many barrels—millions and millions of barrels—are getting out. But when it comes to Russia, you hear nothing, basically nothing, no argument, nothing being said recently about the conflict in Ukraine. And if you put yourself in the shoes of the Russian president and look at the situation right now, there is nobody, basically nobody, to talk with. When Donald Trump came to power, was elected, maybe the most—there were many people in Russia hoping that Donald Trump might change the tone in Washington. But that... has he?

## **#Larry**

It didn't. It's gotten worse.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Just imagine, before you... you've not been able to talk with Washington. Right now you have to talk with Steve Whitcomb and Jared Kushner.

## **#Larry**

Well, yeah. I mean, it is... um, at least when Witkoff and Kushner show up, they do have direct conversations with Russia. When the United States shows up in Switzerland, they only have indirect conversations with, uh, with Iran. You know, they can insult each other's mother across, you know, yelling, "Your mother wears combat boots," you know, that kind of thing. Um, but in both areas, the United States is not playing an active role to bring about peace. It's playing an active role to keep the fires burning, so to speak.

## **#Nima**

Larry, do you see the United States redefining itself in Eurasia? Or are they going to be the same way that they see themselves? The United States sees itself in West Asia in the eyes of Israelis, basically. I don't know how much of a change the war against Iran could bring to the American mindset, Washington's mindset. But when it comes to Eurasia, what would be the move on their part? Donald Trump, you remember, before coming to power, he was talking about, we need to make a better relationship with Russia. And even he talked about G7 being G8, and Russia joining that, which was...

## **#Larry**

But he's sending mixed messages. On the one hand, he says that, but on the other hand, he talks about giving more lethal weapons to Ukraine. And so, you know, if you're Russia, you look at that —

which guy is it, Dr. Jekyll or Mr. Hyde? He's like a split personality. So I... I don't hold out any hopes that Trump—well, let me hold out this hope. The key is going to be if they start redeploying the U.S. air assets this week. And hang on, I may have an update on that. Stand by. No major movements yet. So they still haven't—Trump still hasn't ordered all this fleet of aircraft to come back to the United States. So they're still in a place where they would be able to respond or launch attacks on Iran if Trump decides to do it again.

## **#Nima**

I don't see any sort of change in Europe being that substantial for the war in Ukraine. Let's assume Starmer is out, Macron is out, Merz is out. That's not going to change anything in Europe.

## **#Larry**

It may or may not. It depends on who replaces him. Reportedly, this Burnham guy who's going to replace Starmer is just as crazy about supporting Ukraine. I guess he's just as crazy about going after Iran as Starmer—well, supporting Israel and backing Ukraine. Same. Apparently, no real difference.

## **#Nima**

Because we had, in the eastern part of Europe, we had Orbán together with Fico. Orbán is out. That was a huge loss for Russia, in my opinion.

## **#Nima**

The guy who came in as the new prime minister of Hungary is very much in line or aligned with European policy.

## **#Larry**

No, no, no, no, no. You saw today, he voted against it. He actually took the same stance that Orbán had.

## **#Nima**

No, in terms of what? Military aid to Ukraine?

## **#Larry**

Yeah, I think that's what I thought. Maybe I misheard that.

## **#Nima**

Last time I heard, he's supporting European policy on Ukraine. But they're dependent on Russian energy, by the way. That's important on their part. Hungary is so dependent on Russia, and they have to decide.

**#Larry**

Yeah, Hungary has blocked the next stage of negotiations on Ukraine's EU membership.

Prime Minister Péter Magyar was forced to consider the antipathy of a significant part of Hungarian society towards Volodymyr Zelensky. And that's been repeated on a lot of Telegram channels today.

**#Nima**

That could be a positive move. Let's see. Fico, he's not that vocal. Fico is somehow... The big boys, the big influencers in Europe are those Western countries, the Western part of Europe. And they're not gonna leave their position. They're not gonna abandon their position anytime soon on Ukraine.

What do we know, Larry, before wrapping up? What do we know about the new election in Ukraine? Are we going to see that?

**#Larry**

Don't hold your breath. That ain't happening. Otherwise, you'll pass out.

**#Nima**

And you remember how Donald Trump was bragging about that, the fight between Donald Trump and Zelensky in Washington. He's going to do this, he's going to do that. I assume we're going to have the same scenario with the talks between Iran and the United States. It's all about making noise.

**#Larry**

Yeah, that's all. No, that's true.

**#Nima**

Thank you, Larry.

**#Larry**

All right, we'll see you tomorrow.

**#Nima**

See you tomorrow.

**#Larry**

Alright, my friend. Bye bye.

**#Nima**

Bye-bye.