

# Paul Craig Roberts: Greater Israel vs. Iran: The Lobby's Real Endgame

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## #Nima

The main reason that you see Donald Trump somehow in such a hurry or rush to negotiate or make some sort of deal with Iran is basically what he mentioned in the last two days. He's been talking about the oil reserves of the United States. There are multiple reports on Reuters, CNN, and others saying that the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve is at a 43-year low. The United States Petroleum Reserve has fallen to about 340 million barrels, the lowest level since 1983—a sharp decline since the Iran war started. They said it was a decline of something like 18%. Seventy-five million barrels were used to balance the market because they were using the oil reserves to stabilize it. And one of the main reasons, as Donald Trump himself pointed out, is that this is a problem, and we have to do something about it. And it's all related to what's going on with the Strait of Hormuz.

Looking at the summit between the United States and Iran in Switzerland, basically the main point on the part of the United States was the Strait of Hormuz. They have created a hotline, you know, a new hotline of communication between the two sides, considering the problems in the Strait of Hormuz, in order to manage that, to not have any sort of problem as time goes by, because they know what's going on between Israel and Lebanon, and they don't want that happening again—the closure of the Strait of Hormuz or reducing the flow of tankers, all of that. We know the Iranians have used mines in that region. So you see the flow of tankers, but it's not as it was before. You know what I'm saying. We have fewer tankers passing through this, which is not the case, by the way. And how do you see the reason this is a strategic problem for the United States if the war continues or if the blockade continues?

## #Paul

Well, no, I don't see a strategic problem if what the government tells us is correct. The United States is self-sufficient in oil. So if we are self-sufficient in oil, that means we can do without any oil from the Persian Gulf. Now, the Strategic Reserve was set up many, many years ago before we regained self-sufficiency in oil. How we regained it, I don't know. Part of it was fracking, a new process they

used to extract oil from rock. A part of it may be new fields they discovered. But allegedly, we, being the United States, are self-sufficient in oil. We don't need to import oil, and therefore we don't need the Strategic Reserve. It was set up in a time when we were not independent, self-sufficient in oil.

And we released from it to try to hold down the oil price while Trump was talking about blocking the Straits, thinking wrongly that it would hurt Iran, thinking that they couldn't do without the revenues from oil sales. Well, that was a mistake on the part of the United States government. So the reason I think Iran—sorry, Trump—is stressing the Strategic Reserve is to shut up the American opponents of his effort to work out something with the Iranians, because the Israel lobby has worked its magic, or horror, on the American population and is claiming that Trump is selling out Israel, that Trump is making deals with the Iranian terrorist state and selling out Israel.

So Trump is saying, look, we've got to have a deal because of the oil crisis. And we have to get the oil price down so you can afford to buy gasoline for your car so you can go to work. And so I think that's what it's about. For Trump, it's not really about we're in a crisis and have to make an agreement. This is his way of responding to the pressure the Israel lobby is putting on the population. And he's saying, well, you know, what price of gasoline do you want to pay? So I think that's all that is, Nima. I mean, I may be wrong, but I don't see how it's a crisis if we are self-sufficient in oil, which is what we're told. But of course, we're told lies all the time.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. But the problem is most refineries in the United States are designed for heavy oil, right? And while the oil produced by the United States is usually light oil, they have to import heavy oil for the production of diesel, for example, which is different and is a product of heavy oil. That's the main reason for this—the price of oil going up, the petroleum gas going up. Why is that if the United States is self-sufficient?

## **#Paul**

It's the oil companies. They're private. They see an opportunity to get a windfall. They have been too greedy. They have done a lot of damage. And of course, we've stolen the heavy oil from Venezuela. We now have all the heavy oil we want. That's Venezuelan oil, it's very heavy. It's not the light oil, the Brent crude. It's not the light oil from Saudi Arabia. It's heavy. And we stole it from Venezuela. So I don't think the United States faces an oil crisis. And Trump is stressing the strategic reserve and it being low. But we don't need it if we are self-sufficient, as they say. So I don't see that as putting any pressure. The pressure on Trump, I think, is he hasn't any way to continue the war. See, what can he do?

Our attack failed, and the Iranian counterattack was winning. We had to ask for a ceasefire because we were defenseless. They blew up our radars. We didn't have enough missiles to intercept theirs. Israel was a sitting duck. So Israel and the United States asked Iran to stop the war. And I said on

your program, it was a mistake. Iran should not have. They should have gone on and won it. But they made a blunder. And so what's going on right now, the media calls it peace negotiations, but that's not true. The only negotiations so far are about the points Iran insists have to be met by the United States before they're willing to negotiate. So the United States has got to stop the Israeli military activity in Lebanon.

The United States has got to not interfere with oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz during the period of negotiations. That is for those 60 days. The United States has got to release the Iranian assets that the Americans froze or stole or whatever. And the United States has to accept that the waterway is a question of Iranian sovereignty and that movement through the strait will be controlled by Iran and Oman together in agreement. So first of all, the United States has to agree to those. And of course, the hardest thing is to make Israel stop the military aggression in Lebanon. Now, if the United States is able to comply with those terms, then peace negotiations start, and they have 60 days.

If they don't produce an agreement at the end of 60 days, possibly if they're close, there could be an extension. Otherwise, all the agreements are off. Israel can renew its military aggression. The United States can again try to block the Strait. We don't have to give Iran any more of its money, and we don't have to agree that the Iranians and the Omanis can collect a fee for using the waterway. So that's what the situation is. That's the real situation. That's not what the media says. The media acts like we've already got a peace deal and the negotiations have started. The negotiations are about whether you Americans will abide by these terms, because those are the only terms Iran will agree to talk. So that's all that's being established right now. So,

## **#Nima**

Paul, there is some sort of panic in Israel. They don't know what to say, what to do. You see on Channel 13, they say that Trump is holding back Israel in all areas, not just in Lebanon. It was reported on Channel 13. And they're attacking the Zionists in the media, in the mainstream media, in the United States. Mark Levin and those people, the politicians, they're attacking right and left. They're attacking J.D. Vance and Donald Trump. And what is their understanding? Because somehow they're feeling the panic—is that what is happening to Donald Trump? Why has he changed his mind toward Israel? And I don't know if you saw the clip on Channel 14 in Israel, which is, by the way, so close to Benjamin Netanyahu. And here is what they reported on Channel 14.

## **#Speaker 03**

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## **#Speaker 03**

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## **#Nima**

Paul, just for those people who couldn't read the subtitle of the video, it's Israel Channel 14. It says the guy is suggesting that Iran is using electromagnetic low-frequency weapons to influence Donald Trump's decisions. And it says they implanted these waves into his brain. There has been a noticeable change in the President's behavior, Trump's behavior. It's like, you know, it's like telepathy. But, you know, it says it's all about electromagnetic, you know, sort of... It says Russia has it, China has it, and Iran has it. So they're using it to influence Donald Trump. You know, that's why you see the surprise, the shock within the society. They're trying to come out with some sort of explanation of what's going on. What is your take on that?

## **#Paul**

Well, I think... I doubt the Israelis actually believe anything like that. They're too sophisticated. But I think what they're doing is rousing up the Zionists, particularly the ones in America, to put more pressure on Trump. And they seem to be succeeding. This Miriam Adelson, the multibillionaire American Jewish woman, apparently owns a Jewish newspaper. And unless it's a fake news story,

## **#Nima**

Israel Hayom. No, Israel Hayom. She owns Israel Hayom. They attacked Donald Trump for his...

## **#Paul**

They said that Trump has betrayed Israel. He sold out Israel. And since she is Trump's heaviest financial supporter, and she is influential with the other Jewish American billionaires, this is a way of putting a lot of pressure on Trump. And of course, there are the so-called Christian Zionists in the United States, and they are a part of Trump's MAGA supporters. And of course, there are other Jewish newspaper editors and reporters, and there's a lot of pressure that comes on Trump. But the real question is, what can you do? Now you've got him into a war that Trump thought was going to be easy, quickly over with, and a clear success.

And he found that there was nothing. We were defeated. We couldn't do anything. And he doesn't have any further war option except nuclear weapons, which is hard to justify because Iran hasn't done anything to us except repel an attack we made on them. So where is the existential problem for the United States to have to go nuke a country? So it's very difficult for him to use nuclear weapons to resolve it. But that's the only way he can stay in the war. What can he do? We know they cannot land troops and conquer Iran. They have no prospect of that. They don't think so themselves. The Pentagon dismisses that.

We know the American Navy can't get anywhere close to the Strait of Hormuz. They'll be sunk. The Americans lost all of their expensive radars that they had in the Persian Gulf states. They don't have

any warning system. They have a very low supply of interceptor missiles. They can't intercept the incoming Iranians, and neither can Israel. So for Trump, the Israeli demands don't make any sense. What do you want me to do? I can't do anything. You told me we would attack them and they'd collapse. They didn't. They defeated us. Now, he won't admit in public that we're defeated. He continues to say we've smashed them to bits. There's nothing left. Well, it's obviously not true.

So that's Trump's problem. He has to get out because he can't stay in. And that's the main driving thing of this. He can't find any way to continue the war. And he's facing midterms, and a lot of people don't support the war. Even people who support Israel are unsure about the war. So it's a situation that the Israelis, I think, are refusing to understand, and it may hurt them. Because it has to be frustrating for Trump to go against, or to be perceived as going against, Israel. But he really hasn't any alternative to trying to end this conflict. See, no one has come up. We don't have a plan from the Secretary of War on how we can continue the war. The State Department doesn't have a plan on how we can use diplomacy to organize the Middle East against Iran.

You know, these are the kind of things that you would have to do to continue the war. The State Department would have to be out talking to the Turks and Saudi Arabians, to whoever — help us move against Iran, help us force this or that on the Iranians. The War Department, they call it now — the War Department would have to have some sort of attack scenario that was possible, feasible. Well, none of this happens because none of it's feasible, and so that's the reason that Trump wants out. And the things that he says are just in reply to pressures. If he says, "Well, we have an oil crisis," that's to get people off his back from trying to stop the war — the Israeli people off his back because, oh, we'll have a crisis over oil.

So I wouldn't pay much attention to what he says because they're all responses, and most of them are inconsistent with one another. And just keep in mind that his real problem is he got involved in a war that he couldn't prevail in, and he has no way of continuing it. And so he's trying to get out of it. And I think that the Israelis will just end up accepting that because, in fact, Nima, let me try this on you — I wouldn't be surprised if all of this is just another Israeli-American deception. Let's pretend we're feuding. Let's make an agreement. Let me make an agreement. And after a couple of years, the Iranians will be making money. They'll be happy. Their awareness will go down.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard will lose its edge. People will say, we don't need this military preparation. We've got a peace agreement. And they'll get soft. They'll lose their awareness. And then we can start it over. That's entirely possible, what's going on — that this is just a deception, an act of deception that the Americans and the Israelis are using to put the Iranians off guard, to soften them. Let them be rich for a while and comfortable and easy, and they won't need the military. The military will lose its edge and its importance. That's entirely possible, what this is all about. The Americans and the Israelis are extremely deceptive people. They thrive on deception. That's entirely possible.