

Putin Rains MISSILE HELL on Ukraine as Iran's BOMBSHELL Stuns Trump

Russia's massive attack on Ukraine overnight has rattled the US-NATO axis and marks a reality check in the war. Danny Haiphong breaks this down plus the Iranian bombshell leaving Trump confused and desperate. LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritho> #russia #ukraine #trump

#Danny

Welcome to the show, everyone. Larry Johnson will join us later on in the program. But for right now, let's get to the news. Hit the like button as you come on. Well, the big news is that Russia delivered a massive retaliatory strike on Ukraine. This is according to Russia's defense ministry, but we have demonstrative proof. Military-industrial sites, energy infrastructure, military airfields, and all kinds of infrastructure were damaged in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Poltava—I can't pronounce these names.

But here is the Antonov industrial factory in Kyiv, which experienced massive fire from Russian missile and drone attacks. This is one of the chief producers of Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles, otherwise known as drones. According to Ukraine itself, the damage was massive. There were over 30 ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles, Zircon, Kalibr, and the like that hit Ukraine in a 30-minute span. The attack overall lasted for about 11 hours, with between 476 and 496 drones and 74 total missiles, according to Ukraine's own defense ministry, having hit regions of Ukraine, primarily Kyiv.

Now, of course, this is in retaliation for the drone attacks that have been plaguing Russia, according to Western mainstream media, with even some going so far as to say, like The Independent and other British media, MI6 media, CIA, mainstream corporate media, all screaming about Putin admitting that drone attacks are having a big effect on Russia. But of course, when these attacks happen on Ukraine, we hear very little from the mainstream media about their impact. So let's go over exactly the targets that were hit in this overnight strike. That's one of them, but here is the other. Here are more—a huge list from the Russian Defense Ministry. The Antonov plant, which I showed you, which produces these unmanned aerial vehicles.

The Radionix plant, which produces the control systems for the Flamingo, this long-range missile that is supposed to be domestically produced by Ukraine; anti-aircraft missiles under the Klon project. The Atlan-Avia scientific production company. The Kyiv Radio Plant, which modernizes and produces sights and guidance devices, components, and almost all unmanned aerial vehicle reconnaissance and strike drones. The Kyiv-25 enterprise, which produces electronic warfare systems. A transport and logistics center called MLP Chayka, a storage base for unmanned aerial vehicles, missiles, and other munitions. The Kyiv-3 fuel storage depot, gas distribution stations to ensure the operation of military enterprises.

And I don't know if you catch this, the pattern here with these strikes, but they are all military in character. This is a stark difference from what Ukraine is doing, which targeted, of course, fuel depots in the Moscow area that mostly impact civilians, and, of course, in Lugansk, the Starobelsk strike on the university, which killed dozens of students, faculty, and others—civilians—absolutely no relation to the military conflict. And that is what Ukraine means when they say they are bringing the war home. Well, I like to actually use Al Jazeera a lot for understanding how the Western mainstream media actually reports on this, because even though it is Qatari in character, it does demonstrate and show often the Western mainstream media point of view.

And they report on at least 18 having been killed in Kyiv in these massive strikes. Dozens were also injured as Ukraine's forces defended against the ballistic missile and drone barrage targeting the capital. Oftentimes, actually, what you will hear in these publications is that a lot of these missiles and drones were intercepted, and no doubt some were. But the air defense capabilities of Ukraine are often overblown. At least 18 people have been killed and several have been injured in a Russian missile and drone attack on Ukraine's capital, which came just hours after Zelensky warned of this massive attack. The country's emergency services said the toll had risen by Thursday afternoon after Zelensky earlier reported several people dead and 90 injured from these attacks.

Damage from the strikes also included six floors of an apartment building that had partially collapsed after a direct hit from a Russian projectile, said Vitaly Klitschko. Now, this, of course, always has to be verified. This information hardly ever is. But we do know that Ukraine has a huge history of using Western missile interceptors and those interceptors malfunctioning following the missile and drone attacks by Russia. So oftentimes, similar to in Iran, when Iran was firing into the Gulf, you had, in Bahrain for example, the Bahraini military and the U.S. military trying to use air defense interceptors.

Oftentimes they don't work. As we've had experts on the show, like Larry Johnson and Scott Ritter, say, they malfunction. They end up hitting residential buildings. So we need to actually know whether this is true or not. We don't. We can't take Ukraine's word for it because Ukraine lies just as much as Israel and the United States do. So Kyiv is under attack from ballistic missiles and UAVs, said Klitschko on Telegram that evening. And here they report on 476 drones, 25 ballistic missiles,

and 12 drones hitting 33 locations. So they're saying, this is the report, that air defense units downed or neutralized 48 missiles and 476 drones, with only 37, it looks like, of the drones and missiles hitting 33 locations.

So, of course, they tout their air defenses. But nonetheless, the targets that were hit were massively significant and make up a huge portion of what is really just phase one, or an initial phase, of what I believe is a massive retaliation against Ukraine for these attacks. And now, here is how Russian media reported on this, because we can't just take Ukrainian-aligned media at their word. Russian forces deliver retaliatory massive strike on Ukraine. This is from TASS. Russian troops delivered this massive strike on industrial energy sites, infrastructure, and military airfields in the following regions.

In retaliation to Ukraine's terrorist attacks on civilian facilities on Russian territory, the Russian Armed Forces delivered a massive strike by ground-based and seaborne long-range precision weapons and attack unmanned aerial vehicles on enterprises of the military and industrial sector, fuel, and energy located in Kiev and the Kiev region, as well as the regions surrounding Dnepropetrovsk, Poltava, Cherkasy, Chernigov, and the Kiev region. So that is the latest update there. You know, I think what's critical to mention here when it comes to these massive strikes is that we have seen an intense narrative in the Western mainstream media about Russia being under massive pressure.

Constantly, we are hearing that Vladimir Putin is under pressure from the Russian people, under pressure by military sources, that there is grumbling about whether there should be a more massive response or whether there can even be a more massive response to these attacks. And I'll show you exactly what is being said about this. And it's really critical. It's really ultimately a propaganda war. And here is Al Jazeera again, right, saying Ukrainian drone attacks on energy infrastructure are intensifying fuel shortages in Russia, triggering a rare admission from Vladimir Putin of the gravity of the situation.

But mind you, what's really critical to note is that in this same speech that they are citing, this same interview where he says that there are fuel shortages in the regions that were being attacked by Ukrainian drones, it was said that these shortages are not critical in nature and that they are being repaired and resolved in a rapid manner. So what we are essentially seeing is a propaganda war against Russia in a very sensitive time globally, when all eyes have been on, for so many months now, the conflict, the war, the U.S.-Israeli war of aggression on Iran. This has really been a time for the United States, for NATO—first of all, the United States—to absolutely ignore the conflict, at least in political, rhetorical, and propaganda terms, right?

Attempt to diminish it as a significant development in the world and continue on with the status quo, hopefully without any accountability. But nonetheless, all eyes have been on Iran, and it was being spun over and over again that Ukrainian drone attacks were having a massive impact on the morale and on the overall outcome of the conflict when nothing of the sort was actually occurring.

So this is how the United States and NATO turn other wars into an opportunity to promote their own propaganda and try to shift the narrative back to, or even more into, this idea that Russia is the one on the back foot and not Ukraine. And it's curious because they don't talk about the battlefield anymore at all. You don't hear about it. You only hear about Ukrainian drone strikes. But nonetheless, they won't show you images like this, when Russia strikes, and how significant they can be in terms of doing damage. I mean, this is some of the damage that is coming out of Kiev after these strikes. It's massive. It is significant.

It sends people into the shelters. It only further degrades Ukraine's morale in fighting a war of attrition that the United States and NATO have been pushing forward now since February 2022. And so this is one of the many fronts where the United States and NATO do not have a solution. They cannot alter the situation on the battlefield. This is becoming ever more clear, even in the words of the Institute for the Study of War and other mainstream publications and analysts. They don't even talk about the battlefield unless they are making broad claims that Russia can't move forward. They say Russia is only moving a few kilometers ahead.

Russia is unable to take these territories, when in reality, Russia has been expanding the scope of its territorial supremacy and its ability to advance all throughout this period to the degree that it has sought to expand and has been incurring, yes, significant losses due to Ukraine's consistent churning in and out of soldiers, men, mercenaries. Mercenary institutions were targeted in these latest strikes as well because Ukraine does use quite a number of foreign mercenaries from the NATO countries and from elsewhere in order to fight this continued hot war, this continued dirty war. And we are going to continue to see, I believe, these strikes happen.

The more that Ukraine tries to use pinprick drone attacks as the method of war for Ukraine, for intimidating and for attacking Russia, this is the strategy now for the U.S. and NATO. It's to try to terrorize the civilian population. What do they say? Bring the war home to Russia. Bring the war home to Russia. That is the slogan now of the United States and NATO, which honestly is unsurprising in many ways, because even as this attack has happened, you have publications like the New York Times, for example, publishing articles that romanticize what is war criminality. I named all of those targets that Russia hit, and all of them were military in character.

This is the New York Times today. This fetishization of bringing the war home to Russia, really all it is is a declaration that Ukraine is going to continue to kill ordinary Russians, and it's going to take the war off the battlefield, or, you know, it'll continue to churn and have, you know, into the meat grinder, the men that it does, that they kidnap and then throw out there. But the main crux of the propaganda war now, which is the only war that they really have in their favor because of the United States' massive corporate media apparatus, is to spin a narrative with these drone attacks that they're bringing it home to Russia. Will it work, they say.

Over the past few months, Ukraine has taken the war to Russia. Hundreds of drones and missiles are now regularly flying into Russian territory, sometimes causing chaos. Ukraine has been attacking

Crimea, which was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014, to the point that authorities on the peninsula have declared a state of emergency. Now, this is nothing new. Ukraine has been attacking Crimea since 2014. They've been conducting absolutely criminal infrastructure attacks on the Kerch Bridge, for example. It's absolutely criminal what they do, but this is, again, the strategy. Four and a half years after Russia invaded, something qualitatively different seems to have shifted in this long, grinding war. So this is what they're saying — that something has shifted for Russia.

It's a grinding war. Russia is not having a good year, and Ukraine is making it worse by doing these drone attacks. There is now actual discontent within the ranks of the Russian government, that there is a tiring, a fatigue of the war, and now Ukraine is taking advantage of this. But unfortunately, this does not necessarily comport with reality. Vladimir Putin briefed the military in recent days, conducted an interview where he said that actually Russia is making quite significant gains on the battlefield, and that the Russian government is committed to taking care of any issues that arise in this manner, especially when it comes to Ukraine's attacks on civilian infrastructure, people, and of course, energy infrastructure.

Now, Russian energy is not struggling to any significant degree. We haven't seen any evidence that Russian GDP is declining. We do have inflation problems because there still are sanctions in many different areas. But nonetheless, the Russian economy remains very robust — so robust that the Russian currency still performs very, very well compared to the dollar. It has been one of the highest-performing currencies in recent years, and that is a testament to the fact that there is massive reinvestment back into the Russian economy. And this is even from Meduza, which is a Russian opposition, pro-Ukrainian-aligned organization, saying that the ruble leads world currencies in gains against the dollar.

It's cutting into revenues, though, for Russian exporters and the state economy. They say it's a bad thing, but ultimately, there's the "don't let the Kremlin shut us down." They say it's a bad thing for exporters, but nonetheless, Russia has found no problem exporting its energy to willing partners like China. It has had no problems becoming more and more of a focal point for multipolarity and BRICS. Now, of course, there are struggles. Of course, this is war. Of course, people have been dying. Of course, there have been issues with the war in general.

It's a war of attrition, so it is one that people have to endure. Vladimir Putin's approval rating and the approval rating of the Russian government, yes, have gone down relative to other periods of the special military operation, now at about 79% approval. Still massively high. Politicians in the United States and the political class rarely ever get above 50%, if they ever get 50%. Actually, it's seen as very successful when U.S. presidents have approval ratings hovering near 50%. But nonetheless, unlike in, like, years 2023, for example, 2024, where Putin was getting somewhere between 80 and 90% approval, now it's 79, right?

Now it's somewhere 5 to 10 percentage points lower, and in many respects that has something to do with the fact that it's not that Russians don't support the special military operation, it's that, of

course, war is tiring. War does have economic consequences, and there will always be problems that arise when something like this drags on the way it does. But nonetheless, 79 percent still say that Russia is doing what it needs to do and that Vladimir Putin is worth supporting based on not just the special military operation but the overall job of the presidency. So this is ultimately where we are with the Ukraine conflict. We have a whole narrative about whether Putin can hold out, whether Russia can hold out, but in the global scheme of things, this war has already been, when it comes to the massive missile attacks, when it comes to the fact that many Russian observers and people who understand Russia's military, they say that Russia has really only expended 1% of its arsenal or demonstrated 1% of its arsenal in this entire period.

It's obvious that Russia has taken a strategic choice to conduct war in this way, and it may not satisfy those who want to see big fireworks every single day, who want to see a quick and rapid kind of Hollywood-esque vision of a war. It won't satisfy those people who exist in the world, whether in the collective West or elsewhere. But nonetheless, this way of fighting the war has allowed Russia to maintain a semblance of economic stability, and it's allowed Russia to fight the war in a winning manner at the same time. And that is incredibly smart and has to be acknowledged as incredibly smart, because no matter how many weaknesses or issues there are, right?

Russia is not a quote-unquote perfect society. It is one that has to deal with corruption. It has to deal with the impact of sanctions. It has to deal with the impact of war. And there are negative consequences to these things, like, hell, the death of thousands of Russians, which has occurred. But Russia's stature has only grown during this conflict. It wasn't too long ago we were speaking about Russia like we were speaking about Iran right now. So when it comes to Russia, when sanctions hit, Biden, in a similar position to Trump, thought Russia was going to collapse. He said it. He said, oh, well, we can't have Putin in power. The sanctions are going to do it.

The EU thought, you know, Brussels, Ursula von der Leyen and these types, they were all so convinced that Russia was on death's door. And it turns out that Russia, instead of being on death's door, actually accelerated its economic growth through sanctions, rewired its economy to focus on domestic needs and consumption, etc., doubled down on a war economy, and massively energized its military-industrial complex. And here we are, years later, and Russia is still fighting this war with no sign of collapse in sight, no matter if you want to acknowledge problems, which are honestly and quite clearly difficult to document because they are not as big as the Western mainstream media would have you believe they are.

So this, in effect, is, you know, Russia... In many ways, some have hoped that Russia would take an Iran kind of approach to this conflict and just steamroll Kyiv with its heavy missile arsenal. And while that is very attractive, I think Russia still has, and it's quite clear that it still has, an idea that it wants to ultimately bring Ukraine back into the fold of a family of nations. You know, Russia used to be the Soviet Union, Ukraine used to be in it, and Russia still has hope, I think, of regional integration and doesn't want to abandon the idea that Ukraine could one day be part of that, especially since Ukraine is right on the border. So a war of attrition allows for the United States and NATO to have

no ability to build up their military resources there anymore, to strengthen their proxies, the Nazis, etc.

And it gives some hope that one day there will be a governing system inside Ukraine that will be more neutral, more aligned, more focused on regional integration, etc. This is my assessment of the situation and why Russia continues to fight this way, despite all of the frustrations that a lot of people have about it, which I totally understand. I've been covering this war since 2022. We've had to cover the war here on this channel against Iran for so long because of how intensely geopolitical, global, economic, and militarily significant it was. But nonetheless, this war in and of itself, it's really important to understand why Russia would take the means and methods it is taking versus the opposite, which is to attempt to steamroll, maybe lose any potential for Ukraine becoming anything other than a destroyed entity that might bear resentments.

Mind you, anti-Russia sentiment and Russophobia, all of that has been baked so deeply into Ukrainian civil society that it's going to take many years for that to change. And I think this is also why Russia is taking a more measured approach, as it still is pushing on both front lines. It's about to get to Kramatorsk and Kupiansk. It's getting toward these areas that are going to break the logistical backs of Ukraine on the battlefield. And of course, it will continue to degrade Ukraine's military capabilities to the point where it won't be able to win on the battlefield, and hence we have this movement toward Russian victory that we've had for so many years now—actually, since this conflict shifted in character after the first six months or so. Of course, there was that short-lived offensive years ago, right?

Yeah, that Ukraine undertook in 2024 some offensives. Since then, Ukraine hasn't really had many gains at all. Now it relies on drone warfare via pinprick strikes that are meant to look— we had Mark Sleboda on the show, he literally says these drones are filled with kerosene, right? To make them look like they are exploding and causing vastly more damage than they actually are. So truthfully, it's a desperate situation for Ukraine, it's a desperate situation for the United States and NATO. You have Donald Trump even today, right? This is— it's really important to note that. Don't take this rift too seriously, okay? Don't take it too seriously. But it has to be said that the United States is now on a path of singularity, as Scott Ritter would call it.

But really, what it's on the path of is attempting to make itself look like it doesn't need any allies, that it's so superior. This is what a desperate empire does. And it's still, even on the cusp of this NATO summit coming up, Trump is attacking NATO. Why? Because Trump wants to do what the United States has been doing for years and years and years — it wants to make Europe, Western Europe, even more subservient to the United States than it already is. And so this is why he puts out posts like this, literally today after this strike: "The United States spends more money on NATO than any other country by far to protect them without getting any benefit from doing so. The U.S. \$999 billion, U.S. only 90.5, France less at 66.5," on and on and on and on and on.

Of course, now we are seeing the truth of the matter here, guys. Not only is this NATO summit coming up going to be a complete flop, but it's going to focus not on the conflict in Ukraine, which the neocons and the warmongers so want it to be focused on because of the desperate situation and because it would help their narrative of, "Oh, well, we have Russia on the back foot. Well, now let's seize the time." Well, Donald Trump and the U.S. administration are going to go in there with a different agenda, an agenda that has been in the works for many, many, many years already, which is that no, that's not going to be the case.

We're going to talk about you giving us more money so you can get saddled with more military-industrial complex junk, and so that your economies can be more subservient to us, more like the United States is, and therefore more opportunities for things like austerity, for becoming more indebted to the United States and the like. This is a huge financial and military heist that the United States is trying to pull on Europe. And Europe, of course, with its weak leadership, its puppet leadership, they are going to bend over and say, "Okay, how hard?" Right? That is where we are in this conflict.

I don't know how anyone could see Ukraine being on the march toward victory when everything shows that the United States and NATO are very desperately either trying to spin this conflict in favor of Ukraine or trying to, in the propaganda realm, put eyes somewhere else. But now there's other news that we have to get to. So these massive strikes were incredibly important. But Iran has also been making interesting inroads on this MOU business, and we had to talk about this because there's also a lot of controversy about the MOU. So the reports are today from the Wall Street Journal that Iran has rejected.

It's a U.S. offer, right? So they're going through mediators in Switzerland. The technical talks have actually ended, but they continue to happen through intermediaries in all kinds of forms. So Qatari, Pakistani, Omani, right? There are all kinds of mediators and players who are trying to take messages back and forth because Iran is not meeting with the United States right now. Everyone should understand this. There's no Abbas Araghchi and Marco Rubio or anything like that going on, right? Cross-table talks. Iran rejected an offer to unfreeze funds in exchange for dropping a plan to charge ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

Washington and Oman have been trying to break Iran's insistence on imposing tolls by using access to part of Iran's \$100 billion in frozen overseas funds as leverage. Iran didn't take the bait. Instead, Iran doubled down on control of the Strait, demanding Iran-designated routes and pushing a toll system—a fee structure that could generate up to \$40 billion annually. Iran has said this is a bombshell for Trump: no compromise over the Strait of Hormuz, no control over the Strait of Hormuz for CENTCOM. And it's important to note that the details of this are that the United States—guess what they offered?—\$6 billion. So we've seen this in the MOU. An initial amount was supposed to be \$12 billion in unfrozen funds, and it seemed like Qatar was ready to release them.

But what's happened behind the scenes is the United States has tried to do at the negotiating table what it couldn't do on the battlefield, which is what? To try to seize victory from the jaws of defeat. And now they're trying to use leverage over the points in the MOU, which are not points. They're not points of leverage to be negotiated over. This is what is incredible. Those clauses in the memorandum of understanding are clauses that are supposed to be met before a second phase of a deal can be negotiated. That might actually take compromises. Then you might start to negotiate, okay, nuclear enrichment versus, you know, control of the Strait of Hormuz versus whatever, you know, whatever permutation you want to imagine, right?

But those terms—ending the war on all fronts, releasing frozen assets, ending sanctions—those are supposed to be points of understanding that are supposed to happen to get to talks. And the United States now is trying to use them as leverage to weaken Iran's position. And some have said that they already believe—we see this all over social media, we see this on Twitter—various critics, people who are very concerned about the situation. While we see the political situation internally, we see some wondering, well, is Iran giving up its leverage by allowing these points to be negotiated over, even if they keep rejecting—reject, reject, reject—okay, stop negotiating over this—reject, reject, reject.

Well, then there's just time that goes by where none of these points are actually met, right? Israel's striking southern Lebanon. The frozen assets still remain frozen. And yeah, one thing that has to be acknowledged is that the U.S. did lift the blockade, and Iranian oil is moving through the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf to its suitors. But nonetheless, people are wondering. There's a lot of skepticism about whether this is giving up. I don't think so, because I actually don't think that closing the Strait of Hormuz is really that difficult for Iran. And I truly do believe that one of the calculations right now is that Iran wants to be economically and militarily strong enough to withstand any future attacks, which there will be.

I think since the very beginning, it has to be known that this has happened twice. First, the Israeli-U.S. backstrike in June 2025, and then February 28th, 2026—twice that Iran was negotiating and the United States and Israel attacked. So it has to be noted, and I think Iran has made very clear that it has noted this, that there will be future attacks and there will be future war, and that Iran is getting ready for that possibility without a doubt. So, I want to pull up first what Mohammad Ghalibaf, the speaker of parliament, as well as top negotiator and envoy to China—which is huge. First of all, it's huge that he holds all these positions, but it's huge that he was given that position in the first place.

So everyone knows that the funeral for Ali Khamenei is coming up July 4th. Interesting day choice, given that it's supposed to be the founding day of the United States as well. But here's what he had to say today. He said Khamenei's blood will be avenged by liberating Jerusalem. Iran will never allow IAEA access to bomb nuclear sites. The MOU proves America was defeated. We must build a true strategic partnership with China. So they're not even—I don't believe Iran is even—I don't even

believe Iran is thinking about the United States in the sense of a trustworthy partner that it can actually come to a deal with. I think Iran is actually doing what the United States and Israel often do, which is buy time.

And I think people have to understand that this is something that should be obvious to anyone who's paid attention to this war, which is that the United States is an empire of lies. It's also what so many people on this show have called "agreement-incapable." And when you have a situation like that, as a country like Iran, which holds a very particular position geostrategically in the region, as well as having a commitment as being a very young country, we have to understand that even though it's a thousands-and-thousands-of-years-of-civilization-worth country, its government is young. The Iranian Revolution happened in 1979. It really is a young country. 2029—what will that be?

It's the 50th anniversary. So it's a young country that still has a long way to go with developmental needs, with needs for stability. Like Russia, like China had. Right. It needs stability. It needs to gain that stability. All-out war, prolonged war—a war that requires Iran to actually deplete its missile arsenal, which could happen if it fires guns a-blazing and everyone says, ah, smash Israel, right? Just smash Israel. Well, what that will actually do is provoke, perhaps—and I believe this is 100% true from friends of the show like KJ Ngo—perhaps provoke a nuclear war, because the United States—understand this when I say this—I 100% believe this.

The United States government, Washington, the warmongers—if Israel's existence as a Zionist settler regime is threatened by Iranian missile destruction, the United States will drop a nuclear bomb, or it will greenlight Israel to drop a nuclear bomb. And that is something Iran and the rest of the world that has any civilization left in it does not want to see. And that has been a big problem. The Samson Option has been a big problem for the region for a long time—okay, for decades now. So Iran is in a long war where it understands that there are going to be further strikes, but it's not going to put into jeopardy, one, Iranian national interests, and two, legitimately, the resistance struggle. I think people have a bit of a romantic view of anti-colonial resistance, anti-imperial, anti-empire resistance.

They might have a romantic, maybe even a cartoonish view of what it is. Oftentimes, what it is, is a protracted, decades-long—sometimes longer than that, if we count, you know, the long arc of history in many parts of the world—decades- and centuries-long struggle for true sovereignty and independence, which eventually only occurs not just with the solidarity of countries elsewhere, but actually with the internal strength of a massive popular movement. So if Iran, for example, just absolutely wipes out Israel—well, how many Palestinians are going to be wiped out in the wake, right? Because Israel sits on Palestine. Sure, you could destroy all the buildings in Tel Aviv you want. You could get rid of every single government institution in Israel's Tel Aviv colonial capital. But that wouldn't get rid of Israel, right? It would harm it even further, but it wouldn't get rid of it.

To get rid of Israel, that means what you really need is Palestinian liberation. Palestinian liberation won't come just because Iran decides to try to knock out every Israeli military installation and

government installation all across the Zionist settler colony. That's the key word here—settler colony. So ultimately, Iran is working with the resistance to wage the war that is both possible and the most effective, which is to continue to strengthen the axis of resistance, to strengthen its own hand, what it can control, while Palestinian resistance forces, while Hezbollah, which has shown great resilience and strength throughout this whole period, are able to fight back. And it will succeed in pushing Israel back. It has in many ways already, but, you know, Israel does have the so-called aerial supremacy and can always bomb.

Uh, nonetheless, this is what it means to be in a protracted war of resistance in the nuclear era. And these are the factors that have to be, uh, engaged. Okay. This is ultimately the calculus, right? The calculus that has to be put into play when we are talking about something like why Iran does what it does and why Iran negotiates. Why is Iran negotiating now? It's simple. Many people don't want to hear it, but it is to extract whatever concessions it can before a return to war. If none are extracted, simply being able to ship out hundreds of millions of barrels of its oil, or hundreds of millions or billions of dollars' worth of its oil into the global market for a short period of time, will have been worth it for Iran. While others may criticize that as, well, it's worth it for Iran, but is it worth it for everybody else? But in truth, it is.

We have to look at the balance of forces, and we have to see a reconstitution and strengthening of Iran as ultimately a good thing. Iran deserves to be able to rebuild itself and to be strong enough to support others as, for example, Yemen gets ready for another, what looks like, protracted war of resistance against Saudi and, of course, the Israeli-backed Saudi military forces, the UAE, etc. As Iraq reconstitutes itself, with all of the machinations inside there, we see Iran hitting its own so-called Kurdish opposition forces today, and nearly every single day actually, to try to eliminate any of the supposed opposition that might march into Iran and try to cause internal chaos. Things are happening behind the scenes that you don't see. You know, we're not seeing, for example, headlines that Iran is decimating the Kurdish opposition along its borders with Iraq and elsewhere.

We're not seeing that, but nonetheless, it's happening. And so Iran is very much getting ready for the next phase of war. And this MOU business is going to be a game of chicken between both sides as they try to extract concessions from each other. The United States always believes that it deserves concessions, even when it loses. The United States—what did the U.S. do when it began negotiating with Vietnam after it got its butt kicked between the Treaty of France and the Treaty of Paris in 1968? This was a time when the United States military had already gotten its butt kicked, right? Been in technically a few years, three years in the history books, but really, it had begun military support to the French in 1955. But it had really escalated its military campaign a decade later after that.

And it had already gotten its butt kicked by '68 and '69, and was in firm, really desperate negotiations with Vietnam to settle the conflict. But what did it do throughout this whole time? It tried to gain leverage over Vietnam. How? By bombing it into the Stone Age, or attempting to, in Cambodia and Laos. So this is how the United States has always operated, right? But nonetheless,

countries who are in resistance with the United States still negotiate when they are in a position of strength to try to gain concessions where they can. It's just how you move along in what is a very stark reality, but one that I think brings with it opportunities for hope and opportunities for real change — which is a U.S. empire that is so rabidly committed to endless war and can't, under its current arrangement, under its current governance system, change its tune.

It can't. It can't give in to Iran. Even if Iran fired all thousands of missiles tomorrow, the United States isn't giving in to that. If Iran drops thousands of missiles on the Gulf and Israel tomorrow, the Trump regime, the neocons, they will freak out, but they will freak out in a way you won't want to see. They will freak out in a way where they will drop everything to decimate Iran. They'll drop any pretenses of economic, you know, whatever—economic hand-wringing and wanting not to affect the massive profits of their oil companies or whatever it is, right? Global economic, macroeconomic stability. Any hints at wanting to manipulate the market, they'll drop it all. Because the day that Iran fires all of its missiles, the United States—ha-ha—bring up the Samson option. Let's drop some nukes. Let's end this altogether. Now we have a pretext. Now we have a reason.

That's just what's going to happen. This is where the U.S. empire has one singular advantage in the world today. It has nothing to do with the U.S.'s economic supremacy. It has nothing to do with U.S. military supremacy. It has nothing to do with American exceptionalism and any of those myths that we've heard over and over and over again our entire lives as we enter July 4th. Nothing to do with any of that. What it has to do with is that the United States is governed by the most sycophantic, unhinged, desperate, declining, and crisis-ridden ruling class that I truly do believe—and I hope that people have—if you've read the arc of history, if you've analyzed it, if you've been watching this show over the years, if you've seen what they've done with Nord Stream, if you've seen Gaza 2023 onward, if you've seen Lebanon 2024 onward, on and on and on.

The United States' ruling class and the ruling class, its vassals everywhere, its proxies everywhere—they have the capacity to drop any pretense of even their own cynical aims for reproducing themselves. And they will do the unthinkable. There's a reason why they've stockpiled thousands of nuclear weapons and they've been the only ones to use them. They will do it. They will bring the world to nuclear winter forever if they find themselves to be threatened existentially, especially in a manner where it totally blows up the myth of American exceptionalism. So that's why resistance—this is the one advantage that the United States Empire has. No other country, no other resistance, no so-called adversary has this depraved mentality. None.

#Danny

No, they don't.

#Danny

No, China will never get into a nuclear standoff with the United States. Russia will never get into a nuclear standoff with the United States unless forced to. They have nuclear weapons—China, what, 600 plus? Russia, more than the United States from the Soviet era during the arms race. Never will they get into a nuclear standoff with the United States. They just won't. So, yeah, that's the reality. Because they don't want to see humanity bear the costs of that. Because unlike the United States, Russia, China, Iran... they're trying to build something different. They're trying to build a society that is not predicated on the absolute destruction of humanity.

They're trying to build a world order that is predicated on the development of productive forces for the prosperity of people, for the respect of sovereignty, for the respect of however people want to organize themselves and live. That is the true aim of what multipolarity is. And it is the thing that the United States cannot allow and thus, therefore, keeps the world in this state of endless war. So, yeah, you're not going to see Iran again behave like the United States when it sees itself as in a war for self-defense. It sees itself still in a war to preserve its own self-determination and therefore has to consider its own internal matters, which are legitimate, which people like Ali Al-Azada—I'm going to butcher his name—Safran Ajad, and others I've had on the show, people who are critical of Iranian internal politics.

And that's their place. They have a relationship to Iran's internal politics. And sure, I'm sure there are disagreements. I'm sure there's corruption. I'm sure that there is a struggle inside. There always is. There hasn't been a national liberation movement in the history of the world that hasn't had internal disagreements. China literally entered a so-called civil war when a major faction of the movement to liberate China from a century of humiliation—the Kuomintang, who, honestly, the KMT, as it's often called—participated in that century of humiliation on the wrong side in many, many instances.

But nonetheless, there were times when the KMT aligned itself with the People's Liberation Army, and there were times when they fought. Ultimately, they ended up in a huge internal struggle that the People's Republic of China, led by the People's Liberation Army, won out, and the Communist Party won out. Internal struggles are part of this as well, because ultimately Iran has its own history of having been subjected to foreign domination, imperial aggression, CIA and Israeli subterfuge, over and over and over again.

So we can't expect that there won't be internal disagreement, but when we see Iran behaving the way it is right now, I think it is a really costly thing to do to automatically view this as like Iran is being led by a bunch of traitors, that the Iranian government right now is completely going into a period of losing leverage and conciliation and all of this. No. I think we've got to be more, I think, circumspect and intelligent about these conversations in the sense that we are seeing Iran still exercise quite a bit of leverage with the United States and attempt to win from its adversary, the country trying to destroy it, any concession it can to make lives better for the Iranian people.

And as I've argued over and over and over again, if Iran can repair itself, can buy time, we have to be quite honest, that is a good thing for the entirety of the resistance. This is not going to be solved tomorrow. This is not going to be solved with one fell swoop or one attack. We are going to be in this for quite many years because, again, the one advantage the United States and Israel have is their inability to, um, yeah, their inability to control themselves, right? They can't. They can't control themselves one bit. All they can do is lie. All they can do is lie about the situation. All they can do is talk about how powerful they are, how everything is going well for them.

Even when they give concessions, we should not expect anything. These warmongers to go out and say, "Yeah, well, we'll leave you alone now, you've gotten so powerful." That will never happen. It won't happen with China either. It won't happen with Russia, these countries, unless people in the United States—and let this be how you celebrate July 4th, I'll be streaming on July 4th, by the way—let this be a lesson to anybody who looks at the United States as an empire that can be defeated simply by external forces. Because that's actually not ever going to be the case. The only way the world is liberated from the empire—this is not American exceptionalism, actually, but it's only just history—is when that empire is forced to change from within. And usually that means there has to be a broad shift in terms of popular consciousness. And it's not the same. We're not looking at a period, okay, of World War II or World War I, right?

Empires being replaced by empires. We're now in a much different period. Post-World War II period, we began, after World War II, the era of the last empire, the United States Empire. There's no country in the world strong enough or with the political system willing to develop into the next empire. China's not that. Okay, that's Western propaganda. There's nothing in China's bones, whether it's its Communist Party history or its ancient history, that says China's going to be an empire. Russia... no, Russia doesn't have imperial ambitions either. That doesn't exist. Forget about Israel. Israel can act like an imperialist, but it won't ever, right? It'll need to invest a whole lot of resources to get U.S. empire support because it can't even on its own. It will never be able to expand beyond the periphery from which it has decided to occupy and cause all this destruction.

Palestine and, of course, some slivers of greater Israel. So forget about it, right? So when we entered that period, we entered the period where, okay, the rest of the world now has the opportunity to build a new world as much as it can under the current realities of U.S. economic and military hegemony. When that hegemony has declined, and as it has declined, those opportunities have grown, but the instability and the chaos have also grown too, because U.S. hegemony has not been restrained one bit by the United States population, by the Western population. Every single movement forward has been the work of the Global South, the movement for self-determination in the oppressed countries, in the countries of the East, and in what used to be called the Third World.

So until the people of the United States, until there is some kind of class, people-centered movement that prioritizes not just the domestic needs of people inside the United States but also sees the world situation as vital, right? A change, a revolution even, and the world situation is vital to their own self-interest. Until that occurs, we are going to be in this situation I just laid out historically. So that is

the ultimate reality. And which is why you will always see, and I'll just close on this, Scott Besson here. He was on Fox News, and this is after they were forced to lift sanctions. They were forced to lift sanctions on Iranian oil in part before the hostilities even ended because of how bad the oil situation was getting. But even after they lifted sanctions almost in full on oil, he's still gloating about how China is the only suitor.

#Danny

Look at this.

#Danny

I don't know why it's coming through. Do you hear that, everybody? Hold on one second. Tell me if you hear this. It completely started playing on my—hold on one second. Oh, it looks like I lost my headphones here.

#Danny

Huh.

#Danny

Interesting. Okay, do you hear this? I'm just going to play it.

#Scott Bessent

Instructions to unsanctioned Iranian oil. But Lawrence, what's very interesting is no one other than China, who was already buying it when it was sanctioned, has bought it. So it's still trading at a discount to China. And the Iranians thus far have not been able to sell their oil because the buyers are a little leery—will it be re-sanctioned? Will I get in trouble with Treasury? So this is a reason for the Iranians really to embrace these negotiations. We received instructions.

#Danny

I mean, this is how—this is the arrogance. I mean, this is a Soros spawn, right? A creation of Soros. But this is how these people think. I mean, this is how these people think. Just understand that you're not talking about normal people here. We're talking about people who are so high on their own hegemonic supply. They believe that they are God, that they are more powerful, superior to everybody, that even when they give concessions, they act like it is some kind of flex to say, "Oh, only China wants to buy Iranian oil."

#Danny

That's been the arrangement in the world for Iran for years.

#Danny

China buys 90%. Why would Iran shift up its supply chain and how it trades its own oil to satisfy what? Who? The United States? Europe? These countries not only ought not to be trusted, but let's be honest, they are just in the business of manipulating oil markets, and they do bad deals all the time. So it's not a flex, but again, it just demonstrates that when you have people like this at the helm managing this political, military, and economic crisis—uh, empire—when you have those who make their careers possible even more unhinged, they just try to be in the background, silent, right? The Epstein class—they try to be in the background. They got exposed with the Epstein files and all of that, but for the most part, they try to be out of sight, out of mind. Unless you're Adam Karp of Palantir, and you're just so high on whatever snow you've blown up your nostrils that you can't help yourself.

Nonetheless, they try to be out of the spotlight. But nonetheless, they're monsters, and they will do far more monstrous things to whatever capability they have, i.e., nuclear weapons, should things get out of hand. So this is why we have the entire multipolar world biding their time, trying to build a more humane system under this current arrangement globally, rather than taking incredibly volatile moves that ultimately have major blowback to try to snatch total victory from this desperate empire. We're not likely going to see that. Unless—if you really want to see that—then make this your call to action to begin building up a real resistance movement in the United States. Not just against the empire, but to everything that happens here. Happy July 4th.

To the United States. A country built on slavery. Built on genocide. Built on empire. To this day, it has rising extreme poverty, rising homelessness, astronomical health care debt, astronomical student loan debt, debt in general, credit card debt all over—astronomical. The biggest prison population, a militarized police force, absolutely out of control and rampant. Racial oppression, racism, targeting of migrants, and all of this—this militarized, diseased, kind of alienating social and political environment—that is only making people unhappier, only raising the levels of mental illness, only causing more and more degradation of what is in the United States, especially when the Indigenous people were able to be the ones to cultivate and develop it. An incredibly beautiful place.

If anyone's ever been to the U.S., you know that there are vast parts of it that are beautiful. But the corporations, the monopolies, the banks, and the military-industrial complex—they're all ruining it. So let it be a call to action that that is where the role of people who want to support a multipolar world should be. That's where the focus should be. And programs like this help you understand the world better, hopefully to solidify and strengthen people in that orientation—not to get into what I believe are absolutely unhelpful speculations and narratives about Iranian internal politics, Russian internal politics, this idea that Iran's not doing this right, Russia's not doing that right. Well, I've got to tell you, I've covered these wars for years now. I've never fought in any of them.

So I am not going to sit here and act like I'm a military expert over them or I'm an expert in the War of Resistance because—no, I haven't fought one. I've only covered it, and I've only tried to build a program that shows the perspective that you don't get from the Western mainstream media. So let this be, hopefully, a call to action for all of you who have all these criticisms about Iran to, you know, go look in the mirror if you're sitting in the U.S. If you're sitting in Europe, then take a look outside, you know, look up where the centers of power are, remind yourself that those who are causing these problems, those who need to be addressed, they reside in Washington, in Tel Aviv, in Brussels. And that is where the problem and ultimately the confrontation will have to be. Talk about bringing the war home, right?

They want to bring the war home to Russia. We need to be ready for our own. We already are in a kind of war. I mean, it's not as if the United States is not at war with its own people. Oftentimes, they don't view a lot of these people as people, right, in the U.S. But nonetheless, really, when it comes to so many different issues, the United States regime, the Epstein class, is at war with everybody—everybody that's in its way of endless profit and endless power. All right, everybody, sorry about Larry Johnson. He just messaged me. He said he has been so overwhelmed that he was not able to make it today. But we will reschedule in kind very shortly and very soon.

Nonetheless, hit the like button before you go. It was a great show. I want, you know, hit the like button. Be sure to boost it. That helps boost the program once I am done. Tomorrow I'll be on with Alexander Mercouris at 1 p.m. Eastern time. And then it's July 4th. Then I will be on with Gerald Horne July 4th, I believe, the same time, 1 p.m. Eastern time. But join me tomorrow, 1 p.m. Eastern time, with Alexander Mercouris. We continue the conversation. I'll say thank you to Chili Pepper, who said, McGregor said 50,000 mercenaries. 50,000 mercenaries killed? I don't know. 50,000 mercenaries in general that have been deployed into Ukraine's army? I think so. Super sticker by Farzana Deem.

Thank you so much for continuing to support this program. In the video description below, also, if you want to support this program independently, you know, go to Patreon, go to Substack. Those are great ways to, you know, become members. That helps support this show as well, just in case the censorship hand ends up taking down this program like it has in many other instances. Be sure to also check out the show tomorrow, 1 p.m. Eastern time. And I want to thank, of course, the moderators. I don't want to forget that. Thank you to the moderators. And of course, thank you all for viewing. Hit the like button before you go, and I'll see you tomorrow. Bye.