

Iran on HIGHEST ALERT! US-Israel Decapitation STRIKE on July 4th? | Gerald Horne

Analyst, Historian and prolific author Gerald Horne discusses the unthinkable plot uncovered by Iran and the warning that its slain leader's funeral could be a trigger for renewed war. Dr. Horne puts the geopolitical tensions exploding in the Middle East and beyond in the context of the US's 250th birthday. Find all of Dr. Horne's books here: https://www.uh.edu/class/history/faculty-and-staff/horne_g/ 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>

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I'm joined by Dr. Gerald Horne, and he's going to help me cover the latest news. So, overnight, Iran has warned, as 20 million Iranians gather around the country to celebrate the funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, that any strikes by the U.S. and Israel during this six-day period will be met with a harsh response. This comes as the Washington Post and New York Times were leaked information by anonymous U.S. officials that Israel was seeking to assassinate its top diplomats as far back as April.

Now, there's a lot of consternation in the mainstream media today as this funeral goes on about whether this war has been successful or not, as Iran's new leadership is being proven to be savvy, ruthless, and even more hardline, according to the mainstream media. Now, Dr. Horne, you know, it wouldn't be out of the question for the United States and Israel to conduct such a strike during this sensitive time in Iran. But I'm wondering if you can help us understand this moment in the context of history. It is July 4th. What's your assessment of the situation? How did we end up here?

#Gerald Horne

Well, first of all, thank you for inviting me. Second of all, even a somewhat more astute student of U.S. history would see parallels between the U.S. attacks on Iran and the U.S. ravaging and savaging of the Native American nations. That is to say, it was not uncommon for the United States to attack Native American leaders in the middle of negotiations, not unlike what has befallen the Iranian

government in both June 2025 and February 28th of 2026. And I'm not sure if I accept this idea that this last proposed attack on Iranian negotiators was bereft of U.S. influence, even though we do know that one of the hallmarks of this current conflict is the rift between the ruling elites in Washington and those in Israel itself, which has been ratified to a degree by the notion put forward by former Fox News host Tucker Carlson that he's thinking about starting a third party because he's so dissatisfied and discontented with the Republican Party, which he says puts the interests of a foreign nation, meaning Israel, above the interests of the United States of America.

Also indicative of that rift is the recent statement by U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, yet another Fox News host, although better known as a former governor of Arkansas—his daughter now is the governor—where he says that oftentimes in the morning he checks Truth Social to make sure he has not been fired, because as a leading and prominent so-called Christian Zionist, thought to be unsympathetic to this memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States, which not only Israeli supporters but many objective analysts see as a note of surrender by Washington, Mr. Huckabee has good reason to feel that he is now perceived as an antagonist within the gates.

It's also important to note that looking forward to 2028, assuming that Mr. Trump decides to constitutionally step down from office, the bid for the Republican nomination for president between J. D. Vance and Marco Rubio will, at least on the surface, present a contest between Mr. Vance, who styles himself, at least with regard to this current conflict, as a kind of non-interventionist. It's thought that with regard to the revelations in the regime change book by New York Times reporters Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan, the Vance world, to use that euphemism, might have been the source for some of the revelations about what went on in the Situation Room in the days before February 28th, when Mr. Netanyahu told Mr. Trump that overthrowing the regime would be a walk in the park, whereas Mr. Rubio is a conventional hawk with regard to foreign policy. And it's not clear whether or not that posture can continue to be relevant in light of the Trump turn with regard to U.S. foreign policy.

#Danny

Dr. Horne, I wanted to play now—you know, I believe Iran has every reason, as you said, to be concerned about the United States' behavior in this as well, because, as you said, that report on the Israeli assassination plot seemed to frame the United States as the one to be warning Iran of this. Iran has not confirmed that. But even just in the mainstream media, I'm going to play 30 or so seconds of a CBS report that I think gets to the crux of why I wanted to have you on today, especially about the 4th of July, in the sense that there's a lot of lying that happens on the 4th of July. And here you have the United States media almost acting as an intelligence conduit, where it is literally being discussed whether a strike should happen on this very sensitive day inside Iran right now. So I'm just going to pull that up. Here we go. Here we go.

#Speaker 1

How is the U.S. kind of using this as an intelligence opportunity?

#Speaker 2

Well, Errol, certainly the fact that this funeral is happening in the first place, and second, that these key figures, including General Vahidi, who is the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, previous Minister of Defense, Minister of the Interior—just the fact that he and other senior figures are showing their faces, that they're emerging from hiding to attend the funeral—really signals to me that they have some kind of reassurance from the United States that the United States is not going to take the opportunity to assassinate all of them while they're above ground and not in hiding. So certainly the Iranian regime feels confident that they have basically safe passage and safe harbor over the coming days.

#Danny

Dr. Horne, we are in the middle of a so-called ceasefire. And here you have this think tanker talking about how Iran has been likely assured that its leaders won't be assassinated on Iranian soil because they've reemerged. I mean, this is—I mean, your thoughts on this, and what does it indicate about U.S. foreign policy and its roots?

#Gerald Horne

Well, with regard to the point mentioned by that commentator in the media, I would also point out that with regard to these funerals that are taking place in Tehran, there are also high-level delegations from Pakistan, from Russia, from China. And that might serve as a deterrent for the United States in terms of planning an attack on the funeral procession because high-level diplomats could also be wounded or killed. And that would open the door for retaliation on Jared Kushner, Steve Witkoff, perhaps even Marco Rubio. So I don't think the United States wants to go there. But once again, those of us who pay attention to U.S. history are not shocked nor surprised by this turn of events.

Our friends in Northern California might recall the Modoc War, M-O-D-O-C, of the 1800s, the middle part of the 19th century, where leaders from the Indigenous, once again, were invited for negotiations and, in the middle of negotiations, were killed. Now, I guess a U.S. patriot would say that this was not uncommon. Recall that Toussaint Louverture, the embodiment of the Haitian Revolution of 1791–1804, when independence was declared on January 1st, 1804, he was not there to celebrate because, in the Caribbean island, he had been invited months earlier to negotiate with the French, who then kidnapped him and then sent him off to a prison in Western Europe. So I guess the best that a U.S. patriot could say is that this has been the warp and woof of colonialism, and certainly the warp and woof of settler colonialism.

#Danny

Well, at a July 4th speech, Donald Trump — I guess this might be the assurances they're looking for — essentially said there would be no bombing or talks during this period. Here is what he said.

#Donald Trump

Knock the hell out of Iran. They're dying to settle. They want to settle so badly. A week off for a funeral because we're nice. Knock that out.

#Danny

Because we're nice, Dr. Horne. The United States gave Iran, supposedly — we can't really believe the words that come out of Donald Trump's mouth, or anyone in the U.S. political class for that matter — but nonetheless, maybe talk about this. That whole speech was framed as the American exceptionalism speech, with his handlers and those who support him trying to boost his standing, which is very much damaged by this war in particular, among other things. Maybe you could react to this — the American exceptionalism speech and the idea that the United States is nice for giving Iran, supposedly, is he saying, a week off from bombing or talks?

#Gerald Horne

Well, I'm sure your audience is familiar with the broad outlines of a story that appeared recently in the publication *The Hill* out of Washington, D.C., but has been reported elsewhere, which, to put it bluntly and perhaps euphemistically, is that the United States is running out of bullets. That is to say, with regard to arming the regime in Ukraine, with regard to arming Israel, with regard to bombing Iran, the United States finds itself running down its supplies with regard to ballistic missiles, with regard to anti-ballistic missile defense systems, etc. I'm sure the audience recognizes that it's difficult to build this kind of offensive weaponry at scale. To put it in a sketchy way, since this kind of weaponry is handmade, it might take two to four years for the United States to build up its supplies.

So Mr. Trump is turning this reality into a kind of virtue, or virtue signaling — that is to say, because they're running out of weaponry and running out of bullets, he's saying that they're being nice by not bombing Iran. And actually, what they're trying to do is husband their supplies, because we all know that at the end of the day, the big enchilada is the People's Republic of China and the contest over Taiwan, the rebel island off the southern coast of China. And as of today, the United States is hardly in a position to confront China over Taiwan. And despite a one-trillion-plus Pentagon budget, the United States is undergoing what certain historians have called imperial overstretch. That is to say, at a certain point, an empire, as it seeks to defend its far-flung possessions and would-be possessions, finds that its budget is strained. And certainly that is the case with regard to the United States of America on this July 4th, 2026. Hmm.

#Danny

Yeah, well, given this, Dr. Horn, you know, we often on July 4th are told about freedom. Donald Trump is talking about how free the United States is. There's a new Red Scare now. There's talk about how you're either a communist or a patriot. Nonetheless, we are having, Dr. Horn, a huge crisis of confidence in the United States, especially in the current regime and this war. And many people don't believe that there's any hope for it to be settled. How did we end up in this situation? Could you talk about the long arc of history? There was once a time when the U.S. fancied itself as this hegemonic power, as a country that could dictate terms. Now it seems that not even the United States' own population believes that the U.S. can do this in this war, and likely any other if it were to become as dire as the Iran one has. Your thoughts?

#Gerald Horne

Well, to pick up on a comment you made a few moments ago, popularly in certain Black left circles, the 4th of July is referred to as the farce of July. That is to say, this idea that the establishment of the so-called republic in the 18th century was a great leap forward for humanity is difficult to square with the fact that in 1776, there were thousands of enslaved Africans. In 1861, on the verge of the U.S. Civil War, there were millions. These millions of enslaved Africans were the embodiment of the investment of the investor class in the United States of America.

And I find it rather curious that the U.S. administration is putting forward this canard that you can either be a patriot or a communist. I take it that they're referring to these recent stunning victories by Democratic Socialists of America-backed candidates in New York City and in Colorado. I take it that they need to go back to their history books, because if they did, they would recognize that there had been, in the 20th century, a kind of ideological conflict between Social Democrats and Communists.

And I think what the United States needs to recognize is that instead of doubling down on this futile attempt to revive the Cold War, this time with Social Democrats in the crosshairs, the United States administration would be better served if it stopped these denunciations—for example, of the impending DSA-backed candidate for mayor in Washington, speaking of impending Mayor George—not to mention their frequent denunciations of Zohran Mamdani's candidates for Congress in New York City, for example. Instead, they should try to compete with the DSA with regard to providing rent freezes and childcare subsidies and all the rest. But I recognize, as I say that, that that is likely asking too much.

#Danny

Well, yeah, I mean, the United States under Donald Trump has promised to defeat Iran, has promised that this would be a quick war, has promised that everything would go back to normal in terms of the economic pain that people in the United States have suffered. Yet the latest inflation numbers are not hopeful. And even Donald Trump himself has had to get angry at the big oil magnates for not lowering gas prices sufficiently despite the plummeting cost of oil. So, Dr. Horn,

maybe you can—you know, you brought up the origins of the United States. You have one of the best books on that, *The Counter-Revolution of 1776: Slave Resistance and the Origins of the United States of America.* Yeah. Maybe you can help us understand how the current administration, and perhaps maybe all administrations for that matter, reflect this longstanding history of what the foundations of the United States are rooted in.

#Gerald Horne

Well, to return to 1776, you have to look at it, among other ways, through the prism of class. The unpaid sector of the working class, speaking of the enslaved population, by several orders of magnitude fought against George Washington and his fellow enslavers. You may recall that Benedict Arnold, whose name today is still invoked as a symbol of perfidy insofar as he was with Washington's forces and then defected to the British—well, after he defected to the British, he relied heavily upon Black men in his ranks.

And we also know that a trigger for the revolt takes place in 1775, when the last colonial governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, forms the Ethiopian Regiment, where he chooses to enlist formerly enslaved Africans in his army on the premise that they would receive freedom if they fought against the rebels. And it was that, as much as anything, that caused many nationals—many future U.S. nationals—to fundamentally break the law, because they were supposedly British subjects, and turn against the Crown. And there are historians who have drawn a parallel between Lord Dunmore in 1775 and Abraham Lincoln on January 1st, 1863. You might recall that the Lincoln government was not doing very well with regard to fighting the so-called Confederate States of America during the U. S. Civil War, who pledged to perpetuate enslavement of Africans forevermore.

And that led to the Emancipation Proclamation, which, among other things, allowed for 200,000 Black men to enlist in the U.S. military, and that helped to turn the tide against the so-called Confederate States of America. And so today we face a similar dilemma, because even though we recognize that even in terms of the Europeans in the 13 colonies in 1776, perhaps 15 to 20 percent were not in favor of the revolt against British rule, if you take that other 80 to 85%, it's strikingly remarkable that there was unity across class lines with regard to ousting the British, because some of the poor Europeans had good reason to believe that if they were on the winning side, they could then gain Native American land, which is precisely what ensued. And in 2026, I don't think you can begin to understand the strength and the mettle of the Trump coalition without understanding that kind of class collaboration.

You cannot begin to understand how Mr. Trump received 77 million votes in November 2024 without understanding the reality that, at that particular moment, he had substantial support across class lines among settler descendants. And what's even more remarkable, perhaps, is that many of our friends, understandably and justifiably, look at historic Palestine through the lens of settler colonialism, as well they should, not least because of what's unfolding on the West Bank. But somehow that descriptor, settler colonialism—which presupposes class collaboration, by the way—

does not apply to North America. And I'm surprised that the Israeli patriots, at least thus far, have not charged our friends on the left with anti-Semitism, since they're using this descriptor, settler colonialism, for historic Palestine but not necessarily for North America.

#Danny

Hmm. Yeah, I mean, it's a really good point. And, you know, also to the point where we have... I'm wondering your thoughts on this. You know, the United States empire, in my estimation, is an expression of that initial project that, you know, bore the United States back in 1776. And now we are in a situation where, you know, the United States empire is not looking as robust and as resilient as maybe it once was, or maybe it really never was. But I'm curious about your thoughts on, you know, we have now the mainstream media saying Iran is more resilient than ever.

We have the United States trying to choke and strangle Cuba. We have so many instances where the United States is trying to escalate war. Russia is, uh, but in many of these instances, it's either a long, long, long war or an unsuccessful one. What is going on? A lot of big champions of, especially, US hegemony believe these origins gave them the strength to be this global empire and to be this global empire forever. Why is it now on shaky ground, and how does history teach us why it's on shaky ground?

#Gerald Horne

I think that the founders of the U.S. empire got a false sense of confidence when they were able to successfully dragoon millions of Africans to come to the shores to work for free, and then combine that with the destabilization, if not destruction, of many Native American polities from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Recall that a trigger for the revolt against British rule in 1776 was the so-called Royal Proclamation Line of 1762–1763, where London expressed reservation and displeasure at continuing to expend blood and treasure fighting Native Americans so that landowners and real estate speculators like George Washington could profit and benefit.

In one of my recent books, speaking of the capital of slavery, Washington, D.C., 1800 to 1865, I cite from the last will and testament of George Washington. And at his death, he was one of the largest landowners on planet Earth, with most of that land basically being purloined and stolen from Native Americans. And so I think that that successful attempt to build a nation and to build a so-called republic, to build an empire on the backs of Native Americans and Africans, gave a false sense of confidence to the rulers of the United States who feel and have felt that they could extend that model globally. And certainly, in the early stages, they had good reason to believe that this model could be exported.

You may recall what happened in Hawaii in 1893 with the so-called Republican coup overthrowing the Hawaiian monarchy. And then, as was their tendency, these Euro-Americans basically established an apartheid state wherein the folks of Japanese and Chinese ancestry were viewed as

second-class citizens, not to mention the Indigenous Hawaiians themselves, up to and including Hawaii entering the Union as the 50th and presumed final state in 1959. And so, given these so-called victories, it's understandable why in 2026 Washington feels that, in order to confront a rising and ascendant China, they can bulk up by incorporating Venezuela into the U.S. empire as a result of the January 3rd, 2026 kidnapping and abduction of President Maduro and his spouse, Cilia Flores, up to and including the February 28th attack on Iran. The attempt to, as Mr. Trump would have it, make Canada the 51st state, or minimally backing a maneuver in the oil-rich Canadian province of Alberta to sponsor a secession referendum from Canada that could lead to Alberta becoming part of the U.S. Union, up to and including the attempt to incorporate Greenland, the sizable island, into the Union as well.

But I think at the end of the day, we must take seriously those analysts who suggest that what is actually unfolding, particularly in light of the profound defeat in Iran, and despite the fact, once again, of spending a trillion dollars or more on the Pentagon and military budget, the United States may be in the process of being reduced to a hemispheric power.

Hence the impending attack, we think, on Cuba, the backing of right-wing candidates successfully in Colombia and Peru, the attempt to destabilize the southern neighbors—speaking of Mexico—the continued interference in the internal affairs of the other hemisphere, China—speaking of Brazil—in light of their elections in a few months, where Mr. Trump would like to see the right wing win as they have done in Colombia, presumably. And so, despite all of the huffing and puffing, we should not dismiss out of hand this idea that the U.S. empire is being reduced, to a degree—and underline, to a degree—to a hemispheric hegemon. And let us work and hope for the prospect that this will be a gigantic step forward in terms of dismantling this empire altogether.

#Danny

Maybe you could talk about, because there's a huge—well, we had, of course, the Trump administration seemed to signal this, at least rhetorically, in the national security strategy earlier in his administration. But then, of course, we had the war against Iran. And we've also had the continuation of support, for example, for Ukraine, and the continued saber-rattling with China, even as Trump, of course, says nice words about Xi Jinping. Maybe you can talk about the new Cold War that many are seeing. A lot of people believe that this war in Iran was really about China.

Now, it seems like Iran is making pretty major moves in that direction anyway, for a very good reason, as its control of the Strait of Hormuz is being said to include concessions and special treatment for a country like China, which has been buying 90% of its oil for a long time now. Your thoughts on this new Cold War and why the United States, it seems, is declining toward this hemispheric position, yet can't seem to come to terms with the Russia, China, and now Iran dilemma.

#Gerald Horne

Well, we should not rule out the analysis that some put forward that, inadvertently, the United States and Israel, as a result of this ill-advised, illegal war in Iran, have helped to create a new center of power globally—not only because of its control of the Strait of Hormuz and what that portends with regard to its neighbors in the Persian Gulf. It is not outlandish to suggest that if Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, not to mention Oman, are not careful, they'll wind up as protectorates of the Islamic Republic, which is not what was intended on February 28th, but that may ultimately be the result.

And what that will mean in terms of Iran having a stranglehold over world energy supplies, not to mention a stranglehold over world fertilizer supplies that could deal with constituent elements coming out of the Persian Gulf as well. This signals that even in the era of climate change–induced critiques of fossil fuels, it still portends the creation of this major power, which then will be aligned either directly or indirectly with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. As the name suggests, China plays a major role in what has been described as a counterpoint to NATO. Russia plays a major role in this, not to mention the role that Iran could play in BRICS—Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa. And I think that if you want to find a marker that helps to point to where the world is going and where it has gone.

You may want to look no further than Liberation Day, so-called, in April 2025, when Mr. Trump issues these eye-watering tariffs—145% or more—against the People's Republic of China, and then systematically backs down, up to and including the summit between Mr. Trump and President Xi Jinping in South Korea in late 2025, when Mr. Xi Jinping basically suggests that rare earth minerals would no longer be crossing the Pacific to help power the U.S. industrial machine, the automobile industry not least, and Mr. Trump was forced to back down. You might even want to draw a line from that South Korean summit to January 3rd, where Mr. Trump engages in this piratical attack on Venezuela, because in some ways, once again, it was an attempt to bulk up and fortify U.S. imperialism and the U.S. empire in the face of this ever stiffer challenge from China.

And this challenge is not going away anytime soon. We all know about the enormous strides that China has made in terms of artificial intelligence, in terms of quantum computing. With regard to green energy, we're all familiar with China's dominance in solar panels. We viewed with note and interest the fact that Volkswagen, the German manufacturer, which a few years ago thought it had discovered a pot of gold in China in terms of manufacturing there, selling cars there, and exporting from there, is now in the process of downsizing, whereas its competitors—and also competitors of the U.S. automobile industry as well, speaking of BYD and Geely, for example—continue to advance with significant strides.

So once again, the U.S. empire is in dire straits, but the problem we face here in the United States of America is that, to the extent that the U.S. empire is weakened abroad, this not only raises the prospect, as noted, of an attempt to clamp down on the hemisphere, it also raises the prospect of clamping down domestically and deriving super profits—or I should say, more super profits—from the increasingly stressed U.S. working class. And given the rather poor level of union organizing and

union density in particular, that is to say, a significant percentage of union workers are in the public sector—the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, for example, the SEIU, Service Employees International Union—not so much in the private sector. And so this is a very dire situation that we face in this country as a result of the declining U.S. empire.

#Danny

And another part of this, Dr. Horn, in this dire situation is the fact that now, for example, with the war, like the United States—as you called it—this defeat that it faced against Iran, now that it is in this stage of MOU, I guess we could call them talks, although not a lot of talking between the U.S. and Iran has happened directly. Nonetheless, a lot of Democrats now—and maybe you can speak on this and how it relates to this quandary or this peculiar situation politically in the United States—where up until the war was put into this MOU stage, the ceasefire in April, the Democratic Party side, the mainstream media wing of the Democratic Party too, would criticize Trump and actually cite even a lot of points we cover on this show and what you've outlined here today.

But now that it's gotten to this MOU stage, it's being framed as Donald Trump being soft on Iran, capitulating to Iran—that essentially the deal being worked out for peace is one that doesn't weaken Iran. And you even had former Biden administration officials say that if they had won in 2024, they were possibly planning a war against Iran. So how do you see the influence of this kind of duopoly nightmare on the crisis facing the United States, where you do have a declining empire? But yeah, you're exactly right, there is an increasingly stressed working class that also has very few political options to channel some of that opposition to this war that we've seen polled.

#Gerald Horne

Well, crisis is obviously the operative term. Another operative term is quandary. That's the term that I would affix to the Democratic Party elites. They face a quandary because, on the one hand, you recall that it was not so long ago they were denouncing and excoriating the Greens for running a presidential candidate in the year 2000. Their allegation, their charge, was that Ralph Nader handed the White House to George W. Bush. Okay, so now the Greens and other left forces like the DSA are running inside the Democratic Party, and the Democratic elites don't like that either.

So objectively, they're asking anybody to the left of the Democratic Party elite to disappear or to bend the knee to the elites, irrespective of whether or not you agree with these elites on substantive issues. For example, taking money from AIPAC, the Zionist Israeli lobby, which proved to be a winning issue for the DSA in the aforementioned primaries in New York City, in the aforementioned primary in Colorado, for example. So this provides a real dilemma. And I noticed with interest the remarks by David Brooks, the former New York Times columnist now with The Atlantic on the PBS NewsHour, when he tossed down the gauntlet at the feet of the elites.

He says that the Democratic Party earned its spurs going back to Minnesota in the late 1940s, when Hubert Horatio Humphrey, who went on to become a U.S. vice president under LBJ, led a charge to purge the then Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party—which, of course, still carries that name in the Gopher State—of forces to the left of liberalism, for example. He saluted George Meany, the former leader of the labor movement in the United States of America, for purging and ousting communist trade unions and would-be or alleged, purported communist trade unions, such as Australian-born Harry Bridges, who led the 1934 general strike in San Francisco and went on to organize the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, which has strength not only from Seattle to San Diego but also in Hawaii as well.

They were ousted from the House of Labor, although the union still exists. And so David Brooks was suggesting that the new charge is to purge and oust the DSA from the Democratic Party. But that would be suicidal because of the strength of class collaboration within this so-called republic. If the Democrats purge the socialists and those to the left of liberals, they are guaranteed to come in a poor second for some time to come. But that's the dilemma for the Democratic Party elites. On the one hand, they're being pressured to oust the DSA-backed forces. If they do oust the DSA-backed forces, then they will come in a poor second to the Republicans.

I think that David Brooks and those like him would be better served if they would advise the Democratic Party elites to pay attention to the policy platform of the DSA with regard to such issues as subsidized childcare, rent freezes, opposition to genocide in Gaza, for example, and also perhaps seek to adapt DSA methodology. For example, it's no secret that the sauce that helps to understand and propel the DSA forward is canvassing, going door to door, as opposed to mailing it in with these mailers that are ubiquitous just before election day, or paying these high-priced, high-flown consultants to place television ads and digital ads, for example. That particular methodology is reaching the point of exhaustion. And once again, I think that if the Democratic Party elites want to stay in the game, they would be well advised to imitate the DSA.

#Danny

Hmm. I wanted to know, in the final 10, 15 minutes that we have, your thoughts on, in particular, Israel, given that Israel is, you know, of course, a major party to the war on Iran. It has stood as the face of these fears of renewed strikes on Iran, even during this massive funeral. It also has constantly played this role of, especially even recently, being almost in a sparring match with the Trump administration in private and through leaks, conflicts. Even Netanyahu will say that Israel will strike and do whatever it wants in the region. It doesn't matter what the United States says. But I'm curious about your thoughts on the actual role of Israel here. You even had Gustavo Petro in Colombia when he lost the election recently.

In recent weeks, he said that Israel was interfering in their elections. And of course, there are all kinds of concerns in the United States about Israel's influence on the U.S. political process, especially

given such heavy alignments between U.S. political operatives and the political class inside Washington and all branches and institutions—Intel, Pentagon, et cetera—and Israeli institutions. So, your thoughts on the actual role of Israel, and maybe some historical precedents here on why Israel has played such an important role for the U.S. empire up until this point, despite now, especially in recent years, Israel becoming almost a blight on the U.S.'s so-called exceptional image.

#Gerald Horne

Well, all of the Democratic Party elites—Israel also is in crisis and faces a dilemma. That is to say, if you look at Israel, as many of us have done through the prism of settler colonialism, we recognize that in these settler colonial regimes, dispossession of the Indigenous is a hallmark. And that tends to unite the nationals of the dispossessing state across class lines. If you look at the United States in the middle part of the 19th century, you had many poor European migrants to the states of Oregon and Washington, for example, who were all in with regard to the wars against the Walla Walla, the Utes, for example—not to mention the already noted Modoc War—because they felt that they could get land in the process.

And the problem that Israel faces is that many in the Israeli electorate, particularly the 80% of the electorate that is non-Arab, are supportive of these hawkish policies pursued by Mr. Netanyahu. Not only the genocide in Gaza, but of late, you've had Israeli hawks talking up a conflict with Turkey—believe it or not—even though it's about nine times the size of Israel in terms of population, even though it is the eastern flank of the heretofore U.S.-dominated NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. But despite that kind of disproportion, you have the militaristic and bellicose rhetoric flowing like lava out of Tel Aviv, out of Israel, because Israel in some ways has constructed itself, by Mr. Netanyahu's own admission, as a kind of contemporary Sparta—a state that is designed for perpetual warfare.

The problem, among others, that Israel faces is not only that this is exhausting the patience, if not the treasury, in Washington. Recall the comments of late by Vice President J.D. Vance warning the Israeli leadership that they have one ally—perhaps an ally, perhaps an only ally, a solitary ally—in the United States of America, and that they would be well advised not to alienate that one solitary ally. But I'm not so sure if Israel will pay attention to that admonition. And also, part of the dilemma, which needs to be publicized more often than it has been, is the flight of Israelis not only to Cyprus, the Mediterranean island now split between Turkish and Greek Cypriot forces, but to Europe—to Brooklyn, of course.

It reminds me of the movie **Munich**, which, as you know, depicts the aftermath of the 1972 action at the Munich Olympics, wherein a number of Israeli athletes and others were killed, and the attempt by the Israelis to track down the real and imagined perpetrators. One of the leading figures in that plot winds up moving to Brooklyn, for example, having had enough of that precursor to today's Sparta. So Israel faces a real dilemma, and those who suggest that Israel, in its present configuration, may not be around by the end of the 21st century have a relevant point. But if that

eventuality does occur, it'll have a lot to do with the failure to come to an agreement with the Palestinians, not least in Gaza, and the increasing reluctance of politicians in Washington to foot the bill for Israeli bellicosity.

#Danny

Yeah, and there is this kind of similarity to the idea of the Empire of Liberty and all the various ways that the United States, right after its founding, framed its own kind of expansionism. Israel has this Greater Israel Project, which appears, I guess, very peculiar in and of itself. I wanted your thoughts on, given that Iran and the war with Iran—a big part of it for Israel is to get rid of this particular challenge to its own expansionist aims—maybe you could talk about the comparison.

Not a lot of people do comparisons between U.S. history and how Israel behaves now, but I've always wanted to ask you this, given your extensive knowledge of U.S. history and how you see the parallels, because we are in a different era of history globally. A lot has happened since the United States began to formulate its own expansionist aims. And now you have Israel kind of taking a similar model with maybe its own characteristics, some of them incredibly gruesome, but nonetheless still a model of expansion like the Greater Israel Project. What are your thoughts on this?

#Gerald Horne

Well, we've already made reference to the model of expansion here in North America—13 colonies along the Atlantic seaboard in July 4th, 1776—and then by the end of the 19th century had leapfrogged from California, seized illicitly from Mexico in the criminal war of 1846 to '48, leapfrogging across the Pacific to Hawaii. And recall that just a few moments ago, I used a kind of euphemism when I referred to the 80% of the Israeli population that's non-Arab. And what I was pointing to is the fact that in order to do anything meaningful or profound in Israeli society, it's oftentimes not enough to have an electoral majority or a Knesset or parliamentary majority. You really need a Jewish majority, for example. And that is the logic of settler colonialism. Likewise, once again, it's not often recognized that in this country, in order—there are two different standards.

For example, many people oftentimes refer to the fact of what would happen if Barack Obama, in his financial disclosure statements—his statement, I think, was about 10 pages—while Mr. Trump's were hundreds of pages. Mr. Trump reveals that he's made billions, not least in crypto transactions since entering office. What would happen if Barack Obama were to reveal that he had made billions in crypto transactions while acting as a public servant? Of course, that would not happen because there's a double standard. That is to say, Mr. Trump has a majority, 77 million strong, among settler descendants, and to that extent, it's equivalent to Israel, which once again has one standard for the Jewish majority, for example. That majority is necessary in order to move in any kind of profoundly strategic manner.

If I have one bit of advice to our friends on this July 4th, 2026, it's to update your ideology, your way of thinking with regard to how you analyze the United States of America, and realize that what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. That is to say, if you're going to look at Israel, as you should, as a settler-colonial project, you should also look at the United States as a settler-colonial project. And the fact that a lot of the depredations and devastation were consummated on this soil in terms of genocide in the 19th century—that residue, that process, to a certain degree, still continues with regard to what we see in terms of police terror, what we see in terms of the death penalty, what we see in terms of deprivation of reproductive rights of women, what we see in terms of the loose talk in the Republican Party coalition of prosecuting women who have abortions, for example. In order to understand these kinds of outrages, the kind of prism and the kind of analysis routinely applied to Israel, we would be well served if we were to apply such a prism to what is transpiring on these shores as well.

#Danny

Yeah, I think that's very well said. Dr. Horn, any final thoughts before I let you go and close up the show here on the significance of July 4th and the particular situation that the U.S., as an empire, finds itself in? Your final words.

#Gerald Horne

Well, I think similarly, we need a material analysis of the United States of America. For example, many of our friends on the left, when they point to the purported benefits of the establishment of the Republic, they point to civil liberties and civil rights, for example. If you look at the First Amendment of the vaunted Bill of Rights, it guarantees freedom of religion, for example. But a material analysis would not see that step forward from Europe as solely coming from the imagination and brains of Enlightenment intellectuals like Thomas Jefferson; it's a response to material conditions.

And so far as the settlers needed to bulwark their ranks by recruiting as many warm bodies as they could to confront the Indigenous and to corral the Africans, for example. In a recent book I published on Southern California, I pointed out that an early migrant to San Diego County was a man of Jewish ancestry who happened to have a reputation as a leading Indian fighter, for example. So, in other words, in order to understand freedom of religion, you not only have to understand the alleged, purported positive thinking of Enlightenment intellectuals, you have to understand the concrete material realities. Likewise, with regard to the Second Amendment, the right to bear arms, that applied to settlers.

It did not apply to Native Americans. As a matter of fact, the strategic imperative of the settlers was to keep arms out of the hands of Native Americans. And I guarantee you, if the enslaved Africans had had the right to bear arms, slavery would have ended well before 1865. That I guarantee you. And so once again, I think that on this day, where some are marking what they consider to be a

great leap forward for humanity, we would be wise to apply some of the critiques that we apply routinely to Israel, such as the settler-colonial prism, to what's going on on these shores, because I think it would help to advance struggles worldwide and also advance struggles domestically as well.

#Danny

Yeah, 100% agree. Genocide has now become universally used, and the United States' history is very, very familiar with genocide, even in recent history. U.S. foreign policy, I think we could very well do a lot of good by putting that out there. Dr. Horn, I want to make sure everybody knows that you've written an incredible number of books and that they should look you up. Is there anywhere people can find your books in one place that you like to promote? Because all of them are great, but you've written so many, and I just want to make sure people can find them.

#Gerald Horne

Well, they're available at better bookstores everywhere. And of course, I'm always seeking to support independent bookstores, for example, that are in major urban centers. But of late, I've published a number of books with international publishers, which can be found on their websites. My 1776 book was published by New York University Press, and I would direct you to their website for that particular project, which is well to note, on July 4th, 2026. That is to say, the book entitled *The Counter-Revolution of 1776.*

#Danny

Well, I put your CV in the video description below so people can find all of the books and publishers so they can get schooled on, I would say, a corrective historical materialist analysis. Dr. Horne, thanks so much for joining me today, and I hope to talk to you again soon. Thank you for inviting me. Of course. Take care. All right, everybody, that's it for the show today. I just want to give a few announcements before I head out. First, tomorrow I will be back on at 1 p.m. Eastern time with Dr. and Professor Mohammad Marandi. He will be joining directly from the funeral—the massive six-day funeral that is occurring right now inside of Iran for the assassinated President Ebrahim Raisi. And not just for him, but of course, there's a lot of observance right now, not just for him, but for the other Iranian officials that were killed during those February 28th and onward strikes.

And then, of course, all of the civilians, including the Mahan Air 168, which many believe is actually more, who were killed. I want to thank everyone who gave super chats, who became a member. Thank you, Babylon. Thank you, JB. I appreciate that. Thank you to the Orwell Times for adding us to the Google Play and Apple Store app as a news source with other indie creators. Thanks so much for that. I'll have to look that up. Also, DM me—I'm curious about what you're doing. You can DM on YouTube now, so to speak, I guess. I just saw that that is happening. And then Godfather Cinema says, fantastic show. Thank you so much for that. I want to thank everyone who viewed, the moderators. I know today is a holiday, but

#Donald Trump

Nonetheless, empire does not take a day off.

#Danny

So hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show in YouTube's algorithm. Tomorrow, back with Professor Mohammad Marandi, our dear friend here, to go over what's going on with the funeral. There's, of course, going to be updates on the war and so much more. All right, everybody, I'll see you tomorrow, 1 p.m. Eastern Time, June 5th. Take care.