

Iran War Round 3? US Desperation Setting In | Prof. S. M. Marandi

Early on July 8, 2026, the US launched the largest air strikes against Iran since the MoU was signed a month earlier. Is this the continuation of the war, or a desperate move by the dying Empire? Professor Mohammad Marandi of the University of Tehran discusses the US-Iran MOU, Hormuz tensions, Iranian assets, Lebanon, Gulf talks, and the risk of another war. He also covers Khamenei's funeral, Iran's media response, US power, Europe's decline, and why Tehran sees the current moment as unstable but full of leverage. Links: Seyed Mohammad Marandi on X: https://x.com/s_m_marandi Seyed Mohammad Marandi on Telegram: https://t.me/s_m_marandi Substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Merch: <https://neutralitystudies.com/shop> Donation: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Introduction and MOU violations 00:06:27 Hormuz leverage and nuclear talks 00:11:26 Gulf states and regional diplomacy 00:16:17 Khamenei funeral and public support 00:20:11 Iran's media and propaganda battle 00:25:23 Red card and US empire decline 00:28:40 Lebanon and the fragile MOU 00:33:31 Risk of another war with Iran 00:38:22 Europe's decline and lost influence

#Pascal

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies. Today, again, we have an update with Professor Mohamed Marandi, professor at the University of Tehran. Saeed, Mohamed, welcome.

#Marandi

Thank you very much for inviting me. It's always good to see you.

#Pascal

Always good having you back. And maybe before we start, should I rather call you Saeed or rather Mohamed? Which one of the two do you prefer? Both are good. Both are good. Okay, Saeed, in that case, can you give us an update on what's happening? I mean, just last night there were new strikes, new attacks, I mean, from both sides. As far as I understand, the Americans are not living up at all to their promises of also unfreezing Iranian funds. Iran has blocked three tankers, as far as the Americans keep telling us, and they've been striking and doing actually quite big strikes, the biggest ones, I would say, since the memorandum. What's the situation like right now?

#Marandi

Well, there's no surprise, I'm sure, that the Americans are violating the MOU that Iran and the United States agreed upon. They're violating different articles. In Lebanon, for example, they are supposed to force the Israeli regime, based upon their own commitment, to end the slaughter, to end the occupation, and to end the war. And just the day before yesterday, the Israeli regime murdered a young woman who was the principal of a school, her husband, and their maid. And they're constantly bombing the country. So that's one violation. And among the other violations is, of course, not releasing Iranian assets that were stolen, which were supposed to be handed over to Iran already. But the one that you're alluding to is the fact that the United States, in violation of the MOU, which says very clearly that during the period when the MOU is valid, the Iranians will manage the Strait of Hormuz.

And ships that pass through have to do so under the supervision of the Iranians. And what the Americans went and did was open up their own corridors, which is in clear violation of the MOU. So the Iranians have been warning ships for many days now that this is not acceptable and that they have to move back and forth under Iranian supervision. The Americans have been forcing some of these ships to ignore Iran, and so Iran was forced to ultimately punish these ships that you spoke of. And since they were in violation, the Iranians struck them. Then the Americans again violated the MOU by bombing Iran, and Iran early this morning retaliated by striking U.S. bases in Kuwait and Bahrain.

#Pascal

What is this, in your estimation, going to do to the entire process? I mean, not that the Americans were in any way, shape, or form very truthful to what they promised in the MOU. But is this now the beginning of the final unraveling of the whole thing? Or is it to be interpreted as the Americans just lashing out again at the fact that there's apparently nothing they can do to stop Iran?

#Marandi

It's unclear. From the very beginning, the Iranians were skeptical. We have never had an experience with the United States over the past 47 years where they actually carried out their obligations in an agreement with Iran. And so the Iranians were not expecting anything. That's why the Iranians constructed the agreement with important details that give Iran leverage. In other words, the Iranians, when the Americans refuse to abide by their commitments or try to cheat Iran, have leverage within the framework of the deal to put pressure on the United States. That is what helps keep the Americans pretending to, at least, or dragging their feet. While dragging their feet, they abide by some of their commitments.

So, for example, the siege on the Strait of Hormuz has been lifted, by the way. And the reason is that if they impose the siege, Iran will also impose a ban on ships moving through the Strait of Hormuz. That's the only reason why the Americans have lifted the siege. And if the Americans

refrain from carrying out their commitments, as we are seeing by not handing over Iranian assets, by trying to undermine Iran's authority over the Strait of Hormuz, by allowing the Israeli regime to carry out slaughter, then the Iranians will be able to slow down the pace at which ships pass through the Strait. And that, of course, puts pressure on Trump and the U.S. economy. So at the moment, the U.S. is in violation, and it's not in American interests.

If you recall, Trump himself, when he was trying to justify why he signed the MOU, said that our energy reserves are very low and there are only four weeks left. So based on that assessment and that admission by Trump, you would imagine that he would be very keen on fulfilling his side of the bargain. But then again, if you look at things objectively, you have the Israeli regime, you have the Zionist lobby in the United States, and they do not want this deal to be implemented. They want to be able to continue bombing Lebanon, to occupy and annex the southern part of the country, and they do not want tensions to ease between Iran and the United States at any level. So they are continuing to put pressure on Trump, and that is why we see the Americans violating the deal in so many respects.

#Pascal

Right. But it seems to me that with the Strait of Hormuz, Iran has actually found a real, a serious pain point of the United States. And is it in that case correct to look at it now as, you know, Iran is moving towards a situation where it's not about open or close, not a binary of the Strait of Hormuz, but more like a faucet — you know, let's let more or less go through depending on whether the Americans behave according to the MOU, which in my view is at this point a kind of yardstick for Iran, right? It's a sort of measuring tape to assess whether the U.S. is living up to its commitments or not. And if they don't, then you just go back to punishing the U.S. with what actually hurts. Is that what's going on?

#Marandi

Exactly. That was very well put. If the United States abides by its commitments in accordance with the agreement, then the Strait of Hormuz is normalized. And if the United States refuses to abide by its commitments, depending on the degree to which it refuses to do so, then the Iranians will be able to limit the number of ships that pass through the Strait. Of course, Iran also has another form of leverage, and that is the nuclear program. The Iranians have said that if the United States does not abide by its commitments, we're never going to get to negotiations over a final deal with regard to the Iranian nuclear program and the broader sanctions regime. So if Trump wants a deal over the nuclear program, he has to abide by his commitments. If Trump wants the flow of energy and other resources to go through the Strait of Hormuz like it was five months ago, then he's going to have to abide by his commitments. Otherwise, he's going to drag down his economy and the global economy with it.

#Pascal

Hey, just a very quick note. The best way to support this channel is by signing up for my free Substack. You can also help with a paid subscription there, or you can get some of our new merch on neutralitystudies.com. Links below. See you there. The question to me about the nuclear agreement that Trump says he wants is, like, does he mean that? I mean, from everything that happened since 2018, it seems to me that that was always a convenient talking point, but that they actually don't care. I mean, this is something to dangle in front of the Iranians in order to make them jump through hoops.

But actually, I mean, it seems to me that that really doesn't hurt them very much, whereas the Strait of Hormuz actually really, honestly does. And now Iran is in the position where it can condition the United States during the war by saying, like, if you hurt us, we'll hurt you back. And it will hurt for real until they get it. And now it seems that Iran is working on doing that again, saying, like, well, if you don't live up to your promises, we're going to hurt you again, like Pavlov with his dogs. Right? So, but the nuclear deal—do you believe the Americans actually want it?

#Marandi

Oh, yes, absolutely. I mean, you're absolutely correct. Ultimately, if Trump can't get a nuclear deal, he'll just change the topic and talk about something else. He'll move on. That's what he does. When he fails with regard to the tariff war, he shifts gears and moves somewhere else. When he fails against Iran in the war, he changes the topic and moves somewhere else. And his base usually follows him. Most Americans don't, but his base will continue to follow him no matter where he goes, at least for the time being. However, the Strait of Hormuz is different. And if the Strait of Hormuz is not open and if trade is not normalized, then we're heading for disaster.

And that is the only reason why he agreed to the MOU in the first place, because he failed in the war. He failed at siege warfare, and he literally had no option but to accept the MOU, which was very favorable to Iran because of those failures. And now, again, because of the pressure from the Zionist lobby, the Israeli regime, especially over Lebanon but also on all these other issues, he is trying to refrain from carrying out his commitments, yet his expectation is that the Iranians will abide by theirs. And that's just not going to happen, as we've seen during the last 24, 36 hours.

#Pascal

It's quite fantastic now that the United States still operates under the assumption that they're free to do whatever they want and the consequences will be suffered by others, because Iran figured out a way to make that not another reality. But what's your assessment about the Gulf states now? One of the things that surprised me is that some of the negotiations, follow-up negotiations, are actually happening in Qatar. Because, yeah, Qatar isn't exactly on good terms with Iran either. However, we are also seeing other Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, that sent a delegation to the funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. What's happening there?

#Marandi

When you were speaking about the United States ignoring its commitments, I was reminded of a speech — I think it was Clinton who once said that the United States always abides by its commitments unless it doesn't. Yeah, so they're above the law, and that's American exceptionalism. In fact, there are some striking similarities between American exceptionalism and Zionism, in that they are above and beyond everyone else. So if someone else does not abide by their commitments, they can be punished — they're rogue. But if the United States does not abide by its commitments, that's because they feel that it is necessary to choose a different route. So for them, anything that they do is legitimate, including the war in Iraq, among other things, and now the war against Iran. But if anyone else violates a deal, they are condemned.

The Western media will declare them to be rogue and a threat to international law and order. But the situation in the Persian Gulf is actually quite fluid, I think, with regards to relations between Iran and those five countries that assisted the United States in the war. There have been one-on-one negotiations with these five countries, and there has been progress, especially, I think, so far — and things have changed very swiftly — with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the Emirates. And you've noticed, obviously, that during the past few weeks, every time the Americans would violate the ceasefire and strike Iran, Iran would retaliate by striking U.S. assets in Kuwait and Bahrain, but not in Saudi Arabia, not in Qatar, and not even in the Emirates.

And this is reflective of the fact that progress has been made in the bilateral negotiations between Iran and these three different countries. But it is still a very fluid situation because, on the one hand, you have the Americans who are undermining the MOU. For example, they are pushing tankers from these countries to ignore the MOU and to pass through the U.S.-established corridor. And when Iran is forced to strike those tankers, that makes the relationship between Iran and those countries more complicated. On the other hand, Iran has broken the siege that the Saudis have imposed on Yemen, and they sent a commercial plane to Sana'a, the capital of Yemen.

And the Saudi Air Force tried to impede the civilian airliner from landing. And that is a very dangerous thing to do. The plane did land, and the second plane has also gone to Yemen. But it just shows how unstable the situation is when the Saudis, at a time when they're negotiating with the Iranians, are also helping the Americans undermine the MOU by sending tankers through the Strait or trying to do so, and also by harassing Iranian commercial planes. So things have improved somewhat with some of these countries. And the Saudis, as you rightly pointed out, sent a delegation to the funeral, and so did Qatar. But who knows where things will be tomorrow or the day after. Things could change very quickly.

#Pascal

I mean, you yourself were also, of course, present at these funeral proceedings. Did you get a glimpse of the Qatari and the Saudi delegations? How were they received in Iran, actually? I mean,

what is Iran's diplomatic response to somebody you're still in a quasi-war with? How did that go down on a human level as well?

#Marandi

Well, the day when foreign delegations paid their respects, it wasn't open to the public. So I only saw bits and pieces of it online. But the Saudis did not send a high-ranking delegation. I think he was a deputy foreign minister. Other countries had sent heads of state or much more high-ranking officials. Therefore, it wasn't a very important delegation, but it was still significant that they did send a team. I participated in the funeral when it was open to the public, and it was extraordinary. I've never seen anything like it before. On the day of the funeral ceremony, well over 10 million people in Tehran participated.

And it took me three hours to get there. I was in the crowd for maybe four hours or so, and it took me at least a couple of hours to get back. And I had to sleep for a couple of hours, I was so exhausted. The heat—it was 35, 36 degrees Celsius—the crowd was enormous. Sometimes you couldn't move, and it just shows that Western media, their narratives on Iran, are so meaningless. The sheer number of people who went, and despite the sanctions, despite the economic difficulties, the wars that have been waged on the country, all of these have made life more difficult for ordinary Iranians.

And many of these people are from the working class or the middle class who participated. Yet they participated at a time when they were facing these hardships. And that just shows the enormous degree, that very high degree, of popular legitimacy the Islamic Republic has, and the depth of that popular legitimacy, which I would argue is much higher than in Western countries, and especially under these circumstances. So it was a major show of force, and I think that in Iran's conflict with the United States, its ongoing conflict with the United States, this will provide Iran with a lot of extra weight. The Iranians won the war.

They won the siege warfare. They got a good deal from the United States, although many Iranians think that this deal is not enough and inadequate. And I met lots of people at the funeral ceremony who were critical of the deal, even though in the West most people say it was an American capitulation. But this funeral ceremony that is ongoing today in Iraq—you see huge numbers of people on the streets in very hot temperatures. All of this is a very strong show of support for the Islamic Republic of Iran, and it strengthens its hand at the negotiating table, but also at a time when the United States makes more threats against the country.

#Pascal

Yes, I mean, the irony of the whole thing is that the United States was imagining this kind of popular uprising against the government, right? And now, at the funeral of the leader of the Islamic Republic, you see those people in support. And it was so large that even Western media couldn't

ignore it and actually had to kind of begrudgingly report on it, although they are, of course, downplaying the numbers and trying to ignore whatever they can. But it's just another part of the success of Iran, also on the propaganda front or on the media front.

I mean, Iran decided at some point, apparently, to not leave the field to Western propaganda alone, but to throw its own weight in there, and did so more successfully than the Russians—way more successfully, and way more successfully than the Chinese. Is this a central strategy, actually? Or is this just naturally what happened, how certain quarters within Iranian society are trying to, you know, not give up global opinion, but actually try to say, like, guys, no, look at this for real?

#Marandi

Well, a lot of young people have been involved. And, of course, the general public, by participating every night during the war and during the siege on the streets of different cities in Iran, their presence was seen, at least on social media, beyond Iran's borders. We've seen a host of young people active in mainstream media, people who were not active before. And I'm sure you've seen the Lego videos, all produced by young people and the younger generation. So the United States not only united the Iranian country like never before, or at least I haven't seen anything like this since the first days and years of the revolution.

But also, they've pushed the country to move towards greater creativity, towards thinking of new ways to put their case across to the international community. And this is especially interesting because Iran has never been very successful in the propaganda campaign. Iran has always been horrible in propaganda, worse than the Russians. I mean, the Russians aren't very good, but the Iranians have always been worse than the Russians. The Chinese, of course, I think, lag behind others when it comes to media and that sort of thing. They're excellent in technology and high-tech areas, but in these areas, they lag behind. But Iran has not had a successful track record, and this shift has... it has been notable. But a couple of things help the Iranians.

And that is Trump. Trump is so destructive for the image of the United States. And Netanyahu is so destructive for the image of the collective West that it makes it much easier for a country like Iran, for the Palestinians, for the Lebanese to make their case and to be heard among people across the international community. And that has caused many people who are not Iranian, who are not Palestinian, who are not Lebanese, across the world to amplify their voices. So while Iran has been more successful to a degree, the United States and the Israeli regime have basically created a network of young people across the world who are amplifying the voices of the oppressed and who are exposing the illegal and genocidal behavior of the empire.

#Pascal

Again, it's so difficult for me to comprehend how an administration, an entire apparatus in the United States, could not understand just how self-defeating some of these things are. And then you put on

top of that, as kind of the cherry on the sundae, the way the United States behaves with the FIFA World Cup — the unfair behavior towards the Iranian team, the unfair behavior with the red card, where Donald Trump personally intervened in order to have that undone. I mean, it's just kind of mind-boggling right now how many things they're doing in order to show the world what the rules-based international order actually means. The red card is basically the best example of the rules-based international order, right? Rules for others, and whenever it's not good for us, we just pick up the phone and have the rules undone, right? It's difficult to talk about that, but do you have any ideas of what kind of stage in the U.S. empire we are in here?

#Marandi

You know, as soon as you began to speak, I was saying to myself, you're going to say this. You're going to speak about the red card. And it is such an interesting example of how the United States just doesn't care about how it is seen by the rest of the world and how it is so openly corrupt. It's sort of like Trump's business dealings and his family business dealings that have made past elites in the United States, past presidents or the Clintons or others, look very clean in comparison. I mean, the Clinton Foundation was a pay-to-play organization. You paid the Clinton Foundation and you got access to the Clintons and, of course, Hunter Biden.

But now, when you compare Hunter Biden and the Clintons to what Trump is doing today, it's like they almost look like saints when it comes to business dealings in comparison, of course. And so it's so clear and open. But also, the fact that the United States subsequently—I mean, I'm not a football person—but the United States lost 4-1, lost so badly after this abuse of the rules and regulations of FIFA, is, I think, itself symbolic of where the United States stands today. The more it is abusive, it is aggressive, it violates international law, it supports genocide, it attacks countries like Iran without any justification, yet it's failing across the board. It's failing across the world.

People are angry and unhappy about what the United States is doing. So it's not benefiting from this attack, this crude lawlessness. In the past, the United States, of course, was always lawless. It was exceptional. It was beyond the law. But at least they tried to be more sophisticated. They tried to always preserve an aura of decency. They pretended that they respected international law. But now it's just the law of the jungle. And people see it. And social media, of course, has had an impact, even despite the shadow banning and despite the fact that your own accounts had problems like many others. But the world has changed, and that has, you know, the whole story about the emperor having no clothes is literally what we're seeing today.

#Pascal

It's quite fascinating. Maybe two more areas I would like your opinion on. First one being Lebanon. I had a talk with Leith Marouf, a Syrian-born journalist with Syrian roots in Lebanon, and he reported that there's a difference now, a qualitative difference in the attacks. And although the Israelis are refusing to go out, and although they put up this phony agreement with the collaborationist

government in Beirut, overall what they can do now seems to be constrained. So the Americans seem to put a certain amount of pressure that the Israelis certainly don't like. And there's a qualitative difference now in how ruthless these attacks are, especially on the civilian population. What's your assessment on Lebanon?

#Marandi

I think that's absolutely correct. And that is a sign of how difficult the situation is for the United States. The Americans know that if this MOU fails, then the economic crisis will grow, and the world is very close to the cliff, and the global economy could fall, and of course the U.S. economy could fall into deep recession, if not depression, if the United States doesn't change course. So the United States, on the one hand, does put pressure on the Israeli regime, but it does not put enough pressure to make the MOU safe and secure, to allow the MOU to succeed. And so these half-hearted measures, these partial measures that the United States takes ultimately keep the region at risk of war, of escalation, and leave the global economy under great threat.

So instead of, on the one hand, the United States forcing the Israeli regime to decrease the slaughter and not strike the city of Beirut, on the other hand, it won't force it, in accordance with the MOU, to withdraw and to stop the killing altogether. The murder a couple of days ago of the young woman who was a principal of a school, her husband, and their maid, I think, was just one violation and one act of murder among so many that the Israelis carry out. Every day they're murdering people in Gaza. And there is a ceasefire there. That's Trump's ceasefire too. So the United States does not put enough pressure to pull the world away from the brink of economic collapse.

But on the other hand, it recognizes how bad it is, so it does try to apply some sort of pressure. And this is what we have with regards to the U.S. attempting to open a corridor in violation of the MOU in the Strait of Hormuz. It is violating the deal, and it knows that it's going to create tensions, yet it cannot refrain from doing so, and thus it causes the Iranians to strike those tankers, and then the U. S. strikes Iran, and then the Iranians will strike the U.S., and who knows what will happen tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. So this, I think, shows that Trump is actually, despite the way in which he tries to present himself.

He's a very weak president, and he is incapable of making decisions, and he's incapable of adhering to those commitments that he makes. And a part of it, of course, is his own character. But part of it is because of the sheer power of the Zionist lobby, something that Joe Kent was very clear about in his resignation letter after the war started. He was a Trump appointee. He was the head of counterterrorism in the United States. And he said Iran is not seeking a nuclear weapon and Iran is not a threat to the United States. And the reason why this war has happened is because of the Israeli regime and the Zionist lobby. Those same elements are what keep pushing Trump to undermine his own agreements and his own commitments.

#Pascal

To the detriment of everyone. Right. And most people I talk to on my channel, they're firmly convinced that what we're observing right now is an interlude and that the war itself is probably not over, that the next round will come, be it this year, be it next year. And we've seen we had the 12-day war. We had aggressions before that. We now have the 40-day war. And, you know, the Americans right now are just playing for time, right? As in go back, then reload and strike again on another day. What do you think is Iran's approach right now in order to deal with that very, very real threat? I mean, on the one hand, yes, Strait of Hormuz. On the other hand, I mean, the Americans can at any point in time say, like, let's just try again, you know, just another 40 days of bombing, maybe this time. Do it four, five, six, ten times, twelve times lucky, something like that. And that's not a very good scenario for Iran either. What do you think they're doing to prevent that?

#Marandi

It's unclear where the Americans are going to take this. And the chances for another war are not low at all. It could be that the United States is simply buying time. It could just be that the United States is rudderless and doesn't know where it's going, and that the Zionists are pushing it in one direction and others who are afraid of the economic consequences are trying to push it in another direction. It's unclear. And with Trump, you never know what's going to happen tomorrow. You don't even know what's going to happen two hours from now. It's just completely unpredictable.

But the Iranians have, ever since the ceasefire, been preparing themselves for war. And when the MOU was signed, the Iranians had a lot of tankers in the Persian Gulf that were full of oil. As soon as the MOU was signed, they sent all that oil to their customers in the Asian market. So the Iranians have been using this opportunity to rebuild their stocks, to expand their underground missile and drone bases, to bring new technology into their defense capabilities and defense industry, and to expand command and control centers. So Iran is preparing for what could be another round of war.

And the fact that the United States is constantly violating the deal, attacking Iran, as we saw last night, and forcing Iran to respond, as we saw early this morning, clearly indicates that we are never far off from an all-out war. But the problem that the United States has is that the shortages we see across the world are enormous. And for four months, the shortages have been growing, and this is not going to go away anytime soon. So if the United States, in the next few months—whether before the midterm elections or after the midterm elections—starts another war, the speed at which the global economy will move toward a crisis will be much greater than when this war started, because we're already almost there.

And as I've seen on your show in discussions with experts, people who are experts in the economy—something I have very little knowledge of—and I only listen to these people for a vague understanding of what's going on, the global economy, without the energy crisis, is moving toward a very dangerous place anyway. And so I think that if the United States wants to restart a war, the Iranians will be more prepared militarily than before, and the global economy will be much closer to

disaster. So I don't think that war will last very long, and I don't think it will lead to any success for the United States. But since Trump is Trump, and since the Zionist lobby and the Israeli regime have enormous influence, while it would sound crazy for the United States to pursue another war, I wouldn't bet on anything.

#Pascal

Right. It's a crazy time for the United States. And they are now weaker than before. Already before, they were weaker than 10 years ago. And now they're even weaker and have even worse cards. But that doesn't mean that they wouldn't try to play them anyhow. Maybe one last thing—any observations about the Europeans? Because we are seeing now how the Gulf states sent delegations, right, or at least some of them, how there's negotiations happening in the Gulf. And the Europeans, you could see how they disliked this war, but how they couldn't speak against it since the emperor himself ordered this, and they had to brown-nose him very badly. And they're brown-nosing him right now in Ankara. But at the same time, they're kind of unhappy about it. Do you see any signals, any signs about how Europe is trying to approach Iran from their side?

#Marandi

Well, you know, Pascal, the problem is that the Europeans have no idea. They've undermined themselves for many years now. And the crisis in Ukraine is growing, and they already have more than enough trouble managing their own affairs. The British Prime Minister, who has no support from the public, is now being forced to leave. He'll be replaced by someone just as unpopular as himself. The French president is despised. The German chancellor is despised. Europe is in a terrible situation. They've destroyed their economy, or they're destroying their economies. They're moving towards deindustrialization through a series of foolish policies, but also by sanctioning the Russians and allowing the Americans under Biden to wreck the relationship between them and Russia.

And they did the same basically with Iran. So they've brought this crisis upon themselves. You know, if you're a younger viewer, or if you're older—I'm sure your older viewers recall, your younger viewers may not—but when the United States wanted to launch the illegal war against Iraq in 2003, we saw how, except for the British, many of the European countries stood up against this, the French in particular, but also the Germans, among others. And they asserted some authority. They couldn't stop the war, but they showed that they were of importance in the international community. Europe has lost all of that. It is no longer important what they say. They are simply obedient to the United States.

We saw them go to the schoolmaster in Washington, all of them sitting politely like little children in front of Trump. We see how the Secretary General of NATO is constantly kissing the boots of Trump. And we see the European economy collapsing and the antagonism towards Russia increasing, whereas it's just bringing more death and destruction and misery. Europe is becoming—I'm not saying, I don't want to, you know, when we say irrelevant, I mean in relative terms—but in relative

terms, it's becoming irrelevant. And so for Tehran, they're not important anymore. And Iran in the past, when it came to the nuclear file, negotiated with the Europeans and tried to resolve some of the issues with the United States through the Europeans.

Now the Iranians don't even care about the Europeans. The Europeans, when they want to talk, the Iranians don't welcome them because they know that it doesn't matter what they say. So the world is changing. Asia is on the rise. Different parts of the world are on the rise. Of course, with the energy crisis that we're seeing today, who knows where the world will be six months from now or a year from now. Hopefully, it won't lead to catastrophe, but it is a dangerous situation. In today's world, we see BRICS countries, Shanghai Cooperation Organization countries, and countries across the world, many of them moving upwards, becoming relatively stronger. And it is the Europeans who, in my opinion, are declining even more rapidly than the United States.

#Pascal

They sure love their roller coasters. I wonder whether it will ever go up for them again, because I completely agree with your analysis here. This was a very good overview. Thank you very much for this. I always ask you, if people want to find you or your writing, they should Google you and find you on YouTube and your writings on the net. There's no place where you gather your analyses, is there?

#Marandi

No, I've been removed from Instagram and Facebook a long time ago, so I only have a Twitter account and a Telegram channel, with the link on my Twitter account. But other than that, I'm not doing much online.

#Pascal

Other than giving your analysis to channels like mine, Professor Seyed Mohammad Marandi.

#Marandi

Well, that's because of your hard work. And that is because you invite me. So it is actually your work, and I'm just adding my little contribution to your excellent channel.

#Pascal

I'm always glad to get the view from Tehran and your interpretation of things. So, Seyed, thank you so much for your time today.

#Marandi

It's always an honor.

#Marandi

Thank you very much for having me.