

# Russia's Patience Is OVER. Iran War Starts Again. | Larry Johnson

As the NATO summit delirium takes place in Ankara, the forces of war are pushing both Russia and Iran SIMULTANEOUSLY in to next rounds of escalation. Larry C. Johnson joins me today to discuss all of it. Links: Transition Protocol ENGLISH: <https://www.youtube.com/@TransitionProtocol> And Larry & Pepe's new foreign language channels here: (Only subscribe if you intend to watch there. Subs without views actively hurt channels) Chinese: <https://www.youtube.com/@TransitionProtocolChinese> Italian: <https://www.youtube.com/@TransitionProtocolItalian> Japanese: <https://www.youtube.com/@TransitionProtocolJapanese> Portuguese: <https://www.youtube.com/@TransitionProtocolPortuguese> German: <https://www.youtube.com/@TransitionProtocolGerman> French: <https://www.youtube.com/@TransitionProtocolFrench> Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/@TransitionProtocolSpanish> Russian: <https://www.youtube.com/@TransitionProtocolRussian> Neutrality Studies substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Merch: <https://neutralitystudies.com/shop> Donation: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Introduction and Transition Protocol 00:02:09 US-Iran MOU and Hormuz clash 00:08:48 Oil risks and Iran's next moves 00:20:10 NATO summit and Ukraine front 00:28:48 Western claims and war escalation

## #Pascal

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies, tonight again with the one and only Larry Johnson. Larry, welcome. So, are you back in Europe? No, no, I'm just adjusting to your time zone. Hey, somewhere it's morning, somewhere it's night. It's my coffee time here in Japan. But before we get started, I just want to show everybody that you too now have this wonderful YouTube channel in English called Transition Protocol, and you also have translated channels right here. Transition Protocol now also exists in Spanish, it exists in German, it exists in Chinese, Japanese. So any one of you, if you're listening to this recording on Neutrality Studies in any other language but English, and you are interested in subscribing to Larry's channel, please check out the translation channel links that will be in the description box below. You can follow him there. Larry and Pepe, they're doing this wonderful channel, Transition Protocol, together with your host, Mr. Z. Right, Larry?

## #Larry Johnson

Right, right. We were supposed to do one today, but because of events and a surgical experience for Dr. Z, we'll do it tomorrow. So it will be on air tomorrow.

## #Pascal

Right, right.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Which is Thursday afternoon on the East Coast and Friday morning in Japan.

## **#Pascal**

Exactly. Friday morning in Japan. And by the time the video goes up, it will probably be my afternoon. But that's it. Just again, if you're listening to this in Spanish, in German, or in any other language, you can find Larry's translated channel with Pepe Escobar on Transition Protocol. There's the Spanish version, the German version, and so on. The links will be in the description box below. And now let's start with our discussion, because a lot happened, Larry, didn't it? The U.S. is trying to bomb Iran again.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah. Well, the United States is in total, complete violation of the MOU. They violated the first paragraph. You know, I keep emphasizing that people need to read the MOU and look specifically at paragraph five of that MOU, because paragraph five stipulates that Iran is— in fact, let me just read it briefly. Upon signing of this MOU, the Islamic Republic of Iran—notice it doesn't say anybody else. It doesn't say U.S., it doesn't say Qatar, Saudi Arabia, no other Gulf country. It just simply says the Islamic Republic of Iran will make arrangements, using its best efforts, for the safe passage of commercial vehicles with no charge for 60 days only through the Strait of Hormuz.

So, no other country has been given that responsibility. What did Iran do? Iran created what are called the Persian Gulf Strait Authority Protocols, PGSA. It's a website, and if you have a ship that's going to transit the Strait of Hormuz, whether going in or coming out, you go online and fill out the application. They want to know the name of the ship. They want to know the name of the ship's captain. They want to know the country that owns the ship. They want to know what the cargo is on the ship. They want to know the nationality of the crew.

So, in those protocols, Iran specifically says that, with regard to compliance, only vessels submitting compliant requests and receiving PGSA approval are permitted to transit. That applies to the whole strait. Ships must follow designated Iranian routes and instructions. Noncompliance, deviation, or lack of permission may result in denial of passage or a forceful response. So, you know, yesterday, Iran exercised a forceful response on four ships that were trying to sneak through the Omani lane in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran did what it is entitled to do under this MOU, under this protocol.

And then the United States proceeded to violate the protocol by the MOU, because in the first paragraph of the MOU, it says that the United States and Iran declare immediate permanent termination of military operations, and undertake from now on not to initiate any war or military

operation against each other. Well, the United States initiated a military operation against Iran. The MOU also said to refrain from the threat or use of force. Again, Trump spent the entire day making threats against Iran. So I, for the life of me, don't know why Iran doesn't just follow Trump's lead and say, oh, this thing is dead. This MOU no longer applies. Because the United States also, in violation of the MOU, has now reinstated oil sanctions on Iran.

## **#Pascal**

When did they reinstate those? That's pretty recent, right? Because they lifted them for a short while.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yesterday. Yesterday. Yesterday. They gave a window, like a nine-day window, so it will go into full effect on the 17th. But they now say, no, we're withdrawing. You know those sanctions we waived? Well, they're back in effect.

## **#Pascal**

My best guess here is that the Iranians, they know exactly what they're going to do. The response is already clear. The response is underway, right? They have fired back again at U.S. outposts in the Gulf. And they're just going to wait until the tantrum blows over because I don't think the United States has as much that it can do, has it?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, it's not. Even though the press is playing up these strikes that have taken place yesterday and today as big strikes, I've heard from somebody who was involved with the planning of the strikes during the first 42 days of the war, and he just said, we're not even close now to doing what we did during the full-blown war. So while it looks bad and it's reported in the most alarming terms possible, it's not as bad. In fact, let me read you—he just specifically said that so far we're doing a very small campaign, if you can even call it that. This is nothing compared to the first 40 days.

And to top it off, as I reported before, around June 17th, the United States deactivated the CATs, the Crisis Action Teams. These were 24/7 operations. They started about a week before the invasion, or the attack on Iran, on the 28th of February. The Crisis Action Teams sit in the operations centers at places like the Pentagon, the National Military Command Center, and CENTCOM. They have an operations center at JSOC. And once they stand up those CATs, they operate seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Well, now they're only operating eight to five. So the United States has not gone back to an actual war footing.

## **#Pascal**

So for all intents and purposes, this should be interpreted as another one of those violent forms of negotiation tactics in that case. It's like slamming the door or something like that.

## **#Larry Johnson**

A little bit, but I think Iran's going to send—in my own view, Iran needs to send a very strong message to the United States. And you've got the tankers that are facilitating these. They're at Ben Gurion Airport. They need to take out those tankers at Ben Gurion Airport. Supposedly, some of the tankers landed at Al Udeid Air Force Base. Take those out. Any place a U.S. tanker is, destroy it. Because if you destroy those, you destroy the ability of the United States to refuel combat aircraft that are then able to attack Iran.

## **#Pascal**

Tanker aircraft, the ones that refuel in midair. Correct. Like the F-35 jet, as an example. Do we know if the Iranians have the capability to locate these things? I mean, because they're big planes, but they're not that huge of targets.

## **#Larry Johnson**

When they're on the ground, I'm talking about destroying them on the ground before they even take off. And they know exactly where those are.

## **#Pascal**

So do you think that the trigger for this was that Iran was, with force, trying to prevent the United States from opening a second channel that bypasses this Iranian-controlled channel? What was the strategy of the U.S. there?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, the U.S. is trying to make it into an issue to claim that Iran is violating the MOU, which, as I've read to you, they clearly did not. Everything they've done in terms of enforcing compliance with the PGSA that they put in place in tandem with the signing of the MOU, they've been in compliance. And the United States took it upon itself and said, no, you don't get to control what goes through the Strait of Hormuz. We get to control. Sorry. Paragraph 5 says very explicitly, Islamic Republic of Iran. It doesn't say Islamic Republic of Iran in consultation with the United States. It does not say that. So the U.S. is just declaring that it's got the right to do it, and it's doing it.

## **#Pascal**

What's your assessment of the situation for the economy? I mean, the Strait at the moment — as far as I... I didn't hear that it is closed again. The Iranians, as far as I know, didn't announce that nobody can pass through. But do we know how many ships are going through now? How much is that in comparison to before the war?

## **#Larry Johnson**

It's still not up to pre-war levels. Right now, they're going through the Strait. On the Iranian channel, I count one, two, three, four, five, six ships headed out, and I count one, two, three headed in. So there's small activity, and those that are headed out are... One is called the Iolcus Ambition, which is a bulk carrier, and that's reportedly going to Oman. We've got the Yaron, which is a container ship. Destination is not available. The Berg 1, how about that? It's a crude oil tanker. It's going to Singapore. So you've got, let's see, what's this one? The JN Lucky, a chemical oil products tanker. It's going to the UAE. The Gas Warwick, it's an LPG tanker. It's going to Singapore.

## **#Pascal**

Okay, so overall, I mean, the good news for the world economy is that this trade is operational, right? But this is, of course, I mean, if these strikes now continue, if the United States and Iran— I mean, this could be over tomorrow again, right?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, here's the problem. So, number one, those tankers that are there, they're not going to reach port for 40 days. Right. So the shortage that exists now, it's not being fixed. They have to wait for those tankers to arrive. The really big problem, and I keep, you know, I've been fortunate that a couple of different people have reached out to me and explained this. The United States is a net importer of sour crude. And the reason it needs the sour crude is that the majority of the refineries that are there on the southern coast along the Gulf of Mexico are specifically set up to process sour crude. They can't just give them sweet crude. They can still produce aviation and diesel fuel, but the equipment is set up in an entirely different way. So the United States still is without that oil, and that's what Trump was talking about four or five weeks ago when he said we're going to be out of oil in four weeks. That's what he was referring to.

## **#Pascal**

But in this sense, now slamming the door and pretending that he's walking away from the negotiations, even with a couple of strikes, is not really going to serve the purpose of resolving the issue for the U.S., is it? So he's in a weaker position.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah. No, you're exactly right. Iran at this point would be completely entitled to say, no, we're walking away. Now, reportedly, all, you know, Pakistan and the Saudis and others are scrambling, trying to give Iran the assurances that they need in order to keep what limited traffic is going through, to keep that going. Because if it stops, then, you know, the Saudis would like to get some cash flow, so would Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain. But, you know, if Iran decides to close it down—and I actually, I don't think Iran will—I think what Iran's going to do is continue to enforce the protocol. And for its friends, let's call it the Friends and Family Program. If you're a friend of Iran, if you're not sided with the United States and Israel, your ship gets to go through, no problem. If you're sided with the U.S., like if you're Western European, then, you know, or Israel, you don't get to go through. So they'll shut that down.

## **#Pascal**

I talked to Mohammad Marandi yesterday, and he said, yeah, I mean, it's now not going to be an on-and-off situation. It's going to be a faucet, right? More open and less open. And as you just put it, with this new administration that they have in place, they actually don't need to communicate with the U.S. anymore, right? They can just communicate with anyone who wants to pass through. And then if we grant it because we're on good relations, sure, you can go, no problem. And if you try to sneak through the other side, well, and you're not a friend, then we're going to shoot at you. Period. Yeah.

## **#Larry Johnson**

I mean, that's Iran. There's no sign yet that Iran's going to stop doing what the United States is objecting to. And I think we have not yet seen the Iranian retaliation to tonight's strikes. They're going to come. I don't know if they're going to wait till the burial of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Mashhad. So the bodies—Khamenei, his wife, his daughter-in-law, and his granddaughter—are being transported out to Mashhad, and that's a thousand miles to the east.

## **#Pascal**

Right. And were you surprised that part of the follow-up negotiations are happening in Qatar? You know, we've had Pakistan, we've had one thing happening in Switzerland, and now some of these talks are also happening in Qatar. I was surprised that it's happening there. What do you make of it?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, my understanding is Iran didn't show up for those talks. So they left Qatar talking to itself with the United States. But Iran just said, no, we're not showing up. So that's the problem. I think Qatar, particularly in light of the fact that Qatari-owned ships and a Saudi-owned ship tried to transit the

Strait yesterday in violation of the compliance, that was not an act of good faith by Qatar. And supposedly some of these air refueling aircraft used to attack Iran were based out of Al Udeid Air Force Base.

## **#Pascal**

Right. On the other hand, we've seen that Saudi Arabia actually sent a delegation to the funeral of Khamenei. And Marandi, as they said, was at the level of a deputy secretary. So basically below the ministerial level, but fine, good enough. Yeah. Do you think that Iran is now trying to work with the Gulf states? Because one option might be to convince the Gulf states, look, you've got to kick out the Americans.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, it's not just Iran. Pakistan reportedly is carrying that message to all of them and encouraging that. The thing is, the U.S. has dramatically reduced its presence in Al Udeid, but they're still using it as an airfield. And so far, you know, Iran didn't strike the airfield yesterday. And, you know, I think they should. They need to make the United States pay a price.

## **#Pascal**

Then again, like, airfields are easy to strike but also not that difficult to fix, right? Yeah.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Right. So it's not just, you know, if you crater the airfield—yeah, they can fill those in—but you go after the hangars.

## **#Pascal**

Right.

## **#Larry Johnson**

You go after the air traffic control tower. You go after the buildings. Right, that's where you want to do the damage.

## **#Pascal**

Right, right, right. Okay, so overall on Iran, the assessment is that the United States is digging itself deeper into a hole, while at the same time now being in Ankara at the NATO summit, although Donald Trump looked very reluctant to be there, but in the end he was. What's your take on what's coming out of Ankara now?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Chaos within the ranks. The funniest moment, I thought, was when Trump said that, oh yeah, we're going to give Ukraine all the parts to build the Patriot 3 missile. You guys build it. The United States can't build it either because they don't have the rare earth minerals. They're lacking critical ingredients. So no matter how much they've set up infrastructure to produce it, it's like, hey, I got my oven turned on and we're all ready to bake that cake. Do you have any flour and eggs? No, no, but we're ready to bake the cake. Okay, good. As soon as you get that flour and eggs, let me know. So that's the situation they're in now. They don't have the flour, they don't have the eggs, they've just got destruction.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, it's kind of another bizarre moment because at the same time, we've got, of course, probably—I mean, not probably—I mean, we have an escalation with the war in Ukraine, right? The Ukrainians are also firing massive amounts of drones into Russia, although by now they're doing less damage than before. So the Russians are getting better at intercepting those. And on the battlefield in the Donbas, Russia is now very close, actually, to consolidation of that territory, aren't they?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, back in 2022, Russia, or the people of the Donbas, controlled about 50–55% of the territory. Now, the two remaining big cities, Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, account for about 5% of Ukrainian territory. So basically, they've taken 95%, and they're likely to finish off that other 5% here, could be as soon as the end of August or September, because the news reports came out today that contact between Ukrainian troops and Russian troops was at a power plant just on the outskirts of Sloviansk. So, you know, the Russians are moving now much faster. And part of that is because, as Peskov has said literally two days in a row, this is no longer about a special military operation. This is a war. So Russia's calling it now a war instead of a special military operation.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, and Alexander Mercouris on his channel was pointing that out, how significant this is—that the spokesperson for Mr. Putin, who has always remained very loyal and faithful to what Mr. Putin was saying and wanted to do, is now calling this a war, and especially pointed out it's not a military operation anymore. And we remember at the beginning of 2022, when the SMO started, actually calling it a war was something that could get you into prison in Russia, right? They explicitly wanted to avoid calling it a war. And they put everybody on notice that you must not call it a war; otherwise, you're liable for whatever it is. So this is a significant change. Do you think that they are going to

now enlarge the entire campaign? Because, I mean, once the Donbas is consolidated, you need to do something with the rest, right? Something needs to happen with these places from which drones and missiles keep flying.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, in fact, they've already expanded the war, or I would say are on a war footing. You go back and look in 2023, the Russians were operating—they were conducting one main operation, and that was the capture of Bakhmut. That was followed from 2023 into 2024 by the capture of Avdiivka. Then from 2024 going into 2025,

## **#Larry Johnson**

The capture of Pokrovsk. So they were only doing like one to two major operations a year or at a time. Now they've got six major operations underway. They're advancing in Sumy to the north, Kharkiv in the northeast, then Donbas and Donetsk in particular, and then Dnipropetrovsk, where they're advancing. In fact, they've already put a contingent of Russian soldiers on the west bank of the Dnipro River, which basically bisects Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, and Kherson. And they've got offensives underway in Zaporizhia and Kherson. So, you know, it's six. They're attacking along six axes right now.

## **#Pascal**

So what do you interpret the Russians might actually want to do? I've had other people on this channel who were saying that probably they're thinking about, well, a bit more territory on the one hand, Odessa for sure, but then a pretty long buffer zone, and then something that's left over that contains all the Western Ukrainian—let's call them ultra-nationalists—over there. What do you think is the endgame for Russia? Because there needs to be a strategy to wind this down, right? That would be the goal for the Russians, I mean, to bring the fighting to an end.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, they'll bring the fighting to an end when the military objectives are accomplished. And those objectives have expanded. We noticed the other day, Trump—Putin talked about how they're now going to go after Novorossiia. Well, Novorossiia includes Kharkiv, Sumy, could include Chernihiv, and Dnipropetrovsk and Mykolaiv down to the south, and Odessa. So Russia has now made it very clear they're not going to just stop at the Donbas. That's in the past. All this other territory is going to be consolidated as well.

## **#Pascal**

And you think consolidated then also, because the Donbas republics were already made part of Russia, of the territory of Russia, through the Constitution, right? They amended the Constitution, saying these four parts are part of it as well. Do you think we will see a repeat of that with other territories, or is it going to be a situation of occupation?

## **#Larry Johnson**

No, no. I think you're going to see the exact same thing. They will give everybody a chance to choose, but they will initially control that territory. If the majority of the population says, no, we want to stick with Ukraine, Russia will say, okay, we're out of here.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, I mean, it's going to be... I mean, some form of buy-in from the population is needed, which is why, I mean, nobody that I've ever spoken to from the Russian side said that they would want to try to incorporate Western Ukraine into Russia because... well, they hate their guts to the core, right? So you wouldn't want to do all of that. But there needs to be some form of a way of making sure that what is left of Ukraine doesn't keep shooting missiles and drones at the motherland, right?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, they're working on that. They're also doing something even more basic. They're destroying every gas station in Ukraine, at least east of the Dnieper River. So nobody will be able to have any gasoline to drive around in. It's going to dramatically reduce mobility. And I think that applies also to diesel.

## **#Pascal**

Which is, of course, like trying to intercept all of the supply lines. Yes, exactly. Well, I mean, and so all of this is happening while Western media is pretending that—I can't believe this—after four years, they're still pretending that Ukraine is now on the verge of winning. That's the main narrative at the moment: Putin is desperate, a desperate man, a drowning man. You know, they put up these stupid pictures in Foreign Policy and whatnot, and they're celebrating in NATO. It seems to me a little bit like they're having these huge parties, but the music is not playing, and everybody understands that the music stopped a while ago, but they're still doing the dance.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, look, it's a simple matter of stepping back, looking at the numbers, and asking the question. Even though Alexander Stubb, the Finnish president, declared yesterday on CNBC, "Oh, Ukraine has won. Not Ukraine's going to win—Ukraine has now won the war," you're saying, OK, they've not

taken back a single bit of the territory that Russia has captured. And right now, there are the casualties. While the West is claiming Russia's suffering casualties, losses—that they lose eight Russians to every one Ukrainian—it's just a lie. It's nonsense. Why? You've got three ways that you're going to cause casualties: artillery fire, drone fire, and then glide bomb, FABs, glide bomb fire. On the artillery front, Ukraine's fired like 7 million shells. Russia's fired almost 24 million. So it's at least a three-and-a-half-to-one advantage to Russia. Same kind of advantage with drones.

Russia can outproduce Ukraine and is using a wider variety of drones to attack Ukrainian positions. But the really devastating ones that are causing the most casualties are the glide bombs. Those are conventional steel bombs that they've attached wings to. When they drop them, the Russians drop them from like 50 miles to 100 miles out. These bombs are anywhere from 500 kilograms up to 3,000 kilograms. The 3,000 is a big-ass bomb. They're fired at locations where there are Ukrainian troops huddled inside, fighting off the Russians, and the building literally gets disintegrated. God knows how many Ukrainians have been killed in that. Since 2023, Russia has launched between 125,000 and 135,000 drones or glide bombs. So, you know, you get casualties that way. There's no way—Ukraine doesn't have an answer to any of that. And then manpower.

## **#Larry Johnson**

The Ukrainian army has been whittled down. At the start of the war, I think they had like 900,000 active and a million reserves. Now they're down to 600,000, and they don't have reserves anymore. Russia, by contrast, has a manpower excess. They've got 700,000 deployed to Ukraine, and they've got another 900,000 active duty and reserve.

## **#Pascal**

You know, Larry, what I don't get is that all of the things you're saying now are completely... you can find that out with basically open sources. You don't need to rely on any kind of special military intelligence—a bit of good analysis, we can do it from our screens, right? So there must be people over there who understand all of that, right? And then you've got the propaganda. And what we're seeing is that the propaganda—this “we will win, we will win, just one more day”—that one is running itself out now. Or I would believe it's running itself out. But the gap between the propaganda and the reality is now getting so large that, mustn't these people have an approach to somehow mending this? Because it's all going to come crashing down on their feet.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, well, it's going to take that to wake them up. I mean, I've been in a back and forth, I've been part of a discussion group, and it's filled with people who are Wall Street traders, people who are—some of them are business television personalities. And there's a small group in there who are insisting that Ukraine's winning, Russia's losing, Russia's on the brink, Crimea's been shut down, they're collapsing. Meanwhile, I'm getting emails from an American expat who lives in Crimea, and

he said, you know, there are some problems, but it's not the end of the world, and no, we're doing fine. So, you know, this—but I've never seen—it is a massive propaganda effort underway in order to convince the average person that Ukraine still has a chance, they still have a shot.

## **#Pascal**

But then what's the next stage? Because if, on the one hand, the military planners and so on—I mean, they must have an accurate picture, right? The people sitting there in Germany and in the NATO bunkers. On the other hand, you do the propaganda, and maybe these are two different arms. Probably they are different—certainly they are different arms. But one thing they do is they think in narratives, and they think about how to sell stuff. So what do you think they're going to do in order then to sell the collapse of Ukraine? Is this going to be the moment when they're going to do something so dramatic that it will force Russia to attack Europe, so that they can say, look, we always told you they're so evil?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah. Yes, I can't rule that out as a realistic possibility. The bellicosity emanating from Europe is truly remarkable. And that's why Sergei Karaganov said that, you know, we need to restore deterrence where they are afraid of Russia. Because right now they're not afraid of Russia. They've convinced themselves that Russia is a paper tiger and incapable of defeating them. And so I can't rule out that one of these days, one of the NATO countries is going to commit a provocation so great that Russia is going to respond by hitting or attacking targets inside, say, Germany or the UK or France.

## **#Pascal**

The one that currently is starting to worry me the most is actually Finland. On the one hand, they've been changing their entire foreign policy, of course, from neutrality to NATO membership. Now they even go as far as allowing nuclear weapons—the U.S. could now station nukes there if it wanted to. Plus, this really bizarre thing that until a year ago, nobody knew the name of the prime minister of Finland. He was just not there. And then suddenly he appeared on the big stage when the Europeans went to the U.S. for the first time to sit at the desk of the boss. That's when Stubb appeared. And ever since, Stubb has had this weird role because there's nothing really that makes him special within the club. But he's always been paraded around as if he was being introduced as a new character. That worries me quite big time.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, yeah. Well, he's the one that said, hey, Ukraine's won. Define winning, for starters. And basically, his definition of winning—that Ukraine has won—is because they haven't yet been forced to surrender.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, I mean, Ukraine is winning this war a bit like Finland won the Second World War, right? Right, right.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, yeah. And maybe that's what he's basing it on. You know, they're always told, hey, we won over the Soviets. And it's like... well, no, you didn't, but you've convinced yourself otherwise. I mean, it's absolutely crazy that these are not uneducated people with some mental defect, but they sure have embraced this narrative and this propaganda.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, so is there anything else that you're looking at at the moment that you think is actually important to get where the West is at? Because I think it's getting closer and closer to the brink, actually, and they seem not willing to even hit the brakes.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, so when Putin used the term the other day, Novorossiia, that Russia is going to take Novorossiia, that includes... In Zaporizhzhia, it includes Odessa, Dnipro, or Dnipropetrovsk, and Mykolaiv. So it's an expansion. And I think ultimately Russia is going to now take Kyiv. They may return it at some point, but I think they're going to take it. And it's important to note Peskov, Putin's spokesman, in two consecutive days has said this is now a war, not a special military operation. This is a war. And so I think Russia is going to mobilize and treat it as a war.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, which changes the operational protocols completely. Andrei Martyanov was pointing that out several times. There's a huge difference between simply an operation and a war in terms of scale and ability of the troops, and legally what they can and cannot do. Correct. Okay, pretty bleak picture, my friend. It's getting late at your end.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Sorry, I don't have better news for you, but it is what it is.

## **#Pascal**

No, it is what it is. But in that case, let me just—let's wrap up here. And let me just again tell everybody that you have it actually also in English. If you go to YouTube and search Transition

Protocol, you've got this new channel, which is growing like crazy—sixty-four thousand subscribers at this point, and it's only about two or three weeks old. This is the English channel, Transition Protocol, and then you've got it in several translations, like in Spanish, German, French, Italian, and Portuguese.

And we're going to put—I've got all of them below—Chinese, Japanese, Arabic. And by the way, if you're an English speaker and you want to subscribe to one of the foreign language channels but you don't speak the language, please don't, because actually subscribing to it without watching it then tanks the channels. So only if you speak the language and if you're going to watch it in that language, please subscribe. But if you're listening to this in French, Spanish, Chinese, please check out Transition Protocol. And anything else to add, Larry?

### **#Larry Johnson**

Nope, we'll just—it's getting dark here, I'll lighten up the computer. Ah, light, there it is. No, this—I think that even the greatest danger of escalation remains in Ukraine because of what the Europeans are doing. And Russia now declaring it's a war, not a special military operation. That means Russia is going to use more force. As you know, they've carried out three consecutive nights of major strikes in Kyiv. They are hitting significant industrial and military targets.

### **#Pascal**

Yeah, and it's really sad. So the war is going to widen, and the Europeans are not getting any smarter, and they're still not willing to talk. Still, the only acceptable peace to them is the capitulation of Russia. It's quite incredible. Okay, my friend Larry Johnson, thank you so much for your time today.

### **#Larry Johnson**

Pascal, always a pleasure, brother. Thank you so much.

### **#Pascal**

Bye.