

US Ground Invasion Prep As Missiles Run Low | Johnson

Desperate times call for desperate wars. As the US is failing to subdue Iran with missile strikes, the crazies in Washington are cooking up an even bigger screw-up: Ground invasion. Larry C. Johnson joins Pascal to discuss the renewed US-Iran war, pressure on Gulf states, the Strait of Hormuz, and the risk of fuel shortages. They examine US missile and drone stocks, Iran's military options, China's role, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, possible ground operations, and Washington's conflict with international law. Links: Transition Protocol: https://www.youtube.com/@transition_protocol Sonar21: <https://sonar21.com> Neutrality Studies substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Merch: <https://neutralitystudies.com/shop> Donation: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Introduction and renewed Iran war 00:07:24 Gulf strategy and Saudi Arabia's Yemen move 00:13:31 Gulf states, US bases and China's role 00:21:02 US drones and the limits of ground war 00:30:53 Missile stocks, fuel shortages and international law

#Pascal

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies, today again with an update with Larry Johnson. Larry, welcome back.

#Larry Johnson

Hey, Pascal Lottaz. Thank you for having me.

#Pascal

Very glad to have you back again. And just before we start, one more time, everybody, Larry has a wonderful channel of his own now together with Pepe Escobar, where they do a lot of analysis. If you're a fan of Larry, please also check out Transition Protocol. Transition Protocol exists in eight other languages, including Spanish, German, French, and Chinese. So if you watch this broadcast in another language, please also check out the language channels of Larry and Pepe. And with this out of the way, Larry, the Iran war has resumed in full. What's your analysis of the situation?

#Larry Johnson

Well, sometime over the weekend, the United States made the decision to reactivate the CATs, the Crisis Action Teams. I had made a point previously that as long as those CATs were not up and operating, the prospect of the U.S. expanding combat operations was low. Well, now, at least at CENTCOM, the CATs are up and operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It puts a strain on

the folks that have to turn 12-hour shifts, 12 on, 12 off. So the United States has decided to restart the war, and I think it's an incredibly stupid decision because the United States does not have the combat power to sustain this operation.

They're proceeding, I think, on the assumption that they can put enough military pressure on that Iran will back down, back away, and that the United States can degrade Iran's ability to launch coastal defense cruise missiles, drones, and short-range ballistic missiles at ships that are trying to avoid Iran's protocols under the Strait of Hormuz, or the Persian Gulf Strait Authority, as they've named it, the PGSA. And under that authority, the protocols are simple: if you want to transit the strait with no problems, submit an application. In that application, identify the name of the ship's captain, the owner of the vessel, the name of the ship, the destination of the ship, the quantity of what's contained—what's the cargo—and the nationalities of the crew.

If you do that, you get to go through. And you can either transit. If you provide that information, you can transit through the Iranian Strait or, I think, equally through the Omani Strait. But the United States has been playing a game where they keep trying to infiltrate ships, have them turn off their AIS so that they can't be identified by any kind of global positioning system, and try to run those straits. And Iran made it clear: any ship that tries to avoid compliance, we're going to use force. And they have used force, which then the United States uses as a pretext to start attacking Iran. Now, the problem the United States faces is they reportedly were using HIMARS launchers in the early days of this. Well, HIMARS launches three types of missiles.

One of the missiles is a guided missile, a multiple rocket launch system missile. It has a range of about 24 miles, so they're not using that. All that would do is drop missiles and rockets into the sea. They have some ATACMS, but actually from Bahrain to Bandar Abbas, that is the maximum range—probably exceeds the range of the ATACMS. So they really can't use ATACMS, which leaves them with this precision strike munition, a missile. Except in fiscal year 2026, Lockheed Martin produced a grand total of 56. So if they fire eight of those a day, they're out in seven days. So they don't have that, and that leads them to having to use cruise missiles fired from ships, from aircraft. And they have a limited number of Tomahawks and a limited number of JASSMs.

Now, it's around 2,000 for Tomahawks. Well, the point is, every day that passes, if they fire one, 10, 20, that's 20 fewer than they had the day before. And if they keep that up every day, they are depleting their supply significantly. And they do not have the ability to reproduce and replace those on an as-used basis. Just the opposite. They might be able to produce two Tomahawks a month. Well, if you use 60 Tomahawks in a month, you're running a deficit. So the United States is trying to fight a war that it materially cannot sustain. That's number one. Number two, Iran is firing ballistic missiles back. Well, let me specify that the targets the U.S. is trying to hit are probably in excess of 1,200 to 1,500 different targets.

That's over a 200-mile length of territory. Well, you're not going to degrade Iran's ability to attack ships. Again, the United States doesn't have enough missiles to take all those out. For Iran's part,

though, it only has to worry about attacking 10 targets: two air bases in Jordan, Muwaffaq al-Salti and the Prince Hassan Air Base. They have one air base in the UAE, Al Dhafra. They have Al Udeid in Qatar. They have Isa in Bahrain, Isa Salman in Kuwait. And then they can hit the port, Duqm, in Oman. And now they've hit Fujairah in the UAE, the oil facility. That's it. So Iran can keep pounding those sites day after day after day until they're going to reach a point where those sites will be so degraded, so beat up, that the U.S. will have to abandon them.

#Pascal

It seems so self-defeating. And again, like, what's the kind of strategy in order to get to some form of victory? We now have Donald Trump even, you know, inspiring the Iranians for the first time. I think I read a tweet by Mr. Abbas, the foreign minister of Iran, saying that he agrees with Donald Trump. He agrees that whoever provides security in the Strait should be able to charge a toll, but that he, that they, the Iranians, would never, ever charge 20% of the value of cargo, as Mr. Trump just put out there, obviously inspiring Iran, but it would be more like 1% or 2%, which is still an absolutely huge amount if you think about the value that these ships carry around, right? Much more than what the Iranians were thinking of charging, probably. How does Trump come up with this idea of 20%—first, that they will succeed in controlling this trade, and secondly, that they will just levy 20% of the value of cargo? I mean, it's insane.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, no, it is. And he reversed himself on the 20% yesterday. He said, oh, okay, never mind. We'll worry about getting investments from these countries. But the problem, as it boils down, is the United States needs the crude oil that comes out of the Persian Gulf because it's sour crude. I know some people are getting sick and tired of hearing me talk about this, but the sour crude is what U.S. refineries are set up to process to produce diesel and aviation fuel.

And since the cutoff of the Strait of Hormuz, you know, now going on five months, that has created a diesel and civil aviation fuel shortage worldwide. So the price of diesel now is going up. It's increasing here now in the United States. Gasoline prices aren't going up as dramatically because the United States produces plenty of sweet oil. That means it's low in sulfur, and they've got a few refineries that can handle that. So people look at oil futures and think, oh, you know, it's gone up. Ignore the oil futures. Focus on the supply of diesel and aviation fuel. Those shortages, that's what kills economies.

#Pascal

Because that's the real economy. That's not the speculative, gambling part of the economy. That's what's going to make things more expensive—not only at your pump, but actually the potato chips you want to buy in the convenience store. All of that stuff needs to be transported. But on top of that, what surprised me is that Saudi Arabia restarted its war with Yemen. If there's something that

could make this crisis even worse, it would be another strait block, right? What's the rationale there, and what's the current situation actually?

#Larry Johnson

It's an example of a lack of strategic thinking. So put yourself—you're Saudi Arabia. You're not able to export the volume of oil you were when the Persian Gulf was open. So now you're putting it through a pipeline that runs through Yanbu on the West Coast. So you get now maybe 5 million barrels, 6 million. So here's your strategy: we're going to attack Yemen, attack the Houthis so that they will be inspired to attack us and possibly launch ballistic missiles at Yanbu to shut down our oil production and shut down Bab al-Mandab. What a plan. Great plan. You're going, that's an insane strategy. Of course it is. And so what's important to note is after that initial attack, the Houthis didn't waste any time. They hit two airfields in Saudi Arabia and said, next one's Yanbu. What does Saudi Arabia do? They said, never mind. We didn't mean it.

#Pascal

So, I mean, they attacked the airport in Sana'a basically just in order to inconvenience the delegation that went to the funeral of Khamenei in Iran. I mean, what was that about? It's such a stupid thing to do.

#Larry Johnson

I have no insight into their thinking. I'd call it a lack of thinking. I think it was more emotional. But you don't think it was U.S.-inspired, right? It might have been, and they were dumb enough. If that was U.S.-inspired, the Saudis—shame on them for listening to the U.S., because the U.S. just created bigger problems for them. But my understanding is the Pakistanis, Asim Muneer, got a hold of MBS and said, basically, what the hell are you thinking? What are you doing? You're going to cripple yourselves. Stop it. The Saudis have stopped it. They have not renewed the attacks. The Houthis are holding off on shutting down Bab al-Mandab.

Russia is keeping that—Iran is keeping that in its back pocket to, you know, clamp down on that as these attacks now continue. So yesterday Iran announced, okay, we are now no longer bound by the MOU. The U.S. has rejected it. They've broken it. They've broken the ceasefire. They're reinstituting the blockade. They're reimposing sanctions. They violated every tenet of the MOU. So we're no longer bound by it. And as a result of that, I think Iran will then start charging tolls to go through the Strait of Hormuz. And it's going to free up Hezbollah to start attacking Israeli soldiers.

#Pascal

We now also had an announcement by Oman, which has been very careful in the past not to lean far out of the window. And it said that the biggest threat in the Gulf, or to the Gulf states, is actually

not Iran but Israel. That surprised me a lot. The Omanis are very, very cautious. So are we witnessing a kind of reappreciation of the balance of forces in the Gulf? Because, I mean, Oman has always been the neutral Gulf state, very clearly. And it said so even on its foreign policy page. I did a video about that just earlier. I mean, it says very clearly, we want to be friends with all. That includes Iran, that includes the Gulf Cooperation Council, and so on. So they've always played a neutral card. But do you think that the Gulf states themselves, the wider group, are now looking again at the situation and reassessing?

#Larry Johnson

Well, if they made the bet, okay, we're going to trust the United States to protect us. We think the United States is bigger, more powerful militarily than Iran. But now they're discovering that that's not true, that no matter how many bombing runs the United States tries to make along the western shores of Iran that border the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf, Iran has ample supplies and munitions to fight back—fight back decisively—and really inflict damage on any Gulf country that is going to side with the United States.

Bahrain and Kuwait in particular are paying a very heavy price. It's noteworthy that despite the Saudis' stupid decision with the Houthis, the Saudis are sort of staying out of this, keeping a low profile. They understand that if they don't side with Iran, Iran can really hurt them, because Iran can also take out that pipeline that runs east to west. And so I think the Saudis have been extremely cautious. Hell, you know it's bad when Israel itself tells the United States, hey, stop flying your KC-135s in here.

#Pascal

Did they do that?

#Larry Johnson

Did that happen? Oh, yeah, yesterday. The Ministry of Transport. Now, supposedly today Netanyahu overrode it, rescinded it. But it's just, again, it's a further sign. Israel recognizes—or let me paint the scenario—most of the U.S. air operations with fixed-wing aircraft are coming out of Jordan. Once those bases are decimated, which I think they're in the process of being decimated, the U.S. is going to have to relocate. Well, where do they relocate? Syria? Lebanon? No. They have no other place to go but Israel.

And so this is what's really happened now over the last week: Iran is making the final push to force the United States militarily out of the Persian Gulf. The U.S. won't be able to come in and establish a meaningful presence. They are too exposed, and their air defense systems do not work against the

ballistic missiles of Iran. Hell, they don't even work against some of the drones. We watched yesterday in Kuwait where a warehouse got hammered twice with drones. You know, in theory, the Patriots are supposed to be able to shoot down the drones. Well, they failed on that.

#Pascal

No, it's quite amazing. I mean, on the one hand, how much we underestimated the military capacity of Iran. On the other hand, how much the military capacity of the U.S. was overestimated by basically everybody under the sun, including, I think, the Chinese population. But the Iranians also made it very clear a long time ago. They said the goal now of the war that the United States started on their end is to make sure the U.S. can never, ever do this again, which means exactly what you're saying—push them out of the Gulf region and probably out of the entire region, as far away as possible. And if they can achieve this through negotiations, through the MOU and whatnot, then they will do that.

And if the United States doesn't live up to its promises there, then they will do it through—they will implement it militarily. And now the United States chose that it wants this Iranian policy to be implemented militarily. I mean, again, it seems so self-defeating, especially since you pointed out the United States doesn't have the toys it needs in order to prevent that from happening. So do you see any kind of other military rationale that the U.S. might have right now, that the White House might have, in order to somehow use this bombing campaign as a bargaining chip to get a better MOU out of it, or something that we are not seeing?

#Larry Johnson

Well, if that's their intent, it's having the exact opposite effect. And anybody out there who's wanting to argue that, well, China's going to put pressure on Iran because of the disruption of the Persian Gulf, let me suggest an alternative. China's quite happy with this. Why? Because every Tomahawk missile, every JASSM missile that the United States fires at Iran is one less Tomahawk missile and JASSM missile that could be fired at China. China is using Iran as a proxy to attrit the U.S. combat capability. I think that's what's going on right now.

#Pascal

I mean, "use as a proxy" is a big word. I mean, all you need to do is sit back and do nothing, right? You don't even need to invest anything. You don't need to tell anyone anything. The United States is doing everything for Iran, for China, in order for Iran to then serve as a proxy to take away these missiles and military capabilities that could be used against China—which actually a lot of people in Washington have said they want to do. And the anti-China neocons are very mad now that the anti-Iran neocons won out and got the arsenal used on Tehran instead of Beijing.

#Larry Johnson

It's kind of a weird situation. Except on top of it, China's providing Iran some missiles, and it's providing it with intelligence. It's taken, I guess, Iran used to use GPS. They've gotten rid of GPS. They're using Baidu now. So all of a sudden, some of the advantages the United States had by being able to identify locations of people, they no longer have. And remember, China and Russia signed a defense pact back on January 28th, I believe, with Iran. And I think both China and Russia are living up to that. So they see this correctly as a way to further weaken the United States militarily. You know, I think both were probably surprised last year when the United States failed to shut down the Houthis. You know, they tried, and then Trump went in with heavier force, and he suffered heavier losses. And basically, the Houthis drove two aircraft carriers out of the Red Sea.

#Pascal

Yeah, it's quite surprising that now the 2020s are proving that the time of the big Navy is over, right? The Navy can go in and win a war, and you just go and then occupy Iraq and whatnot after you fire at it from all sides. It doesn't work like that anymore. What surprises me, though, is that the United States seems not to have the same drone capabilities as Iran, that we haven't seen a switch from these missiles, which we now know are way too expensive for the boom that they give, and that we have not seen the U.S. switching to a kind of cheaper drone-based strategy and mass production, because that's what happened in Ukraine, right? Ukraine is now powering Russia with drones. Why is it that the United States is not doing the same?

#Larry Johnson

Well, they may be trying to. The problem is, the United States institutionally has been biased toward producing these very expensive drones. For example, the MQ-9 Reaper — just the body of that alone was like \$35 million. And then when you attach optics pods and weapons pods to it, the price goes up another \$30, \$35 million. So you wind up with a \$70 million drone that the United States is shooting down. The biggest shock I had was when I learned about the Triton. The Triton is this big drone — \$250 million for one drone. You know, and Iran shot one of those down.

#Pascal

But, you know, this kind of gives a new meaning to the MIC, right? That's the military-industrial capture. You cannot escape the kind of defense contractors you already have, and they produce what they have, and therefore they will spend money on Capitol Hill for you to buy what they've got in their inventory, so you don't get to innovate as much as somebody else — as the little guy who has to be agile.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, so it's, I mean, it's really a combination of a strategic and tactical mess for the United States, because now there's talk that it's going to try to do some sort of ground operation. Boy, I hope that's wrong, because all it's going to do is end up with a bunch of U.S. kids killed.

#Pascal

Do you think they're serious about this? I mean, it seems lunatic, but the people who do this, they are lunatics. But sending in troops, wherever it is, even on one of these islands, I mean, that seems like a death sentence.

#Larry Johnson

Well, yeah, the real question is, how do you get them there? The only place where the United States could conceivably conduct an amphibious operation is in Chabahar. Well, it's not just about being able to land some Marines on shore. How do you sustain them? How do you resupply them? Because once you bring your ships in close enough, Iran's got a whole bevy of anti-ship missiles that will be going after those ships if they come in that close. And to conduct an amphibious operation, they're going to have to come in close. So I just don't see any way to do that and minimize risk to the Marines.

So that leaves, if they're going to do an air assault on Qeshm Island or Kish or Kharg, again, you drop the soldiers in there, you can only carry so much water. I guarantee you, they'll carry enough water to sustain them maybe half a day, tops. So then how do you get the resupply of water? You've got to bring in pallets of water. That's heavy. Anybody that's gone to a store to buy a case of bottled water, that's a 45-pound load right there. Well, multiply that by 100 cases. All of a sudden, you're carrying close to a ton of water. And then where do you store it? It's going to sit out in the hot sun, and you're going to have hot bottled water? Maybe, you know, drop some tea bags in and make some tea, maybe. So the logistics of it are just insane.

#Pascal

Yeah, the logistics is... And without logistics, you can't do it. I mean, it's utterly impossible to sustain. Right. And let's not forget, it's the second half of July. We're going toward August. It's sweltering. It's like 40 degrees Celsius plus. 50, 50, 50—50 degrees Celsius plus.

#Larry Johnson

In excess, yeah.

#Pascal

So all of this seems to just indicate that whatever this current bombing campaign is, it cannot be more than trying to get a better seat at the negotiating table, to me. I mean, there's no realistic way of doing anything unless somebody is, again, thinking about nuking Iran. But even then, Iran made it clear that they will survive a nuke and then they will actually end Israel. They made that very clear. And there are ways to end Israel by bombing the desalination plant, by bombing the nuclear facility that they have in the Negev Desert. There are ways to do that. So, how crazy do you think the current discussions are in the situation room of the people who make the decisions?

#Larry Johnson

I think it's the delusion. They believe their own nonsense. We're so powerful, Iran's so weak. We've destroyed the Iranian army, we've destroyed the air force, destroyed the navy, so they really don't have anything to fight back with. It's absolutely not true.

#Larry Johnson

These won't be the first leaders to make some gross miscalculation about the capabilities of the other side. I mean, look at Hitler's decision to invade the Soviet Union back in 1941. Yeah, that turned out well. That was a good choice. So I think the United States is banking on the idea that they can destroy enough Iranian missiles and drones that it will weaken Iran so that Iran will say, oh, we give up. But that's not going to happen. The United States does not have the combat power to do that. And Iran's production capabilities to replace what's destroyed are still intact because it's all underground.

#Pascal

Okay, so that at least seems like something that rational people could come up with — that the idea is not “we will win and have regime change and whatnot,” but we will get to the point where we degrade the Iranians' ability to shoot at ships. And hence then, since we have our people in the region, we control the Strait of Hormuz and keep degrading their capacity. But that's banking on the idea that the U.S. can outproduce Iran.

#Larry Johnson

Which it can't. Yeah, which it can't. Simply because these advanced, these precision missiles and drones, they require rare earth minerals. China has stopped shipping those rare earth minerals, so there's a supply shortage. And the United States, we have the actual raw minerals in this country. What we don't have is the processing. Right, the processing is expensive to do, it causes some environmental harm, and it'll take, you know, a year or two to actually get a processing plant up and running. Now, it's not to say the United States can't come up with an alternative to the Chinese supply, but right now, like, the Chinese control tungsten, they control gallium, which are two critical

elements, and the magnets that go into these precision guidance systems — China's got the monopoly on those. So you just, as you pointed out, it's all about logistics. The logistics — if you don't have the logistics, you don't survive.

#Pascal

No, you can't keep the chain up, right? You need a way to actually bring things to the people who are then supposed to implement this. What do you think is... what do you think is the timeline here until the U.S. runs so low on even the lower-end weapons that they just can't fire anymore? Because what I believe I've understood now is that the idea of the MOU was to get to a pause in the kinetic phase of the war and then try to sneak in a second transport route through the Strait of Hormuz, right? To step-by-step salami-slice yourself into providing, you know, the southern route is the U.S. route, and the northern route that Iran controls is Saudi. It then doesn't matter very much anymore. You establish kind of de facto that you have control of half of this trade. And Iran shut that down, right? Iran said no. And the U.S. is now mad that Iran said you can't do that. And it's kind of lashing out. But what's the timeline that you can see going forward?

#Larry Johnson

I'd say another two weeks, tops. So remember, it was, you know, the first war, the war that started on the 28th, lasted five weeks — roughly 40 days, 45 days. Right. So why did it end on day 45? What was going on behind the scenes that incentivized the United States to seek a ceasefire? It's oil. So when the war started on the 28th and they closed the Strait of Hormuz, that stopped ships full of oil from coming out. But there were already ships on the high seas making their final voyages to offload their cargo. So there wasn't an actual real shortage for about another 40 days. I mean, the last ship, I think it took about 44 days to reach its final port. It was then that the U.S. recognized we had a shortage of this sour crude. The sour crude is essential to make diesel and aviation fuel. That's why Trump sought the ceasefire and why he signed the MOU. Because remember, he said at the G7, we're going to run out of oil in four weeks. Well, that calculation hasn't changed.

#Pascal

It kind of explains now why Trump had no problem and wanted to sign it so quickly. Because, you know, at the time we all said this is a surrender document, and you even sign it in Versailles. I mean, obviously he doesn't care about all of that or know about the irony of it. But basically, he signed that thing because it was very clear. It doesn't mean anything anyhow. This is just a pause button that then gives us another one or two months during which we bring again more crude through the strait. That gives us time to recharge, and then we just go for the second blow, right? So it doesn't really matter what's on that piece of paper, right? It could be anything because, I mean, all it is is a pause, and the pause is over in that sense, right?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, and I think right now Trump's responding more to pressure from Israel, from the pro-Zionist elements in the U.S. government, and the pro-Zionists that are contributors to his fortune, let's call it that. But nobody's really sat down and explained to him what the logistical shortages are. Now, I don't know what the stockpile of HARM missiles is. That's another one. HARM can be attached to drones and to planes. It can fire. So it's not like the United States is completely out, but the point is you are draining these inventories, and the supply chain is not in place to replace them as used. You know, it's one thing if you say you fire 10 of these missiles, but you're producing 20 per day, so no big deal. You fire 10 in one day, but you produce 20. What's happening is they're firing 8 or 10 per day, and they can only produce maybe 8 per month. So if you do the math, over 30 days, all of a sudden you fire, let's say you fire 10 per day, that's 300, and you've only replaced 8. So you're going into deficit spending.

#Pascal

Yeah, it's quite fantastic. And deficit spending here is not something like with the Fed, right, that you can just make up out of thin air. You cannot make missiles with just the push of a button. This is a different game. It's the real economy, just like oil is the real economy. But, okay, in that case, all Iran needs to do is keep standing and keep firing longer than the US can. So you put yourself at a structural disadvantage that is quite, quite amazing for a country, for a state with a military as experienced as the United States.

#Larry Johnson

Right. And, you know, we're fixated on oil, or at least the sour crude, the high-sulfur oil that is used primarily as the primary source for diesel and aviation fuel. But we've already got a global shortage of that. Now, this furtherance of the blockade and the shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz exacerbates that. It makes it worse, not better.

#Pascal

Do we have any indications about, you know, pressure coming or starting to come from the allies, from Europe and Japan? I mean, Japan is very unhappy about this. Again, they're now also going to suffer shortages for something that has nothing to do with them at all. Quite the contrary, they've tried for the longest time to have a more or less decent relationship with Iran. The Europeans too, I mean, they're in such a pickle. Do we hear any, is there any sign that, you know, there's a palace revolt going on in the satellites? Not yet.

#Larry Johnson

Now, Japan, like South Korea, I know there are at least three or four tankers that have come out of Iran since June 17th that are headed to Japan. So, you know, Japan's got like a—they'll have a

three- or four-week cushion now because at least they've got some oil coming in. But that comes in, and now there's no more en route. So they're going to be back to the same situation they were 40 days into the first phase of this war. And this is the thing that people don't understand. They think of oil as oil, and you've got to differentiate between the sweet crude and the sour crude. The United States produces a surplus of the sweet crude, but in the United States, 70% of our refineries are built specifically to handle the sour crude, not the sweet crude. And it's not just a matter of going in and throwing a couple of switches or putting on a new computer screen. No, it's much more complicated and costly.

#Pascal

Yeah. No, no, it is. And those are real, again, real constraints, not something that you can just flip a switch and then change. Maybe just a last topic to end on: any thoughts about the United States declaring war on international law by putting out that statement that they're going to use an all-of-government approach against the International Criminal Court? That sounds—I mean, it's on script with what they've been doing already—but that Rubio would announce that in this big a fashion, that they're trying to destroy the court, that's kind of a big one.

#Larry Johnson

Well, you know, Sergei Lavrov said that the United States is agreement-incapable. And he's right. In fact, we've got case after case of the United States walking away from international treaties, international agreements. The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty is one example. The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Agreement, another example. The whatever agreement was reached between Putin and Trump, that's the same. You know, the United States walked away from that. Russia has been quite clear on that.

The MOU that was just signed, the United States violated every paragraph of that MOU. So, you know, if you're another country saying we can negotiate with the United States, based on what? What's the evidence for that? The evidence shows the exact opposite. The United States flouts international law. It ignores international law. This is assassinating a foreign leader. They're all upset about, oh, Iran may assassinate Donald Trump. Well, hello, guys. You've already carried out multiple assassinations of nuclear scientists, General Soleimani, and now the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The U. S. has no room to talk or complain about this.

#Pascal

It's quite fascinating, isn't it? Like saying, we must now do a counterattack because somebody said that they might assassinate us—coming from the guy who assassinated the other guy, who kidnapped the guy in Venezuela, who is threatening every single dignitary who's not online, right? Who outright says we might just kill their diplomats on the way back home. It's quite something, but it shows this kind of idea of impunity, right? We can do whatever it is because it's U.S. sovereignty.

And if any one of them even so much as thinks about doing something similar, well, walk on nukes. I mean, that's the mindset, isn't it?

#Larry Johnson

Well, there's a Yiddish word that's appropriate here: chutzpah. Here's the United States that declares in 2003, by God, we've got to attack Iraq because they've got weapons of mass destruction. Particularly, oh, they've got chemical and biological weapons. Huh. Where did Iraq get those chemical and biological weapons? Oh, that was from the United States. The United States provided the precursors, and they provided the biological agents. So it's like we're the arsonist who sets fire to the house and then declares that we need to sue the homeowner because their house is on fire, when we're the ones that set the damn thing on fire. Okay? That is the classic definition of chutzpah.

#Pascal

Well, the chutzpah is quite amazing. But Larry, thank you so much for your insights here. I don't want to keep you longer; it's getting late on your end. I want to show everybody again that they can find you on Transition Protocol. They can find it in Spanish, in French, in German, in other languages, in Russian as well. They can find your English-language channel on Transition Protocol.

#Larry Johnson

And also sonar21.com.

#Pascal

sonar21.com for everybody who wants to read what Larry, the analysis he puts out. I mean, you write wonderful long pieces with a lot of data in them. Anything to add at this point?

#Larry Johnson

No, it's just, you know, there was a famous baseball player from the '60s, Yogi Berra, who was always known for having sort of malapropisms, you know, and one of his famous sayings was, "This is déjà vu all over again."

#Pascal

The U.S.—déjà vu all over again. Larry Johnson, thank you so much for your time today.

#Larry Johnson

Hey, Pascal Lottaz, thank you.

