

Trump Orders MASSIVE Attack on Tehran, US Troops FLEEING | Ben Norton

Geopolitical analyst Ben Norton discusses Trump and Israel's preparations for a massive strike on Iran and breaks down why the US is choosing escalation now despite retreating on multiple fronts in the war. Follow Ben on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@GeopoliticalEconomyReport> LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritho> #iran #iranwar #trump

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I am joined by host of Geopolitical Economy Report, Ben Norton. First, the news. So according to CBS, the U.S. and Israel are considering a massive strike over this weekend targeting Iran's energy infrastructure, power plants, and possibly oil refineries. Well, it hasn't been given the exact OK yet. Iran has already responded to this threat by publishing targets that it says will be part of its strategic response to these strikes, including oil fields in Saudi Arabia, UAE, gas fields in Qatar, oil fields in Kuwait, and, of course, infrastructure, gas infrastructure in Israel. Here is the U.S. embassy alert that came out today. As you can see, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Bahrain are on this list of on alert for this attack.

And this comes, Ben, as the United States appears to be actually withdrawing in some areas. There have been massive evacuations from U.S. bases in Kuwait and Jordan. Now, it appears that in Iraq, they have taken away the last of the U.S.'s air defenses there. And Iran has been conducting daily strikes in Iraq against Kurdish proxy forces, even when the U.S. has not been attacking directly. So, Ben, I know you've been covering the situation now in the war on Iran on your channel. I want us to understand these developments. Why is the United States and Israel appearing to claim and say that they are going to bomb Iran with this massive attack and go after energy infrastructure in an attack they say might last a couple of days? It's kind of a curious thing. I'm wondering what you think about it.

#Ben Norton

Well, what we see here is a typical move up the escalation ladder, where what often happens in war is, at the beginning, an arrogant leader says this is going to be quick and easy. It's going to take just a few days or a few weeks. And it ends up taking longer and longer, and it drags out. And the aggressor keeps moving up the escalation ladder after the other side that defends itself retaliates. This is, of course, what happened in the U.S. war in Vietnam. This is why it continued for basically 20 years. And the U.S. kept moving up the escalation ladder because every time the U.S. attacked the Vietnamese, the Vietnamese defended their sovereignty.

And every time they defended themselves, the U.S. portrayed this as another horrible attack, and they had to respond. So if you look at what's happening in Iran, it's quite similar. Obviously, there are no ground troops yet, and hopefully, I actually do not think there will be any ground troops by the U.S. We can talk about why. I mean, the U.S. really can't send ground troops. It would be a disaster. They can't, logistically. Iran is a very large and mountainous country. It's over three times the size of Iraq, and the major cities are concentrated in the inner part of Iran. The U.S. would have to go over mountains. There'd be no way for the troops to take those cities, and it would obviously cause a lot of casualties. So that's not likely.

I'm not comparing that to Vietnam. But in the sense that Trump thought that this would be a very quick, easy operation, there are now many reports, leaks from inside the Trump administration. They make it clear that Trump was convinced that all he had to do was carry out so-called decapitation strikes, which is a euphemism for killing all of the major Iranian leadership, the political and military leadership. And the U.S. thought that the Iranian so-called regime—they always call it a regime—would collapse. They believed their own propaganda, thinking that the Iranian government was very brittle, that it did not have much of a base of support. And they assumed that all they had to do was just push a little bit.

The supposed house of cards would fall, and they could put in a new puppet regime, like the failed son of the Shah, Reza Pahlavi, who has been living in California for most of his life. Obviously, none of that happened. Iran was able to defend itself. Iran was able to hit the U.S. bases in the region, which have largely been destroyed or very heavily damaged by Iranian missiles and drones. So every time Iran retaliates to these U.S. attacks, Trump feels that he has to keep hitting back, and he has to keep moving up the escalation ladder. We've seen this trend again and again. So allegedly, the U.S. claims that on the 28th of July, Iran carried out these attacks on U.S. bases, especially in Jordan. And Trump said that this is beyond the pale.

And on the 29th, he announced these massive new strikes against Iran. And of course, every time that the U.S. does this, Iran retaliates. Iran has a right to self-defense. And the U.S. keeps moving up the escalation ladder. Now, previously, the U.S. claimed that supposedly it destroyed all of the major Iranian military targets. You know, Trump has claimed repeatedly over months that Iran's military is destroyed, which is very funny because he keeps saying this and then Iran keeps responding. So obviously, Iran's military capabilities are not destroyed. But, you know, the U.S. has

a list of targets, and it destroyed many of the military sites. It destroyed schools where the U.S., of course, famously did a triple-tap strike on a school in southern Iran, killing around 200 children, mostly young girls.

But, you know, the U.S. did at first, even though it was hitting these civilian sites, the U.S. was destroying a lot of the conventional military sites. And now the U.S. keeps moving up the escalation ladder. And the U.S. and Israel are reportedly planning these massive strikes on energy infrastructure. That includes power plants, to literally leave Iranians in the dark so Iranian civilians don't have electricity. This is a war crime. These are civilian institutions. This is civilian infrastructure. And in addition, the report from CBS, which is basically state media at this point—let's not forget that CBS now belongs to Paramount, which is being bought by Warner Brothers, which is buying Warner Brothers, excuse me. Paramount is run by the failed son of the billionaire, one of the main billionaire oligarchs who's a big Trump supporter, who is the CEO of Oracle, Larry Ellison.

And CBS News, it now belongs to Paramount, which belongs to the Ellison family. And they bought it up and they brought in some right-wing Trump supporters, propagandists like Bari Weiss, to run it. Anyway, so CBS News is basically, you know, de facto state media. They're very close to the Trump administration. It's clear that the Trump White House is leaking this story to CBS as a warning against Iran. And they say that in addition to destroying the electrical infrastructure, they're going to try to destroy Iran's oil refineries because obviously Iran is a very big producer of oil. And Iran also has the ability of refining its crude in order to make it into gasoline and diesel to use it to power vehicles and the electrical infrastructure in the country.

So, again, this is a massive move up the escalation ladder. And Iran is going to retaliate. So the U.S. and Israel are pledging to plunge Iran into the dark, which means that Iran is going to plunge Saudi Arabia and the UAE and Kuwait and Bahrain into the dark. Iran has the ability to do so. Of course, Iran can't hit the continental U.S., but it can hit these major U.S. allies in the region. And we can talk about how these U.S. allies are completely complicit in this. We now know there are reports from The Wall Street Journal and other places that the UAE has been given U.S. and Israeli intelligence, and the UAE has directly bombed Iran.

And Saudi Arabia is—just this past week, Saudi Arabia was working with the U.S. military to bomb Iraqi groups, Iraqi fighters that are allied with Iran. And Saudi Arabia is, of course, now bombing Yemen, where the majority of the population lives, the government led by the so-called Houthi movement, which is officially known as Ansar Allah. And Saudi Arabia—Axios reported that Saudi Arabia was given the green light by Trump, that the U.S. encouraged Saudi Arabia to restart the war against Yemen, which goes back to 2015, in order to drag Yemen into this war as well. Yemen has the capacity to hit Saudi Arabia hard. It's already hit Saudi oil infrastructure.

And Iran has the capacity to hit these Gulf regimes very hard, quid pro quo, quid pro quo. So the U.S. and Israel hit Iran's electrical infrastructure. Iran will retaliate. And by the way, Iran can also hit Israel. In this new phase of the war, after the U.S. unilaterally violated the memorandum of

understanding that was signed in mid-June, on the 8th of July Trump restarted this war of aggression. Thus far, Israel and Iran have not hit each other. But if the CBS reports are true, and I think they are, then Iran will retaliate against Israel and hit Israel's electrical infrastructure. So once again, we see how the U.S. constantly, arrogantly underestimates Iran and its abilities.

#Danny

And I'll just pull up the warning to U.S. embassies by the Department of State. And I'm pulling this up again because in the summary it says quite clearly that a significant escalation with Iran and its bank allies is expected across the Middle East in the coming days. The security environment remains highly volatile and dynamic, with the potential for rapid deterioration with little to no warning. So, yeah, this is, of course, a foreshadowing and signaling to Iran that this is going to happen. And as you said, Iran has the capabilities of doing all of this, what you stated, Ben, in terms of responding. Well, it appears that when the United States finally does pull the trigger on this, they could be looking at a much more difficult time stopping Iran. And here is a Fox News report on that.

#Speaker 1

Hi, Bill. Well, the Pentagon is confronting a growing reality after months of fighting in Iran. America's stockpile of missile defense interceptors is shrinking so much that military planners are weighing whether they can continue the current cycle of limited retaliatory strikes. The Center for Strategic and International Studies, using open-source budget numbers, estimates U.S. Patriot interceptor inventories have fallen from roughly 2,300 pre-war to fewer than 827, while THAAD interceptors have dropped from 452 to fewer than 278. CSIS warns rebuilding those stockpiles could take three years or more.

#Speaker 1

Iran's strategy appears to be to target U.S. bases, forcing the U.S. to expend these exquisite defensive missile interceptors like the Patriots and THAADs, forcing the Pentagon to take greater risks in defending U.S. troops the longer the conflict drags on.

#Danny

So, Ben, a massive escalation coming that there are estimates it'll be a few days in terms of its scope, how long it takes. But these numbers don't really bode well for such an attack, for how long it could go, and for how the United States will be able to respond to Iranian retaliation, which it's very much in its right to do and will do.

#Ben Norton

Yeah, this has become a really big problem for the U.S. military. I did a video on this, about this, on my channel, and there have been so many reports now in mainstream U.S. media outlets acknowledging that the U.S. doesn't have the capacity to keep waging this war for an extended period of time. That Fox News report actually spelled it out pretty well. And those figures are probably the most accurate. I've seen more conservative figures. You know, the Wall Street Journal had a big story on this. But at the most, the U.S. has under—less than 1,000 remaining Patriot interceptors. Now, for people who don't know this, the Patriot system is an air defense system. The interceptors are just missiles that are used to shoot down other missiles.

That's Iranian ballistic missiles and other missiles or Iranian drones. And if the U.S. runs out of these interceptors, its air defense systems are largely useless. And it's not just the U.S., but also major U.S. allies in the region, not only Israel, but the Gulf regimes that rely on similar systems and interceptors designed by these U.S. companies. So the Patriots are designed by Raytheon, which rebranded as RTX. And according to reports by media outlets linked to the U.S. military, Raytheon can only make around 600 of the most advanced interceptors, which are the PAC-3 Patriot interceptors, only 600 per year. And as that report just showed, the U.S. began this war of aggression against Iran on the 28th of February.

The U.S. had about 2,300 Patriot interceptors, and now it has fewer than 1,000, probably around 800. So just think about the fact that the U.S. has used probably around 1,700, 1,500, depending on what numbers you use. Some people said they had 2,500 at first, whatever. Let's say they used 1,500, using those CSIS figures. That means that that's over two years of production. That's why they said in their report it would take three years. Now, what's very funny about this is you read all these media reports, and they invariably mention China. And they say this is a big threat because the U.S. doesn't have the weapons that it would need to fight China, which is honestly absurd. The U.S. can't even defeat Iran.

Imagine the U.S. trying to defeat China. I mean, these people are just high on their own supply. But this is a real issue because, at the same time as the U.S. is running out of these interceptors, we see more and more reports showing that U.S. casualties are increasing. And these two issues are directly related because the U.S. now is having to be very careful conserving its interceptors in the air defense systems, which means that more and more Iranian missiles and drones are getting through the U.S. air defense systems and killing U.S. soldiers, or at least injuring U.S. soldiers. The official data that we have from—this was reported by CNN—is that at least 600 U.S. soldiers have been injured and 1,800 have been confirmed killed.

That's a very conservative estimate, especially the deaths. You know, casualties, when we use casualty figures, combine both deaths and injuries. But there have been many reports, including by The New York Times, citing U.S. government sources, that the Pentagon has been intentionally lowballing those estimates, undercounting the deaths, certainly, and even the injuries. And the Pentagon hasn't given a press conference in nearly three months now. So it's very likely that Iran is

doing even more damage than it was before. And the U.S. does not have the ability to continue this for several more months, which is why actually on the 24th, 25th,

#Ben Norton

The U.S. announced a so-called pause, depending on what time zone you're in. And Trump said that they were going to pause the U.S. strikes and have peace talks with Iran and go back to the negotiating table. Now, obviously, Iran doesn't trust the U.S. because the U.S. has done this repeatedly, where the U.S. says we're going to have negotiations, and the U.S. uses the negotiations as cover in order to launch surprise attacks on Iran. This is exactly what happened in June of last year when the U.S. and Israel launched this war of aggression after the U.S. had participated in several rounds of talks with Iran.

Those talks were largely being held in Switzerland, and then the U.S. sabotaged them and carried out another war for about two weeks last year. And then this year, once again, the U.S. carried out this surprise attack, launching this war of aggression on the 28th of February. And then in April, there was a so-called ceasefire that the U.S. constantly violated. And during the so-called ceasefire, the U.S. imposed a naval blockade of Iran. And then in mid-June, the U.S. and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding, claiming that there was a cessation of hostilities and they were going to have talks. And the U.S. participated in these talks in Pakistan.

That's where it was brokered by Pakistan. Well, sorry, they weren't in Pakistan, but the talks were brokered by Pakistan. And Qatar was also helping to host these talks. And then, of course, on the 8th of July, out of nowhere, Trump declared that the MOU was dead, and he launched attacks again on Iran. On the 14th, the U.S. military reimposed its naval blockade of Iran. But then, almost two weeks later, on the 24th, 25th, the U.S. announced this pause because the U.S. cannot continue to escalate. It does not have the actual missiles it would need to keep casualties low. But then, four days later, on the 29th, Trump declared that the pause was over again.

So we just see this pattern. I mean, they just keep moving up the escalation ladder when they don't actually have the ability to do so. So there is no plan. I have no idea what they're doing. They don't know what they're doing. Trump arrogantly went into this thinking that it would be so easy. It would last a few days, at most a few weeks. We're now over five months into this war. Midterm elections are approaching soon. It's clear that Trump was looking for some kind of off-ramp. And the U.S. is getting very desperate. And NBC News reported that Trump is literally yelling and yelling expletives at his own staff members, senior administration officials in these meetings.

You know, these are all yes men. Yes. Yes, sir, Trump. Yes. Emperor Trump will do whatever you want. Yes, sir. Trump is yelling at them with expletives, telling them how stupid they are because there's no plan, and they actually have no way out of this other than the only real solution, which is a real deal that the U.S. must be forced to abide by, that makes significant concessions to Iran, which concedes that Iran will, in perpetuity, control the Strait of Hormuz. Things are not going back

to the status quo. Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz, and the U.S. needs to give sanctions relief. That's a euphemism. That's what the media says. I'm falling for their trap. The U.S. needs to lift its illegal unilateral sanctions that violate international law. That's the bare minimum.

Those two demands. Iran, of course, also wants reparations. Unfortunately, I don't think that's likely, but that's part of their negotiating leverage. And Iran wants the ability to continue supporting its allies in the region, which it's going to do. So there's going to have to be a deal at some point. You and I have talked about this, Danny. It's inevitable. But the U.S. just keeps dragging out the inevitable because the U.S. does not want to be seen as weak. Every time Iran hits the U.S., the U.S. tries to hit back disproportionately. So the U.S. keeps moving up the escalation ladder. But as we've established, Iran has escalation dominance. Iran has the capacity to keep moving up and up and up. And Iran can bear the costs. The U.S. cannot bear the costs.

#Danny

Yeah, and I hearken back often to an NBC report within the last week or so that said that during the course of this war, Iran has at least fired 9,000 what they call projectiles, either missiles or drones, since the United States and Israel started this war. And now, with these numbers dwindling, these interceptor numbers, Iran isn't showing that it doesn't have maybe another 9,000 left that it could fire. And with fewer and fewer defenses, that means that ratio of missiles that hit versus don't hit is going to get worse and worse for the United States. But I wanted to also just note that there are now reports that there are evacuations in Bahrain and Qatar. So the U.S. military is actually trying to empty out as much as possible before these strikes. Now, Ben, maybe talk about the role of Israel here. This is the first time in a while that the Trump administration has been forthright about Israel possibly coming back into the fray and coordinating strikes. What do you make of this and your reaction to it?

#Ben Norton

Israel was rearming. And this is why Trump signed the memorandum of understanding back in mid-June. Trump signed the MOU. And the thing about Trump is, he always says the quiet part loud. He has no subtlety. So a few days after signing it, he went to France for the G7 summit, and he gave a press conference surrounded by Marco Rubio and others. And he said, "We only have four weeks left in global oil reserves," or, "We only had four if the war would continue." So Trump was defending his decision to sign the MOU because, of course, there were hawks in the Republican Party, like Lindsey Graham, rest in piss. And these hawks were criticizing Trump and saying, "He's giving in to Iran."

This is a horrible deal. It's worse than Obama's deal. And Trump was defending himself, saying, look, if the war had continued without the MOU, we would have run out of oil in four weeks. So, of course, the U.S. was using that time, first of all, to try to stabilize the oil market. And the price of crude oil did fall quite substantially after the MOU was signed in mid-June, although oil prices did not fall to the previous level they had been at before the U.S. started this war at the end of February.

So, you know, and we've also seen when Trump unilaterally violated the MOU on the 8th of July, and then on the 14th, the U.S. imposed the naval blockade again of Iran.

Oil prices shot up again to over \$100. They've fallen a bit since then, but they're very volatile because, of course, the U.S. keeps escalating and then announcing a pause and then escalating again and saying they want to pause again. Now, in terms of the—so that was the oil issue. By the way, the U.S. still keeps taking oil out of its Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This is the SPR, and the SPR is currently at the lowest level since 1983. You can go to the website of the U.S. EIA, the Energy Information Administration. It's a government agency, and they have on their website the official data they update every week showing the amount of oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

And they keep withdrawing some because, of course, it's basic supply and demand. Demand for oil is pretty inelastic. So even if there's a shortage of oil, people still need oil, especially in the U.S., which has very bad public transportation. You need gasoline for your car, and trucks need diesel in order to ship goods across the economy. So, oil is very—demand for it is very inelastic. And as the supply of oil falls because of these massive disruptions due to this war that the U.S. started in the most oil-rich region of the world, responsible for a third of global oil production, there have been these massive disruptions.

And so what the U.S. government is trying to do—yeah, this is the official data—what the U.S. is trying to do is release millions of barrels of oil from the SPR in order to increase the supply to try to stabilize prices. But they can only do so when they have oil in the SPR. And as you can see, it's basically at the lowest level that we have the data for. And every week I check it, it keeps updating, it gets lower and lower. And by the way, there are some reports that, like, the Wall Street Journal had a big article about this, that the SPR is in a horrible state. The infrastructure itself has not been kept up.

No surprise to anyone who knows about the horrible state of U.S. infrastructure. The government does not invest in keeping up this infrastructure. So the SPR is literally falling apart. Oil is leaking. And there are reports that once the SPR gets below a certain level, they just—they can't keep it up. Like, there has to be a certain minimum of oil or things just break down. So the U.S., in terms of—I haven't even talked about the weapons situation. So that was one of the main reasons that the U.S. signed this MOU, along with the issue we talked about with the Patriot interceptor limitations. That's a big issue. Now, you asked about Israel. So the same thing is happening in Israel.

Economically, Israel, you know, has been at a state of total war since October 2023, carrying out a genocide in Gaza, continuing the genocide in Gaza that has not ended, attacking the West Bank, colonizing more and more of the West Bank, and now waging war in Yemen—sorry, in Lebanon, and waging war in Lebanon. Saudi Arabia is waging war in Yemen, although Israel has also attacked Ansar Allah in Yemen. But then, of course, the U.S. and Israel started this war of aggression against Iran on the 28th of February. So Israel militarily or economically, I mean, Israel is a basket case. It's in a severe economic crisis. There's massive brain drain because, of course, a lot of the wealthier,

you know, upper-class and upper-middle-class Israelis have passports, usually for the U.S. or European countries or Australia.

A lot of them have been leaving because they don't want to live in a war zone. You know, the way that Israel has worked as this, you know, terrorist colonial regime is that they just bomb women and children who can't defend themselves, who are trapped in Gaza. And, you know, this very small guerrilla army of people who are just using homemade rockets—like, Israel is used to just shooting fish in a barrel, not to dehumanize Palestinians. But that's the saying, of course. Like, they're used to carrying out genocide against people who can't defend themselves. Iran can defend itself. Even in Lebanon, Hezbollah, the resistance, is better armed than the Palestinian resistance. But compared to Iran, they're not nearly at the same level as the Israeli military.

Iran has a very sophisticated military with hypersonic missiles and advanced drones and ballistic missiles. Iran does have the capacity to actually hit Israel hard. So this is the first war where Israelis are actually, for the first time, seeing the consequences of their terror colonial regime's actions. In Gaza, you know, there are some border towns in Israel on the border of Gaza who do see some rockets. But, you know, it's nothing compared to what Iran has been doing. So a lot of these wealthier Israelis, they're getting out of Dodge. They're going back to the U.S. and Europe and Australia. So you see massive brain drain, economic crisis, and at the same time, Israel has been using up a lot of its ammunition, a lot of its missiles.

They had to replenish those. So that was another reason why Trump signed this MOU in mid-June, to rearm Israel. But we've established earlier that there are major bottlenecks in the U.S. military-industrial complex. They can only make so many missiles and interceptors and other ammunition every year. And when they run out, they run out. It's going to take several years to replenish all of that. So I think that's why, in the past month, on the 8th of July, Trump unilaterally violated the MOU and restarted the war against Iran single-handedly. And then Iran retaliated, of course, in self-defense. And since then, Israel has not directly entered the war, which is why Iran has not hit Israel since 2008—since mid-June, since the memorandum of understanding was signed.

So, you know, Israel has now had a month and a half to replenish its supply. And the Trump administration has continued giving billions of dollars of weapons to Israel. And J.D. Vance gave a press conference in which he pretended—you know, J.D. Vance is doing this very cynical political maneuvering, where Israel—Trump is, you know, fully allied with this genocidal maniac, Netanyahu. Netanyahu was just in the White House with Zelensky, by the way, which is very funny for the, you know, pro-imperialist social democratic so-called elements of the left, the pro-imperialist fake left who supported Ukraine and NATO in the proxy war against Russia, but also claimed to support Palestine.

You know, you see these people on Twitter who have, like, the Palestinian flag and the Ukrainian flag, who don't understand the basic elements of geopolitics and imperialism. It's a totally infantile, ridiculous analysis. Well, now it's impossible to ignore the fact when Zelensky is in the White House

with Netanyahu and Trump. You cannot be pro-Palestine and pro-NATO and pro-Ukraine. It's absurd. And Ukraine is, like, joining this war, making it as clear as day that Ukraine is also at war with Iran and Palestine, supporting Israel. Anyway, so thus far, Israel—the strategy was that J.D. Vance is—he wants to run for president.

Trump is extremely unpopular. Parts of the Republican MAGA base have rebelled against Trump. You know, Tucker Carlson—it's very cynical. These people are all political mercenaries, and they see which direction the wind is blowing, and they see that Trump is hated widely. His approval rating is, you know, around 30%, which is probably an underestimate. Honestly, he's probably even more unpopular. And so J.D. Vance is trying to have his cake and eat it too. He's trying to be loyal to Trump, but he's going out and throwing red meat to the MAGA base, saying, you know, mildly criticizing Israel, pointing his finger at Israel.

And J.D. Vance gave a press conference in which he said, "Israel should be grateful because we're giving Israel billions of dollars of weapons." An acknowledgment that the Trump administration continues to arm Israel throughout the so-called cessation of hostilities and the so-called ceasefire in that period. So we'll see what happens in the next few days. I think Israel is going to reenter with the U.S. in this massive escalation by targeting Iran's electrical infrastructure and oil refineries. And if and when Israel does that, along with the U.S., you can bet that Iran is going to hit Israel very hard.

#Danny

Yes, and there was a report today, Ben, from The Washington Post. This is shared by Open Source Intelligence, that the U.S. European Command has privately warned the Pentagon—the commander of it—that he does not have enough naval forces to continue defending Israel against Iran's ballistic missile attacks and may soon have to prioritize defense of the U.S. homeland unless another naval destroyer is assigned. It came from Alexi Grikowicz, underscoring the growing strain that the Iran war has placed on U.S. military resources. The Washington Post reports that near-daily operations of these destroyers have stretched the Navy's fleet, while previous reporting from The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and Reuters have detailed mounting concerns over dwindling stocks, as we discussed earlier, of Patriot interceptors. So even the U.S. Navy, I mean, they've been... Oh, yeah, yeah. Keep that up, please. Yeah, please, your thoughts on this.

#Ben Norton

All right. I'd have to look at the original Washington Post article. I don't know if they're copying the language, but highlight that phrase, "have to prioritize defense of the U.S. homeland." That is incredible propaganda in so many ways. Now, first of all, you and I have talked about this, Danny. I've always disagreed with the people who said that this is all because of Israel and it's war for Israel. You have to ignore all of the other crimes that the U.S. empire carries out all around the world to believe this is all about Israel. Why did the U.S. invade Venezuela? Why is the U.S.

meddling in every Latin American country? Why is the U.S. constantly interfering in countries around the world? Why did the U.S. wage war against Vietnam and Korea and Yugoslavia?

Why is the U.S. constantly threatening China? This is the U.S. empire. This is what it does. Some people narrowly fixate on West Asia, the so-called Middle East, and they make everything about West Asia, ignoring the rest of the world. And that's why they think everything revolves around Israel. Israel is an extension of the U.S. empire. What the U.S. is doing in West Asia is what the U.S. has done in Latin America for 200 years. Maybe it's even more explicitly barbaric and more explicitly genocidal, but it's still very much in the same spirit of what the U.S. has done to the people of Nicaragua, who the U.S. militarily invaded Nicaragua three times, occupied the country, carried out a terror war in the '80s.

Or to Cuba, what the U.S. is doing to Cuba is borderline genocidal. I mean, so people who think everything's about Israel are missing the forest for the trees. And they're honestly, they're apologizing for the U.S. empire. They're whitewashing the U.S. empire. What Israel is doing, the genocide, is exactly what the U.S. did in Vietnam. It's what it did in Korea. It's what it's doing in Cuba. I mean, they're all—and it's what the British Empire did in Kenya during the Mau Mau uprising. It's what the French Empire did in Algeria during the Algerian War of Independence. This is the face of colonialism. Anyway, I know I'm getting off on an aside here. No, it's okay. But anyway, I don't know if they use the term, but anyway, the homeland. There we go, there we go.

#Danny

There it is. It's in the post, yep.

#Ben Norton

The use of that word, “a homeland,” they're doing two things here. Clearly, when you use the term homeland, what he's doing is he's responding to this right-wing MAGA talking point that this war is about Israel. This war is about U.S. imperialism. But these Republicans, these MAGA supporters, refuse to acknowledge that the U.S. is a genocidal, monstrous empire that has been at war for all of its history. And before it was founded, it was founded on genocide and slavery and ethnic cleansing. So they say that, no, the reason this war is bad is because it's about Israel, and instead we should defend the homeland. So the Trump administration is trying to respond to these critics by saying that, actually, we're defending our homeland.

No, they're not. They're defending an empire. And the other thing that they're doing with this is they're pretending that U.S. military bases on the other side of the world, in Saudi Arabia and Jordan and Iraq and et cetera—you go down the list, and almost every country in the region except Iran—that is not the homeland. That is an empire. The 800 military bases and installations that the U.S. empire has around the world, that is not U.S. territory. That is an empire. They're not defending the homeland. Iran has never threatened the homeland. Iran is not hitting domestic U.S. territory. What

they're doing here is, again, they're trying to—they're appealing to the MAGA base, saying they're not defending Israel, which, you know, Trump is very concerned about.

These are the people, you know, like Tucker Carlson. This is their talking point. Tucker Carlson loves the U.S. empire. Tucker Carlson, when he supposedly was rejected—when he applied to join the CIA in the 1980s. His dad was the head of the CIA media cutout, propaganda media outlet of the U.S. state media. And Tucker Carlson went to Nicaragua, where I'm speaking from right now, in the 1980s to support the Contra terrorist death squads backed by the CIA. These people love U.S. imperialism, but their narrow criticism of this specific war is that it's about Israel. Instead, they want the U.S. to be waging war against China and Venezuela and Nicaragua and Cuba.

The list goes on and on, right? So, that is so cynical. And even if you take it at their word, they're not defending their homeland. These U.S. bases in the region are not the U.S. homeland. And Israel—Iran has the right to destroy every U.S. base in the region, to shut down every U.S. base permanently, to expel all these U.S. military occupiers. And they should go home. These U.S. soldiers should not be around the world occupying foreign countries in 804 military bases. If the U.S. actually truly cared about the so-called homeland, it would shut down those military bases and stop maintaining this massive global empire, the largest empire in history. That language is so cynical.

And that's why, when I saw that, it just... Think about how cynical these propagandists are in the Pentagon. They're not defending the homeland. They're defending a global empire that exists to defend the interests of the U.S. capitalist class, Wall Street, Silicon Valley, you know, big oil. And by the way, there are these reports this week in all these media outlets that big oil corporations are making a killing off of the killing of Iranians, because that's the real constituency that Trump serves. All these big billionaires and now trillionaire Elon Musk, they're profiting from the war. But of course, the Pentagon is trying to say that they're defending their homeland. They're not doing anything like that.

#Danny

Yeah, the fact is, we've gone over this before, is there is not a country in the world that has the capability or wants to fire at the United States. And what's always so interesting, too, is that usually when these reports come out, although it was absent in the Washington Post report there, usually when there's alarm about stockpiles, it's not so much that they will dwindle down to zero, although if the United States decides to extend this war with Iran past a year, year and a half, two years, it could get that way. But nevertheless, that's usually not the immediate concern. The immediate concern is almost always, rather than defending the United States, which is not the concern, it is: what about China? What about the other areas that the United States needs to be in?

And usually it's China. And for especially those in the elite who sit on the other side of the bipartisan elite war consensus, it's usually Russia, right? It's like Russia, China—there needs to be more investment there in war. So usually it's more about choosing where to focus energy around

warmongering and less about, and not at all about, defending the homeland. But even this is becoming a lot more, I think, complicated for the U.S. empire at this point. And I think this is why we're often still—I think this is also part of the reason why we're getting more kind of shifting the blame to primarily Israel. It's getting so unpopular to promote wars by the United States directly and out front that Israel can serve as a very convenient—especially since Israel loves war so much.

And Israel also likes to take advantage of war. For example, when the U.S. gets more entangled in Latin America, for example, it will start its own little projects to promote the Abraham Accords in Latin America, get closer to the pro-U.S., pro-Israeli regimes and puppet leaders there on the continent, South America and the Caribbean. So Israel, of course, is loving this. They love when the U.S. continues to entangle itself in wars because they can kind of piggyback and try to improve their economy, rapidly dwindling global stature. So it is, you know, it's a very interesting situation. But nevertheless, it's very fraught with both risks and especially contradictions. The contradictions are exploding right now. So your thoughts on this, Ben?

#Ben Norton

Yeah, just a few things. I mean, we could talk about this for a long time. I do think it represents a political degradation to see the change in messaging. If you go back to the movement, the mass movement against the U.S. imperialist war in Vietnam, in which the U.S. killed three million Vietnamese people, in a blatantly colonial war of aggression, a common slogan in the anti-war movement was, "No to the rich man's war," "No rich man's war." It was a war for empire, a war for the rich, for capitalism, for large corporations. And today they say, "No to Israel's war." It's the same rich man's war. It's the wars for Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos and, you know, the billionaire class. They're the ones who always profit from all of these wars. Big Oil is profiting right now.

The military-industrial complex. We're talking about Raytheon. The Pentagon has issued all of these new contracts for Raytheon to build more Patriot interceptors. It's always their war. It's a war for empire. And yes, it's true that obviously Israel is benefiting, because Israel is an extension of the U. S. empire. Netanyahu is literally an American, which is often forgotten. He was a U.S. citizen two times. He only gave up his citizenship to become prime minister. But, I mean, Israel is part of the U. S. empire. And it's not a coincidence that as the U.S. empire is in severe decline right now—we see this in every metric, I mean, everywhere you look—Israel is also in severe decline. And I do think there are people who really overstate the power of Israel.

I really think that Israel is in its final stage of suicidal self-destruction. Many empires, in the last moment of their empire, they just become totally self-destructive and barbaric, run by complete maniacs who drank their own Kool-Aid and don't understand what's happening. This is, of course, what happened in the German Empire. I mean, Hitler was—he didn't just come out of nowhere. Hitler used many of the same barbaric genocidal tactics that the German Empire had used in

Southern Africa. The concentration camps originated when the German Empire created concentration camps for Africans as part of its colonial wars. And the U.S. Empire had concentration camps for Native Americans when it carried out genocide and ethnic cleansing of Native Americans.

And then, of course, with the rise of fascism, what we saw is the fascist leaders, Mussolini in Italy, and of course Hitler in Germany. But also, you had fascists all across Europe. Every European country had a fascist party. And what they were doing was using the same tactics that the colonial regimes had used in their colonial territories. But, of course, Westerners didn't care about them because they were non-white colonial subjects. They didn't care about what the British did in India and in its colonies in Africa. They didn't care about what the French did in its colonies in Africa. They didn't care about what the Portuguese and Spanish did in their colonies in Latin America. I mean, it's just ultimately rooted in racism and this kind of colonial arrogance.

But anyway, the point is, in the last stage of colonial decline, you know, during the Algerian War of Independence—I mentioned that the Mau Mau Rebellion in Kenya—the British Empire, after World War II, created concentration camps for Kenyans in the 1950s. This history is not taught in Western schools. So this is why a lot of people look at what Israel is doing and they think it's like some unprecedented thing in history. This is what Western civilization is based on. This is what colonialism looks like. Every Western colonial regime did exactly what Israel is doing to the Palestinian people. What's shocking to people is that we're in a technological age where it's live-streamed.

But if cell phones and the internet existed, and social media existed, when the British Empire was doing this and the French Empire were doing this, they could see—they would see—the barbaric face of Western imperialism. But anyway, the point is, I think that what we're seeing is the terminal decline of the U.S. empire and the Israeli colonial regime. I mean, this is not sustainable. Israel is hated by the vast majority of the planet. The U.S. is increasingly hated by more and more countries. Poll after poll shows this. Of course, China is now very popular, and China is rightfully seen around the world as an alternative that is not a crazy imperialist genocidal regime. China does not have a history of imperialism. China has not fought a war since 1979. So, you know, I really think that what we're seeing is a very painful transition moment.

You know, we've talked about this a lot, Danny, over years, that as bad as things look in West Asia with the genocide against the Palestinians, the war against Lebanon, the war against Iran, they can't succeed. The U.S. has lost against Iran. That's clear as day. The New York Times editorial board admitted it. It's so uncontroversial. Israel cannot defeat the Lebanese resistance, despite the fact that they use these terror tactics to assassinate the leadership of Hezbollah, Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, and, by the way, at the same time, hundreds of civilians, carrying out these massive bombings of central Beirut and these massive terror bombings of southern Lebanon, as we see now. They still cannot defeat the Lebanese resistance. The U.S. and Israel claim that Hezbollah was defeated.

It was not defeated because they believe their own propaganda. They think all they have to do is eliminate one man and everything collapses. No, these are people who are fighting to defend their sovereignty. Israel has not succeeded in Lebanon. Israel, starting in 1982 officially, was occupying southern Lebanon for 20 years until Hezbollah, the Lebanese resistance, expelled them. Israel is weaker now than it was then in the 1980s. Israel has more advanced technology. Fine, okay. No one would dispute that. And this is the problem with the U.S. as well. They are high on their own supply. They believe their propaganda. They boast about the fact that they spend a trillion dollars a year. Trump wants to increase it to \$1.5 trillion. They boast about how they have so much advanced technology and satellites and all of this.

They still cannot defeat Iran, which has a military budget officially of \$8 billion, compared to the U. S., which is one trillion. On paper, you look at that, you say, "Oh my God, this is a walk in the park." They believe that propaganda, but they still can't win. Just like Israel has all this advanced technology and they boast about how advanced the military is, they still cannot fully occupy South Lebanon. The Lebanese resistance is preventing it. So I really think that, like, I mean, we're seeing a serious, serious crisis in the U.S. empire and in the Israeli regime. And I do not see, like, 20 years from now, the Israeli regime withstanding all of these pressures and the U.S. empire continuing to do what it's doing today. Like we keep talking about, this movement toward a multipolar world, everywhere you look, it's accelerating, except maybe Latin America, unfortunately, which is another story.

But certainly in West Asia, like, there are a lot of people who are depressed. I'm actually—I look at it, it's very sad, it's tragic, it's horrible, but I'm not depressed. I actually see that, like, the empire is being defeated, and Israel is digging its own grave. Like, Israel has always been a totally unsustainable settler colonial project created by Westerners, first Europeans and then Americans, in the heart of West Asia. They participate in Eurovision. I mean, come on. We all know this is a Western colonial outpost. And it's not going to survive 20 or 30 years from now. What we're seeing is, like, its terminal end phase. And like the terminal end phase of the German Empire and the French Empire, it's very bloody and very sad and very tragic. But, you know, it doesn't prevent the fact that it is in serious decline.

#Danny

Yeah, apartheid South Africa, France, Britain. Maybe we could even look at the United States as well. All these empires, it tends to be that in the final years, or maybe in the final several years of their life, they are just as, if not even more violent in their attempts to stop this collapse. And I don't see how—I mean, you know, we had a lot of people who watch this program, I'm sure, who watch your program, Ben, who, you know, looked at the situation and saw, well, Hezbollah is not fighting anymore.

Well, Iran's not fighting before February 28th. You know, all of these instances of perhaps the resistance is the one on the retreat, and then people can't look at, you know, I look at Latin America, you mentioned, and see that that situation is getting more grave, and they say, "Well, well, the world..." And then they look at that, and they say, "Oh, well, the world looks like it's looking more favorably for the U.S. empire, for Israel, than we thought, or than those like us were telling them." But the fact of the matter is, actually, it seems like every time there are doubts about this, something else happens.

For example, this war in Iran, which not only led to Iran gaining strength worldwide, but also showed that both Hezbollah and now we're seeing Yemen, we're seeing forces across the region show that they have a lot of fight left in them, if not, you know, are ready to continue onward toward pushing Israel out and pushing the United States out. So, yeah, the situation, I think, is a lot more complex, and also perhaps there's a lot more optimism that can be gleaned from it, even when we know that when the U.S. does strike in Iran, if they're participating in it too, there will be people who die.

That is what war is, and all wars of resistance, unfortunately, have incredible death tolls that are left behind them. No matter where you look, where it happened, that's unfortunately the reality that we shouldn't diminish, but we shouldn't also elevate that to the level of proof that this means the U.S. empire and Israel are, you know, on the ascendant. But any final words, Ben? I know we're coming up at the top of the hour. Any final thoughts and words you have for the audience? Yeah, I think this is absolutely historic, what Iran has accomplished. It's amazing also what Yemen has accomplished, by the way, but I'll get to that in a moment.

#Ben Norton

You know, Danny, you and I have been talking for years now about how we're kind of in a watershed moment in history. There is this quote that is probably apocryphal, but it's partially based on something that Lenin said. It's often said as, "There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen." And what we're seeing now is certainly months or years where decades happen. Also, this is a real quote: President Xi Jinping of China constantly repeats that we're seeing changes not seen in a century. And we see this in so many ways. You and I have been talking about this, Danny, with this transition toward a more multipolar world, the rise of China, the fact that all of NATO could not defeat Russia. You know, think about how weak Russia was in the '90s.

It was a complete failed state. All of NATO combined could not defeat Russia. And, you know, they keep dragging on the war in Ukraine. But, you know, look at the battle lines. They haven't changed in like two years now. So it's like, there's no way—like, Russia already won. But anyway, and then there are other things, you know, what's going on in the Sahel and Africa, many things. Southeast Asia, by the way, you know, there are so many incredible things happening in Southeast Asia. But a

lot of the countries, they're following the famous strategy of Deng Xiaoping in China, which is, "Maintain a low profile, hide your strength, bide your time." You know, Indonesia, Vietnam—it's amazing what's happening. But in terms of West Asia, a lot of people are understandably confused and pessimistic and sad.

And everyone should be sad, and they should be outraged, because it's absolutely barbaric what the U.S. and Israel have been doing to this region. Although, again, like I said, if you study the history of imperialism, it's certainly not new for the people of Latin America. It's certainly not new for the people of Africa. It's certainly not new for the people in other parts of Asia, like what the U.S. did in Vietnam. They killed 3 million Vietnamese. And look at Vietnam today. I mean, it is a massive success story. So in terms of what's happening, again, I think this is part of a very bloody and very sad transition in which the U.S. empire is really in serious crisis. Now, the U.S. does still have some very significant tools in its kind of imperial toolbox: its weapons, especially the dollar system, the financial system.

We see many cracks emerging in that system as well. I talk about this a lot on my channel with de-dollarization and the decline of U.S. dollar dominance, the rise of gold, the rise of other currencies, RMB internationalization. So we need to keep a perspective here. But this brings me back to Iran and Yemen. What Iran has accomplished is part of this acceleration of the multipolarization of the world. Robert Pape is a very mainstream political scientist at the University of Chicago, which is also where John Mearsheimer is a professor. And Robert Pape published an article in The New York Times, of all places, the most mainstream of U.S. media outlets, acknowledging that this war has established the fact that Iran is now a major power in the world.

He puts Iran up there with the U.S., China, and Russia as the three great powers. He says Iran is now also a major power because it will come out of this war, one, winning the war, and two, even stronger. First of all, the government is more unified than ever. Popular support for Iran is stronger than ever, and Iran has control over the Strait of Hormuz, the most important oil transit choke point on Earth. Twenty percent of globally traded oil passes through this narrow strait on a daily basis, and that is a massive instrument for Iranian influence, and it's never going to give that up. So Iran is going to come out of this stronger than ever, which means that Iran was the main force of material and economic support for the rest of the Axis of Resistance.

I'm not saying that all of the other groups in the Axis of Resistance are Iranian proxies, as Western corporate propaganda claims. They always say that Hezbollah is an Iranian proxy. It's not true. Hezbollah has its origins in the Lebanese community, especially the Shia community, fighting against Israel's colonial occupation of South Lebanon starting in the early 1980s. It's true that Iran supported Hezbollah with weapons and economic support. And ideologically, the Lebanese resistance was inspired by the Iranian Revolution. Of course, the Iranian Revolution was in 1979. Israel starts its occupation of South Lebanon officially in 1982. So you start having these revolutionary groups in South Lebanon who are also Shia, and they're influenced by Khomeini and the Iranian Revolution.

We see something quite similar in Yemen with Ansar Allah, known as the Houthis movement, but that's kind of a derogatory term. They're officially known as Ansar Allah. Now, I mentioned that what Yemen has accomplished is also incredible because Ansar Allah has its origins in the Zaidi community, which is a Shia sect in northern Yemen. And originally, they were created in order to resist Saudi Wahhabi influence. Yemen is the poorest country in West Asia. Saudi Arabia is one of the richest countries on Earth per capita because of its oil revenue being concentrated in a few hands of rich, you know, rich aristocrats from the royal family. And the Saudi regime has exported Wahhabi ideology around the world, especially in West Asia.

And Yemen is a country where there was a lot of Wahhabi influence. So Ansar Allah emerged originally as more of a religious and cultural group, resisting Wahhabi influence, resisting al-Qaeda, which was influenced by the Saudi extremist ideology and the CIA. The CIA encouraged the spread of Saudi Wahhabi ideology going back to the 1980s in the CIA war, the proxy war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Anyway, Ansar Allah emerged, but then, especially after the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, Ansar Allah became much more political. They started to organize and fight against corruption. Then, in 2014, Ansar Allah had a revolution in Yemen.

Ansar Allah overthrew a U.S.-backed dictatorship and created a revolutionary government. It's not only Ansar Allah that's in the government. They have a functioning multi-party government. They're the dominant party, of course. They have representatives from the south. They have representatives of different political constituencies. And they govern 80% of the Yemeni population. They are the real Yemeni government. The fake Yemeni government that the so-called international community recognizes is a puppet regime. It's totally illegitimate, based in the south where 20% of the population lives. And even in the south, there are competing factions fighting for control, some backed by the UAE, some backed by Saudi Arabia, etc. So, given the fact that Ansar Allah led a revolution, the Yemeni people had a revolution.

The political force leading it was Ansar Allah, inspired in many ways by the Iranian Revolution. That was in 2014, on the 21st of September. And then a few months later, in March of 2015, the U.S. pressured Saudi Arabia, using Saudi Arabia as a proxy to wage a brutal war against Yemen, using the kinds of tactics that Israel has used against the Palestinians: genocidal tactics, mass starvation, destruction of food sites, killing hundreds of thousands of Yemenis over years. And yet the U.S. and Saudi Arabia were not able to defeat the Yemeni people. They were not able to defeat Ansar Allah. They're still in power. They're stronger than they were before. And then last year, the U.S. military launched a month-long campaign, a war against Ansar Allah, so the U.S. could assert control over the Red Sea. And they failed.

Yemen, despite the fact that it's the poorest country in West Asia, Ansar Allah basically forced the U.S. military to a ceasefire, which you could say in some ways could be considered a defeat. Considering how it's a David and Goliath story, the poorest country in West Asia defending itself against the U.S. military, that is functionally the equivalent of defeating the U.S. military. So looking at that David and Goliath story in Yemen, that gives me hope. It's incredible what they've

accomplished. And then looking at what Iran has accomplished. You know, I mentioned that Iran is now considered by mainstream U.S. scholars a major power. Iran has defeated the most powerful empire. Iran is coming out of this stronger. I honestly, I don't look at the situation with so much pessimism like many other people.

Obviously, the genocide against the Palestinians is horrible. It's horrifying. I understand why a lot of people are pessimistic. But they still have not even defeated the Palestinians, despite the fact that Palestinians have so few resources. They did not defeat the Lebanese resistance. They've not defeated the Iraqi resistance. Syria was an exception. Syria was a special case. The Syrian government was atrophied after over a decade of a horrible war. There was hyperinflation. The military was not being paid. The country was divided. Parts of the country were physically occupied by militias backed by Turkey and the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, Israel, etc. Syria was a different story. But even in the case of Syria, they have not been able to create a functioning puppet regime.

What they have is a failed state. Syria is a failed state for all intents and purposes. Certain parts of the territory are controlled by different militias. There's barely a unified central government. They've destroyed Syria. Okay, it's very sad as well. But they have not destroyed the other major parts of the axis of resistance. So I look at the situation and I think that this is, again, a difficult transition moment, and that coming out of this, 20 or 30 years from now, the world is going to be a very different place. The U.S. is going to be way weaker. And honestly, I don't think that the Israeli colonial regime will be able to survive the backlash internationally to this barbaric genocidal monstrosity that it is. It's going to have to fundamentally change.

Whether that means... I'm not saying that necessarily is going to be the total collapse of the Israeli regime, but it's going to have to be a complete change of the character of what it looks like, with the recognition that Palestinians are the majority and they will never be able to expel all of the Palestinians, who are the majority. It's going to have to be some kind of South Africa outcome. And until then, I mean, I see more and more decline and more and more violence, but I don't share the view that things are hopeless. I have the opposite view. I think this is, in many ways, the very difficult transition period that will bring us into a situation politically in the world that ultimately will ideally be a bit better for the global majority.

#Danny

Yeah, I think that's a great place to close, Ben. Thanks so much for that and your analysis. Thanks so much, everyone, who gave super chats. Thanks to all the moderators, of course, who did a lot of work on a weekend day to make sure the chat is a great place to be. I'll be back tomorrow, 1 p.m. Eastern Time, same time, with Professor Mohamed Marandi. Ben Norton's YouTube channel, Geopolitical Economy Report, is in the video description as well. Make sure you hit that like button. Check out his channel. All the places to support this show are in the video description too: Patreon, Substack, YouTube member, all of that. Ben, any final words to the audience before we head out of here?

#Ben Norton

No, just keep up the great work. I'm glad to hear that you're going to have Mahmoud Marandi on. He's one of the best analysts. He's in Iran, so everyone should check that out. Keep it up, Danny. And I look forward to our next discussion.

#Danny

Yeah, no, me too. Same here. Thank you, Ben. All right, everybody. We are out of here. Hit the like button, of course. Check out the video description for Ben and I's work. And I will see you all again tomorrow. Bye-bye.