

Iran War OVER? Yemen's Missiles SMASH Saudi | Patrick Henningsen

Patrick Henningsen discusses Trump's shocking reaction to Iran's massive moves to consolidate power as war that was supposed to bring the Iranian government to its knees backfires badly on CENTCOM and Israel on multiple fronts, including Yemen, where the YAF is punishing top US ally Saudi Arabia. <https://www.youtube.com/@21stCenturyWireTV> Patrick's YouTube <https://patrickhenningsen.substack.com/> 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 #trump #iranwar

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I'm joined by Patrick Henningsen of 21st Century Wire to break down the latest developments. We're asking whether the Iran war is over. Well, at least the reports are that Donald Trump and his aides—or he has told his aides—that he may walk away from the war without a nuclear deal so long as Iran agrees to reopen the Strait of Hormuz in full. He told this to the Wall Street Journal. Now, Iran has been very firm on its demands. It now has many demands that pertain to the MOU, including ending U.S. troop presence, ending the war, ending wars of aggression on all of its allies, and, of course, giving compensation to Iran for all of the damages. Iran has, last night, hit a tanker off the coast of Oman as activity in the Strait of Hormuz comes to a standstill.

Just six vessels that went through the Iranian-designated corridor went through last night. Now, Yemen is escalating its counter-strike and counter-attack to U.S.-Saudi aggression. It released footage of drone and missile attacks on Saudi proxy forces in day five of this renewed war. This includes mercenary ammunition depots in Yemen's Al-Muqa, which have been hit by 30 Yemeni missiles overnight, and actually that is being targeted once again as we speak by a Yemeni drone swarm. Fifty-eight, up to at least—that's what we know of so far—58 Saudi proxies thus far have been killed by Ansar Allah as this war unfolds. Patrick has not seen any recession whatsoever. So, Patrick, what's going on? First, let's start with Iran. Is Trump actually walking away, or is this more smoke and mirrors?

#Patrick Henningsen

I don't know. I really don't know. Look, the U.S. isn't walking away. Trump might be walking away temporarily, but the United States have very clear plans and strategies for this region. They might be going into a delay phase. I mean, look, these politicians are like schoolchildren. They need to have their summer vacations. So this is it. This is August. So off they go to their second homes or their third homes or their fourth homes or whatever, to the ranch. And so they're gone for August. So the likelihood of escalation during this month, with the Western political—the American and the British specifically—they're gone on vacation basically, boating and things, crabbing in the Chesapeake Bay if there's any crabs left.

So that's not happening. And then once you're into September, the logic of escalation from the U.S. point of view, that close to the midterm elections, it's very risky. It's very risky. So they played all these different hands. There could be a few, I think, disparate moves by the Trump administration to antagonize Iran, to basically poke, to prod, to test Iran a little bit, just to remind Iran that the United States is still engaged in the issue. But the reality is, Danny, you know you're in America. If the White House just doesn't talk about it for a few weeks and focuses on something else, whatever that is, then the American public just switches off. And most people will forget there was even a war in Iran if you're given a few weeks.

That's just the way the American national goldfish-bowl psyche works, just in general. So then it's really taking advantage of this lull in fighting for the U.S. and Israel to restock on really essential defenses, manage to cobble together what they can in terms of interceptors, in terms of ways that Tel Aviv and West Jerusalem can defend itself in the event of a resumption of hostilities. That's going to happen. And for the U.S., the situation is not great. Iran is being a lot more aggressive. They're not playing this sort of negotiations game anymore with the U.S. So they've been very explicit: We want you out of the region. Get out. There can't be peace until the U.S. is out of the Persian Gulf.

So, I mean, the U.S. can't really engage. Trump can't engage in a war of words over this, because he's going to have to back it up with some hard force or some power or something. And right now, Iran's taking advantage of the situation because of the political situation in the U.S. and Israel, and being a lot more aggressive. I mean, you have to kind of marvel at the way Iran has played their hand so skillfully at every single stage of this kind of situation, of this crisis. And right now they're taking full advantage of the weak footing, the political footing of Trump and Netanyahu at the moment. It's very clear.

And so, you know, the U.S. can't come back with some kind of aggressive threat: "But you can't kick us out of the Persian Gulf." They can't say anything, because the facts are the facts. They don't have a very strong military position anyway. It's incredibly weak. I really think that the blow to the Kingdom of Jordan over the last month has been really devastating for Israel, because the Kingdom of Jordan, separate from the GCC kind of arc on the Persian Gulf, that's Israel's last line of defense, really, in terms of missiles. So they really rely on a robust U.S. presence in Jordan. Without that, Israel is naked. They're really flapping in the wind.

So I think it's going to take time to digest this from the U.S., so it's a convenient time for them to reassess their position. And maybe Trump can make a few copes, like, well, we don't need the region anymore, and we don't need the oil. We are so hot. American economy, it's so hot right now. Everybody wants our gas. Everybody wants our oil. We're so hot. Investment's coming in, trillions of dollars. Record, no one's ever been more employed than now in America. Our manufacturing sector, oh my gosh, it's never been more powerful since the country was founded. That's what Trump is saying. The dollar has never been stronger. It's so strong right now.

And so he's rebuilt the military. It's just whatever. He does his thing. He's going to do his thing. He's going to say what he's going to say. But the fact of the matter is, they have a very, very weak hand right now to play. And it's like they really blew it. The U.S. blew it because if they had played the MOU game, at least tried to play the MOU game at least halfway in, they could have finessed their way through on this and maybe even got some leverage somewhere. But the problem is now that the illusion of all that's gone, they blew it. And the Iranians aren't going to play the game anymore with them.

I mean, that was the one last chance of some kind of, like, at least a facade of diplomacy that America could have kept their foot in, and they absolutely blew it. And between Vance, Trump, Bessent, and Rubio and the rest, they just shot themselves in the foot like three or four times, and that's it. It's over. So that whole ruse, they basically, yeah, there's nothing that can be resurrected from that whatsoever. Because, Danny, the thing is, the whole thing with the MOU is, it was always going to be the outcome that the Straits of Hormuz were going to be settled without the United States. That was already implicit in that agreement.

And so the only play that the U.S. has left, which could come later, is to apply heavy pressure on Oman in order to muscle their way into Oman, to threaten them, perhaps stage a provocation that will create a U.S. landing on the Omani side of the strait, and then that would be kind of maybe a coup. I mean, we might be venturing into this territory at some point in the next 12 months, right? I wouldn't rule any of that out with this administration. They'll play every single last tactical angle they can to make it seem like they've still got some kind of cards to play on this and kind of wash away the absolute shame and failure of starting a war that they couldn't possibly win and having that on their record.

So the U.S. has to keep itself in that region somehow, and how they're going to do that—they do have plans to try to do this—but how they're going to actually do that remains to be seen. So there's a few. They played this hand with Saudi Arabia, Danny, which was to pressure Saudi Arabia to engage the Yemenis and also to attack Iraq, but that was mainly a U.S. military strike, beginning to find out. So, and now the Iraqi prime minister's launched a formal complaint with the United Nations. I mean, so this is not going well for Saudi Arabia. So, but that was U.S. pressure, and it shows you how disjointed Saudi is, like as a government, as a state, as a regime. They're really, you know, they don't have any kind of real solid continuity.

They're supposed to be the regional hegemon, but they're really unstable. If someone like Trump can just, like, put his thumb on them a little bit, and then they commit economic suicide, like worse than what Germany did with the Nord Stream pipeline, that's not a very—to me, not a very stable regime. Acting against their own interests economically, geopolitically, I can't believe they did that. And so they must have some compromise on MBS, or there must be something going. Trump himself is probably hugely compromised as well. It's like a daisy chain of compromise between Israel, the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and whatever, and you got the ghost of Jeffrey Epstein, or maybe not, who knows, but just sitting here wringing his hands. Job well done. So, yeah, we'll see.

#Danny

I mean, I remember those days when Saudi Arabia was so tough with Biden, right? They received him very coolly, and things were tense. And it seems like under both Trump administrations, things seem to change quite a bit in terms of the optics here. The optics look like Saudi is doing exactly what the U.S. says when the U.S. decides to say it. But to the point about Iran and Iran getting tougher, I mean, here are some of the—I mean, this is the price tag now for ending the war. So, not just an end to the war: lift the blockade and the sanctions, obviously; get all U.S. troops to withdraw; unfreeze the Iranian assets; reparations; and an end to attacks on regional allies. And now Iran is being very specific that it's Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen.

So very specific about who is involved there. Iran has completely ruled out negotiations with the Trump administration at this point, according to multiple reports, including, I believe now, also the spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry has also said that they are just going to wait out Trump's term. They don't want to negotiate with this administration. And today, before we got on, right before we got on, the Wall Street Journal reported that \$13 billion in damages, or \$13 billion have been spent on this war, and that the damage has been massive: 20 U.S. military facilities across eight countries, 42 U.S. aircraft destroyed, out from 2,000 Iranian missiles and drone attacks from this war.

So, I've seen upwards of 9,000 reported in terms of what Iran fired at U.S. bases in Israel. But nevertheless, Patrick, yeah, Iran is getting tougher, and they just promoted Mousavi, Mousavi, who's very much—they call him a hardliner. But for me, I don't know much about his history, but I do know that in the last couple of years, he's been at the forefront of advocating for a very tough Iranian response to U.S. and Israeli aggression. So, your thoughts on this? Iran getting tougher despite the fact that it seems like the United States is right now, as you said, maybe waiting things out. We don't know what the U.S. is really doing right now, but we know what Iran is doing.

#Patrick Henningsen

The U.S. is doing what it can, and that's not a lot right now. But given time, they can just recalibrate their strategy and create some kind of future strategy, problem or crisis or provocation that they can kind of rally around. But, you know, they're also going to have to, you know, at some point, they're

backpedaling on their main sort of thesis, which is Iran can't be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. A lot of people are calling them out for this now, and it's not working. So this kind of, it's a straw man talking point. The administration was effective because, in a way, what that does is it says that, oh, this is so high stakes.

This is about the denuclearization of Iran. In other words, we can't have another nuclear-armed Islamic country with a nuclear bomb in the region. That's why we launched this undeclared war of aggression with the Israelis. We're doing God's work. You know, trust us. And that's why they always had to issue that talking point. It also keeps the door open for a preemptive nuclear strike against Iran under the sort of aegis of, well, we're preventing a nuclear threat in the region. So it's a very insidious bit of propaganda. But yeah, so they're backing off on that a little bit.

I noticed Trump even gave some ground on that in a recent statement, saying that, well, you know, we might have to come to some sort of interim arrangement, and we might not be able to get Iran's full denuclearization, but as long as the strait's open, we'll be happy with that. So, like, how do you define the strait being open? It's not about it being open. It's about whose control will it be under. Will it be the Americans meddling in that, or will it be Iranian and Omani, or effectively Iranian control over the straits? We'll see. So Iran's basically also saying, we're going to get paid. You know, we're going to get paid. There's not going to be peace until we get paid. Give us our money. And they're being a little more assertive about that.

And so all of this talk, you know, they're floating Jared Kushner's bright ideas about, you know, parlaying frozen assets to hand to U.S. farmers so that the Iranian people can get food stocks, treating them like Venezuela, basically a country with zero sovereignty, saying that we're going to take your oil, we're going to sell it, we're going to keep it in an account, and we're going to decide if you get any of that money or not. That's the deal that they have with the Venezuelans. And that's to help the Venezuelan people because, you know, Maduro was allegedly stealing all their money as a drug kingpin. Of course, that's completely fake. But they're trying to treat Iran with that level of contempt that they do Venezuela or Cuba. And it's just not going to work. They can't bully Iran. The U.S.'s position is so weak now in the region.

You know, the thing that's amazing about this, aside from what you just showed, that list of U.S. damage and the cost and all the rest of it, you have to be absolutely certain the Pentagon are going to underreport everything. Not just casualties and dead soldiers. That's expected. But we're talking, what about equipment losses? What about how many fixed-wing aircraft have been lost? What about fighter jets? What about other really key, essential equipment and facilities and resources? That damage, I don't think, will be fully reported. Because at some point, this is biting the United States military operation. So they had all of this stuff in place before February 28th.

And everything—the interoperability of all the U.S. bases, every single facility, all the ones you just mentioned that are listed—each play a pivotal role and are interconnected in terms of operations with other things for, you know, air power, for the U.S. Navy, capabilities for potential deployments

and stuff like that. It's a very delicate, interconnected system that they couldn't have possibly foreseen. They clearly couldn't foresee it because if they did, they would have been able to defend those positions. But as you can see, they weren't able to defend any of those positions themselves. They didn't foresee that anybody in the region would do what Iran was going to do, was capable of hitting and hitting hard all of those U.S. positions. So that means that's going to hurt U.S. military operations.

So right down to the planning and operational level, it just basically reduces their options down to, like, really just a handful of options. That's the problem they're facing, plus all their covert clandestine operations that were being organized, that were being also launched and deployed out of northern Iraq, out of the KRG, Iraqi Kurdistan. Those have been wrecked as well, and those were U.S.-Israeli joint operations, NATO intelligence, joint with European, like French, for instance, and probably, I would imagine, Ukrainians, because they're the sort of new foreign legion for NATO. I'm sure they were active there. And so now those are all kind of being wrecked. So that's huge, like the element of surprise, and that reduces down the options. Now what can you do? Put, what, ATACMS and HIMARS in Turkmenistan.

You know, the Azerbaijani role, it's very tenuous. It's very difficult for Azerbaijan now. Now it's a problem politically for them to be involved or to be seen to be enabling or facilitating or even allowing their airspace to be used for an attack on Iran. The blowback for Aliyev and his regime could be severe because Iran would not hesitate in responding if that were the case again. So you look at the grand chessboard in this part of the world, it's not great. It was great before for the U.S. and Israel. They had all these different attack vectors and paths in which they could mount various types of attacks on Iran.

But now you're reduced down to really, I think, long-range bombing runs out of Germany. If they activate, you know, maybe some governments aren't too keen. Like Romania doesn't want to be used. Kosovo doesn't want to be used. Why is that? It could be—there's a lot of problems with that potentially. Islamic countries, full stop. Turkey is not going to be allowed to be used as a launch pad for the U.S. to attack Iran. So there's those issues that come creeping in. Politically, it's a disaster for Italy. The exposure of Mark Rutte boasting of all these different flights that took off out of—the blowback has been severe on Meloni. And then we found out that they've been basically backing Israel through the back door, and that's a disaster. Greece as well, that's a little bit close, a little bit too close to home, a little bit too close for comfort there.

So really, you've got Germany, you've got Britain, you've got a couple of other potential locations. That's it. Not great. Israel, that's not great either, actually. So look—but we're seeing there are things that can be done in the region to stoke up instability. Like in Ethiopia, for instance, that looks like that might be heating up again. The United States might be able to parlay that instability somehow. We'll see. But it's not great. It's not great right now. So I think, yeah, time—they're going

to need time to reorganize themselves. You can't wage a war through naval assets alone and, you know, KC-130 air-to-air refueling. And that's basically the entirety of the solution for the U.S. military for projecting force against Iran. It's not great. It's not great.

#Danny

Yeah, before we move on to Yemen and then the broader situation, I want to pull up what Donald Trump said in response to the claims or the reports that Iran is demanding far more now than maybe they were, or maybe getting more specific with their demands on the United States. He said, "I see that the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran are asking for compensation for the damage done to them during the last five-month military conflict started because they will not have a nuclear weapon, even though it was never mentioned in any of our negotiations or meetings." I mean, that's the gist of it. He claims this was never mentioned.

And then he says, after demanding that Iran should pay the United States for all these decades of something or other, some damages to the U.S., he says Iran should be responsible for the death and damages of Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria. I mean, final word on Iran, Patrick. This is, of course, you know, the United States is not serious about negotiating, and Iran is not at all naive about that. But at the same time, it is quite something when the U.S. president himself takes to social media and essentially reveals that he's not serious about—not only not negotiating, but serious maybe about this issue at all. Your thoughts on that?

#Patrick Henningsen

Well, yeah, if there's any doubts about that, there shouldn't be now. So negotiations with Iran are finished, but relations are still open. So there's a difference between those two things. So Iran will leave the door open for relations, but in terms of negotiations, as we said, the U.S. kind of burned their opportunity there, and I don't think that was ever a serious—the MOU was not even a serious, genuine offer anyway. So, but relations, yes, and quietly you could see some deals for unfreezing Iranian assets, especially the ones held in Gulf countries, anything there. And beyond that, though, it's going to be, I think, difficult for Iran. But hey, they have an absolute case to make. But what's clear is that the U.S. has reached the limits of this type of warfare and power projection by trying to basically manage two major conflicts with the Ukrainian theater and then—

#Patrick Henningsen

This war in Iran, Israel is kind of the equivalent of Ukraine as a U.S. proxy, requiring all of the U.S. arms, requiring the United States to defend it ultimately and keep supplying it with missiles and Patriot missile batteries and money and support, and provide a kind of, let's say, additional strategic depth. That's what kind of U.S. and NATO provide for Ukraine a little bit. But in Israel, the U.S.

absolutely provides strategic depth for Israel. And it's all predicated on this type of, this way in which they're fighting and the configuration and the array of military assets that they had positioned around the region.

And so now, both of those things simultaneously. So what's interesting is both Russia and Iran are in very similar positions right now. Slightly different, obviously, conflicts—majorly different conflicts—but they're both in very similar positions where they both can be, they're both quietly in the ascendancy, and they both can be more aggressive now. They both can be more preemptive. And they are. And it's clear that the limits to what they were trying to do in propping up Zelensky, the facade of Ukrainian military power, has collapsed effectively. And the political facade won't be far behind. It's not far behind. That's coming as well.

That's a reckoning within what's left of Ukraine. I think that's going to be very rapid and swift and devastating for the Zelensky regime. And that ultimately will provide the instability that will allow Russia to achieve its core objectives. So for Iran, their core objectives are to evict the United States out of the Persian Gulf, first and foremost. What's interesting is the announcement of what some people are calling the Islamic NATO alliance of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan. And I don't know if I left anybody out there, but I wouldn't call it so much an Islamic NATO as a Sunni alliance. The question is, who is that alliance meant to defend against?

That's the question. Is this against an Iranian threat, or is this against an Israeli threat, or is it being used as a bulwark to send a message to the United States and the Israelis? Because all of those countries technically—Turkey has been threatened by Israel multiple times in the last six months. The Saudis have been implicitly threatened by Israel many times. And Israel has threatened Pakistan and rhetorically has said on more than one occasion—leading Israeli officials have said—that we cannot have an Islamic country with nuclear weapons within this region. And they're talking about Pakistan. So that's—I don't know. I don't know.

I can't really tell you what that's about. I haven't really looked into their manifesto or anything. But it's a little bit ambiguous, and maybe it could be the beginning of something where you could have other countries that might want to come on board with that. But there's a problem with Iraq at the moment, as you can see, with Saudi Arabia, and Yemen's an issue as well. So I don't know. Yemen basically came straight out and sort of spanked Saudi Arabia as soon as that was announced. Nothing is going to happen. Turkey is not going to send in, like, a stabilization force.

Although, listen, I joke about that, but Turkey has a very capable expeditionary force with their military, and they've deployed it multiple times. In fact, they're still occupying positions within northern Iraq. They've done it in Syria. They've gone to Qatar. They have gone to Libya, although sending ISIS fighters under the Turkish banner, that was very dodgy. But anyway, they've done it in Africa as well. So Turkey has the capable expeditionary units, and they can and will deploy them if

need be. Would they be deploying a stabilization force? We'd like to see it keeping the Israelis out of Gaza, but that's, of course, not going to happen with Erdogan. He won't go anywhere near the Israelis, but could that be deployed in Yemen?

Because Saudi's mercenary forces, for people who aren't aware, Saudi Arabia does not have an army. Whatever they do have of Saudis are really earmarked to protect assets in the homeland and not for expeditionary fighting in places like Yemen. So they outsource their infantry. They basically hire whoever, whatever they can cobble together from Sudan, RSF fighters, other very sundry mercenaries, and then right off the sort of general international market. And so some of those have been under direct attack by Ansar Allah, by the Houthis, the Yemenis, just in the last couple of days. And it's really untenable. They can't hold any territory running a military like this. It's not serious.

And with a little bit of pressure and the Yemenis being more assertive, you can see that that's already falling apart for Saudi Arabia. And so that will be interesting as well. So we'll see. But Turkey is the one with the real capabilities there. I would think Pakistan has capabilities like that, but they haven't deployed them, and haven't seen them in action except in maybe places like Kashmir or in the near abroad. I know they've been sort of active regarding Afghanistan recently, but Turkey absolutely can deploy and will deploy and can do peacekeeping operations incredibly well. And so that will be something that could be a possibility down the road. Who knows?

#Danny

Yeah, well, so much mystery behind that defense pact between Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan. But one thing is clear, is that during the war, Patrick, during the first 38, 39, 40 days of U.S. aggression, even afterward, I mean, there have been strange developments of random drones flying into Saudi airspace, targeting Saudi energy, and Iran, of course, never claiming that that was the case. Yemen was not yet involved in the theater. And that's not just Saudi Arabia. There are similar reports in Bahrain and UAE and Qatar.

#Patrick Henningsen

Cyprus as well.

#Danny

Yeah, Cyprus. So it's, you know, if they were smart, they would be coming together for what Iran said they would support, and they support, which is independent security frameworks without interference of the United States and Israel as well. Unclear about whether that will be the case, given that these countries have so many internal contradictions. And as we see with Saudi Arabia, which maybe I want your comment on this, Patrick, how is it that it seems like Yemen, Ansar Allah, appears stronger today than yesterday?

They were maybe during the March—what was that?—2025 U.S. war against them. And then even prior, since October 7, 2023, it appears that they have become more sophisticated militarily, as the U.S.-backed Saudi Arabian military seems very much like a fish out of water, and Yemen appears very much in control. What do you make of the developments there, as I showed the images of the last several days, even, just an absolute blitzkrieg on Saudi forces inside of Saudi-backed Yemeni territory?

#Patrick Henningsen

Yeah, I'm not surprised at all. If you look at the Yemeni forces from when the war was announced and waged upon them in 2015 by Saudi Arabia, backed by the U.S. and backed by pretty much everybody in NATO—and the Israelis were in the control rooms as well, by the way—everybody was piling in on Ansar Allah. And then you look at the progression of their organization, of their defense. Plus, they, you know—and then, you know, nine years later, we have special forces teams. They're landing and seizing supertankers on the Red Sea with TAC teams. And this is not the Yemen we saw in sarongs and flip-flops and, you know, RPGs shooting at Saudi jets back in 2015, '16. This is different. And so you can see progressively they've just improved over time.

The more they interface with Western military equipment and Western defense gear, whether it's from the U.S. directly or through a U.S. proxy like Saudi Arabia, they're gathering all the data. They're getting all the intelligence. They're learning how to fight against state-of-the-art air power, missiles, smart bombs, Western drones, and learning how to evade, how to attack. The Yemenis themselves have their own resources. And they actually have a very strong history of even developing their own weapons and missiles. They don't need the Iranians to come and tell them what to do.

But I'm sure they benefited quite a lot and also learned a lot by watching Iran, how the Iranians are operating and what they're doing in terms of targeting, target selection, and guidance. And there's probably intelligence of components and how to assemble and improve. And Iran's fine-tuning their missiles for offense, and I would imagine the Yemenis are doing the same thing. So the more they hit them, and hit them hard, A, it motivates them. B, it gives them a mandate amongst their people that they're under threat, they're under attack from the U.S. and the Israelis who want to wipe them out, and they're brutal and barbaric, the Americans and the Israelis, and the Saudis now who are backed by the United States.

So they've got that, and then tactically they're benefiting from fighting against a superior opponent. It wouldn't benefit you if you just would hoist the white flag and pack up and want to go home and beg, "Please don't attack us." But as we know, this is not the Ansar Allah mentality. The Houthis, as the Americans like to call them, absolutely give no quarter. They're all in. These are born fighters. And they're looking at this like this is the epic fight of their life. And they're not going to back down. In fact, they're going to take the fight to Israel and the United States and to Saudi Arabia. And they will, and they are.

So this is highly motivated, highly capable, highly resourceful, able to do a lot with very little in terms of money and resources, highly innovative, and are able to leverage their geographical position in much the same way the Iranians are getting 100% full leverage from their geographical situation. That's the definition of geopolitics. It's geography. It's geography and how geography and the use of geography in great power competitions, wars, or politics will then shape international politics. And so Yemen is a bona fide regional geopolitical actor. And Iran, of course, is a bona fide regional geopolitical power now. And they're acting independently. These aren't like—it's not a hive mind, of course. I'm sure there's some coordination.

But more than anything, they're learning from each other. And also they share the same values and they have the same enemy. So it's like, you know, the biggest mistake the United States did was to basically go in in such a ham-fisted and sort of reckless and violent way, just basically killing Yemenis over whatever that period was. Was it 70 days or something like that? Sort of Belgrade-style campaign against the Yemenis. That's the worst thing the United States could have done from their point of view. From the Yemenis' point of view, it's probably the best thing that ever happened to them because now it's really crystallized and they have their priorities and their objectives very clear.

And they know what the nature of the threat is. Ditto with the Iranians, of course. But for Yemen, yeah, there's no question. They also know what cards they can play, and they're playing them. And that's impressive. And I would say, if people keep putting pressure on Yemen, the Yemen you're going to see in five years, you will not recognize from today. I'm telling you right now. I'm telling you, they are going to be such a problem for any Western or Israeli power that wants to dictate and dominate the region and bark orders and believe that they can act with impunity on the Arabian Peninsula, and that includes the Gulf states.

Yemen's going to be such a problem for them. You will not recognize, I predict, in five years, you will not recognize Yemen. And they may very well, at that point, have resolved the civil war situation in that country as well. And that's another thing that people aren't talking about. What the West and what Saudi Arabia are doing, what the UAE has been doing, a lot of that is eventually going to force a resolution to the civil war that the U.S., Saudis, and their allies were fomenting for so many years to try to divide that country. And they're really just undermining all of their efforts.

And the billions of dollars the West and the Gulf states have spent—you have to realize how much money Saudi Arabia burned out of their sovereign wealth fund, when oil was at a very low level in terms of price, on this absolutely disastrous war against their neighbor. And the United States said, "No, just stay in there. Keep it up. This won't be going much longer." That's what they told the Saudis back in 2017. So all these Gulf states, it's amazing how they've dumped—like the Qataris, the Saudi Arabians, the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain—they've emptied their sovereign wealth funds to fight dirty wars on behalf of Western powers and Israel, in Syria, in Yemen, and also whatever else you want to add to that.

But they've spent hundreds of billions of dollars, hundreds of billions. In fact, it would be mind-blowing if we actually knew what the actual bill was for that. Let's say from 2011 right till the present. We're north of a trillion dollars easily, easily, if you think about it. And what do they get in return for this? They're lucky they don't have any democracy, or they're not an Arab republic, because if they were, they'd be thrown out of power a long time ago. But because they are monarchies, they're totally not accountable for anything they do with the country's money. Saudi Arabia, look, bless them, but, you know, it's a country named after a family.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Patrick Henningsen

That's kind of strange if you really think about it.

#Danny

Yeah, I would say so.

#Patrick Henningsen

It doesn't end well. It doesn't end well. I mean, look at Rhodesia. I mean, that one got dismantled. But anyway, I'm just saying good luck to them, but they don't seem to be making very good decisions at all, and consistently bad over a long period of time. So I don't think it's good. It's not great.

#Danny

Yeah, no, Patrick, I know you've been covering, ever since those dirty wars that emerged in 2011, what's been happening in this region. And in many ways, the outcomes of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, unfortunately, speak to a kind of karma for a lot of these Gulf states, which did put all that money and then, of course, all that terror that came with that money into, you know, just absolutely wreaking havoc and war crimes on, you know, Syrians and Yemenis, everything being part—Libya being part of that whole operation to destabilize the region. Now they find themselves on the other side of...

#Patrick Henningsen

Well, it's the same, Danny, with Lebanon. It's the same. Saudi Arabia meddles so much in Lebanese politics. They inject so much money in all of these political parties. That's a legitimate source of income for Lebanon, is Saudi money injected into politics. And then that money, basically—it's

interesting how the Lebanese political system works, but that would be a thing in itself to map out—but the Saudi money comes in to fund these various parties along sectarian lines. And then that money ends up, like, what, paying for professional basketball franchises, which they use to mobilize—or football—to mobilize supporters along sectarian lines.

And it's all part and parcel of politics, the sectarian politics in Lebanon, and then businesses that are sponsoring all these other different things. So there's a whole ecosystem there. And there's so much corruption in Lebanon, and most of it's Gulf money that's being injected that totally distorts the politics of Lebanon. And they just have this—Saudi Arabia still will not let go, will not let go of their sectarian proclivities anymore, whereby they just cannot accept having a Hezbollah or Shiite-dominated government or country or political economy in Lebanon, even though it's an inevitability in the same way that it was in Iraq as well. They just won't let go. It's not in their interest, what they're doing.

And, you know, the thing is they've been playing this program for the longest time, and all these other Gulf states as well have also contributed to this. They'll back jihadis. They'll back the ISISes and al-Qaeda of the world, the Jolanis of the world. They'll bankroll all of that. They'll pay for all the guns. They'll pay for all the weapons. The United States will procure them, but Saudi and these other Gulf states, and wealthy people within them, will pick up the bill for that. The U.S. does the procurement. That was when they ran the rat lines in Syria, and they did that for like 10 years. They spent billions and billions of dollars. The U.S. spent money as well, but it was nothing next to what the Gulf spent, including Qatar.

Qatar played a big role in the destabilization and destruction of Syria as a country. Try to work that one out, which benefited Israel so much. And Qatar and Al Jazeera are supposed to be against Israel. It's kind of weird. But that weirdness defines the region. And why this is important, because now that whole program has been basically rendered kind of inert. And why? Because what Iran has done now cannot be erased. It cannot be unseen. The Iranians have stood up to the United States and Israel. They were attacked illegally. And they were attacked in a preemptive way by the U.S. and Israel, a Muslim country. And so you have to see this in the context of the global ummah, the Muslim world globally.

This is a Muslim country. Whether it's Sunni or Shiite is beside the point. But they stood up. They stood up, and now they're on the offensive against the United States, or at least dictating terms, and effectively very close to evicting them from the region, from bases of these very wealthy, strong, powerful, and influential Gulf states. So the message across the Muslim world of what Iran is doing, it transcends sectarian division. And this can't be unseen. This can't be undone. This is historical. This has been marked in the history books now.

And that's going to have a transformational effect on this sectarian program that's been running and absolutely backed and fueled and supported and encouraged by the United States and the British, and everybody else, the whole way since oil was discovered in the Middle East. And that whole

program has now come to an end. Because the narrative, that sectarian narrative, is not as strong as the imperialist story, which Iran has just basically upended. Because the imperialist and the anti-imperialist paradigm is universal. That can be universalized globally. And those universal ethics, the moral imperative there, which is that we need to defend and stand up for the Palestinian people and other oppressed people around the world, that's universalized.

And it doesn't matter. It can be in Christian, it can be in Islamic, it can be even in atheist, it doesn't matter. It can be in communist. It's ubiquitous through the left, through the non-aligned movement, through the Islamic world, through the Christian world, it doesn't matter. And that's melting away the sectarian program that the U.S. and Israel have—that's been their sort of framework for basically divide and conquer in the Middle East. It was for the British and then for the Americans as well. So what the Americans and the Israelis have done to Iran, and how Iran responded, is melting away that sort of program, that framework that has stood for a long time.

So those Gulf states, they're really exposed because they've been playing that with the total support and encouragement of the United States. They know from the formation of the Mujahideen in Afghanistan and all these other dirty wars and the dubious global war on terror as well. All of that's been exposed. Iran has exposed all of it. Yemen also has done its part to expose all of this as well. They tried to implant al-Qaeda in Yemen, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, AQAP. You remember that brand? It was really trendy. And they tried to do that, and that's total failure, total failure.

All that was was to soften up and weaken certain areas and tribal areas in advance of the 2015 war that was coming. That's all that was. That was the whole point. And now everybody can see. It's so blatantly obvious now. And so that's really weakened all of these fanatical Wahhabist clerics that Saudi has been paying and pumping and injecting money into, these radical clerics that are pumping out these diatribes 24/7 on hundreds of satellite channels, constantly, 24/7, and then paying for radical mosques all around the world, including in Europe, which the U.S. and the British and the other intelligence, and the French, they use that to basically farm potential informants and other assets, which they can then redeploy to Syria and whatever.

And they've been playing this game and recycling this toxic agenda for, like, decades. And guess what? It's all been exposed now because it was all running on a sectarian program. That's how they recruited fighters to go to Syria, mainly along sectarian lines. Assad is an infidel, an Alawite. He is brutalizing the Sunnis of Syria, and the White Helmets are saving them from Assad's barrel bombs. All that propaganda was designed first and foremost to fuel recruitment for hundreds of thousands of radical fighters to be cycled in and out of Syria over the period of that decade, to wreck and destroy and ultimately do what happened to this country. And the Gulf states were underwriting the whole thing. And Israel is just sitting there in the background. They didn't have to pay a penny for that.

And they're the beneficiaries of it. Look at the—they've just done a whole bunch of other incursions into the Golan Heights, increasing their occupation, illegal occupation of Syria, and they're not giving

that back. That's—for the Israelis, they believe that's their territory, that we're taking what's ours. That's their attitude. And that's what the whole campaign to oust Bashar al-Assad was about. It was for Israel. So people like Mehdi Hassan, who were basically fronting that whole train, "Assad must go," and Assad—these people who are pro-Palestinian to the hilt, all of them, all of these Western liberals on Western media and organizations were carrying water for Israel for 10 years. And because that was the greatest strategic victory for Israel, was the collapse of Syria.

That was the thing that was really making all— they wouldn't be in Lebanon right now in the way they are if that hadn't happened. That's a fact. And Iran would not have been attacked by Israel and the United States if Syria— I'm telling you, all of these things are connected. You can't attack Iran until you've collapsed Syria and you put Hezbollah into a corner. I said this back in 2012. I remember I was on a Russian— I'll have to dig up the video. I'll send you the video. I literally laid it out in 2012. And it's just logic, because when you see that the region is interconnected in terms of the resistance, that you can't move on C unless you eliminate A and B first. And that was Israel's objective, and they got it. So what does the U.S. get from all this? Yeah.

That's the question. This hasn't been good for the U.S. empire, Danny. I mean, if some people will say, oh, how can you say that the tail wags the dog? You know, Israel's a U.S. proxy and an asset in the region. Okay, that might be true to a degree. But how losing 20 bases and being evicted from the Persian Gulf, how does that serve the great U.S. empire? That's not a very good proxy, is it, that dragged you into that one? And you just basically, you're being evicted from Central Asia and West Asia. Not great. So, I mean, that kind of kills that sort of debate that a lot of people are kind of arguing over in the alternative podcast space, which is that, you know, is Israel just a tool of the American empire, or is the tail wagging the dog? Okay. Both are true. Yeah, exactly.

#Danny

That's what I was going to say. The age-old debate, both have...

#Patrick Henningsen

Both are true, but what matters is which one is more dominant in terms of politics, because which one influences foreign policy decisions of the United States. And I would argue that Miriam Adelson and the Israeli lobby slapping down \$600 million in the last election for Republican seats, including the president, that's not just—they're not doing that for kicks. They absolutely expect they're going to pick the whole cabinet and people making policy in America, and that cabinet is going to make policy, and we're seeing that policy now. So to make the argument that Israel, the tail, is not wagging the dog is not a serious argument.

And I think there are people who make that argument, but coincidentally, a lot of them don't spend a lot of time in Washington or in America to understand how powerful and dominant the Israeli lobby, the whole ecosystem that includes the media, by the way, how powerful and dominant it is in

U.S. politics. And that makes its way to policy decisions and military decisions. This little country commandeered the United States military, the most powerful military on the planet, commandeered by a little strip of land the size of New Jersey. How is that even possible, honestly? But it happened. So anyway, that debate is interesting. But to me, it's a no contest on that debate right now. Yeah.

#Danny

I remember back in 2012 when the reports were coming out that, as you were saying, Israel got all of this essentially for free. And we could even say it got paid to do this. It got paid while doing it because the United States was constantly increasing its military aid to Israel over this period. But I remember when there were photos and footage of Israeli military forces giving—the only thing they gave to these Wahhabists and all these forces that the Gulf countries were supporting with U.S. assistance to destroy Syria and Libya and to turn the region to what it was—medical care in the Golan Heights. I mean, these were the people that even a lot of the pro-Palestinian, pro-Palestine, you know, factions and groups today, a lot of them were supporting, these forces that Israel was actively helping out to the bare minimum, of course. Al-Qaeda forces.

#Patrick Henningsen

Yeah, Al-Qaeda. Well, actually, Danny, actually, the Israelis did more than that. Israel consistently launched well over a thousand airstrikes against Syria during that time with U.S. planes, U.S. weapons, U.S. satellites. So we paid for all that. The Gulf states forked out probably upwards of a trillion dollars over a decade, plus what we spent in terms of ancillary costs supporting all that and defending Israel. The real bill for Israel, if you add the U.S. and the Gulf state contributions, because the Gulf states are bandwagoning with the United States and what they want. So you look at the—we're talking—if you had to actually write a check out of this is what it costs for Israel to get what it wants and protect Israel, you know, in the last decade, you know, that would be like well over a trillion dollars.

It would be \$1.5 trillion at a minimum. So imagine if you had to publicly make out that check and make that as a policy. Our budget for Israel is going to be \$1.5 trillion. Who would agree to that? Nobody. But it's diffused through all of these different proxy wars, all of these different dirty wars and clandestine operations, so nobody can quite add it up, and the accounting never comes due. But it's mind-boggling what America spends. All those bases, the budget for all those 20 bases that got trashed by the Iranians, the operating cost annually, year on year, all of that is to defend Israel. It's not to defend the petrodollar. It was prior to 2000, or prior to 2010, let's say.

But it's really all—that's just to provide a massive perimeter of strategic depth for the state of Israel, and then to project power and to hit Israel's enemies and people that Israel wants to knock out and destroy. So all of that, the cost of this, it's mind-boggling. And it's more than the little pittance of \$4 billion in Israeli military aid per year. That's nothing. That's just what's waved in public as a cost. All the other costs, built-in infrastructure, ancillary costs from the Gulf contributions, as well as the war

against Yemen—100%, that's an Israeli war. 100%, that is an Israeli war. So Saudi is basically carrying water for Israel by attacking Yemen because Yemen is an absolute direct threat to Israel in terms of supplies, shipping, economics, and even in terms of being able to hit them and respond.

And so the Iranians and the Yemenis are openly saying, "We are defending the Palestinian people. You need to withdraw from Gaza. You need to stop the genocide. Otherwise, we're going to keep coming at you." And so that's Yemen's policy. So that's very much against Israel. So if Saudi's attacking Yemen, they're doing so on behalf of Israel, quite clearly. And if they're being nudged by the United States, Israel's behind the U.S. Israel's behind the U.S. The U.S. is doing the nudging, but who's behind America? Israel. You cannot—no one can basically say this is not the case. The whole Abraham Accords farrago is for Israel, and the United States is enforcing that.

They're pushing Saudi Arabia to sign the Abraham Accords. So anybody—no one can make this argument that, you know, Israel is not micromanaging and directing U.S. policy in West Asia, because they 100% absolutely are. And the United States has lost tremendous imperial footing because of this misadventure. The losses of the U.S., Danny, if you list out the losses of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East because of this war, which they waged on behalf of Israel ostensibly, maybe a little bit on behalf of the U.S. empire, but if you list out the cost of that, that obliterates the argument that Israel is just a hapless proxy of the U.S. empire. I'm sorry.

It just obliterates that argument. It's not a serious debate anymore. And it's, to me, baffling how people are still kind of scratching their heads on this. I mean, they were a beachhead for Western British and U.S. Anglo-American imperialism. But at some point, they ceased to be a beachhead, and that beachhead was dictating policy at some point. Then the tables have been flipped, and now it's a liability. The tail basically turned into a carcinogen on steroids, and it threatens the life of the dog now. It's so big and so toxic that it's threatening—the tail is threatening—an existential threat to the life of the dog, the well-being of the dog. That's the truth of it.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah. And, you know, I always like to—I don't know who made this. It's really funny. But, you know, when you have... That's frightening. Yes. It's this group of friends, people, these kind of—I mean, I like to see, you know, of course, the media people, Loomer and Fuentes, whatever. But, you know, when you think of Trump, the Epstein class—he may be dead, but the people that he entrapped, so to speak—and then Netanyahu, you know, I like to think of it as exactly how you put it, Patrick. And then it's the people who actually wield this kind of power. They may be wrong in this. They may be burning down the U.S.'s actual footprint in West Asia, but they see Israel's interests. They see these policies as beneficial to them. They think they are going to make out huge. And in some cases, they will, especially in the immediate. So that's how I see it. There's a leash around the dog.

#Danny

And the tail is wagging the dog, killing the dog. And then there's the leash, or, you know, the people who back these kind of forces.

#Patrick Henningsen

I'll put that image back up on screen again. Can you put that image back up on screen? I just want to make a comment here. That's actually a really cool shirt that Trump's wearing there. He would never wear a shirt like that. They've totally overplayed his fashion sense there.

#Danny

Yeah, AI failing us.

#Patrick Henningsen

Trump would never wear a shirt that cool. That is a proper '70s sort of bowling shirt style. That's way too much fashion sense for this guy, for Trump. Although he is a little bit chummy to Trump, a little bit too enamored with, uh, Laura Loomer there. That's slightly worrying, but, uh, yeah.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah. Well, it's a good reference to, uh, I guess Laura Loomer's, uh, come-to-Jesus moment where she's, uh, acting as a, uh, Ukrainian Nazi ambassador, uh, suddenly, um, after being Israel's Israeli Nazi ambassador, I guess. But, um, yeah. All right, Patrick. Well, this was a great show. Everyone should know that your YouTube channel, 21st Century Wire, and your Substack are in the video description below. Everybody should hit the like button before you go, because that helps boost the show, before you check out that in the video description. And then, of course, all the places for this show are in the video description. Patrick, any final comments and words before we head out of here?

#Patrick Henningsen

No, thank you very much, Danny. I appreciate the conversation. So, yeah, we're in a very interesting lull right now, and we'll see how long this lasts. But anyway, hopefully it's a productive preamble to possibly some peace and stability in the region. That's what we're praying and hoping for. So hopefully we'll see how this develops.

#Danny

Yeah, that's what it's all about. All right, everybody, hit the like button before you go. Tomorrow I'll be back August 11th, 1 p.m. Eastern Time, with Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson. I'll see you then for another update. And hit the like button. Check out Patrick's work. I have a few super chats I'll put up

on the stream. Thank you so much, Helpful Harm. And thank you so much, IDF Kills Children. All right. I love that handle. All right, even though I don't love the reality of it. But all right, everybody, see you tomorrow, August 11th, 1 p.m. Eastern Time. Until next time, bye-bye.