

TRANSCRIPT

A Victory Coalition Briefing

Trump Pursues Victory in Gaza: A Long-overdue U.S. Ultimatum on Hostages, and Liberation of the Strip from Hamas and Its Supporters

A Victory Coalition Briefing on His Leadership and Its Prospects.

Frank Gaffney with Dr. David Wurmser, Ruthie Blum, Yoram Ettinger, and John Guandolo.

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

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Media File: Webinar_Briefing_Hostages.mp4

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT:

[00:00:11] **Dede Laugesen:** Hello, everyone. Thanks for joining us today. I'm Dede Laugesen for the Victory Coalition. We appreciate your interest in our coalitions briefing. We encourage you to visit VictoryCo.org for information on new programs, access to videos of our past briefings, tons of other very valuable content. Follow us on X at @Co4Victory. Our moderator today is Frank Gaffney. Frank is the president for the Institute for the American Future and co-founder of the Victory Coalition.

[00:00:48] **Frank Gaffney:** Welcome, everyone, to this very special briefing of our Victory Coalition, a panel of experts we've assembled to respond as quickly as Quickly as possible to breaking [00:01:00] developments here in Washington, D.C., as well as in the Middle East. We are focused like lasers on the problem posed by Gaza, and it's come into sharper focus thanks to efforts by President Donald Trump, notably at his meeting with the prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu. Recently, and in the course of subsequent remarks he's made about both the need, under the difficult circumstances in Gaza, to relocate the population from there and to defeat decisively the Hamas terrorist regime that holds them hostage as well as the various [00:02:00] Israelis and others that have been in the not so safe keeping of Hamas for the better part of 16 months now. I'm going to make some brief opening remarks and then introduce our panel in turn. But I want to just say how much we appreciate your tuning in, and you're helping us maximize the impact of these insights that we will be sharing with you as this very important conversation takes place as we speak. With the

imminent conversation between President Trump and King Abdullah of Jordan as another important development and topic of conversation. First, a couple of thoughts about that meeting. President Trump's conversation [00:03:00] today with Jordan's King Abdullah has the potential to transform the Middle East. The host has rightly concluded that thanks to the war, Hamas terrorists started 15 months ago, Gaza is simply uninhabitable. If the visitor who, like rulers across the region, professes a commitment to the Palestinian people, prioritizes alleviating their unsustainable circumstances by granting them at least temporary refugee status, a festering humanitarian disaster and flashpoint for wider war can be eliminated.

[00:03:42] **Frank Gaffney:** President Trump deserves great credit for refusing to do the easy thing, namely, continue policies towards Gaza specifically and the Palestinians more generally that have demonstrably failed his ultimatum, giving Hamas [00:04:00] until noon on Saturday to release all hostages, and his insistence that Gazans cease being effectively held hostage as well, affords Abdullah an opportunity to be a catalyst for peace. Seize the day. With that, let me introduce our first presenter. No stranger to the Victory Coalition programs, I'm very pleased to say his name is Doctor David Wurmser. He is a PhD with a wealth of life experience in forming his insights into the Middle East and, well, strategic matters more generally. Not least, he has been an assistant to an undersecretary of state, a national security advisor, and the vice president of the United States Focused on Middle East affairs. These days, he is with the center for Security Policy, a senior analyst there and the director of its Mideast programs. [00:05:00] We've asked Doctor Wurmser to talk about President Trump's common sense revolution coming to the Middle East, and what it might mean to the purpose at hand of denying Hamas a victory and offering the people it enslaved and the rest of the region a better future. Doctor Wurmser, thank you so much for being part of this program and your many contributions to the Victory Coalition. The floor is yours, sir.

[00:05:31] **David Wurmser:** Well thank you. You know, the Middle East has this image of being immensely complex and difficult to understand for people who aren't deeply versed in spending years in libraries trying to sort out this tribe and that tribe and this leader and that leader in this historic event and that historic event. But all this complexity usually leads most policy makers into a very bad place, [00:06:00] because the region actually is best understood by keeping in mind some fairly simple, simple things. And I think that's what President Trump has done. He simply cut through it all,

and he didn't get bogged down in the millions of minutia, minutia and details and considerations which lead most policy makers to either be paralyzed or to pull back in fear, or to just wish for everything to be tamped down and so forth. He cut to the essence, and he basically the essence he saw was that Israeli strength brings peace. There are nations in the region that want to make peace with Israel because they realize Israel is not a threat to them. And they need Israeli power in their camp, especially in a world when the United States is not able to dedicate [00:07:00] as much attention, resources, blood and coin to defending the region as much as it had during the Cold War or in other periods of American history. So they needed a nation arising in the Middle East that's powerful with which to form an alliance. And we saw that manifest in body itself, essentially in the Abraham Accords, where nations that were threatened by Iran and I would argue, also felt threatened by Turkey, understood Israel was their best ally, was an ally in their camp, and not and it didn't threaten them at all.

[00:07:37] **David Wurmser:** So I think that's the foundation, one foundation that President Trump understood the 75 year policy of the West to try to minimize Israel, to distance Israel, to balance off Israel's power with an attempt to diminish it so that it's more acceptable or [00:08:00] palatable to the other nations in the region. That all came crashing down. Arguably, it never worked, but it could be dragged along and it could be assumed by reasonable people to be working. I would argue the historical record is the opposite. Periods in which Israel was powerful, and that the United States was seen to be a strong ally of Israel, or even before the state. Periods in which Zionism was embraced by Britain were periods in which the both the British before and the United States after had the best relations with its critical allies in the region, and its critical allies fared the best in the region. So if you look, I think a careful examination of the historical record sees that. But anyway, Trump did not study Middle East history for five years in some university. He simply went to the common sense that when your friends are strong, you're strong. When your friends are strong, other people respect them. [00:09:00] And there's. And when your friends are strong and you want stability, you purchase stability in the areas where your friends are strong.

[00:09:07] **David Wurmser:** So he saw that. So that's point number one. Point number two is we've tried for 35 years to give the Palestinians a state. We've anchored everything we've done under the idea that increased Palestinian agency will lead to some form of accommodation and moderation of the Palestinian side, which will then

enable us to move forward and unlock peace treaties with other countries, but most importantly, to calm the situation in Israel and in the Mandatory Palestine area. The area of the river to the sea. And what we saw is, despite Israel's best efforts to achieve and painful concessions, and really a very determined effort by Israel to give the Palestinians their state [00:10:00] and to not only give it to them, but give them all the breaks and enabling capabilities it was able to give them to stand up that state. And that came crashing down on October 7th. It wasn't the first time it came crashing down. It came crashing down every few years. So it never worked. And it never the laboratory perfect experiment failed in conflict resolution, but it failed so catastrophically on October 7th that we could not go forward pretending that it might still work. So a new reality was created. President Trump saw that. The third thing President Trump saw is the attempt, therefore, to settle the Palestinian problem in with Palestinian agency. Not only was removed, but more importantly, the destruction of the war had made Gaza unlivable, [00:11:00] and there was really no way in place unless, you know, you really don't care about Palestinians and you just let them sit in tents in the rain for 10 or 15 years.

[00:11:11] **David Wurmser:** And what's potentially a very dangerous place, both with unexploded ordnances, booby trapped houses everywhere and toxic waste. If you if you want to have the Palestinians live under such a dangerous environment for 15 years, fine. But he genuinely said there's no reason. There's no, this is not pro-Palestinian and this is not pro-Israeli. So why don't we put them somewhere where we can quickly build things that are much more effective, much faster and safer cleaner and give them a better life. And then in the meantime, we'll take 10 or 15 years to rebuild Gaza into something very different and very, very safe. All common sense. All common sense. The problem is that it has put a [00:12:00] lot of dynamics on trial. It's exposed a lot of the abysmal dynamics of the Middle East that either have to be abandoned, but that involves tremendous upheaval in the ideological, ideological, cultural structure of the Middle East. Or one persists in them, but then then one can't solve the problem when one basically dismisses what the president is doing. So some of them are, for example, I think that Egypt, for one, did a typical regional response to threat. It tried to export it. The Palestinians they understood were well, Islamic radicalism Muslim Brotherhood, the PLO.

[00:12:50] **David Wurmser:** These were all forms for Egypt not only to control the region, but also to export their internal upheaval, their own internal failure. And they were [00:13:00] fine with that because the America would take care of the problem. Israel would take care of the problem. The problem is those problems always come back to roost. So the Saudi attempt to export its al Qaeda problem. Well, we saw where that went by nine over 11, and it brought the Americans in. And the Saudis got the message and they fundamentally started changing. Egypt is still trying to export the problem and have Israel deal with the Palestinians. And in fact, the Arab world is still trying to say, well, the Israelis will deal with it. It's their problem, not ours. So let's export it. Let's support the Palestinians. Let's hold them hostage. Let's not resolve this problem. The Israelis have a headache. It's their existence on the line. They'll deal with it. And what's happening here is all of a sudden, Trump says that's not going to work anymore. The Israelis cannot be continually asked to deal with this problem in ways that [00:14:00] damage itself again and again and weaken it, because again, then America's ally is not strong. America, therefore, has to engage in the region, and America has to fix it, which is not what we want to do. So we want to we want this problem solved once and for all. And the only way to do it that President Trump saw is not by trying to redo what failed for 50 or 75 years, but to go a completely different route, the route that, frankly, almost all such conflicts have been resolved through, whether it's Sudeten Germans in World War Two.

[00:14:36] **David Wurmser:** After World War two, with the Czechs still sitting in London. By the way, I want to make it clear this was not Stalin ordering the Czechs to expel the Sudeten Germans, 3 million of them. It was in London when President Benes was in London. This was Britain asking and working with the Czechs after the war to expel Sudeten Germans, because they didn't want any [00:15:00] lingering revanchism. Similarly, one could say, thank God that there were these population movements after in the 20s, with Pontian, Pontian Greeks out of Asia minor and Turks out of out of Greece, because we would be festering, we'd see festering problems ongoing that would cause wars over and over again. And similarly, the clean ness of the division almost entirely the pack is in Pakistan. It's entirely Muslim in India, where you had a manageable Muslim population allowed that conflict to maintain some degree of stability. So that's really traditionally how these things are solved. And I think President Trump not only was straight out common sense, but he's operating fully within historical what the historical record shows works. So I'll leave it at that. And certainly [00:16:00]

Egypt, I have a lot to say on Egypt, but that would be another whole topic to open up here.

[00:16:07] **Frank Gaffney:** We will come to that in a moment. I think David, it's inevitable. Before we do, though, we're going to hear from several of our other presenters. I'm very pleased that we have from Israel, Ruthie Blum, a columnist and senior editor for wonderful news service there, the Jewish News Syndicate there and here for that matter. Worldwide, I think. Ruthie has had considerable experience in journalism. She's a prize winning journalist, in fact. But she is also someone who spent some time working as an adviser in the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier in her career. We've asked Ruthie to speak to. What Israel's prospects might be with an actual ally in the white House [00:17:00] for the first time in at least four years. And specifically to provide us with an Israeli assessment of Biden's betrayal, Trump's restoration and the way forward. Ruthie Blum, welcome. It's good to have you. Welcome. And over to you.

[00:17:20] **Ruthie Blum:** Okay, let's start with President Trump's announcement when he During his campaign and afterwards that had he been president of the United States. October 7th, the massacre would not have happened. Now, a lot of us, even I sort of said, oh, well, we don't know. I mean, Hamas has is a genocidal terrorist organization that wants to annihilate Israel and has planned that out meticulously. So who knows? You can't say what if, what if. But I'm coming to believe that that's true, actually, because what we did see after one thing, I can say for certain is had he [00:18:00] been president and had the massacre occurred, nevertheless, things would have unfolded much differently because from pretty much the moment that Hamas invaded southern Israel, raping, beheading, burning babies, and kidnaping and slaughtering and kidnaping 250 people. Almost from the beginning, the Biden administration said, well, we're on your side, but don't kill too many Palestinians. I mean, that was the first basically, the first message was about collateral damage and not about victory. That's one thing. And from that moment, the American left and everyone in the Biden administration and the Israeli left joined forces to constantly say that the war had to end. The war had to end [00:19:00] for two reasons. One was to get the hostages out and the other was to stop killing innocent Palestinians. Now we can talk for hours about how innocent those Palestinians of Gaza are. I happen to believe that there are no innocents in Gaza. And by the way, even the children of no fault of fault of their own.

[00:19:23] **Ruthie Blum:** They were. They are raised to want to kill Jews and to glorify terrorists and martyrs. And one reason we know that there are, if there are any, any Gazans who are not who don't feel that way. One thing we do know is no righteous Gentile emerged in Gaza, as did in the Holocaust, to reveal to Israel where the hostages were being held. They were being held in private homes, many of them, of course, in tunnels as well. A lot of those hostages were moved around. We know this from testimony of the hostages [00:20:00] who have been released. We also know from hostages released that some were held in UNRRA facilities. So there's this horrific situation where you have a bloodthirsty terrorist organization, a whole population that even if they were angry at Hamas for bringing this destruction on destruction on themselves and never stopped hating Israel and collusion with the international community. I hate that phrase, that couplet. But never mind the United Nations. The international Red Cross wouldn't even visit the hostages. And so you had this terrible situation that had Trump been in the white House, I just don't think that would have happened. He would have, because, as David Wurmser just pointed out, he cut through the red tape mindset and all the crap and went right to the essence. And the essence is these are evil. There's an evil [00:21:00] entity. There's a Western democracy there. There's good, there's evil. And when evil comes at you, you don't let it fester.

[00:21:08] **Ruthie Blum:** You defeat it. So and his announcement that his two press conferences one. No. Three, actually, one where he stood next to Netanyahu, he invited Netanyahu as the first world leader to visit the white House very shortly after he was inaugurated. In contrast to President Biden, who shunned Netanyahu until the war started, I mean, of course, like it was almost as though Biden said, well, I don't like Israel, and I certainly hate Netanyahu, but, you know, there's a bunch of dead Jews over there. So I better I better go and show my support. Trump stood in front of the entire world, and it's the Arab world. It's Hamas and the entire Western world. And he said by standing Netanyahu, he was basically saying, listen, you people, I, we have allies in America. We've got [00:22:00] friends. And Israel certainly is an ally and a friend, but it's way more than that. Israel, Israeli strength and is a flourishing Israel is in America's interest. We never heard that from the Biden administration. On the contrary the Biden administration was really a clone of the Obama administration that was happy to have daylight between Jerusalem and Washington. And Trump has no such feeling. Now, the tricky part here is that because Trump has such common sense and he

realizes that, look, he unfortunately he had to see three emaciated hostages to grasp what's going on in the tunnels of Gaza. I didn't need that. I mean, all we needed to do was see what happened on October 7th and hear the stories of hostages returned.

[00:22:53] **Ruthie Blum:** Hostages. It's just that the sight of these three really severely emaciated men did [00:23:00] invoke did evoke. Excuse me pictures from the Holocaust. Now his response to this was, okay, that's enough. He already said, that's enough. And that's when Hamas agreed to sign this disastrous deal. And but now he's saying even this deal, the deal is off. If they don't bring every single hostage back, the deal is off. Now, here's the irony in what Trump did. He legitimized something for the Israeli public. What did he legitimize? And said? On the one hand, he was giving the world a message. But he ironically legitimized two positions that in Israel have been considered controversial throughout the war. One was the accusation that Netanyahu was not planning for the day after all. Right. From virtually the beginning, you had the protest movement that had been, you know, that has spent the whole war just trying to topple Netanyahu's government. [00:24:00] And their claim was that Netanyahu has to go because he has no plan for the day after. And it's not enough to just send your troops into Gaza and blitz and blitz and bomb and have soldiers killed and have all these Palestinians killed with no plan for the day after. Along comes Trump and he says, oh yeah, here's my plan for the day after. And the whole world gasped, because not a single person in Israel or anywhere else saw that one coming. They there was talk of the Palestinian Authority or some kind of limited Israeli military control temporarily, or maybe the Gulf states would participate in and guarding safeguarding Gaza, something all terribly ridiculous.

[00:24:49] **Ruthie Blum:** And along comes Trump and he throws out that what he's going to do is America is going to take charge of Gaza and not only take charge of Gaza, empty it out and, [00:25:00] and level it and build a kind of Riviera for the Middle East. Now, why do I say that was up until that point, it was controversial in Israel. So controversial to suggest that you that you evacuate anybody from Gaza other than Jews, of course, because in 2005, Israel evacuated every last Jew who lived in Gaza, but certainly not Arabs. Anybody who even suggested that an Israeli politician was, you know, banned from the Knesset. So it's it was kind of ironic that Trump suggested it and legitimized that point of view. And the second thing he did was he called everyone's bluff because before the deal was signed, the hostage families, the protest movement,

everybody was screaming, bring them home now! All of them now, all of them now. Now everybody in Israel wants the hostages home. You don't need to have a family member in there to be devastated by this. But it was. Bring them all home now. All. All now. And suddenly [00:26:00] Trump said, oh, by the way, they also said that Netanyahu was responsible for no deal. So when Netanyahu signed this deal that Hamas finally agreed to. They also didn't like it because it wasn't all at once.

[00:26:12] **Ruthie Blum:** It's three hostages every week and then a ceasefire for 42 days. Some ridiculous thing. Along comes Trump again. And he says, and he says no, no. He said, I saw those three men looking like Holocaust survivors. What's going on in there is unacceptable. Okay. We want them all back. Now. Saturday by noon. So suddenly he has said that he agrees. He agrees. There's a plan for the day after, and he agrees that all of them have to be brought home now. But what the future holds remains to be seen, because the question is, will Netanyahu now, you wouldn't want to be in his shoes because he is in a worse than Sophie's Choice. He has to decide which [00:27:00] which who lives who which Jewish lives. He saves as many hostages as he can. As many soldiers as he can. As many future victims of the 2000 bloodthirsty terrorists were released from Israeli jails are the victims of those terrorists who are in jail because they killed Israelis. He has to choose how he can satisfy everyone. And the answer is he can't simultaneously. So this will be a test of his leadership. That is really heartbreaking. Okay. Because any decision he makes will involve dead people. Now, I used to I might have said to you that I care whether there are dead people among the Gazans, but I really don't, I have to admit. But he has to now choose among bad choices of which dead Jews are going to emerge in the near future. [00:28:00]

[00:28:00] **Frank Gaffney:** Okay. Thank you. What a powerful crystallization, really, of what is before Benjamin Netanyahu. How all of this appears from the perspective of our friends in Israel. And we're going to get a bit more of that, I suspect, but also very importantly, the argument that what is happening there is of surpassing importance for us here as well. And for that purpose, we have asked Ambassador Yoram Ettinger, a man who served with great distinction in the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C., with a portfolio of congressional relations. He was also the consul general in Houston, Texas. He has since retired from the Israeli Foreign Service and is now the author of The Ettinger Report, a very valuable resource and [00:29:00] a frequent guest on programs like our Securing America and many others, in which he speaks extremely eloquently

and thoughtfully. And I think impactfully about the reason Israel's victory is our victory, which goes back to something that I think David first touched on. An insight. Common sense, yes, but nonetheless an insights that bucks a lot of the conventional wisdom or what passes for it. And we're delighted to have Ambassador Ettinger here to expand on that point. Mr. Besser, welcome over to you.

[00:29:42] **Yoram Ettinger:** Thank you very much. It's my pleasure to be again with you and the other distinguished guests. In my mind President Trump's attitude or policy on Gaza reflects [00:30:00] His overall strategic view of the Middle East in particular, the globe in general. And the first thing that comes to my mind is President Trump's decision to repeat his conduct of his first administration, namely, evicting the State Department from the center stage of policy making, foreign policy, national security policy making in the US. And when you evict the US, the US State Department from the center stage then for instance, you also demote the Palestinian issue from its top position during [00:31:00] The heydays of the State Department, and the message of President Trump has been in recent days. With all due respect to the Palestinian issue, there are many, many more important issues in the Middle East as far as American interest is concerned the State Department considered consider the Palestinian issue to be the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, a crown jewel of Arab policy makers and a core cause of Middle East turbulence. None of which has anything to do with Middle East reality. And President Trump has decided to stick with reality rather than with the State Department's Men's alternate reality. [00:32:00] And by the way this is a natural conclusion from his first administration, his success in producing the Abraham Accords, which bypassed, ignored completely the State Department and the Palestinian issue and therefore and therefore for additional peace treaties between Israel and Arab countries.

[00:32:31] **Yoram Ettinger:** The other element which characterizes the Trump administration decision to stray, I would say, 180 from his predecessor to stray, 180 from the State Department's worldview and policy is the fact that as far as President Trump is Concern. There is no common denominator [00:33:00] between US policy and the UN. Contrary to President Biden or I should say contrary to Secretary of State. Blinken's worldview that preached for common denominator and Policy sharing between the US and the UN and international organizations. Obviously, such a policy was at the expense of American interests because it. Denied actually an independent US national

security and foreign policy. Action. President Trump's disdain for the UN and international organizations, in effect. Puts American interests first. American exceptionalism [00:34:00] is back to center stage. America First is back to center stage. And that also leads to enhance or upgraded defense budget. And for every single ally of the US, including Israel. America first. American exceptionalism and upgraded defense budget means a more deterring us, which provides a tailwind to America's allies and headwind to America's enemies. Another reflection on President Trump's worldview is the fact that he has stated or presented his top goal. Justifiably, justifiably, to put [00:35:00] an end to war, but it does not present it in a simplistic manner, in an overly simplistic manner.

[00:35:09] **Yoram Ettinger:** Namely, you have to strive to end wars, and the only way to end wars is to bring to submission. To obliterate the epicenters of terrorism. The epicenters of wars. And that means that allowing Hamas to remain in Gaza on the one hand, and striving for minimization of terrorism, on the other hand, constitute an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms. And the same thing hopefully, hopefully will be applied to Iran. But before spending a minute or so on Iran, I would like [00:36:00] to go back to Gaza and indicate that President Trump's prescription for Gaza may or may not be implemented, but it has achieved a major, major goal. And this is shedding light on the reality of the Palestinian in the intra Arab context. Namely, President Trump turned to King Abdullah of Jordan, to General Sisi of Egypt, and proposing that they would absorb half a million each 1 million Arabs from Gaza. And the response, as, by the way, was expected was a resounding refusal to do just that. And the question is, why do they refuse? [00:37:00] And the answer is very clear to anyone. Anyone who knows the ABC of the Palestinian role in the intra Arab context. King Abdullah does not ignore the fact that Palestinians in Jordan constitute a clear and real threat to the Hashemite regime in Jordan.

[00:37:28] **Yoram Ettinger:** He does not ignore the fact that Palestinians in Jordan, outside of Jordan, have traditionally collaborated with the Muslim Brotherhood, which again constitutes a clear and present threat to the Hashemite regime in Jordan. He certainly does not ignore the close ties between Palestinians and the ayatollahs of Iran, ayatollahs of Iran, who [00:38:00] have penetrated deeper and deeper into Jordan through subversion and terrorism and arming terrorists inside Jordan with the attempt to topple the Hashemite regime, which would expand the foothold of the ayatollahs not

only closer to the Mediterranean, Iran through Iraq and Jordan, but also would achieve encircling or engulfing of Israel from the west and Saudi Arabia from the from the south. And certainly King Abdullah does not forget the involvement of Palestinians in an actual attempt to bring down to topple the Hashemite regime, as happened during Black September. The civil war in Jordan, [00:39:00] with the Palestinians attempting to take over control of Jordan. General Sisi has similar history. Track record of Palestinians in Egypt back in the 50s. President Nasser at that time allowed the Palestinians to terrorize Israel from Gaza. But within two years, they started collaborating with the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt, terrorizing the host regime. And they had to run away from Egypt to Syria. The bottom line is that the Palestinians have become in the last 70, 60 years. The role model of intra-Arab subversion, terrorism and treachery.

[00:39:53] **Yoram Ettinger:** Arab leaders are aware of it, and therefore they limit themselves to a flood [00:40:00] of embracing statements, embracing the Palestinians through their talk. But they have refrained from any actual work on behalf of Palestinian statehood, because they know, and especially the Gulf states, as a result of the 1990 experience with Saddam invading Kuwait and Palestinians inside Kuwait, collaborating with the invasion against Kuwait, which at that time was the most generous Arab host of Palestinians and therefore Arabs would do shower Western leaders and Western media with very, very pro-Palestinian statehood talk. But their walk towards the Palestinians is anywhere from [00:41:00] indifferent to very negative due to the Palestinian track record. My, my main concern about the coming Trump administration is with the policy towards Iran. During the first administration, President Trump opposed regime change in Iran and was convinced that he could produce a better agreement, better than the JCPOA with Iran. He was convinced that maximum pressure, crippling economic sanctions would deliver the goods, namely moderate change. Constrain the ayatollahs regime in Iran. But reality has defied [00:42:00] such an approach, because we know by now that the maximum pressure, crippling economic sanctions, which indeed, indeed almost brought the Iranian economy down to its knees, close to bankruptcy were reversible, were reversible because a next succeeding president has the option of reversing such economic sanctions as President Biden did by suspending and softening economic sanctions on Iran.

[00:42:44] **Yoram Ettinger:** And therefore, we have an obvious reality of 46 years of US diplomatic option, which has been the most effective engine of upgrading [00:43:00]

ayatollahs capabilities to terrorize and spread the drug trafficking around the world, the money laundering and severely, severely undermine American interests not only in the Gulf and the Middle East and North and East and West Africa, but in the American continent, South and Central America. The US, Mexico border and the establishment Establishing hundreds, maybe more than hundreds sleeper cells controlled by Iran on US soil. And simultaneously, we also have 40 years of economic sanctions, some softer and some harsher. But neither economic sanctions nor diplomatic [00:44:00] option has induced the ayatollahs to follow or embrace peaceful coexistence, become good faith negotiators, abandon their apocalyptic and anti-American 1400 year old vision. And the conclusion in my mind has to be that you do not learn from history by repeating mistakes. You learn from history by avoiding mistakes and following the failure of the diplomatic option and the reversible economic option are the only way to advance the goal of President Trump, namely ending wars. Ending terrorism. To be realistic, maybe minimizing wars, minimizing terrorism is by regime [00:45:00] change in Iran. The ayatollahs regime in Iran, on the one hand, and bring an end to war constitute oxymoron. Thank you very much.

[00:45:12] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. A very eloquent description of the challenges that we both are facing Israel and the United States. And I think it's important that we'll talk more about it, I'm sure, in the Q&A about the Iranian aspect of this, especially, we do have one final presenter, however, his name is John Guandolo on his background is extraordinary and very relevant to the topic today. He is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, who was a Force Reconnaissance Marine, deployed in combat in the Gulf and subsequently became the member and then commanding officer of the FBI's Swat team and then a special agent in the FBI in their counterterrorism [00:46:00] ranks. He is these days a consultant on the community resilience and safety with relations and dealings from the federal government on down. A very important resource, specifically with respect to the dangers we face from what I call Sharia supremacism here inside the United States. And we've asked him to shed some light on that particular subject, especially as there is a distinct possibility that things will continue to. Hot up. I guess the technical term for it in the Middle East. Despite the president's best efforts to try to attenuate that and those of Benjamin Netanyahu as well, I think specifically, [00:47:00] we're hoping John will shed light on Sharia supremacism inside our wire. Well, Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran and or. Well, for that

matter, other of the jihadists groups around the world, these Sharia supremacists bring the next October 7th here. John Guandolo, welcome. Over to you, sir.

[00:47:26] **John Guandolo:** Thank you very much, Frank. And I'm very grateful for my esteemed colleagues and their comments, because I think they were right on the mark and really together form. What I think is, is the basis for a realistic approach to where we find ourselves. So a couple of things that were brought up. Doctor Wormser mentioned things are actually much more simple than we give them credit. And certainly Mr. Trump has boiled them down to a [00:48:00] simpler way to look at things. And I would argue that that's true. We have failed the United States, specifically the West more generally, to deal with the issue of and I'll put terrorism in quotes. But really what the enemy calls the global Islamic movement because we've failed to actually assess the enemy in a professional manner. This is true of the West in general, but I'll speak from the United States perspective. Our war fighting doctrine states that when we assess threats, we begin with who the enemy says they are and why they say they're fighting. And unanimously, the Islamic movements like the Muslim Brotherhood, Tablighi Jamaat, Jamaat e Islami and others, the military jihadi organizations like Al Qaeda, Islamic State Hezbollah, [00:49:00] Hamas, Boko Haram, Islamic Jihad, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and all the rest of them, as well as individual jihadis that have been killed or captured in Europe, the United States and elsewhere. 100% say we are Muslims waging jihad to establish an Islamic state under Sharia, and we can look at the comments they make in open court when they're given the opportunity to speak.

[00:49:32] **John Guandolo:** We can look at the affidavits of numerous terrorism trials. We can and you can read them. You can open your eyes and watch you know tens of thousands of them chanting Death to America holding signs that say Sharia will dominate the world. This is not you know, it's not rocket science here. And when you actually open a [00:50:00] book of Islamic law for instance, the most widely used book of Islamic law in Muslim households in North America is something called reliance of the traveler. Or you get a widely used textbook used in Africa or Asia, or in France or Spain or Canada or the or the United States, and you actually read them and you realize that what al Qaeda says they want. What ISIS say they want. What Iran says it's required. And it has it in their constitution. And by the way, in the Egyptian constitution, too, is a Sharia. And then we look at the extensive 2013 Pew poll, and you see that in countries that number 150 million and greater, like Indonesia, like Pakistan, Bangladesh 80% or

more say they want Sharia. So this [00:51:00] idea that it's a half a dozen wingnuts in Jersey City, that if we could just take care of them, everything would be fine. Is not real. It's not rational. And I would argue, since 1979 America's foreign policy and counterterrorism strategy has always been doomed to failure because we failed to look at the adversary and what they say they want and why they're doing it.

[00:51:31] **John Guandolo:** Number one. Number two, when you realize that Sharia is the blueprint for how they're fighting the war and what they seek to impose on the earth, and you actually read it and you realize that at the geopolitical level, every Muslim nation on earth under the Organization of Islamic Conference, the OIC, every Muslim nation at the head of state and king level are a party to the [00:52:00] OIC, the largest voting bloc in the UN. And they're party to the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights, which states outright that the Islamic world only understands human rights through the lens of Sharia. Well, it radically changes how they understand words like peace and justice and how they understand treaties. And when we know as a matter of experience that in the US State Department, there's no understanding of that, that in the national security staff, there's not only no understanding of that. I mean, the previous director of intelligence for the National Security Council, Maher Bitar, was a Hamas guy. And we could go on all day just about the penetration inside the US system. But I believe one of the greatest strategic examples of our catastrophic failure of not understanding the enemy and failing to do our most basic duty at all levels [00:53:00] of federal and state government, which is to actually know the enemy, which, by the way, if you've sworn an oath to the Constitution, you have a legal duty to know or due diligence to know all enemies.

[00:53:14] **John Guandolo:** I think the greatest strategic example of example of that. Is this the four leaders on the planet who were doing the most damage to the Islamic movement, killing al Qaeda fighters, imprisoning Muslim Brotherhood leaders were Saddam Hussein, Hosni Mubarak, Muammar Gaddafi, and Bashar al Assad, and the United States killed two, pushed one out of power, Hosni Mubarak. And we just had Bashir al-Assad pushed out which the US government has said for a number of years we supported that. And what do you have in the place there? Of course, you have Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic Movement forces. [00:54:00] So the United States has handed our enemies their greatest victories. We did that. We, the United States State Department, wrote the constitutions for Iraq and Afghanistan, which made Sharia the

law of the land in those countries which handed al Qaeda its victory. Exactly what they said they wanted there. And we wrote the constitutions for it. You cannot exhibit more catastrophic failure. And it's because our leaders from President Clinton through, through President Biden, all have publicly said, with the exception of Mr. Trump, that true Islam, this mystical, pretend, magical version, is actually peaceful and tolerant and wants to get along well. I would challenge them to show me one authoritative book of Islamic law, or one textbook written for ten year olds in Islamic schools in the US, in Canada, in Paris, [00:55:00] in, you know, Rome, anywhere in Africa or Asia, or anywhere in the Middle East that says that because what they all say is that Islam's purpose is to wage war against the non-Muslim world until Sharia is the law of the land.

[00:55:19] **John Guandolo:** That's it. That's what they teach 12 year olds here in Texas, in Islamic schools, right here in Dallas where I live, we have the textbooks and numerous reports have been done. Former CIA director Jim Woolsey chaired a report that was done about the these textbooks and these writings across the United States 20 years ago. And what's been done about it? Nothing. What has been done about the Hamas Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas being an inherent part of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in the United States? Nothing. And they are the direct support network for jihadi operations here from nine over [00:56:00] 11 through the most recent attack in in the French Quarter in New Orleans. They are the direct support network. They're the training network. Work. They. And this is to me the key. This. These are not homegrown jihadi networks. These are hostile foreign powers in the form of Iran and the form of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Qatar, Turkey. Using this network with a tremendous command and control apparatus in place to wage war against the United States. It's a war. And they say it's a war. And currently, my assessment has been since 2017 that the Muslim Brotherhood in the United States is under the control of Erdogan of Turkey.

[00:56:54] **John Guandolo:** They signed a formal memorandum of understanding about that between the DNA center and [00:57:00] the Muslim Brotherhood Strategy Center, the International Institute for Islamic Thought here in in the United States. So until we until we actually understand this from the perspective of it's one movement that the network here in the United States, these are not merely individual acts of jihad, that there is a massive network here that encompasses the prominent Islamic organizations, as a matter of fact and evidence that we have to deal with this. So when he says, you know, as of noon on Saturday, if they're not released, all hell is going to be breaking

loose. Well, I would love to see every one of the Hamas Muslim Brotherhood organizations in the United States smashed, arrest their leaders, seize their assets, and start dismantling this network instead of the Treasury Department, the State Department, [00:58:00] the national security staffs working with these people FBI, CIA. This is outrageous. And so I think until we actually address it from that perspective, no matter what happens externally, internally, no war has ever been won by changing policies. As was said by at least two of the speakers, the last two speakers I heard wars are won by vanquishing the enemy. And that's what we need to do. And you can't do it until you actually identify who they are.

[00:58:33] **Frank Gaffney:** So thank you again. Common sense abounds in the course of this briefing, and I think it's a testimony, as several of you have pointed out, that we now have it being practiced at the highest levels of the government very explicitly. And it does seem as though it's going to lend itself to at least greater clarity, may or may not translate into greater peace in the near term, but greater clarity [00:59:00] as to what it is we're up against in this war that we are confronting. We have time, I believe, for a quick round of questions, and I just want to draw out each of you a little bit more on some of the points that you've made or that others have that touch on your points. David Wurmser is it your judgment at this point? I think you've sort of alluded to this, but just to put it very explicitly, that Donald Trump has now decided to essentially walk away from the deal that was enabled by Steve Witkoff, his personal emissary, special envoy in the immediate run up to the inauguration. And is that now essentially a dead letter with the sort of last throes [01:00:00] of it playing out as we speak with respect to hostages. And if the formal end of the cease fire between Israel and Hamas.

[01:00:10] **David Wurmser:** Well, President Trump, I thought, was pretty clear. He if you see the full statement that he said, he said enough with this two, three, four at a time. They don't have time anymore. He's reacting to the fact that there may not be four weeks or ten weeks left to extract the hostages, that many of them are in worse shape, are probably almost all of them that are alive are in as bad shape or worse shape than what we saw come out on Saturday, and that already those who came out on Saturday were in horrible shape. So he's basically saying all or nothing now or all the hostages have to come out. And he presented Israel with a gift. He basically threw the full weight of the superpower, the United States. [01:01:00] It's his don't moment. He said enough. All the. All of them come out and he was explicit. He didn't say some or few. He made it

very clear. This formula of 3 or 4 is over. It has to be all of them. Is it a dead letter there for this deal? I don't know. You know, I mean, it really depends on what the Israelis are deciding as we speak. I'm sure there are going to be many voices in Israel that say, no, no, no, Hamas gives up three more on Saturday. Then we'll live with it, because then we'll get a few more. Whereas if you pull the plug on it, then all the rest are dead and Hamas will kill them. I mean, I'm sure there's going to be a lot of voices like that.

[01:01:44] **David Wurmser:** And I really don't know where the Israeli government will fall. But at the end of the day, one thing would be, in my view, it would be, and I'll say this quite bluntly, I think it would be disastrous for the Israeli government not to align [01:02:00] perfectly with what the president said because they, the president, will have been left holding the bag and that's it. He won't reengage to that level again if he's left holding the bag, which means Hamas will read it and Hamas will understand America is not behind Israel anymore. So I think it's imperative for the Israeli government to accept the fact that the deal as we know it is finished, it's done, and that there's a new deal on the table, which is they all come out. And the only thing left to talk about before Saturday at noon, when they all have to come out, all the hostages have to come out, is what are the terms for, for Hamas. Do they leave, you know, do they all leave where they leave to, etc.? How much of the population starts moving? In other words, all the what the Palestinians have to do and what they and what they get, so to speak, is still on the table. But in [01:03:00] terms of the formula that was negotiated by Witkoff and, and through the Qataris, which really adopted the Biden plan of the drabs and drabs that's done unless the Israelis continue it. But then I'm afraid they will continue it alone without American support.

[01:03:22] **Frank Gaffney:** Ruthie, that brings me to you. As someone who has worked with Prime Minister Netanyahu. You made a very compelling case concerning the horns of a dilemma that he's on a Sophie's Choice. I think you put it. And that seems very apt. He's observed, as did Donald Trump, of course, as Prime Minister Netanyahu. The state of the hostages that have been released. He's also witnessed the horrible treatment they were subjected to on their way out of Gaza. But David has just suggested that basically President [01:04:00] Trump has now given the Prime minister a basis cover, if you wish, upon which to proceed to finish the job in Gaza. What are your thoughts about whether that will, in fact, be his decision?

[01:04:20] **Ruthie Blum:** I totally agree with David about what Trump has done. Now, what I think Netanyahu will do that remains to be seen. And what I mean is, and by the way, I'm not holding this against Netanyahu because, as I said before, I wouldn't want to be in his shoes. But the reason his deal to begin with was so disastrous is that the second phase, aside from the dribs and drabs of hostages returning. The second phase of the deal only goes through. We only get not all the hostages, another number of hostages. A larger number, albeit a larger number, but not all of them. If Israel totally withdraws [01:05:00] from Gaza, every soldier and we have to leave the not only the Netzarim corridor, but Rafah and the Philadelphia Corridor, through which all those materials and terrorist materials and concrete. We're going to build the tunnels now. So we couldn't do that. That's not victory. And, you know, Netanyahu has said all along total victory. And he was ridiculed for that. And some of us said, no, we really need a victory. We don't. And again, this whole that a few of you mentioned the word peace. And I hate using that word in any of this context because but the word peace, one of the troubles that Israelis consider peace a goal rather than an outcome of the goal being victory and strength. Okay, peace can be an outcome, but that should never be your aim. And I get nervous when [01:06:00] we're talking about, well, if we do this and this, that will lead to stability and peace. Forget about it. What we need is victory over those barbarians. Now, can Netanyahu stand up to the families of the hostages if when Saturday comes, this is a game of chicken, unfortunately, where we say, wait, so are we going to come home? Are zero going to come home? Is Hamas going to suddenly allow 20 to go home? What will Netanyahu do? I don't know.

[01:06:29] **Ruthie Blum:** I do know that in the past, and I listen, I'm a big admirer of his. So we have to keep this, you know, with the, let's say, with a grain of salt. But I watched him in the past cower to other kinds of protests, protests against the judicial reform, protests against his firing of the defense minister, which he should have done a year and almost a year and two months ago. And he waited till very recently not firing the attorney general. And [01:07:00] in the past, as soon as there were protests about the cost of living, he caved. And, you know, Netanyahu is a great, great leader, but he at that moment was not a Margaret Thatcher. He caved to the unions. Now understandably, in Israel, it's not like America. Israel still has really deep a serious deep state and a lot of socialist, you know socialism embedded in the system. And Netanyahu is aware of this more than anybody. The question is, can he stand up now? It's one thing not to be able to stand up to a teacher's union or, I don't know, a protest

about the price of cottage cheese. But when you have parents of, you know, 20 year old men in there who are being abused and tortured and kept in cages. I don't know what I would do either, but if we don't achieve victory over them, we won't save the hostages and we won't prevent future hostages. [01:08:00]

[01:08:01] **Frank Gaffney:** The absolute crux of the matter, it seems to me, Mr. Ambassador, you have laid out a sort of assessment of the various diplomatic elements to this drama, and we are speaking as we speak, I should say. Abdullah is having his sessions with the president, or perhaps they're a little bit later in the day, but as of now, we don't know the outcome of this. Could you speak to the prospects? I think you really helpfully showed how all of this is unmasked, the actual attitude of the Arab nations, Muslim nations, if you will. Towards the Palestinians, despite the endless, you know, recitation of their undying loyalty to the cause. Will they, in fact, as [01:09:00] you see it find a way to extract these long suffering Palestinians and place them someplace else, if not Egypt and Jordan, even temporarily elsewhere in the world, the president says there are several other nations that are willing to take them. Or do you think that they are going to insist that these people be condemned to. I think you said 15 years of essentially horrifying inhumane conditions in Gaza that that arise as a result of all these people who say they love Palestine. Actually not giving a fig about their people.

[01:09:55] **Yoram Ettinger:** I have to base my assessment on track record. I don't know any [01:10:00] better way of assessing the future, but a past track record. Otherwise, it's sheer speculation. Subjective speculation. And when you look at the track record of Arab countries as far as their Palestinian policy then it's very obvious that the Arabs have not flexed their muscle, the real muscle. I'm not talking about the verbal muscle on behalf of a Palestinian state since 1948, when they had number of opportunities to advance the cause of a Palestinian state. And it's not only Jordan and Egypt which controlled Judea and Samaria, the West Bank and Gaza until 67 and never allowed, never allowed [01:11:00] any Arab political activity in this region. And in fact, the Egyptians imposed a nightly curfew in Gaza in order to prevent any political activity in that area. And very recently, Arabs had a chance to precondition the six peace accords with Israel, Egypt, Jordan, UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and South Sudan to precondition them upon One. Israel's willingness to allow for a Palestinian state in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. And they did not do that because Arabs have not subordinated their own interest on the altar of Palestinian [01:12:00] interest. Arabs are aware that in addition to

the engagement of in subversion and terrorism by Palestinians in different Arab countries the Palestinian leadership has always but always collaborated with radical anti-Western elements Nazi Germany, the Soviet bloc, Ayatollah Khomeini the Muslim Brotherhood international terror organizations, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, China, Russia and the Arabs do pay attention to track record.

[01:12:51] **Yoram Ettinger:** And they are aware that the profile of the Palestinians, the track record does [01:13:00] document that. Should they have their own state, it would only add fuel, not water, to the Middle East. Water. And this is, in my mind also the American interest. The State Department, which has always followed an alternate reality has undermined systematically American interests. Also on the Palestinian issue, because should you have a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River. Obviously, it's going to be a death sentence to the pro-American Hashemite regime east of the river, which would transform Jordan into a non-controllable, uncontrollable state and another arena for [01:14:00] Islamic terrorism, pro-Iranian pro ISIS Pro-Taliban Pro-Muslim brotherhood, Palestinian terror organization, which is going to establish to trigger ripple effect into Sinai undermining the regime of Sisi inside Egypt and certainly producing ripple effect southward into the Arabian Peninsula, threatening every single pro-American, oil producing Arab regime. And we're talking about 48% of global oil reserves, which could fall into the hands of anti-American elements, could cause economic havoc, certainly producing more and more epicenters of anti-American terrorism. And [01:15:00] therefore, I think, between the State Department or the New York Times and Washington Post and the dovish elements in Israel, on the one hand, and the crown prince of Saudi Arabia's real position, not talk, but his work. I would choose the MBS work over the State Department's policy, which means no Palestinian state in Judea and In Samaria and Gaza.

[01:15:35] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you. Finally, John Guandolo to you. You mentioned at the end of your remarks the imperative need to essentially dismantle what has been done to put into place in this country the infrastructure and the. Well, the I guess the force that would exploit it [01:16:00] for the purposes of advancing jihad in the United States. I did want to just include, before we close a comment about a speech that Donald Trump made before he became president the first time. That is not often called to mind, but it's very important to understand as a kind of template for doing what you've just described. I believe it was a speech he made on the 15th of August 2016. In

Youngstown, Ohio, as the Republican nominee for the presidency in that year's election cycle. And with a view to describing the ideology that we are confronting from this quarter is the term Sharia supremacism. He called it radical Islamic ideology [01:17:00] whatever you call it. It is clear that he was of a mind that we are confronting, in fact a totalitarian ideological movement that needed to be countered.

[01:17:16] **Frank Gaffney:** It became best known this speech for the so-called Muslim ban the very sensible step of stop importing more of these jihadis that became quite controversial. But his, I think, most important, you know, statement of all of it was he talked about rooting out the infrastructure, the support networks, I think is the term he used. Could you say just a word about whether we currently have the authority to do that? Whether we have the understanding of the problem [01:18:00] necessary to do that? And if not, how do we get from where we are right now in the new Trump presidency? In the context of all that we've talked about? I think the point being that whatever happens in Israel, Gaza, Jordan, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East there is a very high probability that there will be a front opened here at some point with these So Sharia supremacists. Your thoughts on what it will take to do the stripping out, as Trump put it, and to prepare the country for the possible threats from within that you've described.

[01:18:42] **John Guandolo:** Thanks, Frank, and thanks for framing it that way, because I think the big issue here in the United States, for instance, people have advocated designating the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group in the United States, and I would concur with that. But if we did that today, then what? And that's been my mantra [01:19:00] since it first came up. I mean, those bills are still sitting in the House and Senate designating the Muslim Brotherhood to be a terrorist group. My experience going across the United States for over 20 years and training. First of all, briefing very senior members of the government, but training federal, state and local officials in the intelligence Agents and law enforcement realms. And I will just say this right out the gate at the end of, for instance, the three day law enforcement training. I asked, number one, how many of you knew this information before you came in here? Zero hands will go up. And then I ask, how many of you believe what you've just been trained and taught is essential for protecting your communities? And everyone had everyone's hand goes up. And so these are not only FBI agents in the Counterintelligence and Counterterrorism division. These are [01:20:00] police officers on the JTTF, the Joint

Terrorism Task Force and others. So I think the level of ignorance from the local all the way to the federal level is the whole point and is a huge point of what the enemy has done here. When you've got in the Clinton administration, the Islamic advisor to the president is an al Qaeda guy, Abdurahman Alamoudi, or the director for intelligence for the National Security Council under Biden is a Hamas guy.

[01:20:31] **John Guandolo:** I mean, the or your, you know, Protestant and Catholic leadership are working with Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas organizations at the ground level on immigration issues or social justice or whatever it is to the business community, the Chambers of Commerce, working with one of the many Turkish Muslim Brotherhood front groups. And whether they call themselves, you [01:21:00] know, the Turkish Foundation or the Holy Dove or whatever they're all bad, and they're meant to control the narrative of how leaders in the community at all levels understand the problem. So I want to go back to this, since this discussion has been focused around what's going on overseas. Remember the Muslim Brotherhood published in 1982, December, something called towards a Worldwide Strategy for Islamic policy. And that document wasn't discovered until November 2001, when, at the behest of the United States, Swiss authorities raided the home of Youssef Nada, senior Muslim Brotherhood leader and financier of al Qaeda and discovered this document and its 12 points on advancing the Islamic movement globally. And Point of Departure 11 [01:22:00] says this to adopt the Palestinian cause as a part of a worldwide Islamic plan with the policy plan and by means of jihad. Right. Since it the Palestinian cause acts as the keystone of renaissance of the Arabic world today. So the cause of Palestine and I put that in quotes from the Islamic perspective is this.

[01:22:27] **John Guandolo:** They don't give a rip about it, other than it's a point to advance the global jihad. When you understand these things at the global geopolitical level, the strategic level or the tactical level, like understanding the networks in the United States, until you understand that all of your foreign policy, all of your counterterrorism strategy, all of the interactions, the outreach with any of these Islamic groups is going to be failed. And I'm not even [01:23:00] saying you don't outreach to them, but when you do, when you're speaking to leaders of Qatar or you're speaking to leaders of Saudi Arabia, you understand who they are and what it is they actually are doing and what their actual goal is. So in the United States the local level, in my estimation, having done this for as long as anyone else in this country is the way we win

the war. There are things that can be done at the federal level and the state level. But until American citizens, until local police and local leaders work to identify these networks at the local level and flush them out and render these networks incapable, I think we're going to have a very hard time of winning this war, because, again, changing policies isn't has never won a war. Wars are only won by vanquishing the enemy. And it really [01:24:00] does begin at the local level.

[01:24:03] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you. Thanks to each of our presenters for extraordinarily important insights into the state of the efforts to address the victory that is clearly needed. The dangers of failing to achieve it. The important adjustments that I think have aligned President Trump, at least as of this moment in favor of victory rather than more of the same. The policies that have brought us to this very, very perilous situation and the stakes for us here in the United States both quite literally inside our country as well as our vital interests in the Middle East and beyond. I have found this to be really helpful in, in illuminating all of those issues. And commend [01:25:00] to those of you who are tracking what is taking place in this space. The work of our victory coalition, which is nothing short of achieving victory over the Sharia supremacists who seek our destruction. I hope you will stay on top of what we are doing with the coalition at Victory co.org. And of course very much hope that you will take advantage of this particular program and another one that we did last week sort of in the immediate aftermath of the meetings between President Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu. Another intelligence briefing, if you will for the purposes of educating people in your circles of influence, they have a need to know, because nothing less than I think the future of our country is on the line. Again heartfelt [01:26:00] thanks to David Wurmser, Ruthie Blum to Yoram Ettinger and to John Guandolo for your contributions today we will be in touch with you as well as all of our audience. I hope in the future, as we continue to track and try to provide the best counsel possible for achieving the victory that we must have. God bless you all. Back to you, Dede. Thank you.

[01:26:31] **Dede Laugesen:** Thank you, Frank. Thanks to all of you for being here today. A video of this webinar will be posted to VictoryCo.org within a day of the conclusion of our program. Please share this in our other programs with your elected representatives, colleagues and other networks and follow us on X at @Co4Victory for updates. Thanks for being with us today and goodbye. [01:27:00]