

TRANSCRIPT

JOINT BRIEFING

IS THE “ENDLESS WAR” WITH IRAN OVER? MULLAH’S FATWA TO ASSASSINATE TRUMP IS A CLUE

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Media File: Webinar_Iran_Endless_War.mp4

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT:

Dede Laugesen: [00:00:11] Hello, everyone. Thanks for joining us today. I'm Dede Laugesen for the Victory Coalition. We encourage you to visit VictoryCo.org for information on new programs, access to videos of our past briefings, and other very valuable content. Follow us on X at @Co4Victory. Our moderator today is Frank Gaffney. Frank is president of the Institute for the American Future, founder of the Victory Coalition and host of Securing America Unreal America's Voice Network. This is a joint briefing with the Victory Coalition and Israel365Action.

Frank Gaffney: [00:00:53] Welcome, everyone, to this third briefing conducted jointly by Our Victory [00:01:00] Coalition, a project of the Institute for the American Future and Israel 365 action. Who's executive director, Rabbi Pesek? Wilkey, normally shares the moderating responsibilities with me, but could not make it in person. We do have a video from him and we will go to that in a moment. But first, let me just say a word of level setting for today's program. Much is being made of the extent to which the war which has come to be known, thanks to President Trump's inimitable marketing as the 12 day war is over, he says. So commentators in this country and elsewhere are saying so. Some people, I think, actually believe it might be [00:02:00] true. We're going to examine whether the larger war, of which this properly understood, was. But a campaign is anywhere near being over, or could possibly be over in the absence of the defeat of the enemy that brought it about. We're going to lay all this out in more detail with some extraordinarily capable experts in these fields. And we're going to begin by talking about the war itself, the nature of it, the combatants, the history in the short form,

and what Israel has been doing to try to protect its nation [00:03:00] and people, of course, but also to assist in protecting those of this country. And indeed, what I think is best described as Judeo-Christian civilization more broadly. That first presenter will be Major Elliott Chertoff. He has contributed to the previous briefings. He is a major in the Israel Defense Forces reserves, has served in combat with the IDF, and is periodically summoned up to serve again as a reservist. Because of his profound expertise both in the martial arts but also in the history and strategy that enable victory. Three. He is going to be coming [00:04:00] to us via video. Recorded earlier today, and we're very grateful for him finding time to do so. I also want to mention very, very highly recommended. Is his podcast Conflict Uncovered? Check it out. As well as take aboard. What major Chertoff is going to tell us?

Elliot Chodoff: [00:04:24] No, the war did not start this past June 13th. And to refer to the 12 days as President Trump did the 12th, the 12 Day War is a misnomer. The war with Iran began for Israel as well as the United States when Khomeini took power in 1979. Consolidated in 1980. But already in power and beginning with in action. The taking of the American embassy and in [00:05:00] Tehran and holding that and its hostages until Inauguration Day when Ronald Reagan became president. It's a long history. I'm not going to go into it, but I think the important point here is for us not to be confused into thinking that a 12 day campaign, successful as it was, and it was very successful in many ways beyond planners expectations on the Israeli side. Was anything more than a successful campaign. So it the campaign begins this one on June 13th. But let's also not forget there were two Iranian missile strikes on Israel over the past year. Two events that involved hundreds of missiles, ballistic missiles, drones and the like, and cruise missiles fortunately, most of which were intercepted. Iran's proxies have been operating, including the Houthis, against international shipping as well [00:06:00] as against the United States. And here again. With all due respect to the cease fire between America and the Houthis, that hasn't removed the threat. They fired missiles at Israel since. And they are still threatening shipping going through one of the major maritime arteries in the world, the Suez Canal. June 13th is the beginning of an operation. And 12 days later, that operation ends essentially by diktat of President Trump.

Elliot Chodoff: [00:06:30] And here, here, I'll say that I'm certain that Israel was looking to end it. I'm equally certain that it was not looking to end it that way that quickly. I think

a few more days would have certainly served everybody's interest, but nonetheless it ended when it ended with, as I said, tremendous damage to Iran's leadership. It's [00:07:00] a surface to air system, which was almost completely destroyed, its ballistic missile system, which was heavily damaged, and, of course, its nuclear program. We're here. Let's say the jury's still out, how far it was set back, but certainly set back in many ways, not just enrichment. And I think it's important to note here and everybody looks at it enrichment. Enrichment is not the only element of the program. And other elements were struck as well. Of course, President Trump immediately declared victory. We declared more sort of satisfaction than victory. But what what's notable is what happened on the Iranian side, which is they declared victory. They immediately stated that they slapped America around. The damage to them was negligible. Their narrative is that they almost [00:08:00] had Israel destroyed. As a matter of fact, there were demonstrations in Tehran against the government for agreeing to the cease fire and not finishing the job because that was their narrative. And it followed with action. That includes the fatwa, the threat against President Trump and apparently one coming up shortly on the head of the International Atomic Energy Authority. They don't have to issue a fatwa against Israel. They've already declared that we have no right to exist, and they want to annihilate us.

Elliot Chodoff: [00:08:39] You can't you can't escalate that. They have opened channels to both Russia and China To rebuild and resupply. And of course, they're still assessing the damage to the to the nuclear program. But they've already made clear that they're going to get right back on track with that as quickly [00:09:00] as they possibly can. Now, granted that some of this is rhetoric for the sake of their population, dictatorships have to have to do that. In this case, I would put more weight than simply rhetoric on it. Because we know this, what they're saying today conforms with something they've said all along. And I just want to give you an idea. I want to go back. What I think one of the important books that most Americans are not familiar with is Islam and Revolution by Ayatollah Khomeini. Now, Khomeini, of course, is important here. Not only is the founder of the Islamic Republic, but as the man who appointed Khomeini to replace him. In other words, what we're seeing is Khomeini's direct air in power today. And I just want to read you one, two quick lines. Really, as long as I can remember and I can remember back further than many of you, for you or younger than I. America has created disasters for mankind. That's [00:10:00] why the imperialist states like America and Britain brought Israel into existence. And he goes on, you can

imagine from there what he has to say. In other words, this is ideology. It's not political policy. It's deeper and it's permanent.

Frank Gaffney: [00:10:19] Ideology is a critically important part of what we're here to address in the course of today's program. It is bigger than the sum of tactical actions, even strategic ones. And we're going to assess the nature of the Iranian ideology. I think of it as sharia Supremacism, not unique to the Shiites, but practiced with a virulence according to the laws of Sharia. [00:11:00] The full on jihad with a view to, in this case, bringing back the 12th Imam, the Mahdi, the Messiah figure, in an apocalyptic outpouring of grief and pleas for help. These are the sorts of things that need to be understood as we talk about. Is the war over with Iran, or even if, you know, experiencing a significant pause, for that matter. And we're going to begin that assessment with our next presenter. The man I've come to admire tremendously for his knowledge, his thoughtfulness, his articulate characterization of these sorts of problems and what must be done about them. His name is Josh hammer. He [00:12:00] is the author of a new bestselling book entitled Israel and Civilization the Fate of the Jewish Nation and the Destiny of the West. Josh wears many hats in addition to being an author. He is the host of the Josh Hammer Show, a syndicated columnist. A senior editor at large for Newsweek magazine, and senior counsel for an extraordinarily impressive, relatively new organization, the article three project. We're delighted that he was able to make himself available on extremely short notice, and we're anxious to get his thoughts. Josh, the floor is yours.

Josh Hammer: [00:12:44] Well, thank you very much, Fran. That's extraordinarily kind words. And certainly the respect is tremendously mutual and shared as well. In fact, Frank, you actually mentioned the term sharia supremacism, which is a term that I like to use from time to time as well. I think I first got that from you a number of years ago now, if I'm not mistaken. [00:13:00] So it's really nice to be on this call. So I'll just give some brief observations as to as, as to what our previous presenter Eliot was saying and maybe just kind of build on from there and how I see things and so forth. Maybe I'll just briefly mention kind of the, the, the intra Republican Party intra MAGA coalition elements is what is happening here from my perspective, which is certainly very interesting and very much, I think, also in flux. So I agree with the thrust of what Eliot said, which is that calling it the 12 day war is something of a misnomer. Now, I don't take umbrage at that. I don't take offense at that. This is kind of just President Trump

doing what President Trump does best, which is just sell a product. And in this particular case, the product is President Trump's diplomacy and statesmanship and his ability to come in there with this sledgehammer, this sledgehammer that was Operation Midnight Hammer with the B-2 bombers and the 14 bunker buster [00:14:00] bombs and the 30 Tomahawk missiles and so forth there and then getting that cease fire.

Josh Hammer: [00:14:05] Now, I'll be candid. When I first heard the news that there was a cease fire. I too was somewhat taken aback. I was a bit surprised. I did certainly not expect it to come that quickly, I will say, and again, this is also very similar, I think, to what Eliot was just saying. Most of my contacts and friends in Israel, and I'm not talking here about Peaceniks not talking here about Oslo Accords to state ties. Most of my fairly nationalist, conservative friends over in Israel that I got their quick take were not dissatisfied with the cease fire. I think Prime Minister Netanyahu, if I had to guess, I have not asked him personally or anything like that, but if I if I had to guess, I think that he probably was not particularly dissatisfied with it either, because Israel and the United States combined were able to achieve pretty extraordinary things. The extent of that accomplishment remains to be precisely determined there. It seems to me to be most likely the case that is somewhere between the two extreme poles of, on the [00:15:00] one hand, this tangentially pernicious leaker to Natasha Bertrand, who is having us believe that it was only that that Fordo and Natanz really set back by a few months, I find that completely implausible. And on the other hand, you have the characteristic political rhetoric from certain folks in the administration, including the president, who speak about complete obliteration, which is a nice bumper sticker term to use on a political campaign trail, probably does not necessarily reflect exactly what is happening on there.

Josh Hammer: [00:15:27] So the truth will be somewhere in the middle, as is often the case. But it was a serious setback there. And from my perspective, what happened here, and this is a theme that I've been hitting in my column this past Friday on my show the past few days and so forth. There to me, what happened inside of Iran is really emblematic of what we might refer to as the Trump doctrine of foreign policy. And there are a lot of folks, I think, who are deeply confused about President Trump's foreign policy. And this will kind of segue a little bit into my observations as to what is happening in the political tea leaves within the MAGA movement there. I think [00:16:00] that I think that there are a lot of folks who look at President Trump and who

look at his rhetoric when it comes to MAGA, Make America Great Again, who look at his rhetoric when it comes to America first. And they conjure up these images of Charles Lindbergh, which is not necessarily a crazy thing to do, given the fact that that was Lindbergh's phrase on the precipice of the Second World War as well, was, was he also he also clothed himself in the rhetoric of America.

Josh Hammer: [00:16:26] First, the problem for folks who take a Lindberghesque conception of America first. So we might call that the Tucker Carlson wing of, of this, of this broader debate there. The problem is that that is simply not Donald Trump's own conception there. And as Donald Trump has said in a series of posts on social media and impromptu interviews with television cameras, he is the one who resuscitated the political term America First. He is the one who coined the term MAGA Make America Great Again, and he is the one who ultimately gets to define, at least for present purposes, [00:17:00] until his second term expires. He is the one who gets to define what these terms are, and the folks who are trying to impute in this recurring debate that that happened before the strikes, during the strikes and after the strikes, there have been a lot of people who were who were catastrophizing about the possibility of World War three. You had Tucker Carlson take to social media and warn about how Russia and China would swoop in, and there would be thousands of American casualties. We, of course, know that nothing even remotely approximating that came close to happening. There were zero shots fired from inside Iran at the B-2 bombers.

Josh Hammer: [00:17:33] Iran in a face saving WWE fake wrestling style theater measure, decides to telegraph and tell in advance both the United States and Qatar about these 12 to 14, or give or take missiles that they lobbed across the Persian Gulf at Al airbase. Nonetheless, they said to their own people within that they delivered a devastating blow to the American air base. We know, of course, that that did not happen there. So, so, so none of the [00:18:00] predictions of the catastrophes has come anywhere remotely close to materializing. And if you look at the public polling as well, there was a CBS news poll that was conducted in the days after Operation Midnight Hammer inside of Iran. And this this poll showed that 76 to 78% of Republicans supported President Trump's action. That number shoots up to 94%. 94% of self-identified MAGA Republicans who actually support President Trump's operation inside of Iran. That is extraordinary. I am not aware of many, if any other issues, potentially even including the president's signature issue of border security and illegal immigration.

I'm not aware of many of any other issues where you could get 94% of self-identified members of his movement to agree on anything, so there is overwhelming popularity for what just happens. I do fully agree that this is this is not the end of a war. I have said for many years, I'm sure this is a sentiment shared by many [00:19:00] others on this call.

Josh Hammer: [00:19:02] My sentiment is that the war specifically against the communist regime in Tehran will not end unless and until that regime, God willing, is replaced. And that replacement ought to happen from the Persian people, from, from the ground up. Easier said than done, of course, and I will I will be candid and say that I've been a little disappointed that I've not seen more discreet, clandestine videos emerged from inside of Iran over the past couple of weeks about people rising up to kind of potentially use Elon Musk's Starlink to do that. But perhaps a conversation but yes, the broader conflict against the communist regime is not going to end until, well, the communist regime itself actually has. Nonetheless, this is a severe blowback for the Islamic Republic of Iran. When you combine it with the with the operations that Israel has done post October 7th against Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, the toppling of Assad, of course, in Syria, the entire pieces of the chessboard for the Iranian regime [00:20:00] in the region have taken a really, really severe blow. And the final thing that I would just add is looking then kind of at the great power competition element of this as well. I think the United States looks fantastic right now. And the Chinese Communist Party, frankly looks terrible. And as an American, that makes me very, very happy. The United States looks terrible because it's swooped in to defend not only its own national interests, but also its close ally, Israel's national interests with devastating force and then negotiate a cease fire.

Josh Hammer: [00:20:29] Your mileage may vary as to what you think on the cease fire, but the fact was, it took diplomacy and statesmanship to make that happen. The Chinese were totally absent from this. Totally absent. They. They barely took a measure at one point to gesture to resupply the Iranians. All sorts of other details are starting to emerge only now, by the way, about the extent to which the United States was actually involved behind the scenes prior to Operation Midnight Hammer. We're now starting to get reports as to how there actually were American aircraft involved in some of the IDF refueling [00:21:00] that was going in those earlier runs. Some of those details will take time, I think, to fully resurface. But the point is that if you are a second tier power in the Middle East, in the Indo-Pacific, South America, it doesn't matter if you were a second

power. Looking at the 21st century great power competition between the United States and China at this point, I think you feel much more confident in placing your bet in the United States over China than you did as recently as a week and a half, two weeks ago, and that, to me, is a major victory as well.

Frank Gaffney: [00:21:26] Gosh. Thank you. An extraordinarily comprehensive treatment of the subject from the domestic Political side. Right on through. To great power rivalry. We're going to hear another perspective on that from our friend and co-sponsor of this briefing Rabbi Wolicki. It is always a pleasure to have him with us in any form or in any role. But particularly we're able to present today a product of his Israel 365 action [00:22:00] program in Israel. It is a well, I guess an information warfare operation. And it does spectacularly well, I think with these short videos because he was unable to be with us and unable to do a pre-record specifically for this purpose, we were very pleased to be able to simply with his permission, of course plug and play his most recent product Act addressing this issue of the war with Iran, whether it is in fact over. And if not, what must be done now? Among other things, in addition to his role as the executive director of Israel365action. Rabbi Wilkey is a podcaster. He has a "Shoulder to Shoulder" podcast he co-hosts, as well as a columnist for The Jerusalem Post. We're [00:23:00] delighted to be able to show you a very, I think high quality product just released yesterday, I believe, by Rabbi Willkie. Let's go to that videotape, please.

Pesach Wolicki: [00:23:14] Everybody's talking about how much damage we caused to the nuclear facilities. As though that's how we judge the success or failure of the war against Iran. But the most important results of the war against Iran that nobody is talking about have nothing to do with how much damage we caused to the nuclear facility. I want to go through for important results of the war with Iran that have far reaching geopolitical implications. The most important one is coming at the end. So stick around to the end of the video. First, Hezbollah not joining the war. Hezbollah is, of course, the terrorist organization that has been governing South Lebanon for a very long time. They built up this arsenal before October 7th, they had 150,000 rockets pointed at Israel, and they were built over the course of decades by the Iranians in order to be a [00:24:00] front with the Israelis, a gun pointed at Israel's head, essentially just in case Israel would ever decide to attack Iran. The fact that Hezbollah refused to enter the war when they were called upon to do so by the Iranian supreme leader, shows a complete breakdown

of Iranian control over Hezbollah. It also shows that Hezbollah is so deterred that even when their Iranian patron was under attack and told them to attack. They refused to do so. That means that they are no longer a threat to Israel. So the complete and utter demise of Hezbollah was one very important result of the war with Iran.

Pesach Wolicki: [00:24:39] Another very important event that didn't take place in this war was Russia and China not joining into the war. Now, this is so important because both Russia and China have signed strategic partnerships with Iran over the last few years. The more recent one was Russia in January 2025. The Russians signed [00:25:00] a strategic partnership with Iran and according to the Tehran Times, which is a government organ in English by the Iranians, the treaty is supposed to cover defense collaboration in addition to a number of other areas of economic collaboration and other things. But defense collaboration is meant to be part of the strategic partnership between Russia and Iran, and in 2021, Iran signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Chinese Communist Party with the Chinese government. That also included in that partnership security cooperation. And because of that, before Israel attacked Iran, certainly before the Americans attacked Iran, there was a lot of speculation. People in the United States, in the political sphere, who were saying that there was a legitimate possibility that Russia and China would join the war on behalf of Iran, and it could escalate into World War II. This is what we heard from people like Tucker Carlson and Kurt Mills, a number of people who were counseling against America joining [00:26:00] Israel's war against Iran were warning again of Russia and China joining the hostilities. And the fact that neither Russia nor China joined the war has massive implications.

Pesach Wolicki: [00:26:10] Let me pull back the camera a bit and explain why. It's not just that they left Iran hanging over the course of the last few years. This three part axis of Russia, China and Iran has been the main challenge to American led Western hegemony in the world, and this alliance between these three powers Russia, China and Iran seemed like a real threat to the West. The fact that with Iran being taken down and now basically being made impotent and being decimated and being so heavily attacked by first the Israelis and then the Americans joining, and neither Russia nor China lifted a finger to help them, really shows the weakness of that alliance. So now you have a situation where in that three part axis, Iran has basically been taken off [00:27:00] the table, but even the Russia China alliance has never looked weaker, because if both of them were willing to throw Iran under the bus and not lift a finger to

help them, even though they had signed strategic partnerships between them. So what does that say about the strategic agreements signed between China and Russia, like the one that was signed in early 2022, right before Russia invaded Ukraine? Does this mean that China won't have Russia's back and Russia won't have China's back in a potential confrontation with the United States? The implications for China's desires to at some point make a move on Taiwan in the South China Sea are enormous because whatever the likelihood was that China would have allies in a confrontation against the US, that they would have allies of the Russians and the Iranians while the Iranians are off the table.

Pesach Wolicki: [00:27:51] And whatever likelihood there is that the Russians would help the Chinese has just dropped significantly. So China has never looked weaker [00:28:00] vis a vis the United States in years, as they look right now as a result of the defeat of Iran and the fact that neither the Chinese nor the Russians joined the war. China not only didn't join the war, but when the Iranian parliament voted to close the Straits of Hormuz to international shipping as retaliation for the US strikes on Iran. The Chinese stepped in and told them not to and refused to allow them to close the straits. So not only was China not joining Iran in the war, but they were undermining Iran's attempts to retaliate. So a complete breakdown of the Iran Russia China axis has major geopolitical implications. The United States's main adversary in the world is the Chinese Communist Party. The main struggle on the world stage that the entire world is really facing right now is that struggle between the United States and China in cooperation with the Russians and the Iranians. And right now, as a result [00:29:00] of what was done to Iran, the United States's position vis a vis China has never been stronger.

Pesach Wolicki: [00:29:06] The last major implication of Israel's war with Iran, and it might be the most important, is that two days after Israel began its attacks on June 13th, Israel achieved full air dominance over the skies of Iran. And that meant that there was no longer any fear of any surface to air missiles. There was no longer any air defenses that could curtail the Israeli activities. And Israel controlled the skies over Tehran. In fact, when Abbas Araghchi, the foreign minister of Iran, wanted to fly to Geneva a few days into the war, he actually had to ask permission from the Israelis to fly his plane through Iranian airspace to get out of Iran to go to Geneva. The Israelis granted him permission, but Israel gained full control of Iranian airspace. A few days ago, Israel's defense Minister Israel Katz made a statement [00:30:00] where he said that Israel's

goal is to hold on to this air dominance long term and to operate over Tehran in the same way that Israel currently operates over South Lebanon and over Jabalia. Jabalia is the Hamas controlled city in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. Now, what did you mean by that. So a few months ago, when Israel finally defeated Hezbollah and a cease fire was implemented there, Israel made it very clear. And this was part of the terms of the cease fire, that if there was any activity that looked like Hezbollah was trying to rearm or rebuild their terrorist infrastructure, that Israel would have freedom of operation to take it out from the air.

Pesach Wolicki: [00:30:40] And Israel has done that ever since that cease fire was signed. Israel still strikes in Lebanon when they see terrorist activity. And that's what Yisrael Katz was saying, is going to now be the situation over the skies of Tehran. Let's add in that after the Assad regime in Syria fell [00:31:00] last year, the Israelis destroyed all of the air defenses and the air force of the Syrian army. You might remember that that Israel went on this massive bombing campaign to destroy all of these military assets in Syria. And the way it was understood at the time was that Israel was trying to prevent all of this equipment and all of these military assets from falling into the hands of the new leader of Syria, Asherah, or as he sometimes called. There was really a larger agenda here. For the Israelis. There was something bigger at stake, which is that Israel was taking out all of the air defenses and all of the surface to air capabilities in Syria, so that they would be able to control the skies over Syria, just as they control the skies over south Lebanon. And they achieved that. In fact, the planes that Israel was flying into Iran in this war were doing their refueling over the skies of northeastern Syria on their way to Iran.

Pesach Wolicki: [00:31:59] Israel controls [00:32:00] that airspace. What this means is that the situation today is that from the Mediterranean coast of Lebanon and northwest Syria, all the way over to east of Tehran, maybe even all the way to Pakistan, all of that airspace over Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Iran is all now patrolled by and controlled by the Israelis, and the Israelis have no intention of giving that up. And this is why I said at the beginning of this video that the extent of the damage to the nuclear facilities is actually not that important, because when people start saying, oh, Iran is going to start rebuilding their ballistic missile capabilities, Iran is going to start rebuilding their air defenses. Iran is going to start rebuilding their nuclear facilities. No they won't. Because Israel controls the skies above Iran, just as the Israelis do in Lebanon. And just

as the Israelis do in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. And I should add, just as the Israelis do [00:33:00] in south Syria, if there is any activity on the ground that looks like it's building towards a threat against the Israelis, the Israeli Air Force will deal with it. Israel has already bombed the roads leading to the destroyed or damaged nuclear facilities to prevent the Iranians from being able to access them to try to repair them. That's an example of the Israelis taking care of business from the air to prevent the reconstruction and the repair of the nuclear facilities, the ballistic missile capabilities, and the air defenses in Iran.

Pesach Wolicki: [00:33:35] This Israeli control of Iranian airspace marks a major geopolitical shift. What it means is that no longer is Israel, only in Israel with hostile enemies around it, that it has to have a plan for defense against Israel now is in control of the security situation on the ground all across the Middle East, and that's a major geopolitical shift. So just to sum [00:34:00] up, in addition to taking out the nuclear facilities, which was very important, admittedly the most important results of Israel's war with Iran that nobody is talking about is that Bala basically no longer exists as a threat to Israel that Russia and China did not enter the war and revealed to the world that their strategic partnerships are not worth the paper they're written on, which weakens both of them in relation to the United States. The implications here for Taiwan are enormous. The chances that China makes a move on Taiwan are lower than they've ever been because of what's happened in Iran. And finally, Israel's control of the airspace over Iran and really over the entire Middle East, which has been an accomplishment since October 7th. These are the big changes that will bring peace to the Middle East and to the world for years to come. All as a result of the war against Iran.

Frank Gaffney: [00:34:54] Thank you Rabbi. A very bullish assessment. I think that is [00:35:00] is clearly warranted in many of the aspects that have been brilliantly laid out by you. I have to seize the opportunity to mention that. Speaking of Taiwan and the implications of what has just happened for Chinese ambitions towards it and perhaps other targets in the Pacific, including quite possibly us as well. Another program sponsored by our Institute for the American Futures Committee on the Present Danger China Coalition is going to be held tomorrow at noon eastern time, and we'll focus intensively on the status of Xi Jinping's hold on power and what that might portend for his and perhaps the regime or his ambitions towards again the [00:36:00] Western Pacific and much beyond in the theater of what I call World War Xi. But Sticking with the

matter at hand. I'm very pleased to say we have yet another extraordinary public intellectual author. Journalist as it happens. A columnist at Tablet magazine, and among many books I could cite to his credit, is one that seems particularly relevant to the present topic the strong horse power politics, and the clash of Arab civilizations. His name is Lee Smith. He too graciously signed on at the last possible moment. We're very pleased to have him with us always, especially to get his thoughts on the various dynamic tensions that are now [00:37:00] confronting us, as we consider with the advent of Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington, which was just announced by President Trump. What's in the offing? Where do we go from here? And who better to tell us than Lisa Smith? Welcome, Lee. Good to have you with us. The floor is yours.

Lee Smith: [00:37:20] Okay. Yeah. Just a few short scattered remarks. You're talking about the Israeli prime minister's trip. You know, as I've been thinking about this, not just about the you know, not just about Operation Midnight Hammer and Operation Rising Lion. But if you look at the coordination between the Israeli prime minister and the American president I mean, I think that this is one of the this is one of the I mean, this is a landmark moment we're watching at an alliance here who got very that got extraordinarily important things done. We haven't seen anything like this since World War two. Now, I'm not saying that the Iranians are a the [00:38:00] Iranians do not rise to the level of foe like Imperial Japan or Nazi Germany. But the importance. We've been talking about the, you know, Iran, Russia, China alliance to take out to cripple an important part of this alliance. It's really astonishing. And also just some more background. I mean, of course, you know President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu worked during Trump's, worked together during Trump's first term. But also, I mean, I, you know I think Netanyahu gets less of he gets less of a hard time in the United States, certainly on the right, than he does in Israel. And but, I mean, if you look at what he's done, how he's held this together for decades, right, he's been pointing out that how important Iran is, what a bad thing the Iranians are. What a bad thing the nuclear program is. Remember, he came you know, he came when Obama was president and [00:39:00] spoke in front of you, spoke in front of a joint session.

Lee Smith: [00:39:02] So when we're looking this is historic, this alliance, these two leaders. It's historic. We're looking at something really amazing, really important. The other thing that I just want to that I just want to underscore very quickly is we've seen a lot of and I don't know, I'm sorry I missed it if you guys were talking about it before, but

the amount of the amount of pressure that appears to be coming from the right, the amount of pressure on Donald Trump, and this is from mostly, I guess. Well, how would we call them? You know MAGA dissidents, the MAGA influencers like Tucker Carlson and Steve Bannon you know, and, and a number of others. And, I mean, one of the disturbing things or the most disturbing thing, of course, is that this is not it's not opposition to President Trump's foreign policy, which, of course, you know, I mean, we're all, you know, whatever. We're going to come to different parts [00:40:00] of President Trump's foreign policy and I'm going to object to aspects of it. But that's not what it is when there are people who are getting on their podcast and they're talking about how Donald Trump is being led around the nose by AIPAC, by Bibi, by Israel. Here's the crucial thing. First of all, this is patterned after Russiagate, right? Which is what which is how the left went after Donald Trump for four years during his first term.

Lee Smith: [00:40:29] Right. His brain is controlled by Vladimir Putin. Donald Trump is not his own man. Donald Trump is not the president. He's taking orders from Moscow, right? It's the same thing. When people are talking about, oh, Bibi controls Israel, AIPAC is calling all the shots. Why? I see okay. He's controlled by Bibi. So you on the right, Steve Bannon. You on the right. Tucker Carlson you people are just recasting Russiagate to serve your own. To serve your own purposes, to serve your own arguments. It's very sick, and it's very twisted. But, [00:41:00] of course, the other thing, the other aspect of it, which was not true of Russiagate, was the idea that somehow Jewish money is polluting the American political process. Foreign money is complicating polluting the American political process. And the polls show us this is not true. The polls show us that Republican support for Israel, Republican support for the attacks on Iranians nuclear program is, I mean, anywhere from 80 to 90 something percent. So I know that people are anxious about this. I've spoken to some of the people on the on our panel here about this, and I said, here's what the numbers actually show with these people. These people are desperate, right? What they're doing is the important thing is the target is not Donald Trump, right? There's lots of stuff that goes on around that Donald Trump people say about Donald Trump. Well, you know, Donald Trump, he doesn't really have his own.

Lee Smith: [00:41:56] It's always the last person in the room who has their say with Trump, and that's what he decides [00:42:00] to do. Donald Trump has been talking about the Iran nuclear program for decades now. He talked about the Iran nuclear

program on virtually every stop he made on his 2024 campaign. Donald Trump knew what he wanted to do. Donald Trump is his own man. He makes his own decisions. I've spoken to many, many people many, many people around the president. They say, you know, he can be a difficult person to work for. Why is that? Because Donald Trump listens to no one. Right. Donald Trump keeps his own counsel. He knows what's good for America. He knows and he knows what's good for the presidency. So that's not who they're targeting. These different influencers from the right. They're targeting Americans. That's who they're going after. They're trying to. Especially the pro-Israel camp. That's what they're trying to do. They're trying to get everyone. It's a psychological campaign. It's a demoralization campaign. That's what it is. So I encourage you two things. What I've been doing for what [00:43:00] I've been doing for a couple of months now because there's been so much noise coming out. Well, Steve Wyckoff wants this, and so and so says that. And Marco Rubio is here. And where's J.D. Vance? There's so much noise. It's such a complicated communications environment. Who's involved? The Qataris, the Iranians, different other Gulf different other Gulf players, the a large number of anti-journalists or anti-activists coming from Israel.

Lee Smith: [00:43:27] Right. You have the left you have the EU. But also these people on the right are a core part of this communications environment. Right. Turn everything off. If you want to know what's happening, turn everything off and listen to the president of the United States, Donald Trump. Listen to what he's saying now. I mean, we have to we've heard about the misdirection campaign and how, you know, subtle and how sly Donald Trump was. And that's very true. He wasn't responding to every insane [00:44:00] insane story that was published, but every once in a while, he'd say, no, that's not true. Zero enrichment. No, it's too bad. We wish that the Iranians we think they can have a great country, but. But they can't have a bomb. That's it. Pay attention to that. That's what's going on. This right wing campaign. Very, very small, very small minority of Americans. Very, very small. Smaller part of the Republican Party. Right. And a minuscule part of Donald Trump's base. Right. These people are trying to go after parts of Trump's base. They're trying. And it's a demoralization campaign. No one is being recruited here. Right. It's a demoralization campaign. That's what's going on. The people who believe these nonsensical things. Oh, yeah. Bebe dragged Donald Trump by the nose to attack Iran. We we're no more regime change. Israel is a protectorate, not an ally. This is garbage. Right? [00:45:00] So my I feel like when I've been speaking about Midnight Hammer and Rising Lion in the last couple of weeks while I've been

celebrating, I also feel like I'm doing therapy for people to say, look, you see what happened? I told you, Donald Trump has his eye on the ball.

Lee Smith: [00:45:18] And there's lots of people who are trying to make Americans fearful. And what a shame that it's people. It's Americans on the right. But that's what's that's what's going on. So, Frank, that's all I wanted to talk about. I wanted to celebrate what I think is one of the most. I mean, again, as I said, since FDR and Churchill, this is the most remarkable alliance between leaders that, you know, that that that we've seen. It should be celebrated. It should be talked about, written about toasted. It's an amazing thing. Number one number two, the people who are there are people who are running an [00:46:00] operation against the US Israel alliance. Right. And they're also running an operation just in the same way that Russiagate was an operation. This is an operation, too. And we'll see as time goes by. Who else is involved in this? If there are foreign actors involved and there are if there are intelligence services involved. But believe me, we'll all be looking at this very closely and there'll be much more news to come. In the meantime, Frank, thank you so much for inviting me. And thanks to all of you for watching. And really, you should celebrate what we've seen here the last couple of weeks. It's amazing. Thank God. God bless America. And God bless this profound alliance between the United States and Israel.

Frank Gaffney: [00:46:44] Wonderful. Lee, thank you so much. We're going to talk finally to one of our other favorite duty experts on the Middle East. He frequently is appearing on my program, Securing America in [00:47:00] these briefings. Other work that our Victory Coalition has been doing, and, of course, in a whole host of other platforms and outlets, notably the center for Security Policy, whose Middle East program he directs. His name is Doctor David Wormser. In addition to all of that sort of present status his past work and opportunities for serving our country include in the uniform of the United States Navy as a naval intelligence officer, as a key Mideast adviser to an under-secretary of state, national security adviser, and a vice president of the United States. He is always insightful, and I am counting on him to synthesize the most important of the points made to this point, but also to look forward as to what [00:48:00] may be in the offing with this upcoming meeting with the president and his partner his very, very valued partner, by the way, as he impressed upon us all in recent truth social posting including quite possibly a resuscitation of an idea that was discussed by them back in January of 2020 under the rubric of something called From

Peace to Prosperity. David, it's great to have you back, sir, from Israel. We're always appreciative of the hours that you are keeping to keep our company. Bless you. The floor is yours, sir.

David Wurmser: [00:48:47] Difficult to follow. Everybody who spoke, Josh and a major shut off. And Lee and Pesek. It's all these points are incredibly good and I fully [00:49:00] embrace all of them. So I'm going to try to find a few areas and lattices between them that add to it. First of all, the war is not fully over. We were just reminded of that an hour and a half ago. We had to run for the bomb shelters again, this time a Yemeni missile. But again, as President Trump said two months ago or so, it's clearly Yemen when it shoots its missiles. It's clearly Iran behind them. So Iran is not giving up. And it is a test of their faith. Is there was an assumption, I believe, that has governed both the United States and to some extent, Israel all along. It is a pre October 7th assumption a reasonable assumption one very difficult to deny, which is that at some point the damage done to Iran should enforce a certain degree [00:50:00] of reality on them to the point at which they will cry, uncle. And then you can maybe through diplomacy or through wrapping it up through some sort of an agreement, you can do the final acts of disarming them and defining what is really this threat that is been around for 46 years, to the point where it's imploding on itself. It's boxed in so far. It's imploding on itself, and it simply has to accept the reality and forced on it. The problem with that is we're dealing with true believers who see each setback as yet a deeper test of their faith.

David Wurmser: [00:50:41] It really goes back to the Quran. It goes back to Muhammad himself and the battle of the trench, which was in 627, I believe it was where Muhammad had very few allies, and against him were arrayed all the tribes from Mecca to Christ. A number [00:51:00] of the Jewish tribes from Babel and other places. And it looked pretty grim. And Muhammad basically said, the worse it looks, the greater this is to be seen as a test of faith, and those who are weak should go and should surrender, should leave the camp because they weaken the camp by not accepting this test and sticking to the bitter end to deliver victory. We've seen this with Hassan Suleimani saying this before. He was he met his early demise at the hands of another Trump administration. We see this again with the way the Iranians have acted over the last 4 or 5 years. We're seeing it now. The Iranian regime is not retreating, per se. It is engaging the fight. It is escalating its rhetoric. It is threatening. Issued a fatwa to kill the

president of the United States. Issued very derogatory [00:52:00] and nasty articles talking about shooting into the empty head of the president skull as President Skull and so forth. So they're not backing down. And yes, they're trying to figure out a way to go forward. But again, the destruction is fairly intense.

David Wurmser: [00:52:17] It's not complete, but it's fairly intense. But as this Yemen missile an hour and a half ago shows, it's not over. And unfortunately, I think the job will have to be finished, not by an agreement, but most likely by a resumption of this war and finishing it all the way, which I believe President Trump himself has suggested might have to be done. I think he's he said it about three days ago. Now, a few other points about this war. One I think we have to appreciate historically how important what happened is. We never understood the 1982 war between Israel and Syria, where Israel [00:53:00] obliterated not only Syria's air force but also took down its entire air defense structure in the process. Up until 1982, the West had been on the defensive, and there was the sense that the West was losing the Cold War, that the Russians had figured out the number of the West because they had this impenetrable defense, air defense structure that rendered our Air force inoperable in their territory. And, of course, they had a numerical advantage on the ground with tanks and infantry and so forth. So it was assumed that the Air Force was the great equalizer that would not only equalize Western power, but give predominance over Russian power. So in 1973, when the Russian air defense structures in Syria and in Egypt essentially paralyzed the Israeli air force. There was a general sense that the Cold War was shifting in the direction of Russia.

David Wurmser: [00:53:58] After 82, it was [00:54:00] shifting in the other direction because the Israelis had obliterated that air defense. So air superiority was back. I had argued that what happened just now is a similar sort of event with China and the whole panoply of nations surrounding China. Israel has now just presented a brand new, innovative template for how to fight wars. It's not only in Iran, it's with Hezbollah. Israel essentially devastated the command and control structure, the leadership structure. And yes, it could have killed Khomeini himself like they killed Nasrallah. It was really a copy paste onto Iran. What happened in with Hezbollah? And as Pesach has mentioned, really left Hezbollah no longer capable of fighting Israel. I think we see the same thing here on the national level with Iran, which had been assumed by Western analysts, and all [00:55:00] the establishment of Washington as some sort of ten foot tall beast that if

you take it on, dare cross it something akin to World War II and the apocalypse will happen. Well, the Israelis cut them down to size in a devastating way, with this template of how to take out a leadership structure, essentially how to decapitate a nation at war. So, so completely that whatever they had as an asset became largely inoperable or dribs and drabs such as the grand Iranian missile structure after 2 or 3 days was reduced to 3 to 5 missiles once or twice a day. So China needs to take note of this. And, you know, the West needs to take note of this against China.

David Wurmser: [00:55:57] There is a way where the entirety of [00:56:00] China's military structure, if the way Israel conducted this war, is learned by Western militaries. There is a way China really cannot have confidence that it wouldn't face the same fate that Iran and Hezbollah has faced. It's a tremendous defeat of their sort of war and a tremendous model for how to fight wars that is now offered to the West from the Israeli victory. The second thing that's very important is America has great agony over Europe with its 300 million people and high GNP is simply unable alone to defend its continent against Russia, which is far poorer and smaller. And it's largely because the Europeans don't pick up the ball and fight in more, or at least even develop the means to fight. So they are truly a protectorate [00:57:00] a protectorate that is dependent on the United States and not a tremendous force multiplier. Israel. It is amazing that there was this major country that has plagued the United States for 46 years, has killed thousands of Americans, threatens the entire region. And the Israelis took the ball, ran with it, devastated the Iranians and left the United States at the end to only have to do a low cost, low risk kill shot. Now, a tremendously important kill shot. And this is a victory for the United States. But it's a victory for President Trump's concept, which is that allies step up to the plate, engage in burden sharing, take most of the burden.

David Wurmser: [00:57:53] After all, they live in the regions. We don't. You can't ask a guy from Kansas to care about [00:58:00] what happens in Riyadh or in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem or in Baghdad as much as somebody who lives in Baghdad, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem area does. So clearly, this is a case where one of our allies stepped up to the plate, carried the burden the way we want them to, and allowed and allowed us to go in with our in, in in immeasurably or immeasurable or, let's say, un an unmatched capability that nobody in the world has other than us, but to do it in a way with very little cost and very little risk and not threaten. American boots on the ground and American troops. So I think instead of the Israeli war being cast as something that threatened to

entangle the United States, it allowed the United States not to get entangled and achieve a tremendous result, the denuclearization of Iran, which is a [00:59:00] global threat, not only a regional threat, a global threat. It allowed us to achieve that bottom line objective with very little risk and cost. And that really gets to the heart of MAGA. At the end of the day, America First and MAGA are incompatible. If you listen to the isolationist crowd, the crowd surrounding Tucker Carlson and sadly, at this point, also Steve Bannon, which is if you have Make America Great and you want to withdraw from the region, if you withdraw in the region withdraw from the region and you have nothing to replace it, then you are simply doing Afghanistan on steroids.

David Wurmser: [00:59:44] You're doing exactly what President Biden did in Afghanistan. You're precipitously withdrawing, and in your wake, there will be chaos. Chaos that engulfs American allies, but also Americans in the region. So the gap [01:00:00] is filled by Israel. And again, this is the model for Europe, for Asia, which is allies step up to the plate and fill the gap between a lower American footprint. Become partners in defending the region rather than charges or dependance. And I really think Israel has shown that MAGA relies on that. It relies on such a, such an alliance structure. So in many ways, Israel is the indispensable element behind allowing MAGA to reconcile with America first, which is to narrowly pull back and not have as great a presence in the region, and rededicate American resources to other parts of the world and to ourselves, which is very necessary at this point. So Israel has provided America a bridge to allow it to do that safely without having an Afghanistan on steroids. One last point I'd like to raise, which is the nuclear issue in [01:01:00] the in the president's trip next week. This is a defeat for China. This is a defeat for Iran. It's a defeat for those who have been out there threatening the nonproliferation treaty, threatening nuclearization of the world. And there's and there's power patrons such as China.

David Wurmser: [01:01:21] And their reaction is, I already see what they're saying. China saying it. Iran is saying it. And unfortunately, it's as Lee Smith has noted, there's an internal crowd that is echoing the external destabilization inside us. That is really an echo of the old Russia. Russia influence operation crowd. And basically what it's saying is, well, okay, so Iran is now denuclearize. That's nice. Why not Israel? I mean, is Iran not allowed to have it? But Israel is. Where are we coming from here? Why is America so special, Israel [01:02:00] so special that Israel can't have nuclear weapons? Now, let's say laying aside for a moment the issue of whether Israel does or doesn't have

nuclear weapons. All I can say is that there are Israel made a choice in the late 60s that it would not join the Nonproliferation Treaty precisely in order to remain a law abiding country. It knew it needed at least to maintain the option of a nuclear program to do so. Legally, they could not enter the Nonproliferation Treaty, which would have bound them to inspections and all sorts of things, which then they would have had to cheat and, and therefore be like North Korea and Iran. So Israel made the choice not to join the nonproliferation treaty and paid the price of it, which is that no nuclear nation can have any trade on the nuclear issue with Israel, no uranium, no technological existence, no [01:03:00] joint no provision of technologies to, to various to the Israelis.

David Wurmser: [01:03:07] They literally are in an island isolated from the world because of their choice not to join the nonproliferation Treaty. And as a result, Israel is acting entirely legally, whereas Iran and North Korea have acted illegally. They entered the Nonproliferation Treaty in order to pilfer its capabilities and access to nuclear technologies and materials in order to cheat and gain a nuclear bomb. And so there's a fundamental world of difference. But most importantly in terms of non-nuclear weapons free zones and other initiatives that we're about to see come. And I'm seeing it already echoed by Tucker Carlson and Steve Bannon's crowd about this nuclear weapons free zone idea. The issue is there are agreements between the United States and Israel. Some are public, [01:04:00] but some are still classified to go all the way back to 1967, which commit the United States not to engage on, not to allow such a thing to happen. And there are solemn reasons which, unfortunately, are still classified why that is necessary. But there are agreements between the United States and Israel. And before anybody such as Matt Gaetz at in the Congress starts talking about Israeli denuclearization, there needs they need to educate themselves on these nuclear issues and what these agreements are before they go after the Israelis and their nuclear program because it fundamentally tramples America's solemn commitment, credibility and strategic interests. So I think it's a hodgepodge, what I made, but I think I tried to cover some gaps that were left.

Frank Gaffney: [01:04:55] You did. I think the completeness of the program, as a result of each [01:05:00] of you adding to the mosaic has been extraordinarily helpful. David, I would like you're the last man standing, and we have a little bit of time left before we have to break. I did just want to ask you, if I could about two things that have not been touched on, but that are, that are part of this larger war, to be sure. One is Gaza and the

sort of end game that I guess people are increasingly talking about there. The other is, as I mentioned, I think in my opening comments, this notion that the United States will be espousing some kind of rubric for a Palestinian state coming out of the conflict in Gaza, perhaps carved out of territories that have been identified in something that was called, I think, the peace to prosperity plan initially conjured up by President Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu [01:06:00] back in January of 2020. Nothing came of it at the time. There's a lot of water over the dam since but could you comment David, quickly on how Gaza, the place that Iran started this phase of the endless war against Israel back in October 2020, 3.1 and point two, whether there might yet be a reward for, the Palestinians for having initiated this stage of the hostilities against Israel.

David Wurmser: [01:06:38] Apart from public opinion, which is clearly in Israel now rejecting the idea of a two state solution in any form or shape. And the belief that October 6th cannot be repeated. The world of October 6th cannot continue after October 7th, and anything proposed before October 6th is a dead letter [01:07:00] at this point. Is pretty complete in the Israeli body politic. So first of all, this is not Netanyahu's position. This is not Netanyahu's war or any of that stuff. Israelis have consensus now that there will not be a Palestinian state anytime in the foreseeable future. Not only does it reward the war if that happens. The October 7th atrocities, if that happens. But it simply is an impractical thing for the Israelis because it brings them back to October 6th. And so it's a dead letter for the Israelis. The second thing I think that's very important about it is that there is a strategic concept. And I know this is not only the Israelis, but we as well the United States government as well, shares this, that we have learned as a result of October 7th that the security control of everything. Now, this I'll echo [01:08:00] the campus watermelon crowd from the river to the sea, the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, which is apparently what many of those demonstrating don't know which river and which sea. But it's the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. Israel must maintain positive security control over that entire area.

David Wurmser: [01:08:20] And that that is a strategic irreducible realization that emerged from October 7th, and I have yet to meet an Israeli planner. And I have also now heard from U.S. government officials that is understood to be the future, and that is not compatible with the two state solution, even a reduced truncated two state solution. So I don't know what sort of ideas are being mentioned. But I think it's more in the realm of a village league or an autonomy rather than a state. And by the way, the Saudis also

agree. The Saudis tonight, reports are coming [01:09:00] in that the Saudis have suggested to the United States that they cannot countenance moving toward a two state solution, which they have at least rhetorically advocated. Still, they cannot countenance moving in that direction until Hamas is destroyed. So here are the Saudis taking a very hard line on Hamas first. Hamas has to be removed entirely from power. There is no way you can move forward from that. And that brings us to where we are with Israel. Israel is now at that moment where it has to make a decision how to remove Hamas from power. They desperately want to do it diplomatically. President Trump wants to do it diplomatically. It's the only way, if it can be done diplomatically to remove the hostages without risking their lives further. The only problem is Hamas knows that. And Hamas therefore isn't going to deal unless the Israelis offer them in return for the hostages.

David Wurmser: [01:09:59] A complete surrender [01:10:00] and a return to the October 6th environment, where Hamas rules, and Hamas essentially has Israel withdraw from the entire Gaza Strip. So, unfortunately, I think we're reaching that point where Israel has to make a decision how to go, what they can do to save as many hostages as possible, but do it in the framework of finally wrapping up the war and taking over Gaza and expunging Hamas. Perhaps the last remnants of Hamas may surrender and hostages may be released in that framework. But I think we're reaching that moment of truth. The Israelis are beginning to mobilize for that. There are agonizing debates in the IDF about that. It will endanger hostages, obviously, but in the end, I think there's no alternative but to finish this war, even if there's a cease fire in a week or two. This [01:11:00] war is not over in Gaza until Hamas is removed and they won't voluntarily leave. So I think, like Iran, Israel's in a death match with them. And it's won't end until either until both Iran and Hamas are under different leadership. And in Hamas's case, in Gaza's case, I think the only way through that is Israeli occupation and Iran's case. I think the only way through that is for the Iranian people to take up the mantle of this effort and take back their country.

Frank Gaffney: [01:11:36] Thank you David. Just two further quick thoughts, if I may. One is and you sort of alluded to it just now by elevating the possibility that there will be a cease fire in Gaza in the next two weeks. I presume that has something to do with Bibi's visit to Washington. We've had the experience in the [01:12:00] context of what we've been discussing in this briefing of the president, simply, I think, as elective, put it,

by diktat announcing that the war, what he called the 12 day war is over. The campaign, at the very least, is over. Is there reason to believe that that may be done again here, that you may simply get the president. Notwithstanding what Lee Smith in particular spoke of very enthusiastically in terms of this partnership between President Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu which I strongly second, for what it's worth. It's it seems as though it has been truly historic and vital to the outcomes that we've seen so far. Incomplete yet, yes, but still extraordinarily impressive in terms of taking down Hamas, taking down Hezbollah, taking down the Houthis somewhat. [01:13:00] And the Iranian regime. Are you anticipating that we will see the president sort of going his own way notwithstanding this partnership or will it likely remain as it has been to this point, mostly truly a common approach being pursued with mutually supportive actions by the two countries.

David Wurmser: [01:13:27] I want to emphasize how impressed I am with President Trump's leadership, and he's done an amazing job here. But I do want to add one thing. And I again, I understand the president and I, I in my heart, I really want to agree with him, but both with Iran and Hamas. One of the things that America and Americans have most been irritated about in the Middle East is this endless wars that just seems endless. It's just whatever we do, whether [01:14:00] it's Afghanistan or Iraq, there's no gratitude to the United States. We've paid a heavy price and there's no resolution at the end. It seems to bring it to closure in a positive way. And that leads to the impulse of withdrawal. But the problem is for Israel, with both Iran and Gaza, there is no withdrawal. Withdrawal for them means they're dead, and as a result, they don't have the ability to. They also don't want endless wars. They can't emphasize the exhaustion here in Israel with the daily air raids and sirens that we just experienced two hours ago with Yemen, let alone with Iran before that, with Hamas, then with Hezbollah, and who knows who tomorrow, whether it's Algeria or Yemen again or so forth. The Israelis have had it. I mean, they don't want an endless war. They want a solution to this. And the solution of this is [01:15:00] impossible.

David Wurmser: [01:15:00] And this is where I think this is my where I think President Trump still is on a learning curve. And I think he'll get it, because he clearly is one of the few American presidents who gets these things. But there's some people you can't make a deal with and there's some. And Hamas is one of them, and Iran is another that they simply there is no price. These are people of genuine faith. They'll take it all the

way. And I think there's an overconfidence in the president that if he can get to a cease fire, the dawning realization both in Iran and in, in Gaza will be first among the leadership that that they're they face ultimate destruction if they restart the war. And so he feels that's an incentive for them to agree to the cease fire and stick to the cease fire when I don't believe it is because you are dealing [01:16:00] with true believers. But the second thing is, the populations now might feel the same and take matters into their own hands. I actually believe that's true in Iran. And I think if the Iranian regime keeps this up, it's not long for this world, especially since the Israelis will probably do stuff to help further destabilize the regime there. And I think President Trump has tweeted in the last week since the cease fire, suggesting there may be more, more conflict and so forth.

David Wurmser: [01:16:29] I think he's realizing these guys may not deal. They may not come around. Well, it's true in Gaza, except they're the people too. While you see anguish against what's going on, anger, I unfortunately, I don't see a popular uprising against Hamas to eradicate the regime and make it a happy ending. I think there the Israelis have to occupy it. And it's a multi generation [01:17:00] effort to reeducate the Palestinians into peace. And the second thing is I believe that the Trump plan is, is most likely the only genuine long term solution, which is it's a miserable Circumstance there. It is an incompatible circumstance with Israel's security, and over the long term, it's the best solution for everybody. If those who would like to leave are given every opportunity, incentive and assist in making a new, positive life somewhere else than what is really just the destruction zone of Gaza. So there are two different problems, but I don't see the optimism of a cease fire next week. I think it's based on a false appreciation of how tired the government, the Hamas leadership is. And I think even if there is a cease fire, it will only be buying a few weeks or months of time before it has to start again.

Frank Gaffney: [01:17:57] Which brings us back to where we began, that we [01:18:00] may find ourselves within a few weeks at most of the next phase of both the well for one of the better term, 12 day war, and certainly the campaign of which it was a part. The campaign through Gaza, through Lebanon, through Syria, through Yemen to Iran that has brought the Israelis to the very cusp of a decisive victory over all these enemies led by Iran and a decisive victory for us as a result, and especially as David Warner has just so eloquently described, this is the way in which America can be made great again. America can be first again without running [01:19:00] the profound and very dangerous

damage that attends a bugout, a retreat, a withdrawal like we saw in Afghanistan, where no one was there to cover our mutual interests. In this case, Israel is prepared to do that. I want to thank all of these extraordinary speakers. They have, I think, surpassingly well-articulated, what is on the line, what are the consequences of what's been done to date? What are the options going forward and what must be done to assure a decisive victory, including, I personally believe, a free Iran. And we must [01:20:00] encourage, I think, the Israelis to finish the job there, as well as in Gaza and help them do that. In the kind of way that President Trump has demonstrated to date, which is not long. There's been an exception made in the case of Iran on our own forces being directly engaged, except in defensive activities. This is, I think, a roadmap for a transformed Middle East.

Frank Gaffney: [01:20:31] That is something that both the people of Iran, the people of Israel, for sure, other friendly nations, relatively friendly nations in the region, all yearn for. And we mustn't let the opportunity to accomplish it slip in the misbegotten idea that if we only negotiate with people with whom you cannot negotiate, that [01:21:00] good will come out of this. I don't believe that's the case. And I think Mr. Elliott showed off Josh Hammer Rabbi Rickie Lee Smith and David Wormser have compellingly laid this case out. We appreciate this briefing now, especially at the moment that it's taking place on the eve of a very important conversation between the leaders of Israel and the United States. Next week, we will probably want to be talking about that in a briefing after the 4th of July. In the meantime, we wish all of you a very, very happy celebration of the birth of this nation made possible. I feel constrained to say once more by a foreign power who came to our aid at a critical moment in our revolution and gave us the chance to [01:22:00] give birth to the most extraordinary nation in the history of the world, birthed in freedom based on Judeo-Christian values and with the aspiration to help others achieve this happy state as well. I thank God for all of that, and thank you for being part of the program today. I hope as Dede will come in to you, you will help us go forth and multiply. God bless you. Back to you, Dede.

Dede Laugesen: [01:22:33] Thanks, Frank. A video of this webinar will be posted to VictoryCo.org Within a day of the program's conclusion. 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 joining us today and goodbye.