

THE USA IS BEING SQUEEZED OUT OF THE GULF REGION WHILE ADVERSARIES JOCKEY FOR POSITIONS.

Defeat always comes with a political cost. That cost is a forced retreat. This is the price the US is paying in the Gulf due to three failed attempts in the last two years to subdue Iran. This will accelerate the Gulf being redesignated West Asia marking a strategic shift away from the US and Britain.

Alliances are mushrooming in the region as US influence wanes there. Already one pact is in place. It is the established but little discussed alliance between Russia, China and Iran, born of necessity due to western aggression. Iran protects Russia's vulnerable Caucasian underbelly while Iran enables China's belt and braces project. Moreover, a military defeat for Iran would have strengthened Western Imperialism's hand against both Russia and China. This is the fundamental alliance which over time will reshape the region and to which the other two alliances are responding.

The first is the Sunni pact between Turkey (a Nato Member), Pakistan (a nuclear power) and Saudi Arabia (a rich oil producer). [It is modelled on NATO](#) meaning an attack on one is an attack on all, but there is ambiguity over the wording, on whether it uses the word **should** respond or **must** respond. (The final wording is yet to be released.) All the parties involved doth protest too much claiming it is not intended to confront Shia Iran, when that is its purpose.

Today Iran is the dominant and dictating power in the region not the USA. So clearly this new Pact is a defensive reflex to this new reality. Of course, it is true that the US has the capacity to destroy Iran if they launched every B52 bomber, Every B1, B2 and B21 bomber against Iran to carpet bomb it. But long before they achieved this objective, Iran would have wiped out the entire energy and domestic infrastructure in the region.

When Trump [backtracked from bombing Iran](#) last weekend. The usual reasons were proffered, the US was low on munitions, the outcome was unpredictable etc. What was not highlighted was the prior warning Iran had given the Gulf nations. Iran provided their adversaries with a list of targets they would destroy should they be attacked and this list was handed over to Washington in the knowledge that neither they nor Washington had the means to prevent these targets from being destroyed.

Trump's neck is on the chopping block of the world economy. Trump may have the power to destroy Iran, but Iran has the power to destroy the World Economy. This is the equation that the US has never faced before and it is paralysing Washington. This stalemate in the end typified by his rage and impotent swearing, is likely to force Trump's hand which is why Iran has reiterated its six key demands. *"[The six conditions](#) include an end to US threats against Iran and insults to what Zolghadr described as the country's national and religious values; a permanent end to attacks against Iran and its allies in Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen and Iraq; the lifting of the US naval blockade and withdrawal of US naval and air forces from around Iran; compensation for damage from what he called two "imposed wars"; the lifting of sanctions; and the unconditional release of frozen Iranian assets."* They amount to a temporary US surrender.

Not to be outdone, Netanyahu and Tel Aviv are floating their own pact. It is called [the axis of nations that see eye to eye](#) with Israel. It is a spread-out pact stretching from India, through Africa (Somaliland)

all the way to Greece. When this proposed Pact is added to Israel's cowardly abstention from the recent US air campaign against Iran it signals a vote of no confidence in US imperialism.

The two pacts above do not seek to displace US imperialism in the region but to supplement it. Pakistan and Turkey are both allies of the US, though ironically India shares many connections with Russia. So, there is some cross-pollination with Russia and China which suggests these pacts are not that stable. They are also contingent on whether or not China or the US dominates the world economy. In the end historical ties do not outlast future profits.

But both these economies are fragile. The US economy is K shaped. A minority of mega Tech companies happily round-tripping are doing well, but not the rest of the economy. The [number of aggregate hours worked](#) in the US, a better indicator of employment than payroll figures which scrambles full and part-time work, has flatlined over the last three months. There are definite vulnerabilities just as there are in China, where instead of the single-footed US AI bubble, China relies on its single-footed export machine.

The nuclear option.

What Iran made clear to the Pentagon, is that as the US did not have the capacity to subdue Iran using conventional weapons, it did not have the capacity to do the same to China. The only option now are nuclear weapons. The defeats in Ukraine and Iran have not made a world war impossible, it has both delayed and made a nuclear war more probable.

Currently, the Whitehouse and the Pentagon are in closed door meetings honing their nuclear arsenal with the focus on shorter range tactical missiles. This article highlights how the increasingly influential Whitehouse official [Elbridge Colby](#) is driving this initiative. Keep a close eye on Mr Colby a latter-day Dick Cheney. The intention behind the meetings is to move from high yield to low yield nuclear weapons.

This approach is not new. [In 2019 the first Trident Missiles](#) - that is long range strategic missiles - were retrofitted with smaller warheads and loaded into these submarines. Instead of 250,000 kiloton yields the new yields were reduced to around 10 kilotons.

Large nuclear warheads or thermonuclear bombs have yields up to the megaton range, million tons of TNT equivalent. A single warhead of this size will destroy and kill everything in a ten-kilometre circle, that is an entire city. These weapons were designed to prevent wars. Lower yields in the <10 kiloton are designed to enable wars. Such a nuclear weapon is designed to take out a base, a port and strategic infrastructure. They are the equivalent of the 500-1000 bomber raids launched by the RAF and USAF during WW2, only more accurate. They are likely to be neutron bombs with reduced radiation but enhanced penetration.

The switch from high to low yield nuclear weapons is a warning sign. Imperial classes who are willing to see their vulnerable populations burn in the summer sun, will have no compunction about seeing their competitors burn under the bright light of a nuclear sun. We are in the most dangerous of times, a tectonic shift in the world order from the USA to China. Left uncontested these shifts have resulted in World Wars.

Iran is not out of the woods. Once the US unleashes nuclear weapons in China it will do the same to Iran and Yemen because it needs to secure its western flank if it is to operate with force in the Pacific

theatre. All generals and admirals know that the first lesson of war when shaping the theatre of battle, is to secure vulnerable flanks. With Iran controlling the Straits of Hormuz and Yemen the Red Sea Europe is effectively cut off from the Indian and Pacific Oceans. This will have an isolating effect on the Pacific region impacting logistics which in the end is the one variable which determines victory or defeat.

But this is not 1914 nor 1939 nor 1942, this is 2026. Today we live in the age of nuclear weapons and a dying planet. This time the international working class cannot be bystanders nor manipulated into taking sides. It is make or break for humanity and the planet we live on. An aroused working class determined to secure its future and that of humanity would be radioactive to the capitalist class, but of the good kind. We have a duty to make it so.

Brian Green, 9th August 2026.

(or three months from El Nino's peak)