TO SAVE ITS EMPIRE IS THE US WILLING TO SET THE WORLD ECONOMY ON FIRE?

There are a number of competing theories why the Usraelis attacked Iran and why the US on its own has continued to attack Iran keeping the Straits of Hormuz closed driving a barrel of oil above $100 on Thursday and the price of a gallon of diesel above $6 in the USA.

The imperialists never declare their hand publicly. Instead, they lie to their adversaries as well as their populations in what has come to be known as Psyops. This involves deflection, redirecting blame, denying responsibility, burying intentions, inventing alternative intentions, or when the worst comes to the worst, minimising intentions. All this is true in the Gulf. When reviewing the media the following reasons for the war in the Gulf are found:

- ✓ It is to defend Israel as Iran poses an existential threat
- ✓ The US's foreign policy is shaped by Tel Aviv.
- ✓ It is to prevent Iran obtaining a nuclear bomb
- ✓ It is to keep the Gulf Monarchies dependent on the US
- ✓ It is to increase the dominance of the US energy sector
- ✓ It is to secure the Gulf as the western flank of the Pacific theatre of war
- ✓ It is to weaken the world economy to delay the decline of the US Empire

In previous articles I have dismissed the first three arguments. The timeline did not support it. The US first attacked Iran in the run up to the Summit in Beijing. To negotiate with XI from a position of strength, Trump needed a strategic win to isolate China after the debacle in Ukraine. The only thing the Zionists were guilty of was seducing the US into believing that the Iranian regime was more fragile than it was, promising an easy and swift win through *shock and awe*. The only resentment the US has towards the Israelis is they now believe the Zionists misled Trump over the probability of victory.

A hegemon, even one in decline, still views the world as their domain. This can be seen in the way the US has structured its military Commands. These comprise the African Command, the European Command which dominates NATO, Central Command which covers the Middle East, Pacific Command, Southern Command which covers Central and South America and its Northern Command which covers the territory of the US itself. Together the Southern and Northern Commands cover the Western Hemisphere. Unlike Iran with its '*Mosaic Defence'* of independently operating commands, the US's six strategic commands are all interlinked designed to reinforce each other while focusing on distinct parts of the planet. The US alone, since 1945 has been the only global military power, and the US State Department, not the UN, is the only global government responsible for altering the course of nations.

With this perspective in mind, the inter-linked importance of the European, Central and Pacific Commands becomes clear. Central Command is the bridge between the European Command and the Pacific Command, set up to dominate the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Hormuz, as well as the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. These two Gulfs are the choke point for the transit of oil and gas as well as cargo through the Suez Canal, the most important canal in the world linking Europe to Asia. In the event of war in the Pacific, the Suez Canal would be a vital waterway carrying military supplies from the European Command and its large bases to the Pacific.

Furthermore, the importance of these two Gulfs is understood in terms of the US posture towards China where economic war has already been declared. All strategic papers and assessments by both government departments and thinktanks in the US identify China as the only adversary the US fears. Thus, the Pacific Theatre of operations is considered the arena where the US lives or dies.

That is why it is the sixth reason which is the driving factor in this war. Iran and Yemen are aligning themselves with Russia and China creating a formidable obstacle. Keeping the two Gulfs open is therefore a strategic military imperative. If both Iran and Ansar Allah control the two Gulfs, it weakens the US position in the Pacific significantly even putting any successful conflict there in jeopardy. The additional sailing time from Europe via the Cape of Good Hope is at least an additional two weeks. Ship and plane fuel from the nearby Middle East would be cut off. The US would be more dependent on supplies from the West Coast of North America which is one and a half times further than from the Suez Canal and it traverses a more vulnerable deep ocean crossing far from land.

The latest theory.

The most coherent articulation of the scorched earth policy, point seven, is Brian Berletic in his New Atlas Podcasts which are well researched focusing on public source Think Tank Papers. His basic proposition is that the US wants to keep the Gulf of Hormuz closed to traffic, contrary to what appears in the Western Media about attempts to open it up. The effect of keeping the Gulf closed for a significant period of time is manifold. It will weaken the Gulf monarchies cutting off their cash flows. Their lack of Dollars will make them more beholden to the US and therefore make it harder for them to expel the US from the region following the US's failure to protect them from attack. In addition, to intensify the shortage of global oil supplies, supplies from Russia need to be diminished, particularly as these supplies are mainly destined for India and China. Hence attacks by Ukraine.

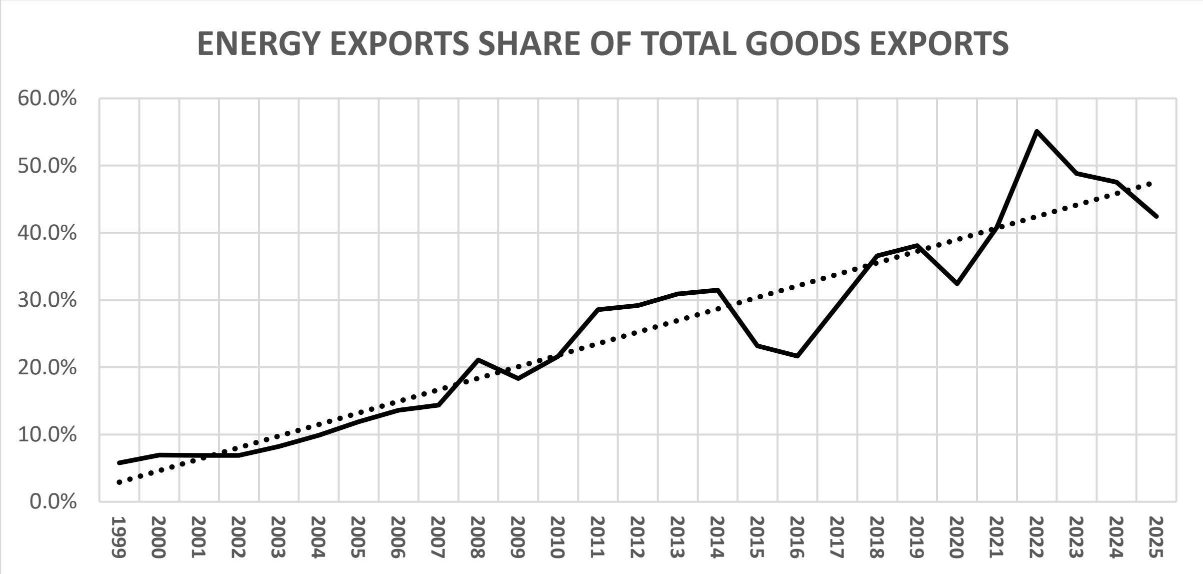
The lack of oil, gas and other commodity supplies, together with price rises, is intended to weaken Pacific based countries, such as India, China and Japan, all major competitors both actual and emerging, while strengthening and increasing the importance of the US energy infrastructure. It will also give time to construct an alternative energy archipelago in the Western Hemisphere. This needs elaborating. The US produces light sweet oil while Canada and Venezuela produce sour heavy crude. Refineries need both. Both are available in the Western Hemisphere. The importance of Venezuela now becomes clear with its vast oil reserves which the US is now treating as its own. This new network also includes creating new delivery routes which bypass the Gulf of Hormuz.

According to *New Atlas*, the long-term move is to replace the Gulf of Hormuz with the Gulf of Mexico, to make the US the centre of the global oil and gas industry for the first time since the Second World War. And in doing so to reinforce the Dollar as the world's reserve currency.

These changes will of course take years to bring to fruition. In the meantime, the world economy will be short of fossil fuels. This includes the US. The oil market is international and short of the US government putting a lid on US oil and gas shipment prices in the US will be bid up as is the case. But it appears the US like Europe with Ukraine, is willing to endure short term pain for long term gain.

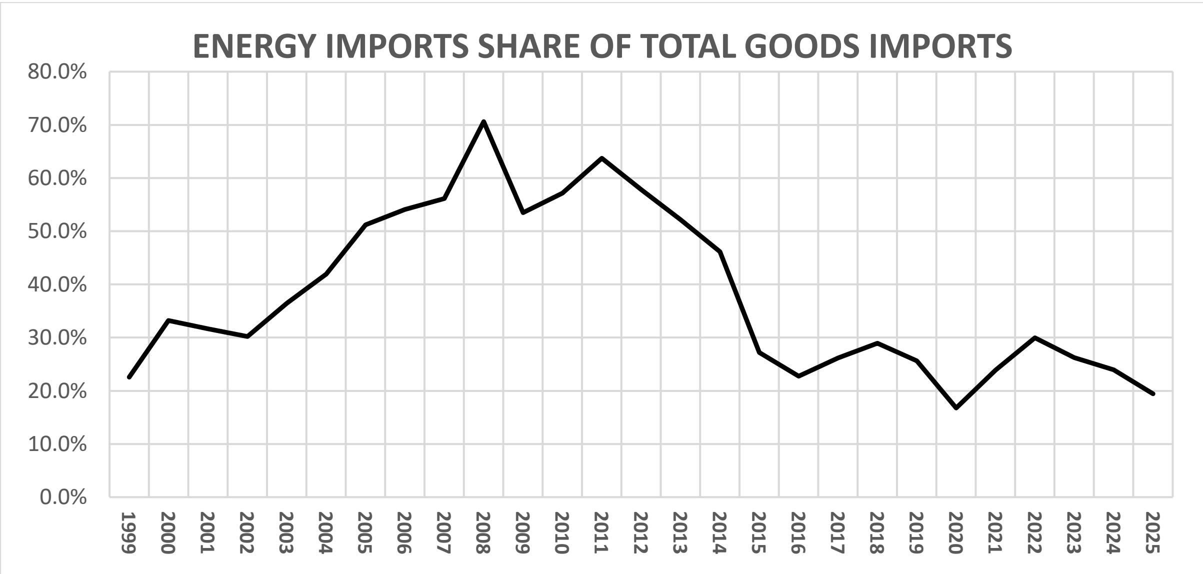
The importance of the energy sector to the US economy can be seen in the graph below with data taken from BEA Table 2.1. U.S. International Trade in Goods. Over the duration of the graph the share of energy exports has increased eight times. It amounted to $920 billion in 2025 before crossing the trillion-dollar mark in Q1 of 2026 due to higher oil prices. In Q3 it is likely to stand at between $1.1 and $1.2 trillion due to the rise in the oil prices. To put this in perspective, the US economy used to be dominated by its auto industry, but in 2025 their combined revenue was only $484 billion.

Graph 1.



And the sensitivity of the US economy to increased energy costs can be gauged from the graph below. Energy imports spiked around 2007 when the oil price shot up and has reduced since due to lower prices and increased local production. It has helped reduce the balance of trade deficit.

Graph 2.

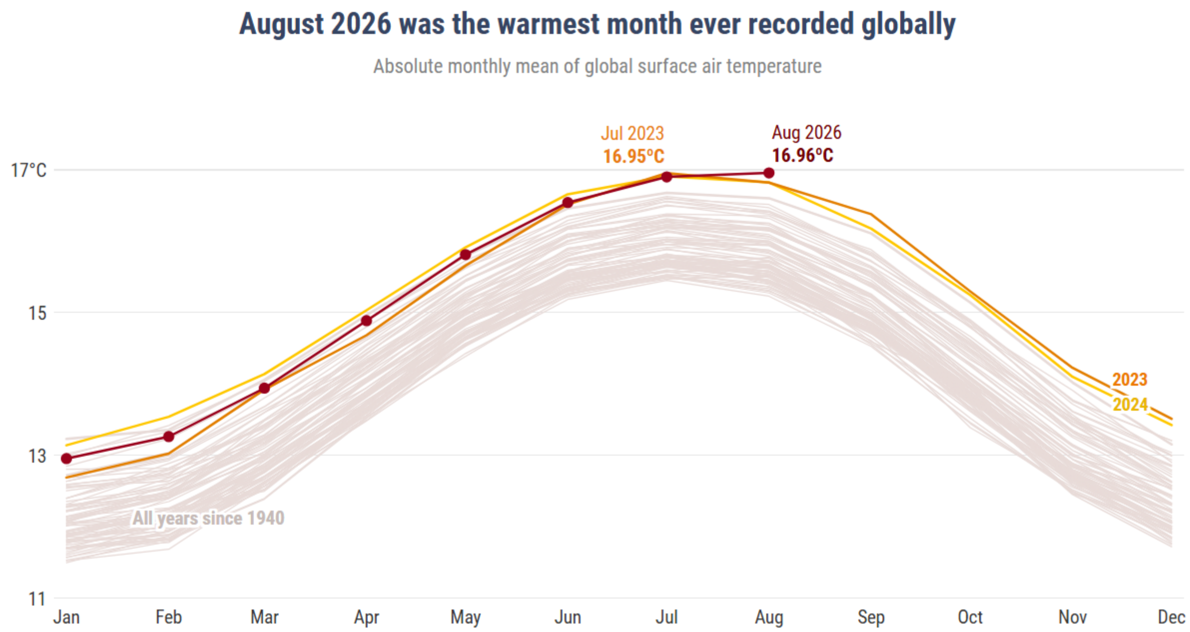


EL NINO and global warming.

Let us assume that Brian Berletic is correct in his assumptions that the Whitehouse and the US oligarch class want to keep the Gulf closed even if it severely damages the world economy, provided it damages US competitors more. That it is a brutal reset of the world economy in favour of the US. What is also the case is that this savaging of the world economy is taking place in the face of EL Nino and global warming.

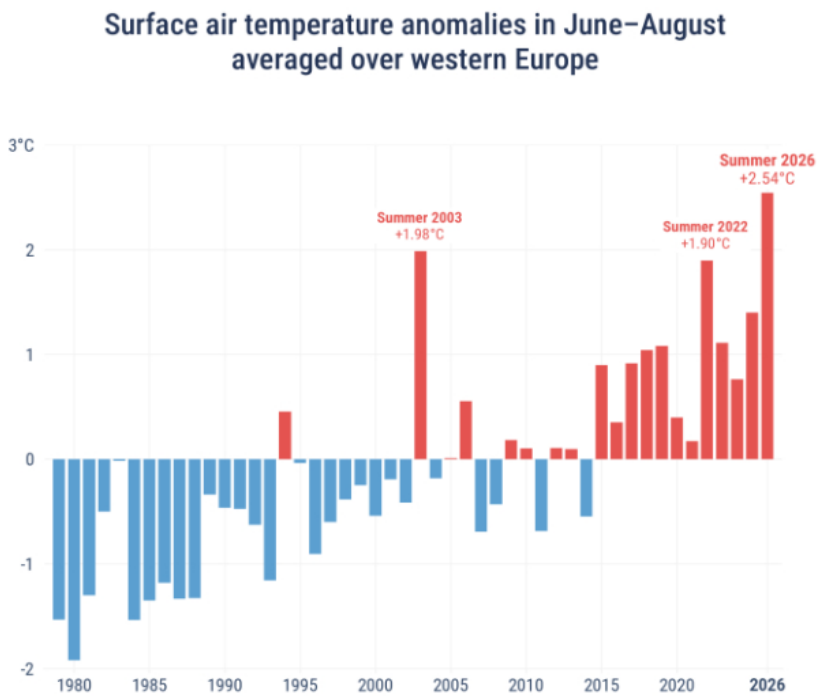
According to Copernicus Climate Change Service August 2026 was already the hottest August on record, and this is before El Nino really makes its full presence felt.

Graph 3.



Sea Temperatures (SST) rose even faster. *"The average SST for extra-polar oceans (60°S–60°N) in August 2026 was the highest on record for the month, at 21.07°C, surpassing the previous August record of 20.98°C set in 2023."* We are now reaching a tipping point where the seas and oceans add to, rather than subtract from, air temperatures. "*Around Europe, SSTs reached record highs for August along the Atlantic coast and in the western Mediterranean, associated with widespread strong or severe marine heatwave conditions."* The graph below shows European temperatures are four degrees hotter than in the 1980s more than any other continent, a portent of things to come. The result was not only deadly heatwaves but drought and dried out major rivers preventing irrigation and transport.

Graph 4.



Death due to heat exhaustion in Europe and Britain will likely rise to 100,000 for the summer of 2026 once August data is in, but the final tally is months away. Despite this catastrophe due to a combination of heat and lack of infrastructural resilience, Brussels like Washington is intent on war. Keeping the Ukraine war going even with a defeated Ukrainian army seems to be just as important as keeping the Gulf War going despite a more or less defeated US military.

Both are dreadful miscalculations in the face of a global environmental emergency. We know that Trump and his grifter band are climate deniers. But denying climate change is one thing, building a strategy which ignores it is foolish. The closure of the Gulf has significantly reduced agricultural inputs such as fertilizer while driving up the cost of the diesel used to power tractors and combine harvesters. Simultaneously the Ukrainian attack on Black Sea ports and ships shipping grains, which in turn has led to Russian retaliation destroying Ukrainian ports, has reduced the supply of grains to the world market from two of its biggest xsuppliers. "*Ukraine's wheat exports in August fell to around 1.6 million tons, roughly 20% of its potential and about 40% of volumes shipped in the same period a year earlier, as Russian strikes hit Odesa and Danube infrastructure. At the same time, Russian wheat exports dropped by 56% year on year to 1.6 million tons in August, their weakest August since 2017/18*,"

Add in weather related reductions of 10 million tons in Europe. Add in the bigger fall in the USA with wheat production down 25% and corn down 8%. Even when subtracting existing stocks of grains the potential for disaster is there. It could be the case that when El Nino full effects on global production are felt, there could be a fall of 30% in global production in the combined 2026/7 season due to droughts in Asia, Australia and Southern Africa.

Already traders are bidding up the prices of grains. Year to date, wheat futures are up nearly 50% as the left-hand graph show. The blue graph prepared by the United Nations Food Organisation tracks the increase in global food prices. The red graph which is trending above 2025 rose by nearly 2% in August month over month. And we are only at the beginning of the El Nino Phase.

Graphs 5 & 6

Conclusion.

We can now see how foolish the US plan is **if** it is the operative plan. Born of arrogance and contempt for ordinary people, aka the international working class and peasantry, this is the stuff of revolution. In the absence of global warming this plan may have worked. But in the presence of global warming, it could be a suicide note for the capitalist class.

While the capitalist's eyes are fixed on high at the AI future, under their feet something is shifting. We are facing the most extreme weather event in centuries coupled to wars which are fracturing the world economy, compounding consequences, all because a failing Empire is willing to set fire to the world to save itself. Trump is seen as an aberration, he is not, he represents all that is base in the capitalist. He personifies the deformed exploiter; vanity, arrogance, ruthlessness, entitlement, duplicity, predation, shortsightedness, in sum, a dumb lying grasping thief.

To him and his class, we must say, we will not let you destroy what we have built over centuries with our blood and sweat while you lorded it over us while disregarding the planet. In six months' time, the world will look different and be different, the only question is which class will pay for the catastrophe to come.

Workers of the word unite, save our planet. Its socialism or extinction. The next period will drive this home and forcefully remind us of our historical responsibilities towards society and the planet in the face of a reckless, illegitimate and expired ruling class.

Brian Green, 12th September 2026.