

We have to live in hope

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The regime in Iran is one for which I have no time. Theocracy does not, in my opinion, have a place in this world. It suppresses freedom. It denies the truth. It cannot meet need. It is inherently totalitarian in style. It is as far from my way of thinking as it is possible, in many ways, to get.

But I also hate the use of force by one alliance of nations with fascist inclination against another of totalitarian inclination. Nothing good can come from that, and this is what is happening in the Israeli-Iranian conflict.

It would be good to see the Iranian regime gone.

I can say the same of Netanyahu's regime in Israel.

Both are destroying the well-being of millions of people. There is no right side to choose here. Amongst many other things, neither tells a story that is true. When a regime is built on the basis of fanatical intent that denies others their human rights, that is always going to be the case, and we have two such regimes constructed on that basis at the centre of this conflict, because that is how I see Netanyahu's regime.

That situation is not helped when, in the West, those who support Israel also deny the truth. Trump said this last night:



The U.S. had nothing to do with the attack on Iran, tonight. If we are attacked in any way, shape or form by Iran, the full strength and might of the U.S. Armed Forces will come down on you at levels never seen before. However, we can easily get a deal done between Iran and Israel, and end this bloody conflict!!!

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Of course, the US had everything to do with the Israeli attack.

It supplied the weapons used.

It will re-arm Israel to make good the loss in its weapon stockpiles that have arisen as a result.

It will have spoken constantly to Israel about what is happening.

And Israel acted because it knew it would get support of this nature. It is quite absurd to think that the US was not involved in what Israel did: Israel knows it can count on US backing, whatever it does. It has, after all, committed genocide, and the US has been unwavering in its support. Of course, it knew it could attack Iran without fear of consequence as a result.

Truth is the first victim of war.

Innocent people are always the second, and there have already been too many such casualties in this conflict.

With Israel having no obvious endgame for what it has already done, because there is no way it can invade Iran, the situation is even more uncertain, and the chance that other countries and forces are drawn in is more likely, including the UK. But they, too, will also lack an endgame: there is no way they can take and then hold a country like Iran. Haven't we learned that already? Has what happened in Iraq really been forgotten that quickly?

So, what must happen now?

The obvious answer is that Israel must stop its actions. It must say it has achieved its objectives, whatever they supposedly were. And it must call a halt. We can then hope pressure can be brought to bear on Iran to do the same, given its very much weaker resources.

In a sense, Trump is right: this is an immediate conflict that could be ended quickly, even if the causes, which come down to fanatically fuelled hate on both sides, cannot be.

Will that happen? I do not know. I doubt anyone can. We just have to live in hope because all the alternatives are very much worse.