

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs _ The Ge...opolitics Of Syria's Civil War

Thu, Dec 12, 2024 11:26AM 33:18

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Assad regime fallout, geopolitical ramifications, Palestinian state, Hezbollah weakness, Iran nuclear ambitions, US foreign policy, Middle East instability, Israeli policy, Sunni jihadists, CIA misdeeds, Netanyahu's lies, Russian support, Hezbollah withdrawal, US-Iran relations, Syria's instability

 00:32

Hi, everyone. Judge. Andrew Napolitano, here for judging freedom. Today is Monday, December 9, 2024 Professor Jeffrey Sachs will be with us in just a moment on the grand geo political ramifications of the fall of the Assad government in Syria. But first this we're taught to work hard for 35 to 40 years, save your money, then live off your savings. Unfortunately, there are too many threats are undermining the value of our hard earned dollars. The Fed's massive money printing machine is shrinking your dollar's value just the cost of groceries is absurd. Let me be brutally honest. I think the dollar is on its way to being extinct, not just here, but globally, the BRICS nations, led by Russia and China threaten to remove the dollar as the world's reserve currency. Central banks have been shifting away from the dollar and into gold. If we go to Central Bank digital currency, that will not only destroy the dollar, but we will lose our freedom. We will lose our privacy. They can track anything we do, you need to take care of yourself and your family. So here's what you need to do, immerse yourself in knowledge and information, but writing is on the wall. Now is the time to consider shifting some of your dollars into gold and silver as your bedrock financial asset. Call my friends at Lear capital, the leader in precious metals investing for over 27 years. They help me diversify into gold and silver. They can help you too. Call Lear today at 800-511-4620 800-511-4620 or go to lear. Judge knapp.com professor, Sachs, welcome back to the show. Always a pleasure, my dear friend. So let me start at what what would have been my last question. I'll ask you first, what are the geo political ramifications of the fall of the Assad regime? And then we'll get into how it happened and the role of the United States and Israel.

 02:45

Of course, the main implication is more chaos, more uncertainty, more chances of escalation to World War. Nothing is over with the fall of the Assad government, it is likely that Syria will have continued internal warfare, and there's a lot of instability to come. This is the basic point we now have, of course, complete chaos in Gaza in the West Bank, in Lebanon in Syria, and in other neighboring countries across the way, in Libya, in Somalia in Sudan. This is a region of widening instability that results, in my opinion, from us and Israeli policy deliberately to

overthrow one government after another, and it has left a wasteland, and not just a wasteland, but a massive zone of instability, and this is the, the only thing we can say definitively at this moment.



04:10

What does this say for the idea of a Palestinian state?



04:19

Again, everything is hard to assess right now, if you take a very superficial view, this would be against the Palestinian cause in that ostensibly, what has happened is a client state of Iran has been overthrown in a long term war that Israel and the United States and others, including Turkey, have waged on Syria at least since 2011 and in fact, before. Hand. So on the surface, if the idea is that pressure on Israel would lead to a Palestinian state, This relieves the pressure on Israel in the very immediate term. And no doubt some in Israel will say, Well, now that Iran is weakened because its clients in Lebanon, especially Hezbollah, its client in the Palestinian occupied lands, Hamas and its client state of Syria are now all defeated. Now we can do what we want, and we hear voices in Israel among the extremists of an outright annexation of the Palestinian lands. Of course, we hear voices for ethnic cleansing, and we have an ongoing genocide, in fact, taking place in Gaza that is not yet juridically established, but my view is that the International Court of Justice will rule that Israel is committing genocide. It's in violation, that is, of the 1948 Genocide Convention. Now if you take a look beyond this, the mass instability is to nobody's real benefit. Israel is not made more secure by now having a jihadist led revolt that has toppled its neighbor to the northeast, Israel is more at threat. The reaction of Iran to all of this is open to question, because Iran, we know, is close to developing a nuclear weapon. It says it doesn't want one, but if pushed to the wall, I think that the hardliners in Iran that do call for this will prevail. So there are many uncertainties, and there is enormous hubris of Israel and the Zionist backers in the United States, the Neo cons, the Israel lobby that keep getting this wrong. They have toppled one government after another, and it doesn't lead to peace, it just leads to a widening arc of unrest and mass death. And so I think it's too early, far too early to say what this means for the Palestinians, but I'm sure that Israelis are celebrating right now. By Israelis, I mean Netanyahu and his cronies like the Zealots Smotrich and Ben gavir, who are expulsionists, annexationists, Greater Israel advocates, I think they think this is a victory, but there are no victories in Chaos.



08:15

Why did Russia not bring military support in for Assad.



08:26

I think it's right to say that the collapse of the Assad regime in a two week period was a shock to all of the actors in the region. Turkey was promoting the jihadists to take over the northern city of Aleppo. But I think it's right to say that Turkey did not expect that even a victory in Aleppo, as rapid as it was, would lead to the collapse of the regime. What clearly happened,

and it's a, it's a conclusion, in retrospect, is that the Assad government in Syria was backed more by Hezbollah, which is the Iranian backed militia based in Lebanon, but in fact, backing the Syrian government even more than by the Syrian army itself. And with Israel's war on Hezbollah, in the last month, Hezbollah withdrew forces from Syria Hezbollah was badly mauled in Lebanon. Hezbollah's leaders were assassinated by Israel, and what I think nobody fully recognized was that Hezbollah was the military bulwark of the Assad regime, and so with Hezbollah dramatically weakened, really, after having faced an Israeli assault, the road was open to Damascus in a way that nobody imagined. And the Russians, of course, were overtaken by events the same way the Iranians were the same way, obviously, that the Syrian government was. And so events moved so quickly that the realization was made that this was not a salvageable situation, and there was no way for Iran to backstop Hezbollah. Hezbollah was weakened, wounded, and when the Iranians said that they were going to reinforce Hezbollah, the Israelis came and bombed the supply routes. And so this was an operation supported by Turkey, the United States and Israel. And I think in this context with Russia, fighting in Ukraine, fighting the United States in a proxy war in Ukraine, with Hezbollah very much weakened, with the practical ability for resupplies, very small, with the Assad army not fighting, just peeling away, perhaps having been bribed or suborned or turned by Israeli and US CIA and Turkish intelligence, which we don't know at this point for all these reasons, not only Russia, but also Iran, basically said There's nothing we can do at the moment. However, I think it's also important to understand, and this would be another basic point. We're not at the end of the story regarding Russia and Iran and Syria and who's going to govern, and will there be a Syria, and will it remain in one piece? Will it be fragmented? Will the new powers in Syria side with Iran in part or with Russia, or enable Russia to keep its airfield and its port? These are absolutely uncertain issues at this moment,



12:42

I think that the behavior of the United States of America was particularly reprehensible. Jeff I mean, Jelani, the head of this terrorist group, has a bounty on his head posted by the State Department, and the group itself has been denominated as a terrorist organization. It's a felony to provide material assistance to a terrorist organization. Last time I checked that applied to the CIA as well. But of course, the CIA doesn't get prosecuted when it does that. Does Netanyahu have fear because he doesn't know what these fanatics in Damascus may do.



13:30

Let's Of course, understand that the Sunni jihadists have been backed by the United States since 1979 not on every occasion, but on multiple occasions, in the Balkans, in Chechnya, in the Middle East, in Afghanistan, of course, starting in 1979 right? I think everybody should understand by now that Osama bin Laden was a US creation. Of course, we don't trumpet truth in our country. You know? We don't have inquests and honest reports. We don't have CIA misdeeds examined. We haven't had a review of the CIA for 49 years, since the Church Committee in 1975 so the CIA, in my view, is a disastrous, lawless organization that absolutely doesn't have any scruples about law, truth, honesty or ex post review of massive failures. So the US backs jihadists, and this goes back to 2011 in the case of Syria, when Obama ordered the. The overthrow of Saddam, or, I mean, of Assad, excuse me, the overthrow of Saddam was ordered eight years previously to that in 2003 also in Israel, US operation, I have to add, but the order by Obama of Assad's overthrow tasked the CIA with supporting jihadists, period.

So this is not something new, and I think it is very important for everybody to understand that the US has been essentially a perpetual war in the Middle East, since 2001 at Israel's behest, and on a list that was already known in 2001 and I don't mean a metaphorical list. I mean a literal list. And the list was explained to the American people by General Wesley Clark, the former supreme commander of NATO forces.

 16:08

We have that explanation with which you provided us. Now. The tape is in 2023 but he's talking about a time period before the 2001 eye opening and terrifying, Chris.

 16:22

He said, I just got this down from upstairs, meaning the Secretary of Defense Office today. And he said, This is a memo that describes how we're going to take out seven countries in five years, starting with Iraq and then Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and finishing off Iran. I said, is it classified? He said, Yes, sir. I said, I said, Well, don't show it to me. If you were Iran, you'd probably believe that you were mostly already at war with the United States. Anyway, since we've asserted that their government needs regime change so and we've asked Congress to appropriate \$75 million to do it, and we are supporting terrorist groups, apparently, who are infiltrating and blowing up things inside Iraq Iran. And if we're not doing it, let's put it this way, we're probably cognizant of it and encouraging it. So it's not surprising that we're moving to a point of confrontation crisis with Iran.

 17:28

I'm going to guess that none of this surprises you. Professor Sachs, well,

 17:32

I think that the hard part that we don't really discuss in America, and that is not understood in America, is that our foreign policy is deeply entrained at the scale of decades. So what one observes is not because Obama came in or Trump came in or Biden came in, we have a deep state. The CIA is the main continuation agency of that deep state, and it carries a basic foreign policy, the foreign policy of the United States since 1945 was to destroy the Soviet Union, and then after 1991 to try to do the same with Russia and, if not destroy it, to fundamentally weaken it. In the case of the Middle East, the list that General Wesley Clark provided, there is a list that Israel and I should be more specific, that Netanyahu and his us backers, people like Wolfowitz, Douglas Fife and a number of others. Richard Pearl set out already in the 1990s and said, our job is to overthrow all of those governments, and we've been at that for more than 20 years. This is continuity. This is not Democrats and Republicans. Bush versus Obama. It's a little boring, frankly. You know, we get all this excitement who's going to win? No, this is not how foreign policy is made. Foreign Policy is made in the longer term. Now think of the seven countries that he named. This started with Iraq. It has Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Libya, Sudan and Somalia. Now I want people to understand the United States or its proxies have launched wars in six of those seven countries. That was a list agreed in 2001 based on a list from 1996 when

Netanyahu came into office. His theory was Israel. Needs to be able to do what it wants to dominate the Palestinian people. So we need to overthrow all governments that support the Palestinians, especially that support them in militancy through Hamas or Hezbollah or other units, rather than negotiating with the Palestinians so that there's a Palestinian state we will overthrow seven countries. Now that's what has happened. There's one left on that list. That's Iran, but six of them have now been the object of US war. It started with Iraq in 19 in 2003 excuse me, because there was a fig leaf of legality, just a fig leaf. Mind you, in Iraq, liberation act that Clinton and the Congress signed in 1998 making it official policy to overthrow Saddam Hussein back in 1998 not after 911 then after 911 this list that Wesley Clark was shown became actual war doctrine for the Pentagon. The idea was go into Iraq, then we'll go into Syria. We'll go into Lebanon. We will go into Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Libya. Now what happened? The US got tied down in Iraq for several years by the insurgency, and so the seven wars in five years did not pan out on the timeline. But Obama came in and he was given the instructions, Mr. President, your job is next. That's Syria. And in 2011 Obama launched CIA operations to overthrow Assad at the behest of Israel, the United States backed Ethiopia to invade Somalia. The United States backed rebels to break Sudan into pieces, and now there's wars raging, with millions suffering in Sudan and in South Sudan thanks to the handiwork of the United States. Now in 2011 Obama sent in NATO to bomb Libya. That's another 13 years of war, and the one that Netanyahu wants, the big prize that hasn't happened yet, but he's just trying every which way to get the United States to go to war with Iran. It's six out of seven right now, and not one of those six is stable and peaceful, not one this is, this is a devastation that the US has unleashed at the behest of Israel, and this is all in Netanyahu crazy idea that, since he won't compromise with the Palestinians better to destroy half the Middle East, that's the idea. And the question for me is, does President Trump know that the US does not have an independent foreign policy at this stage. Is President Trump just going to go along with the Israel lobby the same way that's the big campaign backers, that's the normal thing. Is he just going to keep American foreign policy in the hands of Netanyahu? Or is President Trump going to do what an American president should do, and say, us, foreign policy is for the US. It's not for Israel. No more wars on Israel's behalf. If he said a trillion dollars into this, if he does



23:54

that, it'll be the first president since 1948 to have done so. And of course, he has \$100 million debt to Mrs. Abelson. Before I ask you about Iran, you mentioned Iraq and you mentioned Netanyahu involvement in encouraging the ill fated American invasion of Iraq, here's Netanyahu committing perjury, lying under oath to the Congress of the United States. There is



24:26

no question whatsoever that Saddam is seeking and is working and is advancing towards the development of nuclear weapons. No question whatsoever.



24:40

Yes, there is zero evidence of that, and we now know that what Beebe said was not true.



24:46

He is one of the supreme liars of our age that has got America into more trouble than any US president has. Done, and yet our Congress gives him 58 standing ovations. And now Netanyahu is indicted, indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court, something that the United States, again, the political circles don't even want to mention that little fact, but the fact of the matter is, Netanyahu was the chief cheerleader, the chief promoter of the war in Iraq on completely fictitious terms, and we know that they knew in the fall of 2002 there were no weapons of mass destruction. This wasn't and by the way, net now says certain, certain, certain. And it was all lies, but it was partly focus group actually. What can we tell the American people to scare the wits out of them so that they back Israel's war against Iraq? That was the idea, right? We know that there was a group, a Special Operations Group, in the Pentagon, led by a person named Abe Schultz key, who looked around what would be the best PR to sell a war on false pretenses. But there was Netanyahu in October, 2002 selling the American people a war that was one of the great disasters of our age. And it happened. He did it. It was a complete disaster. It was based on outright lies. And the guys still Prime Minister, leading us to the next war, the next war, the next war. Well, the



26:41

next well, there he is at the UN Yeah,



26:45

and he's explaining exactly what just happened. We will take down Syria. That's the curse, the curse. And he's hoping that we'll go eastward on that map with the the countries in black, because the one that's most eastward there is Iran, and that's his most fervent hope is that the United States will go to war with Iran.



27:08

What does Iran do now, in your view, Professor Sachs, in light of the collapse of the Assad government, do they ramp up their efforts to obtain a nuclear weapon. What do they do? Do they do? They come to Washington and say to President Trump, we want to trade with you. Get rid of the sanctions. We want to work with you and be be at peace.



27:36

I also want to explain to people something that is not reported and not understood, and that is that Iran, during the past two years, has been repeatedly reaching out to the Biden administration, saying, We want peace, we Want to negotiate. We don't want a nuclear weapon, we absolutely can find a way to peace in the Middle East. We can find a way to resolve the nuclear issue, because we don't want nuclear weapons. And the US turned to Israel and said, Well, what do you think? And Israel's response is, well, they're weak. They're obviously weak. They're obviously suffering. Turn up the pressure, turn the screws on them. In other words, we don't know how to take yes for an answer in this country, especially the Neo cons, and especially Israel. It Israel doesn't want peace. Israel wants military victory, and it has made

a wasteland as a result of this. It's unbelievable, but I have, by myself, spoken with leading, senior Iranian officials. I have been in a meeting with others at the United Nations, with the president of Iran, and heard him call for peace. I have had it explained to me by top intermediaries how Iran has reached out for peace. The Biden administration has been absolutely dreadful period, by the way, on foreign policy, just awful. But one of the things that's been awful on is completely rejecting the attempts to find a negotiating path forward that Iran has tried repeatedly to initiate so this is a big the big question again, for for President Trump, an American President, would do something completely different, Netanyahu is after something that is not in America's interest. Yes, I don't think it's in Israel's interest either. It is a matter of zealotry and extremism, not in Israel's interest at all. But what it has done is create chaos, and Netanyahu wants more chaos through a war with Iran.

 30:17

Let me ask you one about one more topic, and that's Russia President Trump, over the weekend posted on his his venue, true truth social. He calls it a statement to the effect of the Assad regime collapsed because its patron abandoned it, and he referred to Vladimir Putin as the patron. Probably not a very good diplomatic move, but is there any truth in what Trump said?

 30:49

Well, I think the Russians supported the Assad government, that's for sure, but they were not the patron. In fact, from a military point of view, it's clear that Hezbollah was the the main defender of the Assad government. By the way, Assad, from every account, made countless blunders and countless mistakes that led also to his ruin. So this should be noted, but it's a ruin that was the target of the US and Israel for 13 years, of the CIA of Israel, of Turkey, of bombing, of sanctions, of the US grabbing Syria's oil fields everything you can imagine to weaken them. But the on the on the military side, the main backer was Iran and Hezbollah

 31:55

Professor Sachs, thank you very much for your unique and gifted analysis of of all this been a hectic day for us here, and I know for you, as you try and get information from various sources as to what happened, if you come up with more information,

 32:13

of course, that will help illuminate very, very closely. Thank

 32:16

you. Please come back to us. Thank you, Professor. All the best. Thanks a lot, sure. Coming up tomorrow, Tuesday at eight in the morning on all of this. Ambassador, Charles Freeman at two in the afternoon. Aaron mate at three in the afternoon. Colonel Karen kowski, please remember

to like and subscribe. We're a little more than two weeks until Christmas. We have fewer than 4000 subscriptions to reach our goal of half a million. Thank you, my dear friends. Judge Napolitano for judging freedom. You.