

Ep 31 Raw

2018

Transcript

[0:00] All right guys while listeners this is our last episode of 2018 I wish I could say that 2018 was, a good year I'm trying to find, the positive in what has really been a rough year for American foreign policy for the fight against militarism, I'm hoping that with some of the recent Trump announcements on troop withdrawals in Syria and Marshall troop withdrawals in Afghanistan. I'm hoping that that's the silver lining in 2018 and that maybe we're going to move on to something different hopefully better but at least different you never really know in the Trump era so, you know me and how are you going to respond that later on today. And cover what has been well shitstorm of a last two weeks since our last, episode was recorded and that includes the madness and Syria and Afghanistan, turmoil in the Trump Administration more war between Israel and Syria undeclared war myju and the death of a very controversial president so, well Henry I'll give you an opportunity of course to tell us anything you were thinking about the year but, definitely you know start us off with the papa Bush and his legacy.

[1:27] Yeah the year has been there has been a supremely shitty one.

[1:33] I'm the things that I'm most hopeful for in the new year are some kind of decent change the situation in Yemen there are you and monitors on the ground now. So you know that's that's one thing that we could help out for that it will, it is already plenty of ugly it doesn't need to get any uglier for them to say it so it should be done but that is one area that I died they do have some Hope on, as far as George HW Bush you know I grew up with him being as a as a hero of some kind I remember having a go for Soldier come to my classes again or Gardener but in reality, you know what did the man is participated in one way or another it most of the horrible things that have happened in the last 70 years, she was CIA director trying to remember what the what the specific. Was but anyways. Normal neoconservative CIA director I know he he dealt with the rant contract just couldn't remember if it was we was vice president or if he was director, yeah I know sweet yeah so he's he's CIA director I believe on the Lord and, Kissinger of course is Secretary of State at that point so there's all the plural that Kissinger is complicit in in in the mid-70s in South America as well as his.

[3:01] Looking the other way in East Timor when the Indonesian Army Slaughters thousands if not, tens of thousands of East Timor he's sure I'm sorry people in East Timor and I don't know what your plural is but but but I have sympathy for you and then of course the,

swatters in

Bangladesh during the Pakistani Civil War which eventually create the state of and then and then you're right or vice president of Iran Contra, it's unclear because we never saw the full investigation which is typical of executive branch misconduct.

[3:46] But he is vice-president we don't know how complicit he was in, the Scandal but we do know is that George HW Bush was a very active foreign policy expert, throughout his career I mean he's one of the most qualified in the traditional sense man ever to be president ever to be vice president it is very difficult for this analyst to believe, that he was completely in the dark about such a transformational and really important secret program okay especially with his background as a spook in the CIA, Dan is that 1989 and January 99 when he takes the Helm of the presidency to complete what some have called, Reagan's third term right cuz he's continuing a lot of Reagan policies we do know that he pardons just about everybody involved in the Iran-Contra right away, and it is hard not to wonder if those pardons weren't just about loyalty but we're also about.

[4:54] Making sure none of those people under indictment or none of those people under investigation open their mouth about his involvement around contrast that makes sense. Yeah I know I I realize halfway through you when you were talking that it was it was the Parton's that I was I was I was blinking on and you know it it's it's pretty typical of you know the vice president president. Relationship when that happens in terms of doing those things out of out of loyalty but but to see that many and the way they're doing it the way he did, how can you say he wasn't involved in some way there's a minute just an dead man we may as things get Declassified as things get older and older we may learn more and more.

[5:40] Let's not forget like how big of a deal Iran Contra was you know I realize it's like 1986 or so that this goes down, Midway through the second Reagan term but it blows my mind to this day that are wrong Contra is not held up as, perhaps the greatest scandal in American foreign policy history at least in the 20th century and the fact that Reagan and Bush were never held any serious account. And that Bill Clinton was, you know impeached and nearly removed from office or lying about a blow job in the Oval Office, okay I don't condone Clinton's Behavior nor do I condone lying under oath okay so I don't mean to make it like Artisan I like Democrats or Republicans okay.

[6:32] The reality is, there was no accounting for a Ron Contra and like let's just review like let me give the 45-second important stuff on Iran Contra, okay, Congress passes a law that says we're not allowed to be militarily involved or to sell weapons to the Contra militias in South America and Central America why does Congress do that why do they pass the ball and amendments they passed that Boland Amendment because the contras are murdering civilians they are asking his death squad okay well Reagan would really really like to give the money he can't do it legally so what else would Reagan really like Reagan would really really lie if has blah blah, give back the hostages the American hostages there holding,

well as loud as an act alone Hezbollah does with their daddy around tells them to do and their daddy or wrong is involved in a war with Saddam Hussein in a rock and they're losing that war and United States is allied with a rock.

[7:31] But just for a moment we're willing to shit on our Rocky allies and what we'll do is sell missiles, and other major weapons to the array Nyan now he's got all this cash flow you've got this windfall of money whatever are we to do to it, well yours we're going to do with it we're going to give it to the contras but we can't do that, legally so we'll do it in secret and who's a great person to launder money for you if you're doing it in secret, you guessed it Israel to Israel Brokers the deal as a middleman launders the money gets another killing, free and all of it is hidden from Congress and the public that's the wrong Contra in about 90 seconds okay longer than I wanted it to be the fact that that is not the great Scandal explained century is amazing what it tells me is republics get away with anything but if a Democrat if a liberal steps out of line and anyway you can expect an impeachment.

[8:32] Yeah it sucks I was watching people yesterday argue on Twitter about. The unknown on pixelated faces of the Special Forces guys that were on the video President Trump shared and. It is very few people were able to take that. Measured look at it to say that this is this is bad no matter who's on what side of it but most everybody was you're talking about our president and and. Do they not see how that's just a Formula Ford for the status quo.

[9:10] Yeah I totally agree you're talking about Trump's you know finally President Trump visits it was a rock rack when he busy at Earth in a rocket al-assad Air Base. Takes picture with some Navy Seals right yes I believe so and such. So yeah I mean that this is a big deal but you know again like just because I think comparisons are valuable like.

[9:40] The twittersphere is losing its mind over this and I'm not saying it's not a huge deal I'm not saying it's not a big deal but again like.

[9:49] George HW Bush gets a pass for around Contra which I just described like everything I said was maybe it was simplified, horrifying and yet you know how many minutes were dedicated during the Haiti ography that the media did for five straight days at least on George HW Bush how many minutes were dedicated to like let's look back in the wrong country, you know let's open that, Pandora's Box up and they are our American Dirty Laundry no they don't want to do that and why don't they want to do that because there is something else that's true about George HW Bush this looks at some listen just my opinion.

[10:29] You pretty polite guy. You know he practices politics imperfectly but certainly a lot better than Donald Trump certainly a lot better than what the way the tribal politics operated a that doesn't make him a hero.

Okay but I think this is what's really dangerous about the hagiography bush. In the world of trump in the world of Trump versus Hillary and like liberals versus conservatives with like pitchforks and axes and fucking torches the way it is now everything in the past looks wonderful.

So even George W bush bush jr.

Is sort of looked at positively even though he was a monster even though he is responsive he's a mass murderer okay and so then back it up a little further and George HW Bush shoe is much more polite.

Much more sensible even for all his flaws that his son was he starts to look like the greatest one term president history.

[11:31] And and I think that while I do have some nice things to say about George HW Bush, we're letting him off the hook we are we're letting him off the hook for a wrong Contra and like five other things okay Panama we can talk about that, the highway of death when he orders airstrikes on retreating really defenseless the rocky soldiers were mostly conscripts and kills maybe tens of thousands okay unnecessarily there, there are war crimes in that past there are horrifying scandals like around Contra and the media whether it was fox or MSNBC was intent on.

Building this guy up to a level he didn't deserve and I and I swear.

At least on the left but the last one media or the mainstream media.

[12:26] I feel like everything they do is an opportunity of Bastrop and.

The whole George HW Bush thing like this sub text to me throughout that whole week of the funeral and an end and then Memorial stuff this subtext was George HW Bush's amazing.

Especially when you look at Trump and how bad he is isn't he the Auntie Trump he's the Auntie Trump he's the good Republican you know and like I feel like part of the reason he was so glorified was almost as a subtle attack,

on the politics of today and a subtle attack on the Persona of Donald Trump in,

while I'm not necessarily above criticizing my commander and chief in constructive ways.

I don't think that that is how we should judge figures in our past.

[13:15] No no not at all and I.

You're the only the only aside from a assortment of small left left this type Outlets the only bigger places that I saw that actively covered any truth about him was some democracy Now. And the Jimmy Dore show neither of which are are wide-reaching by it by any stretch of the imagination but I I was really grateful for those because it it.

[13:45] You know I I I was a little kid back that you know you and I were kids but we can we learn about kind of the attitudes that people have taken and you're absolutely right that it's that MSNBC and people like Rachel Maddow.

They don't ever share news these days that doesn't have a we hate Trump slant.

And it it takes away from their credibility you and I talked about this a few times that when we started this podcast or maybe we'll say in the beginning of 2017 Rachel Maddow was considered a somewhat respectable journalist,

and then russiagate began and she didn't talk about Yemen she didn't talk about it can't you understand she didn't talk about Syria she didn't talk about anything and I'm not just picking on her but I think that that's really demonstrative of the of the symptoms of this,

we can't get away what what happens when MSNBC turns into such a shill news organization that it mirrors Fox News on on the on the left side,

and in what do Ordinary People do then when they're trying to make any kind of sense of it and how do we how do we dial back from a Danny I I don't fuk no.

Honestly I'm lost I mean there are points of no return there are Cliffs that we've passed and jumped off of then I'm not sure how you put Humpty Dumpty back together again or how do you get the pieces back in the Box you know.

[15:07] Who were jumping around a little bit I think it's valuable to stay on a point and and take it to fruition when the opportunity arises but.

Rachel Maddow is is is someone that I'm personally disappointed in when I first started writing my book and My First Column it was,

I almost married status now it was a dream of mine to be a guest on The Rachel Maddow Show,

maybe that was always a pipe dream because I'm not quite mainstream enough anyway, that was like the goal I used to stay to myself like something Rachel Maddow my writing and that's what I know I made it and the reason I wanted to go on her show is because

she's brilliant I made a woman in Oxford and all that Rose, but she wrote a book called Drift. Maybe eight years back that was brilliant it's a book about how American foreign policy has come on more,

and become increasingly Miller turistic and it it really follows from Vietnam up to the war on terror and it's a pretty good studying American militarism this is a woman who chose to write her first book.

On Farm policy which is rare among media pundits that's why does enormous level of respect for her I thought drift was a great book I still think so I still recommend our readers go back and take a look.

[16:34] But how did that woman become the woman who this week this Christmas week was criticizing Donald Trump for pulling out of Syria,

how is the woman who wrote a book about US military isn't being unmoored drifting according to the title.

In negative Direction how did that woman become on Syria.

[16:59] Dubiously legal adventure with no.

Possible positive outcome for United States the fact that she is defending US military presence in Syria takes away all credibility to.

Regain my respect at least on the level that I had it for her it's a 2015 I just don't know that she could between russiagate Yamin and now the whole.

[17:26] You know smashing Trump.

Because he's pulling out of Syria and Afghanistan and Andy no goddamn Madness, you know I wrote that article this past week for Tom dispatch called the world according the adults in the room and like somehow the left,

develop the love affair with McMaster Mattis and Kelly the triumvirate of generals retired or active in the case McMaster who ran the Trump foreign policy and it's like all these guys gave us was two more years of war,

that's it you know I mean like that's all we got from them and and for someone like Rachel Maddow to speak essentially in the voice of those three generals.

It it's it's it's horrifying I mean it it it it it really is and yeah I've lost all respect for her and for the mainstream interventionist last.

[18:27] Yeah I'm I'm right there with you. I had a lot of respect for her and it's it's it's it's never coming back you know that they did.

If you can't you can't look at the her password and then look at the last two years and have any chance of sandknop sorry you're just your you're full of shit.

Will anyway you say we are talked about in this year for a minute I'm always happy to talk about Africa the Forgotten continent.

So what I want to take a few minutes and return it is year and the Ambush that took for American lives along with I want to say around eight or nine Nigerians as well.

Discovered elements of the story of the last year and in a minute I'll elaborate on why I featured it's so much but the first,

what's cover the basics on what happened and a couple recent updates,

including one involving newly departed former Secretary of Defense James Mattis October 2017 a,

nose moved on me.

[19:41] In October 2017 a 12-man US Army Special Forces Green Beret team and 30 Nigerian troops were ambushed just outside the village of tongo tongo in this year, they were ambushed by a large force of insurgents believed to be affiliated with a branch of Isis in that region known as Isis in the greater Sahara.

The original Mission was to visit an engineer Army checkpoint and conduct a key leader engagement with the checkpoint Commander why the Army needs a three word acronym for the word meeting is fucking Beyond me but anyway.

[20:18] Riding along with them was a civilian contractor that was able to track cell phone signals in that area and he was trying to help them find a man named doodle you a leader in Isis in the greater Sahara.

Now originally there higher command didn't know that they that was what they had chosen to do that they had these men actually wanted to find her kill Shifu.

The paperwork submitted to their command before leaving the camp didn't reflect this which means that the usual steps their chain of command might have insisted on before going on a mission like that like using armored vehicles are wearing body armor weren't consistent pain.

[20:58] So they locate Shifu by his cell phone signal until higher command and their command orders them to back up and Airborne Special Forces team that is inbound to take this guy out with the team on talking about being the backup.

What time later the Airborne team is cancelled due to weather restrictions in only the 12 Americans Go Green Berets and their 30 Nigerian counterparts are said after Shifu, who they believed was at a camp close to tongo tongo near the Mali border the commander of the team,

Captain perazzini pushes back against his orders.

He tells his command that has been or too tired and they've been out too many hours and they also don't have the right equipment to conduct the radiator body armor and armored vehicles that I mention.

Is Shattuck a man tells him to do it anyway and they do.

All they find when they go to work the location they track Shifu to is an abandoned camp and no Shifu.

Should I start heading back to their camp and they stopped in the village of tongo tongo to let their Nigerian counterparts get water.

[22:04] A very short distance from the village the team is ambushed by a huge enemy Force. Now I'm Linked In the show notes to a few good pieces on the story that tell the full narrative how it went down but for now Danny what I'd like you and I to focus on is the results of the investigation that the chain of command conducted.

[22:26] So the command found serious deficiencies in several places in the team's preparation.

First the training schedule of the Green Berets themselves they had not conducted training as a complete team before they deployed a requirement.

Most US military units conduct training as a full unit prior to any deployment not always but usually,

it's important for the skills gained but it's even more important for the team members to learn about each other and work side-by-side in a combat stress typesetting.

[22:57] Within the 12 Green Berets several had been deployed to this exact same location already and knew they would be returning there on the next deployment so that gave him a shot at a bit of specialized experience and knowledge most soldiers would never receive getting deployed.

Africa or other places without more time and training for team cohesion teams can perform poorly.

Also the Nigerians that a company of the Green Berets had never trained with the team before the day of the mission.

I'm going to say that again these Green Berets had never trained with this particular group of Nigerian soldiers before the day of the mission.

[23:35] The Green Berets that also only been in this year for a short time a matter of weeks before the Ambush happen.

The report reference mistakes in their mission paperwork noting that someone clearly use cut and paste to fill in some of the forms leading noticeable errors in their mission plan.

This is a pretty common problem in the Army as when soldiers go out on Mission everyday it becomes routine and off of mistakes become second hand especially if the leaders believe that the information in the forms is he going to change.

[24:05] Who got punished who actually got their ass kicked over this.

Originally the punishment was meant to fall on the team leader captain perazzini and his second-in-command a master sergeant or faulted for insufficient training with their Nigerian counterparts,

not doing rehearsals before leaving on the mission those uncompleted team requirements when they were still Stateside that I mentioned.

And not being clear about their intended Mission when they left their camp both of those men received a letter of reprimand.

An assortment of other leaders received letters of reprimand for other small failings other training requirements and such for the report outline 0 punishments for the senior commanders who were the mission.

And force Captain perazzini to continue on despite his objections that his team was to fatigue and lack the proper equipment.

Then Along Comes Mattis yes newly former Defense secretary James Mattis puts the brakes on these letters of reprimand for captain perazzini,

he took a stance that the leaders who ordered the mission and forced the captain to continue on despite his pushback should have been held responsible for their part of the missions failings.

The given secretary Mattis is quick departure it's unclear at this point if any of this will change so it's something that we're going to have to kind of wait and see on.

[25:32] Now.

Why did I spend so much time on the story I've covered a bunch of times on the podcast why did I return to a time and again for headlights because the story of these men, their deaths and leaders screwing back to their Corners it is part and parcel big army bullshit.

There's a piece of reference in the show notes by Thomas Thomas gibbons-neff the New York Times, Crusader Marine Iraq veteran and he did a really great job of breaking down everything that's happened so far he makes perfectly clear that if Madison not stepped in the only punishment would have been given in the subordinates and that story could be repeated in many places with many different situations and the underlings if they feel they've been wrong somehow or especially if senior leaders cover for other senior leaders, they have little or no recourse. This is just one of the many reasons that Danny and I advocate for elements of the military justice system to become civilian controlled these better dead because their leaders chose mission.

[26:40] Over there troops, over the commander on the grounds assessment it was here that that in the news a lot it's a it's a it's kind of becomes kind of a throwaway phrase but it's very important, when it comes to investigations like this what did the commander on the ground see the Army and DOD Valley pretend that this operation was in the stone training, sending an unprepared horribly fatigue group of soldiers into a active or I guess I didn't know what the time someone active combat zone without her support.

[27:11] This is not a problem for the Army and think about this if these soldiers had died or been wounded would we have heard a peep about this mission. Probably not a generally leaders pursue when I'd like to hear what you have to say about this Danny most leaders presume that nothing is going to happen. It's possible that some of not most leaders here assumed it might be just a cakewalk. And I can tell you right now that assumption kills troops as a leader you need to prepare as though today is the day you're going to die.

[27:45] So then I'd like to know what you think about you know what did their leaders and and getting involved cuz he even even if I agree with the sentiment of it it's still clearly, could be considered undue command influence well it is.

[28:01] This is so typical scapegoating a captain scapegoating a master sergeant right or even lower command at certain points I mean nobody above the rank of Lieutenant Colonel gets in trouble that's the worst thing that happens to you if you know, you know if you launder money or fuck a subordinate while you're married like, the worst thing that happened to you as a general officer is you just like we thought we were tired and instead when something goes wrong we scapegoat lower-level leaders, and we see it again here in these are as always I want to zoom out I want to zoom out and show us where the real responsibility for this Mission line. It lies with the Undeclared Wars that africom is waging across that continent we have soldiers in countries people in America cannot pronounce, we have soldiers in countries actively in danger in many cases, and conflicts that Congress has never approved voted on or had any meaning full of recite of. That was the failure, the failure was being in the air in the first place without a clear mission statement from that broader failure we can continue to drill down and find the other failures.

[29:30] It ends with overly aggressive senior Commanders,

forcing and on the ground Commander to go against his better instincts and conduct a mission without the proper equipment, without the proper rest and without the proper air support drone support or or the usual.

[29:54] The usual enablers that are in place for a basic infantry Patrol in Afghanistan let alone a special forces mission in a distant area of New Jer.

You know this is horrifying and the fact that matters how to get involved at and I applaud Mattis for.

[30:15] Pausing at least hitting the pause button or hitting the brakes on those letters of reprimand.

But the fact that it had to be the secretary defense it tells that something's broken in big army. Cabins broken in the way of the army investigates failure the way that Army investigates disaster and you're right you would have never heard about this if it went well or if it just. Okay if nothing happen if there'd been no Ambush and you know it would have happened they would have continued this kind of irresponsible Behavior this irresponsible overreach.

[30:50] Time and again until this eventually did happen the tragedy is that it takes a tragedy to stop a future trash.

No one is forward-thinking enough to ask the key question like is Nisha stability.

A vital American strategic interest is it so much of a vital American strategic interests that were willing to put American soldiers.

And if we think it is isn't it that important enough to go to Congress and debate it publicly. Shouldn't the people's Representatives have a voice in whether or not American troops fight engage in combat engaging Rays kill and die in a obscure African country that had no connections 911.

[31:40] Well I think so and because I think so and Henry because you think so that makes us outliers were considered cranks complainers.

We are not respectable Farm policy analyst right we're not sober strategist.

Because we ask these hard questions because we have looked all the audacity to think maybe the people's Representatives should be involved maybe General officers should have to justify

putting soldiers in combat in a place as obscure and as far from American National Security as Museum,

this is a leadership failure that begins at lower levels it runs through the cast of kernels and then it runs through the general officers but It ultimately ends,

with the president it ends with the secretary defense needs that could have branch that is decided to unilaterally wage war without Congressional approval,

what does little to no oversight this track in these are will not be the last time back in style.

[32:44] It will not be the last time that American soldiers needlessly died on the continent of Africa without proper oversight or without any be legal justification for fighting the first place, this is the problem of Imperial foreign policy this is the problem,

hegemonic foreign policy with the notion that America has not only the right but the.

Requirement to police the world and and so that's the last thing I say that I need you here in the course there I go ranting again but this this is.

[33:19] Leisure is a microcosm of the problems with American foreign policy more generally.

[33:28] I guess I in in writing in writing through this this this story.

[33:39] I kept thinking about ordinary soldiers you know cuz you know guys like guys like you and I and I we we.

[33:49] Just repeating the concept of this hundreds of thousands of times over over the length of these conflicts and.

The throwing life away it just it it it it rages me to a level I Can't Describe and.

I I guess I I believe I.

I told myself that that people people serving in the military and the themes of the military itself were more noble than they were and.

But the song Hey it is more defies me that we have to continue to learn these kind of lessons Danny,

yes on over it's not over the next thing we're going to talk about is Trump's I think.

[34:43] Pretty cogent decision to pull troops out of Syria and then slowly added Afghanistan.

But even if President Trump is sincere in his desire,

to remove us from some of the worst Quagmire's in the greater Middle East even if he doesn't change his mind which he is so often app to do.

That will not an the other forgotten theaters of the ongoing professional Terra Wars.

Like knees are like Yemen like Somalia like Livia like cheese I could go on and on that isn't going to happen,

the foreign policy consensus on maintaining US Special Forces advisors and air power in countless countries that is not even on the agenda,

of any serious political figure to get us out of except maybe Bernie Sanders and Grandpa I mean.

That's not changing so you're right this is not the last time we're going to lose troops in Africa this is not the last time we're going to lose troops in unnecessary missions that shouldn't have been authorized that we should have been in the first place and and that's the trash you know.

[36:02] Even if Trump is.

Genuine in his belief that it's time to get out of the greater Middle East at least when it comes to Conventional soldiers least when it comes to large more than a thousand man.

Ground Force you know missions even if he does have that no one's talking about you Jerry.

Yes. I have a few other podcasters set for a few Riders formation ala to happen to be you guessed it veterans like us because of veterans.

Thoughtful that I can't forget a story like Misha and I think that's why you've brought it up three times.

A real that who understands that has been through some version of that.

Can't forget something like an easier because we know that the team on the ground will never forget those for me.

[36:52] And let's remember they were Tunisia Aryans killed as well can you show like let's not forget that but those special forces man on that team the eight surviving members of that scene for them this battle is never closed this story is never over.

[37:09] Hey.

As hard as it as it is sometimes for me to go through this stuff I'm glad that that we've worked to tell their story and and understand that it is,

it is a very common story we don't hear about it it's very, absolutely really is it's it's staggering, how common it is so.

[37:37] Let's just deal with the elephant in the proverbial room since this is a podcast and we're in two separate rooms 3000 miles apart.

Wow President Trump.

[37:54] Bomb the shit out of Isis Trump waterboarding and worse bring back torture Trump fill Guantanamo with a bunch of Bad Dudes Trump.

[38:05] Maybe start a nuclear war North Korea Trump announces the week before Christmas. That he is pulling US troops about 2,000 by some counts 4000 by others out of Syria almost immediately and that he's dropping the true Count.

In half in Afghanistan this is a big deal.

Wow I mean I was flabbergasted and maybe the listeners aren't surprised to hear that I was pleased if you know me at all and if you read any of my admittedly, I'm pretty repetitive pieces I've been calling for withdrawal from Syria referring to Syria as the Syria trap.

Referring to Afghanistan as the unwinnable war and and saying we need to cut losses to go.

[39:04] To tell the story I think we have to be holistic.

And bring Madison to the picture and the other quote adults in the room who used to populate his administration meaning guys like Rex Tillerson and then the triumvirate of General John Kelly.

HR McMaster in the last man standing Jim Mattis.

I want back up to something that happens a few weeks before that announcement or those two announcements President Trump.

[39:37] Who is a man who has a candidate despite his coarse language and bragging about future war crimes.

[39:48] I didn't actually run anniversary intervention is black.

I mean he said that the Iraq War was the worst decision ever made I mean he supported it back that but still still so did a lot of people and he said the right things in 160.

He repeatedly over Twitter usually his favorite form of contact, favorite medium he repeatedly urged President Obama to pull out of Afghanistan and repeatedly urged President Obama not to get involved in Syria Okay so, in some ways Trump despite the harsh future war crimes rhetoric.

[40:25] Was sort of an interventionist at least compared to Jeb Bush or Hillary Clinton okay the mainstream called throughout the first two years of his administration.

The best example is when about 3 weeks ago he decides the tweet I am positive none of his sober adult in the room grown-up advisers proof read this or they would have next day he says.

Us defense spending is crazy correct.

And I'm opening talks with President G of China and President Putin of Russia to avoid a future arms race.

Also the correct thing to think this out on like a Tuesday and I read it and I'm like.

He's right President Trump is right.

And we need to encourage this Behavior we need to support him because he really seems to like being liked so let's give him support.

[41:32] Well you can't even make it through the weekend.

By Sunday he's reversed himself Sunday of that week he's over stem cell and he's tweeted that

actually,
we're not decreasing defense spending we're going to ask for 750 billion dollars in 2020 which is actually 17 billion more,
then the military asked for and 36 billion more than 2019 approve spending.

[42:02] What happened in the interim right something must have happened to him Tuesday and Sunday here's what happened.

[42:09] Everyone from generals on active duty,
two Republican and Democratic hawkish Congressman on the armed forces and Foreign Relations Committee.
Secretary defense Jim Mattis at a speaking engagement all publicly disavow Trump's tweet.
All probably called from more defense spending and attack Trump for his very mild decrease of the fence panel.

[42:41] So Trump announces no no no not only was I wrong about everything I said but increased when I mean why do I bring this up.

[42:53] Because I believe that story.

Is really the story of the first two years of the Trump era of the Trump Administration, it's a president who isn't particularly interested in foreign policy and isn't particularly interested in.

Endless Wars.

Being forced into continuing those Wars continuing the status quo continuing the inertia of the Star Wars and who's doing the convincing,

well it's the bipartisan Beltway interventionist consensus is the retired generals it's the long-serving Senators on the relevant committees it's the media Honda tree, who are all pushing him in a Forever War Direction and for two years.

Donald Trump let the quote experts let the quote General let the quote you know grown ups and adults in the room make his policy for him.

And ultimately it was failed policy it was a continuation of failure is continuation of the Bush Obama Forever War Playboy.

But this time he does seem serious I remains to be seen but he seems serious.

[44:15] Children leaving Syria because we're pulling out the troops out of Afghanistan PriceRite Henry all the same voices.

Left and right of Center are screaming their goddamn heads off that he's going to cause the next 9/11.

[44:33] And the arguments that are made for staying and Porter you know after I turn it over to you we can get into those the arguments that these people from Rachel Maddow on the left, to Fox & Friends on the right,

the arguments that they're making okay and again from Senator Menendez on the left to Senator Lindsey Graham on the right.

Again the arguments are making her so intellectually shallow.

That it's absolutely shocking and instead of encouraging good behavior.

On Trump's part instead of giving credit where it's due he's being attacked from all sides, answer me that might be an indicator that he's doing something right because in this broken political system when the mainstream left in the mainstream right or against you you just might be onto something.

[45:28] I guess what you're definitely right about that I the.

[45:35] Shity things to me has been watching the multitude of ways people the people you just described have injected the Kurds.

Into their calculus and some of it is about protection most of it is they we want you to stay because you're going to protect the Kurds but that's not the real reason.

[45:55] I'm I'm just I'm just terrified of what happens next this doesn't end well it was never going to end well.

To me the smartest thing that President Trump could do is to be frank with you American people out that because they're going to use it cuz the depanda tree, end the end the end the Washington interventionist Clique is going to use it against them when things go bad my point is things were going to go bad anyway, and they're definitely going to go back quick now and the way this plays out on the ground in Syria and then soon in Afghanistan is going to be.

Extraordinary the ugly the best thing to do is to tell the American people that upfront hey guys we're leaving because,

we don't have a real legal justification to be there hey guys we are leaving because we can't win anyway hey guys we're leaving because it's all risk and no reward and all this going to happen as we're getting stuck on you Quagmire in the middle of the Middle East.

[46:56] And by the way when we leave though bad things are going to happen to the Kurds when we leave though,

Assad is going to reinstitute his power eventually and he's the country the Turks are going to be invading the north there's going to be a new Civil War there going to be a continuation of the Civil War and it's going to be ugly as fuck a thousand but America.

That's not our problem.

We couldn't stop it anyway in the long-term and unless you're willing to sacrifice blood and treasure to stop it unless your people's representatives in Congress of willing to vote.

FurReal water stop at this was going to happen anyway so there's no sense throwing good money at bad that to me is cogent analysis is realpolitik ugly,

it doesn't sit well okay it's okay it's it's not a nice taste on the palate but it's the reality, and you're right just doesn't end well it's going to be a ugly we should be terrified about what comes next but.

[47:56] I was more terrified about the prospect of,

Perpetual occupation of Eastern Syria the outbreak of a new Islam on nationalist Insurgency against us or accidental War starting with Russia to me those were greater for, and greater drains on American lives and American funds so I support the president which hearing those words come in my mouth.

Is very strange listeners but I support the president on this decision and I'm not embarrassed to do so and shame on.

[48:32] Well I expected from the mainstream right but shame on the mainstream left.

For shiting all over Trump for this tough and ultimately correct decision to leave Syria.

[48:46] Absolutely no I am done and in the larger scheme of things it is exactly what needs to happen and you're right there was no there was no other outcome that was going to be possible given where people are sitting in the region.

Okay I just something about the cars real quick cuz I didn't address that you brought up this like pho sympathy suddenly for the Kurds.

These tiny little violins playing sad songs for the Kurds on MSNBC and on Fox News and on the pages of the edit the editorial pages of the mainstream papers go to these assholes gave a shit about the curd 6 months ago none of them give a shit about them for years ago and none of them give a shit about them when we let him be slaughtered in 1988 again in 1991.

Spare me spare me the excuse that suddenly our intervention Eastern Syria was humanitarian and nature meant to save the Kurds from the Turks and Assad spare me, first of all you want to fight for the Kurds good put it to a vote. Put it to a vote in the US Senate vote in the US House Declare War come up with a new aumf.

[50:03] Have the American people in the form of their representatives cuz we are Republic. Debate it show me how many Congressmen you find me 51 senators, coup for all their Bluster for all their attacks on Trump you find me 51 senators were willing to put their names of the paper and say I to a vote for war in Syria in order to protect the cards you ain't going to find it there all fucking bark and no bite.

They want to they want it both ways they don't want to have to make the tough boats in the tough decisions and declare war.

But they also want to be able to attack the president it's horrifying it's intellectually dishonest and it's Marley, what it is they are bereft of Ethics in the US Senate and in the US Congress and I am not absolving the Democrats year not by a long shot.

[51:07] But now we have the.

[51:11] We have the added wrinkle of Jim Mattis suddenly resigning and wall. Neither you or I was happy he was here in the first place as you mentioned you know he I think I said it on Twitter he's a warmonger but he could be the same as warmonger in the room depending on what situation you're thinking of so, what do you think about Matt is resigning over this game I have harsh words remind us on this one is he still in 7/8 of times right now, I know I think Patrick Shanahan is acting secretary defense now forgive my ignorance, I'm still in active duty until February 11th so I always got to be careful because Madison is part of my chain of command I'm going to continue to act as though he is just, cuz I don't want anything to get in the way. I don't I don't I don't have a lot of respect for Madison decision to resign over this. I'm going to go ahead and just rent anyway socket.

[52:16] Tim has a smart guy Nicole in the Warrior month Scott thousands of books he reads them it's never married.

[52:25] He literally lives and breathes military policy military history. Smart ass fuck in the Army in the Marine Corps in the military he is what passes for an intellectual.

[52:40] Scott sad but it is this man has served his entire adult life, in the military in the service the United States he has watched a lot awful things happened he has washed his commanders and his president make a lot of decisions, you're telling me this is what he's going to fall on his sword for.

[53:04] He's going to fall on his sword and dip out right and punch his ticket and and go home

he's going to grab his ball and go home over.

Not staying in Syria a dubious legal war that was unwinnable in the first place full of risk without reward.

That's it so it wasn't serving a president who called for bringing back medieval torture, that wasn't his Redline so it wasn't 85,000 Yemeni children starving to death, in a war that could only be continued with US support or that wasn't a red line and after Khashoggi was murdered and cut up with a bone saw and after the Senate voted against continuing the war in Yemen.

Oh you mean maddest the guy who went in front of the Senate and said no don't vote against the warrants in Yemen,

vote against Saudi Arabia over the Khashoggi thing because they're too important and oh by the way we're not sure that MBS was responsible even though the CIA Zone reports that he was,

the evening that is the guy who both Republican and Democratic senators refer to as misleading in his testimony on Yemen and on Khashoggi.

Black guy he decided that this was what he wanted to follow his sword for this.

[54:26] 85000 Starving Children 15000 at least they stopped counting civilians killed in airstrikes when we were refueling the Jess.

Okay with all that that was fine he wasn't continue to serve you to be an adult.

[54:43] Trump has the audacity to pull out of an unwinnable war that we should have been in the first place that was only Navy legal at Bass.

[54:52] He's taking his ball he's going home graduations General water hero what a fucking hero.

[54:59] I do have some respect for Jim Mattis that's why I'm so angry I'm not afraid to say it I mean.

I just would like to see a little few Less warmongers in the room,

but you're actually right look if we got have warmongers and Roman fucking God knows we do right no matter who's in charge but I was fucking Obama's war mongers or you know what are some Obama's polite well-dressed and well-spoken warmonger,

or you know President Trump's a little more course that's the least most I'm going to stay while I'm on active duty warmongers you know I guess we'll take the same ones like you're mad at us right,

now I'm disappointed this phone is actually defense not only because I disagree with him on Syria and Afghanistan policy because I don't think choosing this to be a red line says a whole lot about your I don't know.

Your values or your priorities to say I don't know maybe I'm already overstepping what I should say so I'm going to I'm going to cool it for a minute late.

[55:59] No it's it's you know for a.

[56:03] For a man with that long of a career and not much of a career entrenched in all the most horrible things that you and I talked about from the terror Wars.

[56:13] 2 yeah it is,

and the thing is is that it at least along the Syrian border or like outside air base what we were talking about earlier there still going to be plenty of US assets available to do missions in Syria, ditto said to include all the guys that were in President Trump's little video that he shared on

Twitter,

but but my you know I'm I'm I'm just thinking about you know the we've talked a lot about africom and the whole their whole lily pad, you know basis still things here in their keeping are assets off the cotton in places like Germany Italy Spain.

How much is this really going to change what we end up doing in Syria proper and that would be the thing I would ask Jim Mattis just like.

What else are you doing.

I understand that John Bolton wants us to stay there come hell or high water because of a ran but again what what else is the point so.

Yeah it is,

why the fuck is he dying on this hill why you said all the things all the things in his careers as a Marine Corps officer and His short career as a secretary of defense.

[57:37] It it it it it.

I don't have enough energy to say the word fuck that many times it's just it's enraging but it's also just fucking baffling.

[57:49] So as a non-commissioned officer and an in-form use commission. So what we taught. You following execute orders unless one of two things unless the order is illegal or immoral, so he presumably is very much in poke than those values very much believes in that structure. So you so by that logic you should have followed his orders and done his best a secretary defense to make the pull-out happen in a safe and responsible manner Within, the guidelines of his president right of his Commander, that he chose not to makes us think that he thinks it was either illegal or immoral to pull the troops out of Syria.

[58:34] But that raises question now I think it's neither illegal nor immoral to pull troops out of quite moral and the pragmatic thing to do but.

If he is following that structure of.

Falling on his sword when he finds an order illegal or immoral why didn't he resign over Yemen seems to me that.

Fueling the Jets providing the intelligence and selling the bombs that kill.

Thousands and thousands to millions and supporting the blockade that starved 85,000 children to say nothing of their moms dads and grandfathers.

That wasn't him oral sex to a man.

What is the true illegal order have been the decision and Obama made it by the way okay so we have a legal decision be putting American combat troops in Syria without Congressional authorization.

[59:32] Isn't that arguably the illegal part getting there and staying there in the first place I mean if you were going to resign over something really being.

Possibly illegal or at least dubiously legal wouldn't you ever resigned because Trump didn't pull the troops out of Syria.

You see when you start breaking it down like that it raises all kinds of questions and it ran it really,

just pops that media narrative okay it just deflates the entire media Narrative of all courageous Jim Mattis is stepping down because that monster Trump is being irresponsible again.

You know and it's like that whole narrative it lacks even the most basic insights of a sergeant and a goddamn major.

You know that the only time you resign is one of those two reasons.

[1:00:24] It's shocking it's disconcerting I'm going to go a step further and say this is representative, of the intellectual weakness and the character flaw of an entire generation of generals who were raised on Perpetual War, Who Rose in the ranks by saying yes. Unwinnable unachievable missions saying yes to probably illegal largely immoral, definitely unwinnable Wars throughout the greater Middle East and entire generation of generals is complicit in this this is representative of their failures, it's the failures of a generation of officers that we saw in the Vietnam War playing itself out again I'm not afraid to say it and. Yeah I guess because I have summer start with J Madison particularly upset I have one thought and it is it.

[1:01:28] There was the news yesterday that Blackwater is going to have a a full-page ad. In the January February issue of recoil so popular gun magazine and Twitter started talking about. You know what what if. This sudden drop of troops in Afghanistan is a Prelude to the Erik Prince send what was it at the 4,000 contractors in mm pistol forces, to do the work that currently about was about 14,000 guys in Afghanistan right now right. And granted it's it's it's you know it's kind of rumor mill but again we we know that Trump is does things unexpectedly and depending on.

[1:02:19] I wouldn't see it out of the realm of possibility for Donald Trump to make a decision like that and would you know and would that if that's a reality, would that be enough to say Jim Mattis made made.

[1:02:37] 13 Corporation of that made it that much more important if that's possible in again I don't know that it is.

[1:02:44] Yammy it raises some interesting questions in and the fact that black motor black Waters back from the dead is just mean everyone away they just rebranded their back from the dead. Just an indicator of how far off the rails the American Empire is this point.

[1:03:05] Yeah I would the president consider the Erik Prince plan of privatization of the Afghan war potentially privatization would he seriously considered I well he's a businessman. He knows about subcontracting Denis it worries me.

[1:03:26] Where is me to make that decision because I was with you and I both know, Arabs and Muslims and really anybody that Africans that we occupy any country They Don't Really distinguish between Americans wearing camouflage and American soldiers official Soldier spring camp and Light, white dudes from America also wearing camouflage who just happen to be contractors like they look at us the same we're all the both occupiers were both infidels were both foreigners regardless of the Nationalist I think we're occupiers and foreigners if they are as long as the knitting R incels whatever, you know they don't distinguish so I mean you're not really pulling out if you let the can contractors pick up the slack if anything here,

setting up an even worse than area because those contractors are not even, notionally sort of under the control of the Geneva conventions to the extent that we are as seen from the Blackwater or fine murder, so yeah I mean it you bring up a nation point I sure hope. This doesn't process that eventual outcome because I have a whole lot of terrible podcast episode about that.

[1:04:44] Yeah so it's a.

It's very much a nightmare cuz you given given the the horde of the horrifying conditions on the ground for that many people to go in that, their chain of command is much more foggy are there the results of the mission is this could be much more foggy here it's it's it's terrifying, so I want to I want to take some some picture questions now and one of them is is definitely fits in with what we've been talking about here.

[1:05:18] Hey Chris and Danny I'm surprised to hear that Noam Chomsky believes that the US should maintain a presence in Syria to support the Kurds do you think he has a point on the new level.

[1:05:32] Remington Versa I love no transki I think you do probably as well Henry.

[1:05:40] I don't agree with him that we should stay in Syria I don't agree because I don't believe that Kurdish.

Autonomy or an autonomous Kurdish state is either a vital US National Security interest which I think we should only put our soldiers In Harm's Way and we strongly kill others, and die for Vital National Security interest in case that's the first thing, in a my second problem is I don't know that it's a chief of all the first place I don't know that we have the national will or the resources, available to fight that out with turkey Assad and then potentially the other two countries that have sizable personalities that being a rock and Ron.

[1:06:32] In defense of Noam Chomsky who I am very proud and Fanboy getting to say has actually read some of my pieces.

Then I have I gotten positive confirmation of that there were a number of sources and he mostly likes what I have to write so that makes me very proud cuz I am a fanboy, funny my kids like a fanboy for like Steph Curry and LeBron James, but I'm such a dork that I'm a fanboy for like 95 year-old intellectuals wardrobes with proof but anyway.

I will say this in defense of Chomsky.

[1:07:15] He's been consistent in his call for humanitarian considerations regarding the Kurds for decades now.

He has written extensively about Kissinger's sell out of the curb in the 1970s.

And how much of a disaster and a crime that was on the hat on behalf of Washington and he called her Kurdish autonomy and protection gas mask the first Gulf War.

So I respect Rams beat the mission on the Kurds because that has been his motivation all along,

humanitarian concern and genuine empathy for this people this stateless people that have been sold out time and again since the end of World War I.

[1:08:07] What bothers me about,

the voices screaming for us to stay in Syria now is like I said earlier they never gave us about the curves now they're using it as an excuse to maintain Forever War maintain permanent military has Germany in the Middle East, and so I think that Mr. Trump's you would agree with us that they are hypocrites, and that he and I could debate and I might lose because he's a rather eloquent guy, but I do think that I am correct in stating that Kurdish autonomy is neither something Americans should die for because it's not a vital enough bastard interest and two, that it might not be achievable in the first place so I don't know what do you think about the heaviest tough question anytime you put us in the office. I definitely respect his position on protecting the Kurds and wanting them to have their own autonomy in that region but knowing you know who they're surrounded by, knowing the many many violent obstacles they have to any kind of autonomy, yeah I would I would I would agree with him definitely to want to protect him but at what cost to American forces and what cost to everyone on the sidelines of that.

[1:09:32] Ditto.

Sorry about what I thought but all the all the people that would be included in whatever conflict that is and then that can be looked at a bunch of different ways but. I know I know I know for me that I kind of mentioned this earlier that it's it's. I take it very personally about wanting to give them some kind of protection and wishing that we would but again I I stepped back and I say at what cost.

[1:10:05] Absolutely I won't cost us the right that the question should always be want to risk and reward.

It should always be a cost-benefit analysis when there's American blood and treasure especially blood at stake.

And I and I am insecure in my position to the degree that I do care about, the blood of Kurds and I do think that all lives matter equally around the world I just.

[1:10:36] I hesitate to place America front and center and its responsibilities to achieve those ends.

If I really believed that a genocide of all the Syrian Kurds was an impending possibility. I would maybe have a different position but I don't think that's what's going to happen I think Assad is going to reestablish sovereignty in the region.

And I think he's going to be careful not to completely Slaughter or alienate the Kurds, because his own Army is exhausted and he doesn't need to travel and he doesn't need a long-term Insurgency of very dedicated. That we found out about us.

Final point on this here's what I do think and some people might call me naive.

[1:11:31] We need the best we can hope for is to broker a deal with a saw him and heard want to a certain extent and that deal would have to go something like that.

[1:11:41] We're going to pull out of Eastern Syria which we never really had any right to be in. Under international law in the first place and we're going to accept the fact that you Mr. Assad with your Russian benefactors are going to free stablish sovereignty and Eastern and Northeastern Syria,

but we are going to demand that as part of the condition for our withdrawal that.

You allow some limited cultural and political autonomy the Kurds and you don't slaughter them,

and you provide them the full citizenship of the other minorities in your country is one of things you don't realize is that the Kurds alone among the many men are he's living in Syria

we're denied citizenship and civil rights to a large extent prior to the 2011 Civil War so.

[1:12:35] I think Assad is someone we can deal with he might be a monster he might be a strong man and he might be at work most definitely work but I do think he is someone that can be dealt with that's it that's dangerous thing to say I'm putting myself out on a limb for future criticism but I think he is someone eminently dealable with just like Putin is, he knows the limits of his own power his goals are limited as well, thought out for world domination is not even out from Middle East domination he knows his limits he knows his country's exhausted and all he wants to do is maintain power and somehow try his best piece Place back to deal with that. And I and I think we need to yell Sam probably food needs to be involved and quite frankly so I didn't occurs are better off under a sod than they are under turkey. I think we're better off letting a sadri establish basic sovereignty than allowing the Turks to invade and take over because the Turks have a much greater animus towards the car. Are much more likely to commit a massacre so I in this instance and.

[1:13:46] God forgive me for saying this in this instance I trust Bashar al-assad more than I trust our NATO allies turkey and president erdogan of Turkey. Do you happen to know why it was that Kurds among desert like you said there are a bunch of different religious minorities that live peacefully in Syria Christians and Jews and. Did you have any idea whether it is they were a lot of reasons one of them was that for a long time turkey and Syria had a pretty strong relationship or at least Syria was really interested, like in the 1990s and 2000 in forging a stronger relationship with Ankara with turkey and. The Turks are obsessed with the Kurdish problem as they call it and then one of their friends and wanted to limit the political and civil rights of Kurds everywhere especially in Syria because Syria borders so directly north Syria border so directly on South Eastern Turkey where the pkk Insurgent or is the first called and terrorist group actually the State Farm customer service to know I think it's debatable in Siamese.

[1:14:59] Yeah so part of it was to please the Turks part of it was fear of of Kurdish. Autonomy because there is a movement within the cars a transnational movement for occurred of state and so to Assad, Kurdish separatism was a little bit more of a threat because there's tides of the Kurdish population in the other three countries or rock around and then say the Christians were, so the Turks are like 9 or 10% of Syria and they mostly live in a particular region north and the Northeast. Where is the Christians are much more spread out in a much more urban and there's no real movement the Middle East for Christian autonomy right there aren't like Christian militias in most countries of Lebanon, that are viable so I think that's a large part of the reason why, the cards seem like more of a threat and there was also a way of placating the very very very obsessed Turks.

[1:16:02] Alright next question here we got from Josh Dymond he said my question is regarding rapid climate disruption. With the abyss we're falling into regarding ecological breakdown what role do you see the vast US military machine playing domestically and abroad, in a. Of increasing human influence disasters all are hurricanes Maria and Florence just wait

until the grocery store shelves start going bare as brisket basket route start to bite hard thanks. Do you want to start you want me to.

[1:16:42] You know I I've had this one for a bit so I've had a little chance to think about it and. You know I think that right now if I was the president or most of our military would get rededicated to doing, ecological and environmental missions of many kinds some would certainly be a humanitarian response you've mentioned before about how, in 20 years Bangladesh will be underwater among many other places that are going to be flooded or brown places mostly yeah but it's you know what you know, how are we how are they going to protect New York City as sea levels continue to rise you know there's a there's a lot of really hard questions that we're going to have to answer both about, the folks abroad but definitely here at home and I think the military did assets of the military and the Personnel could be better used doing those kind of missions, but the flip side of that is that the US military is also the biggest polluter so did we send the biggest polluters in the world to fight pollution.

[1:17:52] I'm not saying you know you wouldn't you couldn't do it for certain instances but it is a worthy thing to consider, go ahead Danny look he he mentioned what it what are they call it climate or was the phrase, it was ecological breakdown I would say you know cuz I mean he needs climate change extreme weather and I would say that facetiously because rapid climate disruption. Oh don't you mean extreme weather cuz you know when the Trump Administration not allowed to use the word climate change in our Pentagon reports anymore for years now even, the Pentagon has been writing reports about The the viability and the truth whole mess of climate change the existence of climate change man-made climate change, they have long recognized that as a security threat and they have long recognized that the military will play some role in either responding to those threats mostly and, heading off those threats to some extent.

[1:19:01] Yeah when the climate the 9 president of the United States and again I'm not calling you names but true as he is a climate change denier so many times that is a hoax Chinese which is the best kind of hooks out here. Is a climate denier knees in in the Oval Office so he has ordered Pentagon Forks to remove the word climate change and to substitute euphemisms like, extreme weather what does that tell us a Josh I'm not optimistic about, the military pivoting towards the very real National Security existential National Security danger of climate change I think it's much more likely we can sit we continue to chase her own tail in the greater Middle East, and that we continue to prepare for Wars that aren't coming and shouldn't come in China and Russia.

[1:19:58] And that instead we're going to ignore climate change by of a 2 year old son 23 months old.

[1:20:05] In 3 days he plays this game and it's no fun, it's kind of like a form of of mental hide and seek see when he doesn't like something I'm telling him, what he'll do is go cover his eyes or closes eyes because he's convinced that if he closes his eyes

I can't see him and it's it's brilliant and I think it's a really really good metaphor, the 50% of America that denies climate change deals with the impending outcomes of such an existing outcomes, it's like if we close our eyes and use a different word and say no no no we don't say climate change if we do that long enough then will be us but it will like my almost two-year-old, we are of course mistaken and and and also about my two-year-old that's his generation that is going to live through, the worst of this right and see their opportunities diminished humanitarian ecological disasters increased to a level that you and I can hardly imagine, and everyone's going to be screaming for the military to intervene when she goes there, whether we're the biggest polluter or not when Manpower is needed to respond to the worst hurricane in history of Manpower is needed to build.

[1:21:34] To Stave off temporarily the next load in New York City it'll be the military.

[1:21:39] It will be the only public institution of people trust it's the only public institution that you can say, execute X tomorrow and they'll do it without asking any questions right they're the only ones you can pull away from their families indefinitely.

[1:21:57] I am a big proponent of retooling the US economy and a green Direction, Cascio Cortez has recently going for a green New Deal at 1, kids are scared of the future and then terrifies them she's a future in so many ways I mean not only in her Democratic Socialist politics but in her brown skin and her use right and and in her poverty essentially because she was bartender likes you, more less so I ain't she's terrifying to them she's everything they're scared of but anyway you know I think you need to read, are military priorities to prepare for the impending gloom-and-doom of climate change and, I appreciate Josh bringing us back to this because this is and I would argue that there are only two existential threats the US dirty and you will never hear the word Al queda or Islam mentioned one, only two, impending existential threats to US security R1 nuclear war probably unnecessary unnecessary or perhaps mistaken nuclear war.

[1:23:15] And climate change.

Okay those are the only if the military is truly in existence a truly existential truly serious National Security then the military should be worried about avoiding nuclear war, deterring nuclear war and fighting climate change and all the other institutions the government, have a much bigger role to play for military in that okay and the military is not a Panacea it cannot be used to fix every problem, the military is a broadsword not a Scabbard in the military is a hammer and not every problem is necessarily in now.

[1:23:58] Outside it's funny that you mentioned about the threat of nuclear weapons is Josh Diamond added a second question here and it's about that.

[1:24:10] How concerned are you guys regarding accidental firings and mistaken threats or just

nuclear war in general even as a trillion dollar upgrade of the nuclear program is on the table. After reading Daniel Ellsberg the Doomsday Machine Confessions of a nuclear war planner I'm quite aware of the pure look of circumstance and human decision-making to date such that we haven't obliterated ourselves yet.

[1:24:36] Wow yeah I'm very worried about nuclear war a very worried about accidental, nuclear disasters or unnecessary nuclear wars being started and therefore finished because, there will only be one nuclear war probably and it'll be the last war ever fought if it's a serious one.

I'm worried about a lot of things I'm worried about an American National Security System. Systemic issue here okay structural issue where one man who doesn't even need to get.

[1:25:22] This isn't about Trump by the way we're one man who need doesn't even need to get the majority of the popular vote has unilateral Authority.

To wage nuclear Armageddon and none of us have to be Consulting, such a fast doesn't even really have to be consulted and have to be Congress before they know that the war started,

right they'll be till still be on there fucking robocalls Dialing for Dollars when the kids ear pop when the nuclear bomb Hits DC they will be out raising money they'll be a fucking \$1,000 on razors.

When they get a fucking phone call on their cell and if you've staff like oh by the way yeah we're all dead my dad watching Fox News as soon as as a representative, yeah so I'm not really worried about that.

I'm particularly of course worried about North Korea I'm worried about Israel quite frankly.

[1:26:29] People angry again Anew Danny ISM I'm more worried about nuclear weapons in the hands of Israel,

which they've had since 1969 illegally by the way and secretly then I am about the potential, all I'll be at unlikely the building center on telling you is.

[1:27:00] Israel is Israel's government which is increasingly right-wing and increasingly ultra-orthodox religious is scaring me.

That state is coming apart.

I have always mistrusted many of their foreign policy decisions but they're off the rails now but they're almost indicted.

Prime minister Netanyahu who is to the left of the rest of his cabinet and who is to the last of his party even though he's a goddamn lunatic.

I'm scared that if Israel perceives a threat to really any part of its current system any part of its sovereignty or if they perceive,

any possibility that are on might be building a bomb that they wouldn't hesitate if necessary to use lose their weapons and so they scare me they scare me and finally Pakistan stairs.

Israel have a surprising amount in common.

Pakistan's most worst but, don't they states that were religious.

From their very founding.

[1:28:15] Largely secular among the political classes for the first few Decades of their existence but do you know that they were founded in the same year 1947 and Israel 1948,

why I can write a book about this by the way that that should be my magnum opus Israel is the new Pakistan that'll be the title,

Orange is the New Black ratio Israel is the new Pakistan and.

[1:28:39] They're both found around the same time they are both founded as religious entities rank is Pakistan's going to be the Muslim India but they're largely ruled by secular sort of, responsible adults in the room for the first few Decades of their just recently gotten more religious ultra-orthodox or Ultra fundamentalist Islam in their governments have begun to act as almost, theocracies okay and benefits particularly chauvinistic and their foreign policies and their military have been infused with ever more religious ever more radically religious officers, that goes for the IDF in Israel and for the Pakistani army and especially the ISI the intelligence service in Pakistan.

Another thing they both have in common is they both have nuclear weapons they both of them legally and they both did so with the essential you know, look away from the United States if not encouragement by if a Ron even thinks about developing a nuclear bomb will go to war right now.

[1:29:55] Israel lied to us to our faces develop nuclear weapons in contravention of international law in 1969 in America States.

[1:30:05] Pakistan to the same in the nineties and we danced a silent but some limited sanctions but we continue to support them we continue to use them for. Funding and arming our various proxies in Afghanistan and balancing against other Regional adversaries.

Terrified of the system where one man is in charge of a nuclear Arsenal that could destroy the world

and specifically terrified of Israel and Pakistan and want the listeners to consider, the similarities the fucking striking turbine similarities between Pakistan and Israel.

[1:30:51] I I don't think I can add anything to that assist.

[1:30:55] We hope for the best in and maybe that's something to pursue politically and in terms of our own country is a.

An actual law regarding the chain of command when it comes to nuclear launch and making making sure that it involves multiple people.

That means something we we just we were right like you said right now it's all about who's behind the desk and we know who's buying the fucking desk right now but.

[1:31:21] Could we pursue something that could get elected the War Powers Resolution but in. Nuclear kind of situation I'm not sure if that makes sense or not but it does to final points World almost ended twice during the Cold War, 2 times it didn't when it came really close.

1962 and 1983 I was born 1983 both times are Russian Colonel or, a Russian naval officer with your feeling rank of Lieutenant Colonel save the world, all those evil Russians right to the most responsible decisions made in the history of, planet Earth and the human race were made by Russian bureaucrats write Russian mid-level officers 1962 executive officer of the submarine in the Mediterranean ignored it's incorrect belief.

Now they've been ordered to fire nuclear weapons on the United States, executive officer with submarine and every Crimson Tide ask scenario for those who like 90s Denzel Washington Gene Hackman movies a commander commander I don't know they call them in the Russian Navy whatever.

[1:32:39] 1983 during the Able Archer exercises in Europe which were NATO exercises designed

to prepare for all-out war in Western Europe to include nuclear war, those exercises which were so realistic that they convinced.

The Russians that America was planning for a nuclear First Strike those exercises are going on and then sure enough lieutenant colonel in the Russian army.

Who is monitoring like I guess a radar system gets a false positive that, numerous US nuclear missiles are heading for Russia and instead of following protocol and alerting.

The chain of command which would have been released an equal number of Soviet missiles he decides to wait.

Because you can't believe America really do this he thinks it must be a mistake he's not ready to end the world on his decision on his reading of the situation weight against orders against protocol.

Just long enough to find out that it was a glitch Russian Lieutenant Colonel save the world.

[1:33:46] And he was saying by his superiors with a reprimand and the essential end of his career.

For not following protocol so final answer to the second question of Josh is.

I'm terrified of the American system of utilizing nuclear power I am terrified of accidental nuclear warfare and specifically terrified of it terrified of Israel and Pakistan being responsible and just for fun I want to.

[1:34:13] Poor Americans to remember that we've come pretty close to the world ending twice and on at least two of those occasions that are public it was a Russian mid-level bureaucrat who saved the world.

Dion's.

[1:34:28] Okay we have one last question today from Henry Zmuda there's been a lot of chatter on the possibility of NBS being forced to abdicate from Power, I believe that's only possible with Saudi Arabia falls short of its economic goals and the standard of living lowers for the average Saudi.

If NBS is a frosted what does the new Saudi regime look like is it possible we see a situation like the Arabian Revolution where the religious authorities completely dominate site policy.

[1:35:05] Don't forget that.

I don't know a lot of is so much of things in the Middle East is about appearance, and so if anyone were to do something they would have to consider how it would look from the outside and MBS has become something of a celebrity and are among our full resistance culture.

People don't really look into exactly how horrifying they are you know I don't know what that I don't know what that would look like.

But again as far as far as I can tell even with ordering Jamal khashoggi is death as horrifying as it was it was.

Somehow in the interests of Saudi Arabia and so, unless there's a sizable portion that is willing to fight against that and understanding of the religious authorities act in that country how hard that would be I would I would doubt that anybody they would, have any actual chance of ousting him yeah this is a tough question but it actually.

[1:36:10] For the Z or you know for the listener who brought the question in to really astute question that demonstrates, pretty strong knowledge of Saudi Arabia's internal Dynamics and so I applaud you for that I

don't pretend to be an expert on Saudi Arabia but like everything else I dabble because I am and if I could somehow monetize all the knowledge that I will die but.

[1:36:39] I don't think I'm a DS is going anywhere.

But I agree that if the Roar of the Saudi royal family okay if the AL Saud Dynasty Falls, which is why I think it would take from you has to go I could be wrong if family could help them don't think it's likely but hit it I do agree that if the al-saud family Falls of the dynasty Falls it will probably do that,

why do I say that because Saudi Arabia exist.

Only through a Faustian bargain k a very fascinating alliance between wahhabi clerics.

Call it official Isis seriously wahhabi islamist clerics.

And the outside royal family they made an alliance back in the 1700s.

Negotiated Alliance in the 1920s in the aftermath of World War I like this you the Kings the al-saud.

Provide stability and security at home and economic.

[1:37:49] Well to such an extent that you provide almost perfect social welfare programs right so you subsidize the people of Saudi Arabia with your well.

If you do that if you do that and provide security we will give you the religious backing and the religious legitimacy that you need in order to rule the people of Arabia that was the deal.

And it worked so long as oil has been the number one right mover of the global economy.

Okay and so long as oil prices ever made high enough and Saudi Arabia's maintain enough of a.

Portion of the global oil market to continue that but what we're seeing now is a changing Dynamic eventually where fossil fuels aren't what they used to be and we're even already due to expansion in places like the United States there fracking,

Global oil prices are dropping and Saudi Arabia which is very wealthy country is actually.

It mean it is blowing through its reserves as we speak and.

It will run out of Reserve to it it will run out if it's many many billions or trillions of dollars is it will happen especially when they fight sense of wars that it will never be one like in Yemen.

[1:39:14] So I do agree that it,

if the system Falls early because of Economics because that's what drives the large Global internal Uprising usually,

okay now second part of the question was also really a student he says if it happens could we see in a rain in style Revolution where the theocrats take over and I think the answer to that is yes.

This is where it gets complicated MBs is a monster I fucking hate the guy and wish you were gone and wish you never were born.

[1:39:47] But what comes after MBs is not necessarily better.

[1:39:55] If the outside Dynasty Falls it is possible that an increasingly radicalized islamist group.

[1:40:07] Actually does have some sort of internal Revolution and takes power like now we're talkin like wahhabi Isis in Arabia that that that's possible dangerous so,

you know,

the sounding alliance with America that ultimate ultimate Faustian bargain of fucking all time between FDR who I otherwise respect and,

king of Saudi Arabia back in 1945.

That bargain I found a bargain was like way more nefarious than you can give it credit for okay because we've Empower these like Royal monsters who.
Look some of them are religious but some of them fucking been in Vegas spending money and on hookers and blow some of them being on their yachts in the south of France paying prostitutes bright like a lot of these,
Saudi royals are friends so islamist in their personal life,
don't be mistaken there is an undercurrent shit it's a,
it's not even an undercurrent of massive extreme islamism on the side of people came on the people Arabia so what comes after.

[1:41:27] MBs is not likely to be liberal democracy everyone wants to be a Arabian,
deep down there just an American waiting to get out fuck that what comes after MBS it probably is worse at least in the short-term.

[1:41:45] That was a lot of history that I did not know I need to go to the library,
yeah if you ever really want to have no social life just pick up my reading list and you'll be you'll be set dude if you want to know like if you want to like not have successful relationships with women just start reading way I do.

[1:42:03] Yeah I got I got to do books on tape these days but it's so yeah so much I can't ever end the amount of History 2 to connect everything you know.

[1:42:15] Soul of finished up with Patron questions I had one last little thing that I wanted to talk about before the end of the season.
And it was a comment that was made,
a fellow that follows the podcast on Facebook Bob Patterson shared an article that I had shared on the page for the LA Times by Andrew basevic about the war in Afghanistan is in a quote stalemate,
the US has lost and Bob has the caption and it reads stalemate is a nice way of saying failure.
Which Bob I agree with you then there was a couple just kind of question comments and then there was this.
One of them I'm not going to share the the gentleman's name but I I read this and it made me so angry but it's so.
If it's the dynamic of the apathy and apologies that Americans give for the military.

[1:43:21] Bob you know I love you man but please be more considerate when posting things like this maybe the political objectives weren't mad or maybe they were but so labeled emission of failure weather meaning to or not.
Only stings the elected officials for a nanosecond and time well it labels are troops for a lifetime.
This was the exact thing to ostracize the Vietnam vets,
unless that was your intent please refrain and tell others to refrain from targeting the mission which labels the veterans,
instead if you want to attack politicians named them and the specific policy first in the post and then end with a message of support for the troops.

[1:44:05] I don't know if I've ever heard of more sycophantic piece of bullshit in my entire life.
I am almost upset that.

[1:44:22] We even have to deal with this but we do because it's it's a it's a serious line of thinking among significant segment of the population.

[1:44:35] Jamil tourneys honesty and it deserves it the military requires accountability. Responsibility for the messages that fails at saying that the war in Afghanistan is lost. Is a factual statement, it's not it's not an emotional statement it's not it's not an indictment of people for joining the military is not an indictment of the service and sacrifice of those people it's a reality.

And it's one that Afghan War veterans going to sells pretty fucking used to all right I include myself in that.

If we're not willing to Grapple with the truth the hard truths of political and Military failure in a place like Afghanistan.

Pessimistic Danny thinks we're going to repeat it anyway and pessimistic Danny thinks that this kind of thinking whatever this guy's name is responding to Bob.

[1:45:36] No matter how much you and I yell about this and I would have how many books do you read and how many podcast we do his way of thinking.

Coordinate bassinet and is probably going went out just like it didn't forget not we're going to eat all that to decry the mission is also to decry the troops, and that therefore it's not okay to descend.

And that's how they're going to shut us down that's how you squelch mean for criticism that's how you supposed to send you.

[1:46:06] Go back to the Troops and you say you can't can't say anything bad about the mission you might make the you might make the troops add in adults,

right like suddenly we we can't hurt the feelings of the veterans,

Google we're going to walk on roads that might be filled with bombs engaged in firefighters who lost their land look we're big boys and we're big girls when they have to deal with the fact that we lost the war in Afghanistan

we didn't lose it ourselves we were given an unwinnable Mission and we make mistakes long way no doubt.

Fact that we didn't accomplish our mission is not something we should hide it something that we should absolutely put light on that fat so that we can avoid it the next time that's not an oversimplification it's it's a real,

what will learn something from there the Afghan war if we don't learn look everywhere is different but if we don't learn to look for the signs of a quagmire in the making.

God help us, help us in the next decade of the Forever War.

[1:47:08] So there's there's one more element of this that I haven't included yet and I just mainly cuz I forgot I did that.

Plan included later in the discussion but this guy that the gentleman who left this comment is a veteran.

He served in the Navy as a submarine officer in I think the 80s and 90s and that was one of the biggest reasons why I wanted us to talk about it is that.

Among the veteran Community we do bludgeon ourselves with whose whose narrative is right.

And he represents a big portion of that people who has most most people have ever served in the military Danny they haven't fought in combat,

absolutely her prior to the war on terror or Wars didn't last long enough that it would have made any sense and even these days we since so few people how would we have anymore.

But it's about those kind of veterans that non-combat guys who,

have a sense of what was going through but they didn't go through it themselves and so they take that protective protection that they want to give two other veterans and they bludgeon

People Like Us with it.

[1:48:20] And that is that is the most severe since I see here yeah I sent to the grievance Security in that comment totally agree.

I do I mean I don't know the man.

I don't know the background you gave me but I sense a level of Defense of mess and ultimately insecurity in the statement I think that.

A truly mature,

Viewpoint would be willing to Grapple with hard truths in inconvenient facts and I think that that's what we try to do everyday in perfectly though we met.

Imperfectly informed that we may be.

I think that to our credit at least two and a horn here for a second we attempt to Grapple with the uncomfortable truths and move forward with a clear view of reality, as best that it can be said to exist absolutely.

[1:49:20] Are you going to say.

What an episode I got a lot out there.

Satellite and I'll say it again.

[1:49:42] The worst things are for the world the better they are for Fordyce on a hill.

[1:49:50] If we didn't have any material and we went off the air for a few months but you don't have any material that would mean things were going pretty damn good.

I'd be happy for the world nothing better summarizes 2018 than the madness.

[1:50:17] Did you lose me I did for just a second story I'm sorry I don't know that was about an incoming call came in a declined it right away but I think yeah I know I.

[1:50:31] I'm think I'm thankful for you and I getting to do this because in addition to.

Trying to inform people you know that the the process and the learning and history there was so much about our country that I didn't know,

before this last year and the saddest part is that is that most of it I would say I was ashamed to war but like you just mentioned that is the hard choice,

that is the choice of we're going to look at this with a clear lens.

[1:51:04] Try not to or not establishing blame which is figure out what the basic facts are.

[1:51:39] Sorry about that metric dry mouth at exactly the wrong moment for culminating, am I enough for everybody listening I hope that fortress on a hill has been a benefit to you guys.

I know that I've learned a shit ton by doing it and I plan to keep doing it for as long as we possibly can and please you know I love hearing from you guys.

You have questions comments concerns which describes moans complaints is an old for sergeant of mine used to say,

anything that you want to share and then please you know we're not we're not afraid to take her outside opinions there are times where,

I know for me that I ate it depends on who you pick up it depends on who you were reading as to how their slanted history went and so if it's a subject I haven't come across yet.

[1:52:34] You know I may have some new things to learn about it absolutely I mean you saw the way he answered the Chomsky question today we're okay with

critical opinion on we like it we like to think that were open-minded enough to deal with it you know I spent the holiday with my father and if I can get through political conversations with his Trump supporting Fox News, I've been judging self and then I think I can handle criticism from anybody cuz, cuz that's hard sometimes especially when you love somebody I'm thankful for our listeners are supporters especially our patreon, members I hope that you recommend the show to a friends and fellow podcast into zist and we're going to try to do an even better. Job next year we're going to try to have, ever more interesting topics ever more organization ever more contributors potentially and I'm definitely more great interview so thanks for everything you guys do this is impossible. Just say thank you thank you everybody listens hope you guys have a good New Year and will be back in January, Jeff will be back in January assuming the Earth is still inhabitable thanks take care.