

Chelsea Manning and Julian Assange Ep 40

00:00:00 - 00:05:04

I'm Henri. This is Fortress on a Hill. Thank you for joining us. For those who to the podcast: BT, Danny and I are three leftists combat veterans who take the military and veteran's stories of the day and provide some much-needed historical context and examination.

The United States Supreme court as recently ruled that the families of the victims of the USS Cole bombing cannot sue foreign governments involved with providing support to the terrorists who did it the Trump administration. Even back the decision as if this decision had gone, the other way, the deaths and injuries our government has caused through foreign intervention would also potentially able to be held civilly liable a quote from Reuters quote in eight to one decision the justices overturned, a lower court's decision that allowed the sailors to collect the damages from certain certain banks that held sedans assets, the decision represents a major victory for Sudan was signifies that it didn't provide any support to the Qaeda militant group for the attack in Yemen. A lower court had Levy damages by default because sedan did not defend itself against allegations. Have provided support of the Islamist Islamist. Militant group fifteen of the injured sailors and three of their spouses sued the government of Sudan in two thousand ten in Washington. At issue was whether mailing the lawsuit. To sedans embassy violated the foreign sovereign immunities act, a US law governing win foreign governments may be sued in American courts. The Trump administration had told the justices that a ruling against Sudan could impact how the US government is treated by foreign courts because the United States rejects judicial notices delivered to its embassies sailors in particular were highly critical of the administration's position quote get particularly given this is particularly given this administration's solicitude for veterans its decisions his side with a state sponsor of terrorism against men and women who are seeking to recover from grievous injuries suffered. In the service of our country is inexplicable and distressing and quote. So the United States is not acknowledged the existence of the international criminal court, but more than that I want everybody to think about what this tells our men and women uniform, not only are we telling them that we will not acknowledge harm them. We will prevent other governments from doing the same. If there's a chance that America could be blamed this is the America. First Trump wants to build quote, an America that does exactly what the fuck it wants. And I'm not trying to pick on Trump here. Plenty of other presidents political leaders have marginalized US troops lives in the same way. George W Bush, for example, was willing to cut the VA's budget in the final eighteen months of his presidency. Right. When US veterans at the height of the Iraq war needed that care, the most this also connects to the idea that idea about the department of defense, refusing to knowledge moral injury, while the department of veterans affairs does. Zig knowledge, it this is a real spot a fucking American cognitive dissidents that needs to be fixed. Even if you a citizens choose to live in a warmonger esque nation, the responsibility to seek Justice on behalf of those you say fight for your freedom should always be a priority. I'm really really glad that you brought up the international criminal court. I'll tell you. Why? Written about it briefly in the past. And I've always found it in normally hypocritical that the United States would be the first one to trumpet,

human rights and American values as like somehow equivalency human rights cross the world and then. At the same time. Say we can't be beholden to the same rules as everybody else at the international criminal court because God forbid one of our soldiers or one of our politicians who fights illegal war. Thank all, the people in the Bush administration might be indicted and held accountable for their actions.

00:05:05 - 00:10:04

And you know, what America Washington traum Bush, even Obama? You can't have it both ways either you believe in international criminal law international, even rights law or you do not. And the fact that there are a lot of countries we shot onto the ICC who are pretty various characters. Right. And and so I'm not saying signing up for the IC is in a self enough. You know, it's not it's not in and of itself enough, but it's indicative of our hypocrisy. You know? On doubtedly, indicative Baucus. And when it comes to the coal when it comes to nine eleven, right. 'cause there were similar lawsuits. Right. Whether it was this question of whether Saudi Arabia could be held accountable in the case of nine eleven right. Which of course, they ought to be one would assume fifteen at a nineteen hijackers from the Saudis there some. You know, shady dealings between certain princes and financial figures and Saudi Arabia and some of these some of these terrorists nine eleven hijackers specifically, and it's amazing. How quick the United States will run to the defense of certain people specifically the Saudis Israelis the Egyptians. It's like they could do wrong because they're American get ready for quote on quote partners. I love that word. I love partners. It's better than allies. I want someone to explain to me like the the spectrum of words, there's like allies adversaries, you know, rogue states, and then there's partners in his apartment ally. Or as part of worse more. I don't know we defend these people right against international criminal law. Right. So Israel has been denounced by UN resolution after UN resolution, and we say, no, we'd it, you know, we're not gonna enforce it. We're not gonna let the world and force it because we're we're still the big kid on the block, right, especially when it comes to the military and the expeditionary. Sure of our military in the interventionist nature of our military and militarism. But yeah, I mean, this this is a big issue. The United States will never regain its credibility on quote, the Arab street or more likely just the global street at this point unless some of this policy is tempered back because of right now, I'm sometimes a little internationally embarrassed about my government stuff. I'm embarrassed of my country per se. I mean, I'm still on the fence about that. I mean, I'm proud of certain aspects of our country and certain people in our country Grohl evil, but U S government, Washington policymaker actions there internationally embarrassing. There's a reason why Americans are just Hillary across the world. Yeah. That's great. That was a good one. All right. So next. I wanna talk a little bit about Iran. The good old Islamic Republic of Iran, and you know, some people have called me in Iran apologised. I think more likely I'm just not I'm just not an Iran Phob. Right. And in this day and age even even questioning things from an Iranian perspective. Even even admitting that they have a right. You know to to have some regional influence or their own their own national interests, national needs is like to be considered like pro Iran pro Russia, because I defend certain, you know, not defend Russians. I defend taunt with Russia defend the

notion that we should be working together to try to defuse tensions that makes me pro Russia. Right. But like those article in the American served by Scott Ritter. Pretty good article. It's called America just declared war. On Iran, and nobody blinked it's pretty provocative title. Of course. It's the American conservative, and it's not at New York Times. Right. So not enough. People are gonna read it, even though it's a great, great news outlet. What he's referring to is. The fact that now for the first time the Trump administration has decided to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guards corps, the I R G C, which is an actual part of their their army and their government. They've been designated as a foreign terrorist organization, which F T O under section two nineteen of the immigration 'nationality after right? So this was an ounce ace, and it takes a fact on April fifteenth. So it's already taken effect as yesterday because we're recording the sixty right? Trump said this designation will be the first time that the United States has ever named a part of another government as an F T O. This sends a clear message to Theron Datta the important part of that is this action. Right. We'll. Be the first time ever that the United States saying to part of another government as a foreign terrorist organization.

00:10:04 - 00:15:02

That means we never doesn't ended the KGB for example, during the Cold War as far doesn't terrorist organization? Right. You know, we never declared the Iraqi army under Saddam Hussein's be a foreign relations. So this is a big deal. And and I don't love everything about the see specifically their cuts force which supports various proxy forces around the Middle East from Yemen to all those over estimated in Yemen, but has blah in in in Lebanon, and you know, fights for Assad in Syria. This is is a really really big deal. I don't know for a fact that I agree with Scott Ritter that it's a declaration of war or that it will actually inevitably lead to military intervention, right or shooting war between us in Iran. What I do know is it's a big deal, and it's a big step in that direction. And. With John Bolton as national screwed adviser and good old Mike von pay was secretary of state two of the most historic intense Iran photos in American government history. The fact that they're in such prominent positions in foreign policy. Does scare me because this decision linked with these lunatics running our foreign policy is very scary. Now think about how big of a deal is just I'm not the guy who thinks that Trump is such an anomaly or that we have to always be at the Trump or the Trump has changed the game. I tend to think the American empire has really been just flowing along between all kinds of different administrations. And in that sense, Trump is more a reflection of our time than personally an anomaly now, of course, his personality is very an armless. But during two thousand the for like two thousand four through at least two thousand and eleven right. Second. Half of the Iraq, and occupation. The IRA g C was supporting Iraqi Shiite militias like the Mahdi army. Right. And they were using what we're called explosively formed penetrators EFT's there were very sophisticated homemade ID that could actually Pierce our tanks and turned our hobbies and Swiss cheese, and they responsible for maybe a thousand American soldiers debts, right by most estimates over those years, even at the height of that collusion between the sea and the Shia militias, George W Bush, not exactly a dove. Right. Not exactly a liberal was. He never took the step of designating an actual part of Iran's army. The of of the garment artists is

terrorist organizations because he understood that it's only a symbolic move. But the only thing it does escalate tensions and now to a bomb it his credit, actually, not only escalated in Iraq. Finally, although he went back in due to those long state, but sign this. Iran nuclear deal. Right. The joint a comprehensive program, right JCP. Oh. And he did it did it did have the effect of lessening sometimes overall. It's not perfect was never perfect deal. There's things a perfect deal. But this is a flagrant poke in the eye at a Ron someone has to explain to me how this man thinks about foreign Paul's what only about that. Well. Every few months, he gets us Twitter machine. Al right, probably on the toilet. And he says something utterly fucking earthy and commonsensical like I just made that word he'll say like we need to get out of Syria. Now right now, you don't do anything about it. But says we should these right or say US defense budgets control. He didn't do anything about it. He increases them right ever says that oral say we shouldn't still be in Iraq. It's dumb war. You know, we shouldn't be in Afghanistan with waste of time. I instigated philosophy so reasonable shit. I don't know where it comes from. I don't know if it's actual thing or his heart or he's has threats. I don't know what it is that makes him reverie once in a while reasonable, but he does. But then at the same time, he's like, no more dumb wars. But I'm gonna threaten Venezuela with military intervention. What no more dome wars, but I'm going to escalate tension with Iran the fuck, right? There's no consistency is my point or or like, he'll he'll form. He'll he'll be willing to have the talk. Russia and North Korea nuclear arms, but he's not willing to improve relations and lessen tensions with Iran, which doesn't have nuclear weapons yet. Right. And isn't able to do it for decent breakout period. Right. And all the other Europeans are still in the deal right in the nuclear deal. So look keep your eye on Iran. You know, you've heard me say don't sleep on Pakistan, look listeners, don't sleep on Iran. There is nothing in the world that the neo-con holdovers like Pompeo and Bolton and there's nothing in the world that the assistant president the United States Benjamin Netanyahu.

00:15:02 - 00:20:04

Yeah. Yeah. You heard that? Right. There is nothing that Yahoo. Wants more than that the Israeli, right? Wants more than an American invasion or attack or bloody nose attack on Iran. Right. Israel would love American blood to be shed for as Rayleigh right wing policy in Iran. So look this conglomeration of of crazy could very well lead. To warn Ron, especially if the tail starts wagging the dog, right? If prove levels for president go down a little too far Bill Clinton knew this to drop a few bombs on a new country. Wave the flag a little bit, right? Have eagles flying across the screen on Fox News war with Iran. Right. It's a good way to get the presidential numbers out because you know, war presidents. They always get a bump. Right because we're fucking second ahead as Americans. So we actually give a bump to the president or starts, right or is willing to put out four. So look bottom line on this decision to designate the and I'm no fan of the see some of the things they do around in areas, but the decision to designate an actual part of foreign government as a foreign terrorist organization. It is it is a big deal. It is extraordinarily rare. And it is divisive and going to increase tensions with a country. We don't need and don't want to fight or at least we shouldn't want to fight because I will tell you. We will win the first engagements, but it'll be ugly. It'll be a forever occupation. We're gonna get a little

bit more of a bloody nose when their missiles start hitting our ships than we think we are. And you know, what what if we learned over the last eighteen years? What should we have learned foreigners matter who they are? They don't like being occupied by Americans or anybody else for that matter, and they may well rally around their own flag rally around their own government matter how awful the government is in order to expel the invader. If we haven't learned the lesson that the efficacy of military intervention, specifically military occupation on the ground is questionable. Then no one is paying attention. This scares me fucking Bolton scares me. Fucking Pompeo scares me Trump. I don't understand him. I don't know how his mind works. This is a big deal guys. Danny could you? Can you elaborate a little bit on the use of the word terrorism as it pertains to us like the I know that that part of Bush's pushing rock talked about, you know, we're we're gonna go meet terrorists wherever they are and everything, but we didn't look at them as any portion of the Iraqi military, and so you know, that discrepancy between terrorists and official military, which of course, here were were entirely marrying the two. How should we look at this in terms of the abuse of the word terrier? Yeah. It's a good point. You know that? That I don't like the word anymore. I mean in speech after speech, I always put terrorism in air quotes, like an idiot and lost all meaning it's state. It's lost. All meaning, you know, if everyone America fight terrorist, despite the great, Asians and the nuance between the different groups we fight then the entire word used loses. All meaning. So okay another words. The I R G C is a terrorist organization. According to this presumably because they train and supply sometimes fight alongside proxy groups in the Middle East that we don't like, well, then is Saudi Arabia's government terrorist because they terror bomb Yemeni civilians from the sky, right? What's worse hitting a school bus full of a few classes kids or a suicide bomber killing kids on an Israeli bus. Is there a difference? Is there a difference? Whether a Palestinian suicide vests does it or whether a sophisticated plane built in America. Does it to me the death is death terrorist her right? So it's it's lost. All meaning because we're not consistent. And also, the I R J C is terrorists, then the Saudi intelligence services should be terrorist too. Because we know that they supported Al newsra, which was Kedah in Syria just like three years ago. So if terrorists just needs, and I fear, it does anyone that our government doesn't like then it's useless word, especially when we have government now even mystery now, this is a little unique that isn't really willing to use the word terrorist when there's a mass shooting or a right wing. American domestically shoots up school. Right. We barely. We don't wanna use. No, he's he's misguided. He's crazy righties mentally ill. So look. Either apply a consistent f into the word terrorist or drop it from the lingo, quite frankly. It's I think it's got it's time to go. It's it's worn out. Its welcome is worn out its use. And yeah, I think this is an utterly who've only say one last thing about this article.

00:20:04 - 00:25:02

Right. Who do you think was most happy about this decision? I'll tell you the assistant president of the United States Benjamin Netanyahu. He tweeted tweet is Trump. They're like blood brothers. He tweeted the following. Thank you, my dear friend, President Donald Trump for deciding to declare the Iranian Revolutionary Guards corps as terrorist organization. Thank you

for answering. Another one of my main important requests, which serves the interests of our country and the countries of the region, dude, this motherfucker Netanyahu. He don't play. He don't even like code words anymore. He's like, hey, thanks for doing something. That's in our interests we need. That's what he said outright set. I mean. Who is who's in charge of who here is the United States government under the control of of a of a right wing extremist government halfway across the world in Israel. I'm not a big tear. I'm not a big conspiracy theory guy, but I'll tell you it's getting really really hard. Not to think the Netanyahu is is the director of the marionette, which is which is Trump. It's ugly. It's scary. And town you keep your eye on Iran. Don't sleep on our on because we are capable of another stupid war. If we haven't proven that then you're not paying attention. Oh god. Yes. And like you mentioned earlier that we the military the politicians in the US we've gotten so used to Dismore war. The the counterinsurgency bullshit that people easily forget, you know, like you said missiles hitting ships in the Gulf. It will not be a low casualty count. It will not be four thousand American troop dead war it and people need to re wrap their minds around that. Yes. Absolutely no worth around necessary. No worth Ron would turn out. Well, gay just like Russia doesn't need to happen. And it wouldn't end. Well, doesn't mean we lose wouldn't win. Sometimes not winning is the same as losing. The guys that I love doing the podcast being able to share our experiences in the military with allies and supporters means the world to us. But we can't do it. All we need you to share an episode of ours with somebody anyone who you might think could be affected by it. Young people looking to join the military or parents advocating for one conscientious citizens who care about the violence, the US wages in their name advocates for women and people of color who understand the harsh environment, the military crates for minorities and the violence inflicted by some of those minorities around the globe. And anyone else you think it might affect please share this with them. But sharing our episodes. Just one of the many ways, you can support the podcast. In addition. There's patriotic where we're blessed to have an array of wonderful supporters, helping BT Danny and I pay for some of the podcasts expenses those who contribute. Ten dollars a month or more. We mentioned here as an honorary producer helping keep you our listeners stocked with new opposites, but you don't have to contribute. Ten dollars a month to help us for as little as a dollar a month. You can help keep us going paying for hosting and storage fees. Transcribing old new episodes promoting and expanding the podcast and more. I'm sure I can't think of right now. So let's bring out our honor producers, and they are Matthew ho will our ins gauge counts. Fahim Chirazi Henry's Emoto, James Higgins, James Ovar, Adam bellows, and Eric Phillips your. Contributions are so helpful to us. Thank you, all so much. However, if patriot is your style, you can contribute directly to us through pay pal at pay Pell dot me for slash fortress on a hill. Let's get back to the podcast. Absolutely. So we haven't had a chance yet to talk about Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange, and I think it's really important that we touch on that a little bit especially about about Chelsea Manning. So for those just coming into the story, a Chelsea formerly known as as Bradley Manning is a former US army until analyst who provided classified information to WikiLeaks on a large number of State Department, cables and.

00:25:03 - 00:30:09

The what are called now the Iraq and Afghanistan warlocks now these disclosures, which famously came through with WikiLeaks exposed the US military treatment of unarmed civilians, most famously in my mind that included a video from an Apache helicopter, which showed the pilot killing two on armed Reuters. Journalists whom the pilots were insurgents now certainly that wasn't the only revelation and not the biggest revelation, but it is one of the most visible ones since the fifth of March Manning has been held without bail for refusing to testify in a grand jury proceeding involving a newly unsealed indictment against Julian Assange and WikiLeaks, and it's not clear right now if he will indeed be extradited to the US face charges with being involved with a quote here, a non-state hostile intelligence service. There's another useless terrorism. Danny. The Justice department believes that Assange did not simply accept the Iraq war logs for Manning. But instead assisted in breaking password for the secure system used by interests which allowed Manning to access portions of the SuperNet. That's what we would call the secure system that the military uses to catalog intelligence and before we started this morning. I texted my friend Kagan who's been on the podcast before he's a former analyst. And I wanted to know get some thoughts from him on on on what he thought about this and. Kagan said, you know, I don't know if I could have done what she did. Because it's a brave act that is closing classified information knowing the consequences. She's chosen it's really courageous path. Not allowing the government to intimidate her into giving up her contact with WikiLeaks. Honestly, it looks as if no deaths were indeed caused by the release of info, and she did expose a ton of embarrassing stuff for the US government. I'm sure they're going to try and charge us on with releasing all the info WikiLeaks has ever received. So then we come to Julian Assange, and I personally consider Julian Assange to be a journalist that is that is essentially what he does is. It's not always there's not always positive stuff with him. But overall, that's what what's going on there. The information he assisted in brokering didn't originate with him. No different than an American base. Reporter who has a source of some kind the idea that our government should prosecute him for exposing their own excess violence and failure to protect civilians in warzone. It's just fucking dumbfounded to me, but more than that. And Danny I'm sure you'll have a lot to say about this is the idea that by our government prosecuting Mr Assange, it will open the door for other journalists to be prosecuted in the same way possibly over much less valuable information where he'd been talking a little bit about Trump today. We're all familiar with his antics. Do we believe that if it suddenly somehow becomes legal, and I'm using legal here in its loosest? Definition if it somehow becomes legal to go after journalists based on who their sources are or sources. They may have been connected to in the past. It will be the complete end of freedom of the press in our country. Reporters must now decide what they value more their freedom or their professional integrity. The password situation as far as whether or not Assange actually help with the password or just received the Iraq war logs. It does change the calculus little bit as I'm hoping is not hoping I'm guessing this is hoping they can wait Manning out. She is able to be held by the grand jury for minimum eighteen months, and that time can be doubled if requested by judge I believe if I were Chelsea Manning the moment, I was released I would leave the United States. I realized that would be a really hard pill to swallow, but we we saw what happened with Edward Snowden. And my concern is that she'll never have any peace as long as these kind of proceedings can put her back in

confinement. If you've read about Manning's story than you know, that she's already been through years of horrifying treatment at the hands of our federal prison system. And thank thank goodness for her that her sentence was commuted by by President Obama. Both Chelsea Julian are being prosecuted for barris, shaming the United States. And you know, what I'm fucking proud of Mr Assange was locked in the embassy for what like six seven years, he essentially had become a prisoner of theirs with the last time that even took his internet access. And if I remember quickly Chelsea ended up spending seven years in pro federal prison before before it got commuted. So think about this folks think about understanding how this could be the end of freedom of the press in our country about the kinds of stories, and like I mentioned lesser stories things that are not nearly as important as this being used to jail coerce manipulate journalists in all kinds of horrifying ways.

00:30:12 - 00:35:09

You know, I agree with you that this is this is a serious serious attack on journalism. Saying that does not mean you have to like Julian Assange personally, doesn't mean after everything he reports it just means that he's a conduit to some extent of information, which is journalistic in nature and this country of ours is at war with whistle blowers. And scariest part about it is that. It's not just the government. That's at war was blowers. Divas government has always been was lowers. Right. Pentagon papers Ellsberg, you know, under the bus. We break into psychiatrist's office cetera et cetera. We, you know, slam his name, right. We throw sludge at his reputation before that, you know, you got guys like Eugene Debs who's like sense federal prison for protesting peacefully. Right. Giving a peaceful speech against the traffic. We have a long history of fighting whistle blowers. And the government is look governments are inherently adversarial towards whistle blowers. Okay. They're they're they're they're scared of journalism, even though freedom of the press is concentrated in our constitution. The reality is that the nature of government is to accumulate more power and have less checks on that tower. So yeah, of course, the government would be against blowers. But we're at a time now where the people of America the majority of the population has. No, sympathy fingers. Like, why has there been more support for Edward Snowden more support for Chelsea Manning's more support for the Iraq war logs, right in the leaks? It's amazing. This is not a good time in Bob share from the LA times runs truth dig, and who had me out in LA for we did a podcast about this. And he kept saying over and over. This is not a good time. It was lower. Right. And because it's not a good time to whistle blower. You gotta worry there won't be more. Right. You said that you think that Chelsea Manning, maybe she should leave the United States gets out. And I agree with you. If I was her I'll put so much so many miles between me in this godforsaken government as I could. That's what I would do. That is scary because if there's no place in our society for whistle blowers anymore, if whistle blowers don't feel that they could even continue to live in the country of their birth. Just because they decided to blow the whistle on sort of illegal or immoral policy than our country sick on the inside and shame on the left. Shame on the mainstream left for not coming to defense at least partially come to the defense of these people. Shame on the left. That's cowardly. You know, sometimes I just wonder do even have an opposition in this country

anymore. I mean, really do we even really all we have is an anti-trump wing people who don't really like him as a person people who aren't too excited about his language. Like, do we have an anti-trump movement or we have true opposition? I don't think we have an opposition in this country. Now, I think the base of the Democratic Party is moving in a good direction. These specially to use people have caller, especially women. But the leadership the leadership of the Democratic Party, the leadership of the liberal media liberal in quotes. They will sell Snowden and sauna and manning right up the roads or chace, they get because they're so scared of being broad brushed with that anti-american slogan that the Republicans on the right are so willing to just throw on them. They're so scared of it that they overreact overcompensate one last thing about Chelsea Manning in the Iraq war logs. Right. So she released a little state farm files. Right. And then she released files thousands and millions of like reports from everyday soldiers reports that I sent like casualty reports that I sent up were in those WikiLeaks files, and the reason I know that because when I was writing my book on Iraq. I found radio transmissions that were transcribed from, you know, black Knight white one to, you know, destroy your talk. So I was black. I light one right? So it was really bizarre to read because it was like knee like reporting kassy's, my in my platoon, and actually I was able to build the narrative of like. Some of the firefighters. And like, I strikes that I was in by using the illegal, I guess 'cause government and like him, but they made in it's my book and no one cared no-one enough tension is what happened I use the the timelines and stuff to be accurate because you know, he's like Friel time. I I person- primary sources, but what those logs told us and why I think Chelsea Manning did a service to the United States, the people of the United States is it demonstrated that our generals and our national security civilian administration on George W Bush had been lying to the American people.

00:35:09 - 00:40:03

What were they lying about all tell you? This is in my book as well. During two thousand six two thousand seven especially two thousand six the Iraqi people because of the chaos that we kind of provoked in the country. They went to wars each other SUNY verse goddamn Shia, and it was a fucking ethnic cleansing campaign. The only way to call it. The only thing call maybe half a million dead bodies in the streets. Every morning that we would pick up and report to the police, right? We report the numbers of bodies found to our sponsor talk was something we counted. We counted this. We were told to counties right at the same time that there's undoubtedly right? A civil war being fought in Iraq. You've got every official enjoy he goes ministration including Don Rumsfeld. You got the generals in charge of the war. Probably coach to say this by the way, by the Bush administration guys like George Casey, right four star generals, saying all the public affairs officers telling the media talking press conferences, saying no, we're not using the word civil war. There is no civil war. No, it's not a civil war in Iraq. And the WikiLeaks files show that they were lying because junior officers and mid level officers on the ground had been decrying. What was happening as? A war for years, and your government lied to you your military that you so agitate your generals that you so fond over they lie to you. And they're still lying. You guys. They're still lying to you. And you know, what Chelsea

Manning? Thank you for that. Thank you for the vindication of an officer who knew they were lying and was so frustrated by watching the death and destruction in those streets everyday knowing that the American government in the American military was responsible for unleashing that violence. Knowing that seeing that and having to listen to four star fucking generals light American people. Thank you Chelsea Manning for bringing that out. Absolutely, absolutely. I noticed one little thing that I did I didn't know beforehand about the rock were logs in it. It mentioned that I don't know if this was the entirety of Iraq were just portions of it. But generally speaking, we formed out any death investigations of civilians to the Iraqi police, we didn't actually take our time and investigated ourselves to see what it was. And I'm sure that this that the trying to deny the fact of the civil war was definitely a part of that. Yeah. I. Stomaching stomaching knowing how much pain that we caused and I use we loosely that the US military caused there and that we wouldn't investigate. It is just so fucked up. It really really is. And I remember that. I mean, I remember what was important. What wasn't when I was a platoon leader in Iraq. And I was at the low level. It's not like, I was general, and yeah, but I was pretty little smart. Little guy writes more than your average bear pig attention. What was going on around me reading extensively, and it was apparent to me that American military deaths or attacks on the American military those awards reporting, right? Those are really important that we're going to be investigated heavily the insult people are looked into it. But it was very clear early on to me that the death of Iraqi civilian as long as we didn't cause it right? As long as we didn't directly cause it. I mean as long as I shoot them that was nothing particularly worried about. Yeah. They wanted us to report it it's still a cigarette act, but it wasn't the kind of cigarette, which is significant activities. These are vents that we report and makes the story board or or significant one page report on. Yeah. We would report them a cigar. Yeah. We'd count them. But very clear that that's not something that was going to get in front of the Colonel or the general that night, they were more interested in other things and the and the policy really was hand the bodies over to the Iraqi police, and let them figure it out the level of the lack of empathy there the level of like disassociation with what we had unleashed is really quite criminal. When you think about it? You know, it's just as criminals a lot looting happened in two thousand three and we didn't protect anything with the ministry of oil. You know, and we just let us go on we let this country tear itself apart. We'll guys if you invade a country international law says you are responsive responsible as the occupying power for the temporary. Provisions of law and order and basic services to the population. This is international law. This is Geneva conventions. And so in that sense, if massive civil war breaks out because you sorta these stabilize the country, it's your responsibility under international legal military, like law, right international, war, crimes law to stop it or to do your best to stop it. Or at least be honest about the fact that it's going on and think of ways that you can take action.

00:40:04 - 00:45:06

And now, I don't even know if we could have taken action, that's the truth. It was so bad that in defense of the generals. We didn't have the number of troops or the legitimacy that. I don't think I don't think the American army had even if we through the whole army Iraq. I don't know if we

could have stopped the killing. I just don't I don't know that we I think American military powers before limited than we think. So. Yeah. But at least we could've told the truth about it. At least we could have said, you know, what we fucked up shits bat over there. No. You don't wanna have that honest conversation. Instead, we denied that. There was a civil war and shame on them. Shame on all of them. And you know, what all those same people? They're making six and seven figure salaries eater and out of government today. They're the heads of corporate boards world. They gotta do show up once a week for their million dollars salary. They're still these people are still talking heads on CNN MSNBC. And of course, FOX, you know, the people lie to us. There's been no consequences for them. No consequences for them. But you know, there's been consequences for Chelsea Manning seven years in federal prison. One of the most stringent draconian sentences ever passed down against the whistle blower in you history. Thanks Obama, by the way. Okay. Let's not make this a partisan issue. Thanks obama. This is serious. If only the whistle blower faces consequences and not the liar or the deceiver who really as the power in American government. If only the whistle blower is punished. Guess what they'll be less of whistle blowers. It was. Horrifying and breathtaking. How quickly reality winners situation went that it, you know, from putting out a single single piece of paper that the American people should have had in the first place. And now she's serving what is it? I think like sixty three months for for doing that. And yeah, there is no there's no Shangri LA. There's there's no happy ending for any of those people. You know, we've gotten. I mean, like, there's people like Daniel Ellsberg who is now, you know, a a story person among the the antiwar left, but it, but even for him like you mentioned about, you know, as shrinks office getting broken into, you know, it could have gone very much different for him. He he was very fortunate. Yeah. It's just it's just horrifying. Absolutely. And you know, moving on to our next topic. And I chose this one to go next for a good reason, the Israeli elections and our friends assistant present United States Benjamin Netanyahu as I will call for no on. One of the reasons Jill I just called it in my own. I felt really good about it is really clever copyright that. Right. Has as if you'd ever hear that on mainstream media, right? Even on the left. So. Why is Julian Assange persona non grata with both conservative Americans who you expect it from because they hate all free speech and liberal Americans. Right. Who are fucking just vacuous and scared, right? Why is there a consensus that Julian Assange is so bad like he's perfect? I by the way, but why is he so bad? Well, he's a villain because allegedly right? According to the story of the mainstream last he was personally responsible for Hillary Clinton lose the election. Right that he was somehow personally responsible because he was colluding with Russia to release emails right to meddle in our elections. That's the story. Now looks like the Mola report doesn't tell that story. It looks as though there's been no they're there. Right. When it comes to Russia gay. Okay. I know my liberal friends are gonna fucking lose their shit when I say that and I've been predicting it's two. Ears that there's not going to be a lot of substance that Trump's administration to buffoonish to have the capacity or the intent will at least the capacity to fucking rigging election with fluke with with just not savvy enough. I knew this was going to happen. I just did. But if you believe the fairytale, then Assange is eve, I mean, he's the reason we got Trump. And if you believe Trump is that evil, if you believe he's singularly evil, and I can't stand the guy not willing to say, he's a singular she'll say he is. Than Assange is obviously the devil. But you don't know ever talks about Israeli meddling in our elections, which I would submit is far more overt and far more

nefarious than using the Russians. Netanyahu gave an anti Obama and by extension anti Democratic Party speech in front of a joint session of congress in the midst of an election year.

00:45:08 - 00:50:05

It's questionably legal, and it's undoubtedly unethical and against the spirit of free and fair elections for a foreign head of state to give an anti incumbent right anti-incumbent administration parties in front of our own congress. See any like fifty rounds of applause standing ovations. You know, what Chuck Schumer? What is one of the guys standing up and clapping saloon? Don't get so high and mighty liberals. Right. Okay. Because nancy. Yeah. See was clapping too. Right. And that is meddling that is over meddling mean he knew. Did he tell you what in his defense? The guy's got balls. The guy has fucking bowling ball sized balls. Okay. Fucking and its end the they're the color of the Israeli flat. That's okay. That's that's what his balls with like. Everyone's just make sure you got that image your head. He goes in front of the joint session of congress and fucking. Denigrates the sitting president and by extension his designated successor, Hillary Clinton, right? Why don't even like this was real meddling election? I digress. That's my transition. Well, what happened though? On Yahoo want again. Guys, been prime minister Israel for ten years. I think that makes them the second longest serving prime minister Israeli history. The guy is a right-wing nutjob. The guy is so anti-palestinian so extremist in his Israeli nationalism and his support for Israeli religious parties that wanna turn Israel with the AUSSIE right that he should be way off the charts of mainstream political discourse. But instead, he's a fucking celebrity in Israel. What does this tell us? This is all about Netanyahu. Sure, he's thrice indicted for corruption cases, three separate cases Suri's probably criminal as corrupt as Faulk. Sure. He's a fucking lunatic. That's not the real story. The real story is that Israel elected him again. That tells you how far the Israeli political discourse has shifted to the right? And guess who ran against him? Benny ganz. They form this new party called the blue and white Cardi right based on the colors. The Israeli flag is supposed to be like, a nationalist. Centrist commonsense policy. That's how they branded themselves, right? And opposition to that. Yahoo. But if mostly read their platform. They were so goddamn Milton on the Palestinians. And so far the right on, you know, any chance of peace with faustini's to which they saw basically no chance that they could never have been considered opposition party even twenty years ago, when you talk ravine was alive, and there was actually some sort of hope for peace, nobody in Israel. What are the labor party win three or four seats or some shockingly, low number the is the labor party used to dominate is really politics. Okay. Centre-left Zionism in the form of the labor party used to be the mainstream guys like Rabin, right? The guys actually won't press guys like the fucking founder of Israel. Right. They've been Gorla labor party used to be dominant. Now, it's like a fringe party. It's seriously. It's such it's a minority. It not only is it knock it into the ruling party the coalition. It's it's like it's joke. That's how far the right? We've moved and you know, Israel in America have moved right together. It's theirs. There's an insidious connection there. This this brand of right wing populism. That's exploding throughout the world. Trump is only one cents of it. It's global thing right for the west of populist, nationalist leaders who look internally and are more militarist they're taking over all over the place. It scares

the hell out of me. But. The point here is I think I'm ready to give eulogy so everybody ready to the two state solution. Rest in peace, two state solution Tuesday solutions it's that really hopeful that we had in the early nineties where Clinton got Yasser Arafat shake the hand of repeating on the White House lawn or Camp, David or wherever the fuck, and it looked like there might be a Palestinian state to that. The Palestinians might get their own little rump state. It wasn't gonna be much of a state. It's gonna be a little piece of shit that was divided suit halves. But hey, we're gonna get something that was going to be peace. It was some idealism. There was hope that there could be a Jewish state and a Palestinian state side by side that the Israelis would have their own sovereignty, and that gets to define themselves as Jewish NC which they wanted and at the same time, they get to stay democracy because Palestine would not be ruled over with military iron hand, but would be given some form of autonomy in the in the form of the state, actually, this was the promise that's the.

00:50:05 - 00:55:03

Tuesday solution and all over the American political spectrum to this day. Everyone says Tuesday's solution to state solution and I've written in favor of this who say's solution because I think it's the only logical or likely solution. But it's dad guys Netanyahu won't even open to Goshi thousands. He says he has no partner he says there is no one in Gaza or the West Bank that is worthy of me having a peace process with and so what are we going to do? We're going to do we're gonna starve Gaza. Literally, you're going to blockade Gaza and keep it as the largest open air prison, and then occasionally we're gonna bomb it, kill civilians and shoot them at the fence. We're to do that when keep them stuck in the most densely populated slice of slivers, a better word of earth right on the Mediterranean, and the West Bank will we're going to keep that surrounded and under essentially, military occupation. And we're gonna increase settlements. We're gonna continue to let us move into the lands that are owned by the Palestinians, according to international law and set up little commute. These and all the while. We're gonna have our troops patrolling Jewish only roads into Jewish only settlements in Palestinian territory. That's the answer. And we're not even gonna try to negotiate peace. Those Palestinians who live under occupation in West Bank who live under stranglehold blockade in Gaza. Guess but they don't get to do. Vote in Israel. They're dominated by Israel. They're controlled by Israel. They're denied their sovereignty by Israel. They don't vote in Israel elections. Of course, not because there's more Arabs than there are Jews. If you add up, the the Arab minority and Israel, which is what around twenty percent, and plus all the massive refugees live in the West, Bank, and Gaza, it wouldn't be a Jewish state anymore. So Israel can either be a Jewish state or can be a democracy right now, which is into a democracy. I'm sorry. Choosing to be a Jewish state. But in all talk say. Rest in peace, two state solution the election of Netanyahu and the unflinching support of President Donald Trump and the president's came before him, but especially more more more powerfully, right? More one sided the support of Trump. The Trump Netanyahu nexus spells the end of any hope for once they solution. But here's the thing. That doesn't mean the problem's gonna go away. It means there will be for ever war in the lands that are currently Israel and Palestine, they're not gonna quit the Palestinians that is historically

people. Like, don't quit. It's only gonna increase the radicalism of demoralized youthful Palestinian ovulation. It is only going to further. Empower and justify the most radical leaders within the Palestinian movement. And there's going to be forever war. So that there will be two things happening number one the status quo ante status quo on the ground is going to be an apartheid state. It. Looks a lot like South Africa. Where Palestinians are second class citizens who live in little Bantu stands little slivers of moderately autonomous ghetto, right? Little ghettoisation of the West Bank, which looks like Swiss cheese now. So there will be an apartheid state with American blessing again because remember we want so tough on the South Africans. We kinda liked them because they Rancho communist. So we looked the other way while Mandela fucking just suffered in prison. And then later we were like, oh what a hero. It's like we forget he was a fucking doesn't it a terrorist on our wash list until like nineteen ninety seven. So don't be so proud of America. If you remember how we treat South Africa. So Israel with the blessing of the United States with a Pat on the ass from Donald Trump is going to consume continue to rule an apartheid state and a second. It's gonna happen is there's going to be a civil war. Now one side has sixteens and Merkava tanks. But the other side's gonna have suicide bombers the rocks and the other side's gonna have AK47.'s and they're going to kneel down in front of tanks and let themselves be run over. Sorry. They are knocking to quit. They're not gonna quit. There is going to be. The war in the in the holy land is going to get worse. That's the problem. That's the problem with giving the eulogy to the Tuesday solution. Be sorry. Be careful. What you ask for Netanyahu? Be careful. What you ask for right wing Israeli movement. That's dominating the populace there because you might just get what you want which is an apartheid state in in a in a state of forever, civil war. Hey, attention, guys. Hey attention to what the assistant president United States Benjamin Netanyahu, just pay attention to what he does this election matters.

00:55:04 - 00:58:44

And it's time for the United States don't expect to the happening won't happen. But it is long past time the United States to be a true, honest broker and say, you know, what we were wrong about this. We were too one-sided we're to lopsidedness poor for Israel. And if we ever hope to be an honest broker again, we have got to rein in the Israelis. We've got the cut off military aid. We have got to put diplomatic pressure on them in the UN. Because if not that Palestinian blood, it ain't just done Yahoos hands is on our hands. I don't mean the government. I mean, all of us the American people are apathy translates into Palestinian blood. And eventually some of that will come back to be visited on us here. I don't know. I I don't know if there's ever I I know there's never been an inefficient attack on the United States by anybody of Palestinian descent, but just looking at the at the desperation, it keeps getting worse and worse than like, you said turn to Swiss cheese. Can't walk down the street can't feel safe. Drones overhead you go to protest, you might get shot by sniper. Hopefully, it's a flesh wound. But it could be a lot worse. This is their reality. And. I guess I just wait for it to become ours. There's there's no way that on long time line these kind of controls don't come to the United States in some way to if we keep going in this direction. Hey, when John F Kennedy was killed SAS innate. Very controversial,

Malcolm X said that the chickens come home to roost, right? Which is certain way of him saying that that a Kennedy got what he deserved that. Exactly. Like, that's how it was taken. He meant that. The actions of the Kennedy administration caused a an equal and opposite reaction and that we should look at his death as fascinating as as not so surprising. Well, what you said is true, the chickens of American support for Israel are going to come home to roost, whether it's a Palestinian terrorists or Palestinian fighter almost sick that word 'terrorist coming over the United States attacking us or a motivated Palestinian sympathizer. Elsewhere in the our worlds, you know, like those fifteen Saudis, flames America's twin towers, this is what happens so a Palestinian blood on our hands. We the people so is the American blood in future tax guys. You can't do whatever you want in the world. And then be shocked when there are terrorist attacks in America. Because the chickens they're coming home. They're coming on wync and stop mall, even if this police state, and we're on our way Ron away to the American police state, even police states go tack by terrorists, sometimes even more. So. Runs Witter at fortress on a hill. And also facebookcom on a hill. You can find our main blog page and are full collection of episodes at WWW dot force on a hill dot com. I tunes Stitcher. Google podcasts patriots Spotify. You name it. Almost anywhere. You listen. We're already waiting for him. And hey, we're always in the market for more patriot supporters, please consider becoming a patron patriot duck. And if you're not into give it a monthly payment, bug illness. A couple books on paper link is in the show. Skepticism is one's best warmer. Never forget it. We'll see.