PERSUASIVE SPEECH

FOR

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Why should the United States bomb Iran? This is a particularly difficult question with an even more impossible response, so we will work through this. No decision of this magnitude should ever be taken lightly and when debated, all options must be considered. One point to take into bearing is the global ramifications of such an action. The world and all of its diverse powers are in a delicate holding pattern. One false move could set off a chain reaction that could devastate the majority of citizens of this planet. But how do we determine if an action might be considered a false move or one that is justified to protect and defend the well being of the majority of inhabitants of this planet?

Ironically, Vladimir Putin had this to say about terrorism. He said,” Terrorism has once again shown it is prepared to stop at **nothing** in creating human victims. An end must be put to this. As never before, it is vital to unite forces of the entire world community against terror.” Life has changed drastically for everyone over the past decade and a half and people are no longer willing to be victimized by the dogma of those that want to threaten and bully the citizens of the world. Although there are several antagonists around the globe posing legitimate and serious threats to the safety and security of the global population, today we will address the viability of the United States striking Iran in an attempt to preempt the use of nuclear weapons, a move that would wreak certain havoc militarily, physically, politically, materially and economically throughout the entire planet.

Reports about Iran’s cache of nuclear resources has been a point of debate and suspicion for a while and in recent months, although the Iranian government claims that they have the right to nuclear energy, and that their resources are for peaceful purposes only, there is reason for world leaders to suspect otherwise. According to an article from BBC News, “Iran's nuclear programme became public in 2002, when an opposition group revealed secret activity including construction of a uranium enrichment plant at Natanz and a heavy-water reactor at Arak. Enriched uranium can be used to make nuclear weapons, and spent fuel from a heavy-water reactor contains plutonium suitable for a bomb.” The United Nation’s nuclear watchdog group, known as the International Atomic Energy Agency, upon recent inspection of the indicated areas, “was unable to confirm Iran’s assertions that its nuclear programme was exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it had not sought do develop nuclear **weapons**.” Reasonable doubt has been established and confirmed.

Recently, it has come to light that Iranian television has broadcast simulated bombing attacks on certain Middle Eastern cities and other entities, including an attack on a United States aircraft carrier. It was reported in various media that the film showed, “Iranian drones and missiles …carrying out simulated strikes on the American aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, downing American aircraft and striking American military targets in the Persian Gulf.” It was also reported that Iran has dispatched warships to the North Atlantic, all while denouncing Americans as liars who would “bring down the current Iranian regime if they could.”

“We will not be intimidated or pushed off the world stage by people who do not like what we stand for, and that is freedom, democracy and the fight against disease, poverty and terrorism.” Former United States Secretary of State Madeline Albright spoke those words. About terrorism, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair had this to say, “The purpose of terrorism lies not just in the violent act itself. It lies in producing terror. It sets out to inflame, to divide, to produce consequences, which they then use to justify further terror.” I will ask you-how do you handle a bully that threatens **YOUR** well-being and everything **YOU** and your integrity stand for, after negotiations and diplomacy fail? How far would **YOU** go to protect your home, your family and the way of life that you’re blessed to have?

Terrorism is like a cancerous disease that threatens not only our bodies and our families, but also our homes, our communities, our livelihoods and every aspect of our socioeconomic existence. Iran has demonstrated animosity towards the United States and its citizens in many ways, and each one of them is a reason to stem the hatred and venom. It has been said that the United States government is not going to even consider an attack until certain lines have been drawn in the sand and there is no turning back. As with so many of the international conflicts throughout history, when does an aggressor go too far? At what point must a terrorist nation be checked for its reprehensible and aggressive actions??

One reason to check Iran’s aggression is because of the strong likelihood that the nuclear resources in Iran’s possession are not there for the good of the country. The main reason to enrich and store uranium is to use it for the manufacturing of nuclear weapons. And nuclear weapons destroy. PERIOD. As Iran states they are cutting back on their nuclear resources, they are actually enforcing and augmenting the supplies, and those supplies are being stored in secret caches, which sounds like an activity that needs to be checked.

Another reason for the US to consider attacking Iran lies in the history of animosity between the two countries. Back in the nineties, when George W. Bush was US President, he identified an “axis of evil.” Iran was included in that term as was North Korea. At the time, Iranian diplomats that were in negotiations with the US were offended by that statement and although it is not the only reason for the strain in relations, diplomatic talks broke down and were not able to be rehabilitated. The Iranian government is offended because of this concept and also believes that the United States is actively planning to overthrow the current regime, a government that has demonstrated its hate for Americans and all that they stand for repeatedly. Recent reports state that 61% of the Iranian population disapproves of the leadership in the United States. That groundswell of disapproval seems like a critical mass and along with the sanctions the US has in place against Iran, a climate of hate and aggression will flourish and that must be stopped.

Another reason for the United States to attack Iran is for the clear threat it presents to Israel. In the videos of simulated attacks on the USS Abraham Lincoln, there were also graphic simulated attacks on the major cities of Israel. It is well known that recent political regimes in Iran have expressed the desire to “wipe Israel off the face of the earth.” It has been reported that Iranian state owned websites explain why the destruction of Israel and the slaughter of its people are justified. According to the 1948 Genocide Convention, incitement to commit genocide is in itself a war crime. To rile the populace and rally the citizenry to act upon such hate, using terms like blood thirsty barbarians and cattle is tantamount to committing a war crime. It has already been done. Their dehumanizing tactics are tantamount to war crimes and the current Iranian President has been quoted as saying, “The Army of Iran can by itself destroy Israel.” The hateful and inhumane statements continue to incite the Iranian military and population and such thoughts, plans and proposed actions need to be eliminated.

I ask you again-how would each one of you deal with the repugnant actions of a bully that threatens to destroy you and those you honor and respect? How long would you wait before you organized a preemptive strike to at least diminish the terrorist virus that threatens YOUR existence? How much time and patience are you willing to exert before the conditions of hate and oppression continue to spread like a disease, infecting more and more people every day?

When someone finds out that he or she has a deadly disease invading his or her body threatening to annihilate their very being, they go for treatment. Whether it’s surgery to cut out the disease or follow up treatments with chemotherapy or, ironically, radiation, or a combination of all three, the point is to employ radical treatments if necessary to eradicate the disease and threat of recurrence. That’s what the United States should do to contain the spread of the disease of terrorism and the threats being perpetuated by Iran. The threat of nuclear desolation, destruction of a historical and age-old culture, and extermination of our way of life are enough reasons to seriously consider an attack on Iran. Consider it preemptive surgery to excise the cancer that threatens the well-being of the body of this planet. Thank you all for listening.