

# Iran and Pompeo's 12-Point Ludicrous Wish List - Empire's End of the Rope?

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*When you listen to Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo's 12-Point wish list, what he calls Plan B to confront Iran - one can but wonder, has this man, or for that matter the entire Trump Administration, truly departed from the realm of common sense? - This is, of course, a question many of us have been asking for quite a while. But this latest affront of aggression towards Iran is so out of context, out of whack, so ludicrous, that the question is more like - is the empire reaching the end of the rope and uses Iran as one of a last-ditch propaganda effort to prove to the world its economic and military might, like in "we are the greatest and exceptional nation - don't you dare messing with us"?*

Trump's renegeing on the Nuclear Deal was the first step. It was, of course, pushed by Israel, but based on lie after lie and more lies, that Iran did not comply with the conditions and 'spirit' of the JCPOA (*Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*). And this despite the fact that the Atomic Energy Commission in Vienna has already at least 8 times since the signing of the deal in July 2015 confirmed that Iran is in absolute compliance.

What exactly is Washington and its Israeli handlers trying to achieve with Pompeo's most clumsy approach? - "Regime Change", perhaps? By activating and mobilizing the Fifth Column in Iran to create an internal revolt, with the objective of putting a new Shah-type puppet in place? - The desperation of creating a strong and oppressive "ally" in the Middle East - as Saudi Arabia and most of the Gulf States are 'failing' US trustworthiness - is hidden only by a thin veil.

Abandoning US loyalty in the Middle east is becoming epidemic. Iraq has just elected a new Parliament, where Muqtada al-Sadr's nationalistic, anti-American Shia Sairoon Alliance emerged as the winner with 54 seats in the 329-seat Iraqi Parliament. Though, it is said that al-Sadr's coalition was largely elected because of his anti-corruption stance, his parliamentary victory also means a resurgence of an Iraqi nationalism with a strong position against foreign influence, meaning especially the US, but possibly also Iran. The latter remains to be seen when the new Government is in place. Within the coming 90 days, al-Sadr, the new 'kingmaker', will have to form a new governing body and choose a President. But already now it is clear that Iraq - if left alone by the west as a sovereign country - will turn away from Washington - and may eventually also move towards an eastern alliance.

However, what might possibly be a key reason behind Trump's and Pompeo's outrageously preposterous and utterly awkward anti-Iran tirade - other than submitting to Israel's dictate - is the fact that the EU seems to want to stick to the deal, and to make things worse, is planning to switch from US dollars to euros in payments for oil supplies from Iran. This

emerged from a recent meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, the UK, and the EU Foreign Policy Chief, Federica Mogherini, where ways were discussed on how to protect the JCPOA for the remaining signatories after Washington backed out of deal.

Using the euro, rather than the traditional US dollar as an instrument for payment, would also protect the new trade agreements between Iran and Europe from US interference and sanctions. Unless, of course, the US would decide to 'sanction' the entire EU. But would they want to 'punish' their principal trading partner, who is already weary of Washington's ever mounting unreasonable demands, thus, pushing them more and more to the east?

On the other hand, dropping the dollar as a means of payment for hydrocarbons would set a further precedent for future hydrocarbon trading elsewhere which would weaken the US dollar - ergo, the US economy - even more. Remember, Russia and China are not using the dollar for years to trade hydrocarbons. By putting Iran under the "strongest ever" sanction regime, the financial rulers behind Washington may hope to deter Europe from trading in euros instead of dollars. Should this not work, Trump may have other ammunition in store against Europe, like re-imposing the recently waived tariffs on steel and aluminum.

What becomes ever clearer is that the empire approaches the end of the rope. By such actions of tariffs and sanctions, the Trump Administration is just driving its main trading partner, Europe into the 'eastern camp', i.e. Russia, China and Iran. This is already happening. Recent talks between Germany's Chancellor Merkel and President Putin, the contents of which were non-aggression and trade, are a clear indication that Europe is getting tired of being commandeered by Washington. This is, by the way, the opinion of more than 90% of the people in Europe.

By re-establishing closer and peaceful relations with Russia, European leaders would actually move closer to their ever so revered democratic principles. Though, this too, is a process hindered by many contradictory political activities within Europe. For example, the neoliberal / neonazi move towards militarization, with rising peoples' oppression, is so far rather increasing than easing, especially in France, but also in Germany, where Bavaria has already or is about to pass a law prohibiting any normal citizen (other than MSM journalists) to take pictures of demonstrations in which authorities' atrocities could be witnessed and recorded. At this point, the only major EU country that is about to form a euro-sceptic government, a return to sovereign democracy, and which is discussing the possibility of a parallel currency - is Italy.

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Back to Pompeo and especially Trump's bombastic, "the strongest sanctions ever imposed on a country..." - Really? But, so what? - At this point and with a well-structured "Economy of Resistance", Iran is almost immune to US sanctions. And as President Rouhani said a few days ago, we might hurt for a short while, but will soon recover and be much stronger than living under the scepter of a western economic dictatorship. In this sense, it doesn't matter whether the EU will resist Washington's pressure to bend to Washington's "rule of law" - or whether they finally go their own way. Europe is politically still very much part of the West, even if they become more detached from Washington, they are still under NATO's yoke. Depending on the power of European autonomy, dealing with Europe may yet expose Iran to the vulnerability of dollar-based US sanctions.

Economy of Resistance is essentially – food, health, education and industrial production self-sufficiency (local production for local markets with local money through public banking), and trading with neighboring and / or friendly and politically aligned countries. In the case of Iran, this is well under way. Iran is about to become a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, spearheaded by Russia and China, and is already enjoying special status within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), slated to become a full member either later this year or in 2019. The EEU and SCO, also headed by China and Russia, with members of the EEU and lately also India and Pakistan, comprise about half of the world's population and control one third of the world's GDP. They, and by association Iran, do not need the West for survival – at all.

Besides, Iran is a crucial link in President Xi's New Silk Road initiative, also called the Belt and Road Initiative. The BRI is a gigantic multi-multi-trillion-dollar (equivalent, but NOT dollar-based) project, spanning at least the next hundred years or more and aiming at developing transport, rural and urban, agricultural and industrial infrastructure; and connecting people through research, education, culture – all envisioning linking Eastern China and Russia with the most Western European trading places, as well as the Middle East through Iran, Africa through Kenya, and even Latin America through the southern tip of South America.

There are at this point at least six “land corridors” and a maritime route foreseen. Building them involves economic development of the still backward areas in western China, eastern Russia, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa, connecting them with infrastructure, knowledge, science and bringing about economic inclusion with the rest of the world. This is a huge scheme following egalitarian principles not known in the west. Iran is already part and parcel of this extraordinary development plan.

Regarding Washington's ‘backstabbing’ of Iran's Nuclear Deal, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Bahram Qassemi, also warned North Korea in view of their forthcoming negotiations with Trump on nuclear disarmament. Mr. Qassemi cautioned, DPRK may think twice before believing in any deal made by the US.

Vigilance is also in order for Iran. As part of the empire's last-ditch effort for survival, there may be multiple attempts to infiltrating destabilizing elements into Iran. Together with the well-established Iranian Fifth Column and unlimited foreign designed propaganda, they may attempt internal upheavals, terror acts, with the ultimate goal of overthrowing the legitimate Iranian Government. Trump and Pompeo with their terror speeches – which will continue for sure – are preparing the terrain for the world to believe in Iran's internal conflicts – they same way they have done it with Venezuela, and the same way they will do it with impunity anywhere they want to achieve regime change. At this stage, I don't believe Washington and Israel would be bold enough to launch a direct or proxy military attack on Iran. They are well aware of Iran's might and power of retaliation.

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*This article was originally published on New Eastern Outlook.*

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