

Where Matters Stand After Vance's Theater

MARK WAUCK APR 12  137  59  10

Vance went to Islamabad and made impossible demands on Iran—demands he knew would be and were, in fact, utterly unreasonable.

[Read →](#)

59 Comments



Write a comment...



Laurie Hudson 7d

It was a bald faced lie to say we were working on the basis of Irans ten point plan. It wa designed to fool them into thinking there was hope. The really hopeless factor is believ country is good. It's no longer a good country.

 LIKED (28)  REPLY (3)



Tuan O  Tuan O 7d

It was designed to buy time for the USA and keep the financial markets under con another few days/weeks

 LIKED (14)  REPLY



J R  J R 7d

We haven't been the good guys for over 160 years

This shit to destroy the USA has been gong in for 249 years

 LIKED (4)  REPLY (1)



Laurie Hudson 5d

Indians? Native American ms?

LIKE REPLY



David Chere-Bolelwang David's Substack 7d

My take is that complete desperation has now crept in more than attempts to fool and the world... Trump can do as he wishes but the US electoral system and timet do anyone favors... (from Johannesburg)

LIKED (4) REPLY



Tamsin 7d

I wonder how this self-inflicted Energy Crisis will fit in with our need to roll over US Tre with our Private Credit crisis, and with our AI bubble. We have many very heavy and ex dishes spinning in the air.

LIKED (24) REPLY (1)



Manul 7d

Trump's 5D chess has the answer?

LIKED (7) REPLY (1)



MSB MSB 7d

Few weeks ago I heard a great comment by one of these former CIA or Intellig Military experts. He said that not only is Trump NOT playing 3D or 5D or 23D doesn't even know how to play 1D checkers. Another similar comment I read i Iranians who are playing chess while Trump doesn't even know where the bo

LIKE (2) REPLY (1)



Cosmo T Kat  Cosmo T Kat 6d

Trump plays pigeon chess.....To wit:

"Playing chess with a pigeon is a metaphor for engaging in a debate or d with someone who is irrational or disruptive, as the pigeon will simply kn pieces and act as if it has won, regardless of the actual outcome. This pt highlights the futility of trying to reason with someone who does not adh discourse."

 LIKE  REPLY



Gil Gil 7d


Trump shot himself in the foot whilst it was still in his mouth

 LIKED (19)  REPLY



JRob 7d



Iran says: "We're going to blockade the strait of Hormuz." Then the US says: "No, No, I for you so that we can take all the blame!" The staggering stupidity of the Trump admir beyond compare.

 LIKED (18)  REPLY



David Chere-Bolelwang David's Substack 7d Edited

Unlike the USSR, it appears like the demise of the US empire is going to be the most tr experience for everyone around the globe, much more to those of the West itself.. (from Johannesburg)

 LIKED (13)  REPLY



Manul  7d

Trump is now 44 days into the 60 days War Power's Resolution. Not that he is intereste by any law.

"The War Powers Resolution requires the president to notify Congress within 48 hours committing armed forces to military action and forbids armed forces from remaining fo 60 days, with a further 30-day withdrawal period, without congressional authorization military force (AUMF) or a declaration of war by the United States. "

 LIKE (12)  REPLY (3)



Ray-SoCa  Ray-SoCa 7d

U.S. military action has stopped.

Economic impact is growing.

And Israel keeps attacking Herzbolla.

Pakistan just moved planes to Saudi Arabia.

 LIKE (4)  REPLY



OTOH/IMHO  OTOH/IMHO 7d


"Trump is now 44 days into the 60 days War Power's Resolution..." Reminded of t
peevishly, "Could you just wait to bother me till after the Masters is finished?"

 LIKE (1)  REPLY



OTOH/IMHO  OTOH/IMHO 7d

A very good point, Manul. Everyone should copy and paste it to their Congressma
response and post it here. (It amazes me that when I call, I just get a recording- ar
expect my vote in November?)

 LIKE (1)  REPLY



anti-Shecky 7d

A hillbilly v.p. named Vance,

Invented a lively new dance.

With a hoot and a bump,

He called it The Trump,

And he hoofed it without any pants!

 LIKE (7)  REPLY (1)



MSB MSB 7d

I believe this is the first time I'm reading Mark's substack, and that's because it was posted by the wonderful Dr Meryl Nass. But as I scroll down the replies, I cannot help but be struck by the quality of the people who respond. But yours really takes the cake. I'll turn it into a meme if that's ok with you.

LIKE (3) REPLY (1)



anti-Shecky 7d

Go tell it on the mountain. Permission granted.

LIKE (1) REPLY



hope4gaia hope4gaia 7d

It's all just theatre.

I finally have a very deep trust that Iran will watch over their land and they will do their part to keep the world safe. It took enormous guts to go against the evil axis but they are steadfast.

I wish Putin had been as steadfast in his war - the white-nose dwarf would be gone by now.

LIKED (7) REPLY (1)



Comment removed Small Farm Republic 7d

LIKE (3) REPLY (2)



Mark Wauck 7d

Author

Back to your farm.

LIKE REPLY



Cosmo T Kat Cosmo T Kat 7d Edited

How do you square the support via arms and money that Israel has provided to Hezbollah and al Qaeda? I read no radical Islamic threats from Hezbollah, but we hear a lot of threats and action from ISIS, and Al Qaeda which are allies of both Israel and Hezbollah. Why not hope that we somehow emerge unscathed from our alliance with the criminals of Israel.

LIKED (4) REPLY (1)



KundaliniAndCellTowers  KundaliniAndCellTowers 7d

Or Israel wholesale stealing Syrian oil after US invasion. Or Israeli hospita wounded ISIS fighters. So tired of the lying and the death.

 LIKE (1)  REPLY



History Lass  7d Edited

Trump announces US Naval Blockade of Strait Hormuz.

<https://x.com/i/status/2043321210428137615>

Keep eyes on the Houthis and Bab-el- Mandeb

 LIKE (7)  REPLY



Manul  7d

Check out Trump's two latest posts. He threatens a blockade on the Straits and to kill e (paraphrase).

 LIKED (7)  REPLY



Does Iran have it right? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G9DNx7xIlc>

my hope is that selling weapons, vaxxing and trafficking children, and printing wealth o will not be a winning strategy for much longer.

 LIKE (6)  REPLY (1)



MSB MSB 7d

I really like the way you've so perfectly summarised things in your second paragra so that, and I hope you don't mind, I'm going to quote it whenever appropriate.

 LIKED (1)  REPLY (1)



KundaliniAndCellTowers  KundaliniAndCellTowers 7d

It's the business plan of western elites. Please rephrase and share as you wis

 LIKE  REPLY



Clyde Griffith Croesus Crisis 7d

Probably no clear relationship at all, just a notion:

Iranians are very comfortable on their land; they 'know' its vagaries and challenges, and lived with them, not against them.

Years and years ago, pearl divers mined the Persian Gulf to provide a significant portion of revenue that supported states on both sides of the Gulf. Natural pearls were prized by Europeans and Asians. That trade persisted until Asian nations developed synthetic pearls.

The point is, Iranians likely know the characteristics, the nooks and crannies of the floor of the Persian Gulf.

LIKED (6) REPLY



Joe Van Steenbergen Joe Van Steenbergen 7d

The U.S. closing of the strait is a clear act of desperation that will probably backfire. In the world we live in.

LIKED (5) REPLY (1)



Dianne Stoess Dianne Stoess 7d

Trump is like a bratty child when it doesn't get its way.

LIKED (3) REPLY (1)



Cosmo T Kat Cosmo T Kat 6d

Ever seen a President for the last time in the last 30 years who wasn't a petulant n

LIKE (1) REPLY (1)



Dianne Stoess Dianne Stoess 6d

Come to think of it, no! I think it goes back even farther than that. Why do we let people rule our lives? How did that happen? Why did WE let it happen? Current news is that people are finally waking up.

LIKE (1) REPLY (1)



Cosmo T Kat Cosmo T Kat 6d

Remember how we were told that in America anyone can grow up to president. It was a lie, it was feel good propaganda. Yeah, it probably further.

LIKE REPLY (1)



Dianne Stoess Dianne Stoess 6d

Oh yes. I remember. Every thing we've been told over my lifetime control is/was a lie. Total illusion they built. I see it everywhere r

LIKE REPLY



Joe Joe 7d

WHAT WILL CHINA DO

There has been long standing discussion Trump is doing this to contain and control China - and supply of oil to China

And that the Gulf States will turn to China and China to them

=====

Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, United Emirates (UAE), arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a visit to China

Xinhua News announces the arrival of Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahya Prince of Abu Dhabi, in Beijing on April 12, 2026, for an official visit to China.

The high-level trip, with a delegation of ministers and business leaders, targets strengt UAE-China comprehensive strategic partnership through expanded economic and trad cooperation.

This visit builds on longstanding bilateral ties, highlighting the UAE's role as a key Midc partner for China in energy, investment, and regional connectivity initiatives.

<https://x.com/XHNews/status/2043312446065311928?s=20>

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LIKE (5) REPLY (1)



Tamsin  7d

I still can't quite wrap my mind around "containing China." It's like me "containing where I buy a lot of milk as well as all of my baking supplies, and they better not m Bonus Fuel Points or restrict my use of the self-checkout.

 LIKED (10)  REPLY (1)



V. Dominique *Fauna and Flora* 7d

Gold and Geopolitics addressed this issue...

<https://no01.substack.com/p/pick-a-side>

 LIKE (3)  REPLY (1)



Tamsin  7d *Edited*

Ha ha, encyclopedic, thanks! Mark has touched on most all of these poin posts over the years, but this puts it all in one place.

"Richard Werner - the economist who coined the term 'quantitative easir exactly a fringe voice - put it plainly: 'The military protection turned out t empty promise. The petrodollar is dying.'"

Revisiting the Abraham Accords, <https://themiccheck.substack.com/p/th-accords-a-hilarious-grift>.

 LIKE (1)  REPLY



BuelahMan's Revolt  BuelahMan's Revolt 7d

"I heard a commenter last night suggest that the current situation is akin to Trump havi himself in the foot—or was shot in the foot by Jewish Nationalist fantasists. He's now tr treat himself but has got the bandage wrapped around his neck."

This reminded me that no bullet has ever been near Trump's ear.

 LIKED (5)  REPLY (1)



Laurie Hudson 7d

Some truths are harder to accept based on us having to disabuse ourselves of fals

 LIKED (2)  REPLY



Jeff Martineau Jeff's Newsletter 7d

Had to laugh at Richard Haass "seriously" suggesting the blockade...after saying there solution" possible.

Holy war...

LIKE (4) REPLY (1)



Mark Wauck 7d

Author

I saw that--and considered the source.

LIKE (2) REPLY



Mario A Leblanc Mario's Substack 7d

Why do the U.S. Military Officers comply with this insanity? Say NO!

Howard Zinn on civil disobedience :

"Civil disobedience is not our problem. Our problem is civil obedience. Our problem is that all over the world have obeyed the dictates of leaders...and millions have been killed because of obedience...Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world in the face of poverty, starvation and stupidity, and war, and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obedient because they are full of petty thieves... (and) the grand thieves are running the country. That's our problem."

Matt Damon from Howard Zinn's speech: The Problem is Civil Obedience 5:05

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2li9E_94MA

LIKE (2) REPLY



Joe Joe 7d

Urgent..

Trump:

The Iranians will return to the negotiating table, and give us everything we want.

-

Rate this translation:

10:28 AM · Apr 12, 2026

.

11.3K

Views

<https://x.com/SaudiNews50/status/2043335506675610042?s=20>

♡ LIKE (2) 💬 REPLY (1)



Joe Joe 7d

Urgent..

Trump:

The Iranians are still at the negotiating table.

-

Rate this translation:

10:32 AM · Apr 12, 2026

.

6,727

Views

♡ LIKE (1) 💬 REPLY



Joe Joe 7d

SAUDI NEWS: - copy and pasted a bunch of Saudi posts

All in the Past 15 or so minutes

Trump:

We will close the Strait of Hormuz, and that will take some time.

Rate this translation:

10:19 AM · Apr 12, 2026

.

Prior posts by Saudi News minutes earlier

Trump:

We will close the Strait of Hormuz, and that will take some time.

The Strait of Hormuz will be blockaded.

The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz will be similar to the blockade of Venezuela.

Our siege plan for the Strait of Hormuz will take some time.

Trump announces NATO's desire to assist regarding the Strait of Hormuz.

.

<https://x.com/SaudiNews50/status/2043333149409554786?s=20>

♡ LIKE (1) 💬 REPLY



Elena Elena 7d

"A naval blockade would be an overt act of war not only on Iran but on the entire world.

Suppose you took this statement of yours seriously and considered it intentional.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1)



Mike richards 7d

What's your point?

♡ LIKED (1) 💬 REPLY (1)



Elena Elena 7d

Well, it obviously would be an act of war on the entire world, and since it is so probably a good idea to wonder why Trump or his handlers would want that. / Berletic at the New Atlas would be a good place to start if you were thinking a lines.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY



Peter Taylor 🌐 Peter's Substack 7d

If you want to know the truth and real reason behind this latest violence turmoil and glc then please, I implore you, watch these clips, especially the outstanding documentary | Medhurst (1st link below) Whilst the 2nd link below is the report on the DNC committee motion to restrict AIPAC funding.... a decision that also speaks volumes, the worst of th delegates whoop whooping after defeating the motion and high fiving At having defeat great remit to clean up your politics,.. talk about twisted... seems your nation is screwe However the 3rd and most telling that has impacted U.S citizens most is the Disclosure Former Dubbya Bush Housing Secretary, Catherine Austin-Fitts and the 4th clip is simp disgusting as well as being indescribable... a great result this 4th by the Outstanding A Jewish Journalist and Social Media Doyen Katie Halper EXPOSES Israel's DARKEST SE I thoroughly recommend playback at 1.5 - 1.75 speed, resulting in a total of circa 29 mi invested to view all, truly great and revealing reporting, that you will not find disappoint invest the time, educate yourself, learn, become a true critical thinker resulting better ii understanding .. then send it on, pay forward your new found knowledge, only by awak change this world... it will happen..

The Petrogas-Dollar: The Secret US Strategy Behind the Iran War AND Democratic Lea STANDS BY AIPAC I bet the GOP Are No Different.... Same Playbook, RESULT American Nothing More Than A Two Cheeks of The Same Asshole aka ... The Uniparty..

The outcome is worse than the period of the 1700's which was ostensibly one great Glk Grab, now.... it's Piracy and Economic larceny by the so called guardians of Democracy Order doing so on an unprecedented scale, then Catherine Austin - Fitts overviews the \$50 Trillion Missing | The US Financial Coup by supposed elites all unelected, lastly, th Israel systematically destroying Christian Holy sites ...Israel Doesn't Want You to Know Are Doing. We Do. All of this is being done along with targeting Christians, killing them Lebanon, Iran, Syria and the West Bank, add such behaviour to the known animosity to Christians in Israel, spitting upon them, the worst verbal abuse, and you begin to get th

Israel specifically Zionists seem to hate and want to destroy everything Christian despite otherwise.... Time Christians woke up...The worst of the Zionists their hatred of Non Zics Lies and Falsehoods we have been forced to feed, expected to swallow... duplicity, lies and
If nothing else, I urge you to commit to watching the clips below, assuring you that a short time required to learn and to grow your knowledge base, I know you will not regret being empowered and stronger for having done so, remember playback speed of 1.5 - 1.7x to condense the time required to view and hear this great information that will empower, not altering the quality.... Learn, be educated..

<https://youtu.be/0nt1CgQsgpl?si=JJ0qbfo3wJ3lvVh3>

https://youtu.be/Alwqvw8RrU8?si=NS8O4sTENi8E_Ely

https://youtu.be/UaAd4DscZ6s?si=kB_quuRtDWtt0-Xt

<https://youtu.be/hLQbPCvV8W8?si=wZXb556G4IaJEWCCc>

https://youtu.be/sr44wlywz6s?si=ds7kaxyVo8lx_ZB_

<https://youtu.be/9pVbqwnmSuM?si=j5sQGDin1loZSpzf>

<https://youtu.be/kpZefoQ5u2k?si=Ra7EJYeYtWvfzyAx>

The very best to you all Kia Kaha (Stay Strong) from New Zealand

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY



Dave Scrimshaw Dave Scrimshaw 7d

Destroyers instead of minesweepers - interesting.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1)



Mark Wauck 7d

Author

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2026/03/12/the-us-navy-decommiss>