

Wanton Crimes and Dangerous Miscalculations: Trump's War on Iran

We have bombed civilians relentlessly. We have bombed a school. We have bombed a hospital. We have struck [Iranian oil facilities with the result that black poison is falling] over 10-plus million people. We are essentially not bombing ballistic missile sites and bombing war materiel. We're bombing people.... These are all war crimes.

-- Lawrence Wilkerson, retired U.S. Army colonel and former chief of staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell during the war on Iraq

As the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran intensifies, President Donald Trump continues to present the conflict as a rapid and decisive victory. Yet according to Wilkerson, the reality could not be more different. In Wilkerson's view, the administration has fundamentally misunderstood the nature of the war it has launched, repeating the strategic illusions that led the United States into previous disastrous conflicts in the Middle East.

Trump has claimed that Iran's military capacity has largely been destroyed, asserting that the country has "no navy, no air force, no radar, no telecommunications." From this perspective, the war appears nearly won. But Wilkerson warns that this narrative dangerously oversimplifies both Iran's resilience and the scale of the conflict. Iran, he notes, is a nation of roughly 93 million people occupying territory comparable in size to Western Europe. According to Wilkerson, any serious attempt to claim victory in this war would ultimately require the United States to commit ground forces to Iran. That possibility alone reveals how deeply the administration has misjudged the situation. The United States does not possess the manpower, logistical capacity, or economic resources to sustain a large-scale ground war in Iran.

Compounding the strategic miscalculation is what Wilkerson describes as a lack of transparency about the war's human cost. **Casualties among U.S. personnel are already occurring, he says, but the scale of these losses has not yet been fully revealed to the American public. If the war expands—especially if ground forces are deployed—the casualty figures could rise dramatically.**

The broader regional consequences of the conflict remain unpredictable and potentially catastrophic. Iran retains advanced missile systems that have not yet been fully deployed, while escalating destruction could push Israel toward extreme measures. Wilkerson warns that the situation risks spiraling into a far more dangerous phase if leaders miscalculate the stakes.

Trump's administration appears to believe the war can be quickly concluded through overwhelming force. The conflict may only be beginning—and the United States may have entered it without understanding what victory would require or what the true cost will be.

(This is a partial summary of an interview with Wilkerson. Watch the full interview at:

https://www.democracynow.org/2026/3/10/lawrence_wilkerson)

The U.S. and Israel's shared interest in carrying out this illegal war of aggression against Iran is to further remake the region...[for] their own interests, in service of their political and economic power.

No war. No authoritarianism. Solidarity with Iranian people's self-determination. Bombs will never bring freedom.

--Manijeh Moradian, founding member of the Raha Iranian Feminist Collective and a member of Feminists for Jina

(See <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/2026/03/11/bombs-will-never-bring-freedom/>)

Resist fascism now (before it's too late.)

ABOLISH ICE

END U.S. Wars and Occupations

REMOVE the Trump Regime

Resist this endless war.

New Haven Sunday Vigil for Peace and Justice:

<https://newhavensundayvigil.org>

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