



Barely Reported: The U.S.–Israel Military Merger

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Max Blumenthal (MB): Here in the Washington area on Capitol Hill Senate Democrats, Bernie Sanders and Chris Van Hollen are actually trying to block a bill that would effectively merge the US military with the Israeli military, a military which has been found by the International Court of Justice and effectively by the ICC of serious war crimes and genocide in the Gaza Strip. It would allow Israel to infiltrate US weapons systems as well as quantum computing. And to put it as succinctly as possible, it would establish a framework for integrating Israeli developed technologies into US manufacturing, the whole acquisition process. It would be impossible to disentangle the two militaries if this bill passed, Sections 224 of the NDAA. And this would apply across all areas of military, autonomous systems, AI, cyber, biotech, missile defence. The whole defence industrial base would be infiltrated and merged with Israel's. It to me, in my opinion, it establishes the framework for a military coup, and those who vote for this are committing an act of treason. And so I wanted to highlight this bill, which is not getting sufficient attention. And I thought the most appropriate person to discuss this, the most articulate person to discuss this would be my good friend, former US Representative and Democratic presidential candidate, Dennis Kucinich. Dennis, welcome to The Grayzone.

Dennis Kucinich (DK): And welcome home. It's good to be with you and you have touched on some of the concerns about this planned merger. The language of the bills, which is now Section 219, because some of the other matters that were in the original bill are ebingedison, but Section 219 now creates this integration which is a merger, because it eliminates duplications. Think about this. You know, a classic corporate merger eliminates duplications, it integrates functions and would make a profit. In this case, it's Israel that stands to profit from being able to have direct influence over what will unfortunately become a \$1.5 trillion annual budget in the National Defence Authorisation Act of 2027, which is before Congress right now. So this, as you point out, hasn't received a lot of attention, although tonight I understand the Senate made an attempt to bring cloture to the NDAA and that they failed to

do that. So there's still a fight in the Senate and the House as to whether the bill, either version of the bill is gonna get to the floor of either of the House of Congress. But what they're trying to do is a merger that actually sets the stage for forever wars. And we know, and you probably know better than most people, the extent to which the cooperation has already been very involved, very toxic and murderous. But we're talking about a merger that merges our most sensitive areas. The forever wars include the wars of the future, which are going to be more high-tech. You put Israel and the US together in increasingly high-tech wars with genocide as one of the outputs. There's serious legal exposure for US officials because what we have is a direct involvement in genocide, a direct involvement in ethnic cleansing, a direct involvement in theft of land and there hasn't been any public review of this. There's no separate public debates. There's been no hearings. They've just pushed this thing through as a means of trying to create this jointer, which, by the way, the primary author of it was Benjamin Netanyahu.

MB: Really? Well, via Tom Cotton, who's one of the biggest tools of the Israel lobby. And I hear your dog protesting.

DK: This is the dogs of peace here.

MB: Well, as we talk with Dennis Kucinich about Section 219, he is taking his dogs out and re-situating himself. And Dennis was, I think, just on Tucker to discuss this and has published a great piece outlining the dangers of this bill at ScheerPost, at Bob Scheer's site. And I think Dennis is back. Yeah, as you were saying, basically, Benjamin Netanyahu wrote this bill, I mean, the timing of the bill could not be more telling. It's at a time when US-Israeli relations are shifting because the American public is essentially done with Israel. There's only one constituency left that still supports Israel. It's the over 50 crowd of Fox boomers in the Republican Party, everyone else is turning away. So what this would do is actually, you could argue more effective for consolidating the so-called special relationship than close to \$400 billion of aid given by the US to Israel since 1948. Is that really what this is about, is preventing the US from ever disentangling itself from this passionate attachment to Israel?

DK: Absolutely. What this does is, from a practical standpoint, this enables Israel to replenish its weapons under US cover, and it lowers its operating costs for a long war. Now, you pointed out in the introduction how the regional war is moving more and more into regional war. Well, we look at some of the statements by Israeli officials recently. You see that they're even starting to size up Turkey. They have conflicts over the land in Syria. Each has their own designs on part of it. There's been a cold peace, if you want to call it that, between Israel and Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula is something that's always at question here as far as Israel is concerned. So I think that this proposal actually is a schematic for escalation. We're going to have more wars. If this thing goes through, it is guaranteed that the war in Iran will continue, because this is something that Netanyahu and his group see as instrumental in their election, just to keep it going, I think that we're going to probably be looking at not just a continuation of war in Iran, but certainly escalations in Lebanon, more ethnic cleansing, more involvement with the settlers and the IDF. This thing opens the door on what already has been a nightmare and causes a clashing of bloody hands here that will be

forever a stain on America. And frankly, it's a question, Max, of our sovereignty. I think this is a blow to American sovereignty. And one final point I want to make, the people on the right who might be in favour of this, well, don't forget for a moment that Israel has been successful in moving our technology to China. So what are we talking about here? You know, forget the US Liberty, forget what happened at the embassy in Lebanon with the soldiers that were killed and Israel had advance notice and on and on, and on. And this is who we want for a partner? We should not have any partner. Our sovereignty depends on having permanent interests, but not necessarily permanent friends.

MB: And so Israel is one of the most repressive countries on the planet. It presides over a population of occupied people who comprise a majority between the river and the sea. And it is testing its weapons on that population and then exporting them, declaring them field tested, that includes its surveillance tech. Israel's Unit 8200 has strongly infiltrated Silicon Valley with hundreds and hundreds of Unit 8200 veterans. It's even infiltrated the US media through the figure of Barak Ravid at Axios. The infiltration is so deep, but this would take infiltration, Israeli penetration to a new standard. And the question is, under an administration like the Trump administration, which is targeting the left and its political enemies with unprecedented persecution, would this allow the US government to use Israeli surveillance tech, death tech, against domestic political perceived enemies?

DK: I think it opens up the door for that, because we're not just integrating offensive capacities there. We're importing values. When you look at the fact that some of the ICE authorities were trained by the IDF, and actually, there's been local police who have gone to Israel for training. And if we start to merge these technologies, let's take, for example, drones, okay? The drones could become involved in domestic policing, armed drones. We already see ICE becoming a murderous force on American streets, and if you start to move towards drone policing, because the drones are ubiquitous in Gaza and the West Bank, and they're becoming so in Lebanon, who says that if these are our partners, that won't happen here? We lose control over some basic principles and constitutional rights. And the constitutional principles here Max, are not just the individual articles that we know about, but there's some specifics about the role of a commander-in-chief being able to have jurisdiction over the armed services in times of war, but those members of the armed service take an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. Israel doesn't even have a Constitution, they have basic laws, they're not going to defend the interests of the United States of America. This is really an effort to smuggle in interests that would usurp the American way of life. I mean, we have our problems here, to be sure, and I don't like our policies in the Middle East. I've spent a career in Congress challenging them almost on a daily basis. However, this proposal in Section 219 puts the US and the Israeli government together in a common offensive effort. It promotes weapons endurance, intelligence depth, increases AI targeting capacity, US provides cover for Israel and what they do, there's diplomatic deterrence there. And the US, you used the word earlier, entangled with Israeli policy, their enemies become our enemies even more so, and America becomes more of a target. There is nothing about this that is right. I don't know if you remember, I mean when I was growing up, you're a little bit younger,

you'd look at a comic book and it would have a cartoon that said: Find ten things wrong with this picture; you could find a hundred things, a thousand things wrong with this picture.

MB: Well, one other thing would be usurping congressional authority on war powers.

DK: Totally. Because right now the congress by focusing on war powers, the war powers act alone, has not been successful. Let's face it, you want to stop a war, cut off funding, period. That's the way you stop wars; supreme court basically understands that in some of their decisions. I've sued three different presidents over war powers issues and the bottom line is, cut off the funds. If Israel is inside the government and Israel becomes a partner in the United States Department of War now, we'll never see the end of war and Congress will not even have any ability to be able to retrieve the policies because they will have, once this passes, the idea of oversight becomes archaic. Because everything about this is opaque, okay? DARPA opaque, right? Cyber warfare opaque. The intelligence opaque. Strategic development opaque. So this is strategic entrapment more than anything.

MB: Right, right. It makes it virtually impossible for Congress or the American citizen to even know what the military is doing. There's also another section on intelligence integration where the US is mandated to share unprecedented levels of intelligence with a country, Israel, which is spying on the US at an unprecedented rate. That's according to senior US officials in the Trump administration, who say that Israel is targeting the Trump Administration because of its fear that it will pull out of the Iran war. That spying is at critical levels, and this bill mandates that. Essentially, we just hand over national security data.

DK: Well, then they won't have to steal it, right? You just give it away. I mean, what a way to cure spying and kleptomania. So I think, that's not what we ought to be advocating, but if you go deeper into human rights issues, into morals, into ethics, I know those are ideas that seem to be part of a long ago, but the fact of the matter is, the United States must begin to take care of the violations of law, the open genocide, and the attitude that they don't even care about anymore, the IDF and the Israeli government, unfortunately, a lot of the Israeli public supports it. You cannot be killing people throughout the Middle East region without that actually coming home. It will come home to America. This idea that that's there and that's over there and this is here, oh no, no. It will affect the lives of each and every person in the United States ultimately. And that's still another reason why, and why we need to stop it and why we need to raise some serious questions. How did this thing get so far without even an open public debate? Just sticking in a bill, smuggling into a bill and then everything's okay. And Netanyahu was on Meet the Press the other day extolling the virtues of this bill and how it's just going to be great for Israel and great for the United States.

MB: He essentially acknowledged that it's unpopular, but it has to be rammed down the throats of the American public just because it's for the greater good. They don't know what they're missing out on by integrating with this genocidal military that's in a permanent state of war that's waging an Eighth Front War, and the Eighth Front is the United States, according to Netanyahu's own words. We have to be propagandised or criminalised and censored into

submission. So where does the bill stand with Sanders and Van Hollen working towards cloture?

DK: Yeah, it's tethered right now. It's tethered to, in the Senate, to vote on cloture, and in the House, a rule that needs to pass without the Save America Act appended to it. The reason why it went down on the last vote, there has not been a vote alone on Section 219. The administration and congressional leaders have made sure of that. They don't want that. They don't want to put people on front street and force them to vote on something that could be interpreted as, let's say, a treasonous act against the United States of America. So they want to fold it into the bill. And in both the House and the Senate, they're not there yet. And it's not sure, we're not sure, they may not get there at all. This may be kicked past recess. And as you know, Max, as you get closer to an election, politicians become ever more risk-averse, and it's not just on this issue, but a lot of issues we don't even know about that people will say, well, I don't know, you know, let's wait until after the election. That's why the push is coming right now. And I think the public, anybody out there who has a concern about this, and everyone should be concerned about it, because it takes away our sovereignty and our ability to make decisions on what's best for America and any other country, call your member of Congress, your Senator, and just say: Look, vote against the NDAA, vote against the entire thing, if it includes this provision, because this provision undermines our country. And there's plenty of reason, by the way, Max, to vote against the NDAA in and of itself. 1.5 trillion dollars annually, a 66 and 2/3 % increase over the 2006 bill and 80 % now of our domestic spending goes for war. So we're becoming an armed camp and we're going to have a partner who specialise in genocide. Wow, what a deal for Americans on our 250th anniversary as a republic. Wow. No, we can't let this happen. And there needs to be a pushback all over this country. People need to understand the nation is at risk here. And this isn't hyperbole. This is a fact. It's not that the sky is falling. It's getting closer to us.

MB: Well, I couldn't have put it better. Get on the phone. Do what you can to put pressure on your legislator. We might head up to Capitol Hill tomorrow to ask some questions, and maybe we'll pass by Lindsey Graham's house. I don't know what's going on there. What I do know is there aren't going to be as many mourners as I saw in Tehran for their leader. I wanted to ask you just quickly one or two questions about the about the political future we face here since, you know, you were a presidential candidate, a mayor, you were in the House of Representatives, and you were in the Democratic Party, and you were one of probably the last Democrats that I would ever potentially get behind. What do you think of Ro Khanna and even Rahm Emanuel, who lost part of his finger in a kitchen incident in Israel while he was volunteering with the Israeli military, taking a much harder line against Israel and pushing some sort of reorientation of the US-Israeli relationship, does this spell an actual change of policy within the Democratic Party, or are they simply trying to paper over the contradiction between a Democratic Party base, a constituency that wants real sanctions on Israel, that wants a real arms embargo and a leadership that is in thrall to the donor class, including APAC?

DK: Well, you know, there's two different people you've mentioned, and I...

MB: Yeah, they're definitely different.

DK: I served with Rahm Emanuel. I think I understand him very well. He is one of the most skillful politicians that I've ever met. He really is slick, but that's not necessarily a compliment. What I'm saying is that he can read the room better than most people. He was very successful in helping guide Clinton and others along the way. He's got an instinct for politics. So he sees which way it's going. But there is this question of where he's been and that he would have to defend his previous positions. And I think that he would find it a little bit difficult the way the Democratic Party is moving as of late. Ro Khanna is newer to this, and he's being challenged right now from the left on the question of, you know, is this just a form of liberal Zionism? But I think it's important that he has teamed up with Tom Massie, because he has given the gloss of a bipartisan effort to Tom Massie's efforts. Massie is one of the most unique politicians who has come by maybe in this generation, because he is unbought, he's unbossed, and he has frontally challenged these very interests that we're talking about here. So where do I think all this is going? And look, Rahm Emanuel has the connections and the understanding to be a serious candidate. I don't know, however, that given his history, how far he's going to be able to go.

MB: What do you make of plans for, I don't even know if I can call it plans, but discussions by Tucker Carlson and others for a potential third party which will unite the parts of the Republican and Democratic constituencies who are sick of being cucked by Israel and merge the US military with Israel who are opposed to the massive expansion of data centres. So many other viewpoints that transcend partisan lines can be advocated for within a third party. There is potential for bringing figures like Thomas Massie and Marjorie Taylor Greene and even Ro Khanna has kind of shown some sympathy to this idea of putting that forward and would you participate in any initiative like this in the 2028 election?

DK: Look, you remember that it was just a couple years ago I ran for Congress as an independent. I may have had a chance to get elected as a Democrat, but I think this two-party system needs to be challenged because it has become a duopoly, and with interest groups buying both parties, and there really not being much of a difference between the two. So, I think that Tucker Carlson has ignited the national conversation, that is long overdue and that he's done it with integrity. Sometimes it's the question that saves the country. Sometimes people are just asking: Why are we doing this? starts to create the discussion. And he's been building that discussion. So will there be another political party? I don't know, but look, what's happening from the left and the right, the people are seeing a unity of interest here on the US constitution, and on freedom of speech, on the right to be secure in our persons against unreasonable search and seizure – you know a little bit about that recently – on equal protection of the law. And so I think we're seeing people understanding that those things that we believe in with respect to America are under threat and it's no longer about whether you're a Democrat or Republican, there's something higher here, connected to the mythology of America, the America we want to see unfold, we think could happen, but we can't do it from one partisan pose as opposed to the other. So I think the polarisation that has characterised our politics over the last decade and more, I think we're starting to see in knitting together of

certain interests that go across party lines that could result in an independent movement, not necessarily a party, but could result in an independent movement whose exemplars could come from some of the names that you mentioned. And so I would say that keep your eye on that because you could see very, not only powerful challenges within the party, but should those challenges fail to usurp the entrenched party interest, you could see going in and then going out. And 2028 could be one of the most volatile election years we've had since 1968, but in terms of party politics, political machines could be more vulnerable than they were when Ross Perot made his entrance and made the economics of trade his issue. So yeah, I mean, do I have hope that we can get through this? Yes. But there is this thing about stopping the escalation of these wars. If this administration keeps dropping bombs in and around nuclear facilities in Iran, and these aren't nuclear bomb facilities, they're nuclear power plants, they dropped them near Bushehr. If they keep doing this, they could ignite something that gets out of control very quickly. We are not guaranteed our lives here in this country from a distance if we visit, if we continue to participate in the visiting of death and destruction throughout the Middle East and the wider region. And our politics need to catch up and get away from this idea that we can achieve peace through war. We need to have a policy of strength through peace, get away from this peace through strength, and understand that America can no longer pretend that it is the champion and king of a unipolar world, that the multipolarity of this world has unfolded very powerfully. It's doing it economically. Our economic situation is very tenuous right now, with the amount of our bonds losing their elasticity, people dumping US currency, the wand starting to become the basis of trade for energy. Hey, we ought to be worried about that, because our whole way of life is built on this expanding of an economy. And it could implode if we keep pursuing these wars.

MB: I think the impact of the wars is beginning to devastate the US economy and not just the Iran war, the closure or disruption at the Strait of Hormuz, but also the endless Ukraine proxy war and its escalation by Trump is making the price of oil, driving the price of the oil through the roof. It's contributing to the high price of Brent crude right now, these drone attacks on Russian oil facilities, the oil shortage in Russia and the American public isn't being made aware that these neocon wars are affecting them at the pump, affecting their own basic kitchen table concerns. And I think that could be the role of an independent movement or a cross-partisan third party. I think what an independent movement needs to do is set certain benchmarks for candidates and tell people, do not vote for them if they don't meet those benchmarks. That's why I told people Kamala Harris must lose because she supported the genocide. The message must be sent. If you support this, we will walk away. And we need to hold fast to those principles. So it's basically a movement based on certain principles that refuses to fall for the culture war manipulations that are always used to polarise and drive people to vote for these pro-war, neoliberal, corporatized, con artist candidates. That's what I would like to see and I would love to see you be a part of that.

DK: I intend to be, and where I come from is to challenge this whole idea about the necessity of war. War is not inevitable. Peace is inevitable. If you start to explore the science of human relations and seeing other people as our equals and understanding that we're all interconnected, we're interdependent, we're interconnected, it's not about one world, it is

about understanding that there are people like us all over the world. They have the same aspirations as we have for our families, for our loved ones, for our friends, for solid communities, for housing, for education, for our children being able to blossom. And when you see these children and families being devastated and being murdered en masse in the West Bank and Gaza and in South Lebanon and beyond and Yemen, what are we about? I mean, we have ventured into an epoch which annihilates the very foundation of laws, which were about protecting humanity from these very things. You go to Congress, around the border of the House of Representatives, they have all these famous lawmakers, okay? You know Moses, Hammurabi, on and on. But here we're vitiating all of the moral principles that underpinned those laws. And if we don't have anything like that anymore, then people start to justify mass murder on a scale that the world hasn't seen. And we think, well, it couldn't happen. Oh, yes, it can. It's happening, actually, right now. You know, it's happening. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been murdered. And And it's hard, I will tell you, I don't know how it is for you, I could imagine, but just for me, when I wake up every morning, a day doesn't go by when I don't think of the fact that at that very moment somebody's being killed over in another country with the resources that come from the United States of America. America must change its position in the world. And we need to try to become a benign influence, not again, but to become a benign influence, and we're not there right now. And things like this attempted merger between the Israeli and the United States military would be a nail in the coffin of our freedom, frankly, and of our sovereignty, and would put us in a direction that it's like a remake of the movie Minority Report or something.

MB: Yes. As if it isn't already bad enough. Section 219 is cancer. Prevent the cancer. That's the way I see it. And when it passes all the worst warnings that Dennis Kucinich issued tonight will come to pass and we will pay the consequence. So do what you can to prevent this from happening, prevent the cancer from seeping into the American body. Dennis Kucinich, former US representative, former US presidential candidate, maybe possible future US presidential candidates, I don't know, but certainly a real rare servant of the people and freedom fighter. Thank you for joining us at The Greyzone.

DK: Thanks so much, Max Blumenthal and thanks to everyone who cares about our country. Thank you.

END

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