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Edited by Michael Swanson



## The Saudi Arabia 9/11 Connection, the World Oil Market, and Gold – By Mike Swanson

A few weeks ago the 60-minute television show did a special segment on the 28 pages of the 9/11 report that was declared to be top secret by the Bush/Cheney administration and kept classified by President Obama. For years now people outside of the television mainstream media have been talking about these 28 pages. These 28-pages deal with financing behind the 9/11 attacks of 2001.

Senator Bob Graham who was a member of the 9/11 commission and other members of Congress who have seen these pages have said that they link some of the 9/11 airplane hijackers to figures inside the government of Saudi Arabia.

I posted about this two years ago in a blog post on my website that contained a series of interviews that Bob Graham did about the entire issue. If you don't know anything about this by now they are well worth watching:

<http://wallstreetwindow.com/node/9841>

This story has been blacklisted by the mainstream media, but after so much talk about it on the internet and with the lobbying efforts of a group of 9/11 widows it has been impossible to hide anymore. Anyone paying attention really knows about it, but most don't pay attention. It is just the television did not want to talk about. But some members of Congress also began to pressure the Obama administration and media outlets to get these pages declassified.

We live in a strange world. Saudi Arabia is one of the closest allies in the Middle East and yet is not our friend.

And the reality of that has been obscured by conspiracy theorists over the years who have made all sorts of wild claims about 9/11 that have diverted people's attention away from the real questions.

For instance some of them have claimed that Dick Cheney was behind the attacks or that demolition explosions were used to take the World Trade Center Towers down or that no attacks even happened at all.

So many people who have wondered about 9/11 have been pointed down these rabbit holes. In reality if you just stick to what we know you end up down a path that no one has been down.

In an [interview on NPR Bob Graham](#) said the following:

"What we do know publicly was that there were agents of the Saudi government which assisted at least two of the hijackers who ended up living in San Diego - provided them with financial support, with anonymity, with a place to live and with flight lessons, and protected them for, in one case, over a year. And the FBI has turned over to a federal court, through a Freedom of Information Act case, 80,000 pages involving an investigation that took place in Sarasota, Fla. of the relationship between Mohammed Atta, the leader of the 19 hijackers and two of his henchmen, and a prominent Saudi family, which had lived in Sarasota for six years - two weeks before 9/11 left under what were described as urgent conditions to return to Saudi Arabia, creating the inference that they were tipped off and decided that they would be better off someplace than in Sarasota when 9/11 occurred."

The interviewer then asked Graham, "Do you believe that consecutive administrations have been protecting the Saudi royal family against the interests of United States citizens?"

Graham answered: "Yes. And I think it's been more than a cover up. I think it's been what I call aggressive deception. There are instances in which the FBI has publicly released statements which I know from personal experience were untrue. They stated that in this Sarasota situation - that they had completed the investigation, that the investigation determined that there were no connections between the hijackers and the prominent Saudi family, and that they had turned over all of this information to both the congressional inquiry and the 9/11 Citizens Commission. I know for a fact that none of those three statements are true."

Graham then stated, "I think we need to have a general re-opening of the investigation into 9/11. Both the congressional and the 9/11 Commission operated under tight time restraints, which precluded the full inquiry that needs to be held when the 9/11 issue is reopened."

Members of Congress have been allowed to see these 28-pages if they choose to do so. Many of them have decided that they do not even want to look at them. Some that have done so though have made statements about them.

Congressman Thomas Massie said, “they’re the most consequential pages in the thousand-page report.” At a 2014 press conference, Massie said the experience was “shocking,” and that he had to “stop every couple pages and try to rearrange my understanding of history.”

Republican Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina said, “there’s a lot of information (in the 28 pages) the American people and the 9/11 families have a right to see. The American people cannot trust a government that will not let them see information on one of the worst tragedies in America.”

Democrat Stephen Lynch of Massachusetts said, “trust me, it’s a dangerous thing to cosponsor this because they want to keep this under the rug.” Nonetheless, he said it’s important “to release those 28 pages in the 9/11 report that will once and for all show the American people what caused 9/11 and who funded it.”

If we simply take the statements that we have heard about these pages then we can conclude that there is some sort of connection between Saudi Arabia and the 9/11 terrorist attacks. We also know that this was swept under the rug by the Bush/Cheney administration and kept secret afterwards by President Obama.

What no one has done is accepted that and then asked a few simple questions. Question one is if that is the case than why did the Bush/Cheney administration go to war in Iraq instead of Saudi Arabia? They launched this nation on a war against terror, but did not go to war primarily against terror.

If we went to war then not against those responsible for terror then what was the purpose of the war in Iraq and all of these other wars and operations the United States is doing over there? It does not necessarily have to be a sinister reason we went to war in Iraq. It could simply be rank confusion or stupidity. But the key objective was not to stop terror or retaliate against all of the 9/11 plotters, because if that is what American foreign policy is about then something would have been done to Saudi Arabia instead of Iraq. So we have been sold a bag of goods and living in a propaganda dream world.

These are questions that the American people are going to have to ask and I do not pretend to have the answers. But they are going to have to demand to know the reality of 9/11 and then ask tough questions that reality is going to force them to confront. They are going to have to stop watching Fox News and MSNBC or listen to people like Rush Limbaugh and just believe what they are told, because all of these outlets and people on them have completely dropped the ball on this issue and there may be no more important issue facing the nation today, except perhaps the crazy financial bubble and economic malaise the United States and the world for that matter is facing now. But you see the television media and the Washington establishment don’t want people to think or ask questions, but to only obey. It took 60 Minutes a dozen years to bring up the 28 pages.

One man who has asked questions like these is retired Colonel Andrew Bacevich who has written a new book titled [America’s War for the Greater Middle East](#). In reality America’s involvement in the Middle East did not start after 9/11 and Bacevich goes back to its origins to bring understanding to what is happening today. I’m pleased to be able to include in this month’s newsletter a transcript of an

interview Bacevich did on the Scott Horton Show. I also have done my part in writing about American foreign policy in my book [The War State](#).

Now if you have been following the financial markets for the past two years then you know that oil prices have gone through a vicious bear market and so have oil stocks. Both turned down hard in 2014 and this drop was encouraged by Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi oil minister publicly stated back in the Fall of 2014 when this oil drop began that he wished to see American oil fracking companies go out of business in order to maintain his nation's share of the global oil market.

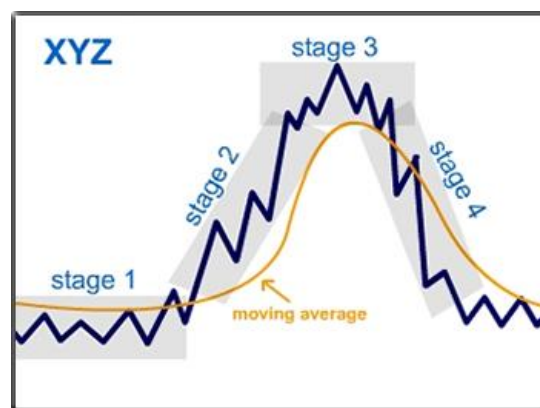
And this indeed has happened with many American oil fracking companies. However, for this process to complete it will take another year of low oil prices to put enough of these American oil companies out of business. America's greatest ally and worst friend in the Middle East has helped bust the economies of areas of the United States in the Midwest that boomed as a result of the high oil prices.

A lot of people have been trying to pick a bottom in oil prices in order to buy energy stocks. But we are not anywhere close to a new bull market for energy stocks or oil prices. At best the energy stocks are where gold stocks were a year ago and at worst they will make new lows before the year is over. I want to invest in them someday myself, but it's too early.

To understand the action of a market I put it into context of where it is in a cycle. There are four cycles to a market and I call them stages.

As you know you can have a bull market. Before a bull market starts though you usually have a stage one basing phase in which a market simply goes sideways and builds a base.

Then it breaks out and begins a full blown stage two bull market that typically lasts for several years. Then there is a stage three topping phase and then a stage four bear market.



There are various technical indicators you can use to determine when these stages are coming to an end so you can make the proper adjustments. That's a topic a little too big to get into now, but we can look at the basics right now. I can quickly show you one important indicator to watch to identify the trend the market is in.

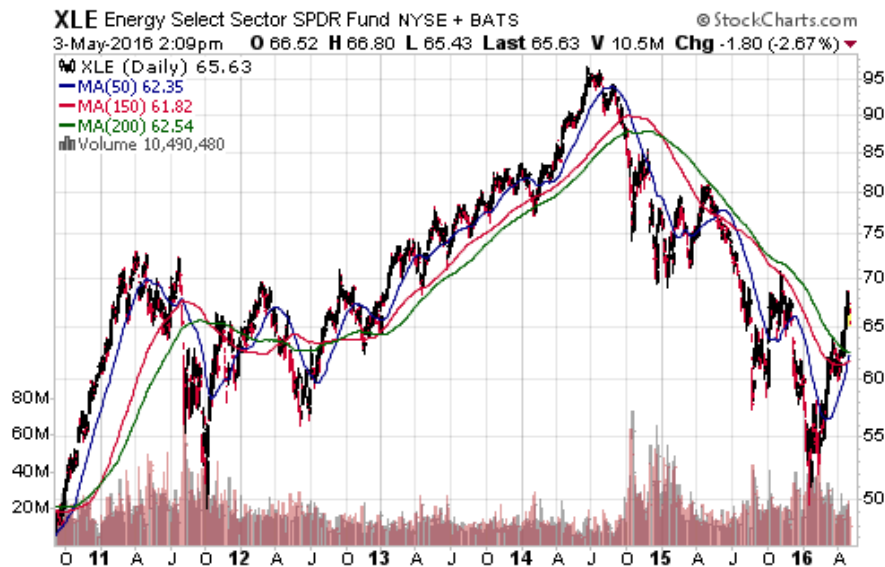
That's the long-term 150-day moving average, which is simply a line plotted on a chart using the average price number of the past 150-days.

In a bull market this line slopes up on a chart and the price of the market tends to stay above it, so it acts as a nice price support level in a bull market to make for a good entry point timing mechanism.

In a bear market this line slopes down on a chart and the price of the market tends to stay below it and it acts as resistance.

So you can use this moving average to quickly identify the trend of a market. Then you can know if you should be bullish on a market or not.

Take a look at XLE, which is the ETF that tracks oil stocks.



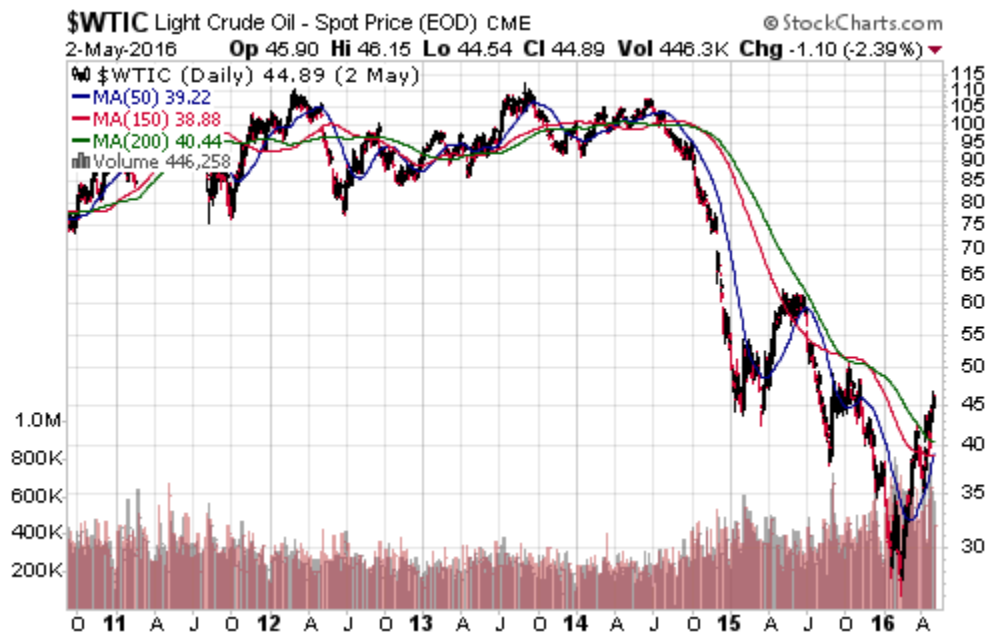
In 2014 XLE peaked out and began a bear market cycle. Notice how the 200-day moving average for it acted as resistance. Now XLE has had a big rally over the past few weeks, but it has not gone through a stage one basing phase yet. It needs to hold its gains and then move up again to confirm that it has entered a new bull market. And it is just as likely to go back down to its lows and base for the rest of the year or even go through them.

So you need to be patient in order to get bullish on energy stocks. And there are two more key reasons I do not think they are starting a new bull market yet.

The first is oil prices are not in a position to go into a new bull market yet either. In fact oil prices simply look like they have bounced and have become extremely overbought and overextended. Oil prices are almost certainly to go through a stage one basing phase before going into a new bull market.

A big clue to this is the commitment of trader's report which is released every week and tells you what is going on inside the oil futures market. It tells you how many contracts are being bought,

sold, and shorted by various categories of traders, including a category it classifies as “commercials.” These include giant oil companies and operators like the Saudis.



New bull markets in an individual commodity tend to begin when the commercials close out the bulk of their short positions they use to hedge their real world operations and get a very small net short position or even go net long. For instance gold commercials reduced their net short position to a low not seen in over 14 years back in December and many individual commodities in the agriculture complex are at similar levels.

In the oil market though commercials built up for themselves a record net short position in the summer of 2014 before oil prices started to go down and oil stocks peaked. So they were preparing themselves for a big drop. Look the Saudis knew the bear market in oil was coming, because they were a part of helping to make it happen. So many of them hedged themselves.

A new bull market in oil and energy stocks is not going to happen until the oil commercial short position is reduced to a low level. Today oil commercials are net short 325,000 contracts. In the summer of 2014 they built up a record 492,00 net short position. So they have a long way to go to get this position down to close to zero.

I believe this means that oil is going to retest it's lows before we see a new bull market in oil. It doesn't necessarily mean it has to go through them. What it does mean is that we are going to see a long drawn out stage one basing phase before oil goes into a new bull market.

You have to understand that oil and energy stocks are part of the commodity complex. Historically in an overall commodity bull market gold and precious metals begin a bull market first and then other soft food and agriculture commodities follow and oil and energy go up last. So in the 2000-2003 time period gold bottomed and went into a new bull market in 2000 and oil didn't go into a new bull market until 2003. Gold also lead the way during the 2008-2009 bottoming phase in the financial markets too.

So if you want to make money going long right now the best place to be is still in the precious metals and mining complex period.

Take a look at this chart of gold.



Gold began a new bull market this year and bull markets historically last 3-5 years so there is simply a huge opportunity now to make money investing in gold, silver, and in mining stocks. This is what I am doing and I am doing everything I can to help you get involved in this situation. Do not worry if you think it has gone up too much. People were saying that six weeks ago and in my private Power Investor group I am looking to find new stocks every week that are not overextended and are providing good entry points for potential breakouts.

You can get into this group and get my Total Gold Trading Program course by clicking this link:

<http://wallstreetwindow.com/beta/mastergold.htm>

## The Scott Horton Show – Andrew Bacevich on America’s War for the Greater Middle East



**the** SCOTT  
HORTON **show**

libertarian foreign policy, mostly...

Full MP3 audio interview is available here:

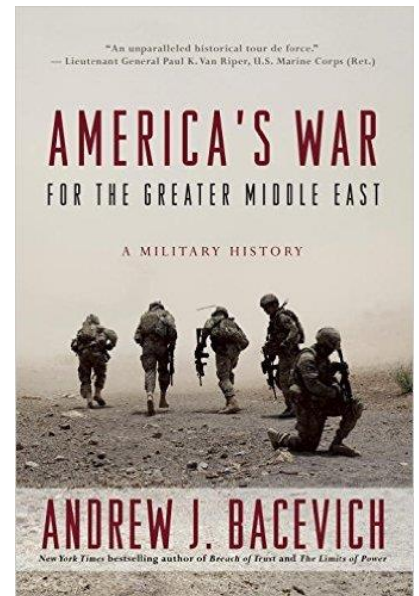
<http://scotthorton.org/interviews/2016/04/07/4716-andrew-bacevich/>

Scott Horton: Scotthorton.org, sign up for the podcast feed there. Introducing Andrew Bacevich. He is the author of a lot of important books, *The New American Militarism*, *The Limits of Power*, *Washington Rules*, *Breach of Trust* and the latest is *America's War for the Greater Middle East: A Military History*. Welcome back to the show, how are you doing, Andrew?

Andrew J. Bacevich: I'm doing great. Thanks for having me on.

SH: Very happy to have you here. And well, let me just tell you, I'm so pleased. Just even the title of the book and the entire approach that you've taken, at least according to the excerpt I read at Politico and of course, the great one for TomDispatch. But in the Politico piece... Well, I'll put it this way, I'm writing a book about the war on terrorism myself and I think now, it's going start with reference to you and the fact that you don't waste our time calling it the war on terrorism. You explain that this is a much broader project to dominate the Middle East. And then you don't get into the terrorism aspect so much in the Politico piece, but apparently it plays a role in your book, it plays a part. Maybe you can explain that? But it's not the reason that America's over there, huh?

AB: That's correct. So I mean, to try to summarize the book very briefly, as the subtitle suggests, it's a military history. It's not a political history, it's social history. My aim is to describe and interpret US military activities in large parts of the Islamic world from 1980 down to the present. Why 1980 as the start point? Because that's when Jimmy Carter's promulgation of the Carter Doctrine designated the Persian Gulf of vital US national security interest. And that statement initiated the militarization of US policy, not simply in the Persian Gulf, but more broadly in the Islamic world, and led to a never-ending sequence of armed interventions, large and small, justified by various reasons. But in my judgement, leading to something other than success. We're kinda stuck in a condition of permanent war.





SH: And in fact, I just finished looking at a article by Christopher Preble at The National Interest, where he's referring to your new book. And he talks about how from your perspective and then he links to, I think, four or five other polemics by real experts, though, like yourself, arguing that there's no need for any of this at all. That America, whatever argument that one could make for the national interest being to dominate the Middle East, to the degree it hasn't worked out as you say, just shows that it's a fool's errand and that really we would be way better off if we just called it quits. Now that could be a really tough pill for a lot of people with power to swallow. Because they really believe.

AB: They do. One of the explanations for why we have followed the path that we have is that many people in Washington, and we're talking both parties implicated here, have had a far overstated confidence in the effectiveness of American military power and actually excessive confidence in their own ability to wield American military power to achieve our objectives. They have, repeatedly, misunderstood the nature of war and they certainly have overestimated their own capabilities. And they've misunderstood the situation and the region. And the bottom line, my bottom line, what I hope readers of the book will take from it is, A, an appreciation of the fact that we've been at this now, this effort to fix the Middle East with American military power, but we've been at it for a long time. It hasn't worked. I believe it's actually made conditions in the region worse and therefore it's really past time, for us to have a serious debate about finding alternatives to permanent war. And one of the things I find most disappointing about the ongoing presidential campaign is that nobody seems to want to take up that topic. What we get is candidates on both sides bragging about how if they get elected they'll go beat up on ISIS but nobody on either side really taking on board how far astray we have gone in our efforts to use military power in the region.

SH: Well, and especially so since it would be such good politics, as Trump is proving whenever he mutters some kinda incoherently right wing, anti-war type stance, people love it. Even in South Carolina. He completely just without abandon smashed the Bush brothers and the Iraq War in South Carolina and then beat everybody by double digits. They wanted to hear that, they now...

AB: I think they wanted to... They certainly endorse Trump's critique of the Iraq War and the folly of invading Iraq. But he is so inconsistent and incoherent that there've been other things that he's said that would suggest that he'd up the ante, militarily.

SH: Absolutely.

05:54 AB: Take a "Bomb them into the Stone Age" approach, which I would argue would make things worse still. So, Trump ain't my guy, I'll tell you that, but of course neither is Cruz, and neither is Hillary Clinton.

SH: Yeah, well, I completely agree with you there. It was Rand Paul's cudgel to take up and he dropped it. But anyway. It is, it is a real shame, because it's just going undebated. At least with Dennis Kucinich and Rand Paul around you had a real argument, even if they kind of buried it.

AB: Yeah, it's a quite a negative judgement on our politics that 30-something years into this war for the greater Middle East, we don't have a party, a major party that questions the fact that war has become normal. We don't have a significant candidate and we don't have anybody even of the stature of Eugene McCarthy, back in 1968 willing to pick up the banner of anti-interventionism and make that a cause around which to organize a presidential campaign. Why our politics cannot incorporate a broader range of perspectives on war is a deeply troubling thing.

SH: Alright now, here's the thing, though, you're right, that there's a Carter Doctrine and there's a history of the later part of the 20th century, who could deny that? But, and you know I mean this in the most honest devil's advocate way that I can, not in favor of the demagogues but in favor of their victims at least, Andrew, radical Islam, man, how can you ignore the religiosity of Osama Bin Laden and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi? Isn't that what this is all about, they're coming to get us because their religion makes them hate us?

AB: No, I think that's a vast over-simplification. I think that you can't understand the dysfunction of a large part, not all parts, of the Islamic world without taking into account of a variety of factors. I would include among those factors, the history of European imperialism. I'd include the pervasive economic underdevelopment. I'd include the absence of any local leaders who are enlightened and effective and who actually care about the well-being of the people they govern. I'd include the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 which had a destabilizing effect that continues to echo many years later. I'd include the folly of American militarism as applied to the region. And yes, also, there is an important religious element: Divisions within Islam, grudges within Islam directed towards the West. But I think we really go wrong if we try to single out one factor and say, "That's it", I think because that over-simplifies things. To appreciate why our war for the greater Middle East has failed and will not succeed, you need to take onboard the multiplicity of factors that are in play.

SH: Okay now, so here's a problem that we have going back if you want, to Woodrow Wilson, or Theodore Roosevelt, or at least Jimmy Carter, where okay, yeah, you might have a point, but look at the mess we're in now, we've got at least do something. Maybe you're right that we've over-militarized things, in a way, but, boy, look at the mess we're in now. Where just in the last few years, the Bin Laden-ites, if you want to call them that, Al Qaeda types and franchises and wannabes and the Islamic State have really taken a foothold, and into North Africa and down into Mali and in alliance with Boko Haram and Nigeria and the crazies are multiplying like crazy. And seems like well, maybe, I mean, what? The Islamic State is just gonna defeat itself? We've gotta go in there and knock the hell out of them before we come back and rebuild America, right?

AB: You are accurately portraying the kind of thinking that prevails in policy circles, that even if people in Washington acknowledge that we've made a mess of things, they argue that we have no choice but to try harder and to keep at it. And my response to that would be, how can it be that the most powerful nation in the world has no choices? We only think we have no choices if we become a prisoner of this militarized mindset, if we reduce the available options to two. Either we have to continue to fight a misguided war or we're gonna walk away from things, wash our hands and resort to isolationism. That's the way the debate gets framed, and I think it's a false frame. There are other choices, if people in Washington would demonstrate a certain amount of creativity. And I'll give you my favorite option, and that is to encourage, nudge, persuade the countries in the region to take on board the responsibility of dealing with ISIS and other militant Jihadist organizations. Because, guess what? ISIS doesn't particularly pose an existential threat to us. It does pose an existential threat to Saudi Arabia, and Iraq and Iran, arguably Egypt, Turkey and if those countries would collaborate with one another against a common threat, they could deal with it.

AB: Now, I understand that all those countries I just ticked off have deep-seated disagreements with one another about a variety of issues. But the diplomatic task facing the United States, not the military task, the diplomatic task is to dissuade those countries to come to the realization that their common interest in dealing with ISIS should at least for now take precedence over the things that they differ about. So, I offer that as an example, it may not... There maybe other examples, there probably are. But as an example to illustrate that it's not either keep fighting a losing war or do nothing.

SH: Well, so one of the problems here is that... Well, because of the mess that America has made, Bush's invasion of Iraq and then Obama's support for the rebellion, especially in Syria, and the rise of the Islamic State has left a situation where the only way for them to be defeated really is... The Saudis have basically, I think, encouraged the rise of the Islamic State, maybe now they're a bit afraid of it. But it seems like the people in the best position to fight them are the Shi'ite Militias and the Shiastan Government in Baghdad and their... What's left of their army, their special forces divisions and so forth, in alliance with Assad and the military of Syria.

SH: And of course then the problem comes when... Assuming that they can rouse the Islamic State from Mosul and Fallujah, for example, is now you have a giant question of sectarian cleansing there and whether these Shi'ite forces are going to try to keep Fallujah and Mosul. There's a question to what degree they're letting Sunnis come back to places like Tikrit and Ramadi that have already been, "liberated from the Islamic State." And so then this just sets up a whole new series of consequences for us to discuss the war against... Three years from now and that kinda thing. They already opened Pandora's box. There's an endless chain of excuses to intervene further here, is what I'm trying to say.

AB: Yeah. Well, I think you're exactly right. If there's a huge mess, there will continue to be considerable violence and there will be... You can guarantee there will be voices in Washington or more broadly in the policy communities who will insist that we have an interest or we have a responsibility. And therefore, you're correct, there will be an endless supply of excuses to continue down this path. And in all likelihood, those proponents of further war will probably win the debate. In the meantime, I am suggesting that were we as a people to seriously evaluate the consequences of all of our prior military interventions in the region, perhaps it would become clear that simply trying harder is not the answer. And I hope some people read my book, I hope that message resonates with them. But you're right, the forward momentum of ever-more war is very strong and will be difficult to reverse.

SH: Well, and how much of this is just wrapped up in bogus pride and patriotism, and all that? They can't figure out a way to declare victory in quick...

AB: Well, it's not bogus pride and patriotism, I think that you're being too dismissive. It is wrapped up in the difficulty that Americans have, and especially people in the policy world have, the difficulty they have of recognizing that, "You know what, there are really... There are very clear limits to American power. There are things that we cannot do, we cannot accomplish." Certainly we cannot accomplish given the willingness of Americans to sacrifice. I suppose, maybe there's a chance that we could pacify the greater Middle East, if we would fully mobilize the human and the material resources of the United States of America. If we'd quintupled the size of the United States Army, if we would triple the size of the Pentagon budget, if we would be willing to commit US forces for two, or three, or four decades, maybe we could "win the war for the greater Middle East at that point."

AB: But it's clear that we as a people are not willing to make that kind of effort and make those kind of sacrifices. So, instead we have this... In a fundamental sense, a really half-hearted approach to waging the war for the greater Middle East. And the half-heartedness is a further guarantee that it's not gonna succeed in the end.

SH: Alright, so that is Andrew J. Bacevich. The latest book is America's War for the Greater Middle East: A Military History. You'll read a great excerpt at Politico, The Middle East: Let's End America's Hopeless War. And another great one at tomdispatch.com about Congress abdicating their authority over American war-making. Thank you very much for your time again on the show, Andrew, appreciate it.

AB: Well, thank you.

SH: Alright, y'all, sign up for the podcast feed, [scotthorton.org](http://scotthorton.org).

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