

Opinion / Editorial

THOSE CLAIMING IRAN HAD UPPER HAND AFTER CEASEFIRE ARE MADE FOOLS

By Bill Connor

Within around an hour of President Trump's deadline for Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz, he announced Iranians had agreed to a two-week ceasefire. This came after Trump warned Iranian Bridges and electric power generation would go. Due to destruction of Iran's political and military leadership, incoherent actions and statements came out of Iran after the ceasefire: Iran still fired missiles against Israel and neighboring Gulf states. Iran first claimed it would open the Strait of Hormuz as per the ceasefire agreement, then claimed it would charge tolls for ships to pass. Though the ceasefire was limited in time, the immediate reaction of

the left and "woke right" to the ceasefire was to claim Iran came out on top. The main alleged reason was that Iran controlled the Strait. After the first peace negotiations on Saturday broke down, Trump played a wildcard and "check mated" Iran, thereby making fools of Trump's critics.

The critics have been incredulous. Trump's ceasefire came after the most successful air campaign in history. In under 40 days, the Senior Iranian political and military leadership was killed multiple levels down. The Iranian Air Force and Navy were quickly dispatched. The Iranian air defenses were destroyed, which allowed for complete air supremacy over



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Iran (note: the F15 shot down was by a shoulder fired system and not integrated Air Defense). Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Basij headquarters were destroyed multiple levels down. Iranian nuclear facilities were destroyed and most nuclear scientists killed. Iran still holds hundreds of pounds of 60% enriched Uranium, hidden somewhere in Iran (likely underground and inaccessible right now after facilities were bombed). All this success came at the price of 13 American servicemembers, whose memories we honor but still far, far less than expected.

Despite the utter destruction of the Iranian military with few losses, Democrats slammed Trump has having given Iran the upper hand. That's despite the Democrats having lambasted Trump during the Operation Epic Fury for not finishing military operations sooner. Democratic Senate Majority leader Chuck Schumer, who was the most hawkish Democrat against Iran, gaslighted by claiming "The Iranian regime is still standing. Not just standing, but now emboldened.... Iran's nuclear ambition, worse. The bottom line is that Iran still holds its nuclear stockpile. Its nuclear ambitions are still unchecked, if not accelerated." <https://truthout.org/articles/top-democrats-make-momentum-behind-trump-impeachment-screch-to-a-halt/> Other Democrats were much more hyperbolic in criticism of the operation, claiming that because Iran controls traffic through the Strait of Hormuz we are worse off and they won. "Woke right" podcasters like Candace Owens, Tucker Carlson, Alex Jones and Meghan Kelly, were hammered by Trump on Truth Social for using the left's hyperbolic criticism of Epic Fury. Tucker Carlson went so far as to claim the operation was "The single biggest mistake Trump, or any American president, has made in my lifetime is going to war with Iran." <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-892721> Woke right podcaster Candace Owens called for Congress to throw Trump out of office and worse.

The left and woke right have been repeating Iranian regime propaganda of them "winning" the war despite their utter destruction. What remains of the regime leadership has been pushing this insane propaganda due to fears the Iranian people will rise up in revolution if they know the truth. After the Iranian regime murdered tens of thousand of Iranian unarmed protesters in January (one reason for Epic Fury) the regime cut off internet to the Iranian people. The people were kept in the dark from the truth of the obliteration of Iranian military and leadership. The regime is telling the people that they "won" the war by Iran now controlling the Strait of Hormuz. The regime takes pride in having caused worldwide discontent from economic repercussions of their blackmail. From PBS: "This is a propaganda war for them," Neil Lavie-Driver, an AI researcher at the University of Cambridge, said, referring to Iran. "Their goal is to sow enough discontent with the conflict as to eventually force the West to cave in, so it is massively important to them." <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/pro-iran-groups-deploy-ai-to-troll-trump>

Family & Marriage

How Are You and Money?

"It's not that riches are a sin – but they are a danger." – William Barclay

"For the love of money is the root of all evil;" – Bible (1 Timothy 6:10)

Dr. Scott Stanley, University of Denver, published a study in which he stated, "Money has symbolic potential unlike almost everything else ... Money is unique in that no day goes by for any adult when money is not used, thought of, spent, saved or worried about." When someone in a focus group brought up the idea that money was the primary reason for divorce, a divorced man shook his head. "No. People don't get divorced over money. They get divorced over what money brings out in them."

Randy Alcorn, Director, Eternal Perspective Ministries, suggests that when it comes to the dream of financial prosperity and security, we should ask, "Whose dream is it?" It may be the American dream, but does it help us achieve God's plan for us? Is it in the best interest for our family? If we focus on accumulating more money, it soon becomes our top priority. It overrides our family and our relationships in general. We may learn too late that money doesn't buy happiness. It's like a drug; we get a temporary high, but the feeling is soon gone and we need another fix, i.e. more money

Alcorn suggests we follow the Bible's guidance for money. "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to

be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed." (1 Timothy 6:17). Alcorn provides some principles to help us.

1. Recognize the dangers of a possessions-centered life. As noted above, money isn't inherently evil, but the devotion to money is. If our number one priority is money, then we will soon find ourselves doing whatever it takes to accumulate more money. That includes putting our family lower on the priority list, and maybe depriving our family of things that are needed because we have our minds set on something else. What we do with our money is a clear statement of our values.

2. Make giving a priority. In addition to evaluating our income, we must also evaluate our outgo. There are the normal expenditures of living, but what are our priorities? Giving to your local church as well as to missions and other ministries should be an important consideration. If God blesses you with a significant income, remind yourselves why: "So that you can be generous on every occasion" (2 Corinthians 9:11). God prospers us not to raise our standard of living, but to raise our standard of giving.

3. Set a budget so you can spend and save wisely. Budgeting helps us set our priorities. Develop a balance between how much we give, use for needs and wants, and save. Seek God's guidance, following His lead as best as we can discern it.

4. Avoid debt, except in rare in-

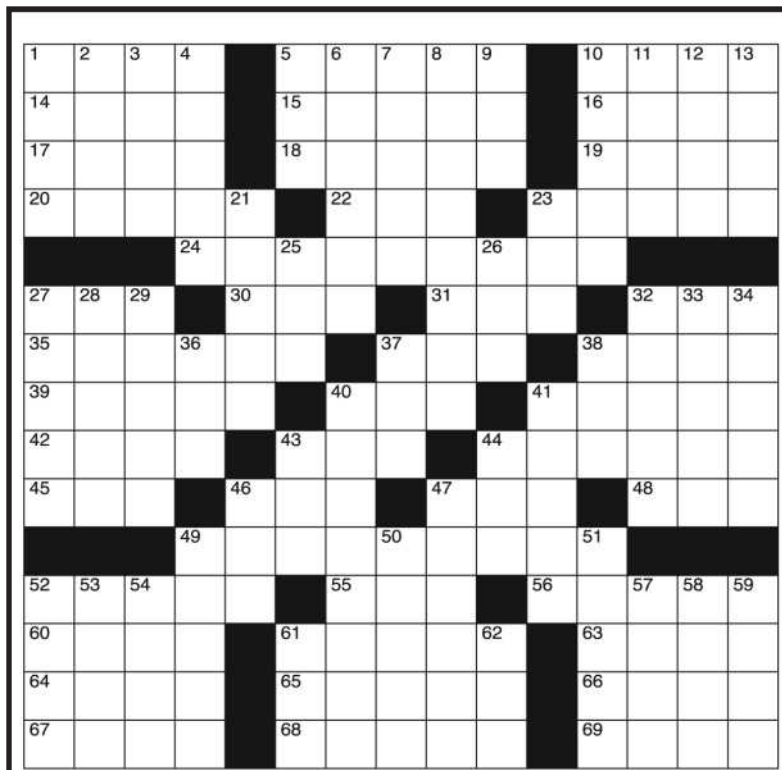


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Family and Marriage Coalition

stances. It is always unwise to live above your income. The choice to live under debt (except in manageable amounts, such as with a mortgage payment well within your means) will invariably produce continuing challenges in managing your finances, as well as putting a significant strain on your marriage. Never use credit cards for anything except budgeted purchases and pay off your credit cards every month.

5. Enjoy life to God's glory. Scripture says we are to put our hope not in material things but "in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Timothy 6:17 NIV). God entrusts us with money to care for our needs and the needs of others, but also so we can take pleasure in the life He has given us. Invest in Eternity – Together

Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken, Inc. (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689, rogerrollins@gmail.com. Let us know how we can help.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greek goddess of marriage
- 5. Tropical American blue jay-like bird
- 10. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 14. Dark olive black
- 15. Light, crinkled fabric
- 16. Notre Dame has a golden one
- 17. Leaked blood
- 18. Confronted
- 19. Negligible amount
- 20. Facilitated
- 22. Hill or rocky peak
- 23. Minneapolis suburb
- 24. Songs to one's beloved
- 27. Brake horsepower
- 30. Angry
- 31. Children's game
- 32. Spelling is a type of one
- 35. Obtained in return for labor
- 37. Indicates center
- 38. Chinese dynasty
- 39. Old World buffaloes
- 40. Slang for time off
- 41. Fabric
- 42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 43. Defunct regional economic organization
- 44. Philly footballers
- 45. Female sibling
- 46. Peter Griffin's daughter
- 47. Digital audiotape
- 48. Insecticide
- 49. Scientific instrument
- 52. Pages may be dog-__
- 55. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Middle Eastern military title
- 61. Wise individuals
- 63. French Polynesian island Bora __
- 64. Popular shoe type
- 65. One of 50
- 66. Divulge a secret
- 67. Dish of cooked meat mixed with potatoes
- 68. Actress Zellweger
- 69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Greek cupbearer of the Gods
- 2. Ancient Syrian city
- 3. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- 4. Range of mountains
- 5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 6. Spoke
- 7. City in Georgia
- 8. Theatrical
- 9. CNN's founder
- 10. Icelandic poems
- 11. Bjorn __, tennis player
- 12. Bowfin genus
- 13. One point north of northeast
- 21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 23. Electroencephalograph
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Male parent
- 27. Where some gymnasts work
- 28. Capital of Vietnam
- 29. Sailboats
- 32. Shelter (Scottish)
- 33. Completed
- 34. Discharge
- 36. Arrest
- 37. Partner to cheese
- 38. Coffee receptacle
- 40. Stagnate
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Snake-like fish
- 44. Consume food
- 46. Type of school
- 47. Erase
- 49. Inform
- 50. Girl's given name
- 51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 52. Every one of two or more things
- 53. Northern India city
- 54. Seventeenth stars in a constellation
- 57. Weapon
- 58. Amounts of time
- 59. Isidor __, American Nobel physicist
- 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 62. Witness

PUZZLE SOLUTION

H	E	R	A	M	O	M	O	T	E	B	A	N
E	B	O	N	C	R	A	P	E	D	O	M	E
B	L	E	D	F	A	C	E	D	D	R	I	B
E	A	S	E	D	T	O	R	E	A	G	A	N
S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S				
B	H	P	M	A	D	T	A	G	B	E	E	
E	A	R	N	E	D	M	I	D	M	I	N	G
A	N	O	A	S	V	A	C	S	U	E	D	E
M	O	A	B	E	E	C	E	A	G	L	E	S
S	I	S	M	E	G	D	A	T	D	D	T	
T	E	L	E	M	E	T	E	R				
E	A	R	E	D	T	E	L	S	A	B	E	R
A	G	H	A	S	A	G	E	S	B	O	R	A
C	R	O	C	S	T	A	T	E	B	L	A	B
H	A	S	H	R	E	N	E	E	I	A	S	I



influence-the-war-narrative The Iranian strategy was to focus propaganda on sympathetic sources in the West (like the left and woke right) to bring enough pressure on Trump to end the war.

After the first peace negotiations between the US and Iran in Islamabad on Saturday broke down, Trump checkmated Iran. He announced a US blockade of the Strait of Hormuz in which all Iranian ships and ships which paid Iran an illegal toll will be stopped. Additionally, Trump is sending in US Naval Warships to clear mines from the Strait. These warships are not paying heed to Iranians trying to stop them. The Iranians know that if they attack any warships, Trump will obliterate much of Iran's infrastructure and the oil transit of Kharg Island (90% of Iranian oil exports). The Iranian economy will crumble. This means Iran has lost its blackmail. America doesn't need the oil, and Iran's ally of China will force Iran to surrender to American Demands.

Trump's checkmate makes fools of the critics on the left and woke right. As Proverbs 18:2 tells us "A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion." That includes opinions not backed by reality.

SUDOKU

	5		1	4				
3								2
4		1	8					
	9			5				
		2		1				
	1	5		6				7
		4	9			1	7	
		7						8
		2	3					

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	8	2	1	7	5	4	6	3
1	6	7	5	2	4	8	3	9
5	3	4	8	6	1	7	2	9
8	1	5	4	6	9	2	3	7
7	4	6	2	3	1	8	5	9
2	9	3	7	5	8	6	1	4
4	2	1	8	7	3	9	6	5
3	7	8	6	9	5	4	2	1
6	5	9	1	4	2	7	8	3

ANSWER: