



TRANSCRIPT FROM the Insightview.eu Podcast interview with Jacob Kaarsbo, Senior Analyst, Think Tank Europa - former chief analyst at the Defence Intelligence Service:

**Ukraine, Iran, China, Russia, Donald Trump and what awaits the EU countries in the coming time, (April 24, 2024)**

## INTRO INSIGHTVIEW.EU

1

00:00:01,710 --> 00:00:08,550

This is an Insightview.eu podcast.

2

00:00:16,558 --> 00:00:20,418

The US Congress has finally passed in both chambers a crucial

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00:00:20,418 --> 00:00:24,098

aid package for Ukraine, which should have been passed six months ago.

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00:00:24,098 --> 00:00:28,198

Insightview has spoken with Jakob Kaarsbo from the Think Tank in Europe, who has just returned

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00:00:28,198 --> 00:00:31,258

from a visit to Ukraine, about



the significance of the aid package.

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00:00:31,258 --> 00:00:35,158

We also discuss the need for a reality check in the EU countries, which may be

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00:00:35,158 --> 00:00:38,798

facing a much greater threat if we have not only misread Russia, but

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00:00:38,798 --> 00:00:40,958

also misread China.

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00:00:47,214 --> 00:00:51,034

Jakob Kaarsbo, when I have listened to Danish politicians, public sector department heads, and

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00:00:51,034 --> 00:00:54,854

ambassadors over the last 10 years, nobody warned about either Russia



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00:00:54,854 --> 00:00:58,314

or China, and we were just supposed to make a deal with Iran and North Korea, then

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00:00:58,314 --> 00:00:59,394

peace would be secured.

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00:00:59,394 --> 00:01:03,234

Their assessment apparently relied heavily on the rationality of the political

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00:01:03,234 --> 00:01:07,594

leaders in authoritarian regimes, believing that they would eventually become like us -

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00:01:07,594 --> 00:01:08,434

democratic.

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00:01:08,434 --> 00:01:12,694

Listening to the debate on Ukraine back home, several of the same persons, now



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00:01:12,694 --> 00:01:16,114

former ambassadors and

public sector department heads, still play a significant role

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00:01:16,114 --> 00:01:17,230

in the public discussion.

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00:01:17,230 --> 00:01:20,390

They have argued that Ukraine must  
negotiate with Russia.

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00:01:20,390 --> 00:01:23,850

Are they right, or have they just not  
understood that their previous

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00:01:23,850 --> 00:01:26,500

misjudgements are partly to blame  
for where we stand today?

**JACOB KAARSBO**

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00:01:26,500 --> 00:01:30,010



Well, I don't believe they are  
right, unfortunately.

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00:01:30,110 --> 00:01:34,750

And I also know several  
diplomats directly involved with the Ukraine

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00:01:34,750 --> 00:01:38,750

-Russia conflict who do not  
agree.

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00:01:38,750 --> 00:01:42,790

But I would say, generally speaking,  
diplomats must believe in their profession.

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00:01:42,790 --> 00:01:46,390

They always believe that there is a  
negotiable solution, and that is entirely

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00:01:46,390 --> 00:01:47,086

fair.

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00:01:47,086 --> 00:01:51,606

I am more accustomed to looking at the opponents, for example.

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00:01:52,026 --> 00:01:57,056

That's why, unfortunately, I do not think there is a negotiable solution when we look at

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00:01:57,056 --> 00:01:59,786

where Putin's regime is heading.

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00:01:59,786 --> 00:02:04,396

And also, when we consider where Iran and North Korea are heading.

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00:02:04,396 --> 00:02:09,286

One might say, regarding North Korea, we have known for a long time, but it does not appear so.

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00:02:13,294 --> 00:02:16,434

Jacob Kaarsbo, thank you for taking the time



to join this podcast.

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00:02:16,434 --> 00:02:19,774

Jacob, we need to talk about Ukraine, where you have just returned from after a

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00:02:19,774 --> 00:02:21,084

working visit to the country.

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00:02:21,084 --> 00:02:24,914

But we also need to discuss China and the Israel -Iran conflict, and what Mike

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00:02:24,914 --> 00:02:29,104

Johnson, the leader of the House of Representatives in the USA, calls the "Axis of Evil."

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00:02:29,104 --> 00:02:32,914

We will end the podcast by discussing the risk picture that the

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00:02:32,914 --> 00:02:36,914



European NATO countries are facing with  
or without the USA in the future.

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00:02:36,914 --> 00:02:38,664

As mentioned, you visited Ukraine last week.

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00:02:38,664 --> 00:02:42,062

How was the adoption of the aid package  
from the USA received in Kiev?

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00:02:42,062 --> 00:02:45,562

Will the aid package arrive in time to prevent  
what is beginning to look like the start of a

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00:02:45,562 --> 00:02:49,022

Russian spring offensive, or will the Russians  
get cold feet?

**JACOB KAARSBO**

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00:02:49,022 --> 00:02:58,682

There is no doubt that it is being  
received with great jubilation and hopes.





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00:02:58,682 --> 00:03:06,142

I was there last week, and, there was a certain crisis atmosphere, one might say.

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00:03:06,322 --> 00:03:11,566

There is a supply crisis at the front, at the Ukrainian units.

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00:03:11,566 --> 00:03:13,866

Nobody is hiding that.

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00:03:13,866 --> 00:03:19,906

The aid package arrives at a particularly dry place

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00:03:19,906 --> 00:03:24,766

and addresses the immediate crisis at the front line.

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00:03:24,766 --> 00:03:29,346

Then, the question is turned around,



is it arriving in time?

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00:03:29,446 --> 00:03:35,526

It is not, because it has cost  
thousands of soldiers' lives

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00:03:35,526 --> 00:03:40,494

because they have not had enough ammo  
for half a year.

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00:03:40,494 --> 00:03:44,434

Then one can turn the question again and  
ask, why aren't Europeans doing more,

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00:03:44,434 --> 00:03:48,864

but we actually do not have the capacity  
to do much more than we are doing now.

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00:03:48,864 --> 00:03:53,454

There were some things we could have done,  
but on the whole, what

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00:03:53,454 --> 00:03:56,914

Europeans lack is actually the capacity to do more.

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00:03:56,914 --> 00:03:58,934

Yes, speaking of what Europe can do.

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00:03:58,934 --> 00:04:02,494

The recently passed aid package for Ukraine from Congress amounts to about

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00:04:02,494 --> 00:04:04,974

0.25% of the USA's GDP.

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00:04:04,974 --> 00:04:08,574

And several politicians in the EU have also commented that the passage of the aid package

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00:04:08,574 --> 00:04:10,694

was timely, as they say.



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00:04:10,694 --> 00:04:13,774

One might well wonder a bit about that last comment.

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00:04:13,774 --> 00:04:18,754

Shouldn't the EU at a minimum provide an aid package of 50 billion, i.e., 0.25%

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00:04:18,754 --> 00:04:24,734

% of the EU's GDP, since Ukraine is, after all, in the EU's neighbourhood, and EU politicians talk

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00:04:24,734 --> 00:04:27,514

a lot about Ukraine fighting for our freedom.

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00:04:27,514 --> 00:04:29,070

We could also buy weapons from other places.

**JACOB KAARSBO**

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00:04:29,830 --> 00:04:33,210

The problem is actually on the global market,  
it's not like you can just ring up

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00:04:33,210 --> 00:04:38,510

South Korea

or Israel or the USA, and say,

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00:04:38,510 --> 00:04:44,030

can we just get these millions of  
artillery shells.

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00:04:44,030 --> 00:04:52,170

The issue is that the global market  
is also saturated with demand, and it

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00:04:52,170 --> 00:04:57,678

can't keep up, so we are seeing increasing  
delivery times, we are seeing rising prices,

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00:04:57,678 --> 00:05:02,038

too, so it's actually a big problem.



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00:05:02,158 --> 00:05:05,918

And then one can say that the Europeans have actually done something.

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00:05:05,918 --> 00:05:11,078

It was the Czech initiative to buy artillery shells.

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00:05:11,078 --> 00:05:12,668

But it just doesn't move quickly enough.

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00:05:12,668 --> 00:05:19,418

And we have this weakness in Europe, that it's not delegated to the EU, if I may say so.

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00:05:19,418 --> 00:05:20,318

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00:05:20,898 --> 00:05:24,422

The decisions in these areas lie with the member states.

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00:05:24,430 --> 00:05:29,390

Unfortunately, it happens that when 27 member states, all of whom have used up their

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00:05:29,390 --> 00:05:34,210

budgets, and all are pressured with budgets, then it becomes a case of pass the buck

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00:05:34,210 --> 00:05:37,510

game, and then they sit around the table and wait for the other.

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00:05:37,510 --> 00:05:41,410

That's part of the reason why this Czech ammunition initiative has been delayed.

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00:05:41,410 --> 00:05:44,710

So, one could say that we don't have the engine in Brussels to...

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00:05:45,130 --> 00:05:49,390

...drive it up, the countries have not been willing to give Brussels that



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00:05:49,390 --> 00:05:54,290

authority.

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00:05:54,290 --> 00:05:55,850

So, it's out in the 27 member countries, where  
we can say that some are

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00:06:00,990 --> 00:06:02,170

dragging their feet...

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00:06:02,170 --> 00:06:04,470

...and others are dragging less.

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00:06:04,470 --> 00:06:08,730

But have Danish and European politicians  
really understood what it takes

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00:06:08,730 --> 00:06:10,790

for us to defend our





own freedom?

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00:06:10,790 --> 00:06:14,390

Here, as you also mention, I am thinking particularly about the need for necessary capacity

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00:06:14,390 --> 00:06:15,822

within the defence industry.

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00:06:15,822 --> 00:06:19,712

Is it the EU that should solve this, or is it a completely different type of organisation?

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00:06:19,712 --> 00:06:21,622

We also need to involve the UK, don't we?

**JACOB KAARSBO**

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00:06:21,622 --> 00:06:26,342

Yes, well, one can say that the UK has left, and there's nothing we can do

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00:06:26,342 --> 00:06:27,122

about it.

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00:06:27,122 --> 00:06:33,002

I think many of us, who deal with global and

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00:06:33,002 --> 00:06:36,382

geopolitical affairs, can only lament this.

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00:06:36,382 --> 00:06:39,854

But, there's nothing to be done

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00:06:39,854 --> 00:06:42,794

about it. Many wonder, can't NATO do something?

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00:06:42,794 --> 00:06:47,574

No, because NATO also does not have  
the tools to operate in the

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00:06:47,574 --> 00:06:49,674

industrial sector.



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00:06:49,734 --> 00:06:56,714

The EU has a huge comparative advantage in the industrial sector, in the internal

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00:06:56,714 --> 00:06:57,194

market.

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00:06:57,194 --> 00:07:02,354

There is no internal market for defence equipment.

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00:07:02,494 --> 00:07:08,574

So, it is natural to create an effective European

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00:07:08,574 --> 00:07:09,934

defence industry.

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00:07:09,934 --> 00:07:15,034

It actually lies with the EU, and this is something that has been discussed in these

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00:07:15,034 --> 00:07:18,674

days, hours, and months.

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00:07:18,674 --> 00:07:23,814

Because a decision must be made about this  
common European defence industrial

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00:07:23,814 --> 00:07:28,094

strategy at the summit in June.

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00:07:28,614 --> 00:07:33,634

And, it can be said that our experience  
over these two years, where there has been

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00:07:33,634 --> 00:07:40,198

pressure, has been that the countries can't  
really solve it amongst themselves, because...

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00:07:40,302 --> 00:07:49,982

then you have too small budgets to  
have the effect in the industry that will

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00:07:49,982 --> 00:07:51,222

make a difference.

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00:07:51,222 --> 00:07:57,262

There's a lot of "silos thinking" going on in the  
27 member states.

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00:07:57,322 --> 00:08:05,162

If it is to have any effect, and  
if Europe is to be more prepared

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00:08:05,162 --> 00:08:08,928

to handle war and these threats,

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00:08:08,974 --> 00:08:14,314

then a joint European approach is needed,  
because otherwise, we will not get the major

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00:08:14,314 --> 00:08:19,734

investment in the defence industry,  
which is needed.

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00:08:19,734 --> 00:08:25,454

There was this so-called ASAP initiative, which is about building up

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00:08:25,454 --> 00:08:29,014

capacity to produce artillery shells.

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00:08:29,014 --> 00:08:30,834

It is a very good initiative.

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00:08:30,834 --> 00:08:32,794

It just needs to be much larger.

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00:08:32,794 --> 00:08:35,597

We were caught by the fact that

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00:08:35,597 --> 00:08:41,377

no one has any budget leeway to inject funds.

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00:08:41,377 --> 00:08:45,977

And the EU's "budget cycle" is also spent.



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00:08:46,117 --> 00:08:50,137

Therefore,

one can say that there are a number of countries that say the only thing we can

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00:08:50,137 --> 00:08:54,937

do in this situation, just like during corona, is to create a loan-financed

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00:08:54,937 --> 00:08:55,897

fund.

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00:08:55,977 --> 00:09:00,957

And in my book, that would be the only right thing to do, even if

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00:09:00,957 --> 00:09:01,774

as...

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00:09:01,774 --> 00:09:08,194



the Danish government is somewhat reluctant  
to take on further loans, we must say that we

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00:09:08,194 --> 00:09:11,054

are in a security crisis.

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00:09:11,074 --> 00:09:19,674

We can't solve it unless either you cut  
the many expenses that the states have.

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00:09:19,674 --> 00:09:22,054

There is no willingness for that.

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00:09:22,214 --> 00:09:26,274

or we create a loan-financed through  
the EU.

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00:09:26,606 --> 00:09:30,806

The Danish Prime Minister and the  
Swedish Prime Minister, although they have been

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00:09:30,806 --> 00:09:34,346





on the austerity team so far, have also opened up to.

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00:09:34,346 --> 00:09:42,746

It is along with the Baltic states, and the Finns are also involved, the Poles and the French.

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00:09:43,306 --> 00:09:51,326

Ultimately, it is probably Germany that is

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00:09:51,326 --> 00:09:56,334

the challenge in this loan-taking issue.

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00:09:56,334 --> 00:09:59,194

But that is something that could solve the problem.

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00:09:59,314 --> 00:10:05,334

Regarding Germany, I would say that Pistorius, the Defence Minister, has

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00:10:05,334 --> 00:10:09,514



been out with some statements,  
which could be interpreted to mean that there could

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00:10:09,514 --> 00:10:13,034

be a movement in the German position.

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00:10:13,034 --> 00:10:17,744

It is the FDP, which is part of the coalition,  
that is actually blocking this.

**JACOB KAARSBO**

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00:10:17,744 --> 00:10:22,734

I think, if we look at this through the  
security policy lens that I typically wear,

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00:10:22,734 --> 00:10:23,886

as usual,

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00:10:23,886 --> 00:10:29,346

there are good questions for the FDP and those



against this borrowing...

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00:10:29,346 --> 00:10:30,806

...what now?

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00:10:30,806 --> 00:10:32,406

How will you solve it?

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00:10:32,406 --> 00:10:34,246

We can't.

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00:10:34,666 --> 00:10:41,286

With the tools currently available in  
our toolkit, we have an ambition to

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00:10:41,286 --> 00:10:48,726

reach a production of two million artillery shells  
by 2025.

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00:10:49,326 --> 00:10:57,126

If Ukraine is to have a chance to  
reclaim their territory, then we are looking at



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00:10:57,126 --> 00:11:04,796

them needing at least 3-4 million artillery shells.

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00:11:04,796 --> 00:11:13,446

The Russians appear to be able to delay deliveries, so they can fire 10,000

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00:11:13,446 --> 00:11:15,706

artillery shells a day.

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00:11:16,526 --> 00:11:23,146

The Western-produced shells are of better quality, precision, etc.....

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00:11:23,346 --> 00:11:30,056

...but to be able to alleviate this situation, we would need something along those lines.

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00:11:30,056 --> 00:11:36,226

We must also remember that European countries need to build up their own stockpiles.



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00:11:37,006 --> 00:11:39,766

So, we are in a crisis.

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00:11:39,766 --> 00:11:45,766

One could say, delivery of other types  
of equipment,

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00:11:45,774 --> 00:11:51,794

when you look around Europe, most of the  
factories have switched to

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00:11:51,794 --> 00:11:53,274

three shifts.

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00:11:53,574 --> 00:11:56,014

But, it's still not enough.

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00:11:56,014 --> 00:12:00,294

Investment in new production lines is needed  
around the place,



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00:12:00,294 --> 00:12:03,334

a lot allocated for development, etc.

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00:12:03,594 --> 00:12:11,790

But expanding production lines is a major headache.

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00:12:11,790 --> 00:12:15,790

Speaking of the need for a stronger European defence industry, we probably cannot

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00:12:15,790 --> 00:12:20,130

avoid discussing China, which is currently extremely busy flooding the EU and

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00:12:20,130 --> 00:12:24,860

USA with overcapacity products within electric vehicles, batteries, steel, and others.

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00:12:24,860 --> 00:12:29,090



This risks intensifying what looks like  
a dismantling of European industry,

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00:12:29,090 --> 00:12:31,330

which does not quite align with what  
you are talking about.

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00:12:31,330 --> 00:12:34,430

The pandemic in many ways was a wake-up  
call for European and American

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00:12:34,430 --> 00:12:36,940

politicians regarding dependence on  
China.

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00:12:36,940 --> 00:12:40,590

But not much has changed since then,  
at least not in the EU, but on the other hand,

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00:12:40,590 --> 00:12:41,676

it has in the USA.

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00:12:41,902 --> 00:12:46,382

The warning could have been heeded earlier,  
if one listened to Xi Jinping's speeches and

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00:12:46,382 --> 00:12:49,512

his declared goal of independence  
from the rest of the world.

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00:12:49,512 --> 00:12:53,202

He spoke a lot about dual circulation  
or about becoming

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00:12:53,202 --> 00:12:54,942

self-sufficient within China.

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00:12:54,942 --> 00:12:59,762

Given the military threat from Russia  
that you mention, should we not

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00:12:59,762 --> 00:13:03,162

be more explicit about our dependency  
on China?





JACOB KAARSBO

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00:13:03,162 --> 00:13:10,478

Yes, in my book, we should do so, because...

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00:13:10,478 --> 00:13:18,438

among European countries there is this approach of de-risking, as

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00:13:18,438 --> 00:13:19,858

it's called.

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00:13:19,858 --> 00:13:25,238

Minimising dependence on China, or

at least reducing it.

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00:13:25,238 --> 00:13:30,038

And many are asking themselves,

should we not decouple, because there

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00:13:30,038 --> 00:13:35,982

you can say de-risking is like an elastic measure.



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00:13:35,982 --> 00:13:41,802

And one could say in the electronics  
or technology sector, especially,

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00:13:41,802 --> 00:13:48,542

it's difficult, and the Chinese are exploiting all  
they earn from us extensively.

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00:13:48,542 --> 00:13:54,562

Recent figures released on the  
Chinese trade of "dual use" products

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00:13:54,562 --> 00:14:01,522

in relation to Russia, show that  
much of it actually goes to sustaining

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00:14:01,522 --> 00:14:05,966

Russia's war machine

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00:14:05,966 --> 00:14:09,406

with Chinese technology.



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00:14:09,406 --> 00:14:14,256

Which is far superior to what the Russians  
can produce themselves.

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00:14:14,256 --> 00:14:20,046

So, in this way, much of what  
we earn in China, and much of what

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00:14:20,046 --> 00:14:26,286

the Chinese earn from us, is  
actually used to undermine our

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00:14:26,286 --> 00:14:27,486

security.

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00:14:27,666 --> 00:14:33,350

So, at some point, there  
is a high risk that...

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00:14:33,390 --> 00:14:37,790

we find ourselves caught with our beards in the mailbox.



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00:14:38,010 --> 00:14:45,610

Last week, Scholz was also in China and signed a number of agreements.

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00:14:45,610 --> 00:14:50,430

Scholz is pressured by poor economic figures, etc.

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00:14:50,490 --> 00:14:55,190

And of course, he has a business delegation with him, not least

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00:14:55,190 --> 00:14:56,910

from the automotive industry.

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00:14:56,910 --> 00:15:00,829

And what does the industry want? Obviously, to make money.

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00:15:00,829 --> 00:15:02,070

I don't blame them for that.



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00:15:02,070 --> 00:15:05,690

But the problem is, it takes us to  
a vulnerable place.

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00:15:05,690 --> 00:15:12,350

And we have a problem, because what  
Scholz and the German automotive industry think about de-risking,

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00:15:12,350 --> 00:15:18,230

as it is called, is something  
quite different from how it is interpreted

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00:15:18,230 --> 00:15:21,390

elsewhere, by those who are more  
critical of it.

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00:15:21,390 --> 00:15:23,310

That's where we are challenged.

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00:15:23,310 --> 00:15:27,050

There's absolutely no reason to  
hide that.



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00:15:27,050 --> 00:15:31,070

Yes, because there are many European  
businesspeople who often tell me that

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00:15:31,070 --> 00:15:32,950

decoupling is almost impossible.

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00:15:32,950 --> 00:15:36,450

For me, that almost sets off alarm bells because if we

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00:15:36,450 --> 00:15:40,730

are that far along, then we should be  
much quicker in terms of reducing

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00:15:40,730 --> 00:15:45,030

our dependence on China, especially when we know  
we are talking about an alliance between Russia and

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00:15:45,030 --> 00:15:45,790



China.

**JACOB KAARSBO**

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00:15:45,790 --> 00:15:50,410

Yes, you could say, the longer we  
wait, the less we do, the more costly it will

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00:15:50,410 --> 00:15:52,366

likely become at some point.

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00:15:52,366 --> 00:15:56,746

That's the devil of it, as I said  
before.

227

00:15:56,826 --> 00:16:01,786

from an industrial viewpoint, it's about  
making money.

228

00:16:01,786 --> 00:16:09,546

There isn't a shared perception of risk in  
terms of how bad things can get.



INSIGHTVIEW.EU

229

00:16:16,462 --> 00:16:19,242

Let's continue on the subject of  
China.

230

00:16:19,242 --> 00:16:24,462

China has declared itself neutral regarding  
the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

231

00:16:24,462 --> 00:16:28,942

but one could say it's more of a  
"neutrality with Chinese characteristics".

232

00:16:28,942 --> 00:16:31,582

Nonetheless, there's no longer any doubt that  
there appears to be

233

00:16:31,582 --> 00:16:35,962

an image of an unofficial alliance, as I  
mentioned, between Russia, China, Iran, and

234





00:16:35,962 --> 00:16:39,542

North Korea on one side, and a USA-led NATO on the other.

235

00:16:39,542 --> 00:16:41,122

Is this also how you see the world today?

**JACOB KAARSBO**

236

00:16:41,122 --> 00:16:45,522

As I see it, there is no alliance between...

237

00:16:45,582 --> 00:16:48,542

Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran.

238

00:16:48,542 --> 00:16:53,972

But they help each other because they have a common goal.

239

00:16:53,972 --> 00:16:58,682

The common goal is what they call "multipolarity".



240

00:16:59,162 --> 00:17:06,322

If I were to translate, it means that  
the USA and the West should have less control.

241

00:17:06,322 --> 00:17:08,302

They should have more control.

242

00:17:08,362 --> 00:17:12,262

They want to increase their power, and they want to do it  
in their own way.

243

00:17:12,270 --> 00:17:18,210

And to govern the areas they believe  
belong to them.

244

00:17:18,490 --> 00:17:22,850

That's what we see in the South China Sea,  
if we're talking about China.

245

00:17:22,850 --> 00:17:25,390

That's what we see with Russia.



246

00:17:25,390 --> 00:17:31,830

Any notion that it's just about Ukraine and Donbas is, unfortunately, naive.

247

00:17:31,830 --> 00:17:34,350

It's about much more than that, as Putin has said.

248

00:17:34,350 --> 00:17:37,790

He has written about it.

249

00:17:37,790 --> 00:17:38,790

It appears in Russian propaganda

250

00:17:38,790 --> 00:17:42,254

broadcasts on state-controlled TV, almost daily or at least several

251

00:17:42,254 --> 00:17:47,954

times a week.

252

00:17:47,954 --> 00:17:49,134



And on the radio too.

253

00:17:49,134 --> 00:17:51,254

And in the education of children in this  
“Z phenomenon”.

254

00:17:51,414 --> 00:17:54,774

And Putin himself says that he does not recognize  
the states that are on the periphery of

255

00:17:54,774 --> 00:17:56,910

Russia.

256

00:17:56,910 --> 00:18:01,054

That is, the former  
Soviet Union.

257

00:18:01,054 --> 00:18:04,034

So that's what they want.

258

00:18:04,034 --> 00:18:07,182

And China, as you yourself say, has tried to



present itself to the world as neutral.

259

00:18:07,182 --> 00:18:12,942

And why does China do that?

260

00:18:13,082 --> 00:18:14,402

They have also come up with a so-called peace proposal.

261

00:18:14,402 --> 00:18:17,772

And China does this because China really wants to position itself as a spokesperson

262

00:18:17,772 --> 00:18:23,642

for the so-called global south.

263

00:18:23,642 --> 00:18:26,052

It's important for them because they want to undermine European-American

264

00:18:26,052 --> 00:18:32,542

influence in Africa and Asia.



265

00:18:32,542 --> 00:18:35,950

And South America as well.

266

00:18:35,950 --> 00:18:37,970

Therefore, they try to position themselves  
as the voice of “peace in Ukraine”.

267

00:18:37,970 --> 00:18:44,170

It's just something fake.

268

00:18:44,170 --> 00:18:48,210

Excuse me, something false.

269

00:18:48,210 --> 00:18:50,150

Meanwhile, at every possible  
opportunity they have, they characterize the

270

00:18:50,150 --> 00:18:58,130

Ukraine war as NATO's fault.

271



00:18:58,130 --> 00:18:59,540

It's NATO's fault, etc.

272

00:18:59,540 --> 00:19:02,330

That's not what it's about.

273

00:19:02,330 --> 00:19:04,622

The trade figures I talked about earlier with  
Russia show that China does not send

274

00:19:04,622 --> 00:19:12,642

military products to Russia, but they send a large and increasing amount of

275

00:19:12,642 --> 00:19:19,562

products and goods that can be used for  
weapon manufacturing.

276

00:19:19,562 --> 00:19:23,242

The volume has exploded over the  
last 14 months since Xi was in Moscow.

277

00:19:23,242 --> 00:19:31,118



It shows that China does this with the intention that Russia should win.

278

00:19:31,118 --> 00:19:41,258

Why does China do this when we thought China was somewhere else and supported the UN charter?

279

00:19:41,258 --> 00:19:47,838

280

00:19:47,838 --> 00:19:51,878

It's because China does not like...

281

00:19:51,878 --> 00:19:54,778

the Chinese, they do not like Putin.

282

00:19:54,938 --> 00:19:57,438

They do not like Russian nationalism.

283

00:19:57,438 --> 00:20:00,494

But all other scenarios are...





284

00:20:00,494 --> 00:20:03,714

...what can you say, a disaster for them.

285

00:20:03,714 --> 00:20:09,654

If democracy were to come to Russia, "God forbid" that in a Chinese

286

00:20:09,654 --> 00:20:14,354

perspective, because it would undermine their own system.

287

00:20:14,354 --> 00:20:19,134

And if there were to be an increase in Russian nationalism, that too would be

288

00:20:19,134 --> 00:20:23,934

a problem in relation to the Chinese, for then the antagonism between Russia

289

00:20:23,934 --> 00:20:25,354

and China would intensify.



290

00:20:25,354 --> 00:20:28,718

And should Russia begin to disintegrate....

291

00:20:28,718 --> 00:20:34,268

...it is, after all, a federation consisting of  
Dagestanis and Ingushetians etc.

292

00:20:34,268 --> 00:20:37,758

Then it's the Chechens still in it  
that they must hold on to....

293

00:20:37,758 --> 00:20:40,118

...Russia actually does it by force.

294

00:20:40,118 --> 00:20:42,038

It's a patchwork quilt.

295

00:20:42,038 --> 00:20:48,538

The Chinese also fear that there could  
be a disintegration, which could spread to



296

00:20:48,538 --> 00:20:49,598

China.

297

00:20:49,738 --> 00:20:54,178

So, that's actually what drives them in relation to Putin.

298

00:20:54,178 --> 00:20:56,910

But it also says something about this...

299

00:20:56,910 --> 00:21:00,570

alliance narrative, because that's not how it is.

300

00:21:00,570 --> 00:21:06,790

I usually say this when I have pictures of Xi and Putin, and Khamenei and

301

00:21:06,790 --> 00:21:09,210

Kim from North Korea.

302



00:21:09,210 --> 00:21:14,310

If tea is served to them, they

look around the room, and no one dares

303

00:21:14,310 --> 00:21:16,730

to take the first sip of the tea.

304

00:21:16,730 --> 00:21:19,530

Because it's not because they trust  
each other.

305

00:21:19,570 --> 00:21:21,320

They are that type...

306

00:21:21,320 --> 00:21:26,224

...some call autocrats, but they are  
dictators.

307

00:21:26,702 --> 00:21:31,122

Therefore, it's not because they trust  
each other, but because in the current



308

00:21:31,122 --> 00:21:39,042

Situation, they have a common goal to  
undermine American and Western power on

309

00:21:39,042 --> 00:21:44,162

the globe and see democracy as a threat to  
their own regimes.

310

00:21:44,162 --> 00:21:46,012

That's what they can agree on.

311

00:21:46,012 --> 00:21:47,922

That's why they assist each other  
militarily.

**INSIGHTVIEW.EU**

313

00:21:47,922 --> 00:21:52,502

We'll come back to whether this entity,  
which is not an alliance, coordinates much when we get to

314



00:21:52,502 --> 00:21:54,798

the Middle East.

315

00:21:54,798 --> 00:21:57,524

But there's no doubt that several Republicans in the American

316

00:21:57,524 --> 00:22:00,758

Congress have woken up from what  
looks like a deep slumber...

317

00:22:00,758 --> 00:22:04,738

...at least Mike Johnson,  
the Majority Leader in the House of Representatives,

318

00:22:04,738 --> 00:22:09,478

in the US Congress, who now calls  
this non-alliance between Russia,

319

00:22:09,478 --> 00:22:13,718

China, Iran, and North Korea, the "Axis of Evil."

320

00:22:13,718 --> 00:22:17,198



If the EU countries are in the process of significantly rearming in the coming years,

321

00:22:17,198 --> 00:22:21,454

does that mean that even a Trump-led USA will see the EU

322

00:22:21,454 --> 00:22:24,114

as an important military ally in  
the future and...

323

00:22:24,114 --> 00:22:28,434

...thus, making NATO out to be a strategically  
important partner for the USA even for a

324

00:22:28,434 --> 00:22:29,034

President Trump?

**JACOB KAARSBO**

325

00:22:29,034 --> 00:22:34,814

I dare not experiment, because if we listen to the testimonies from

326

00:22:34,814 --> 00:22:41,974



many of his former top officials, it's not at all a calculation that Trump makes

327

00:22:41,974 --> 00:22:44,974

about this need for allies.

328

00:22:45,034 --> 00:22:51,246

He only looks at the short term in terms of

329

00:22:51,246 --> 00:22:53,106

what benefits the USA.

330

00:22:53,106 --> 00:22:54,986

What benefits him personally?

331

00:22:54,986 --> 00:22:58,066

How does it make him appear stronger?

332

00:22:58,066 --> 00:23:00,926

And alliances are not something he cares about.

333

00:23:00,926 --> 00:23:02,586





He does not care about the EU.

334

00:23:02,586 --> 00:23:09,606

He would rather keep Europeans weak,  
small states are easier to handle than large

335

00:23:09,606 --> 00:23:13,226

alliances, large federations.

336

00:23:13,226 --> 00:23:17,346

And that's his approach to it.

337

00:23:17,346 --> 00:23:19,502

One can say...

338

00:23:19,502 --> 00:23:26,262

these testimonies we have from the former  
National Security Advisor, John Bolton,

339

00:23:26,262 --> 00:23:32,182

we have it from Mark Esper, the former  
Secretary of Defence, we have it from the



340

00:23:32,182 --> 00:23:39,522

former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Milley, we have it  
from his long-time Chief of Staff, also,

341

00:23:39,522 --> 00:23:47,922

John Kelly. They talk about how Trump does not believe in NATO, that Trump does

342

00:23:47,922 --> 00:23:49,582

not believe in the alliance.

343

00:23:49,582 --> 00:23:56,502

It may well be... now it's so arranged in  
the USA, that he can't himself pull the USA out of

344

00:23:56,502 --> 00:23:58,882

NATO and dissolve NATO.

345

00:23:58,882 --> 00:24:02,562

That must be decided in Congress.

346



00:24:03,022 --> 00:24:12,122

But NATO is only NATO by ensuring that no one  
around the globe doubts

347

00:24:12,122 --> 00:24:13,222

Article 5.

348

00:24:13,222 --> 00:24:16,238

It's not NATO that decides

349

00:24:16,238 --> 00:24:23,418

whether to send American soldiers into  
war if Putin sends green men into

350

00:24:23,418 --> 00:24:24,998

Narva in Estonia.

351

00:24:24,998 --> 00:24:28,198

It's Trump who decides.

352

00:24:28,198 --> 00:24:35,378

I have my serious doubts, when I hear these



testimonies, about whether Trump would at all

353

00:24:35,378 --> 00:24:40,748

be near defending every  
inch of NATO territory.

354

00:24:40,748 --> 00:24:45,350

I do not believe it based on what he has said  
and done.

355

00:24:45,454 --> 00:24:52,734

Therefore, we are likely in greater trouble if he

356

00:24:52,734 --> 00:24:55,294

were to win.

357

00:24:55,294 --> 00:25:01,774

I fear that NATO is an empty shell.

358

00:25:02,074 --> 00:25:08,774

The best we can get out of NATO is



actually that Europeans agree on a

359

00:25:08,774 --> 00:25:12,674

European pillar, where we are all for one.

360

00:25:13,198 --> 00:25:18,938

Where we have the British and Norwegians involved,  
and through the EU, we can achieve the

361

00:25:18,938 --> 00:25:21,478

defence industrial capacity.

362

00:25:21,478 --> 00:25:28,228

Also in cooperation with the British,  
with Norway, with Ukraine not least...

363

00:25:28,228 --> 00:25:35,758

...because they have arguably one of the most  
functional defences in all of Europe.

364

00:25:36,258 --> 00:25:43,374



And that could become a scenario we need  
to consider.

365

00:25:43,374 --> 00:25:49,104

That's one of the things I'm most nervous  
about in a Trump election scenario.

366

00:25:49,104 --> 00:25:55,914

It is that Putin tests whether Trump would actually  
send American soldiers

367

00:25:55,914 --> 00:26:00,114

by deploying so-called little green men....

368

00:26:00,114 --> 00:26:02,284

...sending them into one of the Baltic states.

369

00:26:02,284 --> 00:26:06,174

I always use Narva in Estonia as  
an example.

370

00:26:06,174 --> 00:26:07,424



It could also be somewhere else.

371

00:26:07,424 --> 00:26:11,534

But that's where I think...that is,  
where the risk lies.

**INSIGHTVIEW.EU**

372

00:26:11,534 --> 00:26:14,794

A European pillar would also include  
Turkey, wouldn't it?

373

00:26:14,794 --> 00:26:15,384

**JACOB KAARSBO**

374

00:26:15,384 --> 00:26:18,054

It depends on whether Turkey wants to be part of it.

375

00:26:18,054 --> 00:26:22,414

I wouldn't dare predict that at the moment.

376



00:26:22,414 --> 00:26:32,314

But I believe we should make a significant effort to try to get the Turks on board,

377

00:26:32,454 --> 00:26:37,294

because if you look at a map and consider the location and so forth,

378

00:26:37,294 --> 00:26:45,333

you can say that it makes sense, but of course, I am well aware of the political

379

00:26:45,333 --> 00:26:46,994

complications involved.

380

00:26:46,994 --> 00:26:49,904

But I hope that it will be possible, if necessary.

**INSIGHTVIEW.EU**

381

00:26:49,904 --> 00:26:53,134

But what you're talking about, when we discuss military cooperation, is a European





382

00:26:53,134 --> 00:26:55,344

pillar within NATO, which should  
continue.

383

00:26:55,344 --> 00:26:57,234

So, it's not necessarily about the EU?

384

00:26:57,234 --> 00:26:59,994

You're only referring to the defence industry  
within the EU, right?

**JACOB KAARSBO**

385

00:26:59,994 --> 00:27:04,270

Yes, that's actually what I think is most  
likely, because...

386

00:27:04,270 --> 00:27:12,230

it's on the industry, and those sorts of things, that  
we have an EU that has some comparative

387



00:27:12,230 --> 00:27:13,510

advantages.

388

00:27:13,850 --> 00:27:18,450

But you can say, command structures etc.

we still have within NATO.

389

00:27:18,450 --> 00:27:20,020

Of course, a lot of things would need to be done,  
if the USA doesn't support us.

390

00:27:20,020 --> 00:27:29,474

But that's something we would have to deal with.

391

00:27:29,518 --> 00:27:32,958

But there are a lot of things in NATO...

392

00:27:32,958 --> 00:27:34,918

...plus it's politically unproblematic for  
the British

393

00:27:34,918 --> 00:27:38,198



and for Norway, for example, to participate.

394

00:27:38,198 --> 00:27:42,258

Whereas you could say in the defence  
sector, we still have a challenge

395

00:27:42,598 --> 00:27:49,338

in the EU

396

00:27:49,338 --> 00:27:50,338

with Ireland and Austria and

397

00:27:54,018 --> 00:27:55,058

Malta.

398

00:27:55,058 --> 00:27:58,606

So, in that way, that would probably be what  
we should look into

399

00:27:58,606 --> 00:28:00,686

as an option.



INSIGHTVIEW.EU

401

00:28:06,830 --> 00:28:10,430

Let's discuss the Middle East conflict  
between Iran and Israel.

402

00:28:10,430 --> 00:28:13,510

As you mentioned, it's not  
an official alliance,

403

00:28:13,510 --> 00:28:15,810

Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea.

404

00:28:15,810 --> 00:28:19,210

It's a form of cooperation between  
these four nations.

405

00:28:19,210 --> 00:28:22,450

One could say, if they coordinated their  
decisions, one could argue it wasn't

406

00:28:22,450 --> 00:28:27,050



a strategically wise move by Iran when  
they launched a missile attack on Israel with

407

00:28:27,050 --> 00:28:29,250

over 300 missiles and drones.

408

00:28:29,250 --> 00:28:32,430

In many ways, one could say it actually laid the groundwork for

409

00:28:32,430 --> 00:28:33,710

the Ukraine aid package to be,

410

00:28:33,710 --> 00:28:36,460

Suddenly, approved by the  
House of Representatives and the Senate.

411

00:28:36,460 --> 00:28:37,610

That's my interpretation, at least.

412

00:28:37,610 --> 00:28:40,460

The same goes for the aid package to Israel  
and Taiwan....



413

00:28:40,460 --> 00:28:45,010

... something that China, Russia, and Iran's friends, Hamas, lost out on. Is that a completely

414

00:28:45,010 --> 00:28:45,680

wrong interpretation?

**JACOB KAARSBO**

415

00:28:45,680 --> 00:28:57,330

I see it as well, that Iran made a miscalculation with the attack.

416

00:28:57,610 --> 00:28:58,350

Now...

417

00:28:58,350 --> 00:29:04,870

...I was on my way to Ukraine, and in Ukraine, when it happened, but I followed it closely.

418

00:29:04,870 --> 00:29:09,990



I heard some reports from home, that there were people who thought it was

419

00:29:09,990 --> 00:29:11,250

a symbolic attack.

420

00:29:11,250 --> 00:29:14,490

To that, I must say, no, it wasn't.

421

00:29:14,790 --> 00:29:20,060

That's simply nonsense.

422

00:29:20,060 --> 00:29:22,406

The truth here is,

423

00:29:22,702 --> 00:29:29,212

that it's up to 350 drones and  
ballistic missiles...

424

00:29:29,212 --> 00:29:31,182

..not to mention cruise missiles.

425



00:29:31,182 --> 00:29:38,502

But if we look at cruise... or  
ballistic missiles, Iran has quite

426

00:29:38,502 --> 00:29:43,662

a stockpile of 3000, roughly.

427

00:29:44,362 --> 00:29:52,014

But they don't have as many of them that can  
reach 1500 kilometres and reach...

428

00:29:52,014 --> 00:29:53,674

Israel.

429

00:29:54,234 --> 00:30:01,504

And when they then fire 120, I mean that's of  
them, they've actually gone relatively deep.

430

00:30:01,504 --> 00:30:04,914

And you don't just do that as a symbolic  
gesture.

431





00:30:05,014 --> 00:30:09,434

And furthermore, I would also say, that you  
can see, that they are fired from many

432

00:30:09,434 --> 00:30:10,864

different directions.

433

00:30:10,864 --> 00:30:18,114

You can see that there was coordination with  
all the Iranian-supported militias, so you

434

00:30:18,114 --> 00:30:22,030

could shoot from all corners of the world.

435

00:30:22,030 --> 00:30:28,050

Thus, burdening the Israeli air defense  
to the maximum.

436

00:30:28,250 --> 00:30:31,590

So no, it was to hit Israel

437

00:30:31,590 --> 00:30:32,830



they did it.

438

00:30:32,990 --> 00:30:38,070

So, let's look at what Israel did in response.

439

00:30:38,070 --> 00:30:41,520

They made a very small attack.

440

00:30:41,520 --> 00:30:44,250

There were one, two, or three aircrafts in the air.

441

00:30:44,250 --> 00:30:46,290

I can't say for sure.

442

00:30:46,550 --> 00:30:51,886

Without any response whatsoever, they hit a central radar

443

00:30:51,886 --> 00:30:59,126

at one of Iran's most important military installations near their nuclear facility



444

00:30:59,126 --> 00:31:03,786

just to show, that we can do this, and  
that you don't have the air defence and the

445

00:31:03,786 --> 00:31:08,146

technology necessary to be prepared,  
if you persist.

446

00:31:08,146 --> 00:31:15,846

So right now, it's actually Israel that has  
the upper hand in deterrence compared to

447

00:31:15,846 --> 00:31:17,006

Iran.

448

00:31:17,390 --> 00:31:21,270

It wasn't very good, what they ended up  
doing there.

449

00:31:21,270 --> 00:31:26,470

You could say that a lot is being talked about



with regard to Hezbollah,

450

00:31:27,170 --> 00:31:31,440

which is seen as a big thing.

451

00:31:31,440 --> 00:31:36,590

"If Iran finally wants to escalate, they bring  
in Hezbollah."

452

00:31:36,590 --> 00:31:39,280

"That was probably not an escalation for Iran."

453

00:31:39,280 --> 00:31:44,782

It's not that simple, because Hezbollah has  
established itself as a...

454

00:31:44,782 --> 00:31:48,582

dominant political factor in Lebanon

455

00:31:48,582 --> 00:31:50,842

and they fear losing it.



456

00:31:50,842 --> 00:31:57,722

We had the latest war in South Lebanon in 2006, where the Israelis showed, that if

457

00:31:57,722 --> 00:32:06,232

Hezbollah starts hitting Israeli civilians in large numbers, like the big cities of Haifa,

458

00:32:06,232 --> 00:32:12,614

Tel Aviv etc., well, then South Lebanon will be levelled to rubble.

459

00:32:13,166 --> 00:32:17,566

That deterrence still hangs over Hezbollah.

460

00:32:17,566 --> 00:32:21,126

That's why there's a lot of sabre-rattling.

461

00:32:21,126 --> 00:32:26,446

When you look at what they do, and how they attack Israel,



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00:32:26,446 --> 00:32:30,906

it's some limited attacks on  
Israeli military installations.

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00:32:30,906 --> 00:32:33,226

It's certainly serious enough.

464

00:32:33,406 --> 00:32:40,386

But there's a balance in Hezbollah's way of  
attacking.

465

00:32:40,386 --> 00:32:41,646

So, they know, that ...

466

00:32:41,646 --> 00:32:46,386

they're not provoking the big  
Israeli retaliation.

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00:32:46,386 --> 00:32:49,616

There's no doubt, they could do huge  
damage in Israel.



468

00:32:49,616 --> 00:32:51,216

They would hit Tel Aviv.

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00:32:51,216 --> 00:32:55,746

They would hit Haifa, but it would hit  
harder on them themselves.

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00:32:55,746 --> 00:33:00,556

That's the terror balance in relation to  
Hezbollah now.

471

00:33:00,556 --> 00:33:02,506

So, it doesn't hold a stick to say

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00:33:02,506 --> 00:33:05,256

Israel doesn't escalate as much as they can, because

473

00:33:05,256 --> 00:33:11,182

they can't play this Hezbollah card  
to the extent that...



474

00:33:11,182 --> 00:33:13,922

...someone who hasn't dealt with it  
thinks.

475

00:33:13,922 --> 00:33:17,622

And then you can say, did it have an  
impact on the decision in

476

00:33:17,622 --> 00:33:21,302

the House of Representatives, and on Mike Johnson.

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00:33:21,302 --> 00:33:29,482

I don't know, because Mike Johnson was,  
indeed, the one crucial for holding it back.

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00:33:29,482 --> 00:33:30,842

And I also believe, as far as I can tell, that  
the voting pattern wasn't significantly

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00:33:30,842 --> 00:33:36,882

changed if this hadn't happened.





480

00:33:40,814 --> 00:33:46,014

What I hear, I won't say is  
right, but what it seems to be

481

00:33:46,014 --> 00:33:51,334

most likely to me, is that it's these  
intelligence briefings he has received,

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00:33:51,334 --> 00:33:57,634

where he can see that there are some  
things happening in Ukraine, it can go completely wrong, and

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00:33:57,634 --> 00:34:02,294

the Putin problem will only get bigger.

484

00:34:02,594 --> 00:34:06,830

So, I'm inclined to believe, that's  
what the reality is.

**INSIGHTVIEW.EU**

486

00:34:06,830 --> 00:34:08,880



It's a known fact that Israel possesses nuclear weapons.

487

00:34:08,880 --> 00:34:12,590

There's also suspicion that Iran may have already developed the capability to produce

488

00:34:12,590 --> 00:34:15,370

nuclear weapons, and perhaps is already engaged in producing them.

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00:34:15,370 --> 00:34:19,480

How can Israel actually know if one of the missiles Iran recently fired,

490

00:34:19,480 --> 00:34:21,570

wasn't armed with a nuclear warhead?

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00:34:21,570 --> 00:34:24,430

I mean, they must assume the risk is there every time, right?

JACOB KAARSBO



492

00:34:24,430 --> 00:34:26,750

493

00:34:26,750 --> 00:34:33,646

My best sense, based on what I know about  
Iran's nuclear program...

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00:34:33,646 --> 00:34:40,306

over many years of intense study, is that Iran hasn't  
made the decision to actually develop weapons.

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00:34:40,306 --> 00:34:44,686

What's important to them is the  
capacity to do so and to use it as leverage.

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00:34:44,686 --> 00:34:48,826

And I don't think...

497

00:34:48,826 --> 00:34:52,926

...my best guess is, they haven't done so yet.

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00:34:52,926 --> 00:34:57,646

But they have the capability, meaning that  
from the moment they decide,

499

00:34:57,646 --> 00:35:02,734

until they have the weapon, there's not  
much of a time gap.

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00:35:02,734 --> 00:35:08,194

And here we need to look again at the danger of  
being lenient towards Putin.

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00:35:08,194 --> 00:35:16,814

There's been much debate about it.  
I've participated in it myself.

502

00:35:16,814 --> 00:35:19,344

All these "escalation theorists",  
and talk about "red lines".

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00:35:19,344 --> 00:35:22,214

Putin could simply use weapons,



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00:35:22,614 --> 00:35:28,084

tactical nuclear weapons.

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00:35:28,084 --> 00:35:30,254

I don't really subscribe to that.

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00:35:30,286 --> 00:35:33,386

There's no theory in the world  
that proves the theory is correct.

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00:35:33,386 --> 00:35:36,586

It's a long shot.

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00:35:36,586 --> 00:35:46,366

So, I would say, standing firm against Putin,  
ensuring his military suffers defeat in Ukraine, is crucial

509

00:35:46,366 --> 00:35:48,466

to confront a country like Iran, because if we  
show leniency towards Putin because

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00:35:48,806 --> 00:35:55,806

he has nuclear weapons, it gives the Iranians  
a clear incentive to say that once

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00:35:55,806 --> 00:35:59,662

we have the weapon, no one dares touch us,  
and then we can operate freely,

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00:35:59,662 --> 00:36:05,602

and through our militias, gain even more power in  
the Middle East.

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00:36:05,602 --> 00:36:14,242

Something we've strived for over the  
past 25 years at least, if not more.

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00:36:14,242 --> 00:36:21,842

So, you're also asking, how can Israel  
know it's not like that?

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00:36:21,842 --> 00:36:28,602

I have quite a bit of confidence that they're  
keeping a close eye on developments through



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00:36:28,602 --> 00:36:29,486

the intelligence capabilities they have, both

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00:36:29,486 --> 00:36:53,966

from American, Israeli, and European perspectives.

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00:36:53,966 --> 00:36:59,026

And they have a good understanding of what's going on.

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00:36:59,278 --> 00:37:08,938

There were also all those warnings last week from the American side about

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00:37:08,938 --> 00:37:11,098

Iran planning to attack.

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00:37:11,098 --> 00:37:15,378

And I have to admit, I actually didn't believe those, because I didn't think that



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00:37:15,378 --> 00:37:18,858

the Iranians would make the strategic  
miscalculation

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00:37:18,858 --> 00:37:23,578

and carry out, and I've said this in  
some radio programs at least, carry out an attack

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00:37:23,578 --> 00:37:29,006

into Israel that wouldn't have any effect  
and risk a counterattack in the opposite direction,

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00:37:29,006 --> 00:37:35,806

which also happened, which did have an effect,  
and which actually puts them in a bad

526

00:37:35,806

--> 00:37:38,646

position.

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00:37:38,646 --> 00:37:44,746

I didn't believe the American warnings, but they're probably Intelligence generated.

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00:37:44,746 --> 00:37:46,546

And I can certainly say, the talk last weekend about

529

00:37:46,546 --> 00:37:51,926

the Iranians warning themselves and such, there's been plenty of...

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00:37:51,926 --> 00:37:56,942

officials saying, they didn't do that.

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00:37:56,942 --> 00:37:59,562

And then some say, the Iranians claim they did.

Well, of course they do :-/ ....

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00:37:59,562 --> 00:38:03,202

because their attack failed.

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00:38:03,202 --> 00:38:03,982

So that's probably how it goes.



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00:38:03,982 --> 00:38:07,782

That's what I'm inclined to believe.

**INSIGHTVIEW.EU**

542

00:38:11,882 --> 00:38:16,342

The final question regarding the Middle East,  
is China the country with the most at stake

543

00:38:16,342 --> 00:38:17,522

in a conflict in the Middle East?

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00:38:17,522 --> 00:38:20,832

Because they heavily depend on  
energy supply from the Middle East -

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00:38:20,832 --> 00:38:23,630

similar to how the USA was three decades  
ago?

**JACOB KAARSBO**



546

00:38:23,630 --> 00:38:28,930

Yes, you could say that, but on the other hand,  
we shouldn't ignore the fact that

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00:38:28,930 --> 00:38:31,350

they probably aren't playing a...

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00:38:31,350 --> 00:38:36,730

...well, they have developed their  
relations with Iran over many years and

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00:38:36,730 --> 00:38:40,170

especially after the collapse of...

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00:38:40,170 --> 00:38:44,630

...Trump withdrawing the US from the nuclear deal.

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00:38:44,650 --> 00:38:48,670

I have seen that as a big mistake,  
some disagree with me.

552



00:38:48,850 --> 00:38:53,742

But I still see it as a mistake because it has  
taken away all our...

553

00:38:53,742 --> 00:38:59,282

...opportunities from the Western side to influence  
the regime away.

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00:38:59,282 --> 00:39:05,682

We have seen Iran deepen their relations with  
particularly China....

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00:39:05,682 --> 00:39:07,852

...considerably since... of course, also  
Russia, but....

556

00:39:07,852 --> 00:39:09,602

...we already knew that.

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00:39:09,902 --> 00:39:15,782

But you could say, what will Iran do?

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00:39:15,782 --> 00:39:21,642

Unfortunately, I fear they don't have noble intentions towards Iran's

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00:39:21,642 --> 00:39:23,022

intentions,

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00:39:23,022 --> 00:39:27,522

which is to eradicate Israel.

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00:39:27,522 --> 00:39:33,182

And some say that it's just something the Iranians say.

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00:39:33,182 --> 00:39:36,922

No, it's not just something the Iranians say because that's what gives them

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00:39:36,922 --> 00:39:38,322

legitimacy.

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00:39:38,322 --> 00:39:46,162



And it's this gradual and increased pressure on  
the state of Israel because the regime is

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00:39:46,162 --> 00:39:51,374

completely illegitimate in the eyes of most  
Iranians.

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00:39:51,374 --> 00:39:57,134

But this feeling that Israel is  
an...

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00:39:57,134 --> 00:39:58,234

...how should I put it...

568

00:39:58,234 --> 00:40:02,754

...an anti-Islamic creation...

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00:40:03,894 --> 00:40:08,334

...that's one of the things that boosts  
them...

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00:40:08,334 --> 00:40:12,574



...not just in Iran itself but in the Arab countries.

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00:40:12,834 --> 00:40:17,404

So, they fully exploit that.

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00:40:17,404 --> 00:40:19,470

Iran isn't particularly loved by...

573

00:40:19,470 --> 00:40:22,770

the various Middle Eastern governments,  
it's more among the population.

**JACOB KAARSBO**

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00:40:22,770 --> 00:40:28,470

No, that's also why, when I'm asked, is this developing into a

575

00:40:28,470 --> 00:40:34,390

major war in the Middle East, I say, no, the major war, it's been underway



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00:40:34,390 --> 00:40:41,930

for a long time, because the major war is between Iran, the Iranian militias, and Israel.

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00:40:42,990 --> 00:40:49,850

So, you could say, there is Syria, where there's free rein for anyone with ill intentions.

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00:40:49,850 --> 00:40:54,150

But there aren't any of the Arab countries that believe in Iran and

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00:40:54,150 --> 00:40:56,330

the clerical regime over a doorstep.

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00:40:56,370 --> 00:41:03,870

The reason China succeeded in making this so-called agreement between Saudi

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00:41:03,870 --> 00:41:11,270

Arabia and Iran, it wasn't because there suddenly arose a thaw between the two





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00:41:11,270 --> 00:41:12,014

countries.

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00:41:12,014 --> 00:41:17,014

I think soon one should see it that way,  
that there's great doubt in Saudi Arabia about

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00:41:17,014 --> 00:41:17,954

the USA.

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00:41:17,954 --> 00:41:23,414

Will the USA protect Saudi Arabia against Iran?

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00:41:23,414 --> 00:41:31,094

The US didn't do that, for example, when Iran attacked  
Saudi Arabia a few years ago.

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00:41:31,594 --> 00:41:35,454

Especially their installations.

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00:41:35,674 --> 00:41:38,638

And the whole question about the war in Yemen,

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00:41:38,638 --> 00:41:44,698

where Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates stood alone.

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00:41:44,938 --> 00:41:49,098

Everyone distanced themselves from them.

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00:41:49,098 --> 00:41:50,938

No one helped them.

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00:41:50,938 --> 00:41:58,878

Now we're left with the Iranian militias ourselves, which threaten world trade.

593

00:41:58,878 --> 00:42:03,498

So, you could say, that we haven't looked very good.

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00:42:03,498 --> 00:42:07,438

Therefore, Saudi Arabia has embarked on such



a...

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00:42:07,438 --> 00:42:11,998

...de-escalation path in relation to  
Iran.

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00:42:12,638 --> 00:42:23,098

If we look at it from the opposite angle, all that has been  
the Gaza conflict, obviously serious in the

597

00:42:23,098 --> 00:42:24,198

Arab countries, but has

598

00:42:24,198 --> 00:42:32,738

it caused any of them to, what can one say, degrade  
their security relations with Israel?

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00:42:32,738 --> 00:42:34,118

No, it hasn't.

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00:42:34,118 --> 00:42:36,334

Are there any peace agreements between Israel



601

00:42:36,334 --> 00:42:38,124

or other countries that have broken down?

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00:42:38,124 --> 00:42:39,634

No, there aren't.

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00:42:39,634 --> 00:42:40,474

Why?

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00:42:40,474 --> 00:42:48,294

Because they perfectly well know that the  
Iranian-backed militias, including Hamas, are

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00:42:48,294 --> 00:42:50,274

a huge problem for themselves.

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00:42:50,274 --> 00:42:53,794

So, they naturally say what they have to say  
in terms of protecting

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00:42:53,794 --> 00:42:54,954

the Palestinians.

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00:42:54,954 --> 00:42:57,314

And the rhetoric is indeed heated.

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00:42:57,314 --> 00:43:03,054

But there's none of them who would  
side with the Iranian and the Muslim

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00:43:03,054 --> 00:43:05,114

brotherhood.

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00:43:05,154 --> 00:43:06,414

So, you could say,

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00:43:06,414 --> 00:43:16,334

much of the strategic aspect is to go out and,  
and get Iran and the clerical regime's

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00:43:16,334 --> 00:43:25,334

undermining activities in Syria, in Iraq, in



Lebanon, in the Palestinian territories out

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00:43:25,334 --> 00:43:29,134

onto a sidetrack, and get them marginalized  
again.

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00:43:29,154 --> 00:43:34,274

It's difficult, and it requires a great  
effort.

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00:43:34,274 --> 00:43:36,366

Syria is a...

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00:43:36,366 --> 00:43:41,046

giant problem, because that's where Iran  
builds their capacity.

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00:43:41,046 --> 00:43:44,206

That's where Iran can put extra pressure  
on Israel.

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00:43:44,286 --> 00:43:52,626



And unfortunately, it also provides a much easier access for Iran's undermining

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00:43:52,626 --> 00:43:55,026

activity in the West Bank.

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00:43:55,226 --> 00:44:00,526

So, it's something that Western decision-makers, even if they don't think,

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00:44:00,

526 --> 00:44:03,726

it's really good to have to expend a lot of effort between,

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00:44:03,726 --> 00:44:07,536

nevertheless, it would be healthy if they addressed it much more.

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00:44:07,536 --> 00:44:10,966

How can we in any way get Syria stabilized?



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00:44:10,966 --> 00:44:16,066

And can we avoid that Iran can continue  
to increase pressure on Israel?

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00:44:16,066 --> 00:44:19,166

Among other things, from Syria and into  
the West Bank.

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00:44:19,166 --> 00:44:22,506

Because it's going to become an even  
bigger problem.

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00:44:28,718 --> 00:44:30,398

Let's wrap it all up here at the end.

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00:44:30,398 --> 00:44:32,847

Iran, as we've discussed, is soon to have  
nuclear weapons,

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00:44:32,847 --> 00:44:34,618

North Korea has nuclear weapons,

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00:44:34,618 --> 00:44:37,818

South Korea and Germany are talking about  
getting nuclear weapons,

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00:44:37,818 --> 00:44:40,998

Saudi Arabia would probably like to have  
nuclear weapons...

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00:44:40,998 --> 00:44:45,778

and recently, both Poland's President  
Duda and Prime Minister Tusk welcomed

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00:44:45,778 --> 00:44:48,558

NATO's nuclear-armed missiles on Polish soil.

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00:44:48,558 --> 00:44:52,838

How do you think the European NATO countries,  
or let's just call them EU

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00:44:52,838 --> 00:44:57,158

countries, will and should respond to  
a much less predictable geopolitical

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00:44:57,158 --> 00:44:58,510

situation that we face today?

**JACOB KAARSBO**

638

00:44:58,510 --> 00:45:00,730

Yes, it's difficult.

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00:45:01,250 --> 00:45:05,580

All I can say is that we will be  
challenged more and more.

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00:45:05,580 --> 00:45:11,870

In that light, one could say that our experience  
in the EU is that it evolves in the face of

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00:45:11,870 --> 00:45:13,090

crises.



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00:45:13,090 --> 00:45:17,950

As you yourself point out, there's probably hardly anything here that will go away.

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00:45:17,950 --> 00:45:26,710

And when the European leaders then have the courage, politically, to have the

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00:45:26,710 --> 00:45:27,910

debate

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00:45:28,046 --> 00:45:35,866

and to take action. Because as long as we stand ourselves, as long as we do not

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00:45:35,866 --> 00:45:43,806

develop our defence capability sufficiently, as long as our

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00:45:43,806 --> 00:45:49,166

decision-making procedures are like this, then we will be held back.



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00:45:49,166 --> 00:45:54,626

And it's a question of how long it  
will continue.

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00:45:54,646 --> 00:45:56,750

We'll see what happens, but...

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00:45:56,750 --> 00:46:03,890

...I unfortunately don't think that the coming  
years will be easier in that regard.

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00:46:03,890 --> 00:46:10,900

And I think this idea of looking at what  
we can agree on,

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00:46:10,900 --> 00:46:12,530

what's the best way to do it,

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00:46:12,530 --> 00:46:14,270

that's not something we've been used to.

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00:46:14,270 --> 00:46:15,410

We should remember,

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00:46:15,410 --> 00:46:23,566

as recently as January 2022, our own Prime Minister,  
Mette Frederiksen, said that...

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00:46:23,566 --> 00:46:27,866

Denmark's defence opt-out didn't  
affect foreign policy.

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00:46:28,706 --> 00:46:33,086

I strongly disagreed with that, because it  
did back then already.

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00:46:33,086 --> 00:46:36,086

But that's just to say how far we've come

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00:46:36,086 --> 00:46:43,086

and how far the Prime Minister and the  
political circles in Denmark have come in those

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00:46:43,086 --> 00:46:43,886

years.

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00:46:43,886 --> 00:46:49,198

So, it may be that things are happening  
around us that...

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00:46:49,198 --> 00:46:54,058

even though we find it difficult to imagine  
that we'll agree on security and

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00:46:54,058 --> 00:46:58,458

defence policy, and we  
start to integrate more there, and

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00:46:58,758 --> 00:47:01,598

now I've talked about a European pillar in  
NATO.

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00:47:01,598 --> 00:47:08,098

I think what's with NATO is  
that there's also a veto option, and it



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00:47:08,098 --> 00:47:14,478

has been held together by the USA. But if  
the USA disappears, then there will be a need

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00:47:14,478 --> 00:47:18,630

to be able to make decisions.

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00:47:19,022 --> 00:47:24,272

So, yes, exactly how one would put it  
together in that case, we'll see.

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00:47:24,272 --> 00:47:32,542

It may be that we'll talk about it in  
a few months, because things are evolving.

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00:47:32,542 --> 00:47:36,862

And for sure, it can set some dynamics in motion.

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00:47:36,862 --> 00:47:41,282

Well, we also, when we at the Think Tank  
Europe conduct polls, we can



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00:47:41,282 --> 00:47:45,182

also see that the Danes are much more  
interested in security and

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00:47:45,182 --> 00:47:46,182

defence policy..

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00:47:46,182 --> 00:47:47,886

...they have been for many years.

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00:47:47,886 --> 00:47:51,186

Even up to the European Parliament election,

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00:47:51,186 --> 00:47:54,806

although the European Parliament doesn't have much  
influence on security and

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00:47:54,806 --> 00:48:01,186

defence policy, the Danes now identify it as the most  
important issue in the European Parliament election.

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00:48:01,186 --> 00:48:02,866

Back in September, it was in third place.

679

00:48:02,866 --> 00:48:06,216

Actually, it surprised me even then.

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00:48:06,216 --> 00:48:08,806

But what's happened is that more and more Danes actually identify it

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00:48:13,486 --> 00:48:16,078

as the most important issue, and now it's number...

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00:48:16,078 --> 00:48:17,538

... one.

683

00:48:17,638 --> 00:48:20,358

So, it's quite wild what's happening.

**INSIGHTVIEW.EU**

Thank you, Jacob Kaarsbo, for taking part in this podcast.



JACOB KAARSBO

686

00:48:23,478 --> 00:48:24,420

You are welcome!