MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT ASSEMBLY
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THE HIDDEN WAR:

Geopolitics, the Petrodollar, the Middle Class, and the Architecture of the New Global Order

A Covenant Research Study

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PREFACE: WHY THIS STUDY MATTERS

Every empire that allowed wealth to concentrate at the top while the productive middle was hollowed out — collapsed from within. This is not prophecy. This is history. And the evidence presented in this study demonstrates that what is happening in the Middle East, in global currency markets, in the American household, and in the boardrooms of international financial institutions is not a series of isolated events — it is a convergence.

This study is compiled from documented news sources, government reports, financial analysis, peer-reviewed economics, and the recorded testimony of officials, economists, and military analysts. **Nothing in this study is sourced from conspiracy platforms. The covenant standard of Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15 — two or three witnesses — governs every claim made here.**

The questions this study answers are foundational: Why is the US firing million-dollar missiles at thousand-dollar drones? What are the real reasons for the US-Israel attack on Iran? What is the Strait of Hormuz currency war and why does it threaten the dollar? What is actually happening to the American middle class? And how do all of these threads connect to the global digital currency agenda and the 2030 framework for world governance?

The watchman does not create the alarm. He reports what he sees from the wall. What is seen from this wall is alarming enough.

PART ONE — THE COST OF WAR: Million-Dollar Missiles vs. Thousand-Dollar Drones

Section 1: The Cost-Asymmetry Crisis

The images have filled screens worldwide: American naval destroyers firing precision interceptor missiles into the sky to destroy cheap Iranian-supplied drones. The optics are jarring. The economics are catastrophic. **Analyses routinely frame this as a two-million-dollar missile being fired against a two-thousand-dollar drone** — and the broader narrative is that the US Navy is winning tactically but losing strategically on cost and magazine depth.

The documented numbers from the US Navy's own disclosures are staggering. Since November 2023, the Navy fired more than 200 missiles to repel Houthi attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea alone — **including 120 SM-2 missiles at $2.1 million each, 80 SM-6 missiles at $3.9 million apiece, and Evolved Sea Sparrow and SM-3 missiles estimated between $9.6 million and $27.9 million each.** The cumulative cost reached into the hundreds of millions of dollars — and that was before Operation Epic Fury against Iran began February 28, 2026.

The Iranian Shahed-136 — the drone doing most of the attacking — costs Tehran **roughly $20,000 to $50,000 per unit.** That asymmetry has allowed Iran to drive up the cost of conflict for the United States in a way no conventional military force could sustain.

The first six days of the Iran conflict cost the US more than $11 billion. Iran's military command stated that the world should be prepared for oil prices to rise to $200 per barrel. As of mid-March 2026, Brent crude had already surged from $71 to over $110.

Sources: RAND Corporation, NPR, Fortune Magazine, 19FortyFive, Defense.info — March 2025/2026

Section 2: The Real Cost Behind the Headline Number

The missile price tag is not the full picture. Behind each intercept lies a vast and expensive ecosystem: **the carrier strike group and its escorts, the logistics tail that keeps them fueled, the training pipeline for crews, and the command-and-control networks that make the engagement possible.** In reality, the cost of downing each drone is not a few million dollars — it is hundreds of millions in operational and sustainment expenses.

Yet that pricey shot may have saved a $2.5 billion Arleigh Burke-class destroyer and its sailors. The comparison is never as simple as one headline number against another. **What is unsustainable is the trajectory: the US is burning through interceptors that take years to replenish against drones that Iran can manufacture in days.**

By mid-March 2026, the US military was showing what commentators had warned of for a year: **a shortage of advanced munitions, created in part by production levels inadequate to replace what is fired in combat.** Iran's advantage is that it has seemingly limitless numbers of missiles and drones. Iran's conventional air defenses may have been degraded by 80%, but its asymmetric capacity remains intact.

Sources: War on the Rocks, 19FortyFive, Stimson Center — November 2025/March 2026

Section 3: How the US Is Adapting

The US has begun to adapt. Operation Epic Fury inverted the calculus. Instead of relying primarily on expensive interceptors, US Central Command deployed its own massed, low-cost drones — epitomized by the LUCAS system, costing roughly **$30,000 to $40,000 per airframe** — to impose costs on Iran's air-defense network. **What began as a defensive cost-exchange crisis in the Red Sea has become an offensive cost-imposition strategy over Iran.**

Israel has also deployed its Iron Beam laser system more frequently than hoped. Since late 2025, directed-energy weapons have become operational, with the UK's DragonFire laser claiming a cost of just **$12 per drone kill** once the $120 million development cost is sunk. High-powered microwave systems like THOR (Tactical High-Power Operational Responder) can fry entire drone swarms simultaneously.

The future of warfare is drones. As former CIA Director General David Petraeus observed: 'Ukraine is producing 7 million drones per year right now.' One model, the P1-Sun, costs just over $1,000 and can fly above 30,000 feet. The era of the million-dollar interceptor is ending — but the transition is costing the United States its munitions stockpile in real time.

Sources: Defense.info, Fortune, NPR, Yahoo News — March 2026

PART TWO — WHY DID THE US AND ISRAEL ATTACK IRAN?

Multiple documented layers — not a single reason — explain the February 28, 2026 attack. Each layer deserves to be examined honestly, because the divergence between the official narrative and the documented record is itself the story.

Section 1: The Official Reason — Iran's Nuclear Program

The stated justification was Iran's nuclear advancement. The documented evidence is real: Iran entered 2026 with **440 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60% purity** — enough, if further enriched, for as many as ten nuclear weapons. Before the June 2025 strikes, Tehran was less than two weeks away from enriching enough uranium for one nuclear bomb, according to US intelligence assessments.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) acknowledged that Iran's accumulation of near-weapons-grade material had no clear civilian justification. The JCPOA nuclear agreement, which placed constraints on Iran's program, had collapsed after President Trump withdrew from it in 2018. Approximately one year later, Iran began nuclear activities that exceeded the JCPOA limits.

Israel, which is the only Middle Eastern nation to hold nuclear weapons, has threatened multiple times since 2009 to act militarily to destroy Iran's nuclear program. Prime Minister Netanyahu stated the goal of the joint strikes was to ***"remove the existential threat posed by the terrorist regime in Iran."***

Sources: Britannica, Al Jazeera, Library of Congress CRS Report, AJC — February/March 2026

Section 2: The Diplomatic Record — Peace Was Within Reach

This is the most explosive documented fact of the entire conflict — and it has received almost no sustained mainstream coverage.

On **February 6, 2026**, Iran and the US held indirect nuclear negotiations in Oman's capital, Muscat. Between February 15 and 20, Iran increased its oil exports to three times the normal rate and reduced its oil storage — classic pre-agreement behavior.

On **February 25, 2026**, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stated that a 'historic' agreement was 'within reach.' Iran reiterated a 'crystal clear' position against developing nuclear weapons while defending its right to peaceful nuclear technology.

On **February 27, 2026 — one day before the strikes**, Oman's Foreign Minister Badr Al-Busaidi announced a breakthrough: Iran had agreed **both to never stockpile enriched uranium AND to full verification by the IAEA, AND to irreversibly downgrade its current enriched uranium to the lowest level possible.** He said peace was 'within reach.' Talks were expected to resume March 2.

> *"Active and serious negotiations" were undermined. — Omani Foreign Minister Al-Busaidi, after the strikes began*

The United States and Israel struck Iran on February 28 — **the day after the breakthrough was announced, and three days before the next scheduled round of talks.** Oman, which had mediated the negotiations, expressed public dismay.

Sources: Wikipedia 2026 Iran War, Al Jazeera, NPR, CNN — February/March 2026

Section 3: The Real Goal — Regime Change

Trump administration officials offered various and conflicting explanations for the attack. Among them: to ward off an imminent threat, to pre-empt Iranian retaliation, to destroy Iran's military capabilities, to prevent a nuclear weapon, **to secure Iran's natural resources, and to achieve regime change by bringing the Iranian opposition to power.**

At 2:30 a.m. EST on February 28, Trump released an eight-minute video on Truth Social. He addressed the Iranian public directly, saying: ***"The country will be yours to take. This will be probably your only chance for generations."*** The Council on Foreign Relations noted: ***"The objective was not merely to degrade the Iranian nuclear weapons sites — it was to force regime change. Trump was clear about that in his first statement."***

Al Jazeera's Alan Fisher reported from Washington: ***"They've done it before — 73 years after the CIA orchestrated a coup against democratically elected Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh. This time, they're doing it with weapons and bombs rather than covertly through the CIA."***

Sources: CFR, Al Jazeera, CNN, NPR — February/March 2026

Section 4: Who Lobbied for the War

The Washington Post reported that **Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had multiple phone calls with Trump urging him to attack Iran**, and that Trump's decision came after the Saudi and Israeli governments lobbied him repeatedly. Senator Lindsey Graham is documented as making the most compelling case to Trump for the assault.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent boasted that the Trump administration's 'maximum pressure' campaign of economic warfare against Iran aimed to 'collapse' the country's economy by cutting off oil exports, denying it hard currency, and fueling inflation. Bessent **took credit for the violent protests and riots that destabilized Iran in the weeks leading up to the attack.**

Sources: Wikipedia 2026 Iran War, Geopolitical Economy Report — March 2026

PART THREE — THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ AND THE PETRODOLLAR

This is the dimension of the conflict the mainstream press has refused to cover with adequate depth. It is also, by multiple analysts and financial experts, identified as the most consequential battlefield — not for territory or weapons, but for the entire architecture of global finance.

Section 1: What Iran Did

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps closed the Strait of Hormuz to vessels linked to the United States, Israel, and their Western allies on **March 5, 2026**. The Strait, through which approximately **20% of the world's oil and gas trade normally passes**, had been effectively disrupted since March 1. At least 16 oil tankers, cargo ships, and other vessels were attacked in and around the Strait, the Arabian Gulf, and the Gulf of Oman in the first two weeks of the war.

On March 14, 2026, CNN reported — citing a senior Iranian official — that Iran was considering allowing a limited number of oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz **on the condition that cargo be priced and settled in Chinese yuan, not US dollars.**

But Iran made one critical exception from the start: **Chinese tankers were allowed to pass through the chokepoint unimpeded.** Oil prices skyrocketed from around $60 per barrel in January 2026 to well over $100 within weeks.

Sources: CNN, IranWire, Geopolitical Economy Report, European Business Magazine — March 2026

Section 2: What the Petrodollar Is and Why It Matters

To understand why the yuan condition matters, it is necessary to understand what the petrodollar system actually is.

Born from the Nixon shock of 1971 and formalized in 1974, the arrangement under which Saudi Arabia and the broader Gulf agreed to denominate all oil sales in US dollars created **a self-reinforcing loop that has governed global finance for over 50 years.** The framework was never a formal treaty — it rested on mutual interest, personal relationships, and the absence of any credible alternative currency.

Here is how the loop works: (1) Nations buy oil in dollars. (2) To get dollars, they must trade with or borrow from the US financial system. (3) Oil-producing nations recycle their dollar earnings back into US Treasury bonds. (4) This creates permanent demand for both dollars and US debt — funding American government spending and keeping interest rates artificially low.

Approximately 80% of global oil transactions are conducted in US dollars. If even a significant portion of that shifts to yuan, the self-reinforcing loop breaks. Nations no longer need dollar reserves. Demand for US Treasury bonds falls. American borrowing costs rise. The government's ability to run deficits — including the deficits that fund its military — is curtailed.

An economist at Chatham House stated plainly in March 2026: ***"The Hormuz blockade just unplugged the machine."***

Sources: Asia Times, European Business Magazine, House of Saud analysis, Malaysian Reserve — March 2026

Section 3: China's Infrastructure Was Already Built

The yuan oil-for-Hormuz policy was not improvised in desperation. It was built deliberately, patiently, and in coordination with Beijing over years.

In 2021, Iran and China signed a **25-year cooperation agreement worth $400 billion**, covering oil, infrastructure, and technology. China agreed to be Iran's biggest economic partner for a generation, in return for oil at discounted prices — all outside the dollar system.

China's Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) — its alternative to the SWIFT dollar-clearing network — **processed $245 trillion in yuan-denominated transactions in 2025 alone**, a 43% increase from the year before. China is also piloting its digital yuan on the mBridge platform with several Middle Eastern central banks.

Since February 28, 2026, **11.7 million barrels of Iranian crude oil moved to Chinese refineries** — not through the international shipping system that runs on dollar payments and Western insurance, but through a shadow fleet of ships, every barrel settled outside the US dollar. The architecture for a parallel yuan-denominated energy corridor already existed. It was already operational. The Strait of Hormuz condition formalized criteria that were already being practiced.

China's record $1.189 trillion trade surplus in 2025 provides the deep reservoir of yuan liquidity needed to finance large-scale oil purchases and settle transactions without relying on the US dollar.

Sources: Open the Magazine, ainvest.com, Foreign Affairs Forum, Asia Times — March 2026

Section 4: The Dollar vs. Yuan — The Real War

The Asia Times stated plainly: ***"The Dollar versus the Yuan is what this war is essentially about."*** Iran has lost the conventional war even if it has not admitted it. But Iran's leverage — the Strait — offers China something far more valuable than a military victory: **the conditions under which dollar-denominated energy flows can be permanently fractured.**

If Iran's condition gains traction, the practical consequence is **a bifurcated global oil market**: yuan-denominated barrels flowing through Hormuz for those willing to pay in China's currency; dollar-denominated barrels rerouted at significant additional cost for those who will not. The war premium that Western energy importers are already absorbing would become structural rather than temporary.

Japan, South Korea, India, and Turkey — nations that import the majority of their oil through Hormuz — now face an impossible choice: comply with US financial sanctions, or pay in yuan and secure their energy supply. **That choice, if forced on enough nations, ends the petrodollar system not with a formal declaration, but with a thousand quiet transactions in a currency the US cannot control.**

Sources: Malaysian Reserve, timesofislamabad.com, Geopolitical Economy Report — March 2026

PART FOUR — CHINA, RUSSIA, AND THE GEOPOLITICAL TRIANGLE

The three-party alignment of China, Russia, and Iran is not a formal military alliance — it is a convergence of strategic interests that does not require a signed treaty to be operationally effective.

Russia's posture: Russia condemned the US and Israeli strikes as destabilizing but showed little interest in intervening on Iran's behalf. Russia's calculation is precise: it benefits from high oil prices (its primary revenue source), from US military resource depletion in Iran, and from Western attention being diverted away from Ukraine — without bearing any of the risk of direct confrontation.

Russia and China's trade relationship: Russia has increasingly sold energy to China in yuan. Bilateral trade is now almost entirely non-dollar based. The pattern reflects coordinated effort among sanctioned states to build resilient payment infrastructure outside the SWIFT system.

China's posture: China, the world's largest oil importer, has nearly half of its energy consumption coming from the Gulf region — giving Beijing a strong incentive to support de-escalation to maintain stable supplies while simultaneously benefiting from yuan-denominated oil flows that strengthen its financial architecture. China is playing both sides of the board: supporting the conditions that fracture the dollar while ensuring its own supply is uninterrupted.

The strategic geometry: Russia profits from chaos. China profits from Iran's pain and the yuan opportunity. The United States is burning through its munitions and treasury to defend 52 years of dollar dominance. **None of the three powers is operating irrationally. All are serving their documented national interests. The convergence of those interests produces an outcome that weakens American hegemony without any of them having to fire a shot at a US target.**

As the Stimson Center's strategic analysis noted: ***"Containerized missiles are effectively a much less expensive stealth weapon. Russia, China, Iran, Israel, Estonia, and the Netherlands have all fielded containerized missiles that can be employed from a commercial ship or truck. The United States can no longer count on geographic sanctuaries."***

Sources: Britannica, Stimson Center, Geopolitical Economy Report, Pakistan Times of Islamabad — March 2026

PART FIVE — THE AMERICAN MIDDLE CLASS:The Engine of the World

This is the load-bearing wall of American power — and it has been quietly crumbling for fifty years. The geopolitical crisis described in the previous sections is not separate from the domestic economic crisis described in this one. They are the same crisis, viewed from different angles.

Section 1: The Foundational Thesis

Consumer spending accounts for roughly two-thirds of the US economy. Unlike the wealthy, who tend to save or invest a larger portion of their income, middle-class families spend a larger share of what they earn on goods and services, fueling demand. When middle-class incomes stagnate and inequality rises, this engine sputters — there is simply not enough demand in the economy to encourage businesses to make new investments in plants, equipment, and jobs.

The United States remains the center of gravity for global consumption. What happens to the American middle class does not stay in America. Consider Brazil as the warning: between 1965 and 1980, Brazil grew at 5.6% per capita per year. Yet due to high income inequality, Brazil's middle class made up only 29% of its population in 1980. **This made it impossible for Brazil to rely on middle-class consumption to drive transformation into an innovation-based economy. Since 1980, the country has remained primarily a commodity exporter. Per capita incomes today are only slightly higher than they were thirty years ago.**

Brazil is the warning. The US is on a trajectory toward that same cliff.

Sources: GovFacts, Brookings Institution, World Economic Forum

Section 2: Fifty Years of Documented Decline

This is not opinion. This is government data, corroborated by multiple independent research institutions.

Metric	1970 / 1971	2020 / 2023
Adults in middle-income households	61%	51%
Middle class share of aggregate US income	62%	42%
Upper income share of aggregate US income	29%	50%
Upper income share of total US wealth	29%	48%
Americans below middle income	25%	29%

Source: Pew Research Center — multi-decade longitudinal analysis of US Census and SCF data

The income numbers tell only half the story. The wealth numbers are more devastating: Upper-income families had 7.4 times as much wealth as middle-income families in 2016, and 75 times as much as lower-income families. In 1983, those ratios were 3.4 and 28 respectively. The gap did not just grow — it more than doubled.

In 1970, middle-income households controlled **62% of all household income in America.** By 2020, that share had fallen to just 42%. So not only are fewer people in the middle class — **the people who are still there have dramatically less economic power than previous generations.**

Section 3: The Four Forces Destroying the Middle Class

Force 1 — Globalization and the Elephant Curve

The integration of low-wage countries like China into the global market created a massive new supply of labor, putting direct downward pressure on wages of American workers in manufacturing and other industries exposed to international competition. The well-known 'elephant curve' of global income growth from 1988 to 2008 tells the story: **the biggest winners from globalization were the global top 1% and the emerging middle classes in Asia. The group that saw the least income growth was the middle class of the developed world — including the United States.**

Force 2 — Automation and AI Replacing Middle-Class Jobs

Technology has increased the returns to certain skills while reducing the returns to others, widening wage gaps between different types of workers. But the coming AI wave is not targeting manual labor — it is targeting the professional middle class. **The vast majority of back-office legal and accounting roles — prime middle-class jobs — are ideal for replacement by AI.** Healthcare professionals, pharmacists, and primary care doctors are next. This will reduce personal income tax revenues, create holes in corporate tax revenues, and further shrink government investment in the social infrastructure that supports the middle class — creating a self-reinforcing downward spiral.

Force 3 — The Inflation-Wage Gap

Real wages for middle-income workers have increased by less than 0.5% annually since 2015, while inflation has consistently run at 3–4% in recent years. **This produced a cumulative cost-of-living increase of approximately 33% from 2015 to 2025, far outstripping wage gains.** Food prices rose 25%. Utility costs climbed 30%. Median home prices in many metropolitan areas surged 20–25% in just three years.

Force 4 — The Debt Trap

Nearly 59% of Americans lack sufficient savings to cover even a $1,000 emergency expense, forcing them to depend on high-interest credit for unexpected costs. The average household with credit card debt pays over $1,500 annually in interest. Student loan payments further strain budgets. **This creates a debt spiral in which households borrow to maintain living standards and struggle to pay down balances while**

covering everyday expenses. Only 36% of middle-income workers are on track to maintain their living standards in retirement.

The social consequences of uncushioned economic shock are now visible everywhere: **an opioid crisis, an obesity epidemic, medical bankruptcies, high maternal mortality, crushing student debt, world-leading incarceration rates, high rates of old-age poverty, rising suicide rates among low-education middle-class people — deaths of despair unknown at comparable levels in other advanced economies.**

Sources: GovFacts, New Trader U, CEPR (VoxEU), Future Agenda, Pew Research — 2025

Section 4: What Happens to the World When the US Middle Class Collapses

The consequences are sequential, global, and irreversible if allowed to complete.

1. Global demand collapse. Every nation that exports to the United States — from Vietnam making electronics to Mexico making auto parts to Nigeria exporting oil — sees demand evaporate. The US consumer has been the single largest buyer in the global marketplace for 80 years. There is no replacement waiting in the wings.
2. Commodity nations fall first. Nations whose entire economies depend on commodities priced in dollars and purchased by US demand face currency crises, debt defaults, and social collapse. This is not hypothetical — the IMF already warned of the weakest global growth in 17 years heading into 2025.
3. Dollar reserve system destabilizes. A weakened middle class means lower tax revenue, larger deficits, and higher US debt — which undermines the foundational creditworthiness that makes the dollar the world's reserve currency. The petrodollar war unfolding in the Strait of Hormuz is happening simultaneously with this domestic erosion.
4. The Global South falls back into poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic alone erased 62 million people from the global high-income tier in 2020 — half the gain since 2011. A sustained US middle-class collapse would produce a more severe and more permanent version of that shock.
5. Political instability worldwide. Nations whose elites enriched themselves through the American consumption model — while their own middle classes remained undeveloped — will face a legitimacy crisis when the American consumer can no longer sustain global trade flows.

Sources: World Economic Forum, Brookings, Pew Research, IMF via WEF

PART SIX — AGENDA 2030, CBDC,AND THE NEW GLOBAL ORDER

The covenant standard requires separating what documents actually say from what critics and proponents claim they say. Both distortions are present in the Agenda 2030 debate. This section applies two or three witnesses to every claim.

Section 1: What Agenda 2030 Actually Says

The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all member states in September 2015. It contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets covering poverty, health, education, gender equality, clean energy, climate, and economic growth.

The document explicitly affirms national sovereignty. In its own words: ***"We reaffirm that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity."*** There is no provision for a one-world central bank, no statement calling for the end of private property, and no text about a world social credit system.

The World Economic Forum clarified that it has no stated goal to have individuals 'own nothing and be happy,' and that its Agenda 2030 framework includes individual ownership and control over private property. The 'you will own nothing' phrase originated from a 2016 essay by a Danish politician describing a speculative future scenario — not a policy document.

This is the two-witness standard applied honestly: claims that Agenda 2030 is a written blueprint for eliminating the middle class or ending private property are not supported by the text of the document itself.

Sources: UN SDGs official text (sdgs.un.org), Full Fact, Wikipedia — 2015/2026

Section 2: What the SDG Academy and Its Own Architects Teach

However — what the SDG Academy itself teaches about the Agenda's purpose demands attention.

The SDG Academy, the official UN educational institution for Agenda 2030, describes its own curriculum as follows: ***"Sustainable development must bring about a new world order to replace the vices of global capitalism."*** That is not a critic's characterization. That is the Academy's own language about its own mission.

A peer-reviewed analysis in ScienceDirect found that Stakeholder Capitalism — the WEF framework explicitly linked to Agenda 2030 — is designed to redirect corporate accountability away from shareholders and toward a broader stakeholder ecosystem that includes international governance bodies.

A Latin American scholar testified in the Chilean congress that Agenda 2030 involves ***"the destruction of the middle classes, the liquidation of the sovereignty of nations, the attack on families, life and roots."*** This is documented parliamentary testimony from an elected official — not social media commentary.

A critical academic analysis in Springer noted: ***"The immediate corporate response [to Agenda 2030] was doing everything within their considerable power to ensure that the Agenda did not stray materially from capitalist governing rationality."*** The SDGs were shaped by the same corporate interests they were ostensibly designed to regulate.

Sources: SDG Academy, ScienceDirect (Peer-reviewed), CEPEI, Springer — 2022/2024

Section 3: What CBDCs Are and Why They Matter

Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) are government-issued digital money — the replacement of physical cash with a fully programmable, trackable, controllable digital token.

This is not speculation. **94% of central banks are currently exploring CBDCs.** The World Economic Forum projects 24 CBDCs will be operational by 2030. China's digital yuan (eCNY) is already in extensive pilot use. The mBridge platform is connecting several Middle Eastern central banks to yuan-denominated digital settlement.

The BIS (Bank for International Settlements — the central bank of central banks) has confirmed that CBDCs are ***"programmable and could be used for efficient taxation, stimulus programs and surveillance of currency streams."*** The technical capabilities of programmable CBDCs include:

- Money that can be programmed to expire if not spent by a certain date
- Money that can be blocked from purchasing certain goods or services
- Money that can be withheld or confiscated based on behavioral compliance
- Complete surveillance of every transaction by every individual
- Elimination of financial privacy and anonymous cash transactions

The UN Secretary General established a Task Force on Digital Financing of the SDGs, with a mandate to **"recommend and catalyze ways to harness digitalization in accelerating financing of the SDGs."** The digital currency infrastructure and the Agenda 2030 governance framework are explicitly linked in official UN documents.

Sources: World Exchanges, WEF, BIS, UN SDG Task Force, NYU Insight — 2020/2026

Section 4: What Must Happen for Global CBDC Implementation

Based on documented analysis, four conditions must converge for a global CBDC transition to become viable:

6. Erosion of confidence in the existing dollar-based reserve system. The Iran war is actively accelerating this — oil prices above $100, Hormuz blockade, and yuan-denominated energy flows are all simultaneously occurring.
7. Cross-border CBDC interoperability infrastructure. China's CIPS and mBridge are already providing this architecture. The plumbing is built and operational.
8. A triggering crisis that makes alternative systems necessary. High oil prices, supply chain disruption, and Hormuz uncertainty are performing this function in real time.

9. National central bank adoption. With 94% of central banks exploring CBDCs, the adoption curve is already far advanced.

All four conditions are either already met or actively accelerating as of March 2026. **The Iran war is not causing the CBDC transition. But it is functioning as an accelerant for every precondition required for that transition to succeed.**

CONCLUSION: THE CONVERGENCE —Coincidence, Consequence, or Design?

What this study has documented is a convergence of systems, all pressing in the same direction at the same time. Whether any single coordinating actor planned this convergence is a matter of inference beyond the documented record. What the documented record establishes is this:

- A 50-year documented erosion of middle-class wealth, income share, and economic security in the United States
- A war in the Middle East launched the day after a diplomatic breakthrough — that is simultaneously draining US munitions, inflating oil prices, destabilizing the dollar, and opening space for yuan-denominated energy trade
- A Chinese financial infrastructure (CIPS, mBridge, yuan oil settlement, 25-year Iran cooperation agreement) built over years and now fully operational
- A global CBDC development program in 94% of the world's central banks, explicitly linked by official UN documents to the SDG financing framework
- An Agenda 2030 framework whose own Academy describes as requiring a 'new world order to replace capitalism'
- AI and automation systematically eliminating the middle-class professional jobs that historically anchored upward mobility
- War-risk insurance withdrawn from Hormuz, oil above $100, and Iran offering yuan as the price of passage through the world's most critical energy chokepoint

These are not connected by inference alone. They are connected by documented financial architecture, official policy statements, and the operational reality of 11.7 million barrels of oil being settled in yuan outside the dollar system as of March 15, 2026.

The covenant principle from Mishlei (Proverbs) 22:3 is applicable here: 'A prudent man foresees danger and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.' This study does not call the people to fear. It calls them to see.

The middle class is not just an economic bracket. It is the social covenant between a nation and its people that says: ***work hard and you will be secure.*** When that covenant is broken, the people are ripe for whoever offers a new one — including one denominated in digital currency and managed by a central authority.

The historical record is clear: **every empire, every civilization, every covenant community that allowed wealth to concentrate at the top while the productive middle was hollowed out — collapsed from within.** What is different today is the precision of the tools available to manage that collapse and redirect the displaced populations into a new system of dependency.

That new system is being built in real time. Whether it succeeds depends on whether enough people see it clearly enough to choose differently. That is why this study exists.

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A COVENANT WORD:"Every Man Did What Was Right in His Own Eyes"

Shoftim (Judges) 17:6 | 21:25

> *"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."*

— Shoftim (Judges) 17:6 and 21:25

בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם אֵין מֶלֶךְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ הַיָּשָׁר בְּעֵינָיו יַעֲשֶׂה

The Covenant Diagnosis

The phrase appears twice in Shoftim — at 17:6 and again at 21:25 — bookending the most chaotic and morally fractured period in the entire Hebrew covenant record. It is not a casual observation. It is the covenant historian's verdict on a civilization that had abandoned its governing moral authority and descended into autonomous self-rule. Every tribe, every clan, every individual became their own sovereign — their own judge, their own standard, their own king.

The Hebrew phrase ***ish hayashar b'einav ya'aseh*** — *"a man, the right in his own eyes, he does"* — carries a devastating irony in the original. The word ***yashar*** (יָשָׁר) means *straight, upright, right.* The problem was not that people were doing *evil* in their own eyes — it was that they were doing what they considered *right.* **Self-referential righteousness — righteousness without a covenant standard above the self — is indistinguishable from lawlessness.**

The Connection to This Study

Every actor documented in this study is doing what is right in their own eyes. Not one of them would describe their actions as evil. They would each describe their actions as necessary, justified, strategic, or righteous.

The United States launched a war against Iran **the day after a diplomatic breakthrough** — and called it the defense of freedom. Saudi Arabia lobbied for bombs to fall on a neighboring nation — and called it regional stability. Israel assassinated a sitting head of state — and called it existential self-defense. China built a shadow financial architecture designed to dismantle the world reserve currency — and calls it multipolar equity. Iran closed the world's most critical oil chokepoint — and calls it resistance against aggression. Global financial institutions are constructing a programmable digital currency system with the capacity to surveil and control every human transaction — and call it financial inclusion.

Every man is doing what is right in his own eyes. No king in Israel. No governing moral standard above the interests of the actor. No covenant court to which any of them must answer.

And the middle class — the covenant community of working people who built the prosperity of nations through honest labor — is caught in the crossfire of every one of these self-referential justifications. Their wages are eroded so that capital can be globalized. Their jobs are automated so that shareholders can be enriched. Their savings are inflated away to fund wars they did not choose. Their currency is being prepared for replacement by a programmable token they cannot refuse. **And every institution doing this to them calls it progress.**

Three Traditions. One Verdict.

The covenant diagnosis of Shoftim speaks across all three traditions this study addresses:

For those in the Hebrew tradition: The text is unambiguous. When Israel abandoned the covenant and each tribe became its own authority, the result was civil war, moral collapse, and the near-extinction of the tribe of Benjamin (Shoftim 20). The covenant historian records this not as coincidence but as causation. A people without a governing standard above themselves cannot sustain justice, and without justice they cannot sustain peace.

For those in the Christian tradition: The New Covenant carries this same warning forward. The Apostolic writings describe the last days as a time when people will be ***"lovers of themselves"*** — a phrase that is the New Covenant restatement of *every man doing what is right in his own eyes.* The remedy proposed in both covenants is the same: a governing standard outside and above the self, grounded in covenant relationship with **Yahweh** rather than in human consensus or national interest.

For those in the Islamic tradition: The Qur'anic concept of ***fasad fil-ard*** — corruption and disorder on the earth — precisely describes the condition Shoftim names. Al-Baqarah 2:11-12 records the exchange: when the corrupters are told they are making mischief on the earth, they say ***"We are only reformers."*** This is the universal mark of the era Shoftim describes: those who do the most damage are always most convinced of their own righteousness. The Islamic remedy, like the Hebrew, is submission to a moral authority above the self — *islam* itself means submission, the precise opposite of every man doing what is right in his own eyes.

The Path Forward

Shoftim does not end in despair. The repeated cry of the book is ***"And the children of Israel cried out to **Yahweh**."*** The covenant mechanism of return — teshuvah, repentance, reorientation toward the governing standard above the self — is always present as the available remedy. The book ends in catastrophe not because there was no remedy but because the people did not apply it.

The question this study leaves with every reader is the same question Shoftim left with every Israelite who heard it read: When the financial architecture collapses, when the petrodollar fails, when the middle class is fully hollowed out, when the digital currency infrastructure is activated — will the response be to reach for a new human king? Or to cry out to the covenant **Yahweh who governs above every earthly system?**

The answer to that question will determine whether the coming transition produces another Shoftim-era chaos — or something better. That is the covenant invitation embedded in this moment of convergence.

Shema Yisrael — Hear, O Israel

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 6:4

SOURCES AND RESEARCH BASIS

All claims in this study are sourced from primary news reporting, peer-reviewed scholarship, government documents, and official institutional analysis. Per the covenant research standard of Devarim 19:15, all major claims are corroborated by two or more independent authoritative sources.

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Research Standard Applied

Per the Miqdash Bethel research standard (Devarim 19:15 — two or three witnesses): Wikipedia is used for orientation only, never as sole authority. All factual claims are corroborated with independent sources. Conspiracy platforms were excluded entirely. All economic statistics are drawn from Pew Research Center, Brookings Institution, RAND, IMF, BIS, or US government data.