

NBC's *Today*  
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7:00:56 a.m. [TEASE]  
29 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: In Prime Time]

CRAIG MELVIN: In prime time —

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: We are on the cusp of ending Iran's sinister threat to America and the world.

MELVIN: President Trump delivering a rare address to the nation vowing the war with Iran is nearing an end, but not over yet.

TRUMP: We're going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks. We're going to bring them back to the stone ages where they belong.

MELVIN: Oil prices rising. Stocks taking a hit during his speech and, overnight, Iran responding with new threats. The very latest from the region and Washington.

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7:10:54 a.m.  
6 minutes and 28 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Address Nation on Iran War]

LAURA JARRETT: Also, breaking overnight, President Trump delivering this rare prime time address to the nation, making his case for what he says will be several more weeks of this war with Iran, but the lack of specifics rattled markets and oil prices as attacks continue to spread across the Middle East. We have it all covered for you, starting with NBC's Gabe Gutierrez at the White House for us. Gabe, good morning.

GABE GUTIERREZ: Laura, good morning. That speech from the White House rehash many points that President had made recently, and he offered no specifics on how the crucial Strait of Hormuz will reopen. But a senior White House official tells me the President's intended audience was the American people who are not following the war's developments day-to-day. Overnight, President Trump in a rare formal address from the White House, declaring the war with Iran a massive military success.

TRUMP: Tonight, I'm pleased to say that these core strategic objectives are nearing completion.

GUTIERREZ: Among those objectives, he says, destroying Iran's Navy and missile program as well as preventing the regime from building a nuclear bomb.

TRUMP: We are on track to complete all of America's military objectives shortly, very shortly. We are going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks. We're going to bring them back to the stone ages where they belong.

GUTIERREZ: A U.S. official telling NBC News, the military checklist for the war is almost complete. Overnight, Iran responding to the President saying the U.S. has not destroyed key targets, adding, assuming they have, will "only deepen the quagmire in which you have trapped yourselves," and warning the U.S. to expect more forceful, broader, and more destructive actions from us. Iran has also said it won't open the Strait of Hormuz for the U.S., blocking the critical global shipping lane, the President increasingly frustrated with global allies who have been reluctant to join the war and help protect the passageway.

TRUMP: The countries of the world that do receive oil through the Hormuz Strait must take care of that passageway, they must cherish it, they must grab it and cherish it.

GUTIERREZ: Also predicting the Strait will open when the conflict is over.

TRUMP: It'll just open up naturally.

GUTIERREZ: Overnight, global markets fell sharply rattled by the uncertainty, all of it coming amid rising gas prices here at home and growing skepticism over the conflict. Yesterday, in a speech to faith leaders at the White House, the President saying the federal government needs to focus on the militaries while discussing fraud and funding for domestic programs, which he says states should run.

TRUMP: We're fighting wars. We can't take care of daycare. It's not possible for us to take care of daycare. Medicaid, Medicare, all these individual things, they can do it on a state basis. We can't do it on a federal. We have to take care of one thing, military protection.

GUTIERREZ: The White House posting then removing the speech, which was closed to the press. The remarks coming as the President is also pressuring Republicans to end the partial government shutdown while TSA officers are now getting paid, easing those long airport lines. Overnight, GOP leaders in the House and Senate announcing a deal that would fund the Department of Homeland Security except ICE and Customs and Border Protection, key sticking points, or Democrats want reforms. During last night's prime time address, the President made no mention of the potential for American boots on the ground in Iran. He does say the new regime is less radical and much more reasonable, but multiple Western officials, U.S. intelligence assessments, and regional analysts tell NBC News there is no indication that new leaders in Iran have made a break with the Islamic Republic's ideology, Laura and Craig.

JARRETT: Gabe Gutierrez is at the White House for us. Thank you, Gabe.

MELVIN: Let's bring in Kristen Walker, moderator of *Meet the Press*. Kristen, always good to see you. So, yeah, I mean, the President made his case last night for the war declared a success. He's done that a number of times since the start of the war. What more can you tell us about the

ultimate goal for that prime time address last night?

KRISTEN WELKER: Well, Craig, according to the President's allies I've been speaking with, the President's goal was to really lay out his rationale in the most fulsome way for the war in Iran to the American people, and to try to calm jitters from Wall Street to Main Street, even though that clearly hasn't happened yet, based on Gabe's reporting. Look, Senator Lindsey Graham, a Trump ally posted on social media overnight. President Trump "gave a compelling explanation as to why we had to act against this evil regime." Look, while the President argued last night, the war will end soon, he did leave a lot of critical questions unanswered, including what his strategy is for exiting, whether he plans to put troops on the ground, as Gabe said, and his critics say he didn't show empathy for the higher prices Americans are dealing with. In fact, former Republican Congressman Marjorie Taylor Greene said all she heard from this speech was "war, war, war." Recent polling shows this war is deeply unpopular with Americans. According to a recent CNN poll, 66 percent of people disapprove of the conflict, and there has been a 12-point jump among those who strongly disapprove of the war, numbers that are concerning to Republicans against the backdrop of what we know is this midterm election cycle, the political focus of Washington.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: GOP Leaders Strike Deal to End Shutdown]

JARRETT: And, Kristen, we have the war. We also have, obviously, this framework, potentially a framework for a deal, to end the partial government shutdown, Democrats, Republicans, have been at each other over this for months.

WELKER: Yeah.

JARRETT: Now, who do you think bears the political cost at the end of the day?

WELKER: Well, it's hard to know. In the wake of the last government shutdown, Republicans, according to polling, did bear the brunt. We'll have to see how this plays out. But this is a significant development, Laura and Craig, because Republicans in the House and the Senate are finally on the same page. The proposed plan would fund the government in two stages, effectively, funding all of DHS immediately, and then ICE and CBP funding would be addressed separately by Congress. And just as a reminder, this is the root of the issue, Democrats said they would not agree to fund ICE or CBP without major reforms to immigration enforcement operations. And that will likely be the next major congressional battle that we'll see in the coming weeks. Look, this has been the longest partial government shutdown in U.S. history and it's prompted outrage from voters in both parties with TSA workers not getting paid in those long lines at airports across the country, guys.

MELVIN: All right. Kristen Welker, moderator of *Meet the Press*. Kristen, thank you. Of course, Kristen will have much more, because if it's Sunday, it's *Meet the Press*.

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8:05:41 a.m.  
42 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Trump Address Nation on Iran War]

JARRETT: To Washington and President Trump's primetime address to the nation. The President declaring the war with Iran a massive military success, telling Americans that the conflict will end shortly, but he didn't offer a definitive timeline.

TRUMP: We are on track to complete all of America's military objectives shortly. Very shortly. We are going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks. We're going to bring them back to the stone ages where they belong.

JARRETT: Among those objectives, he says destroying Iran's navy and missile program as well as preventing the regime from building a nuclear bomb. The President made no mention of American boots on the ground in Iran.