



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on May 18, 2026

Graham on Iran: I Want to “Hurt Them More” by Wrecking Oil Industry

Israel-First GOP Senator Lindsey Graham wants President Trump to order more bombing of Iran’s civilian infrastructure and to “hurt them more,” and apparently doesn’t care that Republicans might well lose the midterms because of Trump’s growing unpopularity, largely because of the war in Iran.

As well, Graham told *Meet the Press* hostess Kristin Welker that Trump is comparable to Winston Churchill because of the president’s telling a reporter he doesn’t much care about Americans’ financial woes, and instead only cares about Israel and Iran’s supposedly obtaining a nuclear device.



AP Images
Lindsey Graham

Graham said he’d happily “give up” both houses of Congress to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Lindsey Graham calling for strikes on Iran’s oil refineries.

Civilian infrastructure terrorism is the only plan this Israel-first psychopath has. He knows that Iran can, and will, retaliate by targeting GCC refineries. He knows that will lead to \$7-8 gas.

He doesn’t care.... pic.twitter.com/JyOUOzdnR7

— Mel (@Villgecrazylady) [May 17, 2026](#)

More Bombs!

Asked whether Trump should restart military strikes, the bloodthirsty former Air Force lawyer told Welker that Iran can’t and won’t negotiate with the United States, and because he believes Iran wants to destroy Israel, he wants to “hurt them more.”

Ignoring the fact that the Strait of Hormuz was open before the U.S.-Israel unprovoked attack, [Graham claimed](#) that “the longer the strait is closed, the more we try to pursue a deal that never happens, the stronger Iran gets.”

Thus, his “analysis,” whatever that means, is that “there’s nothing to suggest that the people in charge now are any different in terms of the regime’s goal to terrorize the world, destroy Israel, come after us”:

So what do you do next? You weaken them further. So what President Trump has done has



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been amazing militarily. But there's still more targets to be had. And there's things we can do to hurt. The energy infrastructure is their soft underbelly. If you go back to the fight, I'd put energy on top of the list.

Welker pressed Graham: "So you're calling for strikes on the energy infrastructure?"

[Replied Graham](#):

Yeah, I'm calling to hurt this regime. If you do the same old thing, you're going to get the same result. Hurt them more. Maybe they'll make a deal if you hurt them enough. But right now, I think they're trying to wait us out. I think they're playing games. And in the words of the president, I think they're crazy.

Graham apparently doesn't believe Iran will retaliate in kind, or that purposely attacking civilian infrastructure is a war crime.

Whatever Price

Welker also played the clip of Trump's now-viral remarks that will soon be featured in Democrats' midterm election advertisements. Asked whether he thought about the financial security of Americans, [Trump said](#) "not even a little bit."

"The only thing that matters when I'm talking about Iran — they can't have a nuclear weapon," Trump continued:

I don't think about Americans' financial situation. I don't think about anybody. I think about one thing — we cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon. That's all.

Reporter: "To what extent are Americans' financial situations motivating you to make a deal?"

Trump: "Not even a little bit... I don't think about Americans' financial situation."

I can't believe he actually said this. What a surreal and unbelievable statement from a president. pic.twitter.com/5rIALYM75Y

— Ben Swann (@BenSwann_) [May 12, 2026](#)

Not to worry, Graham told Welker.

"That's his Churchill moment," Graham averred:

When Churchill came into power, he promised "blood, sweat, toil, heartache until we deal with the Nazis who are an existential threat to the British way of life." And if Hitler had taken charge of the planet, it would have been the darkest hour in humanity.

I believe Iran wants the nuclear weapon. They would use it. So does President Trump. And they would use it for their religious agenda. They would destroy the Jewish state. They would eventually hold us hostage. So his audience, the Iranian regime. Do I worry about gas



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prices? Yes. But President Trump's right. The biggest threat to the hostility in the world is a nuke-armed Iran. And whatever price we have to pay, we will pay. What did Churchill say? Whatever price we have to pay to beat Hitler, we will pay. Same with Iran.

Of course, "we" who pay the price won't include Trump and Graham. "We" will include rank-and-file Americans.

WELKER: Do you agree with the president that he shouldn't be taking Americans' financial situation into account when dealing with Iran?

LINDSEY GRAHAM: This is his Churchill moment. President Trump is right.
pic.twitter.com/YaQSHKtKVS

— Aaron Rugar (@atrupar) [May 17, 2026](#)

As for the political fortunes of his party, and [Trump's tanking](#) in the polls because of the war, Graham is unworried.

Welker: *Senator, you take me to my next question because 70% of Americans in a new poll say President Trump is doing a bad job on the economy, the number one issue for voters, as you know. Bottom line, is it worth losing the midterms if the result is a non-nuclear Iran?*

Graham: *It's worth losing my job. If I had to give my job up to make sure Iran would never have a nuclear weapon, I would do it.*

Welker: *Would you give up the House and the Senate?*

Graham: *I would give up — politically, the most important thing I can do with the job I've been given is to protect the American people. Now, you don't have to agree with me. But I've been this way for 20 years. I believe they're religious Nazis in Iran. If they had a nuclear weapon, they would use it. They've been trying to get one. They've been cheating.... The upside of dealing with Iran is enormously good. But you got to deal with them.*

Send Your Sons to Die

Though Graham — who visits Israel every two weeks and says "I'm with Israel ... until our dying day" — didn't advocate putting American soldiers and Marines on the ground in Iran, [he has](#) in the past.

"I go back to South Carolina, I'm asking them to send their sons and daughters to the Middle East," Graham told Israel-First Fox blowhard Sean Hannity after the war started in March.

Lindsey Graham, a US Senator, says he visits Israel "every two weeks."

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— AF Post (@AFpost) [February 16, 2026](#)

This is an insane thing for a United States senator to say. Totally indefensible.



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<https://t.co/6rRhkv1xSG>

— Matt Walsh (@MattWalshBlog) [March 10, 2026](#)

Getting into specifics, Graham told Fox's Shannon Bream that the U.S. Marines should take Kharg Island, the nerve center of Iran's petroleum industry.

"Here's what I told President Trump," [he told](#) Bream. "Keep it up for a few more weeks, take Kharg Island, where all of the resources they have to produce oil [are], control that island, let this regime die on the vine."

Bream asked whether U.S. troops would be "on the ground," and cited a piece in the far-left *Atlantic*, [which reported](#) that taking Kharg Island wouldn't be all that easy. It would be a "grinding war of attrition," the article said. As well, said the magazine, "Iran has given every indication that it would likely escalate by striking oil-and-gas facilities in the region, just as it did to Qatar and Saudi Arabia after the [Pars South](#) gas field was struck."

"I'm sorta tired of all his armchair quarterbacking," armchair quarterback Graham told Bream.

"This has been an amazing military operation.... I trust the Marines, not [the *Atlantic* author]," Graham said:

I trust [the Department of Defense]. We've got two Marine Expeditionary Units sailing to this island. We did Iwo Jima. We can do this. My money is always on the Marines.

Graham, of course, will not be among the Marines who land in Iran. He will be cheering them on from the safety of Fox studios.

Lindsey Graham on Kharg Island: "We did Iwo Jima. We can do this."

<pic.twitter.com/JQJ5lZdvJ8>

— Aaron Rupar (@atrupar) [March 22, 2026](#)



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