

Middle East war

Laura Loomer and the far-right ultra-hawks cheering on Trump in Iran

Maga figures drown out opponents of conflict with loud support for the president

Guy Chazan in New York

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Hours after President Donald Trump launched his attack on Iran, he called one of his favourite influencers — the far-right activist Laura Loomer — to bask in her praise.

“I said it’s a great job and people all around the world are cheering you on,” Loomer told the FT. “He’s making us proud to be American.”

A self-described Islamophobe, [Loomer](#) is one of a chorus of ultra-hawkish politicians, commentators and social media personalities who have lent their support to [Trump’s assault](#) — one of the most ambitious interventions the US has attempted in the Middle East.

The motley crew of Republican senators, Fox News contributors, traditional neocons and Maga ideologues are egging Trump on as he seeks to destroy Iran’s nuclear programme, decimate its missile capability and ultimately topple the country’s theocratic regime.

The coalition has held even as the confrontation has vastly expanded in scope since it began, claiming hundreds of lives, driving up global oil and gas prices and raising fears of a [full-scale regional war](#).



Laura Loomer shows her support for Donald Trump outside a campaign event for Republican presidential candidate Ron DeSantis in Tampa, Florida, in 2023 © Joe Raedle/Getty Images

Even some who have traditionally been sceptical of foreign intervention and hoped Trump would live up to his campaign promise to bring an end to US military adventurism have got on board with the war.

“It does look as though the president has the ability now to find that stable leadership [in Iran], cut the deal, ensure peace and do so swiftly and smartly rather than get into a prolonged and protracted conflict,” Jack Posobiec, a far-right commentator and longtime critic of America’s “forever wars”, told Steve Bannon’s *War Room* podcast.

The cheerleaders have been able to drown out the president’s right-wing critics, flooding social media with pro-Trump approbation and rounding on sceptics who have questioned how attacking Iran can be reconciled with Trump’s “America First” agenda.

Their most potent vitriol has been reserved for Tucker Carlson, the Maga media personality who on Saturday described the bombardment of Iran as “disgusting and evil”, later adding that the “war is waged purely because Israel wanted it to be waged”.

Loomer said she had told Trump about the “threat that Tucker poses to his administration” and how he was “smearing him and undermining his foreign policy decisions”.

Others have gone further. Mark Levin, the rightwing radio host, has demanded critics of the war, such as Mehdi Hasan, the British-American broadcaster, be deported. He has also denounced California Democratic senator Adam Schiff as “the enemy within” and called Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib a “Marxist-Islamist psycho”.

“We, the American people, must stand up and speak out against this [deceit and treachery](#),” Levin said on X. The commentator, whose past posts on Iran have often been retweeted by Trump, added, “We must unite around our president and armed forces and against these plotters and connivers.”

Trump with rightwing radio host Mark Levin, who has demanded that critics of the war be deported from the US © Stefani Reynolds/Bloomberg

But the enthusiastic support for the war evinced by people including Levin and Loomer is not shared by most Americans. One survey by Reuters/Ipsos over the weekend found only 27 per cent of all adults polled backed the president’s attack on Iran.

That could dwindle further if the conflict drags on. “If this war starts to look like a mistake, if casualties start to mount, if it looks like Trump’s maximalist aims of regime change aren’t working out well, then that’s going to turn the public against the war,” said Rosemary Kelanic, director of the Middle East programme at Defense Priorities, a think-tank.



Few Americans support Donald Trump's attack on Iran outside his own party

Support for the US attack on Iran (%)

Yes Don't know No

“And that is perhaps one thing that could actually break Trump’s hold on the Republican Party if popular perceptions of the war continue to skew negative,” she added.

So far, though, Trump’s loyalists in the party have been effusive in their praise of the president. Lindsey Graham, the Republican senator from South Carolina, called the attack “the most significant thing that’s happened in the Mid-East in a thousand years”.

“The gold standard for Republican foreign policy is no longer Ronald Reagan: it’s Donald J Trump,” he said on Sunday.

Ted Cruz, the Texas senator, also extolled the president while stressing his own role in the consultations leading up to the assault.

Trump at a burger bar last Friday with Texas senator Ted Cruz, who said he spent the whole day with the president discussing the option of armed intervention © Matt Rourke/AP

[Speaking](#) on the television show *Face the Nation* at the weekend, he said he had “spent the entire day” with Trump on Friday, discussing the option of armed intervention against Iran “at length”.

“My counsel to him was that the Iranian regime has never been weaker, that it was teetering, and now was the time,” he said. “I think the president has acted boldly, he has acted decisively and Iran no longer being led by a theocratic, murderous dictator — that makes America much, much safer.”

Not everyone on the right is convinced. “[Trump] was the ‘no more endless wars’ candidate in 2016 and 2024, particularly, and this looks like an open betrayal of the base,” said Curt Mills, executive director of The American Conservative magazine.

Prominent figures in the Maga movement have echoed this view. Ex-congresswoman and one-time Trump acolyte Marjorie Taylor Greene in a social media post called war with Iran “AMERICA LAST”.

“Now Americans are once again coming home in flag-draped coffins from another stupid pointless foreign war for foreign regime change on behalf of Israel,” she [said](#) on Sunday.

Most Americans think Donald Trump is too willing to use military force

Support for the president's use of force (%)

Too much About right Not enough No answer

Some social media personalities have expressed similar views. Conservative commentators Kevin Hodge and Keith Hodge, who go by the monicker Hodgetwins, said the “war isn’t as popular as the Zionist shills on X say it is”.

“President Trump has completely LIED to his voters, backstabbed our country and has disgraced his legacy beyond repair at this point,” they [wrote](#) on X.

Loomer, meanwhile, has continued to post her support for Trump and his war while also using the conflict as an opportunity to reinforce her anti-Islamic messaging.

On Sunday she called on Trump to use the military and Department of Homeland Security to “round up every single Islamic immigrant and non-citizen Muslim and mass deport them from America with force”.

She told the FT she was proud to be an Islamophobe.

“I hope that there is a massive anti-Islam awakening in our country, because that’s what we need,” she said. “We need to wake people up to this barbaric ideology that has been imported into our country.”

