

# The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

**Episode:** *The Main Thing Is That Your Main Thing Remains Your Main Thing*

**Date:** 04/16/2021 **Length:** 1:10:35

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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## TRANSCRIPT

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00:00

Welcome you happy warriors, to today's show, entitled, The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing. And one of the things that I want to tell you about is, well, let me start off by telling you that I am preparing the show for you in the middle of April 2021. And I'm telling you that so you're able to date certain events that I think that you ought to know about. But here's the key thing. This is not a political show.

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This is a show about personal development. However, learning from history and from the conduct of nations is really useful or can be really useful. So let me give you an example. First, before I move to the question of China, Taiwan, and what that means for your life. Let me give you an example from an earlier period of history. We're talking about the second the First World War first world war ends in November 1918. And it was terrible. The massacres in the trenches was absolutely appalling.

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There was an entire generation of young men wiped out in France and in England, so much so that I saw a poignant speech given by the principal of a girl's High School in 1918, when she spoke to the girls, and she said, ladies, look around you one out of every two of you will not find a husband, you will not get married. And, and this was due to a generation that had been wiped out in the senseless massacre of the trench warfare of World War One. So the war ends in November 1918. July 1919, right. It's only eight months after the guns fell silent. Comes the Treaty of Versailles. We were there were tremendous penalties and reparation payments imposed on a defeated Germany.

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Germany was a they had no choice they had surrendered, they were utterly defeated. And they had a sign but they, they were very unhappy about it. And in true dramatic fashion fashion, the German delegation to the peace conference of Versailles, as stood up after signing the the document, and gret took the pen and snapped it into and dropped the pieces on the table. And I think one of the most disturbing aspects to Germany of the Treaty of Versailles was that Germany basically was no longer able to exert control, or have any military forces in a part of Germany called the Rhineland area along the river Rhine and the west of the river Rhine in Western Germany. And the reason that France and England basically prevented

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Germany from exercising its sovereignty over that part of Germany was that that was the crucible of German industry along the Rhine River. And to this day, by the way, it's still true if you take a boat along the Rhine River throughout Germany, you're basically traveling alongside factories and industrial areas, because the Rhine was this main transportation corridor. So the coal industry and the steelmaking industry, all of that is there, and needless to say, the capacity to build armaments, and because World War One ended in France, and Belgium remained frightened of Germany, England, also somewhat nervous about Germany rising again, they decided to try and make that impossible, and, and so the Allies controlled the Rhineland, no factories were allowed to produce armaments of any kind and even steel manufacturer was regulated. So that was July 1919, just after world war two a world war one ends.

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Six years later, it's 1925 there was a European peace conference held in Switzerland, it was called the Locarno pact. And it basically reaffirmed everything that was decided six years earlier the Treaty of Versailles. But above all, it allowed Germany entry into the forerunner of what was going to be the United Nations was called the League of Nations back then. And this was now going to sort of introduce this new era of peace and prosperity for Europe, no more war, there was 1925. By 1930, Germany had succeeded in making the Allies withdraw all their troops from the Rhineland. Right up till then, the Allies had placed a certain number of observational troops in the Rhineland, to make sure that Germany did not re enter and re exert sovereignty over the Rhineland. So, so 1930, they managed to persuade England and France to sort of pull out and just sort of rely on German goodwill. I don't remember the exact date but about four years later, somewhere around about 1934 Hitler and the Nazi Party sees total control in Germany, they won the elections, they were in charge of everything. And, and now what happens? Okay, that's about 1934. And now, Hitler, announces and tells his Wehrmacht, that he intends retaking the Rhineland because he wants to rearm Germany and rebuild Germany, which he can't do if they do not have access to the Rhineland. And so he plans to do that. Most of his very math most of his general officer staff told him Don't do it. Why? Because Germany didn't have enough of an army left in the aftermath of World War One to perform a convincing re seizure of the Rhineland. And they all knew that England, Belgium France had huge forces amassed about 300,000 men or more on the French German border, ready to march in at any point. And it was so clear it was so recent stole the Treaty of Versailles and the Treaty of Locarno. It was so clear that Germany was absolutely not going to be allowed to re-enter the Rhineland.

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And they kept on saying to Hitler, look, this isn't any good, you do it. They're going to march in, they're going to throw us out. It's going to be a huge embarrassment for the Nazi Party, you will have to resign you will no longer be able to be Chancellor of Germany, and that'll be the end of all our hopes for Germany. Hitler basically ignored them. And on early in the morning on Saturday, March the seventh in 1936. Okay, so again, the key dates war ends in November and 1918 1919 middle of 1919 the Versailles Treaty 1925 the Locarno treaty and Germany and the League of Nations 1930 allied forces

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out of the Rhineland is now empty 1934 Hitler and the Nazis take control and 1936 March 7 1936 19, German infantry battalions enter the Rhineland now, battalion in Germany in that period was about 900. Men call it 1000 men, okay, and usually about 25 offices, something like that. So we're talking about well under 20,000 men, which is a joke, right? This is a very large area of land. I mean, you look on a map.

09:12

You know, it's all everything west of the Rhine to to the English Channel, we're talking about all our land with a big, big long border with 20,000 men is a joke, particularly since there's more than a quarter of million Frenchmen under arms victorious after World War One ready to come marching into I mean that they would love nothing better, you would have thought then to come in and throw the Germans out of the Rhineland. Nonetheless, in spite of this massive violation of important articles in both the treaty oversight and the Treaty of Locarno, they reach the river run by 11am that fateful Saturday morning and and

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Then the some of the battalions crossed over to the west bank of the Rhine. And there they were. And well, German reconnaissance discovers that 1000s of French soldiers, hundreds of 1000s were congregating on the Franco German border. The very mark, the Army Staff got very, very nervous. And they begged Hitler to take the forces back and evacuate them out.

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Hitler himself was concerned, but didn't do that. And he, he just he told the army No, this is gonna work. And and, and oh, yeah, here's an interesting thing. He said, Have any of the French soldiers actually crossed the border? This is by about lunchtime on that Saturday. They said no, nobody's crossed the border. And Hitler said in that case, you got nothing to worry about. We have reoccupied the Rhineland.

11:13

Now, it's very important to note that that was the point when Hitler could have been stopped with very little effort. There were only as I said, less than 20,000 German soldiers, and there was a much larger, much more powerful French military. One of the great historians of World War of world war two was William Shire who wrote the rise and fall of the Third Reich worth reading if you have any interest in that period of history worth reading. And he writes in the book, if the French would have marched across the border into the Rhineland, with the intention of throwing the German army back out, according to the treaties.

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The two Western democracies in March 1936, were given their last chance to halt the serious war and the rise of a militarized aggressive totalitarian Germany. In fact, says William Shire, as we have seen Hitler admitting had the French army come in, it would have brought the Nazi dictator and his entire regime tumbling down. The Allies let the chance slip.

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A German officer who was in the Chief of Staff during the who was in the staff during the crisis, t-- spoke later on and said, I can tell you that for five days and five nights, not one of us closed and I this was a German officer speak. We knew that if the French marched, we were done. We had no full fortifications, no army to match the French. If the French had even mobilized, we should have been compelled to retire.

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It's incredible. The general staff the officer said, considered Hitler's action suicidal, a German gender a German General called general Guderian, interviewed by friends officers after the end of the Second World War said, If you French had intervened in the Rhineland in 1936, we would have been sunk and Hitler would have fallen.

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Well, what really happened, the whole world waited with bated breath on Saturday, and on Sunday and on Monday, waiting to see how the French and British would react. The German troops that entered the Rhineland, those miserably small 20,000 men force, they had orders to scoot back across the Rhine bridges if the French army attacked. However, my friends in France, the politicians were simply unable to convince their generals to act, and were also unable to get any British support for a military response. So faithfully, they did nothing. The French army with its 100 divisions never budged against the 20,000 likely on German soldiers occupying the Rhineland. Even though France and Britain were both obligated by treaty, to preserve the demilitarized zone of the Rhineland, and they did absolutely nothing.

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This was a tremendous gamble for Adolphe Hitler, and might have cost him everything if he's troops had been humiliated by their old enemies. He was done for he would have had to resign. Later, Hitler would privately admit - And the stuff's recorded. - The 48 hours after the marching to the Rhineland, were the most nerve racking in my whole life. If the French had marched into the Rhineland, we would have had to withdraw without tail between our legs, for the military resources at our disposal at that time, would have been wholly inadequate for even a moderate resistance. Pretty amazing stuff. And so what is the lesson here?

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The lesson here is the danger of cowardice. And how failure to act in a in a reasonable and moderate way today can force you to act in a very much more unpleasant way tomorrow.

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The only reason France and German France and England had to fight Germany in World War Two with all that that entailed was because they neglected to do a simple thing. They could have literally used half a division to march across the border and eject less than 20,000, fewer than 20,000 German soldiers. That's all they had to do. And they couldn't do it. And you can imagine the headlines of the

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press threat of war, our leaders are going to allow a piece of paper to throw us into a war with Germany again, that that was Those were the headlines. And so the government of both France and England, literally had no ability whatsoever to get the the nation behind a simple police action. That's that had to happen. And that didn't happen. And great tragedy followed.

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So what is the lesson and it's a it's a lesson from ancient Jewish wisdom as well, I went for now go into the biblical sources, because I'm giving you historic source for now. But that is that any time anytime that you need to confront something that is happening that you don't want to happen, you need to act boldly and decisively and firmly immediately. Because if you don't, all you do is embolden the other side.

17:29

I remember two instances in my rabbinic congregational life, they both involved parents who came to me in great distress to different disconnected set of parents, both of them had a child about two cont-- a child who got engaged, what they consider to be a thoroughly, thoroughly unsuitable marriage. And, in my view, although it was not relevant, in my view, they were right to be concerned about these two marriages. And I taught the two parents separately, I taught them exactly what I'm telling you now, which is that if you intend to stop this, you have to throw everything you've got at your child on day one.

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And the first family said to their son, immediately after leaving my office, they went home, they spoke to their son, and they said, We disapprove of this wedding, we will not arrive and show up at the wedding, we will play no role in the wedding. And you and your wife will not be welcome in our home. That's how strongly we feel about it. Now you can decide what to do.

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Well, they were very courageous. And I'd explained to them and I said, worst comes to the worst, and the marriage goes ahead. You don't necessarily have to stick to that commitment. You know, it would be understandable for you to say, we were upset. We were sorry. You know, let's move forward. Your goal now is not to create a lifetime of conflict with your son and his wife. Your goal is to stop the marriage. If that succeeds, that's good. If it doesn't, then you have to deal with the outcome. Anyway, if their son was so shocked and so horrified, that he really he put a pause, he broke the engagement, and that marriage never happened. The other family the other set of parents didn't have--they were like England and France. They didn't have the will in them in order to make that powerful statement to basically drop the atom bomb. They couldn't do it. And so they continued with were very unhappy we don't know if we shouldn't come to the wedding, well, all that does is little by little, it keeps strengthening the other side, their son just was restricted. You know, he's, I'm shocked and horrified. You wouldn't want to come to the wedding. But and he basically he they didn't say they wouldn't. They just said, we don't know if we should they sounded weak. So he reacted strongly. And he said, Well, you know what you will have to decide whatever, whatever you decide you got to decide to do. But it all it did is it made him think to himself, you know what, I'm able to get married without my parents

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blessing. And then they tried something else. Well, you know, if you go ahead with us, we may. And by that time, he just laughed them off. He saw them as weak. And he went ahead. And honest to goodness, I wouldn't tell you this if it wasn't true. But that couple got divorced, was was a good few years, it was more than 10 years later, but it was not 10 happy years, was 10 problematic years culminating in a divorce.

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So these are principles that we learn from history. And I tell you all of this, and that in itself, by the way, I hope you'll consider that already worth the price of admission, because that in itself is already a very valuable lesson. Right? And that is that if you act firmly and decisively, it takes a lot of courage, no question about it takes real guts. But if you act firmly and decisively at the beginning of the problem, you stand a much better chance of heading it off. And this is true in your family life. It's in business life. It's an extended family life.

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It's worthwhile, really just making a note of this principle says you really absorb it, and you prepare yourself to have the willpower to have the courage to stand and boldly resist. When something happens. I hope you never have to deploy it. But if you do, it's as well to know that if you just do a succession of little objections, one after the other, you're bound to lose Britain and France didn't even make any small objections. I think they, I think they spoke to the League of Nations which was as useful then as the United Nations is today. And, and gutless, completely gapless and you always end up paying for gutlessness, you end up paying for cowardice. You end up paying for lack of will and strength you do. And so it's worth knowing.

22:48

Talking of lack of will and strength just a few days ago, in his absurd and needless an argument with with Russia, American President Joe Biden interfering with our Russian in action with Ukraine, Russia and Ukraine have their problems goes back a long time. It'll continue. But no Joe Biden, a fool a man who literally is not smart, very, very foolish and no integrity at all. From what we know from the fact that he plagiarized going back to when he was a young man.

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And then later on plagiarizing a Neil Kinnock speech from Neil Kinnock, the English politician, he tried to make it his own. This is not a man of integrity or wisdom of any kind whatsoever. And so to basically to avoid looking in the correct direction of problems, namely across the Pacific and China, he looks across the Atlantic to Russia, and decides to show what a big boy he is. And so he does something unprecedently stupid. And that is he calls the head of state of another country, namely Mr. Putin, he calls him Oh, he's a killer. I mean, how silly and nonsensical what is, um, that has nothing to do with statesmanship whatsoever. And so, and now, he sends some warships in towards the Black Sea in order to show that and to use his words. Our commitment to Ukraine is rock solid. What does that mean? meaningless words, right. It's it's a sentiment not a policy. There's no treaty there's no commitment is what does that mean? Exactly? Our commitment to the Ukraine is rock solid, say sense

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ship. Anyway, the whole point I'm telling you about this when I'm talking about willpower strength, boldness courage, is that Mr. Putin sent a message to a president

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Biden's saying you'd better take your ships away, because we will otherwise inflict serious damage on them. So guess what President Joe Biden of the United States did turn the ships back. What an unbelievable display of cowardice and lack of willpower. You shouldn't have sent them in the first place you for better having done so. My goodness. pull them back when the other. I mean, who blinked funny that the Secretary of State is Anthony Blinken. Because our whole lot of blinkin is going to be going on. I'll tell you that. So that's not all.

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What happens is that on Monday, just five days, four or five days ago, China's Air Force sent 25 fighters and bombers over the Taiwan Strait and into what is called the Taiwan air defense identification zone. So it's what was it I actually I have the list, 14, J16. And J10 Fighters, 4H6 bombers, and two Y8NT sub warfare planes. And one KJ500, early warning aircraft. You may remember, I was one of the first to start talking a long time ago on this show about China, China, starting to build aircraft carriers. And I told you when the very first aircraft carrier was launched, well, that was early on in the massive escalation of military strength that China has been

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doing since then. And so Monday, they sent over 25 airplanes into the Taiwan air defense ID zone. And it's the biggest that China has, has sent over towards Taiwan, I think ever, but certainly for a very long time. So the Taiwanese Air Force responded, of course, with a usual patrol aircraft, and they tracked the Chinese planes. But that's it right? They didn't do anything to deter them. And not only that, but the Chinese main Chinese aircraft carrier has been sailing around Taiwan and doing all kinds of drills. So they also sent a warning to the our carrier the USS John McCain was too bad about that name.

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And they want America to move its destroy. Did I say carrier, it's not a carrier to destroyer, I'm sorry. As the reason carrier was on my mind, is because the the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese government, in the army, they now have strong missile capacity to destroy aircraft carriers, serious stuff we're talking about. These are missiles that are launched from the mainland, and can destroy an aircraft carrier anywhere in the, in the Straits of Taiwan.

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You know, we began to see a massive shift in the balance of power when it came to aircraft carriers in the short, but very interesting war of the Falkland Islands, when, when we saw relatively inexpensive missiles being used very effectively against very expensive assets, like aircraft carriers. And so we've always we've always seen the aircraft carrier as foundational to the strength of the United States Navy. And indeed, in World War Two, that was the case there's no question about it. Essentially, the war in the Pacific was a war between Japanese aircraft carriers and American aircraft carriers. And so what's

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happening is, China is increasing the pressure on Taiwan. Now, Anthony Blinken, the State Department announces to China and again, you got to listen to the wording. Remember what I just told you about our commitment to the Ukraine? Well, the State Department issued a statement to China that Washington has a rock solid commitment to Taiwan.

30:00

That was this week they made that statement, what a rock solid commitment, like a rock solid commitment to Ukraine. What is the United States commitment to Taiwan, and you probably all aware there is no treaty, there is nothing that obliges the United States to come to the defense of Taiwan. There's nothing that obliges the United States to militarily defend Taiwan, the United States has maintained a very ambiguous position with respect to Taiwan. But it has included arming Taiwan with a fairly credible military assets. But meanwhile, China, of course, is warning the United States about being very careful not to cross lines with Taiwan and don't play with fire. And here's the important thing. And I'm going to ask you to sort of bear this in mind with respect to some of the things we're going to be talking about during the remainder of today's show. And that is that China, in their warning to the United States this week, after United States protested the flyover from 25 airplanes of the Chinese Air Force over Taiwan, China said you got to America must be very careful not to play with fire. And, quote, there is no room for compromise or concessions in our claim to sovereignty over Taiwan.

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You got it. So it's really, really very important. China objects to any sort of official contact between the US and Taiwan. And so what's important here is, again, this catalyst response, don't say stupid things, if you don't say them Don't say things if you don't mean them. Or in other words, as any gun owners, any person who, who treats the second amendment in the United States seriously, never point a weapon at somebody if you're not willing to pull the trigger. Right, just don't do it. Don't point the gun if you're not willing to pull the trigger. And so to say our commitment to Taiwan is rock solid, our commitment to to, to the Crimea. And Ukraine is rock solid. Yeah. Right. And then turn the warships around and have them turn tail.

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This there's something that is extremely important going on right now. And, and that is, we are witnessing, as I've spoken before, we are witnessing the end of the American century, the end of the American epoch and the beginning of the Chinese. That is where we're at. After all, how seriously do you think China takes the Biden administration statement? Our commitment to Taiwan is rock solid. They also heard as everybody did the Biden administration tell Russia, our commitment to the Ukraine is rock solid and and the warships turn back. And so China now without doubt, has an intention to force a retreat of the US Navy in the South China Sea, which I predict we will probably see fairly soon. Because after all, you know, you can't take seriously people who say our commitment is rock solid. When number one, it's not spelled out. And number two, it comes in exactly the same time that the Biden administration announces the withdrawal of all American troops from Afghanistan. And I think it's it's important to realize that the, in spite of the fact that the Biden administration's PR was, Oh, we've achieved everything we set out to achieve and it's not true that it's all lies.

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They said, Well, we've achieved the goals we set out for said Anthony Blinken, it's time to bring our forces home. Look, America did not win the war in Afghanistan. Our enemies there are stronger, and they control more territory today than they ever have since their overthrow after 911. In 2001.

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They've reconstituted themselves, they control half the country. They can cut roads to the capital Kabul and Our mission and this is what we said we're there to build a democratic Afghanistan that could sustain itself long after we depok. A big failure hasn't happened, not going to happen. There's no guarantee that al Qaeda will not reestablish itself and the Taliban controlling Afghanistan. And basically, we're leaving behind the exact exactly the same Taliban that we drove from power 19 years ago. So 20 years ago. So on the one hand, we are running away from Afghanistan. And on the other hand, we're saying, oh, take us seriously, take her seriously. No, it is perfectly clear that America lacks the courage lacks the will lacks the boldness to do anything at all, on a military front. Okay. Now, why is all this important? You know, I told you one major lesson for your lives, namely, that there are times when if you don't act boldly and with courage, you'll end up fighting a much harder struggle down the road.

36:09

The second situation I want to talk about is China and Taiwan, not in 1939. But in 1971. What happened in 71? Well, President Nixon made his famous Overture to China, right, they'd been almost no contact, since the People's Republic of China had been set up under the Communist Party. And all of a sudden, Richard Nixon, you know, wisely and boldly decides to open up Chinese since Henry Kissinger 50 years ago, Rose July 1971. And he went to Beijing. And this is the important point, without a lot of things that he wanted to clarify with the Chinese. One of them was that he wanted to get from them an invitation for his boss, the President Richard Nixon, to visit China. Okay. Then he wanted China's help in America's ending the war in Vietnam, with, you know, with with his much honor with as little ignominious as little disgrace as possible, didn't quite pull that off. But you know, there there are half a million people marching in Washington that year, earlier, in 1971, the anti war movement is very strong. The New York Times was publishing the Pentagon Papers, it was hopeless.

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And, and so he wanted their help in ending the war, he wanted an invitation for Richard Nixon. He was hoping to help get the Chinese to help him put pressure on the Soviet Union. He wanted to get their help in slowing down the nuclear arms race. And that there were about six or seven major issues that he went to China to discuss. Or another one was, there was a an independence movement in Bangladesh, a lot of stuff was going on in Southeast Asia, in South Asia, I mean, and President Nixon wanted some influence there. So So Kissinger comes to China, with a shopping list with like seven, or maybe eight items that he wanted to achieve.

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Joe in Lie of the Chinese president at the time. He responded to all of this by just repeating again and again and again, one, one simple statement, it must have driven Henry Kissinger Berzerk. He said, If this crucial question of Taiwan is not settled, there's nothing else to talk about. If Taiwan is not settled, there's nothing else to talk about. Taiwan settled means to reaffirm and establish at a Chinese control over Taiwan. Taiwan is part of one China. And it's very, very interesting, because all that Joe in lie, the Chinese president, all he wanted to do, was to persuade Kissinger to agree to recognize the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate government in China and Taiwan. And to make sure that everyone understood child Taiwan was an inalienable part of Chinese territory, and it must be restored to the motherland.

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He also stressed that America must withdraw all its Armed Forces dismantle its military installations, and, and so on and so forth. So Kissinger comes with a long list of all kinds of things he wants to talk about. And China responds with only one thing. We won't talk about anything else if we can't settle Taiwan. And no matter what Henry Kissinger said, Joe in light just came back and said, there's nothing else to talk about. If we don't get Taiwan settled.

40:31

I think that you might be able to see now, where we're headed here. When I named this show, the main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing. I think you can see where this lesson is coming from. That to China, the main thing is Taiwan. And that's the main thing that stays the main thing all the time.

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Back to July 71, when Henry Kissinger was visiting China, he raised all these issues, Vietnam only raised Korea, the Soviet Union, no matter what he raised, Joe, in lie, repeatedly return the conversation back to Taiwan. The only question between the two of us the record shows, as he said, Would the US recognize the People's Republic as the sole government of China and normalize diplomatic relations? And Kissinger said yes, as soon as the 1972 elections are over. And number two, China, Joe in life said, We want Taiwan to be expelled from the United Nations and the seat on the Security Council given to Beijing. And again, Kissinger said, Yes. And so China, President Nixon did visit China, but Taiwan was kicked out of the United Nations. And under that other great cowardly president, President Jimmy Carter, the US tossed away its 1954 mutual defense treaty with Taiwan, and threw it out. And it wasn't until 25 years later, that Congress came up with the Taiwan Relations Act, which, which says that the US doesn't want to see any forceful attempt to determine the future of Taiwan can only be done peacefully, etc, blah, blah, blah. Again, no commitment of America to come to the defense of Taiwan, nothing like that at all. And all of it means absolutely nothing.

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And to China, there's only one focus it was then and it is now only one thing, and that is what is the decision. What are we going to do with Taiwan? That's all that we care about. So much. So by the way,

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that in the last year of his administration, President Trump sent Mike Pompeo to meet the director of the Communist Party Office of Foreign Affairs.

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And they met in Hawaii in June of 2016. And guess what the opening statement of China was at that meeting, I'll quote it, there is only one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. The one China principle is the political foundation of China, US relations. I mean, Mike Pompeo was blindsided. Hey, we didn't come here to talk about that. Well, yes, we did. And, again, the main thing is that the main thing better remain the main thing. There it is. And it's, it's important to get this idea what is really happening. Well, a terrific historian, by the name of Neil Ferguson mentioned that.

44:10

A very interesting thing happened, right? A little while ago, President Xi of China had done away with the old rule that insisted that previous Chinese presidents have two terms. So he remains president indefinitely. And the reason he said for that was that Xi Jinping, the President of China wants to leave as his legacy, the restoration of Taiwan, Taiwan to Greater China. That's that's his dream, and that's his goal. And so, what this suggests to me is that we are looking for sooner rather than later, at some activity that has China, doing what's necessary to regain control over Taiwan, in much the same way that they regain control over Hong Kong, even though treaties insisted that that wasn't the right time. And in spite of the fact that the British and in many people, oh, objections, this is terrible, blah, blah, blah. China pays no attention at all. China looks at an America that is obsessively preoccupied with climate change and the environment and human rights Since when is the United States the world's policeman on human rights?

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I think in my view, President Trump was quite right on that. Human rights is something we care about in America. But the idea that we can project that into other countries, it's outrageous, I mean, unless we're willing to back it up with military force, that would be different. If you do not adopt American policies of human rights, we will invade you or we will bomb your cities have Okay, if you were in I don't approve of it. But if that's what you want to do, at least you're not an idiot. You know, at least that makes sense. It works. But to damage relationships, and to and to persuade the other side, that you're not serious that that you are that you're foolish in your approach. That's all this does. It so john kerry goes to talk to them about the climate and the pollution. And they fobbing off, they laugh at it, even the so called Paris accord, gave China ages of time still before they actually have to do anything. They've got a free pass. China bills, a new coal powered coal, coal powered power station every day. That's right, the rate of construction in China is so beyond imagining. Right now they are building a new power station every single day, uh coal fired. So it's important to understand what's going on. So because of the legacy that President Xi would like to see himself leave, namely, restored Taiwan, and on the heels of action in in Hong Kong, which was, you know, unpopular around the world, it made no difference to the Chinese

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in the light of their increased aggressiveness in the South China Sea. In the light of the evident and obvious weakness of the Biden administration, my guess is that we're going to see China act on Taiwan sooner rather than later sometime in the next couple of years, three, maybe next, the next three or four years. That's what I anticipate. Now. What is it going to be? Is it going to be China applying a sort of full scale blockade? Or will it be an amphibious invasion? Would it be the reverse of the Cuban Missile Crisis of the Cold War? But with the roles reversed? Would it be a Chinese naval blockade of the island? Or would it include an invasion? Or would it be heavy economic pressure? And all this is very important because Taiwan is the world's main supplier of semiconductors, right? So whether whether it doesn't matter, you want to build cars, you want to build computers, I mean, there's nothing today, you want to build a refrigerator or a stove, whatever washing machine, everything you can think of us as semiconductors today. And the main sources of supply is Taiwan. So when I speak about seeing something unpleasant happen in the next few years, the implications are very serious. There's no question about it. About the and the results, by the way, like, if let's imagine that I'm right, China goes ahead and decides the time has come to establish its dominance and to establish once and for all, that we're entering the Chinese epoch. We're saying goodbye to the American epoch. After all Chinese the Chinese economy reaches equivalence to the American within the next few years. Nobody thinks that will take longer than seven or eight years max. Most people including me think it will happen before that. And so with growing military power and and aggressiveness and growing economic power, and growing Western weakness, it seems to me likely that something will happen sooner rather than later.

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Now, if it happens, okay, what is the signal? And and if America does nothing, which I don't think right? I mean, will Biden be the one who suddenly is going to be willing to plunge America into a military action. England and France were not willing to do that in 1936, where it was much more obvious. And I don't see any reason to be optimistic about Biden's courage or integrity on the sea. It's not gonna happen, right? Not gonna happen. So, at that point, losing basically America doing nothing as China takes Taiwan, that would be a signal to the entire world, certainly to all of Asia and the rest of the world, that we are now at the end of the American dominance.

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The whole Pacific region will shift its focus from America to China. It would show that China's return to primacy in Asia, after what they see as 200 years of humiliation, all of this is going on in China right now. We're move and this, you know, this is President Xi's great legacy, after 200 years of international humiliation, we are finally going to regain our position of primacy, not only in Asia, but the world as well.

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You know, what would we see happen then? Yeah, like I said, semiconductors is a huge issue, a run on the dollar, US Treasuries. It's, it's going to be a big deal. There's no question about it. And it's one that we should certainly be aware of. Again, I want to stress that, that they are very good and solid reasons for believing as I do. For instance, Admiral Philip Davidson, who is the US military commander

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for the indo Pacific region, spoke to Congress recently, I don't think anybody was paying any attention. But this is a guy staking his military reputation, saying that he believed China would try to reclaim Taiwan by force within the next six years. Right, that that's an important thing. Right? And when that happens, all that the President Biden is likely to do is bleats protest, whoa, whoa, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. None of which will mean anything whatsoever. Because my friend something I've, I've spoken many times before on the show, power is more important than paper. You can wave around paper agreements as much as you like, but power is what makes the decisions you may as well note, it would be nice to believe, oh, we human beings have moved beyond and we've evolved to a time of peaceful paper understanding. No, that's not true. It's complete nonsense. And, and we shouldn't we shouldn't see it in those terms. Nothing has changed in how China's current leaders view the reunification of Taiwan, you've got to realize that to them.

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And China is actually be Taiwan is an embarrassment, right? You got to remember that to China, Taiwan is the island where those, the side that lost the civil war in 1949 1950. at that period, when they lost against the communists, that's where they fled. And now they set up this this little government on this little island, and foreign powers, again, foreign powers, prop them up, they're in Taiwan. This is a big embarrassment to China. And, and I I've only fully understood this in the last year or so as i've i've spent time and energy trying to study and understand exactly how the Chinese view their role in the world, how they view the last 200 years how they view Taiwan and how they view the United States of America.

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You know, they are rising to global power, there's no question about it. That's part of the dream as part of their of what they intend doing. And obviously they have to regain control over what they consider to be the their rightful territory. They've cracked down in Hong Kong, they've cracked down on the New Jersey in Xinjiang, they've cracked down on Tibet, they ignore Western protests about human rights violations. And all of that just shows that, in my view, President Xi views the United States as weakened and distracted by silly things like the climate and, and other matters. And he realizes that there is a window of opportunity during the Biden ministration a window of opportunity that I don't think they're gonna want to miss. And so what is what is likely to happen? Well, that's what I think is likely to happen. I really do. And, and I think that, that the reasons for China to act now are much more compelling than the reasons for China to wait, now is the right time for them to make a move on Taiwan, I don't think that you'll open your paper to find a report that bombs are falling on Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, I don't think that at all. But what I think is we might find that China occupies they send their Navy in to occupy their two little islands of Taiwan, between Taiwan and China, quit Moya and mutsu, maybe mispronouncing, but they were claimed by Taiwan. And, and Taiwan likes to assert that they control these two islands.

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There was there was some action back in 1958. There, but they basically been accepted as Taiwanese. So I think I think it's quite possible that China would take over those islands as an opening

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ploy in the action. What would America do in response? I didn't think anything. I don't even think they would do sanctions, because we're too I mean, our trade with China is too important. And the European Union would not join in on sanctions, so it would be meaningless anyway. So I'm pretty sure the response would not be sanctions. And, and, and for them, you know, there's no advantage in waiting. Right now, Taiwan is waiting for America to make good on the supply of military equipment, and it may be some years away. And so Taiwan is not at its best position that it's been in, in terms of its own defense. Number two, I would also say that one of China's concerns is the growing strength of India. So why wait, why wait for a change in the balance of power between China and India, China will obviously always remain strongly opposed to seeable future. But right now, they don't have to worry about India. I'm not sure that's true in 10 years time.

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I'm just stressing why. If I were president Xi of China, I'm saying to myself, you know what, it's time already. I don't know for how long I'm going to stay president. I want to leave a legacy. We we did well, with Hong Kong, nobody stopped us there. We have very high prestige in China, because of how we handled the Wu Han pandemic. The whole Communist Party in China that party structure is, is in a very activist mood. It's it's building infrastructure around the world. It's it's just, it's just a good time. Good time. You know, could China say you know, it will take care of Taiwan in 20 years. So yeah, it could happen. I just don't think it's very likely. Because Biden is a godsend to China right now. An absolute godsend. They are laughing at him making war with Russia. It's a joke.

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And so yeah, that's what I think is happening. Now. Why do I tell you all this? Not because I think you should invest, or you know, or sell short Taiwan semiconductor manufacturing company. Nothing like that. Those things are, are largely outside our sphere of influence. We're ordinary people as happy warriors. And, and the reason I'm telling you all of this is because world events will take place, they will be what they will be. Right. I think you might think a little bit about what might be the results in practical terms of a Chinese takeover of Taiwan, we can each think about how this might affect our lives, our business, what we do where we do it. So you know, think about that. But here's the main reason I've told you all of us. The main reason I've told you all of us is because to China, the main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing. They have been so clear, they've been clear for 50 years, that the only thing they'll talk about whether the United States is Taiwan, they started off successfully, they got Kissinger and Nixon to throw Taiwan out of the UN and replace it with China. They believe Jimmy Carter managed to

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they persuaded him to get rid of the the treaty with Taiwan. Everything is they are staying absolutely focused on it. Do you know how many Chinese students there are in the United States right now? Nearly 400,000 Chinese students, right over 300,000, nearly 400,000 Chinese students and these are not Chinese Americans. These are Chinese students studying technology, mathematics, physics, biology, and going back to China. That's a pretty important reality.

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China has given over a billion dollars to American universities over the last couple of years. That's a lot of control and a lot of influence. And indeed, there is influence considerable influence. And so, throughout all of this, China has successfully insisted that Taiwan is all that matters. You can't keep on saying that if you're not willing to take action. And that's why I think they're perfectly willing to take action. And here is the lesson for each and every one of us. The lesson is that the main thing is that the main thing must remain the main thing. Your main thing is your life. Well, that's a vague statement. That's a little bit like America telling the Ukr - Oh, wow. commitment to the Ukraines. is rock solid. Yes, Mr. Biden. Sure it is.

1:02:30

And I say, well, the most important thing, the the main thing for you is your life. Well, yeah, okay, fine. What does that mean? Well, the entirety of your life in practical terms, boils down to the five F's, right? Now hear me on this very clearly. When I say the main thing for you, is your life, I mean, the main thing for you is the five s, because the five F's and you know how I depict them graphically, right on the circumference of a circle, five equidistant points on the circumference of a circle. One of them labeled friendship, one of them labeled finances, one of them labeled faith, friendship, finances, faith, one of them labeled family, and one of them labeled fitness, everything having to do with your health, those five points on your circle can be connected to one another with straight lines. And that way, each one is linked to each of the other four, because they do constitute a single, unified depiction of your life.

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your finances, your family, your friendships, yes, your faith, and your fitness, everything having to do with your health. Those things all together, are one single entity that I call the main thing. And so I want to stress to you the importance of not allowing political news, even if it were the invasion of Taiwan, not allowing those things to deter you and to deflect you from the focus on the five F's focus on the five F's.

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Make sure you are progressing positively in each of those areas. Make sure you are nurturing your friendships and adding new friends to your Friendship Circle. Make sure you are acting in a focused way in a very positive way on your finances. Make sure that you are focusing on building up revenue and reducing debt. Make sure that you are nurturing your family. Make sure you are investing in your marriage. Make sure you are investing

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In your children, please don't believe that sending them off to school, sending them off to a gig, a government indoctrination camp is fulfilling your responsibility to your children, your children are your legacy your children, are you, your children give you a mortality. Yes, family is something that also requires your focus your faith, I don't have to tell you how important that is. And many of you need to work hard on that, because you don't feel your faith, fine. Well, then you have to work on it. But we need faith, just like we need family. Right? If you don't have a family yet, right? If you're if you're not married, there are steps that can be taken.

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And I've written about them, and I teach about them. And so this is all a what I call your holistic self. I speak about your holistic self, if you want to understand how to make sure that you remain happy and fulfilled and positive and optimistic and moving forward. It's by keeping a day to day track of your five eths. That's what's important. And if you haven't yet done it, please go to the website and download your free copy of The Holistic You. It's an ebook I've prepared, which lays out in considerably more detail. This understanding that the totality of your life is most clearly understood by resolving it into its five component parts, your family, your faith, your finances, your friendships, and your fitness. Right your your physical health, all of these things. And it's hard. I'm not saying it's easy, but I give you instruction, I guide you, I walk with you along this journey. Don't neglect any of the five. Keep in mind this picture of the circle with friendship, finances, faith, family, and fit fitness, written on five equidistant points around the circle all connected with one another by straight lines. And you will begin to see how this works. So do go ahead and go to RabbiDanielLapin.com, it's the website, you'll also find that youneedarabbi.com. And make sure you get your free download of The Holistic You. It's an important ebook. I really want you particularly at this time where I think we're facing considerable dangers in the United States and in every country on Earth. It is a time that is incendiary. It's a time where things are happening. This is not a time of laid back tranquility. And so particularly at a time like that, there are opportunities, and those can best be seized and exploited. If your five F's are in good shape, I cannot stress this enough. And the whole reason I told you the Chinese story is not because I'm predicting that China's going to act on Taiwan. Yes, I think that will happen. But it's not going to have as much impact on your life as a dramatic embrace of your five F's would have on your life. And so that's what I mean in the same way that to China. Taiwan is the main thing and it stayed the main thing. So it is that for you. Your five F's are the main thing, and it's important that the main thing stays the main thing that is the idea. At the website RabbiDanielLapin.com you can also write to us. You can also read back editions of thought tools of Susan's Musings and Ask the Rabbi column,

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there was the latest one is an interesting one, I think you'd find it interesting. And, and they've certainly been a number of comments from people have written in about it. So all of that on a RabbiDanielLapin.com. So head over there write to me, I love to hear from you. You know, I like knowing where you are listening from. And I greatly enjoy putting more pins in my map as our listenership spreads far and wide across this great planet of ours. And, again, thank you for spreading the word of the show. I appreciate it very much indeed. getting it out there increasing the people who are listening to the Rabbi Daniel Lapin show where we are now as far as we can go for this week. And so, just stay firmly focused on your five F's as we move ahead.

1:10:00

To the upcoming week, and I your Rabbi, Rabbi Daniel Lapin, reminding you that the more that things change the more we need to depend on those things that never change and you know what those five things are the important thing that never changes. Have a wonderful week. Stay in good health, and

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work on good times, with your family and your faith, your finances, your friendships. And yes your physical fitness and your health. I'm Rabbi Daniel Lapin. God bless