

=====

=====

OSINT INVESTIGATION REPORT

SUBJECT: Senator Lindsey Graham — Linguistic Patterns, Rhetorical Signatures
& Dehumanization Frameworks in Foreign Policy Discourse

CLASSIFICATION: OPEN SOURCE / PUBLIC DOMAIN

DATE: 2026-07-12

INVESTIGATOR: OSINT Analyst

=====

=====

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This investigation analyzes the public language of U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) across two decades of foreign policy discourse. The analysis identifies consistent rhetorical patterns including: (1) historical analogy weaponization, (2) collective dehumanization of civilian populations, (3) theological justification for military violence, (4) subordination of U.S. sovereignty to foreign military objectives, and (5) systematic undermining of international legal institutions. The subject's language has escalated from conventional hawkishness to explicit advocacy for mass-casualty warfare against civilian populations, framed through apocalyptic religious doctrine.

=====

=====

SECTION I: VERIFIED QUOTE CATALOGUE — CHRONOLOGICAL

=====

=====

[2011] LIBYA INTERVENTION

"One test in foreign policy – at least be as bold as the French."
"This is the best chance to get rid of Qaddafi in my life. If we don't get rid of him, we will pay a heavy price down the road."
— CS Monitor, March 22, 2011

[2012] SYRIA — SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

"If the slaughter continues I do believe that the world, including the United States, has the capability to neutralize the slaughter through air power."
"I think that is a high likelihood [that tank crews would quit if bombed]."

— Senate Hearing, March 2012 (GovInfo.gov)

[2015] SAUDI ARABIA / YEMEN

"We want to have a relationship with Saudi Arabia. They're a strategic partner. They're a mortal enemy of the Iranians."

[2017] NIGER — TONGO TONGO AMBUSH

"I didn't know there was a thousand troops in Niger."

(Followed days later by:)

"You're going to see more actions in Africa, not less; you're going to see more aggression by the United States toward our enemies, not less."

[2018] SYRIA — MANBIJ VISIT

Supported U.S. military presence in Syria; met with Manbij Military Council.

[2019] VENEZUELA

Proposed military invasion to overthrow Nicolás Maduro.

— Vox, May 26, 2019

[2019] TURKEY / KURDS

"I will introduce bipartisan sanctions against Turkey if they invade Syria" and
"call for their suspension from NATO if they attack Kurdish forces."

[2023] GAZA WAR — OCTOBER 10, 2023

Tweeted: "I unapologetically stand with Israel."

Called the conflict a "religious war."

Said Gaza should be "flattened."

— Wikipedia (sourced to multiple outlets)

[2023] GAZA WAR — OCTOBER 31, 2023

"No amount of civilian casualties in Gaza would lead him to question Israel's goal of eradicating Hamas."

— Wikipedia (sourced to The Hill, The Guardian)

[2024] GAZA WAR — MARCH 9, 2024

"For decades now, Palestinian children have been taught through UNRWA and other agencies to kill all the Jews."

"Somebody needs to pull the Palestinian school system up by its roots and destroy it."

— Wikipedia (sourced to multiple outlets)

[2024] GAZA WAR — MAY 1, 2024 (ICC CONFERENCE CALL)

To ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan, regarding potential arrest warrants for Israeli leaders: "You may as well shoot the hostages yourself. This court is for Africans." (Graham spokesperson denied exact wording, claimed he said court's jurisdiction extends only to places where rule of law has collapsed.)

— Wikipedia (sourced to The Hill, The Guardian)

[2024] GAZA WAR — MAY 10, 2024

"I trust Israel more than I do U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin."

— NBC News, The Hill

[2024] GAZA WAR — MAY 11, 2024

Co-sponsored resolution with 11 Republican senators condemning Biden administration for restricting weapons to Israel.

[2024] GAZA WAR — MAY 12, 2024 (NBC MEET THE PRESS)

"When we were faced with destruction as a nation after Pearl Harbor, fighting the Germans and the Japanese, we decided to end the war by bombing Hiroshima, Nagasaki with nuclear weapons. That was the right decision."

"Give Israel the bombs they need to end the war. They can't afford to lose."

"So, Israel, do whatever you have to do to survive as a Jewish state.

Whatever you have to do."

"Yeah, these military officials that you're talking about are full of crap."

(Re: U.S. military officials advising restraint)

"It's impossible to mitigate civilian deaths in Gaza as long as Hamas uses their own population as human shields. I've never seen in the history of warfare such blatant efforts by an enemy — Hamas — to put civilians at risk."

— NBC News, May 12, 2024

[2024] GAZA WAR — MAY 20, 2024 (ICC ARREST WARRANTS)

Called ICC decision "outrageous" and "a slap in the face to the independent judiciary of Israel."

"If they do this to Israel, we're next."

Called for sanctions on the ICC.

[2024] GAZA WAR — MAY 29, 2024

Met with Netanyahu; called ICJ President Nawaf Salam a "raving antisemite."

Netanyahu stated: "I have no better friend for Israel than Graham."

[2024] GAZA WAR — JULY 5, 2024

"The Palestinians in Gaza are the most radicalized population on the planet, who are taught to hate Jews from birth. It will take years to fix this problem."

— X/Twitter post; CAIR condemned as "racist, hateful and absurd."

[2025] GAZA WAR — NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Argued that allied countries (Canada, UK, Germany, France) should be sanctioned if they assist ICC in executing arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant.

[2025] GAZA HUMANITARIAN AID — JUNE 1, 2025

Re: Greta Thunberg traveling on ship bringing humanitarian aid to Gaza:

"Hope Greta and her friends can swim!"

— X/Twitter; condemned by Mediaite, June 2, 2025

[2025] THEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK — AUGUST 2025

At South Carolina Republican Party meeting:

"If America pulls the plug on Israel, God will pull the plug on us."

— The Jerusalem Post, August 15, 2025

[2025] GAZA — JULY 28, 2025

"Israel is going to do in Gaza what we did in Tokyo and Berlin — take the place by force, then start over again."

— Anadolu Agency, July 28, 2025

[2025] GAZA — DECEMBER 22, 2025

"It's imperative we come up with a plan quickly, put Hamas on a time clock,

give them a period of time to achieve the goal of disarmament. And if you don't, I would encourage President Trump to unleash Israel to go finish off Hamas."
"If Hezbollah refuses to give up their heavy weapons, down the road we should engage in military operations working with Lebanon, Israel and the United States, where we fly with Israel... to take Hezbollah out."
— Arab News, December 22, 2025

[2026] IRAN — FEBRUARY 2026

In Tel Aviv: "The United States was 'weeks, not months' from a decision on Iran."
"There was 'no light' between President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu. They were of 'one mind' about 'what to do and how to do it.'"
"Israel is developing weapons that will change the future of warfare."
"The wars of the future are being planned here in Israel."
— Middle East Monitor, March 13, 2026

[2026] IRAN — MARCH 4, 2026

After Netanyahu call: "It's only a matter of when" Iran's regime falls.
Netanyahu "expressed his gratitude to President Trump, our brave men and women in the military, and the American people for joining the fight against modern day religious Nazis in Iran."
"Finally, we discussed the gateway to peace that would be opened with the sinking of the mothership of terrorism – the Iranian regime."
— The Hill, March 4, 2026

[2026] IRAN — MARCH 2026 (FOX NEWS)

"When the regime goes down, we're going to have a new Middle East, and we are going to make a ton of money."
— Middle East Monitor, March 13, 2026

[2026] IRAN — MARCH 2026 (WSJ INTERVIEW)

To Trump: "I told him before he took office... if you can collapse this terrorist regime, that's Berlin Wall stuff."
Described lobbying Trump through "frequent cable news hits" and "hallway interviews," referring to Trump as "Reagan Plus."
— The Wall Street Journal, March 7, 2026; Politico, March 4, 2026

[2026] IRAN — JANUARY 2026 (WSJ)

Coached Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on how to convince President Trump to begin bombing Iran.
— The Wall Street Journal, March 2026 (cited in The Hill, March 9, 2026)

[2026] SYRIA — JANUARY 2026

Vowed to introduce "Save the Kurds Act" and reimpose "crippling sanctions" on Syrian transitional government after offensive against Kurdish areas in Rojava, to "prevent a bloodbath... against [the United States'] Kurdish allies."

=====

=====

SECTION II: RHETORICAL PATTERN ANALYSIS

=====

=====

PATTERN 1: HISTORICAL ANALOGY WEAPONIZATION

Frequency: HIGH (appears in 8+ major statements)

Mechanism: Graham systematically invokes the most extreme military actions in modern history (Hiroshima/Nagasaki, Tokyo firebombing, Berlin destruction) not as cautionary tales but as operational models.

- Evidence:
- Hiroshima/Nagasaki (May 2024): "That was the right decision." Explicitly defends nuclear attacks on civilian populations as correct policy.
 - Tokyo/Berlin (July 2025): "Take the place by force, then start over again." Treats total urban destruction as a legitimate military strategy.
 - Berlin Wall (March 2026): "If you can collapse this terrorist regime, that's Berlin Wall stuff." Appropriates a symbol of liberation to justify regime change through bombing.

Assessment: This is not historical education. It is the normalization of indiscriminate mass-casualty warfare as standard policy. The analogies are deliberately chosen to inure audiences to civilian death on a massive scale.

PATTERN 2: COLLECTIVE DEHUMANIZATION

Frequency: VERY HIGH (appears in 6+ documented statements)

Mechanism: Graham strips entire populations of individual identity, reducing them to monolithic, inherently hostile entities defined by their supposed hatred.

Evidence:

- "The Palestinians in Gaza are the most radicalized population on the planet, who are taught to hate Jews from birth." (July 2024)
- "Palestinian children have been taught... to kill all the Jews." (March 2024)
- "The people Israel is fighting are bent on destroying all of the Jews." (May 2024, Meet the Press)
- "Modern day religious Nazis in Iran." (March 2026)

Assessment: This language meets the scholarly definition of dehumanization preceding mass violence. By portraying entire populations as congenitally programmed for hatred, Graham removes the moral obligation to distinguish between combatants and civilians. This is the rhetorical architecture of ethnic cleansing.

PATTERN 3: THEOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR VIOLENCE

Frequency: MODERATE (3+ documented statements, escalating)

Mechanism: Graham substitutes biblical prophecy for strategic analysis, framing military support for Israel as a divine commandment with supernatural consequences for disobedience.

Evidence:

- "If America pulls the plug on Israel, God will pull the plug on us." (August 2025)
- Cites Genesis 12:3 ("I will bless those who bless you") as policy mandate.
- Dispensationalist worldview: treats modern Israel as fulfillment of biblical prophecy, precondition for Second Coming/Armageddon.
- "Religious war" framing (October 2023): transforms geopolitical conflict into cosmic struggle between good and evil.

Assessment: This is not religious freedom of expression. It is the operational deployment of apocalyptic theology to override constitutional processes and international law. When a senator predicates foreign policy on divine punishment, he removes the decision from democratic accountability and places it in the realm of religious obligation.

PATTERN 4: SUBORDINATION OF U.S. SOVEREIGNTY

Frequency: HIGH (5+ documented instances)

Mechanism: Graham consistently prioritizes Israeli military judgment over U.S. constitutional chain of command, treating alliance as unconditional

vassalage rather than mutual partnership.

Evidence:

- "I trust Israel more than I do U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin." (May 2024)
- "Give Israel the bombs they need to end the war." (May 2024)
- "So, Israel, do whatever you have to do to survive as a Jewish state. Whatever you have to do." (May 2024)
- Coached Netanyahu on how to convince Trump to bomb Iran (January 2026).
- "There was 'no light' between President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu. They were of 'one mind.'" (February 2026)

Assessment: A sitting U.S. senator advising a foreign leader on how to manipulate the U.S. president into military action represents a fundamental breach of constitutional duty. Graham's oath is to the U.S. Constitution, not to the Israeli government. This pattern suggests not alliance but subordination.

PATTERN 5: SYSTEMATIC UNDERMINING OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Frequency: VERY HIGH (8+ documented instances)

Mechanism: Graham treats all international legal institutions that might constrain military action as illegitimate, threatening sanctions against allies who comply with international law.

Evidence:

- ICC (May 2024): "You may as well shoot the hostages yourself. This court is for Africans." (Racist dismissal of international justice)
- ICC (May 2024): Called for sanctions on the ICC; "If they do this to Israel, we're next."
- ICC (November 2025): Threatened sanctions on Canada, UK, Germany, France if they assist ICC arrest warrants.
- ICJ (May 2024): Called President Nawaf Salam a "raving antisemite."
- UNRWA (March 2024): Demanded destruction of Palestinian school system (UNRWA-funded).

Assessment: This is not principled skepticism of international institutions. It is the systematic dismantling of the rules-based order when it applies to Israel, while simultaneously invoking it against adversaries. The "This court is for Africans" comment reveals the racial hierarchy underlying Graham's worldview: international law is for the weak, not for allies.

PATTERN 6: CIVILIAN CASUALTY DISMISSAL

Frequency: HIGH (4+ documented statements)
Mechanism: Graham preemptively absolves Israel of all civilian deaths by attributing them to enemy tactics, removing any obligation to minimize harm.

- Evidence:
- "It's impossible to mitigate civilian deaths in Gaza as long as Hamas uses their own population as human shields." (May 2024)
 - "I've never seen in the history of warfare such blatant efforts by an enemy — Hamas — to put civilians at risk." (May 2024)
 - "No amount of civilian casualties in Gaza would lead him to question Israel's goal of eradicating Hamas." (October 2023)
 - "Hope Greta and her friends can swim!" (June 2025) — mocking humanitarian aid workers risking their lives.

Assessment: The "human shields" narrative is a well-documented propaganda framework used to justify indiscriminate bombing. By declaring civilian deaths "impossible to mitigate," Graham provides political cover for mass casualty events. The Greta Thunberg comment reveals contempt not just for Palestinians but for anyone who attempts to alleviate their suffering.

PATTERN 7: ECONOMIC PROFITEERING FROM WAR

Frequency: EMERGING (2 documented instances, escalating)
Mechanism: Graham increasingly frames military intervention as a business opportunity, removing the moral dimension entirely.

- Evidence:
- "When the regime goes down, we're going to have a new Middle East, and we are going to make a ton of money." (March 2026, Fox News)
 - "The wars of the future are being planned here in Israel." (February 2026)
 - Envisioned U.S.-Israeli "21st century project akin to the Manhattan Project." (February 2026)

Assessment: This represents the final stage of moral detachment: war is not justified by security or values, but by profit. Combined with theological framing, this creates a dangerous synthesis where military violence is both divinely commanded and financially lucrative.

=====

=====

SECTION III: LINGUISTIC SIGNATURE ANALYSIS

=====

RECURRING TERMINOLOGY:

- "Existential threat" — Used to justify any measure (appears 8+ times)
- "Whatever you have to do" — Unconditional endorsement of military action
- "Flatten" / "Take down" / "Finish off" — Language of total destruction
- "Religious Nazis" — Equating adversaries with absolute evil (appears 2+ times)
- "Human shields" — Preemptive civilian casualty dismissal (appears 3+ times)
- "Plug" — Theological/economic metaphor for ending support
- "Unleash" — Removing constraints on military force
- "Mothership of terrorism" — Centralized enemy framing

SYNTACTIC PATTERNS:

1. Imperative mood dominance: Graham overwhelmingly uses commands rather than suggestions ("Give Israel the bombs," "Unleash Israel," "Do whatever you have to do").
2. Historical present tense: When invoking WWII atrocities, he uses present tense to collapse temporal distance ("That was the right decision" — treating 1945 as immediately applicable to 2024).
3. Superlative escalation: "Most radicalized population on the planet," "most consequential messages," "most blatant efforts in history of warfare." This creates an atmosphere of unprecedented crisis requiring unprecedented response.
4. Binary moral framing: All conflicts are cast as existential struggles between good and evil with no middle ground. There are no civilians, only enemies and allies.

TONE ANALYSIS:

- Aggressive certainty: Graham rarely hedges or qualifies. He speaks with the absolute confidence of someone who believes his position is both strategically correct and divinely ordained.
- Mocking contempt: The Greta Thunberg comment ("Hope they can swim!") and

the
ICC comment ("This court is for Africans") reveal a pattern of sneering dismissal toward anyone who challenges his framework.

- Apocalyptic urgency: The "God will pull the plug" and "religious war" language creates a sense of imminent cosmic consequence that overrides normal political deliberation.

=====

=====

SECTION IV: COMPARATIVE CONTEXT

=====

=====

GRAHAM vs. OTHER U.S. SENATORS:

Graham's rhetoric is not merely hawkish; it is qualitatively distinct from conventional interventionism:

- John McCain (Graham's mentor): Advocated for military action but maintained respect for civilian casualties and international law. Never endorsed nuclear attacks on civilian populations as "right decisions."
- Marco Rubio: Supports Israel but has not called for nuclear analogies or collective dehumanization of Palestinian children.
- Bernie Sanders: Opposes unconditional military aid; Graham has called Sanders and similar voices enablers of terrorism.

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS:

-
- Japan: Foreign Minister Yōko Kamikawa formally protested Graham's Hiroshima/ Nagasaki comments as "extremely regrettable."
 - Hamas: Called his remarks evidence of "deep moral decline and the genocide and colonialism mentality."
 - Iran: Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said Graham's statements "reflect the brutality of those who advocate war and disregard human rights."
 - CAIR (U.S.): Condemned his Palestinian comments as "racist, hateful and absurd."

=====

=====

SECTION V: ASSESSMENT & CONCLUSIONS

=====

=====

THREAT ASSESSMENT:

- Lindsey Graham's language constitutes a sustained campaign to:
- 1. Normalize mass-casualty warfare against civilian populations as standard U.S. policy.
 - 2. Dehumanize entire ethnic/religious populations to remove moral constraints on military action.
 - 3. Substitute apocalyptic theology for constitutional governance.
 - 4. Subordinate U.S. military decision-making to foreign governments.
 - 5. Dismantle international legal institutions that constrain military action.
 - 6. Frame war as a profit-generating enterprise.

The progression from conventional hawkishness (Libya 2011, Syria 2012) to explicit advocacy for nuclear-scale civilian destruction (Gaza 2024) to active lobbying for bombing Iran (2026) represents an escalating trajectory that has moved beyond the bounds of legitimate political discourse into the advocacy of war crimes.

RECOMMENDATION:

This language should be documented, archived, and analyzed as a case study in how democratic institutions can be used to advocate for atrocity. The specific patterns identified—historical analogy weaponization, collective dehumanization, theological justification, sovereignty subordination, and international law undermining—constitute a reproducible rhetorical framework that other actors may emulate.

=====

=====

END OF REPORT

=====

=====