The Return of the Giants: Why the Aircraft Carrier is Once Again the Heart of Global Power - VIDEO

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For years, strategic thinking has considered aircraft carriers as "20th-century dinosaurs," too expensive targets and easy prey for low-cost drones or asymmetric warfare. Yet, recent events demonstrate **the fundamental rediscovery of the aircraft carrier in the race between superpowers**. The debate over their fragility has clashed with a pragmatic fact: no technology offers the same **combination of power projection and political flexibility**.

Although drones and mines can disrupt traffic, they cannot replace a **sovereign and mobile airbase**. The flagship of this revival is the **USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)**: a 110,000-ton nuclear-powered giant, the first new design of a U.S. aircraft carrier in the last 40 years. Designed to serve for half a century, this ship transforms naval warfare thanks to a power generation capacity three times that of the previous Nimitz class.

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From Doctrine to Practice: The Venezuela and Iran Cases

The importance of this tool has been reaffirmed in the Caribbean Sea, where the deployment of the USS Gerald R. Ford was the pivot of the operation against the Maduro regime. With its electromagnetic launch system (**EMALS**), the Ford can launch a wider variety of aircraft, from heavy F-35C fighters to small tactical drones, with a precision and sortie rate 25% superior to the past.

Similarly, in the Iran crisis, the announcement of the **movement of two aircraft carriers exerts enormous psychological pressure on Khamenei**. Their "approach march" is not just a troop movement but an act of strategic communication. As stated by Admiral John Richardson, the lethality of the Ford arises from the ability to **combine information, ships, aircraft, and underwater forces**, radically changing the way of operating and fighting in complex theaters.

The Aircraft Carrier as a Tool of Coercive Diplomacy

The aircraft carrier in 2026 not only serves to bomb but also performs crucial political functions. It acts as a powerful factor of **deterrence**, preventing the escalation of regional paramilitary groups, and as **support for dissent**, signaling to internal factions that **the balance of power is changing**.

Despite a construction cost of about **12.8 billion dollars**, the investment is justified by the ability to **shift the political axis of an entire region** through mere physical presence. With the USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) in an advanced stage and work already started on the future

USS Enterprise (CVN 80), the United States confirms that, in this "return to the 20th century," **tangible military weight counts more than digital rhetoric**.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j26ppRiUBe0