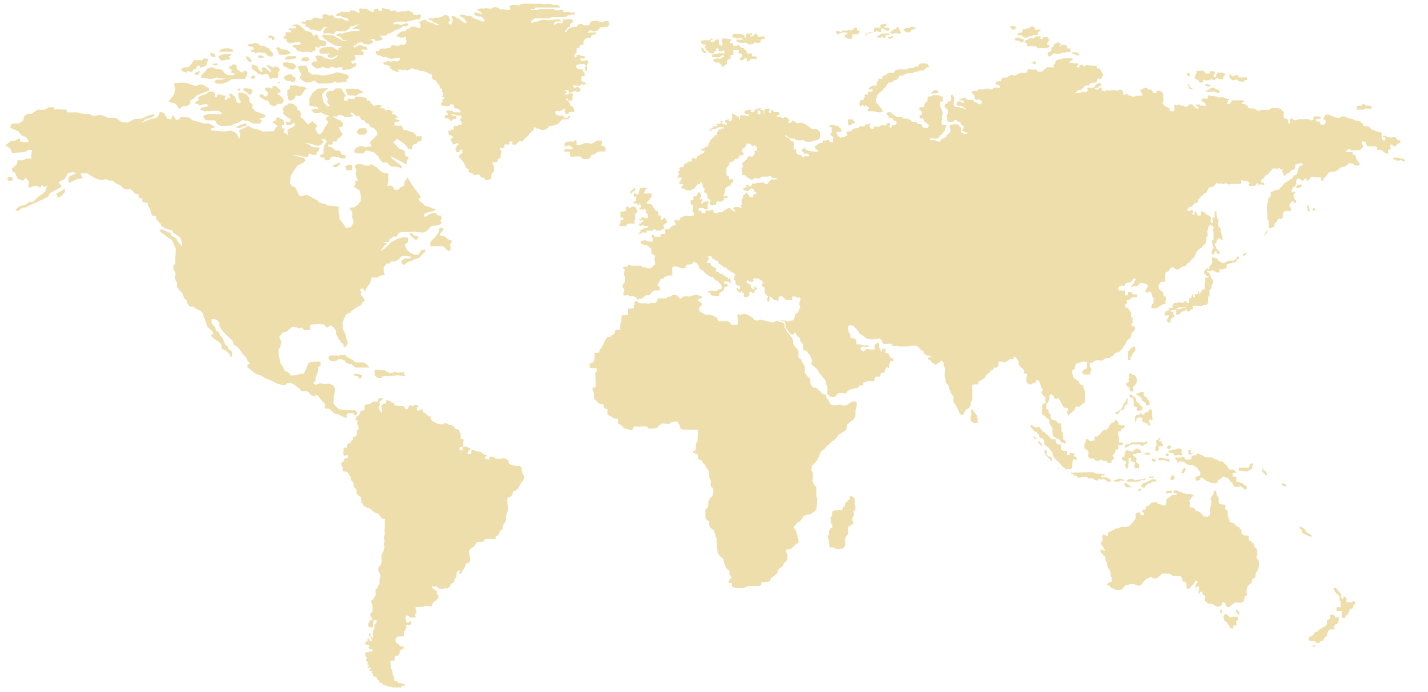


تقرير رصد مراكز الدراسات

THINK TANK MONITORING REPORT

Issue No.17 (16th-31st October 2015)

العدد السابع عشر (16-31 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2015)



وحدة المعلومات
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تشرين الأول 23، 2015

معهد واشنطن



سونر جاغابتاي

<http://goo.gl/BsFRDS>

لغز الولايات المتحدة و«حزب الاتحاد الديمقراطي» وتركيا

تواصل الحكومة الأمريكية مناقشة ما إذا كان ينبغي عليها تزويد «وحدات حماية الشعب الكردي» بالأسلحة الثقيلة، بما في ذلك قاذفات صواريخ مضادة للدبابات ومضادة للطائرات. وكانت هذه «الوحدات» قد ساعدت على استعادة السيطرة على الأراضي التي كانت بحوزة تنظيم «الدولة الإسلامية» في الأشهر الأخيرة، وذلك بدعم من الولايات المتحدة شمل الغارات الجوية والذخيرة.

تشرين الأول 22، 2015

معهد واشنطن



آنا بورشفسكايا

<http://goo.gl/6vfFSj>

المباحثات الجديدة حول سوريا تسلط الضوء على بروز روسيا وتردد الولايات المتحدة

قام الرئيس الأسد بزيارة مفاجئة الى موسكو عشية المحادثات التي جرت في فيينا في 23 تشرين الأول، بين وزير الخارجية الروسي والأمريكي ونظيريهما التركي والسعودي، الذين سيجتمعون لمناقشة الصراع في سوريا. وفي كلمته الترحيبية إلى الأسد، ربط الرئيس الروسي فلاديمير بوتين بين الاستراتيجيات السياسية والعسكرية التي تتبعها موسكو.

تشرين الأول 30، 2015

معهد واشنطن



نداف بولاك

<http://goo.gl/A1etPO>

روسيا في جنوب سوريا: بواعث قلق إسرائيلية وأردنية

في 28 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر، وللمرة الأولى منذ أن بدأت موسكو حملتها الجوية في سوريا، أفادت بعض التقارير أن الطائرات الروسية استهدفت قوات الثوار في جنوب البلاد. وتركزت الضربات على "تل هارا" - الواقع على بُعد تسعة عشر كيلومتراً تقريباً من الحدود الإسرائيلية - وغيرها من المواقع في محافظة درعا. وتثير هذه العمليات مخاوف في إسرائيل والأردن، ومن المرجح أن تختبر علاقات روسيا مع كلا البلدين.

تشرين الأول 17، 2015

مركز عمران للدراسات الاستراتيجية

مركز عمران للدراسات

<https://goo.gl/hh2AwJ>**التدخل العسكري الروسي المباشر في سورية**

تحاول هذه الورقة قراءة فعل التدخل العسكري الروسي المباشر، مبينة ماهيته ومدلولاته وغاياته وحدوده التي يمكن استنباطها من تقييم الواقع السياسي على مستوى المشهد المحلي والإقليمي والدولي، متلمسة في جزئها الأخير ارتدادات هذا التدخل على الساحة السورية التي غدت المحدد الأساس لاستقرار أي نظام سياسي إقليمي، ثم لتنتقل بعد ذلك لتبيان فرص قوى المقاومة الوطنية السورية وتحدياتها والتي تتقاطع بشكل كبير مع فرص وتحديات الفواعل الإقليمية.

تشرين الأول 22، 2015

مركز عمران للدراسات الاستراتيجية

مركز عمران للدراسات

<https://goo.gl/UCA2Mp>**إعادة إدارة الفكر الثوري بمنطق دولتي**

على الرغم مما مرت به الثورة السورية من أطوار وكل ما أفرزته خلالها من هيئات وتجمعات (عسكرية، سياسية، مدنية، دينية) تولت إدارتها باختلاف الآليات والأدوات والشخصيات ووسطوة متغيرات الظرف الدولي والإقليمي؛ إلا أنها إلى اليوم لم تستطع إنتاج البديل المؤسساتي لنظام الحكم القائم والذي يعتبر الآلية الأكثر إلحاحاً في هذه المرحلة، والمتمثل بضرورة الانتقال من فكر الثورة إلى منطق الدولة والمبادرة لامتلاك وظائفها وممارساتها، الانتقال الذي لا يرتبط بالضرورة بانتهاء الثورة وإعلان انتصارها، وإنما يمثل واحداً من سبل نجاحها، فهو ارتقاء بالفكر والتوجيه والتنفيذ، أي إعادة إدارة الفكر الثوري بمنطق دولتي.

تشرين الأول 27، 2015

مركز عمران للدراسات الاستراتيجية

مركز عمران للدراسات

<https://goo.gl/IW62dk>**واقع وتحديات الجباية المحلية في المجالس المحلية**

تواجه المجالس المحلية عجزاً مالياً متنامياً له أسبابه كارتفاع كلف توفير الخدمات لأسباب أمنية ولوجستية وعدم استقرار الإيرادات المالية نظراً لاعتمادها على مصادر دعم خارجية أكثر منها ذاتية. وإذ يُشكل ذلك تحدياً لقدرتها على توفير الخدمات وكذلك استمراريتها، فإنه يتوجب العمل على تفعيل الموارد الذاتية للمجتمع المحلي وهو ما قامت به بعض المجالس من خلال العمل على تطبيق الجباية المحلية. ويجد هذا التوجه ما يبرره رغم معارضته من قبل آخرين باعتبار المجالس هيئات شرعية ذات دور خدمي مركزي في إدارة مناطقها التي يغلب عليها نمط الاقتصاد المحلي، وإذ يعاني هذا التوجه الوليد من تحديات اقتصادية وإدارية وقانونية

تشرين الأول 26، 2015

المركز الإقليمي للدراسات الاستراتيجية

وحدة التحولات الداخلية

<http://goo.gl/SpBCsy>**"خصخصة السلام": معوقات الترتيبات الاقتصادية للتسوية في بؤر الصراعات الإقليمية**

لم تعد تسوية الصراعات الداخلية المسلحة في المنطقة رهناً بالتوافقات السياسية بين ممثلي الأطراف فحسب، وذلك نتيجة تعدد الفاعلين المنخرطين في الصراع، وهو ما أدى إلى صعود أهمية صياغة معادلات جديدة لـ "خصخصة السلام"، والتي تعني خلق مصالح اقتصادية مباشرة لكافة الأطراف المنخرطة في الصراع للتوقف عن التفاعلات الصراعية، والعودة للتفاوض للتغلب على اقتصادات الصراع التي خلقت مصالح لكافة القوى وجماعات المصالح في استمرار الصراع، ما يؤكد أن تسوية الصراعات في المنطقة باتت رهناً بتوافق المصالح لعدد كبير من الفاعلين من غير الدول لإنهاء الصراع وفق معادلات العرض والطلب.

تشرين الأول 29، 2015

المركز الإقليمي للدراسات الاستراتيجية

إيمان أحمد عبد الحليم

<http://goo.gl/ZBkUC4>**المقاربة الحذرة: لماذا تتخوف دول الخليج من استقبال لاجئي سوريا؟**

تشهد المنطقة أكبر موجة نزوح في تاريخها تفوق نزوح الفلسطينيين عام 1948، بتجاوز عدد اللاجئين السوريين المتواجدين في دول الجوار أربعة ملايين لاجئ، بحسب ما تُشير إليه معلومات المفوضية السامية للاجئين، وورود معلومات عن أن موجة اللجوء الأخيرة إلى أوروبا قد تكون أضافت قرابة المليون لاجئ إلى هذا الرقم الذي لا يشمل المهجرين في داخل سوريا، فيما تمتد معاناة اللاجئين إلى تراجع أوضاعهم المعيشية في مخيمات الجوار، واندفاع عدد كبير منهم إلى محاولة الهجرة عبر المتوسط رغم ما تحمله الرحلة من مخاطر، وهذا الوضع الذي يعانيه اللاجئون دفع الكثيرين إلى التساؤل عن الموقف الخليجي من تلك الأزمة.

تشرين الأول 31، 2015

المركز السوري للعلاقات الدولية والدراسات الاستراتيجية

المركز السوري للعلاقات الدولية

<http://goo.gl/gqY32c>**نقاط هامة في العقيدة العسكرية الروسية على مستوى العمليات والتكتيك**

تسلط هذه الورقة الضوء وباختصار على النقاط الأساسية التي تشكل العقيدة العسكرية الروسية فيما يتعلق بمستوى العمليات والتكتيك.

تشرين الأول 20، 2015

مركز الأهرام للدراسات السياسية والاستراتيجية

د. معتر سلامة

<http://goo.gl/hfpb90>**الموقف المصري من التدخل الروسي في سوريا والعلاقات مع دول الخليج**

يحلل الكاتب موقف الدبلوماسية المصرية من القضايا الإقليمية التي تتعارض مع الموقف الخليجي من ذات القضايا لكن دون تباين شديد، وبالرغم من وجود اختلاف حاسم في عدد من قضايا وخصوصاً سورية، تجنبت مصر الاعتراض على المواقف الخليجية المختلفة معها كل الاختلاف.

تشرين الأول 09، 2015

مركز دراسات الجمهورية الديمقراطية

حسين جمّو

<http://goo.gl/Tm6NIU>**في خيارات الأطراف الكرديّة من التدخل الروسي**

خط التدخّل العسكريّ الروسيّ في مسار الأحداث في سوريا، وأصبحت تميل لصالح موسكو وحلفائها بشكل أكبر. وعلي الرغم من توضيح موقف دول وتيارات سياسيّة وعسكريّة إقليمية مسبقاً من هذا التدخّل وأهدافه وتداعياته، إلا أن الموقف لدى الأكراد غير محسوم ومرشّح للانقسام وكشف المزيد من التناقضات البينيّة بين تياراتها.

Amnesty International

11/1/2015

BETWEEN PRISON AND THE GRAVE ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES IN SYRIA

For this report, Amnesty International conducted research into enforced disappearances committed by the government in Syria from March 2011 to August 2015. Researchers interviewed 71 family members, friends or colleagues of people who have been forcibly disappeared; eight people who were released after having been forcibly disappeared; and 14 international and national experts on enforced disappearance, such as investigators, analysts, and monitors. Amnesty International researchers carried out these interviews in Turkey, Lebanon, the UK and Germany from June to September 2015; they did so either in person or by phone, email or other virtual means. Amnesty International has attempted to engage with the Syrian authorities on the issue of enforced disappearances through various means and is still awaiting a response.



AI

<http://goo.gl/FIY1U3>
Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington

10/19/2015

Confrontation or Cooperation? Russian-Saudi Relations Hinge on Syria

The reaction of the Arab Gulf states to Russia's sudden and dramatic escalation in Syria is moving beyond rhetoric and into actions. How far countries like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and others – along with non-Gulf countries in the Middle East that are also adamantly opposed to the continuation of the Assad regime like Turkey – are willing to go in countering the Russian moves will only become clear over time.



HUSSEIN IBISH

<http://goo.gl/reGZdm>
Arab Reform Initiative

10/1/2015

Europe, not the United States, pays the price of failure in Syria

Russian President Putin has decided that Syria is part of Russia's near abroad, no less than Ukraine it seems, a territory where some vital national interests are at stake. He has predicted the fecklessness of Western powers well. Whether he is deploying his arsenal in Syria to fight Daesh or to bolster Assad, by moving massive military presence into Syria he has made himself the one player that counts and has put himself in a position to call the shots. He does not have a strategy to end the conflict. But he has one that he thinks will guarantee Russia's influence in this pivotal country while the West has no strategy to confront him.



BASSMA KODMANI

<http://goo.gl/cHpLCr>

Atlantic Council

10/22/2015

Russia's Intervention in Syria (Podcast)

For the past three and a half weeks, the Russian Air Force and a handful of military advisers have been striking rebel held positions in Syria. The bulk of the airstrikes are concentrated along the M5 highway near the cities of Homes and Hama.



AARON STEIN

<http://goo.gl/XYJsh3>**Atlantic Council**

10/20/2015

Russia's Attacks in Syria May Only Create More Jihadists

Russian President Vladimir Putin has labeled his entry into the Syrian conflict, following a rapid military buildup in the Latakia region, as a war on terror. Yet Russia's very first airstrikes in Syria targeted areas where the Islamic State (ISIS or ISIL) had no known presence—regions occupied by the mainstream opposition, which the United States supports.



MONA ALAMI

<http://goo.gl/GmevmW>**Barcelona Center for International Affairs**

OCT 2015

Bombing Syria won't Solve the Refugee Crisis

"It's got out of hand". "It's not enough just to take them in". "Action must be taken at the source". Since the refugee crisis burst onto the European agenda this summer, we've heard this kind of talk on an almost daily basis. The result is a situation that is exceptional, urgent and which has been ably exploited by those whose hopes of military intervention in Syria in September 2013 were frustrated. Two years ago, Bashar al-Assad was the target and nobody was talking about the refugees: they were a problem for Syria's neighbours back then, not Europe.



RESEARCH COORDINATOR

<http://goo.gl/D7agfl>

Barcelona Center for International Affairs

OCT 2015

Migrants or Refugees?

From the moment Barry Malone, a journalist on the Qatari channel Al Jazeera, stopped using the work "migrant" to define the people risking their lives in the Mediterranean, a semantic and political debate has arisen over the most appropriate term for the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing their countries. For the editors of Al Jazeera, in the Mediterranean there is no migratory crisis; rather, a large number of refugees are fleeing war in their countries and a smaller number of people are escaping poverty. It is not a migratory crisis because the majority are refugees fleeing armed conflicts, civil wars and persecu-



YOLANDA ONGHENA

<http://goo.gl/0kQ9zB>**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

10/16/2015

Jaish al-Sham: An Ahrar al-Sham Offshoot or Something More?

On October 9, Jaish al-Sham—which is Arabic for the Levant Army, but can also be understood to mean the Syrian Army or the Damascus Army—announced its existence. The name has been used by other groups before it, including one whose leaders eventually slid into the self-proclaimed Islamic State, but they are not related.



ARON LUND

<http://goo.gl/drqiat>**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

10/28/2015

Photo Essay: Aleppo Under Siege

Amid the violence of the fight for Aleppo, local residents have come up with makeshift methods of survival and resistance.



MAGED MANDOUR

<http://goo.gl/g7h2kM>

Carnegie Middle East Center

10/16/2015

Putin's Russian Roulette Diplomacy in Syria

The Russian military intervention in Syria has generated considerable confusion among foreign governments opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's continued rule over the country. Might Russian action be a prelude to reaching a political deal ending the Syrian conflict, and in this case would Russia accept demands for Assad to step down as a pre-agreed outcome of negotiations or of a transitional period?



YEZID SAYIGH

<http://goo.gl/eEctVg>**Carnegie Moscow Center**

10/13/2015

Putin's Syria Gambit Aims at Something Bigger Than Syria

Shoring up the Assad regime and killing jihadi fighters are not the only objectives that Russia is pursuing in Syria. Moscow's intervention is as much about Washington as it is about the Islamic State.



DMITRI TRENIN

<http://goo.gl/2qqqF9>**Center for a New American Security**

10/19/2015

After the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action: A Game Plan for the United States

Five experts from the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) have released a new report as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreed to by Iran and the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) moves from negotiation to adoption.



ILAN GOLDENBERG

<http://goo.gl/S4i8EI>

Chatham House

10/13/2015

Syria Safe Zones Another Stalled Debate

Given the number of competing interests and disagreements, the prospects for imposing any effective no-fly or buffer zones appear remote.



TIM EATON

<https://goo.gl/GTSFEA>
European Policy Centre

10/12/2015

Europe must act! The refugee crisis in the eyes of young people

This compendium collects a number of articles from FutureLab participants on the current refugee crisis in Europe, providing a series of unique perspectives from all over Europe.



FUTURELAB

<http://goo.gl/MLfQ0x>
European Policy Centre

10/14/2015

Why was the EU not prepared for the refugee crisis and what to expect next?

This Compendium of EPC publications collects all of EPC's relevant analysis on migration, mobility and asylum, in an effort to find out why the EU was not prepared for the refugee crisis and how it can do better in the future.



ANDREIA GHIMIS

<http://goo.gl/yeKhJu>

European Union Institute for Security Studies

10/12/2015

Stuck in the barracks: the Joint Arab Force

It all seemed too good to be true: the Arab world was to get its own collective security architecture at last. In January 2015, the Arab League Secretariat went beyond previously mooted ideas of a limited military alliance and proposed a joint Arab rapid intervention force. The objective of the force would be to combat terrorism and it would fall under the 1950 military defence pact. Egypt's President Sisi swiftly picked up on this proposal, declaring that 'the need for a unified Arab force is growing and becoming more pressing every day'. King Hamad of Bahrain backed this call, and the Arab summit in



FLORENCE GAUB

<http://goo.gl/Z8FtKc>**European Union Institute for Security Studies**

9/30/2015

Operation Sophia: tackling the refugee crisis with military means

The EU anti-migrant smuggling operation in the Mediterranean sea – known as 'EUNAVFOR Med' or 'Operation Sophia' – is now entering its operational phase, aimed at boarding and seizing on the high seas vessels suspected of being used for human smuggling and trafficking. This follows a first phase of intelligence gathering on smuggling routes and networks and is intended to precede operations due to take place within the territorial waters of Libya as well as coercive actions against the smugglers – including on Libyan soil.



THIERRY TARDY

<http://goo.gl/AoqVTQ>**Foreign Policy Research Institute**

10/30/2015

Identity In The Pre-Modern Middle East

We live in an age of identity politics. We define ourselves by one or more objective measures: measures of race, ethnicity, gender, politics, religion, sexual orientation, to name just a few. Those measures then define who we are to others.



JONATHAN P. BERKEY

<http://goo.gl/3Ew44L>

German Development Institute

10/8/2015

Tackling the real reasons causing people to flee Syria

Those misusing the refugee crisis as cover for their own inaction and ignorance with regard to the Syrian conflict may be soon be exposed. The author describes two misconceptions about why people are fleeing Syria and provides two proposals about what to do to solve the problem.



BERNHARD TRAUTNER

<https://goo.gl/u3ZPdk>**German Institute for International and Security**

OCT 2015

Seeking Support, the Kurdish Democratic Union Party Branded an Anti-Jihadist Image

US bombings in 2015 repulsed Islamic State attacks on cities in mostly Kurdish self-rule regions called cantons in northern Syria. The three cantons, which border Turkey, are dominated by the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD). The party is linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a former client of the Syrian regime and considered a "terrorist" group by the United States, the European Union, and Turkey. At the risk of deepening an Arab Sunni backlash that has fanned radicalization, Washington is set ever more on the prospect of the



KHALED YACOUB OWEIS

<http://goo.gl/j1K9fy>**German Institute for International and Security**

OCT 2015

Evolution of the Phenomenon, Promotive Factors, and the Limits of Hardline Policies

With a contingent of around 1,500 fighters, Morocco is considered one of the main exporters of foreign fighters to Syria. Until 2014, Moroccan authorities, who were content to see their own jihadis leave and add to the pressure on Bashar al-Assad, mostly turned a blind eye to networks of recruitment. Since the dramatic rise of the so-called Islamic State, or ISIS, concern over local repercussions and the return of war-hardened radicals has prompted Rabat to adopt a hardline, security-oriented approach instead. Repression, however, is unlikely to uproot these networks. Instead, a comprehensive strategy for ...



MOHAMMED MASBAH

<http://goo.gl/F2xMfT>

Hoover Institution

10/16/2015

A PATH OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST COLLAPSE

The debate about whether the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran regarding its nuclear program stabilized the Middle East's strategic framework had barely begun when the region's geopolitical framework collapsed.



HENRY A. KISSINGER

<http://goo.gl/8b5mC2>**Institute for The Study of War**

10/22/2015

The Islamic State Digs In

Russia's recent intervention in Syria will generate more opportunities for the Islamic State than it quells. If the Islamic State's core defenses around major cities in Iraq and Syria hold, the Islamic State will weather Russia's intervention and likely emerge stronger. The Islamic State has an effective defensive strategy, which it employed in the summer and early autumn of 2015. Apart from failing to compromise the Islamic State's defenses, the Russian intervention will fracture the U.S.-led coalition and weaken Syrian rebel groups, giving the Islamic State freedom of action on fronts where it had been constrained previously.



JESSICA LEWIS

<http://goo.gl/v7NFxl>**Institute for The Study of War**

11/3/2015

U.S. Options for a No Fly Zone

This backgrounder details three separate Courses of Action to establish a No-Fly Zone, as well as two additional courses of action for potential action other than a No-Fly Zone. The suggested No-Fly Zones are limited in geographic scope, covering only a relatively small portion of Syrian air space, and are examined to minimize resource requirements and risk to U.S. equipment and personnel while still presenting a viable and enforceable No-Fly Zone. These are technical studies that explain in practical terms how the U.S. could establish No-Fly-Zones. The options presented here assume the support of Jordan and Turkey in order to put forth a set of options that minimize both cost and risk.



CHRISTOPHER HARMER

<http://goo.gl/5zS5ns>

International Institute for Counter Terrorism

10/10/2015

The "Great Game"- The Sunni-Shia Fault Line in the Arab Peninsula

The latest events are part of the "Great Game", a region wide power struggle for influence between Iran and Saudi Arabia and its allies in the Middle East. This struggle reflects the Sunni-Shia schism across the Muslim world. Saudi Arabia accuses Iran of fueling unrest among Shias across the region, including among their 10% Shia minority.



DR. SHAUL SHAY

<http://goo.gl/lqoqi0>**Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs**

10/25/2015

Russia Begins to Bleed in Syria

It was only a matter of time before the Russian soldiers recently sent to assist the Syrian army of Bashar al-Assad began to be injured by rebel fire. Although Russia is busy conducting extensive air strikes on rebel strongholds in Syria, and at this stage is not involved in a ground war, soldiers stationed in Latakia still suffered losses in the battle for the city.



YONI BEN MENACHEM

<http://goo.gl/gUHJbl>**Middle East Forum**

10/30/2015

Russian Intervention in Syria Isn't a 'Game Changer'

On 30 September, Russian aircraft began bombarding rebel and Islamic State targets in Syria, heralding a new phase in Syria's long and bloody civil war. The Russian attacks were accompanied by an assembling of pro-regime ground forces for a renewed offensive to reverse recent rebel gains in the northwest of the country.



THE STRATEGIST

<http://goo.gl/UJACwq>

Netherlands Institute for International Affairs

10/19/2015

Fickle Foreign Fighters?

Fickle Foreign Fighters? A Cross-Case Analysis of Seven Muslim Foreign Fighter Mobilisations (1980-2015). Since the 1980s, several conflict zones around the world have attracted tens of thousands of unpaid combatants with no apparent link to the conflict other than religious affinity. This paper focuses on the conflicts that in the past 35 years have triggered Muslims worldwide to leave their home country and become a so-called foreign fighter. It focuses on the question why there are huge differences in the number of transnational insurgents. Connected conflicts like Afghanistan (1980-1992),



BRAM PEETERS

<http://goo.gl/JnNwfK>**Royal Institute for International Relations**

10/26/2015

What Putin wants (in Syria)

Many observers are speculating about Putin's strategy in Syria. This commentary argues that Vladimir Putin's military intervention is driven by five key objectives, with domestic, local, regional and global dimensions. Overall, it argues that Putin may have scored some tactical successes but that major strategic challenges still lie ahead.



THOMAS RENARD

<http://goo.gl/OigVnt>**Syria Comment - Joshua Landis**

10/30/2015

Russia's Intervention In Syria: A View From The Past

Russia's current military intervention in Syria marks a major turning point in the civil war there and in the regional and international balance of power in the Middle East. The many attempts to decode Putin's motives are therefore understandable.



JOSHUA LANDIS

<http://goo.gl/GhJlZX>

Syrian Network for Human Rights

10/28/2015

Widespread Violations Displace Tens of Thousands of Al Hassaka Residents

Al Hassaka governorate is one of the culturally rich and most diverse cities in northeast Syria. The governorate is inhabited by a mixed population of Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Assyrians, Armenians, Chechnens, Yazidis, and Chaldeans.



SYRIAN NETWORK

<http://goo.gl/l1WTRO>

The Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst

10/22/2015

Russia in Syria and Putin's geopolitical strategy

The deepening of Russia's military presence in Syria and its direct involvement in aiding the Assad regime during the Syrian crisis is a game changing step in the geostrategic context of the Middle East. This is Russia's third move during the last eight years to change the strategic status quo in the greater Middle East by means of military force.



AVINOAM IDAN

<http://goo.gl/77fTVL>

The Cairo Review of Global Affairs

10/11/2015

Ending the Iranian-Saudi Cold War

while unprecedented diplomacy has changed the face of United States-Iran relations over the past two years, the opposite has plagued Iranian-Saudi Arabian relations.



REZA MARASHI

<http://goo.gl/mf17tX>

The Institute for National Security Studies

10/20/2015

Russia's Involvement in Syria: A Strategic Opportunity for Israel

Russia's intervention in the Syrian civil war allows – or perhaps even requires – Israel to reevaluate its objectives and rules of the game vis-à-vis other actors in the region, beginning with Iran and the Assad regime. Though faced with Tehran's ambition for regional hegemony and an Iranian military presence on the border with Syria and Lebanon, Israel has so far avoided any move that might help topple Assad and thereby also uproot Iran's hold over Syria and deny Hizbollah strategic depth in the country.



AMOS YADLIN

<http://goo.gl/NxA91T>**The Institute for National Security Studies**

10/13/2015

Farewell to Syria

All efforts toward a solution to the Syrian crisis must acknowledge that the Syria of 2010, a sovereign nation with internationally recognized borders, no longer exists. The drive of some in the international community to turn the clock back and stabilize the “old” Syria under a new government has no political or strategic viability. Any strategy formulated with the goal of stopping the civil war in Syria and shaping its future must have a clear starting assumption: the collapsed, divided Syria cannot be pieced together. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on identifying practical alternatives to the Syrian state and formulate ...



GIDEON SA'AR

<http://goo.gl/hoJLSq>**The Institute for National Security Studies**

10/7/2015

Russian Involvement in Syria: What has Changed, and the Significance for Israel

Russia's involvement in the Syrian crisis constitutes a new strategic paradigm in the Middle East and the international arena. This will have significant implications for the balance of power and the rivalries in Syria's civil war, and for the struggle between the superpowers for global influence. Israel is also affected by these implications, given the change in the balance of power and given the risk of internal Syrian pressures spilling over into southern Syria and the Golan Heights. • Prime Minister Netanyahu's recent hurried visit to Moscow precluded ...



UDI DEKEL

<http://goo.gl/xX6tlc>

The International Relations and Security Network 10/30/2015

Syrian Medical NGOs in the Crisis: Realities, Perspectives and Challenges

Syrian civil society organisations were literally born during the current crisis in the country. Although, some non-governmental organisations were established before the crisis, they were under the control of the Syrian government. Before the crisis Syrians rarely used the term “civil society” and considered it a Western way of culturally invading the country.



ZEDOUN ALZOUBI

<http://goo.gl/S7XUOU>

The Italian Institute for Political Studies

OCT 2015

The Rising Gulf The New Ambitions of the Gulf Monarchies

Over the last decade the Gulf monarchies emerged as increasingly proactive players. The steady rise in hydrocarbon prices, up to 2014, has represented a significant source of wealth for these oil and gas producers, enabling them to maintain sustained domestic economic growth rates and high public expenditures, on the one hand, and to invest heavily in key sectors both domestically and abroad, on the other. Gulf Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs), which amount to 40 per cent of the world's total SWF assets, have been diversifying and expanding investments into the Americas, Europe and especially Asia. Futuristic cities such as Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Doha have become the symbols of the Gulf's growth driven by oil wealth, which transformed these states into important financial hubs and international business centres.

VALERIA TALBOT

<http://goo.gl/afUzT1>

The Italian Institute for Political Studies

OCT 2015

Iran After the Deal: the Road Ahead

The announcement, on 14 July in Vienna, that a comprehensive deal had been reached, made many commentators breathe a sigh of relief. After more than a decade of reciprocal accusations and missed opportunities, Iran and the six countries involved in the talks succeeded in negotiating a shared solution to the crisis, soon endorsed by the United Nations. This is a truly impressive success today, when diplomacy seems unable to manage international crises. And yet, the nuclear deal is just the beginning of a process that will take months, years, to fully unfold. It will take time to rebuild confi-

PAOLO MAGRI

<http://goo.gl/d2xxsY>

The Polish Institute for International Affairs

10/2/2015

Operation Alawistan: The Implications of Russia's Military Presence in Syria

Russia's deployment of troops to Syria might become a turning point for the regime in Damascus, the regional balance of power and Western calculations. With its forces already active in Syria, the Russians might serve to defend cities that are the traditional bastions of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad but which are threatened by rebel offensives from mostly Islamist groups. Russia's military presence in Syria serves its much broader regional and international goals. However, if the West were to drop its demand for Assad's removal and include Russia in the coalition against the Islamic State the result might hold more negative implications ...

PISM

MARCIN ANDRZEJ

<http://goo.gl/7AiGv6>**The Polish Institute for International Affairs**

10/29/2015

Who Are They? Two Profiles of Syrian Refugees

Syrians constitute the biggest national group migrating to Europe in 2015, according to Frontex. Of all the social diversity within a single society, two generalised profiles of a Syrian refugee can be inferred from available information: a poorer, rural worker based in camps in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, and a richer, middle-class professional living outside of refugee camps, recently migrating to Europe via the Greece and Western Balkans route. While Europe has so far received the best of the Syrian society, poorer Syrians may also be on the move without an immediate and substantial improvement of educational infrastructure and their legal labour market status in host countries.

PISM

PATRYCJA SASNAL

<http://goo.gl/ci1vdP>**The University of Warwick, EU Spring Project**

OCT 2015

Arab views on democratic citizenship – and on EU support

Much has been said about the EU's general response to the Arab spring. And much has been written about regimes' resistance to the far-reaching reform demanded by protestors across the Arab world. We have been engaged in a project (www.euspring.com) exploring one very specific dimension of these political trends and social debates: the question of how citizens in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) understand the concept of democratic citizenship.



ROSA BALFOUR

<http://goo.gl/Ds2qtV>

The Washington Institute

10/23/2015

The U.S.-PYD-Turkey Puzzle

Sustaining U.S. and Turkish assistance to the Syrian Kurds is crucial to blocking ISIS and stemming Russian influence, as is resolving Ankara's Kurdish problems at home, but sending heavy weapons to the PYD would likely have unintended consequences.



SONER CAGAPTAY

<http://goo.gl/RVSv30>
The Washington Institute

10/22/2015

New Syria Talks Highlight Russian Ascendance, U.S. Ambivalence

Without stronger American military efforts to hurt ISIS and help the rebels, the Vienna summit has little chance of preventing Moscow from taking the driver's seat in Syria.



ANNA BORSHCHEVSKAYA

<http://goo.gl/vvFn0W>
United States Institute of Peace

10/27/2015

Q&A: Russia's Intervention in Syria

Russia's military involvement in Syria has further complicated a four-year-long civil war that the United Nations says has killed more than 250,000 people and driven half the population from their homes. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad just visited Moscow, his first trip outside Syria since the conflict began in 2011 – to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin.



GOPAL RATNAM

<http://goo.gl/R5DT7Z>

Wilson Center

10/21/2015

No-Fly Zone No Answer for Syria

With former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's call for the establishment of no-fly and safety zones in Syria to protect the local population, front-runner candidates from both parties have now expressed support for a U.S.-enforced no-fly zone in Syria.



HENRI J. BARKEY

<https://goo.gl/6SHp6g>**Wilson Center**

10/21/2015

The Rise of ISIS from Regional Terror to Global Threat (web-cast)

Three experts shared their analysis on the origins of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and the influence of its leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.



JOBY WARRICK

<https://goo.gl/b8KGia>