FROM THE EDITOR

7 Political elites in the era of deficit — Pavel Luzin
Political elites are the main seat of political ideas, values and responsibility — but there is currently an obvious deficit in this area. That deficit is having a negative impact on international relations and global security.

Key words: political elites, international affairs, international security, institutional effectiveness.

BULLETS

10 On peace initiatives

INTERVIEW

11 Russia forced to develop global prompt strike weapons — Anatoly Antonov
Global prompt strike weapons have a powerful offensive potential. They can be used to achieve the kind of objectives that presently require the use of nuclear weapons. The best solution would be to ban global prompt strike weapons altogether, but a grave mistake has been made in this area: Russia and the United States ended talks after the signing of the New START treaty. Russian deputy defense minister Anatoly Antonov offers his view of the problems posed by global prompt strike weapons and the prospects for their resolution.

Key words: global prompt strike weapons, New START treaty, strategic stability, Russian-American relations, missile defense.

19 Russia maintains status as global power but has no global goals — Vyacheslav Nikonov
Russian foreign policy aims to achieve development and security goals. At the same time, there are differences on the main foreign-policy fronts, such as the CIS, the CSTO, the European Union, the United States, and Asia Pacific. Vyacheslav Nikonov, chairman of the Russian Duma select committee for education, offers frank views of the Russian foreign policy dynamics and prospects.

Key words: CIS, CSTO, Ukraine, European Union, United States, Asia Pacific, Iran, missile defense, international cooperation in education, modernization of the Russian Far East.

ANALYSIS

25 Nuclear energy in the Middle East: Russia’s interests and role — Andrey Baklitsky
Growing competition for the Middle Eastern nuclear energy market is an opportunity for expansion as well as a serious risk for Rosatom. The Russian state-owned nuclear corporation has to compete with powerful international consortiums, with obvious repercussions for the price policy. Nevertheless, the company’s positions will remain very strong in the region until Chinese suppliers enter the fray. Researcher of PIR Center Andrey Baklitsky examines the issue.
**Summary**

**Key words:** nuclear energy, Rosatom, Middle East, political aspects of economic competition on the nuclear market.

39 **Qatar’s role on the gas markets: prospects for cooperation with Russia** — Eldar Kasayev

The article offers an in-depth analysis of economic relations between Russia and Qatar, including ties in the framework of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, as well as the current state and prospects of the emirate’s gas industry. That industry is not only the foundation of Qatar’s wealth, but also a major problem for Russian interests. In recent years Doha has been ramping up LNG exports to the European market, thereby undermining the competitiveness of Russian gas supplies. The article of international lawyer and investment advisor Eldar Kasayev also offers long-term projections for the situation.

**Key words:** Qatar, Russia, Europe, Asia, GECF, LNG, energy.

57 **Why South Africa needs BRICS, and why BRICS needs South Africa** — Vladimir Shubin

South Africa hoped to achieve several long-term goals by joining BRIC. It wanted to prevent its own marginalization and to maintain its positions as the leader of the African continent. The country also has growing interest in cooperation with Russia. That cooperation is being held back by the lack of proper coordination between government agencies and commercial entities in both countries. Professor of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences Vladimir Shubin examines the issue.

**Key words:** BRICS, South African foreign policy, Russian interests in Africa, Russian-South African relations.

71 **Experience and prospects for international cooperation in nuclear security: between Seoul and The Hague** — Grigoriy Berdennikov, Sergey Vorobyev, Natalya Zaytseva, Dmitry Kovchegin, Vladimir Kuchinov, Mikhail Lysenko, Viktor Murogov, Vladimir Orlov, Park Ji Eun

Implementation of the decisions made at the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in 2012 will be high on the agenda of the next summit in The Hague in 2014. Broad participation of industry representatives in the Seoul summit has emphasized the nuclear industry’s global growth. There is an obvious need for that industry to take part in strengthening nuclear security measures and nuclear materials accounting and control (including radiological materials), as well as for the ratification of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material by the leading nuclear powers. The participants of the seminar organized by PIR Center in cooperation with ISTC have discussed the issue in details.

**Key words:** nuclear security, nuclear industry, nuclear energy, radiological materials, political problems of nuclear nonproliferation.

85 **Establishing a NWFZ in Southeast Asia: why have the P5 not signed the Protocol to the Bangkok Treaty?** — Alexander Kolbin

The signing by the nuclear-weapon states of the Protocol that completes the establishment of a nuclear-weapons free zone in Southeast Asia has run up against a whole host of international political differences. These include economic and political control over resource-rich offshore areas, disputed territories, and different approaches to military security. Researcher of PIR Center Alexander Kolbin considers there is little chance of the Protocol being signed in 2013, but there have also been some signs of progress.

**Key words:** Bangkok Treaty, nuclear weapons free zones, nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear disarmament, security in Southeast Asia.

91 **Missile defense in Russian-U.S. relations — how to end the deadlock?** — Igor Tomashov

PhD-student of the Higher School of Economics Igor Tomashov believes that the problem of the U.S. missile defense system in Russian-U.S. relations can be resolved through closer cooperation in the assessment of global threats posed by ballistic missiles; a resurrection of the idea of creating a joint data exchange center; and a policy of mutual concessions.

**Key words:** missile defense, Russian-U.S. relations, international security, strategic nuclear forces.

The situation in Syria and neighboring countries continues to depress the ISI International Security Index; the state of security on the African continent is also worrying. A flare-up in North Korea has quickly ended without any serious consequences. Political difficulties in Europe make it hard to predict its social and economic prospects. An exchange of letters between Vladimir Putin and Barack Obama has not brought any positive changes in Russian-U.S. relations.

Key words: civil war in Syria, situation in Africa, the European Union, North Korea.

A View by a Russian Liberal: Psychopathology of international relations — Yuri Fedorov

The Middle East has essentially become a turbulence zone, and there are no optimistic scenarios for the region at the moment. The United States has completed the reorientation of its foreign-policy course towards Asia, but its success will also depend on the situation in the Middle East. In this context, Russian-U.S. relations have shifted to the periphery of global affairs.

Key words: U.S. foreign policy, civil war in Syria, Russian-U.S. relations, strategic nuclear forces.

A View by a Russian Conservative: The cracked edifice of world politics — Dmitry Evstafiev

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the U.S.-centered global financial system is gradually being dismantled. The banking crisis in Cyprus has been a major event not just for the European economy but also for the tightly linked Russian economy as well. Meanwhile, the West is losing its ability to influence the political and military events taking place on the global periphery, including Syria, North Korea and Latin America. As a result we are witnessing the formation of a post-neocolonial reality in which military power is becoming increasingly important.

Key words: the United States, Russian-U.S. relations, civil war in Syria, North Korea, Venezuela, global economic crisis, the European Union.

Triple agent — Evgeny Buzhinsky

«Joby Warrick has managed a very realistic portrayal of the inner kitchen of one of the world’s most effective intelligence services. He has also built the story in such a way that the reader does not get the impression as though the book is not merely a post-mortem of the biggest failing in CIA history», writes PIR Center vice president. We offer a review of: Joby Warrick. The Triple Agent. The al-Qaeda Mole Who Informed the CIA. New York, London, Toronto, Sydney, Auckland. 2011.

Key words: Pakistan, Al Qaeda, terrorism.

Tales and prophesies at a boiling cauldron — Vladimir Orlov

«Satanovsky makes no secret of the fact that he does not believe in the possibility of Palestine ever becoming a viable independent state. What is more, he is confident — wrongly, I believe — that deep down, even the Palestinians themselves do not want such a state because they benefit from the current uncertainty and, as the author puts it, from not having to bear any responsibility for anything», writes PIR Center president. We offer a review of: Yevgeny Satanovsky. Russia and the Middle East. A Cauldron of Trouble. Moscow: Eksmo, 2012.

Key words: Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Middle East.

A cosmic nostalgia for Mackinder — Pavel Luzin

«Meta-Geopolitics of Outer Space, just like the classic geopolitics of seas and continents in the spirit of Sir H.J. Mackinder, is akin to metaphysics and political mythology. Also, it is completely devoid of the orthodoxy which is so characteristic of many modern adherents of geopolitical constructs», writes PIR Center assistant to editor-in-chief. We offer a review

Key words: peaceful and military use of space, geopolitics.

NEW BOOKS

Artem Blashchanitsa, Jennifer Dahnke, Shahnoza Jabbarova, Derek Johansen, Anastasia Kovaleva — PIR Center interns offer reviews of new additions to the PIR Center library — PIR Center interns offer reviews of new additions to the PIR Center library.

TO THE EDITOR

Augmented reality: game, business, security — Vitaly Kabernik

Thoughts about North Korea’s nuclear ambitions — Vladimir Khrustalev

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