FROM THE EDITOR

7 A Damascus Blade — Vladimir Orlov

In his Editorial Security Index Editor-in-Chief Vladimir Orlov analyzes the most recent developments regarding Syria, its chemical weapons arsenal, and future of Russian initiatives. He believes that influential regional players, particularly Saudi Arabia, have made dangerous choices which would be shaking the Middle East more and more. If Israel joins its efforts with the Gulf monarchies aimed at ousting Bashar al-Assad at any cost, Russia would be challenged with more pressures to its peace plan, and its much closer coordination with China and Iran, than it is today, would be imperative.

Key words: civil war in Syria, international relations in the Middle East, Russian foreign policy.

INTERVIEW

11 Arab Spring Turns Islamic World Into Battlefield Between Iran, Turkey — Mikhail Margelov

The military coup in Egypt; the protracted civil war in Syria, which has broken all possible rules and required direct intervention by the leading world powers; and other pressing political crises have created a tangle of problems and contradictions all over the Muslim world, from the Persian Gulf to Eastern Mediterranean, and from the Maghreb to the Sahel. This directly impinges on Russia’s interests. Mikhail Margelov, chairman of the foreign affairs select committee at the upper chamber of the Russian parliament and special presidential representative for cooperation with the African countries, analyses the causes and the essence of the transformations taking place.

Key words: the Arab Spring, civil was in Syria, political problems and conflicts in African countries, Russian foreign policy in the Middle East and Africa.

17 Russia Can Become a Balancing Force in World Affairs — Aleksey Pushkov

Effectiveness of the Russian foreign policy is the subject of heated debates within the political and expert community. One of the criterions of that effectiveness is the country’s ability to formulate its interests, and to pursue them in a consistent way. Over time, that consistency can also make up for the continued deficit of foreign-policy resources. Aleksey Pushkov, chairman of the Russian Duma foreign affairs select committee, shares his views with the Security Index editor-in-chief Vladimir Orlov in an exclusive interview. He also comments on the Syrian crisis.

Key words: Russian foreign policy, Russian-U.S. relations, civil war in Syria, soft power, CSTO, post-Soviet countries.

25 NGOs Play a Pivotal Role in the NPT Regime — Cornel Feruta

What new developments did the 2013 PrepCom bring to the NPT review process? What new issues to discuss appeared on agenda in 2013? Was the work on the Middle East WMD-Free Zone at the PrepCom constructive? Does the Oslo process impact the NPT review process? How
can the participation of NGOs in the review process be evaluated? These questions are addressed by Amb. Cornel Feruta, the Chair of the 2013 NPT Preparatory Committee.

**Key words:** nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear disarmament, NPT.

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**ANALYSIS**

### 31 Conventional Arms Control in Europe: Old Problems, New Solutions — Oleg Shakirov

The issue of conventional arms control in Europe (CACE) remains a subject of debate. How should the borders of «Europe» be defined? What are the weapons categories that should fall under CACE arrangements? What should be the procedure for revising or amending the list of controlled weapons to make sure that the CACE regime is effective and up to date? The article offers an analysis of the complexities facing any future CACE regime. It also looks at the proposals being made by various international players, with a special emphasis on the political aspects, including Russian policy in this field.

**Key words:** conventional arms control in Europe, precision-guided weapon, Russia–NATO relations, European security.

### 43 Militarization of the Middle East: Dynamics and Risks — Natalia Kalinina

The crisis in Syria and the long-standing general tensions in the Middle East, compounded by the Arab Spring, draw attention to the region’s conventional weapons market, which has been growing rapidly in recent years. The link between the region’s militarization and the ongoing fundamental political shifts can cause unpredictable consequences for the entire planet. Natalia Kalinina, senior fellow and head of the New Threats Group at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations in Moscow, offers an analytical review of the Middle Eastern conventional arms market.

**Key words:** conventional arms trade, military and technical cooperation, international relations in the Middle East, regional security.

### 63 Kazakhstan: Looming Instability — Yury Fedorov

Kazakhstan’s strategic importance goes beyond the borders of Central Asia. Meanwhile, analysts are increasingly predicting the possibility of an explosive escalation of tensions between political power groups in Kazakhstan. The authorities may lose control of the situation as the succession crisis draws near. The article analyses the current mechanisms of power in Kazakhstan and unstable factors, and the outcome of the early presidential election held in 2011. The key question is, whether and how instability and chaos can be avoided?

**Key words:** Kazakhstan, political risks of authoritarian regimes, political clans in Kazakhstan.

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**DOSSIER**


PIR Center presents the key findings and conclusions of a report prepared in September 2013 by the Working Group for International Cooperation on WMD Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security under the PIR Center Advisory Board. The report formulates several proposals for how Russia, the United States and other members of the Global Partnership within G8 could jointly use the experience of the Nunn-Lugar Program on an international scale. The agenda includes the destruction of chemical and biological weapons stockpiles in third countries (especially in the Middle East); closer cooperation in science and technology; and rolling out international education and training programs aimed at fostering a nonproliferation culture.

**Key words:** nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear security, Russian-U.S. relations, G8 Global Partnership, WMD.

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**ROUND TABLE**

### 89 WMD-Free Zone in the Middle East: Obstacles and Opportunities — Sameh Aboul-Enein, Wael Al-Assad, Rose Gottemoeller, Jeremy Issacharoff, Thomas Countryman, Jaakko Laajava, Vladimir Orlov, Benjamin Hautecouverture, William Potter, Sergey Ryabkov, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Nikolai Spassky, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Mikhail Ulyanov, Ayman Khalil, Mohammed Shaker

The establishment of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East is a key international problem that will largely determine the outcome of the NPT Review Conference in 2015. The second attempt
to convene a conference on the Middle Eastern WMD-free zone may be undertaken in December 2013. In addition to the traditional differences, the situation is currently being compounded by the events in Egypt and Syria. The conference can become the first real step towards implementing the decision of the 1995 NPT Review Conference, and strengthen the NPT and the entire nuclear nonproliferation regime. Otherwise, all the achievements of the past 18 years in this area may be called into question.

**Key words**: Middle East WMD-free zone, nuclear nonproliferation, disarmament, NPT, political problems of the Middle East, regional security.

### P O L E M I C S

**105 Blue Helmets: the Causes of Impotence** — Yevgeny Satanovsky, Aleksandr Shumilin

Amid the civil war in Syria and the general potential for conflict in the Middle East, questions are being asked as to the effectiveness of international peacekeeping in this day and age. There is also the need to assess the role of the UN in conflict settlement in the region, the political obstacles facing the peacekeeping efforts, and possible alternative ways of organizing peacekeeping activities. Yevgeny Satanovsky, President of the Institute for Middle East Studies in Moscow, debates these issues with Aleksandr Shumilin, head of the Center for Analysis of Middle Eastern Conflict at the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies.

**Key words**: political processes in the Middle East, international peacekeeping efforts, civil war in Syria, UN.

### C O M M E N T A R Y

**119 The U.S. Cyber Command: Lessons for Russia** — Oleg Demidov

On the one hand, the establishment of the U.S. Cyber Command, a special body in charge of security in cyberspace, is a consequence of the great dependence of U.S. infrastructure on electronic communications. On the other, it is the result of a major inter-agency compromise. Russia is now moving towards establishing a similar body, following the path the United States took in 2007–2009. Russian critical infrastructure is much less dependent on cyber technologies. Nevertheless, U.S. experience in this area is very relevant for Russia, argues Oleg Demidov, head of the PIR Center program for international information security and global Internet governance.

**Key words**: cybersecurity, information wars, political significance of computer networks.

### REVIEW OF RECENT WORLD EVENTS


The international security situation took a sharp turn for the worse in the summer of 2013 due to the increasingly deadly civil war in Syria and the threat of U.S. intervention in the conflict. The military coup in Egypt has also contributed to growing instability in the region. The security situation has remained unchanged or even showed some improvement in other parts of the world (North Korea, Mali, Afghanistan) — but that was not enough to outweigh the deterioration elsewhere.

**Key words**: civil war in Syria, political processes in the Middle East, the situation in Africa, Russian-U.S. relations.

**133 The Triumph of Bureaucracy in World Politics** — Yuri Fedorov

The U.S. policy of not expending too much of America’s resources on the global arena has clearly reached a dead end, and Russian-U.S. relations have plunged to their lowest point for many decades. There is a clear paralysis of the political will in the West; the consequences of that paralysis defy any prediction.

**Key words**: political set-up of the European countries and the United States, political processes in the Middle East, the situation in Africa, Russian foreign policy, U.S. foreign policy, Russian-U.S. relations.

**145 The Illusion of Ad Hoc Policies** — Dmitry Evstafiev

A shared perception of security threats has long been the basis of the political unity of the West — but now that shared perception and unity are in question. The situation is
comounded by the crisis of the existing international political institutions. In this context, the social and political processes in the West itself, as well as the flashpoints of tensions in international politics, are next to impossible to predict or properly understand. Facing a shortage of foreign-policy resources, the United States is now focusing mainly on Africa, and is getting involved in the Syrian situation very reluctantly. Russia, meanwhile, has come to resemble the Russian Empire under Tsar Nicholas I, with all the domestic and foreign-policy threats that resemblance implies.

**Key words:** political set-up of the European countries and the United States, U.S. foreign policy, Russian-U.S. relations, nuclear nonproliferation, international organizations.

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**Chinese Puzzle on the way to the Forbidden City — Irina Mironova**

"China is a country with wonderful and fascinating customs. Its language is not just about learning 200 words every week. Its cuisine is an expression of an entire philosophy. The book itself is a mix of a traveler’s observations, photos and deliberations; a comparison of a sinologist’s and professional diplomat’s theoretical knowledge about China, and his actual experiences in the country." Irina Mironova, a PhD student at the Institute of Energy Studies in Moscow, reviews: Bazhanov E.P, Bazhanov N.E. The Chinese Mosaic. Moscow: Vostok-Zapad, 2011.

**Key words:** China, Chinese political philosophy, diplomacy.

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**BOOK REVIEWS**

PIR Center staff members, interns and education program graduates Wang Chenxing, Valeria Molchankina, Julia Fetisova, and Aleksandr Cheban offer reviews of new additions to the PIR Center library.