FROM THE EDITOR

7 Credo Experto? Trust the jailers? — Vladimir Orlov
How useful can political projections be? How effective is the work of the think tanks and independent experts who make those projections? Are decision-makers interested in those projections? And who are these experts, really: authors of analysis or our jailers? Editor-in-chief Vladimir Orlov asked himself those questions as he went through this issue’s contents. In his editorial, he also dwells on Central Asia and Russian foreign policy priorities.

Key words: think tank, media, the Internet, foreign policy, international security.

INTERVIEW

11 CSTO facing old and new challenges — Viktor Vasiliev
How successful has the CSTO been as a multifunctional organization, and what are its goals? What are the Russian priorities at that organization? Is there unity within its ranks, and how has it been reacting to color revolutions? The Security Index has put these and other questions to Viktor Vasiliev, plenipotentiary Russian representative at the CSTO.

Key words: CSTO, regional security, color revolutions, Central Asia.

17 The Future Defender megaproject: looking forward to 2030 — Andrey Grigoriev
The world is transitioning to a new technological order that is based on advanced technologies in biotechnologies, nanotechnologies, and information systems. In 2012 the Russian government set up the Advanced Research Fund (ARF) to make sure that Russia is not left on the sidelines of that process. Andrey Grigoryev, director-general of the ARF, looks at the prospects for Russian research and production of military, civilian, and dual-use products.

Key words: new technological order, defense industry, high-tech products.

21 Effective measures against money-laundering, financing of terrorism, and the spread of WMD must become universal — Vladimir Nechayev
The 40 recommendations on detecting and preventing money-laundering developed by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) do not seem to be compulsory instruments, as defined by international law. Nevertheless, they have become a global standard, since most countries have undertaken a political obligation to comply with them. Vladimir Nechayev, who served as FATF president in 2013–2014, offers his views of the organization’s role in countering money laundering, the financing of terrorism, and the spread of WMD.

Key words: FATF, money laundering, financing of terrorism.
ANALYSIS

29 Afghanistan in the new military-political reality: implications for Central Asian neighbors — Yuri Fedorov

An invasion of Jihadist groups from Afghanistan, which would cause major political instability in the Central Asian states, will become a realistic possibility if several conditions are met. They include the Taliban taking control of the northern Afghan provinces; support by the Taliban leadership for plans to invade neighboring countries; a build-up of an invasion force and the establishment of base camps on the Afghan border with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan; and a paralysis of the Central Asian states’ armed forces and security services resulting from infighting within their ruling elites, argues Yuri Fedorov, member of the Security Index editorial board.

Key words: ISAF, Central Asia, Afghanistan, terrorism, Islamism.

47 Central Asian states: a new link in the axis of crises — Natalia Kharitonova

The changing nature of challenges and threats to international security in the context of Islamization could lead to major instability across Central Asia. Meanwhile, deteriorating relations between Russia and the West are stoking up rivalry over influence in Central Asia, and further undermining coordination of measures against terrorism. The Central Asian knot is likely to become a new link in the so-called Axis of Crises, argues Natalia Kharitonova, a lecturer at Moscow State University.

Key words: Central Asia, ISAF, Islamization, Axis of Crises.

Russia and Iran in the global gas markets: is future competition inevitable? — Irina Mironova

Russia and Iran have the largest natural gas reserves in the world, but for economic and geopolitical reasons they are in two completely different weight categories in the global gas markets. The changes that continued in these markets throughout 2014 and the latest geopolitical developments could alter that state of affairs, and cause Russia and Iran to enter into direct competition. Irina Mironova, researcher with the Institute of Energy Studies, analyzes the main scenarios for the global gas markets and Iran’s priorities as far as the size and destinations of its gas exports are concerned. She also looks at the potential for competition between the two countries in the key regional markets.

Key words: Iran, natural gas, energy security, global gas market.

Suppressing the black market for nuclear technologies: international efforts and Russian stance — Alexander Cheban

Thanks to international efforts, the likelihood of incidents of illegal trade in nuclear materials has fallen substantially in recent years. Nevertheless, there is a risk of technologies or equipment that can be used to develop or build nuclear weapons falling into the wrong hands. The global circulation of nuclear technologies is much harder to control than that of nuclear materials. Russia has advanced nuclear technologies, and is therefore an attractive target for potential black nuclear market players. At the same time, Russia is in a good position to improve the effectiveness of international efforts against illegal trade in nuclear technologies. That is why it is very important to understand the Russian stance on international efforts against the black nuclear market, argues Alexander Cheban, researcher with Odessa National University.

Key words: nuclear terrorism, nuclear technologies, nuclear security, export control.

ROUND TABLE

87 On Irish monks, or the role of independent experts and the media in the Russian foreign-policy discourse — Fedor Lukyanov, Yuri Nadtochey, Vladimir Orlov, Evgeny Satanovskiy, Elena Chernenko, Konstantin von Eggert

What is the essence of independent expert centers? What influence do they have on foreign policy? Is independent analysis and expert assessment of Russian foreign policy even possible there days? Are these centers useful to anyone but themselves, and is their vision of themselves as think tanks justified? Experts invited by PIR Center for a round table ponder these and other questions.

Key words: expert centers, foreign policy, NGOs, the mass media.
Security threats facing Russia and possible responses: expectations of 2014 and realities of 2015 — Dmitry Evstafiev, Vadim Kozyulin, Armen Oganesyan, Andrey Suzdaltsev, Dmitri Trenin

A year ago we asked PIR Center experts and PIR Center friends to give their assessment of the state of international security, especially those aspects of it that they believed were the most relevant for Russia, and to make their predictions for 2014. They spoke of the Middle East, Ukraine, and China. They also discussed Russian defense cooperation with other countries. A year on, we have asked the same experts to tell us what they think about their own predictions, and to make fresh ones for 2015.

**Key words:** international security, Ukraine, Middle East, China, defense industry, arms trade.

**POLEMICS**

The Middle Eastern nuclear fuel cycle: is regionalization possible? — Mohammed Shaker, Adnan Shihab Eldin

A regionalization of the Iranian nuclear fuel cycle will make sense once pressing political issues have been resolved. Theoretically and technically, Iran’s nuclear enrichment capacity can be used by the entire region. Such a project, however, can hardly be implemented right now or during the talks on the Iranian nuclear program. Experts from Kuwait and Egypt Adnan Shihab-Eldin and Mohammed Shaker share their opinion on the major commercial and political difficulties that stand in the way of regionalizing the Iranian nuclear fuel cycle.

**Key words:** nuclear fuel cycle, Middle Eastern WMD-Free Zone, Middle East, nuclear energy.

**COMMENTARY**

Fragmentation of the Internet: old questions and new challenges — Alexandra Kulikova

There is an ongoing debate about recent Russian legislation that prohibits companies from storing personal data of Russian users on servers outside Russia, and requiring telecommunication companies to store the metadata of their users’ calls for at least six months. There are also new proposals on duplicating the root infrastructure of the Internet to ensure the resilience of the Russian segment. All of that has raised concerns about the growing fragmentation of the Internet. Many experts regard the new initiatives as an attack against the open and integrated nature of the World Wide Web.

**Key words:** Internet governance, cyberspace, data sovereignty.

On the Russian economy’s transition to the sixth technological order via the defense industry — Oleg Demidov

PIR Center researcher Oleg Demidov offers an analysis of a keynote article by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin headlined “Robots to become soldiers”. Having recognized the severity of the incipient structural crisis of the Russian economy and the lack of any real strategies to overcome that crisis, the Russian political leadership has given the defense industry a carte blanche. The overarching goal is to find not merely new engines of economic growth, but a strategy for pulling the economy out of a structural dead end.

**Key words:** defense industry, sixth technological order, innovation.

Arms control: a problem of the present — Evgeny Miasnikov

Arms control is going through a rough patch. Voices claiming that arms control undermines Russian national security have been heard every now and again in the Russian media for the past 20 years. Some are calling for Russia to pull out of the INF, the Open Skies Treaty, the Vienna Document, the latest START treaty, and even the NPT. Never before, however, has there been such a strong impression that the advocates of such an approach are gaining the upper hand, says Evgeny Miasnikov, head of the Center for Disarmament, Energy, and Environmental Studies.

**Key words:** disarmament, INF, NPT, UAV.
The global security situation took a major turn for the worse last year. The Ukrainian crisis was not resolved; in fact, it has degenerated into an armed confrontation in the Donbass. Crimea becoming part of Russia drew criticism from the West, which went on to impose sanctions against Moscow. There is talk of a new Cold War. The rise of a new radical group, the Islamic State, has further complicated the situation in the Middle East and Africa.

Key words: defense policy, military technologies, conventional weapons, WMD, Western Europe.

A new book by D.G. Evstafiev is the first serious piece of research that defines and formulates the idea of integrated communications. We often hear that term, we often use it, but we seldom think about its precise meaning. One can argue with the author, and propose adjustments and amendments to his definition of the term — but there is no denying that Evstafiev’s definition is built on an extremely solid foundation.

Key words: integrated communications, information society, information security, Internet governance, cyber threats.

New books by PIR Center researchers and interns offer reviews of the latest additions to the PIR Center Library.

In the run-up to the 2015 NPT Review Conference: priorities should be revised, emphasis shifted — Tariq Rauf

Yaderny Kontol: name from the past approach looking into the future — Artem Goncharuk

Faster... Even faster? — Andrey Kortunov

On fate