FROM THE EDITOR

7 On significant rivals, unwanted allies and useless history lessons — Olga Mostinskaya

The Editor-in-Chief Olga Mostinskaya offers a brief overview of the recent developments and the key articles published in the issue.

Key words: Asia-Pacific Region, pivot to the East, Silk Road, OSCE, terrorism, IoT.

INTERVIEW

11 There is no such thing as pivot to the East — Stanislav Voskresensky

Key words: pivot to the East, Silk Road, China, TPP.

Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Stanislav Voskresensky explains to the Editor-in-Chief of the Security Index that there is no need to pivot to the East since we are already there. The interview opens a series of materials devoted to Asia-Pacific integration.

17 The OSCE finally works as it always should have — Andrey Kelin

Key words: OSCE, European Security Treaty, SMM, Vienna Document.

21 OSCE remains the only forum for an inclusive dialogue about the current state and the future of our common security order at the moment — Antje Leendertse

Key words: OSCE, CSBM, SMM, ICT.

In August 2015, the world celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Andrey Kelin, Director of the Department for European Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (2011–2015), and Antje Leendertse, Head
of the Task Force for the 2016 German OSCE Chairmanship shared their views on the OSCE’s role, its current work and ways to promote Helsinki process and dialogue, build confidence and security in their interviews to the Security Index Editor-in-Chief.

A N A L Y S I S

25 Main formats for multilateral cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region — Natalia Stapran

In the run-up to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, the Director of Russian Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Study Center under the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration guides the reader through the intricacies of the Asia-Pacific integration.

Key words: APEC, ASEAN, RCEP, TPP.

37 Asia is not in the know, or a brief record of Russia’s attempts to integrate in the Asia-Pacific multilateral formats — Alexander Gabuev

Alexander Gabuev, a Senior associate and the Chair of the Russia in the Asia-Pacific Program at the Carnegie Moscow Center, gives critical analysis of Russia’s engagement in the region and explains why Russia is not making full use of the potential of the existing integration platforms.

Key words: APEC, ASEAN, East Asia Summit, RCEP, TPP.

51 Silk Security: China’s new development concept and Eurasian rules of the game — Igor Denisov

Igor Denisov, a senior research fellow at the Center for East Asian and Shanghai Cooperation Organization Studies of the Institute for International Studies at the MGIMO University, examines the Silk Road Economic Belt as a new dimension of the Chinese economic diplomacy, a paradigm shift of the Chinese foreign policy at large, and a source of new external drivers for internal development.

Key words: Silk Road Economic Belt, USA, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Central Asia.

61 A discord among the jihadists: ideological struggle between Al-Qaeda and ISIS — Kamal Gasimov

In his article, the expert of the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Azerbaijan, Kamal Gasimov studies a split among the jihadists and dissects the new Al-Qaeda propaganda piece.

Key words: Al-Qaeda, Daesh, terrorism.

83 Is ISIS a new participant in the chemical warfare? — Anton Utkin

A United Nations inspector in Iraq and author of Russian chemical weapons destruction technologies, Anton Utkin attempts to estimate whether fears that Daesh might create chemical weapons are grounded.

Key words: Syria, WMD, chemical weapons, Daesh.
Internet of things: virtual welfare and real risks — Alexandra Kulikova

Back in 2008-2009 the amount of devices connected to the Internet outnumbered the world population. We stand witness to digitalization of our ecosystem. Alexandra Kulikova, Coordinator of PIR Center Program “Global Internet Governance and International Information Security”, studies the new phenomenon and its possible implications for our everyday lives.

Key words: IoT, ICT, cybersecurity.

The DPRK nuclear program: a strategic deadlock? — Andrey Lankov

A leading specialist in Korean studies Andrey Lankov contemplates about why the prospects for the North Korean nuclear issue resolution remain vague despite largely similar positions of the key stakeholders.

Key words: DPRK, China, USA, Republic of Korea, nuclear program.

Silk Road Economic Belt: Serious Project, Serious Questions — Timur Shaymergenov

Deputy Director of the Library of the First President of Republic of Kazakhstan — The Leader of the Nation, Timur Shaymergenov offers a Kazakh view of the major infrastructure project of our times and reflects upon the key factors that may affect its implementation, as well as on the prospects of its linking with the Eurasian Economic Union.

Key words: Silk Road, China, Kazakhstan, Eurasian Economic Union.

European security and the OSCE prospects, a view from Baku — Gulshan Pashayeva

Deputy Director of the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Azerbaijan, Gulshan Pashayeva reflects upon the history and future of the OSCE, its long-due reform and prospects of frozen conflicts settlement.

Key words: OSCE, reforms, Nagorny Karabakh.

Open Data: the Dark Side — Ivan Begtin

Open data is a key instrument of public control. To guarantee their accountability and transparency, NGO demand public authorities to publish more and more data, starting from procurement information to personal records of citizens. Apart from self-evident pros there are a number of hidden dangers to this openness. Director of Information Culture Ivan Begtin talks about the dark side of the open data and different ways to handle the problem.

Key words: open data, public procurement, data security.

The iSi International Security Index in July-October 2015: Now going deeper when you’ve hit the bottom — Galiya Ibragimova,
Temporary improvement of the international security caused by the Iranian nuclear deal was reversed as the situation deteriorated over the escalation in the Middle East and strengthened Daesh influence. Members of the International Expert Group analyze the global situation and try to find grounds for optimism.

Key words: Islamic State, Syria, Ukraine, international security.

NEW BOOKS

Grace Mitchell, Oleg Shakirov, Alyona Makhukova and Galiya Ibragimova — PIR Center staff members and interns offer their reviews of the latest additions to the PIR Center Library.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In response to Vladimir Orlov's and Andrey Baklitskiy's articles — Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov, Board Member at Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences, Vyacheslav Trubnikov and Chairman of the Executive Board of PIR Center Evgeny Buzhinsky share their views on nonproliferation and arms control.


SUMMARY

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INTERNATIONAL EXPERT GROUP

END. QUOTE

On the art of thinking clearly