



PIR CENTER E-JOURNAL  
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MARCH – APRIL, 2024

# YADERNY KONTROL

STRATEGIC  
STABILITY

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ZAPOROZHYE NPP

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INTERNATIONAL  
TERRORISM

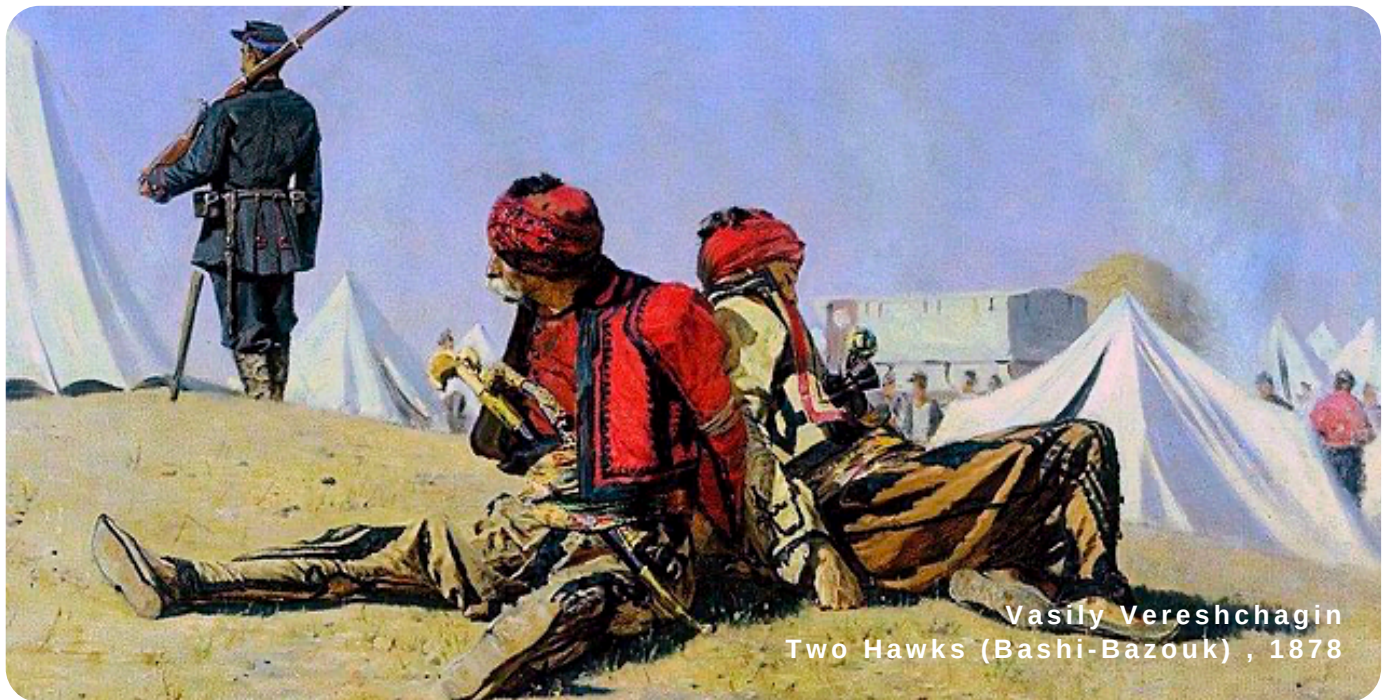
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OUTER SPACE

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AFRICA &  
MIDDLE EAST





Vasily Vereshchagin

Two Hawks (Bashi-Bazouk) , 1878

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**PIR QUOTES:** on strategic stability

**HOT TOPIC:** arms control; outer space; international terrorism; nuclear security

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW:** the second Russia-Africa summit and beyond

**PIR POST:** Artificial Intelligence; Middle East; BRICS; strategic stability; Zaporozhye NPP; international terrorism; global security

**SURVEY:** strategic stability

**NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN:** military use of outer space

**BOOK REVIEWS:** Korea; naval forces; missile defense and arms control; informational technologies and international security

**PIR TEST:** nuclear early warning systems

**GOSSIP COLUMN:** establishment of the Middle East WMD-Free Zone; Russia and the DPRK

# PIR QUOTES

## ON STRATEGIC STABILITY

*Our position is clear: if you want to discuss security and stability issues that are critical for the entire planet, this must be done as a package including, of course, all aspects that have to do with our national interests and have a direct bearing on the security of our country, the security of Russia... At the same time, I would like to reiterate (I think this is important for everyone) that no enduring international order is possible without a strong and sovereign Russia.*

**President Vladimir Putin**

Russian President Address to the Federal Assembly  
February 29, 2024

*If we accept compartmentalization now, we will get a sluggish discussion around the same topics... The alternative is a holistic approach proposed by Russia in 2020-2021. Security guarantees for Russia with a focus on curbing NATO's harmful activities along the perimeter of Russian borders; arms control covering all elements of the strategic equation — these are the key factors affecting the state's security.*

**Gen. Evgeny Buzhinskiy, Dr. Vladimir Orlov, Mr. Sergey Semenov**

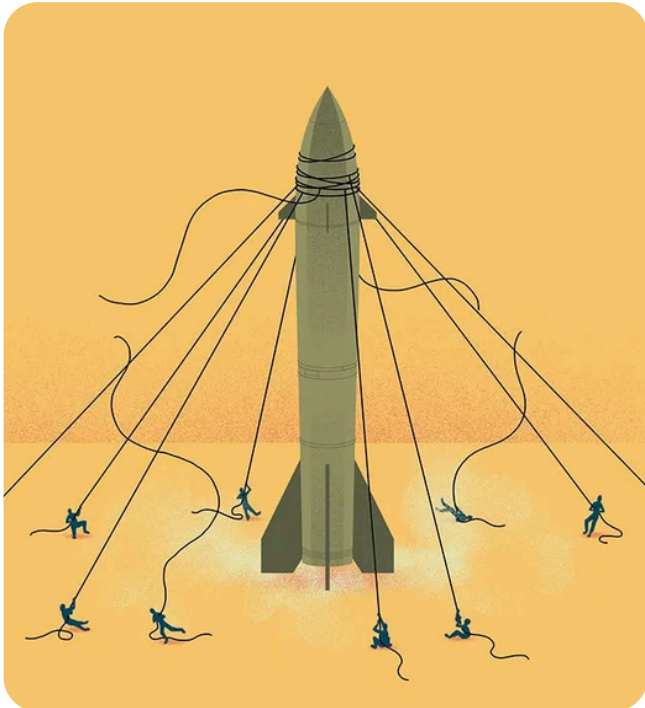
Against Compartmentalization  
December 26, 2023

[Read more](#)



# HOT TOPIC

## AGAINST COMPARTMENTALIZATION



**Gen. Evgeny Buzhinskiy**

**Dr. Vladimir Orlov**

**Mr. Sergey Semenov**

We are open to finding mutually acceptable solutions so as not to accidentally blow up the whole world. Let's risk saying even more here: Russian experts are still open to discussing the entire range of issues of Russian-US arms control. But exclusively with a focus on the future...

But the game of compartmentalizing is not for us.

[Read more](#)

## OUTER SPACE IN THE 21ST CENTURY: DOMAIN FOR PEACE OR ARMS RACE?



**Dr. Mikhail Lysenko**

Outer space is militarized but, luckily, not weaponized. In order to avoid the worst-case scenario, there is no alternative but to work proactively and resolutely to enhance international diplomatic and legal instruments to prevent outer space weaponization.

Is the militarization of outer space a threat or a challenge to its peaceful uses? Can they both coexist in parallel, or their confrontation is inevitable? What diplomatic and legal steps are needed to be made to avoid the relocation of arms race to outer space?

[Read more](#)

## INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: THREATS HAS NOT GONE AWAY, THREAT HAS LURKED



**Mr. Leonid Tsukanov**

The terrorism threat remains one of the key challenges to global security.

Radical organizations, despite the attempts of the international community to *cut the ground* from under their feet, still have sufficient resources and influence on the minds of young people. In addition, the high level of adaptability of jihadists to new conditions of struggle makes radical organizations virtually *immortal*, which is why the defeat of one center of power does not guarantee victory over the Islamists as a whole.

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## NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES: BETWEEN SECURITY RISKS, SANCTION POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



**Dr. Alexey Ubeev**

A stable architecture of global security is unthinkable without a sustainable and controlled regime of nuclear nonproliferation or nuclear security. Regulatory functions are vested in multiple treaties, conventions, and relevant international organizations. The turbulence and uncertainty of the global political climate today have given rise not only to new challenges and threats, but also to new, sometimes unexpected, opportunities. The following analysis offers a closer look at the matter in question.

About ensuring nuclear security, sanctions policy and development of nuclear technologies — in the article.

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# EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

## DR. IRINA ABRAMOVA: «THE SECOND RUSSIA-AFRICA SUMMIT AND BEYOND: RAPPROCHEMENT IS STRATEGIC, NOT TACTICAL»

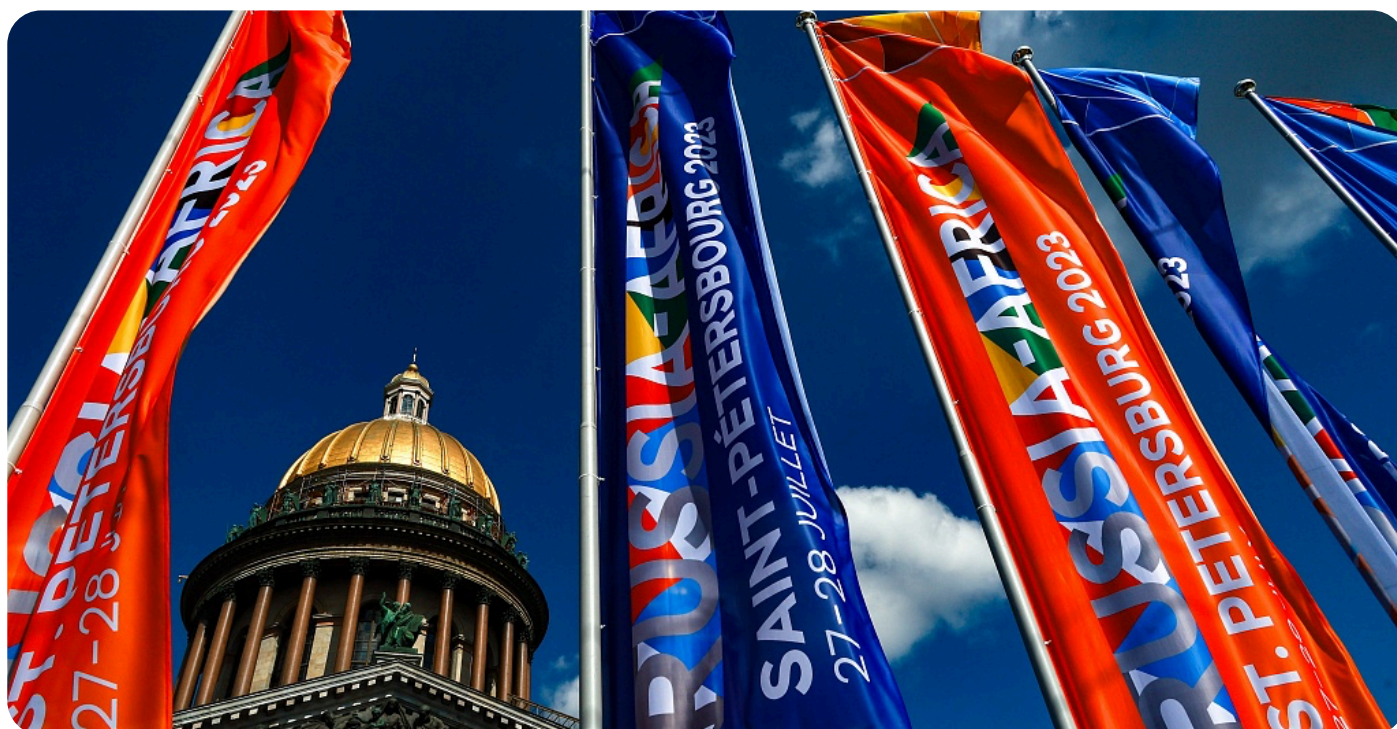
Boosting relations between Russia and Africa – is this mission possible? Have all agreements been fulfilled so far? And what are the obstacles to overcome?



Dr. Irina **Abramova**, Director of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Member of the Presidium of the RAS, Professor in the Department for African and Arab Studies of RUDN University, discusses the outcome of Russia-Africa summits in 2019 and 2023. It is underlined that Russia and Africa have common interests, and they are strategic, not tactical. She also touches upon the Russian competitors in the region as well as stereotypes towards Africa and *Africa multi-faces* in our perception.

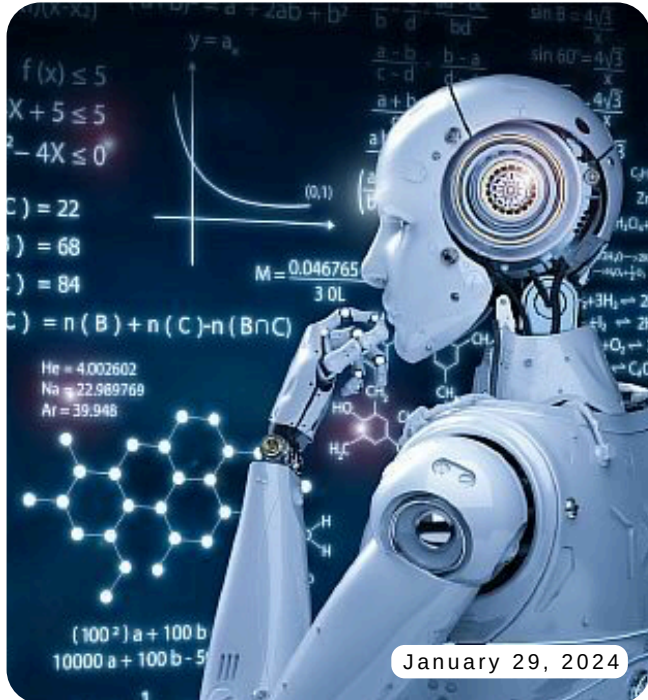
The interview was conducted by Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, PIR Center Founding Director, Professor at MGIMO University, and Ms. Veronika **Terpugova**, PIR Center Education and Training Program Intern.

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# PIR POST

## UNBIASED AI: TACKLING ALGORITHMIC DISCRIMINATION



**Ms. Noor Al Mazrouei**



Artificial Intelligence has revolutionized many aspects of our lives, from healthcare to education, finance, and transportation. However, the emergence of algorithmic discrimination in AI (occurs when AI systems perpetuate and amplify biases and discriminatory practices) presents a significant challenge to fairness, equality, societal justice, etc. What is algorithmic discrimination, and how is it identified? What technical challenges exist in developing unbiased algorithms? Is it possible to create unbiased AI, and what impact would it have on society and politics?

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## OLD AND NEW INDEPENDENCE: WHO WILL RESTORE ORDER IN THE MIDDLE EAST?



**Mr. Leonid Tsukanov**



The Middle East is experiencing another round of geopolitical transformation — against the backdrop of a redistribution of power between states, long-standing conflicts and previously resolved contradictions are being exposed, new formats of interstate dialogue and new *red lines* are emerging. It seems interesting to *weigh* the key arguments of skeptics and identify how independent the Middle East can be today in matters of regulating internal problems and what its *new independence* consists of.

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## VLADIMIR PUTIN'S ADDRESS TO THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY: PROMISING FUTURE OF BRICS



Mr. Sviatoslav Arov



On February 29, 2024, Vladimir Putin delivered his Address to the Federal Assembly. In the speech the Russian President has raised a number topical international issues: Russian-American relations, European security, Russia's hypersonic missiles, etc. However, a special emphasis was given to BRICS, which economic development is growing significantly. There is no doubt that BRICS countries continue to strength, enhance global influence and shape international political and economic landscape. Vladimir Putin is absolutely right — *this is objective reality, and it will remain so, with no matter what happens next.*

[Read more](#)

## NUCLEAR NEEDS WOMEN



Ms. Alexandra Zubenko



Graduates and student of the International Dual Degree M.A. Program *Global Security, Nuclear Policy and WMD Nonproliferation* (MGIMO-MIIS-PIR Center) gathered in Vienna to participate in a discussion on gender balance in the nuclear field.

On March 7-8, 2024, the event *For More Women in Nuclear* took place at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria, bringing together more than 400 participants of the IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme. The event was attended by Ms. Rebecca **Pantani**, Ms. Océane **Van Geluwe**, Ms. Sarah **Erickson**, and Ms. Alexandra **Zubenko**.

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# STRATEGIC STABILITY IN RUSSIA-US RELATIONS AT THE CURRENT STAGE



**Mr. Dmitry Stefanovich**



The words *strategic stability* are once again heard both in Moscow and in Washington, although with different connotations. Other nuclear weapon states' capitals also weigh in with assorted *stabilizing* initiatives — from Beijing's universal *No First Use* idea to, presumably, deterrent signals by Paris toying with possibility of direct military confrontation with Russia. In this short essay the author would like to provide perspective on what strategic stability is and what it is not, and how to survive the current turmoil.

[Read more](#)

# ZAPOROZHYE NPP: ESCALATION ZONE



**Mr. Sviatoslav Arov**



In March, the situation around Zaporozhnye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) has escalated again — an explosive device dropped from a drone nearly caused the explosion of a fuel storage. This is not the first — and unlikely to be the last — attack against ZNPP.

Despite robust systems, the security of NPP depends heavily on humans. The only possible way to secure nuclear facilities in times of conflict is not to attack them. It is a seemingly basic principle, but not everyone is willing to abide by it.

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## TERRORIST ATTACK ON CROCUS HALL: CUI PRODEST?



**Dr. Vladimir Orlov**

Today, it would not be professional and wise to make conclusions on the roots and true plannets of the Crocus Hall tragedy. I cannot accept copy-pasting of *assessments* from the Western media based on *reliable sources*. It may be too simplistic to be true. Emotions do not help either. We should wait a while, before we have all facts, in a comprehensive way.

It is particularly important because it seems that we have been facing a complex, multi-layer combination. All significant terrorist organization are international by nature... And one more point. Instead of simplistic or emotional reactions, one always should try to respond to *qui protest* question: who does benefit from a terrorist action?

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## STRIKES ON THE ZAPOROZHYE NPP – NUCLEAR AND DIPLOMATIC TERRORISM



**Dr. Vladimir Orlov**  
**Mr. Sergey Semenov**



The uncompromising wording of Russian and international legislation leaves no loopholes. The Ukrainian strikes on the Zaporozhye NPP are terrorism. Nuclear terrorism. The conversation with those who plan and carry out attacks on the Zaporozhye NPP is short, and it is not for diplomats to conduct it.

[Read more](#)



Friedrich Moritz August Retzsch  
*Die Schachspieler*, 1830s

# SURVEY

WHAT SHOULD BE MEANT BY STRATEGIC STABILITY IN CASE OF FUTURE BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL TALKS ON ARMS CONTROL?

[More](#)

# NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

H.E. ANATOLY ANTONOV: MILITARY USE OF SPACE, 2012



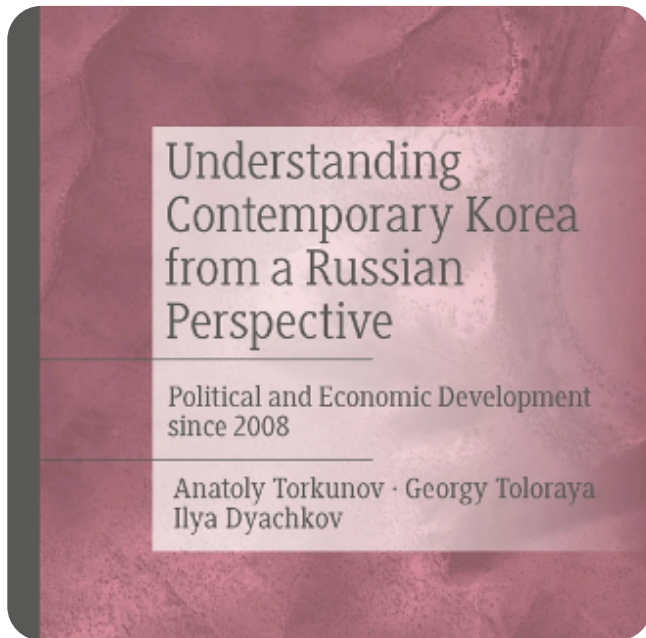
*Placing weapons in space and turning the outer space into a potential arena of combat action poses a significant threat to strategic stability and global security. The deployment of various types of weapons in space could inflict serious damage on the existing arms control arrangements, especially in the area of nuclear and missile weapons. It could also trigger a new wave of the arms race, which could spiral to a whole new level.*

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# BOOK REVIEWS



## KIM JONG UN OR YOON SUK YEOL? ANALYZING RUSSIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE TWO KOREAS



Anatoly Torkunov, Georgy Toloraya, Ilya Dyachkov. **Understanding Contemporary Korea from Russian Perspective: Political and Economic Development since 2008 // Palgrave Macmillan. 2022.**

**Mr. Sviatoslav Arov**

The monograph is a unique study of the development of the two diametrically opposed — and in some ways strikingly similar — countries at the present stage, which for more than 60 years have contributed greatly to the balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region. [Read more](#)

## WHO CAN COMMAND THE WIND? IMEMO'S NEW MARITIME POTENTIAL INDEX

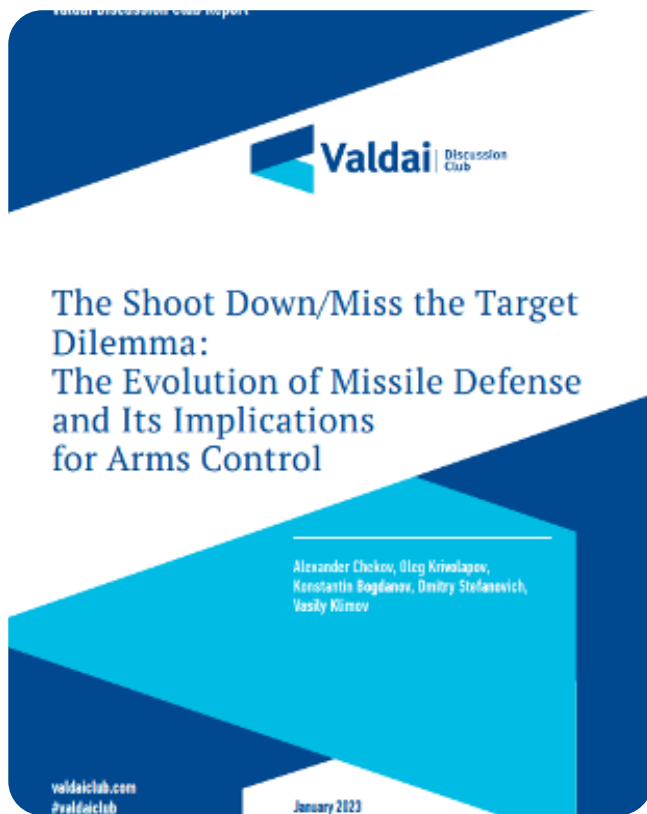


**The IMEMO Sea Power's Rankings 2023 // Research paper by the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO RAS). 2023.**

**Mr. Sviatoslav Arov**

Since naval forces are playing an increasingly important role in promoting the global power of nations, this aspect of international security has attracted close attention of many global security researchers. Such forces can perform missions virtually in any spot of the world ocean and can serve both as a deterrent and be used directly in the combats. [Read more](#)

## MISSILE DEFENSE AND ARMS CONTROL: VALDAI'S PERSPECTIVE

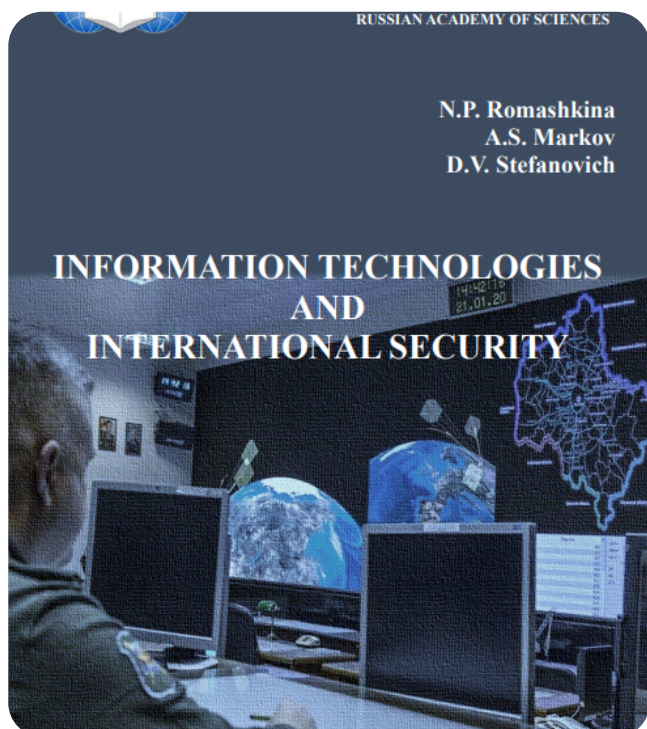


**The Shoot Down/Miss the Target Dilemma: The Evolution of Missile Defense and Its Implications for Arms Control // Valdai Discussion Club Report. 2023.**

**Mr. Sviatoslav Arov**

Missile defense is a critical component of national security, as it provides protection against ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and other aerial threats that could potentially cause significant damage or casualties. In this Valdai Discussion Club report the authors assess the fundamental trends and key problem areas, and present proposals for potential solutions to minimize the negative implications of missile defense development for international security. [Read more](#)

## UNITED NATIONS VS HACKERS: IMEMO RESEARCHERS` PERSPECTIVE ON ICT SECURITY



**Information Technologies and International Security // Monograph by the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO RAS). 2023.**

**Mr. Sviatoslav Arov**

The monograph prepared by the experts of the IMEMO RAS is devoted to topical issues of international security and strategic stability in the context of accelerated development of information and communication technologies. It justifies the importance of ensuring international information security. [Read more](#)

# PIR TEST

WHICH OF THE LISTED FALSE ALARM INCIDENTS WAS NOT RELATED TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WITH NUCLEAR EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS?




- a. November 9, 1979 (USA)
- b. June 3, 1980 (USA)
- c. September 26, 1983 (*The Man Who Saved the World*, USSR)
- d. January 25, 1995 (*Norwegian Rocket Incident*, Russia)

[More](#)

# GOSSIP COLUMN

Ambassador Roland M. Timerbaev was one of the authors of the NPT and founders of the international nuclear nonproliferation regime, a Soviet and Russian Ambassador, and our colleague at PIR Center for many years (1994–2010). He often became bored and restless at major international conferences because he did not like to listen to the platitudes that were often repeated there and was very happy to have coffee breaks. It was live communication with real people — exactly what he really valued — and the opportunity to learn the latest news, as well as unconfirmed information and *expert gossip* in the corridors, on the sidelines, over coffee... At such moments, Ambassador Timerbaev would joyfully say: “Well, now is the time for some good gossip”.

Hence the title of this column. PIR Center is not responsible for the accuracy of what our employees and authors heard in the corridors and on the margins of the conferences and told us without reference to the source. Although we know what are these sources.

 *We've heard the gossip that some actors in the Middle East region, when discussing the real possibility of establishing a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, have recently suggested that the boundaries of the proposed Zone should be expanded. Such a Zone cannot be created without Pakistan and, perhaps, Türkiye. They do not say whether these two states should be invited to participate in the dialogue on the Middle East WMD-Free Zone or whether it will be enough to invite them to sign the protocols for the Zone when it is ready.*

Cool! Of course, *pass the buck* on Pakistan is like an attempt to *delay forever* the Middle East WMD-Free Zone issue and conceal the fact that in the region there is one state that avoids any form of dialogue on the Zone. And this state is well known to all... However, a new perspective has emerged. Or Türkiye. It is quite related to the Middle East; and to nuclear weapons too (it has them on its territory). [Read more](#)

 *We've heard the gossip that Russia and the DPRK are negotiating security guarantees from Moscow for Pyongyang.*

If so, then the matter is serious. Even more serious than it seemed until the landmark visit of Foreign Intelligence Service Director Sergey Naryshkin to Pyongyang. Why not? Over the past two years, the DPRK has proven itself to be a friend. A friend in need is a friend indeed. Russia and the DPRK coordinate their positions in the Special Military Operation... and in voting at the UN. And we really need to strengthen our relationships with deeds, not with words. However, what exactly to do is already the prerogative of the top Russian leadership. After all, it is said that President Putin will visit the DPRK shortly after his inauguration. Well, we do not know that. We just heard that he would be preparing to visit Mongolia in August... But the distance from Mongolia to the DPRK is close. Here is Eurasia, and there is Eurasia. On the way. [Read more](#)





Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**

Editor, design and DTP: Ms. Ksenia **Mineeva**

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## PIR CENTER

Founded 30 years ago, in April 1994, by Dr. Vladimir Orlov, PIR Center is a leading Russian nongovernmental organization dealing with international security, with the emphasis on nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear policy. PIR Center's portfolio currently consists of 36 projects combining research and consultancy, education and training, publishing and outreach, and networking and partnerships. Most recent addition to this portfolio (since April 2024) is an ambitious *Security Index Yearbook (Global Edition)*. With its vibrant 1200+ member-strong alumni community residing in 72 countries of the world, with its internationally renowned Summer Schools on Global Security, with its two MA Programs, and with its online training platform Nonproliferation.World, PIR Center is in the forefront of educating new generation of security and nonproliferation experts. As an independent think-tank, PIR Center is engaged in various formats of policy discussions on the most urgent topics of global and regional security agenda. PIR Center's status has been recognized by the United Nations with its consultative ECOSOC status (since 2010) and by the Russian Government, which has granted PIR Center a privileged status of a socially oriented NGO (SONKO) (since 2020)

## NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AND RUSSIA

*Nuclear Nonproliferation and Russia* Program is a core research program of PIR Center, which analyzes Russia's place and role in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review process, the state of the arms control regime, the Russian-American dialogue on strategic stability and global security, the situation around Iran's nuclear program, the problem of the establishment of the Middle East WMD-Free Zone, the prospects for the development of nuclear energy, and many other topics. Furthermore, PIR Center is engaged in the preservation and transmission of the historical memory of the role of Russian diplomats and military officers in the shaping of the modern architecture of arms control, disarmament, and nuclear nonproliferation.

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PIR Center: <https://pircenter.org/en/>

