



YADERNY KONTROL



PIR CENTER E-BULLETIN

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MAY – JULY, 2025



STRATEGIC STABILITY ON THE BRINK

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

ISRAEL STRIKES IRAN: END OF
DIPLOMACY?

MIDDLE EAST AND REGIONAL SECURITY

OSINT, HISTORY & MEMORY



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PIR QUOTES

«IN THE COLDEST WINTER, I FOUND OUT THAT THERE IS AN INVINCIBLE SUMMER INSIDE ME»

At history's turning points – whether personal or global – human nature is tested for endurance. We tend to believe that external conditions define the boundaries of what's possible. Yet it is precisely in moments of deepest anxiety and uncertainty that what Camus called the “invincible summer” reveals itself – an inner foundation, a capacity to remain unbroken by the weight of circumstance.

In the realm of international security, this is especially relevant. When dialogue falls silent, treaties are torn apart, and tensions rise, what remains is a core belief: that reason, diplomacy, and humanity have not yet been exhausted. This is no naïve hope, but one tempered by the cold lessons of history.

“To be neither a victim nor an executioner”

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Albert Camus, 1946



Kaspar David Friedrich
The Monk by the Sea, 1808-1810

HOT TOPIC

WHAT BRICS OFFERS THE WORLD: KEY QUOTES ON SECURITY



On July 6, 2025, the BRICS countries adopted a declaration that redefines the global agenda. At its core: security – from conflicts and nuclear risks to terrorism and cyberspace. Clear positions were voiced: condemnation of attacks on civilians, a call to reform the UN Security Council, respect for international law, and rejection of double standards. This is not just rhetoric – it's the Global South's voice on peace and security.

At PIR Center, we selected the most important points – here are the key quotes related to international security.

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PANDORA'S BOX WAS OPENED



Dr. Vladimir Orlov

In the wake of Israel's recent strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, Dr. Vladimir Orlov offers a sobering analysis of the consequences for global nuclear diplomacy, the JCPOA, and the future of nonproliferation efforts:

"For the global nuclear nonproliferation regime, today is certainly Friday the 13th, and you do not have to look at the calendar. Israel's strikes on Iran, especially on its nuclear facilities, are driving the final nail in the coffin of nuclear diplomacy. And the story is not over; it is happening before our very eyes. What is clear at this point is the following..."

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DÉJÀ VU – AND WHAT IT TELLS US



Dr. Vladimir Orlov

We've seen this before. Just like in 2003, when the U.S. invaded Iraq under the banner of WMDs, today's strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities mask broader geopolitical ambitions. The Israeli attack, with Washington's backing, has dealt a final blow to years of nuclear diplomacy. Dr. Vladimir Orlov argues this is less about disarmament – and more about dominance:

"Russia, for its part, no longer attempts to build bridges with Europe on the Iranian issue; in the context of the war in Ukraine, such efforts have become futile. By 2025, the logic seems to be: every country for itself..."

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SECRET RECIPE OF THE NPT LONGEVITY



Dr. Vladimir Orlov

We are pleased to share a comment by Dr. Vladimir Orlov on the legacy of the NPT and the role of Russia-U.S. cooperation in its indefinite extension:

"The gavel of the chairman, the experienced Sri Lankan diplomat Jayantha Dhanapala, struck the podium: 'So, it is decided.' I remember this historic moment, as if it were yesterday, even though it was three decades ago. It was May 11, 1995..."

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LONG TIME NO STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: SOURCES OF (IN)COHERENCE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND IRAN



Dr. Adlan Margojev

On June 13, 2025, Israel launched a blistering attack on the heart of Iran's nuclear and military structure deploying warplanes and drones smuggled into the country to target key facilities and kill top generals and scientists. Amid these developments, we would like to recall the article by Dr. Adlan Margojev, Research Fellow at the Institute for International Studies, MGIMO University; PIR Alumni Community Member, devoted to the strategic partnership between Russia and Iran:



"Iran and Russia have pursued both reputational and strategic interests in maintaining and advancing their nuclear cooperation. For Iran, this partnership has become a testament to its resilience against Western pressure and its capability to pursue nuclear technology. For Russia, it was an opportunity to assert its role as a key player in global nuclear politics, demonstrating its technological power and diplomatic prowess as an all-weather reliable partner."

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

DR. ALI ASGHAR SOLTANIEH: «WHILE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TRIES TO USE THE LANGUAGE OF THREATS, THE ANSWER WILL DEFINITELY BE A RESOUNDING “NO”»

On March 17, 2025, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Masoud Pezeshkian rejected U.S. President Donald J. Trump's letter and public calls for nuclear negotiations, describing them as deceptive and coercive. Earlier, Trump had sent a letter proposing talks on a new nuclear agreement with Iran.



Against this backdrop, PIR Center conducted an interview with **Dr. Ali Asghar Soltanieh**, Iran's former Ambassador to the IAEA, President of the Vienna International Institute for Middle East Studies, and a member of PIR Center Advisory Board. The discussion focused on the future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran's nuclear program priorities, and the recent PRC-Russia proposal to lift Western sanctions on Iran.

The interview was conducted by Artem **Astvatsaturov**, Editor of the Information, Publications & Digital Communications Program.

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«THE BRICS FORUM ALLOWS BRAZIL TO ADVANCE ITS MAIN FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AUTONOMY»: INTERVIEW WITH ANA LIVIA ARAUJO ESTEVES BY YURIY SHAKHOV

In 2025, Brazil assumed the presidency of the BRICS group at a pivotal moment marked by evolving geopolitical tensions and pressing global challenges. As one of the largest emerging economies, Brazil's leadership in this multilateral bloc offers a unique opportunity to advance the interests of the Global South, promote reforms in international governance, and address critical issues such as climate change, economic development, and international security.



To gain deeper insights into Brazil's strategic objectives during its BRICS presidency, we spoke with **Ms. Ana Livia Araujo Esteves**, PhD in Political Sciences, Lecturer at the Department of International Regional Studies at HSE University. In this interview, Ana Livia Esteves shares her perspectives on Brazil's foreign policy priorities, the internal dynamics of BRICS, and the potential impact of Brazil's leadership on the future of the organization.

The interview was conducted by Yuriy **Shakhov**, Editor of the Information, Publications & Digital Communications Program.

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SAHEL IN THE CROSSHAIRS: HOW SECURITY CHALLENGES AFFECT URANIUM MINING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES IN THE REGION FOLLOWING A SERIES OF MILITARY COUPS FROM 2020 TO 2023

Currently, a complex security crisis is unfolding across the Sahel region, driven by the widespread presence of armed groups throughout the territory. Originating in northern Mali, the crisis has engulfed central Mali and gradually spread into northern and western Burkina Faso, threatening the stability of neighboring states.



Against this backdrop, PIR Center conducted an interview with **Mr. Hubert Foy**, Director of the African Center for Science and International Security (AFRCSIS). During the interview, issues related to regional security, nuclear development in African countries, the rise of terrorist groups in the Sahel, and efforts to improve the investment climate in the region were discussed.

Interview was conducted by Alexandra **Zubenko**, Consultant at PIR Center.

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MAJID AFSHANI: «WITHOUT A FIRM AND DECISIVE RESPONSE TO THREATENING LANGUAGE, THE SATURDAY NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED»

Amid the resumption of dialogue between Washington and Tehran following Donald Trump's renewed push to revive talks on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), PIR Center interviewed **Mr. Majid Afshani**, an international relations expert specializing in Iran's nuclear policy.



The conversation focused on Tehran's strategic adjustments amid shifts in U.S. policy, the role of sanctions and potential compromises, and the influence of third-party countries on the ongoing negotiation process.

The interview was conducted by Artem **Govallo**, PIR Center intern.

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DR. TARIQ RAUF: «STATES PARTIES SHOULD ACT IN THE LARGER INTEREST OF THE NPT AND TO RISE ABOVE THEIR FIXED POSITIONS»

The Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) convened from April 28 to May 9, 2025, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.



In light of this important event, PIR Center spoke with **Dr. Tariq Rauf**, former Head of Verification and Security Policy Coordination at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and a member of the PIR Center Advisory Board.

The interview addressed key issues such as the reporting frameworks of nuclear-weapon States, challenges within the NPT review process, and the ongoing debate over negative security assurances, shedding light on the complex dynamics shaping nuclear disarmament diplomacy today.

The interview was conducted by Ms. Alexandra **Zubenko**, PIR Center Consultant.

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MAJID AFSHANI: «FORTUNATELY, IRAN IS LED BY REALISTS, AND ON THAT DAY, WITH ACCURATE FORESIGHT, IRAN HAD READ AMERICA’S INTENTION FOR WAR AND HAD RELOCATED ITS SENSITIVE MATERIALS»

On June 13, 2025, Israel launched a series of unprecedented airstrikes targeting key elements of Iran’s nuclear and military infrastructure, utilizing warplanes and drones reportedly smuggled into Iranian territory. The attack marked a significant escalation in the ongoing Middle East tensions, raising urgent questions about the potential for wider conflict.



To better understand the implications of these developments, PIR Center spoke with **Mr. Majid Afshani**, Board Member of the Governance and Policy Think Tank in Iran, who provided an expert analysis of Iran’s strategic posture, the likely trajectory of the conflict, and the future of Iran’s nuclear program.

The interview was conducted by Sviatoslav **Arov**, Research Fellow at PIR Center – Executive Assistant to Director of PIR Center.

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PIR POST

THE WHITE HOUSE'S GENERAL PLIGHT: THE FUTURE OF HYPERSONIC WEAPONS IN THE CONTEXT OF U.S. NUCLEAR TRIAD MODERNIZATION



Mr. Artem Astvatsaturov



The modernization of strategic nuclear forces encompasses both nuclear and conventional weapons, with a particular focus on ensuring military readiness. During the Biden administration, concerns emerged regarding the efficiency and reliability of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The slow progress in hypersonic weapons development has created significant challenges for advancing the broader nuclear modernization agenda.

[Read more](#)

WE NEED TO TAKE A PROACTIVE STANCE RATHER THAN WAITING FOR WASHINGTON TO WAKE UP



Amb. Anatoly Antonov



The world development today is influenced by two multidirectional trends. On the one hand, the desire of the majority of countries to build a multipolar equal system of relations. On the other hand, the former “hegemons” do not want to give up their positions and cling to the old, decrepit foundations of the old world order, dragging countries into ventures fraught with unpredictable consequences.

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ANALYSES

THE SECOND ADVENT OF MESSIAH OR THE NEW TRUMP'S TRIUMPH: ARE THE U.S.-RUSSIA CONTRADICTIONS WANING?

Mr. Artem Astvatsaturov

The return of Donald J. Trump to the White House for a second presidential term in 2025 has sparked widespread global debate and speculation regarding the future of U.S. foreign and national security policy. With rising tensions between great powers and the erosion of the traditional arms control architecture, Trump's re-election has revived discussions about the potential recalibration of U.S.-Russia relations.



This paper examines how the Trump administration may reshape the strategic stability dialogue with Moscow, focusing on the roles of newly appointed key figures such as National Security Advisor Michael Waltz and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. By analyzing policy trends, official statements, and institutional dynamics, the study assesses whether Trump's second term can foster a renewed framework for strategic cooperation – or whether it signals a continuation of geopolitical rivalry under the guise of realist diplomacy.

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RUSSIA ALWAYS EMPHASIZES THAT OUR CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS CONSISTENT WITH THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Dr. Alexander Vorontsov



The dynamics of the development of bilateral relations between the Russian Federation and the DPRK after the signing of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty on 19 June, 2024 leads analysts to conclude that cooperation between Moscow and Pyongyang has now reached an unprecedented high level, perhaps even surpassing the corresponding parameters of the Soviet Union period.

This phenomenon is based primarily on two factors: Pyongyang's uncompromising support for Russia's special military operation (SMO) in Ukraine and the unique trusting personal relationship that has developed between the leaders of our two countries.

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PIR PRESS NEWS

PIR CENTER AND MGIMO UNIVERSITY HELD AN EXPERT SEMINAR ON OPEN-SOURCE INTELLIGENCE (OSINT) IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, ARMS CONTROL, AND NONPROLIFERATION

On March 6, 2025, PIR Center held an expert seminar dedicated to the methodology and practice of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) in research on international security, arms control, and WMDs nonproliferation. The event covered key methodologies for working with open data, their application in global security analysis, and the prospects for integrating OSINT into the practical activities of international security specialists.

The keynote speech was delivered by **Mr. Sergey Semenov**, Research Fellow at PIR Center, who presented the report “Methodology and Practice of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) for International Security, Arms Control, and WMD Nonproliferation Studies.” The report, jointly published by PIR Center and MGIMO University, was developed as part of the “Global Security, Strategic Stability, and Arms Control” project under the “Priority-2030” Strategic Academic Leadership Program.

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PIR CENTER HELD AN EXPERT SEMINAR ON “OUTCOMES OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE NPT-2026 REVIEW CONFERENCE AND THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEFINITE EXTENSION OF THE NPT”

On May 15, 2025, PIR Center jointly with MGIMO University held an expert seminar on the outcomes of Preparatory Committee Meeting for the NPT-2026 Review Conference and the 30th Anniversary of the Indefinite Extension of the NPT. The speakers were Russian Foreign Ministry's officials, PIR Center's and UN representatives who participated in the third session of the PrepCom for the NPT-2026 Review Conference, which was held in New York, USA, from April 28 to May 9, 2025. The seminar was attended by MGIMO students of International Security and Diplomatic Service master's programs, as well as it was open for everyone; participants from other cities and countries joined the seminar in an online format.

The seminar was opened by **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, MGIMO University Professor, Academic Director of MA Program International Security. In his welcoming remarks, he emphasized that 30 years ago a historic event took place – the indefinite extension of the NPT. He noted the tremendous contribution of the Russian delegation, which included Sergey Kislyak, Evgeny Maslin, Gennady Evstafiev, as well as Roland Timerbaev (by that time – PIR Center's President) to preserve the NPT for future generations.

PIR Center's publications on the indefinite extension of the NPT are available [here](#).

[Read more](#)



PIR CENTER TOGETHER WITH MGIMO UNIVERSITY HAS PUBLISHED THE REPORT «FROM THE GULF TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND RUSSIA’S INTERESTS»

PIR Center is pleased to announce the publication of its analytical report *«From the Gulf to Sub-Saharan Africa: The Development of Digital Technologies and Russia’s Interests»* (in Russian). The report was authored by of the **Dr. Leonid Tsukanov**, PhD in Political Science and Consultant at PIR Center. The paper version of the report was distributed to government agencies, business structures, and leading experts. The digital version is available on PIR Center website (in Russian).

This report provides a detailed analysis of the development of scientific recommendations for strengthening cooperation at both the interstate level and within the business dialogue format across various high-tech sectors in the Persian Gulf and Sub-Saharan Africa. The study focuses on a comprehensive international policy analysis of key aspects of digital technologies, including cybersecurity, digital transformation in the economy and governance, the use of artificial intelligence (AI), national software development, and international cooperation in these fields. Additionally, the report introduces a new category, “Persian Gulf+,” denoting a group of nations within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

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THE SPRING SESSION OF THE TRIALOGUE CLUB INTERNATIONAL ON «RUSSIA AND THE DPRK: NEW ALLIANCE OR AD HOC PARTNERSHIP? NEW REALITIES FOR THE KOREAN PENINSULA» HELD IN MOSCOW

On April 7, 2025, the 125th Spring Session of the Trialogue Club International entitled “Russia and the DPRK: New Alliance or ad hoc Partnership? New Realities for the Korean Peninsula” was held in Moscow.

Dr. Vladimir Orlov, Founding President of the Trialogue Club International, Founding Director of PIR Center, Professor at MGIMO University, delivered opening remarks. During the speech, he highlighted the significance of the agenda in ensuring and maintaining global and regional security. In addition, Dr. Orlov presented an overview of PIR Center’s educational and research activities.

The session was attended by members of the Trialogue Club International. The attendees included representatives from embassies of Mozambique, Spain, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the USA to Russia, the Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation, the International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation in Moscow, and special guests of the President of the Club from the region under discussion.

[Read more](#)



PIR CENTER AND MGIMO UNIVERSITY HELD A SEMINAR ON «FUTURE OF RUSSIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS», THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER WAS ANATOLY ANTONOV

On February 27, 2025, a seminar on the future of Russian-American relations was held as part of the International Security MA Program, jointly organized by PIR Center and MGIMO University.

The keynote speaker of the seminar was **Prof. Anatoly Antonov**, Doctor of Political Science, Professor at MGIMO University, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the United States (2017–2024).

In his presentation, Prof. Antonov elaborated on prospects for Russian-American dialogue in arms control and strategic stability. He emphasized the challenges associated with the extension of the New START Treaty and reflected on the U.S. approaches to verification and strategic offensive reductions. *“They are dreaming if they think they can come to Russia and look into the launcher shaft to count the warheads,”* Prof. Antonov noted, highlighting verification as a major stumbling block in arms control negotiations.

You can access a photo gallery from the event via [the link](#).

[Read more](#)



GEN. VERKHOVTSEV ADDRESSED THE SEMINAR «THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE SECURITY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION»

On March 20, 2025, an expert seminar, dedicated to the role of nuclear weapons in ensuring Russia's security, was held as part of the International Security MA Program (organized by the MGIMO University and PIR Center). The speaker was Colonel General (retired), Director General of Rosatom Nedra **Mr. Vladimir Verkhovtsev**.

The seminar was opened by **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, PIR Center Founding Director, MGIMO University Professor, Academic Director of MA program International Security. In his welcoming remarks, he emphasized the importance of the topic for international security specialists and introduced the speaker, noting his rich professional experience. He also recalled that Vladimir Verkhovtsev held key positions in Russia's nuclear security system and made a significant contribution to the development of the industry: Vladimir Verkhovtsev is a Colonel General, PhD in Technical Sciences, Professor at the Russian Academy of Military Sciences. From 2003 to 2011, he commanded what we know as the 12th Chief Directorate of the Ministry of Defense. The 12th Chief Directorate worked continuously during nuclear tests and when this country was withdrawing nuclear weapons from the territory of the former Soviet republics.

[Read more](#)



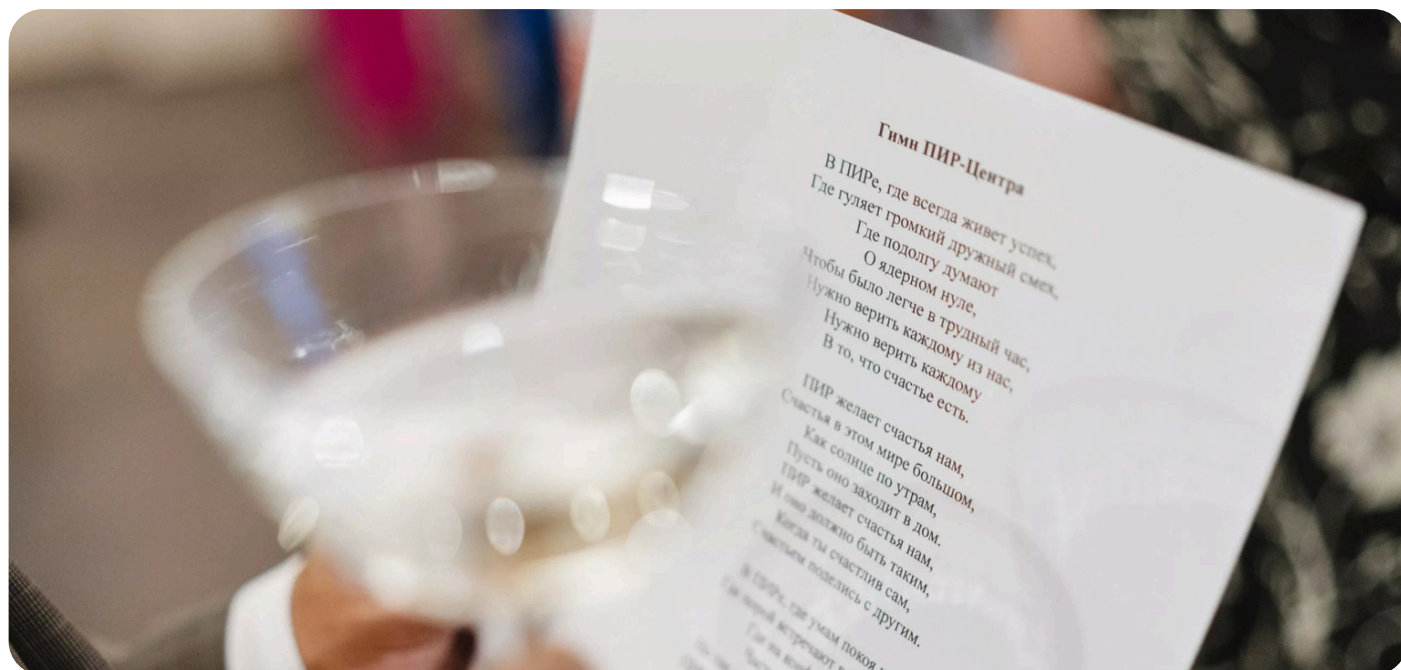
PIR CENTER CELEBRATES ITS 31ST BIRTHDAY

April 30, 2025, marked the birthday of PIR Center – our institution turned 31 years old. We celebrated the occasion in our usual working rhythm, continuing to develop current projects and preparing innovative ones for the future. On that day, we took a moment to recall what our friends, partners, members of PIR Alumni Community, and all those who had been with PIR Center throughout the years had said about us. In particular, we remembered the warm words shared a year earlier, when PIR Center celebrated its 30th anniversary and received congratulations from all over the world.

PIR Center had come a long way over its 31 years, becoming a recognized authority in the field of international security and nonproliferation. Numerous research projects, educational programs, and expert analyses had made invaluable contributions to both global and national security. Hundreds of specialists who had graduated from PIR Center's programs were successfully working in Russia and abroad, applying their knowledge in practice. We expressed our sincere gratitude to everyone who had been – and continued to be – with us on this journey. We did not rest on our laurels and remained committed to moving forward.

On the occasion of PIR Center's birthday, we offer our readers to stroll in PIR Center's virtual [museum](#), to read the new issue of PIRogue in [English](#), to look at the section on the website dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the organization, and raise the glasses for PIR.

[Read more](#)



PIR CENTER HELD A SERIES OF SEMINARS «NUCLEAR AMBITIONS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND FANTASIES OF UKRAINE»

On April 10 and 17, 2025, PIR Center hosted a series of seminars at MGIMO University on Ukraine's nuclear ambitions and capabilities as part of International Security MA Program (organized by the MGIMO University and PIR Center). The events, organized as part of the course "Current Issues in International Security", were aimed at analyzing Ukraine's missile potential, issues of physical nuclear security, and the potential role of the United States in these processes.

During the seminars, Yuri **Shakhov** analyzed Mariana Buzherin's book *Inheriting the Bomb: The Collapse of the USSR and the Nuclear Disarmament of Ukraine*, highlighting the historical circumstances of Ukraine's renunciation of its nuclear arsenal after the collapse of the USSR. The presenter focused on the historical circumstances under which Ukraine, which inherited the third-largest nuclear arsenal after the collapse of the USSR, was forced to give it up under pressure from Russia and the United States. The speaker particularly noted Kiev's attempts in the early 1990s to defend the concept of "nuclear possession" and pointed out the political bias of the book's author, who ignores some aspects of Russian-Ukrainian interaction.

The discussions allowed the participants to consider Ukraine's nuclear capabilities from different angles, including historical parallels and modern challenges, as well as to gain insight into the views on the issue from China, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

[Read more](#)





Thomas Eakins
Chess players, 1876

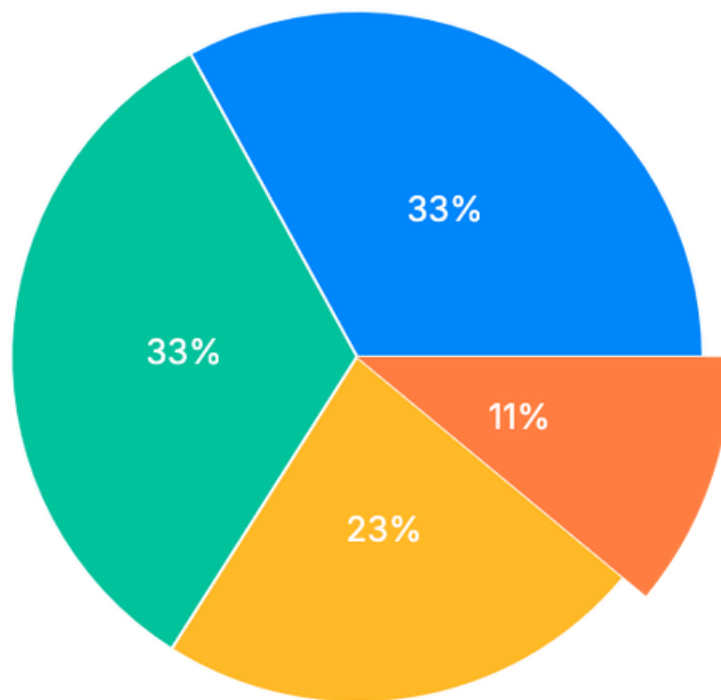
SURVEY

**IS A JCPOA 2.0. STILL POSSIBLE AMID
THE RECENT ISRAEL'S STRIKES
AGAINST THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR
FACILITIES?**

[More](#)

RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY– MAY 2025 PIR CENTER SURVEY

WHAT WILL BE THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING BETWEEN
U.S. AND RUSSIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN RIYADH?



- A thaw in Russia-U.S. relations is unlikely, and the current level of tension will persist
- The parties will discuss only the conditions for negotiations on resolving the conflict in Ukraine
- The meeting will serve as a catalyst for reviving a broad spectrum of Russian-American relations
- The meeting will expose deeper disagreements between the parties, resulting in further escalation

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

MR. SERGEY SEMENOV: DIALOGUE ON NUCLEAR
NONPROLIFERATION UNDER TRUMP ADMINISTRATION, 2021



The cooperation between the Soviet Union/Russian Federation and the United States of America was instrumental for the emergence and consolidation of the nuclear nonproliferation regime. Even when tensions in the bilateral relations reached new heights, as the longtime Soviet foreign minister Andrey Gromyko put it, nuclear nonproliferation would remain the only silk thread connecting the two capitals. Nonproliferation and arms control has mostly remained an insulated area of cooperation since the hottest days of the Cold War. This is not to say that the two countries' views converged on everything, but at least they were doing their best to resolve their differences in a business-like fashion. The objective basis for such cooperation is still there. Moscow and Washington are still interested in preventing further proliferation of nuclear weapons, and there are objective reasons for the two nations to insulate this area away from the skyrocketing tension in the bilateral relations.

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DR. ADLAN MARGOEV: DIALOGUE ON THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM: LESSONS LEARNED AND IGNORED, 2021



Regrettably, under the Trump administration the U.S.-Russian framework turned no longer valid for addressing Iran's nuclear issue. Although Russia has better communication with Iran and can be instrumental in renewing cooperation, Moscow cannot influence the U.S. position on Iran. With the leadership of the two countries holding discording views on Iran, there is little prospect for new achievements. like the JCPOA. If the restoration of the nuclear deal fails, the role of Russia-U.S. dialogue on Iran will be limited to a modest range from contingency diplomacy between Washington and Tehran to avoid a military conflict to a routine exchange of views on the current developments in the Middle East.

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MR. COLLIN MCDOWELL: STABILITY BY ANY OTHER NAME: DIFFERING NATIONAL INTERPRETATIONS OF STRATEGIC STABILITY, 2021



In view of the degraded strategic environment and the recently announced U.S./Russian strategic stability dialogues, serious analysis should be conducted of the factors that each nation believes are vital to strategic stability. This understanding will be vital for both powers to avoid the pitfalls of the past and to increase the odds that the dialogues will be able to limit the possibility that the nuclear taboo will be broken. As it stands, the Russian and American understandings of which factors impact strategic stability have broadened over the past decade, limiting the prospects for effective dialogue on the subject.

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OPEN COLLAR

MY FATHER ALWAYS TOLD US: «LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE, BUT MAKE THE BEST OUT OF IT» - INTERVIEW WITH AMB. NABIL FAHMY

PIR Center presents an exclusive interview with Nabil Fahmy – Egypt’s Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2013–2014, a distinguished diplomat, and currently the Dean of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the American University in Cairo. In this conversation, Fahmy speaks candidly about his remarkable personal and professional journey, offers insights into the nuances of international diplomacy, and shares personal memories from his childhood in a diplomatic family. This interview is a rare opportunity to glimpse behind the scenes of global politics through the eyes of one of the most respected diplomats of our time:



“Living in a multicultural environment, I acquired the skills of a good listener. As I lived in many foreign countries, I tried to understand the people who surrounded me: to be tolerant and open to different points of view. It helped me in my future life, and I have always had good relations with foreign counterparts.”

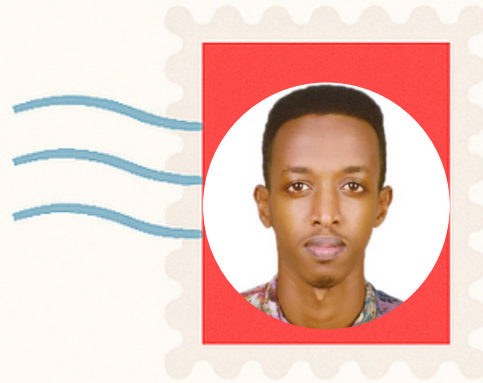


I have devoted a significant part of my life to disarmament issues. My diplomatic career started in 1976, two years before Egypt presented an initiative on creating a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear and Other Mass-Destruction Weapons. A little earlier, in 1968, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons had been signed. I have always followed arms control, even as a young man and before I graduated from university. When I joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I was very motivated to continue working in that area. When I was posted to Geneva, I asked – and the ambassador agreed – to be assigned to work on arms control issues.”

[Read more](#)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ABDI ABUBAKAR, CHAIRMAN, KESNI YOUTH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE



Appreciation for PIR Center and MGIMO University's OSINT Seminar Report

I had the opportunity to review the report from PIR Center and MGIMO University expert seminar on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT). As someone with a background in security, I found the insights profoundly valuable, particularly in shaping my understanding of how to effectively gather and analyze open-source information.

I was particularly fascinated by the section on satellite imagery and object recognition. The practical examples provided on sourcing and utilizing such data were both enlightening and inspiring. This level of detailed guidance is rare, especially in Africa, where such topics are seldom covered in higher military or security institutions.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to PIR Center and MGIMO University for sharing this critical knowledge. As a proud alumnus of PIR Center, I am delighted to have gained such valuable insights, which have significantly enriched my expertise.

PIR TOAST

ON BEHALF OF PIR CENTER, WE WISH HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WHO CELEBRATED
THEIR BIRTHDAY IN MAY-JUNE:



Kuchinov, Vladimir P., Associate Professor of the Department of International Relations of the Institute of International Relations at National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2018

May 7



Lysenko, Mikhail N., PhD in Law. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (retired). Deputy Head of the Department of International Law at MGIMO University, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2004

May 12



Müller, Harald, Professor emeritus of International Relations at Goethe University Frankfurt. Senior Associate of Peace Research Center Prague, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 1997

May 13



Zhiye, Ji, President of the Chinese Academy of Contemporary International Relations, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2007

May 16



Naumkin, Vitaly V., PhD in History. Professor, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS). Academic Advisor at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the RAS, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2014

May 21



Baev, Pavel K., PhD in History. Research Professor at Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2007

May 22



Ermakov, Vladimir I., Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, First Class (retired). Director of the Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control at the Russian Foreign Ministry (2018-2025)

May 24



Belyaeva, Marina P., Director for International Cooperation at State Atomic Energy Corporation «Rosatom»

May 28



Akhtamzyan, Ildar A., PhD in History. Associate Professor of the Department of International Relations and Russian Foreign Policy at MGIMO University, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2002

May 31



Evstafiev, Dmitry G., PhD in Political Science. Professor of the Department of Theory of Law and State at RUDN University, PIR Alumni Community Member

May 31



Kirichenko, Elina V., PhD in Economics. Head of the US Economic Research Group at the Center for North American Studies at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 1994

June 4



Lukatsky, Alexey V., Cisco Security Business Consultant, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2014

June 4



Nikonov, Vyacheslav A., First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs

June 5



Murogov, Viktor M., Doctor of Technical Science. Professor of the Department of General and Special Physics of the Obninsk Institute of Atomic Energy of the National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, Head of the International Center for Nuclear Education of the National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, Chief Researcher of the National Research Center «Kurchatov Institute», PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2009

June 7



Sushentsov, Andrey A., PhD in Political Science. Dean of the School of International Relations at MGIMO University

June 8



Rogachev, Ilya I., Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of South Africa and concurrently to the Kingdom of Lesotho, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2011

June 10



Nikitin, Alexander I., Doctor of Political Science. Professor of the Faculty of World Economy and World Politics of the Department of International Relations of the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Chief Researcher of the Sector of Military-Political Analysis and Research Projects at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 1994



June 11

Parkhalina, Tatyana G., PhD in History. Deputy Director for Research at the Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2002



June 11

Baturin, Yuri M., Doctor of Law. Pilot-cosmonaut of the Russian Federation (382nd cosmonaut in the world and 90th cosmonaut in Russia), Hero of the Russian Federation, professor, director of the S. Vavilov Institute for the History of Science and Technology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (2010-2015), Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences



June 12

Malov, Andrey Yu., PhD in History. PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2018



June 14

Satanovsky, Evgeny Yu., PhD in Economics, professor. Founder and President of the Institute of the Middle East, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2004



June 15

Rudakov, Vladimir N., PhD in Philological Science. Chief Editor of the historical journal «Historian», PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2022



June 16

Baikov, Andrey A., PhD in Political Science. Vice-Rector for Research at MGIMO University, Editor-in-Chief of the journal «International Trends», PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2021



June 18

Myasnikov, Evgeny V., PhD in Physical and Mathematical Sciences. Independent expert, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2011



June 18

Voronkov, Vladimir I., Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Head of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2009



June 21



On **May 15**, 2025, we marked the 70th anniversary of **Dr. Anatoly Antonov**, an outstanding diplomat, teacher, and PIR Alumni Community Member who is a role model for many people in Russia. His professional path – from leading the negotiations on the New START Treaty to high positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense, as well as serving as an Ambassador to the United States – represents mastery, integrity, and a strategic view to global challenges.



As a MGIMO University professor and author of research papers, he inspires the new generation of international relations specialists.

For PIR Center and colleagues, this day was an opportunity to express gratitude for Anatoly Antonov's contribution to strengthening Russian national security and consolidating diplomatic positions. His energy, wisdom, and mentorship remain a guideline for all those who strive for the highest standards.

We congratulate Anatoly Antonov on his jubilee and wish him good health, new achievements, and endless inspiration!

You can view the photo gallery dedicated to Dr. Anatoly Antonov's anniversary at the following [link](#).

[Read more](#)



We would also like to recall that on **April 19**, 2025, **Evgeny P. Buzhinskiy** – Lieutenant-General (retired), Chairman of PIR Center Executive Board and Co-Chair of the Dialogue Club International – celebrated his anniversary. Evgeny Buzhinskiy is the Vice-President of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), Head of Center for Applied Political-Military Research of School of World Politics in Lomonosov Moscow State University, Lecturer of the MA International Security Program (implemented by MGIMO University and PIR Center together), Expert of the Research Center for Advanced Studies of National Security of Russia, Professor of the Institute for Advanced Strategic Studies at the Higher School of Economics (HSE University), member of Security Index Yearbook Editorial Board and one of the most experienced Russian military diplomats and experts.



This is a special date for the PIR Center team. For fifteen years Evgeny Petrovich has been our key expert and wise mentor, whose advice helps us find solutions to the most complex issues of arms control and global security. His lectures to participants in the Center's educational programs, including the International Security Master's Program at MGIMO and PIR Center, the International School on Global Security, and the Dual Degree Master's Program, have raised a generation of specialists.

Evgeny Buzhinskiy has been honored with many state and departmental awards and medals. His unique experience combining military, diplomatic and teaching activities continues to define the face of our organization.

PIR Center team highly appreciates the long-term fruitful cooperation with Evgeny Buzhinskiy and expresses its sincere gratitude for his invaluable contribution to the common cause.

Dr. Vladimir A. Orlov, PIR Center's Founding Director, sends his congratulations to Evgeny Buzhinskiy:



Dear Evgeny Petrovich! I admire your professionalism, your high sense of responsibility, your tireless concern for the security of the Motherland, your deep understanding of its interests. I learn from you. I am glad that life has given me the opportunity to develop the PIR Center hand in hand with you for decades now. Thank you for your support and for your life wisdom, which you so generously share. I wish you health, joy, and successful implementation of all your plans! Happy anniversary!

You can view the photo gallery dedicated to Evgeny P. Buzhinskiy's anniversary at the following [link](#).

[Read more](#)



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

Editor, design and DTP: Mr. Yuriy **Shakhov**

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PIR CENTER

Founded 31 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 27 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)

PIR CENTER'S LIST OF ACTIVE PROJECTS 2025-2026

You may find the full list of the PIR Center's active projects 2025-2026 here:

<https://pircenter.org/en/pir-centers-list-of-active-projects-2025-2026/>

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

