Ensuring regional security in the Middle East region in the context of globalization

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the relevance of the security problem in the Middle East region and how the processes taking place in the Middle East region are inextricably linked with neighboring countries. In addition, the benefits of the world's leading countries from this region will be analyzed.

In the context of globalization, the problem of ensuring regional security in the Middle East region becomes extremely urgent. Historically, this region is a leader in the number of crisis and conflict situations. The main reason for such "leadership" is the lack of special tools for maintaining stability in these regions, as well as the lack of a common security system that has not been formed in the region.[1] The Middle East region has long been a center of concentration of threats to international security. The problems arising in the countries of this region threaten the security of not only the countries of the Middle East, but also the entire world. The most pressing threats include terrorism, internal and interstate conflicts, and the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.[2]

This is a battlefield for the leadership of different countries. The political specificity of the Middle East region lies in the fact that there are several centers of power in the region, equal to each other in political and economic potential. However, their contradictions are so deep and fundamental that they make it almost impossible for the states of the region to coexist on a conflict-free basis. Therefore, on the one hand, the region is in constant tension, on the brink of war and peace, and on the other hand, it attracts the attention of major international players who are making serious diplomatic and military efforts to maintain relative stability in the region. region and take advantage of the center of global hydrocarbon production.[3] Currently, in the Middle East, researchers identify three countries that claim to be a regional leader: Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia. The main non-regional players in the Middle East are the United States and the European Union, represented by France, Germany and the UK, as well as Russia and China. These countries pursue different interests when pursuing their policies in the region and create different regional situations (Iraq, Iran's nuclear program, the Syrian conflict).[4] Thus, the stratification of interests of regional states can

lead to great conflict, as well as competition between extra-regional powers. The religious and political conflict between Shia Muslims and Sunni Muslims should also be classified as a problem in the Middle East.

In recent years, differences between Shiites and Sunnis have come to the fore as they significantly affect the regional security of the Middle East region. At the same time, the Sunni-Shiite conflict is considered by a number of authors from the point of view of the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which traditionally claim leadership in the Sunni and Shiite worlds. Saudi Arabia and Iran exploit existing religious antagonisms between the two main sects of Islam to politicalize religious differences in pursuit of their national interests. It should be said that at the present stage of international relations, the conflict between Sunnis and Shiites is the most striking example of the manifestation of the religious factor in international relations.[5] The source of the modern conflict between Shiites and Sunnis is the massive oppression by the Baathists of Shiites and Kurds, who make up the vast majority of the population of Iraq. At that time, they were threatened with mass repression for any protest. However, the reason for this was not classic ethnic or religious antagonism. The main reason is the ruling paradigm of "homoideologikus", which meant clearing the political space of those who do not correspond to the ideology introduced by the directives.[6] Thus, the Kurds fit into the ideological construct of pan-Arabism because they defend other, non-Arab rights.

The objection is that Muslims and Shiites claim a religious identity that goes beyond the principle of "Arab statehood." There, the activities of the terrorist group "Islamic State", banned in Russia, play an important role; their actions are now only
Rituals imposed by the Islamic State against supporters of the faith, as well as Sunni Muslims, and not against opponents either insufficient or absent at the behest of those who observe the norms of behavior. Non-proliferation and disarmament in the region are also important for regional security. Of course, the nuclear programs of Iran and Israel play a key role here. Let us recall that Israel has never acceded to the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and Iran has been accused of violating it several times. In addition, in the realities of the Middle East region, there is a risk of terrorist or radical groups obtaining weapons of mass destruction. While most countries use nuclear capabilities as a deterrent, terrorist organizations, free from international law and not bound by international treaties, can use them against their opponents. The region is currently politically very complex. Numerous attempts by the world community to resolve various conflicts, as well as to create a stable system of regional security, have not led to any significant results, which has aggravated existing threats and created new crises.

The political situation that arose in the Middle East at the turn of the 21th century was associated, first of all, with serious changes in the entire system of international relations, and was determined by such factors as the policies of these states. Here, competition between extra-regional powers and external factors often played a decisive role. In a bipolar world during the Cold War.

The Arab political elites, who managed to get used to work and even learn to benefit from it, had to adapt to new geopolitical events. However, global changes did not bring peace and harmony, and the result was unresolved regional conflicts, local wars, struggle for resources and ongoing religious and ethnic conflicts. At the same time, the collapse of the bipolar system revealed a number of long-standing, deep contradictions. The trend of systemic complexity of the modern world, which is observed at the global and regional levels, has been identified. New threats have emerged, such as international terrorism, organized crime, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, drug trafficking, illegal migration, man-made and environmental disasters, and others. In this regard, there is a need to create effective mechanisms for monitoring conflict and crisis zones. However, the influence of international organizations and regional integration structures in preventing

and resolving crises, ensuring international security and stability is evidenced by the events that have occurred in recent years, primarily in the Middle East.

In addition, we can see how the West is trying to establish its values of democracy and liberalism as universal in the countries of the East, including the Arab world, and at the same time trying to equalize the original ways and strong faith, as well as how to maintain the armed forces. There, political superiority and strengthened economic position create natural resistance. In other words, what threatens international relations is not the clash of civilizations, but the weakening of civilizational principles, to which the West itself is now making a significant contribution. Well-known American expert, head of the Center for Strategic and International Studies E.H. Cordesman says the real problem is not the "clash of civilizations" between the West and the Islamic world, but the conflicts within the Arab-Islamic world itself. The question is whether it will overcome its political, economic, cultural and demographic problems through reform and evolution, or whether it will have to face protracted violence and revolutions."[7]

The Middle East is traditionally conflict-ridden stands out. This is one of the regions of the world saturated with crisis situations and military confrontations. The global nature, scale, duration, and wide involvement of various political forces related to the interests of international and regional security lead to the active use of extremely negative consequences (exacerbation of the situation in the region, arms race, suspicion and distrust). interstate relations). These are characteristic signs of conflict situations in the region. Serious problems for the security of the region are caused by ethnic and religious conflicts, but with negative political consequences, a general destabilization of the situation is planned. The most striking examples of this are: the "Lebanese Knots" - a long-term political crisis in the country, which attracted many Arab and non-Arab forces into its orbit; the unresolved Cyprus problem, that is, the conflict between the two main communities of the island - Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots; The Kurdish movement is literally troubling countries like Iraq, Turkey, Iran, along with the unstable situation in Afghanistan, the Sunni-Shiite conflict in Iraq, etc.internal political conflicts in the region since the 1990s are on the rise, some of them international. Collision resulting in heavy civilian casualties in Algeria, Yemen, Sudan and Syria. In addition, experts note that the transition of any conflict in the Middle East, which is in a latent phase, into an active phase risks escalation in many, very different directions, simultaneous activation and synthesis of several nodes of the conflict.[8]] Thus, even the international community cannot solve the complex and multifaceted problem of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. The wave of Arab Spring protests that swept across the region pushed the Palestinian-Israeli path back. However, to ensure regional security, the resolution of this long-standing conflict must be based on an independent and internationally recognized legal framework, including the UN Charter, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and related UN resolutions.9] In the process of resolving crisis situations, any attempt aimed at for the unilateral benefit of the other side, will inevitably fail and become another stage in the escalation of the situation in the region.

Thus, zones of instability in the Middle East and there are flaring up and threatening to turn into vast territories. This gives rise to conflict-prone features of this region, which, according to a number of experts, has become a kind of testing ground for leading world powers (primarily the United States) and regional players (Saudi Arabia, Qatar). The threat of the collapse of sovereign states (this has already happened in Sudan, de facto happened in Somalia; the threat to Iraq, Libya, Syria is still virtual, but represents a huge risk) introduces an additional serious destabilizing factor into the situation. The emergence and activation of well-organized and armed radical extremist movements and organizations (for example, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) creates new cracks in the region. Of course, in recent decades there have been positive changes in regional international relations in the Middle East. The

desire of the countries of the region to resolve controversial issues through negotiations and acceptable compromises leads to a peaceful life.

The "Arab Spring" also revealed another very serious problem - the lack of real mechanisms that effectively contribute to stabilizing the internal situation in the "revolutionary" countries of the region, helping to solve political, social, political and social problems with civilization. In addition, economic and ethno-confessional problems have emerged.[10] In addition, we note that the mechanisms of military-political integration have not been formed in the region, as evidenced by the defeat of the Arabs in the conflict with Israel and the Kuwait crisis of 1990-1991. and others. The famous Russian Arabist A.G. According to Baklanov, the Middle East does not have regional bodies dealing with security issues, as in Europe or Asia (the Arab League does not play this role).

At a meeting of foreign ministers held in Damascus in March 1991 with the countries of the region - Egypt, Syria and other countries - they put forward an initiative to create a system of collective security on a regional basis (Damascus Declaration). It was assumed that the backbone of the Arab security forces would be the armed forces of Egypt and Syria. Unfortunately, disagreements between the parties on the issue of "non-Arab participants" in the planned union, as well as political competition, did not allow this initiative to be implemented, but the issue itself was important. In conditions of an unstable political situation, the countries of the region are quickly arming themselves and for this they are spending enormous material resources, which will be sufficient to solve many pressing problems of socio-economic development. The Near and Middle East has become one of the world's main markets for weapons and military equipment. Its level of militarization still remains one of the highest in the world. Thus, up to 40% of all weapons purchased in the world come from the countries of the Middle East.[11] Most of the countries in the region, which have become a real powder keg, especially oil-producing countries (the Arab states of the Persian Gulf,

Iran), have large financial resources that allow them to acquire large military forces. According to experts, for example, the military potential being created on the Arabian Peninsula exceeds defense needs. It should be added that among the countries of the Middle East there are border states in the sphere of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction technologies. Any armed conflict, accumulated hostility, external and internal threats - all this stimulates a regional arms race, encourages the countries of the Middle East to arm themselves and consume modern military technologies. A feature of the current political situation in the Middle East is that the number of regional players here and in the neighboring region (USA, Russia, EU countries, Turkey and China) has increased significantly. In other regions of the world, and this is further evidence of its importance and uniqueness on the global geopolitical landscape, events in recent years (for example, the experience of the military operation in Iraq) have shown that Russia's use of force, despite its apparent effectiveness, has reached a dead end in conflict resolution. Also as a result of an unprecedented increase in terrorist activity and protests, which led to the change of a number of Arab regimes, currently covering the Middle East and North Africa and having the greatest stability (Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen) and a serious aggravation of the internal political situation (Syria, Bahrain, Jordan etc.), where an extremely explosive situation arose, characterized by a high level of dynamics and at the same time uncertainty. Experts stated that a certain period in the development of the countries of the region, which began with revolutions against colonialism and monarchism in the middle of the last century, has ended[12]. The young reformers who came to power (mainly representatives of military circles) built a new model of socio-economic and political development, which worked for several decades. At the same time, the regional elite abandoned the authoritarian governance schemes it had developed, failed to grasp new development trends and adequately assess the rapidly changing internal political situation. The result has been thousands of bloodshed and

deaths, flows of refugees, destroyed cities and villages, new threats and threats to national and regional stability and security, including the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of a number of Arab states and states that have traditionally occupied leading positions in inter-Arab relations, also pose a threat.

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