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**IDEOLOGY AND NETWORK\***

The world is exploded with the flow of debates every time after the next terrorist attack, or a conflict with a fatal outcome, which caused the deaths of tens or hundreds of innocent people. But this debate is a posteriori. As a rule, the known issues are discussed at these public venues: who is guilty, who is with whom and against whom, what to do, etc. Discussions are related to global and regional problems mainly (for example, popular TV show “The voting right” on the TVC channel).

The chain of concepts of “idea – the network – a terrorist act” is discussed much less frequently or hardly ever discussed, i.e. the relationship of the ideological substantiation or justification of a particular intervention of one side (power, their alliance, or the radical movement) in other countries' affairs or regions and the specific tools of intervention (military, economic or other). In addition, both the western and the Russian public got used to the fact, that mass surveys explain them all, and the media will tell them how to behave in critical

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circumstances. Therefore, even the influx of migrants from Africa and the Middle East has been accepted by the residents of Paris and other European cities without enthusiasm, but relatively quiet at first. The townsfolk used to live in the present, without giving much thought for a radical change in the modern world. Sobering came later.

Meanwhile, the ideology and structure of the collective or individual radical social actions are closely related. The idea of achieving a “bright communist future” and other like it are always accompanied by a specific purpose: to destroy the old world up to the ground and not by peaceful means. Social networks as an instrument of destruction have always been widely used, it is sufficient to remember the history of the revolutionary democratic movement in Russia in the XIX century. And nowadays, it does not matter what kind of technology is used for this: preachers, missionaries, wanderers, a secret agent or, as today, terrorist network that exists in the guise of peace until a certain moment.

What is a terrorist attack generally? Firstly, it is a pervading risk, because there is no front or rear. Secondly, this risk is predictable or unpredictable generally almost always (For example, “acts of terrorism are expected to”, but no one can say when and where exactly). These attacks are carried out by small mobile, or deeply rooted in the local social environment groups or loners. In fact, these attacks are a new form of hidden urban guerrilla warfare. Third, the action is a blow to the people, their habitat, to life-supporting communications. Fourth, multiply growing media effect is meant as a result of these attacks: the terrorists carrying out attack on dozens of people, plunged into panic hundreds and thousands. Fifth, these attacks are effective in the conditions of mass society, where masses of people are accumulated in the terminals and subway stations, stadiums, and concert venues. Sixth, it is “instant war” with a long damaging effect. So far, the response is

either a war or a state of emergency or a mass solidarity action. But today, a mass action (such as “join hands, friends”) is a thing of the past. Seventh, mass terror is a war “here and now”. Therefore, both the immediate response to it, and the long-term forecasts are needed. But social forecasting as a science has almost disappeared.

Finally, what should be the strategy and tactics of the answer to this challenge? I have not found an answer in the literature available to me. It does not exist because there is no request for such studies in government and society, and therefore there is not their long-term financing. There is an answer to another question yet: are the pinpoint retaliatory strikes possible on a network strategy for terrorist attacks at all? Yes, Russia is actually involved in the fight against the terrorists in Syria. But this means that our country is one of the first candidates for the retaliatory strikes.

A radical or terrorist network does not appear on its own – it is certainly associated with a particular global idea concerning changes of the existing social order, transforming it into a more “fair”, or with the imperial idea. In other words, the idea of a fundamental change in the existing social order is usually associated with a situation of personal or national humiliation, with the lack of “living space” and is based on purely religious motives (the idea of the superiority of the religious dogma over all others). Once this mechanism is triggered, it becomes a homing: a growing population, especially young people, requires a larger living space and resources, and it is provided by the growth of military power, scientific and technological development, etc. There is a very fine line between the concept of the natural course of the historical process and the desire to construct, or speed it up, as Karl Marx demonstrated this to the world in his time.

The creators of modern networks of all sizes have always a natural tendency to dominate over the rest, in addition to material

interests, and no matter in what form it manifests itself – the ideological, social or psychological. It just seems that the World Wide Web is a general and exclusive benefit. The question is: who, how, for what purposes uses it. The western social scientists proved long ago, that modern media are easily controlled with just two switches: redirecting the flow of information and reprogramming [Arsenalt, Castells, 2008].

Market expansion and conquest of new audiences (this is also the market) is a very powerful motive of success and no success is achievable without an idea. Therefore, the idea of achieving “common good” (welfare) becomes an instrument of separation according the principle “supporter – stranger” periodically, because this selection is also an instrument for future success and for further territorial expansion.

Now, a few words about the main paradox of globalization. The strength of weakness, as it is called. The technological revolution, creating unthinkable powerful forces of control and self-destruction, has created a person who, acting alone, is able not only to embroil closest allies, but also to destroy all life on the planet. Remember how much trouble has been brought because of the disclosures of E. Snowden, revealed the facts of wiretapping negotiations among the NATO allies by the U.S. secret services.

While a self-governing society of robots remains a fantasy, it turns out that modern educated and technically equipped individual is not only a “center of the universe”, but also a major source of pervasive risks to society. I do not get tired of repeating after my western colleagues that the world has entered into a phase of general risk [Beck 1992, 1999; Yanitsky 2000]. On the one hand, this is the risk of accumulation of nuclear and other deadly arsenals in several countries, and on the other – this is a person-monster; and it is a little

man often, but armed with a radical ideology and access to modern technology, he and his network of supporters are potentially extremely dangerous for the rest of the world.

What is the danger of this network? It can blow up the peaceful life of ordinary people and destroy their life support environment at any moment and at any time. This, in turn, can cause emission of harmful substances in the water and the atmosphere from deteriorating health and breaking the rhythm of life and up to bringing injury or death. What is the answer to these challenges of network threat?

Society has thought up means of self-defense already, but none of them can guarantee the absolute protection. The war “there” can not guarantee safety “here,” in specific cities and regions of Europe and Russia. Further, those who are “here” have already stocked up shahid belts and other means of attack on civilians (which was well illustrated with the sad experience of the terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels). Moreover, there is not only the sympathy to terrorists, but also readiness to supply them with weapons always among the local population. Overlapping of channels for delivery of resources or their destruction on-site is an important tool in the fight against terrorism, but the delivery is an essential part of the business of certain countries, which are registered fighting against terrorism formally. Finally, activity of missionaries, especially preachers of radical ideologies, is very difficult to track and especially to stop.

How could ordinary people of Paris know nothing, living next to shahids? They knew, but thought that the trouble would pass them, they were engaged in their own affairs, they were afraid; They knew, but they were their brothers in faith. The state and its security forces have taken extra security measures, but it was the traditional measures: not to gather, not to go to the emergency public events, follow the instructions of the police, etc. And then, you can not stop the life of the big city for



a long time. On the other hand, there is a real risk of a different kind: “get” in the atmosphere of general mistrust and surveillance. This risk is preserved in our country. We still poorly understand that a modern network war is, above all, the war against the inhabitants of large cities. A. Toffler once said that the world is transformed into a large village. This is doubly wrong. First, these cities have remained centers of world politics and economy. Second, the current situation is the result of the release of “energy of decay” from the cities of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, destroyed during the wars against them. [Yanitsky 2003] This “energy” is not only the refugees and forced migrants, but also the expansion of radical ideologies.

Can I keep the privacy and establish a collective defense against online threats at the same time? General principles of the defense are well known. First of all, these are limitation and strict control over all human flows, especially in places of their arrival or transit. Mass check periodically. Then it is control over all forms of rent of residential and non-residential buildings and industrial buildings. This is a special control of the uninhabited premises of any type. Here we are not talking about intelligence network within the terrorist organizations and those who help them or sympathize as it is a function of the special security forces. But the fast and efficient feedback between citizens and the police is absolutely essential. As shown by the first minutes of the terrorist attack in Paris, there was no such interconnection there, or police forces were not oriented. It also requires vigilance from citizens (also called selective): let into the house only familiar people, no casual acquaintances, etc. It is necessary to inform the relevant authorities about suspicious people and objects left behind. So the overall response to terrorist attacks should be asymmetric (war against them “there”) and symmetric (network against the network “here”) at the same time.

Unlike the U.S., the death penalty is banned in Europe, and it has been a moratorium in Russia. There are appeals for its renewal, but it does not help in this case as shahids are suicide bombers, and an appeal for the total destruction of other faiths is already a real genocide. However, there is a question: if all terrorists are destroyed, how will be studied the deep motives of their behavior? How to prepare the society to this new reality? TV channels are full of movies on criminal offenses; there are channels that speak of universal catastrophe daily (warming, cooling, meteorite strike, etc.). TV channels are filled with fortunetellers and predictors, but only 'breaking news' reports of this existential danger, telling about the destruction of another terrorist group. Social networks replicate the horrors, or help to get rid of the accumulated irritation. TV and social networks should not frighten, but warn and mobilize first and foremost. After all, social networking is a powerful antidote. There was a special application for Twitter in the days of the terrorist attack in Paris in November of last year, which allowed check quickly whether everything was okay with families and friends of the victims.

Terrorism is a global and a local problem at the same time. It is necessary to study its general laws and local circumstances. Veterans of the U.S. intelligence say that the fight should be waged primarily with radical ideology [Gill, Horgan, Deckert 2013]. This is undoubtedly true, but this ideology is constantly reproduced oppression, humiliation, social inequality, the transformation of young people in developing countries into the second-class citizens or just losers. Modern capitalism raises some, belittles and oppresses others, and thus acts as a manufacturer of modern risks. What positive ideology can offer young radicals here and there in this case? And more broadly, what kind of ideology can be opposed to the ideology of suicide, especially if it is caused by religious motives? What is the actual choice of hundreds of

thousands of young people in Africa and the Arab East to live in refugee camps, the ethnic ghettos of large European cities, or to take up arms?

What choice do the Russian youth have from small towns and villages in the crisis? The gap between the TV picture and the real life is growing. Some Russian scientists believe that the youth of today are characterized by a negative identity, abnormal egocentricity, depersonalization, etc. Network reality undermines identity, making it anonymous, creates a quasi-personality ... such identity lacks personal responsibility, as a rule. If a quasi-identity gets lost self-identity, self-sustained and self-understanding, then such person is just a godsend for the preachers of radicalism and terrorism. [Maikova, Bondarev 2015: 23]. The specific of the modern network society is that autonomy and collectivity are two equivalent risk-reduction conditions to undergo a terrorist attack.

The key question is: what ideology can resist the ideology of suicide? And what a network of people can resist to the network of suicide bombers? Is the security of citizens solely the obligation of the state and its security forces, or should a civil society get involved in this matter? Once the latter is true, then what should be the type of civil self-organization? The last question is: what should be the response of civil society to the threat of terrorist attacks? If these attacks are a kind of war declared by terrorism to the rest of the world, the civil society should be ready for it.

Despite the differences of civil societies in Russia and in Europe, there are many similarities between them today. The main thing is relaxed rich minority, confident in their strength, and tension of impoverished majority, preoccupied with daily survival. There is a certain "middle class" between them, which is also in a relaxed state, caused by the influence of the ideology and practice of the consumer

society. Commoners there and here are accustomed to the phenomenon of “cushion wars.” However, the mood of the people is changing rapidly with the onset of an emergency. Therefore, civil society must remember that such a civil defense. Self-defense forces can not cope with terrorist attacks without citizens. Do not be afraid of the term “mobilization” – this is just a natural reaction of the organism to any threat from the outside or the inside. There is no front or rear in the network war, not even places that could definitely be considered more or less safe, there is not usual opposition “we – they.” Pervading risk of network war should have an adequate response. Network mobilization of local self-defense forces is a modern form of self-organization of civil society.

Sociology of risks and other anti-social processes has progressed over the past half century much, but themes of war and armed conflict remains at the periphery of this science. Modern sociologists consider wars and conflicts as the side effects of the positive dynamics of the globalizing world. These destructive processes are to move into the center of science and interdisciplinary analysis. Terrorism is not only a devastating social effect, but an ideological tool of conquest and adoption of world domination. This fact has not been realized by the representatives of science still. Sociology, like other sciences, studying modern structures and processes in society, are powerless without understanding their ideological overtones.

Finally, the methods of sociology. We are accustomed to public opinion that sociology is mass surveys. They are necessary for self-knowledge in the society, but their significance is not great for developing tools to combat terrorism. Yes, it is extremely dangerous to study these networks “directly”, but it is possible to investigate corruption and other antisocial network. It is also necessary to study the experience of journalists and all those who work in the “hot spots”. We

should learn the experience of those who work “on the other side.” We should study the methods of recruitment and work of sectarian and other private organizations deeper, because these methods are very similar to the criminal. I remind you that the famous Chicago School of urban sociology was largely created by a crime reporter. Terrorism is not a separate discipline, but an urgent ideological and social problem that requires a systemic approach. For example, unemployment, lack of legal means of existence is an incentive to seek illegal / shadow / criminal sources of income. The employer tends to saving the cost of production in the conditions of crisis and critical states of society, converting part of employees in the category of not fully employed, freelancers, “displaced vacationers” and the like, thereby encouraging people to seek illegal sources of income. Finally, there is a fundamental category of dependents or freeloaders in any society.

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**DAGHESTAN IN THE CASPIAN REGION:  
EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL PROBLEMS**

The Caspian Sea was, in essence, an internal reservoir of the USSR until the Soviet Union collapsed. Only a relatively small segment of the coast (724 km, or 11% of its entire length) and 12% of the area of the southern section of the Caspian Sea belonged to Iran. Geopolitical stability and peace in the whole Caspian region have been retained due to the fact that only two countries were the owners of the Caspian Sea.

“The Caspian region” term was borrowed from foreign political scientists and has been widely used as a scientific and practical concept in recent years. In the global political lexicon the term was used extensively in the last quarter of the century, i.e. with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The new owners of the Caspian Sea have become the country with direct outlet to the sea – Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran. Sometimes those countries which geographical position and policies have a significant effect on the lining of routes of oil and gas pipelines and other transportation lines, as well as in general on the situation in region, are referred to the Caspian region – Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, as well as China, Pakistan, Afghanistan.

Thus 1991 can be considered the year of birth of a new major geopolitical space, which is composed of the Caspian littoral states, united by the problems and prospects of development of the largest lake

in the world – the Caspian Sea. Central geopolitical and geo-economic problems of the Caspian region are determined by a very acute and intense struggle of different geopolitical actors for the possession of its resources, habitats and traffic flow [1-4]. The sea can serve as a unifying start and a goldmine for the peoples living on its shores, under the wise leadership. However, it may be a “bone of contention” that happen from time to time.

Disagreements between the Caspian states have arisen in the process of determining the legal status of the Caspian water body and their confrontation in terms of the establishing sea (or lake?) borders. Thus, the developments of the Azerbaijani-Iranian and Azerbaijani-Turkmen relations were practically in the conflict line once. There was a number of serious controversies between parties, mainly because of the ownership of some fairly rich offshore oil deposits. There were disagreements over controversial deposits of hydrocarbons in the Caspian Sea between Russia and Kazakhstan. However, Russian President Vladimir Putin and President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev solved these problems with one stroke of the pen, as wise statesmen. Controversial space has been simply divided equally between the two states.

The situation became especially tense after the Iranian Navy warships forced Azerbaijan to suspend oil exploration offshore at gunpoint that marine vessels of Azerbaijan, carried out on the basis of agreements between Baku and “British Petroleum”. The incident between the hydrographic ships of Azerbaijan and Iran Navy because of disagreements over the fields of the “Araz – Alov – Sharg” took place in June 2001.

The continued confrontation of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan over fields Azeri (Khazar), Chirag (Osman) and Kapaz (Serdar) is not less revealing. Both Azerbaijani and Turkmen side believe the first of

these fields is its own (for Azerbaijan – Azeri and Turkmenistan – Khazar). Baku follows a similar principle to Chirag and Ashgabat – to Serdar. Ashgabat has taken a tough position on this issue, considering that the state borders have never been per se in the Caspian Sea, and there are none now. Consequently, the disputed areas can not belong to anyone, by definition, to determine the legal status of the sea under option of its partition into national sectors, and hence be subject to unilateral research and development.

There is an opinion that a similar disposition can explode the fragile peace in the region in the future due to the unresolved status of the Caspian Sea and the problems associated with its division into sectors [2; 9]. Conflicts over development of the oil fields will lead to the militarization of the Caspian Sea. It is possible that Russia will be involved in the conflict, for which the important issue is not just production of “its” oil from the seabed, but transportation of “foreign” oil through its territory. The Caspian region is within the scope of the Russian security unconditionally. [1; 4; 8]. In general, the problem of determining the legal status of the Caspian Sea is extremely contradictory. It constantly keeps in suspense actors, gradually moving into the category of “eternal” themes of the Caspian states and experts.

The international community and the Caspian states should take one and the only correct decision regarding the status of its water body: Caspian Sea – a sea or a lake? Officially, the Caspian Sea as a geographical entity is considered a lake. However, Russia and Iran are not ready to apply international law at the relevant water body type, recognizing it as a lake. But International law does not apply on the seas in fact in relation to the Caspian Sea, as the 200-mile littoral area (accepted by International law as an area a coastal state) will be overlapped because of insufficient width of the [sea](#).



We offer to use all the articles of International law on the water bodies and international law on the seas, reasonable and necessary for the countries of the Caspian Sea as a result of the situation and serve to strengthen stability in the region under consideration and understanding. [5] And thereby determine the special status of the Caspian Sea as the only in the world, the unique water body, whose strategic development tasks are becoming more visible environmental aspect of every year

**There** is another very important international issue in the Caspian Sea: the absence of any political or economic organization based on all five Caspian states for the joint decision of the major geopolitical and geo-economic problems of the Caspian Sea. There are similar organizations in the world such as: Barents Arctic Conference (Barents Sea) The Danube Convention (on the problems of the Danube River), Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (the Black Sea). There are organizations on the problems of the Great Lakes of the USA and Canada, Lake Victoria in Africa, and others. However, as already noted, each Caspian state continues to conduct its foreign policy in the region, based on its own interests. It is not only oil and the ability to control its traffic flows, but the opportunity to “hurt” a neighbor of the region, expressing its growing geopolitical ambitions.

According to some experts, Western companies own about 70% of the Caspian resources already [3]. Today, there are about 30 international programs and projects in the region that are somehow related to the Caspian Sea. Oil companies from 25 countries are directly involved in the work in the Caspian Sea. In total, there are more than 50 countries are engaged in research and development and implementation of the international projects. All this speaks about the territorial spread, and information about the fragmentation of

organizations engaged in the study of the problems around the Caspian Sea.

Geopolitical processes that have led to the two Chechen wars, acts of terrorism committed in the present time in the North Caucasus, have a close connection with the problem of long-term use of the enormous hydrocarbon resources in the Caspian Sea, and the redirection of oil and gas pipelines to bypass Russia. Interests and activities of the Caspian states in the region are different. Prudent use of the water body in Russia is not better than their neighbors, unfortunately.

The situation is different in Iran, where the measures, taken for the protection of the state of the environment and natural resource management particularly in terms of streamlining of catching valuable Caspian fish, are the best.

Now about the problems of the Caspian Sea coastline within the Daghestani cities. Why is there an access to the beaches of the Black Sea in the cities of the Crimea and the Western Caucasus, but it almost completely disappeared in the last 15–20 years on the coast of the Caspian Sea near the city of Daghestan? This is recreational, that is public land, and they should not be isolated by large fences of private buildings, in addition to resorts, hotels and camp sites.

We know from history, that there was a Jacobin revolution in France before the Kiev's Maidan. The French are so hated oligarchs and other thieves from the government that began to kill them with their children and grandchildren. After that it was dangerous to appear in a decent suit on the streets of Paris. It is believed that the French were afraid to get too big profits genetically from the time exactly.

Big business is exposed to excessively high taxation, due to which many rich people (for example, Gerard Depardieu) go out of this country. Wealthy people do not boast about their wealth, but they feel

extremely bad form to put it on display. Many mayors and senior officials go to work by public transport, unlike our home-grown functionaries, driving through the city and breaking the rules traffic.

Daghestan is one of the most outstanding examples of the gap between the huge resources and possibilities for successful socio-economic development of territories, on the one hand, and common sense in matters of rational and efficient use – on the other. Useful resources of Daghestan are not limited to oil and gas, electricity from mountain rivers and fish of the sea, spacious sandy beaches and magnificent cognac. There is still a lot that can feed and provide not only a republic, but also the surrounding areas.

Daghestan has always been an economic contributor. Suddenly, Daghestan, with its vast natural and human resources has become a consumer of taxes of the rest population of the country after the collapse of the Soviet Union, like most other Russian outlying subjects. One of the popular explanations for this phenomenon is as follows: subsidies in our region are kind of drugs for local officials. You can also consider such a logical conclusion: a bribe is drug for a dishonest official, who can not work without it, until he is sent to prison as a bribe taker (if ever be condemned). In this sense, he is a radical and extremist. In the meantime, thousands and thousands of people will suffer.

Here are the following figures: Daghestan, with a population of just over 2 million people provided electricity to 11 regions of Russia with a population of 17 million people before the beginning of the 1990s. Its annual income from the highway connecting European Russia with Transcaucasia was estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars during the Soviet period. These figures considerably exceed the current subsidies to the region. Resources such as oil, gas and bio-resources of the Caspian Sea has not yet been mentioned in this case.

As for tourism, it is impossible in today's realities of the Caucasus, especially in Daghestan as the former leadership of North Caucasus Federal District planned its development. It is unclear who convinces senior management of the need for approval unrealizable projects. What tourist would go to relax and spend money where terrorists operate continuously and counter-terrorist operations are conducted? First, we need to cure society, and only then – to invite tourists.

Today, innovations in the way of life in the Caucasus, particularly in Daghestan, can be associated with a tendency to impose the so-called Westernization for the Caucasians. Young people who are not honoring and non-compliance with their standards of morality, their religion and traditions, easily perceive the templates of the western culture and morality.

If one part of the younger generation accepts the western way of life, the other has a sharp conflict with it. There is an increase in social protest, which, in turn, is fraught with rather extremist manifestation. The concern is a cultural process, which is caused by religious identity, because of which the Arab culture is getting closer for a large part of the Daghestan youth. The expansion of the Arab culture in the republic is not as powerful as the western one, but it gets very fanciful forms. When was Hookah smoking a norm in our culture? Where did our fathers and grandfathers see half-naked “oriental beauties”, depicting the “belly dance”? When did our mothers and grandmothers wear black paranjas to the ground?

But all this is not a tragedy. If desired, it is possible to step aside or overcome. The society spiritually impoverished and degraded because of these two opposite processes. When intellectuals loses the ability to draw from the cultural subsoil of the society, when poetry and works of writers are shoddy to vulgarity, when our singers perform

their music to Turkish or Arabic style, when there is no composer capable of creating modern serious works based on folk music, when there is no musical intelligible and memorable anthem in the native republic, when scientists are becoming due to plagiarism. And no end to this list ...

A certain society is formed, for which there is nothing sacred and nothing interesting, but to obtain pleasure from the consumption of various goods. And we can not do anything, we just feel powerless, as the current Russian intellectuals observing the blossoming of Nazism on the German model of the 1930s in the country. Another is worse: there is a substitution of our values with not only alien, but immoral elements of behavior and thinking that will eventually become traditions and norms for the people. Our age-old cultural determinants are superseded gradually, step by step, year after year. The most pernicious and the worst will happen in 30–40 years, when we see that these cultural deformities genetically entrenched in the minds of the new generations.

Ultimately, there is no alternative to multi-confessional Russia. If someone has a different opinion, then let go and see how the Daghestans live and what are their prospects in the Muslim Azerbaijan. In recent years, information about processes has come from the neighboring country to us, that it is difficult to name another word, except ethnocide.

The Daghestans are wise people. Studies have shown that no more than 3% were in favor of secession from Russia. Only once there was 5% for separating from Russia (1996). At the same time, the percentage was even higher in the Russian-speaking region of Kaliningrad and some other republics, such as Sakha (Yakutia). It may seem paradoxical, but it is the fact: Daghestan has today most mosques and provides 80% of all pilgrims from the RF, traveling to

Mecca. And at the same time there is strong setup in favor of the Russian state [7, p. 5].

At the same time, there are trends in the education system, which should be overcome. If we turn to the history of civilizations, states or individual family, they all come out of a difficult situation, making an emphasis on education. Or on the contrary, everything is falling into decay when losing attention to education and science. Pupils and students see and know who and with what kind of reputation occupy the management positions. Therefore, they do not learn for the sake of knowledge, but for the sake of diplomas. Moreover, they lose respect for knowledge, and, consequently, to the elders, who provide knowledge to them. Pay enough attention to the development of science and technology in Daghestan, or not, nothing good will come if teachers continue to receive meager salaries with delays; if universities produce low-skilled PhDs. Now the number of professors in Daghestan with the extremely low-quality scientific training is more than the number of all the professors in the Stalin USSR.

It is necessary to restore the rich history and tradition of democracy in Daghestan. After all, it is an axiom: the electoral system is the first criterion to determine whether there is or not a democratic system in the country. Watching for the elections at any level, you can determine whether there is democracy in the region, republic or the country in general.

In conclusion I would like to say the following. Intellectuals have the most significant impact on society in the world in all times. In Dagestan the intellectuals are not particularly tend to the fight. If the intellectuals do not start to engage in the republic, then it will be engaged with all who feels like it, not just the educated and literate people.

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**ABOUT THE THREAT OF TERRORISM  
IN CENTRAL ASIA**

The level of terrorist threat in Central Asia was high throughout the post-Soviet years. This situation is caused by internal factors to a large extent – a low level of socio-economic development of society, which creates the basis for the emergence of radical Islamism, ethno-national separatism, organized crime, drug and arms trafficking, illegal migration; clan struggle, often using political extremism for their own purposes; insufficient development of religious and cultural identity. The situation is aggravated by the proximity to the centers of the international Islamist threat.

This region is transformed into a zone of increasing terrorist threats with deterioration of the situation in neighboring Afghanistan, establishment and spread of the new terrorist entity – the Islamic State (ISIS), prohibited in Russia. Meanwhile, the post-Soviet Central Asia is an important link in ensuring global security due to its geographical location, it is obvious the special importance of maintaining peace and stability in the region for its nearest neighbor – Russia.

The extremist group “Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan” (IMU) has acted on the territory of Central Asia for a long time. Its goal was to separate the Fergana Valley from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and to form on its territory a separate state, which had to join the World Islamic caliphate consisting of the entire Middle East and the Caucasus.<sup>1</sup> As it is known, the Fergana Valley is a densely populated area with high unemployment, making it the area, convenient for the activities of radical organizations and the recruitment of new members.



IMU is accused of many terrorist attacks in Uzbekistan, as well as in the invasion of armed groups in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. IMU detachments participated in the Tajik civil war on the side of the United Tajik Opposition, and most of them moved to Afghanistan after the armistice. There IMU in alliance with the Taliban fought against coalition forces. According to sources, they came into contact with “Al Qaeda” after the IMU militants have pushed aside to the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan.<sup>2</sup>

According to experts, the organization is going through a split in the past few years, and new terrorist groups are organized on its basis, including “Islamic Jihad” (2002). In August 2015 IMU sided with ISIS. <sup>3</sup> The problem does not change due to the conversion of certain terrorist organizations in the other ones, and a significant increase in the global terrorist threat; The Post-Soviet Central Asia may be at the epicenter, as a result.<sup>3</sup> The essence of the problem does not change due to the conversion of some terrorist organizations into other ones, and a significant increase of the global terrorist threat; Post-Soviet Central Asia may find oneself at the epicenter as a result.

New challenges are generated as a result of concentrations of militants on the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. Aggravation of the situation in Afghanistan near the southern borders of the CIS was recorded as early as the end of April 2015, when the Taliban announced a spring offensive against government forces. Further escalation of the Afghan conflict was associated with the capture of the city of Kunduz by the militant forces, located of 70 km from the Tajik border. In this regard, the Tajik border troops were put on full combat readiness since 1 October. There was a two-way meeting of the presidents of Tajikistan and Russia soon after, where the Tajik side expressed its concern over the situation in Afghanistan, which was deteriorating with each passing day. According

to President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, the fighting went on for 60% of the Tajik-Afghan border. He raised the question of security in the region through the CSTO, stressing that this border was its zone (CSTO) of responsibility.<sup>4</sup>

In May and June there were regular reports of violent armed clashes between the Taliban and the government troops in neighboring Turkmenistan provinces of Herat and Badghis. Multiple superior Taliban forces were observed at the same time. Intense combat operations in these provinces have increased the flow of Afghan refugees towards the border with Turkmenistan in late May. However, the Turkmen border guards did not let them into the country for fear of the Taliban attacks. In early July, "Chronicles of Turkmenistan" reported the deaths of 12 border guards on the Turkmen-Afghan border.<sup>5</sup> In the autumn of 2015 the Turkmen army also moved in constant combat readiness mode in connection with the new armed offensive of the Taliban in northern Afghanistan. There were mobilization reservists, announced, redeployment of military equipment produced, and as a result there have been concentrated to 70% of combat-ready equipment and weapons of Turkmen land forces along the Turkmen-Afghan border.<sup>6</sup>

Most experts agree that now the real threat to the Central Asian countries comes not from Taliban, but from ISIS, that gained influence in the northern provinces of Afghanistan. The ranks of the terrorist association grow at the expense of immigrants from Central Asia, the number of which already comes up to 4000. According to the Director of the Analytical Center of MGIMO A. Kazantsev, the Taliban will not go to Central Asia, it is a myth, but the invasion of the region groups of different ethnic extremists expected in light of the situation prevailing in Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Middle East.<sup>7</sup>

However, not all politicians, particularly in a number of countries in the region hold this view. Some experts consider direct military invasion of ISIS gangs in Central Asia unlikely, assuming that talk about the threat of ISIS for Central Asia largely instigated by external forces interested in strengthening its influence in the region, or the leadership of the republics themselves counting on financial aid from abroad.<sup>8</sup>

Meanwhile, in accordance with objective data, sharply increased activity of ISIS agents in the regions that are working to undermine the government, recruit secret supporters and provoke unrest. In Kazakhstan, for example, extremist organizations make recruiting and training of militants, there are located base, which prepare sabotage against neighboring countries. Citizens of Kazakhstan have been involved in terrorist acts in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. It is no coincidence that the British Foreign Office has assigned Kazakhstan, along with Tajikistan, the second level of danger – “a serious threat”.<sup>9</sup> (the third level of danger – “medium threat” is assigned to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan).

Supporters of the terrorist organization ISIS have been found not only among the uneducated and the poor, but also among the officials, politicians and intellectuals. It was prevented series of terrorist attacks with the support of the Russian secret services, which were to take place in Bishkek. ISIS has put forward an ultimatum to the leadership of the republic in response to these actions. There were direct threats against Kyrgyz leaders in social networks: if the republic's authorities continue to detain ISIS supporters and to prevent the recruitment of new militants, the country overwhelmed by a wave of terror in the near future.<sup>10</sup>

Uzbekistan has taken increased security measures in its population, the preachers in the mosques conduct explanatory work

about the nature of Islam. There were held joint anti-terrorist tactical exercise of the relevant units of the ministries of Defense, Internal Affairs, Emergency Services and National Security in the south in Andijan August 1, 2015.<sup>11</sup> According to experts, currently Uzbekistan has the most powerful army in the region, and the Uzbek section of the border with Afghanistan, is one of the most protected and sheltered. Nevertheless, the president of the republic Islam Karimov shows extreme concern with the increase in the region of the terrorist threat. It should be noted that the security strategy that pursued by Tashkent, involves maintaining close friendly relations with the Government of Afghanistan and the development of economic ties.

In the case of threats of ISIS, the Central Asian republics can not alone cope with the situation, and it is well understood in the Central Asian capitals. Meanwhile, one of the main weaknesses of the Central Asian countries in the fight against terrorism is a low level of interaction in this area, largely due to their long-standing controversy. The relations of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan remain difficult, spoiled due to the problem of water resources in the region. Often various collisions occur on the border of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which is a length of 970 km, and only 567 delimited and demarcated. Kyrgyz Foreign Minister E. Abdyldaev said at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly (September 2015), that direct multilateral political dialogue between the countries of Central Asia was virtually absent. He proposed the creation of a dialogue platform for the countries of the region in the framework of the United Nations, “to strengthen political and economic cooperation in the region”.<sup>12</sup>

The growing threat of terrorism forces the Central Asian countries to cooperate more actively with each other in the field of security. So, it was held joint command and staff tactical exercises of the two republics “Barrier-2015”, with participation of the expert group

of the FSB, and with the support of the OSCE in July 2015 in southern Kyrgyzstan in the border area with Tajikistan.<sup>13</sup> Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the two closest allies in the region, having a non-aligned status, agreed to strengthen cooperation on border security with Afghanistan and signed a number of agreements on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and other challenges.<sup>14</sup> (agreement on valid between the two countries in 2012, the joint protection of borders).

Leaders of the Central Asian republics hope for support of the world community and power centers, that have the greatest influence in the region – Russia, China and the United States, in their fight against the Islamist threat. Antiterrorist topics are on the agenda of various international summits, forums and other events in the framework of the CIS, the CSTO and the SCO, which involve the Central Asian country. Decisions of the October CIS summit in Kazakhstan are directed at strengthening interaction between the post-Soviet states in the fight against terrorism. Statement on the fight against international terrorism, military cooperation concept until 2020, co-operation program to strengthen border security at the external borders to 2016–2020 have been taken on it.<sup>15</sup>

Politicians agreed on mutual assistance in setting up the external borders of the CIS states on “the most threatened sectors.” For this purpose, special categories of border troops should be established. Experts do not exclude that the Russian border guards could return to Tajik-Afghan border, from where they left in 2005.<sup>16</sup>

However, the main vectors of foreign policy cooperation of Central Asian countries in the field of security are different from each other. Cooperation with Russia in the framework of the CSTO is a priority for Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The next session of the CSTO Collective Security Council was held in mid-September in

Dushanbe, at which the heads of the CSTO member states discussed the issues of combating terrorism, the crisis in Syria, defense cooperation, and others.<sup>17</sup> Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said that Kazakhstan and Russia had a common vision of the evaluation of the situation in the world, closely coordinating approaches to solving security problems. He stressed that the importance of the region was the situation in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, and the Syrian crisis was a threat to the entire Central Asian region. At the October CIS summit in Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev initiated the creation of the forum “Islam against terrorism”, which had to unite the efforts of Muslim countries.<sup>17</sup>

Russia is ready to act as guarantor of the security of the Central Asian region, as evidenced by its leading role in the CSTO. Due to the growth in the region of the terrorist threat, Russia intends to strengthen its presence in Central Asia, in particular through the strengthening of military bases in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the increase in military-technical assistance to allies in the CSTO. Russia has signed agreements with Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on the extension of the Russian military bases in those countries to 2047 and 2032 respectively. Moscow also announced an increase in the military contingent of the 201st Russian military base in Tajikistan since 5900 to 9,000 by 2020. The helicopter group will aim to strengthen the Russian military base at Ayni airfield. In addition, within the framework of the CSTO, military exercises have been carried out with access to the border of Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

According to sources, the Russian Federation is ready to provide military assistance to the country in the amount of \$ 1 billion, considering the complicated political situation in Kyrgyzstan.<sup>19</sup> The Russian air base in Kant will also be strengthened by upgrading aircraft, which has already received ten new Su-25 advanced fighter jets. In addition, according to the bilateral agreement, Moscow has

provided the Republic ten armored personnel carriers, artillery systems and ammunition, spare parts and equipment for air defense. Kyrgyzstan should get the bulk of military aid by 2017, which includes armored vehicles, combat vehicles, aircraft and helicopters.<sup>20</sup>

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan occupy an isolated position, announced their non-aligned status. As for Uzbekistan, which was released in 2012 from the CSTO, the SCO remains the main area of its cooperation with Russia. Since 2003, the Regional Antiterrorist Center of the SCO (RATS) is located in Tashkent. Existing bilateral agreements on strategic partnership between Moscow and Tashkent oblige the parties to assist each other in the field of security.

Some Uzbek analysts do not exclude the fact that Tashkent can go at creating some formats of cooperation with the Collective Security Treaty Organization in the case of very serious security threats from terrorist and extremist groups. For example, to create a platform for dialogue within the scope of the CSTO + Uzbekistan, specifying clearly that the format does not regard the republic participated in the organization of activities, in addition to cooperation in the field of anti-terrorism in the region.

But it is difficult to predict the actions of Islam Karimov, whose policy has always differed duality. In particular, it was agreed simultaneous rejection of the appeal to Russia for help in case of aggravation of the situation on the Afghan border at the meeting of the Presidents of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.<sup>22</sup> At the same time, Washington is fixed readiness to assist the country, up to the military, in case of security threats in the Declaration on strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and the United States. Transfer of some military equipment by the U.S. side to Tashkent after the partial withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan indicates continuing cooperation between

the two countries in this sphere. The Pentagon gave Uzbekistan 300 armored vehicles worth \$ 180 million under a special program.<sup>23</sup>

The United States does not intend to leave Central Asia in the sphere of influence of Russia and China, and has recently shown a growing interest in participating in ensuring its security. Strengthening of influence in Central Asia is important for Washington in connection with the decision to leave its troops in Afghanistan to neutralize Islamist threat there. In late August, the Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia D. Rozenblyum visited Tashkent, and the head of the U.S. Central Command General Lloyd Dzh. Ostin 3rd – in Dushanbe. It was about regional security and the situation in Afghanistan.

There was a meeting between the U.S. Secretary of State J. Kerry and the Foreign Ministers of the five Central countries on Washington's initiative at the UN General Assembly, the fields in New York on 26 September. As a result of which the U.S. side declared the establishment of “a new format of interaction to discuss regional issue” with those countries. As noted by the media, it was a joint action to neutralize the new challenges in the field of security and the development of economic ties.<sup>24</sup>

“Presentation” of this “new format of interaction” or “C5 + 1” (the republic of Central Asia plus the U. S.), was held in Samarkand in the framework of J. Kerry's tour of the countries of the region at the beginning of November 2015. Here, the U.S. Secretary of State met with the foreign ministers of the five countries in the region. The first visit of the Foreign Minister of the U.S. in the Central Asian republic testified about another increase in Washington's interest in the region. Joint Declaration has been accepted after the meeting in which the parties expressed their readiness to hold regular contacts in this format and that the six countries would contribute to the attraction of foreign



investments to the region, local business development, regional trade, infrastructure, economic development and energy relations.<sup>25</sup>

In fact, the format of “C5 + 1” represents an attempt to integrate all the republics of the region under the auspices of the United States. This creates competition for the integration associations of the Central Asian countries with Russia and China, which demonstrates Washington's effort to limit the influence of Russia and China in Central Asia. It is noteworthy that the U.S. Secretary of State started his trip from Kyrgyzstan, which cooperates closely with Russia in the military sphere. The U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry proposed to President Atambayev to sign a new military agreement with the United States during the meeting, but made it clear that Washington had no plans to establish a military base in the republic. This proposal has not found a response in Bishkek. However, according to experts, the situation may change if the new figure appears at the head of the republic after the election.<sup>26</sup>

According to mass media, in Kazakhstan, the foreign ministers reaffirmed the strategic partnership between the two countries. John Kerry said that the U.S. considers cooperation with Kazakhstan from the point of view of normalization of relations with Russia.<sup>27</sup> The U.S. Secretary of State pledged support for Tajikistan in securing borders and solving the issue of electricity shortage, which Washington previously sent a proposal to join the anti-terrorist coalition, along with Uzbekistan. The special role of Uzbekistan to the United States was underlined by the fact that the meeting of the “C5 + 1” is held in this republic.

As for Turkmenistan, its orientation on the U.S. can be traced in Ashgabat position more clearly in recent times. Ashgabat appealed to Washington a formal request for military assistance and received a positive response to it in the spring of 2015, when the Taliban launched

an offensive in the north of Afghanistan and information appeared about the presence of militants ISIS there.<sup>28</sup> The President Berdymukhamedov ignored the October summit of the CIS, in which the concept of military cooperation of the Commonwealth countries was adopted, and directed the prime minister in his place there. At the same time, the Turkmen delegation headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs R. Meredov was in the U.S., where it negotiated for the U.S. assistance for security border with Afghanistan. Following the talks, the U.S. side stated the United States' plans to deepen relations with Turkmenistan.<sup>29</sup>

Oil and gas interests of the Republic played an important role among the factors contributing to turnaround of Ashgabat, in the direction of Washington. On the one hand, there is discontent of Ashgabat of cooperation with Russia in the field of export of Turkmen gas and pressure from the Russian "Gazprom". In addition, the Turkmen government is concerned about the growth of the Russian military activity in the Caspian Sea. It is likely that the Turkmen authorities were dissatisfied with missile strikes from the waters of the Caspian Sea on Syria, uncoordinated with them. Most likely, the official Foreign Ministry protest, aimed to Nursultan Nazarbayev in connection with his statement about deterioration of the situation at the border during the October CIS summit, can be explained by the fear of military intervention of Russia in order to protect the Turkmen-Afghan border. Despite the alarming information coming from different sources, Ashgabat said that calm is maintained there.

On the other hand, the project of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline (TAPI) (Ashgabat sincerely believe in the reality of it), is actively supported by Washington. This project provides an outlet for Turkmenistan on an extensive market of South Asia, and it is a way for the United States to strengthen its influence in

the region. It is clear that a necessary condition for the realization of this project is the safety of the Turkmen-Afghan border and the settlement of the Afghan conflict. Ashgabat hopes that the U.S. will be able to ensure the security of the TAPI gas pipeline, the construction of which was scheduled for December 2015. We can not exclude the fact that Washington has promised Turkmen security assistance from Afghanistan in exchange for the placement of the U.S. Air Force at the airport Mary-2, which has long attracted the attention of the U.S. Points of the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan exactly coincide with the route of the pipeline.<sup>30</sup> This hypothesis is partially confirmed by the fact that the negotiations were held in secret in the Central Asian tour of John Kerry, and information on the outcome is virtually absent. An important place is given to the U.S. closest ally in the East – Japan – in the political game, which currently takes place in Turkmenistan. Washington is seeking to press China, which dominates the Turkmenistan economy, especially in its oil and gas sector.

According to the press, the main results of the Central Asian tour of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, held in late October, were achieved in Turkmenistan, where joint contracts were signed by US \$ 18 billion.<sup>31</sup> There is a disposition, based on preliminary agreements: Japan gets field “Galkanysh” and begins the construction of TAPI, which corresponds to the U.S. interests in the framework of the project “Greater Central Asia”.<sup>32</sup> Nevertheless, the reality of the implementation of the TAPI project is in serious doubt due to the situation in Afghanistan. Many Russian experts believe that Turkmenistan is not ready for a drastic revision of its relations with Russia and Ashgabat actions are largely the method of pressure on Moscow.

It is possible that ISIS can start active operations in the Turkmen direction and deliver strikes at the most important points of the country.

Beijing and Moscow will not look at it calmly. The U.S. can make a promise to complete, but will it do something for the safety of some distant Turkmenistan or not – this is a big question.<sup>33</sup>

As a result, we can say the following. First, there is a real threat from ISIS for Central Asia. This threat, which goes from the southern borders of the CIS, is a danger to Russia's national interests. Decisions of the October CIS summit in Kazakhstan aimed at its prevention. Second, Russia is ready to take on the additional responsibility of ensuring security in Central Asia, which is reflected in the growth of its military aid in the framework of the CSTO. Third, the necessary condition for the effectiveness of confrontation to the threat of terrorism is the strengthening of cooperation in the field of security in the region. Fourth, the lack of a proper level of this interaction provides an opportunity for the United States to be involved in the integration processes in Central Asia, and its main support here can be Turkmenistan. Currently the policy of Washington in Central Asia is aimed at curbing the integration processes of the Russian Federation (EAEC, CSTO) and China (SCO), to the diversification of export routes for energy resources of Central Asia, in particular through the implementation of the TAPI project, and to the strengthen its military and political presence.

## Notes

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- <sup>5</sup> <http://www.fergananews.com/news/23592>
- <sup>6</sup> <http://inozpress.kg/news/view/id/47195>
- <sup>7</sup> [http://www.ng.ru/cis/2015-10-08/1\\_ashabad.html](http://www.ng.ru/cis/2015-10-08/1_ashabad.html)
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32 [http://www.ng.ru/cis/2015-10-20/6\\_turkmenia.html](http://www.ng.ru/cis/2015-10-20/6_turkmenia.html)  
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*“Rossiya I novye gosudarstva Evrazi”,  
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**“ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY”  
STARTED PUBLISHING IN ARABIC**

The publication of the magazine “Asia and Africa Today” has begun in the Arabic language in Egypt. The first issue of “Assia va Ifrikii al-Yawm” was printed in Cairo publishing house “Dar Anba

Rusiya” at the end of September last year. Successful implementation of the plan or project, which opens broad prospects for development and partnership, is an important goal sought by a person, a company, a country.

Priority component in this quest is the intention to expand the horizons of cooperation and mutual understanding, to find new knowledge, to acquaint others with their innovations, views on the state and development of the society, peoples, their cultures and traditions, just tell about oneself. And if the new horizons of international cooperation are opened to information project, the significance of this event will be increased many times for its creators.

The launching of publication of the Arabic version of the magazine has become just such an event, and its importance can hardly be overestimated.

The idea of its release has been nurtured for a long time. It was initiated by the Egyptian businessman and well-known public figure, Hussein al-Shafi and chief editor of “Asia and Africa Today” Academician Alexei Vasiliev even in 2013.

The hard work on the selection of articles, published in the Russian edition earlier, and their translation into Arabic was preceded by the release. Mohammed Nasr al-Gibali, Professor at the Faculty of Foreign Languages of the University of Ain Shams in Cairo, led the process. In fact, all the technical parameters of the Russian edition have been retained in the Arabic version, which makes it easily recognizable.

A ceremony of presentation of the magazine “Asia va Ifrikiya al-Yawm” was held at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Cairo, October 29 last year. Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, political and journalistic circles, members of the Egyptian Association of Graduates of Soviet and Russian universities have been invited to it (see cover page 2).

Director of the publishing house “Dar Anba Rusiya” Hussein al-Shafi said in his opening speech of the great attention that Russia paid the rapidly developing countries of Asia, the events in the Middle East region, which was rapidly changing after the “Arab Spring”, as well as about the problems faced by The African continent. He emphasized that Russia was showing not only political and economic but also scientific and practical interest to the countries of the region, studying them as partners, including social, humanitarian and cultural spheres.

It was this possibility of social and cultural cooperation, which formed the basis of intention to issue one of the oldest and well-known Russian scientific and political magazines in Arabic. Hussein El-Shafie said that the priority was given to topics that affect the interests of the Arab world in the selection of scientific and analytical articles for translation into Arabic. The frequency of the output of the Arabic version would be connected with it, he added. “While we intend to publish it twice a year – he said. – However, we hope to establish the quarterly issue of the magazine less than a year”

Mohammed Nasr al-Gibali – editor in chief of “Assia va Ifrikii al-Yawm” – has supported this intention, noting that one of the important directions of this work would be the publication of the materials prepared by the Egyptian authors. Naturally, it will take place in consultation with the editorial board in Moscow. Politics, economics and culture are among the main thematic areas. The main emphasis will be placed on articles that promote the rapprochement of Russia and Arab nations to strengthen mutual understanding, as well as a familiarity with various aspects of life of the peoples and their cultures. Six professors – specialists in Russian philology from Egypt and Saudi Arabia have been involved in the preparation of the first issue. There are plans to involve experts of the Russian language from other Arab countries.

The publication of the Arabic version of the journal has found a wide response in the Egyptian and regional media. The first issue of “Asia, va Ifrikiya al-Yawm” drew the attention of the Saudi and Lebanese information and news sites. Considerable material has been published in the influential Egyptian edition “Rose alYusef”<sup>1</sup>. Analytical articles and research materials about Russia and the Arab countries will be placed in the magazine. “These articles are of interest to Arab readers, and provide opportunities for Egyptian and Arab authors who seek to enrich bilateral cultural dialogue”, – the author Khaled Bayoumi quoted Hussein Al-Shafi.

Egyptian journalist points out further that the magazine “Asia and Africa Today” is one of the most prestigious scientific publications in Russia. In 2017, the magazine will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Its release was not a coincidence in time with the deployment of the liberation movements in Asia and Africa; the collapse of the colonial system and the achievement of political and economic independence of dozens of countries in the region. The author points out that Egypt holds one of the main places in the materials of the Arabic version, while noting that the editor in chief of the Moscow edition, Alexey Vasiliev (future academician) worked for many years in Egypt and has visited it as part of his scientific and political work<sup>2</sup>.

The article quoted Helmi Hadidi, a prominent public and political figures of Egypt, who now heads the Egyptian Organization for Solidarity with Asian and African nations. Helmi Hadidi reminded of the depth of bilateral relations in the time of Gamal Abdel Nasser, their lethargy during the reign of Anwar Sadat and difficult stage under President Hosni Mubarak. Bilateral relations are undergoing recovery of ties and cooperation with the new Egyptian leadership – Helmi Hadidi said. – And the magazine “Asia and Africa Today” is a window into the space of the Asian and African cultures.



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*“Aziya i Afrika segodnya”,  
Moscow, 2016, № 3, pp. 61–62.*

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