

Current Problems in the Middle East

“Current Issues in the Middle East” meeting held at SDE on October 21, 2019. Current developments were evaluated in this meeting. We share with you all speeches.

Alper TAN

Today, we are with two experts from Russia and two commanders to talk about the Middle East. As you know, nowadays there have been hot debates on Syria. However, today, we will try to evaluate this matter from both Turkish and Russian perspectives as well as other matters in the region. Because, there are social movements in Iraq; there are attempts to divide the country in Libya; there are other matters in Egypt, for almost 70 years, the issue of Israel is on the agenda... We will try to talk about these matters. Everyone is curious about Syria but first, we want to ask Dr Artem Kirpichenok, who was born and raised in Israel and defines himself as anti-Semite, about the Deal of the Century which is a deal no one knows about the exact content of it, and also about Palestine-Israel relations' future.

Dr Artem KIRPICHENOK

Deal of the Century is quite important. Considering the recent general elections in Israel, it is possible to say that this is a bit of an agreement on Israel's domestic policy. The Palestinian-Israeli crisis is not an issue that can be described briefly, but I do not think that the details of this agreement will be announced by the United States anytime soon. We see a similarity between the US and Israeli policies, especially between their foreign policies. We consider the Deal of the Century not only a matter of Israeli domestic and foreign policy but also a step towards American domestic policy. The book I have written, titled as *National History of Israel*, mentions not only the relations between Palestine and Israel but also the relations of different groups within Israel. I want to talk about the story of a young Jewish girl living in the US in the 1950s. This young girl goes to Israel to visit her Jewish relatives, during which she encounters a group of people in a kibbutz. The person in charge of this group, tells the group, speaking to someone else, not to talk to that person because he is a black man. This man was most likely a Jew from North Africa or Asia. There were also concerns and discussions about the rights of black people at the time, and when the young girl returned to the United States, she told the people there the details of the incident she witnessed. Several days after that, this young girl's father told her to write these down and sign them because they wanted to understand that it was real. From then on, this young girl became one of the supporters of the Palestinian struggle. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Palestinian issue was not only a matter of Palestinian Arabs but also of local Orthodox Jews who had been living there for hundreds of years. Other non-Arab groups living in the area also opposed

Israel's Zionist project. Orthodox Jews, Zionist thought was contrary to Judaism. In the 1920s, Orthodox Jews, along with Palestinian Arabs, appealed to the British to stop immigration to this region. Today, Hasidic Jews, one of the largest branches of Orthodox Jewish groups, are also opposed to this project and continue to live with Arabs. When we look at the statistics today, we can see that Orthodox Jews are the most hated group in Israel, after Palestinian Arabs. Israelis cannot tolerate any criticism to Palestinian issue. They don't actually have any experience with it. Israeli officials are also not very fond of talking about problems of different Jewish groups inside Israel or domestic political issues related to them. Nor do they prefer to talk about Jews who have long been alienated in Asia and Africa. Nor do they talk about the Jewish families whose children were seized and sold for adoption in Yemen. They also don't want to talk about the Jews in Ethiopia and their exclusion. In addition, a few years ago, Israeli officials made a statement accepting that they gave something like a drug or an unknown substance like a drug to a woman to prevent her from having more children. Many people migrated to this region from Soviet countries. The level of education of children from the Soviets was higher than that of other Jewish children living in Israel. Today, however, the level of education of them has lagged, and it is now very limited for these people to enter the fields of journalism or political science. At this point, we see that the Israeli government is not ready and willing to talk about these issues. I tried to answer these questions in my book. The first question I asked was whether Israel is a Jewish state. The main reason I asked this question is that I think what is happening here seems to be a new state, religion, culture and identity. Jews here have nothing in common with Jews living in the United States or Russia, at least not with Jews living elsewhere. I would like to share with you a result of this long-standing tradition of discrimination against Jews from outside of Israel. Since the beginning of the 20th century, Israel has been practising Semitism culturally and politically and it is quite hard to say that today traces of this are diminishing. There are also issues within Israel that the Jews oppose, and this is a very important issue for Israel. Zionism is one of them. The first to be affected by political terror in the 1920s were not Palestinian Arabs, but a Jew who had emigrated from the Netherlands. He was shot by an agent of a secret Jewish organisation in Jerusalem. Later, the biggest crime in the eyes of the state of Israel has been defined as the rapprochement of Palestinians and Jews and the lack of recognition of Israel as a Jewish state. Since then, lots of people who have travelled inside Israel and become close with Palestinians have been sentenced to prison terms. Many people shared a similar fate. It is known that there were many people killed by the MOSSAD and their wives did not hear from them. It is also notable for the actions of Ethiopian Jews in their support of the Palestinian cause. We hope there will be a solution to that in the future. Palestinians have support not only from around the world but also from different groups within Israel. Israel and the Jewish community are actually walking around with a mask

on their faces. We know there are serious discussions, disagreements and conflicts behind this mask.

Q: There are around 1.8 billion Muslims in the world, which is about a quarter of the world's population, if we ask the country which they react to the most, the answer would undoubtedly Israel. But the power that stands most behind Israel is the United States. This gives Israel some protection, but when it is considered by the U.S. people, why does the U.S. support a country that such a large population reacts to, and what does it give to the U.S. and the U.S. people?

A: first of all, it is worth reminding that at the beginning of the 20th century, the state of Israel was a project prepared and supported by the British, not the Americans. Until perhaps 10 years after Israel was founded, especially during what happened in Algeria, Israel allied with France against the Arab Freedom Movement and France used Israel against Algeria and the Arab League. But we can say that cooperation between the United States and Israel actually began during the Six-day War in 1967, because in that war, Israel showed the United States how great its military might was against other Arab states and how superior it was against them.

Another issue I want to talk about is immigration. We know that at the beginning of the 20th century, there were Jews who migrated from Eastern Europe and other parts of Europe to the United States and elsewhere. These emigrants were not welcomed where they went, and this was in a way the beginning of modern anti-Semitism. At this point, we know that the leaders of Zionism were driving the migration and sending the emigrants to places far from Europe. When the US President Truman announced that he supported the partition of Palestine and the creation of the state of Israel, one of the British ministers said that the US supported the project because it did not want to see 100,000 Jewish refugees on the streets of New York. At the same time, until the 1980s, Jews in the Soviet Union were allowed to emigrate to the United States, but this was stopped as a result of pressure from Israel, allowing most of them to come to Israel. These Jews were of course not satisfied with this situation. We know that Jews in Europe lived in the streets, churches and tents in the 1990s, especially in order to avoid having to emigrate to Israel, but then they were forced to emigrate to Israel. For Jews, Israel is not a port of refuge or a promised land, but rather an exile. The socio-economic situation of Jews in Israel is worse than that of Jews in the United States and Europe, and they are also part of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Alper TAN: One of the most important issues on the agenda recently is the Syrian issue, and there are concerns about this issue. There is a consensus between the United States and Turkey. In the meantime, while Turkey provides this agreement, it continues on the road by consulting with Russia. Mr Erdogan and Mr Putin will also meet in Sochi. We want to ask Mr Savin where the Syrian Civil War is heading, what is expected in the short, medium and long term. Second, we want to

find out: is there any sin in the current international system, society, in the problem between Palestine and Israel and in the Syrian issue?

Dr Leonid SAVIN

We expect that there will be more interaction and sharing of views about the position of our countries, our states in the meeting that will take place tomorrow between Mr Putin and Mr Erdogan. The attitude of Russia to withdraw US troops from the region is very clear, we are very happy with this situation. We see this as the loss of function of the American state. We know that different political forces in the United States still want to create a powerhouse in the Middle East. But we know that Donald Trump wants to come out of such conflicts that he considers unnecessary with his "Make America Great Again" slogan. Here are four great narratives to draw attention to. The first is the post-colonial order... The boundaries of the Legion are mostly artificially formed, with ethnic, cultural and religious structures and the demands and needs of the people were ignored. The second is the conception of sovereignty, which was born as a secular thought. In a way, this understanding contradicts the traditional order. The third is the return of religion. This means the rise of religion in many regions for world politics. It means not only political Islam, but also political Christianity, and to some extent the rise of Protestantism and Catholicism in the United States. The fourth is the new and original state of the Legion. We can no longer talk about the influence of a single great power, of Western domination. In a way, we can say that a power vacuum has occurred. We can say that any Western project would be doomed to failure because Western ideas to redraw on the map of the Middle East, including those of Bernard Lewis, have failed in the region before. When we think about the coming years, we think that a broad-scale, common strategy for the region needs to be created. This strategy has to be one that nobody from outside dominates, and that covers all the actors involved. We think that the national, regional and international layers should be interlinked. Considering the topping layer, we want this to be a strategy for Eurasia. I suppose most of you are familiar with the geopolitics of the Anglo-Saxon school. The Heartland is Russia, Rimland - the sea power, the intensity of economic activities is here and it refers to a large area including the Mediterranean coast, Turkey and Iran. In the last hundred years, we have seen the United States determine its foreign policy by leveraging the theories of scholars such as Zbigniew Brzezinski and Henry Kissinger. We would like to start by reconsidering these ideas. Theoretically they can be used, but practically they need revision. One of my professors developed the idea of the "distributed Heartland". At the core of this is the idea of the complete removal of US influence from Eurasia. Americans are foreigners to this region, and we must cooperate with our own ideas, concepts and interests without any foreign interference. I have a theory, too, that I call "the Eurasian backbone". According to this theory, there are no Heartland and Rimland, but there are those who are interlocking and forming a

backbone. North Africa, India, China, both by sea and by land, all of the countries that pass-through Eurasia, an area that covers this backbone. Part of this line runs from north to south, where Turkey, the Middle East, the Caucasus, Central Asia, especially Afghanistan stand out as important ports. The most important question we face here is how to organise the relations between state and non-state actors in this broader area. This project applies for decades to come. In the short term, Russia is the most important actor providing security in the region and the accumulation of Russia is a very important element in this regard. Russia does not avoid being a part of the conflicts in the region, but rather has a duty to be a good intermediary.

Q: You said you wanted to be a mediator, but Russia only watched this situation during the second invasion of Afghanistan by the United States and Europe, how do you interpret that? How can Russia, the US and Europe be portrayed in the next 30 years?

A: There are several reasons why Russia should not intervene in Afghanistan. First of all, Russia at the time was another Russia, now there is a different Russia. We do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Our position in Syria today is not an intervention either, but Assad has invited us to ensure security in the region. The situation in Afghanistan is pretty complicated right now because, as you know, the Taliban have regained power there. Our connections there told us that there have been a number of paramilitary attacks, and with the addition of the US attacks, a large number of civilians have been affected as a result. The image of the United States in Afghanistan has been severely tarnished. At the same time, the United States' European allies in NATO are aware that the situation is deteriorating, but they are unable to do much because of their political obligations. There is a paradox now in Afghanistan because the official government cannot defeat the Taliban alone without the support of European powers. And because it cannot be defeated, it cannot continue the peace process and no government can be formed after the elections because the real power is still in the hands of the Taliban. My opinion is that the crisis will still continue in Afghanistan in the next 5-10 years. Russia has provided the platform for negotiations between the Taliban and the official government, thanks to talks taking place in Moscow. This is in fact, an example of Russia's mediation. The second question is very difficult to answer. Because we are now seeing a tectonic shift in the geopolitical balances of the world. Several scenarios may be possible. In the first scenario, we think the EU will still be alive. In the second, we think the EU will disappear. In the third, we foresee a stronger Eurasian Economic Union in which more countries will join, and Turkey may be one of them. We anticipate that the Shanghai Economic Cooperation Organization will expand. The worst-case scenario is a global war. Therefore, I would like to emphasize how important it is for us to develop a common strategy that is more interlinked with flexible frameworks on political, regional strategy, geopolitics, international relations and new political theories.

Ret. Major General Taner Duvenci:

The Iraq War entered history as the last frontline battle. There was a coalition force at the time. British and American tanks moved to occupy Baghdad. They beat Baghdad with long-range weapons, planes. Last time Saddam's army was destroyed. After all, we saw the last frontline war in Iraq. You look at it now, there are over 250 elements that are fighting in Syria. He's not in his neighborhood, he's even in his apartment, he's got a gang fighting him. Wars are no longer a conflict between two hostile countries; there is an atmosphere of war in which non-state actors, radical groups, crime groups benefit soldiers who clash with security forces created in the neighborhood. Some of these groups are supported by countries. Now these wars have another dimension. We are facing an atmosphere of war outside the convention, where there is no order. In this war environment, weapons of mass destruction are used as well as weapons. This is of course the most dangerous, because humanity sees these threats, the UN rules of conflict have been put in place.

In this geography, it is impossible to say that the USA will do this, Russia will do this, Turkey will do this. There's an interesting battle going on in that area. When we look at the past, the U.S. thinks about how I can win these wars. " I must have nuclear superiority over the Soviet Union " provides this until 1970. Then he says he'll develop something else, and he makes the ghost planes, the Tom Hawk missiles. Today, the technology of war becomes the winning side of the Supreme. Whoever gets the information sooner and gains the advantage of the information will get the other side to accept their superiority on the battlefield.

Autonomous systems have begun to enter battlefields. You'll see that in the next 15 years, humans will no longer fight, robots will fight. It was an activity of the U.S. Ground Forces Army. " How do I make changes to my concepts and what weapons will I put forward " is an activity in the form of. The most notable is the autonomous tank. What we've always heard is that "the F-35 last piloted aircraft" will no longer be human. I consider the reason for this as the inability of Western states to explain their human casualties to the internal public. Human beings are doubling their knowledge to 2 a year later. In order for this information to be used on the battlefield, data analytics need to be done.

With the capabilities of the Turkish defense industry at our disposal, Turkey is at a level that will make it a military power in the region. There are three or four countries in the world that make unarmed drones, one of which is us.

These are very valuable. If the war ends in Syria, it will start another year. We need to support our own self-defence industry and move all that has been established further.

Ret. Major General Mehmet Özoğlu

The basic problem in the Middle East is incompatible with the problems of the region. When we look at history, there is no Syria and Iraq, but of course we will not go deep. If we talk about Syria in particular, we see examples of proxy wars in Syria. 30-35 thousand truck gun ammunition was given to the terrorist organizations to destroy another terrorist organization. If you destroy a terrorist organization with another terrorist organization, it is difficult to predict where the results will lead. What we will draw from here is that no project incompatible with the reality of the region will succeed. There's no doubt about that. So, what's going on in Syria? Everyone knows in general but to speak a bit; Our wished to establish a terrorist is north corridor and the corridor unfortunately serious damage to Turkey. Turkey is the years of fighting with the PKK. The PKK is regarded as a terrorist organization by most other countries, but they somehow camouflaged YPG, the extension of it, and called it the SDG. And these affect us not only with the terror dimension but also with the asylum seekers. There are 4 million refugees from Syria to Turkey. They've gone from some of Europe pandemonium broke out, but they're all being asked in Turkey. A mega-power can do a number of activities, thinking it is a threat to itself from miles away. campaign launched in Turkey's legitimate borders, a number of massacres are trying to stop arguing. However, the only reason for the prolongation of the Turkish and Turkish Armed Forces to launch this operation is entirely due to humanitarian considerations. He's taking great care not to have any casualties. They took refuge in the stereotypes we saw on TVs. Because they know that TAF will not harm religious centers. There is constant coordination with the US and Russia to prevent the corridors of terror. Eventually, as everyone knows, he started to perform the operation of the Turkish Peace Spring. Quickly targeted 30-32 km of the region from the terrorist and civilian citizens there to try to save lives. What about this security corridor? both threatened by placing the region and to shift a part of refugees in Turkey will be given to the right to life. While we are carrying out this operation, our aim is to ensure the territorial integrity of Syria and to ensure the security of the country. We welcome with great satisfaction that Turkey's understanding of the security perceptions of Russia. Solution at a time when we are so close Turkey-Russia relations are of vital importance in terms of having a regional power. The critical issue here is some games that America or other global powers put forward. How to remove terror elements from important areas such as Membic becomes important. The most important issue here is that these problems can be solved in a more appropriate way by the cooperation of regional powers who know the region, know the history, know the facts and know what the issues are in the region instead of an external power. Turkey in a very serious economic losses in Syria. There are serious perceptions of threats not only in economic terms but also in security. TC TC will take precautions for this. As a result of the agreement made with the US, it was left behind for 4 days. We'il all see what happens tomorrow. It will be hard to dem4ek like this. There are games of global powers in the region.

Against these games, especially in countries in the region may be faced with an elevator. Thank you."

Question (Alper Tan):

"Turkey is conducting the process of Astana together with Russia and Iran. Since 9 October, a number of events have taken place in Syria. The PKK-YPG people who are wearing the clothes of the regime army are trying to get to some places and trying to establish a contact with Russia. Russia is moving along with Turkey, but also the movement evokes wonder Does it hesitate? Let's talk with Russian experts here.

Answer (Major General Mehmet Özoğlu):

I think we can only see if there is a game after tomorrow's meeting, especially with the actions to be taken against the terror elements in these critical places.

President Muhammet Savaş Kafkasaylı:

It is often not possible to say clear things about the future, but when we look at it from an academic perspective, it is sometimes possible to say things that may even be certain. Because there are a number of mechanisms that we can call law, we can call rule. If we know how the mechanism works, we can tell when what might happen during that process. There is always talk of knowledge with increasing importance every day. Maybe every conversation has a Title, Information. Let me tell you about the information by dividing it into subheadings. What we call knowing can be roughly divided into three. The first is to know oneself, the second is to know the circumstances, the third is to know the opponent or enemy, the interlocutor. The events in Syria are a little wider; the events in the Middle East, maybe a little wider; the events in the world, if we can look at them from this perspective, are in a situation where we can make very precise judgments in terms of the results it produces. It also gives us the opportunity to say something close to the future. In the process we are in now, we can say this with certainty as of today. The United States, as the most powerful state in my current international system, and in control of this system, and in command of ensuring the continuation of this process, did not manage the process well. Because the situations it encounters show that; once he did not know himself very well, the second did not know the conditions well, the third did not know the enemy, the opposite flank well. If you are the most powerful of the system, you should know these three very well. You didn't know yourself because you know yourself; Knowing what you can do means that you haven't identified it. You didn't know the conditions so well that you were already trying to implement policies for a region that is far away from you, but you didn't know what the conditions were and how they came about. Third, you didn't know the opponent. As far as we're talking, we can define this enemy as us. I am of the opinion that the events in Syria have very good consequences for us.

First of all, the US knew us. He knew many elements of the international system so far, maybe he was trying to know, but he didn't know us. Because he never confronted us directly. But he's not happy to know because there's a US who doesn't know what he's been doing for a week. One message doesn't match, the other doesn't match. In other words, very stylish, very nice things can be said in the words of the people, but we can not say in this assembly. I mean, in public terms, very elegant, very nice things can be said, but we can't say them here. This is gratifying for us but not surprising because we have already known this for hundreds of years. The region, for example, is not well known as a result of the conditions. Russia and Turkey have lived in this region for centuries. Knowing this area is not very simple information. Having experience of this region should not be underestimated. You might think that with information techniques, I could learn by sending three or five agents remotely via computer and asking them, but it is absolutely clear that this is not the case. There may be a provision that gives rise to these things that must be underlined. This is exactly what President Trump is saying, as the United States has failed to carry out all three types of knowing. He says, What Were we doing there? We must withdraw. That technically means this. The United States has failed to properly determine its national interests and policies in this direction. However, when we define what is intelligent in literature, we say that it is wise to determine their own interests. They declare to the world both from official statements and from their much-loved Twitter that he has failed to set his own international interests. In terms of SDE and its work, it is possible to come to a conclusion as follows; as you know, we are doing studies focused on the conditions in which the international system exists. We say at every opportunity that the current system is no longer functioning, that it constantly produces problems of cruelty, and that every development gives us data in a way. Once we witnessed it, we saw that this system doesn't work. Besides the fact that the system does not work, it also brings to the surface the fact that the people who operate the system do not know themselves, the conditions and the enemy. This is a very meaningful situation. As we have known for hundreds or even thousands of years, we know how we can make peace and quiet, and we say, let us make peace in this country. You have no interests in this region as you think. Secondly, you do not already know, and thirdly, you are trying to do certain things persistently for certain purposes, or in this case, your capitalist calculations do not produce any results. Because if we see things as a threat to our own interests, to our own security, we stand against them no matter what the price of standing against them. The US has understood that this way some things cannot be done with a grocery account. How much I have income, how much I have gone to calculate these jobs will not be. Sometimes there are struggles, no matter what the cost. Let me finish with a wish, we saw in a short period of time, with the peace Fountain operation, that the ranks against us were very tightly determined. We predicted when they saw there was something a little wistful, of course. And when he saw it, there was a complete, orderly line. I want everyone to be discreet

about knowing that. That's what we can say about Russia. Let them re-establish their ranks and make the right decision. If that happens, there will be beautiful days. If that doesn't happen, there will be good days for us again, but I think it won't be good for them.

Question: "it seems we are looking for a new world order. At least we're looking for a new order in the Middle East. The world order is established through negotiations. And our historical experience is that the negotiations that set the World Order happen after Wars. After the war, it is determined by the war which of the parties to the negotiation has a say in how much. We're seeing proxy wars. Will they be able to overcome this difficulty at the negotiating table? How much is it possible to get out of a negotiating table where you don't know who has a say?"

Answer (Dr. Artem Kirpichenok): "in fact, very interesting things were discussed about the wars. In a sense, we can say that there was a Third World War. But this situation we are in is quite different from the first and Second World Wars. Again, we are experiencing a different war situation where there are military conflicts and the media is a part of it. When we think about the negotiations at this point, we can't think of it as being exactly pro-solution. Maybe the mistake is part of the war. It would be appropriate for us to remember that politics is a continuation of war. In this case, I do not think there will be a solution if one of the parties fails to achieve a clear, understandable victory. When we don't see all these results exactly, when we don't get any visible results, we don't have much to say about where the global conflict is going to end."

Answer (Dr. Leonid Savin): "the talk of peace negotiations after the wars actually shows us the inspirations and reflections of this period, namely how the winners of the war will construct a world order and how they will create a system. But instead of focusing on constant war-conflict and negotiations, we should focus on the structure that exists without wars. It was proposed by one of the former Russian prime ministers, for example, that Russia-India-China (Ric) establish such a structure to prevent border problems between them, and that the trio could come together and create a new umbrella of regional multilateralism. Our general recommendation is that it be a multipolar world rather than unipolar, and that it provide a regional security umbrella."

Question: "Why is Israel so important to Russia? Does this not create a paradox for Middle East policies? Why is there a deep relationship between them?"

Answer (Dr. Artem Kirpichenok): "Israel is in a sense a bridge for Russia in lost relations with America. Because the Netanyahu government has close ties with both Russia and the United States. We can say it's a bridge in a general sense. At the same time, this relationship is important in terms of technology and economics. Russia is getting serious advantages thanks to technology cooperation. It gives us access to these areas, especially in terms of military equipment and military technology. The Russians have learned a lot from the Cold War era, and they don't want

to be a target of the Western bloc again. They have learned a lot from the experience of the Soviet Union and are pursuing close ties with Israel in order not to sit on the target board of Western powers again. We also try to have strong relations with the ruling class in Israel. When I asked a teacher what was the difference between Zionism and the anticolonial project, he said: Israel is not trying to focus in one direction, which means it is not just trying to see the United States as an ally, but it is trying to keep many different countries close to it. It is also trying to maintain relations with Russia, China, Latin America and many different regions and countries."

Question: " When does the Civil War in Syria literally end? When the war is over, Will a division be formed in the form of North and South? Can we describe this war as the greatest of the proxy wars?"

Answer (Dr. Leonid Savin): "of course the war will end because Turkey-Russia-Iran want this war to end. Western powers started these proxy wars first in Ukraine and then in Turkey."

Sde Vice President Alper Tan:

"Wars have always existed before this and will happen after this. Battles that could possibly change geography. Thank you very much to our experts."