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The Geopolitical Chessboard in the Middle East

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Abstract. The contemporary global order is currently defined by an intensification of both kinetic and economic conflicts, representing a significant shift in the international security landscape over the last half-century. This article examines whether these multifaceted confrontations represent genuine national defense or a broader process of territorial and systemic redistribution. Focusing on the Middle East, the study analyzes the strategic "triangle" involving Israel, the United States, and Iran, evaluating its impact on global energy markets and regional stability. Furthermore, it situates these regional tensions within the context of the broader U.S.-China rivalry, exploring how American geopolitical interests are increasingly defined by the containment of Chinese influence. By assessing the escalating conflict between the U.S.-Israel alliance and the Iranian axis, this paper explores the potential for regional destabilization and the long-term implications for global security architectures.

Keywords: *The Middle East, Security, Global actors, hegemony.*

Geopolitical situation in the Middle East

First and foremost, when speaking about the Middle East region, we must begin with the coalitions that pose a threat to one another in the struggle for global hegemony and during the redistribution of territories. In this article, I will highlight the Russia-Iran-China alliance, which poses a threat to America and Israel. Their confrontation with each other is expressed not only in trade relations and the pursuit of advantage, but also in the development and expansion of nuclear armaments and offensive weaponry in general.

The Middle East, by its very nature, has always

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represented a complex and multilayered geopolitical space, and today is no exception.[1] It encompasses religion, history, and energy. Accordingly, the processes unfolding here are directly connected to and impact global security, order, and the economy.

In this article, I will not examine the historical dimension, which begins long before the 21st century. I want to focus specifically on the processes currently underway and the geopolitical games in this region, and accordingly, their impact on the world's well-being.

Ever since Russia invaded Ukraine and launched a full-scale military aggression, the world has begun to think about the explosive threats of the future. Particular attention is being paid to weapons such as nuclear arms, which fall under the category of weapons of mass destruction. Accordingly, nuclear states have expressed a desire to increase their arsenals, while non-nuclear states with the capacity have begun to consider either creating them or having a nuclear state deploy nuclear weapons on their territory within the framework of a partnership. One of the states that has acquired nuclear potential is Iran. Within the framework of its partnership with Russia and China, it managed to almost fully create a weapon, and partial uranium enrichment also took place, which is perceived as a direct threat by Israel and America. Likewise, China's involvement in the Middle East and its trade relations with countries in the region are perceived as a threat by the US, since it is losing its dominance in the region, being replaced by China. I believe the processes unfolding there are entirely connected to the fears of the US and Israel regarding Iran's growing strength, Russia's and China's ties with Iran, and the historical confrontation of states in the region with Israel – all of which create a full basis for the geopolitical instability of the region. One of the key issues is the threats that may stem from China.[2] The region is rich in energy resources, which makes it attractive. China is the world's largest importing country by energy purchasing capacity. It also represents a desirable partner for states in the region, as it improves their economic situation. Moreover, China pursues a soft policy and, unlike the US, is more attractive because it does not interfere in the internal affairs of states in the region. Middle Eastern states also import green energy from China, various construction materials, electric vehicles, and – most importantly – China provides the

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construction of infrastructure projects for transit within the framework of its "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI).

As for Russia and Iran, they are in a sense strengthening each other, especially after Russia invades Ukraine and its receipt of drones from Iran, which has deepened their partnership further. Accordingly, China-Iran-Russia formed a fairly powerful force in the region's geopolitical game. However, after Israel and America jointly launched an offensive against Iran to halt and destroy its nuclear weapons program, perceptions of power at first glance are changing, since Iran has not received open assistance, although it is likely that Russia and China are helping Iran, just not openly.[3] Their support has been expressed through humanitarian aid, which in all likelihood covertly included the assistance Iran needed. Even though the leaders of the Iranian government have been liquidated, a change of regime has still not been achieved, and the notion that America's war in Iran resembles Vietnam is already spreading widely. Meanwhile, Trump is already considering withdrawing from the current processes.

As for the relationship between Europe and the US regarding the US invasion of Iran, it has caused a rift in their relations, as Europe refused to assist America. Despite Iran having carried out minor strikes in the neighborhood, Saudi Arabia – which is considered America's partner – is also trying to maintain a neutral stance. What does all this mean, and what outcome will it bring to the US? Whether the invasion of Iran will once again secure dominance in the region or, on the contrary, further diminish it, remains a contested question. As for the consequences triggered by the commencement of military operations against Iran, these are not only results arising during the course of the war – they will inevitably continue and will deal a heavy blow to the world, especially in the trade sphere and even more so in the area of energy resources. This is because the world has fully come to understand what an energy resource deficit means – a deficit that followed Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, during which countless ships in a loaded state await when they will be able to pass.[4] Moreover, Trump's statement that everyone must individually ensure the security of their own cargo makes the situation more difficult. Additionally, Iran's expressed view regarding tariffs for vessels passing through the strait further complicates the existing situation, raising the market value of energy resources

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considerably.

Based on the processes unfolding in the Middle East, one may ask: did Trump – who seemingly tried to pursue the Monroe Doctrine from the very first day of his presidency – want the attack on Iran under the umbrella of halting nuclear weapons development, or was this pressure from Israel, which had long planned and desired to create buffer zones in the Gaza Strip, in Lebanon, and to swiftly eliminate its fears stemming from Iran's growing power? [5] There is much to debate around the current processes and various views may be expressed, yet the main question that must be left under a question mark at this stage is: after the conclusion of the war in Iran, will it not be assessed in the same way as what happened in Iraq?

The US Goal in the Middle East

After Trump's presidency began, the world order was turned upside down, and his policy initially became focused on trade competition – though he does not shy away from force-based methods to achieve his goals, expressed in dominance on a global scale. His campaign and subsequent statements – America first, and non-interference in others' domestic affairs – are expressed only when it suits him, for example in the Ukraine-Russia confrontation, whereas when the matter concerned Israel, he mobilized full combat potential and, under the pretext of protecting the world and Israel's security, engaged military forces against Iran and pro-Iranian forces in the Middle East region.[6] What consequences could follow if America gains full dominance in the region and repeats the Venezuela scenario – where it created a favorable situation to push through its political interests and the ability to extract its energy resources – and if it manages to direct the region's existing energy resources as it sees fit, it will gain full hegemony in managing global energy resources, and most importantly, will create the opportunity to cut China off from the region, dealing a heavy blow to the world's largest importer dependent on the region. In this case, naturally, what is being considered is not a supply cutoff but a price increase, which will compel producer countries and will also enable control over the flow of goods coming from China. I believe the US is targeting the collapse of China's One Belt, One Road project, which runs in three directions: the northern, the middle corridor – Ecuador, and the southern. The actions of the US are not only about helping Israel and protecting the world from Iran in the future as a nuclear-armed state, but also – and primarily – about winning

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the trade war against China, which is heavily dependent on the Middle East region.[7]

Conclusion

To conclude, the Middle East represents one of the main nodes of global politics. In the region, local ambitions and international interests collide. The region is the epicenter of confrontation between two superpowers, America and China, today. For them, it serves as a proving ground for trade warfare, and in relation to Iran, as a place for containing nuclear power. As for Israel, it is the largest and most central player. It plays a pivotal role in geopolitical matters, since America, as its partner and ally, is involved in the region's ongoing processes precisely at its urging and encouragement, so that Israel may carry out a redistribution of territories and create a safe environment. Israel's primary goal was above all the neutralization and weakening of Iran, which was subsequently joined by the US at Israel's insistent demand. As I noted in the article, the processes unfolding in the Middle East will deal a heavy blow to countries across the world, including states such as Georgia, and the consequences may be more painful than for those countries that are heavily dependent on energy resources yet nonetheless possess certain reserves.

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