

---

## VLADIMIR AKHMEDOV. RUSSIAN-IRANIAN INTERACTION IN THE SYRIAN CONFLICT

*Keywords: Syria; Russia; Iran; Arab  
countries; Middle East.*

**Vladimir Akhmedov,**  
PhD(History), Senior Research Associate,  
Institute of Oriental Studies, RAS,  
e-mail: shamyarabist@gmail.com  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-4952-2964  
© V. Akhmedov 2025

*Citation: Akhmedov V. Russian-Iranian Interaction in the Syrian  
Conflict // Russia and the Moslem World, 2025, № 2 (328),  
P. 21–28. DOI: 10.31249/rmw/2025.02.02*

*Abstract. The article is dedicated to the nature of Russian-Iranian interactions in Syria. The author discusses the efforts of Moscow and Tehran to control the situation developing in Syria. He also considers the prospects for cooperation between Russia and Iran in resolving the Syrian conflict peacefully. An appropriate theoretical framework for this study was provided by the constructivist approach combined with comparative methodology. This helps to carry out a comprehensive study of the specific behavioral patterns that both countries use to protect their interests in Syria and the region.*

*The article also outlines the specifics of relations between Russia and Iran regarding the Syrian regime. The main directions of the policy of Russia and Iran in the context of the Syrian crisis are also discussed. Moreover, the author studies the causes and nature of disagreements between Moscow and Tehran in resolving the Syrian crisis. The main characteristics of Russian-Iranian cooperation in Syria are analyzed on the basis of Syrian reality. The article proves the non-confrontational nature of Russian-Iranian contradictions regarding the resolution of the Syrian conflict and maintaining a partnership between Russia and Iran. The article cites up-to-date sources in Arabic and Persian. The work has practical significance as reference material for Russian foreign*

*policy agencies, and can be used as a supplement in a course of lectures on oriental studies.*

Russian-Iranian relations in the SAR were a complex mosaic of interests in the Middle East region. Since the beginning of the events in Syria, the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) has provided financial and military-technical support to the Syrian regime [Ansari, 2016]. Iranian support allowed for certain successes in the fight against the armed opposition in the first half of 2015. However, this was not enough to ensure the victory of government troops over the armed opposition. As a result, Iran was forced to ask Russia to intervene in the Syrian armed conflict.

Before the introduction of Russian troops into Syria, a series of meetings were held between Russian and Iranian high-ranking representatives. During these meetings, a common algorithm for supporting the Syrian regime was developed. In January 2015, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin met in the Kremlin with Ali Akbar Velayati, Rahbar's adviser on Iranian foreign policy. During the meeting, A. Velayati handed over a written message from Rahbar to the Russian leadership. During the meeting, the limitations of direct military action on the part of the Russian Federation were also discussed. On the eve of this visit to Moscow, several meetings were held in Tehran between the Russian Defense Minister and his Iranian counterpart on concluding a second agreement between Iran and Russia on military-technical cooperation [Muhsen Abu al-Nour, 2016].

In March 2015, K. Soleimani met with Russian Foreign Minister S. Lavrov in Iran. Russia was concerned about Iranian information about the strengthening of the positions of Syrian opposition units in the northwest and south of the SAR and the advance of ISIS\* in the northeast of the country. After ISIS captured Palmyra in May 2015, the territory controlled by the regime was noticeably reduced. Tehran considered the fall of the regime and the split of Syria inevitable. In late July 2015, Soleimani secured an informal meeting with the Russian

---

\* Banned in Russia (hereinafter).