
MODERN RUSSIA: IDEOLOGY, POLITICS, CULTURE AND RELIGION

YURY ZININ. THE UKRAINE CRISIS: A VIEW FROM THE
MIDDLE EAST MEDIA FIELD

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Abstract. The article is devoted to the analysis and assessment of events in Ukraine in the Middle East media from the start of the SMO. The author analyzes the responses and reactions in the media and virtual space, which to a certain extent indicate that they are searching for ways to show their attitude to the Ukrainian dossier without the pressure from the West, primarily the US.

Considerable attention is paid to the attempts by Western forces to isolate Russia and the way these attempts are perceived in the media and political circles of the region.

The article cites the opinions of a number of political scientists who draw parallels between the crisis in Gaza and the events related to the conflict in Ukraine.

Articles in local mass media indicate that despite the ambiguity of the countries' stances regarding the Ukrainian dossier, there is a demand in the Arab world for Russia to not lose its role as an alternative partner in politics, economics, and international affairs in general.

The responses and reactions in the media and virtual space to the events in Ukraine since the beginning and during the Special Military Operation are of undoubted interest, both in scientific and practical terms. The list of authors speaking on this issue is very wide. These are political scientists, well-known publicists, analysts, representatives of the military and academic elite, etc.

The perception of the SMO should be viewed through the prism of the efforts of Washington and its allies to draw Middle Eastern countries into their political games against Moscow under the slogans of protecting democracy, fighting against authoritarianism represented by the Kremlin.

In general, in the Arab region, there is a search for ways to record the attitude of Arabs to the Ukrainian dossier outside of pressure from the West, an emphasis on balance and equidistance in the interpretation of events, in particular the course of military operations and their assessment.

Middle Eastern media increasingly rely on independent assessments of authors, rather than on the theses of Western media. The latter are known for their bias towards Russia and are based on the substitution of meanings, false statements by Kyiv "about its successes on the fronts".

"Russia is steadfastly waging the current indirect war against 31 NATO countries, which are using the Ukrainian army as the tip of the spear," states Algerian media figure Hussein Lakraa. "The Russian Federation does not accept any outcome other than total victory, because this is a battle for existence"¹.

This concerns the perception of the so-called "counteroffensive" of Kyiv in the summer of 2023 against